

# **Frederick Victor Rogers**

## **Private 18487, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

### **Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry**

**Frederick Victor Rogers** was born 1 July and baptised 10 October 1897 in Amersham, Buckinghamshire. According to the 1901 Census of England and Wales he was the third child of four and the second son of James (1871-1939) a general farm labourer, born in Penn and Alice (aka Kate) Rogers (née Dean) (1870-1943) born in Little Missenden, Bucks. The Rogers family consisted of James (30), Alice (32), Bertram J (8), Charlotte M (6), Frederick V (3) and Violet I (1) and the family home was in Fagnall Lane, Penn Street, Penn, Bucks.

Ten years later - in 1911 - the family had moved to Elm Cottages, Winchmore Hill, Amersham. James was then just a general labourer, Bert (Bertram) was a farm labourer with Fred, Violet and William (9) all attending school. There was another son Wilfred, aged three. The 1911 Census states that James and Alice (then recorded as Kate) had been married 19 years and they had produced 9 children but only 6 had survived.

According to the records of the 'Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum', Frederick Victor Rogers was a general farm labourer when he enlisted in the Army on 10 May 1915 in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and subsequently joined the 5th Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (OBLI).

The 5<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the OBLI was raised in August 1914, more or less immediately war was declared, as part of K1 (Lord Kitchener's First New Army)<sup>1</sup> and placed under the orders of 42<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in the 14<sup>th</sup> (Light) Division. However, it was not until the following year that they embarked overseas and landed in Boulogne, France on 21 May 1915 and, after training, entered the theatre of war in France on 22 December 1915.

Private Frederick Victor Rogers, as a soldier in the 5<sup>th</sup> Btn of the OBLI fought along the Western Front from the end of 1915 into 1916. A series of battles were fought around the city of Arras which, during the First World War was only 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) away from the front line, and also at nearby Vimy Ridge.

An extract from the Regimental Chronicle relative to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Record states:

*"When not in the line at this period we were in Arras or in billets in the immediate vicinity, carrying on the usual routine of training, fatigues, working parties etc. It goes on to record the arrival of a whole intake of officers (and presumably, other ranks joined as well) and continues: "Throughout the winter we had a lot of snow, which did considerable harm to the trenches, but when spring came things underwent a complete change – the weather was delightful, and the whole countryside, including the trenches, became a perfect garden, with flowers everywhere....Whilst in the trenches everyone fed exceedingly well, the cooks being kept at Ronville or at Archicourt, according to which section of the line we were holding, and the men getting four meals a day. Except for an occasional strafe, the Hun kept remarkably quiet."*

The 'actions' that Frederick was engaged in are unknown but his death 'killed in action' on 28 April 1916 is recorded in the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum and Genes Reunited and Soldiers Died in the Great War (Ancestry.co.uk) but on Buckinghamshire Remembers website the date is given as 28 August 1916 and on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission entry, the date of death is given as 24 August 1916 (a possible transposition of numbers, 28/4 and 24/8?). So, three different dates of death are recorded for Frederick Victor Rogers. When many casualties occurred in the battlefield, and especially if the body was not identified, it was impossible to ascertain the actual date of death. In that case a date of death was agreed for official purposes. This does not seem to

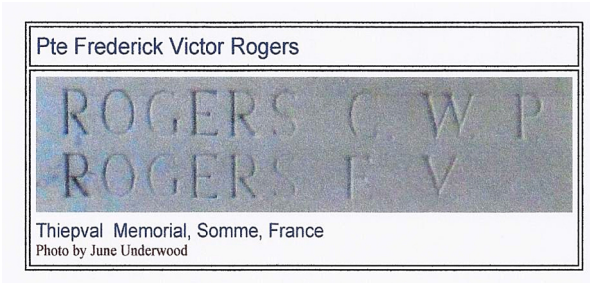
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<sup>1</sup> The Long, Long Trail (the British Army in 1914-18) website

have happened in the case of F.V. Rogers.

There is no known grave for Frederick but he is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France (a clue, perhaps, as to the action where he actually died) on which are recorded the names of officers and men of the British Armies who fell on the Somme battlefields July 1915 to February 1918, but to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death.

Frederick Victor Rogers is remembered with Honour  
on the Memorial at Thiepval, (Pier & Face 10a & 10d)



His name is also recorded on the Roll of Honour in St Mary's Church, Amersham.



Frederick Victor was awarded The British War Medal, 1914-18, The Allied Victory Medal and also The 1914-15 Star. The 1914-15 Star, Bronze Medal was authorized in 1918. It is very similar to the 1914 Star but was issued to a much wider range of recipients. Broadly speaking, it was awarded to everyone who served in any Theatre of War against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915, except those eligible for the 1914 star.

Frederick's older brother **Bertram Rogers** also joined the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, enlisting in High Wycombe on 10 May 1915 at the age of 21. He was wounded during fighting in France, but went back to the front after recovery. He survived the war and received a pension.