

Press, 11 March 1913 (PP) [02/05/2018]

Mr V. **Rogers**, bombardier in the E Battery, has been appointed a second lieutenant in the Battery.

Feilding Star, 22 August 1914, Page 2

Mr Victor Rogers, son of the vicar of Otipua (1913-1919) (South Canterbury), has been appointed a lieutenant in the New Zealand Field Artillery, and has joined the camp at Palmerston.

Press, 3 July 1915, Page 7

IN THE TRENCHES
AN OFFICER'S CHATTY LETTER
THE "SHRAPNEL ONE STEP" -
A POPULAR DANCE

Lieutenant Victor Rogers, of No. 2 Battery, New Zealand Field Artillery, Main Expeditionary Force, writing to a friend in Christchurch from the trenches on Gallipoli Peninsula, says:

Faint not nor fear at the sight of ink; but after a lengthy search I have discovered a fountain pen floating round my kit and am launching forth herewith. We have been ashore and on the job now for a fortnight, and are quite happy, and, like "Johnny Walker," still going. Most of us have joined the camel corps which means that we are all developing humps on our backs through dodging shells and bullets, and crawling round trenches, and it is howling funny sometimes, although one might stop one at any moment.

The landing of the troops was a never-to-be-forgotten episode, and a feat that was thought by some to be impossible. There were, of course, a good many casualties, but our boys just went through them like a packet of salts, and got on quite well. Our battery landed the following day, and I took my section straight to a position where we have been for ten days. The other section went to another place a few days after, and I have now joined them, and we are all together. We have had to haul the guns about with men, as the place is not suitable for horses. We can get any amount of assistance, as the infantry are only too willing to get the guns anywhere where they can be used to advantage. We are all "dug in," and quite comfortable. The guns are in epaulments made of two thicknesses of sandbags, and the men all have their "funk holes," where they live. Bob and I live in the "Gallipoli Club." That is the name of our underground dwelling, and

we are quite comfortable. One does not go out in the open more than is absolutely necessary, as we are always more or less under fire, and I also have the “office” just in the rear of the guns, where I have my telephonist, and control the battery when we are in action, which is on and off all day. Gave them a nice little “pill” of 96 rounds before breakfast to-day.

One gets quite used to the continual duel of artillery, rifle fire, machineguns, etc. The enemy are very good soldiers, and well trained, but fighting in the trenches is very slow work. I hope this slap up of ours will make a lot of chaps that haven't come get a move on and do something, as lots more will be wanted to take our places. We live well on hard biscuits, bully beef, and jam and cheese and tea. Am feeling awfully fit. We sometimes, after a big day, get a tot of rum, which is most acceptable. But what wouldn't I give for a good old bottle of Ward's. We are now all bearded and occasionally-washed ruffians, and one wears what one likes. All the lads here seem to be quite enjoying themselves, and the “shrapnel one step” is a very popular dance. It is a two step, sprint, then duck, then side step and duck, then a crawl, and in brilliant finish, amid loud cheers from those under cover. The officers' mess handicap is also a much-looked for event by the men. We have to go about 150 yards to some trenches, and one breaks all records, as there is one place where you can be spotted. One generally trips over a network of telephone wires, and finishes on one's face. I have got a gem of an orderly; what he can't do with a tin bully beef and some biscuits isn't worth doing. He also digs up all sorts of things.

We have got none of our horses on shore yet, and shan't want them till we move. It has just started to rain now and looks quite hopefully as if it was going to continue, and as the soil is mostly clay we shall eventually be raised several feet in the air by the amount that does the ivy trick to one's boots. Bob has just received a “Weekly Press” of March, and I have just been reading interesting news.

New Zealand Herald. 10 October 1916 (page 4) [01/08/2015]

MEN WHO HAVE FALLEN.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

CAPTAIN V. ROGERS.

Captain V. Rogers, field artillery, wounded, is a son of the Rev. J. Rogers, of Timaru. Captain Rogers was well known in Christchurch, being a prominent amateur entertainer. He was also a member of the Christchurch Football Club and the Red and Black Association. Captain Rogers was a member of the old E

Battery of volunteer days, and shortly after the territorial system came into being received a commission in that unit. He left for the front as a lieutenant in the Main Expeditionary Force, and after some months spent at Gallipoli was promoted to the rank of captain. He was a member of the New Zealand coronation contingent



Otago Witness. 15 November 1916 (page 36)

Sun. 3 January 1917 (PP) [02/05/2018]

AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY.

NEW ZEALANDERS DECORATED.

CANTERBURY OFFICERS IN NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST.

Included in the list of New Zealand honours were the names of several Canterbury officers. Their photographs, and brief sketches of their careers are given below.

CAPT. V. ROGERS, D.S.O.

Captain Victor Rogers, who has received the Distinguished Service Order, is a son of the Rev. J. Rogers, of Timaru. He received his education at Christ's College. When the New Zealand Coronation Contingent was dispatched to England, he formed one of that body. While in England he studied seed fertilisation, and on his return to New Zealand, entered the employ of Montgomery and Co., seed merchants, Christchurch, in the capacity of a seed expert. Captain Rogers was well known on the concert platform, being a first-rate comedian. His entertaining abilities made him one of the best known members of the Red and Black Association. He was an enthusiastic volunteer, serving for several years in the ranks of the "E" Battery. He subsequently received a commission as a Lieutenant in this corps, and on the outbreak of war left with the Main Body with that rank. His appointment to captain was received for meritorious services on Gallipoli. He is about 28 years of age.

Press. 19 November 1917 (PP) [03/03/2018]

Major V. Rogers (wounded) is a son of the Rev. J. Rogers, of Timaru, and is very well known in Christchurch. Prior to enlisting he had for many years been in the employ of Messrs J. Montgomery and Co., the local seed merchants, as seed tester, and he joined the staff of Messrs A. H. Turnbull and Co. He was a well-known member of the Christchurch Football Club, and was identified with various branches of sport, besides being one of the best amateur comedians in Christchurch. He was also an enthusiastic volunteer, and held a commission in the E Battery. A man of fine physique, he was selected for the New Zealand Contingent which went Home to represent the Dominion at the Coronation of King George, and while at Home he met Mr Montgomery, who sent him for a special course of instruction in seed testing to Messrs Peter Lawson, of Edinburgh. When the war broke out, Major Rogers joined the Main Body artillery as a lieutenant, and quickly proved himself a keen and competent officer. He served through the Gallipoli campaign, and was promoted to captain, later on securing his majority. Some time ago, Major Rogers was awarded the D.S.O. for meritorious services, and was also slightly wounded, but not seriously enough to leave his unit. He is about 30 years of age.

Star, 16 February 1918 (Papers Past)

The death of Major Victor Rogers is greatly regretted. He served through the Gallipoli campaign and took part with the Artillery in the Battles of the Somme, Messines and Passchendaele, being twice wounded. He had paid a visit to headquarters and was killed instantaneously by a high explosive shell while walking along the road back to his battery.

Times Saturday, Feb 16, 1918

ROGERS - Killed in action, on 8th Feb. 1918, Victor Rogers, D.S.O., Major, NZFA, only son of the Rev. J.H. Rogers, Timaru, N.Z., aged 29.

Times Saturday, Feb 16, 1918

Major Victor **Rogers**, D.S.O., NZFA was killed at the front on February 8th. He came over with the first New Zealand contingent and had been wounded twice. His commanding officer writes:- "I feel his death personally more than any other of my officers. He sailed with me in the battery as a second lieutenant, served with me in Egypt, the Sinai Peninsula, Gallipoli, where, though a subaltern, he commanded the battery with great skill and courage. He came here in command of the battery as captain, until we went into the Somme. There he did extraordinarily well, and I had, I am glad to say, the pleasure of being instrumental in getting him recommended for his very well-earned D.S.O. He was always plucky and cheerful. He will be very hard to replace. I have lost not only a good officer, but a gallant and cheery comrade and friend."

Sun, 18 February 1918 (Papers Past)

Major Victor Rogers, D.S.O., who has been killed in action, was the only son of the Rev. J. Rogers, who was for some time vicar of St. Matthew's Church, St. Albans, and who is now at Timaru. Before his enlistment he had been in the employ of Messrs J. Montgomery and Co., seed merchants, as seed tester, while he was later employed by Messrs A. H. Turnbull and Co. The late Major Rogers was connected with various sports, and was a good amateur comedian. He was also keenly interested in the Territorials, and held a commission in the E Battery. He was chosen to represent New Zealand at the coronation of King George. When the present war broke out he joined the Main Body artillery section, and left as a lieutenant. He served throughout the Gallipoli campaign, where he was promoted to captain. He secured his majority some time later. About a year ago he was awarded the D.S.O. for gallantry in France. While in France he took part in the battles of Messines, Somme, Passchendaele Ridge, and was twice wounded. He was 31 years of age.

Press, 18 February 1918 (Papers Past) [01 May 2018]

THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Major Victor Rogers, D.S.O. (killed) was the only son of the Rev. J. Rogers, some time vicar of St. Matthew's Church, St. Albans, and now of Timaru. He was educated at Christ's College. Prior to enlisting he had for many years been in the employ of Messrs J. Montgomery and Co., the local seed merchants, as seed tester, and later he joined the staff of Messrs A. H. Turnbull and Co. He was a well-known member of the Christchurch Football Club, and was identified with various branches of sport, besides being one of the best amateur comedians in Christchurch. He was also an enthusiastic volunteer, and held a commission in the E Battery. A man of fine physique, he was selected for the New Zealand Contingent which went home to represent the Dominion at the Coronation of King George, and while at Home he met Mr Montgomery, who sent him for a special course of instruction in seed testing to Messrs Peter Lawson, of Edinburgh. When the war broke out, Major Rogers joined the Main Body artillery as lieutenant, and quickly proved himself a keen and competent officer. He served through the Gallipoli campaign, and was promoted to captain, later on securing his majority. About a year ago Major Rogers was awarded the D.S.O. for meritorious services in France. He took part with the artillery in the battles at the Somme, Messines, and Passchendaele Ridge, and was twice wounded, the last time about November last. For over a year he acted in place of Major Beattie, of the N.Z.F.A., who was absent through illness. While at Home recently the late Major Rogers became engaged to a Devonshire girl, a distant relation of the family. He was about 31 years of age.

Poverty Bay Herald, 18 February 1918, Page 3

Major Victor Rogers, D.S.O., killed, was the only son of the Rev. John Henry Rogers, late of Christchurch, and now of Timaru. Before enlisting he was for several years in the employ of Montgomery and Co., seed merchants, as seed tester. He was well known in athletics, and as an amateur comedian. He was a member of the New Zealand contingent at the Coronation of King George. He joined the Main Body artillery as lieutenant, and served through the Gallipoli campaign. He was twice wounded in France, where he was with the New Zealanders in all their fights. He was thirty one years of age.

Dominion, 21 February 1918 (PP) [01/05/2018]

The Rev. J. H. Rogers, acting-vicar of Timaru, has received word that his only son, Major Victor Rogers, D.S.O., was killed by a high-explosive shell while walking away from Headquarters. It was only on December 5 that Major Rogers received from the King the decoration of the Distinguished Service Order for conspicuous bravery on the Somme, where he took the first battery across the German line, and though wounded remained for two days in charge of two batteries.

Manawatu Standard, 23 February 1918 (PP) [01/05/2018]

Cabling from England, Captain Malcolm Ross, the New Zealand War Correspondent, states that the death of Major Victor Rogers is greatly regretted. He served through the Gallipoli campaign, and took part with artillery in the battles of the Somme, Messines, and Passchendaele, being twice wounded. He had paid a visit to Headquarters, and was killed instantaneously by a high explosive shell while walking along the road back to his battery.

Otago Witness, 6 March 1918 (PP) [02/05/2018]



Major V. A. F. Rogers

(Timaru), killed.

Timaru Herald, 20 April 1918 [2013]

THE LATE MAJOR ROGERS, D.S.O.

The following letter from Col. Sykes, N.Z.F.A., may be of interest to the many friends who have expressed their sympathy on the death of Major Victor Rogers, D.S.O.—

“He was with me yesterday afternoon on a court martial, and left before me to go up to his Battery. He must have been caught in a shell storm on the road, as the first we knew was that he had been picked up and taken on to a dressing station. He had been hit on the head by a large fragment of shell, and his pocket book, pay book, letter and so on that were in his breast pocket had been riddled. Death was instantaneous.

“I personally feel his loss more deeply than that of any of the officers under my command. He started with me in the Second Battery, and has been with me all through except for the Somme, where he was in command of the Eleventh Battery. I am glad to say that though he was not serving under me at the time, I was instrumental in getting him recommended for the D.S.O. that he earned so well. My Headquarters were close to his Battery or rather the remnant of it, for he seldom had more than a gun or two in action, and had to change his position frequently. But yet he was always cheerful and hard at it. He was in Gallipoli with me, and although a subaltern commanded the Fifth Battery there for a long time. He commanded the same Battery at Messines and Nieuport, and at other places. He did uniformly well, was twice wounded, and was as gallant an officer as I have ever met. He will be very hard to replace. It will be some consolation to you to know that he did his duty gallantly and well, and died without knowing it, a great mercy these days.”

Oamaru Mail, 20 April 1918 (PP) [01/05/2018]

Rangitikei Advocate and Manawatu Argus, 20 April 1918 (PP) [01/05/2018]

MAJOR VICTOR ROGERS, D.S.O.

KILLED IN ACTION.

From Malcolm Ross.

Belgium, Feb. 10.

Since coming to the war the N. Z. Artillery have lost some of their most gallant and capable officers. The death of Major Victor Rogers removes from among

them one of the old hands who was greatly liked, both for his bravery and his ability. His father is, I am told, a clergyman in Timaru.

When the war broke out he volunteered to join as a gunner with a Christchurch battery, but the formation of a brigade resulted in his obtaining a commission. He sailed with the Main Body of the Expeditionary Force, and served through the Gallipoli campaign, going away only once—to bring over the Fifth Battery from Egypt. He did good service on the Peninsula, and got his battery safely away at the evacuation.

He was in the fighting in which the New Zealanders took part in France and Belgium, being with the guns in the Battle of the Somme, Messines, and Passchendaele. During these operations he was twice wounded, yet he retained his nerve to the last. On the day of his death—the 8th inst—he attended a court-martial at Divisional Headquarters, and jokingly remarked that he had outlasted all the officers except one, who had the devil's own luck. That same evening he was going back to his battery along a road when he was killed by a high explosive shell. Death was instantaneous. As he did not return to his battery in the evening, enquiries were made, and it was ascertained that the body of an officer had been taken to a dressing station not far away. A visit to the station revealed the circumstances under which he had lost his life.

His excellent work with the N. Z. artillery had gained him the Distinguished Service Order. Generally he was recognised as a fine soldier, and he was popular with and respected by all who knew him.

Timaru Herald, 22 April 1918, Page 2 [15/11/2013]

THE LATE MAJOR VICTOR ROGERS, D.S.O.

(From Malcolm Ross, Official War Correspondent.)

BELGIUM, Feb. 10.

Since coming to the war the N.Z. Artillery have lost some of their most gallant and capable officers. The death of Major Victor Rogers removes from among them one of the old hands who was greatly liked, both for his bravery and his ability. His father is, I am told, a clergyman in Timaru.

When the war broke out he volunteered to join as a gunner with a Christchurch battery, but the formation of a brigade resulted in his obtaining a commission. He sailed with the Main Body of the Expeditionary Force, and served through the Gallipoli campaign, going away only once—to bring over the Fifth Battery from Egypt. He did good service on the Peninsula, and got his battery safely away at the evacuation.

He was in the fighting in which the New Zealanders took part in France and Belgium, being with the guns in the Battles of the Somme, Messines, and

Passchendaele. During these operations he was twice wounded, yet he retained his nerve to the last.

On the day of his death—the 8th inst. - he attended a court-martial at Divisional Headquarters, and jokingly remarked that he had outlasted all the officers except one, who had the devil's own luck. That same evening he was going back to his battery along a road when he was killed by a high-explosive shell. Death was instantaneous. As he did not return to his battery in the evening, inquiries were made, and it was ascertained that the body of an officer had been taken to a dressing station not far away. A visit to the station revealed the circumstances under which he lost his life.

His excellent work with the New Zealand Artillery had gained him the Distinguished Service Order. Generally he was recognised as a fine soldier, and he was popular with and respected by all who knew him.

Hawera & Normanby Star, 22 April 1918, Page 5

Thames Star, 22 April 1918, Page 4

MAJOR VICTOR ROGERS D.S.O.

KILLED IN ACTION.

(From Malcolm Ross.)

BELGIUM, Feb. 10.

Since coming to the war the N.Z. Artillery have lost some of their most gallant and capable officers. The death, of Major Victor Rogers removes from among them one of the old hands who was greatly liked, both for his bravery and ability. His father is, I am told, a clergyman in Beaconsfield, near Timaru.

When the war broke out he volunteered to join as a gunner with a Christchurch battery, but the formation of a brigade resulted in his obtaining a commission. He sailed with the Main Body of the Expeditionary Force, and served through the Gallipoli campaign, going away only once to bring over the Fifth Battery from Egypt. He did good service on the Peninsula, and got his battery safely away at the evacuation.

He was in the fighting in which the New Zealanders took part in France and Belgium, being with the guns in the battle of the Somme, Messines and Passchendaele. During these operations he was twice wounded, yet he retained his nerve to the last.

On the day of his death the 8th inst. he attended a court-martial at Divisional Headquarters, and jokingly remarked that he had outlasted all the officers

except one, who had the devil's own luck. That same evening he was going back to his battery along a road when he was killed by a high explosive shell. Death was instantaneous. As he did not return to his battery in the evening, enquiries were made, and it was ascertained that the body of an officer had been taken to a dressing station not far away. A visit to the station revealed the circumstances under which he had lost his life.

His excellent work with the N.Z. Artillery had gained him the Distinguished Service Order [New Year Honours 1st Jan. 1917]. Generally he was recognised as a fine soldier, and he was popular with and respected by all who knew him.

Press, 23 April 1918, Page 7 [06/09/2015]

THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED.

PERSONAL NOTES.

The following letter has been received from Colonel Sykes, N.Z.F.A., giving particulars of the death of Major Victor Rogers, D.S.O., who was very well known in Christchurch: —"He was with me yesterday afternoon on a court-martial, and left before me to go up to his battery. He must have been caught in a shell storm on the road, as the first we knew was that he had been picked up and taken on to a dressing station. He had been hit on the head by a large fragment of shell, and his pocket book, pay book, letter, and so on that were in his breast pocket had been riddled. Death was instantaneous. I personally feel his loss more deeply than that of any of the officers under my command. He started with me in the Second Battery, and has been with me all through except for the Somme, where he was in command of the Eleventh Battery. I am glad to say that, though he was not serving under me at the time, I was instrumental in getting him recommended for the D.S.O. that he earned so well. My Headquarters were close to his battery, or rather the remnant of it, for he seldom had more than a gun or two in action, and had to change his position frequently. But yet he was always cheerful and hard at it. He was in Gallipoli with me, and, though a subaltern, commanded the Fifth Battery there for a long time. He commanded the same battery at Messines and Nienport, and at other places. He did uniformly well, was twice wounded, and was as gallant an officer as I have ever met. He will be very hard to replace. It will be some consolation to you to know that he did his duty gallantly and well, and died without knowing it — a great mercy these days."

Timaru Herald. 19 February 1918 (PP) [01/05/2018]

ROLL OF HONOUR.

ROGERS.—Major **Victor Rogers**,
D.S.O., killed in action in France,
February 8.
He did his duty.

Timaru Herald. 8 February 1919 (PP) [01/05/2018]

ROLL OF HONOUR.

ROGERS.—In thankful memory of
Major **Victor Rogers**, D.S.O.
A man who did his duty.

Timaru Herald. 8 February 1920 (PP) [01/05/2018]

ROLL OF HONOUR.

ROGERS.—In loving memory of
Major **Victor Rogers**, D.S.O., who
was killed, February 8th, 1918.
Doing his duty.

Otago Daily Times. 8 February 1921 (PP) [10/11/2018]

FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

IN MEMORIAM.

ROGERS.—In loving memory of
Major **Victor Rogers**, D.S.O.,
killed on February 8, 1918. "He
did his duty."

Otago Daily Times. 8 February 1924 (PP) [01/05/2018]

FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

IN MEMORIAM.

ROGERS.—In loving memory of
Victor Rogers, D.S.O., Major, N.Z.
Field Artillery, who was killed this
day while endeavouring to rejoin his
battery under heavy fire. "He did
his duty."

Press. 9 February 1925 (PP) [10/11/2018]

IN MEMORIAM

ROGERS—Major Victor A. F. **Rogers**,
D.S.O., killed in France, February 8th,
1918.

Evening Star. 8 February 1928 (PP) [10/11/2018]

FOR KING AND COUNTRY.

IN MEMORIAM

ROGERS.—In loving memory of Major Victor Aaron Francis **Rogers**, D.S.O., N.Z. Field Artillery, killed by a high explosive when returning to his battery from presiding at a court martial, February 8, 1918.

“He did his duty.”

Otago Daily Times. 8 February 1930 (PP) [10/11/2018]

FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

IN MEMORIAM

ROGERS.—In loving memory of Victor Aaron Francis **Rogers**, D.S.O., major N.Z.F.A., who was killed in action in France on February 8, 1918. “He did his duty.”

Otago Daily Times. 8 February 1933 (PP) [01/05/2018]

FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

—
Major **VICTOR ROGERS**, D.S.O.
(N.Z. Field Artillery), 1918.