

Private Andrew Marsden Rogers[©]

Regimental Number: 552404

78th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment)

born: 1 July 1886 – died: 2 February 1918

Andrew Rogers was born on 1 July 1886 in Colchester, Ontario.¹ He spent his childhood in Ontario and as a young man headed west, living for a time in Calgary, Alberta. On 10 February 1910 Andrew received a Homestead Grant for a homestead on Meridian W4, Range 11, Township 22, Section 28, Part NE. He was single at the time and working as a teamster.²

Andrew's parents were Henry Tottenham Rogers and Mary Elizabeth Woods Duff. Andrew's father was from Ireland and his mother from Colchester, Ontario.^{3,4} The family settled in Colchester, where Henry found work as a farmer and he and Mary raised their family. They had five children: Sarah Harriet Loehead (b. 1875),⁵ George William (b. 1877),⁶ Henry (Harry)⁷ Hillis (b. 1879),⁸ Andrew Marsden, and Amy (b. 1881).⁹

When Andrew enlisted on 5 February 1915, he was living with his wife, Helen, in MacLeod, Alberta, near Medicine Hat. At that time, Andrew was working as a farm labourer.^{10,11} Helen was from England and had come to live in Canada in 1912.¹² Andrew and she married shortly thereafter and their first child, Mary, was born just two or three months after his enlistment.¹³ Helen and Mary went to live in Lethbridge, Alberta, when Andrew went to war.¹⁴

Andrew enlisted with the 13th Canadian Mounted Rifles and on 6 July 6 1916 arrived in England, where his training continued. He went to France with his regiment and was then assigned for six months to the Royal Canadian Dragoons before being transferred to the 78th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

In the last month of his life, Andrew's battalion moved between Chateau de la Haie, the Mericourt Sector and the Lens Sector of the French trench system. On Tuesday, 29 January 1918, 450 of the men and officers were able to relax and watch the movie "Aladdin in France." They had just left Vancouver Camp in Chateau de la Haie and moved to the Lens Sector near Bethune, where they relieved the 75th Canadian Infantry Battalion in the left subsection. At 10:45 p.m. on Thursday, 31 January, the German forces projected gas on the left company front of the sector. The gas came over in two waves accompanied by a high explosive bombardment. Andrew was nearby when one of the gas shells exploded near him and was one of the 20 casualties of this assault.^{15,16}

He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 1 February 1918 with gas poisoning. He died on 2 February and was buried that day at the Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, 2½ miles southwest of Noeux-les-Mines, France. He is buried in Plot 3, Row E, Grave 7.¹⁷ Andrew's sacrifice is also recognized on the Lethbridge, Alberta, cenotaph and was written about in the Lethbridge Cenotaph Project, *They Never Came Home*, by Brett Clifton.¹⁸

Andrew Rogers was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre). His wife Helen received the Memorial Cross and death plaque in honour of her husband.¹⁹

Andrew's sister Sarah married James Albert McConnell²⁰ and moved to Manitoba, where the couple farmed and by 1916 were living with four children in north Winnipeg.²¹ Sarah moved to Victoria,

British Columbia, in 1940 and died there in 1966 at the age of 91.²² George drops from the records after 1891 and appears impossible to locate. Henry also moved west and farmed. For the last 29 years of his life he resided in Victoria and died in 1960.²³ Amy moved to Rainy River, Ontario, where she married George Davis in 1901.²⁴ They later moved to the Port Arthur and Kenora District, Ontario, and in 1921 were living there with their three children.²⁵ Andrew's wife, Helen, remarried and moved to Portland, Oregon.²⁶

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¹ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869–1913," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Andrew Marsden Rogers, Birthplace: Essex, Ontario, Canada

² "Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada, Homestead Grant Registers, 1872–1930," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Andrew Marsden Rogers, Place: Alberta, Canada

³ "Ontario, Canada, Births, 1869–1913," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Andrew Marsden Rogers, Birthplace: Essex, Ontario, Canada

⁴ "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801–1928, 1933–1934," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Henry Tottenham Rogers, Marriage place: Colchester Township, Ontario, Canada

⁵ "Canadian Births and Baptisms, 1661–1959," *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Sarah Harriet Loehead Rogers, Birthplace: Pittsburgh, Frontenac, Ontario

⁶ "1881 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for George William Rogers, Province: Ontario, District number: 181, District: Essex, Sub-district number: E, Sub-district: Colchester South, Division: 1.

⁷ "1891 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Harry Rogers, Province: Ontario, District number: 63, District: Essex South, Sub-district: Colchester South

⁸ "Canadian Births and Baptisms, 1661–1959," *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Henry Millis [sic] Rogers, Birthplace: Westminster, Middlesex, Ontario

⁹ "1891 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Amy Rogers, Province: Ontario, District number: 63, District: Essex South, Sub-district: Colchester South

¹⁰ "1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Andrew Rogers, Sub-district description: Townships 3 to 10, ranges 25 and 26, W. 4. M., and south of the Belly River, including the Town of Granum and exclusive of the Town of Mcleod

¹¹ "Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx>: accessed 5 July 2016) entry for Andrew Rogers, Reference: RG 150 Accession 1992-93/166, Box 8426-30, Item number: 286306, attestation record

¹² "1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Andrew Rogers, Sub-district description: Townships 3 to 10, ranges 25 and 26, W. 4. M., and south of the Belly River, including the Town of Granum and exclusive of the Town of Mcleod

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ "Service Files of the First World War, 1914–1918 - CEF," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx>: accessed 5 July 2016) entry for Andrew Rogers, Reference: RG 150 Accession 1992-93/166, Box 8426-30, Item number: 286306, attestation record

¹⁵ "War Diary - 78th Battalion - Winnipeg Grenadiers and 12th Canadian Brigade - 4th Canadian Division," *The CEF Study Group War Diary Project* (<http://cefresearch.ca/matrix/War%20Diaries/transcribed/bn078/bn078y1916-1919.pdf>: accessed 5 July 2016), entries from 10 January to 2 February 1918.

¹⁶ "Lethbridge Cenotaph - In Honour of Those Whose Names Endure," *University of Lethbridge Digitized Collections* (<http://digital.library.uleth.ca/cdm/ref/collection/cenotaph/id/174>: accessed 6 July 2016), entry for Andrew Rogers, Regimental Number 13404

¹⁷ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for A Rogers

¹⁸ "Lethbridge Cenotaph - In Honour of Those Whose Names Endure," *University of Lethbridge Digitized Collections* (<http://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/cdm/ref/collection/cenotaph/id/174>: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Andrew Rogers

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ "British Columbia, Canada, Death Index, 1872–1990," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Sarah H. L. McConnell, Death location: Victoria

²¹ "1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for J.A. McConnell, Sub-district description: That portion of the city of Winnipeg constituting the electoral district of Winnipeg Centre, as defined by the Representation Act, 1914

²² "British Columbia, Canada, Death Index, 1872–1990," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Sarah H. L. McConnell: Death location: Victoria

²³ "British Columbia, Canada, Death Index, 1872–1990," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Henry Hillis Rogers, Death location: Victoria

²⁴ "Ontario, Canada, Marriages, 1801–1928, 1933–1934," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Amy Roger [*sic*] and George Davis, Marriage place: Rainy River District, Rainy River, Ontario, Canada

²⁵ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for George Davis, Province or territory: Ontario, District: Port Arthur and Kenora, District number: 120, Sub-district: Keewatin (Town), Sub-district number: 51, City, town or village: Keewatin

²⁶ "Commonwealth War Graves Registers (Circumstances of Casualty), 1914–1948," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 July 2016), entry for Andrew Rogers, Service No: 552404