

**Rogerson, Private Ernest<sup>©</sup>**  
**Regimental number: S/15392**  
**5th Battalion, Queens' Own Cameron Highlanders**

**born: 1899 - died: 11 March 1916**

Ernest Rogerson was just 25 years old when he enlisted as a private in the 5th Battalion of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders at Hamilton, Lanarkshire on 15 November 1914.<sup>1</sup>

The only description found on Ernest's service file from WWI indicates that he was 5 ft. 5 in. tall, was single and was employed as a mechanical engineer prior to his enlistment.<sup>2</sup> Ernest spent most of the next year training in Scotland and embarked for France from Folkstone on 12 December 1915, deployed to the field in France. He arrived in Étapes the next day. Ernest joined his battalion in the field on 24 December 1915 and likely spent Christmas Day in the trenches.<sup>3</sup>

Just two months later, on 8 March 1916, Ernest reported sick to his depot and was seen by both the 29th and the 27th field ambulance group before being sent on to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCCS).<sup>4</sup> He died there four days later, on 13 March 1916, of congestion of the brain caused by a brain tumour.<sup>5</sup> His body was interred in Plot II. C. 226 at the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension.<sup>6</sup>

Notice of his death appears to have been slow in reaching Ernest's loved ones. Apparently Ernest was in the habit of writing weekly to his family, so, when the family had no news from him for a couple of weeks, his brother-in-law, William Laing, wrote to his battalion on 24 March 1916 enquiring about his whereabouts.<sup>7</sup> This letter was returned indicating that Ernest was in hospital, although by that time he had been dead for over a week. The chaplain's journal from No. 1 CCCS indicates that a letter was sent advising Ernest's sister Miss Selina Rogerson of his death but does not note the date it was sent.<sup>8</sup> Perhaps the letters crossed in the mail.

Ernest was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre), the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), and the 1914–15 Star (for serving in a theatre of war between 4 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>9</sup>

Ernest came from a family of sixteen. His parents were Adam Black Roberson (b. 1838, Ayrshire) and Janet Sarah Meggat (b. 1845, Dumfriesshire). They were married in Morton on Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, on 30 July 1866<sup>10</sup> and by the next year were living in South Ronaldsay and Burray, on the Isle of Orkney,<sup>11</sup> where Ernest's father became the minister at the Burray United Presbyterian Church.<sup>12</sup> Ernest's grandparents, James Rogerson and Sarah Black, came from more humble beginnings. James was a potter and Sarah worked as a milliner.<sup>13</sup>

By 1871 Ernest's grandfather James had died and Sarah was living with the Rogerson family in the manse in Orkney.<sup>14</sup>

Ernest had eight brothers and five sisters. His siblings were:

- James (b. 1867) Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland<sup>15</sup>
- John (b. 1869) Ronaldsay, Orkney<sup>16</sup>
- Edwin (b. 1870) Ronaldsay, Orkney<sup>17</sup>
- Selina (b. 1873), Ronaldsay, Orkney<sup>18</sup>

- Clement (b. 1875) Burray, Orkney<sup>19</sup>
- John (b. 1878) Burray, Orkney<sup>20</sup>
- Herbert (b. 1879) Banff, Banffshire, Scotland<sup>21</sup>
- Edith (b. 1881) Banff, Banffshire<sup>22</sup>
- Eustace (b. 1882) Banff, Banffshire<sup>23</sup>
- Constance (b. 1883) Banff, Banffshire<sup>24</sup>
- Florence (b. 1885) Banff, Banffshire<sup>25</sup>
- Julian (b. 1886) Banff, Banffshire<sup>26</sup>
- Esme Muriel (b. 1892) Banff, Banffshire<sup>27</sup>

The family lived in Orkney from sometime in 1866 or 1867 and moved to Banff, Banffshire, before 1881, where Reverend Adam Rogerson assumed responsibility for Banff Trinity United Presbyterian Church.<sup>28</sup> He ministered there until his death in 1921, aged 84.<sup>29</sup> Ernest's mother Janet died in 1924, when she was 79.<sup>30</sup>

Three or four of Ernest's siblings died before the age of 10 (John - d. 1875, Herbert - d. 1879, John - d. 1883, Eustace - d. 1884 and Florence - d. 1892)<sup>31</sup> and at least three of his remaining brothers worked in the field of engineering. His brothers Edwin and Julian both journeyed to India in following their careers.

Julian graduated in Mechanical Engineering from Glasgow University in 1913 and soon took a job with the East India Railway in Lillooah, Bengal, where he completed his apprenticeship and went from Assistant Superintendent to Superintendent of Carriage and Waggon [sic]. In August 1915 Julian was reassigned to a "jute factory" that was retooled during WW I as a "shell factory"; he went from being in charge of wagon construction and coach repair to munitions inspection.<sup>32</sup>

Julian died in September 1919 in Lillooah, Bengal, leaving an estate of £541 5s to his mother Janet in Banff.<sup>33</sup>

In 1891 Edwin was studying Arts in Edinburgh and living in a boarding house in St. Cuthberts with his older brother James, who was studying theology.<sup>34</sup> Edwin eventually became a civil engineer and in January 1916 boarded the S.S. *Malwa* and went out to work in Bombay, India.<sup>35</sup> It was there that he met his future wife, Janie Robertson, and the couple married in Bombay on New Years' Eve, 1919. The groom was 49 and the bride 47.<sup>36</sup>

Another of Ernest's brothers, Clement, shows up on the 1901 Census of Scotland working as a mechanical engineering draughtsman.<sup>37</sup> In November 1925 Clement travelled from Southampton to New York on the Cunard luxury liner S.S. *Mauretania*.<sup>38</sup> He returned to Glasgow, Scotland, on the S.S. *Athena* just after Christmas that same year.<sup>39</sup> These passenger lists show him as an engineering manager, living on Clydesdale Street in Hamilton, Scotland, with his wife Lucy F. Rogerson née Fricker. The couple were married in 1902.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "United Kingdom, World War I Service Records, 1914–1920," *FamilySearch* ([familysearch.org](https://familysearch.org): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Ernest Rogerson, Lanarkshire, Scotland, Regimental No. S/15392, Cameron Highlanders

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Ernest Rogerson

<sup>6</sup> "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Ernest Rogerson, S/15392

<sup>7</sup> United Kingdom, World War I Service Records, 1914–1920," *FamilySearch* ([familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Ernest Rogerson

<sup>8</sup> "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Ernest Rogerson

<sup>9</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Ernest Rogerson, S/15392, 5th Cameron Highlanders

<sup>10</sup> "Scotland, Select Marriages, 1561–1910," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2018), entry for Adam Black Rogerson and Janet Sarah Meggat, 30 July 1866

<sup>11</sup> "Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," *FamilySearch* ([familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org): accessed 23 April 2018), entry for James Rogerson, 20 August 1867, South Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland

<sup>12</sup> "1871 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Adam B. Rogerson, Registration district: South Ronaldsay and Burray, Civil parish: South Ronaldsay and Burray, County: Orkney, Address: Manse, ED: 11, Household schedule number: 76, Line 21

<sup>13</sup> "1851 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for James Rogerson, Civil parish: Old Cumnock, Town: Old Cumnock, County: Ayrshire, Address: Glaesnjck St. ED: 3, Page: 18 Household schedule number: 66, Line 1

<sup>14</sup> "1871 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Adam B. Rogerson

<sup>15</sup> "Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," *FamilySearch* ([familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org): accessed 23 April 2018), entry for James Rogerson, 20 August 1867, South Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland

<sup>16</sup> "Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," *FamilySearch* ([familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org): accessed 23 April 2018), entry for John Rogerson, 2 May 1869, South Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland

<sup>17</sup> "Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," *FamilySearch* ([familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org): accessed 23 April 2018), entry for Edwin Rogerson, 4 December 1870, South Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland

<sup>18</sup> "Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," *FamilySearch* ([familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org): accessed 23 April 2018), entry for Selina Rogerson, 25 August 1873, South Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland

<sup>19</sup> "1881 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Clement Rogerson, Registration district: Banff, Civil parish: Banff, Town: Banff, County: Banffshire, Address: United Presbyterian Manse, ED: 1, Household schedule number: 25, Line 9

<sup>20</sup> "1881 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for John Rogerson, Registration district: Banff, Civil parish: Banff, Town: Banff, County: Banffshire, Address: United Presbyterian Manse, ED: 1, Household schedule number: 25, Line 10

<sup>21</sup> "Statutory Registers - Birth Indexes," *ScotlandsPeople* ([scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://scotlandspeople.gov.uk): accessed 1 December 2018), entry for Herbert Rogerson, Year: 1879, County: Banff

<sup>22</sup> "Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," *FamilySearch* ([familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org): accessed 23 April 2018), entry for Edith Rogerson, 26 January 1881, Banff, Banffshire, Scotland

<sup>23</sup> "Statutory Registers - Birth Indexes," *ScotlandsPeople* ([scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://scotlandspeople.gov.uk): accessed 1 December 2018), entry for Eustace Rogerson, Year: 1882, County: Banff

<sup>24</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Constance Rogerson, Registration district: Banff, Civil parish: Banff, Town: Banff, County: Banffshire, Address: UP Manse Sandhill Rd, ED: 1, Household schedule number: 20, Line 5

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- <sup>25</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Florence Rogerson, Registration district: Banff, Civil parish: Banff, Town: Banff, County: Banffshire, Address: UP Manse Sandhill Rd, ED: 1, Household schedule number: 20, Line 6
- <sup>26</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Julian Rogerson, Registration district: Banff, Civil Parish: Banff, Town: Banff, County: Banffshire, Address: UP Manse Sandhill Rd, ED: 1, Household schedule number: 20, Line 7; "UK, Mechanical Engineer Records, 1847–1938," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 29 November 2018) entry for Julian Rogerson, Birth date: 5 September 1886
- <sup>27</sup> "1901 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Murial Rogerson, Registration district: Banff, Civil parish: Banff, Town: Banff, County: Banffshire, Address: WP Manse, ED: 1, Household schedule number: 5, Line 9
- <sup>28</sup> "1881 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Adam B. Rogerson, Registration district: Banff, Civil parish: Banff, Town: Banff, County: Banffshire, Address: United Presbyterian Manse, ED: 1, Household schedule number: 25, Line 4
- <sup>29</sup> "Web: Moray, Scotland, Local Heritage Index, 1632–2014," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2017), entry for Adam Black Rogerson, Death date: 7 May 1921, Death place: Trinity Manse, Banff, 1921
- <sup>30</sup> "Statutory Registers – Deaths Indexes," *ScotlandsPeople* ([ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk](https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk): accessed 1 December 2018), entry for Janet Sarah Rogerson, Year: 1924, County: Banff
- <sup>31</sup> "Statutory Registers – Deaths Indexes," *ScotlandsPeople* ([ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk](https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk): accessed 1 December 2018), entries for John Rogerson, Year: 1875; Herbert Rogerson, Year: 1879; John, Rogerson Year: 1883; Eustace Rogerson, Year: 1884 and Florence Rogerson, Year: 1892, County: Banff
- <sup>32</sup> "UK, Mechanical Engineer Records, 1847–1938," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): database with images, accessed 29 November 2018), entry for Julian Rogerson, Birth date: 5 September 1886
- <sup>33</sup> "Scotland, National Probate Index (Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories), 1876–1936," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 23 April 2018), entry for Julian Rogerson, Death date: 18 September 1919, Death place: Lillooah, Bengal, India
- <sup>34</sup> "1891 Scotland Census," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 20 November 2018), entry for James and Edwin Rogerson, Registration district: Newington, Civil parish: Edinburgh St. Cuthberts, County: Midlothian, Address: 63 Warrender Park Road, ED: 105, Household schedule number: 99, Lines: 20 and 21
- <sup>35</sup> "UK, Outgoing Passenger Lists, 1890–1960," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): database with images, accessed 20 November 2018), entry for Edwin Rogerson, Departure date: 22 January 1916
- <sup>36</sup> "India Marriages, 1792–1948," *FamilySearch* ([familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org): accessed 23 April 2017) entry for Edwin Rogerson & Janie Rogerson, Date: 31 December 1919, Bombay, India
- <sup>37</sup> "1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *FamilySearch* ([familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org): accessed 20 November 2018), entry for Clement Rogerson, Registration district: Kelvin, Civil Parish: Glasgow, County: Lanarkshire, Address: 290 Renfrew Street
- <sup>38</sup> "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island, 1820–1957," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): database with images, accessed 20 November 2018), entry for Clement Rogerson, Arrival date: 20 November 1925
- <sup>39</sup> "UK, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878–1960," *Ancestry* ([ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com): accessed 20 November 2018), entry for Clement Rogerson, Arrival date: 28 December 1960
- <sup>40</sup> "Statutory Registers – Marriage Indexes," *ScotlandsPeople* ([scotlandspeople.gov.uk](https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk): accessed 1 December 2018), entry for Clement Rogerson and Lucy Fricker, Year: 1902