



David L. Rogers

9055 Acting QMS David Llewellyn Rogers, 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, DCM and Medal of St George 1st Class (Russia)

David L. Rogers was born at Fort George on 30th August 1888. His father was Captain Jonah Rogers. Initially he enlisted in The Scots Guards and later "was claimed by his brother into the 2nd Seaforths." His father and six brothers all served in the British Army.

He had many accomplishments to his name.

1909; Bronze medal in the Bayonet v Bayonet competition for the Scottish Command, Edinburgh and again for the Eastern Command, Shornecliffe in 1913.

1913; Silver Cup for best shot of the Warrant and Non Commissioned Officers of the Battalion.

1914; Best shot of the Battalion in the Annual Course of Musketry.

1st class certificate (Distinguished) in Special Course of Musketry, Hythe, this distinction being seldom won by a Non-Commissioned Officer. After this he was offered, but declined the post of Instructor in the Army School.

He was Captain of the Battalion Tug-of-War Team at Olympia 1912-13-14, this team winning Silver medals for each year.

He went to France at the outbreak of the war and was wounded on the 13th October 1914. He was wounded for a second time in April 1915 and died of his wounds at Rouen General Hospital, France on 3rd June 1915. He is buried in A. 9.34 St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France. He was awarded the D.C.M. for Gallant and Skilful leading.

The Czar conferred the Medal of St George 1st Class (Russian Gold Medal) posthumously on David Rogers . This was published In The Edinburgh Gazette Supplement of 25th August 1915. King George had given permission for those who were awarded the Russian decorations to wear the medals alongside their campaign medals and decorations. It appears the Czar awarded these decorations to members of allied forces, they did not seem to have needed to have served with Russian troops, rather to have committed acts of bravery.

His brother 8080 CSM Arthur Phillip Rogers D.C.M. served in the Seaforth Highlanders.

Arthur was born in Lucknow, Bengal on 18th December 1884. He joined the Seaforth Highlanders at Fort George in 1901. He was one of the original members of the Expeditionary Force and took part in all the early battles of WW1. He was wounded in 1914, returned to France with one of the Battalions of Kitcheners men; gassed in 1915; again wounded in 1916; in 1917 he was awarded the DCM for his conspicuous gallantry in action. He was killed in action on 13th October 1917. He is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium, Panel 132 to 135 and 162A.

Another brother 1114 Sergeant Fredrick Thomas Rogers M.M. was in the R.A.M.C. died of wounds 1st August 1916. He is buried in A. 25.1 St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France.

Sources;

CWGC

Edinburgh Gazette Supplement 1915

The following publications in Elgin Heritage Centre Reference section ;

The Morayshire Roll of Honour 1914-1918,

Elgin Academy Magazine 1921,

LIBINDEX,

Forres Nairn & Elgin Gazette.

Terry MacQueen



Albert Donaldson

Second Lieutenant Albert Donaldson, Fishcurer and Soldier in The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

Albert was born circa 1896 in Portknockie, Banffshire and was awarded the Military Cross and Bar during his service in World War 1.

"Portknockie Officer wins Military Cross" was the headline in the Banffshire Advertiser of 17th January 1918. It also carried the account of his bravery and leadership.

"The following is the official account of the deed for which Second Lieutenant Donaldson, Cameron Highlanders, (Special Reserve), was recently awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Through his fine leadership and determination he was able to capture his objective, and having done so, went up under heavy machine gun fire and placed a Lewis gun, which covered his company whilst consolidating. It was due to this and the competent way in which he handled his company that the enemy counter attack was much delayed. When the Battalion had to withdraw his skill and coolness enabled them to get back without disorder.

Second Lieutenant Donaldson who has now been gazetted Captain is the youngest son of the late Mr John Donaldson, Fishcurer, and Mrs Donaldson, Morven View, Portknockie."

Also in the Banffshire Advertiser of 1st August 1918 was an account of the award of the Bar to the Military Cross.

"For Conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action. Throughout the operations he showed marked ability, particularly during the withdrawal, when his fearlessness had a most inspiring effect on his men. Later he was put in command of two Companies when he showed great skill in reorganising under most difficult circumstances."

Albert was wounded at the Battle of the Somme. After the war he married, and he had two young children at the time of his death in 1925. He had been working in the family business and cut the top off his finger. Due to complications from this injury he died in Aberdeen on 29th January 1925 aged 30 years. A description of his funeral was recorded in the Banffshire Advertiser of 5th February 1925 describing him "as a young giant in stature, standing 6ft 2ins his soldierly figure well known to all inhabitants."

He is interred in the family grave at Hillhead Cemetery, Portknockie, Banffshire.

His brother George aged 31 years; a Second Lieutenant in the Gordon Highlanders was killed in Action on 16th May 1917 and is buried in Crump Trench British Cemetery, Fampoux, France.

Sources

Elgin Heritage Reference Section;
Banffshire Advertiser 17/01/1918
Banffshire Advertiser 01/08/1918
LIBINDX
Gravestone Hillhead Cemetery.
Photograph Seoras McIntosh

