



## **PRIVATE CHARLES WILLIAM REDLEY**

5th Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment

Service number 15513

Killed in action, 27 March 1918

Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert

Born Little Brington 1886

Parents Joseph & Emily Redley

59, 58 Little Brington

1915 Star, Victory Medal, British War Medal

Charles Redley was born in Little Brington in 1886 and first appears in the 1891 Census living at 59 Little Brington with his parents Joseph and Emily and brothers Harry and Herbert. His father was a farm labourer. By 1901 his mother was widowed and had moved to No 13 Elliot's Lane and Brother George had arrived. By 1911 Harry had gone to work on a farm and the younger brothers were "estate labourers".

We don't know precisely when Charles joined up, but it must have been early because he is shown as 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 'Roll of Honour 1914.' and not 3rd battalion, meaning he had passed out as a trained soldier. The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion embarked for France in May 1915 as the pioneer battalion of the 12<sup>th</sup> Division, meaning they were trained to carry out labour tasks in addition to acting as infantry.

Charles would have had nearly three years of hard slog, at Loos in 1915, on the Somme in 1916 and Arras and Cambrai in 1917. He died in the German Spring Offensive of 1918, when many British units were overrun in the German Army's last major effort to turn the tide

**WAR DIARY** Army Form  
*5<sup>th</sup> Bn. Northamptonshire REGT. (Pioneers).*  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**  
 (Erase heading not required.)

regarding War Diaries and Intelligence files are contained in F. S. Regs. Part II. Staff Manual respectively. Title pages prepared in manuscript.

Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
1918		
March		
14 <sup>th</sup>		A & C Coys same as for 12 <sup>th</sup> inst. B Coy commenced work on Breastworks at H. 21. c. 8. 6 to 4. 21. 10. 9. 0.
15 <sup>th</sup>		Same as for 14 <sup>th</sup> inst. A Coy connecting K & CHARLES POSTS.
16 <sup>th</sup>		Same as for 15 <sup>th</sup> inst.
17 <sup>th</sup>		A Coy same work. C Coy settling repairing HAYMARKET SWITCH. D Coy same work.

BOUZINCOURT.

25 <sup>th</sup>	Arrived BOUZINCOURT at 5.30 am. moved up into huts & trenches about a mile EAST of BOUZINCOURT where attached to 35 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde. as Reserve.
26 <sup>th</sup>	A Coy was sent out at 4 pm to reinforce 7 <sup>th</sup> Suffolk REGT. on the right of the Division. D Coy was sent out at 7 pm to reinforce 7 <sup>th</sup> NORFOLK REGT.
27 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> NORFOLK REGT. were driven back and H.Q. captured. D Coy retiring with them. 7 <sup>th</sup> SUFFOLK REGT. with A Coy attached remained in same position as yesterday.
28 <sup>th</sup>	C Coy formed defence of trench where 35 <sup>th</sup> Bn HQ & Bn HQ were situated. Casualties 11 OR killed, 40 OR wounded, 23 OR missing, 5 shell shock. Bn relieved by units of 7 <sup>th</sup> Divn. at 3 am. marched back to billets in HENENCOURT.
29 <sup>th</sup>	Bn in billets at HENENCOURT.
30 <sup>th</sup>	A Coy commenced work on Corps line, repairing & reconstructing. C & D Coys commenced work on Corps line, digging new fire trench & saps.
31 <sup>st</sup>	All Companies same work.

*J. Colman*  
 H. O. C. 5<sup>th</sup> Northamptonshire Regt. (Pioneers)

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A500) Wt. W1721/1491 750/000 1/7 Sch. 33 Form C211/1/4

Extracts of the war diary of 5th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment for March 1918. 12th (Eastern) Division who had been in trenches near Armentières, were rushed 70 miles south to reinforce the defence against the German offensive, arriving on the Somme on 25 March.

25 Mar Arrived BOUZINCOURT at 5.30am and moved up into huts and trenches about a mile EAST of BOUZINCOURT and were attached to 35 Inf Bde as Reserve.

26 Mar A Coy was sent out at 4pm to reinforce 7<sup>th</sup> Suffolk regt on the right of the Division. D Coy was sent out at 7pm to reinforce 7<sup>th</sup> Norfolk Regt.

27 Mar 7 Norfolk Regt was driven back and HQ captured. D Coy retiring with them. 7 Suffolk Regt with A Coy attached remained in same position as yesterday. C Coy formed defence of trench where 35 Inf Bde HQ and Bn HQ were situated. Casualties 11 OR killed, 40, OR wounded, 23 OR missing, 5 shell shock.

28 Mar Bn in billets at HENENCOURT

**Post script** Bouzincourt remained partly in German hands after the battles of March 1918. The eastern end of the village was attacked by the 12th and 18th Divisions at the end of June 1918, and cleared in the latter half of August.

<p>PTE. C. REDLEY.</p>  <p>One of the many men on Earl Spencer's estate who joined at the outbreak of war, Pte. Charles Redley, of the Northampton, is reported killed in action on March 27th, after being in France nearly three years. One of three sons of Mrs. and the late Mr. J. Redley, of Little Brington serving with the colours, he was 31 years of age, and worked as a forester. One of his brothers was taken prisoner in the</p> <p>Battle of the Dunes.</p>	<p><i>Northampton Independent</i> 11 May 1918</p>
--	---

In Memory of  
Private  
**C Redley**

15513, 5th Bn., Northamptonshire Regiment who died on 27 March 1918

Remembered with Honour  
Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission