

PRIVATE CHARLES WILLIAM REDLEY

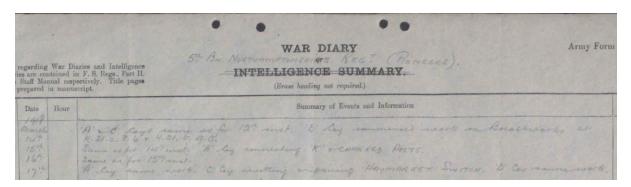
5th Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment
Service number 15513
Killed in action, 27 March 1918
Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert
Born Little Brington 1886
Parents Joseph & Emily Redley
59, 58 Little Brington

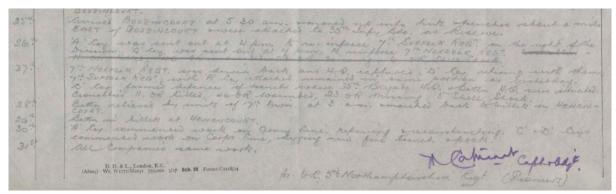
1915 Star, Victory Medal, British War Medal

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 5th Battalion on the 'Roll of Honour 1914:' and not 3rd battalion, meaning he had passed out as a trained soldier. The 5th Battalion embarked for France in May 1915 as the pioneer battalion of the 12th 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 Brtitish units were overrun in the German Army's last major effort to turn the tide





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 ands 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 7th Suffolk regt on the right of the Division. D Coy was sent out at 7pm to reinforce 7th 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.

