



## **L/SERGT WILLIAM HENRY B REDLEY MM**

7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment

Service number 15216

Died of wounds 1 August 1916 ... age 27

Aeroplane Cemetery Ypres, Belgium

Born Kempston Bedfordshire 1892

Parents Robert and Ruth Redley


Main Street Little Brington, Woodbine Cottage Little Brington

1915 Star, Victory Medal, British War Medal

William Redley first appears in the 1901 Census aged 9. His father Robert was a Little Brington man and a shepherd. His mother Ruth was born in Kempston, as were he and his young brother James. The family home was a cottage in Little Brington, probably the same one as in the 1911 Census, by when Robert had been born and William was described as a bricklayer's labourer.

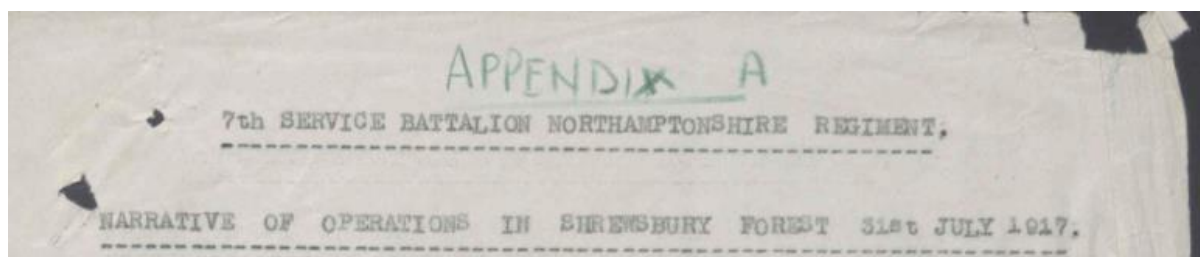
The obituary in the *Northampton Independent* of 25 August 1917 speaks eloquently:

LC.-SERGT. W. H. REDLEY.



The death from wounds on August 1st is reported of Lance-Sergt. W. H. Redley, of Woodbine Cottage, Little Brington. Deceased, who enlisted on September 8th, 1914, had previously been wounded, and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery on the field. He was a well-known footballer, and his death will be sincerely regretted by his comrades.

We have no knowledge of how he came to be awarded the Military Medal. What we do know is that his mother, who was a widow by the time of his death, received a War Gratuity of 15s 9d, and that at, at her request, his headstone was inscribed "God is Love".



In the difficult conditions of a night attack, "Our assaulting troops being held up were unable to keep up with the barrage, lost direction and became disorganised. It was then that the Commanding Officer Lt Col E R Mobbs DSO arrived in the front line and with a handful of men charged an enemy machine gun post, and was seriously wounded. Before dying he wrote out a message to his Battalion Headquarters for reinforcements to be sent ..."

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.			
<small>(Eraser heading not required.)</small>			
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Lane.	1/8/17		The Battalion was relieved by the 1st North Staffords and the 13th Middlesex Regiment this morning and returned to "J" Camp at DICKEBUSCH H.27.a.9.7. During the day parties of men continually rejoined. Major D.W.Powell assumed Command from today.
DICKEBUSCH	2/8/17		The whole day devoted to resting the men and cleaning up kit etc. The vicinity of the camp was shelled during the night.
do	3/8/17		Rifle inspection held by Company Commanders. The remainder of the day left for the men.
do	4/8/17		Physical training and Company inspections during the morning.
do	5/8/17		The Battalion has been reorganised into two Companies under Command of Captain TWISS (No.2.Company) and Lieut Passmore (No.1.Company)

“5 Aug 17 The Battalion has been reorganised into two companies ... “

In other words, half the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been lost in the attack. William and many others had died with their commanding officer in the Third Battle of Ypres, commonly known as Paschendael.



Aeroplane Cemetery, Ypres