

CHARLES WILLIAM BURLINGHAM

Born: 13th July 1892, Marlingford¹

Enlisted: 1/5th Battalion, the Norfolk Regiment (Private 3042/Private 240644)



Medals: British War Medal; Victory Medal



Charles William Burlingham was born in 1892, the eldest son of Charles and Elizabeth Burlingham, and baptised on the 14th July 1896 in Neatishead parish church (see Figure 1). He was baptised alongside his younger brother, Robert Cecil.²

13 th July 1892	1896 June 14 th	Charles William	Charles & Elizabeth	Burlingham	Neatishead	Grown	R.W.F. Hornball Cleric
	No. 433.						

Figure 1 : Extract from the Neatishead Baptisms, 1896

In the 1911 census for Hoveton St Peter, the Burlingham family are living near Home Farm, and Charles is aged 18 and a farm labourer. By the time of the 1918 electoral register, the Burlingham family are living in Wood Norton. Charles's parents (Charles and Elizabeth) are recorded as living near the church, whilst Charles is recorded as an absent voter, and living in the village.³

The British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 do not appear to have survived for Charles, but we do have copies of his Medal Roll record and index card. These show that he served with the 1/5th Battalion, the Norfolk Regiment with service number 3042, and following

¹ FreeBMD, Quarter to September 1892, Forehoe Vol.4b, p.193 (www.freebmd.org.uk); 1911 census, Hoveton St Peter (Schedule 44) (www.ancestry.co.uk); 1939 Register (www.ancestry.co.uk).

² Baptism Register 1896, Neatishead (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³ First Register of Parliamentary and Local Government Electors, 1918; Polling District: Foulsham, Parish: Wood Norton (Norfolk Heritage Centre, microfilm MF1038).

the renumbering of the Territorial Force in 1917,⁴ with a six-digit service number, 240664. It appears that Charles enlisted early on in the war in 1914, as his brother, Robert Cecil Burlingham, who was in the same Regiment, had a service number of 3085 (later renumbered to 240688), having enlisted on the 24th September 1914.⁵ Robert Cecil Burlingham was killed in action on the 2nd November 1917, in Palestine, aged 21.

During the period that Charles served with the 1/5th Battalion, the Norfolk Regiment, they were engaged in various actions in Gallipoli and Palestine:

1/4th & 1/5th Battalion Territorial Force

- 04.08.1914: *The 1/4th Stationed at St. Giles Norwich and the 1/5th stationed at East Dereham both as part of the Norfolk & Suffolk Brigade of the East Anglian Division.*
- Aug 1914: *Moved to Colchester.*
- May 1915: *Moved to Watford and the formation became the 163rd Brigade of the 54th Division.*
- 29.07.1915: *Embarked for Gallipoli from Liverpool via Mudros.*
- 10.08.1915: *Landed at Suvla Bay and engaged in various actions against the Turkish Army.*
- 19.12.1915: *Evacuated from Gallipoli to Alexandria due to severe casualties from combat, disease and harsh weather. The Division went on to engage in various actions including;*
 - 1916 *Suez Canal Defence.*
 - 1917 *The First Battle of Gaza, The Second Battle of Gaza, The Third Battle of Gaza, The Capture of Gaza, The Battle of Jaffa.*
 - 1918 *The fight at Ras el'Ain, The operations at Berukin, The Battle of Sharon.*
- 31.10.1918: *Ended the war in Beirut, Palestine.*⁶

Charles was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal (see Figure 2).⁷

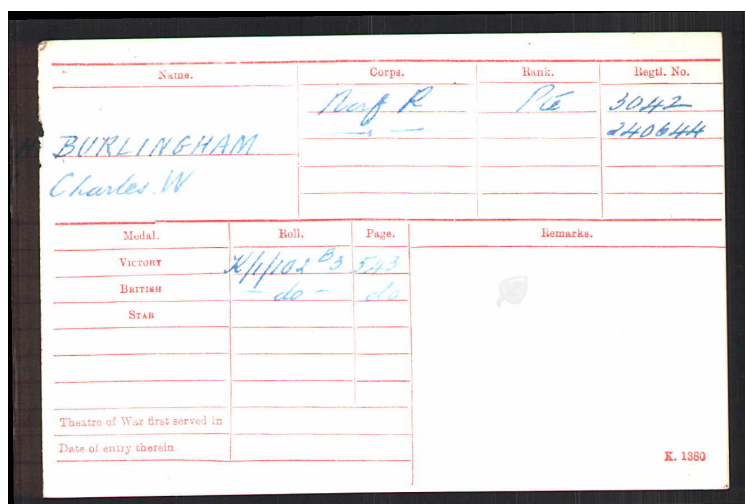


Figure 2 : Medal Roll index card for Charles William Burlingham

⁴ The Long, Long Trail , the British Army in the Great War of 1914-1918 (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/a-soldiers-life-1914-1918/renumbering-of-the-territorial-force-in-1917>).

⁵ British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁶ Forces War Records, Unit History, Norfolk Regiment (<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/276/norfolk-regiment>).

⁷ British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk)

After the war, it appears that Charles returned to live and work in Norfolk. He married Elizabeth Seely Balls (born 22 April 1895 in Howe⁸) in 1922.⁹ They had two daughters:

- Phyllis Irene - born on the 25th September 1923 and baptised in Wood Norton;¹⁰ and
- Kathleen Maud - born in Stibbard on the 22nd April 1929, and baptised in Wood Norton.¹¹

In the 1939 Register, Charles is living with his family in Norton Road, Stibbard, and his occupation is given as farm worker. He is an ARP Warden.¹² At this time Charles's widowed mother Elizabeth, and his youngest brother Frederick George, are living in The Street, Wood Norton.¹³

Charles died on the 10th June 1965, aged 72, at Chapel Street, Diss. His probate amounted to £237, which was left to his widow, Elizabeth Seely Burlingham,¹⁴ who died in 1983, aged 88.¹⁵

⁸ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1865, Loddon, Vol.4b, p.228* (www.freebmd.org.uk); Baptism Register, 1865, Howe (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1922, Loddon, Vol.4b, p.498* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹⁰ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1923, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.123* (www.freebmd.org.uk); *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1923 (p.43)

¹¹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1929, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.358* (www.freebmd.org.uk); *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Baptisms, 1929 (p.43)

¹² 1939 England and Wales Register, Walsingham RD, Enumeration District TSBN, Schedule 91 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹³ 1939 England and Wales Register, Walsingham RD, Enumeration District TSBD, Schedule 53 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁴ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1965, Depwade, Vol.4b, p.477* (www.freebmd.org.uk); England and Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration), 1858-1966, 1973-1995 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁵ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1983, Norwich, Vol.10, p.1531* (www.freebmd.org.uk).