

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – June 1918

The 'Bigger' Picture

- British, French, and Italian Governments make declarations supporting national aspirations of Poles, Czecho-Slovaks, and Yugo-Slavs.
- United States Government announce their view that all branches of the Slav races should be completely freed from German and Austrian rule.
- Treaty signed between the Czecho-Slovaks and Italy, by which Italy recognises Czecho-Slovak Council and their jurisdiction over nationals
- The Don Cossacks declare independence.
- Russian Bolshevik Government order Entente forces in North Russia to leave the country.
- Armistice concluded at Kiev between the whole State of The Ukraine and Russian Bolshevik Republic
- Georgian Government and Armenian National Council sign peace treaties with Turkey and Germany
- Gen Guillaumat appointed Governor of Paris.
- Dr Ernst Ritter von Seidler, Austrian Premier, resigns.
- M Radoslavov, Bulgarian Premier, resigns.
- Samsam es Sultaneh reappointed Persian Prime Minister.
- First sitting of Anglo-German Conference at The Hague on prisoners of war.

The Western Front

- British Independent Air Force in France constituted under tactical command of Maj Gen Trenchard
- Battle of the Matz begins .

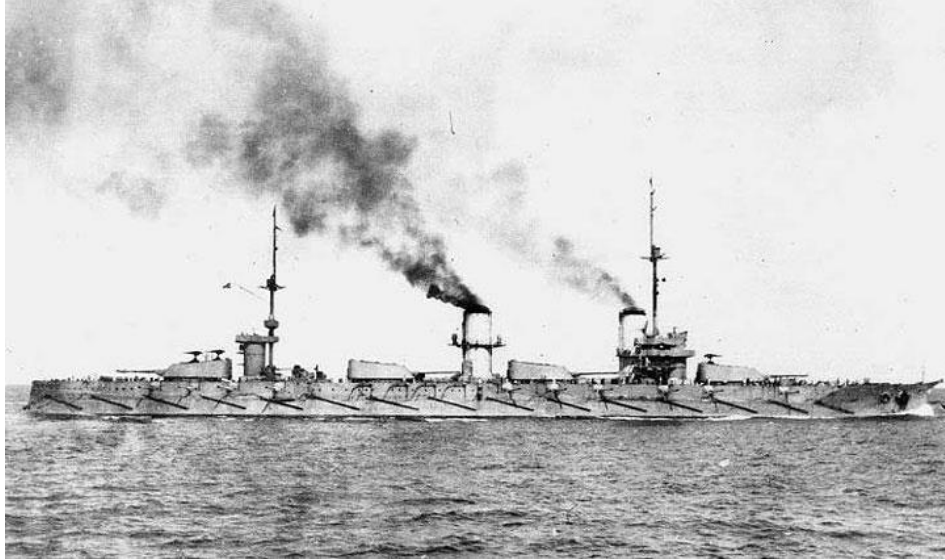
The Eastern Front

Russia

- The Russian offensive was crushed by a German counteroffensive and the Russian Army was plagued by mutinies and desertions. Allied war materiel still in transit quickly began piling up in warehouses at (Archangel) and the Murmansk. Anxious to keep Russia in the war, the Royal Navy established the British North Russia Squadron under Admiral Kemp and further troop deployments would follow and form the North Russian Expeditionary Force.
- British Marines land at Pechenga.
- British force lands at Kem
- British Expeditionary Forces Syren (600 men under command Maj Gen Maynard) and Elope (a training mission To train local troops) under command Brig Finlayson) join the North Russian Expeditionary Force at Murmansk .
- Murmansk Soviet (Sovdep) decide to support the Entente against the Bolshevik Government
- Railway from Murmansk to Sorokiseized controlled by Allied forces

Black Sea

- German Expeditionary Force to the Caucasus lands at Poti, Georgia.
- Russian battleship Svobodnaya Rossiya scuttled to avoid surrender to the Germans under terms of treaty of Brest Litovsk



- Tiflis, Georgia occupied by a German force
- Omsk (Siberia) occupied by Czecho-Slovak forces

Other Fronts

BALKANS

- Gen Guillaumat, Allied Commander-in-Chief, Salonika, Greece, recalled to Paris Gen Franchet d'Esperey appointed

CAUCASUS

- Kurdamir, East Caucasus occupied by Turkish forces.

PERSIA

- Tabriz, North Persia again occupied by Turkish forces

ITALY

- Battle of the Piave
- First contingent of United States troops arrive in Italy

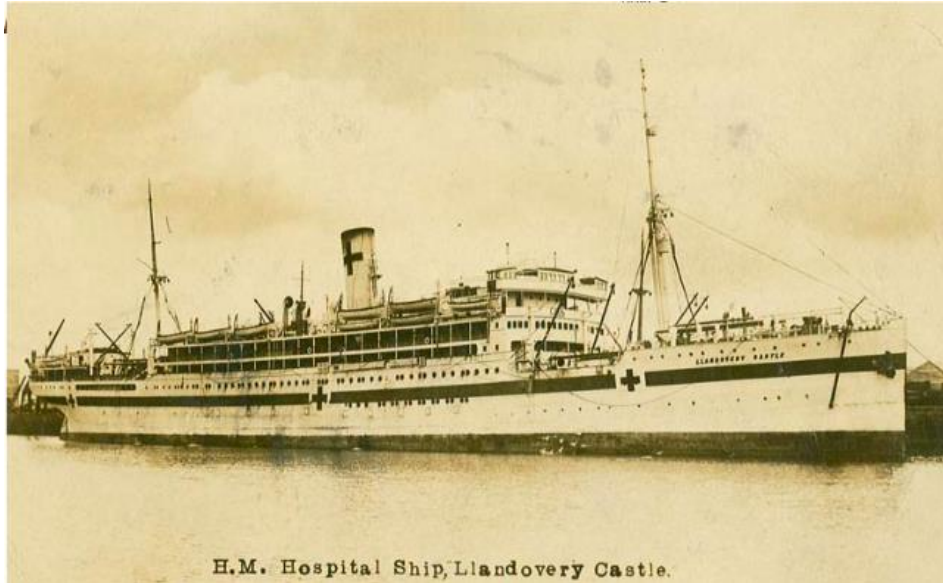
At Sea

- Naval action off Premuda Island. Austrian battleship Szent Istvan (*below*) sunk by Italian motor launch.



U-BOAT WARFARE

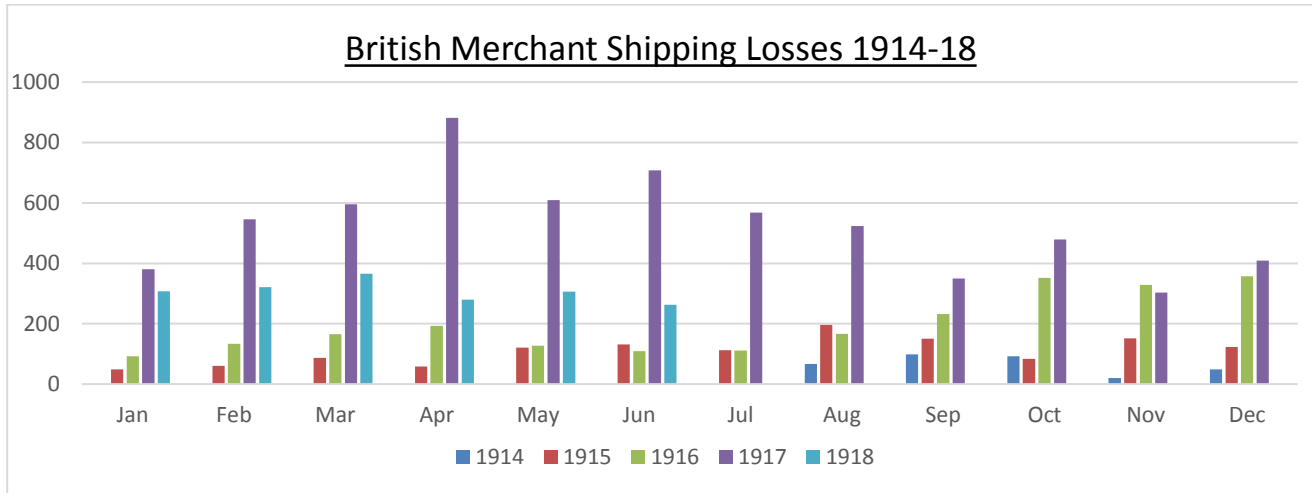
- Hospital ship Llandoverly Castle sunk by submarine off Irish coast. Llandoverly Castle, was one of five Canadian hospital ships. On a voyage from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Liverpool, England, the ship was torpedoed off southern Ireland on 27 June 1918. The sinking was the deadliest Canadian naval disaster of the war. Tragically, 234 doctors, nurses, members of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, soldiers and seamen died in the sinking and subsequent machine-gunning of lifeboats. Only 24 people, the occupants on a single life-raft, survived.



- Dutch hospital ship Koningen Regentes sunk - departed Boston bound for Rotterdam. When she was 21 miles east of Leman lightship, she was torpedoed by the Imperial German Navy submarine SM UB-107 and sank shortly afterwards. Seven people lost their lives.



- British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month – 119 ships of 263,000 tons gross.



The 'Herefords'

Casualties (other than 1st Bn)

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
BLACKKEY	JOSEPH WILLIAM	CPL		237608	07 Jun	KIA	F&F	LIVERPOOL	KSLI 4
BOAM	ARTHUR	PTE		237920	07 Jun	KIA	F&F	HYDE CHESHIRE	KSLI 4
DAVIES	FRANK	PTE	3981		09 Jun	DIED	HOME	HOW CAPLE	LAB CORPS
TUDGE	REGINALD CHARLES	PTE	3125		13 Jun	KIA	F&F	COLWALL	GLOS 14
DYKES	CHARLES	PTE	4404		15 Jun	KIA	F&F	LEOMINSTER	GLOS 1
HUGHES	ERNEST	PTE			28 Jun	DIED	F&F	HOWLE HILL	GLOS 12

The London Gazette

Honours & Awards

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
14/06/1918	Colwell	235647 Cpl CJ	MID	
14/06/1918	Drage	Lt Col G	MID	
14/06/1918	Herbert	235055 RQMS SC	MID	
27/06/1918	Adams	235721 Pte W	MM	

THE HEREFORDS' SERVICES IN PALESTINE.

Among the officers and men mentioned in a despatch received by the Secretary of State for War from General Sir E. H. H. Allenby, Commanding-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, are the following:—Herefordshire Regiment (T.F.): Drage, Lieut.-Colonel G., D.S.O. (major, ret., R.M.); Herbert (235055), Regtl. Q.M.S. S. C.; Colwell (235647), Corpl. (Acting Sergt.) C. J.

HERBERT. S. C. 235055. (R. Q. M. S.)

Herefordshire Regt (T. F.)

M.I.D Lon Gaz 14. 6. 18. Page 7054.

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
04/06/1918	Evans	CM	to be lieutenant and seconded	
06/06/1918	Bray	LCpl JM	to be second lieutenant	SWB
06/06/1918	Carless	LCpl RJ	to be second lieutenant	KSLI
06/06/1918	Hands	LCpl HG	to be second lieutenant	KSLI
06/06/1918	Harper	Sgt WH	to be second lieutenant	SWB
06/06/1918	Price	Cpl HL	to be second lieutenant	SWB
06/06/1918	Rowbrey	Cpl AJ	to be second lieutenant	SWB
12/06/1918	Horth	HR	reverts to lieutenant on ceasing to be a coy comd	
12/06/1918	Lawrie	LG	seconded to RE	
21/06/1918	Edwards	CR	to be captain	
21/06/1918	Fuller	F	to be captain and coy comd	Cheshire Regt

1st Battalion

Casualties No casualties recorded

From The Battalion War Diary:

1 Jun	0800 - Battalion moved out, played off by Divisional Band and marched to Hawkes Hill and went into bivouac for night; Corps Comd wished Battalion Au Revoir.
2 Jun	0445 – Battalion moved off and halted at Betunia for breakfast. Proceeded to Enab and bivouaced for night.
3 Jun	0500 – Battalion marched to Latron and went into bivouac by 4/11 Gurkhas – Battalion relief.
4 Jun	Battalion marched to Sarafend.
5 June	Battalion rested and handed in surplus stores, animals and vehicles.
6 June	Battalion marched to Ludd and entrained at 1745 and 2145
7 Jun	Arrived at Kantara at 0900 and 1100 proceeded to camp Kilo 5.
8-9 Jun	Refitting, washing clothes and bathing.
10 June	As per 9 th ; draft arrived to complete to establishment
11 June	As per 10 th ; bn passed through gas chamber
12-14 June	As per 11 th
16 Jun	Battalion moved out of camp and proceeded to Kantara West station, entraining at 2200.
17 Jun	0730 – Arrived at number 20 quay, Alexandria and embarked on HMT Kaiser-I-Hind.
18 Jun	0730 - Troop ship went into outer harbour, ship sailed as part of convoy escorted by Japanese destroyers.
19-20 Jun	At Sea
21 Jun	1130 – Stood to, torpedo from enemy submarine passed astern. 1300 – entered Toranto Harbour. 1700 – Entered inner harbour; unloaded baggage all night.
22 June	Battalion disembarked into lighters and landed at pier; went into hutments near.
23 June	2230 - Battalion entrained into 2 passenger coaches and 29 goods trucks, 1 ration, 1 baggage and 1 MO.
24-29 Jun	On Train
30 June	Arrived Proven, detrained and marched to Ostkapelle, Les Cinq Chemins; companies in billets – barns and hutments.



Kaiser-I-Hind

1/1st. Herefordshire Regt.

APPENDICES TO THE WAR DIARY for the month of JUNE 1917

APPENDIX 1 - CASUALTIES :

	Officers	Other Ranks
Killed	-	-
Wounded	-	4
Missing	-	-
Sick Admitted	3	85
	<u>3</u>	<u>89</u>

APPENDIX 2 - REINFORCEMENTS :

	Officers	Other Ranks
From England	-	-
From Hospital (sick)	-	93
From Hospital (wounded)	1	37
Various	2	52
	<u>3</u>	<u>182</u>

APPENDIX 3 - HEALTH OF TROOPS :

Daily percentage of sick :-

'A' Coy. - 1.8	Battalion	'B' Coy. - 2.1
	Average	
'B' Coy. - 1.8	2.0	'D' Coy. - 2.3

APPENDIX 4 - OFFICER CASUALTIES :

2/Lieut. P. T. Raymond	-	To Hospital 11/6/18
Lieut. W. F. Bushell	-	To Hospital 28/6/18
2/Lieut. A. P. D. Michael	-	To Hospital 28/6/18
2/Lieut. H. Peake	-	From Hospital 13/6/16
2/Lieut. A. P. D. Michael	-	From Base 4/6/18
2/Lieut. A. P. D. Michael	-	From Base 8/6/18

From the Diaries of:

Capt Edward Wilmot

June 2nd Marched to near Bethel.

June 3rd To Ramallah and there to Euab?

June 4th to Latron? At midnight left for Ramleh ???

June 5th got tp Ludd and bivouaced near Jaffa road. Basil Collins and Martin (attached) joined from hospital

June 8th Entrained for Kantara.

June 9th Arrived Kantara (East), Ward went on to France to arrange for transport for horses.

June 16th Entrained in Kantara west for Alexandria at 10.30 pm

June 17th Arrived Alexandria about 5,30 A.M and embarked on the P&O Kaisal-I-Hind
June 18th Sailed from Alexandria
June 21st Arrived at Taranto
June 22nd Disembarked and marched to Camp at Cunino?
June 23rd Left Taranto
June 24th Passed Brindisi, Balli? And Foggia?
June 25th passed Castellamale, Ancona and Fraenza
June 26th passed Genoa Albequr?Fort Maurice and San Remo. Bentinighio (frontier) Mentone, Monte Carlo and Monaco.
June 27th Nice Canna and a place called Ta? Where we were allowed to bathe. Frejus, Les Arcs, Le Luc, ? And Toulong and then just outside Marseilles.
June 28th Avignon, Roquemonde
June 30th Mendinghein where we detrained and marched to huts at Rousbrugge and good deal of bombing at night. "A" & "B" Company officers in one hut "C" & "D" at Cinq Chemiens village with HQ.

Sgt Colley

After we had withdrawn from the line we were informed by the BGC that we had been chosen to leave for France. We commenced on a 6 day march from the line to the railhead at Ludd and were inspected by Div General ? and Sir Phillip Chetwode and both wished us the best of luck and success upon our arrival in France. We rested at Ludd for a few days and then entrained for Kantara – no one being sorry to leave Palestine and the Sinai Desert behind. Upon arrival at Kantara we found about 300 of our men waiting to rejoin, all these men being returned from hospitals, convalescent camps, depots and base drafts. We were equipped refitted and eventually entrained for the port of Alexandria, embarking on board the Kaiser I Hind, straight from the train. We bade goodbye to Egypt on Jun 17 and sailed to Taranto, the southern Italian port, in a convoy of 5 ships escorted by submarine chasers, Japanese torpedo boats and destroyers and several aeroplanes.

It was quite a good sight to see the boats zig-zag and keep perfect formation. Submarines had been very active in this area, and a great strain was felt by everyone on nearing Italy. One torpedo was fired at us but luckily missed and we disembarked at Taranto on 22 Jun after a nice sea voyage. A day was spent here, during which time everyone drank an enormous quantity of beer. Then we commenced an 8 day train journey. We were loaded in vans as many as 35 and 40 men being crowded into one van, together with all equipment. It can be imagined that we did not travel in comfort; many sighed for the joys of a pullman car.

In spite of all this the journey was really enjoyable it was so nice to see the hedges and green trees once again – the country was simply marvellous. Hot meals were provided en route. We passed through Barcelona, Angorra and Genoa from here. Marseilles was the lovliest part of the journey passing right through the Riviera, Nice, Monaco, Cannes and Monte Carlo. The Italian people lined the streets and cheered us to the utmost. Flags were flying everywhere and we felt quite pleased. Passing through Italy many were the calls for bully beef from the inhabitants offering large bottles of their native wine in exchange.

Sgt Pugh

We left Alexandria on the Kaiser I Hind as there were few other transports but not so large, and we were escorted by Japanese destroyers, and a seaplane and observation balloon. After a few days voyage we landed at Taranto, but on the way were attacked by a submarine, which put a torpedo at one of the transports. The torpedo missed and one of the destroyers chased the submarine. They were very keen and were firing for they could see the sub and we could not. After they had chased her they said that they had sunk her with a depth charge, and that there was a lot of oil on the surface afterwards. It was not our transport that they fired the torpedo at, but the one just in front. All this time we had to stand to ready to take to the boats, for, for all we

knew we might be sunk. We had had boat drill every day, each company having a certain station. Every man was provided with a lifebelt, in fact we were supposed never to have them off.

On arriving at Taranto we spent the first night on board, and were then landed and marched to barracks, where we stayed for a couple of days and then left on a Sunday night for France and the western front, our way being right across Italy.

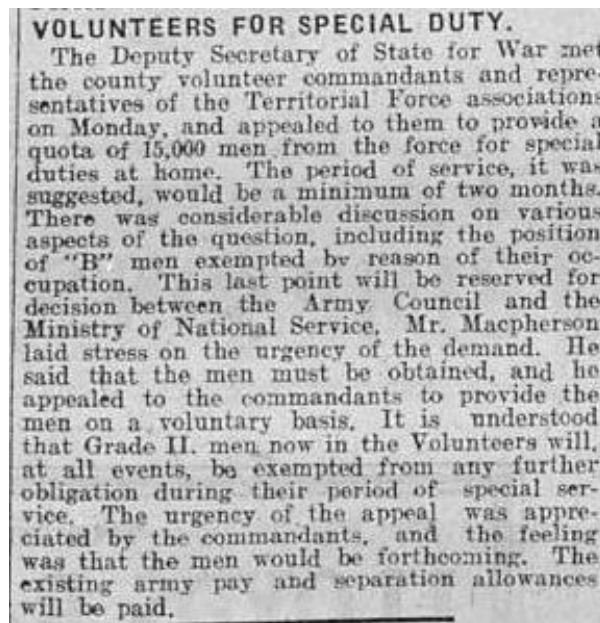
I should have said that at Taranto there were thousands of troops some under canvas and some in huts. It was there that a lot of our fellows were taken ill with cholera, fever and dysentery, and we had ten grammes of quinine to take every day.

After leaving Taranto we were on the train for eight days and passed through Monte Carlo and we were well treated by the people at these places where the train pulled up; often we had to stay in sidings. The worst of the journey there was that there were 30 to 35 of us in a truck, including NCOs, and we could not get any rest. We were so tight like sardines in a tin.

Other places we passed through were Nice, Cannes, Lyons Basin and St Germaines and finally we arrived at Oise Chappelle and our lot had a farm house just behind Popperinghe; that was on Monday 1 July 1918. Next day we went to Proven and at night had our first experience of bombing by tanks, and after that it was every night.

The 1st Volunteer Bn - Hereford (formerly the Volunteer Training Corps (VTC))

There Was a call for volunteers to take on full time duties to release Regular troops for service in France to make good 'losses' and counter the still extant threat from the German Spring offensive.



1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.

BATTALION ORDERS BY MAJOR T.
WHEELER MEATS, COMMANDING.
Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.
June 6th, 1918.

No. 31.

1. Appointment: "B" Company.—Lieut. W. M. Ellwood is appointed Second in Command of "B" Company.

2. Permanent Staff.—No. 88955 C.S.M. Jones, J. E., will visit the following detachments on the dates stated, viz.:—June 7th, Bromyard; June 9th, Hereford; June 10th, Ledbury; June 11th, Hereford; June 12th, Kington; June 14th, Bromyard.

3. Attached Instructors.—No. 202429 Sergt. Collins, W. F. J., No. 14582 C.Q.M.S. Gaskell, J., No. 265267 Sergt. Stevens, No. 200012 Sergt. Evans, J. T., are attached for duty with A, B, C, and D Companies respectively.

4. Buglers.—Officers Commanding Companies will render to this Office the names of any members of Section C capable of acting as buglers when required or who wish to be trained as such.

5. Cooks.—Officers Commanding Companies will render to this Office the names of any Volunteers willing to go for a course of instruction in cooking.

6. Correction.—Battalion Orders, Part 1, of the 22nd to the 27th inst, will be renumbered 25-39 respectively.

(Signed) C. L. Gabell, Capt. & Adjt.,
1st Batt. Herefordshire V.R.

"A" Company.

ORDERS FOR JUNE, 1918.

Sunday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 2.15 p.m., Drill Hall, drill and bayonet fighting. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 2.30 p.m., drill and bayonet fighting. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 3 p.m., Dormington, drill and bayonet fighting.

Monday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7.30 p.m., Drill Hall, field work. Weobley, No. 4 Section, 7.30 p.m., Drill Hall, field work. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 7.30 p.m., Mordiford, musketry.

Tuesday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7.30 p.m., Drill Hall, recruits' drill. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., drill.

Thursday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, at Ross, E., leave by 12.45 p.m. train. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., musketry.

Hospital Sunday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, church parade, details later. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 2.30 p.m., field work. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 3 p.m., Dormington, field work.

(Signed) H. J. HAMMONDS, Lieut.,
O.C. "A" Coy., 1st Batt. H.V.R.

1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.

BATTALION ORDERS BY MAJOR T.
WHEELER MEATS, COMMANDING.
Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.
June 13th, 1918.

1. Permanent Staff.—No. 38955 C.S.M. Jones, J. E., will visit the following detachments on the dates stated, viz.:—16th, 17th and 18th, Hereford; 19th, Kington; 21st, Ashperton; 23rd, Much Birch.

2. Attached Instructors.—No. 202429 Sergt. Collins, W. F. J., No. 14582 C.Q.M.S. Gaskell, J., No. 265267 Sergt. Stevens, No. 200012 Sergt. Evans, J. T., are attached for duty with A, B, C and D Companies respectively.

3. Separation Allowance Forms.—Officers commanding Companies will ensure that A.F.'s V4026 and 4027 are sent in to Orderly Room as and when completed. These forms are urgently required.

4. Instruction in Map Reading.—It is important that Officers and N.C.O.'s should possess a knowledge of map reading, and for this purpose Officers commanding Companies will arrange for classes to be held at the most convenient centres. These classes will be followed by an examination at the nearest Army school.

5. Recruits Musketry Course.—Where the first part of a Recruits Musketry Course is fired on a Miniature Range Practice 1 will in future be fired after Practice 4 (Western Command Order 1100 of 10/6/18).

(Signed) C. L. Gabell, Capt. & Adjt.,
1st Batt. Herefordshire V.R.

"A" Company.

ORDERS FOR JUNE, 1918.

Monday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7.30 p.m., Drill Hall, musketry. Weobley, No. 4 Section, 7.30 p.m., Drill Hall, musketry. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 7.30 p.m., Mordiford, musketry.

Tuesday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7.30 p.m., Drill Hall, recruits' drill. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., drill and bayonet fighting.

Thursday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, at Ross, E., leaving by 12.55 p.m. train. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., drill and bombing.

Sunday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 2.15 p.m., Drill Hall, field work. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 2.30 p.m., musketry. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 3 p.m., Dormington, drill and bombing.

(Signed) H. J. HAMMONDS, Lieut.,
O.C. "A" Coy., 1st Batt. H.V.R.

VOLUNTEER CAMP.

TRAINING AND SPORTS AT ROSS.

With the exception of a few hours' most welcome rain on Thursday in last week, the weather proved ideal for the ten days' camp of the 1st Herefordshire Volunteer Regiment at Ross, which was brought to a successful termination on Monday. During the week-end there was another large muster of men, and on Saturday a very interesting and instructive programme of military competitions was held, for which over £25 in prizes was offered. This event attracted a large crowd of both military and civilian friends, and among the guests were Admiral Sir Day H. Boscawen, K.C.B., Colonel Sir Reginald Rankin, Colonel Sir Evelyn Wood, Colonel M. J. G. Scobie, C.B., Colonel F. Burnell Nugent, D.S.O., supervising officer of Volunteers for Western Command; Colonel A. W. Foster, County Commandant, and Mrs. Foster, Brockhampton Court; Major T. Wheeler Meats, who was in command of the Regiment, and all the officers. The weather was ideal, and the results of the competitions were as follow:—

Bombing competition, prizes £5; each company to enter one squad of six officers, N.C.O.'s, or men, and each man to throw six bombs, two in each pit.—Winners, "C" Company (Ross).

Squad drill with arms, prizes £8; each company one squad of 16 men, under a corporal.—Winners, "D" Company (Leadbury). As "B" Company put up such a good fight for this honour, Mrs. Foster gave an extra prize which she described as an "encouragement," which she hoped they would accept as such.

Bayonet fighting, prizes £4; each company to send one squad of 12 officers, N.C.O.'s, or men.—This proved quite an exciting event, in which "C" Company came out winners, the alertness of the younger men being very conspicuous over the older men, some with grey hairs, who were loudly applauded for turning out to show their agility in this form of drill.

Hatchkiss gun competition, with one team of one N.C.O. and four men from each company.—The work was smartly done, the honour for this going to "D" Company.

There was also an inter-company tug-of-war, in which "C" Company beat "A," "D" beat "B," and in the final "D" beat "C."

At the conclusion of the competitions Mrs. Arthur Foster presented the prizes, also the Foster Challenge Cup for the best shooting team in the battalion, which this year was won by "C" Company, each of the marksmen being presented with a miniature silver cup on stand.

Major Wheeler Meats expressed on behalf of the battalion their gratitude to Mrs. Foster for coming to distribute the prizes, for her keen interest in the battalion, and also that of the County Commandant, Colonel A. W. Foster, both of whom replied, the former congratulating the officers and men on the display they had given that afternoon, and the Colonel tendering their best thanks to Colonel Burnell-Nugent for acting as judge, who though really not called upon to act as judge for the military contest, had kindly done so. The County Territorial Association also came in for a mood of praise for the encouragement they had given to the Volunteers in equipping them and looking after their interests.

Colonel Nugent responded and said the competitions had been performed uncommonly well, and after quoting from a letter that had been sent round by General French in reference to the Volunteers he hoped the force would now receive the encouragement of all classes of the community.

Colonel Scobie expressed the pleasure of the Territorial Association doing all they could for the Volunteers, and as one who had had considerable experience both with the old Volunteers and the Territorials he said the same apathy and difficulties were experienced years ago. He only wished the members of the Tribunals could have been there in order that they might have seen that the work of the Volunteers was not mere play, but a taste of the realistic work done by the Army, and after this he hoped that the force would receive the sympathetic and even practical support of all classes.

Cheers were given for Mrs. Foster and Colonel Nugent, and the company dispersed for tea. In the evening a cricket match was played and a smoking concert held in the marquee. Camp was struck on Monday, thus bringing to a close a most enjoyable and very instructive training.

The 1st Cadet Bn Herefordshire Regiment

The Cadet Bn continued to recruit and establish itself.