

THE IMPERIAL SERVICE BADGE & TERRITORIAL FORCE WAR MEDAL

The Imperial Service Badge: On the formation of the Territorial Force (TF) in 1908, there was no general obligation for its soldiers to serve overseas. The TF was designed to take the place of Regular Soldiers for the defence of the UK homeland. However it had been recognised in the BOER was that the Regular Forces could need reinforcement from the TF and members of the TF could volunteer for overseas service. These volunteers became known as Imperial Service Men and wore a distinguishing badge on their right breast.



The Imperial Service Badge



Cpl Hinckman of The Herefordshire Regiment wearing the Imperial Service Badge.

In late 1914, service terms were changed for the TF and members no longer had a choice whether or not to serve overseas. The Imperial Service Badge was generally, only worn between 1908 and 1915.

The Territorial Force War Medal (TFWM): The TFWM is the scarcest of the World War One non-gallantry medals, with only some 33,000 being awarded. About 100 were awarded to members of The Herefordshire Regiment.

Established in April 1920 for award to members of the TF and TF Nursing Services who volunteered for service overseas on or before 30 September 1914, and served overseas. They had to:

- have been serving with the TF on 4 August 1914 or
- have completed four years service with the TF before 4 August 1914 and rejoined the TF on or before 30 September 1914

In addition provided they:

- Undertook, either verbally or by written agreement on or before 30 September 1914 to serve outside the United Kingdom, such agreement being operative after 4 August 1914, and
- Have served outside the United Kingdom between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918 (both dates inclusive; note that the last date was in 1918 though the dates on the reverse of the medal say 1914-19) and
- Did not qualify for the 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star

