

## THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

### Their First World War 'Story' – October 1915

#### The 'Bigger' Picture

- Greek Premier asks British and French Governments to land troops at Salonika as soon as possible; King of Greece refuses to support policy and Premier resigns. King of Greece gives assurance to British Minister that Greece will maintain neutrality, but Greek mobilisation and Allied disembarkation at Salonika will proceed.
- Greek Government reject Serbian claim for help under Serbo-Greek Treaty of 1912
- Russia severs diplomatic relations with Bulgaria
- Bulgaria and Serbia declare war on one another
- Russia and Italy declare war on Bulgaria
- French Premier, Foreign Minister and Minister for War resign.
- Last meeting of Dardanelles Committee of the British Cabinet
- Miss Edith Cavell shot in Brussels by order of a German court-martial for alleged spying and giving assistance to Allied soldiers; this causes outrage to the Allies.



#### The Home Front

- Severe airship raid on East Coast of England and London; 200 casualties.
- Registration under the Derby Scheme continue. The Derby scheme put in place the basis for conscription; from the end of 1915 the nature of the enlistment to the Forces changed from being volunteer based to being conscript based.

## The Western Front

- Germany obtains mastery in the air on the Western front due to the Fokker machine
- Battle of Loos ends
- Third Battle of Artois ends

## Other Fronts

### EASTERN FRONT

- Battle of Vilna ends
- Austro-German invasion of Serbia begins;
  - Passage on Rivers Sava and Danube impacted.
  - Belgrade taken by Austrian forces
  - Semendria (Serbia) taken by Austrian forces
  - Shabatza taken by Austrian forces
- Hostilities commence between Bulgarian and Serbian forces and between French and Bulgarian forces in Macedonia.
  - Vranje (Serbia) taken by Bulgarian forces.
  - Ishtip (Serbia) taken by Bulgarian forces
  - Veles taken by Bulgarian forces
  - Kumanovo and Uskub (Skoplje) taken by Bulgarian forces.
  - Negotin, on River Vardar, taken by Bulgarian forces.
  - Entente Governments proclaim blockade of Aegean coast of Bulgaria
  - Dede Agatch (Bulgaria) bombarded by Allied squadron.
  - Action of Krivolak (Macedonia).
- Lt Gen Sir Bryan Mahon appointed General Officer Commanding British Forces, Balkans.
- French and British forces land at Salonika

*The Balkan countries were the land link between Austro-Hungary and the Ottoman Empires.*



## ITALIAN FRONT

- Third Battle of the Isonzo begins.

## GALLIPOLI

Gen Sir Charles Monro appointed to succeed Sir Ian Hamilton as CinC, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF); Gen Sir William Birdwood takes over temporary command.

## At Sea

- First German merchant vessel (S.S. Livonia) sunk by British submarine in the Baltic.
- German cruiser Prinz Adalbert sunk by British submarine E-8 in the Baltic.
- HMS Argyll wrecked on east coast of Scotland.

## Merchant Shipping

- British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month - 41 ships of 84,000 tons gross

## The 'Herefords'

### Hereford

'Pink Forms' have been distributed, completed and returned under the Derby Scheme. The details then have to be copied (by hand) to a 'Blue Form'. The administrative effort is great and members of the public and the VTC have been assisting.

It was announced that FB Ellison had been appointed Second Lieutenant with effect 10 September.

All the news in Herefordshire was about the Battalion's exploits at Suvla Bay – rumours abounded – information from letters and returning soldiers was at least 14 days out of date and further fuelled the rumours. Advantage was being taken of the situation to assist recruiting and to raise awareness and welfare support for the Regiment. Bugler Wood and Private Clarke wrote and had published a poem to assist with this.

The nominal role of 31 July includes both Clarke and Wood and sailing for Gallipoli, it is unclear if they the poem was written on operations or if they had been evacuated from Suvla Bay.

# The Landing of the 1st Herefordshire Regiment.

## "The Advance of Suvla Bay."

Composed by Bugler W. Clarke (Broomy Hill), and Private C. Wood (Friar Street, Hereford), Members of Hereford First-Day Adult School, King Street.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

Proceeds to be devoted to a War Fund for the Herefords.

Over the mighty ocean,  
At a place called Suvla Bay,  
The Hereford boys have shown their pluck,  
Thousands of miles away.

They left the dear old country  
Twelve months ago, or more,  
Their Nation's honour to defend,  
And dear Old England's shore.

'Twas on the 9th of August  
They landed at the Bay  
Not a man thought of the horrors  
He might have to face that day.

They had hardly landed on the shore,  
When from the enemy's lines  
Came a terrible hail of shrapnel  
And missiles of all kinds.

This roused their British anger,  
The blood boiled in their veins,  
And every man was ready  
To avenge his comrade's pains.

About four o'clock in the evening  
They were ordered to advance  
Across an open stretch of ground,  
Where they did not stand a chance.

The Turkish gunners found their mark,  
Their shells they fell like rain,  
There was no chance for those poor chaps  
Doubling o'er the plain.

Poor men, they fell like Britons true,  
Their duty they had done,  
Their British courage never failed,  
For the battle must be won.

On, on, they went, through shot and shell,  
Not a man amongst them faltered,  
They thought of their promise to those at home,  
And their comrades who'd been slaughtered.

Some reached the Borderers' trenches  
As the light was fading fast,  
Poor fellows, they were fairly beat,  
For the pace they could not last.

The Borderers made them welcome,  
For they were glad to see  
The men who'd made that great advance.  
To bring forth victory.

The Sherwoods, who were on their left,  
Were getting rather weak  
Poor fellows, they had done their share  
Towards the noble feat.

Their reinforcements soon arrived,  
Their hearts did beat with pride,  
For the boys who'd come to their relief  
Were standing by their side.

The Hereford boys were there again,  
And side by side they fought,  
They showed those Turkish gunners  
That they were afraid of naught.

Our officers were grand that day,  
Their pluck we did admire,  
We felt quite safe when they led  
Through that great hail of fire.

Although our casualties were great  
Of officers and men,  
Thank God they did their duty,  
And are ready, aye! again.

But there's one consolation,  
For those they've left behind,  
They died for England's honour,  
Did that never wavering line.

All honour to our Regiment,  
For they have made a name,  
And those who're left will do their best  
To carry on again.

How shameful of those shirkers,  
When they read of those brave lads,  
Who left their homes few months ago  
To fight for such great cads.

~~~~~

Now pull yourselves together, lads,  
Your country needs your aid,  
Don't let them keep on calling,  
Till conscripts you are made.  
And when the war is over,  
And proudly home you go,  
I know the welcome will be great,  
For they have promised so.

W. CLARKE.  
C. WOOD.

October, 1915.

The Depot functions continued:

Enlistments:

238092 Pte Edward Kelly of Leominster who went on to serve with the KSLI in France

4029 Pte Frank Clements of Stafford, who did not serve overseas and was discharged unfit in Mar 1916 and died of Nephritis in Dec 1916.

91864F

(47) W12074-210 2004 2/15 HWY [Sch. 141.] Army Form E. 501.

**TERRITORIAL FORCE.**

4 years' Service in the United Kingdom.

**ATTESTATION OF**

No. 4029 Name Frank Clements Corps 1st Herefordshire Regiment.

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name and Address? Frank Clements  
18 Red Lion St  
Stafford

2. Are you willing to be attested for service in the Territorial Force for the term of 4 years (provided His Majesty should so long require your services) for the County of Staffordshire to serve in the 1st Herefordshire Regiment?

3. Have you received a notice stating the liabilities you are incurring by enlisting, and do you understand them? Yes. (Bugler)

4. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, state which unit, and, if discharged, cause of discharge No

5. Are you a British Subject? Yes

Under the provisions of Sections 13 and 99 of the Army Act, if a person knowingly makes a false answer to any question contained in the attestation paper, he renders himself liable to punishment.

I, Frank Clements do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Frank Clements SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
Walter James Day Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Frank Clements swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, according to the conditions of my service.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

I, Almottok do hereby certify, that, in my presence, all the foregoing Questions were put to the Recruit above named, that the Answers written opposite to them are those which he gave to me, and that he has made and signed the Declaration, and taken the oath at Hereford on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 1915 Almottok Cpt Signature of Justice of the Peace, Officer, or other person authorized to attest Recruits.

1st Herefordshire Regiment.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under Section 80 (8) Army Act.  
The Recruit should, if he require it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form E. 501a.  
\* Here insert County. † Here insert Corps.

Pension Form 36.

CENTRAL ARMY PENSION ISSUE OFFICE,

BAKER STREET,

LONDON, W.1.

16 JUL 1917 191

Any other communication on this subject should be addressed to—  
The Superintendent,  
Central Army Pension Issue Office,  
Baker Street,  
London, W.1.  
and the following number quoted.

S.C.P. 110.

Despatch No. 91864E Sir,

Name Frank Clements

Regt. 4/18th Bn Kingford's T.P.

Admd. 6.12.16

at 10th Gen. H.S. 16

for 12 months

I am to acquaint you that it has been notified to this Office that the Pensioner named in the margin died on the 6.12.16

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,



Superintendent.

The Secretary,  
Royal Hospital,  
Chelsea.

W11656-H2764 2000 12/16 HWV(P1919/2) K16/21

*Noted on board list  
8.3.17  
E. S. H.*

51

Discharges:

20148 Pte Thomas Ashburner age 52 – who had been enlisted into the Supplementary Company – hence his place of discharge – Isle of Man – where the company was employed as a POW guardforce.

The entries on this page only require to be made from time to time as they occur.

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 20148 Name Thomas Arthur Ashburner

| Corps                                   | Unit | Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c. | Rank           | From           | To             | Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries |
|-----------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Service towards engagement reckons from |      |                                         |                |                |                |                                                         |
|                                         |      |                                         |                | <u>19.8.15</u> |                |                                                         |
|                                         |      | <u>Enlisted &amp; embodied</u>          | <u>Private</u> | <u>19.8.15</u> |                | <u>H. M. H. C. C. P.</u>                                |
|                                         |      | <u>Discharged 'Medically unfit'</u>     |                |                | <u>5.10.15</u> | <u>W. P. Handclint.</u>                                 |

Total service towards engagement in the Territorial Force to 5.10.15 (date of discharge) — years 48 days.

CHARACTER  
Good.

Discharged in consequence of Being medically unfit under para 392. III. C. R.

The discharge of the above-named man is hereby approved. to. O. 5.10.15 attached.

Station Krochale Camp, Isle of Man

Signature W. P. Handclint.

Date Nov. 26. 1915.

Comm. No. 1, Sup. C. of. Newport.





The following account of Pte Eversham's funeral appeared in the Hereford Times:

#### **TERRITORIAL'S FUNERAL.**

Pte. Henry Eversham, 3,479, of the 3rd/1st Herefords, died on Saturday at 21, Millbrook Street, Hereford. Deceased, whose wife and two children live at the Hermitage Lodge, Canon Pyon, succumbed to pneumonia and consumption. In consequence of ill-health, the deceased was unable to proceed with the Battalion to Abergavenny. He was billeted with his mother in Millbrook Street. The funeral took place on Tuesday at the Hereford Cemetery, when deceased was interred with military honours, a firing party attending from Abergavenny under Co-Sergt. Major Jennings. Lance-Corporal Evans sounded the "Last Post." A large number of khaki comrades attended. Deceased was 25 years of age.

Local 'Hero' stories continue:



**PTE. FREDERICK HOMFRAY DAVIES,**  
1st Batt., 1st Brigade, 8th Platoon, 1st Canadian Division, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. D. K. Davies, Whitton, Radnorshire, killed in action at Givenchy, June 15th.



**PTE. PERCY VICTOR DAVIES,**  
8th Batt., 1st Brigade, 8th Platoon, 1st Canadian Division, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. D. K. Davies, Whitton, Radnorshire, died of wounds at Boulogne, June 24th.



**LANCE-CORPL. FRED BOOTH,**  
1st Herefords, whose home is in Church Street, Presteign. Wounded by a shrapnel bullet entering his cheek, injuring the jaw-bone, and knocking out some of his teeth.



**PTE. JAMES BOOTH,**  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Booth, Church Street, Presteign. Wounded at Tyres, has suffered from the effects of the poisonous gases, and has returned to the fighting line.



**PTE. WALLACE BURGESS,**  
1st Herefords, Harper Street, Presteign, has been wounded in the right arm and wrist, and is now in hospital in Leeds.



**LANCE-CORPL. DAVID P. MORGAN,**  
South Wales Borderers, The Parks, Clifford, and an employee at Moor-hampton Station, wounded at the Dardanelles on June 11th, and died on the 20th.



**PTE. J. RAYMOND,**  
1st Herefords, son of Mr. Raymond, Little Dewchurch, wounded in foot at Dardanelles.



**PTE. J. GARVEY,**  
D Co., 1st Herefords, of Keetchurch, wounded in both legs at the Dardanelles.



**PTE. T. BULL,**  
D Co., 1st Herefords, now in the Dardanelles, officially reported missing since August 11st.

## A PATRIOTIC MORDIFORD FAMILY.



### FIVE SONS AND TWO SONS-IN-LAW.

Mrs. H. L. Poyner, Ivy Cottage, Frome, Mordiford, near Hereford, has had, until recently, five sons and two sons-in-law serving their country. Two sons have made the supreme sacrifice, having lost their lives on the battlefields.

The names, reading from left to right, are:

Top Row: George Thomas Poyner (son); William Henry Poyner (son), (killed); and Herbert Leonard Poyner (son).

Bottom Row: Albert John Poyner (son); Alfred Ernest Poyner (son), killed; E. Carthew (son-in-law), 9th Welsh Borderers; and E. Batchelor (son-in-law), Warwickshire Regiment.

2772 Pte William Poyner was killed in Action at Suvla Bay on 16 August

## 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

Strategic, operational and, in many areas tactical initiative had been lost and stalemate had settled in. Life was settling down to the dull routine of trench and rest; the weather was cooling off.

The Herefords were involved in this routine and there were no specific offensives that they were involved in in October.

Post and news from home was important and the postal system worked well to Gallipoli – it worked well in reverse except that many men had difficulty in obtaining writing materiel!



The Field Post Office at Suvla Bay

The monotony of food was commented on by many soldiers – bad food and no opportunity to prepare it well or in sufficient quantity sapped morale. In the front line the diet consisted mainly of tinned bully beef and hard tack biscuits; all food stuffs had to be shipped in and handled from boats and then ‘up the line’. In the rear areas units set up field kitchens to make things more endurable for the troops. The reduced heat meant thirst was not such an issue, the water supply chain was a little more robust, but still nearly all water had to be carried forward – an energy sapping fatigue.



A typical field kitchen at Suvla Bay.

**The Battalion War Diary:**

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Detail</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Oct       | Commanding Officers of battalions visited Jephson's Post 135T9 with Brigade Commander. Post held principally by 6 machine guns and detachments of about 60 men – RND. A start was made inoculating men of the Battalion against Cholera, and the greater number of officers and men received first inoculation this day at C Section, 2 Welsh Field Ambulance between 7 and 10 pm. |
| 2 Oct       | Usual fatigues for RE and beaches. 2Lts Pitt and Jackson-Taylor admitted to hospital sick.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3 Oct       | Divine service for CofEs at 5.30pm. Fatigues as usual.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4 Oct       | Holy Communion service at 5.30pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 5 Oct       | At 4am Lt P B Wallis and 12 men from base detail for Alexandria and 8 men from Lemnos hospital rejoined HQ Battalion. One private, A J Cole sent to Alexandria this day.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 6 Oct       | 7.30am 2Lts C J S Wright and T W Penn, both of 40 <sup>th</sup> West Yorks Regt ordered to be attached; joined unit. The position held by the Turks at The Pimple. 136L7, was bombarded by men of war in Gulf Xeros and Suvla Bay. The first inoculation against Cholera was practically completed this day.                                                                       |
| 7 Oct       | 8.30am Sgt Hinton and 6 men rejoined the Battalion from Mudros, 53 Base Depot.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 Oct  | Maj McMullen RAMC went to hospital this day sick. Lt S H Harris RAMC joined 3.30pm for duty as MO Battalion temporarily. The Turks succeeded in putting 2 shells into the Battalion camp area; one very near QM stores.                                          |
| 9 Oct  | 2Lt Russell, acting staff captain 158 Bde went sick to hospital this day. Turks shelled left flank.                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10 Oct | Nothing To Report (NTR)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 11 Oct | 12.45pm rather heavy rain accompanied by strong winds; some lightening.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 12 Oct | NTR except heavy rain from 7 to 10pm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 13 Oct | Strong NE winds - cold.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 14 Oct | Turks put 2 shells over the ridge and wounded 2 men of the Battalion of the grenadier class of instruction. 2Lt C J S Wright attached for duty went sick to hospital this day.                                                                                   |
| 15 Oct | NTR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 16 Oct | One lance corporal and 6 men rejoined HQ from hospital. Enemy aircraft reced over Battalion area.                                                                                                                                                                |
| 17 Oct | Good many shells came over bivvy area occupied by brigade at Karakoldagh, 116DF9-7.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 18 Oct | 2Lt J I R Poulson went to hospital this day sick.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 19 Oct | Very quiet day. Very little shelling anywhere in neighbourhood. Practice emergency parade at 5pm and inspection by BG Comd 158 Bde. 2Lt A G Bennett, 3/1 <sup>st</sup> Herefords joined unit for duty.                                                           |
| 20 Oct | NTR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 21 Oct | Capt S Barker joined unit from Alexandria this day.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 22 Oct | One NCO and 3 men joined Battalion this day from Mudros, strong NE winds and some rain.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 23 Oct | 1853 Pte Bowkett, B Coy found dead in his bivvy this morning; death probably accelerated by exposure. Strong NE winds continue.                                                                                                                                  |
| 24 Oct | Strong NE winds died down in evening.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 25 Oct | NTR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 26 Oct | The following joined HQ from England this day; Lts Trumper, Wragg and Parker, R E Haines, J G Williams, E A R Llewellyn; CSM Chipp from hospital with 14 men. SW winds. Turks shelled northern slopes of Karakoldagh; only one slight casualty in the Herefords. |

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27 Oct | 11.45am Turks started heavy shelling all along front. A good number came over Karakoldagh – no casualties in Battalion. Southwesterly gale.                                          |
| 28 Oct | South West winds, second inoculation for Cholera completed.                                                                                                                          |
| 29 Oct | 2Lt Birnie to hospital this day sick.                                                                                                                                                |
| 30 Oct | NTR                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 31 Oct | Battalion moved from Karakoldagh, 6pm to relieve 2 Mounted Brigade in reserve trenches at 91d2-3. 2Lts Willmott and Poulton to hospital sick this day. One man accidentally wounded. |

Below is an extract from the diary of 2Lt Parker, a reinforcement who arrived on the 26 Oct: (*spelling etc is as per 'interpretation' of handwritten diary*). It gives an interesting perspective from a pair of 'fresh' eyes, and is less formal than the Bn War Diary.

**11<sup>th</sup> October 1915**

*Left Bedford by motor with the Smiths and William for London where we slept the night at the Paddington Hotel. The four of us went to see the Quinnes at the Haymarket. Dinner at the Hayward Hotel.*

**12<sup>th</sup> October**

*Left Paddington for Wonford at 0815 with Trumper, Kegg and Haymes, Williams and Llewellyn. Col. Wood, Ross County, came to see us off. Arrived Devonport 2.30 and were alongside a ship "Scotia" and went straight aboard and did not come off again. It rained. Had dinner 6.30 Llewellyn in same cabin.*

**13<sup>th</sup> October**

*Left Devonport 6a.m. I was not ???. saw the last of land alright. Passed the Eddystone lighthouse about 9.30a.m. Accompanied until 6.30 when they left. Sat or rather slept most of the day. Felt slightly seedy in the middle of the day.*

**14<sup>th</sup> October**

*Rolling a good deal and the four of us were sea sick. Had dinner and then felt better went to bed early.*

**15<sup>th</sup> October**

*The heavy rolling had stopped and I felt much better. Sat on deck/Boat in the morning and had inoculation for cholera. At 2P.M. changed course for south side coast – interesting, wrote start of a letter to mother in the evening*

**16<sup>th</sup> October**

*Another lovely day, wrote a bit more letter. Slacked about on deck most of the day..... Sighted land for the first time since leaving. Thought it was the coast of Africa probably Tangiers. Coast was rocky and saw more later. About 12.30 at night changed course and ran into Gibraltar which was*



*a fine sight.*

### **17<sup>th</sup> October**

*A Sunday. Sat on boat deck for a time went to a service at 11.15 for Holy Communion. Was look out officer 2-4P.M. Sat on deck after tea and went to part of another service. Passed several boats. For 2 days after this ran within sight of coast of Africa – day and night.*

### **25<sup>th</sup> October**

*Packed my valise etc.*

*Went aboard the “Redbreast” a very fast cross channel boat, which is now plying between Mudros and the peninsular. I got on board the Redbreast at about mid day, but we did not leave Mudros until late afternoon. Company Sergeant Major Chipp and 15 men of the Herefords also on the boat, returning to the regiment and they came under us. Mudros is a barren spot, but the harbour is good channel leading up into the heart of the island and protected by a boom. It is a rather tricky entrance and several ships have run aground. The HQ staff is on the Aragon, which is alleged to be aground on empty soda-water bottles. At any rate they do themselves well, but you can't say that for the rest.*

*We were fearfully crowded on the Redbreast – no room to lie down. We arrived off the peninsular in the night and could see the very lights and shells bursting at Anzac. On arrival at Sulva we did not land, but slept for 4 or 5 hours on board. Drizzling a bit.*

### **26<sup>th</sup> October**

*Fine but rather cold with rain first thing. We landed from the Redbreast at 5.30a.m. There was nobody to tell us where to go, but we found the Herefords, in rest, with the rest of the Brigade on Karacol a high hill with its north westerly side sloping down sharply to the gulf of Soros. We arrived in time for breakfast which we had with Maurice Bennett who arrived a week ago and Alec Wilson. We had an interview with Col. Drage and spent today looking round. I brought the Colonel some blankets from Mrs Drage. Llewellyn and I had tea with the C.O. and Ashton the adjutant. This isn't a bad spot I suppose for these parts, but you haven't been here for five minutes before you want to go away and that quickly. The thing that stuck you when you looked at the British positions from Karacol-dagh (you could see nearly all the Sulva line) was the short distance we had advanced, maybe 4 miles. Our line was mainly in the plain except on the extreme left, where it was on the North of Karacol-dagh on the chocolate hill, which was in the plain. There was nowhere in our line that the Turks could not shell. The hill where the 158<sup>th</sup> brigade (ours) was about the best and even there men were killed by shrapnel every day.*

*The condition and health of our troops was very bad, principally from enteritis and dysentery. Men didn't get sent to the hospital. It was practically a stretcher case or stop one (a bullet). G N Berney and Wilmot E were both very bad with dysentery and so weak they could hardly walk.*

### **27<sup>th</sup> October**

*Warmer today. Messed about a bit and was attached to C Coy. under Capt. Barker. The other Coy Commanders were Lt. O B Wallis (A Coy.) and Capt. A V Holman (B Coy.). Wallis was later replaced by Lt. A G R Whitehouse in command of A Coy. There was no proper second in command as Major Careless was killed.*

*Our lines were shelled this morning by the Turks. Three of the Welsh fusiliers were killed and one of our men hit in the hand.*

*Capt. Rodgers lectured us on bombs from 3 till 4.15p.m.*

*At sunset you got a wonderful view of Mount Olympus in Greece. It couldn't be seen by day but at*

*sunset the sun went directly behind it which showed it up.  
The smell and flies in this place go without saying.*

**28<sup>th</sup> October**

*The sand was blowing about very badly today. I inspected the men's lines rifles etc. and there was an inspection of the Company by the C.O. Lecture by Capt. Rodgers from 3 till 4pm Llewellyn had tea with me. Trumper and I were on a fatigue party at the HQ of the 9<sup>th</sup> Army (General Sir Julian Byng) from 6p.m. till midnight building a huge parapet to protect some dugouts. We could hear a stunt going on the chocolate sector on the part of the yeomanry.*

*These long fatigues are knocking the men up in their present weak state, especially the climbing up and down hill. Williams seedy today.*

**29<sup>th</sup> October**

*Burney left us today went to hospital after being bad a long time. Parades at 6, 9 etc. not much work done. Had tea with Bennett and Williams E Wilmot and Boulton both went to hospital with dysentery*

*Visited C Coy. lines and was I/C of fatigue party on new dug-out in the morning.*

**31<sup>st</sup> October**

*A fine day. Our brigade is moving today and going into the line and our camp is being taken over by a batt'n. of 11<sup>th</sup> division (Lincolns etc.) I was detailed to remain behind to receive the batt'n. taking over our camp and generally see that everything was clean and tidy, but did not stay after all. The whole Batt'n. moved off at 5a.m. and after a march of about 6 miles, which was very hard in heavy packs and the blowing sand. We reached the reserve trenches on the other side of Lala-Baba. Just as we got to the other side of the Salt Lake a searchlight was turned on us but another was put on by one of our battleships, which was perhaps lucky.*

*We took over from the Yeomanry (London) who were fearfully weak owing to sickness and casualties – strength only 180.*

The following is an extract from the War Diary and shows strengths during the month of October:

### WAR DIARY

1st Newfordshire Reg  
Appendix IV

#### B. WEEKLY STATE

| date  | officer | OR. | Total |
|-------|---------|-----|-------|
| Oct 2 | 13      | 544 | 544   |
| 9     | 16      | 540 | 586   |
| 16    | 15      | 541 | 576   |
| 23    | 16      | 547 | 563   |
| 30    | 21      | 544 | 545   |

Does not include M. O. Chelms  
from Regt or A.S.C. but includes RAMC  
attached.

### WAR DIARY

1st Newfordshire Reg  
Appendix II

#### LIST of Officers Killed, Wounded, Missing etc

| date  | Officer                      | Status          |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Oct 2 | 2/Lt P. S. JACKSON-TAYLOR    | seen - Hospital |
| 8     | Major J. N. MACHUDDEN (RAMC) | "               |
| 9     | 2/Lt E. S. RUSSELL *         | "               |
| 14    | 2/Lt C. H. S. WRIGHT         | "               |
| 18    | 2/Lt J. I. R. PAULSON        | "               |
| 20    | 2/Lt G. N. BERNY             | "               |
| 21    | 2/Lt E. WILMOT               | "               |
|       | 2/Lt R. S. BOULTON           | "               |

\* Missing Staff Captain 19th Infantry Brigade

### WAR DIARY

1st Newfordshire Reg  
Appendix I

#### Reinforcements

|       |                                                                                                                 |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct 5 | 1/LOB WALLIS + 12 OR. (to hospital)                                                                             |
| 6     | 2/Lt C. S. WRIGHT + T. W. RENN                                                                                  |
| 7     | 4 OR.                                                                                                           |
| 8     | 4 S. H. HARRIS (RAMC)                                                                                           |
| 16    | 4 OR.                                                                                                           |
| 19    | 2/Lt M. G. BENNETT                                                                                              |
| 21    | CAPT F. C. BARKER                                                                                               |
| 22    | 4 OR.                                                                                                           |
| 26    | 4/Lt F. A. TRUMPER, T. M. RAGG + 2/Lt<br>P. PARKER, R. E. HAYMES, J. G. WILLIAMS<br>F. A. R. LLEWELLYN + 15 OR. |

The following list appeared in the Hereford Times, information was gathered from many sources but is not considered to be an authoritative list:

|                 | KIA | DOW | Died | Missing | POW | Wounded |     |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|---------|-----|---------|-----|
| <b>Officers</b> | 1   |     | 1    | 1       |     | 11      |     |
| <b>NCOs</b>     | 6   | 3   |      |         |     | 33      |     |
| <b>Men</b>      | 16  | 9   | 3    | 5       | 7   | 134     |     |
|                 | 23  | 12  | 4    | 6       | 7   | 178     | 230 |

A 'full list' of casualties also appeared in the Hereford Times and this list is reproduced and attached.

Herefordshire wounded in hospital in Valetta (Malta)



2772 Pte Bowkett was the only fatality suffered by the Battalion in October.

Accounts of the earlier actions are being included in letters home and published in the local newspapers:

The Bezant brothers of Hereford wrote:

**CITY FOOTBALLER WOUNDED.**  
Writing home to his parents at Portland Villas, Edgar Street, Hereford, on September 7th, Pte. E. W. Bezant, "C" Company, says:—"I am glad to say that we are keeping Al in health, although it is very hot in the daytime and cold at night. We are out of the firing line for four days' rest, but we expect to go back to-morrow night. Joe Welsh is wounded in the hip. It is not serious. He got it as we were coming down the other evening from a stray bullet. We are keeping the Turks on the move and are hoping it won't be very long before we finish the job altogether and come sailing home again. . . . We had a church service on the beach on Sunday evening. It was the first we have had since we have been out here, so you can guess how we enjoyed it. It will be a change for us to see a town again, for since we have been out here we have not even seen a house. . . . Our clothes are looking a trifle soiled, but one thing we are all looking much fitter. I expect you know that Arch. has joined us. He missed the first fortnight, which was the time we lost all those men. It has been nothing nearly so bad since." The Joe Welsh mentioned is the well-known Hereford City footballer.

**LIFE IN THE TRENCHES.**  
Private Bezant's brother, Pte. A. S. Bezant, 2140, "C" Company, writes:—"Thanks so much for your very welcome letter dated August 11th, which I received on Sunday, August 29th. It was a jolly welcome Sunday morning surprise as it was the first I have received from home. The paper arrived all right. Local news, etc., as good as a tonic. You will see I am now up with the boys again. I found a few missing, worse luck, but most of my pals are all right. . . . We had a safe landing. Of course, we saw a bit of the real side of soldiering, but you soon get used to that and take things as they come, which is the only thing to do out here. It is rather a rough game, and we are in a rather dirty condition. We had close on a week in the reserve trenches, but came up to the firing line on Saturday night. Our Company were first reserve until yesterday, when they shifted 9th Platoon up into the first trench. It is very quiet at present with the exception of shell fire, which we are safe from in the trenches. You get very little sleep as you are on sentry duty on and off during the night. It is very different here to what you would imagine, and you have no need to worry about us, as by looking after yourself, which you guess we do, we are not in much danger. I don't think things will go on much longer out here, as they say this part of the country gets flooded in a few weeks' time. The Turks very seldom show themselves. They are up the hills somewhere, and don't seem to care about coming out. You get that you don't notice being here hardly. Things go just as smoothly as if there was no war on. We sleep in the trenches when off duty. It is rather cold at nights, and as we have only what we stand up in (our valises are down at the base) we get up close together, and I manage to sleep all right. It is very hot in the daytime, and the flies are awful. You have to wear your net all day as the beggars don't half bite. When you are eating your food they simply swarm around everything. We are pretty well off for water. The engineers have sunk quite a lot of wells. . . . You would laugh if you could see us in the trenches—some sleeping, others trying to wash or shave in a mess tin, letter writing and all kinds of things. The boys are quite happy, and we often have a bit of fun amongst ourselves. . . . They generally supply us with two ounces of tobacco each week and a few cigarettes, but not many. Cigarettes are as scarce as £5 notes at home. The boys roll tobacco up in newspapers or anything else for a smoke. . . . I think matches are more valuable here than cigarettes, as you have to light fires, etc."

Pte Connell of Hereford wrote:

**TWO HUNDRED ROUNDS AT THE TURKS.**  
Sergt. T. J. Connell, of "D" Company, 1st Herefordshires, son of Mr. J. M. Connell, of Foley House, Foley Street, Hereford, has written an interesting letter to Mr. B. Dear, the County Land Agent for Herefordshire, in whose office he was formerly engaged, and by his courtesy we are enabled to give the following extracts:—"I did not take part in the first advance, having been left behind on fatigue duty at the beach, rejoining the battalion at night on their retirement. The next day we again moved forward and took up a position in a dried-up water-course. The Turkish snipers were very busy in this quarter, but we managed to account for two or three, though it was a most difficult job to locate them in the first place. There was a well not far away from us, but the Turks had it well marked off, and as about half-a-dozen men of various regiments had been killed whilst drawing water our officers decided it was only risking valuable lives to allow the men to go to the well. We therefore dug a couple of wells on our own, and after going down about six feet (in the old river bed) came on water. . . .

**A HARD TIME.**  
For the next week or so we were employed trench digging, working at night and obtaining what rest we could during the day. Oh! it was a regular nightmare. We were unable to sleep during the day-time owing to the intense heat, and total lack of shade, and at night were almost dropping off to sleep over our work. The reason we worked all night was, of course, to

take advantage of the cover of darkness. Since about the middle of the second week, the operations have been confined entirely to trench warfare. There is nothing exciting about trench warfare. Given a good trench, the men holding it are almost entirely safe from shrapnel, as high explosive is necessary to demolish trenches.

One morning my brother Wyn had a regular go at 'strafing' the Turks. I should think he fired 200 rounds at their trenches, collecting up all the spare ammunition he could find lying about: he was endeavouring to obtain revenge for a friend of his who had been hit in the head the night before.

**THE WORK OF THE NAVAL GUNS.**  
I cannot say that I have felt the slightest excitement out here. Coming out on the boat I was most fearfully afraid that I might shew the white feather, but up to the present I have felt no inclination that way. I was needlessly alarming myself, I think, though it might be a very different matter if we were subjected to the same bombardment which the Turks have to suffer occasionally from our naval guns. Really I feel sorry for the poor beggars. They must be brave men to face the fire of our guns, and when one comes to consider that they are driven on by a merciless Government who do not even take the trouble of recording their deaths if they do happen to go under, one must feel pity for them, and wish that the Turkish Government would throw up the sponge. We are very optimistic, and all hope that before many weeks we shall have the Turks howling for mercy. There seem to be abundant signs that their resistance cannot last for long now. . . .

For the last fortnight this battalion has been out of the firing line and back at the base on fatigue duty. We bivouac on top of a ridge about the same height as Dinedor, and have to come down to the sea shore to work.

We have an official sheet called "The Peninsular Press" circulated amongst us practically daily. Of course we only get news of any big thing on that, as space is very limited."

### Casualties:

It is difficult to say with certainty what the daily strength of the Bn was; soldiers were detached for duty and also reported sick and were wounded. Individuals went into the 'medical chain' and there was no fixed pattern to how and where they would be treated. Often lightly wounded men were loaded to ships sailing for UK as they could stand the journey (and a 'berth' was available); others, as there was no immediate ship set for UK were treated locally (Lemnos or Egypt) and then returned to duty.

As an indication of this, a report in the Hereford Times in October, under the heading 'Another Missing Man Found', stated that 8235 LCpl Jones (C Coy) of Llandrindod Wells had been 'found' in hospital at Cairo after being reported missing in late August. It was further reported that 2166 Pte WH Jones and 1913 Pte WO Wood were both wounded and prisoners of war in Constantinople; they had been captured during the first advances on 9/10 August.

Many families hoped that their 'missing' soldier would be found and actively sought information about them; advertisements appeared in newspapers and families wrote to members of the Bn and wanted to speak to the wounded in England in an effort to gain information and re-assurance.

A schematic diagram of the medical evacuation chain and process is attached.

The initial reporting point for casualties would be the Regimental Aid Post (RAP), staffed by the Regimental Medical Officer (RMO) assisted by Regimental Medical Orderlies. Casualties would walk, be carried or stretchered (by Bn stretcher bearers) to the RAP. After treatment they would be returned to duty or passed 'down' the medical evacuation chain for further treatment. Transfer to the next link in the chain - The Field Ambulance (Fd Amb) would be by walking, stretcher or in some cases by wheeled ambulance. At ANZAC donkeys were often used to transport casualties. Casualties could then be evacuated on hospital ships.

Over longer distances a Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) could be established to prioritise casualties for treatment/evacuation – the distances at Suvla generally meant this function was carried out at another medical facility – often the Field Ambulance.



A typical forward medical facility at Suvla Bay (in the background)



A tented Field Ambulance on the beaches at Gallipoli



Casualties being evacuated by 'beetle'

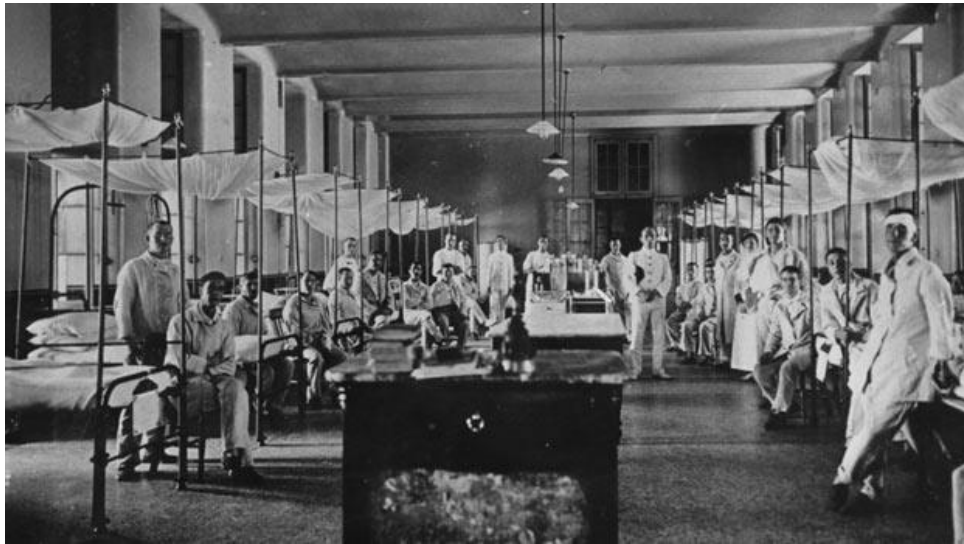




HM (Hospital) Ship Soudan – a typical hospital ship

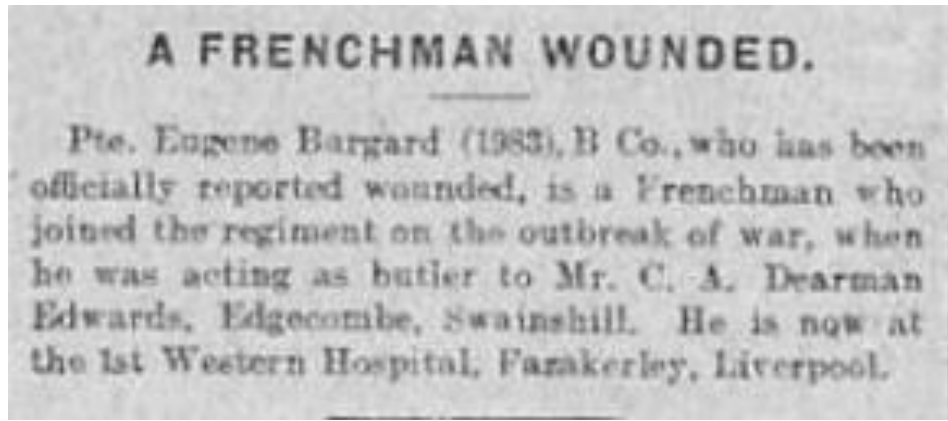


Casualties arriving in Egypt



Typical hospital wards

An account in the Hereford Times gives an interesting insight to the nature of recruits in August 1914:



2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

From the War Diary:

|                    |         |                                                                                                  |
|--------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 – 31 Oct<br>1915 | Bedford | This Battalion during the month of October was stationed at Bedford.                             |
|                    |         | Signed by: W B Wood Roe<br><br>Lt Col<br><br>Commanding 2/1 <sup>st</sup> Herefordshire Regiment |

Lts EA Trumper and TM Ragg, and 2Lt GS Williams, E Haynes, P Parker and DAR Williams on draft to 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.

Football match against 2/1<sup>st</sup> Welsh Fd Amb, the Herefords won 3-0. The team consisted of: Goal Pte T Hill, backs: CSM Sayers, Ptes Longman, Williams, Cpls Meyrick, Creed; forwards: Sgt Evans (T), (2), Cpl Collier, LCpl Sparey Ptes Sayce (1), Davies

The Regtl Band (under direction of WH Wheeler) gave a concert in the Royal County Theatre; the programme included: Land of Hope & Glory, When the Boys Come Home and the National Anthems of Serbia and UK.

The Hereford Times printed a list of soldiers serving with the Battalion at Bedford; this is attached.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion

The Battalion remained at Abergavenny, routine training and activities continued.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> October the Hereford Times reported that the Bn would be moving to Oswestry, but that the move will be delayed due to 'several cases of measles'.

Contant rumours circulated:

The Bn was to be billeted in Hereford – unfounded

A draft of soldiers to reinforce the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion – unfounded

### 3rd HEREFORDS.

#### MILITARY PARADE AND SPORTS AT ABERGAVENNY.

The Monmouthshire and Herefordshire Territorials and the A.S.C. at Abergavenny participated in an imposing military parade and athletic sports arranged on Thursday to stimulate local recruiting. The troops numbered over 1,500, and the parade was in command of Lieut.-Col. E. B. Cuthbertson (2nd Monmouths), the Herefordshire Regiment being in command of Major Symonds-Taylor. The troops assembled in Bailey Park, accompanied by two regimental and two bugle bands, marched through the principal streets to the Athletic Ground, where the sports were held, large crowds gathering in the streets to witness the stirring spectacle. The sports programme was a very interesting one and attracted a crowd of over 3,000 people. Chief interest was centred in a three rounds boxing exhibition between Bombardier Billy Wells (the famous heavyweight boxer) and Sergt. Price (Welsh Regiment), and there were two boxing contests in addition.

The following were the results of the various events:—

120 yards flat race: 1, Lance-Corpl. Cowie, 1st Mons; 2, Lance-Corpl. Davies, 1st Mons; 3, Pte. Powell, 1st Herefords; 4, Pte. Heaton, 3rd Mons.

Tug-of-war: The Herefords were beaten by the 1st Mons, and the final was: 1, B company, 1st Mons; 2, A Company, 1st Mons; 3, 2nd Mons.

440 yards flat: 1, Lance-Corpl. Phillips, 1st Mons; 2, Driver Walker, A.S.C.; 3, Pte. Rees, 1st Mons.

Wheelbarrow race: 1, Lance-Corpl. Short and Pte. Phillips, 1st Mons; 2, Pte. Short and Pte. Evans, 1st Mons; 3, Pte. Walters and Pte. Whiting, 1st Mons.

One mile team race: 1 and 2, 1st Mons; 3, 1st Herefords.

The prizes were afterwards presented by Lady Herbert of Llanarth.

The football team played Abergavenny United in aid of the Gwent Penny Fund for the Sick and Wounded; the lost 2-0. The team consisted of: Sgt T Bailey, Cpl J Evans, LCpl Booth, Pts Burgess, Fletcher and Davies, Pte S Wharton, LCpl Roden, Sgt Pugh, 2Lt T Ragg, Capt MV South.