

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – December 1915

The 'Bigger' Picture

- Italy announces her adherence to the Pact of London
- United States Government request recall of German attaches Captains Boy-Ed and Von Papen
- General Joffre, Chief of French General Staff from July 28th, 1911, appointed Commander-in-Chief French Armies. General Castelnau appointed Chief of Staff to General Joffre
- Greek Government refuse Entente demand for withdrawal of Greek troops from Salonika.
- Yuan-Shih-Kai accepts throne of China.
- Treaty concluded between British Government and Ibn Sa'ud, Emir of Nejd.
- Mustaufi ul Mamalek (Persian Prime Minister) resigns; Prince Firman Firma appointed Prime Minister.
- Draft rules approved for Inter-Allied Council of War.

The Home Front

- Lt Gen Sir A J Murray, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, resigns - General Sir W Robertson (ex COS BEF) appointed.

The Western Front

Field-Marshal Sir John French resigns as Commander-in-Chief of British armies in France (partially as a consequence of poor operational performance during 1915 eg: Battle of Loos). Succeeded by Gen Sir Douglas Haig (pictured right).



- Lt-Gen L. E. Kiggell appointed COS BEF.

Other Fronts

BALKAN FRONT

- Prizren (Serbia) taken by Bulgarian forces.
- Monastir (Serbia) taken by Bulgarian forces.
- French retreat from Serbia to Salonika begins: Krivolak evacuated. Action of Demir Kapu
- Serbian Government and military headquarters set up at Scutari (Shkodra).
- Ipek (Montenegro) taken by Austro-German forces.
- Actions of Kosturino ;. British retreat from Macedonia begins.
- Debra and Okhrida (Serbia) taken by Bulgarian forces.
- Doiran and Gevgeli (South Serbia) taken by Bulgarian forces.
- Bulgarian and Greek General Staffs conclude agreement establishing temporary neutral zone along Greek frontier.
- The last Allied Forces in Macedonia withdrawn into Greek territory.
- Bulgarian and Greek General Staffs conclude agreement establishing temporary neutral zone along Greek frontier.
- Durazzo (Albania) occupied by Italian forces.
- Consuls of Central Powers at Salonika arrested and deported by order of General Sarrail, Commanding French troops. General Sarrail demands withdrawal of Greek troops from Salonika.

ITALIAN FRONT

- Battle of the Isonzo ends.

MESOPOTAMIAN FRONT

- British Forces, retreating from Ctesiphon, reach Kut. Kut placed in state of defence. Turkish Christmas Eve Attack.

EGYPT/WESTERN DESERT

- Affair of the Wadi Senab.

PERSIA

- Hamadan (Western Persia) occupied by Russian forces.
- Qasr-i-Shirin (Western Persia) occupied by Turkish forces.
- Affair of the Wadi Majid (Western Egypt).
- Kangavar (Western Persia) occupied by a Russian force.

GALLIPOLI

8th - Evacuation of Suvla and Anzac ordered.

19th - Evacuation of Suvla and Anzac begun and completed by 20th.

28th - Evacuation of remainder of Gallipoli Peninsula ordered.

- Last units of Indian Expeditionary Force 'G' leave the Dardanelles to amalgamate with Indian Expeditionary Force 'E' in Egypt.

At Sea

CONTRABAND CONTROL

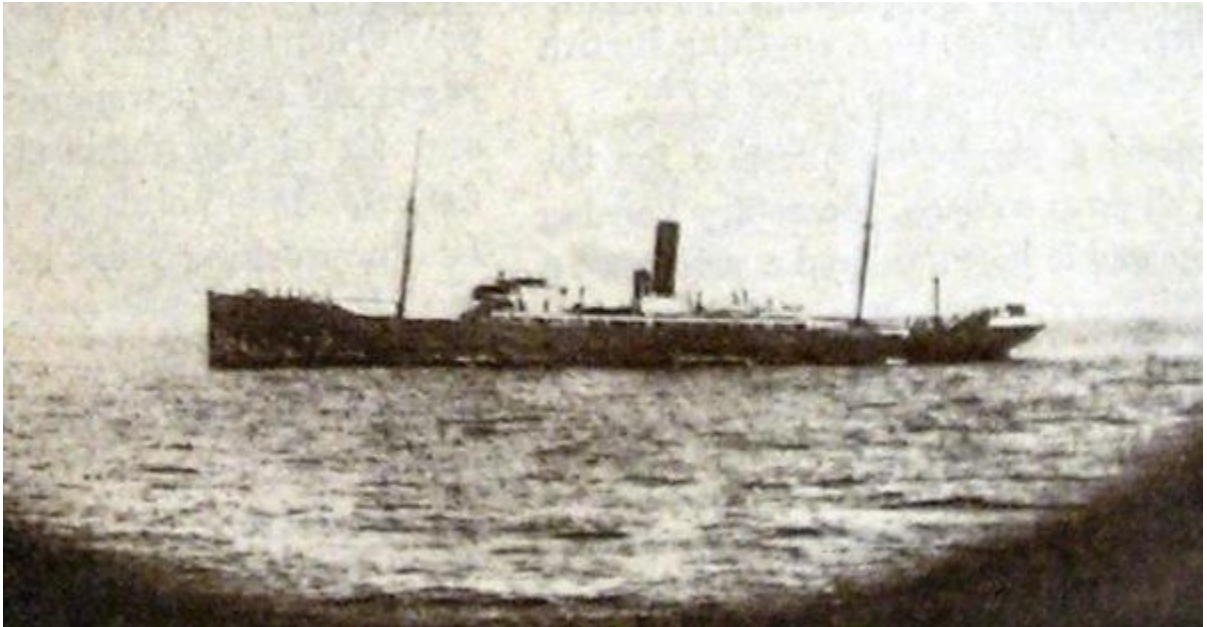
- British Government put economic pressure on Greece by making the 'export restrictions' apply to that country.

- Agreement concluded between French Government and Netherlands Oversea Trust.

- 'Trading with the Enemy (Extension of Powers) Act, 1915' (beginning of 'Black List' policy), comes into force in Great Britain.

CRUISER WARFARE

- German raider 'Möwe' sails from Bremen on first cruise.



SMS Mowe

ADRIATIC

- Durazzo bombarded and raided by Austrian squadron.

BALTIC

- German light cruiser 'Bremen' sunk by British submarine in the Baltic.

EAST AFRICA

- British naval operations on Lake Tanganyika. German gunboat 'Kingani' captured by HMS 'Mimi' and 'Toutou'.

German Gunboat Kingani



HMS Mimi



HMS Toutou



ROYAL NAVY

- HMS 'Natal' destroyed by internal explosion in Cromarty harbour.

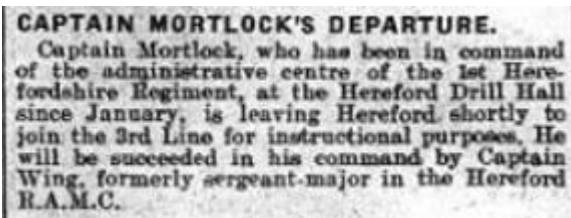
Merchant Shipping

- British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month
- 47 ships of 123,000 tons gross.
- Total for 1915 - 772 ships of 1,323,000 tons gross

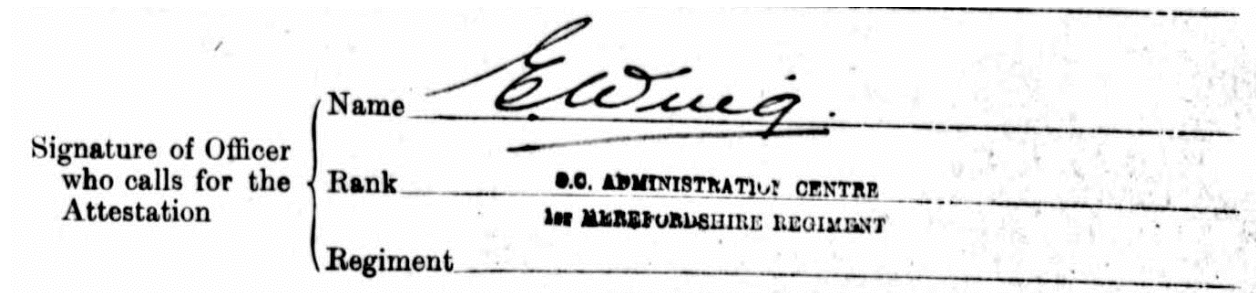
The 'Herefords'

Hereford

The Depot functions continued:



This notice was published in the Hereford Times. Captain Wing's signature starts to appear on documents raised in Hereford.



Enlistments:

Many men were attested under the Derby Scheme, they were enlisted and were taken into the Army Reserve to be called up in their group in 1916.

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 4335 Name *Ralph Baldwin*

Corps	Battn. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of Pension		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
					years	days	
General Service		Attested	<i>Pte.</i>	<i>7-12-15</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>Wainwright Brett Dunnellon Capt Wing Capt</i>
General Service		To Army Reserve	"	<i>18-12-15</i>		<i>63.</i>	
		Mobilized		<i>9-2-16</i>			
HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT		Posted		<i>13-2-16</i>			

Pte Baldwin was enlisted under the Derby Scheme; he was discharged 23 June 1916 - 'unfit for military service – left leg 2 inches shorter than right'.

Records show that there were over 90 enlistments, the majority would have been Derby Scheme men.

Discharges:

Records show at least 20 men were discharged – all of them as 'medically unfit for military service'.

The Regimental Band visited from Oswestry and played at several events under the 'baton' of Bandmaster WH Wheeler.

Many of the men that had been evacuated from Suvla Bay to England were recovering from their wounds/illnesses and were being visited by family and friends and travelling home on leave whilst convalescing or on leave prior to rejoining the Regiment. The normal route would be to rejoin the 3rd Bn (at Park Hall Camp, Oswestry) through the Depot at Hereford, and wait for a draft to be made to be sent to the 1st Battalion.

An account in the Hereford Times tells of 2 soldiers of the 1st Battalion meeting at Beechwood Red Cross Hospital in Hereford; it was not normal for soldiers to be sent to hospitals close to their homes.

**HEREFORD MEN AT BEECHWOOD.
From "K'nute Alley," Gallipoli!**

It is the good fortune—if one may so put it—of two members of the 1st Herefordshire Regiment to be convalescing at Beechwood Red Cross Hospital, Hereford. Their names are Corpl. F. Jones, of the Railway Hotel, Kingston, and Pte. C. S. A. Bryan, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bryan, of Cawdor, Baggallay Street, Hereford. Remarkable enough, Corpl. Jones and Pte. Bryan met in the entrance hall at Beechwood on Friday evening for the first time since landing at Suvla Bay in August last under conditions which both will remember as long as memory lasts. It was a very happy meeting to say the least, and the fact that they both were "out of action" was momentarily forgotten. When they proceeded to compare notes, it was found that Pte. Bryan had been wounded six days after landing, while Corpl. Jones sustained a severe strain after six weeks in the trenches. They saw nothing of one another whilst on the peninsula, for Corpl. Jones and a portion of "A" Company, with which he is connected, got cut off from the Regiment during the course of the landing.

Pte. Bryan still carries his left arm in a sling. It was badly injured by shrapnel, and at the same time he sustained a nasty hit behind the left ear, splintering the bone. His left arm is still useless, but the injury behind the ear has healed nicely. "We were digging a trench across Salt Lake," Pte. Bryan remarked. "The Turks started shelling us, and we all got down. I was lying flat at the bottom of the trench, and was caught by the third shell they sent over. I was one of the first; we sustained heavy casualties. Jack Miller was killed the same day, also, Lance-Corpl. Osborne, Lance-Corpl. Knight, and Mason." Pte. Bryan spent a few days at Lemnos before being sent to England, and has been eleven weeks in hospital at Manchester. Both Pte. Bryan and Corpl. Jones were unstinted in their praise of the splendid leadership displayed by the officers in charge of the regiment.

Corpl. Jones jocularly referred to his own experiences, remarking that the "casade apartments" occupied by the regiment were anything but comfortable. They found the air very bracing, but "there was a lot of lead about." They discovered the "lead" immediately they arrived on the "promenade," and, consequently, gave up the idea of paddling! Otherwise he considered Suvla Bay a very nice place to spend a holiday. The different sections of trench occupied by the Herefordshires are named in order that they may be more easily located. Corpl. Jones' last trench was called "K'nute Alley," and a sign board points "to the nearest pub." Other trenches are named "Woodbine Alley" and "Leicester Square." It was whilst carrying sandbags in "K'nute Alley" that Corpl. Jones strained himself badly. He was sent to Cairo for ten days, and has been in Cardiff Hospital for five weeks, where he underwent an operation for hernia. Corpl. Jones hopes to rejoin the boys before long. Whatever reluctance one might feel about returning is overcome by the fact that "there are lots of pals still out there facing death," and Corpl. Jones wants to be with them again. Besides, Corpl. Jones and Pte. Bryan both declare that there is nothing to equal the comradeship which is to be found in the trenches.

Another Hereford soldier at Beechwood is Staff-Sergeant Owens, of Avdyr Villa, Baysham Street, formerly employed in the Hereford City Surveyor's office. Staff-Sergt. Owens is attached to the Army Service Corps, and was called up at the outbreak of war. He was attached to the 53rd Division, and went to the Dardanelles shortly before the 1st Herefords. He was invalided home last month with rheumatism, and was in a Manchester hospital prior to being sent to Hereford.

It should be mentioned that these Herefordshire men all speak of the 1st Herefords as being in the best of spirits, and Staff-Sergt. Owens said they were looked upon as the best regiment in the division.

Finally, they are full of gratitude for the kind attention they receive at Beechwood. When our representative left the hospital they were just proceeding to while away the evening with a whist drive.

1st Battalion

The Bn endured its last few days at Suvla Bay under trying conditions of wet and cold; many men succumbed to illness and reported sick and were evacuated. The Battalion received a reinforcement draft of men – mainly from the 3rd Bn in UK and when they were evacuated on 12 December there were less than 80 fit men.

The Bn was evacuated to Egypt, but officers and soldiers who had been evacuated were scattered amongst hospitals and respite centres across the country and the Battalion for some time has no real cohesive structure and was certainly not battleworthy. These men (and later reinforcement drafts) steadily trickled in to the Bn and gradually its efficiency returned.

Christmas was endured, in a tented camp where the Bn had had little or no time to provide seasonal comforts, probably little post got to them due to their recent arrival and the general 'fog of battle'.

8195 Pte Harris had been evacuated from Suvla Bay in November and spent Christmas in hospital at Cheubra suffering from Typhoid.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 1/1st Herefordshire

Regimental No. 8195 Rank Pte Name Starrs C

Enlisted (a) 4/2/11 Terms of Service (a) _____ Service reckons from (a) _____

Date of promotion to present rank _____ Date of appointment to lance rank _____ Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os. _____

Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) _____

Date	Report From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 28, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 28, or other official documents.
18/7/15	O.C. 1/1st Bde	Embarked 288 Barrapides	Devonport	18/7/15	Nominal roll
20/11/15	Unit	To Hospital	Gallipoli	20/11/15	B 215.
26/11/15	Ship	Admitted to H.S. Lanfranc Gastritis	Gallipoli	26/11/15	A56.
2/12/15	Hospt	Admitted Nashrifeh School Hospital	Cairo	2/12/15	A56.
10/12/15	do	Transferred to Infectious Hospital Typhoid	Cheubra	10/12/15	A56
12/1/16	do	Transferred to Enteric Convalescent Camp Enteric	Post Said	12/1/16	A56
22/1/16	do	Discharged to England	Port Said	22/1/16	A56.
22/1/16	Ship	To England Per H.S. Nevasa for transfer to Britannic at Naples	Alexandria	22/1/16	B 927.

J. Minton
OFFICER IN CHARGE INFRANTRY RECORDS
No. 4 Division
8th ECHELON

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
(b) S.C., Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

1036 Pte Minton was in Convalescent hospital at Luxor over Christmas.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 1/1st Herefordshire

Regimental No. 1036 Rank Pte Name Minton G L D

Enlisted (a) 10/3/11 Terms of Service (a) _____ Service reckons from (a) _____

Date of promotion to present rank _____ Date of appointment to lance rank _____ Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os. _____

Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) Pioneer

Date	Report From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 28, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 28, or other official documents.
16/7/15	O.C. 1/1st Bde	Embarked 288 Barrapides	Devonport	16/7/15	Nominal Roll.
30/11/15	Ship	Admitted H.S. Galaka Frost Bite	Gallipoli	30/11/15	A36
4/12/15	Hosptl	Admitted 17th General	Alexandria	4/12/15	A36.
10/12/15	do	Transferred to Convalescent Hospital	Luxor	10/12/15	A36.
12/2/16	do	Discharged to Duty	Luxor	12/2/16	A36.
25/2/16	Base	Arrived Base Depot	Alexandria	19/2/16	B 215
23.3.16	Base	Embarked for England Per H.S. Jernicia time before	Alexandria	23.3.16	Nominal Roll.

J. Minton
OFFICER IN CHARGE INFRANTRY RECORDS
No. 4 District

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
(b) S.C., Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

The Bn War Diary and individual accounts recount the story:

The Battalion War Diary:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Detail</i>	
1 Dec	Lala Baba Suvla Bay	Capt P Lewis arrived about midnight with a draft of 21 NCOs and men from England. Weather cold and fine, luckily as officers and men are living with little shelter.
2-6 Dec		The Battalion is reduced to the strength of about 150, employed in digging trenches at Lala Baba. 2Lt Wilson went to hospital.
7 Dec		Heavy and most systematic bombardment by Turks of Lala Baba but luckily few casualties anywhere and none amongst the Herefords.
8 Dec		About 2am Capt Green, 2Lt Wallis and Reeve rejoined HQ with 8 men.
9,10 Dec		More artillery fire than usual directed at Lala Baba.
11 Dec		This morning received news reference to evacuation of units of 158 Bde.
12 Dec		7pm, Battalion embarked with other units on SS Alkahira. Most of night spent by men of Battalion embarking stores.
13 Dec	Lemnos	Battalion arrived at Lemnos, disembarked and marched from Turks Head to a camp site about 2 miles in the direction of Kondia. In the afternoon tents arrived and camp was pitched.
14 Dec		At 10pm received news to embark next day.
15 Dec		Reveille 4.30am; breakfasted and left camp still standing. Marched to South Pier and about 2pm embarked in SS Tunisian. The following officers embarked: Lt Col Drage, Capts Green and Lewis, Lt Ashton and 2Lts Wilson, Wallis and Reeve and 113 men.
16 Dec		Remained in harbour on board Tunisian. Seven light duty men from Battalion embarked this day.
17 Dec		Still in harbour.
18 Dec	Lemnos	At sea. About 4pm SS Tunisian having on board 158 Bde HQ, units of the brigade and attachments from about 20 other units in all numbering about 2,000 officers and men. Sailed in company with 4 other transports escorted by 2 light cruisers.

19-21 Dec	At sea	Exercised abandon ship.
22 Dec	Alexandria	Arrived Alexandria at 7.30am. Moved along side jetty about 4pm and there received orders to entrain at 5.45pm for Wardan, about 20 miles north of Cairo. Detrained at Wardan about 10.30pm and marched to camp which had already been pitched.
23 Dec		Lts Whitehouse and Trumper and 40 men rejoined.
24,25 Dec		NTR
26 Dec		Four men rejoined Battalion from hospital.
27 Dec		Twenty five men rejoined.
28-31 Dec		NTR
		<u>Notes to War Diary</u>
		<p>Recommendation for the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal</p> <p>1584 Pte Robert Edwards – 1st Herefordshire Regiment</p> <p>3 Nov 1915 – Suvla Bay</p> <p>It happened on 3 Nov after the officer of a mining party had been killed and the sergeant hit. The OC, Capt Marlow called for volunteers to go and search for the missing party; Pte Edwards volunteered. He and his captain went out under heavy fire and got in the body of the sergeant who had by then died.</p> <p>[Not Awarded]</p>
		<p>Recommendation for the award of the Distinguished Service Order</p> <p>Capt Edwin Thomas Percy Rogers – 1st Herefordshire Regiment</p> <p>9 August – 30 November 1915 – Suvla Bay</p> <p>For skill in organising and carrying out the working of an advanced fire trench under the accurate fire of the enemy and for the example shown, often at personal risk for 14 consecutive nights in doing the same. In addition consistent good work and devotion to duty since landing in Suvla on 9 August.</p>

		<p>Recommendation for the award of the Military Cross</p> <p>Capt Francis Guy Barker – 1st Herefordshire Regiment</p> <p>3 Nov 1915 – Suvla Bay</p> <p>For coolness and courage on insisting in bringing in the body of Lt Lewis killed in front of the firing trenches and again going out under fire increasing in severity to look for a missing sergeant whose body was eventually found, bringing it in with the aid of Pte S D Ward.</p>
		<p>Recommendation for award of Order Of Merit One</p> <p>Sgt Arthur Page – 1st Herefordshire Regiment</p> <p>9 Aug 1915 to date – Suvla Bay</p> <p>Consistent good work and examples of standing in Suvla in August last, and latterly for good work as an NCO grenadier.</p>
		<p>Recommendations submitted in accordance with brigade instruction dated 23 Dec 1915 for the period 1 Oct 1915 to date:</p>
		<p>Lt Augustine George Richard Whitehouse for conspicuous ability and energy while commanding a company in the trenches – Mention.</p>
		<p>7 Sgt E Perks for consistent good work as Signals Sergeant in charge of Battalion signals during the absence of the signals officer in hospital sick – Mention.</p>
		<p>Lt Peter Ashton for constant good work as acting adjutant of the Battalion and especially on the occasion of the flooding of the trenches on the night of the 26/27 November and during the very severe weather experienced while the Battalion was in bivouac in the sand dunes near the Salt Lake, Suvla Bay, during which all ranks suffered very severely from exposure and would have done so still more but for the exertions of Lt Ashton – Mention.</p>
		<p><u>Brigade Notes For The Evacuation - 158 Bde Orders.</u></p> <p>158 Bde will assemble on C Beach by 7pm today for the purpose of embarkation.</p> <p>Each Battalion will move under its own arrangements. The machine gun sections will move under the OC 1/7 RWF.</p> <p>Each Battalion will send in advance a guard of 1 NCO and 3 men to C Beach to take charge of baggage as it arrives and 1/7 RWF will detail a guard over the</p>

		<p>machine guns. The guard will concentrate on MCO where baggage is to be stacked. All baggage will be man handled, stacked at C Beach in sufficient time to enable the fatigue party to return and parade with their units to march to C Beach. Baggage should be dribbled down by route which is least exposed to enemy view. COs and adjutants to report to base major at LO's office 6.30pm to ascertain which units will be allowed on the beach but will not arrive before 6.45pm. Bivouacs will be cleared up this afternoon.</p>
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2Lt Parker

1st December

We got on board HMS Galena about one in the morning. It was splendid like being taken into a palace after being in the gutter for weeks. The sister, who had a nice red face gave me a brandy and milk and told me to try to get a bath. This could not be done the water just ran off me like a duck's back. I then waylaid a steward who had got some sandwiches, intended for somebody else, and ate them telling him to fetch some more which he didn't. I then got into real sheets and went to sleep. I woke up at 8 feeling 100% better. The good steward arrived with coffee, French Rolls and an egg which was about the finest meal I have ever tasted. When I asked for a bit more he quietly but firmly told me it was not good to eat too much when you had been fasting for a bit. I shared a cabin with an Essex officer named Chick. We were well under way when I awoke. This seems a very nice comfortable boat – small about 4000 tons. It is a Union Castle liner. The doctor paid me a visit – I don't think there is a lot the matter with me except frostbitten feet and perhaps a bit of rheumatism. I cannot feel a blooming thing in my feet. You can ram a pin into them without feeling it. A very decent Padre (RC) came round talked a bit and gave me cigarettes. We arrived at Mudros about midday. Here there were three possibilities 1. to be taken ashore to a stationary hospital in this God forsaken Island; 2, to be put aboard the Aquitania and go straight back to England, 3, go in this boat to Egypt. I naturally hoped for 2 or 3 and got 3. I was not sorry when we left Mudros and the possibility of stopping there behind us. Slept most of the day; Chick talked too much.

2nd December

Today was a blank more or less for me, but a blank in oblivion. Somebody oiled my feet, the padre called and grub was first rate. The Indians I hear have had a bad time with frost bite. A good many have lost their feet and some even more. Feeling rather weak but otherwise fit.

3rd December

Inclined to be rheumatic today. I got up late in the day as I thought that it would do me good and had a good look round. Visited old Rodgers and Barker both of whose feet are pretty bad. There are eight Hereford officers on board Trumper, Bennett, Wren, Ragg, Rodgers and myself. Had dinner in the saloon but can't say that I enjoyed it as much as in bed. I feel rather weak about the middle.

4th December

We sighted Egypt soon after breakfast. The padre came and told me stories of that country. I had a look out of the port hole and my first sight of that country was a couple of palm trees sticking out, apparently from the sea.

We were soon in harbour and I got up. It was interesting to watch everything – the Gippo labourers singing at their work, looking like a lot of ants, the palm trees the minarets and above all the everlasting sunshine.

The Australians on land were very good giving the fellows pig a back to the motor ambulances. One gave me a lift on his back to the motor. I did not see much of Alexandria which is the port to which we have come while on journey to the hospital. We went out of the town to a suburb called Victoria and went to the 17th General Hospital, it looks alright. They kept us waiting a deuce of a time before we got away to our allotted ward Carver, and Ragg in the same ward and also a lot of RWF officers of the 158th Brigade (I don't like this as much as the ship, but I always think the ships do you A1)

5th December

In bed all day. They have put me down as Rheumatism (Slight) and frostbite. I find Bennett is here and also Rodgers in another ward. I am in the upper flat ward (surgical) I stayed in bed all day despite sour looks from our sister. Feeling fairly fit and I am very comfortable.

6th December

I got up in the afternoon and had my dinner downstairs, but somehow or other I only feel comfortable in bed and I get a pain in my tummy when I am down to meals. However I expect it will pass off. I have got a non-conformist padre on my right a very nice fellow named McIvor who used to be in the London Scottish but got a commission into the 10th Middlesex in our division. This is his second dose of frost bit he got his first in France.

7th December

I sent a cable home, got up late in the morning and in the afternoon went down into Alexandria on the tram with a Cheshire officer named Forsett. Had tea there but not feeling very fit. We got off at Siddi-Bishr station by mistake on the way back and had to walk to hospital, which rather knocked me up. When sister Davenport took my pulse she said it was rotten and she took it again when I had calmed a bit and it was better. However she made me go to bed. I ran a bit of a temperature at night – I expect I caught a bit of a chill on the trams.

8th December

I was kept in bed, although I am feeling ok in myself. I run a bit of a temperature – it got up to 103 in the night and the pulse is bad. After this date I was in bed for about a couple of months running a temperature for practically the whole time. After about a week they took a blood sample and found I had got enteric fever.

I was moved out of the upper flat ward into a little one adjoining the padre who has also got it. We were moved here in a couple of days to the other side of the hospital into the enteric block. A funny old doctor here – quite a good sort called Donald. He is a specialist in this sort of thing. There are a couple of sisters here – one who is awfully capable and as strong as a horse the other named Adair a pretty Irish girl a jolly good sort but hardly the best of nurses. My grub at this time consisted of two cups of tea and a bowl of jelly each day. I shall not grow fat on it! We are allowed chocolate – in fact it is supposed to be good in moderation for typhoid patients. These are all enteric patients here except one fellow next to me who has jaundice and has been in contact with enteric. He is young Wedgwood, son of Josiah Wedgwood. I think must have brought the jaundice on by overeating and he is very good at that but is a clever young monkey. Lady Brassey came to see him one day. I spent Christmas day in this ward, but was unfortunately still bad. I was allowed half a small glass of champagne as an addition.

2563 Pte P Wilkins

Dec 7 In spite of a large number of men returned from hospital the battalion is reduced to 130 where it was employed in digging trenches on Lala Baba.

Dec 11 Under cover of darkness about 8pm on the same beach arrived on 18 weeks ago the evacuate Gallipoli; strength only 77.
 Dec 12 Embark on the SS Elkahira, a very dirty Greek ship for Lemnos.
 Dec 13 Arrive on Lemnos march out to a camping ground about 2 miles away in the direction of Kastro & pitch camp.
 Dec 15 Embark on the SS Tunisian.
 Dec 18 Sail on the SS Tunisian bound for Alexandria.
 Dec 22 Arrive in Alexandria, Egypt. On disembarking immediately entrain for Wardan about 40 miles north of Cairo. A small native village on the far east bank of the Nile, the railway line, the canal crawling with bilharzias germs & nothing else but desert.

Capt P Ashton (Adjutant)

We packed up, not having much to pack, and embarked about 8pm on a single ‘beetle’, which is a barge with a paddle wheel in the stern. By a strange coincidence we left from identically the same bit of beach as we had landed on just 18 weeks before. As I had been the first ashore I was the last to leave. It was impossible not to help noticing the contrast – that brilliant August morning, the Battalion full of fight, high endeavour and 750 strong! Now this dark December night, slinking away, under 100 strong, weary, dirty, blasé, disillusioned, and yet I was sorry to go’.

2109 Pte P Pritchard

Then in about December we experienced a tropical storm. The rain came down and flooded the Turkish trenches above us and sort of infiltrated right through into our network of trenches and we had dead Turks, donkeys and the like coming down at us. Lightning flashes all round us that went on for 24 hours. Then it froze and the troops were absolutely lost, they could do nothing, they got out of the trenches. However the evacuation had been decided upon and the Herefords were withdrawn from the trenches. I came down with about 50 others, we were ragged and muddied. We came through the mud and went to the beaches but on the way were turned out onto the Salt Lake and during the night it froze. In the morning there were dead fellows everywhere. The Indian Mule Transports had been unable to take the rations up to the line so they dumped them on the side of the track and our fellows found the jars of rum which they consumed in their dixies and absolutely it was the last thing; they were frozen to death in the morning.

Dec	3	Lemnos	Hospital Ship "Dunglua Castle"
Dec	4	Crete	
Dec	6	Malta	
Dec	8	Manoel Hospital	

1606 Pte H Colley

1 Dec 1915	Taken aboard with many others HSS Galena. This was better and one of the most interesting and cheering sights was to see a female – one of the Red Cross nurses. We did not stay long in the bay, but moved off about 1100, very glad undoubtedly at leaving behind a land that had brought sickness and death to many of our comrades. It was on this day that we had the best meal since our landing in August, a meal was
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	greatly relished, especially after not having any food for 3 days at the Clearing Station. Our boat was rather crowded so we had to sleep on the top deck. We reached Lemnos Harbour about 1700 the same day, dropped anchor and stayed there for the night. We anticipated being taken off and put in hospital on the island, but first thing in the morning we were off again. Nothing worth recording happened during the voyage from Lemnos to Alexandria, except that one night we had another storm and got a drenching and had to move down to one of the store rooms to spend the rest of the night.
4 Dec 1915	Reached Alexandria and were taken off after dinner in motors to various hospitals. I was taken to 19 General Hospital and by 4 o'clock I had had a good bath, and was in bed, the first since Jul and I can tell you it seemed perfectly heavenly.

There was little shelter available after the storm, and many men suffered in the days after the storm.



Troops recover after the storm at Suvla Bay.



Drying blankets after the storm



Troops in a makeshift shelter at Suvla Bay

The storm was reported in the Hereford Times, and although the evacuation had been decided on – no hint was given in the account.

Winter Storms at Suvla.

Special Outfits for the Troops.

Reuter's special correspondent at the Dardanelles telegraphs under date December 3rd :—

Winter has come earlier than was anticipated, with a severe blizzard. The hills are covered with a slight fall of snow, and there has been a sharp drop in the temperature. At Suvla the water rushed down into the trenches, and the stamina of the British troops underwent a severe trial. But they stood it better than the Turks, who, to evade the flood, left the trenches and in some cases were shot down while sitting on the parapet. Several prisoners who were taken were poorly clad and stated that they were on half rations.

Apparently the severe weather, combined with our airplane and ships' bombardments, is considerably hampering the enemy's lines of communication. The storm caused some damage to our boats and barges, but communication has now been restored.

On two occasions recently the Turks, thinking that we might be evacuating our positions, left their trenches, stealing out under cover of night to reconnoitre in considerable numbers. For the most part they were not molested, our officers wishing to encourage their belief in hopes that they would come on in greater numbers. At one section, however, the Australian Light Horse fired, accounting for 20.

Weather conditions are now normal, but more severe weather is expected, especially in January and February. By that time, however, it is hoped that the troops will be thoroughly well equipped. Already they have received a portion of wet-weather clothing, such as thigh boots and waterproof capes. When they receive their full equipment they will undoubtedly be much better prepared for a winter campaign than the enemy. Supply conditions here are more difficult than in France, but apparently every possible effort is

being made to cope with the unusual circumstances.

Later information shows that the enemy suffered greatly in the storm. Many had neither blankets nor underclothing and must have perished. Several bodies and mules were washed down into our trenches.

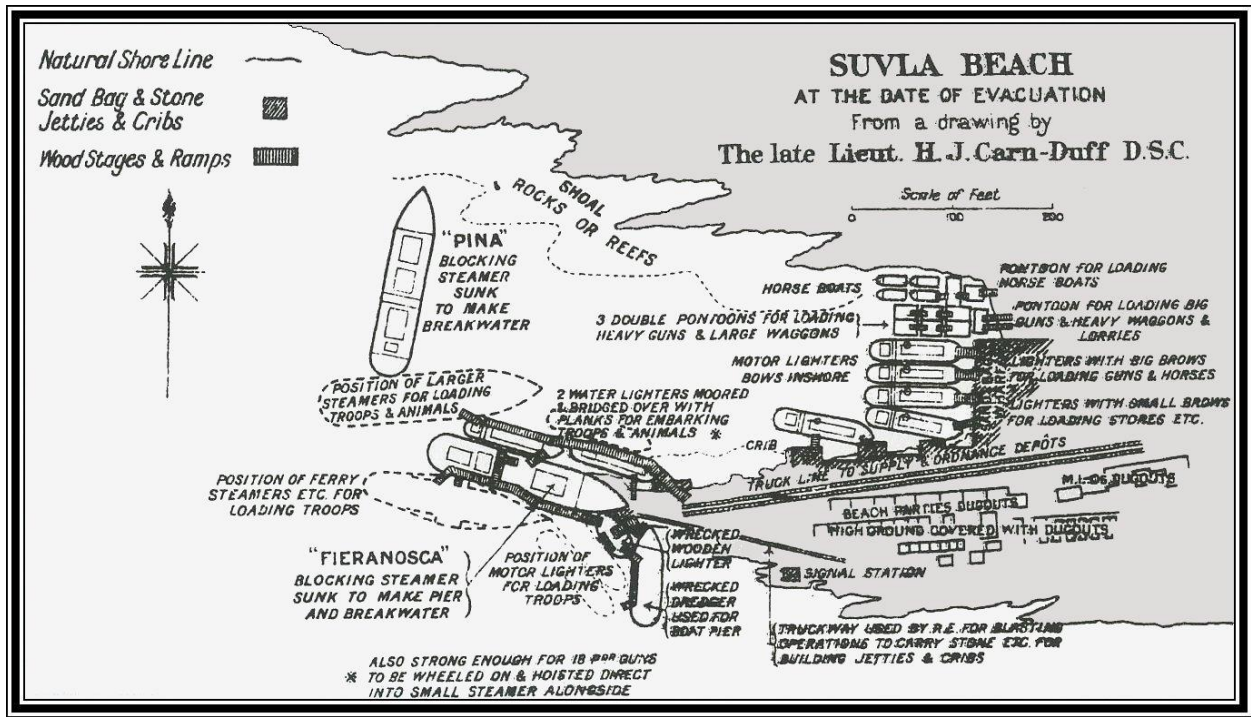
The evacuation of Suvla Bay was planned in great detail and executed in fine form, perversely it was the most successful part of the operation. Thousands of tons of stores were recovered but thousands also destroyed, by burning, acid and sea dumping.

The destruction of stores at Suvla Bay:



The evacuation of Suvla:

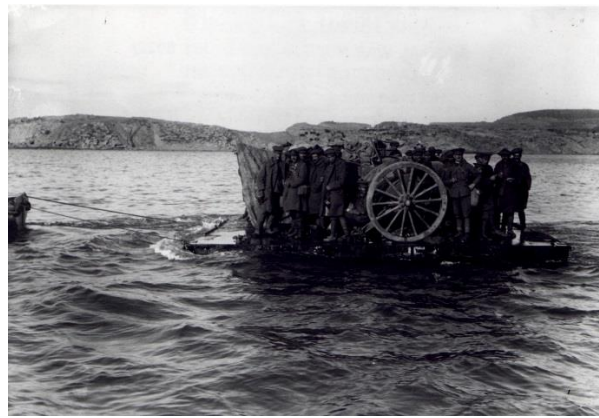
The plan of the dock area:



A photograph of the dock area:



Troops and equipment being evacuated from Suvla Bay:



Casualties. The Bn continued to receive casualties, the casualty list indicates that the majority of the fatalities took place after evacuation.

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO1	D'CHARGED	HOW	WHERE	HOMETOWN
HIGLEY	PERCY	PTE	1985	02/12/15	DIED	GALLIPOLI	WORMBRIDGE
ATTWOOD	WILLIAM	PTE	2290	06/12/15	DOW GALLIPOLI	MALTA	TEWKESBURY
REYNOLDS	JOHN CHARLES	PTE	3074	13/12/15	Enteric	EGYPT	DINEDOR
SOLOMON	EDWARD THOMAS	PTE	2240	13/12/15	Peritonitis	MALTA	HEREFORD
HARDS	GEORGE ARTHUR	PTE	3251	14/12/15	Disease	MUDROS	H U DINMORE

The following accounts appeared in The Hereford Times:

DEATH AT THE DARDANELLES.



PTE. PERCY HIGLEY,
1355, C Company, 1st Herefords (son
of Mr. and Mrs. A. Higley, Howton
Grove, Wormbridge, Hereford), who died
from exposure on December 2nd at the
Dardanelles, aged 29 years. He was appren-
ticed at the King's Acre Nurseries, Hereford,
and was serving his last year when the war
broke out, and he volunteered for Imperial
service. He has a brother serving in the
25th Battery, R.F.A., who has seen 14 months'
service in France, and is now moved to an
unknown destination.

THE LATE PTE. P. HIGLEY.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Higley, Howton Grove, Wormbridge, received official information from the War Office on Tuesday of the death from exposure on December 2nd of their son, Pte. Percy Higley (1355), C Company, but a letter has since been received from his fellow stretcher-bearers, saying that he was shot through the shoulder whilst removing wounded from the trenches. He was taken to hospital and attended to immediately, but he died from his wound, his chums placing a cross over his grave. He was only 29 years of age, and on the outbreak of war was working as an apprentice at the King's Acre Nurseries. He was serving his last year when war broke out, and volunteered for Imperial service on September 1st, 1914, sailing with the regiment on July 18th. Mr. Higley has a son who has served 14 months in France with the

DIED IN GALLI POLI.



PTE. E. SOLOMAN,
1st Herefords. Died of exposure in Gallipoli.
His home is in Cornwall, but he worked in
Hereford for some years.

PTE. E. SOLOMAN DEAD.

Pte. E. Soloman (2240), who is officially reported to have died in Gallipoli, probably from exposure during the great storm, joined the 2nd Battalion Herefordshire Regiment soon after the outbreak of war. He was later on transferred to the 1st Battalion, and went to the front on July 16th. Before enlisting he was employed with Mr. J. H. Dyer, hairdresser, St. Peter's Street, Hereford, and lodged with Mrs. Allen, 38, Portland Street, Hereford. He was a West countryman, and took a keen interest in the West Countrymen's Society at Hereford.

DEATH OF PTE. J. C. REYNOLDS.

To the already long roll of dead has to be added the name of Pte. John Charles Reynolds (3074), third son of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, of Green Street, Hereford. Only 19 years of age, he succumbed in hospital at Alexandria to enteric and frostbite. For a couple of years the deceased soldier was in the employ of Messrs. Gurneys' Ltd, and for about three years worked in the pits at Tredegar. He joined the 1st Herefords only 12 months ago, on the Wednesday following Christmas Day, and went out with the regiment in July.

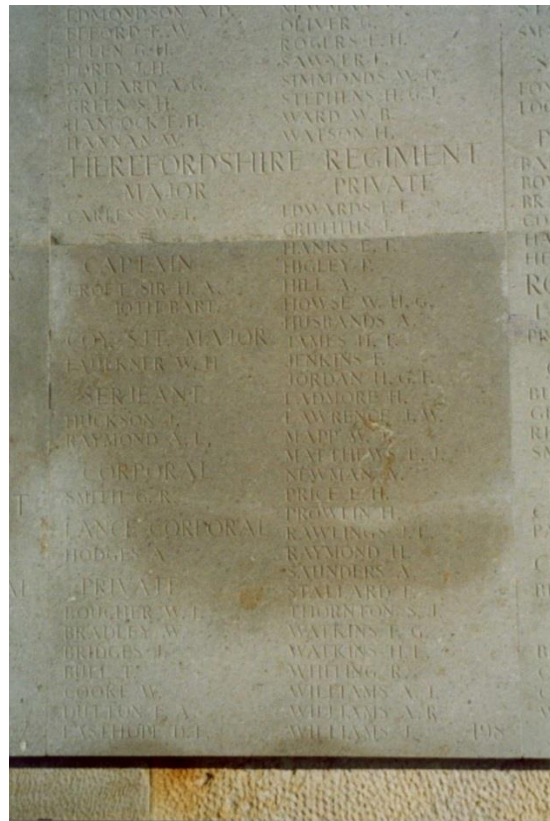
Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds and family will have the sympathy of all in their loss. Deceased's father is also a soldier, with the rank of Company Quartermaster-Sergeant in the K.S.L.I., at

present attached to the 20th Royal Welsh Fusiliers, now encamped in North Wales. He has 21 years' service to his credit. He joined the Shropshires on June 6th, 1881, and went to Egypt with his regiment in 1882, and after a period at Malta again went to Egypt, and took part in the Suakim Expedition of 1885. Another period at Malta was followed by a return to Egypt, until his regiment was ordered to China in 1891, where it was stationed at Hong Kong for a time; and he returned to England just before the black plague broke out. At home he was on the permanent staff of the Hereford Militia (4th K.S.L.I.), and was mobilised with that battalion for duty in Ireland during the South African War. He left the Army on the expiration of 21 years' service in 1902, but was one of the first to respond to Lord Kitchener's call for old soldiers as instructors for the new armies raised for the present war.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), formed as the Imperial War Graves Commission in May 1917, took over responsibility for Allied war graves in Gallipoli and established graveyards and memorials. Men of The Herefordshire Regiment lie in many graveyards at Suvla, and those with no known grave are commemorated on the Cape Helles Memorial.



The Cape Helles Memorial



The Herefordshire Regimental panel on th Helles Memorial



Left: The headstone of 250 Pte CD Warren of Ledbury, killed in Action 15 November 1915 aged 20, at Lal Baba CWGC Cemetery.

Below: A general view of Lal Bab CWGC looking North West out over Suvla Bay.



The Cost Below is a summary of the cost of the Suvla Bay campaign to the Herefordshire Regiment.

Sailed from UK 17 Jul	(29 + 969)	998	
Landed Suvla Bay 8/9 Aug	(25 + 750)	775	
Reinforcements from Egypt		196	Detail of 26 <i>probably</i> remained in Egypt
Draft 1	(2 + 45)	47	Landed Suvla Sep
Draft 2	(1 + 22)	23	Landed Suvla Dec
		1039	
Fit & evacuated 12 Dec		79	
Fatalities		78	
Evacuated wounded/ill		882	
		1039	
<u>Notes</u>			
Nominal rolls do not exist for the 'base Detail' left in Egypt – this figure is therefore a best estimate.			
Some men were wounded and evacuated on more than one occasion. Capt Lewis, the officer leading the 2 nd Draft had landed on 8/9 August, been wounded, evacuated to UK and was returned fit as OiC reinforcement draft. Many were evacuated to Lemnos and Egypt recovered and returned to Suvla Bay.			
Record show at least 9 soldiers taken as Prisoners of Wars by the Turks.			
Some soldiers died at a later date, as a result of wounds received at Suvla Bay.			

2nd Battalion

From the War Diary:

1 – 31 Dec	Bedford	This Battalion during the month of December was stationed at Bedford.
8 Dec		63 NCOs and men of this Battalion and 19 NCOs and men of the 1 st Line Reinforcements attached, fit for Garrison duty abroad and at home, transferred to 48 th Provisional Bn, Norwich.
15 Dec		10 NCOs and men of 1 st Line Reinforcements attached, transferred to 3 rd Line depot.
		Signed by: W B Wood Roe Lt Col Commanding 2/1 st Herefordshire Regiment

WITH THE 2nd HEREFORDS.

Christmas Doings at Bedford.

Christmas for the 2nd Herefords was necessarily rather quiet. People living in the comparative security of the west fail to realise how dismal the streets of eastern towns are under the Lighting Orders. It has been whispered in the Battalion that many people about Hereford are under the impression that all the "2nds" are in nice comfortable billets. If that idea is existing in the mind of Herefordians it is quite wrong; the greater part of the Battalion are in empty houses, which are not very conducive to great comfort. Only a small number of men were able to get leave for Christmas.

For several days before Christmas the Battalion postman was kept very hard at work, and his mails were so heavy that he had to have extra assistance to deal with the Christmas rush of letters, and especially parcels. One of them was heard to remark that he thought the Herefords had the heaviest mail in the Brigade. The serving out of the mails was a very animated scene, and many were the lucky ones carrying off parcels of every size to their billets.

On Christmas Eve evergreens were given to the mess underlies in some companies, to decorate the mess rooms with, and on Christmas morning they had quite a festive appearance.

On Christmas morning the climatic conditions were not of the best. At 8.45 a.m. the Battalion fell in for church parade. Afterwards they were dismissed for the day; but had to remain under cover a good deal on account of the weather.

Dinner was at one o'clock, when the Battalion sat down to a good, substantial meal of roast beef, potatoes and peas, and "Territorial pudding." Beer and cigarettes were issued after dinner. The mess rooms at this meal were inspected by the Colonel, who was anxious to see that every man had sufficient. Each man in the Battalion had a bag issued to him to keep his small kit in. The bags were kindly given by Mrs. Wood Roe.

In the evening there was an entertainment at the Corn Exchange. There were numerous competitions, such as hat trimming, egg and spoon racing, etc., and one was very pleased to notice that the Herefords were not unsuccessful. Hat-trimming appeared to be their strong point, for they carried off several prizes, namely, the first, third and fourth. They also carried off several other prizes. After the competitions and pictures had finished, a little dancing brought a very pleasant and successful evening to a close. There was also an Anglo-Scottish concert party at the theatre; this party was undoubtedly one of the best heard in this town.

Over Christmas, tattoo was sounded at 9.30 instead of 9 o'clock. On Sunday the Battalion had church parade. Monday was not observed as a holiday.

3rd Battalion

The Herefordshire Territorial Force Association wrote to the War Officer requesting that the 3rd Bn being based in Herefordshire as was it was 'normal for 3rd Line Depots to be located at their peace headquarters'. They made the point that Herefordshire had raised 3 battalions and 6 other units, but had no troops based in the county.

The Hereford Times on the 18th Dec reported that men from the 3rd Bn were arriving in Hereford for a 'few days Christmas leave'. The events of Christmas Day at Oswestry were reported in the Hereford Times:

