

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – February 1915

The 'Bigger' Picture

Intrigue and international positioning continues. Examples of this are:

- Joint declaration signed by Great Britain and France to prevent trade by or with Germany
- British Government conclude agreement with American Interests that cotton and rubber should be contraband, rubber should only be exported to Britain.
- Dutch Government lodge protest against blockade policy of the Entente.
- Chinese and Japanese Governments conclude secret agreement as to future policy in Manchuria.
- 17th - French Government lodge claim with British Government to Syria and Cilicia (*Turkey*)

The Home Front

The realities of war were being realised the continuing shift of the economy from peace to war manufacturing was making jobs available and at good wages. There were equally increased food costs, shortages of goods and dissatisfaction with profiteering and working conditions.

The Government was so concerned about drinking that David Lloyd George was moved to say, 'We are fighting Germany, Austria and drink; and as far as I can see, the greatest of these deadly foes is drink'. Under pressure from Lloyd George, the King took the pledge for the duration of the war, followed by the Duke of Portland - but he was the only Duke to do so. One strong supporter writing under the pen name of 'Teetotaler' wrote:

'The king has set a noble example. He has risen to the high occasion and done the kingliest act of his reign. He has decided to give up alcohol for the good of his country, for the safety of the Empire. And all honour to the Duke of Portland for prohibiting drink in his household. We all know something of the destruction of life and property caused by this war; we have all read something of the houses and farms and crops and towns shelled and burned; we all know something of the awful loss of life, not only of soldiers but of women and children. Yet, tremendous and horrible as is that carnage, it is but a trifle compared with the havoc wrought by drink'.

The Western Front

The Battle of Champagne continues
Battle of Neuve Chapelle
21st - First German airship raid on Paris takes place

Other Fronts

EASTERN FRONT

4th - Stanislaw (Galicia) recaptured by Russian forces.

18th - Memel (East Prussia) again captured by Russian forces.

21st - Memel (East Prussia) reoccupied by German forces.

22nd - Przemysl capitulates to Russian forces

SOUTH WEST AFRICA

30th - Aus (German South-West Africa) occupied by South African forces

DARDANELLES

The events in the Dardanelles would have a significant impact on the Herefordshire Regiment later in the year, but at this time it was a distant campaign.

4th - Russian Government send circular telegram to Entente Governments laying claim to Constantinople.

4th - French Government decide to send Expeditionary Force to the Dardanelles

Greek Premier (M. Venizelos) proffers Greek fleet and troops to Entente for operations at the Dardanelles

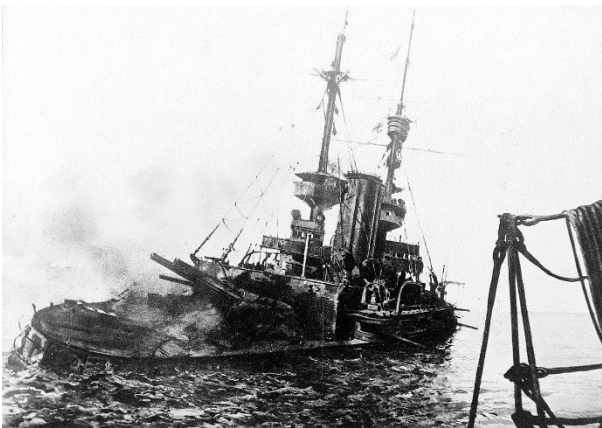
7th - Greek Government request explanation of British occupation of Lemnos.

12th - General Sir Ian Hamilton appointed Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean (Dardanelles) Expeditionary Force

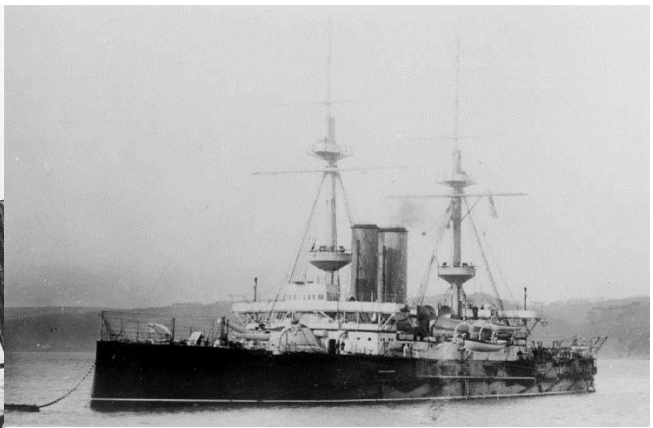
20th - British Government guarantee Greece eventual cession of Lemnos by Turkey

18th - Allied Naval attack on the Dardanelles forts repulsed. French battleship 'Bouvet' and British battleships 'Irresistible' and 'Ocean' sunk.

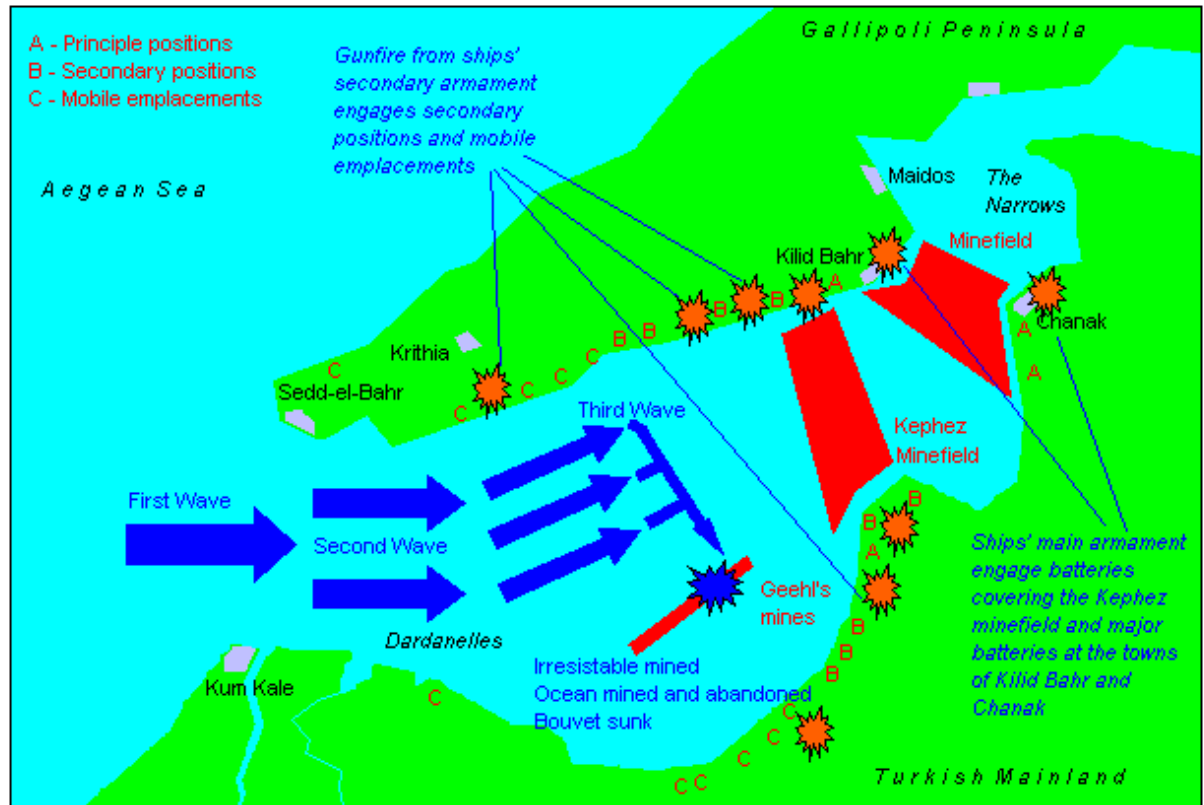
25th - General Liman von Sanders appointed to command Turco-German Forces, Dardanelles



HMS Irresistible, abandoned and sinking



HMS Ocean



At Sea

14th - Light cruiser 'Dresden' the last German cruiser left at sea, sunk by British warships in Chilean waters off Juan Fernandez.

15th - First merchant ship (SS Blonde) attacked by aircraft

U-BOAT WARFARE

4th - First case of 'indicator' nets aiding in the destruction of a German submarine, 'U.-8', in Straits of Dover.

13th - Swedish SS 'Hanna' torpedoed without warning. First neutral ship actually sunk by German submarine

25th - Dutch SS 'Medea' captured by German submarine and sunk. First neutral ship sunk after visit and search

28th - The first passenger ship, British SS 'Falaba', sunk by a German submarine

Merchant Shipping

British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month - 34 ships of 87,000 tons gross

The 'Herefords'

Hereford

The reactions to the apparent under recruitment of the Herefords and their non-selection for deployment overseas continues! There is debate in the papers regarding the cause and an accusative finger is pointed at the 'recruiters'. It is alleged that recruiters received a 2/6 bounty for each recruit to the New Armies they enlisted; they received no payment for recruits to the Territorial Force, it is alleged that 1200 recruits had been channelled away from the Herefordshire Regiment!

An analysis is also made of the makeup of soldiers in the 2nd Bn at Aberysthwyth, this shows:

Home Service men returned from 1 st Bn	230
National Reserve men	40
Home Service men	116
Foreign Service men	217
Under 19	410
	1013

Notes:

- Home service men comprised, medically unfit (temporarily and permanent), too old and those who had elected not to serve overseas.
- The age limit for overseas service was 19, it appears that the Herefordshire Regiment, for its new recruits, was complying with this.

Enlisted: The following are among those enlisted in March 1915:

3646 Private Albert TYLER – to Suvla Bay as a reinforcement December 1915

3286 Private Harold Ernest Huntley EVANS – to Suvla Bay as a reinforcement December 1915

3321 Private William BENTLEY – to Suvla Bay as a reinforcement December 1915

3312 Private Charles James PRICE – to Suvla Bay as a reinforcement December 1915

3228 Pte Charles BOND died 20 Nov 1915, served Gallipoli died from dysentery in Egypt.

3280 Pte Robert WHITING from Bishopswood killed in action 10 September 1915 at Suvla Bay.

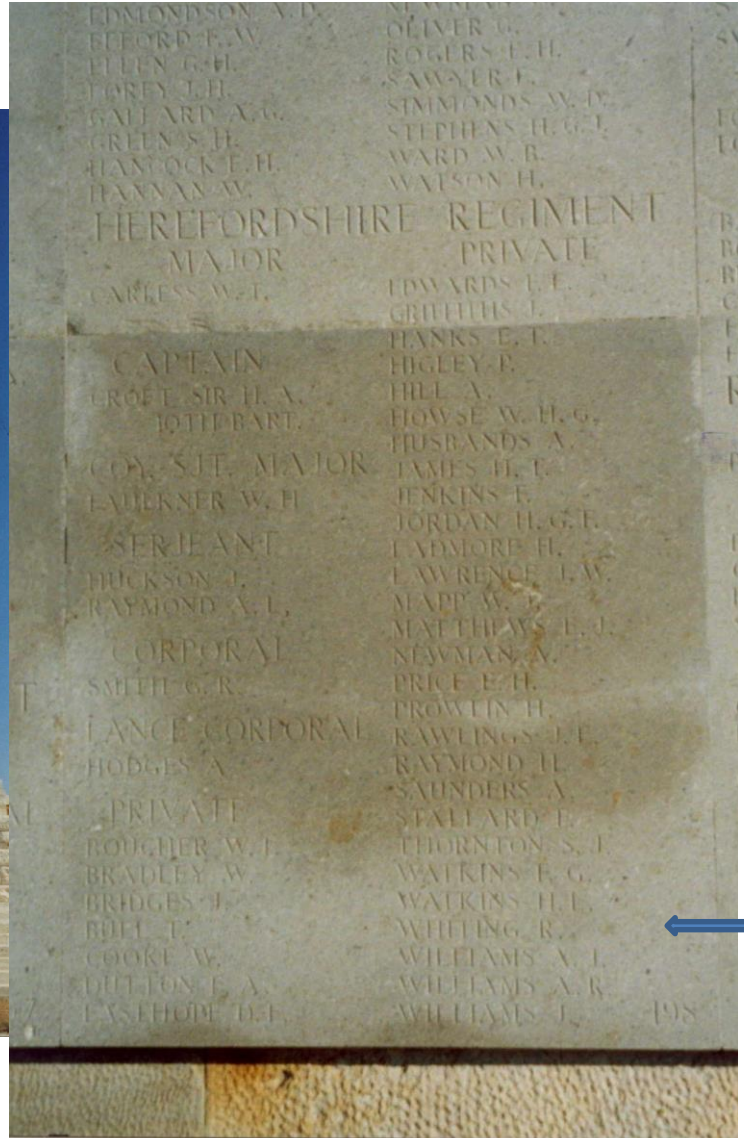
3256 Private William CLAYTON from Hay, killed in action 9 January 1917] Brothers

3257 Private Albert CLAYTON from Hay. Killed in action 6 November 1917] Brothers

Private Whiting has no known grave and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli



The Helles Memorial - Gallipoli



The Names of the Herefordshire soldiers, who died at Gallipoli and have no known grave. Private Whiting's name indicated.

Among those discharged unfit for military service:

2610 Private William WALKER enlisted October 1914 aged 38

3166 Private William LYTHALL enlisted Jan 1915

Both 'permanently unfit for military service'

Normal life continued and Cpl JR Roe of Foley Street, married Miss Ethel Lawrence of Hampton Street, amongst the congregation was CSgt S Gagg and *one or 2 other comrades from Aberystwyth.*

1st Battalion

The issue of recruiting was a topical one and Capt R Greatrex-Yates, in command of 'the Ross men' spoke at a Recruiting event at The Royal Hotel in Ross. He said the men had had a very hard time of it since mobilisation, sometimes digging trenches for whole days together with the water over the tops of their boots. They had also slept in barns which some people would not think fit to put a horse or even a cow in, while the rats used to run over the men while they slept. As regards recruiting he thought that the authorities by stopping recruiting into the Territorials Battalions has stopped the Herefords from going overseas, however the men were bent on going overseas.

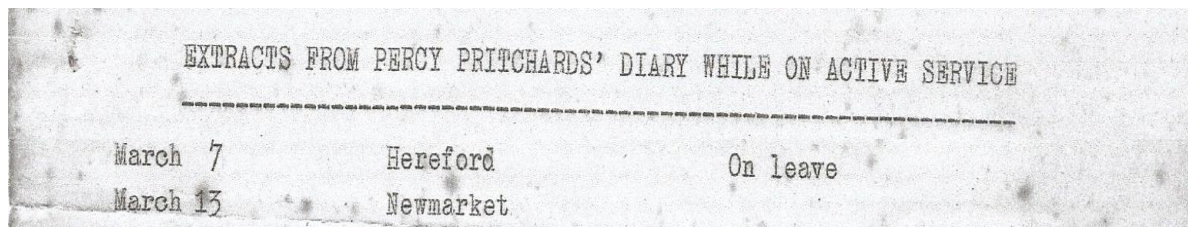
Thomas Paul BAUSER – Diary. It is not clear which company Private Bauser was in – but presumably not the same one as Private Pritchard!

19 Feb	Coy in close quarantine with measles
30 Mar	Coy out of quarantine, moved to Newmarket, billeted at Godolphin House

Godolphin House 2 The Avenue
Newmarket – is this where Pte Bauser
was billeted?



2109 Private Percy Pritchard was one of the fortunate ones to have leave in March!





Sport played an important part in fitness training and building esprit de corps; this photograph is of C Company Tug of War team – they had just won the Brigade competition. From left to right as viewed: Standing: Ptes R Barnett, J Winters, W Parker, J Vicarage, W Hodges, W Manns. Seated: LCpl Hinksman, Capts Holman, Archer-Croft, Pte Beale – the Regimental Mascot – a bull terrier groomed by Pte RA Paul.



674 Cpl Albert Hinksman



Group of Ledbury soldiers including Ptes Hodges, Beale and Vicarage.

The Battalion also took part in the Divisional Cross Country, with 250 runners and acquitted itself well with the following individual results:

9th Pte AE Dawes, 14th Pte C Oldacre, 27th Sgnlr HE Slaymaker, 59th Pte T Watts, 90th Pte E Burt, 99th Lt RS Collins, 117th Dvr CW Baird, 126th Pte E Fresh, 139th Pte T Sissott, 147th Pte G Arrowsmith, 187th Pte W Jones.

Some of the runners can be traced:

1118 Pte Dawes was to serve with the 1st Herefords at Suvla Bay, below is his Medal Index Card (MIC) as held by the National Archives showing that he took part in the initial landings on 9 August 1915 and as a consequence was awarded the 1914/15 Star Medal. He was discharged 'sick' 26 February 1917 and awarded the Silver War Badge (SWB), this was possibly as a result of his service at Gallipoli.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regtl. No.
DAWES Arthur	Hereford B	Pte	1118
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	21/10/15 B	21	
BRITISH	20		
15 STAR	21/11/15 B	11	
SWB List TJ/263			
Theatre of War first served in (2B)			
Date of entry thereina 9-8-15			

15 FEB. 1917
P. J. 233

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the "WAR BADGE."

Regtl. No.	Rank	Name (in full)	Unit (discharged from)	No. of Badge and Certificate (To be completed at War Office)	Date of:—		Cause of Discharge (Wounds or Sickness and para. of K.R.)	Whether served Overseas (Yes or No)
					Enlistment	Discharge		
3899	Pte	Wreck Ernest	1 st Cheshire Regt.	25,844	9. 1. 15	26. 2. 17	Para 392 (xvii) Sickness	Yes
2407		Oxton West	Cheshire Regt.	25,845	31. 8. 16	28. 2. 17	" " "	No
1203	S/Lt	Walter J.	"	25,846	5. 10. 14	26. 2. 17	" " "	No
5382	Pte	Jones James Pryce	1 st H. I. S. I.	25,847	7. 6. 16	26. 2. 17	" " "	Yes
4592	"	Batchelor George	"	25,848	29. 11. 15	26. 2. 17	" " "	Yes
1118	"	Dawes Arthur	1 st Hereford Regt.	25,849	3. 1. 12	26. 2. 17	" " "	Yes
5329	"	Hakes Wm Henry	1 st H. I. S. I.	25,850	28. 12. 14	27. 2. 17	" " "	No
3494	S/Lt	Jarvis Robert	"	25,851	18. 5. 15	27. 2. 17	" " "	Yes
4461	Pte	Jones Joseph Henry	"	25,852	10. 12. 15	27. 2. 17	" " "	No
3933	"	Hutchinson J.	16 th Welsh Regt.	25,853	2. 12. 16	27. 2. 17	" " "	Yes
2313	"	Martin Wm Blifford	2 nd Mon. Regt.	25,854	2. 9. 14	2. 11. 16	" " "	No
2869	"	Morgan Henry	3 rd "	25,855	19. 11. 14	5. 9. 16	" " "	No

I certify that the particulars furnished hereon are correct.

Place 1st Record Office Date 14th February 1917

T. C. Hunt Captain
Signature and Rank of Officer certifying Claimants' service.

I certify that Badges and Certificates, numbered as above, have been issued to the individuals concerned.

Place 1st Record Office Date 16 MAR. 1917

T. C. Hunt Captain
Signature and Rank of Officer certifying issue.

W8548—H2222 100,000 50/16 11/11/15 11/11/15



3211 Signaller Harold Slaymaker from Hereford had attended Hereford Cathedral School, he served in Company Headquarters at Gallipoli and after the First World War worked for the Foreign Office.

This picture shows him (with hat) at Hereford Station in 1965, with ex 550 Drummer John Davies and ex 975 Private Thomas Fletcher as they set out on a trip to Gallipoli to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their landing.

They are being seen off by Lt Col JF Maclean and Lt Col M Carr, Commanding Officer of the Herefordshire Light Infantry.

Form B. 103. Casualty Form - Active Service. Army Form B. 103.

Regiment or Corps: HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT I.

Regimental No. 550 Rank Pte Name Davies John Sidney

Enlisted (a) 18/10/09 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.O.s _____

Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) _____

Date	Report From whom received	Reason of promotion, reduction, transfer, cessation, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 88, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 88, or other official documents.
16/7/15	C.O. 1st Bde	Embarked TSS Euripedes	Devonport	16/7/15	Normal roll
30/10/15	Unit	To Hospital	Gallipoli	29/10/15	D 215.
31/10/15	Ship	Admitted to H.S. Lanfranc	Gallipoli	31/10/15	A 56.
7/11/15	Hosptl	Dysentery Admitted Kasr el Aini ex Lanfranc	Cairo	7/11/15	A 56.
24/11/15	do	Transferred to Convalescent Home Daifnes	Luxor	24/11/15	A 56.
29/12/15	do	Discharged to Duty	do	29/12/15	A 56.
29/12/15	Base	Arrived Base Depot	Alexandria	29/12/15	B 215.
30/1/16	Ship	To England Per H.T. Arcadian Time Expired	Alexandria	30/1/16	D 4902.

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF RECORDS
Lt Col M. CARR
BY ECHELON

50 In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section B, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered in the appropriate column of this form.

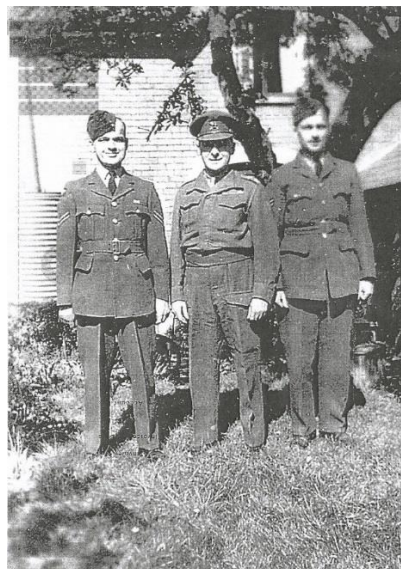
This is document is from the service record of Drummer Davies; he had enlisted in The Herefordshire Regiment, aged 15 in February 1909.

He sailed from England on TSS Euripedes on 16 Jul 1915 and landed at Suvla Bay on 8/9 August and was evacuated, sick with Dysentery on 31 October 1915.

He returned to England in January 1916



989 Pte Charlie Oldacre (right as viewed) as part of the Army of Occupation in Germany in 1919.



1676 Pte G Arrowsmith, here as a captain in The Herefordshire Army Cadet Force, during World War 2, with his 2 sons - both RAF.

The following announcements were made in The London Gazette:

To be second-lieutenants: CE Cresswell, EG Pritchett, (Sgt) FS Phillips, (Ptes) ES Russell, FG Challis, PM Mitchell, GJ Williams and (QMS CS Chubb).

Edward Stanley Russell, served at Gallipoli with The Herefords, was awarded a Military Cross in August 1917 and was Killed in Action at the Battle of Khuweilfeh on 6 November 1917



Maxim Machine Gun Section – 1st Herefordshire Regiment

Names: Left to right (as viewed). Standing: Cpl WS Herbert, Ptes HL Nicholas, EH Hall, RS Holland, D Kitson, Lt RC Sale, Ptes WG Smith, G Lewis, AC Gough, J Bowen, Sgt H Jones
Seated at guns: Ptes FEV Holland, EN Holland, W Jones, RR Hall

The Maxim gun, which was invented by Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim in 1883, was the first recoil-operated machine gun, its design still required water cooling; trials demonstrated that the Maxim could fire 600 rounds per minute. Apart from the gunner, other crew were needed to speed reload, spot targets, and carry and ready ammunition and water.

Lt Richard Crawford Sale was the son of Leominster's Town Clerk; her served at Gallipoli, in the Middle East and was killed in action on 26 March 1917 at the first battle of Gaza.



Lt RC Sales 1914



Capt Sales' medals and memorial Plaque

Soldiers from the Herefords, as reported in the Cambridge Daily News, assisted in fighting a fire in a brush factory in a 'three storied block forming the end of St Tibbs Road and stretching some 30 yards'. Amongst the soldiers who helped were: Cpl Baird of the Hereford Fire Brigade and Cpl Bird of the Ross Fire Brigade also LCpl Bridge, Bdsmn C Wood, Pte S Jones and Rfmn Smale, Crossland and Otterry.

2nd Battalion

The Hereford Journal reported: *We understand that arms and kit to complete the equipment of the 2nd Battalion have reached Aberystwyth.* Rumours also exist of a move from Aberystwyth possibly involving a recruiting march through Radnorshire and Herefordshire, it is considered by many, including the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Wood-Roe that this would considerable aid recruiting. The Battalion still has many men 'sick' and any move is not expected to take place until the end of the month when the men will *be generally recovered and free of measles.*

Musketry and fitness training feature high in the programme and 16 miles route marches, with kit are not unusual. Capt R Hooper and 3 NCOs qualified as Musketry Instructors at the Altcar Musketry School.

Some men had volunteered to transfer to the newly formed Welsh Guards, they had to have Welsh ancestry.

There have been the following promotions:

To LSgt: JA Burles, A Green, W Langford.

To Cpls: AW Bates, HW Taylor, J Morgan, T Griffiths, CA Bodenham, BG Johns, GS Bailey, WA Davies, AE Perry, WO Jones, HJ Taynsom, HJ Kings, W Price, GH Butcher, CW Smith.

To LCpl: Ptes West and Stallard.

The Battalion football team played the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and won 4 – 2; goals being scored by Sgt A Evans (2), Sgt T Evans and Pte G Sayce. The Rugby XV were not so fortunate they lost 11 – 5 to a college team; CSgt Bishop scored a try which was converted by Sgt Meek.

The new brass band had their first outing when they led the Battalion to a Church service at the Skating Rink; they drew many complimentary comments from soldiers and civilians. The band has been engaged to play 3 times a week in the Officers' Mess during dinner, and to give concerts on the pier.

THE HEREFORD JOURNAL, SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1915

THE HEREFORDSHIRES AT ABERYSTWYTH.



The Band of the 2nd Line Batt., Herefordshire Regiment, under Bandmaster Wheeler.

The 2nd Battalion also felt the benefits of being in a 'Welsh' unit and had a 'whole days holiday' on 1 March to celebrate St David's Day! The morning which was 'rough and stormy' was spent at football and strolling about the town – many of those who went into the town fell victims to the wiles of charming young ladies who were selling flags 'adorned with the dragon of Wales' to raise funds for comforts for Welsh troops.



An unknown soldier of the Herefordshire Regiment – had he fallen victim to the wily charms of the ladies of Aberystwyth? Is the flag in his cap (next to capbadge) one of the Welsh Dragon flags

In the afternoon Battalion sports were organised by Maj Greenly. Cash prizes were awarded – generally First Place: 4/-, Second Place: 3/- and Third place: 2/-. In modern terms 20, 15 and 10p!, but in 1915 a pint of beer was 2d, 4/- would buy 24 pints!

Prizes were awarded as follows:

220 yards:	1 - Wood 2 - Hall 3 - Bray
100 yards (in uniform and boots):	1 - Creed 2 - Taylor 3 - Brash
Potato Race (egg & spoon ?):	1 - Hall 2 - Fletcher
Sack Race:	1 - Creed 2 - Rogers 3 - Cook
Long Jump:	1 - Warby 2 - Cpl Jones 3 - Pugh
Relay Race:	D Coy
Tug of War:	C Coy
3 Legged Race:	1 - Rogers & Cartwright 2 - Hall & Wood

In the evening the YMCA organised a 'splendid' concert and Pte Sefton won a prize for an 'impromptu reading'.

On Sunday an open air service was held in Queens Square, and on Monday the Battalion was taken by companies to the Salem Chapel to be inoculated.

A fire broke out on 'a shelter' on the pier and men from C Coy who were on the beach training assisted in fighting it; Number 9 Platoon under Sgt Bruce were first on the scene.



Photo from Keith Morgan (grandson)

Colour Sergeant (later Company Sergeant Major) Alfred Gagg in window, possibly with his 2 brothers(?).

It seems to be a 'winter' photograph, with greatcoats, gloves (civilian pattern scarf – knitted by a mother, wife, sister, sweetheart(?)) and waterproof cap protectors.

Probably a 'guard/picquet mounting' and the 2 soldiers (wrapped up for outside guard duties) are reporting into CSgt Gagg before going on guard – the cap covers could be coloured to indicate they were 'duty personnel'. The room could be acting as the guardroom/orderly room and the papers on the windows could be unit routine orders/notices.

Two more pictures of the same location, and the reverse of the group picture. Presumably E Company Orderly Room staff and all billeted together.



Sgt Colley

sitting Col, Sgt, Gagg
 standing " Brace
 Police " Vake
 Bank Clark Pk Evans
 Crd Room Clark Sgt Rouse
 Pk J. Colley R. M. Police

Mr. R. Ball
 H. H. H.
 E. Camp

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