

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – April 1915

The 'Bigger' Picture The wheel of international politics and intrigue continues to turn:

- Russian Imperial ukase issued granting municipal self-government to Russian Poland
- Entente Governments make offer to Greece of Smyrna and hinterland in return for immediate action against Turkey – later ejected.
- French Government notify Russian Government of their acceptance of Russian claims to Constantinople
- Japanese Government inform British Government of German overtures for separate peace.
- Secret agreement signed in London between Italian Government and the Entente for Italian co-operation in the war.
- British Government conclude a treaty with the Idrisi for co-operation against the Turks.

The Home Front

Few elements of British society could now escape the effect of the war:

The move to a war economy was causing shortages.

The shortage of male labour was leading to shortages, labour disputes and increased use of woman workers.

Prices were rising.

Defence Of The Realm Act (DORA) was 'interfering' with personal activities.

Many communities and families had suffered losses.

Increased visibility of khaki uniforms and 'hospital blues'. Country houses were being converted to convalescence hospitals and females were joining Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) as auxiliary nurses.

Most families had a relation in uniform.



A family group – father, mother, son? Siblings?



A group of soldiers in 'hospital blues'; a light blue suit with white facings worn with a white shirt and red tie; the regimental headdress and capbadge was worn. Individuals wore this when recuperating in Britain, various 'rules' applied including one which forbade the entering of public houses in hospital blues – this was widely ignored!

The Western Front

Germans accuse French of using poison gas near Verdun
Second Battles of Ypres, 1915, begins

Other Fronts

EASTERN FRONT

Shavli (Baltic Provinces) occupied by German forces

CAUCASUS FRONT

Deportations and massacres of Armenians by order of the Turkish Government commence.
Urmia (North Persia) occupied by Turkish regular forces.
Armenian revolt at Van: Armenian defence of Van begins.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA

Action of Gibeon.

MESOPOTAMIAN FRONT

Gen Sir John Nixon relieves Gen Sir Arthur Barrett as Commander-in-Chief Indian Expeditionary Force D.

Battle of Shaiba.

WEST AFRICA

First Allied advance on Yaunde (Cameroons) begins.

Operations of Allied Force for capture of Garua (Cameroons) begin.

EAST AFRICA

Gen Tighe succeeds Gen Wapshare in command of British Forces in East Africa

INDIA

First Affair of Hafiz Kor (North-West Frontier of India).

First Indian units of Indian Expeditionary Force 'G' sail from Egypt for the Dardanelles

BLACK SEA

Indecisive action in Black Sea between the 'Goeben' and part of the Russian Fleet. Turkish cruiser 'Medjidieh' sunk by mine off Odessa.

Bosporus forts shelled by Russian Black Sea Fleet

THE DARDANELLES

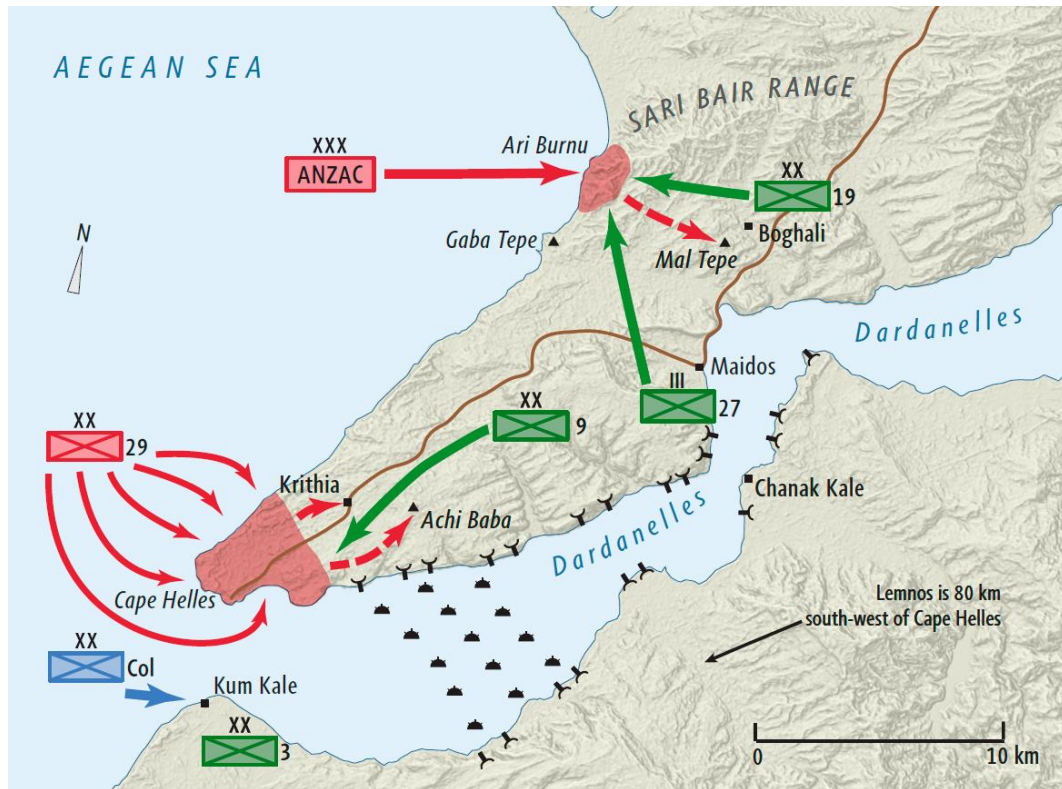
After the abandonment of the Naval attempt to 'force the narrows' the decision for a land campaign had been made with the appointment of General Sir Ian Hamilton as commander of the newly created Mediterranean Expeditionary Force (MEF). It contained 70,000 men from Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand along with troops from France. Hamilton had left for the Dardanelles on 13 Feb with a hastily gathered staff. He had little information on Turkish strength and knew little about the military situation there.

There is confusion about how the actual decision was made to commit Land forces as the War Council did not meet and was not to meet for another two months! This perhaps was a herald of the confusion that was to come.

Gen Hamilton's staff considerably underestimated the abilities of the Turks and battle and support planning was poor. There was no coordinated effort and The General Officer Commanding (GOC) Egypt, Sir John Maxwell, wrote 'Who is co-coordinating and directing this great combine?' Hamilton commanded the army on the ground; Robeck the navy while Maxwell was GOC Egypt where the troops were based. No one was given overall charge.

Hamilton decided on a landing on the Gallipoli peninsula. The landing place was barely a secret as security at Hamilton's headquarters was regarded as weak at best. Hamilton's plan was that:

- The 29th Division would land on five small beaches at the southern end of the peninsula
- The ANZACs would land further north just by a jutting promontory called Gaba Tepe.
- The French would launch a feint – a 'landing' at Besika Bay (on the Asian mainland). The French were to make a proper landing at Kum Kale to protect the 29th Division



Schematic of the initial landings at Gallipoli, on 25 Apr 1915 by 29 Div and the ANZAC.

The Turkish Army was weak in the region and it was poorly led. On March 24th, the command of the Turks had passed to General Liman von Sanders. Troops were poorly equipped and supplied. However, he placed his men away from the beaches much to the consternation of the Turkish officers. They argued that there were so few beaches that the Allies could land on, that Turkish troops were better being placed on the beaches or immediately above them.

This was probably a key factor in the battle – the Allied troops landed and established beach-heads – generally without any determined opposition – but did not attempt any major advances inland. The Turks could see where the landings were and redeployed their troops – which had not been depleted by nor engaged in serious fighting – in relative strength to the higher ground surrounding the landing areas and were able to contain them.

The initial landings took place on April 25th. 34,000 troops from the British 29 Division landed unopposed on three beaches at Cape Helles. Another landing was resisted but the Turks were defeated. The landing at Sedd-el-Bahr was a disaster – the infamous Lancashire Landing and the River Clyde ship incident. The British were caught in the fire of well dug-in Turkish machine

gunners. Many British troops could not get ashore and were killed at sea. Elsewhere there was some limited inland exploitation and troops advanced as far as Krithia and engaged Turkish troops.



Painting by Charles Dixon (he also painted the Herefordshire Regimental painting 'Advance at Suvla') of the Royal Munster Fusiliers landing from the River Clyde at W Beach.

On the same day 30,000 ANZACs landed at a small beach backed by steep cliffs, a keen offshore current had meant they were landed in the wrong place – the beach earned its infamous name 'Anzac Cove'. It was a small beach and quickly became overcrowded, not aiding operations and made worse by increasing casualty numbers. The Turks in this area were well led by the then unknown Colonel Mustapha Kemal. [Later to be Ataturk the leader of Turkey].



ANZAC Cove

The strategic initiative had already been lost and operations were already beginning to 'bog down', exacerbated by poor planning, large numbers of casualties, poor supply routes and general insanitary conditions worsened by the gathering summer heat and water shortages.

CRUISER WARFARE

German armed merchant cruiser 'Prinz Eitel Friedrich' and last overseas raider 'Kronprinz Wilhelm' 'interned at Newport USA.

U-BOAT WARFARE

Dover Straits barrage completed.

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'

Colonel Middleton, the Chair of the County's Territorial Association, announced at a complimentary 'smoking concert', for Herefordshire Regimental soldiers on leave held at The Crown & Sceptre hotel in Ross that the 1st Battalion had been warned off for overseas service – he had received a telegram to that effect but full details were not known, but the move was expected within the next 3 or 4 weeks. 'The announcement was met with loud and enthusiastic applause'.

The pressure for recruits over the last few months was paying dividends and in April over 200 recruits were received into the Regiment. The 'pressure' on individuals was perhaps increased a by a steady flow of soldiers from both the 1ST and 2ND Battalions to the Country on a few days leave.

Amongst the recruits were:

3395 Pte Alfred BARNEY, age 39 originally from Oxford but now living in Hereford and working as a bricklayer, an ex Regular soldier who had served in India and South Africa; he was discharged in July 1915 'unfit for military service'.

3233 Pte James WALKER of Upton On Severn who served at Suvla Bay and was killed in the Middle East in April 1917.

3510 Pte Thomas ETHERIDGE, aged 36 of Bewell St Hereford, he was also discharged as 'unfit for military service' later in 1915. His attestation paper is shown below:

Foreign Service

GALE & BOLDEN, LTD. PRINTERS, ALDERSHOT.
(75,400.) WL 285-55. 250,000. 4/14 W.

Gen. No.
2005



Army Form E. 501.

TERRITORIAL FORCE.

4 years' Service in the United Kingdom.

ATTESTATION OF

No *3570* Name *Thomas Henry Etheridge* Corps *1st Herefordshire Regt.*

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name and Address? *Thomas Henry Etheridge*
42 Bewell St Hereford
Hereford.
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 *Hereford* to serve in the *1st Herefordshire Regt.* 2. *Duration of War.*
3. Have you received a notice stating the liabilities you are incurring by enlisting, and do you understand them? 3. *Yes*
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 4. *No*

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, *Thomas Henry Etheridge* 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.
The mark of
Thomas H. Etheridge SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Walter James Serp Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, *Thomas Henry Etheridge* 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, *Thos Henry Etheridge* 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 *19* day of *April* 1915
A. M. ... Signature of Justice of the Peace, Officer, or other person authorized to attest Recruits.
1st Herefordshire Regt.

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 90 (6) 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.

Pte 3439 William DAY, aged 45 of St Owen Street, Hereford who had served 24 years in the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, included service in India and South Africa. He was discharged in 1917. An extract of his military papers are below:

National Reserve
Army Form E. 501.

TERRITORIAL FORCE.
4 years' Service in the United Kingdom.

ATTESTATION OF
Name *William Day* Corps *1st K.B.L.I.*

20541
3439

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name and Address? *William Day, No. 2 Bell Vue Terrace, St Owen St Hereford.*

2. Are you willing to be attested for service in the Territorial Force for the term of 4 years (provided His Majesty should require active services) for the County of *Herefordshire*, to serve in the *1st K.B.L.I. Regt.*?

3. Have you received a notice stating the limitations you are securing by enlisting, and do you understand them? *Yes.*

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 Special Reserve Force? If so, state which unit, and, if discharged, cause of discharge. *1st K.B.L.I. 24 years time expired.*

Under the provisions of Sections 13 and 49 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.

William Day 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.

William Day SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Walker James SIGNATURE OF WITNESS.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

William Day 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.

A. Mather do hereby certify, that, in my presence, all the foregoing Questions were put to the Recruit, above named, that the Answer 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 *14* day of *April* 1915. *A. Mather* (Signature of Justice of the Peace, Officer, or other person authorized to attest Territorial Force Enlistment.)

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 2361 Name *William Day*

Corps in which served	Promotions, Reductions, Transfers to other Corps, Re-assignments, etc., etc., etc.	Militia Rank	Period of Service in each Rank		Details of Service, showing whether detailed on operations to include the Annual Training, and whether present or absent from each Annual Training
			From	To	
<i>Forced</i>	<i>Re-enlisted</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>6 May 1895</i>		<i>Present 1895</i>
	<i>Joined Reserve</i>		<i>19.7.97</i>		<i>Present 1897</i>
	<i>Re-joined Militia</i>		<i>4.6.98</i>		<i>P.T. 1898</i>
					<i>do 99</i>
	<i>Embodied</i>		<i>12.10.99</i>	<i>20.11.10</i>	
<i>Cheshire</i>	<i>1st Bn</i>		<i>24.11.10</i>	<i>24.5.12</i>	
<i>4th Bn</i>	<i>1st Bn</i>		<i>25.5.12</i>	<i>25.5.12</i>	
	<i>Embodied</i>		<i>25.5.12</i>	<i>25.5.12</i>	
	<i>Re-joined Militia</i>		<i>5.5.13</i>		
					<i>Paid £6.10.0 South African War Gratuity - Check 29.10.02</i>

And Dagault
St James

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET

Service at Home and Abroad (including former service of un-qualified men, when cleared to re-join service G. 1. 1917 or 1918.)

Service	From	To	Years	Days	N.B.—The County only to be shown in and opposite to show respectively the service in the different counties of Great-Britain, Ireland, Scotland, and England to be shown under the general term of Home.
<i>Home</i>	<i>27.11.84</i>	<i>6.10.84</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>258</i>	
<i>Home</i>	<i>27.11.84</i>	<i>2.1.85</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>122</i>	
<i>Home</i>	<i>27.11.85</i>	<i>11.11.86</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>297</i>	
<i>Home</i>	<i>12.11.86</i>	<i>12.2.87</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>51</i>	
<i>Home</i>	<i>17.2.87</i>	<i>5.11.91</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>48</i>	
<i>Home</i>	<i>6.11.91</i>	<i>1.5.1915</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>27</i>	

2. Next of Kin ... *Father, Chas Day, Bell Vue, Hereford*

3. Campaigns ... *Quaker Campaign 1886*

4. Wounded ... *Yes*

5. Effects of Wounds ... *Nil*

6. Special instances of gallant conduct ... *Nil*

7. Medal, decoration, and assistance ... *Medal with 2 clasps 1886*

8. Injuries to or by the Service ... *Nil*

9. To whom Posted and Date ... *1st Bn*

10. Passed Classes of Instruction ... *Nil*

11. Certificates of Education ... *4th Class 20.9.83*

12. Character on being posted to Reserve ...

13. Character on being Discharged ...

14. Place of Discharge ...

15. Cause of Discharge ...

16. Pension awarded ...

17. Date of ...

18. Note ...

Only 2 discharges are recorded – both as being unfit for military service:

1071 Pte George BOUGH from Peterchurch

1233 Pte Gilbert TROTMAN

The Depot at Hereford was authorised by the War Office to complete all recruit training, and only on completion of this training would recruits be sent to either the 1st or 2nd Battalion. There were currently some 30 recruits in billets in Hereford undergoing recruit training.

From The Hereford Times: The recruits at Hereford are going on with their training. Capt Mortlock will remain in charge of the Depot, at least for some time, and Lt GB Ashcroft and 2Lt FS Phillips have come from Aberystwyth to put the recruits through their preliminary drills. On Thursday morning about 30 men paraded at 7 am, and they were taken for a short march along Whitecross Rd. Later they were taken to Widemarsh Common where they did more drill. The latest recruits include:

W Bentley, Bromyard; H Pritchard, Hereford; EW Pinches, Titley; R Williams, Orleton Common; CR Taylor, Bromyard; HH Marten, Kerne Bridge.



Recruits for the Herefordshire Regiment

The press supported the recruiting campaign and regularly included 'patriotic' articles including this one referring to the Taylor family, James, John, Leonard and Hon, sons of Mr & Mrs Ben Taylor of Allensmore.

All 4 sons had enlisted into the Herefordshire Regiment.



Mr P Reder had published in The Hereford Journal a list of former pupils of Lord Scudamore's school who were serving in the Forces; it included the following for the The Herefordshire Regiment:

1st HEREFORDS.
 Ashburner, Alec., Ashurst, Albert Lewis, Ashurst, Alfred A., Ashcroft, W., Ashcroft, Edward (Lance-Corpl.), Bethel, Archie, Barber, Alfred, Barber, Christop. W., Bowen, Frank, Bryan, Arthur Geo., Bowen, William S., Barrett, Robert (National Reserve), Beavan, Harold, Bishop, George, Baker, Charles, Cooke, Edward J. (Col. Sergt.), Colley, Harry, Cornock, Walter, Cobble-ditch, Arthur, Cotterell, Frank, Deem, Charles, Dawes, Luther, Dawes, Arthur, Evans, Alfred, Evans, Arthur, Eversham, Thomas, Elliott, Wilfred, Edwards, F. J., Farr, Wm., Farr, Ed., Faulkner, Joseph, Faulkner, Chas. (Drum Major), Faulkner, Christopher (Sergt.), Faulkner, William (Sergt.-Major), Goatman, Henry, Gladwin, Frank, Giles, Donald, Gwatkin, Ewart, Gwatkin, Bertram, Gwatkin, James, Griffiths, Joseph, Hodges, Frank Ernest, Hick, Walter, Hemes, Fred, Hargest, James L., Hales, Charles, Hurcombe, F., Jones, Percy, Jones, Charles, Jones, George, Johnston, William, Jackson, Benjamin (N.R.), Jordan, William H. (N.R.), Jordan, Richard (N.R.), Lamputt, Harold, Lane, Reggie, Lane, Fred (N.R.), Lewis, Alfred, John, Lawrence, Thomas, Meredith, Reg. T., Mottley, George (N.R.), Morris, William, Morris, Richard, Mitchell, William James (Band), Minton, George, Newman, Herbert, Oliver, Ernest, Oldman, Wilfred, Peters, Walter, Parry, Fred (Lance-Corpl.), Preece, Chas., Probert, Richard, Phelps, John, Powell (N.R.), Pearce, Benjamin, Pritchard, Percy, Roberts, Albert J., Roberts, Arthur E., Salisbury, Edgar H., Sissons, Thomas, Stone, William George, Styles, John, Sambrook, Fred J., Teague, Albert, Teague, Charles, Turvey, Richard, Thurston, Leonard, Taylor, Cyril (Band), Taylor, Francis, Williams, Arthur, Woodhall, Frank, Wood, Henry Charles, Wilkins, Fred, Wood, Ernest (band), Walters, Arthur, Wood, C. (Band), Wood, G. H., Wood, Fred, Webb, Jos., Yapp, Charles.

2nd HEREFORDS.
 Bethel, James, Cook, Edward, Evans, Ernest Stanley, Fewings, John, Hall, William, Hurcombe, Albert (Band), Morris, Charles, Palamountain, Edgar, Preece, Henry, Price, Ewart, Pritchard, Henry (Junior), Oliver, Francis, Pritchard, Henry (senior), Underwood, Wilfred.

Supernumary Company An intriguing article is published in the Hereford Times – little is known about this supernumary company.

Owing to the escape of 2 German Officers from Dyffryn Aled, Llansannan, Abergele which is being guarded by old Hereford soldiers, another batch of 30 National Reservists have been enrolled. Dyffryn Aled is a camp for German Officers and 40 Hereford National Reservists are on guard. War Office instructions now allow The Herefords to recruit a Supernumary Company of 110 men. As they join up they will work with the Depot in Hereford until ready to go to Dyffryn Aled. The men who have joined and are ready to go to Dyffryn Aled are: Ptes A Jones, AE Barney (enlistment paper referred to above), JT Norton, L Carter, W Cook, C Vaughan, W Bayliss, J O'Brien, JE Richardson, H Brookes, T Harfield, GH Smith, T Gladwyn, W Hadcock, G Williams, JE Coles, C Ricketts, A Preece, W Scott, J Davies, W Clark, EJ Roberts, G Preece, WA Bullock, E Devlin, W Rouse, T Kempstead, WH Jordan, JKeylock, H Lewis, T Adams, W Clark, R Jordan, W Beavan, J Grady, WJ Burgoyne & C Price.

1st Battalion

The Battalion remained in Newmarket and on 19th, as a result of reorganisation within the 53 (Welsh) Division the Battalion moved from 160 (Welsh Border Bde) to 158 (North Wales Bde). The 3 Battalions of the Monmouthshire Regiment from 160 Bde had all been sent to France, and the Herefords as the remaining original 53 Div Battalion were transferred to 158 Bde to replace a battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers that has also gone to the front. 160 Bde was reconstituted with battalions of the Queens, Royal Sussex, Royal West Kents and Middlesex Regiments.

Although the Battalion was no longer in 'medical' isolation, German Measles was still affecting the Battalion with 5 officers and over 30 men suffering from it.

An entry from Pte Bauser' diary showed he was one of those that enjoyed a period of leave in Hereford.

13 Apr	Left Newmarket 7.51pm for Hereford on leave
19 Apr	Returned Newmarket 7.54pm

The following series of photographs was taken on a training route march in the Newmarket area; the Battalion is led by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Gilbert Drage on horseback.





Easterlie Sports.

The regimental sports of the 1st Batt. Herefordshire Regiment were held at Newmarket on Easter Monday, and proved a great success, there being a very large crowd present and over 500 entries. The events and prizewinners were as follow:—

100 yards.—1, Pte. J. H. Watts, B Co.; 2, Pte. A. J. Rowbrey, A Co.; 3, Pte. H. Evans, C Co.; 4, Pte. A. J. Bowen, D Co.

220 yards.—1, Pte. A. J. Bowen, D Co.; 2, Lance-Corpl. Arrowsmith, B Co.; 3, Pte. A. J. Rowbrey, A Co.; 4, Pte. J. H. Watts, B Co.

440 yards.—1, Pte. A. J. Bowen, D Co.; 2, Pte. H. Evans, C Co.; 3, Pte. J. H. Watts, B Co.; 4, Pte. E. Fresle, D Co.

Half-mile.—1, Pte. A. J. Bowen, D Co.; 2, Pte. W. J. Turner, C Co.; 3, Corpl. A. Bird, C Co.; 4, Corpl. H. Williams, D Co.

One mile.—1, Pte. R. Harman, D Co.; 2, Pte. W. J. Turner, C Co.; 3, Pte. W. Jones, D Co.; 4, Pte. E. Fresle, D Co.

Sack race.—1, Pte. E. Hemes, D Co.; 2, Pte. A. S. Bezan, C Co.; 3, Pte. G. Fowtrel, D Co.

High jump.—1, Pte. F. Hutton, C Co.; 2, Pte. A. Bright, D Co.; 3, Pte. H. Greenhouse, A Co.

Long jump.—1, Pte. F. Hutton, C Co.; 2, Pte. R. Edwards, B Co.; 3, Sergt. E. Hamlet, A Co.

Obstacle Race.—1, Pte. A. J. Bowen, D Co.; 2, Pte. W. G. Gossett, B Co.; 3, Pte. W. Linsy, D Co.; 4, Sergt. E. Hamlet, A Co.

Three-legged race.—1, Ptes. Wilson and Bezan, C Co.; 2, Ptes. Wilson and Hemes, D Co.; 3, Ptes. Hall and Sisson, D Co.

Tug of war.—1, B Co. No. 1 team; 2, D Co. No. 1 team.

Five miles cross country race.—1, Pte. A. E. Dawes, D Co.; 2, Pte. C. E. Oldacre, D Co.; 3, Pte. R. E. Baker, D Co.; 4, Pte. H. Tanswell, C Co.; 5, Pte. E. Burt, A Co.

Team prize.—D Company.

Marching order competition.—1, Pte. E. Francis, B Co.; 2 and 3, Pte. Worthing and Pte. G. Jones, A Co. tie; 4, Pte. Ward and Pte. Watkins, C Co. tie.

Throwing cricket ball.—1, Lance-Corpl. Jones, B Co.; 2, Pte. J. Welsh, C Co.; 3, Corpl. J. P. Harris, C Co.

One mile walking race.—1, Pte. J. Welsh, C Co.; 2, Pte. T. Lawrence, B Co.; 3, Pte. A. Lamputt, D Co.; 4, Pte. C. Prince, D Co.

Married men's handicap.—1, Lance-Corpl. Powell, A Co.; 2, Company Q.M.S. Cook, D Co.; 3, Pte. L. Taylor, B Co.; 4, Sergt. H. Molyneux, B Co.

220 yards (open).—1, Lance-Corpl. G. Arrowsmith, B Co.; 2, Pte. A. J. Rowbrey, A Co.; 3, Pte. J. Gough, 2/5th Beds.

It was important to build up fitness and esprit de corps, and sports were an important part of both.

At Easter there was a short rest from formal training, but Battalion activities continued and a sports competition was held, and the results published in the Hereford Times.

There were clearly some 'gladiators' in the ranks and not all the competitions were purely of a sporting nature and included 'The Marching Order Competition'; there were also 'fun' events: the three legged race, the sack race, throwing the cricket ball and the 'Married Men's Handicap'!

The honours seem to be fairly equally spread across the 4 companies.

1st HEREFORDSHIRES' SPORTS.

Photo: Hudson.

A. BOWEN, D Company,
Winner of Obstacle Race, 440 yards, 220 yards, and 880 yards; he also ran fourth in the mile at Newmarket, where the 1st Herefordshire Regiment is quartered.

2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion remained at Aberystwyth despite rumours of leaving, one of which included a march to and then a recruiting march around the counties of Radnorshire and Herefordshire; this rumour was particularly well received and there was considerable disappointment when it was not realised! The rumour had been fuelled by an address by the CO after Church Parade when he announced an impending route march, but also warned the Battalion of the dangers and evils of excessive drinking – was this as a result of an incident or in expectation of a return to their home county!

The Battalion paraded and were inspected by 'a senior officer' who commented that their appearance and rifle drill was very good – especially as they had only had their rifles for one week.

The football team continued to win, and beat the Royal Welch Fusiliers 4 goals to one – Pte Sayce added another goal to his tally. Over the Easter weekend there were 2 days holiday, but the sea was too rough for boating and the weather ‘too threatening’ to tempt people out far! Divisional concerts were held in the Pier Pavillion and many Hereford attended. The football team turned out again and played the Welsh ASC (Army Service Corps) – ‘the match was played under anything but ideal conditions, the ground was in a very poor state and frequent showers swept across the field for some reason the team failed to play with their usual dash and lost 7 – 1’.

The Hereford Journal also reported: ‘ five motor brakes (coaches) left for Hereford with weekend leave men’.



Stormey weather on the sea front



Not the Herefords, but the ‘lucky’ men for leave may have travelled the 80 odd miles in a similar charabanc; in the inclement weather quite an ordeal!

Routine training continued – again as reported in The Hereford Journal: ‘ The Battalion had a days field operations the scheme was for the Battalion to take outpost positions and the scouts reinforced by a few men from the companies were to ascertain the position of the outposts ... haversack rations were taken. On Saturday there was a route march to Borth and back. Church Parade was held on Sunday. The following week was pre-occupied by trench digging, which were then filled in again.’ Musketry and Bayonet practice took place under Lts Winter and Challis, Sgt Pullen and Cpl Roe.

An inter Divisional Boxing competition was held Pte Wood won his *very keen (especially the last round)* bout against Pte Moss of the 7th Cheshires; *Moss had the advantage in height and reach but Wood was superior in boxing.*

General Mainwaring inspected the Battalion and granted an afternoon’s holiday in reward of the good turnout. During the parade Royal Humane Society medals were awarded to 3 men, including Driver Jack Clifford of Bromyard for rescuing a boy from *tempestuous* seas.

At the end of the month another rumour – reported as the ‘16th this month’ circulated regarding the Battalion leaving Aberystwyth! (destinations included, amongst others Hereford, Malvern, Towyn, Epping Forest!). Perhaps this time it would happen the Hereford Mercury reported on the 28th that: ‘on Monday a party consisting of one sergeant and one private from each company, under Lt Smith

left Aberystwyth for Northampton the men are looking forward to a change the prospect of a move is the sole topic of conversation at present'.



Members of the Pioneer Section who had volunteered for overseas service and are therefore wearing the Imperial Service badge.

Towards the end of the month, the Hereford Times reported a further draft of 92 men left the Battalion to join the 1st Battalion in Northampton.