

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – January 1915

The 'Bigger' Picture

Intrigue and international positioning continues. Examples of this are:

Serbian and Montenegrin Governments deprecate Greek intervention in Albania.

Britain and Belgium 'delimit' Uganda/Congo border.

Bulgarian Government negotiate a £3 million loan in Germany

British, French and Russian Governments agree to pool financial resources.

Entente pressure on Greece to intervene in support of Serbia and provide support in Salonika.

The Home Front

The realities of war were being realised and seen as a result of; large numbers of casualties, the shortage of the male workforce, the numbers of men in Khaki, the continuing shift of the economy from peace to war manufacturing, the air and submarine threats and the appearance of overseas troops. Defence Of The Realm Act (DORA) constantly reviewed and extended and impacting on many aspects of 'normal life': restrictions on opening hours of licensed premises, ban on fires and flying kites (as Zeppelin bombing and spying precautions, press censorship etc.

The Western Front

The Battle of Champagne continues

Two German airships (L3 & L4) destroyed

'Liquid Fire' (flamethrowers) used for first time by German Army

1st Canadian Division crosses from England to France.

The first British Territorial division, the North Midland, leaves England for France.

Other Fronts

EASTERN FRONT

Winter battle in Masuria (East Prussia) begins

Battle of Przasnsz

ARABIA

Aden Protectorate invaded by Turkish Forces

MIDDLE EAST

Turkish Forces advance to Suez Canal

SOUTH WEST AFRICA

Cameroons occupied by French Forces

South African Forces advance on German South-West Africa.

DARDANELLES

16th – Decision to send land units (29 Div and ANZAC) to the Dardanelles (Gallipoli)

25th – First naval bombardment of Forts

At Sea

U-BOAT WARFARE

Germany announces submarine blockade of UK

Norwegian S.S. "Belridge" torpedoed, but reaches port. First ship torpedoed by German submarine without warning (German Government subsequently asserted that this ship was attacked in error.)

Merchant Shipping

SS Lusitania arrives at Liverpool flying American Flag.

British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month -
25 ships of 60,000 tons gross

The 'Herefords'

Hereford The Depot continued to operate, to induct new recruits and to discharge those whose services were no longer required; this latter was a considerable task as many individuals had enlisted underage, or in their patriotic enthusiasm had failed to mention physical ailments which were now becoming evident! Few records exist to support this, but the following were among those that enlisted and were discharged in February 1915:

Enlisted:

3188 Private	Douglas SEFTON Baysham Street Hereford
3191	William Henry FISH from North Malvern
3192	William HOARE Ledbury Road Hereford
3231	Ernest LEWIS from Clifton on Teme
3232	Alexander ANDERSON from Birmingham

Discharged unfit for military service:

2276 Private	Noah Francis TIPPINGS	enlisted 8 September 1914
1169	William TEAGUE	enlisted 27 March 1913
3210	Harry REEZELL	enlisted 5 August 1914
2043	Ernest William OLIVER	enlisted 2 September 1914
2161	Alfred RIDLEY	enlisted 5 September 1914
2299	Arthur LAWSON	enlisted 9 September 1914

As an illustration 1928 Pte Fred Bayliss, of Woolhope had enlisted on 31 August 1914 and was discharged 10 days later as 'Unfit for further military service'.

105
For one period
Home Service

Army Form E. 501.

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

ATTESTATION OF
No. 1928 Name Fred Bayliss Corps Herefordshire Regt.

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name and Address? Fred Bayliss
Brandon Common
Woolhope
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 Herefordshire to serve in the Herefordshire Regt.
3. Have you received a notice stating the liabilities you are incurring 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 Naval Reserve Force? If so, state which unit, and, if discharged, cause of discharge 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, Fred Bayliss do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Fred Bayliss SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT
A. E. Lawrence Signature of Witness

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Fred Bayliss 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, J. Mulgreen 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 as above on this 31st day of August 1914.

J. Mulgreen Signature of Justice of the Peace, Officer, or other person authorized to attest Territorials.

If any alteration is required on this Form of the Attestation, a Form of the Force should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under Section 99, Army Act.
The Recruit should, if he requires it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form E. 501A.
Here insert Corp's.

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

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 1928 Name Fred Bayliss
Showing preliminary training, other special courses of training, Annual Training, and when mobilised, etc.

Corps	Unit	Promotion, Reduction, Casualties, etc.	Rank	From	To	Signature of Officer certifying correctness of Entries
					<u>P.A.</u>	<u>D</u>
Service towards engagement reckons from <u>31-8-14</u>						
<u>10 days' military service & embodied</u>						<u>31.8.14</u>
Total service towards engagement in the Territorial Force to <u>Sept 10th 1914</u> (date of discharge) <u>5/10 days</u> .						CHARACTER <u>Good</u>
Discharged in consequence of <u>Medically Unfit for further Service</u>						
The discharge of the above-named man is hereby approved.						
Station <u>Aberystwyth</u> Signature <u>Handwritten</u>						
Date <u>8.2.1915</u>						

(In the case of Annual Training it will be indicated by asterisk * in the column of the rank and the term of service.)

Pte Bayliss' Attestation and Discharge 'paperwork'

The Depot also organised the funeral of a 2nd Bn soldier who had died, through illness at his home in Leominster while on leave. The following account appeared in the LEOMINSTER NEWS 26th Feb 1915

TERRITORIAL'S DEATH - Funeral of Pte Campbell at EYE

Much sympathy is felt with Mrs Woodhouse Campbell, of Sunny Bank, Luston, in the loss she has sustained by the death of her only son, 2914 Pte Angus Woodhouse Campbell of the 2nd Bn Herefordshire Regiment. Pte Campbell, who was only 15 years of age, was of exceptionally sturdy build and was in good health when he enlisted [*early September 1914*]. He had been in training at Aberystwyth and a fortnight ago he returned home on sick leave. He was due to return last Monday but not feeling well he saw a doctor the previous Friday. He became unconscious on Saturday night and passed away the following evening.

The funeral took place at EYE church on Thursday afternoon when the sympathy of fellow men of his regiment was shown by the presence of a party under CSgt Jones from the Hereford depot and a party from Aberystwyth under CSgt Forrest.

The coffin was draped with a large Union Jack, and on it were placed the deceased's cap, bayonet and belt.

On the arrival of the cortege at the church, the coffin was borne into the sacred building by four Territorials from Hereford. The service in the church was conducted by the Rev W G Buckle, and a choir of boys was in attendance and led the singing of the hymn "Peace perfect peace".

Mr H E Knott (Tenbury) was at the organ and as the procession left the church for the grave side played the dead march in "Saul" with impressive effect.

Floral tributes were received from his mother and sisters, aunts, uncles and cousins; from the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of "B" Company, 2nd Bn 1st Herefordshire Regiment and from all at Orphans Printing Press.



The grave of 2914 Pte Angus Campbell;
Eye Church, 2014.

In loving memory of
Angus
Only son of Alex & Mary Campbell
Provost of Lochcair
21st Feb 1915
Aged 15
Peace

1st Battalion The pleas from the 1st Bn to the 2nd for additional Imperial Service men had not fallen on deaf ears! The Imperial obligation form to be signed is as 715 Pte Carpenter signed in 1910:

Army Form R. 824.

AGREEMENT to be made by an officer or man of the Territorial Force to subject himself to liability to serve in any place outside the United Kingdom in the event of National emergency.

I (No.) 715 (Rank) Private
(Name) Leonard Carpenter of the
(Unit) 1st Bn Herefordshire Regt do hereby agree,
subject to the conditions stated overleaf, to accept liability, in the event of national emergency, to serve in any place outside the United Kingdom, in accordance with the provisions of Section XIII (3) (a) of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act, 1907.

L. Carpenter
Signature of Officer or Man.

W. Wood-Roe
Signature of Commanding Officer.

Station Hereford
Date 12/1/10

PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

From the Hereford Journal of 6 February:

DRAFT LEAVES HEREFORD FOR CAMBRIDGE

A draft of 92 men belonging to the 2nd Herefordshire Regiment left Hereford on Monday to join the 1st Bn at Cambridge. They had returned to Hereford, from Aberystwyth for 3 days leave. They were addressed by Col Wood-Roe, who wished them well and with kits over their shoulders the men marched to Barrs Court Station, whistling lively tunes as they passed through the streets.

The draft included the following:

2Lt RJ Boulton

A Company: Ptes TJ Davies, HA Kilgour, AV Lerego, AT Merrick, DH Pike, W Peters, TH Taysom, J Vaughan, W Wilson.

B Company: Ptes E Abell, J Bryant, A Duberley, W Hodge, P Low, W Medcroft, G Morris, H Price, A Wolstenholme, T Yemm.

C Company: Ptes R Brown, A Hibbart, TH Isherwood, EA Jones, GC Jay, H Lamputt, W Matthews, J Mills, WT Roden, PC Stedman, T Wall.

D Company: Ptes A Bowkett, J Evans, WJ Fry, E Llewellyn, S Limerick, SH Price, J Symonds.

E Company: Ptes A Cooke, AA Cooper, G Chandler, AL Cope, TL Counsell, J Harris, BN Hargest, W Hodges, A King, W Martin, AG Muste, AA Powell.

F Company: LCpls A Barber, WC Jordan; Ptes HJ Davies, S Duberley, GH Edwards, JH Harris, J Jones, J Morgan, E Price, T Ruston, TH Withington, CJ Toombs, WC Wheeler, EJ Wood, C Williams.

G Company: Ptes W Bright, E Cresswell, WH Faulkner, CG Lane, EJ Matthews, T Morgan, J Mason, P Notland, ET Philpott, C Ryder, JT Taylor, R Warner.

H Company: LCpls: AP Bromage, F Edwards, JE James, TB Shinn, AW Tanner; Ptes: WJ Boucher, H Berry, H Dance, T Edwards, J Lee, J Miles, R Powell, CP Rogers, HJ Sparrow, W Thomas, FW Williams.

It is further understood that another 36 men of the 2nd Bn have recently signed on for 'Overseas Service'.

During their leave many soldiers would have taken the opportunity to have their photograph taken to give to their mother, sister wife or sweetheart.



An unknown Herefordshire soldier with his wife(?)



Pte Brazier



2866 Pte AV Lerego, A
Company from Ross –
take during the Second
World War when he was
a LCpl in The
Herefordshire Home
Guard – with his 2 sons.
Pte Lerego served at
Suvla Bay and was
discharged from the
Herefordshire Regiment
in 1919.



2051 Pte J H Harris, F
Company, from
Cinderford, served at
Gallipoli and later
transferred to the Royal
Engineers.

An account in the Hereford Mercury of 7 Feb says that 10% of the Battalion, on a rolling basis are to have 4 days leave, the first leave for many!

The Battalion as part of the Welsh Division were inspected by the King who issued the following statement:

His Majesty was much pleased with the smart appearance on parade of the men of the Welsh Division and the 11th Suffolk Regiment and B Company, National Reserve Local Guard, and with the soldierly manner with which they marched past.

2nd Battalion The Battalion remained at Aberystwyth.

The Bn paraded to line the streets leading to the station while the 1st and 2nd Monmouthshires marched to entrain for overseas service. The band played Men of Harlech as they passed the Herefords and were given a rousing cheer with shouts of 'Meet you in Berlin' and 'Tell the Kaiser we're coming soon!' The departure of the Monmouthshires meant that some of the Herefords moved billets to North parade to be located closer to the rest of the Battalion.

Inspections seem to have been the order of the day with the 2nd Bn being inspected, on the seafront in 'broken weather' by the Welsh Brigade Commander, Brigadier Mainwaring. It was a brave show by the Bn 'any muster requires the favour of the sun to make the most of all the elbow grease expended upon buttons and badges'; the efforts were not wasted and the Commanding Officer Lt Col Wood-Roe was able to report that the Brigadier 'had been unusually impressed by the appearance of the Battalion, and specially remarked that he had never inspected a cleaner looking body of me'.

Training has been considerably varied of late in the form of skirmishing and hill attacking expeditions in the district, 'the area could hardly be bettered for what is aptly described by Tommy 'as taking it out of you'.

The Bn football team played Aberystwyth Football Club and won 5-2, the team consisted of: Sgt Evans, Scout Cpl W Hopkins, LCpl Jauncey, Ptes Longman, Merrick, Creed, Cale, C Davies, F Collier, Sayce and Davies. There is a note in the report saying 'Sayce again excelled as inside left'.

The Battalion needed to identify and appoint Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers to carry out the command and control functions. The Battalion was generally full of 'raw' recruits and individuals with previous military and command experience were soon recognised. One such man was 2557 Charles Sydney CHUBB. He had previously served with the Gloucester Volunteers and joined the Herefords on 9 September 1914; on 12 September he had been appointed Quarter Master Sergeant; on 28 October 1914 he had applied for a Commission, on 21 January deemed medically fit to be Commissioned and on 8 February 1915 he was granted a Commission and appointed as Lieutenant and Quartermaster. He would

go on to serve in the Middle East and France and was awarded a Mention in Despatches in 1918 for 'gallant and distinguished conduct in the field'.

Army Form E. 586.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY A CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO A
COMMISSION IN THE TERRITORIAL FORCE.

N.B.—It is of great importance, that the names given in the Birth Certificate should be correctly stated on this form, and it is to be clearly understood that, where they differ, the names and date of Birth given in the Birth or Baptismal Certificate will be accepted for Official record.

- Regiment or Corps for which recommended
If more than one Battalion Regt., for which
Battalion recommended
Rank to which to be appointed
1. Are you a British subject by birth or naturalization? (If by naturalization, a certificate from the Home Office should be attached.)
 2. Are you of pure European descent?
 3. What is your full Surname?
 4. What are your full Christian names? [See "N.B." above.]
 - *5. What is the exact date of your birth? [See "N.B." above.]
 6. What is your height?
 7. Where were you born?
 8. At what school or college were you educated?
 9. What is your address for correspondence?
 10. What is your profession or occupation?
 11. Do you now hold a Commission, or are you now serving in any of His Majesty's Regular, Reserve, Territorial, Auxiliary, Indian or Colonial Forces, the Channel Islands Militia, or the Officers Training Corps? If so, state the nature of the commission you hold, or the capacity in which you are serving.
 12. Have you held a Commission in or have you served in any of His Majesty's Regular, Reserve, Territorial, Auxiliary, Indian or Colonial Forces, the Channel Islands Militia, or the Officers Training Corps?
If so, state:—
a. The Regiment or Corps in which you served.
b. If commissioned, the date of the resignation of your commission.
c. Your rank on retirement.
d. If not commissioned, the date of your discharge.
e. The circumstances in which you retired, or were discharged; and
f. Whether you have served in any campaign. If you have, attach a statement certified by a Senior Officer who is personally cognizant of such service.
 13. Have you been nominated for any other Regiment or Corps?

I certify the above answers to be correct.

Usual Signature of Candidate

The (Reserve) BATTN.
HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Lieutenant & Quartermaster
by Birth.

Yes—
Christ.
Charles Sydney—
B. 2nd July 1874
5' 6"

Barnwood, Near Gloucester,
Sir Thomas Rich's School.

1. Myrtle Street, Hereford
Railway Cartage Agents Manager

Q. M. Serjt. & Acting Quartermaster
1. Reserve Batt. Herefordshire Regt.

7th years ~~Q. M. Serjt.~~
2nd V. B. Gloucester Regt.

2nd V. B. Gloucester Regt.

Quartermaster Sergeant
15/11/01.

Business necessitated my leaving
Gloucester.—

No.

Charles Sydney

Date

28/10/14

The entries on this page only require to be made from time to time as they occur.
 STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 2557 Name Charles Sydney Webb
 Showing preliminary training, other special courses of training, Annual Training, † and when mobilized, etc.

Corps	Unit	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, etc.	Rank	From	To	Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
Service towards engagement reckons from						
<i>1st</i>	<i>Hereford Res Bn.</i>	<i>attested & embodied</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>9. 9. 14</i>		<i>J. Hunt Capt.</i>
"	"	<i>promoted</i>	<i>Q. M. S.</i>	<i>12. 9. 14</i>		

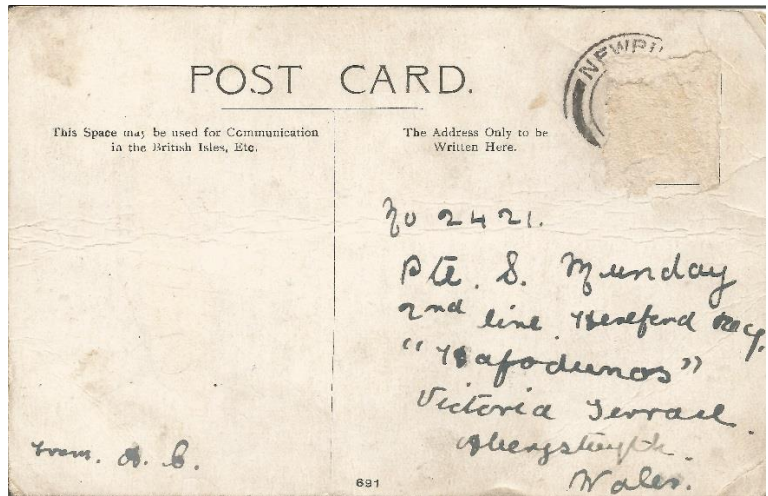
Total service towards engagement in the Territorial Force to 8-2-15 (date of discharge) — years 153 days.

CHARACTER
Very Good.

Discharged in consequence of *having obtained a commission in this Regiment as Q. M. S. Lt.* Dated *9. 2. 15.*

The discharge of the above-named man is hereby approved.
 Station *Aberystwyth.* Signature *W. B. ...*

The attached postcard addressed to 2421 Pte S Munday in Aberystwyth presumably from someone he knew in the ASC (Army Service Corps) possibly the Herefordshire Territorial ASC. Nothing more is known of Pte Munday. There were probably lots of 'empty' boarding houses in Victoria Terrace which welcome having troops billeted with them.



'Normal' life continued and Pte Taylor (now recovered from his accidental shooting (see December account)) was married at Weobley.

19.15. Marriage solemnized at The Register Office
in the District of Weobley in the County of Hesford

Outrank No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
164	<u>Sixteenth February</u>	<u>Charles Percy Taylor</u>	<u>24 years</u>	<u>Bachelor</u>	<u>Private 1st Hesford</u>	<u>Church Street Ledbury</u>	<u>Thomas Charles Taylor</u>	<u>Plate Layer</u>
	<u>19.15</u>	<u>Mary Ann Strangward</u>	<u>24 years</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>Norton Canon 51</u>	<u>Norton Canon Weobley</u>	<u>Job Strangward</u>	<u>Team Labourer</u>

Married in the District Register Office according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the _____ by License before by us,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Charles Percy Taylor } in the Presence of us, { John Strangward } H. J. Berry, Deputy Registrar
{ Mary Ann Strangward } { Lilian Annie Smith } Frank Archer Smith, Deputy Supt. Registrar