

## THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

### Their First World War 'Story' – April 1916

#### The 'Bigger' Picture

##### The Home Front

###### THE IRISH REBELLION

- Disguised German transport 'Aud' sinks herself after capture while trying to land arms on Irish coast.
- Roger Casement lands in Ireland from a German submarine and is arrested.
- 24th - Outbreak of Rebellion in Ireland.
- 27th - Martial law proclaimed in Dublin.
- Considerable concern about the impact of the rebellion of the Irish units serving in the British Army.

Rebels set up HQ in the General Post Office building. There were isolated actions in other parts of Ireland, and attacks on Police and Army barracks. With vastly superior numbers and artillery, the British Army quickly suppressed the Rising; the rebels agreed to an unconditional surrender on Saturday 29 April. Most of the leaders were executed following courts-martial.



The Dublin GPO building after the rebellion



Irish Rebels man a barricade



British troops man a barricade

#### - Munitions Factory Explosion

115 workers killed at Faversham Munitions factory when a huge explosion ripped through the gunpowder mill at Uplees, near Faversham. A store of 200 tons of Trinitrotoluene (TNT) was detonated following some empty sacks catching fire. TNT and ammonium nitrate were used to manufacture amatol. The weather might have contributed to the start of the fire. The previous month had been wet but had ended with a short dry spell so that by that weekend the weather was 'glorious' ... providing perfect conditions for heat-generated combustion.

#### Diplomatic

- Greek Government refuse overland route for transport of Serbian army from Corfu to Salonika.
- Italian Government issue decrees prohibiting trading with Germany
- Agreement signed at Berlin for transfer of British and German wounded and sick prisoners of war to Switzerland
- French and Russian Governments conclude 'Sykes-Picot' agreement for eventual partition of Asia Minor.
- Havre Declaration signed by France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, and Russia guaranteeing integrity of Belgian Congo.
- President Woodrow Wilson threatens to sever diplomatic ties between the United States and Germany following the sinking of the passenger ferry *Sussex* by a U-Boat in the English Channel. The attack marked the beginning of a new U-Boat campaign around the British Isles. But in response to Wilson, the Germans call off the U-Boats.

#### The Western Front

- Battle of Verdun continues
- Russian troops from the Far East arrive at Marseilles

#### Other Fronts

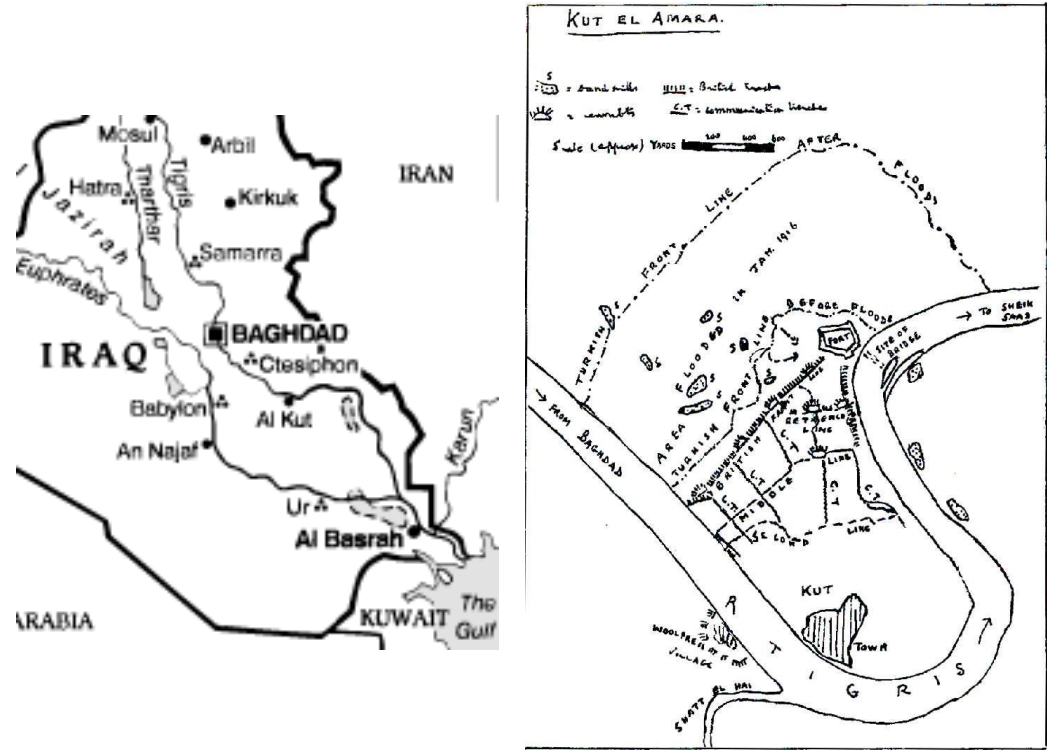
#### MESOPOTAMIAN FRONT

- Third Attempt to relieve Kut begins; HMS Julnar lost.

HMS JULNAR was a local river steamer, stripped of woodwork, fitted with protective plating and carrying 270 tons of stores, with a volunteer crew of 15 made a last attempt to resupply Kut. She came under continuous and heavy rifle fire, reached Es Sinn ten miles short of Kut and came under artillery fire. Four miles below Kut, Julnar was stopped by a steel hawser stretched across the river and drifted on to the river bank and could not get off; Lt Cdr Cowley surrendered, remainder of crew including five wounded taken prisoner, Cowley soon separated from his men and reported shot trying to escape. Lt Humphrey Osbaldeston Brooke Firman, and Lt Cdr Charles Henry Cowley RNVR, awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.

- Capitulation of Kut

Major-General Charles Townshend, had fallen back to the town of Kut after retreating from Ctesiphon after the aborted advance on Baghdad. The British Empire forces arrived at Kut in December 1915. They had suffered significant losses and were down to around 11,000 soldiers (plus cavalry). General Townshend chose to stay and hold the position at Kut instead of continuing the march downriver towards Basra. Kut offered a good defensive position because it was contained within a long loop of the river. The problem was how to get supplies, since Kut was a long way from Basra.



The Ottoman set up the siege shortly afterwards, Townshend ordered his cavalry to escape south, which it did. The Ottoman forces numbered around 11,000 men and increasing steadily with additional reinforcements arriving constantly, were commanded by the respected but elderly German general and military historian Baron von der Goltz. After three attacks in December, Goltz directed the building of siege fortifications facing Kut. He prepared for an attack from Basra, using the Tigris River, by building defensive positions further down the river designed to cut off a river-borne relief.

All the relief efforts failed, at a cost of around 23,000 Allied killed or wounded. Ottoman casualties are believed to have been around 10,000. The Ottomans also lost the aid of Baron von der Goltz. He died on 19 April, supposedly of typhoid, but possibly assassinated by an Albanian officer. After Goltz's death, no German commander took his place in Mesopotamia for the rest of the war.

British leaders attempted to buy their troops out. Aubrey Herbert and TE Lawrence were part of a team of officers sent to negotiate a secret deal with the Ottomans. The British offered £2 million and promised they would not fight the Ottomans again, in exchange for Townshend's troops. Enver Pasha ordered that this offer be rejected.

The British also asked for help from the Russians. General Baratov, with his largely Cossack force of 20,000 was in Persia at the time. Following the request he advanced towards Baghdad, but he turned back when news reached him of the surrender.

General Townshend arranged a ceasefire on the 26th and, after failed negotiations, he simply surrendered on 29 April 1916 after a siege of 147 days. Around 13,000 Allied soldiers survived to be made prisoners. 70% of the British and 50% of the Indian troops died of disease or at the hands of their Ottoman guards during captivity. Townshend himself was taken to the island of Halki on the Sea of Marmara, to sit out the war in relative luxury.

## BALKANS

- Serbian Army Headquarters land at Salonika from Corfu

## CAUCASUS FRONT

- Russian forces capture Trebizond (Asia Minor).

## EAST AFRICA

- Kionga (German East Africa) occupied by Portuguese forces
- British attack and capture Kondoa Irangi (German East Africa)

## In the Air

- Constantinople and Adrianople attacked by aeroplanes of the Royal Naval Air Service from Mudros.

- 30 Sqn RFC carried out the first air supply operation in history. Food and ammunition were dropped to the defenders of Kut.
- 39 (Home Defence) Sqn RFC formed – the first home defence squadron.

### At Sea

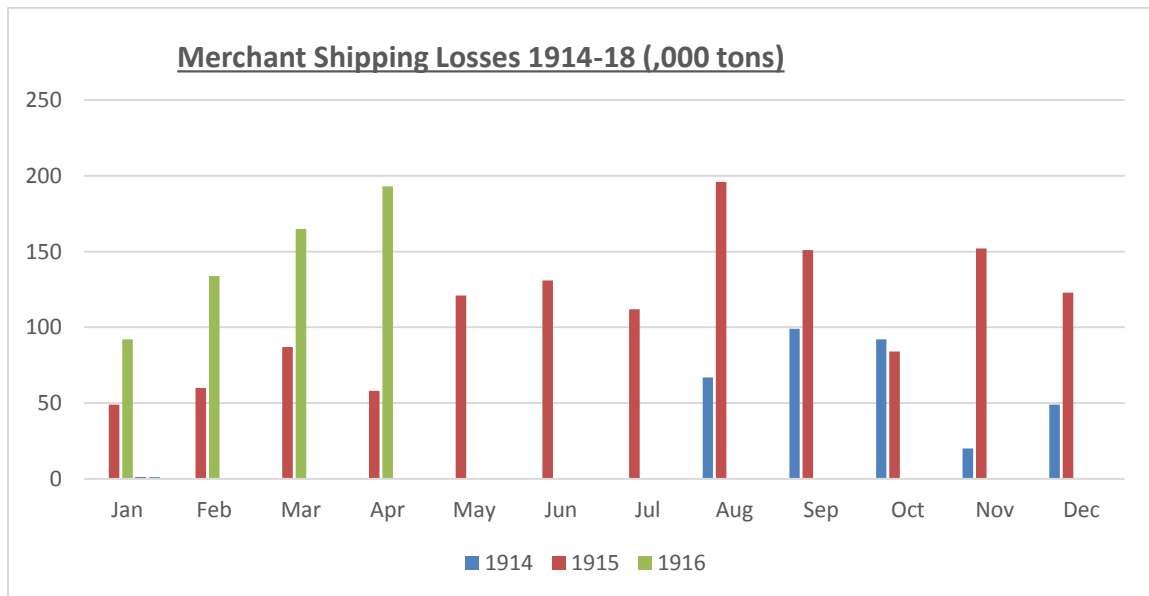
- HMS Russell sunk by mines in the Mediterranean. HMS Russell was steaming off Malta early on the morning of 27 April 1916 when she struck two naval mines that had been laid by the German submarine U-73. A fire broke out in the after part of the ship and the order to abandon ship was passed; after an explosion near the after 12-inch turret, she took on a dangerous list. She sank slowly, allowing most of her crew to escape; 27 officers and 98 ratings were lost.
- Laying of Belgian coast barrage commenced by Royal Navy

### CRUISER WARFARE

- Lowestoft (Suffolk) and Yarmouth (Norfolk) raided by German battle cruiser squadron.

### Merchant Shipping

- British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month
- 92 ships of 193,000 tons gross.



### The 'Herefords'

### Casualties

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO1	Bn	DATE	HOW	WHERE	HOMETOWN	NOTES
TAYLOR	JAMES	PTE	3314	1	06/04/1916		EGYPT	Bromyard	Reinforcement draft March 1916
SKYRME	MARK	PTE	1166	3	12/04/1916	Phthisis	HOME	Cwmbran	Died in hospital at Chester

Hereford

Enlistments continued under the Derby Scheme, recruiting and training, and the organisation of the Armed Forces, and war production were becoming more structured.

The Volunteer Training Corps (VTC) was reorganised and became known as Volunteer Bns under the auspices of the local Territorial Force Association. The Herefordshire Volunteer Bn was now formally part of the Herefordshire Regiment.

**VOLUNTEER FORCE.**  
**War Office Regulations.**  
**TERMS OF SERVICE.**

The War Office have issued the new regulations which have been framed governing the formation, maintenance, and service of Volunteer Corps.

In an accompanying letter, addressed to Lord Lieutenant, the Army Council state that it is important that the Volunteer Force should be organised on a strictly county basis, and that the administration should be dealt with by a county authority. It appears to them that the Territorial Force Associations are clearly marked out for this duty, and they hope that the associations will be prepared to accept this important extension of their present responsibilities. It is suggested that the various local committees which have been formed in connection with Volunteer Training Corps, and which have done much good work, may be of assistance.

As in many counties the various Volunteer Training Corps which have come into existence since the commencement of the war have been formed into county corps, under the supervision of the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps and the Scottish Volunteer Training Association, it is considered advisable to adhere to existing organisations where practicable when putting forward applications for the formation of Volunteer Corps.

The main features of the regulations may be briefly stated as follows:—

Ages for enrolment will be from 17 years upwards.

Battalions will be named after the county in which they are raised.

Any rank held will lapse if and when the holder is called up for service in the Army or Territorial Force.

Volunteers will be called out for actual military service only in the event of imminent invasion.

At other times voluntary offers of service by corps or individuals may be accepted.

Owing to the frequently wide distribution of the various units constituting a battalion, a uniform establishment cannot be insisted on. Minimum and maximum establishments for a battalion are given below, and, whenever practicable, scattered units should be so grouped as to reach the maximum:—

Battalion (four companies) ...	600 to 1,000
Company (four platoons) ...	150 to 250
Platoon ...	40 to 70
Section ...	10 to 20

**COMMANDS AND STAFF.**

Commissions will be temporary only. They will only be operative for the period during which an officer is actually a member of the Volunteer Force, and they will automatically lapse if, and when, the holder is called up for service in the Regular or Territorial Force.

County authorities administering the Volunteer Force should put forward the names of gentlemen for commissions as officers for each battalion as follows:—

Staff.—One commanding officer with rank of major, one officer second in command, with rank of captain, one adjutant with rank of captain or lieutenant, one quartermaster with rank of hon. lieutenant.

A second in command may be appointed when a battalion has reached half its establishment.

For each company.—One commander with rank of captain, one platoon commander for each platoon with rank of lieutenant or second lieutenant.

Of platoon commanders half will be lieutenants and the remainder second lieutenants.

The establishment of non-commissioned officers in a battalion will be:—

Staff.—One sergeant-major, one quartermaster-sergeant, one orderly-sergeant.

Company.—One company sergeant-major, one company quartermaster-sergeant, one sergeant for every twenty-five men or surplus of thirteen in each platoon, one corporal for every twenty men or surplus of eleven in each platoon.

**UNIFORM AND ARMLETS.**

The dress adopted by the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps will be recognised as a service uniform.

For purposes of temporary service a red armet, with the letters "G.R." inscribed thereon, will be accepted as a distinctive mark of enrollment of a Volunteer when worn with plain clothes on the left arm above the elbow. These armetts will be issued by the War Office on demand, but must be indelibly marked with the names of those to whom they are issued under local arrangements.

The Depot function continued and over 250 men enlisted under the Derby Scheme, and who received basic training at Hereford were 'posted' to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn at Oswestry to continue their training.

**CITY RECRUITS LEAVE FOR OSWESTRY.**

On Tuesday afternoon the recruits of the Hereford Regiment who have been training in Hereford since the men under the Derby Group system have been called up, left the city for Oswestry to join the 3rd line. They were paraded at the Drill Hall about two o'clock, and marched to Barr's Court station, where they arrived at a quarter to three. Each carried their own kit, which was obviously worn work. They were accompanied by their wives and relatives, who flocked over the bridge to give them a farewell. There were close on 300 men entraining—the number was about 235, all told—with Captain Ascroft (Adjutant) in charge. Lieutenant McMichael, who has been training the men at Hereford, of course also travelled to Oswestry, and Captain Wing was present in connection with the arrangements for departure. A number of the soldiers' relatives awaited them at the station, and joined in the send-off. The city will be sorry to lose the men, but there is a hope that others may take their place when fresh groups are called up. During their training here the men have been "put through it" far more severely than was the case with others at the beginning of the war, and the good effect on their appearance has been most marked. Among the civilians on the platform were Dr. and Mrs. McMichael (Vowchurch), the Rev. C. E. Whitcombe, and a few other well-known townspeople.

**THE JOURNEY**

**THE JOURNEY.**

A correspondent writes:—We had a pleasant journey down, the special train taking us straight through to Gubowen Station. All down the line, at various intervals, people were at their doors to wave us farewell. The first stop was at Shrewsbury, and after a wait of a few minutes we were off again. On arrival at Gubowen we were met by the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Herefordshire Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel Symonds-Taylor), who was mounted on a fine charger. A mount was also waiting for Adjutant Ascroft, who accompanied us from Hereford. When we had detrained and formed up in the road, we were met by the regimental band, and then commenced the march to the camp, some two miles away. The lively tunes played were cheering, and we went along with a merry swing, in spite of heavy packs and loaded kit bags. As we approached the camp many men of the 3rd line were on the look out for us, and greetings were exchanged between old pals.

The warm weather had naturally made us all very dry, but when we reached our huts it was not long before we had tea. And very acceptable it was too! After the meal we had a stroll round camp. Everything was admirably arranged, as it must be to be able to deal with so many men so quickly. The situation of the camp is ideal for fine weather at all events. There are still many traces of the mud that must have been so troublesome during the wet weather, but now everything is as dry as a bone.

The camp is well served by Y.M.C.A. huts, where the men can write home, enjoy a game of billiards, rings, etc., or have a sing song during the evening. It is quiet—except for men in khaki—but there is little doubt that we shall have a good time.

Some of those enlisted were:

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO1
JAMES	ALFRED PRYCE	PTE	4824
PREECE	JOHN ALBERT	PTE	4821
UNSWORTH	WALTER	PTE	
STRATTON	NELSON VICTOR	PTE	4940
JONES	GEORGE	PTE	
LONG	WALTER	PTE	4995
SKYRME	CHARLES HENRY	PTE	4967

And some of those discharged:

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO1	Bn	TERM	HOMETOWN	Notes
BADHAM	BENJAMIN	CQMS	329		unfit SICK	Leominster	
BENGREE	GEORGE	PTE	8239	1	timex	LLANDRIDOD	Served Gallipoli
BLOCKLEY	CHARLES	PTE	1286	1	unfit WOUNDS	ROSS	Served Gallipoli Wounded L arm R shoulder
BOOTH	FREDERICK	LCPL	8140	1	timex	PRESTIEGNE	Served Gallipoli Wounded cheek
BOWERS	GEORGE	SGT	301	2	Timex	RUARDEAN	
BRIDGEWATER	ERNEST	PTE	677		timex	Bromyard	
FULLER	THOMAS JOHN	PTE	3149		unfit	Mordiford	
GARDINER	WILLIAM GEORGE	CQMS	298	1	unfit	RUARDEAN	Served Gallipoli
INGELL	ARCHIE	PTE	1595	1	unfit wounds	NEWENT	Served Gallipoli
GRADY	JAMES	Pte	3417		unfit	HEREFORD	
GREENHOUSE	GEORGE	PTE	338	1	overage.timex	LEOMINSTER	Served Gallipoli
GRIFFITHS	FRANK	PTE	2370			WALTON	
HARFORD	WILLIAM HENRY	PTE	3063			COLWALL	
HARRIS	CHARLES	PTE	8195	1		KNIGHTON	Served Gallipoli
HOWARD	EDWARD	SGT	198	1	unfit	LEDBURY	Served Gallipoli
HUGHES	THOMAS P	PTE	8210	1	timex	RHYADER	Served Gallipoli
HYDE	WILLIAM THOMAS	PTE	613	1	timex	COLWALL	Served Gallipoli
JESSETT	WILLIAM HENRY	BDMN	208	1	timex	LEDBURY	Served Gallipoli
JONES	HARRY	PTE	3519		unfit		
JONES	HENRY	PTE	3579		Unfit	Hereford	
JONES	SIDNEY	PTE	591	1	timex	Ruardean	Served Gallipoli
LEWIS	REGINALD	PTE	8193	1	TofE	RHAYADER	Served Gallipoli
MALSOM	FRANK	PTE	316	1	TofE	RUARDEAN	Served Gallipoli Wounded L Thigh
MALSOM	TOM	SGT	318		Timex	Ruardean	
MILES	TOM	SGT	302	2	timex	Ruardean	
MINTON	GEORGE TREVOR PETER	PTE	1036	1	timex	ROSS	Served Gallipoli
MOORE	REGINALD	PTE	2262			GARWAY	
MORGAN	FREDERICK GEORGE	PTE	1051	1	timex	KINGTON	Served Gallipoli
NELMES	LEONARD	SGT	322	1	TofE	RUARDEAN	Served Gallipoli Ill Alexandria hosp
PREECE	CHARLES	PTE	107	1	OVERAGE,timex	WELLINGTON	Served Gallipoli
PREECE	GEORGE	PTE	3422		unfit	HEREFORD	
PRICE	ARCHIE F	PTE	8187		TofE		Served Gallipoli
PULLEN	JAMES GEORGE	PTE	4693			Ullingswick	
RAWBONE	ERNEST CYRIL	PTE	3340		unfit	Dilwyn	
REECE	WILLIAM	PTE	1620		UNFIT		
ROGERS	AUGUSTE J	PTE	291	1		KINGTON	Served Gallipoli BASE DETAIL
SKYRME	MARK	PTE	1166	3		PETERCHURCH	
SMITH	JOSEPH	PTE	632	1	timex	HEREFORD	Served Gallipoli
TAYLOR	FRANCIS NIMROD	SGT	5	1	TofE	HEREFORD	Served Gallipoli
TAYLOR	JAMES	PTE	3314	1			
WEAVER	EDWARD ROY	CPL	326	1	TofE	RUARDEAN	Served Gallipoli
WHITCOMBE	ALFRED JAMES	BDMN	913			Hereford	
WILCE	LESLIE N	PTE	1044	1	timex	LYDBROOK	Served Gallipoli
WILKES	ERNEST	PTE	1039	1	timex	YATTON	Served Gallipoli
WILLIAMS	HENRY	CPL	854	1	timex	HEREFORD	Served Gallipoli

Timex/ToE = Time expired/Terms of Enlistment (completion of terms of service)



Some personal papers exist in the public domain in respect of pension records and some are shown below:

677 Pte Ernest Bridgewater

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

**STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 677 Name Ernest Bridgewater**

Corps	Regt. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank	Dates	From	To	Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries	
Service towards engagement reckons from				14. April 09			W.C.P.	
Joined at		Bromyard		on 14. 4. 09				
		Preliminary Training.						
		Annual Training.		1909			<i>J. B. Stewart Capt</i> <i>J. C. S. Jones</i> <i>J. C. S. Jones</i> <i>Richard C. Sale 2 Lt.</i> <i>R. C. Sale 2 Lt.</i>	
		"		1910				
		"		1911				
		"		1912				
		"		1913	3. 8. 13	17. 8. 13		
Embodied Service.								
Hereford Regt. 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn		Embodied	Private	5. 8. 14	5. 8. 14		<i>T. C. Hunt Capt</i> <i>R. C. S. Jones Lt. Col.</i>	
Reserve		Embodied	"	1. 1. 15	1. 1. 15			
Provisional Bn	48	Transferred	"	19. 6. 15	19. 6. 15		<i>T. C. Hunt Capt</i> <i>R. C. S. Jones Lt. Col.</i>	
"	"	Discharged	"	18. 4. 16				
Total Service towards engagement in the Territorial Force								
				to 18-4-16 (date of discharge)	7	years	5	days
Discharged in consequence of having reached the termination of his period of engagement under 372-21 - King's Regt								
The discharge of <u>Ernest Bridgewater</u> is hereby approved.								
Station	<u>Home</u>			Signature <u>A. M. S. Johnson</u>				
Date	<u>18-4-1916</u>							

8198 Pte Reginald Lewis

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

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. *8198* Name *Reginald Lewis*

Corps	Regt. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank	Dates	From	To	Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
Service towards engagement reckons from		<i>18-1-1911</i>					
Joined at		<i>Phayao</i> on <i>18-1-1911</i>					
		<i>Preliminary Training.</i>	<i>PC</i>				
<i>1st Herefords</i>		<i>Annual Training.</i>					
<i>— " —</i>		<i>Granted leave</i>		<i>1911</i>			<i>Reg. Lewis Lt</i>
<i>— " —</i>		<i>Granted leave</i>		<i>1912</i>			<i>Reg. Lewis Lt</i>
		<i>Present</i>		<i>1913</i>	<i>22nd aug</i>	<i>16th aug</i>	<i>Reg. Lewis Lt</i>
<i>1st Herefords</i>		<i>Embodied Service.</i>					
		<i>Embodied</i>	<i>PC</i>		<i>5.8.14.</i>		<i>T. C. Hunt Capt.</i>
Total Service towards engagement in the Territorial Force							
to <i>8/4/16</i>		(date of discharge) <i>5</i> years <i>51</i> days.			<i>Very Good</i>		
Discharged in consequence of <i>Termination of Engagement</i>							
<i>Discharged Under Para 392 Sub Para (xxi) King's Regulations.</i>							
The discharge of <i>8198 R Lewis</i> is hereby approved.							
Station	<i>Hereford</i>			Signature <i>T. C. Hunt Capt.</i>			
Date	<i>8. April 1916.</i>			G.A. ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL OF THE TERRITORIAL FORCE			

3136 Pte Frank Malsom

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

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 316 Name Frank Malsom

Corps	Regt. or Depôt	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank	Dates	From	To	Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
Service towards engagement reckons from				7-4-08			
Joined at		<u>Burdhan</u>		7-4-08			
Former Service in the				11-3-07	14.6.06	6-11-08	<u>J.W.D. Scott</u>
Imperial Force				6.4.13			
Volunteer Force							
Annual Training.				1908			<u>Frank Malsom Capt</u>
				1909			
				1910			
				1911			
				1912			
				1913			
Stafford Regt	1 <sup>st</sup> Bn	Embodied Service	5.8.14	5-8-14	5-8-14		<u>T. Hunt Capt</u>
"	Am. Co.	Embodied	5-8-14	5-8-14			
"	3/1	Patrol	Drummer	11.2.16			
			Private	25.2.16			
Total Service towards engagement in the Territorial Force							
to <u>7<sup>th</sup> April 1916</u> (date of discharge) <u>8</u> years <u>1</u> days							
Discharged in consequence of <u>the termination of his period of</u>							
<u>Engagement (under para 392 XXI R. R.)</u>							
The discharge of <u>Frank Malsom</u> is hereby approved.							
Station <u>Park Hall Camp, Gwent.</u>				Signed <u>Robert Malsom</u> Lieut. Colonel			
Date <u>7 April 1916</u>				3rd Lt. Herefordshire Regt. Park Hall Camp, Gwent.			



322 Sgt Leonard Nelmes

Army Form B. 103.

**Casualty Form—Active Service.**

Regiment or Corps 1st Bn. Herefordshire Regiment

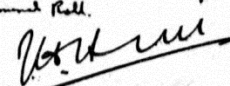
Regimental No. 322 Rank Sgt Name Nelmes

Enlisted (a) 2/5/08 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, 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. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
16.7.15	6 A. 11 W. 20	Embarked 388 Amphibian	Deventer	16.7.15	Nominal Roll.
31.7.15	O.C. H.Q.	Disembarked #	Alexandria	27.7.15	Base Details
18/9/15	Hosptl	Admitted 15th General Hospital Tonsillitis	Alexandria	18/9/15	A36
23/9/15	Hosptl	Discharged to Duty	Alexandria	23/9/15	A36
23.3.15	Base	Embarked for England On R.F. Division June Required	Alexandria	22.3.15	Nominal Roll.

  
 24th INFANTRY RECORDS.  
 No 4 District  
 8th ECHELON. 2. 2. 8.

(1) 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.  
(2) e.g., Signaller, Shoosmith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties. (P.T.O.)

107 Pte Charles Preece

Army Form B. 103.

**Casualty Form—Active Service.**

Regiment or Corps 1st BATTALION

1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

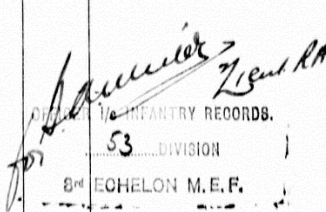
Regimental No. 107 Rank Pte Name Preece C

Enlisted (a) 1/4/08 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, 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. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
16.7.15	6 A. 11 W. 20	Embarked 388 Amphibian	Deventer	16.7.15	Nominal Roll.
9.10.15	O.C. H.Q.	2nd W. F. A. Depot	Calicut	6.10.15	A. 36 C 4006. ✓
31.10.15	-	To England	Malta	31.10.15	B. 622. ✓

  
 1st INFANTRY RECORDS.  
 53 DIVISION  
 8th ECHELON M.E.F.

(1) 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.  
(2) e.g., Signaller, Shoosmith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties. (P.T.O.)

(1198-Hereford) <sup>30</sup>/<sub>19</sub> Hereford ARMY FORM B. 173.

To be used (a) for recruits enlisting direct into the Regular Army, and (b) for men of the Territorial Force when they are admitted to Hospital.  
 Army Form B. 173A to be used for Special Reserve recruits and Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

### MEDICAL HISTORY of

Surname Pullen Christian Name James Geffel

TABLE I.—GENERAL TABLE.

Birthplace ... Parish Wingswick County Herefordshire

Examined ... { on 11<sup>th</sup> day of Dec 1915  
 at Hereford

Declared Age ... 36 years 300 days.

Trade or Occupation ... Farm Labourer

Height ... 5 feet 0 inches.

Weight ... 115 lbs.

Chest Measurement { Girth when fully Expanded 35<sup>2</sup> inches.  
 Range of Expansion 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches.

Physical Development ... Good

Vaccination Marks { Arm ...  
 Number 2

When Vaccinated ... Infancy Baptism

Vision ... { R.E.—V=4/6  
 L.E.—V=4/6

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease ... Stuck in stone trap

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection ... Weak Rankle

Approved by (Signature) Claude H. G. Philip  
 (Rank) Medical Officer.

Enlisted ... at Hereford  
 on 11<sup>th</sup> day of Dec 1915

Corps	Regt. No.
<u>Army Reserve Class B. 4693</u>	
<u>HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.</u>	

Joined on Enlistment ...

Transferred to ...

Became non-effective by Discharge. Irregularly called up  
Authority. G.C. 53<sup>rd</sup> Area.  
 on 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1916.

(Signature) C. Wing  
 (Rank) Captain. O.C. Bull Hall. Hereford.

(6095.) W. 11330/4055 600M. 10/15. C. P., LTD. Forms B. 173 30 P.T.O.

249.

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

The Battalion continued to recuperate and consolidate; men becoming fit in hospitals in Egypt and Malta were being returned to duty and the Battalion received a reinforcement draft from England.

### **The Battalion War Diary:**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Detail</i>
Apr	Wadi Natrun	Battalion on training
6 Apr		Brigade exercise – Advance Guard.
7 Apr		A & C Coys under command Capt Carver marched to Elgaar about 13 miles, C to hold that post; A to march on following day to Elzawia; 7 miles further; B & D Coys under command Capt Green move up to Bir Hooker.
13 Apr		Brigade exercise, bad sandstorm, 2 men returning to Elgaar from railhead, about 6 miles, lost and did not return until following day.
19 Apr		Capt E A Capel and 149 men of whom 140 were from England. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Line, arrived from Sidi Bishr and joined HQ of Battalion.
23 Apr		Temperature 105°F in the shade. A Coy arrived from Elzawia.
28 Apr		Reveille at 5am; breakfast and march pack, rearguard action anticipated but enemy did not appear.
30 Apr		Towards midnight 2Lts Challis, Wilson and Mitchell and 6 men arrived. 2Lt Mitchell from England others from hospital.

### **2109 Pte Percy Pritchard**

April 2	Zeitoun	School of Instruction
April 4	Sidi Bishr	
April 19 1916	Wadi Natrun (Western Frontier)	Rejoined Regiment 1/18 Havelock

### **Maj ALB Green**

1 Apr	Another splendid day, finished off shopping in morning and in the afternoon went to the Zoo, animals rather poor bt gardens beautiful, Bourgainvillia is a sight. Went to 'Venetian Fete' at Shepherds after dinner, great rag, confetti and fireworks.
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2 Apr	Returned to Wadi by 1.40 train. Awful journey arriving at 8pm.
3 Apr	Regimental tour started 7am. A bit dull. Flies awful. Spent afternoon making sketch maps of defences at Fort Bir and Fort Suda. Very hot and flyey.
4 Apr	Route march in morning. In afternoon finished off sketch map.
6 Apr	Brigade exercise. 1/1 <sup>st</sup> Herefords formed advance guard with Camel Corps. Started off at 5.30.
7 Apr	A Coy started for Zawia and C Coy for Gaar at 5am. B & D moved into Bir Hooker with myself in command. General Dallas came over. Got a room to sleep in. Much cooler than a tent, but full of fleas.
8 Apr	Spent day arranging defence in my sector.
9 Apr	CO and Ashton rode out to Gaar and Zawia with General and BM. Went to celebration at 7.30am.
10 Apr	Nothing much doing except fatigues. Tried to start a wiring course. CO came and went round Bir fortifications.
11 Apr	Nothing much doing.
12 Apr	Beastly hot, wind from east, cloudy and dustey. Sandstorm starting towards evening.
13 Apr	Awful night last night, blew regular hurricanes, thought the roof was coming off my shack, door wouldn't stay shut as there was no glass in window and it was a bit draughty. A most pestilential day, gale and dust storm all day, couldn't see more than 100 yards.
14 Apr	Rained in night which relieved things a bit. Wind still high but dust not so bad. Two men in C Coy got lost in sand storm yesterday at El Gaar and were out all night. No trains up as track blocked by sand.
15 Apr	Hot again. Things go on as usual. CO came over and tells me he is going on leave on Monday. Holman returns from Wardan having been hung up 2 days by sandstorm.
16 Apr	Nice day, hot but fresh. Rode at with Ashton at 5am to arrange Regimental tour for tomorrow. Went to Church Service in the evening with Percy and Holman. Cut a very nice palm stalk stick, rather appropriate for the day.
17 Apr	CO went on leave. Regimental tour. Subject convoys. Very hot and sultry. Dined at HQ Mess, Col Hunter and Lt Col Balfour, sanitary committee were our guests.
18 Apr	Dull oppressive day with an attempt at a sandstorm which fortunately came to nothing.

19 Apr	Went round soda factory with Firth the chemist. Very interesting, process natural, sodium carbonate and bicarbonate converted to caustic soda by quick lime. CO returned from leave. Capt Capel arrived with 149 Ors. First game of cricket played at Wadi En Natsun.
20 Apr	Busy getting ready for relief, cleaning camp etc.
21 Apr	1/6 RWF took over from us at Bir Hooker at 7.30am and we marched back to Battalion camp. New draft seem useful lot of men. After tea Percy Rogers and myself walked over Dier Amba Bishir, the nearest of the 4 monasteries. Interesting old place but very dirty and squalid. The monks seem a very effete lot and half starved, possibly due to Lent. The carved doors of the sanctuary were rather fine but work very rough. Supposed to be 1400 years old. C Coy got back from Gaar at 1930hrs.
22 Apr	Demonstration combined attack by grenadiers and Battalion in sector of Bir Hooker defences. Quite interesting. Inoculated for typhoid – para T, A & B.
23 Apr	Celebrations at 0630 in our mess tent. A contrast to last year at Newmarket. Spent the entire day making out mess accounts with Holman – beastly job. Very hot and sultry. Lewis with A coy got in from Zawia at 0730 having started at 0300.
24 Apr	No bank holidays out here – work as normal. Felt a bit seedy.
25 Apr	Route march. Felt a bit queer in my inside. Either a chill or after effects of inoculation. Try starving a bit.
26 Apr	Still a bit uncomfortable but managed to keep going alright on oxo and toast. Brigade night ops postponed owing to wind and slight dust storm. Heat terrific 115 in shade at factory.
27 Apr	Cooler. Feel better but still afraid to eat solids. Battalion went on night ops but was excused myself. Had letter from Do to say she had had an operation for gall stones but going on alright.
28 Apr	Battalion arrived back about 1000 a bit fatigued but otherwise cheerful. Seem to have had a night march and bivouac in morning. Found it rather cold lying out. Some back letters arrived telling me more about the earlier part of Do's illness and operation. Capel with D Coy took over Bir Hooker from 1/6 RWF who went to Khatatha.
29 Apr	Rode over and saw Capel and helped him settle in. Weather much cooler. Cable from Do to say she is going on alright.



30 Apr	No Church parade but voluntary service in Church Army Tent – fairly well attended. Wilson MC, Challen and Mitchell turned up from Sidi Bishr. Train did not get in until nearly midnight owing to engine breakdown.
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### **1606 Sgt Harry Colley**

After nearly 4 years in which time numerous things have happened I will try and continue my history of some of the happenings of the 1<sup>st</sup> Herefordshire Regiment. After the evacuation from Suvla Bay the Regiment was taken to Mudros, where they remained for a few days. The total strength of the Regiment was now however only 87, the storm just prior to the evacuation having accounted for hundreds of men of the Regiment. The stay at Mudros was only of short duration and the Battalion embarked on the Lurrecian for Alexandria which was reached on 21 Dec 1915. Many were the rumours as to the final destination of the Regiment but there were no sneers raised when they arrived at Wardan about 60 miles from Cairo on the fringe of the desert. Everything on arrival looked very desolate but before long camps and buildings sprang up with mushroom rapidity.

The Battalion remained here training until the end of March, the effective strength gradually increasing with drafts from hospital of those who had been successful in getting marked Blighty. The Regimental transport also joined the Regiment here at Wardan [*they had been left at Alexandria in Aug 1915*], for the first time since leaving England. At the end of March 158 Bde which comprised: The Herefords, and the 1/5, 1/6 & 1/7 RWF moved out to relieve 159 Bde at the oasis outpost of ??????. The journey across the desert was completed on a narrow gauge railway, belonging to an English gentleman who owned and worked a soda factory at ??????. The outpost was to prevent any raiding by the Senussi, who were very active about this period. During the whole of our 6 weeks stay in this neighbourhood, we encountered nothing of him.

Bir Hooker was the chief outpost and here we also had Bde HQ. The district was anything but enjoyable – the fumes from the soda lakes were very annoying. Owing to the intense heat, early morning training was the order of the day, the Battalion moving off on operation at 0430am. We had plenty of ground for operations and as far as the eye could see, it was just one long stretch of sun burnt sand. In the day time the heat was intense reaching 125 degrees; this was not in the shade as far as I can recollect now, no shade was discovered.

It was here that we first encountered the annoyances of a sand storm during night operations and part of the Battalion got lost, but finally arrived at HQ through some skilled compass work. Here the use of hand grenades was demonstrated and bombing classes were formed under Capt Rogers, and, incidentally I was appointed bomb storeman, it being my duty to sleep in the bomb tents at night.

### **2563 Pte Percy & 1357 Sgt Herbert Wilkins**

Apr 1-4 The Herefords are in training for a possible attack.

- 5 The Herefords have a route march.
- 6 The Herefords exercise 'Advance Guard'.

- 7 Percy with A Co march about 13miles to El Gaar. A to march the next day to El Zawia, 7 miles on. Herbert with B&D Co move to Bir Hooker Defences.
- 10 Herbert with B&D Co train at Bir Hooker defences.
- 13 The Herefords exercise despite bad sandstorms.
- 21 Herbert with B&D Co return from Bir Hooker.
- 23 Percy & A Co return from El Zawia. Temp 105 deg in shade.
- 25 Herefords route march & exercise.
- 26 Herbert & D Co to Bir Hooker.Temp 114 deg in shade.
- 27 Herefords exercise, march & meet at Bir Fort but don't move till 23.20. Reached bivouac nr Beida about 7 miles on at 02.45.
- 28 Reveille at 5am. Breakfast & march back. A rearguard action is expected but fails to materialise.



The Herefords move on a narrow gauge railway – possibly the one mentioned in Sgt Colley's account.

The Welsh nature of the 53rd Div ensured St Davids Day had been suitably acknowledged and reports of the St David's Day Sports filtered back to Hereford in April:

**1st HEREFORDS.**

**WINNERS IN THE BRIGADE SPORTS.**

The following is a list of the winning teams in the Brigade sports, held on St. David's Day.

The "Lloyd Lindsay" rifle shooting competition was won by C Company (Captain W. Carver), and the Section Marching Order Competition by A Company (Captain Lewis), in the particularly good time of 6½ minutes.

In the latter competition the men were undressed, lying down in their tents. When the alarm sounded they had to dress, roll their blankets and waterproof sheets, strike and pack their tents, and then fall in in marching order for inspection.

Lance-Corporal Bengough won the obstacle race over a stiff course with great ease.

Half-mile Race.—1, Pte. Bacon, 2/1 London Regt.; 2, Pte. W. R. Roberts, 1/7 R.W.F.; 3, Pte. D. R. Thomas, 1/7 R.W.F.

Section "Lloyd Lindsay" Competition.—1, 1/1 Herefords; 2, Headquarters, 158th Brigade.

Beat Race.—1, C Co., 2/1 London Regt.; 2, A Co., 2/1 London Regt.; 3, A Co., 1/1 Herefords.

Tag-of-War (final)—1, 1/7 R.W.F.; 2, 1/1 Herefords.

Obstacle Race.—1, Loe.-Cpl. Bengough, 1/1 Herefords; 2, Pte. Hunter, 1/6 R.W.F.; 3, Pte. Moore, 2/1 London Regt.

Relay Race.—1, Headquarters, 158th Brigade; 2, 1/1 Herefords.

V.C. Race.—1, Major Watson, Brigade Headquarters; 2, Captain Hampson, Brigade Headquarters; 3, Captain Parkes, 1/7 R.W.F.

Section Marching Order Alarm Competition.—1, 1/1 Herefords (6½ minutes); 2, 2/1 London Regt. (7½ minutes).

Wheelbarrow and Boot Race.—1, Ptes. J. Jones and R. Williams, 1/6 R.W.F.; 2, Ptes. J. Jones and T. Jones, 1/7 R.W.F.

Grooms' Race.—1, Pte. E. Jones, 1/6 R.W.F.; 2, Pte. P. Gibbons, 158th Brigade H.Q.; 3, Pte. E. Price, 158th Brigade H.Q.

Sack Race.—1, Pte. Bezzant, 1/1 Herefords; 2, Pte. Isherwood, 1/1 Herefords; 3, Pte. T. Broome, 1/6 R.W.F.

Camel Race.—1, Sergt. Webb and partner, 2/1 London Regt.; 2, Pte. Lomax and partner, 1/6 R.W.F.

Open V.C. Race.—1, Major H. Watson, 158th Brigade H.Q.; 2, Lieut.-Colonel Rome, 1/6 R.W.F.; 3, Lieut. Calver Jones, R.F.A.

Donkey Costume Race.—1, Pte. Hughes, 158th Brigade H.Q.; 2, Pte. Matthews, 1/1 Herefords; 3, Pte. Broome, 1/6 R.W.F.

**1st HEREFORDS.**

**LOCAL MEN DO WELL IN BRIGADE SPORTS.**

The following account of sports in which the men of the 1st Herefordshire Regiment took part has been sent to his home at Allensmore Court by Major T. E. Pateshall, Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General of the 53rd Welsh Division:—

"March 1st was a scorching hot day, and I went to watch the 158th Brigade St. David's Day sports, at which I am glad to say the Herefords won the majority of events which were going. The boat race was very amusing. Eight men ride on a plank between their legs, and are steered by a man at the end. They have to go backwards—only the cox faces the right way. They have to go round a pole and back, and the bumping at the pole was really very funny.

There were excellent fancy costumes. One man got up as the General, with medals on the wrong side and a badge on the wrong arm; a huge long wooden sword, a pair of field glasses made out of two beer bottles tied side by side; riding on a mule. A man rode behind him all the while with a stick and a Union Jack, just like a General would have. He accepted the salutes of the multitude with the greatest dignity, and even acknowledged the salutes of officers! He had gum boots on, too. There was a very fine Cleopatra, a Red Indian (who got the prize), a tattooed man, a ploughboy, and two jockeys.

The camel race was very amusing, as two men had to get up, and they were quite unable to steer their camels. The donkey race was also very funny, as the donkeys required several boys to beat them to make them go.

Then the "Alarm" was a good thing. Ten men in a tent, with only their shirts on. They had to dress, pack their marching orders, roll blankets and waterproof sheets, and strike and pack tents. The Herefords won by a whole minute ahead of the rest. It was quite worth while going to watch the proceedings.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn remain part of 205 Bde, 68 Div as part of the UK Defence Force, based in Bedford and undertaking routine training and defensive activities.

### 2/1 HEREFORDS.

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### SOME CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING.

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### REGIMENTAL SUCCESS.

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During the winter months the battalions of the 205th Brigade, stationed at Bedford, have taken part in cross-country runs organised by Colonel C. Markham, in command of the Brigade, who has kindly promised a cup for the best team in the Brigade. The runs have taken place from time to time on Saturday afternoons, teams consisting of not less than ten men. Marks are allotted for the first ten men, ten points being credited to the team which provides the winner, nine points to the second, and so on. The team getting the largest number of points wins the day's run, and these points go towards the total of all the runs for the cup and money prizes subscribed for by the officers of the Brigade.

Lieut.-Colonel Wood Roe and the officers and men of the 2/1 Herefordshire Regiment have taken a keen interest in the cross-country running, and the Battalion has acquitted itself well, as all the events have been easily won against teams of the 2/1 Monmouthshire Regiment, the 2/2 Monmouthshire Regiment, and the 2/3 Monmouthshire Regiment.

Encouraged by their success in these local events, the Battalion entered a team for the Eastern Command cross-country competition. On the 29th March they competed at Ipswich against eighteen other teams of twelve men. The men were handicapped by not having spiked shoes, which under the wet condition of the country were found by other competitors to have been a great help. In spite of this the team of the 2/1 Herefordshire Regiment came out sixth over the six-mile course. The following is a list of the best places obtained by members of the team:—

Lee-Sergt. Crood, A Co., 13th (who came in 3min. 18sec. behind the winner.)  
Lee-Cpl. Hall, A Co., 39th.  
Pte. S. Davies, D Co., 32nd.  
Cpl. H. Thorn, C Co., 61st.  
Pte. Baker, D Co., 90th.  
Pte. H. T. Price, D Co., 91st.  
Pte. C. H. Price, C Co., 92nd.  
Pte. Preece, D Co., 98th.

On April 8th the Battalion was represented by a team at Woodford, Essex. The course was again six miles, and the points were scored by the first eight men in. There were twenty-one teams competing, teams being handicapped on the form shown in their previous run. The maximum handicap was 7½ minutes, the team of the 2/1 Herefordshire Regiment being penalised to the extent of 3½ minutes. The result was as follows:—

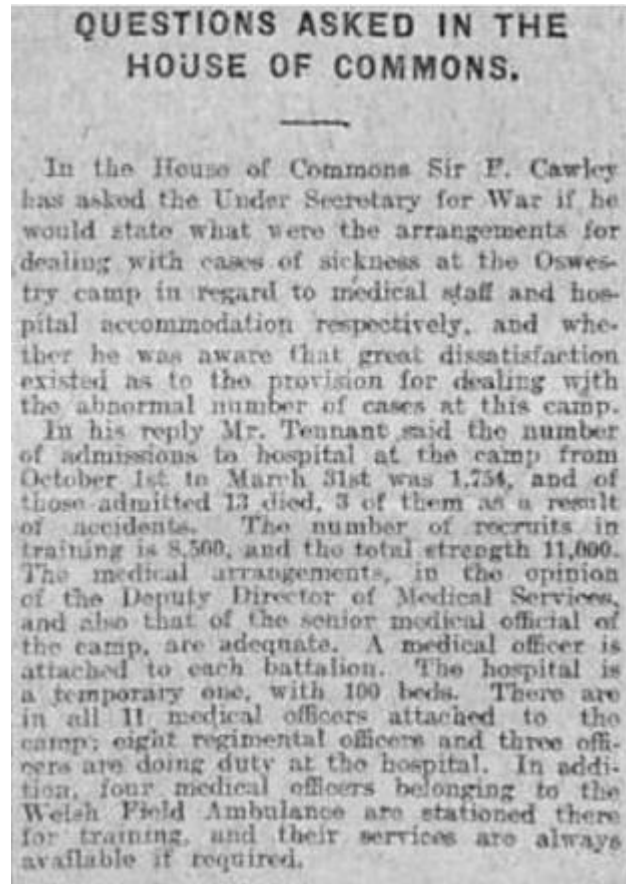
1st, 5th Coldstream Guards.  
2nd, 2/1 Brecknock Regt.  
3rd, 2/5 East Surrey Regt.  
4th, 2/1 Herefordshire Regt.

Great credit is due to Regt.-Sergt.-Major Herbert, who has coached the team. Lieut.-Colonel Wood Roe has expressed himself well pleased with the results and the success with which the Battalion team has competed against all comers.

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

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn remained in Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, training new recruits and acting as the holding regiment for trained soldiers awaiting draft.

There were clearly many troops at Oswestry and these presented many challenges as illustrated in the attached article:



### **Capt P Parker**

#### **1st April**

It is four weeks since I left Oxford. Nice fine day, went by train to Shrewsbury and took a taxi to the military hospital as I was late. I met Capt. Barker, just coming away. He was given 1 month's "light duties". The board were extremely nice to me and gave me 3 weeks more leave, for which I am thankful as I feel far from first-rate yet. Went back to the Raven & saw Capt. & Mrs Barker & had a drink with the old man & then returned by the 2.10 train I was at Knighton for another two weeks and then we went as a family to Aberystwyth. It did me a lot of good. I put on a lot of weight, being over 11 stone different to the 7 stone after the fever. Before coming here I spent a day in Hereford and had tea with Peggy Fryer & Doris Jones. I also called on the Smiths as G.J. Williams was staying with them. While at the sea I received orders to go for my next Board to Bangor, which rather upset the apple cart, as the Shrewsbury people said they intended to give me three weeks light duty when I went back.

'The Bangor crowd were very Welsh & in addition marked me A1. I suppose the sea has done the trick. There was only one other fellow at the board and he had been one of the doctors at the 17th Hospital in Alexandria. The board seemed to only take into consideration, whether you were married or single.

I returned through Chester spending the night at the Westminster there and called on the Woodhouses. About Friday 28th April I joined the 3rd line depot at Oswestry.

The people here bored me absolutely stiff & were a lot of Base Wallahs. Chipp has just returned to the Btt'n. in Egypt with the last draft. Berney was here waiting to take the last draft out. Barker, G.J. Williams, Llewelyn, Boulton and Capt Yeates were other 1st line people here. There are orders that all overseas people (that is those who have already seen service) are to go out before the fresh ones. It seems rather a rotten rule but they are looking at it from the point of experience. The day after I arrived I was warned to hold myself in readiness to take most of the returned 1st line men, who were here over to Ireland, as the rebellion was on. I myself went to Liverpool and watched them loading up field guns on the boats. Fortunately I did not have to go. I certainly don't want to fight my own people.

I returned to camp on the Monday and was immediately warned for a draft. I really think it is a bit thick. After one day I am warned for the Irish rebellion, and as I didn't go through no fault of theirs, I am immediately warned for draft. It isn't that I don't want to go - nothing will give me greater pleasure than getting away from the Base crawling varminths, but I should like to be a bit fitter. However the matter was taken out of my hands, as Major Macmullan, the proper 1st line M.O. is here & he has to see us all, and he said I was not to go out.

The result was that I was not taken off the draft list, but postponed.

I didn't overwork myself and had a weekend at home. They have a funny game here, which they call teaching the men trench warfare. The funny thing that none of the instructors have been out. I went out with one 24 hours as Capt. Crossley suggested I might pick up some tips. I certainly did pick up a few things, but am afraid they won't benefit me much neither officers or men had any idea of sanitation. The batt'n with the rest of the Division here was inspected by C.O. Western Command. Berry and I were the only two officers with the first line and the General complimented B on the turn-out and as a consequence we were to march off the parade first. It looked so funny a small detachment of 60 men After this on another day we were picked (i.e. the first line men) to give-a demonstration of a bayonet charge& fighting generally before the whole division, but I hardly lived up to our standard It had rained hard and we started off in a trench with mud inches deep in it. In addition everybody in scrambling out had worn the sides away and last but not least 70% of the men were rheumy and could not be expected to perform like knock-about clowns I was in charge .However the Inspector General of infantry said we were the finest draft he has seen for months.

I called on the Luteners one day in Oswestry. I am so sorry they have lost their only son Dick I also met Tommy Ragg, on Shrewsbury platform one day He is being gazetted out of the army owing to lung trouble Gallipoli has finished him poor thing.

One of the trying things here is the extraordinary promotion. A glaring case in point may make this clear In No 11 platoon of the first line of which I had charge in Gallipoli was one Dillow a L/cpl He did not land with the original lot, being a first reinforcement .After being on the peninsular three weeks his commission came through and he returned home to Oswestry. Now, when I return to England I find that Dillon has two pips. Berney and I rather got our backs when we heard Dillow was to take an early morning parade. Can't see me "falling-out" and saluting Dillow! Not Much. I am sorry to say I was late for parade and possibly Ashcroft the adjutant didn't care to say much in the circumstances. However being about a year senior to all the other subs here and in addition two captains, Yeates and one or two of the others kicked up a shine, and we all got made captains in due course.-I.E. Berney, Williams, Llewelyn, Boulton and myself. Boulton banged up a cartilage in his knee and won't be going out again, I expect. Williams isn't quite fit yet & Llewelyn says he has a bad heart, although the doctor says he hasn't. Barker is on light duty and lives out at Withington with Mrs Barker. I went out there tea once or twice. I remained at Oswestry about a month and left there about 29 May. Berney left with his draft three days before me. I had one officer a fellow called Hobro who looked like a bleached



nigger and 80 men. Only one Sergeant with the draft, Yemm. The Regimental band saw us off at Gobowen station. At Hereford the whole place was packed principally with women and my men were given something to eat. Charles Evans my brother -in- law motored with my parents to see me and we went to the refreshment room. I told Yemm to warn me when the train was ready to go. It was the first time I had seen Charlie. Well into the middle of the meal in rushes Yemm to say the train was just starting so we rushed across and I was shovelled into the last coach with Hobro just as the train went out Oranges and all sorts of things were shot through the window after me. It was the nearest shave I have had we stopped at Exeter where tea was dished out, but they were two or three short, so Yemm, Hobro and myself missed out. We finally reached Devonport & were taken to St Beaudaux camp. In passing I saw W.N.Riddell with whom I was at school as I was leaving camp. We remained at camp here for three days and visited Plymouth once or twice, but of course it rained most of the time.

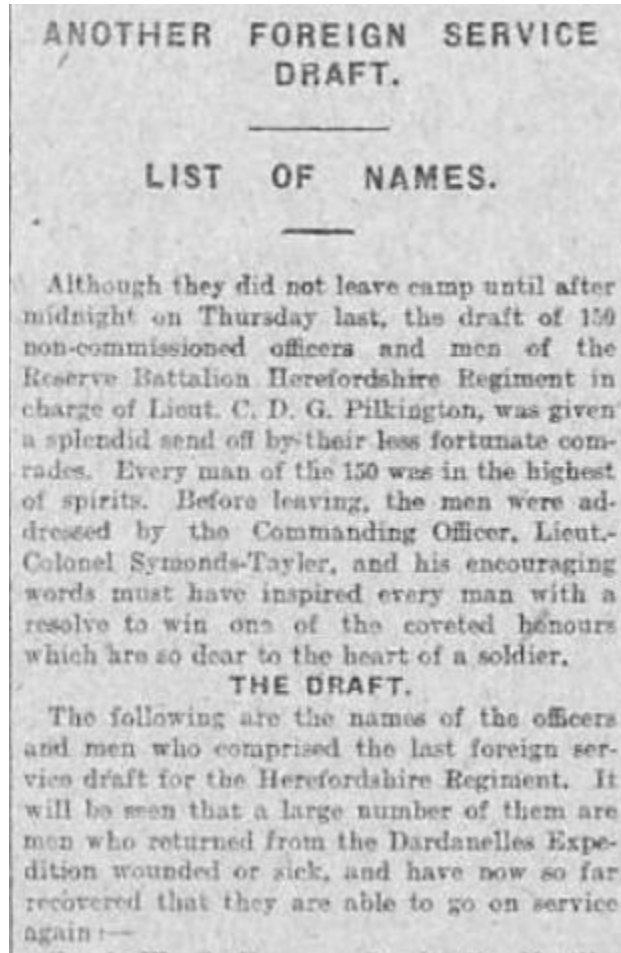
### **Capt WF Chipp**

A letter signed by second lieutenant Chipp at Park Hall Camp Oswestry on 7 April 1916 says ' Sir, I have filled out the form as requested, I am at present under orders to take a draft of Lancashire Fusiliers to the MEF next week. I enclose a photograph for your use - if you should ever need one'. There is no indication of the addressee, so the nature of the 'form' and potential use of the photograph remain unknown.

Lieutenant Chipp attending a course of instruction in the Middle East in 1916 or 1917



**Draft from 3rd Bn to 1st Bn -April 1916**



OIC Draft – Lt CEG Pilkington

<i>Name</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Remarks</i>		<i>Name</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Adams	AE	Pte	wounded suvla		Limerick	S	Pte	wounded suvla
Aingel	G	Pte	wounded suvla		Longford	AH	LCpl	wounded suvla
Allen	VJH	Pte			Longford	WG	LCpl	wounded suvla
Arrowsmith		LCpl			Lowe	FC	Pte	wounded suvla
Barnes	WG	Cpl	wounded suvla		Manns	R	Pte	wounded suvla
Baumgarten	GH	LCpl	wounded suvla		Marshall	CF	Pte	wounded suvla
Beadle	D	Pte	wounded suvla		Martin	W	Pte	wounded suvla
Bevan	W	Pte	wounded suvla		Matthews	A	Pte	wounded suvla
Bowen	AJ	Pte	wounded suvla		Morgan	DT	Pte	wounded suvla
Bowkett	JW	Pte			Morris	H	Pte	wounded suvla
Bray	AH	Pte			Morris	PH	LCpl	wounded suvla



Broad	C	Pte		Neville	F	Cpl	wounded suvla
Bromley	JF	Pte	wounded suvla	Oliver	F	Pte	
Brown	D	Pte	wounded suvla	Oliver	WG	LCpl	wounded suvla
Brumbill	W	Pte	wounded suvla	Osborne	H	Pte	wounded suvla
Bryant	J	Pte	wounded suvla	Phillips	W	Pte	wounded suvla
Bubb	J	Pte		Pilkington	CDG	Lt	wounded suvla
Chadd	EC	Pte	wounded suvla	Pinches	EW	Pte	
Chandler	G	Pte	wounded suvla	Pinches	GT	Pte	
Charles	HE	Pte	wounded suvla	Pitt	JC	Pte	
Christopher	J	Pte	wounded suvla	Powell	A	Pte	
Clarke	EJ	Pte		Powell	R	Pte	wounded suvla
Clarke	J	Pte	wounded suvla	Powell	TG	Pte	
Clayton	TH	Pte	wounded suvla	Preece	J	Pte	
Clissett	AE	Pte		Preece	JA	Pte	
Counsell	T	Pte	wounded suvla	Preece	JW	Pte	wounded suvla
Dallow	ET	Pte	wounded suvla	Preece	T	Pte	
Dallow	WJ	Pte		Preedy	S	Pte	wounded suvla
Davies	T	Pte	wounded suvla	Price	F	Pte	wounded suvla
Davies	WE	Pte	wounded suvla	Price	GJ	Pte	wounded suvla
Duberley	SH	Pte	wounded suvla	Price	JA	Pte	wounded suvla
Dykes	EJ	Pte	wounded suvla	Pritchard	WT	Pte	
Edmonds	R	Pte	wounded suvla	Rebbeck	J	Pte	wounded suvla
Edwards	C	Pte		Reynolds	JS	Pte	
Etheridge	G	Pte	wounded suvla	Rivers	A	Pte	wounded suvla
Evans	D	Pte	wounded suvla	Robbins	S	Pte	
Falconer	E	Pte	wounded suvla	Rock	C	Pte	
Fardon	C	Pte	wounded suvla	Roper	A	Pte	wounded suvla
Farmer	SH	LCpl	wounded suvla	Ryder	C	Pte	wounded suvla
Faulkener	WH	Pte		Saunders	GH	Pte	wounded suvla
Fell	R	Pte		Saunders	GH	Pte	wounded suvla
Fleetwood	A	Pte	wounded suvla	Simmons	CS	Pte	wounded suvla
Fox	WJ	Pte	wounded suvla	Smith	R	Dmr	wounded suvla
Foxall	A	Pte	wounded suvla	Sparrow	H	Pte	wounded suvla
Francis	E	Pte	wounded suvla	Stallard	T	Pte	
Fresle	E	Pte	wounded suvla	Stedman	PC	Pte	wounded suvla
Gardiner	AR	Pte		Stocking	W	Pte	wounded suvla
Garvey	J	Pte	wounded suvla	Symonds	JB	Pte	wounded suvla
Godsall	W	Pte		Tedstone	W	Pte	wounded suvla
Godsall	FF	Pte		Thomas	CJ	Pte	wounded suvla
Green	AE	Pte	wounded suvla	Thomas	BJ	Pte	wounded suvla
Griffihs	WR	Pte	wounded suvla	Thorne	C	Pte	

Griffiths	FG	Pte		Tillman	H	Pte	
Griffiths	T	Pte	wounded suvla	Tombs	G	Pte	
Grubb	A	Pte	wounded suvla	Tuckwell	H	Pte	
Harper	FJ	Pte	wounded suvla	Turner	PD	Pte	wounded suvla
Hodges	AW	Pte	wounded suvla	Vaughan	J	Pte	wounded suvla
Hodges	FW	Pte	wounded suvla	Waites	LA	Pte	wounded suvla
Hodges	I	Pte		Walker	AG	Pte	wounded suvla
Holding	A	Pte	wounded suvla	Wall	AE	Pte	wounded suvla
Hollings	CJ	Pte	wounded suvla	Wall	DJ	Pte	wounded suvla
Howells	FW	Pte	wounded suvla	Walters	C	Pte	wounded suvla
Insall	WSG	Pte		Watkins	LF	Pte	wounded suvla
James	JE	LCpl	wounded suvla	Weaver	LW	Pte	
Jay	G	Pte	wounded suvla	Whitney	J	Pte	
Jenkins	H	Pte	wounded suvla	Wilkins	W	Pte	wounded suvla
Jones	F	Pte	wounded suvla	Williams	H	Pte	wounded suvla
Jones	FJ	Pte		Williams	J	Pte	wounded suvla
Jones	FM	Pte	wounded suvla	Wilkins	PC	Pte	wounded suvla
Jones	FR	Pte		Williams	WJ	Pte	wounded suvla
Jones	SL	Pte	wounded suvla	Wilson	W	Pte	wounded suvla
Kinsey	HD	Pte		Wood	GH	Pte	wounded suvla
Langford	W	Pte		Wood	W	Pte	wounded suvla
Liney	W	Pte	wounded suvla	Wood	WW	Pte	wounded suvla
				Woodward	R	Pte	wounded suvla

Pte WR (Reg) Griffiths, at Park Hall Camp Oswestry, recovering after being evacuated, wounded, from Suvla Bay, and before re-joining the Battalion in Egypt as part of the April reinforcement draft



Routine activities took place

**3rd/1st HEREFORDS.**

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**PREPARING FOR THE EASTER  
SPORTS.**

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**(From a Correspondent.)**

On Friday, the 7th inst., we had the privilege of a visit from Miss Rowlands, of Aberystwith, who brought with her a concert party from the Royal College of Music. The programme was very much appreciated by officers and men alike. The performance was quite the best we have heard here, Miss Rowlands being particularly successful, whether in a more serious item or ragtime. Mr. John E. Lester, the humourist, drew rounds of applause.

On Tuesday battalion sports were started to select men to represent the battalion in the Divisional sports on Easter Monday. The entries were not good, but we hope to do something better on the 24th. However, we have succeeded in beating the 3rd/3rd Monmouths in a tug-of-war, and have a promising team in training for the Divisional pull. On Saturday next a team of eight men is training for the Battalion in a cross-country run of about six miles, open to the whole Division.

On Wednesday Lieut-General Sir W. Pittcairn-Campbell visited the camp and inspected the battalion at work. We understand he expressed himself as satisfied with what he saw.

The spring weather and the Easter period lightened the mood of the camp and there was much emphasis on sports which were and key part of fitness training, team work and esprit de corps.

**EASTER FOOTBALL AT HEREFORD.**




Photo: Baxter, Hereford.

**3rd HEREFORDS v. R.A.M.C.**

3rd Herefords' Team.—Front row (reading from left to right): Sergt.-Major Jennings, Williams, Gwatin, Phillips, Teague, Morgan, and Corpl. Price. Back row: W. J. Parrott, S. Evans, Hodges, Price, Walters, Holland, L. Botwood, Hope, Sergt. James, and Corpl. Reed.

The tragic fire in the Kemble Theatre in Hereford which claimed the lives of seven young children was felt keenly in the Regiment.

**THE THEATRE TRAGEDY.**  
**Proposed Memorial.**



The above members of the 3rd Herefords have collected £8 15s. 6d. on behalf of the proposed memorial for the children who lost their lives in the local theatre disaster. The names are (reading from left to right): Sitting—Sergt. Major Jennings, Sergt. James; standing: Pte. W. J. Parrott, Corpl. Price, Corpl. Green, Corpl. Green and Pte. Parrott hold in their hands collecting boxes surmounted by the "Hereford Journal" photos of the little girls killed and injured.

**1st Herefords' Practical Sympathy.**

Sergt. Fred Neville, of the 1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment, has sent the following letter to Miss Oliver:—

1st/1st Herefordshire Regt.,  
 No. 6, East Camp,  
 Park Hall, Oswestry.

Dear Miss Oliver,—I was very glad to have your letter, as it gave us an idea of what we could do with any money that we could collect. I myself, with others, thought that some permanent memorial should be secured to those little mites who died trying to do "their bit," but with the limited sum that we could raise, we could hardly see a way for this to be done. Your letter has opened a way to us.

We of the First Line Herefords are sending a money order (enclosed) to the value of £3 5s. to be added to any other similar fund for purposes of a lasting memorial to our little friends.

All the subscribers on the appended list are men returned from active service in Gallipoli, and we should like this small sum, when it is handed in, to be handed in as such, distinct from other sums, as we feel that it was for us particularly that the tiny tots laid down their lives. We cannot do much, unfortunately, but the news of the disaster came as a very rude shock to all of us. The irony of it all seems so bitter to those who have seen service. To think that they should die for us instead of we for them. It is most bitter to think upon!

You will probably hear something from the 3rd Line proper, but they are distinct from us.

Wishing you the very best of success in this particular work, and thanking you for your past work on our behalf, I am, for the 1st Line, yours sincerely,

FRED NEVILLE, Sergeant.

These accounts illustrate that whilst the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn was at Oswestry training and the ex- members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn were there awaiting allocation to reinforcement drafts the 2 had little to do with each other from a training point.