

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – February 1916

The 'Bigger' Picture

The Home Front

- Military Service Act comes into operation in Great Britain.
- Lt Gen Sir HC Sclater, Adjutant-General, Home Forces, resigns and is replaced by Lt Gen Sir CFN Maccready.
- War Office take over anti-aircraft defence of London from the Admiralty, and become responsible for anti-aircraft defence generally throughout the UK.
- British Order in Council extends powers of Ship Licensing Committee to all voyages.
- Ministry of Blockade formed in Great Britain. Lord Robert Cecil appointed Minister of Blockade

Diplomatic

- Russian Premier, M Goremykin resigns.
- Entente Governments notify Greece of forthcoming transfer of Montenegrin Army to Corfu. Serbian Government set up at Corfu
- Entente Powers make declaration guaranteeing to Belgium eventual independence and indemnification.
- Agreement concluded between British Government and chieftains of the Bakhtiari (Persia) for co-operation in protection of Persian oilfields.
- Essad Pasha leaves Durazzo (Albania) and sets up Provisional Government in Naples.
- British Government request naval assistance from Japan.
- German Government send Note to United States Government stating that defensively armed merchantmen will be treated as belligerents from March 1st onwards.

The Western Front

- Battle of Verdun begins. Fort Douaumont stormed by German forces
- Lt Gen Sir GH Fowke appointed Adjutant-General, British Expeditionary Force in France vice Lt Gen Maccready.

Other Fronts

BALKAN FRONT

- Elbasan (Albania) taken by Bulgarian forces. Berat and Durazzo (Albania) occupied by Austrian forces.
- Remnant of Serbian Army concentrated at Corfu.
- Italian detachment reaches Corfu.

MESOPOTAMIAN FRONT

- Erzerum taken by the Russian forces.

- Mush (Armenia) taken by Russian forces.

EGYPT/WESTERN DESERT

- Senussi defeated by British forces in Action of Agagiya (Western Egypt).

MEDITERRANEAN FRONT

- Chios (Greece) occupied by British forces.

ITALIAN FRONT

- Fifth Battle of the Isonzo begins.

CAUCASUS FRONT

- Mush (Armenia) taken by Russian forces.

PERSIA

- Kirmanshah (Western Persia) occupied by Russian forces.

WEST AFRICA

- Last German post in Cameroons surrenders to British; German forces in South Cameroons cross border into Spanish territory and are interned.

EAST AFRICA

- Maj Gen Tighe succeeded by Lt Gen Smuts in command of British forces in East Africa.
- German gunboat Hedwig von Wissman sunk by HMS Mimi and Fifi (ex-German Gunboat Kingani). British command of Lake Tanganyika secured.

In the Air

- German airship L.-19 flounders in the North Sea.
- German airship L.Z.-77 brought down by French gunfire at Revigny.
- Nucleus of a British air squadron formed to bomb German industrial centres.

British Bombers of 1916:



Handley Page HP.12 (O/400)



Short Bomber - 1915



Airco D.H.3 - 1916

At Sea

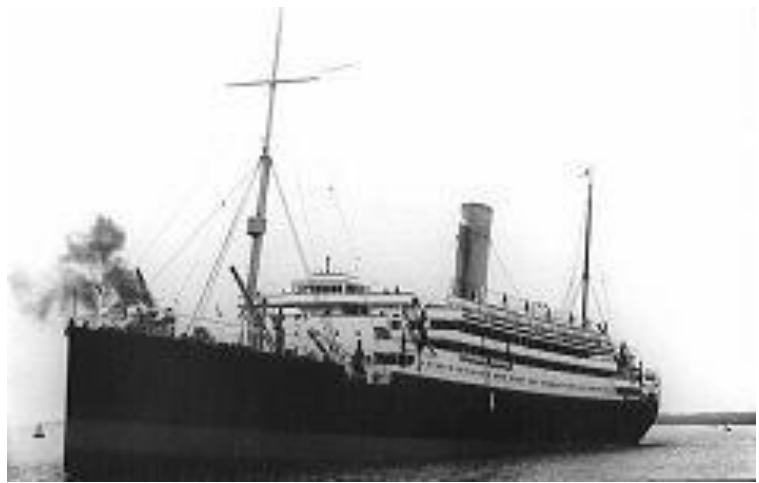
U BOAT WARFARE

- German Government send note to United States Government stating that it is not intended to postpone the extended submarine campaign.
- French cruiser Amiral Charner sunk by submarine off Syrian coast.

CRUISER WARFARE

- British SS Appam brought to Norfolk, Va., U.S.A., by German prize crew from raider Moewe.
- Action in North Sea between German raider Greif and British auxiliary cruiser Alcantara: both sunk.

HMS Alcantara in civilian
service



ROYAL NAVY

- HMS Arethusa struck a mine off Felixstowe, drifted onto a shoal while under tow, and broke her back.



HMS Arethusa in 1914



HMS Arethusa damaged and under tow Feb
1916

Merchant Shipping

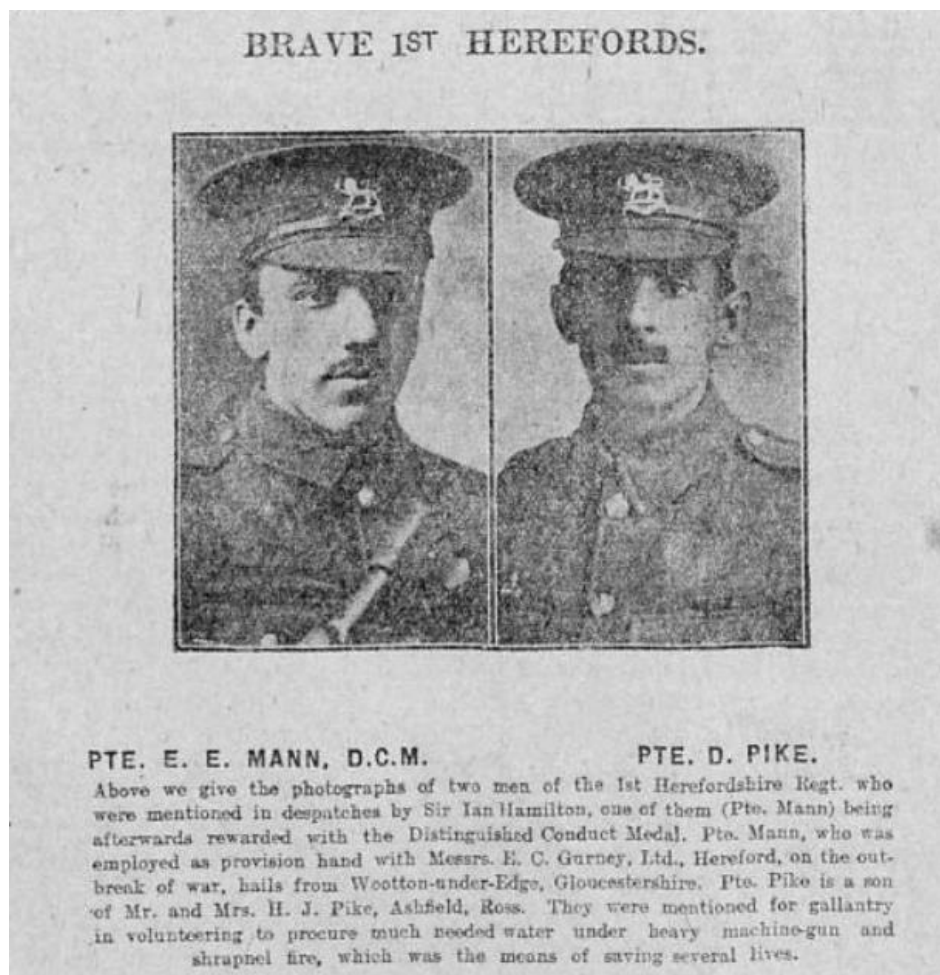
- British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month - 61 ships of 134,000 tons gross

The 'Herefords'

Honours & Awards

Local newspapers included several articles on the award of a MID to Ptes Mann and Pike.

Pte Mann was also awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (DCM) (published in the London Gazette) of March 1916 and the Serbian Medal of St George (3rd Class), published in the London Gazette February 1917.



FULL STORY OF THE EXPLOIT.

A more detailed story, from a reliable source, of how Ptes. Pike and Mann won commendation is as follows:—

HOW PTES. PIKE AND MANN WON HONOUR.

We understand from a reliable source that the occasion for which Ptes. Pike and Mann, of the 1st Herefords, were "mentioned in despatches" was as follows:—

After the Battalion had attacked the Turkish position, between Hetman Chair and Kaslar Chair, on August 9th, "A" Company were detached and joined the South Wales Borderers on Kajaik Agala Hill, in the Anzac zone, and occupied the captured trenches. They remained there for six days, cut off from the Battalion and also the base at Suvla.

Although several parties were sent to endeavour to bring water and rations from the beach they all failed to return, being either captured, killed, or wounded. Ptes. Pike and Mann then volunteered for the duty and made two journeys to the beach at Anzac and returned with water and biscuits. The following day they again volunteered to endeavour to reach Suvla Bay with reports, and were successful, and returned to the Company with more water; again the next day the same journey was likewise performed. All these journeys were made under heavy fire from both rifles and shells, and although continually potted by snipers both came through unscratched. The first water they succeeded in taking to the trench was the means of restoring several men who were in a far state of exhaustion, and could not have survived the night. Although the quantity was only about a pint between seven men it was the means of reviving them.

A PRIVATE'S TRIBUTE.

The Editor of the *Hereford Times* has received the following letter from a private of A Company, relative to the honour won by Pte. E. E. Mann and Pte. D. H. Pikes:—

"I was very interested in reading last week the account of the gallantry of Pte. D. H. Pikes and Pte. E. E. Mann. Being one of the men of A Company I know what we had to go through, and these two men well deserve the honour that has been bestowed upon them. Pte. Pike not only helped to find the battalion and fetch provisions, etc., but he stayed behind and dug a man in for the night who could not proceed any further. That was during the escape from Kajaik Hill, and he afterwards assisted him to Headquarters, being exposed to shrapnel fire all the time. Captain Lewis also deserves special mention for his love of the men in his charge. He did not spare himself in any way, and would not rest before he had obtained water for us. He was wounded while urging the men on at digging themselves in. After Pte. Pike brought the very much needed water, we made up two voluntary parties and got back with better results than the first one. In that attempt we lost all our water-bottles, and the men who had volunteered to go for rations brought us large petrol cans. We carried them when filled—one can between two on our rifles—our other equipment consisted of two hundred rounds of ammunition. It was very heavy work getting back up the gullies. The second attempt took us from 3.30 a.m. to 10.30, and the distance was only about two and a half miles. But that distance back seemed more like six, in our weak state. Each man of us will ever be thankful for having such a capable leader left with us to lead us out of that taste of hell. He was then Coy.-Sergt.-Major Chipp—now Lieut. Chipp. He showed his capability as a leader, and I for one will never forget him. We all got back without a casualty other than men dropping from sheer exhaustion. Each night we were in that trench the enemy spent about four to five thousand rounds of ammunition on us, keeping the machine guns busy all night. After our escape down the gully they trained their machine guns on us again, but we all escaped and rejoined the regiment to find a great number of officers and our Colonel wounded in the advance.

The writer concludes by hoping that Pte. Pike and Pte. Mann will be spared to come home to be honoured by their townspeople."

Hereford

The 'Depot' at Hereford continued in its function of recruiting and discharging soldiers and administering those hospitalised and on sick leave and acting as liaison with families.

The following deaths of soldiers occurred in February 1916. effects of the action at Suvla were still being felt.

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Forenames</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Place of Death</i>	<i>Hometown</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
BAKER	REGINALD CHARLES	PTE	3715	02/02/16		England	STAUNTON ON WYE	3 Bn

MANTELL	HARRY	PTE	1546	02/02/16	DOW	England	LEOMINSTER	1 Bn as a result of service at Gallipoli
DAVIES	AARON THOMAS	PTE	4346	29/02/16		England	RADNOR	2 Bn

1st HEREFORDS.

ANOTHER DEATH FROM FROSTBITE

OFFICERS PROMOTED.

Mr. and Mrs. Mantell, of Ashton, near Leominster, received the sad news on Friday that their son, Pte. H. Mantell, had died at a Hampshire hospital. He was severely frost-bitten in Gallipoli during the great storm at the end of November, and died after a very painful illness. He had previously suffered severely from dysentery in hospital in the Isle of Lemnos. The funeral took place on Tuesday, a most appropriate service being conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Buckle. There was a large attendance of farmers and villagers, and the mourners were the father and mother and their 13 children. Mr. and Mrs. Mantell have reared a family of 16 children, and Pte. Mantell is the only son they have lost. The sympathy of everyone in the neighbourhood goes out to them in their sad bereavement. Pte. Mantell was well liked, and was one of the first lads in the village to offer his services to his country when war broke out.

DIED WHILST ON LEAVE.

The death of Pte. Reginald Charles Baker, 3/1 Herefordshire Regiment, took place at Staunton-on-Wye on Wednesday whilst on leave. Whilst at Hereford on his way home from Oswestry he complained of being ill, and soon after his arrival at Staunton he had to take to his bed. He was 22 years of age and joined the Herefordshire Regiment last May, being then employed at New Radnor. His father is in America and he made his home at Staunton. Mr. T. Everall, 6, Green Street, Hereford, is his uncle.

Many accounts appeared in the local papers provided by wounded soldiers returning to UK and perhaps some recuperation leave in Herefordshire. Letters and accounts continued to arrive from those still abroad.

There was uncertainty and confusion over many and families often lived in hope that 'their' soldier would be found.

The account of Pte Dutton was not unusual; Pte Dutton is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as having been killed on 9 August 1915.

MISSING HEREFORD SOLDIER.



PTE. FRANK DUTTON, 1st HEREFORDS.
Pte. Dutton, son of Mr. Alfred Dutton, Bouverie House, Victoria Street, who has been missing on the Gallipoli Peninsula since early in August. He went out with a party of volunteers to search for water, and in spite of the fact that inquiries had been made in many quarters nothing has been heard of him since.

Recruit numbers increased as a result of the Derby Scheme, but many of these recruits were soon found unfit or unsuitable for military service and discharged. The Derby Scheme 'call up' paper for Pte Tarbath (from Ledbury) is shown below. Pte Tarbath was to be killed in November 1916 at Redan Ridge, on The Somme whilst serving with the 11 Border Regt.

NOTICE PAPER to be sent to each man who has been attested and transferred to the Army Reserve under the provisions of the Royal Warrant of the 20th October, 1915.

[This Notice Paper should be despatched so that it will reach the addressee at least 14 clear days before he is required to present himself at the appointed place.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 24 (2) of the Reserve Forces Act, 1882, "evidence of the delivery at the last registered place of abode of a man belonging to the Army Reserve of a notice, or of a letter addressed to such man, and containing a notice, shall be evidence that such notice was brought to the knowledge of such man."]

Surname Jarball Number as shown on the Card, Army Form W. 3194 5
 Christian Name Francis George
 Address Seven Stars Group Number 13
Ledbury
Herefordshire

You are hereby warned that you will be required to rejoin for service with the Colours on the 1st March 1916.

You should therefore present yourself at Drill Hall Ledbury on the above date, not later than 9 am o'clock, bringing this paper with you.

*This will be struck out if the man resides within 5 miles of the place at which he is required to present himself.

~~A Railway Warrant is enclosed herewith.*~~

J. Ramsbottom Signature.
12th February 1916 Date. Captain Rank.
Ledbury Place. Recruiting Officer Appointment.

The case of 3159 Pte Ernest Prosser is typical of those administered by the Depot. He has enlisted in January 1915, apparently in his father's name giving a false date of birth. His mother had applied for his discharge, on the grounds of being 'under age'. It would appear from his service record that he was not well suited to military life and the acceptance of regulations and discipline!

Foreign Service
Army Form E. 504.

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

ATTESTATION OF
3159 Name Ernest Prosser Corps 1st London Brigade

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your Name and Address? Ernest Prosser
14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000
2. Are you willing to be attested for service in the Territorial Force for the term of 4 years (provided His Majesty should so require you) for the County of Northampton in the F. Yes
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, name of the charge No

Under the provisions of Sections 13 and 16 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, Ernest Prosser 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.

Ernest Prosser SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Walter J. Prosser Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Ernest Prosser 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, Henry Mattar 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 Northampton on this 14 day of Jan 1915 Ernest Prosser (Signature of Justice of the Peace, Officer, or other person authorized to attest Recruits.)

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 16 of the Army Act. The Recruit should, if he require it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form E 504. Here insert Colony.

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

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 3159 Name Ernest Prosser 1
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 reckoned from				
	<u>1st London Bde</u>	<u>enlisted in British Army</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>19-1-15</u>		<u>Mattar</u>
		<u>discharged 14 days pay</u>				
		<u>re-enlisted in British Army</u>		<u>26-11-15</u>		
		<u>discharged 14 days pay</u>				
	<u>1st London Bde</u>	<u>re-enlisted in British Army</u>		<u>9-12-15</u>		
		<u>discharged</u>		<u>14-2-16</u>		<u>W. J. Prosser</u>

Total service towards engagement in the Territorial Force to 14-2-1916 (date of discharge) 1 year 2 days

CHARACTER Good

Discharged in consequence of being under 18 years of age at date of application for discharge under 342, 6, 5, Army Act 1914

The discharge of the above-named man is hereby approved.

Station Northampton Signature Ernest Prosser

Date 14-2-1916

No. 3159 Name Ernest Prosser Sqn., Batty., or Company D Corps 1st London Bde Date of enlistment 19/1/15 G.C. (Badges)

Date of last entry in Company Conduct Sheet } No. and date of last drunk } Period not reckoning towards freedom from extra line } Sheet No. } Signature O.C. } Company, etc. } W. J. Prosser Character Good

Place	Date of offence	Rank	Case of drunkenness	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment awarded	Date of award or of order dispensed with trial	By whom awarded	Remarks
<u>Northampton</u>	<u>12/5/15</u>	<u>Pte.</u>		<u>Talking & fooling on parade</u>		<u>2 days C.B.</u>		<u>Capt Robinson</u>	<u>SR</u>
<u>do</u>	<u>14/5/15</u>			<u>about ground parade</u>		<u>" "</u>		<u>Capt Robinson</u>	<u>SR</u>
<u>do</u>	<u>20/5/15</u>			<u>Talking & fooling when marching</u>		<u>" "</u>		<u>Capt Kinches</u>	<u>SR</u>
<u>do</u>	<u>4/6/15</u>			<u>at attention</u>					
<u>do</u>	<u>4/6/15</u>			<u>boisterous & insolent on parade</u>	<u>Cpl G. Lewis</u>	<u>" "</u>		<u>Cpl Woodroffe</u>	<u>SR</u>
<u>do</u>	<u>4/6/15</u>			<u>and refusing to obey an order</u>	<u>Cpl Woodroffe</u>			<u>Cpl Woodroffe</u>	<u>SR</u>
<u>do</u>	<u>20/6/15</u>			<u>gambling with comrades</u>	<u>Pte Craddock</u>	<u>7 days C.B.</u>		<u>Cpl Woodroffe</u>	<u>SR</u>
<u>do</u>	<u>14/6/15</u>			<u>Refusing to obey an order</u>	<u>Cpl Woodroffe</u>	<u>10 days C.B.</u>		<u>Cpl Woodroffe</u>	<u>SR</u>
<u>Radford</u>	<u>14/6/15</u>			<u>Disorderly conduct in Mess Tent</u>	<u>Cpl Woodroffe</u>	<u>3 days C.B.</u>		<u>Capt Kinches</u>	<u>SR</u>
<u>"</u>	<u>9-10-15</u>			<u>1) Absent from Mess & gym Parades</u>	<u>Cpl Woodroffe</u>	<u>" "</u>		<u>Capt Kinches</u>	<u>SR</u>
<u>"</u>	<u>"</u>			<u>2) Refusing to obey an order</u>	<u>Cpl Woodroffe</u>	<u>" "</u>		<u>Capt Kinches</u>	<u>SR</u>
<u>"</u>	<u>"</u>			<u>3) Irregular conduct when confined to guard room</u>	<u>Cpl Woodroffe</u>	<u>" "</u>		<u>Capt Kinches</u>	<u>SR</u>
<u>"</u>	<u>22-11-15</u>			<u>Improper conduct on parade</u>	<u>Cpl Woodroffe</u>	<u>2 days C.B.</u>	<u>22-11-15</u>	<u>Capt Kinches</u>	<u>SR</u>

Place	Date of offence	Rank	Case of drunkenness	Offence	Names of Witnesses	Punishment awarded	Date of award or of order expiring with trial	By whom awarded	Remarks
Radford.	22-11-15	Pvt	Nil	Disorderly Conduct in Mess Hut	Corpl Smith	2 Extra Drills	23-11-15	Serjt. McMillan	Adt
"	23-11-15	"	-	Absent from Dressing Parade. 2-30 pm	Serjt. Vale	Detention of 14 days	25-11-15	Serjt. Wood	Adt
Norwich	4.1.16	"	-	Impure Col. in Parade	C.S.M. Hopkins	5 days C.B.	5.1.16.	C.S.M. Wood	Adt

AB/73W

HEADQUARTERS
48th Provisional Battalion
162, Sprowston Road,
Norwich.
26th January, 1916.

To : Mrs. O'Shea
Ham Brook,
LEDBURY.

Madam,

With reference to your letter attached,
please return same informing me the name your son has
enlisted under.

Yours faithfully,
R. P. Hadley
Captain & adjutant.
48th Provisional Battalion.

Sir My Son Listed in The Name of
Ernest Prosser Pay No 3159
That is is Father's Name
Yours H. O'Shea

AB/73W

DISCHARGE - APPLICATION FOR
E. PROSSER.

HEADQUARTERS
48th Provisional Battalion
162, Sprowston Road,
Norwich.

From : Officer Commanding,
48th Provisional Battalion

To : Officer i/c T.F. Records,
Kenneth Chambers,
DOSPOLS, SHERWSBURY.

31st January, 1916.

Application has been made to me
by the mother of 3159, Pte. E. Prosser of this
Battalion late 1st Herefordshire Regiment, for her son
to be discharged, being under 17 years of age. Will
you kindly forward to me this boy's attestation paper
so that I can carry out same under para (1) a of
War Office letter 9/Gen.No./5388, D.A.G.2a dated
6th September, 1915. Copy of Birth Certificate,
enclosed herewith.

R. Wood Lieut. Colonel.
Commanding 48th Provisional Battalion.

To O.C. 48th Provisional Battalion
Norwich.

Attestation herewith
Kindly acknowledge receipt on R.F.
B.198, and return to this Office.

E. J. Stoughton
Capt. for Lt. Col.
Officer i/c T.F. Records
DOSPOLS, SHERWSBURY.
14.1.16.

Local newspapers continued to publish patriotic local articles to aid recruiting:

HEREFORD FAMILY'S PATRIOTISM.



THREE SONS AND SON-IN-LAW.

The above are portraits of three sons of Mr. and Mrs. S. Yapp, 78, Cotterell Street, and their son-in-law.
Reading left to right:—(1) Corpl. H. S. Yapp (29971), R.F.A., in France 15 months; (2) Pte. C. Yapp (1332), 2nd Herefords; (3) Pte. R. Yapp (2171), C Company, 1st Herefords, in hospital at Cairo; (4) Staff-Sgt. R. H. Baker (889), Army Ordnance Corps, on active service in France.

FIVE LEDBURY BROTHERS SERVING THEIR KING AND COUNTRY.

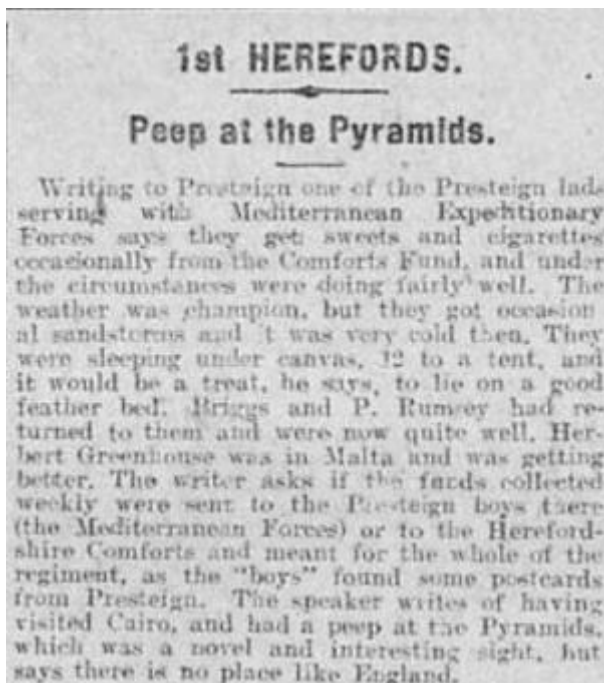


Mr. William Mansell, estate carpenter to Lord Biddulph of Ledbury, and his five sons who are serving their King and country. All the brothers have joined H.M. Forces since the war broke out. There is one more brother, who is in the Telegraph Department at Ledbury, and is too young to join. Mr. Mansell left the Army 25 years ago, since which time he has been with Lord Biddulph. As an old soldier he is naturally proud of the fact that his five sons are serving their King and country. The letter from the King acknowledging the family's patriotism was published in last week's *Hereford Times*.

(1) Mr. William Mansell, the father (formerly of the 61st Regt., now the 2nd Gloucesters), when occupying the position of warden at the Military Prison, Poona, India, in 1889. (2) Lance-Corpl. James H. Mansell, A.S.C., aged 24; in France. (3) Pte. William John Mansell, 48th Provisional Battalion, Norwich, aged 26. (4) Pte. Stanley H. Mansell, 1st Hereford Regiment, aged 17; at Oswestry. (5) Rifleman Reginald G. Mansell, King's Royal Rifles, aged 22 years; in France. (6) Pte. Albert T. Mansell, 1st Hereford Regiment, aged 29 years; at Shrewsbury.

1st Battalion

The Battalion remained in Wardan, on semi-light duties generally recuperating and waiting for reinforcements from soldiers becoming fit in Egypt and being sent out from England. Things were not too demanding as indicated by a letter published in the Hereford Times.



The Battalion War Diary:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	
Feb	Wardan	Individual training and musketry
3,4 Feb		Lts Carver, Evelyn, Willmot and Wright and 27 men rejoined from hospital.
10 Feb		Lts Edrington, 9 Glosters, Herd, Higgs and Lyddig 12 Worcesters joined.
12 Feb		29 men rejoined from hospital.
20 Feb		Temp Capt Trumper to hospital. Sandstorm.
21-25 Feb		Capt Holman rejoined HQ from hospital.
26 Feb		Sir John Maxwell, GOC Force in Egypt inspected Battalion.

27 Feb		Sandstorm.
29 Feb		2Lt M C Bennett and 24 men rejoined from hospital.
<p>Notes</p> <p>Honours Sir Ian Hamilton's despatch of November 1915, published in Feb .</p> <p>Some of the units which took part in this engagement acquitted themselves very bravely. The Divisional Commander speaks with appreciation of one freshly landed battalion of the 53rd Division. A Hereford Battalion, presumably the 1/1st Herefordshire which attacked with impetuosity and courage between Hetman Chair and Kaslar Chair about Asmak Dere on the extreme right of the line.</p> <p>London Gazette Feb DCM – 1887 LCpl E Mann awarded the Distinguished Conduct medal. MID – Pte D H Pike received mention in Sir Ian Hamilton's despatches.</p> <p>Promotions Capt A L B Green to be temp Major A G R Whitehouse to be Temp Captain. Rushton Temp Captain.</p>		

2Lt Parker

6th February

During the time I have been away Gery, my sister, has married Cyril in the Herefords and Kathleen has married a man she met in the Argentine, Charles Evans, who is in the A.S.C.

Went down to the docks in the Motor ambulance but found the hospital ship was not in so I got a gharri and whet up to town with Padre and Wedgewood (strictly against orders). We went to Groppi and ate cakes etc, We returned to the docks to find all the other fellows had returned to the hospital and when they returned to the docks again they said the authorities had kicked up a bit of a stink about our not going back as well. However the boat came in H.M.S. Neuralia and we boarded her at three pm. She is a nice boat a British Indiaman of 14000 tons. I had a cup of tea and a bun at a canteen on the dockside before boarding her. I found Llewellyn was also home on this boat. He has been in the 19th General Hospital all this time. He said his heart is dicky – if there ever was a wanger "tis L" I was put on a ward on the ship. It has drizzled most of the day which is unusual.

7th February

We set sail early this morning. Feeling rather rotten just as if I were getting Flu but I asked the sister who is a topper and has just been torpedoed about it and she said it was the fever and I should get attacks possibly now and again.

I wasn't too energetic today, not feeling too fit and I lay on my bunk a considerable part of the day. Spent a good deal of time with Llewelyn. There is one English lady on board – an officer's wife – she had something or other.

We had a very decent voyage & I wasn't sea sick at all. They say after typhoid you get a new lining to your tummy & you have a most awful appetite. Mine certainly was & the food on this ship was good. About the 9th we sighted land, which was the toe of Italy & coast of Sicily. We were soon going through the straits of Messina, which was a fine sight. I was always fond of seeing new things especially if they contain fine scenery. We saw the town of Messina on the left with Mt Etna away back to the left. It also was a fine sight with its snow-capped crest and smoke. Scylla was on our right. We were practically in sight of land all day to the starboard and passed the volcanic Island of Stromboli on our left. It was the finest of all, like a hill going straight out of the sea with a little village at its foot. I should think it must be a pretty hot spot when it erupts. We finally got into Naples harbour, which was a fine sight, but not what I expected. They say "See Naples and die" I would certainly have rather missed it and lived. We went alongside the Aquitania and later transferred to her. She is some ship about 50,000 tons They say you only want to see them making macaroni in Italy to put you off it for life

Some native hawkers came round in a boat. A police boat then arrived and pursued them round and round the ship, while we all cheered. Finally the police boat won and captured one of the two "villains". The other one then proceeded to get under the seat of his own boat and was rowed off at a great pace, while the police were busy with their one prisoner. Then ensued a second chase. The police boat was just winning, when an outside boat which had not previously taken part in the proceedings came up from the rear and the one prisoner in the police boat transferred himself into this third boat and was rowed away in the opposite direction. It was one of the most edifying sights I have ever seen & I howled myself with laughter until I nearly made myself ill. The police finally gave up the chase amid cheers from the Aquitania. Some of these delightful police came on board later and I met one. He looked so fiercely at me, that I thought I was going to be arrested. He had a Napoleonic hat on and a cloak, which kept throwing over his shoulder and he would then strike an attitude. We stayed in Naples somewhat over a day (24 hours]

I had a magnificent suite of rooms, which I shared with a fellow named Peareth. I believe it costs £70 to £100 a day in peace-time for this suite from Liverpool to New York. I had a private bathroom etc. and we had nothing as common as bunks I had a proper bedstead. There are about 17 decks on this ship We were rather empty, but in spite of all the room available the staff, which was enormous seemed to occupy about three quarters of the ship. No doctor visited us at all and the Sister WELL! This place is more like living in an hotel. The dining room is more like a restaurant, than any ship I have been on. Little tables for four and you could book them. I was again fortunate in not being sea sick. We passed just south of Sardinia and fairly close to the Balearics and went through Gibraltar and the Bay of Biscay.

16th February

Arrived off the Isle of Wight early this morning & about 9 moved up Spithead just inside the forts. A beastly day, typical of Channel weather, foggy and raining, but we were glad to see the nice green fields again. Played a game of Bridge with Padre, Wedgwood and Peareth. We played for cigarettes. Went to a big concert on board at night

17th February

Everybody rather restless to get into dock, but we could not do so owing to it being occupied by Olympic" loading up with troops (I found out afterwards that Cyril my brother in law was among them) The Mauritania also lying just outside. The Britannic is in the other berth, so our four largest ships are

in port together .Weather still bad. I feel it is a great feather in my cap -not being sea-sick during the whole voyage.

18th February

Finer this morning. Strolled around the decks and had a game of deck bowls. We got a move on and went up Southampton water and into dock at Southampton alongside the Britannic. Got orders that we are going ashore, so I packed up. Got my papers and found they were filled in wrong, so went to see the ship's adjutant, who said it would be alright, as there was a confidential letter about me I which would be sent on to the hospital I was going to. I sent a wire off home saying I had arrived. Heard I was to go to Oxford, Capt. Pearson the only man from No. 17 to come to Oxford with me, at which place I arrived at 11 P.M. that night. It was most uncomfortable in the hospital train. The bunk, which let down at night was up and caught you just in the middle of the back, so you had to lean forward the whole of the time. However England is England and that is all that really matters. When we got to Oxford a topping old porter carried all my stuff for me & we drove up in an old omnibus to Somerville Ladies 'college, which has turned into an Officer hospital.

I was in hospital at 3rd Southern General for just 15 days. I only went there to get tested to see if I was a carrier. If I was one I would go to a home in Kent. It would be "finish" to active service. However after a number of tests I was found free.

I shared a bedroom with a Capt. Brett of the 1st Ox & Bucks and a nice old Doctor named Robinson, with whom I used to explore the Oxford colleges. He was a Cambridge man, but knew the place pretty well. They treated us pretty well at this place and, so long as people behaved themselves we were allowed out until 11P.M. I went to the theatre once or twice.

My sister, Gery came down after I had been there a week and got rooms in the Woodstock Rd. which was the same as me. We explored all the old bookshops (for Oxford is the finest place you could find for old bookshops) & the Bodlian Library as well as the colleges. Somebody dropped an awful "brick" over Brett. They were talking about Dave's (the actress people) and saying what awful people they were in front of Brett. Afterwards I found Brett's cigarette case & it had got "With kind regards from Seymour Hicks" so I put two and two together & came to the conclusion he was related to the Brett, who married Zena Dave. I found this was right afterwards. Nice fellow, Brett. He told me, funnily enough, that he was down to be Adj. of the Herefords some time before the war, but didn't accept it and Prince of the K.S.L.I. got it instead.

Maj Green

1 Feb	158 Bde beat 160 Bde, 4 – 1 at football. No 20 letter arrived.
2 Feb	Commenced drill class for budding NCOs.
3 Feb	No 21 letter arrived. Carver, Wimott, Evelyn and Wright rejoined from Alexandria this evening.
4 Feb	Interviewed Sabb about mess; promised better things.
5 Feb	Went to Cairo for day with Ashton. Bought many things for mess and Regiment. Saw Holman at Sports Club. Rather a rushing day. Rained hard on return and into night. Sabb paid up to dinner.

6 Feb	Bright morning after rain. Went for a topping ride with Ashton. Crossed the canal in ferry and rode through Wardan; most interesting; must go again and take camera.
7 Feb	Nothing much doing. CO went to Cairo and brought back my watch which still won't go. Fine hot day, visited our piquet.
8 Feb	Played goal for officers v men, twisted knee. Brigade Field Officer, letter from Francis. Started Davies as batman.
9 Feb	Dust storm, beastly. Concert in 6 RWF mess hut.
10 Feb	Field firing in morning. Young G Hamp-Adams turned up. He is Lieutenant in Australian Force 12 Aust Inf. The following officers turned up and are attached to Regiment: 2Lt DGV Outram 9 Glos, 2Lts GH Higgs, SL HEARD, WAM Leidig 12 Worcs.
12 Feb	Officers drew at football with officers of 1/7 RWF. Draft of 29 NCOs and men from Sidi Buhr. Letter from Do.
13 Feb	Blazing hot day.
14 Feb	160 Bde started preparing to move out this morning. Rumours rife. Mail in letter from Do Jan 30, Mater Jan 31, Hereford Times Jan 29. Sent wrist watch home to be mended and wrote to the Mater. Saw Jack Butcher at the station looking very well.
15 Feb	160 Bde got away this morning. Said to have gone to Fayum. Our officers team drew with 1/7 RWF again today.
16 Feb	Merry dropped in on his way to Cairo from Wadeh El Natrun.
17 Feb	Battalion musketry course began.
18 Feb	Nothing doing. Battalion drew with 1/7 in cup tie. Appointed prisoners friend to 3 Australians – awful bore.
19 Feb	Court Martial assembled at 10am, self as prisoner's friend, only one case disposed of. Court adjourned to Monday. Lewis bought me a bed at Bryan Davies 115 pt; lent it to Reeve.
20 Feb	Went to Cairo with Ashton, breakfast at Continental, lunched at Shepheards; not so nice as the Continental and more expensive. Walked round Bazaar and bought some blue cotton cloth for Do. Canvas of bed burst. Men going to Wardan got mobbed. Got our EP tent.
21 Feb	Finished off Court Martial. Meeting at Bde HQ re sports for St David's Day (Mar 1). Paid Sabb up to Feb 19 inclusive.
23 Feb	Paid Turner 50 pt. Had 2 letters from Do and one from Wymond Lloyd telling me I was gazetted major.

24 Feb	Battalion drew with 1/7 RWF for the third time. Dined with Caddick. Holman returned.
25 Feb	Another letter from Do, also Hereford Time for 5 and 12 Feb. General Maxwell coming 7.30am tomorrow to inspect us.
26 Feb	Inspection by General Maxwell; not thrilling, finished by 9am. Very hot and bright CO went to Cairo.
27 Feb	Beastly day with sandstorm. Church Parade cut very short in consequence. CO returned in evening.
28 Feb	Nothing much doing. Had to shift mess tents to make room for new hut going up.
29 Feb	Hot day. Started a beastly cold in the head. Worked off heats for sports tomorrow. Bennet rejoined.

Casualties: NIL

2nd Battalion

The 2nd Bn continued on routine duties as part of Britain's Home Defence forces; they were fully operational as part of 205 Bde, 68 Div.

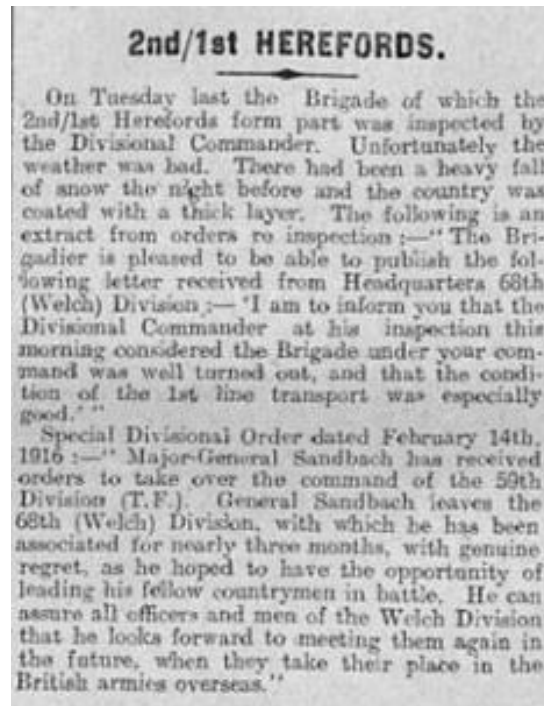
From the War Diary:

1-29 Feb	Bedford	NIL
		Signed by: W B Wood Roe Lt Col Commanding 2/1 st Herefordshire Regiment

Activities to occupy the soldiers, enhance esprit de corps and maintain morale were a constant feature and took many forms; sports competition being key amongst them; a good 12 – 1 win against the Monmouthshire Regiment would have considerably raised morale!



Military activities also took place and the Battalion was inspected by the Divisional Commander:



3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion remained in Park Hall Camp Oswestry. The battalion comprised fit and trained men and soldiers who has been evacuated from Gallipoli and after treatment in UK were returned to full strength and duties. The letters below regarding Lieutenant RJ Boulton reflect this.

He was wounded at Suvla Bay, evacuated to England received treatment but was discharged as a result of his injuries in Spring 1916' His condition improved somewhat and his Commission was reinstated.



1st (Reserve) Battalion, The Herefordshire Regiment.

Park Hall Camp,
OSWESTRY.

13th September 1916.

Headquarters,
"A" Group,
Welsh Division,
Park Hall.

Reference your letter No. 8920 dated 6.9.16.

Particulars of Service of Richard John Boulton since leaving Gallipoli in November 1915:-

Invalided from Suvla Bay to Malta on November 2, 1915. Disembarked Malta November 10 and was admitted to Blue Sisters Hospital.

Boarded in November and recommended for transfer to England for operation on knee. Arrived in England December 20.

Boarded December 22 at Osborne and given one month's sick leave for dysentery.

Boarded January 25, 1916, at Shrewsbury and given three weeks extension of sick leave.

Boarded February 14 at Shrewsbury and ordered to proceed to Oswestry for Light Duty in order to see if knee would get stronger as it was much better than when R.J. Boulton was weak with dysentery.

Boarded March 14 at Park Hall, Oswestry, and recommended for Hospital at once.

Boarded April 14 at Park Hall, Oswestry.

Admitted to End Western General Hospital, Manchester, May 2nd, and was operated on, May 6th.

Boarded June 5 at Manchester and given one month's sick leave.

Boarded July 7 at Shrewsbury and given one Month's extended sick leave.

Boarded August 7 at Shrewsbury and given a further months extension of sick leave.

September 7. Relinquished Commission on account of ill health.

On August 27 R.J. Boulton applied for Medical Board but received no reply and relinquished his Commission the day the Board was due.

.....Lieut-Colonel.

Commanding 1st (Res.) Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment,

CONFIDENTIAL

From 9/Hereford Reg/1065.

9/Herefordshire Regt/1045 (M.S.4.T)

12 NOV 1920

Sir,

With reference to your letter No 1280 Appts dated 23rd October 1920, I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that there is nothing of an adverse nature recorded against Lieutenant J.R. Boulton, Herefordshire Regiment, T.P., and in this connection, the following particulars of his service are forwarded for your information:-

Appointed 2nd Lieutenant	9- 11- 1914,
Promoted Lieutenant	1- 6- 1916,
Promoted T/Captain from	1- 3- 1916,
to	7- 9- 1916,
Relinquished ill-health	7- 9- 1916,
Rejoined Batt as T/Capt.	8- 11- 1916,
Relinquished Temp Capt.,	4- 7- 1917,
Promoted actg Captain from	10- 10- 1917,
to	28- 3- 1919,
Disembodied	28- 3- 1919,

Keen and zealous Officer, a good Company Commander, tactful and intelligent.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

W.
The Assistant Private Secretary,
(Appointments)
Colonial Office, S.W.1.

H. G. Creedy
Lieutenant-General,
Military Secretary.

Some general views of Park Hal Camp, Oswestry. The site is now occupied by the Show Ground and The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic



