

## THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

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

#### The 'Bigger' Picture

##### The Home Front

- Ship losses are at the highest since the war began; the impact continues to be felt.

##### Diplomatic

- Greek Cabinet resign, Venizelos arrives at Salonika, Professor Lambros forms new Ministry.
- Entente Governments send ultimatum to Greek Government demanding surrender of the Greek fleet; Greek Government accept Entente demands.
- Anglo-French Conference held at Calais to discuss Greek participation in the war.
- Count Sturgkh, Austrian Premier, murdered.
- Lt Gen von Stein succeeds Lt Gen Wild von Hohenborn as German Minister for War.
- Dr von Korber appointed Austrian Premier.
- Sherif of Mecca proclaimed 'King of the Arabs'.

##### The Western Front

###### *Battles on the Somme continue:*

- Battle of Transloy Ridges
- Battle of Ancre Heights

###### Battle of Verdun continues

- First French Offensive. Fort Douaumont recaptured.

##### Other Fronts

#### EASTERN FRONT

##### RUMANIA

- Transylvanian frontier of Rumania crossed by German forces
- Battle of Brasov - Transylvania

##### BALKAN FRONT

- Battle of Cerna and Monastir begins

- Constanza (Dobrudja) captured by German and Bulgarian forces
- Cernavoda (Dobrudja) captured by Bulgarian forces

#### ITALIAN FRONT

- Eighth and Ninth Battle of the Isonzo

#### EGYPT/WESTERN DESERT

- Affairs in the Dakhla Oasis (West Egypt)

#### At Sea

- British hospital ship Galeka totally wrecked by mine off Havre.
- First German destroyer raid in Dover Straits

#### U Boat Warfare

- German submarine U53 (below) captures and destroys five ships outside Newport, Rhode Island, USA.



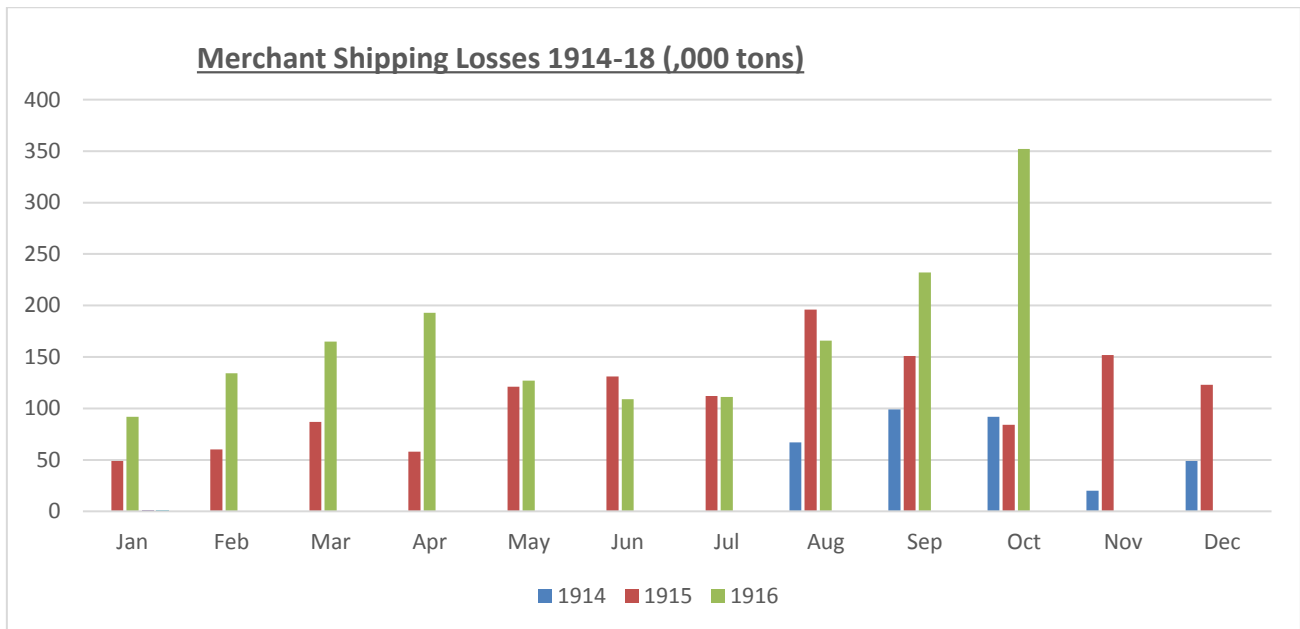
- Norwegian Government issue orders prohibiting belligerent submarines from using Norwegian territorial waters

**BLACK SEA**

- Russian battleship Imperatritsa Mariya destroyed by internal explosion at Sevastopol.

**MERCHANT SHIPPING**

British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month - 201 ships of 352,000 tons gross.



**In The Air**

- German airship L31 destroyed by aeroplane at Potter's Bar, near London

**The 'Herefords'**

**Casualties**

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO	Bn	Coy	DATE	HOW	WHERE	HOMETOWN	Notes (Serving with)
Pritchard	James	Pte	4631	Res		9/10/1916	Died	UK	Leominster	Aged 24 Buried Oswestry

## Tragic Death of a Leominster Soldier

### MEN OF LAST DRAFT IN FRANCE.

Quite a sensation was caused in the Reserve Herefords camp on Monday by the tragic death of Pte. J. Pritchard (Leominster), who was found in bed at reveille with his throat cut. For some time now his health had not been good, but he always tried to look on the bright side of things. He was discovered in a state of unconsciousness by his comrades, and although Major McMullan was soon on the scene Pritchard was dead before his arrival. He was very popular with the men of his company, and his death cast quite a cloud over the whole camp.

At the inquest, when the circumstances of the death were investigated, a verdict of "Suicide whilst temporarily insane" was returned. The funeral took place at Oswestry on Thursday, the band of the Regiment and a firing party being present.

#### The London Gazette

Honours & Awards      NIL

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Effective Date	Remarks
28/10/1916	Bellamy	H	to be lieutenant	12/10/16	
03/10/1916	Carden	JHM	to be lieutenant	04/10/16	
28/10/1916	Jackson-Taylor	PS	to be lieutenant	03/03/16	
10/10/1916	Kenion	TD	to be captain	20/09/16	
05/10/1916	Lewis	Arthur M	To be second lieutenant		
10/10/1916	Morant	Rowland H	to be captain and adjutant		Volunteer Regt
07/10/1916	Phillips	LB	seconded to RE	12/08/16	
10/10/1916	Phillips	LB	to be lieutenant with RE	12/08/16	
10/10/1916	Phillips	SRE	to be captain	20/09/16	
11/10/1916	Ragg	TM	relinquishes commission	12/10/16	ill health
13/10/1916	Sale	RC	to be captain and company comd	21/08/16	
03/10/1916	Smith	MV	to be major	04/10/16	
28/10/1916	White	SEC	to be lieutenant	12/10/16	
23/10/1916	Whitehouse	AGR	seconded for special duty	15/08/16	
26/10/1916	Whitehouse	AGR	relinquishes rank of captain	15/08/16	
23/10/1916	Whitehouse	Augustin GR	seconded for special duty	15/08/16	

The "London Gazette" on Wednesday night announced the following: "Herefordshire Regt.: Lt. T. M. Ragg relinquishes his commission on account of ill-health (12th October, 1916)." This young officer is a son of the Rev. Preb. Murray-Ragg, formerly headmaster of Hereford Cathedral School and now vicar of Tenbury. He joined soon after the outbreak of war and received his commission early the following December. Another officer of the same regiment, Captain T. Ragg, is a nephew of Preb. Murray Ragg.

HEREFORD

Depot functions continue.

Some of those recorded enlistments were:

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO1	No2	Remarks
EDWARDS	JOHN	PTE		237161	
FOSTER	ALBERT	PTE	5605	237162	
HOFF	RONALD Wm	PTE	5595		Leominster
SHOAT	GEORGE ARTHUR	PTE		238484	
HOPWOOD	GEORGE	PTE		237210	
HOLT	HARRY	PTE		206919	
BAXENDALE	P	PTE		237234	
CLARKSON	JAMES	PTE		237232	
GENT	WILLIAM	PTE		237231	
VOCE	ARTHUR	PTE		237244	
CHILWELL	NP	PTE		238295	
COOK	EDWARD	PTE	3997	236549	
COOK	JAMES	PTE		237260	
GENT	THOMAS	PTE	5724		
DOWLING	JOHN FRANCIS	PTE		237581	

1806/OSWESTRY

Record of Service



49/42

Army Form B. 2518.

Herefordshire J. F. & Hereford

ENROLMENT PAPER

For men deemed to be enlisted in H.M. Regular Forces for General Service with the Colours or in the Reserve for the period of the War, under the provisions of the Military Service Act, 1916.

No. 5605. Name Albert Foster Corps HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

Questions to be put to the Reservist on Enrolment

- 1. What is your Name? ... 1. Albert Foster
- 2. What is your full Address? ... 2. 13 Yardmaler Whitchurch Ct. (Salop)
- 3. Are you a British Subject? ... 3. yes
- 4. What is your Age? ... 4. 36 Years 10 Months
- 5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... 5. Stone Mason
- 6. Are you Married? ... 6. Widowed
- 7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military? If so, which? ... 7. 2nd Y. B. (P.W.C.) W.V. Regt.
- 8. Have you any preference for any particular branch of the service, if so, which? ... 8. R.F.
- 9. Are you desirous of serving in the Royal Navy, if so, state your qualifications ... 9. No

I, Albert Foster do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true.

12

Albert Foster SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
W Lloyd Signature of Witness.

EXEMPTION FROM COMBATANT SERVICE ON CONSCIENTIOUS GROUNDS.

If the Recruit has been exempted by a Tribunal on conscientious grounds from serving as a combatant it should be so stated here

MEDICAL CLASSIFICATION AS TO FITNESS FOR SERVICE ON ENROLMENT.

Classification\* Passed, Class A, Army Reg. Med. B, Shrewsbury.

\*To be filled in by the Recruiting Officer after Classification by the Medical Board.

I approve the enrolment of the above named man, and appoint him to the 2/1st Hereford  
Date 3 OCT 1916 19 Thos. Luke Approving Officer.  
Place SHREWSBURY. FOR O.O. DEPOT KING'S (SHROPS. L.I.)

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.  
‡ Here insert the "Corps" to which the Recruit has been appointed.

\* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character which should be returned to him conspicuously endorsed in red ink, as follows, viz.—(Name) on the (Date)

272

14 West St  
Leominster  
C

# SHORT SERVICE.

(For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve).

Card No.  
38  
A

No. 5595. Name Ronald William Hoff Corps HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

### Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ... Ronald William Hoff
2. What is your full Address? ... 14 West St  
Leominster
3. Are you a British Subject? ... Yes
4. What is your Age? ... 18 Years ... 2 Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... Chemist (Analytical)
6. Are you Married? ... No
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so\*, which? ... No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... Yes
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... Yes
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... { Name ... Corps ... }
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?  
For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th Oct., 1915, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months. ... Yes

I, Ronald William Hoff do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfill the engagements made.

Ronald William Hoff SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
J. Owen Signature of Witness.

Ronald William Hoff OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.  
I, Ronald William Hoff 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, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

### CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at Leominster on this 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 1916

Signature of the Justice [Signature]

### † Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the 1<sup>st</sup> Res. Bn Hereford. If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date October 4<sup>th</sup> 1916. [Signature] Captain, O.C.  
Place Hereford No. 233 I.F. Depot, Hereford. } Approving Officer.

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.  
‡ Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

\* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him conspicuously endorsed in red ink, as follows, viz.—(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ on the (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ re-enlisted in the (Regiment) \_\_\_\_\_

And some of those discharged were:

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO1	TERM	HOMETOWN	Notes
BOWEN	PRYCE THOMAS	PTE	3796	xvi	Presteigne	d 20/12/1917
CLARKE	JOHN	PTE	3498	xvi		
HARBOURNE	HARRY	PTE/ACPL	1659	xvi	ROSS	Served Suvla Bay
JAUNCEY	HENRY GEORGE	PTE	4370	xvi	Fownhope	
LAWRENCE	WILLIAM	PTE	3707	xvi	BYFORD COMMON	
MAYO	JAMES	PTE	2075	xvi	Ross	
POULTON	WILLIAM HENRY	PTE	4720	xvi	CANON PYON	
PREECE	JOHN ALBERT	PTE	4821	xvi	Hereford	
ROWLANDS	THOMAS	PTE	3489	2B		Ill health
TAYLOR	LEONARD	PTE	2379	xvi wounds	UPTON BISHOP	Served Suvla Bay - wounded left arm.

xvi – unfit through either wounds or sickness  
 iiicc – unlikely to become an efficient soldier

**18 OCT. 1916**

Adm. to Pension 18 OCT. 1916 Chelsea Number 75091 E

Rank Pte Regimental No. 3796 Pension District \_\_\_\_\_

Name Pryce Thomas Bowen BOARD'S DECISION 29/  
 (Pension per week) 6/10/2

Regiment 1st Herefordshire Reg T.F. Date of Discharge 17.10.16.

Age on commencement of Pension 21.

Trade Wagoner

Address Warden Lee, Presteigne, Radnor.

Character  Badges

Medals

Place of Birth Presteigne

Service	Former Corps	Class for Pension.					Total
		Wt.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	
	<u>Infant.</u>						<u>1 5/12</u>

Date of Enlistment 24.5.15. A.F. D400 and D453 issued 14-10-16

Date of Mobilization \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Allowance per week		Dates of Birth of Children	
Names of Children			
<u>Single</u>			

Separation Allowance paid to \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign Service		Y.	M.
India	.....		
France	.....		
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force	.....		
Egypt	.....		
South Africa	.....		

Cause of Discharge Medically Unfit. Morbus cordis after Rheumatism

Report of Medical Board (dated 3.10.16.) TOTAL FEVER  
DISABLEMENT

Originated Jan 1916 at Oswestry. Took ill with pains & swelling in shoulder & hands & feet with tempt. One attack succeeded another for some mths, but finally tempt came down. Rheumatism cleared up but left a good deal of precordial pain. Does not complain of much pain now but there is a marked systolic murmur at base of sternum, quick pulse. Dyspnoea on exertion, cyanosis of hands. Causation - rheumatic fever. Result of ordinary military service. Permanent. Total incapacity for six mths.

Expires 17.4.17

(10,071) W. 2722-30, 50,000 (P), 4/15, Gp. J. 22, A. & R. W. 12, 253-52, 50,000 (P), 7/15.



**DEATH OF PENSIONER.**

**MEMORANDUM**  
 From Pension Issue Office to Soldiers' Award Branch, Chelsea.

Name Bowen, Pipe Thomas  
 Regt. 3/1 Hertford T.F.  
 Admd. 18-10-16  
 at 25/1/18 (18-10-16: 9-4-17)  
18/1/18 (18-10-17: 14-8-17)  
10/1/18 (18-10-17: 18-7-17)  
27/1/18 (18-10-17: 28-5-18)  
Ch No 75091/E

Please note that the Pensioner named in the margin died on the 20-12-17

(Initials) D  
 Date 21 JAN 1918

Form 1579/258 2,000 6/11 J.P. Op. 126  
 Form 4489/736 6,000 11/17

Adm. to Pension **5 OCT. 1916**

Rank Pte. Regimental No. 4970 Chelsea Number 67684  
 Name Henry George Gurney Pension District E  
 Regiment Hertfordshire Reg. 3/1st Bn 24th BOARD'S DECISION (Pension per week) R  
 Date of Discharge 2.10.16 Age on commencement of Pension 24  
 Trade Farm Labourer  
 Address Founhope Hertfordshire  
 Character \_\_\_\_\_ Badges \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medals \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place of Birth Founhope

Service	Former Corps	Class for Pension.					Total.
		VI.	L.	II.	III.	IV.	
<u>A Res</u>							
<u>Mob.</u>							

Date of Enlistment 10.9.15 Date of Mobilization \_\_\_\_\_ A.F. D400 and D453 issued \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Allowance per week

Names of Children.	Dates of Birth of Children.
<u>Single</u>	

Separation Allowance paid to \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign Service

	Y.	M.
India		
France		
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force		
Egypt	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
South Africa		

Cause of Discharge Medically unfit. Cardiac Disease (Mitral)  
 Report of Medical Board (dated 19.9.16)

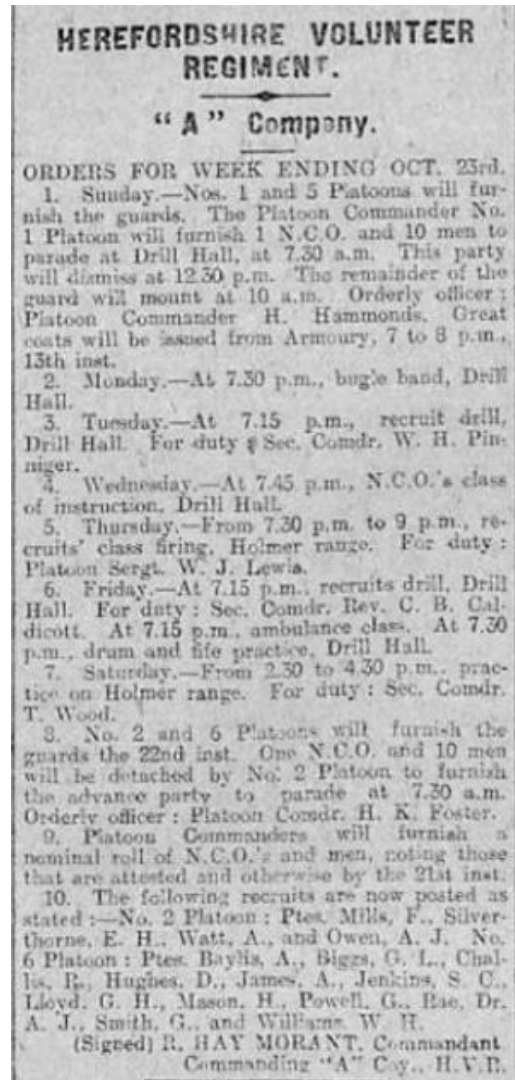
Originalled 1908 Founhope. Had rheumatic fever. Pres. Con. Very weak & complains of pain over heart. Dizziness shortness of breath. Swelling of ankles unable to march or undergo any exertion. Mitral systolic murmur dilatation of heart. Compensation incomplete. Not the result of nor aggravated by Service. Permanent. Prevents to go to 6 mths then review

R.M.D.

(10.971) Wt. 2728-24 20,000 (F) 4/16 Op. 126. A.A.R.V.  
 (10.190) - 22,523-62 20,000 (F) 7/16

The Volunteer Bn (Hereford - formerly the Volunteer Training Corps (VTC))

The Volunteer Bn continued to undertake duties as can be seen from A (Hereford) Coy orders as published in the Hereford Times.



1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

The 1<sup>st</sup> Bn continued to serve in Eastern Egypt on the banks of the Suez Canal. They were out of action and had a relatively quiet time in the month of October. Many men took the opportunity to visit some of the local towns and have their photographs taken.

Date	Location	Detail
1 Oct		Sunday; received information that 2Lt GP Lloyd had been admitted to hospital from Sidi Bshr seaside camp 19/9/16.
2 Oct	El Ferdan	Capt E A Capel to HQ, C sub section to understudy brigade major. Training in morning and 2 hours work on defences in afternoon.
3 Oct		Routine altered; work on defences 0630 – 1000 owing to great amount of work to be done commenced strutting all works with heavy timbers (4" x 4").

4 Oct		Battalion route march on good roads towards Barraah; no falling out. Following promotions published in orders: Lt W L Carver to be captain – 28/7/16 Lt R C Sale to be captain – 21/8/16
5 Oct		Work & Training
6 Oct		Work & Training; 2Lt Haymes rejoined from hospital lately attached to ¼ Welsh.
7 Oct		Work & Training
8 Oct		Sunday Capt WL Carver and 2Lt E Wilmott rejoined from leave in England.
9 Oct		Work & Training
10 Oct		Work & Training
11 Oct		Work & Training
12 Oct		Work & Training 2Lt WF Chipp rejoined HQ from hospital
13 Oct		Work & Training
14 Oct		Work & Training
15 Oct		Sunday Lt Col Drage and Lt FHL Evelyn left for Port Said on 5 weeks leave to England.
16 Oct		Work & Training. Lt FA Trumper transferred to C Coy to command. Received information of the following honours and awards: Military Cross Capt E A Capel Temp Capt M Somerville RAMC Mention in Gen Sir A Murray's Despatches dated 30/6/16 Capt E T P Rogers 780 RQMS S E Herbert
17 Oct		Work & Training
18 Oct		Work & Training
19 Oct		Work & Training Capt WL Carver to hospital
20 Oct		Work & Training
21 Oct		Work & Training
22 Oct		Sunday. Rode round bridgehead defences with GOC subsection.
23 Oct		Work & Training. C Coy began musketry. Inspection of subsection by CinC. The General did not inspect posts North of Road on which the Bn works. The camp was inspected and gave satisfaction. New routine instituted: later reveille and work from 0830 – 1130, as it is now not so hot to work at any time. Bn parade and training at 1545.
24 Oct		Work & Training
25 Oct		Work & Training. Lt Col Drage and Lt Evelyn sailed for England.
26 Oct		Work & Training. Capt AGR Whitehouse rejoined HQ from hospital and duty at Base.
27 Oct		Work & Training. Capt Somerville RAMC rejoined 3 Welsh Fd Amb and Capt Park TAMC taken on strength.
28 Oct		Work * Training. Capt A V Holman to hospital. Lt FA Trumper returned to B Coy to command. "Lt Wilmott transferred to C Coy to command.
29 Oct		Sunday
30 Oct		Work & Training
31 Oct		Work & Training

WAR DIARY October 1916  
1<sup>ST</sup> HEREFORDSHIRE REGT.

APPENDIX I

Week Ending	Weekly State	Officers	Other Ranks
	7. 10. 16		29
14. 10. 16		32	832
21. 10. 16		29	851
28. 10. 16		30	852

APPENDIX II

Week Ending	Weekly Casualty Return	Hospital	
		Officers	Other Ranks
7. 10. 16			12
14. 10. 16			19
21. 10. 16	1		9
28. 10. 16			10

APPENDIX III

Reinforcements, etc.

Lt Col. G. Drage proceeded to England on leave 15. 10. 16  
 Lieut G.A.D. Evelyn ditto  
 Capt W.L. Caven Resumed from England 8. 10. 16  
 Lt E. Wilmot ditto  
 Capt Caven W.L. To Hospital 20. 10. 16  
 2/Lt R.E. Haynes Taken on the strength 6-10-16 } from  
 " W.H. Chiff ditto 12. 10. 16 } Hospital  
 " A.G.R. Whitehouse ditto 26. 10. 16 }

**2Lt Parker**

**1st October**

Had to get up at 4. Heard gunfire. Tea at 4.45 & I moved off at 5 with Horth and four other ranks. Transfer from Ferdon at 6.05 arrived Zeitoun at 10.30 Went into Cairo after lunch took a Garrt Drat to the Citadel, took two photos, had a haircut and drink at Shepherd's Hotel

**2nd October, Monday**

Started work today. Parade 6.30-8.30, 10 -1, 2.30 - 4.30. Jolly hard work. Wrote notes at night going

to bed at 10.45.

**Oct 3**

Same hard work as yesterday. Mail but none for me. Wrote a few lines to Mother. Bryant, our orderly, took my films down to Cairo. Wrote notes till 11.45.

**Oct 4th**

Work all day getting to bed at 11.30

**Oct 5th**

Work all day. Received some mail several letters - one from Madeleine Bed at midnight

**Oct 6<sup>th</sup>**

Work all day Musketry oral exams in afternoon. I got 88%. Another mail for me.

**Oct 7th**

Written exam today on which I got 86 %. Went down town with Horth in afternoon and out by Garry to the Zoo, which I enjoyed immensely. Took some photos -back to "Groppies" for tea, where we met Capt Whitehouse and had a long chat with him, beat him at Pills at the Continental. Later we had dinner at Saults and then went to the Casino de Paris. Back by train at midnight.

**Oct 8th**

Church parade at 8.30 and then Horth and I went down town. Previously wrote to Father and sent him some of my first snaps. Called and saw Hopkins at the Anglo American Hospital. Had lunch there then on to the pyramids at Giza. Took some photos. Groppies for tea and dinner at Saults and then went to a review at ????. Back by tram to Heliopolis.

**Oct 9th**

Work all day. Drew some money and paid the mess.

Alhambra at 9.15 very moderate show. I find that the date we landed here was 13th July and we were inoculated for paratyphoid the following day. On 17th I was transferred temporarily to the 11th division, who were reforming preparatory to moving to France & had command of one of the brigades consisting of Lincolns, Sherwood Forresters etc. in fact the same brigade that took over our camp on Karacol Dagh on Suvla. They were an awful crowd. I returned to the 53rd on 21st.

**Notes**

These are extracts from the diary of Philip Parker from 1915 to , unfortunately the diary relating to Palestine was lost at the first battle of Gaza in which he was seriously wounded and not expected to survive, and his left elbow was only later given attention.

**Maj ALB Green**

Date	Location	Detail
1 Oct		Church parade, afterwards had slackish day. Small mail in.
2 Oct		Big mail in. Letters from Do and the pater also parcels from former and my leggings from Hill. Capel went to sub section HQ to understudy Brigade major. Harker returned.

3 Oct		Long day. On range from 6 – 10 and on Board of Engineers from 11 – 5 with one hour interval for lunch.
4 Oct		Finished musketry.
5 Oct		Paterhall and Lewis motored over to breakfast. P full of his trip home. Dutch submarine passed down canal.
6 Oct		Divisional band played during Mess. Kempron to dinner. OS.
7 Oct		General inspected B Coy.
8 Oct		Church parades and mess bills occupied all day.
9 Oct		Went on 3 days leave to Port said. Was to have met Lewis but he was unable to get off. Came across Bensly of the BWI so had someone to talk to.
10 Oct		Did much shopping. Met Lt Col Bouker of the Essex staying at Casino and waiting for a passage home. Strolled about and went to the club.
11 Oct		Finished off my shopping commission and generally loafed around. Met Worrall of the Essex RHA our FOO at No 7A Romani, come in to draw pay and staying night. Dined with him in the evening.
12 Oct		Letters forwarded from Dr Kingston and Bennett. Returned to Ferdan and found the CO had gone to Cairo by the afternoon train to see about a passage home.
13 Oct		Rode around bridgehead defences with Ashton.
14 Oct		CO returned in afternoon having got no satisfaction re passage, a bit grumpy. Went round Ridnit in morning.
15 Oct		Church parade in morning. CO left for Port Said in afternoon to try and board P&O going home Wednesday. Evelyn whose leave came through just in time went off. Heard that Capel and Somerville (our MO) have both got Military Cross for Romani – well deserved.
16 Oct		Very foggy in morning till nearly 8 o'clock, rode round posts. Capel, Hulton and Porter came to dinner and we drank the formers health. Fog came up again at night.
17 Oct		Rode round works
18 Oct		Rode round works.
19 Oct		Went up to rifle range to see B Coy at musketry. Dined with Marshall of the Scottish Horse, the port adjutant.
20 Oct		Round works.
21 Oct		Tested A & B Coys sniper rifles.
22 Oct		Church parade. Rode round bridgehead defences with BGC in afternoon. Lewis came to lunch.
23 Oct		CinC inspected C Sub Section, inspected our camp but did not go round works.
24 Oct		Nothing much doing. Wire in evening from CO to say he is sailing in morning.
25 Oct		Rode through country North and NE of works – very broken. CO and Evelyn due to sail.
26 Oct		Rode round works 95-93 then back to 101. Went up to railhead to conference in evening re training and musketry. Whitehouse returned, Berwick and Taylor of 1/5 RWF came to dinner. Cat kittened in the mess at 9pm.
27 Oct		Visited work 90-95.
28 Oct		Visited work 91-95
29 Oct		Church parade, usual routine.

30 Oct		Visited works.
31 Oct		Visited works.

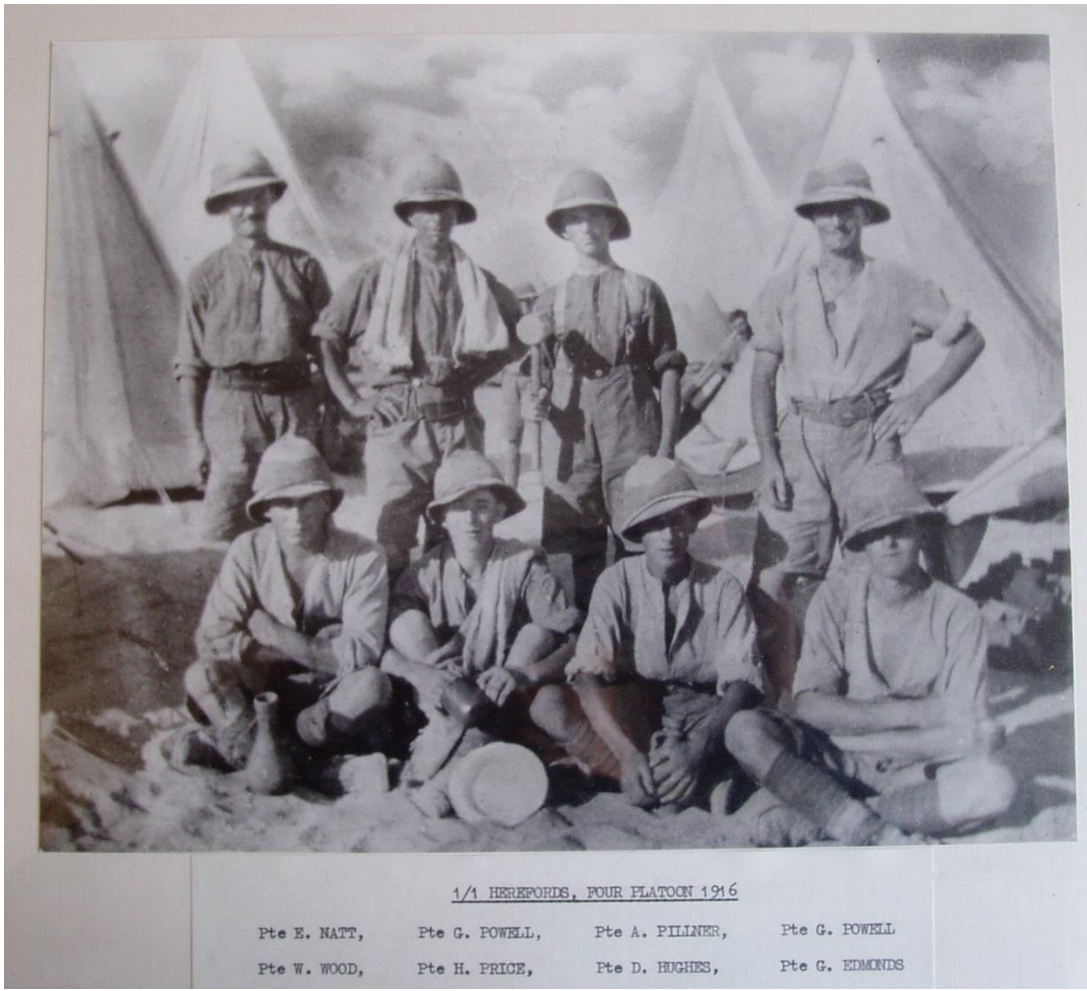
3820 Pte L Griffiths

to the ones that had just arrived from England. on July 20<sup>th</sup> we proceeded to Kantara by train at night July 23<sup>rd</sup> marched to Hill. serving in the heat and were loaded up with ammunition as we were expecting an attack by the Turks. July 24<sup>th</sup> marched to Romania to our post line don't wait for the Turks to attack which they did on August 4<sup>th</sup> and got a rather bad time of it too. but of course we lost some men as well. Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> proceeded by train to Kantara. where we stayed till Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> when we went through Moascar, Ismailia to Sidi Barrani to do our post

duty till Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> when came back through Ismailia Moascar to El Ferdan. where we were in training and making our own post line trenches stronger. Nov. 15. cross the Suez Canal to El Ferdan East. while we were at El Ferdan we were in tents of course it was on the desert. Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 1917 we left El Ferdan to march to Romania to attack the Turks. on the 14<sup>th</sup> we went through Ballahita, Kantara where we slept in huts for two nights Jan 6<sup>th</sup> we went to G. Khan where we slept out in the open for the night we found it rather cold after the hot days. Jan 7<sup>th</sup> we got to Telurium which

Drawing Rations





1894 Pte Herbert John Finch



3298 Pte Frederick Godsall



The Commanding Officer Lt Col Drage resented a silver cup to be awarded to the winning company in the Bn Football Competition.

This cup is now held in The Regimental Museum.



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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion remained in Bedford and continued to send reinforcements to France to make good losses suffered on the Somme.

No doubt men were aware of the Somme activities and were anxious about a posting to a unit in France; however there was a need for troops and units to remain in the Defence of Britain and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Herefords remained in this role.

## Reserve Battalion (formerly 3 Bn – Oswestry)

Life continued with new recruits undergoing training, and trained soldiers returning to duty fit after sickness, wounds and leave. Sports was a key element of fitness and team building and did much to build morale.

The need for reinforcements in France meant that trained soldiers were trawled out of UK Depots and Reserve battalions, and the Herefords at Oswestry were not excluded. A reinforcement draft was also sent to the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn in Egypt.

## DRAFTS SENT TO THE 1st BATTN AND LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS.

### HEARTY SEND-OFFS.

[From our own Correspondent.]

Many changes have taken place in the Reserve Battalion during the past fortnight, for two more large drafts of men have been transferred for foreign service. One went to Lancashire Fusilier Battalion and the other proceeded to join the 1st Battalion Herefordshire Regiment. Both drafts were given hearty send-offs, and the men departed in high spirits, in spite of the fact that many of them left brothers and close companions behind them.

#### THE 1st LINE DRAFT.

On Friday the draft for the 1st Battalion left at about nine in the morning, and again the battalion turned out to witness the departure. It included many men who saw service in Gallipoli, and was in charge of Capt. Williams (who was wounded in the Dardanelles) and 2nd Lieut. Burdas, an officer who has seen service in France. Both officers go with the draft for service with the regiment.

On the morning of their departure Colonel Symonds-Taylor wished the men farewell, and said he was pleased that this draft was staying with its own regiment. "Some of you have already been into action with the Herefords, and faced the enemy with great courage," he said. "You are going back to your comrades ready to strike another blow for your country when the time comes. We will see nothing new to you, and we know you will do well. I am equally sure that my boys from the Reserve Battalion will show themselves efficient and brave soldiers, and will help to win further laurels for the regiment to which they belong."

Cheers were given by the draft to the Colonel, and the band accompanied them to the station.

#### OFFICERS FOR DRAFT.

In addition to Captain Williams and Lieut. Burdas, we have lost two other officers this week, 2nd Lieut. Avery-Jones (son of the Vicar of Yarkhill), and 2nd Lieut. Evans (recently gazetted to the regiment) having been transferred for service with another regiment. All officers will be greatly missed, for they were very popular, and the best wishes of the men of all ranks go with them. A number of other officers have also been warned ready to proceed overseas, and the call may come at any moment.

A report was received from the KSLI who had received a draft from the Herefords in September.

### K.S.L.I. DRAFT IN FRANCE.

The draft of men sent from the Regiment to the K.S.L.I. a few weeks ago is now on active service in France with one of the K.S.L.I. battalions which had done splendid service. The information was conveyed in a message from Lieut.-Colonel T. Dickens, officer commanding the battalion to which the men were first transferred, and he speaks very highly indeed of their efficiency. Colonel Dickens says:—

Your draft left for France on Sunday morning last (September 24th), at 1 a.m. They were a very fine, well-disciplined lot of men and will be the greatest credit to Herefordshire. Their behaviour was excellent, and they were very cheery and bright on leaving. I wish they had been here for another fortnight. They were the hardest and best conditioned men we have sent overseas for a long time.

The fact that the draft went to the front so quickly was in no degree a surprise, for when they were sent it was understood that they would be required for immediate service. Their training had been completed, and so thorough had it been that the men were fit to go into the first line trenches at any time.

The K.S.L.I. has won for itself the name "Stonewallers," owing to the tenacity and doggedness with which they hang on to a position when they get to it, and there is no fear that the men trained with the Herefordshire Regiment will tarnish the reputation the K.S.L.I. has gained.

There was also a draft of some 250 men to the 11 Border Regt – probably via the KSLI. These men went on to fight at Redan Ridge – a battle that will be covered in the November post. It is presumed it was during this battle that Pte Bumfrey, from Eastnor was taken POW.

### DESCRIPTIVE REPORT ON ENLISTMENT.

Applicable to all ranks. To correspond with entries on the Medical History Sheet.

Name James Lewis Bumfrey  
 Apparent age 19 years 25 months Height 5 feet 3 3/4 inches.  
 Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded 32 1/2 inches.  
 { Range of expansion 29 inches.  
 Distinctive marks None

#### INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RECRUIT.

Name and Address of next of kin James P Bumfrey, Eastnor  
Leobury, Herefordshire Relationship Father

Particulars as to Marriage.

(a) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether spinster or widow. (b) Place and date of marriage.  
 (c) Present address. (d) Initials of Officer verifying entry.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)

Particulars as to Children.

Christian Names	Date and Place of Birth

#### STATEMENT OF THE SERVICES.

Corps in which served	Regt. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of pension		Service in which not allowed to reckon towards G. C. Pay		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of entries
					years	days	years	days	
Service towards limited engagement reckons from									
Joined at _____ on _____									

1st HERE 31/8/16 Posted Pte 3.16.  
1st Lt James Lewis Bumfrey 1916

<b>POSTED</b> <u>Base</u> <b>1 OCT 1916</b> <u>Chambers</u>	<b>POSTED</b> <u>2nd Bdr</u> <b>7 OCT 1916</b> <u>Chambers</u>
ASSISTANT VC RECORDS <b>Border Regt, Trans</b> <b>11 OCT 1916</b>	ASSISTANT VC RECORDS <b>FOR COLONEL &amp; RECORDS,</b> <b>NO 4 DISTRICT.</b>

2ND LIEUT.  
W. J. ...

Total Service forfeited as above .. .. .  
 Total Service towards Engagement to \_\_\_\_\_ (date of discharge) \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ days  
 " " Pension " ( " ) " " "

Army Form B. 103.

**Casualty Form - Active Service.**

Regimental Number 20443

Regiment or Corps Shropshire I.I.  
 Rank Pte Surname Bumfrey Christian Name James  
 Religion C of E Age on Enlistment 19 years 6 months.  
 Enlisted (a) 2.3.16 Terms of Service (a) 2 of 11 Service reckons from (a) 2.3.16  
 Date of promotion to present rank \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment to lance rank \_\_\_\_\_  
 Extended { \_\_\_\_\_ } Re-engaged { \_\_\_\_\_ } Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_  
 or Corps Trade and Rate \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Officer i/c Records \_\_\_\_\_

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., 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 of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents
Date	From whom received				
		Embarked ...	<u>Shampton.</u>	<u>2/10/16</u>	
		Disembarked ...	<u>Reuen.</u>	<u>3/10/16</u>	
<u>3/10/16</u>	<u>O.C. &amp; I.B.D.</u>	<u>Posted to 5/K.S.L.I.</u>	<u>Reuen.</u>	<u>3/10/16</u>	<u>Roll.</u>
<u>11-10-16</u>	<u>-do-</u>	<u>Transferred to 11th Bn. The Border Regt under A.O.204 &amp; A.C.I.1499 of 1916 &amp; allotted New No.</u>			<u>11-10-16.</u>
					<u>2nd Lieut. for</u>
					<u>Officer i/c REG: Inf: Section No.3.</u>
		<u>JOINED</u>			
<u>23.11.16</u>	<u>MC An</u>	<u>Missing</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>18.11.16</u>	<u>B. 23</u>
<u>- 1.17.</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>Rapid transition of war</u>	<u>Regt. Coy. 1st Bn. 1st Div. 1st Army</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>List x. 17912</u>

(a) 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.  
 (b) Signaller, Shoeing Smith, &c. [P.T.O.]  
 (898). W.L. 15012/5156. 1,000,000. 1/16. P.P.Ltd. Form B.103/3.

Routine continued with visits, inspections, training and sports and social activities

#### LORD FRENCH'S VISIT.

I stated last week, in my account of the inspection by Field Marshal Lord French, that everything passed off splendidly, and that the distinguished soldier was pleased with all he saw. That this was the case will be seen from the following special orders which have been issued this week:—

The Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief desires to express to Lieut.-General Sir W. P. Campbell his satisfaction with the condition of the troops inspected in the Western Command during the past week. The excellent turnout and state of training of the men, of whom many were very young soldiers, could not have been achieved unless great and continuous effort had been maintained by the Commander-in-Chief himself and by the General and Commanding Officers and their staffs under him.

The above message refers generally to the Western Command, most of the troops of which were inspected by Lord French during his tour, but the following applies specially to the Welsh Reserve Brigade, of which the Reserve Herefordshire Battalion is a part:—

The Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief is also desirous that the following remarks should be conveyed to the Welsh Reserve Brigade: "Whilst inspecting the Brigade at training, the vim and energy displayed by all ranks, and also the very thorough system of training, were particularly noticeable to me."

Such warm praise, coming from such a quarter, has given the utmost satisfaction to both officers and men of the regiment.

#### FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS STARTED.

Football has now started in real earnest, and cup tie and league competitions have been commenced which bid fair to be a source of interest during the present season. Realising the need of some sort of organisation, the Headquarter Staff of the garrison has arranged a cup competition and a league in which all the regiments in the garrison can participate. Both have been commenced, and as time goes on the interest will increase. The committee in charge of the arrangements, so far as the Herefordshire Regiment is concerned, is 2nd Lieut. A. C. Welbourne, 2nd Lieut. R. Howell, 2nd Lieut. C. G. Morrish, Sergt. Drummer Evans, Sergt. H. Stephens, and Sergt. T. Herriotts.

The first league match took place on Saturday, when the Herefords met the 10th King's Liverpool Regt. The team was as follows: Goal, Sergt. Shinn; backs, 2nd Lieut. C. G. Morrish and Pte. Ellmore; half-backs, Lee-Corpl. James, Pte. Teague, and Pta. Whitehouse; forwards, Corpl. Powell, Sergt. Tudor, Lee-Corpl. Russell, Sergt. Sanderson, and Pte. Fennell. The King's had a good team out and won the match easily by 5-0. The Herefords have not yet got their team in going order, and this first defeat is not going to upset them.

Splendid programmes are being provided at the Garrison Theatre, and a successful future is assured. On Sunday there were two grand operatic concerts by the principals of Sir Thomas Beecham's Opera Co., and on Monday the entire company from the Garrick Theatre, London, gave a performance of the brilliantly successful farcical comedy, "The Rotters." During the remainder of the week "Cupid and the Styx" and "A sister to assist 'er," given by a full London company, have proved great attractions.

### FINE PERFORMANCES AT THE THEATRE.

The Garrison Theatre, which, as already stated in these columns, has been erected on the Herefords parade ground for the use of all soldiers in the training centre, continues to prove a great attraction and large crowds are present at every performance. The building seats 700, but many more find room inside and many more are unable to gain admittance.

On Sunday the principals of Sir T. Beecham's Opera Company came down from London specially, by kind permission of Sir Thomas, and gave two grand operatic concerts, whilst on Monday the company from the Garrick Theatre, London, gave the farcical comedy "The Rotters." The artists were given a rousing reception.

On Tuesday and for the rest of the week another London company gave a hospital farce in three acts, entitled "Cupid and the Styx" and "A sister to assist 'er." From beginning to end, there was plenty of fun, and everything passed off without a hitch.

### CONCERT IN THE INSTITUTE.

A very enjoyable concert was given in the Regimental Institute last week, presided over by Regimental-Sergt-Major T. Alford, and there was a large number of men present, as well as the Colonel and many of the other officers. The programme was as follows: Selection by the band, "Still smiling" (conductor, C.S.M. Wright); trombone solo, "The Death of Nelson," C.S.M. Wright; song, "To err is human, to forgive divine," C.S.M. Harris; song, "I tickled 'em," Sergt. Walker; song, "Asleep in the deep," Sergt. Drummer J. Evans; comic song, "Paper Bag Cookery," Pte. Ronald Carter (Liverpool Scottish); selection by "Some musicians," Sergt. Cook, Sergt. Walker, and Sergt. Drummer Evans; song, "Simple Linnet," Sergt. Fitzmaurice; song, "Patsy Hooligan," S.C.M. Harris; song, "I've been touching 'em up," Sergt. Walker; and "Regimental poem," by Sergt. Drummer Evans.

The "Regimental poem" caused a great deal of fun, and the expression put into it by its author was most amusing. Of the Colonel it says:—

"I'll start at the very beginning, the tip tip top of the tree,  
With Colonel Symonds-Taylor—a soldier and gentleman he—

Whenever one may meet him one gets a cheery smile,  
His hobby in life, in pleasure or strife, is to help the boys o'er the stile."

A very amusing verse was that concerning Major MacMullan, the regimental medical officer:—

"We've got a wonderful 'cure all,' in Major Doctor Mac,  
With his terrible tonics and 'No. 9's,'  
He makes us double all through the lines!  
He prods you here, he prods you there, until you feel quite daft,  
And in the finish he marks you 'fit,' and shoves you on the draft!"

There are also references to Major Spoor, Major Reeve-Smith, Captain and Adjutant Ashcroft, Lieut. and Quartermaster Church, R.S.M. T. Alford, and C.S.M. Jones. Of the captains in general it says: "They are all of the best, when put to the test, but will they go to Heaven?" Of the Lieutenants speaking of the time when they are on parade, the "poem" says: "Joy rides, girls, hearts in whirls—yes, they're a trifle hot!"

### REINFORCEMENTS TO FRANCE

Reinforcement drafts were formed up, over a series of days in Depots in UK for deployment overseas. Their strengths could be anything between 20 and 250. A rank structure would try to be established with the draft consisting of Officers and SNCOs. There could also be 'escorting officers/SNCOs' who would take the draft and sort out their movement and administration. These escorting officers would often travel with the draft to France, but since they were not on the strength of a France based unit, they were ineligible for the award

of the Allied Victory Medal and generally had only a single medal entitlement to the British War Medal (BWM). There were at least 2 single awards of the BWM to the Herefords for Draft Conducting Officers; one was to Capt FB Ellison.

Drafts would then generally march to the local railway station, often accompanied by the regimental band with the streets lined by other troops and the local civilian population. If the troops were well known and liked they could be showered with gifts – often cigarettes, fruit, sweets etc. On arrival at the station a fatigue party would be identified to load kit bags to the guard's van. The train would then move off, generally direct to a port of embarkation – eg: Newhaven, Dover, Folkestone for France. The journey from Oswestry could well take 20 hours!

The port of disembarkation in France (Boulogne, Le Havre) was normally reached in the early morning, with the sea journey taking place overnight in an effort to minimise the U Boat threat.

On arrival in France, the fatigue party was again called upon to move baggage. The draft would be met by a local 'guide', who would issue movement instructions to the draft commanders who would then march the draft off to their temporary camp.

Drafts, and individuals received additional, targeted training for operations in France in the area of the base before moving forward; this could last up to 10 days. The most (in)famous of these camps was 'the bullring' at Etaples. Conditions were harsh, instructors (who wore a yellow cap band and were known as canaries) were demanding and lacked compassion in the conveyor belt training environment. The Etaples site was where the mutiny took place as depicted in the BBC series 'The Monocled Muntineer'.





The site was massive with thousands of troops undergoing training at any time, at one time almost 100,000 men were there. Training was by a series of 'stands' and rotation between them.

It was also a centre for the entry of equipment to France and was served by road, rail and canal. It also dealt with Prisoners Of War and British detainees.

Etaples was also a location of Base Hospitals (capacity for 22,000 casualties) where casualties were held before being evacuated to England. [There is a considerably sized CWGC cemetery there.]

Wilfred Owen [*Collected Letters*. Oxford University Press] described Etaples as:

*A vast, dreadful encampment. It seemed neither France nor England, but a kind of paddock where the beasts are kept a few days before the shambles ... Chiefly I thought of the very strange look on all the faces in that camp; an incomprehensible look, which a man will never see in England; nor can it be seen in any battle, but only in Étaples. It was not despair, or terror, it was more terrible than terror, for it was a blindfold look, and without expression, like a dead rabbit's.*

Most soldiers hated their time at Etaples and almost looked forward to 'going up the line'. They would generally travel by train to a Corps and then Divisional holding centre, where they would be held and then taken forward by guides. They would eventually end up at the Battalion 'B' Echelon – allocated to companies and then be taken 'up the line' (if the unit was in the trenches) to join their new unit. If the unit was out of the line it would enable the reinforcements to have a few days out of the line to familiarise themselves with the new unit.



Etaples camp from the air, showing the hospital area and damage caused by enemy aircraft bombing.

# ETAPLES

"H"

SCALE 1/10,000



RED - ORIGINAL Lettering Of Camp  
GREEN - I.B.D.'s 1915-16-17.