

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – April 1917

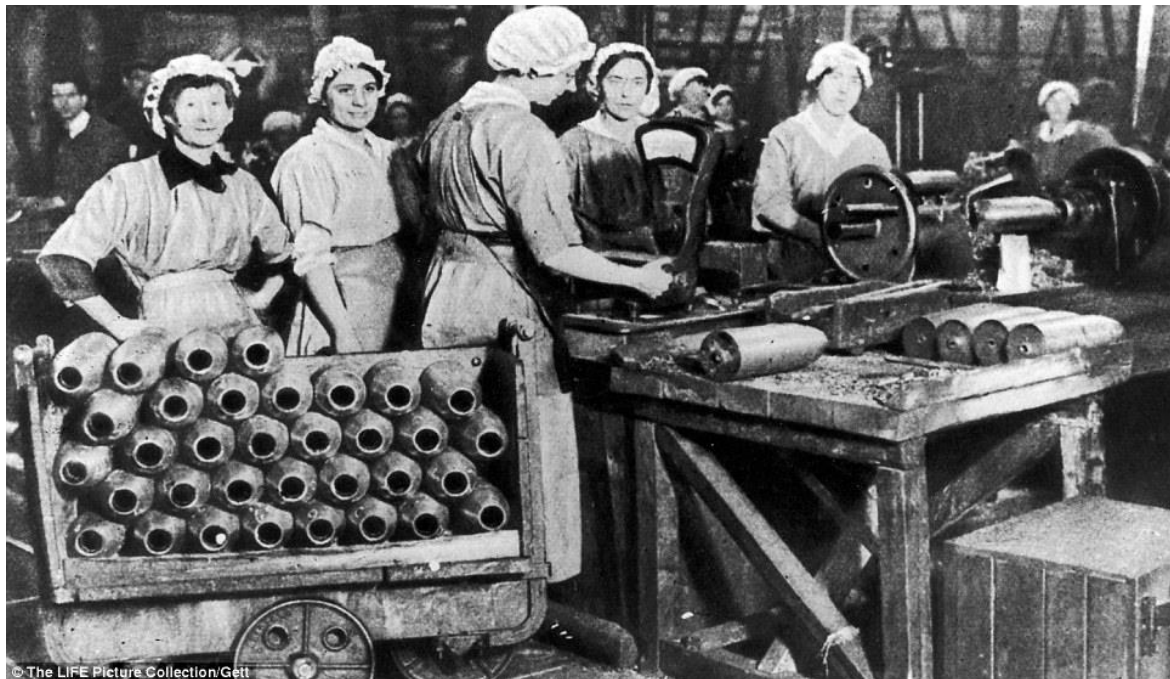
The 'Bigger' Picture

- **United States of America declare war on Germany;** Congress pass Bill for raising 500,000 men
- Cuba and Panama declare war on Germany
- Austria-Hungary , Turkey and Bulgaria sever diplomatic relations with United States of America,
- Brazil, Bolivia and Guatemala sever diplomatic relations with Germany
- British Government inform Russian Provisional Government of their adherence to the principle of an independent and united Poland
- Russian Provisional Government issue Proclamation to Allied Governments declaring in favour of self-determination of peoples and a durable peace
- General Petain appointed Chief of French General Staff
- Dr A Augusto da Costa succeeds Dr AJ d'Almeida as Portuguese Premier

The Home Front

Whilst Spring brought brighter weather, the 3rd year of the war was having an increasing impact on the homefront, with shortages of food, rising prices, more men to the front and greater visibility of troops both fit and injured. The armaments industry had built up its capacity and females were taking the place of the males in the factories, but also on the farms and many other areas including hospitals and transport.

In Hereford the Rotherwas Munitions factory was working up to full capacity.



- German destroyer raid on Ramsgate

The Western Front

- German retreat to the Hindenburg Line completed
- Allied Spring offensive commence:
 - Battle of Vimy Ridge and First Battle of the Scarpe (Arras)
 - French offensive begins with the Second Battle of the Aisne
 - Battle of the Hills (Champagne) begins. (La Bataille des Monts, Third Battle of Champagne)
 - Second Battle of the Scarpe
 - Battle of Arleux (Arras)

Other Fronts

BALKAN FRONT

- First Battle of Doiran

EGYPT/PALESTINE

- Second Battle of Gaza begins

MESOPOTAMIA

- Khanaqin (North-East of Baghdad) again occupied by Russian forces.
- Action of Istabulat
- Samarra taken by British forces

PERSIA

CAUCASUS

- Mush, Armenia, occupied by Turkish forces

In The Air

At Sea

- Admiral Sims, United States Navy, arrives in England
- Japanese flotillas join Allied forces in the Mediterranean
- German destroyer raid on Straits of Dover

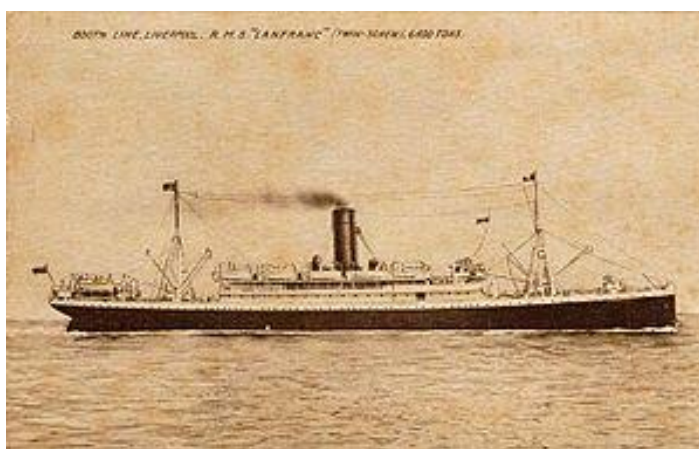
Mine & U Boat Warfare

- British hospital ship 'Salta' mined. (*While returning to pick up wounded at the port of Le Havre, France, Salta struck a mine at 11:43, one mile north of the entrance to the dam. A huge explosion smashed the hull near the stern in the engine room and hold number three. Water rushed into the disabled ship which listed to starboard and sank in less than 10 minutes. Of the 205 passengers and crew members, nine nurses, 42 member of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and 79 crew drowned.*)

- British ambulance transports 'Lanfranc' (*en route Le Havre to Southampton*); and 'Donegal' torpedoed and sunk in English Channel.



HMHS Salta



HMHS Lanfranc

HOSPITAL SHIPS SUNK. SERIOUS LOSS OF LIFE. Germans Among the Victims.

(Reuter.)
LONDON, 23rd April.

It is announced by the Admiralty that the British hospital ships Donegal (1885 tons) and Lanfranc (6287 tons) were torpedoed without warning on the evening of 17th April while transporting wounded soldiers to British ports.

"Owing to the German practice of sinking hospital ships, it is no longer possible to place distinguishing signs on hospital ships, because they thus become more conspicuous targets," the Admiralty statement says. "Therefore the Donegal and Lanfranc were not marked as hospital ships, but were provided with an escort.

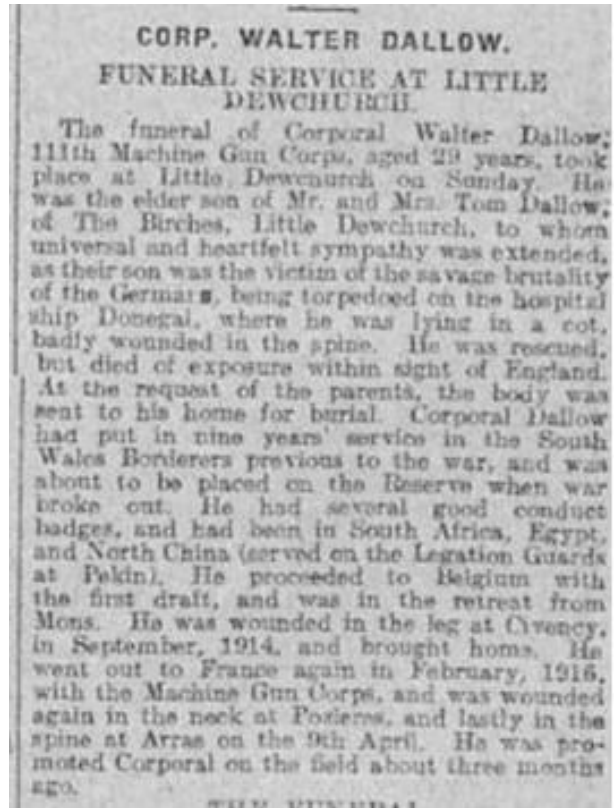
"The Donegal carried slightly wounded men, of whom 29, also 12 of the crew, are missing. The Lanfranc carried 234 British wounded and 167 German wounded, a medical staff of 52, and a crew of 123. Twenty-three British and 15 Germans are missing. Patrol boats at imminent risk of being torpedoed, rescued 152 German wounded.

"The illegal and inhuman submarining of hospital ships" is the culmination of savagery, and has brought the world face to face with a situation unparalleled in civilised warfare. It has no justification in any conceivable distortion of international law, or the most brutal creed of necessity.



HMHS Donegal

The sinking of these hospital ships was brought home to the County with the death of Cpl Dallow, of the Machine Gun Corps who was killed when HMHS Donegal was sunk.



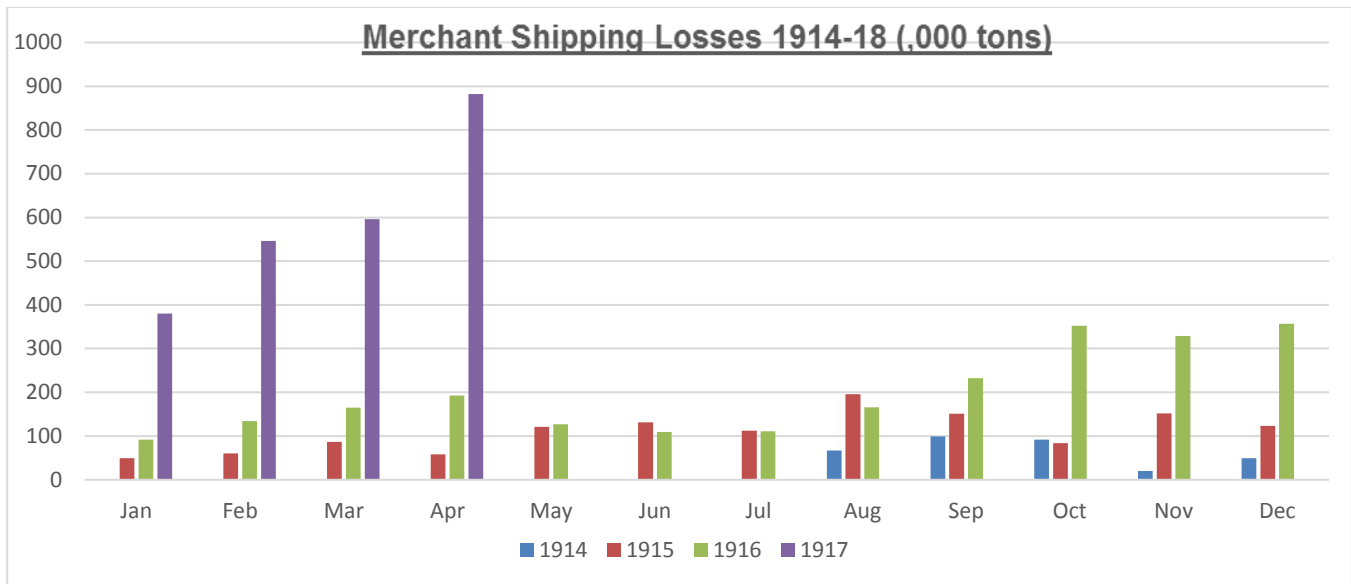
- SS 'Medina' sunk off Start Point, Devon, en route India to London; 6 crew killed, 401 souls saved.



SS Medina

MERCHANT SHIPPING

British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month - 458 ships of 882,000 tons gross; the highest monthly amount of the war to date.



The 'Herefords'

Casualties (other than 1st Bn)

| NAME | INIT | RANK | NO | DATE | HOW | WHERE | HOMETOWN | Notes (Serving with) |
|-----------|-------------------|------|------|----------|------|--------|--------------|-------------------------|
| BENGOUGH | BENJAMIN | PTE | 3813 | 23/04/17 | DIED | FRANCE | ST JOHNS HER | GLOS 12 |
| BENGOUGH | THOMAS WILLIAM | PTE | 3815 | 23/04/17 | DIED | FRANCE | Almeley | GLOS 12 |
| DANCE | THOMAS GEORGE | PTE | 3202 | 22/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | EARDISLEY | GLOS 14 |
| DAWE | WILLIAM GEORGE | PTE | 4803 | 23/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | HEREFORD | MGC |
| HOPE | WALTER ERNEST | PTE | 4625 | 01/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | ROSS | BORDER 11 |
| HUMPHREYS | EDWARD HARRY | PTE | 4723 | 08/04/17 | DIED | HOME | HEREFORD | GLOS 14 |
| JACKSON | JAMES RUBEN | PTE | 5347 | 24/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | ROSS | GLOS 14 |
| LEWIS | THOMAS HENRY | PTE | 4372 | 06/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | LEDBURY | BORDER 11 |
| MOSS | FRED | PTE | 4678 | 26/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | BROMYARD | GLOS 1/5 |
| OERTON | GERALD | PTE | 4944 | 26/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | WALSALL | GLOS 14 |
| PARRY | HUBERT | PTE | 2961 | 23/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | LYDBROOK | SWB 10 |
| POWELL | FREDERICK | PTE | 4594 | 01/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | GOODRICH | BORDER 11 |
| RUSSELL | JOHN | PTE | 4363 | 01/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | HEREFORD | BORDER 11 |
| SEAGER | JOHN PERCY | PTE | 4415 | 14/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | LEOMINSTER | BORDER 11 |
| SYMONDS | FRANK | PTE | 4653 | 21/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | HOLMER | GLOS 12 |
| THOMASON | HERBERT | PTE | 3219 | 24/04/17 | KIA | FRANCE | RHYADER | GLOS 14 |
| THOMPSON | ALBERT LEWIS | PTE | 4256 | 29/04/17 | DOW | FRANCE | HEREFORD | BORDER 11 |

4723 Pte EH Humphreys

HEREFORD PRIVATE'S DEATH

**ONE OF THREE BROTHER SOLDIERS
AND SPECIAL CONSTABLES.**

Another Hereford private who joined the Hereford Regiment as a Derby Group man in March of last year, has died in hospital at East Leeds—Private E. H. Humphreys, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Humphreys, Home Cottages, Aylestone Hill. He was 38 years of age, and coachman to Miss Ashworth, Aylestone Hill, and his brother, Private John Home Humphreys, joined up at the same time, but was drafted into the Cheshires. Private E. H. Humphreys went out to France with a draft to the Gloucesters two days before Christmas, and had only been in the trenches a short time when he was taken to hospital and invalided to England with trench feet, reaching Leeds at the end of February. His parents were notified of his serious condition, gangrene having set in, and he was visited by his relatives; unfortunately his condition grew worse, and he died on Easter Sunday. During this week his parents have received a message of sympathy from the King. Three soldier sons of the family (including the deceased and Pte. J. H. Humphreys) had each been rejected prior to the Derby scheme being introduced, and all three had become special constables of the city police force. The other soldier brother is Pte. T. C. Humphreys, drafted into the S.W. Borderers; he joined in February of last year. Pte. J. H. Humphreys has been in France since the summer. A fourth son, also rejected, remains at home. The funeral took place at Tupsley Churchyard yesterday (Friday) afternoon, when the dead soldier was accorded military honours, the coffin being covered with the Union Jack and a military party attending. In addition to the parents, Pte. T. C. Humphreys and the deceased's two sisters were present at the ceremony, which was attended by several friends, and was of a simple but impressive character.

The London Gazette

Honours & Awards NIL

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

| Publication Date | | | Detail | Effective Date |
|------------------|-----------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 02/04/1917 | Nott | FT | reverts to captains remains seconded | 16/03/17 |
| 13/04/1917 | Paulson | JIR | to be lieutenant | 29/11/16 |
| 13/04/1917 | Wilmot | E | to be captain | 29/11/16 |
| 14/04/1917 | McMichael | GB | to be lieutenant attached RFC | 01/03/17 |
| 17/04/1917 | Wells | Norman A | to be second lieutenant | 10/04/17 |
| 26/04/1917 | Ashton | P | to be adjutant | 20/01/17 |
| 28/04/1917 | Yeomans | WH | to be lieutenant MGC | 01/01/17 |

HEREFORD

Depot functions continue, including the administration of sick and wounded soldiers and those awaiting disciplinary procedures - including:

Direct enlistments to The Herefords continued, but were greatly reduced due to conscription and formation of central training Battalions. Only 2 enlistments are recorded:

| NAME | INIT | RANK | NO1 | HOMETOWN | Notes |
|---------|---------------|------|--------|----------|-------|
| BOTTOMS | PERCY | PTE | 239139 | | |
| GREEN | GEORGE THOMAS | PTE | 239249 | Nuneaton | |

Some of those discharged were:

| NAME | INIT | RANK | NO1 | NO2 | TERM | HOMETOWN | Notes |
|------------|-----------------|---------|------|--------|-------------|----------|---|
| BASSETT | FRANCIS CHARLES | PTE | | 237720 | | | |
| PUGH | CHARLES H | PTE | 170 | 2357 | timex /age | Ross | Enlisted HRVC 1890 Served BOER War. Reserve Bn. |
| JONES | JOHN JAMES | PTE | 2400 | 235749 | xvi | HEREFORD | |
| WHITE | DAVID | PTE | 3888 | 236481 | XVI | | |
| WARD | HARRY | PTE | | 238536 | xvia | | |
| KINNERSLEY | THOMAS WILLIAM | PTE | 4540 | | | | |
| KITSON | ALBERT | PTE | 4419 | | | | |
| MILES | JOHN | PTE | 3404 | | | HEREFORD | Supplementary Coy |
| NASH | THOMAS | PTE | | 238116 | xvi | | |
| VACE | ARTHUR | PTE | | 237244 | | | |
| VOCE | ARTHUR | PTE | | 237244 | 1B | | |
| BRACHER | CHARLES | PAY SGT | 112 | | Timex / age | Hereford | Enlisted HRVC 1893 |
| MORRIS | HENRY | PTE | 916 | 235071 | Timex / age | HEREFORD | |

xvi - unfit through either wounds or sickness

iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier

timex - Territorial soldier whose time of commitment has expired.

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

The Volunteer Battalion continued to be active.



1st Battalion

SECOND BATTLE OF GAZA

At the beginning of Apr the 53rd Division, as part of the Eastern Force, held a line on the banks of the Wadi Ghuzze, from the Khan Yunis-Gaza road to the sea. A general reconnaissance was able to cover a depth of over a mile without opposition.

Gen Dallas resigned his command, and Brig Mott assumed command of the Div on the 10 Apr.

Brigades were grouped as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 158 BDE GROUP – Brig CS Rome | 159 BDE GROUP – Brig JH du B Travers |
| Signal Sect | Bde Sig Sect |
| 158th Inf Bde (including Herefords) | 159 Inf Bde |
| 158th Machine Gun Coy | 159 Machine Gun Company |
| 436th Fld Coy RE | 437 th Fld Coy RE |
| 3rd Welsh Fld Amb | 2nd Welsh Fld Amb |

160 BDE GROUP - Brig WJC Butler

Bde Signal Coy
160th Inf Bde
160th Machine Gun Coy
439th Fld Coy RE
1st Welsh Fld Amb.

The artillery could not, as yet, be included in the grouping, there being only two composite brigades.

The position held was not unpleasant. Apart from the labour of digging trenches in the sand, troops were not unduly worried. One brigade speaks of 'a shady grove of pomegranates, spangled with scarlet wax-like blooms, citrons and large Eucalyptus trees'; this was St James' Park. The men were able to bathe, and a curious situation arose where the coast being straight and flat, without headlands, parties of the enemy could be seen bathing at no great distance.

Rumours of a second attempt on Gaza ran through the Division.

In the first battle of Gaza the bulk of the enemy forces had been to a flank, away out east; Gaza itself was not strongly held. Now, however, realising the intention of the British command, there was a redistribution and reinforcement of the Turkish Army. Gaza was incorporated in a strong defensive line. It was believed that the garrison had been reinforced with more troops and artillery in reserve.

The work of re-supply was now made easier by the advance of the railway to Deir el Belah, so that not only were the field artillery brigades of the 53rd and 54th Divs, which had been left on the Canal released for service, but the remaining heavy batteries, and four heavy howitzers from the Canal were now available, and in a position to be supplied with ammunition. The troops were all concentrated, ready for an advance, and recess for artillery positions east of the Wadi Ghuzze were completed early in Apr, but the chief factor in fixing the date of advance was the continual source of anxiety - the water supply.

The Gaza defences were being strengthened and wired, and a system of enemy trenches and works, protected by natural obstacles of thick cactus hedges were being constructed southeast from Gaza to the Atawineh Ridge, some 12,000 yards distance from the town. This put any encircling movement of the cavalry out of the question.

A redistribution of the forces under his the 2 subordinate commanders took place, and so Gen Chetwode's Desert Column was made up of mounted troops only - the ANZAC Mounted Div, the Imperial Mounted Div, and the Imperial Camel Bde; while Eastern Force was given the four infantry Divs and 8 tanks.

Gen Dobell initiated an attack on Gaza which fell into two phases. The first phase was carried out on the 17th Apr with practically no opposition. The 54th and 52nd Divisions occupied the Sheikh Abbas - Mansura position. The 53rd Div completed a new line, well forward on the coast and running back to Kurd Hill. The 18th was spent in preparation for the second phase of the battle. The 'gunners' had an exceedingly busy time. And the signallers, on their metal, worked all night laying innumerable cables over the sand dunes - amidst the doleful howling chorus of jackals, which was unearthly in the darkness. It was hoped that communication between artillery and infantry would be perfect. At the last moment the Tanks, moving to their positions, crossed most of the lines, wound the cables round themselves, and all the work had to be done over again!

On the extreme right of the British line was the Desert Column with an outpost line from el Gamli to the right of the 54th Div; at Sheikh Abbas the 54th and 52nd infantry Divs then carried on the line through Mansura to Kurd Hill; the 53rd Div lay across the sand dunes to the sea.

Zero hour was 0530, the two mounted Divs advanced in the direction of Abu Hureira and along the Gaza-Beersheba road. On the right flank, one brigade of the ANZAC Division went to Tel el Fara, one towards Abu Hureira, and two were held in reserve; this division did not dismount. The Imperial Mounted Div attacked on foot, with varying fortune. They had some hard fighting, but on the whole were successful in their object of holding and diverting enemy troops.

The 54th Division moved down the slopes of Sheikh Abbas and Mansura on a two brigade front, without sufficient artillery to sustain fire on the line of enemy trenches, the position was entirely favourable to the machine gun and rifle defence of the Turks. Moreover, the counter-battery work of our heavy guns seems to have been futile; the Turkish artillery was well directed and sustained, and took an immediate toll on the British infantry descending from the Sheikh Abbas-Mansura Ridge and followed them to the glacis where the Turkish and German machine gunners were able to add their hail of bullets. Except on the extreme left of the 54th Division, where the 11th London Regiment captured a front line trench, the infantry got no nearer the Turkish defences than 200 yards. The tanks were equally unsuccessful.

The advance of the 52nd Div was a more complicated manoeuvre. It was led by the 155th Bde along the Es Sire Ridge, with the 156th Bde on the right rear. When the 155th had cleared sufficient ground on this difficult front the 156th were to wheel to attack Green Hill and Ali Muntar. Led by a tank (which fell into one of the steep sided Wadis and was replaced by the one in reserve), the 5th KOSB captured, lost, recaptured, and again lost Outpost Hill. The 156th Brigade started their wheel on Green Hill and Ali Muntar, but soon found that until Outpost Hill was firmly secured they could not advance. This was never achieved.

The 53 Div were on the coastal sector. Gen Mott, with Brigs Travers and Butler, had made a personal reconnaissance of the approaches to the enemy's advanced line; for 1,500 yards to the west of the Gaza road there was little cover; the line of advance along the sea coast was in the nature of a glacis; the centre was more

broken and afforded a certain amount of cover, and this was the line of advance decided upon. He attacked with two brigades - 160th on the right, 159th on the left. The new line which had been dug since the 17th was held by the 158th Bde; but the attacking Brigades formed up in rear, between Money Hill and Cliff Fort, and their orders were to go through the battalions of the 158th Bde and move, the 160th against Samson Ridge, the 159th against the high ground between Samson Ridge and Sheikh Ajlin. One battalion of the 160th was to make a subsidiary attack along the valley between the Es Sire Ridge and the sand dunes, keeping in touch with the 52nd Div.

A female tank was allotted to the 160th Bde and a male to the 159th.

The two attacking brigades advanced from their rear position at 0715hrs. Owing to the soft and deep sand it was deemed advisable to start the advance a quarter of an hour before the set time. The main attack of the 160th Brigade was given to the Middlesex and West Kents, each on a 500 yards frontage. The first check was experienced soon after passing through the outpost line. They were in full view of all those gardens and groves outside Gaza, which run down the slope of the Es Sire Ridge on that side, and long range machine gun fire was very troublesome. Samson Ridge itself was under fire from the 266th Field Artillery Bde, and also at this time from the guns of the French battleship, Requin and the gardens were having special attention from the gunners in the shape of gas shells; unfortunately, the gas took no effect.

At 1000 the Middlesex were some 300 yards from the redoubt on Samson Ridge, but reported that the artillery support was insufficient for further advance. Gen Mott urged the position should be attacked as soon as possible, and the Sussex moved up from reserve to the right of the Middlesex. About this time, too, the Queens, on receipt of an order from Brig Butler, moved to attack the eastern slopes of Samson Ridge, but found the rifle and machine gun fire from the gardens and cactus hedges on their right flank so intense that they were held, strung out, facing Gaza, about a thousand yards on the right rear of the Sussex. The machine guns attached to this battalion moved up to Heart Hill and did some useful work on that flank.

Meanwhile the West Kents, who had lost their Commanding Officer, (wounded), and their Adjutant (killed) reported that they were in a position to assault. The guns lifted at 1115, but the enemy machine gun fire was too severe and no assault took place.

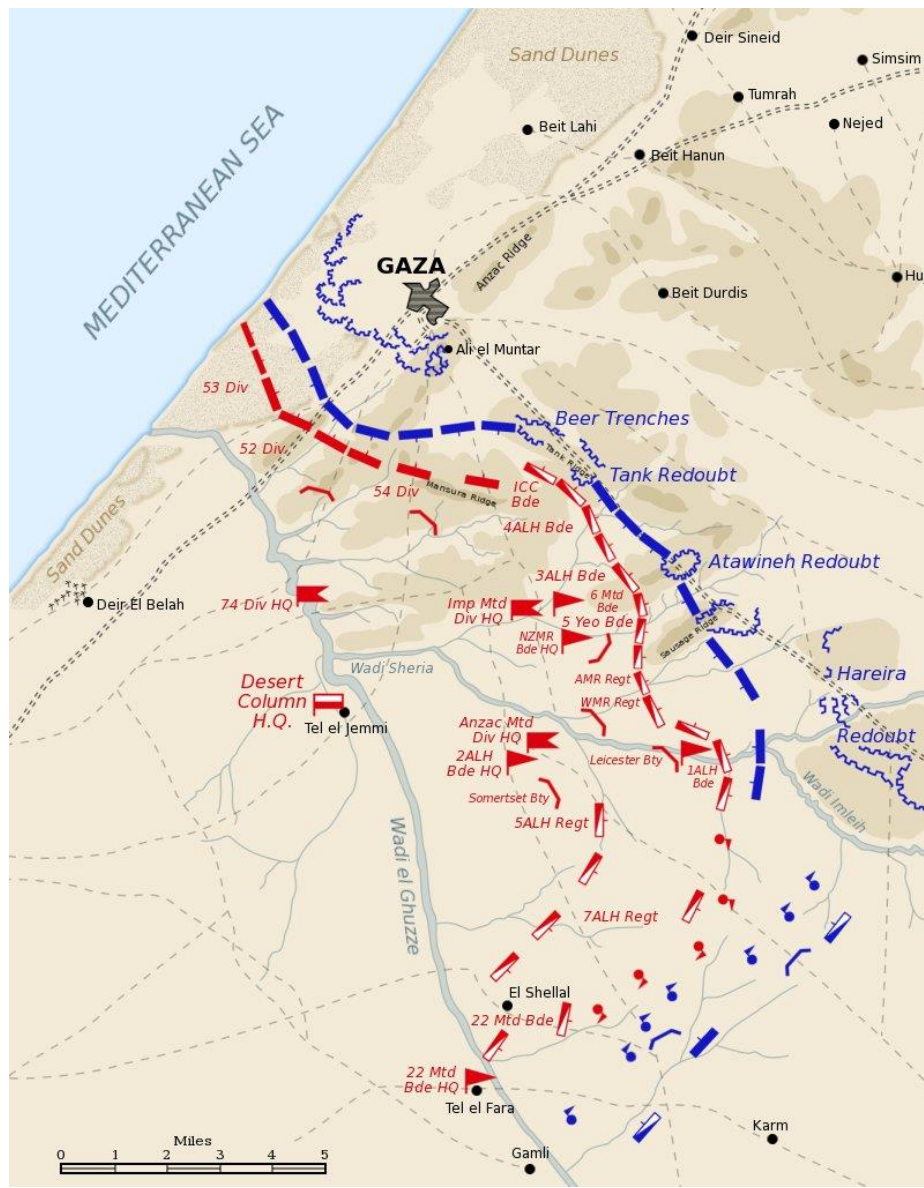
By 1245 the Middlesex and West Kents, and the Sussex on their right, had crept forward to within 200 yards of the redoubt, and the Brig was ordered by Gen Mott to fix a time for assault. The artillery then lifted, and the Sussex, Middlesex and West Kents rushed up the slope and carried the position. However a few hundred yards beyond Samson Ridge, cactus hedges, scrub, and some cultivation began; the enemy defences were sited on the very edge of this cultivation on a slight upward slope, where solid ground allowed the digging of better trenches, and the cactus and cultivation gave cover. The Ridge was only a forward post, held by the Turks for observation and annoyance; its capture in no way embarrassed their main line of defence on the extreme edge of the sand dunes area. Under such conditions the line held was, naturally, sketchy; there were gaps and in some places a poor field of fire. Colonel Pearson (Middlesex) reported that, owing to casualties and disorganisation, two battalions would have to be sent up to carry on the attack. The Herefords were ordered forward and occupied, after overcoming some resistance, a ridge running southeast from Samson Ridge, which was afterwards known as Hereford Ridge. The tanks were not successful; but in spite of all handicaps one of them, the 'Tiger' with the 160th Bde, did good work.

The 159th Bde had an easy task, as it proved. According to orders they halted about eight hundred yards from Sheikh Ajlin until Samson Ridge was taken, and then the Turks in front of them ran, and they occupied their objective without opposition.

Battalions of the 158th Bde were moved up in support. More could not be done by the 53rd Div - to attempt a further advance against the cactus hedges and orchards filled with Turkish riflemen and German machine gunners would have been madness. Moreover, reserves had already been committed to capture Samson Ridge, and though the coastal brigade had suffered very slight casualties any further advance would have made no impression, and would not have helped the 52nd Div.

Up on the Es Sire Ridge the remnants of the 155th Bde were still hanging on to Outpost Hill, where the situation was such that the 156th Bde could not move on their right; fresh troops were necessary to give impetus to the fight, and the reserve brigade was on the point of advancing when

Sir A Murray gave orders to stand fast.



Casualties

The following casualties occurred in Apr 1917,; there is a mix of 'old' pre-war soldiers, 1914 volunteers and Derby Scheme soldiers. Some had served abroad since embarking for Suvla Bay in Jul 1915.

| NAME | INIT | RANK | No 1 | No 2 | DATE | HOW | HOMETOWN | Notes |
|-----------|----------------------------|------|------|--------|----------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| BLAKE | EDWARD | PTE | 1293 | 235192 | 19/04/17 | KIA | ROSS | Served Suvla Bay |
| BRYANT | WILLIAM | PTE | 1654 | 235368 | 19/04/17 | KIA | MUCH FAWLEY | Served Suvla Bay |
| CHIRNSIDE | CHARLES | SGT | 1749 | 235421 | 13/04/17 | DOW | HEREFORD | Served Suvla Bay |
| FAULKNER | WILLIAM | PTE | 2934 | 235983 | 09/04/17 | DOW | STOKE LACY | |
| FOWLER | GRANVILLE THOS BATLE | LCPL | 1224 | 235154 | 09/04/17 | DOW | ROSS | Served Suvla Bay |
| FRY | WILLIAM JAMES | PTE | 2692 | 235860 | 20/04/17 | DOW | WINCHCOMBE | Served Suvla Bay |
| GREEN | CHARLES | PTE | 1933 | 235516 | 15/04/17 | KIA | HOW CAPLE | Served Suvla Bay |
| JONES | HAROLD | PTE | 3157 | 236063 | 30/04/17 | DOW | RUARDEAN | Served Suvla Bay |
| KNOTT | FREDERICK | PTE | 3741 | 236382 | 19/04/17 | KIA | LEOMINSTER | |
| LONGFORD | WALLACE | SGT | 2200 | 235655 | 19/04/17 | KIA | W U PENYARD | Served Suvla Bay |
| MARSHALL | AMBROSE | 2LT | | | 15/04/17 | KIA | | |
| MORGAN | WALTER | PTE | 4345 | 236780 | 24/04/17 | DOW | LEOMINSTER | |
| MORRIS | EDWARD GEORGE | CSM | 197 | 235015 | 19/04/17 | KIA | MUCH MARCLE | Served Suvla Bay |
| PREECE | JAMES | PTE | 4205 | 236697 | 21/04/17 | DOW | LEOMINSTER | |
| SKYRME | LEONARD MATTHEW | PTE | 4327 | 236767 | 05/04/17 | DOW | HEREFORD | |
| WALKER | JAMES JOSEPH | PTE | 3233 | 236092 | 17/04/17 | Peretoni tis | UPTON | Served Suvla Bay |
| WHITNEY | JAMES | PTE | 3816 | 236429 | 20/04/17 | DOW | MORDIFORD | |

Local newspapers were still publishing new information regarding casualties as it became known to them:

HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

Further Casualties Reported.

The following additional casualties in connection with the Herefordshire Regiment are reported by the War Office:—

WOUNDED AND PRISONERS OF WAR IN TURKISH HANDS.

Brown (235844), D. E., Ledbury.
Holland (235268), R. S., Leominster.
Mills (236167), J., Worcester.
Page (235271), Coy. Sergt.-Major A., Hereford.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN TURKISH HANDS.

Davies (236291), J., Wellington.
Evans (235774), D., Rhayader.
Fowler (235590), W. H., Garway.
Fuller (236995), F. W., Hereford.
Hughes (236772), G., Brampton Brian.
Lloyd (235961), W. J., Llandrindod.
Pinches (236361), W., Kington.
Reynolds (236360), W., Leominster.
Tyler (235989), W., Cinderford.

WOUNDED.

Hagley (236294), S., Thirsk.
Naylor (236758), J., Bodenham.
Reynolds (235683), J. M., Leominster.

LEOMINSTER MAN.

Private Harry Hunt, reported wounded in Egypt, on March 26th, resided at 75, Bargates, Leominster, and his wife has received official notification that he is wounded.

SHOBDON MAN A PRISONER.

Private Fuller, who is a prisoner in the hands of the Turks, is a son of Mr. Fuller, coachman at Shobdon Rectory.

The parents of Private W. F. Savory, machine gunner, Herefordshire Regiment, have been officially notified that their son was wounded, and is missing since March 28th.

Mrs. Morgan, of the Steam Bakery, Walford, has received news that her son, Pte. R. Morgan (235220), of the Herefordshire Regiment, was wounded in Egypt, on April 15th last.

News has been received that Pte. E. Blake, of the 1st Herefords, whose home was at Brixton Terrace, Ross, was killed in action in Egypt, on April 19th. Before the war he was in the employ of Messrs. Price and Sons, house decorators, Broad Street, Ross.

Mrs. J. Watkins, of Cinderhill, Ruardean, Gloucestershire, widow of the late Mr. Jos. Watkins, has received a notification from the authorities at Shrewsbury to the effect that her son, Private Albert Watkins, of the Herefordshire Regiment, is in hospital at Cairo suffering from gunshot wounds in the face.

LCpl Fowler



CSM Morris



THE LATE CO-SERGT.-MAJOR MORRIS.

In a letter to Mr. W. S. Bowes (hon. secretary of the Ledbury Local Comforts' Fund), Co-Q.M.S. Frank Shinn (eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Shinn, Homend Street, Ledbury), Herefordshire Regiment, refers at length to the death in action of Co.-Sergt.-Major E. G. Morris, B Co., Herefordshire Regiment, of Ledbury and Much Marcle, who fell in action on April 19th. C.S.M. Morris was a well-known Oddfellow, and had a long period of service in the regiment, to which he belonged under the old Volunteer system. He mobilised with the regiment at the outbreak of war, was with it all through the Suvla Bay campaign, and had taken part in the fighting in the Sinai Peninsula. He was home on leave from the front about last Christmas, and duly rejoined the battalion. He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Morris, of Much Marcle, and in civil life was employed by Mr. F. W. Juckes, Ledbury, as a cabinet maker and upholsterer. Under date April 30th, Q.M.S. Shinn writes: "Many thanks for the cigarettes and tobacco which I received this morning, and which I distributed amongst the lads. I only wish poor old Ted (C.S.M. E. G. Morris) could have been with us to have seen to it, instead of myself. I expect you have heard long before this the news of his death, and I know that it must have come as a hard blow to a good many in Ledbury and Marcle. He was killed instantly on the evening of the 19th, shot through the head by a sniper. Our regiment was in support the day of the battle, and our company pushed on up into the firing line, and, in fact, a little in front of the firing line, where it was a little bit more than warm. It was in this place where Teddy was shot by a sniper on the flank. There is no need to tell you what we all felt when we heard that he was killed, as no one ever thought that he would get hit, neither did he himself, as only the day before he was joking, and said that they had had two attempts to drown him and missed, and he knew they wouldn't shoot him. I wasn't close to him at the time, as our company got split up into several parts, but those that were with him told me that he was laughing as he was potting at Johnny running away a few seconds before he was hit. The whole of the company have missed him already, but none so much as I and his old pals have. It's a too sudden end to a soldier and a pal, but I suppose it's a thing that is likely to happen to any of us on this stunt. . . . I hope you will convey once again to the Committee and subscribers our thanks for their kindness in providing smokes and comforts for the lads of Ledbury and district."

Pte L Skyrme



PTE. A. MARSHALL, HOPE MANSEL.

Pte. A. Marshall (1206), son of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Hom Ruff, Hope Mansel, Ross, was wounded on March 26th, and Sec. Lieut. G. Norman Berney, in a letter to his parents dated April 7th, says: "As your son's platoon commander, I am writing to reassure you about him. I was close by him in the attack and one of my platoon—Walters by name—was badly hit. Your son volunteered to stay behind and look after him and bind him up, and I gave him permission to do so. When I last saw him he was kneeling by Walters's side, in spite of the many bullets which were flying about. Shortly afterwards a bullet struck him and wounded him in the shoulder, but not seriously I am glad to say, although it will probably keep him in hospital some time. At any rate you have cause to be proud of your son for the plucky way in which he attended a wounded comrade under fire." Pte. Marshall served in the Dardanelles campaign as well as in Egypt and Palestine.

**LANCE-CORPL. W. H. WHEELER,
RUARDEAN.**

Lance-Corpl. W. H. Wheeler (2654), who, as we reported last week, is wounded, has written to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wheeler, Little Marstow, Ruardean, saying he was put out of action on March 27th at Gaza. "I got it fairly hot," he states, "having shrapnel wounds in the head and left hand and a graze on the left leg. I was operated on last Monday (his letter is dated April 4th), and had the bullet removed from my head, so I shall soon recover and be fit for battle again. Our lads didn't half trim old Jacko up. We fought him for eight hours on the Monday, then got busy with the bayonet, and made him clear; and then on Tuesday morning I got trimmed up. Cheer up, keep smiling; we shall still win."

They also published accounts of the battle as related in letters from the men to their families:

GRAPHIC LETTER FROM A ROSS SOLDIER.

Pte. J. A. Price, 1st Herefords, writing to his parents at Blacknorle Farm, Glewstone, near Ross, from Egypt, says:—

“ We were marching through cornfields and beautiful green pasture, and the first night we lay in a big fruit orchard, with orange trees, sweet almond trees, and green peas growing there. We left early in the afternoon, and after a five miles' march we had tea and a rest, being told that the enemy's position was about seven miles away, and that the 5th R.W.F. were to attack them at dawn. We started at one o'clock that night, and it was a most tedious march, going for about 100 yards and then lying down. That sort of thing proceeded all night, and just as dawn broke we found that we were still a mile and a half from the enemy. A lucky mist then came on, and we laid down for a couple of hours. Not hearing a sound we thought the Turks had gone, but about eight o'clock the mist cleared and the guns began roaring behind us. The Turks must have had two guns put out of action at once, as they only fired two and sometimes one at us. This was exceedingly lucky, for we had to march some 4,500 yards on absolutely flat and open ground with no cover whatever. The enemy's position was on a hill with trenches and redoubts all round, and a good supply of machine guns. We got to within 500 yards of his first trench, and there we lay for about two hours. The rifle and the machine gun fire was cruel. Men in all directions were getting hit very fast,

and were either hobbling away or being carried off as fast as possible. I thought it was all up with me, and indeed all the rest of the boys. About four o'clock in the afternoon, however, the battalion on our right got going well, and eventually we got up with them and made a charge. The Turks did not get half mown down, too, and 'Johnny' didn't offer much resistance when we got into his trenches. We captured nearly 1,000 all told, including all the staff of one division. We then had a look for curios and hunting for odd prisoners, etc., whilst we also assisted in carrying the wounded men away. There was a patch of clover, about a foot high, just beyond the trenches, and I could hear the wounded crying for help right up to 12 o'clock that night. But at 12 o'clock we had to walk back to where we started from. We were wandering most of the night, and did not get any rest. Next morning we were ordered up to the captured position again to dig in, with only a drop of cold water and a biscuit for breakfast. On arriving at the trenches we found the Turkish reinforcements were coming up to attack us from Beersheba. They were not far away either, and we soon had order to retire. I stopped with the rearguard firing away at them. The Turks did not like tackling us very much, and after retiring twice their officers drove the men on. The enemy were quite five to one, and we managed to get out of the redoubts. I had to hobble about four miles, and thought I should have dropped. The whole of us were all so weak, having had no food hardly or any rest for two days. I managed to get to a water trough, and I must have drunk quite three quarts of water straight off. Another battalion took up a position between us and the Turks. I and several more got down in a corn field and had a couple of hours' sleep. We also managed to make a cup of tea. Shortly afterwards the remainder of the battalion joined us, and we retired to this place (no name being mentioned), where we rested.”

This activity is reflected in the Battalion War Diary.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Detail</i> |
|-------------|--|
| 1 Apr | Battalion still in bivouac at Q26, St James Park |
| 3 Apr | Anti gas drills under company gas NCOs. |
| 4 Apr | Bde route march towards Khan Yunus and back. Started 0645 and returned 1330. |
| 5 Apr | Anti gas dills under company NCOs assisted by Bde Gas NCO. |
| 7 Apr | Anti gas drills; 350 men employed unloading shells from 1800 to 1800 8th. |
| 8 Apr | Easter Sunday; Bn employed on beach fatigues. |
| 9 Apr | Company parades; anti gas drills; C2 inoculations; beach fatigues. |
| 10 Apr | Company parades; anti gas drills; C2 inoculations; lecture to B & C Coys by Div Smoke Offcr. |
| 11 Apr | Company parades; anti gas drills |
| 12 Apr | Company parades; anti gas drills; 2 Coys digging advanced trenches 2300 to 0500 13th. |

| | |
|--------|---|
| 13 Apr | Company parades; Bn on Bde duty; 2 coys paraded for night digging in accordance with orders received from HQ 158 Bde, but were not required. |
| 14 Apr | Company parades; anti gas drills. |
| 15 Apr | St James Park and vicinity bombarded by Turks with heavy HE for 1 ½ hours; 2 men slightly wounded. |
| 16 Apr | Bn prepares to move, provide large working and carrying parties. |
| 17 Apr | Bn marched at 1800 to Tel El Ajjul (Q11). 3 Coysto front line trenches on line R7a to Q6b. One coy remaining at el El Ajjul. CO and 3 Coys returned at dawn to Tel El Ajjul. Proportion of officers, NCOs and men left in dump at St James Park as a reserve draft. |
| 18 Apr | Bn remained during the day in bivouac at Tel El Ajjul. Bombardment of enemy's positions by our monitors and 'Requin'. At dusk CO and 3 Coys moved out and dug in a new line 300 yds in advance of previous nights. 1/5 RWF dug in on Bn's left and 1/6 RWF on their left. |
| 19 Apr | <p>HQ & C Coys returned at dawn to Tel El Ajjul, but returned at 0800 to front line. 160 Bde (Brig Gen Butler) advanced through Bn to the attack on Samson Ridge (P25 & 26). Lt Col Drage ordered to report to HQ 158 Bde which were near 034 central. Here orders were received from GOC 53 Div the Herefords were at disposal of BGC 160 Bde, CO rode to HQ 160 Bde at Q11B and there received verbal instructions from its brigadier to advance the Battalion to a covered position on its right, east flank of 160 Bde (which was at this time in occupation of the Samson Ridge), so as to prevent its brigade being counter attacked by the Turks on the flank. The CO was also ordered to place himself in contact with Lt Col Pierson, Middlesex Regiment commanding at Samson Ridge – Kents, Sussex and Middlesex Regts.</p> <p>1400 – Bn commenced to advance A & B Coys firing lines under Maj Green; C & D local reserve under CO. Objective being a sand dune with bushes on top at P32d910.</p> <p>Between 1330 and 1600 the leading platoons had reached a position approximately in square P32, about the 'I' of observation, CO and HQ C Coy were shortly afterwards about 500 yards to the rear. Fire not heavy bu very accurate. CO accompanied by 2Lt Chipp (Adj) moved across to P32a43 and found this the HQ of Middlesex Regt. It being represented by the CO, that owing to losses and the long line of the front held on Samson Ridge by 160 Bde, it would be advisable to send the portion of the Bn still in hand up there. Orders were given o D Coy t proceed there; a platoon of B Coy also sent ther with shovels. The Coys had become a good deal mixed; D Coy and a Pl of B, remainder of B with ACot, a quarter part of C Coy (til about 0100) in a position to right rear of A. Bn HQ was established at same place as Middlesex HQ. The right flank of the Bn was so far as was known the Queens being at Heart Hill entrenched and very much in the air, and a message was received from Maj Green to this effect. The right flank was drawn back; the position remained stationary until about 0100 20th.</p> |
| 20 Apr | <p>At this time, COs of Herefords, Kents and Middlesex were directed to meet BGC 158 Bde on Samson Ridge. Instructions were thus received: Herefords concentrate on right of the line, 3 battalions of 160 Bde were withdrawn and relieved by 1/7 RWF and on their left 1/5 RWF.</p> <p>Previously it was learnt that Maj Green and 2Lt Crossley had both been severely wounded and, CSM B Coy, Morris killed.</p> <p>The acting adjutant was directed to take over the command of company on right and ascertain position of affairs. He reported that companies were consolidating position. About 0300 the greater part of the Battalion and HQ was concentrated and were digging in.</p> <p>Rations water and small arms ammunition were brought up before dawn. No regimental stretchers were available at this time all having been used up; the casualties from the 19th were 3 killed and 23 wounded.</p> <p>During the day the battalion dug in well. Casualties 9 wounded, 2 of which later died. The casualties chiefly occurred from the fact that communication to the rear was of necessity over a sand ridge exposed to fire of Turkish snipers.</p> <p>Ration convoy arrived about 0830.</p> |
| 21 Apr | Battalion consolidated trenches. Battalion position officially named Hereford Ridge. |
| 22 Apr | Battalion consolidated trenches and dug 200yds of trenches to connect with Queens on right at Snipers Ridge. 1/7 RWF commence connecting up to Herefords left. |
| 23 Apr | Consolidation and improving Bn trenches, and at night connecting up with Bns on flanks. |

| | |
|--------|---|
| 24 Apr | Bn relieved by 1/7 RWF, moved to a position in reserve at R2wb. |
| 25 Apr | Bn dug shell trenches. Stores moved up from Tel El Ajjur, dump reserves at St James Park rejoined HQ. |
| 26 Apr | Company parades; 1 coy worked 1830 – 2300 in direction of Snipers Ridge & Heart Hill now held by 1/6 RWF. |
| 27 Apr | Anti gas drills: 0600 – 0645 and 1130 – 1330. At night 2 Coys moved to reserve positions near HQ 158 Bde. One coy to garrison Caernarvon Redoubt (200yds ENE of Bn HQ) and one coy working party as for previous night. |
| 28 Apr | As fro previous day. |
| 29 Apr | Sunday – Communion service at 8.30am. 2Lt Harris and 25 soldiers arrived. Night disposition as in previous except that Caernarvon Redoubt Coy also dug until 2300 on line of 1/6 RWF. A 30 foot horse trough obtained this day for men to wash clothes in. |
| 30 Apr | Company parades; anti gas drill. Night dispositions as previous. |

War Diary
1/6 Yorkshires Coy. April 1917.

Division I *Weekly Effective Strengths.*

| | Officers | Other Ranks |
|----------|----------|-------------|
| 6-4-17. | 21 | 807. |
| 13-4-17. | 22 | 840 |
| 20-4-17. | 22 | 710 |
| 27-4-17. | 23 | 777 |

Division II *Weekly Casualty Returns.*

| | Killed | | Wounded | | Missing | | Not Assisted | |
|----------|--------|------|---------|------|---------|------|--------------|------|
| | C. | C.R. | C. | C.R. | C. | C.R. | C. | C.R. |
| 6-4-17. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 20 |
| 13-4-17. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 17 |
| 20-4-17. | - | 9 | 2 | 29 | - | 6 | - | 9 |
| 27-4-17. | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 15 |

Division III *Reinforcements.*

| 6-4-17. | How Nov. | 0. | 0.8 |
|----------|----------|----|-----|
| 13-4-17. | " | 1 | 32 |
| " | England | | 2 |
| 20-4-17 | Corp. | | 15 |
| " | England | | 1 |
| 27-4-17 | How. | 1 | 16 |
| " | England. | | 1 |

APPENDIX I

To: OC Hereford

Q.O.C 160th Side directs me to ask you to bring your batt^y up and help consolidate SAMPSON ridge at present held by 5032EX KENTS, MIDDX. Will you please bear batt^y left and advance to the top of the ridge - or if we are already on the way to our right - please dig in on forward slopes & keep in touch with our right.

15.26

J. Pearson Lt Col
OC 2/16 190th Regt

APPENDIX II

O.C. 1/4 Hereford.

I have got A Coy & a part of B Coy within about 200^{yds} of the ridge with bombs on you tell me to concentrate behind. The ridge is occupied by the enemy & I am engaging them. I am continuing the fight of the first line of the ~~Regt~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~at~~ ~~Surrey~~ ~~R.~~ I believe my position on the map to be just above the 200 in ~~the~~ ~~observation~~ in P 32 d.

15.50
19.1.17.

J. Pearson Major
1/4 Herefordshire R.

APPENDIX III

My position is not at all a good one on my right is very rough in the air. If I cannot get support I must retire my right. There are a lot of men in the air from our right. I do not know where the remainder of B Coy is & Capt T. is not there. Wellman is about 30 men in all. I'm. Brown is killed.

Forward of B Coy has just been back & is going to the a few min section up. I will dig in. I will try & spare some men to off load but am very weak.

17.25.

J. Pearson Major

To: OC Hereford APPENDIX IV

Your note received I am doing as you suggest, throwing back my right. Soon I hear you have been hit. I have got my right in the elbow & hip, rather serious.

18.10

J. Pearson Major

"A" Form. Army Form C.2121
(in parts of 100).
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Prefix <i>20H</i> Code <i>LH</i> m. | Words <i>10</i> | Charge | This message is on a/c of: | Recd. at <i>10:30</i> m. |
| Office of Origin and Service Instructions | Sent | | Date <i>19/4/47</i> | Date |
| | At <i>10</i> m. | | From <i>20H</i> | From <i>20H</i> |
| | To | | By <i>[Signature]</i> | By <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | By | (Signature of "Franking Officer") | | |

TO: *Hereford*

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Sender's Number. * <i>20H 953</i> | Day of Month. <i>19</i> | In reply to Number. | AAA |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----|

*Commanding officers will hand
over to 2nd in command
and come to bid by*

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| From <i>20H Bde</i> | Place | Time |
|---------------------|-------|------|

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

"A" Form. Army Form C.2121
(in parts of 100).
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Prefix <i>20H</i> Code <i>FX</i> m. | Words <i>10</i> | Charge | This message is on a/c of: | Recd. at <i>0647</i> m. |
| Office of Origin and Service Instructions | Sent | | Date <i>19/4/47</i> | Date |
| | At <i>19/4/47</i> m. | | From <i>20H</i> | From <i>20H</i> |
| | To | | By <i>[Signature]</i> | By <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | By | (Signature of "Franking Officer") | | |

TO: *Hereford*

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Sender's Number. * <i>20H 972</i> | Day of Month. <i>19</i> | In reply to Number. | AAA |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----|

ZERO hour was 0530

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| From <i>158 Bde</i> | Place | Time |
|---------------------|-------|------|

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

"A" Form. Army Form C.2121
(in parts of 100).
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Prefix <i>20H</i> Code <i>LH</i> m. | Words <i>10</i> | Charge | This message is on a/c of: | Recd. at <i>12:14</i> m. |
| Office of Origin and Service Instructions | Sent | | Date <i>19/4/47</i> | Date |
| | At <i>12</i> m. | | From <i>20H</i> | From <i>20H</i> |
| | To | | By <i>[Signature]</i> | By <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | By | (Signature of "Franking Officer") | | |

TO: *OC. 1/5 RWF & 1/1 Hereford*

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Sender's Number. * <i>20H 925</i> | Day of Month. <i>19</i> | In reply to Number. | AAA |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----|

*Be prepared to advance on
SAMPSON RIDGE at
short notice
Plasenta Capt Bde*

*11 18 or 17
19. Received 12:14*

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| From <i>20H Bde</i> | Place | Time |
|---------------------|-------|------|

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

"A" Form. Army Form C.2121
(in parts of 100).
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Prefix <i>20H</i> Code <i>LH</i> m. | Words <i>10</i> | Charge | This message is on a/c of: | Recd. at <i>12:00</i> m. |
| Office of Origin and Service Instructions | Sent | | Date <i>19/4/47</i> | Date |
| | At <i>12</i> m. | | From <i>20H</i> | From <i>20H</i> |
| | To | | By <i>[Signature]</i> | By <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | By | (Signature of "Franking Officer") | | |

TO: *Hereford*

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| Sender's Number. * <i>20H 946</i> | Day of Month. <i>19</i> | In reply to Number. | AAA |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----|

*be prepared to advance on
as to the ready to
move as a moment
notice*

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| From <i>158 Bde</i> | Place | Time |
|---------------------|-------|------|

The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)

"A" Form. Army Form C. 2121 (in pads of 100).
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message

Prefix *BM 939* Code *17* m. Words Charge
 Office of Origin and Service Instructions
 This message is on a/c of: Recd. at *158* m.
 Sent *10* Date *10-4-17*
 At *10* m. Service. From *AME*
 To _____ By _____
 (Signature of "Franking Officer")

TO: *Hereford*

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
 * *BM 939* *10* _____

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>They will move you</i> | <i>immediately</i> | <i>to take in any</i> | <i>counter attacks that may</i> | <i>be made against our lines</i> | <i>who have been AMBISON</i> |
| <i>RIDGE</i> | | | | | |

Major Green
158 BDE

From _____ Place _____ Time _____
 The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)
 Censor. Signature of Addressee or person authorized to telegraph in his name

"A" Form. Army Form C. 2121 (in pads of 100).
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message

Prefix *BM 937* Code *17* m. Words Charge
 Office of Origin and Service Instructions
 This message is on a/c of: Recd. at *158* m.
 Sent _____ Date *10-4-17*
 At _____ m. Service. From *AME*
 To _____ By *Turner*
 (Signature of "Franking Officer")

TO: *Hereford*

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
 * *BM 937* *9* _____

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <i>Formations in reserve should be</i> | <i>prepared for attacks by</i> | <i>hostile</i> | <i>forces</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|

Rec'd 12-20
AME

From *158* Place *BDE* Time _____
 The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)
 Censor. Signature of Addressee or person authorized to telegraph in his name

"A" Form. Army Form C. 2121 (in pads of 100).
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. No. of Message

Prefix *BM 18* Code *17* m. Words Charge
 Office of Origin and Service Instructions
 This message is on a/c of: Recd. at _____ m.
 Sent _____ Date *10-4-17*
 At *0910* m. Service. From _____
 To *AME* By _____
 (Signature of "Franking Officer")

TO: *H.Q. 158 Bde*

Sender's Number. Day of Month. In reply to Number. AAA
 * *D1* *20* _____

| | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <i>My</i> | <i>H.Q.</i> | <i>are</i> | <i>at</i> | <i>second</i> |
| <i>o</i> | <i>of</i> | <i>Observations</i> | <i>F 32 2</i> | |
| <i>Soil</i> | <i>Sandy</i> | <i>very</i> | <i>difficult</i> | <i>to</i> |
| <i>dig</i> | <i>in</i> | <i>more</i> | <i>sandbags</i> | <i>wanted</i> |
| <i>Position</i> | <i>Convoys</i> | <i>should</i> | <i>go</i> | <i>same</i> |
| <i>place</i> | <i>as</i> | <i>last</i> | <i>night</i> | <i>and</i> |
| <i>pick</i> | <i>up</i> | <i>guide</i> | <i>there</i> | <i>to</i> |
| <i>Army</i> | <i>then</i> | <i>place.</i> | <i>Formation</i> | <i>at 47</i> |
| <i>old</i> | <i>dump</i> | <i>should</i> | <i>be</i> | <i>brought</i> |
| <i>along</i> | <i>and</i> | <i>SAA</i> | <i>lying</i> | <i>there 57</i> |
| <i>urgently</i> | <i>need</i> | <i>medical</i> | <i>assistance.</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>doctor</i> | <i>no</i> | <i>stretchers</i> | | |

From *Hereford* Place _____ Time _____
 The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)
 Censor. Signature of Addressee or person authorized to telegraph in his name

Maj ALB Green

| Date | Detail |
|--------|---|
| 1 Apr | Church parade in morning. Sent off deceased and wounded officers kits. Hear Levason DG has died of wounds. Cake from M arrived, very welcome. Enemy aircraft over in afternoon flying very low. |
| 2 Apr | Had a bathe – very jolly beach. Mail in letter from Do of 12 Mar. Francis to be married in Easter week. Valises arrived from dump. |
| 3 Apr | Our guns started shelling enemy position at about 0630. The enemy replied searching for our batteries, most of them falling about 500 yards to our right. |
| 4 Apr | Started out at 0645 on Bde route march towards Khan Yunus with the object of making Turkish aeroplanes think we were evacuating. Had to wait about a long time till the aeroplane came over and got back at 1330. Seemed a childish and futile stunt. Drew 4 new horses from remounts. My arm hitherto healing well started deep sepsis. |
| 5 Apr | Bad night with my arm very painful. Having hourly fomentations which have eased it. Ernie Capel came in to see us also Col Money, late of ? now commanding the West Kents. Mander dropped in on his way from a bathe and asked me to dine tonight. Col Rome appointed to comd Bde. Mail in letter from Do of 14 Mar, also cap and back badges from Messers Newman and Caters. Hear that Challis is a prisoner at Gaza. Also that America has declared war. |
| 6 Apr | Had quite a good dinner with Mander last night – six courses, soup, fish (tinned salmon and peas), hash with mashed potatoes, asparagus and melted butter, tinned peaches and welsh rarebit, with cocoa to follow, also a bottle of beer. Nixon rejoined from Rafa dump. |
| 7 Apr | Nothing much doing. CO had letter from Challis dropped by Turkish aeroplane. We had a list of our prisoners with Turk – 9 unwounded, 4 wounded besides Challis. Spent day getting out mess a/cs – rather complicated. Usual bombardment by both sides. |
| 8 Apr | Had early celebration this morning to the accompaniment of AA fire from Turkish guns. Our aeroplanes bombed Turks last night. Beautiful day but rather hot. Saw Hohler. Went for stroll in evening to top of Green Hill for look round. Sergeants beat officers at football. |
| 9 Apr | Started off with padre at 0830 to YMCA which has opened at railhead. Took me 3 1/2 hours to buy a limited amount of stuff for men and mess. Met Caddick and had lunch with him. Ernie Capel came to dinner, Aston was to have come but was prevented. |
| 10 Apr | The Brig Gen came down to tell us that Dallas has got the push and was going down to comd Div. At any rate tempy CO went up to take over Bde till Rome returns. Mail in with letters from Do of 19 and 21 Mar, also from the Mater and Lady Croft. One from Lewis to say he is going on well – am so glad. Tin of cakes from Do – very welcome. |
| 11 Apr | 2Lt Burdass returned from hospital. Capt P Ashton appointed BM 158 Bde. Lecture on smoke clouds in afternoon. Rode down to W Guzze after tea to see Hohler of Middlesex who showed me the Turkish position. |
| 12 Apr | Brig Gen CS Rome took over comd of Bde and our own CO returned. |
| 13 Apr | Took half the Battalion out last night to take on second relief at digging new line for 159 Bde round Money Hill. Rotten job in soft sand. Got back home at 0500 and went to bed and slept till 1000. Ashton came to dinner. |
| 14 Apr | Turks put some shells over us early in the morning. Most of them fell in Fd Amb and killed several men. One or 2 reached railhead and wounded 4 and 1 officer at 53 Div Supply Dump. Rode down with Paulson to railhead to get mess stores and fruit for men. Very dusty hanging about. Darroll rejoined. |
| 15 Apr | Two of the Tanks passed through out bivouac about 2300 last night and parked under the trees by Bde HQ. Turks started shelling heavy battery just in front of Bde HQ at 10am and kept up till 11.40. Made an awful mess of Bde HQ but really did wonderfully little damage. Battery had 15 casualties or so including 4 killed. We got the hits just behind Bn HQ but no casualties. I dined at Bde HQ which had been shifted after the morning show. Two officers from 52 Div (Scottish Fus) joined us for duty. |
| 16 Apr | Quite an unexpectedly quiet day. No shelling. The great attack is to start at dusk tonight. Our Bde is in reserve so we don't move till further orders. All our surplus gear, blankets, bivouacs etc is dumped. Went for stroll after tea with CO for recce. On the way back saw the tanks. Was shown over them by an officer |

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| | who was in 5KSLI and knew Booker, Clarke and Porter. Mail in – letters from Do Mar 24 & 28, parcel of cigarettes, Weekly Times of Mar 30 and Blackwood for Apr. |
| 17 Apr | Stood to at 0430, very cold and damp. Our guns started at 0510. The requin and our monitors are helping from the sea. Bn moved out at 1900 with 6 RWF to dig new line about 3,000 yards from W Guzze. C Coy covering party and A, B & D dug series of posts on front of about 1,800 yards. |
| 18 Apr | At dawn all except 3 platoons withdrew to Wadi Guzze to feed and rest. In evening about 1900 we advanced our line 300 yards some companies digging and covering. 1/5 RWF came in between us and 1/6 RWF. |
| 19 Apr | At 0715 this morning 160 Bde advanced through our line, our Bde in reserve. About midday Middlesex charged and took Samson Ridge. We were then ordered up in support and CO told me to take 2 companies (A & B) to a certain point on map to the right of position about 1,500 yards on, which I did, advancing through fairly heavy shrapnel. As I got on was under fairly heavy rifle fire from a fig orchard on right. Got men spread in sand ridges where they could use their rifles and went on a bit and recced and found several enemy trenches and several strong posts all well dug in. Could see Turks firing over parapets about 3-4,000 yards away; got Lewis Guns on them. Sent report to CO as my right flank was in air. Had several casualties and CSM Morris killed. Went back to right rear to recce position to withdraw my right flank to cover it. Was hit slightly in hip. Found position and sent word to Crossley my intention also to CO. While waiting went to troops on my left to notify them and was hit again and my right thigh smashed. Sent word to Crossley to carry on and notified CO then lay still as the bullets were whistling a bit thick. It was then 1800 CO came and saw me after dark and padre rolled up about 2100 bringing a blanket as it was very cold. No stretcher available till 0200 when I was carried off to dressing station and sand cart eventually reaching 1/1 Fd Amb at 0600. Rather done up. Had bone set and moved on to 53 CCS where stayed all day. |
| 21 Apr | Stayed at CCS all day – very crowded and uncomfortable – being put on board hospital train about midnight. |
| 22 Apr | Reached Kantara at 1500 and moved to 24 Gen Hosp where we were well treated. They tried to put me up in box splint but failed as it was too small. Gave us choice of drinks – mine was fizz and I got it. |
| 23 Apr | After breakfast moved by motor ambulance to Kantara West where we boarded hospital train for Cairo arriving there about 1500. Met Crossley on train. We were both sent to Nassieh Mil Hosp where I was put in a ward where I found Ned Wilmot – quite cheery. Had my leg put in thomas knee splint – fairly comfortable. Foot and toe troublesome as quite numb and powerless. |
| 24 Apr | Taken down and x-rayed. Comminuted fracture at junction of upper and middle thirds. Fragments of bullet appear on inner side of thigh. Merry came into ward early this morning. Getting on now but seems to have been badly hit, however, able to go out. Sent cable to Do. Khampsin blowing, temp 115 degrees – pretty bad. |
| 25 Apr | Usual routine, unable to sleep, khampsin continued temp 110. |
| 26 Apr | Got cooler during last night – thank goodness. No sleep again however. |
| 27 Apr | Mail in with letters from Do of Apr 1 and 4 and one each from Pater and Mater. John Hulton came in to see me this afternoon. |
| 28 Apr | Nothing much doing. Nice cool day. They readjusted my splint and put on fresh extention pieces. Young Basil Collins looked in to see me, believe on leave for a few days. He doesn't seem to like the ELC much. |
| 29 Apr | Had my leg reset in a longer thomas, which I hope will be better. Weekly inspection by CO and Matron. Cpl Watkins and LCpl Slaymaker came in to see me in evening from Abasieh Convalescent Hospital. |
| 30 Apr | Usual routine. Had a beastly night last night with indigestion – no sleep at all before 3am. Leg painful and stretched. Had a very nice letter from the CO. I have now had a week here – seems like a month. |

Colley

While I was in hospital another attack was made on Gaza. On 9 Apr but with no more success than the first; for the enemy anticipated the attack, and was this time far more prepared and he had completed an excellent defensive position

Fatigues - Unloading ammunition and stores at the Railhead.



C Company – Foot Inspection – an Officers responsibility was to inspect his soldiers feet to ensure they were looking after their own health and remained 'fit'.



One of the 'new' tanks being prepared for operations.



2nd Battalion - Lowestoft

The 2nd Battalion remained in Lowestoft as part of 205th Bde in 68 Div; drafts of trained men continued to reinforce units, mainly in France.



Reserve Battalion (formerly 3 Bn) – Oswestry

The Reserve Bn remained at Oswestry; their numbers had been reduced by drafts of the 1st Battalion and other Regiments. It would appear from the tone of the letter published in the Hereford Times that there was a degree of resentment that all reinforcement drafts were not sent to the 1st Battalion. Troops with a farming background were also being sent to support the agricultural effort and produce more food from the land – this was especially important given the increased German U Boat activity and the loss of imports to the UK.

The deaths which had occurred in Park Hall Camp over the winter were still causing questions to be asked, and with more fatalities additional concerns were being voiced.

Concerns were being expressed in the County's military tribunals, when reviewing appeals to defer permanently or temporarily enlistment in the Army, about committing me to the training camps at Oswestry and Whitchurch. Whilst reassurances were being given, concerns remained.

1st HEREFORDS.

**RESERVE BATTALION AT
OSWESTRY.**

[From a Correspondent.]

The good news that our parent battalion had again distinguished itself in the East was read out to the battalion by the Colonel at a special parade as soon as the despatch was received, and three cheers were given for our brave men who are so splendidly adding to the good fame of the regiment.

Great sympathy is felt by all ranks for the relatives of those officers who have lost their lives or been wounded in the fighting, and the list of casualties among the rank and file is anxiously looked for. Meanwhile we are equipping a further draft for the 1st Battalion, and much pleasure is expressed that we are again sending men to our own regiment instead of to an unknown destination.

In spite of the abnormally atrocious weather we can report a great improvement in our bill of health. We have now very few men in hospital, and it is to be hoped that the epidemic, from which we have suffered so much, has spent its strength.

We have welcomed during the past week a number of Volunteer officers from Herefordshire, who have been sampling the training which goes on continually in this camp. We are particularly glad to have them with us, and hope that, when they go home they will be able to contradict some of the fantastic rumours which seem to be going the round of the county. We are not in a position here to answer the criticisms, which are made so freely in your columns, but are confident that any visitor to the camp will easily be able to do so.

We expect before long to be sent under canvas in the neighbourhood. No definite orders, however, have been received on the subject, and in all probability the authorities will wait for an improvement in the weather conditions before fixing a date.

Our numbers are very much reduced, owing to drafts, ploughing furlough, and so on, and we are looking forward to the time when we shall see the recruits, of whose coming we hear so much. We have been unable to arrange any of the entertainments or sports which we had last year, as we have now so few men, but Corporal Blanche still distinguishes himself as a pugilist, although we regret to say he is still feeling the effects of his last encounter.

OSWESTRY CAMP.

The Death of Herefordshire Recruits

THE MATTER AGAIN RAISED.

At the monthly meeting of the Hereford Town Council, held on Tuesday last the EX-MAYOR (Mr. Greenland) said that he desired to bring forward a matter of public interest in the city and county, which had reference to the conditions at the camps at Oswestry and at Prees Heath, Whitchurch. No doubt members of the Council would have heard the reports of Herefordshire soldiers having lost their lives in those camps. No doubt there had been a great amount of sickness, and he was afraid that it had been brought about more or less through negligence. For some time past he had received several complaints (Mr. Greenland is chairman of the Hereford Military Service Tribunal) about the illness at the camps, and he had made some enquiries. There had been a number of deaths at the camps of recruits who had come from Kingstone, Much Dewchurch, and Grafton, and he had heard that last Saturday week there had been three more deaths of men from Brockhampton, Sollarshope, and Fawley, in a fortnight. The matter had been brought before the Hereford Tribunal, and he had been requested to communicate with Mr. Hewins, M.P. for the City of Hereford, on the subject. He (Mr. Greenland) gave Mr. Hewins certain facts, and the latter had made enquiries, and had sent him a copy of a Government report (already published in our columns), but he ventured to say that that report was far from satisfactory. As he had said to the Tribunal, it was essentially a medical officer's report, and he felt very strongly that some active steps should be taken, and that further enquiries should be made as to the conditions that had prevailed in those camps during the present year. The report merely dealt with the month of February, and he had gathered that a larger number of deaths occurred in January and March. On Monday he received a letter from Mr. Hawkins, of Abergavenny, calling attention to the conditions at the camps. The speaker proceeded to read parts of the letter, as there were some which he preferred not to read, and in the portion of the letter that was read were complaints. Mr. Greenland went on to say that he had received another letter from that

OSWESTRY CAMP.

Question by Mr. Hewins in the Commons.

MITIGATING THE CONDITIONS.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, Mr. W. A. S. Hewins, M.P. for Hereford, asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether his attention had been called to the conditions prevailing at the Oswestry and Prees Heath Camps, and, if so, whether he would grant an enquiry into the causes of the present state of affairs?

Mr. Macpherson: Yes, sir. At the request of my hon. friend and other members of the House I have caused very full enquiries to be made by the authorities in the Western Command, and the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief personally investigated the matter, and caused very full reports to be submitted to us. I am glad to say that steps have been taken by regulations and otherwise to mitigate the conditions which it was humanly possible to control, but, as my hon. friend knows, the abnormal weather aggravated till the arrival of warmer weather the epidemic of influenza and pneumonia which was prevalent. I have asked for more information on certain points, and on the receipt of this information perhaps my hon. friend will then give me the opportunity of making a fuller statement.

Mr. Hewins asked whether the hon. gentleman felt satisfied with the remedies that had been adopted?

Mr. Macpherson: As at present advised I do feel satisfied, but I am awaiting the result of my further enquiries.

Mr. Hewins: May I submit to the hon. gentleman special evidence I have on this case, and will he have it thoroughly investigated?

Mr. Macpherson: Certainly.

The Chancellor asked if there had been a large number of cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis?

Mr. Macpherson: I cannot say offhand, but if my hon. friends will look at an answer I have already given he will find the exact number.

SHROPSHIRE CAMPS.

UNDER SECRETARY'S REPLY TO MR. HEWINS.

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MR. CHANCELLOR, M.P., ON THE WAR OFFICE REPORT.

In our issue of March 31st last we printed in full the War Office report on the recent deaths of recruits at Park Hall Camp, Oswestry. A copy of that report having been sent by the Under Secretary of State for War to Mr. Chancellor, M.P., who had interested himself in the matter from an anti-vaccinationist point of view, Mr. Chancellor has sent the following reply to the Under-Secretary:—

March 16th, 1917.

My dear Macpherson,—Many thanks for your letter of the 12th enclosing copy of Report on the Park Hall Camp, Oswestry. I am glad to learn that the news is not quite so bad as I had feared.

I note the excellent hospital arrangements, which I have no doubt are perfect, but the facts appear to be that in spite of these, recruits were brought in; their systems injured by inoculation; they then caught slight colds, which, as is not unusual after inoculation, and as the result of inoculation, developed into pneumonia; that 193 of them were admitted to hospital and 23 of them killed by this interesting process instead of by German bullets.

These are not by any means the first and will not be the last soldiers lost to the British Army by the same means, whilst the number rendered incapable of service but not killed is legion.—Yours faithfully,

H. G. CHANCELLOR.

Ian Macpherson, Esq., M.P.,
War Office, S.W. 1.

Commenting on the War Office Report, the "Abolitionist" says:—"This Report only strengthens our belief that the real cause of the mishap was the processes of inoculation and vaccination undergone almost immediately on a recruit's joining up. Two facts are particularly noteworthy: (1) the outbreak was among the new recruits, i.e., those who had just had this experience, and not those who had had it months ago; (2) the camp arrangements were not of a kind to create "chills," and there was very little catarrh. The pointed exclusion of all reference to inoculation and vaccination in the official Report is in itself a ground of grave suspicion."

PROTEST FROM LEDBURY.

At the Ledbury Tribunal on Monday, Mr. S. H. Bickham, presiding, Mr. W. S. Lane raised a discussion on the question of the Oswestry camp. He could mention, he said, seven or eight deaths from pneumonia. Those young men would not have died from pneumonia had they remained on the land. They had to undergo such strict discipline and drill that very few young fellows were capable of performing; they were asked to do things that trained men of six months had to do.

The Military Representative said that he had spent ten days at Park Hall Camp, and he could say that he never before saw such personal interest and trouble taken as was shown by Colonel Symonds-Taylor.

Mr. Riley said he knew of several cases that went to Oswestry, and they were absolutely not treated as Capt. Rowden suggested.

The Chairman refused to allow any further discussion on the matter, but at the end of the meeting Mr. Lane proposed that the following resolution be sent to Mr. W. A. S. Hewins, M.P. for Hereford:—

That this Tribunal is of opinion that attention should be called to the unhealthy state of Oswestry Camp, to the severe orders that are given and carried out to the detriment of the health of young fellows joining up; and trusts that immediate attention will be given to it, and that you may be successful in remedying these complaints.

Capt. Rowden said he knew that what Mr. Lane said was from the best intentions. When he (the speaker) was at Oswestry he saw no occasion for complaint either as to the state of the huts or the food. The officers lived on rations. He made inquiries and found that there was no ground for complaint. He knew there had been a good deal of illness there, but he did not know whose fault it was. Colonel Symonds-Taylor was an extraordinarily kind man, and went round the huts himself.

The motion having been seconded by Mr.

PARK HALL CAMP.

To the Editor of the Hereford Times.

Sir,—With reference to the discussion which took place and the resolution which was passed at the meeting of the Ledbury Rural Tribunal on Monday last, I feel it my duty to give a more detailed explanation than was possible at the time without unduly delaying the proceedings. Anyone knowing Mr. William Lane's kind and sympathetic nature will realise that his criticisms were made with the best of intentions. At the same time, I am sure that he would be extremely sorry if they were to give rise to unjust reflections on any person or an incorrect impression as to facts.

Unfortunately, it is only too true that some time ago there was a great deal of sickness and a number of deaths at Park Hall Camp. I am not in a position to give any reason or to say who, if anyone, was to blame, but I can say without hesitation that Lieut.-Col. Symonds-Taylor, the officer commanding the Reserve Battalion of the Herefordshire Regiment, takes an enormous amount of care to secure the comfort and welfare of the men under him. This, I feel sure, will be endorsed by all ranks of the Battalion, and I think the men themselves would greatly resent any suggestion that it was otherwise. It happens that I was myself attached to the Battalion for 10 days' training at the early part of the present month, so I can speak from my own personal knowledge. There is now, I am glad to say, no undue amount of sickness in the Camp. I fail to see how the Camp itself could very well be improved upon. The huts are excellent, with the floors well above the ground. The Camp is well supplied with raised paths and "duck walks." As regards rations, it is generally known that in the early months of the war complaints were made all over the country as to the enormous amount of waste that was taking place. This led to a judicious reduction in the rations, which, although they do not now admit of waste, are undoubtedly ample. The present daily Government issue per man is as follows:—Bread, 14 ounces (including flour); meat, 12 ounces; bacon, 2 ounces; sugar, 2 ounces; tea, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce; salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, in addition to which 5½d. per day is drawn and expended for each man on extra articles not included in the Government issue. I happen to be able to give a diet sheet for a week during the present month, which is as follows:—

Saturday.—Breakfast: Tea, bread and dripping, "rissoles." Dinner: Cold roast beef, swedes and potatoes, raisin roll. Tea: Tea, bread and butter, golden syrup.

Sunday.—Breakfast: Tea, bread and butter, bacon and porridge. Dinner: Roast and stew, swedes and onions in stew, potatoes and swedes, milk pudding. Tea: Tea, bread and dripping, apples and custard.

Monday.—Breakfast: Tea, bread and dripping, fried bacon and beans. Dinner: Roast and stew, carrots and onions in stew, potatoes and swedes. Tea: Tea, bread and butter, golden syrup.

Tuesday.—Breakfast: Tea, bread and dripping, "rissoles." Dinner: Roast and stew, swedes and onions in stew, boiled rice, raisin roll. Tea: Tea, bread and dripping, rock cakes.

Wednesday.—Breakfast: Tea, bread and butter, fried bacon. Dinner: Sausages, potatoes and swedes. Tea: Tea, bread and dripping, fish and meat paste.

Thursday.—Breakfast: Tea, bread and dripping, black puddings. Dinner: Roast

and stew, carrots and onions in stew, swedes, apple and rice pudding. Tea: Tea, bread and butter, raisin cake.

Friday.--Breakfast: Tea, bread and butter, rock salmon. Dinner: Roast, stew and sea pte, potatoes and swedes. Tea: Tea, bread and dripping, cocoanut cake.

In addition to this, cocoa is served at 6 a.m., and soup at 9 p.m. daily. As to the quality of the rations, I am sure no reasonable person can complain. I lived on them myself for 10 days, so I know. I also saw the rations, including bread and meat, before they were cooked, while they were being cooked, and while they were being served out. The Battalion are justly proud of their cook-house, which compares favourably with many country mansions.

I am pleased to be able to give this information from personal knowledge, which is very much better than repeating what one hears. I trust it will have the effect of correcting any false impressions.--I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. ROGER ROWDEN,
Military Representative.

Hillend, Eastnor, Ledbury,
April 26th, 1917.