

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

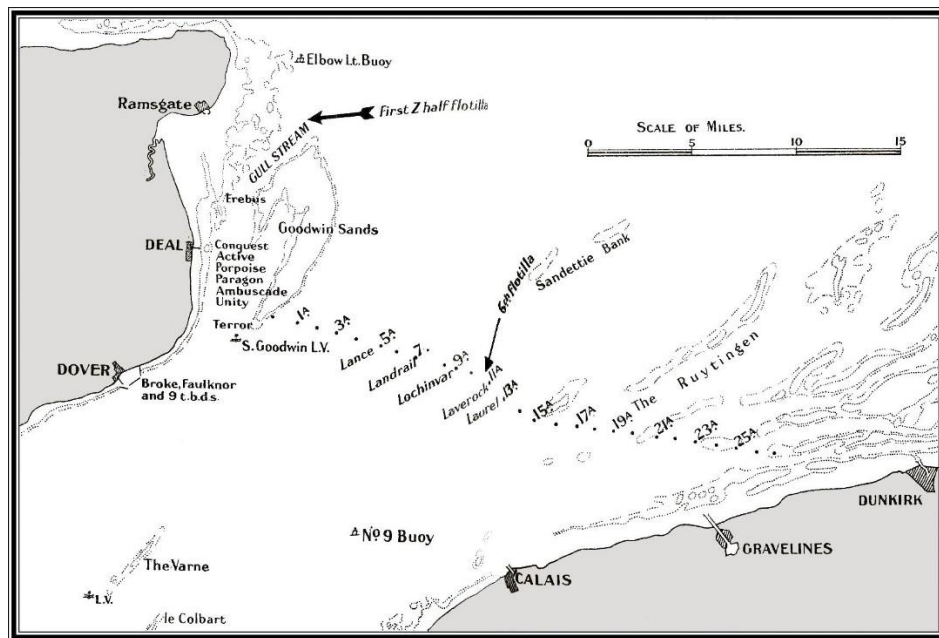
Their First World War 'Story' – February 1917

The 'Bigger' Picture

- USA severs diplomatic links with Germany.
- President Wilson in address to Congress asks for power to arm merchant ships.
- President Wilson states that he considers sinking of Laconia the 'overt act' for which he was waiting.
- German proposals to Mexico for alliance against the United States published in the American Press
- Turkish Grand Vizier resigns
- British Government inform Japanese Government that they will support Japanese claims to German possessions north of the Equator if it is understood that Japan will support similar British claims south of the Equator.
- Australian War Government formed
- Anglo-French Conference assembles at Calais to discuss operations, the co-operation of the armies and the co-ordination of operations by the French Commander-in-Chief.
- German 'unrestricted submarine warfare' begins.
- Norwegian Government forbid all foreign submarines to use Norwegian territorial waters.
- Scandinavian Governments' joint protest against German submarine warfare published.

The Home Front

- Unrestricted submarine warfare losses are highest to date, and almost twice as high as any other month, lead to significant impact on material availability and morale.
- German destroyer raid on Margate and Broadstairs.



The Dover Barrage

The Western Front

- Operations remain at a winter low.
- German forces withdraw from front line positions on the Ancre

Other Fronts

EASTERN FRONT

- Operations remain at a winter low.

EGYPT/PALESTINE

- Affairs in the Siwa Oasis
- British operations against the Senussi come to an end

MESOPOTAMIA

- Kut reoccupied by British forces; Turkish Army retreats from Kut.
- The pursuit to Baghdad begins.

At Sea

U Boat Warfare

- British SS *Laconia* (*below*) sunk by submarine.

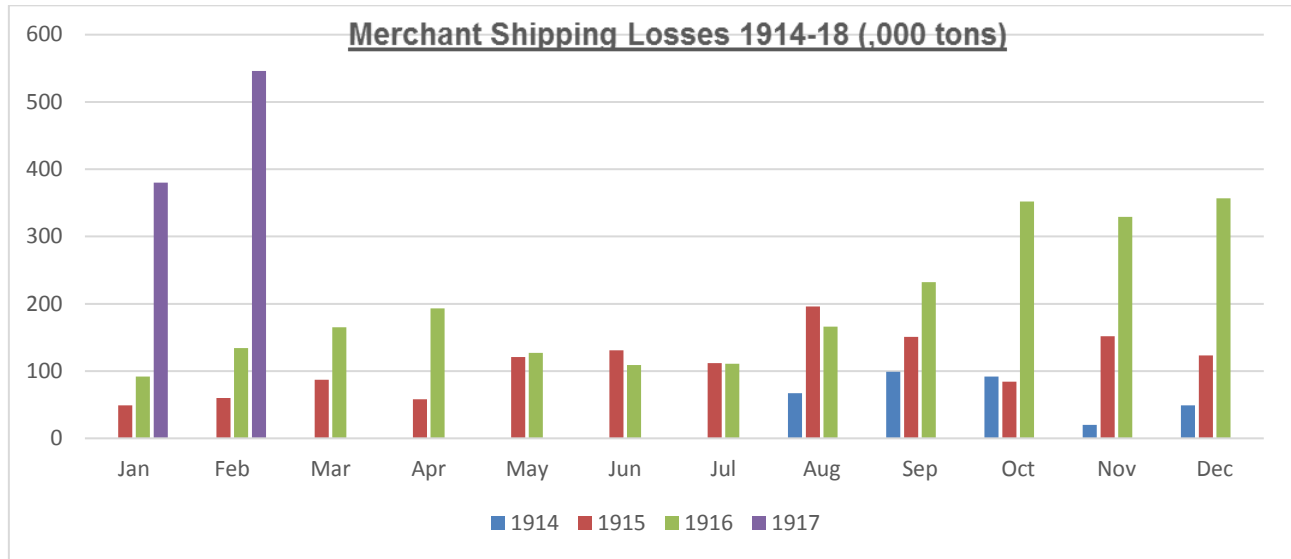
RMS *Laconia* was a Cunard ocean liner built in 1911. On the outbreak of War *Laconia* was converted into an armed merchant cruiser and based in the South Africa, from where she patrolled the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean. She was used as a HQ ship for the operations in German East Africa. She was handed back to Cunard in July 1916.

She was torpedoed by *U-50* 6 miles northwest of Fastnet while returning from the USA to England with 75 passengers and 217 crew. The first torpedo struck the liner on the starboard side, but did not sink her. 20 minutes later a second torpedo exploded in the engine room, and the vessel sank at 10:20 pm. 12 people were killed, six crew and six passengers, including two American citizens. The death of the Americans stirred up public opinion in America against the Germans, and raised public support for the United States entering the war.



MERCHANT SHIPPING

British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month - 308 ships of 546,000 tons gross; the highest monthly amount of the war to date.



The 'Herefords'

Casualties

Soldiers who has transferred to units in France continued to become casualties, many of the families of these soldiers considered them still members of The Herefordshire Regiment.

There were significant casualties amongst the troops based in England; this was probably due to a combination of poor weather and more recruits and soldiers of poorer physical condition, shortages and the demands of military training. However considerable concern was raised amongst the people of Herefordshire, a letter was published in the Hereford Times from the Commanding Officer, and the Mayor of Hereford raised the issue with the local MP:

PARK HALL CAMP.

THE RECENT DEATHS OF RECRUITS.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

To the Editor of the Hereford Times.

Dear Sir,—It has been brought to my notice that there are many very distressing statements and rumours being made in Herefordshire as to the death of a number of recruits in the Herefordshire Regiment at Park Hall Camp, Oswestry.

The facts are as follow:—Recruits on joining the Regiment were inoculated and vaccinated in accordance with Army Council instructions soon after being called up. These operations were, without exception, performed by the British medical officers attached to the various regiments in camp, and in every case the greatest care was taken of the patients during the periods of vaccination and inoculation.

During the period of recovery cases of pneumonia and bronchial-cattarrh, no doubt aggravated by the excessive cold, made their appearance not only in this camp but in many others throughout the United Kingdom, and there have been a considerable number of cases admitted to the Military Hospital at Park Hall Camp.

Every care has been taken of these cases at the Hospital, but there have been several fatal terminations which are attributed to purely natural causes.

I need hardly say that the utmost sympathy of the Military Authorities is felt and shown in every possible way for the relatives of those who have lost their lives, and that every precaution has been taken in camp to safeguard the health of those men who have suffered from any form of sickness.—I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

R. H. SYMONDS-TAYLER, Lieut.-Col.,
Commanding 1st Res. Bn. Hereford-
shire Regiment.

Park Hall Camp, Oswestry,
February 28th, 1917.

[The very distressing statements and rumours mentioned in the first paragraph of Colonel Symonds-Taylor's letter had reached us from various parts of the county, and we felt it our duty to communicate them to the Colonel at once. The above letter will, we feel certain, greatly help to reassure the relatives and friends of the men at the Park Hall Camp. The recent deaths appear to have been caused by a combination of circumstances over which the medical staff had little or no control, and we must accept Colonel Symonds-Taylor's statement that "every precaution has been taken in camp to safeguard the health of those who have suffered from any form of sickness."—Ed., "H.T.")

SOLDIERS' DEATHS.

HEREFORD TRIBUNAL AND CAMP LIFE.

WAR OFFICE REPORT.

At Hereford City Tribunal on Monday evening the Chairman (Mr. G. B. Greenland, Deputy Mayor) made public reference to correspondence he had had with Mr. W. A. S. Hewins, the Member for Hereford, regarding the deaths of several men from the city and county of Hereford while undergoing military training. Also present at the meeting were Alderman James, Mr. W. J. Bowers, Mr. E. W. Langford, Mr. M. Bailey, with Mr. Alfred Watkins (military representative), and the Town Clerk (Mr. R. Battersby).

The Chairman explained that he first wrote Mr Hewins at the request of the Tribunal, and as the correspondence was on a matter of public interest he thought he ought to give the result.

From the letters read, it appeared that in the first communication Mr. Greenland intimated that there was a great deal of anxiety in the city and county in reference to the camp at which Herefordshire men were being trained, so far as regarded the health of the men, a large number of deaths having occurred after quite a short period of sickness. In many cases, he had been informed, the men had been strong and healthy and accustomed to open-air life, and after being in camp quite a short time they had been taken seriously ill, the illness in many cases resulting in death. Those who had succumbed included men from Kings Thorne, Much Dewchurch, Grafton, Staunton-on-Arrow, Kington, Ross, Ledbury, and Hereford. "Undoubtedly the whole question (the letter concluded) is one which needs immediate investigation, and at a meeting of the Hereford City Local Tribunal on Monday last I was requested as chairman to communicate with you and ask if you would be good enough to ask a question in the House, as it is felt that these reports are proving very detrimental to the Army." A postscript to this read: "I am giving you only what I have heard, and cannot, of course, vouch for the accuracy of any of the allegations."

THE OFFICIAL REPORT.

Mr. Hewins replied under date March 22nd (the following day) saying he had written the Secretary of State for War on the matter and had an interview fixed which Parliamentary business interfered with. He, however, had had an interview with Mr. Macpherson, the Under Secretary of State for War, and as a result of this the City Member was able to forward a copy of a report supplied through the Under Secretary, received from the latter on March 24th. This report was as follows:—

During the winter months of 1915-1916 an outbreak of pneumonia occurred at Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, and other camps. During the present winter there has been another outbreak, but probably owing to the severe weather lately it has been of a much graver character.

The condition is one of influenza colds followed by influenzal pneumonia, but there is no evidence of epidemic pneumonia. Those chiefly affected are recruits of two or three weeks' standing, many of whom in civil life were employed in sedentary occupations, viz., clerks, shop assistants, etc., and are men of poor physique. They are put through a course of physical drill which probably exhausts them, and as a result what may be nothing worse than a slight cold in ordinary circumstances, rapidly develops serious symptoms.

It is also reported from Park Hall Camp that the Labour Battalions which have come there recently are supplying most of the cases at the present time.

Inspections of the camps in question have been made by the Deputy Director of Medical Services Western Command, the Sanitary Officer, Western Command, and the Consultant Physician to the Command, and at each of the camps conferences were held with the General Officer in Command, the Senior Medical Officer and the Officer in Charge of the Hospital, with a view to ascertaining whether anything had been left undone which might mitigate the severity of the outbreak.

At Park Hall Camp the hospital had accommodation for 600 beds, and in addition six huts have been taken over as detention huts. From the 1st to the 23rd February there have been 193 admissions for bronchitis and pneumonia, there being 23 deaths. The strength of the camp is over 14,000 men, those mostly affected were new recruits averaging two to three weeks' service. Dr. Elliott examined a number of patients, and was of opinion that the condition was one of influenzal pneumonia, and that everything possible was being done for those who were sick.

There is no overcrowding of the wards, and they are clean, well-ventilated, and heated. A number of men and huts were examined in various parts of the camp, particularly the Herefords, 4th Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 10th Labour Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment, and the 4th Battalion South Lancashire Regiment. The huts are well kept, well ventilated, and not overcrowded, and very few men were found with symptoms of catarrh.

The procedure adopted by the Senior Medical Officer ensures that no man suffering from feverish cold remains out of hospital, and that no man with symptoms of cold is sent on parade. This procedure carried out by frequent inspections by the Medical Officers of the units succeeds in separating the influenzal colds from the others at as early a stage as possible and saves men suffering from any catarrh from over-fatigue by excusing them from parade. The men are further saved from over-strain by the inoculation and vaccination being put off for some days.

TRIBUNAL CRITICISES THE REPORT.

The Deputy Mayor described the report as essentially a medical officer's report.

Alderman James: Who signs it?

The Deputy Mayor: There is no signature. It had, he added, come to his knowledge that a number of healthy young men, used to outdoor work all their lives—farmers' sons, employed on the land—had sickened and died; and he thought the matter was one which should be inquired into by an independent authority.

Mr. Bailey remarked that he was not satisfied in any shape or form with the latter part of the report; he could contradict it. He knew a young man suffering from a severe influenza cold at the present moment who only last week was inoculated. Was that fair to the men or to the country?

Alderman James (to the Deputy Mayor): There is nothing in the report to show that the author of the report ever saw your letter at all.

The Deputy Mayor agreed.

Mr. Langford said he thought the report was one which had been prepared for some other purpose and not in reply to the inquiries.

Alderman James: I thought it was pneumonia that the men had died from.

Mr. Bowers: It is common knowledge that strong young men off the land have succumbed.

The Deputy Mayor agreed.
Mr. Langford said he thought the report was one which had been prepared for some other purpose and not in reply to the inquiries.

Alderman James: I thought it was pneumonia that the men had died from.

Mr. Bowers: It is common knowledge that strong young men off the land have succumbed.

Mr. Langford expressed agreement with Mr. Bowers. Young fellows accustomed to outdoor life had been taken from Herefordshire within the last few weeks and sent to Oswestry or Whitechurch and had died. There was no question about it, and the remarkable thing was that before doing scarcely any training they were inoculated. One or two instances had come to his knowledge in which men had been sent for a long route march and immediately on their return he put through severe physical drill; in this way they caught cold and died in a few days.

Alderman James and the Deputy Mayor commented on the fact that the report referred to February, which Mr. Langford said was not the month that the complaints were made about; there had been 23 deaths, the report showed, out of 193 admissions to hospital.

Mr. Langford added that February was obviously not the worst month. He knew a person who went over to see her son, but he died before she reached there. She insisted on seeing the corpse, and it was rumoured that she was shown into a place where there were 14 or 15 corpses lying side by side. He knew that a squad of soldiers was sent down to attend the funerals of the men in Herefordshire, and they spent a week going round the county from one funeral to another.

The Deputy Mayor: At Fawley on Saturday I heard of three deaths—two last week and the other the week before.

Alderman James: Local people?

The Deputy Mayor: Yes.

Mr. Langford said there was no doubt there had been a good deal of gross negligence, and surely people could not be expected to let their boys go willingly to be sent to a camp where so many deaths had occurred.

It was resolved to write to Mr. Hewins again on the matter and ask him to obtain from the War Office more explicit information, pointing out that the report submitted dealt only with the month of February, and not with March, the Deputy Mayor repeating his opinion that an inquiry should be held by someone independent of the camp.

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO	DATE	HOW	WHERE	HOMETOWN	Notes (Serving with)
ADAMS	CHARLES	PTE	238938	25/02/17	DIED	HOME	LUDLOW	
HASSALL	GEORGE	PTE	238930	14/02/17	DIED	HOME	ABERGAVENNY	
HOPE	LEONARD	PTE	238999	24/02/17	DIED	HOME	M MARCLE	PNEUMONIA
JONES	DAVID MILWYN	PTE	238871	27/02/17	DIED	HOME	RADNOR	
KENDRICK	WILLIAM	PTE	4575	10/02/17	KIA	F&F	KINGTON	BORDER 11
LEWIS	WILLIAM	PTE	8379	26/02/17	KIA	F&F	RODEN SALOP	GLOS 1/5
MASON	THOMAS	PTE	5409	23/02/17	KIA	F&F	LEOMINSTER	GLOS 14

MORGAN	LEONARD SAMUEL	PTE	238945	16/02/17	DIED	HOME	RADNOR	
MORRIS	DAVID	PTE	238998	14/02/17	DIED	HOME	WEOBLEY	
NEALE	JOHN	PTE	1421	09/02/17	KIA	F&F	LEDBURY	GLOS
OWENS	IVOR	PTE	239043	25/02/17	DIED	HOME	RADNOR	
PROBERT	ALBERT IVOR STANLEY	PTE	238948	17/02/17	DIED	HOME	M DEWCHURCH	
TAYLOR	JOSEPH	PTE	238896	10/02/17	DIED	HOME	PUTLEY	PNUEMONIA
TIPTON	WILLIAM ERNEST	PTE	5358	23/02/17	KIA	F&F	KNIGHTON	GLOS 14
VAUGHAN	JOHN	PTE	4603	11/02/17	KIA	F&F	LEOMINSTER	BORDER 11
VAUGHAN	WILLIAM	PTE	4731	16/02/17	KIA	F&F	LLANDGROVE	GLOS 12
VERRY	WILLIAM JOHN	PTE	238976	28/02/17	DIED	HOME	LONDON	
WALL	GEORGE	PTE	4446	28/02/17	DIED	F&F	LEOMINSTER	BORDER 11

The London Gazette

Honours & Awards

Publication Date			Detail
15/02/1917	Barker	Francis G	Order of Karegeorge 4th Class (with swords)
19/02/1917	Harman	1822 Pte Richard	Serbian Gold Medal for Bravery
15/02/1917	Mann	1887 Cpl EE	Medal St George 3rd Class
15/02/1917	Rogers	ETP	Serbian Order of the White Eagles 5th Class with Swords

RUSSIAN AND SERBIAN DECORATIONS.
Several Herefordshire officers and men are among the recipients of Decorations and medals awarded by the Allied Powers at various dates to the British Forces for distinguished services rendered during the course of the campaign. The King has given unrestricted permission in all cases to wear the Decorations and medals in question. The official publication is somewhat belated, the decorations being dated August, September, and October, 1916:—

Conferred by Field Marshal his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia.
ORDER OF ST. ANNE (2nd Class, with Swords).
Colonel (temp. Brig.-Gen.) W. H. Greenly, C.M.G., D.S.O.

MEDAL OF ST. GEORGE (Third Class).
1887 Pte. (now acting Corpl.) E. Mann, Hereford Regiment.

Conferred by the King of Serbia.
ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE.
Fourth Class, with Swords.
Major F. L. Makgill-Crichton-Maitland, Gordon Highlanders.
Major (Temp. Lieut.-Col.) R. E. Solly-Flood, D.S.O., Rifle Brigade.
Fifth Class, with Swords.
Captain E. T. P. Rogers, Hereford Regiment.

ORDER OF KARAGEORGE.
Fourth Class, with Swords.
Lieut. (temp. Capt.) F. G. Barker, Hereford Regiment.
Gold Medal.
Pte. R. H. Harman (1822), Hereford Regt.

ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE.
Second Class, with Swords.
Surgeon-General F. H. Treherne, C.M.G., F.R.C.S.

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Effective Date	Remarks
02/02/1917	Bulmer	Henry H	to be second lieutenant	25/01/17	
13/02/1917	Bailey	REH	seconded to Sudan CS	05/08/14	
08/02/1917	Davey	A	to be major	01/11/15	
24/02/1917	Evans	CM	seconded to MGC	22/01/17	
22/02/1917	Evelyn	FHL	to be lieutenant	28/06/16	
27/02/1917	Gurney	RG	to be captain seconded RE	17/01/17	
22/02/1917	Hamilton	HP	correction to 2 Aug 1916, relinquishes commission	03/08/16	ill health
02/02/1917	Lewis	Leopold W	to be second lieutenant	25/01/17	
17/02/1917	Pilkington	CEG	to be captain and coy comd	29/12/16	
20/02/1917	Reeve	RW	to be lieutenant RFC	14/01/17	
22/02/1917	Yeomans	HW	reverts to second lieutenant and seconded to MGC	01/01/17	

HEREFORD

Depot functions continue.

Enlistments continue, but recruits are allocated to regionalised initial training Battalions and on completion of training are posted to units.

Some of those recruited in Hereford and allocated to the Battalion were:

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO1	HOMETOWN	Notes (later served with)
EVANS	ALLEN OSWALD	PTE	238905	Rhayader	KSLI
JACKSON	DOUGLAS GWYNNE	PTE	4894	Hereford	Notts & Derby Regt

SHORT SERVICE.

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

Card No.
91
B 8r

TR/31

ATTESTATION OF

No. 34415 Name DOUGLAS Gwynne JACKSON Corps

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ... 1. Douglas Gwynne Jackson
2. What is your full Address? ... 2. 51, Pylant St. Hereford
3. Are you a British Subject? ... 3. Yes
4. What is your Age? ... 4. 17 Years ... 0 Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... 5. Bank Clerk
6. Are you married? ... 6. No
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? ... 7. No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ... 8. Yes
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ... 9. Yes
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ... 10. No { 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., 1914, 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. ... 11. Yes

I, Douglas Gwynne Jackson do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Douglas Gwynne Jackson SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Robert Mason Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Douglas Gwynne Jackson 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 Hereford on this 12 day of February 1917.
Signature of the Justice Thomas Luke

† 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 † 41st 2nd Batt
If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.
Date 19 .
Place Hereford } Approving Officer. Thomas Luke (Capt.)

Some of those discharged were:

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO1	TERM	HOMETOWN	Notes
COLERIDGE	ALFRED KEATE	PTE/SGT	2065	xvi	HEREFORD	
DAWES	ARTHUR	PTE/LCPL	1118	xvi	HEREFORD	
EGAN	WILLIAM	PTE	6029	xvi		
GILLEN	MICHEAL	PTE	5891	xvi		
HEIGHWAY	WILLIAM	PTE	5669	xvi	CROSS HOUSES SALOP	
HUTTON	GEORGE	PTE	5912	xvi		
JORDEN	FREDERICK CHARLES	PTE	3604	Overage		
LONG	WALTER	PTE	4995	xvi		
MCCANN	JOHN	PTE			PRESTON	
SALTER	HENRY	PTE	3770	xvi		
SKINNER	HARRY	PTE	6103	xvi		
TAYLOR	ALFRED CHARLES	PTE	3354		CRADLEY	
WOOD	ERNEST	PTE	5654			

xvi - unfit through either wounds or sickness

iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier

timex - Territorial soldier whose time of commitment has expired.

News of men transferred to units and serving in France continued to be received:

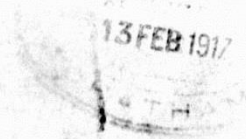
PRISONERS OF WAR.
Private Ted Williams, Newton, Ledbury, and Private Alec Palmer, Bye Street, Ledbury, both of the Border Regiment, have written home to their respective wives, stating that they are prisoners of war in Germany. Private Williams is a married man with three children, and before enlisting shortly after war broke out, was gardener at Orchardleigh, the residence of Dr. Miles A. Wood. He went with a draft early last autumn to France, and was posted to the Border Regiment. Private Palmer joined up under the group system, and went out at the same time. Both men have previously been reported missing.

LEDBURY SOLDIER KILLED.
We regret to have to record that Lance-Corpl. Jack Neale, fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Neale, Happy Land, Ledbury, is officially reported to have been killed in action. Lance-Corpl. Neale was a private in the old "C" Company of the 1st Herefordshire Regiment before they were mobilised at the outbreak of the war. On account of his youth he did not proceed with the regiment on active service when they went to Gallipoli, and was drafted to the second line, and later to the third line at Oswestry, from where he went with a draft to France for the Gloucestershire Regiment towards the close of last year. Two of his elder brothers are on active service, Corporal A. J. Neale having been with the 1st Herefords since they were mobilised, and Private Joseph Neale has served in France with the K.S.L.I., and is now on another front with the Machine Gun Corps.

Soldiers continued to be transferred to other Arms and Regiments.



R.E.
Officer in Charge
Chatham



5595 Pte. R. W. Hoff

Herewith documents of above man transferred from
1st Hereford Regt. to the Special Brigade Depot R.E.
Henthrope Camp, Sevenport. Please acknowledge
receipt on enclosed A.F. R. 198.

Capt. for Life
R.E. Records

Shrewsbury
9/2/1917
J.B.

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

Officers of the Volunteer Bn



Lieut & QM T. Lindsey Price, 2nd Lieut P.C. Lloyd, Lieut C.L. Enderby, Lieut H.J. Hammonds, 2nd Lieut C.A. Griffith,
Lieut I.D. James, Captain C.T. Smith

2nd Lieut T.C. Clark 2nd Lieut P.C. Bennett, Capt E.A. Mahir, Capt & Adjut C.A. Gabell, 2nd Lieut J. Edwards, Lieut J.K. Hewitt,
The Very Rev 2nd Lieut W.E. Berkeley, 2nd Lieut S. Price, Lieut J.R. Harding
The Hon J.W. Leigh
Dean of Hereford

Captain J.M. Mofen Acting 2nd in Command	Sir Geoffrey Cornwall, Bart	Major T.W. Heats OG 1st Vol Batt. HFD Regt	Col Sir J.R.G. Cotterell, Bart Hon Commandant of Regt
Lieut.Col A.W. Foster, ^{MC} TD., County Commandant	Col O.R. Middleton Chairman T.F.A.	Col M.J.G. Scobie, CB VD TD Hon. Commandant of Regt <i>Colonel</i>	Capt E. Wing Staff Officer 1st Cadet Batt. Hfd Regt

Appeals continued to be published in the local newspapers for men to enlist in the Volunteer Battalion.

**MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED.
FOR HOME DEFENCE, TO RELEASE
TROOPS FOR THE FRONT.**

**APPEAL TO HEREFORDSHIRE
VOLUNTEERS.**

AN EARLY PEACE
depends upon our having an overwhelming
number of troops at the critical point, viz.,
the Front.

LARGE NUMBERS
of trained men are kept in Great Britain for
Home Defence.

EVERY EFFICIENT VOLUNTEER
who is ready to take over the duties of Home
Defence in case of invasion becoming immin-
ent, releases a Trained Soldier for the Front.

NO MAN WHO IS REASONABLY ACTIVE
can conscientiously refuse such a small ser-
vice, if he thinks of all that the men at
the front are giving and risking every day
of the week—Sundays included.

TO BUSINESS MEN.
If a sufficient number of trained Volun-
teers is obtained, it may be the means of
avoiding the calling up some hundreds of
thousands of men from their civil occupa-
tions, which are of great value to the Nation.
It may also save an extension of the present
military age limit.

DRILLING
will improve your health and make you fit
and able to do a better day's work.

ARMS AND FULL EQUIPMENT
will be supplied at the earliest possible date.

THOUSANDS OF BRAVE LADS
From Herefordshire are fighting for you
across the seas, how can you refuse this call
to defend the homes and families they have
left behind?

**THE GOVERNMENT CALLS UPON
EVERY MAN**
to work for his country. Let us be Vol-
unteers and not wait for a "Mass Levy" and
compulsion.

Every Volunteer is urged to join Sections
A or B. It is quite clear that by so doing
he does not make himself liable to be taken
from his home, either for military duty or
training, except in case of "Imminent dan-
ger of Invasion."

JOIN AT ONCE
and help to win the War.

LORD FRENCH SAYS
"The whole duty of Home Defence may have
to be undertaken by the Volunteers."

**A RECRUITING WEEK
FOR
HOME DEFENCE.**

**A RECRUITING WEEK FOR HOME
DEFENCE.**

A Recruiting Campaign starts in Ross on
Wednesday next, February 28th, with the ob-
ject of getting all fit men under 60 years of
age to loyally respond to the King's Call.
After sending hundreds of young men to the
Army Ross is still in a position to furnish 150-
200 men for "Home Defence" in case of In-
vasion being imminent.

The Programme for the Recruiting Week
so far arranged includes:

Wednesday, February 28th:—
Ladies' Meeting at Townhall, 3 p.m., to
form Canvassing Committee.
Town's Meeting in the Townhall, at 7.30
to discuss National Service Scheme, and rais-
ing of Volunteers.

Friday, March 2nd:—
Volunteer Concert at New Inn, Ross, 8
p.m.

Sunday, March 4th:—
Company Parade and Inspection, Cricket
Ground 3 p.m.

Volunteers continued to parade, train and undertake local 'guard' duties:



1st Battalion

The Allied Operations in the Middle East were still considered secondary to those on the Western Front. In January 2 Divisions had been transferred from the EEF to the Western Front, and offensive operations were to be curtailed until Autumn 1917. This attitude changed in February after the Anglo-French Calais Conference and General Sir Archibald Murray (CinC) was encouraged to take action.

By the 5 February a water pipeline, supplying fresh water had reached El Arish, and a light railway was being pushed forward from El Arish; these enabled strong outpost lines and reserves to be established in preparation for future operations. The key to future operations was Gaza, an important crossroads and a centre for German and Turkish support.

February saw much reorganisation and planning for future operations. The Herefordshire Regiment as part of 53 (Welsh) Division were in the Desert Column including the ANZAC and Imperial Mounted Divisions under

the command of General Phillip Chetwode. On 23 February, the Anzac Mounted Division and the 53rd Division, commanded by Major General SF Mott, were camped on the beach at Sheikh Zowaid. Here they were joined by the 22nd Mounted Brigade.

Recces, including fighting recces were sent forward to gather intelligence about Turkish position. The Turks realised Allied intentions and in some areas withdrew to occupy stronger defensive positions; this enabled the occupation of Khan Yunis without any fighting. This was a fertile area with a good water supply and the Allied forward positions were therefore better placed.

As one officer said:

The area across the border ... was 'delightful country, cultivated to perfection and the crops look quite good if not better than most English farms, chiefly barley and wheat. The villages were very pretty – a mass of orange, fig and other fruit trees ... The relief of seeing such country after the miles and miles of bare sand was worth five years of a life.'

Capt Ashton of the Hereford was quoted in the 53 Div History and expressed similar impressions:

The crossing of the Wadi el Arish, the old River of Egypt and nature's boundary, was an experience few will forget. The change was magical! From waste to growth, from sand to green grass. "For the first time, practically, since leaving England we were moving on grass again. The same main features of country persist right up to Gaza. Next to the sea there stretches a continuous band of high, soft sand hills, varying in width from one to five miles; next to the sand dunes comes a green valley, again of varying width, a corridor, as it were, up which runs the so-called road, trodden by innumerable soldiers from back in the dim past to Napoleon. Further inland high ground rises, passing to rolling downland, mostly cultivated, with patches of sand and scrub, gradually relapsing into desert again to the south-east. On the 25th (February) we marched on nine miles to Sheikh Zowaid, and found the grass much better and the flowers brighter at every step. It really was like going on a holiday to have such surroundings to live in rather than the everlasting sand."— (Ashton.)

Clearly Allied morale was high.

There were also air raids and naval bombardments on Turkish positions, to further weaken their positions and sap morale.

This activity is reflected in the Battalion War Diary.

Date	Location	Detail
1 Feb		Continued the march commenced 4 Jan at El Ferdan. The Battalion left Birelmazar for Elmaadad – distance covered 7 miles.
2 Feb		Battalion moved out of El Maadan at 0905 and reached Bardwal at 1300, a distance of 8 miles. Marching good and mostly across a series of SABKHETS, part of dry bed of Lake Bardwal, of which the surface was hard.
3 Feb		The Battalion completed a further stage of 9 ½ miles of the march eastwards and reached El Arish about 1.30pm. Shortly after leaving Bardwal an enemy aeroplane appeared over column but was driven off by our anti-aircraft guns. In the afternoon the CO reced South Section Outpost line, with a view to relieving the 1 /4 Queens West Surrey Regiment the next day.
4 Feb		Battalion moved to take over South Section Outpost line; B Coy took over right sub-section and D the left sub-sector; A & C Coys and HQ occupied reserve position. Enemy aircraft sighted in northerly direction. Draft of 13 men arrived from England.
5 Feb		A & C Coys relieved B & D who joined HQ in reserve position.
6 Feb		1/6 RWF relieved Bn at 0800; Bn retired to camp
7 Feb		Remained in camp. Enemy aircraft active but was driven off by guns. No hostile bombing.
8 Feb		Bn (less HQ) returns to South Section outpost line. Team Echelon party arrived from Bit-El-Abd.
9 Feb		Capt F G Barker and 82 men, less 6 from hospital arrived from England, about ¾ of draft consist of old 1 st Line men evacuated from Gallipoli on account of wounds or sickness. Physique of remainder poor and it was necessary to send a large percentage either to hospital or depot battalion at Romani. Lt WL Carver and 2Lt AV Banks rejoined from hospital.
10 Feb		Bn still on outpost duties
11 Feb		Bn still on outpost duties. Enemy aeroplane sighted in NE direction but was driven off. Thunderstorms and heavy rain during night 10-11.
12 Feb		Bn returned to camp. Enemy aircraft again sighted.
13 Feb		Washing clothes and sea bathing.
14 Feb		Instructional classes for officers & NCOs 0 command under Bn arrangements.
15 Feb		Fatigue companies working on wire track laying.
16 Feb		Bn (less Bn HQ & D Coy) proceeded to South Section outpost line to relive 1/6 RWF.
17 Feb		In outpost line
18 Feb		In outpost line
19 Feb		In outpost line
20 Feb		Bn relieved by 1/6 RWF. Part of D Coy laying wire track East Beach Road Extention.
21 Feb		D Coy working on same track; remainder of Bn executed a route march. Demonstration of Camel Loading in afternoon.
22 Feb		Bn preparing to move Eastwards.
23 Feb		Moved to Elburj, a distance of 12miles and on arrival immediately took up a line of defensive positions SW, S & SE of bivouac.
24 Feb		Bn remained in defensive position. BGC with CO viewed the defensive line. No 1 coy's right position was altered. Orders received to move forward at 1930.

25 Feb		Moved to Sheikzowaiid (10 miles). Capt Capel MC reported to Cairo for staff course.
26 Feb		Dug outs constructed in bivouac. Enemy aircraft appeared at midday flying lower than usual, apparently owing to absence of anti-aircraft fire.
27 Feb		All available men detailed for well sinking, water found at average depth of 30 inches; supply both good and plentiful. CO, GOC 53 Div and BGC reced 5 miles in direction of Rafa.
28 Feb		Battalion again engaged in well sinking. CO went out with ANZAC mounted troops E of Rafa to a point near Um Kelab (about 1200 yards from nearest point of the Turkish positions in and about Weli Sheik Nuran) Khan Yunus and Beni Sela was evacuated by Turks.

WAR DIARY

1/4th Herefordshire Regt

Appendix I

Weekly State

Week ending	Officers	O-Ranks
3-2-17	36	951
10-2-17	39	1053
17-2-17	39	1043
24-2-17	39	1035

Appendix II

Weekly Casualty Return

week ending	Officers	O-Ranks
3-2-17		21
10-2-17		17
17-2-17		12
24-2-17	1	38
	<u>1</u>	<u>88</u>

Appendix III

Reinforcements

4-2-17 1st other ranks from England
 8-2-17 10 Officers 76 other ranks from England

John G. C.

Maj ALB Green

Date	Location	Detail
1 Feb		A calm night and much better this morning. Hearth came in on his way to Tomailia and is going to bring us up a case of beer. Spent the morning striking and carrying tents to station dump for the 212 Bde, RFA which is moving west today.
2 Feb		Calm all night but came on to blow hard about 0700. Sand very bad. Wind dropped a little after lunch so went for for walk with doctor round part of the Abd battlefield. Quite a number of the Nzmr graves and unburied Turks about. Capt Plowden 1/7 RWF died in the hospital this morning after operation last Monday week for strangulation by Miekels divesticulum.
3 Feb		Started early to practice firing party for Plowden's funeral. Funeral at 1100. Major Owen and 5 other officers came over from Mazar and we found the firing party. His brother in Shropshire Yeomanry was here for it and came to lunch after. The 210 Bde RFA passed through west. They only halted for a short time so missed seeing Clapham.
4 Feb		No men available for Church Parade owing to fatigues so went by myself to Church Army tent – nice little service. Large string of camels passed west (about 2,000) some looking very poorly. Loaded tents on to about 300 of them. Got my lousy gunners disinfected.
5 Feb		Another beautiful day. Went for a walk over Anzac Rest in the morning. Many interesting desert plants coming into bloom – rather fascinating. Sent Cpl Colley to El Arish to see if there any mails for us.
6 Sep		Colley returned about midnight with no mails, none having yet arrived for regiment. Went for a walk this morning with the Doc to Had El Gedaida. Very hot but exercise badly needed. Hear today that 159 details go tomorrow and 158 on Thursday but have had no orders yet.
7 Sep		159 Bde detachment left today and we go tomorrow. Nothing else doing.
8 Feb		Started loading up train at 0800 and struck tents. Handed in tents and finished loading by 1100. Train left 1215, 20 minutes late. Very slow and tedious journey to El Arish where we eventually arrived at
9 - 11		<i>Page missing</i>
11 Feb		A number of fig trees and aloes, castor oil trees and prickly pears. AA guns started firing at an aeroplane some way east at 1600hrs but apparently drove it off so we didn't have to go to ground. Rode round our defence sector after tea with CO. Heavy thunderstorm came up soon after 1900 and we had to bolt our dinners and fly to our tents.
12 Feb		Very rough last night – wind, rain and thunder. Several tents came down including Sale's and Padre's- fortunately mine held up. B, C & D Coys joined up from outposts today so we are once more united. Sharing tent with Ernie Capel. Started officers and NCO class in afternoon. More thunder showers.
13 Feb		Nothing much doing. Fine day. Spate coming down the wadi. The padre from the Middlesex Regt (Williams) came and gave us a lecture on history of Palestine and Sinai Peninsula which was very interesting. In evening had to take chair at opening concert st YMCA just below our camp.
14 Feb		Rather a nice day. Rode round reserve line with CO and Coy Comds. Spent most of the day getting out mess a/cs. Russell and Evelyn went on leave to Cairo till 21 st at 2320.

15 Feb		Dull, cold and showery. Small mails in with letters from Do of Jan 26.
16 Feb		Very rough night. Blowing hard this morning. A, B & C Coys went out to take over outpost line. Sand blowing badly all day, showers in evening.
17 Feb		A bit showery in the morning, but cleared up after 0900. In afternoon went for walk with padre through El Arish. Not very interesting place but fairly clean, made principally from mud and bricks. Bought ankle bracelet from a girl. Afterwards walked on down the wadi and through cultivation crops – barley, tomatoes, leeks (few) egg plant, carrots (poor). Parcel of cigarettes from Singleton and Cole arrived and letters from Lewis.
18 Feb		Not at all a bad day. Rode out 3 miles with CO and Capel and Tank in morning. Have got a beastly cold which is annoying.
19 Feb		Quite a nice day. Rode up the Wadi some way in morning and back over the sandhills. Pateshall came to tea.
20 Feb		Another jolly day. Rode out a bit with Capel in the morning. A, B & C Coys relieved by 6RWF. CO rode to El Burj with BGC. Had very interesting lecture by Maitland Wood, an Australian padre on Napoleon's Egyptian campaign especially his march across these parts.
21 Feb		Went for route march up the wadi by way of preparation for move on Friday next. Battalion then deployed for attack and we then came home. Quite hot as breeze died down. Russell and Evelyn returned from leave to Cairo. Started to rain in evening after dinner.
22 Feb		Came on to blow hard during night and has blown all day long – sand awful. Packed off train echelon to dump to go back to Romani so we are now down to our 30lbs camel transport. Mail in with 2 letters from Do of 1 st & 4 th Feb also cake which I am taking along. Am in charge of Bde camel transport tomorrow, worse luck.
23 Feb		Camels arrived late having a late start. Got my convoy together at last and left rendezvous about one mile east of El Arish at 10.30 and arrived El Burj at 1500. Rather hot but really a fine day with light following breeze. Found the Battalion out on outpost, all 4 Coys, Bn HQ in rear of centre line. After tea walked round part of line with CO. Made quite a comfy dugout with my Turkish sheet over a hole 3 feet deep.
24 Feb		Another lovely day. Stood to at 0500 when it was rather cold. Had breakfast about 0630 after which a wash and shave. Turkey aeroplane over at 0915 very high. Our archies did no good. Rode around our line with the General and CO. Orders to move received about 20.00.
25 Feb		Bn moved out about 12.00. I was left behind with Walter Carver to hand over the line to 5 th and 7 th RWF who were to relieve us. Did not get away till 1630 so it was pitch dark by the time we reached Zowaiid nine miles on. Had some trouble in finding Bde HQ and didn't get any dinner till 20.00 – very hungry and cold.
26 Feb		Place looks quite pleasant with plenty of green about, a lot of barley growing which the horses much appreciated. Rode out a bit with CO.
27 Feb		Came on to rain at about 0430 and my dugout leaked badly so I got very wet. Cleared up soon after 0800 so went out to see working parties digging wells. In afternoon rode outpost line of Division with Tank and Dickie Sale. 5 and 7 RWF arrived.
28 Feb		Some showers of rain in early morning but was better prepared this time so kept dried. CO went with recce troops about 4 miles beyond Rafa.

News was still filtering through regarding the situation of individuals involved in the operations conducted in January:

MISSING.

PTE. WALTER WILSON, WELLINGTON.

No tidings have yet been received of Pte. Walter Wilson (2682), Hereford Regt., son of Mrs. Wilson, Wellington Marsh, Hereford; he has been missing since January 12th in Egypt, where he was attached to the Camel Corps. His mother has received a letter from his officer, dated January 19th, in which he says: "I very much regret to state that your son Walter is still missing, though I still have some hope that we may hear of him. I am very sorry, and all officers and men join with me in expressing deepest regret. He was most popular among his fellows, and one cannot help missing his voice. However, I still hope we may have him back again with us." His widowed mother, who has a second son in the Army in England, would be grateful to anyone who could send her any tidings of Walter, who before the war was employed as a packer on the railway at Moreton-on-Lugg. Aged 23 and single, Pte. Walter Wilson joined the 1st Herefords in October, 1914, and experienced the landing at Suvla Bay. During the campaign in Gallipoli he contracted dysentery, and after hospital treatment at Alexandria was home during convalescence. He made a good recovery and returned to duty in the Near East in the spring of last year, starting about Good Friday. He fought in the battle of Katia, on December 22nd last, when the Herefords played so gallant a part in routing the Turks.

1st HEREFORDS.

PTE. H. H. HOPE, DILWYN, IN HOSPITAL.

News has been received by his parents at The Stocking House, Dilwyn, that Pte. Harry Hood Hope, 1st Herefords, is in the No. 7 Farmers' Red Cross Hospital at Montazah, eight miles from Alexandria. The place is part of a beautiful estate of about 700 or more acres, with three miles of coast, and laid out with palms and fruit trees. There are, so Pte. Hope says, three large residences on the estate, in one of which the Sultan kept a large harem. Pte. Hope writes that he has a row in a fishing boat every day, and often a bathe in the evening; it is, he says, a lovely place. In one block of the building are 16 beds for the Shropshires; his own quarters are about 500 yards from the place "where the 'old boy' kept his 100 wives." Pte. Hope is very pleased with his surroundings; with the food, scenery, and entertainments there. Native attendants wait on the wounded; and he adds that "if the farmers could see this place it would repay them for their efforts." His many friends will be glad to hear he is making a good recovery from a serious illness. Pte. Hope went out to Egypt with a draft, and was in the Romanj engagement. A connection of his family, Lieut. Hugo Vivian Hope Throssell, of the Australian Light Horse, and son of a former Premier of Western Australia, went through the Gallipoli campaign, and was wounded, and has had the distinction of gaining the V.C.; he visited Dilwyn while on convalescent leave last year.

4027 Pte Frank Caffull, of Yarkhill who had enlisted in December 1914, was returned to UK as being 'underage'; soldiers should be aged 19 to serve in an operational theatre.

W. SUBJECT. DISPOSAL OF MEN UNDER AGE.

OFFICER IN CHARGE,
T. F. RECORDS,
SHREWSBURY.

4/1260
23 FEB. 1917

MPC/5927.(A1)

Notified for your information that No. 4027, Private F. E. Caffull, 1/1st Hereford Regiment, embarked for the United Kingdom on the 31st ultimo per H. T. 'ARCADIAN'. (Entitled passage).

This man is proceeding home for reporting in accordance with my letter MPC/5927.(A1) dated 23/1/17.

Alexandria,
5/2/17.

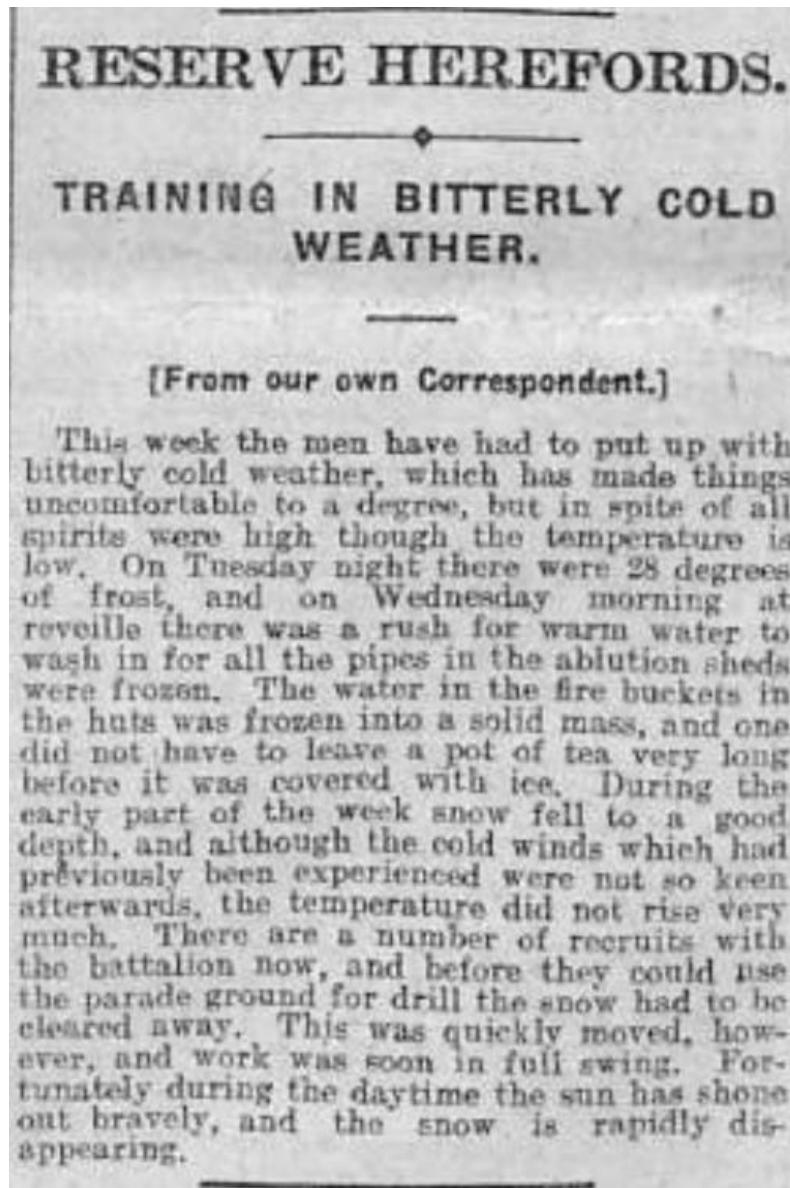
Staff Captain for A.A.G.
3rd Echelon, G.H.Q., S.E.F.

2nd Battalion - Lowestoft

The second battalion remained in Lowestoft as part of 205th Bde in 68 Div.

Reserve Battalion (formerly 3 Bn) – Oswestry

The winter weather continued to present difficulties in training.



The Battalion continued to find men to send to the front as reinforcements, to the 1st Battalion in the Middle East and to the Westewrn Front:

RESERVE HEREFORDS.

TWO MORE DRAFTS LEAVE FOR OVERSEAS.

From Our Own Correspondent.

The weather during last week-end was far milder than has been the case for some time, and the result is that the frost is rapidly coming out of the ground, leaving the surface wet and clammy. But given a few more days' fine weather, things will have cleared up considerably. Any way, a bit of mud is preferable to the bitter cold of last week, and the men are all glad that the change has come about. Training is going ahead rapidly, and the latest recruits are picking up their drills in a satisfactory manner.

On Monday night another draft of men left camp to join the 1st Battalion, and they took with them the best wishes of all for a safe journey and a speedy return. The men were in high spirits and many of those left behind envied their comrades who were going to do their bit with their own regiment. The draft was given supper in the Regimental Institute, and left camp just after midnight, headed by the Bugle Band.

On Tuesday a draft was despatched to join the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, and again the men were given a hearty send-off. They left camp just before five o'clock, and although they were naturally sorry that it did not fall to their lot to go to their own Battalion, they realised that when they get to the K.S.L.I. they will be fighting side by side with many of their comrades who have gone out before them from this camp. Wherever they are sent they will give a good account of themselves.

The last party from this regiment to fire its general musketry course put up a splendid show, and there were some really first-class individual performances. It is a long time since the average of one party was so high as the average made this time. The following have been given prizes, the first two having classified as marksmen, and the remainder as first class shots: Pte. T. Miles (5,245), Pte. T. H. Hamlet (6,275), Pte. H. Meredith (6,265), Pte. C. R. Whitehead (6,277), Pte. R. H. Davies (6,276), Pte. A. G. Whitecombe (6,227), Pte. C. Catchpole (6,266), Pte. F. Briscoe (6,267), Pte. W. H. Oliver (6,262), Pte. Jenkins (6,261), Pte. T. Mills (6,272), Pte. F. Broben (6,239), Pte. T. H. Price (5,597), and Pte. W. Foulkes (6,269).

RESERVE HEREFORDS.

MORE OFFICERS WARNED FOR DRAFT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Work is still going ahead as quickly as possible, though the fact that the weather has broken up interferes with drill to some extent. The parade grounds all over the camp are in such a state that it is impossible to use them, even for a short period, for the mud clings to the boots, and it is not possible to get any smart movements. But whenever it is possible drills are carried out in fields, and so very little time is lost.

The following men won prizes for good shooting during the last general musketry course just completed, and they have been classified as 1st class shots: Pte. G. E. Jones (3,229), Pte. J. Preece (3,452), Pte. J. Lea (3,718), and Pte. D. Beedle (2,248).

On Saturday last the Herefords met the R.A.M.C. in a football match, and were defeated by 7-2. The ground was in a very bad state, mud being ankle deep, and good play was out of the question. Some of the players got into a pretty mess, but nevertheless the game was enjoyed.

Several officers have been warned for draft, and although it is not yet known to what regiments they will be attached, it is expected that they will be sent to France and not to the 1st Battalion of their own regiment. They have proceeded on leave, and take with them the best wishes of all ranks. Lieut. Averay-Jones, who was wounded in France some time ago, is now back with the regiment.

The following photograph is a draft from UK to Egypt; it includes men from The Herefordshire Regiment and The Royal Welsh Fusiliers. It is not clear when or where (although the 'sandy' ground would perhaps indicate a reception camp in Egypt(?)) it was taken. Soldiers appear in both Khaki Drill (KD) ('tropical' uniform) and Khaki (Temperate uniform). Possibly those in caps in the centre are instructors?

