

## THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

### Their First World War 'Story' – July 1917

#### The 'Bigger' Picture

- Manchu Emperor (Hsuan-Fung) restored in China, but later abdicates
- Li-Yuan-Hung, President of China, resigns and is succeeded by Feng-Kuo-Chang
- Agreement signed at The Hague for the exchange of combatant and civilian British and German prisoners of war
- Conscription Bill carried in Canadian House of Commons
- Herr von Bethmann-Holweg, German Imperial Chancellor, resigns (appointed July 14th, 1909): succeeded by Dr Michaelis
- Dr Artur von Zimmermann, German Foreign Minister, resigns.
- The Reichstag passes Resolution as to German War Aims
- Siam declares war on Germany and Austria-Hungary.
- M Kerenski succeeds Prince Lvov as Premier of Russia
- Full Inter-Allied Conference assembles in Paris to discuss the Balkan situation, with military, naval and political committees to discuss plans in view of a probable collapse of Russia
- Agreement concluded between French and Italian Governments defining respective zones of influence in Asia Minor

#### The Home Front

- Proclamation issued changing name of British Royal House to Windsor.
- Tank Corps formed in British Army
- Severe aeroplane raid on England (Margate and London; casualties 250, mostly civilian: last on London by daylight
- Sir Edward Carson, First Lord of the Admiralty, Great Britain, tenders his resignation
- There was a period of Army reorganization as a result of: continued losses and the need to absorb and train conscripts, the need for a robust and administrative support system, the need to deliver more complex training to meet developing tactics and equipment.

#### The Western Front

- Battles of Ypres, 1917 (British), begin with Battle of Pilckem Ridge

#### Other Fronts

##### EASTERN FRONT

- German Counter-offensive on the Eastern Front: Battle of East Galicia begins

##### RUMANIA

- First phase of Battle of Marasesti begins
- Stanislau and Tarnopol in Galicia retaken by Austro-German forces.
- Zaleszezyki (Galicia) recaptured by Austro-German forces

## ARABIA

Aqaba occupied by Arab forces.

## PERSIA

- Russian forces begin withdrawal from Western Persia: Qasr-i-Shirin evacuated

## MESOPOTAMIAN FRONT

- British attack on Ramadi

## EAST AFRICA

- Action of Narungombe.

## At Sea

- First regular convoy of merchant ships sails from Hampton Roads (Virginia) (Experimental convoys had been tried in May. Convoys outward from Great Britain did not start till August.)
- Ponta Delgada (Azores) shelled by a German submarine.
- HMS Vanguard (*below*) sunk by internal explosion in harbour at Scapa Flow with the loss of 843 of the 845 men aboard.

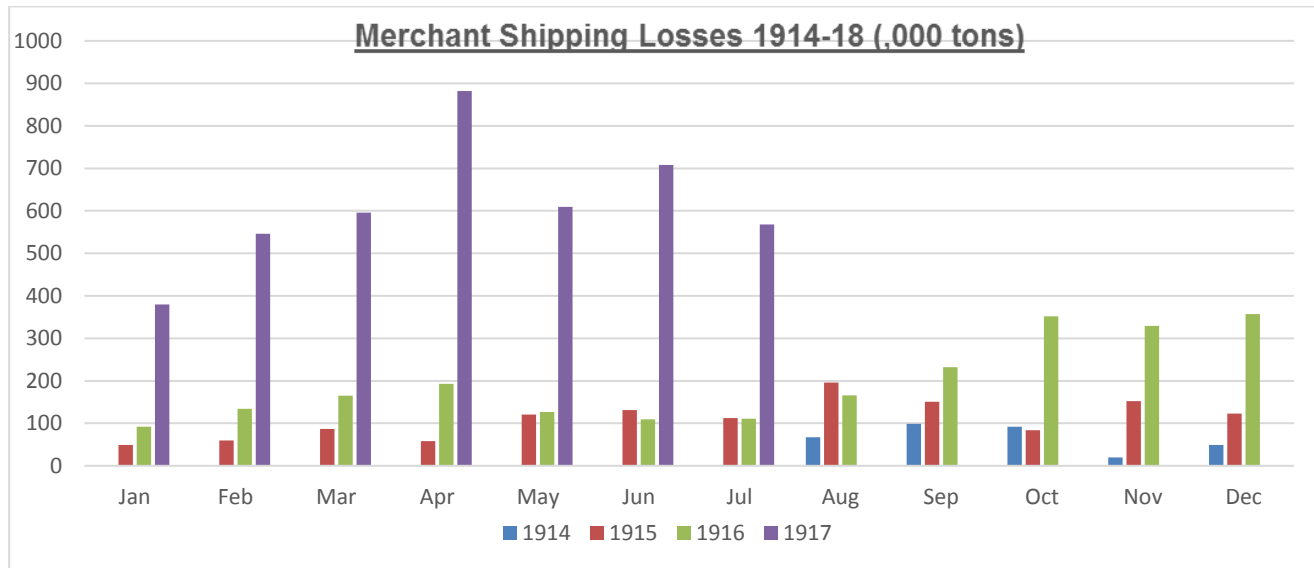


## Mine & U Boat Warfare

- Concerted attack by German submarines on United States transports defeated

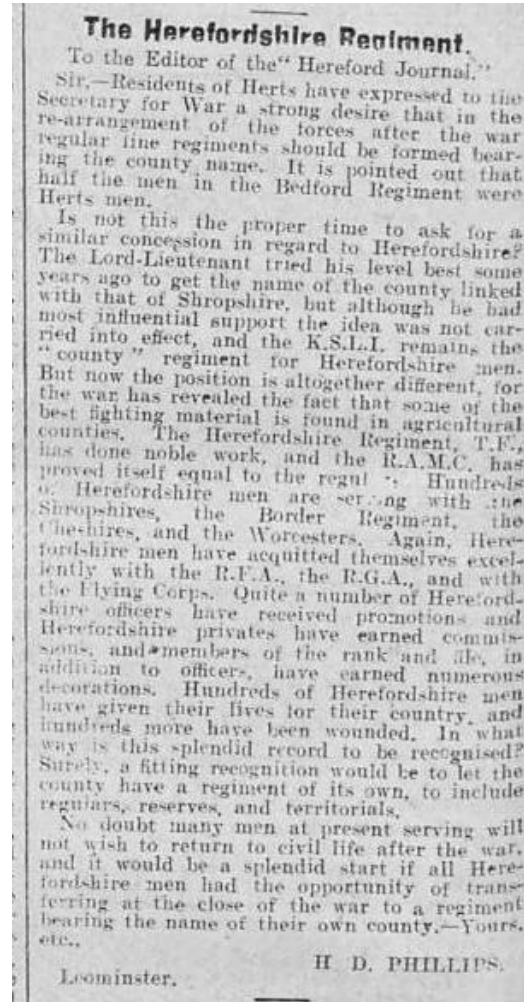
### MERCHANT SHIPPING

British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month – 270 ships of 568,000 tons gross.



## The 'Herefords'

An interesting letter from the Hereford Times.



## Casualties (other than 1<sup>st</sup> Bn)

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	DATE	HOW	WHERE	HOMETOWN	Notes (Serving with)
AYERS	WILLIAM JEFFRIES	ASGT	3449		10/07	KIA	F&F	BLAING	KSLI
BROOKES	THOMAS	PTE	4797		13/07	KIA	F&F	BRIDGNORTH	GLOS 14
DAVIES	SYDNEY	PTE	2537		31/07	KIA	F&F	CLUN	SWB 11
DAW	WILLIAM	PTE	4813	236878	25/07	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	LAB CORPS
DICKER	HERBERT	PTE	1524		31/07	KIA	F&F	LLANGATTOCK	SWB 11
DUGGAN	ARTHUR	PTE	3203		11/07	KIA	F&F	KINNERSLEY	GLOS 14
LANCELEY	JAMES	PTE	4617		10/07	KIA	F&F	OSWESTRY	BORDER 11
PINCHES	STANLEY WILLIAM	PTE	4618		10/07	KIA	F&F	PEMBRIDGE	BORDER 11
WILCOX	JOSEPH THOMAS	PTE	4481		10/07	KIA	F&F	WARFIELD SAL	BORDER 11

### PRIVATE DUGGAN, KINNERSLEY, KILLED

Private Arthur Duggan, son of Mr. Thomas Duggan, of Kinnersley, reported killed in France, was 29 years of age. He joined up soon after the outbreak of the war, and was transferred from the Herefords to the Gloucester Regiment. Death, which was instantaneous, was caused by a shell.

## The London Gazette

### Honours & Awards

Publication Date			
06/07/1917	Green	Maj ALB	MID
18/07/1917	Brain	235852 Pte CB	Military Medal
18/07/1917	Farmer	235967 Sgt SH	Military Medal
18/07/1917	Wheeler	235849 LCpl WH	Military Medal

## THE MILITARY MEDAL.

### HEREFORDSHIRE SOLDIER'S BRAVERY IN THE FIELD.

In a long list of War Honours published on Saturday, it was announced that among those upon whom the King has been pleased to confer the Military Medal for bravery in the field are the following local soldiers:—

Sergt. S. H. Farmer (235967), Hereford Regt.  
Lance-Corpl. W. H. Wheeler (235849), Hereford Regt.

Pte. C. B. Brain (235852), Hereford Regt.

Pte. F. M. Ashworth (10856), Shropshire I.L.

Sergt. S. H. Farmer belongs to Knighton.  
Pte. Brain's home is at Ruardean.

Lance-Corpl. W. H. Wheeler is a son of Mrs. H. Wheeler, of Little Marstow, Ruardean. He joined the Herefords on October 17th, 1914, and, leaving England with the regiment on July 15th, 1915, went through the landing at Suvla Bay and the whole of the Gallipoli campaign. In the battle of Gaza he was seriously wounded. He is the oldest of a family of nine sons.

Pte. Frank Martin Ashworth, Shropshire Regiment, though a native of Liverpool, has many friends in and around Hereford. He was for a time a farm pupil under Mr. T. Barnes, at Amberley Court, Marden, and in August, 1914, was assistant to Mr. A. J. Paske, Court Farm, Hampton Bishop. Mr. Ashworth joined up immediately on the outbreak of war in Kitchener's Army, and has been at the front over two years, so far without sustaining even as much as a scratch. It is understood that he won the Military Medal by carrying despatches under heavy fire. He is 23 years of age.

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
02/07/1917	Barker	FC	to be major	
02/07/1917	Berney	GN	reverts to lieutenant	
02/07/1917	Evelyn	FHL	to be captain coy comd	
02/07/1917	Green	ALB	reverts to captain	
03/07/1917	Green	ALB	to be major	
03/07/1917	Symonds-Tayler	RHT	to be major	
04/07/1917	Croft	HW	relinquishes commission	ill health
06/07/1917	Bourne	RC	seconded to staff to be lieutenant	
07/07/1917	Barnard	EC	appointed flying officer RFC	
10/07/1917	Bell	AL	seconded to RE	
10/07/1917	Bourne	RC	reverts to second lieutenant	
12/07/1917	Price	TL	to be quartermaster and honorary lieutenant	volunteer Bn
14/07/1917	Lawrie	LG	seconded RFC	
19/07/1917	Bennett	MC	to be lieutenant	
19/07/1917	Capel	EA	to be major	
19/07/1917	Carden	JH		
19/07/1917	Challis	FG		
19/07/1917	Crossley	AH	to be lieuteant flying officer observer RFC	since DOW
19/07/1917	Evelyn	FHL	to be captain	
19/07/1917	Haymes	REH	to be lieutenant	
19/07/1917	Jackson-Tayler	PS	to be captain	
19/07/1917	Job	LKV	to be lieutenant	
19/07/1917	Levason	DGG	to be captain	since DOW
19/07/1917	Lewis	PG	to be captain	
19/07/1917	Mitchell	PM	to be lieutenant	
19/07/1917	Parker	P	to be lieutenant	
19/07/1917	Phillips	LB	to be captain	
19/07/1917	Pilkington	CEG	to be captain	
19/07/1917	Pritchett	EG		
19/07/1917	Ragg	T		
19/07/1917	Williams	GJ	to be lieutenant	
19/07/1917	Wilson	A	to be captain	since KIA
26/07/1917	Drennan	W StG	resigns commission	
26/07/1917	Hunt	JD	correction to entry of 15 Jun should be Hertfordshire	
28/07/1917	Bourne	RC	seconded special appointment	

## HEREFORD

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

No direct enlistments into The Herefords are recorded.

Some of those discharged were:

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO1	NO2	TERM	HOMETOWN	Notes
BIRD	ALFRED CHARLES	LSGT	1801	235438			Served Suvla Bay
CARTWRIGHT	WILLIAM LIONEL	PTE	1937		xvi	Eardisley	
CHILWELL	NP	PTE		238295	xvi		
EVANS	ALFRED	CSM	190	235014	Timex - age	ROSS	Served Suvla Bay
JONES	ALFRED	PTE		238131	xvi		Served Suvla Bay
JONES	GEORGE	PTE		238375	xvi		
PERKINS	HERBERT	PTE	3518	236247	xvi		
TILLION	JAMES E	PTE	2035	235565	xvi	CHELTENHAM	Served Suvla Bay
WILLIAMS	JAMES	PTE	2394	235745	xvi	BANKHOUSE	Served Suvla Bay
WINTER	FRANK	PTE	1639	235358	xvi Wounds	EASTNOR	Served Suvla Bay

xvi - unfit through either wounds or sickness

iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier

timex - Territorial soldier whose time of commitment has expired.



# Medical Report on an Invalid

Station Highton  
Date Dec 16 /17

1. Unit 3/S.W.B  
2. Regimental No. 42144  
3. Rank Pl  
4. Name Barwright - W  
5. Age last birthday 20  
6. Enlisted { on 31 Aug 1914  
at Newford  
7. Former Trade or Occupation { Farmer Labourer

8. Disability.  
14 or Chronic Bronchitis

### Statement of Case.

*Note.*—The answers to the following questions are to be filled in by the Officer in medical charge of the case. In answering them he will carefully discriminate between the man's unsupported statements and evidence recorded in his military and medical documents. He will also carefully distinguish cases entirely due to venereal disease.

9. Date of origin of disability. Oct 3. 1916  
10. Place of origin of disability. France

11. Give concisely the essential facts of the history of the disability, noting entries on the Medical History Sheet bearing on the case.

Was taken ill with symptoms of Bronchitis, cough, shortness of breath and mucous expectoration in France and was then in Hospital 1 month, taken to England and then in Sep 6 months. Has done no work since.

12. (a) Give your opinion as to the causation of the disability.  
(b) If you consider it to have been caused by active service, climate, or ordinary military service, explain the specific conditions to which you attribute it (fill notes on page B).

Exposure to cold and damp  
Active service



This space to be left blank for the Chelsea Number.

Army Form B. 268A.

### TERRITORIAL FORCE.

## Proceedings on Discharge during the period of Embodiment.

(When forwarded for confirmation these proceedings should be accompanied by the documents specified on the 4th page.)

No. <u>235014.</u>	Rank <u>C. S. M.</u>
Name <u>Alfred Evans.</u> <small>(The name must agree strictly with that on enlistment, unless changed subsequently by authority.)</small>	
Corps of Territorial Force <u>THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.</u>	
Battalion, Battery, Company, Depot, &c. <u>✓</u>	
Date of discharge <u>2<sup>nd</sup> July 1914</u>	
Place of discharge <u>T. F. Depot. The Barracks Hereford.</u>	
1. Description at the time of Discharge.	
Age <u>46</u> years <u>11</u> months Height <u>5</u> feet <u>4</u> inches Chest measurement { girth when fully expanded <u>40</u> ins. range of expansion <u>2 1/2</u> ins. Complexion <u>Fresh</u> Eyes <u>Blue</u> Hair <u>Br Brown</u> Trade <u>Sailor.</u> Intended place of residence <u>13 Smallbrook Rd</u> <u>Hereford.</u> <small>(To be given as fully as practicable)</small>	Descriptive marks.  <div style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">Nil</div>
<small>(This description should be carefully taken on the day the man leaves his unit, but in the case of men sent home from abroad for discharge, the age and intended place of residence should be left blank to be filled in by the Officer who confirms the discharge at home.)</small>	
2. The above-named man is discharged in consequence of <u>Termination of Engagement</u> <u>Under Para 392 Sub Para XXI King's Regulations</u> <u>Authority. War Office Letter. 2. 19. 14/1913 2437 dated 25-6-17</u>	
<small>(The cause of discharge must be worded as prescribed in the King's Regulations and be identical with that on the discharge certificate. If discharged by superior authority, the No. and date of the letter to be quoted.)</small>	
3. Military Character:— <u>Exemplary.</u>	
4. Character awarded in accordance with King's Regulations:— <u>Thoroughly trustworthy.</u>	
Certified that the above is an accurate copy of the character given by me on Army Form B. 268A. <u>E.S.</u> <small>Initials of Commanding Officer.</small>	

To be filled in on the soldier quitting the Colours.

[OVER.]

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

Life for the Volunteer Bn continued to be busy with regular parades and duties. There were proposals to expand the Volunteer movement in Herefordshire.

**1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE  
VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.**

**"A" Company.**

ORDERS FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 29th.

Saturday.—2.30-5.0 p.m., Holmer range, class firing.

Sunday.—2.30 p.m., company parade, Drill Hall.

Monday.—7.30 p.m., Drill Hall, platoon drill. 8.0-9.0 p.m., No. 3 Platoon, Birch School, drill. 7.0-9.0 p.m., No. 4 Platoon, Withington, shooting practice. 7.30 p.m., Weobley detachment, Drill Hall, Weobley, drill.

Tuesday.—8.0 p.m., No. 3 Platoon, Birch School, drill and musketry.

Thursday.—2.30-5.30 p.m., Holmer range, class firing and practice. 6.0 p.m., Drill Hall, route march; dress, drill order.

Friday.—7.15 p.m., ambulance class.

Saturday.—2.30-5.0 p.m., Holmer range, class firing.

Sunday.—2.30-4.30 p.m., Weobley detachment, Drill Hall, Weobley, drill and shooting practice. 2.30-4.30 p.m., No. 3 Platoon, Birch School, drill. 3.0-5.0 p.m., No. 4 Platoon, Dornington, drill and musketry.

(Signed) G. A. C. THYNNE, Capt.,  
Commanding "A" Coy., H. V. R.  
Headquarters, Hereford.

**VOLUNTEER SHOOTING.**

**DAY ON ALTON COURT  
RANGE.**

The monthly company parade of "C" Company (Ross and District), 1st Battalion Hereford Volunteer Regiment, took place on Sunday last. The Hereford Motor Volunteer Corps again rendered valuable assistance by bringing in Volunteers from Whitchurch, Welsh Newton, and Hoarwithy. The Company spent the day on the Alton Court Rifle Range, 56 men firing the first practice of their musketry course. Colonel A. W. Foster, County Commandant, inspected the Company at work on the range.

This was the first occasion on which the new rifle was used, and as many Volunteers had never previously fired a service rifle, the results were most satisfactory, over 70 per cent making the necessary score to qualify for efficiency. Firing took place on the 200 yards' range, five shots at a second-class figure target, the highest possible being 20 points. No possibles were made, but only two points were dropped by three men. The scores were as follows:—  
Corpl. L. Hicks 18, Corpl. C. Goodwin 18, Sergt. Cracklow 18, Lce.-Corpl. A. R. Lewis 17, Corpl. R. G. Webb 16, Pte. Elliott 16, Sergt. P. Bellamy 16, Pte. T. R. Embrey 16, Lce.-Corpl. T. Harris 15, Pte. J. Hopkins 15, Pte. H. E. Geary 15, Lce.-Corpl. C. E. Parsons 15, Pte. C. Herbert 15, Pte. Rev. D. O. Thomas 14, Pte. F. Harmer 14, Corpl. A. G. Bindon 13, Corpl. J. Clarke 13, Pte. R. A. Morris 13, Sergt. G. R. Kemp 12, Lce.-Corpl. Poston 12, Corpl. H. Francis 12, Pte. H. J. Verry 11, Pte. W. Maddy 11, Pte. T. P. Saunders 11, Pte. T. G. Edwards 11, Lce.-Corpl. H. Howell 11, Pte. Wood, 11, Pte. E. J. Morris 10, Pte. W. H. Edge 10, Pte. R. Gilbert 10, Pte. B. M. Pratt 10, Pte. J. Jones 10, Pte. Wigmore 10, Pte. A. Hughes 10, Pte. E. S. Matthey 8, Pte. W. H. Jones 8.

## THE VOLUNTEERS.

### CORPS BEING FORMED FOR KINGTON AND BROMYARD.

A meeting was held at the Literary Institute, Kington, on Sunday afternoon with a view to establishing a Volunteer Platoon in the town. Colonel Foster and Captain Meats attended.

It was decided to start a Volunteer Platoon in Kington and district and the following were appointed a Committee:—Mr. W. Chambers, Mr. G. Thomas, Mr. A. J. Dillow, Mr. E. S. Morris, Mr. F. Wheelton, Mr. H. G. Hughes, Captain E. A. Mahir, Police Sergeant Baugh. The following were to be approached with a view to their joining the Committee:—General Hore, General Sir Elliott Wood, Hon. F. W. Clegg Hill, the Rev. S. Cornish Watkins, the Rev. H. L. Kewley, the Rev. R. Pemberton, Mr. J. Collett-Mason, Mr. H. W. Duff Gordon, Mr. C. J. P. Gwyer, Mr. R. H. Bromley, Mr. W. Burton, and Mr. N. Gresley. Mr. W. B. Lloyd was appointed Secretary.

#### MEETING AT BROMYARD.

A meeting called by the instance of the Military Authorities to form a Volunteer Training Corps for Bromyard and district to last for the duration of the war was held at the Police Court on Thursday. Mr. H. J. Bailey occupied the chair, and there were also present the Rev. H. G. Morgan (Stoke Lacy), the Rev. F. E. Powell (Bromyard), the Rev. C. Williams (Teddstone), Mr. C. L. Enderby (Munderfield Harold), Mr. W. A. Guess (Bromyard), Mr. J. W. Millyard (Littlebridge), Colonel T. H. Purser (Bromyard), Mr. W. F. Price (Thornbury), Mr. J. Leighton (Brendon Bishop), Mr. E. T. Bufton (Ocle Pychard), and Captain Gabell (of Hereford).

The Chairman reported apologies from the Rev. J. St. John (Pencombe) and Mr. G. Cresswell (Ocle Court), who were both in full sympathy with the scheme.

It was decided to form a Corps and Committees were appointed for each parish to canvass. Mr. Albert Bush was asked to serve the Corps as their secretary.

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

### Casualties

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	DATE	HOW	WHERE	HOMETOWN	Notes (Serving with)
DAVIES	OWEN	LCPL	3520	236248	15/07	DOW	MEF	WOOLHOPE	
HUGHES	GEORGE	PTE	4333	236772	21/07	Died	IRAQ	BRAMPTON BRYAN	As POW
HUNT	HARRY	PTE	3288	236123	02/07	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER	

Pte Hunt's date of death is as recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission – but no casualties are recorded in the Battalion War Diary.

'Routine' activity continued in maintaining and bettering defensive positions and training and preparing for forthcoming offensive action.

Sir A Murray was recalled, and on the 28 Jun Gen Sir E Allenby assumed command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

A vast amount of important work had been carried out under Sir A Murray. The maintenance of a large force on the borders of Palestine was made possible by his organisation and construction. The striking range of the Army was no longer confined to a short radius from a railhead on the coast. The supply of water had been increased and material had been accumulated.

Pondering over the situation, General Chetwode prepared an appreciation and a plan which he placed before the new Commander in Chief on his arrival. The plan, in its broad conception, was accepted, and Sir E Allenby cabled to the War Cabinet, giving details of his proposed operations. 'My plan of operations,' says Sir E Allenby, 'was based on his (Chetwode's) appreciation of the situation, and on the scheme which he put forward to me on my arrival in Egypt.'

The width of the enemy front remained the same, 'Gaza to Beersheba, a distance of thirty miles - but every week that passed made it stronger. It had always been held by a series of entrenched localities, and these were now being joined up and improved. The attacks on Gaza had resulted in that place being transformed into a modern fortress, capable, as General Chetwode knew, of protracted resistance. There was still a big gap of some four miles between the Abu Hureira - Arab el Teiaha trench system and Beersheba, which stood by itself though covered by strong works. The Turkish front was wide, but their lateral communications were good, and enabled any portion of the line to be reinforced quickly.

The shifted balance in disposition of troops now left the Turks with one vulnerable flank only, and the plan was to capture Beersheba, deploy a force on the high ground to the north and north—west of the town and attack the Hureira—Sheria line.

'This front of attack was chosen for the following reasons: The enemy's works in this sector were less formidable than elsewhere, and they were easier of approach than other parts of the enemy defences; when Beersheba was in our hands we should have an open flank against, which to operate, and I would make full use of our superiority in mounted troops, and a success here offered prospects, of pursuing our advantage and

forcing the enemy to abandon the rest of his fortified positions, which no other line of attack would afford.' (Allenby.)

There were still, however, great difficulties to be overcome. The supply problem, when worked out, showed that the whole transport of the army, including thirty thousand pack camels, would have to be allotted to one portion of the force. Water was always a great anxiety. There was a supply, dependent on the success of the attack, at Beersheba and Sheria, but meanwhile it would have to be developed at Esani, Khalasa, and Asluj.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Detail</b>
1 Jul	Coy route marches to Gamli in order to bathe. New classes of specialists formed. Coy Officers instructed in Vickers-Maxim
2 Jul	2Lt AJ Parker (Cheshire) joined for duty. 2 <sup>nd</sup> TAB inoculation to B Coy. 1 offr, 16 ORs detailed to form part of TM Battery.
3 Jul	Capt Carver to hospital. Practiced trench raids. 2 <sup>nd</sup> TAB inoculation for B Coy. Coy offr instructed in Vickers-Maxim.
4 Jul	2 Coys practiced consolidation and ? trenches. Coy offr instructed in Vickers-Maxim.
5 Jul	2 Coys practiced trench raiding. Coy offr – Vickers-Maxim
6 Jul	Bde night ex
7 Jul	Coy route marches to Gamli for bathing
8 Jul	Divine Service
9 Jul	Musketry classes formed. Snipers instructed by ? Specialist training
10 Jul	Instruction in range finding. Offrs Lewis gun classes started. 2 TAB – A Coy
11 Jul	2 TAB – D Coy. Classes as usual
12 Jul	Coy route marches to Gamli for bathing. Bde night ex
13 Jul	Training
14 Jul	Training
15 Jul	Divine service
16 Jul	Training. 2Lts HH Bulmer, LW Lewis and 21 ORs taken on strength
17 Jul	2Lt WF Shepherd appointed Bn IO. Training of scouts and observers commenced.
18 Jul	Company trg
19 Jul	Bn attack ex. Bn ordered to stand-to and be prepared to move to complete at short notice.
20 Jul	Usual training
21 Jul	Usual training
22 Jul	Divine service 1830hrs
23 Jul	A&B Coys inspected by GOC 53 Div Route march. Thick fog in early morning.
24 Jul	Field firing. 2Lt Naylor & 24 ORs from England
25 Jul	Usual trg
26 Jul	Field firing. 2Lt Nixon to hospital. 2Lt Parker and 9 ORs rejoined from hospital
27 Jul	Lecture on trench construction. Lass instructed in sandbag revetments
28 Jul	Field firing. 2Lt Pochin and 4 ORs proceeded to Belah as advance party.
29 Jul	Usual training
30 Jul	Bn moved at 2000hrs to C14C. Relieved at Sha'uth by 2/20 London Regt
31 Jul	Battalion moved to Belah arriving about 8.20pm.

WAR DIARY - - - JULY 1917  
 1/1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Herefordshire Regt.

Appendix I

Weekly State

July 7<sup>th</sup>  
 " 14  
 " 21  
 " 28

Officers	Other Ranks
39	918
39	940
39	934
41	992

Appendix II

Weekly Casualty Return

	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Sick Officers	Sick OR.
July 7 <sup>th</sup>				1	13
" 14				1	8
" 21					9
" 28				2	17

Appendix III

Reinforcements

	Officers	Other Ranks
Draft arriving 16-7-17		20
24-7-17	1	44
26-7-17	1	9



## THE HEREFORDSHIRES IN PALESTINE.

### Interesting Events and Places Recalled.

The following extracts from a letter of a soldier of the Herefordshire Regiment serving in Egypt and Palestine, written to a resident of Kington, will be of interest to our readers:— You have seen the account of our being in action with the Turks on Monday and Tuesday, March 26th and 27th, at Gaza, and on Thursday, April 9th, in the taking of Samson's Ridge. We joined the Desert Column on Thursday, January 4th, when we left our post on the Suez Canal, and proceeded on a march across the Sinai Peninsula, travelling the northern route called the "road to Empire," one of the most ancient and historical routes in the world; a road where men have travelled and armies have fought since the earliest races of mankind. It is called in the Bible "The way of the Philistines." At Kantara, which was our first stopping place, there are three routes, the one by which we had travelled—the northern or coast route; the central route, which was the route taken in the "Exodus" and the flight of Joseph and Mary with the child Jesus into Egypt; and the southern route, to Babylon. We passed many interesting places and battlefields, and saw many ruins of past Empires. Pelusium was one, a place where two great battles were fought, the one between the Egyptians and Persians, the other between the Egyptians and Romans, and was where the Romans built the city of that name. It was somewhere here "The Crusader" landed, as also did the army of Napoleon, which nearly met with disaster in the Serbonian, a wide area of boggy sand. The road to El Arish was over deep sand and dry salt lakes, and was a very hard march indeed. We stayed just outside the town for about a week, and were then the front line infantry troops. We went on to Kaffa, and stayed in that district to Sunday, March 25th. From El Arish the country began to get more fertile, and from the barren waste of the 130 miles of desert we had marched across where but a few palm trees and tumbled down native dwellings were the only relief to the brown sand, great patches of cultivated land appeared; barley being in full ear, fig and almond orchards, orange and many other fruit trees in full foliage; also peas in pod, and a great variety of wild flowers came as a great change to the dull monotony of the barren waste left behind. We crossed the Egyptian frontier and entered

Palestine on Thursday, March 23rd, for the attack at Gaza, and had a couple of days' rest in an almond and orange orchard. On Sunday night our brigade started out to open the attack on a strong redoubt in front of the town. We were on the move all day, and meant to attack at dawn, but a heavy fog and mist came on about three o'clock, and lasted some hours, causing serious delay. When it cleared off we started our advance on the town, and had not gone far when we came under a very heavy fire, the rifle and machine gun fire being very intense. We made slow but sure progress, and just after darkness fell carried the position with the bayonet. We had a very rough time, as you will see by the losses, but earned great praise from our General and the Commander-in-Chief. There was a stiff fight again on Thursday, the Turks bringing up great reinforcements, which were very heavily punished. We came down a short distance for a rest, the shortage of water being a great difficulty. Those few hours of fog on the Monday morning upset a very great victory for us being made. I am thankful to say I came through quite safe, as at times it seemed impossible for anything to stand against the rain of metal the Turks poured at us. I am sorry to say some of the old boys are wounded, including Sergeants Harry Harper and W. Smith (missing). On Thursday, April 9th, we came in contact with the enemy again in the taking of Samson's Ridge. We were supports to the — Regiment, and came under shell and rifle fire, and before evening were in the front line. We made the front line trenches during the following night, and, what with snipers and shells coming over, it was rather warm work. Since then we have been under several rather heavy bombardments, but luckily have had no losses. Owing to the bright moon light nights during the past fortnight there has been a lot of aerial activity. The Turks' Taubes have caused us many anxious moments, as at times they come down quite low and open machine gun fire. Our air men are wonderful, and must have nerves of steel. It does not seem so hot here as in Egypt, but it is very hot, especially when there is a wind blowing across the Syrian Desert. The flies and insects are a very great pest, and give you little rest. The natives are now gathering in the grain crops, and it is a very interesting sight to see them bringing in the camels, horses, donkeys, etc., loaded with grain, and to see the Bedouins with the "bints" (women) and children. Most of the men have three or four wives and a large number of children. The town of Gaza is the place where Samson was kept in captivity by the Philistines, and we have seen the place where he is supposed to have carried the gates of the city. The Herefordshires will always have a very warm remembrance of the mosque just outside the town, for it was near there where the Turks were entrenched, and where very fierce fighting took place.

### THE PRISONERS OF WAR.

There are now 26 men of the Herefordshire Regiment prisoners of war in the hands of the Turks. Seven who are in Turkey were taken in the Gallipoli fighting, and 19 who took part in the Battle of Gaza are at Jerusalem and Damascus.

### TURKISH REVERSE NEAR GAZA.

The following announcement concerning the operations in Palestine was issued by the War Office on Monday night:—

On the morning of July 19th the enemy pushed two cavalry regiments from Beersheba towards the line El-BuggarEl Girjier (about nine miles west of Beersheba). Our mounted troops engaged and drove them back to Beersheba, capturing 13 prisoners.

On the night of July 20-21 our troops successfully raided the enemy's trenches south-west of Gaza. They killed one Turkish officer and 101 men, and brought back 17 prisoners, a machine-gun, and a trench mortar besides a number of rifles and other booty.

A Turkish communique dated July 20th says: An intense bombardment was directed by our heavy artillery against the enemy trenches. Under protection of this fire one of our detachments carried out a reconnoitring attack up to the line Kos el Basal-Musu-Keban (half-way between Beersheba and Gaza). The enemy railways were also subjected to the effective fire of our artillery.

In the afternoon, a British cavalry division, reinforced by artillery, twice attempted to advance against our troops to the north of Abaglan, but was each time repulsed by our gun fire, which inflicted heavy losses. The enemy cavalry retired beyond the Wadi Shenek (the middle course of the Wadi Gaza).

This raid on the Turkish trenches near Gaza is the most considerable event reported from the Palestine front since the heavy fighting in April.

### THE PALESTINE ARMY.

#### NO REST FOR THE TURKS AT GAZA.

Mr. W. T. Massey, special correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" with the British troops in Palestine, where the 1st Herefords are fighting, says:—

Our Palestine army, occupying a series of positions from the sea towards Beersheba in a crescent shape, give the Turks no rest. Both sides are deeply entrenched and wired in. Occasionally small parties of our troops raid the enemy trenches, their missions being invariably successful. These night excursions make the Turks jumpy. It is no uncommon thing to see many Verey lights thrown up opposite portions of our line where no raid was intended. While the Turks show little initiative, we continually harass them. Their snipers, coming out at night, try to interrupt the operations of our working parties, but do not always return.

We make captures much further afield than the trenches. The other day a squadron of light horse went out during the dark hours, hid themselves in a ruined village a dozen miles in front of our right flank, and allowed a squadron of Turkish cavalry to approach to within 200 yards before opening fire, emptying many saddles, scattering the troops, and killing horses.

Our cavalry had no casualties. Our front is excellently organised. The troops are well fed, watered, and munitioned, despite the difficulties of transport over badly broken ground far from the base.





Distant View of Gaza from our trenches.  
16<sup>th</sup> July: Tom Little and I had seven days' leave  
at El Arish Rest Camp. Returned to El Shauth  
on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

The brothers 2377 Frank and 2374 Tom Edwards, with 1194 Tom Little were now members of the MGC, but were still serving alongside The Herefordshire Regiment.

The Battalion football team:



A general view of the camp area:





The Officers' Mess:



**Maj ALB Green**

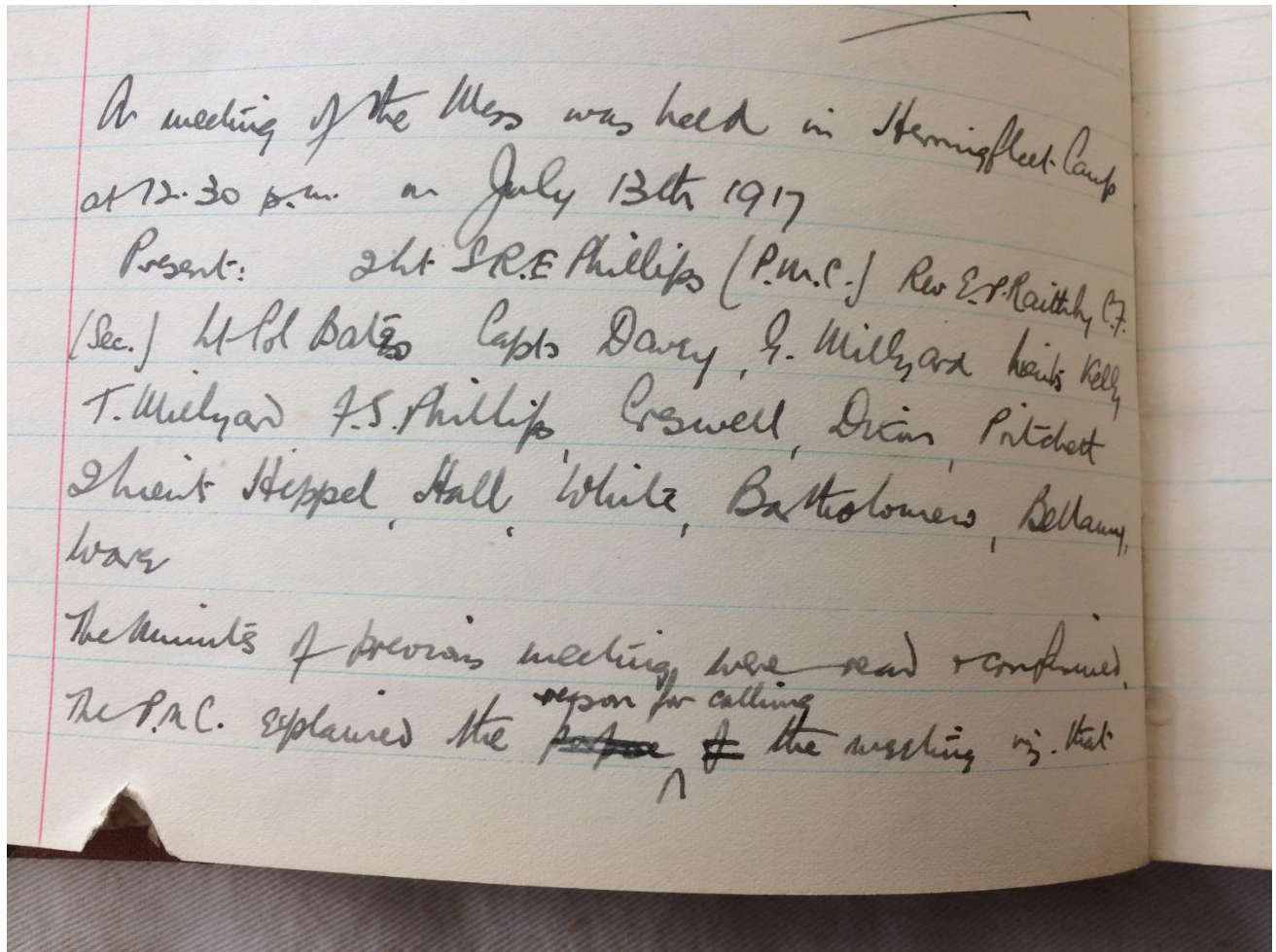
Date	Detail
1 Jul	New padre had a celebration, the first since I came in. Frank Mills looked in to see us in evening. Cecil Walsh, the nerve specialist, came in to see my leg. Said nothing to be done but didn't sound too hopeful. It will be a serious business for me if I have a permanent dropped foot.
2 Jul	Was propped up in bed with bed rest for first time. Very tired after 2 hours of it. MacCarthy Morrogh came in to see me. He is a nice chap.
3 Jul	A good night on the whole after midnight. QMS Herbert came in to see me, also Burton after tea. Gen Lawson (manpower) came round hospital.
4 Jul	Had a splendid night after a bottle of stout; best I have had. Mrs Collins came in to tea.
5 Jul	Not quite so good a night. Dull day with nothing doing.
6 Jul	Quite a good night. A mail in at last with letters from Do of 7, 8, 11 & 13 also one from Pater and mater and Margaret. Second edition of mail in evening with letters from Do of Jun 15 & 17 and one from John and Mrs Paterson.
7 Jul	Another good night. A further concentration from the mail this morning. Letter from Pater and Mater, Maud Currey, Mrs Maclean, Mrs Barker and Mrs Dallin. Later a further batch – 2 from Do of 20 & 22, 2 from Mr Riecke and a pc from Auntie. Pateshall came in to see me with Mrs Collins looking very fit. Burton came round.

8 Jul	Had good night. Letter from Margaret and Fowler. Got up to tea in wheelchair and went along to see Page. Very glad to get back to bed again after an hour.
9 Jul	Still sleeping well. Letter from father arrived delayed by wrong address. Got up in chair again after tea. MacCarthy Morrogh came in to see me.
10 Jul	Nothing much doing. Letters from Margaret and Auntie which had been up the line by mistake. Got up for an hour in the evening. Harker went to Alexandria.
11 Jul	Nothing much happened. Was up for an hour in evening. Mrs Collins came to tea.
12 Jul	Nothing fresh to record.
13 Jul	Nothing much doing. Chipp, Foster and Nixson on leave came to see me. Berney admitted as patient – rheumatism. Burton came in after tea.
14 Jul	Nothing doing at all. Self, weather etc much as usual.
15 Jul	Another quiet day. Nothing to record.
16 Jul	Visit from Chipp otherwise quiet day. Concert in evening by Sirdasieh party.
17 Jul	Mail in. Letters from Do of 24 & 27 Jun also from Margaret and the Mater. A visit from Miss Walker.
18 Jul	Great day eye washing the place for CinC's inspection tomorrow. Visit from MacCarthy Morrogh.
19 Jul	Breakfast at 0700 owing to CinC's inspection at 1030. Bad attack of inspection wind up by authorities. After all General never came onto our ward. Visit from Burton.
20 Jul	English mail in, letter from Do (Jul 1 <sup>st</sup> ) and from Ida, Amy, Charlie and Mrs Crossley, pc from Auntie. Evelyn and Russell came in to see me.
21 Jul	Another bit of the mail in with letter from Mary Griffiths and some papers. Weather much hotter.
22 Jul	Had communion service before breakfast. Visit in afternoon from Padre Lloyd who is on leave. Had been sick at Rafa. MacCarthy Morrogh came in after tea.
23 Jul	Nothing special doing. James Douglas Porth came in as a patient with furuncle in ear.
24 Jul	Another beastly hot day. Guy Barker and Whitehouse came in to see me – just down on leave. Guy goes to Alexandria tomorrow.
25 Jul	Quiet sort of day – very hot. Mrs Collins and Burton came in to see me after tea.
26 Jul	Rather cooler day. Quite a red letter day as I had my clothes on and went out for first drive. Went over Kam El Nir bridge and up to Giza then back over Giza bridge and along Rhodes Island. Out for about an hour.
27 Jul	Rather warmer again. King Power on leave came in to see me. Seems very fit and hopes to get leave home soon.
28 Jul	Very hot again all day. Mrs Collins took me for a very nice drive in evening around Gezireh Island and then along Rhodes Island.
29 Jul	Usual sort of day. Went for drive with Merry in evening. Went to Sporting Club where I had a dry martini – very nice for a change.
30 Jul	Nothing much doing. Didn't go out today but got up in chair for a bit.

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion remained at Herringfleet on Home Defence duties; their numbers had been depleted by reinforcement drafts to units in France and Army reorganisation was being considered which would see the Battalion disbanded.

This was reflected in the minutes of an Officers' Mess Meeting:



A meeting of the Mess was held in Herringfleet Camp  
at 12.30 p.m. on July 13th 1917

Present: 2Lt S.R.E. Phillips (P.M.C.) Rev E.P. Kaitchy C.F.  
(Sec.) Lt Col Bates Capts Davey, G. Millard, Lewis Kelly,  
T. Millard, F.S. Phillips, Creswell, Dixon, Pitchett,  
Sergeant Heppel, Hall, White, Bartholomew, Bellamy,  
Warr

The minutes of previous meeting were read & confirmed.  
The P.M.C. explained the <sup>reason for calling</sup> ~~purpose~~ of the meeting viz. that



in view of the demobilisation of the Regiment it was necessary the sum of £25 placed on deposit in July 1916 (vide minutes of meeting held July 26th 1916) together with its interest had been transferred to the current account but that apparently it could not be used for the purpose intended in the minute. After considerable discussion it was proposed by Capt Dawey & seconded by Sgt Bellamy

"That the sum of £25 which was set aside at a meeting on July 26th 1916, be handed over in trust to Capt G. Millyard  
" A. Dawey  
Lieut. T. Millyard  
" J.S. Phillips  
" P. Coswell  
" E.H. Pritchett

these officers being responsible that, when called for, money up to £25 will be paid for the repair of marquees used by 21st Herefordshire Regt during the summer of 1916. And that arrangements be made with the authorities at the Bank where this money is placed so that the signatures of any two of the above officers will be sufficient on cheques for drawing sums required."

Carried with one dissentient without resolution it was left to the above officers to dispose of ~~any~~ the balance (if any) at their discretion either for benefit of Regt or for some charitable object.

Proposed by Lieut F.S. Phillips seconded by Capt A. Davey  
that the Committee should wind up accounts & prepare  
a final balance sheet - which should be placed  
before a Garrison Board of Officers for audit.  
Carried nem con.

Heartly thanks were expressed to the Mess Officers  
for their careful management of Mess affairs.

#### Reserve Battalion (formerly 3 Bn) - Oswestry

The Army reorganisation also effected the Reserve Bn, and in July it merged with 4 Reserve Bn KSLI and moved to Swansea. The Herefordshire Reserve Bn thus ceased to exist. It is unclear what capbadge ex Herefordshire Regiment soldiers wore in the new battalion.

**WAR ITEMS.**

**HEREFORD RESERVE BATTALION AMALGAMATED.**

The Hereford Reserve Battalion, after a very long stay at Oswestry, broke camp on Saturday, and moved to a station in South Wales, where they amalgamated with a reserve unit of the Shropshires.

**LEINTWARDINE OFFICER HONOURED.**