

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – March 1917

The 'Bigger' Picture

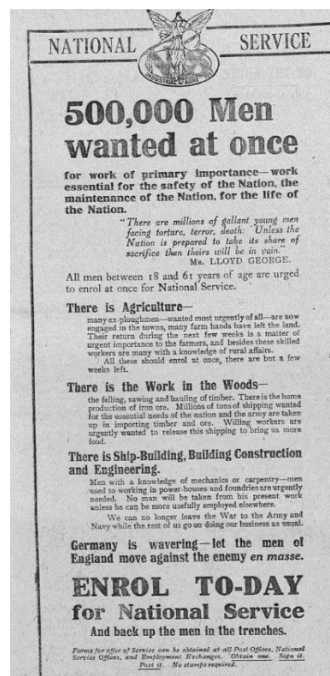
- Count-Zeppelin dies.
- China severs diplomatic relations with Germany.
- First meeting of British Imperial War Conference.
- Anglo-French Conference assembles in London to discuss relations of British and French Commanders in the Western Theatre, and employment of prisoners of war in the fighting zone.
- United States Government announce arming of all merchant vessels in the war zone.
- The Emperor of Austria makes secret proposal, conveyed in a letter to Prince Sixte of Bourbon, to the French President (M Poincare) to open conversations with a view to peace.
- France - M Briand, French Premier, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, and General Roques, French Minister for War, resign.
 - M Ribot succeeds M Briand as French Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs
 - Painleve appointed French Minister for War

Russian Revolution Begins.

- Prince Golitsin, Russian Premier and General Byelyaev, Russian Minister for War, removed from office by Revolutionary party.
- Prince Lvov appointed Russian Premier. M Milyukov appointed Russian Foreign Minister. General Guchkov appointed Russian Minister for War.
- New Provisional Government proclaimed in Russia. Provisional Government in Russia recognised by Great Britain, France, Italy, United States of America, Rumania, and Switzerland.
- Russian Provisional Government issue Proclamation acknowledging the Independence of Poland.
- Nicholas II, Tsar of Russia, abdicates.
- Mutiny breaks out in Russian Baltic Fleet

The Home Front

- German destroyer raid on Ramsgate and Broadstairs
- Pressure continues on the British workforce and agricultural and economic output; the pressure is worsened by the increased intensity of the German U Boat assault.



NATIONAL SERVICE

**500,000 Men
wanted at once**

for work of primary importance—work essential for the safety of the Nation, the maintenance of the Nation, for the life of the Nation.

"There are millions of gallant young men facing torture, terror, death. Unless the Nation is prepared to take its share of sacrifice then theirs will be in vain."
—MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

All men between 18 and 61 years of age are urged to enrol at once for National Service.

There is Agriculture—
many as ploughmen—wanted most urgently of all—are now engaged in the sowing, many farm hands have left the land. Their return during the next few weeks is a matter of urgent importance to the farmers, and besides these skilled workers are many with a knowledge of rural affairs. All these should enrol at once, there are but a few weeks left.

There is the Work in the Woods—
the felling, sawing and hauling of timber. There is the home production of iron ore. Millions of tons of shipping wanted for the essential needs of the nation and the army are taken up in importing timber and ore. Willing workers are urgently wanted to release this shipping to bring us more food.

There is Ship-Building, Building Construction and Engineering.
Men with a knowledge of mechanics or carpentry—men used in working in power houses and foundries are urgently needed. No more will be taken from his present work unless he can be more usefully employed elsewhere. We can no longer leave the War to the Army and Navy while the rest of us go on doing our business as usual.

Germany is wavering—let the men of England move against the enemy *en masse*.

**ENROL TO-DAY
for National Service**
And back up the men in the trenches.

Forms for application can be obtained at all Post Offices, National Service Offices, and Employment Exchanges. Green and Blue 22, Part II. No stamp required.

The Western Front

German retreat from the Somme to the Hindenburg Line begins.

- Roye occupied by French forces
- Bapaume occupied by British forces
- Peronne and Noyon occupied by Allied forces

Other Fronts

BALKAN FRONT

- Allied Offensive in Macedonia to free Monastir begins

EGYPT/PALESTINE

- British offensive into Palestine begins
- First Battle of Gaza

MESOPOTAMIA

- Baghdad occupied by British forces

PERSIA

- Hamadan (Western Persia) recaptured by Russian forces
- Kirmanshah (Western Persia) again taken by Russian forces
- Karind (Western Persia) occupied by Russian forces
- Qasr-i-Shirin (Western Persia) again taken by Russian forces

In The Air

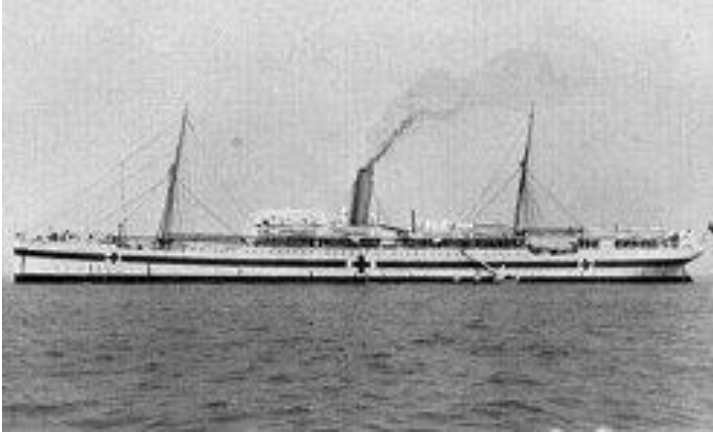
- German airship L-30 destroyed at Compiègne when returning from raid on England

At Sea

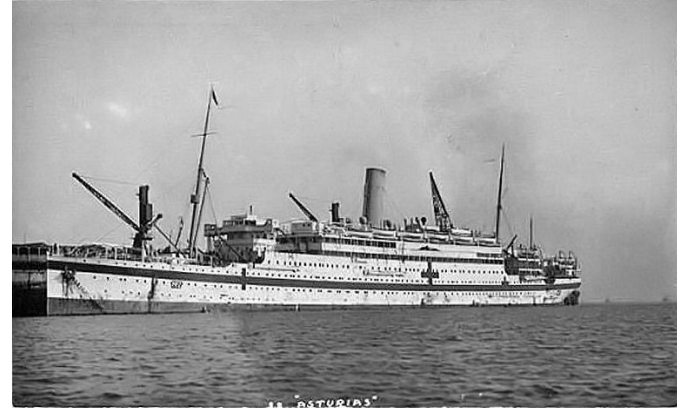
- German raider Leopard sunk by HMS Achilles and Armed Boarding Steamer Dundee.
- German raider Moewe returns to Kiel from her second cruise

Mine & U Boat Warfare

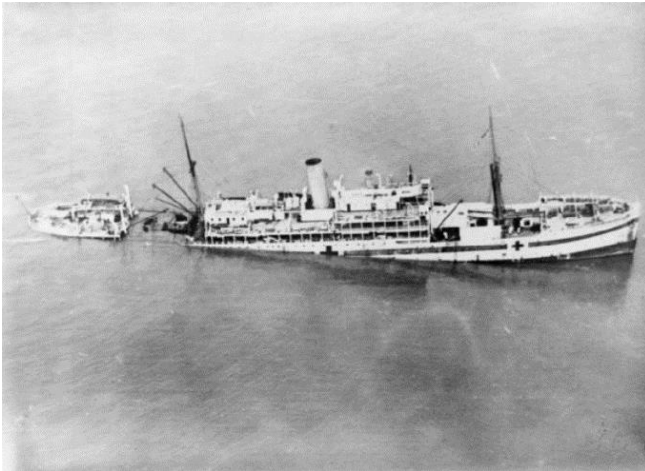
British hospital ship *Glenart Castle* (*photo below*) damaged by mine between Havre and Southampton – later repaired and returned to service.



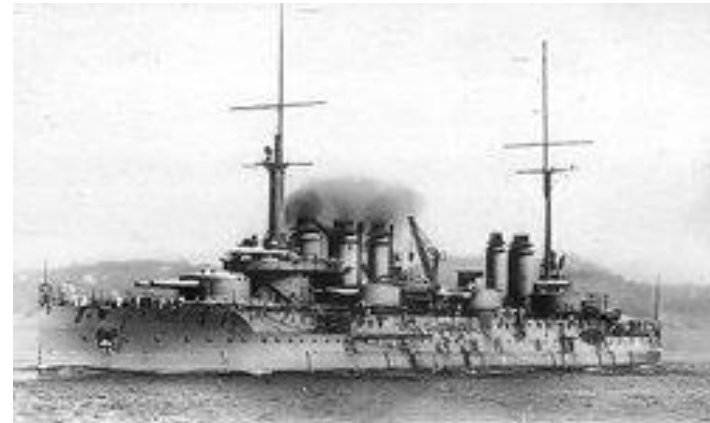
British hospital ship *Asturias* torpedoed off Start Point, she had previously discharged 1000 wounded men at Avonmouth; 31 people were killed and 12 missing.



British hospital ship *Gloucester Castle* torpedoed between Havre and Southampton (*photo below*), but towed in; 3 lives lost.

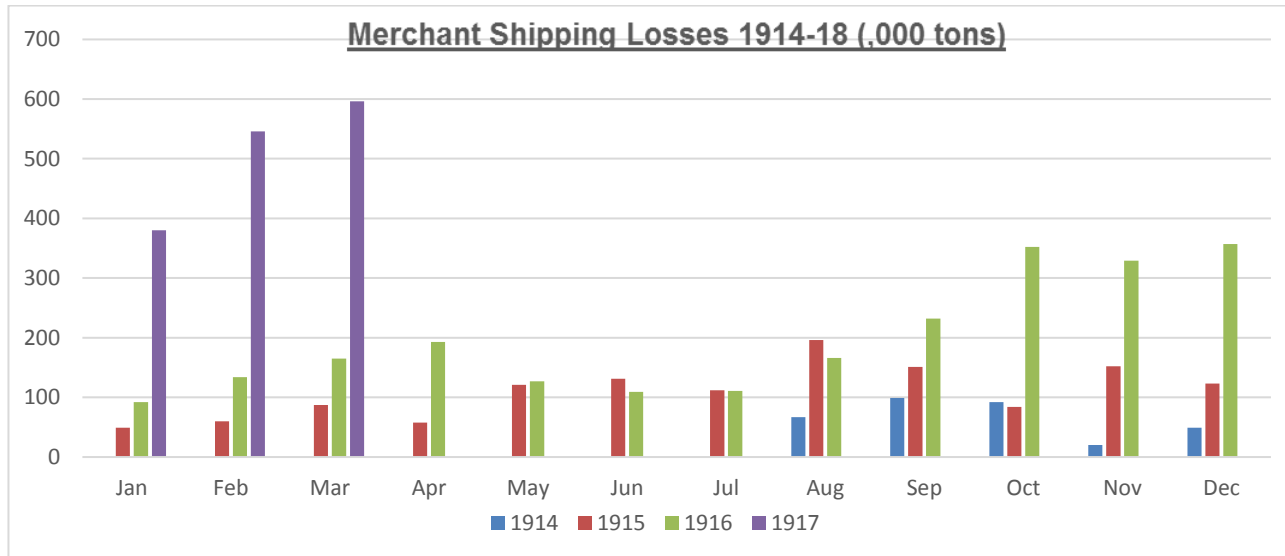


French battleship *Danton* (*photo below*) sunk by submarine in Mediterranean; 296 lives lost.



MERCHANT SHIPPING

British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month - 366 ships of 596,000 tons gross; the highest monthly amount of the war to date.



The 'Herefords'

Renumbering of the Territorial Force in 1917

In 1917 a new numbering system was introduced for men serving in the Territorial Force and they were allocated new 6 digit numbers. It wasn't straightforward and there are anomalies – but not for The Herefords. The outline of the change and how it impacted on The Herefordshire Regiment is shown below:

Pre 1917 Situation: Up to the end of 1916 men in each TF unit (infantry battalion, artillery brigade, field ambulance, etc) were numbered using a *system unique to that unit* - often by allocating the number 1 to the first man to join the unit on its formation in 1908 and continuing from there.

When a man moved between TF units, even between battalions of the same regiment, he was generally renumbered. This was adequate for peacetime but not for the different circumstances of war. Renumbering resulted in inevitable errors and confusion, and an administrative burden. This became worse as the number of transfers between TF units (and between TF and non-TF units) increased after changes in regulations allowed the compulsory transfer of TF men to units other than the one in which they had enlisted.

Changes Made: In late 1916 and early 1917 a new numbering system was promulgated in five *Army Council Instructions* (ACIs), each one covering a different arm of service and each with a date of implementation some weeks or months in the future. By the date specified for his particular arm of service, every TF soldier was renumbered, receiving a six-digit number (five-digit in the case of some Yeomanry units) from the block of numbers allocated to his unit. A TF soldier now *retained this number as long as he continued to serve in a particular corps*, even if he was posted to another TF or regular unit in that corps. He would only be renumbered if he transferred to another corps.

Army Council Instruction also dealt with changes in the arrangements for TF records, pay and other administrative matters. These arrangements were to take effect from 1 March 1917.

The basics of the system: Each corps of infantry was allocated a block of TF numbers starting at 200001. This meant that, unlike the other arms, infantry TF numbers *were* duplicated - but not within the same corps. The allocation for each infantry corps was then broken into smaller blocks for each battalion. These are shown below.

All infantry soldiers defined as TF were allocated a new number. The man retained this number.

From 1 January 1917 the only soldiers who could be treated as TF when initially joining an infantry corps were:

- Men who enlisted (or had already enlisted) directly into infantry TF units and were not subject to the Military Service Acts (ie were not liable for conscription)
- Men serving on TF attestations in other arms - such as the TF artillery - who transferred to infantry TF units

This meant that from 1 January 1917 there were no direct recruits to The Herefordshire Regiment.

TF Regiment	Treated as part of
Herefordshire R	King's (Shropshire Light Infantry)

The detailed allocation of numbers to The Herefordshire Regiment was

225001	235000	Shropshire Light Infantry	
235001	260000	Shropshire Light Infantry	Allocated to Hereford Regt.

It is not entirely clear how the new numbers were allocated to individuals, but it looks as though they were allocated by rank and then seniority within rank – thus individuals with low pre 1917 numbers received low 6 figure numbers.

Casualties (other than 1st Bn)

Whilst many casualties were incurred in The First Battle of Gaza on 26/27 March, many of these were not notified to Next of Kin until April. Casualties continued amongst ex Herefordshire Regiment soldiers serving with other units in France. Some of those that died in UK died as a result of wounds or sickness attributable to war service – others died as a result of ‘natural causes’; there was still concern about condition at training camps in UK, especially Park Hall Camp at Oswestry.

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO	DATE	HOW	WHERE	HOMETOWN	Notes (Serving with)
BIBBY	JAMES	PTE	6488	19/03/17	DIED	UK		SWB (Mons)
DAVIES	THOMAS GILBERT	PTE	1109	28/03/17	DIED	UK	ROSS	11 Border
DEAKIN	JOHN	PTE	238987	09/03/17	DIED	UK	WIGMORE	

DREW	JOHN WATSON	PTE	239055	12/03/17	DIED	UK	KINGTON	
GIBBS	PERCY CHARLES	PTE	238995	22/03/17	DIED	UK	SOLLARS HOPE	
GIBBS	GEORGE THOMAS	PTE	1965	28/03/17	KIA	FLANDERS	WESTROP WILT	4 Gloster
GOUGH	ERNEST HAROLD	PTE	4422	28/03/17	DIED		LLANDRIDOD	11 Border
GREEN	THOMAS	PTE	3921	28/03/17	DIED	UK	ROSS	RDC
MAYO	ARTHUR	PTE	236423	09/03/17	DIED	UK	FAWLEY	
SMITH	S	PTE	239022	10/03/17	DIED	UK		
WHERRETT	ERNEST	PTE	4461	25/03/17	KIA	FLANDERS	WESTBURY	14 Glos

6488 Pte James Bibby

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. *7968* *James Bibby*

Company	Battn. or Depôt	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of Pension		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
					years	days	
Age on Enlistment <i>17</i> years <i>11</i> months.							
Enlisted for <i>1</i> years' Army Service.							
Enlisted for <i>1</i> years' Reserve Service.							
Service towards limited engagement reckons from <i>3/12/14</i>							
Joined at <i>Chester</i> on <i>3/12/14</i>							
<i>Non Regt</i>	<i>4/3</i>	<i>Transferred</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>19-3-17</i>			}
		<i>Died from Fusary Trauma (Splenis) at Military Hospital, Bristow, on 7.6.17.</i>					

1965 Pte George Thomas Gibbs



236423 Pte Arthur Mayo

DIED.

FAWLEY SOLDIER'S DEATH.

The death has occurred at Oswestry of Pte. Arthur Mayo, of the Herefordshire Regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mayo, of Fawley, death being due to tubercular peritonitis, contracted while serving with the forces. The body was removed to his parent's home on Tuesday of last week, and the funeral took place at King's Caple churchyard the following afternoon. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside by two of deceased's comrades. We regret also to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Mayo have just received the news that another of their sons has been seriously wounded in Mesopotamia.

LOCAL CASUALTIES.

DIED WHILST PRISONER OF WAR.

News has come to hand that Private G. H. Davies (2727), of the Border Regiment, has died in Germany whilst a prisoner of war. Private Davies, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Davies, live at 36, Whitecross Street, Hereford, in civil life, was in the employ of Mr. Peake, builder, Hereford, and was a single man, aged 32 years. He was a Derby man, and joined the 3rd Herefords. He was transferred to the Border Regiment, and went to France in September, and was reported missing in November. Five weeks later his parents had a postcard from him, and then nothing more was heard of him until the official message of his death. He was buried at the Military Cemetery at Hargicourt, Germany. Another son of Mr. and Mrs. Davies, Walter, is in the Navy.

Details were also being received of those who had been declared missing; often notification of death was not received by the family until weeks, or months after the actual date of death.

The funeral of 239043 Pte Ivor Owens who had died in February was published in the local newspaper, it also reported the funeral of 2376 Pte Henry Bufton who died after discharge from the Army.

FUNERAL OF PTE. IVOR OWENS, OF LLANEVAN.

Much sympathy is expressed with Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Owen, of Llanevan, Penybont, in the death of their son, Pte. Ivor Owen, of the Herefordshire Regiment, who died from pneumonia on Saturday.

The funeral took place last week at Llandegley Church, where an impressive service was conducted by the Rev. Watkin Jones, Baptist Minister, of Presteign. There was a large attendance at the funeral and the principal mourners were as follows:—

Mr. and Mrs. J. Owen (father and mother), Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Owen (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. J. Morris (sister and brother-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. A. Duggan (sister and brother-in-law), the Misses Annie and Jessie Owen (sisters), Owen, Sidney, Richard and Pte. Howard Owen (brothers), Mr. and Mrs. T. Rogers, Rhewey (uncle and aunt); Mr. and Mrs. A. Rogers, Hendy (uncle and aunt); Mr. S. O. Davies, Heath, (uncle); Mr. and Mrs. E. Davies, Gwernnusman (uncle and aunt); Miss J. Davies, Heath (cousin); Mr. and Mrs. Hamer, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Watkins, Mr. Mrs. and the Misses Watkins, Mrs. Mosley (Mrand), Mrs. S. L. Wisblade, Mr. and Mrs. William Gittos, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Jenkins, Mr. J. Jenkins (junior), Mrs. Rogers (Swydd), Mr. W. D. Duggan, Mr. Owen (Owm), Mr. W. Watkins (Nantwellan), Mr. James Abberley, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Price (Yew Tree), Pte. Percy Morris, Mr. Lawson Morris, Mr. John Morson, Mr. Collard, Mr. John Price, Mr. John Mantle, Mr. Davies (Lower Trowern), Mr. T. Jones (Penybont Station), Mr. John Davies (Graig), Mr. Davies (Llanodw).

DEATH OF A KINGTON TERRITORIAL.

SUVLA BAY LANDING RECALLED.

The death occurred at Haywood Common, Kington, on the 17th of February of William Henry Bufton, late private in the Herefordshire Regiment. He mobilised with the Territorials on the outbreak of war and landed with his regiment at Suvla Bay in August, 1915, and was on the Gallipoli Peninsula until the evacuation, going through the great storm experienced there by the Herefords. He was afterwards invalided home and was discharged, and passed away as stated at the age of 20 years, the cause of death being consumption.

The funeral took place at Kington Cemetery on Wednesday in last week, and was conducted by the Rev. W. Standley, Wesleyan Minister. The relatives and friends present included Mr. and Mrs. T. Lloyd (brother-in-law and sister), Mr. Lloyd, Mrs. Jones, Mr. E. Bufton, Mr. Tedstone (Haywood Common), Mr. Walter Price (Turnpike), and Mr. J. White (Haywood Common), etc. The bearers were Messrs. J. Morris (School Farm), William Hughes (Hergest), J. Welson (Bank Farm), and Hugh Lloyd (Vestry). Out of respect for the deceased and in acknowledgment of the services rendered by the deceased to his country, Quarter-Master Sergeant Bore arranged what may be termed a semi-military funeral. He arranged for Sergeant Warrington and Buglers Armour and Weaver from the Hereford Regiment to be present and the "Last Post" was sounded at the grave at the conclusion of the service. Among others who attended in addition to Quarter-Master Sergeant Bore were Lieutenant Biggerton Evans, South Wales Borderers (son of the Rector of Gladestry, who was home on sick leave); Captain Hale, Chaplain. The following members of the Herefordshire Regiment who took part in the Dardanelles operations with the deceased and have now been discharged from wounds or sickness, also attended: Sergeant A. B. Dowling, Sergeant A. Morgan, Pte. E. Evans, Pte. A. Jones, Pte. A. J. Lewis, also in addition there were present Ptes. E. Watkins, W. Drew, Pte. C. Medlicott (Canadians), Pte. Stanley Tipton, and wounded soldiers from the Kington Red Cross Hospital. There were a large number of floral tributes.

The London Gazette

Honours & Awards NIL

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Effective Date	Remarks
23/03/1917	Addis	JHM	relinquishes command of Bn	13/01/17	
20/03/1917	Berney	GN	reverts to lieutenant	16/06/16	
22/03/1917	Carver	WL	to be captain	03/04/17	
22/03/1917	Challis	FG	to be lieutenant	12/08/16	
07/03/1917	Cope	RPH	relinquishes commission ill health (Mons Regt)	14/11/16	corrected entry of 14 Nov 1916
28/03/1917	Cope	Alfred N	to be lieutenant employed recruiting	03/02/17	Reverend
22/03/1917	Evason	DGG	to be lieutenant	20/01/16	
17/03/1917	Gardiner	Harry	to be lieutenant colonel	15/01/17	West Riding Regt
13/03/1917	James	Ernest J	to be lieutenant	14/03/17	
26/03/1917	Llewellyn	EAR	reverts to lieutenant	31/12/15	
28/03/1917	Lloyd	Penry C	to be lieutenant	29/03/17	Volunteer Bn
26/03/1917	Lovering	CD	to be captain Mons Regt	13/03/17	
19/03/1917	McMichael	GB	seconded RFC	26/02/17	
23/03/1917	McMichael	GB	seconded to RFC	26/02/17	
20/03/1917	Nayler	G	restored to estb	25/01/17	Mons Regt
12/03/1917	Nott	FT	cancelled entry 11 Jan 1917	12/03/17	
09/03/1917	Pilkington	CEG	reverts to lieutenant	18/01/17	
06/03/1917	Price	Sidney	to be second lieutenant	07/03/17	Volunteer Bn
09/03/1917	Reeve	RW	seconded RFC	14/01/17	
12/03/1917	Rogers	ETP	to be major	09/12/16	
20/03/1917	Rogers	JP	restored to estb	25/01/17	Mons Regt
22/03/1917	Russell	ES	to be lieutenant	09/04/16	
26/03/1917	Wallis	OB	to be captain	11/01/17	
20/03/1917	White	SG	restored to estb	27/01/17	Mons Regt
16/03/1917	Wilmot	Laurence M	to be second lieutenant	01/03/17	
22/03/1917	Wilmot	E	to be lieutenant	25/08/15	
22/03/1917	Wilson	A	to be lieutenant	23/12/15	

HEREFORD

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

HEREFORD SOLDIER'S PATHETIC STORY.

Shell Shock and Lost Memory.

At the Leominster Borough Police Court on Saturday, before Mr. T. J. Enoch and Mr. T. H. Edwards, Albert Rivers, of the Herefordshire Regiment, whose home is at 2, Catherine Street, Hereford, was charged with being an absentee from Eaton Park, Manchester.

Superintendent Rooke stated that the man surrendered himself at the Police Station the previous evening, stating that he was an absentee from the 1st Herefords. He (witness) at once communicated with the Hereford police, who replied that they had just received a warrant for his arrest. A medical paper in the man's possession showed that he was suffering from shell shock. He had leave from the Camp, and had overstayed his time.

Pte. Rivers, who had two gold stripes on his arm, and wore the South African ribbon, and who appeared to be in a dazed condition, said that he lost his memory at times, the result of having been buried by a shell. He had rambled away from the Camp, but could not tell how long he had been away, but he thought four or five days. He served thirteen years in the army and was through the South African war.

The Chairman said he would be remanded to await an escort, and in the meantime he hoped he would be well looked after, as a man who had "been out there" needed all the sympathy they could give him.

LEOMINSTER MAN.

Private C. Reynolds, of Bell Court, South Street, Leominster, of the Border Regiment, was wounded in the left arm in France on February 19th, and is now in a convalescent hospital in Liverpool, and is going on well. His brother, Private T. Reynolds, was killed in action in France in 1915.

DEATH IN GERMANY.

Private E. Vowles, 42193, South Wales Borderers, reported missing since November 20th, 1916, is now reported as having died of wounds at the Reserve Field Hospital, Staden, Germany, on November 21st. Deceased had only just completed his nineteenth birthday. He was formerly in the second line of the Herefordshire Regiment, but was afterwards attached to the South Wales Borderers. He was a son of Mrs. A. Prosser, of 63, Foley Street, Hereford.

WOUNDED.

Lance-Corpl. Vernal, Border Regiment, of Newton, Ledbury, is wounded, and is in hospital at Sheffield. Enlisting in the summer of 1915 in the Herefords, Lance-Corpl. Vernal was drafted to the Border Regiment last autumn, and was wounded early in February. He is a married man, formerly worked with one of the Rural District Council's steam rollers, and enlisted about the time that Captain E. G. Gurney (survivor) accepted a commission.

Private Arthur Drinkwater, Gloucester Regiment, youngest son of Mr. James Drinkwater, Worcester Road, Ledbury, is in hospital in France, wounded. Joining up under the group scheme Private Drinkwater did his training with the Herefords, and was drafted to the Gloucester Regiment in the later months of last year.

TITLEY MAN KILLED.

Information has been received at Titley that Private William Kendrick, Border Regiment, has been killed in action in France. He joined the 1st Herefords, and was afterwards transferred to the Border Regiment. He was unmarried, and was formerly in the employ of Mr. Greenly, of Titley Court, as a gardener.

SUFFERING FROM FROSTBITE.

PTE. R. TIBBEY, HEREFORD.

Pte. Richard Tibbey, 3rd Batt. 1st Herefords, youngest son of the late Mr. G. R. Tibbey and of Mrs. Tibbey, Hereford, has been invalided home from France and is now in Kitchener's Hospital at Brighton, suffering from a frozen foot. In November he was reported missing for a fortnight. He also had a narrow escape during a period that he was attached to the South Wales Borderers. Falling into a well on a dark night, a projecting pipe prevented his going to the bottom, and he was in this dangerous predicament some hours before being rescued.

Some of those discharged were:

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO1	TERM	HOMETOWN	Notes
BENTLEY	WILLIAM	PTE	3321	iiicc		Ex Suvla Bay
BURGESS	W	PTE	8080			
CUTHBERTSON	JOSEPH	SGT	8130	timex	KNIGHTON	Ex Suvla Bay
EVERETT	PETER	PTE	823	XVI WOUNDS	HEREFORD	Ex Suvla Bay
GARDINER	WILLIAM GEORGE	PTE	1385	xvi	COLWALL	Ex Suvla Bay
HEWITT	THOMAS	PTE				Ex Suvla Bay
HURCUMB	FREDERICK THOMAS	SGT	129	2D Overage	HEREFORD	Ex Suvla Bay 53 DIV HQ
MITCHELL	JOHN	PTE	6643		KIMBOLTON	Ex Suvla Bay
TOMKINS	WILLIAM HENRY	PTE	4281	xvi	KIMBOLTON	
WEAVER	MORRIS EDWIN	PTE	8197	xvi	RHAYADER	
WEHETT	THOS	PTE	6696	xvi		

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 Bn continued to be active both in training duties and seeking new recruits.

**1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE
VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.**

"A" Company.

ORDERS FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 17.

Saturday.—Shooting 2.30—5 p.m., Holmer.
Sunday.—2.30 p.m. Company parade. Much Birch and Withington Platoons will attend. Staff-Sergt.-Instructor Austin will attend for instruction.

Monday.—Ambulance, 7.15 p.m.
Tuesday.— Staff-Sergt.-Instructor Austin's class for officers and N.C.O.'s, 7 p.m., Drill Hall.
Thursday.—Platoon drill, Drill Hall, 7 p.m. Recruits will attend. Shooting 2.30—5 p.m., Holmer.
Saturday.—Shooting, 2.30—5 p.m.—Holmer.

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

Headquarters, Hereford,
10th March, 1917.

**1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE
VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.**

"A" Company.

ORDERS FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 31st.

Saturday.—Shooting, 2.30—5 p.m.—Holmer.
Sunday.—Company parade. Much Birch and Withington Platoons will attend. Staff-Sergt.-Instructor Austin will attend for instruction. 2.30 p.m.
Monday.—Ambulance, 7.15 p.m.
Tuesday.—Staff-Sergeant-Instructor Austin's class for officers and N.C.O.'s, 7 p.m., Drill Hall.
Thursday.—Platoon drill, Drill Hall, 7 p.m. Recruits will attend. Shooting, 2.30-5 p.m., Holmer.
Saturday.—Shooting, 2.30-5 p.m., Holmer.

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

Headquarters, Hereford,
24th March, 1917.

THE VOLUNTEER FORCE.

To the Editor of the Hereford Times.

Sir,—Kindly allow me through your valuable paper to add a plea for more support in men to the local Volunteer force. At this time of grave national peril everyone agrees that it is the duty of every citizen to do whatever he can to help his country, and surely it is the duty of every able-bodied man, in every walk of life, to get some training in arms in the event of invasion. The same school of thought which ridiculed or threw cold water on the old Volunteer movement are to-day looking askance at those of the present day, but, as is well known, from the Volunteers sprang the Territorials who in Britain's hour of need enabled her grand little expeditionary force to cross the water with the result the whole world knows. Soon after the outbreak of war large numbers joined the present Volunteer movement, and it was composed of men who through age or good reasons could not be in the Army. Since then the force has had a very chequered career. Those who know what it has done, say useful service for the State has been carried out, but for reasons good, bad, and indifferent (as far as Hereford is concerned), the numbers have sadly fallen off. At the commencement our city had the men, but little organisation; to-day they have the organisation, but few men. Recently the King made an appeal on behalf of the Volunteers, the Duke of Connaught is their Colonel-in-Chief, and the Government have made it part of the national defences. Surely these are good and sufficient reasons for the men of Hereford joining the local corps and not leaving it to Birch and Withington to make up their numbers. The corps is an organisation which in the event of grave danger of invasion can be handled quickly. The fact that they are an organised body should appeal specially to business men. Events move quickly in war time, and we never know what to-morrow may bring forth. Our Navy is magnificent, but no body of men, any more than an individual, is infallible. Our gallant seamen appreciate us doing our little bit in helping to guard the Homeland. And, after all, what are we asked to do? Simply to put in a minimum average of ten hours drill a month for the duration of the war, and only to be mobilised in the event of grave national peril. Surely a small thing to ask, but the result is great, for then a man helps to make up an organisation which could be handled quickly if ever wanted, a great asset to our national defences. The writer has heard it suggested that the Volunteers may be called up on a scare, but does any man seriously think that the Government would upset the whole business of the country for a bogey invasion, comprised, as the Volunteer force is, of men with heavy responsibilities. To-day men are working at high pressure, and many quite fairly plead lack of time, but to most men a couple of hours' drill a week would act as a tonic, breaking the monotony of their daily toil, which would compensate for the little time lost. Hereford is fortunate in having a fine Drill Hall, it has an up-to-date range on which to learn to shoot, efficient instructors, and a good staff. Enrolment can be made at the Drill Hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 7.30 to 8.30, or through any of the local officers or N.C.O.'s. Men of Hereford, do what you can, and back up our lads in khaki.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

VOLUNTEER
(Past and Present).

Hereford, 7th March, 1917.

1st Battalion

After the Anglo-French Congress at Calais decided on a spring offensive; the Supreme War Council was given increased impetus for "Allied activity" on 8 March when the Russian Revolution began. By 11 March Baghdad in Mesopotamia had been occupied by British Empire forces, and an offensive in Macedonia had been launched. In April the Battle of Arras would be launched by the British, and the Nivelle offensive by the French.

Britain's three major war objectives now were to maintain maritime supremacy in the Mediterranean Sea, while preserving the balance of power in Europe and the security of Egypt, India, and the Persian Gulf. The latter could be secured by an advance into Palestine and the capture of Jerusalem, thus offensive operations by the MEF were encouraged.

In February the water pipeline from the Egyptian Sweet Water Canal, which carried water from the Nile, had reached El Arish, while the railway line was being laid well to the east. This infrastructure enabled a strong defensive position and a forward base to be established. This enabled two possible directions for an advance towards Jerusalem: through Rafa on the coast, or inland through Hafir El Auja.

Between Rafa and Gaza, to the east of the coastal sand dunes, a gently rolling plateau of light, firm soil rose slowly inland, crossed by several dry wadis, after the winter rains, the area was covered by young crops or fresh grass. Gaza was the gateway for invading armies travelling the coastal route, to and from Egypt. The town and the fertile surrounding areas strongly favoured defence; Gaza being located on a plateau 200 feet high which is separated from the Mediterranean Sea by about 2 miles of sand hills to the west. To the north, west, and south, orchards surrounded by impenetrable prickly pear hedges extended out for some 3-4 miles from the town. With the exception of the ridge extending southwards, which culminated in the dominating 300 feet high Ali Muntar, the area of orchards stretched from the high plateau down into a hollow.

In addition to these natural defences, the Ottoman Army constructed trenches and redoubts that extended from the south west of the town virtually all the way round the town, except for a gap to the north east. In the process they incorporated Ali Muntar into the town entrenchments by building additional defences on the ridge to the south of the town. Although the trenches were only lightly strengthened with barbed wire, those to the south of Gaza commanded bare slopes which were completely devoid of any cover whatsoever.

The First Battle of Gaza was fought on 26 March 1917, on the coastal option, during the first attempt by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) to invade the south of Palestine. Fighting took place in and around the town of Gaza on the Mediterranean coast when infantry and mounted infantry from the Desert Column, a component of the Eastern Force, attacked the town on 26 March.

The 22,000-strong attack force consisted of 12,000 infantry and 11,000 mounted troops, supported by between 36 and 96 field guns and 16 howitzers. The mounted units were to stop the Ottoman from reinforcing the Gaza garrison while the infantry captured the town. The main attack on the town and Ali Muntar hill would come from the south, by the Desert Column's 53rd (Welsh) Division, supported by one infantry brigade of Eastern Force's 54th (East Anglian) Division. The Anzac and Imperial Mounted Divisions, were to establish a screen or cordon around Gaza to the north and east to isolate the garrison, cutting the main roads and preventing an incursion by Ottoman reinforcements reaching the town from their garrisons at Hareira, Beersheba, and Huj. If necessary, the mounted divisions were to be ready to reinforce the infantry attack, while the remaining infantry brigades of the 54th (East Anglian) Division extended the mounted screen to the southeast, just across the Wadi Ghuzzee.

On the day of battle, the 53rd (Welsh) Division, moved out from Deir el Belah at 01:00 in four columns towards El Breij, followed by the artillery. At 02:30 the Anzac Mounted Division left Deir el Belah with the Imperial Mounted Division following at 03:00, heading for the Um Jerrar crossing of the Wadi Ghazze 4.5 miles east of Deir el Belah. Fog had begun to develop and from about 03:50 became very thick. It remained for about four hours, then began to lift. Just before dawn at 05:00, it was so dense that objects could not be seen 20 yards away, but by this time most of the infantry had crossed the wadi. However, the fog made it impossible for recce of the proposed battleground. Visibility was improving about 07:30, and by 07:55 the fog had lifted sufficiently for heliographs to be used. 53rd (Welsh) Division was moving forward, despite the fog to make a direct assault on Gaza. At 05:20, the division's 158th (North Wales) and the 160th (Welsh Border) infantry brigades were crossing the Wadi Ghuzze while the 159th (Cheshire) Brigade was in reserve. By 06:50 the 160th (Welsh Border) Brigade had moved towards Shaluf and the 158th (North Wales) Brigade was moving towards Mansura, but they were ordered to slow down because artillery support may not be available, if the fog were to suddenly lift. By 07:50, the leading battalions were approaching Sheikh Seehan without having encountered any Ottoman defenders. Between 08:15 and 08:55 hostile planes flew over the advancing infantry, firing their machine guns into the columns. At 08:30 the 160th (Welsh) Brigade was about 2,400 yards from Gaza, with their leading battalion 2 miles southwest of the commanding heights of their main objective, Ali Muntar. The 158th (North Wales) Brigade had reached Mansura, and by 09:30 they were three quarters of a mile north of the 53rd (Welsh) Division's headquarters at Mansura.

Gaza was now completely surrounded by Mounted Troops and the the Desert Column. 53rd (Welsh) Division made a direct attack from the south and east towards Ali Muntar. Their 160th (Welsh Border) Brigade advanced towards Esh Sheluf to get into position by 08:30, with the 158th (North Wales) Brigade advancing towards Mansura, while the 159th (Cheshire) Brigade, which had crossed the wadi by 08:25, had to wait an hour before being ordered to Mansura to support the 158th Brigade.

Casualties

Whilst many casualties were incurred in The First Battle of Gaza on 26/27 March, many of these were not notified to Next of Kin until April. Many of the men were 'old soldiers' who had served at Suvla Bay.

NAME	INIT	RANK	NO	DATE	HOW	WHERE	HOMETOWN	Notes (Serving with)
ARNOLD	ALBERT	PTE	4291	11/03/17	D	EGYPT	HEREFORD	
BARNETT	RAYMOND WHITMORE	PTE/L CPL	1381	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	COLWALL	
BIRD	CHARLES JAMES	PTE	3872	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	KINGSLAND	
BRIMFIELD	HENRY	PTE	3885	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	KINNERSLEY	
CAINES	ALBERT	PTE	3929	27/03/17	KIA	MEF	WYCHE	
CLARKE	HENRY	PTE	1897	27/03/17	KIA	MEF	BROCKHAMPTON	
COLLINS	THOMAS GEORGE	PTE	3309	27/03/17	KIA	MEF	CRADLEY	
COURT	ROGER WALTER SOUTHWORD	CQMS /2LT	2818	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	Hereford	
DANCE	WILLIAM ERNEST	PTE	3859	27/03/17	KIA	MEF	KINNERSLEY	
DONOVAN	ALBERT EDWARD	PTE	4106	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD	
DOYLE	JOHN	PTE	1590	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD	
DUFFTY	THOMAS CHARLES	LCPL	1711	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	WITNEY	

EVANS	WILLIAM ALBERT	PTE	8192	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	NEWBRIDGE	
EVANS	DAVID	PTE	2465	27/03/17	KIA	MEF	RHYADER	
FELL	RICHARD	PTE	3723	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER	
FLETCHER	EDWIN ALMA GUY	CQMS	2103	27/03/17	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD	
HALL	WILLIAM	PTE		27/03/17	KIA	MEF	SHREWSBURY	
HARGEST	RUEBEN	PTE	1856	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	BURGHILL	
HARRIS	JOHN FRANCIS	CQMS	1593	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	ROSS	
HILES	EDGAR	PTE	1631	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD	
HILL	FREDERICK	PTE	3578	26/03/17	D	MEF	HEREFORD	
HOLLOWAY	FREDERICK ROBERT	PTE	4187	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER	
HOPE	JOHN	PTE	4258	07/03/17	DIED	EGYPT	RHYADER/ LLANDRINDOD	Diphtheria
HUGHES	HORACE ERNEST	PTE	3834	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	PONTRILAS	
IZZARD	HERMANN	PTE	1990	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	CREDENHILL	
JONES	FRANK JAMES	PTE	1384	26/03/17	DOW	MEF	TUDORVILLE	
LEVASON	DESMOND GEORGE GRENVILLE	CAPT		27/03/17	DOW	MEF	SOUTHPORT	
LOW	FREDERICK C	PTE	2469	27/03/17	DOW	MEF	LEDBURY	
MATTHEWS	ALBERT	PTE	2069	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	PRESTON ON WYE	
MEREDITH	ERNEST	PTE	3469	28/03/17	DOW	MEF	HEREFORD	
PONFIELD	WILLIAM JOHN	PTE	2990	28/03/17	DOW	MEF	LLANDRINDOD	
POPE	GERALD	CPL	1682	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	ROSS	
PORTER	LEONARD	PTE	3267	27/03/17	KIA	MEF	CANON PYON	
SALE	RICHARD CRAWFORD	CAPT		26/03/17	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER	
SAVORY	WILLIAM FRED CHARLES	CPL	2429	20/03/17	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD	
SMITH	WILLIAM	SGT	1756	27/03/17	KIA	MEF	KINGTON	
STONE	WILLIAM GEORGE	PTE	2196	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD	
TANSWELL	HAROLD	PTE	1616	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD	
TAYLOR	GEORGE RUEBEN	SGT	3512	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	CLEHONGER	
TRISTRAM	ALLAN	PTE	3238	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD	
WALTERS	CHARLES HENRY	PTE	1265	27/03/17	DOW	MEF	BROMYARD	
WARGENT	CARL WILFRED	SGT	1068	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	KINGTON	
WHITTAKER	WILLIAM ROBERT	LT		27/03/17	KIA	MEF		
WILSON	ALEC	CAPT		26/03/17	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD	
WITHINGTON	THOMAS HENRY	PTE	2414	26/03/17	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER	

The newly established cemetery at Gaza



Some of the casualty accounts are:

Army Form B. 2090 A. *4*

to 9
Herford R
269 R.W.O.

with
data

FIELD SERVICE.

REPORT of Death of an Officer to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213, or Army Form A. 56, or from other official documentary sources.

Unit 1/1st HERFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

Rank 2/Lieutenant.

Name COURT R.W.S.

By whom reported O.C. 1/1st Herefordshire Regiment.

Date of death 26/8/17

Place or Hospital in the Field Syria

Died Cause of Death Killed in Action.

Place of Burial Not yet to hand.

State whether he leaves a will or not Not known.

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased Officer of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

Signature of Officer in charge of Section *H. W. S.* Lieut.
Adjutant-General's Office at the Base. 1/c No 3 Records Section
3rd Echelon G.H.Q. E.F.

Station and date Alexandria 11/8/17.

WAR OFFICE
30 MAY 1917
EFFECTS NUMBER

Noted
C.3.(A.L.)

TF

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* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation, or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.



Capt Alec Wilson

Lieut. George Grenville Levason.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Peyton Levason of King Street, Hereford, learned with deep regret of the death of their eldest surviving son, Lieutenant George Grenville Levason, of the Herefordshire Regiment, which occurred on Monday, March 27th, following wounds received at the Battle of Gaza, Syria (Palestine); and much sympathy is felt for the bereaved and lately-wedded wife, and with his brother, Cecil, who is serving in the same regiment in Palestine. The second son (their first son died in infancy) of Mr. and Mrs. Peyton Levason, Lieutenant Levason was born in Hereford, and attained his 25th birthday last Christmas. He was educated at the Cathedral School, and at Birmingham University, and at the Dental Hospital, Birmingham; and it was when in Hereford on vacation from his last term at that institution, in August, 1914, that the war broke out, and he was offered a commission as second lieutenant in the 1st Herefordshires. For four years he had been a zealous member of the Herefordshire Territorials at

Hereford. Formerly he was one of the Cathedral School Cadet Corps, and after his removal to Birmingham he became a member of the University Cadet Corps. As a private in the territorials, as an officer in the Herefordshire Regt., and also as a member of the two cadet corps, he was most popular among his comrades; and he had too, the general esteem and confidence of all with whom he was associated—officers and men—on active service.

Lieutenant Levason took part in the famous landing at Suvla Bay, in which the Herefordshire Regiment so greatly distinguished itself, and it was in the victory at Gaza, in which triumph his regiment was again mentioned in despatches, that he was mortally wounded. The sad message which his parents and his widow, who is residing with them, received on Saturday, gave no details of the action or his fall, beyond stating that he had died on March 27th of wounds received in the battle of Gaza. The message contained an expression of the regret and sympathy of Lord Derby, the Minister for War. It will be recalled that subsequent to the landing at Suvla Bay he was reported "missing," but that a week afterwards all anxiety was allayed by the receipt of a wire from Alexandria from Lieutenant Levason himself stating that he was quite well, but nothing has since been heard of two other officers of the Herefordshire Regiment, Major Wilfrid Carless and Captain Sir Archer Croft, who were reported missing about the same time. Later Lieutenant Levason contracted dysentery and typhoid and was invalided home. Since then he served in Egypt, and now it is said that he was the first officer of the Herefordshire Regiment to have been killed in action or to have died of wounds since the glorious but ill-fated Dardanelles Expedition. It is pathetic to recall that he was married only 15 months ago—January 22nd, 1916—when last at home. His bride was Miss Ida Milnes, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Milnes, of Odersfeet, Southport, and late of Huddersfield. The marriage was quietly celebrated at St. Nicholas Church, Hereford, and the ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. B. Wynne-Willson, R.D. (Rector), assisted by the Rev. T. M. F. Roberts, an old master of the bridegroom's, and on that occasion the many handsome gifts included a case of pipes from the men of his platoon. It is only a week or so since Second Lieutenant Levason was gazetted as Lieutenant. His death is the second bereavement Mr. Peyton Levason has suffered this year, his aged father having died on February 24th.



(Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum)



Leominster Officer Killed.

On Monday evening Mr. W. T. Sale, Town Clerk of Leominster, received an official wire stating that his younger son, Lieutenant R. C. Sale, had been killed. We deeply regret to have to publish the sad news as Lieutenant Sale, was a most promising young officer. He was mobilised with the Leominster Company of the Herefordshire Regiment at the outbreak of war, and was invalided home from Gallipoli, and later re-joined his regiment. Previous to the war he was engaged with his father in the office. He was held in the highest esteem by all.

Lt RC Sale

4258 Pte John Hope and his half brother 2465 Pte David Evans



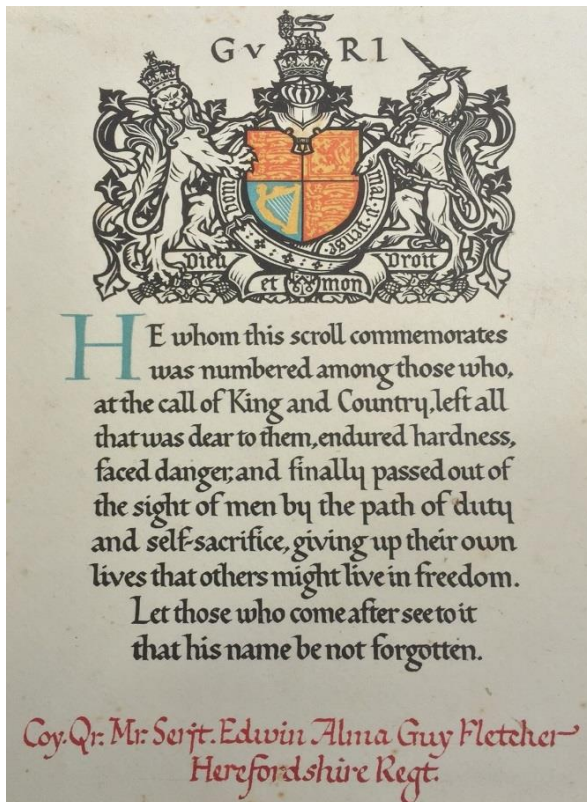
2465 Pte David Evans



4258 Pte John Hope



Pte Hope's grave at Gaza



2103 WO2 (CQMS) EAG Fletcher

The Imperial Camel Corps (ICC) at Gaza



General view of the Gaza battlefield

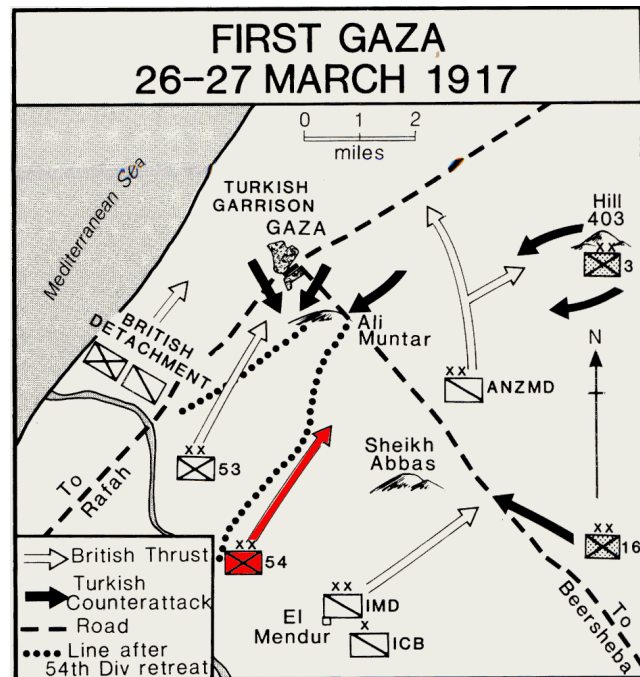


The advance towards Gaza had given relief and a change to the troops:

THE march across the desert “had nothing to relieve the monotony, so much in keeping with the surroundings; yet for some of us the desert grew to have a certain charm—the feeling of wide space, a horizon beyond which lay mystery, the amazing quiet and stillness around. It is not without a kind of wild beauty, especially at dawn and eventide, when the changing light catches the billowing sandhills, and shadows break up the burning waste. Then, when you come in from a ride which has taken you out of sight and hearing of human beings, there is something so homelike in the camp, something comforting about the twinkle of a fire and the snugness of tent or bivouac.”—(Le Fleming.)

It was not always possible to see the scarce and welcome group of palm trees round a well. “We passed through three oases with date palms and wells, only about 200 yards square, and all completely hidden below the surface of the surrounding country. All the sand hereabouts is in ridges, all sloping the same way, N.W. to S.E., and one sees a huge sand dune and just below it, stuck away under the steep bank, the trees, or Hod, as it is called.”—(H. E. P. Pateshall.)

The attack was to begin at 11:45 on Ali Muntar by the 160th (Welsh Border) Brigade which advanced to attack their objective along the Es Sire Ridge, while the 158th (North Wales) which advanced from Mansura, also attacked Ali Muntar. These two infantry brigades had been in position awaiting orders for between three and four hours, while the 159th (Cheshire) Brigade rapidly deployed. They were about 2.5 miles from their objectives with patrols going forward, with the 159th (Cheshire) Brigade (less one battalion), covering their right, advancing to attack the hummock known as Clay Hill. This objective was located to the north of Ali Muntar, on the far side of the Gaza to Beersheba road. The attacking brigades were supported by two field artillery brigades, while a divisional reserve was formed by one battalion of the 159th (Cheshire) Brigade, until the arrival of the 161st (Essex) Brigade (Eastern Force's 54th Division).



The attacking infantry brigades met with stubborn opposition from determined defenders, firing from strong entrenchments with a clear view of the infantry line of advance, over completely open ground. In these conditions, the attacking infantry's artillery support proved inadequate and a very high number of casualties was suffered.

Late in the afternoon, on the verge of capturing Gaza, the Desert Column was withdrawn due to 'the fog of battle', concerns about the approaching darkness and large Ottoman reinforcements.

British casualties amounted to 4,000; 523 killed, 2932 wounded and over 512 missing, including five officers and 241 other ranks known to be prisoners. These were mainly from the 53rd (Welsh) Division and the 161st (Essex) Brigade of the 54th (East Anglian) Division. The Ottoman Army forces suffered a total of 2,447 casualties.

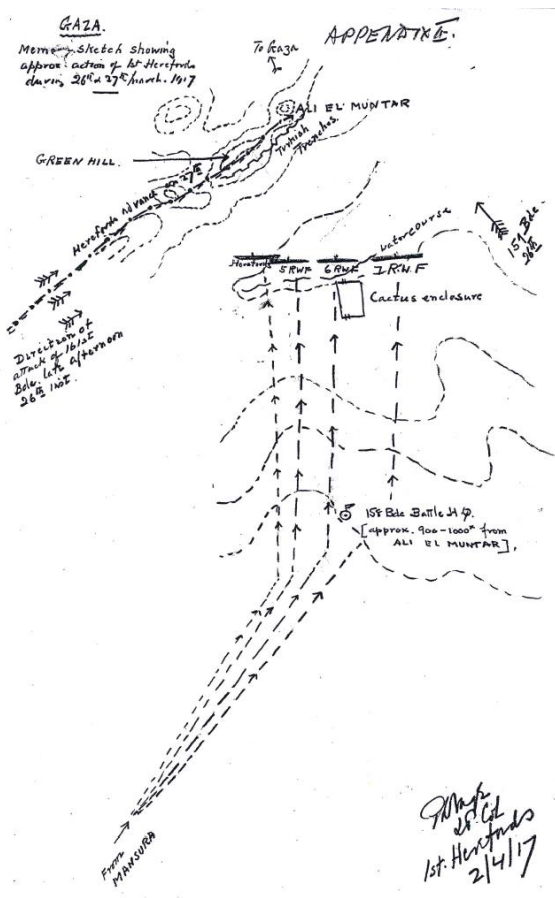
The commander of the 53rd (Welsh) Division, resigned after the battle, owing to a breakdown in health. Judged by Western Front standards, the defeat was small and not very costly. Murray's offensive power had not been greatly affected and preparations for a renewal of the offensive were quickly begun.

This activity is reflected in the Battalion War Diary.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Detail</i>
1 Mar	Lecture on gas attacks at Bde HQ; all officers attended. Well digging
2 Mar	Lecture on gas attacks at Bde HQ; Maj Green accompanied cavalry ecce Khan Yunus
3 Mar	CO accompanied New Zealand recce to El Debba & beyod. Maj Green accompanied BGC to recce new outpost line El Rasum. Notification received that mails for UK & BEF were lost at sea – included letters posted 11, 12 & 13 Feb. Well digging.
4 Mar	Well digging. CO, 2iC and Coy Comds reced new outpost line at El Rasum (Long View). Anti aircraft guns arrived this day and opened fire on hostile planes.
5 Mar	CO and coy comds proceed to El Rasum to site trenches, sandstorm. Company is exercised in siting and digging trenches by night. Information received that Turks have evacuated Well Sheikh Nuran.
7 Mar	Pte J Hope died at El Arish. 2Lt BS Collins proceeded to Cairo to be attached to ELC (Egyptian Labour Corps) on probation. 2Lt WG Wilson appointed Bde Water Supply Officer.
8 Mar	Battalion moved to El Rasum and took over right (One Tree Hill) sector of outposts. A, B & C Coys in the line, D Coy in Reserve; 2 sects 158 MG Coy attached. Bn HQ at Balshall.
9 Mar	Enemy aeroplanes over the line, our anti aircraft guns drove them off; empty shell cases fell on bivouac. Companies employed in digging trenches to make strong points in outpost line. Capt E A Capel appointed Brigade Major of 159 Bde.
11 Mar	Pte Arnold, outpost sentry shot by one of our returning patrols - Pte T Griffiths. Court of Enquiry commenced. Pte Arnold died at 10pm, buried at Sheilhzowaiid Cemetery, officiating chaplain Rev H Lloyd. Maj Green accompanied cavalry recce. Cold and rainy.
12 Mar	Cold wintry day with some rain
13 Mar	Capt P Ashton took over duties as Bde Maj 158 Bde
14 Mar	Bde ex practice bringing up LG and armourers (?) over open country
17 Mar	Maj Green accompanied BGC to new position about 3 miles NE of Rafa.
18 Mar	2Lts CB Levason & GJ Williams returned from course at Zeitoun.
19 Mar	Div ex in direction of Karm Ibn Musleh
21 Mar	0830: Bn marched from El Rasum to Rafa East; Bn in outpost line. Paletine boundary crossed about 1200hrs; arrived in new position 1300hrs. Race meeting at Rafa.
22 Mar	Preparations for move; dumped all groundsheet, greatcoats, sandbags etc, drew 3 days rations; reduced scales.
23 Mar	CO and Capt Whitehouse accompanied Brigade HQ on recce forward towards Gaza; farthest point reached approximately the 'u' of Shelouf. Capts Capel and Lewis returned to Cairo. Capt Capel to 159 Bde. 2t Horth attached Div Train.
24 Mar	1700: Bn in Bde moved to bivouac NE of Khan Yunus arriving about 2000hrs. Bn on outpost duty, Maj Green detailed to take charge of Bde Camel Convoy. A, B & D Coys outpost; C Reserve. 2Lts Nixon, Crossley, Mitchell & Robinson remained at dump.
25 Mar	Outpost withdrawn at daybreak; Bn under cover of fig orchards. CO & OCs A, D, D accompanied Recce to El Breij. Bn in Bde march 1600hrs to Dir El Belah arriving 1730hrs.

26 Mar	<p>0115 – The Brigade left bivouac lines in column of route at 15 pace intervals; Herefords on the right, south, then 1/7 RWF, 1/6 RWF and 1/5 RWF across the Wadi El Ghuzze, just at the first signs of dawn. Maj Green in charge of the brigade camel convoy, 2Lt Poulson in charge of regimental convoy. The Brigade proceeded to work its way up to the spur leading to Mansura. The following order of Battalions in open quarter column formation moving to a flank in fours at about 30 pace intervals between companies: 1/5, 1/6, 1/7 and Herefords.</p> <p>At times there was a thick fog which however cleared away later. Eventually about 11.30am the Brigade concentrated in a covered position north of Mansura and about 4,500 yards from the enemy position at Ali El Muntar.</p> <p>About noon the Brigade was ordered to attack Ali El Muntar and brigade orders were issued to that effect. <i>[appendix I to diary]</i>.</p> <p>The deployment of the Brigade was effected approximately in the manner shown on the attached sketch <i>[appendix II to diary]</i>.</p> <p>About 1 or 2 pm the firing battalions were held up by cross fire from machine guns and the Herefords were ordered by BGC to support the 1/5 RWF and prolong their line to the left, west. The Battalion moved out as follows: C, Capt Barker and D Lt W Carver, company firing lines and support; C on the left, directing – A, Capt Sale and B Capt Whitehouse local reserve, on left. The deployment and advance was carried out with the regularity and coolness of manouvre.</p> <p>In order to prolong the left, C Coy was directed to march with its right on the Ali El Muntar. D Coy therefore overlapped and reinforced the left of 1/5 RWF In order to ensure that the firing line being extended to the left, the last platoon of B coy was directed to reinforce in that direction and the 2 rear platoons of A Coy at about 1300 or 1400 yards from the enemy was directed to come across to the left centre in order that the left might be strengthened.</p> <p>The very gallant advance of the companies managed to pull the firing line forward to a distance of between 400/500 yards from Ali El Muntar. Here however all progress was stopped by hostile machine gun fire, and from the fact that Green Hill and trenches on the south east side were in occupation of the enemy and as yet un assailed.</p> <p>A message, not timed was received at Battalion HQ at about this time from OC B Coy, Capt Whitehouse as follows: ‘A firing line must be made up to attack the ridge 800 yards east of Ali Muntar; am wounded and cannot walk, so am sending this’.</p> <p>It was evident that the message referred to Green Hill which was directly oblique to fire on our line and from where snipers were taking toll of our officers. Late in the afternoon 161 Brigade attacked in the direction indicated on the attached sketch <i>[appendix III to diary]</i>. The Brigade attacked with great dash and determination, just at sunset, enabled our line to go forward with them to assault and capture the enemy position at Green Hill and Ali El Muntar.</p> <p>The Herefords losses were heavy: 4 officers killed or died of wounds and 9 wounded. <i>[appendix IV to diary]</i>.</p> <p>After sunset men were collected and told off as a reserve on Green Hill under direction given by BGC 161 Brigade, Col Bowker, Essex Regiment apparently in command with orders received to consolidate the position. At about midnight orders were received to evacuate and return to the original concentration point north of Mansura.</p>
27 Mar	<p>Early on the morning of the 27 the Battalion snatched a very hasty breakfast. Ammunition and water were issued about 6.30am, until orders were received the gist of which were as follows: The Essex are in occupation of Green Hill, The Herefords will move as soon as possible and occupy Ali El Muntar. Advance guards are to be sent out and one company detached to right flank to protect advance. Approximate position brigade battle HQ 26 inst.</p> <p>The Battalion with D Coy as advance guard, CO with vanguard to recce route moved out on a covered approach towards Green Hill at about 0700. En route a message was received that the Herefords were to establish a north/south line of defence at Ali El Muntar consolidating the position by digging in.</p> <p>On arrival at Green Hill it was ascertained that the Essex had a company with lewis guns at Ali El Muntar. The leading company, D, followed by C, which had been diverted by Brigade orders from its original task. At this moment a strong Turkish counter attack developed from the east and the Battalion with</p>

	one of the Essex battalions from nearby were compelled to fall back along the ridge in a south westerly direction, until a consolidated position occupied by the Sussex Regiment was reached. The Battalion then concentrated at the original position N of Mansura in conjunction with the remainder of the brigade, but following a different route, with Brigade Camel Coy withdrew to bivouacs one mile north of Dir El Belah at 2100 arriving about 0300.
28 Mar	2Lt Poulson sent out at daybreak, who located brigade bivouac area about one mile east, where we concentrated about 0700. The remainder of the day spent in organising and getting out casualty returns.
29 Mar	Organising and bathing by companies, several stragglers rejoined.
30 Mar	2Lts Mitchell, Williams & Robinson rejoined from dump. 13 ORs from hospital rejoined from Romani.
31 Mar	Draft of 45 soldiers arrived from England.



APPENDIX C.
 1/1 Hussards Regt.
 Casualties for the week 25-31-3-1917.

Killed Officers	Wounded Officers		Missing Officers		Total Admitted	
	OR.	OR.	OR.	OR.	O.	ORs
Capt R.C. Sale *		Capt R.C. Parker		Sgt H. Roberts #		
1/3 Lt R.W. Court		" G.J. Lewis		" W.B. Whitaker #	24	31
" A. Wilson		" Lt Whitcomb				
" R.C. Pearson		" Lt R.W. Court	181			
		" Lt R. Wilson				
		" R.C. Haynes				
		" Lt. Rankin				
		" Lt. Poulson				
		" Lt. Pearson				
		" Lt. Parker				
		" Lt. J. J. #				
		" Sgt. J. J. #				

* Killed 26/3/17
 † Died from wounds 27/3/17
 # 27/3/17
 2/4/17

1/1 Hampshire Regt. APPENDIX IV

Weekly Effective & Ration Strengths for March '17

3/3/17	Effective Ration	Offs 40 33	OR 1015 944
10/8/17	Effective Ration	Offs 40 31	OR 1015 892
17/3/17	Effective Ration	Offs 39 31	OR 1007 879
24/3/17	Effective Ration	Offs 39 32	OR 1009 872
31/3/17	Effective Ration	Offs 21 15	OR 794 670

APPENDIX I

Attack Order by Brig Genl S. F. Mott
(amended) 158 Bde
2.3.17

In accordance with 53rd Div. Order
158 Bde will attack with its left Coy,
directing on ALI MUNTAR.

This Battalion will occupy a frontage
frontage of 500 yds. and will be followed by
the 1st Coy and 14th Coy. In this order each
Battalion disengaging and wheeling on to
its direction on Obelisk formation, so as to
holding the line of 1 1/2 Coy to the north,
each Battalion on frontage of 500 yds.

The 1st Coy will be in reserve
under the orders of B.C. 6
The M.C. Coy will be employed at
1st instance on left of 5th Coy.

Bde HQ will remain in its
present position i.e. 1/2 mile NE
of HAN SURA until further orders.

P. Asst. Adj. Genl
of Bde 158 Bde

11.34
2.3.17

G. Mott
Genl.

Maj ALB Green

Date	Detail
1 Mar	Rode out with the general to see line it was proposed that the Bde takes up about 4 miles further east. Passed through very heavy sandhills to sea at Bie El Aheimer and home along coast and across sand hills further west. Did not get back until 1500.
2 Mar	Started at 0700 with Bde of ALH on a recce NE of Rafa. Very interesting day. Rode right through Khan Yunus, a fair sized village. Turks have blown up the pumping station. Rather interesting old fort there in ruins. We went about 6 miles over border into Palestine. Bought most delicious jaffa oranges. Flowers pretty, especially a mauve iris which grows plentifully. Very tired when I got back about 1830 having ridden a good 35 miles. Small mail in today with one letter from Do of 8 Feb.
3 Mar	Slept well last night and rode out at 1200 to meet general at our new line which is fixed about 6 miles east of here, and was pointed out in the Bn sector. CO out on recce to El Debba and beyond.
4 Mar	Went out with CO and Coy Comds to mark out the trench positions of our sector of the new line. Rather an interesting piece of country on the right. Saw scarlet tulip and small pale blue iris. Enemy aircraft over about 1500, our AA guns which arrived yesterday had a go at him but failed to get him though he cleared off. English mail in, 2 letters from Do of 10 th & 14 th Feb.
5 Mar	Nothing much doing. CO went out with Coy Comds to finish marking new line. Beastly day - some showers and much wind and sand. My dugout smothered with latter. Coys went out night digging. At 2100 we received the amazing information that old Johnnie Turk had evacuated Weli Sheikh, Nuran and possibly Shellah so that has given us a bit if a reprieve.
6 Mar	Early day, nothing much doing. Hear we are to move on a bit on the 8 th .
7 Mar	Nothing much doing. Small mail in, had parcel of bed socks from Do with letter dated 17 Feb.
8 Mar	Moved out at 0815 to point about 5-6 miles further east arriving between 1000 and 1100. Were allotted right subsector of Bde outpost sector for which I had to write orders by BGC orders; A, B & C Coys in line, D Coy in reserve.

9 Mar	Stand to at 0500, very chilly everything wet through with dew. Later on had a very hot day. Spent afternoon arranging patrols with outpost comds. Met Beattie who came to tea and Col Swindells and his adjutant (Morgan) dropped in. Enemy aeroplane over about 1100. Empty shell cases from our archies fell all round us – no joke. Capel appointed Bde Major 159 Bde. Parcel mail in but nothing for me.
10 Mar	Dull morning but no dew, thank goodness. Usual stand to at 0500. Spent most of the morning making out scheme of patrols for outpost companies. Two enemy aeroplanes over about 17.00. Our AA guns made their usual bad shooting, worse than usual if anything.
11 Mar	One of A Coy patrols shot a sentry last night about 1.30 and the poor fellow died at 1000 this morning. Very nasty affair. I went on recce with NZ Mtd Bde this morning to Tel El Jemmi in the Wadi Guzze, N of Shellah. Rather interesting country and fine flowers – banks of scarlet anemones. Beastly day blowing a gale and dust awful, with some heavy rain storms. Distance 38-40 miles – very tired.
12 Mar	Another beastly, raw cold windy day with rainstorms, wind getting worse towards evening. My dugout full of dust and sand. Small letter mail in with letter from Do of 21 Feb also one from Philip Henderson.
13 Mar	Rode into Sheik Zowaiid where there is now a canteen to get fruit for the men and stores for the mess. Padre came with me and bought cigarettes for the men. Fine night with heavy dew. Hulton left Bde, Ashton carrying on for him in pro tem.
14 Mar	Bde Ex to practice bringing up troops and mules in this open country. 5 th & 7 th RWF carried it out while reserve coys and all available officers marked position and criticised. Wind veered gradually round to west and in afternoon blew dust storm. Had programme for Rafa spring meeting.
15 Mar	Nothing much doing. Small mail in with letters from Do of 25 th Feb and one from Margaret enclosing one from the Briars. They seem to be having a dull time at home.
16 Mar	Nothing much doing again. Paulson entered the Doeton Mare for the pony race on Monday. Usual bombardment of aeroplane. Empties came unpleasantly close to us.
17 Mar	Sent Burdars into Port Said to buy 'brasso' to satisfy Dallas' insatiable appetite for polish. Rode out to about 3 miles beyond Rafa to meet the general and inspect the new lines we take up on Wednesday next. We shall be in reserve. Very hot riding.
18 Mar	A beautiful day, warm but with pleasant breeze. Had very leisurely wash in sun in morning. Usual round of piquets after tea. Saw a purple arum lily growing right in front of No1 Coy. Levason CB and Williams GJ returned from Zeitoun.
19 Mar	Div Ex – attack on Karm Ibn Musleh. Rather a rotten day as usual, very hot. Did not get back til 1630 when I found mail awaiting me including letters from Do (Mar 1 at Westbourne Rd) Auntie and Mrs Holman and parcel of cigarettes and Blackwood for Jan, Feb & Mar.
20 Mar	Very foggy morning. We were unable to stand down until nearly 07.30.
21 Mar	Moved this morning to about 3 miles beyond Rafa and thereby missed the races which had been put off from last Monday to Thursday and then put back a day. Very hot day. Got to our bivouac about 1230 and proceeded to dig in. 5 and 7 RWF on outpost, 6 RWF and ourselves in reserve.
22 Mar	Another hot day. Orders in afternoon to make dump of all extra clothing and kit (officers and men) and be ready to move any time with one blanket only. We drew 3 days emergency rations on reduced scale for men and animals and carry them on camels obtained by cutting down our water by half and doing away with 2 officers baggage camels and a sanitary camel. Surplus officers sent to dump (Nixon, Horth, Williams and Robinson).
23 Mar	No move all day. CO went on recce Gaza way. Was fired at by Turks. Capel and Lewis returned from Cairo, staff course having broken up. Capel goes to take up his new job as BM 159 Bde and Lewis awaits instructions.
24 Mar	1/6 RWF moved on to Khan Yunus at 0800 this morning. Went into Rafa to try and get stores. Nothing but soap, sardines and tooth paste. Lewis rejoined Bn and takes over A Coy from Sale. Rumours we move tonight. Moved out at 1700. CO went on advance so Lewis took Bn on. I was camel officer. Had a horrible time in the dark with other units cutting the convoy in half. Finally landed up at about midnight pretty tired. A, B & D Coys on outpost. Nixon, Crossley, Mitchell and Robinson.
25 Mar	Stood to at 0430. Found ourselves bivouaced in an orchard of figs, almonds peaches and apricots. Outpost coys came in 0600 and we lay hidden under trees of orchard all day, hiding from aeroplane observation.

	CO and Ocs A, B and D Coys rode out at 1100 to El Breij. I am to take Bn on to Deir El Belah at 1600. <u>Later</u> Arrived Belah about 1730 and bivouaced.
26 Mar	Marched out from bivouac at 0100. I was in charge of Bde ammo camels. Crossed W Guzze at B crossing. Thick fog. Lost Paulson with Hereford Camels in fog. Fortunately he turned up later on. Advance very slow up to Mansurah owing to fog and other reasons. Bde advanced to Turk positions round Ali Montah with 159 on right and 160 on left. Position practically occupied by dark but were ordered to retire to bivouac for night. Casualties heavy. We lost Sale, Court and Wilson A, killed and Lewis and Wilmot dangerously wounded and many others less seriously. I had to stay with camels.
27 Mar	Attack was renewed at 0730 and position again occupied but orders received in afternoon to evacuate and retire over the W Guzze. I cleared out with the camels about 2030 taking what Herefords there were with me. Had a tiring march and arrived at Belah about 0130 on 28 th and bivouaced. I got a stray bullet in arm just below left elbow about 1900 – fortunately nothing serious. The remainder of the bde retired sometime after 2200. Heat and thirst terrible last two days. Very cold at night. Dumps badly chilled. Lost several camels and men.
28 Mar	Sent out recce parties and picked up Bde area and joined up. Our casualties the last 2 days appear to total about 300 as far as can be estimated at present. Spent most of day sleeping. Very hot sun and no shade. Handed over camels and ammo to units, thank goodness.
29 Mar	Very cold all night with no blankets. After breakfast rode out with Paulson and the transport men on mules to salve our pack saddles which had been left in the W Guzze. Some sniping going on and we could see enemy collecting loot. In afternoon went down to sea with Doc and had a bathe – splendid. Then on to Fd Amb where I had tea and dose of anti tetanus serum. Very hot day. Had my underclothes washed.
30 Mar	Another cold night but I did not feel it so much as I had hole dug out to get into. Very hot in day. Had shirt washed. My roll of wp sheet and flea bag rolled up which is a blessing. Mitchel, Robinson and Williams came up from dump as reinforcements. Had a bottle of beer at Bde. Quite an event as our mess stores have quite run out. 13 OR casuals from hospital etc rejoined.
31 Mar	Sent Robinson with 6 mules to our dump as they brought back some mess stores and also my cigarettes which are most welcome. Otherwise nothing much doing. Mail in with letters from Do of 4 th and 8 th inst, latter announcing Francis' engagement to Hope Brocker. Books from Do and M. Hear Wilmot is doing well. Draft of 45 OR from England.

Colley

We moved on once more and crossed from Egypt into Palestine Kafer, about 22 Mar 1917. The Turks had withdrawn from their strong positions at Shellah to Gaza. Everything was now being prepared for a grand attack on Gaza. On the 24 Mar we moved off at dusk and spent the following day, a Sunday in one of the fruit orchards with which this fertile part of Palestine abounds. The change after endless sand was more than welcome to us all. Our only regret being that the oranges etc were not quite ripe. Sunday evening the whole Division marched off, marching northwards in 3 large columns and camped about midnight at Belah. Holy Communion was held here in the dark and was largely attended by officers and men. The talk was all of tomorrow's affair, and the whole of the men were in excellent spirits. In spite of the close proximity of the enemy the men made many small fires with wood found about and indulged in songs, but this was soon stopped by an angry command from CO.

At midnight the Division commenced the last stage of the march. It was a march of the greatest difficulty as the ground was entirely strange to everyone and the whole distance was paced from point to point on compass bearings. I have heard since that during the night the whole brigade was twice lost. During the halts which were very frequent, everyone lay down immediately and proceeded to sleep, so when the order to move on came each section of fours was awakened by the immediate section in front. When dawn arrived we discovered a thick fog enveloped the whole district and we were unable to locate our exact position, but in spite of this, on the fog lifting, we found that we were within 2,000 yards of our position, which we were intended to reach. The specks were for the people acting as guides. The fog however was bad luck for us because it delayed the attack until nearly midday. Here I might say that everyone was more or less exhausted through lack of sleep and the long marches. The weather was terribly hot and water scarce, which both had great effects on the men.

We moved off to the attack behind Mansura Ridge each company deploying to column of platoons on crossing the sky line. Upon crossing the ridge we could see our shells bursting on the enemy's position on Ali Muntar, a distance of about 1 ¼ miles. To reach this we had to cross, just a long plain stretch of ground with no cover whatsoever. The enemy had indeed chosen an ideal spot from which to repel any attacks. We were fortunate in the fact that he was short of guns and shells, but within 1,000 yards we had our first casualties from machine gun fire. Section Commanders now took charge of their respective sections and it was fine to see each section advancing in short rushes. Rifle and machine gun fire was now becoming intense and our casualties were many. The sun was also telling upon us and the want of water was great. In spite of casualties and lack of water, the remainder kept on advancing and after 4 ½ hours of this advancing under terrible fire the line was in charging distance of the enemy. The order came – given by someone and we off across the narrow space that divided us. We took the position without much more opposition. Numerous prisoners were taken and as the sun went down in the west, the whole position was in our hands.

For the good work done the Regiment was praised, with others in the despatch to England the next day (The Herefordshire Battalion was the only TF battalion to be mentioned in despatches twice). After taking Ali Montar no one seemed to know what was quite expected of them next, as most of the senior officers had been bowled over. Some of the men wandered on into the village of Gaza which held many of the enemy in hiding. Eventually we manned the already taken trenches until a guide came at midnight to take us back to our Battalion HQ. We could not quite understand this as everything was quiet with just occasional rifle fire. It left the whole position unoccupied by our troops. The guide as usual lost his way on the journey to HQ and dawn was approaching when we arrived at last.

We managed to get food and water from the QMs dump and all had visions of a grand sleep, when the news passed round that we were to consolidate the position which we had taken on the previous day (but worse was in store). The language with which this news was received was to say the least emphatic, but off we went and luckily and to everyones satisfaction we did not encounter the opposition of the previous day – but worse was in store. We had just reached the trenches at Ali Muntar when we saw large bodies of troops approaching – were they our men or not? Orders were given to fire to be countermanded with orders to stop firing; everything was chaos. Then we discovered that more troops were advancing on our flanks and we new then only too well that they were the Turkish reinforcements, which had marched from Beersheba during the night. The obvious thing to do was to get out as quickly as possible – some succeeded, but many were captured and many who have not been heard of since, were last seen fighting bravely.

We took up a position on the ridge in the rear, but strength of numbers drove us out. It was well the fighting was quite hot that I got hit through the shoulder and after 4 hours wandering, I managed to find a dressing station. The whole line had retired and many sick and wounded in the advance field ambulances were captured. Personally I thought I was lucky in getting away, for although the wounded were being evacuated as quickly as possible – everything took time owing to the advanced van being so far behind, the only transport available was camels. I managed to get away on the last camel at about 9pm, 27 Mar 1917. Firing had now ceased and our guns had been drawn out of action. Dumps had been hastily cleared, but the enemy must have captured heaps of stores and complete field ambulances. I considered myself fortunate in being out of it all for a few weeks. Most of the wounded were evacuated eventually to Cairo and Alexandria.

Reports of the battle were being reported in local newspapers:

INVASION OF PALESTINE.

Herefordshires in Great Battle Near Gaza.

SPECIAL MENTION.

British troops have fought and won a great battle in Palestine against 20,000 of the enemy. The battlefield was five miles south of Gaza and 15 miles north of the Egyptian frontier at Rafa.

In order to continue to the north of the construction of the railway which has been built across the Sinai Peninsula, covering troops had been thrown out to the north from Rafa. They became heavily engaged on Monday, and the fight developed on the following day.

Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy, and 900 of them were taken prisoners, including the general commanding and the whole Staff of the 53rd Turkish Division. Among the prisoners were four Austrian officers and other Germans and Austrians. General Murray says that all our troops behaved splendidly, and especially commends some units, including the Herefordshire Regiment.

The Secretary of State for War made the following announcement through the Press Bureau on Thursday afternoon:—

Telegraphing on March 28th, the General Officer Commanding in Egypt reports:—

We advanced our troops a distance of 15 miles from Rafa to Wadi Ghuzze, five miles south of Gaza, to cover the construction of the railway.

On the 26th and 27th instants we were heavily engaged in this neighbourhood with a force of about 20,000 of the enemy.

We inflicted very heavy losses upon him, and have taken about 900 prisoners, including the General Commanding and the whole Divisional Staff of the 53rd Turkish Division.

This figure includes four Austrian officers and 32 German and Austrian other ranks.

We also captured two Austrian 4.2in. howitzers.

All troops behaved splendidly, especially troops of Welsh, Kent, Sussex, Hereford, Middlesex, and Surrey Regiments, and the Anzacs and Yeomanry mounted troops.

**Herefords' Gallantry
in Action.**

20,000 TURKS DEFEATED.

**BIG BATTLE IN EGYPT.
HUNDREDS OF PRISONERS CAPTURED.
YEOMANRY AND HEREFORDS PRAISED.**

Press Bureau, Thursday.—The Secretary of the War Office makes the following announcement:—

Telegraphing on March 28 the General Officer Commanding in Egypt reports:—

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Names of casualties were released to next of kin, and the home press as information became available, initial reports were expanded on as time went by. By the middle of April the Hereford Times issues the following list of casualties:

Officers:

KILLED.

Court, Second-Lieut. R. W. S.
 Sale, Captain E. C.
 Wilson, Second-Lieut. A.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

Levason, Second-Lieut. D. D. G.

WOUNDED.

Banks, Second-Lieut. A. V.
 Barker, Captain F. G.
 Burdass, Second-Lieut. F. G.
 Evelyn, Lieut. F. H. L.
 Green, Major L. B.
 Haynes, Second-Lieut. R. E.
 Job, Second-Lieut. L. K. V.
 Levason, Second-Lieut. C. B. L. G.
 Lewis, Captain P. J.
 Parker, Second-Lieut. P.
 Whitehouse, Captain A. G. R.
 Whittaker, Second-Lieut. W. R.
 Wilmot, Second-Lieut. E.

WOUNDED AND MISSING.

Challis, Second-Lieut. F. G.

Lieutenant Cecil Grenville Levason Wounded.

On Tuesday evening Mr. Levason received another official telegram, stating that his second son, Second-Lieutenant Cecil Grenville Levason, was wounded in the same battle in which his brother was killed.

The message did not indicate whether the wounds were serious, and, of course, it is hoped they are not. Second-Lieutenant Cecil Levason who was 21 years of age last Christmas was educated at the Cathedral School, and was a sergeant in the Cadet Corps there, and was also a prominent member of the school cricket and football teams, being captain of the latter in his last term. Another of his successes was that in the shooting competitions of the Cathedral School Cadet Corps his team won the Challenge Cup two years in succession—a record. After leaving school, he obtained an appointment in the National Provincial Bank, Hereford, and it was whilst there that he volunteered for service in the early summer of 1915 and was given a commission in the 2nd Herefordshire. In January he went out to Egypt, joining his brother's regiment there.

Major L. B. Green, of The New House, Alton Street, Ross, is a son of Dr. W. E. Green, of Ross. He was one of the officers who went out with the County Regiment when they first went abroad, and was wounded in Gallipoli.

Captain F. G. Barker is a son of Mrs. Barker, of Lugwardine, who now resides in Hereford, and devotes her time to Red Cross work.

Captain P. J. Lewis is a son of Mrs. Lewis, of Lorraine, Hampton Park, and a brother to Mr. W. R. Lewis, solicitor, of Hereford. He was formerly assistant classical master at Malvern College. He was amongst the officers reported wounded in Gallipoli.

Captain R. C. Sale, Leominster, son of the town clerk (Mr. W. T. Saie).

Lieut. F. H. L. Evelyn, of Rhodd, Presteign, is a son of the late Mr. F. L. Evelyn, of Kinsham, and a nephew by marriage to Mrs. J. S. Arkwright. He was gazetted second-lieutenant in October, 1914, and lieutenant in January, 1915.

Second-Lieut. A. V. Banks joined the Herefords from the City of London Battalion (London Regiment), being gazetted on August 21st, 1915.

Second-Lieut. E. G. Challis, Hereford, was gazetted to the Herefords on March 5th, 1915.

Second-Lieut. R. W. S. Court, of Hereford, was an auditor employed by the Great Western Railway Co., and resided in Kyrie Street.

Second-Lieut. L. K. V. Job belongs to Bosbury, and Second-Lieut. P. Parker, Knighton.

Second-Lieut. A. G. R. Whitehouse is a son of the Rev. G. Whitehouse of Sellack Vicarage. He is an old Hereford Cathedral School boy, and is well-known in the cricket field. He was gazetted second-lieutenant on October 14th, 1914.

Second-Lieut. R. L. E. Haynes was gazetted to the Herefords in December, 1915.

Second-Lieut. E. Wilmot is a son of the late Rev. — Wilmot, vicar of Monnington-on-Wye, and Mrs. Wilmot, who now resides at Perrystone Towers, Ross. He was gazetted second-lieutenant in September, 1914.

Second-Lieut. W. R. Whittaker, Knighton, was gazetted to the Hereford on August 13th, 1915.

Second-Lieut. A. Wilson, Abergavenny, was gazetted to the Hereford on October 14th, 1914.

Private F. G. Burdass, from Royal Fusiliers, was gazetted as second-lieutenant in the Herefords in February, 1916.

Other Ranks:

KILLED.
 Bird, C., Kingsland.
 Boyle, J., Hereford.
 Miles, L. V., Hereford.
 Hill, Frederick, Hereford.
 Hughes, H., Abbeydore.
 Izard, H., Credenhill.
 Skyrme, L. M., Hereford.
 Trastram, Allan, Hereford.

DIED.
 Arnold (4291), A., Hereford.

DIED OF WOUNDS.
 Jones (1284), F. J., Upton Bishop.
 Leece, (2467), F. C., Ledbury.
 Meredith (3469), E., Bath.
 Fowler, Lance-Corpl. G., Ross.
 Walters (233175), C. W., Bromyard.

WOUNDED.
 Baird, Lance-Corpl. E. W., Hereford.
 Bright (235227), A. H., Hereford.
 Bolcher, E., Ledbury.
 Grant, H. T., Colwall.
 Gray (234406), H. A., Hereford.
 Charnside, Sergt. C., Hereford.
 Colley, H., Hereford.
 Cottrell, L., Hereford.
 Cox, Sergt. R., Ross.
 Davies, Lance-Corpl. H., Ross.
 Dean, A. A., Hereford.
 Donovan, Lance-Corpl. A., Hereford.
 Etheridge, A. J., Withington.
 Evans, Albert, Newbridges-on-Wye.
 Evans, W. D. E., Bromyard.
 Ewall, A. J., Stoke Edith.
 Forrester, C., Hereford.

Gibbons, Ross.
 Giles, Corpl. Donald, Hereford.
 Griffiths, Lance-Sergt. J., Ledbury.
 Haines, R., Hereford.
 Hale, H. A., Burghill.
 Hall, R. R., Leominster.
 Hall, E. H., Leominster.
 Hargest, R., Tillington.
 Harper, Sergt. W. H., Kington.
 Hill, Hereford.
 Hill (235209), J., Ruardean.
 Hill, J., Ruardean.
 Hodges, T., Canon Pyon.
 Holloway (2099), N. J., Hereford.
 Holloway, F. H., Leominster.
 Howells, F. W., Glewstone.
 Isaacs, Ledbury.
 Johnson, J., Leominster.
 Jones, Corporal, Hereford.
 Jones, H., Wellington.
 Jones, George, Llandrindod Wells.
 Lambert, J., Hereford.
 Llewellyn, Sergt. A. H., Ross.
 Lock (235890), G. H., Bromyard.
 Martin, G. W., Bodenham.
 Miles, L. T., Hereford.
 Mitchell, Sergt., Grafton.
 Moore, J., Ross.

Morgan, E. J., Wellington.
 Morgan, T. A., St. Devereux.
 Morris, D., Hereford.
 Morris, F., Hereford.
 Pearce (233572), J., Hereford.
 Pearce, J., Orleton.
 Phillips, J., Wellington Heath.
 Pike, D. H., Ross.
 Pilliner, G., Leominster.
 Pinches, J., Kington.
 Portman, L., Breinton.
 Price, James, Leominster.
 Price, H. G., Hereford.
 Pryce, F. T., Hereford.
 Powell, Pryce, Llandrindod Wells.
 Roberts, Lance-Corpl. A. C., Hereford.
 Robinson, A., Leominster.
 Roper, Lance-Corpl. A. W., Hereford.
 Reynolds, James, Leominster.
 Saint, A. R., Hereford.
 Saunders, C. E., Hereford.
 Savory, W. F., Hereford.
 Slaymaker, H., Hereford.
 Smith, Sergt. W., Kington.
 Taylor, P. G., Hereford.
 Thomas, T., Hereford.
 Townsend, C., Hereford.
 Turner, John, Kington.
 Turvey, R., Hereford.
 Warrington, E., Breinton.

Watkins, Corpl. R. C., Ross.
 Wheeler, Lance-Corpl. W. H., Ruardean.
 Wilkins, Sergt. H., Burghill.
 Williams (233581), F., Hay.
 Williams (233378), Sergt. T., Bristol.
 Wright, T., Hereford.

PRISONER OF WAR.
 Lloyd, W., Howey.

MISSING.
 Bushnell, J. H., Ross.
 Dance, W., Kinnersley.
 Fletcher, Sergt. E., Hereford.
 Groves, H. H., Wellington Heath.
 Holland, R. S., Leominster.
 Pike, D. H., Ross.
 Pinches, Kington.
 Reynolds, W., Leominster.
 Smith, Sergt. W., Kington.
 Stone, W. G., Hereford.
 Tanswell, H., Shelwick.

The Lord Lieutenant sent a telegram of congratulation to the 1st Bn for their part in the Gaza battle, which was acknowledged by the Commanding Officer:

HEREFORDSHIRE'S EXPLOITS IN PALESTINE.

Lord Lieutenant's Telegram of Congratulation.

TWO LOCAL OFFICERS KILLED.

The gallant part taken by the Herefordshire Regiment in the defeat of 20,000 Turks, in Palestine—in which unfortunately two officers belonging to the Regiment lost their lives and another was wounded—has elicited the warmest praise throughout the county.

The Lord Lieutenant (Sir John Cotterell, Bart.), President of the Hereford County Territorial Forces Association, has despatched the following telegram of congratulation:—

Commanding Officer,
Herefordshire Regiment,
B. E. F., Egypt.

County very proud of your gallant exploits.
Association sends greetings and all good wishes.

COTTERELL, President.

Colonel Drage's Tribute to His Men.

A fine tribute to the gallant way the officers and men of the Herefordshire Regiment fought and died is paid by their commanding officer, Colonel Drage, in the following message to the Lord Lieutenant (Sir John Cotterell, Bart.), who, as Chairman of the Herefordshire County Territorial Association, sent a cablegram of congratulation upon hearing the result of the Gaza battle:—

On behalf of the officers and men I wish to thank you and the Association for their cable of the 31st March. I cannot write at length about the loss of our gallant comrades. I can only say—through you—to those near and dear to them, that they met death without flinching, and bore their hardships and suffering without a murmur.



Capt Carver, Lts Wilmont & Foster going duckshooting.

Whilst there was great pride in the Battalion, there was some disquiet at the seeming different standards applied, especially in respect to 'Home Leave':

SOLDIERS AND LEAVE.
To the Editor of the Hereford Times.

Sir,—I quite agree with "Fairplay" that the boys who are fighting, and have been for almost two years, should have leave to come home to see their parents. We are naturally most anxious to see them, and we never know what may happen. I have a son who has been with the 1st Herefords ever since they were mobilised. He was with them when they landed at Suvla Bay, and was for four months in action on the Gallipoli Peninsula till he was taken ill in the great storm and suffered with frostbite. He was then in hospital for three months, and has not had a chance to get home yet, but is still with the regiment. My son has only had six days' leave since the commencement of the war. Of course we know a lot of the boys have had leave in spite of their being ill or wounded, and we only think it right that ours should have some like the others. Could not something be done for these dear boys to come home to see us? We should feel most grateful.—
 Yours, etc.,
FOND MOTHER.
 Bromyard, Feb. 27th, 1917.

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.

The following accounts were published in the local newspapers in March 1917 reflecting the Mention in Despatches awarded to RSM Herberts in October 1916.

Regimental Serjt.-Major Herbert (1630), of the Hereford Regiment, is a soldier with 33 years' service to his credit. He is a native of Worcester, and enlisted in the K.S.L.I., but for the past sixteen years has been on the staff of the Herefords, being stationed successively seven years in Weobley, six in Leominster, and the last two in Hereford, his home now being at 5, Westfaling Street, Hereford. He served in the South African War, for which he holds a medal and three bars, and was wounded, a bullet passing through both shoulders. He is a smart officer and since the outbreak of the war has done excellent service for his regiment.

REGIMENTAL-SERJNT.-MAJOR HERBERT.
 Regt.-Sergeant-Major W. Herbert, 2/1st Herefords, who was last week mentioned by the Secretary of State for War for valuable services rendered, holds the Queen's Medal and four bars and the King's Medal and two bars for the South African War, and also the medal for "Long service and good conduct," an honour highly prized by soldiers who make the army their profession.



Considerable pride was still felt for the 2nd Battalion, especially those volunteers and their families as evidenced in the following letters published in The Hereford Times. It is interesting to note the demarcation between 'volunteers' and Derby Scheme ('compelled') men.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COLOUR FOR THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGT., 2nd LINE.

To the Editor of the Hereford Times.

Sir,—May I again ask you to give me space in your columns to acknowledge with thanks the sums I have received for the Colour for the 2nd Line Herefordshire Regiment, and to ask those people who are doubtless intending to show their gratitude to the regiment in this concrete way, to send me their contributions as soon as possible. The Colour will take some little time to embroider, and I cannot order it until I have the money in hand. Many people no doubt consider this an appeal for a non-essential matter in these hard times, but I suggest that man does not live by bread alone, and the Colour represents the spirit of the regiment. If everyone who has a friend in the 2nd line will send me a shilling the Colour will be easily forthcoming. Otherwise I shall have the humiliating task of telling the O.C. that I cannot do what he has asked.—Yours faithfully,

DOROTHY DYMOND.

Sums received:—The Mayor, £1 1s. 0d.; Mr. J. C. Mackay, £1; Mr. Gerard Denny, £1 1s. 0d.; Mrs. Whittaker, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Dymond, 10s. 6d.

THE 2nd LINE HEREFORDS.

To the Editor of the Hereford Times.

Sir,—In reference to Mrs. Dymond's appeal for funds to buy regimental colours for the 2nd line of the Herefordshire Regiment, Mrs. Dymond says that this regiment has not been sent on active service. I am a 2nd Hereford's soldier's wife, and feel bound to write and say that if the regiment has not gone a good many of the men have gone. Several friends of mine of the 2nd Herefords are in France, and my own husband was sent from Howberry Camp, Bedford, on August 30th, being in the second draft to go to France, the first going on July 27th. These facts were mentioned in the *Hereford Times* a couple of months ago. Men of the 2nd Herefords have been sent to the hottest front in the whole battle area. When this regiment was formed more than two years ago it was formed of men who volunteered, and have now gone forth to fight for their King and country. I think it would be more desirable to subscribe to buy comforts for them rather than colours for the men now forming the 2nd Herefords, because the former are nearly all Derby men, not men who have been compelled to be soldiers.—Yours truly,

A 2ND HEREFORD SOLDIER'S WIFE.
Herefordshire, March 6th, 1917.

Reserve Battalion (formerly 3 Bn) – Oswestry

The Battalion remained at Park Hall Camp Oswestry. The issue of poor conditions continued to be deteted.

Training continued and drafts were being prepared and sent to 'the front'.

RESERVE HEREFORDS.

SIX OFFICERS LEAVE FOR SERVICE OVERSEAS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Last week I intimated that some of the officers of the regiment had been warned for draft, and the call for their services was not long delayed. Only a short time after the order for them to prepare for draft was received they left camp for a few days' leave before reporting themselves at headquarters, and they were given a right hearty send off by their brother officers.

The names of the officers are: Sec. Lieut. H. A. Edwards, Sec. Lieut. G. E. Morrish, Sec. Lieut. E. C. Mogrige, Sec. Lieut. A. Marshall, Sec. Lieut. C. J. Lewis, and Sec. Lieut. S. E. Knapp.

Lieut. Edwards is a son of Mr. Gus Edwards, High Town, Hereford, and he has done good work with the Herefordshire Regiment since he obtained his commission on July 27th, 1915. He was well liked by his men, and is bound to do well in any position of responsibility in which he is placed.

Lieut. Morrish is a son of Inspector Morrish, Barr's Court, Hereford, and although he has not been with the regiment long he quickly got on good terms with all ranks, and was a very popular and capable officer. He took a great interest in football, and played some fine games for the regimental team in the full back position.

Lieut. Mogrige is the youngest son of the Vicar of Weston Beggard, and he also came to Oswestry quite recently. He is keen at his work, and will do good service in the field.

Lieut. A. Marshall was gazetted on Sept. 5th, 1916, and was well liked by all the men under his command.

Lieut. C. J. Lewis (Pontail, near Ross) obtained his commission on Sept. 17th, 1915, but only recently came to Oswestry.

Lieut. Knapp served for some time in the Welsh Horse Yeomanry as an N.C.O., and was gazetted to the Herefords on January 27th, 1915. He is a very popular officer, and always took part in the regimental concerts which went with such a swing during the summer months.

