

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – November 1917

The 'Bigger' Picture

- Ministry of National Service formed in Great Britain
- Air Force (Constitution) Act, 1917, comes into operation in Great Britain
- Allied Conference at Rapallo. Inception of Supreme War Council and Gen Sir H H Wilson, Gen F Foch, Gen Cadorna, and Gen Bliss appointed as members
- First meeting of Great Inter-Allied Conference opens in Paris.
- M Painleve, French Premier and War Minister resigns; M Barthou, French Foreign Minister, resigns. M Clemenceau appointed French Premier and War Minister; M Stephen Pichon appointed French Foreign Minister. M Jonnart succeeds M Motin as French Minister for Blockade (First Minister: formerly Blockade was under an under-Secretary.) M Lebrun succeeds M Jonnart as French Minister for Blockade.
- Agreement concluded between British, French and Italian Governments for provision of tonnage for the Allied food programme
- Allied Naval Conference formed in London
- Aine Douleh succeeds Ala es Sultaneh as Persian Prime Minister
- Ukrainian People's Republic proclaimed
- Estonia declared independent by the local Diet.
- The Balfour Declaration regarding a 'national home for the Jewish people' made. The British government announced support for the establishment of this 'homeland' in Palestine, an Ottoman region with a minority Jewish population. The Declaration read:

His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

The declaration was contained in a letter dated 2 November 1917 from the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour to Lord Walter Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community, for transmission to the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland.

RUSSIA

- Bolshevik *coup d'etat* in Petrograd Lenin and Trotski assume power. Former succeeds Kerenski as Premier and latter succeeds Tereshchenko as Foreign Minister'
- Russian Civil War - Kerenski's forces defeated by Bolsheviks near Petrograd.
- Kerenski flees from Petrograd.
- Armistice approaches begun by Russian Bolshevik Government with Central Powers which lead to meeting of Russian and German delegates behind German lines to arrange for armistice.
- Austro-Hungarian Government accept Bolshevik proposals to negotiate for an armistice and peace

The Western Front

- Passchendaele captured by British (Canadian) forces; Second Battle of Passchendaele ends

- Battle of Cambrai, 1917. This battle called for the use of a large number of tanks and the reliance on the secret transfer of artillery reinforcements to be 'silently registered' to gain surprise, this primarily artillery-infantry attack would be supported by a small number of tanks, to secure a breakthrough of the German Hindenburg Line. The German defences were formidable; Cambrai having been a quiet stretch of front thus far enabled the Germans to fortify their lines in depth.

The first day success was greeted in Britain by the ringing of church bells. The massed use of tanks, despite being a further increase on previous deployments, was not entirely new but the success of the attack and the resulting Allied press enthusiasm, including in the United States, were unprecedented. The particular effectiveness of the tanks at Cambrai was the initial passage through barbed wire defences, which had been previously 'supposed by the Germans to be impregnable'.

The initial British success showed that even the strongest trench defences could be overcome by a surprise attack using a combination of new methods and equipment, reflecting a general increase in the British capacity to combine infantry, artillery, tanks and aircraft in attacks. The German revival after the shock of the British attack improved German morale but the potential for similar attacks meant that the Germans had to divert resources to anti-tank defences and weapons, an extra demand that the Germans could ill afford to meet.

The German counter-attack confirmed the effectiveness of artillery, trench mortars, and evolving stormtrooper tactics. By the end of the battle, gains and losses by the opposing forces were largely proportionate, the British having advanced modestly in the north and the Germans in the south.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 104-0941A
Foto: o. Ang. | 1917 November - Dezember

German soldiers recovering a British tank at Cambrai

Other Fronts

MESOPOTAMIA

- Tikrit occupied by British
- Gen Sir S Maude, died at Baghdad and is succeeded by Gen Sir WE Marshall

PALESTINE

- Third Battle of Gaza
- Action at Al Mughar
- Jaffa taken
- Battle of Nebi Samwil

EAST AFRICA

- German Forces under Col Von Lettow-Worbeck effects passage from Rovuma and defeats Portugueses force at Ngomano, leading to further German operations in East Africa.
- German force at Mwit Valley surrenders to British.

ITALY

- British & French troop deployment to Italy announced.
- General Cadorna relieved of the command of the Italian Armies; succeeded by General Diaz.
- Austro-German forces reach the Piave.

Aviation

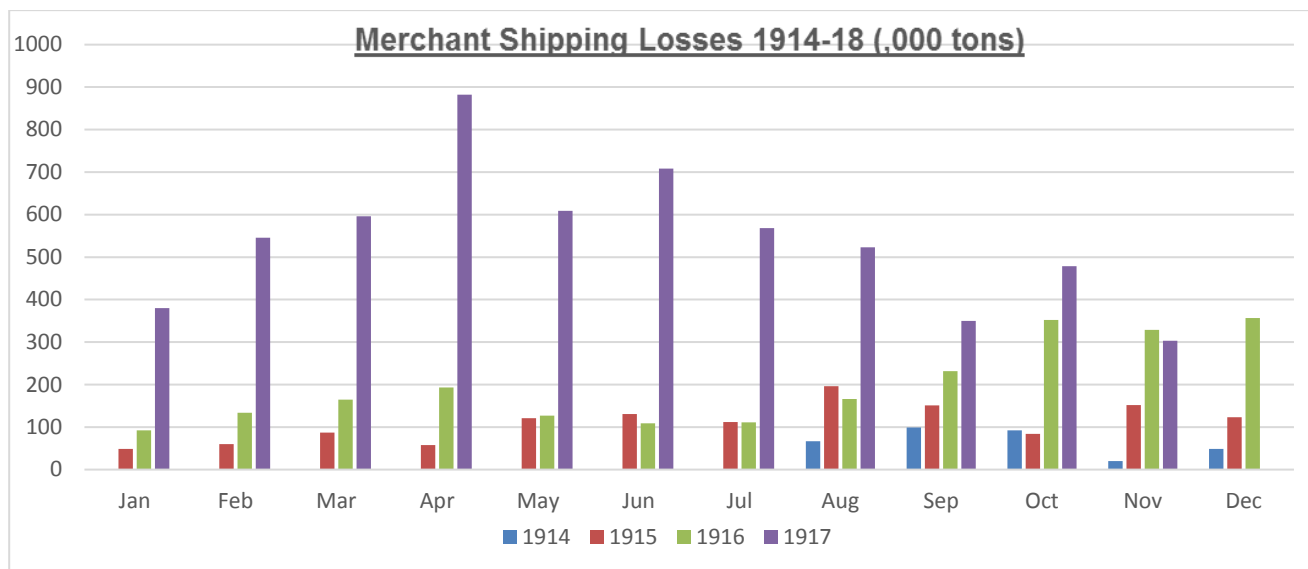
- German airship L59 makes a return trip from Yambol (Bulgaria) to and from East Africa.

At Sea

- Raid by British naval light forces on the Kattegat (North Sea)
- Light cruiser action off Heligoland
- Japanese Government unable to comply with request of British Government that two Japanese battle cruisers should join the Grand Fleet in the North Sea

MERCHANT SHIPPING

British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month – 146 ships of 303,000 tons gross.



The 'Herefords'

Casualties (other than 1st Bn)

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
DUNNE	JAMES	PTE		237393	20 Nov	DOW	F&F	MANCHESTER	Lanc Fus
HEIRON	WALLACE	PTE	2280		27 Nov	KIA	F&F	ROLLESTONE R	14 Gloster
HILL	THOMAS	PTE		238886	20 Nov	DOW	F&F	CRAVEN ARMS	6 KSLI
JONES	GEOFFREY	PTE		237118	30 Nov	KIA	F&F	HOLMER	6 KSLI
JONES	HENRY JAMES	PTE	5010		01 Nov	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	12 Gloster
PREECE	ROBERT	PTE		239002	20 Nov	DOW	F&F	BROMYARD	5 KSLI
ROBERTS	ROBERT	PTE		237336	30 Nov	KIA	F&F	BOLTON	6 KSLI
YAPP	CHARLES	PTE	1352		08 Nov	D	F&F	MORETON	14 Gloster

Soldiers continued to be 'transferred' from units in England to make good losses on the Western Front.

The London Gazette

Honours & Awards

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
02/11/1917	Roden	236301 Cpl AC	MM	
02/11/1917	Symonds	235989 LCpl JB	MM	



Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
01/11/1917	Trumper	FA	to be captain and coy comd	to 4 May 1917
05/11/1917	Nott	FT	to be major	to 23 Nov 1916
08/11/1917	Pigou	H LaT	to TF reserve	
09/11/1917	Berney	GN	to be captain	
09/11/1917	Fanning	WG	to be lieutenant MGC	
09/11/1917	Jackson-Tayler	PS	to be Asst Instr in Gunnery	from flying officer (observer)
09/11/1917	Yeomans	HW	to be lieutenant	since KIA
12/11/1917	Williams	George	to be captain and 2ic	3rd Battalion
13/11/1917	Barker	FG	to be major whilst employed in Bn HQ	
14/11/1917	Spall	LA	to be staff lieutenant	
21/11/1917	Chipp	WF	to be captain and adjutant	
30/11/1917	Kenion	TD		
30/11/1917	Phillips	SRE	to be lieutenant	

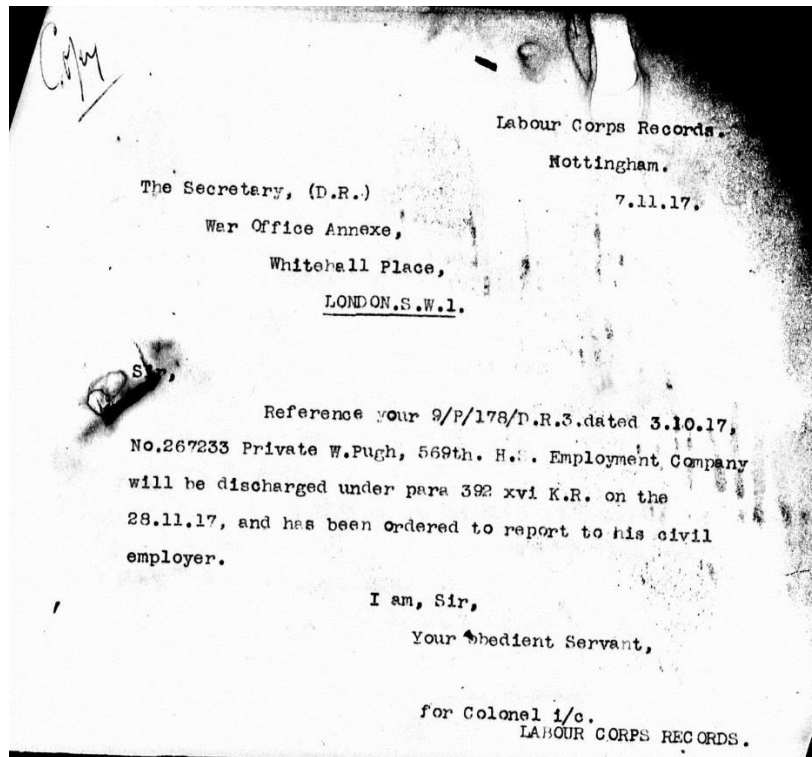
HEREFORD

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

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	Why	Hometown	Notes
ADAMS	JOHN ERNEST	CPL		238119	28 Nov			14/15 star as 16271 4 & 7 KSLI.
AMORY	HENRY	PTE		237396	15 Nov	xvi		
BAYLISS	GEORGE	PTE	773	235052	16 Nov	2b	Burghill	
BIRD	Frederick Thomas	PTE	3094		11 Nov	unfit	Kingsland	Prev served ASC
BOTTOMS	PERCY	PTE		239139	15 Nov	2b		
BROOKES	JOHN EDWARD	PTE	3281	237430	19 Nov	xvi	Bootle	
CORNOCK	WALTER	PTE	2003	235550	03 Nov		Hereford	
FOSTER	ALBERT	PTE	5605	237162	22 Nov	XVI		
FOX	ALBERT	PTE	5605	237162	22 Nov	xvi	Whitchurch	
HODGES	GEORGE WILLIAM	PTE	4334	236773	13 Nov	2B		
JONES	FREDERICK	PTE		237499	15 Nov	2D		AGE 41.80/365
LEA	JOHN WILFRED	PTE		236955	21 Nov	2B		
PICKUP	WILLIAM	PTE		238348	02 Nov	2B		
PUGH	WILLIAM	PTE	5337		28 Nov	xvi	Glasbury	
SHOCK	Leslie	PTE	2186		27 Nov	265/A1	Ross	
STANIER	CHARLES	LCPL		238001	07 Nov	2B	AUSTRALIA	
TONG	WILLIAM	PTE	4069		27 Nov	Unfit	Leominster	
TRILLO	ALBERT	Pte	2242	236994	23 Nov		Knighton	
TROTMAN	FREDERICK	PTE		237362	16 Nov	2D		

xvi - unfit through either wounds or sickness

iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier



1st Battalion

The long prepared for assault, which became known as the 3rd Battle of Gaza in Palestine began.

Note Khuwelfeh is spelt in various ways in different accounts – no attempt has been made to harmonise spelling!

From the 53 Div Diary:

THE OPENING OF THE BATTLE

The opening movements for the great battle that followed are contained in the following extracts from orders: XX Corps, in co-operation with the Desert Mounted Corps will attack and destroy the enemy's detachment at Beersheba. The Desert Mounted Corps will co-operate on the right of XX Corps and attack the enemy's defences from the south-east to the north-west of Beersheba and the town itself. XX Corps, less one div in reserve, will carry out the main attack. 60 Div will attack the Beersheba works on the right of 74 Div, while 53 Div, with attached troops will cover the left flank of the Corps from a position on a general line Kh el Sufi and el Girheir. . . .

The following troops, attached to 74 Div will be known as Smith's Group, under the command of Brig C L Smith, VC - the ICC Bde (less two companies), two bns 158 Bde. The role of these troops is to hold the ground from the Wadi Saba . . . to the right of 53 Div, to deal with any counter stroke against the left of 74 Div, to prevent the transfer of troops to reinforce the enemy on the front of attack of 60 and 74 Divs by holding the enemy in his trenches north of the Wadi Saba.

The attack on Beersheba, the defences of which it will be remembered were widely separated from the general Turkish line, was divided into two phases, the first against some advanced works on 60 Div front (right), the second against the main line. While the enemy was held by this attack, the ANZAC Mtd Div, and the Imperial Mtd Div, now renamed the Australian Mtd Div, were to make a wide encircling movement from Asluj, and charge into the town from the south-east. On the 30th Oct, the left of 53 Div front was taken over by 30 Inf Bde of the 10th Div, and, after dusk, a slight advance was made across the Hanafish. During the night 74 and 60 Divs moved up and deployed on the right of the 53rd for the attack. In the successful battle of the 31 Oct, 53 Div guarding the left flank was unmolested by the enemy. 158 Bde was more concerned than the others, it was split in two parts.

' We in Smith's Force, ie, the Bde, less two bns, marched at 5.30 pm (30th) to our old haunt, el Buggar, and then east, along the Beersheba-Fara track, in rear of 229 Bde, till we got to Taweil el Habari, which is at the top of the slope whence the ground runs gently to Beersheba. 5 and 6 RWF then turned right handed and marched down to their allotted positions. There was some shelling away out on the right and occasional rifle fire, but otherwise all was silent in front of us—but not so behind us! The noise of tractors bringing up guns was overpowering, as if the whole British army was on the move, and sounded like the roar of London traffic from a little way off. The whole plain behind us hummed with mechanical noises, and I marvelled that the enemy in their trenches could not hear it. They afterwards told us they were taken by surprise, but it is indeed hard to believe.'

The attack by 60 and 74 Divs began at dawn, and by 11.30 was entirely successful. Our role was purely demonstrative, and, although the 5 RWF advanced in touch with the 229 Bde on their right, and did what they could with long range machine gun and Lewis gun fire, we were not really in the picture. As the attack was designed only against the defences south of the Wadi Saba, the enemy in front of us in trenches across the road, where there was a particularly nasty-looking, heavily wired place, called the Barricade, was not being

disturbed.' Actually the defences of Beersheba were not entered until about 12.30 pm. At that time 2 Australian Light Horse were astride the Hebron road, to the north of the town, but it was not until about six in the evening, that 4 Australian Light Horse galloped over several lines of trenches and entered Beersheba itself. At one o'clock Gen Mott ordered Col Drage to send forward a few patrols in order to ascertain the situation on his front and right, and 160 Bde was warned to be ready to push a battalion to the north to threaten Irgeig. The Barricade was still reported held, but an advance in this direction had to receive the sanction of Gen Chetwode; it was received about four o'clock.

Col Drage was ordered to 'demonstrate' with his two battalions, while 230 Bde attacked northwards and took the trenches in enfilade. It was, however, considered that the Herefords and 7 RWF could not get in a position to help 230 Bde until 8.30 pm, and the order was, therefore, cancelled. 230 Bde as a matter of fact found no opposition.

5 and 6 RWF then took up an outpost line along the Beersheba-Fara road, across the Barricade and in touch with 230 Bde in Beersheba.

THE MARCH INTO THE HILLS

The first move in Allenby's offensive was completely successful. But, in order to ensure elbow room, 53d Div was ordered, during the night, to move at dawn, relieve the cavalry pickets on the hills to the north of the town, and occupy the line Towal Abu Jerwal-Muweileh, the ICC would operate on the right. 'The chilly hour of 5.30 am found us all present and correct at the Barricade, but with no instructions for a further move. After some delay Gen Mott arrived, a most wonderful sight, in a torn cardigan jacket, no tunic, a steel helmet, and riding a policeman's horse, with the rifle in the bucket, all complete. He was also very cross, as his car had broken down, and everything had gone wrong. However he had, as usual, a complete grasp of the tactical situation.' The Gen sat by the roadside and gave verbal instructions which were afterwards confirmed. '53 Div will move east, and then north to-day with the object of seizing a line from Towal Abu Jerwal, along the spur running west and north of Muweileh, with the ICC on the right of Towal Abu Jerwal. Troops will march in the following order:

- Advanced Guard -158 Bde (less two bns).
- Section RE
- Battery RFA (266 Bde).
- Detachment of 3 Welsh Fd Amb.
- Main body - Starting point Barricade on Beersheba Road.
- 0630 ICC Brigade.
- 0700 Dival HQ - Signal Company.
- 0710 Dival RE
- 0730 Two Bns 158 Bde. (under Col Drage).
- 0745 266 Bde. RFA (less 1 battery).
- 0800 159 Inf Bde and Detachment 2 Welsh Fd Amb.
- 0830 HQ Artillery and 265 Bde RFA.
- 0845 267 Bde RFA.
- 0900 Trench Mortar Batteries.
- 0905 160 Inf Bde and Detachment 1 Welsh Fd Amb.
- 0930 Field Ambs (less detachments).

5 RWF started off through Beersheba, which proved to be a small and fairly modern town, with Abraham's Wells still functioning, and then turned off north-east, with the 6 RWF, conforming to their movements about a mile to their left ; ' A ' Battery 266 Bde under James Gammel, came with us, but we very soon got into such hilly and broken country that they had to go right out to the right to find a passable track. By 11 am we reached our first point, Hill 1020, where we were joined by Col Drage and his army, which had marched straight across

country from their late position. We climbed on and up, and successfully occupied Towal Abu Jerwal at 2 pm. It was a long march, about 16 miles over a terribly mountainous and trackless country, particularly the last few miles. In many cases the men, who suffered considerably after living so long on sand and soft going, had to proceed in single file - we were marching on a bearing and could not deviate to any extent. The passage of limbers was appallingly difficult, but a limber can go in most places, and finally we arrived intact, not having dropped a man.' - (Ashton, 158 Bde.) 158 Bde took up an outpost position beyond the Lekiyeh Caves, with the ICC on the right and 159 Inf Bde on the left, slightly in rear. The night passed quietly, perhaps gloomily, as the ration convoy had lost its way and the men had no food or water. At one time the question of water for the whole Corps was acute, but 53 Div were the real sufferers. 159 Bde, which had been following 158, had branched off about Khashm el Buteiyir and marched on Muweileh as a separate column. 160 Bde, on relief by 30 Bde, on the Wadi Hanafish, had marched ten miles to Beersheba, where they were ordered to rest and feed, and only moved forward again during the afternoon. The administrative difficulties now commenced. The nearest water was seven miles away, at Beersheba. This difficulty became serious later on, as the Div advanced to the Khuweilfeh Heights, eleven miles from Beersheba. Under arrangements made by XX Corps, water was sent up by Camel Convoy, but the convoys seldom arrived at their destination up to time, owing to the great distance they had to cover, and also to their guides losing their way in the roadless, hilly country. Prior to the operations, two water bottles were issued to each man, and undoubtedly eased the situation ; but the only solution to the horse question was sending them back to Beersheba for the night, and keeping them there till it was necessary to move guns and vehicles forward. This first march into the hills was a very trying one. From point to point the Div had moved 14 miles in the day, over a mountainous and roadless country, which added miles to the map distance.

Gen Mott reported that the Turks had appeared opposite the Abu Jerwal Hill about half-way between Beersheba and Khuweilfeh, shortly after it was occupied by 158 Bde, ' and it appeared likely that had they not been forestalled by the rapid advance of 53 Div, they would have established themselves there to impede our further advance. Finding the cavalry were working north, in the direction of Khuweilfeh Heights and Ras el Nagb, they retired to the Khuweilfeh Heights. During the night 10 Div had occupied Irgeig, and my left was in touch with this Div.'

THE SITUATION IN THE HILLS

Ever since the 27 Oct, the bombardment of Gaza had been proceeding with consistent severity, and the Turks and their German advisers were convinced that the blow would fall there. After the capture of Beersheba there was a pause of one day in the infantry attack, and then, on the 2 Nov, Gen Bulfin attacked on the coastal sector, captured Umbrella Hill, and advanced to Sheikh Hassan. The whole of the Gaza positions were now threatened. But the Turks had also moved. Col Garsia, at a later date GSO1 to 53 Div, visited Berlin in 1920, and had an interview with Gen Kress von Kressenstein, who good-naturedly answered certain questions. He was asked the following: 'When you realised that Allenby's main attack was against your left flank (he had already told me that he had, right up to the last minute, expected it via Gaza), what did you do ? ' His reply was that 'he moved his general reserves to strike the outer flank of the turning movement, his object being to get outside it,' but the whole of his plan failed through the occupation by British troops of some hills, from which he was unable to dislodge them. The troops were, of course, 53 Div, and the ICC, under 'Camel' Smith, who were attached to 53 Div and played an important part in the battle.

Early in the morning of the 2nd November, aeroplanes reported a large number of enemy columns moving east from the plain. At 10 am Gen Chetwode visited Gen Mott, and it was decided that 53 Div should remain on the defensive for that day, and dig in, and that one brigade of 74 Div should be attached to 53 Div to take over the left of the line, the whole of which covered six miles. The situation had necessitated a change in the original plan for the further advance after the capture of Beersheba. The intention had been for 53 Div to make

a frontal attack on the Kauwukah System, while 60 and 74 Divs took the whole of the fortified area in flank and reverse. But, with 53 Div facing a strong enemy force in the hills, 60 Div were ordered to attack the Kauwukah System, and 74 Div had the job of taking the Turkish line in flank and reverse, when the time came. During the night, Gen Mott received an order from XX Corps to advance as early as possible in the morning and gain touch with the mounted troops operating in the direction of Khuweilfeh (7 Mtd Bde had established itself during the day on a hill two miles east of Koleh). 74 Div was to move to a position of assembly, in readiness to protect the left flank of 53 Div. One 60-pdr Bty, and one battalion of the ICC were attached to the 53 Div. Gen Mott decided to advance in three columns. 160 Bde, which had been in reserve, was brought up from Muweileh to advance north up a valley lying to the east of the Abu Jerwal peak. The whole nature of the battlefield had changed, and the line of advance was over rocky, mountainous country. One battery of 267 Fd Arty Bde accompanied the 160 Bde, and it was necessary to make wadi crossings, as the column advanced. The Gunners succeeded in hauling their guns up the head of the valley to a position within useful range of the Khuweilfeh Heights, but the track they used could not be described as passable for wheels. 265 Fd Art Bde accompanied 159 Inf Bde, which formed the left column, advancing up the Kohleh track. The remainder of the Div Arty moved east with 5 RWF, under Col Borthwick, to gain the better road clear of the main hills east of Lekiyeh Caves. 158 Inf Bde, less one battalion, remained in reserve, and sent all their animals back to Beersheba to water and feed.

To follow the progress of battalions step by step through this difficult country is impossible - no map shows the true configuration of the ground. The main Turkish position was in a mass of jumbled hills running down in many places to wadis with precipitous sides. There were, however, two main features:

- about the centre was a dominating hill, Khuweilfeh, the key to the whole position,
- on the Turkish left a flat topped hill, the Tell, commanding a broad, fairly open valley, down which ran a track of sorts (more water course than track) to Beersheba.

To the east of this valley was a north and south spur, culminating in the height of Ras el Nagb which was held by 5 Mtd Bde (afterwards relieved by the ICC). To add to the difficulties of operating in such a country there was an atmospheric obstacle - a true obstacle to movement - the Khamsin, which blew steadily and caused the postponement of the next stage of the major operation. The Khamsin had to be overcome by the determination of the Welshmen, but it caused much suffering. 'Hard days these. Very little water, never enough for a wash; bully beef and biscuits unvaried, no mails, officers' kits only 30 pounds and often miles behind, dust and heat. We wore 'tin hats,' and the intense heat of the sun on them made our heads feel like poached eggs. The battle of Khuweilfeh has been described in many narratives and despatches, but I have never seen mentioned the appalling shortage of water from which we suffered. We had about three pints for forty-eight hours, which included a long march up the stifling, winding ravines of the Judean foothills, followed by incessant fighting, the temperature, thanks to the Khamsin, which prevailed, being that of August. It was real hell. A lot of men went nearly mad with thirst.' - (Le Fleming.) But 53 Div advanced just the same, attacking in three columns. 160 Bde Gp had on its line of advance to make good the commanding heights of the range of hills rising to Khuweilfeh; the ground fell away to the left, where 159 Bde was operating, dropping to the great rolling plain. As 160 Bde pushed forward, the Turk, deprived of his commanding ground, made every use of the cover afforded by the steep, rocky ravines which scored the lower slopes opposite 159 Bde. Brig Money says that 'the great heat in the deep wadis made everyone suffer from thirst. The 4 and 5 Welch suffered severely. The former made a most gallant attack on a rocky height, driving back the enemy, who were using bombs, and bayonetting them all. 265 Arty Bde, under Lt Col Walker, assisted me greatly, and 7 Cheshires protected my left flank against largely superior forces of the enemy. Fighting continued until dark, the enemy at many points holding the opposite sides of deep precipices and ravines, from 100 to 300 yards off. The majority of casualties were due to shell fire and machine gun fire from deep wadis in the low ground on our left flank. They amounted during the day to between 350 and 400 all ranks.' The hill taken by 4 Welch was named by them 'Stone High Hill.' The country round this place was very broken and Lt Col Hutton reported, after this exploit, that his

battalion was much split up and scattered in the confusing and tumbled area. He, however, managed to advance and take another hill.

Slowly the Div pressed forward in the sweltering heat. By 12.30 the 5 RWF, under Lt Col Borthwick, had got up to the line held by the cavalry on the extreme right, and were in touch with the Turks on the lower eastern slopes of the Khuweilfeh position. The cavalry then withdrew to Beersheba, with the exception of those units holding Nagb. In the centre, as the advance of 160 Bde continued north-wards, the enemy resistance increased, and it became clear to Gen Mott that he had not to do with a rearguard, but that the Turks were holding this position in strength, and meant to retain it. Khuweilfeh appeared to be a series of knolls, with a spur running from the western flank to the plain. The ground between this simple looking position and that occupied by 160 Bde presented no particular difficulty to the eye, but on closer acquaintance proved to be formidable, and difficult to cross. The advance was continually held up by cleverly concealed machine guns and snipers. The Turks did not expose themselves in any numbers and were hard to locate. But, at the close of the day, Brig Pearson was within striking distance of the main line of defence. The very intricacy of the country which impeded the advance offered opportunities for clever and stouthearted scouts. Just before sunset a patrol of the Sussex, with Maj Scott RE, and an Interpreter as guide, succeeded in getting through the Turkish lines to the wells in rear, where it was fired on, but returned unscathed. This incident raised hopes that the Turks intended to evacuate their position during the night. Under cover of darkness the Sussex occupied the lower slopes of the Tell, the flat topped hill, and 5 RWF jumped some low hills on their front on the initiative of Lt Col Borthwick.

Amongst the day's casualties were two commanding officers, Lt Cols Wilkins (Queens) and Hulton (4 Welch), both wounded. Gen Mott says that '160 Bde had had an arduous day, having been on the move since 5.30 am, and completed twelve miles over very trying country, and the day had been unusually hot and close. I, therefore, ordered 158 Bde to march by night so as to rendezvous at the fork roads one mile north of Kh el Ras by 3.30 am, it being my intention to attack the Khuweilfeh heights with a fresh brigade on the following day. My intention, however, did not please 160 Bde, and Brig Pearson requested that he might continue the attack on Khuweilfeh with his brigade at dawn the next day. I consented to his request, and ordered 'both Brigade to complete the occupation of Khuweilfeh.' But dawn of 4 Nov broke on a gloomy prospect. The convoys had again lost their way, and the men of 160 Bde were without food or water. The advance, however, commenced at 5 am and the lower slopes of the hills were here and there occupied, and then the CRA Brig JW Hope reported to Gen Mott that the ammunition which he had been ordered to get up the previous day had not arrived, and that he could not support a serious attack. Gen Mott promptly directed Brig Pearson not to press his attack, but to take up the best line he could. A grizzly day! It was impossible to get food and water up to the 160 Bde until nightfall. When the general activity which had been stirred up amongst the Turks in the jumbled mass of hills died down, Gen Mott went forward with Brig Vernon to make a close reconnaissance of the enemy position. It was not done without protest from the enemy, whose snipers were numerous and vigilant. The Brig had previously reced the position and Gen Mott concurred with his views to attack from an east and south-east direction with the right of the attacking force on the flat-topped Tell, and the left on the Khuweilfeh hill, and in view of the many cleverly concealed machine guns, to do so before dawn. The Brig was ordered to work out all details, and 4 Sussex and 3 ICC were placed under his orders. During the day sniping and shelling were active on the left, in front of 159 Bde, and two slight attacks were attempted by the Turks, but were broken. On the extreme right a strong attack was launched against the 5 Mtd Bde, who still held the high ground at Ras el Nagb, but was beaten off. From the plain in the west, large bodies of Turks, estimated at two thousand at least, moved into the hills which faced 53 Div. At 7 pm orders were received from Gen Chetwode not to attack the Khuweilfeh heights without direct sanction from XX Corps. But the lull in the great battle, which had been brought about by the Khamsin, was at an end. On 5 Nov XX Corps issued orders for the general advance of the Corps on the 6 Nov, and placed 53 Div under the orders of the Desert Mounted Corps.

THE GENERAL ACTION IS CONTINUED

It is of interest to consider the original forecast of the first phase in the battle, the attack on Beersheba. It was thought that 60 Div would after the battle be on the conquered position, possibly with troops in Beersheba developing water, that 74 Div would be between the Fara-Beersheba road and Kh el Sufi, that 53 Div would be on the line Kh el Sufi-Bir Imleih-el Girheir, with outposts covering the left of 74 Div, and finally that 10 Div would be at Shellal. The situation was utterly different. Mounted troops had made no impression on the Turkish outposts on the Khuweilfeh position. 53 Div had been diverted and was heavily engaged in the Judean foothills, on the extreme right, and 74 Div was on their left, the line was then carried on by 60 and 10 Divs (about Abu Irgeig). 53 Div had been slipping to the right all the time, and some of the ground formerly occupied by them was taken up by 74 Div. Behind the junction of these two Divs was the Yeomanry Mtd Div, ready to fill the gap which the diverging line of attack would cause. So far as 53 Div was concerned, the Corps orders ran: 'The GOC XX Corps intends to resume the attack on the 6 Nov with the object of securing the Sheria water supply and capturing the Kauwukah System . . . The attack must be pressed with the utmost rapidity and determination, as the enemy must be given no respite until his resistance is broken down, and it is essential to secure the water at Sheria before nightfall. The Desert Mounted Corps, to which 53 Div will be attached temporarily from 0600 on the 6 Nov, is allotted the following tasks:

(a) to protect the right flank of the Corps ;

(b) to take advantage of any retirement of the enemy to press forward and seize the Nejileh and Jemmame water supplies.

'53 Div is about AM Kohleh, and will extend its left so as to occupy the general line Khuweilfeh-Rijm el Dhib. The Yeomanry Mtd Div of the Desert Mounted Corps is to be concentrated south-west of AM Kohleh by 0700 on 6 Nov, ready to close the gap between the 53 and 74 Divs, which attacks on the right of the XX Corps, and to take advantage of any enemy retirement to push forward to the line Kh Abu Rasheid-el Zubala, and thence to the right of the 74 Div.'

This order placed 53 Div on the lower ground, and left the dominating heights of Khuweilfeh in the hands of the Turks, on the right flank of the Corps. That Gen Kressenstein was likely to commit the whole of his general reserve in that direction was not realised by the Higher Command. Gen Mott writes of the situation as he saw it: 'I felt an honest doubt as to my ability to carry out the operation ordered. A glance at the map shows the difficulties and risks that would be run. '53 Div, with two inf bdes facing north and already in close grips with the Turkish position around Khuweilfeh, had orders to side-slip through the enemy's lines down to the lower slopes of the hills and occupy a line facing north-east from Khuweilfeh-Rijm el Dhib successively as the XX Corps advanced on the Kauwukah system of trenches and Sheria.

'Khuweilfeh was the trump card for either side; if the Turks were defeated there it seemed clear that the XX Corps advance would be protected, and it would free 53 Div from carrying out a very complicated operation of a nature only suitable against guerilla warfare. From the Turks' point of view the importance of the Khuweilfeh-Ras el Nagb position lay in the fact that if we got it he lost his alternative line of retreat to the Hebron road—as it was, although defeated after 24 hours of ding-dong fighting at Khuweilfeh, he succeeded in holding more than his own at Ras el Nagb, where the gallant Col Smith and the ICC were so hard pressed that I gave them my last infantry battalion to reinforce them, and still the bulk of the Turks were able to get away on to the Hebron road.

'Khuweilfeh was also the dominating feature on the whole battle front, and therefore the best observation post for the direction of artillery fire on either side. It was the obvious place for von Kressenstein to assemble his general reserve if he meant to fight at all on his front ; and if he were strong enough, what an opportunity to strike down on the flank and rear of 53 Div and XX Corps provided he could hold it, with always a way back to the Hebron road if he were squeezed out of his retreat north. Such a blow might have been of a decisive

nature if 53 Div left their present position on the high ground. Nor was von Kressenstein a general to be despised.

‘It was a much simpler operation for 53 Div to take the initiative and knock the Turks off Khuweilfeh ; moreover this plan freed the mounted troops for more important work. ‘I therefore felt bound to go and put my views before XX Corps. I was informed by Brig Bartholomew, General Staff XX Corps, that mounted troops would deal with the Khuweilfeh position. I explained that the position was one of great strength, and it would be difficult for mounted troops to make any impression on it, and that nothing less than an inf Div would be able to tackle it ; nor did I feel justified in abandoning the high ground under the assumption that mounted troops would take it. The terrain made it essentially an infantry operation, which required more artillery than the mounted troops possessed. My views were then put before the Corps Comd.

‘Later in the day, Sir E Allenby and Gen Chauvel, commanding the mounted troops, visited my headquarters, and I was able to show the CinC on the ground the Turkish position. In a few minutes the CinC approved of my proposal that 53 Div should attack the Khuweilfeh position, his only proviso being that the operation should be executed simultaneously with the advance of the XX Corps - he wanted to avoid any possibility of the Turks retreating on their whole front before his general scheme was launched.’

And so, during the night, 265 Ary Bde, less one battery, was withdrawn from the left and brought round via Abu Jerwal to give additional support to the 158 Bde. The whole of the artillery was placed under Col James Walker. This was the first of many extra-ordinary achievements by the gunners. Guns required not one, but two teams, and were manhandled as well ; the move was not by batteries but by single guns! The country was not only difficult but unknown, with horses and men tired from incessant moving and fighting. Time did not permit reconnaissance or the selection of battery positions, or the usual registration. The guns were simply dragged up by the side of other batteries which had already registered, and opened fire on data supplied by them. After the battle, Brig Vernon asked that as many Runners as possible might be allowed to go on to the heights of Khuweilfeh and see what they had done—the Turks lay in heaps where the barrage had caught them.

The ICC was ordered to attract the enemy's attention by a demonstration on the right of Ras el Nagb. Brig Vernon had arranged to hold the 5RWF in reserve, and had detailed the Herefords to attack on the right, the 6RWF in the centre, and the 7th on the left, while the Sussex, attached to the Brigade, were to form a flank on the left. The position was clearly marked. 7 Fusiliers on the left had Khuweilfeh Hill, frequently referred to as the Tell ; so also is the flat topped hill which was on the right commanding the valley between the ridges, and which the Herefords would envelop on the line of their advance. At all events there was no mistaking the shape of the hills. But the terrain was difficult, for although the two features were conspicuous the enemy's position was across a very grim and broken bit of country with steep minor hills and precipitous sided ravines. His machine guns were placed, some to fire down the wadis or ravines, others to sweep the crests of the lesser ridges. After dark, the jumping off line was marked, by the aid of a compass, with sand bags, and the Intelligence Officers and scouts reconnoitred the ground and the approaches to it. On the 6 Nov, at 4 am, in the light of approaching dawn, the artillery barrage opened and with it the sixteen guns of 158 MGC. From 4.20, all lifted 100 yards at a time and the advance of the infantry commenced.

KHUWEILFEH

The account of the opening of the battle given by the 7RWF is typical of all battalions. ‘The battalion formed up in column of route. Lewis gun ammunition was man-handled, the Lewis gun mules being used to carry spare ammunition and bombs. Arriving at the line of deployment, the battalion formed up on a four-platoon front in five lines at 25 yards distance, the fifth line being formed by Lewis gunners withdrawn from their platoons. The whole frontage of the battalion was 500 yards. Two water bottles were carried and 170 rounds of ammunition, also the unconsumed portion of the day's ration, one extra day's ration, and the iron ration. All ranks were

clearly made to understand that on no account, without an order from the CO, was any ammunition to be fired, and all work was to be done with the bayonet. At 4.23, three minutes behind scheduled time, the battalion moved off to attack the Tell (? Khuweilfeh Hill) under cover of the barrage, and gained its objective at 5.30 with apparently few casualties.'

On the right, in the valley commanded by the flat-topped hill, there was a small hillock, and in the hillock a cave which was also a tomb, with a square door facing south. Here the Brig placed his headquarters, and had a good view of the fight. With 265 and 267 Arty Bdes supporting them, the infantry advanced with confidence.

'To us in the East it (ie. the artillery) was a revelation; judged by the standards of France it wasn't much. All the brigade's 16 machine guns joined in from the hillock on which we sat, and the din was terrific.' The whole attack went like clockwork, and all objectives were occupied just as dawn was breaking. The enemy, cowed by the creeping barrage, was bayoneted in large numbers. But the treacherous morning fog, which 53 Div had good cause to remember, visited them again, and robbed them of an important capture. The advance had been rapid and irresistible, and on the right Capt GN Berney, with a company of Herefords, came on a ravine and found nine Turkish field guns, limbered up, and about to move back. Capt Berney charged, bayoneted the personnel, and captured the guns. At that moment a thick mist came down. A certain amount of mixing of units and general confusion ensued, and the 7RWF, mistaking certain advance troops of the 6RWF and the Herefords, who had swept on over the captured guns, for Turks, called for artillery fire. The gallant Capt Berney was killed, but whether from our own artillery fire or not is uncertain, and a general retirement took place. The guns had to be abandoned. But for this unhappy accident, the whole position would have been captured in one and a half hours, with insignificant casualties. Troops could not, in the mist, give each other support, and the Turkish machine gunners knew the ground and the direction in which they should fire. The Herefords on the right had over-run the flat topped hill, but found that they were so enfiladed by machine gun fire that the place was untenable, and so had to retire to the forward slope of the hill, but when the Brig received their report he put the hill under artillery fire and was able to deny it to the enemy.

The situation was uncertain and puzzling. After a while the Brig ordered all artillery to cease fire, and all troops to remain where they were while the fog lifted. When it was possible to see, about 7 am, the Sussex were found to be on their appointed objective, forming a flank to the Brigade, the 7RWF were in possession of Khuweilfeh Hill, the 6RWF were holding a spur running south-east from Khuweilfeh, the Herefords were on the forward slope of the flat-topped hill on the right, which was just short of their objective, and the 3ICC protected that flank. The right of the line was, however, so swept by machine gun fire that it was deemed impossible in daylight to capture several minor features occupied by the enemy, which it would be necessary to hold before the line could be securely consolidated. A company of the 5RWF was moved up in support. At nine o'clock the Turks started a series of counter-attacks by launching a strong force against the 7RWF on Khuweilfeh. They succeeded, by the weight of their attack, in driving the battalion off the hill, but prompt artillery support enabled the Fusiliers to advance again and retake the hill at the point of the bayonet. Gen Mott then sent up the Middlesex as an additional reserve, and the Brig ordered one company in close support. During the day, the Turks made five separate attacks on the hill, but, with the exception of the first temporary success, spent themselves in vain. Similarly they tried repeatedly to re-establish themselves on the flat-topped hill, but the artillery and machine guns kept that place clear. On the right, three troops of Westminster Dragoons performed useful work by keeping in touch with the Camel Corps.

And so the day passed, the Brigade holding what they had won in spite of galling enfilade fire from a few under features remaining in the hands of the Turks. At dusk, the Middlesex took over Khuweilfeh from the 7RWF, and also the Sussex position on the flank, the latter leaving one company in support ; the 5RWF took over from 6RWF and the Herefords. The casualties in the Brigade had been 36 officers and 584 other ranks. In other parts of the line there had been some excitement while 158 BDe was attacking. There was a rocky bluff, Hill 1250,

between 160 and 159 Bdes, which was held by the Turks. With this commanding feature in their hands they had worked forward in large numbers into a pocket. Brig Money had been ordered to advance on a bearing of 20°; but, with one battery only to support him, he was unable to make any headway, 7 Cheshires, on his left, meeting a strong force of the enemy securely disposed on the far side of a precipitous ravine. Gen Mott's request to the Corps for a regiment of cavalry to take over less important parts of his line, and so release a battalion to attack the Bluff, was refused. Meanwhile the Turks, established in the pocket, wormed their way forward. It was only about four o'clock in the afternoon that Brig Money with his left still closely engaged, was able to release 5 Welch, who arrived at Dival headquarters just in time - the Turks had got through between 160 and 159 Bdes and were opposite Gen Mott's headquarters at a range of 1,300 yards. They retired, however, before 5 Welch.

CAPTURE OF THE SHERIA POSITION

6 Novr was a day of far-reaching victory. While 53 Div was pinning down the Turkish General Reserves with their attack on Khuweilfeh and also protecting the right of the XX Corps, 74, 60, and 10 Divs were moving against the Kauwukah System, with the water supply of Sheria as their main objective. All depended on the progress of 74 Div on the right. 74 Div attacked the enemy field-works east of the railway line, taking them in flank, but the works were strongly held and bristled with machine guns, and in addition the attack had to develop over open ground. This Div had some heavy fighting but captured all objectives. The successful issue of the all-important flank attack—which had originally been allotted to two Divs - enabled 60 and 10 Divs to storm the Kauwukah Trenches. 60 Div was then re-organised and advanced to battle for Sheria, which was finally occupied the following morning. The part played in this hard fought but rapid and spectacular success by 53 Div was handsomely acknowledged by Sir E Allenby. He realised quickly what had happened, and what they were doing. So early as half-past eleven in the morning he telegraphed to Gen Mott: 'I congratulate you and your troops on admirable success of your efforts, and troops' gallant conduct. You have drawn enemy into very position required to facilitate success of main operations of XX Corps. Your operations have given us most favourable prospects of success, which now depends on valour of 53 Div.'

At dawn on 7 Nov, 10 Div was launched against the Hureira Redoubt, a work of great natural strength well defended by artillery and machine guns, which they captured after a sharp fight. The position on the morning of the 7th was that the enemy's centre was pierced, and a gap made for the cavalry. The ANZAC Div rode through on the right of 74 Div, which had long been out of touch with 53 Div, and the Australian Mtd Div (late Imperial Div) sent a dismounted brigade to assist 60 Div - who had found some difficulty in driving the Turks off the high ground overlooking the Wadi Sheria, and so widen the gap. And while this was going on in the centre of the Army, Gen Bulfin discovered Gaza evacuated, and sent forward the Imperial Service Cavalry Bde and 52 Inf Div. On the morning of the 8th, the pursuit was taken up by the ANZAC and the Australian Mounted Divs and 60 Div. Meanwhile at 3.30 am, on the 7 Nov, a report was received by Brig Vernon that the enemy on his front was seen to be retiring. He could do nothing more than turn the artillery and machine guns on them. One large party north of Khuweilfeh Hill, sought to avoid the storm of bullets and shells by charging up the hill - the Middlesex drove them back with the bayonet into the zone of gun fire, where their losses were heavy.

The Div, now under the orders of Gen Barrow, as part of a force known as Barrowsdett, was ordered to stand fast and not attack the Bluff, which was still strongly held and a source of worry. 5RWF, armed with rifle grenades, bombarded and rushed a machine gun nest and party of snipers who had been causing much annoyance. The Middlesex repulsed a small attempt on the heights of Khuweilfeh. Away on the plain, the latter battalion could see large bodies of the enemy retiring in a north-easterly direction apparently making for the Hebron road, but Barrowsdett replied to Gen Mott that no cavalry was available for pursuit, all being required at Sheria, and the only thing that could be done was to turn the heavy artillery on the retiring enemy whenever possible. With the fall of night the Turks continued their evacuation, a fact soon discovered by patrols who in

the early morning brought in about 20 prisoners. One of these said that the Turkish troops had retired on Jerusalem. 159 Bde went forward and took up an outpost position north of the wells - orders from Barrowsdett were that the Div should not advance further than was necessary to cover the Khuweilfeh Wells. The Yeomanry Mounted Div was concentrated on the left and was engaged with Turkish rearguards; late in the afternoon on the 8th they were withdrawn to join the Desert Mounted Corps at Sheria. 53 Div reverted to the command of the XX Corps. The Camel Brigade remained on the flank at Ras el Nagb. On 10 Nov, the Camel Brigade was relieved by the 160 Bde, and this brought the operations, says Gen Mott, to a 'sedentary period.' 159 and 160 Bdes remained in this area ; 158 Bde moved to Sakaty in order to relieve the supply difficulty.

From The War Diary:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Detail</i>
1	<p>5.30am the northern 158 Bde group consisting of 1/7 RWF, Herefords, 1 company RE less 1 section, I section 158 Machine Gun Coy, 1/3 Welsh Field Ambulance under command Lt Col Drage DSO 1st Herefords, advanced from post number 23 on the east side of West Hanafish to the saba triangle arriving 7.30am. At this point orders received from GOC 53 Div to march in direction of Toeal Abu Jewel, wither the south 158 Bde Group under Brig Gen H Vernon; who had already marched acting as an advance guard of 53 Div.</p> <p>The North 158 Group moved off at approximately 7am leaving Bir Saba to the south and passing through the old Turkish aerodome, joined with, and again came again under command of BGC 158 Bde whose HQ was within 4 miles of Towal Abu Jewel at about 3.15pm. The Brigade advanced over rocky hills in direction of Jewel which the 1/5 RWF made good just before dusk, only forestalling the enemy by a very short time.</p> <p>A Coy, Capt Russell and B Coy Capt Berney were detached for part of outpost plan and took up position on the hill south of Jewel.</p> <p>53 Div HQ at Plex Redoubt.</p>
2	<p>Outposts except observation posts withdrawn shortly after dawn. Men very tired and footsore owing to rocky and stoney ground traversed and partly not having their boots off for many days. No rations or water since the issue at 10pm on 31 Oct. At 12 noon water and rations arrived.</p> <p>CO and company commanders recced a line about ½ mile north of Jewel. At 2pm orders received to prepare to move and dig in on the line recced. At 1400 orders were received to prepare to move and dig in on the line recced. About 3.30 pm the Battalion moved out of bivouac to occupy the new line.</p> <p>Battalion HQ at X6B, one company frontline, remainder in support. In reserve 1/7 RWF on the right about X8 and 159 Bde on the left. The 1 /4 Welsh Regiment being in touch with the Herefords. During the night the Battalion dug trenches and shell shelters. Information received that the enemy intended to attack. Quiet night, a few Bedouins were brought in under guard.</p>
3	<p>From dawn to about 9.30am, C Coy (Capt Evelyn) pushed out patrols about 1000 yds to their front in conjunction with 1/7 RWF. Several strong hostile columns were observed at a distance of 4-5 miles moving across the front in an easterly direction. Movements reported to brigade HQ. During the forenoon 159 Bde moved across the front, first north east then easterly at about 1 ½ miles distant. This brigade became engaged and a few 77mm shells fired in the Herefords lines.</p> <p>At about 8.30pm the Battalion received orders to prepare to move in direction of Lekiyeh Caves to a starting point to be indicated by brigade HQ. At about 11.30pm the Battalion moved off each company being followed by 3 small arms ammunition camels. Owing to the rough and steep nature of the ground it took a considerable time for the Battalion to extricate itself</p>

	from its position. The companies had to move in single file on a narrow track; the moon set at 10.06pm.
4	From the Lekiyah Caves the Battalion was guided northwards in the direction of Khuweilfeh arriving at dawn. In the course of the early forenoon the Battalion bivouaced in square A23 and dug shell shelters. 160 Bde, The Imperial Camel Corps were attacking and still engaged with the enemy on the Khuweilfeh position but had not made much impression on it. The Turkish position consisted of 6 hills so faced that they all supported one another and facilitated the employment of cross fire from machine guns and rifles in an ideal manner. Except 1/5 RWF who were holding a position of the line, 158 Bde was more or less concentrated, brigade HQ being at A17. Mounted troops moved out on the east flank in direction of Ras Nagb and were from time to time heavily shelled by the Turks with little effect. Proposals were made that 158 Bde should attack the Turks before dawn on 5 November; idea abandoned ? to rest the men who were very tired.
5	CO and Company Commanders reced left flanks of enemy position from near A11. About 10.30am orders received warning the Brigade should attack the enemy before dawn on 6 November. CO reported to brigade at 7pm to receive detailed orders. At about 8.30pm CO dictated attack orders to company commanders.
6	<p>About 1am the Battalion formed up in front of its bivouacs prior to moving forward the brigade place of assembly prior to attack. The Battalion which should have been accompanied by a battalion of the Imperial Camel Corps arrived at about 3.40am and took up its ordered formation of companies in platoon waves at 25 yard distances; each company having one platoon in the front line. Order of companies from right to left:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D – Capt Carver C – Capt Evelyn B – Capt Berney A – Capt Russell. <p>On the left of the brigade lines was 1/7 RWF, left of the Herefords were the 1/6 RWF by which the Battalion was to march. The Battalion had been ordered to take up a frontage of 500 yards, but owing to inaccuracies in the map and the necessity of getting astride the ridge leading up to the table topped mountain an S29, it was found necessary to increase the frontage to well over 1,000 yards and this in spite of the fact that the Battalion of the Imperial Camel Corps had been diverted to operate on the right flank of the Battalion.</p> <p>At 3.48am some of our guns fired which caused some slight misapprehension as it was thought that our artillery barrage was timed for 4am had commenced. At 4am the Battalion moved steadily forward on a bearing of 324 degrees, covered by a heavy artillery and machine gun barrage, but for some reason touch had not been made with the 1/6 RWF on our left. Owing to the configuration of the ground, the tendency of the Battalion was rather to converge on its left and it was not clear that D Coy actually moved over Table Top Hill, an impossible hill to hold. Some of the Herefords became mixed up with the Imperial Camel Corps who afterwards came up on the left flank.</p> <p>The Battalion pushed on and reached the reverse slope of Tel El Khuweilfeh, shooting and bayonetting many Turks on the way. Here abouts 9 Turkish guns were captured and the transport of a machine gun company decimated. Unfortunately our artillery barrage opened up again and compelled the Herefords to abandon their captured guns. At this time there was driving mist making it impossible to distinguish friend from foe at more than a few hundred yards.</p> <p>From the above cause and the very accurate shooting of the enemy guns and snipers the Battalion suffered rather heavy casualties, especially amongst the officers, 6 of whom were</p>

	<p>killed while gallantly leading the men and 5 were wounded. The Battalion maintained the position it had won until relieved by 1/5 RWF the next day.</p> <p>During the course of the battle the Battalion took 5 officers and 39 soldier prisoner and 10 soldiers the next day.</p> <p>At 4am the Battalion HQ was at A6C. At dawn they had moved successfully to A5a-S28d and finally to S29C05.</p> <p>On relief the Battalion moved to bivouac area in reach of brigade battle HQ in area A12a.</p>
7	Bn in support; B Coy (2Lt Peake) on outpost duty at Khuweilfeh Wells.
8	<p>Turks retired on night of 7/8 Nov. B Coy sent to protect Khuweilfeh Wells. Burial and salvage parties working on battlefield.</p> <p>Following arrivals – Maj Yates and Lt Wells from England, Lt Linzell and 57 ORs. Maj E A Capel MC from Brigade major 150 Bde.</p>
9	Two companies at work on battlefield burial and salvage work.
10	<p>Two Coys on salvage duty until 1200hrs</p> <p>1630 Bn moved brigaded to about F5.</p>
11	Bn refitting & resting. Revd Capt Lloyd to hospital.
12	Bn refitting & resting. Following arrived: Capt FA Trumper Lt Collins & ?? AND Lt ?? from hospital.
13	Bn resting; training commenced.
14	<p>Corps Comd presented Military medals to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sgt W H Harper</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">235921 ASgt H Ward</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">236085 LCpl Evans</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">236640 Griffiths</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">235702 Pte F A Cotterrell</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">235276 Pte kettle</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">236448 Cpl Lane</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sgt Dorrell MGC late Herefordshire Regiment.</p>
15	<p>Bn specialist training.</p> <p>57 ORs rejoin.</p>
16	A & B Coys to wells to wash. Specialist training.
17	Specialist training 2 coys to wash
18	Sunday, Parade service 1015. Lt Col Drage proceeded to Egypt on short leave. Capt ARG Whitehouse to Bde Staff. 2Lt Sheppard to hospital.
19	Coy training, route march advance & flank guards.
20	As per 19 th BGC presented Military Medal to Sgt ACSM Corner C Coy.
21	Coy & Specialist training, ½ coy animal burying, heavy rain during afternoon and night.
22	B&D Coys under Maj Capel MC moved to Y16b88 to work under RE, construction a road from Beersheba to Irgeig. ½ Coy animal burying. Revd Capt Lloyd from hospital.
23	Coy training. 2 Officers (Wilmot & Haynes) & 54 ORs to septic camp. Lt Parker from hospital.
24	Company and specialist training. 1 Coy burying animals.
25	Sunday DS 1000hrs. Bn HQ A&C Coys moved to Beersheeba. All ranks billeted in houses. Lt Parker from Div.
26	<p>Battalion working under REs 8am to 5.30pm making motor road.</p> <p>Military Cross awarded to Maj F L Evelyn and ACapt and Adjt W F Chipp.</p>
27	Bn working under REs. B & D rejoined. 4 Offrs Cheshire Regt joined from England; 2Lts Rook, Timmins, Speed & Davies and 46 ORs (23 from England (KSLI)).

28	Working under REs. BGC interviewed 7 NCOs for commissions.
29	Bn bathed at old Turkish shower baths
30	100 ORs working under REs. Specialist training.

1/1 Hertfordshire Regt.
Appendix to the WAR DIARY for November - 1917.

Appendix I - Casualties

	Killed		Wounded		Missing		Sick Admitted	
	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.
3 - 11 - 1917.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
10 - 11 - 1917.	6	74	5	107	-	10	2	37
17 - 11 - 1917	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
24 - 11 - 1917	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	24
30 - 11 - 1917.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Total.	6	74	5	107	-	10	3	116

Appendix II - Reinforcements

From England		From Hosp. (Sick)		From Hosp. (Wounded)		Various Sources		Total.		
O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.	O.	O.R.	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/11/17
2	-	1	15	-	-	1	1	4	16	11/11/17
4	-	1	8	-	-	-	19	5	27	18/11/17
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	26/11/17
4	24	-	17	-	3	1	3	5	47	1/12/17
10	24	3	40	-	3	2	23	15	90	Total.

The battle was also reported in the Hereford Guardian:

The Herefords.

FIVE OFFICERS FALL IN THE HOLY LAND.

Several Reported Wounded.

The casualty lists of the Herefordshire Regiment, as so far issued, comprises the names of several officers killed and wounded, and it is feared that the toll of other ranks will be heavy. The Regiment has taken a distinguished and gallant part in the recent capture of Gaza and Jaffa, and in the advance towards Jerusalem. The officers named already are:—

KILLED.

Capt. G. Norman Berney.
Capt. W. L. Carver.
Capt. E. S. Russell.
Lieut. P. Mitchell.
Second-Lieut. C. Vaughan.
Second-Lieut. J. H. Watts.

WOUNDED.

Capt. F. H. L. Evelyn.
Second-Lieut. W. H. Fisher.
Second-Lieut. L. W. Lewis.
Second-Lieut. G. Nayler.

CAPTAIN CARVER.

Capt. Walter L. Carver was the second son of Mr. Thomas Carver, J.P., of Meyrick House, Whitecross Road (Messrs. Jakeman and Carver, booksellers, etc.), Hereford. He was educated at the Hereford Cathedral School, and afterwards articled to Messrs. Gwynne James and Son, solicitors, of Hereford, for nearly three years. He then became associated with Messrs. Lupton and Fawcett, of Leeds, and subsequently with Messrs. Baker and Lillington, solicitors, of Weston-super-Mare, up to the time of his joining the 1st Herefordshire Regiment in September, 1914. He was with the Regiment in the memorable landing at Suvla Bay in August,

SECOND-LIEUT. FISHER.

Second-Lieut. W. H. Fisher, of the Herefordshire Regiment, was formerly of the Northumberland Fusiliers, and had been transferred.

PRIVATE W. C. T. JONES, HEREFORD.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jones, of Stonebow Road, have received the sad news that their eldest son, William Charles Thomas Jones, of the Herefordshire Regiment, has been killed in Palestine. The notification, which was from the Shrewsbury Records Office, read, "It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received from the War Office notifying the death of Private W. C. T. Jones, Herefordshire Regiment, which occurred at (place not stated), on November 6th, and I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council at your loss. The cause of death was killed in action." Much sympathy is felt with Mr. Jones, who is a porter at the railway station, and with Mrs. Jones and family. Private Jones, who was 24 years of age, was formerly employed at Messrs. Bradleys, outfitters, Eign Street, and just before joining the Army was engaged in South Wales. His younger brother, George, who is also in the Herefordshire Regiment, went through the Dardenelles campaign, and is at present home on leave; and Alfred is a stretcher bearer in the R.A.M.C. in France.

Private J. Fennell, of Hereford, also of the Herefordshire Regiment, is reported wounded.

LEOMINSTER MAN SUCCUMBS TO WOUNDS.

Private John Thomas Cleaton, Herefordshire Regiment, who died of wounds on November 11th, in Palestine, was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Cleaton, of Park Gate, Ivington. The parents received official notification on Monday morning. Private Cleaton would have celebrated his 21st birthday had he lived till the following Thursday. He was in the employ of the late Mr. Davis, of Baron's Cross Lodge, and afterwards as a butler in Ludlow. He joined under the Derby Scheme, and had been in Egypt and Palestine six months when he met with his death.

KINGTON MAN'S DEATH.

Fusiliers; and Private Harold Evans is in France with the West Yorks Regiment.

LEINTWARDINE MAN KILLED.

Another name has to be added to the roll of honour in connection with the village of Leintwardine, Mr. and Mrs. Corfield having received the news on the 10th inst. of the death in action of their second son, Hubert, who was shot through the head by a sniper whilst working his gun, and died facing the enemy. Heartfelt sympathy has been extended to the bereaved parents. Deceased belonged to the South Wales Borderers. Mr. and Mrs. Corfield have another son, Harry, serving with the Motor Transport Corps, who was formerly in the P.O. service, Leintwardine. Hubert's company officer writes: "It is my painful duty to inform you of the death in action of your son Hubert, on Saturday last, 10th November. He was shot through the head by a sniper whilst working his gun, and died instantly and painlessly. He was a good soldier and a very lovable boy, and we were very sorry to lose him, but he died advancing against the enemy, the noblest end which an Englishman can have. Please accept my sincerest sympathy."

LYDBROOK CORPORAL WOUNDED.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Jordan, of Upper Lydbrook, have been notified that their son, Corpl. Bert Jordan, has been wounded in the hips, back, and left leg, and is now in hospital near Sheffield, and progressing favourably.

HARDWICKE MAN'S DEATH IN FRANCE.

The death is announced in France, from meningitis, of Rifleman Robert Idle, London Regiment, younger son of the late Mr. W. Idle, of Hardwicke, near Hay.

HAY MEN FALL.

Private George Duggan, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was killed in action on October 26th. He had only returned to France 16 days after being home on sick leave. Much sympathy is felt for the widow and little son, who live at Lower Lodge, the Moor, Hay.

News has just been received that Sergeant Herbert Davies, Dulais Terrace, Hay, has been killed in France. Sergt. Davies leaves a widow and two children.

memorable landing at Suvla Bay in August, 1915, until the terrible storm at Gallipoli on November 25th. Afterwards he was sent to the hospital in Cairo and Alexandria suffering from frost bite. Recovering he rejoined his Regiment in September, 1916, and came home on leave for a short time. He contracted a chill on the return journey and was again in hospital in Alexandria with pleurisy and dysentery, from which he had not thoroughly recovered. He rejoined his Regiment in time for the first battle of Gaza on March 26th, 1917, luckily escaping any injury on that occasion. Later he was again in hospital in Alexandria for a short time, and after being practically cured of dysentery went back to his duties in time for the recent fighting in the Holy Land, and was killed in action on November 6th. He was a great lover of all old English games, football, cricket, rowing, hockey and tennis, being a fine all-round athlete. He was captain of football at school, and in the first XI. at cricket. At Leeds he played at hockey for the Leeds Corinthians many times, also for Yorkshire and the South of England. On going to Weston-super-Mare he joined the cricket and hockey clubs, and at the time of his joining up he was captain of both the cricket and the hockey clubs. He also captained Somersetshire at hockey, and played regularly at back for the county and the West of England in the inter-county matches. It was sheer bad luck that he did not get his English cap. He was also a good tennis player, and will be in the recollection of our readers that on the day before war was declared (Bank Holiday, August 3rd) he and Mr. Russell (afterwards Lieut. Russell, of the West Kents, who won the D.S.O.) carried off the leading honour in the men's doubles at the Whitecross tennis tournament at Hereford. As a member of an English touring XI. he played several matches in France and Germany. He was the only member who could speak a little German, and was called on to return thanks for the team at the banquet in their honour. The captain, after inviting him to bring over another team the next year, saluted him on the cheek. The Germans gave the Englishmen a great time, and the only part the deceased did not care for was being kissed on the cheek—by a man. On parting the German captain said, "Good-bye, old chap, we shall meet in two years' time on the battle-field." The greatest sympathy is felt with Mr. Carver and family in their great bereavement.

KINGTON MAN'S DEATH.

We regret to announce that information has been received that Lance-Corpl. E. Falconer, of Kington, died of wounds in Palestine on the 13th inst. Pte. Falconer was previous to the outbreak of hostilities in the employ of Messrs. James Meredith and Co., Kington, as an iron-mongers' assistant. He was well-built, standing over six feet in height, and joined the 1st Herefordshire Regiment in August, 1914, being present at the Suvla Bay landing and during the Gallipoli campaign. He was an enthusiastic cricketer and golfer.

KINNERSLEY MAN WOUNDED.

Private W. J. Weaver, Herefordshire Regiment, whose mother lives at Newton, Kinnersley, has been dangerously wounded whilst serving in the Near East.

It is a significant fact, and one which should be noted by relatives, that it has come to our knowledge that several men belonging to the old 1st Herefordshires have been returned in casualty lists as members of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, parents and other relatives having had no intimation beforehand that such transfer had taken place. It is, of course, well-known that the men of the 2nd Battalion, now serving in France, have been absorbed in the K.S.L.I., but it certainly was not known that any men on the Egyptian front had been transferred.

Other Local Casualties.

LIEUT. MEYRICK PARTRIDGE WOUNDED.

Lieut. Meyrick Partridge, Leicestershire Regiment, nephew of Miss James, of Glan Arrow, Kington, is in the Duchess of Westminster's Hospital in France with a left arm broken by shell explosion, and gassed. He was previously wounded at the battle of the Somme.

HEREFORD MEN WOUNDED.

Private C. Jones, of the R.A.M.C., is in hospital in England suffering from injuries to the left arm, sustained by the bursting of a shell whilst on active service in Flanders. Private Jones is married, and his parents live at Durban Place, Friars Street, Hereford.

Private D. J. Corbett, who has been serving in the Essex Regiment, in Palestine, has been wounded in both legs. His guardians, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rowberry, live at Belle Vue, Highmore Street, Hereford, and he himself used

and two children.

HAY MEN IN HOSPITAL.

Private Alfred Barber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Barber, Brecon Road, Hay, is in hospital at Bagdad suffering from sandfly fever. Sergt. Cyril Marwood, K.S.L.I., also of Hay, who has been in Salonica for 14 months, is in hospital suffering from malaria fever.

VELINDRE YEOMAN KILLED.

Trooper Reginald Price, Yeomanry, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Price, of Velindre, near Hay, has been killed in action.

The following casualties are notified this week:—

KILLED.

SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY.

Boucher (7146), W., Bromyard.
Harmer (12518), T. J., Ludlow.
Turner (236014), R., Hereford.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT.

Charles (32031), T., Hereford.

ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY.

Loade (32357), Gunner J., Newent.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY.

Millichamp (25054), G., Ludlow.

GRENADIER GUARDS.

Beddoes (17795), G., Ludlow.

Jones (16985), G., Whitechurch, Hereford.

MISSING.

SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY.

Chapman (236845), G., Leominster.

Cox (23630), T., Ludlow.

Dean (9940), Sergt. T., Ludlow.

James (24842), G. T., Kington.

Johns (10213), F. J., Hereford.

Watkins (25143), T., Hereford.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT.

Rooke (203657), G. E., Hereford.

MILITARY SERVICE.

Hereford City.

At the meeting of the Hereford City Tribunal on Tuesday, Mr. G. B. Greenland presided, and there were also present—Alderman F. R. James, Mr. M. Bailey, Mr. T. Godsall, and Mr. W. J. Bowers, and the National Service (late military) representative, Mr. A. Watkins. The following applications for further exemption from military service were considered:—
William Frederick Phelps, 22, married,

meet in two years' time on the battle-field." The greatest sympathy is felt with Mr. Carver and family in their great bereavement.

CAPTAIN BERNEY.

Capt. G. Norman Berney, of the Herefordshire Regiment, killed in action, before joining H.M. forces resided in London. He was a nephew of the Rev. Alfred Norris Cope and Mrs. Cope, of Dormington Vicarage, Hereford, and he was given his commission in the Herefordshire Regiment in 1914, soon after the outbreak of the war. Before taking up recruiting work, the Rev. A. N. Cope was Chaplain of the old Hereford Volunteers.

CAPTAIN RUSSELL.

Presteign people heard with regret of the death of Capt. Russell, of Bryan's Ground, Presteign, who was killed in action in Palestine on November 6th. Captain Edward Stanley Russell, M.C., Herefordshire Regiment, youngest son of the Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Russell, of Birmingham, was killed on November 6th. Born in 1882, he was educated at London University and Manchester College, Oxford, and was for three years assistant and co-minister at Ullet Road Church, Liverpool. In September, 1914, he enlisted in the Liverpool Regiment, and soon became corporal and then sergeant. In February, 1915, he received a commission in the Herefordshire Regiment, with which he landed at Suvla Bay in August, 1915. Later he was invalided home with typhoid fever. He rejoined again in the spring of 1916, and shortly afterwards went to another front where he won the Military Cross. Capt. Russell married in 1913 Elizabeth Durning Holt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Durning Holt, of Liverpool, and leaves a son, who was born on the day war was declared.

CAPTAIN EVELYN.

Capt. F. H. L. Evelyn, of the Herefordshire Regiment, killed in action, was a son of the late Mr. Evelyn, late of Kinsham Court, Presteign, and a nephew of Mr. J. S. Ahkwright, D.L., J.P., now of Kinsham Court.

LIEUT. VAUGHAN.

We regret to announce that information has been received that Lieut. Charles Vaughan, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Vaughan, Kington, was killed in action on November 6th, in Palestine, whilst serving with the Herefordshire Regiment. Lieut. Vaughan was a private in the 1st Herefordshire prior to the outbreak of war, and mobilised in August, 1914. He was promoted to sergeant, quartermaster-sergeant, and was subsequently sergeant-major. He went abroad with his regiment, and was present at the landing of Suvla Bay and in the Gallipoli campaign. He was recently awarded the D.C.M. for his services, and in September last he was granted a commission in his regiment. He has two brothers serving, one in the same regiment as the deceased, and the other with the Mechanical Transport in France. In civil life Lieut. Vaughan was a traveller for a wholesale cloth warehouse. He was 26 years of age and unmarried.

LIEUT. WATTS.

Second-Lieut. J. H. Watts, of the Herefordshire, who has been killed, has connections with Ledbury, having held an appointment in the National Provincial Bank there. He is a son of Mr. T. Watts, of Cowbridge.

LIEUT. MITCHELL.

The death is reported in action (he was killed on Nov. 6th) of Lieut. Percy Mitchell, of the Herefordshire Regiment. He was a Warwickshire man, his father being Mr. Frank W. V. Mitchell, of 25, Augustus Road, Edgbaston, and of Claverdon, Warwick. He leaves a wife (nee Miss Muriel Raymond) to mourn his loss. He lived at the Hermitage, Canon Pyon, near Hereford.

SECOND-LIEUT. NAYLER.

Second-Lieut. George Nayler, of the Herefordshire Regiment, wounded, is the only son of Mr. George Nayler (Naylor and Co., Ltd., engineers, etc., Friars Street), of New Grove, Whitecross Road. Prior to May, 1915, he was a pupil in the office of the City Surveyor (Mr. John Parker, C.E.) at the Town Hall, Hereford, and in that month he joined the army, and was appointed to the recruiting department at Shrewsbury. Later he was gazetted to the Herefordshire Regiment. He has been wounded in the left arm, and is in hospital in Alexandria. He is 22 years of age.

in the Essex Regiment, in Palestine, has been wounded in both legs. His guardians, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rowberry, live at Belle Vue, Highmore Street, Hereford, and he himself used to be employed by the well-known cider firm of Messrs. H. P. Bulmer and Co.

LEOMINSTER MAN KILLED.

Mrs. Abbott, of Pember's Court, Etnam Street, Leominster, received official notification on Tuesday morning that her husband, Private James Abbott, of the West Yorks Regiment, "died on 13th November in the 3rd Canadian Casualty Station, France, of wounds received in action (gunshot wounds back penetrating)." Private Abbott, who was 38 years of age, was for 15 years employed at Pinsley Mill. He joined the A.S.C. in December, 1914, and went to France in August last with the West Yorks. He leaves a widow and four young children.

News has only just been received by Mr. J. J. Biddle, of the death of his nephew, Major Leslie Biddle, D.S.O., which took place on August 18th as the result of wounds received in action. He was a captain in the Commonwealth Field Artillery previous to the war, and went to the Dardanelles with the Victorian Battery, said to be the first to land in Suvla Bay. He received the D.S.O. for three days' work in France as liaison officer. When the telephone wires were cut, he repeatedly went through heavy barrage fire. He was wounded on the third day. He was then promoted to major, and was mentioned in despatches, and was decorated by the King in March last. Major Biddle on that occasion paid a visit to Leominster, his father's native town. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Biddle, of Melbourne. Mr. James Biddle has been in Australia for 30 years, and during that period he has carried out many very large building contracts for the Government.

LEOMINSTER MEN WOUNDED.

Sergt. Cecil Biddle, Welsh Regiment, who was wounded on October 21st, is a son of Mr. J. J. Biddle and Mrs. Biddle, Leominster. Official notification has been received, but no details are yet to hand, the form simply stating that he was wounded on the date named. Sergt. Biddle was in the Glamorganshire Yeomanry, and was mobilised on the outbreak of war, and

was with the rest of his troop embodied in the Welsh Regiment when they went on active service. He fought in the Battle of Gaza in March last, and has been in action on several occasions since. This is the second time he has been wounded, the previous wound being a flesh wound.

On Sunday morning Mr. and Mrs. George Preedy, of 13, Green Lane, Leominster, received official notification that their youngest son, Lance-Corpl. Sidney Preedy, K.S.L.I., was "in hospital at Kantara seriously ill with compound fracture of the right thigh." Lance-Corpl. Preedy was with the Herefordshire at Gallipoli, and was wounded there. He has been in Egypt and Palestine 18 months. This official notification is the first the parents have heard that he was with the K.S.L.I., they being under the impression that he was still in the Herefordshire Regiment. He has three brothers serving; John T. Preedy is with the Machine Gun Corps, and was wounded in the first Battle of Gaza; Edward Preedy has been in France 17 months; and George Preedy is on his way to the front.

Private W. Dunning, formerly of Leominster, was badly wounded on the morning of September 24th. A large piece of shrapnel took a piece of flesh away just above the knee, and he was also wounded in the stomach. A serious illness followed from the poison from the shrapnel, and pneumonia set in. He is now in hospital at Chelmsford. Private Dunning was formerly a printer in Leominster, and took a leading part in the formation of the Brotherhood movement in the town.

STRETFORD MAN WOUNDED AND MISSING.

Private C. E. Haynes, S.W.B., son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Haynes, of Stretford Bridge, has been reported wounded and missing since October 22nd. Private Haynes, who joined the Herefordshire, and was attached to the Border Regiment, was previously wounded in November, 1916, in France.

SHOBDON SOLDIER WOUNDED.

Private William Evans, West Yorks Regiment, son of Mrs. Evans, of Easthampton, Shobdon, is in hospital at Leicester, suffering from severe gunshot wounds received in France on October 14th. He joined the A.S.C. in November, 1914, and on going out to France in August last he was attached to the West Yorks. Mrs. Evans has her husband and three sons serving in the Army. Her husband, Sergt. P. J. Evans, is in the A.S.C. on the East Coast; Sergt. Gordon Evans is in India with the Welsh

From Sgt Colley's recollections:

Two days later we were taken out of the line for a rest and camped for a few days at El Sakati before withdrawing to Beersheba, where we stayed until 13 Dec. The time was mostly occupied in refitting and collecting enemy stores and equipment which had been left behind in his hurried retreat. We were billeted in empty native houses and 2 large buildings that had been built by the Germans and used as barracks. We were settling down and making ourselves comfortable for Christmas; but our luck was out and on 17 Dec orders came for a 6 day trip through Hebron and Bethlehem to Jerusalem which had fallen a few days earlier. For the first 2 days the march was excellent and then we had the first sample of the winter rain of Southern Palestine. It rained unceasingly for 4 days and nights, and each night we bivouaced in a ploughed field, the mud and water being very depressing. The road was one continual stream of mud. We were drenched but after passing through Bethlehem, we caught our first glimpse of the Golden City, which had the effect of cheering us up a little. We marched through the outskirts of Jerusalem, watched and perhaps amused by the inhabitants of many nationalities. They all appeared half starved but obviously pleased that the Turkish occupation had come to an end. Contrary to expectations we were not billeted in buildings and everyone was fed up, especially seeing that we were drenched through and had been for days, and also seeing that there were many vacant buildings about.

Christmas was the wettest and most miserable that I have ever, and hope again never to experience. Everyone was washed out of his bivouac and the blankets and kit floated about discarded. To cap all, rations were short and it was impossible to purchase in Jerusalem, the population being extremely short of rations. It was a common sight to see the inhabitants around the horse lines picking out oats that had fallen from the horses feed. English was spoken by many of the Russian Jews who had learnt it in the Rothschild School before the war. Many were the pitious tales told of the cruelties of the Turkish occupation. Christmas afternoon the Brigade took compassion on us and we were ordered to a Dominican Monastery, where we moved and rain soaked blankets and kit. The Monastery was a lovely building built of stone and marble. Everyone was more than pleased to find a dry sleeping place and we all enjoyed a good nights rest, although our blankets were wet.

Our stay here lasted 2 days, before we moved out again. Over the Mount of Olives where the Turks were holding a line prior to a general counter attack to regain Jerusalem. This they did on 27 Dec but they were totally repulsed with great loss; in fact they were driven back a total of 12 miles. We got into action and captured the village of Anata with slight loss to ourselves. Our work was again complimented by the GOC and we halted for a couple of days at the village of Hismek, 2 miles to the north of Anata and 4 miles north east of Jerusalem, pushing on again after a couple of days. We reached Ain El Sulta, the place spoken of in the Bible with Rebecca at the well. Here we experienced more rain and heaps of men suffered from frost bite and trench foot, much to the annoyance of CO and BGC. Many were the wires ordering the use of whale oil. Nothing of great interest happened in this camp and after a few weeks werelieved by the Welsh Fusiliers in the line at Beitin, the Bethel of the Bible.

A raid was carried out on one of the villages between the lines, but owing to the number of enemy troops being more than we expected we withdrew with only a couple of casualties. About this time fighting practically ceased, and after a couple of weeks we were taken out of the line to Birch for a rest. Training and cleaning up and many ceremonial parades were the order of the day and entirely along the whole front was a great calm. We did several hours in the line at Sheikh Uisef, but very little excitement occurred. The enemy was continually driving the civilian inhabitants into our lines, probably to increase the great difficulty that was experienced in hiding these half starved wretches. We were ordered to send these back and not let anyone pass the outpost line without a permit.

The Joint of Mutton

It was after we had been withdrawn from the line after the battle of Khuweilfeh, that the remains of the Battalion moved back to a place called El Sakati to the north of Beersheba for a rest and re-equipping. We had had a most gruelling time for 3 weeks and the rest was very welcome to those who were left to carry on after some heavy fighting.

We had pitched our camp on a wild piece of country and the rest was doing us good, but contrary to expectations we did not get normal rations. The Bully Beef still remained and many heaved a sigh when thoughts wandered to past dishes of stew and fresh meat. Great therefore was the excitement amongst a few when it became known that there was meat being cooked on the HQ's field cooker. Inquiries made showed the QMS had 'touched' for a joint of mutton from the HFC Dump. How we all wished we were QMSs. Great was the envy of all who smelt the savory joint cooking. However the joint being nearly done, the RSM and QMSs were in their dugout waiting for the master cook to bring in the joint. The table was laid nicely and everything was in readiness for the feast.

The thoughts of the joint caused the RSM and QMSs to smack their lips, when at last the sergeant cook was heard approaching with the joint and vegetables. On arrival at the dug out the sgt cook had to stoop, owing to the low doorway and in doing so placed the pan containing the joint on the floor outside the dug out, while he placed the pan containing the vegetables on the table inside. He turned round to reach for the joint when lo and behold it had disappeared completely and not a soul in sight. Great was the anger and annoyance of the expectant diners and a search was immediately made of all the HQ mens bivouacs. Cooks and storemen were questioned, but no trace was to be found of the missing joint. It had vanished completely. What became of it was never known to those chiefly concerned, but I learnt the truth later on.

I was passing one of C Coys' bivouacs and heard signs of great merriment and on peeping in, I saw 3 men with looks of devilment on their faces, eagerly devouring hot mutton. It appeared that one of these men who was well known in his company as being an apt pupil of the Fagin type, had watched his chance well and at last when for a second, the sgt cook turned his back the chance presented itself and he ---- the light fingered merchant had hurriedly placed the hot joint under his tunic and cleared off immediately. To this day the RSM and QMSs do not know where the joint of mutton which they were eagerly and anxiously waiting to devour, disappeared to, but I have no doubt that the individuals who eventually partook of it, appreciated it just as much as the rightful owners without being troubled by their consciences.



Sampson's Ridge from Hereford Ridge, 7th November 1917



No. 1 Dump. Hereford Ridge, 6th November 1917

Modern views of the Khuwelfeh battlefield (now an Israeli kibbutz) showing Turkish trenches.



Casualties

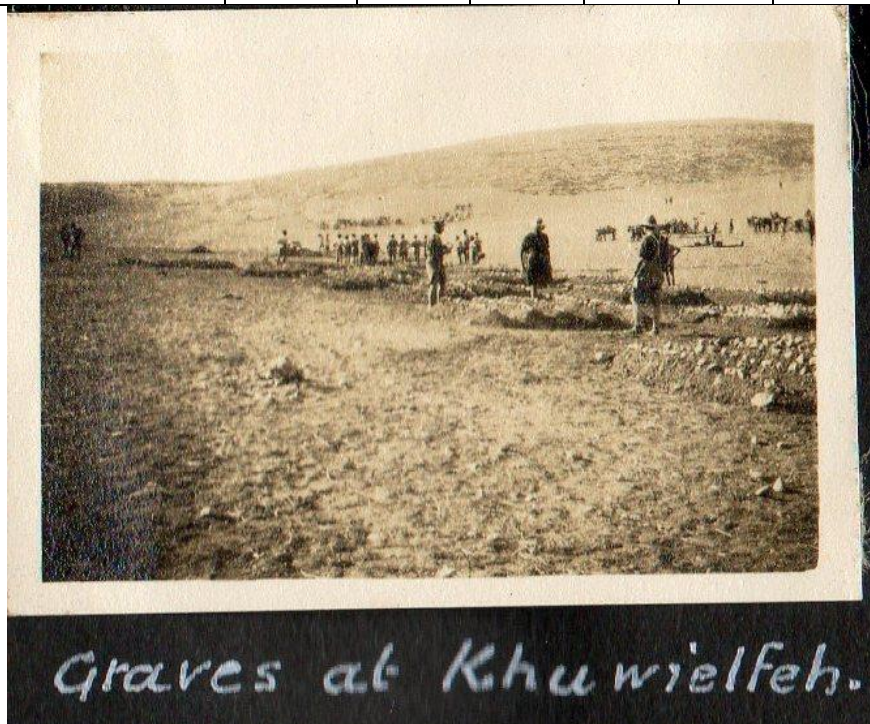
Captain John Fox-Russell was the 24 years old, Regimental Medical Officer of the 1/6th Bn The Royal Welch Fusiliers, he was attached to the Herefordshire Regiment during the Third Battle of Battle of Gaza and was awarded the Victoria Cross 'On 6 November 1917 at Tel-el-Khuweilfeh, Palestine, Captain Russell repeatedly went out to attend to the wounded under murderous fire from snipers and machine-guns. In many cases where no other means were at hand he carried casualties in himself, although almost exhausted. He was, at last, fatally wounded.'



NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown
GURNEY	HENRY VALENTINE	LCPL	3319	236147	01 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER
TEAGUE	ALBERT HERBERT	SGT	983	235083	01 Nov	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD
ADAMS	FREDERICK T	AlCpl	737	235050	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD
BEAUMONT	WILLIAM	PTE		239076	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LUGWARDINE
BELL	JOHN	PTE		238880	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	BRIDGNORTH
BERNEY	GEORGE NORMAN	CAPT			06 Nov	KIA	MEF	WIMBLEDON
BERROW	JOHN ALBERT	PTE		238894	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	CLEHONGER
BOSLEY	THOMAS HAROLD	PTE	3307	236137	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	CRADLEY
BROWN	WILLIAM	PTE		238925	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	WOOLHOPE
CARVER	WALTER LIONEL	CAPT			06 Nov	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD
CHADD	WALTER CLIFFORD	SGT	612	235043	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEDBURY
CLAYTON	ALBERT	PTE	3257	236104	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	KINGSLAND
COOKE	WILLIAM HOLT	PTE	3951	236516	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	BROMYARD
CRUMP	PERCY	PTE	2168	235634	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD
DAVIES	JOHN	PTE	3854	236455	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	CANON PYON
DAWES	LUTHER ADOLPHUS	PTE/LCPL	1245	235165	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD
EAST	HAROLD HENRY	PTE		239021	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LLANTRISANT
EDMUNDSON	HARRY	PTE		237381	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	ST HELENS
ELLIS	DAVID	PTE	3990	236544	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER
FLEETWOOD	WILLIAM	PTE	2000	235549	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	HOLMER
FOWLER	HERBERT	PTE	4211	236702	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER
FOWLER	HERBERT	PTE	4211	236702	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER
GARDINER	ARTHUR R	PTE	3291	236125	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER
GITTINS	ALLAN THOMAS	PTE	3304	236135	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	CRADLEY
GREEN	JAMES	CPL		236482	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	BOSBURY

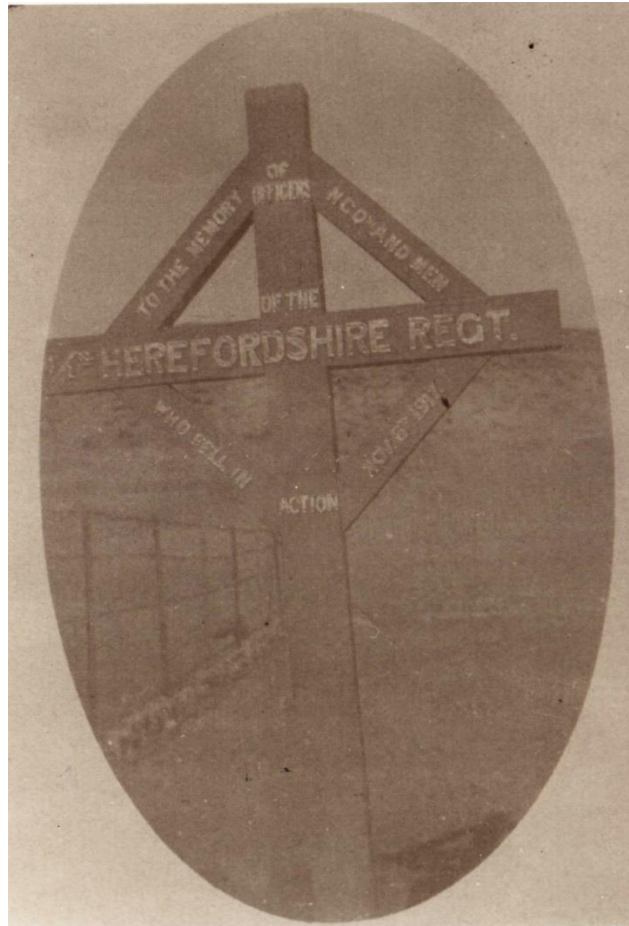
GREEN	JOHN HENRY	PTE	2159	235631	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	MORDIFORD
GRIFFITHS	WILLIAM	PTE	3871	236468	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	CANON PYON
HARLEY	ARTHUR	PTE		239036	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	RADNOR
HARRIS	WALTER HENRY	PTE	4306	236752	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	HAMPTON BISHOP
HODGES	REGINALD ALBERT	PTE	4058	236588	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD
JONES	HARRY	PTE	4264	236730	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEDBURY
JONES	HENRY	PTE	3880	236474	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD
JONES	WALLACE RALPH	PTE	3987	236541	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	ROSS
JONES	WILLIAM	PTE	3802	236421	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	
JONES	WILLIAM CHARLES T	PTE	3668	236337	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	RHYADER
KEY	ERNEST JAMES	PTE		238859	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	
LANE	JAMES	PTE	3303	236134	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	BROMYARD
LAWRENCE	GEORGE	PTE	3666	236335	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	MALVERN
LEACH	STEPHEN THOMAS	PTE	3994	236547	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	RADNOR
LEDDINGTON	BERTRAM GEORGE	LCPL	3663	236332	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER
LEWIS	JOHN	PTE		236832	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	WEOBLEY
LLOYD	ERNEST HAROLD	PTE	2456	235773	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	ROSS
MANSELL	STANLEY HAMES	PTE	3619	236299	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEDBURY
MARKLOVE	HARRY HARMER	PTE	3134	236052	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	ROSS
MASON	GEORGE ALBERT	PTE		236900	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEDBURY
MASON	HAROLD JOHN	PTE	3848	236452	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LLANGOLLEN
MATTHEWS	EDWARD	PTE	2224	235666	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	RUARDEAN
MEEK	EDWARD JAMES	CPL	1475	235282	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LYDBROOK
MITCHELL	PERCY MASCHWITZ	LT			06 Nov	KIA	MEF	MALVERN
MOORE	WILLIAM RICHARD	PTE		238881	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	DILWYN
MORRIS	JAMES	PTE	3351	236168	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	WORCESTER
MOSS	ERNEST	PTE	1140	235125	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	BROMYARD
NAYLOR	JAMES	PTE	4312	236756	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	BODENHAM
NEWSNS	WILLIAM	PTE		236852	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	MADELY SALOP
NICHOLLS	EVAN DAVID	PTE		238820	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	RADNOR
NICHOLLS	WILLIAM THOMAS	PTE	4101	236620	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	YARKHILL
NOBLE	EDWIN GEORGE	LCPL	2309	235704	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	WITHINGTON
OLIVER	WILLIAM	PTE	1176	235136	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	FROMESHILL
PARSONS	JOHN ALFRED JAMES	PTE	4104	236622	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	BURGHILL
PITT	JOHN CHARLES	PTE	3760	236395	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	KINGSTONE
PRICE	EVAN	PTE		239042	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	RADNOR
PRICE	JOHN WESLEY	PTE		238966	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LUDLOW
ROBERTS	EDWARD HENRY	PTE		238940	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LUDLOW
RUSSELL	EDWARD STANLEY	CAPT			06 Nov	KIA	MEF	PRESTIEGNE
RYDER	CHARLES	PTE	2286	235696	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	WORMELOW
SMITH	PERCY	PTE	2821	235894	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	ROSS

STOKES	LEWIS CHARLES	LCPL	1373	235239	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	OLD RADNOR
SWIFT	THOMAS WILLIAM	PTE		238842	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	BISHOPS CAST
TAYLOR	HUGH NOBLE	LCPL	1692	235389	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	Bishopswood
TONG	WILLIAM ALBERT	PTE		236642	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER
TRUMPER	BERTRAM CLIFFORD	LCPL	1312	235205	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	EARDISLEY
VAUGHAN	CHARLES	CSM/2LT	1079	235104	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	KINGTON
WALTERS	CHARLES EDWIN	PTE		238928	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	MUNSLEY
WATKINS	JAMES	PTE	2959	235996	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD
WATTS	JOHN HOWE	CPL/2LT	2143	235622	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEDBURY
WHITCOMBE	GWILYM	PTE	3222	236087	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LLANDRIDOD
WILKINS	PERCY CHARLES	PTE	2563	235818	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	BURGHILL
WILLIAMS	REGINALD	PTE	1687	238817	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	LEOMINSTER
WILLIAMS	THOMAS	SGT	1677	235378	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD
WILSON	WALTER	PTE	2682	235856	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	WELLINGTON
WITHERSTONE	ALBERT HENRY	PTE		238812	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	HEREFORD
WRIGHT	JOHN	PTE		237321	06 Nov	KIA	MEF	ULVERSTON
BIRKS	GEORGE ALBERT	PTE		238188	07 Nov	DOW	MEF	LIVERPOOL
JONES	WALTER JAMES	PTE	3573	236267	07 Nov	KIA	MEF	ROSS
WILDE	JOHN JOSEPH	PTE		237965	07 Nov	DOW	MEF	OLDHAM
PUGH	THOMAS	PTE		238803	08 Nov	DOW	MEF	TENBURY
HOLMES	ARTHUR	LCPL	4051	236582	09 Nov	DOW	MEF	GRAFTON
CLEATON	THOMAS CHARLES	PTE		239307	11 Nov	DOW	MEF	LUDLOW
FALCONER	EDGAR	LCPL	1566	235317	13 Nov	DOW	MEF	ROSS
HUGHES	WILLIAM RICHARD	PTE		238933	16 Nov	DIED	MEF	BREDENBURY





The Herefordshire Regimental cemetery & Memorial at Khuwelfeh



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. 36, or from other official documentary sources.

TF

Unit 1/1st HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

9/1st Here/R/83

Rank ACTING CAPTAIN.

Name BERNEY G.N.



By whom reported O.C. 1/1st HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

*hp
9*

Date of death 6/11/17.

Moted
F. 3. ROOM 353.

Died

Place or Hospital in the Field. Palestine,

Cause of Death Killed in Action.

Place of Burial Grave. A. 5. 158th Brigade Cemetery. Tel. Khuweilfeh.

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 } *Musaka* Lieut.

Adjutant-General's Office at the Base. }
i/c No 2 Records Section
3rd Echelon G.H.Q.E.E.F.

Station and date Alexandria. 12/12/17.

* 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.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 1/25 Herefordshire Regt.
 Regimental No. _____ Rank Lieut Name Russell E. J.
 Enlisted (a) _____ Terms of Service (d) _____ Service reckons from (a) 833
 Date of promotion to present rank _____ Date of appointment to lance rank _____ Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os. _____
 Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) _____

139

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 35, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 35, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
24.5.16	O.C. Base Alexandria	Embarked for E.E.F. per H.T. Arcadian	Debonfort	4.5.16	Letter.
15.5.16	Ship	Disembarked to Base	Alexandria	15.5.16	Dory.
27.5.16	Unit	Joined	Beni Salama	26.5.16	B213.
22.3.17	L.S.	To be Temporary Lieutenant	—	9.4.16	Letter Ensign
20.4.17	L.S.	To be Temporary Captain	S.S.T.	10.4.17	hit 279. 1712
17.5.17	S.R.O.	Awarded Military Cross	S.S.T.	17.5.17	hit 286. 1714 18. 1717
2.7.17	L.S.	To be Lieutenant (A Captain) with precedence from 1.6.16	—	4.7.17	18 3717. 1712
11.11.17	Unit	Killed in Action	Field	6.11.17	B213.

1620121 hit
 3rd. ECHELON
 EGYPTIAN, EUPHY FORCE
 No 2 RECORDS SECTION.
 G.H.Q. BASE EGYPT
 11 JAN 1918

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D. Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
 (b) e.g. Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

Ledbury Guardian & Herefordshire Advertiser
 Saturday December 15th 1917

Ledbury War Items
 THE LATE PRIVATE JONES

Mrs Worthington, New Bridge Street, Ledbury has received a letter from Lieutenant R E Haynes of the Herefords relating to the death of her grandson Private Jack Jones of the Herefords who was killed in the Palestine fighting on November 6th. The letter is as follows "I take the first opportunity of writing to offer my deep sympathy in your sad bereavement, but I hope it will be a consolation to know that he died bravely facing a determined enemy. I am very proud of him as I'm sure you are. He worthily upheld the traditions of the British soldier. I also feel his loss very heavily, for he was in my platoon. He was buried reverently on the field of battle and if after crosses are erected, it is possible to obtain a photograph I will at once send you one. If I am spared I hope to have the pleasure of calling upon you when I return to England. Your grandson was hit in the head and must have died instantly and without suffering"

Ledbury Guardian & Herefordshire Advertiser
Saturday December 1st 1917

Ledbury War Items

STANLEY H MANSELL

Mr and Mrs W Mansell, Wild House, Ledbury, on Friday last, received official notification that their fifth son, Private Stanley H Mansell fell in action on November 6th at the early age of 19 years (in August last) Private Mansell is one of five brothers at present serving. As a boy he was apprenticed by the India and China Tea Company as a grocer's assistant, but early in 1915 being under 17 years joined the third line of the County regiment then being formed. In the summer of 1916 he went out with a draft to the first line in Egypt and took part in the fighting at Gaza last spring, and with seven others was wandering about for two days before they found the battalion again. He was with Company Sergeant Morris when he was killed. Private Mansell was for many years a boy chorister at the Parish Church and he has a brother serving in the county regiment.



Beersheba CWGC, where the fatalities from Khuwelfeh were eventually buried.

Pte Evan Nicholls from Radnor has enlisted in late 1915, and this photograph was probably taken soon after that in England.

Below is a letter of condolence to his sister from the Regimental Padre of the 1/5 Royal Welsh Fusilier, a Battalion in the same Brigade as The Herefords.



1/5 Royal Welsh Fusiliers
T.G.J
Palestine

April 20th 1918

My dear Miss Nicholls,

Your letter of March 15th has just been handed to me. I will tell you all I can.

You must understand that the Herefords attacked the Turkish Palestine at dawn on Nov. 6th: they made a magnificent dash penetrating a long way into the enemy's line; the other battalions on their flanks did not push on so far, so that the Herefords had later in the day to come back some distance: many were killed in the advance among them your brother: their bodies could not be recovered till the 8th when we sent the Turkish to flight. In the meantime the Turks had robbed the dead of all they possessed – your brother Evan had but his shirt, trousers and identity discs upon him. The Herefords chaplain being sick I buried your poor boy with the others that have died there on the battlefield. If I can get you a photograph of his grave I will send it to you.

There is no doubt in my mind that it was you brother (238820 E.D Nicholls) I buried – he was identified by his companions who told me that he fell in that magnificent charge of the Herefords: his effects, if any have since been found, will be sent to you by the War Office.

I know, my dear child, that his loss must be a terrible blow to you all at home; this world war has made many a fireside dark and chill: our loss is Heaven's gain; God has willed to take Evan back to Himself: there He is keeping him safe and happy for the great reunion where there shall be no more sorrow nor weeping. Be of good heart till then, I know Evan would have, so may God bless you and strengthen you all: may this comfort be with you all the days till the end is the earnest prayer of

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ
T. George Griffin L.F



Pte Percy Crump



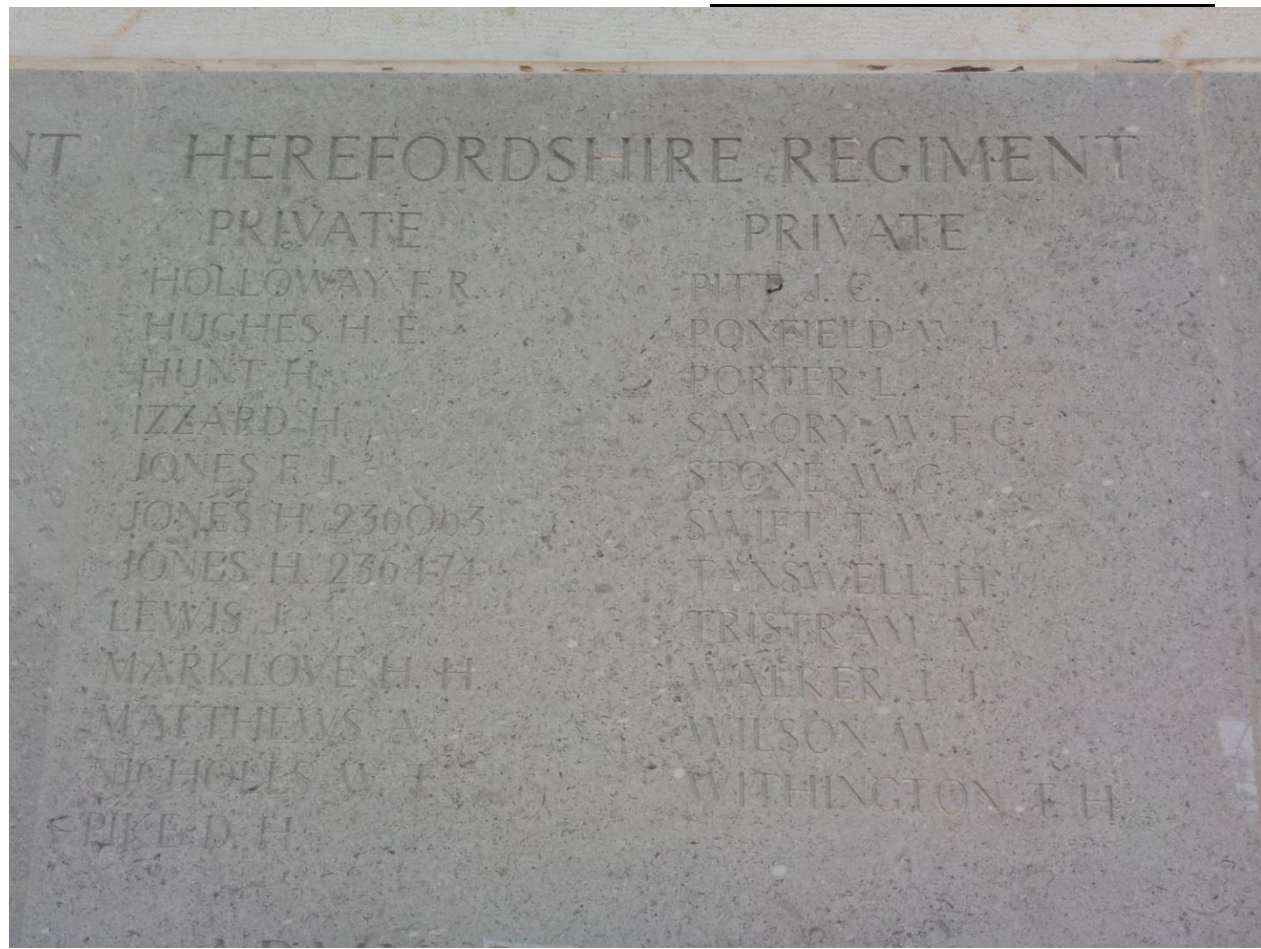
Pte W Jones

Pte W Jones headstone in Beersheeba CWGC

THIRD SON KILLED IN THE WAR.
News has been received by Mr. T. Jones, of 11 New Street, Ross, that another of his sons, Pte. Wallace Jones, of the Herefordshire Regiment, was killed in action in Palestine on November 6th, 1917. This, we understand, is the third son of Mr. Jones who has made the supreme sacrifice in this war. At one time there were no less than eight of his boys serving, and we deeply sympathise with him in the severe loss he has sustained. Pte W. Jones was 20 years of age.



Jerusalem CWGC where the names of those, killed in Palestine and with no known grave are commemorated.



The service record of 1161 Pte Reginald Hall from Credenhill, who was initially reported as Killed in Action, but later discovered as a prisoner of the Turks.

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
2.5.16	Hopell	Ad. Military Infanteries Depot N.Y.D.	Shouba	2.5.16	R6918.
4.5.16	do	Dangrosby Hill Station	do	4.5.16	In letter R12160.
7.7.16	do	Trans to Ammunition Depot Mabrouk "Antaria"	Sains	7.7.16	R10208. R10328.
12.8.16	Hopell	Dis to Duty	Sains	12.8.16	R12289.
13.8.16	Mink	Rejoined	Romoni	13.8.16	B213.
14.11.16	P.M.	Granted 1 day 6d.	Shawbury	5.9.16	Self hon 17051. 17594. 3120
11.8.17	13 WFA	Advt bellitis done 1	Field	5.8.17	R9059.
11.9.17	3681 Army	Discharged to duty	Shouba	11.9.17	R27368.
15.9.17	Vol 980	Arrived	do	12.9.17	R903A.
30.9.17	Mink	Rejoined	Field	27.9.17	B213.
11.11.17	Mink	Killed in Action Prisoner of War in Turkey. D.O. Killed in Action 6/4/17 Pl. 364 of 19.3.18	do	6.11.17	B213.
			R.36/32288/	19.3.18	Hussain Lieut 1/c.

3rd. ECHELON
EGYPTIAN, EXPDY FORCE
No 2 RECORDS
SECTION,
G.H.Q. Base Egypt

Maj Yates and Lt Rogers joined the Battalion after the Battle of Khuwelfeh; extracts from their diaries follow:

Lt Rogers - Diary Nov 1917

Date	Detail
Sat Nov 17 1917.	I joined the Battalion which was resting at TEL ES SAKATI on the Hebron Road after the Battle of Khuwelfeh. They were in bivouac quite close to the road.
Sun Nov 18 1917.	Church Parade in the morning, and a lecture on the country in the afternoon.
Mon Nov 19 1917.	The Battalion did extended order Drill by Companies In the morning on the hills round about, in the afternoon we did musketry, but visual training was very difficult, as no objects were to be seen on these barren hills, and one looked exactly like another.
Tue Nov 20 1917.	Training In the morning. In the afternoon C Coy marched about 2 miles to a well called Bir Bl Hassan to wash. The well was quite interesting, being about 80 feet deep and more than 2,000 years old. Bedouins came to draw water, and were greatly delighted at being photographed. On the way

	back we had the first rain of the season. It was a very tropical downpour, and literally drenched us to the skin, for we were of course clad only in shirts and shorts.
Wed Nov 21 1917.	The rain stopped and the sun came out. We spent the day drying our soaked belongings.
Thu Nov 22 to Sat Nov 24 1917.	Training or bathing at the same well as before, or burying dead horses of which there were many on the roads.
Sun Nov 25 1917.	The Battalion moved at about 1pm. along the Hebron Road to Beersheba reaching there in about three hours. Here we went into billets which were very dirty and not very sanitary.
Mon Nov 26 to Nov 30 1917.	Marched or drove in motor lorries each day by companies to or beyond WADI MAOHIR and spent the day there road making on the road towards ABU IREOIG. We left each day about 7.45am taking haversack rations, and returned the five miles or so marching, for the lorries were mostly full when they were going towards BEERSHBA. We usually got back about 6pm. Major Francis RE was In charge of the work.

Maj Yates - diary

PALESTINE – 1917

I did not rejoin the Battalion until after Beersheba was taken, in which attack the 53rd Div held the left flank against a possible counter attack. On arrival at Harm, the railhead of the Beersheba Force, I was put in charge of the Div Reinforcements (about 1000 men and 50 camels) and marched the first day to Beersheba and the second day up to the Div that had been attacking Khuweilfeh (we got machine gunned by 2 planes and the way but luckily got away with only one man being hit).

I joined the Battalion on 8th Nov 1917 and the battle of Khuweilfeh was just over the ground before the dead were buried. This was probably the fiercest fight the Herefords ever put up. The Turks had rushed across all their reserve and most of their centre to try to hold off the enveloping movement of the Beersheba Force and units of no less than 4 Divs were identified on the front of the 53 Div.

The Turks had taken up a commanding position on a range of hills running north and south and protecting the wells at Khuweilfeh. It was decided to attack them and the Herefords were allotted a front to 1,000 yards on the extreme right with the exception of the Australian Camel Corps which were withdrawn during the course of the battle. The attack was delivered at night and the formation was 4 companies in line in column of platoons extended. Only a 4 minute bombardment was allowed and then the assault was delivered with rifles unloaded. It was completely successful the enemy had no time to recover before our men were on the position. They pushed on through the jumble of hills that made keeping touch and direction difficult. It was when the enemy counter attacks were delivered that the fighting became bitter. Lt Peake [*Capt Berney*?] and a party of men and a few 6 RWF pushed forward and rushed 9 guns at the foot of the hills and bayoneted the gunners. Unfortunately the CO of the 7 RWF mistook them for Turks and had our guns open up on to them. The fire was very accurate and very few of our men got away. The Turks then got the guns away.

Machine guns caused a lot of trouble all the next day. It was impossible to advance and our men had to hang on grimly, picked up by the machine guns if they moved. During the advance on the first night there was a

tendency to bear to the left and that left a hill on the extreme right unoccupied. Afterwards I found a machine gun put on the reverse slope of this hill knee deep in cartridge cases.

An officer of the 6 RWF (on the left of the Herefords) told me that from his position he could see about 100 Turks advancing against a position held by about 15 Herefords who were unaware of it and owing to the distance they could not be warned. It was apparent that our men would be wiped out and my informant said he immediately took steps to protect his own flank as a result. When the Turks were within a few yards the little party saw them and without an instants hesitation jumped up and went for them with the bayonet and drove them back.

After 24 hours fighting the enemy retreated leaving us the coveted wells – very precious wells as the animals had had to be sent back 12 miles to Beersheba to water after being 72 hours without water.

Col Drage earned the admiration of the men by his bold leading in the firing line at a critical period of the fight. The Hereford losses were about 100 killed and 100 wounded. Three of the 4 Company Commanders were killed and the other one wounded. After the first assault Capt Carver went forward alone to recce to see if it was safe to take his men on, his batman followed him and saw him hit by a bomb and killed.

It was decided not to undertake the task of fighting up through the hills to Hebron, so the whole of the Beersheba Force was withdrawn to Gaza and sent to join the main army through Ludd, the 53rd Div being left alone on the Beersheba – Hebron road. The 158 Bde moved back to Sakale, about 5 miles north of Beersheba and later employed on road mending and making. It was time well spent as, when we moved up north, a very efficient motor supply service was maintained over this road.

Nov 25th the Battalion moved to Beersheba. All the native inhabitants had deserted the place under the Turkish regime, and the many roofless houses gave it the appearance of having been shelled; as a matter of fact the Turkish had taken the roofs as they were so short of timber. Our men were billeted in the bazaar like shops and seemed glad to be under cover again – dirty though it was.

The 158 Bde had no part in the taking of Jerusalem although the other brigades of the 53 Div seem to have made it possible. We had quite settled down to spend a comfortable Christmas at Beersheba but about 20th Dec we suddenly got orders to move in 3 hours time. Two days later we billeted in Hebron. It was estimated that there were 300 Turkish deserters in the town but I don 't think that any attempt was ever made to round them up.

Next day it rained heavily and well soaked us on the march. We bivouaced on saturated arable ground near Bethlehem.

The 1st Volunteer Bn - Hereford (formerly the Volunteer Training Corps (VTC))

The Bn continued to parade and train and seek more volunteers.

**1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE
VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.**

“ A ” Company.

ORDERS FOR NOVEMBER.

Sunday, Nov. 4th.—2.30, No. 4 Section, Drill Hall, Weobley. 2.30-4.30 p.m., No. 3 Platoon, Birch School, drill. 3 p.m., N. 4 Platoon, Dormington, drill.

Motor transport will be required as follows: November 12th, for conveying Staff-Sergeant Leslie to Weobley; November 15th, for conveying Staff-Sergt. Leslie to Much Birch.

Passed as Efficient.—The following N.C.O.'s and men passed “ efficient,” 23/8/17: 878 Sergt. T. West, 75 Sergt. G. Dalby, 50 Sergt. J. C. E. Stephens, 37 Corpl. W. Lewis, 13 Corpl. C. B. Caldicoott, 25 Lance-Corpl. C. A. Griffiths, 86 Private J. G. Wadsworth, 1104 Private E. Emery, 1008 Private H. W. Daniels, 43 Private C. Powell, 5 Private J. Baker, 877 Private C. W. Bridgwater, 85 Private J. W. Trotman, 87 Private J. J. Williams, 851 Private A. Bayliss, 17 Private W. Davis, 35 Private W. Lavington, 853 Private K. Challis, 86 Private C. C. Watkins, 53 Private C. W. Simpson. These men should be specially marked “ E ” in parade rolls.

Appointments.—No. 10 Private J. K. A. Bradshaw to be corporal to complete establishment, 22/9/17.

Section B.—The following men have joined Section B from the dates stated against their names: No. 859 Private W. S. Weale, 2/9/17; No. 873 Private F. J. Phillips, 23/9/17.

Discharges.—No. 51 Corpl. J. E. Sayce, joined Army, 6/10/17; No. 105 Private G. W. Preece, joined Army, 6/10/17; No. 1017 Private W. A. Davies, joined Army 6/10/17; No. 142 Private C. A. Manson, and No. 862 Private F. Wills, discharged at own request, 28/9/17; No. 844 Private E. H. Silverthorne, discharged at own request, 4/10/17.

Breach of Agreement.—Platoon commanders will personally investigate each case before sending in names of men who have not performed their full number of drills.

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

VOLUNTEER REGIMENT

URGENT APPEAL TO HEREFORD- SHIRE MEN.

In Hereford city and county, together with all parts of England, Scotland, and Wales, there is proceeding what is described as the Volunteers' "big push." Volunteer regiments are now recognised units of the British Army. Khaki uniforms, inclusive of greatcoats and boots, are being rapidly served out by the Government. What was known as the Volunteer Training Corps, or locally as the Citizen Army, is a thing of the past. The old green-grey uniform has been discarded for the more honourable khaki. Present members have signed declarations to serve their King and country in any part of the British Isles in the event of threatened or actual invasion. They may be sent to the East Coast or to Ireland. Thousands of others, up and down the country, are being approached with a view to joining this branch of national service. It is the least they can do if they have a sense of patriotism in them and are physically fit. No man worthy of the name will refuse to defend his hearth and home against the common foe. Men just over military age are especially desired. Those under military age with strong business or domestic hardship claims are now being given conditional exemption upon joining a Volunteer Regiment.