

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – October 1917

The 'Bigger' Picture

- Peru severs diplomatic relations with Germany.
- Uruguay severs diplomatic relations with Germany
- Canadian War Cabinet formed and Compulsory Service Act comes into operation.
- Hussein Kamel, Sultan of Egypt, dies. Succeeded by Prince Ahmed Fuad, his youngest brother.
- Polish Regency Council appointed.
- Brazil declares war on Germany.
- M Barthou succeeds M Ribot as French Foreign Minister.
- Signor Boselli, Italian Premier, resigns; Signor Orlando appointed Italian Premier.
- Count Hertling succeeds Dr Michaelis as German Imperial

The Home Front

- Squadron of 11 German airships attack England, L44 shot down at St Clement.

The Western Front

- 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendale continues)
 - Battle of Broodseinde
 - Battle of Poelcapelle .
 - First and second Battles of Passchendaele
- Second Offensive Battle of Verdun.
- Major-General Pershing, Commanding United States Army in France promoted General.
- Battle of La Malmaison (Aisne).

Other Fronts

ARABIA

- Turkish attack on Arab stronghold at Petra repulsed.

PALESTINE

- 3rd Battle of Gaza starts

EAST AFRICA

- Action of Nyangao, German East Africa.

ITALY

- Twelfth Battle of the Isonzo begins: Austro-German offensive
- Gorizia retaken by Austro-German forces .
- Udine (Venetia) captured by Austro-German forces

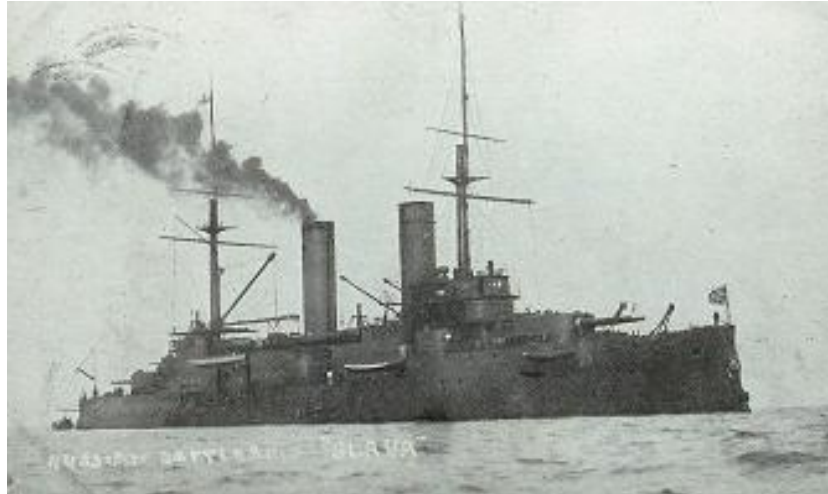
Aviation

- German airships shot down: L45 at Larague, L49 at Bourbonne-les-Buins, L50 brought down in the Mediterranean.

At Sea

- German Naval action in Gulf of Riga. Osel, Moon & Dago Islands captured. Russian battleship Slava (*below*) sunk

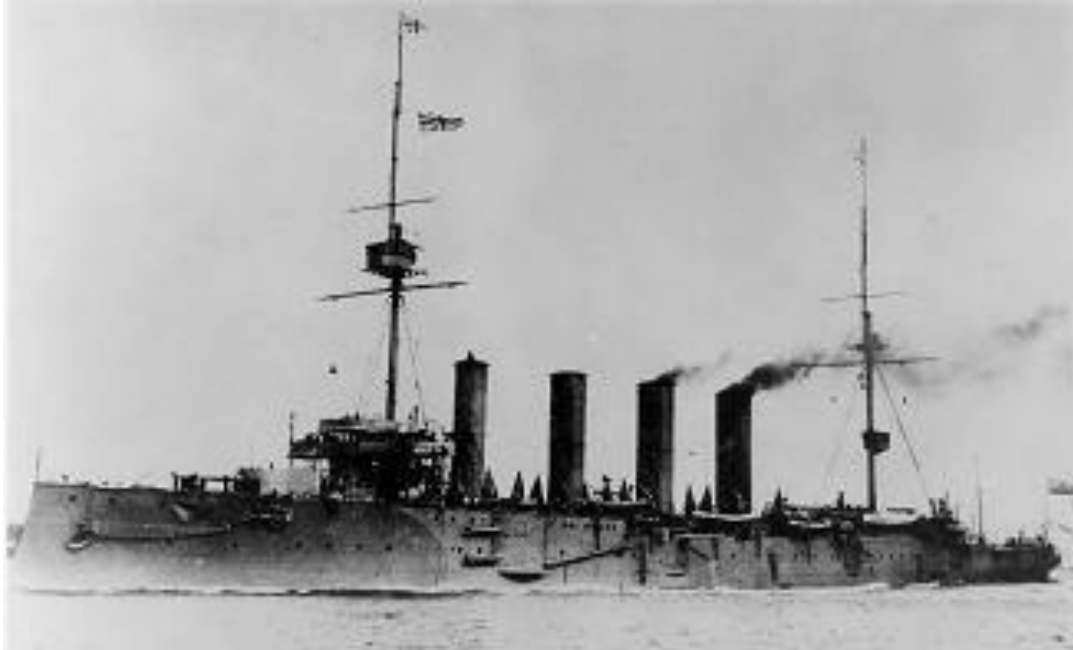




- German cruisers raid convoy in North Sea and sink British destroyers HMS Strongbow and Mary Rose. These ships joined a westbound convoy of 12 merchant ships from Norway. The escort also consisted of two naval trawlers. In the morning of 17 October, the convoy was attacked by two German light cruisers, the Bremse and Brummer, about 70 miles (110 km) east of Lerwick. Strongbow sighted two unknown ships at 06:00, in poor visibility, and believing them to be Royal Navy cruisers, challenged them with recognition signals. Strongbow, receiving inadequate responses, had not yet cleared for action when the two German cruisers opened fire at a range of about 3,000 yards. Strongbow quickly received heavy damage and was immobilised, and after ensuring that all confidential papers had been destroyed, the captain ordered the surviving crew to abandon ship. Mary Rose, which had been ahead of the convoy, and only realised that the convoy was under attack when her crew heard gunfire, was also quickly sunk, as were nine of the merchant vessels. Neither destroyer managed to make a radio report of the attack, and the two German cruisers escaped unscathed. Forty-six of Strongbow's crew were killed in the attack and only *a handful* of men survived from HMS Mary Rose by clinging to a raft.

U-BOAT WARFARE

- HMS Drake (below) sunk by submarine in the North Channel. Drake was torpedoed by the German submarine U-79, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Otto Rohrbeck on 2 October 1917 after her Convoy HH24 had dispersed for its several destinations. The ship was about 5 miles off Rathlin Island at the tip of Northern Ireland when she was hit. The torpedo struck the Boiler Room and caused two of her engine rooms and the boiler room to flood, killing 18 crewmen. These gave her a list and knocked out her steam-powered steering. Her captain decided to steam for Church Bay on Rathlin Island and accidentally collided with the merchant ship SS Mendip Range before she dropped anchor. The collision did not damage Drake much, but Mendip Range was forced to beach herself lest she sink. Drake's crew was taken off before she capsized later that afternoon.

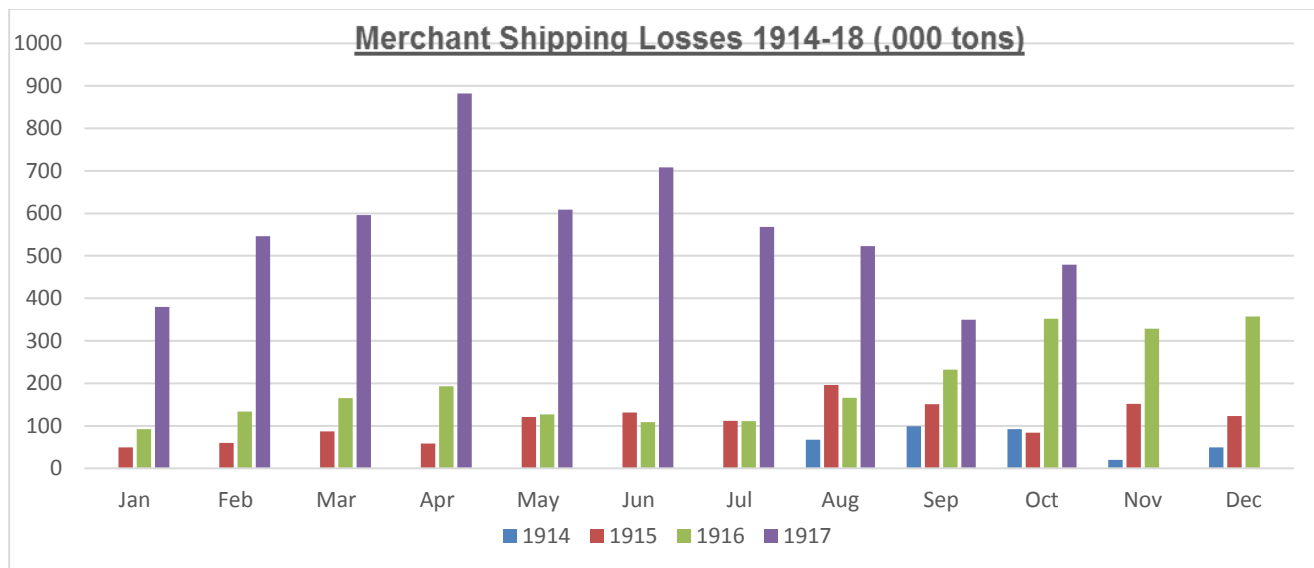


MINE WARFARE

- British hospital ship Goorkha damaged by mine off Malta.

MERCHANT SHIPPING

British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month – 192 ships of 479,000 tons gross.



The 'Herefords'

Casualties (other than 1st Bn)

It can be seen from the large number of casualties of ex-Herefordshire Regiment soldiers killed with other units, that operations on the Western Front (especially 3rd Ypres) were intensive and voracious, trained soldiers from units based in the UK were being 'trawled out' and sent to the Front to make good losses.

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
BAKER	GEORGE HENRY	PTE	4762		21 Oct	KIA	F&F	FELTON	GLOS 12
BEVAN	THOMAS	PTE	2805		31 Oct	KIA	F&F	English Bicknor	GLOS 14
BIRD	THOMAS ALBERT	PTE	4473		29 Oct	KIA	F&F	LEOMINSTER	GLOS 14
BISHOP	EDWIN WHITMORE	PTE	5266		29 Oct	D	F&F	LINTON BROOK	GLOS 14
CHARLES	TOM	PTE	3046		10 Oct	KIA	F&F	Wormelow	GLOS 8
CHINNOCK	JOHN ROBERT	PTE	5355		21 Oct	KIA	F&F	BRIDGNORTH	GLOS 14
DEAKIN	JOHN	PTE	5337		22 Oct	D	F&F	LUDLOW	GLOS 14
GIDDINGS	ALBERT GERALD	PTE	4794		09 Oct	KIA	F&F	LEOMINSTER	GLOS 14
GREEN	ALFRED	LSgt	260		09 Oct	D	F&F	BROMYARD	GLOS 1/6
HALL	FRANK JAMES	CPL	3241		01 Oct	KIA	F&F	Ross	GLOS 12
HAYNES	CHARLES EVELYN	PTE	4640		26 Oct	KIA	F&F	DILWYN	BORDER 11
JONES	GEORGE	PTE	4483		05 Oct	KIA	F&F	KINGTON	BORDER 11
JONES	ERNEST HENRY	PTE	2836		22 Oct	KIA	F&F	BODENHAM	GLOS 14
LANGFORD	NOAH JAMES	PTE	1700		22 Oct	KIA	F&F	Oakengates	GLOS 1
LISSEMAN	WILLIAM HENRY	PTE	8460		11 Oct	D	F&F	WELLINGTON H	GLOS 1/5
NORTON	JOHN	PTE		239110	22 Oct	KIA	F&F	STALYBRIDGE	KSLI 5
PARRY	HARRY	PTE	3852		26 Oct	KIA	F&F	BODENHAM	BORDER 11
PULLING	WILLIAM	PTE	5446		12 Oct		F&F	HEREFORD	RWK
ROOKE	GEORGE ERNEST	PTE	4979		04 Oct	KIA	F&F	LITTLE BIRCH	GLOS 1/5
THOMAS	ALFRED WILLIAM	PTE	1850		22 Oct	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	GLOS 14
THOMAS	HAROLD	PTE	4906		22 Oct	KIA	F&F	LEOMINSTER	GLOS 14
TIBBEY	RICHARD JOSEPH	PTE	4248		06 Oct	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	BORDER 11
TURNER	ROBERT	PTE		236014	16 Oct	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	KSLI 5
YEOMANS	HAYWARD WILLIAM	CAPT			08 Oct	KIA	F&F	WESTON BEGGARD	MGC 2



Lt Yeomans with the 2/1st Battalion Herefordshire Regiment at War Station, England 1915; old boy of Hereford Cathedral School.



Sgt Alfred Green

The London Gazette

Honours & Awards There were no Honours or Awards published

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
01/10/1917	Meats	TW	to be captain 2ic	volunteer Bn
04/10/1917	Burlton	RF	restored to estb	
04/10/1917	Harington	F	to be captain	
10/10/1917	Ascroft	GB	relinquishes appointment of adjutant	
12/10/1917	Dixon	F	to be captain	
12/10/1917	Dixon	F	relinquishes appointment of captain	
15/10/1917	Bates	D	relinquishes rank of lieutenant colonel	no longer CO
17/10/1917	Enderby	CL	to be lieutenant	
18/10/1917	Heppel	JB	to be lieutenant	
18/10/1917	Heppel	JB	seconded to RTC	
19/10/1917	Boulton	RJ	to be captain	
19/10/1917	Rogers	ETP	to b major; employed HQ KSLI	
23/10/1917	Lewis	A	resigns commission	
26/10/1917	Carver	WF		
26/10/1917	Fanning	WG	to be captain; seconded MGC 4 Jul 1917	
26/10/1917	Wilmot	E		
26/10/1917	Yeomans	HW	to be captain	since KIA
27/10/1917	Pateshall	HEP	to be major 8 E Yorks	
29/10/1917	Pigou	H La T	appointed draft conducting officer	

HEREFORD

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

No direct enlistments into The Herefords are recorded, but the enlistment papers for Pte Knight, who joined the Herefordshire Regiment after the First World War and served until 1933 show he was enlisted into the General Service Corps under the Derby Scheme in October 1916 and then called up for service in October 1917

and posted to 71st Training Reserve Battalion for initial training before being posted as a trained soldier to the East Yorks Regiment. This well illustrates how the system worked for those joining the Army.

HEREFORD.

Army Form B. 103 Regimental Number.....

A.F.B. 2013

Casualty Form - Active Service

5th (Cyclist) Batt East Yorks. Regt.,
 Regiment or Corps..... *5th (Cyclist) Batt East Yorks. Regt.*

Rank *Private* Surname *KNIGHT* Christian Name *JAMES WILLIAM*

Religion *Church of England* Age on Enlistment *18* years *30* months

Enlisted (a) *25-10-17* Terms of Service (a) *5 yrs* Service reckons from (a) *25-10-17*

Date of promotion to present rank..... Date of appointment to lance rank.....

Extended *33* Re-engaged..... Qualification (b).....
 Occupation *(Coal Carter)* or Corps Trade and Rate.....

Signature of Officer.....

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., 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 of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.213, Army Form A.36, or other official documents
Date	From whom received				
		Embarked ...			
		Disembarked...			
	<i>General Sew.</i>	<i>Deemed to have been enlisted</i>	<i>Re.</i>	<i>25-10-16</i>	
		<i>Called up for Sew.</i>	"	<i>25-10-17</i>	
	71st Training Reserve Battalion	<i>Proved</i>		28 OCT 1917	
	<i>Occupation in Army</i>	<i>Cards despatches &</i>		<i>7 NOV 1917</i>	
	<i>1/5 Cyclist Bn. E. Yorks Regt.</i>	<i>Transferred</i>		<i>12/17</i>	
	<i>Authority No. letter 114/1</i>	<i>Pen. No. 1046 (A.S. 20) dated 2/12/17</i>			<i>Capt. & Adjute</i>
					<i>71st Training Reserve</i>

(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) Signaller, Phoenix Smith & Co. (6228) W. 13563/M1477 2,400,000 1/17 MCA & W.T. Form B.213, Army Form A.36, or in other official documents.

5th (CYCLIST) BN. EAST YORKS REGT.

Discharges consisted of a mixture of categories; those wounded and no longer fit for service, those ill and no longer fit for service, those failing their initial medical examinations. Thus there were men who had served at Gallipoli and the Middle East, soldiers from the 2nd, 3rd Battalions and Supplementary Company. Some of those discharged were:

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	Why	Hometown	Notes
BOWERS	GEORGE	CPL		237037	03 Oct	xvi		
CHINNERY	THOMAS H	Sgt	4479		27 Oct		Deythus	
CLARK	WALTER	PTE	3431		31 Oct	unfit	Hereford	Prev svc N Staffs
DAY	WILLIAM	PTE	3439		16 Oct	xvi	Hereford	Prev Svc 24 yrs KSLI Supplementary Coy
EARL	SYDNEY L	PTE	5390	239309	03 Oct	xvi	NEWMARKET	

EATON	THOMAS	PTE		238962	03 Oct	xvi		
EVANS	HAROLD ERNEST HUNTLY	PTE	3286	236121	15 Oct		WALFORD	Served Suvla Bay; died 10 Jun 1920
HADDOCKS	WILLIAM	PTE	3406		16 Oct		HEREFORD	
HEWITT	GEORGE	PTE	3682		31 Oct	UNFIT	HEREFORD	Prev svc Northants
HILL	WILLIAM	PTE		238202	18 Oct	2B		
HOGAN	JAMES WALTER	PTE	3900		30 Oct	Unfit	Hereford	
HUDSON	JOHN	PTE	3438		31 Oct			Prec svc Cheshire Regt
JONES	HENRY	LCPL	4062	236592	10 Oct	2B	HEREFORD	
JONES	CYRIL PARRY	PTE	5282		17 Oct		LLANDRINDOD WELLS	
KEELING	JOSEPH	PTE	3084		31 Oct	Unfit		
LLOYD	JOHN	PTE	3613		31 Oct		HEREFORD	Prev Svc RIF. Reenlisted L'pool Regt 26/9/21 Supplementary Coy
PENSON	CHARLES	PTE	2722		31 Oct		HEREFORD	
PREECE	JONATHAN	PTE	3729		31 Oct	unfit	HEREFORD	Supplementary Coy
REYNOLDS	ALBERT	PTE	5556	237124	05 Oct		Newport	
ROGERS	ALFRED	PTE	3615		31 Oct		HEREFORD	
RYAN	JOSEPH	PTE		237954	17 Oct	XVI		
STOCKTON	GEORGE	PTE	2545		01 Oct	unfit	BOUGHTON	Served Suvla Bay
TAYLOR	JOHN	PTE	3911		31 Oct		Hereford	Supplementary Coy
TIPTON	STANLEY ARTHUR	PTE	1263	235174	24 Oct			Served Suvla Bay
VAUGHAN	CHARLES	PTE	3413		30 Oct		HEREFORD	Supplementary Coy

xvi - unfit through either wounds or sickness
 iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS,
THE ROYAL HOSPITAL,
CHELSEA, S.W. 3.

Week ending 26.5.39

SIR,
 I am directed by the Minister of Pensions to inform you of the undermentioned decision in the case of a man whose discharge documents have been recently received with the view to having the claim to pension considered.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
 Your obedient servant,
MATTHEW NATHAN,
 Secretary.

To the Officer Commanding
Ryl. Def Corps 53 Prot. Coy 44
 Regiment.

Rank and Regimental Number Pte 42608

Name Stockton George

Regiment or Corps R.D.C. 53rd Coy (1st Hereford)

Date of discharge 1/10/17

Address on discharge North Terrace, Mildenhall, Suffolk.

Weekly Pension Grat Art: 7:2:R.W. £80. To be reviewed in

Disability Rupture of muscles of arm. Not attrib:

CONFIDENTIAL. ^{36 High Street Newbury Salop -} PENSIONER'S RECORD CARD. M. P. X0

AREA ~~WILSON~~ ⁸³⁵⁶ ^{Newbury} ^{4 Regt 1886} SERIAL NUMBER ⁶⁴⁷¹⁵

NAME.	Rank.	Regiment and Regimental No.	Year of Birth.
EARL Sydney 153 Grenadier B ⁿ - Leinster	Pte	71 st Buffords 539309	1885

Date of Examination.	Defects or Ailments.	Grade or Category.	Date of Enlistment.
A.F.B. 178 12.12.15	Paros right side on neck & giddiness occasionally	No Record	15.12.15

Invaliding Disability.	Date of Origin.	Cause of Disability.	Degree of Disablement.
Neurasthenia	Apr 1917	Complete app.	75%

Other Disabilities.	Grade on Discharge	Date of Discharge.
—————	para 399 XXI	3-10-17

MEDICAL REPORT.

Surgical Appliances supplied and Dates operations especially important.

A.F.B. 179 Had neurasthenia 10 years ago, lasted 2 years. C.C. headache, giddiness. Falls down after marching. Says he is unconscious R^t arm & leg shaking
A.F.B. 178. Hospital Oswestry 21.11.17 & Norwich 28.11.17 for neurasthenia

AWARD.

Gratuity

Pension per week

Children's allowance per week

Date of Board... 12.11.17
Calcutta

To be used (a) for recruits enlisting direct into the Regular Army, and (b) for men of the Territorial Force when they are admitted to Hospital. Army Form B. 178^a to be used for Special Reserve recruits and Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF

Surname Day Christian Name W.

TABLE I.—General Table.

Birthplace { Parish
County

Examined { on day of 191.....
at

Declared Age 43 years days.

Trade or Occupation Levil labourer

Height feet inches

Weight lbs.

Chest Measurement { Girth when fully Expanded inches
Range of Expansion inches

Physical Development

Vaccination Marks { Arm..... RIGHT | LEFT
Number

When Vaccinated

Vision { R.E.—V =
L.E.—V =

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous diseases—
.....

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection—
.....

TABLE III.—Boards; Courts of Enquiry, Vaccination, Inoculations, etc.; Examinations for Field or Foreign Service, Extension, Re-engagement, or Prolongation of Service; Issue of Surgical Appliances; Particulars of Dental Treatment, etc.

Date	Brief Details and Signature
	RECEIVED BY 15 OCT 1917 REC'DS, LONDON

Approved by
Rank
Medical Officer.

TABLE IV.—Service Table.

Enlisted { at Hereford
on 14 day of 4th Mth 1915

Joined on enlistment
Transferred to 310 PROTECTION COMPANY,
B.D.C. Lange R. Sq.
on 21st day of October 1917

(Signature) [Signature]
Rank COL
RECORD OFFICER

Station or Troopship	Date of arrival or embarkation	Date of departure or disembarkation
<u>Hereford</u>		<u>22-5-15</u>
<u>Stafford Alad</u>	<u>22-5-16</u>	<u>17-9-16</u>
<u>Hereford</u>	<u>18-9-16</u>	<u>30-9-16</u>
<u>Knochehaloe</u>	<u>30-9-16</u>	<u>14-12-16</u>
<u>Fronyash</u>	<u>18-12-16</u>	<u>12-1-17</u>
<u>Douglas</u>	<u>17-1-17</u>	<u>9-2-17</u>
<u>Knochehaloe</u>	<u>9-2-17</u>	

501
 Army Form B. 103. **310 PROTECTION COMPANY,** Regimental Number **2622**
Casualty Form - Active Service.
 R. D. C. No. **PROTECTION COMPT**

Regiment or Corps **ROYAL DEFENCE CORPS** Christian Name **Shute**
 Rank **C. of C.** Surname **Vaughan** Age on Enlistment **50** years **10** months
 Enlisted (a) **10.4.15** Terms of Service (a) **250** Service reckons from (a) **10.4.15**
 Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank
 Extended (.....) Re-engaged (.....) Qualification (b)
 or Corps Trade and Rate
 Occupation **General Labourer** Signature of Officer **Allylones**

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.219, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Taken from Army Form B. 219, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents.
Date	From whom received		COMMANDING	ROYAL DEFENCE CORPS
		EMBODIED.		
		1st Harford Regt TRANSFERRED R.D.C. PROT. CO. No. 318 Disch'd		p/c 10.4.15 p/c 29.4.16
		No. 310 PROTECTION COMPT ROYAL DEFENCE CORPS.		31 OCT 1917

(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) Signaller, Shoing-Smith, &c.
 W. 11814-21185 1000m 1/17 (27227) S P & Co. Ltd. Form B. 103/4 E. 7/354. (P.T.O.)

1st Battalion

Casualties No casualties recorded

The situation is well summed up in Sgt Colley's diary:

August, September and October were devoted to training of the hardest type. Dummy trenches were made and everything possible was done to obtain the right conditions of fitness possible. Everyone knew even back in Alexandria and Cairo that a general attack was being prepared – but very few knew the date.

Training was nearing completion and by the end of the month the first preparatory operation, in expectation of the forthcoming 3rd Battle of Gaza took place.

From the 53 Div Diary:

The first move of any unit towards the concentration area for battle was made by 158 Bde. On the 20 Oct, at the close of a beautiful autumn day, the Bde crossed the railway below Belah, marching east. Gen Mott stood nearby and took the salute.

The greatest secrecy had been enjoined. In a personal letter to his Div Comds, Gen Chetwode asked them to give their careful attention to every device by which enemy airmen may be deceived, such as leaving your present bivouacs and areas looking as much occupied as possible by leaving tents standing and digging holes wherever you have had blanket shelters, by not pitching Bde Fd Ambs, or showing their flags, and by not allowing new ground to be used. I would ask that the troops of 60, 74 and 53 Divs when east of the Wadi should keep concealed as much as possible in Wadis, gardens, near buildings, etc., etc. Added to which 10 and 60 Divs had to move, the Desert Mounted Corps had to move, and the whole vast army had to prepare. The arrangement for supply to XX Corps alone meant the organisation of an army of camels.

After a fifteen mile march, 158 Bde took over Kent Port and Shellal Defences from 161 Bde of 60 Div. Here they remained for a few days, studying orders, and thoroughly reconnoitering the routes into and out of the Wadi and the country round Tamara. On the 24th, they were relieved by 159 Bde and moved into the bed of the Wadi for the night - a grisly squash, hot and dusty, made entirely airless.

The whole Div arrived, and steel helmets were issued. A number of these head pieces had been given out for trial at Belah, and some units, after laying them on the sand for an hour found that they were much too hot to touch and reported adversely on them. The consensus opinion, however, seems to have been that they were good.

On the 25 Oct, 158 Bde moved forward into No Man's Land took up an outpost position from Goz el Basal through Goz el Geleib, and back towards the Wadi, covering the other bdes of the Div, and also the construction of a railway towards Karm.

THE BACKSHEESH STUNT

On the 27th the Div, covered by the 5RWF and Herefords, and one battalion of 229 Bde attached, advanced to occupy a line through el Buggar and el Girheir. The attached troops were 91 Hvy Bty (60 pdrs), 378 Siege Bty (6 inch hows) 229 Inf Bde (74 Div), and one company of the 5 Royal Irish Regiment (Pioneers). The position to be taken up was already occupied by 8 Mtd Bde, Brig Rome's new command, and the infantry were on the move, when a most unpleasant little battle, always known as the 'Backsheesh Stunt,' presumably because it was so unnecessary commenced.

The two main points of the outpost line were Hills 720 and 630. Brig Rome did not think the Turks were making any serious attack, but he asked that one battalion and a battery should move on Hill 630, on his left. 5RWF were sent, a distance of some eight miles.

The sounds of battle had commenced at dawn, and at 7 am. There seemed to be no improvement, so Brig Vernon despatched the Herefords to assist.

Soon after nine o'clock the order was received for the whole Brigade to march on Hill 630, and for 160h Bde to march on Hill 720.

At 10.15, the Brig and I rode to Rome's headquarters, says Capt Ashton, here we saw the most melancholy sight - the fall of both Hills 630 and 720. As they were about four miles away, and the air was very clear, we could see the Turks, infantry and cavalry apparently mixed, swarm up and over the threatened positions. Both defences were entirely wiped out, except a small party which managed to hold out in a cruciform trench in rear of Hill 630, and which was eventually extricated. 5RWF, followed by the Herefords, were moving up quickly, but the distance was too great.

The situation was now distinctly unpleasant. We were operating in a large saucer, so to speak, of which the Turks, through their capture of these posts, held the eastern edge. Consequently, they had perfect observation of our every movement. We understood that they were holding their line in some strength - an aeroplane message said 2,000 rifles - and, though the 5RWF were in touch it was obvious that they could not attack a position of such strength alone, and without any artillery support. The Herefords were some distance behind, followed by the 6th and 7RWF. The Howitzer Bty of our Arty Bde was, for some obscure reason, still back in Shellal, and had to be fetched up, while the other batteries were in action on a flank.

About 3 pm. the Turks started to shell us. The situation was perfectly ludicrous. The whole plain was crammed full of troops - for 160 Bde were crossing our rear - there were batteries, camel convoys, ambulances, Gen Mott in a motor car, and every conceivable kind of target. The enemy artillery observer must have lost his head in the multiplicity of things to aim at, with the result that he nearly missed the lot.

Finally, we got out some sort of orders, and at 4 pm. the attack began. As soon as things got really going, the Turks slipped away, and we re-occupied the line of hills without difficulty.

This strong reconnaissance by the Turks - Sir E Allenby gives their strength as between two and three thousand infantry and two regiments of cavalry, with guns - was a curious affair, for it does not seem to have enlightened the enemy on the true plan of attack at that moment in preparation before their eyes. But while this affair was in progress, the bombardment of Gaza commenced, and the cannonade seems to have given the final touch to a clever ruse played by an Intelligence Officer on the Turks. The story bears repeating. This officer rode towards the Turkish lines with the object of inducing one of their mounted patrols to pursue him. He succeeded, and as he galloped away he pretended he: had been hit, swayed in his saddle, and dropped his haversack. The conscientious Turks picked up the haversack, and found in it a letter to the officer's wife, telling her, amongst other things such as a husband might write to his wife, that the attack on Beersheba was a feint, Gaza being the real objective. He also enclosed a five pound note to pay a pressing account. The Turks, and Germans, found the fiver absolutely convincing. The letter played an important part in the surprise that was effected.

The outpost line, running along the ridge which masked all movement. to the west of it from the Beersheba lines, was occupied by 53 Div, and the engineers worked feverishly on the railway line until it reached Karm.

Meanwhile other troops concentrated for the attack.

From The War Diary:

Date	Detail
1	Individual and specialist trg
2	Individual and specialist trg; Bde Grenade School for Rifle Grenadiers.
3	Individual and specialist trg. Canvas water trough first used – 2300 gallons. Lt Col Drage to command Brigade during absence on leave of BGC. Capt AGR Whitehouse to command Bn.
4	Individual and specialist trg
5	Bn manouevre day; left bivouac at 0545hrs and marched independently to Sheik Hamuda, then as Advance and Flank Guards to V29 C 1 10 for breakfast. Afterwards Bn in final stage of attack.
6	Bn moved out of bivouac (0530) and marched to A22 c 5 5 as part of main body. 0900 – Bn practiced attack at A19.
	Sunday; DS followed by HC [<i>Divine Service, Holy Communion</i>]
8	Individual and specialist trg. A Coy at full strength.
9	Bn manouevre day, 27 a 2 8; attack practice watched by GOC XX Corps. 9 ORs from hospital, Lt Watts to hospital.
10	Individual and specialist trg. Capt CEG Pilkington to hospital.
11	Individual and specialist trg. A Coy practiced wire cutting under RE supervision. Night operations, Bn concentrated at small garden and marched on bearing 390 ^x then on bearing 1175 ^x . Companies then divided each marching on a different bearing and took up night outpost positions.
12	Bn manouevre day. All Lewis Guns on pack mules for first time. 13 ORs from hospital.
13	Dic scheme by skeleton force – attended CO, 1ic, 4 x Cpy Comds, Adj, IO, SO, LO, 22 runners, 13 signallers assembled at C19 d 6 6 at 0715, moved at 0940. Bn in support to left column at 1243 from Bde to attack point 344 at A21. 1455 position taken and consolidated. Bn returned to bivouac 1730.
14	Sunday - DS
15	Bn individual trg in bivouac area.
16	Bn individual trg, preparation for assault at arms
17	Bn assault at arms
18	Bn individual trg; 2Lt Frazer from hospital
19	Bn individual trg. Capt FA Trumper returned from England. Bde assault at arms.
20	Preparations for move, surplus stores dumped. Wheeled tpt moved under TO Camel tpt moved under QM Bn moved as part of brigade to Abu Sitta post, then guided by brigade major to D3D33, then by guides from 2/21 London Regiment to Kent Forts B36a. Coys went direct to posts and relief completed..
21	Post routine
22	Post routine and specialist trg
23	Routine as usual, some water obtained from wells for washing.
24	Relieved by 4 Bn Welsh Regt; moved to bivouac in Wadi Gugge K1 b 5 5.
25	Bn marched brigaded to K24 d 7 6 arriving 2000. Bde on outpost on left flank; ½ gallon water ration.
26	Bn remained in reserve; B Coy relieved C in outpost.
27	Orders to move' outpost coy withdrawn. Bn moved at 0745. 1 st reinforcements arrived about 07 at 1000. CO reported to BGC 8 Mtd Bde at Goz El Basal. 1155 – orders by wire. Bn moved to S1 d 8 8. Bn now came under a good deal of light shell fire, remainder of days ration issued; casualties 1 OR wounded. 1300 remainder of Bn arrived, also part of 160 Bde. CO reported to Bde and the Bde was ordered to attack the enemy holding a line from about Q29 central to Q22d 7 6. Bn on right of firing line from Q29 central to Q29a 1 8. 1/7 RWF on left, thir right to direct. C & D Coys firing line; A & B Coys support. 1 Sect MGC on right flank.

	1600 – moved to attack in lesser artillery formation; enemy offered no opposition and position was occupied about 1740. Bn made good ground from point 551; Q21c 8 8 to Q22c 4 4. 1/7 RWF were withdrawn and Bn took over to Q21c 8 8. Two coys 1/6 RWF arrived to assist in digging. Bn dug posts 7, 8, 9, 10.
28	0430 – Leaving observation posts, Bn withdrew to day position. Relieved by 6 Bn Welsh Regt and proceeded to bivouac at Q31b. 1800 – Working parties of 10 platoons on defence line. First reinforcements rejoined.
29	Bn dug shelter trenches
30	1730 – Bn marched under Capt ARG Whitehouse forming a part of N/158 Bde under Lt Col Drage, moved out and advanced and occupied at 1100 the high ground known as the Rodd East of Wadi Hanafish; coys were pushed out and immediately dug in – completed by daylight.
31	Enemy slight shelling – no infantry action – 3 OR wounded. 2300 – relieved by 2/10 Middlesex Regt – Bn concentrated behind No 23 post.



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

The Bn continued to parade and train.

**1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE
VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.**

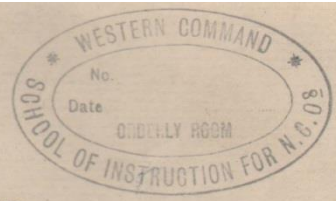
“ A ” Company.

Sunday, Oct. 14th.—2.15 p.m., Drill Hall, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons will parade and march to Grafton, 2.30-4 p.m., No 3 Platoon, Birch School, musketry. 3 p.m., No. 4 Platoon, Dormington, drill.

Monday, Oct. 15th.—7.30 p.m., Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons Drill Hall, musketry. 7.30 p.m., No. 4 Platoon, Mordiford School, drill. 7.30 p.m., No. 4 Section, Drill Hall, Weobley.

Thursday, Oct. 18th.—7 p.m., Drill Hall, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, drill. 2.30-5 p.m., Holmer range, class firing. 7.30 p.m., No. 4 Section, Drill Hall, Weobley, musketry. 7-9 p.m., No. 4 Platoon, Withington, musketry.

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



WESTERN COMMAND.



Certificate.

This is to Certify that *Capt. Sir R. Warrington*
1st Bn. Herefordshire Volunteer Regiment, attended a Course of
 Instruction at WESTERN COMMAND, SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION FOR N.C.O.'s
 from *13th October* to *20th October 1917*
 and received instruction in and acquired a satisfactory knowledge of the
 subjects laid down for Examinations "A" and "B" in Appendix to
 A.C.I. 764 of 1917.

Station *Oswestry* *Edgumwell* Rank.
 Date *October 22nd 1917* *made* WESTERN COMMAND, SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION FOR N.C.O.'s Appointment.