

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – August 1918

The 'Bigger' Picture

- British Government issue Declaration to Russian peoples, stating that they have no intention of interfering in Russian politics.
- British Government inform Finnish Government that they are in no way hostile to Finnish aspirations on the Murman Coast and in Karelia.
- General Foch created Marshal of France.
- German and Russian Bolshevik Governments conclude complementary treaty of peace.
- Capt Cromie, RN, British Naval Attache, murdered by Bolsheviks in British Embassy, Petrograd.

PERSIA

- Samsam es Sultaneh, Persian Prime Minister; Vossuq ed Douleh appointed.
- Mushaver ul Mamalek, Persian Foreign Minister, resigns; later reappointed.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

- Slovene National Council meet at Ljubljana (Laibach).
- The Czecho-Slovaks declare War on Germany.
- British Government recognise the Czecho-Slovaks as an Allied nation

SIBERIA

- *Coup d'etat* by General Horvat at Vladivostok.
- Japanese Government decide to land troops at Vladivostok.

The Home Front

- Lt Gen Sir Gen Macready, Adjutant-General, Home Forces, Great Britain, resigns.
- In Herefordshire, along with the rest of the country services were held to remember the start of the war in August 1914.



The Western Front

- Soissons retaken by Allied forces

- **Battle of Amiens.** Or 3rd Battle of Picardy - This started on the 8 Aug and was the initial engagement of what later became known as 'the last 100 days', which became a rolling offensive ending in the Armistice of 11 November.
- Montdidier retaken by French forces
- Noyon taken by French.
- British advance in Flanders begins: Action of OuttersteeneRidge.
 - Morville retaken by British forces.
 - Second Battles of the Somme
 - Albert recaptured by British forces.
 - Second Battles of Arras
 - Battle of the Scarpe.
 - Roye recaptured by British forces.
 - Bapaume retaken by British forces.
 - Bailleul retaken by British forces.
- German forces evacuate Mount Kemmel.

After almost 4 years of bloody static trench warfare, there was optimism caused by local successes in the British and French fronts in France.

**ALLIES ENTER SOISSONS.
ADVANCE ALL ALONG THE LINE.
GAIN OF OVER THREE MILES.
GERMANS HASTEN THEIR RETREAT.
CRISE CROSSED ON ITS FULL LENGTH.**

Saturday.

General Foch's latest report records an Allied advance along the whole front from Soissons to near Rheims. Harassed all along the line the Germans have been forced to abandon their position of resistance between Fere and Ville-en-Tardenois, and to hasten their retreat.

Allied troops have entered Soissons, and have crossed the River Crise on its entire length. In the centre they have made a big advance on a wide front north of the Ourcq, and the progress has been equally satisfactory further east. Ville-en-Tardenois has been captured, and on this part of the front our line has been carried over three miles to the north of the Dormans-Rheims road.

FRENCH JOY OVER OUR VICTORIES.

BRITISH TENACITY AND WILL TO WIN.

Paris, Sunday.—Last night's British communique was not published in Paris until a late hour, and consequently this morning's papers contained little comment upon the magnificent successes achieved by the British armies of Generals Byng and Rawlinson north and south of the Somme.

The "Echo de Paris" says: The latest news indicates that the situation in the neighbourhood of Bapaume is splendid, and adds: Saturday's achievements constitute another manifestation of the splendid tenacity and will to win of Great Britain and the British Dominions, and redound greatly to their honour. Our Allies have wrested from the enemy a number of places and positions, the name of each one of which fills us with courage, and makes the blood course through our veins.

The Eastern Front

RUSSIA

North

- Allied Expeditionary Force attack and capture the defences of Archangel.
- Pro-Entente revolution in Archangel. Entente forces enter the town.

South (Trans/Caspia, Caspian Intervention)

- Action of Bairam Ali: Trans-Caspian Government defeated by Bolshevik forces.
- Merv taken by Bolshevik forces.
- Affair near Kaakhka
- Defence of Baku, Caspian Sea against Turkish attack.

- British Forces arrives at Baku and occupies Krasnovodsk on Caspian Sea.
- Bolshevik Committee at Enzeli, Persia arrested by British military authorities

East (Siberia)

- First Japanese contingents arrive at Vladivostok
- Battle of Dukhovskaya, Eastern Siberia; Bolsheviks decisively defeated by Allied forces. (Japanese, with one British battalion.)
- British troops land at Vladivostok

Other Fronts

BALKANS

- Austrian forces begin counter-offensive in Albania; Berat retaken.

At Sea

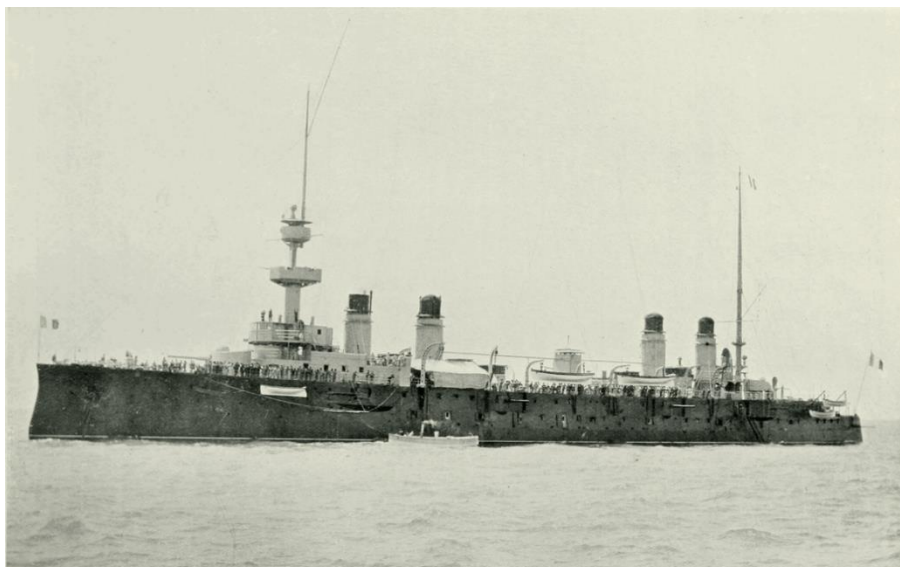
- Admiral von Capelle, German Minister of Marine, resigns and Vice-Admiral von Behnke appointed.

U-BOAT WARFARE

- French cruiser Dupetit Thouars sunk by submarine in the Atlantic as part of the Atlantic Naval Division. On 7 Aug 1918, escorting a 24-ship convoy inbound from New York, she was torpedoed by the submarine U-62, off Brest. A torpedo hit the port side underneath the forward bridge, followed ten seconds after by another under the aft bridge. The explosions killed three men, and neither the submarine nor her periscope were spotted.

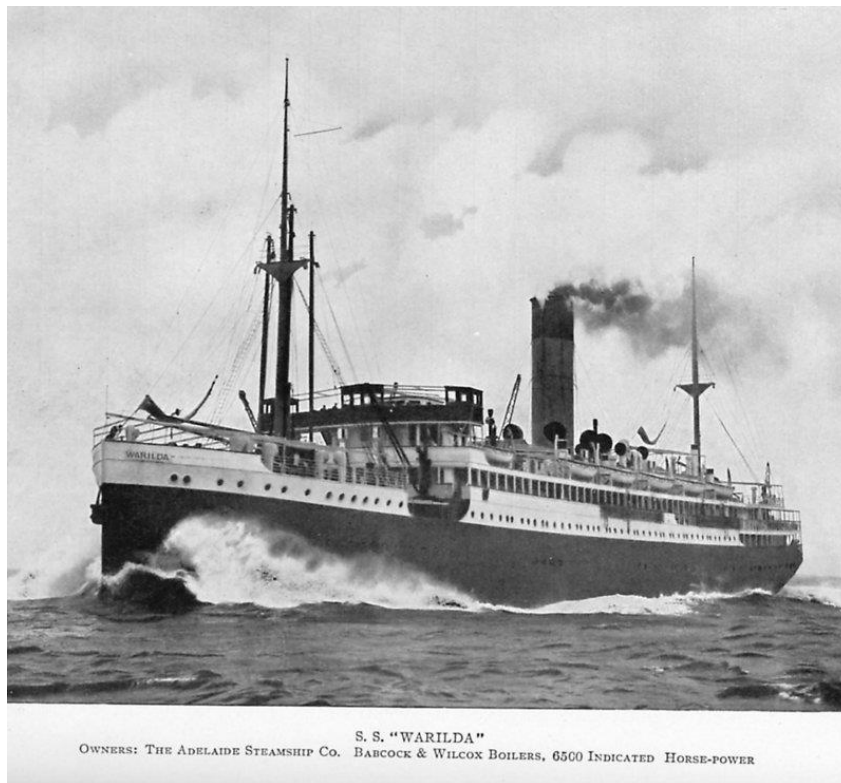
Assessment of the ship soon revealed extensive damage, but as the list was moderate, the officers deemed that although the ship was lost, she would not sink rapidly. They moved the ship off the route of the convoy, radioed a distress call, and stopped the engines to allow the crew to evacuate. The list then started to increase while the crew abandoned ship. Fifty minutes after the torpedo hit, Dupetit-Thouars rolled over and sank, killing ten sailors still aboard trying to launch the last raft. Following the sinking, U-62 surfaced to inquire as to the name and tonnage of the cruiser, and collect a ribbon from a sailor's hat.

The survivors spent 16 hours in boats and rafts before being rescued the next day, in late afternoon, by six US destroyers Tucker, Drayton, Winslow, Porter, Warrington and Fanning.

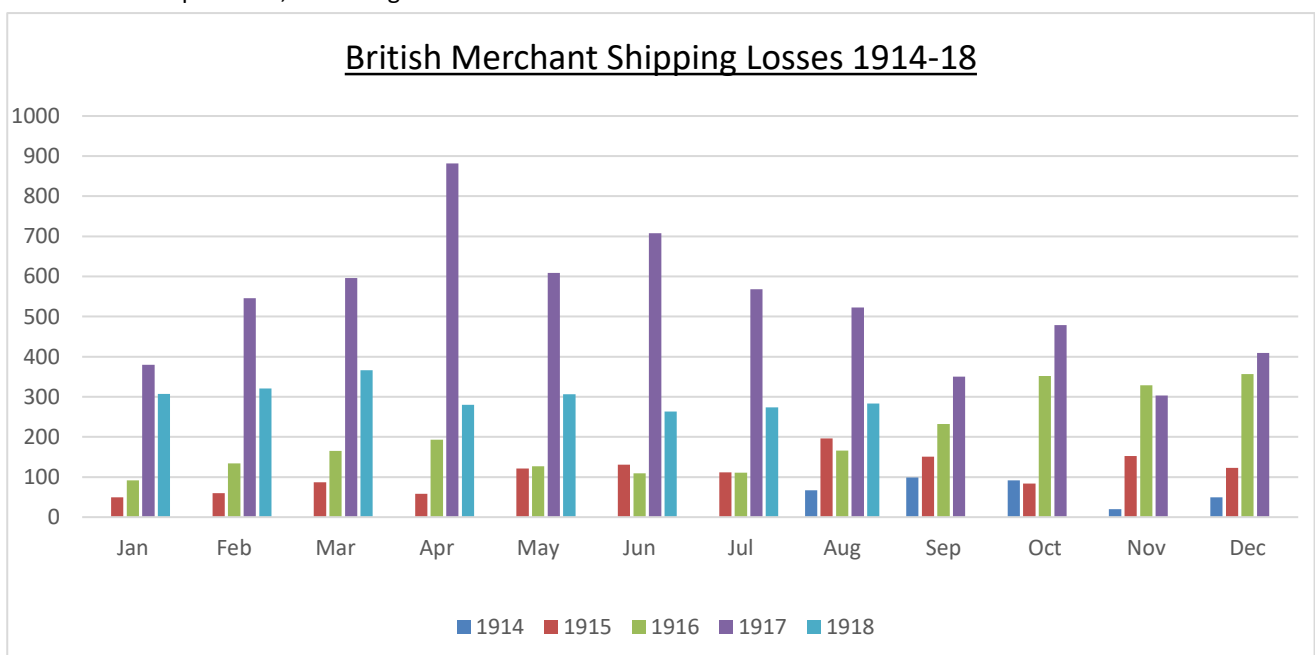


- British ambulance transport Warilda sunk by submarine. On 3 Aug 1918, she was transporting wounded soldiers from Le Havre, France to Southampton when she was torpedoed by the German submarine UC-49. This was despite being marked clearly with the Red Cross; as with a number of other hospital ships torpedoed during the war, Germany claimed the ships were also carrying arms.

The ship sank in about two hours, and of the 801 persons on board, 123 died. The Deputy Chief Controller of the Queen Mary's Auxiliary Army Corps, Mrs Violet Long, lost her life in this action



- British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month – 151 ships of 283,000 tons gross.



The 'Herefords'

Casualties (other than 1st Bn)

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
ABRAHAM	JAMES HENRY	PTE		238061	23 Aug	KIA	F&F	SALFORD	BORDER 3
BAKER	ERNEST GEORGE	PTE		237632	13 Aug	Died	IRAQ	CHESTER	S LANCES (POW(?))
BENT	JOSEPH	PTE	5066		09 Aug	KIA	F&F	LEIGH LANCES	GLOS 8
BRADLEY	WALTER VICTOR	PTE	5361		27 Aug	KIA	F&F	Llandrindod Wells	Royal West Kent
BROOM	HENRY	PTE	7148		18 Aug	DOW	F&F	HEREFORD	MGC
COOPER	DAVID	PTE		238806	21 Aug	KIA	F&F	BRIDGNORTH	KSLI 7
GIBBONS	ALBERT CLAUDE	PTE	1707	235393	26 Aug	Cause not known	Germany	YATTON	KSLI 6 (POW(?))
HOPE	EDWARD AARON	LCPL			22 Aug	DOW	F&F	Llandrindod Wells	MGC 38
MATLEY	MATTHEW	LCPL		238155	28 Aug	TUBERCULOSIS	Home	MANCHESTER	KSLI 6
MEREDITH	JOHN SAMUEL	PTE		238902	13 Aug	KIA	F&F	WHITNEY	KSLI 1
NAPPER	HERBERT ARTHUR	PTE	4358		28 Aug	KIA	F&F	LEDBURY	BORDER 5
PRICE	GEORGE HARRIS	PTE		237155	22 Aug	KIA	F&F	KNIGHTON	KSLI 7
SANT	PHILLIP	PTE		239112	16 Aug	KIA	F&F	MIDDLEWICH	KSLI 1/4
TURBILL	THOMAS	PTE		239074	13 Aug	KIA	F&F	BROMYARD	KSLI 1
WILLIAMS	DEWI POWELL	PTE		239012	05 Aug	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	MGC
WOOLLERSON	LIVESWELL	PTE		238796	31 Aug	Died	F&F	MANCHESTER	KSLI 4

239112 Pte Sant



News was still being received about those missing as a result of earlier actions:

STRETFORD MAN REPORTED DEAD.
Pte. C. E. Haynes, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Haynes, of Stretford Bridge, near Dilwyn, who was reported as wounded and missing in October, 1917, has now been notified as "presumed to be dead." He had been previously wounded in November, 1916, in France, when serving in the Border Regiment.

LEOMINSTER SOLDIER KILLED.
Mr. and Mrs. F. Holloway, of 78, Bridge Street, Leominster, have received official information that their only son, Pte. F. R. Holloway, Herefordshire Regiment, who was reported wounded and missing in the battle of Gaza, on March 26th, 1917, met his death on that day. He was 21 on March 24th, 1917.

His death was recorded as 26 March - ironically two days after his 21st birthday

Ledbury Guardian & Herefordshire Advertiser
Saturday September 28 1918

Ledbury War Items

LEDBURY SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

We regret deeply to record the death of another young Ledbury soldier killed in action in France on 27th August in the person of Private H A (Bert) Napper Border Regiment youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Napper of Newtown, Ledbury. Pte Napper had been in the Army for about three years, and on joining up went to the Herefordshire Regiment. He did his training with the Reserve Battalion in Oswestry, and then went with a draft to France to the Border Regiment, with which he has continued to serve. He had been invalided home once, but went out again some months ago. He was 23 years of age, one of the tallest men in Ledbury and of fine physique.



In Loving Memory of our Dear Son
LANCE-CORPORAL EDWARD AARON HOPE,

Who died of wounds received in action Aug. 22nd 1918

AGED 21 YEARS.

Interred at Varennes, France.

The London Gazette

Honours & Awards None Gazetted, although Lt Col Drage went to Buckingham Palace to receive his DSO.

COL DRAGE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE
Lieut.-Col. Gilbert Drage, of the Rhod. Presteign, had the honour of receiving from the King, at an investiture at Buckingham Palace, on Wednesday, the decoration of the D.S.O., won in the Palestine campaign, while in command of the Hereford Regiment.

The local newspapers also reported that members of the Regiment had been awarded Honours by France for recent operations in support of French Forces. These would not be confirmed (in the London Gazette) until November; Pte Johns was later awarded the Military Medal.

CRDIX DE GUERRE FOR ROSS PRIVATE.
Distinction for Herefordshire Regiment.

The French Government have conferred on Private Jack C. Johns, of the Herefordshire Regiment, son of Mr. G. Johns, clothier, Ross the Croix de Guerre for his valour in the field. Private Johns was, in peace time, a fine sculler, a member of the Ross Rowing Club, and well known at all the Midland regattas. We believe it is the first honour of the kind won by the Regiment, and the many friends of Pte Johns and all interested in the county Regiment will be especially pleased with the award.

The following is a copy of the letter received by Pte. Johns from Brigadier General E. Hilliam, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commanding 102nd Infantry Brigade.

CROIX DE GUERRE.
(Citation de Corps d'Armees).

I wish to congratulate you on behalf of all ranks of the 102nd Brigade during the actions in conjunction with the French at Oulchy La Ville on 29th July, 1918.

Your work has been excellent and beyond praise. It has been a great pleasure to me to forward your name for the decoration you so gallantly earned, and I trust that I shall be able to congratulate you on many future occasions.

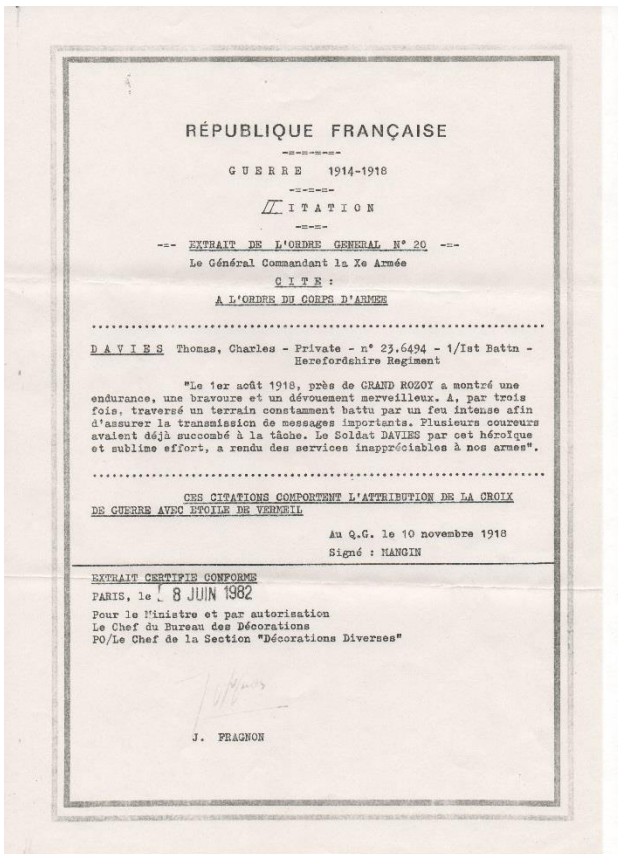
Your example to the Battalion has been of great service to the Commanding Officer of the Battalion and to myself as your Brigadier.

Wishing you the best of luck in the future. The Officer Commanding the Herefords, in recommending Pte. Johns for special mention says, "The Battalion in advancing found itself partly isolated, owing to the banks having been withdrawn. Volunteers were called for, and Pte. Johns came forward and successfully carried a message back to Brigade Headquarters under violent bombardment."

FRENCH HONOUR FOR LEOMINSTER SOLDIER.

We are pleased to hear that Corporal F. Harper, Herefordshire Regiment, son of Sergeant T. Harper, Etnam Street, has been presented with the French Military Croix de Guerre for service in the field. Sergt. T. Harper it will be remembered is an old Volunteer and is at present serving with the 1st Herefordshire Volunteer Regiment.

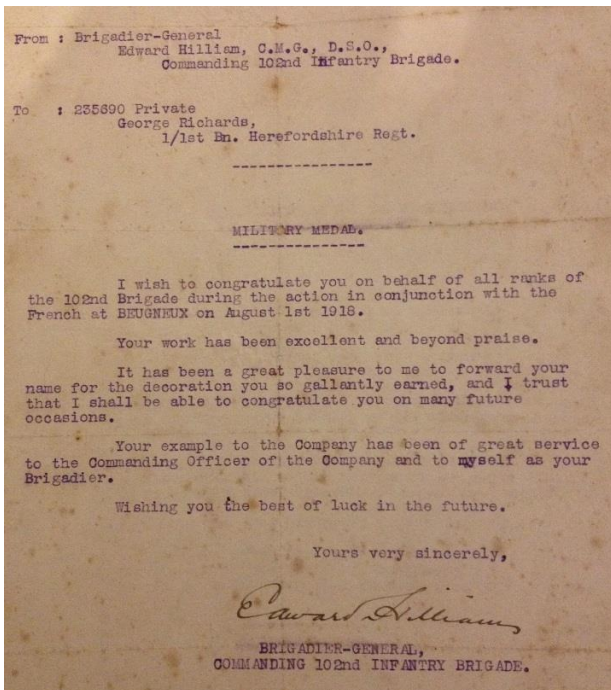
2368450 LCpl Thomas Charles Davies



"On 1st August 1918, near GRAND ROZOY, has shown endurance bravery and marvellous abnegation. Has, three times, crossed ground under constant and intense shelling in order to ensure the transmission of important messages. Several runners had already been overcome. Soldier DAVIES, by his heroic and sublime effort, has rendered invaluable services to our Arms".

235690 Pte George Richards was to be awarded the Military Medal (gazetted January 1919).

Pte Richards, from Thruxton, had enlisted into The Herefordshire Regiment, with his brother Arthur in August 1914. They had both served at Suvla Bay and in the Middle East, before moving with the battalion to France. Arthur was killed in Action in September 1918.



Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
01 Aug	Job	LKV	to be captain seconded as Asst Pro Marshal	
02 Aug	Gallant	AT	to be second lieutenant	
06 Aug	Banks	AV	seconded Labour Corps	
06 Aug	Horth	HR	to be captain and coy comd	
08 Aug	Jordan	LO	to be lieutenant	attached KSLI
10 Aug	Wallis	GL	precedence	
13 Aug	Symonds-Taylor	RHT	to be hon lieutenant colonel	
17 Aug	Williams	JO	to be lieutenant	
20 Aug	Goss	JW	to be lieutenant	
22 Aug	Lovering	CD	to be captain	
30 Aug	Nicholls	MJ	to be second lieutenant	

HEREFORD

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

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	Why	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
ADAMS	ALBERT EDWARD EARDLE	PTE	2883	235916	02 Aug	2b	DUDLEY	
BAMFORD	JOHN	PTE		238775	07 Aug	2b		KSLI 6
BERRY	CHARLES ALBERT	PTE		238676	07 Aug	2B		KSLI 4
JONES	GEORGE A	PTE	2053	235575	29 Aug	xvi	LEDDINGTON	
PRICE	ROBERT	PTE	4331	236770	13 Aug	2B		
SKYRME	CHARLES HENRY	PTE	4967		13 Aug	2b	Hereford	MONS 4

Xvi/2b - unfit through either wounds or sickness

iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier

Pte Skyrme, aged 35 had been enlisted under the Derby Scheme in December 1915 and mobilised in April 1916. He had been transferred to the Monmouthshire Regiment and posted to France in December 1917. He suffered from bronchitis and was discharged as unfit. He was awarded a pension of 27/6 (£1.37) for 4 weeks and half of this for 48 weeks. The basis for this was that his condition had been caused/aggravated by military service – over winter in the field in France.

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. ³¹⁵¹⁸² 464 Name Charles Henry Skyrme

Corps	Battn. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for final rate of Pension		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
					years	days	
General Service		Attended	Pte	17/12/15	1		<i>[Signature]</i>
General Service		To Army Reserve	Pte	17/12/15	1	52	
45th Bn		Reverted	Pte	17-4-16			
17th Bn 103 REGT TRANSFERRED							
UNDER A.S.G. 1004 OF 1916 I I 47.							
		Reverted	Pte	21.12.17			<i>[Signature]</i>
				24.12.17			
				2.3.18			
				1.4.18			
Discharge physically fit for War Service, Para 507 XXI K. Regn.							
				13.8.18			<i>[Signature]</i>
				Home 8.12.18	20.12.17	3	122
				Home 21.12.17	21.1.18	-	32
				Home 23.1.18	19.8.18	-	104
							Total 2 200
				Home 2.11.19			
				Home ..			131
Total Service forfeited as above ...							
Total Service towards Engagement to 13.8.18 (date of discharge) 2 years 132 days							
Pension ..							

PENSION EXPIRES. 12.8.19 Law. Child 1/16 SOLDIERS

Award Sheet - Disablement Pension.

Discharge Documents received. WEEK END 1916 - 31.7.18 (Date) Case Number: RDBF 3374

Name Skyrme Charles Henry

Regt. No. 315182 Rank Pte

Regiment 45th Bn 103 Regt Date of Engagement 17.12.15

Date of Discharge 13.8.18 Date of Pension Apr 9.18

Case of Discharge Physically unfit

Date of Pension 11.11.18 Age 36

Retired from R.H. Choice (Date) (Date)

Rate of Service gratuity pension awarded (Date)

Retained from R.H. Choice (Date)

Disability for which awarded Paralysis Degree of Disablement 50%

Opinion of Medical Board (Due to Aggravated by service during war with Germany)

Opinion of D.O.A.S. (Due to Aggravated by service during war with Germany)

Artificial Appliances required (Date)

Artificial Appliances supplied (Date)

Hospital or Special Treatment suggested (Date)

Action taken (Date)

Write (Date)

Check (Date)

AWARD.

Prize or Gratuity. Children's Allowance.

A.F. W. 1916 aw 13/6 13/6

A.P. to R. aw 98/8

A.P. to Parents aw 13/6 13/6

A.P. to S.P.C. aw 14-8-18

A.P. to W.P.C. aw 14-8-18

Entered on Worthy Roll aw 14-8-18

Entered on Conditional Register aw 14-8-18

Extracted for Statistical Card aw 14-8-18

Inspection Allowance issued to (Date)

Pay away (Date)

APPEAL TRIBUNAL

Appeal received (Date)

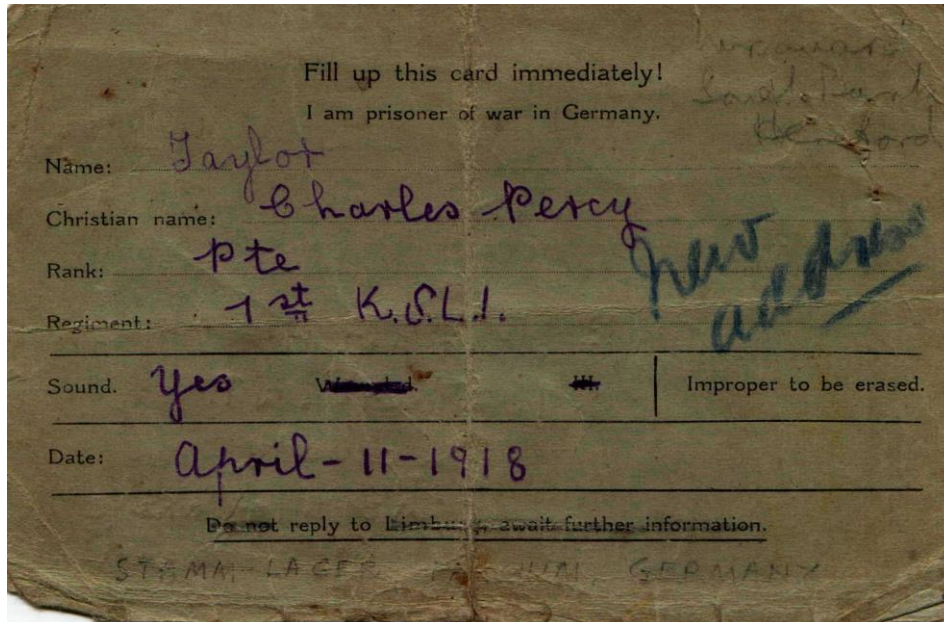
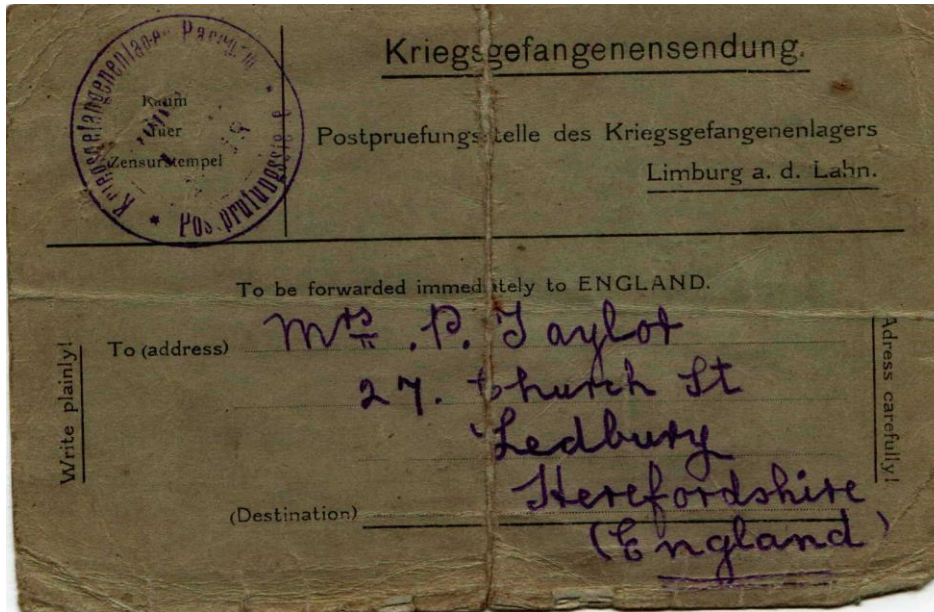
Decision (Date)

Form 90. (Insert here whether attributable or non-attributable)

Pte Taylor had been a pre war member of the band mobilised in Aug 1914. He had been accidentally shot in Dec 1914 and had been in the UK with the 2nd Bn until being attached to the KSLI and going to France in Autumn 1917. He had been captured during the German Spring Offensive, on 21 March 1918 whilst serving with 1KSLI. It was to be another 6 weeks before official notification was received by the family.

Mrs. Charles Taylor, Church Street, Ledbury, has received a postcard from her son, Pte. Percy Taylor, K.S.L.I., stating that he is a prisoner of war in Germany. Pte. Taylor was reported missing after the opening of the German offensive in March, and this is the first news heard of him. He is unwounded.





1st Battalion

Casualties

NAME	INIT	RAN K	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes
ADAMS	GEORGE	PTE	2155	235629	01 Aug	KIA	F&F	SUGWAS	Served Suvla Bay
BANNISTER	JOSEPH	PTE	3749	236386	04 Aug	DOW	F&F	BROMYARD	Awarded Military Medal (LG 24 Jan 1919)
BEVAN	WILLIAM NORMAN	PTE	2058	235578	02 Aug	DOW	F&F	HEREFORD	Served Suvla Bay
BEZANT	EDGAR WILFRED	LCPL	2136	235617	01 Aug	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	Served Suvla Bay
CHAMBERLAIN	TOM	PTE		236796	01 Aug	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	
EDMONDS	REGINALD	LCPL	1647	235363	01 Aug	KIA	F&F	EASTNOR	Served Suvla Bay

EVANS	JOSEPH	PTE	3481	236222	01 Aug	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	
LEWIS	JOHN	PTE	4030	236566	02 Aug	DOW	F&F	GLEWSTONE	
MILES	LESLIE TOM	PTE	1347	235222	03 Aug	DOW	F&F	GLOUCESTER	Served Suvla Bay
NICHOLLS	RICHARD	PTE		238959	01 Aug	KIA	F&F	STAUNTON ON	
OLIVER	WILLIAM HENRY	PTE		237750	01 Aug	KIA	F&F	BROMYARD	
POCKNELL	WILLIAM JAMES	PTE	4811	236877	02 Aug	DOW	F&F	FOWNHOPE	
WHITEHOUSE	AUGUSTIN GEORGE RICHARD	MAJ			01 Aug	KIA	F&F	SELLACK	Served Suvla Bay MC (LG 1 Jan 1918)
YEMM	REGINALD GEORGE	CSM	777	235053	06 Aug	DOW	F&F	ROSS	Served Suvla Bay



PTE. GEORGE ADAMS, OF STRETTON SUGWAS.

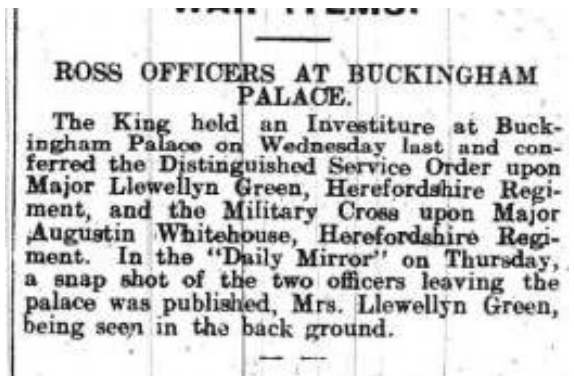
The parents of Pte. Adams, who reside at Stretton Sugwas, have received news of the death of their son, killed in action in the recent fighting in France, on August 1st. Pte. Adams before the war worked as a G.W.R. engine cleaner at Darton station, Hereford, and joined up with most of his mates in the 1st Herefords, in the first week of the war. In August, 1915, his regiment went out to the Dardanelles, and there Pte. Adams, though never wounded, had several narrow escapes, his cap being knocked off his head by a rifle bullet on one occasion. He contracted enteric and was invalided to Cairo, and on recovery after a short home leave, shared the desert march and the fighting in Palestine. Not long ago he wrote a most interesting letter home about Jerusalem and the holy places. In July last his regiment returned from the East to France. After an absence of over two years he was looking forward to home leave shortly, and a letter written by him on July 10th, in France, is pathetic reading now the end has come. His younger brother has been closely associated with him in war experiences, and was talking with him only one hour before he was killed. Both had suffered from enteric, but otherwise escaped injury. The younger brother has won the Military Medal, and is now in France.





**Major A. G. R. Whitehouse, M.C.
1st Bn., Hereford Regiment**

Maj Whitehouse had only just returned to join the Battalion after leave in UK where he had visited Buckingham Palace to receive the Military Cross which he had been awarded for services in The Middle East.



(Despite searches the photograph in The Daily Mirror cannot be located.)

**MAJOR A. G. R. WHITEHOUSE, M.C.
KILLED.**

Many older residents in Leominster will have heard with keen regret that Major A. G. R. Whitehouse, of the Herefordshire Regiment, was killed in action in the great offensive in France. He was the son of the Rev. G. Whitehouse, Vicar of Sellack, who was formerly Curate of Leominster. The then Vicar, the Rev. A. G. Eduoart, was godfather to the infant son of his Curate and took a keen interest in the boy's welfare. Major Whitehouse gave up a brilliant career at Oxford (holding the B.A. degree of the University) in July, 1915, to go out with the Herefords. He was in the landing at Suvla Bay, at the battle of Gaza, and the advance through Palestine, until his regiment was transferred to France. While in the East he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and devotion to duty and only a few weeks ago was invested with his honour by the King at Buckingham Palace. On his return the regiment went straight into action, when the Herefords took a part in breaking the enemy front and making the memorable history of the last few weeks.

Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Lawrence, D.S.O., commanding the Herefords, who was himself wounded, writes to the Rev. G. Whitehouse:—"It is with the utmost regret and with all true sympathy I write to tell you of the last gallant hours of your son. He was with me when he was killed, shot in the head and died instantaneously. My servant was hit at the same time, and the Adjutant was stunned, his steel helmet saved him. We were a small advanced party of Battalion Headquarters personnel, following up the Battalion during a dawn advance under a barrage, and as we were going through a field of growing wheat a small party of Huns suddenly jumped up right in front of us. They had evidently been out on the flank when the advanced troops passed and then came in behind these. It was a bad moment and yet one so likely to happen. All had gone so well; we had broken the Hun line, and, as you have no doubt seen, it was at this break the French went through and the Hun was run off his legs getting back to his river defence. The price we paid was a heavy one. Lieut. Fraser was also killed and many other ranks became casualties. Your son was buried among some 14 of our men and near Lieut. Fraser. We left the place ever so nice, with a silver birch trellis fencing around the graves. I hope to visualise the spot to an artist friend and have copies made to send to the relatives of the fallen buried there. Your son had been so good to me. He was a real helper. I feel I cannot do enough for anyone belonging to him. Our sympathy goes out to you and yours in this the hour of your great sorrow."

HEREFORDS IN ACTION.

NOW FIGHTING ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

THE CASUALTIES.

During the past week the many parents and friends of the Ross men now serving with the 1st Herefords in France, have received intimation that they have been in action on the Western Front, and it is pleasing to note that they have again upheld their reputation so worthily gained at Sulva Bay and in the Holy Land by their stubborn fighting. It is reported that a very stubborn resistance was put up by the enemy, who contested every foot of ground. A portion of the Herefords on emerging from the barbed wire entanglements, found in front of them a field of growing corn, to take which cost many casualties, the German barrage and machine gun fire being very heavy. But where the gallant French had failed a day or two before, the Herefords and Scots, with the assistance of General Foch's troops, succeeded, by dogged perseverance, in pushing back the Boche. The enemy made extensive use of mustard gas shells from the outset of the onslaught, and some of our men, unfamiliar with this means of warfare, had inhaled the fumes before they realised that the clouds they had seen above their heads were laden with poison. Happily, so far as is known here, the casualties due to this cause do not appear to be of a serious nature. Scotch troops, and also the Cheshires, fought alongside the Herefords on the left, and French on the right, and by the end of the day two kilometres of hotly disputed territory had been wrested from the enemy.

The Herefordshire Regiment is now commanded by Colonel Lawrence, from the Cheshires, of whom all ranks speak in terms of the highest confidence and praise.

THE CASUALTIES.

Up to the present the casualties returned are as follows.—

KILLED.

Corpl. (acting Sergt.) A. J. Richardson, 3, Tanbrook Place, Widemarsh Street, Hereford.

WOUNDED.

Capt. F. A. Trumper, Bryngwyn, Raglan, Hereford.
Lieut. Howard H. Bulmer, Longmeadow, Hereford.

Co.-Sgt. Major Yemm, Ross.
Sergt. Longford, Weston-under-Penyard, Ross.

Corpl. O. T. Holland, Leominster.
Corpl. H. A. Lampitt, 81, Bath Street, Hereford.

Corpl. G. Aingel, Swanshill.
Corpl. G. Griffiths, 9, Mostyn Street, Hereford.

Lance-Corpl. W. R. Gurney, White Hart, Ledbury.

Pte. Davenport, Tarporley, Cheshire.
Pte. Gunliffe, Colne, Lancashire.

Pte. C. Ellis, Bridge Street, Leominster.
Pte. C. Fletcher, Bridge Street, Leominster.
Pte. E. H. Hall, South Street, Leominster.

Pte. R. R. Hall, South Street, Leominster.
Pte. Harry Davies, 20, Holmer Street, Hereford.

Pte. C. Williams, De Lacy Street, Hereford.
Pte. Arthur Wargent, Holmer Road, Hereford.

Pte. George Preece, 46, Dishley Street, Leominster.

Pte. C. W. Martin, Riffin's Mill, Bodenham.
Pte. A. Parker, 24, High Street, Shifnal.
Pte. Jack Lewis, Ross.

Pte. E. H. Whittington, 110, Whitecross Street, Hereford.
Pte. W. R. Mason, 26, Stanhope Street, Hereford.

GASSED.

Pte. S. A. Jones, Ledbury
Pte. J. Griffiths, Wintercroft, Leominster.
Pte. R. O. Evans, Sellaek's Marsh.
Pte. Arthur Jenkins, Vowchurch.
Pte. H. J. Lane, Bridstow.
Pte. A. S. Moss, Hawthorn Avenue, Newport, Mon.

OUR LOCAL MEN.

Pte. J. Lewis, Ross, is suffering from a wound in the back. He was hit early on in the day, but could not be rescued till nightfall owing to the incessant saiping.

Since receiving the above, we are informed that Pte J. Lewis has died in hospital in France.

Pte. Henry James Lane, Bridstow.—Pte. Henry James Lane, who was gassed, is a native of Hereford, his birthplace being in Blueschool Street. His home, which he has not seen for over two years, is now at Bridstow. Like Pte Jenkins, of Vowchurch, his ward companion at Beechwood, he was gassed about an hour after going "over the top" on July 23rd, but he and his companion continued the fight till late in the afternoon, when, overcome by the effects of the poison, they had to "give in."

Lance-Corpl. J. H. Smith, of How Caple, is the only one of the Herefordshire Regiment to be allocated to the General Hospital at Hereford. He is suffering from gas poisoning, the result of the fighting on July 23rd. A son of Mrs. Cooke, of Pump Cottage, How Caple, he joined the Herefords over two years ago and though missing the Gallipoli campaign, was with the regiment in Palestine, and was wounded in the advance between Beersheba and Jerusalem. He is happily now going on well.

Co.-Sgt. Major Yemm, of Ross, and Sergt. Longford, of Weston-under-Penyard, are both wounded in the leg.

Pte. P. Gardener, Prospect Terrace, Ross, wounded and now in hospital at Derby.

IN HOSPITAL.

Five men of the Herefordshire Regiment are undergoing treatment at Beechwood, Hereford, viz. Corpl. C. T. Holland (Leominster), Pte. H. J. Lane (Bridstow), Pte. A. Jenkins (Vowchurch), Pte. Davenport (Tarporley), and Pte. Cunliffe (Colne). At Hampton Grange the regiment is represented by Pte. A. Parker (Shifnal) and Pte. A. S. Moss (Newport).

Mr. and Mrs. Howells, of Grove Common, have received a post card stating that their son, Corpl. Howells, of the 1st Herefordshire Regiment, is wounded for the third time and is now in Hospital in France.

Various other newspaper reports covered individuals who were killed, died or wounded:

C.S.M. YEMM DIES OF WOUNDS.

Particulars have now come to hand in reference to the death of Company Sergt.-Major R. G. Yemm, of the 1st Herefordshire Regiment, son of Mrs. Yemm, 2, Berryfield Terrace, Ross, who died of wounds at Rouen, on August 5th, after being seriously wounded by gunshot. Many letters have been received by Mrs. Yemm from the sisters of the different hospitals, the chaplain, and the officers, and the deepest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Yemm in this her second great loss during the war, for it was on November 18th, 1916, that her other son, Pte. Thos. Henry Yemm, was first reported as missing and afterwards as having been killed on the date mentioned. C.S.M. Yemm before the war was in the cooper's shop at the Alton Court Brewery. He joined up in 1914, and went through the landing at Suvla Bay; he was wounded in the battle of Gaza, and further accompanied the Regiment during the whole of the campaign in Palestine, until they were transferred to France. He was buried on his 25th birthday.

HEREFORD MAN DIES OF WOUNDS.

We are informed that Pte. L. Miles, of the 1st Herefords, of East Street, Hereford, has passed away as a result of wounds received in the recent fighting in France.

LEOMINSTER MAN KILLED IN FRANCE.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Hicks, of 4, Bargates, received information on Monday that their eldest son, Pte. George Hicks, K.S.L.L., was killed in action in France by a shell while serving with the battalion in the trenches. Pte. G. Hicks is the brother of Pte. John Hicks who was killed in France in August, 1916. He was previously with the Herefords in Egypt and was transferred to France. This is the second son Mr. and Mrs. T. Hicks have lost fighting for their country. Pte. G. Hicks was an employee of the Joint Railways and was for several years stationed at Hereford. He leaves a wife and four children. The following letter was sent to his wife from the officer in charge of his battalion:—

"Dear Mrs. Hicks,—I expect by now you have heard officially of your husband's death in action. I got your letter yesterday asking me for news of him and I am very very sorry that I can give you no better news than this. He was killed by a shell while he was in a trench on the first day on which the Company was in action. It is perhaps some little comfort to know that he was killed instantly and so suffered no pain. He was a good soldier and always a willing worker at any job it was his lot to do. He is a great loss to his Company and his Battalion, but I know well that is nothing compared with what you have to bear in the loss of a good husband. I very truly sympathise with you and I know only too well how little good letters are in such a sorrow. Please let me know if there are any other particulars I can give you. Yours truly, E. Wilmot, Captain, O.C. "D" Company."

PTE. JOSEPH EVANS, HEREFORD.

The sad news has been received in Hereford that Private Joseph Evans, of the Herefordshire Regiment, was killed in action in France on August 1st. He was 40 years of age, single, and the youngest son of the late Mrs. M. Evans, of 36, Perseverance Road, Hereford. Prior to joining H.M. forces in 1914, shortly after the outbreak of the war, he was employed at the Hereford Corporation Gas Works, where he had been engaged for some years. He had served for two years in Egypt, before going to France. His mother died on August 4th, three days after he was killed, without knowing of her loss, for notification was not received in Hereford until Sunday last. His three brothers are employed at the Gas Works.

PTE. J. HARRIS, DILWYN, KILLED.

Mrs. Harris, of Highway Cottage, Little Dilwyn, Dilwyn, has received official information that her husband, Pte. J. Harris, Herefordshire Regiment, was killed in action in France on July 29th. He volunteered at the outbreak of war and was in Egypt two years, where he saw much active service. He was removed to France and was expected home on leave. He was the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Harris, of Stockingfield. Three other brothers are serving in the Army, two of whom are now in France. Before joining up Pte. Harris was employed by Mr. T. H. Griffiths, Little Dilwyn. He leaves a widow and four children. The following letter has been received from his commanding officer:—

"Dear Mrs. Harris,—It is with deep regret that I extend my sympathy to you in your great loss. I know how keenly you will feel it. In the course of my duties as your husband's platoon officer I was bound to see in his letters the great affection he had for his home and children. Not only do I myself deplore his loss very keenly, but it is felt throughout the whole Platoon and Company. He was an excellent fellow and always ready and willing to give his best on every occasion. With my deepest sympathy, I remain, yours sincerely, G. F. I. Banks, Commanding Officer, A. Company."

PTE. SYDNEY HARRIS KILLED.

We much regret to hear that Miss Harris, 44, Bargates, Leominster, has been officially notified that Pte. Sydney Harris, Herefordshire Regiment, has been killed in action. The sad news was conveyed in the following letter from Lieut. E. L. Mogridge: "It is with deep regret that I have to write you on the occasion of your sad loss. No doubt by now you know that your son was killed on July 28th while fighting with the French Army. I am sure he will be greatly missed by all the men and N.C.O's. of the company and I offer you my sincere sympathy."

Pte. Sydney Harris joined the county regiment in September, 1914, a month before his 17th birthday, so that he was not quite 22 when he was killed. In February, 1917, he went to Egypt and went through the Palestine campaign. Only six weeks ago he came to France, and was anticipating leave after two years' absence. Much sympathy is felt with his relatives.

BODENHAM MAN, KILLED.

We regret to record the death in France of Lance-Corporal George Thomas Bounds, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Bounds, The Moor, Bodenham, who have been officially informed that he was killed on July 29th. Before joining the Army in February, 1916 Lance-Corporal Bounds, who was then 29 years of age, was at one time in the employ of the Great Western Railway and later in the employ of Mrs. Burrell, Hampton Court. He was with the Herefordshire Regiment all through the Palestine fighting and was wounded in the neck on November 6th, 1917. His mother has received the following letter from Captain Wilmot: "Dear Mrs. Bounds,—I have been a long time in writing to you to express my very real sympathy in your great grief, but it is so hard to know how to bring comfort in such terrible times as these. I have been in command of, or with, the Company in which your son served in this Battalion, I think, ever since he joined it and a more honest and straightforward man and soldier never lived. We were very short of N.C.O's. at the time when he met his death and he was doing exceptionally good work. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him—he was always cheery and always ready to help. I have lost in him a very true friend myself and he will be very sadly missed in the Company. It is some comfort, perhaps, to know that he was killed instantaneously and certainly suffered no pain. He is buried with the other officers and men of the Battalion who were killed during those few days in a little cemetery just behind the trench in which he died. That is now a quiet spot, well behind the line."

News has been received that Pte. William Peters, of the 1st Herefordshire Regiment, son of Mrs. Peters, of Broad Street Ross, is reported as missing after the last attack made by the Regiment in France. Pte. Peters joined up in August, 1914, and proceeded on active service with the Herefords, being in the landing of Suvla Bay and other actions in the East until they were transferred to the Western Front. Peters had only had five days' leave since going on active service with the county Regiment.

Pte Peter's death is recorded as 23 July 1918

PEMBRIDGE MAN KILLED.

Mrs. Lilwall, Townend Cottage, East Street, Pembridge, has received official information that her husband, Pte. G. Lilwall, Herefordshire Regiment, has been killed in action. He joined the Herefords in May, 1915, and before being sent to France was in Egypt and Palestine for two years. He was twice wounded in the fighting in the Holy Land, once at the first battle of Gaza in March, 1917, and at Beersheba.



PTE. G. LILWALL,
Herefordshire Regiment, killed
in action in France. His wife
lives at Townend Cottage, East
Street, Pembridge.

A HEREFORD FAMILY'S RECORD.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Daw have received intimation that their seventh son, Pte. Alfred Daw, 1/1st Herefordshire Regiment, is in hospital at Rouen, suffering from gun-shot wound in the face and also gas poisoning. He joined the Herefords in February, 1915, and had been in Egypt two years and three months. He was wounded in December, 1917. Two brothers, Pte. George Daw, K.S.L.I., and Pte. William Daw, King's Liverpool Regt., were killed in France, June and July, 1917, respectively. The youngest brother, Pte. Walter Daw, Border Regiment, formerly Hereford Regiment, has been a prisoner of war in Germany since November, 1916. The eldest brother, Driver James Daw, Royal Engineers, is serving in India.

LEOMINSTER CORPORAL WOUNDED.

Corporal C. T. Holland, Herefordshire Regiment, son of Mrs. Holland, of 29, New Street, Leominster, has been admitted to Beechwood Hospital, Hereford, suffering from wounds in the thigh received in France on July 24th. He was previously wounded in Palestine in December last.

LEOMINSTER MAN WOUNDED.

Mr. and Mrs. Parry, of 107a, Bridge Street, Leominster, have been notified that their son, Pte. James Parry, Herefordshire Regiment, has been wounded in the right arm above the elbow and in the left wrist. He joined up on June 6th, 1916, was wounded at Gaza on November 6th, 1917, and again on March 10th, 1918. He arrived in France on June 30th last. He is 21 years of age.

ALMELEY MAN WOUNDED.

Pte. John Dykes, Herefordshire Regiment, is in hospital at Trouville, France, suffering from gunshot wound in the head. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dykes, live at the Willows, Almeley. Pte. Dykes enlisted soon after the outbreak of war and went through the Dardanelles campaign from the Suvla Bay landing. He has since been in Palestine.

ALMELEY MAN WOUNDED.
The Shrewsbury Record Office reports that Pte. John Davies, 1st Herefords, is in hospital at Trouville, France, suffering from gunshot wound in the head. He belongs to Almeley.

HEREFORD SOLDIER GASSED.
Signaller A. T. Davies (236575), 1st Herefordshire Regiment, is home on leave after having been gassed in France. Signaller Davies, who was a young member of the printing house staff of this paper, joined the Territorials on September 1st, 1914, and spent twelve months in Egypt fighting the Turks. He took part in the Palestine advance, and arriving after the first battle of Gaza participated in the fighting in Khewelfah, and in the advance on Jerusalem. He afterwards left Cairo for France, and took part in the fight of Soissons and the wheat field incident, and was gassed the next day. He was sent to Rouen Hospital, and afterwards to Eastleigh, Southampton.

TILLINGTON MAN WOUNDED.
Mrs. Rickards, of The Broad, Leominster, has just heard that her brother, Pte. Tracey Weaver, Herefordshire Regiment, has been wounded in the face and foot in France. He was through the Egyptian Campaign, and came to France with his Regiment at the end of June. He is a son of Mr. Weaver, of Tillington Common. He has had four brothers killed during the war, and another brother, Pte. Sydney Weaver, is in a hospital at Manchester, suffering from wounds. Mrs. Rickards' husband, who is 55 years of age, is serving in Egypt, and a stepson has been killed. She has over 30 relatives still serving.

HEREFORD SOLDIERS GASSED.
News is to hand that Private T. E. Wood, 1st Herefordshire, has been wounded and gassed in France, and has been brought to England. He spent twelve months in Egypt. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Wood, of 55, St. Owen Street, Hereford, and lived with his wife at the Inner Friars. He was employed at Barton Station, and at the Flour Mills.

LEOMINSTER MAN BURIED BY SHELL.
Mr. and Mrs. James Budd, of Bargates, Leominster, have received an official notification that their son, Signaller William Harry Budd, Herefordshire Regiment, is in hospital in France suffering from "concussion, severe." Two letters have also been received from him. The first, which was written in a very shaky hand, stated that he could not clearly remember what had happened. When he recovered consciousness he found himself on a train, and a label on him was to the effect that he had been buried by a shell. He appears to have been unconscious for about 24 hours. A second letter, dated August 8th, was better written, and stated that he was only slightly wounded. "Not bad enough to be sent across." Signaller Budd joined up on the outbreak of war. He was employed as assistant to his father, who is the borough and out-parish surveyor.

LEOMINSTER MAN WOUNDED.
A postcard has been received from a mate of Pte. George Preece, Hereford Regiment, stating that he is wounded and has been removed to hospital. Pte. Preece, who is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Preece, 46, Dinsley Street, joined up 3 1/2 years ago. He was for a long time in Egypt with the Herefords and was moved recently with them to France. He is 21 years of age and before enlisting was in the employ of Messrs. Watkins & Son. He has two other brothers serving, both with the Herefords in France.

KINGTON MAN WOUNDED.
Mrs. G. W. Mason, of Mount Pleasant, Kington, has been notified that her husband, Pte. George W. Mason, Herefordshire Regiment, was admitted on July 1st to an Australian General Hospital, Rouen, France, suffering from shell wound in the left foot. Pte. Mason is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Mason, of Mount Pleasant, Kington, and joined the Hereford Regiment in March, 1916. He took part in the Battle of Gaza and has been previously wounded in Egypt.

At the beginning of the month Operations continued in support of the French.

From 34 Div War Diary

As the result of the operations of 29 Jul, 30 Corps line now ran from Bois de la terre d'or, inclusive, along the road to Grand Rozoy, round the northern edge of that village, and thence about one hundred yards south of the road to Beugneux as far as the eastern edge of the wood, and thence to some buildings at the station side of Hill 158, thence Parallel to and south of the Beugneux-Cramaille road.

During the night 31 Jul/1 Aug the troops moved to their "jumping off" positions. Commencing on the right our frontline troops were disposed thus: 103 Bde, with one company Machine Gun Battalion, 5 King's Own Scottish Borderers, 5 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, each with three companies in the front line - the inner flanks of these battalions were on the right Div boundary. The King's Own Scottish Borderers were to turn Hill 158 from the South. Two companies of the Scottish Rifles were in close support, and two in Bde reserve. 101 Bde, with one company Machine Gun Battalion. 4 Royal Sussex and 2/4 Queen's, each with three companies in the front line. 2 Loyal North Lancs were in Bde reserve. The Div Reserve consisted of 1/7 Cheshires, 2/4 Somerset Light Infantry, 34 Machine Gun Battalion (less two companies), and three Field Companies, all under command of Comd 102 Bde. The other 2 battalions of this Bde had special missions on either flank.

One hundred and eight field guns and 32 howitzers covered the Div front and prepared for the attack by harassing fire, which gradually developed into a heavy bombardment of the objective, which was the same as on the 29 July.

This bombardment lasted from 0400 to 0445hrs, and that hour the barrage commenced, and at 0449hrs the troops moved forward behind it. The advance everywhere was successful; the Herefords were intended to advance towards Bucy le Bras Ferme with the object of securing the high ground about Point 194, but it could make no progress, and dug in at 1135hrs. In its advance Maj AGR Whitehouse was killed by a "pocket" of the enemy, which had been overrun by the preceding troops.

In the meantime 101 Bde had been completely successful, overcoming considerable opposition in the woods north of the Grand Rozoy-Beugneux road, where there was fierce fighting with bayonets. By 0600 the Queen's Royal Sussex, and Loyal North Lancs were on the crest of the ridge near the objective "Brown line," but were enfiladed by machine guns from Hill 203, which was promptly cleared. This company was reinforced by 1/4 Cheshires, which had been allotted the special task of following the left flank of the attack, its CO, Col GH Swindells, was killed in the assault. At about 0900hrs the corn was set on fire by tracer bullets and anti-tank shells, and a German ammunition dump exploded, killing Captain and Adjutant J Holding and several others. About 1100hrs the line was handed over to the 127 French Div and the battalion was withdrawn.

In this attack our CRA had available one gun per 15 yards of front, and was able to cover the advance with a double barrage, HE nearest to the infantry and timed shrapnel beyond the HE. One battery of each of 152 and 160 Bdes limbered up, amid the cheers of the French artillery men, and drove up in close support of the infantry. The remainder of the artillery advanced, battery by battery, as soon as the barrage stopped, and came into action again 3,000 to 4,000 yards farther forward. The accurate shooting of the guns of both nations contributed largely to the success.

During the rest of the day the line remained stationary, but about 0500hrs it became evident that the line was not far enough advanced to cover the valleys on either side of Hill 199, and that hostile action in the valley to the east of that Hill was causing trouble to 68 French Div in Servenay. Therefore at 1900hrs, under a creeping barrage, the line was pushed forward some three hundred to four hundred yards along the whole of 34 Div and the left of 68 Div front. The night passed quietly, and we ascertained later from prisoners that the Huns sneaked away quietly about 2300hrs under cover of a thick fog.

The next day, 2 Aug, 25 French Div passed through our depleted ranks and pursued the Boche, now in full retreat. Our average battalion strength was now less than two hundred and fifty, and the casualties among officers had been very heavy, so when we were told during the night of 2/3 that we were to be withdrawn to the British area, though we felt annoyed that we were not to exploit the success we had done our full share in winning, we felt that under the circumstances it was the only thing to be done. The Div had been in the line since the night of 22/23, and had in that time fought three general actions, two of which involved night advances to get into position, and attacking without knowledge of the ground. In the last and most successful action it went in with less than three hundred and fifty effectives per battalion, and achieved a very fine performance.

German orders, subsequently captured, confirmed what Gens Mangin and Penet told Gen Nicholson, that the capture by the 68, 25, 127 French and 34 British Divs of the ridge north of Grand Rozoy and Beugneux finally induced the Huns to retire to the Vasle. The position captured by 34 was the key of that ridge. The new infantry of the Div had fairly won their spurs. Both Army and Corps Comds issued complimentary orders, and with promptitude, which fairly astonished the recipients a shower of French decorations descended upon us.

Casualties amounted to 153 officers, and 3617 other ranks.

On 4 Aug we celebrated the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of the war by moving by bus and march back to the entraining area, whence we travelled in discomfort by train to the Bergues, where we had entrained three weeks earlier.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

2 Aug, 1918.

The Div Comd has received the following, and desires that they be read out to all ranks on parade.

"Gen Mangin, Commanding 10th French Army, has instructed me to convey to you his personal thanks for the magnificent results achieved by your Div yesterday. "The Gen says that yesterday's battle worked out absolutely

according to orders and times, and says that the general retreat taking place to-day is entirely due to the success of yesterday.

"The Gen has instructed me to tell you of his gratitude and appreciation for the splendid success achieved by 34 Div yesterday.

"(Signed) BV JACKSON, Major,
"Liaison Officer,
"10th French Army."

From Gen Penet, Commanding 30th French Corps.

"Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men of 15 and 34 British Divs. You entered the battle at its fiercest moment. The enemy, already once vanquished, again brought up against us his best Divs, considerably outnumbering our own.

"You continued to advance step by step, in spite of his desperate resistance, and you held the ground won in spite of his violent counter-attacks. Then, during the whole day of the 1st August, side by side with your French comrades, you stormed the ridge dominating the whole country between the Aisne and the Ourcq, which the defenders had received orders to hold at all cost.

"Having failed in his attempt to retake the ridge with his last reserves, the enemy had to beat a retreat pursued and harassed for twelve kilometres.

All of you, English and Scottish, young soldiers and veterans of Flanders and Palestine, you have shown the magnificent qualities of your race: courage and imperturbable tenacity.

"You have won the admiration of your companions in arms. Your country will be proud of you, for to your Chiefs and to you is due a large share in the victory that we have gained over the barbarous enemies of the free.

"I am happy to have fought at your head, and I thank you.

"(Signed) H PENET"

By 7 Aug, the infantry Bdes were disposed in Bissesziele, Ziggers Cappel, and Wormhoudt areas. We were hard at work refitting and training. 101 Bde went to Cormettes camp; 103 Bde took over the left sector of 49 Div front, and 102 Bde moving up into the Siege camp area in reserve. 30 American and 12 Belgian Divs were on our right and left respectively.

The right Bde, 41 Div (124 Bde), remained in position, and GOC 34 Div assumed command of the sector, with his headquarters close to Abeele. The new sector extended for about three thousand yards, facing south-east, about midway between Kemmel Hill and Sherpenberg, and was the left sector of 19 Corps front. 27 American Div was on the left, and 30 British on the right.

On 30 Aug Brig RI Rawson took over command of 103 Bde from Brig Chaplin, who went home for six months' rest. The intention was that 41 Div should go out and train, and then attack Kemmel Hill, and 102 Bde was to be attached to it for that operation. Events, however, turned out differently. Having taken over command at 1000hrs on 30 Jul, Gen Nicholson drove round to his right-hand neighbour, Gen Williams, and discussed the situation with him. Gen Williams' news was that the patrols of 30 Div had been advancing all day, and it struck Gen Nicholson so forcibly that the enemy must vacate Kemmel Hill to avoid being attacked in flank, that on his return to his HQ he at once issued orders for both Bdes in the line to push out patrols without delay, to follow the enemy should he retire, and seize Kemmel Hill.

Both Bdes lost no time in carrying out the orders, and there is dispute as to which won in the race, for Gen Nicholson's prediction turned out correct and the Hun stole off during the night, covered by a rear-guard which put up a certain amount of resistance. By 0600 a patrol of 124 Bde had topped Kemmel Hill, and about the same time patrols of 2/4th Queen's, 101 Bde, reached its northern slopes. On the left the enemy held on a little longer, and it was not till noon that 2 Loyal North Lancs patrols were able to advance, by which time the remainder of 101 and 124 Bdes were well east of Kemmel Hill and village. By 1430hrs 124 Bde was established from Donegal Farm the south to a point some 700 yards south-south-west of Lindenhoek. A little later 101 prolonged the line northwards along the old trench line known as Vierstraat Switch to the northern Div boundary east of La Polka, where they were in touch with the 206 American Regiment. 124 Bde made a further advance, and by 0600hrs Vierstraat Switch was occupied from a point 2,700 yards west of Wulverghem northwards, and the far-famed Kemmel Hill was in our hands "for the duration." We were in touch on both flanks. The GOC held a conference of brigadiers during the morning at HQ 124 Bde, which

were in some dug-outs in a little valley between Sherpenberg and Reninghelst, and moved his HQs to this place later in the day so as to be in closer touch with his troops. During the night 103 Bde relieved 124 Bde. The night was uneventful, but the relief was not complete till 0715hrs 1 Sep.

Mount Kemmel



From The Battalion War Diary:

1 Aug	Intense French artillery fire during night; enemy replied. 0445 – our barrage began on enemy position. 0515 – Battalion advanced in rear of 103 Bde, objective being Bucylebras Ferme. During this advance Maj A G R Whitehouse MC was killed by a small party of enemy who suddenly appeared at short range – 120 yards right, in front of Battalion HQ party. This was a complete surprise as half the brigade had just passed through the area. 1135 – Battalion reached point 189, 1,200 yards north of Bugneux and dug in. Further advances held up by heavy machine gun fire from crossroads west of Bucylebras. 1900 – Battalion relieved by 103 Brigade and concentrated as support 600 yards south of point 189. 2000 - 2200 – Enemy counter attack signalled by front line. Battalion re occupied support trench at point 189 under heavy enemy shelling. 2300 – Battalion relieved by 1/7 Cheshire Regiment and returned to Paris trench system.
2 Aug	Battalion remained as brigade reserve. Burial and salvage parties sent out.
3 Aug	As per 2 nd .
4 Aug	0900 – Battalion moved to Chateau Thierry road and embussed and proceeded to Nantieu arriving at 1800. Marched to billets in Sill Le Long. First reinforcements joined.
5 Aug	Battalion cleaning up, resting and administration.
6 Aug	1500 - Battalion marched into Plessis Belle Ville and entrained at 1600; train left 1800; stopped at US for tea at 2200.

7 Aug	Train stopped at Nouvelle for breakfast at 0900. Arrived Bergues at 1700. Battalion marched to billets about 1 mile south of Zeggerscapel.
8 Aug	Battalion reorganisation and administrative work.
9 Aug	As per 8 th . CO proceeded on leave to UK.
10 Aug	Company training. Use of baths. Draft of 3 officers and 157 men received.
11 Aug	Sunday – Divine Service and Holy Communion. Draft of 140 men received.
12 Aug	Battalion on 30 yard range. Corps Commander inspected drafts who had recently arrived. Draft of 50 men arrived; very young many under 19.
13 Aug	0730 – Battalion marched brigaded to Hezeel. GOC 34 Division watched as brigade marched past.
14 Aug	Battalion and company training and administration.
15 Aug	Brigade classes formed. Nine officers and 90 men attended. Battalion continued company training. Two companies used 30 yard range.
16 Aug	As per 15 th .
17 Aug	As per 16 th . Brigade sports; Battalion transport won cup presented by BGC 102 Bde.
18 Aug	Sunday – Brigade Church parade, sports – tug of war won by Battalion.
19 Aug	Battalion marched brigaded to Proven (Pigeon Camp).
20 Aug	Battalion training.
21 Aug	0930 - Battalion moved off and marched to Siege Camp, B29A46, sheet 28, and relieved 1/4 KOYLI. Battalion formed part of brigade in divisional reserve. Officers recced Rome Farm switch line.
22 Aug	All officers and NCOs recced Green Line. Enemy shelled area; slight during night.
23 Aug	Battalion trained. Recces of front line made by officers and NCOs.
24 Aug	As per 23 rd . Kaaie and Dickebusch positions recced.
25 Aug	Sunday – further recces carried out.
26 Aug	Battalion working on trenches under Res. CO returned from leave.
27 Aug	Battalion relieved by 14 York and Lancs. Battalion entrained on light railway in 2 trains at 1630, arrived Lancaster Siding and marched to Road Camp. St Jen Ter Biesan.
28 Aug	0615 - Battalion marched to Proven station and entrained; arrived at St Omer 1345. marched to Cormette Camp, transport moved by road in 2 days, CO and company commanders to reccé Kimmel area. A 24 hour reccé was carried out from Scherpenberg trenches.
29 Aug	Battalion administrative work. Trenches dug around tents. Company training. CO and company commanders rejoined Battalion.
30 Aug	Musketry on ranges near companies, carried out application and rapid at 200 and application at 300.
31 Aug	Battalion under orders to move at short notice.

1. Improvements

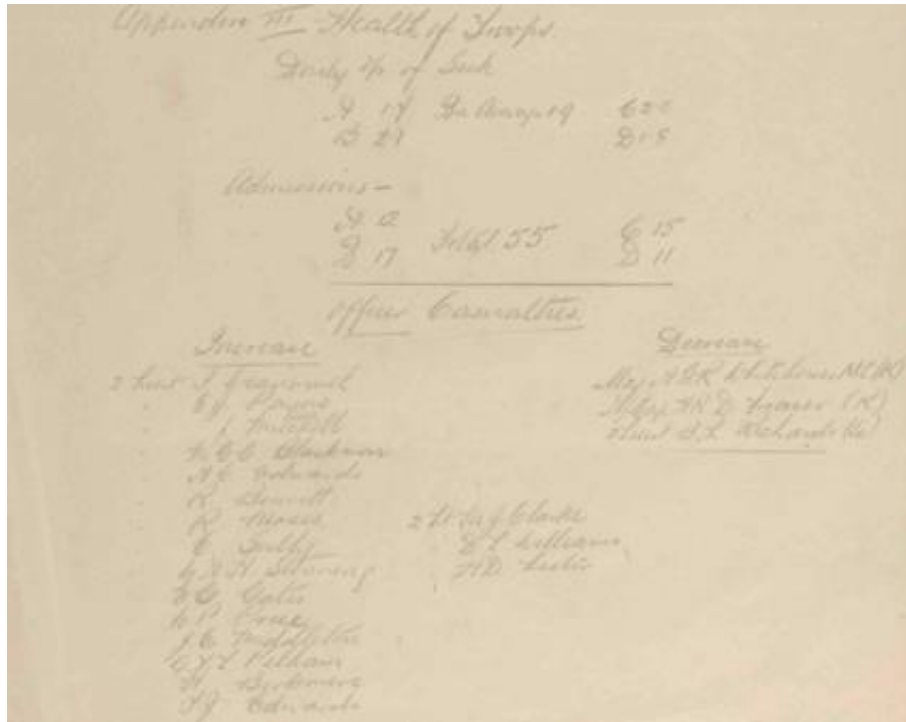
Appendix to the War Diary for Month of August 1915

Appendix I Casualties

	Officers	Total Strength
Killed	2	7
Wounded	1	59
Missing		30
Sick Absent		30
	3	97

Appendix II Improvements

	Officers	Total Strength
From England & Base	15	116
Hospital		33
Various		-
	15	149



From the Diaries of:

Sgt Colley

Eventually we were taken back to the Ypres sector, and after a rest went into the line at Mount Kemmel. On Sep 4 having now been reinforced by large drafts from the Ox & Bucks, Cheshires, Gloucesters and Devons we went into action once more. About this time Col Lawrence left us and we had several Cos, but the bulk of the work fell on Maj Chipp, who was temporarily appointed to command. This officer's work was excellent and within the last 2 months of the war he received a DSO and Bar, a French Croix De Guerre, a Belgian Croix De Guerre – an excellent record. The Battalion was now continuously in action and right through Sep the regiment was continuously in the front, passing through Gheluvelde, Menin and Laurve being the first English troops to pass through these places.

Sgt Pugh

It was after this that we went into reserve to the 103 Bde of 34 Div near Vimy Blaney being relieved by French Algerians. We had a 36 mile ride, and later a 48 hour train ride for Bruges and then had an 8 hour march to Zeedeers Chappelle and were reinforced by the Ox and Bucks LI; there was much marching. We had sports, there was no fighting at all here, and a day off to prepare and the Herefords took first prize – a cup – for the best turn out in transport. Afterwards we went back to Proven and then moved to Dirty Bucket Camp near Ypres and got shelled at night. We stayed there four days and went back to Siege camp near Popperinghe. We were at ? Camp and St Omer again, going 30 miles by cars.

There was speculation and expectation that the move from the Middle East to The western Front (closer to UK) would allow 'blighty leave'.

MEN WHO WILL GET FIRST LEAVE.

In granting leave to the Army in France first consideration, says Mr. Macpherson (for the War Office), will be given to men who have not had any leave for the last two or three years in consequence of having been sent first to the East and then drafted back to France and have gone into action without any intermission of duty. A large number of Cheshire and Lancashire men, it is stated, come within this category. Leominster people will add to these units the Herefordshire Regiment which recently went through some bitter fighting in France. The men concerned had just come from Palestine, where they had served for two years, in the course of which they saw much serious service. Many Herefordshire men now in France have not had leave for over two years, so that the above announcement will be received with pleasure in many local homes.

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

The Volunteer Bn remained active as can be seen from weekly orders:

1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

BATTALION ORDERS BY MAJOR T.
WHEELER MEATS, COMMANDING.

Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.

August 8th, 1918.

No. 40.

1. Attached Instructors.—No. 202429 Sergt. Collins, W. F. J., No. 10173 Sergt. Bartlett, J., No. 265267 Sergt. Stevens, H., No. 200012 Sergt. Evans, J. T., are attached for duty with A, B, C, and D Companies respectively. No. 14582 C.Q.M.S. Gaskell, J., will attend parades of the Weobley detachment, and will carry out instruction of detachments at Moccas and Staunton-on-Wye.

2. Course of Instruction in Range Finding.—Courses of instruction regarding the use of the Mekometer will commence the 30th August and the 6th, 13th and 20th September next, the length of the courses being three days. Officers Commanding Companies will forward the names of any officers or N.C.O.'s wishing to attend not later than ten clear days before a course assembles.

2. School of Musketry, Altcar: Rifle Course.—A rifle course at the above school will commence on the 26th August next, and terminate on Saturday, the 7th September. The names of any officers or N.C.O.'s wishing to attend will be forwarded to Orderly Room by the 17th inst. at latest.

4. Course of Instruction in Trench Work and Obstacles.—Courses of instruction in this subject are being held every alternate week at Conway. Names of any N.C.O.'s wishing to attend should reach this office at least ten days before the commencement of the course. The next course commences on the 10th inst. and every alternate week thereafter.

(Signed) C. L. Gabell, Capt. & Adjt.,
1st Vol. Batt. Herefordshire Regt.

1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

BATTALION ORDERS BY MAJOR T.
WHEELER MEATS, COMMANDING.

Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.

August 22nd, 1918.

No. 41.

1. Attached Instructors.—No. 202429 Sergt. Collins, W. F. J., No. 10173 Sergt. Bartlett, J., No. 200012 Sergt. Evans, J. T., are attached for duty with A, B and D Companies respectively. No. 14582 C.Q.M.S. Gaskell, J., will attend parades of the Weobley, Moccas and Staunton-on-Wye detachments.

2. Appointments.—No. 903469 Corpl. Webb, R. G., "C" Company to be a Sergt. No. 903522 Pte. James, J. W., "A" Company, to be a/Corpl. while attending course of musketry at Altcar.

(Signed) C. L. Gabell, Capt. & Adjt.,
1st Vol. Batt. Herefordshire Regt.

1st V.B. HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

"C" COMPANY.

Orders for the Week commencing
Thursday, August 15, 1918.

Thursday 15.—Hentland, 7.30, Drill (L. Corpl. Holding).—Whitchurch, 8, Musketry

Friday 16.—Fawley, 7.30 (L. corpl. Hodges)

Sunday 18.—Firing on Alton Court Range, at 10 a.m., Hotchkiss Gun Section, 10.30 Drillhall.—Hentland, 2.30, Musketry (L. Cpl. Holding and Newton).—Whitchurch, 2.30, Musketry.—Upton Bishop, 2.30, Musketry and Drill (Sergt. Caws)

Monday 19.—Armoury, 7.30, Recruits, Drill (C.S.M. Millington).

Tuesday 20.—Lea Section, 2.30, Musketry (L. Corpl. Howell).—Upton Bishop, 8.0, Musketry (Corpl. Webb).—Stretcher Bearers, 8, Armoury.

Wednesday 21.—Armoury, 7.30, Drill and Musketry (Sergt. Kemp and L. Cpl. Wood). Hotchkiss Gun Section, Drillhall, 7.30

Thursday 22.—Hentland, 7.30, Guard Duties (L. Cpl. Holding).—Whitchurch, 8.0, Drill.

Classification Firing will take place on the Alton Court Range, on Sunday, 18th inst. at 10 a.m. All men who have not passed should attend to complete their Musketry Course.

All N.C.O.'s and men are requested to give in the size of boots required to Sergt. Stephens by 9 p.m., 21st inst.

(Signed)

S. PRICE, 2/Lieut.
Actg. O.C. "C" Coy. 1st V.B. H.R.

The 1st Cadet Bn Herefordshire Regiment

The Cadet Bn continued to recruit and establish itself.