

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – December 1918

**THIS WILL BE THE LAST MONTHLY POST COVERING THE REGIMENT'S EXPLOITS
DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR.
A RECORD OF THEIR SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES AND A SUMMARY OF
THEIR WAR EXPERIENCES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN JANUARY**

The 'Bigger' Picture

The political implications of the Armistice and the 'defeat' of the central Powers has a far reaching political effect.

Whilst operations ceased on the Western Front there was still considerable activity as part of 'the Russian Intervention'.

GERMANY

16th - First meeting of 'Imperial Conference' of Soldiers and Workmen in Berlin.

YUGOSLAVIA

- Yugo-Slav National Council at Agram proclaim the union of all Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in one State.
- M Stoyan Protich appointed Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

SERBIA

- Serbian Government reinstated at Belgrade
- M. Pasich, Premier of Serbia, resigns. (Appointed in 1912)

POLAND

Poland severs diplomatic relations with Germany

ROMANIA

- General Coanda appointed Rumanian Premier and Foreign Minister.
- National Assembly of the Rumanians of Transylvania, the Banat and other districts of Hungary, assembled at Alba-Julia (Transylvania), decree their union with Rumania.
- Deputation from the National Council of The Bukovina arrives at Jassy to inform Rumanian Government that National Council has voted for union with Rumania.
- The Bessarabian National Council abrogate the stipulations for local autonomy and declare the unconditional union of Bessarabia with Rumania
- General Coanda, Rumanian Premier and Foreign Minister, resigns; M. Bratianu appointed.
- King of Rumania issues Proclamation annexing the Rumanian provinces of Austria-Hungary.

PORTUGAL

- Senhor JT de Sousa Barboza appointed Portuguese Premier and Minister of Interior.
- Dr. da Silva Paes, Portuguese President, assassinated
- Sen Antunes appointed Acting Portuguese President.

UKRAINE

- Formation of West Ukraine Republic announced.

FINLAND

- Gen Mannerheim elected Regent of Finland

The Home Front

- 4th - Demobilisation of the British Army begins.

Employers could apply for the release of their employees:



The Western Front

- Armistice on the Western Front prolonged to January 17th
- 1st - British, and United States troops cross the German frontier. Treves occupied by United States troops.
- 6th - Cologne entered by British troops.
- 8th - Coblenz occupied by United States troops.
- 12th - British troops cross the Rhine at Cologne

The Eastern Front

RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

- Perm (East Russia) taken by Kolchak's forces

ROMANIA

- Last Bulgarian troops evacuate the Dobrudja

UKRAINE

- Odessa occupied by Petlyura's Ukrainian revolutionary forces

FINLAND

- Last German troops leave Finland (see April 3rd).

HUNGARY

- Field-Marshal Mackensen and his forces surrender to the Hungarians near Budapest.

UKRAINE

- Kiev occupied by Petlyura's Ukrainian revolutionary forces.

ESTONIA

- Dorpat (Estonia) evacuated by the German forces

Other Fronts

ARABIA

- Lahej, Southern Arabia reoccupied by British forces.
- 13th - Hodeida, Southern Arabia taken by British forces.

CASPIAN INTERVENTION

- Batum, Georgia occupied by British forces. This force subsequently occupied the whole of Georgia, with headquarters at Tiflis.

At Sea

BALTIC SEA

- HMS Cassandra sunk by mine. Following the end of the First World War, 6th Light Cruiser Squadron, including Cassandra, formed part of a force sent to the to support the independence of the newly founded Baltic States against the Bolsheviks. On 5 Dec the force was on passage to Tallinn, threatened by a Bolshevik army, when Cassandra struck a mine, part of an uncharted German minefield, near Saaremaa in the Gulf of Finland. Cassandra quickly sank, but most of her crew were rescued by the destroyers Westminster and Vendetta with only eleven of her crew lost. (Ten were killed by the initial explosion while one man fell overboard during the rescue attempt)



CASPIAN SEA

- Naval action in the Caspian between British and Bolshevik vessels

BLACK SEA

- French troops land at Odessa.

The 'Herefords'

Casualties None recorded however news of casualties from previous months was still being received:

Pte. W. E. Webb, 1st Herefords. Mrs. Webb, of the Bell, Cwmdauntar, near Eghyader, has been apprised of the death of her son in action. Pte. W. E. Webb, of the 1st Herefords. According to a letter received from the Chaplain, he fell in France on October 24th, just 10 days after returning to the front from home leave; a sergeant and a private of the same platoon were also killed at the same time by machine gun fire, and the comrades were buried side by side near a tunnel. Pte. Webb volunteered for active service in March, 1915, and twelve months later went to Egypt, taking part in every battle in which the Herefords were engaged up to the date of his death. On August 1st of this year, in France, he was buried in a trench, but quickly recovered from his injuries.

The London Gazette

Honours & Awards

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
30 Dec	Chipp	WF	MID	
30 Dec	Chubb	CS	MID	
30 Dec	Coleman	235011 CSM CK	MID	
30 Dec	Millyard	G	MID	attd 6 KSLI

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
05 Dec	Ashton	P	to be Bde Maj	
11 Dec	Lovering	CD	reverts to lieutenant on ceasing to be coy comd	
11 Dec	Lovering	CD	to be captain	
11 Dec	Payne	EJ	to be captain	KSLI attd
20 Dec	Green	ALB	to be major	
21 Dec	Lawrence	HM	to be CO	from Scottish Rifles
30 Dec	Evans	EH	to be Lt Col & CO	RWF attached

HEREFORD

The following are recorded as being discharged:

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	Why	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
BIRCHWOOD	ARTHUR	PTE		236934	02 Dec	2b		
GREEN	ESTIL	PTE		237335	03 Dec	xvi		
WATKINS	EDGAR	PTE		239385	03 Dec	2B		
PARKER	ALFRED	PTE		239057	04 Dec	2B		
PEMBRIDGE	JOHN FRANCIS	CPL		235726	04 Dec	2B		

WALL	ALBERT	PTE	3688	236348	04 Dec	2B		
BRUMBILL	WILLIAM FREDERICK	PTE	1836	235459	05 Dec	2b	HEREFORD	
MATTHEWS	HARRY	CPL	1809	235442	05 Dec	2B	ROSS	
WEBB	HAROLD JAMES	PTE	4895	235899	05 Dec	2B		
OWENS	JOHN WALTER	PTE	4156	236660	06 Dec	2B		
DEVLIN	FRANK	PTE	1237	235160	11 Dec	2B	HEREFORD	
EVANS	IVOR JOHN	CPL	967	235080	11 Dec		KINGTON	
MILES	TOM	PTE		237036	12 Dec	2B		
WRIGHT	GEORGE	SGT	1680	235380	12 Dec	xxva	HEREFORD	
GRIFFITH	CLIFFORD HOSTINS	PTE		235479	14 Dec	xviA	Aston	
HERRICK	RICHARD	PTE	5482		14 Dec		STOCKPORT	
JONES	WILLIAM	PTE	1622	235348	14 Dec			
WATKINS	ALBERT W	PTE	2543	35808	14 Dec	2B	RUARDEAN	Served Suvla Bay. Wounds
BROWN	WALLACE THOMAS	ACPL		238551	20 Dec	xvi		
JORDAN	JOB	PTE		236805	20 Dec	2B	Monkland	
JONES	THOMAS WILLIAM R	PTE		236893	28 Dec	xvi		
MOSS	FRANK	PTE		238743	28 Dec	2B		

Xvi/2b - unfit through either wounds or sickness

iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier

The release of prisoners of war were being reported in the newspapers:

RELEASED.
HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.
King (235464), W., Hereford.
Groves (235900), H. H., Ledbury.
SHROPSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY.
Taylor (235062), C. P., Ledbury.

The release of Pte Taylor was reported in the November account

Lieut. G. P. Lloyd, Hereford Regt., attached
Shropshire Light Infantry.

The following prisoners of war are officially reported as released:-
Herefordshire Regiment.-From Turkey: Pte. H. S. Holland, Leominster; Pte. G. H. Jones, Hereford; Pte. J. H. Jones, Bromyard; Pte. W. H. Morgan, Llandoverly; Pte. F. Price, Ledbury; Pte. A. J. Williams, Builth. From Germany: Pte. A. Davies, Mansel Lacy; Pte. A. E. Foster, Bosbury; Pte. E. G. Hall, Hereford; Pte. A. L. Whittaker, Ledbury.

Herefordshire Regt.-Pte. A. E. Townsend, (23665), Abercynon; Pte. A. Darby (237999), Cambewell, S.E.; Pte. F. H. Southall, Hereford (from Turkey).

Families lived in hope that their missing relatives might still be alive and sought information from returning pows:

PRISONER OF WAR.
Information of Pte. H. J. Jones Wanted.-If any prisoner of war returned from Turkey can give information about Pte. H. J. Jones (3157), 1/1st Hereford Regt., last heard of at Gaza Hospital on April 1st, 1917, news will be welcomed by Mrs. A. Hanton, The Farm, Woodside, Ruardean, Glos.

The Regimental Colours were sent from Hereford to the 1 Battalion in Germany.

HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

Departure of the Colours for Germany.

UNIQUE CEREMONY.

The colours of the Herefordshire Regiment have left Hereford for France—on their way to Germany. The ceremony which took place in Hereford on Friday evening was unique in the county's annals, and had it been possible for more notice to be given there is no doubt that there would have been even a larger and more representative gathering. As it was, a large number of Herefordians and military turned out, to give the colours a good send-off. The military paraded at the Barracks, which were left about eight o'clock for a triumphant march through the principal city streets to the railway station, where the colours were to be entrained. Captain Wing was in command of the parade, which included, besides the colour party, in charge of Captain O. B. Wallis, and drawn from the "Herefords" in Belgium and Pembroke Dock, detachments of the 1st Volunteer Battalion Herefordshire Regiment and 1st Cadet Battalion Herefordshire Regiment, headed by the band of the Working Boys' Home. The Volunteers were under the command of Lieut. H. J. Hammond, and the Cadets of Capt. J. H. Johnson.

Upon arrival at Barr's Court Station the parade was drawn up facing the station, with the colour party a few paces in advance. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. Dymond), Colonel M. J. G. Scobie, C.B., the late commandant of the Regiment, and Alderman E. L. Wallis, whose son was the officer in charge of the colour party.

An interesting little ceremony took place before the colours were entrained.

Colonel SCOBIE said he would like to take the opportunity of saying a few words before the colours of the Herefordshire Regiment which they saw before them were saluted and proceeded on their way to Germany. The colours were presented by the ladies of Herefordshire, and they were given into the hands of the Herefordshire Regiment by King Edward VII. at Windsor. Two officers (two lieutenants, now majors) had the honour of receiving them at His Majesty's hands. He (Colonel Scobie) was present and saw it done. That was in June, 1909. In the following month the colours were marched on to parade at the Barracks and received and saluted by the Battalion as a whole, in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant and a goodly company. Then afterwards the colours were deposited in the Cathedral at the outbreak of war, when the Battalion was mobilised for active service and had remained there

until this time. On the colours were the honours won by the parent of the Battalion, the 1st Herefordshire Volunteers, in South Africa. They knew of their doings in Gallipoli, when they were mentioned in such a distinguished way by Sir Ian Hamilton. Then they followed them in their doings in Egypt and Palestine, and afterwards they heard with considerable pleasure that they had been selected to form part of the 34th Division in France and Belgium. They were sent to Soissons, and took part on the 23rd of July, in an engagement, when they earned great honour. They were there working in conjunction with the French Army, and he dared say they had all seen what the French generals said about the 34th Division, of which the Herefordshire Regiment formed part. They would remember the 23rd of July, the day when the Germans were checked and the retreat begun which ended so ignominiously for them. Then the Herefordshires with the 34th Division were called upon to go to another part—they were on special duty. They heard with great satisfaction how well they deported themselves in October last, when they received very many congratulations for the way in which they worked. Now, he thought this was a unique occasion. So far as he knew, it was the first time that the county of Hereford had ever sent away from Hereford the colours of their local regiment to take part in active operations abroad. It was certainly the first time such an occasion as this had arisen. They must see to it that the honours which had been bestowed upon the Regiment were placed upon those colours together with any others that might yet be bestowed upon it; and they must take care that Hereford in the future must continue to be the headquarters of a regiment known as the Herefordshire Regiment. He was proud to be present that night to take part in the send-off, and wished, on behalf of the County Association—and the County Association included the Lord Lieutenant and other members whose duty it was to administer in peace time the Herefordshire Regiment and other units in order that they should be prepared for war—to congratulate the Battalion most heartily upon the way in which they had upheld the honour of their King, their country and their county.

The MAYOR, addressing the colour party, said it gave him great pleasure to be there as representing the citizens of Hereford, to bid God-speed to the colours and the colour party, and he would ask that party to take with them a message from the citizens of Hereford to the Herefordshire Regiment. First of all, they were proud that they had been selected to form part of the army of occupation, which no doubt was a great honour. He was afraid, however, that would mean delaying their return. Secondly, he would like them to believe that throughout the last four and a half years the thoughts of the citizens of Hereford had constantly been with the Regiment, and perhaps they would explain why it was that in the local Press and so on there had been no reference to the gallant deeds the Regiment had performed. It was because the community had been kept in ignorance of those things, and the few of them who knew were not allowed to speak. What

the community knew was gathered from the lists of casualties published from time to time. He hoped the colour party would explain that—that the Regiment had been in all their thoughts all the time, but they were not allowed to speak. Lastly, might he say that he hoped it would be possible for the Regiment to return to them as a regiment, so that they could give them a fitting welcome. He hoped it would be possible, although it was not at all certain. He had one thing more to say. If in the country to which they were going, the inhabitants ever asked them where the colours came from and to whom they belonged, he hoped they would answer—they came from a county and belonged to a Regiment second to none.

At the word of command, the parade presented arms and saluted the colours, the band playing the National Anthem. The colours were then entrained, and the ceremony ended.

1st Battalion

Casualties No casualties recorded

From 34 Div War Diary

On 12 Dec the Div moved again to the area in the angle formed by the Meuse and Sambre at Namur, and did not reach its destination till 19th. Except on the last day, it rained hard, and the route was over paved roads and through the streets of Louviere, Charleroi, and other mining towns. Very few men fell out, though the test was a severe one. The distributions at the end of the march was as follows: Div HQ at Profondeville; 152 Bde RFA at Franiere; 160 Bde RFA at Bois de Villers; 113 Bde RFA at St Gerard; DAC at Arsimont Ham; 101 Inf Bde Gp at Malonne; 102 Bde Gp at Fosse; 103 Bde Gp at Avelais; RE at Lesves and Arbres; Pioneers at Wepion; MGC Bn at Florette.

Here we stayed till 17 Jan. Training and education went on, varied by joy rides to Brussels, for which one lorry per brigade was allowed. The Chequers gave a gala performance in Brussels, and ran the annual pantomime better than ever at Malonne, Namur, and finally at Siegburg.

On 22 Dec the demobilisation began, miners and pivotal men leading the way.

From The Battalion War Diary:

Date	Detail
1 Dec	Brigade Church parade.
2 Dec	Battalion and company training.
3 Dec	As per 2 nd .
4 Dec	Battalion drill.
5 Dec	Battalion route march.
6 Dec	Battalion and company training.
7 Dec	As per 6 th .
8 Dec	Brigade Church parade.
9 Dec	Battalion drill.
10 Dec	Battalion and Company drill.
11 Dec	Presentation of British and Foreign decorations by GOC 34 Division to 102 Brigade.
12 Dec	Battalion marched brigaded to Silly; very wet march' billeted in houses and barns.
13 Dec	Rest day.
14 Dec	Battalion marched brigaded to Soignes, billeted in tannery and works.
15 Dec	Sunday, rest day, Battalion Church Parade.
16 Dec	Battalion marched brigaded to Le Hestre, billeted in houses, very wet march.
17 Dec	Battalion again moved to Moncean, billeted in empty houses, wet march.
18 Dec	Battalion marched brigaded to Chatelet, billeted in empty factory. Very wet march. Colours arrived from England with Capt OB Wallis and Lt Jones.
19 Dec	Battalion marched brigaded to Fosse, billeted in empty houses' very wet march.
20 Dec	Re arrangement and cleaning of billets, this being the proposed winter quarters.
21 Dec	As per 20 th .
22 Dec	Sunday Service, first draft left to be demobilised.
23 Dec	Administrative work.
24 Dec	As per 23 rd .
25 Dec	Christmas Day – Brigade Divine Service.
26 Dec	Bank holiday.
27 Dec	Battalion route march.

a small village and we didn't relish the idea of spending the winter there. Football was the chief pastime indulged in; motor trips to Namur and Brussels were also arranged. We spent a quiet Christmas.

Demobilisation had now commenced, miners being the first group to leave for England. It was surprising the number of miners we had in the Battalion; everyone wanted to become a miner.

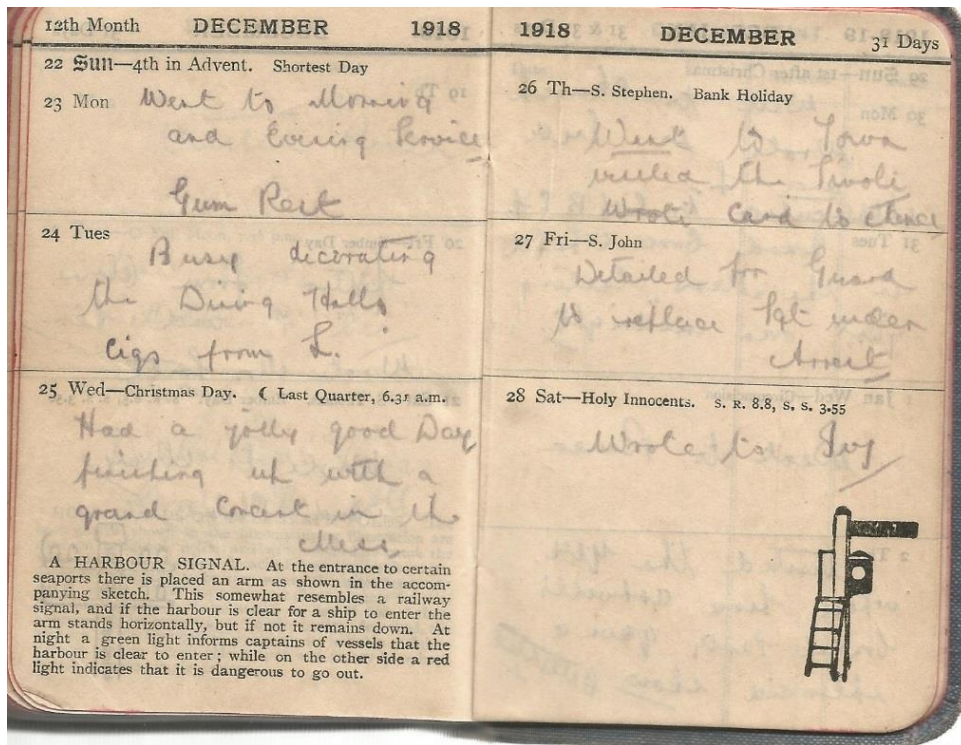
Sgt Pugh

Afterwards we moved to Bonn and went on with the Army Of occupation. The people in German towns and villages were very glad to see us and were just as pleased it was over as we were. We were at Fosse in Belgium for Christmas 1918 on the way to Bonn and we had a good time much better than our time in Jerusalem in 1917.

Sgt Harris

Sgt Harris remained at Rouen recovering from dental treatment.

1 Dec	Wrote to L, Colwell and Mother
3 Dec	Visited Rouen
4 Dec	Letter frm Ivy; wrote to Mrs Smith and PC to Cis
5 Dec	Letter from May
6 Dec	Wrote May & Ivy. Went to cinema
8 Dec	Went to service
9 Dec	Letter from Olive& Mother; wrote Mother
10 Dec	Wrote Olive
12 Dec	Gum rest
13 Dec	Took charge of the Dining Mess
14 Dec	Visited Rouen
16 Dec	Visited Rouen
17 Dec	Sent parcel for Mother & Cis
18 Dec	Sent Christmas cards to all
20 Dec	Letter from Olive & Len
21 Dec	Wrote to May & Olive
23 Dec	Went to morning and evening service
24 Dec	Busy decorating the dining halls; cigarettes from L
25 Dec	Had a jolly good day finishing up with a grand concert in the mess
26 Dec	Went to town visited the Tivoli; wrote card to ?
27 Dec	Detailed to guard to replace sergeant under arrest
28 Dec	Wrote to Ivy
29 Dec	Went to Church
30 Dec	Wrote to Syd and L. Application to C of BEF
31 Dec	Grand concert held in mess, lasting just over midnight.



Sgt Harris, bearing the chequer board shoulder title of 34 Div, and wearing 3 overseas service chevrons.



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

The Volunteer Bn continued to parade, but on a voluntary basis. They also supported military activities in the county such as Pte Clarke's (North Lancashire Regt) funeral:

**MILITARY FUNERAL AT
IVINGTON.**

THE LATE PTE. L. G. CLARKE.

The funeral of the late Pte. Leonard George Clarke, of Ivington, which took place on Sunday at Ivington Church, was the occasion of an impressive demonstration of sympathy and respect, the sad ceremony being witnessed by hundreds of mourners and spectators from Leominster and the surrounding districts. In our last issue we recorded the circumstances of Pte. Clarke's death and the event gave rise to the deepest sorrow in the district. His sad end after being sent home by his German captors in practically a dying state, the ill-treatment which he and his fellows had experienced having a fatal effect upon constitutional weakness, caused yet another bereavement in a family which had already suffered severely. In the course of a comparatively short period Mrs. Clarke has lost her husband, four children and a grandchild and the deepest sympathy goes out to her in the terrible ordeal through which she has had to pass.

The late Pte. Clarke was buried as stated on Sunday, his remains being interred with full military honours. Before the hour fixed for the ceremony hundreds of sympathisers had gathered as a silent tribute of gratitude and respect to one who gave his life for his country no less truly than if he had died on the battlefield. The cortege was led by a firing party from "B" Company 1st Herefordshire Volunteer Regiment. This was commanded by C.S.M. Carwardine and accompanied by Lieut. W. M. Ellwood, and Major C. L. Ward-Jackson in his uniform as A.D.C. to General Snow, of the Western Command. Arriving at the churchyard gate the Volunteers, who attended as a firing party, halted and formed a guard of honour. Immediately following was a large muster of the local branch of the Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers. The coffin, covered in the Union Jack, was borne into the church by soldiers and ex-soldiers. In

Firing Party: C.S.M. A. J. Carwardine (in command), Sergt. C. Hoff, Corpl. D. Lane, Ptes. W. O. Davis, F. Warner, M. E. Taylor, A. Williams, W. J. Palmer, H. V. Edwards, B. Arrowsmith, J. F. Edwards, C. Smale, W. Jones, A. L. Drennan. Accompanied by Major C. L. Ward-Jackson, Lieut. W. M. Ellwood, Q.M.S. S. Woodward, Pte. J. M. Sharp and Scouts R. Arrowsmith and S. Smith.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

"C" COMPANY 1/H.V.R. (ROSS) V. R.M.R.E.

Reserve teams of the above at Monmouth on December 1st, when the R.E.'s won by 37 points. Scores:—

MONMOUTH.—Corpl. Hitchcocks, 31, 28, 29—88; Sapr. Tremain, 34, 24, 27—85; Corpl. Wood, 29, 27, 29—85; Corpl. Hooker, 31, 25, 29—85; Pioneer Gillson, 30, 26, 27—83; Corpl. Eastham, 30, 28, 23—81; Sapr. Dyer, 31, 22, 27—80; Sapr. Burdett, 30, 27, 20—77; Total, 664.

Counted Out, Corpl. Lee, 77; Sapr. King, 66.

ROSS—Pte. Elliott, 29, 26, 31—86; Pte. F Hill, 29, 29, 28—86; Pte. Webb, 31, 25, 27—83; Pte. C. Herbert, 31, 27, 23—81; L.-Corpl. M. Hodges, 27, 25, 26—78; Pte. Prince, 27, 28, 21—76; Pte. Williams, 31, 30, 8—69; Sergt. Kemp, 27, 17, 24—68; totals, 627.
Counted Out, Pte. J. Norman.

1st V.B. HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT. "C" COMPANY.

Orders for Week commencing
Thursday, December 5th.

Friday 6th.—Miniature Range (Cpl. Newton.)

Sabbday 8th.—Church Parade, Armoury, 10 o'clock.

Monday 9th.—Armoury, (Sgt. Hicks and Cpl. Wood); Musketry, 7.30.—Hotchkiss Section, Drillhall, 7.30.

Thursday 12th.—Whitchurch, 8 p.m.

Friday 13th.—Fawley, 7.30 (Sgt.-Instr. Hindon).—Hotchkiss Gun Instruction.

S. PRICE, 2/Lieut.

Actg. O.C. "C" Coy. 1st VB. H.R.

1st V.B. HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT. "C" COMPANY.

Orders for Week commencing
December 21, 1918.

Friday, Dec. 22.—Miniature Range, Broad St., 7.30 (Cpl. Newton.)

All Rifles and Bayonets are to be returned to the Armoury. Platoon Commanders will arrange for the arms of out-lying sections to be collected at their Drill Centres, and returned to Company Store.

There will be no Parades until the New Year.

A Smoking Concert and Supper for members will take place at the Corn Exchange, Ross, on Monday, December 30th, at 6.30. Admission (free) by tickets only which must be obtained from the officers or Platoon Sergeants on or before Friday, December 27th.

S. PRICE, 2/Lieut.

Actg. O.C. "C" Coy. 1st VB. H.R.

The 1st Cadet Bn Herefordshire Regiment

The Cadet bn continued to parade and had supported the parade when the Colours were sent to the 1st Bn.