

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – February 1918

The 'Bigger' Picture

- British Government announce enlargement of powers of Supreme War Council at Versailles
- British Government make declaration to King of the Hejaz reaffirming their pledges as to freeing the Arab peoples
- Gen Sir W Robertson, Chief of the British Imperial General Staff, resigns; Gen Sir HH Wilson appointed.
- Ministry of Information formed in Great Britain.
- Inter-Allied Labour and Socialist Conference in London pass resolution as to War Aims.
- Representatives of Allied Governments arrange establishment of the Allied Maritime Transport Council.

America

- President Wilson delivers Message to Congress laying down four additional Points

'The East'

- Central Powers recognise the Ukraine Republic
- Peace signed at Brest-Litovsk between Bulgaria, Central Powers and Turkey and the Ukraine Rada; also supplementary Treaty between Central Powers and The Ukraine; borders of new Ukrainian State defined.
- British Foreign Minister (Mr. Balfour) informs Polish National Committee that Great Britain does not accept the treaty between The Ukraine, and Central Powers.
- Military Convention signed at Bobruisk between Germany and Poland.
- M Trotski announces that state of war between Russia and Central Powers, Bulgaria and Turkey is ended, but that Russia will not sign formal peace treaty.
- Russian Bolshevik Government notify willingness to sign Peace Treaty with Germany
- Negotiations again resumed between Russian Bolshevik Government and Central Powers: hostilities nominally cease.
- M Bratianu, Rumanian Premier, resigns; new Rumanian Cabinet formed, with General Averescu as Premier and Foreign Minister
- British Government inform M Tonisson that they are prepared provisionally to recognise the independence of Estonia until the future status of Estonia is settled by the Peace Congress.
- German Government send ultimatum to Rumania demanding peace negotiations within four days - Peace negotiations begun at Bukharest.

RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

- Gen Alexeiev with Don Cossacks moves towards Moscow against the Bolshevik forces
- Gen Alexeiev defeated by the Bolsheviks; General Kaledin commits suicide.

The Home Front

- Dover shelled by German submarine.
- Third German destroyer raid in Straits of Dover

The Western Front

Routine activity

The Eastern Front

- Armistice terminates on Russian front.
- Hostilities resumed by German armies. Dvinsk taken by German forces.
- Dorpat, Estonia occupied by German forces
- Perna, Reval, and Pskov taken by German forces.

Other Fronts

ARABIA

- Extension of the British East Persia Cordon into Khorasan begins. (In relief of Russian forces withdrawn by Bolshevik Government.)

General Dunsterville's Mission reaches Enzeli

Kirmanshah, Western Persia occupied by British forces

CAUCASUS

- Trebizond retaken by Turkish forces.

PALESTINE

- Jericho taken by British forces.

At Sea

- German raider Wolff returns to Germany.

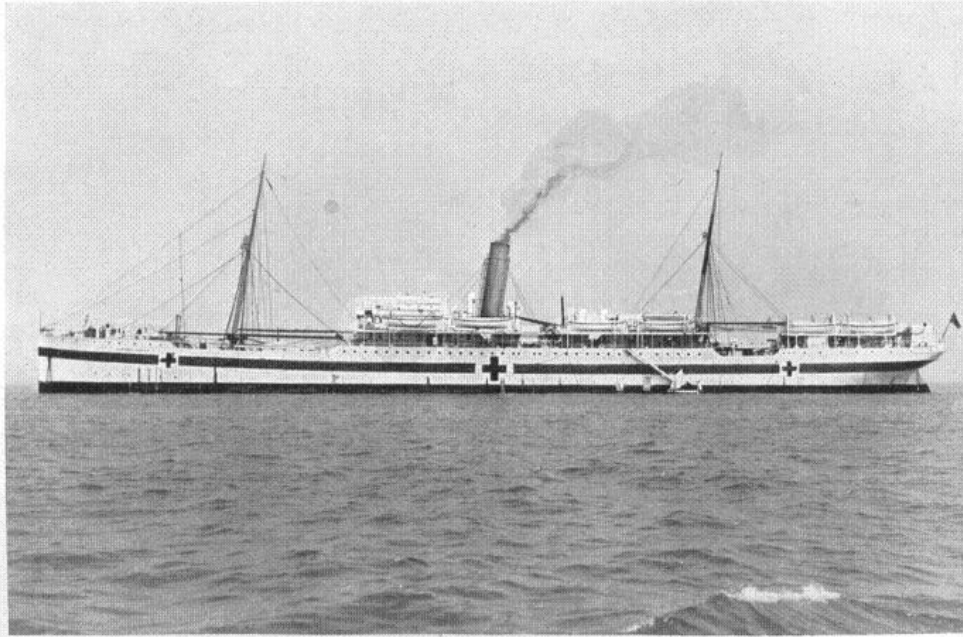
U-BOAT WARFARE

- British hospital ship *Glenart Castle* (below) sunk by submarine in the Bristol Channel.

Glenart Castle was leaving Newport, South Wales, heading towards Brest, France. Fishermen saw her clearly lit up as a hospital ship. At 0400, she was hit by a torpedo in the No 3 hold. The blast destroyed most of the lifeboats, while the subsequent pitch of the vessel hindered attempts to launch the remaining boats. In the eight minutes the ship took to sink, only seven lifeboats were launched. Rough seas and inexperienced rowers swamped most of the boats.

Only 32 survivors were reported with 162 people were killed, including the Captain, eight nurses of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS), seven Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) medical officers and 47 medical orderlies. Of the hospital patients being treated on board, a total of 99 died.

Evidence was found suggesting that the submarine may have shot at initial survivors of the sinking in an effort to cover up the sinking of *Glenart Castle*. The body of a junior officer of *Glenart Castle* was recovered from the water close to the position of the sinking. It was marked with two gunshot wounds, one in the neck and the other in the thigh. The body also had a life vest indicating he was shot while in the water.



Beken

H.M. HOSPITAL SHIP *GLENART CASTLE*. FORMERLY *GALICIAN*
Torpedoed and sunk, 1918

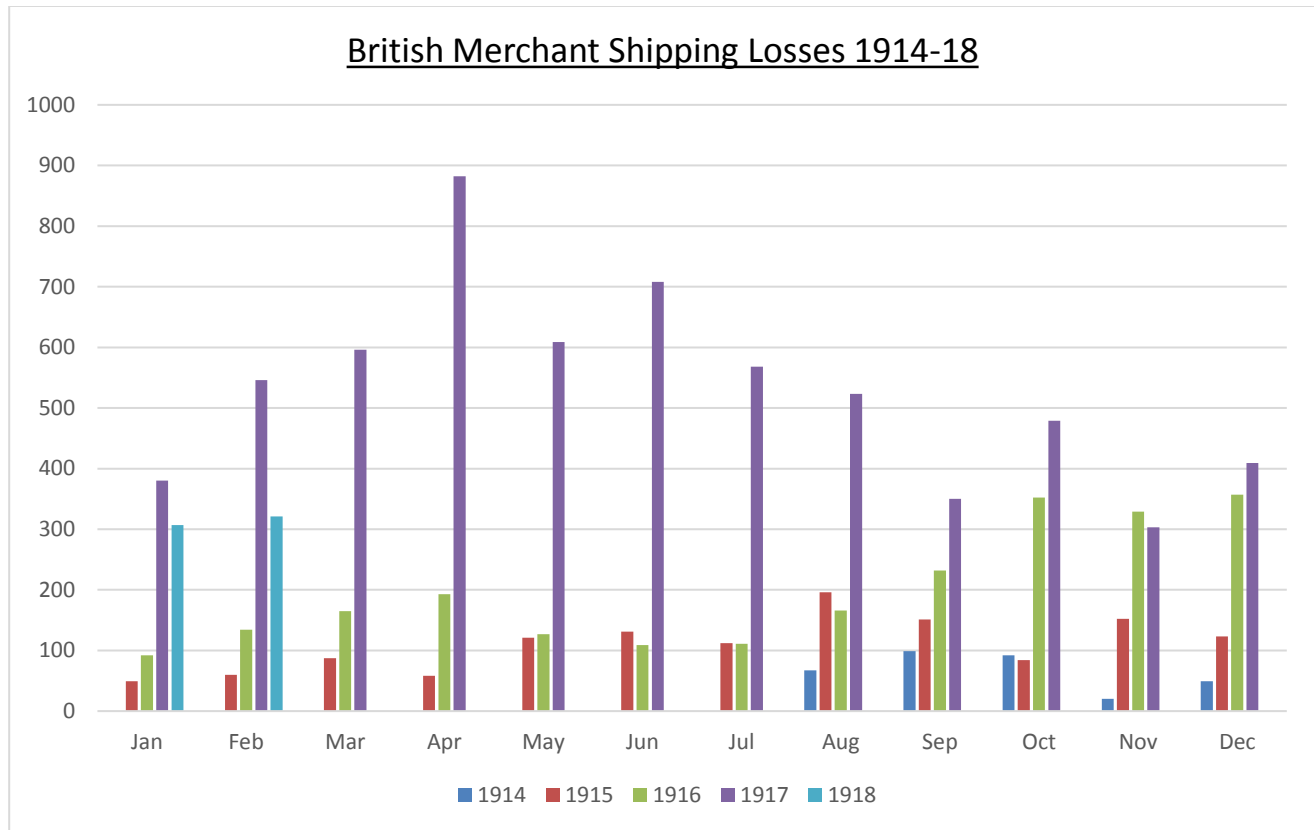
- British SS *Tuscania*, (*below*) carrying United States troops, sunk by submarine off Irish coast. The only loss sustained by US transports when under British naval escort.

Tuscania departed Hoboken, New Jersey, with 384 crew members and 2,013 United States Army personnel aboard. On the morning of 5 Feb 1918, she turned south for the North Channel en route Liverpool. The German submarine UB-77 sighted *Tuscania*'s convoy during the day and stalked it until early evening. Under the cover of darkness at about 1840, two torpedoes were fired at *Tuscania*. The second of these struck home, sending her to the bottom of the Irish Sea within about four hours. Approximately 210 of the troops and crew were lost, while many others were rescued by the Royal Navy destroyers *Mosquito* and *Pigeon*.



MERCHANT SHIPPING

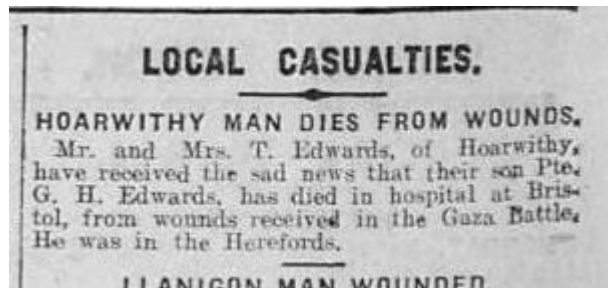
- British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month – 142 ships of 321,000 tons gross.



The 'Herefords'

Casualties (other than 1st Bn)

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
ALDRIDGE	CHARLES WILLIAM	PTE		238476	01 Feb				
COOPER	FRANK	PTE	5327		04 Feb	KIA	F&F	Lugwardine	GLOS 14
EDWARDS	GEORGE HENRY	PTE	2970	236001	04 Feb	DOW	Home	HOARWITHY	
FORTY	JOSIAH	PTE	3273		21 Feb	Died Sickness	HOME	DYMOCK/ Much Marcle	LAB CORPS
GRIFFITHS	FRANK	PTE	5341		04 Feb	KIA	F&F	KINGTON	GLOS 14
SMITH	CECIL ARCHIBALD	PTE	6290	237748	28 Feb	Died	HOME	ROSS	LAB CORPS
JONES	GEORGE	PTE	3156		28 Feb	Died	EGYPT	MALVERN	LAB CORPS
MORGAN	EDWARD PRYCE	PTE	8121		14 Feb	Died Enteric	MEF	LLANIDLOES	25 RWF/ MONT YEO



Pte Edwards had voluntarily enlisted into The Herefords soon after the outbreak of war in Autumn 1914. He had served and was wounded at Suvla Bay. He had been wounded at the 3rd Battle of Gaza (Nov 17) and evacuated to England, where he died, as a result of his wounds in hospital at Bristol on 4 Feb. He was buried in Hoarwithy Church on 11 Feb, in a family plot with his younger sister who had pre-deceased him.

Note: Pte Edward's headstone was restored by local initiative and rededicated at a service on 4 Feb 2018.

The headstone before restoration:



The death was also reported of Lt GP Bulmer, who had enlisted into the Herefordshire Regiment in Autumn 1914 before being Commissioned into the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry and transferring to the Royal Flying Corps. He had been awarded the Military Cross with the KSLI for his actions at Delville Wood, on The Somme in 1916. The following is an account of the 'terrible accident':

an observer for about six months. He was in several severe accidents, one especially just before he returned. When he was 10,000 feet up his pilot collapsed, and the machine fell. Lieut. Bulmer climbed over the pilot and, getting command, arrested the fall of the aeroplane when only a few yards from the ground. After the pilot had somewhat recovered, they started the machine for home, but on the way the pilot again collapsed and the machine fell through a group of elm trees, which broke the fall. Fortunately the machine fell the right way up and neither was killed. Lieut. Bulmer was ordered to a "rest" camp, but stated that he knew that if he did not fly again at once he would never be able to go up any more. There was no doubt that this

HEREFORD OFFICER'S SUICIDE.

Lieutenant Bulmer Found Shot.

The distressing intelligence reached Hereford at the end of last week that Lieut. Geoffrey Percival Bulmer, M.C., of the K.S.L.I., attached to the Royal Flying Corps, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Bulmer, of Longmeadow, Hereford, had shot himself in an hotel at Paddington, while going from his training camp to attend his grandfather's funeral at Credenhill, on Saturday.

The inquest was held at Paddington on Tuesday, the family being represented by Mr. E. F. Bulmer, uncle of the deceased.

It was stated that Lieut. Bulmer had written a letter to his parents stating that his nerves had completely given way.

Lieut. Bulmer's great friend, Captain S. Leather, M.C., of the same regiment, gave evidence of the late officer's noble life and heroic conduct.

Evidence was also given of the terrible accident in which the deceased officer had been involved while flying just before he left France. It was stated that he had been flying almost daily for six months as an observer, and that he had returned to England to qualify as a pilot.

The Coroner, in his summing up, stated that this was one of many melancholy cases that came before him of noble young men having their nerves shattered by the horrors of war.

The jury immediately returned a verdict that deceased shot himself while in a state of unsound mind brought about by the war, and the Coroner desired Mr. E. F. Bulmer to convey the profound sympathy of himself and the jury to Lieut. Bulmer's parents.

An officer of the R.F.C. Training Camp, on behalf of the Commanding Officer, tendered a sincere expression of sympathy, and stated that it was the Commanding Officer's intention to send a party of officers to represent the Royal Flying Corps at the funeral, if the railway service would permit of their arriving in time, from Grantham.

MILITARY FUNERAL.

The funeral took place at Hereford on Wednesday morning, and was accorded military honours.

The London Gazette

Honours & Awards

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
18/02/1918	Chipp	FW	MC	
18/02/1918	Evelyn	FHL	MC	
18/02/1918	Symonds	235989	LCpl JB	DCM

235989 L./Cpl. J. B. Symonds, Hereford R. (Hereford).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an action. He showed great courage in crossing an exposed piece of ground under very heavy rifle fire to obtain an important message from a runner who was lying wounded in the open.

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
01/02/1918	White	SEC	seconded Indian Army	
05/02/1918	Bourne	RC	to be captain	
05/02/1918	Whitehouse	AGR	restored to establishment	
08/02/1918	Carver	FT	seconded and reverts to captain	
09/02/1918	Barker	FG	reverts to captain	
13/02/1918	Fuller	F	to be captain and coy comd	
13/02/1918	Munn	LS	to be lieutenant	
13/02/1918	Pochin	E		
15/02/1918	Marchant	CG	to be second lieutenant	
16/02/1918	Parker	P	appointed ADC	until 28 Oct 1917
18/02/1918	Barnsley	HP	resigns commission	Volunteer Bn
18/02/1918	Thynne	GAC	resigns commission	Volunteer Bn
22/02/1918	Fraser	HRD	reverts to lieutenant Cheshire Regt	on ceasing to be coy comd

HEREFORD

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

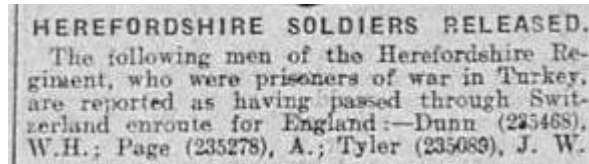
Discharges consisted of a mixture of categories; those wounded and no longer fit for service, those ill and no longer fit for service, those failing their initial medical examinations. Thus there were men who had served at Gallipoli and the Middle East, soldiers from the 2nd, 3rd Battalions and Supplementary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

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	Why	Hometown	Notes
ALDRIDGE	CHARLES WILLIAM	PTE		238476	01 Feb	2B		
BAIRD	ERNEST WALTER	SGT	1348	235168	09 Feb	xvi	HEREFORD	
DAVIES	WILLIAM GORDON	PTE		238875	13 Feb	2B	Shrewsbury	
HARRIS	HENRY	PTE	3794	236417	06 Feb	2B		
MOLINEAUX	HAROLD	SGT	333	235025	18 Feb	2B	LEOMINSTER	Wounded
PRICE	FRANCIS THOMAS	PTE	1952	235529	02 Feb	2B		Served Middle East with 1 st Battalion

Xvi/2b - unfit through either wounds or sickness

iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier

The Hereford Journal reported the release of 3 Herefordshire Regiment men who had been prisoners of war with the Turks – it is assumed they were released through the Red Cross and were suffering from wounds or illness.



1st Battalion

Casualties No Bn Casualties

From the 53 Div History:

On the 9th February, General Mott informed his Brigadiers that further operations were contemplated:

- (a) To advance on the Jericho road, and drive the enemy east of the Jordan, inflicting as much loss on him as possible;
- (b) To destroy, or remove, stores near the beach and the enemy motor and sailing boats on the Dead Sea, so as to prevent a renewal of the grain trade;
- (c) To obtain information as to the country west of the Jordan.

The warning order points out that it was impossible to fix a date for the operations owing to the bad state of the weather, but Z-1 day will probably be the fourth fine day after the present spell of bad weather ends.

The first stage of the operations was forecasted by Corps as taking place on Z-2/Z-1 night, when 60 Div would occupy Mukhmas to provide a starting off place for recce of Ras et Tawil, and as a preliminary to the concentration of the brigades in that area. On the same night 53 Div would advance their line to include Deir Diwan and Green Hill N28c.

On Z day 60 Div would advance to a line through El Muntar and Arak Ibrahim, and 53 Div would take Ras et Tawil and the high ground between the Wadi el Ain and the Taiyibeh-Jericho road, if possible occupying Rummon in order to be in a position to keep the road under fire.

On Z-1 day, or as soon as possible after the completion of stage 1, the second stage would be put into operation. 60 Div would advance in three columns, the right column on Jebel Ektief, ; the centre column on Talet el Dumm; the left column along the Ras et Tawil-Jebel Kuruntul track.

53 Div would advance their line, if possible, to the Taiyibeh-Jericho road, and so command all approaches from the north between the Wadi Dar el Jerir and the Wadi el Asa. In this second stage, one and possibly two, cavalry brigades would move from the neighbourhood of Muntar, with the object of cutting off any of the

enemy about Jericho, and afterwards occupying a line of picquets to cover the el Goranieh Bridge over the Jordan, and to block the crossings over the Wadi Aujah.

The advance eastwards of the three columns of 60 Div would be limited by the line of cliffs from Kb Kakum through Jebel Kuruntul to Um Sireh, unless the cavalry required assistance to clear Jericho.

By a re-arrangement of the Birch front on 11 Feb (held by two brigades), the right brigade sector was divided into two brigade sections, 159 and 160 Bdes. The operation contemplated was an extension of the right flank eastwards, with the high ground about and to the north of Rummon village, the high ground on the left bank of the Wadi Asa, as far south as A26, as the Divisional objective.

The objectives on 60 Div front were so widely dispersed that co-operation was impossible between the three brigades. The first move of the left brigade (181 Bde) was Mukhmas and Tel es Suwan, on the 14 Feb, from which places a recce could be made in the direction of Splash Hill (C2. central). But, before this took place, 160 Bde occupied Deir Diwan, and 159 Bde a hill named Green Hill on the night 13/14 without opposition. A post was also established in the Wadi Asis. 181 Bde then moved forward and captured their allotted position.

Three days were spent in recce, and at dawn on the 19 Feb, 60 Div attacked all along their front. Once more 53 Div moved ahead of the 60 Div; the West Kents advanced their line during the night to Kefr Nata, while the Middlesex and Sussex battalions commenced a difficult advance with the object of occupying a position which would enable them to rush the high ground and the village of Rummon at dawn.

At 0530, the West Kents had occupied the spurs overlooking the Wadi Asa, and were in touch with 181 Bde at Splash Hill. Meanwhile the Sussex and Middlesex had found no opposition to their advance on the high ground, but one company of the latter battalion found some difficulty in clearing the village of Rummon, which was not finally captured until 0830.

The flank of 60 Div was now secured. Frequent officer patrols failed to discover any movement of the enemy on the Taiyibeh-Jericho road.

While these moves of 53 Div were being completed, 2/23 London Regiment, opposed by some 300 Turks, captured Splash Hill at 0600. The 2/24th London found that Ras Tawil had been abandoned. 53 Div had nothing further to do than watch the road. 60 Div pushed on, through the most appalling country, until they were in a position to attack Jebel Ekteif and Talat Dumm the next morning. On their right the Anzac Division was concentrated at El Muntar by 0700. After some fearful climbing, marching, and fighting, 181 Bde captured Talat Dumm at 1415; while on their right 179 Bde reached Jebel Ekteif.

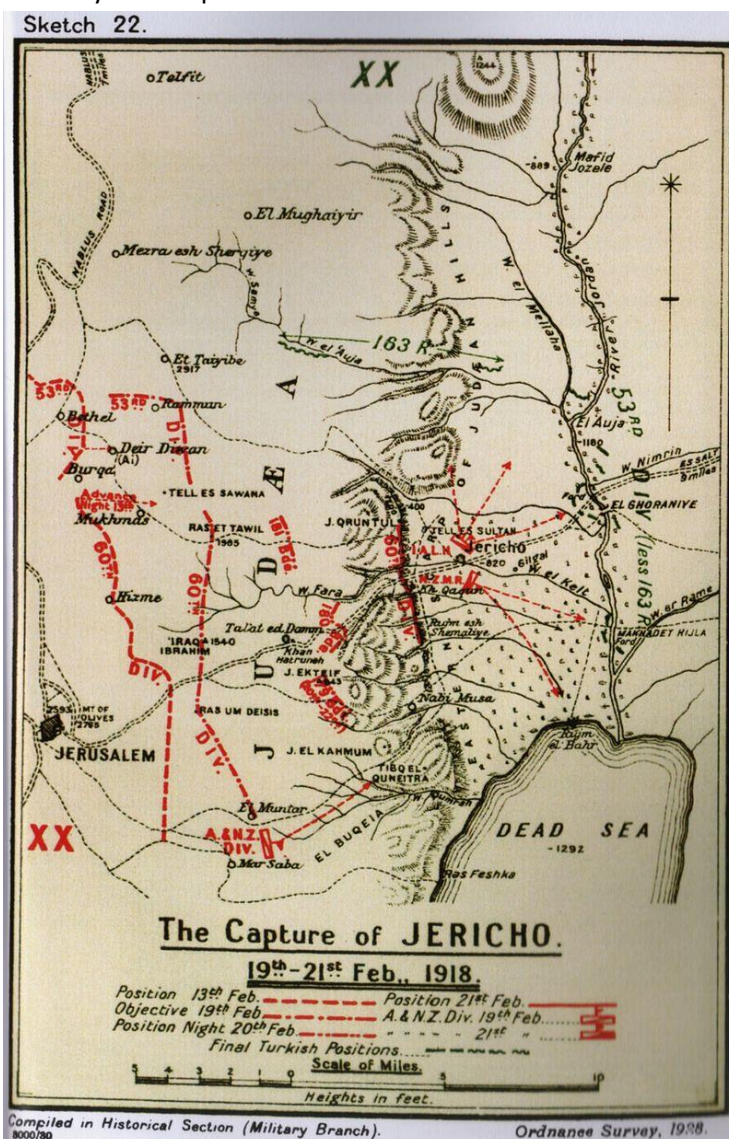
Before dawn on the 20, 181 Bde commenced to advance against Kuruntul, but were held up by enemy rearguards, skilfully handled in a country especially suited to rearguard actions. Orders were issued that it was unnecessary to incur heavy losses by a rapid advance, and the Brigade, therefore, did not press the attack.

On the right the Anzac Division was held up by Turkish infantry at Neby Musa, and 2/14 London and 10 Mountain Battery marched towards that place and cleared it at 0600 on the 21.

A general advance then took place and the final objectives were captured.

The Australian Mounted Brigade, advancing across the plain, entered Jericho at 0820 the Turks having withdrawn during the night, and patrolled as far as the Wadi Aujah, to the north, and to the el Ghoraniyeh Bridge. The enemy was found to be holding the high ground to the north of the Aujah, and also a bridgehead covering the el Ghoraniyeh Bridge with guns on the left flank. As a direct attack on the bridgehead would have involved heavy losses, without compensating advantages, it was not attempted.

On no other occasion had such difficulties of ground been encountered; as an instance of this a Field Artillery Battery took 36 hours to reach Neby Musa, the distance covered, measured on the map, being only eight miles. 53 Div were to have many such experiences.



A contemporary painting from The Australian Military Library showing the terrain with the Dead Sea in the middle distance.



From The Battalion War Diary:

For February the original diaries having been marked by water as to be almost unreadable and have been retyped; the contemporary retyped version is shown below:

SECRET.

WAR DIARY OF THE

1/1st Bn. HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT For the month

158th Bde.

of February 1918.

XX Corps.

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Bde. Reserve.
U.9.a.6.6.
February 1st.

Ref. Maps 1/20,000 BIRSH (H.10) 2nd Edit.

Fine cold wind. 2 Coys. at work on front line by day (3 hrs) 2 Coys by night (4 hrs). Orders received to relieve 1/6 R.W.F. in Front Line in following day and C.O. viewed front line. During night 31/1 Turks continually shelled our Bde right front line. Ex't from L.G. d.1/1/18 - Capt. A.G.R. Whitehouse awarded Military Cross.

Front Line

SENLAC. 2nd.
SURDAH.
SERAH. 0800.
NAKIB.

Bn. proceeded to relieve 1/6 R.W.F. in front line. Coys took over fronts from left to right:- "C" Coy. (Capt. F.G.Barker, M.C.) about M.26.c.3.c. SERAH with one platoon on NAKIB about U.1.a.1.5. "B" Coy. (Capt. F.A. Trumper) on SURDAH about M.26.b.7.1. "A" Coy. (Lieut. Horth) on SENLAC about M.21.d.4.3. "D" Coy. (Lieut. Bushell) in reserve about U.3.a.3.5. Bn. H.Q. about U.3.a.4.4. Owing to the exposed communications to SENLAC "A" Coy. could not carry out its relief until after dark - about 1730. Fine cold wind. Situation normal. Tspt. lines remained in old position. 2/Lieuts. Timmins and Davies with 4 O.R.'s rejoined from Courses. Working party of 1/6 R.W.F. worked 1800 - 2200. 2 platoons on SENLAC. 2 on SURDAH, constructing sangars and light wire entanglements.

0430. 3rd. Sunday. Situation normal. Fine day with East wind. Turks registered SURDAH with 10 H.E. 6 Platoons 1/6 R.W.F. worked 1800 - 2200. 2 platoons on each Post.
0430. 4th. Situation normal. Reserve Coy. worked on road to SENLAC. 6 platoons 1/6 R.W.F. worked 1800 - 2200 on post defences. 2 platoons on each.
2100. Considerable bombing on right front, cause unknown, a few Turk shells fell on SENLAC. Weather changed, rain began in afternoon. Capt. Paulson assumed command of "D" Coy.
0430. 5th Situation normal. Rain and fog all day. Posts stood to all day.
0430. 6th. Situation normal. Rain and fog continued. Turks fired 10 H.E. on SURDAH.
1300. Three natives came into SERAH, having been driven out from ABUKUSH by the Turks.
1700. A party of 60 men, women and children, with a few sheep, came to SERAH. They were expelled from ABUKUSH by the Turks, and were in a miserable state from rain and exposure. Two afterwards died. The party were passed on to Bde.
0800. "D" Coy. relieved "B" Coy. at SERDAH.
0430. 7th. Situation normal. Heavy rain and hail continued all day and night. All ranks very wet through. Firewood obtained from Bde. and Coys. endeavoured to dry socks at their Coy. H.Q.
0430. 8th. Situation normal. Rain, hail & fog continued all day. Ground became waterlogged in many places. More firewood from Bde for drying socks. Greatest difficulty to find places to light fires in. "C" Coy. had a cave; "D" Coy. had 4 braziers in tents; "A" Coy. sent to Bn. H.Q. where an old tower was used.

February

0430. 9th. Situation normal. M.O. to hospital. Capt. White R.A.M.C. arrived. Rain continued all day. 1 Coy. 1/6 R.W.F. came to hold second line on SENLAC during night while A. Coy. withdrew to Coy. H.Q. (tents). Night of 9/10 worst weather yet experienced, rain, snow, hail, continued the whole night. 3 Native refugees came in to SENLAC 1 died from exposure before arrival at Post.

0430. 10th. Situation normal. Rain ceased about 1000. Bn. relieved by 1/6 R.W.F. (less A.Coy) and moved to Bde reserve about U.9.a.6.6. and proceeded to organize bivouac area. Drying shed built. A. Coy relieved about 2000 and joined remainder of Bn. 23 O.R. from hospital. 4 Platoons ("B") to work on front line 1800 - 2200.

Bde Reserve.
U.9.a.6.6.

11th. Fine day. Specialist training (L.G. & S.O.) continued. Began to build. Officers patrol (2/Lieut. Shepherd) proceeded on reconnaissance (see App. V. for orders and report). 4 Platoons on road work. 1 Platoon cutting down trees at Bde H.Q. 5 Platoons carrying stones etc. for Bde H.Q. stone house. 8 Platoons at work on front line 1800 - 2200. M.O. from hospital.

12th. Fine day. Specialist training continued. 6 Platoons on Bde stone house. Finished building Officers Mess. 11 O.R's from hospital. 12 Platoons at work on front line 1800 - 2200.

13th. Specialist training. 4 Platoons on Bde house. 1 Platoon wood cutting. Regtl. Court of Enquiry into loss in transit from BIR SABA to Bn. of Regtl. stores. 2/Lieut. Timmins to EL ARISH as Instr. in Scouting. 12 Platoons at work on front line 1800 - 2200. The following officers and O.R's "Mentioned" in Sir A. Murray's Despatch published as a Supp. to London Gazette 14th Jan. 1918:-

Major H.E.P. Pateshall, D.S.O.
Major A.L.B. Green, D.S.O.
Capt. A.G.R. Whitehouse, M.C.,
Capt. P. Ashton, M.C.,
Capt. R.C. Sale (deceased),
Capt. G.N. Berner (deceased).

235053. CSM. R.G. Yemm.
235701. a/Sgt. H. Trapp.
235989. a/Sgt. J.B. Symonds, M.M.,
235733. Corpl. J.E. James, M.M.,

14th. Fine day. Court of Enquiry continued. F.G.C.M. on 6 men of "D" Coy. Lecture to all officers by C.O. - Construction of sangars, loop-holes and tactical method of handling Lewis Guns - 6 Platoons at work on Bde building. 3 Platoons road. 12 Platoons front line work 1800 - 2200. Instruction on Lewis Gun to All Officers, & 8 Sgts, 4 Cpls.

1300.)
1400.)

Specialist training continued. Coy. grenade classes.

15th. Fine day. Platoons working as for 14th inst. Lecture by C.O. to all officers - Discipline, K.R. duties of officers - Coy. Grenade classes.

16th. Fine cold day. Practical demonstration with No. 24 grenade in Bde area, by Bn. Grenadiers. Specialist training as usual. Bn. had use of Divl. Baths in BIRSH from 0700 - 1230. 2½ Coys bathed. Platoons working as for 15th inst. Typewriter arrived. Orders to relieve 6 R.W.F. in front line on 17th inst.

February

0415. 17th. Sunday. Fine day. 0615 a.m. Moved to relieve 1/6 R.W.F. in Bde left front sector (line as held by this Bn. from 2nd to 10th inst.). At 1000 "D" Coy. and 2 platoons of "C" proceeded to Divl. baths at BIRRH, afterwards rejoining Bn. in front line about 1300. Coys. occupied Posts:- "B" Coy. (Capt. F.A. Trumper) SERAH. "A" Coy. (Lieut. H. Horth) SURDAH. "D" Coy. (Capt. J. Paulson) SENLAC (after dark). "C" Coy. (Capt. Barker) in reserve. 2245. Slight shelling on SENLAC. Fog came on at night.
0430. 18th. Situation normal. Officers patrol of 1/6 R.W.F. left SERAH at dawn to reconnoitre BIR ES ZEIT. 1 Platoon of "A" Coy. covered the village of SURDAH from before dawn until after dusk to allow the inhabitants to remove their belongings behind our line. A few did so. Platoon when withdrawing found a native woman in village apparently very ill. She was removed by S.B. and attended by R.M.O. and evacuated to 1/3 W.F.A. on following ~~morning~~ day. Reserve Coy at work on roads. All pack mules brought up to and stabled at Bn. H.Q. Enemy fired 13 H.E. in front of and on SENLAC. Capt. C.E.G. Pilkington from hospital.
0430. 19th. Situation normal. Reserve Coy. at work on road. 1250. One of our planes forced an enemy's plane to descend about 100 yards N.E. of SURDAH village. Plane fell with nose on ground and tail caught by boughs of a tree. The Observer (Lieut. Chamiers, German) was captured uninjured, by a patrol from "D" Coy. Pilot (German) was seriously wounded. Removed by S.B. and attended by R.M.O. to Bn. H.Q. where he died 1530 same day. Enemy immediately after it fell shelled the plane heavily. Prisoner and all gear, which included 2 M.G.'s at once sent to Bde H.Q. Salvage party from "A" Coy. worked on plane during night. 14 O.R. from hospital.
0430. 20th. Situation normal. Capt. F.B. Barker, M.C. to Bde H.Q. Revd. Marriot, C.F. joined Bn. Slight enemy shelling in front of SENLAC and SURDAH. Lieut. Peake to command "C" Company. During night 20/21, wings of aeroplane were removed and body wheeled under cover of houses in SURDAH, by party of R.E.'s. Covering party found by "A" Coy.
0430. 21st. Situation normal. Thick fog and heavy rain continued all day. Day dispositions of posts strengthened, "C" Coy (Lieut. Peake) relieved "A" Coy at Surdah, who moved to Bn. reserve. Wood received from Bde for fires to dry socks during night 21/22. Over 80 shells fired by Turk fell in front of SENLAC and SURDAH. Enemy fired 8 or 9 hourly in bursts.
0430. 22nd. Situation normal. Rain and fog continued. Stood down about 1000. More firewood from Bde for drying socks. Very heavy hail storms during day. Reserve Coy at work on roads. 2 Officers patrols (see App.VII, VIII, IX) sent out to reconnoitre positions for demonstration. Slight shelling of SENLAC and SURDAH by enemy.
0430. 23rd. Situation normal. Rain and fog continued all day. Firewood from Bde. Reserve Coy worked on road. Usual shelling on SENLAC & SURDAH.
0430. 24th. Situation normal. Rain storms all day. Reserve Coy. worked on road. Orders from Bde to prepare to occupy hills in M.25.a.10.9. and G.24.a.8.4. after dusk on 25th inst. Weather began to clear towards night.

February

0430. 25th. 3 Platoons of B. Coy advanced and occupied LEDBURY and TRUMPERS HILLS and prepared defensive works. Consolidation proceed all night. Coy. disposed as follows: 1 Platoon Ledbury Hill; 1 Platoon Trumbers Hill; 1 Platoon Coy. H.Q. about M.25.a.8.8. The platoon on (see App.) NAKIB withdrawn to SERAH. 6 Platoons from Reserve worked on road.
0430. 26th. Situation normal. C.O. and officers 24 R.W.F. viewed line. Orders received that Bn. would be relieved by 24 R.W.F. on following day. 2 native agents went out through our line about 1600. Rain during night. 1 Platoon from Reserve worked on Ledbury Hill at night. Reserve Coy worked on road during day.
0430. 27th. Situation normal. About 0300 native agent returned back through our line. Bn. relieved by 24 R.W.F.
 1000. "A" Coy. (RES) and "C" Coy retired.
 1300. Bn. H.Q. relieved.
 1830. "B" & "D" Coys relieved. Upon ~~24~~ being relieved Coys moved independently to about U.16.b.5.8., B Coy arriving 2100; D Coy 2300. Very heavy rain and hail during the whole day. New area waterlogged. 44 tents put up with great difficulty. All ranks very wet. Bde in Divl. Reserve.
- Divl. Reserve
 about
 U.16.b.5.8.
28th. Day fine and dry. 7 O.R's on sick parade. Organization of new area. 2 Coys at work 0830 - 1230. 2 Coys 1230 - 1630 on Medway Road. (427 O.R.). 3 Field Cookers and 2 water carts arrived, Ground dried up and greatly improved during day.

(sd) G. DRAGE.

Lieut.-Col.

Comm&g. 1/1 Hereford Regt.

1/1st Herefordshire Regiment.

APPENDICES TO THE WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY

1918.

-----OooooOoooo-----

APPENDIX I. CASUALTIES.

	<u>Killed.</u>		<u>Wounded.</u>		<u>Missing.</u>		<u>Sick Admitted.</u>	
	O.	OR.	O.	OR.	O.	OR.	O.	OR.
2/2/18.							1	10
9/2/18.								12
16/2/18.								24
23/2/18.								8
28/2/18.								5
							<u>1</u>	<u>59</u>

APPENDIX II. REINFORCEMENTS.

	<u>From Eng.</u>		<u>From Hosp. (sick)</u>		<u>From Hosp. (wounded)</u>		<u>Various.</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
	O.	OR.	O.	OR.	O.	OR.	O.	OR.	O.	OR.
3/2/18.				2						2
10/2/18.				3		2				5
17/2/18.				38		7				45
24/2/18.			1	27		12		5	1	44
			<u>1</u>	<u>70</u>		<u>21</u>		<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>96</u>

APPENDIX III. SICK.

"A" Coy. daily percentage	- 2.5		
"B" " " "	- 2.4	Daily percentage for the	
"C" " " "	- 4.3	Battalion	
"D" " " "	- 3.9	3.2	

- HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS -

"A" Coy. - 10		"B" Coy. - 3
"C" " - 26		"D" " - 10
Total - 49		

APPENDIX IV. WORK PERFORMED BY BATTALION WHILST IN RESERVE.

Platoons.

"A" Coy. - 116 Hours.	"B" Coy. - 124 Hours.
"C" " - 114 Hours.	"D" " - 118 Hours.
Total - 472 Hours.	

-X-

APPENDIX VII.

PATROL ORDERS BY LIEUT.-COL. G. DRAGE, D.S.O.

ORDER NO. 4.

Reference Map: - PALESTINE 1/63360, Sheet XIV.

To O/C "A" and "D" Companies.

Between now and dawn tomorrow, you must reconnoitre a position at or about M.21.c. and M.21.d. central respective-ly.

The reconnoitring patrol should consist of one Officer (selected) and 9 O.R's.

Report as soon as possible when you propose carrying out reconnaissance in order that I may warn artillery.

(sd) G. DRAGÉ. Lieut.-Col.

18/2/18.

Cmdg. 1/1st Herefordshire Regt.

Issued at 1200.

Copies to:-

O.C. 'A' Coy.

'D' "

War Diary.

APPENDIX XII.

PATROL REPORT.

Ref. PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND MAP. sheet XIV. Scale 1 inch: 1/2 mile.

Patrol consisted of 1 officer (2/Lt. H.H. BULMER) and 9 O.R's.

Object of Patrol. To reconnoitre a suitable position for demonstration purposes.

Patrol left SENIAC HILL from Point M.28.a. central at 1750 on Feb. 19th and proceeded along Western slope of Hill in diamond formation in a northerly direction to point M.21.d. central.

Up to this point is a covered approach.

Patrol then proceeded in an Easternly direction, crossing skyline to point M.21.b.8.0. Ground here is composed of terraces sloping down from the top of the hill to JUFNA and commands a view of JUFNA AIN SINIA and a portion of DURAH. From this point a good field of fire can be obtained, 200 yards W. from the same point is a small rocky knoll which commands a view of BEIR EZ ZEIT and is a suitable position for a Lewis Gun.

N. of these positions is a deep indentation running E. and W.

N. of this indentation ground again rises and on E. shoulder of hill is about half an acre of trees which are clearly visible from our main position.

Very little shelter exists from shell fire on the forward slopes of the hill S. of the indentation. This makes it necessary to erect a number of small sangars behind which a minus trench can be dug should position be very heavily shelled. Demonstrating party can be withdrawn by the way it came.

The ground here is so exposed that it is quite impossible to have a secure position and yet maintain the necessary field of fire.

Patrol returned at 1840.

19/2/18.

(sd) H.H. BULMER. 2/Lt.

APPENDIX VIII.

REPORT ON HILL IN M.21.C.

Patrol left "A" Coy. (WEST POST) at 1745, consisting of myself:- 2/Lt. H. PEAKE and 9 O.R's.

This patrol adopted diamond formation and proceeded half way to the bottom of the WADI directly N. of WEST POST, then turned in an Easternly direction, keeping well below the skyline, when directly opposite (East) of the village of SURDAH, turned N. and went up the Southern slopes of the hill in question M.21.C.

About 20 yards E. of the summit of this hill is a table-land, 20 yards N. to S. and 50 yards E. to W, in the centre of which a good Lewis Gun position can be obtained, having its numbers, other than 1 & 2 in rear and well under cover, from this position the bottom of the Wadi on the N. side cannot be seen but a small group of men could be pushed slightly forward and thereby keeping the whole of the WADI under observation, a small group of men on the Eastern slopes about 40 yards from summit to guard flank and keep under observation Wadi, dividing SURDAH & SENLAC POSTS and a small group on the S. slope to protect ~~flank~~ left flank and watch Wadi on W.

There is very little natural cover, but small stone walls could be built in a very short time.

The reason for selecting the E. side :- enemy usually shells from the E. and in that case the conformation of the ground being contrary to the trajectory of the shells, greatly minimises the dangerous space.

18/2/18.

(sd) H. PEAKE. 2/Lt.

"A" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. Army Form C. 2121. (Is page 1 of 10.)

No. of Message

Prefix	Code	In	Words	Charge	No. of Messages to be sent	Read at
Office/Code and see for instructions		By		Signature of Principal Officer		Date
TO		Sender's Number		Day/Month		In reply to Number
		A A A				
protect	the	right	flank			
of	the	platoon				
two	Numbers	one	and			
will	with	4	ammos			
A	be	sufficient	see			
patrol	position	to	the			
HILL	after	Marching	the			
push	in	V 2	will			
in	V 3	see	The			
office	in	Command	of			
the	patrol	will	stand			
return	will be	report	on			
for	steps	the	Capabilities			
measures	to	and	sums on			
in	V 2	hold	HILL			
		see	He			

The above may be forwarded as non-confidential (Z)

Signature of a Messenger person authorized to telegraph in his name

Should be erased if not required

137961 W. 402/M/1647 450 000 Pads 5/12 H. W. & L. Co. (R. 1187)

"A" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. Army Form C. 2121. (Is page 1 of 10.)

No. of Message

Prefix	Code	In	Words	Charge	No. of Messages to be sent	Read at
Office/Code and see for instructions		By		Signature of Principal Officer		Date
TO		Sender's Number		Day/Month		In reply to Number
		A A A				
Hill	also	report	on			
HILL	in	V 3	see			
The	forming	Slopes	of			
both	these	hills	should			
be	examined	with	the			
Office	of	the	patrol			
in	view	was	The			
best	route	for	action			
parties	to	V 2	I should			
also	be	noted	see			
reported	OC	B	and			
D	Coy	has				
		Q/M/1647				
		16/1/18				

The above may be forwarded as non-confidential (Z)

Signature of a Messenger person authorized to telegraph in his name

Should be erased if not required

137961 W. 402/M/1647 450 000 Pads 5/12 H. W. & L. Co. (R. 1187)

From the Diaries of:

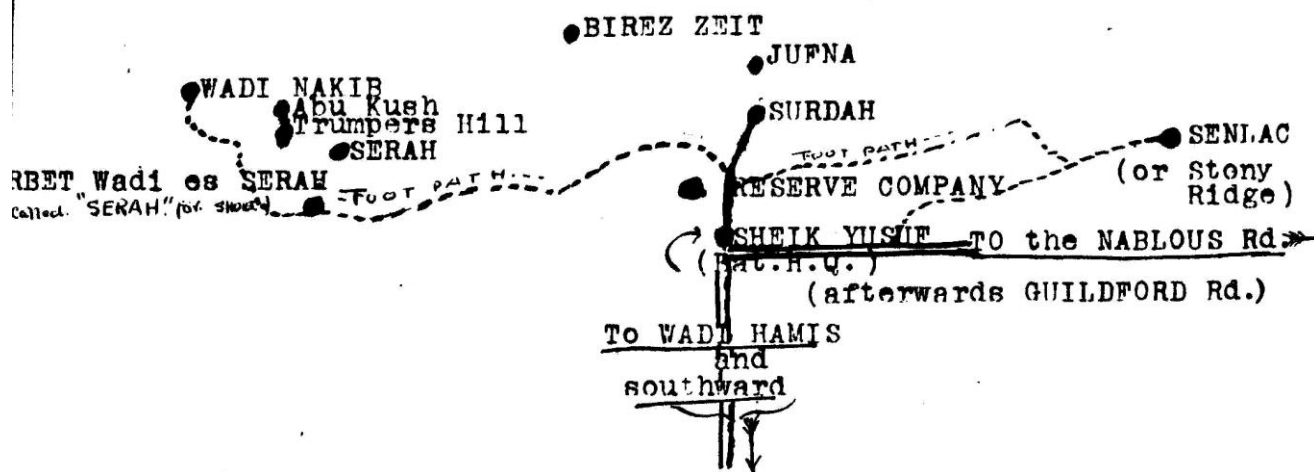
Maj Yates

Feb 4th The Herefords relieved the 6 RWF in the line. Three company posts with one company in Bn Res. The weather was very bad at times and the men tried very severely by it. We tried drying their clothes over wood fires but it was rather a hopeless business. The Turks sheltered in the villages and possibly did not suffer as much. They turned out the inhabitants of the village just in front and the poor devils wandered into our lines. B Coy told off a party to help them back to Ramallah. It was a sorry procession and the rain was coming down in torrents. Old men and women scarcely able to walk were being helped along by our men who carried their bundles for them, while on a stretcher were perched 4 little mites like sparrows on a twig. Of course there was the inevitable herd of goats to mix things up a bit.

As regards fighting things were pretty quiet and we only got occasional shelling. An enemy plane was brought down between two of our posts by one of our planes,

Capt Rogers

Sun Feb 3 1918		The battalion moved forward into the line, battalion HQ with D Coy in reserve being at SHEIK YUSEF, C Coy at KHIRBET WADI ES SERAH (with one platoon detached at WADI HACHIB (or NAKIB?), B at SURBAH and A at SENLAC. Our positions roughly from memory were these:
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Mon Feb 4 1918		Remained thus the weather becoming more severe than it had ever been previously the wet or cold being accompanied by all day mists or fogs, which made stand to a long and weary business. It never stopped raining, and we had to have feet rubbed twice a day with whale oil, instead of once as we had been previously accustomed to do. The Lewis Gun training had to be abandoned for the time. On one occasion C Coy was standing for 48 hours, and in some cases our men had to be carried back to the bivouacs and rubbed in order to restore the circulation, and frost bitten feet were no rarity, in fact the weather at this time was a worse enemy than the Turk who was at this time inactive and probably sheltering in the villages.
Thu Feb 7 - 11 1918		Owing to the bad weather B Coy was relieved at SURBAH by D Coy on Feb 7th, and B took its place in reserve where D had been. The weather continued as before and we had long 'stand tos' on account of the fogs.
Tue Feb 12 1918		The Battalion moved back into Brigade Reserve in WADI HAMIS, where it had been previously. The weather improved slightly, and in the afternoon the rain ceased.
Wed Feb 13 - 19 1918		Remained in Bde Reserve at WADI HAMIS. We did Lewis Gun classes and fatigues and night working parties the same as before.

<p>Wed Feb 20 1918</p>		<p>The Battalion relieved the RWF again in the line, but the companies held different positions. B Coy took 'the left end of the line with three platoons at KHIRBET WADI ES SERAH, and one platoon at WADI NAOHIB (NAKIB) which I commanded. This post was very isolated. It took a runner nearly half an hour to reach it from Coy HQ: at K.W. Es SERAH, and our field telephone was defective. Moreover, there were nearly five miles of open country on our left unoccupied by troops and only commanded by artillery; nor were we in touch with the right of the 10th (Irish) Division on the other side of this gap; for we were the extreme left of our (53rd) Division. The hill on which we were bivouacked appeared to be slightly in front (north) of our general line, but it was very difficult to get a good idea of the positions of our troops, and our company headquarters were scarcely in view, owing to a high ridge which joined our hill to K.W. Es SERAH. It was along this ridge that we were supposed to have our line of retreat, but the ordinary path by which our post was approached descended into the wadi (which surrounded us) and then climbed it again the other side.</p>
<p>Thu 21 Feb 1918</p>		<p>We remained in this position. My only visitors were the ration mules and the water donkeys and their respective parties once a day, but I was also visited by officers three times during my eight days stay at WADI NACHIB. One night there was sudden Lewis or machine gun fire in the wadi to my left which I believed to be unoccupied - I thought it must be the enemy frightening themselves; but I afterwards discovered it was a MG post of ours about which I had never been informed. An enemy aeroplane was brought down by our Battalion's rifle fire day at SURDAH. The weather varied between wet and damp, but it was better than it had been on the whole.</p>
<p>Thu 28 Feb 1918</p>		<p>In the morning I was ordered to move back to the company headquarters at Kh W es SRRAH evacuating my post. While we were doing this, carrying our tent and all our Lewis guns, ammunition, etc along the path, we were evidently spotted by the enemy, for they began to put over shrapnel as we ascended the other side of the wadi near headquarters but there were no casualties, and we reached company HQ safely, in the evening I was left with my platoon in reserve at the old company headquarters at Kh W es SERAH, while the rest of the company went forward to take Trumper's Hill, which overlooked the village of ABU KUSH I found it very difficult to get my bearings in the position which was new to me, but all went well and the company advanced and successfully took the hill without opposition and dug themselves in during the night. The enemy evacuated ABU KUSH and there was practically no firing.</p>

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

1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.

BATTALION ORDERS BY CAPTAIN T. WHEELER MEATS, COMMANDING.
Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.
2nd February, 1918.
No. 5.

1. Bombing Course Prees Heath.—The undermentioned passed out as an instructor for Volunteers at the Course held at Western Command Bombing School, Prees Heath, from 1st January to 10th January, 1918:—1154 Corpl. Burton, W. B., "B" Company.
2. Permanent Staff.—No. 4068 R.S.M. Jones, W., will attend parade at Whitchurch on the 7th inst., and Ross on the 9th and 10th inst. No. B/378 C.S.I.M. Leslie, H. D., attending refresher course at Western Command School of Musketry, Altcar.
3. Instructors Temporarily attached.—Bayonet Fighting Instructor: No. 14582 C.Q.M.S. Gaskell, J. (Depot K.S.L.I.) will hold a class at Drill Hall, Hereford from the 11th to the 15th, and 18th to 20th inst. The Officer Commanding "A" Company will render lists of selected candidates for this class to Orderly Room by the 10th inst. Drill Instructors: No. 200012 Sergt. Evans, J. T., 1st (R) Batt. Mon. Regt., will be attached for duty with "C" Company, up to the 24th inst.
4. Bombing: Classes of Instruction in.—The following are the results of the Bombing Classes held in the Battalion during January—the names of the three best candidates at each being shown in order of merit:—Ledbury: "D" Company, No. 769 Pte. Tilley, J. J.; No. 535 Pte. Taylor, T. G.; No. 941, Pte. Arnold, W. Leominster: "B" Company, No. 612 Sergt. Craddock, Q. D.; No. 632 Corpl. Foster, G.; No. 620 Pte. Davis, W. O. Hereford: "A" Company, No. 27 Pte. Hubbard, A. H. F.; No. 25 Lance-Corpl. Griffiths, A.; No. 10 Corpl. Bradshaw, J. K. Bromyard: "B", No. 1185 Lance-Corpl. Feltham, C. W.; No. 1263, Pte. Thomas, W. E.; No. 1221 Pte. Sirrell, S.
5. Company Commanders: Meeting of.—A meeting of Company Commanders will be held at the Orderly Room, Drill Hall, Hereford, at 2.30 p.m., on Saturday, 23rd inst. Railway warrant will be sent to Officers Commanding "C" and "D" Companies. Note books and pencils to be brought.
(Signed) C. L. GABELL, Capt. & Adjt.,
1st Hereford Vol. Regt.

"A" Company.

ORDERS FOR FEBRUARY.

7. Sunday.—Hereford, No. 1 and 2 Platoons, 2.15 p.m., Drill Hall, drill. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 2.15 p.m., Drill Hall, Company parade. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 2.15 p.m., Drill Hall, Company parade.
11. Monday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7.30 p.m., Drill Hall, drill. Weobley, No. 4 Section, 7.30 p.m., drill. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 7.30 p.m., Mordiford, drill.
12. Tuesday.—Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., bayonet fighting and drill.
14. Thursday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7 p.m., Drill Hall field work.
(Signed) G. A. C. THYNNE, Capt.,
Commanding "A" Coy., H.V.R.
Headquarters, Hereford.

1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.

BATTALION ORDERS BY CAPTAIN T. WHEELER MEATS, COMMANDING.
Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.
February 12th, 1918.
No. 7.

1. Efficiency Inspections.—It is important that Company Commanders should send to Headquarters by the 18th inst. lists of those recruits in their various Platoons who are ready for inspection, with a view to being passed as efficient in drill, arrangements having been made to carry out as many of these inspections as possible by the 25th inst. At each inspection a list of recruits will be prepared and handed to the Inspecting Officer before the inspection commences.
2. Rifles: Damaged.—Any damaged rifles will be at once returned to Battalion Armoury with a report stating the name of the Volunteer in whose possession the rifle was and how the damage occurred.
3. Permanent Staff.—No. 4068 R.S.M. Jones, W., will attend parade at Fawley on the 12th inst., Ross 13th inst., and Whitchurch 16th and 17th inst. No. 38953 C.S.M. Jones, J. E., will hold a class at Bromyard, commencing the 12th inst.
4. Instructors Temporarily Attached.—B.F. Instructor: No. 1458 C.Q.M.S. Gaskell (Depot K.S.L.I.) is holding a class at Hereford on the 20th inst., and will hold a refresher class at Ledbury on the 21st and 22nd inst. Drill Instructors: No. 20012 Sergt. Evans, J. T. (1st (R.) Batt. Mon. Regt.) is attached for duty with "D" Company up to the 24th inst. No. 265267 Sergt. Stevens, F. (1st (R.) Batt. Mon. Regt.) will be attached for duty with "C" Company up to the 24th inst.
5. Company Quartermaster Sergeants: Meeting of.—A meeting of C.Q.M. Sergeants will be held at the Orderly Room, Hereford, at 2.30 p.m., on Saturday, 23rd inst. Railway warrants will be issued. C.Q.M. Sergeants who have not by that date rendered a list of men in Sections A, B, and C, who are still not supplied with uniforms will bring such lists with them.
(Signed) C. L. GABELL, Capt. & Adjt.,
1st Hereford Vol. Regt.

"A" Company.

ORDERS FOR FEBRUARY.

- Sunday.—Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 3 p.m., Dormington, musketry.
- Monday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7.30 p.m., Drill Hall, musketry.
- Tuesday.—Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., drill and bayonet fighting.
- Thursday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7 p.m., Drill Hall, route march. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., drill.
(Signed) G. A. C. THYNNE, Capt.,
Commanding "A" Coy., H.V.R.
Headquarters, Hereford.