

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – January 1918

The 'Bigger' Picture

- British Government in message to the King of the Hejaz declare intentions with regard to future status of Palestine
- M. Hyams succeeds Baron de Broqueville as Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs
- President Wilson delivers Message to Congress laying down the 'Fourteen Points'.
- Count Hertling and Count Czernin (German Imperial Chancellor and Austrian Foreign Minister) make public replies to statements of President Wilson and Mr. Lloyd George on War Aims.
- Mustaufi ul Mamalek succeeds Ain ed Douleh as Persian Prime Minister
- Mushaver ul Mamalek succeeds Ala es Sultaneh as Persian Foreign Minister
- Allied request for handing over of Dutch ships in Allied parts formulated

RUSSIA

- Russian Bolshevik Government and French and Swedish Governments recognise the independence of Finland
- Danish and Norwegian Governments recognise the independence of Finland
- Latvia declares independence
- Estonia declares independence
- Ukraine delegation reaches Brest-Litovsk
- Russian Bolshevik Government make and withdraw demand for transfer of negotiations to Stockholm and resume negotiations at Brest-Litovsk
- Russian Bolshevik Government accuse Central Powers of falsification of reports of proceedings - Negotiations between Russian Bolshevik Government and Central Powers once more suspended, but resumed later.
- Russian Bolshevik Government sever diplomatic relations with Rumania.
- Russian Constituent Assembly meets and is forcibly dissolved by Bolsheviki
- British Government assure Russian Bolshevik Government of their support in the creation of an independent Poland

The Home Front

- Air Ministry formed in Great Britain - The Air Council takes over functions of Air Board
- British Premier (Mr Lloyd George) in speech to Trade Union delegates outlines British War Aims.
- German destroyers bombard Yarmouth

The Western Front

- Lt Gen Sir L E Kiggell, Chief of the General Staff, British Expeditionary Force, France, resigns and Lt Gen The Hon Sir HA Lawrence appointed.

Other Fronts

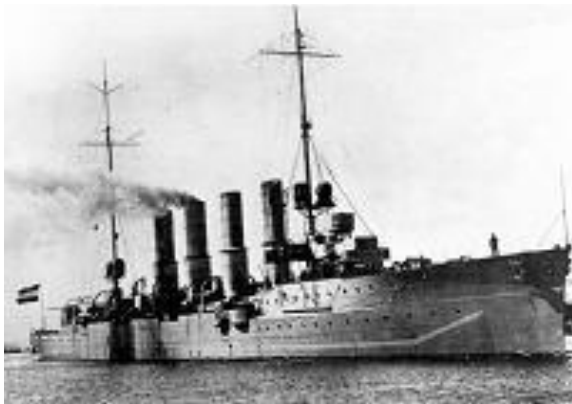
ARABIA

- Arab forces Actions at Et Tafele,
- Qasr-i-Shirin (Western Persia) occupied by British Forces
- General Dunsterville's Mission leaves Baghdad for North-West Persia

At Sea

AEGEAN

- Naval action outside the Dardanelles. German cruiser Breslau (with the loss of most of her crew) and British monitor Raglan (with the loss of 11 crew) sunk. Goeben strikes mine and is beached but later refloated.



Breslau

Breslau (*Midilli*) and Goeben (*Yavuz Sultan Selim*) were German built ships gifted to the Turks in 1914 in response to the British requisitioning 2 Turkish warships nearing completion in Birkenhead shipyards.



HMS Raglan

HMS Raglan (M28) was an Abercrombie class monitor

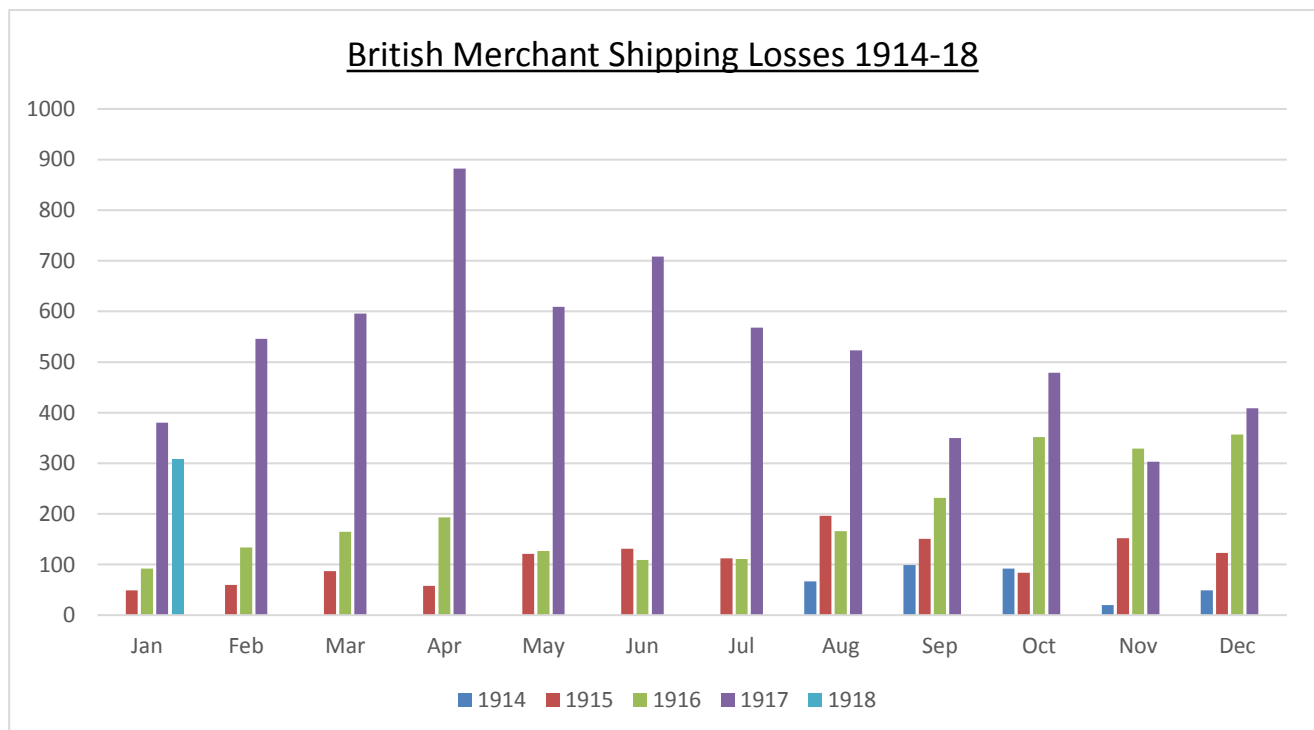
U-BOAT WARFARE

- British hospital ship *Rewa* (*below*) sunk by submarine in Bristol Channel. HMHS *Rewa*, having sailed from Malta bound for Cardiff was carrying 279 cot and walking wounded cases from Greece. She was sunk by U55 in the Bristol Channel; two crewmen died.



MERCHANT SHIPPING

- British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month – 151 ships of 307,000 tons gross.



The 'Herefords'

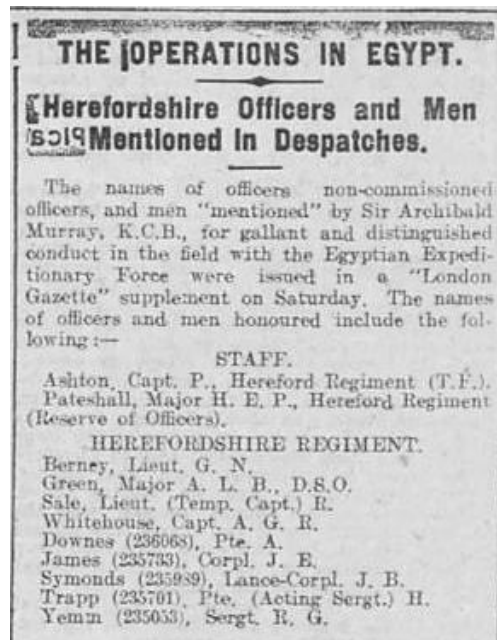
Casualties (other than 1st Bn)

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
THOMPSON	WILLIAM THOMAS	PTE	4198		27 Jan	Died	France	RHAYADER	Glos 1/5

The London Gazette

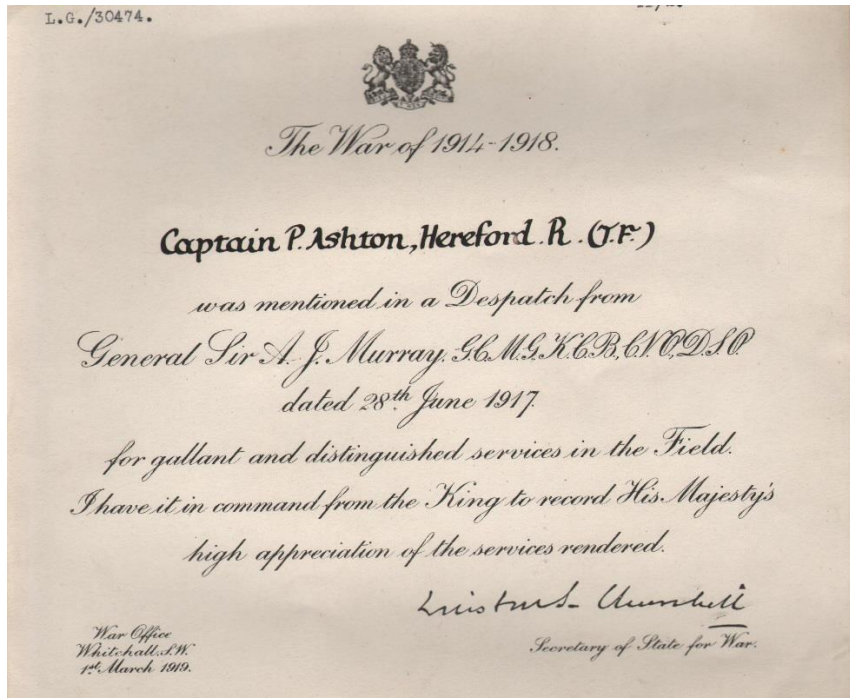
Honours & Awards

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
01/01/1918	Pateshall	HEP	DSO	Serving on Staff
01/01/1918	Ashton	P	MC	
01/01/1918	Whitehouse	AGR	MC	
11/01/1918	Ashton	P	MID	
11/01/1918	Pateshall	HEP	MID	Serving on Staff
12/01/1918	Berney	GN	MID	
12/01/1918	Downes	236068 Pte A	MID	
12/01/1918	Green	ALB	MID	
12/01/1918	James	235733 Cpl JE	MID	
12/01/1918	Sale	RC	MID	since KIA
12/01/1918	Symonds	235989 LCpl JB	MID	
12/01/1918	Trapp	235701 ASgt H	MID	
12/01/1918	Whitehouse	AGR	MID	
12/01/1918	Yemm	235063 Sgt RG	MID	





Capt Ashton's Mention In Despatch (MID) certificate. The MID emblem, an oakleaf cluster was worn on the ribbon of the Victory Medal:



THE LATE CAPT. R. C. SALE.

The names of the officers, N.C.O's. and men mentioned by Sir Archibald Murray, K.C.B., for distinguished conduct in the field with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force were issued in a "London Gazette" supplement on Saturday. Among those honoured is Lieut. (temp. Capt.) R. C. Sale, who was afterwards killed.



Capt RC Sale (from Leominster) killed in action 26 Mar 1917; his medals (less MID emblem) and memorial plaque are displayed in the Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum.



Pte JE James

S/MJ 7743 7H
Army Form B 178a

STATEMENT BY A SOLDIER CONCERNING HIS OWN CASE.

NOTE.—This Form is to be filled in by every soldier prior to the compilation of Army Form B 178a, whether a patient in hospital or not, and attached thereto. The questions are to be answered in the soldier's own words, and the Form is to be signed by him and the signature witnessed. In the event of the soldier being unable to write he should affix his mark, such act being witnessed.

Regimental No. 235 733 Rank L/Sgt

Name. JAMES Emlyn Unit and 1/4 Hereford
(Surname) (Christian Name) Corps

Note.—Before answering the questions below, the soldier is to note that
 (a) The statements made by him will be checked by official records.
 (b) In answering Question 2 any special matters which in his opinion caused any unfitness from which he may be suffering or which aggravated it should be clearly stated.

If the soldier is unable to read, the above notes are to be read to him by an officer.

1. (a) In what countries have you served during this war, and for what periods?	<u>Si. Britain 11-9-14 - 16-7-15</u> <u>Gallipoli 16-7-15 - 20-12-15</u>
(b) In what capacity?	<u>Egypt 22-4-16 - 10-6-18</u> <u>Salsima!</u> <u>France 10-6-18 - 3-9-18</u>
2. If you are suffering from any disease, wound, or injury, state what it is, the date upon which it started, and what, in your opinion, was the cause of it. <small>(If more space is required a sheet of foolscap should be used, and firmly attached to this form.)</small>	<u>S.S.W. Outlook (R.) Forehead</u> <u>Sep 3 - 1918</u> <u>Long Vision Eye (R.)</u> <u>caused through G.S.W. Forehead.</u> <u>Very defective of right eye.</u> <u>jeff</u>

[P.T.O.]

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
02/01/1918	Greenly	JHM	to be lieutenant colonel	employed Ministry of Munitions
07/01/1918	Clifton	WAR	resigns commission	ill health
07/01/1918	Rowden	AR	resigns commission	volunteer Bn
11/01/1918	Capel	EA	from staff	
11/01/1918	Johnstone	JR	lieutenant from E Surrey Regt	
14/01/1918	Vaughan	CSM	to be second lieutenant	since KIA
18/01/1918	White	SEC	to be seconded	
21/01/1918	Fraser	HRD	to be captain	Cheshire Regt
21/01/1918	Heppel	JB	to be lieutenant and remain seconded	
21/01/1918	Hobro	FA	to be lieutenant	
21/01/1918	Howell	RJ		
21/01/1918	Linzell	EL	RWF attached to be captain and coy cmd	
21/01/1918	McMichael	GB	to be lieutenant and remain seconded	
21/01/1918	Meehan	CF	to be lieutenant	
21/01/1918	White	SEC		
21/01/1918	Wilson	WC		
22/01/1918	Bickham	HSB	to be lieutenant	volunteer bn
22/01/1918	Smith	CT	to be captain	volunteer bn
23/01/1918	Fanning	WG	correction to page 13477 24 Dec 1917	listed under Hertfordshire
28/01/1918	Fuller	FT	relinquishes rank on ceasing to command a company	attd to Cheshire Regt
28/01/1918	Hewitt	JW	to be lieutenant	volunteer bn
30/01/1918	Wilson	WC	resigns commission	ill health

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
D(A/E)RBYSHIRE	JOSEPH	PTE		237346	31 Jan	2B.		KSLI 6
ENTWHISTLE	ABRAHAM	PTE		237980	02 Jan	2B		S LANCS
IMPSON	WILLIAM	PTE		204650	04 Jan	2b		
JONES	CHARLES ERNEST	PTE		204104	04 Jan	2b		
TOMLINSON	JOHN BERNARD	PTE		237347	08 Jan	xvi		
WADE	JOHN	PTE		237331	08 Jan	xvi		
ATKIN	FREDERICK	PTE		237162	08 Jan	xvi		
SUMMERS	EMLYN JOHN	Pte	2478		18 Jan		Foxley	GLOSTER 14
SIMPSON	KENNETH	CPL	2237	235674	30 Jan	2B	Hereford	KSLI 1
BELL	TOM	PTE		238759	30 Jan			

Xvi/2b - unfit through either wounds or sickness

iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier

1st Battalion

Casualties

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
BENDALL	LEONARD GRAHAM	PTE	3136	236053	02 Jan	DOW	MEF	CHELTENHAM	

From the 53 Div History:

On the 4 Jan 53 Div took over the line, 158 Bde on the right, in the Kh Mukatir-Burj-Beitin-Kh, Deir Shebab area, and 159 Bde on the left, in touch with 10 Div on the Wadi Nakib. On the right, just behind the line, and running in a southerly direction, was a deep wadi, and 158 Bde had to find many tiring fatigues constructing a road in and out of it. Indeed, road making was the principal occupation of all troops for some months, and as, at that time, the winter rains had not ceased, it was far from a pleasant one.

From the top of Kh Nisieh a fine view was obtained to the east, the ground falling away, with bare hills and wooded valleys alternating, until it reached the arid jumble which marks the abrupt descent into the Jordan Valley. On the left of 158 Bde front was Sh Abdalla, which was brought within the line by the 160 Bde on 18 Jan, and another hill, Arnutieh, which 158 Bde secured on the 29th.

The enemy had no settled front line, occupying a succession of positions, sangars, rocks, edges of villages, and so on.

The left sector was much the same, a wild, incredible succession of hills, and precipitous wadis. Here again there was the Wadi Hamis, running west from Ram Allah, which had to be provided with entrance and exit roads. Although, towards the end of January, the wild flowers which abound in Judea commenced to bloom in

the sheltered valleys, all ranks had a hard and depressing time with road making in drenching rain, especially as there was a great scarcity of fuel.

The brigade in Divisional Reserve bivouacked behind Bireh.

Any further advance north was out of the question. Not being a country for wheels the old Roman roads had been allowed to deteriorate into mere bridle paths, and the question of supplies was a difficult one, rendered still more so by the frequent spells of wet weather. Also the right flank of the army still rested on the hills between Jerusalem and the Jordan, which were not an insuperable barrier. The Valley of the Jordan can be seen from all the important heights of Judea as a great rent in the surface of the earth. *The depth, the haggard desert through which the land sinks into it, the singularity of the gulf and its prisoned sea, and the higher barrier beyond, conspire to produce on the inhabitants of Judea a moral effect such as, I suppose, is created by no other frontier in the world.* (George Adam Smith)

General Mott had studied this amazing country and was aware of its dangers and the difficulties which might serve him. Sir E Allenby had intended to make a simultaneous advance north and east of the Jordan, but it was obvious that if he carried out this idea he would have to wait until he had accumulated supplies, and perfected his communications, in fact some considerable time. He, therefore, decided to advance east as a separate operation as far as the Jordan, with a rectification of his line to the north up to the river Aujah. The possession of the crossings over the Jordan would prevent the enemy raiding the country west of that river, and give him the control of the Dead Sea. He had in his mind, too, the basis for further operations eastward, to cut the Turkish line of communication with the Hedjaz.

From The Battalion War Diary:

Date	Detail
1 Jan	Eight Turkish deserters surrendered to C Coy; 6 of them had arms and ammunition. CO receded forward to Jeba. Orders to prepare to move. Noon – enemy registered with 12 shrapnel shells on the left of our line. 3 platoons on road work during afternoon. Heavy rain and cold wind; camels unable to move – no rations up.
2 Jan	Situation normal. Move orders suspended owing to bad weather. 1 deserter came in, a Christian Armenian; a few Turk shrapnel shells fell in wadi Tara. 237044 Pte James, C Coy, accidentally shot himself while cleaning his rifle; wound not serious. Sunshine at intervals.
3 Jan	Situation normal, 1 platoon on road work. 1 suspicious native sent to Bde. Orders to move on 4 th received. Advance party of relieving unit arrive. Turks fired a few light shells near C Coy lines. Turkish relief seen to take place at Tawil. 1 horse (CO's mare) died of pneumonia.
4 Jan	Situation normal. Bn relieved by 2/20 London and moved off on a narrow track through Jeba and Er Ram striking the main road Jerusalem – Nablus about W29 central owing to the indifferent road progress was slow; Bn moved North and went into Bde Reserve at about U18a88, ground rather wet, weather fine. ORs busy getting bivouac area in order.
5 Jan	Road making – 100 ORs 0800 – 1200 & 1200 – 1600. Under RE supervision. 50 sheets of poor quality iron drawn as stores. Rain storms and high winds during night.
6 Jan	Sunday. CO went to intercession service at Jerusalem. Lts Rogers and Peake and 5 ORs from hospital. Wire from RECOM F [?] of award of Military Medal to LSgt James D Coy, and LSgt Symonds B Coy; evidently from Gaza.

	High wind and rain during day; rain and snow continued all night; everyone very wet. Snow on ground.
7 Jan	Rain continued all day, several cases of trench foot; no whale oil available at supply column to replace supply in hand used on men's feet. 20 sheets galvanized iron received as stores.
8 Jan	Still very damp with continual showers. 100 ORs on road work under RES – usual hours. No whale oil at supply depot/ Lt Speed from hospital.
9 Jan	Weather fine. 100 ORs under RE as usual. 2 gals whale oil received.
10 Jan	Work under REs. 404 ORs (present effective strength 642) usual hours. Orders to relieve 6RWF in front line on following day. Coy Comds inspected line.
11 Jan	Bn proceeded to relieve 6RWF in front line, coys from right: A Coy (Capt Linzell) 'Ettel', B Coy (Lt Parker),, D Coy (Capt Wilmot) Kh Dear Shetar; in reserve C Coy (Capt Barker); Bn HQ Beitin (Bethel). The front line in touch with 7RWF on right and 2/20 Middlesex on left. Tpt lines in Beitin. Situation normal.
12 Jan	Situation normal. Foggy morning. Patrol of 6 RWF went through line to recce Wadi Elain. Capt FA Trumper, Lt Shepherd and 50 ORs from hospital. Lt Bushell from course. Rain commenced about 1430 and continued all night.
13 Jan	Situation normal. Lt Hopkins and 22 ORs to Bde Sig School at Ramallah.
14 Jan	Situation normal. 2 Pls of A Coy covered Deir Dewan during recce by Div & Bde Staff. Rain during night. Field General Court Martial on 235612 Pte H Padmore
15 Jan	Situation normal. Officers patrol under Lt Paulson proceeded to recce N25 central – small Turkish patrol retired upon their approach – some snipers; fine day. A Coy relieved by C Coy.
16 Jan	Situation normal. Officers patrol under Lt Peake proceeded to recce hill in V2b (Hogs Back) at 1000hrs. BGC visited line. Turks registered with 2 x 4.2 inch shells on Shebab.
17 Jan	Situation normal. C Coy relieved on Et Tel by 7RWF and moved to position about Boulder Hill. Orders received from Bde to occupy V2 cd (Hogs Back) and N25d (Garden Hill) by 0300 following day.
18 Jan	<p>0130 - D Coy with 2 MG sections left their night position and concentrated in the hollow between Sheba and Boulder Hill.</p> <p>0200 – D Coy advanced and occupied Garden Hill without opposition – this was consolidated by daylight.</p> <p>0215 – B Coy with 2 MG sections left their night position and advanced and occupied Hogs Back without opposition. This position was consolidated by 0300.</p> <p>At dawn heavy and accurate sniping opened up at D Coy's position on Garden Hill from the direction of an orchard about 800 yards distant; casualty – 1 soldier injured.</p> <p>A raiding party consisting of 1 officer and 38 soldiers, Lt Paulson and ORs from A & C Coys were prepared to raid Ain Yabrud upon receipt of a wire from 160 Bde that Hill 2984 and Sheik Abdallah had been captured and consolidated.</p> <p>0606 - Position was not taken until 6.06am; broad daylight and accurate sniper fire made the idea of a raid impracticable.</p> <p>Raiding parties were withdrawn to their coys.</p> <p>1100 – 1200 – Garden Hill shelled by Turks – light shrapnel some HE. 1 Sect MGC were also sent to Garden Hill, as soon as it was occupied in order to assist the attack of 2/4 RW Kents on hill 2984. Owing to no Zero Hour having been ordered these guns could not be employed for fear of shooting into RW Kents; Turks shelled hill 2984 – fairly heavy in late afternoon. Our 60 pdrs sent a few shells into Ain Yabrud which had a good effect in reducing the enemy's sniping from the village.</p>

19 Jan	Situation normal. 0900 – Bn less D Coy (Capt Wilmot) relieved by 1/5 Welsh Regt. Upon being relieved ciys moved independently to Bireh. D Coy relieved after dark, joined Bn 2100hrs. Bde in Div Res; Coys in billets – tents and bivouac.
20 Jan	Sunday – 0800 - Divine Service. Lt Col Drage DSO to Bde vice BGC on Egyptian leave. Lt Mogridge and 10 ORs from Jerusalem forward rejoined. 2 Lt Hunt and 33 ORs draft arrived from hospital. Maj RG Yates assumed command.
21 Jan	Lewis gunners and scout training under Bn arrangements. Bn on road work under RE – reliefs 0830 – 1230 & 1230 – 1630. 2 GS limbers the same hours.
22 Jan	Specialist training. Bn on road work as per 21 st . 5 GS limbers on stone hauling.
23 Jan	Bn on road works as for 22 nd . Inspection of Coys by CO; A & C at 0830; B&D at 1530. A Coy inoculated against Cholera
24 Jan	Bn on road works as per 22 nd . Specialist training.
25 Jan	Bde Comd inspected A&C Coys at 0900. A & C Coys and 1PI B Coy proceeded to relieve 2 Coys 1/4 R Sussex in Bde Res to 160 Bde. 1600 – Bde Comd inspected B & D Coys and 1 st Line Tpt. Lt Lewis and 10 ORs from hospital.
26 Jan	B & D Coys and Bn HQ proceeded to relieve remainder of ¼ R Sussex in Bde Res in small wadi – area clean around. 43 tents – area stores, 2 wells for washing purposes. Tpt Lines remained in same place. Capt Linzell to hospital.
27 Jan	Sunday – rain and wind all day. 3 Field Cookers arrived as area stores.
28 Jan	Rain and fog. Socks and clothes arrived at Bde drying room, also at Bn drying shed; weather cleared during afternoon. Coys employed making roads in bivouac area.
29 Jan	Fine day – specialist training. Employment as per 29 th .
30 Jan	Fine day – specialist training. Field General Court Martial on 235612 Pte H Padmore <i>[see Sgt Colley's account below(?)]</i>
31 Jan	Fine day – specialist training. A & C Coys working on front line defences 1800 – 2200; 2 coys work on shell shelters in Bn area.

Appendices to the War Diary - 1st Hussards Regt.
January - 1918.

Appendix I - Casualties.

	Killed		Wounded		Missing		Sick Admitted	
	O.	C.R.	O.	C.R.	O.	C.R.	O.	C.R.
5th. January.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	21
12th. "	29
19th. "	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	7
26th. "	1	44
31st "	13
Total.	.	.	.	2	.	.	2	114

Appendix II - Reinforcements.

	From England.		From Hosp (Sick)		From Hosp (wounded)		Various		Total	
	O.	C.R.	O.	C.R.	O.	C.R.	O.	C.R.	O.	C.R.
6th. January.	.	2	.	15	1	7	.	1	1	25
13th. "	.	.	4	44	.	13	.	.	4	57
19th. "	.	.	.	12	.	.	.	.	.	12
27th. "	.	1	.	29	.	9	1	.	1	39
31st. "	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	2
Total.	.	3	4	102	1	29	1	1	6	135

"A" Form
MESSAGES AND SIGNALS. Army Form C. 2121. (In pads of 100.)
 No. of Message.....

Prefix.....	Code.....	Words.....	Charge.....	This message is on a/c of:.....	Recd. at.....
Place of Origin and Service Instructions.....				Sent.....	Date.....
				Service.....	From.....
				To.....	By.....
				(Signature of "Franking Officer.")	
TO: O.C.		A Coy		APP	
Sender's Number.....		Day of Month.....		In reply to Number.....	
		16-8-18		AAA	
You will send out		as patrol at 1000		to-day to reconnoitre and	
report in V. 2		the Hill		and	
d. The patrol will		consist of 14		officer	
and O.C. B		will		detail	
one officer to accompany		the patrol		I should	
leave the line at		the home named		bet in	
the dip between		SHEBAFB		and	
and O.C. B		HILL		a a	
one B		with		man	
one Lewis		gun		to	
From.....					
Place.....					
Time.....					
The above may be forwarded as now corrected. (Z)					
Censor..... Signature of Addressor or person authorized to telegraph in his name.....					
* This line should be erased if not required.					
(3796.) Wt. W. 492/M1642, 1650,000 Pads. 5/12. H. W. & V. Ld. (E. 1187.)					

From the Diaries of:

Capt Wilmot

- Jan 2nd Bireh And snow. Beitin (Bethel)
- Jan 18th Sheik Abdullah, Garden Hill, and Ain Yebrud
- Jan 19th Reserve at Ramallah and Bireh
- Jan 20th German plane brought down in front of Herefords line. 158 Brigade Pioneer Co. formed under command of Guy Barker.

Maj Yates

About Jan 5th we were relieved by a Battalion of the 60 Div and moved up North through Ramallah to Beitia where we bivouaced in Bde Res.

The weather became very bad – wet and cold – the men were sleeping in mud protected by a bivouac sheet. Our difficulties were increased by men being sent back from hospital without bivouac sheets. Feet were getting bad from the cold and wet and some men had to be sent to hospital.

After a week of Bde Res we relieved the Battalion in the line in front of Beitin. At this time the general line was east and west from the coast and turned south at Beitin to Jeba, Hismeh, Anata and the Jerusalem/Jericho road, thus forming a right angle. The Herefords held the point of the angle. Neither at this time nor later were trenches possible. The hills were rock, with only a thin covering of earth. The line was usually held by 3 Coy Posts, with 1 company in reserve, often separated by a considerable distance. They were protected by building rough stone walls or sangars, but neither side had much wire at any time and where it was used it was usually a short single strand.

About the end of our turn in the line at Beitin it was decided to advance the line a little. D Coy was to advance at 2am and take Garden Hill and at 'dawn' the Battalion on our left was to take Sheikh Abdullah, a hill dominating Garden Hill and the village of Ain Gebrund. Sheikh Abdullah having been secured, Capt Paulson was to take a raiding party of about 20 into Ain Gebrund and secure the enemy officers living there. Rather a weird plan, but by good fortune D Coy secured Garden Hill without loss and Sheikh Abdullah fell after a little fighting. However I did not envy Paulson his task of butting into a now thoroughly aroused hornets nest and handed him my flask as I reckoned he might need a little 'spiritual' comfort. He and his little band gallantly made the attempt but they were met by such a heavy rifle fire that it was impossible to push on with any chance of success.

The Bde moved back into Div Res at Ramallah and Birch on Jan 20th. Some men were billeted in native houses and the remainder bivouaced. (A week or so later an order was published forbidding men to use local houses for fear of typhus). The week was occupied in pulling ourselves together and re-equipping as much as possible. The Brigadier went on leave and Col Drage took command of the Bde.

Jan 28th The Bde took over the line in front of Ramallah and the Herefords were in Bde Res in rear of 6 RWF for a week. The Brigadier returned and Col Drage came back to the Battalion. Time was occupied in digging shelters from shell fire and improving the numerous ancient sepulchres in the hill sides. A few cases of Typhus had occurred in other units so as a precaution, we strafed the house for all we were worth. The stretcher bearers were put on to ironing everymans clothes with hot trenching tools. Results were satisfactory.

Capt Rogers

Sat Dec 29 to Jan 5 1918.	Having been wounded myself on Dec 28th, I was In hospital at this time, but the battalion advanced to HIZMEH and thence northward to a few miles south of BETHEL(or BEITIN).
Sun Jan 6 1918.	I re-joined the battalion in a valley south of BETHEL where they were in bivouac In Brigade reserve. The weather which had continued to be very bad during the last week now became worse than ever, and we found that the rain was turning to sleet, and even to snow in the early morning of the following day.

Mon Jan 7 1918.	Remained In bivouac the weather remaining as before we had a lot of trouble with the men's feet, some of which were frost-bitten in spite of using whale-oil twice a day.
Tues Jan 8 1918.	The rain ceased at about noon and we began to dry up a little.
Wed Jan 9 to Fri 11 1918.	The Battalion was road making by companies and we constructed a portion of the road to BETHEL from the south. After road making in the morning we left soon after 10am and moved into BETHEL, where C Coy were in Battalion reserve. We bivouacked in an olive and fig yard. The ground was very wet.
Sat Jan 12 and Jun 13 1918.	Remained at BETHEL In Battalion reserve, the weather very foggy and wet, and we had to stand to very late in the mornings.
Mon Jan 14 1918.	C Coy relieved in the line on a very stoney hill near ET TEL looking down on TIMMON (or RUOIMON) which was supposed to be occupied by the Turks. The hill which we held was covered with large boulders between which we had to march in single file. It was very difficult in this place not to lose the way when going round the posts and (to avoid doing this) I marked paths by lining them with small stones. A Coy had a very bad time of it during their four days here and were glad to be relieved, as the weather had been severe.
Tue Jan 15 to 17 1918.	Remained In the line the weather remaining as before.
Fri Jan 18 1918.	In the morning C Coy moved back into battalion reserve at SHEBAB which was to the left of our position and about north of BETHEL. Here we rested preparatory to an all night stand to. B Coy & D Coy advanced and took GARDEN HILL successfully and without resistance; but the Turks shelled their new positions the following morning. A raid was also made on AIN YEBRUD by a party of C Coy in the early morning.
Sat Jun 19 1918.	C Coy remained In Battalion reserve at or near SHEBAB. The Turks shelled our new positions on Garden Hill and also more heavily SHEIK ABDULLAH which was held by the RWF.
Sun Jun 20 1918.	In the morning the battalion moved back from SHEBAB into Divisional Reserve at BEEROTH (or BIREH). Here for the first time since Jerusalem, and for the last time in Palestine the Officers were quartered in houses, but the accommodation was insufficient to provide sanitary quarters for the bulk of the men, who consequently bivouaced.
Mon Jan 21 to 26 1918.	Remained at BIRETH doing road making (4 hours a day) and having inspections and Kit inspections. The weather was very much better.
Sat Jan 27 1918.	Remained at BIREH. Church Parade In the morning.
Mon Jan 28 1918.	In the morning the Battalion moved into Brigade Reserve In WADI HAMIS west of lake BALUA. This was quite a pleasant place, and we had on the whole an easier time than at BIRSH, the weather also continued to be fine.
Tue Jan 29 1918.	The Battalion remained In WADI HAMIR. During the day there were various fatigues including the building of a house for the Brigadier, and the improvement of cover from shell fire by turning some caves into shelters. There were also Lewis Gun Classes and washing parades. All night the Battalion supplied a company as a working party to dig or make sangars for the RWF In the line at SENLAC, (or STONY RIDGE), and at KHIRBET WADI ES SERAH (generally called SERAH for short). It took at least an hours march each way to reach the places, and we

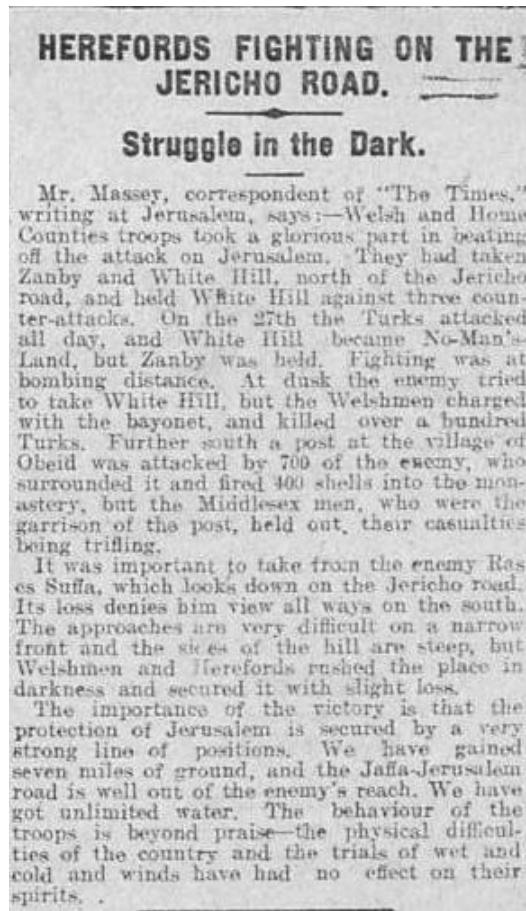
were always glad to be back and have our hot cocoa etc. and get to bed.

Sgt Colley

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

Every other week we have heavy rain storms which lasted 5 or 6 days and during the periods in the line, owing to the lack of warmth and shelter we had many cases of exhaustion, trench foot etc. Another annoying fact was that the ? were so low that observation was impossible which necessitated the boys standing to most of the day and night. During one of these stand tos several men left their posts and proceeded towards the enemy lines on a fig picking expedition which resulted in them being Court Martialed for leaving their posts, but the matter was not taken seriously.

There continued to be reports in the local papers:



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.
January 5th, 1918.

No. 1.

1. Arms Drill.—Company Commanders will arrange that at all parades, including musketry and bayonet fighting, at least ten minutes is devoted to arms drill, including the fixing and unfixing of bayonets. This is of considerable importance, and Company Commanders are particularly requested to see that it is regularly carried out.

2. Badges of Rank.—When parading in plain clothes it is essential that armbands should be worn, and N.C.O.'s may wear their badge of rank upon an additional armband, worn below the present armband.

3. Bombing: Course of Instruction.—The undermentioned is attending a course of instruction, in above subject, at Press Heath, commencing on the 1st inst.—No. 1134 Lance-Corpl. W. Burton, "B" Company.

4. Meeting of Officers.—A meeting of all officers will be held at the Orderly Room, Hereford, on the 26th inst., at 2.30 p.m. All officers are particularly requested to attend, and should bring their notebooks with them. Officers commanding "B," "C" and "D" Companies will please notify Orderly Room what railway warrants they require.

By order,

(Signed) C. L. GABELL, Capt. & Adj.,
1st Hereford Vol. Regt.

"A" Company.

ORDERS FOR JANUARY, 1918.

Sunday.—Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, Hereford, 2.15, Drill Hall, company parade. No. 4 Section, 2.15, Drill Hall, company parade. No. 3 Platoon, 2.15 p.m., Drill Hall, company parade. No. 4 Platoon, 2.15 p.m., Drill Hall, company parade.

Monday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7.30 p.m., squad drill. Weobley, No. 4 Platoon, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction; 7.30 p.m., squad drill. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 7.30 p.m., Mordiford, squad drill.

Tuesday.—Weobley, No. 4 Platoon, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., bayonet fighting class and squad drill.

Wednesday.—Weobley, No. 4 Platoon, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., bayonet fighting class.

Thursday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7 p.m., Drill Hall, night operations. Weobley, No. 4 Platoon, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., bayonet fighting class and squad drill.

Friday.—Weobley, No. 4 Platoon, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., bayonet fighting class.

Saturday.—Weobley, No. 4 Platoon, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., bayonet fighting class.

Sunday.—Weobley, No. 4 Platoon, 2 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 2.30 p.m., squad drill. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 3 p.m., Dormington, musketry.

(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.
January 12th, 1918.

No. 2.

1. Temporary Service Rendered.—It is published for information that "C" Company provided a Guard by day and night for an aeroplane at Ross, from the 5th to the 8th inst.

2. Chevrons: Indents for.—Reference Battalion Orders 1 (2), of the 5th inst. Officers Commanding Companies will indent on the Quartermaster for Chevrons required.

By order,

(Signed) C. L. GABELL, Capt. & Adj.,
1st Hereford Vol. Regt.

"A" Company.

ORDERS FOR JANUARY, 1918.

Saturday.—Weobley, No. 4 Platoon, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., bayonet fighting class.

Sunday.—Weobley, No. 4 Platoon, 2 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 2.30 p.m., squad drill. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 3 p.m., Dormington, musketry.

21. Monday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7.30 p.m., musketry. Weobley, No. 4 Section, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., bayonet fighting class. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 7.30 p.m., Mordiford, musketry.

22. Tuesday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7.30 p.m., Holmer range, shooting. Weobley, No. 4 Section, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., squad drill.

23. Wednesday.—Weobley, No. 4 Section, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., bayonet fighting class.

24. Thursday.—Hereford, Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons, 7 p.m., bombing practice and route march. Weobley, No. 4 Section, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction. Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 7.45 p.m., extended order drill. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 7 p.m., Withington, musketry.

25. Friday.—Weobley, No. 4 Section, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction.

26. Saturday.—Weobley, No. 4 Section, 7.10 p.m., musketry instruction.

27. Sunday.—Much Birch, No. 3 Platoon, 2.30 p.m., musketry. Withington, No. 4 Platoon, 3 p.m., Dormington, squad drill.

(Signed) G. A. C. THYNNE, Capt.,
Commanding "A" Coy., H.V.R.

Headquarters, Hereford.