

## THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

### Their First World War 'Story' – July 1918

#### The 'Bigger' Picture

- Siberian Council declare Independence later cancelled - New Government formed at Vladivostok under General Horvat
- German Ambassador at Moscow (Count Mirbach) murdered.
- Ex-Tsar Nicholas II, ex-Tsaritsa, and family murdered at Ekaterinburg.
- British Government declare to M. Petrov that they have no intention of infringing the territorial integrity of Russia.
- Agreement signed between France, Great Britain, United States of America, and MurmanSovdep concerning Allied expedition to Murman Coast .
- Sultan Mohammed V of Turkey dies. Mohammed VI succeeds to the throne
- Admiral von Hintze succeeds Herr von Kuhlmann as German Foreign Minister
- Field-Marshal Conrad von Hotzendorff, Commander-in-Chief, Austro-Hungarian Armies, relieved of his command.
- Haiti declares war on Germany.
- Honduras declares war on Germany.
- Sir L Worthington-Evans succeeds Lord Robert Cecil as British Minister for Blockade.
- British Government protest against "Sand and Gravel Agreement" between Germany and The Netherlands

#### The Home Front

- Last attempt to attack the British Isles with aeroplanes (unsuccessful) (There were altogether 59 aeroplane raids against the British Isles during which bombs were dropped. There were also 11 reconnaissance flights over parts of Great Britain or in the vicinity of the coast when no bombs were dropped.

#### The Western Front

- Fourth Battle of Champagne ends.
- Second Battle of the Marne begins.
  - German forces retreat across the Marne.
- Chateau-Thierry retaken by Allied forces
- Battle of Soissonais and Ourcq.
- Fere-en-Tardenois retaken by Allied forces

#### The Eastern Front

- Field-Marshal von Eichhorn, commanding German Army in The Ukraine, assassinated in Kiev.

#### SIBERIA

- Irkutsk occupied by Czecho-Slovak forces.
- Kazan, East Russia captured by Czecho-Slovak forces.

## RUSSIA

- Bulk of French Expeditionary Force troops join the North Russia Expeditionary Force at Murmansk

## Other Fronts

### BALKANS

- French and Italian forces begin offensive in Albania
  - Berat, Albania taken by Italian forces

### CAUCASUS

- TRANS-CASPIA - British operations in Trans-Caspia (*Turkmenistan*) begin
- *Coup d'etat* in Baku: Bolshevik Government replaced by Central Caspian Dictatorship

### PERSIA

- British defence of Resht, North-West Persia

### ITALY

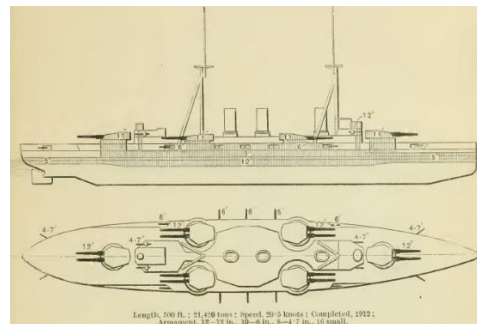
### EAST AFRICA

- Affair of Nyamakura. Near Quelimane, Portuguese East Africa. This was the most southerly point reached by Colonel von Lettow-Vorbeck's force.

## At Sea

- Japanese battleship *Kawachi* destroyed by internal explosion

*Kawachi* joined the First Squadron after her refit commanded by Captain Yoshimoto Masaki and entered Tokuyama Bay on the evening of 11 July 1918. The following morning torpedo target practice was cancelled due to rough seas and the battleship remained at anchor for the rest of the day. That afternoon a loud explosion (cause not known) was heard in the vicinity of the starboard forward main-gun turret and large quantities of smoke erupted from the turret and between the first and second funnels. Two minutes later, she began to list to starboard and capsized, only four minutes after the explosion. Over 600 crew were killed, with 433 survivors.



- United States cruiser *San Diego* (*below*) sunk by mine off Fire Island, Atlantic coast.

The USS *San Diego* had been heading towards New York and was only a few miles offshore when it was suddenly hit by a huge explosion on its port side.

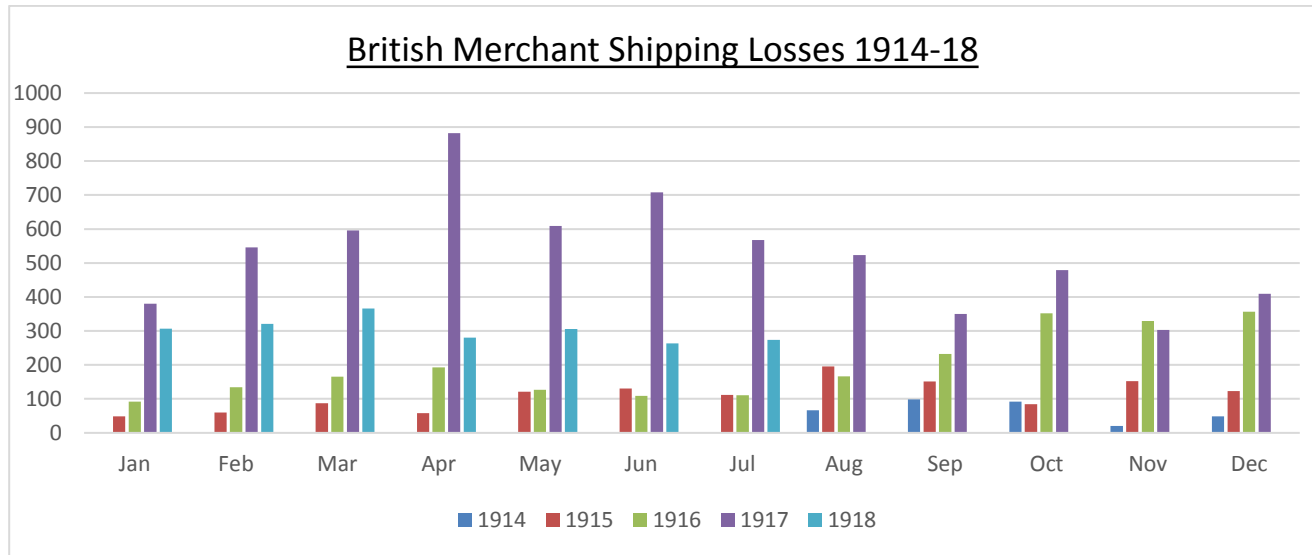
The damage was extensive and the ship went down within a mere 30 minutes.

Four crew members were killed by the explosion itself and a further two drowned, however remarkably the vast majority of the 1,180 men on-board survived, including the captain who was the last to leave.



## U-BOAT WARFARE

- British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month – 115 ships of 274,000 tons gross.



## The 'Herefords'

### Casualties (other than 1<sup>st</sup> Bn)

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
ARNOLD	WILFRED JOSEPH	PTE		239542	1 Jul	DOW	HOME	STOKE LACY	LAB CORPS
BARRELL	VINCENT	PTE		237021	2 Jul	Died	HOME	HUMBER	
GERRARD	EDWARD	PTE	4805		15 Jul	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	BORDER 1
GRAINGER	JOB	PTE			23 Jul	KIA	F&F	ROSS	ICC 5
HORTON	JAMES	PTE		237842	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	BARROW	KSLI
MOORE	GEORGE	PTE			23 Jul	KIA	F&F	STONE	KSLI
NEWMAN	WILLIAM	PTE	3376	236181	30 Jul	DOW	F&F	SHREWSBURY	KSLI
PETERS	WILLIAM HENRY	PTE	1623	235349	16 Jul	KIA	F&F	PONTRILAS	KSLI 7
PREECE	CHARLES BATH	PTE	4216	236706	30 Jul	DOW	F&F	HEREFORD	LAB CORPS
RICHARDS	LEWIS	PTE	5359		26 Jul	DOW	F&F	MADLEY	MGC
SANDFORD	GEORGE	PTE	4382		23 Jul	KIA	F&F	READING	R BERKS
SOANE	JOHN	PTE		239535	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	LADYWOOD	RAMC(T)
TAYLOR	PERCY GRAHAM	PTE	4110	236627	26 Jul	KIA	F&F	LEOMINSTER	RASC
WILKINSON	CECIL ALLAN	PTE		239543	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	BIRLEYGATE	RB

WILLIAMS	WILLIAM CHARLES	PTE	394	239536	6 Jul	KIA	F&F	KNIGHTON	Gloster 14
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The London Gazette

Honours & Awards

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
18/07/1918	Chipp	WF	Citation for award of Military Cross; gazetted 18 Feb 1918	For service in Middle East
18/07/1918	Evelyn	FHL	MC	

141  
 Lt. (A./Capt.) Wilkins Fitzwilliam Chipp, Hereford R.  
 For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He carried out a valuable reconnaissance and cleared up an obscure situation. He readjusted parts of the line with great skill, and showed complete disregard of danger.

Capt. Francis Heron Lyndon Evelyn, Hereford R.  
 For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in leading and encouraging his men in an advance. During an enemy attack he was indefatigable in reorganising the position, and set a splendid example to his men under heavy fire.

Lance Corporal Charles Jarman, from Leominster was to be awarded the Military Medal (published in London Gazette 24 Jan 1919) and the Croix de Guerre (LG 24 Nov 1918) for the actions between 23 Jul and 3 Aug.



**Lc.-Cpl. G. JARMAN,**  
 Herefordshire Regt., who received a double honour from the French military authorities in recognition of his gallantry during the actions in conjunction with the French Army on July 23rd, 1918. The medals are the Croix de Guerre (inscribed 1914-1918), and the Medaille Militaire, which is awarded for "Valeur et discipline." Lance-Corpl. Jarman went with the Hereford Regt. to Egypt in 1915 and returned to France in 1918.

Capt Ashton was in UK on leave and was invested with his Military Cross at Buckingham Palace:

**THE MILITARY CROSS.**  
**Capt. Peter Ashton, Herefordshire Regt.**—  
 Capt. Peter Ashton, of the Herefordshire Regt., received his Military Cross from the King at Thursday's Investiture. His grandfather was the owner of Hatfield Court, Herefordshire, and he is a nephew of the Rev. A. N. Cope, of Dormington, military chaplain, and Capt. R. P. Haden Cope, of Bartestree, near Hereford.



Capt Ashton's MC is held in the Regimental Museum

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
01/07/1918	Heppel	JB	ceases to be employed by TRC	
02/07/1918	Marshall	AW	to be lieutenant and remain seconded	
04/07/1918	Horth	HR	to be captain and coy comd	
04/07/1918	Horth	HR	ceases to be coy comd	
23/07/1918	Davey	A	seconded Cheshire Regiment	
23/07/1918	Kenion	TD	seconded Cheshire Regiment	
30/07/1918	Cotterell	JRG	appointed hon comdt	volunteer bn
30/07/1918	Williams	GJ	to be lieutenant	

HEREFORD

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

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	Why	Hometown	Notes
BUSHNELL	JOHN HENRY	PTE	2184	235646	13 Jul	2B	ROSS	Served Suvla Bay
DAVIES	HARRY R	PTE	2661		23 Jul			Served Suvla Bay
JONES	EVAN	PTE	1366	235236	29 Jul		KINGTON	Served Suvla Bay
LENNON	CORNELIUS	PTE		237392	20 Jul	2B		Served Suvla Bay LANC FUS 6
MOLE	FRED STANLEY	PTE		239256	10 Jul	2b		KSLI 6

POWELL	GEORGE	LCPL	1336	235217	29 Jul	2B		Served Suvla Bay
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Xvi/2b - unfit through either wounds or sickness

iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier

Harry Davies was born in 1892 in Hereford and indentured with Bulmers as an apprentice cooper in 1908 for a period of 5 years. He was wounded and suffered exposure to gas and suffered on going ill health.



### 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

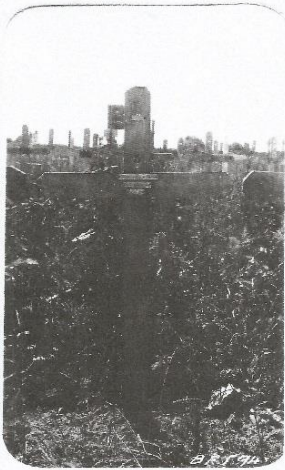
#### Casualties

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
ARNOLD	ERNEST WILLIAM	PTE	4948	236911	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	WELLINGTON	
BOUNDS	GEORGE THOMAS	LCPL	4313	236757	29 Jul	KIA	F&F	BODENHAM	
BRIGGS	COLWYN FRANK	DMR	1446	235272	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	PRESTIEGNE	Served Suvla Bay
CHEFFERS	CHARLES	PTE		238899	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	LLANDRIDOD	
CLARKSON	DAVID HARO	PTE		238845	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	NEWPORT SALOP	
DAVIES	HERBERT THOMAS	PTE		238554	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	PEMBRIDGE	
EVANS	JOHN	LCPL	2960	235997	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	BISHOPS STONE	Served Suvla Bay
HANDS	CHARLES WILLIAM	PTE	3722	236373	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	NORTON CANON	

HARRIS	GILBERT MERRICK	PTE	3595	236284	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	WEOBLEY	
HARRIS	SIDNEY DAVIES	PTE	2437	235783	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	LEOMINSTER	
HARRIS	JOHN	PTE	3607	236295	29 Jul	KIA	F&F	DILWYN	
HICKS	GEORGE	PTE	3767	236399	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	LEOMINSTER	
JONES	CHARLES	PTE	4085	236607	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	MANSELL LACY	
JONES	ARTHUR	PTE		236993	24 Jul	DOW	F&F	TARRINGTON	
LILWALL	GEORGE	PTE	3724	236375	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	PEMBRIDGE	
MARSTON	RICHARD EDWARD	LCPL	2083	235589	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	CRAVEN ARMS	Served Suvla Bay
MEEK	NEWTON	PTE	1392	235252	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	DRYBROOK	Served Suvla Bay
MORRIS	WILLIAM	PTE	3490	236228	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	SHOBDEN	
OWENS	WILLIAM THOMAS	PTE	4099	236618	29 Jul	KIA	F&F	KINGTON	
PITT	THOMAS	PTE	4355	236787	30 Jul	KIA	F&F	WOOLHOPE	
PORTER	BENJAMIN JAMES	PTE		236722	24 Jul	DOW	F&F	W'TON H'FORD	
RATCLIFF	THOMAS	PTE		237757	30 Jul	KIA	F&F	WEM	
RICHARDSON	ARTHUR JOSEPH	CPL	1957	235533	27 Jul	DOW	F&F	HEREFORD	
ROGERS	CHARLES LESLIE	CPL		235767	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	HOLME LACY	
SAVIGAR	GEORGE	PTE	3721	236372	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	PEMBRIDGE	
SHEARS	JOHN SIDNEY	PTE	4166	236670	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	CANON PYON	
SPENCER	HAROLD GEORGE	PTE	3991	236545	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	HEMPSTEAD	
SWAINCOT	ARTHUR	PTE	3603	236292	29 Jul	KIA	F&F	CREDENHILL	
SWORDER	JOHN PERKINS	LIEUT			24 Jul	DOW	F&F		Queens (Royal West Sussex) attached
SYMONDS	JOHN BERTRAM	LSGT	2947	235989	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	Served Suvla Bay; DCM, MM
TAYLOR	CHARLEY	PTE	8182		23 Jul		F&F	BROMYARD	
THOMAS	HAROLD WILLIAM	PTE	1684	235383	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	CODDINGTON	
TODD	HUGH LEWIS	PTE		236789	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	ASHFORD KENT	
VAUGHAN	GEORGE	PTE	4352	236784	23 Jul	DOW	F&F	LEOMINSTER	
WAITES	LOUIS ALLEN	LCPL	2731	235865	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	ROSS	Served Suvla Bay
WILLIAMS	JAMES EDWYN DENSTONE	PTE		238927	23 Jul	KIA	F&F	L DEWCHURCH	

**ACT. SERGT. RICHARDSON, HEREFORD.**

News has been received in Hereford that Corpl. and Acting Sergt. Arthur Joseph Richardson, of the Herefordshire Regiment, has been killed in action. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Richardson, of 59, Eign Street, and previous to his volunteering for the army was in the employ of G. R. Herron and Son, Ltd. He was 31 years of age, and married, and there is one child, a daughter of five years. Popular with all who knew him, he was a successful pigeon fancier and well-known football player. He had served in Palestine, and had been in France only a short time, and was expected home on leave.



The Vice-Chairman  
Imperial War Graves Commission

Begs to forward as requested a Photograph, taken by the Director-General of Graves Registration and Enquiries, of the Grave of:—

Name..... *Evans*

Rank and Initials..... *L/cpl. J.*

Regiment..... *Hereford*

Position of Grave..... *Paperie British Cemetery*

All communications respecting this Photograph should quote the number *64/25/1412* and be addressed to:  
IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION,  
82, Baker Street,  
London, W. 1.

On account of the circumstances in which the photographic work is carried on, it is regretted that in many cases only rough Photographs can be obtained.

(M1250) (REVISED) THE ADVERTISER, E. 7207.



LCpl John Bertram Symonds, from Hereford, was one of the Regiment's most decorated soldiers in World War. He volunteered in November 1914, served at Suvla Bay and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in February 1918, the Military Medal in November 1917 and Mentioned In Dispatches in January 1918, all for gallantry in Palestine.



**L.-Cpl. G. T. BOUNDS,**  
Herefordshire Regt., killed in action on July 29th, in France. His parents live at The Moor, Bodenham.

LCpl Bounds and Pte Davies are both recorded in the Leominster Remembers publication. The publication has the wrong initials for Pte Davies.



**Pte. W. H. DAVIES,**  
Herefordshire Regt., killed in action, in France, on July 23rd, 1918. He was a nephew of Mr. Simpson, West Street, Pembridge.



The Battalion, on arrival in France was to become part of **102 Bde, 34 Div** under the command of Gen Nicholson. 34 Div after suffering heavy losses during the Battles of the Lys (German Spring Offensive), was withdrawn from fighting and moved on 21 Apr to the area west of Poperinge. It was reorganised here while put to work digging a new defensive line Abeele-Watou. On 13 May the Div was reduced to a cadre, employed training American troops. Between 19 Jun and 1 Jul the Division was reconstituted and was to enter the final phase of the war as a very different Division.

Many battalions were short of officers and had officers attached to them from other regiments, often within the brigade or division but sometimes from elsewhere; this included The Herefords.

### **From 34 Div War Diary**

After 27 Jun Gen Nicholson began the pleasant task of reconstructing 34 Div. The artillery and Field Companies returned, and also the Machine Gun Battalion, but the infantry was all new, some came from India, others had been employed in Gallipoli, Egypt, and Palestine, but had had no experience of war as waged in France.

The Brigades were constituted thus:

101 Bde - Brig WJ Woodcock, DSO  
2/4th The Queen's  
4th Royal Sussex  
2nd Loyal North Lancashire Regt

102 Bde - Brig B Hillam CMG DSO  
1/4th Cheshire Regiment  
1/7th Cheshire Regiment  
1/1st Herefordshire Regiment – Lt Col HM Lawrence, DSO

103 Bde - Brig JG Chaplin DSO  
5th King's Own Scottish Borderers  
8th Scottish Rifles  
5th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

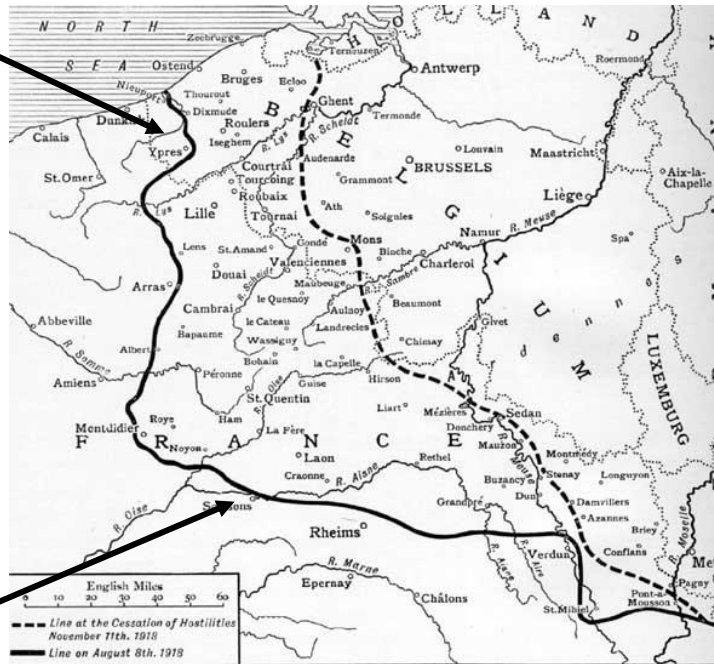
Pioneers Battalion, 2/4th Somerset Light Infantry

By the end of Jun the infantry battalions had arrived. Div HQ was at Bambecque, but shortly after moved to Couthove. Until 15th training and re-organisation took place. This was suddenly stopped by being entrained on 16th at a few hours notice for an unknown destination, which proved to be the Senlis area, where the Div concentrated on 18th, and whence it marched, via Largny, to the Vivieres-Puisieux-Soucy-Longavesne area, and came, on 20 Jul, under Gen Penet, 30 Corps of 10 French Army, commanded by Gen Mangin.

On the 18 Jul, 10 (French) Army had attacked north of Soissons, and driven the enemy back some five miles, taking many prisoners and guns. 34 Div was to take part in the exploitation of this victory.

On the 21st orders were received to relieve the 38 French Div in the line opposite Hartennes-et-Taux the next day, and before this was commenced came orders to take part in an attack early on the following day, 23 Jul. Under the most favourable circumstances this would have been difficult for any troops, but for a newly constituted division, composed, as regards infantry, of troops which had not yet been in action in France, and which had just completed a trying move by rail, bus and route march, it was a very severe test. There was no time for reconnaissance. The country was entirely new; there were no organised trench systems on either side. The enemy's positions were never accurately known till they had been captured. To all these difficulties there were added those inseparable from acting for the first time with foreign troops.

Bambecque



Soissons

The general idea of the operations were that 20 Corps on the left was to capture Tigny-Villemontoire and Taux, turn the wood north of Hartennes-et-Taux while the right of 30 Corps, advancing through Le Plessier-Huleu on the Orme du Grand Rozoy, was to turn the Bois du Plessier and Bois de St Jean. 34 Div and the 25 & 58 French Divs, on its immediate right and left, were to form the connection between the northern and southern turning movements, advancing due east to the high ground east of the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road. A most important point in the scheme was that 34 Div was not to move till 20 Corps on its left had advanced across the Soissons-Château Thierry road.

The left section was taken over by 102 Bde from the 4 Regt, 38 (French) Div: 1/1st Herefords being on the right, and 1/7th Cheshires on the left, the 1/4th Cheshires being in reserve.

102 Bde got off in time, and the 1/7th Cheshires and Herefords advanced through high standing corn, which made control difficult, suffering from the very start from the fire of the enemy's machine gunners, but they got forward some twelve hundred yards to within three hundred yards of west edge of the Bois de Reugny, where they were stopped by the intensity of the machine gun fire from that wood and from the village of Tigny on the left and from the Bois de Chanois on the right. Here they dug in, pending the advance of the troops on their flanks. As this did not occur, the line was consolidated with a defensive flank thrown back facing Tigny till touch was obtained with the French on the left and 101 Bde on the right in the GMP; (Gouvernement Militaire de Paris) line. The losses in this operation were 1/7 Cheshires about one hundred and eighty all ranks, and Herefords eight officers and two hundred and thirty other ranks.

The machine gun fire was so intense that on the right the first wave, was practically wiped out in the first fifty yards. Thus the only result obtained was an advance of the line about a thousand yards on 102 Bde's front. During the night the 1/4th Cheshires relieved the 1/7th Cheshires and Herefords in the front line. The French, on our outer flanks, made no movement, and the next day the Corps Commander came to Gen Nicholson with expressions of sympathy over his losses and pleasant messages from General Mangin.

All things considered, the new troops had done very well. As far as we were concerned, things were quiet till the 27th.

On the night of 27th/28th the Div was relieved by the French 25th Div and concentrated in the Bois de Nadon and Bois de Bceuf. This was preparatory to taking part in an attack on the Grand Rozoy Ridge on 30 Jul, but as the French took

Fere en Tardenois on 27th, and indications of the enemy being about to retreat increased, it was decided to attack on 29th. The change of date was not communicated to the GOC till the night of 27th/28th, but the CRA and Brigadiers had already received details of the scheme. The troops did not reach the Bois de Nadon till the early hours of 28th, so there was but little time for reconnaissance of the routes to the jumping off line, near and south of the Bois de Baillelte.

The distances to be traversed by the different units were from eight to ten miles, and in order that the movement might not be detected it had to be carried out in the night. The difficulties were considerably lessened by the provision of a guide to each platoon by 5 French Div, which was holding the portion of the line from which the attack was to be made. This was arranged personally by Gen Nicholson, with the assistance of his liaison officer, Capt Beauchamp, of 18 Dragons, a cool-headed, cheery officer who throughout these operations was absolutely invaluable to Div HQ.

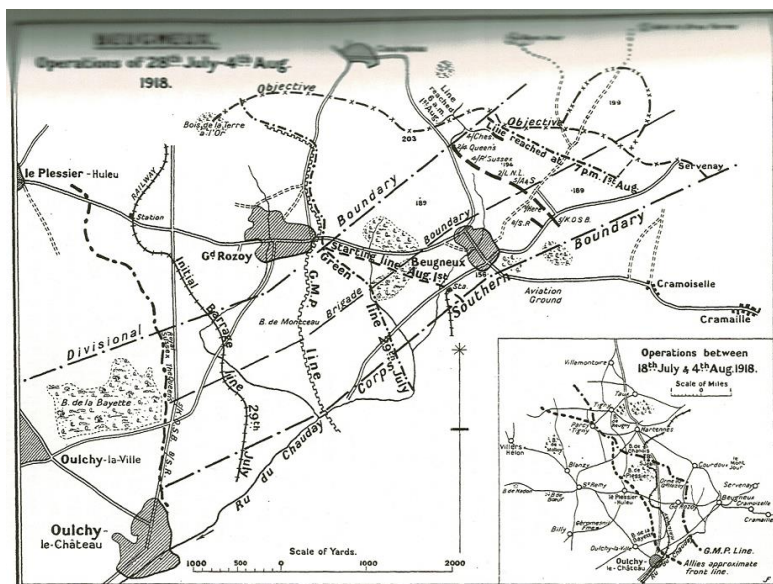
103 Bde was to be on the right, 101 Bde on the left. The Div reserve consisted of 102 Bde (less 1/4th Cheshires in Corps Reserve).

102 Bde were ordered up to counter-attack, but the Germans launched a heavy attack, the weight of which fell on the French to the left. The whole line fell back, and before the counter-attack could materialise the line had fallen back to the GMP, where a new line was formed, and as the troops had become considerably mixed up they were reorganised; the order of battle being from right to left 103 Bde, 102 Bde, 101 Bde. The enemy was prevented from taking any advantage of our withdrawal by the heavy barrage.

As the result of the operations of 29/30 Jul the Corps line now ran from Bois de la terre d'or, inclusive, along the road to Grand Rozoy, round the northern edge of that village, and thence about one hundred yards south of the road to Beugneux as far as the eastern edge of the wood, and thence to some buildings at the station side of Hill 158, thence parallel to and south of the Beugneux-Cramaille road. During the night 31 Jul/1 Aug the troops moved to their jumping off positions. The Herefords were intended to advance towards Bucy le Bras Ferme with the object of securing the high ground about Point 194, but it could make no progress, and dug in near 5 King's Own Scottish Borderers at 1135. In its advance Major AGR Whitehouse was killed by a pocket of the enemy, which had been overrun by the preceding troops.

In the meantime 101 Bde had been completely successful, overcoming considerable opposition in the woods north of the Grand Rozoy-Beugneux road. The night passed quietly, and we ascertained later from prisoners that the Huns sneaked away quietly about 2300 under cover of a thick fog.

The new infantry of the Div fairly won their spurs. Both Army and Corps Commanders issued complimentary orders, and with promptitude which fairly astonished the recipients a shower of French decorations descended upon the Div.



Our losses during the period were:

	Officers	Other Ranks
July' 22nd to 28th inclusive—Killed	2	128
Wounded	43	1095
Missing	0	26
July 29th to 31st inclusive—Killed . .	16	206
Wounded . . . .	61	1356
Missing . . . .	0	136
August 1st to 3rd inclusive—Killed	12	98
Wounded . . . .	18	479
Missing . . . .	1	31

Making a total of one hundred and fifty-three casualties among officers, and three thousand six hundred and seventeen among the other ranks.

Details of casualties were filtering back to Herefordshire:

**LEOMINSTER MAN WOUNDED.**

Mr. and Mrs. William Preece, of 46, Dishley Street, received a postcard on Monday morning from a "mate" of their youngest son, stating that Pte. George Preece had been wounded and moved to hospital. No official notification has yet been received. Pte. Preece, who is 21 years of age, joined the Herefords shortly after the outbreak of war, and went with his regiment to Egypt three years ago. He was formerly in the employ of Mr. J. Watkins. Two of his brothers are also serving.

**From The Battalion War Diary:**

1 Jul	Equipment drawn and issued, breakfast arrived; 20 additional Lewis Guns drawn.
2 Jul	Reorganisation of Battalion to conform to lower establishment.
3 Jul	As per 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
4 Jul	Inspection by GOC 34 Div.
5 Jul	Company and specialist training.
6 Jul	As per 5 <sup>th</sup> .
7 Jul	0930 - Battalion moved by march route to Schools Camp, St Jan Ter Biesan; arrived 1130am.
8 Jul	Company training and administration.
9 Jul	1030 - Battalion as part of brigade were inspected by Gen Skinner and Corps Comd. 2200 - Practiced defensive scheme. Battalion proceeded to take up its position as brigade reserve at about L11D, withdrawn at 0200 on 10 <sup>th</sup> .
10 Jul	Company administration; 3 coys passed through gas hut.
11 Jul	Company & Specialist training
12 Jul	Training impossible due to inclement weather.
13 Jul	0430 - 2 companies under Capt Willmott entrained at Mendingham for Commette Camp; remaining 2 coys and HQ entrained at 1445, arriving St Omer at 1630. Proceeded to camp by march route; transport and baggage by road.
14 Jul	1000 – continued musketry course.
15 Jul	Musketry continued until 1000 when move orders received. Lt Frazer and billeting party proceeded in advance to Rousbrugge. Battalion entrained at St Omer at 1600 for Rousbrugge. 2030 – Battalion quartered in huts near station.
16 Jul	Move orders received at 1630. Battalion entrained in 2 parties at Rexport at 2100 and half past midnight; HQ on first train.

17 Jul	Arrived Sur Villiers 2325, detrained and marched away at 2350.
18 Jul	Arrived Borest, covering distance of 14 or 15 miles. Men marched well only 4 falling out; these rejoined Battalion half an hour after it arrived. A, C, D & HQ billeted at 0700. A party left at station to detrain transport; this party arrived at Borest 0730. B Coy who came later arrived in Borest 1050. Medical inspections and bathing in afternoon.
19 Jul	Received orders to prepare to move at daylight and orders to embus at 0600. Transport to travel brigaded to new area; 1000 - Arrived Vermoise, CO went forward to find billets; everyone settled in by noon.
20 Jul	Company inspection in fighting order. 1630 - move orders received, Battalion moved at 1930 and marched to brigade RV (Vez) arriving at 2100. CO reported to Brigade; Battalion waited for orders. During halt a violent thunderstorm burst, lasting for nearly half an hour. Left Vez For march route brigade major guided column. Various halts necessitated by cross traffic.
21 Jul	0700 - Arrived Poisson, billeted and settled down by 0800. Occupied 12 houses no ORs fell out, 2Lt Michael as IO and 2Lt Ward proceeded at 1500 to recce routes to Longpomp.
22 Jul	Battalion proceeded to a night RV, a distance of 14 kilometres from starting point. Arrived at 1425; all movement was camouflaged by marching through woods. Night march commenced at 2100 arriving front line at 2300. Relief of 58 French Division completed by 2350.
23 Jul	0445 - Preliminary attack orders received. Attack commenced at 0740; Final order: B & C – Firing Line, D – Support, B – Left Flank, A – Reserve. 0740 – Very heavy shell fire experienced immediately move commenced. High standing corn found difficult to move through and making control impossible. Casualties from enemy machine guns occurred before attack progressed many yards. Attack held up at 1,200 yards from point of deployment owing mainly to units on either flank failing to advance at all. Battalion maintained ground gained until after nightfall when relieved by 1/4 Cheshires on right and 1/7 Cheshires on left. Casualties heavy; approximately 8 officers and 230 soldiers. Continuous shelling of whole line during night making search for and evacuation of wounded difficult. Gas shells experienced by Battalion for first time during this attack.
24 Jul	Cheshires took over whole line. Battalion withdrew to reserve area to reorganise into 2 companies under Capt Poulson and Lt Fraser. Brigade Commander came to Battalion HQ and expressed gratification at the part played by the Battalion in the operation, explaining that 102 Brigade was the only one to make any ground in the Corps area. During morning reserve area constantly shelled.
25 Jul	Shelled heavily during day; casualties – 2 soldiers killed, 4 wounded. French aeroplane fell in our line.
26 Jul	Enemy shelling more intense during day. HQ had orders to move during night to a new locality slightly to the rear. On arrival found to be full of water and uninhabitable; HQ returned to original dugout.
27 Jul	Situation unchanged. Estimated casualties to date: 10 Officers wounded, 23 soldiers killed, 206 soldiers wounded, 19 soldiers missing. Received orders from brigade that we were to be relieved by French battalions; these people did not turn up according to brigade orders; eventually relieved by French at midnight.
28 Jul	Battalion marched to new bivouac area about 0500. Leave to UK reopened and 8 men detailed and ordered to remain behind when Battalion moved. 2100 - Received orders to move at 2205; on getting on line of march, motors and cars everywhere began to double bank, consequently we were held up for half hour. Enemy shelled road but luckily to no effect.
29 Jul	0030 – move led by French guide, who was to take us to reserve position. Guide effectively lost himself and Battalion with the result that we had to look for a place ourselves and luckily hit the right one. Heavy enemy shells were dropped in our area during the night time, but no material damage done.

	1030 - Orders for brigade to occupy the Paris trench system to be closer to our firing line. On arrival we found the firing line, only just in front of the rest of the brigade; set to work to consolidate system.
30 Jul	Enemy sent over a fair number of gas shells, mustard and lachrymatory causing everyone to use gas masks for half an hour. Our line was pushed forward to a distance of 500 yards during night and a series of strong points established. Casualties - 5 killed and 14 wounded.
31 Jul	Moved dugout to get more central. Enemy shelled line very vigourously from 10pm til midnight.

1st West Yorkshire Regt.

Appendix to the War Diary for Month of July, 1918

Appendix I - Casualties.

	Officers	Other Ranks
Killed	1	35
Wounded	10	246
Missing	-	18
Not Admitted	1	63
	<u>12</u>	<u>362</u>

Appendix II - Reinforcements.

	Officers	Other Ranks
From England	5	-
From Hospital	1	56
Various	-	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>56</u>

Appendix III - Health of Troops.

Daily %age of Sick.

Company	%age	Per %age	Company	%age
A	1.8	2.1	B	2.4
B	2.0	2.1	D	2.2

Admissions: -

Company	Admissions	Total	Company	Admissions
A	18	63	C	19
B	12		D	15

Officer Casualties: -

Increase	Decrease
Lieut A.P.D. Michael from Hosp.	Sgt A. Sumner - wounded
Cor. Richards " Engd	Lieut J.P. Rogers
Lt. G. Jones " "	Lt. H. Palmer
Lieut. Hughes " "	Lt. G. Jones
Lt. Payne " "	Lt. Payne
Lt. Murphy " "	Lieut. Hughes
	Lieut. Hunt
	Lieut. Michael
	Lieut. L. Swadlow
	Lieut. H. Waters
	Sgt W. Manning

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

WAR DIARY

Year 1918

## From the Diaries of:

Capt Edward Wilmot

July 2<sup>nd</sup> Surplus baggage sent home.

July 7<sup>th</sup> Marched to St Jan del Biesen Near Poperinge? "Schools camp". Inspection here by G.O.C 2<sup>nd</sup> army ?

July 13<sup>th</sup> Marched to Provence and so to St ?

July 15<sup>th</sup> Returned to Rousbrugge. Whole batallion together this time.

July 16<sup>th</sup> Marched tp Rexpoede? And entrained. Jones Richards Hughes and ? of Worcesters joined us here.and Michael returned.

July 17<sup>th</sup> detrained and marched from midnight to 8am to Borest?

July 19<sup>th</sup> By lorries through Senlis? To Creley -eu- Baloise? And from there marched to Banmoise. Company officers all messed together but HQ were separate.

July 20<sup>th</sup> In evening moved towards billets Cotterets? To Puiseux.

July 22<sup>nd</sup> In morning started marching through forests to Longpont (between Villier Cotteret? and Soissons) So to Mont de Billers? Helon between Longpont and Qulchy le Chateaux? Where we lay all day in a wood, marched at night to "Paris French" and on to Parcy Tiquy? And took over the line from the French. Ordered to attack (on signal) Tiguy wood and Hartennes? "B" and "C" Coys to be first waves. JP Rogers wounded in the arm and later Michael, Bulmer wounded, his batman Stallard looked after him. Hunt wounded. CSM Yemm died of wounds (6 Aug).

Sgt Colley

*Eventually we arrived near the Ypres section, being met by the new BGC who was wearing 2 wound stripes – which caused us to arrive at many conclusions as to what was in front of us. We commenced a musketry course and were inspected by Gen Plumer, who let us off very lightly, and did not frighten us too much, as to what was in front of us. Suddenly one day however came the order to move; mysterious places were mentioned; even after we had entrained no one appeared to know quite where we were going. We travelled for more than 24 hours passing to the south of Paris, arriving at our destination at night and immediately set out on a 14 mile march. Great was our satisfaction when we eventually arrived at our final destination weary, tired but happy to discover that we were to go into good billets – but only for a day or so as a long line of motor lorries came to take us on the final stage of our journey.*

*Gen Foch had now commenced his great counter strokes in the Soissons sector and on Jul 23 the Herefords went into action near Percy Tigny. Few who were there and live will ever forget that advance through the corn field. We experienced our first taste of gas shells and suffered heavily from this cause. For days we were continually going over the top and when on 3 Aug we were taken out of the line only a few remained of the Regiment. Great was the praise bestowed on the Regiment by high French generals; Col Lawrence was awarded a bar to his DSO, also the French Legion D'Honneur and Croix De Guerre. Numerous French and English decorations were bestowed on the men, and many unfortunately were the number who we would have to leave behind.*

Sgt Pugh

Inspected by General Plumer, commanding 2<sup>nd</sup> Army marched for 15 miles after several hours in a train, first British (or other) troops seen by the inhabitants.

We left there on a Friday for a place near Crecy(?), the Battalion being taken by motors, all French with French drivers, and then we had a 17 kilometre march to Longport where we arrived at 7 o'clock on a Sunday morning and were later relieved by the Americans. When we were there we heard the rumour several times that gas was coming, and we had to put on our masks. At this place we stayed in a wood and it was there we had to put on our masks and we were also bombarded. Our fellows bombardment putting up a barrage, and one morning, a Monday, at 8 o'clock we left for the attack.

We kept going on a bit at a time, and were attacking on the Tuesday and Wednesday and were still in the line on the Thursday and under heavy fire. It was the same on Friday, and it was then raining in torrents. We had been fighting in the woods, firing from trenches, but the artillery did most. This was part of the attack at Soissons.

We next went over cornfields with a wood on the right where there were many Germans, and we got machine gun fire very hot on the right flank. We were attached to General Mangrin's 10<sup>th</sup> French Army. In that attack there were lots of 'whippets' light tanks rendered useless through the German gas, not through gas effecting the crews but effecting the petrol engines so that they would not work. They were practically in no man's land. Then we moved back 8 miles being relieved by French troops. There were a lot of us wounded in that action and a good many wounded fellows and others gassed passed through us on the way to the rear, helping each other as best they could. Some had been blinded temporarily with the gas.

It was here that I saw a platoon of the Cheshires cut up, a big shell dropping amongst them. A lot of the poor fellows were blown to pieces, so that one could not recognise them at all, some were cut through the middle and others had their arms and legs blown off. We were relieved by French Algerians and then went into reserve with the 103<sup>rd</sup> Bde, 34 Div near ????. The first attack we had made in France had started on Tuesday 23 Jul 1918 near Langport. On 1<sup>st</sup> August we made another attack through the cornfields after marching for 7 miles.

*Pte Cox said that it was about at this time that I had to go to hospital, burned by mustard gas and I was there four months.*

Pugh continued – we had a good many killed about this time; one was Maj Whitehouse whose father is a clergyman at Sellack and Lt Fraser. It was mostly the old hands, the survivors from the Peninsula and Palestine who were cut down here, especially when we were going through the cornfield where were the Germans with machine guns. That corn field was ripe for cutting and really was in no mans land. It was fine cover for snipers and machine guns. We attacked in open formation expecting to drive the Germans out of the woods, but the machine guns stopped us.

It was here that we suffered most of our casualties, we had to wait till night time to fetch the wounded in – that is to say those who could not come in themselves. It was here that the colonel of the Cheshires was killed and second in command. Our colonel Col Lawrence was shot in the shoulder, but he would not leave the lads. Lt Hunt was wounded and Cox bound him up; they both survived. Col Lawrence received the Legion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre.

It was after this that we went into reserve to the 103 Bde of 34 Div near Vimy Blaney being relieved by French Algerians. We had a 36 mile ride, and later a 48 hour train ride for Bruges and then had an 8 hour march to Zeedeers Chappelle and were reinforced by the Ox and Bucks LI; there was much marching.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Bn - Hereford (formerly the Volunteer Training Corps (VTC))

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

**1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.**

BATTALION ORDERS BY MAJOR T. WHEELER MEATS, COMMANDING.  
Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.  
July 4th, 1918.

No. 35.

1. Permanent Staff.—No. 38955 C.S.M. Jones, J. E., will visit the following detachments on the dates stated:—July 8th, Hereford; July 9th, Leominster; July 11th, Ledbury; July 12th, Ashperton; July 14th, Weobley.

2. Attached Instructors.—No. 202429 Sergt. Collins, W. F. J., No. 101173 Sergt. Bartlett, J., No. 265267 Sergt. Stevens, H., No. 200012 Sergt. Evans, J. T., are attached for duty with A, B, C and D Companies respectively. No. 14582 C.Q.M.S. Gaskell will attend parades of the Weobley detachment and will carry out instruction of the new detachments at Moccas and Staunton-on-Wye.

3. Course of Instruction in Musketry.—A course of instruction in musketry will be held at Altcar from the 22nd inst. to the 3rd August next. Officers and N.C.O.'s not under the rank of corporal are eligible. O.C.'s Companies will render the names of candidates to Orderly Room by the 13th inst.

4. Appointments.—No. 902731 Pte. Bastow, C. H., "D" Company is appointed acting C.Q.M.S. as from 29/6/18. No. 903442 Pte. Bellamy, T. J. A., "C" Company, is appointed acting corporal. No. 903437 Pte. Cooke, G. J. E., "C" Company, is appointed acting lance-corporal.

5. Rifles (0.22 bore) for use on Miniature Ranges.—Company Commanders will send in a return by the 29th inst. of all such rifles held by their Companies stating:—(1) The name of Detachment; (2) the number of such rifles, and (3) whether they are in a serviceable condition. Those rifles which are "on charge" should be stated separately from those which are the private property of the Company or Detachment.

(Signed) C. L. Gabell, Capt. & Adjt.,  
1st Batt. Herefordshire V.R.

**1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.**

BATTALION ORDERS BY MAJOR T. WHEELER MEATS, COMMANDING.  
Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.  
July 11th, 1918.

No. 36.

1. Permanent Staff.—No. 38953 C.S.M. Jones, J. E., will visit the following detachments on the dates stated, viz.:—July 15th, Hereford; July 16th, Hereford; July 21st, Leominster.

2. Attached Instructors.—No. 202429 Sergt. Collins, W. F. J., No. 101173 Sergt. Bartlett, J., No. 265267 Sergt. Stevens, H., No. 200012 Sergt. Evans, J. T., are attached for duty with A, B, C and D Companies respectively. No. 14582 C.Q.M.S. Gaskell will attend parades of the Weobley detachment and will carry out instruction of the new detachments at Moccas and Staunton-on-Wye.

3. Appointments.—No. 902727 Pte. Brook, G. E., "D" Company, to be a corporal; No. 903233 Pte. Heeston, T., "D" Company, to be a lance-corporal; No. 902720 Sergt. Bexon, T., "D" Company to be a C.S.M.; No. 902813 Pte. T. G. Taylor, "D" Company, to be a lance-corporal.

4. Hotchkiss Course.—A course of instruction in Hotchkiss Gun will be held at Altcar from the 5th to the 17th August next. Names of Officers or N.C.O.'s wishing to attend must be sent in to Orderly Room by the 25th inst. at latest.

5. Officers' Meeting.—An Officers' meeting will be held at the Drill Hall, Hereford, at 3 p.m., on the 27th inst. Officers commanding companies will please notify Orderly Room of the railway warrants required.

6. Miniature Ranges: Breastworks.—In order that firing in the standing position may be properly carried out Officers commanding companies will arrange to construct temporary breastworks at the miniature ranges of their companies for this purpose.

(Signed) C. L. Gabell, Capt. & Adjt.,  
1st Batt. Herefordshire V.R.

**1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.**

BATTALION ORDERS BY MAJOR T. WHEELER MEATS, COMMANDING.  
Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.  
18th July, 1918.

No. 37.

1. Permanent Staff.—No. 38955 C.S.M. Jones, J. E., will visit the following detachments on the dates stated, viz.:—22nd inst., Hereford; 23rd inst., Leominster; 25th inst., Hereford; 28th inst., Leominster (classification range).

2. Attached Instructors.—No. 202429 Sergt. Collins, W. F. J., No. 101173 Sergt. Bartlett, J., No. 265267 Sergt. Stevens, H., No. 200012 Sergt. Evans, J. T., are attached for duty with A, B, C and D Companies respectively.

No. 14582 C.Q.M.S. Gaskell will attend parades of the Weobley detachment, and will carry out instruction of the new detachments at Moccas and Staunton-on-Wye.

3. Bank Holiday Camp, Ross-on-Wye, from the 2nd to the 5th August next. All men going into camp on Friday, the 2nd August, will take rations with them for that day, but rations will be provided the remainder of the time.

(Signed) C. L. Gabell, Capt. & Adjt.,  
1st Batt. Herefordshire V.R.

**1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.**

BATTALION ORDERS BY MAJOR T. WHEELER MEATS, COMMANDING.  
Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.  
25th July, 1918.

No. 38.

1. Inspection by Major W. G. C. May, Inspector of Musketry (Vol.) Western Command.—The following detachments will be inspected on the 28th inst. as follows:—Nos. 9 and 10 Platoons on the Camp Meadow, Ross, at musketry drill at 10 a.m. "C" Company Hotchkiss Gun Section on Camp Meadow, Ross, at 10.30 p.m. "D" Company at the Ross range, classification firing, at 11 a.m. No. 3 Platoon and "B" Company Hotchkiss Gun Section, at open range at Leominster, musketry drill, at 2 p.m. No. 7 Platoon, at Bromyard, musketry drill, at 3.30 p.m.

2. Battalion Camp at Ross, 2nd to 5th August.—O.C.C.'s will ensure that the Company registers of ammunition expended are brought to camp, and they will also ensure that the roll of all men attending camp, on the form which is being supplied to them, is brought to camp, and will do their utmost to get as many preliminary tests as possible passed before camp.

3. Dress.—When parades in marching order are ordered at least a greatcoat must be carried in pack. The placing of pieces of wood or cardboard in the pack in order to give it a false shape is forbidden (C.R.W.C. 63046/163 (V.C.)).

4. Enrolments.—In future, when names of men for enrolment are forwarded to Orderly Room, the name of the detachment to which each man will belong will be stated.

5. Officers' Meeting, 27th inst.—Reference Battalion Order 36 (5) of the 11th inst., this meeting is cancelled.

6. Appointment.—No. 903153 Pte. Cotton, A. G. T., appointed a (Sergeant) while performing the duties of musketry instructor.

7. Appointments for period of absence of S.S. Coy.—No. 903247 Lance-Corpl. Bromley, "B" Company, is appointed a Platoon Sergeant, No. 8 Platoon; No. 903250 Lance-Corpl. Blackburn, "B" Company is appointed a Corporal.

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

1st HEREFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEER  
REGIMENT.

An announcement appears in last week's Battalion orders appointing Capt. G. M. Morton, Acting Batt. Second-in-Command, and Sec.-Lieut. S. Price Acting Company Commander of "C" Company.

Capt. G. M. Morton, wishes to thank the Officers, N.C.O.'s, and men of "C" Company for the loyal way in which they have supported his efforts to bring the Company up to its present strength and efficiency.

The splendid work of the officers and Volunteer Instructors, who have ridden and walked some hundreds of miles to give instruction to country detachments, deserves special mention and recognition. Captain Morton wishes to record his very sincere appreciation and gratitude for their devoted labours, which have been such an important factor in the success attained by the Company. The excellent spirit shown by all ranks has made it a pleasure to carry out the onerous duties which fall to the lot of a Volunteer Commander, and it is hoped that Sec.-Lieut. Sidney Price, Acting Company Commander, will receive the heartiest support of the members of the Company to assist him in carrying on the work to the credit of Corps.

The Volunteer Battalion also supported military event sin the County including the provision of firing parties, pall bearers, escorts and buglers for local military funerals. As the extract from the Hereford Times shows in the case on Pte Napper of The Kings Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI).

DEATH OF PTE. NAPPER.

On Saturday afternoon, there was laid to rest in Brampton Churchyard, the remains of Pte. Albert Napper, of Gatsford Cottages, who died while in training with the forces in Ireland. Prior to his joining up, Pte. Napper was in the employ of Mr. P. C. Bennett, of Bellamy's Farm, Brampton. The members of "C" Company of the Herefordshire Volunteer Regiment provided a firing party and buglers, the former being in charge of Sergt.-Major W. J. Millington.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet Bn Herefordshire Regiment

The Cadet Bn continued to recruit and establish itself.

## Hereford Cathedral School OTC

The OTC movement was seen very much as a training ground for future officers as can be seen from the Inspecting Officer's address at the Cathedral School's biennial inspection.

### CATHEDRAL SCHOOL O.T.C.

#### ANNUAL INSPECTION BY COLONEL BURNELL-NUGENT, D.S.O.

The annual inspection of the Hereford Cathedral School Officers Training Corps took place on Tuesday afternoon in the School sports field. Colonel F. Burnell-Nugent, D.S.O., from the Headquarters of the Western Command, who was accompanied by Lieut.-Col. A. W. Foster, was the inspecting officer. The O.T.C., which was commanded by Sec.-Lieut. D. G. W. Felton, numbered 61 out of a full strength of 82, the incidence of the Spanish flu' accounting for the 25 per cent. who failed to muster. The Company looked exceedingly smart, and, on the whole, went through their military evolutions and training exercises admirably. Their response to the word of command was prompt, and their marching really very fine. Keen, alert, spirited, they made a very favourable impression on all present. This was certainly so as it concerned the Inspecting Officer, who, in a short address, said that during the last two months he had accompanied the Commander-in-Chief on some of his inspections, and he had not only been able to compare for himself the various contingents but he also had a chance of finding out what satisfied the Commander-in-Chief and he thought he would have been quite satisfied with what he (Col. Burnell-Nugent) had seen that afternoon. He had seen better and he had seen worse, but so far as the work went it was thoroughly good, as was also the physical training. That was one of the most important things, and it was very well done. Musketry was another matter of importance, for by it they were taught, apart from theory, how to handle their rifles. The soldier was taught how to handle his rifle with a direct object in view—the killing of the enemy. Their extended order was quite well done—another feature with which the Commander-in-Chief would be pleased. Their work was all the more creditable considering that they had a number of the Company down with influenza. Colonel Burnell-Nugent then made a few remarks on "Tactical handling of platoons," strongly recommending a recently published hand-book on that subject and with that title. The study was invaluable, and as some day they, as subalterns, might be in charge of a platoon, it was vitally essential that they should understand the work. They must be a match for the Germans, not only physically, but in marksmanship and in the use of the bayonet; but be equally well equipped and disciplined (applause).

Three lusty cheers were given for Colonel Burnell-Nugent as he concluded by asking the Headmaster for the concession of a day's holiday for the boys. Mr. Henson very cordially assenting.