

THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

Their First World War 'Story' – March 1918

The 'Bigger' Picture

Russia

- Treaty of Peace and Amity signed between the Finnish Social Republic of Workmen and the Russian Federal Soviet Republic.
- Peace signed between Bolshevik Russia and Central Powers, Bulgaria and Turkey at Brest-Litovsk, together with supplementary treaties by the signatories. Congress of Soviets meet at Moscow to ratify treaty.
- Entente Governments issue Note refusing to recognise Russo-German peace treaty
- M Chicherin appointed Russian Foreign Minister and M Trotski appointed Minister for War.

Rumania

- Preliminary treaty of peace between Rumania and the Central Powers, Bulgaria and Turkey signed at Buftea.
- General Averescu, Rumanian Premier and Foreign Minister, resigns
- M Marghiloman appointed Rumanian Premier. M Constantino Arian appointed Rumanian Foreign Minister.

- Treaty of Peace signed between Rumania and Bolshevik Russia

- German Government notify Swedish Government of occupation of the Aaland Islands (see 2nd).
- Peace signed at Berlin between Germany and Finland.
 - German force landed in the Aaland Islands at request of Finnish Government
- German Government proclaim protectorate over an independent Kurland.
- 'Doullens Agreement' concluded. Decision taken to appoint General Foch to co-ordinate efforts of British and French Armies.
- Final Allied Note presented to Netherlands Government *re* surrender of Dutch ships in Allied ports..
 - Dutch Government accept with reservations the Allied terms for use of Dutch shipping in United States and Entente ports.
 - Dutch ships in British ports requisitioned by British Government, and Dutch ships in United States ports requisitioned by United States Government.
- First meeting of the Allied Maritime Transport Council.
- Allied Blockade Committee formed.

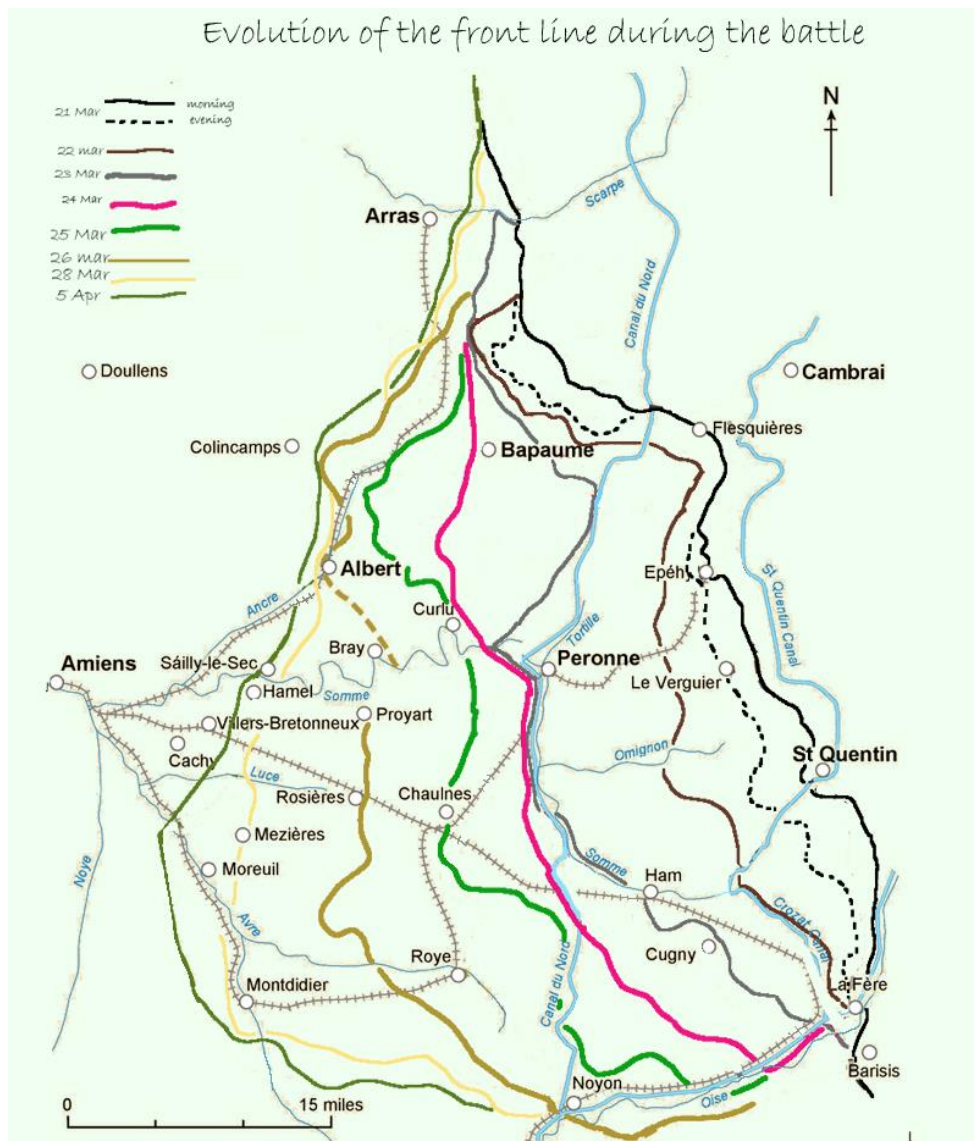
The Western Front

- German Spring Offensive (Operation Michael) launched - 21 March.
 - First Battles of the Somme, 1918, begin with Battle of St. Quentin.
 - Paris first shelled by long-range gun (from Crepy-en-Valois, 75 miles distant).
 - First Battle of Bapaume: Bapaume and Peronne taken by German forces.
 - Noyon taken by German force
 - Albert, Chaulnes, and Roye taken by German forces.
 - Battle of Rosieres (Somme).
 - Montdidier taken by German forces.

- First Battle of Arras, 1918.

Operation Michael was the major German 1918 Spring Offensive and was launched on 21 March 1918 from the Hindenburg Line, in the vicinity of Saint-Quentin, France. Its goal was to break through the Allied (Entente) lines and advance in a north-westerly direction to seize the Channel ports, which supplied the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and to drive the BEF into the sea. Two days later General Ludendorff, the Chief of the German General Staff, changed his plan and pushed for an offensive due west, along the whole of the British front north of the River Somme. This was designed to separate the French and British Armies and crush the British forces by pushing them into the sea. Much of the ground fought over was the wilderness left by the Battle of the Somme in 1916. The action was therefore officially named by the British Battles Nomenclature Committee as The First Battles of the Somme, 1918, whilst the French call it the Second Battle of Picardy (2ème Bataille de Picardie). The initial assaults met with considerable success and much Allied ground was lost to the German advance.

Many interpreted the offensive as the last opportunity for Germany to gain victory before the arrival of the Americans in force and the crippling impact of the Naval blockade precluded it.



The Eastern Front

- Kiev captured by German forces
- Narva, Estonia occupied by German forces
- Odessa occupied by German forces.
- Nicolaiev captured by German forces.
- Poltava captured by German forces.

Other Fronts

PERSIA

- Meshed occupied by troops of British East Persia Cordon.
- Hamadan, West Persia evacuated by the Russian regular forces.

MESOPOTAMIA

- Hit, on the Euphrates occupied by British forces
- Action of Khan Baghdadi.
- Ana occupied by British forces.

CAUCASUS

- Erzerum retaken by Turkish forces.

PALESTINE

- Passage of the Jordan by British forces.
- First action of Es Salt.
- First British attack on Amman.

In The Air

- First German aeroplane raid on England undertaken on moonless night.
- German airship raid on Naples from the Dalmatian coast.

At Sea

- Destroyer action in North Sea between Allied and German flotillas.

U-BOAT WARFARE

- British hospital ship Guildford Castle attacked by German submarine in Bristol Channel, struck by a torpedo while inbound to Avonmouth but the torpedo failed to explode and she reached port.

The 'Herefords'

Casualties (other than 1st Bn)

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
BEAZLEY	ARTHUR	LCPL		236296	30 Mar	DOW	F&F	WOOTTON BASS	KSLI 7
BRINDLEY	ALBERT	PTE		238776	26 Mar	KIA	F&F	MACCLESFIELD	KSLI 4
CHARLES	STANLEY CHARLES	PTE		237908	26 Mar	KIA	F&F	MANCHESTER	KSLI 4
CORFIELD	RICHARD WATSON	PTE	5338		07 Mar	KIA	F&F	PONTESBURY	GLOS 1
Cresswell	Henry John	Pte	3253		30 Mar	KIA	F&F	Bromyard	GLOSTER 14
CROFT	FREDERICK	PTE		268217	31 Mar	KIA	F&F		E Lancs 2/5
DAVIES	JOHN	PTE	3204		23 Mar	D	F&F	KINGSLAND	GLOS 14
EVERETT	WILLIAM ALFRED	PTE	2981		07 Mar	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	GLOS 1
EVERSHAM	GEORGE	PTE	5254		28 Mar	D	F&F	BOLTON	GLOS 8
GERRARD	THOMAS GREEN	PTE		236965	21 Mar	KIA	F&F	ORMSKIRK	KSLI 7
GLADWIN	WILLIAM	PTE	4150	236658	22 Mar	KIA	F&F	LEDBURY	RWF 9
HILL	ALFRED	PTE		237837	21 Mar	KIA	F&F	LIVERPOOL	KSLI 1
HUTCHINSON	ALBERT	PTE		238737	21 Mar	KIA	F&F	MANCHESTER	KSLI 6
HUYTON	JOHN	PTE		238358	21 Mar	KIA	F&F	LANCASTER	KSLI 6
JAMES	FREDERICK	PTE	4821		21 Mar	KIA	F&F	CODDINGTON	KSLI 1
JAMES	JOHN HENRY	PTE		239088	31 Mar	KIA	F&F	LEINTWARDINE	KSLI 6
MARSHALL	LUTHER	PTE	2574		24 Mar	KIA	F&F	RUARDEAN	MGC
MILLER	HENRY	PTE	5839		28 Mar	D	F&F	BOLTON	GLOS 8
PHEONIX	JAMES	PTE		237997	26 Mar	KIA	F&F	OLDHAM	KSLI 4
SAUNDERS	FRED	PTE		239127	22 Mar	KIA	F&F	KNUTSFORD	KSLI 1
SMALLMAN	HENRY	PTE		239210	16 Mar	KIA	F&F	MADELY SALOP	MGC
STEVENS	GEORGE	PTE		23532	11 Mar		HOME		RDC 15
WHARAM	FRANK	PTE		238771	31 Mar	KIA	F&F	HYDE CHESHIRE	KSLI 6
WILLIAMS	GEORGE	PTE		239228	30 Mar	DOW	F&F	HEREFORD	KSLI 6

Many men from the Herefordshire Regiment were transferred to, or attached to other units to make good the manpower shortfalls, many found themselves in front line units and facing the full might of the German Spring offensive.

The story of those attached to 1KSLI in the Arras (Lagnicourt) area is typical:

The Battalion was surrounded and isolated, at the end of the day only 70 men answered roll call. 21 Officers and 492 men were killed, wounded or missing. A considerable number were taken Prisoner of War. One party under Lt GP Lloyd (Herefordshire Regiment attached) marched 50 kilometres and was 40 hours without food. A post war officers' 'exoneration' report states:

POW Report

Reference: 9/HR/696 (AG3) dated: 11 Jan 1919
Sidney Grayling WHITE Lieutenant
21/3/1918 Lagnicourt Bullicourt
Gassed
3 Pl A Coy 1KSLI 16 Bde 6 Div
Repatriated 11/12/18
19/12/18 – arrived England
Minnstead, Ashford, Middlesex

I have the honour to report as follows: we were holding the front in in front of Queant on the right of Bullicourt. On the morning of the 21 Mar the Germans opened a terrific drum fire barrage at 5am. I was off trench duty at that time, but my Coy Comd immediately ordered all Pl Comds to their Pls; I had orders to hold a post in Whitby Support Trench, about 30 yds behind the front line. When I reached my Pl, I found several of the men had already become casualties, as they seemed to be leaving no spot untouched with shell – including gas. The barrage lasted for 5 hrs, at the end of which time I had about 13 men left including my Pl Sgt. I immediately ordered these men to the fire step and gave orders for rapid fire; at the same time taking a rifle from a casualty and firing myself. The weather which had been very misty, cleared when the barrage lifted and all we could see were thousands of Germans swarming everywhere. Nothing could hold up these masses and very soon they had captured Bn HQ. My Lewis Gun cpl, who was my only Lewis gunner left lay out on the parados and covered the rear, as we were now completely surrounded by thousands of Germans. We managed to keep them off the parapet with rifle fire and caused them heavy casualties. They were trying to bomb up either side of the trench to reach us; we held out for nearly 2 hours, but it was always a hopeless task. They finally attacked us strongly from the rear and with a handful of men it was impossible to hold all sides, they finally reached us from the rear. The whole attack was wonderfully organised and we were simply overwhelmed by weight of numbers. Our artillery gave us no support at all.

Please note that my Regiment is 1st Herefordshire and not Hertfordshire.

The London Gazette

Honours & Awards

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
19 Mar	Corner	235566 Sjt CG	MM	
19 Mar	Cotterell	235702 Pte FA	MM	
19 Mar	Evans	236085 LCpl HSW	MM	
19 Mar	Griffiths	236640 Pte FJ	MM	
19 Mar	Harper	235448 Sjt WH	MM	
19 Mar	Kettle	235276 Pte F	MM	
19 Mar	Lane	236448 Cpl I	MM	
19 Mar	Ward	235921 Cpl H	MM	

Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
02 Mar	Meats	TW	to be major 2ic	volunteer bn
02 Mar	Parker	P	to be captain and coy comd	until 03/01/1918
04 Mar	Paulson	JIR	to be captain and coy comd	
07 Mar	Bellamy	H	to be lieutenant	
08 Mar	Caldicott	Revd CB	to be second lieutenant	
08 Mar	Clark	TC	to be second lieutenant	ex Royal Sussex
13 Mar	Lovering	CD	to be lieutenant	
14 Mar	Jolliffe	CLY	to be lieutenant	
20 Mar	Bell	AL	to be lieutenant	
21 Mar	Dillow	FW	to be captain	Physical and Bayonet trg instr
21 Mar	Lewis	PJ	prcedence over captain MV Smith	
23 Mar	Gooding	GC	resigns commission	
23 Mar	Walker	H	to be captain	



Captain FW Dillow

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
PARRY	EDWARD ERNEST	PTE	4454		12 Mar	xvi	Staunton On Wye	
MCFARLANE	FRANK	PTE		239125	13 Mar	2B		
MATTHEWS	GEORGE HENRY	PTE	2285		20 Mar		Pontrilas	
RANDALL	WILLIAM	PTE	2089		26 Mar	xvi	Preston On Wye	

Xvi/2b - unfit through either wounds or sickness

iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier

315229

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 4454 Name *E. B. Parry*

Days	Battn. or Depot	Promotions, Reductions, Commotions, &c.	Army Rank	Date	Service not allowed to reckon for being the date of Transfer years days	Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
General Service		Attached	<i>PL</i>	<i>9.12.15</i>		
General Service		To Army Reserve	<i>PL</i>	<i>20.12.15</i>		<i>80th Div. Major</i>
		Mobilized	<i>PL</i>	<i>2-3-16</i>		<i>Officer Capt</i>
		Reinstated	<i>PL</i>	<i>14-3-16</i>		<i>8th Div. Capt</i>
		Reinstated	<i>PL</i>	<i>5-3-16</i>		<i>8th Div. Capt</i>
4TH BN MONS REGT TRANSFER'D						
UNDER A.C.I. 2004 OF 1910 I. 17.						
		Discharged	<i>PL</i>	<i>12.3.18</i>		<i>Capt. for</i>
<p><i>No longer physically fit</i> <i>327 XVI K. Regt.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Off. to Records, No. 1 (4. Dist.)</p>						
<p>TABLE SHOWING THE MILITARY SERVICE</p> <p>STATEMENT OF SERVICE FOR THE YEAR 1918</p>						
<p>Total Service forfeited as above</p> <p>Total Service towards Engagement to <i>12.3.18</i> (date of discharge) <i>2</i> years <i>242</i> days</p>						

2 1/2
Mts. 27 1/2

1st Battalion

Casualties

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Hometown	Notes
BROOKES	ROBERT WILLIAM	PTE	4088	236608	09 Mar	KIA	EARDISLEY	
DOBSON	JOHN	PTE		237701	09 Mar	KIA	BLACKBURN	
DORRELL	FRANCIS JAMES	SGT	1627		09 Mar	KIA	TENBURY	158 MGC – Sgt Dorrell had been awarded the Military Medal in November 1917 with MEF.
JONES	WILLIAM EDWARD	PTE		236820	21 Mar	KIA	HEREFORD	
OLIVER	FRANCIS	PTE	3338	236159	30 Mar	Died	HEREFORD	
PARKER	ALFRED JAMES	2LT			10 Mar			
PARKER	JAMES	PTE	3294	236128	27 Mar	Died	LEOMINSTER	
PAULSON	JOHN IVAN ROY	LT			09 Mar	DOW		
PEAKE	HERBERT	2LT			09 Mar	DOW		
ROGERS	DAVID RICHARD	PTE		239004	09 Mar	KIA	LLANDRIDOD	
SAVORY	HUBERT	PTE	2260	235682	10 Mar	KIA	HEREFORD	
SHINN	THOMAS BENNETT	PTE	2548		09 Mar	KIA	LEDBURY	158 Coy MGC



Sergt. F. J. Dorrell, N.M., Hereford.—It is officially reported that sergt. Francis James Dorrell, M.G.C., formerly of the Hereford Regt., was killed in Palestine on March 9th. The gallant non-com. was the third son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Dorrell, the Fulhams, Tenbury, and was 22. At the age of 18 he joined the Herefords on August 9th, 1914, and took part in the famous landing on Gallipoli on August 5th, 1915. He went through the awful storm at the end of the following November, and was one of 60 to answer the roll call out of 1,500. He embarked for Egypt December 12th, 1915. On June 30th, 1916, he rescued from drowning a comrade who had got into 12 feet of water, and could not swim. He fought in the battle of Romani, August 3th, 1916, and in both battles of Gaza, and took part in all the fighting since up to beyond Jerusalem, without being injured until the day he fell mortally wounded. He was transferred to the M.G.C. nearly two years ago, and in December, 1917, was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in getting a section of guns into action quickly and successfully, and recovering machine gun ammunition boxes from a hill top swept by hostile machine gun fire, during operations in Palestine. Two brothers are still fighting. Sergt. Dorrell was serving an apprenticeship to the drapery trade with Mr. Wakefield Knight, of Hereford.

**Ledbury Guardian
& Herefordshire Advertiser**
Saturday 13th March 1918

Ledbury War Items

LEDBURY SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

We regret to have to record the death of another valiant soldier in action, in the person of Gunner Shinn, Machine Gun Corps, youngest son of Mr and Mrs T F Shinn, Homend Street, Ledbury. Private Shinn was in action in recent battles in France, and his wife who resides in Stroud heard the news last Friday. Pte Shinn who was apprenticed a gardener at Ledbury Park Gardens emigrated to Canada, but returned shortly before war broke out. On the outbreak of war he immediately enlisted, and went out with the 1st Battalion to Sulva Bay and was one of the few who did not go into hospital as a result of the great push forward at the end of 1915. In Egypt he transferred to the Machine Gun Corps with which he was serving at the time of his death. He leaves a widow.



From the 53 Div History:

TELL ASUR

The operation which resulted in the capture of Jericho and driving the enemy across the Jordan had secured the right flank of the army, but the base obtained was not sufficiently broad to permit further operations to the east of the Jordan. Gen Allenby considered that the first essential to his plan was to cross the Wadi Aujah and secure the high ground on the north bank covering the approaches to the Jordan Valley by the Beisan-Jericho road, and, secondly, by advancing north-wards on either side of the Jerusalem-Nablus road denying to the enemy all tracks and roads leading to the lower Jordan Valley. The Turks would then have to make a considerable detour if they wished to transfer troops from the west to the east bank of the Jordan.

With the above object in view, XX Corps was ordered to secure Kh el Beiyudat and Abu Tellul, in the Jordan Valley north of Wadi el Aujah; and further to the west the line Kefr Malik-Kh Abu Felah, the high ground south of Sinjil, and the ridge north of the Wadi el Jib running through Kh Aliuta-Jiljilia-Abwein-Arura thence to Deir es Sudan and Neby Saleh.

The general advance was to be over a front of twenty-six miles to a depth of seven miles. The order of battle would be 60 Div on the right, then 53, 74, and 10 Divs, XXI Corps would conform to the advance of XX Corps.

THE POSITION OF 53 DIV

From the watershed, two miles east of the Nablus road, the fall to the Jordan Valley is short and sharp and the beds of the wadis are deep and their sides precipitous. The intricacies of this "haggard desert" country presented many and grave difficulties to large bodies of troops. The objectives of 60 Div were down in the Jordan Valley, and a gap would exist between their left and the right of 53 Div which, in spite of the difficulties of the country, was of such a distance that 53 Div must still be considered the flank of the main army.

The line of advance on the eastern side of the watershed which lay before 53 Div was sufficiently forbidding. The physical effort required to move forward was tremendous. The succession of high, rocky ridges and deep valleys contained many places where men must hoist themselves up, or lower themselves down, and, as was afterwards discovered, the conformation of the ground frequently confined troops to one ledge on which the enemy could concentrate his fire. Roads had to be made in feverish haste for the artillery so that the infantry might not move beyond the support of their fire and also to bring up food and water for the troops. Added to all this there was the constant danger of losing direction, for the Palestine Exploration Fund one inch map was not of much use to a company commander, it was, therefore, wise to point out objectives to officers and men on the ground - which was not always done.

ORDERS FOR ATTACK

Gen Mott decided that 158 Bde should deliver the main attack from the Wadi Hishish. Brig Vernon was to advance on a two-battalion front to the high ground in L.36.c and L.35.c if possible by dawn. The line of advance was west of the Wadi Dar el Jerir until it became necessary to cross it in order to climb the high ground in L.36.c. The first objectives for the Div were, hill in L.30.c.-Tell Asur - enemy guns, if any. Simultaneously, with the advance of 158 Bde, 159 Bde on their right were to advance on a two-battalion front on the other side of the Wadi Dar el Jerir : the right battalion from the neighbourhood of Nejme, to the high ground in S.i6a (Munitar); and the left battalion on the village of Dar Jerir' from the neighbourhood of El Khudr. As soon as the right of 158 Bde had sufficiently advanced the latter battalion was to work towards Kefr Malik, if necessary.

One battalion of 160 Bde was to hold the gap between the left of 158 Bde and the right of 74 Div, conforming to the advance of 158 Bde. The remainder of the 160 Bde was to be employed in making roads.

Four composite Artillery Bdes would support the attack of 53 Div, and Gen Mott proposed to detail two to each Infantry Bde, but he provided that the fire of three Arty Bdes should, if necessary, be concentrated to support the main attack of 158 Bde. 10 Mtn Bty were to support the attack of the right battalion of 159 Bde.

The Gen also had at his disposal 1 Australian Light Horse Bde, which he proposed to hold back at Beitin, using one Regiment, when the time was ripe towards Nejme to enable the right battalion of 159 Bde to advance with freedom instead of diminishing their strength by picqueting the ground. Supply was a grave problem, and all available men were set to work navvying in the rain so as to get the roads well forward before zero day. It will be seen that this plan presumed a jumping off position which was not as yet in the hands of the Div, the line Nejmeh-Taiyibeh- N. 18.a-N.16 central-Kefr Ana (exclusive). It was the more desirable to move forward as the enemy was, roughly, five miles away, and the Gen wanted what he called "more elbow room," and also better opportunity for detailed reconnaissance.

This preliminary operation was carried out on the night 6/7th Mar, the most difficult portion of it being successfully accomplished by units - of 159 Bde.

NO MAN'S LAND

The situation in the belt of country separating 53 Div from the Turks is illustrated by the report of one of the many patrols sent out at the end of Feb.

At 0400, 28 Feb, a patrol consisting of three officers and sixteen men of 7 Cheshires, left Rummamaneh, and moved in a direct line across country with the object of reaching Kilia ridge and examining, in daylight, the Wadi Jerir. They crossed the Wadi Taiyibeh and followed a little used mud track to Abu Raschid, where they found a well with a plentiful supply of water. Pressing forward in a north easterly direction, across stony ground and some meagre cultivation, they reached the highest point of the Kilia ridge at about 0600. Here they found a series of sangars but no sign of any Turks. Up to this point, the gradients had been fairly easy, but the north-east side of Kilia was found

to be very steep, and the side of Nejmeah appeared precipitous. They moved south-east along the ridge to the ruin of a large square house and a solid tower. Here they found about 30 shell boxes, some containing live 77 cm shells. From the tower a fine view was obtained of Nejmeah with a Mosque just below the summit of the hill, and of the wooded crest of Munatir. Nejmeah dominated all the country towards the Jordan, and the patrol found that on the Mosque side the gradients were easier. Only one Turk was seen here, but on the top of Munatir, some distance away, several bivouacs were observed. Altogether, over a wide expanse of the enemy front only a dozen Turks were seen. The patrol then withdrew.

The ground having been thoroughly well reconnoitred, 7 Cheshires, supported by 4 Cheshire, moved out from Rummarnaneh on the night 6/7th Mar. The Wadi Jerir was reached without incident - the transport going as far as Abu Rashid - and two companies, under Capt Stott, made straight for Nejmeah along a tributary wadi which fell into the Jerk, while the other two companies, under Capt Flunder, moved to a position on the left between Nejmeah and Munatir. A few small parties of the enemy occupying the heights were completely surprised, and fled, leaving their arms and equipment. Some sniping was, however, carried on during the day at Captain Flurider's force. It was no small achievement to cross that roadless country in the dark, Nejmeah was in the hands of 7 Cheshires by 0500 in the morning.

PREPARATION FOR THE ATTACK

Meanwhile 5 Welch, on the left, had marched, under Lt Col Bowen, on Taiyibeh and occupied it with little opposition. Behind them 4 Welch, under Maj Pemberton, and the West Kents, had every available man at work rushing through the construction of a road from Rummon to Taiyibeh, which was completed and ready for wheeled transport and guns by the evening of 7 Mar. At the same time 159 Pnr Coy had made a path for mules up and down the steep sides of the Wadi Dar el Jerir. The other three battalions of the 160 Bde were employed on the Beitin-Tell Asur road.

The left of the new position selected by Gen Mott was occupied by 158 Bde without opposition.

All was now ready for the moving up of guns, which commenced at once, one Bde being in position south of Taiyibeh, and another east of the road by Ain Yebrud on the night 7/8 Mar. 53 Div Arty had, on the 7 Mar, been reinforced by the 301 Fd Arty Bde and B/302 Bty (60 Div), 10 Mtn Bty, and D/69 (Howitzer) Bty (7th Indian Div).

74 Div on the left made a similar preliminary advance, Welsh battalions of that Div - 24 Welch and 24 RWF occupying Kh Kefr Ana and the west of Sinia. Nothing occurred on the Corps front on the 8 Mar, a certain number of the enemy were seen, a movement of troops which indicated that the Turks were on the alert, on 53 Div front most of the movement was about DarJerir.

The battle opened in the early morning of 9 Mar.

The objectives of 60 Div were Kh Beiyudat and Abu Tellul, down in the Valley of the Jordan, and 181 Bde, entrusted with this task, had great difficulty in crossing the Aujah in the dark, also they met with stout resistance. Success eventually crowned their efforts about 1500, but, not being in touch, the movements of 60 Div had no immediate effect on 53 Div.

The objectives of 53 Div, given by XX Corps, were Abu Felah-Mezrah esh Sherkiyeh, those of 74 Div Marah esh Sherkiyeh-high ground in K12 those of 10 Div Neby Saleh-high ground in D7 and 8.

Gen Mott gave as the first objectives of his Div the line Munatir - S.3.c-L.30.c and Tell Asur, with instructions that these objectives must be reached by dawn.

Following the events from the right of the line 159 Bde had on their front the complication of the steep sided Wadi Jerk, and so worked in two columns. 4 Cheshires, supported by 7 Cheshires, were given by Brig Money, as first objective, Munatir ridge and S .3 .c. or Pear Hill, and then to push on to Q.33 and Kafr Malik, 4 Welch, supported by 5 Welch, was given Dar Jerir, and then to "push on" to L .36 .c. or Drage Hill.

As there was every likelihood that communication might be difficult, Maj Moir, 7 Cheshires, was directed to take command of both battalions of the right column if visual signalling with Bde HQ was interrupted.

158 BDE

The Herefords, on the right, made an attempt to take Chipp Hill, but failed, and a bombardment and combined attack was arranged, but had to be postponed owing to the situation on Tell Asur. The operations of 158 Bde, round about Tell Asur, were of vast importance. This commanding hill, the highest in Judea, was a position which the enemy would cling to tenaciously. Brig Vernon had 266, 267, and 301 Fd Arty Bdes to assist him in his advance, and his handling of his battalions reveals some interesting manoeuvres.

The task of 158 Bde, as set forth in Div Orders, was to advance to the high ground in L.30 .c and L .35.c. on a two-battalion front, keeping west of the Wadi Dar el Jerir, and east of a north and south line through the Cairn in L.35.c. Tell Asur to be occupied by 158 Bde as soon as possible after arrival on this line, and communication established with the right Bde of the 74 Div.

The preliminary advance of 158 Bde on the night of the 6/7 had brought them west of Taiyibeh, where they formed up, the Herefords on a hill on the right, and 5RWF on a hill on the left. The Herefords were given Drage Hill (L36.a) and then Chipp Hill (L.30.c) ; 5RWF, Cairn Hill (L35.c).

Tell Asur was to be taken from the east.

The description of these hills given by Capt Ashton is that Cairn Hill was a kind of hump between Drage Hill and Tell Asur, Chipp Hill was a hill in succession to Drage Hill to the north-east. "Tell Asur we could see as a high, steep, rocky hill going straight up out of the valley at its foot, and we somehow assumed that the country would fall on the other side in the same way, most hills do. Actually Tell Asur was the edge of a high plateau. At 0200 the leading battalions started to advance, 7RWF were in support to the Herefords, and 6RWF to 5RWF, but they were some way in rear. Although a considerable space still separated the point of assembly for attack from the objectives, the Turks held no intermediary ground, the artillery was, therefore, silent. Nevertheless, the advance across that rough country in the dark was difficult and, of necessity, slow. The factor of physical fatigue must always arise in any prolonged battle, but in this country it presented itself with insistence in the grim, terraced, and rock-buttressed hills which had to be scaled. A start at 0200 with a day measured by light before them, called for a strenuous physical effort on the part of all troops. But, in the early morning, 158 Bde was hampered by fog as well. 159 Bde had found communication by visual signalling extremely hard to maintain owing to clouds, and the conditions on their left were decidedly worse.

At first, the visibility was such that when the 5RWF approached Cairn Hill, the Turks opened fire on them from their immediate front and also from Tell Asur. Lt Col Borthwick promptly deployed his battalion, which, up to the last moment moved, for greater speed and effective control, in close formation, and assaulted Cairn Hill, advancing up the slope into the fog. The battalion swarmed up the hill but became scattered, and although the enemy retired before them, much time had to be spent in re-organising and regaining control.

Meanwhile the Herefords reached Drage Hill (which was also in a fog), at 0600 on the upper slopes of which 4 Welch were established, and faced Chipp Hill and the ridge lined with enemy riflemen and machine guns.

CHIPP HILL

It was now that the pause by 5RWF engulfed in the fog on the left gave rise to rumours and false reports. At 0600, Brig Vernon was informed that Tell Asur had been captured, and passed on that news to Div, at the same time ordering 6 & 7RWF to move up in close support. Soon after he received further and more accurate information, and halted the support battalions in dead ground. The Herefords were then directed to take Chipp Hill.

The fighting on Chipp Hill was severe. The Herefords reached the summit and held it for a couple of hours, when they were driven off by a strong counter-attack. By this time, Lt Col Borthwick had reorganised 5RWF and, under artillery support, attacked and captured Tell Asur, just about the time that the Herefords were driven from Chipp Hill – 0930.

Then followed a long pause. At 0730 the Brig had ordered 7RWF to move up behind Drage Hill, and 6RWF behind Cairn Hill. He now ordered 7RWF to relieve the companies of Herefords on Drage Hill, and 6RWF to relieve 5RWF, where they stood on Tell Asur.

This relief was not completed until 1130.

Meanwhile, on the left, the 10KSLI (74 Div) had secured Selwad early in the morning, but thiu 231 Bde, found itself with both flanks in the air, neither 158 Bde on their right nor 230 Bde on their left being able to advance, they, therefore, had to stand fast.

6 & 7 RWF had no sooner completed their relief than they were attacked by the Turks. The enemy was active and persistent, and succeeded in regaining the top of Tell Asur which they held for a time. A counter charge by 6 RWF eventually drove them off again.

It was a report of the above proceedings which reached Brig Money and delayed the combined attack of 4 Welch and Herefords on Chipp Hill and the ridge north-east of Drage Hill. The attack did, however, take place at 1530, and, although 4 Welch succeeded in taking the ridge, the Herefords failed to take Chipp Hill.

THE FIGHT THROUGH THE NIGHT

Just before 1700, Gen Mott received a wire from Gen Girdwood, commanding 74 Div, to say that he was not continuing his advance in daylight, but would attack at 1815. To conform with the 74 Gen Mott, therefore, ordered 158 Bde to clear Chipp Hill and to push north of Tell Asur to L28.c and d. and,

if 231 Bde crossed the Wadi Nimr, to advance their left still further. A company of the Middlesex was sent to fill a gap between 6 RWF and 231 Bde, and a second company was held in support behind Tell Asur.

In accordance with these instructions Brig Vernon ordered Col Drage to attack Chipp Hill after dark, without artillery preparation. This was done at 1830 by two companies of the Herefords under Lt Parker, and a position won about the crest, the two companies were immediately relieved by 7 RWF

This last relief was not completed until 2200. Twenty minutes later the Turks counter-attacked, but were repulsed, although the line seems to have shifted a little.

The orders were for a general advance when Chipp Hill was taken, but the Herefords, on relief, went back to Drage Hill, where rations and bombs were distributed. Soon after, about 0300, they took over the position again from 7 RWF who were ordered to advance north from Chipp Hill to L.23.b. and L.24.c. A start was made at 0400, but before the battalion had advanced very far they bumped into a large force of advancing Turks who immediately spread out and opened fire. 7 RWF, however, stood their ground, although they had to report their inability to advance. They were still on the slopes of Chipp Hill. Meanwhile 6 RWF, on Tell Asur, who since taking over the position early in the day, had been attacked five times, were relieved by 5 RWF and ordered to conform with the advance of 74 Div

at 1830. They had three companies on Tell Asur and one on Cairn Hill. The plateau on Tell Asur fell slightly before the position they were holding, but was covered with great boulders. The conformation of the ground was not known to Bde HQ who seem to have expected the Fusiliers to stream down the opposite side of the hill to drive the Turks from further hills. The enemy had only retired a short distance along the plateau to take up a fresh position amongst the boulders. The three companies of 6 RWF failed to advance and were driven back to their original line.

This failure coincided with the partial success of the Herefords on Chipp Hill. In his report, Brig Vernon states: "Since the battalions on my flanks could not move I decided that my best course was to drive one battalion as a wedge through the centre, and ordered 6 RWF to push on from Cairn Hill and take up a line in the vicinity of L24a, L23 central, L22 central. By this means I hoped to get behind the Turks on the forward slopes of Tell Astir and Cairn Hill. This battalion should have reached its objective long before midnight, but owing to the slowness of its advance, which it did without opposition, it did not get there till about 0900, 10 Mar."

The order for this operation was not received till 2200, and Lt Col Mills was then instructed to leave one company facing west to deal with the enemy on Tell Asur, but a later order directed that this duty should be fulfilled by 5 RWF. The latter took over the position about 0400. 6 RWF advanced at 0405, or about the time that 7 RWF advanced from Chipp Hill. The check of 7 RWF was thought to be a retirement from Chipp Hill, and no doubt the unexpected meeting with the Turks was disconcerting, and Lt Col Mills ordered his battalion to stand fast while he waited for fresh orders. On receipt of these, two companies went forward across the Wadi Kola, found the enemy had retired, and occupied the ridge L.22.b to L23 central by 0900.

At 1200, the situation of 158 Bde was: 6RWF on hill L.23 central, 7 RWF on Chipp Hill, 5 RWF and Herefords in support at Cairn Hill and Drage Hill. Two companies of the Middlesex were holding the gap between 158 Bde and 74 Div.

159 BDE

On the right 159 Bde had also been closely engaged. Late in the afternoon 7 Cheshires, less one company on Munatir ridge and one company on Pear Hill, were in close support to 4 Cheshires on Rock Park, the 5th Welch were on the slopes of Drage Hill in support to 4 Welch, who held the ridge northeast from Chipp Hill. At 1930 the Australian Light Horse took over Munatir ridge and Pear Hill and the released companies rejoined their Battalion.

At 0430 on the 10th - much the same hour of advance as that of 158 Bde—advance guards from the 7 Cheshires and 5 Welch marched on L.30.b and Q25 central, and towards Kefr Malik, 4 Cheshires were ordered to support the 7 Cheshires but to leave an adequate force to hold Rock Park (Q.33 central); the 4 Welch were in Bde Reserve.

5 Welch, leaving their ridge, became heavily engaged with the enemy still on the forward slopes of Chipp Hill, and were not able to move until 0845 when, on the initiative of Lt Col Bowen, the companies were side-tracked

to the lower ground in the direction of Kefr Malik, where they found and attacked the enemy at Q25 central, cleared the surrounding wadis and broken ground, and relieved the situation on Chipp Hill.

On the right 7 Cheshires found the ridge Q26 strongly held, but under cover of a heavy and well directed bombardment, they advanced and secured the position.

The two battalions then sent forward patrols which entered Kefr Malik about 1400 on the 10th. 5 Welch pushed on to Hill Q19a and put out outposts on Q19 and 20; 7 Cheshires held an outpost line from Kefr Malik to Rock Park.

160 BDE

160 Bde then came into line, taking over the left of 158 Bde front. This Bde had been in Div Res making roads. The 2 companies of the Middlesex, filling the gap between 158 and 231 Bdes, had remained on Tel Aur, and on the 10th the Sussex had moved up to connect 158 and 231 Bdes. The Sussex now took over the ground held by 6 RWF with 5 RWF on their right and next to them 7 RWF on Chipp Hill. The Middlesex moved to the left of 160 Bde front.

At the same time the Arty Bdes succeeded in moving forward to N2,3 & 4.

On the 11th a slight advance to more favourable positions was unopposed and completed by 0900, but a patrol of the 5 RWF which attempted to enter Abu Felah drew machine gun and rifle fire and retired.

158 Bde then went into Reserve.

12 MARCH

On 12 Mar, the task allotted to 159 and 160 Bdes was the line Q.i3.a and b-Kit. Abu Felah-L.12 a IQ. Amurieh. Moving before daylight all the positions were gained - (the 4 Welch took some prisoners in Abu Felah) - without opposition, except Kh Amurieh. The capture of this village fell to the Middlesex, and the company detailed for the assault of the hill - all the villages were on the crests of hills - was greatly hampered in its movements by a thick mist, and had, in addition, to move over ground it had neither reced nor seen, with nothing but the small scale and inaccurate Palestine Exploration Fund Map to help. The advance was slow and detected by the enemy, who allowed the troops to climb almost to the top of the hill, before pouring in a murderous fire, in which machine guns posted on a neighbouring hill joined. The company suffered 42 casualties, and was obliged to retire.

The battle, which had been sustained for four days and nights then petered out. Actually the losses in the Div were not severe: five officers killed, 35 wounded, and two missing; 62 other ranks killed, 337 wounded, and 53 missing; but the physical effort expended by all who took part in this advance was tremendous. The men were tired. "The country was very bad, very precipitous and trackless. We had very little transport and for over a week nothing except what we carried on our backs. Fortunately, we had a dry spell then." (F S Harries.) Throughout the, four days the artillery supported the infantry nobly. They got their guns and their supply of ammunition over incredible obstacles. Maj Colville, who commanded 10 Mtn Bty, was entirely successful on the right flank of 159 Bde, and with the accurate shooting of his battery, and his invincible determination that his guns should move, gave winning support.

53 Div had, as was their custom in this campaign; built up a long flank from Nejme to Amurieh; 74 Div were on the heights overlooking Sinjil, and the low lying country to the north-east, 70 Div carried on to Neby Saleh; while, further to the left, the right, of XXI Corps registered a considerable advance.

THE VALLEY OF THE JORDAN AND XXI CORPS OFFENSIVE

Gen ALLENBY could now think of his designs against the Turkish communications with the Hedjaz, and of operations in conjunction with the Arab forces of Sherif Feisal. He contemplated no more than a raid on Amman

with the object of destroying a railway viaduct and tunnel. Amman is 30 miles from Jericho. The intervening country was described by Gen Allenby from a military point of view : "From the banks of the Jordan to the clay ridge, a mile east of the river, the ground is flat and afterwards becomes marshy. Beyond the ridges the country is covered with scrub and is intersected by numerous wadis. For the first five miles the total rise is only 500 feet. In the next 12 miles the ground rises some 3,500 feet, till the edge of the plateau of Moab is reached. The hills are rugged and steep. The main wadis descend from the plateau to the Jordan in deep valleys. The plateau itself is undulating, the lower part of it marshy after rain. The hills which rise from it are rocky and covered with scrub. They are isolated features and only form continuous ridges immediately west of Amman, which lies in a cultivated plain, extending some twelve miles west and four miles north-west of the town. The plain, which is the site of many ruins, is intersected by numerous deep wadis difficult to cross—especially the Wadi Amman, which runs from south to north, leaving the town of Amman on its right."

60 Div, Australian Mtd Div, ICC Bde, a Mtn Arty Bde, the Light Armoured Car Bde, and a Hvy Bty were to advance in this country to carry out the raid. 60 Div was, of course, still holding the line in the Valley of the Jordan.

On the 13 Mar, orders were received for the relief of 53 Div by 74 Div. 158 Bde had already replaced 160 Bde on the left, and the latter' under Lt Col Lawrence, who was acting for Brig Pearson, on short leave to Egypt, moved back to Bireh. With them went the 265 Fd Arty Bde, and C/266 Bty, 3 Section DAC, 439 Fd Coy RE and 1st Welsh Fd Amb. Thus a whole Bde Group lay around Bireh, and was ordered on the 14th to proceed to Jerusalem, to be held in reserve to 60 Div.

53 Div imagined that they would, according to routine programme, go into Corps reserve at Ludd, and enjoy a well-earned rest, but the exigencies of war decreed otherwise, and only 159 Bde got as far as that doubtful haven. (" When we came out of the line we had a really shocking bit of weather. The sight of native drivers and camels dying by the roadside was awful. Some of the natives were so affected by the rain and cold that they simply made up their minds to end it." FS Harries.

158 BDE

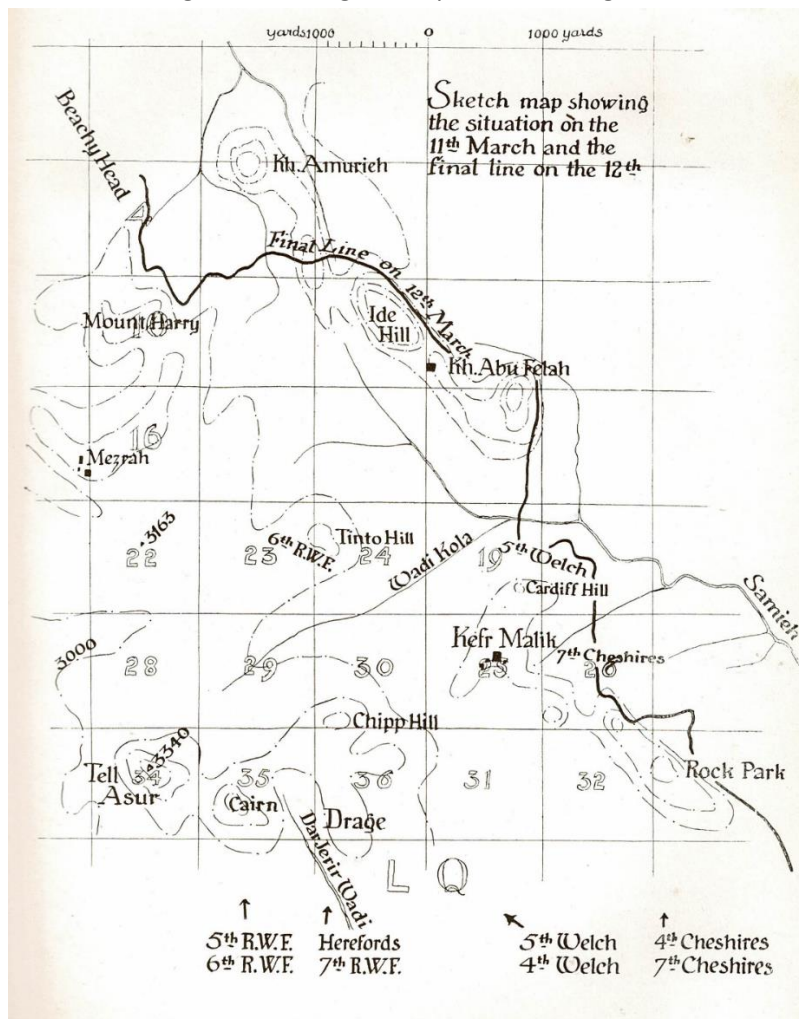
158 Bde also moved down from Jerusalem while the Amman raid was being carried out. Two battalions, 6 and 7 RWF, moved first and marched to Talaat ed Dumm. "We had a very hot and tiring march, stiflingly dusty, as there was a lot of traffic both ways, and very unsavoury, as there were quantities of dead camels no one had buried. Talaat showed the ruins of another Crusader Castle, a famous stronghold, and also the remains of a building said to be the Inn to which the Good Samaritan took the wounded unfortunate who fell amongst thieves. Apart from these the area was very bare and dusty, the heat considerable, and the sense of hope deferred continued to jaundice our outlook on life. Next morning, the Brig and I rode to Gen Shea's HQ, and were told to march on to Kh Kakua, on the very edge of the high ground where the hills fall, in many places, sheer to the floor of the valley, and where the road makes a final drop at an angle of about one in three, with a rocky surface at that. . . . Our new area was a perfect farce, consisting of a few square yards on either side of the road, all stone and without a flat spot in it. We even had to dig a terrace to put our little Bde HQ mess tent on. On the north side of the road, and parallel to it there was a most remarkable ravine, the Wadi Kelt, which runs down into the valley. Very deep, and in some places so steep that the sun only strikes the bottom for a very short time each day, the stream never dries up. The Brig and I went exploring, and found, right down at the bottom, a beautiful little bridge leading to a lovely but deserted and sadly damaged little monastery, all littered with broken glass, torn books, and smashed furniture, the usual legacy of the retreating Turk. . .

"After we had all reced the route to Pearsons (160 Bde) we had a ride round the ruins of old Jericho. There is nothing much left except mounds, but some old pieces of masonry and a long rectangular pool were rather beautiful, while the tropical foliage, with bananas and such like growing, was lovely. The modern Jericho is a dusty ramshackle little hole, remarkable for nothing.

The heat was now intense and dust storms followed by rain storms were the usual order. Much as we disliked the whole thing we seemed fated to be drawn deeper and deeper into it, for on Good Friday, 29 Mar, 7 RWF was sent forward to a position beyond the Ghoraniyeh Bridge of the Jordan, while at the same time the rest of the Bde, together with 266 Bde RFA, was started off down the road from Jerusalem.

On 1 Apr, we were informed that the operation was over, and that Shea's force was returning. Now, at last, we thought, for Ludd and the rest camp. In fine spirit, however, Corps sent a later wire that 158 Bde would be returning to Ram Allah shortly - probably in two days' time, exactly where we had come from. This really was the crushing blow, and a lot of hard things were said about Corps. As a matter of fact, the big bad news from France, the Mar break through, was in, and 52 and 74 Divs were for France - very soon."

Still another point of view is contained in a note in 160 Bde diary for the 31 Mar, reviewing the month: "On the whole, the health of the Bde had been good. The genial temperature of the Jordan Valley has proved extremely beneficial.' And, on the 5 Apl: "Arrived in the Jerusalem area to find the sky overcast, a cold wind blowing from the south-west and light rain falling. An unpleasant change from the Jordan Valley."



From The Battalion War Diary:

1 Mar	Bn on road work during day. Capt FG Barker MC, Lt Fraser and 30 ROs proceeded to Bde HQ to form part of 158 Pioneer Coy.
2 Mar	Bn continued work on Medway Road during day. Half Bn worked on exposed part of road for 4 hours at night. 6 Offrs and 22 ORs returned from Bde Sig School. CO and Coy Comds proceeded on recce.
3 Mar	Sunday Divine Service & Holy Communion. Bn continued to work on Medway Rd. Conference of Cos at Bde HQ.
4 Mar	Bn continued to work n Medway Rd. CO & Coy Comds proceeded on Recce. CO lectured to all offcra. Capt FL Evelyn MC and 11 ORs from hospital.
5 Mar	Bn continued work on Medway Rd.
6 Mar	CO at conference at Div & Bde HQs. All offcra at a conference by CO. Bn continued work on Medway Rd. Orders received to be ready to move.
7 Mar	1100 Divisional Reserve. Battalion moved off in companies at 15 minute intervals and proceeded in Bitn to a position in Wadi Al Ain arriving about 1500hrs. Companies were scattered along west side of wadi for concealment. All transport, 45 camels, 60 mules greatcoats and one blanket per man taken. First reinforcements moved to Hereford Wadi after Battalion had moved. CO & Coy Comds recce to Taiweh. D Coy (Capt Wilmot) relieved one coy of 1/5 RWF on outpost about N18 b"£ after dark.2200hrs – Patrol under Lt Ward & 15 ORs went to examine sangar in N12a64, which had been reported by natives as evacuated; Sanger was found to be occupied by about 12 Turks; patrol withdrew without being discovered about 0005.
8 Mar	0300 – Patrol under Lt Rogers & 15 ORs proceeded to again recce the same sangar, and endeavor to find a crossing in Wadi Dar Jerir about N6C101. Sanagr wa found occupied and patrol was fired on, patrol withdrew at 0500. Bn remained in same location during day. Greatcoats and blankets sent to Bn during afternoon. Conference of Cos at Bde HQ for ?? instructions. Lts Conway and Speed detailed to act as liaison officers with flank battalions. One Sect MGC reported. Capt AGR Whitehouse rejoined from Senior Offrs Course. 1900 – All offcra at conference by CO.
9 Mar	Midnight – Battalion moved to head of wadi; D Coy joined at this point., and moved forward on a bearing of 17 degrees true. Companies in 2 lines of platoons; A (Lt Peake), B (Capt Trumper), C (Capt Paulson), D (Capt Wlmot) & HQ. 0230 – Very thick fog developed; progress became very slow. Advance screen came into contact with enemy listening posts, some bombing and rifle fire ensued. Enemy retired, advance continued. A Coy reinforced by C in support; advanced in line. 0600 – Battalion at foot of Cairn Hill; A & C firing line, B support and D reserve. 0630 – 5 RWF had taken Cairn Hill. Battalion advanced across East Spur and crossed Wadi Jerir and attacked Drage Hill from south with a party of 1/5 RWF. Position was taken by 0715 and A & C Coys pressed on to Chipp Hill; this was taken by 0800; but advance was checked here by machine gun fire which enfiladed forward slopes. 0830 – A & C Coys holding Chipp Hill, B in support, D & HQ on Drage Hill. 1600 – Turks counter attacked Chipp Hill – repulsed. 1830 – A & C Coys under Lt Parker assaulted and took forward slopes of Chipp Hill. 2100 – Battalion relieved by 1/7 RWF and moved to a position on Drage Hill. Rations arrived, small arms ammunition and bombs replenished.

10 Mar	<p>0300 – Orders received to relieve 1/7 RWF on Chipp Hill who were ordered to advance. C&D Coys relieved Chipp Hill; A Coy Drage Hill, the Turks heavily counter attacked, hand to hand fighting ensued which resulted in the enemy everywhere being driven off.</p> <p>1100 – Bn was relieved on Chipp Hill and Hill L30 central by RWF. A Coy continued to hold Drage Hill, remainder of Bn was concentrated on the south slopes of Drage Hill.</p> <p>1900 – Bn relieved 7RWF on Chipp Hill and L30 central- A Cy relieved by RWF on Drage Hill. Coys took up positions: A Coy (2Lt Bulmer) L30 central, B Coy (Capt romper) L24d5l, C Coy (Lt Ward) L29, 10, 5, D Coy (Capt Wilmot) L30 b10,6. Bn HQ Chipp Hill L29, 9,4.</p> <p>1945 – Patrols sent out to clear front from L29 central along WADI Kola to its junction with Wadi at Q19c07 and along this Wadi to L30d70. Patrols met with no opposition. Patrols had cleared front by about midnight – standing patrols remained out – slight sniping continued.</p>
11 Mar	<p>5RWF advanced and position held by Bn became a second line one. Salvage work commenced and continued all day. Patrols went out at night; on same area as for 10th.</p> <p>Men's greatcoats brought up.</p>
12 Mar	<p>Rain & fog. A, C & D Coys withdrawn to Bn HQ; B Coy withdrawn to L So central. 3 Coys on salvage work. 1 blanket per man brought forward.</p>
13 Mar	<p>All coys on road work, salvage and burying enemy dead [20]; 16 camel loads od salvage sent back. Rain all day.</p> <p>Bn now in Bde Res.</p>
14 Mar	<p>Two coys on oad work in forenoon.</p> <p>1200 – Orders received to move.</p> <p>1400 – Bn moved, followed by ? to position about U6 – 38 in Medway Wadi; coys upon terraces of Wadi. Slight rain.</p>
15 Mar	<p>Ran all day; Bn rested and cleaned up. Corps reserve.</p>
16 Mar	<p>Rain continued all day. Orders to move to Ludd on 17th – postponed until 18th.</p>
17 Mar	<p>Rain & Fog all day. Move orders cancelled.</p>
18 Mar	<p>Weather improved; Bn cleaning up and admin work. Sgt Hall to Cadet Course.</p>
19 Mar	<p>1st reinforcements rejoined; 49 tents received, 4 cooks received. Lt Col Drage DSO relinquished command of Bn and moved on leave to Egypt.</p>
20 Mar	<p>0830 - Orders received to move to near Jerusalem. Tents and cooks returned to Dump.</p> <p>1250 – Bn moved off and joined Bde at junction to Nablus and Beitin Rds. Moved brigaded at about 1730, Bn arrived and went into bivouac about Z19c central Shafat.</p> <p>Capt CEG Pilkington proceed to base en route top England.</p>
21 Mar	<p>0830 - Battalion morning parade, clothing boards and admin work. Four parties each of an officer and 12 soldiers allowed to visit Jerusalem 1300 to 1800.</p> <p>Corps Comd awarded Military Medal to Pte W Adams A Coy.</p>
22 Mar	<p>Bn morning parade; coy training arems drill and musketry. All Cos and 2ics, adjts and Coy Comds at Bde Conf. Pnr Sect under Capt Barker and Lt Fraser rejoined. Offrs and ORs on leave to Jerusalem as per 21st.</p>
23 Mar	<p>Bn morning parade, company training, Leave parties as usual. Gale, rain and strong winds.</p>
24 Mar	<p>Very heavy gale, rain and winds all day.</p>

25 Mar	Storm abated, company carried on training and admin work.
26 Mar	Battalion working parade, company training, musketry and bayonet fighting. Field General Court Martial of Cpl W Smith D Coy. 12 pls on AOC fatigues for 7 hours at Jerusalem station. Notification of award of Distinguished Conduct medal to LSgt J B Symonds, London Gazette 18 Feb 1918.
27 Mar	Bn morning parade and 1 ½ hours route march, Coy trg – musketry and bayonet fighting. One soldier of B Coy died suddenly.
28 Mar	Coy trg; A & B Coys inspected by NMO and CO. Orders received to move at 0600 on 29 th .
29 Mar	0550 – Bn moved off and proceeded to Talat Ed Dumm (G13c 8.8) arriving at 1230 – hot march, very bad bivouac area – tpt moved brigaded. Orders to move forward again on following day.
30 Mar	0715 - Battalion moved to Khkakua arriving 0915 – new rough bivouac area.
31 Mar	Easter Sunday; Battalion attended Chuch Parade at Bde HQ with 5 & 6RWF; followed by Holy Communion – much warmer the Shafat..



The Nablus Road



The Jerico Rod

From the Diaries of:

Maj Yates

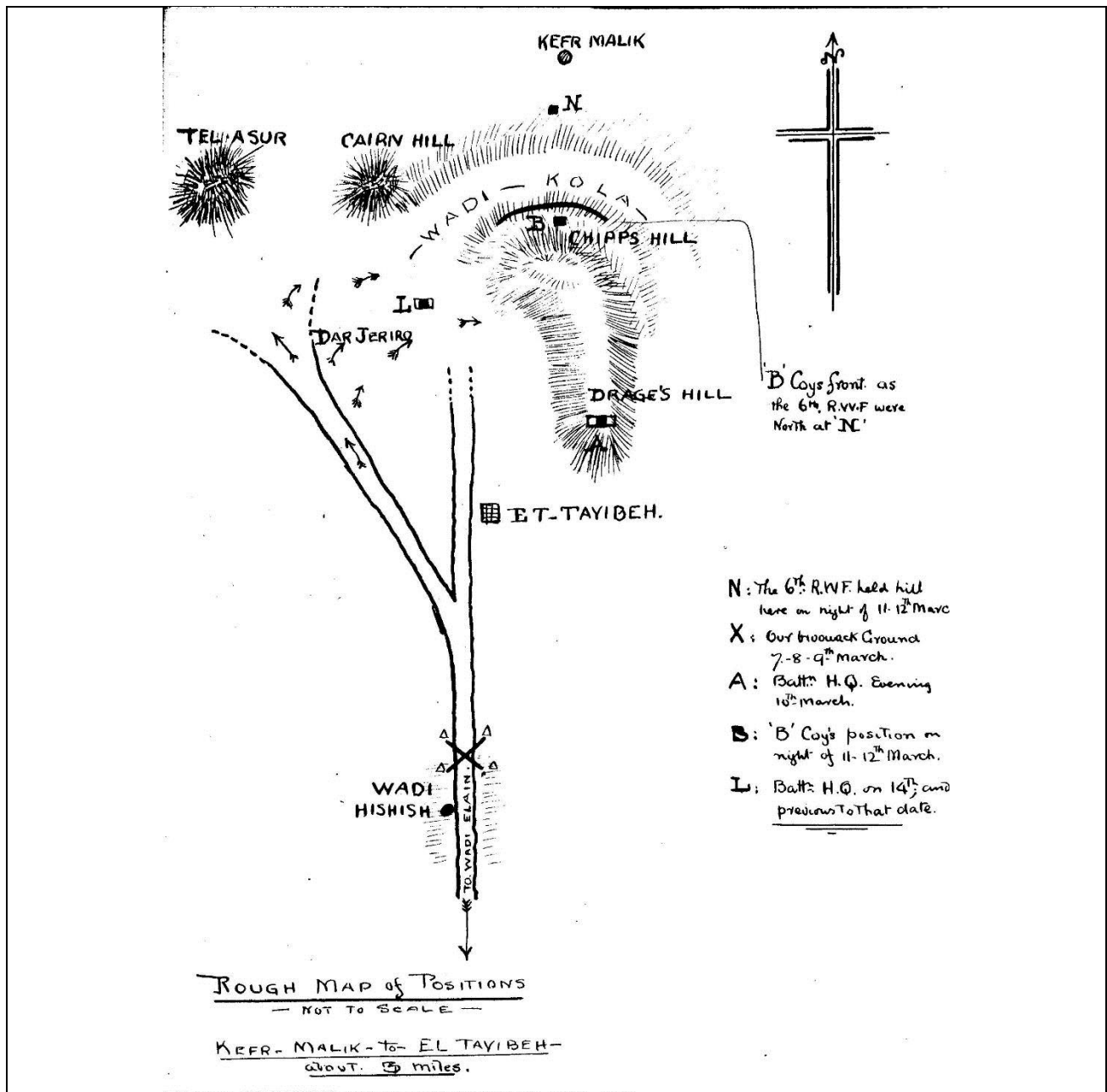
Mar 2nd We were relieved by the 74 Div and we moved back to just north of Bireh. It was raining in torrents and we had to bivouac in slushey mud. The next 4 or 5 days were spent making roads day and night ready for the next advance.

Mar 7th We moved east to a position in the Wadi Ain and at 2am Mar 10th the advance on Tel Asur ridge was made. There was no artillery preparation and there was a considerable distance of unknown hilly country to be traversed in the dark before the position was reached. The Herefords moved slightly in rear of other Battalions of the Bde and when the first position had been captured was to push forward and take 2 hills beyond named Drage Hill and Chipp Hill. I was detailed to remain with reinforcements and so did not see the actual fighting. The Herefords losses were about 4 killed and 30 wounded – extremely moderate considering the formation of the country.

Capt Rogers

Fri Mar 1	The enemy- shelled our new positions on THUMPERS HILL but there were no casualties. I remained at the same place that day and night without Incident.
Sat Mar 2	We spent the whole day standing to because of the mist. We were to be relieved by the 24th Bn RWF at dusk, but they were about two hours late, and we did not move off until about 9.p.m., as they took a long time taking over and relieving when they did arrive, nor was I very helpful to them at this because I knew so little of the place having been such a short time at Kh W es SERAH this difficulty was aggravated by having to relieve each post standing to, and we had to arrange for the men to get back a few at a time to pack up their bivouacs etc., and the mist made the explanation of positions almost impossible. At last my platoon was able to start off, but I was very uncertain of the way in the darkness and mist. I was to go ahead of the rest of the company (who would not be relieved until later) and get things ready for them on arrival at the camping ground near BIREH (BEEROTH). Following the path which I knew eventually reached SHEIK YUSUF The rain here became worse than before, for it had been raining for the last 48 hours continuously. The mules' packs kept slipping off, as the straps had rotted with the wet, and the men had to keep fixing them with string. The mule leaders behaved very well during this very trying business, and everyone stuck to it and kept going as best they could, but a few fell out with fatigue. I had no map but had to steer from memory of one I had seen. I turned to the left at SHEIK YUSEF and followed a track which was afterwards called GUILDFORD ROAD, running behind SENLAC more or less eastward towards the NABLUS ROAD (Shechem), but the road became a small torrent, well over the ankles all the way. Eventually after some search I found the Nablus Road and immediately turned along It southward, and swished through the water past lake BALUA and further, until we found the camping ground about 1 mile from the lake on the east side of the road just north of BIREH. This was about 1.30.am 3/3/18. The 'camp' was a sea of mud - very thick and sticky, but we were glad to find that there were tents, though it was a squash to get all the men in. Rum and some food were Issued and we were just getting settled down when the rest of the company arrived. Finally about 3.am. we all got to bed.
Sun Mar 3	When we woke the sun was shining and we could scarcely believe I it was real. The morning was spent drying up and cleaning generally. We were In Divisional Reserve.
Mon Mar 4	The Battalion was employed in making what is now the BETH (Beltin) ROAD, which runs about N.N-E. from BIREH .
Tue Mar 5	Road making as before in the morning, in the afternoon there was an officer's conference, when the plans for the TEL ASUR advance were explained by the CO, and we studied the maps.
Wed mar 6	Road making as before.
Thu Mar 7	The Battalion moved by companies via WADI EL AIN and WADI HISHHISH to a point in the latter about a mile south of ST TAYIBEH. It was very rough walking and we missed our way more than once. The wadis were much steeper and more precipitous here than any I had so far seen and the ground was falling towards the Jordan Valley in such a way that we went miles downhill in the Wadi el Ain till we came to the junction with W.HISHHISH, when we began to toll uphill again. It also became very hot in these wadis, and we were glad to reach our

	<p>destination, halt, and have a rest. The change in the temperature was most remarkable, as it had been months since we had had any thing but cold and wet; but it was rather cold at night as we only had what we could carry in the way of kit; ie: a blanket and a great coat, but no bivouacs, or small kit.</p>
Fri Mar 8	<p>The day was spent in resting and reconnoitring the ground. During the night we sent two Officers patrols farther up the wadi HISISH to recce a sangar and report as to whether the enemy were occupying it.</p>
Sat Mar 9	<p>We rested during the day. In the evening B Coy moved forward to a hill on the left of the wadi (about opposite to TABIEEH, which was on the right) as a screen for the Brigade HQ in case the enemy attacked them in such an advanced position. This hill was a beastly place covered with large stones and very cold. We had to wait there till 1.30am when our attack was to begin.</p>
Sun Mar 10	<p>We started our advance. B Coy came down the hill into the wadi and joined the Brigade which moved forward at about 8.0am. We had hardly got to the foot of the hill into the wadi when rifle and machine gun fire began, but most of the shots went over us. From what I can gather the enemy were starting an attack on us just as we were on them, a very curious coincidence if this was so. We moved up the wadi which runs about N.W. from the Wadi Hishish south of the village of DAR JERIR. At last we reached the head of the wadi and then had to begin to steer by compass, each company independently. The order of the companies was: A.C.B.D . Eventually we reached a front about a mile west of BAR JERIR. Here we turned about N.N-E and heavy firing began to our front. A & C Coys advanced in waves C soon reinforcing A and then part of B reinforced them, and only then did we succeed in making any good headway. It was very difficult to get any idea of our position and objective, partly owing to the darkness and fog and partly owing to the fact that we had come by such a circuitous route. But we knew the direction roughly, and advanced across a number of alternate hills and wadis until we reached the valley which runs north and south (west of DRAGE'S HILL)(which was our first objective), our ultimate objective being CHIPP'S HILL, which is further north and at the head. of the valley. The drifting mist made things very difficult, every now and then it would clear, and as day was breaking bits of the country would be disclosed and then covered in mist again. There was some very sharp fighting on Drage's ' when our men successfully took CHIPPS HILL towards the end of the day. The 7th RWF established themselves on Cairn Hill to the left of Chipps Hill, and our Bn HQ moved up to the south end of Drage's Hill. I should have mentioned that we were in fighting order except that we had packs instead of haversacks. As I was cut off from the Battalion being with the RWF on Cairn Hill, I cannot give a detailed account of the taking of Chipp Hill, though with glasses I was able to watch our men advancing along Drages Hill during the day. We had considerable casualties for the Turks had resisted fairly strongly, though they were eventually driven right across and N. of the Wadi Kola.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This map is from memory assisted by a map:</p>



Mon Mar 11	The battalion rested at A on the map. On the evening it moved to L on the map, whence B Company went forward to B In the Wadi Kola and there built sangars or converted the natural boulders into cover. We also patrolled the Wadi during the night.
Tue Mar 12	In the morning we found much salvage and 2 abandoned Turkish Dumps, and were employed in bringing in and collecting the stuff. We also found a Turkish MG and some belts of SAA with which we had the pleasure of firing at a Taube. Later In the morning B Company moved back on to Chipp's Hill and there relieved A Company. The weather was very bad at this point being wet and misty, and causing the usual lengthy stand to. Here we got our valises and other kit which we had not seen since we left the Camp near Birch on the 7th March, but they were almost wet through.

Wed Mar 13	Remained here, the weather continuing as before. We "stood to" most of the day.
Thu Mar 14	B Company moved back to join the Battalion at L on the map. As soon as we had pitched our bivouacs here we went road making about noon in the direction of Tel Asur, but we were able to have a good look at the country over which we had advanced as the sun came out a little and the fog cleared. It struck me that the hills were different to those we had before been on, as the stones were larger (being really boulders) and the hills so covered with them that they looked quite white, and we could only move in single file winding our way through them with difficulty; sometimes, occasionally, there were little rough paths used by the Turkish mule batteries etc. It was no wonder that roads were needed at once as heavy guns and supplies could hardly have come up otherwise. We had continual interruptions in the work on the road, as a Division was coming up and getting in our way blocking the road.
Fri Mar 15	Road making at the same place
Sat Mar 16	Road making at the same place in the morning. At 3 p.m. we moved by Companies to Wadi Medway about East of Bethel. We reached this place at dark, and it came on to rain just after we started and the mist fell. It seemed a very long march though it really was not far, but the way was difficult. On arrival we pitched bivouacs, but the ground was saturated and very unsuitable and open. The rain continued all night.
Sun Mar 17 to 20,	The Battalion remained in the Wadi Medway under bivouac. It continued to rain incessantly, and the Wadi was a torrent of water Colonel Drage departed one of these days.
Thu Mar 21	The Battalion moved from the Wadi Medway to the Mount of Olives near Nob (Shaphat) on the Nablus (Shechem) Road. The rain eased off, and during the march it came out very hot, which made it more tiring. It took most of the day to get there. On arrival we bivouaced, being in immediate Corps reserve.
Fri Mar 22 to 28	The Battalion remained here in bivouac. During each morning we did training, including battalion parades. Major Whitehouse arrived and took command of the battalion. Every afternoon there were a number of leave parties (each consisting of 12 ORs. under an officer) to go and see Jerusalem. As the officers were so few in my Company it used to come to us about every other day. The men were marched from the camp and conducted about the City. We had to get passes to go within the walls to the Holy City, but these were easily got at the Military Governor's outside Damascus Gate. We generally returned to camp on Motor Lorries to save walking. Everyone had to be out of the city by 6 pm and it took about an hour to march
Fri Mar 29 (Good Friday)	We had had sudden orders late the previous evening to move early in the morning towards Jericho (Eriha) to be in reserve to the 7th RWF who were in reserve to the 60th Division, and accordingly we moved off at about dawn and marched along the road which goes along the top of the Mount of Olives passing the German Catholic Hospice (afterward Corps H.Q) and the Chapels of 'The Ascension', and of 'The Lord's Prayer', and thence down into the Jericho Road through Bethany. It became extremely hot, and though it was all down hill it became exceedingly tiring as we never had a bit of uphill or level to relieve it. The road after Bethany is quite an engineering feat like the Hebron Road but it was thick with dust, and the lorries were incessantly passing and repassing covered us with it. After an exceedingly exhausting march in which many of the men fell out, not

	<p>withstanding that we bought oranges of the natives at Bethany which refreshed us very much, we reached a place called Talat Ed Dum just off the road. Here we halted and bivouaced after a stifflingly hot day. It came on to drench with rain, and we got damp again, for we had not had rain for some days. During our whole days march from the time we had joined the Jericho Road, we had never passed any village but Bethany, nor any turning of "The Road" of any kind. We had marched for eight hours. Talat Ed Dum itself appeared to be only a hill and had no building on it. We could still look back at Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives in the distance high above us. The view was very impressive.</p>
Sat Mar 30	<p>Early in the morning to avoid the heat of the day the Battalion moved along the same Jericho Road. We first went through a pass cut in the rock, and then entered the wilderness proper. Everywhere were high precipitous/barren hills covered with stones, so steep were they that it would be quite impossible to climb many of them; they were more like pinnacles than hills. Occasionally in between them were chasms with torrents roaring down them, a hundred feet or more of vertical rock on either side. Through this sort of country "the road" wound its way. It was apparently Turkish, but the enemy had fled, and small wonder, for who could fight in this kind of country? There were several bridges (across wadis) which had been blown up by them, but our troops had quickly rebuilt them. The road followed down the wadis principally and continued to be downhill without change. On one aide of the road was always the side of the hill on the other the steep slope of the wadi with sometimes a low broken stone wall about two feet high running along the edge. At the bottom of the wadi might be seen a collection of loose stones wreckage and carcasses of animals who had fallen or missed their footing in the night. Eventually we halted in a more precipitous portion of the wilderness just at the summit of the final steep drop into the Jordan Valley. On our left was the Brook Cherith (Wadi Kelt). The bivouac ground, was of course very much divided up owing to the nature of the ground, and most of the bivouacs had a precipice just behind them. It was not a place in which to walk about in the dark. However we were very glad to get settled there, and to hear that we were not going to move for a day or two.</p>
Sun Mar 31 (Easter Day)	<p>In the morning we had a Brigade Church Parade about half a mile down the hill. We all sat in rows on the hills around and the clergyman was in the valley in the midst. After church was over I walked to the top of the nearest Pinnacle like hill, and viewed the country all around. Jordan, the Dead Sea, and the Mountains of Moab on the other side of the Jordan looked just like a wall, for they were flat on the top. And then we saw our own hilly wilderness it was a magnificent sight.</p> <p>[In the afternoon I and another officer went to the Mount of temptation or Mount Forty or Quarantine, but I omit this although I wrote an account of this trip at some length.]</p>

Sgt Colley

The line was being gradually pushed forwards and toward the beginning of March arrangements were in progress for another attack. On Mar 9 the Battalion moved off at night over very hilly country, many were the casualties from falling over boulders etc causing numerous sprained ankles, arms etc. On Mar 10 the Battalion

attacked Drage Hill and Chipp Hill named after our CO and Adjutant. The attack was successful and the enemy driven back, this costing the Battalion about 30 casualties only. On withdrawing from the Laic we had another spell of heavy rain. It was here that Col Drage resigned his command of the Battalion; everyone was extremely sorry, for although a strict disciplinarian (and many were the 28 days Field Punishment No 2 meted out by him) he was liked and admired for his skill and courage. He had served continually with the Battalion since going abroad with just a break of a week or so when he was wounded in the arm during landing operations at Suvla Bay. The efficiency and good name which the Battalion had earned was undoubtedly due to him.

We were on the move shortly to a hill north of Jerusalem as an attack was pending on the West Bank of the Jordan and we were first reinforcements. On the Good Friday we marched from Jerusalem to Jericho along the road mentioned in the parable of the Good Samaritan. We camped east of Jericho and within sight of the Mount Luanantine, the traditional site of the temptation. Easter Monday arrived with a grand aeroplane bombing attack on us with the bombs dropped at random and no casualties occurred.

Col Lawrence DSO of the Cameronians joined us here and took over command; he immediately made a good opinion, and was soon in the good books of all. Our stay at Jericho was of short duration as our services were not needed after all, so back to the line at Sinjil. About this time 2 divisions had been ordered to France in view of the great German Offensive. The line at Sinjil was within half a mile of the enemy, and the line was held at night by strings of sangars built with numerous large pieces of rock which the hills abound in this part. In the hollow between the 2 lines was the deserted village of Sinjil. On our second spell in the line at this part a little excitement worthy of note happened: it was about 1am the night being very dark and quiet when suddenly from the sentry of a listening post of a bay on our left came the stern challenge – Halt Who Goes There – no answer, 6 seconds passed then a loud explosion of a Mills grenade – the sentry's reply to his unanswered challenge. The platoon in the sangars nearest opened out with rifle fire, but soon died down as it brought no response. Thinking the sentry had been a victim of vivid imagination the other men in the neighbouring sangars who had all stood to on the first alarm proceeded to get down to rest again. Half an hour later near the extreme left sangar of C Coy, rifle and bomb firing started with great violence and then the frantic yell of numerous Turks – a hostile raid was in progress. Some advanced posts withdrew – the Turks had somehow avoided them and crept upon us with cat like agility and quickness. The fighting was fast and furious. The sangar attacked only held a sergeant and 8 men. The Turks held one end of the sangar and in the other end one of our number. A Lewis gunner cursed voluminously owing to his gun becoming jammed; but he very soon fixed things right again with the help of his jack knife. Eventually the enemy was repulsed and he withdrew hurriedly, leaving several dead and dying around the attacked sangar. Nothing else of interest happened here and after a few days we returned for a spell of rest. The weather had now improved greatly and the rainstorms had practically ceased.

1st BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.

BATTALION ORDERS BY CAPTAIN T.
WHEELER MEATS, COMMANDING.

Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.
27th March, 1918.

No. 13.

1. Permanent Staff.—No. 4068 R.S.M. Jones, W., will hold a class at Leominster, on the 3rd and 5th, 6th and 7th April next. No. 38955 C.S.M. Jones, J. E., will continue the Musketry Class at Hereford from the 2nd to the 8th April next.

2. Instructors Attached.—Bayonet Fighting Instructor No. 14582 C.Q.M.S. Gaskell will be attached for duty with "D" Company from the 3rd to the 8th April next. Drill Instructors No. 202429 Sergt. Collins, W. F. J., No. 200012 Sergt. Evans, J. T., No. 265267 Sergt. Stevens (all from 1st Res. Batt. Men. Regt.) are attached for duty with "A," "B" and "C" Companies respectively.

3. Inspection by Lieut.-General Sir E. A. H. Anderson, K.C.B.—The Inspection on the 31st inst., will take place as follows:—"A," "B" and "C" Companies on the Racecourse, Hereford, at 2.30 p.m.; "D" Company on the Parade Ground, Ledbury, at 3.45 p.m.

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

"A" Company.

ORDERS FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 31st,
1918.

Thursday.—7.30 p.m., Nos. 1 and 3 Platoons, Drill Hall, drill. 7.30 p.m., No. 4 Section Drill Hall, Weobley, drill and musketry.

Sunday.—Inspection of the Battalion by Lieut.-General Sir E. A. H. Alderson, K.C.B. "A" Company will parade at Drill Hall, Hereford, at 11.15 a.m. Dress: Full marching order with pack, haversack, filled water bottle and rations. Each man will carry rations for one meal.

Note.—It is requested that all ranks will make a special effort to attend the inspection.

(Signed) H. J. HAMMONDS, Lieut.,
O.C. "A" Coy., 1st H.V.R.

**HEREFORDSHIRE VOL. REGIMENT.
"C" COMPANY.**

Orders for the week commencing
Thursday, March 14th, 1918.

INSPECTION. The Battalion will be inspected by Lt. General Sir, E. A. H. Alderson, K.C.B., Inspector General of Infantry at Hereford, on Sunday, March 31st (Batt Order, No. 11 of 6-3-18).

All kit will be well scrubbed and cleaned, and must be inspected and passed by Platoon Commanders before the above inspection.

The Valise will be worn on all parades until further notice, when overcoat is worn, equipment must be worn over it.

THURSDAY 14.—No. 11 Platoon, Brockhampton, 7.30, Bayonet Fighting (L. Corpl. Newton)—Hentland Section, 7.30 (Corpl. Poston)—No. 12 Platoon, Whitchurch, 5, Musketry.

FRIDAY 15.—No. 11 Platoon, Fawley, 8 Musketry (Sergt. Hicks and Corpl. Poston)—Broad Street Range, 7.30—9.30 (L. Corpl. Dowell)—Armoury, 7.30 Musketry (Sergt. Caws).

SUNDAY 17.—Nos. 9 and 10 Platoons, Armoury, 10.30 (all ranks attend)—No. 11 Platoon, Inspection by O.C. 1/H.V.R. (Hoarwithy and Hentland, 2.30.—No. 12 Platoon, Whitchurch, 2 p.m., Bayonet Fighting.—The "Foster" Challenge Cup and prize money will be presented by Col. O. R. Middleton, at the Townhall, at 10.15

MONDAY 18.—Broad Street Range, 7.30—9.30 (Corpl. Sprake)—Armoury, 7.30, Musketry (L. Corpl. Wood) Recruits, (C.S.M. Millington).

TUESDAY 19.—Lea Section, 2.30 p.m. Musketry (L. Corpl. Howell)—Musketry, Armoury, 7.30 (Sergt. Hicks and L. Corpl. Newton).

WEDNESDAY 20.—Field Work at Fawley. No. 9 and 10 Platoons, Ross Station, 7 p.m.—No. 11 Platoon, Fawley, 7 p.m.

Men in Section D who have failed to pass the medical test must sign by 31st March, Army Form, V. 4013, offering to do such military duty as their Commanding Officer may allot to them, not exceeding 2 hours per week. All who fail to sign will be struck off the strength after the above date.

(Signed) G. M. MORTON, Capt.
Comdg. "C" Coy. 1/H.V.R.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

The quarterly competition for the "Foster" Challenge Cup took place on the Akton Court Range on the 10th inst. in ideal weather, when teams of 8 men from each platoon of "C" Company, 1st Battalion Herefordshire Volunteer Regiment took part. An intermittent right wind and variable light made high scoring difficult especially at the 500 yards range. At 200 yards some particularly good shooting was seen, No. 9 Platoon (Ross) leading with 122 out of a possible 160, an average of over 15 per man, No. 12 Platoon, 118 and No. 10, 116 ran the leaders close whilst No. 11 Platoon scored 98. At 300 yards from the trench, No. 9 increased their lead with a further high average, scoring 118, and at 500 they again headed the list with 85, their total being 325 out of 420, a fine average under the conditions which prevailed. No. 12 were second with 300, No. 10 (holders) 279; No. 11, 248. Corpl. Davies scored a possible at 200 yards. The Cup and prize money (£2) will be presented on Sunday Morning at the Townhall by Col. O. R. Middleton. It is suggested that in order to give all members an opportunity of competing those who have fired in the last two competitions shall not take part in the next.

The Scores were as follows:—

NO. 9 PLATOON (ROSS AND WALFORD)			
Sergt. Llewellyn	17	16	13-46
Sergt. Hicks	17	15	14-46
Corpl. R. G. Wilson	16	13	15-44
Pte. Marshall	17	13	10-40
Corpl. Holding	14	16	10-40
Corpl. W. Newton	15	15	9-39
Corpl. Howell	13	16	7-36
Corpl. Poston	13	14	7-34
	122	118	85 325

NO. 12 PLATOON (GANAREW AND WHITCHURCH)			
Sergt. Hoddell	16	17	16-48
Corpl. Lewis	17	16	9-42
Sergt. Cracklow	16	12	12-46
Pte. Morris	13	78	7-38
Pte. Elliott	17	14	6-37
Pte. Herbert	14	14	9-37
Corpl. Goodwin	13	8	8-29
Corpl. Francis	12	5	12-29
	118	104	78 306

NO. 10 PLATOON (ROSS AND WESTON)			
Sergt. Kettley	16	16	11-45
Pte. Casson	15	16	13-44
Corpl. R. H. Davies	20	11	10-41
Lt. S. Price	15	11	15-41
Pte. W. Prince	13	13	8-34
Corpl. R. G. Webb	16	10	6-32
Pte. A. J. Williams	13	13	2-28
Pte. E. Arnold	8	6	0-14
	116	98	65 279

NO. 11 PLATOON (FAWLEY)			
Pte. Matty	10	17	15-42
Lt. Wyndham Smith	16	11	14-41
Corpl. T. Harris	14	12	13-39
Sergt. Bellamy	7	6	15-25
Pte. Bryan	13	9	6-28
Pte. Embrey	12	7	5-24
Pte. Clarke	9	6	9-24
Pte. Woof	17	5	0-22
	98	73	77 218