

## THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

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

#### The 'Bigger' Picture

On every front the Allied successes and advances and their implications these were having on the probable outcome of the war were having significant diplomatic impact.

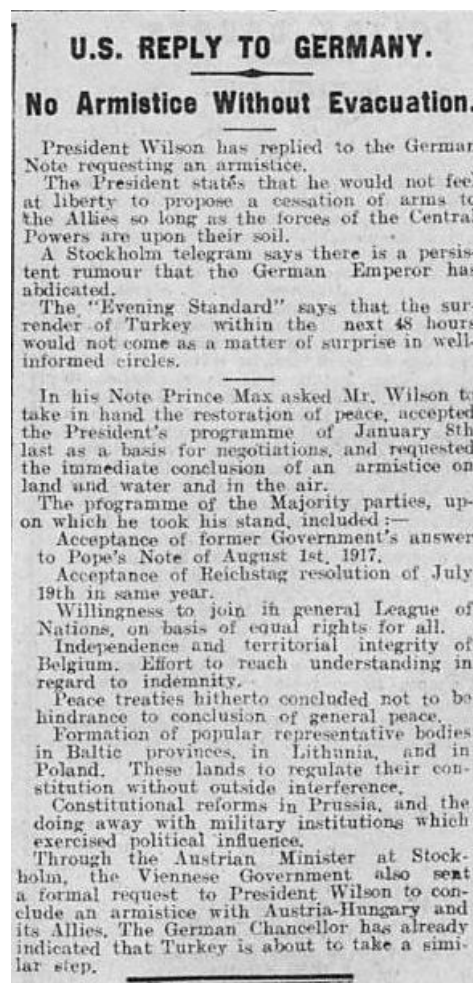
- The German government were dealing with President Wilson of the USA, as they thought any 'agreement' would be better for them than dealing with the European Allies.

- German and Austro-Hungarian Governments send Notes to President Wilson (sent via the Swiss, asking for armistice discussions on the basis of his Fourteen Points. The Germans have bypassed the French and British in the hope of negotiating with Wilson who they perceive as more lenient) proposing an armistice. (The German note was received on 6 Oct and the Austrian on 7 Oct.)

8 Oct - President Wilson replies to Note of German Government, and demands evacuation of occupied territories as first condition of armistice.

12 Oct - German Government reply to President Wilson's Note and accept conditions.

14 Oct - President Wilson replies to German Government, attaching further military conditions to the terms of armistice, and warning against further breaches of laws of war, and insists on dealing only with a democratic Government.



14 Oct - Turkish Government Note to President Wilson proposing an armistice.

18 Oct - President Wilson replies to Austro-Hungarian Note.

20 Oct - German Government reply to President Wilson's Note accepting proposals contained therein.

23 Oct - President Wilson replies to German Note of the 20th, and agrees to submit the matter to the Allied and Associated Governments, but that armistice negotiations cannot ensue with the current military or Imperial war leaders still in place. An outraged General Ludendorff then disavows the negotiations as 'unconditional surrender' and is forced to resign by the Kaiser. In the face of such turmoil, the armistice negotiations are conducted principally by civilian members of Germany's government. This will become the basis of a postwar "stab in the back" claim by German militarists asserting their troops at the Front were sold out by the politicians back home.

27 Oct - German Government acknowledges President Wilson's Note of 23 Oct.

- Austrian Government ask Italy for an armistice.

- Austro-Hungarian Government submit further Note to President Wilson asking for immediate armistice "without awaiting the result of other negotiations".

#### GERMANY

Germany is in an increasing state of political confusion and a growing split between the military and civilian leaders.

- Prince Max of Baden appointed German Imperial Chancellor, and succeeds Admiral von Hintze as Foreign Minister
- Maj Gen Scheuch succeeds Maj Gen von Stein as German Minister for War.
- Gen von Ludendorff resigns.

#### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

- Dr Wekerle, Hungarian Premier, resigns.
- Austrian Emperor issues manifesto proclaiming a Federal State on the principle of Nationality (excluding Hungary).
- Count Andrassy succeeds Baron Burian as Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister.
- The Czecho-Slovaks declare Independence.
- Austrian Emperor makes over the Austro-Hungarian Fleet to the Yugo-Slav National Council

#### YUGOSLAVIA

- Yugo-Slav delegates meet at Agram and decide on the formation of a United National Council
- King of Montenegro issues manifesto in favour of a confederated Yugo-Slavia with autonomous States.
- The Ban of Croatia refuses offer of Military Governor of Agram to suppress the Yugo-Slav National Council.

#### BULGARIA

- King Ferdinand of Bulgaria abdicates in favour of his son Prince Boris.

#### POLAND

- British Government recognise the Polish National Army as autonomous, allied and co-belligerent.

#### TURKEY

- Izzet Pasha succeeds Talaat Pasha as Turkish Grand Vizier.
- Turkey signs an armistice with the Allies, becoming the second of the Central Powers to quit the war.

#### MIDDLE EAST

- Damascus captured by Australian troops.

#### CHINA

- Feng-Kuo-Chang, President of China, retires.

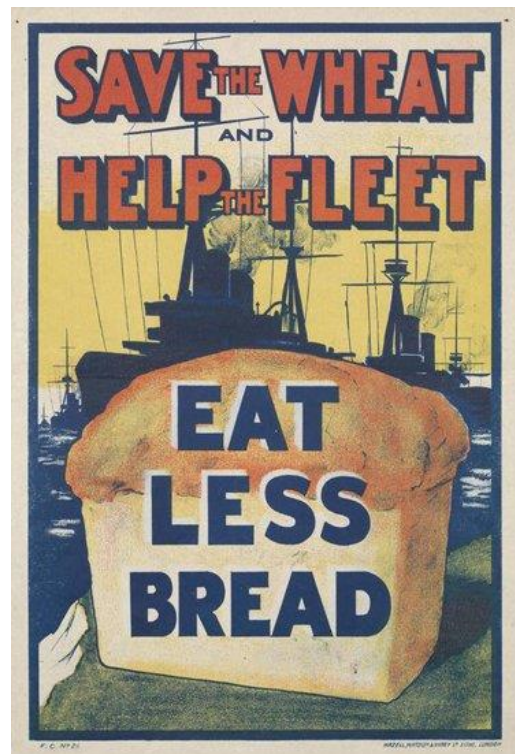
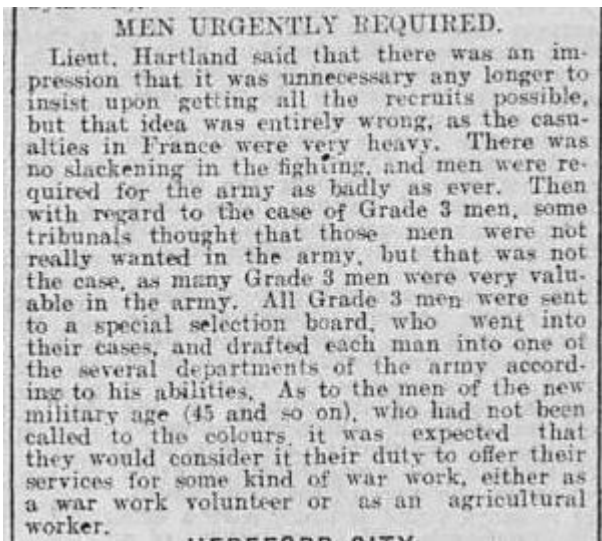
## The Home Front

After 4 years of war and intensified operations on the Western Front the need for manpower was still significant. There was a constant balance between war production (industry (including coal mines) and agriculture) and operations. It was assessed the Army needed 857,000 men a year to sustain losses; some 200,000 would be found from returned sick and wounded and some 400,000 through recruiting; this would still leave a considerable shortfall. As operations became mobile and more intensive, casualties increased and the shortfall exacerbated. There was now a concern that sufficient men would be available to maintain momentum. Units in England were stripped of fit manpower, and lower medical category men were posted into units to make 'fit' men available for the front. The effort could not just be maintained it needed to be increased.

Despite things looking up on the Operational fronts life at home was still tough, although various measures had been put in place and were beginning to be effective. The Defence of The Realm Act (DORA 1914) had empowered the government to take over land as it felt necessary. In 1917 it took over 2.5 million acres of land for farming to increase food productivity at home. This was to ensure that Britain would not be starved into surrender by the German U boat campaign. It attempted to boost home grown produce to combat the ever increasing shortages of imported food stuffs. The Board of Agriculture empowered local authorities to convert large areas of unoccupied land to allotments, often without the consent of the owners! In the Spring, common land, parks and playing fields were dug up and planted. People were encouraged to grow their own vegetables digging up their lawns and forgoing their flower beds. Local newspapers gave advice as did government films, on how to grow the biggest and best potatoes. As a result the 1917 harvest was the best ever with a considerably increased output of both cereals and potatoes. The prices were halved and there was more food for everyone

Tractors replaced horse power; prisoners of war, the Women's Land Army (newly formed in January 1917) and Non-Combatants Corps, and children were also encouraged to assist, as were 80,000 men of the Labour Corps many of whom were injured or disabled soldiers precluding them from rejoining their units but not from working on the land. Newspapers across the country published articles to encourage the community to make savings and improve productivity. The talks and classes on gardening – making the best use of your land; fuel saving cookery – using hay boxes; demonstrations of cheese making and bottling and canning of fruits and vegetables to cut back on waste. All places where cooking could be done in bulk could be supported in this way. An appeal was made to save all food scraps for the pigs. Waste Paper Depots were established, where people were encouraged to send all the paper they could, generally the proceeds were sent to various war charities.

Towards the end of 1917, Lord Rhondda initiated a national scheme of registration and rationing approved by the government; although some local committees had begun to develop their own rationing schemes earlier in the summer. The idea of food rationing was to guarantee supplies and not to reduce consumption. In January 1918 sugar



was rationed and by April, meat, butter, cheese and margarine had been added. Ration cards were issued to all including the King and Queen. Everyone had to register with a butcher for meat, a different retailer for bacon, a dairy for butter and margarine and a sugar retailer for sugar, often your general store where you could also purchase lard. The allowance per week was: 15oz (425g) meat, 5oz (142g) bacon, 4oz (113g) butter or margarine, 1½oz (40g) tea, 8oz (226g) sugar.

The ration books contained detachable coupons, yellow for sugar, blue for fats and red for meat and bacon. Spare coupons were included in case new items were rationed; jam was bought into the system in November.

Rationing solved the problem of rising prices and food queues. Even more surprising, everyone became healthier! The poor got a share of better food than they could have afforded before, and the well-off ate less of the food that was bad for them! Queues and empty shops became a distant memory. The only queues now were temporary ones caused by shop keepers trying to master the novelty of ration cards or books! If you broke the rules you could end up in court. Examples of this were shop keepers selling food above shop prices and consumers hoarding or wasting food. National Kitchens came into being at this time, especially in poorer city areas. Recipes were included in weekly newspapers to encourage housewives to seek alternative foodstuffs where possible. The War Supplement suggested such tips as: boiling hard green peas to a puree be used to thicken soup and cooking tough old lettuces to imitate spinach!

1917 began as one of the coldest years on record and saw the introduction of coal rationing. Shops closed early to save on heating, whilst people went to bed earlier for the same reason. In public houses the opening hours were further curtailed, staying open after 11pm was prohibited! DORA also specified that no gas or electric current should be used on stage at theatres and places of entertainment between 10.30pm and 1.00pm the following day.

A local newspaper reported 'it was nothing less than wonderful that after four years of war, and in the face of world shortages, our little island should still have enough food for its dense population in spite of all the submarine sinkings.' Although to most of the population the rationing system appeared troublesome, it did have a bright side food supplies; it made it possible for the authorities to calculate how to make the best of available stocks of food stuffs and how to share fairly.

By the end of the war Britain had an extra three million acres of farming thanks to DORA and a rationing system that had worked the country had not starved. This system continued until 1920. Meat came off ration first in December 1919, butter by May 1920 and sugar by the end of that year. People were soon able to go back to getting food from more distant sources. Restrictions on lighting, bonfires and fireworks were relaxed, although people were encouraged to be thrifty on account of the continuing coal shortage.

The onset of winter and the generally reduced physical robustness of the population made them susceptible to the outbreak of influenza – this would develop over the winter and spring of 1919 and eventually take more casualties than the fighting and reach into the heart of the 'home front'.

**THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.**  
Mr. Davies, in the absence of Mr. Trevor Watkins, reported on behalf of the Sanitary Committee that a circular letter had been received from the Local Government Board in reference to the epidemic of influenza and catarrh. It was suggested that Medical Officers of health ought to consider whether it would not be desirable for them to prepare for use in the district some precautionary instructions as to isolation, nursing, gargling of throats, and other matters to combat the complaint. The Board particularly pointed out that if every person who was suffering from this influenza or catarrh recognised that he or she was a likely source of infection to others and that some of the persons infected by them might die as a result of this infection, they should take all possible precaution so that the present mortality might be materially reduced.  
Mr. Ricketts, on behalf of the Medical Officer, who was indisposed, reported that since the last meeting of the Council, no cases of infectious diseases had been notified. A few cases of the prevalent influenza had occurred in the Council Schools, but not sufficient in numbers to warrant the closing of them. They were keeping in touch with the schools so as to take any necessary measures at the proper moment. He (Mr. Ricketts) had visited the schools that morning and found that there were 83 pupils away from the three departments, not all through influenza.  
The reports as presented were adopted, the Inspector adding that the beds at the common lodging houses had been occupied 1,918 times, an increase of 250 on the previous month.

## The Western Front

The Allied advances continue, operations on the Western Front are mobile with the Allies advancing and gaining increasing momentum:

*Battles of the Hindenburg Line, Champagne and Argonne, and of the Flanders Ridges continue.*

- St. Quentin retaken by French forces.
- Battle of the Beaurevoir Line .
- Armentieres retaken by British forces.
- Battle of Cambrai, 1918. Cambrai City captured by British forces.
- Craonne again captured by French forces.
- Laon and La Fere retaken by French forces.
- Battle of Courtrai.
- Roulers recaptured by Allied forces.
- Menin captured by Allied forces.
- Ostend, Lille, and Douai retaken by Allied forces.
- Battle of the Selle begins.
- Zeebrugge and Bruges reoccupied by Belgian forces.
- Belgian coast completely reoccupied by Allied forces.

British Newspapers were reporting the successes – optimism for victory was increasing:

FRENCH ENTER ST. QUENTIN.  
GERMANS SET FIRE TO CAMBRAI.  
123,600 PRISONERS AND 1,400 GUNS.  
GERMANS RETIRING ON THE AINSE.

BULGARIA OUT OF THE WAR.  
AN UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.  
THREE BIG ATTACKS.  
FOUR MILES CAMBRAI GAIN.  
SEVERAL THOUSAND PRISONERS

NEW ATTACK BY THE FRENCH.  
ADVANCE ON SEVEN MILES  
FRONT.  
DESPERATE RESISTANCE  
SMASHED.  
CLOSING ON GUISE AND  
VALENCIENNES.

BELGIAN COAST CLEARED.  
BRUGES TAKEN BY STORM.  
ZEEBRUGGE AND HEYST.  
BRITISH TWO MILES FROM  
TOURNAI.  
IMPORTANT GAINS BY THE FRENCH.

## The Eastern Front

RUSSIA

North

- Action near Pyavozero Lake (Murman front).
- Gen Ironside takes over command of Allied forces at Archangel

East (Siberia)

- British troops from Vladivostok reach Irkutsk, Siberia.

- British troops from Vladivostok reach Omsk

#### Caspian Intervention

- Action of Dushak.

#### Other Fronts

##### BALKANS

- Berat (Albania) retaken by Italian forces.
- Vranje retaken by Serbian forces.
- Elbasan (Albania) taken by Italian forces.
- Pristina (Serbia) retaken by French forces.
- Prizren (Serbia) retaken by French forces.
- Nish (Serbia) reoccupied by Allied forces
- Durazzo, Novi Bazar, and Ipek retaken by Italian forces.
- San Giovanni di Medua (Albania) occupied by Italian forces.
- Scutari (Albania) retaken by Italian forces

##### ITALY

- Battle of Vittorio Veneto.

##### PALESTINE

- Damascus taken by British and Arab forces.
- Sidon, Syria occupied by British forces.
- Beirut, Syria occupied by French forces.
- Tripoli, Syria occupied by Allied forces
- Homs, Syria occupied by British cavalry
- Aleppo, Syria taken by British forces
- Muslimiya Junction, north of Aleppo, Syria, occupied by British cavalry.

##### MESOPOTAMIA

- British advance on Mosul (Mesopotamia).
- Kirkuk (Mesopotamia) again taken by British forces.
- Battle of Sharqat
- Turkish army on the Tigris surrenders.

##### ARABIA

- Affair of Imad (Aden).

#### At Sea

##### ADRIATIC

- Durazzo bombarded by Italian and British warships.
- Allies establish net and mine barrage across Straits of Otranto.

## U-BOAT WARFARE

- British, Allied and Neutral ships lost to enemy submarines, mines and cruisers etc in the month – 69 ships of 117,000 tons gross. The lowest since May 1915.



Irish mail boat Leinster sunk by submarine while bound for Holyhead out of Dun Laoghaire. She went down just outside Dublin Bay at a point 4 nautical miles east of the Kish light. The official death toll was 501, out of a total of 771 (77 crew and 694 passengers), which translates to roughly 65% of the souls on board. However, the actual total may well have been higher.

A commemorative stamp was issued by the Irish Post Office on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary:



The 'Herefords'

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

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
CHAMP	JOSEPH	PTE	6642	238121	16 Oct	KIA		OXFORD	KSLI
COPE	SYDNEY	PTE		239261	05 Oct	KIA	F&F	SHREWSBURY	KSLI 6
JACKSON	EDMUND GAINE	SGT		236905	28 Oct	Died	HOME	HEREFORD	KSLI 2/4
LANE	GEORGE HENRY	SGT			18 Oct			Lower Breinton	Gloster
MILES	HENRY COLIN	PTE	3534	236258	30 Oct	Died	EGYPT	HEREFORD	LAB CORPS
MORGAN	SAMUEL	PTE	3115		05 Oct	KIA	FLANDERS	WEOBLEY	GLOS 1
MORGAN	SAMUEL	PTE	3115		22 Oct	KIA	FLANDERS	WEOBLEY	GLOS 1
NASH	STEPHEN ALFRED	LCPL	3798		10 Oct	KIA		Hereford	Lanc Fus
PILLING	HAROLD	PTE	6850	238329	20 Oct		F&F	WHITEFIELD	MANCHESTER
SMITH	FRANK	PTE	2611		20 Oct	KIA	F&F	LEDBURY	MGC 62
SURRELL	WILLIAM HAROLD	PTE	1536		23 Oct	DOW	F&F	MALVERN	SWB 10
WILK	ALBERT ERNEST	PTE	2663		22 Oct	DOW	F&F	RUARDEAN	SWB 1
WOOD	WALTER GEORGE	PTE			25 Oct		F&F	SWINTON	LANC FUS

Army Form B. 104-126.

W15053-H3574 250,000 4/17 HWV(P1616/3)

Any further letter on this subject should be addressed to:  
 Officer i/c  
**No. 2, Infantry Records,  
 Shrewsbury.**  
 and the following No. quoted.  
**23/7318.**

From Officer i/c No 2 Records,  
 Shrewsbury.

To Mrs Mary Pilling,  
 C/o Messrs Farrar & Co.  
 Solicitors, 19, Fountain Street,  
 Manchester. Station Shrewsbury. Date 16/4/19.

Place 11 Duro St, Blackpool  
 Date April 23<sup>rd</sup> 19

SIR OR MADAM,

I am directed to forward the undermentioned articles of private property of the late No. 51689. Rank Private.  
 Name F. H. Pilling. Regt. 1/6th Cheshires.  
 and would ask that you will kindly acknowledge receipt of the same on the form opposite:-  
Letter Case, Note Book, Photos, Reliquia Book,  
 Crucifix, Purse, Safety Razor, 2 Clippers, Badge  
 Pipe, 1 Comb, Letters, Mirror

I have to acknowledge receipt of the articles as stated opposite.

Yours faithfully,  
 (Sign here) M Pilling

NO. 2 INFANTRY RECO...  
**24 APR 1919**

These are the only articles at present forthcoming, but should any further articles be received at any time they will be duly forwarded.

The Officer i/c Records,  
 Station No. 51689, F. Pilling, Cheshires

Yours faithfully,  
T. W. Hunt  
 Major for Lieut Colonel 1  
 Officer in Charge of Records. No. 2.



It appears Pte Wood enlisted under age in the Lancashire Fusiliers, was then 'discharged' and later joined the KSLI (Herefordshire Regiment) before transferring to the Welsh Regiment, with whom he was serving when he was killed.

93

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
SWINTON,  
MANCHESTER.

June 10<sup>th</sup> 1916

Re 27569 Pte W. G. Wood  
"6" boy 19<sup>th</sup> Lancs Fus. B. E. 7

Dear Sir

The father of the above soldier informs me that he wishes his son either to be discharged or at least kept from the trenches on the grounds that the lad is still under 17 years of age.

His date of birth was 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1899. The father had written, enclosing the Birth Certificate, to the O.C. 19<sup>th</sup> Bn. Coldford, before the son was sent to the Front, but he has had no reply, nor the return of the Birth Certificate.

Could you please do anything to meet the father's wishes, as 16 years of age certainly seems too young for a lad to be sent to the service there.

Yours truly  
W. J. Pottlethwaite

As per records

Army Form C34  
(Part of 100 in duplicate)

MEMORANDUM.

From: INSTRUMENT RECORD OFFICE  
SHREWSBURY  
14/9/19

To: *Office of Record, Welsh Section, Town Hall.*

Date: .....191

*Attached passed to you for necessary action.*

*Re 6180 Pte. W G Wood.  
237669*

*Transferred to the Welsh Regt 29/3/18  
No 292036. Posted 1/7 Bn.*

*F. S. M. Davis*  
Major

FOR COLONEL  
116 RECORD OFFICE No. 1 (No. 4 DISTRICT)

RECORD OFFICE  
WELSH SECTION  
Ref. No. 510  
SHREWSBURY

*292036 Frank Wall*

FIELD SERVICE. Army Form B. 2090A.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36, or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT OR CORPS 4th (S) Battalion. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company "C"

Regimental No. 74879 Rank U/P/L/Cpl.

Surname WOOD. Christian Names W.C.

Date 25.10.18. Place In the Field. FRANCE.

Diagnosed Cause of Death Killed in Action.

Nature and Date of Report Msg dated 25.10.18.

By whom made O.C. Battalion.

Place  Date

Burial By whom reported  (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Not known. (b) in Small Book (if at Base) Not known.

State whether he leaves a Will or not (c) as a separate document Not known.

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Fixed Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.A.G., Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Officer, as the case may require, together with the Deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Station and Date CHQ. 4th BATTALION, 20.10.18. Signature of Officer in charge of Section *W. J. ...* 2/Lieut.  
Adjutant-General's Office at the Base for Officer i/c No. 8. Infantry Section.

(1532) Wt. 5719/M/745 400,000 816 J.F.W. 15328 Forms B2090A/2

The obituaries for Sgts Mapp and Marshall who had been killed in action in September appeared in the Ross Gazette:

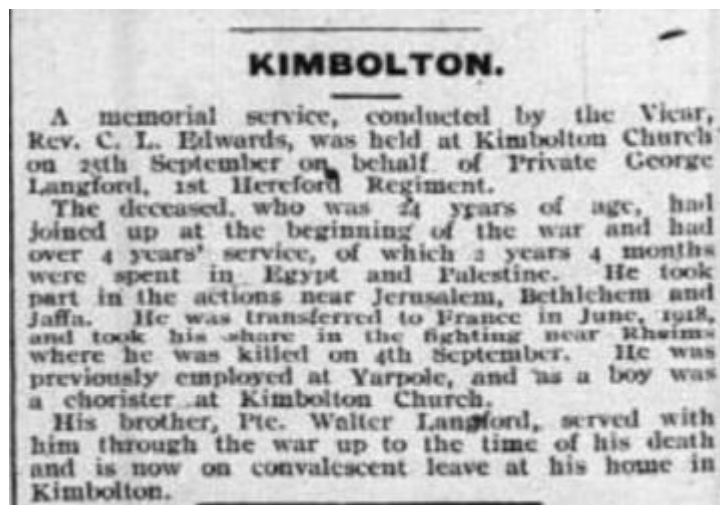
**SERG. WALTER MARSHALL KILLED.**  
 As briefly announced in our last issue, Sergt. Walter Marshall, of the Herefordshire Regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, of Camp Road, Ross, was killed in action on September 29th. Sergt. Marshall joined the Herefords in 1914 with which he remained until February, 1918, when he was attached to the King's Shropshire Regiment, and left for France on March 28th last. He was then placed with the Sherwood Foresters. He was 22 years of age, and before going to the colours was a clerk in the employ of Messrs. Davies and Awre, Ross, for nearly five years. Two other brothers are also serving. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall have received various letters from their son's officers who state that while the company was attacking, a machine gun bullet struck Walter and killed him instantly. He was a good man and a splendid soldier, most popular with everybody and his place will be exceedingly difficult to fill.

**SERG. C. R. MAPP, KILLED IN ACTION.**  
 The news of the death in action in France of Sergt. C. R. Mapp, of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, second son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Mapp, of 45, High Street, Ross, will be read with the deepest regret by all Ross people; for prior to the war "Reg." as he was so familiarly known, played a very prominent part in the musical and sporting life of the town thus making himself most popular with all classes. Although the official intimation has not been received from the War Office, Mr. and Mrs. Mapp have received a letter from their son's captain, which leaves no doubt in their minds as to his fate. Capt. D. D. Jordan, writes from France as follows:—  
 "I am extremely sorry to have to tell you of the death in action of your son, Sergt. C. R. Mapp. The whole of our fine was advancing one morning with a view to driving back the Germans' rear guards. The right half of my company was extremely unlucky and lost very heavily from two machine guns and snipers. Your son was killed instantly, and after the Germans withdrawal was buried where he fell. This was between Neuve Chappel and Aubers villages to the North of Bethune. Ever since Sergt. Mapp had been with the battalion he had been in my company and I am very sorry that he has been killed. There is one thing which makes the loss heavier for me, and that is, that I knew him in the Herefords, when I first joined up about 18 months ago. I am sure that the whole company joins with me in expressing to you their deepest sympathy in your great loss."  
 Sergt. Mapp joined up some three years ago, and for a long time did considerable home service as a Sergt. Instructor in South Wales. He went to France about March of this year, and fell in the recent fighting at the age of 34 years. Before joining up he assisted his father in the tailoring business. He was also captain of the Ross Rowing Club being a first rate oarsman; and a well known banjoist, and a member of the Ross Pierrot Troupe.

News of soldiers who were missing and Prisoners of War was also being brought to families including notice of the death of Pte Gibbons:

**DIED A PRISONER OF WAR.**  
 Albert Claude Gibbons, son of Thomas and Ellen Gibbons, has died a prisoner of war. He joined the 1st Herefords at the commencement of the war, and at Sula Bay he was invalided home with dysentery. He went to France in July 1917, and was taken prisoner on March 23rd, and died on August 26, 1918. Previous to joining he was a groom at Perrystone. A Memorial Service was held at the Parish Church, Yatton, on Sunday, October 20th, the Rev. C. L. Money-Kyrle making a most touching reference to the deceased in his sermon.

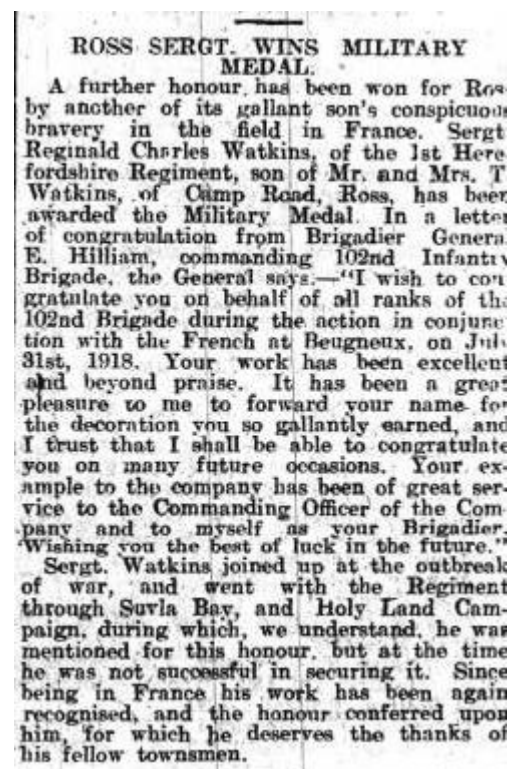
Churches held memorial services for 'their' soldiers who had been killed:



The London Gazette

Honours & Awards None published but news of awards was received:

The award of the Military medal to 235708 Sgt RC Watkins was recorded in the Ross Gazette although this was not 'gazetted' until January 1919.



It was also during this period that Maj Chipp (The Herefordshire Regiment's most decorated soldier) took command of the Battalion and also did great work and he received letters of congratulation from Brig E Hilliam, - 'I wish to congratulate you and all ranks of your splendid Battalion, for excellent work done by you all during the fierce fighting of the last 5 days... your men under continual severe artillery and machine gun fire stubbornly struck to

their task until they had made good the landing on the South side the Lys river. They stuck to it magnificently.' dated Menin, 18 Oct 1918.

- 'you have been awarded a Bar to your DSO. I wish to congratulate you from all ranks of the 102 Brigade. During the actions around Menin and Moen your work has been excellent and beyond praise...' dated Moen, 25 Oct.

- 'I again wish to congratulate you and all ranks of your splendid Battalion for the excellent work carried out on 26, 27, 28, Oct last. As usual you carried out your work to the letter. I especially wish to mention the crossing of the Moen canal in the face of heavy artillery and machine gun fire and the fine work done in making good on the South side. Please thank all ranks from me. It was entirely due to your personal reconnaissance of a most difficult position under heavy artillery and machine gun fire which enabled your Bn to overcome every obstacle'. dated near Moen, 30 Oct 1918.

### Promotions & Appointments (extracts from the London Gazette)

Publication Date			Detail	Remarks
09 Oct	Chipp	WF	reverts to lieutenant on ceasing to be adjt	
09 Oct	Chipp	WF	to be major and Bn 2ic	
11 Oct	Mogridge	EC	to be captain and coy comd	
18 Oct	Pateshall	HEP	from DAAG	
28 Oct	Linzell	EL	reverts to lieutenant on ceasing to be coy comd	
29 Oct	Carden	JH	reverts to lieutenant on ceasing to be coy comd (Lab Corps)	
30 Oct	Smith	AG	restored to estb	

### HEREFORD

The following are recorded as being discharged:

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	Why	Hometown	Notes (Serving with)
ASH	WILLIAM	PTE	3313	236142	22 Oct	2b	HEREFORD	
CROSS	RICHARD HUGH	PTE	3627		30 Oct		ULVERSTONE	MONS
DAVIS/DAVIES (?)	ALBERT	SGT	2720		05 Oct		HEREFORD	Supplementary Coy; served Boer War. 306 Coy RDC
GRIFFITHS	PERCY EDGAR JOHN	PTE	2365		30 Oct	XVI	Leominster	SWB
LEDDINGTON	LEWIS GEORGE	PTE	3040	236022	11 Oct	2b	Kimbolton	KSLI 4
MORLEY	ALBERT EDWARD	PTE		238762	17 Oct	2B		KSLI 6
MUSTO	ARTHUR EDWARD	SGT		236814	05 Oct	xvi		R BERKS
PREECE	THOMAS	PTE	3906	236492	19 Oct	2B	Peterchurch	
SEFTON	DOUGLAS	PTE	3188		05 Oct		Hereford	
TIERNEY	EDWARD	PTE		239352	14 Oct	2B		
WHITE	WILLIAM FRED THOS	PTE	3447	236200	11 Oct	2B	Much Dewchurch	
WHITE	PERCY	SGT		236807	18 Oct	2B		

Xvi/2b - unfit through either wounds or sickness

iiicc - unlikely to become an efficient soldier

Sgt Davis (appears as both Davis and Davies) was born in 1868, he was an 'old soldier' having served with the KSLI in the BOER War and been awarded the Queens South Africa Medal with bars: Relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, Driesfontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill and Belfast. He enlisted in the Herefords in October 1914 and was allocated to the Supplementary Company – later being transferred to the Royal Defence Corps; he did not serve overseas.

His discharge paper cite Rheumatism as the reason, but his wife (Alice) had died after childbirth in September 1918. The 1911 census return shows at that time they had 4 children (and one who had died), it is probable that others were born between 1911 and 1918 and the need to care for his family may have been a consideration in his discharge.

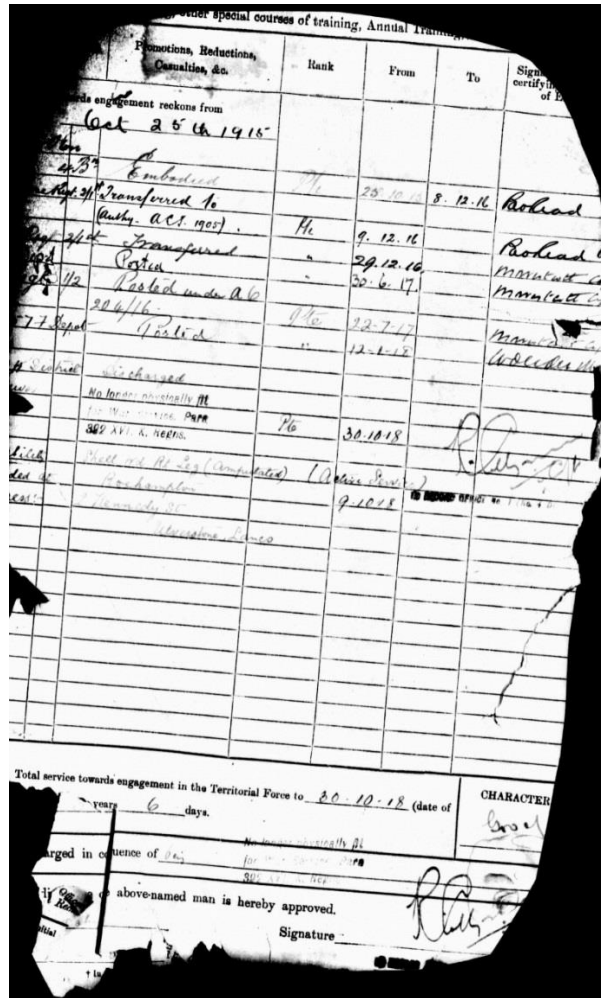
Pte Griffiths after transfer to South Wales Borderers



Pte WE Webb



Pte Cross had enlisted in the Herefordshire Regiment in Oct 1915 and was later transferred to the Monmouthshire Regt, with whom he was serving when he was wounded resulting in the amputation of his right leg. The following document exists as part of the National Archives 'burnt records'.



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

### Casualties

NAME	INIT	RANK	No1	No2	Date	How	Where	Hometown	Notes
BOSCOE	WILLIAM	PTE	5068	236935	22 Oct	DOW	HOME	SALFORD	
COLWELL	CHARLES JOHN	SGT	2185	235647	24 Oct	KIA	F&F	ROSS	Served Suvla Bay
HODGES	WILLIAM ALFRED	PTE	1121	235120	16 Oct	D	F&F	KEMPLEY	Tpt, served Egypt 1915, awarded TFWM
MARCHANT	WILLIAM GOODWIN	PTE	4262	236728	16 Oct	KIA	F&F	HEREFORD	
POOLE	HARRY WILLIAM	CPL		202098	25 Oct	KIA	F&F	WELLINGTON	KSLI attached
THACKWAY	PHILLIP JOHN	LSGT	1619	235346	15 Oct	KIA	F&F	ROSS	Served Suvla Bay
WEBB	WILLIAM EDWARD	PTE	3275	236113	24 Oct	KIA	F&F	RHYADER	
WHITTAKER	HERBERT WILLIAM	PTE	1453	235275	26 Oct	DOW	F&F	M MARCLE	Served Suvla Bay

LSgt Thackway (known as Jack) was one of 5 brothers that served, his brother Fredrick William (known as Bill) was discharged as a result of wounds received at Suvla Bay. The photograph is of him as a Lance Corporal, taken in the Middle East probably in 1916. Above his lance Corporal 'stripe' he is wearing the badge of a qualified Lewis Gunner.



#### SERG. THACKWAY KILLED.

Sergt P. J. Thackway, Herefordshire Regt., son of Mr and Mrs J. Thackway, of Tudorville, was killed in action in France on Oct. 22nd, when he was shot through the stomach and died instantly. He was 22 years of age and joined up in August, 1914. He went through the Suvla Bay and Palestine campaigns with the Regiment before being transferred to France in June last, where he had seen considerable service in the great offensive now being pursued by the Allies. Several letters have been received from his comrades, all of whom speak in highest terms of Sergt. Thackway as a Non-Commissioned Officer, and who for sometime had been acting as machine gun instructor to the Regiment. Mr. and Mrs Thackway had five sons serving, one of whom has been discharged through wounds, one has now made the supreme sacrifice, and the other three are now in the forces.

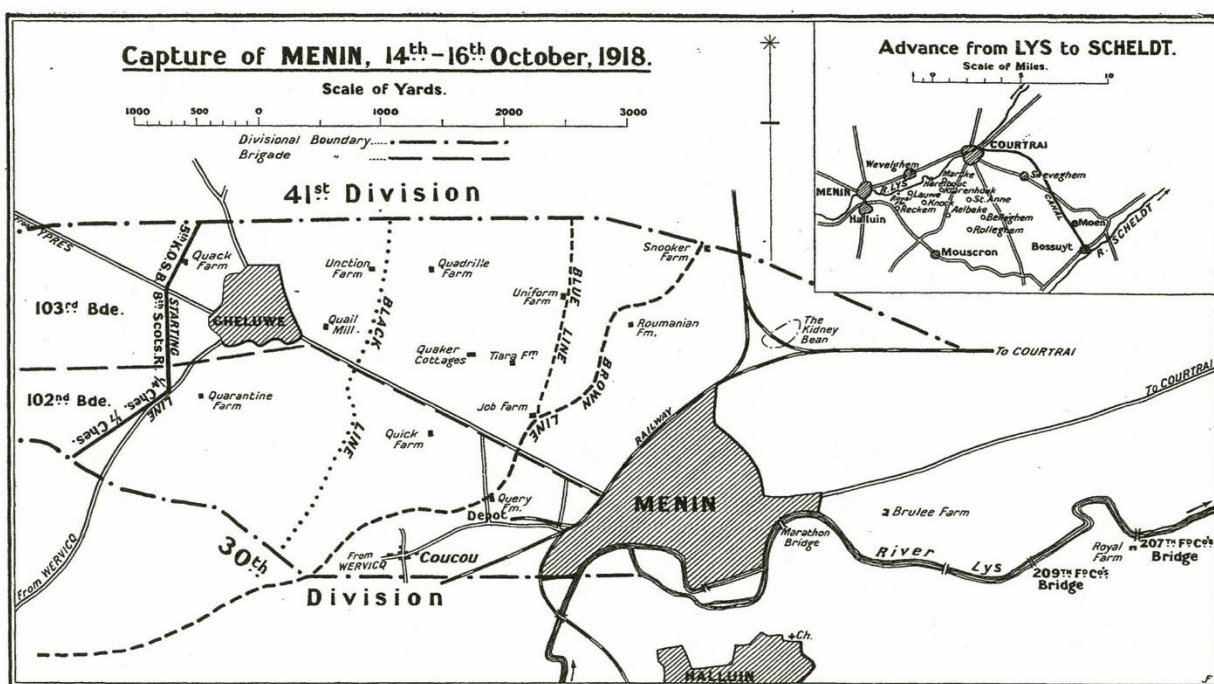
#### From 34 Div War Diary

On 2 Oct the Div moved to an area east of the Ypres-Comines canal about Zandvoorde. This movement was over roads in full view of the enemy's positions south of the Lys, but fortunately the Hun was fully occupied, and we only suffered one casualty. During this day Gen Nicholson received orders to take over the Werwicq-Menin line from 35 and 41 Divs, and to be prepared to fight for it. Later the orders were repeated with the fighting omitted, and on the night of 2/3 Oct the line was taken over, 103 Bde being on the right, 102 on the left, and 101 in reserve about Zandvoorde. The line ran from about 2500 yds north of Werwicq to Gheluwe, a front of about 3500 yds, almost the whole area under direct observation from north and east of the Lys. The only line of supply was along a plank road, unfit for lorries, from St Eloi to the canal near Hollebeke, and thence parallel to the front. Fortunately the Hun was disorganised, and the Div got in with little trouble. The enemy, however, found time in a few days to attend to this matter of our supplies, and shelled parts of the road so effectively that a new route had to be found, and this could only be used by pack animals. On the night of 5/6 103 Bde went into reserve just east of Zandvoorde, being relieved by 102, and on the same night 101 took over the adjacent brigade front on the left from 124 Bde. At this time a renewal of the advance was contemplated on 7th, but it was postponed till 14th. On the 6th news arrived that the Hun had suggested an immediate armistice.

Several changes in the holding of the line took place, and by the morning of 13th 102 were on the right and 103 on the left, all ready for the attack, which was fixed to start at 0525hrs 14 Oct. The line as held on the morning of the 4th ran irregularly south-west from a point roughly 400 yds north-west of the northern end of Gheluwe, through Quack Farm to the Ypres-Gheluwe road, thence due south to the Werwicq-Gheluwe road, and thence again south-



west some 100 yds to the Div boundary. The village of Gheluwe fell entirely within 103 Bde area. The frontline troops from left to right were 103 Bde, 5KOSB, 8 Scottish Rifles; 102 Bde 4 Cheshires, 7 Cheshires. The two battalions of 103 Bde were each formed in depth on a single company front; those of 102 on a 2 company front, with one in support and one in reserve. 5 A&SH were in reserve on a two company front some 1800 yds in rear of the centre of 103, and 1 Herefords in rear of 102 Bde. The information pointed to the area about to be attacked being held by a system of fortified posts and pill-boxes. Special arrangements were made for dealing with all of these that were known, but as the advance was to be made behind a creeping barrage it was impressed on all ranks that the leading troops must keep up with the barrage, leaving the mopping up of any post that held out to the troops following them. The village of Gheluwe was to be dealt with by the fourth companies of the KOSB and Scottish Rifles, which were to follow their leading companies, passing on either side of the village till they were abreast of the centre, and then turn inwards and mop up the village from north and south. During the first twenty-eight minutes of advance the village was to be kept under smoke and thermite barrage by the arty and special RE Coy. About 1500 yds in advance of the jumping-off line was the Black line, on reaching which there was to be a pause of 15 minutes for reorganisation, after which the barrage was to advance again, till it reached a line some 250 yds beyond the Blue line, which was about 1500 yds from the Black. This Blue line on the front of 102 and right of 103 Bde was to be the final objective, and on this part the barrage was to remain steady while specially selected points were consolidated.



The morning was very foggy, and what with our smoke barrage round Gheluwe, the enemy's gas, and the natural fog, the advance was made in an atmosphere strongly reminiscent of a yellow London fog, which made the maintenance of direction very difficult. In parts it was impossible to see more than 5 yds, and officers and sergeants led with the aid of compasses; some sections advanced holding each other by the belt. Nevertheless the front posts of the enemy were overwhelmed, but most of our casualties occurred in this first stage from posts too near our line to be included in the barrage even though the Light Trench Mortars had dealt with them.

The advance was resumed at 0618hrs. 4 Cheshires, with A and B Coys, made a rapid advance to Coucou, where about 70 prisoners were taken, among whom was a communicative and obliging German who spoke English well and guided his captors through the Menin depot close up to Menin. A party of 20 men held its position just north of the Menin road till about 1300hrs. It came under machine gun fire. The main body continued passing near Job Farm, and eventually returned to Battalion HQ near the jumping-off line, having taken some 110 prisoners and contributed towards the capture of a field gun which fell into the hands of the Scottish Rifles near Quick Farm. 4 Cheshires, in addition to the above, took, during the day, a field gun and several prisoners near Query Farm and some machine guns near Quarantine Farm. 1/7 Cheshires on the right had but a short way to go, and soon reached their objective and pushed out patrols to the outskirts of Menin.

The approximate casualties on this very successful day were only 12 officers and 255 other ranks, and the prisoners taken were 586. Three field guns, many trench mortars, machine guns, and much light railway material and rolling stock were also captured.

There was intense machine gun fire all along the enemy's front during the night, which prevented the patrols we sent out entering Menin, in which many fires were seen and many explosions heard. Early on the 5th patrols were pushed out. It appears that the honour of being the first through the town rests with Lt Montague and a patrol of the 4 Cheshires, which, after overcoming some resistance, got right through the town and reached Brulee Farm by 0900hrs, but the A&SH were not far behind, for at 0915hrs one of their patrols reached the Marathon bridge, which they found blown up and still burning.

Menin was quickly occupied by 102 Bde, and posts established on the right bank of the Lys, at Mongrel and Marathon bridges. 103 Bde carried on the line along the Wevelghem road to the east of Tent Farm. The enemy held Ripe Farm till dusk, and also the northern outskirts of Halluin. During the night of 15/16th patrols of 1 Herefords and 5 A&SH crossed the river, and, meeting near the church on north-east outskirts of Halluin, captured a machine gun, which the former brought back, re-crossing by a pontoon bridge which the enemy had forgotten to destroy. The A&SH patrol, under 2Lt D Thomson, built a bridge of material salvaged on the bank, and by this bridge, Z Coy of the Scottish Rifles crossed at 0600hrs on 16th, but they made no great progress on account of the heavy and accurate machine gun fire. The company held its position all day, suffering many casualties, and was withdrawn about 1900hrs as the bridge was nearly destroyed, and was actually broken up by a shell just after the company had recrossed.

On the 18th Gen Woodcock and HQ 101 Bde made a triumphant entry into Lauwe, which was the first Belgian town we had entered which was still inhabited. The inhabitants gave the General a demonstrative and enthusiastic welcome. The enemy was evidently in full retreat, and crowds of liberated civilians were met on all sides.

On the 19th the advance was resumed. 2/4th Queen's formed the advance guard. By noon some 6000 yds had been covered, then there came a temporary check in front of Belleghem, which was occupied by the enemy, who also had machine guns in the buildings to the north. The Loyal North Lancs sent 2 companies round either flank of the position. The encircling took some time, and it was midnight before Courtrai road, east of Belleghem, was reached, and a company of the Queen's had passed through the village. The remainder of the division crossed the Lys, 102 Bde going to St Anne's, and 103 Bde to Knokke.

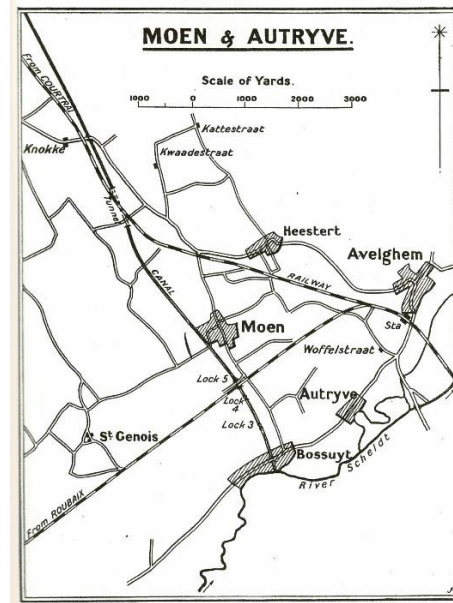
On the 22nd orders were received to interpose again between 30 and 41 Divs and continue the advance. 102 Bde, which had not been in action since the 16th, relieved the right brigade of 41 Div in the front line. The sector occupied by the brigade faced a little north of east, 600 yds west of, and parallel to, the Contrai-Bossuyt Canal. The left rested on the canal tunnel, part of which was held by the enemy, and right on the Scheldt, near Bossuyt.

1 Herefords were on the left, and 1/7th Cheshires on the right, 1/4th Cheshires in reserve. 123 Bde, 41 Div, which was on the left, was to make an attack at 0415hrs on 24th, and in this 102 Bde was to co-operate.

123 Bde held the line from the left of 102, and almost in at right angles to it in a north-easterly direction across the canal, north of the tunnel. It was to attack in a southerly direction till its right flank was past the tunnel, and then change direction to the south-east, which would leave a gap between its right flank and the canal, which would increase as the advance progressed. The Herefords were to close this gap, crossing the canal as soon as 123 Bde had passed the tunnel. No sooner had the relief been accomplished than the support and reserve companies of the battalion had to move to the vicinity of the tunnel, their places being taken by 2 companies of 1/4 Cheshires.

The attack of 42 Div, however, did not progress far enough to render the co-operation of 102 Bde necessary, and on the 24th a new scheme of attack was evolved. As a preliminary to which the 1/4 Cheshires relieved the right battalion of 123 Bde, 23 Middlesex, which held the east bank of the canal north of the northern exit of the tunnel, which was held by the enemy. Thence 41 Div line ran south of Kwaadesstraat, and bent back to the north of Kattestraat.

The main attack was to be made in a southerly direction from this Line, but a subsidiary attack was to be made by 1/7 Cheshires in the neighbourhood of Locks 3, 4, and 5 under a heavy barrage and smoke screen put down by 34 Div Arty. It was hoped that the battalion would be able to get across the canal and meet 1/4 Cheshires as they advanced down the east bank. The village of Moen was to be kept under a dense smoke cloud by the field howitzers from 4 minutes before to 96 minutes after zero, which it was hoped would admit of the encirclement of the village and its easy mopping up by the rear companies of 1/4 Cheshires. The advance was to be continued on in conjunction with 41 Div in a south-easterly direction.



The creeping barrage for the main attack was to be put down by 41 Div Arty, but two batteries of 34 Div were to thicken and extend it to include the canal as far as the northern edge of Moen. The subsidiary attack was made at 0300hrs, and was only partially successful. A and C Coys 1/7 Cheshires cleared Bossuyt and lined the river bank on the far side, but B Coy was unsuccessful in its attempt at crossing at Lock 4, owing to heavy machine gun fire. The enemy at 0800hrs made a clever counter-attack under a heavy trench mortar barrage, and took 3 officers and 22 other ranks prisoners.

At 0900hrs the barrage for the main attack commenced 200 yds in front of the jumping-off line, and moved forward at 200 yds a minute. 4 Cheshires fighting line, under Maj Morris, advanced steadily, lengthening its line to the right as the right flank of 23 Middlesex inclined away from the canal. By 0930hrs 1/4 Cheshires was clear of the tunnel, over which 1/7 Cheshires crossed and moved in support of 4 Cheshires. The Cheshires easily overcame the resistance on their front, but the enemy's machine gunners farther east were more active and persistent, so that 41 Div progress was slower. By 1215hrs B and D Coys of 1/4 Cheshires were east of Moen, and A was between that village and the canal. 2Lt Rouse, commanding B, had been wounded in the thigh by shrapnel at 0500hrs, but he led his company till late in the afternoon, when Maj Morris ordered him back.

Col Drage and HQ personnel of 4 Cheshires passed through the western part of Moen, being met by some unfortunate inhabitants of that place, who were in a very unenviable position. The Herefords were close behind 1/4 Cheshires, and rendered ready aid wherever it was needed. By 1300hrs C Coy 1/4 Cheshires had cleared Moen of the enemy, and Colonel Drage was enabled to reorganise his battalion south of that village, preparatory to a further advance. A Coy moved with its right on the canal, and B with its right on the Moen-Autryve road. D and 1 Herefords moved in rear of the left flank of B, ready to ward off any attacks from that flank, as the progress of 123 Bde was not known. C Coy followed in the centre as reserve. At 1500hrs Lt Lokeman, of D Company, 1/7 Cheshires, reported to Col Drage having crossed the canal at Lock 4. A French civilian now came to Col Drage and gave him much useful information. By 1600hrs B Coy, 1/4 Cheshires, now under 2Lt Stafford, with D, reached the northern outskirts of Autryve, and had to wait till our guns had finished bombarding it before they could enter. By 2030hrs Autryve was cleared, and all our objectives had been gained. The losses of 1/4 Cheshires on this day were 10 killed and 24 wounded, and they took 57 prisoners and 7 light machine guns. In Autryve they found many wounded civilians, to whom every attention was paid, and as many as possible were taken to hospital by the stretcher-bearers.

102 Bde's losses totalled 87, and exactly that number of prisoners was taken. During the night the line was organised. The left flank of 30 Div was just west of Bossuyt, thence the 7 Cheshires held the line to the Moen-Bossuyt, whence 1/4 Cheshires took up the defence to the eastern outskirts of Autryve. 41 Div's right was at Woffelstraat, in touch with our right. The enemy withdrew across the Scheldt during the night, and we pushed our outposts to the left bank. Autryve was nearly demolished by the Huns' guns. On 26th the enemy evacuated Avelghern, which was occupied by 41 Div.

With the exception of the unfortunate episode at Lock 4 the operation had been eminently successful. During the 25th Gen Nicholson received orders that the Division was to be transferred to 2nd Corps, and on 26th 101 Bde Gp moved to the new area south-east of Harlebeke, and 103 Bde Gp to St Anne. During the night of 26/27th 102 Bde Gp was relieved by 21 Bde, 30 Div, and concentrated in the St Anne area by midday 27th. On 30th the final touches were put to the arrangements for a further advance on 31st, which had been in preparation for some time. 2nd and 19 Corps and 7 French Corps d'Armee were taking part in the attack, and 34 Div was to have the assistance of 30 tanks of 12 French Tank Bn. 41 French Div was on our left, and 31 British on our right.

**From The Battalion War Diary:**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Detail</i>
1 Oct	Battalion marched brigaded to P8D32, went into old enemy sheds for the night.
2 Oct	0700 - Battalion moved to P6C central; in reserve for 41 Div. 1930 - Orders received to relieve 124 Bde in line, Q4C central to Q8 central. Battalion in support. As there was no support battalion to relieve, Battalion had to dig in approximately Q2C&D. Very dark night, no guides available and no one who knew the ground. Battalion dug in and when daylight came the position was found to be in rather dead ground.
3 Oct	Situation normal. Usual harassing fire. Position selected for new support line. 1800 – Battalion proceeded to dig in selected positions in Q2C&D. Transport officer and 8 men wounded.
4 Oct	Orders to move, later cancelled. Work on defences continues. Artillery fire situation normal.
5 Oct	Situation normal. Usual enemy artillery and machine gun fire on our areas.
6 Oct	Orders received to relieve front line – later cancelled.
7 Oct	Situation normal. Battalion relieved by 2 Loyal North Lancs about 1930 and proceeded by a cross country track to an area about P3A59. Only a few pill boxes available for shelter and nearly all ranks bivouaced in open.
8 Oct	Divisional reserve, Resting and cleaning up.
9 Oct	Two companies working on roads under REs. Company commanders on recce.
10 Oct	Two companies working as per 9 <sup>th</sup> .
11 Oct	As per 10 <sup>th</sup> .
12 Oct	Orders received to relieve 2/4 Royal West Surreys in support line, north division sector. 1900 Battalion moved off to effect relief in old support line; situation normal.
13 Oct	Situation normal. 2100 Our artillery carried out a gas bombardment of selected areas – enemy replied.
14 Oct	0535 - Zero hour – Battalion in position ready to move. 0930 - B & C Coys ordered to advance and consolidate yellow line. 1020 – A & D Coys ordered to occupy old front line. 1230 – C Coy sent to reinforce 1/4 Cheshires in front line. 1800 – Two platoons of A Coy to support C Coy. 1900 – Enemy shelled area continually all night with gas. During night companies consolidated their positions.
15 Oct	0550 – B Coy proceeded through the front line of 1/4 Cheshires to eastern outskirts of Menin. Battle patrols pushed forward and cleared town after slight opposition. Company followed and took up lines about R14B88 to R16A11. Got into touch with 103 Bde on left. 0900 – C Coy ordered to take up a position about the lock R14CB1. 1100 – A Coy ordered to cover river from R13C52 to R19A38, D Coy to be in reserve about R13A28. 1800 - Front line re adjusted; 1/4 Cheshires withdrawn to support. Battalion in touch with 103 Brigade on left and 31 Division on right.
16 Oct	0100 - Patrols sent out. One patrol was sent to outskirts of Halluin; patrol after crossing River Lys by means of the remains of Marathon Bridge advanced 1,200 yards towards church; surprised enemy machine gun post and captured the gun, returning to the river bank and getting across by means of an enemy pontoon bridge which the patrol found and swung across the river. 0730 – B Coy ordered to cross the River Lys by means of pontoon bridge and reinforce 8 Scottish Rifles, who had succeeded in rushing a platoon over to the Halluin side, but were unable to advance clear of the bridgehead, being held up by machine gun fire; B Coy could not cross. 1200 – A Coy ordered to cross river about R19A38 by means of a small raft constructed from duckboards, carrying 2 men and worked by a party of the 1/4 Cheshire Regiment. Under cover of

	<p>artillery and rifle fire the company succeeded in getting across by 1600. As pls crossed they they advanced and cleared the enemy from buildings called Rascals Retreat. The Coy then dug in about R19A61, 64, 76 to hold the crossing. The crossing and subsequent advance were made under heavy artillery and machine gun fire.</p> <p>For 5 hours D Coy worked at repairing the lock and making a bridge about R14C61; timber and other material having to be obtained from the houses in Menin. During the time the position was shelled and sniped at by the enemy.</p> <p>At about 1600 the work being nearly completed, the enemy opened up a very heavy artillery bombardment and destroyed the whole works.</p> <p>1800 – Battalion relieved by 2/16 London Regiment and proceeded to area K35.</p>
17 Oct	Brigade reserve. Administration and cleaning up. Lt Col Meldon arrived and assumed command.
18 Oct	Company and specialist training. Orders to be prepared to move.
19 Oct	<p>0630 – Battalion marched brigaded to R11A25 to await orders.</p> <p>0930 – Orders received; Battalion moved through Lauwe to M15C. Civilian population were greatly excited at sight of British troops.</p> <p>1400 – Battalion moved to Aelbeke, M29.</p> <p>1700 – Battalion again moved to St Anne, men accommodated in Monastery.</p>
20 – 22 Oct	Battalion remained at half an hours notice to move.
23 Oct	<p>0800 - Battalion moved to about Q31D, ready to take over front line.</p> <p>1800 - Battalion proceeded to relieve 23 Royal Fusiliers in front line from about U4C central to O28 and D17. Relief completed by 2345.</p>
24 Oct	0215 - In conjunction with advance of 123 Bde on east of canal from about O22, in a south easterly direction, B Coy were ordered to force the tunnel and canal crossing about O28D to 59, supported by C Coy. As 123 Bde did not advance the rear of the crossing was not cleared and the Battalion did not press attack. B Coy dug in about O28C10 and C Coy around O28C33. Remainder of day passed quietly.
25 Oct	<p>In accordance with instructions the Battalion formed up in depth about O28B48, west of canal. When barrage fell, companies closed up. As soon as 1/4 Cheshires on east bank of canal, and facing south east cleared the crossing about 0917 - A Coy went across by platoons to east bank and changing direction south east followed the reserve company of the Cheshires. The 3 remaining companies followed in succession, the rear company being clear of the canal crossing at 1015. Detail of companies was A &amp; B in support of and in close touch with 1/4 Cheshires; C Coy in rear of B, detailed to follow and mop up village of Moen. D Coy to follow slowly in rear of C Coy and mop up area up to Moen. There was no opposition to canal crossing; barbed wire in course of erection but not complete.</p> <p>1020 – Enemy shelled crossing with 4.2s; by this time the whole Battalion was moving south easterly with right flank on the canal. On reaching the road crossing the railway at O92CCX7 the reserve company 1/4 Cheshires were held up by machine gun fire from left flank. A Coy brought a Lewis gun to fire on position with desired effect and the advance was resumed.</p> <p>The advance was again held up by machine gun fire about O29D26; this was again effectively dealt with by Lewis guns, and advance continued; Moen was under smoke barrage and enemy shell fire. One company Cheshires were held up at the house O35A19; 2 platoons of B Coy went to assist and the house was captured with about 30 prisoners and 1 machine gun.</p> <p>1100 - C Coy proceeded to clear village of Moen, enemy having 2 machine guns on eastern side of village. These were dealt with and village reported clear at 1258.</p> <p>1400 - Advance continued.</p> <p>1510 – Battalion was ordered to advance down east brigade boundary.</p> <p>1640 – Touch obtained with 41 Div on left, brigade having reached its objective, Battalion proceeded to dig in as support about V7A &amp; B and V1C.</p> <p>Enemy shelled area continually throughout the night.</p>
26 Oct	<p>Battalion remained in position.</p> <p>2230 – Battalion relieved and proceeded to T6A arriving at 0330.</p>
27 Oct	0900 – Battalion marched brigaded to St Anne; men in houses and farms. Lt Col I N Meldon proceeded to command 1 Royal Dublin Fusiliers; Lt Col E N Evans MC RWF arrived and assumed command of Battalion.

28 Oct	Battalion marched brigaded to B23D67 and men billeted in farms.
29 Oct	Battalion marched brigaded to Harlebeke and occupied huts, east of town.
30 Oct	Administrative work and company training.
31 Oct	As per 30 <sup>th</sup> . BGC inspected first line transport.

WAR DIARY APPENDIX      OCTOBER 1918

Days      38      0/2

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Daily Sch % to Hospital	.66%	Total sent to Hospital for month of October	
		0	0/2
		3	1/2

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Casualties	Killed	Wounded	Missing		Dust & M.
	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	2	1	
	10	60			

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Officers joined.	2/11 Lt Col A. J. Myles	12-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col W. J. Milledar	14-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B. B.	24-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	25-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	25-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	25-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	25-10-18

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Officers engaged.	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	26-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	26-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	27-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	26-9-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	5-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	10-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	10-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	15-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	15-10-18
	2/11 Lt Col R. B. B. B.	15-10-18

Pte HJ Parker was to be awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for action on 16 October:

*London Gazette 11 March 1920*  
 28788 Pte H J Parker,  
 1/1st Herefordshire Regiment.

At Menin, On 16 October 1918, as a stretcher bearer, when he organised and led other stretcher bearers and so rescued ten wounded men from being drowned in the river, the bridge they were working on being destroyed by shell fire. He displayed conspicuous gallantry and resourcefulness under heavy machine gun fire.

The Battalion was still suffering casualties including gas injuries as indicated by 235570 Pte Randall service record:

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
9.9.17					
11.11.17	Wife	Wounded	do	6.11.17	EF92583 17.11.17
6.11.17	43 WFA	Adapt New Bonds	do	6.11.17	89724
14.11.17					
17.11.17					
19.9.18	12 Low Dip.	Sgt. Lane R.	do	19.9.18	2A 37906
6.9.18	do	Di to Base Class 4.	do	6.9.18	14A 25706
7.9.18	6.19.18	Sound	Plum	6.9.18	1107
	do	Head W.A. 14/9 to 20/9/18	"		J.1411/30/18
2.10.18	do	Amint	"	1.10.18	Roll
	Mint.	Received	Field	16.10.18	218 8267
19.10.18	104. F.A.	4. J. Gas	Adm.	16.10.18	218 8267
31.10.18	H. J. How	gas shell v.d.	Adm. Danmo Amint	17.10.18	H.A. 20124

**From the Diaries of:**

Sgt Colley

The Battalion was now continuously in action and right through Sep the regiment was continuously in the front, passing through Gheluvelde, Menin and Laurve being the first English troops to pass through these places.

On Oct 29 we withdrew from the line although we did not know at the time it turned out to be our last time. We were quartered on Harlebeke within easy shelling distance, and we suffered greatly from nightly hostile bombing attacks.

Sgt Pugh

I came home for fourteen days leave on Sep 27 and was back in time for the attack on Menin. In the meantime the Battalion had been in heavy action. We took the town and the Colonel and officers were decorated. After Menin we came back to rest at Moselle

Sgt Harris

Sgt Harris was clearly having problems with his teeth, this had probably been exacerbated by Army rations and life in the field.

7 Oct	Leave finished went over to Surbiton
8 Oct	Left Victoria and reached Dover; crossed to Boulogne
9 Oct	12 hour ride to Rouen; spent the night in rest camp.
10 Oct	Reported to CIPD at 9 in the ?. Write to Cis & Sid
11 Oct	Reported to the dental det; wrote to Jack
12 Oct	Write to Mother, Mrs Smith, Doris & Ivy
13 Oct	Attached to ? for dental treatment; wrote to Gert & L
15 Oct	Four teeth taken out; went to Tivoli
16 Oct	Gum rest; whist drive at Sgts' Mess
17 Oct	Wrote to Auntie Cas, Alice and Len; went to cinema
18 Oct	Three teeth extracted; went into Rouen
19 Oct	Watched rugby match between Australians and New Zealanders
20 Oct	Went to service
21 Oct	Clearing the football pitch in morning; camp patrols. Letter from Gert
22 Oct	Letter from home; wrote back and to Gert
23 Oct	Went to concert at Mess
24 Oct	Ran across F Hill and T Rushton at base
25 Oct	Wrote to Cis. Letter from L
26 Oct	Letter from Olive
27 Oct	Letter from Ivy
28 Oct	Wrote to Olive, Reg & Syd
29 Oct	Went to cinema
30 Oct	Letter from Alice and Reg; Whist drive in Mess; Turkey surrenders
31 Oct	Wrote to L & Reg

News of those missing in the late July/early August engagements were also being received:

Previously reported wounded, now reported killed :—  
**HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.**  
 Davies (238554), H. T., Hereford.  
 Harvey (35659), F. S., Dudley.  
 Waites (235865), Lance-Corpl. L. A., Ross.  
 Previously reported missing, now reported killed :—  
**HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.**  
 Dyke (21223), A., Albrighton.  
 Harris (236384), G. M., Hereford.  
 Peters (235349), W., Ross.  
 Rogers (235767), Corpl. C. L., Hereford.



### LANCE-CORPL. L. H. WAITES, KILLED.

Information has now been received that Lance-Opl. L. H. Waites, of the Herefordshire Regiment, only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Waites, of 20 Millpond Street, Ross, previously reported wounded and then returned as wounded and missing, is now said to have been killed in action in France, on July 23rd last. Lance-Opl. Waites joined the army on the 2nd September, 1914, and took part in the Gallipoli campaign, during which he was invalided home with gastritis. He returned to Egypt in April of 1916, taking part in the many engagements with his regiment both in Egypt and in Palestine. In July of this year he was, with others, transferred to France, and according to the report he fell in their first engagement in the Battle of Soissons. As a young man he was apprenticed with Mr. Walter Lugg, as a cooper, at the Broad Street Works, and remained there for eleven years, afterwards going as a cooper at the Cirencester Brewery. He was 30 years of age, and leaves a widow and one child.



PTK. H. DAVIES,  
Hereford Regiment, who was killed in France  
on July 23rd. He was a nephew of Mr. Simp-  
son West Street, Pembroke.

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

The Volunteer Battalion continued to be active:

### 1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

BATTALION ORDERS BY CAPTAIN G. M.  
MORTON, ACTING O.C.

Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.  
October 3rd, 1918.

No. 47.

1. Permanent Staff.—No. 16274 R.S.M. O'Neill will attend parade at Kington on the 10th inst.

2. Musketry Classes.—Classes of instruction in musketry will be held by S.S.I.M. Galley, commencing at Bromyard on the 4th inst., and at Leominster on the 6th inst.

3. Hotchkiss Gun Classes.—A class for officers and N.C.O.'s of "C" Company will be held at Ross on the 6th inst., under Lieut. I. D. James.

4. Training in Water Duties.—Further courses of instruction in water duties will be held at Blackpool during October and November, each course being for three days. The names of men wishing to attend will be notified to Orderly Room by Officers Commanding Companies.

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

### 1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

BATTALION ORDERS BY CAPTAIN G. M.  
MORTON, ACTING O.C.

Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.  
October 10th, 1918.

No. 48.

1. Permanent Staff.—No. 38955 C.S.M. Jones, J. E., will attend parades at Leominster on the 13th inst., and Upton Bishop, on the 15th inst.

2. Attached Instructors.—The following instructors are attached for duty to the Companies named:—No. 14582 C.Q.M.S. Gaskell, J., and No. 202429 Sergt. Collins, W. F. J., "A" Company; No. 10173 Sergt. Bartlett, J., and No. 265267 Sergt. Stevens, H., "B" Company; No. 246027 C.S.M. Hollinrake and No. 201750 Corpl. Kippax, "C" Company; No. 200012 Sergt. Evans, J. T., "D" Company.

3. Inspections: Musketry.—The Supervising Officer for Musketry (Vols.) Central Area B, Western Command, will attend parades at Bromyard on the 15th inst. Ross on the 16th inst., and Ledbury on the 17th inst.

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

## 1st VOLUNTEER BATTALION HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.

BATTALION ORDERS BY CAPTAIN G. M.  
MORTON, ACTING O.C.

Headquarters: Drill Hall, Hereford.

October 24th, 1918.

No. 50.

1. Inspection.—The Battalion will parade as strong as possible on Monday, October 23th, 1918, at 7 p.m., for inspection by Brigadier-General Cholmondeley, C.B. Dress: Marching order. Where possible, Government boots will be worn. Men without uniform will parade with rifle, belt and bayonet. Recruits without arms or uniform will parade separately. The Commanding Officer hopes that every officer, N.C.O. and man will make a special effort to attend.

2. School of Instruction.—The following officers, N.C.O.'s and men attended the week-end School of Instruction in drill, musketry and bayonet fighting, etc.:—Lieut. H. J. Hammond, Lieut. O. M. Holt Needham, Lieut. H. S. H. Bickham, Lieut. J. W. Hewitt, Lieut. C. B. Caldicott, Lieut. J. W. W. Smith, Lieut. T. C. Clarke, Lieut. Sir G. Cornwall, Bart., Lieutenant C. A. Griffith, Sergeant Hexon, Sergeant Bray and Corporal James (Ledbury), Sergt. Kemp, Corpl. Newton, Corpl. Holding, Lance-Corpl. Wood, Pte. Hobson and Pte. Coombs (Ross), Corpl. Harris (Fawley), Sergt. Dimery (Much Birch), Lance-Corpl. Jenkins and Pte. Wadsworth (Hereford), Pte. Hodgskiss (Moccas).

3. Proposed Corps Rules.—Under the powers provided by the Volunteer Act, 1863, Section 24, a general meeting of the members of the Battalion to decide upon the adoption of Corps Rules, will be held on Sunday, November the 3rd. Members will vote at their Company Headquarters immediately after regular parade.

4. Appointment.—No. 902664 Corpl. Bindon, A. J. C. of "C" Company, to be appointed Acting Sergeant from 23/10/18.

(Signed) C. P. Caldicott, Lt. & Asst. Adjt.,  
1st Vol. Batt. Herefordshire Regt.

### 1st BATTALION Herefordshire Volunteer Regt.

#### " B " Company (No. 5 Platoon) Leominster.

Sunday, October 6th, Machine Gun Section, 10.15 a.m.,  
" B " Co., Open Range, 10.15 a.m., Musketry Class,  
10.15 a.m.

Tuesday, October 8th, No. 5 Platoon, 7.30 p.m.,  
Wednesday, October 9th, Machine Gun Section,  
7.30 p.m.

Monday, Miniature Range will be open, 7.30 to 8.30  
p.m. Corpl. C. Hoff in charge.

W. M. ELLWOOD, Lieut.,

" B " Co., 1st H.V.R.

Headquarters,

Leominster,

Oct. 1st, 1918.

### 1st BATTALION Herefordshire Volunteer Regt.

#### " B " Company (No. 5 Platoon) Leominster.

Sunday, October 20th, No. 5 Platoon, 10.15 a.m.  
Machine Gun, 10.15 a.m., for practice, Open Range.

Monday, October 21st, Miniature Range, 7.30 p.m.;

Corpl. C. Hoff in charge.

Tuesday, October 22nd, No. 5 Platoon, Guard and

Outposts, 7.15 p.m.

Wednesday, October 23rd, Machine Gun, 7.30 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28th, BATTALION INSPEC-

TION, 7 p.m., at HEREFORD, by GENERAL

HEADLAM. Dress: Musketry Order.

No. 5, 6, 7 & 8 Platoons of " B " Co. will leave

Leominster by 6.25 p.m. train and return from Hereford

7.55 p.m. The Machine Gun Section will parade with

No. 5 Platoon. Every N.C.O. and Man is required to

attend.

No Parades on Sunday, October 27th, or Tuesday,

October 29th.

W. M. ELLWOOD, Lieut.,

" B " Co., 1st H.V.R.

Headquarters,

Leominster,

October 16th, 1918.

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

Orders for Week commencing  
Thursday, October 3, 1918.

Thursday 3.—Hentland 7.30 (Corpl. Holding).—Whitchurch, 8.0.

Friday 4.—Fawley 7.30, Outposts (C.S.M. Hollinrake).—Brockhampton 7.30 (Cpl. Mingay).—Broad Street Min. Range, 7 to 9 p.m. (Cpl. Newton).

Sunday 6.—Armoury 10 a.m. for Classification Firing.—Upton Bishop 2.30 (Sergt. Caws).—Hentland 2.30 (Cpl. Holding).—Hoarwithy 2.30 (Cpl. Harris).—Whitchurch 2.30.

Officers and N.C.O.s at Drillhall for Hotchkiss Gun Instruction at 10 a.m. (Lieut. I. D. James).

Monday 7.—Armoury, 7.30, Recruits (Corpl. Kippax.)

Tuesday 8.—Upton Bishop 7.30 (L. Corpl. Wood).

Wednesday 9.—Armoury, 7.30, Drill (Sgt. Llewellyn).—Hotchkiss Gun Section, Drillhall, 7.30.

Thursday, 10.—Hentland 7.30 (Cpl. Holding).—Whitchurch 8.0 Musketry (L. Corporal Howell).

It is proposed to hold a Week-end School of Instruction for Officers and N.C.O.'s at Hereford, from the 19th to 21st inst. Names of those wishing to attend must be sent in by Monday, the 7th inst.

Actg. O.C. "C" Coy. 1st VB. H.R.  
S. PRICE, 2/Lieut.

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

The Cadet Battalion continued to parade