

1st BATTALION THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT – June 1945 and onwards

This will be the last monthly post for the Regiment's story in World War 2, although members of the Herefordshire Regiment would continue in uniform with many in Germany until 1946.

The Battalion was settling into a routine, whilst war was still raging in the Far East and there was the possibility of many being transferred to the East, others were looking forward to demobilisation. Whilst there was sadness of pals lost there was the pleasure of survival and the impending return to loved ones and 'civvy' life.

There was still 'work' to be done:

Germany was in a mess – constitution, organisation and economic – the Allied Control Commission had much to do and exercised its authority and actions through the forces on the ground – this included the Herefordshire Regiment.

Conflict in Europe was over, but already tensions were building between the Western Allies and Russia, what would the government be in the Eastern European countries occupied by Russia? What was the policy for the return of PoWs and Refugees to and from Russian occupied areas?

WAR DIARY

159 Brigade War Diary:

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.			WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Delete heading not required).		SHEET 1 Unit.. Hq. 159. INF. BDE..... Commanding Officer Brig J.B. CHEW..... R. DSO.....	
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices		
BLA	1 Jun		Sde continues to be in command of the IRETS of FLENSBURG and the main effort has been to clear the area of still many Luftwaffe, Naval and Army types left in the area. Tps are continuing to come down from the NORTH over the frontier from DENMARK and are being sent to the discharge area SOUTH of HUSUM.	+		
	30 Jun		On the 14 Jun the town of FLENSBURG was aroused at 0810 hrs by a large explosion, followed by a further and even bigger explosion at approximately 0830 hrs. These were caused by a large Naval amn dump going up and spreading to a dump of depth charges. German casualties were approximately 80 killed and 200 seriously wounded. There were NO allied tps killed or wounded. Inquiries were made into this and it was found the cause was through careless handling by an inexperienced German sailor and no thought of sabotage was considered justified. Owing to this explosion and the work it entailed, NO celebrations were held for the King's Birthday.			
			W.L. 1000000000 1230.000 9111 W.H.A.S. 81/8/71	SECTION P.I. (W.D.) No..... 10 JUL 1945 G.H.Q. 21st ARMY 21st ARMY C.O.P.		

(Delete heading not required).

[illegible]

W1-80704 2625 1,200,000 9/11 W. H. & S. 51/5-74

The Battalion War Diary

Sheet ONE: ORIGINAL

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118.
Unit...1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.
Commanding Officer...Lt. Col. R. C. Friel DSO.

Month and Year... JUNE 1945.

(Delete heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Flensburg.	1st.		Indiv.trg.and sports. Two German service personnel arrested	
MR 219964.			by the town patrol for being on the streets without a pass.	
	2nd.		The C.O. granted a days holiday to the Bn. in celebration	
			of his birthday. During the morning two football matches	
			were played & then Coys went to the bathing beach for dinner	
			Three film shows were put on for the evenings entertainment.	
			17 Reinforcements posted to the Bn.	
	3rd.		Voluntary Church parades. Lieutenant C.J.Ferris "A" Coy	
			posted to PTC Unit in England. Officers played Sgts at	
			football in the morning.	
	4th.		Composite pl. u/c Major R.G.Tapper MC.,patrolled FORST	
			HANDEWITT MR 1791. NTR.	
	5th.		The village of HANDEWITT MR 1592 patrolled. NTR.	
	6th.		The three week S.B. cadre finished today, and the personnel	
			returned to their respective companies.	

137 30594 8522 1 290.000 8/44 W. H. & S. 51/2 74

Sheet TWO.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R. C. Fripp DSO.

Month and Year JUNE 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Flensburg	6th.		A letter was received from the Mayor of Hereford stating the Battalion had been granted "The Freedom of the City"	Copies of letters att.
MR. 219964.				
	7th.		HANDRUP MR 1688 patrolled in the morning. NTR. 4 reinforcements posted to the Bn.	
	8th.		Indiv. trg. Guards and town patrols carried out. 8 reinforcements posted to the Bn.	
	9th.		The Commanding Officer inspected the Battalion by Companies during the morning. The parade concluded with march past.	
	10th.		Voluntary Church parades.	
	11th.		The unit commenced "Duty Bn. Week" Guards for Bde. Hq., OKW, OKM. SH. EF, mission to be supplied daily. HULLERUP MR. 1689 patrolled in the morning. NTR. Captain F. M. Wilson apptd. Unit Postal Officer. 4 Reinforcements posted to the Bn.	
	12th.		A special "spot check" was carried out during the morning by seven patrols. In all a total of seventeen German servicemen	

WL 47714 902 2,000,000 2/45 W. H. & S. 51/5/75

Sheet THREE

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R. C. Fripp DSO.

Month and Year JUNE 1945.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Flensburg.	12th.	cont.	servicemen/were arrested for being out on the streets without the necessary passes. The arrested personnel were kept overnight in the Barracks, and handed over to the German Military Authorities the following morning. The Battalion cooks were granted a holiday for the day. Cooking was carried out by individual pls. and depts in their own areas. 1 Reinforcement posted to the Bn.	
MR 219964.				
	13th.		A Bn. messing meeting was called during the morning. Normal training carried by Coys. and spec. pls.	
	14th.		Normal training during the morning. The afternoon was devoted to preparing billets for a detachment of the 15/19 Hussars, who arrived at 1600 hrs for a two day visit. Aprox. 300 came, and the party was split up into groups and billeted by all the Coys. Cinema shows were held in the evening. In celebration of the Kings Birthday, the changing of the guard at Bde. Hq.	

WL 47714 902 2,000,000 2/45 W. H. & S. 51/5/75

SHEET FOUR.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in P.S. Regs. Vol. I. and the Staff Manual respectively. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

Month and Year JUNE 1945.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Amy Form C.2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R. C. Fripp DSO.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to App. Jces
Flensburg.	14th.	cont.	Bde HQ took place with the Bde Band in attendance. A salute of 21 guns had to be cancelled owing to a serious fire and explosions which occurred at the German Marine Barracks.	
MR. 219964.			"Retreat" was sounded in the camp by the Bde Band in the evening.	
	15th.		Bn. Granted a days holiday. Football match Herefords/v 15/19 Hussars in morning - beach in afternoon. 10 Reinforcements posted to the Bn.	
	16th.	1000	15/19 Hussars leave.	
		1100	C.O's Battalion parade, but had to be cancelled owing to rain.	
	17th.	1000	C.O of E. Church parade in the camp cinema. The Padre from the 4th. K.S.L.I. officiated in the absence of the Bn. padre (Capt. Williams) who is on sick leave.	
	18th.		A Brigade Physical Training Cadre commenced under the direction of the unit APTC instructor. A three weeks Junior NCO's Cadre	

M3334/7215 1200M 10/41 H.R. & Co. Ltd. 51-1541

sheet FIVE.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in P.S. Regs. Vol. I. and the Staff Manual respectively. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

Month and Year JUNE 1945.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Amy Form C.2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R. C. Fripp DSO.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to App. Jces
Flensburg.	18th.	cont.	Cadre/ commenced. Officer i/c Major G.R. de Carle, MC.MM.,	
MR 219964.			TARP MR.1881 was patrolled in the morning. A large vehicle dump was discovered otherwise N.T.R.	
	19th.		19 Reinforcements posted to the Bn. WEDING MR. 1989 patrolled in the morning. N.T.R. The following week, Coys have been allotted ranges and are to concentrate on zeroing rifles.	
			A special patrol of 1 pl. from the duty coy u/c Major R.G. Tapper MC., went out at 2000 hrs to sweep FRIEDHOLZ WOOD MR. 228975 in order to check up on German service personnel being out without passes. In one hour 58 persons were arrested and detained in the barracks. They were handed over the following morning for disciplinary action.	
	20th.		Normal training carried out during the day.	
	21st.		JARPLUND MR 2188 and BDERUP MR.1987 patrolled during the morning. Nothing to report.	

M3334/7215 1200M 10/41 H.R. & Co. Ltd. 51-1541

SHEET SIX.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I and the Staff Manual respectively. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

Month and Year JUNE 1945.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R. C. Frisby DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Flensburg.	22nd.		Major Bennett, OC "C" Coy went out on a three day recon, for field firing areas.	
MR. 219964.	23rd.		2 Reinforcements posted to the Bn. Owing to the Flensburg Day Town Patrols proving to be ineffective, they will be discontinued as from today. In their place there will be a spot check three times a week to be carried out by one Pl. of the duty Coy. At least one of these checks will be a curfew check in one or more of the outlying villages.	
		1100	R.S.M.'s Battalion parade.	
	24th.		Voluntary Church parade in the morning. A Sergeants mess meeting was held at 1100 hrs.	
	25th.		FROPUP MR. 2184 patrolled in the morning. Houses and woods were searched. Nothing to report. M.T. course No. 2. commenced.	
			5 Reinforcements posted to the Bn. Major W.A.P. Crofts MC., assumes cmd. of the Bn. during the absence of the C.O. whilst on leave.	

M1324/7218 1200M 10/41 H.B. & Co. Ltd. 81-1945

Sheet SEVEN.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

Month and Year JUNE 1945.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C.2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer MAS. W.A.P. Crofts. MC.
Lt. Col. R. C. Frisby DSO.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Flensburg.	25th. cont:		During the following week, coys. will continue with indiv. training, range firing, area patrols and clearing.	
MR 219964.	26th.		1 Platoon "B" Coy carried out a curfew check at WALLISELL with the exception of two, the civilians were found to be keeping the curfew as ordered.	
	27th.		A Platoon of "B" Coy carried out a curfew check at WANDERUP. Several people were apprehended and eight were detained and handed over to the civil police authorities in Flensburg.	
	28th.		7 Reinforcements posted to the Bn. The General Officer Commanding, 11th, Armoured Division (Major General Roberts, DSO, MC.) paid an informal visit to the Bn. between 0900 hrs and 1000 hrs. He first met the officers of the Bn., and then inspected the M.T. workshops, "S" Coy. billets, Cookhouse and R.A.P. Lieutenant R.P. Wright, "A" Coy, posted to 54 R.H.U.	

WL4724 908 2,000,000 243 W. H. & S. 81/5075

There was a regular routine, decent and regular food and accommodation, but with it came the peacetime demands of pressed uniforms and bulled boots, the immediate relief was gratefully but received but as time went on the frustration and boredom of routine began to set in and men were looking forward to 'demob'.

It was a time when the friendships forged in battle would be strengthened through the boredom and routine of peacetime soldiering. Men could look forward and make plans for the future.

×

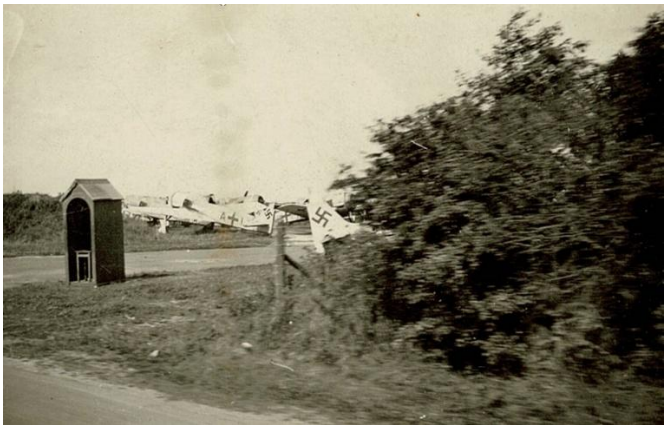
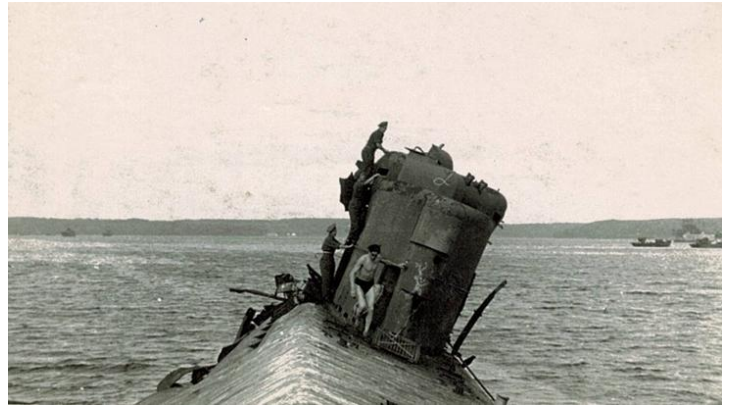


⏏

The routine gave them 'time off' and regular activities were arranged – sports, swimming, and 'military tourism' – visits to military sites and viewing some of the destruction.



Members of the Battalion on an 'outing' – it is assumed the female is a guide/interpreter.



Flensburg Airfield



PoW escorts

[illegible]



Belt Buckle

On 3 November was chosen to provide the guard of honour on the occasion of the visit of Field Marshal Montgomery to HQ 159 Brigade.



On 6 Jan 1946, Lt Col Fripp handed over command of the Battalion to Lt Col Henry Barneby – a pre-war member of the Battalion whose brother Richard had been killed in action with the Battalion in almost its first engagement in July 1945.

The future of the Regiment was also being addressed. It was a Territorial Regiment, what was the future of the TA? What would be the future organisation of the Regular Army? It was clear that Allied Forces would remain in Europe for many years – to: support the demilitarisation of Germany, enable the civilianisation and rebuild of Germany and to 'counter' the increasing obstructive and threatening attitude of Russia.

After Victory over Japan in August the real task of de-mobilisation could begin, but this would take time and in January 1946 11 Armoured Division was disbanded and 159 Brigade including The Herefordshire Regiment reverted to being part of 53 Welsh Division and on 6 February 1946 The Battalion left Flensburg and moved to Krefeld. They lost the unit number 63 which they had in 11 Armoured Division and adopted the new number 62 in 53 Welsh Division.

On 17 June 1946 the now Major General Churcher visited the Battalion in Krefeld where it was ordered into suspended animation - until the reformation of the TA. The day included a disbandment parade, a lunch and a Brigade Dinner - a very busy and no doubt emotional day.

The men remaining were posted to other units notably 4 KSLI and 1 Cheshires.





BM2114

**1st BN THE
HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT
OFFICERS-
REGIMENTAL-LUNCH**

63




62

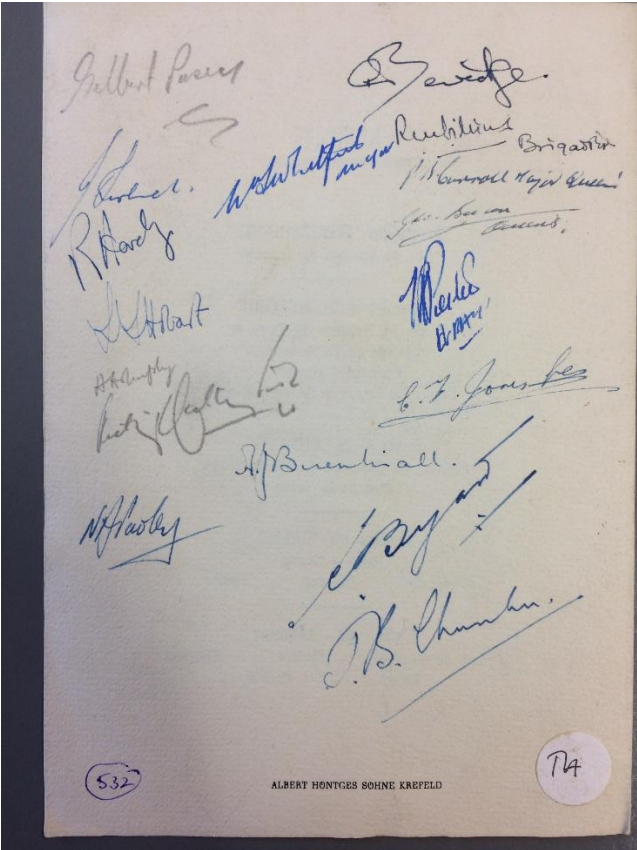
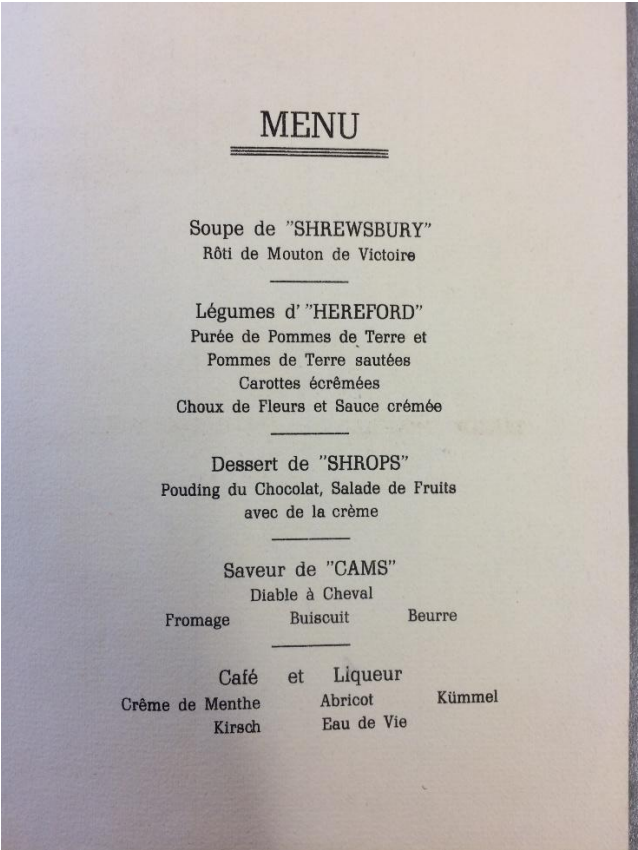
KREFELD

17. JUNE 46

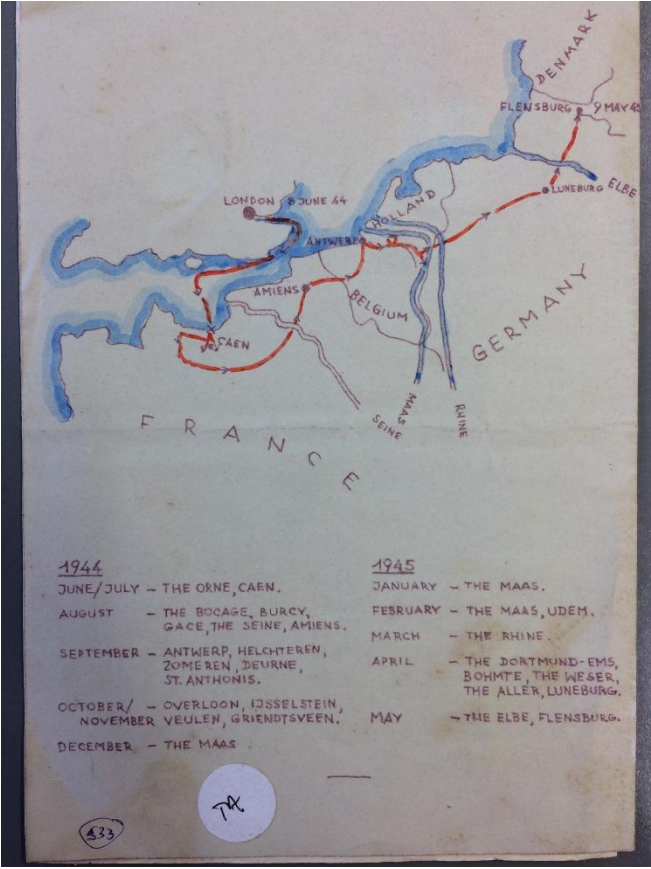
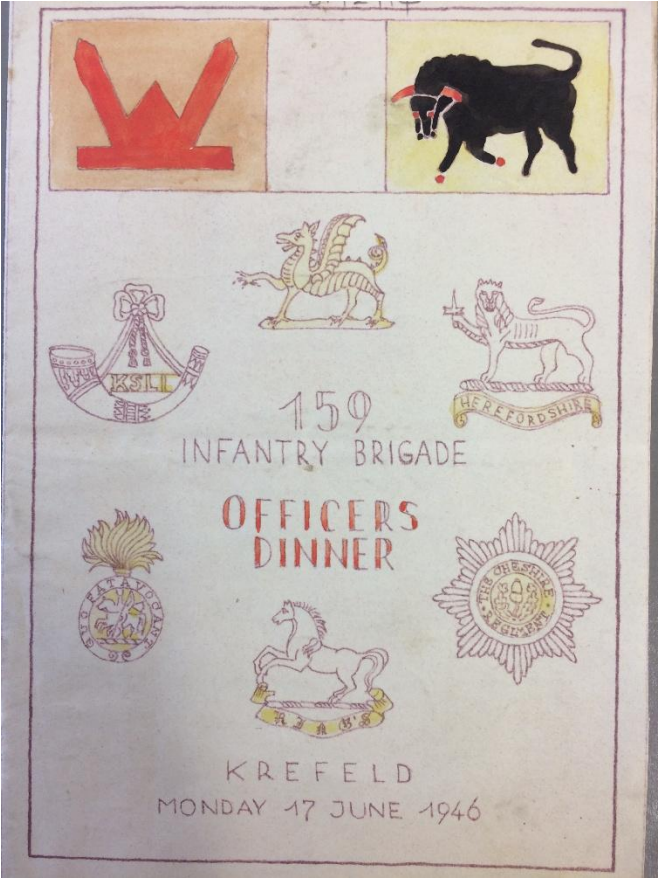
Cainet	Vernon
Odon	Amiens
Ranville	Arras
Demouville	Antwerp
Vire	Helcheteren
Estry	Hechtel
Vassey	Peer
Flers	Zomerem
L'Aigle	Asten

FAREWELL LUNCHEON PARTY IN HONOUR OF
MAJOR GENERAL J. B. CHURCHER D.S.O.
 ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE
 BATTALION ON THEIR DISBANDMENT

Loccum	Flensburg
Weser	Bad Segeburg
Udem	Reinfeld
Weert	Trittau
Horn	Schwarzenbeck
Amerika	Rottorf
Ijsselstiejn	Ebstorf
Overloon	Winsen
Helmond	Linne



Some officers signatures – including Maj Gen Churcher





The Officers, Lt Col Barneby centre with cap.

Trying to organise the officers for a photograph!





The Sergeants Mess taken after the move to 53 Welsh Division – note new Div symbol on sign.
Maj Gen Churcher, seated central with cap.

Casualties

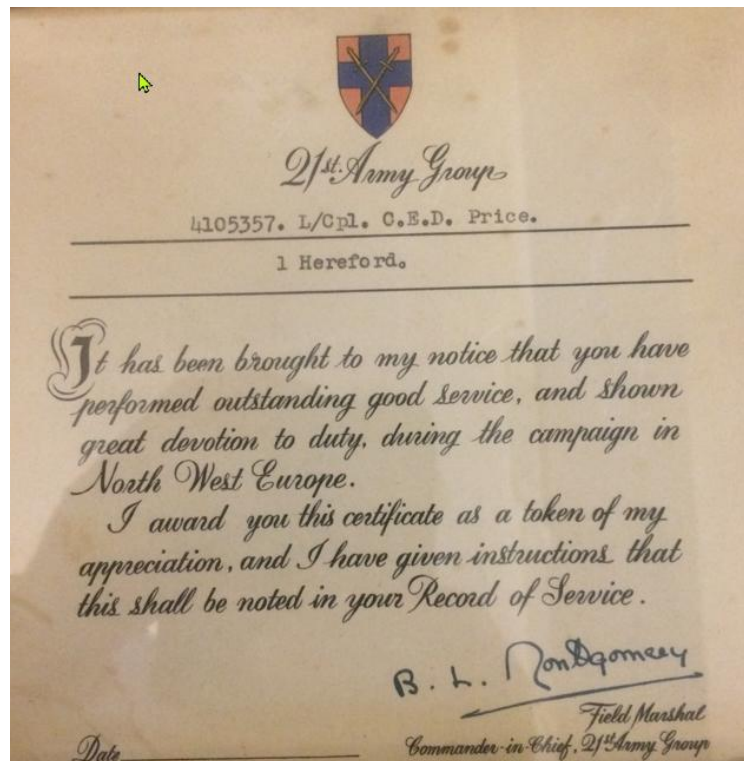
Some casualties did occur after the VE Day, the causes are not known they may be as a result of wounds, accident or illness.

A full list of *all* Regimental casualties (not just 1st Battalion) is published elsewhere within the WW2 tab.

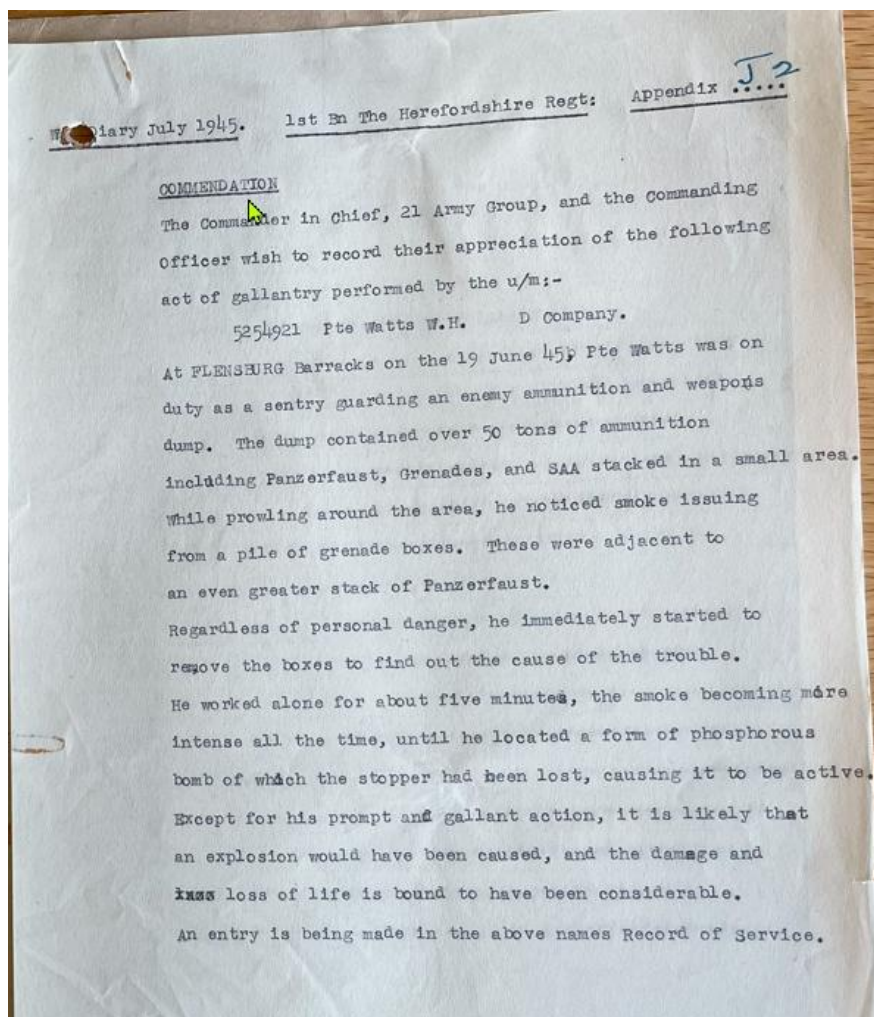
Honours & Awards

Some combat awards were promulgated after VE Day. A full list of all Regimental honours and awards is published elsewhere within the WW2 tab.

Soldiers of the Battalion continued to perform exceptional service and some were awarded CinC's Commendations, it is not known how many were awarded. Two awards are known:



It is not known why this was awarded.



Officers' Plot

See Separate post

ORs' Strength Return

<i>Date</i>	<i>WO1</i>	<i>WO2</i>	<i>CSjt</i>	<i>Sjt</i>	<i>Cpl</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>Bglr</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Establishment	1	7	6	38	72	689		813	
13/06/1944								913	Rail Party 384; sea party 529
01/07/1944	1	7	7	39	72	673	6	805	
29/07/1944	1	7	8	38	74	594	6	728	
02/09/1944	1	7	9	41	70	582	6	716	
30/09/1944	1	6	13	36	62	539		656	
28/10/1944	1	7	10	39	64	565		686	
28/12/1944	1	8	8	36	71	764		888	
27/01/1945	1	8	8	36	69	751		873	
03/03/1945	1	7	7	34	58	626		733	
31/03/1945	1	8	6	37	70	787		909	
28/04/1945	1	8	6	36	60	718		829	
26/05/1945	1	8	6	31	56	734		839	
02/06/1945	1	9	6	33	60	743		852	
30/06/1945	1	9	6	40	70	796		922	
28/07/1945	1	9	6	40	71	802		929	
01/09/1945	1	8	6	35	66	717		833	
29/09/1945	1	8	6	39	62	777		893	
24/11/1945	1	7	5	38	69	734		854	
29/12/1945	1	6	6	34	60	641		748	

Freedom Of Hereford

On 29 May 1945 the city council voted unanimously to award the Freedom of the City to the Herefordshire Regiment. A full account of this appears elsewhere on the website under the 'extras' tab.

De-Mobilisation (De-Mob)

At the end of the War there were approximately 5 million service members in the British Armed Forces. The de-mob and reassimilation of this vast force back into civilian life was one of the first and greatest challenges facing the postwar British government. The speed for de-mob was attributed to public opinion, and according to some sources, it was also driven by the labour shortage due to the need for post-war infrastructure reconstruction. The plan received bipartisan political support.

The details for de-mob were published in September 1944. British soldiers were informed about the process, including the welfare system that would support the veterans by June 1945. Under the plan, most servicemen and servicewomen were to be de-mobbed according to their 'age-and-service number', which was calculated from age and time served. A small number of so-called 'key men'

whose occupational skills were vital to postwar reconstruction were to be released ahead of their turn. Married women and men aged fifty or more were also given immediate priority.

Service personnel being de-mob passed through special demobilisation centres and the release process began on schedule, about 6 weeks after VE Day. Soldiers were entitled to generally 60 days de-mob leave and received a one-time grant of £83. At the de-mob centres men received a set of civilian clothing, which included the infamous 'demob suit', shirts, underclothes, raincoats, hat, and shoes, also their civilian documents – Identity Card, clothing and ration books and their pay book which entitled them to draw pay during leave at a post office. By the end of 1945 750,000 had been de-mobbed. By 1947, the figure had risen to about 4.3 million men and women. The process was not without controversy. Frustration at the allegedly slow pace of release led to a number of disciplinary incidents in all branches of the armed services in the winter of 1945–6.

Aside from the institutional problems of release, returning servicemen and women faced all kinds of personal challenges on their return to civilian life. Britain had undergone 6 years of bombardment and blockade, and there was a shortage of many of the basic essentials of living, including food, clothing, and housing. Families had to adjust to living together again after many years apart. One indicator of the social problems was the postwar divorce rate; over 60,000 applications were processed in 1947 alone, a figure that would not be reached again until the 1960s.

Servicemen and women returned to civilian life by passing through a demobilisation centre. Personnel returning to this country from abroad for the purpose of release passed first through a disembarkation unit. They then went on to a dispersal unit. It is not clear which centres men of the Herefordshire went to, it probably varied as drafts of men were collected overseas and returned to UK as and when formed.

Military Disembarkation Camp Units

Command/District	Title of Unit	Location
Southern	No 1 Military Disembarkation Camp Unit	Ranikhet Camp Reading
	No 2 Military Disembarkation Camp, Unit	Slade Camp, Oxford
Eastern	No 3 Military Disembarkation Camp Unit	Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, Kent
Western	No 1 Military Disembarkation Camp, Group HQ	Hadrian's Camp Carlisle
	No 4 Military Disembarkation Camp Unit	
	No 5 Military Disembarkation Camp Unit	
Northern	No 6 Military Disembarkation Camp Unit	Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall, York

Military Dispersal Units

Command/ District	Title of Unit	Location
Scottish	No1 Military Dispersal Unit	Redford Barracks, Edinburgh
Northern	No 2 Military Dispersal Unit	Fulford Barracks, York
Eastern	No 3 Military Dispersal Unit	Talavera Camp, Northampton
	No 5 Military Dispersal Unit	Queen's Camp, Guildford
London	No 4 Military Dispersal Unit	Regent's Park Barracks, Albany St, NW1
Southern	No 6 Military Dispersal Unit	Sherford Camp, Taunton
Western	No 7 Military Dispersal Unit	North and South Camps, Ashton-under-Lyne
	No 8 Military Dispersal Unit	Bradbury Lines, Hereford
Northern Ireland	No 9 Combined Military Collecting and Dispersal Unit	Victoria Barracks, Belfast



Bradbury Lines Military Dispensal Unit

Maj JF Croome, who had commanded A Coy was demobbed in October 1945. He applied for his medals later and they were issued in December 1948



APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CAMPAIGN STARS AND MEDALS, Ex-Army Personnel				(C.S. 20)																
WRITE IN INK IN BLOCK CAPITALS																				
I desire Campaign Stars and Medals, as shown below, awarded to me (or to the late)																				
Number 92447	Christian or First names JOHN FREDERICK	Surname of Officer, soldier or auxiliary CROOME																		
Class of Release or Discharge and Date A	Age and Service Group No. 19	Rank T/MAJOR	Last Regiment or Corps according to cap badge worn (R.A. to state Branch; Home Guard to insert H.G. with County and Battalion number) HEREFORDSHIRE REGT																	
to be addressed to me as follows:—(State Rank, Title, Mr., Mrs. or Miss)																				
(Name) MR J.F. CROOME																				
(Full Postal Address, with Post Town and County — or Postal District and Number — if appropriate) BELVOIR GRANTHAM																				
NOTE—YOUR STARS or MEDALS may not be issued for SEVERAL MONTHS receiving them.																				
If you should change your permanent address before sending a postcard at once to War Office marked "Medals: New Address" and showing (i) the new address and (ii) No., name and last Regiment or Corps.																				
Signature of Applicant <i>John F. Croome</i>		If claiming as legatee or next-of-kin, state relationship to deceased.																		
Strike out items which were NOT awarded																				
<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">STARS</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1939-45</td> <td>PACIFIC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ATLANTIC</td> <td>BURMA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AIR-CREW</td> <td>ITALY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EUROPE</td> <td>FRANCE & GERMANY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AFRICA</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">MEDALS</th> </tr> <tr> <td>DEFENCE</td> <td>WAR</td> </tr> </table>					STARS		1939-45	PACIFIC	ATLANTIC	BURMA	AIR-CREW	ITALY	EUROPE	FRANCE & GERMANY	AFRICA		MEDALS		DEFENCE	WAR
STARS																				
1939-45	PACIFIC																			
ATLANTIC	BURMA																			
AIR-CREW	ITALY																			
EUROPE	FRANCE & GERMANY																			
AFRICA																				
MEDALS																				
DEFENCE	WAR																			
7 DEC 1948 MEDALS ISSUED 2/47																				

Maj Croome is reported in the Battalion 'Return of Officers' as 'to 177 Field Ambulance' on 30th June 1944 – it is assumed he was wounded. He was de-mobbed in October 1945, and when his Service Dress uniform was acquired the mess bill below was found in one of the pockets! It looks as though he was stocking up/drawing his full ration of wines and tobacco!

Major Groome J.F.

Dr. to
P.M.C., 20th I.T.C. *Oct/45*

W.B.W.

	£	s.	d.
BAL. DR. LAST MONTH ..			
MESSING	-	15	-
WINES AND TOBACCO ..	5	1	6
CONTINGENT	-	5	9
POSTAGE AND PETTY CASH		16	7
SERVANTS' WAGES	-	5	-
GARAGE			
MESS GUESTS			6
BILLIARDS			6

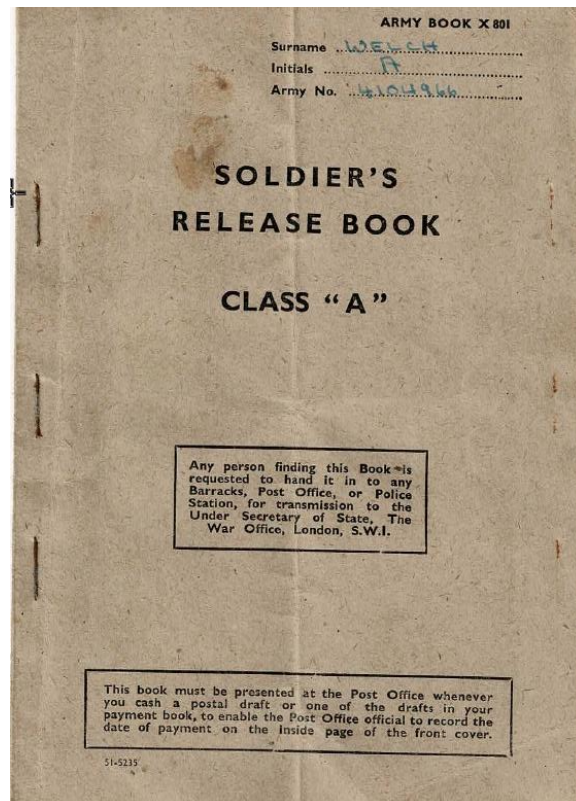
Received With Thanks
£ 7 - 4 - 10
24-10-1945
 P.M.C. No. 20 *TAL. I.T.C.*
H.E. Page Sgt
 P.M.C. 20th INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE.

DEMOBBING RECEIPT.

4104966 Pte Alf Welch had joined the Herefordshire Regiment on 9 March 1938. He was mobilised in September 1939 on the outbreak of the war and whilst on an anti-tank course he transferred to the 9th (Pioneer) battalion of the Kings Own Royal Regiment (KORR) in February 1940. He was wounded on the retreat to Dunkirk, on 30 May and taken Prisoner of War.

He was a POW in many camps latterly in Poland, where he took part in a forced 'long march' westward under German control to avoid advancing Russian troops. After marching hundreds of miles they were billeted overnight in a barn, when they woke in the morning the guards were gone, and they were eventually 'freed' by American troops.

Alf was repatriated to Chilwell where he was employed in the Motor Transport (MT) Section until 'de-mob' on 19 December 1945 when he moved No 8 Dispersal Unit in Hereford for final 'discharge'.



Alf Welch's release book as issued at Chilwell

RELEASE LEAVE CERTIFICATE

Army Form X 202/A

Army No. 1462346 Present Rank Pvt

Surname (Block Letters) WELCH

Christian Name/s Alfred

Unit, Regt. or Corps 1462346

Date of: *Last enlistment 9.12.19

* Calling up for military service 19.12.19

* Strike out whichever is inapplicable.

(a) Trade on enlistment Plumber

(b) Trade courses and trade tests passed

(c) Service Trade

(d) Any other qualification for civilian employment

Military Conduct: Very Good

Testimonial: has been employed as General Duties at 4. A.F.V. His work has been satisfactory and of a high standard.

Place Edinburgh Date 19/12/45

Office's Signature [Signature]

Signature of Soldier [Signature]

* Army Education Record (including particulars under (a), (b), (c) and (d) below).—
This Section will not be filled in until the receipt of further War Office Instructions.

(a) Type of course. (i)* (ii)* (iii)* (iv)*

(b) Length. (c) Total hours of instruction. (d) Record of achievement.

* Instructors will insert the letter "I" here to indicate that in their case the record refers to courses in which they have acted as instructors.

Signature of Unit Education Officer [Signature]

PORTION OF SOLDIER ON TERMINATION OF RELEASE LEAVE

1. A regular soldier with Reserve service to complete will be transferred to the Rural Army Reserve, and will receive Reserve pay until his period of Reserve service has been completed. If on that date the Emergency still exists, he will cease to draw Reserve pay, and will then be transferred to Army Reserve Class "2" (unpaid).

2. A regular soldier who has completed his Colour and Reserve service engagement will be transferred to Army Reserve Class "2" (unpaid).

3. All other soldiers will be transferred to Army Reserve Class "2" or Class "3" (unpaid).

Notes: (i) Further details of service, and of medals to which entitled may be included on application to O.I.R. Records, accompanied by the applicant's A.R.04, Part 1.

(ii) If this certificate is lost or mislaid, no duplicate can be obtained.

(iii) Any alterations of the particulars given in this certificate may render the holder liable to Prosecution under the Swearing and Soldiers' False Characters Act, 1906.

THE ABOVE-NAMED MAN PROCEEDED ON RELEASE LEAVE ON THE DATE SHOWN IN THE MILITARY DISPERSAL UNIT STAMP OPPOSITE.

N.B.—A certificate showing the date of transfer to the appropriate Army Reserve (A.F. X 202/E) will be issued by the Officer i/c Record Office.

PRODUCTION OF THIS PAGE AT A RAILWAY BOOKING OFFICE WILL ENTITLE YOU TO TRAVEL AT CONCESSIONARY RATES UNTIL A.F.X. 202B IS RECEIVED BY YOU FROM OFFICER i/c RECORDS. DATE 13 FEB 1946










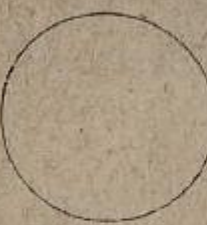

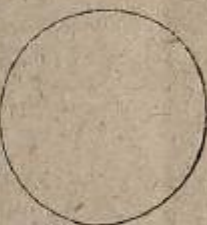



No. 5 CHILWELL M.T. GROUP
10 DEC 1945
R. A. O. C.

Military Dispersal Unit Stamp
19 DEC 1945
LESTERS

Alf's release leave certificate, including a Testimonial which was available for use for a reference to a potential employer.

POST OFFICE STAMP SHOWING DATE OF PAYMENT

War Gratuity and Post War Credits deposited
in Post Office Savings Bank.....

The 'pay' page in the release book which enabled 'pay' to be drawn during leave from a post office.