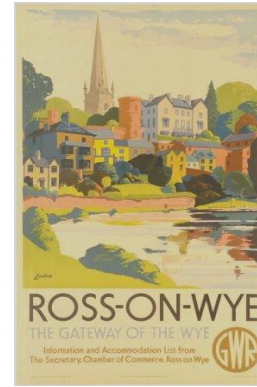


# The Great War for civilisation

1914 - 1919

## War Memorial - Side 3.

Commemorating the men of Ross-on-Wye who died in the conflict.



## The war to end all wars

August 4th 2014 is the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War (First World War). August 4th 1914 was the date when Great Britain and the Empire declared war on Germany in response to Germany's invasion of Belgium. The Great War started when, on 28 July, the Austro-Hungarians fired the first shots of the war as preparation for the [invasion of Serbia](#). While the Russians mobilised, the Germans invaded neutral [Belgium](#) and [Luxembourg](#), which brought Great Britain into the war.

It is not really appropriate to celebrate an event which led to the deaths of so many people. It is perhaps a time to commemorate those young men of the area who gave their lives in a conflict they thought was just and right and consider that they were part of our community. 100 years on we still 'remember them' and value the sacrifice they made. It is also a time to reflect on the conditions at the time, it was a rural community and this was seen as a 'great adventure' and it would all be over by Christmas, the young men enlisted voluntarily in huge numbers at Kitchener's appeal for volunteers. They did not want to miss the boat.

On August 7<sup>th</sup> 1914, Kitchener made his first appeal for 100,000 volunteers. To begin with the adverts in the newspapers were very staid with the royal crest with "Your King and Country need you" followed by "A Call to Arms". The adverts stated clearly an age range of 19 to 30. However, these adverts were replaced by Alfred Leete's legendary poster

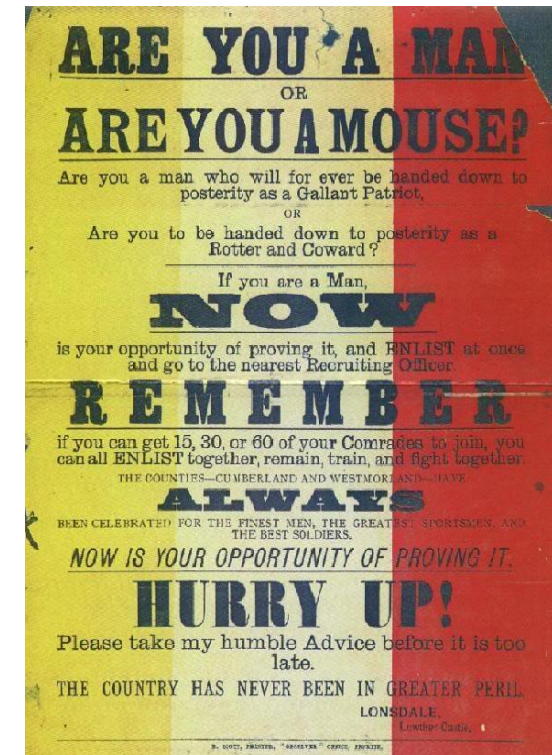
that showed Kitchener pointing at the reader with "Your Country Needs You". The response overwhelmed the army. In 18 months, 2,467,000 men joined up only to find that the army did not have enough rifles or uniforms.



It is interesting to see they wanted men from 19 to 30 and 'old soldiers' up to 42. By 1916 this had changed a great deal with men from 18 (officially) up to 50 wanted. A lot went in at 17 and many over 50 but still the official minimum age to serve overseas (active service) was 19 but this was clearly not strictly enforced and even locally young men of 18 were being sent to the front.

But local recruitment posters could be more intimidating - here is one for the Lonsdale Pals (11th Border Regiment). Which later had 300

reserves allocated from the Herefordshire Regiment.



# The Great War for Civilisation

1914 - 1919

Commemorating the men of Ross-on-Wye  
who died in the conflict which started 100 years ago  
and took the lives of 100 young men from the community.

We will remember them.

*It commemorates those on the memorials in the church, which varies somewhat from the Prospect War Memorial, although I hope to include any missing and any other 'Ross' men not featured in a 5th volume.*



October 2016.

Bill Webb:

email: [billwebb.llangarron@gmail.com](mailto:billwebb.llangarron@gmail.com)

## ROSS WAR MEMORIAL SIDE 3

The stories of the men of Ross-on-Wye who died in The Great War

S3/025614 Corporal George Stanley Leighton	34th Div. MT Coy Army Service Corps.
16137 Private Charles Thomas Little	7th King's Shropshire Light Infantry
235773 Private Ernest Harold Lloyd	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
24946 Private Edward Tom Llewellyn	12th Lancashire Fusiliers
Surgeon Vernon Lickfold Matthews	Royal Marine Artillery (Royal Navy)
236864 Sergeant Charles Reginald Mapp	4th King's Shropshire Light Infantry
208211 Sergeant Walter Marshall	15th Sherwood Foresters
2/Lt Malcolm Hereward Meredith	4th Worcestershire Regiment.
15170 Corporal Edward Mills	8th King's Shropshire Light Infantry
40264 Private Arthur Morgan	1st Cheshire Regiment
375938 Rifleman Wallace Arthur Partridge	8th City of London (Post Office Rifles)
27807 Private Albert George Perkins	11th Border Regiment
14911 Private William Leslie Perkins	2nd Duke of Cambridge's (Middlesex) Regt.
235439 Private William Henry Peters	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
203511 Private Richard William Picknell	2nd/6th Gloucestershire Regiment
235665 Private Douglas Harry Pike	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
8048 Corporal Ernest Sydney Powell	3rd South Wales Borderers
452525 Sapper Arthur Price	Imperial Signals Coy. Royal Engineers
25000 Private Joseph Nelmes Scudamore	1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry
1802 Sergeant Alfred Lewis Raymond	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
27875 Private Charles Robinson	5th Border Regiment
235767 Corporal Charles Leslie Rogers	1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment
6601 Private Clement Ross	1st King's Shropshire Light Infantry
11550 Sergeant James Albert Saunders	6th Gloucestershire Regiment



S3/025614 Corporal  
**George Stanley  
Leighton**



**Army Service Corps.  
Formerly  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry**

**George Stanley Leighton**

He was born in 1890 at the New Inn, St Owen's Cross. In 1885 His father was the Innkeeper at the New Inn, St. Owen's Cross (Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire). His parents were George David Leighton and Annie Pearce originally from Gloucester.

1891 census. His father was the Inn Keeper at the New Inn, St. Owens Cross

**The New Inn, St. Owen's Cross**



. By 28th March 1897 and the baptism of Frank David Leighton the family had moved to the Castle Vaults, Ross.



**Old Castle Vaults building**

1901 census Father was (George) David Leighton a Licensed Victualler in the High St, Ross, originally from Worcester. By 9th May 1902 (Burial of

William Henry aged 12 days) George and the family were at the Nags Head, Copse Cross St, Ross.



**Site of the Old Nag's Head, Ross**

George Stanley Leighton's mother died at about the same time as her son William Henry. Charles father died in 1909 and was buried on 10th July in Ross. 1911 census Charles's sister Mabel seems to have taken over the mantle of running the family and was a Milliner at 10 North Road, Ross and George was living at the same house and was a Butcher/Slaughterman .

**The Great war**

His number (KSLI - 11020) implies he joined up in August 1914 at Hereford. He transferred to the Motor Transport section of the Army Service Corps in

late 1914 or early 1915 his new number was S3/025614 (the S means Supply and was often accompanied by a number denoting recruitment into the appropriate Kitchener's New Army (3rd New Army). The Army Service Corps are notoriously difficult to trace through their war records and movements and George Leighton's service record is one of those destroyed by the bombing in the Blitz in WW2. But we do know that he went to France with the Service Corps on 22nd July 1915. He was almost certainly with the 20th (Light) Division who had landed in France between 21st and 24th July 1915.

We have no real knowledge of where and when he served on the Western Front except that he was with the Army Service Corps and with the 34th Division Motor Transport Company (this was part of the 34th Divisional Train).

At some point he transferred from the 20th Div. to the 34th Division Motor Transport Company. It must have been after the start of 1916 because George Leighton was awarded the 1914/15 Star and none of the original 34th Div. people were.

On 3 January 1916 embarkation orders arrived; by 15 January the Division had crossed the Channel and was concentrated at La Crosse, east of St Omer. (Note: it follows that no man who was with the original contingent of this Division was awarded the 1914-1915 Star).

#### 34th Division

The Division was largely comprised of locally raised units often known as "pals", notably those raised in the north east and known as the Tyneside Scottish and Tyneside Irish. There were also the Manchester Scottish, the Grimsby Chums and others. After in most cases commencing training near home, the units were moved in mid 1915 to concentrate at Ripon in Yorkshire. It was not until late August that the Division moved for final training and firing practice at Salisbury Plain.

#### Other Divisional Troops

34th Divisional Train ASC	229, 230, 231 and 232 Companies.
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I have included below some extracts from sources and the war diaries

about the work of 34th Divisional Train starting in early 1917.

March 1917.

1st March At Chelers. Refilling by Horse Transport of whole train.

3rd. Visited site for new Train camp and planned it out.

5th Submitted indents for materials for ration dumps. Our refuelling site to be on the main Arras Road East of Hautavesnes.

6th Coal train arrived at Ligny late at night with 70 Tons for us. Corps detailed lorries to remove to sites indicated.

8th. Move to new camp tomorrow, arranged for new tentage for that accommodation.

9th. Moved to new camp arranged for extra blankets for men.

11th. Authority to draw 11 Nissen Huts for camp.

12th. Find Officer to draw coal from Bruay for Corps. 30 Tons drawn for us.

13th. Another Officer to draw more coal and erection of hits commenced.

15th. Arranged for a site for a forward ration dump. Inspected site and found it suitable

15th - 19th Moved to new camp by horse transport and motor lorry.

20th. Orders to move from Tinqes to Le Tirlet by horse transport. This means 18 miles for the horses but it cannot be helped due to heavy demand for mechanical transport.

22nd. New system of refilling commences. Able to arrange for lorries to draw for brigade this relieves horses a little. 13 limbers, mules and personnel attached for duty. 2000 petrol tins sent to train for washing and distribution.

23rd. Petrol tins washed. Ordered to hand in 2 store tents, marquee and 5 bell tents to accommodate infantry in reserve. This reduces our accommodation to a minimum and we must improve shacks with tarpaulin and sacks.

24th 2 men sent to Abbeville fetch 6 remounts.

25th 9men sent forward to bring back and guard iron rations.

29th. Change to refilling system. From today units load from reserve dump in Train Camp. Train wagons load at Tinqes and park loaded opposite their refilling points ready for refilling next morning. Regimental transport will draw supplies thence on our wagons  
1918.

October. 1st. Moved to Houthem-Hollebeke all Coys narrowly escaped casualties from enemy shelling.

2nd. Drawing from Motor Transport from railhead at Ouderdom.

3rd. Train moves under orders to new selected camps. Ground almost impossible for transport camps owing to shell holes which had to some extent had to be filled in.

5th. Train HQ moved to Krugstaathoen.

7th. 2 Train drivers, 1 loader MGC and 5 horses killed by shellfire at Zandvoorte.

8th. In view of the intense shelling and state of the roads and advance pack animal R.P was instituted at Hollebeke where train wagons delivered instead of wagon lines.

9th. Usual train activity. Advance Pack Animal R.P. successful,

18th October 1918. Moved to Geluve.

19th Refilling point on Gheluve-Werwicq Road.

20th. Railhead Dekenebek.

21st. Refilling by train transport.

26th. Double refill for Divisional troops.

29th October 1918. At Gheluve. M.T Coy camp bombed 1 man wounded 9 horses wounded.

Private George Leighton was the man wounded on the 29th and he died later the same day of his wounds. He is buried in Bissegem Communal Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

**UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919**

<b>Name:</b>	George Leighton
<b>Birth Place:</b>	Ross, Hereford
<b>Residence:</b>	Ross
<b>Death Date:</b>	29 Oct 1918
<b>Death Location:</b>	France & Flanders
<b>Enlistment Location:</b>	Hereford
<b>Rank:</b>	Corporal
<b>Regiment:</b>	Royal Army Service Corps
<b>Number:</b>	S/025614
<b>Type of Casualty:</b>	Died Western
<b>Theatre of War:</b>	European Theatre
<b>Comments:</b>	Formerly 11020, K.S.L.I.





Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
LEIGHTON	Asc	bpl.	S3/025614
<i>George</i>			
Medal	Issued	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	RASC/01018 1799		2 of 4
BRITISH	26-04-15		
15 STAR	RASC/01018 858		
Theatre of War first served in <i>(1) France</i>			
Date of entry therein <i>22.7.15</i>			

He was awarded




1914/15 Star British War Medal Victory Medal

In Memory of  
Corporal  
**G Leighton**

S3/025614, 34th Div. M.T. Coy., Army Service Corps who died on 29 October 1918

Remembered with Honour  
Bissegem Communal Cemetery

  
 Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



16137 Private  
**Charles Thomas  
Little**



7th Battalion  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

**Charles Thomas Little.**

He was born 10th October 1889 in Walford. His father was Charles Clifford Little a coal miner (Hewer) from Walford and his mother was Alice Mary Carpenter from Cheltenham. In 1891 He was living at Forest Green, Walford and his father was a coal miner. In 1901 they were living at the Beeches, Walford. In 1909 Charles Little married Elizabeth Mabel Badham in Ross and in 1911 Charles was a Flour packer living at 35 New St, Ross.

23rd November 1915 His son Ernest Reginald was baptised. They were living at 10 the Nursery, Ross and Charles was a private KSLI.

**The Great War**

From his service number he seems to have enlisted in the early months of 1915 and following training he was sent to France to join the 7th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) on 21st December 1915. He would have joined the Batt. at the end of December in the field. Following are extracts from sources and war diaries of the progress of the 7th KSLI (and Pte Little) while he was at the front **January 1916.** In the trenches at Reninghelst and by the banks of the Yser Canal taking tours of duty alternating with the Northumberland Fusiliers. Patrols were very active and good specimen of barbed wire was obtained from the enemy front line. End of the month was marked by a gas attack from the enemy Casualties for month 10 Killed and 27 wounded. **February 1916.** The Battalion was relieved in the trenches and marched back to rest billets at Estmont and Ouestmont and stayed there until 1st March.

**March 1916.** 1st Mar. proceeded to Poperinghe by rail and on 3rd moved into dugouts at Gordon Terrace in reserve. Following night took over left sector of the trench at the Bluff from 7th Border Regt. The weather was very severe and there was snow on the ground the whole time. Casualties for this tour were 3 ORs killed 11 ORs wounded and 146 ORs sick to Field Ambulance. Night of 7/8th March relieved by Royal Scots Fusiliers and back to Reninghelst camp. Niight of 11/12th Batt. took over trenches from 7th West Yorks - casualties 4 ORs wounded and 30 ORs sick to Field Ambulance. Weather still severe. Quiet time and alternated between trenches and billets until 27th March.

**St Eloi.**

27th Mar. Shortened our front line and at 4.15am exploded several mines in front of the Mound at St Eloi and the Brigade stormed and captured this position. Our artillery opened an intense bombardment lasting about an hour for which the enemy vigorously replied. The area around was heavily shelled on this and subsequent occasions during the tour.

**April 1916.** We were relieved by the 27th Canadian Regt on the night of the 3/4th April. Casualties 3 Officers killed and 1 wounded. 16 ORs killed and 47 wounded 74 sick to Field Ambulance. The Lewis Gunners stayed in the front line until 11/12th April and suffered severe casualties. The Battalion went back into the line on 21st April and relieved by E.Yorks on 30th April Casualties for this tour. Died of wounds 1 OR, Killed ORs 4 Wounded 30 ORs. On 30th a gas attack was made on our right. This tour was worthy of note because it was our first experience of the enemy use of high numbers of Trench Mortars, every day we were subjected to a bombardment of heavy trench mortars and very heavy shellfire. Battalion proceeded to Brigade Reserve at Ridge Wood.

**May 1916.** 1st May relieved by E.Yorks in Ridge Wood (Brigade reserve) supplied large numbers of men nightly for work on support lines and communications trenches - casualties 3 ORs killed and 11 wounded. On 5th May relieved and moved to La Clytte. On 8/9th May Batt. relieved E. Yorks in trenches casualties on this tour were 1 officer

wounded, 1 wounded and died of wounds, ORs 7 killed and 21 wounded. Enemy used trench mortars very freely during the tour. Considerable shelling of Bois Carre and communications trenches took place. 14/15th 7th KSLI relieved and moved back to La Clytte, one man accidentally wounded. 18/19th Relieved Royal Scots at Ridge Wood casualties this tour 1 OR killed 2 wounded. 22/23rd May relieved E.Yorks in N and O trenches casualties this tour 4 ORs wounded, a much quieter tour than any other we have had in this sector. 28/29th May relieved by Durham Light Infantry and proceeded to Corps Reserve into rest billets and farms at Berthen.

**June 1916.** 1/2nd June. Battalion at rest for necessary re-equipping. On 3rd received orders to be ready to move in 3 1/2 hours if required. 5th in training and on 6th orders to be ready to move at 1 hours notice, order subsequently reverted to 3 1/2 hours on 8th. 10th June camp at Reninghelst and convened regimental sports. At 4pm orders to move to Camp A and arrived at 11pm. 11th June at St. Eloi. Relieved Northumberland Fusiliers and told to

stand to and hold the trenches in support of the Canadians counter attack at Sanctuary Wood, Ypres. On 13th heard that the Canadian counter attack had been successful. We had 1 man killed and 3 wounded. On 14th June little activity on part of the enemy a comparatively quiet day. 15th Intensely shelled for 1/2 hour in the morning 1 killed 15 wounded. 16th June Scottish Wood, Dickebusch. Comparative quiet day - 5 wounded. Moved to Scottish wood until 20th employed on working parties. 20th June 73 reinforcements arrived, relieved by Canadians and moved to Poperinghe and entrained to St Omer. 21st-30th Moved to Boisdingham (2nd army training camp) Strength of Battalion. Officers 33 Other ranks 905.

**July 1916.** 1st July. Orders to move. Marched to Wizerne whence departed at 2.12pm passed Boulogne, Calais, Etaples, Abbeville to Fienvilliers. 2nd July. News of great advance. 2/3rd Marched to Flesselles, very warm, many fall out on line of march. 4-8th June. Marched to Carnoy via Cardonette, Corbie, Caterpillar Wood and Les Celestines Wood. 8-13th at

Carnoy, casualties this tour 1 killed 4 wounded. .

### Battle of Bazentin Ridge

13th July 1916. Strength 34 Officers 993 ORs.

The advance by night towards enemy trenches, we were in four waves at 30 Yards intervals. The first wave at 2.30am 14th June were 100 yards from German trenches and lying flat awaiting final orders, in front of them were the battalion scouts.

14th July 1916. 3.30am The Attack. Battalion advanced towards German trenches but were held up by barbed wire, remainder got into shell holes and consolidated 200 yards from German trenches. 11am told that Royal Scots were bombing along German trenches on our left which had been taken. At 12pm the Battalion again charged and captured both 1st and 2nd trenches taking 250 prisoners. When all Batt. was collected and consolidating 2nd trench it was found that 5 officers were untouched, the remainder wounded or killed and the other ranks had suffered heavy losses 147 Killed, 278 wounded (of which 16 later died of wounds) 16 missing.

20th July a draft of 131 arrived and on 26th a further draft of 180 arrived. Batt.

at Meaulte, work consisted of severe training because of the "poor quality of the drafts, they were Derbyites" (Derby scheme came out in late 1915 and got men to promise to join up when needed, and they were called up by a pre-agreed rota during 1916). But his meant in many cases they had received little training.

**August 1916.** At Meaulte, Happy Valley and Great Bear until 16th Aug. Training, reinforcements arriving, many men sent back to England, sick. On 17th Aug. Order to be ready to move in 20 minutes.

18th Aug. In the line, 2 Coys to support the attack by 10th RWF and 2 coys in reserve in French Fire trench. 2.50pm A and B Coys reinforced 10th RWF and 8.30 D Coy went to reinforce KSLI and Gordons, connected shell holes together and made a good fire trench. Casualties 130 all ranks.

19th Reconnoitring party went to Lonely trench and found a large part unoccupied. The KSLI were ordered to capture Lonely Trench, the trench was taken casualties 38. Field Ambulance evacuations 55 reinforcements 34. 20th Aug. At Sandpit. 21st At Meaulte total

casualties since 17th Aug. 20 killed, 124 wounded, 28 missing, 1 gassed. 22-28th moved by train from Mericourt to Fienvillers and billets at Beaumetz. 28th at Bruay 6 reinforcements and four to field ambulance ORs 1 Pyrescia, 1 Rheumatism, 1 Paralysis, 1 Scabies. 29th moved to Neoux-Le-Mine and next day on to Philosophe.

### September 1916

At Mazingarbe, Allouagne and Recklingham. Ration carrying, several groups of reinforcements. Many men sent to Field Ambulance for Scabies, Anal Boils, Pyrexia, Tuberculosis, Impetigo, Brights Disease, broken dentures, Tonsillitis etc. On 23rd the Trench Mortar battery was struck off strength.

### October 1916

At Philosophe. On 6th moved to support trenches and then on 8th moved to Mazingarbe Batt. duties ration carrying until 13th Oct. Men still being sent to Field Ambulance and continuous small numbers of reinforcements.

### November 1916

1st Nov. Batt. relieved by E. Yorks in Serre Sector and moved to billets at Courcelles. In the afternoon orders were received to send out a patrol, a

small gap was found in the enemy line and entered an enemy sentry was made prisoner and taken out of the line with great difficulty and about a dozen of the enemy appeared and opened fire with rifles, the prisoner tried to escape so Lt Southwell was compelled to shoot him, two other Germans were killed and others wounded but it was impossible to gain an identification of the enemy. All enemy encountered were reported to have been of exceptionally fine physique, the party returned safely. On 4th Moved to Louvencourt and billeted for 7 days. Batt. moved to the trenches on 12th preparatory to an attack on Serre. The attack on Serre. Casualties 1 officer killed and 8 wounded. 214 ORs killed, wounded or missing. 14th Relieved and marched to camp at Bus-Les-Artois. 15th at 4pm ordered back into the trenches again 'at once' busses took the battalion to Courcelles. 16th In the line, relieved by Royal Scots and marched to billets at Courcelles for 4 days on carrying duties. 24th-27th relieved Royal Scots a draft of 107 arrived. The Batt. marched to Camp Wood and stayed for three days then went into trenches.

### December 1916.

1st December. In the line at Serre Sector and relieved on night of 2/3rd. Then 5 days in billets supplying 300 men per day for work on the roads. Moved up to Courcelles on the 9th and back into the Line on the 10th. Relieved on the 13th and moved to Courcelles and then bussed back to Bus-les-Artois in billets 41 OR Reinforcements (trained) arrived on the 18th. 20th Dec. Bus-Les-Artois. 21st. At Berlencourt orders to move to Lignereuil 75 OR reinforcements, very good billets. 25th Dec. Training in the morning. Divisional band played at the Chateau in the afternoon.

### 1917

**January.** 1-3rd at Serre sector. Relieved and moved to Nissen huts at Bus-Les-Artois. 9th. Bn. marched to Franqueville. Regt. transport had a certain amount of difficulty during the latter part of the march. Billets rather good, moved to Chateau called Houdencourt. 11-13th Re-organisation of the Bn. Great deal of work done by Pioneers of the regt. in building bayonet standards, bombing cages etc. Remainder of month, in

billets at various points. Training in bayonet fighting, bombing, boxing tournament at Domart, gas lectures, baths and groups of reinforcements arrived. 31st marched to Monchy-Breton.

**February** 1-7th at Monchy-Breton. Usual training. 8th Marched to Denier the accommodation for the men was good but poor for officers. Progressive training continued. 12th Reinforcements (trained) 4 Officers 82 ORs. Orders to move to Duisans for railway construction work. 13th Move orders cancelled. 15th 600 ORs employed on digging trenches at Liencourt remainder of Bn on Lewis gun and bombing training. Digging trenches continued until 26th. 27th Bn marched off to Wanquetin and then on to Arras owing to 'Thaw' Conditions the road was in a very poor state and the motor lorries arrived very late. 28th 600 men for working parties. **March** 1-19th. Bn. found large working parties digging caves and tunnels under the New Zealand Tunnelling Company an average of 600 men per day found. Steady flow of casualties. 20th Bn. Moved to Wanquetin. 20th-29th. At Wanquetin, practicing attacks, training in open



warfare. 29th C/O, Coy Commanders, signallers and bombing officers went to front line to reconnoitre. 30th.

Bn.moved to Arras. 31st. relieved 4th fusiliers at sector opposite Tilloy Village.

**April.** 1st. Strength 37Officers 895 ORs. 1 Man killed and 3 wounded by shell.

3rd. 2 killed 1 wounded. Bn ordered to obtain a prisoner for identification purposes. A platoon entered front line S of Cambrai Rd. on the artillery opening a box barrage. There had been a fall of snow a few hours before so the party wore white clothing. At 4.5am the party were back in the trenches having secured a prisoner and bombed out 2 dugouts occupied by the enemy. The prisoner was from the 38th Fus. Rgt. freshly from the Russian front.

4th. 2 ORs wounded and 2 shell shock. Front line cleared for discharge of gas cylinders. Heavy reciprocal artillery bombardment, Bn cookers destroyed.

5th. Returned to billets in Blenheim Cave, Arras.

7th Working parties from caves. 8th same as 7th but 1 killed 2 wounded.

9th April. Easter Monday. Started filing from Blenheim Cave at 6.55am and in Assembly trenches by 8.45am. At 10.40am Advanced in artillery formation to first section of enemy trenches which had already been taken and then on to Tilloy Village. Heavy hostile shelling and a certain amount of resistance in Tilloy, which had not been cleared, casualties from sniper and machine gun fire. 12.40 advance on the Brown Line, the Bois De Beoufs was cleared but 500-600 yards from the objective, being unsupported on right and left Div. was held up by machine gun fire from Feuchy Redoubt and Wancourt Ridge on either flank. 7.00 dug in. The attack was resumed at 12 noon on the next day 10th. The artillery barrage was very erratic, many of the shells falling to the rear of the advancing troops but by 12.30 the whole of the objective had been captured. The captured position was consolidated and Lewis gun patrols pushed forward to command the valley. 11th Orders to support attack by 76 Bde on Guemappe but Bn.not called upon. 13th. Again ordered to support attack on Guemappe but again not called upon. 14th. Relieved by

Border Regt. Casualties during these operations 9-13th April.

Officers. 1 killed 6 wounded 1 gassed. ORs 22 killed, 131 wounded 5 missing.

15th April at Arras. Training, on 18th a draft of 117 ORs under 2/Lt Ursell (A Ross-on-Wye man) arrived.

20th A bombing accident on training ground 6 wounded.

21st April. Court of enquiry into bombing accident. 22nd Draft of 22 ORs.

23rd. Marched up to Tilloy.

25th took up positions in front of Monchy 5 killed 16 wounded 2 missing (1 believed killed).

26th. 4 Killed, 8 wounded, 1 gassed.

27th. 3 killed 21 wounded.

28th Returned to Tilloy 1 killed, 15 wounded.

30th. 1 killed 1 accidentally wounded.

**May 1917.** 1st. trenches near Tilloy. Moved up to and relieved on the Brown Line. Operayio orders received for attack on the Red Line.

2nd May. Moved to assembly positions due to gas barrage and heavy shrapnel fire the Coys were considerably reduced in strength.

3rd May/ Zero hour 4.45am moved forward in artillery formation in support of the Royal Scots. On our right were 3rd London and on right East Yorks. Unfortunately as soon as we moved off a gap of 200 yards occurred which was caused by 167 Bde moving to far to the right. 7th KSLI immediately filled the gap, during the advance the Bn capture 3 hostile machine guns. The objective was the Bois Du Vert. The enemy put up great resistance and owing to his machine gun fire further advance was considered impossible. Several gallant attempts were made to get round his flanks. The Bn dug itself in. 10.35am situation report sent to HQ. 11.30am orders to reorganise and resume attack on Tool Trench at a time to be notified. Reorganisation impossible until dusk. 3.25pm orders to consolidate positions achieved. Estimated casualties 4 Officers 276 ORs.

4th May Orders for all details to rejoin battalion that night.

5th May Orders to dig Communications and shrapnel trenches.

Casualties from 3rd-5th May. 2 Officers killed (one of these was 2/Lt Ursell from Ross and 3 Officers

wounded. 7 ORs killed, 34 wounded 37 Missing.

7th May Bn. relieved by 13th London Regt.

8th May. Baths at Rue de Lille, Arras and clean clothing issued. Working parties.

10th May orders to relieve Suffolks in trenches at Monchy.

11th May an attack was made and Tool trench and Cavalry Farm were captured 3 killed, 4 wounded. 12th May 17 ORs wounded. 13th May 8 killed, 8 wounded. 14th May Bn relieved by South Wales Borderers and marched to billets in Tilloy.

Remainder of the month in billets at Villers-Sn-Simon.

**June 1917.** 2nd. In the Brown Line very heavy shelling with 8" shells. 6 men killed and 6 wounded, hostile aeroplanes dropped a considerable number of bombs on Arras during the night. In the front line until the 13th June. Heavy shelling and hostile aeroplanes dropped bombs, much work on repairing damaged trenches. Relieved on 13th by Suffolks. In billets until the 17th when back to the Brown Line and the Monchy Defences. The Bn attacked and captured a number of posts and on the 19th the

enemy after a two hour bombardment made an attack with 1,000 men on the ground recently captured. 20th relieved and back to billets at Berlencourt. Moved to reserve line at Fremicourt training, reinforcements arriving, musketry courses until 19th **July.** Moved in C2 sector until 27th July fairly quiet, on 21st 6 of our aeroplanes had a fight with 5 hostile ones, of theirs and one of ours were brought down. Patrols were sent out and aerial activity was considerable. Some artillery activity with gas shells but mostly quiet with good weather. 28th at Velu very hot and next day a terrific thunderstorm which soaked everything.

**August 1917.** In the line (fairly quiet with some artillery and hostile aeroplane activity) and in billets at Lebuquiere, training and working parties. On 11th Aug. 2 fighting patrols were sent out and encountered a large enemy patrol. Our patrol had encountered a gap in the wire and were investigating when two Germans approached one was bayoneted but a shot was fired by accident this alerted the enemy who opened fire with rifles, four machine guns and 2 trench

mortars, further advance was then impossible. 7 casualties.

**September 1917.** The month was spent largely at Ytres and then Brandhoek, the Bn was occupied mainly with training at different levels, football matches, church parades and practicing attacks. On 25th moved back into the line at Barastre and on following day attacked at 5.50am. Achieved all objectives and severe fighting ensued. On 27th Bn held on to ground gained on 26th. 28th Sept relieved an on 30th moved back to Ypres.

Casualties during the operation 11 Officers and 250 ORs killed, wounded or missing.

**October 1917.** Was spent at Le Transloy and Favreuil training in billets and the reserve line. On 30th Oct. moved back into the line at Horse shoe redoubt.

**November** and the Bn was at Apex in the line until 5th when relieved and moved to Vaulx in billets, large working parties, training and baths. Back to Apex on 10th until the 13th, quiet period. 13th - 16th at Vaulx reinforcements arrived. 16th back to Apex hostile artillery active during the day casualties 2 ORs (Buried) then

back to billets and on 25th in the line at Apex. enemy artillery very active, a lot of movement behind enemy lines and orders to send out patrols to investigate if they had vacated their trenches, patrols reported that trenches were occupied except at one point, a platoon was sent out to occupy this post. Posts were dug and wired under great difficulties because of hostile machine gun fire and artillery very active. Enemy artillery very active with much damage to the trenches, they put down a barrage of gas shells on 29th. Bn. relieved and back to billets and baths on 30th. 13 casualties.

**December 1917.** 1st. At Vaulx and in the line. On 11th relieved and marched to Mory. At 7.30 on 12th moved up the Corps line in front of Vaulx but Bn ordered to return to billets at 9.30. At 12.00 ordered to move up the Corps reserve line again and remained until 4.30. Enemy attacked Apex and took front line. 13th Bn ordered back to Mory. 14/15th 'stood to arms' and on 16th enbussed at Ervillers for Blairville accommodation poor, huts in bad condition and heavy snow. 22nd Dec. moved back to Mory in the line, snow

6-8" deep. . Light casualties for the month but 118 ORs sent to Field ambulance a few trench feet and hands among them, the cold was very bitter for the second half of the month.

**1918.**

**January** at Hamelincourt. In billets, training, working parties, courses, reinforcements arriving. 166 men were evacuated sick or sent to Field Ambulance during the month. 27th Jan back in the line 2 men killed 1 wounded. 28th quiet day 31st relieved and back to support line at Croisilles the trenches in the front line were in a very poor condition.

**February 1918** At Croisilles. Month spent alternately in billets and in the line. In billets finding working parties, periods in support lines, large numbers of reinforcements including 160 from 5th KSLI. On 8th enemy made a raid on our trenches but was driven off with rifle and machine gun fire. 25th Feb enemy attempted a bombing raid on Oldenbourg Lane but were driven off by Lewis gun and Rifle fire but then made a further attempt with creeping artillery barrage but never reached our lines. End of month Battalion had 44 Officers 799 ORs. During the month the Bn suffered 10

casualties and 175 evacuated and to Field Ambulance.

**March 1918.** At Croisilles, Mercatel and Wancourt considerable numbers of evacuated and to Field Ambulance on 18th at Wancourt 2 Officers and 36 ORs made a raid on the enemy trenches opposite our front, the enemy were very alert and as the party approached the hostile wire they were met with heavy machine gun fire and bombs, no prisoners were taken. That night the Bn moved back to reserve positions on the Hindenburg Line at Heninel. On 21st March The Bn 'stood to arms' hearing the sound of gas projectiles being discharged. They were then ordered to move up to reserve position at Wancourt, this was achieved but through a heavy barrage of gas and H.E. inflicting heavy casualties. Intermittent shelling throughout the day. Casualties 3 Officers 60 ORs. The Bn. moved back to Henin and dug in. On 24th after a heavy bombardment the enemy attempted to enter our trench but were driven off by rifle and MG fire under cover of a smoke screen they then tried to cut the wire of our right Coy but were driven off by Lewis guns. A large hostile party approached bearing

a white flag. This party was dispersed. 27th heavy artillery barrage, 28th March enemy attacked in large numbers at 5.15am, first attack was repulsed but second attack made an entry at the junction of the two companies and started to bomb outwards, the right company having used all their bombs were forced to retire and the survivors (about 25) were forced to the reserve line. The left formed a block but the enemy worked their way in behind and forced them back to the reserve line. The right support line held on until 12 noon and then became exposed and the left support line also withdrew to reserve line. The Bn occupied a line of old trenches to the rear of the Green Line. Total Casualties 16 Officers 378 Other Ranks. 30th March. Bn marched to Billets at Sus-St-Lleger **April 1918.** 1st-11th in billets at Vaudricourt reinforcements arrived, steady flow of sick to Field Ambulance. 12th Apr. Into the front line at La Basse Canal Royal Scots and Royal Scots Fusiliers reported to be retiring Artillery Officer ordered large store of shells to be set on fire, the firing of the Ammo Dump caused several

casualties. At 7.2pm 'D' Coy was heavily attacked and heavy casualties were inflicted upon the enemy with rifle and MG fire. Enemy rushed post at Pont Tournant but driven back across bridge and post re-established before dawn. 13th situation quiet until 5pm when enemy starting shelling and 250 enemy moved south into wood heavy casualties were inflicted on them by Vickers, Lewis and rifles. 28 casualties.

On 15th moved to billets at Oblinghem and then on to Vendin Le Bethune. 19th Apr. into trenches at Canal De La Lawe. Situation quiet except for enemy aeroplanes flying low and very active. 20th Active Minenwerfer otherwise quiet. Trenches until 24th and then remainder of month in billets.

**May 1918.** 1st-8th Trenches at Locon, large numbers of men evacuated and to Field Ambulance and CCS (Casualty Clearing Stations). 9th May back to billets at Choques but instructions to be ready to move to assembly points in case of enemy attack. 13th. relieved and moved to Hinges. On 20th heavy bombardment by the enemy of Hinges Hill with Yellow Cross gas shells, in consequence 9 Officers and 241 ORs evacuated to C.C.S as 'wounded



gassed'. Bn relieved and moved to billets at Choques. 30th/31st. The Bn moved to Brigade support in Locon sector casualties 4 Officers 12 ORs

**June. 1918.** At Locon. In the front line, in support line and billets. Steady number of evacuated, sick and casualties.  
**July 1918.** Sandpits near Gosnay. 1st July Battalion sports. 1-6th steady stream of casualties to Field Ambulance and evacuated. On 6th 600 gas projectiles discharged from behind our front lines. Whole month in Billets at Gosnay and in the line at Locon. Opportunities for leave considerable numbers of reinforcements arrived. Some bursts of harassing fire from our Field Artillery. Casualties for the month Killed/wounded 20, evacuated and Field Ambulance 149.

**August 1918.** 1st at Locon, relieved by Royal Scots, after relief took up position in Battle Zone, 2 casualties. 2nd-6th Aug. In support, quiet. Casualties 7 ORs, 16 Evac, 14 to Field Ambulance. 7th 12th Dieval under canvas, very good camp, intensive training carried out in the morning, games in the afternoon inter platoon football, tug of war

competitions. The Bn transport lines were bombed near Labeurvriere 10 horses killed and 3 ORs wounded. 12th moved to billets in Saulty and GHQ reserve and 24 hours notice to move. 20th Aug to Monchy Au Bois Bn had complete rest until 9pm when moved into assembly positions. Zero hour 4.55am on 21st Aug. A little opposition was encounter from machine guns W. of aerodrome trench, these were silenced in passing, Coffee redoubt offered some resistance but the right support outflanked it. The fog badly hindered the pace of the advance and by the time the advance reached the ridge at Courcelles the barrage had passed over it. The enemy held the r railway embankment in considerable strength with Machine guns and infantry. A couple of tanks started for the railway followed by the line. The final assault was with the bayonet. The rest of the day passed without incident. Following day 22nd, the enemy made a determined counter attack but the reply of our artillery was accurate and beyond praise, in certain places enemy reached the embankment but these were dispersed by rifle fire. Later enemy made another counter attack

but this was dispersed by Lewis and rifle fire.

23rd Aug. 4am carried out an attack on the enemy inflicting heavy casualties. All objectives taken. 24th withdrawn to reserve. Equipment taken in recent operations. 2 Field Guns, 30 Light Machine Guns, 6 Heavy Machine Guns, 3 Trench Mortars (Minenwerfers), 3 Anti-Tank Rifles, 150 Prisoners. Casualties (ours) 10 Officers, 232 ORs.

End of month at Boiry St Martin.

**September 1918.** 1--3rd Bn moved to Mory St Martin to take part in operations. 3 days before going into action at Lagnicourt the Bn had received 7 Officers and 184 ORs as reinforcements this had given insufficient time to withstand the hardest tests man can be put to outflanked and fired on from behind. Casualties 36 killed, 6 missing, 2 wounded and missing, 199 wounded and 8 gassed.

Private Little was killed in action on 2nd September 1918 during the operation above.

His body was not recovered and he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.  
 Soldiers who died in the Great War.

**Name:** Charles Thomas Little  
**Birth Place:** Malvern  
**Residence:** Ross-on-woye, Herefords  
**Death Date:** 2 Sep 1918  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** Shropshire Light Infantry  
**Battalion:** 7th Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 16137  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action

Name <i>LITTLE C.T.</i>		Corps <i>Shropshire LI</i>	Rank <i>Pvt</i>	Regt. No. <i>16137</i>
Serial	Roll	Page	Remarks	
VICTORY	<i>7/1/102</i>	<i>B6</i>	<i>1542</i>	<i>Min A 2/9/18</i>
BRITISH	<i>15</i>	<i>SEAR</i>	<i>7/1/8482</i>	<i>377</i>
Theatre of War first served in <i>France</i>		Date of entry therein <i>12/12/15</i>		

He was awarded



the 1914/15 Star British War Medal  
 Victory Medal

In Memory of  
 Private  
**Charles Thomas Little**  
 16137, 7th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Remembered with Honour  
 Vis-En-Artois Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

235773 Private  
**Ernest Harold  
Lloyd**



**1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment**

**Ernest Harold Lloyd**

He was born 11th October 1896 at 31 The Nursery, Ross and baptised on 29th November same year. His father was Charles Lloyd, a Cowman and a Farmer's son from Ross. His mother was Harriet Louisa Griffin, a Dairyman's daughter from Yeovil, Somerset. 1901 They were living at Alton Brook. In 1911 They were living at 25 The Crofts. Ernest was a Gardener's Boy

**The Great War**

Private Lloyd's service record no longer exists (it was destroyed in the bombing during the Blitz in WW2) so there is no record of when he joined up, he was however living at Puddlestone near Leominster when he enlisted. The Herefordshire Regiment went to Gallipoli in August 1915 and evacuated back to Egypt by January 1916. Private Lloyd did not form part of this operation because he would have received the 1914/15 Star Medal, which his Medal card shows he did not. He also has a six figure number. The Herefords were a Territorial Force (TF) unit and had 4 figure numbers until January 1917 when the TF were all re-numbered, so he joined early in 1917. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records show Herefordshire Regt. soldiers (KIA) with 235000 plus numbers appearing from March 1917. He appears to have come in one of the reinforcement groups during 1917. The following are reports of the progress of the Herefords from March 1917 until the time of the death of Pte Lloyd. Palestine/Israel. Welsh Division (included the Herefords)

On 24th March 1917 the Division attacked the Turks at the 1st Battle of Gaza. The Herefords were supporting the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who carried the El Sire Ridge but because of poor communications the Generals ordered a withdrawal (to the disbelief of the troops on the ground) and when the mistake was discovered ordered them to take the ridge again but a strong enemy counter attack resulted in disaster. The Herefords lost 17 of their 22 Officers and 218 Other Ranks were killed, wounded or missing. The British Commander's report implied this had been a decisive victory and so was forced into the 2nd Battle of Gaza three weeks later.

2nd Battle of Gaza 17th-19th April

Having failed in his first attempt to capture Gaza on 26-27 March 1917, Sir Archibald Murray, commander of British-led forces in the region, was obliged to contemplate an early renewal of hostilities as a direct consequence of the manner of his report of the initial action to Britain's War Office. At best a draw Murray nevertheless conveyed the impression to London of a clear-cut British victory. While British losses of 4,000 were reported accurately

Murray trebled details of Turkish casualties, which in the event were lower than his own, at 2,400. London - under the mistaken impression that Murray was on the verge of a notable breakthrough - consequently ordered him to re-engage his forces, this time with Jerusalem as the ultimate aim. A tall order, one made immeasurably more difficult now that the commander of Gaza's permanent garrison - German General Kress von Kressenstein - was alerted to British intentions. The British had very nearly caught Kressenstein's forces by surprise during the first encounter, aided by a dense sea fog, but was saved from defeat by a serious misjudgement by Murray's subordinate commander Sir Charles Dobell.

The Turkish forces had been reinforced well and were entrenched in. The result was a defeat and British casualties were 6,325. In late October the Division took part in the 3rd Battle of Gaza.

Thus the battle was renewed on 17 April 1917. In the interim meanwhile the Turks had

extended their formidable garrison defences south-east along the road to Beersheba.

Dobell chose to launch a frontal assault upon Kressenstein's force of 18,000 by three British infantry divisions aided by eight heavy Mark I tanks and 4,000 gas shells. Unable to extract anything more than minor gains in spite of a two-to-one manpower advantage, chiefly on account of complex and effective Turkish defensive lines, Dobell called off the patently unsuccessful attack on the third day. British casualties were heavy: 6,444 men, with Turkish losses under a third of that figure.

In the aftermath of the British defeat Kressenstein favoured a counter-attack against Murray but was over-ruled by his more cautious commander Djemal Pasha.

Murray, aware of the likely reaction in London to the attack's failure relieved Dobell of command, with cavalry General Chetwode taking his place. Nevertheless shocked officials in London took the opportunity to purge the high

command with Murray himself being recalled to London.

In his stead was sent Sir Edmund Allenby, another British general whose star appeared to be on the wane. (Correctly) regarding his redeployment from the Western Front to Palestine as a sign of failure - he was never on easy terms with BEF Commander-in-Chief Sir Douglas Haig - Allenby engineered a spectacular revival of his and his army's fortunes in a series of comprehensive British victories in Palestine.

3rd Battle of Gaza. With Edmund Allenby's appointment to command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the wake of two failed attacks at Gaza in March and April 1917 - replacing Sir Archibald Murray who was recalled to London - he was tasked by British Prime Minister David Lloyd George with the capture of Jerusalem by Christmas 1917. In the light of the British army's two recent failures it appeared a tall order in spite of clear British numerical supremacy in the area. Allenby



nevertheless delivered Jerusalem to London handily in time for Christmas with over two weeks to spare.

In order to ensure the fall of Jerusalem however Allenby needed first to break the Turkish line at Gaza-Beersheba overseen by recently arrived German commander Erich von Falkenhayn, the former army Chief of Staff. Allenby opened preparations by first relocating his GHQ from a first-class Cairo hotel to the front line; a symbolic act designed to boost the flagging morale of the British troops. Next he amassed reinforcements of men, artillery, gas shells and tanks, adamant that he would not proceed until certain of victory. Seven infantry divisions plus a Light Horse unit (nicknamed the Desert Mounted Corps and consisting of both horses and camels) were assembled, a total of 88,000 men. Ranged against him were the Turkish Seventh and Eighth Armies, totalling just 35,000 men stretched out along a 40km line. A key component of Allenby's plan was the securing of Beersheba's water supplies at an

early stage during the planned attack - its wells. Both earlier attacks at Gaza had to some extent foundered on account of water shortages - an ever-present concern in desert warfare - and Allenby understood that establishing command of water supplies would be a key factor in his wider plan of capturing Jerusalem.

Thus the Third Battle of Gaza - also referred to as the Battle of Beersheba - was initiated early on the morning of 31 October 1917. Not for Allenby a frontal attack, as at the Second Battle of Gaza. Instead he resolved to take the Turkish forces by surprise in the relatively lightly defended area of Beersheba (a plan initially proposed by General Chetwode), deploying 40,000 troops in the area. He nevertheless ensured a hefty British presence directly in front of Gaza. Three divisions, aided by a heavy artillery presence of 218 guns, bombarded the garrison for six days before the attack began in order to fool the Turks into believing that a full frontal attack was imminent.

Allenby's ploy, which demanded the utmost secrecy in planning, succeeded in its entirety. British RFC aircraft - of newly deployed Bristol fighters - ensured British air superiority, crucial in preventing German aircraft from detecting British troop movements. Allenby deployed infantry forces to take Beersheba from the front while despatching his Light Horse unit far to the east. Following an all-day battle an Australian Light Horse unit finally penetrated the Turkish defences and secured control over the town's wells before the Turks could execute a prepared plan to contaminate them. The Turkish Seventh Army meanwhile retired to the stronghold of Tel es Sheria commanded by German commander Kress von Kressenstein's Eighth Army. Panicked there by another diversionary attack to the east by a 70-strong camel company, the Turkish defenders began to scatter believing it to be a large-scale flank attack, thus leaving the flank of Seventh Army exposed.

Promptly exploiting this Allenby struck north at Tel es Sheria at dawn on 6 November splitting Seventh and Eighth Armies. Allenby hoped to trap Kressenstein's Eighth Army at Gaza but the Turks retreated in some haste further up the coast, Gaza being abandoned on 6-7 November. Meanwhile Eighth Army established itself in Jerusalem preparatory to a stand against the British.

Battle of Tel el Khuweilfe 1-6th November 1917

The objective of the 53rd (Welsh) Division, during the main attack on the center of the Ottoman line at Hareria and Sheria, was to occupy the Khuweilfe to Rujm edh Dhib line to the north of the Wadi Khuweilfe and stretching 5 miles (8.0 km) west north west of Tel el Khuweilfe. Mott had argued at the conference on 4 November for an attack by the 53rd (Welsh) Division on the Khuweilfe position only, without "seeking to press forward on his left". They were to attack Tel el Khuweilfe and the three peaks forming a ridge to the southwest, defended by the

Ottoman 125th Regiment, part of the 143rd Regiment, and the 77th Regiment of the 19th Division, which had fought in Galicia. The Ottoman 27th Division guarded the continuation of the Ottoman line westwards, with the 16th Division protecting Sheria and part of the 26th Division to the west of Hareira. Mott deployed four infantry battalions, the 158th Brigade with the 4/Royal Sussex of the 160th Brigade attached, to attack under cover of his divisional artillery (less one battery), the 91st Heavy Battery and the concentrated machine guns. Meanwhile, two infantry battalions formed the divisional reserve, and the attached 3rd Battalion Imperial Camel Brigade guarded the right flank. The intense bombardment began at 04:00 and 20 minutes later, all 16 guns of the machine gun company were firing a barrage on the near face of the ridge. They lifted their fire as the infantry approached before continuing to fire on the reverse slope. The infantry attack began in darkness and the mist during the early morning disorganised the initial

advance, some units being "scattered in the fierce and confused fighting". The 6th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers were a little late in starting, and the Hereford battalion on its left swung slightly left-handed attempting to establish touch. Instead of "straddling" Tel el Khuweilfe, the company on the right wheeled across the front of the Ottoman position, where they were heavily attacked by machine guns. In the centre, a company of the Hereford with the 6th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, "carried their objectives with the bayonet", capturing nine field guns in the process. However, they found their flanks exposed, and were strongly counterattacked from three directions, and compelled to withdraw without the guns. During this retreat, they were fired on by their own guns, before being supported by a company of the 5th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, in establishing a new line. Meanwhile, on the left, the 7th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers and the 4th Battalion Sussex captured Hill 1706 and the spur to

the west in very close fighting. At daylight, the 3rd Battalion Imperial Camel Brigade, sheltering behind the northern flank of a little valley running west to east, were strongly attacked before joining a group of Hereford infantry in pushing the "enemy back along the spur". They were supported by the 2nd Australian Machine Gun Squadron, which galloped up the valley under heavy enemy machine gun fire, to reinforce the "hard-pressed" camel battalion.

The 53rd (Welsh) Division captured a footing on the main Khuweilfe Ridge, but they were heavily counterattacked and forced to make a partial retreat, before the Ottoman force was eventually dislodged from the ridge but not the Tel. At 14:00, EEF headquarters received a telephone message from Desert Mounted Corps to the effect that the 53rd (Welsh) Division "had been having rather a bad time", and that Chauvel had gone to see the commander. Shortly afterwards, it was reported that the Yeomanry Mounted Division's headquarters and four regiments were holding

the Ain Kohle to Sheria track, and were in touch with the 53rd (Welsh) Division on their right and the 74th (Yeomanry) Division on their left.

The attackers, reinforced by the 2/10th Middlesex, were ordered to hold their gains against a number of counterattacks, during which the 7th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers were pushed out of their position on the ridge. The last counterattack was finally repulsed at 15:30. The 158th Brigade suffered 620 casualties on 6 and 7 November, while the Imperial Camel Brigade suffered 76 casualties, the 2nd Light Horse Brigade Machine Gun Squadron suffered 27 casualties and the Middlesex 14 casualties, the Sussex casualties were unknown.

The 159th Brigade on the left was ordered to advance on Ain Kohle, but could not move forward. Several urgent requests were made during the day for a mobile reserve of a brigade or a regiment, but they were denied by Chauvel, who could not spare the reinforcements. Although the

attack by the 53rd (Welsh) Division had been very confused, suffering a "bloody defeat" instead of a "conquest", the 19th Division was stopped from moving back to reinforce Tel esh Sheria. The continuing threat of an attack up the road to the headquarters of the Seventh Army at Hebron and on to Jerusalem, was maintained by the repeated attacks on Tel el Khuweilfe by the 53rd (Welsh) Division. By the end of the day, the Ottoman defenders had succeeded in defeating the British infantry attacks on Tel el Khuweilfe, and continued to hold Tel esh Sheria, but they had begun to evacuate Gaza. At nightfall, Chauvel issued orders for the Anzac and Australian Mounted Divisions to begin their advance northwards via Sheria towards Jemmameh and Huj, while Barrow commanding the Yeomanry Mounted Division was to take command of the force at Tel el Khuweilfe, including the 53rd (Welsh) Division.

Private Ernest Harold Lloyd was Killed in Action on 6th November 1917 in the Battle of Tel el Khuweilfe He is buried in Beersheba War Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.



Surname		Given		Rank	Regt. No.
LLOYD		Ernest		PLC	235773
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks		
Victory	5/1/1918	366			
Honour	- do	-			
Bar					
Theatre of War first served in					
Date of entry therein					

He was awarded



The British War Medal Victory Medal  
Soldiers who died in the Great War



Name: Ernest Lloyd  
 Birth Place: Ross, Herefords  
 Residence: Puddleston, Near Leominster  
 Death Date: 6 Nov 1917  
 Death Place: Egypt  
 Enlistment Place: Hereford  
 Rank: Private  
 Regiment: The Herefordshire Regiment  
 Battalion: 1st 1st Battalion  
 Regimental Number: 235773  
 Type of Casualty: Killed in action  
 Theatre of War: Egyptian Theatre

In Memory of  
Private  
**Ernest Harold Lloyd**

235773, "A" Coy. 1st/1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 06 November 1917 Age 21

Son of Charles and Harriett Louisa Lloyd, of Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Beersheba War Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# 24946 Private Edward Tom Llewellyn



12th Battalion  
Lancashire Fusiliers  
Formerly  
Herefordshire Regiment

## Edward Tom Llewellyn

He was born in Greytrees, Ross 1886 and baptised on 4th August 1886 his father was Henry Llewellyn a carpenter and his mother was Susan Rook, both originally from Ross. They lived at Greytrees Estate until the Great War. Edward Tom's father died and was buried 16th July 1924 and his mother 4th July 1936 and still at Greytrees.

## The Great War

His Herefordshire number 4721 indicates that he joined up about August/September 1915. He did not go to Gallipoli or Egypt with the 1st Battalion but at some point transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers. The Herefordshire Regiment had 3 Battalions, the 1st/1st went to Gallipoli, Palestine and then France. The 2nd/1st was a second line Battalion and served in the UK until 1917 when it was disbanded. The 3rd/1st was a training/depot battalion and supplied trained men mainly to the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, but these men were then often sent off to other units to fill for casualties. They sent 212 men to KSLI in 1916 and these were then sent on to the 11th Border Regt. The same thing happened to 86 men who were with the Warwickshire Regt. and numerous others including the Lancashire Fusiliers. We do not have any information about when Private Llewellyn went to Salonika but probably during 1916 as this seems to be the time when the Herefords were sending reinforcements to other units.

*'The Gardeners of Salonika' as Clemenceau contemptuously labelled them, could well be called the forgotten army of the First World War. Yet the Macedonian Campaign was, in Lord Hankey's words, 'the most controversial of all the so-called sideshows'.*

The Balkans theatre of war. Background. In October 1915 a combined Franco-British force of some two large brigades was landed at Salonika (today called Thessalonika) at the request of the Greek Prime Minister. The objective was to help the Serbs in their fight against Bulgarian aggression. But the expedition arrived too late, the Serbs having been beaten before they landed. It was decided to keep the force in place for future operations, even against Greek opposition. The Greek Chief of the General Staff in Athens had told them " You will be driven into the sea, and you will not have time even to cry for mercy" (Some Greek factions, including King Constantine, were pro-German). The outcome of the Gallipoli campaign was in the balance and most shipping in the area was involved so they really had no choice. In December 1915 the British element fought a battle at Kosturino, north of Lake Doiran, after withdrawing from Serbia. After this there was little action except for occasional air-raids on Salonika. During the first four months of 1916 the British Salonika Force had enough spadework to last it for the rest of its life. Large amounts of barbed wire were used and a bastion about eight miles north of the city was created connecting with the Vardar marshes to the west, and the lake defences of Langaza and Beshik to the east, and so to the Gulf of Orfano and the Aegean Sea. This area was known as the

'Birdcage' on account of the quantity of wire used. The Bulgarians and Austrians also fortified the heights of the hills surrounding Salonika during the same time which had dire consequences later on. The original two Brigades eventually were reinforced by larger units until 22nd, 26th, 27th and 28th Divisions were there. If the Bulgarians had descended from their Doiran and Struma heights it would have been very difficult to 'push us into the sea', for the force was deployed to fortify an advanced defensive line.

The Salonika Force dug-in until the summer of 1916, by which time the international force had been reinforced and joined by Serbian, Russian and Italian units. The Bulgarian attempt at invasion of Greece in July was repulsed near Lake Doiran. At the beginning of Oct 1916, the British in co-operation with her allies on other parts of the front, began operations on the River Struma towards Serres. The campaign was successful with the capture of the Rupell Pass and advances to within a few miles of Serres. The 12th Lancashire Fusiliers were involved in: The Battle of Doiran 1916. Horseshoe Hill

In the beginning of August 1916 three French and one British divisions with 45,000 men and 400 guns launched an offensive against the Bulgarian positions at Lake Doiran, defended by the Second Thracian Infantry Division. The attack

began on 9 August with heavy artillery fire on the positions of the 27th Chepino Regiment and 9th Plovdiv Regiment. All four attacks that followed - on 10, 15, 16 and 18 August were repulsed by the Second division and the Allies were forced to retreat to their original positions with heavy casualties.

They also fought with distinction at Machukovo (Macedonia) On 13-14th September 1916. from "*The Times History of the War*": *Operations on the Doiran-Vardar River sector were also begun with a view to holding up the enemy. His forces here amounted to some 30,000 men practically the whole of the Bulgarian 9th Division and at least two-thirds of the German 101st Division. Between September 11 and 13 General Milne began a heavy bombardment of the German salient north of Machukovo, known as "The Machine Guns' Knob." On the night of September 13-14 the King's Liverpool Regiment and Lancashire Fusiliers stormed and occupied the enemy's position here, killed over 200 and captured 71. The work was, however, exposed to the enemy's artillery fire, and in face of his attacks in superior force it was found necessary to retire after a successful demonstration. The rest of the fighting on this sector consisted chiefly of raids on the enemy's trenches, but throughout the next two months these operations had great value in detaining*

*considerable forces of the enemy which might otherwise have been available for the defence of Monastir.* During 1917 there was comparatively little activity on the British part of the front in Macedonia, due in part to complex political changes in Greece throughout the year. The main fighting took place around Lake Doiran, where the line was adjusted several times by each side early in the year. In April 1917, the British attacked, gained a considerable amount of ground and resisted strong counter-attacks. In May, the Bulgarians attacked the British positions, but were firmly repulsed. The British action in May triggered a series of attacks elsewhere on the front by the other Allies, known as the Battle of Vardar. The battle for a breakthrough in the Bulgarian positions began on 22 April and continued intermittently until 9 May 1917. The assault began with a bitter four-day artillery barrage in which the British fired about 100,000 shells. As a result, the earthworks and some wooden structures in the front positions were destroyed. The Bulgarians also opened fire from the batteries between Vardar and Doiran. Vladimir Vazov ordered fire day and night on the Allied positions. The initial several-hour struggle between the British and Bulgarian batteries was followed by a one-hour Bulgarian counter-barrage in which 10,000 shells were fired. The British infantry began its attack on the night of

24–25 April - The artillery duel continued until 9 May but due to heavy casualties the British had to abandon all attacks. They lost 12,000 killed, wounded and captured of which more than 2,250 were buried by the Bulgarian

There were no more major battles during 1917 but a constant stream of men falling ill with Dysentery and Malaria and a steady but fairly small number of casualties from skirmishes, snipers and shelling. On 9th October 1917 there appears to have been something of note, but I can find no report of it. But 6 men were killed in action from the 12th Lancashire Fusiliers one of whom was Edward Tom Llewellyn. His body was not recovered and he is commemorated on the Doiran Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

[Soldiers who died in the great war](#)

**Name:** Edward Llewellyn  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Hereford  
**Death Date:** 9 Oct 1917  
**Death Place:** Salonika  
**Enlistment Place:** Ross  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** Lancashire Fusiliers  
**Battalion:** 12th Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 24946  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action  
**Theatre of War:** Balkan Theatre  
**Comments:** Formerly 4721, Herefordshire Regt.

90		Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
LLEWELLYN			Lanc. Fus	Pte	24946
Edward					
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.		
Victoria	H/1/101819	3558			
Barron	- do	do			
Star					
Theatre of War first served in					
Date of entry therein					

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal

In Memory of  
Private  
**Edward Tom Llewellyn**

24946, 12th Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers who died on 09 October 1917 Age 31  
Son of Henry and Susan Llewellyn, of Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
**Doiran Memorial**

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# Surgeon Vernon Lickfold Matthews



H.M.S Viknor



Royal Marine Artillery



## Vernon Lickfold Matthews

He was born 6th August 1883 and baptised in Llandinabo on 1st October 1883. In 1891 his father Thomas was a Chemist and Dentist. Living at High Street, Llandinabo.



His father Thomas Matthews. Born 3rd April 1848 in Llandinabo. He died 31st August 1929. His Mother was Louisa Lickfold born 23 May 1848 Newland, Coleford. She married Thomas Matthews 3rd March 1874 in Llandinabo. She died in Ross in 1917.

1901 Vernon's father was now also a Magistrate. By 1911 the family had moved to Man of Ross House, 34 High St, Ross.

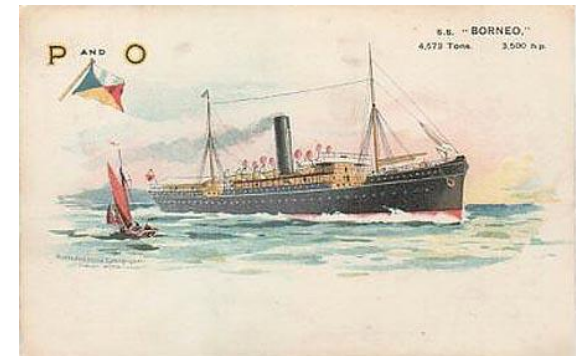
1901 census Vernon was at Monmouth Grammar School in Wye Bridge St. 1911 He was a visitor (and a Surgeon) at the home of Thomas Jenner (his son Cyril was a medical student).

In 1906 He Graduated at The London Hospital MRCS Eng. LRCP Lond.

(Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons - England MRCS Eng. and Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians (*LRCP*) **This is no longer awarded**).

In 1907 he went to the London Hospital and "After filling the posts of house-surgeon in the general wards and subsequently in the ear, nose and throat department of the London Hospital and also as clinical assistant to medical out-patients in the Great Ormond St Hospital for Sick Children"

In 1909 Joined P&O and served as Surgeon on SS Arabia, SS Assaye and SS Borneo, SS India, SS Salsette.





He joined the Royal Marine Artillery RN. on 19th May 1911 as Surgeon. . (UK Navy lists November 1914 among others) The Navy List has him as Surgeon Royal Marines date of appointment 9th April 1913. He went to the Haslar Hospital, Portsmouth for his training and on completion was awarded the 'Gold Medal'. The medal was instituted by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in 1900. Awarded half-yearly, it was given as a prize to the best of newly entered surgeons of the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, Portsmouth, at the end of their course.



The Haslar Gold Medal awarded to Surgeon Matthews in 1911.

In 1913 he was a Surgeon at the Royal Marine Artillery- Infirmary, Portsmouth. Fleet Surgeon Alexander Maclean, Staff Surgeon Robert Kennedy, Surgeon Vernon L. Matthews ...

### The Great War

After joining the Royal Navy he served on the armoured Cruiser HMS Drake for 18

Months. (Royal Marines). After his term on HMS Drake he appears to have joined the RND (Royal Naval Division) with the Royal Marine Artillery. Although he was listed as RN (Royal Navy) his unit was the Royal Marine Artillery. His medal record show that he was awarded the 1914 Star as well as British War Medal and Victory Medal. To qualify for this award.

The 1914 Star, colloquially known as the Mons Star, is a British World War I campaign medal for service in France or Belgium between 5 August and 22 November 1914. The 1914 Star was principally an Army award, although some Royal Navy personnel also qualified, having served ashore at Antwerp during the qualifying period.

He must therefore have served in the Ostend Landings. The Marines of the Royal Naval Division landed at Ostend in Belgium on 27 August 1914. Sent to safeguard the town, they also protected a British seaplane base before re-embarking on 31 August for Dunkirk. Ostend was later evacuated and the Germans captured it on 15 October 1914. On August 2, 1914 the Admiralty ordered the formation of the "Flying Column" Royal Marines. To this end a battalion from Plymouth, Portsmouth,, Chatham, and the RMA was provided. The Brigade was sent to Ostend, August 25th, under the command of Brigadier General Sir George Aston, RMA. After a week, the Brigade

was withdrawn to Britain where the RMA battalion was replaced by RMLI from Deal. Nov. 1914 He was 'Best Man' at the wedding of his brother Geoffrey Tom Matthews (married Muriel Ivy Townsend of Fordham). He gave the couple a 'cheque'

### HMS Viknor

#### After his return from Ostend he joined HMS Viknor as Surgeon.

The 5,386-ton Viknor had been built at Govan in 1888, as the Atrato, for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. In 1912, she was bought by the Viking Cruising Company, who renamed her. When war broke out in the summer of 1914, she was taken over by the Admiralty. She subsequently lay at Hebburn, while it was debated whether she should be turned over the United States government, to take American refugees, stranded in Europe by the outbreak of war, back across the Atlantic.

Surgeon Matthews joined HMS Viknor on the Tyne in December 1914 and three days after Christmas 1914 she left the Tyne on naval patrol.

On January 13th 1915 HMS Viknor was off the Donegal Coast when she was lost in the North Atlantic, north-west of Ireland, with the loss of the entire ship's complement of 22 officers and 273 ratings, most of whom were Royal Naval Reserve ratings. It has never been

established whether HMS Viknor was simply overwhelmed by the heavy seas which, during that week in January 1915, were crashing onto the Atlantic coast of Ireland or if she struck a mine. Whatever happened when she sank on January 13 off the coast of County Donegal, it was so sudden that there was no distress signal. Over subsequent days, bodies began to wash up on the Irish coast and, eventually, even in the Hebrides.

Seven men, six of them unidentifiable, were buried in the small cemetery on Rathlin Island in Northern Ireland. The bodies of a further three were washed ashore on the Hebridean island of Colonsay. For the vast majority of the Viknor's crew, however, there is no known grave.

Below: from a local report. Commander Ernest Orford Ballantyne stayed at Ashbank in Eskbank, Midlothian. He was in the Royal Naval Reserve and at the outbreak of war was given command of the Armed Merchant Cruiser HMS Viknor. She had been requisitioned by the Admiralty and assigned to 10th Cruiser Squadron blockading the seas between the North of Scotland and Iceland.

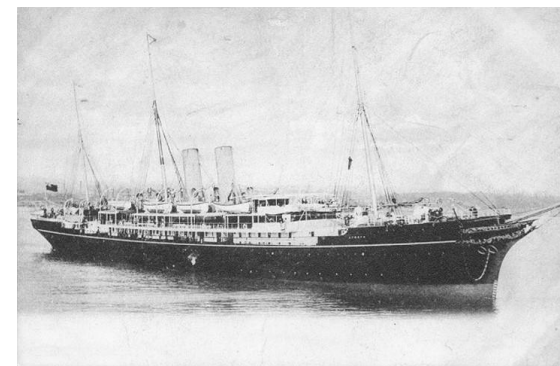
On January 13th 1915 Viknor set sail from Londonderry in Ireland, and headed out into the Irish Sea to make for her patrol area. On board her were 22 Officers and 273 Ratings mostly from the Royal Navy Reserve. The weather was bad and the sea was very choppy indeed.

HMS Viknor never reached her patrol zone, a search of the area was made and scattered wreckage was found in the sea. There were no survivors.

Mystery surrounds her sinking, it was thought at first that a U Boat had sunk her, however German records showed that no such craft were in the area until the end of January.

It was officially recorded that HMS Viknor has been destroyed by an enemy mine, somewhere of Tory Island and that no one had survived. Over the next few days men from the ship were washed ashore and buried locally. In Bonamargie Friary there are four unknown graves of seamen from H.M.S.'Viknor' .

Surgeon Vernon Lickfold Matthews was one of those killed on HMS Viknor, his body was never recovered.



HMS Viknor

Surgeon Matthews is commemorated on a memorial at Memorial at Llandinabo Church and on Ross War Memorial as well as Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

He was awarded



The 1914 Star British War Medal Victory Medal



Surgeon Vernon Lickfold Matthews

**Name:** Vernon Lickfold Matthews  
**Service Branch:** Royal Navy  
**Unit:** HMS "Viknor"  
**Rank:** Surgeon  
**Death Date:** 13 Jan 1915  
**Cause of Death:** Drowned (Vessel lost off Irish Coast)  
**Burial:** Portsmouth Naval Memorial (MR 3)  
**Service History:** RMA Bn. at Ostend 1914



Age 31 ; Son of Thomas Matthews JP, & Louisa Matthews, of "Galen Lodge," Ross, Herefordshire. Gold Medallist, Haslar RN Hospital 1911 ; 1914 Star issued to father 14/8/19.

In Memory of  
Surgeon  
**Vernon Lickfold Matthews**

H.M.S. "Viknor.", Royal Navy who died on 13 January 1915 Age 31

Son of Thomas Matthews, J.P., and Louisa Matthews, of "Galen Lodge," Ross, Herefordshire. Gold Medallist, Haslar Hospital, 1911.

Remembered with Honour  
Portsmouth Naval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# 236864 Sgt. Charles Reginald Mapp



Herefordshire Regiment



attached to  
1/4th King's Shropshire Light  
Infantry

## Charles Reginald Mapp

He was born in Ross in on 4th September 1885. He was the son of Thomas Mapp a tailor and Rosa Angelina Charles from Monmouth.

Rosa Angelina Mapp died in 1887 in Ross. In At 1891 Charles was at school (Clairville House, Copse Cross St) and living at home with his father Thomas a widower and his brother Thomas John and aunt Eliza Ann Charles. Charles's father Thomas married again on 22nd February 1892. To Ann Aliah Mapp, daughter of George Mapp a carpenter. 1911 and they were all at 45 High St, Ross. Charles Mapp was a Tailor's Cutter, he was also keenly interested in swimming and boating and was Captain of Ross Rowing Club, he was also an excellent musician.



Charles Reginald Mapp.

## The Great War 1914-18

Charles Reginald Mapp was a member of the Herefordshire Regiment, a Territorial Force unit and on 11th November 1915 he enlisted into the King's Shropshire Light Infantry but in 1916 a number of 'Herefords' were transferred/attached to King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI). They were then sent in groups to other Battalions or regiments to reinforce losses at the front.

The 4th KSLI had been serving in Rangoon, Hong Kong and Singapore throughout the war since 1914 (territorial units had been sent there to release regular army regiments for more active war service.) In 1917 they were re-called to France

But the reality of the war eventually came to the 4th Battalion in the Autumn of 1917. Returning from the Far East, they were sent immediately to the Ypres Salient and pitched straight into the 3rd Battle of Ypres. On their first day of "real" warfare, they lost 130 men – compared with half a dozen lost to illness in the Far East over the past three years.

The Herefordshire Regiment - At the end of July 1916 approximately 500 Men of the 3rd Battalion Herefordshire



Regt. went under canvas at Abergavenny 22nd September the Herefordshire men were transferred to the 3rd Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) and then on 1st October posted to the British Expeditionary Force Base Depot at Rouen. Embarked from Southampton to Rouen 2nd October. 3rd October 1916 arrived Rouen and transferred to the 5th KSLI and then on 10th October 232 Herefords were transferred to 11th Border Regiment arriving with them on 10/11th. Other groups of Herefords and KSLI were transferred or attached to front line battalions over the next 12 months or so.

Sergeant Mapp stayed as a member of the Herefordshire Regiment because his army number 236864 was one of the 'new' batch of numbers issued to the Herefords when the TF were renumbered in early 1917. He did not receive a 'new' KSLI number.

**On 4th February 1918** at Lechelle 2 Officers and 107 Other Ranks of the 5th Battalion KSLI joined the 4th Battalion in the field. Sergeant Mapp was with this group. The end of the month saw the Batt. at Bouzencourt. The month had consisted of

assimilating large numbers of reinforcements (nearly 500 in total), training, marching to various billets and re-organising the Battalion.

**March. 1918.** 1st. Batt in billets 7. Marched to Albert then train to Bapaume and marched to camp. Stayed until 13th with groups off on study groups, training on Metz defences and practices. 21st. Moved to Sanders camp 3 wounded in transit from shellfire. 22nd moved to Fremicourt and into the trenches, moved according to orders to vicinity of LeBucqiere to take up position in support of front line and consolidate. 23rd. SOS put up by front line, repeated by support, no artillery response. Enemy reported to be advancing in large numbers on Bapaume-Cambrai Rd. 25th Div. withdrawing across Rd and passed through the Batt. Batt. right flank left exposed. Enemy seen crossing Bapaume-Cambrai Rd in large numbers, engaged at long range by Lewis Guns of A & B Coys. A Coy having been withdrawn from post by Beetroot factory that morning. 11am Large bodies of troops seen moving towards Le Bucqiere orders to withdraw fighting to the Green Line.

1.15pm Attack seen to be developing from Beugny Batt. ordered to withdraw to Bancourt and reorganise as far as possible. Spent the night in trenches ready to support the Green Line.

24th March. Orders to move up in readiness to support Green Line 10pm Batt ordered to take up positions on the Bapaume-Albert Rd. 25th 8.30am Rt flank hurried withdrawal to ridge North of road. Batt. fought until 11.30. Casualties heavy and ammunition running short. Batt ordered to withdraw through Grayvillers. 26th. Alarm sounded in Hebuturn Batt get clear of village of Sailly En Bois and advance in extended order driving Huns back, into billets at Sailly. 27th in Sailly 28th - 31st Back to Caestre and then into billets at Kemmel.

**April** 1-6th at Gable Camp, Wulverghem re-fitting. 10th April Batt ordered to Stand by. Ordered to move to slope of Hill 63 casualties in move 2 killed 4 wounded. 11th. 1pm Enemy attacked heavily on right rear, one Coy sent forward to counter attack Le Petit Munque farm defensive flank forms HQ. 7pm Heavy barrage on Hill 63 Staffs, Cheshires and Wilts start to withdraw through us. 9pm Batt

withdraws to Army Line. 11pm Batt takes up position on Army Line at Wulverghem-Neuve Eglise Rd. 12th. Day fairly quiet, enemy attacked line but were repulsed by rifle and Machine Gun. 13th. Small pockets of the enemy penetrated into Neuve Eglise but were driven out. Moved to Army Line north of Neuve Eglise. 14th Line shelled and Batt. withdrawn to line parallel with Neuve Eglise, enemy occupy part of village. The remainder of the month saw them largely in support and training and reorganisation and by the 30th they were in position of assembly at Ouderdom.

**May** 1st - 17th In trenches at Dickebusch and training and reorganisation at Busseboom, on the 5th they were joined by 4 Officers and 200 ORs from transport lines. On 17th May entrained for Chalons and marched to billets at Omev and then spent the next ten days training. On 29th. they moved to Slaughterhouse and then on to Chambrecy and into billets. 30th May Back in the line and the enemy attacked after a very heavy bombardment, 3 platoons were sent forward to reinforce front line but the flanks had to withdraw. At 2pm Coys were ordered to withdraw to ridge at

Aubilly, Batt. reassembled and the French were holding the ridge. Battalion casualties approx. 180 plus 6 Officers. The next day at 12 o'clock moved to bridge E of Bligny and at 4pm the enemy attacked French withdraws and Battalion counter attacked. Casualties 80 plus 3 Officers. By 6pm the situation quietened.

**June** 1st Moved back to Slaughterhouse and on 4th moved up to Chuamuzy and on the 5th were in position. 6th June 3am the enemy began to bombard with gas shells. **Below is the report from the KSLI Regimental museum of the 4th Bn. actions during this part of the war.** *The attack on Bligny Hill, June 6th 1918* In the Spring of 1918, the Germans launched what was to be their last great offensive on the Western Front. On March 21st, their all-out attack began along the Somme and as this petered out in April, they renewed the offensive towards Kemmel until this too was fought to a standstill. 4 K.S.L.I. was involved in both these campaigns. By May, there was a lull in the fighting on the British front, but the Germans then switched their attentions to the much

weaker French sector in the Champagne region – an area where British troops had not previously been involved. Nevertheless, to support the French, it was decided to send to the area two British Corps, in one Division of which (19 Division of 9Corps) the 4 KSLI was serving. They moved by train via Paris to Rheims and had a very pleasant few weeks “behind the lines” whilst receiving drafts of recruits to make up their full strength. However, on May 28th, the Germans attacked in strength between the Marne and the Aisne and the 9 Corps was hurried into action to meet them. Over the next few days, 4 K.S.L.I. (in the 56 Brigade with 8 North Staffords and 9 Cheshires) was pushed back in a fighting retreat from Chambrecy. The battalion was rapidly reduced to only 350 men by June 5th, when it was halted near the Montaigne de Bligny, a prominent hill dominating the area. The North Staffs and Cheshires held the hill itself, with the 4th in support a mile to their rear at Chaumuzy. Its only officers by now were the temporary CO, Major Warneford (of the Middlesex Regt.), and seven subalterns. On the night of June 5th, the Bligny positions were heavily shelled and gassed and it was

clear that a major attack was due at dawn, when shelling with HE and shrapnel intensified. At 6.00 a.m., the German attack began and by 8.00, the North Staffs and Cheshires were taking heavy casualties on Bligny Hill, their wounded streaming back towards Chaumuzy. By 9.30 a.m., the Germans had stormed the hill and the Cheshires and North Staffs were fighting their way down its slopes towards the 4th KSLI position. Major Warneford was ordered by Brigade HQ to lead 4 K.S.L.I. in a counter attack against Bligny Hill at 12.45 p.m., after a brief artillery barrage; its aim was to retake the crest and drive off the German defenders.

### **The attack**

The 4th were to advance in three waves, the first led by Lt. G.W. Bright with Lt. Colin and A Company; Lt. Graves led B Company in the second wave and Lt. Derbyshire led C Company in the third. A fourth wave, under Major Warneford, would come up as a reserve. The initial ten-minute barrage never materialised, but the attack went in all the same. From their trench line near Chaumuzy, the battalion would have to cross about a

mile of open fields, full of standing corn, in clear view of the Germans on Bligny Hill. As soon as the first wave set off, shrapnel was poured down upon them and as they neared the base of the hill, machine gun and rifle fire opened up. Of the fewer than 200 men of 4 K.S.L.I. who attacked across the open fields, 80 were casualties by the time the foot of the hill was reached. In the “dead ground” at the bottom of the hill, Bright met the remnants of the North Staffs and the Cheshires under Major Martin. Whilst Martin talked to Bright about launching a counter-attack back up the hill, the Major was wounded by shrapnel, so it fell to Lieut. George Bright himself to lead the assault right up the slopes of the hill under what he later recalled as “extremely heavy enemy fire”. In fact, anyone visiting the hill today – its lower slopes now as then shrouded with vines – has to be amazed that so few men could rush up this long, steep slope under heavy fire and reach the top alive, let alone drive off an entrenched enemy. Bright led three lines of 4 KSLI, with the remains of the North Staffs and Cheshires as a fourth wave, straight up the hill and, as he later said, “it was soon over ... the

first wave was in the enemy trenches within five minutes” and as the other waves arrived, “Jerries were rushing out from their slit trenches with their hands up”. The Germans, leaving 30 prisoners and many dead, fled the hill, retaining a foothold at its base, leaving Bright still in a dangerous position, left with only 150 men to hold a Brigade front extending over half a mile and with both flanks “in the air”. As expected, a heavy bombardment was directed onto the hill within thirty minutes – though this turned out to be the British barrage which should have preceded the attack! By the time it finished, Bright’s total force was down to 100 effectives. Nevertheless, he ordered his men to dig in and sent patrols out to try to contact any other units on his flanks. Eventually, they contacted French troops and 5 Welsh. To Bright’s surprise and anger, at 6.00 p.m. he was ordered by Brigade HQ to retire back down the hill so that a “full scale” attack on the positions could be launched by the Brigade and the French. He replied to the order saying that it was impossible to move and finally received a message from Divisional HQ asking the Shropshires to “stick to it” and promising

reinforcements. During the rest of the evening and night, the remnants of 4 K.S.L.I. on Bligny Hill were subjected to shrapnel shelling and sniping, but sent out patrols to “deal with” Germans parties probing the defences. Bright’s main fear was that as daylight came the Germans would put down a heavy barrage and assault the hill. Fortunately, late at night, as “a great relief to all of us”, the Northumberland Fusiliers came up as an advanced party of reinforcements, with others following. Around midnight, 4 K.S.L.I. – reduced to only 100 men - was relieved, and left the hill they had fought over for 12 hours. The exhausted men reached the Brigade Reserve trenches just as day broke. Not surprisingly, Bright was awarded the French *Croix de Guerre* for his actions on Bligny Hill – though one wonders why he was not rewarded by the British. More to the point, the attack had been witnessed by the French General, Berthelot, who was so impressed with the gallantry and dash of the 4th K.S.L.I. that he secured an immediate award of the *Croix de Guerre avec Palme* for the whole battalion – a fairly rare example of a “unit award”. The citation stated : On

the 6th June 1918, when the right flank of a British Brigade was being seriously threatened by the progress of a heavy enemy attack, the 1-4th Battalion of the King’s Shropshire Light Infantry, which had been held in reserve, was called upon to counter-attack an important position from which their comrades had just been ejected. With magnificent dash, this Battalion rushed the hill on which the enemy had established themselves, inflicting heavy losses on them and in the course of hand-to-hand fighting captured an officer and 28 other ranks. Thanks to this gallant and spirited recapture of the key to the whole defensive position, the line was completely restored. The dash, energy and intrepidity with which, on this memorable occasion, the 1-4th KSLI carried all before it, was largely responsible for the retrieval of a situation which had temporarily become critical.” Needless to say, the award of the French medal to a Territorial battalion of the K.S.L.I. was deemed a signal honour and greeted with great pleasure. General Berthelot himself came to Shrewsbury in June 1922 to personally pin the *Croix de Guerre avec Palme* to the Regimental

Colour of the battalion.



Croix de Guerre avec Palme

The Battalion then had a period of rest, training and incorporating large numbers of reinforcements then On August 11th 1918 the 4th KSLI went back into the line near Bethune. On the 12th two German officers were seen going into a house 50 yards to the front, 2/Lt Clayton with some Lewis gunners and Rifle Grenadiers went forward and shot them gaining some valuable information. 13th They came under heavy machine gun fire Lt Merindon took some of his platoon forward to a house where they believed the fire was coming from and captured 4 enemy and the machine gun. 14th relieved and back to billets at Annezin. 21st moved up and took over support lines from Worcesters improving trenches. 25th took over front line from S. Staffs and next day Coys carried out a number of patrols. 29/30th Batt. relieved and moved back



to Chocques by light railway.  
 September 1-5th training On 5th moved to Le Touret and took over trenches from Sherwood Foresters.  
 6-8th Consolidating line of retention in front of Pichbourg St Vaast. 9-16th Consolidating trenches. 17th Relieved by Worcesters and back to Locon, cleaning up, training and reorganisation. 21st Relieved Wilts in the field at Criceth. Artillery reports said the wire was out but patrols reported no apparent gaps in the wire. Over the next few days numerous patrols were sent out. Coys improved their lines and patrols went out to ascertain strength of enemy posts. On 29th Sept Final conference of all Coy commanders.  
 30th Sept. 7.30 am Attacked Les Laies Ditch and patrols pushed out other side of ditch. All objectives gained. At 6pm Notion trench was attacked successfully.  
 Charles Mapp and 20 others were killed in action between Neuve Chapelle and Aubers Ridge on 30th September 1918. He was buried where he fell but is commemorated on the Loos Memorial to those who have no known grave.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regtl. No.
MAPP	HEREFORD R.	Sgt	236864
Charles R.			
Medal	Date	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	JH/106/192	676	
BRITISH			
BEAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded:



The British War Medal and the Victory Medal

UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

**Name:** Charles Reginald Mapp  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Herefords  
**Residence:** Ross  
**Death Date:** 30 Sep 1918  
**Death Location:** France & Flanders  
**Enlistment Location:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Sergeant  
**Regiment:** Herefordshire Regiment  
**Battalion:** 1/4th Battalion (Kings Shropshire Light Infantry)  
**Number:** 236864  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action  
**Theatre of War:** Western European Theatre  
**Comments:** Listed As Serving At The Time Of Death With The Above

In Memory of  
 Sergeant  
**Charles Reginald Mapp**  
 236864, 1st/4th Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 30 September 1918 Age 33  
 Son of T. Mapp, of Ross-on-Wye.  
 Remembered with Honour  
 Loos Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## 208211 Sergeant Walter Marshall



15th Battalion  
Notts & Derby Regiment  
(Sherwood Foresters)  
Formerly  
Herefordshire Regiment  
1/4th KSLI

### Walter Marshall

He was born at Smallbrook, Ross on 26th March 1896 and baptised Whitsun Day 24th May 1896. His parents were Lewis Marshall a Joiner and Mary Anne Lloyd, they had married on Xmas day 1885. 1901 they were at 5 Milton Terrace his father Lewis was a joiner from Ross his mother Mary from Hereford. His brother Lewis John died

aged 17 and was buried 8th June 1907. In 1911 they were still at Milton Terr. and Walter was an accounts clerk.

### The Great War

2204 Private Walter Marshall Enlisted into the 2/1st Herefordshire Regt Territorial Force on 10th September 1914 He was 5'8" tall good physical development and a Clerk. The 2/1st Battalion of the Herefords was formed at Hereford in September 1914 as a second line battalion. On December 1914 it moved to Aberystwyth and on in April 1915 to Northampton where it came under orders of 205th Brigade in 68th Division. In May to June 1915 the battalion worked on north London defences in the Billericay area. Moved to Bedford in July 1915 and on to Lowestoft in November. Moved to Herringfleet in May 1917 and finally disbanded on 10 September 1917 Walter Marshall was promoted on 18.6.15 to Acting corporal and on 19.6.15 to Acting Sergeant. On 28.8.17 he transferred to 4th KSLI as a Sergeant and from 28.8.17 - 9.10.17 he was a Company Quartermaster Sergeant (CQMS). On 10.10.17 he reverted to rank of Sergeant and on

3.12.17 Posted. On 18.2.18 at Pembroke Dock he was declared 'fit for service in East Africa' but as is the way of the army he was sent to France. On 28.3.18 Posted to 1/4th KSLI France arriving on 31.3.1918 at Rouen This was a huge Infantry Base Depot (IBD) and was used a clearing base where men were often transferred to units who required trained men urgently as reinforcements. On 9th April 1918 Sgt Walter Marshall Transferred to 15th Battalion Notts and Derby Regiment (Sherwood Foresters) as a Sergeant and went into the field with them

Sherwood Foresters France 1918.  
**April 11th.** In the front line, relieved Cheshire Regt. active patrolling carried out throughout the night. 12/13/14th Active patrolling through each night, improvement of trenches. 15th Proceeded to Hedauville absorption of draft, presumably including Sgt Marshall. Hedauville shelled and temporarily moved out of village. 16th Village evacuated because of enemy shelling. 17/18th Moved to Aveluy Wood in relief of Lancs Fusiliers, fighting patrols went out during the night and made some ground.

19/20th Fightin patrols went out and came into contact with the enemy in strength. Casualties 1 officer 8 ORs. 22nd April Batt. attacked in conjunction with Cheshires and DLI. It progressed favourably at first but then was held up by machine gun fire. After three hours fighting a defensive flank was formed through to original line. Casualties 5 officers 112 ORs. 23rd Back to Hedeauville and camp until 26/27th when relieved DLI in reserve at Bouzincourt 28/30th supplied working parties.

**May** 1st -21st Battalion was at Bouzinncourt, Herrisart and the forward area, training, working with Royal Engineers, musketry and rifle training and competitions. On 22nd the Batt. moved back up to Bouzincourt and into the front line on the 23rd. 25/26th Patrolling, wiring and work on the trenches. 26/27th inter battalion relief. 29/30th Battalion relieved by Cheshires and moved into reserve in the sunken road. Casualties for this period 4 ORs killed 18 wounded. One of those wounded was Sgt Marshall, he was sent back for treatment and returned to duty at the front a week later on the 5th June.

**June** 5th. At Forceville relieved by DLI and moved back to camp. 7/8th resting and training. 9/10th relieved 4 Coys of 104th Brigade in the line. 11th patrolling and work on trenches. 12th relieved by DLI and back to camp at Forceville rest, refitting and training until 16th when relived by 7th Norfolks and proceeded to rest billets at Puchevillers, reorganising, training, rest until 28th when Brigade Field Day. 29th Division Rifle Meeting, Batt. won rapid fire competition, orders to move. 30th June moved by train from Candas.

**July** 1st, moved by train to Wizernes billets and then on to Zermezele on the 3rd. 4th marched to Beauvorde and bivouacked for the night then went into reserve on 5th reliving 358th French Regiment. On 7th relieved N. Staffs in support, 4 casualties. In support until 12th. On 13th Relieved N Staffs in front line until the 18th, patrols sent out nightly and working on the front line. On 18th relieved by Cheshires and moved to reserve billets. 36 casualties during this period on the line. 19th Reserved, resting and re-fitting. 21st-24th In Support then back into the front line on

25th until 30th when back into reserve at Boeschepe. 31st Resting.

Unfortunately the war diaries of 15th Sherwood Foresters for August are missing.

### **September 1918.**

1st At St Silvestre Cappel resting.  
1/2nd marched to Poperinghe-Watou Rd. On 3/4th Poperinghe, Whinfield camp resting, usual inspections re-fitting etc.  
4/5th Ypres. Relieved part of the 120th American Regt. in Canal Sector, marched to Blue Grass Siding then marched to support area.  
5/8th In support in Canal Sector, usual routines.  
8/9th relieved by DLI and marched to Lawrence Camp.  
9/12th In Divisional reserve, light raining in addition to usual routines.  
12/13th Relieved Royal Scots in Canal syb-sector.  
13th-15th. Front line intense patrolling.  
15th 105th Inf. Bde carried out an operation in cooperation with 104 Bde with complete success. The operation included the capture and consolidation of Spoil Bank and Road Junction which was carried out by this battalion 7 prisoners taken.

16/17th Dispositions altered in conjunction with N Staffs.  
 18th Front line usual routine.  
 19/20th Relieved by Wilts. Regt. Proceeded to School camp by march and rail. Entrained at Yale siding and went by Metre Gauge Railway to Blue Grass Siding.  
 20/21st Resting and re-fitting. Inspection by G.O.C.  
 22/23rd Front line. Moved by Lorry and march to White Hill nearr Vlamertinghe and took over line from HLI.  
 23/24th Relieved by Cheshires and proceeded to School Camp billets .  
 25th Resting.  
 26/27th Moved to front line relieving 15th Cheshires in same sector of the line.  
 27/28th Operations on a large scale were commenced. Zero 5.30am the attack commenced, supported by very good artillery barrage, everything went according to arrangements, the enemy showing little or no resistance and surrendering freely. All objectives taken and consolidated by 8.30am. Shortly after the commencement of the assault it started to rain and continued heavily until dusk. 41st Div continued the attack through our objectives.

29th. Orders to continue the attack. 5.30am Batt. assembled in Battle Wood and moved off at 8.30. The Batt. was now in brigade reserve and moved forward to rear of attack and waited throughout the afternoon. At 2.45pm ordered to attack the village of Zandvoorde with 4th N Staffs, the Cheshires having failed to advance in the morning. Coys moved forward and encountered heavy machine gun fire from long range. The village was taken and the attack progressed and positions finally taken up on the Northern side of Tenbrielen. Weather good until evening when it started to rain and continued throughout the night.

Sgt. Walter Marshall was one of 8 men of the Sherwood Forersters Killed in action on the 19th September 1918. He is buried at Menin Road South Military Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

### Soldiers who died in the Great War

**Name:** Walter Marshall  
**Birth Place:** Ross-on-wye, Herefordshire  
**Residence:** Ross-on-wye, Hereford  
**Death Date:** 29 Sep 1918  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Sergeant  
 Notts and Derby  
**Regiment:** (Sherwood Foresters) Regiment  
**Battalion:** 15th Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 208211  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action  
**Theatre of War:** Western European Theatre  
**Comments:** Formerly 2204, Herefordshire Regt.





His headstone is above but sadly has now become difficult to read so a 'close up' is included next.



No.	Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
59	MARSHALL	H.S.L. 1. Notts & Derby R.	Sgt	235658 208211.
	Walter			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks	
Victoria	F/103829	5236		
Distinguished	do			
Star				
Theatre of War preserved in				
Date of entry therein				

He was awarded



British War Medal Victory Medal

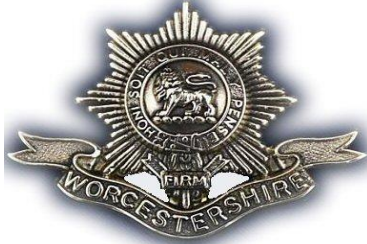
In Memory of  
Serjeant  
**Walter Marshall**

208211, 15th Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) who died on 29 September 1918 Age 22  
Son of Lewis J. and Mary Ann Marshall, of 6, Milton Terrace, Camp Rd., Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Menin Road South Military Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## Malcolm Hereward Meredith



4th Worcestershire Regiment



Malcolm H. Meredith.

Formerly Public Schools Battalion  
Middlesex Regiment



Malcolm Hereward Meredith

Was born 22nd April 1895 in Ross-on-Wye and was baptised in Ross on 4th June 1895 his parents were James Meredith a draper master originally from Leintwardine, Herefordshire and his mother was Mary Anne (James) from Bishop's Castle, Shropshire. In 1891 James Meredith Malcolm's father was living at Market Place, Ross and his Showroom Draper's Assistant was Mary Anne James from Bishop's Castle, whom he married in 1893. In 1901 the family were living at Ashfield Park, Ross and Malcolm has a brother James and sister Beryl and his father was a draper. In 1911 Malcolm was at Dean Close Memorial School, Cheltenham but his parents were at Fern Bank Road, Tudorville, Ross. *Many thanks to Dean Close (Memorial) School, Cheltenham for the information below.* Our records show that he was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1895, the son of James and Mary Meredith of Ashfield Park, Ross, Herefordshire. He was at Dean Close (Memorial) School from September 1906 to December 1910. He was still at the school at the 1911 census (2nd April 1911) along with his brother James, he was a prominent member of the O.T.C. *His parents clearly treated the school as*

*being a sort of extended prep school, as several parents did at that time. He played as a back for the School U 14 football side in 1907 and 1908. He went into business on leaving School but unfortunately they do not know where nor what the nature of the business was.*

## The Great War

At the outbreak of the war he enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment and joined the Public Schools Battalion (16th Middlesex Regt.) which suggests that he may have been working in London. Apparently he was quickly perceived to be a potential officer and he was selected for officer training and passed into the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in November 1914 and was gazetted 2nd Lt Worcestershire Regiment in March 1915. He went to Screasdon Fort, (near Antony in Cornwall). He was made Musketry Instructor and then proceeded to Hayling Island where he gained his Field Gun Certificate.

The 4th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment sailed from Avonmouth 21 March 1915 for Gallipoli, going via Egypt. Landed at Cape Helles on 25

April 1915, The 4th Worcesters suffered dreadful casualties over the following battles.

The fighting of April 25th and 26th had secured the landing at Cape Helles; but the success had only been gained at the price of heavy loss (*The casualties of the 4th Worcestershire in the first two days' fighting totalled about 100, including Captain A. D.H. Ray killed, and 2/Lieuts H. James and E. C. D. Malone wounded*), and the British forces were still far from their original objective, Achi Baba.

#### First Battle of Krithia

The loss of the Battalion had been heavy, some 300 in all, including nine officers (*Major Carr (remaining at duty), Capt. and Adj. T. C. Kerans, Capt. Amphlett, Lieuts. Bridges, Wythes, Gordon, Mostyn, Mervyn, and Entwistle, all wounded. Other ranks (April 25th—29th). 35 killed, 199 wounded, 74 missing*). The Battalion, now only some 400 strong, occupied once again the positions near the Fir Wood which they had held that morning. All ranks remained on the alert during a night of alarms and a succeeding day (29th) of comparative rest.

Presently came alarming reports. An over-tired Irish battalion on the left had fallen back. Then on the right a French regiment of Senegalese gave way before the Turkish bayonets, and the enemy came on through the gap. The retirement of the Senegalese uncovered a French battery close to the right flank of the Worcestershire. To rescue the French battery Captain Deans led forward "Y" Company. In the darkness "Y" Company charged with the bayonet, drove back the Turks and secured the position around the battery. Meanwhile Colonel Cayley had directed Major Carr to take forward "W" Company to the same part of the front. "W" Company also had a sharp bayonet fight in the darkness before the enemy was driven back and the whole of the lost ground was regained. For two days the Worcestershire held that position, two days of incessant labour under shell fire. Mostly the work was that of improving the trenches and burying dead Turks; but there was much to be done in the way of collecting rifles and ammunition and in sorting out all the litter of the battlefield.

The new attack was to take the simple form of a general advance all along the

line. Heavy fighting lasted all day, and by nightfall the ranks of the Battalion had been thinned by further casualties. In all about 100 had been killed or wounded, including 4 officers (*Captains D. W. Pollock, G. C. Deans and T. H. O. Crawley, killed, Lieut. W. D. Bush wounded. Other ranks, 10 killed, 71 wounded, 2 missing*).

#### Third Battle of Krithia.

At 9.30 a.m. on June 4th the British artillery opened fire and kept up a hot bombardment till 11.30 a.m. Then the firing died down and for ten minutes silence reigned, a silence intended to puzzle the enemy. At 11.40 the artillery opened again and continued rapid fire till 12 noon, when the guns lifted their fire and the attacking battalions scrambled out of their trenches and advanced (*The previous failure had led, as in France, to the substitution of a limited objective for the previous optimistic attempts to break through, and only two lines of trenches were allotted as the task of the attacking troops*). The Sikh Battalion to their right had been almost annihilated (After the battle the 14th Sikhs numbered no more than 3 officers and 200 men) and the left flank of the

Worcestershire was exposed. To meet that danger the Battalion formed a defensive flank along the steep slope of the Gully Ravine, and the rest of the day was spent in consolidating that line under heavy fire; in that work C.Q.M.S. J. J. Leach was much distinguished, organising bombing parties and directing consolidation (C.Q.M.S. *Leach was awarded the D.C.M., as also were C.S.M. J. P. Alexander and L/Sgt. S. Edge*). At one point a body of the enemy attempted a counter-attack but 2/Lieut. J. D. Dickens swiftly organised and led a bayonet charge which drove the enemy back (2/Lieut. *Dickens was awarded the M.C.*). The losses had been very heavy, including 5 officers killed and 3 officers missing (*Killed, Capt. J. C Pickersgill-Cunliffe, Lieut. W. D. Bush, 2/Lieuts. B. C. D. Martin, C. D. Field, and H. G. Parkes. Missing, 2/Lieuts. D. Grainger Jones (afterwards ascertained killed) R. B. Woosnam, J. L. King. There are no available figures of the total losses of the Battalion, but they were about 300 of all ranks*). Among the former were Capt. Cunliffe and Lieut. Bush. Lieut. H. Gordon was wounded.

The Battalion War Diary states that casualties for this attack up to the 6th August 1915 were 16 Officers and 752 Other Ranks.

. A series of other attacks took further toll of the Battalion and 2nd Lt. Malcolm Meredith entered this mayhem in August 1915 and joined them with one of the drafts from England to fill the gaps caused by the casualties.

On 20th August 1915 the 88th Brigade of the 29th Division (4th Worcesters, 2nd Hampshires, 1st Essex, 1st Newfoundlands, 2nd/1st London Regt.) left Helles for Suvla. Under General de Lisle's command, the Suvla front was reorganised and reinforced with the arrival of the 29th Division from Helles and the 2nd Mounted Division from Egypt (minus their horses). The fighting climaxed on 21 August with the Battle of Scimitar Hill, the largest battle of the Gallipoli campaign. When it too failed, activity at Suvla subsided into sporadic fighting until it was evacuated by the British in late December. The *New Zealand Herald* reported that the bulk of the fighting for Scimitar Hill on the 21st was done by the 29th Division,

it failed in its objective because of the superior position of the enemy "it gained fame by its failure".

On 10th October 2/Lt Meredith was appointed Adjutant to the regiment. On the 11th the Battalion relieved the Newfoundland Regt. in the line. 14th-20th The enemy snipers unusually active in this period but effectively dealt with by our grenades, trench mortars and telescopic rifles. The enemy snipers ambushed a party in front of the trenches and 2/Lt Mellors went to withdraw the covering party but was immediately wounded, 2 men and the NCO of the covering party had been hit. 2/Lt Mellors and the unwounded men got back and on hearing of the fate of the party 2/Lt Greenway and two men made two journeys and succeeded in bringing in one man and the NCO although it was necessary to crawl under three separate lines of wire entanglements in order to reach the wounded men. He then made a third journey to bring back the last man when he was shot through the heart and thigh, death was instantaneous. The body of the third man has not been seen since and it then became too light to recover 2/Lt Greenway.



Stayed at the front, a great deal of shelling, sniping and much work on improvements to trenches. 26th October Lt Arnold took over duties of Adjutant from 2/Lt Meredith. On 27th October went into reserve. 31st October back in the firing line. 1st November Suvla Bay, Gallipoli Heavy enemy shelling of our support lines during the afternoon 7 wounded. 2nd Nov. Extensive reconnaissance day and night of enemy positions. 4th Nov. in firing line, the Newfoundland Regt successfully established themselves on the crest line and occupied its neighbourhood. 5th Newfoundlanders occupied their posts and 6th Nov saw many improvements to the new posts. On 7th the Royal North Devon Yeomanry started linking up the lines and posts. 8/9th Nov consolidated and improved our series of posts. 10th November 1915 "The C.O has much pleasure in announcing the names of Officers, NCOs and men who have been forwarded for good and gallant conduct in connection with the recent operations" " 2/Lt (Temp. Capt) M. H. Meredith killed in C63 by a sniper, he was buried in Borders Ravine".

*Malcolm Meredith was made Lieutenant and Temp. Captain on the battlefield and acted as Adjutant. He was in command of his company when he was shot through the head by a sniper and killed instantly on 10th November 1915. He was buried in Border Ravine.*

"He was a born Soldier, of fine stature and physique being upwards of six feet in height: a great athlete, an excellent all-round sportsman, expert cricketer, footballer, powerful swimmer, first class shot with rifle, revolver and fowling piece and a dear lover of the chase".

He was buried at the Cemetery at Borderers' Ravine but after the armistice a new Cemetery was built at Azmak and he (and many others) were moved to this cemetery, which is where he lays now.



With Hill 10 Cemetery, Azmak recalls the northern part of the Suvla operations and the attempts to take and hold the Kiretch Tepi ridge and the high ground to the east. The cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from isolated sites in the area and from the following smaller cemeteries:- Dublin (from the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers); Sulajik; 5th Norfolk (under the foothills of Tekke Tepe, where some of the 1st/5th Norfolks, who fell on the 12th August, were buried); Borderers' Ravine; Oxford Circus; Worcester (from the 4th Worcesters); Lone Tree Gully.

**UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919**

**Name:** Malcolm Hereward Meredith  
**Death Date:** 10 Nov 1915  
**Rank:** 2/Lieutenant  
**Regiment:** Worcestershire Regiment  
**Battalion:** 4th Battalion  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
MEREDITH	Worce	2 Lt	4
Malcolm Hereward			
Notes	Roll	Page	Remarks
Home	OFF 65	174	14 X 11226 Dec. 10. 11. 15
15 STAR	OFF 165	26	d/2/22 1404/16501
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			
28 FEB 1922			
NW/7/16501			
K. 1880			
Receipt of Medal as of 4/22/22 also applied for medals of James Godwin Meredith			
Correspondence			
Address			
J. Meredith Esq (Father) Ashfield Park Ross on Wye			
1/15/22			

His medal card above is informative he was awarded the 1914/15 Star, The

British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



His father had applied for his medals on 28th February 1922 but he had also applied for Malcolm's brother James Godwin Meredith's medals, which would imply that he could not do so himself.

**WORCESTER OFFICER KILLED.**  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Meredith, Ashfield Park, Ross, have received news that their elder son, Lieutenant Malcolm Hereward Meredith, has been killed in action. Lieutenant Meredith, who was only twenty years of age, was educated at Cheltenham (Dean Close), where he became a member of the Officers' Training Corps. He then went to Worcester, where he received an appointment, and it was from Worcester that he joined the Universities and Public Schools Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment as a private. Eventually he obtained a commission in the 4th Worcesters. Lieutenant Meredith was a fine athlete.

**LOCAL ROLL OF HONOUR.**

Birmingham Daily Mail 17th November 1915

In Memory of  
 Second Lieutenant  
**M H Meredith**

4th Bn., Worcestershire Regiment who died on 10 November 1915 Age 20

Son of James and Mary Meredith, of Ashfield Park, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
 Azmak Cemetery, Suvla

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# 15170 Corporal Edward Mills



8th Battalion  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

## Edward Mills

Born 28th April 1895 at Over Ross St. Baptised 10th May 1895 His father was in the Black Watch, joined up 2nd January 1868. He was originally from Blofield, Norfolk. His mother Ada was from Ross. 1901 They were living at 11 Mill Pond St. His father was a labourer. 1911 His father was an army pensioner. Edward was a Boot finisher they lived at 45 Brampton St.

## The Great War

Pte Mills joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry his number 15170 indicates that he enlisted in September or October 1914. He would have had a period of training and then been posted to one of the Battalions. His Medal Card says he arrived in France on 19th December 1915 but all his records says he was with the 8th Battalion KSLI and they had left France 28th October landing in Salonika on 6th November 1915. It seems most likely therefore that he went to France and was sent down to Marseilles and went with a detachment to Salonika to join 8th KSLI.

The Salonika Campaign saw some serious fighting but an enormous amount of sickness particularly from Malaria.

The Battalion was part of 22 Division. 66 Brigade This Included. 12th Cheshires. 8th KSLI, 9th Border Regt. 9th South Lancs, 13th Manchesters, 66th Machine Gun Coy. 66th SAA Ammunition Column, 66th Trench Mortar Battery.

Below is a brief extract from an 'unofficial' report on the battle of Doiran

(Pip Ridge). It does give a horrific view of the difficulties of the regiment in this action.

The following report from one involved gives some idea of what the men went through. By 'An Unprofessional Soldier' on the Staff of 28th Division. He entitled his paper: " I saw the Futile Massacre at Doiran". It is from Issue 46 of " I Was There" published 1938/9 " The Battle of Doiran is now a forgotten episode of the Great War, overshadowed by the doings of Haig in France and Allenby in Palestine. There was no full contemporary account of the Battle in any British Newspaper. Sir George Milne's dispatch was not published and did not appear in the Times until January 23rd 1919, and then only in truncated form. The very name of the battle is unknown to most. Yet, in singularity of horror and in tragedy of defeated heroism, it is unique among the records of British arms. The real work of the assault was entrusted to the men of the 22nd and 26th Divisions, who were to attack the Doiran hills, co-operating with the Cretan Division of the Greek Army and a regiment of unreliable Zouaves. In the early light of an almost unclouded



morning the British and Greek forces advanced in order of battle. The noise of our guns had abruptly ceased before daybreak, and there came that awful pause in which defenders and attackers are braced up to face the ordeal, with fear or desperation, with cool courage or with blazing ardour. Slowly the pale grey smoke lifted in layers of thin film above the ridges, blue shadows deep in every fold or hollow and a dim golden glow on scrub, rock and heather. No one could tell what had been the effect of our gunfire upon those fortified hills. The infantry soldier relies upon the guns behind him, trusting in their power to smash a way for his advance by killing or demoralizing the enemy and cutting up his defences. In this case, if he had any hopes or illusions, the infantry soldier was quickly undeceived.

Our attack on ' Pip Ridge' was led by 12th Cheshires. The battle opened with a crash of machine-gun fire, and a cloud of dusty smoke began to blur the outline of the hills, Almost immediately the advancing battalion was overwhelmed in a deadly steam of bullets which came whipping and whistling down the open slopes. Those

who survived were followed by a battalion of Lancashire men, and a remnant of this undaunted infantry fought its way over the first and second lines of trenches - if indeed the term " line " can be applied to a highly complicated and irregular system of defence, taking full advantage of every fold or contortion of the ground. **In its turn, a Shropshire battalion ascended the fatal ridge. By this time the battle of the " Pips" was a mere confusion of massacre, noise and futile bravery. Nearly all the men of the first two battalions were lying dead or wounded on the hillside. Colonel Clegg and Colonel Bishop were killed; the few surviving troops were toiling and fighting in what appeared to be inevitable and immediate death. The attack was ending in a bloody disaster.** No orders could reach the isolated cluster of men who were still trying to advance on the ridge. Contact aeroplanes came roaring down through the yellow haze of dust and smoke, hardly able to see what was going on, and even flying below the levels of the Ridge and Grand Couronne. There was only one possible ending to the assault. Our troops in the military phrase of their commander, " fell back

to their original positions" Of this falling back I will say nothing. There are times when even desperate heroism has to acknowledge defeat.

While the 60th Brigade was thus repulsed on the ridge, a Greek regiment was thrown into disorder by a counter attack on the right. At the same time the Welsh Brigade was advancing towards Grand Couronne. No feat of arms can ever surpass the glorious bravery of those Welshmen. There was lingering gas in the Jumeaux Ravine ( probably ours!) and some of the men had to fight in respirators. Imagine, if you can, what it means to fight up a hillside under a deadly fire, wearing a hot mask over your face, dimly staring through a pair of clouded goggles, and sucking the end of a rubber nozzle in your mouth. At the same time heat is pouring down on you from a brazen sky. In this plight you are called on to endure the blast of machine-gun fire, the pointed steel or bursting shell of the enemy. Nor are you called on to endure alone ; you must vigorously fire back, and vigorously assail with your own bayonet. It is as much like hell as anything you can think of. Welsh



Fusiliers got as far as the Hilt, only half a mile below the central fortress, before being driven back by a fierce Bulgarian charge. Every officer was killed or wounded. Following these came the 11th Welsh, who were also compelled to retire fighting. For a time, however, a few of the enemy's trenches, full of dead or dying men, remained in our possession. A third Welsh battalion was offered up, to perish, on that awful day. The 7th South Wales Borderers nobly stormed up through the haze of battle until they had come near the hills of The Tassel and The Knot, Then, all at once, the haze lifted, and they were left exposed in the open to a sweeping and overwhelming fire. Melting away as they charged, a party of Welshmen ran up the slopes of Grand Couronne itself and fell dead among the rocks. Of the whole battalion, only one officer and eighteen men were alive at the end of the day.

All night, unheard in the tumult of a new bombardment, wounded men were crying on the hillsides or down in the long ravines. Whatever Sir George Milne now thought of his own plans, he must have been gratified by the behaviour of his own troops. Those

troops had been flung against positions no infantry in the world could ever have taken by a frontal attack, and they had proved themselves to be good soldiers. Two entire Brigades had been practically annihilated.

A fresh and equally futile massacre on the Doiran hills was arranged for the following day, in spite of the total breakdown of the general scheme. It was now the turn of the Scotsmen - Fusiliers, Rifles and Highlanders of the 77th Brigade, undismayed by the dreadful evidence of havoc, ran forward among the Welsh and Bulgarian dead. Artillery demoralised the regiment of Zouaves on their left. A storm of machine-gun fire blew away the Greeks on their right, in uncontrolled disorder. Fighting on into a maze of enemy entanglements, the Scotsmen were being annihilated, their flanks withering under a terrible enfilade. A fine battalion of East Lancashires attempted to move up in support. The 65th Brigade launched another forlorn attack on the Pip Ridge. The broken remains of two Brigades were presently in retreat, leaving behind more than half their number, killed, wounded or missing. We had now sustained 3,871 casualties in the

Doiran battle. Our troops were incapable of any further effort. A terrible high proportion had been lost or disabled. We gained only the unimportant ruins of Doiran Town and a cluster of small hills immediately above it, never of any value to the enemy or strongly defended. The fortress of Grand Couronne was unshaken, with crumpled bodies of men and a litter of awful wreckage below it. No one can view the result of the operation as anything but a tactical defeat. Had it been an isolated engagement, there would have been every prospect of disaster. The whole plan of the battle and its conduct are open to devastating criticism; but so are the plans and the conduct of a great majority of battles. ( The Cheshires, South Wales Borderers and the Argylls were awarded the French Croix de Guerre for their part - the Royal Scots Fusiliers lost 358, the Argylls 299 and the Scottish Rifles 228 men) Luckily, the Franco-Serbian advance was being continued with extraordinary vigour.

Corporal Edward Mills was Killed in Action on 18th September 1918. This was 7 weeks before the end of the war but only 10 days before the Armistice

of Thessalonica ending the war in Salonika. Corporal Mills was officially listed as 'Missing' on his medal card and his body was never recovered so he is commemorated on the Doiran Memorial and the Ross War Memorial. *The DOIRAN MEMORIAL stands roughly in the centre of the line occupied for two years by the Allies in Macedonia, but close to the western end, which was held by Commonwealth forces. It marks the scene of the fierce fighting of 1917-1918, which caused the majority of the Commonwealth battle casualties.*

*From October 1915 to the end of November 1918, the British Salonika Force suffered some 2,800 deaths in action, 1,400 from wounds and 4,200 from sickness. The campaign afforded few successes for the Allies, and none of any importance until the last two months. The action of the Commonwealth force was hampered throughout by widespread and unavoidable sickness and by continual diplomatic and personal differences with neutrals or Allies. On one front there was a wide malarial river valley and on the other, difficult mountain ranges, and many of the roads and railways it required had to be specially constructed.*

*The memorial serves the dual purpose of Battle Memorial of the British Salonika Force (for which a large sum of money was subscribed by the officers and men of that force), and place of commemoration*

*for more than 2,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died in Macedonia and whose graves are not known.*

Name <b>MILLS Edward</b>		Corps <b>Shropshire LI</b>	Rank <b>Pvt</b>	Regt. No. <b>15170</b>
Medal <b>VICTORY</b>	Dat. <b>J/1/10 26</b>	Page <b>1417</b>	Remarks <b>Missing 18/9/18.</b>	
<b>BRITISH</b>	<b>15 STAR</b>	<b>J/1/18 B2 339</b>		
Theatre of War first served in <b>France</b>		Date of entry therein <b>19/12/15</b>		

He was awarded



**1914/15 Star British War Medal Victory Medal**  
Soldiers who died in the Great War



**Name:** Edward Mills  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Herefords  
**Residence:** Ross  
**Death Date:** 18 Sep 1918  
**Death Place:** Salonika  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** A L Corporal

**Regiment:** Shropshire Light Infantry  
**Battalion:** 8th Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 15170  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action  
**Theatre of War:** Balkan Theatre

In Memory of  
Lance Corporal  
**Edward Mills**

15170, 8th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 18 September 1918 Age 23  
Son of John and Ada Mills, of 45, Brampton St., Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
**Doiran Memorial**

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# 40264 Private Arthur Morgan



## 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment

### Arthur Morgan

He was born on 17th December 1883 in Tregare, Monmouthshire. His father Philip Morgan was from Mitcheltroy. And his mother Mary Ann Hope from Garway (she later moved to Dixton). She died at 5 Acres on 6th April 1886 and his father later married Harriet Ann Hawkins in 1891. 1901 Father Philip was a hay cutter, Arthur was a collier Filler and James and Albert worked in

the Stone Quarry. They lived at Five Acres. 1911 Arthur was a boarder at 48 Edde Cross St, Ross and was single and a Hay Cutter. His parents and brother Thomas were still at 5 Acres.

### The Great War

There is no record of when he enlisted but he seems to have been transferred into the 1st Cheshires during 1917 along with a number of other soldiers mainly from the RFA and the Northants Yeomanry (all Territorial Force troops) so it seems likely he was a Territorial prior to 1917.

### 1st Cheshire Regiment

40000 Numbers start to appear in the CWGC deaths in October 1917 implying that this was about the period they were posted to the front. Most of the men were transfers from RFA. Extracts and information from The war diaries are below.

### Battle of Passchendaele

15th October 1917 Berthen Area. 53 Other ranks arrived as reinforcements. 16th. Batt. training in the morning. 17th Training in morning football in afternoon.

18th Training in morning baths in afternoon Lt Legh went to Sniper School prior to going to America as a

sniping instructor. 19th Hostile aeroplane activity at night. On 21st Moved to Micmac Camp near Dickebusch. 23rd at Bedford House relieved Somersets in front line Casualties 4 killed 3 wounded. 24th Dumped personnel were moved to Abeele. Heavy shelling 9 wounded 1 missing. Intermittent shelling all day 4 killed 13 wounded. 26th attack on Polderhoek Chateau. Attack successful and many prisoners taken including Commandant of the Chateau. Troops were exhausted through very bad weather and rifles could not be used. A counter attack caused our troops to withdraw and return to our original line. Communications very difficult. Enemy put down a very heavy barrage in vicinity of Bn. HQ. Casualties 5 killed 37 wounded. 27th relieved by Warwicks enemy quiet during relief casualties 3 killed 17 wounded. 28th Bn moved to Ridge Wood and rested. 29th-31st Bn Cleaning, foot inspections, gas drills, kit inspections and training.

### November

1st. Moved back into trenches at Bedford House practically no casualties in relief but 2 officers and 1

OR killed who had gone forward to reconnoitre our positions. 2nd Enemy Artillery fairly active. 3rd Artillery more active than yesterday. Enemy aeroplane dropped a parachute message telling of the German victory in Italy. 4th. Enemy active direct hit on a pill box meant several Bn. Casualties. Heavy enemy barrage and gas shells meant men had to wear respirators. 5th Relieved by Gloucesters. 6th-11th at Micmac Camp. Cleaning, bathing, football, during the bad weather lectures in billets. Enemy aircraft bombed camp and on 9th marched to Rheninghelst for free concert by Whizzbangs (the divisional concert party). 12th At Railway dugouts at Zillebeke and relieved Lincoln Regt in front line. 13th/14th Enemy aircraft active and hostile artillery active. 15th Relieved by 'Austin' 1st New Zealand Rifle Brigade and moved by bus to Alberta Camp Westoutre. 16th marched to Seningham and stayed until 23rd. Cleaning, musketry training and usual training a very successful concert was held on 22nd. 24th moved to Fauquemburgues wet and very windy. 25th Moved to Lisbourg, bathing, cleaning and kit inspections, remainder

of month in training 9 officers joined as reinforcements.

**December** Italy.

Dec 1917 Deployed to Italy to strengthen Italian resistance after a recent disaster at the Battle of Caporetto and the Division positioned along the River Piave.

On 24 October 1917 the Austrians and Germans launched the Battle of Caporetto (Italian name for Kobarid). Chlorine-arsenic agent and diphosgene gas shells were fired as part of a huge artillery barrage, followed by infantry using infiltration tactics, bypassing enemy strong points and attacking on the Italian rear. At the end of the first day, the Italians had retreated 19 kilometres (12 miles) to the Tagliamento River. Advancing deep and fast, the Austrians outran their supply lines, which forced them to stop and regroup. The Italians, pushed back to defensive lines near Venice on the Piave River, had suffered 600,000 casualties to this point in the war. Because of these losses, the Italian Government called to arms the so-called 99 Boys (Ragazzi del '99); the new class of conscripts born in 1899 who were turning 18 in 1917. In November 1917, British and French

started to bolster the front line. Far more decisive than Allied help in troops was Franco-British (and US) help providing strategic materials (coal, steel, etc.), which Italy always lacked sorely. In the spring of 1918, Germany pulled out its troops for use in its upcoming Spring Offensive on the Western Front. The British contingent then also moved back to France, the Cheshires had relatively few casualties in this period.

1st April 1918 The 1st Cheshire Regiment was at Bosco Di Nante. Italy and the following day marched to Grumolo then on the 3rd marched to Tavernelle, a difficult march as the 48th Division artillery kept blocking the road. On the 5th they entrained for France arriving at Doullens on the 8th. Heavy rain. The Batt. then moved again until they arrived at Le Touquet on the 12th and went into the trenches to relieve East Surrey's on the 16th April until 21st. Snipers were very active and intermittent heavy shelling, on 19th at Nieppe Forest 'B' Coy made a raid on enemy trenches killing 5. On 22nd moved into Brigade reserve until 24th. Heavy enemy shelling with gas shells resulting in many casualties. 25th in trenches in front of wood. Bedfords



and Gloucesters attacked enemy trenches 2 Coys in support. Woods heavily gassed until 27th when moved into Divisional reserve and bivouac at Foresters House. 28th taken by lorries to baths at Neufre, general cleaning up and reorganising. Lt Molyneux taken to hospital gassed.

#### May 1918.

The Batt. was at Nieppe Forest and spent the month in Front line Trenches and in support and resting/cleaning/baths at Steenbecque. Several periods of heavy hostile shelling.

#### June 1918

The month started with the Batt at Spresiano Camp in Brigade reserve providing working parties. On 4th moved to Arcade Camp as Divisional reserve carrying out tactical exercises, camp heavily shelled on 6th 5 ORs killed and 3 wounded. On 7th the "Whizzbangs" gave an excellent concert, weather very hot, stayed in Arcade Camp on tactical exercises until 13th when moved into front line at Le Sart sector. 18th relieved by Bedfords and moved back into support until 24th, Batt. digging trenches, constructing shelters and opportunity for some men for leave. 25th back in

the front line, quiet day. 26th took over the line as far as the river Bourre. Four men went out on daylight patrol to examine two enemy posts, they were found to be unoccupied but they were fired on and one man was killed, 7 ORs on leave.

28th June 'D' Coy ordered to carry out an operation to attack and hold an enemy position. A rifle grenade barrage was opened up on the enemy position until Zero plus 4 at the same time a Lewis Gun barrage was opened up on the far right of the objective. At zero they advanced along the canal bank and when 30 yards from objective moved into 2 lines and rushed the hedge. 2/Lt Robinson rushed at least 10 yards in front of the others and got into the trench first, unfortunately he jumped on top of 3 Germans who then took him away before the remainder could arrive. The remainder got into the trenches in the face of machine gun fire and captured two MGs and wounded one gunner. They were throwing bombs as they went. L/Cpl Moses organised a bombing party and drove the enemy across the road past the shrine, he then went back and turned his Lewis Gun on to them. Sgt. Harrison seeing there were no officers

or NCOs on the left (they had all become casualties) organised the platoon got the captured machine guns into position and blazed away. The Germans made two re raids during the day but were driven off by bombs and Lewis Guns. Casualties 7 killed and 10 wounded. 30th relieved and back to Villorba Camp.

#### July 1918.

In Brigade reserve at Villorba Camp, Digging support trenches, cleaning up and working parties. On 2nd 15 men on leave to UK. Camp shelled at night and early morning with gas and H.E. shells 5 ORs killed, 13 wounded and 17 gassed. On 5th Relieved by East Surreys and into Divisional Reserve at La Lacque Camp until 11th Church parades, football - a brigade competition Cheshire beat Norfolks 3-1 and in final beat Warwicks 1-0. On 11th relieved West Kents in the front line at Arrewage 12th 21 men sent on leave on 16th 20 men sent on leave. Relieved on the 17th, during this tour the enemy artillery was much less active than usual. 18th at Chapelle Boom in support 23rd Batt relieved and withdrew to Tannay At Tannay until 29th, Church parades, drill, route marches, fatigues and training. On

30th back into the front line at Le Sart sector. Quiet day.

### August 1918

1st quiet day. HQ shelled at night 1 OR killed 1 wounded. 2nd quiet day, trenches very wet and men employed in draining them. 3rd Bn HQ shelled 22 ORs wounded (Gas). 4th Representatives of 'D' Coy received a 'battle honour' for their flag in honour of the operation on 28th June at Merville, quiet day 4 ORs wounded. 6th Relieved and withdrew to Villorba. 7th Batt. cleaning up marched to Sercus billets very scattered. Stayed until the 14th, Batt paraded in full marching order for B.G.C and complimented on splendid turnout. Platoon and Company training. 14th marched to Arques Station and entrained, detrained at Frevant had tea near the station and marched to Bouquemaison stayed until the 18th training. 19th moved to Bayencourt and on 21st moved into position in a line NW of Bucquoy village. The line of attack was Norfolks and Bedfords in front and Cheshires and Warwicks in support. A heavy mist in the morning at 4.55am the advance started under a heavy barrage, 12 tanks had been allotted, Bucquoy was the first objective and

taken without any serious opposition. The 15th Brigade leapfrogged through the 37th Division and proceeded to 2nd objective which was reached by Bedfords and Norfolks with few casualties. Owing to the mist and smoke some units lost position but the line of 2nd objective gave units time to reform and the Regiment formed in perfect order with the Warwicks on our right and Hood Battalion RND on left, the Norfolks and Bedfords dug in on line of 2nd objective. At zero plus 162 the final advance commenced and the regiment passed through the Norfolks towards the village of Achiet-le-Petit accompanied by 6 tanks, our guns were now out of range so there was not artillery barrage. The village was taken and a large number of prisoners were captured along with a battery of field artillery a 5.9 gun and a large number of machine guns. As the Batt debouched from the village they came under very heavy machine gun fire from the high ground by the railway. The tanks moved to the left of the village but the majority were knocked out before they could offer any support. As soon as it became obvious the village was in our hands the enemy started to shell it heavily.

The Hood Batt. had been held up leaving our flank 'in the air'. A strong enemy counter attack developed which was driven off with many enemy casualties. The situation now became very precarious as two batts. were 500 yards in front of the others and the enemy were working round to the left. A re-adjustment of the line was imperative, this was carried out with great difficulty and under very heavy machine gun fire from three sides, which caused many casualties. The line was held by the Batt until relieved by the Norfolks after dark. Batt. moved into support. Remainder of month in trenches at Achiet-le-Petit on Bapaume-Arras Road in preparation for an attack by 3rd Army. The Divisions casualties were 70 Officers and 1,600 ORs. The Cheshires had 48 men killed. September 1918. 1st Moved from Favreuil to assembly positions at Beugny Village. 2nd Sept. Ordered to attack and capture Beugny Village and occupy the high ground to the east. The Norfolks on right and 2nd Div. on left. Ten minutes before zero hour the enemy put down an extremely heavy barrage

on the assembly positions causing heavy casualties and putting most of the Officers and NCOs out of action before the advance commenced . Despite this the right Coy advanced through the village and captured the first objective, the left Coy advanced about 1000 yards and were then held up by very heavy hostile machine gun fire. An enemy counter attack later drove back the left flank of 'A' Coy and the right of the Norfolks and there was a gap of 500 yards between them and the New Zealand Division. An immediate counter attack however re-established the position on the high ground. This position was held throughout the night.

The Battalion lost over 50 men killed in this action including Private Arthur Morgan. He is buried at Bancourt British Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.



Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
MORGAN	Ches R.	PLt	40264
Arthur			
Medal			
Warrant	J/2/101 B 14 4475		
Barren	do	do	
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded



The British War Medal-The Victory Medal

In Memory of  
Private  
**A Morgan**  
40264, 1st Bn., Cheshire Regiment who died on 02 September 1918

Remembered with Honour  
Bancourt British Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# 375938 Rifleman Wallace Arthur Partridge



## 8th (City of London) Battalion Post Office Rifles

### Wallace Arthur Partridge

He was born in 9th June 1899 and baptised on 19th August 1899 in Ross. His parents were Edwin Partridge a Mason and Emily Maria Hodges and they were living in Brampton St. (They had married 10th Feb. 1884). In 1901

they were living at 27 Brampton St and father was a Mason. In 1911 Wallace was a visitor at the home of Sophia Somers in Greytree.

### The Great War.

Wallace Partridge was born on 9th June 1899 and the lowest age for enlistment/conscription was 18 so it seems most likely he joined the army in June 1917. The minimum age for 'going to the front' was 19 but on 10th April 1918 due to a lack of trained recruits this was lowered to 18 years and six months old - provided they had had six months training. Conscripted men also had no choice of which service/regiment they were put into. So Rifleman Partridge was placed into the Post Office Rifles (8th City of London Regiment) and was suitable for overseas duty in April 1918. According to the CWGC Post Office Riflemen with the numbers starting 375000 started to appear in the casualty lists in late May 1918.

*Below are some extracts from the war diaries of the Post Office Rifles.*

### June 1918.

1st June 113 Other Ranks joined as reinforcements. *It seems likely that Rifleman Partridge was in this group of men.*

Work on improving trenches and shelters was carried out and instruction in Lewis Gun and Rifle Grenade was given. A percentage of men from the Coys were inoculated by 'MO'. 2nd June Bright and hot. Work on 'stand to' positions and trenches. Classes under Coy arrangements for musketry, bayonet fighting, saluting, sentry groups and instruction in grenades and rifle grenades. Voluntary church services held throughout the day. Regimental band played selections in the evening. 3rd Hot day quiet. Improving trenches. Musketry, raid loading, open order drill, use of grenades. Evening inter Coy football matches. Regt. Band played selections. 4th As for 3rd but 32 ORs joined as reinforcements. 5th Improvements to wiring, practice training in the 'Attack'. 4pm Batt moved off to new positions 'Daily Mail Woods' near Mirvaux, under canvas. 6th-9th Bright and hot, training - attacks, signalling with flags and route march, parades, marched past Corps Commander on way to Church Parade. 10th June Bright and showery marched to embussing point between Puchevillers and Picquiny and brigade



convoy moved off at 12.15. Moved to Picquiny (N.W. of Amiens) and into billets in the town. 10th-17th at Picquiny Training, baths, Stokes Gun Course, Musketry on ranges, On 15th a performance by 'The Goods' Concert Party, 16th a Cricket match and in the evening a demonstration by aeroplane for the troops 'flying at different heights'. 18th moved into Brigade support SE of Bresle, changeable weather. On 19th took over the line from 7th Londons. Working on Dolly Trench. On 22nd 13 men went out to reconnoitre enemy wire but moon too bright. Patrol went out again next night, encountered the enemy and were fired upon 1 OR wounded. 24th Batt. relieved from Brigade Support and moved back to Villa Sector Rear near Franvillers under canvas. 25th General cleaning up, afternoon regt band played selections evening working on the Lanieville system of trenches. 26th orders to move to Bazieux System arriving at 1.45 CO explained to Officers and NCOs a proposed raid system. 27th Training in taped off area for the raid 2/Lt Knell and one OR went on patrol to reconnoitre enemy dispositions and wire. 28th

Training for special scheme as per previous day. 29th Bright warm day, morning training classes in bayonet fighting and bombing, during training a shell fell among 'D' Coy killing 4 and wounding 18 ORs. Evening Batt. training of special scheme. 30th Batt. practicing special scheme. Attached to regt were Lt Col Willis, British West Indies Regt. and Lt MacBean US Marine Corps (MO).

#### July 1918.

1st. Bazieux System Bright and hot day. Relieved 3rd London in support. 2nd Working and wiring parties at Shrine and Pioneer trenches. 3rd Cool and dull work on repairs to our own trenches. 5th July Batt. relieved 7th Londons in front line in left brigade sector. 6th Very quiet, enemy reported working in no man's land. 7th Patrol sent out to surprise enemy wiring party but failed to make contact. 8th another patrol sent out but enemy made off before contact could be made. 9th Inter Coy relief enemy sent over barrage while relief being carried out - no casualties. 10th Quiet enemy trench Mortars and artillery slightly active. 11th enemy very quiet except for some trench mortar activity, patrol had unusual experience being shelled

by enemy 77mm about 100 yards from his line. 12th usual TM activity but enemy quiet. 13-17th Quiet, training and practice special scheme. Thunderstorms on 17th and at 3am enemy aeroplane dropped 3 bombs killing 3 and wounding 2. 18th Relieved 3/4th Londons in support. 19-22nd Warm weather, usual work. 23rd July at Round Wood part of day resting and rest preparing for raid. 24th Partly resting and partly preparing for raid, 11pm Batt left Round Wood in busses and took up positions in front line near St Laurence Farm. The Barrage came down punctually and the assault: The front line had no difficulty crossing the wire and entered the enemy trenches 2 MGs were captured and 3 prisoners. The parties assaulting the Quarry did not achieve their objective they came under flanking MG fire and failed to get up to the barrage before it lifted and came under frontal machine gun fire and a strong defence by bombs preventing them from crossing the wire. The centre company rushed the enemy trench without difficulty and killed or captured those there 10 enemy were killed, 14 men and 2 MGs were

captured, they then rendered assistance to Coys on their flanks. The left Coy got into the enemy trench without difficulty and killed those in the front line trench, no prisoners were taken. The Right Hook assault party had some hard hand to hand fighting and bombing, two Mills bombs and a smoke bomb were thrown down a single entrance dugout, enemy had been heard calling out 'Kamerad' from the dugout, none came out afterwards. Other enemy took refuge in Single Trench which was bombed out - estimated enemy killed by this platoon -40. The party assaulting the left Hook reached their objective but suffered heavily from MG fire from the flank only 5 men of the platoon returned unscathed. This company had the hardest fighting and accounted for most of the enemy. Withdrawal was affected under flanking machine gun fire wwhich caused casualties in No Man's Land. On our withdrawing and the barrage slackening the enemy pushed forward to re-occupy his trenches. Casualties 12 Killed 60 Wounded 55 Unaccounted for (missing)

After the raid Batt collected at Nine Elms and went back to Round Wood by Bus.  
 26-28th Resting and re-organising, speech by Div Commander congratulating on success of raid. 30th Relieved 9th Londons in Lavieville Line. 31st Bright hot day carried on training. August 1918  
 1st. Bright hot day in Divisional Reserve. 2nd. Batt. bussed to Wargnies. 3rd. Day spent cleaning up generally and inspection of companies. 4th Batt Church parade anniversary of beginning of war service. Embussed near Havernas and debussed at Albert-Amiens Rd West of Franillers. 5th Marched to small wood on Bray-Corbie Rd.  
 6-11th August 1918. The 8th Londons part at the Battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918, (and what Ludendorff called the Black Day for the German Army); saw them attached to the 58th Division, that attacked in the north of the sector, astride the Somme Canal. The Battalion had a good day, capturing all its objectives and ending up on the western edge of Malard Wood. They took 500 prisoners, including two battalion commanders. Unfortunately, fog held up the rest of

the brigade and the key objective of the Chipilly Spur remained in German hands. On 9 August the 8th Londons helped in its capture and were withdrawn into rest two days later. By then they had suffered 300 casualties, including all their HQ officers.

Rifleman Partridge was one of those killed in action at Amiens. He is buried at Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

#### Soldiers who died in the Great War

**Name:** Wallace Arthur Partridge  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Hereford  
**Residence:** Ross  
**Death Date:** 10 Aug 1918  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Rifleman  
**Regiment:** London Regiment  
 8th (City of London)  
**Battalion:** Battalion (Post Office Rifles)  
**Regimental Number:** 375938  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action



Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
PARTRIDGE	8. Lond R.	Plt	375938
Wallace A.			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
Victorian	TP8/101	382	
British	do	do	
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded





British War Medal Victory Medal

In Memory of  
Rifleman  
**W A Partridge**

375938, 8th Bn., London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) who died on 10 August 1918 Age 19  
Son of Edwin and Emily Partridge, of Hill View, Greytree, Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Heath Cemetery, Harbonnières

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# 27807 Private Albert George Perkins



11th Border Regiment  
"The Lonsdale Pals"

Formerly



4257 Herefordshire Regiment  
20539 King's Shropshire Light Infantry

## Albert George Perkins

Born 18th February 1888 at Canon Pyon. His parents were Philip Perkins and Rosanna Jones both came from

Claines, Worcestershire. 1901 Living at Pyon father Philip was a coachman. In 1911 They were living at Great House Cottage, Albert was an insurance Agent and his father was still a coachman. At the time of his enlistment they were living at 5 Copse Cross St. Ross.

### The Great War

1st July 1916 The opening day of the Battle of the Somme. The Army had over 57,000 casualties of which 20,000 were killed in action. The 11th Battalion Border Regiment had over 500 casualties on this day (out of 800 men). To remain as a fighting force they required reinforcements.

*The following contains extracts from the War Diaries of the border Regt.*

At the end of July 1916 approximately 500 Men of the 3rd Battalion Herefordshire Regt. went under canvas at Abergavenny 22nd September the Herefordshire men were transferred to the 3rd Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) and then on 1st October posted to the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) Base Depot at Rouen. Embarked from Southampton to Rouen 2nd October. 3rd October 1916 arrived Rouen and transferred to the 5th KSLI and then on

10th October 232 Herefords were transferred to 11th Border Regiment arriving with them on 10/11th. 11th October 1916. Cambrian Sector. Battalion in support line (VillageLine). Supplied R.E. parties. Reinforcements of 212 ORs arrived for Battalion from Herefordshire Regt. . 12th. C/O and party from East Yorks arrived with purpose of gaining information prior to the Batt. taking over the line from us. 13th. Batt. in reserve visit to Batt.of Brig. Gen Jardine. 14th. Batt.left trenches for Bethune after being relieved by 1st E. Yorks. 15th. Batt left Bethune, full marching order. Arrived Labeuvriere and billeted there. Batt. parade in afternoon under C/O. 16th. Batt. left Labeuvriere full marching order arrived Monchy Breton at 1pm, stayed there overnight. 17th. Batt. left Monchy Breton full marching order arrived Moncheaux at 3pm. 18th. Batt. Left Moncheaux full marching order arrived Longueville 3.15pm. 19th. Batt. Left Longueville full marching order, marched for two hours and returned to Longueville.



20th. Batt. remained in billets during day. Batt. parade for general instruction and bombing and grenade throwing.

21st. Batt. Left Longueville 8am full marching order arrived Herissat at .45pm. Parade of bombers for live grenade throwing.

22nd. Batt remained at Herissat. Batt. parade in morning Bombing afternoon, live grenade throwing. Re-inforcements 6 men arrived.

23rd. Batt. Left Herissat for Bouzincourt arriving at 6.15pm.

24th.- 27th. October. At Bouzincourt General parades of instruction.

28th. G.O.C. (General Haig) in company with O/C Brigade and Division visited billets and also congratulated C/O 11th Border Regt. on state of his Batt..

29th. In Bouzincourt general parade of instruction. R.E. parties

30th. Batt. Left Bouzincourt full marching order arrived 11.30am in Herissat.

31st October 1916. Left Herissat full marching order arrived at La Vicogne.

**November 1916.** La Vicogne.

1st. General parade of instruction under C/O.

2nd. Brigade Field Day. At 2.25pm Batt. took up position in Artillery Formation in a wood 2000 yards West of Herissat near Talmas. At 2.30 Batt. advanced in Westerly direction on bearing 300%. Leading Coy passed through Val De Maison followed by remaining Coys. Rear of Batt. passed at 3.35pm with no opposition. 3.45pm the Batt. broke into extended line making an advance of four waves at 100yds intervals on La Vicogne. Rear of Batt. experienced difficulties with the rear Coys becoming mixed.

Country rough and wire fenced with deep gullies. 4.12pm Batt. again held up with Coys mixed and slightly disorganised. Batt. again advanced. At 4.30pm well past the rough country and attacked La Vicogne rear through by 4.40pm. Position consolidated and occupied Western side of La Vicogne and patrols pushed forward.

3rd-5th. General parades of instruction under C/O.

6th. Batt. took part in Brigade Field Day. Advanced from a position South of Val De Maison and marched toward Beauval breaking into artillery formation on the way and finally assaulted a position South of Beauval

having broken into extended order at Fme deRosel.

7th/8th General parades of instruction  
9th. Batt. went for route march under C/O.

10th. General parades.

11th. Visit of Brig. Gen. Jardine to meet all officers of 97th Brigade. Border Officers under C/O for tactical scheme.

12th. Church parade.

13th. Orders received to march. Batt. left La Vicogne at 10.am and arrived at Contay 3pm.

14th. Batt. left Contay full marching at 1pm and arrived Black Horse Bridge 7pm. Tiring march for Batt. and little accommodation for men.

15th. Orders to dump packs etc. then paraded in battle order at 2pm marched to Englebelmer arriving 5pm.

16th November. Batt. remained at Englebelmer fitting out with bombs etc. for action.

**17th November. Redan Sector**

Batt. left Englebelmer at 11am. in full fighting order for the trenches. Passed through Mailly Maillet and passed through 'White City' having formed into single file. At this point the Batt. went across the open headed by the C/O.

towards the trenches opposite Wagon Road occupying any trench front or back where we relieved the E. Lancs and the N.Lancs. On the way o these trenches the Batt. passed under shellfire and casualties were caused. After some difficulties the relief was completed at 6am. The ground was very bad and the wire much cut about by shellfire. The shellfire continued throughout and while in trenches the Batt suffered a few more casualties. The tape was laid out for the Batt.to form on ready for the attack. About 12 noon a heavy artillery barrage was opened on to the enemy lines opposite us. Half an hour later enemy artillery opened on ground held by us with heavy fire, this continued until well after dark. Companies were sent into position on the tape and the enemy artillery barrage continued playing havoc with our lines. Men of various companies who had got separated were got together and everything got in readiness for the Batt. to take up position for the attack.

**18th November Redan Ridge  
(Beaumont Hamel).**

At 12 midnight marched along Wagon Rd to the positions. By 4am all were in readiness and by 5am Coys had

moved on to the tape and were in position. At Zero 6.10am the artillery barrage opened and the Regiment advanced in perfect order to attack. The men being a fine sight to see in spite of the intense cold in which they had to lie and wait. The Coys got well away and it is certain that the leading platoons and several others got well over Munick (Munich) Trench after this it was difficult to ascertain the precise position of every company. The Germans put over a very heavy bombardment and fired several rockets which burst into four red stars. There was considerable hostile machine gun fire some of which seemed to come from well in the rear of Frankfort Trench doing indirect fire on to the ground where the attack was delivered. Soon after daylight Capt Rosoe & Lt Greenhill were found with some Border men and some KOYLI near the communication trench with Munick Trench. Here sharp fighting occurred with bombing attacks were delivered. 10pm. In the trench at approx. Q6 a bombing post was established and a little behind two Lewis Guns were placed in position, commanding both

flanks. After dark several men, this is all of the men who were left on the Wagon Road side of Munick Trench returned after holding shell holes opposite the German line and in is wire to a position in Wagon Road. During the day and up till 10pm stretcher bearers were continuously over the top and about bringing in wounded men.

Those that were left of the battalion were re-organised and Wagon Road was placed in a state of defence by them. From accounts it is believed that several men got right through Munick Trench. Wounded men crawling back were continually sniped at by the enemy.

19th. November. Batt. in same position. No action taken by the enemy except for Shrapnel and heavy H.E. Barrage causing several casualties.

During the attack and after, when men were holding onto ground taken the enemy adopted several cowardly devices, such as some coming out unarmed with their hands up and when our men showed themselves to get enemy prisoners they (the enemy with hands up) would suddenly drop

and our men were shot by concealed Germans further on.

A little after noon the battalion was relieved by the Enniskillen Fusiliers.

140 men of the Border Regiment died on the 18th November of which 53 were originally from the Herefordshire Regiment.

19th. November. Batt. in same position. No action taken by the enemy except for Shrapnel and heavy H.E. Barrage causing several casualties.

A little after noon the battalion was relieved by the Enniskillen Fusiliers.

20th Remained in billets at Mailly Maillet.

21st. In Billets. Sgt Major Johnstone reported to Batt. having brokent through the German Line at Munick Trench from Frankfort said that some 'Borders' and HLI were holding a portion of Frankfort Trench. Brigade formed a rescue/raiding party from the Border and 16th HLI tp assist Capt Welch and the cut off party in returning.

22nd. Two other men managed to break through the line and reported the cut off party were still holding out.

Another rescue party was formed and sent to trenches near to Wagon Road to hold itself in readiness in case Capt Welch and his men tried to break out. 23rd Arqueves Rescue party still in trenches but no result. Batt. ordered to march. 1.25 Batt marched to Arqueves. The cut off Coy appear to have been lost to the Germans. Pte Albert Perkins of Ross was taken prisoner on the 23rd November at 'The Somme' and must have been one of the cut off group.

Albert Perkins was a POW and sent to the Camp at Limburg. Limburg was a small town South of Bonn.

Albert died as a POW on 28th April 1918, there is no record on file of how he died but conditions in the camps were very poor but Limburg seems to have taken more care of its prisoners.

*There is a 32-page bound booklet published by the commandant of the camp in 1917, a photograph on each page depicting life in the camp. The camp housed British, French, Russian and Arab prisoners. There are three photographs of groups of British prisoners and British soldiers can be identified in other photographs. Apart*

*from general views of the camp, photographs depict prisoners in kitchens, peeling potatoes, bakery, a canteen, laundry, washrooms, barrack room with beds, the chapel, hospital wards, library, postal room, and various training (joinery, basket weaving, tailoring, shoe making) and leisure activities (billiards, tennis, hairdressing, gardening, art class, library, musical band) and a view of a burial party. From the range of activities, the facilities, and the general appearance of the prisoners it would appear that the inmates of the camp were well looked after and properly nourished. The general cleanliness and provision of medical facilities further indicate a good quality of health. Leisure activities were provided and this is emphasised by documents which show the programmes of concerts held in the camp. These are important as they give the names of some of the prisoners,*

Albert Perkins is buried in Hamburg Cemetery (soldiers who died in various parts of Germany were exhumed and re-buried in Hamburg after the war) and his is

commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

His German POW record No 47

Index E 20 MAR 1917 P.A. 9278

1	2	3	4	5	6
Kf. Nr.	a) Familienname b) Name (mit der Rufname) c) mit der Rufname Name des Vaters	Dienst- grad	a) (Rang) b) mit c) Stemp.	a) (Ort und Tag) b) (Ort und Tag) c) vorläufiger Auf- enthaltsort	a) (Ort und Tag) b) (Ort und Tag) c) (Ort und Tag)
43	Moore William E.N. 190400	Priv. Ser. A.	7. Nr. 1er A.	Le Transloy 1-11-16 Mandelontunbung aus Quent	18-0-20 Wigan Mrs. Florence Moore Froggins Platt Bridge
44	Miller Ernest E.N. 37198	Priv. O.	S.R. Lan Gshlitz O.	Les Noeufs 19-10-16 Verstachung r. aus St Lager	25-1-28 Weston M. John Miller, Weston
45	O'Brien Percy E.N. 4979	Priv. Brig. I.	Brig. I.	Le Transloy 19/10 1. Schlacht Langue- schlunbung 21-10-16 Brennholz-Katarrh aus St Lager	30-6-27 Pading- ton Florence Pratt, Wincobour, 80, Puschaer Str.
46	Palmer David Walter E.N. 45156	Priv. Folk E.	7. Nr. Folk E.	Le Transloy 19-10-16 Bronchialkatarrh Befrierung r.F. aus St Lager	28-7-28 Norwich W. Walter Palmer Highinghall-Blas Saffolk
47	Perkins Albert E.N.	Priv. Ser. O.	11. Nr. Ser. O.	Somme 25-11-16 Naxx. Naxxina	18-9-22 Canon Marg. Nancy Wye Herefordshire, 5, Cross Cross Str.
48	Potter Thomas E.N. 3886	Priv. Inf. O.	Dorset Inf. O.	Somme 5-11-16 Weichtilldeftable a. hain r. F. Scher aus St Lager	29-4-27 Newcastle Mrs. Anna Potter, Lanars Str. Palling Tyns
49	Pratt Walter E.N. 99567	Priv. Ford D.	4. Red- ford D.	Banncourt 11-2-17 Schussverletzung a. l. Auges	1-1-27 Dunstable Mrs. Elizabeth Pratt, 71, Waterlode St. Dunstable
50	Price Henry Victor E.N. 1115	Priv. Naval A.	65. No. 1 Naval A.	Banncourt 4-2-17	20-7-27 Streatham W. Henry Price, 85, Zanor. St. Balham, London
51	Prince John E.N. 42334	Priv. Yorksh. C.	2. King's Yorksh. C.	Banncourt 15-2-17 Stochschuss Ober- halb r. Sprungelenk	22-5-20 Morley Mrs. Helene Prince 55, Markham-st. Potterswooden
52	Price William E.N.	Off. Stf. A.	65. No. 1 Stf. A.	Banncourt 4-2-17	19-2-27 Banncourt Mrs. Nabel Price 1, Thyrn Greenet- Walthamstow
53	Pitcher Frederic E.N.	Priv. Ser. D.	5. Dor- set D.	Banncourt 11-1-17	11-11-22 Banncourt Jenny P. Longfl. No. 1, 106, Gerald. St. Dorset

Form No. 972, September 1916.  
Printed and Bound by the War Office, 1, New Walk, Ipswich, Essex.



In Memory of  
Private  
**A G Perkins**

27807, 11th Bn., Border Regiment

Remembered with Honour  
Hamburg Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# 14911 Private William Leslie Perkins



2nd Battalion  
Duke of Cambridge's Own  
(Middlesex) Regiment

## William Leslie Perkins

He was born 1893 in Ross and baptised 14th June 1893 in Ross. 1901 Father was a carpenter, Francis (William's brother) was a house painter, and Thomas was an errand boy. 1911 His father Francis was a carpenter originally from Ross. His mother Sarah Beck was from Chesterton, Warwickshire, his brother James was a Painter and Japaner at

the ironworks originally from Ross and sister Emily was a domestic servant also from Ross. William was a Clerk at the Ironmongers. William's father Francis died and was buried in Ross on 12th December 1916. his mother Sarah died in Brampton St. a At the start of the war he was employed by Messrs Blake Bros. and was prominent in setting up St Mary's Football Club. nd was buried on 25th April 1942.

## The Great War

William Perkin's number was L/14911. The L/ means he joined as a regular career soldier, not just for war service. Not sure precisely when he joined but L/14821 joined on 2nd March 1914 and L15019 joined on 15th August 1914 so he joined are just before or at the outbreak of the war. Following training he was sent to France with the 2nd Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment on 7th November 1914.

## France.

On 9th November 1914 the Battalion landed at Havre and moved to Merville arriving on the 12th. Then marched on to Steenwerk. 14th Marched to Neuve Eglise and into billets then into trenches at 5pm.. 17th Relieved by Royal Scots Fusiliers and marched

back, subjected to shrapnel fire for about an hour, 'C' Coy attacked by infantry at 6pm and again at 9pm. Marched to Estaires and into billets. casualties 1 killed 1 wounded 15 missing. 18th marched to Laventie into billets, town had suffered badly from enemy bombardment 21st. Relieved Yorkshire Regt in trenches Rue De Bacquerot. 24th Relieved in trenches and Regt. marched to brigade billets at La Flinque casualties 2 killed 3 wounded.. 27th relieved Yorks in trenches. 30th Nov. relieved by Yorks in trenches marched to Divisional Reserve at Pont Richon Casualties 3 killed 4 wounded. December. 3rd. relieved West Yorks in trenches. 6th Relieved and marched into Brigade Reserve at La Flinque 4 killed 1 wounded, 48 reinforcements joined on 7th Dec. 9th Marched to the trenches at Rue De Bacquerot until the 11th when relieved by West Yorks and marched into Divisional Reserve 1 wounded. 14th Dec. Marched to trenches at Richebourg and relieved Worcesters on 17th 93 OR reinforcements arrived. Stood to arms the whole of the night of 18th awaiting the attack. 19th Relieved in

the trenches by Sherwood Foresters and marched into Brigade Reserve casualties 13 killed 16 wounded (2 died later of their wounds). 21st Marched to trenches to relieve West Yorks. 24/25th Regiment relieved and marched to Divisional reserve in billets at Pont Richon. Casualties 2 killed 6 wounded. Stood to arms 26th and 27th and marched to Pont Du Hem, remained in reserve and marched back to billets. 27th 5pm marched to trenches. 30th Relieved by West Yorks and back into Brigade Reserve.

## 1915

### January 1915

2nd Jan. Marched to the trenches on 3rd reinforcements arrived 3 Officers 178 men. On 5th relieved in trenches and marched to Divisional Reserve at Pont Richon. 8th marched back into trenches and on 10th Bombs Mortars and shells were fired into our lines. Reinforcements 89 Men. 11th Shells fired around our lines. 7pm relieved and back to La Flinque into Brigade Reserve Casualties 3 killed 4 wounded.

Remainder of month in trenches at Rue De Bacquerot and reserve at Pont Richon and La Flinque. 11th-31st Jan.

119 reinforcements arrived, casualties 7 killed 18 wounded.

### February 1915.

1st Marched to trenches and relieved West Yorks at Rue De Bacquerot. 50 NCOs and men reinforcements arrived. 4th 7pm relieved and marched to La Flinque casualties 4 killed 6 wounded. 7th Back in the trenches until 10th when marched back to Divisional Reserve Casualties 5 killed 11 wounded. 13th Back in the trenches. 16th 90 reinforcements arrived but 11 were found medically unfit for service. Relieved in trenches. On 19th back in trenches, on 22nd 48 NCOs and men (reinforcements) arrived but 9 were found medically unfit for service. Relieved by West Yorks and back into Divisional Reserve. Casualties 1 killed 1 died of wounds 5 wounded. 25th Marched back into trenches at Rue De Bacquerot on 27th 20 OR reinforcements arrived Casualties 1 killed 5 wounded.

### March 1915

1st Mar. At Cameron Lane. Relieved in trenches by Cameron Highlanders. 2nd at Le Sart in billets in Corps reserve. 3rd 42 NCOs and men reinforcements. 5th All Officers and 8 NCO moved to Rouge Croix to

reconnoitre positions. Returned on 6th. On 7th moved to billets at Estaires.

9th Mar. Marched to assembly points.

10th 5am formed up at assembly points. At 8.05am an assault was attempted on the German front trench, this failed and two others were attempted and these also failed.

11,45 a second bombardments of the front German trench took place, immediately afterwards an assault was made and the German front line was occupied. Bombing parties moved along the trench. 12.15 the Battalion was reformed in the trench and consolidated. 5pm Point 6 was occupied and the work of putting it into a position of defence which was started by RE was continued.

11th-12th March the position was occupied until 12.15am on the 13th. Casualties for the assault.

Officers 7 Killed 8 Wounded.

Other Ranks. 70 Killed 299 Wounded 89 Missing.

Private William Leslie Perkins was one of those killed in action during this assault. (12th March 1915). He is buried at Merville Communal Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.



Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
PERKINS	4th Middlesex	Private	414911
William L.			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	E/414911/6	2572	3 of 11
BRITISH	do	do	
14 STAR	2/1/2	51	
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein 7-11-14			

He was awarded



The 1914 Star British War Medal  
Victory Medal

He does not appear to have been  
awarded the 1914 clasp (Clasp and  
Roses)

#### Soldiers who died in the Great War

**Name:** William Leslie Perkins  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Hereford  
**Death Date:** 12 Mar 1915  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** London  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment  
**Battalion:** 2nd Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** L/14911  
**Type of Casualty:** Died of wounds  
**Theatre of War:** Western European Theatre

In Memory of  
Private  
**W L Perkins**

14911, 2nd Bn., Middlesex Regiment Age 21  
Son of Francis and Sarah Perkins, of 31, Brampton St., Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Merville Communal Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# 235439 Private William Henry Peters



1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment

## William Henry Peters

He was Baptised 5th August 1894  
Born 1893 in Brampton St, Ross.  
Father Henry Peters from Brampton St.  
Ross Mother Louisa Hazelwood from  
The House, Ross at the time of their  
Marriage 29th March 1891. 1901.  
They were living at 38 Brampton St.  
Ross father was a Mason. 1911 they  
were living at 38 Brampton St, Ross.  
At some stage his parents movdd to  
27 Broad St. Ross

## The Great War.

1623 Private William Peters joined the Herefordshire Regiment during 1914 and almost certainly before the start of the War. His number 235349 came from the re-numbering of the Territorial Force in early 1917 when all Territorials were given new numbers. Following training he went to Gallipoli:

## Gallipoli

*Extracts and notes from the War Diaries 1st Herefords at Gallipoli November 1915.*

16th July 1915 the 1st Herefordshire Regt. left Devonport on the SS. Euripides for Egypt. They arrived at Gibraltar on the 20th and then sailed for Malta arriving on the 24th, they then sailed the same day for Alexandria arriving on the 27th. On 31st they stopped at Port Said troops were allowed ashore to bathe and on 4th August all troops in excess of 25 Officers and 750 ORs were sent by train to Alexandria (2/Lt Lloyd and 193 ORs). Later on the 4th the Battalion sailed for Lemnos arriving in Mudros Harbour on the 7th August.

The regiment landed at Suvla Bay from steam launches at 5.00am on the 9th

August. They were then employed in getting water and stores up from 'C' beach. The men had some bully beef, biscuit and lime juice at 1.pm. At 4.35pm they were told to take up entrenched positions on the right of the Sherwood Foresters. After about 1 mile they came under heavy shrapnel fire, the Sherwood Foresters were further away than anticipated and touch was lost between the first and second lines. The CO realised they had gone 1/2 mile beyond the Azmak Dere (a dry water course), he rallied the men and withdrew to the line of Azmak Dere. Written orders were then received that the advance had been cancelled and they were to withdraw to a line of trenches from the Salt Lake westwards. 60 Herefords were wounded and 11 men were killed. 10th August The Battalion moved up the line of the Azmak Dere and were met with heavy shrapnel fire but little or nothing was seen of the enemy except snipers whose fire was galling but no officers were hit.

17th August at Suvla. Quiet day except for heavy sniping. At night Bn ordered to advance 200 yards and then dig in again. The Bn got out of the trenches in one long line with no



intervals between (quite absurd!) and then lie down to wait. Order cancelled, order came to take over trenches of 6th RWF but for some reason they did not leave their trenches and the Bn had to return to its cover - partially in trenches, ditches and behind hedges. A Coy of the Border Regt came to assist the Bn!. 18th/19th August more casualties with heavy sniping.

22nd Aug. Two men accidentally shot themselves and 2/Lt Lloyd and 187 ORs joined us from Alexandria. Remainder of the month was in trenches with heavy sniping barrages from Turks and casualties. Casualties for August. 25 Killed, 146 Wounded, 2 Missing.

**September** 1st -5th In trenches at Anafarta Ova Suvla. Quiet period 2 Officers and 43 ORs joined from England. 5th - 7th in Rest camp 'B' Suvla. Then back into the trenches until the 16th improving trenches, wiring. Started to rain so drainage scheme thought about but needed to be done on whole front.

16th back to rest camp. 21st Moved to new rest camp, heavily shelled with HE. On 25th moved to reserve rest camp at Karakol Dagh, lots of HE,

sniping and difficulties with obtaining water (one gallon per man for all purposes). Heavy fatigues. Good news from France.

28/30th moved up to the reserve firing line. Ordered to supply 439 men for fatigues only 433 available. One man killed one wounded by blasting operations by E Yorks pioneer Bn.

**October** 1/6th. Start made on inoculating men against Cholera at 2/Welsh Field Ambulance usual fatigues large numbers of men sent sick to Mudros and army returning. 6th Turks at the 'Pimple' heavily shelled by Men of War at Xeros and Suvla Bay 7/8/9th Sept. Heavy shelling and many men going sick. 11/12/13th Heavy rain, strong winds some lightning- cold.

14th -30th Karakol Dagh, Suvla Bay. Enemy aircraft reconnoitred, heavy shelling Officer reinforcements from England, very heavy rain and high winds. On 23rd Pte Bowkett found dead in bivouac (of exposure). 27th Turks started very heavy shelling. 31st relieved 2nd mounted brigade in reserve.

**November** 1st. Took over trenches from 2nd mounted brigade. On 2nd took over trenches from Lovats

Scouts and Fife and Forfar Yeomanry . 3rd preparations for wiring front of Fort Conan and filling sandbags On 5th the Turks fired eleven Broomstick trench mortar bombs into the lines, five exploded but no casualties. 6th One man killed and one wounded at Azmak Dere. 7/8th Digging communications trenches. Shelling by Turks and trench mortar fire in front of Highland Barricade. 10th The new fire trench was conformed during the night strong covering parties being placed to cover working parties at night.

11th Nov. Enemy snipers very active and 3 or 4 big trench mortars fired into the lines near Calgarry Barricade, sniper fire very accurate and one man killed. Work carried out on new fire trench.

12th Nov. Work on fire trench continued, at 14.00 enemy shelled our lines, 14-16 shells burst without any casualties, at 20.00 enemy again opened fire with trench mortars at Azmak Dere. A battery was called upon to return fire - effect not known.

13th Nov. 14.00-14.30 front line trenches were shelled by 75mm battery and trench mortar bombs of big calibre were fired into our line with no material damage and no casualties.

Work continued on the fire trenches. 3 men wounded and one seriously in the head by a sniper.

14th Nov. A few shells were fired into the trenches but apart from that exceptionally quiet, one man seriously wounded by a sniper in the early part of the night.

15/16th Nov. One man killed by sniper in early part of morning while re-entering trench from listening post. At 17.00 heavy shellfire from both sides in direction of Susak Kuyu and a good deal of rifle and machine gun fire. In the evening strong winds and some rain. The enemy artillery were very active on our right, the Indian Brigade having sprung some mines. Artillery more active than usual, one man killed and one severely wounded to the head by shrapnel fired at one of our aeroplanes

17th Nov. Some heavy trench mortars fell in the vicinity of Pit St. One of our catapults firing cricket-ball bombs was used to search some bushes used by Turkish snipers, had the effect of reducing sniper fire.

18th Nov. Quiet day, 19th Nov. Lookouts reported near Highland Barricade at Azmak Dere that parties of the enemy were constantly moving

about at a distance of 150 yards in front of our trenches. No artillery fire this day and enemy's fire normal.

20th Nov. Enemy artillery very active shelling our firing line and support trenches. It appears that a mountain battery has been pushed near the right of our line and caused considerable annoyance by firing at even small working parties.

21st Nov. Nothing to report.

22nd Nov. Enemy artillery very active between 12.30 and 1.00 with 50 shells fired at 'C' Coys trenches. Enemy erected, during the night a small bridge across the Dere about 150 yards in front of our fire trench.

23rd. 'A' Battery fired a few rounds at the bridge but failed to hit it. A fairly quiet day. Two men wounded accidentally. Not much rifle fire.

24th and 25th Nov. Nothing of importance occurred.

26th November Heavy thunderstorm at about 19.00 hours Turkish, Highland and Calgary Barricades were swept away. AZMAK rose with great rapidity to a depth of 7-8ft. Fire, Support and Communication trenches flooded to a depth of 3-4ft and choked with slimy mud. Bn HQ flooded to a depth of 4ft in a couple of minutes.

Much equipment, stores and Officers' effects were washed away. Rations arrived at usual time somehow or other, with the loss of one cart stuck in the mud, and were distributed early next morning.

27th November. The C.O. (Lt Col Drage) went to the 2/1 Welsh F.A. (Field Ambulance) at 12.00 Sick. AZMAK flood had subsided at this time, but the trenches were still deep in water and slime.

The Bn. was relieved by Fife and Forfar Yeomanry at 20.00- nearly two hours late. All officers and men had been standing up by this time for over 24 hours - the greater majority being wet through. At about 20.00 the Bn moved off to march to Lala Baba bivouacs. In the meantime it had commenced to snow and about 22.00 there was a blizzard blowing with many degrees of frost. At about 22.30 it being impossible to get the Bn to Lala Baba (& no bivouacs were vacated for it). The Bn was ordered to spend the night in the sand dunes to the S.W of the SALT LAKE. The men suffered very severely from the cold, many suffering from frostbite & trench feet. The two last Coys to leave the

trenches did not arrive at the Sand Dunes till midnight.  
 28th November 1915. Snowed all day. Many officers and men taken to 2/1st Welsh Field Ambulance which was fairly close by.  
 29th November 1915. Fine and Cold. At about 16.00 what remained of the Battalion proceeded to Lala Bala and arrived about 18.00.  
 Casualties for the month of November

Killed or died of wounds	13
Wounded	10
Missing	11
Died of exposure	11
Admitted sick to Hospital	355

## December 1915

1st Dec Weather calm and fine - luckily as Officers and men were living with little shelter. 2nd-6th Dec Bn. reduced to about 130, employed in digging trenches at Lala Baba. 7th Dec. Heavy and most systematic bombardment by Turks, of Lala Baba, luckily few casualties and none among the Herefords.  
 9th and 10th Dec. More artillery fire than usual directed at Lala Baba,  
 11th December. Received orders about the evacuation.  
 12th Dec. Bn. Embarked on 'S.S. El Kahira' 13th Dec. Arrived at Lemnos

and went to camping ground near Kondia. 15th Dec Embarked at Lemnos for Alexandria on 'SS Tunisian' 22nd Dec.. Arrived at Alexandria 23rd Dec. Arrived at Wardan, Egypt. 24th - 31st Dec Nothing of interest.

## 1916 EGYPT

In July 1916 Von Kressenstein advanced on the Suez Canal and the Herefords took part in the Battle of Rumani they were bombed by Turkish aircraft and heavily shelled and had 13 killed and 26 wounded.  
 In late 1916 and early 1917 they prepared for the Palestine Campaign by training with their new transport - 12 riding horses, 29 mules and 110 camels. The advance into Palestine was very difficult, there was little water and they had to construct a railway to bring up supplies.  
 On 24th March 1917 the Division attacked the Turks at the 1st Battle of Gaza. The Herefords were supporting the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who carried the El Sire Ridge but because of poor communications the Generals ordered a withdrawal (to the disbelief of the troops on the ground) and when the mistake was discovered ordered them to take the ridge again but a strong

enemy counter attack resulted in disaster. The Herefords lost 17 of their 22 Officers and 218 Other Ranks were killed, wounded or missing. The British Commander's report implied this had been a decisive victory and so was forced into the 2nd Battle of Gaza three weeks later.

2nd Battle of Gaza 17th-19th April  
 The Turkish forces had been reinforced well and were entrenched in. The result was a defeat and British casualties were 6,325. In late October the Division took part in the 3rd Battle of Gaza. Thus the Third Battle of Gaza - also referred to as the Battle of Beersheba - was initiated early on the morning of 31 October 1917. Not for Allenby a frontal attack, as at the Second Battle of Gaza. Instead he resolved to take the Turkish forces by surprise in the relatively lightly defended area of Beersheba (a plan initially proposed by General Chetwode), deploying 40,000 troops in the area. He nevertheless ensured a hefty British presence directly in front of Gaza. Three divisions, aided by a heavy artillery presence of 218 guns, bombarded the garrison for six days before the attack began in order to fool the Turks into

believing that a full frontal attack was imminent. Allenby's ploy, which demanded the utmost secrecy in planning, succeeded in its entirety. British RFC aircraft - of newly deployed Bristol fighters - ensured British air superiority, crucial in preventing German aircraft from detecting British troop movements. Allenby deployed infantry forces to take Beersheba from the front while despatching his Light Horse unit far to the east. Following an all-day battle an Australian Light Horse unit finally penetrated the Turkish defences and secured control over the town's wells before the Turks could execute a prepared plan to contaminate them. The Turkish Seventh Army meanwhile retired to the stronghold of Tel es Sheria commanded by German commander Kress von Kressenstein's Eighth Army. Panicked there by another diversionary attack to the east by a 70-strong camel company, the Turkish defenders began to scatter believing it to be a large-scale flank attack, thus leaving the flank of Seventh Army exposed. Promptly exploiting this Allenby struck north at Tel es Sheria at dawn on 6 November splitting Seventh and Eighth

Armies. Allenby hoped to trap Kressenstein's Eighth Army at Gaza but the Turks retreated in some haste further up the coast, Gaza being abandoned on 6-7 November. Meanwhile Eighth Army established itself in Jerusalem preparatory to a stand against the British. Battle of Tel el Khuweilfe 1-6th November 1917  
The objective of the 53rd (Welsh) Division, during the main attack on the center of the Ottoman line at Hareria and Sheria, was to occupy the Khuweilfe to Rujm edh Dhib line to the north of the Wadi Khuweilfe and stretching 5 miles (8.0 km) west north west of Tel el Khuweilfe. Mott had argued at the conference on 4 November for an attack by the 53rd (Welsh) Division on the Khuweilfe position only, without "seeking to press forward on his left". They were to attack Tel el Khuweilfe and the three peaks forming a ridge to the southwest, defended by the Ottoman 125th Regiment, part of the 143rd Regiment, and the 77th Regiment of the 19th Division, which had fought in Galicia. The Ottoman 27th Division guarded the continuation of the Ottoman line westwards, with the 16th

Division protecting Sheria and part of the 26th Division to the west of Hareira. Mott deployed four infantry battalions, the 158th Brigade with the 4/Royal Sussex of the 160th Brigade attached, to attack under cover of his divisional artillery (less one battery), the 91st Heavy Battery and the concentrated machine guns. Meanwhile, two infantry battalions formed the divisional reserve, and the attached 3rd Battalion Imperial Camel Brigade guarded the right flank. The intense bombardment began at 04:00 and 20 minutes later, all 16 guns of the machine gun company were firing a barrage on the near face of the ridge. They lifted their fire as the infantry approached before continuing to fire on the reverse slope. The infantry attack began in darkness and the mist during the early morning disorganised the initial advance, some units being "scattered in the fierce and confused fighting". The 6th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers were a little late in starting, and the Hereford battalion on its left swung slightly left-handed attempting to establish touch. Instead of "straddling" Tel el Khuweilfe, the company on the right wheeled across the front of the Ottoman position,



where they were heavily attacked by machine guns. In the centre, a company of the Hereford with the 6th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, "carried their objectives with the bayonet", capturing nine field guns in the process. However, they found their flanks exposed, and were strongly counterattacked from three directions, and compelled to withdraw without the guns. During this retreat, they were fired on by their own guns, before being supported by a company of the 5th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, in establishing a new line. Meanwhile, on the left, the 7th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers and the 4th Battalion Sussex captured Hill 1706 and the spur to the west in very close fighting. At daylight, the 3rd Battalion Imperial Camel Brigade, sheltering behind the northern flank of a little valley running west to east, were strongly attacked before joining a group of Hereford infantry in pushing the "enemy back along the spur". They were supported by the 2nd Australian Machine Gun Squadron, which galloped up the valley under heavy enemy machine gun fire, to reinforce the "hard-pressed" camel battalion. The 53rd (Welsh) Division captured a footing on the main

Khuweilfe Ridge, but they were heavily counterattacked and forced to make a partial retreat, before the Ottoman force was eventually dislodged from the ridge but not the Tel.<sup>[100][119][120][Note 18]</sup> At 14:00, EEF headquarters received a telephone message from Desert Mounted Corps to the effect that the 53rd (Welsh) Division "had been having rather a bad time", and that Chauvel had gone to see the commander. Shortly afterwards, it was reported that the Yeomanry Mounted Division's headquarters and four regiments were holding the Ain Kohle to Sheria track, and were in touch with the 53rd (Welsh) Division on their right and the 74th (Yeomanry) Division on their left. The attackers, reinforced by the 2/10th Middlesex, were ordered to hold their gains against a number of counterattacks, during which the 7th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers were pushed out of their position on the ridge. The last counterattack was finally repulsed at 15:30. The 158th Brigade suffered 620 casualties on 6 and 7 November, while the Imperial Camel Brigade suffered 76 casualties, the 2nd Light Horse Brigade Machine Gun Squadron suffered 27 casualties and the Middlesex 14 casualties, the

Sussex casualties were unknown. The 159th Brigade on the left was ordered to advance on Ain Kohle, but could not move forward. Several urgent requests were made during the day for a mobile reserve of a brigade or a regiment, but they were denied by Chauvel, who could not spare the reinforcements. Although the attack by the 53rd (Welsh) Division had been very confused, suffering a "bloody defeat" instead of a "conquest", the 19th Division was stopped from moving back to reinforce Tel esh Sheria. The continuing threat of an attack up the road to the headquarters of the Seventh Army at Hebron and on to Jerusalem, was maintained by the repeated attacks on Tel el Khuweilfe by the 53rd (Welsh) Division. By the end of the day, the Ottoman defenders had succeeded in defeating the British infantry attacks on Tel el Khuweilfe, and continued to hold Tel esh Sheria, but they had begun to evacuate Gaza. At nightfall, Chauvel issued orders for the Anzac and Australian Mounted Divisions to begin their advance northwards via Sheria towards Jemmameh and Huj, while Barrow commanding the Yeomanry Mounted Division was to take command of the

force at Tel el Khuweilfe, including the 53rd (Welsh) Division.

Having concluded the successful capture of Gaza Allenby next turned his attention to the fall of Jerusalem, which he succeeded in securing the following month. The offensive was successful and Beersheba was captured.

In November and December the Battalion advanced through Palestine in appalling conditions, very hot, insufficient water (3 pints every 48 hours) and rough tracks through the Judean Hills in the Khamsin season. But by Christmas they had taken Jerusalem. March 1918 the Battalion was engaged at Tell Azur a fiercely fought battle of attack and counter attack with a lot of hand to hand fighting but the Turks were finally driven off. This ended the Battalion's involvement in Palestine and in June it returned via Italy to Proven, Belgium.

#### FRANCE

June 1918 they returned to France arriving at Les Cinq Chemins on 1st July 1918. They drew new equipment and a period of training and acclimatizing followed. On 18th July Marshal Foch had ordered a major

counter offensive between Chateau Thierry and Soissons.

They went into the field at 7.40am on 23rd July at Poiseux. 'B' and 'C' Coys in the firing line, 'D' in support, 'B' on left flank and 'A' in reserve and immediately experienced very heavy shellfire, high standing corn made it difficult to move through, casualties occurred from enemy machine guns before the attack had proceeded many yards. Attack was held up at 12.00 due to units on flank either side failing to advance at all. At nightfall relieved by 1/4 Cheshires.

Casualties heavy - 8 Officers and 230 ORs.

Continuous shelling for the whole night and experienced gas shells for the first time, it made the evacuation of the wounded very difficult.

Private Peters was one of those Killed in Action at Poiseux on 23rd July 1918. He is buried at Raperie British Cemetery, Villemonaire and he is commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

#### Soldiers who died in the Great War

**Name:** William Peters  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Herefords  
**Residence:** Ross-on-wye  
**Death Date:** 23 Jul 1918  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** Hereford  
**Rank:** Private  
**Regiment:** The Herefordshire Regiment  
**Battalion:** 1st 1st Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 235349  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
<i>PETERS</i>	<i>Hereford R</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>*1683</i>
<i>William</i>			<i>235349</i>
Metal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	<i>J/1/106<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>215</i>	<i>New No 235349</i>
BRITISH	<i>— 00 —</i>	<i>00</i>	
<i>15</i> STAR	<i>J/1/11<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>22</i>	
Theatre of War first served in	<i>(20)</i>		
Date of entry therein	<i>9-8-15</i>		

He was awarded



The 1914/15 Star British War Medal  
Victory Medal



In Memory of  
Private  
**William Henry Peters**

235349, "B" Coy. 1st/1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 23 July 1918 Age 25

Son of Henry and Louisa Peters, of 27, Broad St., Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Raperie British Cemetery, Villemontoire

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

203511 Private  
**Richard William  
Picknell**



2nd/6th Gloucestershire  
Regiment  
Formerly



Royal Gloucestershire Hussars

**Richard William (Dick) Picknell**

He was born about 1890 in Ryde Isle of Wight. His father was William Picknell a chimney sweep and his mother Kate Ellen Hounsome. In 1891 They were living at 5 Hill St. Ryde and his father was a chimney sweep. In 1901 They were still in the Isle of Wight. By 1911 Richard was a Brewer's Clerk living at 33a High St, Ross.

On August 26th 1916 he married Nora Ellen Blake at the Baptist Chapel in Ross. Nora was from 2 Acacia Villas, Over Ross. The daughter of William Blake an Ironmonger. At his marriage he was in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.

**The Great War**

In November 1915 8255 Private Richard (Dick) Picknell joined Kitchener's New Army under the Derby group system and was in Group 11 he was mobilized on February 29th 1916 and joined the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars and was later posted to the 2nd/6th Battalion (Territorial). His number 203511 came from the re-numbering of the Territorial regiments in early 1917. This number was part of the batch allocated to the 4th Battalion Gloucestershire Regt. so it

appears he was with the 4th Batt. in early 1917 and transferred to 2/6th after that.

The Commonwealth War Graves website starts to show men of the 2/6th Glosters with numbers in the 203000 range starting to appear as casualties in Mid March 1917, as new troops at the front had a high casualty rate this would indicate that the draft including Pte Picknell arrived at the front at least by then, however the Battalion had few casualties between Oct 1916 and March 1917.

2nd/6th Gloucestershire Regiment

**France**

**October 1916** The Battalion had two drafts totalling 79 men during the month as this is the only listing of reinforcements for the battalion prior to the first men with 203000 numbers being listed as KIA it seems likely that this is when Pte Picknell arrived in France.

**November 1916** the battalion was training and in billets at Frevillers and Tornas and on the 17th moved to Aveluy and the remainder of the month was making railways, training and working parties. On 30th relieved Royal Berks in the support trenches.



**December 1916** 5th relieved 2/4th Glosters in Desire, Regina and Hessian trenches at Grandicourt. Until 10th. Intermittent bombardment by the enemy artillery. On 8th 3 prisoners were captured in front of Desire trench. 10th moved to billets at Martinsart Wood. 11th resting, 12th moved to huts at Varennes. Remained at Varennes and Martinsart wood until 28th Dec. On 28th relieved Ox & Bucks relief delayed as captured two prisoners. 29-31st Trenches nothing unusual.

### 1917

**January 1917** Warwick Huts, Martinsart Wood and Hedauville cleaning up, working parties and training. On 14th made a number of marches ending at Argenvillers on 19th remained rest of month training and recreational training.

### February 1917.

1st -14th at Argenvillers and Ailly-Le-Haut-Clocher cleaning Billets, training and preparing to moved. 16th Moved to Weincourt then to billets at Framerville and on 21st relieved 2/4th Glosters in trenches at Kratz, trenches quiet and muddy. b 22/23rd trenches misty and quiet heavy bombardment on 23rd relied to by our artillery. 24th

increased artillery bombardment, dummy raid carried out by our artillery on our left. 25th Day very clear relieved by Warwicks. Returned to billets at Flamerville remained there rest of month,baths.

### March 1917.

1-7th Training at Flammerville. 8-13th relieved Warwicks in Brigade support line at Vermandovillers. 14th relieved 2/4th Glosters in front line trenches. 16th Quiet night, strong patrols sent out. Information received that enemy was evacuating trenches and moving to high ground. 17th Patrols sent out and reported that enemy there but one man every 20-25yards (2 casualties), fires seen behind enemy lines. Orders for a raid, enemy definitely evacuated and strong fighting patrols advanced to enemy front line and found them empty. Strong points established along German front line, patrols sent out to reconnoitre and advanced as far as German 3rd line, no enemy encountered 18th. Coys advanced and occupied railway line between Hyancourt Le Grand and Lanoshut. No sign of enemy. 19th Brust Copse advanced on Morchain no enemy encountered, all villages had been blown up and burnt and

all trees cut down and stores removed. 20th at Morchain, found that bridges crossing the Somme had all been blown up and craters blown at all crossroads, impossible to advance further. 21-24th work on roads, craters and making billets and defensive line at Berthencourt. 25th Moved to Berthencourt stayed until 27th when moved to Monchy Legache until 31st working on craters. 31st moved to Trefcon.

### April 1917.

2nd Moved to St Quentin wood in support . On 5th Batt. attacked Fresnoy Le Petit. After dark 'A' and 'B' Coys attacked, 'C' in support and 'D' in support. Three attempts were made to occupy village without artillery preparation but failed owing to MG fire and wire entanglements. Casualties 4 killed 10 wounded. 6th Batt. at St Quentin Wood in support. 10th-21st Batt working on roads near Ennemain and training. 22nd At Beauvois cleaning billets and training until 25th when moved to Vaux working on roads, craters, training and having baths until 30th.

### May 1917

2nd-6th Trenches at Vaux Ordinary shelling mostly but quiet in trenches.

7th - Holnon Wood in reserve, working parties by day, night wiring. 10th relieved 2/4th Glosters in support and continued with wiring and working parties. 15th moved back to billets at Beauvois cleaning and resting, continued in billets but moved to Nesle, Coisy and Beauval and specialist training. On 23rd moved to Grand Rullecourt and then by motor busses to billets in Arras baths and all Coys training in morning until end of month.

#### June 1917

1st Moved to Tilloy and specialist training and night practice until 10th when moved to Simoncourt, cleaning and rest. Specialist training and sports practice until 16th. On 17th Brigade sports 18th - 21st Coy training and specialist training 22nd Moved by train to Oeuf 23rd--29th Specialist training. 30th June Brigade Horse Show.

#### Battle of Passchendaele

#### July 1917

1st-21st All companies specialist training, attack practices, church parades. 22nd-25th inspections and specialist training. 26th Moved to Peenhoff. Marched to Petit Houvain and then entraine at Esquelbecq and

marched to Peenhoff. Rest of month, cleaning, resting, specialist training and church parades.

#### August 1917

1st -14th Training. 15th Moved to Poperinghe by train. 16th Moved to Goldfish Chateau near Ypres. 17th Batt relieved 15 RIR in trenches at Wieltje 18/19th quiet days intermittent shelling. 20th relieved by O & Bucks and moved back to Goldfish Chateau. 21st moved back up to Wieltje in reserve for 184 brigade. 22nd 184 Brigade attacked 6th Glosters in reserve carrying parties provided. 23rd Two Corps called for support 'A' Coy attacked and captured Pond Farm. 24th August. Batt. relieved O & Bucks L.I. in trenches in left sector. 25th August. Enemy quiet during day except for intermittent shelling. Our trenches heavily bombarded for two hours starting at 11pm. 26th Quiet day intermittent shelling.

203511 Private Richard Picknell was killed in action on 25th August 1917. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

On 27th September 1919 His widow Nora married Capt. Ernest Meredith RFA of Moraston Farm, Bridstow.

#### Soldiers who died in the Great War

<b>Name:</b>	Richard William Picknell
<b>Birth Place:</b>	Ryde, I.o.w.
<b>Death Date:</b>	25 Aug 1917
<b>Death Place:</b>	France and Flanders
<b>Enlistment Place:</b>	Ross-on-wye
<b>Rank:</b>	Private
<b>Regiment:</b>	Gloucestershire Regiment
<b>Battalion:</b>	2 6th Battalion (Territorials)
<b>Regimental Number:</b>	203511
<b>Type of Casualty:</b>	Killed in action

28			
Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
PICKNELL Richard W.	Gloves R. do	Pte	8255 203511
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	L101 B21	3732	
BURIAL	do	"	
Stars			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			
E. 1980			

He was awarded



The British War Medal The Victory Medal





Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial

In Memory of  
Private  
**Richard W. Picknell**

203511, 2nd/6th Bn., Gloucestershire Regiment who died on 25 August 1917

Remembered with Honour  
Tyne Cot Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## 235665 Private Douglas Harry Pike



1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment  
Mentioned In Despatches

### Douglas Harry Pike

He was born on 15th February 1896 at the Shrubbery, Gloucester Road, Ross and baptised on 20th March same year. His parents were Henry a Corn and Seed Merchant originally from Ross and mother Eva Rawlins from Wiltshire. 1901 Living at Suffolk House. Douglas's mother Eva died at

Suffolk House and was buried on 22nd September 1906 in Ross. She was wealthy in her own right leaving a substantial sum in her will £879. 18s. 10d By 2016 values this would be worth between £100,000 and £500,000. 1911 and Douglas was at Lewisham House school in Weston-Super-Mare. Also in 1911 Douglas's father Henry was living at Beaumont, Ashfield, Ross. He was a widower, a Miller and Seed and Grain Merchant (Messrs. Bussell and Pike) He was living with Gertrude Amelia Knifton a widow and they had a servant Edith Price.

### Gallipoli

*Extracts and notes from the War Diaries 1st Herefords at Gallipoli November 1915.*

16th July 1915 the 1st Herefordshire Regt. left Devonport on the SS. Euripides for Egypt. They arrived at Gibraltar on the 20th and then sailed for Malta arriving on the 24th, they then sailed the same day for Alexandria arriving on the 27th. On 31st they stopped at Port Said troops were allowed ashore to bathe and on 4th August all troops in excess of 25 Officers and 750 ORs were sent by

train to Alexandria (2/Lt Lloyd and 193 ORs). Later on the 4th the Battalion sailed for Lemnos arriving in Mudros Harbour on the 7th August.

The regiment landed at Suvla Bay from steam launches at 5.00am on the 9th August. They were then employed in getting water and stores up from 'C' beach. The men had some bully beef, biscuit and lime juice at 1.00pm. At 4.35pm they were told to take up entrenched positions on the right of the Sherwood Foresters. After about 1 mile they came under heavy shrapnel fire, the Sherwood Foresters were further away than anticipated and touch was lost between the first and second lines. The CO realised they had gone 1/2 mile beyond the Azmak Dere (a dry water course), he rallied the men and withdrew to the line of Azmak Dere. Written orders were then received that the advance had been cancelled and they were to withdraw to a line of trenches from the Salt Lake westwards. 60 Herefords were wounded and 11 men were killed. 10th August The Battalion moved up the line of the Azmak Dere and were met with heavy shrapnel fire but little or nothing was seen of the enemy except



snipers whose fire was galling but no officers were hit.

Private Pike distinguished himself in this action. After the Batt. had attacked the Turkish positions between Hetman Chair and Kaslar Chair "A" Coy became detached and joined South Wales Borderers on Kalajik Agala Hill in the Anzac Zone and occupied the captured trenches. They remained there for six days cut off from Batt. and Suvla. Several parties had been sent to fetch water and rations but all failed to return, being captured, killed or wounded. Privates Pike and Mann volunteered and made two journeys to the beach at Anzac returning with water and biscuits. The following day they again volunteered to go to Suvla Bay with reports and were successful and returned with water, the next day the same journey was likewise performed. All these journeys were made under heavy fire from rifle and shells and although continually potted by snipers came through unscathed. The first water they brought was the means of reviving several men in a far state of exhaustion and would not have survived the night.

*Hereford Times Feb 5th 1916.*

*Reported* 'Private Pike was recommended by the Col. of the Regiment for the award of the D.C.M. "owing to his many brave deeds since the 1st Battalion had been in action at the Dardanelles". All the letters arriving from the men speak of this young soldier's gallantry and it is to be hoped his coolness under fire and bravery will not go unrewarded. Pte Pike is described by some as 'The Hero of the Regiment' which is a title any man might feel proud of'. The Commendation was. Name: Pike, D.H. rank. Private. 2221; Unit 1st Herefordshire Regiment. Date and place of action. night of 9/10th August 1915. Suvla. Reason. For great volunteering with Private E Mann to procure much needed water under heavy machine gun and shrapnel fire, and afterwards guiding widely separated detachments of his regiment across very difficult country, under fire of snipers with great ability and success. Nature of Recommendation - Mention. Signed General Commanding 53rd (Welsh) Division 29/9/1915.

Private Mann was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (second only to the Victoria Cross at that time) but Private Pike was mentioned in Despatches.

17th August at Suvla. Quiet day except for heavy sniping. At night Bn ordered to advance 200 yards and then dig in again. The Bn got out of the trenches in one long line with no intervals between (quite absurd!) and then lie down to wait. Order cancelled, order came to take over trenches of 6th RWF but for some reason they did not leave their trenches and the Bn had to return to its cover - partially in trenches, ditches and behind hedges. A Coy of the Border Regt came to assist the Bn! 18th/19th August more casualties with heavy sniping. 22nd Aug. Two men accidentally shot themselves and 2/Lt Lloyd and 187 ORs joined us from Alexandria. Remainder of the month was in trenches with heavy sniping barrages from Turks and casualties. Casualties for August. 25 Killed, 146 Wounded, 2 Missing.

**September** 1st -5th In trenches at Anafarta Ova Suvla. Quiet period 2 Officers and 43 ORs joined from England. 5th - 7th in Rest camp 'B'

Suvla. Then back into the trenches until the 16th improving trenches, wiring. Started to rain so drainage scheme thought about but needed to be done on whole front.

16th back to rest camp. 21st Moved to new rest camp, heavily shelled with HE. On 25th moved to reserve rest camp at Karakol Dagh, lots of HE, sniping and difficulties with obtaining water (one gallon per man for all purposes). Heavy fatigues. Good news from France.

28/30th moved up to the reserve firing line. Ordered to supply 439 men for fatigues only 433 available. One man killed one wounded by blasting operations by E Yorks pioneer Bn.

**October** 1/6th. Start made on inoculating men against Cholera at 2/Welsh Field Ambulance usual fatigues large numbers of men sent sick to Mudros and amny returning. 6th Turks at the 'Pimple' heavily shelled by Men of War at Xeros and Suvla Bay 7/8/9th Sept. Heavy shelling and many men going sick. 11/12/13th Heavy rain, strong winds some lightning- cold.

14th -30th Karakol Dagh, Suvla Bay. Enemy aircraft reconnoitred, heavy shelling Officer reinforcements from

England, very heavy rain and high winds. On 23rd Pte Bowkett found dead in bivouac (of exposure). 27th Turks started very heavy shelling. 31st relieved 2nd mounted brigade in reserve.

**November** 1st. Took over trenches from 2nd mounted brigade. On 2nd took over trenches from Lovats Scouts and Fife and Forfar Yeomanry . 3rd preparations for wiring front of Fort Conan and filling sandbags On 5th the Turks fired eleven Broomstick trench mortar bombs into the lines, five exploded but no casualties. 6th One man killed and one wounded at Azmak Dere. 7/8th Digging communications trenches. Shelling by Turks and trench mortar fire in front of Highland Barricade. 10th The new fire trench was conformed during the night strong covering parties being placed to cover working parties at night.

11th Nov. Enemy snipers very active and 3 or 4 big trench mortars fired into the lines near Calgarry Barricade, sniper fire very accurate and one man killed. Work carried out on new fire trench. 12th Nov. Work on fire trench continued, at 14.00 enemy shelled our lines, 14-16 shells burst without any casualties, at 20.00 enemy again

opened fire with trench mortars at Azmak Dere. A battery was called upon to return fire - effect not known. 13th Nov. 14.00-14.30 front line trenches were shelled by 75mm battery and trench mortar bombs of big calibre were fired into our line with no material damage and no casualties. Work continued on the fire trenches. 3 men wounded and one seriously in the head by a sniper. 14th Nov. A few shells were fired into the trenches but apart from that exceptionally quiet, one man seriously wounded by a sniper in the early part of the night. 15/16th Nov. One man killed by sniper in early part of morning while re-entering trench from listening post. At 17.00 heavy shellfire from both sides in direction of Susak Kuyu and a good deal of rifle and machine gun fire. In the evening strong winds and some rain. The enemy artillery were very active on our right, the Indian Brigade having sprung some mines. Artillery more active than usual, one man killed and one severely wounded to the head by shrapnel fired at one of our aeroplanes. 17th Nov. Some heavy trench mortars fell in the vicinity of Pit St. One of our catapults firing cricket-ball bombs was used to search some

bushes used by Turkish snipers, had the effect of reducing sniper fire.  
 18th Nov. Quiet day, 19th Nov. Lookouts reported near Highland Barricade at Azmak Dere that parties of the enemy were constantly moving about at a distance of 150 yards in front of our trenches. No artillery fire this day and enemy's fire normal.  
 20th Nov. Enemy artillery very active shelling our firing line and support trenches. It appears that a mountain battery has been pushed near the right of our line and caused considerable annoyance by firing at even small working parties.  
 21st Nov. Nothing to report.  
 22nd Nov. Enemy artillery very active between 12.30 and 1.00 with 50 shells fired at 'C' Coys trenches. Enemy erected, during the night a small bridge across the Dere about 150 yards in front of our fire trench.  
 23rd. 'A' Battery fired a few rounds at the bridge but failed to hit it. A fairly quiet day. Two men wounded accidentally. Not much rifle fire.  
 24th and 25th Nov. Nothing of importance occurred.  
 26th November Heavy thunderstorm at about 19.00 hours Turkish, Highland and Calgary Barricades were

swept away. AZMAK rose with great rapidity to a depth of 7-8ft. Fire, Support and Communication trenches flooded to a depth of 3-4ft and choked with slimy mud. Bn HQ flooded to a depth of 4ft in a couple of minutes. Much equipment, stores and Officers' effects were washed away. Rations arrived at usual time somehow or other, with the loss of one cart stuck in the mud, and were distributed early next morning.  
 27th November. The C.O. (Lt Col Drage) went to the 2/1 Welsh F.A. (Field Ambulance) at 12.00 Sick. AZMAK flood had subsided at this time, but the trenches were still deep in water and slime.  
 The Bn. was relieved by Fife and Forfar Yeomanry at 20.00- nearly two hours late. All officers and men had been standing up by this time for over 24 hours - the greater majority being wet through. At about 20.00 the Bn moved off to march to Lala Baba bivouacs. In the meantime it had commenced to snow and about 22.00 there was a blizzard blowing with many degrees of frost. At about 22.30 it being impossible to get the Bn to Lala Baba (& no bivouacs were vacated for it). The Bn was ordered to spend the

night in the sand dunes to the S.W of the SALT LAKE. The men suffered very severely from the cold, many suffering from frostbite & trench feet. The two last Coys to leave the trenches did not arrive at the Sand Dunes till midnight.  
 28th November 1915. Snowed all day. Many officers and men taken to 2/1st Welsh Field Ambulance which was fairly close by.  
 29th November 1915. Fine and Cold. At about 16.00 what remained of the Battalion proceeded to Lala Bala and arrived about 18.00.  
 Casualties for the month of November

Killed or died of wounds	13
Wounded	10
Missing	11
Died of exposure	11
Admitted sick to Hospital	355

## December 1915

1st Dec Weather calm and fine - luckily as Officers and men were living with little shelter.  
 2nd-6th Dec Bn. reduced to about 130, employed in digging trenches at Lala Baba.  
 7th Dec. Heavy and most systematic bombardment by Turks, of Lala Baba, luckily few casualties and none among

the Herefords. 9th and 10th Dec. More artillery fire than usual directed at Lala Baba, 11th December. Received orders about the evacuation.

12th Dec. Bn. Embarked on 'S.S. El Kahira' 13th Dec. Arrived at Lemnos and went to camping ground near Kondia. 15th Dec Embarked at Lemnos for Alexandria on 'SS Tunisian' 22nd Dec.. Arrived at Alexandria. 23rd Dec. Arrived at Wardan, Egypt. 24th - 31st Dec Nothing of interest.

#### Egypt 1916.

In July 1916 Von Kressenstein advanced on the Suez Canal and the Herefords took part in the Battle of Rumani they were bombed by Turkish aircraft and heavily shelled and had 13 killed and 26 wounded. On 24th March 1917 the Division attacked the Turks at the 1st Battle of Gaza. The Herefords were supporting the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who carried the El Sire Ridge but because of poor communications the Generals ordered a withdrawal (to the disbelief of the troops on the ground) and when the mistake was discovered ordered them to take the ridge again but a strong enemy counter attack resulted in disaster. The Herefords lost 17 of

their 22 Officers and 218 Other Ranks were killed, wounded or missing. The British Commander's report implied this had been a decisive victory and so was forced into the 2nd Battle of Gaza three weeks later. . British casualties were heavy: 6,444 men, with Turkish losses under a third of that figure. . In late October the Division took part in the 3rd Battle of Gaza. Having concluded the successful capture of Gaza Allenby next turned his attention to the fall of Jerusalem, which he succeeded in securing the following month.

The offensive was successful and Beersheba was captured. In November and December the Battalion advanced through Palestine in appalling conditions, very hot, insufficient water (3 pints every 48 hours) and rough tracks through the Judean Hills in the Khamsin season. But by Christmas they had taken Jerusalem.

Capture of Jerusalem On 4 December. By 1 December the fighting for Jerusalem was almost over. The Ottoman Army had failed to win any ground as a result of their counterattacks, and the advancing British troops were successfully

replacing their tired comrades who were well entrenched close to Jerusalem. On 2 December the relief of the XXI Corps by the XX Corps was completed when the 10th (Irish) Division relieved the 52nd (Lowland) Division. And each side began to adjust and improve their lines, leaving insecure or hard to defend places. The British increased the number of soldiers in their line to create a powerful concentration. Over four days the 10th (Irish) and 74th (Yeomanry) Divisions extended their positions, while the extended position held by the 60th (2/2nd London) Division was shortened. On 3 December, the 16th Battalion Devonshire Regiment, 229th Brigade, 74th (Yeomanry) Division recaptured Beit Ur el Foqa. This infantry attack was launched from the head of the Wadi Zeit at 01:00, and by 03:30 the village had been captured, along with 17 prisoners and three machine guns. However, the position was impossible to hold, as it was overlooked by Ottoman positions on higher ground. Bombing and hand-to-hand fighting continued all morning, and the battalion withdrew, suffering 300 casualties. Although it is claimed that on 3 December the Ottoman Army



had abandoned their counterattacks and that fighting in the Judean Hills ceased. Meanwhile, on the Hebron to Bethlehem road south of Jerusalem, the 53rd (Welsh) Division (known as Mott's Detachment and included the Herefords ) had continued their tentative advance to arrive 4.5 miles (7.2 km) south of Hebron on 4 December.

Private Douglas Pike died on 4th December 1917 He has no known grave so is commemorated on the Jerusalem War Memorial and the Ross War Memorial.

#### Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: Douglas Harry Pike  
 Birth Place: Ross, Herefords  
 Residence: Ross  
 Death Date: 4 Dec 1917  
 Death Place: Egypt  
 Enlistment Place: Hereford  
 Rank: Private  
 Regiment: The Herefordshire Regiment  
 Battalion: 1st 1st Battalion  
 Regimental Number: 235665  
 Type of Casualty: Died  
 Theatre of War: Egyptian Theatre

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
PIKE, Douglas H.	Hereford R	Pvt	235665
			235665
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	J/1/106-19	334	New No 2321
BRITISH	—/—/—	—	
15 STAR	J/1/11 B	27	
Theatre of War first served in (2 B)			
Date of entry therein 9-8-15			

He was awarded



1914/15 Star British War Medal  
 Victory Medal

In Memory of  
 Private  
**Douglas Harry Pike**  
 Mentioned in Despatches  
 235665, 1st/1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 04 December 1917 Age 22

Son of Henry James Pike, of "Beaumont," Ross-on-Wye, and the late Eva Pike. Native of Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
 Jerusalem Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## 8048 Corporal Ernest Sidney Powell



3rd. Bn.  
South Wales Borderers

### Ernest Sidney Powell

He was born in Timsbury, Somerset on 8th June 1884. He was the son of James Powell from St Weonards and Clara Powell from Brobury. There is some confusion/doubt about his father's name. The army records (De Ruvigny) show that he was born in Somerset on 8th June 1884 (same as the birth certificate) but the certificate says his father was James Powell a coal miner but army records state his name was William and an auctioneer.

His baptism 5th June 1884 (Possibly mis-transcribed from July) states his father was James Powell but a farmer. **1891** Ernest was living with his uncle at Fownhope. His parents were living at Much Birch. He attested into the 3rd Welsh Regiment on 29th May 1899. He was 5ft 3ins tall, dark complexion, dark eyes and brown hair and had a scar on his forehead. He was medically fit. He did 76 days drill on enlistment and then on 15th August 1899 he was transferred to the 4th Batt. King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI). This was a reserve Territorial Force Battalion. So he went back to coal mining and served as a 'part time' soldier. Clara his mother died in January 1901 and by: 1901 Ernest was living in Llanwonno and was a boarder and coal miner. On 11th March 1904 he enlisted into the regular army and served three years in Africa and then 4 years in India. In 1911 he is listed with the South Wales Borderers at Roberts Barracks, Quetta India. At the end of his period of service in 1911 he was put on the reserve and he moved back to Ross where in June 1912. 97752 Powell, Ernest S became a Postman(R) at Ross. In April 1913 he was listed as 56836

Powell, Ernest S a Postman at Ross. He stayed a postman living at North Road, Ross until the start of the Great War. On 26th November 1912 Ernest married Mabel Watkins at the Baptist Church in Hereford. Her family lived at Mount Pleasant, Old Way, Fownhope, and her father John Watkins was a farmer in Fownhope. But at her wedding she was living at Canon House, Common Hill Lane, Fownhope. Ernest and Mabel had one daughter Eileen Olive born 26th March 1914.



Mabel and her daughter Eileen Olive

## The Great War.

On 4th August 1914 he was called up from the reserve on mobilization. He served with the 1st Battalion South Wales Borderers and as a trained soldier he was sent to France immediately with the Battalion landing at Le Havre on 13th August 1914.

### 1st Battalion South Wales Borderers - France

Private Powell was wounded in 1914 and when he was back in Ross recovering he was interviewed by Ross Gazette who featured a large article by him on December 10th 1914. The following details are largely from this article and the War Diaries of the Regiment.

Ernest Powell left Ross on 4th August 1914 for Brecon and joined the Depot, they then left for Borden Camp in Hampshire and stayed for five days when they entrained for Southampton. Four Regiments, Gloucesters, Queen's, Welsh Regt and SWB were shipped to France on the same boat on August 11th. Arriving at Le Havre they then entrained again and after 1 one and a half days travel arrived at Leschelle. After three days drill etc. they marched through Belgium passing Lille and took up position on the

German border and took up position against the main German Army. By 23rd August the Battalion was at Peissant having marched through St Aubin and Givry. They relieved the Welsh Regt at Peissant (*A horrible place*) and there was a lot of firing on their left at the Battle of Mons. They dug trenches and put up improvised obstacles, there was no field of fire and the front was covered with woods said to be full of Germans. "A few shots were fired but no casualties we were relieved when the night was over because we thought we were scuppered"

24th August. A general retirement was ordered 'to lead the Germans on' Came under shrapnel fire but it burst too high and no casualties. We retired by a westerly route to draw the Germans across the French front and after a very long march and tiring day reached Le Grand Fayt and are scared into thinking that there are Uhlans about. Coys extend along hedgerows and shots are firing in all directions only casualty was one man who wounded himself with his bayonet. Billeted in the village and heavy firing heard at night.

25th August. Heard that Guards brigade in trouble at Landrecies, Germans put on French uniforms and approached them, started chatting then opened fire! Germans lost 800 men. Still moving and started to dig trenches at L'Alouette. Germans reported near at hand so rations for the next day were picked up on the move, boxes of Bully Beef, Oxo, Tea, Milk, Sugar and Biscuits are opened and left by the roadside and men collected as they passed, Batt. completing rationed with the loss of only 5 minutes. Villages to the north are seen burning and Germans in column of route are coming in our direction. A British aeroplane came down in our trenches and the pilot borrowed the Commanders pony and galloped off to the General with news, he later came back and took off after warning us to keep our heads down. We received hasty news to retire to Etreux. A German aeroplane dropped a bomb on the supply transport but no damage. We bivouacked in a field 'dead tired' after a 30 mile march.

26th Aug. Continued retirement South. Had no rearguard and the Munsters did not get orders to retire early

enough and got cut up badly with only the remnants of a Coy rejoining.

27th Aug. Left Guise and retirement continued and finally arrived late evening at Bernot dead tired after 26 miles march. Much harassed in the evening by the enemy.

28th Aug. Left at 2am and marched towards Ribemont. All troops are urged by CIC to make a special effort in the way of marching as Germans are very close to us. The men are getting very disheartened by this constant retiring and want to stop and have a dig at the enemy, but they do not understand the strategy. We reach Bertaucourt and get in touch with a French Corps on our right.

29th Aug. A Rest Day and we need it! Men are able to wash and air their clothes and have a lie down and sleep in barns. The French Corps has seen a good deal of fighting and owing to a reverse of the allies at 11pm orders to continue the retirement. This is sickening news we were all hoping to turn around and go for the enemy. It is very hot and improvised sunshades are made (bottom of trouser leg sewn onto rim of cap) are a godsend and few men fall out and those that do were the

men who were too lazy to make the sunshade.

30th Aug. Frightfully hot weather. The sounds of battle heard raging in the distance are moving further away billeted at Brancourt.

31st Aug. On the move at 5am. Marched through Soissons and then bivouac for the night. It is reported that Germans are coming in very large numbers. One prisoner said "the Russians can't shoot and the French can't shoot but the British can shoot and kill at night. Engineers blow up all the bridges over the river Aisne.

Orders to move at 4am tomorrow. The long retreat is beginning to tell on the horses and we have no spare ones to help with the heavy wagons.

#### September 1914

1st Sept At Mareuil marching south very hot and difficult going came under artillery fire and out rearguard came under very heavy artillery fire.

2nd Sept. At Crecy orders to march south again but up until the present we had been retreating now firing in the same direction it is a march not a retreat. Nobody seems to know what we are supposed to do it is all secret. There is no news of the enemy

and it is exceedingly hot. There is a rumour we are going back to the Paris defences. It has been a long day and a weary one.

3rd Sept. Marched East along the River Marne pas Chateau Thierry then marched south to Le Grand Balleau and billeted in an enormous farm, the enemy guns commenced again in the evening.

Sept. 4th Marched to Moureaux and billeted in a factory where there was a delightful mill and stream where a bathe and wash could be indulged in, also the baggage wagons arrived so a change of clothes. Germans are said to be 21 miles north on other side of the Marne but heavy firing heard at 5pm and orders to move to the high ground. That night billeted in a stubble field to cover the retirement of the rest of the division.

5th Sept. Marched to Rozoy as division came through the Batt. many drop out and probably means capture by the enemy. Draft of 100 reinforcements arrived for the Batt.

6th Sept. Moved off at 7am to Courlay to take the offensive. Queens are the advance guard and we are at head of main body, the enemy retire but we



have not engaged. Bivouac at Vaudry which is a very dirty place.

#### 7th September Battle of the Marne.

7th Sept. Marched off at 10am as advance guard to the brigade N.E towards the Germans. Our cavalry are fighting to our front on the River Marne. We found the enemy gone they retire quickly. We marched 25 miles it has been a hot and tiring day and we bivouac south of Coisy.

*Below are extracts from a report not a unit war diary but a personal report, attached to the diary as an appendix.*

8th Sept. Marched at 5am towards Ferte-Gaucher and we hear that the enemy are demoralised and cooked. The houses are demolished and contents scattered all over the roads, but the inhabitants are glad to see us again. We marched West and passed the 1st Brigade and 1st Cavalry Division, they had many casualties. Marched off to take the bridge at Nocent butt found no enemy and our cavalry had already crossed, they were then fired on by our own Royal Artillery (*Silly Asses*) it was quite obvious they were not the enemy but we found 18 cavalry wounded by our own guns (*the officer responsible ought to be shot in my opinion*). All the villages sre

broken and signs of the enemy retreat are everywhere dead horses, graves etc. nasty sights. There is a certain amount of fighting with our advance guard and we see ambulances coming back full of wounded however one is accustomed to such sights. A most excellent dinner which our interpreters managed to get Bacon, Tea, eggs and fresh bread which we have not seen for 5 or 6 days, everyone feels much better. 10th. Germans still retreating but our divisional cyclists come in for it and are shelled at 1000 yards several (about 20) are killed and wounded. Moved on to Sommelans and billets passing over the ground where Sussex had a bad half hour many dead and wounded. However the enemy has been pushed back which is the main point. Interpreters have given us a very good meal, bread, eggs, potatoes and jam with six 'good bottles' as the French would say. Searched the farmhouse and found a huge washing tub, all hands to boil water and at 10pm a glorious bath, I was extremely dirty I am sorry to say. 11th. On the move to Villeneuve through thick dirty woods, supposedly after a panic stricken German army which had just been defeated by the French but as we

only went 10 miles then into billets it seems untrue.

#### Battle of the Aisne (12–15 September

The war diaries give little information on 12-15th September but the reports on 16th were: "I have never spent and imagine I could never spend a more ghastly and heart tearing forty eight hours than the last. Not a moment to write a note in my diary. We have been fighting hard ever since 8am on the 14th and have suffered much. At about 8am we heard a lot of firing at Moules and shell starting dropping about. We are sent to the high ground to assist the Queens and as we go we get six shrapnels at us but mercifully were not touched. We reached the shelter of the high ground and take up position in a wood. Shrapnel and rifle fire were heavy and the first casualty was my Mare who was shot in the head, not too bad and she was able to carry my stuff. In front is a high ridge which we have to go for and nasty work it will be. Jenkinson the brigade major was killed and shortly after we began to suffer in the wood, mainly from ricochets several men down with wounds and then 'C' Coy went into attack remaining Coys joined in leaving 'B' in support.

Swarms of Germans on the ridge massed. Our guns opened at 1800 yards and a nasty sight through the glasses, bunches of Germans blown to pieces. We suffered more casualties and eventually had to retire to original position, we stayed here firing and fired at for some eight hours then another effort. The guns were having a high duel with little success and at dusk we were ordered to move up to Troyon, as we were advancing a Melanite shell hit the front of 1 Platoon and killed several men. On we go it started to get dark and we had a horror of night fighting as we are as likely to hit our own men as the enemy and the wounds suffered implied that had happened this time" The batt. then started to entrench and a group of Germans approached and wished to talk to them but after the Landrecies episode they opened fire and wiped them out at 200 yards. Later the enemies guns enfiladed them and they were told to hand on at all costs, they lost severely and it was "a bad business". They continued to be fired upon by rifles, sniper fire, shelling and shells falling short from our own guns, but there was lots more to come. The sights were ghastly wounded crying all

over the place and no one to help them. The doctors do what they can but the casualties are heavier than they can cope with. Our casualties were. 20 killed 78 wounded and 122 missing. 17th Sept. We sat in the trenches being sniped at and worse still being enfiladed by the German guns. 18th. Firing started again and we spent the day in the trenches. We sent out parties to look for the wounded, some who had been there for three days with no water, no food and no shelter and when we tried to bring them in they insisted there were not half as bad as other men close to them. "what a magnificent spirit". It started raining and the trenches became full of water. At dawn the firing started again and we wondered how long the nerves would stand it. 20th still in the trenches and again enfiladed by the enemy guns, every now and then a man knocked out and nothing to shoot at. Allowed to withdraw on to Vendresse ridge - Thank God. Casualties 35 killed 131 wounded but the 68 missing have come back. 190 reinforcements arrived. 21st. Hold trenches and then put into Corps reserve and sit under a cliff with shells

coming thick and fast at us and they can't touch us. Every company then put under cover. 22nd Sept. Still sit in the sun, very restful. 23rd Reinforcements arrived and post. 24th. Heavily shelled and ours answered 3 men killed by 10 snipers. 25th. Nothing much happening firing and shelling every now and then. 26th September. The most ghastly day of my life and the proudest because the regiment held out against the worst odds. The Germans attacked. The main attack came against our regiment, the place was alive with bullets and the Germans got into a quarry in the centre of our line ie. our line was pierced. Eventually we drove them out. Casualties 90 Killed 98 wounded and 12 missing. *These 12 were of 'D' company and apparently surrendered, may they be spared reaching England again and receiving the Court Martial and get what they deserve, never has the 24th surrendered yet and in spite of casualties the rest of the regiment stuck to it and fought as Englishmen.* 27th. No rest last night, spent the day in the quarry again. Later relieved by Guards Brigade, poor devils they have had a worse time of it than we have.

28th. Wash, clean up, change socks, clean rifles, make promotions to fill vacancies. Heard today of 3 of our cruisers being sunk by Germans.

29th. Again standing to arms. 30th. A quiet and peaceful night, hardly any shooting at all. All the news is good today and we hope to make an advance fairly soon.

October 1914.

1/2nd Oct. Fine weather, relieved DLI. In evening of 2nd a German attack but easily shoved off.

3rd-9th Oct. Devilish cold. Some shelling and firing, bullets are ok as they are clean but the shell fragments make a terrible mess of one. Men being inoculated as it is reported there is enteric in the German lines and we shall have to pass over them soon.

There is an attack of some sort most nights but they do not push us home. All the news is good and we hear of good things from the Russians - they are a wonderful nation and how they can move such large armies at such a pace beats me. 10th. 160 reinforcements arrive and they get a surprise when the German 'breakfast' barrage started and they went to ground very quickly. News that the Russians have defeated five German

army corps is good news but then there was cheering and singing German and Austrian anthems from the German trenches - what does that mean I wonder - a victory perhaps. We have been given maps of Belgium does this mean a move to there? 11th-15th. Heavy shelling and preparations for a move. 17th Oct. Entrained for Etaples, on arrival sent on to Cassel then moved to Hondeghem. Continued moving on 18th and 19th.

### 1st Battle of Ypres

Arrived at Poperinghe on 20th October and bivouacked on Elverdinghe Road. 21st Oct. Marched on towards Boesinghe passing Pilkem and arrive at Langemarck at 8am. by the noise we knew we were into something very soon. Pushed forward to attack Poelcappelle and our line is very wide. Came into contact with the enemy at once and started to get casualties Curgenvin is killed as is young Watkins who only came out a few days ago (a Llangrove lad). The Germans came over in great masses "silly idiots" we are shelled constantly and the 'Coal Boxes' are almost more than flesh and blood can bear. The Rolls were called and we found we had 149 killed and wounded. 22nd A

quiet day, the Germans came over in groups of 200 or so and were cut to pieces and then more came in, spend the day cleaning up. Heavy artillery shelling, coal boxes, shrapnel all sorts all day. 24th. The devils are at the village again today pouring in coal boxes. At last we march off to a billet at a place named Hooze East of Ypres.

#### TWO BAYONET CHARGES.

At the opening of the Battle of Ypres, I was in two bayonet charges, and though at first we were forced to retire, we took up our positions again, and at the word of command "charge," off we went, and on this occasion the charge proved a most successful one, inflicting very severe losses. The Worcesters also came up just at the right moment, and they renewed the attack, and thus saved the position. Men were falling first to the right of you, and then to the left, and yet with wild cries you go ahead heedless of the terrible slaughter that is going on around you, for when once you get into the very thick of a bayonet charge, your thoughts of life are gone, and your sole aim is to get at your man and defeat your opponents. You have no time to think of the poor fellows that fall on the way.

#### Ross Gazette 12/12/1914

Corporal Powell was wounded in the back and the shoulder during this engagement at Ypres and was sent back to England to recover and while there he was interviewed by Ross Gazette who featured an article on him on 12th December 1914. He must have been wounded after 21st because in his interview he talked of



the death of Pte Watkins who died on that date.

It is unclear what happened to Corporal Powell after December 1914. The Gazette article implies he wished to return to the front when he had recovered but it seems more likely that he had a long period of recuperation and then illness because he died on 19th October 1915 at The Military Hospital, Waterloo, Liverpool of Tuberculous Peritonitis.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
POWELL Ernest S	S Wales Border	Pte	5048
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	J/10/131	58	Died 19-10-15
BRITISH	du	du	
14 STAR	5/1/6	107	
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			
13-8-14			

He was awarded





The 1914 (Mons) Star with Clasp and Roses  
The British War Medal  
The Victory Medal.



In Memory of  
Corporal  
**E S Powell**

8048, 3rd Bn., South Wales Borderers who died on 19 October 1915 Age 32  
(Served as EVANS). Husband of Mabel Powell, of The Slough, Fownhope.

Remembered with Honour  
Fownhope (St. Mary) Churchyard

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# 452525 Sapper Alfred Price



Imperial Signals Company  
Royal Engineers

## Alfred Price

He was born in Broad St, Ross in 1880 and baptised on 12th September 1880. His father James Price was a Master Painter from Goodrich and his mother Mary was from Warminster, Wiltshire. 1881 James was a Master Painter from Goodrich. 1891 Father was a painter and house decorator in Broad St. September 1898 he became a SC2 with the Post Office in

Ross. 1901 Alfred was a Post Office Telegraphist. Alfred Price married Gertrude Harriett Mailes in Abridge in 1910, Gertrude was originally from Much Marcle. 1911 Alfred was a Post Office Clerk living at Chandos House, Station Rd, Ross with his wife Gertrude.

### Boer War

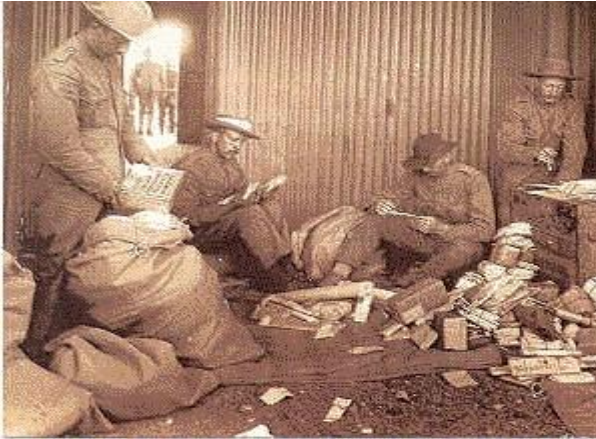
He enlisted at Ross on 9th October 1901 into the Post Office Corps RE previously he had been a Post Office Clerk. He was five feet five and a half inches tall, weighed ten stone had a fresh complexion, grey eyes and brown hair and his religion was Church of England. He served in South Africa (Boer War) 767 Pte Price South Africa Queen's South Africa Medal Cape Colony -South Africa 1901 and South Africa 1902 and was discharged at the termination of his service on 2nd October 1902 at Shrewsbury. His intended place of residence was Broad St, Ross.

**Army Post Office Corps Imperial units**  
The system was founded upon a Base Office at Cape Town (a base office for Natal at Pietermaritzburg was employed in the earlier part of the campaign, but discontinued later). From this radiated a number of

forwarding offices, which served for intermediate despatch of mail matter, and for the reception and forwarding of cross-post letters. Next, the fixed camp and station post offices, seventy-one in number, dealt directly with the receipt and delivery of mads to the troops at and around normal centres of operation. Finally, there was a system of travelling post offices, which, traversing the railways in box trucks and sorting carriages specially fitted up by the Imperial Military Railways, delivered and received mail matter, cashed and sold postal orders at any spot upon the lines where their services were required. The bulk of the work which fell to the Army Post Office Corps was naturally that of the distribution of the inward mails and the exporting of the mails for oversea. The former presented extra-ordinary difficulties. The railway service, being completely beyond the control of the Post Office Department, could not be relied on for automatic delivery of the mails. Trains were apt to be delayed for military purposes, or by the enemy who frequently destroyed them. In the latter case the Post Office men on the train would be called upon to take rifle in hand and defend their charge. Thus

at Roodewaal, June 7th, 1900, an officer and nineteen men of the A.P.O.C. fought with the troops, and lost five killed and wounded, and fifteen taken prisoners.

Sorting mail in South Africa during the Boer War 1899-1902



### The Great War

Sapper Price was a Territorial (number T932) and at the start of the Great War he appears to have been mustered into the Royal Engineers and his number implies this was at the start of the war or very early in 1915. His 452525 number was from the 1917 renumbering of the Territorial Force and this number shows he was with

the Welsh Division Signals Coy at that time.

### The German East African Campaign Background.

April 1916, Lt.-Gen. J. C. Smuts took the place of the seriously ill Gen. Sir H. Smith-Dorrien in command of the forces in East Africa, where he reformed the available troops into three divisions, two of them South African, each with a mounted and an infantry brigade. Brig.-Gen. J. L. van Deventer's brigades arrived with no Engineers at all, but success in 1916 was largely due to Sapper restoration of the damaged Northern and Central Railway lines and the lengthening of the link line from the British Uganda Railway--which ran from Mombasa through Nairobi to Kisumu--to Salaita and Taveta south-east of Kilimanjaro, eventually to join the Northern Railway at Kahe, south of the towering peak which straddled the frontier between British Kenya and German Tanganyika. Capt. H. C. Hawtrey, R.E., had immense problems as Assistant Director of Army Signals and Telegraph Services, with five or more languages to cope with, but eventually three divisional signals companies were formed. Many difficulties were

encountered and when Brig.-Gen. A. H. M. Nussey in the Uluguru Mountains was trying to coordinate operations with Brig.-Gen. B. G. L. Enslin and Maj.-Gen. C. J. Brits, communications failed completely when the mule carrying the wireless set fell over a cliff.

It was not yet the end of May 1916 when a Railway Battalion was formed in East Africa under Lt.-Col. C. W. Wilkinson and they, with other units, including South African, followed General Smuts's arduous advance down the Northern Railway from Kahe to Tanga on the coast. Almost all bridges and culverts had been demolished, and much crib and trestle work was needed to replace them, but Tanga was occupied on 7 July, and within another six weeks through communication was re-established. The Railway Battalion halted at Mombo, then moved to the Central Railway running from Dar-es-Salaam to Tabora, with bridges blown and nearly all rolling stock destroyed. Both 25 and 28 Railway Companies sailed from Tanga to Dar-es-Salaam and 26 and 27 Railway Companies with some

South African Pioneers under Maj. J. H. Dobson landed at Bagamayo to do forced marches to Ruvu station. While 26 Company repaired the line eastwards towards 25 Company, coming up from Dar-es-Salaam, 27 Company worked towards Mikesse and Morogoro, and repairs to the wharves and sidings at the coast were handled by 28 Company. In the meantime, it was impossible to employ locomotives, but Dobson devised an effective alternative and a rail service was maintained by the ingenuity of the S.A. Pioneers under Van Deventer's command. With 66 bridges between Dar-es-Salaam and Kilossa demolished, they were temporarily repaired with wood and whatever material was available. Ford motor lorries were then fitted with railway axles and, hauling a trailer, each one could move 15 tonnes at a time. The 2nd Division was thus supplied by rail during an advance of 192 km from Dodoma eastward to Kilossa and, with the occupation of Morogoro, these novel railway tractors and trailers opened the Central

Railway to traffic for some 482 km, all the way from Dar-es-Salaam up to Dodoma. Normal traffic with locomotives was running from the coast to Morogoro by November 1916 and to Dodoma itself by the end of the year, when the Central Railway replaced the British Uganda Railway as the main line of communication. By the time Gen. Smuts handed over to Maj.-Gen. A. R. Hoskins on 16 January 1917 Lt.-Col. L. N. Malan had succeeded Lt.-Col. Wilkinson as Officer Commanding, Railway Battalion, and his four companies worked for some time on bridging in the coastal region and in construction of a branch line from Dodoma. With Maj.-Gen. Van Deventer as C.-in-C. from 29 May 1917 operations shifted southward in June, and the Railway Battalion moved to Kilwa and Lindi to build light railways to supply the troops moving towards the Portuguese border. Permanent way was taken from local plantations and Ford lorries provided traction, with nearly 100 km of line laid from Kilwa and another 25 km from Lindi once the enemy was driven

southward. Summarising Sapper exploits during the campaign, which saw whole units decimated by malaria and thousands of horses lost owing to tsetse flies, Lt.-Col. F. P. Rundle mentions the South African Engineer units as coming to East Africa in 1916, with some remaining till late 1918. A Topographical Section--after beginning reconnaissance and compass sketching--suffered from illness even more than from its lack of experience of East African conditions, and virtually ceased operations after July 1916 but others continued, building roads and bridges, constructing railways, repairing harbour facilities and doing a multitude of tasks.

Sapper Price's service in East Africa is a bit sketchy his service was with the Imperial Signals Company which had come from the No 1 Divisional HQ formed in East Africa on 4th April 1916 and moved to Dar-es-Salaam on 12th September 1916 and on 18th June 1917 400 reinforcements arrived at Imperial Signals Coy at Dar-Es-Salaam. The main duties of this signals company seems (from the War Diaries) to be re-directing incoming

R.E. troops to various units across the country, providing equipment and provisions for them and keeping reports of all activities. There is no mention in the diaries but an important part of Signals units was REPS (Royal Engineers Postal Services) and bearing in mind the previous occupation and military service of Sapper Price it seems more than likely that he was involved with this unit. It was a vital link to support and maintain morale among those carrying out the Railway and the fighting units. Sapper Price died on 15th March 1918 and is buried at Dar-es-Salaam. There is no record of where he died.

**DAR ES SALAAM WAR CEMETERY** was created in 1968 when the 660 First World War graves at Dar Es Salaam (Ocean Road) Cemetery had to be moved to facilitate the construction of a new road. As the burials in the former African Christian, Non-Christian and Mohammedan plots had not been marked individually, they were reburied in collective graves, each marked by a screen wall memorial. (Memorial Gardens "B", "C" and "D"). During the early 1970s, a further 1,000 graves were brought into this site from cemeteries all over Tanzania, where maintenance could no longer be assured.

He probably died of disease (Malaria) 'Soldiers who died in the Great War' list him as having "died" they almost always put 'Killed in Action' or 'Died of Wounds' when appropriate and 'died' if for any other reason, usually illness or accident.

He is commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

[UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919](#)

<b>Name:</b>	A. Price
<b>Birth Place:</b>	Ross-on-wye, Herefordshire
<b>Death Date:</b>	15 Mar 1918
<b>Death Place:</b>	East Africa
<b>Enlistment Place:</b>	Ross-on-wye, Herefordshire
<b>Rank:</b>	SPR.
<b>Regiment:</b>	Royal Engineers
<b>Regimental Number:</b>	452525
<b>Type of Casualty:</b>	Died
<b>Theatre of War:</b>	African Theatre
<b>Comments:</b>	Imp. Signal Coy., R.E.



Name	Grade	Rank	Regt. No.
PRICE <i>Alfred</i>	RE <i>do</i>	Sapper	452525 <i>(T) 922</i>
Medal	Unit	Page	Remarks
Victory	RE/101 B-222	5-830	
Decorat	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>	
Spec			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry theatre			

He was awarded



The Queen's South Africa Medal with 'Cape Colony' clasp  
 King's South Africa Medal with 1901 and 1902 clasps  
 British War Medal (Great War)  
 Victory Medal " "





In Memory of  
 Sapper  
**Alfred Price**

452525, Imperial Signal Coy., Royal Engineers who died on 15 March 1918 Age 38

Son of James and Mary Price, of Ross; husband of Gertrude H. Price, of Chandos House Station St., Ross, Herefordshire, England.

Remembered with Honour  
 Dar Es Salaam War Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# 1802 Serjeant Alfred Lewis Raymond



1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment

## Alfred Lewis Raymond

He was Baptised on 25th September 1889 in Ross. He was born in High St. He was the son of Cuthbert Raymond a shoe maker originally from Yeovil, Somerset and Caroline Beavan from Hereford. In 1891 his father was a Manager in the boot Trade. In 1901 they lived at 3 High St, Ross. Father was a manager of a shoe shop. His

mother Caroline died and was buried in Ross on 4th May 1909. 1911 Alfred was an assistant in the boot trade and they were living in 3 Market Place, Ross. His father died and was buried on 19th May 1914.

1802 Private Raymond enlisted at the beginning of the war (3rd August 1914) and was medically examined on 4th and is listed in Ross Gazette 17th September 1914 as one of those 'who had answered the call'. He was obviously a 'model' soldier because he got rapid promotion and by June 1915 he was a Sergeant.

On 28th June 1915 he married Edith May Phillips at Upton Bishop and three weeks later he left Davenport to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli.

## Gallipoli

*Extracts and notes from the War Diaries 1st Herefords at Gallipoli November 1915.*

16th July 1915 the 1st Herefordshire Regt. left Devonport on the SS. Euripides for Egypt. They arrived at Gibraltar on the 20th and then sailed for Malta arriving on the 24th, they then sailed the same day for Alexandria arriving on the 27th. On 31st they

stopped at Port Said troops were allowed ashore to bathe and on 4th August all troops in excess of 25 Officers and 750 ORs were sent by train to Alexandria (2/Lt Lloyd and 193 ORs). Later on the 4th the Battalion sailed for Lemnos arriving in Mudros Harbour on the 7th August.

The regiment landed at Suvla Bay from steam launches at 5.00am on the 9th August. They were then employed in getting water and stores up from 'C' beach. The men had some bully beef, biscuit and lime juice at 1.p.m. At 4.35pm they were told to take up entrenched positions on the right of the Sherwood Foresters. After about 1 mile they came under heavy shrapnel fire, the Sherwood Foresters were further away than anticipated and touch was lost between the first and second lines. The CO realised they had gone 1/2 mile beyond the Azmak Dere (a dry water course), he rallied the men and withdrew to the line of Azmak Dere. Written orders were then received that the advance had been cancelled and they were to withdraw to a line of trenches from the Salt Lake westwards. 60 Herefords were wounded and 11 men were killed.

Alfred Raymond's was Killed in Action at the Suvla Bay landings on 9th August. His body was never recovered so he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli and the Ross War Memorial.

His brother Gunner William Raymond served in the Royal Field Artillery in France he enlisted in December 1915. Another brother Lt. Cuthbert Raymond served in the Worcestershire Regiment.

#### Soldiers who died in the Great War

**Name:** Alfred Lewis Raymond  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Herefords  
**Death Date:** 9 Aug 1915  
**Death Place:** Gallipoli  
**Enlistment Place:** Ross  
**Rank:** A Sergeant  
**Regiment:** The Herefordshire Regiment  
**Battalion:** 1st 1st Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 1802  
**Type of Casualty:** Killed in action  
**Theatre of War:** Balkan Theatre

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
RAYMOND, Alfred L	Hereford R	Sgt	1802
		A Sgt	
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	1/1/15	34	
BRITISH	do do	do	
15 STAR	1/1/15	27	
Theatre of War first served in (2.B)			
Date of entry therein 9-8-15			

He was awarded



1914/15 Star British War Medal  
Victory Medal

In Memory of  
 Serjeant  
**Alfred Lewis Raymond**  
 1802, 1st/1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 09 August 1915 Age 25  
 Husband of Edith May Raymond, of The Stores, Upton Bishop, Ross-on-Wye.

Remembered with Honour  
 Helles Memorial

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



## 27875 Private Charles Robinson.



5th Border Regiment



Lonsdales



Herefords

### Charles Robinson

He was born in 1884 in Ross. His father George was from Ross and his mother was Mary Freer from Much Marcle. 1891 Living at Dean Hill. and his Father was a gardener. 1911 Father a gardener as was Charles.

### The Great War.

His number implies he joined the army in December 1915, probably as part of the Derby Scheme (*On 11 October 1915 Lord Derby was appointed Director-General of Recruiting. He brought forward a programme five days later, often called the Derby Scheme although its official title was the Group Scheme, for raising the numbers. Men aged 18 to 40 were informed that under the scheme they could continue to enlist voluntarily or attest with an obligation to come if called up later on. The War Office notified the public that voluntary enlistment would soon cease and that the last day of registration would be 15 December 1915.*) His number and age again implied he as 'called up' about March 1916.

He would have trained with the Herefordshire Regiment for a period. The Herefordshire Regiment - At the end of July 1916 approximately 500 Men of the 3rd Battalion Herefordshire Regt. went under canvas at Abergavenny 22nd September the Herefordshire men were transferred to the 3rd Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) and then on 1st October posted to the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) Base Depot at Rouen. Embarked from Southampton to Rouen 2nd October.

3rd October 1916 arrived Rouen and transferred to the 5th KSLI and then on 10th October 232 Herefords were transferred to 11th Border Regiment arriving with them on 10/11th. He joined.

### 11th Service Battalion The Border Regiment (Lonsdale Pals)

11th October 1916. Cambrin Sector. Battalion in support line (VillageLine). Supplied R.E. parties. Reinforcements of 212 ORs arrived for Battalion from Herefordshire Regt. . 12th. C/O and party from East Yorks arrived with purpose of gaining information prior to the Batt. taking over the line from us. 13th. Batt. in reserve visit to Batt. of Brig. Gen Jardine. 14th. Batt. left trenches for Bethune after being relieved by 1st E. Yorks. 15th. Batt left Bethune, full marching order. Arrived Labeuvriere and billeted there. Batt. parade in afternoon under C/O. 16th. Batt. left Labeuvriere full marching order arrived Monchy Breton at 1pm, stayed there overnight. 17th. Batt. left Monchy Breton full marching order arrived Moncheaux at 3pm. 18th. Batt. Left Moncheaux full marching order arrived Longuevillette 3.15pm. 19th. Batt. Left Longuevillette full marching order, marched for two



hours and returned to Longueville. 20th. Batt. remained in billets during day. Batt. parade for general instruction and bombing and grenade throwing.

21st. Batt. Left Longueville 8am full marching order arrived Herissat at .45pm. Parade of bombers for live grenade throwing. 22nd. Batt remained at Herissat. Batt. parade in morning Bombing afternoon, live grenade throwing. Re-inforcements 6 men arrived. 23rd. Batt. Left Herissat for Bouzincourt arriving at 6.15pm.

24th.- 27th. October. At Bouzincourt General parades of instruction.

28th. G.O.C. (General Haig) in company with O/C Brigade and Division visited billets and also congratulated C/O 11th Border Regt. on state of his Batt..

29th. In Bouzincourt general parade of instruction. R.E. parties

30th. Batt. Left Bouzincourt full marching order arrived 11.30am in Herissat.

31st October 1916. Left Herissat full marching order arrived at La Vicogne.

**November 1916.** La Vicogne.

1st. General parade of instruction under C/O. 2nd. Brigade Field Day. At 2.25pm Batt. took up position in

Artillery Formation in a wood 2000 yards West of Herissat near Talmas. At 2.30 Batt. advanced in Westerly direction on bearing 300%. Leading Coy passed through Val De Maison followed by remaining Coys. Rear of Batt. passed at 3.35pm with no opposition. 3.45pm the Batt. broke into extended line making an advance of four waves at 100yds intervals on La Vicogne. Rear of Batt. experienced difficulties with the two rear Coys becoming mixed. Country rough and wire fenced with deep gullies. 4.12pm Batt. again held up with Coys mixed and slightly disorganised. Batt. again advanced. At 4.30pm well past the rough country and attacked La Vicogne rear through by 4.40pm. Position consolidated and occupied Western side of La Vicogne and patrols pushed forward.

3rd-5th. General parades of instruction under C/O. 6th. Batt. took part in Brigade Field Day. Advanced from a position South of Val De Maison and marched toward Beauval breaking into artillery formation on the way and finally assaulted a position South of Beauval having broken into extended order at Fme de Rosel. 7th/8th

General parades of instruction. 9th. Batt. went for route march under C/O. 10th. General parades. 11th. Visit of Brig. Gen. Jardine to meet all officers of 97th Brigade. Border Officers under C/O for tactical scheme. 12th. Church parade.

13th. Orders received to march. Batt. left La Vicogne at 10am and arrived at Contay 3pm. 14th. Batt. left Contay full marching at 1pm and arrived Black Horse Bridge 7pm. Tiring march for Batt. and little accommodation for men. 15th. Orders to dump packs etc. then paraded in battle order at 2pm marched to Englebelmer arriving 5pm. 16th November. Batt. remained at Englebelmer fitting out with bombs etc. for action.

**17th November. Redan Sector**

Batt. left Englebelmer at 11am. in full fighting order for the trenches. Passed through Mailly Maillet and passed through 'White City' having formed into single file. At this point the Batt. went across the open headed by the C/O. towards the trenches opposite Wagon Road occupying any trench front or back where we relieved the E. Lancs and the N.Lancs. On the way of these trenches the Batt. passed under shellfire and casualties were caused.

After some difficulties the relief was completed at 6am. The ground was very bad and the wire much cut about by shellfire. The shellfire continued throughout and while in trenches the Batt suffered a few more casualties. The tape was laid out for the Batt. to form on ready for the attack. About 12 noon a heavy artillery barrage was opened on to the enemy lines opposite us. Half an hour later enemy artillery opened on ground held by us with heavy fire, this continued until well after dark. Companies were sent into position on the tape and the enemy artillery barrage continued playing havoc with our lines. Men of various companies who had got separated were got together and everything got in readiness for the Batt. to take up position for the attack.

**18th November Redan Ridge  
(Beaumont Hamel).**

At 12 midnight marched along Wagon Rd to the positions. By 4am all were in readiness and by 5am Coys had moved on to the tape and were in position.

At Zero 6.10am the artillery barrage opened and the Regiment advanced in perfect order to attack. The men being a fine sight to see in spite of the

intense cold in which they had to lie and wait. The Coys got well away and it is certain that the leading platoons and several others got well over Munick (Munich) Trench after this it was difficult to ascertain the precise position of every company. The Germans put over a very heavy bombardment and fired several rockets which burst into four red stars. There was considerable hostile machine gun fire some of which seemed to come from well in the rear of Frankfort Trench doing indirect fire on to the ground where the attack was delivered. Soon after daylight Capt Rosoe & Lt Greenhill were found with some Border men and some KOYLI near the communication trench with Munick Trench. Here sharp fighting occurred with bombing attacks were delivered.

10pm. In the trench at approx. Q6 a bombing post was established and a little behind two Lewis Guns were placed in position, commanding both flanks. After dark several men, this is all of the men who were left on the Wagon Road side of Munick Trench returned after holding shell holes opposite the German line and in is wire to a position in Wagon Road. During

the day and up till 10pm stretcher bearers were continuously over the top and about bringing in wounded men.

Those that were left of the battalion were re-organised and Wagon Road was placed in a state of defence by them. From accounts it is believed that several men got right through Munick Trench. Wounded men crawling back were continually sniped at by the enemy.

140 men of the Border Regiment died on the 18th November of which 53 were from the Herefordshire Regiment.

During the attack and after, when men were holding onto ground taken the enemy adopted several cowardly devices, such as some coming out unarmed with their hands up and when our men showed themselves to get enemy prisoners they (the enemy with hands up) would suddenly drop and our men were shot by concealed Germans further on. 19th. November. Batt. in same position. No action taken by the enemy except for Shrapnel and heavy H.E. Barrage causing several casualties.

A little after noon the battalion was relieved by the Enniskillen Fusiliers. 20th Remained in billets at Maily Maillet. 21st. In Billets. Sgt Major Johnstone reported to Batt. having brokent through the German Line at Munick Trench from Frankfort said that some 'Borders' and HLI were holding a portion of Frankfort Trench. Brigade formed a rescue/raiding party from the Border and 16th HLI tp assist Capt Welch and the cut off party in returning. 22nd. Two other men managed to break through the line and reported the cut off party were still holding out. Another rescue party was formed and sent to trenches near to Wagon Road to hold itself in readiness in case Capt Welch and his men tried to break out.

23rd Arqueves Rescue party still in trenches but no result. Batt. ordered to march. 1.25 Batt marched to Arqueves. 24th In Billets at Arqueves. 25th. Batt paraded and left for Gezaincourt. 40men arrived as reinforcements.

The cut off Coy appear to have been lost to the Germans. Pte Albert Perkins of Ross was taken prisoner on the 25th November at 'The Somme' and must have been one of the cut off

group. 28-30th Nov at Berteaucourt. Parades, Coy parades and training.

### December 1916.

The Batt. largely spent the month, training and courses, Lewis Gun, Sniping, some church parades, bombing, Coy parades and training. Route marches. Ended the month at puchvillers providing working parties.

### 1917

**January.** 1-7th Puchvillers working parties, training, Brigade Field Day, 'practicing silent attacks on supposed positions'. 7th. Moved to Corcelles proceeded to trenches in support. 11th in frontline bombarded, heavies in rear areas. Communications cut. Relieved by HLI. 13th with 3 Coys in support, enemy actively shelled system of trenches. 12th Front line marched to Bus then on 18th moved on to Maily Maillet and into billets until 20th when relieved Gordons at Beaumont Hamel in trenches. Patrols sent out at night. On 24th relieved and proceeded to Lythan Camp. 27th relieved by KOYLI and back in the trenches at Beaumont Hamel.. 29th Relieved by HLI and into dugouts at Beaumont Hamel.

**February.** 1st/2nd In the line patrols sent out as enemy discovered active near posts. 3rd -10th Back to Lythan

Camp near Beaussart. Practice drills for attack and making preparations for attack. 11th. Batt. paraded in full marching order and marched to Beaumont Hamel. 6pm moved from the Quarry and Battalion moved across the front in four waves. At 7.30pm in position at Frankfort Post. At 8.30 (Zero Hour) Barrage opened up. Batt. advanced following the creeping barrage, the men did splendidly and kept right up with the barrage until their objective. At 9. pm a message was sent back to say all objectives taken and consolidation begun. Our left flank was exposed the KOYLI on our left had one Coy which had not come up by the time of advancement and we had to move off with this exposed. First batch of 35 prisoners were sent back and at 11pm 2 Officers and 100 ORs were captured by Batt. and sent back as POWs. Unfortunately 1 dugout which the enemy refused to come out was bombed and caught fire and they all perished. A strongly held enemy post was discovered and 2 Vickers guns were sent up with a Stokes Mortar detachment, which opened up on the post. At 4.30am enemy delivered a hostile counter attack and heavy rapid fire was

brought to bear. Remainder of day quiet except for some shelling and sniping. At dusk two attempts were made to take the hostile post on the left flank but both failed as it was too strongly held. At 8.30pm orders to make another advance with the Naval Division and started at 9pm at right angles to existing positions a new line of posts was established. A hostile attack formed but wavered under Vickers and Lewis gunfire. Under cover of smoke the enemy managed to get to our lines and a fierce fight ensued with bombs but they were repulsed. The area covered by smoke was swept by Rifle and Lewis gun fire and barraged by all available rifle grenades, soon after the artillery opened up and the attack was completely broken. At 12 o'clock Batt. was relieved. and moved back to Acheux then moved back until at end of the month was at Quesnil in Billets.

**March.** 1st. Batt. in billets. 2nd In support in the intermediate line. Working parties and cleaning and repairing trenches. 5th-8th . In front line system, clearing trenches, some activity from enemy with aerial darts. 9th in support in intermediate line, working parties for R.E. 10th. Raid

decided on, party of volunteers selected and party taken out of the line to practice for the raid. working parties. On 12th-14th back in the front line. Patrols sent out, preparations made for raid, raid then cancelled, one patrol lost of Sgt and 2 men taken prisoner. 17th Mar. Retirement of German Army, Batt. parades in full fighting order, marched to Vouvrois and stayed there the night. Continued to march after the retiring Germans through Hattencourt then Herley (which the Germans had completely destroyed). Arrived at Nesle on 20th and stayed in billets until 28th when marched East to Foreste and dug trenches on 700 yard front. On 31st orders received to prepare for an attack on village of Savy

**April.** 31st/1st night Batt. moved to Roupuy road in fighting order and an issue of rum was made. Extended into attacking formation and advanced at all speed behind the barrage and drove the enemy through the village. Several prisoners were taken and many enemy killed. Worked on defences. 3rd Salvage and collection of the dead, working parties in the village, remained in Savy until the 7th when moved to support in Holnon.

Moved to front line on 11th and on 14th an assault on Fayet by KOYLI and HLI Batt. ready to concentrate a MG opened fire on the left flank and caused several casualties 2 platoons were sent to deal with it and were successful capturing it complete, stayed in the line until 16th when relieved and back to Germaine On 19th moved to Hombleux and then Offoy training, parades, cleaning up, physical exercise, practicing attack formations. Stayed until 15th May when moved.

**May.** 15th Puseaux then on to Caix and then on 17th to Domart training and recreation until 30th when moved to Villers-Bretonneaux in billets.

**June** 1st. Moved to Neuf Bequin in billets. Physical training, training, musketry, recreation. 14th moved to Godwaersvelot then on 16th to St Pol, near Dunkerque, more training, exercise, church parades until 29th when relieved HLI in front line.

**July.** Stayed in the line until the 4th July fairly quiet except for shelling. On 5th at Nieuport moved back to dugouts and made a raid on the enemy. A Bangalore Torpedo was fired and the attacking party rushed forward but were met with a barrage of bombs.



Finding the trench to heavily defended and weakened by casualties they had to withdraw, Batt in reserve. On 8th back in the line. 10th the shelling got very heavy and communications broke down, the barrage increased in intensity during the day and was made worse by 'our' 18 pounders dropping short, some of the trenches were very 'bashed about' and reports were sent out by 'pigeons'. At lunchtime heavy trench mortar activity and a 'plane flew over very low to assess damage. at 1.30 artillery activity resumed at previous intensity. At 2.45pm message "battle patrol must hold the front line whether demolished or not" 3.30 HLI reinforce us. 4.5 Front line severely smashed, right half completely wiped out, Comms trenches badly smashed casualties about 40. At 5pm Lt Smythe reported that the 1st, 2nd and 3rd lines were heavily shelled and he had only 15 men left out of the 2 Platoons he went out with, Lt Rowsell 'C' Coy reported he had only 30 men left, both officers advised against sending more men forward until nightfall as the trenches were flattened and it was impossible to assess casualties. 5.20 lull in shelling and enemy 'plane flew low over

trenches. Shelling then increased with gas shells. 5.30 Lt Smythe reports he has only 4 men left, reinforcements were to be sent but the line "must be held at all costs". 7.30 message from O/C 'C' Coy "enemy hold Nose trench am in Nose support but have only 5 men left send reinforcements" 7.30 shelling slackened and enemy 'plane flying low of Redan Ridge, enemy reported as having a footing in 2nd and part of 3rd line. 7.50 2 Coys of HLI ordered to counter attack and all Garrison rifles stand to to defend Grand and Petite Redan. 8.15 message from HQ "enemy patrols on left front line - a line must be established at once and patrols of fresh troops must be sent out to enemy line". 9.5 message from Lt. Martin "HLI have orders to withdraw from G. Redan I have conformed with them and await orders". 9.25 message to Lt Martin "no one withdraws from Grand Redan until definite orders from Lt Col. Gridwood, get everyone into G. Redan and stay there". 9.30 Capt Ross 11th Borders reports "HLI have retired and right Batt of 1st Division wiped out and another Batt has retired, I do not feel justified in advancing beyond 3rd line with

unprotected flanks". 10.20 Message from HQ "no one to leave Grand Redan without direct order, Lt Smythe in charge of all troops there, HLI to send fighting patrols forward to 3rd line at once" 11th July 12.30am. message to MGC "your guns to move to cover the 11th Borders at the powder magazine". 12.45am "As soon as the 11th Borders have re-established a line they are to be relieved" 1.45am message from Lt. Macfarlane "we are holding our section intact and have 3 patrols out in no-man's-land" 2am to HLI "you must work at once to your left to help 11th Borders". 2.30 Orders to establish posts at 2nd line and send out patrols to 1st line which should be occupied, you will be relieved by Northumberland Fusiliers when you are established in 2nd Post. 3.30am Message sent to BHQ by Lt. Hodgkinson estimated casualties for today (10th July) 8 officers and 350 Other Ranks. 4.30am Battalion relieved and back to Coxyde, Ghyvelde and then to Bray Dunes for bathing and recreation. Practicing attacks, training until 25th July when moved to Coxyde for remainder of month.

**August.** 1st, still at Coxyde training, cleaning billets, church parades. Rest of month at Oost-Dunkerque, Bray Dunes, Canada Camp and Ghyvelde, training, sea bathing, musketry, practice attacks, brigade sports.

**September** 1st at Oost-Dunkerque the village was shelled considerably by long distance high velocity shells 4 Officers Chargers were killed. 2nd finding working parties. 3rd. Back in the line. 4th Line fairly quiet but trenches in a poor state only a breastwork and that was down in some places 7 men wounded, 5th relatively quiet 1 man killed 2 wounded. In the line until 10th 3 killed 9 wounded. 10th relieved and back to billets at Wulpen. 15th Back in the line, a German raid and heavy bombardment on 17th. A British aeroplane came down on 20th and the pilot was rescued. Relieved on 20th and into billets at Coxyde, moved on to La Panne, working parties, church parade, practicing wiring. 28th into support line. 29th in the line finding working party for front line Batt. 1 carrying party led astray by HLI guide resulting in 1 OR wounded and missing and 1 wounded. 30th working parties 2 men killed 3 wounded 1 died of wounds.

**October** 1-5th in the Line 8 killed 32 wounded during this period. Rest of month in billets at Teteghem and Zeggars Cappel, training, church parades, route marches, practice attacks. End of month at Rubrouck Coy training.

**November** Month at Rubrouck and Road Camp Battalion training. On 22nd moved via Poperinghe to Hill Top Camp and took up battle stores and equipment. 23rd moved to Bellevue and into support trenches. 25th Relieved by 15th HLI then relieved 17th HLI at Kronprinz Farm relief completed at 2am. 3 Officers wounded, 12 ORs killed 35 wounded, 7 missing. 26th held the line 8 ORs wounded. 27th relieved 1 killed 2 wounded. 28th at Hill Top Farm and then Wurst Farm until 30th.

**December** 2nd. at Westoosebeeke Batt. made night attack, the Batt took all its objectives but the leapfrogging Coys fell back before dawn to subsidiary objectives and held them all day until the enemy made a counter attack then fell back to original trenches. Casualties 6 officers killed, 1 missing, 6 wounded. No numbers for ORs. (*The CWGC website gives 90 killed in action on 2nd Dec. 1917 so*

*wounded and missing would have been several hundred*) 4th relieved and back to Brake Camp. On 9th moved to Dambre Camp and training then on 18th moved to Wurst Camp. 21st in the line until 23rd when moved to Siege Camp. Christmas day at disposal of Coy Commanders. Batt. attended burial service of Capt, Cook Gray M.C.in afternoon. 26th. Physical training and musketry during morning, remainder of day Coys at disposal of Coy Commanders 27th Bathed in morning 30th Entrained at Elverdinghe to Audricq then marched to Tournehem arrived 31st.

## 1918

**January.** The Batt. spent the month until 20th at Tournehem training, cleaning up, improving the camp, rifle ranges, then on 20th moved to Caribou Camp recreation and training on 25th moved to La Bergerie Camp and on 28th In the line quiet slight shelling until end of the month.

**February** 1st. In the line on right of Belgians by day no movement possible and night all possiblework on wire and improving posts. 2nd. Relieved las night by Dorsets and moved to Bosinge Camp. No workjust cleaning up and parade for foot treatment. 3rd-

19th In the field at Bosche X Roads fairly quiet with some shelling work on fortifications and specialist training for Lewis Gunners, Signallers and Observers. On 18th At night raiding party of 2 officers, 2/Lt Macrae & McDonald & 60 other ranks of C Coy, carried out raid on enemy posts in these parties. Zero hour 11PM. Heavy artillery barrage for eight minutes preparatory to advance. Right & Left Parties reached objective and penetrated 150 yds behind enemy's front system. Centre party unfortunately struck M.G. unscathed by barrage, and had two casualties, 2/Lt Macrae killed & 1 Sgt. wounded. Result :- 12 of the enemy ascertained to be dead, one M.G. Bombed & put out of action, one wounded prisoner brought in. Capt. ROSS in vain patrolled for the body of 2/Lt Macrae. 19th Relieved by 1st Dorsets. Bat. left X Rds by trains at 7.30 & 10am. Moved to Vandamme Camp near Woeston. Remainder of month. specialist training, cleaning up, working on roads and railways.

**March.** 1-3rd at Vandamme Camp. 4th- 13th In the line. Artillery active and MGs at night. On 10th A party of 150 of the enemy armed with revolvers

raided 15 Post. Covered by M.G. barrage, they swept into the post taking 4 prisoners. 1 man escaped with Lewis Gun. On 13th Quiet by day. Enemy put down a heavy T.M. and M.G. barrage on Egypt Ho and frontline of posts from Colombo to right and left at 7.30 p.m. A party of enemy attempted to raid our posts, but driven off by L.G. and rifle fire. Posts 17, 18 & 19 were heavily shelled, but none of the raiders reached them. Casualties 1 officer wounded, 1 O.R. missing, 1 killed, 1 wounded and missing, 4 wounded. 14-17th Brigade reserve 18th In the line Quiet except for T.M.'s around Egypt Ho and M.G. fire on tracks by night. 20th Hostile artillery. Raid carried out at 11 p.m. on enemy posts by 3 Officers and 60 O.R. Party was divided into 3 sections of 20 O.R. and 1 Officer. Raiders advanced under heavy barrage, but met with stubborn M.G. resistance. They pushed forward to within bombing distance of the M.G.'s, which were unscathed by the barrage, but had to withdraw after accounting for a few of the enemy. Casualties, 1 Officer and 1 O.R. wounded and missing, 1 O.R. killed, 6 O.R. Wounded. 21st Divisional Reserve. On 26th entrained at

Elverdinghe about 11 a.m. and detrained at Aubigny at 9 p.m. Batt. then marched to Wanquetin during aerial bombardment and encamped in huts. 28th In the field at Adinfer Wood reserve for Guards Bde. 30th moved forward to advanced positions. 31st. quiet except for snipers and MGs our snipers claim to have killed 6 Germans.

**April** 1-3rd In the line. Heavy shelling of C Coy's line causing a few casualties. Day otherwise quiet Snipers very active, numerous hits observed. Aeroplanes active. Patrols report on various enemy posts. A Coy relieved C Coy in the left Coy Sector and C moved into reserve. Wiring by night. 4-8th Purple line quiet, wet miserable weather, trenches in poor condition. 8-16th In the line Artillery active on both sides. Much enemy movement seen + various posts and trenches reported to Bde. and Artillery. Aeroplanes and snipers active. Usual patrols and wiring by night. 17-20th Brigade reserve. 21-25th In the line Hostile artillery more active by day. Attempted raid on enemy post failed because Stokes Barrage overshot the post + enemy saw the party in the moonlight. 26th Battalion marched

back to Ransart - Monchy road and embussed for Laherty arriving about 4 a.m.

**May.** 3rd moved to Berles-au-Bois Company training and church parade. 9th May 1918. Usual company training and sports, at midnight on this date we cease to be known as 11th Border Regt. and are now 1/5th Border Regt.

A cadre of the 11th was formed and remained as the Lonsdales In June they were sent to Pende to help train the 1st Batt. 328th United States Infantry and the 320th USA Machine Gun Coy. On 18th June 2 Coys were sent to Mons-Boubert to train the 2nd Batt. 108th American Infantry and then to Franleu to train 3rd Batt. 105th American Infantry. They then moved to Doullens and continued training American units until 31st July 1918 when they re-joined the 1/5th Border Regiment and the 11th (Lonsdales) Border Regt. was disbanded.

It is not clear what happened to Private Robinson, whether he went to the 1/5th in May or went with the Cadre (below) I suspect he went with the Cadre because his battle experience would have been invaluable in the training roles. But whatever he was

with the 1/5th by 1st August 1918.

**1/5th Border Regiment. August 1918.**

1/2nd Aug. School Camp. All companies working under direction of Canadian R.E.

3rd. Coy training under Coy Commanders

4th. Church Parade.

5th. Coy training under Coy Commanders

6th. Brigade inspected by H.M. King George, rest of day preparing to move.

7th. Batt. entrained at Proven and moved to Longpre.

8th Left village and moved to bivouacs near Domart near Gentelles Wood.

9th Marched up the line to Beaucourt. 10th August. At Rouvrois. Left at 4am and marched to Warvillers and deployed for attack, platoons in artillery formation. We passed through the Canadians and our objective was the railway line, on reaching the slopes the enemy opened heavy MG fire and had to deploy and advance in snake formations. The left flank was not in touch with the Canadians who had attacked 2 hours after us and uncut fire and MG fire held up the attack.

11th. The right was quiet and no further orders were received to

continue the attack. In the afternoon orders that we were to be relieved by the Canadians but our guide for the relieving Batt. missed them and a Canadian officer came to make enquiries. Relief completed on 12th. Casualties 12 ORs Killed 99 Wounded.

27875 Private Charles Robinson was Killed in Action during this attack. He is buried at Rosieres Communal Cemetery Extension and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

#### Soldiers who died in the Great War

<b>Name:</b>	Charles Robinson
<b>Birth Place:</b>	Ross, Hereford
<b>Death Date:</b>	11 Aug 1918
<b>Death Place:</b>	France and Flanders
<b>Enlistment Place:</b>	Ross
<b>Rank:</b>	Private
<b>Regiment:</b>	Border Regiment
<b>Battalion:</b>	5th Battalion
<b>Regimental Number:</b>	27875
<b>Type of Casualty:</b>	Killed in action
<b>Theatre of War:</b>	Western European Theatre





Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
ROBINSON	Hereford R		4600
Charles	K. I. L. I.		20616
	Bad R	Plt	27875
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
Victory	4/103 B3	665	
Baron	do	do	
Star			
Theatre of War first served in:			
Date of entry therein			

He was awarded





The British War Medal and Victory Medal

In Memory of  
Private  
**C Robinson**

27875, 5th Bn., Border Regiment who died on 11 August 1918 Age 34

Son of George and Mary Robinson. Born at Ross, Herefordshire.

Remembered with Honour  
Rosieres Communal Cemetery Extension

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

# 235767 Corporal Charles Leslie Rogers



1st/1st Herefordshire Regiment

## Charles Leslie Rogers

He was born 1889 in Holme Lacy, Hereford. His father was a farmer from Marden. His mother was Fanny Castree from Hope under Dinmore.

1891 they were living at Hope Under Dinmore. 1901 His father was an agricultural labourer. 1911 Father was a farmer from Marden. Parents had 10 children of which 5 had died.

Charles was a footman. His father died and was buried in Walford on 1st July 1912. They had been living at Spring Herne, Walford. His mother then

seems to have moved to the Police Station, Walford. She died in Walford and was buried 5th February 1921.

## The Great War

235767 Corporal Rogers. There is no clear indication of when he went to an active service posting. He was not at Gallipoli with the regiment or he would have received the 1914/15 Star. The 6 figure number replaced the old 4 figure ones in Early 1917. But it seems likely he went out to Egypt with the reinforcements to replace the losses at Gallipoli some time in 1916.

In July 1916 Von Kressenstein advanced on the Suez Canal and the Herefords took part in the Battle of Rumani they were bombed by Turkish aircraft and heavily shelled and had 13 killed and 26 wounded.

In late 1916 and early 1917 they prepared for the Palestine Campaign by training with their new transport - 12 riding horses, 29 mules and 110 camels. The advance into Palestine was very difficult, there was little water and they had to construct a railway to bring up supplies. On 24th March 1917 the Division attacked the Turks at the 1st Battle of Gaza. The Herefords were supporting the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who carried the El Sire Ridge

but because of poor communications the Generals ordered a withdrawal (to the disbelief of the troops on the ground) and when the mistake was discovered ordered them to take the ridge again but a strong enemy counter attack resulted in disaster. The Herefords lost 17 of their 22 Officers and 218 Other Ranks were killed, wounded or missing. The British Commander's report implied this had been a decisive victory and so was forced into the 2nd Battle of Gaza three weeks later. Thus the battle was renewed on 17 April 1917. In the interim meanwhile the Turks had extended their formidable garrison defences south-east along the road to Beersheba. Dobell chose to launch a frontal assault upon Kressenstein's force of 18,000 by three British infantry divisions aided by eight heavy Mark I tanks and 4,000 gas shells. Unable to extract anything more than minor gains in spite of a two-to-one manpower advantage, chiefly on account of complex and effective Turkish defensive lines, Dobell called off the patently unsuccessful attack on the third day. British casualties were heavy: 6,444 men, with Turkish losses under a third of that figure. In late

October the Division took part in the 3rd Battle of Gaza. 3rd Battle of Gaza. With Edmund Allenby's appointment to command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the wake of two failed attacks at Gaza in March and April 1917 - replacing Sir Archibald Murray who was recalled to London - he was tasked by British Prime Minister David Lloyd George with the capture of Jerusalem by Christmas 1917. In the light of the British army's two recent failures it appeared a tall order in spite of clear British numerical supremacy in the area. In November and December the Battalion advanced through Palestine in appalling conditions, very hot, insufficient water (3 pints every 48 hours) and rough tracks through the Judean Hills in the Khamsin season. But by Christmas they had taken Jerusalem. March 1918 the Battalion was engaged at Tell Azur a fiercely fought battle of attack and counter attack with a lot of hand to hand fighting but the Turks were finally driven off. Allenby nevertheless delivered Jerusalem to London handily in time for Christmas with over two weeks to spare.

This ended the Battalion's involvement in Palestine and in June it returned via Italy to Proven, Belgium.

#### FRANCE

June 1918 they returned to France arriving at Les Cinq Chemins on 1st July 1918. They drew new equipment and a period of training and acclimatizing followed. On 18th July Marshal Foch had ordered a major counter offensive between Chateau Thierry and Soissons. They went into the field at 7.40am on 23rd July at Poiseux. and immediately experienced very heavy shellfire, high standing corn made it difficult to move through, casualties occurred from enemy machine guns before the attack had proceeded many yards. Attack was held up at 12.00 due to units on flank either side failing to advance at all. At nightfall relieved by 1/4 Cheshires. Casualties heavy - 8 Officers and 230 ORs.

Corporal Rogers was Killed in Action on 23rd July 1918 in the above battle. He is buried in Raperie British Cemetery, Villemontoire and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

#### Soldiers who died in the Great War

Name: Charles Leslie Rogers  
 Birth Place: Holme Lacey, Herefords  
 Residence: Weobley, Herefords  
 Death Date: 23 Jul 1918  
 Death Place: France and Flanders  
 Enlistment Place: Hereford  
 Rank: Corporal  
 Regiment: The Herefordshire Regiment  
 Battalion: 1st 1st Battalion  
 Regimental Number: 235767  
 Type of Casualty: Killed in action





Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
ROGERS		Hereford R	Cpl	235767
Charles L				
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	J/11063	365		
BATTLE	- do	-		
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

He was awarded





The British War Medal and Victory Medal

In Memory of  
Corporal  
**C L Rogers**

235767, 1st/1st Bn., Herefordshire Regiment who died on 23 July 1918  
Son of Mrs. F. Rogers, of The Police Station, Walford, Ross, Hereford.

Remembered with Honour  
Raperie British Cemetery, Villemontoire

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



## 6601 Private Clement Ross



1st Battalion King's  
Shropshire Light Infantry

## 701416 Private Ross



Western Command Labour  
Centre Labour Corps.

## Clement Ross

He was born on 1/11/1897 (Worcester) father's army record. His father was George Ross born 23rd Marc 1873 in the Union Workhouse, Stratford, Derbyshire. His mother was Esther Stockton from Oldbury (her father was called Clement). Before joining the army Clement Ross worked for Mr B Croydon at the Ross-on-Wye Golf club as a general labourer.

6601 Private Clement Ross enlisted into the 3rd Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) on 27th April 1914 at Hereford. His home address was 3 Brampton St, Ross. His classification was A1. He was 5ft 7ins tall and weighed eight and a half stone, his physical development was fair. He went to France on 2nd February 1915 with the 2nd KSLI. his qualification was 'Machine Gunner' he arrived with his unit at Dickebusch with 182 other reinforcements on 13th. On the 14th they 'stood to' all night and next day went back into the trenches and were heavily shelled they had 3 killed and 11 wounded, on 17th they were relived and marched back to Dickebusch and were billeted, 2 killed 6wounded. On 19th they were back in the trenches, 1 killed, 20th February

1915 1 killed 2 wounded. one of the wounded was Pte Ross. he suffered from a gunshot wound in the face (left centrum) and shrapnel in the face. He was sent to the No 1. Australian Hospital at Rouen, then to the No 11 General Hospital at Boulogne and then he was evacuated back to England on the Hospital Ship 'St David' and attended the Rosherville V.A.D. Hospital at Gravesend. He recovered and was finally discharged from hospital on 11th June 1915.and was sent back to the British Expeditionary Force on 24th August 1915. The 2nd KSLI were sent to Salonika so Pte Ross joined the 5th Battalion KSLI.

He joined them on the 16th September 1915 with 45 other reinforcements near Poperinghe. Next day the Battalion was inspected by General Plumer commander of the army. 18th-23rd in Bivouac. 24th Sept. Ypres. Marched into trenches in fighting order. An intense bombardment took place by our own guns, this was immediately replied to by the Germans and continued throughout the day 4 killed, 8 wounded. 25th Sept. 1am. intense bombardment immediately replied to by Germans 4.5am Battalion ready for

assault (2 machine guns and signallers in front of our own lines). Assault took place and we penetrated to the German second line but owing to the attack on the position to our right not going home and the German counter attack enveloping our own left flank the position became untenable and we were forced to re-occupy our original line of trenches, the Germans bombarded heavily until 1pm and then from 9pm until midnight. Casualties 41 killed, 285 wounded, 102 missing, 10 wounded and missing.

One of the wounded and missing was Pte Ross. He was found and sent to 24 General Hospital Etaples on 27th Sept. with a Gunshot wound to the back and from there sent back to England. He recovered and returned to France.

29th February 1916 he embarked for France arriving at Etaples on 2nd March. He joined his unit 5th KSLI on 10th in heavy snowfall with a party of 60 reinforcements. On 4th April he was given 7 days Field punishment for 'falling out in line of march'. On 18th April he was sent to the 37 Casualty Clearing Station (SSC) at Avesnes suffering with Myalgia from here he

went to the No 8 General Hospital at Rouen and then on 29th April suffering with rheumatism he went with the Hospital Ship St. Andrew back to England and then on to Princess Mary's Military Hospital at Whalley, Lancs. He recovered and returned again to France.

He embarked on 15th June 1916 and joined the 7th Battalion KSLI arriving at Etaples on 16th and with the 7th KSLI in the field on 26th June. Late June practice attacks, billets etc. 1st July 1916 via a series of marches moved to the Somme front arriving at Carnoy on 8th July. 8th-13th in the trenches. 14th July. An attack. The Battalion advanced on the German trenches but were held up by barbed wire at 12 o'clock battalion charged and took two German trenches and 250 prisoners. When all battalions were collected and consolidated it was found that 5 officers were untouched but the rest were wounded or killed, losses among ORs were very heavy. Casualties. 155 Killed, 302 wounded, 16 missing.

Pte. Ross was sent to the 2nd CCS suffering from Shellshock and from here to the 6th General Hospital at Rouen on 2nd August. He re-joined

the 7th Batt. on 1st September 1916 at Philosophe. On the 7th Sept. they moved to the support trenches they then were at Tenth Avenue support trenches, Mazingarbe and Recklinghem until 4th October.

On 27th September Pte Ross was awarded 21 days Field Punishment No 1. for 'Gambling after lights out'.

The Batt. then over to Acheux and Mailly-Maillet in billets until 18th Oct. On 19th moved to Bus-Les-Artois providing working parties, repairing trenches, cleaning and with spells in the trenches.

On November 1st the 7th KSLI were relieved and moved to billets in Courcelles but identification patrols were sent out. 4th. The Batt. moved to Serre in preparation for an attack at Louvencourt.

12/13th November. At 5am The Battalion formed up in artillery formation. Our Stokes Mortars and artillery opened an intense barrage on the enemy front and support lines. At 6.35 a message was received from R.S.F that the attack seemed to have been held up and that all troops seemed to have become intermingled. The enemy barrage was very heavy at this time. Runners were sent out to

ascertain the position of the Batt. troops, two returned and said they could only find isolated men of the Coys, remaining runners were hit. At 9.45 it was established that the majority of the men were in no man's land but practically all touch had been lost owing to the fog by the time they arrived at the front line. 2 more runners were sent out to order the Coys to withdraw but were both hit. A group of 50 men of the Batt were at the enemy front line and being heavily shelled, they were ordered to withdraw. At 7.30 the men arrived at back the Batt. reformed on Sapper trench.

Casualties. - 9 Officers killed or wounded and 214 ORs Killed, Wounded or missing.

Pte Ross was wounded in action at this attack and received a Gunshot wound to the head. He was treated at 8th Aid Post (ACP) and then admitted to the 12 CCS. On 14th Nov. he was moved to 8th General Hospital at Wimereux and on 24th to Rouen. He recovered quickly and re-joined the 7th KSLI on 9th December in the field.

December 1916. At Courcelles, Bus-Les-Artois and 'in the line' at Serre sector.

1917. January at Serre and on 9th Jan marched to Franqueville, reorganisation of the Battalion, baths and training. On 1st February arrived at Monchy-Breton and into billets, training then on 7th Feb. moved to billets at Denier, accommodation for the men was good but for the officers very poor. On 27th Feb. Marched to Arras. Working parties/training etc until 30th March when relived 4th Fusiliers in the trenches at Arras (Tilloy Village).

1st April Batt. ordered to obtain a prisoner for identification, a raiding party was sent out and a prisoner of the 38th Fus. Regt was captured, we had no casualties. On 4th the front line was cleared for the discharge of gas cylinders, heavy reciprocal artillery, Battalion cookers destroyed, 2 men wounded 2 shell shock.

9th April 2017 (Easter Monday).

10.40am Batt left assembly position in artillery formation platoons, heavy enemy artillery shelling and some resistance in Tilloy, casualties being sustained from sniping and machine

gun fire. Resuming the advance the Bois-De-Beoufs was cleared but about 5-700 yards from the next objective we were unsupported on right and left and were held up by MG fire on either flank. After an attack by the Gordons the line was dug in. The attack was resumed at 12 Noon on the 10th but the artillery barrage was very erratic and many shells fell to the rear of the advancing troops but the objective was captured. Casualties for the period were- 6 Officers wounded. ORs 22 killed, 131 wounded, 5 missing. Pte Ross was wounded in action on the 9th. a Gunshot wound to the left hand. He was admitted to the 7th Field Ambulance on the 11th and the following day sent to the 6th General Hospital at Fevent. On 6th June at Rouen he was AWOL and given 10 days CB and deprived 10 days pay for being 'in town without and pass' and 'drunkenness'. On 30th June he was awarded 10 days Field punishment No 1 for

- 1 Drunkenness
2. Violently resisting the Royal Military Police.
3. Improperly dressed.
4. Being in town without a pass.

On 5th July he was sent to No 10 General Hospital at Rouen and on 13th July he re-joined his unit in the field. On 17th July he was sent to the 7th Field Ambulance for an old Shrapnel wound to the cheek and admitted. 23rd he was admitted to 29 CCS and then on 26th admitted to 10th General Hospital, Rouen. He re-joined his unit on the 2nd September in the field at Ytres. In billets until 20th Spt. when moved to new billets at Brandhoek. 25th Sept. an attack at Barastre. severe fighting ensued. On 29th the Batt. went into reserve near Poperinghe. Casualties for this operation. 11 Officers and 250 ORs killed, wounded or missing. October 1917 Training at Le Transloy and Favreuil. On 29th Oct. Pte Ross was again sent to 142 Field Ambulance for Old wounds to face and arm and on 31st Oct admitted to No 1 Australian General Hospital for old wounds to face and arms and sick (mild). He re-joined his unit on 27th November 1917 in the field. On 28th Nov. in the trenches at Apex, very hostile artillery same very active artillery on 28th and 29th. 30th Batt. had baths. Batt. 'in the line until' 12tg when moved to

Billets in Mory. In the line and in billets at Mory until 31st Dec. 1917. 1918. January. at Hamelincourt. In billets, training, re-organising with large numbers of reinforcements arriving until 26th Jan when ordered to relieve Royal Scots in the front line. February at Croisilles and in the line, enemy made a number of attacks and bombing raids on our trenches but failed to reach our lines. On 2nd March moved to Mercatel and then Wancourt. 26th March. Pte Ross was again sent to the Field Ambulance suffering P.U.O (Pyrexia of unknown origin - a fever which they could not identify). It must have been serious because he was moved same day to 43 CCS at Frevent and next day to the 26th General Hospital at Etaples. On 23rd May 1918 he moved from 26th GH. back to England and on 28th May 1918 he was posted to Shrewsbury and then on 5th July posted to Fermoy (Ireland). On 22nd July he was charged with

1. 'Falling out on line of march'
2. Being found in the Imperial Hotel drinking
3. Drunk in camp about 6.30pm

He was awarded 14 days detention.

On 16th August 1918 at Kilworth Camp (Fermoy) he was charged with overstaying his pass - 14 days detention.

On 11th October 1918 he was sent to France, he joined his unit 7th KSLI on 15th Oct. He was given 28 days Field punishment No.1 for being drunk on 20th October and reposted to 1st Battalion KSLI same day joining them the next day in the field at Regnicourt. 23rd October 1918. The Battalion was ordered to prepared for an attack and the 1st KSLI and 2nd Yorks & Lancs would attack the green line on 24th Oct. They moved into the line at 23.45 at 8.00am the advance to assembly points started but the left had difficulty advancing because of an enemy machine gun post. Zero was 9.30 and advance was under a creeping barrage and the machine gun referred to was subject to a heavy French mortar fire with good results. On the right objectives were reached but the left had problems due to heavy machine gun fire, reorganisation and consolidation followed and another attempt to make the green line but little progress was made because of machine gun fire and lack of



cooperation from the 25th division. Lt Wilding was wounded and there were 30 casualties in the ranks. At 22.30 the Batt. was relieved by the Buffs and moved to billets in Basuel. 26/27/28th Oct. in Billets, baths, training and preparing to relieve Yorks & Lancs. Reports of Austria's unconditional surrender. 29th Oct. orders to carry out patrols down the west bank of the canal, scattered shelling throughout, later orders to carry out operations against the three enemy posts and either destroy or drive across the canal. 30th October 3 fighting patrols sent out to attack the enemy posts. They got as far as the canal and encountered no Bosche, with darkness they got to within 2 yards of the Bosche posts before being challenged, bombs were thrown and fire brought to bear with the result that the occupants were killed. During the night our heavies carried out special gas bombardments, which carried heavy retaliation. 31st Oct. relieved and marched to Fresnoy Grand. November 1918. 2nd. Batt. training. 3rd Divine service 4th. Batt. training - honours parade. 5th Training, baths allocated. Moved to Bohain. 6th-11th

November Batt. training. honours parade. 11th November 1918 - Armistice day, last day of hostilities. Pte Clement Ross was sent to 14th Field Ambulance and admitted with Laryngitis. He rejoined the Battalion on the 13th November. On the 6th December the Battalion moved from Rouillon to Purnode, the next day 7th Dec. Pte Ross was charged with 'using obscene language on line of march' and awarded 7 days FP No 1. On 13th March 1919 he left Dunkirk for the dispersal area at Prees Heath (Shropshire). He was discharged from the army on 12th April 1919 and finally transferred from Special Reserve on 19th April 1919. Following demob he re-enlisted into the Labour corps no.701416 on 3rd June 1919. This duty as 'cemetery duties overseas' and the Labour Corps and other units were sent out to France and Flanders to exhume the dead and re-bury them and mark their graves. But before he could go he came back to Ross on embarkation leave and contracted pneumonia and died at Ross Cottage Hospital.

His funeral was held in Ross on Monday July 14th 1919. "a large gathering assembled in Ross churchyard for the funeral of Pte C Ross who had served through the whole of the 1914-19 campaign and who after being demobilised had rejoined the forces again for a further period. He had come home on draft leave prior to going to France when he contracted pneumonia and died in Ross Cottage Hospital last Thursday at the age of 21 years....During the fighting he was wounded no less than five times and gassed once. At his funeral which was carried out according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church a firing party was provided through the kindness of the Commandant of the Ross Internment Camp and in addition to the members of the family, friends and relatives a large company of discharged and demobilised men in Khaki, under the command of Sgt Major B. Robbins S.W.B followed an old fighting comrade to his last resting place in Ross Churchyard. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and a long floral cross from his fighting comrades" Extract from Ross Gazette July 24th 1919..



Name	Corps	Regt. No
Ross.	Shrops. L.I. Lals. Corps.	6601. 701416
Clemens.		
Medal	Roll	Page
VICTORY	LC/1016292	28702
BRITISH		
15. STAR	J/1/4.B.I.	27
Remarks: Disc: 12.4.19.		
Theatre of War first served in (C) France.		
Date of entry therein 6.2.15.		

He was awarded





1914/15 Star - British War Medal -  
Victory Medal

In Memory of  
Private  
**C Ross**

6601, 3rd Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 10 July 1919 Age 21

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ross, of 32, Brampton St., Ross-on-Wye.

Remembered with Honour  
Ross (St. Mary) Churchyard

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

His father George Ross also served in the army from 1908 until 1910. 7803 Pte. Ross Re-enlisted 6/11/14 into 3rd KSLI. Discharged 1/9/16 aged 46 ( service record states "actual age 48 but looks older") Unable to perform normal military duties. He had spent the past 12 months in company cookhouse. discharged because of General debility of age. He was living at 32 Brampton St, Ross.

# 11550 Sergeant James Albert Saunders



8th Battalion  
Gloucestershire Regiment

## James Albert Saunders

He was born in 1883 in Ross but seems to have been known as Albert James in the various census. His father was William Saunders from Kentchurch, Herefordshire and his mother was Elizabeth Ann Freethy from Truro, Cornwall but at their wedding in 1872 she was a Cook/Domestic servant at the Vicarage in Walford. 1891 They lived in Kyrle St. Albert's father was a Nightman in the Brewery. 1901 They were

living at 2 Kyrle St. Albert was an engine cleaner, his father was a Brewer's Labourer and sister Amy was an Upholstress and Ada was a Dressmaker.

## The Great War

11550 Private James Albert Saunders enlisted into the Gloucestershire Regiment in September 1914. He had been working at the Gloucester Wagon Works - below.

*1914 September- GRCW struggled to finish an order for Argentine grain wagons as workers enlisted in droves for the Great War. There was no procedure for keeping back key men in reserved occupations" as there was in World War 2. As hostilities continued the company produced stretchers, ambulances, shells and wagons for French Railways.*

Following training he went with his Battalion (8th Battalion Gloucestershire Regt.) to France and on

*17th July 1915* 3 Officers 107men and all 1st Line transport left Tidworth by train and via Southampton arrived at Le Havre on 18th July and moved to rest camp. Later same day advance party left for the front. Remainder of Regt left Tidworth for France. 19th. Batt left Camp and marched to Boulogne station and from there went via Watten, Norhleungen, Renescure and Iseburgues to rest camp. Stayed there until 30th Physical training

and on 31st marched to Caudescure near Merville and into billets.

*3rd August* marched to Estaires training and baths at La Gorgue until 9th when moved to Laventie and started to relieve in the trenches Company by Company until the 12th when all Coys were in the trenches. On 12th Pte Goodfield was Killed in action. Coys digging trenches and repairing parapets until the 14th when moved back to billets at Estaires. Companies training, route marches, physical training, courses and periods spent in trenches on instruction by Sirhind brigade. Entrenching work until 27th Aug when took over the reserve trenches at Marmuse. On 29th Took over the front line trenches from 10th Worcesters. 30/31st work on trenches and parapets 2 men wounded.

*September.* 1st. Trenches at Richebourg L'Avoue. Our artillery fired at the enemy and they responded but it was feeble. Machine gun fire from enemy swept parapets and 2 men wounded. 2nd. Corporal Cox shot 3 men who were crawling about near the old German trench, two rolled over and 1 crawled away wounded, he then shot another German who ran away with his clothes in flames. Moved back to reserve trenches. 3rd. Hostile shells fell in vicinity of trenches but many failed to explode. 4th Some

shelling and we fired on MG posts. Heavy rain made trenches very wet and muddy. 5th Enemy fired shells and MG on trenches but no damage. 6th. Patrol went out 100yards in front of 1st line and found several dead Germans. A signaller read a German signal lamp and made out the words "Kitchener, Transport, Halt, Officers". 7th An LPV German biplane flew over the trenches from West to East. Lt Nash accidentally wounded in Staffords trench by bursting trench mortar, Capt Fry and Lt Hastings accidentally wounded in revolver accident. Shelling all day. 8-10th Artillery very active, German biplane brought down by our anti aircraft guns at Bois du Biez. On 10th Germans seen advancing between three farms rapid fire on working party resulted. 11th Our working parties were fired upon by Machine Guns, Rifle fire and Whizz bangs no casualties. 12th Aircraft flying overhead suspected hostile. Germans heard shouting "come over here and finish it" our machine guns silenced them. 13th. Our sniper hit a German periscope, 19 shells fell and set fire to haystacks by reserve trenches. Relieved and marched to billets at Locon. 14-24th Billets at Locon, fresh clothing, baths, working parties, digging trenches near Givenchy. 25th Moved to billets at Le Hamel and then into reserve trenches at Marais. Remained in billets at Touret, Le Hamel and Locon in a state of 'readiness' until

29th when marched into trenches at Estaminet, near Festubert. Took over from 9th Cheshires, trenches very muddy from rain which was constant. 30th Fine day, cleaning up trenches and burying the dead of the Welch Regt. who had been killed on 25th.

**October.** 1st Shelled between 12 noon and 4pm. Burying more dead of Welch Regt. killed on 25th. 2nd. Enemy aircraft flew over but driven off, German working parties seen. Batt. relieved by Gurkhas. 3rd at Le Hamel Batt. at Chocolate Post, Rye Du Bois reserve trenches and large party at Richebourg St Vaast. HQ at La Couture. 7th Oct. Marched to Vielle Chappelle into Divisional reserve until 11th. digging comms trenches, baths at La Gorgue, route marching, refitting, rifle exercises. 11th into trenches at Vine St. 12/13th Heavy bombardment of trenches 8 men wounded. 14th very heavy bombardment from enemy Minenwerfers causing huge shell holes, cause considerable damage to parapets and casualties were 3 killed 14 wounded. 15th A German walking along his parapet was 'dropped' by one of our snipers. A patrol got within 100 yards of German working party and opened rapid fire and 2 Germans dropped. 12.45 hostile 'pipsqueaks' (*A German trench gun*) opened up but no damage. 16th Our artillery dispersed a German working party

and our snipers were active. During the night seven mysterious missiles fell behind the reserve trenches but failed to explode and no trace can be found of them. 17th German rifle grenades active, we responded vigorously. 18th. A catapult bomb exploded and there were 5 casualties. Our 'heavies' bombarded the minenwerfer location and our snipers fired on German working party killing 3 and 1 was dragged over the parapet. 19/20th German Maxim's firing on our parapets, a strong redoubt is being built in their front line, enemy snipers very active and 8 catapult bombs fired at our trenches. Relieved by Gurkhas and Garhwal Rifles. Into billets at Le Hamel until 28th when moved into trenches just north of Givenchy. Rained heavily all night and several dugouts and some parapets fell down. 29th Artillery activity from both sides but little sniping. Sounds of water being pumped from enemy trenches. 30th Snipers fired on enemy working party, many HE Shells fired on our trenches. At night enemy seemed exuberant and shouting a lot. No rain and trenches drying out. 31st Hostile biplane flew over and when it passed over enemy trenches it dropped a silver spray. Our snipers active all day, our artillery fired several H.E. Shells which pitched short just in front of our parapet and one on our wire entanglements.



## November

1/2nd Smoke bombs thrown over. Rifle grenades fired but no damage, rained heavily all night and trenches in a shocking condition. Sections of trench falling down, men soaking and no means of drying themselves, dugouts all leak badly. Night of 2nd rained again all night communications trenches becoming impossible and ration supply for front line increasingly difficult. The front companies are having a wretched time but relief is impossible owing to state of comms. trenches. Some enemy seen walking about to avoid muddy conditions but give our snipers something to fire at. 3rd Fine morning with some sunshine, their snipers active one man killed buried near front line as impossible to carry him back. Their snipers effectively silenced by ours, heavy HE shelling from enemy, trenches worse than before if anything. 4th, engine heard baling enemy trenches, communications trenches now impossible so rations have to be carried in the open. 5th Relieved and move to 'Old British Line Trenches' Festubert. Enemy sent over 20 shells, brought some parapet down but no real damage and 1 man wounded by MG fire while fetching water. 9th Leave started today 7 sent on leave back by 16th Nov. 100 men working with RE. 10th. Kit and foot inspections today at La Tombe Willets billets 7 more on leave. 11th 300 men sent to work on trenches. 12th more men

on leave. 13th Rain all day no leave parties owing to mines loose in the channel. 17th back in the trenches, all mud and water, parapets very low and dugouts all fallen in, only temporary shelters of corrugated iron on parapets. 18th Enemy snipers very active 2 men killed and 5 wounded by bullets, parapet low so men have to take care when passing up and down. 19th Enemy shelled trenches but no damage our guns fell short, one hit wire entanglements, one between wire and parapet and one hit parapet destroying it 1 man killed. 20th Enemy fired shrapnel, Patrol reported enemy working on a breach in their parapet. We fired rapid fire and MG as well as artillery on the breach. Sharp frost. 21st. Relieved by N. Staffs. 22-24th Marched to billets at Les Lobes. 25th Marched to Rebecq and into army reserve. More leave approved.

## December 1915.

1st At Rebecq in billets, training, cleaning up, inspection of men in marching order. More men on leave. On 4th moved to Le Touret and into billets physical training, route marches, kit inspections. Moved into trenches on 11th at Richebourg l'Avoule. Trenches deplorable, in firing line for 48 hours and rations taken with the men, no sleeping accommodation in trenches. 13th orders to be relieved on 15th. 15th Our artillery active all day

and enemy retaliated, a shell fell into Chocolate Poast and killed 1 man and wounded 4 others. Relieved and back to billets in King Georges Rd. 16th-18th In brigade reserve kit and foot inspection, working parties, cleaning up. 19th Batt. went into trenches 2 Coys in front line and 2 in reserve and billets, fine moonlit night and patrols sent out, Germans also had patrols out. 20th Artillery on both sides active, patrols out reported ground towards German trenches very swampy. 21st The brigade on our left managed to Loosen gas onto the German trenches and then sent 6 columns forward to occupy the German trenches but at 1.30 it was cancelled due to unfavourable wind. Enemy bombarded trenches. 22nd Our artillery fired steadily throughout the day and the Germans retaliated weakly. 23rd Enemy artillery caused some damage with shells. Relieved by N. Staffs, very wet night and relief delayed by handing over of gumboots. Moved into billets. 24th Kit inspections and working parties. 25th Xmas Day Holy Communion and Divine service in Coy Billets otherwise not recognised but an easy day. 26th Billets between Locon and Les Lobes in Divisional reserve until 31st Dec. 1915

## 1916

**January** 1st. At the beginning of the year Sergeant James Saunders was one of those men sent home on leave, while there he married Alice Hunt from Fladbury, Pershore in Jan-Mar Quarter 1916. He would have been back with his unit by April 1916 at the latest.

**April 1916.** At Riez Bailleul in Brigade Reserve. Relieved Black Watch on 7th in trenches, they were very wet and needed a lot of draining, there was heavy MG and rifle fire. 8th patrols sent out and 'No-man's-land' appears to be good going. Reported that enemy wire seems very strong. Enemy fairly quiet, our snipers claimed a number of casualties and hit periscopes, work done on parapets and wire. On 11th moved back into reserve at Riez Bailleul. 11-14th Cleaning up, court of enquiry into death of French Civilian caused by rifle grenade, church parades, kit inspection. 15th Back in the trenches at Moated Grange St. Our snipers did good work, enemy quiet and defend MGs. 17th relieved and moved to La Gorgue on 18th back to Hamet Billet. On 20th moved to 1st Army training ground at Cresques, Platoon, Company, Battalion and Brigade training until end of month.

**May.** Still at Cresques, training but Brigade and Divisional training until 8th when moved to billets at Vignacourt

training, church parades practicing attacks at Foret De Vignacourt. Continued training with church parades, musketry, Stokes Mortar instruction until end of month.

**June** 1st at St Riquier, Vignacourt, Rainneville and Franvillers Wood during the month, training, baths, practicing attacks, physical drill.

**July.** 1st. Moved to intermediate line N of Albert. 2nd Batt. in trenches Tara-Usna line. 3rd-6th Attacked La Boiselle and consolidated, remained there all day and night. Heavily shelled, on 6th in support line having arrived in Albert.

*Casualties 6 Officers killed 14 Wounded 282 ORs killed, wounded or missing.*

In billets until 22nd when attacked at Bazentin-Le-Petit, attack failed our:

*casualties were 14 Officers killed, wounded, missing. 186 OR casualties.*

23rd in Bivouac until 28th. On 29th relieved Wilts in front of Bazentin-Le-Petit at Becourt. On 30th attacked German intermediate line our attack was held up by enfilade MG fire and concealed snipers on the right. Had to return to original lines.

*Casualties. Officers 8 killed, 3 wounded, 3 missing. OR casualties 160.*

31st relieved and moved to Bivouac near Becourt woods.

*This totalled 676 casualties in the month.*

**August.** 1st moved back to Bresle into billets and stayed in billets there and at Bailleul until the 10th when relieved N. Staffs between Wytschaete and Messines.

11th very quiet except for 4.00-5.30 when enemy active with bombs and rifle grenades on our front and minenwerfer bombs and trench mortars on support. Our Stokes Mortars and 18 pdrs replied. 12th enemy active between 4 and 6pm with minenwerfer and TMs artillery replied 2 casualties. 13th usual enemy shelling 14th. enemy quiet, a few shrapnel shells. Patrols report enemy working hard inside his own trenches. Fireseteps put in and drainage performed. Marched into billets at Dranoutre. 15th-18th Baths, physical exercise, arms drill in close order, bayonet fighting, church parades, lecture by M.O on sanitation and gas. 18th back in front line, front line heavily bombed by TM and minenwerfer, parapet breached in 4 places. Patrols our, our snipers active, out artillery and TMs heavily bombarded enemy support lines, patrols report enemy patchy. Work- parapet improved, trench boards raised and cleaned. 22nd into billets a Aircraft Farm until 27th when relieved Staffs. 3 Coys of 78th Canadians in the trenches with us for instruction. 28th Canadians relieved Coys in support. Enemy wire bombarded, Lewis guns and rifle fire used to good effect, most work directed to local drainage. 31st relieved

by Staffs and back into billets at Dranoutre.

**September.** 6th. Marched out by Coys to relieve 14th R.I.R in front of Messines. Night very quiet and patrols report our wire very good and no enemy about. 8th Fairly quiet some artillery activity patrols went out and 'no-man's-land' reported to be in good condition enemy put out a note in front which said "21,000 Roumanians captured and over 100 guns Hurra, Hurra, Hurra" - translation. 9th Not much enemy artillery activity. At 9pm a gas alarm but proved to be false, boes for ammunition and bombs inserted into parapet. 11th Machine guns active on both sides during night. Patrols could not approach enemy wire light was too bright but their wire reported as good. 12th relieved and into Brigade Reserve at Red Lodge. 16th relieved Staffs in right sub-sector until 19th when relieved by Manchester Regt and back to Neuve Eglise in billets, moved on 21st to billets at Grand Sec Bois until end of the month Bayonet fighting, baths, route marching, physical exercise, church parades, sandbagging, revetting and digging on 27th Batt. paraded for inspection by General Plumer Commanding 2nd Army.

**October** Still in billets. On 3rd Batt inspected by King of the Belgians at Borre and then marched past. On 6th moved by stages to billets and camp to Amplier and Bois De Warnimont practicing bayonet fighting and practice attacks. On 17th Oct moved to billets at Warloy stayed until 23rd when moved to Ovillers and prepared to go in the line. 24th Marched into the line and relieved Staffs. East of Theipval Stuff redoubt. 25th Heavily shelled, patrol reported enemy working on advanced trench in front of our right. 26th Enemy artillery very active, enemy appeared to be preparing a counter attack but it did not develop. Relieved by Wilts. Marched to post huts at Ovillers. **Casualties this tour 17 killed 49 wounded.**

Sergeant James Albert Saunders was wounded during this action and was sent to the Base Hospital at Wimereux where he died from his wounds 12 days later on 6th November 1916. He is buried at Wimereux Communal Cemetery and commemorated on Ross War Memorial.

### Soldiers who died in the Great War

**Name:** James Albert Saunders  
**Birth Place:** Ross, Herefordshire  
**Death Date:** 6 Nov 1916  
**Death Place:** France and Flanders  
**Enlistment Place:** Gloucester  
**Rank:** A Sergeant  
**Regiment:** Gloucestershire Regiment  
**Battalion:** 8th Service Battalion  
**Regimental Number:** 11550  
**Type of Casualty:** Died of wounds  
**Theatre of War:** Western European Theatre

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
SAUNDERS	9 Glouce R	Cpl	11550
James			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	101 Bn		
BRITISH			
15 STAR	22 B	558	D of W
Theatre of War first served in			
France			
Date of entry therein			
18.7.15			

He was awarded



1914/15 Star British War Medal Victory Medal



In Memory of  
Serjeant  
**James Albert Saunders**

11550, 8th Bn., Gloucestershire Regiment who died on 06 November 1916 Age 33

Son of William and Elizabeth Saunders, of Ross, Herefordshire; husband of Alice Saunders, of Vine Cottage, Fladbury, nr. Pershore, Worcestershire.

Remembered with Honour  
Wimereux Communal Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



# 25000 Private Joseph Nelmes Scudamore



1st Battalion  
King's Shropshire Light Infantry

## Joseph Nelmes Scudamore

1891 His father was landlord at the Harewood End with his wife Helen Augusta Sherriff who had been born at Treworgan Farm, Llangrove.



His father's 1st wife Helen Augusta Sherriff died in 1893



His father Joseph Frederick Scudamore was the son of John Scudamore a Farmer of 420 acres at Pengethley and Joseph was born in Hentland. Following the death of Helen his first wife he re-married in 1895 to Julia Bertha Nelmes who was Joseph's mother. She was born at Pembridge Castle, Welsh Newton and was the

daughter of William Nelmes an Auctioneer and farmer of 275 Acres. In 1901 His father Joseph was the Publican of the Harewood End Inn and a farmer from Pengethley. In 1911 His mother Julia was the Publican. His mother Julia married Henry Bird in late 1911 and she was still running the Harewood End Inn in 1913. By the time of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission obtained information from relatives of the dead (about 1921) she was living at 1 Holmdale, Archenfield Rd. Ross.

## The Great War

25000 Private Scudamore.

His number implies he joined up/was conscripted during late 1916. After training with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry training battalion he was sent to France to join the 1st Battalion as part of one of the reinforcement drafts. The CWGC website shows considerable numbers of casualties with numbers around that held by Pte Scudamore starting to appear in early March 1917.

### 1st Battalion KSLI France 1917.

There is no real way of ascertaining precisely when Pte Scudamore joined his regiment at the front but on 6th

February 1917 31 Other Rank reinforcements joined at Noyelles, the same day CSM Griffiths was wounded by an aeroplane bomb. On 7/8/9th Feb they were in billets and the reinforcements would have been assimilated into the Battalion. 10th Feb. Trenches N.E. of Vermelles. Relieved the 'Buffs' in the front line and took over the right sector of Hohenzollern sector, the hostile shelling was severe across the whole front between 8.00 and 8.30pm. 11-14th Feb. Quiet days one man killed by a Mortar. 15th Feb 12.15am Enemy attempt a raid about 50 strong without artillery preparation. Enemy were detected forming up in 'no man's land' and were subjected to heavy and accurate artillery and Lewis gun fire which prevented said from developing. Heavy casualties are known to have been inflicted and the remnants fled back to their trenches leaving their dead and wounded. A strong patrol was sent out returning with a body of a dead German who belonged to the 165th Infantry Regiment 7th Division. Remainder of the night passed without incident. At 9am relieved by Leicesters and moved back to La Bourse and billets. 16th marched

back to billets at Rebecq via Beuvry and Bethune. Billets at Rebecq until 25th when marched to billets La Choques during this period a succession of men were sent to Field Ambulance for treatment. At La Choques until

1st March when moved to Petit Sains billets and then next day moved again to billets at Les Brebis until the 7th Mar. This period again saw many sent to Field Ambulance and opportunities for many Officers and men to go on Lewis Gun and Mortar training. On 8th Mar. Batt relieved Yorks and Lancs in front line of Loos right sector, enemy very active during relief with Granatwerfer (Aerial Darts) which resulted in 3 men killed and 5 wounded. 9th Mar. Quiet day, enemy fairly active at night with aerial darts 1 man wounded. 10th Enemy active with Trench Mortars in evening 3 killed 1 wounded. 11th quiet day 2 wounded. 12th quiet day 1 wounded. 13th Heavily shelled by trench mortars some damage to trenches 1 wounded. 14th. quiet day relieved by York & Lancs and took over keeps and defences of Loos village. 15th-17th

Working parties at Loos village. On 18th Buffs raided by the enemy and Loos village violently shelled by the enemy with 3 of our men wounded. 18/19th more working parties in Loos village. 20th relieved Yorks and Lancs in trenches S.E. of Loos until 26th March. Quiet days with men going to and returning from courses. 26th marched back to billets at Les Brebis until 31st month intermittent shelling during this period 3 men killed and 3 wounded.

1st. April Relieved Yorks & Lancs in trenches S.E. of Loos. 1 killed 1 wounded during relief. 2nd Apr. intermittent shelling during day but became fairly heavy at dusk. 2 killed 10 wounded. 3rd. Fairly quiet day but heavy shelling along the whole front of the Battalion in early part of night 1 killed 4 wounded. 5th Apr. Fairly quiet 2 wounded. 21 ORs joined Batt. 6th Quiet day. 7th Relieved and back to billets at Les Brebis working parties for all companies until 12th but heavily shelled on 11th April. 13th April Loos as a consequence of the attack from Arras to Vimy Ridge the enemy withdrew from the brigade front. The Buffs and York & Lancs

occupied the high ground from the Double Crassier to Lens-Bethune Rd with little opposition. Loos village heavily shelled all day.  
14th Apr. Loos heavily shelled again 1 officer killed 2 wounded.  
15th Apr. Battalion held in readiness to advance all day. Shelling of Loos less violent. Buffs and Beds failed to achieve objectives due to opposition so Batt. stayed in position all day.  
16th Apr. Batt stayed in Loos and after dark relieved Buffs in the front line astride the Southern end of Loos Crassier.  
17th Apr. Trenches S E of Loos. Relief completed by 9.30 owing to darkness of night 'A' Coy lost direction and had to delay relief until daybreak. At 1.30pm 'C' Coy carried out a strong reconnaissance by bombers with the objective of reaching the German Line. This attack was held up by strong bomb fighting and snipers, our men were forced to withdraw after killing several of the enemy.  
18th Apr. 'A' and 'C' Coys made an attack and gained their objectives. Two bombing posts being pushed forward in advance. No prisoners were taken but heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy.

Casualties in these operations. 11 killed and 25 wounded.  
19th Apr. 'B' and 'D' Coys made an attack and gained their objectives, severe bombing fighting took place and eighteen prisoners were taken and many Germans killed. Heavy enemy shelling continued throughout these operations.  
Casualties 3 killed and 40 wounded. Enemy attempted a counter attack but was repulsed, they were caught in the open by our Lewis Guns and 12 enemy corpses were counted opposite one of our saps alone. Remainder of day without incident.  
20th Apr. Quiet in morning but more activity as day wore on but no infantry action followed. Relieved by Essex Regt. Moved back to Loos in support.  
21st. Apr. Day spent resting and making good deficiencies in bombs and S.A.A (*Small arms ammunition*).  
22nd. Apr. Essex Regt and DLI continued their attack on German trenches at Novel Alley. At 10am 'C' Coy sent to support and occupy the front line beside the Bethune-Lens Rd. 'B' Coy to reinforce and occupy the trenches on the sunken rd. 'A' Coy found carrying parties for Essex Regt. Our troops were later forced to

withdraw to original line after several hours of intense artillery bombardment. Loos village was heavily bombarded all day. At night Batt. relieved and back to billets at Philosphe.  
23rd. Apr. Billeted, Batt spent day resting and cleaning up.. The Batt. was then ordered to relieve Sherwood Foresters in front line at St Elie sector between Border Redoubt and Hulluch Rd.  
24th Apr. Quiet day 1st Corps Cyclist Batt. attached and occupy support line.  
25th and 26th Apr. Quiet days.  
27th Apr. Considerable hostile shelling in vicinity of Batt. HQ and numerous trench Mortars on the front line.  
28th. Batt relieved by Buffs and marched to Billets at Philisophe. 29th. In Billets.

During the actions in late April the Battalion had considerable casualties and Private Scudamore was seriously wounded and sent back to 33rd Casualty Clearing Station at Bethune where he died of his wounds on 29th April 1917.

We have no information at present on when he was wounded but it was normal for a casualty to be treated at

an Aid Post, then moved to a Field Ambulance (this was a mobile Medical Unit not a vehicle) and from there to a Casualty Clearing Station (CCS)

He is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery and commemorated on Ross-on-Wye War Memorial.



**Soldiers who died in the Great War**

Name: Joseph Nelmes Scudamore  
 Birth Place: Harewood, Herefords  
 Residence: Ross-on-wye  
 Death Date: 29 Apr 1917  
 Death Place: France and Flanders  
 Enlistment Place: Hereford  
 Rank: Private  
 Regiment: Shropshire Light Infantry  
 Battalion: 1st Battalion  
 Regimental Number: 25000  
 Type of Casualty: Died of wounds

Name	Grade	Rank	Regt. No.
SCUDAMORE, Joseph. N	A. S. L. I.	Pvt	25000
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
Victoria	J/1/102 <sup>89</sup> 2662		
District	- do -		
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

**He was awarded**



The British War Medal The Victory Medal

In Memory of  
 Private  
**J N Scudamore**

25000, 1st Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 29 April 1917 Age 19

Son of Julia Bertha Bird (formerly Scudamore), of 1, Holmdale, Archenfield Ross, Herefordshire, and the late Joseph Frederick Scudamore. Native of Harewood End, Ross.

Remembered with Honour  
**Bethune Town Cemetery**

Commemorated in perpetuity by  
 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission