

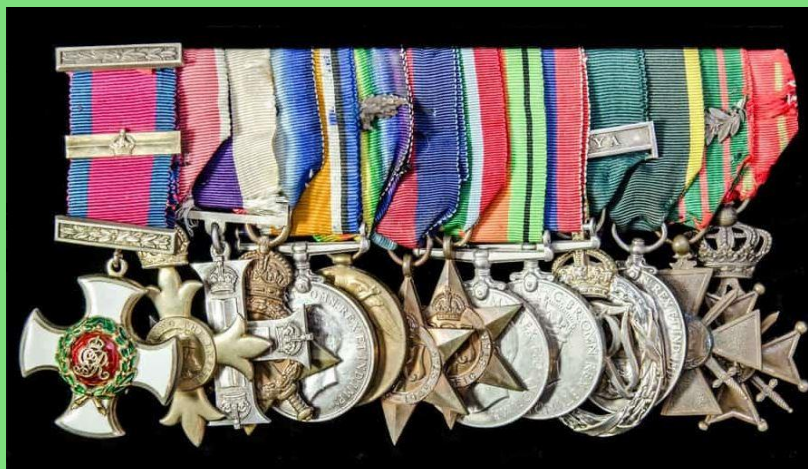
# Lieutenant Colonel Wilkins Fitzwilliam CHIPP

The Herefordshire Regiment's most decorated soldier



*A presentation by The Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum*

## Lt Col Chipp's medals are:



Distinguished Service Order	With Second Award Bar		1 Jan 1919; 8 Mar 1919
Order of The British Empire (Civil)			1 Jan 1941 Forest Engineer Malayan Forest Service
Military Cross			18 Feb 1918
1914/15 Star		Named: 277 CS Mjr Hereford R	
British War Medal		Named: Major WF Chipp	
Allied Victory Medal	With Mention in Despatches emblem (2)		MID: 30 Dec 1918; 10 Jul 1919
1939/45 Star			
Pacific Star			
Defence Medal			
War Medal			
Efficiency Decoration	With Bar Malaya	Named: Lieut W Fitz-William Chipp DSO MC FMSVF (Federated Malayan States Volunteer Forces)	7 Jan 1938
Territorial Force Efficiency Medal		Named: 277 CSjt WF Chipp Herefordshire Regt	Army Order Oct 1912
Croix de Guerre (France)	Avec palms		4 Sept 1919
Croix de Guerre (Belgium)			19 Jun 1919

The story of the man brings a greater meaning to the group and reveals a most unusual 'story'.

Chipp's military career begins in 1899, when still attending Lady Hawkins School in Kington he enlisted, aged 17 in The Herefordshire Rifle Volunteer Corps.

He was promoted Corporal in 1900, Sergeant in 1902 and Colour Sergeant in 1907.

In 1909 he was a member of the Colour Party which received the Colours from King Edward VII at Windsor





He was mobilised in 1914 and became Company Sergeant Major and landed at Suvla Bay Gallipoli on 8 August 1915, taking command of the Company when all the officers became casualties. He was Commissioned literally on the beaches at Suvla Bay on 9 October 1915. He was wounded and repatriated to England and rejoined the Battalion in Egypt in April 1916.

His service at Gallipoli entitled him to the 1914/15 Star





He fought with the Battalion through the Middle East and was awarded the Military Cross **For '*conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty he carried out a valuable recce and cleared up an obscure situation. He readjusted parts of the line with great skill and showed complete disregard of danger*'** at Khuweilfeh in November 1917.



Capt WF Chipp attending a 158 Bde Officers Study Day  
Jerusalem April 1918





In June 1918 The Herefordshire Regiment  
moved from the Middle East and became  
part of 34 Division in France.

Capt Chipp was with them.

In France at various times he was:

Company 2ic

Company Commander

Adjutant

Brigade Staff Officer

Battalion 2ic

Commanding Officer



He was awarded the following decorations for services in France:

DSO – twice

MID – twice

Croix de Guerre France

Croix de Guerre Belgium

***‘He commanded his Battalion with great skill and gallantry, with only part of his command he was ordered to take over the whole front and push on, an extremely difficult operation which he carried out at once under heavy shelling and machine gun and minenwerfer fire. It was entirely due to his own personal recce under fire and perfect control that enabled his men to overcome every obstacle’***



# ARMY ORDERS

BY  
GENERAL SIR HERBERT PLUMER,  
G.C.B. G.C.M.G. G.C.V.O. A.D.C.  
COMMANDING SECOND ARMY

## MILITARY SECRETARY'S BRANCH.

### 84. Immediate Rewards.

Under authority delegated by His Majesty the King, the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has made the following awards for gallantry and devotion to duty in action.

#### Bar to the Distinguished Service Order.

Temp. Lieut. Colonel C. E. JEWELL, D.S.O., M.C., Lancashire Fusiliers.

#### The Distinguished Service Order.

Second Lieut. (Temp. Capt.) G. CULLLOW, M.C., North & Derby Regiment.

— Lieut. (a/capt.) W. F. CHIPP, M.C., Hereford Regiment.

Temp. Second Lieutenant V. D. WALKER, M.M., Machine Gun Corps.

#### Bar to the Military Cross.

Lieut. (Temp. Captain) H. T. ALLWRIGHT, M.C., D.C.M., Royal Scots.

Lieut. (a/capt.) C. CAMPBELL, M.C., King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Second Lieut. W. C. WHYTE, M.C., Highland Light Infy., and R.O.M.R.

Second Lieut. T. BLAIR, M.C., Highland Light Infantry, and R.O.M.R.

Temp. Lieutenant D. P. WAGNER, M.C., Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

#### The Military Cross.

Lieutenant W. J. CLEGG, Yorkshire Dragoons Cavalry Regiment.

Second Lieutenant A. H. PITCHER, Royal Field Artillery.

Second Lieutenant J. L. PILLSBURY, Royal Field Artillery.

Lieutenant L. L. WHYTE, Royal Field Artillery.

Lieutenant H. E. MATTHEWS, Canadian Engineers.

Lieutenant W. H. CALDWELL, Canadian Engineers.

Lieutenant E. H. M. GEORGINSON, Royal Scots.

Captain R. E. BROCK, Royal Scots.

Second Lieutenant J. A. G. HARVEY, Royal Scots.

Second Lieutenant J. H. CURRIE, Royal Scots.

Second Lieutenant T. MOIR, M.M., King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Captain J. M. LAING, Scottish Rifles.

Lieutenant R. P. FAIRBAIRN, Scottish Rifles.

Captain J. H. A. PATTON, Royal Irish Rifles.

Temp. Second Lieutenant E. E. H. BASTREY, Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Captain H. F. WHITWORTH, Royal Army Medical Corps, and R.O.M.R.

#### The Distinguished Conduct Medal.

No. 12260 Coy. Serjt. Major D. McCLELLAND, Royal Irish Regiment.

No. 43297 Serjeant J. HATHERINGTON, Scottish Rifles.

No. 8055 Serjeant H. SMITH, M.M., Worcester Regiment.

No. 40451 Private J. DOUGAN, Scottish Highlanders.

No. 15142 Private W. HOLDEN, Leinster Regiment.

No. 9264 Serjeant H. FERROTT, Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

No. 30518 Serjeant J. McNAMUS, M.M., Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

No. 5082 Private A. WHALEN, Royal Newfoundlad Regiment.

No. 5429 Private T. CORBAN, Royal Newfoundlad Regiment.

No. 15066 Pte. (a/capt.) M. BLAKE, M.M., Royal Newfoundlad Regt.

No. 3739 Private S. GIBBENS, A.D.C., Royal Newfoundlad Regiment.

No. 84942 Serjeant C. W. RUTLAND, Machine Gun Corps.

No. 19069 Private W. G. HARRIS, Machine Gun Corps.

No. 121808 Private W. J. HENDY, Machine Gun Corps.

J. KNOWLES, Major,

A.M.S. to G.O.C., Second Army.

1st December, 1918.



*Headquarters, Second Army.*

To a/Major W.F. CHIPP, MC., Hereford Regiment.

*I congratulate you on the gallant act by which you have won the*

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

*Herbert Plumer*

1st December 1918.

*Commanding Second Army*



*The War of 1914-1918.*

*Herefordshire Regt. (T.F.)*

*Lt. (A. Maj.) W.F. Chipp, M.C. 1st Bn.*

*was mentioned in a Despatch from*

*Field. Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, K.T., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.B.,*

*dated the 8th. November 1918*

*for gallant and distinguished services in the Field.*

*I have it in command from the King to record His Majesty's*

*high appreciation of the services rendered.*

*Christmas. Churchill*

*Secretary of State for War*

*War Office  
Whitehall, S.W.  
1st March 1919.*



*The War of 1914-1918.*

*Herefordshire Regiment (T.F.)*

*Lt. (A. Maj.) W.F. Chipp D.S.O., M.C., 1st Bn.*

*was mentioned in a Despatch from*

*Field. Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, K.T., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.B.,*

*dated 16th. March 1919*

*for gallant and distinguished services in the Field.*

*I have it in command from the King to record His Majesty's*

*high appreciation of the services rendered.*

*Christmas. Churchill*

*Secretary of State for War*

*War Office  
Whitehall, S.W.  
17 July 1919.*



VI<sup>e</sup> ARMÉE  
ÉTAT-MAJOR  
1<sup>er</sup> BUREAU

EXTRAIT

*de l'Ordre Général N° 584 "E"*

PORTANT

CITATION A L'ORDRE DE L'ARMÉE

Lieut. (a/Major) Wilkins Fitzwilliam CHIFF.  
T.P. 1/1st Battalion, Hereford Regiment :

" Pendant les opérations autour de MENEN.  
" les 14 et 15 Octobre 1918, a commandé son Bataillon  
" avec une grande bravoure et d'une façon remarquable.  
" A pris sous son Commandement tout un secteur pour  
" l'attaque, qui malgré les difficultés de l'opération,  
" fut menée à bien sous un feu violent de minenwerfer  
" et de mitrailleuses, succès dû en grande partie aux  
" reconnaissances qu'il avait effectuées personnellement  
" de jour et à sa parfaite connaissance de la situation."

Q. G. A. le 23 Novembre 1918.

RECEVÉ

Le Général DEGOUTTE, Commandant la 6<sup>e</sup> Armée.

P. A. le Chef d'Etat-Major :

Signé / DEGOUTTE



Copy.

VI<sup>e</sup> Armée.  
État-Major.  
1<sup>er</sup> Bureau.

EXTRAIT.

de l' Ordre General VCa 584 "E".

Portant.

CITATION A L'ORDRE DE L'ARMÉE.

Colonel Wilkins, Fitz-William, Chipp. D S O M C. 1st, Hereford Rgt.

Pendant les opérations autour de Menen, les 14 et 15 Octobre, 1918, a commandé son Bataillon avec une grande bravoure et d'une façon remarquable.

A pris sous son Commandement tout un secteur pour l'attaque, qui malgré les difficultés de l'opération, fut menée à bien sous un feu violent de minenwerfer et de mitrailleuses, succès dû en grande partie au reconnaissance qu'il avait effectuées personnellement de jour et à sa parfaite connaissance de la situation.

Q.G.A. de 23 Novembre. 1918.

Le General Degoutte.

Commandant la 6<sup>e</sup> Armée.

Signé Degoutte.

P.A. le Chef d' Etat-Major.

G.Brion.

In 1919 he attended a Senior Officers' Course and wished to remain in the Army; his report was quite positive.

Form A.				CONFIDENTIAL.	
SENIOR OFFICERS' SCHOOL.					
Confidential Report on attending <b>tenth</b>		<b>Lt. Colonel W. P. CHIPP, DSO MC.</b> Regiment <b>Herefordshire</b> Course. From <b>13 January</b> to <b>21 March 1919.</b>			
Age.	SERVICE.	Time spent on Active Service in present campaign.		In what Capacity.	
<b>32.11</b>	Regular.	Years.	Months.		
	Service.				
	Territorial.	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3 years 7 months</b>	<b>Platoon Commander 17 months</b> <b>Adjutant 18 "</b> <b>Em in Command 6 "</b> <b>Battn. Commander 4 "</b>
	Spec. Res.				
Wounded, and if so, how many times?		<b>Once</b>			
If mentioned in Despatches, and if granted any Honours and Rewards.		<b>Mentioned once. D.S.O. and Bar. M.C. Croix de Armes</b> <b>(Pain leaves) Belgian Croix de Guerre.</b>			
HEADINGS.		REPORT BY SYNDICATE COMMANDER.			
A. CHARACTER, CAPABILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS.		<p>strong personality, with more than average ability. Makes up his mind quickly and acts with confidence and decision. Imparts his knowledge clearly and handles troops well. Has had experience in France, Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine, and makes good use of his experience.</p>			
B. ANY SPECIAL REMARKS.		<p>Will make a good Battalion Commander.</p>			
Signature		<b>L. LEONARD HILTON, Lt. Col. Herefordshire</b> Regt.			
Date		<b>21 March 1919.</b>		Commanding No. <b>B.2 Syndicate.</b>	
REPORT BY COMMANDANT.					
<p>An officer above the average. A fine record in the war. Anxious to continue soldiering as a regular and strongly recommended.</p> <p>I agree with remarks of syndicate Commander - a very fine rifle shot. An excellent trainer.</p>					

However this did not happen and he went to work for the Colonial Police and then the Indian Forestry Service. He joined the Federated Malayan States Volunteer Forces and was awarded the Efficiency Decoration with top bar Malaya in 1938.



He advised on saw mills in Nigeria, The Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Tanganyika and Kenya and in 1941 was awarded the OBE (Civil) for his services to forestry in Malaya.



The 'story' is then a little unclear; he appears in the Air Force List of 1942 as a Honorary Wing Commander in the Admin and Special Duties Branch of the RAFVR with seniority to October 1941.

What is known is that on the capitulation of British Forces in Singapore he was interned in Changi camp and became the Assistant Chief Librarian, However prior to 'going in the bag' he hid his medals in the Reptile Room at the Raffles Museum, (knowing the Japanese disliked reptiles).

On his release 43 months later he was able to recover them!



He returned to Britain in late 1945, but in 1946 went back to Malaya to work for the British Military Administration.

He returned to the UK and became Librarian to the Empire Forestry Association in London, a post he held for 21 years until his death in 1970.



Not content to be 'not in uniform', Chipp joined the reformed Home Guard and commanded The 11 County of London Battalion. One of his last duties in uniform was as the Guard Commander of the Home Guard, Guard of Honour at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey in 1956.



# Lieutenant Colonel Wilkins Fitzwilliam CHIPP

DSO\*, OBE, MC, ED

1882 - 1970



*A presentation by The Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum*  
[Herefordshirelightinfantrymuseum.com](http://Herefordshirelightinfantrymuseum.com)

