

Salute Salute to the Regiment Regiment

May, 1944

# SALUTE TO THE HERTFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

COMPILED FOR THE HERTFORD BOROUGH AND RURAL DISTRICT
NATIONAL SAVINGS COMMITTEE IN CONNECTION WITH
THE "SALUTE THE SOLDIER" CAMPAIGN AND
IN APPRECIATION OF THE MEN OF
THE HERTFORDSHIRE REGIMENT



The proceeds from the sale of this booklet will be devoted to the Benevolent Fund of The Hertfordshire Regiment



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Honorary Colonel 1st Battalion The Hertfordshire Regiment

THE COUNTY HALL,
HERTFORD,
HERTS.

8th May, 1944.

At the Queen's command I convey

Her Majesty's best wishes for the success

of "The Story of the Hertfordshire

Regiment" which is being published in

connection with the Hertford "Salute the

Soldier Week."

HAMPDEN,

Honorary Colonel,
Hertfordshire Regiment

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The compilation of this Booklet could not have been achieved without the assistance of many who have served with the Hertfordshire Regiment, and we are particularly grateful for the kind co-operation of Viscount Hampden, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.M.G., Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire; Lord Croft, C.M.G., T.D., Under-Secretary of State for War; Brigadier Longmore, M.B.E.; Colonel E. C. M. Phillips, C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C.; and the Hertfordshire Mercury and County Press.

The Booklet, no doubt, has many shortcomings, but much detail has had to be omitted owing to present conditions, which the reader will no doubt appreciate.

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C. F. D.

May, 1944.



# THE HERTFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

FOR many years Hertfordshire has enjoyed a reputation of setting an example to other counties, notably in civil affairs, and not, perhaps, the least in the spirit of voluntary service, which has permeated the inhabitants of the county for many centuries. To one of the most important aspects of this national trait this booklet is devoted—the Territorial Army and, especially, to the Hertfordshire Regiment.

The Hertfordshire Regiment owes its origin to the "Hertford Volunteer Corps", which was formed by Earl Cowper on 25th October, 1859, and in 1877 assumed the title of "The Herts Rifle Volunteers" with an establishment of 800 all ranks in eight companies. Later, fresh units were formed in the western district of the county, and two battalions formed.

In 1900 there came a change in the Army administration, and the two battalions became 1st (Herts) and 2nd (Herts) Volunteer Battalions of the Bedfordshire Regiment. It was from these battalions that Volunteer Companies were formed to serve with Regular Battalions abroad in the South African War. The companies were attached to the 2nd Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment and acquitted themselves with considerable distinction.

The foundation of the Regiment as it is known to-day was laid on 1st April, 1908, when the Territorial Forces came into being and, from the Herts Imperial Yeomanry and the 1st and 2nd (Herts) Volunteer Battalions of the Bedfordshire Regiment, the Hertfordshire Territorial Association was instructed to raise one Regiment of Cavalry, two Batteries with headquarters, and a portion of an Ammunition Column, and one Battalion of Infantry. From the two Battalions of Infantry one Battalion was formed under the title of the 6th (Herts Battalion) The Bedfordshire Regiment, which was, in 1908, changed to its present title of "The Hertfordshire Regiment".

## FIRST CAMP

The first camp held by the Regiment under its new title was at Shorncliffe, the venue of many camps since that memorable year of 1908. Colours were presented to the Regiment on 19th June, 1909, by His Majesty King Edward VII at Windsor and three years later Major-General Sir Julian Byng reported on the Battalion as "being fit for active service at once". In 1912 and 1913 Lieut.-General Sir James Grierson (G.O.C. Eastern Command) stated that the 1st Hertfordshire Battalion was the best Territorial Battalion in his command, from which it can be asserted, without fear of contradiction, that those responsible for this "Citizen Army" had laid the foundations of a first-rate force, and which proved its worth in the next twelve months when the first Great World War burst upon us.

With the birth of the year 1914 there appeared rumblings of discontent on the Continent and the war clouds began to gather, and on 4th August, 1914, Great Britain found herself at war with Germany. The Hertfordshire Regiment was in camp at Ashridge Park on this fateful day; camp was struck and the battalion was mobilized.

At the beginning of November the Regiment received information that it had been specially selected for service on the Continent, and on 5th November embarked for France under the command of Lord Hampden, now Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire—one of the first three Territorial Battalions

to go overseas.

A few days later came the Order that the Hertfordshire Regiment was to join the 4th Guards' Brigade at once, and on this fact we quote Lord Croft, who was then Major H. Page Croft, when he wrote in *The Hertfordshires in the Great War*: "Owing to the fact that for some years past it had been our vain habit to describe ourselves as the 'Herts Guards' it seemed so natural to us that we should be brigaded with friends of our ilk."

On arrival in France the Battalion went straight into the Battle of Ypres, which figures as the first Great War Battle Honour on the Colours. The Regiment was with the 4th Guards Brigade, which was commanded by a Hertfordshire man, Lord Cavan, who issued the following Order to the Regiment: The Brigadier would like to take this opportunity of welcoming the 1st Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment to the 4th Brigade. From what he has already seen in the trenches and on the march he is certain that the Battalion will play a noble part in this Great War. The Battalion has already had hard work and lost some good comrades, but they left their line intact which is an achievement fit to rank in history with other great battles of the Army.

On 22nd November the Brigade was visited at Meteren by King George V, who addressed the Commanding Officers. He spoke to Lord Hampden and expressed his "complete satisfaction of the work done by the Hertfordshire Regiment during the month they had been at the Front". In the following year, 25th January, 1916, Lord Hampden left the Hertfordshire Regiment to command a Brigade, being succeeded by Lieut.

Col. Henry Page Croft.

The Hertfordshires went from strength to strength and their prestige rose with each phase of the war. A particularly fine piece of work is recorded at Givenchy in March, 1915, when they put in some strenuous work under heavy fire with the Guards in trench-digging in the face of tremendous opposition prior to the British offensive at Neuve Chappelle.

The work was carried on day and night under continuous interference by the enemy, but the whole position was consolidated and the Battalion congratulated by higher authorities.

The Battalion took part in its first offensive in the successful attack by the 4th Guards Brigade at Cuinchy Brickstacks.

The operation was perfectly planned and brilliantly executed, the whole objective being captured in a bayonet attack, and many prisoners taken. The G.O.C. 2nd Division sent a message to the Commanding Officer which read: "He had received with unqualified satisfaction the report of the steady soldier-like bearing under heavy fire of the 1st Battalion Herts Regiment both in support of the attack on 6th February and again during the bombardment on the afternoon of the following day."

Festubert, May, 1915, was another battle in which the Regiment acquitted itself well, gaining valuable ground, but losing rather heavily in men. The following month Lord Cavan relinquished command of the 4th Guards Brigade, and in a farewell Order to the Brigade stated it had never disappointed him, and added, "We welcomed the 1st Herts Territorials at Ypres and most worthily have they borne their part with the rest of us."

#### FAREWELL TO GUARDS

The parting with the 4th Guards Brigade came on 18th August, 1915, after nine and a half months, and they then became attached to the 6th Infantry Brigade and fought all through the Battle of Loos. Seven months later Lord Croft left the Regiment as its commanding officer to become Brigadier commanding an infantry brigade, and here the comments of Lord Croft in *The Hertfordshires in the Great War* sums up the impressions of the Regiment at that date. He said:—

My feelings may be imagined at having to part with comrades with whom I had fought for 15 months; whose joys, sorrows, triumphs, and fears I had shared and who had ever given me of their best. During my seventeen years in this regiment I have watched and rejoiced in its gradual development, have seen the early undisciplined days of the Volunteers change to efficiency, and taken part in the Territorial revolution. Little did one then anticipate that the

structure which we built as the hobby of our spare hours would have one day to stand the tempest of the greatest ordeal to which man has ever been subjected, but so it was, and I well remember our pride when, three years before the war, our Divisional General reported us "A Territorial unit fit to take the field". No greater compliment could be paid to a Citizen regiment, and that report, no doubt, accounted for the startling fact that when the little British Army held at bay forces five times its numerical strength at Ypres, and was set a task which only the greatest army in the world could have accomplished, our battalion was hurriedly wired for and taken from its formation in England to help fill those wide gaps in the thin khaki line.

## TRIBUTE TO FOUNDERS

It has been stated that the Hertfordshire Territorials had been trained on sound lines, and here again we can find no better comment on this than the tribute paid to those who took part in this work by Lord Croft, when he bade farewell to the Regiment.

Lord Croft wrote: It is not for me to write here of the efficiency of the Battalion; this has been paid tribute to by our various Generals in evidence far more unbiassed than any I can produce. Suffice it to say that the work of preparation in peace time which will ever be associated with the names of Lieut.-Col. Gripper, Viscount Hampden, and especially Sir Charles Longmore, whose pre-eminent services in making the Regiment what it is were notably recognized by His Majesty, secured for us a war organization which has run without a single hitch. Since mobilization Sir Charles Longmore and Lieut.-Col. Baker have done splendid services in sending their best to reinforce us, and Lieut.-Col. Gripper, whose organization work is a model to any county association, has developed in a masterly manner a county organization of four infantry, three cavalry, and three artillery units. To these peace-time patriots, who have made us fit for war we offer our thanks, and we hope and believe in carrying the name of Hertfordshire to the Field of Battle with credit, we have in some measure rewarded their life-work.

Brigadier Croft, as he then was, handed the command of the Regiment to Major Frank Page, later Colonel, under whom the Hertfordshires continued to add laurels to their many successes.

The spirits of the men of Hertfordshire remained very high, and their happy knack of making themselves at home wherever they might be is shown in the following record taken from the Hertfordshire Mercury of December, 1916:—

An interesting gathering was held somewhere in France on the 26th November when the Sergeants of the 1st Battalion of the Hertfordshire Regiment on active service partook of their second annual "spread" during a brief respite of their arduous duties in the trenches. Thanks to the energies of the Regimental Serjeant-Major, who acted as "Minister to the Interior", the Company passed a very enjoyable evening. The tables were well served and the evening started with a request to everyone to "do his bit". Right merrily all went ahead—noble army of martyrs! After two years of trenches perhaps the old campaigners may be pardoned for looking on the menu card as a novelty, and to sit at a table laden with luxuries in a room livened with floral decorations (and, wonder of wonders in our present world, electric light) will be remembered for many months as our last link with civilization.

Glancing round the tables the changes in the personnel of the Battalion was most noticeable, and our thoughts wandered to those who were out of the ring owing to the fortunes of war and whose places are filled by others equally determined to uphold the honour of the county they represent.

The year 1916 saw the Battle of Ancre, which was part of a great movement. The Hertfordshires advanced to their objective in a most admirable manner and a record on this action records that they "went in with wonderful steadiness and in perfect order. They assaulted the enemy's position and captured their entire objective long before any other Battalion reached theirs. This success was carried out with the smallest possible loss".

#### ST. JULIEN

Perhaps the greatest battle in which the Regiment took part was St. Julien, in July, 1917, when they lost their commanding officer, Lieut.-Col. Frank Page, who was killed in action, and the losses among the ranks were heavy. In the engagement all the officers were killed or wounded and the Regimental Sergeant-Major took command: he was Sergt.-Major Tite, an old Volunteer and a Territorial soldier; and when he fell a Sergeant took command.

Recording the Battle of St. Julien, a war correspondent, Mr. (now Sir William) Beach Thomas, said:—

It is a tale of heroism and sacrifice that will be read with avidity and pride, and will establish the fame of the "Herts Guards" for all time in the military history of the country. The highest sacrifice in the third battle of Ypres was perhaps paid by the Hertfordshire Regiment who, with other Territorials as gallant as themselves, took St. Julien and pushed forward deep into the enemy's country beyond.

I write especially of a Regiment known to me personally better than any Regiment in the Army, and one weighs words with special care in writing of friends. The fight was one of the stoutest fights of the war, worthy of the Guards of the 1st Battle of Ypres. The men were "Hertfordshire Guards" indeed, and their homes should ring with their story of sacrifice and valour.

The mantle of Lieut.-Col. Frank Page fell on Lieut.-Col. E. C. M. Phillips, who was destined to lead the Regiment through still more desperate engagements culminating in the Battle of the Somme in March, 1918. Here the Battalion fought in every rear guard action for ten days, being relieved about two days before the German attack was held up. During these engagements Colonel Phillips was reported missing and later was found to have been taken a prisoner of war. He was last seen making a gallant stand surrounded on all sides by Germans.

From this period of the war little information is available regarding details of the activities of the Regiment, but from the material available it can be said that the Hertfordshires enhanced their reputation still further and took part in what has been described as the "glorious 100 days", when the British Army smashed the Hindenburg Line and inflicted final defeat on the Germans.

It may be wondered how the 1st Battalion was able to keep going in France throughout this war. The answer to this may be found in the fact that from the outbreak of hostilities those at home were engaged in supplying the need. On 1st September, 1914, the 2nd Battalion was raised under the command of Colonel Sir Charles Longmore, and he spared no effort to ensure that the 1st Battalion in France had the best of his officers, N.C.O.'s, and men in the drafts to fill their gaps. When Sir Charles handed over the 2nd Battalion in 1916 General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien described the Battalion as "the best in the Eastern Command".

In November, 1914, the 3rd/1st Herts Regiment was formed under the command of Lieut.-Col. H. Baker, and in December, 1915, the 4th/1st was raised under Lieut.-Col. J. D. Hunt.

The 2nd/1st, 3rd/1st, and 4th/1st which had depleted by Draft finding were all disbanded in 1917. In June, 1916, the Regiment had a total strength of 117 officers and 4,705 warrant officers, N.C.O.'s, and men.

# **BATTLE HONOURS**

During the war many decorations were gained by officers and other ranks, which will be dealt with later, and the following Battle Honours were gained by the Battalion in France:—

Ypres	Festubert	Loos
Somme	Ancre	Pilckem
St. Quentin	Nonne Bosschen	Thiepval
Ancre Heights	Menin Road	Polygon Wood
Broodseinde	Poelcappelle	Passchendaele
Rosieres	Lvs	Kemmel
Albert, 1918	Bapaume, 1918	Havrincourt
Cambrai, 1918	Selle	Hindenburg Line
	Sambre	

The number of killed in the Regiment in France was 44 officers and 850 other ranks.

The fighting was finished, and we find that on 8th December, 1918, the ceremony of the removal of the Regimental Colours from All Saints' Church, Hertford, where they had been deposited since the outbreak of war, took place. The ceremony was watched by thousands of people, for a Colour Party of two officers and three non-commissioned officers came to take the Colours to the place in Belgium where the Hertfordshire Regiment was to be stationed until the peace had been completed. This was believed to be Charleroi, not far from Namur. The Regiment gradually returned home, and the inhabitants of the various towns gave their men the welcome they truly deserved. The Colours were the last to arrive—in April, 1919.

Further evidence of the great part played by the Hertfordshire Regiment at the early stages of the war is available in the speeches made at various gatherings after the war. In January, 1919, a function was held at St. Albans, when the Earl of Cavan was honoured with the Freedom of the City, having returned home to Wheathampstead after having served the country as Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces with the Italian Army.

In the course of a speech Lord Cavan said he was proud to be a Hertfordshire man and particularly so at the first Battle of Ypres, when he was in command of the 4th Guards' Brigade. He had lost 600 men of the Irish Guards in one day and two or three hundred Grenadiers on the same day. It was at the most critical moment of the battle that Lord French sent to his aid the Hertfordshire Regiment. He went to see Lord Hampden, then in charge of the Hertfordshires, in the most dirty field one could imagine—they had just arrived, but as happy and bright as ever.

Lord Cavan related how he told Lord Hampden how serious the situation was and that he must send half his battalion up into the line that night and further that that line must be held at all costs. "Lord Hampden," he said, "sent his guides down, the half battalion went into the line, and there they stood, these men of Hertfordshire, ranged alongside the hillside opposite an enormous German Army, and they never gave one yard, until the day they were relieved by the French.

At this stage in the narrative perhaps one might digress a little to recall that in 1919 there was an agitation in the county, backed up by many influential people and the Hertfordshire County Council and the Court of Quarter Sessions, for the establishment of a Regular Line regiment for Hertfordshire when the Army was reorganized. A deputation from the County Council was received by the then Under-Secretary of State for War, but the request for a regular regiment to be known as the Hertfordshire Regiment was refused. However, a compromise was reached, and accepted, that in future the Bedfordshire Regiment should be designated as "The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment".

In the summer months of 1919 a series of social functions was held throughout the county as official welcomes to the men of the Regiment, when further incidents in the life of the Regiment were revealed. Colonel Sir Charles Longmore recalled his association with the Battalion more or less since the time of its formation. He described how, when it had just been formed, he took it to Hitchin—probably at Easter; many of them were young and did not make a very good show. A Prussian Officer visited them on that occasion and declared, "If that lot come on the Continent it will not be necessary to go at them with rifle and bayonet, sticks will be enough." It would be interesting to know if that Prussian was still serving when the Hertfordshires went to France in 1914, and what his reactions were if he found that the Hertfordshire Territorials were his doughty opponents!

# REGIMENT'S TWO V.C.'S

It is from a speech by Sir Charles Longmore that we have a record of the honours gained by men of the 1st Battalion. First and foremost were two Victoria Crosses—"an honour which they had thought it impossible for a Territorial to obtain." Then there were two C.M.G.'s, four D.S.O.'s, one Bar to the D.S.O., 28 M.C.'s, one Bar to the M.C., 30 D.C.M.'s, one Bar

to the D.C.M., 60 M.M.'s, and three Bars to the M.M. In addition there were a large number of Mentions in Dispatches, altogether a magnificent record for any regiment, let alone a Battalion of Territorials.

The first Victoria Cross was awarded to a Hertford man, Corporal A. A. Burt, for "most conspicuous bravery at Cuinchy on 27th September, 1915 (Battle of Loos).

The official citation announcing the award stated:-

His Company had lined the front trench preparatory to the attack when a large Minenwerfer bomb fell into the trench. Corporal Burt, who well knew the destructive power of this class of bomb, might easily have got under cover behind a traverse, but he immediately went forward, put his foot on the fuse, wrenched it out of the bomb, and threw it over the parapet, thus rendering the bomb innocuous. His presence of mind and great pluck saved the lives of others in the traverse.

The second Victoria Cross was awarded to 2nd Lieutenant F. E. Young, of Hitchin, in the final advance in September, 1918. Leading a counter-attack he cleared a post of the enemy, was captured, but escaped by knocking down two of the enemy with his fists. Lieutenant Young immediately organized and led a second counter-attack. He was last seen fighting against considerable odds and was subsequently killed.

The citation in this case reads:-

For the most conspicuous bravery, determination, and exceptional devotion to duty on 18th September, 1918, south-east of Havrincourt, when, during an enemy counter-attack and throughout an extremely intense barrage, he visited all posts, warned the garrisons, and encouraged the men. In the early stages of the attack he rescued two of his men who had been captured, and bombed and silenced an enemy machine-gun. Although surrounded by the enemy, 2nd Lieutenant Young fought his way back to the main barricade and drove out a party of the enemy who were assembling there. By his further exertions the Battalion was able to maintain a line of great tactical value, the loss of which would have meant serious delay to future operations. Throughout four hours of intense hand-to-hand fighting 2nd Lieutenant Young displayed the utmost valour and devotion to duty, and set an example to which the Company gallantly responded. He was last seen fighting hand-to-hand against a considerable number of the enemy.

At the county gatherings references were made to many officers, and to one in particular—Major T. Barber, who held the unique record of going out to France with the Battalion and remaining to the end, when it is said that he "almost had to be dragged home". It was realized in France that what helped them to success more than anything else was morale, and it is recorded that a great deal of the Battalion's good morale had been due to the Quartermaster—Major Barber. When the Major went out at the beginning there was very little he had to learn, but anything that was going he picked up, whether it was knowledge or anything else that was worth having!

A great comradeship was established in the Great War and a remarkable faith in the Hertfordshire Regiment and the men who formed it. There was, however, the great change-over from war conditions to peace to be faced, and bickering appeared to arise in the industrial field. Thus, at a dinner held by No. 3 (Ware) Company, Lord Croft (then General Croft), referring to this state of affairs, said: It has been a great association. Don't let it drop. Let us continue as comrades. Let us live to see our sons enter this great Regiment and bear a still greater fame in the years that are to come. For heaven's sake don't throw away all the character and spirit which has entered into our race for the sake of any class bickerings that may arise. Let us understand each other's difficulties. Hang it all we understood each other in those dirty trenches, and surely we can understand each other in the fight for an enduring peace.

# RETURN TO PEACE

The transition period between war and peace brought troubles in its wake, but the men of the Hertfordshire Regiment did not forget the comradeship of the trenches and they began to form Old Comrades Associations in all parts of the county, mainly through the instrumentality of Major Elton Longmore. Through these organizations the spirit of the Regiment was kept alive, and when it was announced early in 1920 that the

Hertfordshire Regiment was to be given a separate place in the Army List and not to be attached to the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment there was no lack of men to place the Regiment on a sound footing. The Territorials had won their spurs during the war and were not going to let Hertfordshire down.

In March, 1920, it was announced that Lord Croft (then Lieut.-Col. Henry Page Croft) had been given command of the 1st Battalion of the Hertfordshire Regiment, and in a letter to the Editor of the Hertfordshire Mercury wrote: Already most of the officers of the Regiment, who have made their names as successful leaders on the field of battle, have expressed their willingness to continue to serve, and all ranks may rest assured that they will be led by those who shared their victories in France and Flanders. The conditions of service are very similar to those of the past, only the Territorial Army will henceforth be recognized as an integral part of the Empire's defence instead of continuing under its somewhat nebulous character as previously. . . . I appeal to all my old comrades to sign on at the earliest possible moment. Regiment will, of course, be open to all who have served in the war, as well as young recruits, but first preference will be given to the 1914 and 1915 men who served in the Regiment, provided they apply before the Battalion is complete.

The appeal for men for the Regiment went on through the following weeks, and in April, 1920, the Commanding Officer was able to announce at Ware that he had the promise of more than 50 per cent of the old officers to return to the Regiment. He also commented on the high regard in which the Territorial Army was now held, and said: Before the war they were very often regarded as a joke, but that would never be the case again, for after all the Territorial Army saved the country. In the future they would not retreat, and they would always be regarded as a serious factor upon which the safety of the Empire depended.

At the same gathering the Commanding Officer stated that the second in command would be Lieut.-Col. E. C. M. Phillips, D.S.O.; Major Longmore would command No. 1 Company, Colonel Smeathman No. 2 Company, Captain Leslie Gold, M.C., No. 3 Company, and Major Kennedy, M.C., No. 4 Company. Other officers included Captain Brown, M.C., Captain N. P. Gold, Captain Whitfield, M.C., and that "old war horse" Major Barber.

The Regiment was quickly made up to strength, and went to Yarmouth for its first camp, where they were visited by their Honorary Colonel, Sir Charles Longmore, K.C.B., V.D., T.D., and inspected by Lord Hampden, former commanding officer, who became Honorary Colonel of the Regiment on the death of Sir Charles Longmore in 1930.

# HER MAJESTY HONOURS THE REGIMENT

On 18th February, 1938, the Hertfordshire Regiment, which at that time was commanded by Lieut.-Col. J. A. Longmore, M.B.E., received a great and signal honour by the appointment of Her Majesty the Queen as Honorary Colonel of the 1st Battalion, and the following announcement appeared in the London Gazette:—

## TERRITORIAL ARMY

The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of Her Majesty the Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards), The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Honorary Colonel, The London Scottish (Territorial), The Gordon Highlanders, as Honorary Colonel 1st Battalion, The Hertfordshire Regiment, Territorial Army.

A telegram was dispatched to Her Majesty in these terms:—
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, the Royal Lodge, Windsor Great Park,
Windsor.

The Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and men of the 1st Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment, wish to express their loyalty and devotion to your Majesty and their pride in having Your Majesty as their Honorary Colonel.

LONGMORE,
Commanding 1st Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment,
The Drill Hall, Hertford.

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The following gracious reply was received:-

COLONEL LONGMORE, Commanding 1st Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment, Drill Hall, Hertford.

It has given me much pleasure to receive your telegram of loyalty and devotion on the occasion of my becoming the Honorary Colonel of your Regiment. Please convey to all ranks my sincere thanks for their message. I am glad indeed to be associated with the county in which I have spent so many happy years of my life.

ELIZABETH R.

Early in 1939 the distant rumbling of the threat of war was heard again, and, as a preliminary, the order went forth in April that the Territorial Army was to double its strength. The call went out in all the towns and villages in Hertfordshire for a second battalion of the County Regiment. The call was answered with great alacrity and in four weeks the Regiment had the men for a second battalion, and, incidentally, was the first County Regiment to double its strength in the Territorial Army. They went to camp at Shorncliffe as one battalion, some 40 officers and 1,200 men attending.

Such a response was due to the magnificent foundation laid by those who succeeded Lord Croft as commanding officers—Lieut.-Col. E. C. M. Phillips, D.S.O., T.D., Lieut.-Col. Hanbury Pawle, O.B.E., and Lieut.-Col. J. A. Longmore, M.B.E., T.D.

The Regiment was embodied in September, 1939, on the outbreak of the present war with the 6th Battalion Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, which formed the 162nd Infantry Brigade as part of the 54th Division.

The part the Regiment is playing in the present war will have to be recorded in the future, but no doubt when its history comes to be written it will be as equally brilliant as that of its past.

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