

Letters from Sir Charles Longmore to the Rt.Hon.T.F.Halsey about
the HERTFORDSHIRE REGIMENT in the Great War.

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Subject</u>
7/4/15	Sir Charles Longmore	CSM Raven's DCM
17/11/15	""	Bob's engagement
07/03/16	""	Bob's appointment as DAAG Lovel Smeathman to be CO
10/04/16	""	W.J.Halsey's appointment as DAAG
14/07/16	""	W.J.Halsey's mention in despatches
08/08/17	P.E.Longmore to "" (roneo'd)	St.Julien
15/08/17	B.J.Gripper	War Office meeting and St.Julien
27/09/17	Sir Charles Longmore	Herts Mercury cutting re.St.Julien
02/04/18	""	Casualties
02/04/18	A.Grinling to "" (roneo'd)	Attached to J.F.Christie's notes on German "big push"
16/04/18	B.J.Gripper	Casualties and German "big push"

Original to:

✓ Hertfordshire County Record Office

Copiesto:

OC No.5 (Hertfordshire) Company, 5th (Volunteer) Bn.the Royal Anglian Regiment

The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (TA) Dinner Club

Nigel Longmore, Esq.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.



W. J. Langman.

Confidential

Rd. 2 NOV. 14

*Col
R. Boule J. F. Halsey
Gaddesden Place
Hemel Hempstead
Herts*





Posthill House
Hertford.

31. X. 14-

Dear Mr. Halsey

I think the enclosed
may interest you
in Jersey - you will
I am sure consider it

to be confidential.

The National deserves
for that have about
300 more coming in.

We are out taking the
only useful men.

Yours faithfully
Charles E. Longman

4 NOV. 14



Town Hall
Hertford.

3. XI. 14.

Dear Mr. Halsey
Very many thanks
for your letter.
I think you are better.
The M.C. Club are
wondered to be ready
for immediate Foreign
Service. They think

they are going to
France to be equipped
with Kropala Troops.
This they consider a
high honour. I hope
to get their long
rifles. If I do I shall
soon be ready to
take their place
at Aug.
Yours faithfully
Charles E. Simpson



Distinguished conduct
medal - ~~to~~ He went
out at night close
to the German lines
to fetch in a
wounded man of
the 60th Rifles &
was fired upon

by the Germans.
The man's name
is Company Sergeant-
Major RAVEN

of the 1/1st. He is
depressed. We leave
here tomorrow or
three days back
to Norwich where our
address will be:-
The Mansel Hotel.

I trust all is going
on well with the
county work.
Yours faithfully,
Charles E. Longman

7 APR. 15.



2/1st HERTFORDSHIRE REGT.
STOWLANGTOFT HALL,
BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

6. IV. 15.

Dear Mr. Halsey:-
It will, I am sure,
interest you to
know that a
School attendance
officer in the
employment of the
County Council has
been awarded the

FROM

HERTS YEOMANRY

TO

Captain W. J. Halsey

25/9/15

My dear Halsey

I've only had one letter dated a long time ago, but I had news of Regie from some of our men who have just returned time expired - when Ted Sheppard arrived at Suola he took over command from Regie, who got himself sent to Moudros where he has been ever since - He is howling to get back here or anywhere but where he is, & our Brigadier got a beseeching letter from him yesterday, but says he can do nothing.

The remains of the Regiment - about 100 men - are all mixed up with the Westminsters. T. Holland-Kibbut, V. Ponsoby & W. Lishie are all away sick & Faulconer invalided home

Do let me know if you come up to Cairo - The Regt. is apparently 1 week in the trenches & 1 week out & hardly losing any men - Hoping to see you soon

Yours ever
William de Falbe

On His Majesty's Service.

Starts Germany
Letter to Wallace from de Falbe
giving present state of
the Regt.

Kaiser.

Gardesden Place

Hemel Hempstead
England Herts.

Dated 25th Sept 1915.

PASSED BY
No 228
CENSO



3rd Echelon G. H. Q.
M.E.F.

27th Sept 1915.

Dearest Mother.

I fear this misses today's mail, but I write
while I have a chance to enclose a letter I have just
got from Willy de Falbe which gives you the latest
news I have of Popie. I shall be thinking of you
tomorrow.


Your affectionate son
Wallace J. Kaiser.

On His Majesty's Service.



Mr J. Longmore
in his Son's Engagement

The Right Honble
W. F. Halsey
Fiddlers Place
Newel Hempstead


Chesterfield House
Newmarket.
17. XI. 15.

Dear Mr. Halsey
Very many thanks
for your most
kind letter. My
Son's improvement
is a great pleasure
to us all. He has
been home for
a week's leave
but is now back

in France -
My second son
is now there
with the artillery.
With reference to
your kind remark
I will let you know
when ^{Bro.} ~~he~~ is
to be married.
He will probably
be when he first
leave again in
about 3 months
time. I am delighted
to hear you are pleased

with the present.
She will give
great pleasure to
all the most
wishing honors to
We now have to
find a fourth
battalion which
rather swarms
mine up for a
time. However we
must do our best
to put it right.
Since this battalion
has been formed

have sent away
47 officers &
1200 men, some
20 of the officers
& 800 men have
gone abroad.

With kind
remembrance to

W. Halsey, your
daughter & Gavin

I am yours faithfully
Charles S. Johnson

Mr. J. Long

Post Office
London
W.C. 2

9 MAR 16

10

South
Halsey
Place
Hempstead
Herts



9th March 1916



Chesterfield House
Newmarket.
7. iii. 16.

My dear Mr. Halsey:-
In common with the other
Commanding Officers of this
Division I was examined by a
Medical Board a short time
ago. They found me fit in
every way except that I am
wounded so I fear it is
doubtful whether they will let
me go abroad with my Battalion
which is very disappointing -
The Military Reports on me

are very good & I have been
recommended for a 3rd line
frong - but there are so many
good replacements available
that I fear I shall not get it
so I may be amongst you
again before long. I had
a nice conversation this
morning in the news that
Bob has been made Deputy
Assistant Adjutant General
of the Head Quarters Staff
2nd Army in France - Sir
Herbert Plumer is his General.
Little did I think 2 years ago that
he would be on the Staff of the
Regular Army on active service.
Yours most faithfully
Charles E. Halsey
I hope that your most faithful
brother Halsey will succeed me in command of

Mr J. Longman

APR 16

10/3

APR 16

Mr. Arthur
J. F. Halsey Place
Ladbroke
Hemel Hempstead



DOUGLAS LODGE,
CHEVELEY ROAD,
NEWMARKET.

10. IV. 16.

Dear Mr. Atkey:-

I was very pleased to
see that your eldest
son has been made a
D.A.A.G. - It will be
a very nice appointment
for him. I hope you
have good news of all
your boys - a good
many of the older men

are now being put
into the Reserve &
I expect that will
be my fate before
long. Both my
Brother & Divisional
General have strongly
recommended that I
be kept on but I
fear without success.
Yours most faithfully
Charles E. Longman

Rt. Hon.?
6 JUL. 16



Porthill House,
Hertford.

14th. July, 1916.

Dear Mr. Halsey,

I was very pleased indeed to see Walter's name in the Despatches this morning. You have indeed every reason to be proud of the Members of your Family.

Will you kindly congratulate Mrs. Halsey for me ?.

Yours faithfully,

Charles E. Longman

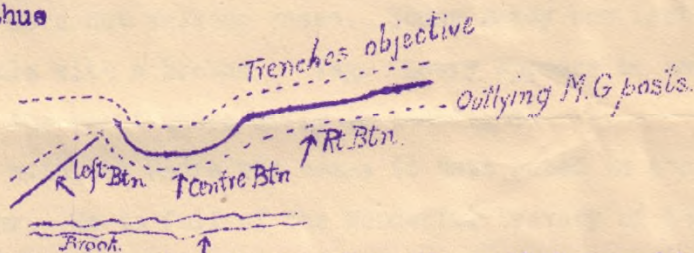
The Rt. Hon. T. F. Halsey,
Gaddesden Place,
Hemel Hempstead.

CONFIDENTIAL.

August 8th., 1917.

My dear Father,

I have just been to see Eric Philips and the Battalion and heard all about it. Eric is very busy reorganising and asked me to write you as much as I could as he was too busy at the time. The Brigade were told off to take the final objective coming through the two lines of German trenches which had already easily been taken by other Brigades of the Division. They had to cross a small stream which was no obstacle, take some outlying machine gun posts, and advance up a hill and take the German trenches at the top of the hill and consolidate in them. Our fellows were the centre Battalion the one on the left having to swing half left slightly as the hill was thus



They started off and soon mopped up the outlying machine gun posts with a certain number of casualties. Killed or captured all the enemy. Unfortunately the barrage seems to have entirely broken down and they had to get on as best they could without it. They got right up to the line and found it quite uncut except in one place where a small party under Marchington broke through and did some slaughter. Marchington was wounded and got back safely. The Battalion in the right came upon an exactly similar state of affairs. Only one small gap. A lot of the men tried to break through the line but were killed and wounded by machine gun fire. They then went back a little and collected in shell holes.

To guard the left flank of the Battalion it had been arranged to bring up 3 machine guns. These were all knocked out before getting there.

The Germans then counter attacked round the hill on the left flank of the Battalion and they had to retreat gradually.

About this time Page was killed instantaneously by a bullet in the throat when going out trying to get reinforcements up. A few minutes later the same thing happened to Milne. There were by then no Officers left at all but the N.C.O's took command and fought it out until they were gradually driven back to the side of the stream where they had started from.

There they dug themselves in under the Regimental S.M. until he was hit. The Padre then took command. Later an Officer from another Battalion came up with reinforcements and took command of the remnants.

The result of having to retire was that they lost all their wounded except the walking cases. I am afraid there were a great many Officers who were not walking cases. Young Herdy was last seen in a shell hole with a broken leg. Lowry appears to have been shot through the heart quite early in the fight.

I had a talk with the Padre who seems to have acted in the most gallant manner. He is full of the wonderful bravery of the men and how they stuck to it with no Officers left at all. A prisoner reported on the following day that he had seen a large number of the wounded collected on stretchers and being sent off.

Eric seems rather doubtful himself about getting command, but the Brigadier is I hear strongly recommending him.

The men all tell me that he is the idol of the Battalion. He has got Whitfield there who is a good prop and sound adviser.

Must stop now.

Yours ever,

P.E.L.

letter from Sir C. Longmore's
son describing the
fight of the 1st Herts.
Regiment - Aug 4/1917

also Zupper

Rd
15th Aug. 17.

Hertford
15th. Aug. 1917

Dear Colonel,

I am much obliged to you for your kind letter of the 7th. congratulating me on my 'Mention'.

Your thoughtfulness came at a time when one was feeling very much down, and goes a long way to help me carry on.

I was at the War Office on the 7th. with Lord Hampden, and we were told that all the General Service Officers from the 3 Battalions that have been de-mobilised would be called for as required for the 1st. Hertfordshire, and that if possible N.C.Os. and Men that we have sent out and who have been transferred to other units, would be re-transferred to the Herts in France.

As I have no doubt you have heard, the Regiment did splendidly on the 31st. but the weather was the trouble as the Artillery Barrage broke down, they came on un-cut wire, and when they were Counter attacked, with their Left Flank in the air, they fought to a finish, and were only driven back a very short distance.

Yours sincerely

T. F. Halsey

Lt. Col. the Rt. Hon. T. F. Halsey
Gaddesden Place
Hemel Hempstead

Hertfordshire Mercury

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1917.

HERTS REGIMENT ST. JULIEN HONOURS.

We understand that the following honours have been given in the Hertfordshire Regiment for their gallant action on July 31 last in the attack on St. Julien.

The Chaplain (Mr. Popham) has got a Bar to his Military Cross.

Lieut. Marchington and Lieut. Edwards and the Medical Officer have been awarded the Military Cross.

Regimental-Sergt.-Major Tite, who after the fall of the officers took command of the Battalion, though himself wounded, has got the Distinguished Conduct Medal, also Sergt. Osborn, Sergt. Allibone, Corpl. Baker, and Pte. Ross.

In addition twelve n.e.o.'s and men have been awarded the Military Medal.

Sergt. Steve Osborn, D.C.M., is the third son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Osborn, of New Town, Hatfield. In a very modest letter to his parents telling them of his 'luck' he says:—'When all the officers had fallen, and our Regimental-Sergeant-Major wounded, he handed over the remnants of the Battalion to me, I being the only sergeant left in the firing-line at the time . . . I could say a lot more'. . . but in his modesty he refrains. It is a well-known fact, however, that Sergt. Osborn brought this gallant remnant back to safety, and he well merits the great reward. Sergt. Osborn joined the Herts Regt. in 1904, and went out with it in November, 1914, and has been in every engagement the Regiment has fought and has fortunately come through without a scratch.



Enc.

HERTFORD.
27. 9. 1917.

Dear Mr. Halsey,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 25th. inst. and am very sorry to hear you are unwell.

I trust you will soon be better.

I send you herewith a cutting from the "Hertfordshire Mercury" from which you will see the Honours which the Regiment earned on the 31st. July.

Yours faithfully,

The Rt. Hon. T.F.Halsey,
Gaddesden Place,
Hemel Hempstead.

Hertfordshire Mercury

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March 21st.

(Strictly Confidential - For the information of Friends
of the Battalion only)

EXTRACTS from NOTES of CAPTAIN J. F. CHRISTIE
who served with the 1st HERTFORDSHIRE REGIMENT from
21st March to March 30th 1918. The Notes are written
in a pocket book through which the bullet which
wounded him passed.

March 21st.

I had just come back from the C.O.S. on the 20th and
had taken over No.4 Company from Captain E.H.H. Carlile.
Everybody seemed in very good fettle. On the morning of
the 21st at 7 a.m. Colonel E.G.M. Phillips sent for all
Company Commanders. Much to my disappointment he said
that I must be one of the Company Commanders to be left out
and my Company was accordingly handed over to Captain Carlile
with it Underhill and King (Norris was also excluded).

The Battalion stood to all day while the Colonel and
Adjutant (Captain Gudgeon) went to Brigade Head Quarters.
At 4.15 p.m. the Battalion set out to take its part in the
great defensive.

During the remainder of the day I sat with Norris
anxiously waiting for news of the Battalion. We formed a
combined Mess consisting of Major T. Barber, The Padre (Mr.
Cornish), Capt. A. Grinling, Clodd, Norris, Stonnill, Branch-
flower and myself. Major Aylmer G. Clerk returned from the
Assembly position at about 10.30 p.m. just as we had retired
to bed.

March 22nd.

I was not with the Battalion on this day and I can only say what happened at the Details Camp.

We waited anxiously for news which came about 2 p.m. We were then told that Major J.B.T.Gough, Lieut.King, Capt. Gibbons, and Lieut.Allen were killed and Capt.Leslie Gold and Lieut.Eve and Underhill wounded, and that the Adjutant (Capt.Gudgeon) Capt.Carlile all No.2 Company including Lieuts. Perry, Borrodale and Freedman were missing. This was not very cheerful news but the Battalion had put up a splendid show.

Major Clerk had orders that night to move all the Details so off we started to Brigade Headquarters. This night we slept in an old Medical Hut. Orders came that night that Major Clerk, Capt.Christie and Lieut.Stonnill were to rejoin the Battalion.

March 23rd.

Accordingly at 7 a.m. we walked to where the Battalion were and found them extending themselves. We dug until about 12 at noon. When we were ordered to withdraw from this position the Hertfordshire Officers were conspicuous in being the last to withdraw.

Lieut.Col.Phillips, Stonnill, Hurd, Gripper and myself with a portion of the Battalion held the enemy for about 1½ hours whilst the remainder of the Brigade retired.

Our retirement was covered from a Hill by a Party commanded by a Major in the Notts & Derby Regiment.

After the retirement the officers then with the Battalion were Col.Phillips, Major Clerk, Capt.Christie, Lieuts.Hurd, Norris, Gripper, Stonnill, Broad.

Shortly after Lieut.Broad became a casualty and up to the time of writing (April 1st 1918) I had heard nothing of him.

Lieut. Norris was wounded in operations which took place on the following day.

Later on we joined the rest of the Battalion and Major Clerk was sent as Liason officer to the Division.

Lieut.Col. Phillips and Lieuts.Hurd and Stonnill were at this time with the Battalion and I was sent with Lieut.Gripper back to the Transport.

March 24th.

It was in the fighting that took place on this day that Col.Phillips was last seen making a most gallant stand surrounded on all sides by Germans. His servant Private Hickling escaped, but did not know whether Col.Phillips was taken Prisoner or not. Shortly after this Lieut.Stonnill was killed, and we also lost our excellent R.S.M.Clerk on that day.

In the meantime Gripper and I tried to find the Transport which we ultimately did.

March 25th.

We rejoined the Battalion the Officers with it being Major Clerk, Capt.Christie, Lieut.T.J.W.Church (who had done excellent work) Lieuts. Hurd, Gripper and Knee. Lieut. Hensman was sent from Brigade Headquarters to act as Adjutant. Here we had an excellent Dinner, a wash, a shave, and a good sleep.

March 26th.

Orders were received for our Brigade to support two other Brigades and at 7 a.m. we moved off leaving Lieut.Hurd behind. I was now in the event of a battle Commanding the Battalion and Major Clerk the "Brigade Battle Front". We took up a position in front of a Wood - No.1 Company under Gripper on right, No.3 under Church in centre, No.4 under Company Sergt.Major Clements on left.

Soon after he became a casualty and was taken as quickly as possible to the rear and from this time forward the mantle of Elisha fell upon me. I was now pukker C.O. and felt most extraordinarily proud to be in a position which in my wildest dreams I had never anticipated. We had much fighting at this time and a Battalion in our Brigade counter-attacked and took some Prisoners. We spent a night in a Village covering our Battalion with our outposts. In the Village we found shelter, food and the transport. The men had some rum and a good sleep and feed. Many of them had now completed a week of very trying work. Let me note here my own appreciation of the conduct of the men. They were simply superb. Cheerful as Sandboys. Company Sergt. Major Longthorne acting R.S.M. was heroic and in spite of a bad leg continued to do his duty in the most energetic and successful manner. This rest helped us all a great deal.

March 29th.

I was instructed by the Brigade to take up a position in a sunken road. This was very convenient as the Battalion was halted 100 yards from that very spot. Here we spent a long time improving our position. It was a beautiful day. Church and I went up a Hill to see the position better and there we had a Birdseye View. Here we saw hordes of Germans massing for an attack. At this time a shell landed in the road 10 yards from us and we were both hit by splinters and bruised. Church retaliated by taking the bearings of the Battery which he sent up to the Brigade. Hensman was sent forward to form an outpost Line in front of our position with C.S.M. Clements and some men of No.4 Company. We remained here all this night and drew rations from a neighbouring village. Enemy airplances flew over wearing the Allied

Here Private Hammond with a Lewis gun practically annihilated the second wave of Germans.

Soon after this I think Lieut. Knee was wounded. After more fighting we spent the night in an old Hutment camp and stayed the night in the Buildings there. We had a good meal and sleep in a warm room which we much enjoyed.

March 27th.

The Battalion went forward to occupy a Line in front of the Billets. On this day Lieut. Guy Gripper became a casualty. A noticeable feature of the fighting at this time was the ascendancy in numbers and superiority in tactics shown by our aircraft over that of the enemy. Whereas in the early stages the absence of our Aircraft had called for comment, they were now conspicuous indeed and they continually pelted the enemy lines with machine guns.

Major Clerk was present at this time and was suffering from a very bad chill and could scarcely speak. Clerk, Church, Hensman and myself were the only officers left with the Battalion. It was extremely cold that night but we covered ourselves with hay. We had no rations or water. It transpired subsequently that Capt. Grinling and his Transport spent 16 hours trying in vain to find us. The work of this Officer and Major T. Barber the Quartermaster in keeping us supplied during all this trying time was exemplary.

March 28th.

Here we went into a French village and refreshed ourselves with Cider and apples. Major Clerk amused us immensely by putting on an old Top-hat which he found in a House.

Colonel Phillips was magnificent, cool in danger and resourceful under most trying circumstances.

colours and fired machine guns at us.

March 30th.

I formed up the Battle front with the whole of the Battalion - a thin khaki line. Some reinforcements came up under Lieut.Hurd and I believe Lieut.Sworder. I moved the Battalion to the right flank and had the pleasure of seeing Captain Whitfield (Herts Regiment) who was acting as Brigade Major to one of the Brigades. We got a very good position here. This was about 12 o'clock noon and at that time I saw a line of Huns coming over the Hill on the left - a fine chance for some enfilade fire. I saw a splendid low bank for a first position and ordered some men to line the bank. In running towards the Bank I received a bullet which penetrated by right thigh and knocked me down. Incidentally the bullet passed through the base of the Note Book I am writing in on its way.

Capt.Christie reigned three days and Lieut.J.W.Church reigned in his stead. And here is a fitting place for me to chronicle the admiration, respect and affection I feel for a man who showed himself by his gallant bearing and resource an officer and gentleman of the highest quality and efficiency. To have had such a comrade as Church during three or four of the most trying days of my war experience was indeed a stroke of most exceptional good fortune. At the time of writing this (April 2nd) I do not know how Church has further distinguished himself by his precept and example or whether he has secured a "Blighty" like myself, but whatever has happened, I hope the day will come when I can take him by the hand and tell him face to face what I have written here.

Colonel Phillips was magnificent, cool in danger and resourceful under most trying circumstances.

For me to sing the praises of such a magnificent soldier as Aylmer Clerk would be superfluous. A charming companion, and in danger an inspiration to all Ranks.

The share of the Battalion in this Battle has made me more proud than ever of being a Member of a truly heroic and magnificent Regiment.

April 2nd, 1918.

They were relieved just about where the attack was held up 3 days ago. Three sub-battalions came out of the fight, Gordon, Macpherson and Bennett.

Being the only Captain left I am at present in command. All the Generals in the Division were killed or wounded but we have a new Colonel as Brigadier who has just arrived and who is an excellent man and very willing to help. I have asked him to come back and I should also be very grateful if you could do what you can at Spicers to get such Officers as Richard Moore and be sent out as soon as possible as we have no Senior Officers left.

If there was any especially well, Christie, Church and Gripper were the most distinguished. Church was wounded and was only wounded from falling on the last day and died within a few minutes. All these people I have recommended.

Smyrna.
Cassia Stie's
Ry.
R.L.
3 APR 18
5 APR 18
Hampstead
F. Halsey,
Gaddesden Place
Hemel Hempstead



Smyrna
Ry.
R.L.

are missing.

The terrible part of this work of fighting whilst retiring is that all the seriously wounded fall into the hands of the enemy.

Amongst other Officers who have done well are Gripper's third son Guy, and Sir William Church's son both of whom did splendidly and revealed great qualities of leadership.

Guy Gripper is wounded, but I am glad to say not seriously, and is now in London.

On the 25th. ult. Aylmer Clerk wrote me that the Battalion are re-equipping and ready to do what is necessary. He said they moved forward again on the 26th. ult.

The Regiment have indeed been fortunate in the four Commanding Officers they have had during the War, and Aylmer Clerk, whose Father is a Barrister living at Welwyn is quite as good as any of his predecessors, but I fear the Regiment have suffered very much indeed.

Yours faithfully,



The Rt. Hon. T. F. Halsey,
Gaddesden Place,
Hemel Hempstead.

3 APR. 18



PORTHILL HOUSE,
HERTFORD.
2. 4. 1918.

Dear Mr. Halsey,

The Hertfordshire Regiment have had some terrific fighting in assisting in closing the gap which at one time existed between the 3rd. and 5th. Armies.

Major Aylmer Clerk wrote me on the 25th. ult. that the battle then continued, the Battalion having done magnificently, and the men, though tired, still in splendid form. He believes the Bosche has failed in his colossal effort and that they are bound to steady him down.

The Censor will not allow us to say much about casualties, but he thinks that having regard to the various circumstances the casualties have not been as heavy as might well have been expected. The loss among Officers, is, I am afraid very considerable. Eric Phillips the Colonel is a Prisoner. His splendid sense of duty made him hang on to the last until surrounded. Two Officers were killed. and several Officers including Sir Hildred Carlile's son

2. 4. 1918.

Dear Sir Charles,

This is the first moment I have had to sit down and try and write to you the true narrative of the Regiment's doings for the last fortnight. Major Barber has kept Colonel Gripper fairly well posted with the list of casualties; so I won't repeat what to all of us is so great a blow, but I will just tell you roughly what happened and how we are left. The Battalion was in G.H.C. Reserve at the time the Battle started and was sent up on the first night to reinforce the 16th and 8th Divisions on whom the chief attack was being made. The first night and second day we had the majority of casualties, No.2 Company practically being surrounded, Major Gough, Capts. Gadyear and Gibbons and Carlile were lost and several subalterns. The Battalion then fought in every rear-guard action for 10 days, until they were relieved just about where the attack was held up 2 days ago. Three subalterns came out of the fight, Swords, Blanchflower and Hensman.

Being the only Captain left I am at present in command. All the Generals in the Division were killed or wounded but we have a new Colonel as Brigadier who has just arrived and who is an excellent man and very willing to help. I have applied for Whitfield who is acting Brigade Major of 117th Bde. to come back, and I should also be very grateful if you could do what you can at Crowboro to get such Officers as Fisher, Moore and Le Mare sent out as soon as possible as we have no Senior Officers at all.

Of those who did especially well, Christie, Church and Gripper were the most distinguished. Church did wonders and was only wounded poor fellow on the last day and died within a few minutes. All these people I have recommended.

Of the loss of the Colonel I can hardly speak. There never was a man more loved and respected by Officers and men. However there is still quite a large hope that he is alive although prisoner and we all wait anxiously for news. Major Clerk did great work as he always does, but I am afraid got rather a nasty wound. Major Gough was killed so early in the fight one can say little of him. However he is a very great loss to the Hertfordshire Regiment and I know a very old friend of yours. The Battalion strength with 1st and 2nd Line Transport is just over 400 out of well over double that number including reinforcements on the way which we had before. However the boys are wonderfully cheery, and with a good rest, after refitting, will be ready again to do as well as ever I am sure.

I know you will forgive a rather brief letter but as I am my own Adjutant as well, there is rather a lot to do.

As this show has put off my leave, I hope when we get settled to get away, when I will come and see you and tell you all I can. I know you will do what you can to get any Senior Officers there are, out as soon as possible.

We suffered less from the loss of N.C.O's than anyone, but the R.S.M. is missing.

It requires no words of mine to tell you how well the Regiment behaved throughout the whole battle.

Yours very sincerely,

(Sgd) Tony Grinling.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
HERTFORD

MEMORIAL SERVICE
for
JOHN LONGMORE
CB CBE TD DL

1899 1973

FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER 1973

2.30

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE SENTENCE

I AM the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

HYMN

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransom'd, heal'd, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.
Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.
Father-like, He tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.
Angels in the height, adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Saints triumphant, bow before Him,
Gather'd in from every race;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of Grace.

THE LESSON

To be read by Charles Wentworth-Stanley,
High Sheriff of Hertfordshire

I SAW a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Let us Pray

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; On earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

GOD, the creator and sustainer of all, we praise and magnify thy holy name and offer our thanksgiving for the life of thy servant John and for all that he accomplished in his life. Gratefully we recall his devotion to Sovereign and Country, especially in the Hertfordshire Regiment, his services to this county and town of Hertford; and we beseech thee that, encouraged by his example, we may dedicate ourselves anew to thy obedience and to the service of our fellowmen; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD, who has promised that they who wait upon Thee shall renew their strength, we thank thee for that love of home and family with which thou enriched the life of thy servant, and for the sharing of that love through patient and devoted nursing in sickness, as well as joy and felicity in health. Bless, we beseech thee, our homes, that in them love may abound and happiness abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BRING us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitation of thy glory and dominion, world without end. Amen.

God save our gracious Sovereign
and all the Brotherhood, living
and departed, of the Most Honourable
Order of the Bath.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God and the Fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all
evermore. Amen.

HARROW SCHOOL SONG

*To be sung by Boys of Haileybury
(the congregation to remain seated)*

I sing the praise of the olden days
When the yeomen and burghers knew
In the arrow's flight was the Nation's might,
Our strength in the bended yew.

In the Baron's hall there was sport for all,
Tourney, revel and laugh,
And many a bout had the henchmen stout
With cudgel and quarterstaff.

The book is read and prayers are said,
Then all to the butts repair,
The men are seen in the jerkin green
And the maidens are watching there.
Full well they know no foreign foe
Our shores will dare invade,
With pikemen bold our walls to hold,
And archers in every glade.

Their spirit is dead, men say —
Dead as their stalwart frames —
Their blood now runs in idler sons,
Loving less manly games.
Can this be truth? Arise our youth,
Rise in your strength and show
By word and deed ye are worthy seed
Of our sires who drew the bow.

Words by C. J. Maltby

Music Percy C. Buck, Mus. Doc. Oxon.

Then all shall stand and sing

HYMN

Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus
Going on before.
Christ, the Royal Master
Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle,
See, His banners go!

Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus
Going on before.

At the sign of triumph
Satan's host doth flee;
On then, Christian Soldiers,
On to victory.
Hell's foundations quiver
At the shout of praise;
Brothers, lift your voices,
Loud your anthems raise.

Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus
Going on before.

Like a mighty army
Moves the Church of God,
Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints have trod,
We are not divided,
All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine,
One in charity.

Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus
Going on before.

Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane.
But the Church of Jesus
Constant will remain;
Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail.

Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus
Going on before.

Onward, then, ye people,
Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song;
Glory, laud and honour
Unto Christ the King,
This through countless ages
Men and Angels sing.

Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus
Going on before.

To be sung kneeling

THE BLESSING

God be in my head,
And in my understanding;
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking;
God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking;
God be at mine end,
And at my departing.

Mr. E. Alick Burney.

Northchurch,
Berkhamsted.

Various letters
from
Sir C. Longmore
during War.

1915-16-17.
-18-

With Sir Charles Longmore's

Compliments.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF SIR CHARLES LONGMORE.

HERTFORD.