

## 36<sup>th</sup> Hertfordshire - Early history, Culloden and Flanders



### Early history

At the outbreak of the War of the Spanish Succession in 1701, King William III ordered Viscount Charlemont to form a new Regiment in Ireland.

The following year, Charlemont's Regiment was picked to become one of six infantry regiments designated for Sea Service, which meant that it could be called upon to act in a Marine role should the occasion warrant it. This order came into effect and the Regiment under their Colonel, Lord Charlemeont, left for Spain on board His Majesty's Ships Grey, Ruth and Friendship. However this was a short lived affair and it was to be a further three years before the Regiment again returned to Spain, this time under the leadership of the enigmatic Earl of Peterborough.

During the capture of the Fortress of Montjuich, which in turn led to the successful conclusion to the siege of Barcelona, the Regiment fought admirably and Lord Charlemont was subsequently presented to the King of Spain who thanked him warmly for his part in the success. However, at a later stage in the campaign, disaster struck the Regiment when, at the Battle of Almanza, Peterborough's erratic leadership led to Charlemont's Regiment being virtually annihilated.

### Change of title

In 1782, individual Regiments began to be linked territorially to counties and the 36th Regiment of Foot was linked to Herefordshire becoming the 36th (Herefordshire) Regiment of Foot.

### Culloden and Flanders

In 1746, the 36th Regiment played a small part in the Battle of Culloden before embarking upon a campaign in Flanders.

In Flanders, the Regiment acquitted itself well in an expedition that was generally unsuccessful.

It is possible that the origin of the Regimental Motto 'FIRM' may stem from this campaign, for it is thought that the 36th, because of their steadfast performance during the rearguard action at Lauffeld, may have had this motto conferred upon them by Field Marshal Lord Stair, whose own family motto it was.