



3rd BATTALION 6th US INFANTRY

UNIT HISTORY

1965



Prepared By:

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
3rd Battalion 6th Infantry

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 6TH US INFANTRY

The 3rd Battalion as a part of the 6th US Infantry has a history dating to the War of 1812 when Congress authorized its founding as the 11th Infantry on 11 January 1812. It was later consolidated with other units and designated the 6th US Infantry.

The 6th Infantry Regiment participated in the Indian Wars in Florida in 1837 and then saw duty in various frontier outposts in the Western United States. During the period from 1845 to 1848 they were engaged in the Mexican War and served as an occupation force in Mexico City.

The 6th Infantry again saw action in the Civil War and won several battle streamers during that conflict including one for their participation in the battle of Gettysburg. During the Spanish-American War the Regiment fought in Cuba and the Phillipenes. It was attached to the 5th Division fighting in France during the First World War.

At the outbreak of World War II the Regiment was redesignated the 6th Armored Infantry Regiment and played an important role in the African Campaign and the invasion of Italy. During the operations in Italy the Regiment was cited for extraordinary heroism in Military Operations and was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for its actions at Mount Porchia from 31 December 1943 to 12 January 1944.

From the end of the war until 1950 the Regiment remained in the American Zone of West Germany as an occupying force. On 10 October 1950 the Sixth was reconstituted and assigned to West Berlin. Under the reorganization plan of 1 June 1958 it was reorganized into the 2nd and 3rd Battle Groups. On 23 September 1963 the battle groups were again reorganized under the ROAD system and became designated battalions.

The 3rd Battalion as part of the 6th Infantry has occupied Berlin during the Berlin Crisis of 1961-1963 and since then has engaged in training within the city. The present mission of the battalion is to protect the rights of the free people in the Divided City and maintain access within Germany as part of overall US policy.

3rd Battalion, 6th Infantry

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- 4 Jan- Battalion stressed Squad Tactics and MOS training.
- 8 Jan- Combat in Cities at Parks Range with day and night training in built up areas along with house to house fighting where main points of training for all Defender Companies.
1st Lt Francis L Lennon of Co B attained the highest score in Brigade EIB testing and was presented the EIB Badge personally from Gen Paul L Freeman Jr, Commander in Chief USAREUR, at award ceremonies held at the Coliseum Theater McNair Barracks.
Sgt Leo VanStavern of Co C graduated from the 7th Army NCO Academy receiving the Gen Bruce C Clark award for outstanding appearance and the Gen Douglas MacArthur award for leadership.
- 15 Jan- Executive Officer of the Battalion, Maj Thomas W Hughes presented SSG John Conner of Co B with a trophy for having the most men in a single unit to receive the EIB in Berlin Brigade.
Through the efforts of reenlistment NCO SFC Harrison Kendricks, the Battalion topped Brigade RE-UP's by getting 57.2% for the 1st quarter of 1965.
- 29 Jan- Memorial Parade for the late Winston Churchill in which the Battalion took part in.
- 3 Feb- 3rd Battalion departs Berlin for three weeks of zonal training at Wildflecken West Germany. Lt Col Charles C Thebaud commanded the Battalion.
- 8 Feb- Defendermen receive cold weather training from members of 10th Special Forces. Winter survival and cold weather training were stressed.
- 13 Feb- 81mm Mortar Sections of the Battalion took their annual Squad Tests and also participated in Company ATT's while at Wildflecken.
- 24 Feb- 3rd Battalion begins journey back to their home station, McNair Barracks, Berlin Germany.
- 4 Mar- Company B, under the command of Capt James A Douglas and 1st Sgt Richard H Ackley, presented the Outstanding Unit of the Year award for 1964 by Brig Gen John H Hay.
- 16 Mar- Mortar Platoons had combined training using the pneumatic firing device.
Sgt Milton C Keene of Co C returned to Berlin from the 7th Army NCO Academy where he won top honors.

Unit History continued:

- 16 Mar- The 3rd Battalions Drum and Bugle Corp changed from bugles to trumpets.
(Con) Platoon level ATT's were conducted in the Grunewald. Foot marches Combat in Cities, Infantry helicopter tactics, attacks, defenses, and withdrawals were covered.
- 2 Apr- Company C presents Honor Guard for Commander in Chief, Gen O'Meara at US Army Headquarters Berlin. Capt Everette E Baker, commanding officer of Co C was Honor Guard commander.
PFC Michael R Clancy of Co A was named Berlin Brigade Soldier of the Month.
- 9 Apr- Battalion participated in a welcoming parade for Gen Andrew P O'Meara as new Commander in Chief USAREUR.
Mayors of Berlins Districts visited Company A's barracks and observed men going through a normal day of training.
- 17 Apr- Company C, commanded by Capt Everette E Baker, conducts company ATT in Grunewald.
- 20 Apr- Riot Control Demonstration was presented by Company B for new arrivals in Berlin on the 4-Ring, McNair Barracks. A presentation presented everytime a new unit arrives in Berlin. Capt Hightower was OIC.
- 21 Apr- Command Post Exercise by staff sections of Battalion in preparation for FTX.
- 26 Apr- 3rd Battalion participates in five day field training exercise, Compass Rock held in the Grunewald.
- 30 Apr- 81mm Mortar Sections of the Battalion along with the 4.2 in Mortar Platoon traveled to Grafenwoehr West Germany for live fire exercises and platoons ATTs. This annual trip supplements the biannual zonal training held in Wildflecken every year.
Reconnaissance Platoon of Headquarters Company initiated aerial orientation patrols of West Berlin by helicopter. With support of the Air Branch of Berlin Brigade a flight is scheduled once every two months.
Company B won the Defender Volleyball Championships. They won seven out of nine games played.
- 10 May- Battalion starts preparations for Allied Forces Day Parade.
- 14 May- 3rd Battalion comes in second in Brigade reenlistments with a 35% rate. Headquarters Company reenlisted all eligible career RA member and Companies A and B had a 100% rate in first term RAs.

Unit History continued:

- 15 May- Battalion takes part in Allied Forces Day Parade.
- 28 May- Members of the Battalion take part in an Honor Guard for Queen Elizabeth II.
Sgt Anthony Garcia of Headquarters Company completed the American Citizenship Course conducted by the University of Maryland.
A full scale area beautification program of troop billets and areas of responsibility commenced.
- 4 Jun- Sp4 Arnold L Anderson won the Berlin Brigade Soldier of the Month competition.
Sgt Jean E Richardson of Company C won the Gen Bruce C Clark award at the 7th Army NCO Academy.
- 11 Jun- 3rd Battalion conducts Battalion level ATT.
- 16 Jun- Lt Col Charles C Thebaud departs 3rd Battalion as Battalion CO, and is replaced by Lt Col Robert Story.
- 25 Jun- Defenders spend week going through an extensive period of preliminary marksmanship instruction in preparation for the Battalions annual arms qualification firing.
- 26 Jun- Defenders participate in first District Parade of 1965 at Neukoelln.
- 3 Jul- Battalion takes part in Independence Day Parade.
- 6 Jul- Lt Col Robert Story officially accepts command of the the 3rd Battalion from Battalion Executive Officer Maj Henry Davisson.
- 9 Jul- Defenders begin training for upcoming Brigade EIB testing.
3rd Battalion begins Maintenance Program for equipment serviceability.
- 17 Jul- Battalion participates in second District Parade of 1965 in the American Sector District of Schoeneberg.
- 19 Jul- EIB testing for Battalion begins.
- 26 Jul- Brigade EIB testing for 3rd Battalion begins.
- 5 Aug- Battalion leaves for beannual trip to Wildflecken West Germany for seventeen days of live fire exercises and Platoon and Company size trainign.
- 24 Aug- Defenders return from zonal training.
- 1 Sep- EIB 12 Mile road march for Battalions begins.

Unit History continued:

- 11 Sep- Zehlendorf District Street Parade in which 3rd Battalion participated in.
- 15 Sep* Designated personnel of the Battalion participated in the Spandau Prison change over. We took over from the Russians for one month of guard on Nazi war criminals.
- 16 Sep- Defendersmen participated in an Allied Weapons Meet.
- 25 Sep- Last 1965 District Parade held at Templehof in which 3rd Battalion participated in.
- 2 Oct- Battalion Command Maintenance Inspection.
- 13 Oct- Riot Control Demonstration on the 4-Ring by Co A.
- 14 Oct- Presentation of EIB awards from Maj Gen John F Franklin at Coliseum Theater, McNair Barracks. SSG William R Silver of Co C and Sgt Henry Pananganan along with Sp4 John E Rogers were among the top ten.
- 15 Oct- Battalions participates in 6th US Infantry Parade on 4-Ring to Celebrate Anniversary of the 6th US Infantry. Maj Gen John F Franklin attended the review and reception as a guest of the 6th Infantry. In the Afternoon Open house and competitive events followed.
- 18 Oct- FTX "Valley Road" gets under way in which the Battalion took part in. Sp4 Thomas D Mikula Jr of Company A recieved the Bruce C Clark award while at 7th Army NCO Academy. Presentation was made by Col Henry A Barber III, Deputy Brigade Commander at McNair Barracks.
- 28 Oct- Sp4 Richard J Peterson of company B won the Berlin Brigade Soldier of the Month competition for the month of October.
- 1 Nov- Berlin Brigade Service Weapons Comprtition in which Company A won the Gen Maurice W Daneil Trophy for the automatic pair event. The Gen Francis T Pachler Trophy was won by Company B for the Rifle Team Event.
- 3 Nov- Company C hosted members of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. The men participated and observed heavy weapons training on the 106 mm recoilless file and the 81mm Mortar at Parks and Anzio Ranges.
- 19 Nov- Companies A, B, and C of the Battalion participated in their annul rifle squad tests held in the Grunewald. The tests consisted of three phases: A written exam, a live fire test and a tactical test. First Sgt Richard H Ackley of Co B was promoted to Sgt Maj.

Unit History continued:

- 29 Nov- Berlin Brigade Squad competition for Recon Squads in which Defenders of Headquarters Recon Platoon participated in.
- 1 Dec- 3rd Battalion relieved from guard of Spandau Prison by British.
- 2 Dec- An orientation visit to the 3rd Battalion was conducted for 150 staff members of the Ministry for All German Affairs, Berlin Office. Sp4 Richard N Bartlett was selected for Berlin Brigade Soldier of the Month. Sp4 Bartlett is from Company C.
- 6 Dec- Mortar men of the Battalion participate in Berlin Brigade Forward Observer School conducted by C Battery 94th Artillery.
- 17 Dec- An 81mm Mortar Squad commanded by Sgt William Allen recieved the Best 81mm Mortar Squad of Berlin Brigade trophy at award ceremonies held at McNair Barracks. Presentations were made by Brig Gen John H Hay.
- 25 Dec- All Companies of the 3rd Battalion were hosts for the children fo German Orphanages. Movies wereshown and dinner was served.



MAJOR COMMAND CHANGES 1965

-3rd BATTALION 6th US INFANTRY-

Commanding Officers:

Lt Col Charles C. Thebaud - until 6 July 65

Lt Col Robert P. Story - 6 July 65 to present

Executive Officers:

Major Thomas W. Hughes - until 3 March 65

Major Henry L. Davisson - until 25 November 65

Major Homer M. Lynch - 25 Nov until present

S-1

Capt Alonzo Coose - until 13 June 65

Capt Leon L. Anderson - 13 June 65 until present

S-2

Capt Gerald E. Tilleux - until 12 May 65

Capt Thomas H. Dunegan - until 25 Sept 65

1st Lt Marshall R. Gray - until 10 Nov 65

1st Lt Francis L. Lennon - 10 Nov 65 until present

S-3

Major Henry L. Davisson - until 3 Nov 65

Major Homer M. Lynch - until 25 Nov 65

Major Donald Almy - 25 Nov 65 until present

S-4

Capt Thomas K. Hightower - until 14 May 65

Capt William B. Mullins - until 10 Nov 65

Capt James A. Douglas - 10 Nov 65 until present

Major Command Changes 1965 (cont)

Company "A"

Capt Leonard M. Wall - until 14 May 65
Capt Richard Baduini - 14 May 65 until present

Company "B"

Capt James A. Douglas - until 10 Nov 65
Capt Marshall R. Gray - 10 Nov 65 until present

Company "C"

Capt Everette E. Baker - until 26 July 65
Capt James McDevitt - 26 July 65 until present

Headquarters Company

Capt William B. Mullins - Until 14 May 65
Capt George Silvanic - 14 May 65 until present

REFERENCES

The BERLIN OBSERVER : semi-weekly newspaper published by the Berlin
(for the year 65) Brigade Information Division.

Weekly Training Schedule : published by S-3 Section 3rd Battalion 6th
Infantry.

Interviews : Personal interviews and common knowledge of members of the
3rd Bn collected and screened by the Public Information Of-
fice.