
BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SIXTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

BORN in the stormy years of the formation of the United States, nurtured on the soul-filling ideals which were to make our country great, reaching maturity to fight in every great conflict since the War of 1812, the Sixth Infantry Colors now fly proudly in the battered city of Berlin—outpost of freedom 105 miles behind the Iron Curtain.

Three regiments have held the designation 6th Infantry since 1798. The first 6th Infantry was created 16 July 1798, and deactivated 14 May 1800. The second 6th Infantry was constituted 12 April 1808, and consolidated with the 16th, 22d, 23d, and 32d regiments to form the 2d Infantry. The third 6th Infantry was constituted as the 11th Infantry by Act of Congress on 11 January 1812, and was organized in March of that year in Vermont, New Hampshire and Connecticut. It participated in the battles of Canada, Chippewa, and Lundy's Lane in the War of 1812.

The Regiment has borne the number Six since 3 March 1815, when an Act of Congress brought about a consolidation of the 11th Infantry, then stationed at Sacketts Harbor, New York, with the 25th and 37th at the same station, the 27th at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, and the 29th at Plattsburg, New York.

The earliest of the eleven Indian campaigns credited to the Sixth was Dakota 1823, during which six companies took part in an attack on the Arickaree Towns on the Missouri River. Two other campaigns against the Indians — the Black Hawks at Bad Axe River in 1832 and the Seminoles at Lake Okeechobee in 1837 — prepared the Sixth for its part in the Mexican War.

At the outbreak of hostilities in 1846 the Sixth was poised on the Mexican border. Battle honors were won in the battles of Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Churubusco, Molino del Rey and Chapultepec.

After July 1848 the Regiment's mission was in the West, protecting supply trains, scouting, and engaging the Indians. Company A was awarded a silver band engraved "Indian Wars, Nevada 1860," for its service at this time. In March 1862 the Regiment was committed to battle again. This time it fought through the course of the Civil War and earned seven additional streamers for participation in the battles of Peninsula, Manassas, Antietam, Virginia 1862, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. After the war the Regiment was stationed in the Department of the South until 1869 when some of the companies moved westward again to campaign against the Indians.

After about 20 years of battles with the Indians, coupled with garrison duty in the West, the Sixth became part of the forces that later fought in Cuba during the Spanish-American War and participated in the battle for Santiago. It sailed then to the Philippine Islands to help quell the Philippine Insurrection and took part in the battles of Negros 1899 and Panay 1900. It remained in the Islands until May 1902.

In France in World War I, the Regiment trained under the 26th Division in the Toul-Boucq area before joining the 5th Division for battle in the Arnould Sector in June 1918. Battle honors won include Alsace-Lorraine, St. Mihiel, and the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Between World Wars I and II the Regiment trained with the 5th and 6th Divisions. It was selected to become a part of the First Armored Division on 15 July 1940, when it was redesignated 6th Infantry (Armored). It was later broken into separate battalions and redesignated 6th, 11th, and 14th Armored Infantry Battalions. The battles of World War II included Algeria-French Morocco, Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Appennines, Po Valley, and Anzio.

As a result of its heroic action in Italy, Company E was awarded a Distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered Palazzo; the 3d Battalion earned a streamer for its part in the Oran, Algeria, fighting; and the entire Regiment was cited for its role at Mt. Porchia, Italy. The citation awarding the Distinguished Unit Streamer to the Regiment reads:

"The 6th Armored Infantry Regiment, with Company A, 16th Armored Engineer Battalion, attached, is cited for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy at Mt. Porchia, Italy, from 31 December 1943 to 12 January 1944. This Regiment was assigned the mission of seizing and holding Mt. Porchia, a key outlying stronghold before Cassino. The position's obvious tactical value made a stubborn enemy defense a foregone conclusion. Preliminary reconnaissance was meager, since the enemy was particularly sensitive to any activity in the area; however, at 2000 hours on 4 January, the regiment attacked. Enemy resistance exceeded expectations, and from H-hour until 0600 hours on 8 January, two powerful forces exchanged murderous blows. By sheer determination, refusing to stop at anything less than complete possession of the objective, the 6th Armored Infantry Regiment, with Company A, 16th Armored Engineer Battalion, attached, drove back the enemy and held the bitterly won ground. This action adds further laurels to a distinguished infantry regiment and reflects great credit on the United States Army."

On 1 May 1946, the Regiment became a part of the United States Constabulary forces, designated as the 11th, 12th and 14th Constabulary Squadrons. After service with the 1st Armored Division and the United States Constabulary, the Regiment again was reactivated with its original name – the Sixth Infantry – in Berlin on 16 October 1950. Since reactivation, it has been commanded by Brigadier General (then Colonel) Oliver W. Hughes, by Major General (then Colonel) P. D. Ginder, by Brigadier General (then Colonel) George P. Lynch, by Colonel Ben Harrell and now by Colonel Bernd G. Baetcke. Now concluding its fourth year in Berlin, the Regiment has emerged a well-trained, fast moving, hard hitting outfit, proud of its past and ready for whatever the future may have to offer.

BATTLE HONORS

War of 1812

Canada
Chippewa
Lundy's Lane

Mexican War

Vera Cruz
Cerro Gordo
Churubusco
Molino del Rey
Chapultepec

Indian Wars

North Dakota,
1823, 1872, 1873
Blackhawk
Seminoles
Nebraska 1855
Kansas 1857
Little Big Horn
Cheyennes
Utes
Montana 1879

Civil War

Peninsula
Manassas
Antietam
Virginia 1862
Fredericksburg
Chancellorsville
Gettysburg

Spanish-American War

Santiago

Philippine Insurrection

Negros 1899
Panay 1900

World War I

Alsace
Lorraine
St. Mihiel
Meuse Argonne

World War II

Alg.-French Morocco
Tunisia
Naples-Foggia
Rome-Arno
North Apennines
Po Valley
Anzio



DECORATIONS

Entire Regiment – Distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered MT. PORCHIA.
3d Battalion – Distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered ORAN, ALGERIA.
Company A – Silver Band engraved INDIAN WARS, NEVADA 1860.
Company E – Distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered PALAZZO.