

## A HISTORY OF THE OLD GUARD

The "OLD GUARD" traces its lineage back to 1784 when it was constituted as THE FIRST AMERICAN REGIMENT, by "resolve" of the Continental Congress. The 3d Infantry has participated in forty two campaigns in eight wars.

Older than the US Constitution, the 3d Infantry has borne on its roll the names of men who fought with Washington at Valley Forge and Yorktown. It has furnished the nation with a President, and statesmen, and soldiers of renown.

Third Infantry Regiment muskets saw their first engagement in 1794 under General "Mad Anthony" Wayne, when they defeated the Indians at the Battle of Fort Recovery.

In the middle 19th Century, the 3d Infantry saw action again in the Indian Wars against the Florida Seminoles and later in Texas. During this latter time, the Regiment was under the command of General Zachary Taylor, formerly a Major in the 3d Infantry, and later to become President of the United States.

Because of its gallant and vital part in the campaign resulting in the capture of Mexico City, particularly because of its success in storming the heavily defended heights of Chapultepec with fixed bayonets, the 3d Infantry was accorded the honor of marching at the head of the column when the victorious army made its triumphant entry into the city. As the 3d Infantry approached, General Winfield Scott removed his hat and, turning to the members of his staff, said, "Gentlemen, take off your hats to THE OLD GUARD of the Army." It is as "THE OLD GUARD" that the Regiment has been known and honored throughout the army since that time.

During the First Battle of Bull Run of the Civil War, according to Union General McDowell, "The 3d Infantry, by its gallant conduct, unflinching steadiness, and perfect order in covering the flight of the panic stricken Army, saved the Union."

The 3d Infantry saw continuous duty through the taming of the American West.

In World War II, the 3d Infantry, as part of the 106th US Infantry Division, raced across Germany in the closing days of the War, coralling thousands of prisoners in the final drive to victory over the axis powers.

In keeping with its esteemed tradition and glory, the 1st Battalion of the "OLD GUARD" holds the vital assignment of guarding our nations' capital and serving as the Army's official ceremonial unit in the Washington DC area.

Duties of the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry, stationed at Fort Meyer, Virginia, adjacent to the Arlington National Cemetary, include: serving as personal escort to Presidents of the United States; marching as lead element in Inaugural, Armed Forces, and other parades; guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; planning, coordinating and executing State Funerals, and conducting military funerals in Arlington National Cemetary; participating in wreath-laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; participating in arrival and departure ceremonies for American and foreign dignitaries; and performing in various military drills and pageants.

In the battle of Cerro Gordo, Mexico, in 1847, the 3d Infantry Regiment carried the enemy positions in a fearless heroic bayonet charge. In commemoration of that action, the 3d Infantry has been granted permission as the only regular US Army unit authorized to "Pass in Review" with fixed bayonets.

The "OLD GUARD" Fife and Drum Corps was activated on 28 March 1960, to provide music for the 1st Battle Group, 3d Infantry ("THE OLD GUARD") at ceremonial functions. The Corps' colorful costumes are exact reproductions of Revolutionary War Uniforms, and the tunes which they play are taken from authentic music of that period. The Corps also is noted for its use of the colonial drill as formulated in 1779 by Baron Friederich Wilhelm von Steuben, the Prussian General who trained George Washington's soldiers.

The distinguished achievements of the "OLD GUARD" in times of peace and war led to its 2d Battalion being called to duty in the Republic of Vietnam as a major unit of the 199th Infantry Brigade (Sep)(Light) in November 1966. Since deployment in RVN, the enviable record of the "OLD GUARD" speaks for itself and is worthy of emulation. As part of the Nation's oldest Regimental unit, the 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry has taken its stand and made its presence known here in the Republic of Vietnam as noble and courageous Sons of Freedom. Its participation in this struggle for the right of self determination for a people who aspire to the Democratic processes as opposed to totalitarian anarchy is being and will continue to be characterized by the same degree of courage, dependability, and honor which its long and glorious history impels.

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