

2d Infantry Regiment

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On 17 May 1815 in accordance with an Act of Congress the 2nd US Infantry was created by the consolidation of the 6th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd, and 32nd Regiments of Infantry. The date of organization of the present 2nd Infantry is that of the original 6th Infantry, 12 April 1808. The regiment was headquartered at Sackett's Harbor. Colonel Hugh Brady was the regiment's commanding officer with Henry Leavenworth as major and Ninian Pinkney as lieutenant-colonel. For a history of the original 2d Infantry Regiment go to the history of the 1st Infantry Regiment.

The War Department ruled that the present 2nd Infantry bear upon its colors the campaign honors of the regiments consolidated into its organization. Thus, the colors bear the campaign streamers for Canada, Chippawa and Lundy's Lane, even though the regiment did not participate in any of the battles in Canada during the War of 1812. Although there is no connection between the present 2nd Infantry and the original 2d Infantry Regiment the colors bear the two battle honors earned by that regiment. They are for the Miami Campaign (1790-1795) and Alabama 1814⁺

First Indian War Period

The Indian Wars are divided into two distinct periods, east of the Mississippi 1775-1842 and west of the Mississippi 1811-1924. During the first Indian War period the regiment was primarily concerned with manning and constructing forts around the Great Lakes. When the Black Hawk War of 1832 erupted the 2d Infantry was sent to Illinois but did not actually participate in any fighting. When the war ended the regiment returned to its posts on the Great Lakes. During the Second Seminole War, from 1838 to 1842, the regiment was in Florida, where it was on the move daily, scouting, engaging in skirmishes with the Indians, building roads and establishing military installations. The regiments losses were 14 killed and 12 wounded. In 1843 the regiment returned to its old stations on the lakes

War with Mexico

When war broke out with Mexico in 1846, the 2d Infantry Regiment, under the command of LTC Riley, was sent to Camargo, Mexico and joined General David E. Twiggs' Brigade. From September 1846 to December 1847 the regiment campaigned from the Rio Grande to Mexico City. It was part of the amphibious landing and capture of Vera Cruz and fought in battles at Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Churubusco, Moline del Rey and Chapultepec. The regiment suffered 33 killed and 132 wounded in the war. The regiment had a cannon rammer captured at the Castle of San Juan de'Ulua at Vera Cruz made into a cane and presented it to Colonel Brady upon their return to the United States. (The cane is now in the possession of the Detroit Historical Museum.)

Second Indian War Period

In September 1848 because of conflicts with the Indians in Oregon and California the regiment was sent west. The regiment sailed to California via Rio de Janeiro, Cape Horn and Valparaiso, Chile. Between 1849 and 1853 the regiment occupied stations from Goose Lake on the north to Fort Yuma on the south and the Pacific Ocean on the west and the Sierra Nevada Mountains on the east, providing protection for the 49'ers, constructing forts and campaigning throughout the entire area. In November 1853 the regiment was ordered to return to New York and began returning in December 1853 with the last companies arriving back in New York in September 1854. During the campaign in California 2 soldiers were killed and 3 wounded.

In 1855 the regiment was sent to Minnesota Territory and then on to Nebraska and Dakota Territories where it was occupied in the constructing or reconstructing of forts, building roads and scouting the hills and plains along the Missouri

River as far west as Fort Kearny, Nebraska and Fort Laramie, Wyoming. During this period the regiment established Forts Lookout, Larned, Randall and Abercrombie. The regiment's involvement in the Second Indian War period continued after the Civil War.

American Civil War

During the Civil War the 2d Infantry was involved in some of the first fighting of the war that took place at Jefferson City, Dug Springs and Wilson's Creek in Missouri and the first Battle of Bull Run. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and fought in numerous major engagements such as Manassas, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg. By June 1864 the commissioned and enlisted strength of the regiment had reached such a low figure, less than 100 men that in accordance with the request of the regimental commander the remaining enlisted men were transferred to Company C, and that company was given a full complement of officers, non-commissioned officers. From then until December 1864 the entire regiment consisted of just Company C. 1st Sergeant Daniel W. Burke, of Company B, was awarded a Medal of Honor for his actions during the war. The regiment suffered 102 killed and 326 wounded during the Civil War.

On 18 April 1869 the 2d Infantry was consolidated with the 16th Infantry and the consolidated unit was designated as the 2d Infantry Regiment. The 2d Infantry bears 9 battle honors from the Southern Campaign through its 1869 consolidation with the 16th Infantry. This unit was present at battles in that sector, including Atlanta, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Georgia 1864, Kentucky 1862, Mississippi 1862, Murfreesboro, Shiloh and Tennessee 1863.

Between the end of the war in 1865 and 1877 the regiment was deployed throughout the south enforcing the "Reconstruction" laws. On 10 February 1877 2d Lieutenant Augustine McIntye was brutally murdered in Gelnier County, Georgia while in command of a detachment acting as a posse with two U. S. Marshals and revenue officers engaged in arresting illicit distillers.

Second Indian War Period (continued)

Following the Civil War the regiment's involvement in what is considered the Second Indian War Period continued. From 1877 to 1886 the regiment was in Washington, Oregon and Idaho Territory campaigning against the Nez Perce, the Bannocks and then a band of the Eastern Shoshone's called the Sheepeaters. The regiment established Camp Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Forts Sherman and Spokane in Washington. During this entire period, the regiment suffered 1 soldier killed, 2 wounded, 1 death by drowning and 10 deaths by other causes. In 1886 the 2d Infantry moved to Fort Omaha in Nebraska to help fight the Sioux. The 2d Infantry was on the Pine Ridge Reservation on 29 December 1890 when the Wounded Knee Massacre occurred and although the regiment was not involved one officer from the regiment was wounded there. On the same day, in a separate attack by the Sioux Indians, 3 soldiers from the regiment were wounded. The regiment remained on the western plains until 1898.

Spanish–American War

In June 1898 the regiment was deployed to Cuba at the start of the Spanish–American War, with Headquarters, Band and Companies C and G sailing on the same ship with the Rough Riders. The regiment, under the command of LTC William Wherry, regimental commander COL John C. Bates had been promoted to brigadier general of volunteers, fought in battles along the road to San Juan Heights and on the extreme left of San Juan Heights and also in the battle of Santiago. In August 1898, the regiment returned to the United States only to return to Cuba in April-May 1899. The regiment stayed in Cuba until September 1899 when it returned to the United States to prepare for deployment to the Philippines. The regiment suffered 22 dead and 50 wounded during their campaign in Cuba. At the time of the Spanish-American War actual battalions were established. Prior to that regiments and battalions were one and the same

Philippine Insurrection

In September 1900 the 2d Infantry less the 1st Battalion deployed to the Philippines to deal with the insurrections during which it fought in over 25 engagements on several of the islands. Three soldiers were killed and twelve wounded between 4 November 1900 and 10 February 1902. The 1st Battalion arrived in the Philippines in May 1902. The war officially ended on 4 July 1902, however, some groups continued to battle the American forces for several more years. In May 1903 the regiment returned to duty in the western United States, it was stationed at Fort Logan, Colorado and Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming. In February 1906 the regiment redeployed to the Philippines and remained there until returning to the United States in March 1908. The 3rd Battalion went to Fort Assiniboine, Montana and the balance of the regiment went to Fort Thomas, Kentucky for training and garrison duties until deploying to Hawaii in 1911.

World War I

When war broke out, the regiment was assigned security duty in the Hawaiian Islands guarding interned German ships and sailors, as well as various US installations. On 18 November 1917, the regiment less Machine Gun Company and a detachment from Company H turned out for the funeral of Hawaii's ex-queen Lilioukalani. In July 1918, it returned to the United States and was assigned to the 19th Division at Camp Dodge, Iowa. The war ended just as the regiment was about to deploy to France. In 1919, the 2d Infantry was relieved from the 19th Division and resumed as a separate regiment.

Post World War I

In September 1919 following its release from the 19th Division the regiment was stationed at Camp Sherman, Ohio. In October 1921 the regiment was ordered to Fort Sheridan, Illinois but as they reached their destination the 2d and 3rd Battalions were eliminated and Headquarters and 1st Battalion remained as a training regiment. In August 1922 the regiment was redesignated a combat regiment and the 2d and 3rd Battalions were reorganized using personnel from the 54th Infantry. In March 1923 the regiment was assigned to the 6th Division. Headquarters and 1st Battalion stay at Fort Sheridan, 2d Battalion at Fort Wayne (Detroit), Michigan and 3rd Battalion at Fort Brady, Michigan. On 19 June 1936 a new distinctive unit insignia was authorized. Between August 1922 and October 1939 no major changes were made to the regiment and the regiment participated in the usual garrison duties, maneuvers, field training and other duties.

World War II

In October 1939 prior to the United States involvement in the war the regiment was assigned to the 5th Infantry Division. In February 1942 the regiment was sent to Iceland for training, to provide security for U. S. bases located there and to load and unload supply ships. In August 1943 the regiment was sent to England and then to Ireland for training. On 9 July 1944 the regiment along with the 5th Infantry Division landed on Utah Beach in Normandy, France. It became part of General George Patton's Third United States Army, leading the way in the breakout from the beaches of Normandy in Operation Cobra, capturing Rheims and then seized Metz after a major battle at Fort Driant. On 13 July 1944 SSG Robert Bass was killed by enemy artillery fire, he was the first KIA of the war from the 2d Infantry and also the 5th Division. Between 12 and 14 November 1944 Company E, 2 Battalion was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for its defense of the town of Sanry-Sur-Nied and bridge across the Nied River. Companies of the 92d Regiment of the 21st SS Panzer Grenadier Division made six attempts to retake the bridge which was an asset to the 2d Infantry's advance toward Metz.

When the Battle of the Bulge began the regiment moved to the battle zone in the area of Nideranven, Luxembourg. In January 1945 the 2d Infantry Regiment forced a crossing of the Sauer River and attacked into the Siegfried Line. The regiment crossed the Rhine River near Oppenheim and secured the crossing for other Third Army units. The unit then led the attack into Czechoslovakia and was located near the town of Volary when the word came to cease all forward movement at 0831 hours on the 7th of May 1945. In securing Volary soldiers of the regiment along with others liberated a concentration camp where Jewish women were being held. In 276 days of combat the regiment captured 275 cities and

towns, crossed 20 rivers and captured 22,103 of the enemy, the regiment suffered 906 killed, 2736 wounded and 295 missing or prisoner of war. Twelve Distinguished Service Crosses, 184 Silver Stars and 664 Bronze Stars were awarded to soldiers of the regiment.

Post World War II

Following World War II the regiment returned to the United States and was inactivated September 1946, it was then activated July 1947 until April 1950 when it was again inactivated. In March 1951 the regiment was activated at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania as a training regiment, it was inactivated September 1953. In May 1954 it was activated in Germany with the reflagging of the 172d Infantry Regiment. It remained in Germany until January 1956 when it was transferred to the United States; all of the activations were with the 5th Infantry Division. In June 1957 at the time of the Pentomic reorganization the regiment was stationed at Fort Ord, California with the 5th Infantry Division, serving as a training regiment. The 2d Battalion was reorganized and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battle Group, 2d Infantry and released from assignment with 5th Infantry Division and assigned to the 1st Infantry Division. During the 2d Battle Groups time assigned to the 1st Division they were called "RAMS" and had a ram, named Sam the Ram, as a mascot. It was given to them by Kansas State College located in Manhattan, Kansas. At this time both the 1st and 3rd Battalions were inactivated. In January 1959 the 2d Battle Group was reassigned to the 24th Infantry Division in Germany.

On 19 March 1959 the 3rd Battalion, 2d Infantry was redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battle Group, 2d Infantry, withdrawn from the Regular Army, allotted to the Army Reserve and assigned to the 83rd Infantry Division (organic elements concurrently constituted). The Battle Group was activated 20 March 1959 with Headquarters at Columbus, Ohio (concurrently consolidated with the 332rd Infantry and the consolidated unit designated 3rd Battle Group, 2d Infantry). The battle group was reorganized and redesignated 15 April 1963 as the 3rd Battalion, 2d Infantry and it was inactivated 31 December 1965 at Columbus, Ohio.

In February 1962 the 1st Battalion was activated and assigned to the 2d Brigade, 5th Infantry Division. The 2d Battalion was reorganized and redesignated and concurrently relieved from assignment to the 24th Infantry Division and also assigned to the 2d Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, both battalions were stationed at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. On 27 March 1963 the 4th Battalion, 2d Infantry was withdrawn from the Regular Army, allotted to the Army Reserve and assigned to the 83rd Infantry Division (organic elements concurrently constituted). The battalion was activated 15 April 1963 with Headquarters at Newark, Ohio it was inactivated 31 December 1965.

Vietnam

With the fighting in Vietnam escalating the change in assignment from NATO reinforcement to counterinsurgency in Vietnam, the 1st Infantry Division was restructured, battle groups were redesignated as infantry battalions and the requirements for 9 infantry battalions arose. When the division received orders to deploy to Vietnam it was told to leave its 2 armored battalions behind, therefore the division was in need of two more infantry battalions. As no pool of unassigned maneuver battalions existed, on 12 July 1965, two infantry battalions, the 1st and 2d Battalions, 2d Infantry from the 2d Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, at Fort Devens, Massachusetts were assigned to the 1st Infantry Division with no change of station. The 1st Infantry Division also reorganized its two mechanized infantry battalions as standard infantry, bringing the number of infantry battalions in the division to nine. In September 1965 the two battalions deployed to Vietnam, arriving off the coast of South Vietnam in October 1965 and landed on the beach at Vung Tau and from there proceeded to their assigned areas, The 1st Battalion went to Phouc Vinh and the 2d Battalion to Lai Khe. The battalions initially fought as light infantry in the areas North and West of Saigon. In the July 1966 it was determined that mechanized infantry would work in Vietnam so the 2d Battalion was assigned the task of becoming mechanized, this took place from 17 July-31 December 1966. On 2 January 1967 the 2d Battalion officially became a mechanized infantry battalion; it was the first one in the 1st Division in Vietnam.

The first major battles were fought by the 2d Battalion at Ap Bau Bang on 12 November 1965 and Ap Nha Mat on 5 December 1965. Heavy losses were suffered at Ap Nha Mat with 41 killed and over 100 wounded and 3 soldiers still listed

as missing. The 1st Battalion sustained its first major casualties of the war on 21 December 1965 when the enemy ambushed the command group of Company B as the company was moving out of Bien Hoa on routine patrol. On 25 August 1966 a patrol from Company C, 1st Battalion became involved in what became known as the Battle of Bong Trang, losses were heavy for both sides.

During the four and a half year deployment the battalions were involved in major operations such as: Junction City, the largest operation conducted up to that time, Lam Son II, Paul Bunyan, Bu Dop, AKA Battle of Hill 172, An Loc and An Loc II, plus numerous other operations and small unit actions. It is difficult to detail all of the 2 battalion's actions in Vietnam because contact with the enemy was almost daily. Most engagements were sudden, quick and furious with the battalions winning the day. In March/April 1970 when the 1st Infantry Division stood down the 1st and 2d Battalion's colors were cased and the soldiers were either reassigned to other units in Vietnam or returned to the United States to be discharged. SGT Candelario Garcia, Company B, 1/2 and SSG James Bondsteel, Company A, 2/2 received a Medal of Honor for their actions in Vietnam. Losses were 276 killed from the 1st Battalion and 266 from the 2d Battalion. Two Medals of Honor, Thirteen Distinguished Service Cross's and numerous Silver and Bronze Stars were awarded to soldiers of the 1st and 2d Battalion's.

Two soldiers from the 1st Battalion and three soldiers from the 2d Battalion are still listed as body not recovered, Casualty Type: Hostile, died while missing.

"BLACK SCARVES"

On 24 April 1966 the first day of Operation Birmingham the 1st Battalion was engaged in fighting with the enemy and it was during this time that a large quantity of black cloth was captured. This cloth was used by the Viet Cong to make their "Black Pajama" uniforms. At the direction of battalion commander, LTC Richard Prillaman, this cloth was made into scarves to be worn by the battalion's soldiers. LTC Prillaman wanted to be able to distinguish his battalion from other division soldiers and to provide the soldiers with something more appropriate than the towels the men were wearing around their necks. It is from this that the battalion has as its nickname "Black Scarves". The printing on the scarves was a different color for each company: HHC, yellow, Company A, red, Company B, white, Company C, blue and Company D, green.

"IRON FIST"

The following statement was in a press release from Headquarters, 1st Infantry Division, in January 1968 describing the 2d Battalion's accomplishments. "The 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry (Mechanized) *The Iron Fist of the Big Red One* is one of the most versatile units in the First Division. The use of armored personnel carriers for fast ground deployment adds greatly to the battalions reactionary capabilities." The 2d Battalion soldier called themselves "Iron Fists" from that time until the battalion returned to the United States and was inactivated in 1970.

Post-Vietnam

In early April 1970 an honor guard returned the 1st and 2d Battalion's colors to Fort Riley, Kansas and on 15 April the 2d Battalion was inactivated. The 1st Battalion remained active at Fort Riley and was made a mechanized unit. In October 1970 the 1st Battalion, along with the entire division, participated in Operation Reforger II in Germany. Following the operation the 1st Battalion returned to Fort Riley and remained with the 1st Infantry Division until it was inactivated on 1 October 1983.

On 21 March 1973 the 2d Battalion was relieved from assignment to the 1st Infantry Division and reassigned to the 9th Infantry Division. It was activated at Fort Lewis, Washington with the reflagging of the 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry. On 6 November 1987 the 2d Battalion was reactivated as a "Motorized" Combined Arms Battalion-Heavy (CAB-H). On 17 June 1988 the 2d Battalion was inactivated and then in August 1988 was activated with the reflagging of the 3rd Battalion, 60th

Infantry, still with the 9th Division. In May 1991 the 2d Battalion was inactivated and relieved from assignment to the 9th Infantry Division.

On 16 February 1996 the 2d Battalion was reassigned to the 1st Infantry Division and on 27 March was activated at Rose Barracks, Vilseck, Germany as Task Force 2/2 Infantry with the reflagging of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, which was a mechanized battalion. The 2d Battalion deployed to Bosnia in support of operation Joint Guard in 1996. In 1997 the battalion was awarded the Army Superior Unit Award for actions such as the Brcko riots and Hill 562. The 2d Battalion redeployed to Vilseck in October 1997. On the 24th of November 1999, the battalion deployed to Camp Monteith, Kosovo. The battalion was redeployed to Vilseck in June 2000. The unit was again deployed to Camp Monteith, Kosovo in November 2002 until July 2003 as the last regular Army unit conducting operations. The National Guard took formal command of operations from the 2d Battalion. . Four soldiers of the battalion were injured during the Brcko Riots and were awarded Purple Hearts.

War on Terrorism

1st Battalion

On 17 March 2008, for the first time in over 24 years, the 1st Battalion was activated in Schweinfurt, Germany with the reflagging of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry. 1-18 was a part of 2d "Dagger" Brigade, 1st Infantry Division which was also reflagged as the 172d Infantry Brigade (Separate). The 1st Battalion was assigned to 172d Infantry Brigade and was a mechanized infantry battalion. The battalion adopted the motto "Back in Black" and the soldiers began to wear black scarves in recognition of the battalion's service in Vietnam.

In December 2008 the 1st Battalion (TF 1-2) deployed to Iraq and suffered its first casualty occurred in April 2009 when a soldier was killed by an IED. In late October 2009 the first elements of the 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry and the 172d Infantry Brigade began returning to Germany. By mid-November the entire battalion was back in Germany. TF 1-2 suffered four killed and three wounded during its deployment. The 1st Battalion had a change of command on 19 May 2010 and along with the entire 172d Infantry Brigade moved to Grafenwoehr, Germany.

In late July 2011 the 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry (TF 1-2) along with the entire 172d Infantry Brigade deployed to Afghanistan. The transfer of authority from 1st Battalion, 61st Cavalry (101st Airborne Division) to Task Force 1-2 Infantry (TF 1-2) occurred on 13 August 2011 at 10:00. TF 1-2 was detached from the 172d and was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and was in control of Western Nangarhar.

On 14 August 2011 the 1st Battalion sustained its first casualties when two soldiers from Company A were killed by an IED while recovering a damaged vehicle. Company A, 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry has been attached to TF 3-66 Armor since 2008. Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor (attached) worked in the Zio Haq area and Company B, 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry fought at FOB Altimur.

On 24 November 2011, the Black Scarves were ordered to move from Nangarhar to FOB Andar in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan to conduct a relief in place with the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry. This was the first time since the Vietnam War that the two battalions had been together in the same location. On 3 January 2012 at 10:30 the transfer of authority between the two units occurred. Following the ceremony the 2d Battalion began departing Afghanistan.

In early June 2012 the 1st Battalion began departing Afghanistan and returned to their base in Grafenwoehr, Germany with the last troops arriving back in Germany on 19 June. Task Force 1-2 suffered over 15 wounded during their latest deployment and A 1-2 suffered 2 KIA's and 3 wounded while attached to Task Force 3-66 Armor. Since returning to Germany the battalion had been training and conducting EIB testing. The battalion was inactivated on 15 June 2013 along with the entire 172d Infantry Brigade.

2d Battalion

In April 2003 with Operation Iraqi Freedom under way, Company B, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry deployed to Bashur Airfield in Northern Iraq as part of 173rd Airborne Brigade Task Force 1-63 ARMOR, to aid in opening a northern front in Iraq. This was called Operation Airborne Dragon, Northern Iraq, with the entire Task Force being air lifted from Germany. Company B as well as the entire Task Force returned to Germany in February 2004.

In the spring of 2004 the 2d Battalion, less Company B, deployed to Iraq with the 1st Infantry Division. On 20 July 2004 SSG Raymond Bittinger, 3rd Platoon, Company C, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry was awarded a Silver Star for leadership and heroism under fire on 9 April 2004 in Baqubah, Iraq. SSG Bittinger was the first soldier of the 1st Infantry Division to receive a Silver Star during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In November 2004 Task Force 2-2, which comprised HHC, Company A, and Scouts of the 2/2, Company A, 1/63 Armor, 2d Platoon, Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, 63d Armor, 2d Platoon, Company A, 82d Engineer Battalion and Troop F, 4 Cavalry fought alongside US Marines in the Battle of Fallujah. Task Force 2-2 also fought at Al Muqdadiyah, An Najaf, Al Fallujah, Mosul, and Baqubah. Task Force 2-2 received a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions in the Battle of Fallujah.

The 2d Battalion returned to Germany in February 2005. In May 2006 the battalion was disbanded and the colors were cased. During the period from February 1996 to May 2006 the battalion had operated as a mechanized infantry battalion.

On 19 April 2007 the 2d Battalion was activated as a light infantry battalion with the 1st Infantry Division, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Fort Hood, Texas.

In June 2008 the 2d Battalion, along with the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, deployed to Afghanistan. The battalion conducted operations in the Maywand District of Kandahar Province. On 4 September 2008 Company C, 2d Battalion suffered its first casualties when a Humvee was hit by an IED.

In May 2009 after enduring many hardships, including IED's, a suicide bomber with 12 soldiers wounded and 4 killed the troops and civilians constructed and dedicated a new chapel at FOB Ramrod. The 2d Battalion returned to Fort Hood in June 2009. On 10 September 2009 the 2d Battalion had a change of command and on 16 October 2009 the battalion along with the entire 3rd Brigade Combat Team moved to Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In January 2011 the 2d Battalion, along with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team once again deployed to Afghanistan. The battalion conducted operations in Ghazni Province. On 27 February 2011 the battalion sustained its first casualties when one soldier was killed and four wounded by an IED. In its one-year deployment the 2d Battalion suffered 3 killed and 49 wounded while conducting over 1900 combat patrols and 22 air assaults as they and their Afghani partners captured 111 caches and killed 250 insurgents. On 3 January 2012 following a change of authority ceremony with the 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry the 2d Battalion began departing Afghanistan. Since returning the Fort Knox the 2d Battalion had been in training for its next deployment to Afghanistan.

On 17 January 2013 after years of being in a museum and storage the "Ramrod" was once again, through the efforts of the battalion commander LTC Eric Lopez and CSM John Morales, in a place that all can see it. At a ceremony held at Fort Knox in the George Patton Museum the "Ramrod" was presented to the soldiers of both battalions and guests. Since the 2d Battalion inactivation and reassignment to the 10th Mountain Division the Baton has been returned to the museum at Fort Riley.

In June 2013 the 2d Battalion once again deployed to Afghanistan. The battalion took responsibility for the security forces assistance team mission in Zabul Province at a TOA ceremony when it relieves the 5th Troop, 7th Cavalry. During the uncasing of the 2d Battalion colors the battalion commander stated, "the Ramrods have a daunting task but its effects will create a lasting impact for the future of Zabul Province and ultimately for Afghanistan". The battalion operated out of FOB Apache and was involved in conducting patrols and training the Afghan National Army soldiers.

On 27 February 2014 it was announced that following a transfer of authority ceremony with the 2d Battalion, 12 Infantry the 2d Battalion left FOB Apache in Afghanistan and has returned to Fort Knox. Following the battalions return to the US it was announced that the battalion along with the entire 3rd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division would be inactivated and on 21 May 2014 a colors casing ceremony was held at Fort Knox.

On 13 January 2015 Company D 2d Battalion was activated as part of the 4th BSTB, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division on 13 January 2015 in a ceremony on Fort Polk's Mountain Field. Company D was being activated as a "provisional" company, attached to the 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, in support of a security support tasking for SOUTHCOM. The mission will consist of CPT Andrews as the D Co Commander, SFC Ramos as the 1SG/NCOIC, and about 50 Soldiers selected from 2-4 IN, 2-30 IN & 3-89 CAV, all units from within 4-10 MTN. They performed security duties in support of humanitarian operations, within the SOUTHCOM AOR. Their mission is from FEB-AUG 2015, and when they return to Fort Polk, they will "officially" become part of 2d Battalion 2d Infantry. In February Company D, 2d Battalion deployed with the USNS Comfort on a seven month humanitarian mission to the Caribbean.

The official uncasing of the colors and Assumption of Command ceremony for the 2d Battalion was held on 3 September 2015 at Fort Polk, LA. Company D returned from their 7 month deployment on the USNS Comfort on 30 September 2015.

On 21 March 2016 the Department of the Army announced that the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, stationed in Fort Polk, Louisiana, will be associated with the Texas Army National Guard's 36th Infantry Division

At a ceremony held on 16 September 2016 the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain "Patriots" remove their 10th Mountain Division patch and place on the highly regarded T patch of the 36th Infantry Division. The partnership of these two units will help increase the readiness and responsiveness of the U.S. Army as a total force. Since that time the brigade and battalion has reverted back to the 10th Mountain Division and wear that division's patch.

On 19 April 2017 LTC John Newman assumed command of the 2d Battalion from LTC Aaron Coombs. Beginning in Mid-September 2017 the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry along with other elements of the 3d Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division began deploying to Iraq for a 9 month tour. They will be replacing the 2d Brigade Combat Team of the 82d Airborne Division.

June 2018 the 2d Battalion began returned to Fort Polk from Iraq after a 9 month tour.

22 March 2019 LTC Andrew Sinden assumed command of the 2d Battalion from LTC John Newman at a change of command ceremony held at Fort Polk, LA.

Medal of Honor Recipients

First Sergeant Daniel W. Burke, Company B, received the Medal of Honor for his actions on 20 September 1862 at Shepherdstown Ford, Virginia. He did not receive the medal until 21 April 1892. <http://www.cmozs.org/recipient-detail/197/burke-daniel-w.php>

Staff Sergeant James Leroy Bondsteel, Company A, 2d Battalion, for his actions in An Loc Province, Vietnam, on 24 May 1969. In June 1999 the major U.S. Army base in Kosovo was opened, it was named Camp Bondsteel in his honor. <http://www.cmozs.org/recipient-detail/3234/bondsteel-james-leroy.php>

Sergeant Candelario Garcia Jr. was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on 18 March 2014 for his courageous actions while serving as an acting team leader for Company B, 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Lai Khe, Republic of Vietnam on December 8, 1968. Sergeant Garcia was originally awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions. <http://www.cmozs.org/recipient-detail/3495/garcia-candelario.php>

David Bellavia was awarded the Medal of Honor on 25 June 2019 for his actions during the second Battle of Fallujah in November 2004 while serving as a Staff Sergeant with Company A, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. His is one of now seven Operation Iraqi Freedom Medal of Honor recipients, all which have been awarded posthumously to date. He was originally awarded a Silver Star for his actions. <http://www.cmozs.org/recipient-detail/3530/bellavia-david-g.php>

Two officers who would later become executive officers of the 2d Infantry received the Medal of Honor for their actions during the Civil War:

Major General Henry C. Merriam, for his conspicuous gallantry at Fort Blakely, Alabama, 9 April 1865 while in command of the 73d U.S. Colored Troops. As a lieutenant colonel, Merriam was executive officer of the 2d Infantry from June 1876 to July 1885. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. <http://www.cmozs.org/recipient-detail/914/merriam-henry-c.php>

Brigadier General William M. Wherry, for his actions at Wilson Creek on 10 August 1861 while serving as a first lieutenant with Company D, 3d U.S. Reserve Missouri Infantry. As a lieutenant colonel, Wherry was executive officer of the 2d Infantry from December 1894 to December 1898 and commanded the regiment in the absence of Colonel John Bates during its deployment to Cuba in 1898 during the Spanish-American War. <http://www.cmozs.org/recipient-detail/1464/wherry-william-m.php>

Casualties

Casualty lists for all the conflicts that both the original 2d Infantry and the present 2nd Infantry has fought in from 1791 until the present can be found at <https://secinfreg.org/>

Heraldry

Coat of Arms

Blazon:

Shield: Or on a saltire Azure between in fess a cross pattée and a five-bastioned fort Gules and in base a giant cactus Vert, two arrows in a quiver Proper crossed with a bolo Argent hilted Sable.

Crest: On a wreath of the colors a lion passant guardant Or.

Motto: NOLI ME TANGERE (Do Not Touch Me).

Symbolism:

Shield: Service in the Civil War is shown by the blue cross from the Confederate flag and the red cross pattée, the badge of the 18th Division, V Corps, in which the regiment served during the greater part of that war. Service in the Mexican War is shown by the cactus; in the War with Spain by the five-bastioned fort, the badge of the V Corps in Cuba. The Indian campaigns of the regiment are shown by the arrows and quiver, and the bolo is for service in the Philippine Insurrection.

Crest: The lion represents the Canadian campaigns of the War of 1812.

Background: The coat of arms was approved on 6 June 1921.

Distinctive Unit Insignia

A Gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86 cm) in height consisting of a shield blazoned: Or, on a saltire Azure between in fess a cross pattée and a five-bastioned fort Gules and in base a giant cactus Vert, two arrows in a quiver Proper crossed with a bolo Argent hilted Sable. Attached below the shield is a Blue scroll inscribed "NOLI ME TANGERE" in Gold letters.

Symbolism: Service in the Civil War is shown by the blue cross from the Confederate flag and the red cross pattée, the badge of the 18th Division, V Corps, in which the regiment served during the greater part of that war. Service in the Mexican War is shown by the cactus; in the War with Spain by the five-bastioned fort, the badge of the V Corps in Cuba. The Indian campaigns of the regiment are shown by the arrows and quiver, and the bolo is for service in the Philippine Insurrection.

Background: The first design for the distinctive unit insignia of the 2d Infantry Regiment was approved on 20 February 1920. That design was cancelled and the present design authorized for the Regiment on 19 June 1936.

Regiment Motto

The motto, "NOLI ME TANGERE" (Do Not Touch Me), was first applied in 1792 when Major General Anthony Wayne requested Secretary of War Henry Knox to send the newly formed Legion of the United States a legion standard and a standard for each of the four sub-legions. Each standard was to have this motto on a ribbon on the flag. This motto was carried over following the 1815 consolidations and became part of the present 2d Infantry Regiment's coat of arms and distinctive unit insignia.

Baton

On 20 February 1843, LTC Bennett Riley, who in the absence of Colonel Brady, commanded the 2d Infantry through the Seminole and Mexican Wars presented the regiment with a drum major's baton with a silver knob inscribed with the date of presentation, the name of the officer giving it and the regimental motto, "Noli Me Tangere." At the time of presentation Headquarters and Companies C, D, F and K were stationed at Buffalo Barracks, New York. During the heroic assault to capture the fortress at Chapultapec, Mexico in September 1847 Sergeant Major Samuel C. Green broke the baton when he struck an enemy soldier in the head. The flagstaff from that fortress was used to replace the broken wood on the baton, with the silver mountings transferred to it. Also additional silver bands made from a tea set captured at the fortress were placed on the baton, one of them inscribed that the baton was made from the flag staff captured at Chapultapec. It has been stated that the baton was originally made from either a cannon rammer or cypress wood from Florida, neither can be confirmed. The baton is considered the symbol of the Regiment's nickname: "**Ramrods**" and is the most cherished regimental relic. The baton had been in the constant possession of the regiment from 1843 until sometime in the 1990's when it was placed in the 1st Infantry Division Museum at Wurzburg, Germany. In 2007 it was transferred to the 1st Infantry Division Museum at Fort Riley, Kansas and in late 2012 it was transferred to the Patton Museum at Fort Knox, Kentucky, placed on display for a period of time and has since been returned to the museum at Fort Riley.

Lineage

The most current lineage for the 2d Infantry Regiment and the 1st and 2d Battalions can be found on the US Army Center of Military History web site or at the following links;

2d Infantry Regiment

<http://www.history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lineages/branches/inf/0002in.htm>

1st Battalion, 2d Infantry Regiment

<http://www.history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lineages/branches/inf/0002in001bn.htm>

2d Battalion, 2d Infantry Regiment

<http://www.history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lineages/branches/inf/0002in002bn.htm>

Campaign Participation

War of 1812:

Canada; Chippewa; Lundy's Lane; Alabama 1814

Mexican War:

Vera Cruz; Cerro Gordo; Contreras; Churubusco; Molino del Rey; Chapultepec

Civil War:

Bull Run; Peninsula; Shiloh; Manassas; Antietam; Fredericksburg; Murfreesborough; Chancellorsville; Gettysburg; Chickamauga; Chattanooga; Wilderness; Atlanta; Spotsylvania; Cold Harbor; Petersburg; Missouri 1861; Kentucky 1862; Mississippi 1862; Virginia 1862; Virginia 1863; Tennessee 1863; Georgia 1864

Indian Wars:

Miami; Seminoles; Nez Perces; Bannocks; Pine Ridge; California 1850; California 1851; California 1852

War with Spain:

Santiago

Philippine Insurrection:

Streamer without inscription

World War II:

Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe

Vietnam:

Defense; Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase II; Counteroffensive, Phase III; Tet Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase IV; Counteroffensive, Phase V; Counteroffensive, Phase VI; Tet 69/Counteroffensive; Summer-Fall 1969; Winter-Spring 1970

War on Terrorism

Afghanistan:

Consolidation III

Iraq:

Transition of Iraq

Iraqi Governance

Decorations

Regiment

- Presidential Unit Citation (Army) for FALLUJAH 2004 (HHC, Company A)
- Valorous Unit Award for AP BAU BANG 1965 (HHC, Company A)
- Valorous Unit Award for BINH DUONG PROVINCE 1965
- Valorous Unit Award for BINH LONG PROVINCE 1969
- Army Superior Unit Award for 1997

1st Battalion

- Meritorious Unit Commendation, IRAQ 2008-2009
- Meritorious Unit Commendation, AFGHANISTAN August 2011-June 2012
- Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm for VIETNAM 1965-1968
- Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm for VIETNAM 1969
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class for VIETNAM 1965-1970
- Company A entitled to: Valorous Unit Award for AN LOC 1969
- Company A entitled to: Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ OCT 2008-SEP 2009

2d Battalion

- Presidential Unit Citation for FALLUJAH 2004 (HHC, Company A)
- Valorous Unit Award for AP BAU BANG 1965 (HHC, Company A)
- Valorous Unit Award for BINH DUONG PROVINCE 1965
- Valorous Unit Award for BINH LONG PROVINCE 1969
- Valorous Unit Award for AN NAJAF PROVINCE 2004
- Meritorious Unit Commendation for GHAZNI PROVINCE February 2011-January 2012
- Meritorious Unit Commendation for AFGHANISTAN July 2013-February 2014
- Army Superior Unit Award for 1997
- Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm for VIETNAM 1965-1968
- Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm for VIETNAM 1969
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class for VIETNAM 1965-1970
- Company C: Valorous Unit Award for BINH LONG PROVINCE 1968
- Detachment Company B: Valorous Unit Award for AFGHANISTAN 17 June 2013-1 November 2013

The following awards were earned by companies of the 2d Battalion in World War II.

- Company E entitled to DUC embroidered SANRY SUR NIED. (WD GO 68, 1945)
- Company E entitled to Fr CdeG with Palm embroidered SANRY SUR NIED. (DA GO 43, 1950)
- 1st Section, 3rd Platoon, Company H entitled to DUC embroidered SANRY SUR NIED. (nondisplayable) (WD GO 68, 1945)

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