

# REED MUSEUM GALLERY GUIDE

## 2D Cavalry Regiment

U.S. ARMY



Since 1836

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PERSONNEL  
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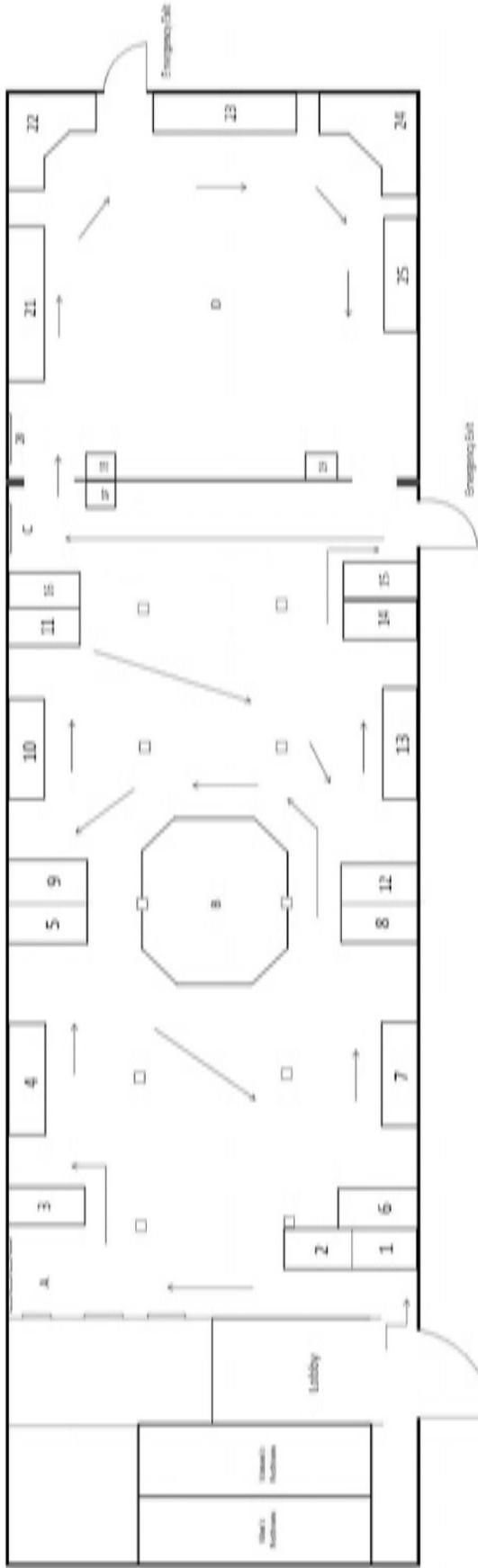
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## The Reed Museum and 2d Regiment of Dragoon's Heritage Center



Museum Entrance

### Self-Guided Tour

1. & 2. Colonel Charles Hancock "Hank" Reed.	9. World War II.	17. Temporary Exhibit Case.
A. Dragoon's Origins: Formation of the Regiment.	10. U.S. Constabulary.	18. Bond of Friendship Case.
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4. The American Civil War.	12. Late Cold War.	D. Traditions Room.
5. The Indian War.	13. Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm.	20. World War II Unit's Standard.
B. Temporary Exhibit Area.	14. Fort Polk, Haiti, & Bosnia.	21. Gifts to the Regiment Case.
6. Cuba, Philippines, & Mexican Border Service.	15. Operation Iraqi Freedom.	22. Dragoon's Book Case.
7. World War I.	16. Operation Enduring Freedom.	23. Honor Guard Case.
8. Interwar Period.	C. Current Operations' Video Display.	24. Regimental Awards Case.
		25. Temporary Exhibit Case.



# History of the Reed Museum

## 1980-Present

The Reed Museum traces its connection to the Regiment to the late 1950's—when Merrill Barracks, Nurnberg, Germany became the Regimental headquarters. Initially called the “Trophy Room”, because of its numerous sports trophies and historic artifacts, the museum primarily functioned as a Regimental command conference room and location for ceremonies and events.

In 1980, the Trophy Room was renamed and dedicated to the 31st Colonel of the Regiment, Col. Charles H. Reed, in honor of over forty years of service to the Regiment and the 2d Cavalry Association. In 2010, the Reed Museum program was reestablished on Rose Barracks; occupying an unused building that originally functioned as a 1930s-era horse stable.



Entrance of the Trophy Room in Merrell Barracks.

On 23 May 2013, the museum reopened with a new gallery that provides Soldiers, families, and friends a chronological history of the Regiment from 1836 to the present.



The Reed Museum today at Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany.

Today it is a great honor for the Regiment to pay homage to its most gallant trooper and Regimental Commander, Colonel Charles Hancock Reed, the 31st Colonel of the Regiment. The deeds of this soldier are without parallel in the 144 year history of this Regiment. He not only organized the Second Dragoons for mounted combat, but fought the Regiment gloriously across France, Germany, and Czechoslovakia during World War II. In these campaigns with minimum losses he killed more enemy, captured more men and material, than any other comparable unit in the United States Army. In the words of our Regimental Philosophy: He clearly demonstrated that he cared the most for his troopers, operated better than any other unit, and covered the Regiment with glory. We honor his memory. He will always live through the deeds of the Regiment. Let all members of this elite fighting fraternity dedicate themselves to his example as we enter the troubled decade of the eighties where the Second Armored Cavalry Regiment will continue to play a vital role in the security of our nation.

Robert Wagner  
60<sup>th</sup> Col.

Speech given by Col. Robert Wagner, during the dedication of the Reed Museum in 1980.



The renovation of the new Reed Museum took place between November 2010 and July 2011. During the demolition workers uncovered several original features that date to the original 1936 structure to included horse rings along the outer walls, wooden support beams, an archway, and a barn door railing. Instead of removing or covering up these reminders of the building's past, the museum chose to accentuate their inclusion in the finished product of the gallery.





Civil War Commemoration Standard



Col. Innis N. Palmer was the Fifth Colonel of the Regiment, serving from 9 June 1868 to 20 March 1879.

## The Historic Collection

The 2d Cavalry Regiment has maintained a historic collection of artifacts and memorabilia since before World War II. The earliest artifact donated to the Regiment's historic collection is the Civil War Commemoration Standard, which displays the battle honors of the Regiment from 1836-1864. This artifact was donated in 1867 by Col. Innis Palmer, the Fifth Colonel of the Regiment. This standard is currently located in protective storage at the U.S. Army Center of Military History's Museum Support Center located on Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

From 1833 until 1887, blue silk was used for the standards of mounted regiments. Although the center eagle design is non-regulation, the overall size and style of this flag is very similar to what was prescribed for dragoon regiments in 1833.



Colonel Reed as a Captain in command of Troop A, 10th Cavalry at Fort Leavenworth Kansas in 1935.

## Namesake of the Museum Colonel Charles H. Reed 31st Colonel of the Regiment

Col. Charles Hancock "Hank" Reed was born in Midlothian, Virginia on 25 December 1900. He graduated from the United States Military Academy on 13 June 1922 and commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant of the cavalry. Reed first became associated with the 2d Cavalry at Fort Riley, Kansas in 1931, while serving as a member of the U.S. Army Horse Show Team. Later that year, he joined the 2d Cavalry as an instructor at the U.S. Army Cavalry School, also at Fort Riley. Throughout the following years, Reed prepared for his role as a battlefield commander; he held posts such as troop commander, operations officer, and regimental executive officer with various cavalry organizations.

In January of 1943, Colonel Reed assumed command of the 2d Cavalry, becoming the 31st Colonel of the Regiment. During the following eighteen months, Colonel Reed trained and led the group through Europe, earning five battle streamers in World War II. By the end of the war, he had been awarded several medals for valor to include medals from France and the Soviet Union.



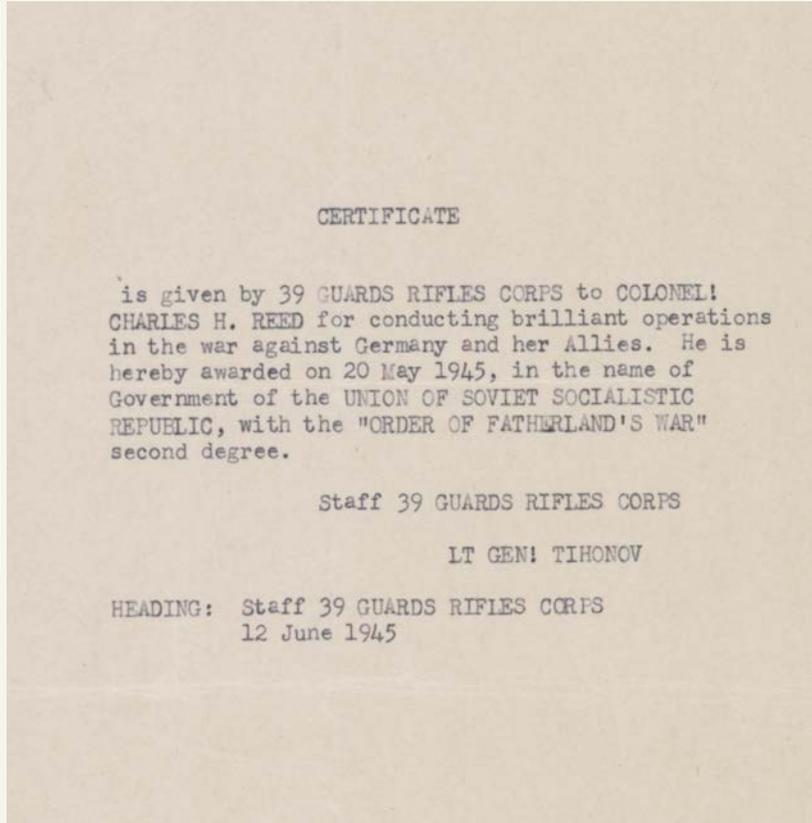
On 18 December 1942, then Lt. Col. Reed was designated the Regimental Commander of the reactivated 2d Cavalry Regiment, Mechanized.



On 11 May 1945, three days after the Germans capitulated, Soviet Major General Fomenich of the 35th Tank Brigade met with Colonel Reed. The Soviet commander demanded that the Second Cavalry Group move aside because his forces were pushing forward to Plzen, Czechoslovakia. Plzen was already in American hands, thus Colonel Reed, fully aware of his orders to hold his present lines, told the Soviet commander, "If you go forward, remember our guns are still loaded." The Russian general did not reply, nor did his formation advance. Eventually, the Regiment withdrew from Czechoslovakia on 19 May 1945 and ceded control to Soviet forces.



Order of the Patriotic War 2nd class: Awarded to Col. Charles H. Reed on 12 June 1945 for "conducting brilliant operations in the war against Germany". Other members of the Regiment received the same award for liberating a prisoner of war camp that contained Soviet prisoners.



On 30 April 1945, at XII Corps headquarters in Viechtach, Germany, Col. Reed (and several other XII Corps commanders and soldiers) received the National order of the Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre. Pictured is the presentation, on behalf of the French government, by Lt. Gen. Marie-Louis Koetz.

The Legion of Honor (left) is the highest decoration in France and is awarded to non-French citizens who have served France or its ideals. The Croix de Guerre (right) is awarded to honor people who have fought against the Axis powers during World War II. The bronze palm recognizes that the awardee was mentioned in dispatches at the Army level.





After successfully leading the Regiment during combat in World War II, Reed played an important role in establishing the U.S. Constabulary in Germany— which served as a security and reaction force in the West German U.S. Zone. (above) Colonel Reed at the head of the Regiment during a 1946 parade in Munich, Germany for General Dwight D. Eisenhower. During this parade Reed had former members of the 11th Panzer Division dressed in American uniforms in order to fill out his ranks. General Eisenhower, upset at the sight of horses in the formation, did not notice that the 2d Cavalry was the only unit that had full ranks during the parade and therefore did not discover the former Wehrmacht soldiers dressed in U.S. uniforms.



Colonel Reed at his desk, Ft. Monroe, Virginia, circa 1948 and his service coat displaying his bullion 2d Cavalry shoulder sleeve insignia which was popular with officers of the 2d Cavalry Group. Reed left the Regiment on 12 August 1947 and reported for duty with the Training Section, Office of Army Field Forces Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia. This was followed with selection as the Secretary to Chief, Army Field Forces through February 1949. On 28 February 1949, he retired at his own request after having been nominated for Brigadier General. He spent retirement running the family dry goods business in Virginia and serving as President of the 2d Cavalry Association. Colonel Reed passed away on 8 April 1980. One month later, Colonel Robert Wagner, 60th Colonel of the Regiment, named the Regimental Museum in Reed's honor.



After retirement, Colonel Reed remained active with the 2d Cavalry Association—serving as its president for many years. At one point, after World War II, there were three separate associations for veterans that had served in the Spanish American War, World War I, and World War II. In 1967 Reed was instrumental in both consolidating the three associations into one and deciding to use the Spanish American War veterans charter (which was created in 1899). This historic meeting made today's 2d Cavalry Association (established in 1899) the oldest veteran's organization established around a particular unit.



The bottle of Canadian Club that was donated by Colonel Reed's World War II Driver, Sgt. James O'Leary. In September of 1945, Sgt. O'Leary was rotating home; to celebrate, Reed and Sgt. O'Leary shared a bottle of bourbon. In 1980, after the museum was dedicated to Colonel Reed, Mr. O'Leary visited the museum and donated this bottle, as a remembrance of their long service and friendship.

# Formation of the 2d Regiment of Dragoons

## 23 May 1836

A dragoon is a soldier who is trained to fight both mounted as light cavalry and dismounted as light infantry. The Dragoon branch was chosen over other types of mounted disciplines because of its tactical versatility; it gave the U.S. Army the ability to dismount the unit if needed, while maintaining the soldiers assigned to the Regiment.

When the Second Seminole War wreaked havoc in the territory of Florida, military leaders initially believed that mounted troops would not be effective. Major General Winfield Scott, who commanded the expeditionary force, reported on 29 January 1836 that no mounted troops would be needed. Soon after Scott changed his mind and wrote that horsemen would be essential to the campaign. He added that two mounted Regular companies would be worth twice that number of Infantry. Thus, on 23 May 1836, the Army established the 2d Regiment of Dragoons in response to a need for more professional mounted troops to support operations in Florida during the Second Seminole War.

### Timeline of naming conventions for the Regiment from 1836- Present

**1836**----*Second Regiment of Dragoons*

**1843**----*Second Regiment of Riflemen* The Regiment was dismounted and converted into an infantry regiment as a cost saving measure to the U.S. Army.

**1844**----*Second Regiment of Dragoons* The Regiment was remounted, after it was realized the need for regular mounted horsemen, and the cost savings was not as anticipated.

**1861**---- *Second U.S. Cavalry* In August of 1861 all mounted units, Dragoons, Mounted Rifles, and Cavalry were realigned under one branch and designated Cavalry.

**1942**----*2d Armored Regiment* This was the designation given to the regiment when the horses were discontinued in the U.S. Army, the three tank battalions were designated the 776th, 2d and 19th.

**1943**---- *2d Cavalry Regiment, Mechanized*

**1943**----*2d Cavalry Group, Mechanized*

**1946**----*2d Constabulary Regiment*

**1948**----*2d Armored Cavalry Regiment*

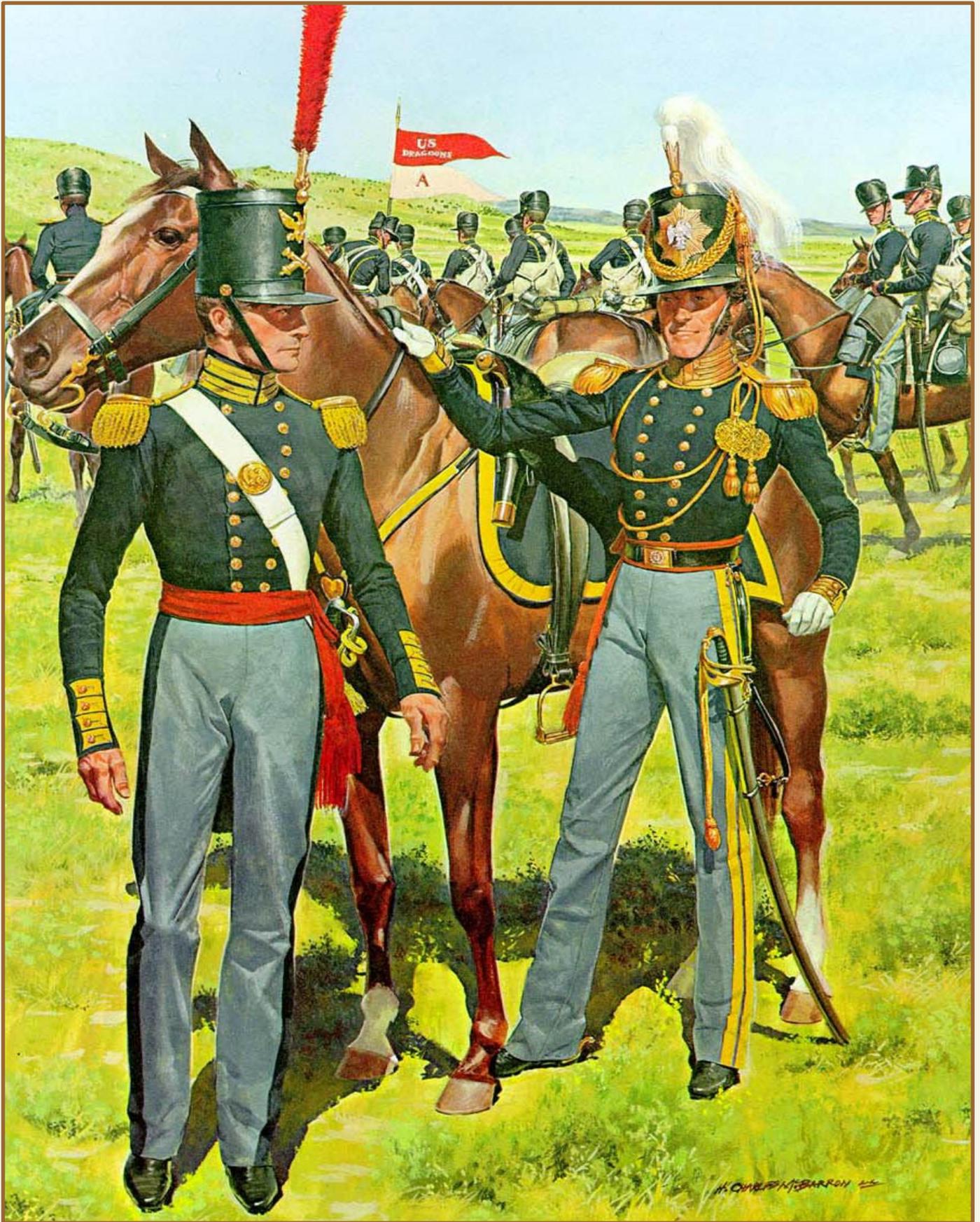
**1992**----*2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (Light)*

**2006**----*2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment* (unofficial name)

**2011**----*2d Cavalry Regiment*



**Col. David E. Twiggs , First Colonel of the Regiment.** Colonel Twiggs was a veteran of the War of 1812, the Blackhawk War, and First Seminole War. In 1836, at the age of 46, he was promoted to Colonel and given command of the 2d Regiment of Dragoons. Twiggs was known as a profane, hard-drinking, battle-loving, self-taught Soldier whom one acquaintance described as a wild animal. To his men, he was known as “Old Davy” or the “Bengal Tiger”, and it was said they would follow him into battle regardless of the odds they faced. Much of the reputation of the 2d Regiment of Dragoons as a hard-living, hard-fighting, deadly weapon on the battlefield was due largely to the qualities, both personal and professional, of its first commander.



Dragoon officer in his regulation dress uniform and mount, circa 1833. The style of this uniform gave the new Dragoon Regiment a professional military appearance—based on European military uniform designs, while also providing a look that would be impressive to the various Indian tribes this regiment would encounter.

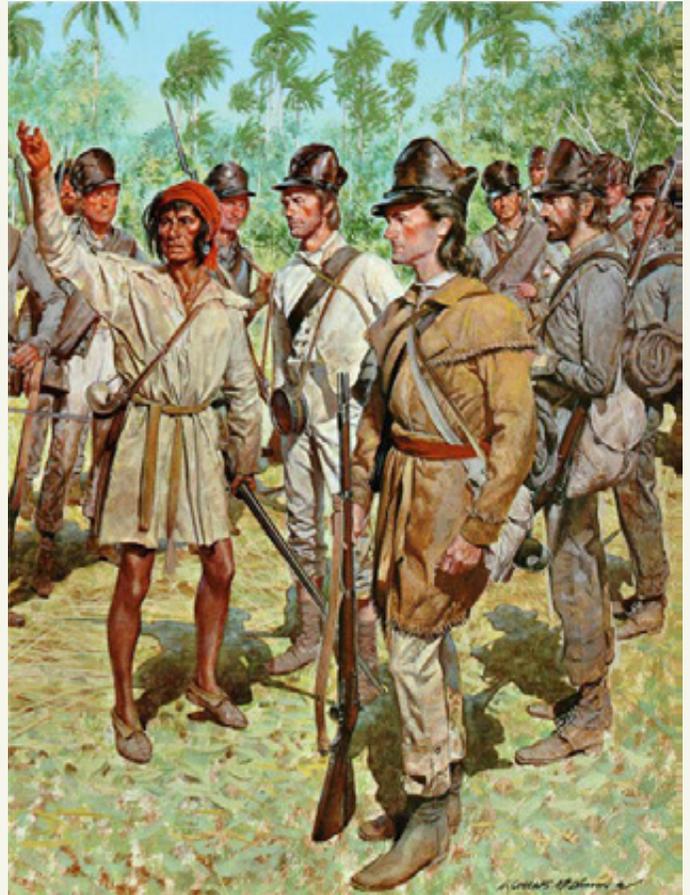
## Second Seminole War

1836-1842

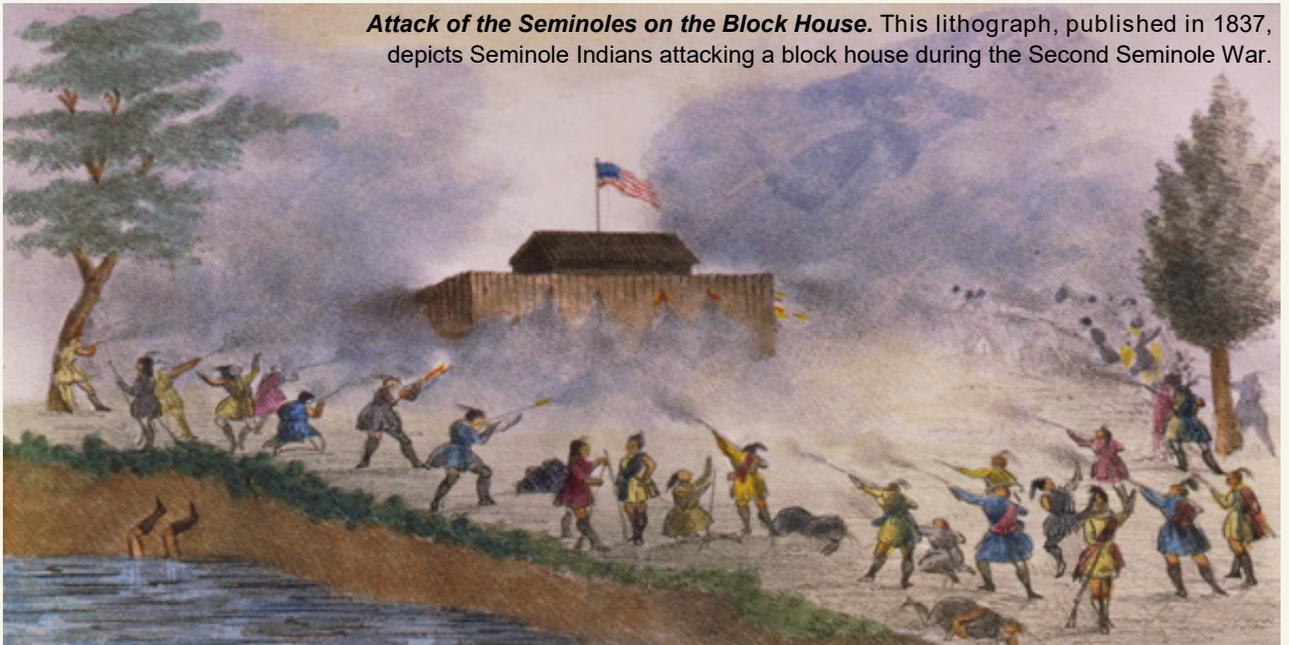
During the Second Seminole War the Regiment utilized the strategy of taking the fight to the enemy, as opposed to the existing tactic of waiting in nearby forts and responding when attacked. Members of Company D, 2d Dragoons had the Regiment's first combat experience at the battle of Micanopy on 9 June 1836. The engagement resulted in a victory for U.S. forces.

Throughout the rest of the war, the 2d Dragoons proved their worth on the battlefield by providing the U.S. Army an adaptable force that was instrumental in bringing the Second Seminole War to an end in 1842.

(right) Typical dress of dragoons and other branches of the U.S. Army during operations in Florida.



**Attack of the Seminoles on the Block House.** This lithograph, published in 1837, depicts Seminole Indians attacking a block house during the Second Seminole War.



On 9 June 1836, Company D, 2d Regiment of Dragoons, under the command of Lt. Wheelock of the 1st Regiment of Dragoons, participated in an engagement with Seminole Indians at Fort Defiance near the town of Micanopy in East Florida. Approximately two hundred Seminole Indians, led by the famous Seminole Chief Osceola, attacked the American stockade in the early morning—hoping to draw out the garrison and capture the fort. The garrison commander, Major Julius F. Heileman of the 2d U.S. Artillery, successfully executed a double envelopment on the Indian position. Lt. Wheelock and his Dragoons performed a mounted charge against the Indians. For their actions during the defeat of the Seminoles at Fort Defiance, the officers and troopers were commended by President Andrew Jackson for gallantry and good conduct.



Seminole Indians observing a U.S. patrol in the Everglades. The Seminoles held the initiative during the early period of the war, as a result of their ability to better utilize the terrain. The Seminole warriors would attack, retreat, and then maneuver to a new area. By 1840, U.S. Army tactics had changed from being reactionary to proactive—this included the use of longboats, multi-shot revolver-type carbines, and the wearing of Native American dress to create an element of surprise. Using these methods, Lt. Col. William S. Harney and the 2d Regiment of Dragoons participated in numerous successful expeditions into unmapped regions of the Florida Everglades. The Dragoons effectively destabilized the Seminoles—advancing to areas that the Indians believed to be impenetrable. By the spring of 1842, most of the Seminoles had either been killed or relocated to Arkansas. On 11 May 1842, President Tyler recommended to Congress that hostilities cease in Florida.



**Harney Massacre/Billy Bowlegs Beads.** After their discovery, the beads were restrung as jewelry and sold as novelty items.

In the summer of 1839, a peace treaty granted the Seminoles a reservation in southwestern Florida. As part of the agreement the Seminoles insisted that a trading post be created within their reservation. Lt. Col. William S. Harney and 23 Dragoons headed for the Caloosahatchee River, where they would establish the trading post. By July of that year the Seminoles grew angry because they had discovered that the treaty was only temporary. On 22 July 1839, over 200 Seminole warriors led by Chiefs Checkika, Hospetarke, and Billy Bowlegs overwhelmed the Soldiers and ransacked and burned the trading post, only Harney and four other men escaped. Years later, during a construction project on the site of the trading post, these colorful glass beads were discovered and are today known as “Harney Massacre Beads” or “Billy Bowleg Legs Beads.”

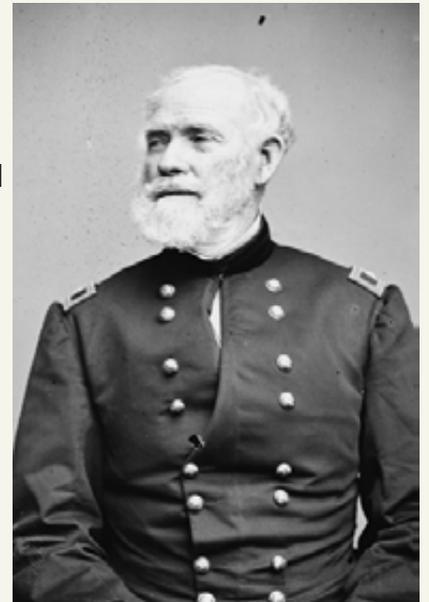
# The Mexican-American War

## 1846-1848

The Mexican-American War afforded the 2d Dragoons the first opportunity to engage a European-style army in conventional warfare. The conflict began due to a border dispute between the United States and Mexico, concerning the territory between the Nueces and Rio Grande rivers, which both countries claimed. After moving south into Texas, as part of Brig. Gen. Zachary Taylor's Army of Observation, the 2d Dragoons were the first to engage in combat. On 25 April 1846, Capt. Seth Thornton and Companies C and F were suddenly attacked by a superior force of Mexican Lancers. This event, known as the "Thornton Affair", was the justification needed for the United States to declare war on Mexico.

The 2d Dragoons participated in every major campaign of the war, including Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. Throughout the war, the U.S. Army was usually out numbered on the battlefield but was able to defeat the Mexican Army. For example, during the battle of Buena Vista, on 23 and 24 February 1847, the Mexican Army numbered 15,142 soldiers whereas the U.S. Army fielded only 4750 soldiers. Through the proper use of terrain, the courage and initiative of lower unit commanders, and the effectiveness and mobility of artillery on the battlefield, the U.S. Army was able to defeat this vastly superior force.

On 2 February 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, ending the war. As a result, the modern borders of Texas were agreed upon and the United States was able to purchase large areas of territory that include what is today the state of California, and parts of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, and Montana.



**Col. William S. Harney, Second Colonel of the Regiment.** A native of Tennessee, Harney served in the Regiment for twenty-one years. His military career began in 1818 as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 1st Infantry Regiment. In 1836 during the 2d Dragoon's formation, Harney was assigned to the unit and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. In combat, Harney was known for being utterly ruthless and for his use of unconventional tactics. On 30 June 1846 was appointed Second Colonel of the Regiment. He commanded for 12 years, making him the longest serving Colonel of the Regiment. William S. Harney retired in 1863 as brevet Major General.



1847 lithograph of the Battle of Buena Vista .

Contemporary lithograph depicting Capt. May's famous charge at the Battle of Resaca de la Palma.



The day after the Mexican Army's defeat at Palo Alto the two army's engaged in combat again at a dry river bed known as Resaca de la Palma. On the morning of battle, Captain Charles May's order of the day was, "Remember your Regiment and Follow your Officers!" this became the unofficial motto of the Regiment.

During the action, heavy fire from an eight-cannon battery of Mexican artillery halted Brig. Gen. Zachary Taylor's advance. Taylor ordered May to charge with his unit, a squadron consisting of Companies D and E of the 2d Dragoons, to silence the enemy guns. May successfully led the charge seizing the Mexican battery and capturing a Mexican General. Capt. May's actions destabilized the Mexican defensive position and allowed the Infantry to advance, causing the Mexican Soldiers to abandon their posts and flee across the Rio Grande. The charge of Capt. May and his squadron was so inspirational that he became a popular hero throughout the country and the 2d Dragoons became a household name. In 1924, when the Regiment was designing its coat of arms, it was the courageous charge of May and his Squadron which was selected to adorn the center of the shield.



2d Cavalry  
Coat of Arms



During the Mexican-American War dragoons were armed with sabers, single shot pistols, and a carbine. The saber was considered the Dragoons primary weapon; the M1840 "Wrist Breaker" heavy cavalry saber was the model carried by the Regiment during the war. Called the "Wrist Breaker" due to its heavy blade, this model was patterned after the French 1822 light cavalry model and served as a replacement for the M1833 Dragoon sabre—considered inferior due to poor construction.

# Western Expansion

## 1848-1861

During the period between 1848 and 1861, there were periods of supreme courage and moments of excitement, however soldier life mostly consisted of garrison duty, endless patrols, and marches in pursuit of an elusive enemy.

The companies that comprised the 2d Dragoons were spread across much of the western frontier - seeing service in Texas, New Mexico, Nebraska, Utah and Kansas. They participated in sixteen separate engagements, established several forts, tracked down renegade Indians, performed escort duty for settlers moving west, and executed shows of force in order to reestablish federal authority.



Dragoon belt buckle. This type of buckle was worn by officers in the Dragoon regiments from 1836-1851.

The Hall Breech-Loading Carbine was developed specifically for arming both of the two dragoon regiments and was issued to the 2d Dragoons in 1836. This carbine saw continuous service with the Regiment through the early 1850's. During its service, it was modified several times. Typically these changes involved repositioning the lever that was used to operate the breech. In 1843, the .54 caliber, side lever method was fielded. This was the last production model produced and issued; it saw service with the 2d Dragoons during the Mexican-American War and during outpost duty in the west.



**Colonel Phillip St. George Cooke, 3rd Colonel of the Regiment.** Born in Leesburg Virginia in 1809, Cooke graduated West Point in 1827 and was branched as an Infantry officer. In his first assignment, with the 6th Infantry, he served for six years. In 1833, when the 1st Dragoon's was established, Cooke was appointed a First Lieutenant in the new regiment. During his career he served in the Black Hawk War and the Mexican-American War, during which he was assigned to the 2d Dragoons as a Major. By 1858, Cooke had risen to the rank of Colonel and was selected as the 3rd Colonel of the Regiment. At the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, Col. Cooke, a southern-born officer, chose to remain loyal to the Union, although most of his family did not. His son, John R. Cooke, served as a Brig. Gen in the Confederate Army, and his daughter, Flora Cooke Stuart, was married to the Confederate general and famed cavalry officer, J.E.B. Stuart. During the Civil War, Cooke served in both combat commands and administrative positions - eventually rising to the rank of Brevet Major General by the end of the War. After the Civil War, Cooke continued his service in the U.S. Army, eventually retiring in 1873 at the rank of Brigadier General.

# Texas, Utah and Kansas

During this period, some of the most notable events for the Regiment include the establishment of Fort Worth, Texas, the battle of Ash Hollow (against the Brule Sioux Indian tribe), the Utah expedition, and the deployment to Kansas.

At the battle of Ash Hollow, the Sioux chief initially approached the formation, (which included Companies D, E, H, and K, 2d Regiment of Dragoons), with a white flag meant as a truce. The American Commander, Colonel Harney, rejected the offer, however, and told the Indian chief to return to his men. While the Infantry opened fire on the enemy's front, Companies E and K, (2d Dragoons) and Soldiers from 4th Artillery and 10th Infantry maneuvered behind the enemy's position. When the Sioux realized they were almost surrounded, they scattered and fled.

While Companies D, E, H, and K remained at Forts Randall and Kearney after the Sioux Expedition, the remainder of the Regiment marched to Kansas - disarming the opposing factions of abolitionist and the proponents of slavery. Lieutenant Colonel Cooke defused this extremely tense situation with his political tact and ultimately there was no battle.



1850's Dragoon on horseback  
(courtesy of Don Troiani)



After the Dragoons quieted the situation in Kansas, the federal government ordered the U.S. Army to organize an expedition that would march to Salt Lake City, Utah to reestablish federal control and escorting the new replacement for Territorial Governor. This was in response to the continued tension between Mormon territorial leaders and federal appointed representatives. By 1857, President James Buchanan decided that the Mormon leader and Territorial Governor Brigham Young had to be replaced. The 2d Dragoons escorted Young's replacement, Alfred Cumming, into the territory and as they marched alongside the 5th and 10th Infantry and the 4th Artillery from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Mormons loyal to Brigham Young actively worked to hamper the movement of the expedition by blocking mountain passes and river fords, raiding supply trains and livestock, and destroying forage along the route. This, coupled with poor preparation by the U.S. Army for winter operations and resupply, caused severe supply shortages for the command and prevented more aggressive operations against the Mormons. Eventually the expedition arrived in Salt Lake City, and Brigham Young recognized his replacement and adhered to Federal authority. The painting, *Never a Complaint*, by Don Stivers (shown above) depicts the harsh conditions experienced by the 2d Dragoons and the rest of the expedition on the march through the Rocky Mountains during the Utah Expedition.

# Frontier Headstone

## Private John Bolger, B Company, 2d U.S. Dragoons

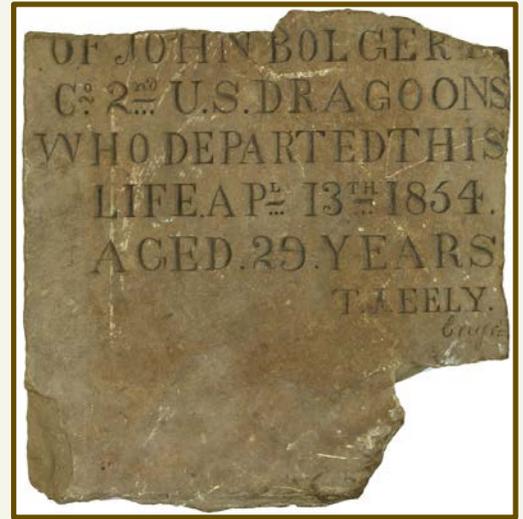
This headstone belongs to Private John Bolger, who was born in Carlow, Ireland in 1825. After immigrating to the United States, he settled in New York City and on 15 March 1852 enlisted in Company B, 2d Regiment of Dragoons.

In 1853, Private Bolger and the rest of Company B were stationed at a small frontier installation, named Fort Belknap, in north Texas. Fort Belknap served as the northern anchor in a chain of forts founded to establish a military presence on the Texas frontier. From these forts, troops pursued raiding bands of Indians and mounted expeditions as far north as Kansas. Fort Belknap became the hub of a network of roads stretching in every direction, the most notable being the Butterfield Overland Mail route from St. Louis to San Francisco.

Regimental records document what may have been Private Bolger's last mission:

*“Lieutenant Arthur D. Tree was sent out from Fort Belknap, Texas, with 20 men of Company B, on March 8, 1854, in pursuit of a small band of Kickapoos guilty of murdering the Indian Agent and a friend near the post. Lieutenant Tree followed the trail into New Mexico and finally got information of the culprits near Fort Arbuckle, where they were punished. The detachment returned to Fort Belknap March 28 after a march of 360 miles.”*

On 13 April 1854, Private John Bolger died at Fort Belknap. No cause of death is listed. This usually indicated that a trooper died of disease or illness, perhaps contracted during this grueling march. His remains were re-interred in the San Antonio National Cemetery in 1907. Years later, during a road construction project near the old fort, Private Bolger's headstone was recovered. The road crew and local residents brought the headstone to the museum at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio. They, in turn, transferred it to the Reed Museum. This headstone is a physical reminder of the selfless service and sacrifice of the troopers of the 2d U.S. Dragoons.



Pvt. John Bolger's Headstone



John Butterfield's Overland Mail route served Oliver Loving and Charles Goodnight's entrepreneurial cattle trail from Fort Belknap, Texas, to Pecos, Texas, where they crossed at Horsehead Crossing and followed the river north to Fort Sumner.

Fort Belknap, located in what is today Young County, Texas near the city of Newcastle. It was established in 1851 by brevet Brigadier General William G. Belknap to protect the Texas frontier against raids by the Kiowa and Comanche Indians. The fort did not fit the standard image of a frontier fort, since it lacked defensive works such as walls, berms or trenches. Actively used until 1867, it was finally abandoned due to both poor water supplies and the movement of the frontier further west. The 2d Dragoons had troops garrisoned here from 1853 to 1855; in August of that year they concentrated the companies (A,B,C,F,G, and I) that were stationed in Texas here in preparation for the Regiment's mass reassignment relocation to Ft. Riley, Kansas.



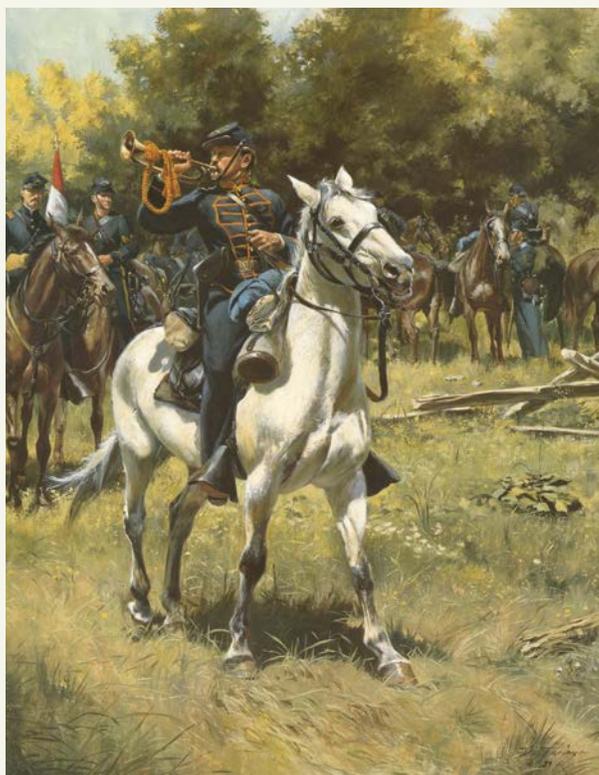
Captain Wesley Merritt charging with the 2d U.S. Cavalry at Beverly Ford during the battle of Brandy Station, Va. June 9th, 1863. For this action, Cpt. Merritt was promoted from Captain to Brigadier General.

## Civil War

1861-1865

In 1861, Army units dispersed across the Nation's western frontier started to move east to support the massing of troops around the Nation's capital. Travel was extremely slow; by July, only Company K of the Second Dragoons was present to fight against the Confederate Army in the Battle of Bull Run.

On 3 August 1861, the Regiment was re-designated "2d United States Cavalry Regiment," which meant not only a change of branch, but also the loss of their beloved orange branch color. It was not until June 1863 that the entire Regiment of twelve companies, consisting of 832 officers and men, assembled as a unit. The Second Cavalry served with the Army of the Potomac in numerous campaigns, including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Brandy Station, Gettysburg, and Cold Harbor. By January 1865, the Regiment consisted of only three officers and 111 men.



Bugler, of the 2d U.S. Cavalry, wearing his beloved orange-faced dragoon uniform jacket. With the reorganization to Cavalry in August 1861, the former 2d Dragoons, now designated 2d U.S. Cavalry, were required to change to the cavalry branch color of yellow. Due to uniform shortages, the old dragoon regiments were allowed to use up the existing stock of orange faced uniforms before drawing new uniforms with yellow facings. Proud of their dragoon heritage and the orange facings that represented that, the Dragoons stretched this supply of dragoon jackets for two more years before the uniforms were worn out and the new yellow faced uniforms were issued. (Image courtesy of Don Troiani).



**1861 Standard of the 2d Cavalry.** The blue color reflects the regulations of the time for Cavalry standards; the use of the color yellow was not adopted until 1887. There is little known about the origins of this flag, since it displays a non-regulation embroidered eagle it was probably presented to the Regiment instead of issued.



The standard served for many years as a center piece at Merrill Barracks, behind the Regimental Commanders desk. This picture shows it on display behind the desk of 60th Colonel of the Regiment, Col. Robert Wagner (circa 1980). In 1992, this standard and several other flags of the Regiment were sent to the Center of Military History's headquarters in Washington D.C. for much needed conservation treatment. This is where the standard is stored today.

# Choosing Sides – Blue or Gray

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Regular Army Soldiers had to choose whether to stay with the Union or support their individual Southern state. Confederate Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley served many years as a 2d Dragoon. When his native state of Louisiana seceded from the Union, Sibley chose to support his home state. Soon after, he faced his old Regiment in combat at the Battle of Val Verde, New Mexico.

Major General John Buford, a native of Kentucky, was also a long time member of the 2d Dragoons. When offered a command in the Confederate Army, Buford adamantly refused stating, "As a Captain in the US Army I intend to remain one!"

Of the thirty-one officers in the Regiment, 17 resigned their commissions and joined the Confederacy.



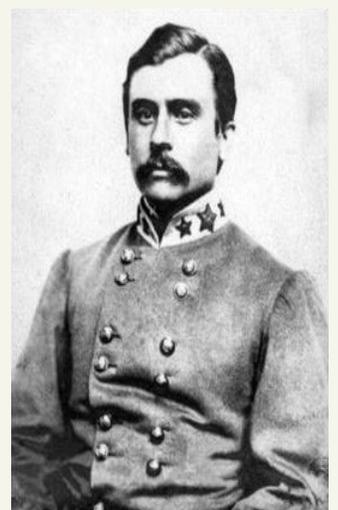
Major (later Confederate Brigadier General) Henry Hopkins Sibley served in the 2d Dragoons from 1838 until 1861. He resigned his commission on the day he was promoted a Major in the 1st Dragoons. Joining Confederate forces, he served in the far west and eventually fought against the 2d Dragoons at the Battle of Val Verde, New Mexico on 20 and 21 February 1862. Throughout the war, he struggled with alcoholism. By 1863 he was being court marshalled for cowardice; although not convicted, he was censured. After the war he was recruited and served in the Egyptian Army as an advisor and artillery officer. Eventually returning to the United States, Sibley died in Virginia in 1874 in poverty. As an inventor of military equipment, Sibley was successful in inventing the bell shaped tent known as the "Sibley" tent and "Sibley" stove. These were both fielded by the U.S. and British Armies.



Capt. (later Major General) John Buford quickly rose to the rank of Brigadier General with the Army of the Potomac as the Chief of Cavalry, and became a Cavalry Brigade and Division commander. He is credited for selecting the field of battle at Gettysburg on 1 July 1863. In doing, so he conducted a delaying action against a superior Confederate Infantry formation allowing the Union Army to get into position and engage. Buford continued on active service in the Eastern Theater of war. In December of 1863, however he contracted Typhoid and within a few weeks he was dead. On his death bed, he received notice that he had been promoted to Major General for his bravery at Gettysburg. Upon receiving the news, his response was: "It is too late, now I wish I could live."



Capt. Francis C. Armstrong (left) was the commander of Company K, 2d Dragoons at the First Battle of Bull Run on 21 July 1861. Company K served as the only Dragoon Company on the field of battle that day. During the fight, Sgt. Sacks, of Company K, 2d Dragoons captured Confederate Brig. Gen. George H. Stuart (right), a former Second Lieutenant of Company I, 2d Dragoons. On 10 August 1861 Armstrong, resigned his commission and joined the Confederate Army, eventually rising to the rank of Brigadier General. Because his resignation was not effective until 13 August 1861, for three days he held a commission on both sides of the war.



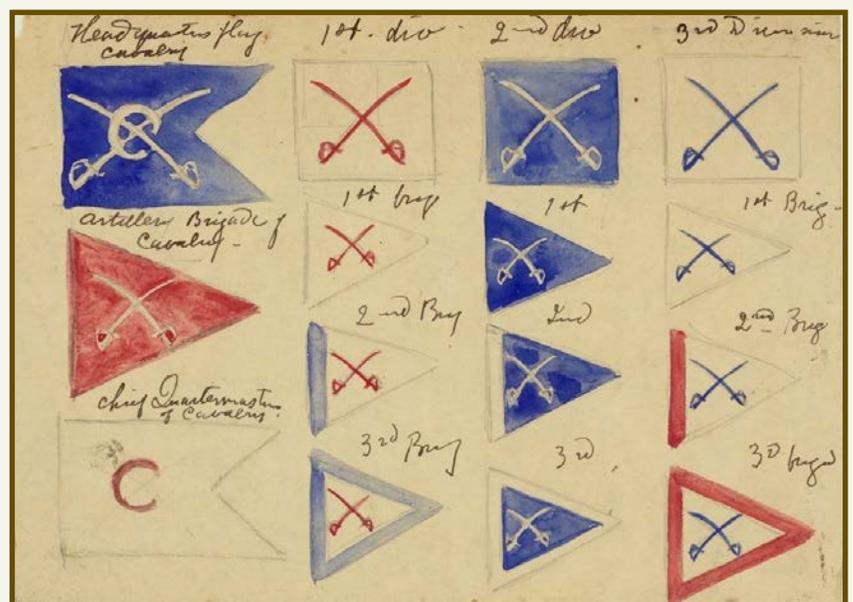


Charge of the Reserve Brigade at Winchester, Virginia, September 19, 1864 (2d Cavalry leading).

## The Cavalry Role

Early in the Civil War, the U.S. Cavalry was underutilized. This was largely attributed to the branch being dispersed among the different divisions resulting in the cavalry being used as couriers, escorts, and pickets. This gave the Confederate horsemen of the period the opportunity for many successful raids and reconnaissance operations against Union forces.

In January 1863, General Joseph Hooker assumed command of the Army of the Potomac and reorganized his cavalry into its own corps. This allowed for better tactical use of the branch and gave Hooker's Army the ability to better react to Confederate Cavalry forces. Union Cavalry also conducted their own raids deep into enemy territory—performing reconnaissance, disrupting supplies, and destroying the infrastructure that supported enemy operations. This later strategy was vastly more successful and earned the U.S. Cavalry a sterling reputation.



Graphic shows the Guidon patterns assigned to the Army of the Potomac Cavalry Corps after its organization in 1863. The 2nd Cavalry Served in the 1st Division, 3rd Brigade.

U.S. Model 1861 light cavalry saber. During cavalry engagements in the Civil War pistols or carbines were the preferred weapons used by the troopers; in few cases the saber was used in combat. This model was used by the U.S. Army until Model 1906 saber was adopted.



# Indian Wars

1865-1898

Following the Civil War, the 2d Cavalry reorganized in spite of budget cuts and the popular belief that a large standing Army was unnecessary in peacetime. Since conflict with Native American tribes had not ceased, Congress ordered the Second United States Cavalry Regiment to return to the western frontier.

The Regiment left Monrovia, Maryland in October, as an entirely new organization of thirty-six officers and 876

enlisted. This reconstructed regiment consisted largely of Civil War veterans and immigrants. Many company grade officers and subalterns had held field and general officer brevet ranks. The enlisted ranks included some former Confederate officers. When the Regiment arrived at Fort Leavenworth on 7 November 1865, it split up. Over thirty years would pass before the organization once again assembled in one place.

During the Indian Wars, the Regiment served under the Departments of the Missouri, Platte, and Dakota. Companies F, G, H, and L were called the "Montana Battalion," due to postings at Fort Ellis, Montana for fifteen years. The 2d Cavalry served in several famous operations, including Red Cloud's War, the Great Sioux War of 1876, and the Nez Perce Campaigns. When the Regiment was called east in 1898, it had participated in fifty-nine separate engagements. These military engagements resulted in the pacification of Native American tribes, thus opening up the western United States to large groups of settlers.



2d Cavalry Regimental Standard, circa 1887. This model brought about two significant changes to the Regimental cavalry standard. First, the standard's color changed from blue to yellow; second, the eagle design was embroidered on to the flag instead of painted. This was done because the painted image faded quickly and damaged the silk.



Officers of the 2d Cavalry rendering a salute during a dress parade circa 1886.

Contemporary lithograph depicting the heavy fighting during the Fetterman Massacre.

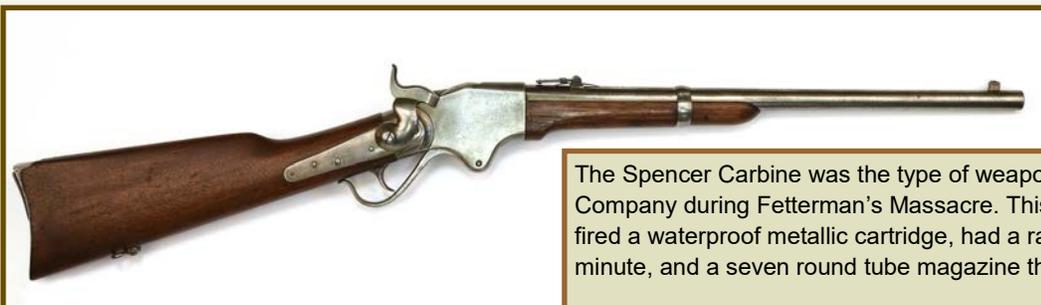


## The Fetterman Massacre 21 December 1866

The Fetterman Massacre occurred near Fort Phil Kearney, Wyoming during Red Cloud's War. Although a treaty was signed, several Indian chiefs (to include a prominent Oglala Lakota chief named Red Cloud) were dissatisfied by the passage of settlers traveling west along the Bozeman Trail through the Powder River country. As these were important hunting grounds, they refused to sign a treaty giving the government the right to establish and maintain forts along the trail. The U.S. Army moved forward with the creation of two new forts to defend the Bozeman Trail against Indian attacks. Chief Red Cloud's followers formed an alliance with several other tribes, performing hit and run attacks to disrupt the use of the trail and construction of the new forts. Supply convoys could not move throughout the region without heavily armed guards. In six months, the Indians conducted over fifty attacks and killed 154 Soldiers and settlers.

On 21 December 1866, the Indians decided to try to destroy the garrison for a second time. They began as they did on December 6th, by attacking a wood gathering detail near the fort with the hopes of drawing out the garrison and leading it into an ambush. When the relief force was called to assist the wood detail, Captain (brevet Lieutenant Colonel) William Judd Fetterman insisted he be allowed to command the relief party. Though his superior ordered Captain Fetterman to remain within cannon range of Fort Phil Kearney, he and the eighty-two men of his command were lured into a valley where over 1000 warriors laid in ambush. The resulting battle lasted only twenty minutes and by the end the entire command was lost. Of the men massacred, twenty-seven belonged to Company C, 2d Cavalry.

This infamous incident is considered to be the bloodiest day in the Regiment's history. At the time, it was the worst military disaster suffered by the U.S. Army on the Great Plains. The battle led to the withdrawal of the U.S. Army from the Powder River country of Montana and Wyoming, securing an overall victory for Chief Red Cloud.



The Spencer Carbine was the type of weapon carried by the troopers of C Company during Fetterman's Massacre. This carbine is a lever action that fired a waterproof metallic cartridge, had a rate of fire of twenty rounds a minute, and a seven round tube magazine that was housed in the buttstock.

The Farthest North Party during their return to Fort Conger; Sgt. (later Brig. Gen.) Brainard is standing beside the flag.



## Exploration

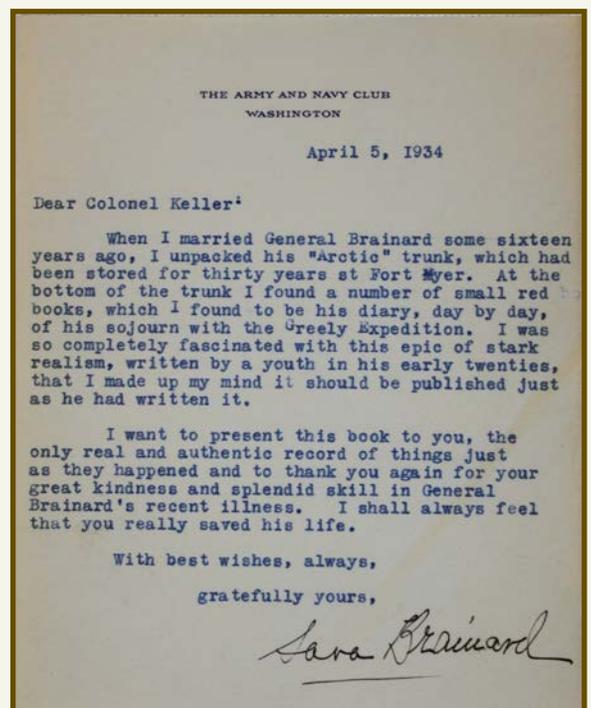
In 1870, Lt. Gustavus C. Doans of the 2d Cavalry, accompanied the first expedition to penetrate unknown areas in Wyoming. The party brought back a full account of their adventure, which prompted Congress to declare Yellowstone America's first National Park. Lt. Doan's report of the expedition, found in the Report of the Secretary of War for 1870, includes the following:

*"In future years, when the park shall have been made accessible to the pleasure seekers of the world; when silvery laughter shall echo through its forest glades, instead of the melancholy voices of panthers, when bright eyes shall view its wonders, and gentle hearts be stirred by its attractions; when its clear waters shall reflect the forms of youthful loveliness and grace."*

From 1881 to 1884, Sgt. David L. Brainard of L Troop and four other members of the 2d Cavalry explored the Canadian Arctic as part of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition. This expedition traveled to the furthest point north, but due to weather conditions, the men were cut off from resupply for three years. When they were rescued in 1884, only six of the twenty-five men survived. For his service on the expedition, Brainard received a commission to Second Lieutenant in the 2d Cavalry and retired in 1919 as a Brigadier General.

In 1885, Lt. Henry T. Allen and Sgt Cady Robertson of the 2d Cavalry, accompanied by Pvt. Fredrick W. Fickett, a member of the Signal Corps, traversed 1500 miles into the Alaskan wilderness, for five months exploring the Copper, Tanana, and Koyukuk rivers. Gen-

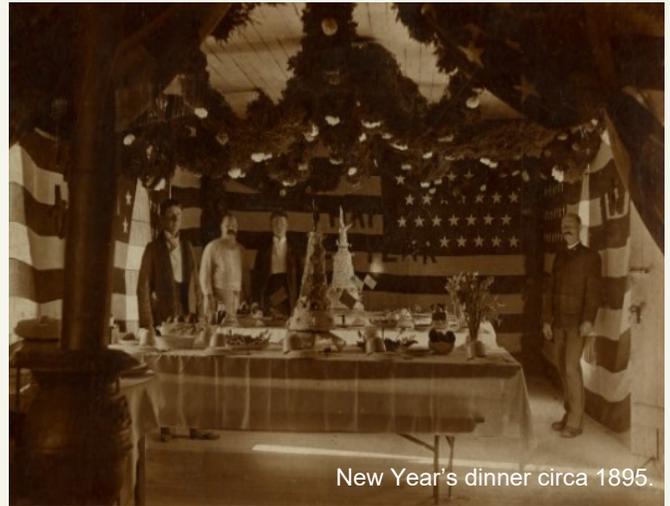
This letter accompanied a signed copy of Brig. Gen. Brainard's published personal diary "The Outpost of the Lost". The book and letter were presented to Brainard's physician (Col. W.L. Keller).



eral Nelson Miles stated that it "exceeded all explorations on the American continent since Lewis and Clark."

# Army Life

It was not always high adventure on the frontier; there were long periods of boredom. Garrison activities included constructing forts, hauling wood and hay, and planting gardens. There was the spit-and-polish of inspections and guard mounts, mixed with monotonous rides along wagon trails for escort duty. During campaigns, Soldiers used a wider variety of equipment, but armament was usually a carbine, pistol, and saber. Soldiers carried an overcoat, two blankets, and a shelter tent for cold weather. Troopers also had a canteen for water and a haversack for food.



New Year's dinner circa 1895.



\* MICKLE & JONES \*  
PHOTOGRAPHERS  
FORT WINGATE, NEW MEXICO.

Barracks room of 2nd Cavalry Band Members, Fort Wingate New Mexico, 1896.

2d Cavalry stationary. This envelope, which was mailed from Fort Custer, Montana in 1881, displays the earliest known use of the regimental motto "Toujours Pret". During this period, the Regiment also recognized "Per Aspera Ad Astra" as its dual motto which translates to: "Through hardships to the stars".

Most of the forts occupied by the 2d Cavalry were similarly constructed. A flagpole stood in the middle of a central square, which served as the focal point of garrison life. Surrounding the central square were quarters for single and married officers, enlisted barracks, stables, storehouses, offices, and a guard house. Soldiers and their wives could pick up goods from a sutler's store, the forerunner of today's Post Exchange (PX). Payday came twice a month; unfortunately it was not uncommon for Soldiers to receive their pay late, or not at all, when the traveling pay master failed to arrive. If a Soldier either used up his meager twenty to thirty dollar paycheck or simply never received it, he would join his fellow broke men in the singing of songs about army life.

Ultimately, bands formed, comprised almost entirely of professional Italian and German musicians. These musical groups frequently performed at concerts and dances for the officers and enlisted men. Due to the shortage of women on many of the frontier posts, Soldiers often danced with each other.





Troopers of the 2d Cavalry at Camp Matanzas, Cuba 1898.

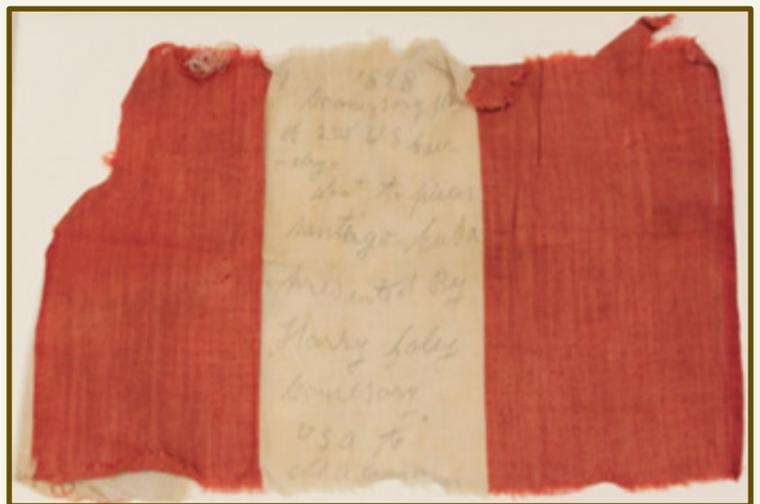
## The Spanish-American War

1898-1903

With the destruction and sinking of the U.S.S. Maine and the declaration of war which soon followed, the Second United States Cavalry Regiment moved east to deploy as a cohesive unit to Cuba—for the first time since the Civil War. The Regiment served as the only mounted Cavalry regiment during the conflict. During the short campaign, the troops often came under fire while performing combat patrols, escort missions, and rounding up stragglers. In the fight for the town of El Caney on 1 July 1898, Troop D of the Regiment escorted General Lawton throughout the battlefield. At one point, they found themselves hunkered-down with a volunteer unit that refused to move—due to heavy Spanish artillery fire. Troop D's men attempted to rally the volunteer force without success. That same day, Troops A and C transported wounded personnel and constructed shelters. Troop D, under the leadership of Lt. Allen, fed and policed a population of 22,000 refugees in El Caney.

Col. Theodore Roosevelt declared, *"The Second Cavalrymen are everywhere. All day long you see them riding. All night long you hear their clattering hoofs."* After a short redeployment to the United States, the Regiment returned to Cuba for three years to perform provost duty and provide humanitarian relief to the island. Their humanitarian projects included educational initiatives and the improvement of Cuba's sanitation systems.

Fragment of U.S. Flag that was destroyed by Spanish artillery fire. The inscription on the flag reads: "1898 Commissary flag of 2nd U.S. Cavalry— Shot to pieces Santiago Cuba. Presented by Harry Foley Commissary U.S.A. to Mr. Foley".





At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, the government had called into service a large number of volunteers, more than tripling the size of the regular Army. When these troops concentrated at Tampa, Florida for movement to Cuba, it was realized that there was not enough transport ships for this mass movement of troops. This caused units to have to leave equipment behind and in the case of several of the cavalry organizations, their horses. Fortunately the 2d Cavalry was able to find space for their horses and, because of this, served as the only horse-mounted regiment in Cuba during the war.



Officer quarters of Capt. H.G. Trout and family at Camp Wallace in La Union Province, Luzon Philippines, 1902.

## The Philippine Insurrection: 1903-1912

In December 1903, the Regiment deployed to the Philippines for the first time. Two months later, every troop—with the exception of L and M Troops—arrived in Manila. The voyage afforded the Soldiers views of beautiful sites, including Gibraltar and the British Fleet at Malta. When L and M Troops finally arrived, the Regiment dispersed to various stations: Headquarters and 2d Squadron to Camp Wallace; C and D Troops to Mariquina; and I and K Troops to Pasay Barracks in Manila. For two years, the Regiment's Soldiers lived a very peaceful existence, interrupted infrequently by incursions of outlaws living in the mountains. In January 1905, I, K, L and M Troops took part in a campaign against these guerrilla outlaws.

The nature of the terrain, and the locals' loyalty towards the guerrillas, made the 2d Cavalry's job a tough one. Large detachments of mounted men, with five to ten days rations and pack mules, would establish base camps in Ladrone territory. From there, these men would patrol the surrounding area. By February, the Regiment's efforts were successful in rounding up two hundred forty men suspected of guerrilla activity. In reaction to the Regiment's tactics, the insurgents dispersed into smaller bands—numbering only a few men who freely transited areas where horses could not. As a tactical reaction, the Regiment's Soldiers dismounted too, in order to patrol more effectively and in smaller groups. During one patrol, Lieutenant Timothy M. Coughlan and ten men captured ammunition and supplies from insurgent Chief Felizardo. In the proceeding chase, Felizardo chose to kill himself rather than be captured. In conjunction with low-level skirmishes, the enemy was worn-out and hostilities ended in June.



1905 Department of Luzon Regimental Championship Field Day first place trophy. Intermural sporting competitions played an important role in keeping up troop morale and breaking up the monotony of camp life and active campaigning.



Troop M, 2d Cavalry escorting Secretary of War Jacob M. Dickenson in Moro country, during his visit to the Philippines in 1910.

## Return to the Philippines

The second deployment to the Philippines took the Regiment to the islands of Mindanao and Jolo in January 1910. By this time, rotational overseas duty in the Philippines had become an established part of Army life. Although the Moro tribes of the southern islands had recently abandoned open warfare, they still caused trouble by carrying out guerrilla style attacks against American troops. As the deployment continued, guerrilla activity intensified to the point where a general movement against the insurgents was ordered. The result was several significant engagements and the killing or capture of several insurgent chiefs. With many of their leaders killed or captured, the enemy continued small-scale fighting into 1912.

At the end of the deployment, three officers and most of the enlisted men were transferred to the 7th and 8th Cavalry. The remainder of the Regiment sailed home on 15 May 1912.



Barong Knife. Typical style knife that was carried by Moro warriors.

# Mexican Border and Garrison Duty

1912-1916

When the Regiment arrived in San Francisco on 9 June 1912, it had been overseas for more than eight years. The Soldiers were not treated to peaceful garrison duty when they reached Fort Bliss, Texas.



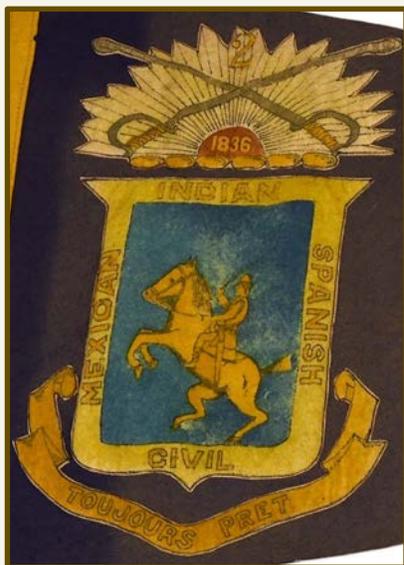
2d Cavalry on the Texas-Mexican Border near El Paso Texas, circa 1912.

Since 1910, a succession of revolutions in Mexico had thrown the country into turmoil and the Regiment needed to staunch the flow of Mexican bandits crossing into American border towns. Troopers spent the latter part of the year recruiting locally to reach full strength and train new Dragoons. One squadron rotated service along the Rio Grande and patrolled the Mexican border against warring Constitutionalist and Federalist factions.

The duty rotated between the three squadrons. In 1912, when the 2d Cavalry reached Fort Bliss chaos at the Mexican border had reached an apex. Troops spent the majority of their time guarding property, patrolling for signs of bandits, and chasing after raiding parties. The remainder in garrison kept busy with training and occasional parades in El Paso. After a long period of service in tropical jungles, followed by a tour of duty on the dusty plains of southern Texas, the Regiment deserved a break. When relief arrived the Dragoons moved to Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont for routine garrison duty on 18 December 1913.



Winter Guard Mount, Fort Ethan Allen Vermont, circa 1913.



Troop C pennant displaying the first model coat of arms for Regiment. General Orders Number 2 dated 20 January 1913, prescribed the coat of arms for the Regiment. It consisted of a shield with the words Indian, Mexican, Civil and Spanish around it, with a horse carrying a rider who was brandishing a sword in the center. Above the shield were crossed sabers and above them was the numeral two, while below was the date 1836. Below the shield was inscribed Toujours Pret. The colors were orange and azure.

M1911 Service Hat (Campaign Hat). This style hat is referred to as the Montana Peak and was standard issue for all branches until 1942. This was the last model campaign hat issued by the U.S. Army to include the 2d Cavalry. In 1964 this model was reintroduced for use by U.S. Army Drill Sergeants.



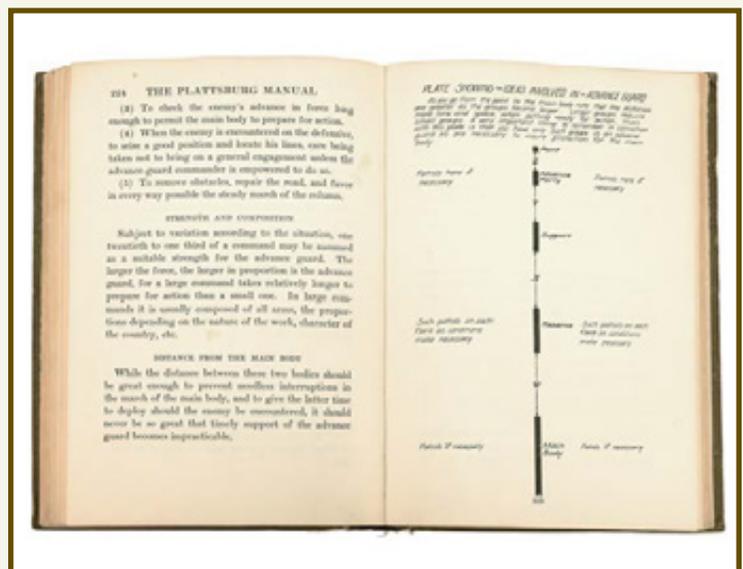
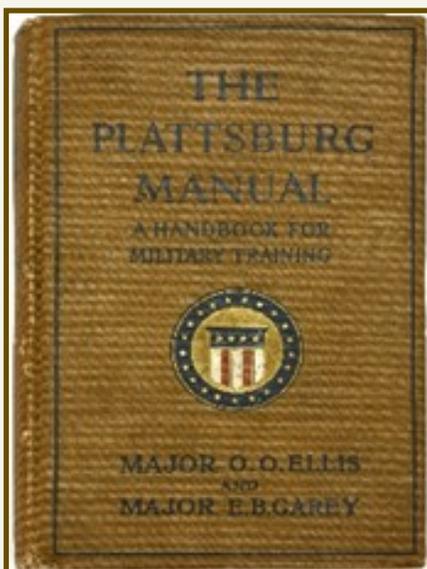
Plattsburgh Military Training Camp 1917.



## World War I

1916-1919

By 1916, the 2d Cavalry was the only mounted regiment in the regular Army that was neither deployed overseas or patrolling the Mexican border. The Regiment was responsible for supporting the Army's training initiatives, in preparation for the looming conflict in Europe. After the war against Germany began on 6 April 1917, Congress passed a law increasing the size of the Armed Forces and the National Guard. The Second United States Cavalry Regiment soon engaged in bringing the war to a successful conclusion. A recruit depot at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont became home for the majority of the Regiment. Troop I was at the Plattsburg Military Training Camp in New York, engaged in training citizen Soldiers. Troop A moved to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, where it worked at the Officers' Training Camp, while troop B, C, and D continued training at Fort Myer, Virginia.



The Plattsburg Manual, published in 1917 was created to provide young men who had the desire to serve in the U.S. Army the foundation of knowledge needed to be leaders.

## The Great War: 1918

1st Squadron provided thirty-one men to accompany the new Commanding General of the American Expeditionary Force, John J. Pershing, to France aboard the U.S.S. Baltic. This unit operated as the vanguard of American military might and served as a reminder to the French that relief was imminent. Of the 2d Cavalry Soldiers stationed in Europe during World War I, two hundred fifty received commissions, and twenty-three became Generals. The first of these promotions took place in May 1917, when men from the 2d Cavalry separated to become part of the newly created 18th and 19th Cavalry Regiments. Since the 2d Cavalry lost two-thirds of its men in the transfer, new recruits had opportunities for expedited advancement in the ranks.



Mounted World War I Trooper in full marching kit.

On 8 January 1918, the Regiment received orders to deploy without their horses. This was initially a bitter disappointment for the men who had grown fond of their four-legged counterparts. When the Regimental Soldiers reached the transport-ship U.S.S. Martha Washington, they realized leaving their steeds behind was for the best. On board the ship, Soldiers wore life preservers at all times and constantly practiced life boat drills due to the threat posed by enemy submarines.

After its arrival on 6 April 1917, the Regiment went to Camp Genicart near Bordeaux, France. Men of the Regiment were equipped with 30 caliber Springfield Rifles, 45 caliber pistols, straight sabers, steel helmets, gas masks and horses recovered from other operations. Trench warfare limited the effectiveness of cavalry charges, so no one could agree on how to best use the skills of the cavalry. Mounted scouting and the mounted probing of enemy lines were no longer possible. Thus, the Regiment primarily executed traffic control, operated horse remount stations, conducted prisoner of war escort, and reconnaissance duty. Despite the rather mundane duty, Soldiers still managed to distinguish themselves in battle. Pvt. Allen P. Westcott of Troop C became separated from the troop during a night operation and attached himself to an infantry company. He was subsequently awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for conspicuous gallantry during this period.



M1913 Patton Saber. Designed by 2 Lt. (later General) George S. Patton in 1913, this was the last model saber issued to the U.S. Cavalry and the type carried by the 2d Cavalry during World War I. The straight double edged blade was meant for thrusting instead of slashing, and is reminiscent of the first model saber issued to the 2d Dragoons in 1836, which also was a straight blade double edged saber meant for thrusting.

## Provisional Squadron and Occupation Duty

In preparation for the St. Mihiel Offensive, the Regiment formed a provisional cavalry squadron. This squadron fought after the initial breakthrough of German lines and pursued and harassed the retreating enemy. The unit consisted of numerous troops and assembled at Camp Jeanne d' Arc in Toul during the latter part of August 1918. Under the command of Lt. Col. O.P.M. Hazzard, the unit underwent a short intensive training period, during which each troop was issued one Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR). During its existence, the Provisional Squadron was successful in conducting patrols, gathering intelligence, maintaining liaisons between larger units, and preventing enemy infiltration. The unit's efficiency faltered, however, due to the use of inferior horses. In the Meuse-Argonne Offensive alone, the squadron lost one-third of its horses. As a fighting unit, the squadron ceased to operate in mid-October 1918. Immediately following the Armistice, several troops marched with other U.S. units into Germany, as part of the American Army of Occupation, and were stationed near the German city of Coblenz. Troop I, acting as the advanced guard of the 2nd Division, reached the Rhine River near the town of Remagen and became the first American troops to set foot on the banks of the river. During the occupation, the troops conducted patrols of the area and escorted convoys. The Dragoons that stayed behind in France continued duty at remount stations or functioned as Military Police. Duties included guarding prisoners of war and conducting patrols.

The Regiment redeployed to the United States in June 1919, arriving at Fort Riley, Kansas on 16 August 1919.



Formation of the 2d Cavalry in front of a statue dedicated to the German Emperor William I at Deutsches Eck, Coblenz, Germany 1919.



Troop F, 2d Cavalry at Gierves, France in 1918. Troop F, was part of the Provisional Squadron and was commanded by Capt. (later Maj. Gen) Ernest Harmon.



Automatic Pistol, Caliber .45, M1911. On 12 September 1918, during the action at Bois de Nonsard, France which was part of the St. Mihiel offensive and members of the Provisional Squadron engaged and silenced German machine gun positions using pistols while mounted and on the move. Throughout the war, the 2d Cavalry utilized a number of new weapons during combat operations—to include hand grenades and the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR).



M1912 Khaki Service Coat. This coat is identified to Pvt. Bernard Milligan, A Troop 2d Cavalry. Pvt. Milligan coat displays the patch of 3rd Corps which the Troop was assigned to during occupation duty as corps cavalry at Arzheim, Germany in April of 1919. The two sets of chevrons tell us a little bit about Pvt. Milligan's service. The light red chevron reflects that Pvt. Milligan has been honorably discharged; the two gold chevrons are overseas service stripes reflecting one year of service (six months for each stripe).

# Peacetime Army

## 1919-1942

Following the Regiment's return from occupation duty in 1919, the U.S. Army's Cavalry School was reestablished at Fort Riley, Kansas. The 2d Cavalry's role at the school was twofold. First, it served as the school's demonstration regiment, utilizing its experienced troopers to illustrate tactics and principles on horseback. Second, it served as the laboratory for the Cavalry Board to test new equipment and propose changes in cavalry drill regulations.

While in Europe, the Regiment recognized that their horses were of an inferior quality. The breeding of riding horses had not been conducted along scientific lines and produced few horses properly disposed to function in the military. To correct this situation, the Regiment formed the Remount Association in 1920. The Remount Association produced guidelines for breeding and offered monetary incentives for ranchers and farmers.

The Regiment also recruited at Fort Riley. Upon their return from Europe, many men accepted their discharges and left the service. By the time the Regiment processed through the demobilization center, the Regiment's strength stood at twenty-three officers and 354 enlisted men. Recruitment efforts offset this loss of manpower and by the end of 1920, the Regiment had twenty-eight officers and 964 enlisted personnel.



Unidentified 2d Cavalry Officer, circa 1924.



Troop L, 2d Cavalry collar disc set circa 1921.



First version, Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI)



Coat of Arms



2d Cavalry Division Patch

On 4 November 1924, the current Regimental distinctive unit insignia (DUI) was authorized. The first version of the DUI, often referred to as a unit crest, had a six pointed star (instead of the correct "eight" pointed star) to represent the unit's dragoon origin. After five years of use, the error was corrected by redesigning the crest with the eight pointed star. The Coat of Arms was adopted on 13 March 1926, the orange reflects the branch color of dragoons, with the two dragoon hat's plates representing the unit's numerical designation. The scene on the shield depicts the charge of Capt. May at the Battle of Resaca de la Palma. The 2d Cavalry was also part of the 2d Cavalry Division during this period. The shoulder sleeve insignia (SSI) was designed by the 2d Cavalry and included two eight pointed blue stars which were inspired by the two yellow stars on the 2d Cavalry's coat of arms. This was the very first SSI worn by the Regiment.

# The End of Horse Cavalry

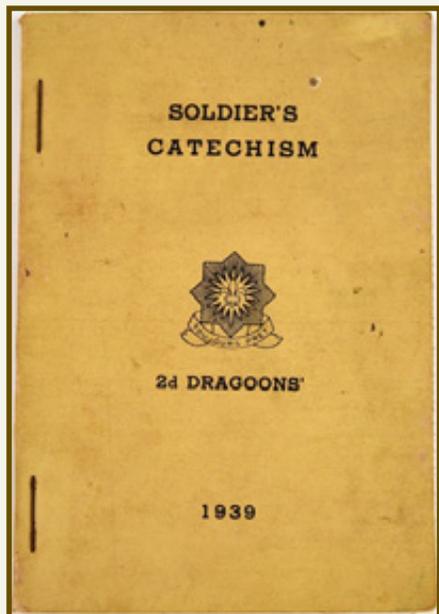
Between 1936 and 1942, the Regiment participated in several large field exercises, the largest being the Louisiana Maneuvers in 1940 and 1941. The Louisiana Maneuvers consisted of 400,000 soldiers and evaluated all aspects of the current standing army, which helped reshape the force for the upcoming war against the axis powers.

A full scale combined arms maneuver held at Fort Riley in 1936 stressed mechanization as the future of warfare. In 1942, the War Department abolished the last mounted units and the Regi-



2d Cavalry during the Louisiana Maneuvers in 1941.

ment was reflagged as the 2d Armored Regiment on 15 May 1942. Eventually, the three battalions that made up this new armored regiment were repurposed into separate tank battalions, designated the 776th, 2d, and 19th Tank Battalions. Two of the three battalions, 2d and 19th, served under the 9th Armored Division in Europe during World War II, the 776th was reorganized as an amphibious tank battalion and served in the Pacific theater of operations with the 7th Infantry Division.



1936 2d Dragoons Soldier's Catechism. A catechism is a series of fixed questions, answers, or precepts used for instruction in other situations. As stated in the introduction of the catechism *"The object of this pamphlet is to have a handy, consolidated list of general questions and the answers thereto which may be used by the troop officer, the NCO, or the private, to check his professional knowledge."*

1941 Commemorative Pillow Cover. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, on 7 December 1941, there was great concern that Japanese agents would attempt to gain entry into the United States through it's border with Mexico. In response to this threat, the 2d Cavalry was sent to Phoenix, Arizona to provide security at strategic locations and perform mounted patrols along the border. At the completion of this mission, the Regiment turned in their horses. This deployment was the last large scale horse-mounted operation of the Regiment.



## World War II

### 1942-1945

Though the Army abolished the horse regiments in 1942, the requirement for reconnaissance and screening missions still remained. Initially, strategists believed that the new armored regiments and armored divisions would take over these traditional cavalry roles. However, the Army discovered that a more mobile force was required to perform these tasks.



Color guard and band of the 2d Cavalry on parade, Fort Jackson, SC, 1943.

On 18 December 1942, the War Department authorized the reorganization of two mechanized cavalry regiments; the 2d and 29th Cavalry Regiments (Mechanized). They possessed more mobility (lighter tracked and more numerous wheeled vehicles) and an organizational structure which allowed for the rapid deployment of troops. The 2d Cavalry Regiment (Mechanized), under the leadership of Col. Charles H. Reed, called Fort Jackson, SC. home. Reed instructed his newly reorganized Regiment through Basic Army Training which ended in a five day, 110 mile march. The march ended at Folly Beach, near Charleston SC., and after a few days rest, the troops began a second three-month long phase of training. Troops learned advanced tactics like dismounted scouting and patrolling, while the Medical Detachment received its specialty training. The Second Army maneuvers exercise in Central Tennessee tested 2d Cavalry Regiment's skills and cohesion. After the maneuvers were completed, the Regiment was redesignated the 2d Cavalry Group, Mechanized.

First Version Shoulder Sleeve Insignia of the 2d Cavalry. Some veterans recall being issued this patch while in training at Fort Jackson in 1944. Through photographic research, the earliest confirmed use of the patch is during combat operations in Germany, it is most prominently seen worn while the Regiment was in Czechoslovakia during the final months of the war. The 2d Cavalry also applied decals of a similar design to the sides of their steel helmets and helmet's liners.



## The Ghosts of Patton's Army

The 2d Cavalry Group participated in more days of combat, killed, and captured more enemy soldiers and material while sustaining the smallest percentage of casualties of any other comparable sized unit in the European theater.

During the war the 2d Cavalry conducted missions ranging from small unit reconnaissance missions, to include prisoners' snatches behind enemy lines, to large scale mechanized maneuvers such as screening operations. It was Col. Reed's hit-and-run tactics, coupled with false German radio's reports of the 2d Cavalry Group's oft-repeated destruction, which led to their nickname as the "Ghosts of Patton's Army."

The 2d Cavalry Group liberated the first Czechoslovakian city, and made the furthest penetration east of any US forces in WWII. On the last day of the war, Col. Reed accepted the German surrender of the city of Prague. As the city was in the Russian Zone, the surrender was not officially recognized by the higher American commands. The Regiment also planned and executed Operation Cowboy, during which Soldiers liberated the famous Lipizzaner Horse's breeding herd and an allied POW camp.



M24 "Chaffee" Tank of the 2d Cavalry in Czechoslovakia in May of 1945.



Flag of Thanks. A French citizen (her identity has been lost to history), while under German occupation, pieced together this American flag in secret. When her village was liberated on Thanksgiving Day, 1944 by the 2d Cavalry Group, Capt. Reynolds M. Steinbach, signal officer for the 2d Cavalry Group, replaced a large Nazi flag that flew over the school house with this home made American flag which became a symbol to the local villagers that they were liberated. When the troopers moved out a few hours later, the flag was presented to Capt. Steinbach.

# Combat

The European campaign for the 2d Cavalry Group consisted of the rapid advance to the German border, positional warfare, and lightning thrusts through southern Germany into Czechoslovakia. Often, the 2d Cavalry operated in small reconnaissance teams consisting of jeeps and M8 Armored Cars. Through the use of mobility and firepower, these teams were able to operate behind enemy lines and break contact with the enemy when necessary.

The 2d Cavalry Group arrived in France on 22 July 1944 at Normandy. Initially assigned to the VIII Corps of the 3rd Army, the 2d Cavalry Group was eventually assigned to XII Corps where it would remain for the remainder of the war. Orders for the first combat mission were issued on 2 August 1944 instructing the group to "Reconnoiter to the southeast in the zone St. Aubin Du Comier-Fougères".

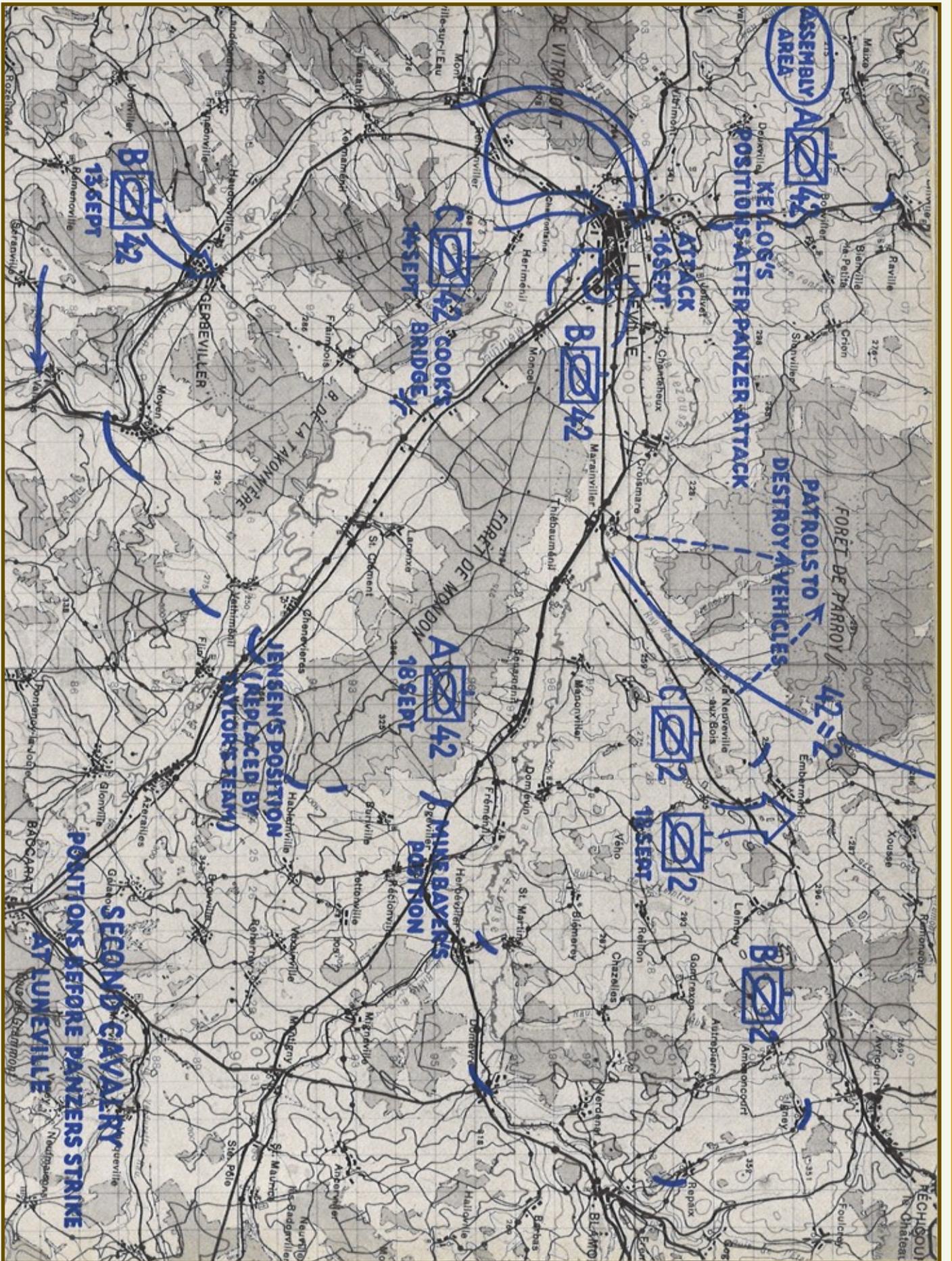
One of the hardest fought battles for the 2d Cavalry occurred between 15-19 September 1944 in and around the city of Lunéville, France. After the Regiment liberating the city, the German forces counterattacked and came very close to recapturing the city. However, due to the 2d Cavalry's accurate, timely reporting and vigorous delaying actions, American defenses held out long enough for reinforcements from the 4th Armored Division to arrive.



M8 "Greyhound" Armored Car from B troop, 42nd Reconnaissance Squadron in the city of Lunéville during the Battle.



Winter Combat Jacket (Tanker Jacket). The Tanker jacket was a favorite of soldiers who fought in Europe during World War II, due to its heavy wool liner, ease of wear, and overall style. It was designed to provide extra warmth to mechanized soldiers during cold weather. This tanker jacket was worn by Col. Reed during combat operations and post war occupation duty. Colonel Reed (left) wearing his tanker Jacket during the war.



# Operation Cowboy: Rescue of the Lipizzaner Horses

"We were so tired of death and destruction;  
we wanted to do something beautiful."

-Col. Charles H. Reed,  
Commander 2d Cavalry Group

The rescue of the breeding herd and allied Prisoners of War camp located at the military stud farm located, near Hostouň, in Svržno, Czechoslovakia took place between the 28 of April and the 12 of May 1945.

Known as "Operation Cowboy", the rescue was the idea of Col. Charles H. Reed, commander of the 2d Cavalry Group and a long time cavalrymen who appreciated these rare breeds of horses as well as the

importance of ensuring their protection and survival. Initially, a small task force for the operation was formed from elements of the 2d Cavalry Group's 42nd Squadron, consisting of Troop A, elements of Troop C, a platoon of tanks from Troop F, and a platoon of Troop E assault guns. This task force broke through Waffen SS strong points to secure the horses, accept the surrender of the garrison and liberate the Allied POW's that were located at the stables.

After the site was secured, a small detachment from Troop A, 42nd Squadron defended the stables, from possible attack by Waffen SS units in the area. On 30 April, the Waffen SS launched an attack that American forces quickly repulsed due in large part to the U.S. tanks that were present.



Colonel Reed inspecting horses at the stables at the Military stud farm located in Svrno, Czechoslovakia.



In 1990 artist Don Stivers illustrated the Rescue in his painting entitled "Rescue of the Lipizzaners". In the forefront are Col. Charles Reed, Cpt. Thomas Stewart, and Cpt. Nelson Gattlet.

On 12 May 1945, the entire herd arrived at a remount station in Germany, where Colonel Alois Podhajsky, Director of the Spanish Riding School, separated the Piber breeding herd and made arrangements to return them to Austria. This final movement was conducted by two convoys on the 18th and 25th of May 1945, using captured German trucks and resulted in 215 horses being turned over to Austrian control.

# Patton's Silver

On December 21, 1945, following an accident on the autobahn near Heidelberg, General George S. Patton Jr., Combat Commander of the Third U.S. Army, died as a result of the injuries he sustained.

General Patton's wife decided that he should be laid to rest in the cemetery at Hamm, Luxemburg alongside the men who fought and died in his great Third Army.

Col. Reed, a close personal friend of the late General, as well as one of his subordinate Combat Commanders, directed the burial services that were held in Luxemburg on 24 December 1945. Reed



Patton's remains being moved during the funeral.

utilized 2d Squadron to provide three officers to act as his escort

staff and also provide a color guard for the ceremony. The 42d squadron provided the motorized escort during the ceremony, which required the motorized detachment to conduct a 400 mile forced march in the snow to Luxemburg. Along with the detachment from the 2d Cavalry, composite rifle companies from the 1st Infantry, 4th Armored, and 9th Infantry Divisions also participated as part of the funeral procession.



General George S. Patton

When Col. Reed arrived in Luxemburg City on December 23rd, he found that no elaborate preparations had been made for the influx of troops and dignitaries. Along with this challenge, routes had to be reconnoitered, drivers rehearsed, leaders briefed, and all this with no written order to refer to. Col. Reed issued orders as each point was decided throughout the night. By morning and all the diverse groups were completely oriented in time for the funeral.

The funeral was a success and in appreciation for the efforts by Col. Reed and the 2d Cavalry, Mrs. Patton gifted the regiment a silver service set which is known today as the Patton Silver.



The Patton Silver

# The Constabulary Period

## 1946-1952

In post-World War II Germany, mobile American units were required to serve as security forces in place of the disbanded German police and army. Specifically, Armor and Cavalry units were noted for their adaptability during the war and were capable of fulfilling this new role. The 2d Cavalry Group was re-designated the 2d Constabulary Regiment and given an additional squadron, the 66th Constabulary Squadron (formerly the 66th Armored Field Artillery Battalion). In this role, the 2d Cavalry Regiment supervised the activities of German authorities, monitored traffic at checkpoints, and guarded prisoners of war.



M8 Greyhound of the 42nd Constabulary Squadron.



M26 Pershing Tank of the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

On 1 January 1946, the 2d Constabulary Regiment assumed duties as the District Constabulary, Eastern Military District (3rd Army Area). In July, the United States Constabulary was officially operational with around 38,000 personnel. In that month, the 2nd Squadron moved to Sonthofen, Germany, and established the Constabulary School. The Constabulary Corps was an elite force of personnel and communications networks. Its mission was to maintain general military and civil security while assisting the Military Government.

The 2d Constabulary Regiment's new duties consisted of police work, raids on black market centers, and the occasional show of force. The Regiment also participated in a number of parades. The most memorable was held in Munich on 14 October 1946 for The Army Chief of Staff Dwight D. Eisenhower.

As the German nation developed, new civilian police forces took over the Constabulary's mission. The US Army then reorganized units of the U.S. Constabulary Corps into Armored Cavalry Regiments. The 2d Constabulary Regiment, became the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment on 20 December 1948 and assumed its new mission as a combat force. The last units of the Constabulary Corps continued their mission until disbanding of the Constabulary in December 1952.



Standard of the 2d Constabulary Squadron, circa 1946.



Regimental Standard of the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment circa 1948.

# The Symbol of the Constabulary

With the formation of the new Constabulary force came the need to design a symbol that spoke to its function and capabilities. Members of the 2d Constabulary Regiment designed what came to be known as the “Lightning Bolt” shoulder patch with primary colors of yellow for cavalry, blue for infantry, and red for artillery. The “C” stood for Constabulary and the lightning bolt represented the unit’s fast striking mobility. The motto of the Constabulary was “Mobility, Vigilance, and Justice”.



Constabulary Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (SSI)



The Constabulary had several nicknames during its time in Germany. Germans called them, “Blitz Polizei” or “Lightning Police.” Some Troopers called themselves the “Flying C Ration” because of their patch. The most common nickname though was “Circle C Cowboys” due to horse platoons in each squadron.

Col. Reed’s helmet liner with painted on rank and constabulary markings. The picture to the below shows him wearing the liner during the 1946 Parade in Munich, Germany.



Ike Jacket identified to SSG Roy Ambrose, 2d Constabulary Regiment. The close up shows Ambrose’s bullion patch with “Germany” tab. These types of unauthorized additions were often added to uniforms to give them a dressier appearance.



# Cold War

## 1951-1990

The Regiment relocated in 1951 with its headquarters in Nuremberg and the squadrons in and around Bayreuth (1st), Bamberg (2d), and Amberg (3d). With this move also came the new mission of border patrol with the new German Border Police. Along with this mission the Regiment simultaneously maintained a state of readiness for



Members of 1st Squadron being inspected at Camp Pitman, Weiden, Germany.



2d Cavalrymen during a joint border Patrol with German Border Guard (Bundesgrenzschutz).

the transition to combat and on order to implement increased surveillance conditions. Of the 300,000 Soldiers stationed in Germany, cavalry units had the reputation for being some of the best trained in all of Europe. During this phase of the Cold War, the Regiment was responsible for the surveillance of 731 kilometers along the “Iron Curtain.” The sectors covered parts of the borders separating East and West Germany, as well as the entire 356 kilometers of the West German – Czechoslovakian border.



Pile cap of Lt. Col. Dewitt C. Armstrong III. Lt. Col. Armstrong was a member of the West Point class of 1943 and served in Europe with the 47th Armored Regiment and 94th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron of the 14th Armored Division. During the war he was promoted to Major at the age of 23. He served as 1st Squadron Commander from 1954-1955, earned his PhD from Princeton University and served two tours in Vietnam before retiring as a Brigadier General in 1973.



# Operation Gyroscope

Towards the end of this period, two significant events took place within the Regiment. First, the Regiment participated in Operation Gyroscope which was an exercise which rotated units in and out of Europe. The 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment changed places with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. In June 1955, 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment began movement. Operation Gyroscope brought the Regiment to Fort Meade, Maryland where training was emphasized. By February of 1958 the Regiment had returned to Germany and reoccupied the pre-operation locations and picked up their old mission of border surveillance.

The second event, took place in May 1963, the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment became the first American unit ever honored by the Bundeswehr with the Grosser Zapfenstreich or "Grand Tattoo" ceremony. This ceremony had been Nuremberg's main homage to military activity since the end of World War II.



Soldiers and families of the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment awaiting departure to Germany from at pier 9, Baltimore Harbor on 5 February 1958.



Color Guards of the 2d and 3d Armored Cavalry Regiments during the Change of Command ceremony on 18 February 1958. This ceremony signified the return of the 2d Armored Cavalry



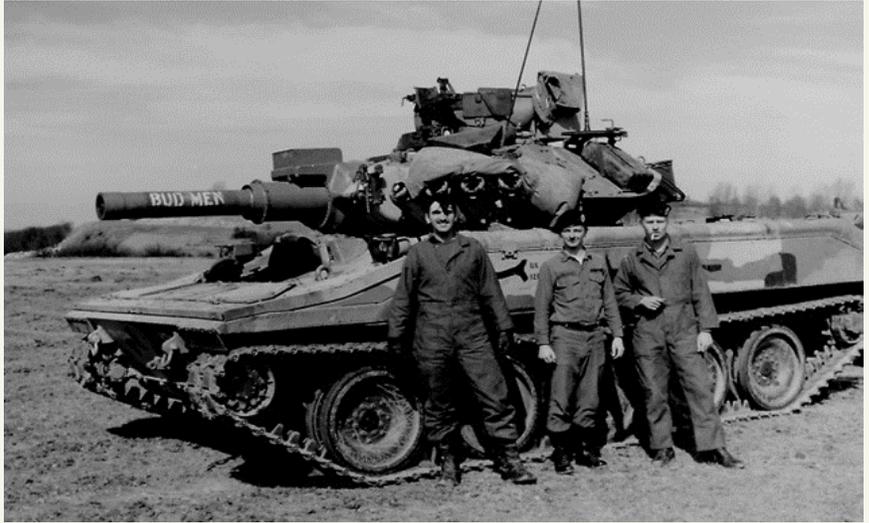
Unit crest that was made Gordon's at Fort Meade Maryland. The stamped makers mark reads as follows: "Gordon's Fort George G. Meade Odenton, Maryland".



Painting depicting the grand tattoo held in Hauptmarkt Square, Nuremberg in May 1963.

# Border Patrol

The latter part of the Cold War ended much as it began, with 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany, along a highly militarized frontier. The Regiment remained poised along the East – West German and Czechoslovakian borders. In a magazine article titled, “Border Patrol,” 1st Sgt. Floyd Harrington described the usual events of a patrol: “...we run 8- to 12-hour patrols around the clock, 7



M551 Armored Reconnaissance Vehicle (photograph courtesy of Paul Parker).

days a week... a patrol normally consists of two jeeps, manned by four Soldiers and commanded by a sergeant. They report back by radio everything they see: Czech border-guard movements, construction projects, unusual farming activities or civilian movements. The patrol must make radio contact with the operations section troop every 30 minutes. If they can't get through by radio, the patrol heads for the nearest pay telephone.”



Second place medal, score sheet, and Cav Cup tab awarded to Spc. Mark Korte for his participation in the USAREUR Cavalry Cup competition.

When the Regiment was not performing its border mission, it was conducting training missions like gunnery at Grafenwoehr, participating in USAREUR and international competitions

like the “Cav Cup” and participating in Return of Forces to Europe (REFORGER) exercises.

In November 1989, the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment witnessed the opening of the Iron Curtain first hand. Regular border patrols ended on 1 March 1990, ending the Cold War phase of the Regiment’s history. The Cold War era represents the longest single mission in the history of the Regiment, lasting almost 25% of the unit’s entire lifetime.



German made cold weather jacket worn by LTC William R. Wilson, 3d Squadron Commander from 20 January 1976 to 30 July 1977.

# Border Camps

To conduct continuous border surveillance in sector, the Regiment operated up to seven border camps, in addition to the home garrisons of the squadrons. Camp Sergeant Patrick Leonard (Kronach), Camp Harris (Coburg), Kingsley Barracks (Camp Hof), Camp Gates (Brand), Camp Pittman (Weiden), Camp Reed (Rotz), and Camp May (Regen) represented the bulk of the Regiment's forward elements. 1st Sgt. C.I. Floyd



Border vehicles in line at Camp Pittman.

Harrington wrote, *“Every effort is made to make the camp as livable as possible. The barracks are comfortable and modern. So is the ‘best mess hall in Germany.’ A small, unit-operated PX stocks essentials and a free launderette is provided. A classroom converts to a mini-theater where free films are shown 5 nights a week. A troop-run lounge features a well-used fussball machine and pool table. Packaged food, soft drinks and beer are sold. Hard liquor isn’t allowed.”*

The 4th Squadron's aviation assets started out of Feucht, south of Nuremberg, and assisted from the air. At each of the border camps, reaction forces were kept on standby and could clear the gates within fifteen minutes of an alert horn sounding. The Regiment's mission demanded the constant vigilance and dedication of all Soldiers stationed along the heavily guarded and fortified walls, fences, and crossing points.



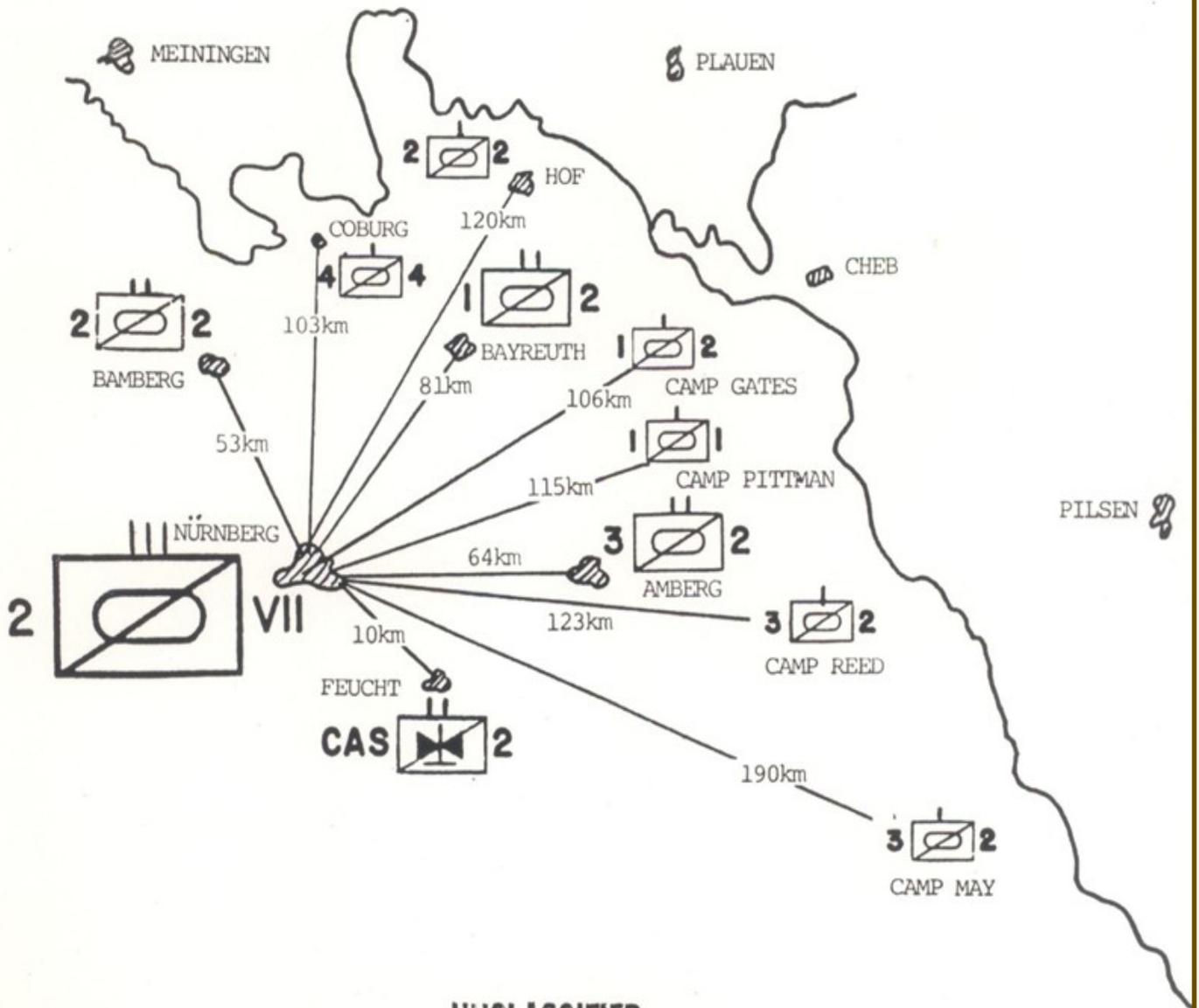
The black beret was the unofficial headgear of the 2d and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiments during the latter part of the cold war. Adopted in 1973, and authorized for wear in West Berlin and the Federal Republic of Germany, it became the proud symbol of the Armored Cavalry Regiments in Europe.

Black leather “Tanker” combat boots. These particular boots began life as a circa 1980 standard issued pair of combat boots and were altered by their owner into a pair of tanker boots by removing the laces, covering up the eyelets and sewing the leather straps to the boots. There are several functions to the design of these boots, they prevent loose laces from getting snagged inside moving machinery, allow for better circulation if the wearer is sitting for hours, and decreases burn injury by removing the nylon laces which will melt in a fire. The main disadvantage is the provide less ankle support than boots with laces.





# REGIMENTAL STATIONING



UNCLASSIFIED

This graphic was used as part of a briefing book that was given to important visitors who were touring the Regiment's area of responsibility on the border. The graphic shows both the stationing of the Regiment's headquarters, Squadron Headquarters, and the locations of their border camps.

# The Reunification of Germany

Protests against the regime broke out in East Germany in September 1989. It was the start of what its citizens came to call the “Peaceful Revolution.” The overarching theme was “Wir wollen raus!” (We want out). At approximately 2245 on 9 November 1989, conditions on the ground changed rapidly when East German border guards yielded and allowed citizens to cross into West Berlin. It took a few



Opening of the border celebration in 1989.

days before more border crossings opened and a few more months for the Eastern European regimes to disintegrate. On 1 July 1990, all border control ceased between East and West Germany, although the inter-German border had been meaningless for some time.

In 1990, the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment completed their Cold War mission.



“Train to Freedom” by George Finley. Painting was inspired by the account of an East German citizen that explained they knew they were free when they saw the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment at the border.

## Operation Desert Shield/ Desert Storm 1990-1991

After patrolling the West German border during the Cold War and finding itself at peak combat readiness, orders came to deploy to the Persian Gulf on 8 November 1990. Leading the VII Corps deployment to Saudi Arabia, the Regiment occupied assembly areas deep in the desert by mid-December. LTG Frederick M. Franks, Jr., writes of the offensive; *“On February 24, after six weeks of a highly successful air campaign and 30 days of combat deception by the 1st Cavalry Division in the Ruqi pocket, we got the order to attack. We were ready. Our plan was to hit the enemy where he least expected and to press the attack in a short, violent air and ground fight of fire and maneuver throughout the depth of his formations.”*

For the next seventy-two hours, the Dragoon Battle Group spearheaded the Corps’ assault. During the one hundred-hour war, the Regiment moved over 250 kilometers, captured 2000 prisoners, and destroyed 160 tanks and 260 other fighting vehicles. The Iraqi Army was overwhelmed. Many simply abandoned their posts. The 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment’s actions during Desert Storm became textbook examples of modern mounted operations.



Theater made 2d Cavalry SSI.



Combat Vehicle Crewman's (CVC) Helmet worn by Colonel L. D. Holder while leading the Regiment in combat operations in Operation Desert Storm.



The 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment’s overwhelming success in combat during Operation Desert Storm was immortalized in the Don Stivers painting “Tawakalna Sunset”.

# Battle of 73 Easting

The first Gulf War also witnessed the last great tank battle of the 20th century, with the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment at the forefront. From 22 to 26 February the Dragoon Battle Group fought a series of fierce engagements against elements of four Iraqi divisions, three of them armored or mechanized. The enemy formations were heavily entrenched and prepared for the coalition onslaught. Often utilizing doctrinal



M1 Abrams tank

Warsaw Pact defensive tactics, the Iraqi units represented some of Saddam Hussein's best equipped and battle hardened troops. In this decisive engagement, known as the "Battle of 73 Easting," the 2d and 3d Squadrons destroyed an Iraqi armored brigade and identified the Iraqi Tawalkana Division's flank. Major Douglas Macgregor (Ret.) of 2d Squadron wrote of the battle, *"the destruction of a tank and its crew is called a 'catastrophic kill' for good reason. Armored warfare is hair-trigger fast, frighteningly lethal, and unforgiving. Men are vaporized, eviscerated, blown apart, asphyxiated, or burned to death when an incoming tank projectile or missile strikes, and the margin between victor and vanquished can be a fraction of a second."*

During the melee, which took place in the largely featureless desert, Dragoons made heavy use of the Global Positioning receivers in their vehicles. Speed, courage, and technology were leveraged to annihilate the defending force. In moving to and through the "Battle of 73 Easting" the Regiment and U.S. forces destroyed 160 tanks, 180 personnel carriers, 12 artillery pieces, 80 wheeled vehicles, and multiple anti-aircraft artillery systems.



Troopers of 2 ACR inspect a destroyed Iraqi Tank in its dug in position.



Trimble TRIMPACK GPS terminals. These early GPS devices were issued to 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment in December 1990, with each troop receiving four terminals. These devices greatly improved the ability for the Regiment to maneuver in the featureless desert, however, they did have limitations. Since there were only six satellites in the constellation, there was not 24 hour coverage, and during these dead times, units would have to resort to traditional means of navigation.

# Return to the United States

## 1992-2004

In 1992, following the Cold War, as part of the draw-down of forces in Europe, the Regiment relocated to Fort Lewis, Washington, where the 199th Infantry Brigade was reflagged to Second Armored Cavalry Regiment. Within a year, the Regiment relocated to Fort Polk Louisiana, home of the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). The unit was re-designated 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (Light) and tasked with developing a new organizational structure for a hard hitting, yet quickly deployable force. High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs) became the backbone



Reflagging ceremony at Fort Lewis, Washington.

of the unit, replacing the traditional heavy armor used in Europe. The 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (L) became the reconnaissance asset for the XVIII Airborne Corps, serving as part of a rapid deployment force, able to move anywhere around the globe. This assignment was a threefold mission; conventional war fighting, peacekeeping, and augmenting both friendly and opposing forces (OPFOR) during rotations at JRTC. The Regiment stayed at Fort Polk until 2004.

2 ACR (L) HMMWV at Fort Polk during training. The Regiment's HMMWV's were equipped with BGM-71 TOW ("Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided"), to give the Regiment an anti-armor capability.



Opposing Forces (OPFOR) coat of Col. Thomas Molino. Training centers like the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk utilize unique uniforms, equipment, and vehicles to provide a more realistic training environment for units training at the center.

# Operation Uphold Democracy

In January 1995, the Regiment joined the United Nations mission Operation Uphold Democracy, as part of a group officially known as Multinational Forces, Combined Task Force 190 in the Republic of Haiti. Dragoons helped the Haitians reestablish democracy and provided security for legislative and presidential elections, which ensured the first democratic transition of power in the country's history.

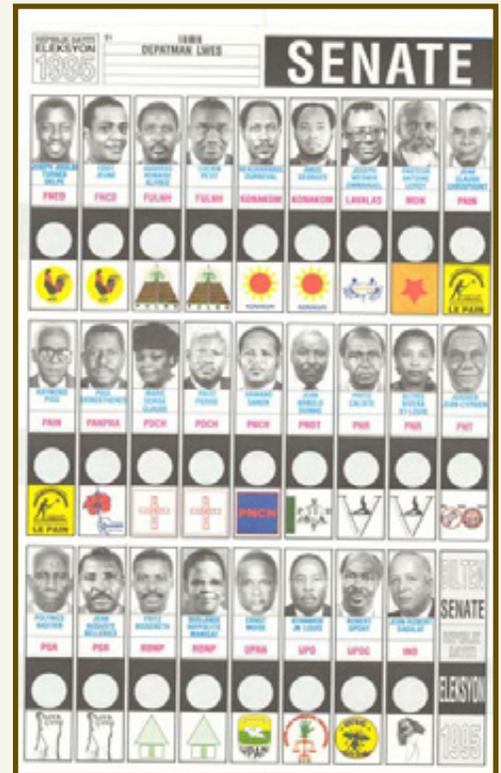
While in Haiti, the Troopers of the 2d Cavalry operated in a variety of roles. The Commander's intent was as follows: *"Our purpose is to maintain a secure & stable environment throughout Zone V. To accomplish this, we will conduct a transparent transition to UN operation control and undertake fixed site security of critical facilities/bases, aggressively patrol to sustain a deterrent presence, retain a presence in*

*Haiti police stations, and maintain a quick reaction force able to respond by ground or air with overwhelming force to any crisis in Haiti. Keep force protection & Soldier quality of life forefront in your operations. Maintain a cordial & professional relationship with the Haitian populace – we cannot fail in this arena. Respond firmly in accordance with Rules of Engagement to the diverse situations which may confront us. The criteria for success is a secure & a stable environment which allows government officials to execute the functions of their office & provides the civilian populace with safe surroundings in which to live."* Following this edict, the 2d Cavalry guarded humanitarian relief convoys filled with food for the Haitian people and served as the United Nations Quick Reaction Force (UNQRF). They also assisted in the seizure of illegal weapons and conducted security patrols. The Regiment helped restore civil order to the capital of Port-Au-Prince and throughout the Haitian countryside. Protection was provided, not only to the Haitian president and people, but also to President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore during their State visits.



(Above) United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) Security Police (SP) Arm Brassard. These brassards were worn by Dragoons in Haiti while performing security missions.

(Below) Trooper of the 2d Cavalry inspecting vehicles at a checkpoint in Haiti.



1995 Haitian Senate Voting ballot.



4th Squadrons OH-58 Kiowa Helicopters in Bosnia.

## Operation Joint Guard

The Regiment's participation in Operation Joint Guard began when 2d and 3d Squadrons crossed the Sava River into Bosnia in August 1997. The unit intended to augment 1st Infantry Division during Bosnia-Herzegovina's free municipal elections. As its first action in Bosnia, the Regiment seized the Serbian radio-television towers to prevent the broadcast of inflammatory propaganda into the Republic of Srpska inside Bosnia and Herzegovina. Follow up missions included restricting powers of the Republic of Srpska Specialist Police, creating the first multiethnic police department, providing security for the announcement of the Brcko Arbitration Decision, the institution of common license plates and currency, and the opening of the Bosnian rail system. In total, the Regiment executed an



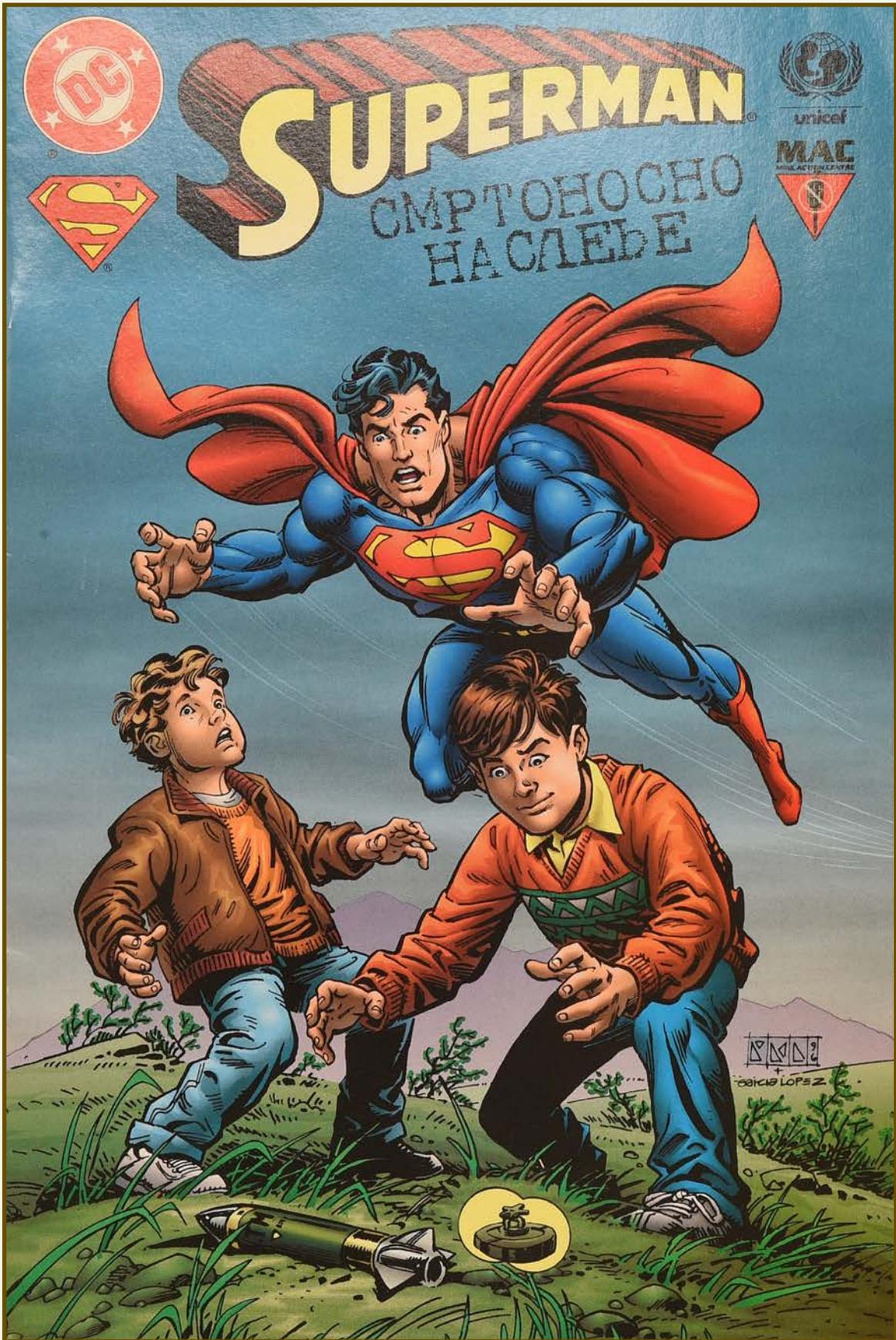
Stabilization Force (SFOR) marked 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment HMMWV's in Bosnia.

estimated 12,500 patrols, supervised the removal of over 12,000 mines, and oversaw 350 training exercises for the former warring factions.

While the line squadrons were deployed in Bosnia, the Regimental Headquarters deployed to Germany and trained with the 1st Armored Division's Headquarters before assuming command in Bosnia. During August and September, 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (L) was spread across five countries on two continents and was under the direct command and control of three different General Officer level commands. The deployment marked the end of the Regiment's eighth operational overseas campaign since its establishment in 1836.



2d Dragoons Deployment Guidon. This guidon was made and flown by the Regiment while deployed to Bosnia. It is based on the original size and design of the first cavalry guidon issued to the Regiment in 1836.



Superman: Deadly Legacy comic. These special addition comics were printed in several different languages and were created to educate children in war-torn countries about the dangers of landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO). These were distributed to children in Bosnia during the Regiment's deployment.



## Operation Iraqi Freedom

Dragoons on patrol in Iraq, 2003

### 2002-2004

After the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001, the Regiment, as with the rest of the United States military began to prepare for war. For some units deployments came quickly for others, like the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment, their first combat deployment would not take place until after the ground war started in Iraq. Joining troops that had been deployed earlier in 2002, 2d Squadron and the Regimental leadership deployed to Iraq on 5 April 2003. The bulk of the Regiment followed in May. Working under V Corps during the invasion, the Regiment began major combat operations and secured lines of communication against the Iraqi Army.

Upon reaching the Baghdad area, the Dragoons found themselves engaged in fierce fighting in areas of Sadr City and 9 Nissan, also known as New Baghdad. As a result of the Sadr uprising of April 2004, the Regiment remained in Iraq longer than originally expected and fought in Diwaniya, Al Kut, Kufa and An Najaf. For its performance during a 15 month deployment, the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.



Interceptor Body Armor worn by Col. Bradley W. May, 72nd Colonel of the Regiment, during OIF I.

# The Brutal Insurgency

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Cavalry Troopers executed classic maneuver warfare during the invasion and then rapidly transitioned into the role of nation builders. The campaign would see great successes, as well as great suffering, setting the stage for the following years of U.S. operations in Iraq. The 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (L) facilitated the opening of hundreds of schools, the reestablishment of Iraqi government services, and the improvement of key infrastructure. The 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (L) did not execute these growth initiatives by itself, but rather empowered Iraqis to do so. Thus, the motto “Iraqis-helping-Iraqis” was born.



Recovery operations at the United Nations (UN) Office of Humanitarian Coordinator Building in Baghdad, Iraq, after a truck bombing destroyed much of the building.

On 19 August 2003, a vehicle packed with explosives drove onto the U.N. compound and rammed a building. The resulting blast killed 22 people including the U.N.’s senior envoy in Iraq. The Regiment quickly moved forces to secure the area and treat casualties, saving the lives of 125 U.N. workers and staff. This attack became a symbol of insurgents’ brutality, following the collapse of Saddam Hussein’s regime. The 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (L) was instrumental in shrinking the power vacuum in which the insurgents amassed influence.

The Regimental Command Sergeant Major Roger P. Blackwood delivered this message to the Regiment on 3 March, 2004: *“The Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers of the Regiment have done, and are doing well in combat. All Soldiers of the Regiment can stand side by side with veterans of the past, and can stand proud with honor. The strength of the future Army leadership is within yourselves and the Soldiers you lead. What you, and your Soldiers have seen, felt, and*

*learned during this combat experience in Iraq will be the basis of that strength. Continue to focus on what you do for our Nation, the Army, the Regiment, and all Soldiers. Stay in the fight, stay motivated, stay focused, stay safe.”*



On 22 April 2004, the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), spearheaded by Task Force 2d Battalion, 37th Armor, of 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, the 'Iron Dukes,' assumed mission from 3d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, in the Holy City of An Najaf, Iraq. The enemy, known as Muqtada's militia, controlled An Najaf and neighboring Al Kufa. The mission statement appeared simple: destroy the militia and restore order to An Najaf and Al Kufa to allow transition of authority to a legitimate Iraqi government; and, on order, transfer security responsibilities to Iraqi security forces. The 2d ACR and the Iron Dukes battled non-stop for five weeks and broke the enemy's will to fight. They killed over 600 militia and wounded countless others, capturing and destroying weapons, successfully detaining two top aides to Muqtada al Sadr, and seizing weapons caches in the holy cemetery and Sahla Mosque, which ultimately led to the defeat of Sadr's militia in Najaf and Kufa. For their heroic actions in Iraq from April 2003 to June 2004 the 2d ACR and attached units were awarded the Army's highest unit award: The Presidential Unit Citation. The artist Jody Harmon depicted this battle in his painting “Iron Resolve” (caption and image courtesy of Jody Harmon).

# The Stryker:

## A New Horse

Having moved to Fort Lewis from Fort Polk during the spring of 2005, the Regiment was now busy familiarizing itself with its new horse, the Stryker. The term “Stryker” honors two American servicemen who posthumously received the Medal of Honor: Pfc Stuart S. Stryker, who died in World War II, and Specialist Robert F. Stryker, who died in the Vietnam War.



2d Cavalry standards during the return of forces ceremony in Vilseck, Germany, Summer 2006.

The newly reorganized Stryker Brigade Combat Team arrived in Vilseck, Germany in June, 2006. After almost fourteen years, the Regiment returned to its Cold War home. On 25 May 2007, after a short acclimation period, the Stryker Brigade Combat Team received a deployment notice. Following a mission readiness exercise at Hohenfels, the unit deployed to Kuwait on 7 August on its way to Iraq for the Regiment's second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



A Stryker maneuvering during training at Grafenwoehr, Germany.

## The Surge

In April of 2008, the Regiment received the order to move to the Diyala Province to replace 4th Brigade, 2d Infantry Division no later than 1 June 2008. Minus 1st Squadron, the Regiment moved in masse to the Diyala Province in May to join the 2d and 3d Squadrons, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. From late May until October of 2008, the Regiment fought extremist Sunni and Shia elements throughout the province. The Regiment's new Strykers allowed troopers to move swiftly and quietly throughout the countryside, confirming a reputation for being "Always Ready."



Dragoons on patrol in Iraq in 2008.

The lethal effort culminated in Operation Glad Tidings of Benevolence, a mostly Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) led operation to clear the province of the last remnants of insurgent activity. Over 20,000 Iraqi Army, Iraqi National Police, and Iraqi Police Forces came to the province to execute, with Coalition partnership, the operation that cleared villages, roads, and palm groves previously been controlled by terrorist insurgents. At the conclusion of the operation, the ISF was able to hand the area back to local Iraqi forces, and the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment handed a more secure province over to 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Arctic Wolves) who deployed from Alaska in September 2008. Throughout the fifteen month deployment, the Regiment fought both Shia and Sunni terrorists while focusing on rebuilding and securing neighborhoods and villages throughout Baghdad and the Diyala Province. This was all conducted with the unfailing support of the Regimental Support Squadron and the Special Troops Squadron as they provided daily logistical, medical, intelligence, aerial surveillance, and communications support.

By the end of the deployment, the Regiment lost 29 Troopers, had over 250 troopers wounded in action, and saw over 70 Stryker, MRAP and other vehicles destroyed by improvised explosive devices. However, the enemy sustained over 100 killed and over 1,100 captured. The Regiment captured or destroyed over 100,000 improvised explosive devices, weapons, ammunition and pieces of equipment. The Regiment saw the key areas of East Rashid, Sadr City, and the Diyala Province transformed from bastions of terrorist activity to more peaceful communities controlled by the Iraqi government. The Regiment returned to Vilseck, Germany, on 27 October 2008 in order to refit and prepare for future operations.



2d Cavalryman & Iraqi soldier pulling security in the Karkh District of Baghdad.

# Operation Enduring Freedom

## 2010-2011

After a rigorous train-up and Mission Rehearsal Exercise in Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr, Germany, the Regiment deployed in June 2010 to confront the rigors of combat in Afghanistan—its first ever action in that country. Regional Command South (RC-South) would become the Regiment's home for the next year and elements would be spread between Khandahar Province—birthplace of the Taliban- Zabul Province, and Tarin Kowt.

The Regimental Commander at this time, Col. James R. Blackburn, Jr., 75th Colonel of the Regiment, wrote of this deployment, "Dragoons, it has been my distinct honor to command the disciplined and opportunistic troopers of our Proud Regiment here in Southern Afghanistan. I couldn't be more proud of the great achievements of each Troop, Company, and Battery in our Regiment. At this very place, in this very important time – you made the difference between success and failure; and you turned this war around! Most importantly, we created the opportunity and favorable conditions to LEAVE!" The Regiment returned to Vilseck, Germany in June 2011.



Picture entitled "Hope", which was used by the Regiment to promote the 75th Regimental Commander's strategic plan known as the "love bank". This plan was a non-aggressive approach to trying to secure the support of the Afghan people in the hopes that they would then no longer support the Taliban.



Stryker in Afghanistan 2010

# Missions in Afghanistan

As part of a new “Surge” the 2d Cavalry Regiment secured wide swaths of the country. 1st Squadron, “War Eagles,” worked with the Australians, New Zealanders, Singaporeans, Slovaks, French, and Dutch to provide security for Uruzgan Province and Shah Wali Kot. Combined Team Uruzgan (CTU), as the multinational unit was called, focused on empowering the local Afghan government and populace in their transition to self-governance. 2d Squadron, “Cougar Squadron,” partnered with the Afghan National Army’s (ANA) 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps to execute population-centric counterinsurgency operations in Zabul Province.



Members of 3d Squadron along with a Afghan National Army partner react to contact in Afghanistan circa 2011.

Their actions enabled the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) to extend their sphere of influence, strengthen their governance, and develop a sustainable economy. 3d Squadron, “Wolfpack,” was responsible for the largest geographical area ranging from Kandahar to the Western Zharay District and northern Garmabak Mountains to the southern Arghandhab River, where they worked with their Afghan counterparts to conduct counterinsurgency operations, control Highway 1, and prevent insurgent resupply. 4th Squadron, “Saber,” was initially responsible for the Wesh-Chaman border crossing point in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan. Subordinate units within the Squadron mobilized to Kandahar City and FOB Lindsey. At Kandahar City troopers conducted disruption and clearance operations while at FOB Lindsey Soldiers assumed the counter indirect fire mission. Fires Squadron carried out operations across multiple lines of effort in all eleven districts within Zabul Province, one of the most popular zones for insurgent activity because of the region’s proximity to the Pakistan border.



Second pattern combat shirt worn by SFC Dustin Carroll of 4/2 during OEF 2010-2011.



Close up picture showing Infrared (IR) U.S. Flag, SFC rank and nametape.

Throughout the deployment, the Regimental Support Squadron, “Muleskinners” traveled more than 20,000 miles, pumped 2.8 million gallons of fuel, treated 4,400 patients, moved more than 15,000 pieces of equipment and cared for 157 wounded warriors in support of over 6,100 Coalition troops. The convergence of these independent activities enabled Coalition forces to emphasize restructuring and rebuilding the Afghan nation in conjunction with the Afghan government and security forces.

# Second Deployment to Afghanistan

## 2013-2014

In July 2013, the 2d Cavalry Regiment deployed once again and Troopers from the Regiment began their preparation for the deployment to Kandahar Province, Afghanistan in March 2013 with a Mission Readiness Exercise at Hohenfels.

The mission was very unique compared to past deployments. Dragoons had to train the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) as a Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB).

This requirement was extremely taxing on personnel and 2CR received hundreds of Soldiers to man mission specific Security Force Assistance Teams (SFATs). The agility of 2CR leaders and Soldiers enabled the Regiment to transform into an advise and assist force, in time to coach ANSF to secure their own country for the 2014 Presidential and Provincial Council elections.



Members of 2d Cavalry providing weapons training to Afghan Army soldiers.



Helmet of Colonel D. A. Sims 77th Colonel of the Regiment. The unofficial unit patch on this helmet was inspired by the World War II style patch and practice of display the unit symbol on the sides of Dragoon's helmets.



Plate carrier worn by 1Lt. Douglas Palmer of Engineer Troop, Regimental Support Squadron (RSS), 2d Cavalry during the 2013-2014 deployment to Afghanistan. 1Lt Palmer was awarded the Bronze Star with V for actions against enemy forces during an attack on Forward Operating Base (FOB) Pasab on 20 January 2014.

# Combined Task Force Dragoon

Combined Task Force (CTF) DRAGOON employed an extremely versatile and agile force that made an exceptional impact across RC-South during a critical time in the transition of security to Afghan Forces and the election of a new President and Provincial Council representatives. While assuming battle space from two brigades with less than half the number of Soldiers, advising two ANA Brigades, two battalions of Afghan Uniform Police in Kandahar City, and 16 district governorates, CTF DRAGOON had extremely complex and demanding missions. Dragoons truly participated in every aspect of Unified Land Operations.

The pre-deployment training and planning enabled Dragoons to be an adaptive, agile force. Whether training the ANSF, closing a combat outpost, defending against a hasty attack at FOB Pasab, or assisting the Afghans with election security planning, CTF DRAGOON embodied the motto: *Always Ready!*



2d Cavalrymen advising a member of the Afghan National Army.



Shoulder patch of the 2nd Kandak (2 KDK), 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps of the Afghan National Army (Left) and the patch of the 2nd Mobile Strike Force (2 MSF) that the Security Force Assistance (SFAT) team 401 "Wrist breakers" advised during the deployment. The 2 MSF Brigade Commander designed the patch with symbols from both the 2 MSF (Black Panther with a snake in its mouth) and 2d Cavalry (Dragoon hat plate and crossed sabers). The SFAT Team would often wear this patch as a sign of solidarity when working with the Afghan soldiers of the 2 MSF.

# The Regiment Today

With the activation of the Regimental Engineer Squadron in July 2014, the Regiment assumed its current form. Consisting of three infantry squadrons (1st, 2d, and 3d Squadrons), a reconnaissance squadron (4th Squadron), Field Artillery Squadron, the Regimental Engineer Squadron, and the Regimental Support Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment's structure is that of a standard Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT).



2d Cavalry Regiment current Headquarters, Rose Barracks, Germany.



Having diverse missions spanning eleven countries, from the Red Sea to the Baltic Sea, the Regiment remains on the frontier of freedom in Europe.

The complex and dynamic European security environment requires innovative, adaptive leaders and disciplined formations that embody the motto "Always Ready." This commitment to readiness, combined with an enduring focus on leader development and a mission set designed to enhance the NATO Alliance, forms the core of Regimental priorities. Our enduring presence across Europe both assures our allies and deters our enemies.

Troopers and leaders assigned to 4th Squadron, participating in a parade during a Frühlingsfest, Sulzbach-Rosenburg, Germany.



Troopers from Task Force Wolfpack, 3d Squadron, conducting a Tactical Road March during Operation Dragon Ride from Estonia, Lithuania, and Poland to Rose Barracks, Germany, April, 2015.



Troopers assigned to Archer Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, after Air Assault training, March 2016.

# Operation Atlantic Resolve

## December 2014 – Present

Operation Atlantic Resolve (OAR) is an ongoing part of U.S. Army Europe's Strong Europe campaign, which conveys the framework of relationships, capabilities, infrastructure and exercises intended to reassure Allies and Partners through persistent and consistent engagement.

2d Cavalry Regiment conducts a number of unique and challenging training events alongside Soldiers from NATO and partner nations during each OAR rotation. Many of these training events focused on individual and team tasks that culminate in joint platoon level-events, such as live fire exercises, casualty operations, and air and field training exercises.



U.S. Trooper participating in a training exercise during Operation Atlantic Resolve.

The Regiment's participation in OAR helped to build upon a foundation of partnership and cooperation. By working, living, and training alongside our Allies, our Soldiers are better prepared to deploy and, if necessary, fight as a joint team within the NATO Alliance. These unique and invaluable international relationships cannot be created instantaneously but must be cultivated and maintained.



As America's Allies and Partners deploy alongside 2d Cavalry Regiment Soldiers during future conflicts, the benefit of these relationships will prove to be irreplaceable.

Soldiers from 3d Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment and Lithuanian Duke Vaidotas Mechanized Infantry Battalion, braved cold, wet conditions to complete team leader training at Rukla, Lithuania, January, 2016.



(above) 1st Platoon, B Troop; from the Regimental Engineer Squadron (RES), executes a static display of their military vehicles during Operation Dragoon Ride in Bialystok, Poland, May, 2015. (below) The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Reconnaissance Platoon, from the RES, trains with a Bundewiser Chemical Decontamination unit to enhance interoperability between the two units during Golden Mask in 2015.



# Operation Dragoon Ride

March 2015

Following a three month deployment to Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, more than 500 Troopers from 3d Squadron road marched back to Vilseck. From 20 March to 1 April 2015, columns of Strykers crossed Eastern Europe in a display of the operational mobility that only a Stryker Regiment can provide.



Throughout Dragoon Ride, Troopers met with citizens of each country and put a face on the overall mission of reassuring our allies. Across the route, 3d Squadron found themselves the center of cheering citizens and enthusiastic support. They returned on 1 April 2015, just as the remainder of the Regiment deployed to Hohenfels.





A pre-war split-finger Baseball Glove and a 2004 dated Czech Association baseball, presented to the 78th Colonel of the Regiment, Col. John V. Meyer III, by a grateful Czech citizen during Operation Dragoon Ride. As an eight-year-old boy, the unidentified 78-year-old donor originally received the baseball glove as a gift from an American GI whose unit had liberated his town in 1945. The donor insisted on giving this glove back to a U.S. Army Soldier and held on to it for 70 years awaiting the opportunity. This glove and ball is displayed as a cherished reminder of the liberation of the Czech Republic in 1945 and our continued partnership today.



A Trooper from 3d Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, high-fives a young Czech boy during Operation Dragoon Ride, March 2015.

# Operation Cavalry March

## May 2015

More than 300 Soldiers of 2d Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment conducted a 400-kilometer road march across Romania from Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base to the Cincu Training Area during Operation Cavalry March. A joint Romanian and U.S. effort to demonstrate interoperability between the two nations. Cavalry March served as the lead-in to "Sarmis 15," a combined Canadian, British, Romanian, and U.S. exercise held in Cincu.

Other community events included a welcoming ceremony, vehicle static displays, sporting events between U.S. and Romanian Soldiers and a wreath laying at the WWII Heroes Memorial.



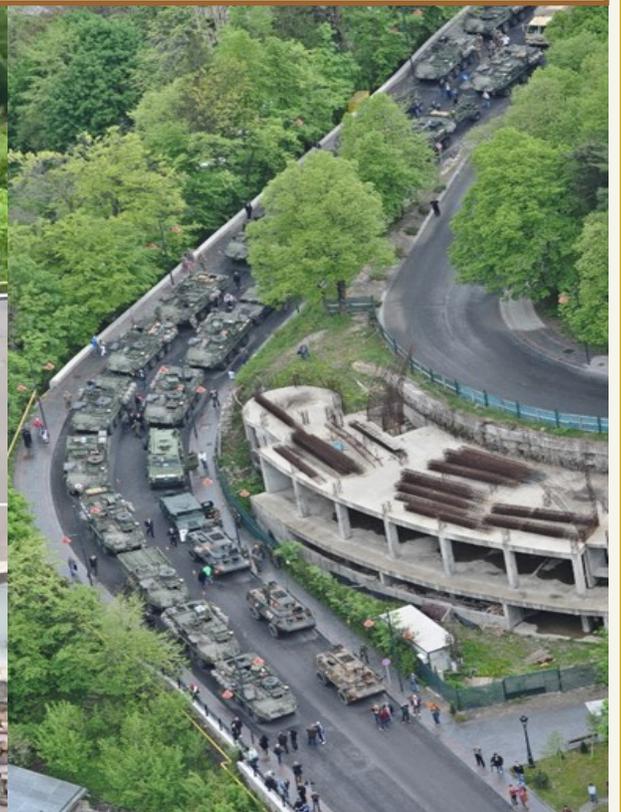
Soldiers belonging to the Romanian Land Forces march next to Troopers assigned to 2d Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, as part of a parade welcoming the Squadron to the city of Brasov, Romania. This event gave the unit a chance to interact with the local populace and improve relations in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve-South.



Maj. Shaun Conlin (left) the Operations Officer of 2d Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, greets a Romanian child during the parade welcoming the Squadron to the city of Brasov, Romania.



(above) American and Romanian flags fly from Ghost Troop Strykers in preparation for their road march to the Cincu Training Center (CTC) in Romania. (below) Romanian spectators took a look at Stryker Combat Vehicles belonging to 2d Squadron, as the unit drove through Sinaia and made a brief stop to visit a local government building in the area.



# Exercise Dragoon Crossing and Brave Warrior

## September - October 2015

Exercise Dragoon Crossing led 2d Cavalry Regiment on a 1,400 km tactical road march from Vilseck, Germany to Arad, Romania. As Task Force Saber (4th Squadron) executed the road march, Dragoons executed two joint combined multinational tactical water crossings across the Danube River in Gyor, Hungary and the Mures River in Arad, Romania.

Additionally, the Task Force executed numerous MIL-to-MIL and MIL-to-CIV engagements, platoon to troop situational training exercises, and platoon and troop live fire exercises. As the task force built momentum, Dragoons supported Operation Slovak Shield by providing anti-tank capability to enhance allied freedom of maneuver. Dragoon Crossing culminated with Operation Brave Warrior, a joint combined multinational battle group live fire in Veszprem, Hungary. Dragoons from 2d Cavalry Regiment demonstrated tactical interoperability, operational mobility, and achieved strategic effects throughout the two month exercise.



Col John V. Meyer, the 78th Colonel of the Regiment, and American Soldiers from 4th Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, participated in a Romanian Armed Forces Day ceremony October 25, 2015 in Arad, Romania. The guest speaker for the ceremony was Romanian President Iohannis.

Task Force Saber, and 1st Battalion, 25th Infantry Brigade, Hungarian Defense Forces conducted a combined training exercise, to further enhance interoperability and strengthen relationships among the two nations during Brave Warrior, October 2015.





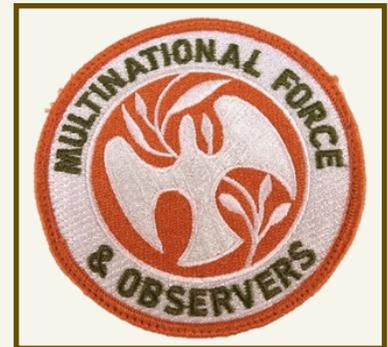
(above) A BMP 2 and Slovak dismounts fire together under the direction of a Slovak and a U.S. Platoon Leader while U.S. NCOs instruct on the use of the 240B. (below) As part of the redeployment to Vilseck, Germany, 4th Squadron and the ARAD, Romanian Land Forces conducted a deliberate water crossing of the Mures River. Romanian bridging assets were used during this exercise in order to maximize their logistical support channels to demonstrate interoperability and strengthen allied relationships.



# Multinational Forces & Observers (MFO)

November 2015 - August 2016

1st Squadron deployed to the Sinai Peninsula for a nine-month rotation as the Multinational Forces & Observers battalion task force (the sixty-first American battalion sized unit to serve there). In addition to manning key observations posts and continuous patrolling, 1st Squadron maintained collective training and took the opportunity to train with deployed Allies as well.



Multinational Force and Observers Patch

(left) A training event, named "Isola Forte," Italian for "Strong Island," conducted by Apache Troop, 1st Squadron "War Eagle", 2d Cavalry Regiment. The training was designed to rehearse moving a South Camp Response Team to Tiran Island aboard Italian ships and evacuating a casualty by ship.

(right) Apache Troop trains for another personnel recovery mission. The scenario centered primarily on retrieving an injured and isolated MFO Soldier at a remote Observation Post (OP). A UH-60 was used in this scenario to recover the wounded Soldier for a swift CASEVAC to the dispensary for treatment.





(above) Troopers assigned to Apache Troop, 1st Squadron, participating in a land to air to sea casualty evacuation training exercise. The operation consisted of an airlift in a UH-60, recovery of the wounded Soldier with troopers providing local security of the evacuation site, and then, an airlift out; first with the injured Soldier CASEVAC to the dispensary, then with the security Squad. (below) A War Eagle Trooper scans the Egyptian desert during a patrol.



# Joint Multinational Readiness Center

Only an hour south of Rose Barracks, Hohenfels Training Area is home to the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC). JMRC provides the most realistic decisive action training in Europe. Since returning from Afghanistan in April 2014 through winter of 2016, Regimental units trained in four major JMRC exercises: Allied Spirit I, Saber Junction 15, Combined Resolve 15, and Allied Spirit IV. In September 2016, 2nd Squadron has returned for Allied Spirit V.



The 2d Cavalry Regiment comprised the bulk of over 2,000 Soldiers from Canada, Hungary, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and the United States during exercise Allied Spirit I at the Hohenfels Training Area in southeastern Germany in January 2015.

Designed to provide multinational inter operability training at brigade and battalion levels to enhance U.S. and Alliance effectiveness, Allied Spirit I proved to be tremendously effective training for the Regimental Staff and 4th Squadron.

## Allied Spirit I

In January 2015, the Regimental Staff and 4th Squadron deployed to Hohenfels and trained as a multinational task force with Soldiers from other allied nations. The multinational formation overcame extremely cold weather and significant communication barriers, and learned tremendously important lessons on interoperability in mission command, intelligence, and fire support.

Lessons from Allied Spirit I proved invaluable as the Regiment began increased training in multilateral events.



A Dutch Soldier of Alpha Company, 42d Infantry Battalion, 13th Mechanized Brigade conducts radio communications during exercise Allied Spirit at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. Allied Spirit exercised tactical interoperability and testing secure communications within Alliance members.

Engineers prepare to breach at Hohenfels Training Area during Saber Junction 15. The Engineer Squad Vehicle (ESV) shown below carries a mine plow on the front and tows Mine-Clearing Line Charge (MICLIC) trailer.



### **Saber Junction 15**

The Regimental Staff, 1st Squadron, 4th Squadron, Field Artillery Squadron, the Engineer Squadron, and Support Squadron all deployed to Hohenfels in April 2015 for Saber Junction 15, a large-scale decisive action training environment exercise. With 17 NATO and partner-nation participants, the Regiment again proved its tremendous capability as a multi-national headquarters. Through almost four weeks of continuous training, the Regiment built on the lessons from Allied Spirit proved to be an extraordinarily tough fight for the OPFOR.

### **Allied Spirit IV**

In January 2016, 2d Squadron deployed to Hohenfels as a part of the Italian Garibaldi Brigade and trained during Allied Spirit IV. Again focusing on multinational interoperability, Allied Spirit IV was a key step in 2d Squadron's preparation for their upcoming deployment to Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia as part of Atlantic Resolve.



Spc. Bryan Giustra, Ghost Troop, 2d Squadron, points out different fields of fire to his gunner, Pvt. Jacob Smith, while providing security and helping his unit conduct reconnaissance patrols during their Squad Tactical Exercise as a part of Allied Spirit IV.

# REED MUSEUM



SECOND REGIMENT OF DRAGOONS HERITAGE CENTER





CASE 1



CASE 2

## COLONEL CHARLES H. REED

**CASE 1:** Pre command life and career of Colonel Charles H. Reed: Charles “Hank” Reed was born in Monrovia, Virginia, in 1900, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Cavalry from West Point with the Class of 1921 and served in several cavalry organizations. In his free time he was an avid hunter and enjoyed equestrian sports.

*Exhibit case displaying items used by Colonel Reed during the period of his career before command. Items include his Sam Browne belt; his 1902 officers Saber; and his 1895 model officers dress coat. The exhibit case also includes photographs of him during different phases of his career and text explaining different aspects of his life during this time.*

**CASE 2:** Command and post command period of Col. Charles H. Reed: Col. Reed was the 31st Col. of the Regiment, taking over command in 1943 and was responsible for the organizing and training of the new 2d Cavalry Group for combat service during World War II. During the war Col. Reed was decorated several times for bravery and received the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat. After the war Col. Reed commanded the Regiment through 1947, and played an important role in establishing the U.S. Constabulary in Germany. Retiring in 1949, Col. Reed spent many years as the President of the 2d Cavalry Association and was considered the 20th Century patriarch of the Regiment till his death in 1980.

*Exhibit case displaying items used by Col. Reed while in command of the Regiment. Items include his dress uniform coat from WWII; a walking stick made by Col. Reed during the Tennessee Maneuvers; his dog tags, binoculars and case used by Col Reed during WWII; a display of his medals; Bottle of bourbon that was donated to the museum by Reed’s WWII driver.*



## Second Seminole War/Mexican American War

The first combat for the Regiment was at Walika Pond in June of 1836. The 2d Dragoons brought innovation to the battle that helped end the Second Seminole War. The Mexican American War was the first conflict that the Regiment fought a European style Army with a mounted force. Capt. Charles May made a famous charge at the battle of Resaca de la Palma and coined the phrase "Remember Your Regiment and Follow Your Officers," which is the unofficial motto of the 2d Cavalry Regiment. The 2d Dragoons served in every major campaign of the Mexican-American War.

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry during the Second Seminole War/ Mexican American War. Artifacts: 1833 fatigue uniform coat with folding leather forage cap (reproduction); 1833 Dragoon Shako (reproduction); 1833 Dragoon saber and scabbard (reproduction); 1843 Hall-North carbine; Model 1833 Dragoon undress uniform coat and cap (reproduction); Tiffany and Company Model 1840 Cavalry Saber.*



## The Civil War

During the Civil War the Regiment served in the Army of the Potomac. In August 1861, the War Department decided to reorganize all the mounted regiments into Cavalry Regiments, the 2d Dragoons was officially renamed the 2d U.S. Cavalry. Of 31 officers in the Regiment at the outbreak of the war, 17 chose to resign their commissions and accept commissions in the Confederate Army. The first few years of the Civil War saw the majority of the Union's cavalry unit's poorly employed. In 1863, with reorganization and the formation of the U.S. Cavalry Corps, the Union's cavalry became far more effective on the battlefield. During the war, the Regiment was commanded by Majors and then Captains. In 1865, at the end of the Civil War; the Regiment numbered 110 officers and men and was commanded by a captain.

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry during the Civil War. Artifacts: Reproduction orange trimmed mounted service coat; mounted service pants (reproduction); Model 1860 light cavalry saber; Model 1859 Sharps Carbine, Model 1851 Colt Navy Revolver.*



CASE 5

## Indian Wars

Immediately following the Civil War the Regiment was redeployed to the western frontier. On 21 December 1866 the Regiment suffered its bloodiest day when 27 troopers from C Company were slain in what became known as the "Fetterman Massacre." Several members of the regiment were selected for different types of exploration expeditions to include to the Arctic as part of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition, and the exploration of the Copper, Tanana, and Koyukuk Rivers in Alaska.

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry during the Indian War. Artifacts: mannequin of an Indian Wars Soldier (reproduction); Model 1865 Spencer Carbine; Model 1876 Campaign Hat (reproduction); Model 1881 Full Dress Enlisted Cavalry Helmet.*



## Cuba, Philippines, and Mexican Border Service

In 1898, the Regiment deployed to Cuba as the only mounted regiment for the U.S. Army, this was followed by a three year tour in Cuba performing the U.S. Army's first humanitarian mission. Following the Regiments time in Cuba it was deployed twice to the Philippines during a 14 year period the Regiment was deployed for 8.5 years. When it returned from its final overseas tour to the Philippines the Regiment did a short Mexican border service assignment and then was permanently assigned to Ft. Ethan Allen, Vermont.

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century. Artifacts: Model 1889 Sun Helmet; Silver sports trophy from the Department of Luzon; U.S. Magazine Carbine Krag-Jorgensen .30 caliber; Section of U.S. Flag that flew over the 2d Cavalry Commissary, Santiago Cuba, 1898; Model 1892 Dress Coat and Hat.*



## World War I

Before World War I, the 2d Cavalry was used to train future officers for the Army. 31 troopers of the 2d Cavalry escorted General Pershing to France making them the first U.S. soldiers in France. The 2d Cavalry was the only horse mounted regiment for the U.S. Army in France during the war. The Regiment participated in running remount stations, performing traffic control, and conducting straggler lines. During combat operations the Regiment formed a provisional squadron that performed combat operations. At the end of the war the Regiment performed a short occupation duty in defeated Germany.

*Text and graphic panel explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry during World War I. Artifacts: Model 1910 Coat, Identified to B.T. Milligan, A Troop, 2d Cavalry Regiment; United States Rifle, Caliber .30-06 Model 1903; Automatic Pistol, caliber .45, Model 1911; Model 1913 Cavalry Saber; The Plattsburg Manual, Military Training manual for civilians who desire to enter military service.*



## Interwar Period

After the return of the Regiment from World War I, it was assigned to the Cavalry School at Fort Riley, Kansas, where it was used as the school's demonstration regiment and tested new equipment. In 1924, the Regiment adopted its current Distinctive Unit Insignia, followed by the adoption of its Coat of Arms. On May 15, 1942, the Regiment was reorganized as an armored regiment. Two battalions of this reorganized regiment saw service with the 9th Armored Division the other as an amphibious tank battalion in the Pacific.

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry during the period between World War I and World War II. Artifacts: Dress coat with 9th Armored Division shoulder sleeve insignia (SSI); First model Distinctive Unit Insignia circa 1924; 2d Cavalry Division shoulder sleeve insignia (SSI); 1925 Edition of the "RASP" Fort Riley Cavalry School Class Yearbook; Meritorious Unit Brassard, M1928 Saddle; Original Charter authorizing the 2d Cavalry Coat of Arms.*



## World War II

On December 18, 1942, the 2d Cavalry Regiment (Mechanized) was authorized by the War Department. This new organization received its training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina and was re-designated as the 2d Cavalry Group. During the war, the Regiment served as part General Patton's Third Army, earning the nickname "Ghosts of Patton's Army." At the conclusion of World War II, the Regiment had earned five campaign stars and was considered one of the most successful units of its type during the War. Famously, the 2d Cavalry Group rescued the Lipizzaner stallions in "Operation Cowboy."

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry during World War II. Artifacts: Jacket, Combat, Winter, "Tanker Jacket" worn by Col. Charles H. Reed; M1 Helmet: Worn by Col. Charles H. Reed during World War II; Model 1919 Browning .30 Caliber Machine Gun; U.S. Flag of Thanks: Made by a French citizen and presented to a member of the Regiment upon the liberation of a village in November 1944.*



CASE 10

## U.S. Constabulary

After World War II, the 2d Cavalry served as a constabulary regiment in Germany. Cavalry Groups were selected for service in the constabulary due to their adaptability and mobility the 2d Cavalry Group was re-designated as the 2d Constabulary Regiment. The Constabulary acted as a police force patrolling borders and maintaining general military and civil security. Members of the 2d Constabulary are credited with designing the Constabulary's Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (SSI). In 1948, as tensions with the Soviet Union intensified, the 2d Constabulary Regiment was reorganized as an Armored Cavalry Regiment.

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry as a Constabulary Regiment during the occupation of U.S. Forces in Germany post World War II. Artifacts: Constabulary Uniform; Constabulary Helmet (reproduction); Cigarette case with an engraving of the area of Germany that the 2d Constabulary Regiment area of responsibility; Map case identified to Lt. Col. Benkosky; M1 Garand Rifle .30 Caliber; Uniform Plate of the Constabulary.*



## Early Cold War

During this period the regiment was in charge of 731 KM of the border between West Germany and Czechoslovakia and East Germany. The Bundesgrenzschutz were the first German police force in post war Germany and worked as partners with the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment. In 1955, the Regiment was re-deployed to the United States as part of "Operation Gyroscope." The Regiment returned to Germany in 1958 and to its mission in Europe. One of the famous Regimental Commanders from this period was Colonel Creighton Abrams Jr.

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry during the early period of the cold war in Germany. Artifacts: M43 Jacket featuring 7th Army shoulder sleeve insignia, and 2d Cavalry pocket patch (Reproduction); Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), .30 caliber; Pile Cap and name tape worn by Lt. Col. Dewitt C. Armstrong III, commanding officer of 1st Battalion, circa 1955; Border Sign marking Soviet Zone.*



## Late Cold War

The Cold War era represents the longest single mission in the history of the Regiment, lasting almost 25% of the unit's existence. During the Cold War the Regiment was dispersed across Bavaria, with Regimental Headquarters in Nurnberg, 1st Squadron in Bayreuth, 2d Squadron in Bamberg, 3d Squadron in Amberg and 4th Squadron at Feucht Army Airfield. The Regiment also maintained 7 border camps as part of its border surveillance mission. Col. Robert Wagner (60<sup>th</sup> Colonel of the Regiment) known as the "Dueller" was one of the more colorful Colonels during this period. On July 1, 1990, all border control ceased between East and West Germany.

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry during the late cold war period in Germany. Artifacts: Dueller's Pistol and belt worn by Colonel Wagner during his service; United States Submachine Gun, caliber .45, M3A1; OD 507 Uniform Shirt and Cavalry Beret, pocket patch denotes completion of gunnery circa 1980; Tanker Boots; Cav Cup Patrol Cap Tab; 2nd Place medal for the 1989 Cavalry Cup Competition; Section of score card for 1989 Cavalry Cup Competition; Border Sign.*



## Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm

2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) was the spearhead of the 7th Corps during combat operations and played a prominent role in the Battle of 73 Easting; the last great tank battle of the 20th Century. It was the first ground defeat of the Iraqi Republican Guard. The 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment's actions during Desert Storm became textbook examples of modern mounted operations. During this time the Regiment was commanded by Colonel L.D. Holder, 65th Colonel of the Regiment, during his tenure he saw the end of the Cold War and successfully led the Regiment in combat in Desert Storm.

*Text and graphics explaining the 2d Cavalry's role during Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield. Artifacts: Uniform of Colonel Leonard Don Holder Jr. worn in Iraq, 1990-1991; Hat, Sun, Hot Weather worn by a member of 4th Squadron during Operation Desert Storm; Trimble Trimpack GPS navigation system used by the U.S. Army during Operation Desert Storm; Operations Map showing the Regiment's attack plan during combat operations in Operation Desert Storm.*



CASE 14

## Fort Polk, Haiti and Bosnia

After Desert Storm, the Regiment was redeployed to United States eventually being stationed at Fort Polk Louisiana and assigned to the 18th Airborne Corps. This period also saw the Regiment reorganized into a Armored Cavalry Regiment (Light) which saw the expanded use of HMMWV with BGM-71 TOW anti tank missiles mounted on top. The Regiment also took on additional duties as part of the OPFOR force on Fort Polk as part of the JRTC In 1995 elements of the Regiment were deployed to Haiti as part of Operation Uphold Democracy and again deployed to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry during the 1990's. Artifacts: Opposing Forces (OPFOR) Uniform worn by members of the Regiment at Fort Polk, LA; United Nations (UN) Mission Brassard worn by Dragoons of 2ACR (L) in Haiti; Superman, Deadly legacy comics; Uniform worn by Colonel Walter Sharp during Operations in Haiti; Headquarters sign used by 2ACR (L) during operations in Bosnia.*



## Operation Iraqi Freedom

The Regiment was deployed to Iraq on April 5, 2003, and fought in such places as Sadr City against the Mahdi Army. During its first deployment the Regiment conducted traditional maneuver warfare and fought against an insurgency. In 2006, the Regiment returned to Germany as a Stryker Brigade Combat Team and within a year was redeployed to Iraq for its second tour as part of the famous “surge in Iraq.”

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry during Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

*Artifacts: Uniform of Colonel Bradley W. May, 72<sup>nd</sup> Colonel of the Regiment, Iraq, 2003-2004; Iraqi Civil Defense Corps Epaulet worn by members of ICDC trained by Dragoons at the Academy; Uniform of Major Steven Soika, Executive Officer of the Regiment, Iraq 2007-2008; Hat issued to members of the “Sons of Iraq.”*



## Operation Enduring Freedom

The Regiment deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 and served in Regional Command South (RC South). As in previous deployments the Regiment had to adapt to a ever changing battlefield due to in large part to the Improvised Explosive Devices that were encountered during the deployment. In 2013 the Regiment deployed to Afghanistan for a second time and returned to its previous operational area of RC South. Combined Task Force Dragoon was tasked with training the ANSF, closing a combat outpost, and assisting the Afghans with election security planning.

*Text and graphics explaining the role of the 2d Cavalry during Operation Enduring Freedom. Artifacts: Uniform worn by Lt. Col. Bryan Denny, 3d Squadron Commander, OEF 2010-2011; Biometric Automated Toolset/Handheld Interagency Identity Detection (BAT/HIIDES) system used by the Regiment in OEF 2010-2011; Shoulder patch of the 2nd Kandak (2 KDK), 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps of the Afghan National Army; Uniform worn by Lt. Col Robert Ballagh, Officer in Charge (OIC) of Security Force Assistance (SFAT) team 401 during OEF 2013-2014.*

# Honor Guard Case

The Honor Guard case pays homage to the first incarnation of the Reed Museum. Originally called the Trophy Room, it served as a display area for trophies, partnership gifts, and items of historical significance, while also serving as the command conference room. The center piece of this room was a display showing the uniforms of the historic color guard. The Trophy Room was located in Merrell Barracks, Nurnberg Germany, which served as the Headquarters of the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment during the Cold War. After the death of Col. Charles H. Reed in 1980, the trophy room was re-designated as the "Reed Museum."

For most of the 20th Century, the Regimental Color Guard and Band were outfitted in the 1833 Dragoon Dress uniform, which was the first dress uniform for the 2d Regiment of Dragoons. The eight pointed star located on the shako (hat) is known as a Dragoon Star and was the inspiration behind one of the three symbols used in the Regiments Distinctive Unit Insignia. The uniforms design served two purposes: to give a professional military appearance based on European military fashion of the time period, and impress the Native American population.

Today this case serves as a backdrop to the primary function of this room, ceremonies. The Traditions Room was designed to provide a unique space on Rose Barracks that can provide historical setting for any member or supporter of the Regiment with their ceremonial needs.

The two different colors of coats that made up the 1833 Dragoon dress coats served as an identifier to the type of duties the soldier wearing the coat was assigned. Blue was used as the standard color for the rank and file Dragoon, red was worn by musicians. In the 19th Century military structure, musicians played an important role as communication tools on the battlefield. It was important that the commander of a formation could quickly identify the musicians during the heat of battle in order to convey orders; hence, the wear of different colored coats.



Historic Honor Guard, Fort Riley Kansas, 1936.



Interior of the Reed Museum at Merrell Barracks Nurnberg circa 1980.



The one request the Regiment had for the museum was to provide a classroom space for use by Soldiers of the Regiment. Because the original features of the stables dominate the gallery space, in several instances after their discovery, the exhibit plans had to be adjusted to work around them or include them. The traditions room, for example, was conceived due to the discovery of the archway leading into the room, which effected the decision where to locate the classroom space for the Regiment. Originally a room was designated on the administrative side of the building, with the discovered archway it was moved into the gallery and this classroom eventually morphed into the traditions room.



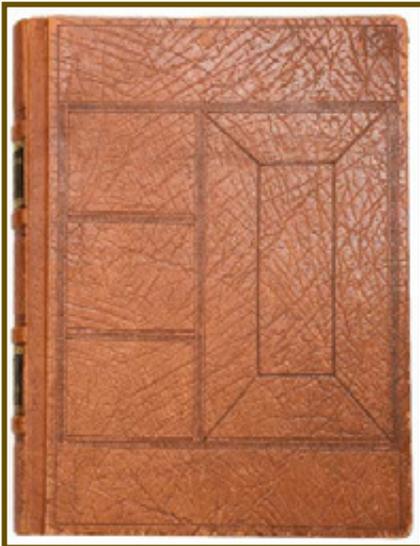
# Honorary Squadron of Dragoons

The descriptive rolls is the most cherished artifact in the Reed Museum. It dates back to the formation of the Regiment in 1836 and continues until 1863. The original function of the book was a descriptive roll of the members of the Regiment, which recorded information such as physical description, place of birth, pre service occupation, and information regarding the Dragoon's service. The book was lost for many years, resurfacing in 1952 when it arrived in the mail from Ft. Riley, Kansas to the Regimental Headquarters in Nurnberg, Germany. Since this time the book has been the center piece in the Reed Museum collection.



Col. Thomas M. Hough, 80th Colonel of the Regiment, inducting a member of the Regiment into the Honorary Squadron of Dragoons.

The Honorary Squadron of Dragoons was instituted in 1952 by the 39th Colonel of the Regiment, Col. Creighton Abrams, Jr. Entry into this prestigious roster may be obtained only by nomination and approval of the Colonel of the Regiment. To be Dragooned," a Trooper must have served a



minimum of 12 months in the Regiment. NCO's and Soldiers are nominated by the Regimental CSM, Squadron CSM, or their Troop First Sergeant. Officers may be nominated by the Colonel of the Regiment or their Squadron or Troop Commanders, depending on the nominee's position. Nominees must possess a record untarnished by incidents, punishments, or other acts that reflect unfavorably upon the Regiment.

In 2012 the Regiment commissioned a new honorary organization called the "Order of the Fleur de Lis". This order was created to honor the selfless service of spouses of members of the Regiment. The ceremony is performed in conjunction with the Dragooning ceremony.

The original descriptive rolls dating from 1836. Below are the first entries in the book which contain the Field Officers of the Regiment. The first name is David E. Twiggs, First Colonel of the Regiment, Lt. Col. William S. Harney, first Deputy Commander and Second Colonel of the Regiment.

*Field Officers*

**REGISTER OF OFFICERS** belonging to the **Second Regiment of United States Dragoons.**

NAME.	RANK.	Date of Appointment.	Date of Promotion.	Date of Transfer.	Date of Leave of Absence.	Date of Birth.	WHERE BORN.	REMARKS.
1. David E. Twiggs	Colonel	8 June 36		8 June 36		42 Feb 93	Richmond, Va.	
2. W <sup>m</sup> S. Harney	1st Lt.	15 Aug. 36		15 Aug. 36		23 Aug. 01	Sec. Dist. 6th Div. 7th Regt.	
3. Thomas S. Harney	Major	1 June 36				8 Oct. 95	Indersht. Va.	

# Honorary Squadron Second United States Dragoons



To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know ye, that Col Charles Hancock Reed 014948  
 being fully qualified by his outstanding ability, performance of duty and interest in  
 perpetuating the traditions and accomplishments of the Second Dragoons Regiment  
 and having been properly recommended for this duty, is hereby appointed Colonel  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in the Honorary Squadron of the Second Dragoons, to rank  
 as such from 14 May 1951. He is hereafter charged carefully and diligently  
 to discharge his responsibilities at any place and in what-ever capacity he may serve in such  
 a manner as to bring great credit upon the military service and to perpetuate the tradition  
 of the Second Dragoons.

Given under my hand and in the name of the present members of the 2d Armored  
 Cavalry Regiment at Ft. G. Meade this 4th day of November  
 in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred fifty five.

Entered on the rolls of  
 The Honorary Squadron, Second Dragoons Regiment  
 page 2 C. W. Crowell 4 November 1955  
S/Major Date

William E. Robt

Colonel Armor  
Commanding

Col. Reed's Honorary Squadron certificate.

The original Dragoon book from 1836 is arranged by officer first and then non-commissioned officer (NCO) and enlisted. Because of this when the tradition of the Honorary Squadron started in 1952 they created a book that was organized the same as the original. Some of the famous Dragoons that have signed the first book include Col Creighton Abrams, 39th Colonel of the Regiment and the person responsible for the Honorary Squadron tradition. Also Dragooned into the first book is the 31st Colonel of the Regiment, Col. Charles Reed. Before long the officer section of the first book filled up, because of this, when the book is opened up today there are a lot of blank pages on the NCO and enlisted side. In 1996 the Regiment commissioned a second book, this time the pages are universal.

## 2 REGISTER OF OFFICERS belonging to the Honorary Squadron of 2<sup>nd</sup> United States Dragoons

NAME	RANK	Date of Appointment	Date of Promotion	Date of Transfer	Date of Leave of Absence	Date of Birth	WHERE BORN	REMARKS
White, G. D.	Chaj Gen	14. May 51	Promoted to General on	22 Jun 1955				49y U.S. Constabulary
Clarke, Bruce C.	Brig. Gen	14. May 51						49y 2d US Brigade
Reed, Charles H.	Col.	14. May 51		1 Aug 47				31st Colonel of the Reg

Col. Reed's signature in the first book .

## The Regimental Punch Bowl and Ceremony

The Regimental punch bowl ceremony is a time honored tradition within 2d Dragons. The Regimental punch, a term used to describe the concoction that is somewhat tasty, always potent and able to be served in a variety of capacities (both in liquid and solid form). The ceremony traditionally begins formal Regimental social functions such as Balls, Dining Ins and Dining Outs.

The punch is prepared using very specific ingredients that represent the many battles and campaigns that lace the rich history of the 2d Dragons. Each ingredient reminds us of those who have gone before us, and the responsibility we have to continue the superb service to our nation.



Regimental Punch Bowl, cup and ladle. These items were made in Germany in 1952.

# Partnership Case

## 12th Panzer Brigade

The Traditions Room provides the Regiment a space to present exhibits that highlight unique aspects of the organization. This includes the important connections the Regiment has with foreign nation military organizations.

The 12th Panzer Brigade has been partnered with the 2d Cavalry Since 1978 and involves both training and social engagements between the Soldiers of the 2d Cavalry and the 12th Panzer Brigade. To further deepen this bond, subordinate squadrons of the 2d Cavalry are also partnered with subordinate battalions from the 12th Panzer Brigade.



(above) Patch of the 12th Panzer Brigade.  
(right) Traditions Room exhibit showing uniform and items from the 12th Panzer Brigade.



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# Symbols of the Regiment

Between World War I and World War II the modern Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI), commonly referred to as a unit crest, and the Coat of Arms were adopted Army wide as a means of providing a visual reminder to the wearer and the viewer of the symbol the history of an organization. Units were asked to select symbols that represented periods in their history, every aspect of the symbols have some meaning to the unit that it represents.



## Distinctive Unit Insignia (DUI)

**8 Point Star-** Worn by Dragoons on their Shako Hat, represents the Regiment's lineage to the 2d Dragoons.

**Palmetto Leaf-** First engagement in the Second Seminole Wars in Florida.

**Fleur de Lis-** For their combat service in World War I.

**Motto-** *Toujours Prêt* French for "Always Ready," which expresses the spirit and élan of the Regiment.

## Coat of Arms

**Orange Color-** Was the branch color of the Dragoons from 1855-1861.

**8 Point Stars-** Was a plate on the 1833 Shako and x2 stars for the unit number.

**Artillery and Mounted Dragoon-** Represents Cpt. May's Squadron charge on Mexican Artillery in the Mexican American War.

**Date authorized-** 28 April 1924



# Medal of Honor Recipients

\*Hagan, Martin Sergeant, 2d Cavalry at Fredericksburg, Virginia, 13 December 1862

Rodenbough, Theophilus F. Captain, 2d Cavalry, Command of Regiment at Trevilian Station, Virginia, 11 June 1864

Schmidt, Conrad First Sergeant, Company K, 2d Cavalry, at Opequon Creek, Winchester, Virginia, 19 September 1864

Hanford, Edward R. Private, Company H, 2d Cavalry at Woodstock, Virginia, 9 October 1864

Canfield, Heth Private, Company C, 2d Cavalry at Little Blue, Nebraska, 15 May 1870

Himmelsback, Michael Private, Company C, 2d Cavalry at Little Blue, Nebraska, 15 May 1870

Hubbard, Thomas Private, Company C, 2d Cavalry at Little Blue, Nebraska, 15 May 1870

Leonard, Patrick Sergeant, Company C, 2d Cavalry at Little Blue, Nebraska, 15 May 1870

Thompson, George W. Private, Company C, 2d Cavalry at Little Blue, Nebraska, 15 May 1870

Garland, Harry Corporal, Company L, 2d Cavalry at Little Muddy Creek, Montana, 7 May 1877

Leonard, William Private, Company L, 2d Cavalry at Muddy Creek, Montana, 7 May 1877

Phillips, Samuel D. Private, Company H, 2d Cavalry at Muddy Creek, Montana, 7 May 1877

Wilkens, Henry First Sergeant, Company L, 2d Cavalry at Little Muddy Creek, Montana, 7 May 1877

Clark, Wilfred Private, Company L, 2d Cavalry at Big Hold, Montana, 9 August 1877

Jones, William H. Farrier, Company L, 2d Cavalry at Little Muddy Creek, Montana, 7 May 1877 at Camas Meadows, Idaho, 20 August 1877

McClermand, Edward J. 2d Lieutenant, 2 Cavalry at Bear Paw Mountain, Montana, 30 September 1877

Glover, T.B. Sergeant, B Troop, 2d Cavalry at Mizpah Creek, Montana, 10 April 1879

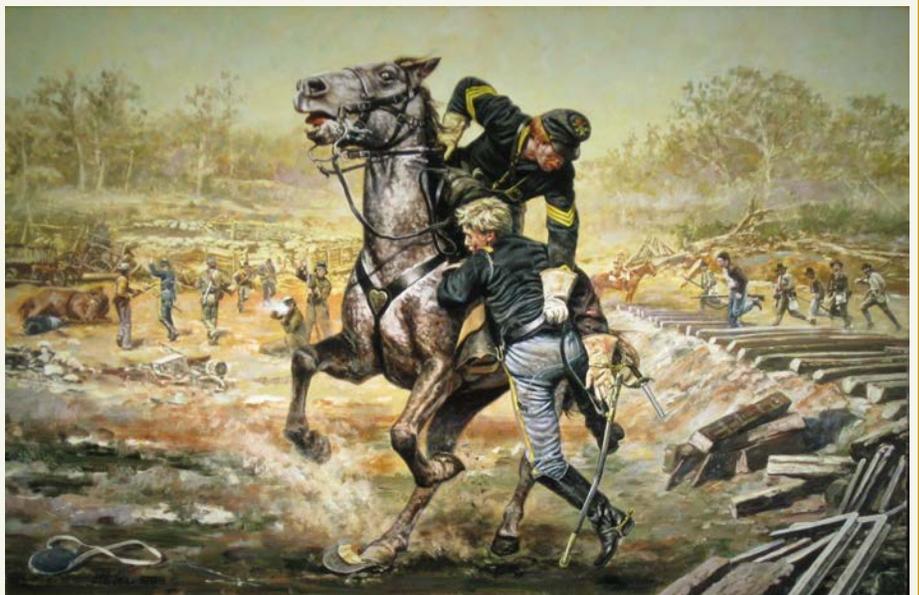
Huggins, Eli L. Captain, 2d Cavalry, RHQ at O'Fallon's Creek, Montana, 1 April 1880

Brett, Lloyd, M. 2d Lieutenant, 2d Cavalry at O'Fallon's Creek, Montana, 1 April 1880

Note: Officers of the Regiment were assigned to the Regiment (not the troops or companies) so their citations do not reflect which troop they were with when they won their medal. Enlisted Soldiers were assigned to the troop level, so their unit of assignment is listed. Sgt. Martin Hagen is the exception to this rule. Hagen does not have his unit of assignment listed in available documents.

\* Sgt. Hagen is not listed as a recipient of the Medal of Honor by any of the agencies tasked to track these records. The Regiment has several sources that indicate he was the Regiment's first recipient.

The painting *Sergeants Valor* (Right) by Don Stivers, depicts the event at Opequon Creek, Winchester, Virginia, on 19 September 1864 where 1st Sgt. Conrad Schmidt earned the Medal of Honor. Capt. Rodenbough was wounded and lost his horse while leading a charge against the enemy works which caused him to be stranded between the lines. Seeing the Captain in this predicament, 1st Sgt. Schmidt rode out under fire, and rescued Capt. Rodenbough preventing Rodenbough, who was in command of the Regiment, from being captured or killed.



# Colonels of the Regiment

1st Col. David Emmanuel Twiggs 28 Jun 1836 – 29 Jun 1846  
2nd Col. William Selby Harney 30 Jun 1846 – 14 Jun 1858  
3rd Col. Philip St. George Cooke 14 Jun 1858 – 12 Nov 1861  
4th Col. Thomas John Wood 12 Nov 1861 – 9 Jun 1868  
5th Col. Innis N. Palmer 9 Jun 1868 – 20 Mar 1879  
6th Col. John W. Davidson 20 Mar 1879 – 26 Jun 1881  
7th Col. John P. Hatch 26 Jun 1881 – 9 Jan 1886  
8th Col. Nelson B. Sweitzer 9 Jun 1886 – 29 Oct 1888  
9th Col. David R. Clendenin 29 Oct 1888 – 2 Apr 1891  
10th Col. George G. Hunt 10 Apr 1891 – 2 Jun 1898  
11th Col. Henry E. Noyes 2 Jun 1898 – 16 Nov 1901  
12th Col. Eli L. Huggins 5 Dec 1901 – 24 Feb 1903  
13th Col. Winfield Scott Edgerly 27 Mar 1903 – 23 Jun 1905  
14th Col. Fredrick K. Ward 23 Jun 1905 – 1 Oct 1906  
15th Col. Frank West 1 Oct 1906 – 31 Dec 1913  
16th Col. William J. Nicholson 1 Jan 1914 – 11 Feb 1915  
17th Col. Joseph T. Dickman 12 Feb 1915 – 21 Jun 1917  
18th Col. Arthur Thayer 22 Jun 1917 – 11 Aug 1919  
19th Col. John S. Winn 4 Nov 1919 – 18 Jul 1922  
20th Col. Charles A. Romeyn 12 Jun 1922 – 31 May 1924  
21st Col. George Williams 1 Jun 1924 – 31 Jul 1926  
22nd Col. Llewellyn Oliver 24 Jun 1926 – 9 Jun 1928  
23rd Col. Alexander M. Miller 1 Jul 1928 – 31 Mar 1931  
24th Col. Selwyn D. Smith 30 Jun 1931 – 15 Jul 1935  
25th Col. Dorsey R. Rodney 1 Aug 1935 – 31 Aug 1937  
26th Col. Arthur W. Holderness 25 Aug 1937 – 25 Apr 1939  
27th Col. Thoburn K. Brown 18 Apr 1939 – 8 Aug 1939  
28th Col. Harry D. Chamberlin 9 Aug 1939 – 31 Mar 1941  
29th Col. John T. Cole 1 Apr 1941 – 30 Jun 1942  
30th Col. Gilman C. Mudgett 15 Jul 1942 – 14 Jan 1943  
31st Col. Charles H. Reed 15 Jan 1943 – 31 Aug 1944  
and 1 Nov 1944 – 31 Aug 1947  
32nd Col. William P. Withers 1 Sep 1944 – 31 Oct 1944  
33rd Col. George C. Elms 1 Sep 1947 – 31 Jan 1948  
34th Col. William D. Long 1 Feb 1948 – 31 Jan 1949  
35th Col. Theodore T. King 1 Feb 1949 – 28 Feb 1949  
36th Col. Franklin F. Wing 1 Mar 1949 – 30 Apr 1950  
37th Col. Marshall O. Wallach 1 May 1950 – 30 Aug 1950  
38th Col. Robert W. Porter 31 Aug 1950 – 6 Jun 1951  
39th Col. Creighton W. Abrams 7 Jun 1951 – 29 Jun 1952  
40th Col. William F. Eckles 30 Jun 1952 – 31 Aug 1953  
41st Col. John C.F. Tillson, III 1 Sep 1953 – 8 Jun 1954  
42nd Col. Jesse P. Moorefield 8 Jun 1954 – 10 Jul 1954  
43rd Col. William H. Greear 10 Jul 1954 – 11 Jul 1955  
44th Col. William E. Lobit 12 Jul 1955 – 7 Jun 1956  
45th Col. Jones W. Duncan 23 Jun 1956 – 27 Jul 1957  
46th Col. Leslie R. Wilcox 28 Jul 1957 – 5 Jan 1959  
47th Col. Richard G. Ciccolella 6 Jan 1959 – 27 Jul 1959  
48th Col. Lawrence E. Schlanser 6 Jul 1959 – 31 Nov 1961  
49th Col. George B. Pickett, Jr. 1 Dec 1961 – 1 Jul 1963  
50th Col. Carleton Preer, Jr. 2 Jul 1963 – 1 Aug 1964  
51st Col. Frank B. Clay 1 Aug 1964 – 3 Nov 1965  
52nd Col. James P. Cahill 2 Nov 1965 – 30 Aug 1967  
53rd Col. Clarke T. Baldwin, Jr. 30 Aug 1967 – 9 Sep 1968  
54th Col. Walter G. Allen 9 Sep 1968 – 19 Mar 1970  
55th Col. Matthew R. Wallis 19 Mar 1970 – 10 Sep 1971  
56th Col. Charles P. Graham 10 Sep 1971 – 23 May 1973  
57th Col. John W. Seigle 23 May 1973 – 19 Nov 1974  
58th Col. John W. Hudachek 19 Nov 1974 – 4 Jun 1976  
59th Col. Harold R. Page 4 Jun 1976 – 6 Jun 1978  
60th Col. Robert E. Wagner 6 Jun 1978 – 16 Jun 1981  
61st Col. David M. Maddox 16 Jun 1981 – 14 Nov 1983  
62nd Col. William W. Crouch 14 Nov 1983 – 6 Aug 1985  
63rd Col. John H. Tilelli, Jr. 6 Aug 1985 – 6 May 1987  
64th Col. James J. Steele 6 May 1987 – 1 Aug 1989  
65th Col. Leonard D. Holder 1 Aug 1989 – 1 Jul 1991  
66th Col. John C. Eberle 1 Jul 1991 – 1 Jul 1992  
67th Col. Thomas M. Molino 1 Jul 1992 – 1 Jul 1994  
68th Col. Walter Sharp 1 Jul 1994 – 1 Jul 1996  
69th Col. Dennis E. Hardy 1 Jul 1996 – 3 Sep 1998  
70th Col. Douglas E. Lute 3 Sep 1998 – 1 Aug 2000  
71st Col. Terry A. Wolff 1 Aug 2000 – 17 Jun 2003  
72nd Col. Bradley W. May 18 Jun 2003 – 24 Feb 2005  
73rd Col. Jon Lehr 24 Feb 2005 – 1 Jun 2006  
74th Col. John RisCassi 1 Jun 2006 – 13 Jan 2009  
75th Col. James R. Blackburn, Jr. 13 Jan 2009 – 27 Jul 2011  
76th Col. Keith A. Barclay 27 Jul 2011 – 8 Jan 2013  
77th Col. Douglas A. Sims II 8 Jan 2013 – 15 Jul 2014  
78th Col. John V. Meyer III 15 Jul 2014 – 15 Jul 2016  
79th Col. Patrick J. Ellis 15 Jul 2016 – 26 Jul 2018  
80th Col. Thomas M. Hough 26 Jul 2018 – Present

# Regimental Command Sergeants Majors

(List consists of nominative Command Sergeants Majors)

I. Dornick, Sam; 1967-1970

II. Foglio, Joseph; 1970-1971

III. Call, Thomas D.; 1971-1972

IV. Cieslak, Allen B.; 1972-1973

V. Crosby, George; 1973-1974

VI. Havner, Charles W.; 1974-1975

VII. Hedges, Leonard P.; 1975-1976

VIII. Power, Walter A.; 1976-1978

IX. Patton, Curtis C.; 1978-1980

X. Trobough, Terry J.; 1980-1982

XI. Grzebski, Mark W.; 1982-1983

XII. McNally, William L.; 1983-1985

XIII. Wilson, Robert E.; 1985-1987

XIV. Ashmore, Perry B.; 1987-1989

XV. Duncan, J.D.; 1989-1990

XVI. Ross, Richard L.; 1990-1993

XVII. Semon, Ron; 1993-1994

XVIII. Helms, Dan C.; 1994-1995

XIX. Mohror, Steven; 1995-1997

XX. Christian, Carl E.; 1997-1999

XXI. Taylor, John T.; 1 Feb 1999 – 1 Nov 2000

XXII. McGarry, Thomas; 1 Nov 2000 – 20 Apr 2001

XXIII. Gainey, William J.; 20 Apr 2001 – 28 Feb 2002

XXIV. Blackwood, Roger P.; 28 Feb 2002 – Apr 2005

XXV. Troxell, John W.; Apr 2005 – 1 Jun 2006

XXVI. Martinez, Victor; 1 Jun 2006 – 24 Nov 2008

XXVII. Morris, Mark; 24 Nov 2008 – 13 Oct 2011

XXVIII. Parrish, Malcolm D.; 13 Oct 2011 – 30 April 2013

XXIX. Engram, Wilbert Jr.; 30 April 2013 – 15 Jul 2014

XXX. Pospisil, Shane E.; 7 Oct 2014 – 31 Aug 2016

XXXI. Muhlenbeck, Kevin J.; 31 Aug 2016 – 2 Mar 2018

XXXII. Brown, Steven A.; 2 Mar 2018 – Present



# 23 Facts Every Dragoon Should Know

## 1. What is a Dragoon?

A soldier that is able to fight mounted or dismounted and was capable of conducting both infantry and cavalry missions. <sup>1</sup>

## 2. When is the 2d Cavalry Regiments' birthday?

23 May 1836. <sup>2</sup>

## 3. Why were the 2d Dragoons created?

The 2d Regiment of Dragoons was created to fight in the 2nd Seminole War by President Andrew Jackson. <sup>3</sup>

## 4. Who was the 1st Colonel of the Regiment?

Col. David Emanuel Twiggs. <sup>4</sup>

## 5. What is the significance of the Battle of *Resaca de la Palma*?

The Battle of *Resaca de la Palma* was the second battle of the Mexican American War and took place on 9 May 1846. The morning of the battle Capt. Charles May reportedly gave the order of the day as "Remember your Regiment and follow your officers." During the battle General Zachary Taylor's forces advanced was halted from heavy fire coming from an eight cannon battery of Mexican Artillery. General Taylor ordered May to lead his unit, a squadron consisting of D and E companies of the 2d Dragoons, to silence the enemy guns. May's charge was successful in taking the Mexican battery temporarily and capturing a Mexican General. It is this charge of Capt. May's squadron from which the design on the shield of the 2d Cavalry Regimental coat of arms is taken. <sup>5</sup>

## 6. Who was the longest serving Colonel of the Regiment?

Col. William S. Harney 2nd Colonel of the Regiment from 30 June 1846 to 14 June 1858. <sup>6</sup>

## 7. Who was the longest serving SGM/CSM of the Regiment?

Sgt. Maj. Samuel Spear from 16 June 1849 to 26 November 1857. <sup>7</sup>

## 8. How many MOH recipients does the 2d Cavalry have and from what war/conflict they are from?

Eighteen, Civil War and Indian War.

### **x3 Civil War:**

Capt. Rodenbough

1st Sgt. Schmidt

Pvt. Hanford

### **x15 Indian War (Post Civil War):**

Sgt. Leonard, Pvt. Canfield, Pvt. Himmelsback, Pvt. Hubbard

Pvt. Thompson, Pvt. Leonard, Capt. Huggins, Cpl. Garland, FAR Jones

1st Sgt. Wilkens, Pvt. Clark, 2d Lt. McClermand, Sgt. Glover

2d Lt. Brett and Pvt. Phillips <sup>8</sup>

## 9. What is the 2d U.S. Cavalry's bloodiest day in history?

The Fetterman Massacre on 21 December 1866 near Fort Philip Kearney, Wyoming. A total of 27 Cavalryman from Troop C were killed within a twenty minutes of fighting. <sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Theo. F. Rodenbough, *From Everglade to Canyon with the Second Dragoons*, by (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2000), 8.

<sup>2</sup> Mary L. Stubbs and Stanley R. Connor, *Army Lineage Series, Armor-Cavalry Part I: Regular Army and Army Reserve*. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1969), 113.

<sup>3</sup> Theo. F. Rodenbough, *From Everglade to Cañon with the Second Dragoons*. (New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1875), 18.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 19.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph I. Lambert, *One Hundred Years with the Second Cavalry*. (Fort Riley, KS: Capper Printing, 1939), 30-31.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 37.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 397.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 356-358.

<sup>9</sup> Dee Brown, *The Fetterman Massacre*. (Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press, 1962), 12.

**10. Know the symbols on the Coat of Arms, date of authorization and what they represent.**

Orange Color- Was the branch color of the Dragoons from 1855-1861.

8 Point Stars- Was a plate on the 1833 Shako and x2 stars for the unit number.

Artillery and Dragoon- Represents Capt. May's Squadron charge on Mexican Artillery in the Mexican American War.

Date authorized- 28 April 1924.<sup>10</sup>



**11. Know the symbols on the Distinctive Unit Insignia, date of authorization and what they represent.**

8 Point Star- Worn by Dragoons on their Shako Hat, represents the Regiments lineage to the 2d Dragoons.

Palmetto Leaf- First engagement in the Second Seminole Wars in Florida.

Fleur de Lis- For their combat service in World War I.

Motto- *Toujours Prêt* French for "Always Ready," which expresses the spirit and élan of the Regiment.

Date authorized- 28 April 1924.<sup>11</sup>



**12. Who was the 31st Colonel of the Regiment and why is he significant to the 2d Cavalry?**

Colonel Charles H. Reed

As Colonel of the Regiment during World War II, he earned x1 Distinguished Service Cross, x1 Silver Star, x1 Bronze Star, x1 Purple Heart, and five campaign stars on the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal during a period of one year in combat.<sup>12</sup> After the war and his retirement, he was largely responsible for bringing together all three of the 2d Cavalry Associations to form one and was President for many years until his death in 1980. Colonel Reed is considered to be one of the most decorated 2d Dragoons.

**13. Why was the 2d Cavalry Group, Mechanized known as "The Ghosts of Patton's Army"?**

Because the German Troops had been repeatedly informed of the 2d Cavalry Group's destruction and yet, they continued to reappear on the battlefield ready to fight.<sup>13</sup>



<sup>10</sup> The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH), "2D Cavalry Regiment: Coat of Arms," Tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil, [http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Catalog/Heraldry.aspx?HeraldryId=5450&CategoryId=3110&grp=2&menu=Uniformed Services&ps=24&p=0&hilite=2d cavalry](http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Catalog/Heraldry.aspx?HeraldryId=5450&CategoryId=3110&grp=2&menu=Uniformed%20Services&ps=24&p=0&hilite=2d%20cavalry) [accessed August 27, 2015].

<sup>11</sup> TIOH, "2D Cavalry Regiment: Distinctive Unit Insignia," Tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil, <http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Catalog/HeraldryMulti.aspx?CategoryId=3110&grp=2&menu=Uniformed%20Services> [accessed August 27, 2015].

<sup>12</sup> Lance T. Dyckman, "The Reed Museum and 2d Regiment of Dragoons Heritage Center, Vilseck, Germany," *On Point: The Journal of Army History* 20, no. 4 (Spring 2015): 66.

<sup>13</sup> France Herron, "The Ghosts of Patton's Army," *Warweek*, 11 Nov 1944.

#### 14. Know the symbols on the 2d Cavalry Patch and what they represent.

8 Point Star- Worn by Dragoons on their Shako's Headdress, represents the Regiment's lineage to the 2d Regiment of Dragoons.

Palmetto Leaf- First engagement in the Second Seminole Wars in Florida.

Fleur de Lis- For their combat service in World War I.

Motto- *Toujours Prêt* French for "Always Ready," which expresses the spirit and élan of the Regiment.

Date approved- 23 June 1967.<sup>14</sup>



#### 15. How many Campaigns' Streamers have been officially awarded to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment?

56 campaigns' streamers.<sup>15</sup>

Indian Wars	Mexican War	Civil War	War with Spain	Southwest Asia
<i>Seminoles</i>	<i>Palo Alto</i>	<i>Peninsula</i>	<i>Santiago</i>	<i>Defense of Saudi Arabia</i>
<i>Little Big Horn</i>	<i>Resaca de la Palma</i>	<i>Manassas</i>	<b>World War I</b>	<i>Liberation and Defense of Kuwait</i>
<i>Nez Percés</i>	<i>Monterey</i>	<i>Antietam</i>	<i>Aisne-Marne</i>	<i>Cease-Fire</i>
<i>Bannocks</i>	<i>Buna Vista</i>	<i>Fredericksburg</i>	<i>St. Mihiel</i>	<b>War on Terrorism*</b>
<i>Cheyennes</i>	<i>Vera Cruz</i>	<i>Chancellorsville</i>	<i>Meuse-Argonne</i>	<i>*Campaigns to be determined</i>
<i>New Mexico 1852</i>	<i>Cerro Gordo</i>	<i>Gettysburg</i>	<b>World War II</b>	
<i>New Mexico 1854</i>	<i>Contreras</i>	<i>Wilderness</i>	<i>Normandy</i>	
<i>Wyoming 1866</i>	<i>Churubusco</i>	<i>Spotsylvania</i>	<i>Northern France</i>	
<i>Wyoming 1867</i>	<i>Molino del Rey</i>	<i>Cold Harbor</i>	<i>Rhineland</i>	
<i>Kansas 1869</i>	<i>Chapultepec</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Ardennes-Alsace</i>	
<i>Montana 1870</i>	<i>Nuevo Leon</i>	<i>Shenandoah</i>	<i>Central Europe</i>	
<i>Montana 1872</i>	<i>Tamaulipas 1846</i>	<i>Virginia 1863</i>	<i>Leyte (w/Arrowhead)</i>	
<i>Montana 1879</i>	<i>Texas 1846</i>	<i>Virginia 1864</i>	<i>Ryukyus</i>	
<i>Montana 1880</i>	<i>Vera Cruz 1847</i>	<i>Maryland 1863</i>		

#### 16. How many wars/conflicts/United Nations' missions has the Regiment participated in?

Fourteen.

<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Seminole War</i>	<i>World War I</i>
<i>Mexican-American War</i>	<i>World War II</i>
<i>Indian Wars (Pre &amp; Post Civil War)</i>	<i>Cold War</i>
<i>Mormon/Utah War</i>	<i>Desert Storm</i>
<i>Civil War</i>	<i>Haiti (UN Operation Uphold Democracy)</i>
<i>Spanish-American War</i>	<i>Bosnia (UN Operation Joint Guard)</i>
<i>Philippine Insurrection</i>	<i>War on Terrorism (Three tours in OIF &amp; two tours in OEF)</i>

#### 17. How many decorations has the 2d Cavalry Regiment been officially awarded?

Nine.<sup>16</sup>

*Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered BASTOGNE*  
*Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered LUXEBURG*  
*Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2003-2004*  
*Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered IRAQ 1991*  
*Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered AFGHANISTAN 2010-2011*  
*Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered AFGHANISTAN 2013-2014*  
*Army Superior Unit Award, Streamer embroidered 1997 (for UN Mission to Haiti)*  
*Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm, Streamer embroidered BASTOGNE*  
*Cited in the Order of the Belgian Army for action in BASTOGNE*

<sup>14</sup> TIOH, "2d Cavalry Regiment: Shoulder Sleeve Insignia," Tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil, [http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Catalog/Heraldry.aspx?HeraldryId=5452&CategoryId=3110&grp=2&menu=Uniformed Services&ps=24&p=0&hilitte=2d cavalry](http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Catalog/Heraldry.aspx?HeraldryId=5452&CategoryId=3110&grp=2&menu=Uniformed%20Services&ps=24&p=0&hilitte=2d%20cavalry) [accessed August 27, 2015].

<sup>15</sup> Stephen E. Everett, "Confirmation of Honors for the 2d Cavalry Regiment (SECOND DRAGOONS)," *Memorandum for Record*. (Ft. Belvoir, VA: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 18 SEP 2017).

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 3.

## 18. Dragons everyone should know.

Gen. (Col., 2d Dragons) David E. Twiggs- 1st Colonel of the Regiment. <sup>17</sup>

Gen. (Col., 2d Dragons) William S. Harney- 2nd Colonel of the Regiment and famous Indian fighter. <sup>18</sup>

Lt. Col. (Cpt., 2d Dragons) Charles A. May- Coined the Regiment's unofficial motto and led the charge at Resaca de la Palma. <sup>19</sup>

Brig. Gen. (Sgt., 2d U.S. Cavalry and CPT, 2d U.S. Cavalry) David L. Brainard- In 1882 went the furthest point north for Arctic Explorations. <sup>20</sup>

Col. (Col., 2d Cavalry Group, Mech) Charles H. Reed- 31st Colonel of the Regiment and Commander during World War II. <sup>21</sup>

Lt. Gen. (Cpt., 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment) Herbert R. McMasters- Eagle Troop commander of Battle of 73-Eastings. <sup>22</sup>

Cmd. Sgt. Maj. (Cmd. Sgt. Maj., 1st SQDN, 2d ACR and XXIII RCSM, 2d ACR) William J. Gainey- First Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff. <sup>23</sup>

## 19. What are three famous battles of the 2d Cavalry?

Resaca de la Palma, Mexico- Capt. May's charge against Mexican Artillery. <sup>24</sup>

Luneville, France- Held off 11th Panzer Division (Heer). <sup>25</sup>

73-Easting, Iraq- The last great tank battle of the 20th century. <sup>26</sup>

## 20. How many border camps did the Regiment have during the Cold War?

Seven. <sup>27</sup>

## 21. Name all seven of the 2d Armored Cavalry Border Camps.

**Camp Gates** near *Brand* and *Marktredwitz*; **Camp Pitman** in *Weiden*; **Camp Harris** in *Coburg*;  
**Camp Hoff/Kingsley Barracks** in *Hof*; **Camp May** in *Regensburg*; **Camp Reed** in *Rötz*;  
**Camp Sgt. Patrick Leonard** in *Kronach*.

## 22. Why is the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment known as "The Cradle of Leadership"?

A large percentage of General Officers served at one time in the Regiment.

## 23. What is the current mission of the Regiment?

2d Cavalry Regiment provides the 7th Army Training Command with a lethal and agile force capable of rapid deployment throughout the European theater in order to assure allies, deter adversaries, and when ordered, defend the NATO alliance.

<sup>17</sup> Rodenbough, *From Everglade to Cañon*, 19.

<sup>18</sup> Lambert, *One Hundred Years*, 37.

<sup>19</sup> Rodenbough, *From Everglade to Cañon*, 20.

<sup>20</sup> David Brainard, "Primary Resources: Journal: Sgt Brainard," Pbs.org, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/primary-resources/greely-brainard-journal/> [accessed August 27, 2015].

<sup>21</sup> Dyckman, "The Reed Museum," 66.

<sup>22</sup> Army Capabilities Integration Center, "Lieutenant General H. R. McMaster Deputy Commanding General, Arcic.army.mil, Futures/Director, ARCIC, Biography <http://www.arcic.army.mil/Leadership/arcichq-dir-bio.aspx> [accessed August 27, 2015].

<sup>23</sup> Fort Benning PAO, "Command Sergeant Major (retired) William "Joe" Gainey," Benning.army.mil, <http://www.benning.army.mil/armor/gaineycup/content/pdf/CSM%20GaineyBio.pdf> [accessed August 27, 2015].

<sup>24</sup> Lambert, *One Hundred Years*, 31.

<sup>25</sup> A. L. Lambert and G.B. Layton, *The Ghosts of Patton's Third Army: A History of the Second U.S. Cavalry*. (Munich: Münchener Graphische Kunstanstalten GMBH., 1946), 158.

<sup>26</sup> Douglas Macgregor, *Warrior's Rage: The Great Tank Battle of 73 Easting* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2009), 188.

<sup>27</sup> Jesse Kelly, "Border Camps Plq," Dragoonbase.com, <http://dragoonbase.com/photo/border-camps-plq?context=latest> [accessed August 27, 2015].

<sup>28</sup> William E. Stacy, "US Army Border Operations in Germany 1945-1983," History.army.mil, <http://www.history.army.mil/documents/borderops/ch6.htm> [accessed August 27, 2015].

<sup>29</sup> 2d Cavalry PAO, "Mission Statement," e-mail from 2CR PAO. [dated September 24, 2018].

# History Test

1. The Regimental Birthday is on:
  - A. 23 May 1836
  - B. 24 January 1836
  - C. 15 December 1838
  - D. 31 July 1832
2. The First Colonel of the Regiment Was:
  - A. Col. Robert E. Lee
  - B. Col. Charles May
  - C. Col. John Buford
  - D. Col. David E. Twiggs
3. The Second Dragoons were organized to support operations in:
  - A. Mexican American War
  - B. First Seminole War
  - C. Second Seminole War
  - D. Third Seminole War
4. The first battle the Regiment participated in as the 2d Dragoons was:
  - A. Gettysburg
  - B. Welika Pond
  - C. Micanopy
  - D. *Resaca de la Palma*
5. The Second Regiment of Dragoons were dismounted and reorganized as a Regiment of Riflemen for a short period of time.
  - A. True
  - B. False
6. During the battle of Resaca de la Palma (9 May 1846), what was the order of the day?
  - A. Remember Your Regiment and Follow Your Officers!
  - B. I'm going to charge them!
  - C. *Toujours Prêt!*
  - D. Always Ready!
7. The Regiment has participated in every American conflict since the War of 1812.
  - A. True
  - B. False
8. The Regimental Colors are:
  - A. Orange and Gold
  - B. Yellow and Blue
  - C. Yellow and Orange
  - D. Orange and Red

9. Members of the Regiment were awarded how many Medals of Honor during the Civil War?
- A. 4
  - B. 2
  - C. 15
  - D. 3
10. The bloodiest day in the Regiments History is known as:
- A. Custer's Last Stand
  - B. Fetterman's Massacre
  - C. Harney's Massacre
  - D. Franklin's Massacre
11. The Spanish American War marked the first time the entire Regiment was assembled together since which war?
- A. Civil War
  - B. Second Seminole War
  - C. Mexican War
  - D. War of 1812
12. The color orange used in the Unit Crest represents what aspect of the Regiments History?
- A. Orange was the branch color for Dragoons
  - B. Orange was the color of the horse blankets used during the Mexican American War
  - C. Orange was the color of the plumes on the first dress hat worn by the Regiment
  - D. Orange was the favorite color of the 1st Colonel of the Regiment
13. During which conflict was the Second Dragoons re-designated 2d Cavalry Regiment?
- A. Civil War
  - B. Indian Wars
  - C. World War I
  - D. Cold War
14. True or False: The 2d Cavalry was the only U.S. Cavalry Regiment that performed mounted cavalry operations overseas in World War I.
- A. True
  - B. False
15. Under what name has the 2d Cavalry served the longest?
- A. 2d Regiment of Dragoons
  - B. 2d Cavalry Regiment
  - C. 2d Cavalry Group
  - D. 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment
16. What type of animal was rescued by the Regiment at the end of World War II?
- A. Dogs
  - B. Horses
  - C. Cattle
  - D. Sheep

17. The 2d Cavalry Group was known as :
- A. The Ghosts of Patton's Army
  - B. The Shadow's of Patton's Army
  - C. Patton's Mechanized Cavalry
  - D. The Eye's of Patton's Army
- 18 Which regiment did the 2d Cavalry rotate with in 1955?
- A. 3rd Army
  - B. 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - C. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
  - D. It did not rotate
19. What City served as the Headquarters for the 2d Armored Cavalry during most of the Cold War?
- A. Nurnberg
  - B. Bamberg
  - C. Munich
  - D. Regensburg
20. What significant Battle did the Regiment fight during Desert Storm?
- A. Battle of Baghdad
  - B. Battle for Kuwait City
  - C. Battle of the 64th parallel
  - D. Battle of 73 Easting
21. The Regiments first deployment to OIF was in which year?
- A. 2001
  - B. 2003
  - C. 2006
  - D. 2008
22. True or False: The Regiment participated in the Battle for Sadr City on 4 April 2004
- A. True
  - B. False
23. Since returning to Germany in 2006, the Regiment has deployed how many times?
- A. 1
  - B. 2
  - C. 0
  - D. 3
24. How many years did the Regiment patrol 731 Kilometers of the border during the Cold War?
- A. 60
  - B. 33
  - C. 44
  - D. 25
25. Essay: How can history be applied to training and how will it benefit the Soldiers and Regiment?

# Answer Key

1. A
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. A
7. B
8. A
9. D
10. B
11. A
12. A
13. A
14. A
15. B
16. B
17. A
18. B
19. A
20. D
21. B
22. A
23. D
24. B
25. Essay



# Acknowledgements

The Reed Museum would like to thank the following people and organizations for their contributions and support for this gallery guide.

## Editor and Museum Director

Mr. Lance T. Dyckman

## Assistant Editor

Mr. Ryan T. Meyer

## Editorial team:

Capt. Clifton C. Barnett

Lt. Col. William A. Rockefeller III

Maj. Eric A. Parthemore

1st Lt. Bryan Blair

1st Lt. Martina Johnston

1st Lt. Pavel Korsala

1st Lt. Alessandra Slayton

Mrs. Nicole Wallace

## Legal Council:

Maj. Matthew Wright

Capt. Erica Solosky

## Photograph Team:

2d Cavalry Regiment PAO Office

1st Lt. Ellen C. Brabo

S. Sgt. Jennifer Bunn

CMH Museum Division

Mr. Jason Powell

Mr. Pablo Jimenez-Reyes

TSAE TSC Grafenwoehr

Mr. Gerhard Seuffert

Mrs. Gertrude Zach

## Layout Team:

Ms. Molly Bompane

Ms. Roxann Showers

TASE TAPC Grafenwoehr

Ms. Anika Wopperer

Mr. Michael Zwerenz

## Special Thanks:

Col. (Ret.) Bryan Denny

Capt. Carey J. Fitzpatrick

Capt. Matthew Simon

Sgt. Eric Rennier

Mrs. Taylor Dozier

Mr. David Gettman

Mr. Jody Harmon

Ms. Kathy O'Leary

Mrs. Barbara Meyer

Mr. Joshua Meyer

Ms. Lillian Meyer

Ms. Tracy Stivers

Mr. Don Troiani

Mr. James Zadra

# Regimental Song

## Hit the Leather and Ride

We're gonna "Hit the Leather and Ride", take it all in our stride, "Hit the Leather and Ride" all the way, --  
And though we're glad to know the Infantry are behind us, --  
They'll have to eat Cavalry dust to find us, --  
Let every son of a gallopin' yank jump in a saddle or tank, "Hit the Leather and Ride" all the way, --  
And tho we're strykerized, you'll recognize the outfit, --  
We're ridin' hell bent for leather today, --

The official song of the Regiment is "Hit the Leather and Ride" written by Captain Meredith Wilson in 1903. It praises the Infantry "behind us," but promises "they'll have to eat cavalry dust to find us. The song that is sung today has been shortened and modernized from the original 1903 version.

### "HIT THE LEATHER AND RIDE"

It's a far cry -- from San Juan Hill to the gallant twenty-sixth at Bataan --  
Now the spurs blend their jingle with the clank of a tank; --  
Our scouts reconnoiter to protect the Yankee flank; --  
Our mechanized security is money in the bank; --  
It's the Cavalry rolling on --

### CHORUS

We're gonna "Hit the Leather and Ride", take it all in our stride, "Hit the Leather and Ride" all the way, --  
And though we're glad to know the Infantry's behind us, --  
They'll have to eat Cavalry dust to find us, --  
Let every son of a gallopin' yank jump in a saddle or tank, "Hit the Leather and Ride" all the way, --  
Tho' some are the mechanized, you'll recognize the outfit, --  
We're ridin' hell bent for leather today, --  
We're ridin' hell bent for leather today, --  
Let your spurs dig in!  
Let the charge begin!  
Let the order to rally -- -- roll through the valley like the roll of drums -- --  
Let hooves ring true -- -- in a wild tattoo!  
Colonel Teddy and Custer know how we'll muster when the great day comes --

