

Early history of the 83rd Field Artillery

The 83rd Field Artillery Battalion is a descendant of the First Regiment of Cavalry, organized by an act of Congress on June 15th, 1832 as the Battalion of Mounted Rangers, later redesignated the First Regiment of Cavalry.

On June 3, 1916, one third of the personnel of the First Cavalry became cadre for the 25th Cavalry regiment. The 25th Cavalry was converted and redesignated the 83rd Field Artillery Regiment on November 11, 1917, with station at Fort D.A. Russel, Wyoming. The new 83rd Field Artillery Regiment was then assigned to the 8th Artillery Brigade of the 8th Regular Army Division.

In February 1918, the Regiment left Fort D.A. Russel for Camp Fremont, California where it joined the other two Regiments of the Brigade (81st and 82nd). On July 1, 1918, the 83rd left Camp Fremont for Fort Sill, Oklahoma. After a short stay at Fort Sill, the Regiment set sail for France, arriving at Brest on November 9, 1918. The Regiment acted as body guard to President Wilson during his stay in France.

The 83rd sailed from France in 1919 and was initially stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky, 1918.

During November 1919, the horses were turned in and the 83rd became a tractor drawn regiment. The First Battalion was placed on detached service at Fort Benning, Georgia and began its function as the Artillery demonstration Battalion for the Infantry School.

In October of 1940 the 83rd Field Artillery Regiment moved from Fort Benning to Fort Jackson, S.C. then on January 9, 1941, the Second Battalion was designated as the 70th FA Battalion, and the Third Battalion as the 71st FA Battalion. The First Battalion was redesignated as the 83rd Field Artillery Battalion.

The 83rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion was inactivated at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia on October 7, 1945 and was reactivated and redesignated the 83rd Field Artillery Battalion (105mm truck drawn) at Fort Benning Georgia August 1, 1946.

The Battalion was again inactivated at Fort Benning, Georgia on November 23, 1948.

The Battalion became reactivated at Fort Bragg, N.C. on February 11, 1950 (155mm Gun Towed).

The Korean conflict started June 27, 1950, and the 83rd Field Artillery Battalion contributed to this emergency by sending trained men into the combat area. It continued to do this until after the cease fire agreement July 27, 1953.

The 83rd Artillery was one of the unit designations selected to be retained under the combat arms regimental system. The 83rd FA Battalion at Fort Bragg, N.C. was redesignated the First Howitzer Battalion, 83rd Artillery. This Battalion is a 8" self-propelled Howitzer unit. The 593rd FA Battalion was redesignated the 2nd How Bn, 83d Artillery in July 1958 with station in Buedingen, Germany.

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Coat of Arms— 83rd Field Artillery

Motto: Flagrate Bello (Glorious in Battle)

Description: The field or background of yellow and red is for Cavalry and Field Artillery respectively. The blue chevron represents less than six months service overseas during World War I. The birthplace of the battalion is shown by the Cheyenne War Bonnet and Buffalo which are emblems of Wyoming. The Bear, emblem of California, represents service at Camp Fremont, California. The parent organization is represented by a gold dragon, taken from the coat of Arms of the first cavalry.

Introduction: This booklet has been prepared for your information and convenience. It is suggested that you read the contents and that you keep the booklet for future reference.

The 83rd Field Artillery, a regular Army unit, has a history that dates back to 1917. The original parent unit, The First Regiment of Cavalry was organized in 1832. A brief history of the unit is contained in this booklet.

The 83rd Field Artillery has always maintained an outstanding record both in combat and in garrison. It is expected that you will perform your duties as a soldier in such a manner that the high standards of the Battalion will be maintained.

Battle Honors

Indian Wars:

(1st Dragoons) New Mexico, 1849, 1850, 1854, 1855, 1856

(1st Cavalry) Arizona, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1881, Modocs, Apaches Nes Pierce, Bannacs-Montana, 1877.

Mexican Wars: (1st Dragoons) Buena Vista and Chihuana, 1848.

Civil War: (1st Cavalry) New Mexico 1862, Peninsula, Actioctan, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg-Maryland, 1863 Virginia 1863, 1864, 1865, Wilderness Scottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Shenandoah and Appomattox.

Spanish American War: (1st Cavalry) Santiago, Philippine Insurrection Luzon 1901.

World War I: (83rd FA Regiment) Pluemel and Brest.

World War II: (83rd FA Battalion) Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Alsace, Rhineland, Central Europe.

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Unit Decorations

Streamer in the colors of the Belgian Croix de Guerre embroidered
Ardennes.

Commendations World War II

Major General R. W. Crew
Major General T. H. Middleton
Brigadier General H. L. Earnest
Colonel H. W. Kruger
Brigadier General D. O. Hichey
Major General W. B. Palmer
Hqs 6th Armored Division
Hqs VIII Corps
Hqs Task Force A
Hqs 174th FA Group
Hqs 3rd Armored Division
Hqs 7th Corps Artillery