



Company C
1-1-5th Infantry



SERVICE HISTORY OF THE 105TH INFANTRY REGIMENT.

The 105th Infantry Regiment of the New York Army National Guard was officially organized as the 2nd New York Infantry on 27 April 1898. But, its roots can be traced back to the Tryon Militia of Pre-revolutionary Mohawk Valley. Elements of the Regiment have lineage back to the French and Indian Wars and fought in the Revolution and at Gettysburg and Antietam in the Civil War.

The first unit of the present 105th Infantry Regiment to be organized was what is now Company A (-) of the 1st Battalion 105th Infantry, located in Troy, New York. This Company was granted a charter by the New York State Legislature on 23 September 1835 as an independent military organization called the Troy Citizens Corps, and its organization has continued from then until present with the only break in service being between 1968 and 1975.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

On 30 April 1898, the companies comprising the Regiment were ordered to mobilize in their respective armories pursuant to a call by President McKinley for 125,000 volunteers for the war with Spain. On 2 May 1898 the companies proceeded from their home stations to Camp Black, Hempstead Plains, Long Island where they were organized into the 2nd New York Infantry. On 26 May of that year were mustered into active federal service under the command of Colonel Edward E. Hardin.

The Regiment left Camp Black on 18 May for a mobilization camp at Chicamauga, Georgia where it was assigned to the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Division of the IV Corps. On 1 June the Regiment moved again, this time to Gainsville, Florida where a camp was established and drills and training were conducted.

With hostilities practically ceasing in Cuba by the middle of August, the Regiment received orders to proceed north to Overall Park, New York for recuperation and muster out. Immediately after the Spanish-American War the Regiment was reorganized and resumed its duties as State Militia until 1916.

MEXICAN BORDER SERVICE

Following depredations along the Mexican Border, perpetuated by Poncho Villa, and the threat of war with Mexico, President Wilson on 19 June 1916, called out the National Guard of the United States for duty along the border. Units of the Regiment assembled at their home stations on that same day and on 25 June left for active duty. The Regiment concentrated in Poughkeepsie, New York and marched to the mobilization station camp near Hopewell Junction, New York. It was there that the Regiment was recruited up to its war strength of 1800 officers and men and on 1 July was mustered into active federal service. The Regiment moved to Hidalgo County, Texas on the American side of the Rio Grande for duty against Poncho Villa. Temperatures reached 100 degrees during the day, typhoid was a continuous threat to the troops. During this tour of duty, a ten day road march covering approximately 125 miles was conducted for border security. No loss of life occurred during this mobilization. It would be the last time the Regiment would be so fortunate when federalized.

The Mexican situation quieted during the summer and the 105th received orders to return north on 20 September 1916. Units arrived at their home stations on 27 September and were retained on active service for a couple of weeks until the formalities of checking property were completed. The last unit mustered out of federal service on 30 October 1916.

World War I

Only six months passed from mustering out of federal service for the Mexican War until the Regiment was again called for federal active service by President Wilson on 25 March 1917 for World War I. Members of the Regiment drilled and trained on new techniques and equipment at their home stations.

The original assignments for the Regiment was to guard railroad bridges and munitions factories against sabotage. These included the Watervliet Arsenal in Watervliet, New York, the Remington Arms Factory in Ilion, NY and the Savage Arms Factory in Utica, NY. This lasted until orders were received sending the Regiment to France.

The Regiment assembled for war service at South Schenectady and after a farewell parade in New York City for the 27th Infantry Division, of which the Regiment now belonged, the Regiment moved to Camp Wadsworth in Spartansburg, South Carolina. A few days after the Divisions arrival at Camp Wadsworth, it was mustered in federal active service and designated the 27th Infantry Division, United States Army. The Regiment was redesignated the 105th Infantry at this time and attached to the 53rd Brigade. The strength of the Regiment was increased to 3600 officers and men and after six months of intensive training, the former guardsmen embarked for overseas duty in May 1918.

The Regiment sailed on the transport President Grant and arrived in France on Memorial Day, 1918. It was then assigned to the British 3rd Army for final training before moving up to the front. On 14 July the Regiment, as part assigned a defensive known as the Popering Line in Belgium, relieving the Durham Light Infantry of the British Army. After several months the Regiment was reassigned to the British 4th Army, supporting an attack by the 106th Infantry against "The Knoll, Guillement and Quennemort". On 29 September it fought in the battle of the Hindenburg Line. The Regiment took part in, and was successful in winning battles at LaSalle River, Jonc de Mer Ridge and St. Maurice River.

During this time the 105th Infantry Regiment had the honor of being the first American Regiment to hold a sector of the line in Belgium. The first prisoners and the first German machineguns captured during the war by elements of the 27th Infantry Division were by the 105th Infantry.

The soldiers to be killed in the Division was from the 105th as was the first Divisional soldier to be decorated for bravery. During World War I the Regiment suffered 310 soldiers killed in action and 1191 soldiers wounded. Two Regimental soldiers, SGT Bradford Turner of Company M and SGT Reiler Waaler of Company A were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for Bravery.

STATE SERVICE - 1945 TO PRESENT

Upon return to state service the 105th conducted training at their home stations. On 4 March 1947 the Regiment was reorganized and federally recognized. On 1 February 1955 the 105th Infantry was reorganized and the Regiment, as a Command Element, was retired. The 2nd Battalion, less Companies H and M, was redesignated as the 105th Armored Infantry Battalion and became an element of the 27th Armored Division, New York Army National Guard. The remainder of the Regiment's units were redesignated and combined with other elements of the New York Army National Guard. Being the only unit retaining the designation of the 105th, the 105th Armored Infantry Battalion inherited the lineage and honors of the regiment with the configurations as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company located in Schenectady, NY
Company A located in Schenectady, NY
Company B located in Schenectady, NY
Company C located in Amsterdam, NY
Company D located in Gloversville, NY
Service Company located in Schenectady NY.

Once again reorganization hit the 105th. This time on 16 March 1959 this time the 105th Armored Infantry Battalion became the 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry (Mechanized) of the New York Army National Guard. With this designation it became the parent regiment under the combat arms regimental system and was composed as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company located in Schenectady, NY
Company A located in Gloversville, NY
Company B located in Leeds, NY
Company C located in Amsterdam, NY

On 1 February 1968 the 105th was relieved from duty with the 27th Armored Division as the Division Colors were retired and the Division disbanded. The units were redesignated as separate elements of the New York Army National Guard. This was the only time a unit carrying the 105th designation was absent from the rolls of the New York Army National Guard since April 1898.

On 1 May 1975 the 105th was again activated. This time it was designated as the 1st Battalion 105th Infantry and assigned to the 2nd Brigade of the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division of the New York Army National Guard.

On 19 April 1979 the Governor of New York called the 105th to State Active Duty along with most of the units in the State for service during the New York State Correction Officers strike. At 1300 hours (1PM) the order was received by all units to assemble at their home station armories. Within a short period of time all assigned soldiers reported for duty.

The Battalion was notified that it would become the command nucleus for Task Force 105, with duty at the Great Meadows Correctional Facility in Comstock, NY and the Mount McGregor Correctional Facility near Saratoga, NY. Company C (Leeds, NY) of the 105th was assigned to another task force and completed duty at the Cossack Correctional Facility in Cossack, NY.

Members of the Task Force were charged with escorting prisoners to and from various areas of the prison and control of the prison with the officials that remained on duty from the Corrections Office.

The high tension created by the striking guards was handled in a professional manner with a minimum of problems. On 5 May, with the strike being settled, the soldiers returned to their home stations and deactivated.

The next event the 105th took part in was the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, NY in 1980. Soldiers from the 105th, along with other guardsmen were tasked with providing maintenance, communications, food service and range support for the Biathlon.

In October 1985 the 1st Battalion 105th Infantry was reorganized once more. This time they left the 42d Infantry Division, New York Army National Guard and were assigned to the 27th Infantry Brigade (Light Infantry), New York Army National Guard. The 27th Brigade carries the lineage and honors of the 27th Infantry Division. The 105th along with the Brigade is assigned to the Active Army's elite 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) stationed at Fort Drum, NY.

Because of the downsizing of the Armed Forces in 1989 the 1st Battalion was again reorganized. Units of the 1st Battalion 69th Infantry (the Fighting 69th of World War I fame) and the 1st Battalion 71st Infantry, both from the 42d Infantry Division became part of the Battalion. The current configuration of the Battalion is as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company (Schenectady, NY)
Company A (-), Troy, NY)
Detachment #1, Company A, (Leeds, NY)
Company B (-), (Manhattan, NY)
Detachment #1, Company B, (Manhattan, NY)
Company C (-), (Jamiaca, NY)
Detachment #1, Company C, (Brooklyn, NY)

By the end of 1996 the 27th Brigade was designated as one of the fifteen "Enhanced Readiness Brigades" in the United States. These Brigades are at the forefront of all National Guard units if called upon.

While the 1st Battalion is assigned to the 27th Infantry Brigade, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions remain inactive.

Today the soldiers of the 105th are an important part of our nations defense and train more intensely than ever before. The Light Fighters uphold the traditions of courage and honor inherited by their forefathers and are prepared to add to that honor. With their active duty counterparts they truly uphold the profession of arms as Citizen Soldiers of the State of New York. The Presidential Unit Citation won by the soldiers of the 105th as well as the Regimental Crest are still proudly worn on each Cold Steel soldier today.

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