

## **Historical Brief of the 125th Infantry**

The 1st Battalion 125th Infantry began in 1857 with the formation of the East Saginaw Guards. In 1861 they, along with the Flint Union Grays and other independent volunteer militia companies, were formed into the 2nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment and mustered into Federal Service for the Civil War. The 2nd Michigan was in 26 actions and 12 major campaigns; it left Federal Service on 29 July 1865 at Washington, DC.

The 2nd Michigan was re-organized in 1872 as companies of the Michigan State Troops and designated the 3rd Infantry Regiment. In 1898 the Regiment was mustered into Federal Service as the 33rd Michigan for the war with Spain. The 33rd participated in the engagement at Aqueros Fores and the Santiago Campaign in Cuba. After the war ended the Regiment returned to the Michigan National Guard.

In 1916 the Regiment was mobilized for the Mexican Border Service and stationed at El Paso, Texas. While returning to Michigan in 1917 it was again mobilized due to the entry of the United States in WWI. After serving as guards for the docks in Detroit and at the Sault Ste Marie Locks they were shipped to Camp MacArthur, Texas where the 31st and the 33rd Michigan were combined to form the 125th Infantry Regiment, 63rd Infantry BDE, 32nd "Red Arrow" Division. The Regiment suffered terrible losses throughout World War I, but inflicted even more terrible losses on the German forces which opposed it. As part of the 32nd Division it emerged from WWI with the reputation of being a formidable fighting force as evidenced by the nickname the 32nd had gained –"Les Terribles." During WWI the 125th Infantry was under fire for 6 months, fought on 5 fronts, met and vanquished 23 German Divisions while capturing 2,153 POWs. It gained 38 Kilometers in four attacks without losing any ground. Four Campaign streamers plus the French Croix de Guerre with palm

were earned in WWI. The Regiment demobilized in 1919 at Camp Custer, Michigan and reverted back to its status as Michigan National Guard with concurrent assignment to the 32nd “Red Arrow” Division.

On 15 October 1940 the Regiment was inducted into Federal Service and on 8 December 1941 transferred from the 32nd Infantry Division to General Headquarters Reserve in Pomona California. During WWII the 125th Infantry guarded critical installations and was moved around the West Coast of the US. In 1944 it left the Western Defense Command and was moved to Texas, Oklahoma and then Camp Rucker, Alabama where its mission was to train Infantry replacements. On 20 September 1945 the Regiment was inactivated and transferred back to the Michigan National Guard. After WWII it became part of the 46th Infantry Division and in 1968 was transferred to the 38th Infantry Division, 46th Infantry BDE.

The 125th Infantry served the State of Michigan in several civil operations and performed security operations during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia where it was awarded the Joint Meritorious Service Award. After the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 the 125th Infantry was assigned to assist in security operations at 5 major airports in Michigan and then provided personal for securing Michigan’s international points of entry as part of Operation Noble Eagle.

In November 2003 the Battalion was mobilized under Operation Enduring Freedom and provided Soldiers for Task Force 1-125th Infantry in Sinai, Egypt as USBATT Rotation 46 assigned to the Multinational Force and Observers. The Battalion successfully completed the mission in July of 2004 and returned from active duty during July and August of 2004.