

BATTALY C
1ST BATTALION, 67TH ARTILLERY
ATO 09801

H I S T O R Y

The history of the First Battalion, 67th Artillery dates back to World War I and the birth of the 67th Coast Artillery Regiment at Fort Winfield Scott, San Francisco, California on 21 May 1918. A brief training period followed, and then the infant regiment sailed from Hoboken, New Jersey on the transport "Mount Vernon" bound for Europe. The unit landed in France in September of the same year to receive its combat baptism with the American Expeditionary Force. It was armed with the old tractor-drawn, French-designed, 155 M Rifles.

On 10 February 1919, after the end of the war, the Regiment returned victoriously to the United States. It was assigned to San Francisco, again, and demobilized there on 23 April 1919. Prior to demobilization the new veteran unit was awarded the first of eight campaign streamers it was to receive. The streamer is green, gold, red and blue - without inscription - and was awarded for combat service during the war.

From 1919 to 1940, the Regiment was carried on the Regular Army list, but was inactive and without personnel. The growing importance of the airplane as a tool of war resulted in organization of Anti-Aircraft Artillery units to provide air defense. In 1926 the designation of the unit was changed to the 67th Coast Artillery Regiment, (Anti-Aircraft).

The eruption of World War II in September of 1939 brought expansion to the United States Army and reactivation to the 67th Coast Artillery (AA) Regiment. This time the Regiment was placed across the country (to await the outbreak of hostilities that would eventually bring the United States into the war) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Following the declaration of the United States to join the war on 8 December 1941, the 67th was assigned to the Eastern Defense Command and occupied positions in the anti-aircraft defense of Metropolitan New York. The stations included Patterson and Fort Hancock, New Jersey and Mitchell Field, Long Island.

The unit was called into action and sailed from New York on 13 January 1943 aboard the transport "Ancon" for North Africa. The Regiment at this time consisted of three battalions. The 1st was armed with 90 MM guns, the 2d with 40 MM guns, and the 3d with searchlights.

The 67th arrived, after a 14 day sea voyage through U-boat infested waters, at Algiers, North Africa on 27 January 1943. Plunging into action against the German and Italian Air Forces, the unit defended against the numerous raids on that vital supply port. Later, the 67th moved eastward into Tunisia and helped in the defense of forward air bases and the ground assaults of the African Corps under Rommel.

On 15 October 1943, the 67th arrived in Italy to begin fighting in the rugged campaign that faced the allied armies in their march on Rome. In the ensuing months the mud, rain, and a doggedly determined enemy contributed to the hardships that marked the fighting in Italy. The guns were to serve in both ground fire, to support the infantry, and to defend against constant air attacks.

It was while fighting with the French Expeditionary Corps in the rugged combat around Monte Cassino, that the prized "Croix De Guerre" with Palm was won. The award was presented to the unit by the French government after a total of 33 enemy aircraft were scored upon either "hits" or "kills" during the campaign.

On 23 May 1944, the 67th Coast Artillery Regiment was reorganized and the 1st Battalion was designated the 67th AAA Gun Battalion.

During the invasion of southern France, the 67th pushed into France on September 13th, 1944 and took an active part in the drives that were to bring defeat to Germany with the Seventh United States Army on 30 March 1945. The end of the war found the Battalion performing occupation duty at Erback, Germany. The 67th returned to the United States, arriving in New York on 24 November 1945. The Battalion was inactivated on 25 November 1945. The major battles of World War II in which the Battalion fought were: Tunisia, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe. The Croix De Guerre Citation, which was awarded to the 67th while fighting in Italy is as follows:

DECISION NO. 267

Following the suggestion of the Minister of National Defense; the President of the Provisionary Government of the Republic States:

BY ORDER OF THE ARMY

67TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY GUN BATTALION

"Always United on the Front"

Took part in the Tunisia, Italian, French and German Campaigns.

It is particularly noted in the French Expeditionary Corps Sector, that they helped in opening the road to Rome. Always in complete cooperation with the United French, the 67th AAA Gun Bn played a large part towards the success of our Armies, by destroying or damaging 33 enemy aircraft.

This Citation awards you the Croix De Guerre with Palm.

Paris, the 22nd July 1946
Signed: Bidault

PA: General of the Army
JUN

The 67th was reactivated again in January 1949 at Fort Bliss, Texas from members of the 38th AAA Gun Battalion. From January 1949 until August 1951, the 67th established an enviable record. The mission of the Battalion was to act as cadre for the Anti-aircraft and Guided Missile Branch of the Artillery School. In addition, the Battalion was called on to fire AA demonstrations for visiting dignitaries at Fort Bliss. The 67th became known as

as the best shooting AA unit in the Army.

The Battalion returned to Germany on 1 September 1951 and was first stationed at Mannheim, then Baumholder, then Worms and in 1952, moved to its present station at Peden Barracks, Wertheim, Germany. In November 1957, conversion from 90 MM Guns to Missiles began on 13 January 1958, "D" Battery became the first Nike Operational Battery in Europe. This was accomplished through the ingenuity of the Battalion Technical personnel in utilizing 90 MM cables to overcome equipment shortages.

In June of 1958, a Missile Exhibit Team from the Battalion displayed the Nike on Danish soil for the first time when it presented a ten (10) day Missile exhibit at Copenhagen, Denmark. The Exhibit was so well received that the team returned to Denmark the following month at the request of King Frederick IX.

On the 13th of August 1958, "D" Battery was honored by the visit of General Maxwell D. Taylor, Army Chief of Staff.

The insignia of the 1st Battalion, 67th Artillery, bears the proud motto "Memor et Fidelis", which translated means "Mindful and Faithful."

On 17 September 1958, the present Batteries "A" and "C" were transferred from the 5th Missile Battalion, 1st Artillery to the 1st Missile Battalion, 67th Artillery. These Batteries trace their lineal history from the 63rd Coast Artillery Regiment (AA).

During 1963, the Battalion completed a full changeover to the Nike Hercules Missile system and now consists of four firing batteries armed with this extremely high altitude, surface to air missile.