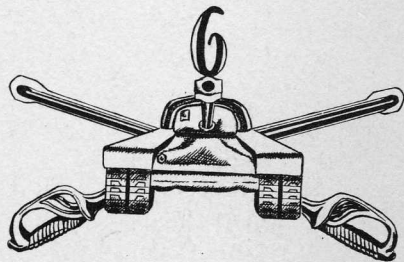


6TH ARMORED CAVALRY



THIS IS YOUR REGIMENT

**A BRIEF HISTORY
OF THE REGIMENT
1861 - 1958**

DEDICATED

To those members of the
regiment who have given
their lives in the battles
of their country.

FOREWORD

This history is designed to give
members of the regiment a brief
glimpse into the background of
“The Fighting Sixth.” Being brief,
this work can only sketch those
highlights of history in which this
Regiment played a part.

BATTLE HONORS
OF
'THE FIGHTING SIXTH'

Virginia 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865	Apaches (1873, 1885-1886) Oklahoma 1874
Peninsula (1862)	Arizona 1876, 1881, 1882
Antietam (1862)	New Mexico 1882
Fredericksburg (1862)	Colorado 1884
Chancellorsville (1863)	Pine Ridge (1890-1891)
Gettysburg (1863)	Santiago (1898)
Maryland 1863	Peking (1900)
Wilderness (1864)	Philippines (1901-1909)
Spotsylvania (1864)	France (1918)
Cold Harbor (1864)	Normandy (1944)
Shenandoah (1864)	Northern France (1944)
Petersburg (1864-1865)	Rhineland (1944-1945)
Appamattox (1865)	Ardennes-Alsace (1944- 1945)
Texas (1867)	Central Europe (1945)
Comanches (1867-1875)	

DECORATIONS

Distinguished Unit Streamer Embroidered
HARLANGE POCKET

In addition to these streamers, the Sixth has participated in other engagements and campaigns for which it has not been awarded streamers, such as the occupation of Vera Cruz in 1914 and the Punitive Expedition into Mexico in 1916-1917. Altogether, the Regiment has participated in thirty-five major campaigns.

Four



THE CREST

This is your crest. Like most crests, each symbol has a meaning, a story to tell. Briefly, it is this:

The dragon signifies the Regiment's participation in the Boxer Rebellion. The four arrows clutched in one claw of the dragon represent the Indian campaigns in which the Regiment fought. The spiralled yellow and blue horizontal staff on which the dragon stands represents action in the Civil War (yellow and blue being the colors of the cavalry).

On the shield is the unicorn, a mythical animal with a spiralled horn growing out from the center of its forehead. The unicorn symbolizes mobility, speed and a high fighting quality.

The motto of the Regiment is "Ducit Amor Patriae." Latin, it means "Led by love of country."

Five

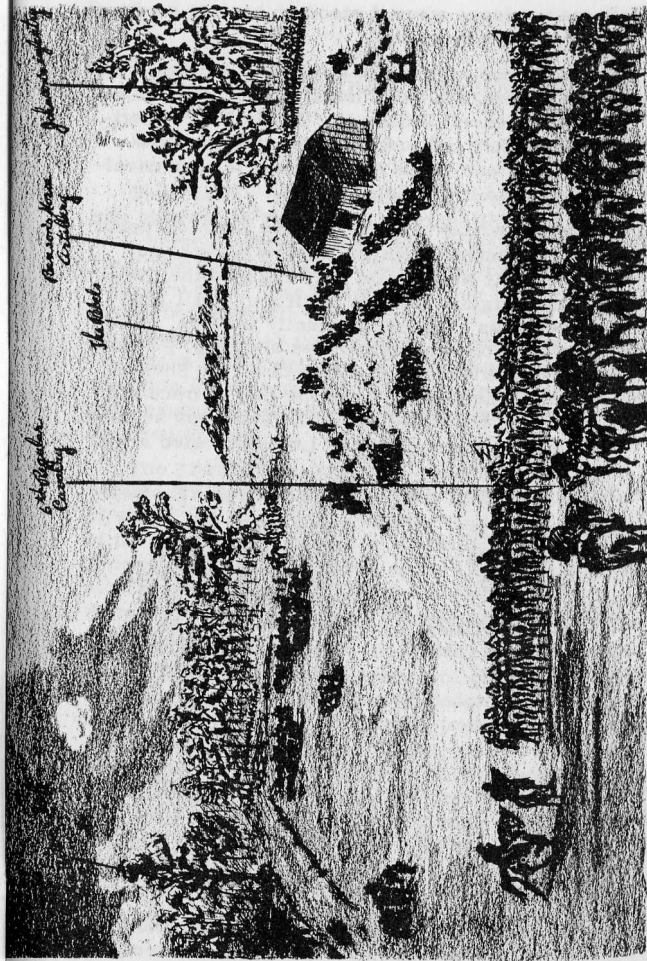
A HOUSE DIVIDED

The crash of cannon at Fort Sumter in the spring of 1861 split the Union across the middle, dividing the North and the South into two armed camps. Rightly or wrongly, each felt that right was on its side and that it must fight for its beliefs. Mobilization began.

On 4 May 1861, president Abraham Lincoln issued the mobilization proclamation for the North, and the 6th US Cavalry was formed. Although the original name was the 3d US Cavalry, all cavalry was reorganized by Congress on 3 August 1861, and the name was changed to the 6th US Cavalry. From that time until this, the Sixth has been on continuous active duty, through thirty-five major campaigns and a dozen foreign countries.

From August 1861 until March 1862 the Regiment recruited and trained its members from Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. On 10 March 1862, it began its career, which has won it the title of "The Fighting Sixth," when it took to the field in the Centerville and Manassas area. From that date until Appamattox—and peace—the command engaged in frequent, bitter and bloody battles with the Army of the Potomac.

Throughout the civil War the Sixth fought under the top leaders of the North against top commanders of the South. Several times during the war the Regiment crossed sabres with General J. E. B. Stuart's cavalry, both in the attack and in the defense. On 16 June 1862, it fought a successful delaying action against the Confederate leader at Black Creek when his cavalry succeeded in getting in the rear of Union forces. At the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, the Sixth was Six



nearly cut to pieces when it stood up against an attack by two of Stuart's brigades.

The last encounter of the Regiment with Stuart was at Yellow Tavern, six miles north of Richmond. As part of Major General Phillip H. "Little Phil" Sheridan's cavalry they met and defeated Stuart's force. General Stuart, one of the South's most famous cavalrymen was killed in the defeat.

During the winter of 1864-1865 the Sixth occupied the upper Shenandoah, fighting at New Market and Cedar Creek. At New Market they engaged the Cadet Corps of the Virginia Military Institute. Until 1865 the Regiment was engaged constantly in raids, reconnaissance missions and skirmishes and on 27 February 1865, joined Sheridan in his march down the Shenandoah Valley. The running up of the flag of truce signaled the end of the war—just as the Sixth was starting a charge on an exposed flank of Lee's defeated army.

BATTLE HONORS EARNED DURING CIVIL WAR

Virginia 1862, 1863,
1864, 1865

Peninsula (1862)
Antietam (1862)

Fredericksburg (1862)
Chancellorsville (1863)
Gettysburg (1863)

Maryland 1863
Wilderness (1864)
Spotsylvania (1864)
Cold Harbor (1864)
Shenandoah (1864)
Petersburg (1864-1865)
Appamattox (1865)

RECONSTRUCTION AND REDMEN

Immediately following the Civil War, the Sixth went into garrison in Frederick, Maryland for resupplying of men, horses and materials. At full strength in October 1865, the Regiment sailed from New York for Texas, their new post. The history from that date until 1891 parallels the growth and development of the West and Southwest. Duties consisted of guarding the courts of justice, maintaining law and order (during the Reconstruction Period), putting down Indian uprisings and suppressing the hoodlums, thieves and gangsters of the frontier era.

The Sixth's introduction to Indian fighting came at Buffalo Springs, Texas, where on 21 July 1867, a party of about 250 Indians attacked the post while the bulk of the troops were absent on a scouting mission. Troops A and E, in garrison at the time, repulsed the attack without loss. During the next twenty-five years there were frequent skirmishes with and campaigns against the Indians.

Fighting with the Indians meant continued hardship and death. The Indians carried modern repeating rifles, had learned new ways of fighting from the white man and adapted them to their own. In all these Indian campaigns the purpose of the soldier was never to knock out the redman completely but to put down uprisings with the least bloodshed. During many years the peace of the plains was broken by bloody fighting. In one post cemetery on the frontier, all but three of the gravestones read "Tortured and killed by Apaches."

During the quarter century of Indian fighting, the troops of the Regiment were sometimes scattered far

and wide, ranging from Texas to South Dakota and west. Many engagements, skirmishes and small campaigns were fought by troop-size units or even smaller. Typical of the minor actions are these terse reports:

“On the North Fork of the Little Wichita River, Texas, on 12 July 1870, Capt C. B. McClellan with a detachment of Troops A, C, D, H, K and L encountered a band of about 250 Indian warriors. In a five-hour fire fight two cavalymen were killed and nine wounded; the Indians had about fifteen killed On 9 September 1874, Lt Frank West with a small detachment from Troop I was sent as part of an escort for a supply train from Pleasant Valley, Texas, to the Canadian River. A large band of Indians was encountered a few miles south of the river, whereupon the train was formed into a corral and stood off the Indians for six days before they withdrew At McClellan Creek, Texas, on 8 November 1874, Troop D, along with Company D, 5th US Infantry, was engaged with Cheyenne Indians near the headwaters of the creek. The braves were routed after some hours of hard fighting. A large number of Indians were killed and wounded, and many ponies, robes and much camp equipage was taken. Two white girls, held captive by the Indians, were freed.”

BATTLE HONORS EARNED DURING INDIAN CAMPAIGNS

Texas (1867)	Arizona 1876, 1881, 1882
Comanches (1867-1875)	New Mexico 1882
Apaches (1873, 1885-1886)	Colorado 1884
Oklahoma 1874	Pine Ridge (1890-1891)

JOHN J. PERSHING

One of the young officers who served with the Sixth against the Indians was John J. Pershing. Years later Pershing was the Regiment's leader in Mexico and France. Following his retirement and appointment as the first General of the Armies, recognized as one of the foremost soldiers in the world, he wrote to the old outfit:

“Way back in 1886 when I joined Troop I, Sixth Cavalry, at Fort Bayard, New Mexico, direct from cadet life at West Point, my first thrill as an officer of the Army came through service in that splendid Regiment. With a record of gallantry and hard fighting initiated in the Civil War, it had just participated in the Apache campaign. During the five years following, in a school of practical soldiering such as scouting expeditions and Indian campaigns, the traditions of the old Army and the duties of the hour were our creed.”

“I look back upon those days, oftentimes accompanied by privation and hardship incident to service on the frontier under the leadership of men who knew the life, as an ideal training for a young officer. I have come to appreciate my experience of those days more and more as the years go by. The Sixth was my first love and it will always have a warm place in my heart. Its record of achievement and loyalty is unsurpassed by that of any other regiment.”

“To the officers and men of the Sixth Cavalry of today I send my personal greetings and my congratulations of your good fortune in serving your country under the standard of such a distinguished organization.”

/s/JOHN J. PERSHING

Eleven

YELLOW CANARIES AND YELLOW FEVER

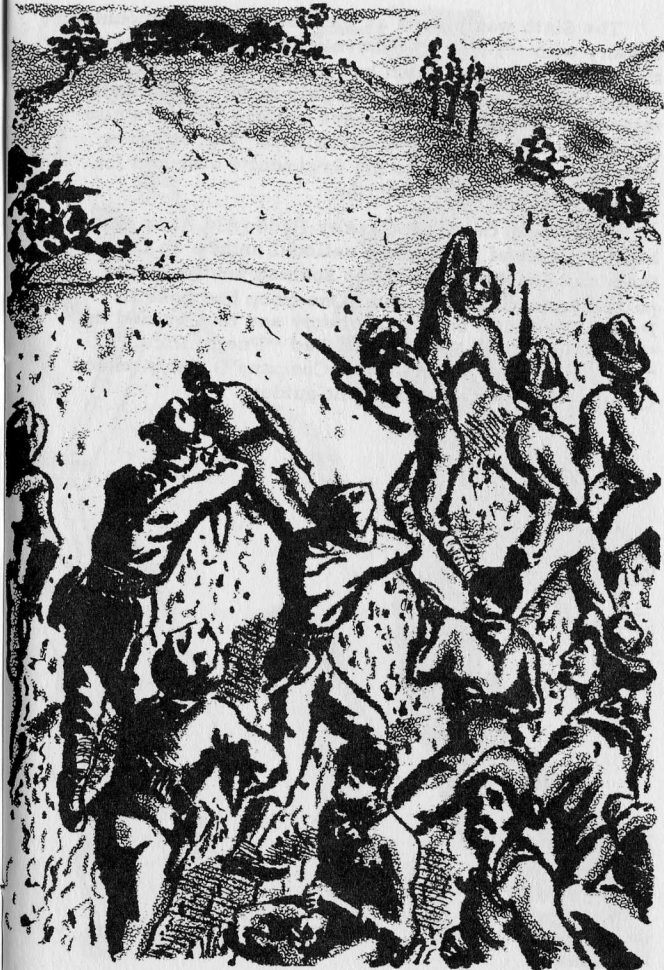
As a Regular Army Unit, the Sixth was at all times "combat ready" and hence was immediately available for action at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War. Without undue fanfare the Regiment sailed for Cuba with the first United States contingent.

The first troops did not reach Cuba until 20 June, two months after war was declared. The landing at Siboney and Daiquiri, to the west of Santiago Bay, was unlike the landings of World War II; there was no opposition at all. Troops landed from transports singing "Where is My Wandering Boy Tonight," and mobbed the beaches with excited horse-play so that the invasion resembled a picnic. Soon, the great heat, the swamps, the rugged country and the "yellow canaries" brought on malaria, yellow fever and death; the mood of the happy soldiers changed.

As the troops pushed inland, over muddy trails through the jungle, hidden snipers ("yellow canaries") took a bloody toll. The road to the city of Santiago followed a valley covered with jungle and crossed by a broken ridge called San Juan Hill. Here the Spaniards had dug in and fortified the top of the hill; two miles north of the road the Spaniards had built a blockhouse, trenches and barbed wire traps at El Caney.

Bad roads made it impossible to bring up artillery to support the Sixth or any other units. Dismounted, the troopers of the Regiment charged the trenches at El Caney under fierce fire. The loss to the Spanish was heavy and the US troops buried the dead in their own trenches and made ready for the charge up Kettle Hill (San Juan).

Twelve



Thirteen

The Sixth was placed as the left wing of dismounted cavalry with "Teddy" Roosevelt's Rough Riders on the right. The fighting, which had begun on July 1 at El Caney, continued until noon of July 3 when the Spanish raised the flag of truce. Losses to the Sixth were comparatively light—fifty-nine casualties. The streamer "Santiago" was added to the Regiment's standard for its participation in the fighting.

On 17 July the Sixth Cavalry Band (83d Army Band) had the honor of playing the national anthem as the Stars and Stripes replaced the Spanish ensign on the palace in Santiago de Cuba. One troop had gone to Puerto Rico for a brief tour of duty and thus gained the "Campaign Silver Band" inscribed "Puerto Rico." This silver band is authorized Company D, 6th Armored Cavalry, to be attached its unit guidon.



THE BOXER REBELLION

At the turn of the century, the Manchus ruled China. Tradition bound, they clung to the ways of their ancestors and refused to modernize. America, Britain and European nations were opening China to trade via the "Open Door" policy. This convinced younger Chinese that they must modernize, a movement which the Manchus skillfully turned into a wider anti-foreign movement. Anti-foreigner societies were formed and in 1900 the strongest of these was known as "The Righteous Fists of Harmony," "The Righteous Fists of Union," or simply "Boxers." In the summer of 1900 they cut off all the foreign embassies at Peking and killed the German ambassador. Germany called for united action by all nations and an international army was formed.

While the 2d Squadron sailed for the Philippines, the remainder of the Regiment went on to China aboard the Army transport "Grant" to aid in quelling the Boxer Rebellion. Landing at Tong-Ku on 1 August 1900, the Sixth moved up to Tientsin by rail. Several days later the horses arrived and Troop M (Tk Co 3d Bn) was chosen as part of the advance guard for the allied column, while the 3d Squadron, under Lt Adna R. Chaffee, Jr., a former sergeant of K Troop, advanced on Peking with the main force.

"The Forbidden City" was entirely walled and was defended by "jingals" (two-man guns) which commanded the approaches. The Sixth Cavalry, 9th and 14th Infantry assaulted the walls and threw back the Chinese. These troops drove the Boxers southward in the city and relieved the American garrison and civilians in the international area that afternoon—the first white troops ever to enter that city.

INSURRECTOS AND MOROS

While the Sixth was storming San Juan Hill in 1898, the Navy fought the battle of Manila Bay, defeated the Spanish on the water and landed American troops in the Philippines. The Americans were joined by Philippine rebels under Emilio Aguinaldo and the Spanish were driven out. However, that did not end the fighting in the Islands. Aguinaldo lost no time in launching bloody guerrilla warfare against the Army, and the savage Moros rose up against the Americans. The Philippine Insurrection was underway.

In 1901 the members of the Sixth who had fought in China were transferred to the Philippines where the 2d Squadron was already fighting. During the next two years the Regiment fought the steaming jungles, disease, guns, blow-guns and machetes. Some of the main encounters with the Insurrectos were at Batangas, Pablo, Talisay and Ticapan.

Aguinaldo, the rebel chief, was captured and guerrilla warfare dwindled, with continuing defeats for the Filipinos. The Sixth returned to the United States as a complete unit in 1903 and was garrisoned at Fort Meade, South Dakota and Fort Keogh, Montana until 1907 when the Regiment was again returned to the Philippines.

During this tour the Regiment defeated the Moro outlaw Jikiri and added the streamer "Philippines" to its standard. The major engagement was fought on Patian Island, near Jolo-Jolo, on 2-4 July 1909. In the fighting the Sixth suffered sixteen casualties and the outlaw leader was killed.