



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

## Lineage and Honors

### **121st FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (DARK SKIES)**

Constituted 25 March 1880 in the Wisconsin National Guard as the Light Horse Squadron

Organized 26 April 1880 at Milwaukee

Reorganized and redesignated 27 June 1994 as Troop A, 1st Cavalry

Called into Federal service 18 June 1916 - 25 June 1916 to form Troops A and B, 1st Cavalry

Troops A and B, 1st Cavalry mustered into Federal service 27 June and 24 July 1916, respectively, at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin; mustered out of federal service 20 October 1916 at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, and 6 March 1917 at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, respectively

Expanded 29 May 1917 to form the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry

Called into Federal service 15 July 1917; mustered into Federal service 31 July 1917 at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin

Drafted into Federal service 5 August 1917

Consolidated 28 September 1917 with the 2d and 3d Squadrons, 1st Cavalry (organized May-June 1911 from new and existing units); consolidated unit concurrently converted and redesignated as the 120th Field Artillery and assigned to the 32d Division

Demobilized 16 May 1919 at Camp Grant, Illinois

## **121st FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (DARK SKIES)**

Former 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, reconstituted 28 November 1919 in the Wisconsin National Guard as the 1st Cavalry

Reorganized 1919-1921 in southeastern Wisconsin

Redesignated 1 April 1921 as the 105th Cavalry and assigned to the 22d Cavalry Division; Headquarters Federally recognized 24 May 1921 at Milwaukee

(Location of Headquarters changed 1 September 1929 to Chilton)

Relieved 1 July 1931 from assignment to the 22d Cavalry Division and assigned to the 23d Cavalry Division

Converted and redesignated 1 October 1940 as the 126th Field Artillery and location of Headquarters changed to Beloit; concurrently, relieved from assignment to the 23d Cavalry Division and assigned to the 32d Division

Inducted into Federal service 15 October 1940 at home stations

2d Battalion, 126th Field Artillery, reorganized and redesignated February 1942 as the 1st Battalion, 173d Field Artillery, and relieved from assignment to the 32d Division (remainder of regiment-hereafter separate lineage)

1st Battalion, 173d Field Artillery, reorganized and redesignated 24 February 1943 as the 173d Field Artillery Battalion

Inactivated 11 September 1945 in Italy

Assigned 13 May 1946 to the 32d Infantry Division

Reorganized and Federally recognized 31 July 1947 in northwestern Wisconsin with Headquarters at Superior (location of Headquarters changed December 1952 to River Falls)

Consolidated 15 February 1959 with the 121st Field Artillery Battalion (see ANNEX) and consolidated unit reorganized and redesignated as the 121st Artillery, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System, to consist of the 1st and 2d Howitzer Battalions and the 3d Rocket Howitzer Battalion, elements of the 32d Infantry Division

## **121st FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (DARK SKIES)**

(1st and 2d Howitzer Battalions and the 3d Rocket Howitzer Battalion ordered into active Federal service 15 October 1961 at home stations; released from active Federal service 10 August 1962 and reverted to state control)

Reorganized 1 April 1963 to consist of the 1st and 3d Battalions, elements of the 32d Infantry Division

Reorganized 30 December 1967 to consist of the 1st Battalion and relieved from assignment to the 32d Infantry Division

Redesignated 1 May 1972 as the 121st Field Artillery

Redesignated 1 October 2005 as the 121st Field Artillery Regiment

Ordered into active Federal service 19 April 2006 at home stations; released from active Federal service 15 October 2007 and reverted to state control

Ordered into active Federal service 30 November 2012 at home stations; released from active Federal service 3 January 2014 and reverted to state control

Ordered into active Federal service 5 July 2018 at home stations; released from active Federal service 8 August 2019 and reverted to state control

Location of Headquarters changed 1 September 2019 to Oak Creek

### **ANNEX**

Constituted in 1916 in the Wisconsin National Guard as the 1st Field Artillery and organized to consist of Battery A (organized 11 May 1885 at Milwaukee), Battery B (organized 8 June 1916 at Green Bay), and Battery C (organized 12 June 1916 at Racine)

(Battery A called into Federal service 18 June 1916, and mustered into Federal service 30 June 1916 at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin; mustered out of Federal service 26 October 1916 at Fort Sheridan, Illinois)

Remainder of regiment organized May-June 1917 from new and existing units with Headquarters at Milwaukee

Called into Federal service 15 July 1917; mustered into Federal service 25 July 1917 at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin

## **121st FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (DARK SKIES)**

Drafted into Federal service 5 August 1917

Redesignated 19 September 1917 as the 121st Field Artillery and assigned to the 32d Division

Demobilized 17 May 1919 at Camp Grant, Illinois

Reconstituted 28 November 1919 in the Wisconsin National Guard as the 1st Field Artillery

Redesignated 1 April 1921 as the 121st Field Artillery and assigned to the 32d Division

Reorganized 1923-1927 with Headquarters Federally recognized 6 June 1927 at Racine (location of Headquarters changed 2 March 1936 to Beloit)

Inducted into Federal service 15 October 1940 at home stations

Regiment broken up 1 February 1942 and its elements reorganized and redesignated as follows:

Regiment (less 1st Battalion) as the 173d Field Artillery (less 1st Battalion)

1st Battalion as the 121st Field Artillery Battalion, an element of the 32d Infantry Division (inactivated 28 February 1946 in Japan)

After 1 February 1942 the 173d Field Artillery (less 1st Battalion) underwent changes as follows:

Regiment (less 1st Battalion) broken up 24 February 1943 and its elements reorganized and redesignated as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 173d Field Artillery Group  
Inactivated 27 November 1945 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey

2d Battalion as the 985th Field Artillery Battalion  
Inactivated 8 October 1945 in Europe

## 121st FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (DARK SKIES)

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 173d Field Artillery Group, and the 121st and 985th Field Artillery Battalions consolidated, reorganized, and Federally recognized 3 June 1947 as the 121st Field Artillery Battalion, an element of the 32d Infantry Division, with Headquarters at Whitefish Bay

### CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

#### World War I

Aisne-Marne  
Oise-Aisne  
Meuse-Argonne  
Alsace 1918  
Champagne 1918  
Lorraine 1918

#### World War II

New Guinea (with arrowhead)  
Leyte  
Luzon  
Naples-Foggia  
Rome-Arno  
Normandy  
Northern France  
North Apennines  
Po Valley  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

#### War on Terrorism

Global War on Terrorism  
*Afghanistan:*  
Consolidation I  
*Iraq:*  
National Resolution  
Iraqi Surge

Battery A (Sussex), 1st Battalion, additionally entitled to:

#### World War II

Bismarck Archipelago  
East Indies  
Papua

#### War on Terrorism

*Iraq:*  
Iraqi Sovereignty  
*Afghanistan:*  
Consolidation II

Battery B (Two Rivers), 1st Battalion, additionally entitled to:

#### World War II

Papua

**121st FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT  
(DARK SKIES)**

**DECORATIONS**

French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star, World War I, Streamer embroidered  
AISNE-MARNE and OISE-AISNE

French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, World War II, Streamer embroidered  
FROSINONE, ITALY (earned as the 985th Field Artillery Battalion)

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 17 OCTOBER 1944  
TO 4 JULY 1945 (earned as the 121st Field Artillery Battalion)

Battery B (Two Rivers), 1st Battalion, additionally entitled to:

Presidential Unit Citation, streamer embroidered PAPUA (earned as  
Company F, 2d Battalion, 127th Infantry)

**BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:**



**CHARLES R. BOWERY, JR.**  
Chief of Military History

05 SEP 2025