



## **3RD ARMORED RIFLE BATTALION, 50TH INFANTRY**

<http://www.wildfleckenveterans.com/wta.php>

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### **Brief Unit History**

In April of 1958 a battalion formation was held as the 373rd Armored Infantry Battalion colors were hauled down as the unit was replaced by the 3rd Armored Rifle Battalion, 50th Infantry, whose colors were hoisted. The 3rd ARB, 50th Infantry, 7th Army, was the primary opposing forces (OPFOR) battalion stationed at Wildflecken, Germany.

Wildflecken was a Major training area along with Grafenwohr, and Hoensfels. These areas were the European version of the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, California. The 50th's mission was to provide opposing forces for units that came to Wildflecken to train. Wildflecken's goal was to provide Low Mountain Warfare and Cold Weather training.

The Battalion had 950 to 1000 personnel They were Mechanized Infantry. HQ had the. Scout, 106mm Recoilless Rifle, 4.2 mortar, transportation, Medical and Communication platoons. The Scout Platoon had M38-A2 Jeeps with 30 caliber Air Cooled Machine Guns and later were upgraded to M-151 Jeeps mounted with M-60 Machine Guns.

The 50th retired it's colors on July 15th of 1962 and the unit was re-designated the 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division. Later in 1962 the 15th was upgraded to M-114 Scout Tracks which were a 3 man Armored Personnel Carrier, and two M-60 Tanks. The line. companies were made up of all 11-Bravos with M-59 APCs which were later replaced with M-113 APCs.