



Infantry Battalion Wien 1 „Hoch- und Deutschmeister“



A BATTALION WITH TRADITION

Like so many historical events, this also began with a signature on a sheet of paper. This sheet of paper was the treaty between Emperor Leopold I and Franz Ludwig von Pfalz-Neuburg, Hochmeister of the Teutonic Order, which was concluded in 1696 and stipulated the establishment of an infantry regiment. This regiment was recruited in Franconia (Germany), deployed in Donauwörth and soon received the nickname “Teutschmeister“. It had its baptism of fire in 1697 during the Great Turkish War (1683 – 1699) in the Battle of Senta (Hungary), where it performed so admirably that, based on the report of Prince Eugene, the Emperor himself had a letter of commendation conveyed to the commander of the regiment.



Hoch- und Deutschmeister marching past the emperor.

In the Seven Years' War (1756 – 1763) the regiment fought in the Battle of Kolin (Czech Republic) in which Leopold Joseph, the Count of Daun defeated the Prussian King Frederick the Great on June 18th 1757 in his first loss of the war. This outstanding military performance is still remembered each year on June 18th during the traditional celebration of the “Hoch- und Deutschmeister”.

After the war the regiment received the Viennese suburbs and the Vienna Woods as its recruiting region and soon its reputation as the Viennese regiment was established.

With the introduction of the systematic numbering of the regiments in 1769 under the rule of Emperor Joseph II, the “Deutschmeister” received the serial number 4. With the conferment of the honourable nickname “Hoch- und Deutschmeister”, 1814 saw the birth of the most Viennese of all regiments, the “k.u.k. Infanterie Regiment Hoch- und Deutschmeister No. 4”.



Hoch- und Deutschmeister in battle dress before 1908 (Alexander Pock)

The regiment ensured itself a place in musical history in 1893 when Wilhelm August Jurek composed a march, the “Deutschmeister Regimental March”, which he dedicated to the regiment and which, even today, is still inextricably linked to the battalion.



The Deutschmeister monument in front of the Rossauerkaserne barracks was the first grand monument of the monarchy which was built not to honour a single person, but a military unit. It was unveiled on the 29th September 1906.

The First World War led the regiment to the Eastern Front as part of the 25th Infantry Division and, following the Russian Revolution and Russia's capitulation, to the south where it saw action in the Battles of the Isonzo.

During the Second World War the 1st, 2nd and 3rd divisions of the Austrian Army were absorbed into the German Armed Forces as the 44th Infantry Division, which participated in campaigns against Po-

land, France and the Soviet Union, where it was subsequently destroyed in 1943 in the Battle of Stalingrad. Shortly afterwards, due to its accomplishments, it was rebuilt as the 44th Reichs Grenadier Division and received its new nickname “Hoch- und Deutschmeister“.

Following deployment to Italy it was moved to Hungary, from where it was beaten back onto native territory during the Soviets' Vienna Offensive. Following the unconditional surrender of the Armed Forces of Nazi Germany a large part of the division was taken prisoner by the American armed forces.

In the Austrian Armed Forces of the Second Republic the 5th Infantry Battalion continued the tradition of the “Hoch- und Deutschmeister”. Having been the subject of several reclassifications as Infantry Battalion 4, Landwehr Stammregiment 21, Infantry Regiment 2 and Infantry Regiment Wien the active battalion was dissolved in 2007.



Hoch- und Deutschmeister now an then.

Since then the traditions of the Hoch- und Deutschmeister have been upheld by the Infantry Battalion Wien 1 stationed in the Maria Theresien Kaserne barracks.

These soldiers belong exclusively to the militia and execute their duties in a constantly motivated and professional manner, in accordance with their motto “Deutschmeister ist und bleibt man“ (“one is, and always will be, Deutschmeister”).