

## 69e history overview beginnings to Franco-Prussian War.

In the pre-revolutionary period a number of bodies carried the 69 number into battle, for instance in the second half of the 18th century, Forez in 1757, Lorraine in 1769, Foix in 1762 and Beauce in 1788. If the order of battle was frequently modified, the units were in effect designated according to the name of their Colonel or the part of France where they came from.

These naming conventions were suppressed on the 1st January 1791, and replaced with numbers.

The 5th Swiss regiment, created in 1673, then the Vigier 70th, became definitively the 69eme.

The Swiss regiments were suppressed on the 20th August 1792 and the 69eme was disbanded on the 7th October the same year.

The Convention reorganised the army in 1792, and the 69eme demi-brigade was formed from a battalion of the 35e Drome and Haut Alpes Volunteers. This battalion was joined in March 1796 by a battalion of Paris Volunteers and by five others: 5e, 6e, 45e and 211e demi-brigades.

Two months later it was marching under the number 18.

Following another amalgamation ordered by the Directory, numbers were pulled from a hat and the number 69 fell to the 19e demi-brigade de ligne, formed from a battalion of 10e-Mont Blanc and Basse-Alpes Volunteers, to which was added the 102e and 166 demi-brigades and the 2nd battalion of the 170e.

In the Egyptian campaign an additional battalion was formed, where the 69e were to collect battle honours at Aboukir.

In 1803, the corps took back the name of the regiments and in February 1808, were re-organised into five battalions. A sixth battalion was formed in 1813.

In the peninsular campaigns the last four battalions served under Napoleon to make up Provisional units:

- 1805 marching battalion (Lorges Division – 3rd battalion)
- 1806 5e provisional regiment (Oudinot – 3rd battalion)
- 1807 11e provisional regiment (Corps Moncey – 3rd battalion)
- 1809 6e demi-brigade (Corps Oudinot - 4th battalion).  
13 demi-brigade provisoire (Division Despeaux 5th battalion)  
3e auxiliary battalion of the armée d'Espagne – 5th battalion).
- 1812 provisional regiment (Réserve de l'armée d'Espagne (3rd bataillon).
- 1813 21st provisional regiment (1st corps d'observation du Rhin, later 3rd corps 4th battalion).  
Corps d'observation de Bavière, later 4th corps (3rd bataillon).  
18e provisional demi-brigade (Coastal Defence, later réserve d'Espagne; — 6th battalion).
- 1814. — 6e Corps (3rd battalion).  
Defence of Paris (6th battalion).  
Defence of Luxembourg and Metz (4th and 5th battalions).

Louis XVIIIth ordered on 12th May 1814 that the army be reorganised, and the 69e became the 64e. The 79e under this 1st Restoration of the monarchy period took the number 69e. During the 100 days, the 64e took back the 69 number. They were again disbanded in September/ October, and members contributed to the formation of the 4e légion départementale.

This 69e légion was put together in the region of Haute-Saône in 1815 with a strength of two bataillons and was in operation until 1820. Then the legions took back the title of the regiment. The 69e became the 16e léger. There were only 60 line regiments formed, so there was no 69e until 1840, when the regiments 68 to 75 were created.

Two companies from six regiments (9th, 1st, 63rd, 65th, 66th 67th) constituted the new 69e in Strasbourg.

For the war in the Crimea, the regiment was complimented with members from the 48th and 51st

In 1870, the regiment was taken into captivity following the disaster at Metz. The 4th battalion and the Depot, served to make up the marching units of the 10th, 35th, 38th, 49th, 57th, 62th, 90th and 92th.

The 69e marching unit was created in November/ December of 1870 with two battalions of the 43th and 8th marine infantry battalions. On the 8th September 1871 it was put together with elements of the freed 69e de ligne.