

THE CORPS OF CADETS--1846

When war with Mexico was declared in 1846, The Citadel had cadets in all four classes for the first time. Since the college had already established a reputation as a school of arms, the cadets were requested to train recruits of South Carolina's Palmetto Regiment in drill and infantry tactics when the regiment was called to the colors for duty in Mexico.

Cadets in this mural are staging a demonstration parade for new members of the regiment who are mustered on the right. Major Richard W. Colcock, then Superintendent of the college, is pointing out to the commanding officer of the Palmetto Regiment details of the cadet formation.

The regiment's flag bearer, standing near his commander, holds the famous Palmetto Regimental Flag, the first American banner to fly over Mexico City.

The scene is the Old Citadel, fronting on The Citadel Green (now known as Marion Square), a month before the regiment left Charleston on Christmas Day, 1846, for the campaign "South of the Rio Grande" where it distinguished itself.