

# Guard

From Page 1

ritory citizens. Both Sioux Falls and Mitchell evacuated the entire cities to come to the territorial capital stockade for protection. (You can currently see the monument marking the location on the north lawn of the Yankton County courthouse). After all was calm in Yankton, A Company traveled west in the Dakota Territory as a Calvary while B Company was formed and stayed in Yankton. After three years, the units were disbanded.

- **April 13, 1867** — Companies C, D and F were organized in Yankton County as Calvary units.

- **December 1884** — Reorganization and Company E, 1st Regiment formed. The unit was issued 1873 Springfield rifles and attended six drills annually with a 10-day encampment.

Gen. James W. Harden said of the Dakota Militia, "Dakota, alone of all the territories, maintains a militia force, and that in numbers and efficiency outranks that of many older commonwealths of the nation."

- **1889** — With the statehood of North and South Dakota, the Dakota Militia was split up. North Dakota got the 1st Regiment and South Dakota would get the 2nd Regiment, without ever having a 1st as a state. Yankton's "South Dakota National Guard" would be called Company M, 2nd Regiment. They were alerted that year during the Ghost Dance War. (Between statehood and the turn of the century, militias were referred to as National Guard).

- **1893** — Yankton's unit was once again reorganized into Company M, 1st South Dakota Infantry.

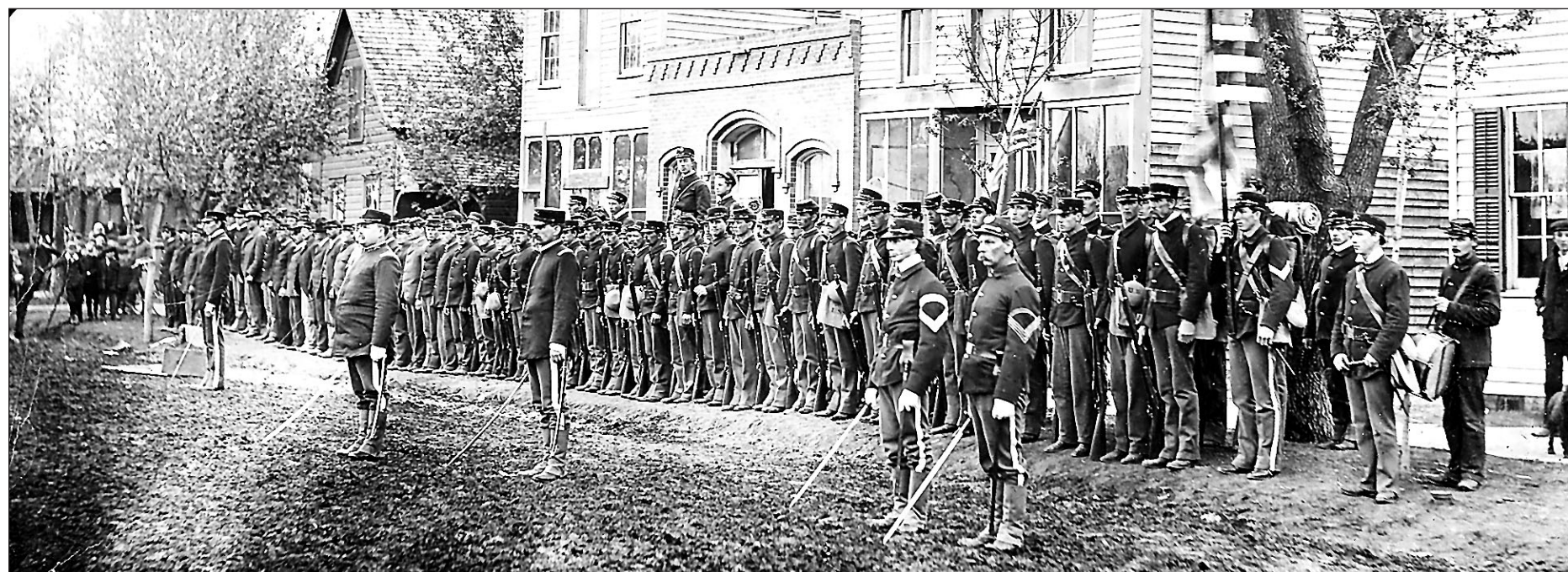
- **1898** — U.S. declares war on Spain and approximately 1,500 troops from South Dakota experience intense combat near Manila in the Philippines. When they returned, they were all mustered out of the Army and South Dakota went virtually without a National Guard because of a lack of funding. Even though the state couldn't fund the Guard, Company M stayed on in Yankton, drilling and training when they could. They townspeople helped them with whatever supplies they could.

- **1903** — M Company was supported by the state but in 1905 it was reorganized into the 4th South Dakota Infantry, M Company. Things remained quite the same until the mid-teens.

- **March 1916** — Poncho Villa and 400 followers crossed the Mexican border into Texas and killed 21 Americans, nine of whom were soldiers. President Wilson called on the National Guard in June to patrol the border. M Company was one of the units that went to San Benito, Texas, for seven months. At this time, all of the South Dakota National Guard reported to service.

- **March 1917** — The president ordered the return of the South Dakota National Guard and enlisted them in active service for World War I. Company M became F Battery, 147th Field Artillery Regiment under the 41st Division. F Battery used horses to pull the guns and fire control.

- **January 1918** — Battery F and the 147th boarded the White



ABOVE: This photo shows Company M, the forerunner of the current 147th Field Artillery National Guard unit, standing at formation in downtown Yankton as the soldiers prepared to leave for action in the Spanish-American War in 1898. BELOW: The Stuelpnagel Egg Processing plant in downtown Yankton was used as a National Guard armory.



PHOTO: BROOKS SCHILD

Star liner Olympic in New York City Harbor and set unescorted sail to England and eventually France.

- **June 1918** — Battery F and the 147th arrived in France where they trained soldiers and supported troops in combat. The units remained on line until the end of the war. When they arrived in South Dakota, they were discharged and South Dakota, in poor financial times, once again had a limited National Guard.

- **1922** — Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 147th FA Regiment was formed with horse-drawn 37mm guns mounted on 75 mm guns. (The unit was a 75 mm unit but did not have ammunition for the "new" artillery). E Battery drilled at the old Stuelpnagel's egg processing plant near Third St. and Pine. Besides the stockade in 1862, this was the first official assembly place for the Yankton unit. In 1927, the horses were replaced by FWD and White trucks. E Battery was called a "Portee Artillery" because the guns were carried and not towed.

- **March 1935** — E Battery was sent to Sioux Falls during the Morrell packing plant strike. An armory was built between Fourth and Fifth streets on Walnut. It is currently used as the Yankton City Hall. The men met upstairs and used the basement as a motor pool.

- **November 25, 1940** — President Franklin Roosevelt ordered all

elements of the 147th FA Regiment, including Yankton's E Battery, to active service because of the war in Germany and threats by Japan. Yankton became a 105 mm towed Howitzer unit.

- **October 1941** — E Battery along with the 147th, boarded the Willard A. Holbrook liner in San Francisco and sailed to Pearl Harbor, on the way to the Philippines. On Nov. 29, 1941, they left Pearl Harbor to Midway Island and eventually the Philippines. Pearl Harbor was attacked while they were at sea. The captain of the Holbrook, against orders from the Army colonel, turned his ship to Australia. (It was noted that the Holbrook would have met the entire attacking fleet of the Japanese and certain peril if the captain wouldn't have made this decision).

- **January 1942** — Yankton's E Battery and the 147th FA Regiment defended Malay Bay near Darwin. They were attached to the Australian military forces in the northern territory. They moved 2,000 miles south to Balarat, where they actually received their first 105 mm artillery pieces. They were then attached to the 1st Corps in Brisbane.

- **December 1943** — Battery E moved to Kiriwina Island and Milne Bay, and was reorganized as Battery B, 147th Field Artillery Battalion. They island-hopped, securing Islands on the way to Japan

from May 1944 to May 1945. They traveled through Noemfoor Island, New Guinea, New Brittan, Sarimi, Batang, Legaspi and Lingayen.

- **January 17, 1946** — The unit was deactivated in Japan and sent home after an initial one-year deployment that resulted in 61 months of active duty, mostly overseas.

- **March 1947** — Yankton's National Guard unit was once again reorganized into Company C, 1st Battalion, 196th Regimental Combat Team. In September 1950, C Company — along with the rest of the 196th RCT — were inducted into federal service and sent to Camp Carson, Colo., for training because of the North Korean invasion of South Korea.

- **July 1951** — Company C and its sister units were deployed to Fort Richardson, Alaska, until September 1952. There, they protected the northern border of the United States.

- **Summer of 1955** — Company C is reorganized to Battery D of the 260th FA Battalion with 155mm artillery.

- **October 1959** — A military police battalion was established in the area and Yankton and Vermillion became the 115th Signal Company Support with approximately 300 men.

- **October 1, 1961** — The Yankton and Vermillion unit was sent to Fort Riley, Kan., to replace regular Army units that were sent overseas during the Berlin Crisis. They stayed there until Aug. 11, 1962.

- **January 1968** — Yankton's 115th Signal unit became today's C "Charlie" Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery. The unit responded to the Rapid City flood in 1972 and were trained for nuclear weapons in 1974 and in 1978, becoming the first reserve unit/battalion that was nuclear-qualified in the United States. Charlie Battery

took ownership of a new armory located just west of the State Hospital in 1976 (it is the current location of the unit) and changed their main guns to the 109 Howitzers.

- **1997** — Charlie Battery turned its self-propelled 109 Howitzers in for its current equipment which is Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS).

- **May 30, 1998** — Charlie Battery had 30 soldiers volunteer to help out at the Spencer tornado.

- **March 15-May 7, 2003** — Charlie Battery and the 1st Battalion, 147th FA were activated to Fort Sill, Okla., for deployment in the Iraqi War. The initial phase of the war went so fast that the battalion was deactivated and sent back to South Dakota.

- **June 14, 2005-Sept. 30, 2006** — Charlie Battery was activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom. They trained at Fort Dix, N.J., and were deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, on Oct. 7, 2005. Their military police (security force) mission was to train Iraqi police. The unit saw combat throughout the deployment. They returned home to Yankton to one of the largest "welcome home" ceremonies and parade in the history of South Dakota. More than 35,000 people

lined the streets of Yankton.

- **April 15, 2009-March 30, 2010** — Charlie Battery, along with the 1st Battalion, 147th FA, were activated and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The battalion trained at Fort Hood, Texas, and deployed to Kuwait City, Kuwait. There they secured the Kuwaiti Sea Port of Debarkation/Embarkation. At the time, this port accounted for nearly 95 percent of all supplies for both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

A South Dakota National Guard historian, Dean Mann, said it best: "All South Dakota National Guard members past and present can be proud. The SDNG Coyotes (South Dakota's citizen-Soldiers) have done, and continue to do, their duty. And the record is clear: They have done it in such a way as to distinguish themselves among their peers."

Yankton can be very proud of its citizen-soldier history and the support that the city has given to those men and women. The Dakota Territory's militia started in Yankton and today continues to lead with its soldiers, in the South Dakota Army National Guard.

**Paper Scanning  
Document Management  
Network Services**

ACTIVE DATA SYSTEMS  
Document Management Solutions

activedatasystems.com  
605/335-5906

**Keep Going**

If more and more things seem to be complicating your life, maybe it's time to talk to somebody who can help sort it all out.  
**Call us for an appointment.**

**F | E**  
**- | -**  
**C | C**

Family Education and Counseling Center, Inc.  
1700 Burleigh St.  
Yankton, SD  
(605) 260-9284  
www.feccinc.com  
A United Way & Volunteer Services Agency

**KYNT**  
AM 1450  
**MORNING COFFEE**  
WEEKDAYS  
MONDAY-FRIDAY  
Monday, August 8  
7:40 a.m. Doug Russell (City Mgr.)  
8:20 a.m. Craig DeVelder  
(Irene Bike Ride)

**KIDS FIRST**

**JOIN US!**  
Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011  
@ 7pm  
For a special lecture on the  
**Natural Approaches to Asthma**  
Minerva's Grill & Bar • 1607 East Hwy 50  
Call 605-665-4284 To Reserve Your Seat

Dr. Scott Plath has practiced in Yankton for 32 years. He is a Certified Industrial Consultant, Certified Med X Rehab technician and a fellow of Applied Spinal Biomechanical Engineering and is a member of their advisory board.

**THERE'S STILL MORE.**

**More Comfort. More Detail. More Power.**

If you want your radiologist and doctor to give you the most accurate diagnosis, you need to make sure they have the most detailed images. The Open Bore Siemens Magnetom Skyra 3T MRI available at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital can give you that—and more.

With the most powerful magnet commercially available, our MRI produces the most detailed images for radiologists and doctors. It also provides the most comfortable patient experience, with customizable framework and a quicker MRI process.

**Avera** Sacred Heart Hospital  
Look no further.

If you want more, call (605) 668-8150 to schedule an appointment.

MRI-accredited since 2003.

www.AveraSacredHeart.org

**CARPET CLEANING SPECIAL**  
ONLY \$75<sup>95</sup> Any Two Rooms  
Up To 300 Sq. Ft.  
Not good with any other offer.  
Must present coupon.  
Coupon expires 8/31/11

**Steamway**  
CLEANING & RESTORATION

Bruce Tirrel  
Certified Master  
Restorer and  
Textile Cleaner

**665-5700**  
1-800-529-2450