

# President McKinley welcomes 1st South Dakota Infantry Soldiers home to Aberdeen

**ABERDEEN DAILY NEWS.**  
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## WELCOME! + WELCOME!

**HAIL TO THE CHIEF AND HAIL TO OUR HEROES!**



Major Wm. McKinley  
President of the United States  
Mrs. McKinley  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
of the Cabinet





First South Dakota  
United States  
Volunteers  
1st to 10th  
2nd to 10th  
3rd to 10th  
4th to 10th




To these distinguished guests the people of Aberdeen do homage today, and hail the opportunity as the proudest epoch of their lives. This morning the city's gates opened to receive the nation's best and bravest—the president, the first ladies of the land, the cabinet's advisers, his friends, and his loyal, fire-tested troops, the noble volunteers of the First South Dakota Regiment—a congregation of celebrities the like of which the west has never greeted before and may never greet again. The very gratification of a welcome to the victors from afar, and responds gratefully to the presence of feet whose absence it has mourned while they trod strange shores, planting their country's flag amidst new scenes and over new people who will enjoy under its folds all the blessings of peace, prosperity and security for which they and their forefathers have ever longed but as yet known.

HURRAH

Cheers alone, with noise of cannon and blare of trumpets, can express the emotions that swell all hearts this afternoon. They are here a simple salute for the veterans old and young, for the brave people who have maintained their government and made it the greatest on earth, its power as well as its freedom. HURRAH! HURRAH! HURRAH!

HURRAH

"The record of the South Dakota  
 regiment has no parallel in history,  
 so far as I know."  
 —Gen. Arthur MacArthur

The President of the United States, William McKinley, arrived in Aberdeen, South Dakota to greet the soldiers of the 1st South Dakota Infantry on their return from the Philippines. An estimated 20,000 people gathered as McKinley gave a short speech and praised the South Dakota soldiers for their part in the Spanish American War and the Philippine Insurrection.

On April 24, 1898 the Spanish-American War began. The South Dakota volunteers mobilized on May 19, 1898 in Sioux Falls. From Sioux Falls the regiment moved to San Francisco, CA for validation. They then sailed to the Spanish Philippine Islands, arriving on August 25, 1898.

By the time the regiment arrived in the Philippines the Spanish-American War was over and the South Dakota Infantry was assigned to guard duty in Manila. On February 4, 1899 the Philippine Insurrection broke out. From that date until August 5 the 1st South Dakota fought with distinction against the

insurrectionist forces. During the fighting the regiment suffered heavy casualties, including 27 soldiers killed in action and 93 more wounded.

The 1st South Dakota Infantry Regiment's 126 consecutive days under fire led General Arthur MacArthur, commander of the division in which the regiment served and father of Douglas MacArthur, to say "The record of the South Dakota regiment has no parallel in military history, so far as I know."

It was therefore fitting that President William McKinley was present in person in Aberdeen on October 14, 1899 to welcome the regiment home and convey to the men the appreciation of the nation for the service they had rendered during a time of need in their country's history.

Duke Doering  
CW5 (ret.)  
Historian