

## 147th Field Artillery Regiment called to Active Duty



147<sup>th</sup> training at Ft. Ord, CA

On November 26, 1940, leaders of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 147th Field Artillery Regiment were scrambling to prepare their units for active duty. The Regiment was notified by a telegram dated November 20, 1940, from the Secretary of War to Governor Harlan J. Bushfield, which stated that all Federally recognized elements of the 147th were officially called to active service.

The Regiment was ordered to Ft. Ord, California. The 147th left the state within the week. Battery E loaded on the train at Yankton, they went to Mitchell and loaded Battery B and the Band. Batteries A and C and the 1st Battalion Headquarters entrained at Aberdeen, and the train arrived at Ft. Ord on December 8, 1940, one full year before the United States entered World War II with the attack on Pearl Harbor.

A second train started from Flandreau with the 2nd Battalion Headquarters, stopping at Sioux Falls to pick up Battery D and Headquarters Battery, on to Vermillion to load Battery F and the Medical Detachment. This train also arrived at Ft. Ord on December 8th.

The motor convoy to Ft. Ord assembled at Yankton under Capt. Thomas Sessions of Sioux Falls. It consisted of 105 vehicles and made the entire trip without any accidents. Every vehicle arrived at Ft. Ord under its own power which testified to the ability of the mechanics. Travel at this time of year found road conditions icy and snow packed. At one point the California Motor Patrol was ready to close a pass in the mountains but permitted the convoy to proceed. The convoy, which had left Yankton on December 5, arrived at Ft. Ord on December 17th.

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