



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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This week the Face of Fillmore honors those who serve in our National Guard unit and takes a closer look at the history of the building that is their headquarters.

Fillmore has sent men to defend our country in every conflict since it was settled. This patriotism is evident as one visits the Veterans Monument north of the court house with its thousands of names, representing those who have served our country from this area.

A short distance away on Center Street just west of Main Street is the National Guard Armory. It was constructed in 1927 to house the 213th Charlie Battery. Pictured here during the time of the construction are three soldiers from the unit. The one on the left is George Huntsman, father of Knox Huntsman and first commander of the National Guard in Fillmore. With him in the picture are Mark Paxton and LaVoy Kimball.

During the Korean Conflict the battery was deployed to Korea. Among the actions they saw in that war was one battle that earned them a Distinguished Unit Citation that was presented January 25, 1952 by Major General Wyman, Commanding General of IX Corps. It reads, in part:

“213th Armored Field Artillery Battalion (and others) were cited for outstanding performance of duty and extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy near Sanghong-jong-ni, Korea on the 26 and 27 of May 1951... As the attacking infantry moved forward in an attempt to trap the hostile force the artillery units were left without protection. During the night, a force of approximately 4000 enemy soldiers, which had been encircled by the friendly infantry, attempted to break out of its trap and rejoin the main body of the enemy army. The only escape route open to them led directly through the valley occupied by the US forces. During the early morning hours of 27 May, the hostile forces suddenly opened fire on these two units. All available men from both batteries were immediately deployed in defensive positions. The enemy fought fiercely to break their way through the valley but despite the necessity of hand-to-hand combat, the artillerymen held their ground, which enabled the comrades to continue their firing mission in support of the distant infantry. At dawn the enemy attacks abated and the men organized a combat patrol. The patrol engaged the enemy,



destroying many of their positions. After several hours of scattered engagements the enemy finally withdrew. The enemy attempted to climb the surrounding slopes but they were immediately subjected to an artillery barrage. This caused them to turn back and surrender. Headquarters and Headquarter Battery and Battery A , 213th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, displayed such unshakable determination and gallantry in accomplishing their mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set them apart and above other units participating the action. The extraordinary heroism displayed by the members of these units reflects great credit on themselves and upholds the highest traditions of the military service on the United States. By Command of General Van Fleet.”

The group picture is of that 213th Charlie Battalion. Back row: Phil Russell, Clayton Goulter, Frank Sweeting, Reed Kesler, Stanley Bennett, Robert Mitchell, Hal Davies, Duane Cooper, Joshua Robinson Jr., Val Peterson, Burton Giles, J. Ralph Wood, Jay Rogers, Jerry Warner. Front row: Lee Warner, Delbert Taylor, Ray Jensen, Billy Hansen, Clyde Konold, Norton James - Commanding, Marlin Horton, David Melville, Norman Nielson, Robert Black, LaVoy Jones, Arthur Brunner, Francis Martindale, Elvin Mitchell. (Cut off in picture)

It was fifty years later that this National Guard unit was again deployed, this time in 2002 and 2003 as the Alpha Battery 145th to secure the Deseret Chemical facilities near Tooele. This was just after the 9/11 attacks and security was beefed up all around the country.

In 2007 and 2008 as the 145th Charlie Battery, the group was sent to Iraq. There they were stationed at Camp Bucca in southern Iraq, where they guarded the detainees.

In the fall of 2010, the National Guard Armory underwent a facelift, as considerable upgrading was done to the building as well as new sidewalks and landscaping.

This summer Charlie Battery 222nd will be deployed to Iraq. They are now combined with Beaver’s platoon with 45 men in each. Our thoughts and prayers go with them and we honor them with pride as a community for their patriotism.

