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7 Mar 2013

Forts and Camps: Cantonment Badlands,
North Dakota

CANTONMENT BADLANDS, NORTH DAKOTA

Chandler, Melbourne C. Of GarryOwen in Glory. Annandale, VA: Turnpike, 1960. pp. 40 & 76-78.
#303-7CAV.1960. (Review of scouting in area of cantonment by Troops B, E & L.)

Lang, Lincoln A. Ranching with Roosevelt. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1926. 367 p. F655.L26.
Includes photo of "Medora-Originally the Little Missouri Cantonment."

Putnam, Carleton. Theodore Roosevelt. Vol. 1. NY: Scribner's, 1958. E757.P968.
See index under "Bad Lands."

Stanley, David S. Personal Memoirs of... Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1917. pp. 247
E601.S795.

U.S. Army. Dept. of Dakota. Roster of Troops... Fort Snelling, MN: Department Head Quarters,
1879-82. UA27.D35.U56.
Cantonment Bad Lands first appears in the roster of January 1880 (Company B, 7th
Infantry, Captain Stephen Baker). In July 1880, Company D, 7th Infantry (Captain
Richard Comba) replaced Company B in the roster and is listed through the last roster,
July 1882.

Winsor, Henry J. The Great Northwest... NY: Putnam's, 1883. pp. 133-34. F597.W56.

U.S. War Department. Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1871-1883. Wash, DC: GPO, Annual.
UA23.A1.

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According to research done here (JS/1977), “The 1871 report (p. 27) concerns Major J.N.G. Whistler’s 1871 reconnaissance that passed through the cantonment site. The 1883 report (pp. 82-97), lists soldier nationalities and occupations at all posts. Cantonment Bad Lands is listed as having only one enlisted man (30 Jun 1883?), a native of New York State, age 31, height 5’ 10-3/4”, civilian occupation, musician. The reports of the Department of Dakota commanding general, 1879-83, recount troop movements at Cantonment Bad Lands. Following are extracts:

1880 report (p. 61): “November 10, 1879, Company B, Sixth Infantry, established the cantonment at the Bad Lands on the Little Missouri River, D.K. in lat. 46o52”, long. 103o26”W.”

1881 report (p. 91): “December 3, 1880, in compliance with Special Order 159, current series, Department of Dakota, Lieut. William English, Seventeenth Infantry, with a detachment of 12 enlisted men of Company F, Seventh Infantry, left Fort Abraham Lincoln with orders to report to the commanding officer, Cantonment Bad Lands, Dak.; arrived there December 4. On December 8, Lieut. English with 12 enlisted men of Companies D and F, Seventh Infantry, left the cantonment for Sentinel Butte station to guard government property and working parties on the Northern Pacific Railroad extension. The party was relieved December 23, by Lieutenant McCoy, Seventh Infantry, and 12 enlisted men of Companies D and F, Seventh Infantry.” (p. 49): “April 6, 1881, Sentinel Butte Station abandoned. Detachment of Company F, Seventh Infantry, left Cantonment Bad Lands April 13 and arrived at Fort A. Lincoln same date.” (p. 97): “July 16, 1881, Troop E, Seventh Cavalry, left Camp Cook, Montana, on scout to Bad Lands, Dak. Returned July 31, 1881. Distance marched, about 241 miles.”

1883 report (p. 109): “November 2, 1882, Second Lieutenant Sage, Fifth Infantry, and ten enlisted men of the Fifth Infantry, left Fort Keogh and proceeded to Cantonment Bad Lands for temporary duty until the latter post should be abandoned...November 10, 1882, Company D (Comba’s), Seventh Infantry left Cantonment Bad Lands en route to its new station, Fort Laramie.”