

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2015

CONTACT: Jeff Mammenga, Media Coordinator, (605) 773-6000,
Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us

World War I postcards of Europe available on South Dakota Digital Archives

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre recently added a collection of more than 90 postcard images of World War I to the South Dakota Digital Archives.

The postcards are mostly of French and German soldiers in uniform and towns in France and Belgium destroyed during the war. Although fighting occurred worldwide, the bulk of the fighting in Europe occurred in Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Alsace-Lorraine along what came to be known as the Western Front. The postcards also include images of World War I trenches, tanks, airplanes and a motorcycle.

The World War I postcards are accessible by visiting the State Archives website at history.sd.gov/archives and clicking on the “World War I” link.

The SDDA, an online resource launched in January 2012 by the State Archives, provides researchers digital access to unique historical records. There are currently over 60,000 images available for viewing. The SDDA also contains government and manuscript materials comprising accessioned collections, publications, brochures, audio and video files, and survey notes. More items are added regularly.

The photograph digitization project is funded by private donations and grants. Those interested in sponsoring a photograph collection can contact the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation at (605) 773-6001.

Editor’s Note: The attached postcard shows four soldiers relaying messages on their field telephones during World War I. The phrase in German at the bottom “Am Feldtelefon” translates to “On field telephone.”

-30-

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society’s world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.