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# Oregon Guard Bulletin



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TO THE COMMAND

DEAR COMRADES:

A black and critical year, one that plunged Europe into the abyss of war, is passing into history.

The new year dawns over a world of uncertainties. Will Europe find some peace formula to end organized slaughter? Or will a new era of violence and devastation sweep over Europe, destroying thousands of lives, crashing through neutral lands, menacing the peace of such parts of the world as now remain at peace? Only the succeeding months, as they unfold, can give the answer to those questions.

In a world so upset and menaced by the red plague of war, a sense of deep responsibility motivates you who are a part of our National defense. That sense of responsibility is evident in all phases of your training these past few months. It dominated your energetic response to the recent call for 1000 recruits, a requirement that was met by you within five days, first response in the United States.

So far as the National security rests on your shoulders you have met all responsibilities splendidly by your spirit of service and sacrifice of time. If your tables of organization are obsolete, if you lack basic and essential equipment, if you are not given the opportunity fully to train yourselves for field service in an emergency, the faults are wholly beyond your control.

There are indications now that at least some of the difficulties under which you have been compelled to serve will be corrected during 1940. The new year promises to bring in added measure those two essentials without which no military force can be efficient—field training and proper equipment. A properly trained and equipped initial protective force, of which you are a part, is our country's strongest guarantee for continued isolation from Europe's plagues.

In commending all of you for your fine spirit of service, your splendid response to the added obligations placed upon you in recent months, your willingness to meet fully any obligations the future may bring, I wish to add my most optimistic wish that you have a merry Christmas and enjoy a happy and prosperous New Year.

GEORGE A. WHITE,  
Major General,  
Commanding.

## Oregon Guard Bulletin

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### ON THE ALERT

While European Christmas trees—if any are allowed—are bedecked with gas masks or perhaps a receipt indicating down payment on the bombproof shelters which may now be purchased on the installment plan, the Christmas trees of the United States blaze this year with lights undimmed by fear of air raids and are laden with gifts unrelated to war.

Yet this seasonal gaiety is not the frivolity of an unthinking people. Let no foreign power be deceived into the belief that merely because a nation holds peace to be a possession more treasured than gold or territory it is not ready to defend its liberties, its rights and its ideals.

It is increasingly evident that the United States must be on the alert. That this fact is recognized has been shown in the definite steps taken to build up our somewhat neglected defense forces to a point where our desire for peace will be desire backed by a strength which brooks no interference.

As a major component of the Army of the United States, the National Guard is alert to the new responsibilities placed upon it and is giving increasingly of time and enthusiastic effort to forging for this nation a weapon which gives authority to American demands for respect of its right to peace, industry and happiness.

The Oregon National Guard is doing its share and will continue to do its share in the national program. Never have its members shown more earnestness in their training or more willingness to give of their time to a program that has as its objective a real national security and not merely the fantasy of the peaceful but somnolent dreamer.

From Commanding General to the newest private the Oregon National Guard is on the alert. On the alert for any threat to our right to celebrate Christmas in a manner befitting the birthday of the Son of Peace, and not in feasts of conquest dedicated to the greed and ego of madmen in seats of temporal power.



### NEW INFANTRY INSTRUCTOR ARRIVES HERE FOR DUTY



Major Thomas J. Chrisman, Infantry, U. S. A., has arrived at Portland where he has been assigned as Oregon National Guard instructor.

Beginning his military career in the Texas National Guard as an enlisted man, Major Chrisman was appointed 2d lieutenant November 7, 1917, and was promoted to 1st lieutenant September 6, 1918. He received the Purple Heart in recognition of a wound sustained during the World War. Following the war he received a permanent commission in the Regular Army as 1st lieutenant July 1, 1920, was promoted to captain June 10, 1930, and to major in 1939.

Prior to coming to Oregon Major Chrisman was assigned to the 8th Infantry, Fort Moultrie, South Carolina.

### FIELD SHOTS



A victim of his own insistence upon strict compliance with regulations was the 41st Division inspector general during the first field training phase at Camp Fred M. West, Portland. Finding the officers' quarters a bit confining the inspector stepped outside—possibly for a breath of the fresh but damp air. Hardly had he crossed the doorway marking the boundary of the dormitory area when he was taken into custody by a sentry. The inspector's attempt to identify himself was futile for the sentry had learned too well the regulations prohibiting any departure from the dormitory area. Clad in pajamas, which were not designed for evening strolls, the inspector was taken to the corporal of the guard before being released to again seek the solace of his warm bed.



As became their station in the military scheme, members of Company H, 116th Medical Regiment, fired not a shot in the field training period, but their training was marked by the lone fatality. Victim was a deer which committed suicide by walking directly into the path of a car driven by Captain Lyle M. Bain as he hurried from the camp at Cascadia to a patient at Albany. After being properly butchered the deer was turned over to state game authorities who presented it to the Children's Home at Corvallis.



Ingenuity and initiative are two of the characteristics of the American soldier which have played a part in every victory attained by this nation, and a possession of these characteristics was many times displayed during the field training just completed. One of the best examples was the pseudo-155 mm. gun used by Battery D, 249th Coast Artillery, in selection and occupation of position exercises. Hearing the company commander voice the desire for at least a dummy gun to use in the field training a member of the battery gathered together some carriage wheels, a section of large pipe and other miscellaneous equipment. When assembly of the various parts was completed the result was the pseudo-155 mm. gun, and that gun proved of considerable value in training.



A touch of realism to the night marches held during the special training period was furnished by the use of firecrackers at one training point. Small groups designated as enemy patrols attempted to outwit advance guards of marching troops and when they were able to do so, signified an ambush through the sudden explosion of lighted crackers.



A total lack of pillows bothered some of the soldiers not at all, even though they were accustomed to a downy cushion for their heads at home. Some, who found the thought of no support for the head too disconcerting, solved the problem by borrowing slabs from the woodpile to place under the end of the straw ticks as head rests.

## MORE ARMY SCHOOL STUDENTS LISTED



Additional allotment of vacancies in service schools to this state has brought the total of Oregon National Guard members who will attend the Infantry School spring course to eight officers and those who will attend the Field Artillery School spring course to two officers and one noncommissioned officer.

Applications are also being forwarded to the Coast Artillery and Medical Field Service schools although no definite allotment has been made for these schools.

Four Oregon officers graduated this month from Army schools. First Lieutenant Ralph L. Hirte, 41st Sig. Co., and 2nd Lieutenant Frank M. Arthur, Co. F, 186th Inf., graduated from the Chemical Warfare School; Captain Charles L. Unruh, Hq. Btry., 249th C. A., graduated from the Coast Artillery School, and Captain Victor W. Bryant, Hq. 1st Bn., 218th F. A., graduated from the Field Artillery School.

Officers scheduled to attend the Infantry School for the course beginning February 26, 1940, include Major Oliver S. Olson, Hq. 1st Bn., Captain Jesse V. Andrews, Co. E, Captain Leland A. Austin, Co. K, and 1st Lieutenant Weldon H. McBee, Co. A, all from the 186th Infantry; and Captain Lloyd L. Legg, Regtl. Adj., Captain Lawrence H. Hook, Hq. Co., Captain Lynn R. Wallis, Co. F, and Captain Charles A. Mahany, Co. C, all of the 162d Infantry.

Officers listed for the Field Artillery School course beginning February 10, 1940, are 1st Lieutenant Arthur H. Earnshaw, Hq. 2d Bn., and 1st Lieutenant George M. Baldwin, Hq. 3d Bn., both of the 218th Field Artillery. Sergeant Roland H. Jensen, Hq. Btry., 2d Bn., 218th F. A., is to attend the Field Artillery School course for noncommissioned officers at the same time.



### HOSPITAL COMPANY BECOMES COMPANY H, TABLES CHANGE



Effective December 1, Company I, 116th Medical Regiment, was redesignated Company H, 116th Medical Regiment, to comply with new tables of organization which require that division medical regiments carry companies lettered C, F and I as inactive.

The change was easily accomplished since Oregon had already been allotted Company H as an inactive unit. With the redesignation Company I became inactive and Company H active.



Quarterly muster for all Oregon troops will be held during the last week of the current month with selection of the actual day left to the regimental and separate unit commanders except for Portland units.

Muster for all Portland troops, including the 218th Field Artillery, will be held at the Multnomah county armory Wednesday night, December 27. Presentation of about 25 Faithful Service medals and the Order of the Purple Heart will be made at that time.

## OREGON LEADS U. S. GETTING RECRUITS

Strength Increase Completed Here  
Within Week; Feat Wins Praise  
From Army, N. G. B. Chiefs

Calmly but speedily, and efficiently but without any resort to ballyhoo, the Oregon National Guard answered the President's declaration of a limited emergency by more than filling its quota of 915 recruits within a week, September 24-30, and became the first state in the Nation to reach its new strength.

In answer to the Commanding General's report of the strength attainment came radiograms from General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army, and Major General Albert H. Blanding, Chief, National Guard Bureau.

"Congratulations on a splendid job of recruiting", said the one from General Marshall.

From General Blanding came the following:

"Your telegraphic report \* \* \* read with great satisfaction. Oregon is the first state to report attainment of its procurement objective. Hearty congratulations \* \* \*"

Following receipt of word that Oregon's quota was 913 new men (boosted to 915 by inclusion of a previous allotment of two not filled) the Commanding General called a conference of regimental commanders Saturday evening, September 24. The regimental quotas were explained, unit quotas announced and methods of recruiting outlined, and the campaign was immediately under way.

On the following Friday night, September 29, the quota had been more than filled and when late returns were received Saturday it was found that 991 men had actually been enlisted. The excess was adjusted by discharge of married men in lower grades and still on the rolls. New recruits who continued to come in after the campaign had closed were enlisted in the Inactive National Guard and assigned to War Table vacancies.

On instructions from the National Guard Bureau the strength of the 162d and 186th Infantry regiments was set at 1290 enlisted men each, the 218th Field Artillery at 789 and the 249th Coast Artillery at 599. The 41st Signal Company was increased to 131 and Company H, 116th Medical Regiment, to 66 but these were later changed to 130 and 64, respectively, when it was found that Oregon had been mistakenly allotted three more than was intended.

The strength increase was accompanied by a standardization of the strengths of the same type of units. In the Infantry regiments the medical detachments were fixed at 36, headquarters companies at 129 (howitzer companies being eliminated), service companies at 120, rifle companies at 80, machine gun companies at 78. In the Field Artillery regiment the headquarters battery was authorized 74 men, service battery 89, medical detachment 38, battalion headquarters batteries 36 and firing batteries 80. Greatest changes came in the Coast Artillery regiment with the headquarters battery going to 133, medical detachment to 26 and

all firing batteries to 88. Strengths of infantry battalion headquarters companies and of the State Detachment, 82d Brigade Headquarters Company and 41st Division Headquarters Detachment were unchanged.

Survey of the methods used in recruiting showed that the active efforts of the members of the various units were the vital factors in obtaining recruits but that the background for these efforts was furnished by coordinated efforts of the press, radio, American Legion and other veterans' organizations, Reserve Officers' association, state officials, county and city officials, service clubs, chambers of commerce, and by individuals friendly to the National Guard and volunteering their aid. Letters of appreciation from the Commanding General were sent to these as well as to leaders within the National Guard itself.

Those units which promptly attained quotas have been awarded special gold streamers bearing the words "First to Recruit" for display on guidons.

## 249TH COAST ARTILLERY WAR STRENGTH MODIFIED

A change in classification of the 249th Coast Artillery from a type A regiment (HD) to type B (HD) has been approved by the Commanding General upon request of the Chief of Coast Artillery.

The change affects strength of the regiment in war-time only. In times of peace both types include two battalions of three firing batteries each but in war, type A can be expanded to three battalions while type B remains at two battalions.

New tables of organization for harbor defense regiments of National Guard Coast Artillery are also underway but have not been distributed with the exception of tables for firing batteries. The new tables for firing batteries provide for a maintenance strength of 60 and maximum peace strength of 104 as compared with strengths of 50 and 97, respectively, in the old tables, and allow one more sergeant and one more corporal for batteries with authorized strengths of 88, present strengths of the firing batteries of the 249th Coast Artillery.

## TARGET EFFICIENCY SOLE BASIS FOR COAST ARTILLERY AWARD

Change of the basis of the award of the United States Coast Artillery association trophy, to the National Guard Coast Artillery regiment deemed most efficient in any year, has been announced and will be effective for any future awards including the one to be made for the year 1939.

The old basis of award was general efficiency but the new basis will be target efficiency alone, with the proviso that no regiment not rated satisfactory at both armory and field inspections is eligible for the award. No credit will be given for such factors as armory drill attendance or other matters not pertaining to efficiency in target practice.

The national trophy is now in the possession of the 249th Coast Artillery of Oregon, the award being made this year for the regiment's showing in 1938.

## OFFICERS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD

A conference of all Oregon National Guard officers with the Commanding General and the annual dinner meeting of the Oregon National Guard Association were held Saturday, November 18, at Portland.

Coming at the time it did, the annual conference was devoted largely to plans for the special field training. The Commanding General announced the decision to hold the special training in three week-end phases to prevent interference with schooling and civilian occupations of the soldiers.

The officers were told that the present troubled conditions in a world largely at war increased responsibilities and necessitated devotion of additional time and effort to duty, and were commended for the manner in which they had already met the problems of increased strength and doubled drills.

Following General White's address, detailed instructions concerning field training were given by members of his staff. Lieutenant Colonel Raymond F. Olson, State Quartermaster, spoke on matters pertaining to pay rolls, musters, rations and housing of the troops. A talk on plans and training was given by Lieutenant Colonel Elmer V. Wooton, and personnel matters were discussed by Major Willis E. Vincent.

Regimental and battalion conferences followed, and Saturday evening the annual dinner meeting of the Oregon National Guard Association was held at the Multnomah hotel under the direction of Colonel H. C. Brumbaugh, president.

## ARMORY, FIELD TRAINING 1940 REMAINS INDEFINITE

Two drills each week will continue through the month of January but continuance of that policy after January 31 will depend upon Congressional action. Congressional committees already have recommended favorable action.

Additional funds will be needed for the purpose and if the policy is to become effective for any very lengthy period there must be an amendment of the National Defense act. The act at present limits the number of paid drills to a maximum of 60 each year.

No definite information has been received as to field training next summer although the War Department has been quoted in the press as recommending a 30-day period of field training. Camp sites and extent of maneuvers are also in abeyance although the tentative 1940 program drawn up some time ago calls for the Oregon National Guard to assemble at Camp Clatsop with the exception of Headquarters Staff and Detachment, 41st Division, which would train at Ft. Lewis with a Division CPX. The 218th Field Artillery goes to Fort Lewis for service firing.

A new commanding officer has been placed in command of Company H, 116th medical regiment at Lebanon. Captain William W. Baum is the new commander, replacing Captain Robert B. Miller, resigned.

## WEEK-END TRAINING DECLARED SUCCESS



### Officers, Men Gain Much Experience From Field Assemblies; Armories Used Except at Portland



Well worth the money and effort involved and more beneficial than a camp of seven consecutive days was the field training held on three successive week ends by the Oregon National Guard, in the opinion of Major General George A. White, commanding.

Assembly at home stations and resultant decentralization of training, mess management and housing problems, gave valuable training to all ranks, stimulated initiative in the lower ranks and solved many problems incident to initial mobilization at home stations in event of an emergency, the Commanding General declared. He also pointed out the fact that the large number of new recruits, gained as a result of the strength increase, obtained training that will be invaluable when the more extensive summer maneuvers are held.

Trips to nearly every part of the state were made by the Commanding General and members of his staff during the special training phases. Everywhere the troops were said to demonstrate an earnestness which was reflected in the success of the training program.

Many problems arose because conditions were so different from the annual assembly at Camp Clatsop but were solved as the training progressed and added valuable experience to the knowledge of both officers and men. Initiative and ingenuity came to the foremost in the solution of these problems.

Portland troops camped at three sites. All Portland units of the 162d Infantry together with the 41st Signal Company, Headquarters Company, 82d Brigade, and Headquarters Detachment, 41st Division, were concentrated at Camp Fred M. West, name given to the camp site at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition pavilion. Service Battery, 218th Field Artillery, and Headquarters Company and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, also spent part of the training time here.

To Clackamas went the Portland units of the 186th Infantry and at Camp Bonneville the 218th Field Artillery regiment was assembled. Other troops throughout the state remained at home stations with the exception of the Antitank Platoon of Headquarters Company, 186th Infantry, which went to Silverton, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 186th Infantry, which went to La Grande, and Company D, 186th Infantry, which traveled from Oregon City to Clackamas.

Battery B, 249th Coast Artillery, joined Battery D at Klamath Falls for the first phase but returned to its home station for succeeding phases.

Night marches were held by all troops, and several night problems were worked out. At places where troops numbered several companies or a battalion the program included battalion exercises. Considerable training in combat tactics from squad to company was accomplished and a certain

amount of close order drill was included on the program.

Troops stationed at Camp Fred M. West were visited by Governor Charles A. Sprague, who inspected the quarters, talked with a number of the individual soldiers and was guest of Colonel Harry C. Brumbaugh, camp commander, at evening mess Friday, December 8. During his visit the Governor was presented with a membership in the 162d Infantry Association.

Three radio broadcasts were made from Camp West. The first two were released Saturday night, December 2, over KGW-The Oregonian from 6 to 6:30 o'clock and from 9 to 9:30 o'clock. During the early broadcast an address was made by General White, who commended the troops but took occasion to score conditions at the Portland armories in contrast with the fine temporary quarters afforded by the Pacific International Livestock Exposition. He described the armories as "unsanitary, cheerless and disgraceful."

The third broadcast was made at 8:30 o'clock Friday night, December 8, over KEX-The Oregonian. Otto Meiners, president of the 162d Infantry Veterans' association, was a guest of the program and called attention to the fact that the original 162d Infantry sailed from Hoboken for France just 22 years ago.



### LIEUT. COLONEL WOOTON PROMOTION ANNOUNCED



Lieutenant Colonel Elmer V. Wooton, State Staff, was promoted from major November 15. He was reassigned to the State Staff as adjutant.

His military service began January 10, 1911, as a private in Company B, 3d Oregon Infantry. He served with this unit on the Mexican Border and afterwards until the United States entered the war in 1917 when he was sent to officers' training school. Commissioned as 1st lieutenant August 14, 1917, he served overseas as first lieutenant and captain and was discharged May 20, 1919. After a short period as Reserve Officer he reentered the Oregon National Guard and was commissioned 2d lieutenant November 4, 1925. He was promoted to 1st lieutenant December 23, 1925, to captain February 25, 1926, and to major October 8, 1928. He was wounded in action and was awarded the Purple Heart.



### PRIVATE REPRESENTS OREGON IN WEST POINT COMPETITION



Private Henry J. Schroeder, Jr., Headquarters Company, 82d Brigade, has been certified by Governor Charles A. Sprague to represent the Oregon National Guard in the competitive examinations to be held in March, 1940, for National Guard candidates for entrance to the United States Military Academy, West Point.

Private Schroeder competed in November with candidates from all parts of the state in the examinations held to select the Oregon National Guard representative. His examination grade easily topped all competitors, with no one qualifying for alternate.

## FURTHER LATERAL INCREASE UNLIKELY



### Maximum Strength National Guard Probably Will Have 320,000 Limit, Brigadier General Rilea Told



Any further increase of the National Guard will probably have 320,000 as the figure set for maximum strength, and any increases made will probably have as their principal objective the addition of new units and will not be lateral increases in the strength of existing units, it was indicated in Washington, D. C., during the recent trip of Brigadier General Thomas E. Rilea to the nation's capital to attend a session of the executive council of the National Guard Association.

While definite policies to this effect have not been formally announced the trend of official Washington opinion is to this end, General Rilea learned. A lateral increase of existing units is opposed because it is felt that the saturation point has been reached in many small cities in which present units are located.

The executive council of the National Guard Association announced a policy which would give the states a certain amount of discretionary power in organization of any additional units. The policy sets forth that the states are willing to organize additional units from any increase designed to increase the national strength but that in the event of the new troops being of such a nature as to be of little or no use as state troops the burden of housing these troops will be transferred from the state to the federal government. Troops of this nature would include anti-aircraft units.

As a result of strong representations by the executive council and their favorable reception by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, an additional allowance for cleaning and renovation of clothing and equipment is expected at an early date to take care of needs arising from the special field training.

The council was also notified by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, that under Project No. 51 the \$7.00 per enlisted man for annual replacement of articles of uniform had been increased to \$13.71. The increase is effective now. It has been indicated, he said, that the National Guard will be completely equipped with the new M 1 semi-automatic rifle by 1941. He also stated that machine gunners' classifications will be based upon firing with the .30 calibre instead of the .22 calibre machine gun.



The commanding general gave orders that all must be paid for their week-end field training by not later than December 20. Many checks have gone out already, others are being sent daily. Several pay rolls have been returned for correction. One was such a mess of errors and incompetence that it had to be returned for a new payroll. But payments will be made on schedule, General White has directed, regardless of pay roll jumbles.