MILITARY DEPARTMENT Office of THE ADJUTANT GENERAL IN REPLY REFER TO CAMP MURRAY FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON 29 October 1959 Mr. Click Relander Box 736 Yakima, Washington Dear Mr. Relander: I note in "Foreshadow" that you are researching on army men stationed in military posts in the Yakima, Colville and Walla Walla are during the period 1854-1863. I am especially interested in this work myself as Historian of the Washington National Guard. I am enclosing a booklet recently published here at Camp Murray which you might find of interest. I have been covering the early territorial militia in an effort to project our lineages of our Militia and National Guard back to the Indian and Civil Wars. You may not know about it yet. However, I acquired for the Military Department about a year ago all the Indian War and Civil War documents generated in the Territorial Governor's offices during the period covered by your research. I have just completed the cataloguing of some 2,000 letters and documents covering these two wars. A considerable amount of it was between the Territorial Governors and the Military Commanders stationed here at the time. I have also been in touch with the National Archives regarding the Washington Regiment stationed in Washington Territory during the Civil War. I expect sometime in the near future to secure some 25 rolls of microfilm on this Regiment. Also have much, if not all, of the official correspondence of the Army Commanders here in Washington during the Civil War. Our agreement with the State Library in securing this material was that it would be made available to individuals interested in the Military History of Washington. You will note the pictures of a few regular commanders in the pamphlet. I have several more, including Gen Wool, Colonel Wright, Colonel Casey, Colonel Steinberger and others, if you have not already found them. Hoping I might have material which you need, which you are welcome too, I am, Very truly yours. VIRGIL F. FIELD COLONEL, USA, RETIRED Historian

STATE OF WASHINGTON

[EACT 1959 OCT 29]

## INTRODUCTORY BY THE AUTHOR

In attempting to write a complete and comprehensive history of the Washington Territorial Militia and the Washington National Guard, I was faced with the same task as many of our military historians of the past and that is the fact that little or no attempt was made to record what was considered of little importance by the early day military man. This is best illustrated by an Army Inspector General's report which was appended to a report of the Secretary of War to President Ulysses S. Grant for the years 1875-76, which follows:

"It is a singular fact that, aside from the few official items contained in the archives of the War Department, the only information we have of the early history of our military posts is derived from personal reminiscences

or vague tradition.

An officer assigned to command a military post finds on his arrival no record showing when, why, or by whom it was established, who have been its commanders, or any other reliable facts in its history. This serious omission ought, in my judgment, to be corrected at once, by requiring a historical-record book to be kept at every military post, under the exclusive charge of its commander, whose duty it should be to enter therein every event of importance occurring within the scope of his command; this book to be turned over by each post commander to his successor, and not to be removed from the post unless it is abandoned, and then to be forwarded to the Adjutant General for file in the War Department. Such a book properly kept, would afford easily accessible and reliable information regarding the special services of troops and their results. It would also exhibit a catalogue of errors, if any had been committed, which might serve to prevent their recurrence; these with numerous other items of record, would be important for subsequent reference.

The military significance and value of such a record will be apparent to every experienced officer, and it would not be devoid of interest to those civilians who appreciate the importance of the rapid settlement and development of the resources of the West. A faithful delineation of the stirring events at those frontier posts whose garrisons have furnished the vanguards which confronted and drove back the hordes of hostile savages that opposed the advance of the tidal wave of emigration, enabling it to sweep across the continent with a momentum as irrisistable as that of the Gulf Stream, must in the future possess great historic import. Who, for example, would not read with intense interest a properly authenticated narrative of the scenes that transpired in the early history of old Fort Dearborn, which once occupied the ground where the great city of Chicago now stands? And many would be equally interested in an accurate history of Forts Mackinac, Howard, Crawford, Snelling, and other posts that have figured conspicuously in the early settlement of the West. But up to this time no such record has been

kept."

As can be seen by the foregoing, in attempting to find documents, letters, etc., on our early Militia, I found that Territorial officials, too, apparently made little effort to record matters which they felt unimportant and which today, if the complete story is to be told, become all important. Thus, instead of going to one place where it was believed such information should exist, it has been necessary to screen vast amounts of early day newspapers, scan city and county records and read volume after volume of other material and books which might shed a light on what transpired in the Militia during the Territorial period.

Where possible, the story of the Territorial Militia of Washington and the Washington National Guard will be told by official documents with a minimum of narrative. In this manner it will serve not only as the official history of the Washington National Guard but as a source document for the historian and student. and any at the best treet as for the best by the property of t

Tentative titles of Volumes to follow are: WOLUME 2:

WASHINGTON TERRITORIAL MILITIA IN THE INDIAN WARS OF 1855-56 Euclident to an All Transition of the control of the second of the All Admids that there is the early of the second of the early of

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VOLUME 7

WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD IN POST WORLD WAR II

In order to tell the complete history of the Washington National Guard, these Volumes will also cover the periods following and preceding these epochal wars.

VIRGIL F. FIELD
Colonel, U.S.Army, Retired Historian

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# Camp Murray, Tacoma 33, Washington May 12, 1961

TO: Members of Governor's Council
For the Observance of the Civil War Centennial

Dear fellow member:

Pursuant to agreement reached at our first meeting on Monday, May 8th, 1961, enclosed is a copy of significant dates during the Civil War period in Washington Territory. Also a list of important battles of the Civil War.

For those members not attending the meeting I am also enclosing two other publications of this Department, an index to some letters and documents dealing with the Indian and Civil wars in Washington and a pamphlet entitled "The Camp Murray Story". The latter is for your perusal in the event it is decided to get out a similar one in observance of the Civil War Period in Washington Territory. The art work and typing, etc, was prepared entirely by the undersigned and was printed by the State Printer at a cost of approximately 35¢ per copy. In this connection almost all of the regular army officers' and some of the civic leaders' pictures are available here at Camp Murray for use in the event that such a publication is decided upon.

As I mentioned at the first meeting, I have stenciled some 75 pages of history on the Civil War period in Washington Territory (which is Volume III of our official history). The paper has now arrived and time permitting I hope to have a copy in the mail to you not later than the 1st of July. This is not a narrative history but a compilation of official documents dealing with the Washington Territorial Militia and the regular army during the period 1857 to 1865. Those dealing with the Washington Territorial Militia are from the Territorial Governor's files. Those on the regular army are from Volume L, Parts I and II of "The War of the Rebellion" and annual reports of the Secretary of War.

Trusting the information enclosed will be of some assistance in our forthcoming projects, I am,

Very truly yours,

Colonel, USA, Retired

[Enclosure. 12 may 6]

## SIGNIFICANT DATES DURING THE CIVIL WAR IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY

1861

and the second

- January 5 Plans formulated in Washington D.C. for building the "Mullan" Road (Fort Benton to Fort Walla Walla
- January 15- Departments of California and Oregon merged into the Department of the Pacific under command of Brigadier General Albert Sydney Johnston.
- April 12-14- Battle for Fort Sumter, South Carolina
- April 15 Abraham Lincoln issues Proclamation calling for 75,000 volunteers
- May 3 Abraham Lincoln issues another Proclamation calling for 42,000 volunteers
- May 10 Acting Governor McGill issues Proclamation to organize Washington Territorial Militia.
- May 14 Adjutant General Franklin Matthias issues Proclamation calling for immediate organization of Militia Companies in each Council District, with County Commissioners as enrolling officers.
- June 11 Commanding General of Oregon District orders Forts Cascades, Yamhill and Townsend, and Camps Pickett and Chehalis abandoned.
- June 21 Commanding General of Oregon District revokes orders to abandon Camp Pickett.
- June 24 Acting Governor McGill protests withrawal of regular army forces from Washington Territory.
- July 11 Capt. T.C. English, 9th Infantry ordered to move with H Company from Fort Steilacoom to San Juan to relieve Captain George E. Pickett who was to return with his company to Fort Steilacoom and turn his company over to Captain Dickinson Woodruff pending action on his resignation. His resignation was accepted as of June 25th, 1861.
- July 15 First Lieutenant Phil Sheridan ordered from Fort Vancouver to take command of Fort Hoskins.
- July 20 Acting Governor McGill requests Colonel Wright to return troops to Camp Chehalis in view of threatening attitude of the Indians.
- August 31 Colonel George Wright reassigned to Department of California. Colonel
  Benjamin L. Beall of First Dragoons assumes command of District of Oregon
- Sept.15 War Department orders all regular army troops on west Coast to New York, except one company of artillery at Fort Vancouver and two companies of artillery at San Francisco.
- October 9 Ten companies of 2nd and 4th California Infantry regiments ordered to Fort Vancouver.
- October 20 Several Washington residents protests received by the Governor regarding stationing of California Volunteers in Washington.

  Justus Steinberger appointed a Colonel by the Secretary of War to raise the First Washington Territory Infantry Regiment.

1862

- January 15 Assistant Adjutant General J. W. Johnson issues patriotic Proclamation calling for immediate organization of Home Guards.
- January 28 Colonel Steinberger transfers his recruiting activities to California. February 15 Ice Blockades on Columbia River delays movements of troops from Ft.
- Vancouver and Fort Dalles.

  April 30 Colonel Steinberger with four companies of Washington regiment leaves
  San Francisco.
- May 5 Colonel Steinberger and four companies arrive at Fort Vancouver. He assumed command of the District as senior officer thereat.
- May 10 First Oregon Cavalry ordered to Fort Walla Walla by Colonel Steinberger

May 11 - Four Companies of California Infantry returned to California. June 5 - First Oregon Cavalry with two companies of First Washington Territory Infantry arrive at Fort Walla Walla. June 23 - Brigadier General Benjamin Alvord assumed command of District of Oregon Major Rumrill, 1st Wash Terr Inf ordered to proceed to Fort Colville with Companies B and C of regiment and relieve two companies of the California Infantry. August - Customs agent at Port Townsend threatens to fire on town with the cutter Shubrick unless he is permitted to move the custom house to Cherbourg (10-15)(Port Angeles). Sept. 1 - General Alvord recommends to Secretary of the Navy that Iron-Clad vessels of the "Monitor" type be assigned to Oregon District for patrolling the waters of the Columbia and Puget Sound Sept. 10 - General Alvord requests armament for Mouth of Columbia and at Point Defiance and Gig Harbor from appropriation of \$100,000 made by Congress for fortifying Oregon and Washington. Sept. 11 - Elements of First Washington Territory Infantry at Fort Colville for contemplated attack by the Snake Indians. Oct. 6 - General Alvord reports massacre of immigrants by the Snake Indians. He stated that 1300 wagons and about 8,000 settlers had passed over the Immigrant Trail that season (1862). Recommends establishment of a military post at Boise. Oct. 20 - Colonel Steinberger directed to proceed to Lapwai Indian Reservation and establish a post there for Council to be held there. Oct. 24 - General Alvord holds Council with Nez Perces re giving up portion of their reservation where gold strikes had been made. Dec. 8 - General Alvord issues 250 stand of arms to Governor Pickering for the Washington Territorial Militia. Dec. 22 - General Alvord advised by Chief of Ordnance that 45 guns of different calibers had been ordered for fortifying the Mouth of the Columbia. Dec 31 - Governor Pickering asks support of Senator Lyman Trumbull in securing effective protection for the Emigrant Road. He cited the expected take of 50 million dollars a year in gold as triggering large movements 1863 of settlers to Washington Territory. Jan 6 - Washington Territory Legislative Assembly appropriates \$500 to purchase a stand of colors for the First Washington Territory Infantry. Jan 14. War Department authorizes establishment of military posts at Boise and Klamath Lake. Jan. 28th - Legislative Assembly passes new Militia Laws for Washington Territory. Feb. 10 -Adjutant General Barnum protests payment of troops in currency and recommends payment in gold inasmuch as currency reduced pay about 50%. General Alvord later advised him that payments would be made in gold. Feb 24 - Attempt by confederate sympathizers to seize the US revenue cutter "Shubrick" is thwarted. May 16 - Brig Gen J. M. Moore of Washington Territory Militia advises Governor Pickering of the formation of a Volunteer Company invicinity of Boise for the protection of Miners from attacks by the Snake Indians. (Company known as "Standifer's Company A, Boise Rangers". June 8 - Captain Lyman Bissell, commanding Camp Pickett authorized to expel American Citizens therefrom in order to preserve the peace and maintain order. The instructions further stated that "A justice of the Peace shall have no jurisdiction of any case in which the title to land shall in any way come Aug 20 - Stand of Colors presented to First Washington Territory Infantry in parade at Fort Walla Walla.

1864

April 19 - General Wright advises General Alvord that post at the mouth of the Columbia River will be designated Cape Disappointment.

July 1 - Major General Irwin McDowell assumes command of the Department of Pacific.

July 25th - General McDowell announces action which has been taken in the Department
of the Pacific against certain armed citizens who on a pretext that the
Army would prevent them from voting at the next general election, had
organized to protect their right to vote. The order stated that the Army
neither intended or would interefere, much less retrain or control any
one in the full and free exercise of the citizens right to vote.

Aug 20. General McDowell visits Puget Sound and San Juan Island.

Sept 7 - Governor Pickering dispatches First Telegram to President Lincoln from Olympia.

Oct 25 - General Orders No. 22, District of Oregon announces the arduous and commendable manner which the Oregon and Washington Regiments have performed during that past two years.

Nov 1 - Oregon begins to raise a regiment of Infantry to replace the First Oregon

Cavalry, whose members enlistments were about to expire.

1865

Jan 25 - GO No. 6 Hq. District of Oregon directs the National Salute be fired at noon the day following receipt thereof, in honor of restoration of the National Flag at Fort Sumpter.

Oct 31 - Last Company of the First Washington Territory Infantry disbanded.

### IMPORTANT BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR

1861

Jan 9 - Attack on Steamer Star of the West in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina

Apr 12-14 - Attack on Fort Sumter

July 19-21 - Bull Run (Manassas, Virginia

Aug 10 - Wilson's Creek, near Springfield, Missouri

Oct 9 - Santa Rosa Island, Florida

Nov 22-23 - Forts Pickens, McRee and Barrancas, Florida (Pensacolo)

1862

Jan 1 - do

Feb 21 - Valverde, New Mexico

Apr 5 - May 4 - Siege of Yorktown, Virginia

Apr 6-7 - Pittsburg Landing (Shilo) Tenn

Apr 29-Jun 5th - Advance upon and seige of Corinth, Miss.

May 4-5th - Williamsburg, Virginia

May 25-29 - Hanover Court House, Virginia

May 31-Jun 1, - Fair Oaks, Virginia

Jun 27 - Gaines' Mill, Cold Harbor, Virginia

Jun 30-July 2 - Malvern Hill, Virginia

Aug 4-6 - Malvern Hill, Virginia

Aug 29-30 - Groveton and Bull Run, Virginia

Sept. 14 - South Mountain, Maryland

Sept 16-17 - Antietam, Maryland

Sept 19 - Sharpsburg, Maryland

Nov 2-3 - Union and Upperville, Virginia

Dec 11-15 - Fredericksburg, Virginia

Dec 29 - 31 - Stone River (Murfreesborough) Tenn.

1863

Jan 1-5

Apr 29-May 2 - Fitzhugh Crossing, Virginia

Apr 29-May 7 - Stoneman's raid Culpepper, Louisa Court House, etc

May 1 - Hayne's Bluff, Miss.

May 1-3 - Chancellorsville, Virginia

May 19-Jul 4 - Seige of Vicksburg, Miss

May 24 - Petersburg Railroad, Virginia

June 9 - Beverly's Ford, Virginia

June 18-19 - Middleburg, Virginia

June 21-22 - Upperville, Virginia

June 25-26 - Hoover's Gap, Tenn

July 1-4 - Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

July 6 - Williamsport, Maryland

July 7-12 - Boonsborough, Maryland

July 9-11 - Near Funkstown, Maryland

July 10 - Antietam, Maryland

July 21-22 - Manassas Gap or Wapping Heights, Virginia

Aug 1-4 - Rappahannock Station, Virginia

Sept 19-20 - Chickamauga, Georgia

Sep 21-23 - Near Madison Court House, Virginia

Sept 21-Nov 24 - Seige of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Oct 14 - Bristoe Station Virginia

Nov 7 - Rappahannock Station, Virginia

Nov 8 - Culpeper Station, Virginia (Also Muddy Run)

Nov 24-25 - Missionary Ridge, Tenn.

Nov 26 - Graysville, Georgia

Nov 26 - Dec 2 - Mine Run Campaign, Virginia

Feb 22-27 - Demonstrations on Dalton, Georgia

Feb 28-Mar 1 - Custer's Expedition in Albemarle County, Virginia

May 5-7 - The Wilderness, Virginia

May 8 - 21 - Operations about Spottsylvania Court House, Virginia

May 9 - Near Petersburg, Virginia

May 9-10 - Sheridan's expedition to Todd's Tavern and James River, Virginia

May 9 - 10 - Swift Creek, Virginia

May 9-11 - Buzzard Roost or Mill Creek Gap, Virginia

May 10 - Richmond and Petersburg Turnpike, Virginia

May 11-16 - Drewry's Bluff, Virginia

May 13-15 - Resaca, Georgia

May 22-Jun 1 - North Anna, Pamunky and Topottomoy Rivers, Virginia

May 24-June 5 - Near Dallas, Georgia

Jun 1-12 - Operations at and about Cold Harbor, Virginia

Jun 15-30 - Before Petersburg (Operations against Richmond)

Jun 22-July 3 - Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia

Jul 1-Aug 31 - Before Petersburg, Virginia

July 4 - Near Dow's Station, Georgia

July 2-Aug 30 - Operations about Atlanta, Georgia

July 27-29 - Deep Bottom, Virginia

Aug 18-21 - Weldon Railroad, Virginia

August 25 - Kearneysville, West Virginia

Sept 1 - Jonesboro, Georgia

Sept 19 - Winchester and Opequon, Virginia

Sept 29-30 - Sheridan's expedition in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia

Sep 29-Oct 2 - Popular Spring's Church, Virginia

Oct 21-24 - Leesburg, Virginia

Oct 26-28 - Boydton Plank Road, Virginia

Mar 14 - Taylorsville, Virginia

Mar 30-Apr 1 - Dinwiddie Court House, Virginia

Apr 3 - Capture of Petersburg, Virginia

Apr 8-9 - Appomattox Court House, Virginia

To: Members of Governor's Council
For the Observance of the Civil War Centennial

Dear Fellow Member:

As per my memo of 12 May 1961 enclosed herewith is an advance copy of Volume 3 of our official history covering the Civil War period.

One project which I have been working on, but with little success. is the restoration of the flag mentioned on page 236 of the pamphlet. Also I have had under consideration some kind of a project to raise funds to have replicas of these colors made by one of the Flag Companies in the East and have them presented to the Washington National Guard for use in ceremonies. Another project which we have asked the Department of the Army to consider is the reconsideration of a decision not to recognize the regiments of the Indian Wars and the Civil War as being the predecessor units of the Washington National Guard. It is still under consideration together with a request that our 161st Infantry regiment be entitled to the honors of both the Indian Wars and the Civil War. Our reasoning here is that our early citizens, organized under Territorial Militia Laws, fought side by side with the regular units in 1855-56, and should be entitled to the same honors as was bestowed on the units of the 4th and 9th U.S. Infantry regiments. By the same reasoning, the 9th Infantry carries the honors for Civil War service, although they were stationed in the Pacific Department. Therefore, it is logical that our First Washington Territory Infantry was entitled also. I would certainly like to see a ceremony at Fort Walla/on the 20th of August 1963 (date Colonel Steinberger presented the colors to the Regiment) (See bottom of page 223), in which replicas of the colors of the First Washington Infantry (Territory) could be presented to our present day Washington National Guard.

Another project which might be undertaken would be a State-wide salute at Noon on the 25th of February 1965 as a grand finale to our observance (see

bottom of page 232).

Another project worthy of consideration would be a ceremony at Cape Disappointment (Fort Canby) on the 100th anniversary of its founding. (Sorry so far have been able to find exact date although it is believed to have been sometime in April of 1864.

Trusting you will find the enclosed pamphlet of some value in our project,

I am.

Very truly yours,

V. F. FIELD

Camp Murray, Tacoma 33, Washington October 18, 1961

Dear Fellow Members of the Civil War Centenniel Council:

Enclosed is a copy of Volume 4 of our history to go along with the volumes previously furnished. While this volume covers the period following the Civil War, you will find a great deal of information about leading officers who served in the Civil War and subsequently in the Northwest.

Trusting you will find the volume of interest both as a member of the Council and as a historian, I am,

Very truly yours,

Colonel, USA, Retired

[Brx 81

Camp Murray, Washington 6 November 1961

To: Members of the Civil War Centennial Council

Herewith is a copy of a speech made by the undersigned on the Civil War

Period here in Washington. It was presented on the Clover Park School District

closed television circuit, and according to the officials of the School faculty

was well received by the students. Presented as it was, reading most of it, it

took the full thirty minutes allotted.

At the suggestion of our Chairman, Bruce Leroy, it is forwarded to you for possible use in lour locality, if called upon for such a speech. As you can readily see, it is taken in its entirety from Volume 3 of our history, a copy of which has been previously furnished.

Trusting you will find it of some use, I am,

Very truly yours,

Colonel, USA, Retired.

PS: Also inclosed is a copy of a Map which should have been inserted in the front of Volume 2 (Indian Wars of 1855-56), previously forwarded to you in advance of the assembly of the rest of the copies.



Camp Murray, Tacoma 33, Washington 8 January 1962

TO: MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

Herewith Volume No. 5 of our Official History and probably the last one by the undersigned. I have been hospitalized in Madigan General Hospital for "Angina Pectoris" and am still in an out-patient status. In the meantime I am only permitted to work 5-1/2 days a week. I will know about the last of the month whether I will continue or not. However, I feel that I have accomplished the hardest part of our history and see no reason why my successor cannot finish the remaining volumes on World War II and Korea.

Although the period covered by this volume was some 40 to 60, years after the Civil War, it is interesting to note that many of the names of "heroes" of the Civil War found there way into our early history. Many of our forts, gun positions, etc, were named for these veterans.

I am also sending along copies of Maps to be added to the volumes previously furnished. They go with Volumes 2, 3 and 4.

Trusting you will find the 5th Volume of interest and looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting, I am,

Very truly yours,

V. F. FIELD

# **DISPOSITION FORM**

(AR 340-15)

OFFICE SYMBOL OR FILE REFERENCE

SUBJECT

DOCUMENTS ON THE SAN JUAN IMBROGLIO

TO CLICK RELANDER

FROM V. F. FIELD

DATE 16 Dec 64

CMT 1

- 1. Received your welcome letter of December 13th and I am sorry I did not include you initially in the small distribution of the document Bruce mentioned. I only made up about 20 copies and have only two left. However, I do have the Ozalid masters in case I need more.
- 2. You will note that there is very little mention of Haller other than reference to his unit being moved to San Juan. However, I believe he is mentioned more in the earlier Reports of The Secretary of War, especially the Reports of 1855 and 1856. These documents as far as I can determine are found only in the State Library. The documents are listed under the Secretary of State and The Secretary of War. Also under the Department of Columbia. However, there may be a great deal more on Haller during the 1855-56 reports. The next time I am in Olympia I will bring these volumes back and if I find anything on it I will let you know.
- 3. The last time I was at the State Library one of the assistants told me about an old book which had just been donated to the Library entitled "PICKETT AND HIS MEN". I had never heard of it before. So on my next trip will try and borrow it.
- 4. My "angina pectoris" is behaving pretty good now, except that I am in the process of having all my remaining teeth out. They take them two at a time because of the bleeding. Only have two left so it won't be long now.
- 5. Next time you are over look us up. We live at 1020 South Madison, Tacoma and our Phone Number is SK 2-6008. Both the wife and I will be delighted to have you visit us.

Yours truly,

PS: THANKS FOR THE BOOKLET