

## WASHINGTON TERRITORY DURING THE CIVIL WAR

HISTORIANS HAVE RECORDED LITTLE ABOUT WASHINGTON TERRITORY DURING THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD. HOWEVER, BY PAINSTAKING RESEARCH, IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO RECORD FOR THE FIRST TIME A FAIRLY COMPLETE HISTORY OF WASHINGTON'S CONTRIBUTION BASED PRIMARILY ON THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE PART PLAYED BY WASHINGTON TERRITORY IN THE CIVIL WAR, IT IS BELIEVED NECESSARY TO REVIEW CERTAIN EVENTS WHICH OCCURED PRIOR TO THE CREATION OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY. SPECIFICALLY A HISTORY OF THE MILITIA OF THE UNITED STATES.

OUR EARLIEST MILITIA LAWS WERE ENACTED IN THE COLONY OF VIRGINIA IN 1645. BY THE START OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, ALL 13 COLONIES HAD ADOPTED MILITIA LAWS. WITH THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1787, THE CONGRESS PROVIDED THEREIN FOR CALLING FORTH THE MILITIA OF THE RESPECTIVE STATES TO EXECUTE THE LAWS OF THE UNION, SUPPRESS INSURRECTIONS AND REPEL INVASIONS. ON 8 MAY 1792, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CONSTITUTION, CONGRESS ENACTED THE FIRST MILITIA LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE FIRST SECTION OF WHICH READ AS FOLLOWS: "EVERY ABLE-BODIED MALE CITIZEN OF THE RESPECTIVE STATES THEREIN, WHO IS OF THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS, AND UNDER THE AGE OF FORTY FIVE YEARS, SHALL BE ENROLLED."

WHEN THE EARLY SETTLERS CAME TO OREGON COUNTRY ABOUT 1841, THEY HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THIS NATIONAL LAW AND WHEN THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED ON JULY 5, 1843, AMONG THE LAWS ENACTED WERE MILITIA LAWS. BECAUSE OF THE SCARCITY OF POPULATION AT THAT TIME, THE AGES FOR ENROLLMENT WAS FROM SIXTEEN TO SIXTY, AND THE LAW FURTHER STATED THAT ALL MALES BETWEEN THOSE AGES WHO WISHED TO BE CONSIDERED A CITIZEN WOULD CAUSE HIMSELF TO BE ENROLLED BY GIVING HIS NAME TO THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE MILITIA AND SERVE UNDER SAME. SIMILARLY WITH THE CREATION OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY, MILITIA LAWS WERE ENACTED ON JANUARY 26, 1855 AND REQUIRED ALL MALES BETWEEN THE AGES OF FIFTEEN AND SIXTY BE ENROLLED. IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THE USE OF A MILITIA ORGANIZATION THAT OUR EARLY SETTLERS WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE INDIAN WARS OF 1855-56. THESE LAWS PROVIDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT THE WHOLE BODY OF MILITIA COULD BE CALLED OUT BY THE GOVERNOR IN EMERGENCIES, OR WHEN CALLED FOR BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE CIVIL WAR FOLLOWING THE FALL OF FORT SUMTER ON 14 APRIL 1861, PRESIDENT LINCOLN ISSUED A PROCLAMATION WHICH READ IN PART AS FOLLOWS:

"WHEREAS, THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN FOR SOME TIME PAST, AND NOW ARE, OPPOSED, AND THE EXECUTION THEREOF OBSTRUCTED, IN THE STATES OF SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, ALABAMA, FLORIDA, MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, AND TEXAS, BY COMBINATIONS TOO POWERFUL TO



TO BE SUPPRESSED BY THE ORDINARY COURSE OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS, OR BY THE POWERS VESTED IN THE MARSHALS BY LAW, NOW, THEREFORE, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN VIRTUE OF THE POWER IN ME VESTED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS, HAVE THOUGHT FIT TO CALL FORTH THE MILITIA OF THE SEVERAL STATES OF THE UNION TO THE AGGREGATE NUMBER OF 75, 000 IN ORDER TO SUPPRESS SAID COMBINATION , AND TO CAUSE THE LAWS TO BE DULY EXECUTED.

ON THE THIRD OF MAY, 1861, HE ISSUED ANOTHER PROCLAMATION CALLING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 42,000 VOLUNTEER MILITIA TO SERVE FOR THREE YEARS. THESE CALLS WERE NECESSARY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE REGULAR ARMY AT THAT TIME WAS 12, 698 MEN. ACTS OF JULY 29 AND AUGUST 3RD, 1861 INCREASED THIS STRENGTH TO 39, 273 MEN. THE BALANCE OF THE TROOPS THAT FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR WERE VOLUNTEER MILITIAMEN OR NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AS WE KNOW THEM TODAY.

BASED UPON THESE PROCLAMATIONS, ACTING GOVERNOR HENRY M MC GILL, ON MAY 10TH, 1861, ISSUED A PROCLAMATION CALLING UPON THE MALE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON, CAPABLE OF BEARING ARMS TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES INTO COMPANIES AND ELECT THEIR OFFICERS PURSUANT TO THE TERRITORIAL MILITIA LAWS, IN ANTICIPATION OF A REQUISITION FROM THE PRESIDENT.

ON MAY 14, 1861, ADJUTANT GENERAL FRANKLIN MATHIAS ISSUED A GENERAL ORDERS IN SEATTLE, BASED UPON THIS PROCLAMATION, CALLING ON CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTIES, MOST OF WHOM WERE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TO MONITOR THE ENROLLMENT OF THE WASHINGTON TERRITORIAL MILITIA.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY AT THAT TIME COMPRIZED WHAT IS NOW WASHINGTON STATE, MOST OF IDAHO AND WESTERN MONTANA, DIVIDED INTO SOME TWENTY-TWO COUNTIES, EACH OF WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO RAISE A COMPLIMENT OF MILITIA. HOWEVER DUE TO THE SPARCITY OF THE POPULATION THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE. INITIALLY THE FOLLOWING AREAS REPORTED COMPANIES FORMED:

PORT MADISON UNION GUARDS - 70 ENROLLED

PUGET SOUND RANGERS OF THURSTON COUNTY - 54 ENROLLED

JEFFERSON UNION GUARDS FROM POST TOWNSEND - 52 ENROLLED

LEWIS COUNTY RANGERS - 54 ENROLLED

PIERCE COUNTY COMPANY - 50 ENROLLED

KING COUNTY COMPANY - 60 ENROLLED

IN ADDITION TO THESE, 38 AMERICAN CITIZENS RESIDING IN VICTORIA ADVISED ADJUTANT GENERAL MATHIAS THAT THEY WERE HOLDING THEMSELVES IN READINESS IN CASE THEIR SERVICES WERE REQUIRED IN THE DEFENSE OF THE UNION.

AT THAT TIME THE FOLLOWING TERRITORIAL ARMS LEFT OVER FROM THE INDIAN WARS OF 1855-56 WERE LOCATED AS FOLLOWS:



IN THE STOREHOUSE AT OLYMPIA:

2 - 12 POUND HOWITZERS  
82 - RIFLE MUSKETS WITH BAYONETS  
195 - US MUSKETS  
5 - US RIFLES  
1 - COLTS REVOLVING RIFLE

IN HANDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

JEFFERSON COUNTY - 1 HOWITZER AND 20 MUSKETS  
PORT MADISON - 58 MUSKETS  
LEWIS COUNTY - 20 PISTOLS AND 6 CAVALRY SABERS  
WHATCOM COUNTY - 20 RIFLES  
PIERCE COUNTY - 3 CAVALRY SABERS

ISSUED TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE - 47 RIFLES

AT THIS TIME THERE WERE 3,361 REGULAR TROOPS, 79 HEAVY PIECES OF ARTILLERY AND 33 OF FIELD ARTILLERY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC, WHICH COMPRIZED THE DISTRICTS OF CALIFORNIA, OREGON AND ARIZONA.

REGULAR ARMY TROOPS GARRISONED THE POSTS IN WASHINGTON AND OREGON WITH A STRENGTH OF ABOUT 1300 MEN. COMPANY D, 3RD ARTILLERY AND COMPANY G, 9TH INFANTRY WERE AT FORT VANCOUVER, WHICH WAS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON; COMPANIES A, C AND K, 9TH INFANTRY WERE AT FORT COLVILLE; COMPANY D, 9TH INFANTRY WAS AT CAMP PICKETT ON SAN JUAN ISLAND; COMPANIES F AND H, 9TH INFANTRY WERE AT FORT STEILACOOM. COMPANIES C, E, AND I, 1ST DRAGOONS (Later 1ST CAVALRY) WERE AT FORT WALLA WALLA. THE 4TH INFANTRY REGIMENT GARRISONED POSTS IN OREGON, EXCEPT COMPANY A WHICH WAS AT CAMP CHEHALIS (NEAR WESTPORT); COMPANY A AT FORT CASCADES ON THE COLUMBIA;; AND COMPANY C, WHICH WAS AT FORT TOWNSEND.

ON JUNE 11TH, 1861, COLONEL GEORGE WRIGHT, FOR WHOM FORT GEORGE WRIGHT IN SPOKANE WAS NAMED, AND THEN COMMANDING THE DISTRICT OF OREGON ISSUED ORDERS CLOSING THE POSTS AT FORT CASCADES, FORT TOWNSEND AND CAMPS PICKETT AND CHEHALIS. THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE ACTION BY THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC IN SAN FRANCISCO TO WITHDRAW ALL REGULAR TROOPS FROM OREGON DISTRICT AND REPLACE THEM WITH MILITIA. THE REGULARS WERE SCHEDULED FOR SERVICE ON THE EAST COAST AS DIRECTED BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT. NATURALLY, THIS BROUGHT A STORM OF PROTESTS FROM WASHINGTON'S CITIZENS, WHO WOULD BE LEFT WITHOUT ANY PROTECTION FOR A PERIOD OF TIME FROM THE HOSTILE INDIAN TRIBES FROM THE NORTH AS WELL AS OTHER HOSTILE TRIBES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE SETTLEMENTS. AS A RESULT OF THE PROTEST, ORDERS CLOSING CAMPS PICKETT AND CHEHALIS WERE REVOKED.



IN THE MEANTIME, EVERY EFFORT WAS BEING MADE BY WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES TO ORGANIZE AN EFFECTIVE MILITIA REGIMENT TO REPLACE THE REGULAR TROOPS BEING WITHDRAWN. HOWEVER, AUTHORITIES AT FORT VANCOUVER WERE PROHIBITED FROM ARMING THE MILITIA UNLESS THEY WERE AUTHORIZED TO MUSTER THE UNITS INTO FEDERAL SERVICE. THIS AUTHORITY NEVER MATERIALIZED.

IN THE MEANTIME THE GENERAL COMMANDING THE DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC ORDERED FIVE COMPANIES OF THE 4TH CALIFORNIA INFANTRY AND FIVE COMPANIES OF THE 2ND CALIFORNIA INFANTRY TO WASHINGTON AND OREGON TO REPLACE THE REGULAR TROOPS. THESE TROOPS ARRIVED AT VANCOUVER IN LATE OCTOBER OF 1861.

THIS ACTION BROUGHT ANOTHER STORM OF PROTESTS FROM WASHINGTON'S LOYAL CITIZENS WHICH RESULTED IN WASHINGTON'S DELEGATE TO CONGRESS, WILLIAM H. WALLACE, TAKING THE MATTER UP WITH THE SECRETARY OF WAR WITH A VIEW TO HAVING A REGIMENT FORMED OF WASHINGTON'S CITIZENS. THE AUTHORITY WAS GRANTED AND ON 18 OCTOBER 1861, JUSTUS STEINBERGER OF VANCOUVER, THEN IN WASHINGTON, D. C., WAS APPOINTED COLONEL AND COMMISSIONED TO COME TO WASHINGTON TERRITORY AND RECRUIT FOR THE FIRST WASHINGTON TERRITORY INFANTRY. HE ARRIVED AT FORT VANCOUVER IN EARLY DECEMBER OF 1861 IN THE MIDST OF THE WORST WINTER IN WASHINGTON'S HISTORY. TOO, A RECENT RICH GOLD STRIKE IN THE BOISE AREA HAD ATTRACTED MOST OF THE ELIGIBLE MALE POPULATION OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY. AFTER TWO MONTHS OF INTENSIVE RECRUITING, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE RAISING OF A REGIMENT OF 1,000 MEN WAS NOT POSSIBLE AND COLONEL STEINBERGER DECIDED TO TRANSFER HIS RECRUITING ACTIVITIES TO THE SAN FRANCISCO-SACRAMENTO AREA. TO DESCRIBE THE SEVERITY OF THE WINTER OF 1861-62, I REFER TO A LETTER FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT FORT WALLA WALLA ADVISING OF THE SCARCITY OF COMMISSARY SUPPLIES AT THAT POST. HE STATED THAT WHAT FEW SUPPLIES WERE AVAILABLE WERE BRINGING FANTASTIC PRICES. FLOUR WAS \$20 A BARREL; OATS 7¢ A POUND; NO HAY OR BARLEY; BACON 30¢ A POUND; LARD HIGH AND SCARCE; BEEF 15¢ A POUND AND NONE IN THE COUNTRY FIT TO EAT; NO BEANS OR POTATOES; WOOD \$30 A CORD; AND COFFEE 37¢ A POUND. HE FURTHER STATED THAT ALL CATTLE IN THAT AREA WERE EXPECTED TO DIE BY SPRING. FARMERS WHO HAD 400-500 AT BEGINNING OF WINTER HAD ONLY 50-60 LEFT AND THAT THOSE WERE NOT EXPECTED TO SURVIVE. THE SEVERITY OF THE WINTER IS FURTHER EMPHASIZED BY A LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER OF FORT VANCOUVER TO THE COMMANDER AT SAN FRANCISCO WHEREIN HE STATED THAT THE DELAY IN FORWARDING REGULAR TROOPS TO SAN FRANCISCO WAS DUE TO ICE BLOCKADES ALL ALONG THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR CALIFORNIA, COLONEL STEINBERGER, HAD BEEN ASSURED OF AT LEAST THREE COMPANIES OF THE REGIMENT BEING RAISED IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY, ONE IN THE PUGET SOUND AREA, ONE IN THE VANCOUVER AREA AND ONE IN THE WALLA WALLA AREA.



HIS EFFORTS WERE ACCORDINGLY POINTED TOWARDS RAISING SEVEN COMPANIES OF APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED MEN EACH. IN THE MEANTIME OREGON HAD ALSO BEEN AUTHORIZED TO RAISE A REGIMENT OF CAVALRY TO REPLACE REGULARS BEING WITHDRAWN FROM THAT STATE.

BY THE MIDDLE OF APRIL, FOUR COMPANIES OF THE 1ST WASHINGTON TERRITORY INFANTRY HAD BEEN ORGANIZED AND COLONEL STEINBERGER ARRIVED WITH THESE COMPANIES AT FORT VANCOUVER ON 5 MAY 1862. HE TEMPORARILY REPLACED COLONEL WRIGHT IN COMMAND OF THE DISTRICT WHO HAD BEEN ORDERED TO SAN FRANCISCO TO COMMAND THE DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC. AFTER PERFECTING THEIR TRAINING BY THE LATTER PART OF JUNE, HE DISPATCHED TWO COMPANIES OF THE REGIMENT TO RELEIVE TWO COMPANIES OF THE CALIFORNIA REGIMENT AT FORT COLVILLE. AT THE SAME TIME HE DISPATCHED ONE BATTALION OF THE FIRST OREGON CAVALRY TO THE DALLES BY WATER, THENCE OVERLAND TO FORT WALLA WALLA WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO LEAVE ONE COMPANY NEAR THE INDIAN RESERVATION AT LAPWAI AND THE OTHER TO PROCEED ALONG THE IMMIGRANT TRAIL TOWARDS FORT HALL TO PROTECT THE MOVEMENT OF SETTLERS COMING TO WASHINGTON AND OREGON. LATER THE OTHER COMPANIES OF THE WASHINGTON REGIMENT WERE ORDERED TO FORT WALLA WALLA, ALSO FOR DUTY ON THE IMMIGRANT TRAIL, FOLLOWING WHICH ALL THE CALIFORNIA INFANTRY, EXCEPT COMPANY D, 4TH REGIMENT WHICH REMAINED AT FORT HOSKINS, OREGON, RETURNED TO CALIFORNIA.

IN THE MEANTIME COLONEL WRIGHT WAS PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL AND BRIGADIER GENERAL BENJAMIN ALVORD REPLACED COLONEL STEINBERGER IN COMMAND OF THE OREGON DISTRICT. COLONEL STEINBERGER THEN TOOK STATION AT FORT WALLA WALLA.

SOON AFTER ASSUMING COMMAND, GENERAL ALVORD, WHO HAD BEEN STATIONED IN THE DISTRICT FOR SOME SEVEN YEARS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR, RECOMMENDED IMMEDIATE FORTIFICATION OF THE MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA AND AT POINT DEFIANCE AND OPPOSITE AT GIG HARBOR. THESE AREAS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THAT PURPOSE IN 1860 TO PROTECT PORTLAND AND VANCOUVER, AND STEILACOOM AND OLYMPIA FROM POSSIBLE INVASION BY A FOREIGN POWER. HE ALSO ASKED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF TWO SHIPS OF THE "MONITOR CLASS" FOR PATROLLING THE COLUMBIA AND THE SEATTLE AND BELLINGHAM AREAS. HIS EFFORTS WERE ~~EVENTUALLY~~ <sup>PARTIALLY</sup> SUCCESSFUL WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORTS AT CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT AND STEVENS NEAR THE END OF THE WAR, BUT NO ACTION WAS EVER TAKEN ON DEFENSES FOR PUGET SOUND UNTIL ABOUT 1900.

IN OCTOBER OF 1862 GENERAL ALVORD REPORTED THAT COMPANY F OF THE FIRST WASH REGT HAD BEEN MUSTERED IN AT FORT VANCOUVER. LATER IN NOVEMBER THE OTHER COMPANIES COMPOSED OF MEN FROM FORT WALLA WALLA AREA AND STEILACOOM AREA WERE ALSO MUSTERED IN. COMPANY "K" WAS STATIONED AT FORT STEILACOOM AND WAS COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN EGBERT TUCKER, FORMER SHERIFF OF PIERCE COUNTY. AS OF 31 DECEMBER 1862, COMPANIES OF THE FIRST WASHINGTON INFANTRY WERE STATIONED AS FOLLOWS: COMPANY I AT FORT VANCOUVER, COMPANIES B AND C AT FORT COLVILLE; COMPANIES G AND K AT FORT STEILACOOM; COMPANIES A AND H AT FORT WALLA WALLA; COMPANY E AT CAMP LAPWAI; COMPANY F AT THE DALLES; AND COMPANY D AT FORT HOSKINS OREGON.



DURING 1863, TROOPS OF THE FIRST WASHINGTON TERRITORY INFANTRY AND THE FIRST OREGON CAVALRY, ACTING IN CONCERT, CONTINUED TO PROTECT THE SETTLERS COMING ALONG THE OREGON TRAIL TO WASHINGTON AND OREGON. IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT SOME 1300 ARRIVED DURING THAT YEAR. DESPITE THIS PROTECTION, MANY OF THE SETTLERS WERE SAVAGELY MURDERED BY SNAKE AND OTHER BANDS OF INDIANS WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO SHORT-CUT THROUGH UNGUARDED AREAS.

AS OF 31 DECEMBER 1863, STATIONS OF THE FIRST WASHINGTON INFANTRY WERE AS FOLLOWS: COS A AND H AT FT WALLA WALLA, CO E AT LAPWAI: COMPANY F AT THE DALLES, COS B AND C AT FORT COLVILLE: COMPANY K AT FORT STEILACOOM AND COMPANIES D AND G AT FORT BOISE, WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO PREVENT INDIAN RAIDS ON THE SETTLERS AND THE MINERS.

IN APRIL OF 1864 COMPANY E WAS MOVED FROM FORT DALLES TO FORT VANCOUVER. IN MAY, COMPANY H WAS MOVED FROM FT WALLA WALLA TO FORT VANCOUVER AND COMPANY B MOVED FROM FORT COLVILLE TO FORT WALLA WALLA. THESE MOVES WERE DESIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSOLIDATING SOME OF THE WASHINGTON COMPANIES IN VIEW OF THE DECREASE IN THEIR STRENGTH BY DESERTIONS AND OTHER CAUSES. IN JULY GENERAL ALVORD PROPOSED THE CONSOLIDATION OF NOT ONLY THE WASHINGTON COMPANIES BUT ALSO THE OREGON CAVALRY COMPANIES.

IN OCTOBER, 1864, THE GOVERNOR OF OREGON WAS REQUESTED TO FORM A REGIMENT OF INFANTRY TO REPLACE THE OREGON AND WASHINGTON COMPANIES WHEN THEIR ENLISTMENTS EXPIRED AND THEY WERE DISBANDED.

ON 24 FEBRUARY 1865, AN ORDER WAS ISSUED BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON, D. C., THAT A NATIONAL SALUTE BE FIRED THE DAY AFTER RECEIPT OF THE ORDER AT EACH MILITARY POST HAVING ARTILLERY IN HONOR OF THE RESTORATION OF THE NATIONAL FLAG AT FORT SUMTER.

IN APRIL, 1865 ORDERS WERE RECEIVED FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO DISCONTINUE RECRUITING OF THE WASHINGTON REGIMENT AND THE RETURN TO VANCOUVER OF THOSE COMPANIES SCHEDULED TO BE DISBANDED. BY APRIL 30, FOUR OF THE COMPANIES HAD BEEN DISBANDED AND BY THE 30 JUNE THE OTHER THREE HAD LIKEWISE BEEN DISBANDED. MEN OF THESE COMPANIES WITH TIME REMAINING TO SERVE WERE TRANSFERRED TO COMPANIES E, H. AND K, WHICH WERE THE LAST TO BE MUSTERED OUT. THE LAST OF THESE COMPANIES WAS MUSTERED OUT ON 31 OCTOBER, 1865, LEAVING ONLY COMPANIES OF THE NEWLY FORMED OREGON INFANTRY TO GUARD OUR FRONTIERS. THIS REGIMENT WAS REPLACED BY THE REGULAR TROOPS OF THE 14TH INFANTRY IN JANUARY OF 1866, AND THE OREGON MEN DISCHARGED .

STATISTICS ON THE FIRST WASHINGTON REGIMENT ARE RATHER INTERESTING:

TOTAL OFFICERS SERVING IN REGIMENT	38	
TOTAL ENLISTED MEN	DO	1021
NUMBER COMPLETING ENLISTMENTS		645



NUMBER DESERTING	209 (Mostly Californians to the Gold Fields)
DISCHARGED FOR DISABILITY	11
DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED	9
KILLED IN ACTION OR DIED OF WOUNDS	15
OTHER DEATHS, DROWNING, ETC	3
NUMBER ENLISTED FROM OREGON	125
NUMBER ENLISTED FROM WASHINGTON	264
NUMBER ENLISTED IN CALIFORNIA	682

FOLLOWING THE MUSTER OUT OF THE FIRST WASHINGTON TERRITORY INFANTRY THERE WAS RETURNED TO THE CAPITOL IN OLYMPIA A SET OF COLORS WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO THE REGIMENT BY THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON IN EARLY 1863. THESE COLORS WERE IN THE CAPITOL UNTIL IT WAS MOVED FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW CAPITOL BUILDING (ABOUT 1900). AT THAT TIME THE REGIMENTAL COLORS DISINTEGRATED, BUT THE NATIONAL STANDARD WITH 34 STARS HAS STILL SURVIVED, ALTHOUGH BADLY TATTERED, AND IS NOW IN POSSESSION OF THE CAPITOL MUSEUM IN OLYMPIA.

THAT THIS REGIMENT PERFORMED OUT STANDING SERVICES IS EVIDENCED BY A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WHICH READ AS FOLLOWS:

TO: THE HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF WAR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

YOUR MEORIALISTS, THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE TERRITORY OF WASHINGTON, WOULD RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT:

THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF WASHINGTON FEEL A JUST PRIDE IN THE MATERIAL AND THE EFFICIENCY IN DRILL AND DISCIPLINE OF THE FIRST REGIMENT OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY INFANTRY, COMMANDED BY COLONEL JUSTIN STEINBERGER.

THAT THE PRESENCE OF SUCH A CORPS HAS ENABLED THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW THE REGULAR TROOPS HERETOFORE STATIONED WITHIN OUR TERRITORY, AND BY SUBSTITUTING THIS REGIMENT, OUR PEOPLE HAVE EVERY REASON TO FEEL SAFE FROM ANY OUTBREAK OF INDIANS.

THAT THE CHARACTER AND STANDING OF OFFICERS AND MEN, WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO US, ARE GUARANTEES OF THEIR FUTURE USEFULNESS, AND ENTITLES THEM TO THE CONFIDENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE TERRITORY.

YOUR MEMORIALISTS WOULD, THEREFORE, URGE UPON YOUR FAVORABLE ATTENTION SAID REGIMENT OF INFANTRY, CONFIDENCE IN THE EVENT OF THEIR RETENTION IN THE SERVICE THAT THE WELL BEING AND EFFICIENCY OF THE ARMY WOULD THEREBY PROMOTED."