

2 PD (6 JUN 2) 7/1 SPANBOS
Form letter for use in answer to inquiries regarding the formation of State Guard units.

Dear Mr. _____:

I appreciate your letter of _____ (date) _____ indicating your desire to form a State Guard unit at _____ (place) _____.

The Oregon State Guard is a combat organization under military jurisdiction. It is not organized for guard duties of any kind. If such tasks are assigned to the State Guard, additional troops who are able to give the required time for such duty, will be enlisted. Units of the State Guard will function in their own locality unless, under unusual emergency, it is imperative that they be called elsewhere. In that event, sacrifices would necessarily have to be made by all.

It is suggested that a survey be made of the possibilities in your community for a company of at least sixty men. Maximum strength of your company will be 217 enlisted men. The officer and noncommissioned officer personnel of your company initially will consist of the following:

1 captain
1 1st lieutenant
1 2d lieutenant
7 sergeants
7 corporals

Additional noncommissioned officers will be allotted upon approval by this headquarters in accordance with actual strength of the company.

It will be necessary for the personnel of the Oregon State Guard to furnish their own arms, ammunition, and clothing. The term of enlistment will be for one year. The ages for enlisted men should be between twenty and sixty-four. Physical examination will be required for the officers but not for the enlisted men. Anyone who is apt to be called by the Selective Service within the immediate future should be excluded.

Care must be taken in the selection of officers. Preference should be given men who have had previous military experience providing they have the necessary qualities of leadership and the respect of the community.

Please advise me immediately if a company can be organized at _____ and the necessary papers and enlistment blanks with full instructions for their completion will be sent you.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph P. Cowgill,
Colonel, Infantry,
Commanding.

(OVER)

To anyone interested in guerrilla tactics, the following paragraph should be included:

While the spirit of your guerrilla organization is admirable and the principle expresses the feelings of all of us, such groups do not have a place in modern warfare unless affiliated with a military organization and directed by a military head. Guerrilla groups without this connection do not have the advantage of being coordinated with the army and thus are not in a position to be kept informed of enemy activities, thereby having assurance that their efforts are concentrated in the most effective manner. Members of such troops if captured by the enemy would not be treated as prisoners of war but would be shot as spies and snipers. Also, where such unauthorized groups are in existence, the slightest provocation would bring enemy reprisal upon the civilian populace in the form of atrocities and executions.