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Memorandum regarding instructions from the Militia Bureau for calling out the National Guard and recruiting the same to war strength, June 12, 1917

George McL. Presson
Maine National Guard

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MEMORANDUM:

STATE OF MAINE
The Adjutant General's Office
Augusta, June 12, 1917

The following instructions from the Militia Bureau are published for the information and guidance of all concerned:

Calling out the National Guard and recruiting same to war strength.

1. In connection with Par. 3, Circular letter of the Militia Bureau on the above subject dated May 18, 1917, published in memorandum from this office dated May 23, 1917, attention is invited to the fact that under the existing laws and the plan outlined in the circular letter in question, officers of the National Guard not in Federal service can not become entitled to the same pay and allowances, nor enlisted men of the National Guard not in Federal service to the same pay, subsistence and allowances, as officers and enlisted men respectively of corresponding grades in the Regular Army until they are drafted into the military service of the United States.

2. Recruits enlisted in National Guard organizations in Federal service are under the orders of department commanders as provided in Paragraphs 12 to 15, Special Regulations No. 55.

3. Recruits enlisted in National Guard organizations not in Federal service "will be held at their local armories", which is understood by this Bureau to mean that they will be required to remain at the home station of their organization, but reside in their homes and pursue their daily occupations until drafted. They are not entitled to pay, subsistence and allowances as stated in Paragraph 1 of this letter.

Special examination for Coast Artillery enlisted specialists.

1. A special examination for enlisted specialists, along the lines prescribed by Circular 14, Militia Bureau, 1917, will be held on June 18, 1917.

2. While this examination is intended primarily for the enlisted men of the National Guard Coast Artillery, provision will be made in this case so that specially competent civilians who have taken and passed the physical examination and other requirements for recruits may take the Circular 14 examination without enlisting and no obligation will attach to them in the event they fail to pass the Coast Artillery examination.
Candidates at Training Camps appointed officers of the National Guard.

The following are instructions dated May 25, 1917, from the Adjutant General of the Army, to all Department Commanders in the United States:

"It is probable that many members of the National Guard who are now in training camps established under Section 54, National Defense Act, will be tendered appointments to commissioned grades in the National Guard in the near future to fill vacancies created by reason of the large increase contemplated in the National Guard.

Any person now in a training camp, whether an enlisted man of the Regular Army, a National Guardsman, on detached service, or a citizen enlisted under Section 54, Act of June 3, 1916, who is tendered an appointment in the National Guard, and desires to accept the same, will be discharged for that purpose.

The commission will be transmitted to the Commanding Officer of the camp concerned, who will deliver the discharge upon the execution of the oath of office and return the oath of office to the proper authority.

If the man is appointed to an organization in Federal service he is not entitled to mileage for joining his first station. If the organization to which he is appointed is not in the Federal service, he will be paid in full, including the appropriate travel allowance, but may be allowed to continue the course of instruction at his own expense."

Voluntary enlistment.

1. The Secretary of War directs that no order stopping voluntary enlistments on June 5, 1917, is contemplated, and that persons registered as required by the selective service law may continue to enlist voluntarily until they have been actually drafted for service under the selective service law.

2. These voluntary enlistments may be in the Regular Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or National Guard, both in and out of Federal service.

Discharge of enlisted men, Regular Army, to accept commission in National Guard.

The Secretary of War directs that the instructions contained in letter of April 18, 1917, from the office of the Adjutant General of the Army to Department Commanders on the above mentioned subject have been modified so as to direct discharges of enlisted men just before the draft in those instances where Governors of States desire to commission them in National Guard organizations not now in Federal service, this modification being made in view of the fact that time enough should be allowed between the date of discharge and the time set for draft to enable the soldier to enlist in the National Guard and accept his commission.

GEORGE McL. PRESSON,

The Adjutant General.

(All the Guard)