

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF OREGON,
Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter., July 24, 1862.

General L. THOMAS,

Adjutant-General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: This communication I shall forward to you through the headquarters of the Department of the Pacific, and its object is to urge the importance of reviving the Department of Oregon, as established in General Orders, Numbers 10, from the Adjutant-General's Office, dated 13th of September, 1858. I would respectfully represent that every reason which could then be urged for the measure still exists, with the additional consideration that during the existence of the civil war there must necessarily be constant apprehension that at any moment we may be plunged into a foreign war. In that case this region is the most exposed and vulnerable, as it is the most remote of all our Territories. Fortunately the large emigration now pouring into it across the plains and from California is adding to its population good material for armies in case of trouble. But the occupation of new gold fields in the earnestly portion of Washington Territory will only increase the chances of Indian difficulties. I only repeat an argument often urged by those in command in their dispatches to the War Department from this quarter, that the length of time required for communication between this point and San Francisco is too great for the proper regulation there of military affairs in this quarter. I understand that during the last year of the existence of the two distinct Departments of Oregon and California authority existed for the senior commander to concentrate troops upon any emergency. I can see no obstacle to the existence of such a regulation, leaving otherwise the two departments in their full independence, and ready to perform the most efficient service. This provision was only a substitute for a still better arrangement, such as existed in 1850, when there was a major-general commanding the Pacific Division, embracing the two departments then called Department Numbers 10 (California), and Numbers 11 (Oregon). The general orders of 13th of September, 1858, establishing the boundaries of the old Department of Oregon, very properly left the valleys of Rogue River and Umpqua in the Department of California, those valleys being supplied from San Francisco, and more intimately connected with it by mail and commerce.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. ALVORD,

Brigadier-General, U. S. Volunteers, Commanding District.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.

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