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03/29/1948 Letter from Brigadier General George M. Carter

George M. Carter

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29 March 1948

Mayor Louis P. Gagne
City Hall
Lewiston, Maine

Dear Sir:

Wish to write at this time with special reference to the conference General Savage and I had with you at the City Hall on last Friday, and to confirm in writing concerning our discussions and the points of particular interest in connection with Lewiston units of the Maine National Guard.

First I want to say that we appreciate very much your interest in our problem and your willingness to make additional space available for the final unit to be organized in Lewiston in the Lewiston Armory on or before April 20th. On the strength of this agreement, we have contacted the National Guard Bureau, received the necessary grant in extension of organization authority and have asked for a federal recognition board to meet at the Lewiston Armory during the latter part of the week, April 18 to 24.

I know by the point of view you took that you are appreciative of the importance of our rushing this reorganization to complete our quota at the earliest possible date; this in view of the very critical situation that faces the state and the nation as result of the current international picture, which we all admit is anything but bright. The City of Lewiston has always maintained some outstanding units of the National Guard that have served both state and nation well in time of emergency. This office certainly believes that the presently organized units, plus the new company which we expect to get federally recognized the week of the 20th, will uphold and carry on this splendid tradition.

We discussed at length, with Mr. Woodworth, concerning the rooms currently used by the school, and we assured him that we believe it will be possible for the school to continue to make use of all the area, with the exception of perhaps the art room, during the remainder of the year. And certainly until such time as a band is allocated to be located in the Lewiston area, the high school band could have the same use they have been enjoying of the band room, the Guard units making use of same for classroom on drill nights and on certain special training weekends. It will be necessary, however, for the school to vacate the art room and the other space currently

Mayor Louis P. Gagne

used, that is needed for Company G, so that the necessary changes in locks and property room reinforcements can be completed on or before the 20th of April. The detail of this can be checked with the Battalion Commander, Captain Donald G. Gautier.

You will remember that we were discussing one matter that had been particularly of concern to this office, and that was the fact that the Finance Committee have, from time to time, seen fit to schedule activities from the outside, making use of the armory on nights of regularly scheduled drill and training for the units. I know that you appreciate the fact that when a training schedule is made out that it is important that it be carried thru on basis of the approved draft, unless arrangements are made well in advance to vary the schedule so that proper authorities may be notified. I am sure that Captain Gautier will be more than interested to work out any reasonable changes in schedule, if contacted well in advance of the date, that can be worked out without interference with efficient training. This matter should be brought to the attention of your Finance Committee, in order that there should be no recurrence in the future of what has happened in the past. This office certainly favors cooperation with the Finance Committee in use of the armory for outside activities, but the arrangement must be made with the concurrence of the Battalion Commander and well in advance of the dates in question.

I have no doubt that this fact has been brought to your attention before, but I am sure it will be of interest if I refer to it again. The National Guard units to be located at the Lewiston Armory, when at their tables of organized strength for peacetime, will be bringing in to the members of these units in the Lewiston area well over \$100,000 a year in armory drill and field training pay. This company that we now have to organize to complete the quota has a large strength and represents about $\frac{3}{4}$ of this amount in income to its members. I simply point this out, as it is naturally of interest to you as Mayor when any increase in payroll injects itself into the over-all picture of a community.

Again in conclusion I want to thank you for your co-operation in connection with this matter of the current use of the armory, and also to assure you that I will be more than interested to confer with you and the City Board relative to the proposition you suggested, concerning the armory being taken over by the state at sometime in the future. Currently with the additional space added for this new company, I am authorized to pay the city 100% more rental than was paid at any time previous to World War II.

Very sincerely yours,

cc - Gen. Savage
Capt. Gautier
Mr. Woodworth
Mr. Dexter

GEORGE M. CARTER
Brigadier General
The Adjutant General