

FOREST REGIMENT OFF FOR FRANCE

THE roster of commissioned officers in the "forest regiment," or, as the War Department designates it, the Tenth Reserve Engineers (Forest), has just been announced and includes two regular army officers, 15 foresters from the U. S. Forest Service and two from the Forest Branch of British Columbia, one lumberman from the Indian Forest Service, and 13 foresters and lumbermen taken from private or institutional work.

The War Department has designated Lieutenant Colonel James A. Woodruff of the Engineer Corps to organize and command the regiment, and Beverly C. Dunn, Captain of Engineers, as Adjutant. W. B. Greeley, now Assistant Forester in charge of the branches of silviculture and research, U. S. Forest Service, and formerly district forester in charge of the National Forests of Montana and Northern Idaho, has been selected to serve as Major on the regimental staff and to aid in the organization and equipment of the regiment. The remaining officers will be as follows:

Majors in command of battalions: R. E. Benedict, assistant forester in the Forest Branch of British Columbia, and C. S. Chapman, manager of the private timber protective associations of Western Oregon.

Captains: Edward S. Bryant, forest inspector, U. S. Forest Service, stationed at Washington, D. C.; Inman F. Eldredge, forest supervisor of the Florida National Forest, stationed at Pensacola, Florida; J. D. Guthrie, forest supervisor of the Coconino National Forest, stationed at Flagstaff, Arizona; Evan W. Kelly, forest examiner, U. S. Forest Service, stationed at San Francisco; John Lafon, assistant forester in charge of timber operations, Forest Branch of British Columbia; David T. Mason, professor of forestry at the University of California; W. N. Millar, professor of forestry at the University of Toronto; Barrington Moore, a private forester from New York City; Arthur C. Ringland, forest inspector, U. S. Forest Service, stationed at Washington, D. C.; Dorr Skeels, logging engineer and professor of forestry at the University of Montana. The three captains taken from university professorships are, it is stated, chosen because of their extensive past experience in practical lumbering and other woods work.

First Lieutenants: Risdan T. Allen of the Allen-Medley Lumber Company, Devereux, Georgia; M. S. Benedict, forest supervisor of the Sawtooth National Forest, stationed at Hailey, Idaho; Robert L. Deering, forest examiner, U. S. Forest Service, stationed at Albuquerque, N. M.; Clarence R. Dunston, lumberman, U. S. Indian Service, stationed at Dixon, Montana; D. P. Godwin, forest examiner, U. S. Forest Service, stationed at San Francisco; J. G. Kelly, lumberman, of Portland, Oregon; Eugene L. Lindsay, forest examiner, U. S. Forest Service, stationed at Washington, D. C.; E. C. Sanford, forest supervisor of the Idaho National Forest, stationed at McCale, Idaho; H. C. Williams, who recently resigned from the supervisorship of the same forest; Stanley L. Wolfe, forest examiner, U. S. Forest Service, stationed at Washington, D. C.; J. B. Woods of the Arkansas Land and Lumber Company, Malvern, Arkansas; Herman Work, deputy forest supervisor of the Caribou National Forest, stationed at Montpelier, Idaho.

Second Lieutenants: H. R. Condon, forester with the Pennsylvania Railroad, Philadelphia; S. H. Hodgman, logging camp foreman with the Potlatch Timber Company, Potlatch, Idaho; W. H. Gallaher, forest examiner, U. S. Forest Service, stationed at San Francisco; J. W. Seltzer,

forester with the New Jersey Zinc Company, Franklin, New Jersey; H. B. Shepard, forester with the Lincoln Pulp Company, Bangor, Maine; E. F. Wohlenberg, forest examiner, U. S. Forest Service, stationed at Flagstaff, Arizona.

Recruiting for the rank and file of the regiment is actively under way. The enlisted men will be picked woodsmen. With only two thousand men needed out of the vast number of woods workers which the lumber industry of the United States employs, and with rapid recruiting necessary, a special machinery has been developed to handle the preliminary stages of enlistment. Local representatives of the Forest Service in various parts of the country and a number of State forestry officials have been designated as "listing officers" to secure applications from men in their neighborhood who are known to be of the right type. By this "still hunt" method it is believed that an efficient force can be gathered much more successfully than by encouraging a large number of miscellaneous applications which could not be thoroughly sifted without a great deal of effort. Great care will be used to secure men proficient in woods work.

The regiment will convert available timber behind the battle lines in France into railroad ties, trench timbers, mine props, bridge timbers, lumber, and cordwood needed in the military operations of the British Army. The work may, it is stated, fall within the danger zone and will be done largely in sprout forests of oak, beech, hornbeam, and other hardwoods, with some stands of pine. The timber is small in comparison with most American forests, much of it from 8 to 12 inches in diameter. These forests resemble the woodlots of southern New England, and the operations will be similar to portable sawmill logging and tie cutting in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland, and Virginia. The larger logs will be sawn into boards and dimension material, while the smaller trees will be cut into hewn ties, poles, props, etc. The closest possible use of timber will be required.

The French forests have for many years been managed with great care and skill. It is the view of the Government's forestry officials that if the American forest regiment is to do creditable work, it must be able not only to cut and manufacture the timber with high efficiency, but also to avoid waste and leave the forests in good shape for future production. This is the reason for selecting mainly trained foresters as officers.

The regiment will be made up of six companies of 164 men each, aside from battalion and regimental staffs, drivers, and commissioned officers. It will be sent overseas as soon as organized, trained and equipped. It will first be assembled at two training camps, the regimental headquarters, and one battalion at the American University, Washington, D. C., and one battalion at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Enlistment is for the period of the war. Recruits must be between the ages of 18 and 40 and must be citizens of the United States or have declared their intention to become such. They are subject to the same physical examination as that required for other military service.

While designed to serve primarily as a mobile logging and milling crew, the regiment will be organized on military lines and its members will be uniformed and armed like other units in the United States Army. The first duty of its officers and men will be to learn military discipline and teamwork through thorough-going drill at training camps.

For the logging crews skilled axemen, sawyers, tie hewers, skidders, teamsters, and blacksmiths are being enlisted. Millwrights, sawyers, and engineers are to man portable sawmills which will form part of the equipment, while suitable helpers for the various activities connected

with woods operations and the maintenance of large camps will be picked up.

The prompt recruiting of this regiment will, it is expected, enable it to be among the first to carry the flag of the United States abroad.