

GUARD TO RAISE SIX COMPANIES FOR COAST GUNS

Coast Artillery Organizations
are Planned in Districts Near
Forts; Would Be Auxiliaries
in Time of Trouble

LIEUT. LARRISON IS TO
ORGANIZE FIRST UNIT

Plan Has Approval of Col. Wil-
liam C. Rafferty; Will Be
Taken Up With Washington
By Brig.-Gen. Johnson

Six Coast Artillery companies of the National Guard of Hawaii, to serve as auxiliaries to the regular Coast Artillery forces now in the islands in case of war—that is the latest plan of the National Guard.

Hearty approval to the project has been given by officers at the headquarters, Hawaiian Department, and Brigadier General Samuel Johnson will take the matter up with the military authorities at Washington to secure the necessary equipment.

Col. William C. Rafferty, commandant of the coast defenses of Oahu, is in sympathy with the plan, and at his suggestion there will be six such companies formed.

The scheme is to recruit for each company in the district near each fort—one company to be made up of residents of Waikiki, who would be an auxiliary to the De Russy forces; one at Kaimuki for Ruger, and similar organizations near the other coast defense fortifications.

Immediately after the inspection period is completed, March 31, Lieut. George K. Larrison of the Guard will undertake to organize the first coast artillery company of the National Guard of Hawaii, acting on orders from General Johnson.

The Coast Artillery is to be organized primarily for businessmen and for men employed downtown who have little time to give to guard work and who, on account of sedentary occupations, do not relish the great amount of hiking required of any infantryman. The companies will consist of from 65 to 109 men.

Col. Rafferty has offered to allow the militia company to use the coast defense guns here for practise and drills. Col. Rafferty will ask permission from headquarters to detail a non-commissioned officer or a lieutenant to instruct the guardsmen.

Another company can be used to man two batteries of five and seven-inch siege guns.