

OUTLINE HISTORY
State Departments
V.F.W.
By

J.I. Billman , Natl. Historian

STATE DEPARTMENTS

The American Veterans of Foreign Service had a few state departments. After the amalgamation with the Army of the Philippines in 1913 three of these Departments were continued. Two years later it was found that they were not functioning well with but a single exception and state departments were abolished.

In 1919, Commander-in-Chief Karling recommended to the National Encampment at Providence that state departments be not established until after investigation and report by a committee to be appointed for that purpose. Provisions for organizing state departments were made at the National Encampment held in Washington, D. C. in 1920. General Order #1, Oct. 1, 1920 authorized tentative state departments to be established. The Departments so formed were legalized by General Order #5 dated March 1, 1921. At first a number of provisional departments were provided in which case the officers were usually appointed by National Headquarters. Later, after the Department grew, it was organized on a permanent basis. The following list shows the organization of the various departments although some of the provisional department dates are not shown on account of lack of records.

District of Columbia	Oct. 27, 1920.	Nebraska G.O. #9	Jul. 1, 1921
Alabama		Nevada, Part of Cal.	
Arizona	May 1921.	New Hampshire	June 1922
Arkansas, originally provisional.		New Jersey	Jan. 8, 1921
Then left unorganized		New Mexico	
until new dept. organized		New York	Nov. 27, 1920
	Aug. 7, 1922.	No. Carolina	Mar. 12, 1921
California	Jan. 18, 1921.	No. Dakota G.O. #11	Jul. 20, 1921
Colorado, G.O. #9	Jul. 1, 1921.	Ohio G.O. #1	Oct. 1921
Connecticut	Jan. 23, 1921.	Oklahoma G.O. #8	June 1, 1921
Delaware - Prov.	Aug. 9, 1920.	Oregon G.O. #8	June 1, 1921
Florida	Jul. 27, 1921.	Pennsylvania	Nov. 20, 1920
Georgia - Prov. G.O.	Apr. 22, 1921.	Rhode Island	Nov. 30, 1920
Again Prov.	Aug. 14, 1922.	So. Carolina	
Idaho -Prov. 1921		So. Dakota G.O. #9	Jul. 1, 1921
	Full Jul. 24, 1922.	Later attached to	
Illinois	Dec. 11, 1920.	Iowa. Full dept.	Jul. 20, 1921
Indiana, G.O. #9	Jul. 1, 1921.	Tennessee, Charter dated	Oct. 28, 1920
Iowa	May 26, 1921.	Texas, G.O. #8	June 1, 1921
Kansas	Apr. 13, 1921.	Utah	
Kentucky G.O.	Apr. 22, 1921.	Vermont	
Louisiana -Prov. G.O.	May 1923.	Virginia, G.O. #3	Feb. 11, 1921
Full	Jul. 5, 1921.	Washington G.O. #9	1921
Maine	June 24, 1921.	West Virginia Full	June 12, 1921
Maryland	Jan. 9, 1921.	Prov.	Mar. 11, 1921
Massachusetts	Dec. 12, 1920.	Wisconsin	June 6, 1921
Michigan	Nov. 14, 1920.	Wyoming	
Minnesota	Jan. 17, 1921.		
Mississippi			
Missouri	Apr. 12, 1921.		
Montana	May 14, 1921.		

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An Association of American
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KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
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By

J. I. Billman, National Historian

Later additions made in 1932

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INTRODUCTION

When I undertook the work of preparing a History of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, now completed and at National Headquarters, I found that very little material was to be had. It took several years to assemble facts and figures and, even now, much of the early history of our Organization is irretrievably lost. The Offices have been filled by men whose chief interests, naturally, were elsewhere. At the end of their term, few papers were turned over to successors. And, very often, these few were lost within a few years.

For this reason it seemed to me desirable to try and gather data which could be embodied in a History of the State Departments. The following brief History is based on original documents, papers, journals, newspaper clippings, personal letters and conversations. So far as possible every statement of fact has been verified as to its correctness. In some cases I have not been able to secure data from Departments. If, in the future, such material can be secured, additional chapters can be added to this brief survey.

Perhaps the great outstanding fact in this history is that Past Commander in Chief Woodside, assisted by Comrade Pemburn was the instigator of nearly all of the departments. As the Organization grows and prospers, we must, in justice, recognize more and more how much we owe to this Commander, Executive and loyal comrade.

J. I. Billman
National Historian
1919-24 and 1925-27

DELAWARE.

The Provisional Department of Delaware was organized under the provisions of General Order #11, appearing in the August, 1930 issue of Foreign Service.

The members of Posts No. 615 and 475 met in the Post rooms of Post No. 615, Wilmington, on August 9th, at which time the following officers were installed for the Provisional Department:

COMMANDER- Paul Podolsky, Post No. 615
SR.VICE COMMANDER- J. Harold Harrington, Post No. 475,
JR.VICE COMMANDER- Russell Fisher, Post 615
QUARTERMASTER- George M. Bailey, Post No. 615.

Later Fred W. Gehrold of Post No. 475 was appointed Adjutant, Kenneth A. Drake of Post No. 615 as Inspector and Lewis W. Zebbley of Post No. 615 as Department Chief of Staff.

Twenty-three delegates were present at the meeting. The delegates voted to assess a Department per capita tax of .25¢ per year on each member in good standing, the tax to be retroactive as of July 1, 1930. This was done in order to obtain money for use of the new Department.

Before adjournment, Past National Chaplain Smith was elected as Department Chaplain.

Sept Inscribed & Oct 27 1930