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Your Mayor speaks and makes his weekly report to the people.

Announcer We present Mayor Earl Riley, Director of Civilian Defense in this area, who appears at this hour each Wednesday to explain the latest information in the local war effort. The round table discussion is conducted by our special interviewer, Mr. Herbert Johnson. Mr. Johnson.

Herbert Good evening, Mayor Riley, and good evening citizens of Portland. Portland's Veteran Guard and Patrol, the force of 4500 trained men scattered over the city to aid the regular police force in emergencies, is one of the Portland activities that has caused attention all over the United States. The way this force was organized and how it operates is the subject of tonight's discussion. Let me ask you first, Mayor Riley, how the organization came into being.

Riley It originated nearly a year before Pearl Harbor when it was apparent to our leaders in Portland that the United States could not avert war and that, when war came, there would be urgent need for an endless amount of police work by men trained to know what to do and how to do it. At the time such a force was decided upon, we delegated the task of organization and training to our regular police force and Captain of Detectives John J. Keegan was selected to take command. Captain Keegan is here with us tonight to tell the story and we'll start off by introducing him.

Keegan Good evening.

Riley The Veterans Guard and Patrol is made up, Captain, entirely of volunteers - citizens from every walk of life who have public protection at heart to such an extent that they are willing and anxious to respond for duty whenever the city faces an emergency. Will you explain the organization?

Keegan It's organized, Mr. Mayor, on a military basis. The city has been divided into areas based on population with posts so arranged that most men are within walking distance of the post they are to take in an emergency. The force consists of seven battalions and 36 companies. General Headquarters have been established at S. W. 2nd and Pine Street adjacent to Police Headquarters. There is only one paid person in the whole 4500 and that is a secretary who devotes full time to the office.

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Riley Before being assigned to a post of duty the members - the new members, I mean - are given a careful course in training and after joining up the training continues. What is the scope of this training, Captain?

Keegan Virtually the same as is given regular police officers. Police duty in these times is not merely pinning a badge on a man and turning him loose to make arrests. Instead ~~we have~~ men, who are specialists in various lines of police work, give each of the Veteran Guard and Patrol members a course of study. They go extensively into the latest methods of handling war time traffic with special emphasis on evacuation; they're taught chemical warfare and fire protection methods and are given courses in first aid and in routine police duties. By the time they finish the course they may be classed as well trained police officers.

Riley What authority is given them, Captain?

Keegan They are given a star and the right to carry a gun and to wear a special uniform which has been selected and which the men buy for themselves.

Riley The star and gun are used only when they are called for duty.

Keegan Yes. Instructions are that they are ~~not to wear the~~ ^{not to wear the} ~~carry the~~ star nor/gun unless or until they are called for duty. The same is true of their uniforms.

Riley The men are all very carefully handpicked and investigated before being taken in?

Keegan Yes. The majority of them are veterans of the last war - men who have had military training and men of an age that would not abuse police authority given them; also men of an age beyond present calls for military service.

Riley Just plain every day citizens who sincerely want to help the public in the war effort.

Keegan Yes, men from almost every walk of life and placed in the companies on a strict military basis. The boss at an office downtown may have one of his employees as boss over him in his Veteran Guard and Patrol company. I don't think there is a profession or a trade that is not represented in the organization.

Riley You mentioned evacuation as one of their training courses. Will you explain this.

Keegan Well, in the plans of civilian defense, nothing that can happen in a city like Portland in a war like the one we are in is being overlooked. We have to expect that the Japs may attempt to invade the coast in which event it may also become necessary to get our people out. The Veterans Guard and Patrol is now fully organized and trained to supervise an evacuation of that sort - to direct people where to go and to police the city to enable a removal of the public without panic or sabotage or arson or any of the other things that might follow such an unthinkable happening. At least we know that, if such a thing should happen, Portland would be organized to handle it in the best possible manner.

Riley Figuring that in times like this it's best to be prepared for any eventuality.

Keegan That's the theory. To some people it may seem foolish to look so far ahead or to go to such lengths to provide for such an improbable happening but we don't think so.

Riley You're not lying back on the theory that it can't happen here.

Keegan No.

Riley If France and Belgium and some of the other European countries had had that same spirit, they probably wouldn't find themselves starving to death now.

Keegan That's the way we look at it.

Riley The Veterans Guard and Patrol, Captain, is not just organized for war attacks that may or may not happen. They are aiding in the every day policing of the city during the extreme conditions brought about by the war and the sudden boom in population and problems of war.

Keegan Yes. Our men are ready at all times for any sort of police work the regular force is not able to handle for lack of men. For instance, we know ~~that~~ that the regular force is too small to be able to completely cover all parts of the city on patrol duty. Accordingly, the Veteran Guard and Patrol members are assuming part of this task. We have men in pairs patrolling the residential districts night after night helping to keep down crime and helping to guard against sabotage, prowlers and petty crime.

Riley As I recall, your last report, Captain, showed that these volunteers had put in a total of 15,000 hours last month. That was in patrolling the city, guarding the waterfront, guarding the civilian defense control centers, guarding bridges and doing emergency policing at fires and accidents. It didn't include the time devoted to drill.

Keegan No, the 15,000 hours was that put in on actual police work under call from the regular police. Another 15,000 hours was devoted to drilling and attending police schools.

Riley We note that whenever there is a fire anywhere in the city the Veteran Guard and Patrol members suddenly bob up from nowhere or everywhere and take charge of traffic. That is part of their duty is it not?

Keegan Yes, and part of their special training. They immediately help the regular police in forming fire lines and keeping the public out of danger and out of the way of the firemen.

Riley They've had special training for this work.

Keegan Yes, that's part of the traffic control training they devote much time to mastering.

Riley I recall recently at the big Roberts Brothers fire - when I got there I'd judge there were no fewer than 200 members of the Veterans Guard and Patrol on hand and they had traffic all diverted and the public moved back out of danger. I marvelled at the time about where they all came from.

Keegan Probably, Mr. Mayor, a part of them were on patrol duty on the West Side when the sirens were heard. Others probably were at home or downtown and hurried to the scene as soon as it was evident there was a major fire.

Riley Well they certainly did a great job. Their main objective at all times is, of course, service in the event of an air raid or an air raid alarm. Suppose you explain what would happen if Portland got an alarm tonight or any night - what would be the job of the Veterans Guard and Patrol?

Keegan In the event of an air raid alarm, Mr. Mayor, there would be 4500 policemen on the streets throughout Portland, most of them uniformed and all of them with stars and with instructions as to just how to handle

traffic and to meet other emergencies. Each man in each company has his air raid alarm station to go to immediately and upon arriving he would be under command of his company officers. I'd say that in case of an air raid alarm the city would be quickly and effectively controlled by a thoroughly effective police force numbering several thousand trained men.

Riley Which, of course, should be reassuring to the public. How are the men selected for the Guard and Patrol?

Keegan We've selected good reliable citizens whose reputation is above reproach. Every man's record is thoroughly checked before he is taken in not only as to his past but as to his levelheadedness, his dependability and his physical condition. We go strong also on courtesy. In the handling of emergencies we want men who know how to handle themselves and how to get cooperation from the public. We don't want gruffness.

Riley You want men, in other words, who can be firm and courteous at the same time.

Keegan Sure, the smart police officer knows courtesy makes his job a hundred per cent easier than if he tries to get gruff or tough. However, we have to have men who can get tough if it becomes necessary.

Riley I understand you are in need of recruits, Captain.

Keegan Yes. The changing industrial conditions have made some inroads into our organization. I'd say about 300 men a month have had to drop out for one reason or another. We have to carry on a constant drive to recruit new men because we want to keep the membership up to around 4,500.

Riley Are you having trouble in getting recruits?

Keegan So far we've been able to keep the membership on an even keel, but we are glad to hear from anyone willing to serve. We don't want them, however, unless they are really interested in the work and are willing to train and be subject to call. It's necessary to have men always who can be depended upon in an emergency.

Riley Except in case of an air raid alarm, the men are not ordered out for special duties, as I understand. Special defense jobs are filled by calling for volunteers.

Keegan That's correct. A man doesn't have to do any work he doesn't want to do. However, we do insist that he attend training classes - otherwise he would not become a good patrolman.

Riley You have men now guarding the swimming tanks of the parks. We keep these filled with water for emergency supply in case of air raid. Also, your men help the Coast Guard in patrolling the harbor and you furnish guards for protecting the control stations and many other tasks. These ~~the~~ men all volunteer to do *this sort of guard duty - the coast*

Keegan Yes. Those who have the time give a large amount of time to these tasks. Others without so much time - men working in defense plants and so forth - give a few hours a week or maybe a month. We don't try to overload any of them - just spread the necessary tasks over the entire organization and let the members volunteer for work.

Riley This organization, Captain, is an original plan for Portland. It was the first force of the kind organized. Since Pearl Harbor several other cities have copied the plan.

Keegan Yes, we class it as another of the Portland FIRSTS. It had its inception from the spirit of cooperation that exists in this city. When it became apparent that trouble was ahead for our city there was no difficulty whatever in getting good citizens to volunteer to provide protection and prevent disorder of any kind. Hundreds of the men who volunteered at the beginning are still members and are still devoting time and effort to the work.

Riley And will continue to as long as we face the need of help along this line.

Keegan Sure. It's a fine group of men and they have a spirit that nothing can break.

Riley One thing that has impressed me most favorably, Captain, is that in all the months this force has been operating I have not had a single complaint against any member. Usually volunteers in doing police work get themselves

guard of the harbor against the V.I.P. when called, emergency warrants when

into difficulties by becoming over zealous or by assuming too much authority and it is rather amazing to me that I've not had a single complaint along this line in connection with these 4500 men.

Keegan Well, I think, perhaps, it is due to the careful training given them. They all fully understand that their job is to help the public and in helping, courtesy is the keynote. The use of force or gruffness in the carrying out of orders is strictly taboo.

Riley You're instructors have done a swell job. I don't mind telling you, Captain, that at the outset of this organization I was quite apprehensive of issuing 4500 police stars to volunteers. I expected difficulties because previous experience had been that when a badge is given a man he usually wants to exercise the authority the badge gives him. So I've been most agreeably surprised at not having received a single solitary complaint of misuse of authority on the part of any one of this big force.

Keegan Well, we appreciate that and assure you^{you} won't receive any. These men are all of middle age and have families and are sincere in wanting to be of public help and do not join up just to get some authority or the right to carry a star and gun. They join up because they see a chance to do a necessary public duty.

Riley And they're doing it in a fine way. I want to thank you, Captain, for being here tonight and I trust our listeners now have a better understanding of this big force of civic spirited citizens who have banded together under the name Veterans Guard and Patrol for the purpose of giving the people of Portland adequate police protection in these serious times.

Herbert Thank you Mayor Riley and thank you Captain Keegan.