

Camp Wadsworth, S.C.
February 28th. 1919.

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From: Colonel Charles F. Bates, 90th. Inf.
To: The Adjutant General, Room 341, Washington, D.C.
Subject: Disposition of Camp Buildings after Demobilization.

1. In the matter of the disposition of the buildings at Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina, the following facts are stated:

The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Spartanburg have been requested to make an offer for the buildings looking towards the establishment of some industrial project, the proposition to be submitted to the Camp Commander of Camp Wadsworth not later than March First, 1919, which will be forwarded to the War Department for consideration.

Judging from the experience of other communities, notably Camp Greene, Charlotte, North Carolina, the amount of the pecuniary consideration offered will be very small. Each problem is a local one and the Government improvements at Camp Wadsworth are of such a valuable nature to the community here that it is thought that it will be unnecessary to make as large a sacrifice as has been made in many localities.

For instance in the matter of the question of damages. The forest land which formed the bulk of the Camp site of Camp Wadsworth prior to Government improvements has been rendered vastly more valuable because the wooded land would have had to be cleared and the stumps grubbed out at considerable expense to any farmers who desired to use the ground for agricultural purposes. The roads to the reservation and in the Camp have been a great improvement. The government should get a substantial price for the fine storehouses especially with the fine concrete area which has been made over a wide district around the storehouses. The trackage facilities for the unloading of freight cars are excellent. If an industrial project goes through, this being a great cotton mill center, the former agricultural land has been rendered vastly more valuable for town lots to meet the needs of a resident manufacturing population. The question of damages other than the cost of civilian labor for filling in ditches could be almost disregarded.

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In connection with estimating damages to land and also in the matter of increasing the interest of outside capital in the event the offer of the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce is not considered satisfactory by the War Department, it is desired to submit the name of Mr. N.J. McGuin of Spartanburg, who might be of great service to the Government in adjusting claims. Mr. McGuin was a first lieutenant in charge of the Intelligence Work at Camp MacArthur, Waco, Texas, where I was his Commanding Officer for four months during the active period of sending out replacement troops.

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utilization.

Mr. McGuin graduated from Warburton College in Spartanburg and has been here as a business man for five years and is now in charge of the Cadillac and Stutz Agency here and is highly respected. He is but thirty years of age and I would have recommended him for the regular army but he desired to continue his business career. I have seen letters from the Morale Division, General Staff from General Munson and Major Fleming praising him and his work in the highest terms. He knows personally all the land owners affected by any possible question of damages as well as their lawyers and he believes the land has been much benefitted rather than injured. He has a very wide acquaintance among business men of capital in three adjacent States where he has travelled representing the lumber firm of which he was the representative prior to going into the service. It is believed that if the offer of the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce is not considered satisfactory by the War Department that the services of Mr. McGuin could be utilized especially in the matter of convincing the land owners of the Camp Wadsworth site that their property has been greatly improved rather than damaged.

This matter is probably well within my jurisdiction so far as asking him to assist, but it has occurred to me that it might be better to give Mr. McGuin an official status and the matter is therefore referred to the War Department so that the qualifications of Mr. McGuin might be on file as the whole matter may be taken up by telegram when the Chamber of Commerce has made its offer on March First.

Mr. McGuin takes great pride in having won the recognition of his superiors in the service and I am sure he is animated by a desire to serve the government and also to aid in the industrial development of Spartanburg in the event that the Chamber of Commerce does not see fit to make a reasonably satisfactory offer to the Government for the improvements on the Camp Wadsworth site.

Charles F. Bates

Charles F. Bates,
Colonel 90th. Inf.
Comd'g. Camp Wadsworth.

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