

On the morning of Monday, April 15, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued his call for 75,000 volunteer troops to defend the Union:

### **A Proclamation**

Whereas, The laws of the United States have been for some time past and now are opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed, in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the power vested in the Marshalls by law:

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and the laws, have thought it fit to call forth, and hereby do call forth, the Militia of the several States of the Union to the aggregate number of 75,000, in order to suppress such combinations, and to cause the laws to be duly executed. The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the State authorities through the War Department.

. . . .

Done at the City of Washington, this fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-fifth.

*Abraham Lincoln*

BY THE PRESIDENT.

*William H. Seward*

SECRETARY OF STATE

On the same day, the War Department sent telegrams and formal correspondence by mail to the governors of each of the States to implement the President's call. The letter to Wisconsin read:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April 15, 1861.

SIR –

Under the Act of Congress for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrection, and repel invasions, etc., approved February 28, 1795, I have the honor to request your Excellency to cause to be immediately detached from the militia of your State the quota designated in the

table below, to serve as infantry or riflemen for the period of three months, unless sooner discharged.

Your Excellency will please communicate to me the time at or about which your quota will be expected at its rendezvous, as it will be met by an officer or officers to muster it into the service and pay of the United States. At the same time the oath of fidelity to the United States will be administered to every officer and man.

The mustering officer will be instructed to receive no man under the rank of commissioned officer who is in years apparently over forty-five or under eighteen, or who is not in physical strength and vigor.

[Here follows the table of the quotas of each State.]

The rendezvous for your State will be at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I have the honor, etc.,

SIMEON CAMERON

To His Excellency,

ALEX. W. RANDALL, *Governor of Wisconsin*

During the day on April 15, the following telegram was sent to Wisconsin by the War Department:

TO HIS EXCELLENCY,

A.W. RANDALL, GOVERNOR OF WISCONSIN

CALL IS MADE ON YOU BY TO-NIGHT'S MAIL FOR ONE (1) REGIMENT OF MILITIA FOR IMMEDIATE SERVICE.

SIMEON CAMERON

SECRETARY OF WAR

Randall responded immediately by telegraph, as follows:

THE CALL FOR ONE REGIMENT WILL BE PROMPTLY RESPONDED TO, AND FURTHER CALLS WHEN MADE.