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Dear Guardsmen;

You've heard us moan before in this corner about deadlines. It seems that all major developments affecting the Guard occur just after we've locked up one issue and begin planning the next.

It was that way with President Truman's announcement that he had okayed the calling the Guard units into active Federal service. *Washington Report* had been written around the fact that on the day the North Koreans invaded South Korea, the status of the Guard was a paramount issue. The original story reported that at least three Air Guard squadrons—in Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Md., and Concord, N. H.—had been placed on alert for a short time the day of the attack. It speculated on whether the Guard would be needed. Mr. Truman settled that when he sent his historic message to Congress and made his night-time talk to the Nation. As usual, these latter events transpired *after* we were set to go. So we tore the issue apart and got to you the information that you'd all been waiting for: the Guard—or at least part of it—would be called into Federal service for the second time within 10 years.

This is positively the last time we can remake this issue and at this writing, ye editors are wondering the same thing you are. That is, whether they'll be putting out the magazine in future months or working fulltime again for Uncle Sam.

Our pictorial roundup of National Guard field training activities, beginning on page 10, is the work of Lt. Carl Barklow, of Columbus, Ohio, and a member of the 37th Div. Sig. Co. For which we are indebted indeed.

If you're one of the few people who ever read the indicia of a publication (that's the chunk of type at the bottom of this column that tells where our offices are, our subscription rates, what to do about change of address, etc.) you may have noted that there's a major change this month. It's the Copyright line, and we'd like to tell you why it's there.

We buy a good bit of our copy (fiction, many of the feature articles, cartoons, and illustrations) from people who are in the business of writing for a living, or to pad-out their income. They have definite financial rights in their product. They lose if we run their material and then someone else reprints it without reimbursing the originators. The copyright is their protection.

So, from now on, if other publications want to use something we have printed, it will be necessary for them to obtain written permission from us. With a great deal of our material, and especially with material that originated with our own staff, such permission will be granted freely. But ask us first, please.

The Staff

OUR COVER

When the going is toughest; when there are mountains to scale and mud to conquer, there you will find the Infantry—Queen of Battles. The cover shot, an Ohio National Guard photo, shows infantrymen of the 2d Bn., 148th Regt., 37th Div., crossing a stream during a three-day maneuver problem that capped field training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., last month.

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WASHINGTON REPORT . . .

PARTIAL MOBILIZATION ORDERED— GUARD UNITS WILL BE CALLED!

IF THIS WAS "IT," World War III had started much differently from the way the American public had been conditioned to expect.

The sun-bright flash and the mushrooming cloud of vapor, smoke and debris from an A-Bomb or H-Bomb? No.

The crackle of "old-fashioned" smallarms fire, the blast of War II-type field artillery and conventional aerial bombs could *not* be heard, all the way from the 38th Parallel in Korea to the 39th Parallel in Washington, D. C.

The shock wave didn't knock Americans off their feet. Maybe four years of participation in the most tremendous of World Wars to date, preceded by two years of conditioning prior to that war and nearly five more years of "cold war," had reconciled the U. S. to expect far worse.

As the fighting went on in Korea, it became apparent that outnumbered and out-gunned U. S. troops, fighting a brilliant delaying action, would need a vast amount of help. The 24th Inf. Div., rushed from Japan to meet the invading force, bore the brunt of the battle for days. As the buildup of our forces in the battle zone began, the homefront set about girding for a showdown. On 19 July, Harry Truman laid the cards on the table for the American people.

On that day, too, the President answered the question every Guardsman had asked since the morning of 25 June when the North Korean Communists invaded South Korea and tipped the scales in favor of war.

The President sent a message to Congress and some 10 hours later delivered a fireside chat. He backgrounded the entire situation. In a thinly-veiled warning, Mr. Truman served notice on Russia that the free nations of the world had taken their last step backward in the face of aggression.

The Nation, he said, must go on a mobilization footing and the Armed Forces must be built up. "I have," he said, "authorized the Secretary of Defense to meet the need for military manpower by calling into active Federal service as many National Guard units and as many units and individuals of the Reserve forces of the Army, Navy, and Air Forces as may be required."

There it was. He had authorized the call of all, or part, of the Guard. That meant defense officials could call an ack-ack group or every Army and Air National Guard division, squadron, etc.

For the moment, at least, Mr. Truman said, his program would cost an additional 10 billion dollars. Further, it would require increased taxes, credit controls, unlimited authority to expand the Armed Forces, curbs

on civilian use of basic materials and stepped-up war production.

Rumors began to fly the minute the President said Guard units would be ordered into service. It was safe to assume that some Army and Air Guard units would be called fairly rapidly but the odds were against a total mobilization. Mr. Truman indicated that when he told both Congress and the people he had okayed summoning "as many National Guard units" as might be needed.

What *would* the National Guard be called upon to do?

That was one question you couldn't get answered in the Pentagon (sometimes known to cynical habitues as "The Five-Sided Concrete Castle of Confusion," or as "The Puzzle Palace").

There was reason enough for not being able to get a firm answer. There were plans, and alternate plans, for recommended use of the Guard and/or other reserve components and/or drafted personnel. Plans and alternate plans, on every topic under the sun, are being made and scrapped constantly. In the Korean situation, the National Guard Bureau was involved, and the General Staff of the Department of the Army, and the Air Staff, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force undoubtedly had their plans, and of course the Secretary of Defense has pretty nearly the final say as THE chief adviser to the President on matters of this kind.

What *could* the National Guard be called upon to do? The answer to that question could be pieced out from known facts and experience.

The most pertinent fact was the speedy enactment of Public Law 599, 81st Congress, which would become more commonly (if not at all popularly) known as the 1950 Draft Act. The impact of "The Korean Incident" had brought a sudden end to months of Congressional indecision over continuing the Selective Service Act of 1948, which expired last 24 June and was given a very makeshift 15-day extension. Right after the act was signed, the first call for 20,000 draftees went out to local Boards.

It took only a 1" x 5" chunk of type to empower the President to "order into the active military or naval service of the United States for a period of not to exceed twenty-one consecutive months, with or without their consent, any or all members and units of any or all Reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States and retired personnel of the Regular Armed Forces." He has that power until 9 July, 1951.

(Please turn to page 29)