

Presenting

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

For the first time in its seventy-two years of existence, The National Guard Association of the United States, in General Conference in the Nation's Capital, was addressed on 25 October, 1950, by its Commander-in-Chief, President (and ex-Private) Harry S. Truman of Btry. B, Missouri National Guard. This is what he had to say.

Mr. President and gentlemen of the National Guard of the United States:

On June 14, 1905, I became a private in Battery B of the Missouri National Guard. They had just two batteries in that National Guard at that time, one in St. Louis and one in Kansas City. About a year after that I got a certificate making me a corporal. I have that certificate framed and I consider it one of the best certificates that I have had in my whole life.

Now you gentlemen do not appreciate what you have and what you have to work with and the instruction that you get in military matters. In 1905, whenever there was a meeting of the battery for drill, which happened once a week, everybody had to deposit twenty-five cents to keep the thing running. And now I think on drill nights maybe you get ten or twenty or thirty times that twenty-five cents from the Government of the United States. And that is right and as it should be.

I think that the backbone of the defense of this country is in its civilian components.

I have been advocating ever since I have been in the Congress of the United States, and that began on January 3, 1935, a universal training law. If you read George Washington's message to the Congress of the United States in 1790, you will find that he advocated the same thing. And you will find that President after President since that time have been advocates of that program. Eight times I have asked the Congress since I have been President for a universal training program for the young men of the United States. You know, one of the most disgraceful things that ever happened to this country was to find that thirty-four per cent of the young men and the young women of this country were not physically and mentally fit to serve the country. Now that is a disgrace in the richest nation in the world, with all the medical knowledge that is supposed to exist in the world.

A universal training program would eradicate that situation. And I hope that you gentlemen, my friends in the National Guard, will put everything you have behind the idea of a training program for the youth of this country, to make them better citi-

zens, to make them able to defend the country when it is necessary. I do not believe we would have had a Korean incident if some people had not thought that we were too proud to fight. We are not too proud to fight. We will fight for the right every time. We have always done it. And thank God, we have always won, because we have been on the right side. I hope we will never be on the wrong side.

I appreciate the privilege of being able to come over here to say a few words to you gentlemen. I am sympathetic with what you are trying to do. I was just saying to Paul Griffith that I don't think I ever saw so much brass in one place in my life.

And it is all civilian brass. That is the beauty of it. I don't think it is any disgrace to be called brass, high brass. You know, we coined that term in the First World War. And it was not intended as an epithet of respect. But it has turned out that it is a respectful connotation. When you are "brass," you are men of responsibility. It is your duty to have plans and to implement those plans and to tell other people how to carry them out. You know what makes leadership? It is the ability to get men to do what they do not want to do and like it. And a good public relations man is always a good leader. It is not the martinets that make an Army work. It is the morale that the leaders put into the men that makes an Army work. And that is your job and your business.

I congratulate you on the ribbons that I see here before me. I wish I could sport some of them. I pinned a medal on General MacArthur the other day and told him I wished I could have a medal like that, and he said it was my duty to give the medals and not to receive them. And I think that has always been the case with me. About all I receive is the bricks. It is a good thing I have a pretty hard head or it would have been broken a long time ago.

I hope you have a most successful meeting here and that you come out with a constructive program and that you will support the universal training program which I have been working on ever since 1905.

Thank you very much.

THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
National Guard Association of the United States
400 Sixth Street, N. W., Washington 1, D. C.
Phone: District 0341 TWX: WA 208

DECEMBER, 1950

VOL. 4, No. 12

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Dear Guardsmen;

In military service and in journalism, we grow accustomed—but never hardened—to seeing comrades come and go. Last month, we bade farewell to a "charter member" of our staff, Ed Hogan. This month, we're pleased to call attention to a new name on our masthead—that of Duane Lund, who now shares our Editorial Office.

Like his colleague Mart Garvey, our Circulation and Advertising Manager, Duane is an Air Guardsman—a Flight Leader in North Dakota's 178th Ftr. Sq. He flew with the 390th Ftr. Sq. in the 366th Ftr. Gp. of the Ninth Air Force until shot down in November, 1944, becoming an involuntary guest of the Germans until May, 1945.

Captain Lund went back to school after his return home, graduating in journalism from the University of North Dakota in 1947. He edited weeklies in Minnesota and North Dakota for a while, went to radio station WDAY in Fargo as News Editor, punched out copy in AP's Bismarck Bureau for a year and a half, and then handled public relations for the Adjusted Compensation Division, paying World War II bonus claims to North Dakota veterans. A bachelor, he is fair game for Government-Girl-infested Washington.

Between Ed's departure and Duane's arrival, we were a one-man editorial staff, and, with the NGA's 72nd Annual General Conference falling during that time, we weren't quite sure whether we were coming or going.

To make life more interesting, Capt. Frederick Black, author of the "These Are Your Weapons" series, has been up to his ears in the draft of a new FM, and his latest article didn't reach us until right on our deadline. Until we got it, we didn't know what illustrations we'd need. We did a quick copy-reading and re-typing job, combed our own morgue, enlisted the aid of Ordnance Tech Info., and our colleagues at "American Ordnance" for the pick of their photo files, and got the cheery and efficient cooperation of the Signal Corps Still Film Library at the Pentagon in rushing through a glossy print of a Panzerfaust—all in a matter of hours.

Just *where* is that ivory tower in which Editors theoretically lead a leisurely existence?

The Staff

OUR COVER

For the first time in the National Guard Association's 72 years, the Commander-in-Chief dropped in on the organization's General Conference, at Washington on 25 October, and addressed some 500 delegates and guests. Here, President Harry S. Truman, a former National Guardsman, is shown being welcomed by Maj. Gen. Ellard A. Walsh, NGA President. In the background is Paul H. Griffith, Assistant Secretary of Defense. (Wide World Photos, Inc.)

Published monthly by The National Guardsman Publishing Co. Publication Offices: Telegraph Press Bldg., Harrisburg, Pa. Advertising, Circulation and Editorial offices: Stewart Bldg., 400 Sixth St., N. W., Washington 1, D. C. Entered as second class matter on September 1, 1947, at the post office at Harrisburg, Pa., under the act of March 3, 1879.

Domestic subscriptions: \$2.00 per year to members of the National Guard Assn. of the U. S.; \$3.00 per year to non-members (Foreign and Canada \$3.50). HOME DELIVERY TO NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED MEN, \$2.50 PER SUBSCRIPTION.

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11 to 50 subscriptions, \$2.00 per subscription.
51 to 100 subscriptions, \$1.75 per subscription.
101 or more subscriptions, \$1.50 per subscription.
Single copies, 25c.

Manuscripts and pictures should be addressed to the Editorial Office. Unsolicited manuscripts must be accompanied by return postage, and no responsibility is assumed for their safe handling.

Address changes should be forwarded to Circulation Dept., The National Guardsman, Stewart Bldg., 400 Sixth St., N. W., Washington 1, D. C. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR OLD ADDRESS WHEN REQUESTING CHANGE TO NEW ADDRESS.

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