

To Our Comrades in Active Service

Across the wide span of this great Nation; on the blood-soaked hills of Korea or in the warm kasernes of Germany, you again are dreaming, as another holiday season approaches, of loved ones far away.

At close grips with a ruthless foe on an active battlefield, or standing at the ready before the Iron Curtain, or manning the defenses of our own homeland, you are fulfilling, and well, your mission as National Guardsmen and as citizens, in keeping the flame of Liberty bright in a darkening world.

To you, on behalf of the National Guard Association of the United States and your comrades of the National Guard and the Air National Guard, I extend our sincere wishes for the brightest possible Christmas, and a New Year that may see your safe return to the pursuits of peace that are the object of all of our prayers.

E. A. Walsh
President



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dear guardsmen:

Nobody knows better than an old Guardsman, that the noncoms constitute the backbone of the National Guard; that the vast majority of the Guard's officers—up to and including those who wear one or more stars—once wore stripes. Therefore, we find special interest in a letter from 1st Lt. Hiram L. Tuttle, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Guard Association of Washington.

Lieutenant Tuttle tells about his organization's policy of granting membership to sergeants "in the realization that our future officers will come largely from the ranks of these sergeants, and that their interest now will promote the future of the National Guard (and the National Guard Associations) and help continue its status as a real organization with its roots in the several States rather than but a creature of the Federal Government."

So, the Washington group provides each one of them with an individual subscription to THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN. Indicative of the interest and competitive spirit among units as a result, Lieutenant Tuttle recounts what happened when the 741st Ord. Co. discovered that the 41st Sig. Co. had an edge on the ordnance outfit in enlisted memberships, so they up and enrolled 25 enlisted members, with nine more to join soon. Result: the 741st has all of its 16 officers enrolled in both the State and National associations, 35 sergeants as members of the State organization and individual subscribers to THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN—a total of 51 out of a unit comprising 16 officers and 76 EM—AND the unit carries a bulk subscription of 11 copies of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN for its other enlisted personnel.

Thank you, officers and men of the 741st!

THE STAFF.

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our cover

Across the pleasant land embraced by the vast Hunter Liggett Military Reservation in California go men of Co. K, 123d Inf., one of the Guard's 44th Inf. Div. units, as they prepare for grim combat in a far less pleasant land across the sea. Occasion was a month-long maneuver of the Illinois National Guard organization, normally stationed at Camp Cooke, Calif. (Photo by Cpl. W. R. Hunkins, 44th Div. Photo Section.)