



AS WE SEE IT . . .



OFF to the left, the panel of sample covers from THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN over the years tells a story that would require more words than we're willing to inflict on anyone, proud as we are of that story, though it marks a momentous occasion: the 101st regular issue of the National Guard's own magazine.

So far as concerns the "Founding Fathers"—the Association's officers, Publications Committee, the old Board of Directors of the long-since-dissolved National Guardsman Publishing Co, the stockholders who showed true faith by financing the publication for its first few years, and the staff itself—it's a tale of trial and error, guesswork and speculation. Above all, however, it is one of determination and will: that the National Guard and its Association would have its own "voice"—a medium through which it could and would speak its piece forcefully to the end that the National Guard would become an increasing source of armed strength in reserve for the Nation.

So far as National Guardsmen-at-large are concerned, it's a story of the Guard's own progress. It tells of the creakings and groanings that accompanied the Guard's struggle through obstructions—deliberate as well as unintentional—in the immediate post-World War II years, to new heights of strength and prestige. It tells of its interruption by and fresh accomplishments in the Korean "episode." It recounts its crises of the past, and new problems of the present. Throughout, it tells proudly a history of a multitude of accomplishments, sacrifices, and services in peace and in war which no one ever can take away.

And so, as we bed-down the 101st regular issue of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN, we re-state the directive handed down to us in our first year of publication:

"The Editorial Policy shall be such as to cause the voice of the National Guard to speak in vigorous, forthright, virile language on the subject of National defense in all its ramifications; to advance the cause of cooperation and coordinated effort between the several Components and the veterans' organizations; and to reflect in the highest sense the historic and traditional role of the National Guard as defenders of the lives and liberties of the American people, and as champion of constitutional government and the free enterprise that has made this Nation great."

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dear guardsmen:

The kind of mail we like to get (besides subscriptions, advertising insertion orders, and checks) includes those passing on ideas such as were offered to us recently by Capt Robert F Bennett of New York's Amb Co, 102 Med Bn.

First is "informative articles by officers who have been called out on emergencies . . . no need to tell us of the heroics or that the job was done well—we know that all too well. I think it would be helpful to those who have not had the opportunity for direct experience to hear of the problems they met and how they solved them; for instance, in calling up a company there is the problem of feeding these men. Also, are there pitfalls a commander should look out for."

We go along, too, with Captain Bennett's suggestion that the writer "take us narratively step-by-step through the whole operation with him . . . Let him not forget to tell us about the problems he faced when it was all over and he returned to his home station; there are always these."

The second should appeal to any Unit CO or a "do-it-yourself" fan: a series of articles along the lines of how to present subjects, training aids, etc., and how to make training aids.

For the literate Guardsman who has ideas along these lines that he'd like to put on paper, we'd like to note that it wouldn't be a labor of love: we pay for articles and illustrations which we consider interesting enough to present to our readers. The same goes for drawings that necessarily would go along with articles telling how to make your own training aids. And we might add that while professionally-done drawings would be preferable (and would command a better price), we can have the drawings given the "professional" touch so long as the originals—crude as they may be—are clear enough to give the idea.

We're interested in seeing what our own readers can produce along these lines.

THE STAFF

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our cover

Mild-appearing Audie Murphy, most-decorated soldier of World War II, has chosen to keep his military tools sharp by serving in the Texas National Guard. The cover picture is taken from a poster distributed under NGB auspices as one medium for acquainting the American public with the caliber of men who serve with us.