

The President's Page

NO TIME TO RELAX

WITH the advent of 1949 the National Guard may well look back on the year which has just passed as one of outstanding accomplishment on the part of the National Guard and the National Guard Association of the United States. Never has so much been accomplished in so brief a period. They may well be proud of their achievements. Outstanding is their great record in the field of organization, for during 1948, the National Guard added to its already impressive record a total of 1,071 units and increased its strength by more than 100,000. As the new year dawns the Guard has nearly 5,000 units with a strength of more than 300,000. By 30 June, 1949, it is safe to predict that the National Guard will have completed its authorized troop basis of 5,500 units with a strength of 341,000.

THE year which has just passed has witnessed great achievements in other fields, notably the completion of a comprehensive legislative program. This ran the gamut from greatly increased appropriations, involving the establishment of a corps of Administrative Assistants, to a greatly enlarged construction program; the enactment of a retirement measure for civilian components personnel; the enactment of a Selective Service Act which protects the interests of the National Guard; the passage of an inactive duty training bill which added materially to the armory and field training pay of the National Guard, and several other measures which were of material benefit.

THOUGH the States and the Guard were heavily engaged in their postwar reorganization program, the extremely important matter of training was not overlooked, and the official reports of the Departments of the Army and Air indicate that the field training of 1948 was eminently satisfactory and far beyond what might reasonably have been anticipated in view of the comprehensive reorganization program.

THE accomplishments of 1948 are indeed remarkable when cognizance is taken of the fact that certain basic assumptions contained in the Approved War Department Policies of 13 October 1945, affecting the National Guard of the United States, have not yet materialized. These policies were predicated upon the proposition that there would be established a system of universal military training and that the Federal Government would bear its fair share of the cost of providing housing, including armories. Unless these assumptions materialized, the War Department, the States and the Guard were well aware that a troop basis of some 6,000 units with an over-all strength of 682,000, could not be maintained. Nevertheless, the States and the Guard have gone ahead and given the Nation a great force in being. The country may be assured that the Guard of today, if properly equipped and supported, will give in peace and war the same great service which the Guard of World War I and World War II rendered.

IT would seem in view of the foregoing that the Guard could well afford a bit of a breathing spell, but there still is much to do, and it recognizes that there is no such thing as resting on the laurels of yesterday. It also would seem reasonable to assume that in view of its great record in two World Wars and in view of its great organizational performance in this postwar era, that the Guard would receive the wholehearted support of all elements of the Department of Defense. Certainly this has not been the case and neither is it the case at this moment. Such a situation is beyond the comprehension of those who genuinely are concerned with the security of the Nation. It is inconceivable but nevertheless true that a Board convened by the Secretary of Defense would among its many other recommendations urge the complete destruction of a component of the Army of the United States—the National Guard—when such component has contributed so much. The Guard is well aware of the untiring and sub rosa methods that are being made to sell to the Country and the Congress a phony bill of goods. I warn the States, the people thereof, and the Guard that there are those who never will cease in their efforts to obtain a so-called expandible Regular Establishment, no matter what its reserves may be called or the manner in which they seemingly are organized. The States and the Guard have had to face similar crises in days gone by and survived those crises with the support of the President of the United States and the Congress and it still has faith in those institutions.

AS the years of 1947 and 1948 were years of great achievements by the National Guard, so too will be the new year of 1949. There still is much to do in the organizational field and there still are many problems to be solved in connection with housing and many legislative matters requiring serious attention.

DURING the past year the Guard has built up the National Guard Association in a most satisfactory manner and has in addition brought into monthly publication a splendid journal—THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN—which is fulfilling a long felt need. There still is much to do in the further building of the Association and development of the publication, but all concerned can look forward with confidence that this, too, will be among the many accomplishments of the year which lies ahead.

WITH the dawn of the New Year, I wish to the entire personnel of the National Guard of the United States a most happy and prosperous New Year, and feel confident that the National Guard will continue its great work of the past.

E. Walsh

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OUR COVER

Sergeant Bob Richardson's phototown on our cover speaks for itself as a New Year greeting. We hope Recruit 1949 doesn't have to wait for a non-tariff size uniform to come through supply channels.

THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN

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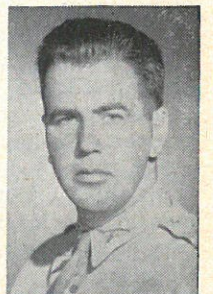
You think you have it tough, with all the problems of getting a new outfit running smoothly? Take a look at what the CO of "The Finney Rifles" was up against in 1912, in "How I Am Building a Military Organization." Col. Peyton G. Nevitt, Adjutant General of the District of Columbia, came across the article in a bound volume of the old "National Guard Magazine" (by the way, our first bound volume, containing all issues of 1947 and 1948, will be ready soon) and sent it to us. We thought you'd be interested in comparing notes with a CO of 37 years ago.

Maj. Gen. Kearie L. Berry, Adjutant General of Texas, and Lt. Col. William C. Wilkes, his I&E Officer, report that the old outfit saw Mexican Border service and considerable action as part of the 144th Inf., 36th Div., in the First World War. The company lost its identity in the 1921 reorganization, but its history and traditions now belong to Co. B, 145th Armd. Inf. Bn., now allocated to Waxahachie, Texas.



Exec. in Hawaii and New Guinea.

Col. Christiancy Pickett probably didn't intend it that way when he tapped out "All Aboard for Washington," but this month's fiction piece turned out to be sort of a swan song to the author's tour of duty as Senior Instructor to the Utah National Guard. As so often happens in the Service, we barely had time to get acquainted with him before he took off on another assignment, to the US Army Forces Antilles. Colonel Pickett has been in the Army since 1917. He got his eagles four days after Pearl Harbor and served with Illinois' 33d Inf. Div. as a regimental commander and DivArty



We introduced Lt. Col. R. C. Williams last March, when he wrote about "The Officer and the Enlisted Man." He also had some ideas about recruiting, and put them together under the title, "The Colonel Calls a Meeting." About the time we were ready to print it, topside clamped a ceiling on enlistments, so the article went into cold storage. Now that the ceiling's lifted, we think a lot of outfits can get some valuable tips from Colonel Williams.

The changeover to new titles for noncoms is going to be embarrassing for a while. What are we going to do about cartoons that have been in our ice box? For instance, here's Ervin D. Auld, out in California: he started drawing for us in our infancy; now he's a Sergeant (what used to be Staff Sergeant), but we're still feeding in some of his cartoons with "Pfc." prefacing his name. We sure had better work off our backlog before those "Airman" titles and ready-for-take off winged stripes come into use in the Air National Guard!

That's just a sample of an editor's headaches, and if we have none worse, it will be a Happy New Year for us, and we hope it will be for all of you, too!

The Staff

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