

The President's Page

A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AS THE year of our Lord 1949 draws to a close, it seems meet and proper that this page be devoted to a resumé of just what the year has contributed to the security of the Nation, the development of its Armed Forces and how goes it with the National Guard of the United States. Certainly, there has been steady progress along all lines of national security, and equally certainly there have been trials, tribulations and frustration, but in spite of the growing pains inherent in the so-called unification of the Armed Forces it must be conceded that unification is working and there is reason to believe that it will continue to work with increasing effectiveness with the passage of time.

In the field of legislation, and notably in the matter of appropriations, the Armed Forces fared exceptionally well at the hands of the Congress when we consider the round figure of more than 15 billions in outright appropriations and authorizations. Of this amount the National Guard received 331 millions of dollars, 216 million for the Army National Guard and 115 million for the Air National Guard. True it is that a greater sum was required to adequately maintain an aggregate strength of 399,500 and equally true it is that a substantial sum is required, in addition thereto, for an armory construction program. However, there were complications which have to be resolved before such a program becomes a *fait accompli*. Nevertheless, it is passing strange that the Organized Reserve Corps as the result of a ruling by the Comptroller General is able to acquire land and construct armories as the result of a 10 million dollar construction item, the language of which is identical with the language of the construction item for the National Guard and under which it was held that the National Guard could not construct new armories. We rejoice that our brothers-in-arms of the Organized Reserve Corps are able to proceed with their armory construction program and hope they will be able to consummate it in all respects. By the same token, the National Guard may well assume that the Congress will do in like manner for the National Guard during the fiscal year 1951.

There were several legislative highlights where the Armed Forces and the National Guard were concerned and notably in the enactment of the Career Compensation Bill. Enactment of this badly needed legislation gave a great boost to the morale of the personnel of the Armed Forces.

Of course there were disappointments, but such disappointments should serve to intensify the efforts of all concerned to round out the legislative program during the Second Session of the 81st Congress. One matter of primary concern is the retention or elimination of Selective Service. The National Guard Association believes with the Secretary of the Army that the Selective Service System should

be retained as an emergency measure, but present indications are none too certain that such will be the case. The matter of the establishment of a system of universal military training or national security service, whichever you will, no doubt will be fostered but prospects for enactment are remote.

The National Guard can look back on 1949 as a year of accomplishments, notably in the organizational field. As THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN goes to print for the first time in 1950, the National Guard had attained an aggregate strength in excess of 391,000—almost attaining its authorized strength of 399,500 fixed by Congress for 30 June 1950. It might well be that we have gone too far and too fast, for had we not attained that strength until near the end of the fiscal year our average strength for the year would have been less and thus our dollars would have gone further. As the 71st General Conference contended in a strong resolution, we cannot and will not continue to expand indefinitely unless adequate provisions are made for a joint armory construction program by the Federal Government and the States and there is assurance that the added personnel will be properly equipped. We have gone far beyond the saturation point and it is to be hoped that the Civilian Components Policy Board will bring forth a realistic Troop Basis for the National Guard and the Organized Reserve Corps.

Our relations with the Department of the Army are the best in history. We are hopeful that the new year will resolve many vexing questions where the Department of the Air Force and the National Guard are concerned and that an *entente cordiale* will result. Such an *entente*, conceivably, will make possible the resolving of many matters now in dispute and on an amicable basis. The Air National Guard has done a magnificent job in completing its organization and is indeed a great force. It can be made even greater and summing it all up, all that we demand from the Department of the Air Force is leadership and that is our right.

With respect to the National Guard Association and the National Guardsman Publishing Company, on the whole, it has been a good year but it could and should have been far better. Unfortunately there are some of the States, the Officers and the Warrant Officers who seemingly are content to coast while others bear the heat and burdens of the day. Just a little effort and concentration would correct this situation for after all it is a case of one for all and all for one.

May I in conclusion congratulate the States, the Army and Air National Guard on a job exceedingly well done for the year that is swiftly passing into history, and to wish to Guardsmen everywhere a most prosperous and Happy New Year.

E. Walsh

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Dear Guardsmen;

Life, for an editor, is a series of pitfalls and boobytraps. He scarcely gets through nursing his wounds from one before he stumbles into another.

Libel laws, copyright laws, the rules of good taste, the risk of offending someone, make him mind his p's and q's—that's for sure.

Just let us say that the 1001st "Glorious Grays" took Porto Broccoli, and the 1002d "Batting Blues" will be on our necks to let us know that them bums of the 1001st wasn't within a mile of the gawdforsaken place.

Let us, after years of punching the keyboard of a wire service teletypewriter, refer to it in print as a Teletype without using an upper-case "T", and we'll hear about it. For we live in an age when we mustn't refer in writing to someone having a Coke unless we make it a Capital "C", and when, grinding out stuff on the Mimeograph machine, we must make a mental note to spell it always with a Capital "M."

May we run a picture of a grinning bunch of Guardsmen with two-dollar bills sticking out of their pockets and their caps? No reason why not—if we don't mind the T-men whisking us off to a semi-private room in the Federal pen. Seems there's a law to the effect that you mayn't publish a picture of Uncle Sugar's sugar unless it's defaced so that a counterfeiter can't pass off a picture of the money on some naive soul as the real thing.

Along comes an article quoting a soldier as using an expression that's become practically an integral part of military language. Just in time, we realize that it's something less than a parlor phrase.

The Circulation staff is having its troubles, too, what with bales of magazines being returned because the addressees have moved without bothering to let us know where. And almost every one means that sooner or later there will be an indignant squawk about non delivery.

It's a tough world, and we really pity ourselves. Maybe it will be better in 1950. So we wish you—all, and we—all

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Staff

OUR COVER

With time's flight, it sometimes seems scarcely five years since the Battle of the Bulge. Under a lowering mid-January sky typical of those dull, penetratingly cold, miserable days, men of the 30th Inf. Div. pause in their advance across open country near Pont, Belgium.. (Army Photo).

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