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Official Publication of the National Guard Association of the United States, 100 Indiana Ave., N. W., Washington 1, D. C. Phone: District 7-0341 TWX: WA208

Publication Office
Telegraph Press Bldg.,
Harrisburg, Penna.

January Vol. 8, No. 1

General offices: 100 Indiana Ave., 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: \$1.50 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.

SPECIAL RATES TO NATIONAL GUARD UNITS FOR BULK SUBSCRIPTIONS TO ONE ADDRESS:

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, 100 Indiana Ave., N. W., Washington 1, D. C. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR OLD ADDRESS WHEN REQUESTING CHANGE TO NEW ADDRESS.

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dear guardsmen:

Sitting here in Washington, we realize that a National organization such as ours can seem kind of remote and impersonal for, apart from those Guardsmen who are fortunate enough to attend an annual General Conference, or drop in at Headquarters on a rare visit to the Nation's Capital, there's no regular direct contact except through the printed pages of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN.

So, we honestly delight in corresponding with Guardsmen who have matters to take up with us by mail.

It's pleasing, therefore, to receive a couple of letters such as came in the other day from Tenn and Texas.

Our "Volunteer State" comrade "especially appreciated the fact that a man so busy as you must be would take the time to cover a question so thoroughly for one man's benefit," and commented: "You certainly gave me much information I wasn't fully aware of in your letter."

Said the Texas correspondent: "Your prompt efforts in this small matter makes me feel very warm towards the National Guard Association. I have been in the Texas National Guard since 1936, and one of the first things my company commander taught me when I enlisted was that the National Guard Association was the best friend Guardsmen had and was to be supported with everything we had. I think most of us here in Texas feel that way about the Association, and I have shared the pride of my superiors each year as our officers of the Texas National Guard have all renewed their membership in our Association."

Shucks, fellows, that's what we're here for! But thanks, anyway.

THE STAFF

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our cover

Transfer of Louisiana to the US is reenacted in New Orleans' Jackson Square by members of the State Hq Det, Louisiana National Guard, during the Sesqui attended by President Eisenhower, France's Ambassador Henri Bonnet, and other notables. In the dress of 1803, "American Militia" prepare to raise the Stars and Stripes, after Napoleon's "French soldiers" have lowered the Tricolor. Cecil B DeMille, Hollywood producer, narrated the tale. (La National Guard Photo).