

AS WE SEE IT . . . . .



## IN APPRECIATION

THE NATIONAL GUARD is an institution, not of steel, brick, or stone, but of men—hundreds of thousands of them. Millions of men have come into the Guard, stayed a while, and passed out to be replaced by others, during the period in which two stalwart Guardsmen have carved extraordinary marks in their Country's annals.

This month will mark the passing of an era, in the pending retirement of these two whose careers have run strikingly parallel: Maj Gen Milton A Reckord, The Adjutant General of Maryland, and Maj Gen James C Dozier, The Adjutant General of South Carolina.

Both started as Infantry Privates—Gen Reckord in the "1st Maryland," in 1901; Gen Dozier in the "1st South Carolina," in 1904. Both put in hitches as Top Kicks. Both had Mexican Border service—Gen Reckord as a Major, Gen Dozier as a 1st Sgt. Both saw frontline combat in the First World War—Gen Reckord as commander of the "Dandy 5th" (115 Inf), Gen Dozier as a Lt in the 118 Inf of the 30 "Old Hickory" Inf Div. Both were to come home with high honors—Gen Dozier with the highest the Nation can bestow: The Congressional Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart, Britain's Military Cross, France's Legion of Honor and Croix de Guerre with Palm, and Italian, Portuguese and Montenegrin decorations for intrepidity in combat; General Reckord with the Distinguished Service Medal and the Croix de Guerre, to which service in a later World War was to add two clusters to his DSM, a second Croix de Guerre with Palm, the Legion of Honor, Britain's Order of the Bath, and the US Bronze Star Medal.

Both were to play important parts in the Guard's difficult reorganization after the First World War. Gen Reckord's long service as Adj Gen began in 1920, to be paralleled by an unusual dual status for many years as a "Line" commander, carrying him through World War II service as CG of the 29 "Blue and Gray" Inf Div, command of the old III Corps Area (later designated the III Service Command), and Provost Marshal of the European Theater of Operations. Gen Dozier, first appointed as Adj Gen in 1926, had the unique distinction of being the Nation's only elective Adj Gen, with what turned out to be virtually automatic reelection every four years from 1926 through 54.

Both have served as President of the National Guard Association of the United States during trying periods; periods of stress and strain, during which positive accomplishments achieved under their administration meant much to the survival and growth of today's strong Guard.

In a day when the Assn was definitely a "shoestring" organization—virtually penniless, with no permanent Headquarters and with no fulltime staff—Gen Reckord foresaw that the unpaid services of someone, close to Washington, who could and would devote much of his own time to the

Assn's affairs, were essential to preservation of the Guard as well as the Assn. It demanded an earnest, painstaking study of military law, and military policy. A nine-months AD tour on the War Dept General Staff contributed to his development of an unsurpassed knowledge in those fields which was to prove invaluable to the Guard and to National defense.

During two successive terms as President of the NGAUS, 1923-25, Gen Reckord saw the Guard grow modestly despite the strong postwar wave of pacifism and economy; saw "remarkable" progress in the Guard's "Air Service;" saw the accomplishment of such things as concurrent Res appointments for Guard officers, "equivalent training" and "split drill" authorizations, administrative pay for commanders, hospitalization, transportation and pay for Guardsmen injured at camps or schools, longevity pay for Guard officers, flight pay for Guard officers and men. Being discussed but only as remote possibilities then, were retirement for Guardsmen, benefits for disease incurred in training, employment of caretakers for all units, and the franking privilege for Guard units.

In the years to come—and right up to this day—his was to be a familiar, deeply respected, voice in the White House, the Capitol, and the Pentagon—a voice that would commonsensically dry-out "those fellows who've been drinking too much Potomac River water," and that would wither those who would "destroy the National Guard."

And in his turn, 1938-39, Gen Dozier presided over the Assn's affairs at a time when Hitler's Panzers and Stukas were smashing Poland, when Americans only gradually were being awakened to the possibility of our embroilment in World War II. The Army was becoming modernized; it just recently had adopted the radically different "Triangular" Division and the Guard was wondering when its own "Square" Divisions would be reorganized. Another \$4,100,000 had been added to the Guard's Budget; a 210,000-man strength restriction had just been lifted and the Guard had been asked to build-up to 250,000. Gen George C Marshall addressed the General Conference that year, but with defense matters "hotting-up," what the Army C/S had to say was behind closed doors.

These two old comrades' service spans the transition from Krag rifle to NIKE missile, from Horseshoers to Electronic Repairmen, in the Army National Guard and a wholly-new component, the Air National Guard. They have seen crises in the affairs of the National Guard, the Nation, and the World approach and recede. Through more than a half-century of service, individually and together, they helped guide and control the destinies of this First Line of the Nation's defenses. To them both, in deserved retirement and relaxation, go the sincere thanks of the members of their proud component.

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BETTY RICHARDSON . . . . .	Inside Back Cover

**DEAR GUARDSMEN:** Like the chap who was halfway home before he remembered that he didn't live there anymore because he'd moved the day before, a Pentagoner barely gets settled into an office and works out the shortest route to the coffee bar before his agency is ranked out of its space and he is moved to a new office.

Agency W has to expand, so it takes over 10 offices hitherto the domain of Agency X; whereupon Agency X, with half its working force dispossessed, shoves Agency Z further down the corridor, and Agency Z, in turn. . .

All of which leads up to the National Guard Bureau's forthcoming shift to a new location—down one floor and down the hall 100-150 feet, its second shift this year.

Last Summer, the newly-created Advanced Research Projects Agency took over about half of NGB's allotted area on the coveted outer "E" ring. NGB moved down the hall and inward to the "D" and "C" rings, crowding-out the Army Judge Advocate, who found space elsewhere. Now, they're off again!

This time, it's the Joint Staff that's expanding, so it evicted Agency W, which in turn squeezed-out Agency Z—and somewhere down the line of 45 agencies affected by this one, lone change was NGB and its 370 people.

Ah, well; when they're all settled again, maybe we'll run across some of our old Bureau friends whom we haven't been able to locate since the last move!

WDMcG