

# The President's Page

OVER a period of 365 days, an amazing amount of grist comes to the mill of the National Guard Association headquarters in Washington. Each day brings its own problems or considerations involving general policy, appropriations, legislation, membership, circulation and finance. Seemingly, there is never a moment that some matter does not press for consideration or solution. So far as is humanly possible, the membership is advised of developments through THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN—the official publication of the Association, but here too problems arise, for the number of pages of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN is rigidly prescribed by the Board of Directors of The National Guardsman Publishing Company to assure that it remains well within its budget. There is keen competition for the space available and it is not surprising that the editors use their blue pencils with devastating effect to the disappointment of the embryonic author. This situation, however, will improve with time as circulation and advertising increase, permitting the magazine to expand.

WITH but days of fiscal 1949 remaining, it is natural to reflect on those matters which have arisen in this fiscal year and to make a general estimate of the situation—past and future. When the June issue of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN reaches the membership, the Guard will be concerned seriously with problems and considerations incident to field training. During June, July, August and, in some instances, September, 5,004 units of the National Guard with a strength in excess of 350,000 will participate in field training. It is interesting to look back to June a year ago. As National Guard units reported for field training, the strength had reached the 300,000 mark and more than 4,000 units had been Federally recognized. A year later the number of units has increased by 1,000 and the strength by more than 50,000. By 30 June 1949, it might well come to pass that the strength of the National Guard—Army and Air—will show an increase of 60,000 or more.

WITH the commencement of the field training period, it would be well for the National Guard to give more than passing thought to the membership of the Association and circulation of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN. The first ten months of the current fiscal year witnessed a vast improvement in both fields. During fiscal 1948, membership was a difficult matter owing to the fact that scores of officers and warrant officers were being Federally recognized each day—even to the last day of the fiscal year. It was not surprising, therefore, that only 11,610 officers and warrant officers, or 46.7% were enrolled. Organization of the National Guard is proceeding so rapidly that the situation which prevailed in fiscal 1948 prevailed in fiscal 1949, for the number of Federally recognized officers and warrant officers increased from 24,847 to 30,491 and continues to increase daily. It will, no doubt, do so until the last day of the current fiscal year. Nevertheless, as of 30 April, 22,451 officers and warrant officers had enrolled in the Association and each passing day brings in additional numbers.

IN CONNECTION with THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN the first ten months of the current fiscal year saw even greater progress than was made in membership. On 30 June 1948, the circulation of the publication stood at 38,053. This was considered exceptional in view of the fact that the publication had been in existence only ten months. As of 30 April 1949, the circulation stood at 65,246—an increase of 27,193. Should the rate of increase be maintained, it may come to pass that circulation will reach 70,000 by the time this issue reaches you. For a publication that has been in existence only 22 months, this is quite an achievement.

WHILE there might be a tendency to pat ourselves on the back for rather significant performances in the fields of legislation, public relations, organization, membership, circulation and finance, nevertheless sober reflection compels us to admit that a better job could be done and that our achievements in these fields during fiscal 1950 should far surpass those of 1949. It is during the field training period that the matters of membership and circulation can be consummated most effectively and we urge that the Adjutants General, Commanding Generals and Commanding Officers take advantage of this period to enroll in the Association every Federally recognized officer and warrant officer and for every unit of the National Guard to enter its subscription for at least 15 copies of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN.

*E. A. Walsh*

# THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN



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## THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN

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## Dear Guardsmen:

UNLESS yours is a most unusual outfit, at least one man is going to ask to be excused from field training because he can't get away from his job. He wants to go, but his boss won't let him. But maybe the boss will relent if you go about it the right way. We've expressed some views on the subject, in "As We See It." It might help to change the employer's mind if you have your potential absentee take a copy of this issue of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN to his employer and ask him to read, "Boss, Can You Spare a Man?" Better yet, the Company Commander, or one of his officers or top noncoms, might call on the employer, take along a copy of this issue, and use it as a conversation-opener. It could turn a "no" into a "yes." And it's just another of the many ways in which you can get real benefit out of your NATIONAL GUARDSMAN.

If there's anything we have no shortage of, it's cartoons and cartoonists, but we have a weakness for them. And so, we're pleased to present another newcomer: Pfc. Robert W. Long of Co. L in California's 185th Inf., 49th Div. Now 21, he had had but two weeks of junior college before joining the Marines and serving in what he describes as "a relatively unimportant desk job" for a little more than a year. Long enlisted in Co. L last January and made Pfc., "due mostly to having been made Right Guide of the First Rifle Platoon." He's getting set to enroll next Fall for an aeronautical engineering degree. Drawing cartoons grew out of a thwarted ambition to do straight sketching, "which I was no good at" and this is his first attempt at publication.

It's customary to carry a "by-line" on a feature piece such as "Is Japan licked?" But in this case, the author was adamant on anonymity. However, we did pry out of him the fact that he's a native Californian who grew up among many Japanese-Americans, had some as classmates at U.C.L.A., and had pleasant business contacts with Japanese in the U. S. before Pearl Harbor. But when he got to Manila in August of 1941, the feeling between Americans and the Japanese was on the bitter side. The author joined a regiment of Filipino Scouts of which he's mighty proud. With the surrender, he began a prolonged and involuntary close-hand acquaintance with the late enemy at the infamous Camp O'Donnell and Camp Cabanatuan and in prison camps in Japan itself. Since liberation and convalescence, he has been either student or instructor at various Service schools.

*The Staff*

### OUR COVER

Plant GIs in the middle of the Sahara, and dogs would pop out of the sand, tails wagging and tongues lolling in happy greeting of their traditional friends. And so it is when the Guard goes to camp. "Convoy," the portable pup mascot of Hq. Btry., 116th F.A. Bn., of Florida, seems at home in Cpl. Virgil Howell's fatigue jacket pocket, but shows more interest in the 51st Inf. Div. cameraman than in Pvt. Clarence J. Jones.

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