

THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN



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Dear Guardsmen;

We're puzzled. For three years, now, we've been watching every mail delivery in hope that we'd find a good, interesting feature article by an enlisted man in the National Guard.

At this moment, there are in round numbers 350,000 enlisted Guardsmen, but so far as we can tell, every last one of them is ready for a CDD on account of paralyzed fingers.

What's the matter? Doesn't a single one of you recall any of your combat experiences—maybe an unusual small-unit action, or incident (funny or tragic) that would be maybe instructive or entertaining to others? Don't any of you have any constructive thoughts on organization, or training, or recruiting, or policy, or anything else that would make a readable piece if you just sat down to a typewriter and started writing? (And we don't mean an account of Co. B's Saturday night dance).

We're puzzled because we know that the cross-section of citizenry which the Guard represents, includes many who are highly literate.

We don't have any clique of contributors—we welcome all comers who have something to say that's down our alley, and know how to say it in writing.

There aren't great riches in it, but we pay for accepted articles.

Speaking of publication matters, here's a tip to the Guardsmen who have occasion to send us stories or pictures about their outfits' activities: news ages rapidly, and you've got to put it out quickly. This is all the more true in the case of a monthly magazine, such as THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN, for every issue is planned months before you receive it, and even the spot news has to be closed-out at least two weeks before the mailman delivers your copy. You'll get some idea, from the production schedule for this issue:

Photo deadline	15 May
Bulk of copy to printer by	15 May
Deadline for copy in Washington	17 May
Make up pages at plant	18 May
Return page proofs	19 May
Press work	22-23 May
Mailing	24-26 May

With the Post Office's current curtailment of service, we may have to bed down even earlier in the future, so as to put THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN in your hands on or shortly after the first of each month.

The Staff

OUR COVER

This Dept. of Defense photo of "Packets" being unloaded, supplies awaiting transport to the "front," troops marching off to their marshalling area for movement into combat, typifies last month's Exercise SWARMER. The scene is "Port Able" (normally the abandoned Camp Mackall, N. C., air field), the initial U. S. airhead deep in AGGRESSOR-held territory.

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