

## The President's Page

### WE REMEMBER

IT SEEMED altogether fitting and proper in the closing moments of the Seventy-Fifth Diamond Jubilee General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States, held in San Diego last October, that the rules would be so far suspended so as to permit the introduction of a resolution commemorating in June 1954 the Tenth Anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy. The resolution in question, which was unanimously adopted, instructed and directed the President of the Association to appoint a "Normandy D-Day Observance Commission" to officially represent the Association at the various ceremonies incident to the greatest military operations in the history of the world.

The story has been told countless times since that fateful day of 6 June 1944, and certain it is that the story will be told and retold until time is no more. Yet, no matter how often the story is told, it will never be told in its entirety, for even the Supreme Commander, his Staff and his Subordinate Commanders could not see or know everything that took place. There were fateful decisions to make, due to weather conditions, and, notwithstanding the superb planning and the massing of a mighty military force from all the arms and services of the Allies participating, success or failure, nevertheless, would depend on that most illusive of all factors—luck. Fortunately for that matchless force and for the free world, luck smiled benignly. The beaches were stormed; the heights were gained; and then came the break-through, followed by the advance that was to destroy Hitler and the Reich which he had fashioned and which he boasted would last for a thousand years.

Hundreds of thousands of men from the British Commonwealth of Nations, the United States of America, and a contingent from the Republic of France composed this mighty force. Among them were thousands of National Guardsmen from our East, the Midwest, the West, and the North and South. Guard Divisions which had faced the same foe in World War I in Flanders and France would again fight over the same ground and be a potent factor in again vanquishing the ancient foe. There would be thousands of casualties, for that was inevitable in such a titanic operation and in face of such a desperate foe. For those who earned a soldier's grave, we bow our heads in prayer for their eternal rest. For those who survived, we rejoice in the glory that is richly theirs.

It is meet, indeed, that the British, French, Canadian, and American Governments should commemorate the tenth anniversary of this momentous event. It is also meet that the National Guard Association should participate. And to that end a Commission has been appointed consisting of some of our

most distinguished Army and Air National Guard officers. They are Major General Milton A. Reckord, Maryland, Chairman; Major General Donald W. McGowan, New Jersey, Executive Officer; the Honorable Franklin L. Orth, Wisconsin, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army for Army National Guard and Army Reserve Affairs; Major General Jim Dan Hill, Wisconsin; Major General William H. Harrison, Jr., Massachusetts; Major General William H. Sands, Virginia; Major General Karl F. Hausauer, New York; Major General Edgar C. Erickson, Chief, National Guard Bureau; Brigadier General John M. Donalson, Alabama; Brigadier General Timothy J. Regan, Massachusetts, and Colonel Clarence A. Shoop, California. We are honored that these gentlemen, nearly all of whom participated in the invasion, would consent to serve as members of the Commission, and doubly so that Mr. Orth would accept.

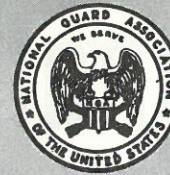
The Association and the Commission are most grateful to the State Department, Department of the Army, Department of the Air Force, the British and French Military Attaches in Washington, and to English and French officers for the many courtesies which have been extended to the members of our Commission and who made it possible for our Association to participate in this great and historic event. We are also very grateful to MATS which is ferrying the members of our Commission to England and France and back to the United States.

The Commission will check in at Grosvenor House in London on 29 May, and the following day will visit the American Cemetery near London to pay reverence to our honored dead and participate in the Memorial Day services. On 31 May, they will tender a reception and dinner to many distinguished Britons and Americans. June 3 will be departure date for Paris, and the following day the Commission will proceed to Rouen and Deauville. On 5 June, our Commission will attend the ceremonies in the Anglo-Canadian Sector, and later that evening, the official banquet at Caen.

Observance Day, 6 June, the Commission will participate in the dedication of the French Memorial at Arromanches, the observance ceremonies at Omaha and Utah beaches, and the dedication of Fort DuRoule at Cherbourg. The next day they will return to Paris, and the day after tender a reception and dinner at the King George V Hotel to a number of distinguished French and American officials and officers. This will conclude the formal part of the Observance Ceremonies, and the Commission will shortly thereafter return to continental United States.

It is, indeed, a great occasion, and the Association is honored that it is a participant. We wish the Members of the Commission bon voyage and safe home.

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### dear guardsmen:

Books are a hobby as well as a job for Mrs. Hilda Costello, Librarian for the National Guard Association and THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN.

Born in New York State's "apple-knocker" country, and graduated from Geneseo State College, Hilda got off to a flying start in her vocation and avocation with a job of organizing a library for Poughkeepsie's school system. Came two years of teaching in Glens Falls, then back to books at Scranton's in Rochester and Brentano's in Washington.



A little over five years ago when the NGAUS Library consisted of a few hand-me-downs from individual donors, she fell heir to the job of building it up to its present respectable and extremely valuable extent of hundreds of volumes, covering all phases of history, with emphasis on military works, of course.

Fly-specking literary publications, haunting the Library of Congress, public libraries, second-hand book stores, Mrs. Costello tracks-down not only new books but some long out-of-print "finds" that enhance the library's value to Service scholars and historians.

She's the kind of loyal sports fan who can keep on rooting for Washington's Senators "even when they stink" (as they frequently do).

THE STAFF

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### our cover

With sounding of the alert alarm, ANG pilots streak for their planes from the ready room of Pennsylvania's 111 Ftr-B Wing, at Philadelphia International Airport's Base Operations. The fliers (L to R) are: Capt Joseph Smith, Comdr, 117 Ftr-B Sq; Capt A Dignazio, 117; and Capt Walter Cope, Comdr, 103 Ftr-B Sq. Start of an all-day practice mission for the Sqs, these are the first to take to the air to strafe and dive-bomb the "enemy" off the South Jersey coast, nearly 100 miles from their base.