

JAMES F. CANTWELL President

National Guard Association of the United States

## Normandy Revisited

The French remember their war dead, not occasionally, but constantly. Annually they assemble on the beaches of Normandy to honor the Allied soldiers who died in the great invasion of 1944 and to remind themselves of the heroic efforts that led to the defeat of the German Army and the freeing of their homeland. On every fifth year, commencing in 1949, more elaborate ceremonies bring back to the beaches many Allied soldiers who participated in the landings, from Army Commanders to Privates.

On these special occasions, your Association has sent to France a Normandy Commission to represent the National Guard of the United States.

The ceremonies this year were especially significant, for they were highlighted by the dedication of the National Guard Monument on Omaha Beach. Nearly 1,500 National Guardsmen and members of their families witnessed the raising of the NGAUS flag, the gesture which dedicated the monument to the several hundred thousand National Guardsmen who fought in France in two World Wars.

The dedication ceremony was impressive by any standard. Assembled on the platform were the Ambassadors of six Allied Nations, and such senior American World War II Commanders as General of the Army Omar Bradley, Generals J. Lawton Collins and Jacob L. Devers, and the man who commanded the 29th Infantry Division on D-Day: Major General Charles Hunter Gerhardt. Ambassador Sargent Shriver spoke, as did M. Raymond Triboulet, President of the Comte du Debarquement.

By the construction of this magnificent monument and by our return to Normandy, not only do we keep alive the memory of those National Guardsmen who served so gallantly in two major conflicts, but we do our share, and perhaps more, to maintain and to strengthen relationships between Allies that predate the founding of our Country.

In these periodic visits to Europe not only do we join with the French, but with the British, as well. We again renewed friendships with the Council of Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Associations during a two-day stay in London. The Territorials, an organization which bears a striking resemblance to the National Guard and shares our feelings for volunteer military service as an essential element of a Nation's defense, hosted the Normandy Commission at dinner in the Mess of the Royal Fusiliers in the Tower of London. On this occastion, we presented the NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal to the Duke of Norfolk, Chairman of the Association and Britain's Number One Citizen-Soldier.

In the next issue of "The National Guardsman" we shall report in detail on the dedication ceremony and the visit to Europe of nearly 1,500 National Guardsmen and their families. For now it suffices to relay the comment of a ranking American offical in Europe:

"The National Guard has done a great deal to remind the people of Europe that the United States is a land of good people and good will."

## GThe National DSMAN

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Campus protest against ROTC is one striking manifestation of anti-military feeling.

Official monthly publication of the National Guard Asso-

ciation of the United States. Publication office 1 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Second class

postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mail-

ing offices. All correspondence and address changes should

be addressed to 1 Massachusetts Ave. N. W., Washington, D. C. 20001. "THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN" welcomes

original articles bearing on National defense, with em-

phasis on the Army and Air National Guard. Manuscripts

must be accompanied by return postage, and no responsibility is assumed for their safe handling. Domestic sub-

scriptions for home delivery: \$2 per year. A year's sub-

scription is included within NGAUS members' annual dues. Subscriptions to foreign addresses, \$2.50 per year.

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JUNE XXII

WHAT'S SO NEW ABOUT ANTI-MILITARISM?

Current wave of protest against ROTC and Draft—closely related to dispute over Viet Nam War—has historic precedent in U.S. Author believes an end result may be enhanced status for Guard.

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JULY, 1969

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