

The President's Page

In Memoriam

IN the course of a long lifetime, organizations, as well as individuals, acquire many good friends and comrades, and this is markedly true of an old organization such as the National Guard. And though we become inured to the inevitable separation as paths of duty lead in different directions, never do we sever completely the bonds of comradeship that have been forged in the military fraternity. Thus it is that Death, no stranger to the soldier, nevertheless leaves his sting when he snatches a tried and true brother-in-arms.

So it is with the sudden and tragic loss of a most distinguished and valiant soldier and citizen, the Hon. Robert P. Patterson, whose military career began as a Private in the National Guard and was climaxed by a tour of duty as Secretary of War.

Judge Patterson enlisted in Co. I, 7th Infantry (now the 107th Infantry), New York National Guard, on 21 Oct. 1915. He served on the Mexican Border and,

soon after his return, gained his commission through the famed Plattsburg Officers' Training Camp. His personal valor was recognized in the award of the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star as a result of exploits involving close combat with the enemy in World War I. He had gained his majority before the end of the war.

Although he modestly claimed that his own view of the National Guard was "limited to the neck of the private first class who stood in front of me in the front rank," it was fortunate for the National Guard that citizen-soldier experience and insight were among the attributes of the man who was to head the War Department at a most critical time in the reorganization of the National Guard immediately following World War II.

Over a period of 30 years, he had become fully aware of "the contribution of potential officers" as "one of the most important by-products ever heard of" from the National Guard.

And in the light of current difficulties with respect



to the disruption of National Guard units which have entered into the active military service of the United States, it was prophetic of the then Secretary of War to have told the National Guard Association's 68th General Conference in Buffalo, N. Y., in 1946:

"Pride in the locality from which the soldiers are drawn is a lasting value. The individual is held to a high standard of soldierly behavior when he realizes that he is in sight of his neighbors. One of the problems that the War Department must solve in planning the replacement system is preservation of the territorial integrity of National Guard divisions."

No less valid today than it was when he said it more than five years ago, was another statement in support of his position that the post-war Guard must be a principal M-Day force:

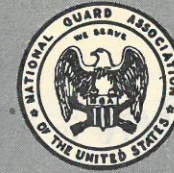
"The most effective aid to recruiting in the Guard will come from a program for universal military training. We will urge Congress to enact

a plan of universal military training, with an initial period of six months continuous training with the Army and with further training provided by alternative courses, one of which will be service in the National Guard. . . . The gain to the national security in the maintenance of Guard organizations at full strength, thoroughly trained and equipped, always ready to take the field in case of emergency, would be beyond measure."

Despite his modest disclaimer, former Private Bob Patterson saw much more than the neck of the private first class who stood in front of him. The death of this far-sighted patriot is a grievous loss to his family, to the National Guard and to the Nation he served so long and well.

E. A. Walsh

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THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN
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dear guardsmen:

Do you remember this little fellow. ^{YEARLY BIRD}? He made his bow last Summer, in recognition of the National Guard officers—active, inactive and retired—who enrolled, or renewed their membership, in the National Guard Association of the United States before 1 July (that's the start of the new membership year).

He made a big hit; thousands of officers flashed their ^{YEARLY BIRD} cards at slower-acting brother-officers.

The ^{YEARLY BIRD} has the dual satisfaction of (1) being ahead of time rather than late (which no good officer ever wants to be) and insures uninterrupted continuity of membership and receipt of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN. And the girls in the Membership Department bestow affectionate blessings on every ^{YEARLY BIRD}, for he helps to reduce what normally is a terrific, concentrated seasonal flood of applications.

Hundreds of officers in Illinois' 44th Inf. Div., gained the ^{YEARLY BIRD} stamp of approval by signing-up before they entered into active Federal service last month. You can qualify, too, if you will use the coupon on page 15.

Another, less desirable, species is the Gookle Burd.

For the discovery of this by-no-means-rare specimen (we've known of his existence for many years but never have seen one; his likeness on page 32 is drawn from description) we are indebted to "Aerographic," publication of No. 412 Wing, Royal Canadian Air Force Assn., and to "The Roundel," the RCAF publication which picked-up the "Aerographic's" description of this weird creature:

"A Gookle Burd is a poor type of member who changes domiciles regularly without notifying the club of his change of address. These are the Burds who make the postman unhappy, foul up the mailing list generally, and cause the club unnecessary expense in returned mail. Don't be a Gookle Burd."

When you move, please use the Gookle Burd coupon.
THE STAFF

contents

The President's Page	Inside Front Cover
Rotation	2
Where Diamond Stars Are Made	8
Washington Report	10
Pentagon Paragraphs	14
Genius with Junk	17
In Combat . . . in Korea	19
The Amazing Amazon	21
Technical and Tactical	22
Posting the Guard	24
The Great Outdoors	30
Sound Off!	31
As We See It	Inside Back Cover

our cover

The "Thunderbirds" view of typical Korean Winter terrain is shown in this month's cover picture, by Army Photographer Pfc. Jack Gunter. Sitting atop their bunker, Pfc. Renato F. Crisanto and Pfc. Donald Wisniewski take advantage of a lull to talk things over. Both are members of Co. B, 180th Inf.