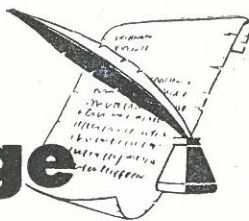


The President's Page



THE SHORT MONTH

FROM past experience and present appearances it would seem that the number of days in a given month are not necessarily the criterion as to its comparative length. In some respects, February may well be not only the longest and busiest but the most momentous.

Although only a week of the current month has elapsed at this writing, already it has been characterized by a number of highlights with others in the offing. Several of our Standing and Special Committees have been hard at work trying to whip into shape prior to the annual conference of Adjutants General, 23-24-25 February, a legislative program based on the mandates and resolutions of the 74th General Conference. In addition, a number of conferences have been held dealing with the vexing matter of manpower in all of its ramifications and a general complication arising out of the change of administration and particularly in the Pentagon.

Topping the list of highlights was the very high privilege accorded to the writer to address the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks on the morning of 5 February on some aspects of the history and development of our military system and concerning policies, programs and procedures of the Department of the Army as they pertain to the National Guard. It was indeed a most interesting experience and well worth the time and effort involved in the preparation of such a presentation. The physical setup of the Army War College is not only most complete but, seemingly, nothing is lacking or left to the imagination in the conduct of the affairs of that very famous institution. One would naturally assume that the atmosphere of such a place would be characterized by classic and cloistered halls and that it would be decidedly austere. Quite the reverse is true.

Nothing is left undone by the Commandant, Faculty, and Staff to ensure the comfort of the guest and make him feel that he is welcome indeed, and almost immediately the guest concludes that this is indeed the *ne plus ultra* of VIP treatment. Your writer had a premonition, initially at least, that this treatment was merely a part of the ritual leading up to the traditional sacrifice. This idea was soon dissipated, for the courtesy and attention displayed by the Faculty and Student Body left nothing to be desired. We of the Guard are grateful indeed to the distinguished Commandant of the Army War College in being afforded an opportunity to present to such an outstanding group the views of our corps.

Another highlight was a brief visit, coincidental with the visit to the Army War College, with The Adjutant General of Pennsylvania and with it an opportunity to look over a most impressive headquarters setup. Indiantown Gap is a great installation, housing as it does not only the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs with its vast installations, but the 5th Infantry (Training) Division as well.

Delightful and instructive as these visits were, there were still the requirements imposed by demands at headquarters, and so a speedy return to the mill was in order. Here we were confronted with budgets to the right of us, legislation to the left, seemingly unending conferences in between, and all overshadowed by the mundane and rather distasteful job of packing up and getting ready to move from the quarters which the Association has occupied for the past six years, to our new location in the Letter Carriers' Building on the rim of the Capitol Plaza. It has been quite a chore with the worst yet to come. For weeks the Staff has been busily engaged in packing while workmen have been dismantling the partitions, with the result that the place looks like a barn and things are a mess generally; but one of these days the job will be finished and order will replace chaos.

The new quarters are going to be a far cry from our offices and experiences of the past, and especially from those far-off days when literally the Association offices were mainly under the hat of the President and Secretary. In 1944 the Association splurged by renting quarters in the old Stoneleigh Court Building up on Connecticut avenue, consisting of two small rooms and a bath. Three years later we moved to our present quarters and proceeded to develop what we thought was a reasonably respectable headquarters, and we really felt we had arrived. Our new quarters will give us a vastly improved and much more efficient setup, and we can look forward to being settled for the next five years at least. Of late there has been some agitation here and there that steps should be taken by the Association to ultimately provide its own building for the housing of its headquarters and the publication, by creating a building fund. Maybe there is something worthwhile in such a proposal and, conceivably, somebody might do something about it.

There seems to be a much greater awareness of the existence of the Association and of its purposes, not only among the "brass" and the Press, but more particularly among the junior officer and enlisted personnel. This situation is reflected in problems of all kinds which are referred to the Association and which would have been unthought of only a few years ago.

We hope that on or about 28 February we will be settled in our new quarters and by the middle of March have things ship-shape, and a most cordial invitation is extended to all Guardsmen when they come to the Nation's Capital to visit the new quarters. We are quite certain they will meet with your approval as they have met with the approval of the Executive Council and others. We hope to see many of you shortly at 100 Indiana Avenue, Northwest, where you will be more than welcome.

E. A. Walsh



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dear guardsmen:

Somewhat to our own surprise and in the tradition: "The Show Must Go On!" we have produced a March issue, after all.

It has taken some doing.

As some of you may have surmised from previous announcements of our impending move to a new building closer to the Capitol, preparations for the trek have injected additional complications into the ordinary process of putting together a publication.

At the moment, we're working in a goldfish bowl. Gone—stacked in what used to be a corridor—are heavy steel panels which used to be our very hand-some partitions (and which will be again, once the artisans reinstal them, at 100 Indiana Av NW).

In between digging up stories, editing manuscripts, screening cartoons, writing copy and cropping pictures, the editors have been dismantling library shelving (you should see us in coveralls) and steel shelving, packing books, unhitching air conditioning units, rolling up rugs, moving furniture.

It's been somewhat hectic for all hands, in all departments—even to the point where a last-minute batch of copy, hustled off with an eye to mail collection times and the deadline, reached the printers just in time—thanks to the Dead Letter Office having found the address label carefully wrapped and placed *inside* the package, with art work and copy.

Maybe, this time next month, we'll be unpacked and ready to go again.

THE STAFF

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our cover

Even the most highly mechanized Army in the most highly mechanized Nation in the world falls back, at times, upon primitive methods. And so it is that men of an undisclosed outfit utilize the services of a patient ox and a crude cart to move a load across a muddy field in Korea. (Army Photo)