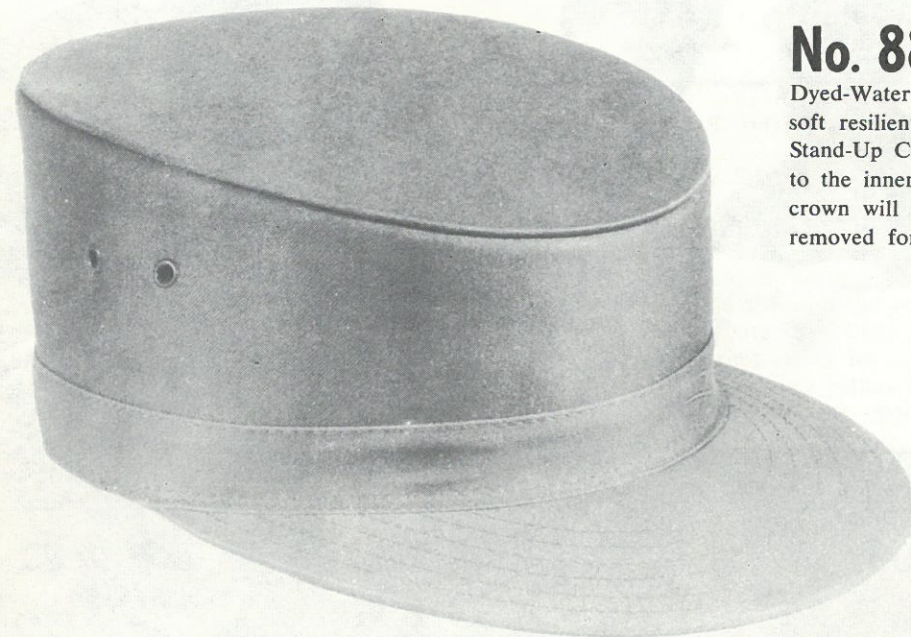


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DEAR GUARDSMEN: This is a hard column to write, this month. We've been staring at a blank piece of paper in our typewriter, trying to get going—and finally decided that the only way to do it was to put down thoughts as they occurred.

Uppermost in our minds this month is the subscription campaign we've recently embarked upon. The circulation staff is knee-deep in subscription blanks, letters of enticement, and "your free postage-paid return envelopes," that will be directed to EM in several States. We hope to increase our circulation by leaps and bounds in the enlisted ranks, but we'll settle for a couple healthy jumps.

From time to time, we do note with satisfaction an increase in EM circulation from some quarters. Recently, we became aware that something out of the ordinary was stirring in Louisiana; each day's mail contained a steady stream of subscriptions. It was not apparent immediately what the cause was until we received a note from Col Simon Castille, CO of the 156 Inf, advising us that since 1 Jan 57, 425 EM of the 156 Inf had subscribed. Our thanks to Colonel Castille and to the 156th. You can be sure that we sincerely appreciate your interest.

THE STAFF

OUR COVER: Alaska Scouts of the Alaska National Guard's 2d Scout Bn, Sgt John Melouidou and Pfc Mike Buterin, stand silhouetted against the Arctic sky as they set out on patrol during training exercises during annual field training at Ft Richardson.—(US Army photo)

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