

The President's Page

FINI LA GUERRE

AFTER 44 years of continuous service in the National Guard of the United States and of the State of Minnesota, of which 24 years and three months was service as the Adjutant General of Minnesota, I deemed that the time had arrived to conclude my tour of duty to the end that there would be more freedom to devote my time and efforts to National Guard Association affairs, and turn over to a grand staff which throughout the years has served the National Guard loyally, diligently and efficiently. It was particularly gratifying that the Governor of Minnesota immediately appointed as my successor Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Nelson, who had served for more than a score of years as the Assistant Adjutant General and during all of World War II as State Director of Selective Service, which duty he discharged so effectively that he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

Naturally it was with regret that I concluded my duties as Adjutant General, for it meant a severance of official relations with the National Guard of my State and with the Adjutants General Association of the United States, of which I had been a member for almost a quarter of a century. I am happy, however, that my connections with the National Guard Association will continue as it's my intention to complete my term of office which expires in October, 1951.

It has been a rare privilege and a great experience to have served with the National Guard from almost the dawn of the Twentieth Century and witnessed its great progress and development from a force of approximately 100,000, predominantly infantry, to a mighty force of more than 363,000, completely organized, equipped with the most modern of weapons, officered by men who gained their experience in the crucible of war and standing on the verge of the Atomic Age. It has indeed been a great period in the history of the world and the National Guard may well be proud of the part which it has played and the contributions which it has made to the security of the Nation.

CONGRESS

AS THE 81st Congress moves toward adjournment, the National Guard Association can look back on the completion of a most successful legislative program.

Topping the list, of course, was the appropriation measure for the National Military Establishment

which, as we went to press, contained a total of \$331,000,000 for the National Guard—the largest appropriation in the history of the National Guard. It exceeded last year's appropriation by approximately \$41,000,000 and was approximately 10 times the average annual appropriation of prewar years.

Perhaps the next most important piece of legislation was the enactment of the Disability Retirement Bill which is now Public Law 108. The National Guard Association through its Committee on Legislation also succeeded in obtaining the passage of a bill amending Public Law 810, so as to credit toward non-disability retirement, service in the National Guard or Organized Militia prior to 3 June, 1916. Unfortunately this measure was vetoed by the President.

One of the more notable pieces of legislation was the enactment of the Pay Bill. For a time this measure had rather tough going, but fortunately for Service personnel, the measure was passed recently by the Senate with some minor amendments which were accepted by the House Armed Services Committee without the formality of a meeting. The enactment of this legislation will bring a long-delayed pay adjustment to all Service personnel, and will materially increase the pay of National Guard personnel when in training.

It is to be regretted that a piece of legislation of the utmost importance to the National Guard, namely the Long Range Armory Construction Program, has been set aside. Many hearings were held on the various armory construction bills but finally were suspended in view of the establishment of the Civilian Components Policy Board. It is expected that the Board will report on this most important matter by the time the second session of the Congress convenes.

There still are pending measures which are of great importance to the Armed Forces, notable among which is the so-called Authorization Bill.

Once again the National Guard Association has been signally served by its Standing Committee on Legislation with Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord of Maryland as Chairman and Brig. Gen. Edward D. Sirois of Massachusetts as Vice Chairman. This Committee has devoted an immense amount of time and effort to the legislative program and once again has been outstandingly successful.

E. Walsh

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Dear Guardsmen;

Guinea pigs usually offer their lives on the altar of science, but the "Guinea Pigs for Uncle Sam" lived through their experiment—and some of them thrived on it. One is the author of the article whose title we wove into the preceding sentence: Robert J. Enright. Ex-Sergeant Enright was inducted at about half-past 18, started as an anti-aircraftman and got caught up in the huge midwar conversion of comrades in that arm, air cadets, TD men, and so on, into doughfeet. Shortly after arrival at Camp Carson began his guinea pig detail. After that, the fickle fortunes of war saw him qualify as a 57mm AT gunner but go to the POE and into a repple depple as a rifleman, and then to the Battle of the Bulge with the 100th Inf. as a BAR man, advancing to Squad Leader. He won the Silver Star for knocking out a kraut AT gun and crew at Jagtsfeld, Germany. Before coming home, Enright got in two months at Biarritz Army University, and now he's studying journalism at Kansas University.

Maj. F. James Delaney, who did "Ready On The Firing Line," was on T/D with the Bureau for several months and you might have guessed his assignment: To write a program of competitive small arms matches for Guard units. Result of work, NGR 44, to which he refers. Major Delaney first joined the 138th Inf. of Missouri at Camp Robinson, Ark., back in 1941 as a draftee. Later, he had 35 months overseas, divided between the cold of the Alaska-Aleutian area and the heat of the Central Pacific. He rejoined the Missouri National Guard in October, 1946, and commanded the first company of the 138th to receive Federal recognition. It's a safe bet that the 138th will be active in the marksmanship competition. Major Delaney reports credit "due Capt. Clarence L. Hamm of the New Jersey National Guard for the basic research used to develop NGR 44." Glad to oblige, Major.

There are 122—count 'em—National Guard Training Programs, as you will learn when you read "Training Is The Target," by Lt. Col. Peter O. Ward, who works out of the office of the Chief, Army Field Forces. To make these training programs effective, Subject Schedules have been compiled and they're even now being distributed to the units. There's no mistaking that training is the National Guard's target.

Because the 71st General Conference of the National Guard Association opened after deadline for this issue of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN, it was not possible to include coverage.

The December issue will carry a complete report on what transpired. The agenda includes items of interest for every Guardsman. We commend December's issue to your readership.

The Staff

OUR COVER

It's always a good idea to know where you're going; or where you've been. So the compass can be a great help. Our cover shows the method chosen by Capt. Roy Martinson, right, to explain its use to members of Hq. Co., 128th Regt., 32d Inf. Div., Wisconsin. Checking into the outsized training aid are, left to right, Sgt. Michael Hennessey, Rct. Archie McDonald, and Rct. Ronnie Kastner, all of Superior. Armory drill time is here again, for sure.

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