

The President's Report

A condensation of the Report of Major General E. A. Walsh, as prepared for presentation to the 72nd General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States.

AS THE National Guard Association of the United States meets for the seventy-second time in a General Conference, we do so under rather extraordinary circumstances in that approximately one-fifth of the Army and Air National Guard have been ordered into the active military service of the United States or have been alerted for such service . . . and, at the moment, there is great speculation as to whether or not additional units will be ordered into . . . service . . . The partial mobilization resulting from the Korean emergency has brought in its wake numerous problems for the National Guard and the other reserve components of the Armed Forces as well, but the very uncertainty of the moment has brought additional problems. We hope that during the conduct of this Conference, we may be given the answer, by high officials of the Department of Defense and key Members of the Congress and that they may also advise us that a solution has been found for some of the other vexing problems.

THE MOBILIZATION

. . . Since the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, the National Guard Association has endeavored . . . to keep abreast of an ever-changing situation and keep the Adjutants General and the senior officers of the National Guard . . . informed. On 10 July, 1950, the Chief of Staff of the Army, General J. Lawton Collins, called a conference of certain National Guard and Reserve officers . . . On that occasion . . . he made clear beyond question as to just where the National Guard and the Organized Reserve Corps stood with reference to the emergency . . .

On that occasion, the National Guard representatives, namely, the President of the Association; Major General Milton A. Reckord of Maryland, Major General Raymond H. Fleming of the National Guard Bureau, and Major General William H. Harrison of Massachusetts, advised the Chief of Staff that as they saw it, the campaign in Korea was essentially a Regular Army operation supported by the Regular Navy and Air Force and which, conceivably, might necessitate the utilization of certain elements of the Army and Air National Guard and of other reserve components . . . and to that end the National Guard would support the effort to the limit of its ability. The position was further taken that the selection of elements of the reserve components to be used would naturally be a command decision. The National Guard Association has been extremely careful not to in any way, at any time, seek to intimate which units would be ordered into . . . service . . . or when.

Naturally there was widespread speculation as to what proportion of the Army and Air National Guard, or whether all of it, would be mobilized. There was an eagerness on the part of many organizations to be among the first ordered to active duty

or soon thereafter, and this of course was perfectly laudable. Sober reflection compelled the conclusion that only so much of the National Guard and of other elements would be taken as the situation demanded . . . Insofar as the National Guard was aware, there was nothing in the immediate situation which warranted an all-out or total mobilization . . . Somehow the conclusion is inescapable that had there been such a mobilization, we as a Nation, would have played into the hands of the enemy, notably Russia, by bringing into being a huge military force which would have most seriously affected the economy of the Nation, and with no assurance that such a force would be utilized. Furthermore, common sense dictated that serious thought be given to the probable effect on the reserve components . . . and notably the National Guard if there had been a total mobilization, at least of the foregoing, and they had been retained in the active military service . . . for a year or two solely in a garrison status. This would have involved the future status of the National Guard . . .

AIR GUARD'S STATUS

It was urgent that the position of the Air National Guard be definitely determined. On 19 July, 1950, I was invited to attend a conference with the Air Staff of the United States Air Force, at which time I was asked some very pertinent questions pertaining to the Air National Guard and its possible utilization. In substance, I . . . made it clear that the Air National Guard did not seek to obtain preferential treatment for the Air National Guard but would insist that its place in the defense structure be maintained. Among the several important matters discussed was the matter of priority between the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve and what would be the effect if elements of the Air Force Reserve were ordered to active duty ahead of the Air National Guard or in lieu thereof. It was my contention that we did not view the Korean episode as our own private affair and that so long as the Department of the Air Force acted in good faith and with due regard to the mission of the Air National Guard, we would not object to the ordering up of units of the Air Force Reserve along with units of the Air National Guard, but we would insist that the spirit and intent of the National Defense Act be adhered to in the matter of the utilization of the Air National Guard. The conference concluded without any indication on the part of the Air Staff . . . as to the utilization of the Air National Guard.

Since 19 July, 1950, there have been a number of developments in the Department of the Air Force and the United States Air Force and notably where CONAC was concerned which have not been to my liking, and certainly not to the liking of the Air National Guard . . . in my opinion the Air Staff of the Department of the Air Force has acted with the ut-

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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 the thoughts as they occurred.

The reason for the difficulty is that Ed Hogan has been clearing three years' accumulation of junk out of his desk, getting ready to say his farewells, and take off for new—and probably more adventurous—experiences. By the time you get this, he will have gone to a new reporting job, with the heartfelt best wishes of all of us.

The little, sharp-witted Air Guardsman was one of the "charter members" of our staff. A whole-hearted Guardsman if ever there was one, Ed has contributed immeasurably to the development of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN, over the years.

You can bet your bottom dollar that if Ed, in his search for stories, turns up in Korea or Germany, or wherever, he'll still be giving spare-time informal orientation courses on the subject of the National Guard, to all who'll listen.

We're mighty pleased to have a very capable replacement lined-up. We'll tell you more about him next month.

It's nice to see that ex-Infantry Battalion Commander Olin E. Teague, now a U. S. Representative from Texas, thought so well of Lt. Col. Peter O. Ward's "Let's Give the Queen of Battles a Better Break" (Aug. and Sept. 1950) that he had the whole article reprinted in *The Congressional Record*. The reprint occupies nearly five pages of the issue of Oct. 10.

The girls in the back room still are running strip lists for the supplemental mailing of our October issue, and here we are, bedding-down the November issue already. Sometimes it seems as though the tail is catching up with the dog, but actually, it isn't.

It's a pretty long pipeline between receipt of your order, and the mailing of your magazine. Numerous steps are involved: checking-in, bookkeeping, completion of an account card, cutting of an address stencil, inking the stencil; filing by State, city, and the alphabetical order of your name within the city; running it on the address "strip list," mailing the list to the printing plant; transferring the labels to envelopes; stuffing the envelopes, and finally, turning them over to Uncle Sam.

The Staff

OUR COVER

They're "in the Army now," these men of the 43d "Victory" Division, dry-running the firing of a 75mm recoilless howitzer at Camp Pickett, Va., under the eyes of General Mark Clark, Chief, Army Field Forces. That's Sgt. Leroy MacKinnon of Winsted, Conn., supervising the work of Pfc. Donald Saharek of New Hartford (Army Photo).

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