

AS WE SEE IT . . .



A TRIBUTE

THIS is a tribute to a man; to that man as a person, and as the embodiment of two inseparable institutions: the National Guard, and the National Guard Association of the United States.

It is a word picture, too, of the man as seen through the eyes of those who have been close to him through many years of trouble and triumph, of doubt and of hope, of disappointment and of great achievement.

This is a dedicated man—dedicated from his youth to creation of a strong, effective, influential National Guard the mainstay of his Country's strength in reserve, and to bitter, hard-fighting, unremitting battle against anything that would harm the Guard.

He is one who, long ago, made up his mind that the only sure way to fulfill his mission was by building well upon the foundation laid by his able predecessors in the creation of a strong, effective, influential National Guard Association of the United States.

His deep faith and confidence *willed* their way over all obstacles in the accomplishment of his goals, where others doubted.

He saw what there was to work with, in the beginning: an organization of remarkable power but of definite limitations; of great potential, but meager resources and facilities; complete dependence on the volunteered part-time services of a few loyal kindred spirits who would accept responsibility. There was an awareness of pressing matters inevitably delayed in their accomplishment, and of many necessary tasks undone.

He made a blueprint of the structure he envisioned as rising on solid foundations. The brick, mortar, timbers and nails, he conjured from somewhere; the men to help him build the edifice, he attracted by leadership, by persuasion, by cajolery.

Step by step, little by little, the structure grew. Two rented rooms and bath in wartime-crowded Washington; one girl, to answer the phone and to open and forward mail.

War's end; uncertainty, confusion, a myriad of problems involved in plans for building the National Guard and its nearly-extinct Association anew. A remodeled form of organization was essential to cope with problems of the postwar Guard. Active, personal membership by every National Guard officer and warrant officer. Adequate Headquarters with a well-rounded executive and administrative staff. A communications net work to reach the entire membership speedily. An official publication that would communicate the Guard's story to Guardsmen, the various branches of the Federal Government, State Capitols, the Press, and the Public.

It would *not* be a "gimme" organization. It *would* be dedicated to attainment of every objective that would enhance the stature of the National Guard as a whole as a vital instrument of National defense.

It would seize every opportunity to cooperate and coordinate with others working towards the same objectives

in terms of National defense. But, it would be prepared always to carry through, alone, if supposed "friends" proved false.

It would pick main objectives and hew to them.

It would be a militarily businesslike and disciplined—not a "fun" and fireworks—organization.

Material accomplishments have come to pass. Harder to measure is the impress he has made both as a very human person, and as the living symbol of the Guard and its Association.

Considerate, mindful of the dignity of every individual; no desk-pounder—but watch out for a tightening of the lips and a cold fire in the eyes if there's a challenge to what he thinks best for the Guard!

Courteous and dignified—but capable of throwing the lie direct into the teeth of anyone who would challenge the courage, the loyalty, and the devotion of Guardsmen!

Courtly, calm, in the conduct of a General Conference—but let no Delegate or uniformed visitor get "route order" in appearance or conduct! Sessions would start on time, they would end on time. The business of the Conference would be accomplished, and it would stay on the track.

Those are some of the qualities which have awed and deeply impressed unnumbered men and women—mature and blase as well as young and impressionable, Presidents as well as Privates—who have been exposed to an unusual and magnetic personality. Even those with whom he has taken bitter issue on matters involving the welfare of his beloved National Guard, have a wholesome respect for him as a valiant fighter for his causes.

Those are characteristics and attributes by which the man long will be remembered as an individual. Imperishable are his achievements represented by the strength and prestige of the Guard and *his* Association.

By the time this is read, Major General Ellard A Walsh will have inherited the title of *Past* President of the National Guard Association of the United States. It will be, for him, a strange title after 14 years of continuous service as President—the longest "hitch," by far, in the Association's history; before that, many years of active service in the Association's affairs, including a one-year "term" in the Presidency.

Many times he has reiterated that the strength of the National Guard and of its Association rests in no superman, but in the presence of countless capable, devoted, and loyal Guardsmen. Confident that their welfare is in good hands, he has gone to a retirement he has anticipated eagerly.

Though he has rapped his prized gavel for the last time as active head of this ancient organization, it is inconceivable that he never again will be a part in the Washington scene or have a voice in the Association's affairs. Years of hard-earned experience will not be lost; the influence of his wisdom and knowledge will long be felt.

And so we say, not "Goodbye," but "See you later, Sir!"



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JEANNE ATAIDE	Inside Back Cover

DEAR GUARDSMEN: One thing we hadn't anticipated when we ran Bill Kennedy's "Let's Promote the Guard" article in our Sep issue, was the amount of interest it would rekindle in various of our public relations "tools," Bill cited our book, "The Nation's National Guard," and the booklet, "Know Your National Guard."

Hardly had the magazine reached readers, when we began getting inquiries about how to obtain these documents. Sorry we hadn't made that clear.

In our Oct issue, we carried a full page announcement, with an order coupon in the corner (page 29) for the 3d Edition of the booklet, "Know Your National Guard." In this issue, there's an ad and order form for the larger, hard-cover "The Nation's National Guard."

The prices are sufficient only to offset cost of production and shipping. Neither is intended as a money-making venture, but it would be prohibitively expensive for the Assn to distribute them without charge.

We do, have, "for free," reasonable quantities of an 8½x11" reproduction of "The National Guard Creed." THE STAFF

OUR COVER: Nation, State and Organization—all claim the loyalties, and merge into the *esprit de corps*, of the National Guard. The trinity is exemplified by the proud Color Guard of the 449 FA Bn (Obsn), IV Corps Arty, North Carolina, as it passes in field training review.

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