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Edited-down slightly in order to meet space limitations, the following is from the Extension of Remarks of the Hon W B (Pat) Kearney, former Commanding General, 27 Inf Div, NYNG, in the US House of Representatives.

—The Editors.

ONCE AGAIN our National Guard, which has never failed our Nation in repulsing enemies from abroad, is faced with a fight for its very existence.

This is not a struggle for survival against the forces of alien aggression. The National Guard could handle such a battle by itself. Now this mortal threat which is leveled at the Guard, and all it stands for, exists, unfortunately, within our own Government.

I regret that it is necessary to inform this House that once again the Army General Staff has embarked on a power grab that, if not stopped, and stopped soon, will destroy the National Guard and every vestige of the civilian control of the military that is a keystone of our form of government.

I am aware that Congress, and particularly this House, has frequently in the past repulsed the Army General Staff's grab for power.

The Nation, and the National Guard, are deeply indebted to the Congress for the resolute manner in which it has rebuffed the plans of the Army General Staff.

Ever since the Army General Staff came into being, it has waged a vicious vendetta against what the National Guard stands for.

Why? Simply because the Guard, with its decentralized control, its broad base of citizen participation, and its belief in civilian control of the military, has been an implacable obstacle to the Army General Staff plans for imposing the Prussian military system and organization over our Nation.

I need not remind this House that such a supreme general staff has been the goal of the Army General Staff. I am sure that we all believed that Congress had once and for all settled the matter in 1946 and 1949 by vigorously rejecting the Army General Staff demands for a supreme staff. This Congress did in the most pointed and unquestionable terms by rejecting the Army General Staff's Collins plan—which would have planted such a system in America. In addition, Congress also wrote into the National Security Act the most emphatic prohibitions against a supreme general staff.

We thought that by law we had defeated the proponents of this plan and in so doing we had erected a permanent protection for our National Guard.

Such prohibitions against a supreme general staff were imperative if the National Guard were to survive. The

moment a supreme staff is created in this country, the National Guard will start to die. As history has proved, National Guard types of military forces cannot survive the Prussian type of highly centralized militarism under a supreme general staff.

Ever since prior to World War I the National Guard has been both an obstacle to, and a target of, the Army General Staff.

It is no secret that the Army General Staff has starved, squeezed, and impeded our National Guard. But because the Guard is strong in heart and the democratic philosophy on which it is based is consonant with our form of government, the Guard has persevered and survived in spite of the Army General Staff.

Is there any wonder, then, why Congress and our National Guard have both opposed every attempt to induce acceptance of the single Chief of Staff-supreme general staff system in the United States?

In a sense Congress and the National Guard are both vitally interested parties. The Prussian system would mean the end of the National Guard and it would also sound the doom of civilian control over the military.

* * *

The documentary evidence is conclusive. The master plan for creation of a supreme general staff has been drawn by the Army General Staff. The moment it goes into effect our democratic institutions go into decline.

The greatest citizen army in the world's history, our National Guard, at this very moment has a knife poised at its throat.

There is no secret about the Army General staff blueprint. It was published with all basic points in the *New York Times* of June 24, 1956.

* * *

This is what the Army General Staff's master plan would do:

First. Convert the Department of Defense into a supreme general staff.

Second. Put a super single Chief of Staff in command of the great supreme general staff and all the Armed Forces.

Third. Eliminate the civilian deputy and Assistant Secretaries of Defense.

Fourth. Replace them with military officers.

(Please turn to page 16)

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THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN
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dear guardsmen:

It was just two years ago that we used this space to spin a cheerful bit about Associate Editor C William Evans' rebound from a rough three months in the hospital.



It was easy to write that little "piece." It's harder—much harder—to write this one, because, only a matter of minutes ago, we received the phone call we had sensed for months would be coming. Bill has just died.

Since last fall, signs of the old illness' return had given associates more concern than, apparently, Bill felt for himself. He let himself be taken back last Memorial Day to the hospital in which he spent the whole summer of 1954. But almost until the last, he kept talking about regaining strength.

Despite his pain, Bill still wanted to do things. A little of the copy for this issue was ground out from his hospital bed. Feature articles he edited will be showing-up in print for some time. For a lifelong newspaperman, that's an appropriate way to sign-off with the traditional "30," marking the end of a story.

THE STAFF

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our cover

For a soldier away from home, even for as short a time as Summer field training, there's nothing quite like a letter from the girl friend or the folks. A break between classes gives Pfc David Sullivan of Co C, 1092 Engr Bn, WVA, a chance to get his reading done at Ft Knox, Ky.