

Presenting . . .

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

To the 78th General Conference of the National Guard Assn of the US, President Eisenhower sent messages through two channels: a letter read by Wyoming's Gov Milward L Simpson, and greetings conveyed by the Hon Charles C Finucane, Under Secretary of the Army. We are proud to present both.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 6, 1956

TO THE NATIONAL GUARD CONFERENCE:

To the National Guard Conference meeting in Spokane, I send greetings.

In your service and loyalty to the nation, you are in the first line of our defense. Your numbers and training and morale are of vital concern to me. I shall continue to work for a strong National Guard with standards of military proficiency and readiness essential to the defense of America. In this, I know I can count on the support of every loyal Guardsman.

I wish you a splendid Conference and all success in developing new plans to implement the mission of the National Guard.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Please extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to my old friends and comrades-in-arms assembled for the 78th General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States and read them this personal message.

Your splendid service in the wars of the Republic is recorded in history. I have keenest memories of the valor and devotion of National Guard Divisions and other units that fought under my command in Europe and Africa from Normandy to the Elbe.

The dual status of the National Guard whereby it serves the States in time of peace and the Republic in time of national emergency, exemplifies that sound traditional relationship between the States and the Federal Government, unique with our governmental system. This historic concept should be ever strengthened, and never weakened.

As Commander-in-Chief I subscribe fully to the statutory declaration that now and in the future we must maintain and assure the strength and organization of the National Guard as an integral part of the first line of defense of the nation, to the end that your organizations shall be ready to discharge their historic role at the very outset of any national emergency.

THE National Guardian



Official Publication of the National Guard Association of the United States, 100 Indiana Ave., N. W., Washington 1, D. C. Phone: District 7-0341 TWX: WA208

Publication Office
Telegraph Press Bldg.,
Harrisburg, Penna.

DECEMBER, 1956

Vol. 10, No. 13

General offices: 100 Indiana Ave., N. W. Washington 1, D. C. Entered as second class matter on September 1, 1947, at the post office at Harrisburg, Pa., under the act of March 3, 1879. Additional entries at the post office at Camp Douglas, Wis., and Cheyenne, Wyo.

Domestic subscriptions: \$1.50 per year to members of the National Guard Assn. of the U. S.; \$2.50 per year to non-members (Foreign and Canada \$3.00).

HOME DELIVERY TO NATIONAL GUARD ENLISTED MEN, \$2.50 PER SUBSCRIPTION, WITH CHOICE OF PREMIUM.

SPECIAL RATES TO NATIONAL GUARD UNITS FOR BULK SUBSCRIPTIONS TO ONE ADDRESS:

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SINGLE COPIES, 25c.

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dear guardsmen:

To those who have the National Guard in our blood, it's always a pleasure to note the increasing number of objective, well-written, factual articles about the Guard, in publications that receive wide circulation in the right places.

For 10 years, we folks at NGAUS Hq and those in NGB, have been working at National level to build contacts and make available to writers and others a wealth of solid information concerning the Guard's history, evolution, and accomplishments.

We're prompted to mention it by the recent appearance of two very worthwhile articles.

First came a "Special Report" on "The National Guard: Our Really Ready Reserve," by Bruce Jacobs, an Army Res officer, in the Aug and Sep issues of "Army," official publication of the Assn of the US Army. As NGAUS President, Maj Gen E A Walsh, wrote the Editors: "The special report will, I hope, assist materially in developing . . . a greater knowledge and understanding of the National Guard, and in dispelling many of the highly distorted and inaccurate impressions of the National Guard which have persisted for years and which, unfortunately, have served only to impede its growth and development."

And we're pleased to have had a hand in supplying a mass of background data which Karl Hess ably distilled down into an effective article: "The War Against Our National Guard," in the Nov issue of "American Mercury." Thanks to generous and prompt cooperation of the "Mercury's" Circulation Dept, 1500 copies were on tap for Delegates and visitors to the Assn's Spokane Conference—and they were gobbled-up quickly.

Backed-up by countless examples of effective work at State and hometown level, the Guard is gaining the finest public understanding it ever has enjoyed.

THE STAFF

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our cover

Down Boston's historic Park St and past tradition-encrusted Boston Common, the Colors lead Mass' 104 Inf Regt in Boston's greatest military parade since the "Yankee" Div was welcomed home from WW I. Some 17,500 officers and men of the 26 "Yankee" Div, the 104 AAA Brig, the 182 RCT, and others strode the mile-long route to the strains of 18 military bands and the roar of ANG jet fighters overhead, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Massachusetts National Guard's post-WW II reorganization.—(MassANG Photo)