

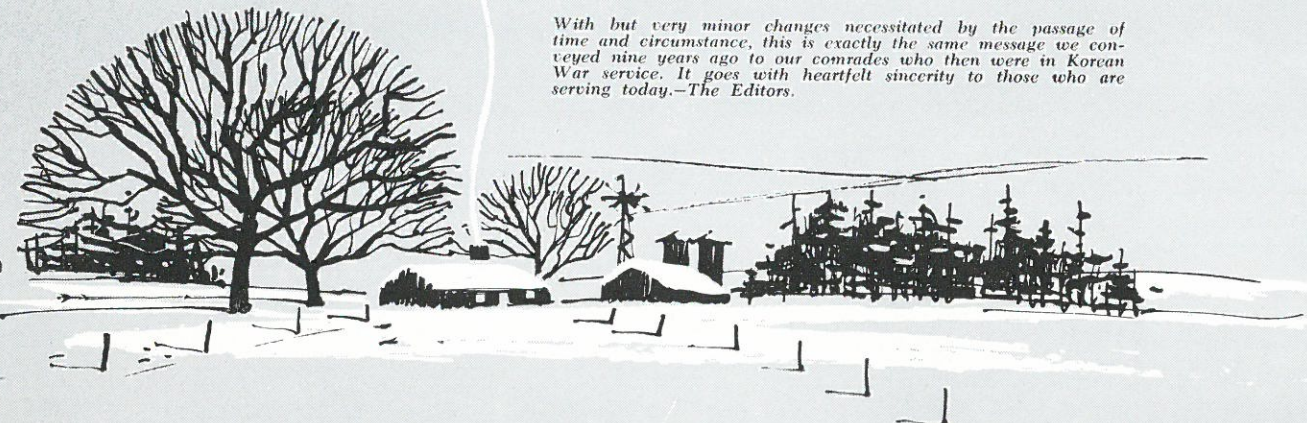
To Our Comrades in Active Service

Across the wide span of this great Nation; on an air base somewhere in Europe or in a bustling "Stateside" camp, you again are dreaming, as another holiday season approaches, of loved ones far away.

Streaking through the air near the Iron Curtain, or bolstering the defenses of our own homeland, you are fulfilling—and well—your mission as National Guardsmen and as citizens, in keeping the flame of Liberty bright in a darkening world.

To you, on behalf of the National Guard Association of the United States and your comrades of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, we extend our sincere wishes for the brightest possible Christmas, and a New Year that may see your safe return to the pursuits of peace that are the object of all of our prayers.

With but very minor changes necessitated by the passage of time and circumstance, this is exactly the same message we conveyed nine years ago to our comrades who then were in Korean War service. It goes with heartfelt sincerity to those who are serving today.—The Editors.



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DEAR GUARDSMEN: At long last, the Army's discarding those atrocious-looking mechanic's-style fatigue caps—the ones that made a soldier on work detail look like a fugitive from a garbage truck—in favor of the neater, more-practical baseball-type cap. Now, at the risk of losing our One-Army booster button, we'd like to offer a couple of additional suggestions to the men who write the uniform Regulations. First, why can't we impose an absolute ban, punishable by permanent duty in the Aleutians, against this weird combination of Army Greens and field accoutrements—like the helmet liner, cartridge belt, and boots (with trousers bloused, yet). His Greens are the soldier's only dress-up uniform and, worn with field gear, look about as appropriate as a man traipsing through the boondocks dressed in coonskin cap, hunters' shoe pacs—and neat pin-stripe suit! Second, as long as we're going to wear the scarf—and it does add a colorful touch to the duty uniform on special occasions—why not wear the real thing instead of this ersatz dingus which is merely a narrow, always-protruding neckband from which is suspended a ridiculous-looking silken breech clout? —WDM

OUR COVER: If there's any place that's lonelier than an Army or Air base on a holiday—Christmas in particular—for the soldier or airman away from his family, we'd just as soon *not* know where it is! It's with the sympathetic understanding of those who've been through the experience, that we tried to convey the feeling, through Lou Nolan's artistry, on our front cover.

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