A NEW YEAR DAWNS

SCARCELY had the December Issue of THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN reached my desk before the writer was confronted with the fact that the deadline for next month's number was just around the corner. It suddenly dawned on us that by the time the January Issue reached our thousands of subscribers scattered throughout the world in the active military service of the United States, a New Year would have been ushered in.

The New Year will find approximately 126,000 of our Army National Guard and 50,000 of our Air National Guard either in or alerted for active Federal service. Hundreds of our units are scattered throughout the world with many of our men fighting in Korea; some are in Japan, some in western Europe, some in Alaska and some still in the continental United States.

Here at Headquarters, however, it is possible, we have tried to keep in touch with our far-flung outfits so that throughout THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN we may give our readers first-hand news of what is happening to them. If we, seemingly, overlook an outfit, the possibilities are that we either have been unable to contact it or else the PEO thereof has failed to send us material.

About a month or so ago, the writer was afforded the opportunity of visiting the 47th Infantry Division at Camp Rucker. It was accorded the great privilege by Maj. Gen. Norman E. Hendrickson, the Commanding General, of reviewing the division and it was indeed magnificent. It gave the writer a great thrill to see his old company and old regiment swing by to the strains of the old Regimental March, "The Story of the Trumpeto." Reports received here at Headquarters disclosed that in the final reviews of the 43d and 39th on the eve of their departure for Germany they too presented a splendid appearance.

While flying over the sea has become quite routine, nevertheless, I cannot help but think of the flight of a Combat Wing across the ocean, and it was with pride that we watched the flight across the Atlantic we the 126th Light Bomb Wing of Illinois and Missouri under the command of Brig. Gen. Frank Allen, from Langley Field to

The performance of all of our units has been outstanding and they have made a great contribution to the Nation's security at a most critical time. We are grateful indeed to the Aeronautics Subcommittee of the American Legion National Security Commission for the very fine tribute which it paid to our Air National Guard in its report to the 33rd Annual Convention of the American Legion at Miami in October of 1951 and which appeared in the December Number of THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN.

Without being unduly pessimistic, we may take for granted that even as 1950 and 1951 brought to the several States, Territories and the District of Columbia and the Guard thereof a host of problems, some of which are still with us, 1952 will prove to be no exception. It is fortunate that our 73d General Conference lies behind us and that the Executive Council, the Committee on Policy and the Chairman of the Standing and Special Committees of the National Guard Association will meet in Washington 7th Jan. to consider a multitude of problems and solve them, if they can solve them. Unquestionably, there will be many imponderables, and one of the great imponderables will be the matter of whether there will be established by the 3rd session of the 83rd Congress a system of universal military training and service and, if so, how will it be fitted into the National Guard or vice-versa.

Alas, the Hon. Carl Vinson, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has served notice that he will oppose the Jan. on the EMTAS plan submitted by the National Security Training Commission. The National Guard has much at stake in any plan pertaining to EMTAS, and if the Guard is to continue to maintain the huge Troop Basis which has been allotted, then if a method is established a method must be devised whereby this Troop Basis thereof can be assigned or transferred to the National Guard of the several States, Territory and the District of Columbia.

We are hopeful, too, that before 1952 has passed there will be enacted by Congress the "The Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1951," a Promotion System for the Reserve Components, and an Equalization of Benefits method for the Reserve Personnel. There are, of course, many other important legislative matters acted upon by the recent General Conference and they will be processed in due course by the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Before space allotted to the writer has been exhausted, through the columns of THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN, I wish to far-flung outfits and colleagues, all of the joys of the season and a far more and more prosperous New Year than the one which is now passing, and that ere 1952 has joined the endless processions of the years there will be some semblance of the dawn of peace and a better understanding among the Nations of the World and the people thereof.