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JANUARY, 1956

Dear Guardsmen:

There's nothing more pleasing to the editors of The National Guardian than to have received evidence of the interest that the magazine is growing steadily among its readers. And what makes it even more gratifying is that this interest comes not alone from the various State Hqs, but mainly from the rank and file in company-size units throughout the land.

We have been asked just why some units and a few of the States don't get anything whatever in the magazine, and the companion question has been: why specific kind of stories and pictures would "make the grade."

First, we can't print what we never get. Some units either don't make outstanding news; or, if they do, they don't tell us. We don't have correspondents scattered throughout the country, and it's up to the individual Guardian or his unit (or the State Hq, its PIO or other officer) to send in to us stories and pictures of nationwide interest.

What kind of copy is likely to catch the Editor's eye? Something that would interest other units many miles away from your own. Unit dances, training that is common to units throughout the National Guard, and unit competitions that are of interest only in a particular area, cannot warrant publication in your magazine which is nationally and not locally slanted. Your unit must have something unusual to gimmie in its activities to make them of more than local interest. A study of the kind of material run in the magazine's "Pictorial Coverage" section should provide you with ideas of just what would catch with the Editors.

The Staff

Contents

As We See It

People to Remember

Your Guard is Up with Whirlbirds

"Yuk Yuk"

Washington Report

What's in a Name?

NAGUS Committees Enlarged

Detect and Interdict

Pictorial Coverage

The Great Outdoors

Technical and Tactical

Pictorial Coverage

Sound Off!

"Not Gard"

ROSSANA PODESTA

Inside Back Cover

our cover

There are many unusual aspects of field training for the National Guard's maneuvers units in Alaska, and our cover photo illustrates several of them: (1) Winter's the time, rather than Summer, when Alaska Guardsmen have field training; (2) the natural everyday life of most Eskimos mates fits them ideally for the outposts nature of their mission; (3) battling the elements becomes strictly routine when the Guardsmen leave their tent camp for cold training areas. Here, three Guardsmen from the 207th Inf Bn (Seward and Homer) prepare to fire their rocket launcher in a snowstorm. (US Army Photo)