It has been my privilege to have had the opportunity of spending two weeks recently with National Guard Army and Air units now stationed in Europe. The trip enabled me to visit representatives of all echelons from Private and Airman to the highest commanders in the Theater. It enabled me to obtain and pass on to National Guarders everywhere an account of the state of organization, training, and morale of our comrades.

During the course of my travels, from 18 April until my return to Washington on 5 May, I was fortunate in being able to visit every type of National Guard unit now in Europe, to confer with commanders and staff members, and to obtain a first-hand view of every phase of unit life, in training, in barracks, mess halls, food, clothing, equipment, etc.

General Thomas T. Handy, Commander-in-Chief, European Command, gave me an hour and a half out of a busy schedule to discuss all aspects of the National Guard troops' contribution to the strength of his command. There was opportunity for further discussions with Lt. Gen. Manton S. Eddy, Commanding General, Seventh Army; with Maj. Gen. Withers A. Burress, Commanding General, VII Corps; with Maj. Gen. Dean C. Strother, Commanding General, Twelfth Air Force, and with Maj. Gen. Truman H. Landon, Deputy Commander, USAF, Europe, among others.

Our National Guard troops, Army and Air, are in the finest possible condition. Morale, combat readiness, quarters, equipment, health, etc., are the best. The troops are alert, on their toes, and ready for action at any time, if necessary.

RAYMOND H. FLEMING
Major General

THE National Guard

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JUNE 1952

THE STAFF

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As We See It... Inside Back Cover

our cover

The Engineers threw this cable bridge with pierced-steel planking across a Texas stream so that their Infantry comrades in the 47th (Min.-N.D.) Inf. Div. could harry AGGRESSOR in Exercise LONG HORN. Making the crossing are Pfc. James Ut, Cpl. James Salvidge and Sgt. Ken Danner. (Army Photo by Cpl. Fred LaMarra.)

dear guardsmen:

You hardly can avoid noticing that we're making quite a play this month for "Early Bird" memberships in the NGAUS. One of the reasons is that we'd like to spread the clerical load that in the past has virtually drowned our Membership Division in a debriefing of tens of thousands of memberships during and immediately after the following field training.

Thanks to the kind of cooperation that is vital to any such organization, it looks as though the campaign is paying-off. Illinois—including the officers of its 44th Inf. Div.—are active and through the last week of May nearly 1,000. Many State AG's and subordinate units set up their machinery well in advance of the 1 July "Early Bird" deadline. One outstanding example that comes to mind is the illustrated letter from Maj. George W. Henebury, "hacking" for his comrades to make the 426th Inf. the first organization in Wisconsin's 33rd Inf. Div. to be 100% paid-up for the New Year. Lt. Col. William W. Sprunger does the addresses of all Delaware Air National Guard officers coming home from active service, sends them the poop on organization plans, along with membership applications, and reminded them that the NGAUS "is your professional society."

Meantime, the earliest of the "Early Birds" had been rolling in, with more than 3,000, representing 28 of the 50 States, Territories, and the District of Columbia, by 9 May, our copy deadline for this issue. We plan a "round-up" of the score for our July issue; better get your membership in pronto if you want your State to show up well.

THE STAFF