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The President's Page

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Massachusetts National Guard

1870-1951

President,

National Guard Association of the United States

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E. Walsh

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MARCH, 1951

Dear Guardsmen;

If you don't think this partial mobilization is as dis-combooberous to the Editor as it is to y'all out in the field, you can guess another guess. We're just about able to grab the pieces as they go flying past.

Within four months, Uncle Sugar has blown the whistle for our original Associate Editor, Ed Hogan; our Advertising and Circulation Manager, Mart Garvey, and, as of 1 March, Duane Lund, who took Ed's place across the room. All three, it so happens, are Air Guardsmen—Ed and Mart in the District of Columbia, Duane in North Dakota. If this keeps up, the Editor will have the basic training necessary to qualify as a one-man band in the post-postwar readjustment.

No wonder Ye absent-minded Editor gets his recollections mixed. He attributed last month's cover picture (The Capitol dome under floodlights) to a retired Regular Army (ex-National Guardsman) Colonel. Now comes Phototoonist Bob Richardson with the reminder that "Maybe the Colonel took that photo . . . but he must have taken it with my Speed Graphic when my back was turned." The rest of the letter refreshes flagging memory: the Colonel's explanation to the Editor of the "lift" he got out of a homebound route that brought the scene into full view; the Editor's letter to ex-Guardsman Richardson, repeating the remark; and Richardson's forwarding of the photo that matched the conversation. It's the Colonel's inspiring view, and Bob's inspiring photo, that blended to make what we think was an inspiring cover.

Meantime, we're pleased to report that persistence pays—as it usually does. We're speaking, now, about this month's article concerning an unusual National Guard outfit, down in Louisiana's bayou country.

Upsetting as it may be to notions that all an editor has to do is sit back and haughtily accept or reject manuscripts, we'd like to note that the "Breaux Bridge" piece has been simmering for nearly three years. Our efforts to dig out a story about this colorful outfit started with a letter to Louisiana, dated 17 July 1948. The correspondence file on this one story is thicker than the story itself. Of course, we hope you agree it's worth it.

The Staff

ON THE COVER

Even a tough ol' cowpoke like 3-year-old Edward Ratigan, Jr., finds it a bit difficult to savvy what's goin' on between Pop and Mom. It will be a few years, at least, before young Eddie grasps the significance of this scene, showing Pop's outfit, Co. L of Alabama's 167th Inf., marching through Birmingham to entrain for Korean "emergency" service with the 31st "Dixie" Division. (Photo by Bob Gunthorpe, courtesy of the *Birmingham News*.)

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