To Be or Not to Be

SOMETHING more than a year ago—16 March 1951—to be exact—the Chief of Staff of the Army advanced a proposal to representatives of the National Guard Association for the retention of Army National Guard units for a period of five consecutive years, including two years of active Federal service, and after the personnel thereof had been released from further active Federal service at the end of 24 months. In so doing he supported the proposal with arguments which appeared to be valid and compelling, with emphasis on the technical reasons which, in his opinion, made such a proposal mandatory, and for which he requested the concurrence of the States concerned. With good reason, the National Guard representatives were a bit startled at the proposal and realized that any action on their part, no matter how sound, would be of no avail until the States concerned concurred. As a result it was determined to invite the State Adjutants General to attend a meeting with the Army without delay to be briefed concerning the proposal and express their concurrence or non-concurrence thereto.

On 7 April 1951, the Adjutants General of the 18 States which, at that time had 60% or more of the Army National Guard units in the active military service of the United States, and, in addition, the Adjutants General of five States which, conceivably would be affected, were met, in Washington, and after a comprehensive briefing by the representatives of the General and Special Staffs of the Army, the Adjutants General of certain States and representatives of the National Guard and Adjutants General Associations on 1-4 April 1952. Based on these conferences an agreement has been reached, subject to approval by the Chief of Staff of the Army, that such divisions and provisional units as are retained will be designated as AUS divisions and units and will carry the same designations which they now carry, while the old NGUS divisions or non-divisional units will be returned to State control at the time provided in Public Law No. 508, 81st Congress, as amended by Public Law 31, Approved 19 June 1951, and will be reorganized, generally the same manner as the Army National Guard was reorganized after the cessation of hostilities incident to World War II. It is believed that the solution advanced is the only practical and satisfactory solution for a very difficult problem and it is hoped that it will be approved by the Chief of Staff of the Army.

Dear guardsmen:

Sometimes we think we have our troubles, but they're as nothing compared with those of our neighbors in the printing plant. We have to cope only with the foibles and phobias of humans, whereas they're talking about put out dog, bird, fish and horse magazines, and if they can't run into some of the grooviest things! Like the very well housed and open-apartment-dwelling pup that has been taught how to use facilities intended strictly for its masters' convenience.

We're glad, too, we don't have to sort out the cuts and outlines made from the pictures of 60 different horses that look as alike as two fried eggs, unless you put them under intensive scrutiny. Or cope with readers who page on page after page of squiggly stuff like "Refriger Zich by Crosby Brunwick-Hope Lancaster. 3:00-20:50." Makes us feel like we're pretty fortunate after all.

Don't know whether anyone besides the Editors (and they don't count) have had the time to read it yet, but we've been dressing-up our book, bit by bit—a sort of spring housecleaning. For one thing, we got awfully tired of the cover we've been using for the past four years. So, we had a designer run-up a half-door rough, and started the new year with the one you now see.

The Contents Page has undergone a change of layout and typograph.

Our very severe departmental headings had performed their function quite satisfactorily for a long time, but we got pretty tired of them too, there. Again, it was the designers' job to come up with a variety of ideas, and we made our selections from them. We printed a few of the new heads last month, and some more make their appearance this month.

Meantime, it became apparent that the nonchalant GI on our "Going Somewhere!" change-of-address coupon never was going to send it back, so we took it out, and after all, so we retired him and introduced the "Gookie Burd," who flies from tree to tree.

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our cover
Up into the cavernous maw of a C-124 clime a 150th load truck, which will constitute only part of the enormous "Globemaster's" triple-decked load for the "Dixie" Dispatches airlift to Japan. EOR RN Mr. Douglas, who will share the ride wait to follow up the ramp, once the "six-by" is loaded. (Air Force Photo).

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