DEAR GUARDSMEN:

At last, from these different sources as widely separated as Connecticut, Oregon, and Washington, DC, the Edward Martin Library in the National Guard Museum has pieced together one complete set of the “War of the Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.”

It took many years between the close of the Civil War and the Turn of the Century for these voluminous records to be compiled and published—all 129 of the fat volumes conserved in their apparently dry, dusty pages all the elements of drama, tragedy, pathos and even humor that can be found in official orders, telegrams, messages, and maps recounting four years of strife out of which a Nation was reborn. They occupy 17½ of library shelving.

Librarian Bilda Castello counted the first incomplete set out of an official source which possession dictates should be concealed—it was one of several on hand, and bindings on many of the volumes were in poor condition. Then, a few years ago, CSWO Richard Porter of the CrossABC and Maj Alan Noyes of the Conn State Guard Res arrived for donation of another partial set from the Manasfield Guard Veteran Corps in Middletown, Conn. And just a few months ago, Maj Gen Alfred R. Hink, Oregon AG and CG of the 41st Div, brought with him in a C47 another incomplete set. That did the trick: out of the three, we've come up with one full set in "Excellent" to "Good" condition.

And may we remind: we're still scanning old military books from anyone who's in a housecleaning mood. —AGC

OUR COVER: Hill AFB, Utah, and Saltina Training Center, Puerto Rico, are far enough away—in point of time—than many a camp site was from the hometown armory in "the old days" of National Guard field training. Can it be that "BIG SLAM/PUERTO PINE," as recounted in this issue, is a mild forerunner of global training exercises for the Guardsmen of tomorrow?