The Presidents Page

FINI LA GUERRE

AFTER 44 years of continuous service in the National Guard of the United States and of the State of Minnesota of which 24 years and three months was service as the Adjutant General of Minnesota, I deemed that the time had arrived to conclude my tour of duty to the end that there would be more freedom to devote my time and efforts to National Guard Association affairs, and turn over to a grand staff which throughout the years has served the National Guard loyally, diligently and efficiently. It was particularly gratifying that the Government of Minnesota immediately appointed me to the Adjutant General of the State, a position which I had held for more than a score of years as the Assistant Adjutant General and director of all of World War II as State Director of Selective Service, which duty he discharged so effectively that he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

It was naturally with regret that I resigned my duties as Adjutant General, for it meant a severance of official relations with the National Guard of my State and with the Adjutant General Association of the United States, of which I had been a member for almost a quarter of a century.

I have had very close contact with the National Guard Association and continue to make it my intention to complete my term of office which expires this year.

It has been a rare privilege and a great experience to have served with the National Guard from almost the dawn of the Twentieth Century and witnessed its great progress and development from a force of approximately 100,000, predominantly infantry, to a mighty force of more than 300,000, completely organized, equipped with the most modern of weapons, offered by men who gained their experience in the crucible of war and standing on the very verge of the Atomic Age. It has been a great period in the history of the world and the nation and may well be the proudest part of which he played and the contributions which it has made to the security of the Nation.

CONGRESS

The 81st Congress moves toward adjournment, the National Guard Association can look back on the completion of a most successful legislative program.

Topping the list, of course, was the appropriation measure for the National Military Establishment which, as we went to press, contained a total of $331,000,000 for the National Guard—the largest appropriation in the history of the National Guard. It exceeded last year's appropriation by approximately $41,000,000 and was approximately 10 times the average annual appropriation of prewar years.

Perhaps the next most important piece of legislation was the enactment of the Disability Retirement Bill which is now Public Law 168. The National Guard Association through its Committee on Legislation also succeeded in obtaining the passage of a bill amending Public Law 10, so as to credit toward non-disability retirement service in the National Guard or Organized Militia prior to 3 June, 1919. Unfortunately this measure was vetoed by the President.

One of the more notable pieces of legislation was the enactment of the Pay Bill. For a time this measure had rather tough going, but fortunately for Service personnel, the measure was passed recently by the Senate with some minor amendments which were accepted by the House Armed Services Committee without the formality of a meeting. The enactment of this legislation will bring a long-delayed pay adjustment to all Service personnel, and will materially increase the pay of National Guard personnel when in training.

It is to be regretted that a piece of legislation of the utmost importance to the National Guard, namely the Long Range Armory Construction Program, has been set aside. Many hearings were held on the various armory construction bills but finally were unsuccessful in view of the establishment of the Civilian Components Policy Board. It is expected that the Board will report on this most important matter by the time the second session of the Congress convenes.

There still are pending measures, which are of great importance to the Armed Forces, notable among which is the so-called Authorization Bill.

Once again the National Guard Association has signaled by its Standing Committee on Legislation with Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord of Maryland as Chairman and Brig. Gen. Edward Siros of Massachusetts as Vice Chairman. This Committee has devoted an immense amount of time and effort to this legislative program and once again has been outstandingly successful.

Dear Guardians:

Guinea pigs usually offer their lives on the altar of science, but the "Guinea Pigs for Uncle Sam" lived through their experiment—and came out of it. On is the author of the article whose title we give to the preceding sentence. Robert J. Enright was inducted at about half-past 11, started an anti-aircraft gun and got caught up in the huge midwest conversion of comrades in that arm, air cadets, TD men, and so on, into doughnuts. Shortly after several at Camp Carson began his guinea pig detail. After that, the battlefield of war saw him qualify as a Prison AT gunner, but on to the POW and into a rproducto as a ration officer, and then to the Battle of the Big with the 100th in a BAR man, advancing to Signal Leader. He won the Silver Star for knocking out a kraut AT and crew at Jagstal, Germany. Before coming home, Enright got in two months at British Army University, and now he's a student journalist at Kansas University.

Maj. F. James Delbeni, "Colonel On The Firing Line," was on T/D with the Bureau for several months and you might have guessed his assignment: To write a program of competitive small arms matches for Guard units. Result of work, NGR 41, to which he refers. Major Delbeni first joined the 136th Inf. of Minnesota at Camp Robinson, Ark., last summer. He left the States last month overseas, divided between the cold of the Alaska-Alaskan and the more pleasant. He rejoined the Minnesota National Guard in October, 1944, and commanded the first company of the 136th to receive a Federal recognition. It's a safe bet that the 136th will be active in the marksmanship competition. Major Delbeni reports credit "due Capt. Clarence L. Hamm of the New-Washington National Guard for the basic research used to develop NGR 41." Glad to oblige, Major.

The National Guard Individual Training Programs, as you will know when you read "Training is The Answer," by Lt. Col. Peter A. Beery, out of the office of the Chief, Army Field Force, to make these training programs effective, National Guardsmen have been compiled and they're even now being distributed to the units. There's no question that the National Guard is "The Answer."

Because the 1st General Conference of the National Guard Association is the subject of this issue of THE NATIONAL GUARDIAN, it was not possible to include every one. The December issue will carry a complete report on the conferences and all the interest of every Guardian. We commend December's issue to your readership.

O U R C O V E R

It's always a good idea to know where you're going; or where you've been. So the compass can be a great help. Our cover shows a great compass, by thetimem is right, to explain its use to members of Hq. Co., 19th Regt. NGR 31, 3rd Squad of the outside training aid area, left to right, Sgt. Michael Hennessy, R. Archie Bunting, and Lt. E. Kenmore Kessinger, all of Superior. Armory drill time is here again, for sure.