

State Guard Here Outstanding Unit

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headquarters are: Major M. H. Bowles, adjutant and supply officer Lt. A. P. Ledbetter, Lt. Stanley Brading.

Col. Howell former head of the local unit is now in command of the Second Regimental Headquarters staff and Capt. Ralph Prevost and Capt. W. A. Bradley, both local guardsmen, are also on the staff.

In addition to the men who have been promoted in the state guard, dozens of 18-year-olds have had their first taste of what army life would be, in the ranks of the State Guard here, which has served as their initial step to military training.

A few of the original group after serving a year received an honorable discharge in routine regulations, as the men enlist for a year's duration, with the privilege of re-enlisting. The majority have re-enlisted and either remained in the unit or have gone into the regular army.

The members of the unit devote around three hours a week of intensive training, drilling on Tuesday nights at the Armory.

The unit serves as headquarters and service company for the second regiment and is also a combat unit, which is a double load of responsibility. The headquarters and service company is made up of four sections: Intelligence, Communications, Supply and Headquarters section.

From the local company, clerks are supplied to carry on the work of the entire second state regiment, also communications, intelligence and supply sections for the 20 companies in the regiment.

Captain Byrd insists that without the splendid work of the non-commissioned officers the local unit could never have reached or now maintain its high prestige.

The State Guard has taken the place of the National Guard in North Carolina, and its purpose is to preserve internal security and law and order in times of war and peace.

The local unit is ready to give every protection the home front may need, and is keeping on top toe by training so that when the emergency arises they will give the service needed.

First Lt. Ben Sloan, local contractor, and one of the original State Guard unit, attended the Gastonia School for officers and non-commissioned officers in 1942 and also the school held at Fort Bragg.

Second Lt. Tom Campbell, Jr., who was elevated to his present rank after Lt. Roy Ruff entered the Navy, attended the school at Gastonia and also the special training at Fort Bragg.

The present roster of the company as it stands today is as follows:

- Captain—Byrd, Frank C.
- 1st Lt.—Sloan, Ben J.
- 2nd Lt.—Campbell, Thomas L.
- Master Sergeant, class 1—Whitner, Carrol W.
- 1st Sergeant, class 1—Messer Guy W.
- Sergeants, class 3—Lemmings, Rufus C., Moody, Willard L.
- Sergeants, class 4—Bradley, Sam A., Bridges, Marion T., Williams, Robert G.
- Sergeant Tech., class 4—Sherrill, Willie D.
- Corporals, class 5—Howell, Robert W., Lowe, Kenneth P., Miller, William D., Snyder, Jack H.
- Private First Class, class 6—Calhoun, Sum L., Constance, Robert H., Garrett, Noble W., Mehaffey, William D., Miller, Linuel E.
- Private, class 7—Curtis, Bruce V., Frazier, Thomas E., Gibson, Robert H., Gifford, Robert L., Hannah, Wingate E., Hyatt, Charles F., Isley, Charles L., Kirkpatrick, Albert, Leatherwood, Robert J., Leatherwood, Sam, Pressley, Vaughn J., Rathbone, James G., Teague, Charles R., Wyatt, Andy A.

Commander

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the State Guard at a banquet given in honor of General Jenkins by the local headquarters and service company last year.

That, too, is the opinion of the members of the Second Regiment, composed of companies from all over Western North Carolina as far east as Charlotte and beyond. Seasoned in the first World War in which he commanded a battalion in the 30th Division, Colonel Howell has demonstrated coolness of judgment and a knowledge of handling men in difficult circumstances that has won him the respect and confidence of the members of his regiment.

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State Guardsmen Enjoy Benefits Of Guard Training

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just march right into the Major's office, salute and give it to him or to the other guy in the office called his adjutant.

Going over to the General's office, we are a lot more respectful. We knock before we go in, give him the best snappy salute in the book, hand him the stuff we've got and get out quick. That place has too many guys in it with bars and leaves, and two or three with birds on; if I stayed around there long I'd salute every three minutes until my arm snapped off or I went to bed with a disjointed shoulder.

We do a lot of the things Joe says made him a sergeant quick like. Down at Bragg we went around the post and saw a lot of airplanes and Waacs—boy, boy.

And one afternoon we watched an Army lieutenant put on a tear gas show. And once we got out on the firing range and fired those new fangled automatic rifles. Boy, you could sure kill rabbits with them if you could hold 'em down. And we learned some about marching too.

Joe says that all the marchin' 'n' stuff he learned put him in better condition for the regular army life, and I guess I'll be ready too. But in the meantime I'm looking to that time at Fort Bragg again this year—a vacation with pay—and marching and saluting and stuff.

Why The N. C. State Guard

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officers have given of their time unreservedly. In this connection it is pertinent and proper to state how the guard has met and carried out its responsibilities. In 44 states, the territories of Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Alaska approximately 150,000 guardsmen have been enrolled. Since 1941, the date of organization they have responded to many calls. Immediately following Pearl Harbor, they were called into service on the west coast and in some states on the east and patrolled the coast until the army could relieve them; they have guarded mines and done rescue work in mines and flooded areas; fought forest fires and done guard duty in connection therewith; put down race riots in several sections in all of which service they have received the commendation of all concerned.

Another very important service which they have performed and which has been highly commended has been the training given men subject to service in the army and who have been called. How many of these have gone through the guard is not known; but army officers state that these men are more easily oriented in the army and have received more rapid advancement because of the training in the basic course. Many are now in actual command of units in action. Approximately one hundred men have passed through one unit in this section—and of that number seventy are now commissioned officers. We of the guard who have given our time and thought to it feel that if we have done nothing else, we have been of some service to our country.

Now why is this publicity and why are we appealing to the men who are at home to join the Guard. Originally men between the ages of 18 and 45 were eligible, and the younger men took advantage of the opportunity. Now those who were available for service in the armed forces have been activated and it has been necessary to raise the age limit to 50 and to secure recruits from those who are not subject to service in the armed forces. It may be argued that conditions are not the same now as when the guard was organized; that the danger of invasion-paratroopers and other action of enemies have passed. That may be true, however, we do not know it. However, that may be, the maintenance of law; the suppression of disorders; the protection of life and property are of as vital importance to your home and your state today as they have ever been. They are the things for which those men who have gone before are fighting and it is our duty to see that they are here when they return. I was deeply impressed by the answer of an enlisted man in a unit being inspected by Major Bowles recently. We were passing down the line Major Bowles doing the inspecting. I had noticed this man before getting to him, his apparent age. Major Bowles took his gun; found it in perfect condition, and said to him, "How long have you been in the guard?" "Six weeks, sir." "Why did you join?" "Because I could not serve in the army, I wanted to do my part and help protect my home and family, sir." These are the men to whom William L. Brittain refers in his article in the March issue of the American Legion Magazine Monthly, entitled, "The Home Front Guardian," as follows: "The State Guard of the sovereign states, direct descendants of the fighting militia of America's youth, are carrying on, despite public apathy; despite misunder-

Maneuvering It



This detail of members of the North Carolina State Guard is shown crossing the bed of a dry stream while on tactical maneuvers in a Fort Bragg wooded area where last July all State Guardsmen encamped for 10 days of active army life. The State Guard will go to Fort Bragg again this year, in July, for another 10-day active training period. (U. S. Army Photo).

Waynesville Unit Is Backbone Of Second Regiment

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Through this section pass all the rations and supplies for the entire regiment. They conduct and manage the regimental store room to which the battalion supply officer must come to secure their daily rations for feeding their men. A representative of this section is also supposed to receive the supplies of ammunition for the firing range and issue it to the battalions as they use the range. Staff Sergeant Guy Messer had direct charge of this section at Fort Bragg. Lt. Roy Ruff (now in the navy) was the officer in charge. It was also his duty to supervise operation of the regimental mess hall on the alternate days that the Second Regiment prepared the mess for the headquarters of both regiments. Mess Sergeant Rufus Lemings had direct charge of the mess.

Because of these duties the members of the local company have the opportunity of seeing the regiment as a whole. There is a responsibility that no other company in the Western part of the state has. Each man can be proud of the fact that he has therefore an exceptional opportunity of serving his state and nation.

standing of their mission and an occasional charge of political manipulation, despite a chronic lack of equipment, they go on doing an unsung but vital job in winning the war. They can do no more."

More Men Needed By Local Guard

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men their work will be quickly rewarded by promotion. Men who know that the training develops them physically and makes them more alert mentally, if need be, gives them a greater chance for advancement if called into the armed forces. Men who are willing to give themselves not only for their own protection but also for the protection of the loved ones of the men on the fighting fronts.

MEN—the State Guard meets at the Armory every Tuesday night at 7:30.

8th Battalion Head

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State of North Carolina was made by Major (then captain) Madison H. Bowles at the State Guard Officers Training School at Fort Benning, Ga., last spring. Better known locally as the acting superintendent of schools in Haywood county, Major Bowles enlisted as a private in 1941 and is now commander of the Eighth Battalion of the North Carolina State Guard. The Eighth Battalion is composed of companies in Canton, Asheville, ganton. Major Bowles established anton. Major Bowles established himself as a commander in the field as well as in the class room at Fort Bragg last July, where the Eighth Battalion was outstanding in conduct on the parade grounds and on maneuvers.

State Guard Has Congratulations On 3rd Birthday

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tion a superior record.

Citizens enlisted in the State Guard are rendering the finest type of patriotic service to their community, state and nation. They carry on the domestic economy, which is the life blood of a nation at war, and make the additional sacrifice necessary to qualify themselves to preserve the integrity of our government by maintaining law and order and protecting life and property within the state.

The efficiency and general excellence of the North Carolina State Guard is such that it has been included by the Federal Government, not only in its internal security plans, but in plans for repelling invasion, should an organized enemy appear within the state.

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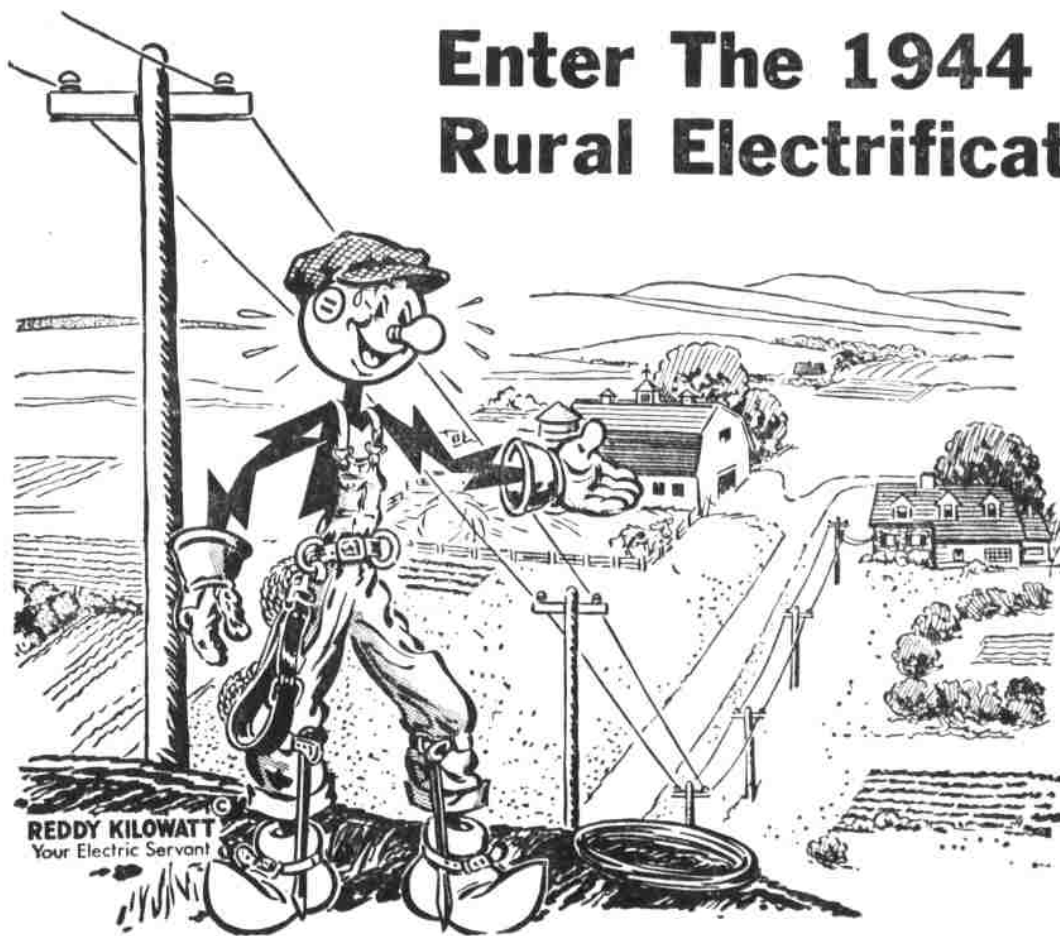
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