

State Guard OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION IS ORGANIZED

Purpose: To battle for the best interests of the Texas State Guard and every man who serves in it.

BY now it is no longer news that the Texas State Guard Officers' Association has been formed, and is working with all its might and main for the best interests of the Texas State Guard.

But for the record, and for the information of those officers who have not yet become members, here is a summing up of what has happened so far.

After months of labor by officers who saw the important value of an association such as this, a constitution and by-laws were adopted and officers elected at a meeting held at the Austin Hotel in Austin on March 28.

Aims of Association

The purposes of the association were expressed as follows:

"(1) To support and assist in the development and execution of a military policy for the United States which will provide adequate National Defense.

"(2) To provide a forum in which the problems and policies of the Texas State Guard can be discussed; and

"(3) To promote acquaintance and goodfellowship among the officers of the Texas State Guard."

Membership was defined as follows:

"(1) ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP. Any person holding a commission in the Texas State Guard shall be eligible for active membership.

"(2) ASSOCIATIVE MEMBERSHIP. Any person holding a commission in the Armed Forces of the United States (except those eligible for active membership) shall be eligible for associative membership with all the rights and privileges of active membership, except those of voting."

The affairs of the association are to be governed by an annual convention of its members, the first of which will be held August 15 at San Antonio. Only members who are present at the convention may vote.

Officers Are Elected

Officers elected at Austin were: president, Maj. Donald W. Peacock, commanding 2nd Training and Research Unit, San Antonio; vice-president, Capt. James F. Ewers, S-1 31st Battalion, Mission; adjutant, Major Charles O. Betts, commanding 5th Battalion, Austin; finance officer, Major James M. Cumby, commanding 35th Battalion, Dallas; chairman of the



Officers of the association are, left to right, top row: Maj. Donald W. Peacock, San Antonio, president; Capt. James F. Ewers, Mission, vice-president; Maj. Lloyd M. Bentsen, Mission, chairman of the board of directors, and Maj. James M. Cumby, Dallas, finance officer. Immediately above is Maj. Charles O. Betts, Austin, adjutant.

Board of Directors, Maj. Lloyd M. Bentsen, commanding 31st Battalion, Mission. The board of directors is composed of all of the captains in the Texas State Guard, who are members of the association. The affairs of the association, between conventions, are to be administered by the board of directors acting as an executive committee.

Standing committees appointed at the Austin meeting were:

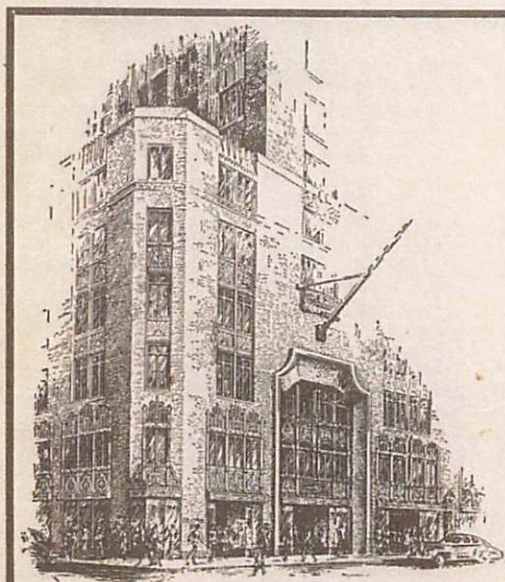
Legislative committee: Maj. Lloyd M. Bentsen, chairman; Maj. Charles O. Betts, Capt. James F. Ewers; Capt. Jacob Harris, San Antonio; Maj. Edward D. Konken, Houston; Maj. Robert E. Bride, El Paso; Maj. Bernard F. McLane, Dallas; Maj. Brian Montague, Del Rio; Maj. Joseph W. Pyron, Odessa; Maj. Louis J. Roberts, Borger, and Maj. E. A. Vance, Texarkana.

President's Committee Named

President's advisory committee: Maj. Edward D. Konken, Maj. Samuel R. Haggard, Houston; Maj. James B. Taylor, Mercedes; Capt. Harry J. Harris, Benito, and Capt. Clyde S. Dougherty, San Antonio.

Constitution and by-laws committee: Capt. James F. Ewers, chairman; Maj. James B. Taylor, Maj. Edward D. Konken, Maj. Samuel R. Haggard, and Capt. Carlos G. Watson, Brownsville.

Major Haggard was selected managing director of THE TEXAS GUARDSMAN.



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NAME CHANGED TO "STATE GUARD"

TEXAS LEGISLATURE AUTHORIZES SUBSTITUTION OF "STATE" FOR "DEFENSE" IN TEXAS DEFENSE GUARD NAME

WITH the passage of House Bill 585 by the 48th Texas Legislature, the change of name of the Texas Defense Guard to the "Texas State Guard" was at long last accomplished. The bill got in under the wire in the Senate just four days before the Legislature adjourned.

The name change is the product of the work of the Legislative Committee of the Texas State Guard Officers' Association, assisted by Maj. Charles O. Betts, association adjutant, Maj. Donald W. Peacock, association president, and others who spent many wearying days at the state capitol.

The bill was written by Col. Clark C. Wren, former Judge Advocate of Texas, and his staff.

The bill has been signed by the Governor, and is now law. The Adjutant General's Department will issue the necessary directives for effecting the change of name throughout the Guard organization. Gov. Coke Stevenson and Adj. Gen. Arthur B. Knickerbocker approved the change from the outset.

Of the 42 states which now have state military forces, an overwhelming majority use the name "State Guard." This is the official reference used by the War Department and the U. S. Army.

It will be recalled that the Texas Defense Guard was authorized and organized at a time when it seemed desirable to disguise any "war" effort with the word "defense." Under present circumstances this is obviously no longer necessary.

CHANGE OF NAME WILL NECESSITATE NEW PATCH AND INSIGNIA

House Bill No. 585 changing the name of Texas Defense Guard to Texas State Guard necessitates the adoption of a new shoulder patch and new service coat insignia.

The Adjutant General's Department has asked Major Donald W. Peacock, as President of the Texas State Guard Officers' Association, to investigate available designs for shoulder patches and insignia and to survey the preferences of officers of the State Guard.

Major Peacock reports that first choice of those contacted is the center of the present Texas Defense Guard patch, providing no lettering is required. However, it appears to be absolutely certain that the War Department will not approve this patch unless the word "Texas" appears with it.

The ideal solution to the requirement for a new patch, is to cut the center

from the present patch and throw away the white circle containing the words "Texas Defense Guard." But the War Department probably will require the use of the word "Texas" and, to use the old patch to make this new patch would require cutting out the center of the old patch—then cutting the word "Texas" from the white circle—and then trying to sew these two separate pieces back on the shirt or service coat, with the word "Texas" centered over the star.

This sounds easy, but those who have attempted it have found it difficult, and the result has a makeshift appearance. Furthermore, a uniformity of patches is unlikely and the danger of raveling will always be present.

It is agreed, however, that this makeshift patch might serve as a temporary one until a permanent new patch is approved by the War Department. It is believed that special authority from the War Department would not be needed to alter the old patch, as described above, to be worn pending adoption, manufacture and delivery of new patches.

The new patch most favored, since we cannot use the center of the present patch without lettering, is a blue "T" superimposed over a small white star on a dark red shield, thus retaining our colors red, white and blue. This is a very attractive patch, and it is believed that the War Department would approve it, having approved a slightly similar patch for the 36th Division of the Texas National Guard many years ago. As most of you know, their patch is simply the letter "T" on an arrow-head.

While this proposed patch is reproduced herewith, it must be seen in its true colors to really be appreciated. Major Peacock is having enough reproductions of this patch printed in actual colors for distribution to every Battalion Commander, who will be requested to take a survey of his own officers, and then advise Major Peacock of their preference.

Of course, it is agreed that adapting the old patch would be a saving, but it is also believed that the majority of the personnel of the Texas State Guard would be only too happy to purchase new patches if a new design is approved. It is assumed that this proposed new patch could be obtained for not more than 25c each, and probably much less.

About insignia for service coats, it seems to be unanimous among those contacted that the T.D.G. insignia should be replaced with the letters "TEX" blocked close together instead of the letters "T.S.G.," which would require periods and wide spacing.

Samples of the "TEX" have already been obtained and submitted to the Adjutant General's Department for consideration. The abbreviation "TEX" speaks for itself, and could be worn on the disc by enlisted men and as outline letters by officers.

AN INTERPRETATION OF HOUSE BILL 585

By

Edgar F. Smith, Major JAGD., T.S.G.

If there was ever any doubt of the necessity of Texas State Guard Officers' Association that doubt was removed during the recent session of the Legis-

lature. With full knowledge of the fact I know that H. B. 585 would not have been enacted into law, except for the fact that it was sponsored by the Association. In securing the enactment of H. B. 585, Majors Donald W. Peacock, Charles O. Betts, Lloyd M. Benson, Captain James F. Ewers and others gave freely of their time and effort.

The old Texas Defense Guard was a legal monstrosity. It did not make the Guard a part of the militia of Texas; there were no definite provisions governing its training, discipline or its use when called into active service of the State. Its status as a military organization was in every respect doubtful.

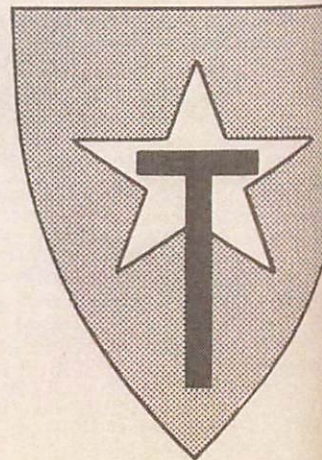
Lt. Col. Clark C. Wren, former Judge Advocate General of Texas, realized the defects in the old law undertaken the task as long ago as last October of making the Guard a part of the militia of Texas. It was not an easy task. It was necessary to rewrite practically all of the Texas Defense Guard Act, 1941, to amend several general laws, to make other general laws applicable to the Guard. Calling to the assistance the lawyers on his staff, Colonel Wren, after much legal brawling, correspondence and conference, drafted what afterwards became H. B. 585.

Under the provisions of H. B. 585 the name of the Texas Defense Guard changed to Texas State Guard, which makes its name conform to similar organizations in the other states. The Texas State Guard is made the act

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