

McHugh Relates National Guard Advantages

To the Editor:
With the current uprisings in the middle East and Europe, the threat of war is once again a dominant factor in everyday life. Each day more young men between the ages of 17 and 29 are faced with the realization that they may be drafted from their civilian occupations into active military service.

Not wishing to interrupt their training for civilian occupations or plans for school, more men are turning each day to the reserve components of the United States Army, Navy, and Marines. These reserve components aid them in fulfilling their military obligations while continuing with civilian life and schooling. One of the most important organizations in this category, both locally and nationally, is the National Guard.

THE NATIONAL Guard of the United States is one of the oldest military organizations in American history. The original National Guardsmen were the famed Minutemen of the American revolution. Since that time the National Guard has served with honor at every major battlefront in every war involving the United States. Presidents George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Harry S. Truman were all Members of the National Guard.

Today the National Guard has more to offer the young man between the ages of 17 and 18, than ever before. On the job training is offered to further the training of men for civilian occupations. Time spent as a member of the Guard is applied to the man's military obligation, and while a member of the Guard he is exempt from the draft, allowing him to carry on with his civilian plans

uninterrupted by a period of service in the Armed forces. For those scholastically inclined and hopeful for a military career, the Guard offers possibility of appointment to West Point.

THE WORK of the National Guard is not entirely as a reserve of the Army. The National Guard is on constant alert in the case of emergency in the state where it is located. The Alabama National Guard was recently called upon to help quell the uprisings over the segregation issue in the South. Many Michigan National Guardsmen were called for aid in the cleaning up after the Flint tornado in 1952, and the Michigan Guardsmen are always seen directing traffic at crowded intersections during national holiday weekends.

The National Guard needs men. Applicants to the National Guard are carefully screened and tested for aptitude, intelligence, and integrity. All branches of the United States Army have National Guard units, depending upon the Applicant's interests. The most versatile branch of the Michigan National Guard is the artillery, which offers advancement in a wide variety of fields.

BATTERY "B", of the 177th field artillery battalion is such an organization, composed largely of young men from Birmingham and surrounding communities. Many vacancies are open to capable young men in administrative, mechanical, mathematical, and specialized fields. The organization trains from 8-10 p.m., Thursdays, and attends a two week field training period in Grayling each summer.

Right now is the time for young men to enter the National Guard. It enables them to start fulfilling their military obligation while still in high school, or allows them to pursue their occupation free from

worry of the draft. QUESTIONS concerning the National Guard, its advantages, and possibilities, will be answered at the Detroit Artillery Armory, 15,

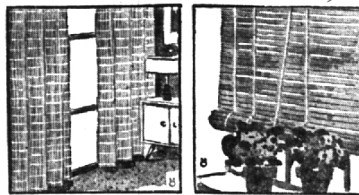
Greenfield, or by telephoning Sgt. Andrews at JO 4-8968. RICHARD McHUGH, Assistant Recruiter, Battery B-177, Michigan National Guard

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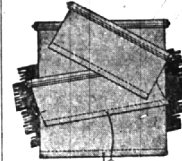
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