

# The FLANGO

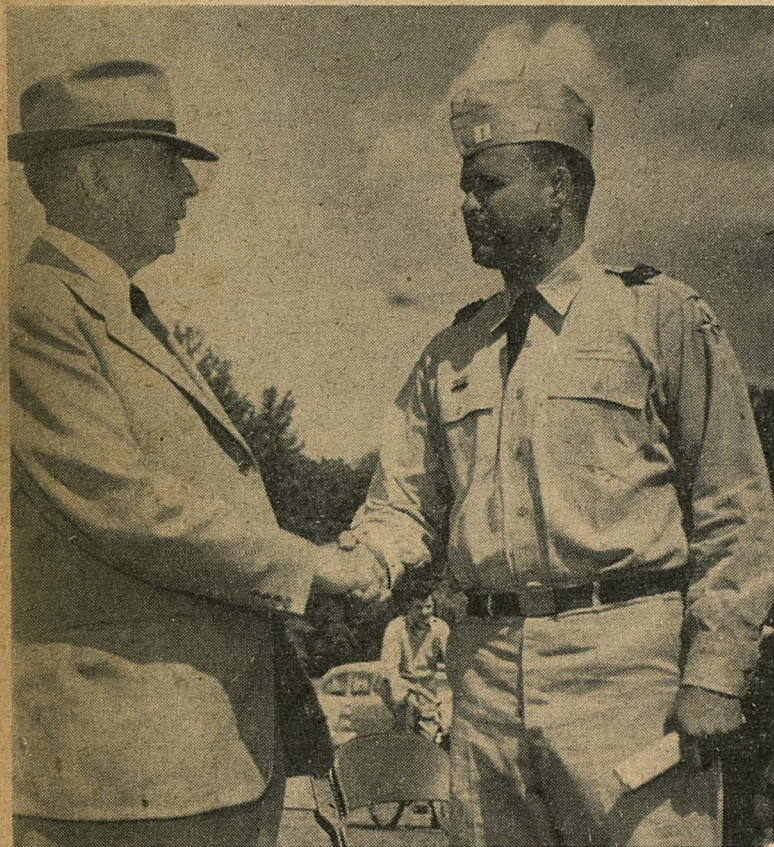
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Lt. Gen. Albert H. Blanding (Ret.) congratulates Captain Edwin P. Stewart, Commanding Officer Company G, 124th Infantry, at Gainesville, Florida, where the General was guest of honor at the Military Ball held by the ROTC, University of Florida on 20 March 1955. Some one hundred National Guardsmen took part in the ROTC Parade.

General Blanding attended the East Florida Seminary, (Present University of Florida), and graduated as Cadet First Lieutenant in 1894.

He served as an enlisted man in the Gainesville Guards, Florida State Troops, from 1895 until the unit was disbanded. In 1899, he was commissioned a Captain in the National Guard of Florida. Promoted to Major in 1906, Lt. Col. in 1908, Col. in 1909, He was commanding Officer of the Second Florida Infantry in Mexican Border Service from June, 1916-March, 1917.

He entered the Federal Service in 1917 and was appointed a Brigadier General by the President on August 30, 1917. Going overseas in command of the 186th Infantry Brigade, 93rd Provisional Division, in April, 1918, he was at the front three days after his arrival in France. General Blanding remained in France throughout the war and was discharged in March, 1919. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed General Blanding Chief of the War Department's National Guard Bureau.

General Blanding was born at Lyons, Iowa, but his family moved to a farm near Gainesville, Florida, when he was two years old.

In 1908, he married Miss Mildred Hale, a native of Georgia, who was then living at Bartow, Florida.

When he was discharged from the regular Army after WWI, General Blanding accepted a position with the Consolidated Naval Stores Co. In 1922, he resigned to become an executive in the Florida Citrus Exchange. He retired in 1933.

Camp Blanding is named in his honor.

## Many Officers And Wives Enjoy 53rd Annual Conference

### Lt. Colonel Wiley Snyder Is President-Elect

The 53rd Annual Conference of the National Guard Officers Association of Florida held in Clearwater on 16-17 April was acclaimed by all who attended as the best ever. Hotel accommodations were excellent, the food and frolic most enjoyable. The local committee did an outstanding job in making the conference a success. Ladies entertainment, which included free bingo and a fashion show on Saturday and tour of Tarpon Springs and the Sea-Orama on Sunday was largely attended and thoroughly enjoyed by the officers' wives and guests.

During the first session on Saturday, Major General George G. Finch, Commander Fourteenth Air Force; Major General Robert G. Gard, Deputy Commander, Third Army; Brigadier General Winston P. Wilson, Chief Air Force Division, National Guard Bureau; and Colonel Mark Galusha of the National Guard Association of the United States spoke to the members. Following the speechmaking, a cocktail party at the new Clearwater Armory, and the annual banquet and dance at the Fort Harrison Hotel was attended by 320 members and guests.

A tabulation of the registration cards showed that 373 persons were registered for the conference. The second session opened on Sunday with a 15 minute non-sectarian religious service which was followed by committee reports, action on resolutions, and finally the election of officers for the ensuing year. Major Leon A. Moore Jr., 1954-55 president turned the gavel over to the 1954-55 President-Elect, Lt. Colonel William P. Simmons Jr., who assumed the office of President for the year 1955-56. Newly elected officers of the Executive Council were: Lt. Colonel John W. Snyder, President-Elect; Brig. General Robert G. White; Colonel Robert A. Ballary; Lt. Colonel Norris L. Reynolds; and Lt. Robert E. Williams. Lt. Colonel Charles F. Riggle Jr., was reappointed Secretary-Treasurer by the Executive Council, and Major Moore became the Immediate Past-President.

## Daytona Beach Unit Awarded Trophy

Chief, National Guard Bureau has announced the winners of "The Pershing Trophy Awards" for Calendar Year 1954.

Battery D, 148th AAA Battalion (AW) (SP), with station at Daytona Beach, has been declared the Winning Unit for the Third Army Area for having attained a figure of merit of 94.06 per cent.

The Pershing Trophy, in the

form of a plaque, was presented to the State Adjutant General at the Adjutants General Annual Conference in Washington in April, by the National Rifle Association of the United States, and will be awarded to the Winning Unit during the Field Training Period. The Trophy will be awarded for permanent possession by the winning Unit.

### Calendar Of Events

- 12-26 June 55 — Field Training, 51st Inf. Div., Ft. McClellan, Ala.
- 12-26 June 55 — Field Training, Air National Guard, Travis Field, Ga.
- 3-17 July 55 — Field Training, 51st Armored Units, Camp Stewart, Ga.
- 24 Jul-7 Aug 55 — Field Training, AAA Units & 48th Armored Units, Camp Stewart, Ga.
- 14-28 Aug. 55 — Field Training, 48th Inf. Div., Fort McClellan, Ala.
- August 55 — National Matches, Camp Perry, Ohio
- September 55 — Opening 1955-56, Small Bore N.R.A. Tournament.
- September 55 — Taliaferro Trophy Match and Individual Rifle Championship Match.
- October 55 — Annual Convention, N. G. Off. Assn., New Orleans, La.