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Recommended Citation
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THE NEW SOUTHERN CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD

105 GUARD UNITS PLANNED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

By W. D. WORKMAN, JR.

Brigadier General James C. Dozier
The Adjutant General
South Carolina.

The postwar South Carolina National Guard will number 12,146 officers and men, almost triple its 1940 strength, and will be distributed among 112 communities in the state. Heretofore only 65 localities have had National Guard or State Guard units.

Plans for the future of the National Guard in South Carolina are marred by only one circumstance, and that a matter of sentiment rather than of material consequence. The 30th Division, long famous in South Carolina military history, is lost to the state and will in the future be divided between North Carolina and Tennessee. The famed "Old Hickory Division" formerly comprised troops from North and South Carolina, and Tennessee. It set a record of extraordinary exploits in both World Wars and was commended in numerous individual and organizational citations.

Last year, during the division's inactivation at Fort Jackson, the historic infantry division was commended by General Jacob C. Devers, commanding the Army Ground Forces, in a citation which included this paragraph:

"The 30th has fought courageously and relentlessly, in keeping with the finest traditions of our country. I am proud that, on behalf of your fellow countrymen, I have this opportunity to commend your officers and men for their devotion and self-sacrifice in the victory over tyranny."

The division was rated first in efficiency and effectiveness of operations by army officers conducting historical studies of divisions and their operations in the European theater.

Despite the loss of the division, South Carolina's historic battle units will retain their identity within the National Guard troops designated for this state. In particular will this apply to such renowned units as the Washington Light Infantry and the Sumter Guards, of Charleston; the Butler Guards, of Greenville, and other similar companies long identified with South Carolina communities. Furthermore, the 118th Infantry Regiment will retain its South Carolina significance, although within a new division.

Besides the 118th Infantry, the following South Carolina units will retain their historic designations under the new establishment: the 263rd Coast Artillery Regiment; the 178th Field Artillery Battalion, and the 107th Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion.

For the first time in its National Guard history, South Carolina will have an aviation unit. The combat air unit will be the 157th Fighter Squadron, to be based at the Congaree Air Base (formerly used by the Marine Corps) in lower Richland county. Although the fighter squadron will comprise only 32 officers and 96 enlisted men, service and other auxiliary troops will bring the total air force strength to 350 officers and men.

Bulk of the National Guard troops in South Carolina under the new plan will be units of the 51st Infantry Division. Slightly more than two-thirds of the division will be made up of South Carolina troops, with the balance being drawn from Florida. Georgia will have two-thirds of the 48th Division, again with the balance being drawn from Florida.

Brigadier General James C. Dozier, adjutant general for South Carolina and a Medal of Honor winner as a member of the 30th Division in the first World War, says the South Carolina State Guard will continue to function until it is replaced by the reactivated National Guard. The State Guard, established by an Act of the South Carolina General Assembly in October of 1940, has had a Tables of Organization strength of 546 officers and 6,170 enlisted men. Average attendance at the non-paid weekly drills of these volunteers has been about 5,000.

Deactivation of the State Guard likely will be by units when National Guard units are re-established in the various communities of the state. Many municipalities and localities not now represented by either National Guard or State Guard units have requested units under the new plan, General Dozier said. Officer personnel for the National Guard units will be drawn from National Guard offi-
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202nd Medical Battalion—45 officers, 2 warrant officers, 335 men.
228th Antiaircraft Artillery Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery—13 officers, 48 men.
713th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion (Semimobile—Type A)—28 officers, 2 warrant officers, 481 men.
107th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (Self-Propelled)—37 officers, 2 warrant officers, 532 men.
678th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (Semimobile)—37 officers, 2 warrant officers, 598 men.
383rd Radar Maintenance Unit (Type C)—1 officer, 3 men.
263rd Coast Artillery Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (Separate)—11 officers, 2 warrant officers, 53 men.
248th Coast Artillery Battery (12-inch)—4 officers, 138 men.
249th Coast Artillery Battery (90-mm. anti-motor torpedo boat)—3 officers, 90 men.
966th Coast Artillery Battery (90-mm. anti-motor torpedo boat)—3 officers, 90 men.
3649th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company—6 officers, 123 men.
95th Army Ground Forces Band—1 warrant officer, 22 men.
246th Army Ground Forces Band—1 warrant officer, 22 men.
157th Fighter Squadron—32 officers, 98 men.
157th Fight Squadron Utility Flight—6 officers, 29 men.
Detachment B, 216th Air Service Group (Fighter)—9 officers, 168 men.
157th Weather Station (Type A)—3 officers, 5 men.