

We have received lately numerous reports about the Thirty Sixth division comprised principally of the Texas National Guard. These reports are that there is a lack of discipline; many of the higher officers political appointees and either incompetent or not as competent as the present situation demands; that some of these higher officers were out campaigning in the recent senatorial campaign instead of directing their units and that the division does not compare favorably with that of the Oklahoma and New Mexico National Guard stationed at Camp Berkeley. One instance cited was that a recent maneuver scheduled to start at 5:30 A. M. was held up until after 10:00 A.M. because of the delayed arrival of some commanding officer.

People who bring us these reports, of course, insist that we investigate them and publish something about the situation in order to bring about correction or improvement. We realize that no fair appraisal could be made by other than a qualified military expert and there is none on our staff. Furthermore, we take little or no stock in such reports, realizing that all army camps seethe with gossip and that few higher officers ever appear competent to the rank and file; that no other unit ever amounts to much save that with which the complainant is identified.

But it has occurred to me that it might be well to find out from the real source how this division and its officers are regarded so that, if necessary, we can answer such complaints when they come to us for as fantastic as

#2

I regard some of these accusations I do not believe their circulation does the division any good, and if continued will have an upsetting effect upon the parents of the men in it. Hence this letter.

Would it be possible, without disclosing the source of this inquiry, to find out how this division and its officers rate with the War Department and how it compares with other divisions? With this information we might, without any publicity whatever, be able to refute these complaints when they come to us and relieve those who appear disturbed.