PRESIDENT A. NOVOTNY
since 1948 a member of the Presidium of the Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters.

He is also author of the successful book FROM BUZULUK TO PRAGUE, and works actively in the National Assembly and in the Military History Institute, and maintains a close contact with youth.

On March 30th 1968 he was elected President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. He was supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. In August 1968 he became a member of the CC KSC and member of its Presidium. In latter 1968 and early 1969 he became a member of the Executive Committee of the Presidium of the CC KSC.

Ludvik Svoboda is the bearer of high honors. He was the first to be awarded the title of HERO OF THE CSSR in 1965. It was again awarded to him in 1970. He holds the Klement Gottwald Order for Building the Socialist Homeland; twice awarded the Order of the Republic; the Order of the White Lion, FOR VICTORY, 1st Class; the Order of the Slovak National Uprising; the Order of February 25th 1948; three War Crosses from the First World War and three more from the Second World War.

He was awarded the International Lenin Prize "for strengthening peace among nations" for the years 1968-1969.

In 1965 he was awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union, he has two Orders of Lenin and two Orders of Suvorov; Order of the Red Star (1955); he was awarded the Romanian Order "Defence of the Homeland, 1st Class (1960); the Czechoslovak Peace Prize - 1968, the Polish State Award, the Grand Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta 1969; the Grand Cross of the Finnish Order of the White Rose with Chain, 1969, the Soviet Commemorative Medal for the 25th Anniversary of Victory over Fascism, 1970, the highest Afghanistan Order ALMARE-ALA, 1970, the Soviet Order of the October Revolution, on his 75th Birthday, 1970, the Order of Banner of the Hungarian People's Republic 1st Class, wet with diamonds, 1971; Medal of Friendship of the Mongolian People's Republic, 1972, Order of the Victorious February, on its 25th Anniversary, 1973, and many other distinctions, medals and orders awarded by Czechoslovakia and the fraternal socialist countries and other States.

Ludvik Svoboda is closely linked with the national liberation struggle of the Czech and Slovak peoples during World War I, with the struggle against fascism alongside the Soviet Army and people during World War II, and with the victory of socialism in Czechoslovakia the construction of the country under the leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

The photograph of the other uniformed gentleman is the President A. Novotny in 1968. While no biographical material accompanied the photograph from the official Czech agency which provided them it can be seen that on his right side he wear some readily identifiable orders, two Soviet, the White Lion, the Polish Virtuti Military and under his right arm the British Order of the Bath and the French Legion of Honor. To his far right under the Russian Order is the Yugoslav partisan badge.

It is through many long months of waiting and much correspondence that these photographs and information are made available to the readers of the MEDAL COLLECTOR. Since most of the countries in the Soviet sphere are rather reluctant to release anything it is rather an accomplishment to secure these representative photographs.

General Frank Dennis is a indefatigable searcher and correspondent who goes after the information that is rarely found in current publications. In addition to collecting medals, Gen, Dennis also has a fine collection of military headgear to high-ranking officers. He is also a researcher in the field of Marshals Batons.
NGAUS Awards Program

EVER since the Continental Congress authorized America's first medal, honoring General Washington's regular and militia forces for the liberation of Boston in 1776, American military men have received awards for extraordinary service. Their medals rarely were struck in precious gold, as was the award presented to Washington and his men for "their wise and spirited conduct in the siege of Boston," but they brought deserved recognition for outstanding contributions just the same.

In generous wartime service alongside active forces, and for contributions during peacetime, militia and National Guardsmen have earned a bountiful share of decorations — from Good Conduct Medals to the Medal of Honor — from a government representing a grateful people. In addition, they have received many awards from public-spirited organizations, such as the National Guard Association of the United States, that want to recognize superior contributions to national defense.

This year, as in the past, every Guardsman in the nation is eligible for recognition by the NGAUS for his or her exceptional service. All it takes is a well-documented description of the contribution, placed in the hands of the NGAUS Awards Committee, and approved by its Executive Council. Last year, 30 awards were presented to as many individuals for acts of heroism and exceptional service by selfless Guardsmen, and several nominations have been received already.

Criteria for the awards and guidance on preparation and submission of nominations, due at the NGAUS not later than April 1 this year, were sent to the adjutants general and presidents of state National Guard associations in January for further distribution to the field. However, since all Guardsmen can make recommendations for one of the awards, and because guidance sometimes gets lost in the "papermill," you may want to review the criteria outlined briefly in this article.

Then, if you believe someone you know is eligible for an award, you can check that person's achievements against the actual rules as outlined in the NGAUS Awards Program, and just as importantly, review the requirements for nominating your candidate for an award.

This brings up an important, but often ignored point. Fairly complete, factual documentary evidence of an individual's contributions or heroic act is required. A few ounces of concisely detailed facts, supported by eyewitness reports, news clippings, photographs, etc., are worth tons of flowery generalizations in nominations. As described in the NGAUS Awards Program, there is simply no substitute for good evidence.

NGAUS awards which are available to individual Guardsmen are as follows:

**VALLEY FORGE CROSS**

Any member of the National Guard is eligible to receive this award, presented for a voluntary act of heroism that clearly is beyond "what reasonably might have been expected from most persons under similar circumstances," and for which he would not have been subjected to criticism if he had not performed the act. In addition, performance of the act must have placed the nominee in great personal jeopardy of losing his own life or limb.

Normally this award is presented for an attempt, successful or unsuccessful, to save another person's life. However, it is also authorized for "acts intended to alleviate widespread public suffering or preserve public property which is absolutely essential in the maintenance of the public welfare, safety and well-being, provided that the nominee's own life was placed in great danger by his voluntary actions."

It's important to note that the guidelines specifically state that there is no requirement that a Guardsman be on training status when his heroic act is performed. In other words, whether on duty or not when the heroic act occurred, the Guardsman is eligible for consideration.

Nominations carefully prepared in accordance with the NGAUS Awards Program should be forwarded through the adjutant general of your state to the NGAUS Awards Committee. Every Guardsman is encouraged to nominate likely candidates.

**MERITORIOUS SERVICE**

Any National Guardsman who accomplishes an outstanding achievement on behalf of the National Guard or the National Guard Association of the United States is eligible for the Meritorious Service Award. Outstanding service on a sustained basis or a significant single achievement qualifies an individual for the award. However, superior performance of duties that are customary to the position and experience of an individual does not meet the criteria for this award.

Although there have been some notable exceptions, past recipients of this award have made substantial contributions to both the National Guard and the NGAUS. Service to the NGAUS has included highly productive membership on committees or study groups, exceptional contributions of professional