

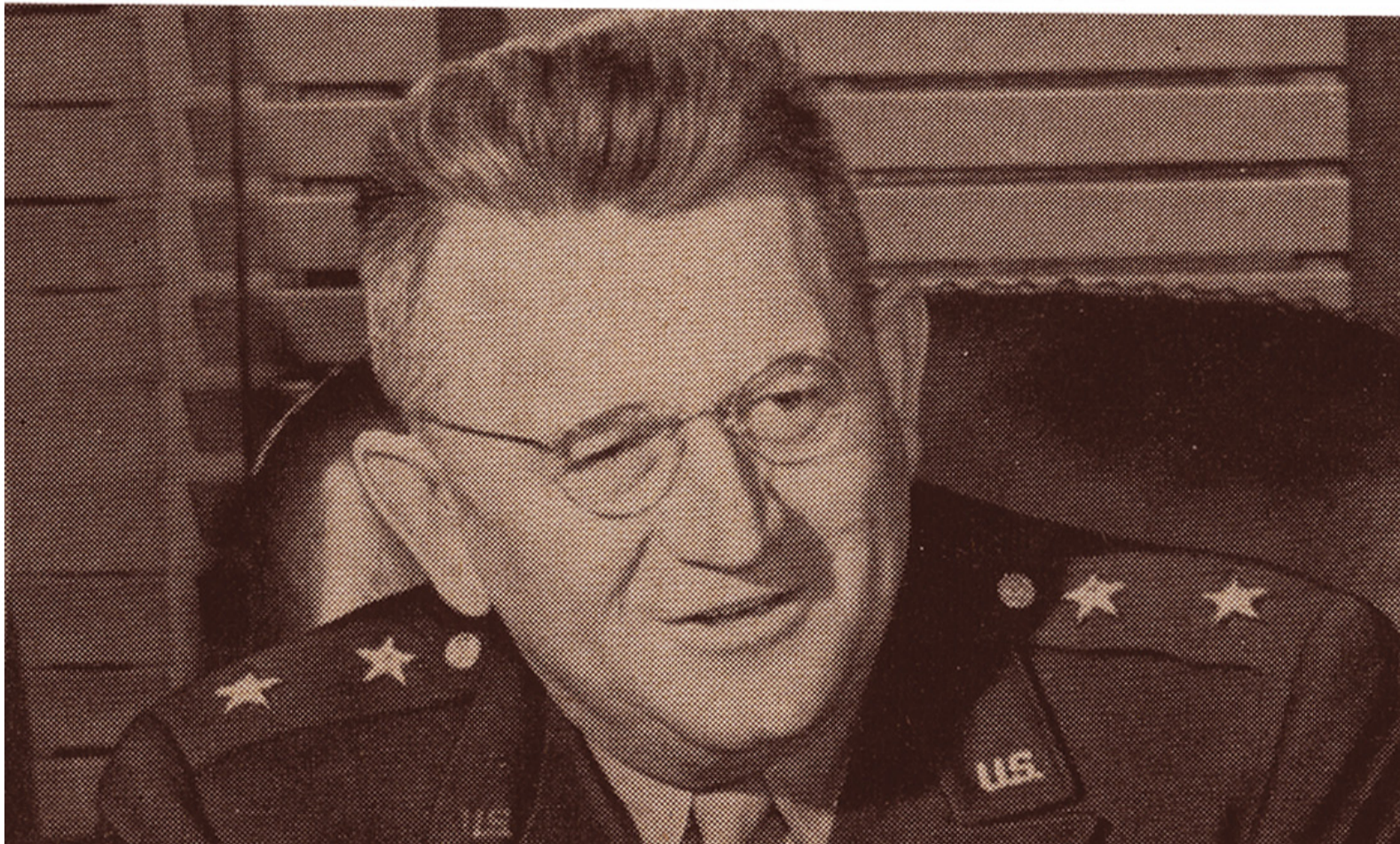
# WHO ARE THE DRAFT DODGERS?

**S**elective Service officers hear many "tall" stories from draft dodgers. Perhaps the most famous one is that of a young man who claimed exemption because he was the hereditary chieftain of the Menominee Indians and a descendant of the "lost" tribe of Potawatomi. It didn't work: he was asked to exchange his tomahawk for a good, sturdy, bullet-slinging Garand.

Thousands tried in World War II to evade the long arm of Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Chief of the Selective Service, but few actually escaped. Of 10 million drafted, FBI investigated 400,000 for draft infringements and nearly all of them were inducted. Only 16,000 were tried and convicted — many changed their minds after a few days in jail.

Today the draft dodgers are at it again, but, say the draft boards: "We had very little trouble either in World War I or II and we don't expect any now." Many would-be draft dodgers wish they were like giant Adolf Schayes (*l.*) who was rejected because of his height (6' 8"), just one

HERSHEY KEEPS HIS FINGER ON 44' MILLION 'POTENTIAL' GI'S



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**INDUCTEES ARE REVIEWED BY GEN. WALTER BEDELL SMITH**

inch over the maximum admissible figure. It was a blow to Schayes; like most young Americans he was prepared to answer his country's call.

The pre-induction medical examination is the favorite of the purposeful dodger. In World War II many "gave themselves" fast hearts or some other self-inflicted ailment (temporary, of course) which automatically put them in the 4F category. This time Maj. Gen. Hershey (*below*) had this circular sent out to local boards: "Digitalis . . . may be taken to cause abnormal heart findings. The skin may be irritated by various substances. Cathartics . . . simulate chronic diarrhea . . . substances may be injected under the skin to create abscesses . . ." The warning also added this unbelievable note on the tactics of some "would be 4F's": "Crutches, braces, strappings, or trusses may be used to give the appearances of disability . . ."

With the U.S. inducting some 50,000 men a month

there must necessarily be a high number of delinquents. Most of these however are men who have forgotten to report changes of address or veterans who honestly have neglected to keep their records straight — even though most of them are draft exempt. This attitude is the benevolent one at present adopted by Selective Service. In some areas local boards have become fed up by such "nonchalance" and have taken action. In New York warrants were recently issued for 13 offenders; in Virginia 44; in Washington 22. Officials have not yet asked the Justice Dept. to take any positive action. Says Hershey's office: "We're just nudging them . . . they are really not bad."

Few draft dodgers realize that the FBI steps in when the local board steps out of the picture. Furthermore delinquents are liable to 5 years imprisonment. While Selective Service doesn't expect a serious epidemic of draft dodging, it is ready to apply FBI "persuasion."

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