

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT
UNITED STATES
MILITARY ACADEMY

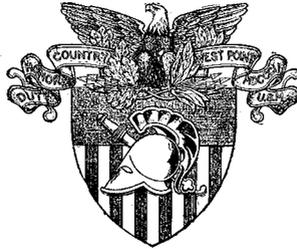


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Annual Report of the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy.

Headquarters United States Military Academy,
West Point, N. Y., June 30, 1924.

Subject: Annual Report of the Superintendent, U. S. M. A., for the
year 1923-1924.

To: The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C.

In my Report for the year 1922-23 I discussed (pages 3, 4, and 5) the modifications to be made in the curriculum due to changes in the War Department policy with reference to this institution. These modifications were put fully into effect upon September 1, 1923.

THE PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION.

MILITARY TRAINING.

The program of military instruction, approved in the fall of 1922 by the War Department Board of Officers appointed to prepare programs of instruction for the General and Special Service Schools, was put into effect on July 1, 1923.

Summer Camp was again established in the Fort Clinton Area on the Post, and the schedule described in my last Report was with slight alteration carried out with successful results.

Again, the First Class left West Point for two weeks from June 13th to June 28th for instruction and target practice with seacoast guns at Fort H. G. Wright, and for air service instruction at Mitchel Field. As before, this phase of the practical instruction was satisfactorily completed.

There is a great need for a detachment of Infantry to be stationed here for use in connection with the practical instruction of cadets in that branch and for use as escorts and for guard duty. A platoon of the 16th Infantry is in camp here at the present time and will be used as a demonstration platoon during the summer period of practical instruction, after which it will be returned to its proper station. It is believed that the detail of an infantry platoon each summer will prove to be a satisfactory expedient until such time as quarters are available for a permanent detachment.

The members of the new Fourth Class reported in two groups. Nearly all entered July 1st, the regular date of admission; the few who were

prevented by emergency from entering July 1st, came in together August 1st. The objections to receiving them individually on various dates throughout the summer were thus overcome, and more efficient results of preliminary instruction obtained. Their practical training was carried on during the summer, as in 1922, by selected First Classmen under the supervision of officers.

THE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM.

All Academic Departments, still short in instructor personnel, by the reduction of twenty-nine, in the Military Academy allotment, made January 1, 1923, were placed on a two section per instructor basis, in spite of the fact that for most of the departments there resulted sections of eighteen men, six over the normal maximum found advisable by long years of experience.

The Department approved my recommendation for an increase in the allotment by 16 officers to be effective August, 1924, which will put the institution back for the next academic year on a basis of a maximum of 12.5 cadets per section in the Fourth Class, 13.5 in the Third, 14.5 in the Second and 15.5 in the First, and two sections per day per instructor. This will, without doubt, result in a great increase in the efficiency of instruction.

The schedule adopted on January 1, 1923, to put the three section system into effect, proved so complicated in its allotment of time between the various departments, and more especially between the Academic and the Tactical Departments, and made such an irregular and fragmentary distribution of the cadets' own time, that the Commandant of Cadets recommended that a new schedule be adopted which would both overcome these objections and allow to the Department of Tactics more time in which to carry out its mission. A new schedule was therefore considered and adopted by the Academic Board, approved by the War Department, and put into effect on January 1, 1924. It has accomplished its purpose in a very satisfactory manner.

The Board in considering the subject adopted the following principles as especially desirable: first, that no cadet should have more than three academic recitations per day; second, that those subjects requiring study time should not be held during practical drill periods; third, that the Department of Tactics should be given academic periods with corresponding study time for teaching subjects requiring previous study which were formerly held during drill periods; fourth, that there should be no interlocking periods between the Academic and the Tactical Departments requiring the use of "running mates"; fifth, that as much afternoon time as possible after 3:00 p. m., between November 1st and March 31st, should be available to the cadet for recreation purposes;

sixth, that the total load on the cadet should be decreased so far as possible.

The result of the new schedule is a loss to all First Class departments, and to the Departments of Modern Languages, and English and History of from one-eighth to one-fifth of their time, with a gain to the Department of Tactics of ninety academic periods. The academic day closes at 3:00 p. m. as against the 3:30 closing hour of the previous schedule.

During the winter months from November 1st to March 31st, at least one-half the Corps is free from 3:00 to supper time, 6:20 p. m. During the remainder of the academic year, fall and spring, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, one-half the Corps is at drill from 3:15 to 4:15 p. m. and one-half at compulsory intra-mural athletics or varsity athletics from 3:15 to 4:30 p. m. That portion of the Corps which attends drill attends dress parade immediately afterward, and the entire Corps is free from the conclusion of parade or the intra-mural athletic period until supper time, 6:20.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS.

There have been no changes in the subject matter or methods of instruction in the Departments of Modern Languages, Mathematics, and Economics, Government and History, and Hygiene during the year.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY.

In the Department of Chemistry, the subject of Internal Combustion Engines was transferred to the Department of Engineering, the time thus gained being used in a series of lectures by eminent chemists and in a slight extension of the course in radio communication.

Through the courteous cooperation of the American Chemical Society, five distinguished chemists lectured to the class as follows:

Dr. C. H. Herty, Organic Chemistry in National Defense.

Dr. S. C. Lind, Cases in Aeronautics.

General A. A. Fries, Chemical Warfare.

Dr. H. E. Howe, Chemistry in World Affairs.

Professor C. E. Munroe, The Development of Explosives.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH.

In the Department of English, the lack of preparation on the part of many Fourth Classmen admitted on certificate has made it more and more evident that the first few months of the English course must be devoted to the study of grammar. The hasty review of the subject with which the course was commenced a few years ago has been replaced by a thorough analysis of the principles of grammar, a task which consumes the entire first semester. A text especially prepared in

the department for this part of the work, and published by Harper and Bros. under the title of "English Analysis and Exposition," was used successfully during the year.

The course in oral composition, 3d Class year, was slightly increased, a change which was thought to be justified by the splendid results of the previous year. The same procedure was followed—that of requiring each cadet to speak as often as possible on as wide a range of subjects as could be presented, without requiring any special reading or study to acquire the material.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY.

In the Department of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, a slight reduction was made in Theoretical Hydraulics in a part of the subject to be sufficiently covered by the Department of Civil and Military Engineering. A new text, "Simple Aerodynamics and the Airplane", by Lieutenant C. H. Monteith, Air Service, U. S. A., was substituted for "The Airplane", by Bedell. This text was prepared at the request of the Head of the Department of Natural and Experimental Philosophy and on specifications submitted by him after consultation with the Chief of Air Service, the Commanding Officer at McCook Field, and Lieutenant Monteith. The latter officer was present at this institution during the greater part of the course in Aerodynamics and gave valuable assistance in conferences and lectures. The course as conducted was a decided improvement over any prior course in Aerodynamics conducted in the department. The new text is more nearly what is desired than any other publication now in existence, and with a slight revision and some rearrangement of text matter, with new problems, should remain satisfactory for the next few years.

DEPARTMENT OF DRAWING.

In the Department of Drawing, the Third Class course remained about the same as during the preceding year. Owing to increased time for Second Class Drawing under the schedule of academic work adopted January 1, 1924, the subject of Architectural Drawing was omitted from the Third Class course and will be covered by this class next year. The remaining subjects were each given additional time to considerable advantage.

The additional time allowed Second Class Drawing this year enabled the department to cover considerably more ground than during the preceding year. New problems were prepared including work in panorama sketching, descriptive geometry, perspective, free hand sketching, and assembly drawing from Ordnance Department blue prints.

These problems were very practical in nature and covered subject

matter of interest to every army officer. They gave practice in accurate measurement and careful detailed drafting; at the same time they were designed to develop the cadets' ability to visualize objects from drawings and also to represent objects on paper both pictorially and by means of orthographic projections.

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND MILITARY ENGINEERING.

The Department of Civil and Military Engineering, which during the previous year had been in a process of reconstruction due to changes in the schedule ordered by the War Department and referred to in my last Annual Report, covered this year: for the First Class, ninety-four periods of Civil Engineering, forty-six of Mechanical Engineering, forty-six of Military Engineering; and for the Fourth Class, forty periods in Surveying.

DEPARTMENT OF LAW.

In the Department of Law, the course was substantially the same as in the previous year, embracing the following subjects:

TEXTBOOKS.

Criminal Law, Clark	22 lessons
Elementary Law, Smith	22 lessons
Constitutional Law, Fenton	17 lessons
Evidence, McKelvey	21 lessons
Military Law, Manual for Courts Martial	12 lessons
Moot Court Martial	8 lessons

The method of the previous year—the assignment of a lesson to be studied before coming to class, a conference in which difficult parts of the subject were explained and more important parts elaborated, followed by an oral quiz—was carried out, but with a slight increase in the number of written reviews upon which the cadet was marked.

The method of procedure in this department is radically different from that obtaining in the other academic departments. It has been in vogue for several years. It had during the past year its strongest test on account of the unusual size class (406), to be handled. It may be considered as still on trial. The head of the department makes the following report in reference to it: "My experience with law instruction at the Military Academy both while a cadet and later as an instructor was with the section room system, and I came here last year with no preference for the lecture system though I was familiar with it from two years at Columbia Law School. I must say that, making due allowance for the huge class this year, the system worked well, and the cadets gained a good working knowledge of law and courts-martial procedure which it is the object of this department to give. While I consider the

system still on trial, I intend to follow it next year, and with the smaller class, and the lecturers all law school graduates, I hope the system will satisfy me as it has my two predecessors."

DEPARTMENT OF ORDNANCE AND GUNNERY.

No change was made in this department during the past year, other than to supplement standard text books by mimeographs and pamphlets in order to bring them up to date. Eighteen hours outside of the academic course were devoted to instruction in mechanical trades in the Ordnance carpenter, smith, and machine shops. Under charge of the head of the department, two hundred and twelve members of the First Class, whose averages in all subjects for the spring course were above 80%, were taken on a four day trip of inspection to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Edgewood, Frankford and Raritan Arsenals.

ACADEMIC DEFICIENCIES.

In my last Report, under this heading, I stated that the casualties in the Fourth Class have been heavy and discussed the conditions causing them and the unfortunate results. The more the subject is studied, the greater is the conviction that our present system of admission by certificate is wrong and that a remedy must be found.

The certificate system of admission has been in effect for the past ten years, having been approved by the War Department on the recommendation of the Academic Board, effective with the class entering in June, 1914. No radical change in the percentage of casualties, during the first six months at the Academy, was evident during the first few years of experience with the system as the number of admissions by certificate was small. The percentages during the years of 1911 to '13, inclusive, years when all cadets qualified by examination for admission, was 14.9. The percentage in the years of 1914, '15 and '16 after introduction of certificate system was 17.6. A relatively small percentage entered by this method during those years. The years of '17 and '18 were abnormal, as the country was at war and the regular curriculum was greatly changed due to war conditions. Therefore, the figures for those years are not considered.

Beginning with the year 1919, statistics show the following:

Class entering	Total percentage lost in first 6 months	Percentage of loss of those admitted by examination	Percentage of loss of those admitted by certificate
1919	23.0	12.76	27.14
1920	18.7	11.42	20.77
1921	23.8	12.06	28.73
1922	23.0	5.15	32.28
1923	24.5	13.33	27.40

These heavy percentages of losses among those admitted by certificate become even more significant when it is realized that in these recent years, since the war, over 70% of the members of the large entering classes entered by the certificate method.

In the class entering 1919,

71% qualified by certificate, being 269 cadets, of whom the class lost 73 in the first six months.

In the class entering 1920,

78% qualified by certificate, being 491 cadets, of whom the class lost 102 in the first six months.

In the class entering 1921,

70.4% qualified by certificate, being 275 cadets, of whom the class lost 79 in the first six months.

In the class entering 1922,

65.5% qualified by certificate, being 189 cadets, of whom the class lost 61 in the first six months.

In the class entering 1923,

79.5% qualified by certificate, being 292 cadets, of whom the class lost 80 in the first six months.

In a summary of the above statistics, with a comparison of results in the years 1911-1913, inclusive, when all cadets qualified by examination, the following appears:

1911-1913.

100% qualified by examination, of whom 14.9% were lost in the first six months.

1919-1923.

73.7% qualified by certificate, of whom 27.2% were lost in the first six months.

The effect upon the institution has been a necessary alteration of parts of the course to make it more elementary and simple in order to take care of the large number of inadequately prepared cadets admitted under the certificate system. Its effect upon the government has been as follows:

In the year of 1919—the sum of \$33,215 was spent upon young men who were casualties within the first six months.

In 1920—\$41,860.

In 1921—\$35,945.

In 1922—\$27,755.

In 1923—\$36,400.

A total of \$175,175. An annual average of \$35,035.

It is believed that the United States Military Academy is to-day the only one of the leading educational institutions of collegiate grade

in the East which admits candidates by certificate only. Yale, Princeton, Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, all require qualification, in part, at least, by examination. The Naval Academy, after a trial of a certificate system similar in effect to our system, modified it a year ago to provide for examinations of all candidates in certain fundamental subjects.

I am convinced that the requirements for admission should be modified in the interests of greater efficiency, higher standards, and economy to the government. Specific recommendation in this matter will be made to the Department after further study has been made.

CORPS OF CADETS.

The size of the Corps on August 1, 1923, after the admission of the last detachment of new cadets, was 1223. On Graduation Day, 1924, it numbered 1099. The discipline of the Corps has been good, and unusual disciplinary measures were rare. The relations of the Department of Tactics and the Corps of Cadets have been those of mutual confidence and support, and the spirit of the Corps that of willing response and keen interest. The size of the Corps is still too great for available barrack accommodations by some 200. Steps have been taken, I am glad to say, toward new construction which will in time relieve the situation by the building of new barracks if the approved plan is continued.

The cadet ration allowance is 80c. per day. For the period from July 1, 1923, to May 31, 1924, the daily cost of the mess has been 77c. per cadet. A very well balanced ration has been furnished at this price.

As a result of the profits of the Cadet Store, Cadet Exchange, interest on deposits, etc., the four classes will be credited for the fiscal year, 1924, with the following amounts. The share of the Graduating Class was paid upon their final settlement on June 12th.

Graduating Class.....	\$20.23
First Class.....	22.69
Second Class.....	16.61
Third Class.....	46.96

CADET LEAVES.

The number of cadets of the three upper classes who earned and took advantage of Christmas leaves of from one to ten days during the 1923 Christmas holidays, follows:

1st Class, size of class 406,	on leave 390.
2nd Class, size of class 263,	on leave 252.
3rd Class, size of class 189,	on leave 169.

In accordance with the provisions governing week-end leaves, referred to in my last Report, the average monthly percentage of the First Class who earned week-end leaves was 82, and the average monthly percentage who took advantage of week-end leaves was 50.

THE NEW ATHLETIC FIELD.

In my last Report, I stated that a site had been selected on the west side of Lusk Reservoir for a permanent football and baseball field, and expressed the hope that in the course of a year the construction of the field could be completed. Contract for the clearing, draining and leveling of the site was let during the summer of 1923, and the work is now completed and the grass planted.

In the Appropriation Act for 1923-4, approved June 7, 1924, Congress appropriated \$150,000 to assist us in constructing the stadium, the money to be returned to the Treasury in the discretion of the Superintendent by January 1, 1930. With this loan, the athletic funds in hand, and those expected from gate receipts of football games by the end of the season 1924, it was decided to construct a concrete stadium to hold 16,000 people that should be up to date in every respect and a credit to the institution.

Contract for the plans and specifications was let to the Osborn Engineering Company of Cleveland, Ohio. After the accepted plans were approved by the War Department, and as a result of an advertisement for bids, the contract for the construction of the stadium was awarded on May 12, 1924, to the Newport Engineering and Contracting Company of Newport News, Virginia. The contractor was on the site about the first of June, and the contract calls for completion by September 15th. It is expected to use the stadium for all home games during the coming football season. It will cost when completed approximately \$300,000.

RETIREMENT OF LIEUT. COLONEL H. J. KOEHLER, MASTER OF THE SWORD.

On December 14, 1923, Lieut. Colonel H. J. Koehler, Master of the Sword, retired from active service after forty years of duty at this institution. His work during this period and his value to the Academy, to the Army, and to the country, are so well known and appreciated as to render superfluous any remarks on that subject here. Under the law his vacancy has been filled by a detail of an officer from the line. His services have not been entirely lost to the Academy, however, as he has served since his retirement as Executive Officer of the Army Athletic Association, and in that capacity as a member of the Athletic Board.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

The sanitary conditions of the water shed of the Post water supply, while still satisfactory, are becoming threatened by the prevalence of camping along the shore of some of the streams and lakes outside the reservation. Sanitary laws and regulations have been strictly interpreted but meet with strong opposition on the part of certain property owners, who have questioned jurisdiction. Their contention has been supported by an unofficial opinion of the Attorney General of the State. The Governor has ordered the Attorney General to take steps to test the police power of the State to control the water shed under the State laws now in effect for State municipalities.

Should court actions support the property owners, it is essential that laws governing the sanitation of this water shed be passed either by the Federal Government or by New York State.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The new Cadet Hospital was occupied early in the spring. It is a handsome stone structure, fully equipped with most modern facilities, and with arrangements to afford skilled medical and surgical care in all contingencies.

Negotiations are now in progress looking to the erection of a new hotel at the southern entrance of the Reservation, under the authority of Act of Congress approved March 30, 1920, and early consummation is hoped for.

In this year's Army bill, Congress appropriated \$177,063 for the plans and excavation for a new combination Mess Hall, Cadet Store and Drawing Academy. Work of clearing the site preparatory to the excavation will commence on July 1st.

Negotiations have been entered into with the President of the New York Central Railroad looking to the construction of a new West Shore Railroad Station at this point. The need of it has been admitted by the railroad officials, and a promise made of an early start toward its construction.

The following is a list of buildings which should be erected in the near future, arranged in order of priority, based upon the need for them:

Fifty sets of officers' quarters (apartment house type).

Quartermaster storehouse and shops.

Quartermaster stables and wagon sheds.

Alteration to Academic Building.

Addition to barracks of the U. S. M. A. Service Detachment.

New barracks for U. S. M. A. Engineer Detachment or an addition to existing barracks.

Addition to Cadet Gymnasium.

Wing of Cadet Barracks on site of present Mess Hall (placed in this position because it can not be built until the new Mess Hall is completed).

Stables for 250 horses.

Ten sets of quarters for non-commissioned officers.

Addition to band practice room.

Ice house.

New stables and veterinary hospital.

ENTERTAINMENT OF VISITING DELEGATIONS.

The policy of making the Academy better known to the public, referred to in my last Report, was continued, with the result that there were a great many visits of representative groups of citizens during the year as well as of many distinguished individuals, both American and foreign.

Among these visiting delegations were the following:

- July 20—About 400 delegates to the national convention of The National Editorial Association.
- August 8—About 500 delegates to the national convention of Chiropodists.
75 officers of the New York National Guard.
- August 19—500 members of Kosciuszko Society of New York for annual exercises at Kosciuszko Monument.
- August 20—General Gouraud, French Army, and party.
- September 13—British Army polo team.
- September 29—500 members of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.
- October 20—Annual visit of the Rotary Club of Yonkers.
400 Members of C. M. T. C. Clubs of New York City.
375 Students of foreign countries.
- December 12—General Haller, Inspector General of the Polish Armies, and party.
- February 14—Officers of the Japanese Mission.
- May 3—Annual visit of Columbia University faculty and students.
- May 10—1000 students of New York University.
- May 13—200 delegates to the national convention of Retail Book Sellers.
- May 14—700 officers and students of the University of Pennsylvania.
- May 17—Annual visit of the Rotary Club of New York City.
- May 24—Students of the Biblical Seminary of New York City.

- June 6—1500 delegates to the national convention of the Music Trades of the United States.
- June 7—Officers and men of the 107th Infantry, New York National Guard.
Members of the Bridgeport School of Physical Training.
Officers of the 61st Cavalry Division, Organized Reserves.
- June 13—500 delegates to the national convention of United Commercial Travelers.
- June 22—200 delegates to the state convention of Building and Loan Association.
- June 29—5000 delegates to the National Democratic Convention.

FRED W. SLADEN,
Major General,
Superintendent.



