

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT
UNITED STATES
MILITARY ACADEMY



1927

WEST POINT, N. Y.
United States Military Academy Printing Office
U. S. M. A.—10-8-27—1000

Annual Report of the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy

West Point, N. Y., June 30, 1927.

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

During the entire period covered by this report, with the exception of the period June 16-30, Brigadier General M. B. Stewart was in actual command. Due to illness that kept the Superintendent on sick report, the undersigned officiated as Acting Superintendent during the last fifteen days of the fiscal year.

PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION.

MILITARY TRAINING.

The Military Training of the Corps of Cadets was carried out as scheduled with satisfactory results. The program followed was practically the same, with minor changes, as that of the preceding year. Cadets of the 1st Class were given more opportunity to exercise command, especially during field exercises. A course in map reading for the 3d Class and a course in combat principles of the squad, platoon and company for the 2d Class were added to the schedule of winter instruction. In order to have a garment for cold weather that would be of lighter weight and more convenient to put on and off, a short overcoat for cadets was adopted experimentally. This coat is of cadet grey, with roll collar, and is worn to drills (not under arms), classes, meal formations, and when walking about the Post. The long overcoat is used for ceremonies, social purposes, and extreme cold weather.

ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION.

By G. O. 45, these Headquarters, dated September 28, 1926, Colonel Lucius H. Holt, Professor, U. S. M. A., was designated, in addition to his other duties, to assist the Superintendent in the supervision and coordination of the academic work of the Military Academy, with the title of Acting Dean.

In general, he was directed to exercise the functions of a Dean insofar as they are consistent with existing regulations for an organization of academic effort.

Specifically, he was directed to conduct a coordination course consisting of certain lectures designed to acquaint cadets with the scope and purpose of their academic work; by inspection of their

marks and by conferences when necessary, to keep in touch with the progress of individual cadets; to advise with cadets about their academic difficulties; by observation and by conference with heads of departments to acquaint himself with the methods and operations of all academic departments, and to be prepared at all times to inform the Superintendent in regard thereto; and to inquire into and report upon such other matters as the Superintendent might direct from time to time.

The results of this step have proven very beneficial in all respects.

STAFF ACTIVITIES.

Cadet Finances.—The financial condition of cadets continues to be sound. All cadets who graduated were well out of debt, exclusive of their equipment funds. The Cadet Store, Laundry and Mess have all operated in an economical and satisfactory manner.

Chaplain.—The Reverend Arthur B. Kinsolving, 2d, was appointed Chaplain, U. S. Military Academy, vice Chaplain Clayton E. Wheat, who had been appointed to the Professorship of the Department of English. Chaplain Kinsolving reported for duty on January 10, 1927.

There has been no other change of importance in the conduct of religious activities on the Post.

Library.—On January 20, 1927, Captain E. A. Everts, U. S. A., Retired, reported for duty under appointment as Librarian, U. S. Military Academy, vice Miss Margery Bedinger, resigned. Under his direction an inventory of the books in the Library has been started and the cataloguing continued.

Surgeon.—The general health of the command has been good. By organizing the annual physical examination of cadets so as to conduct certain parts thereof during the summer months, the work has been facilitated greatly and interference with academic duties minimized.

Quartermaster.—Special efforts have been made during the past year to properly care for the upkeep and maintenance of the Post. Due to limitation of funds, great economy was necessary and only the most urgent work was undertaken.

Construction on the new Cadet Mess Hall has been continuous except during a short period of extreme winter weather.

Post Engineer Officer.—During the year, a chlorinating apparatus for the water supply of the Post has been installed. The support and assistance of the Bear Mountain Park and State Authorities in maintaining the sanitary conditions on the Watershed have been most gratifying.

Post Fiscal Officer.—The functioning of the Post Fiscal Office facilitates the consolidation and final preparation of the annual estimates submitted to the War Department.

Children's School.—The Children's School was operated throughout the year with an average attendance of about 175 pupils. One principal and six teachers were employed. The School followed the New York State syllabus and maintained the same high standards required by the New York State laws.

Publicity Officer.—The Publicity Office has proven itself a valuable adjunct of the Military Academy. In addition to assisting in and coordinating the work of both motion picture and still picture photographers and newspaper writers, the Publicity Office distributed to newspapers 270 releases covering general activities at the Military Academy and 3000 individual releases on cadets. These latter were sent to the local papers of cadets' home towns, their former school publications, etc. All this has resulted in giving a better idea of West Point to the general public, especially in the numerous small towns throughout the country from which many cadets are drawn.

Signal Officer.—During the year, work for the improvement of the Post Telephone System has continued.

The installation of a new Target Range Telephone System has been completed.

A new Post Radio Station has been completed and is working satisfactorily.

The Photographic Laboratory has been enlarged and improved.

The Meteorological Station has been completed and in operation since March 8, 1927.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Army Athletic Association.—The past athletic year has been on the whole satisfactory and successful.

Quarters.—The shortage of quarters on the Post for officers detailed to duty at the Military Academy continues to present a very unsatisfactory situation. Of the 201 authorized officer strength, fifty-two junior officers were forced to live off the Post in the neighboring towns of Highland Falls, Cornwall, and Newburgh. For the coming year, this number will be enlarged by the increase of authorized officer strength to 211.

Authority was granted during the year by Act of Congress, to include in a War Department appropriation bill an estimate for funds for the construction of an apartment building to house 32 officers. The money was not obtained, however, due to the failure of the Deficiency Bill in which the item was included.

Quarters for noncommissioned officers and new barracks for enlisted men are also urgently needed.

Traffic Conditions.—Traffic conditions have become quite intolerable. Motor vehicles and motor traveling public have increased to

such an extent that the proper conduct of ceremonies, drills and organized athletic exercises and other essential forms of training for which the use of the drill and parade ground is necessary, is materially hampered and interfered with. The annual agitation with regard to the closing of the Storm King Highway, to permit of artillery practice, increases with the growth of traffic. A study is now being made with reference to the holding of artillery fire elsewhere. This in all probability will eventually be the solution to this troublesome problem.

Visitors.—It is regretted that the Board of Visitors under the Act of Congress did not visit the Academy.

The following were visitors at this Post during the year :

- 1926
- July 17—1800 Students Columbia University.
 July 29—Governor of New Jersey, Legislators and guests, States of New York and New Jersey.
 August 8—110 Members Steuben Society of America, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 August 21—Distinguished Roumanian Visitors.
 September 14—1000 Members of The Fidelity & Casualty Co., of New York.
 September 30—50 Prominent Magazine Editors of U. S.
 October 9—Admiral Josephthal, Officers and Crew, Her Imperial Majesty's Netherland's Cruiser "Sumatra".
 October 9—400 Reserve Officers, N. Y. State Association.
 October 15—200 American Trade Association Executives.
 October 16—300 Members International House, N. Y.
 October 25—Queen of Roumania and party.
 November 20—Delegates Sesqui-Centennial Celebration of American Independence in Poland.
- 1927
- April 14—Professors, N. Y. University.
 April 15—Military Attache, Argentine Embassy, and party.
 April 26—Admiral Paul Behncke, German Navy.
 April 30—30 Headmistresses from Schools in England.
 May 6—Reserve Officers of the 79th Division.
 May 11—Honorable F. W. Kendrick, Mayor of Philadelphia, and party.
 May 12—American Society of Mechanical Engineers.
 May 17—Officials, Bell Telephone Securities Company.
 May 17—200 Members National Conference of State Parks.
 May 21—Legionnaires, The American Legion.
 May 28—40 Latin American Business Men.
 May 29—300 Lambs—"Lamb's Gambol".
 May 30—600 Polish Falcons.
 June 4—75—389th Infantry Reserve and National Guard Officers.

C. B. HODGES,
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry,
Commandant of Cadets,
Acting Superintendent.



