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UNITED STATES
MILITARY ACADEMY



1929

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West Point, N. Y., July 23, 1929.

Subject: Annual Report.

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

The following report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1929, is submitted:

STRENGTH OF COMMAND.

At the beginning of the academic year, September 1, 1928, the strength of the command was as follows: 1272 cadets, 212 officers, 3 warrant officers, and 1100 enlisted men.

INSTRUCTION OF CADETS.

Military Training.—The military training of the Corps of Cadets was carried out satisfactorily according to schedule. The time available for basic training in the school of the soldier and in the infantry training to include the company, has been sufficient to produce the desired standard. While the time available for tactical infantry training and technical and tactical training in other arms has been limited, it is believed sufficient to enable a graduate to quickly become proficient in the arm to which he is assigned.

Due to the fact that it has been impracticable to conduct field artillery firing at West Point and due to the lack of facilities for instruction in coast artillery firing and in aviation, the First Class was sent to Fort Eustis, Fort Monroe, and Langley Field for artillery target practice and for instruction in aviation. On the return trip the class was taken to Fort Geo. H. Meade in order that they might receive limited instruction in the operation of tanks. This program has proved satisfactory, although it would be very much better for the cadets to receive instruction in field artillery firing and aviation at West Point. This will be possible should additional land adjacent to the present reservation be acquired. The recommendation for acquiring this land has been covered in a separate communication.

Athletic instruction which includes all cadets, has proved beneficial physically, and in the training in leadership.

Academic Instruction.—The academic instruction of the Corps of Cadets has been maintained at a high standard. The various departments have conducted their courses along the same general lines as in previous years. The course in Military Art and History was transferred from the Department of Tactics to the Department of Civil and Military Engineering. In April, the Department of Drawing was moved from the West Academic Building to Washington Hall, into rooms much more suitable for instruction.

During the past year, the Professor of the Department of Economics, Government and History made a trip to New Zealand and Australia for the purpose of studying labor conditions and the results of socialistic legislation in those self-governing colonies. This trip was very beneficial to the department, and trips of a similar nature will be made during next year by the Professors of Civil and Military Engineering and of Drawing for the purpose of improving the courses of instruction in their departments.

Within the funds available, instructors in the various departments have taken courses at technical schools or universities during the summer months. This plan has proved very beneficial and will be continued.

PROVISIONAL BATTALION.

In order to assist in the administration and training of the enlisted detachments, the line organizations consisting of the Cavalry, Field Artillery, Engineers, Coast Artillery and the Signal Corps, were organized into a provisional battalion. The principal mission of these detachments is to assist in the training of cadets and the detachments have been maintained at a standard which has enabled them to perform their duties satisfactorily. Three of the detachments, the Cavalry, Field Artillery and Engineers, were commended by the War Department Inspector for the appearance of men in ranks and for the excellent condition of equipment.

STAFF ACTIVITIES.

Treasurer.—The cadet store, barber shop, laundry, exchange and mess were operated in a satisfactory manner. The cadet mess was

transferred on June 20, 1929, from Grant Hall to Washington Hall. The first meal in the new mess hall was supper on June 20, 1929. The larger hall, the new equipment and the improved facilities will enable the cadet mess to be maintained at a high standard.

Quartermaster.—The quartermaster activities have been conducted satisfactorily within the funds authorized. The funds authorized have been sufficient to maintain the existing buildings in a fair state of repair and appearance, and to conduct the usual quartermaster work. The main road from the south gate to the north gate has been very difficult to maintain. This road should be reconstructed of concrete. With the thousands of visitors who annually come to West Point, the traffic on this road is very heavy. To continue to make temporary repairs on this road is expensive and unsatisfactory. The necessary funds to reconstruct it will be included in the next annual estimates submitted.

The remaining construction of Washington Hall which includes the cadet store, is proceeding satisfactorily. This building will be completed in the near future. In the new apartment house for officers which was started about December 1, twenty apartments will be ready for occupancy within the next six months. On June 1, new construction was transferred from the quartermaster's office to the constructing quartermaster's office and is now being operated separately.

Surgeon.—The general health of the command has been good. The activities of the medical detachment have been conducted in a very efficient manner.

Engineer Officer.—The difficulty of protecting the water supply from pollution has increased each year with the large increase of campers and tourists who occupy, during the summer months, the area from which the supply is obtained. This area is not on the military reservation and cannot therefore be controlled by West Point authorities. Should the additional land referred to above be acquired, a water supply under military control could be provided.

During the year a new pistol and machine-gun range was constructed.

Signal Officer.—The Signal Corps activities including the tele-

phone system, radio station, meteorological station, and photographing studio have operated satisfactorily. A new project for the provision of an automatic telephone system for West Point has been submitted to the Chief Signal Officer of the Army. This project will take care of the new construction which has been planned for West Point as well as the existing installations.

Finance and Fiscal Officer.—The finance officer has performed the duties of Fiscal Officer. The operation of this office has been very satisfactory and has assisted greatly in the final preparation of the annual estimates submitted to the War Department.

Post Exchange Officer.—In addition to handling the usual articles carried in an exchange, the post exchange has operated a grocery department, fruit and vegetable department and a meat market. These departments have been a very great convenience to the members of the command. During the year, a stand was established at the south dock for the accommodation of visitors who arrive by boat, and a stand was operated at the stadium to accommodate the football crowds. The post exchange has operated on the principle of supplying the articles desired at the lowest practicable cost.

Publicity Officer.—The publicity office has been operated on the principle that the public is entitled to become familiar with the aims and purposes of the Military Academy and with its activities. Information has been given to the public through general releases and pictorial publicity. It is the policy to give every assistance to those desiring information of the proper type.

Librarian.—During the past year, one thousand new books were added to the library. The interest of the cadets in the library has been maintained and is believed to be very beneficial. During the year, more than twenty-four thousand books were loaned out on circulation.

School Officer.—The children's school has been operated efficiently with an enrollment of more than two hundred children. The instruction has included all of the grammar school subjects usually taught in the first eight grades, the New York syllabus having been followed in all grades. At the conclusion of the school

year, eight children were given certificates which entitled them to enter the New York State high schools. The building is unsuitable, but this will be corrected when the new school, which is included in the building program, has been built.

Chaplain.—Throughout the year, regular services have been conducted at the cadet chapel. Regular services have also been conducted at the Catholic chapel. The cadet chapel choir, which is composed of one hundred sixty cadets, selected and trained by the choir master and organist, produced excellent music for the chapel services. In January, the members of the choir were guests of St. Thomas' church of New York City, and in April they were the guests of the Columbia University chapel. On both occasions, the music rendered by the choir, which included "The Corps" and "Alma Mater", was much appreciated. On April 1, the chapel fund, which consists of collections taken in the cadet chapel, assumed the responsibility of the salary for a visiting nurse who spends her time rendering assistance where needed to families of enlisted men living in West Point and the immediate vicinity. This nurse has proved eminently satisfactory and excellent results have been obtained.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Army Athletic Association.—The new polo field which has been built adjacent to the stadium, is nearing completion and will be ready for use some time during the coming year. The field was constructed without expense to the Government.

The Annual West Point Horse Show.—This show which was held in June was a great success. It enabled the cadets to witness an excellent exhibition of well bred horses and good horsemanship. The proceeds of this show will be devoted to the Army Relief Society and to local relief. The show was held without expense to the Government.

Visitors' Room.—The need for a suitable room where cadets could receive relatives and friends has been met temporarily by establishing such a room on the first floor of the West Academic Building. This was made possible by the completion of the drawing academy in Washington Hall. This room is conveniently located

to the cadet barracks and is sufficiently large to accommodate the normal number of visitors who call upon the cadets during the week-ends. The cadet hostess has been given an office adjacent to this room and has been of very great assistance to the cadets in handling their social activities. A permanent visitors' room is included in the plans for the new barrack building, whose construction will begin in the near future.

June Week.—There were approximately six hundred fifty graduates who attended the Alumni Day exercises and the Graduation exercises during June Week. This is the largest number of graduates that has ever attended the annual Alumni Day exercises.

Graduation Exercises.—Graduation exercises were held at the Battle Monument on June 13. The Secretary of War made the graduation address and presented the diplomas. There were two hundred and ninety-nine members of the graduating class.

Distinguished Visitors.—During the year there were many distinguished visitors at the Post. The Corps of Cadets was reviewed by the following:

Colonel Wirt Robinson, Retiring Professor of Chemistry and Electricity.....	October 15, 1928
Field Marshal Allenby, British Army.....	October 31, 1928
Governor Fuller of Massachusetts, the Mayor of Boston and Major General Preston Brown (at Boston Common).....	October 20, 1928
Governor Trumbull of Connecticut, and the Mayor of New Haven (at New Haven, Connecticut).....	October 27, 1928
The Honorable Charles G. Dawes (Vice-Presi- dent of the United States).....	November 24, 1928
Military Affairs Committee consisting of:	
Honorable John M. Morin, 34th Pennsylvania,	
Honorable J. Mayhew Wainwright, 25th New York,	
Honorable Hubert F. Fisher, 10th Tennessee,	
Honorable Virgil Chapman, 7th Kentucky,	
Honorable James A. Hughes, 4th West Virginia,	
Honorable Harold G. Hoffman, 3d New Jersey.....	December 6, 1928

Infante Don Alphonso de Orleans y Bourbon
 (Member of Royal Family of Spain).....December 7, 1928
 Lieutenant Colonel C. B. Hodges, Infantry,
 and Lieutenant Colonel R. C. Richardson.....March 26, 1929
 Major General W. R. Smith, Superintendent,
 U. S. M. A.....April 27, 1929
 Mr. Bernard M. Baruch (Noted Financier).....May 4, 1929
 Bolivia and Paraguay Commission of Inquiry
 and ConciliationMay 24, 1929
 Mr. William Green, President, American Fed-
 eration of Labor.....May 28, 1929



*Major General,
 Superintendent.*



