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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# SUPERINTENDENT

## UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY



**1931**

WEST POINT, N. Y.

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West Point, N. Y., July 25, 1931.

SUBJECT: Annual Report.

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

In submitting my Annual Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1930, attention was especially called to the fact that the outstanding need of the Military Academy was the acquisition of additional land.

During the closing days of the last Congress an Act (Public No. 795—71st Congress) was passed providing for the acquisition of 15,135 acres of additional land for the West Point Reservation. This land lies to the west and south of the present reservation. Within this acreage there is contained the watershed of the West Point water supply. The conformation of the ground around Popolopen Lake, the largest lake in the water shed, is such that at a comparatively small cost it will be possible to construct a dam at its outlet which will permit storage of sufficient water therein and regulation of flow into Popolopen Creek, to provide an abundance of water for West Point at all times. Under present conditions, the use of water is greatly restricted, and in fact for the last three years an acute shortage has occurred during the dry season. The situation has been saved in the past by an arrangement with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission whereby water from one of their recreation lakes was siphoned over their dam into the local Post water supply. An arrangement such as this, whereby a government institution has to depend upon the generosity of outside agencies, is neither desirable, proper nor safe.

The acquisition of this additional land, besides providing for the water supply, will give room for needed facilities for military training. It will provide a landing field, small arms and artillery ranges, as well as furnishing much needed ground for drills, maneuvers and camp sites. Within the area to be secured is land suitable for the construction of a landing field. This location is the only one available in the vicinity of West Point. It is within a ten minutes' ride of cadet barracks and will enable advantage

to be taken of seasonable weather for practical instruction and flying. The existing small arms ranges are woefully inadequate and unsafe and at times the firing points are under water. When this additional land has been acquired it will be practical to have field artillery target practice at West Point, as well as much-needed instruction in machine-gun firing.

Although funds for the purchase of this land will not be available until July 1, 1932, preliminary steps are now being taken for its prompt acquisition as soon as the appropriation is made.

This additional land in addition to solving the problem of the lack of water will provide facilities which will enable equally high standards to be attained in basic, practical military training of cadets as are now maintained in all the academic departments of this institution.

#### STRENGTH OF COMMAND

At the beginning of the Academic year, September 1, 1930, the strength of the command was as follows: 1254 cadets, 216 commissioned officers, 3 warrant officers, 1206 enlisted men.

During the year July 1, 1930, to June 30, 1931, the Corps of Cadets sustained the following losses other than through graduation:

#### DISCHARGED

	Resigned	Physical Disability	Deficient Studies	Total
1st Class.....	3	2	2	7
2nd Class.....	1	.....	.....	1
3rd Class.....	1	1	9	11
4th Class.....	11	1	46	58
Total.....	16	4	57	77

Note.—Cadets discharged for studies were deficient in:

	Engng.	Math.	French	Engl.	Math. & Engl.	Math. & His.	Math & French	Math. Fr. & Engl.	Total
1st Class..	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
3rd Class..	.....	5	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	9
4th Class..	.....	36	.....	.....	2	.....	3	5	46
Total..	2	41	1	1	3	1	3	5	57

#### VALIDATING EXAMINATION

The validating examination which was required of candidates, who were admitted on high school certificates last year, resulted in

having fewer cadets of the Fourth Class discharged for deficiency in their studies.

During the preceding year 64 cadets of the Fourth Class were discharged for deficiency in studies, while during the last year there were but 46 cadets of the Fourth Class discharged for deficiency in studies. It is believed that the validating examination is largely responsible for the smaller number.

#### ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION

During the past year, the following changes in the course of instruction were inaugurated with the approval of the War Department:

- (a) A course in College Physics was established for the Third Class Year. The course covered Elementary Mechanics, heat, wave motion, sound, electro physics and light. The regular book work was supplemented by suitable laboratory experiments.
- (b) The subject of descriptive geometry was transferred from the Department of Mathematics to the Department of Drawing. This course was given the Third Class largely by graphical methods.
- (c) The subject of surveying was transferred from the Department of Civil and Military Engineering to the Department of Natural and Experimental Philosophy.
- (d) The subject of Military Transportation was transferred from the Department of Civil and Military Engineering to the Department of Ordnance and Gunnery.

During the past year, the Professor of Modern Languages was sent abroad for one year on detached service in order that he might improve himself professionally, and improve the course of instruction under his jurisdiction. During the coming year, the Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy and the Professor of English will be detailed on similar duties.

The policy of sending Instructors to Civil Institutions for instruction in the subjects to which they are assigned has been carried out as far as funds would permit. This has resulted in a marked improvement in the instruction given and in the broadening of the vision of the Instructors concerned.

In the Department of modern Languages all of the Instructors of Spanish have studied Spanish in Madrid, and six of the Instructors in French have had the benefit of a year's study in Paris. In the Department of Chemistry, practically all of the Instructors have had summer courses in Civil Institutions in the United States. In the Department of Law, those Instructors who do not hold degrees in Universities have been given special courses in law at Columbia University. Officers from other Departments have been given courses from time to time as funds permitted.

#### MILITARY TRAINING OF CADETS

Following the practice of several years past, the new First Class was sent to Fort Monroe, Virginia, Fort Eustis, Virginia, and Langley Field, Virginia, for Coast Artillery and Field Artillery target practice and for practical instruction in aviation. The results were very satisfactory and this annual trip will have to be continued until facilities are available for practical instruction and target practice on the new land to be acquired. It will still be necessary to send the First Class away for Coast Artillery target practice.

The regular summer schedule of the First Class covered practical instruction in Infantry Drill and Infantry Combat, target practice with Artillery, Cavalry and Infantry weapons, signal communication and applied engineering and field exercises in the combined arms.

The summer instruction for the Third Class included practical instruction in Infantry Drill, Infantry Combat, target practice with pistol and rifle, Infantry weapons, riding, signal communications, Field Artillery, Coast Artillery, and exercises in the combined arms. The rifle practice of the Third Class is worthy of special mention. This class made an *average* score of 287.8 out of a maximum of 350, qualifying 98.8 per cent.

The summer instruction of the Fourth Class consisted largely of intensive training in Infantry Drill, Manual of Arms, bayonet exercises, marksmanship, guard duty, and physical drills, and in the customs of the service.

The winter training for all classes included both theoretical and practical instruction in military subjects, in so far as time permitted.

### PHYSICAL TRAINING OF CADETS

Throughout the Academic year, cadets of the Fourth Class were given gymnastic training five days a week. This training resulted in marked improvement in physique. Measurements taken at the beginning and the end of the year, indicate that Fourth Classmen gained an average of 9.66 pounds per cadet in weight, .29 inches in height, and .39 inches in chest expansion. Intramural athletics provided physical training for the cadets of the three upper classes. The capacity of the gymnasium is very deficient and it is impossible to give the upper classes systematic training in gymnastics.

### RECREATION AND AMUSEMENT FOR CADETS

The cadet reception room and class halls have been continuously improved and additional furniture has been obtained when funds were available. The reception room is a most helpful factor in the social life of the Corps. This room has been of great benefit to cadets as well as to the parents and relatives of cadets. The presence of a hostess with whom the cadets consult freely has added greatly to the contentment and welfare of the cadets.

Delafield Pond, which has been maintained at a proper level by opening up the pipe line, which leads from Round Pond, has been used freely for swimming during the summer. The water is cool and clean, and it has afforded the cadets and their friends an excellent method of recreation during the summer months. During the months of December, January, February the new skating rink, which was provided by the Athletic Association, has added very materially to the pleasure and recreation of the Corps.

### LIBRARY

During the past year, 2105 new books have been added to the Library and 2489 old books have been bound. The Library has proved of great value, not only to the cadets, but also to the officers on duty in the Academic Departments. The Departments of English, Economics, Government and History and Military Engineering have held certain classes in the Library Building while engaged in research work.

### NEW CONSTRUCTION

During the past year, excellent progress has been made on the new Cadet Barracks. This will be completed in time for occupancy on September 1st. With this addition, there will be but few rooms

where cadets of the Fourth Class will be required to live three in a room. All of the upper classes will have but two cadets per room. The construction of 36 sets of officers' quarters near the Observatory has progressed satisfactorily. It is expected that 16 of these sets will be ready for occupancy by January 1st and the remainder by the following September. A new Filtration and Chlorination plant is being built near the Post Chapel. In order to provide water for the quarters built near the Observatory, a storage tank has been built near Fort Putnam. This tank will be kept filled by an automatic electric pump located in the new filtration plant. Twenty-four sets of non-commissioned officers' quarters located on a site northwest of the Post Cemetery will be ready for occupancy within the next few weeks. The Central Apartment Building for officers will be completed by August 1st. Twenty apartments in this building were completed and occupied about January 1st. The remaining 8 apartments will be occupied during the month of August. Funds are now available for the construction of a Band Barracks, and for the completion of the 36 sets of officers' quarters mentioned above. All of the new construction listed above has been handled by the Constructing Quartermaster.

#### POST QUARTERMASTER

A special emergency appropriation of \$750,000 to help bring the maintenance of the Post up to a reasonable standard was appropriated during the past year. This money is being used to construct new concrete roads along the main highways and to repair some of the less important roads. This money is also being utilized to lay a pipe line through the reservation which will enable West Point to receive commercial gas. The old Gas Works which was erected in 1857 has outlived its usefulness and the maintenance of this obsolete plant has been uneconomical for the past ten years. The emergency fund is also being used to bring the Post Power Plant up to date, and to correct the unsatisfactory condition which has existed at West Point where some buildings were supplied with 240-volt direct current and others with 110-volt alternating current. The emergency fund is also being used to paint some of the larger public buildings which could not be painted within the annual maintenance appropriation. These buildings include: the West Academic Building, the East Academic Building, Washington Hall, the Riding Hall, Cullum Hall, and the Library. The annual main-

tenance appropriation has been utilized to the best advantage in repair and alteration of buildings, roads, upkeep of the cemetery, and in the operation of the utilities. The work of this department has been conducted very satisfactorily.

#### FINANCE AND FISCAL OFFICER

The operation of the Finance and Fiscal Office has been exceptionally well conducted, in spite of the increased work resulting from building activity at West Point. There are now more than eleven hundred civilians on the pay rolls handled by the Finance Officer.

#### TREASURER

The Treasurer has operated the Cadet Store, the Cadet Barber Shop, the Cadet Exchange, the Cadet Laundry and the Cadet Mess. The Cadet Store is now equipped with modern machines and appliances for supplying uniforms, clothing, shoes and all essential articles used by the Corps of Cadets. It is up to date and very conveniently arranged for the service of cadets. The Cadet Laundry has continued to operate satisfactorily. A new dry-cleaning plant is being installed. Tetra Chlorine will be substituted for gasoline as the cleaning fluid. This will eliminate the danger of fire which is always present in a gasoline plant. The Cadet Mess is one of the most important agencies at the Military Academy. This mess has been run on a high standard. The allowance per cadet is 80 cents per man per day; however, there are 112 employees of the Cadet Mess who must be fed from the cadet ration. This reduces the actual ration of the cadet to 73 cents. It is believed that a separate ration should be authorized for these employees in order that the cadets might receive the 80-cent ration intended by Congress.

#### POST EXCHANGE

The management of the Post Exchange during the past year has been exceptionally good. The business has been built up to more than an average of \$22,000 per month. The policy of the Exchange has been to make just sufficient profit to pay a dividend of 50 cents per enlisted man per month. Prices have been reduced in accordance with this policy to the satisfaction of all residents of the Post. The Post Exchange has handled the refreshment stands at the Stadium for the football games, at the Skating Rink, and at the Annual Horse Show. This service is absolutely necessary.

### POST SIGNAL OFFICER

The Signal Corps activities have been carried on in a satisfactory manner. The Post Signal Officer has made a complete study of the requirements of West Point and every step is being taken to bring the telephone installation up to a high standard. The Photographic Section, Radio Service and Metrological Station have fulfilled the needs of the Academy.

### CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

During the past year 119 boys and 97 girls enrolled in the Children's School. Instruction was given in all grades from the kindergarten up to the eighth grade. The subjects taught and the books used conformed to the standard grammar school in New York State. While handicapped for lack of proper facilities, the school functioned very satisfactorily. Funds for a new school building will be requested in the near future. At present the school occupies two widely separate buildings which are inadequate and unsuitable.

### THE SURGEON

During the months of June to January the health of the command was excellent. In January a material increase in the admissions to the hospital occurred on account of respiratory diseases. The hospital was maintained at a high standard with excellent management. The outstanding need is an isolation ward where contagious diseases can be completely isolated. It is proposed to build such a ward in the rear of the present hospital building. This item is carried as number one on the priority list for new construction required.

### CHAPEL

Services were conducted in the Post Chapel each Sunday during the Academic year and near the Battle Monument during the summer months. While these services were primarily for cadets they were attended by many others. From October to May, inclusive, the Chaplain conducted Sunday Night Services for enlisted men in the old Chapel Building on Sunday nights. Sunday School for the children of the Post was maintained throughout the Academic year. A staff of 20 cadets assisted the Chaplain in the instruction of the children. The Cadet Chapel Choir which is composed of 169 voices selected from the Corps of Cadets was trained by the choirmaster and organist. While having but one hour per week for practice-

this choir achieved remarkable success in the excellence of the music rendered. During the year the choir sang at the St. Thomas Church and at the University of Columbia Chapel in New York City.

#### ENLISTED DETACHMENTS

The Enlisted Detachments performed their duties very satisfactorily. The morale and discipline of these detachments have been excellent. The work of the enlisted men of the Post has been of a high standard. They have responded cheerfully to the many extraordinary demands made upon them to meet the varying conditions at the Academy. The enlisted man is an important factor in the maintenance and operation of the Military Academy.

#### ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The work of the Athletic Association has been of a high character and has fully met the needs of the Corps of Cadets. This association, in addition to providing matches in 18 different sports with outside institutions, has furnished many recreational facilities for the cadets and has assisted greatly in providing facilities for the intramural athletics.

#### JUNE WEEK PROGRAM

There were approximately four hundred graduates who attended the Alumni Day Exercises and the Graduation Exercises during June Week. The arrangements for the June Week exercises were highly satisfactory and were successfully carried out. The Graduation Ball was held in Cullum Hall. Due to rain it was necessary to limit this dance to the members of the Graduating Class and their friends.

The dance for the other classes was held at the Cadet Gymnasium.

#### GRADUATION EXERCISES

Graduation Exercises were held at Battle Monument on June 11. One of the former Superintendents, Brigadier General Samuel Tillman, retired, made a short address to the Graduating Class. The Honorable Frederick H. Payne, The Assistant Secretary of War, made the graduation address and presented the diplomas. There were 297 members of the Graduating Class.

During the past year there were many distinguished visitors at West Point. Among others, the Corps of Cadets was reviewed by the following:

Mr. O. L. Badenhamer, National Commander, the American Legion, July 8th.

Fidacs, Federation Interallies des Anciens Combatants, September 25th.

General Gouraud, French Army, October 2nd.

Lieutenant General Kishimoto, Japanese Army, October 10th.

Lieutenant General Blomberg, German Army, November 13th.

Brigadier General Loes, Cuban Army, November 26th.

H. I. H. Prince Takamatsu of Japan, April 13th.

Major General William R. Smith, Superintendent, U. S. M. A., accompanied by Colonel H. V. D. Moore, President, Reserve Officers' Association, May 9th.

Major General William R. Smith, Superintendent, U. S. M. A., accompanied by Honorable Walter H. Newton, Secretary to the President, May 16th.

Mr. Ralph T. O'Neil, National Commander, the American Legion, May 21st.



Major General,  
*Superintendent.*







