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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT



UNITED STATES
MILITARY ACADEMY

1932

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West Point, New York, July 29, 1932.

Subject: Annual Report.

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

The undersigned assumed command of the Military Academy on May 1, 1932. During the preceding ten months of the fiscal year, Major General William R. Smith was in command.

Strength of Command.

At the beginning of the Academic Year, September 1, 1931, the strength of the command was as follows:

Cadets	1259
Commissioned Officers	229
Warrant Officers	3
Enlisted Men	1187

During the year July 1, 1931 to June 30, 1932, the Corps of Cadets sustained the following losses other than through graduation:

Discharged.

	Strength Sept. 1, 1931	Physical Disability	Par. 118, Regs. U.S.M.A. 1931	Deficient in Studies	Dismissed (Per GCM)	Total
1st Class	265	1				1
2nd Class	355	3			1	4
3rd Class	271	1	1	18		20
4th Class	368	2		38		40
Total	1259	7	1	56	1	65

Resigned.

2nd Class	1
3rd Class	1
4th Class	5
Total	7

Died.

2nd Class	3
Total Number	75

Cadets discharged for deficiency in academic work.

	Math.	Engl.	Phys.	Hist.	Engl. and Hist.	Math. and Physics	Math. and French	Math. Hist. and Physics	Math. and Engl.	Math. Fr. and Engl.	Total
3rd Class	9	1	2	1	1	1	2	1			18
4th Class	21	5					3		7	2	38
Total	30	6	2	1	1	1	5	1	7	2	56

Department of Tactics.

The theory followed in the tactical training program is that each cadet should be indoctrinated in the basic tactical principles of each arm of the service; should be taught the fundamentals of infantry; should be a qualified rifle and pistol shot; should understand and execute simple problems in fire control in seacoast artillery, in field artillery and in anti-aircraft artillery; should learn to ride, to build a simple bridge and to apply basic field engineering principles; and should understand the theory and practice of signal communications. Based on this theory, progressive training schedules have been followed. The First Class was sent to Fort Monroe, Virginia, for seacoast and anti-aircraft artillery practice, to Fort Bragg, North Carolina for field artillery target practice, and to Langley Field, Virginia, for practical instruction in aviation.

The regular gymnastic training given the Fourth Class throughout the year produced excellent results in building up the cadets physically and in improving their set up. The results were as follows:

Average gain in weight	8.91 pounds
Average gain in height	0.216 inches
Average gain in normal chest785 inches

The discipline and morale of the Corps of Cadets has been excellent.

Department of Civil and Military Engineering.

The course given the First Class included civil engineering, mechanical engineering, military engineering and military art and history.

In lieu of the general written review, the four highest sections were required to prepare individual reports on certain selected subjects involving the application of engineering principles.

Department of Natural and Experimental Philosophy.

The course given to the Second Class included precision of measurements, graphical methods, astronomy, surveying, statics, kinematics and kinetics, hydraulics and aerodynamics.

Practical demonstrations and laboratory work supplemented the regular textbook.

Department of Mathematics.

For the Fourth Class, the first month was devoted to oral reviews of elementary algebra and plane geometry, ending in six written recitations. As a result of the preliminary course, the Class which had been arranged in sections alphabetically was rearranged according to merit. Deficient cadets were given special instruction from 5:05 p. m. to 6:05 p. m. daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from September 15th to December 1st. For the first three weeks attendance was compulsory and thereafter voluntary.

The entire course for the year included algebra, geometry, plane and spherical trigonometry, plane analytical geometry, and a few lessons in solid analytics.

Of the 36 cadets of the Fourth Class found deficient in Mathematics, 18 entered by certificate, 2 by validating examination, 15 by regular examination, and 1 by re-examination after having been discharged previously for deficiency in Mathematics.

The instruction given the Third Class included solid analytical geometry, differential calculus and integral calculus. Of the 16 cadets of the Third Class who were found deficient in Mathematics, 7 entered by certificate, 1 by validating examination, 6 by regular examination and 2 by re-examination after having been discharged previously for deficiency in Mathematics.

Department of Chemistry and Electricity.

In the Department of Chemistry and Electricity, chemistry is taught in the first half of the Second Class Year, and electricity in the second half. The subject of heat which was taught in this department for a great many years has been transferred to the Department of Physics. The course in electricity has been greatly changed and the cadet is now given a course in electrical engineering. The course includes both direct and alternating currents and concentrates on the general principles, on the typical machines, and on the more important uses of electricity in power and communication.

Department of Drawing.

The course given the Third Class included descriptive geometry (formerly taught by the Department of Mathematics), use of

drafting instruments, freehand lettering, mechanical and freehand drawing, architectural drawing and panormic sketching.

The course given the Second Class included projections, panormic sketches, engineering drawing, and the preparation and interpretation of working drawing. Special emphasis was placed upon drawings of the Ordnance Department.

Department of Modern Languages.

The course in elementary French given the Fourth Class included a systematic study of the rules of pronunciation and grammar. For the general review at the end of the spring term the class was divided into two groups, the review being conducted in French for the upper group and in English for the lower group. In addition, the upper sections had a course in conversation.

The course in advanced French given the Third Class emphasized composition, including review of grammar and idiomatic expressions. The upper sections took a special supplementary course in original composition. A course in French civilization was given in a series of ten lectures. All the lectures were in French.

The course in Spanish given to the Second Class included a thorough study of the rules of pronunciation and grammar, composition and reading. A course in spanish civilization was given by a series of lectures in Spanish to the upper sections of the class only.

There are three native civilian instructors, two French and one Spanish, on duty with the Department. For the coming year, all officers instructing in French or Spanish will have had instruction in France and Spain.

Department of Law.

The instruction given the cadets of the First Class consisted of courses in elementary law, constitutional law, criminal law, evidence, and military law. Special emphasis was placed on courts-martial.

Staff Judge Advocate.

In addition to handling the instruction of his department, the Professor of Law acted in the capacity of Staff Judge Advocate to the Superintendent. As Staff Judge Advocate, he handled the preliminary and special investigations leading to the drawing up of charges, the review of all court-martial records of trial, and the preparation of all actions and orders connected with court-martial cases. During the year, there were 123 cases tried by Summary Court, 23 by Special Court and 14 by General Court.

Department of Ordnance and Gunnery.

The course given the First Class included explosives, interior and exterior ballistics, measurements of velocities and pressures, design of material, recoil, military motor transportation and practical shop work. The instruction in military motor transportation was greatly improved, due to an adequate laboratory and additional automotive equipment added during the year. Near the conclusion of the course, the class was taken to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Frankford Arsenal, and the Midvale Steel Works, to give the cadets a practical idea of the development and testing of new ordnance material, the operation of a government arsenal, and the essential steps in the manufacture of steel.

Department of Military Hygiene.

The course given the First Class consisted of 18 lectures embracing elementary anatomy, physiology, first aid, and military hygiene. These lectures were followed by a recitation course of fourteen periods.

Department of English.

The course given the Fourth Class included grammar and sentence structure, the theory and application of the principles of composition as applied to the expository paragraph, composition of expository narrative and descriptive themes and studies in literature.

The course given the Third Class was essentially a study of literature of the Romantic and Victorian periods. A few modern works of American writers were included. The work in composition was continued throughout the year with special emphasis on oral composition.

Department of Economics, Government and History.

The course for the First Class included Government, Bookkeeping and Economics. The study of current public affairs was based on news as presented in the New York City papers. Emphasis was placed on the principles of political science. A series of lectures covering various countries of the world supplemented the text-book assignments.

The course for the Third Class included Ancient History, Medieval History and Modern History.

Department of Physics.

This new Department was inaugurated with a view to preparing cadets of the Third Class for the work of the Second Class year. The course of college physics included elementary mechanics, wave

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motion, sound, heat, light, electricity and magnetism, and the use of the slide rule. Practical demonstration in the section rooms and laboratory work supplemented the text-book recitations.

Library.

During the past year, 1622 new books have been added to the Library. Of this number 420 were gifts and 101 were purchased from the Henrietta Wright Memorial Fund. The Library has continued to serve a very useful purpose not only for the cadets but also for the officers on duty at the Military Academy.

In order to encourage reading during summer encampment, the Library is now kept open for about two hours after supper.

The Surgeon.

A material increase in admissions on account of respiratory diseases occurred in the month of March 1932. Otherwise the health of the command was excellent. Seven cadets and two enlisted men were discharged for physical disability.

Post Quartermaster.

The most outstanding accomplishments of the Post Quartermaster during the year were the completion of approximately three miles of concrete roads; the installation of a gas pipe line through the reservation, thus enabling high quality gas to be furnished West Point from an outside source; the renovation of the electric system on the post resulting in a discontinuance of the 240 d. c. power except in a few buildings where especially desired, and the substitution of 110 a. c. power generally throughout the post; the entire reconstruction of the street lighting system; painting the interior of the Headquarters Building, the Academic Buildings and sixty-two sets of officers quarters; and extensive grading and landscaping. The physical appearance of the buildings and grounds has been greatly improved.

Constructing Quartermaster.

Just before September 1st, the new South Cadet Barracks was turned over for occupancy. With the occupation of this building, cadets were assigned two to a room and there were left but 36 rooms where cadets were required to live three in a room. The first floor of this building contains the Cadet Reception Room, well designed and furnished with taste. It fills a real need for a place where parents and friends of the Cadets can visit the Cadets during release from quarters. The Cadet Hostess has an office at the north end of

the reception room where she is readily accessible to the cadets and their friends. Adjoining the Cadet Reception Room at the south end is the Cadet Restaurant, where a modern soda fountain has been installed.

Sixteen sets of officers quarters erected near the Observatory were turned over for occupancy about May 1st and twelve additional sets will be turned over about September 1st, next. Unfortunately, the cost of the utilities on this site did not leave sufficient funds in the appropriation to complete the thirty-six sets originally planned. During the year 24 sets for non-commissioned staff officers were turned over for occupancy.

The new filtration plant near the Cadet Chapel was put into use about June 1st. The married section of the Band Barracks, consisting of thirty sets, will be completed about September 15th. Funds were included in a recent act of Congress to erect a barracks for the Service Detachment, and an isolation ward for the Cadet Hospital.

The most outstanding need for new construction at West Point at the present time is a group of fifty sets of quarters for lieutenants. With the completion of the 12 sets of officers' quarters referred to above, there will still be a shortage of officers' quarters so that at least thirty married officers will have to live off the post and twenty in Bachelor Officers' quarters. These bachelor officers' quarters were never intended for house keeping apartments and have been used for married officers without children only on account of the acute shortage of quarters. The officers who live off the post are of the junior grades and, due to the scarcity of houses in the vicinity of West Point, practically all of them find it impossible to obtain suitable quarters for themselves at a reasonable cost. In some cases the extra expenses placed upon these officers causes financial worry which has an effect upon their efficiency as instructors. This condition has resulted in many of the junior officers, best qualified as instructors, requesting that they be not detailed for duty at the Military Academy. Sufficient quarters on the Post for the officers on duty at the Military Academy are urgently needed.

Treasurer

During the past year the cadet mess has improved materially. With the reduction in food costs it has been possible to serve a greater variety of foods. Metal serving tables, in place of the old wooden tables, have improved the appearance of the mess hall.

The Cadet Store has undertaken to equip the graduating class and the furlough class with civilian clothing and the graduating class with officers' uniforms and equipment. By dealing only with wholesale firms, this system has resulted in a saving to the individual cadets of from 25% to 40% on their expenditures.

During the year, an up to date dry cleaning plant has been installed in the cadet laundry, and new machinery has been installed in the washroom.

Chaplain.

During the academic year, services were conducted regularly on Sunday mornings. The Cadet Chapel Choir consisting of 170 cadets trained by the Choirmaster and Organist assisted materially in these services. During the summer months a short service was held each Sunday at Battle Monument. The Cadet Chapel Sunday School was administered by a staff of twenty cadets chosen and directed by the Chaplain. During the year, the Chaplain conducted 28 baptisms, 27 weddings and 25 funerals.

Post Signal Officer.

The Post telephone system has operated satisfactorily during the year in spite of the handicap of a switchboard that is old and in poor condition. 443 lines are in use on this board, 58 of which are two party lines making a total of 501 subscribers. Between the hours of 7:00 a. m. and 10:00 p. m. on June 8th there were 8916 intercommunicating calls on the post and 231 outgoing long distance calls. During the peak hour it was necessary for the operators to handle an average of one call every seven seconds.

A plan for a new system has been tentatively approved by the Chief Signal Officer of the Army and will be installed when funds are available. During the past year some of the new cable pertaining to the new plan was installed.

Children's School.

During the year, 92 boys and 104 girls were registered in the school. The subjects taught and the books used conformed to the Standard Grammar School in New York State. In the regents examination prepared by New York State the students made a very satisfactory showing.

Enlisted Detachments.

During the year the Cavalry Detachment, U. S. M. A., was absorbed by the 2nd Squadron, 10th Cavalry. The following Army units are now stationed at West Point: 69th M. T. Co., Q. M. C.,

94th M. R Section, Q. M. C., Detachment Q. M. C., Detachment Medical Department, 29th Ordnance Co., and 2nd Squadron 10th Cav.

The enlisted detachments have performed their work in a satisfactory manner. The discipline and morale of the enlisted men have been maintained at a high standard. In addition to work in connection with the military training of cadets, the enlisted men have been an important factor in the maintenance and operation of the Military Academy.

Army Athletic Association.

The affairs of the Army Athletic Association have been well managed. This association continues to play an important part in furnishing healthful recreation for the cadets. In addition to arranging all athletic contests, with outside institutions, the Association has assisted materially in providing facilities and coaches for intramural athletics.

June Week Program

Approximately five hundred graduates attended the Alumni Day Exercises and the Graduation Exercises, and the program for the week was carried out satisfactorily. The annual horse show was held on Monday and Tuesday of June Week.

Graduation Exercises.

Graduation Exercises were held at Battle Monument on June 10th. Major General James G. Harbord, U. S. A., made the graduation address and presented the diplomas. There were 263 members of the Graduating Class.

Distinguished Visitors.

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

H. M. The Prince of Sukhodayo, King of Siam, accompanied by General Douglas MacArthur, Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army, on July 17, 1931.

Captain Frank M. Hawks, Specialist Reserve, U. S. Air Corps, August 4, 1931.

Major General Wm. R. Smith, Superintendent, U. S. M. A., accompanied by Colonel Pillon, French Military Attache, to present bust of Marshal Foch, September 12, 1931.

Marshal Petain, French Army, accompanied by General Pershing, U. S. A., Retired, October 25, 1931.

Dr. James Monroe Smith, President Louisiana State University, November 7, 1931.

Lt. Col G. R. Pearkes, V. C., D. S. O., M. C., Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario, March 5, 1932.

In addition, the Corps of Cadets was reviewed in Pittsburgh by the Secretary of War, Honorable Patrick J. Hurley, November 14, 1931.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. H. Dommor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H" and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Major General,
Superintendent.



