

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT
UNITED STATES
MILITARY ACADEMY



1933

WEST POINT, N. Y.
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West Point, N. Y., August 17, 1933.

SUBJECT: Annual Report.

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

The following report of the United States Military Academy for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1933, is hereby submitted:

STRENGTH OF COMMAND

	July 1, 1932	Sept. 1, 1932	June 1, 1933	June 30, 1933
Cadets	1282	1299	1244	863
Commissioned Officers	230	219	219	223
Warrant Officers	4	3	3	3
Enlisted men	1277	1249	1222	1217

During the fiscal year, the Corps of Cadets sustained the following losses other than through graduation:

DISCHARGED

Strength Sept. 1, 1932	Physical Disability	Deficient in Conduct	Deficient in Studies	Total
1st Class..... 348	....	....	....	....
2nd Class..... 255	....	1	2	3
3rd Class..... 325	1	1	34	36
4th Class..... 371	3	....	60	63
TOTAL.....1299	4	2	96	102

RESIGNED

2nd Class.....	1	
3rd Class.....	1	
4th Class.....	8	10

DIED

4th Class.....	2	2
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RELEASED

3rd Class.....	2 (Foreign cadets)	2
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Total.... 116

Cadets Discharged for Deficiency in Academic Work

	Chemistry	Mathematics	English	Physics	French	History	Eng. and Hist.	Math. and Physics	History and Physics	English, Hist. and Physics	Mathematics and English	Math, French and English	English and Physics	Total
2nd Class..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
3rd Class..	..	7	14	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	..	1	34
4th Class..	..	27	10	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	13	8	..	60
Totals..	2	34	24	2	3	1	1	3	1	1	15	8	1	96

CLASS OF 1934						
	No. entered:	Discharged for Deficiencies. 4th Cl. Year	Discharged for Deficiencies. 3rd Cl. Year	Discharged for Deficiencies. 2nd Cl. Year	Totals Class of 1934	Percentage of Groups Deficient
College Certificate	111	22	8	0	30	27.03%
Validating Examination.	72	10	3	0	13	18.06%
Regular Examination.	129	14	9	2	25	19.38%
TOTAL	312	46	20	2	68	Average 21.80%
CLASS OF 1935						
College Certificate	134	22	10	..	32	23.88%
Validating Examination.	69	3	9	..	12	17.39%
Regular Examination.	169	13	15	..	28	16.57%
TOTAL	372	38	34	..	72	Average 19.35%
CLASS OF 1936						
College Certificate	138	36	..	..	36	26.08%
Validating Examination.	72	5	..	..	5	6.94%
Regular Examination.	173	19	..	..	19	10.98%
TOTAL	383	60	..	..	60	Average 15.67%

ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION

A high standard was maintained in the academic instruction of the cadets which was carried on along the same general lines as in the preceding year. In order to reduce the number of cadets per section and thus to secure better individual instruction, Associate and Assistant Professors were required to take regular classes, and certain other officers, normally assigned to administrative duties, assisted in academic instruction. A new program of instruction was approved by the Secretary of War on June 12th, 1933, and will be put into effect during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1934. This will result in a more even distribution of work by classes under the curriculum, without increasing the total load.

In the Fourth Class year the load will be increased slightly by the substitution of Drawing for Gymnasuim, on alternate days, from February 1st to June 4th and by completion of Analytical Geometry in that year. The subject of Surveying will be transferred from the Department of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, to which subject it had no relation whatsoever, to the Department of Drawing, where it definitely belongs in connection with the subject of reconnaissance and topographical drawing. The subject of Drawing will begin February 1st of the Fourth Class year and run through to February 1st of the Second Class year.

In the Third Class year, the course in Mathematics will be lightened by rearranging the work between the Third and Fourth Class years without increasing the total subject matter now covered during the two years. The subject of History will be made easier by confining the course to General History, and eliminating the study of military campaigns in that year since they will be covered more fully than heretofore in First Class year when the student's mind is more mature.

In the Second Class year the subject matter will be altered slightly in that Drawing will cease on January 31st and the time formerly allotted to Drawing during the remainder of the Second Class year will be assigned to the study subjects of the Tactical Department in compensation for other detached periods which now are scattered through Third and Fourth Class years.

In the First Class year, the only change will be the elimination of certain subjects in Mechanical Engineering which are already covered to a degree in Second Class year and which under the new scheme will be more fully covered in that year than heretofore. The time thus saved by the elimination of Mechanical Engineering will be devoted to the study of Military History. It is not proposed to study any campaigns prior to the Napoleonic Wars, but in general terms, to study certain of Napoleon's best known campaigns, then to pass to the American Civil War, and the Franco-Prussian War of 1871. The remainder of the time will be spent on the campaigns of the World War.

It will be seen that the project is therefore largely a redistribution of the curriculum, an elimination of present overlapping and the utilization of the time thus saved for an expansion of the present course in Military History

An interesting experiment in intercollegiate competition was undertaken when, by arrangement between the President of Harvard University and the Superintendent, U. S. M. A., a mathematical contest was held between a team of ten Harvard students of sophomore standing in mathematics and a team of ten Third Classmen at the Military Academy. The contest, which was held at West Point on May 19th and 20th, 1933, consisted of two three-hour written examinations, covering most of the topics in Plane and Solid Analytic Geometry and Differential and Integral Calculus taught in the standard two-year courses at both institutions. The questions were prepared by Professor Arnold Dresden of Swarthmore College, President of the Mathematical Association of America, who also graded the papers. Professor Dresden did not give percentage grades but ranked the twenty contestants in order of merit. The Military Academy contestants ranked 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 17 and 18; the Harvard contestants

finished 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 19 and 20. It was agreed to decide the contest by adding the place numbers of each team, the team with the lowest total score to win. On this basis the U. S. M. A. team won, with a score of 98 to 112 for the Harvard team. The expenses of the competition were borne by Mrs. William Lowell Putnam, who also gave a gold medal and a book to each contestant.

This contest aroused wide interest by demonstrating the practicability of intercollegiate competition in academic subjects. It was of great value to the participants in giving them the opportunity for a general survey of their mathematical studies at the end of their course. Without endeavoring to draw unwarranted conclusions from the result of a single contest, it should nevertheless be most gratifying to all who believe in the West Point system of instruction that the cadets were able to compete on even terms with the representatives of one of the great universities.

ADMINISTRATION

No material change was made in administration methods except that the duties of certain administrative officers were doubled up in order to release more officers for academic work. The Military Academy was operated at a lower cost during the past fiscal year without sacrificing any essential features. Important economies were made by consolidated purchases and careful scrutiny of all expenditures for material and personnel. The maintenance of the post was carried on necessarily at a lower level than was desirable and some repair work, which should have been done had funds been available, had to be postponed.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

During the fiscal year, twelve sets of officers' quarters, near the Observatory, and thirty sets of the married section of the Band Barracks, were completed and occupied. Considerable progress was made on the new addition to the hospital and on the new Service Barracks. It is expected that these two projects will be completed by December 1st. It was hoped that work on fifty sets of quarters for junior officers would have been started but as yet no funds have been received for this project. In the interest of economy, it would be advisable to quarter all the officers on the post and the morale of the young married officers would be considerably increased were they given quarters. At the end of the year there were 32 officers and no enlisted men on a commutation of quarters status.

TACTICAL TRAINING

The tactical training of the Corps of Cadets was conducted in

accordance with an annual program of instruction and the basic tactical principles of each arm of the service were taught the cadets. The schedule was progressive and was conducted efficiently. The discipline and morale of the Corps of Cadets was excellent. As a result of regular hours, wholesome food and the physical training given the Fourth Class, 317 members of that class gained during the year an average weight of 10.27 pounds, an average height of 0.17 inches and an average normal chest measurement of 1.9 inches.

GRADUATION EXERCISES

Graduation exercises were held at Battle Monument on June 13th. The Honorable George H. Dern, the Secretary of War, presented the diplomas and General Douglas MacArthur, Chief of Staff, made the graduation address. There were 346 members in the graduating class.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. MacArthur", written in a cursive style. The signature is underlined with a thick, dark horizontal line.

Major General,
Superintendent.

