

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SUPERINTENDENT
UNITED STATES
MILITARY ACADEMY



1940

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY PRINTING OFFICE
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WEST POINT, N. Y., SEPTEMBER 3, 1940.

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT.

TO: THE ADJUTANT GENERAL,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1. In compliance with the provisions of paragraph 2a (7) (d), A.R. 350-5, there is submitted herewith report covering the operation of the United States Military Academy for the Fiscal Year 1940.

2. ADMINISTRATION.

During the year there have been only minor changes in administrative organization and procedure. These include creation of a Civilian Personnel Board to assist the Superintendent in administration pertaining to the 750 civilian employees. An officer assistant to the Treasurer, U.S.M.A., has also been provided, by local action, with gratifying results in improved operation of that department. A revision of Regulations, U.S.M.A., has been initiated but not completed.

3. PERSONNEL.

a. **Commissioned.** The authorized strength of the commissioned personnel during the year was 282. Of this number 202 were assigned to the academic departments, 22 to the Department of Tactics, 14 to organizations, 17 to the Medical Department, and 27 to administrative positions.

In addition to the above there were 1 aide, 1 librarian, 1 constructing quartermaster, and 7 language students abroad. Also, there were 7 civilian instructors on duty, 2 in French, 1 in Spanish, 1 in Wrestling, 1 in Boxing, and 2 in Military Gymnastics.

The changes in principal staff officers occurring during the year were: Colonel J. L. Devers, F.A., relieved as Executive and Commanding Officer of Troops, August 1, 1939, and succeeded by Colonel T. J. J. Christian, F.A.; Colonel F. W. Weed, Medical Corps, relieved as Surgeon and Professor of Military Hygiene, July 1, 1939 and succeeded by Colonel Royal Reynolds, Medical Corps; Colonel F. W. Scowden, Q.M.C., relieved as Quartermaster, June 30, 1940 and succeeded by Colonel A. R. Kimball, Q.M.C.; Colonel Stanley E. Reinhart, F.A., relieved as Treasurer in June 1940 and succeeded by Lieut. Colonel James C. Ruddell, C.A.C.

It is very gratifying to note that on June 13, 1940, "A Bill, S.3496, 76th Congress, 3rd Session, To prevent retardation in promotion and in pay and allowances of permanent professors of the United States Military Academy appointed by the President from the commissioned officers of the Regular Army," was approved by the President of the United States. Also on May 27, 1940 an Act of Congress was approved granting the rank of captain to the leader of the U.S.M.A. Band and Teacher of Music.

Due to the war conditions in Europe, language students are now being sent to Canada and Mexico instead of to France and Spain as has been the custom for so many years.

b. The Corps of Cadets. The authorized strength of the Corps remained at 1960. The Corps reached its maximum strength on January 2, 1940, with a total of 1813 cadets, and its minimum on June 30, 1940, with a total of 1256 cadets. The average number of cadets for the year was 1726 and the average strength of classes was: First, 450; Second, 431; Third, 395; Fourth, 492.

The total number of original admissions during the year was 513. In addition, 31 ex-cadets were readmitted in August, 1939, and 11 ex-cadets were readmitted in January, 1940, making a grand total of 555 admissions. The total number of cadets discharged for deficiency in studies was 101; separations for other causes amounted to 25. The aggregate loss of 126 was approximately 7½% of the average strength for the year. 448 cadets were graduated June 11, 1940 (of which two were Filipinos). One foreign cadet (Ecuadorian) and 4 Filipinos received instruction during the year.

c. Civilians. There were 749 civilian employees under the Military Academy as of June 30, 1940; 517 of these occupied permanent classified positions and 236 occupied temporary and unclassified positions.

During the fiscal year 1940 a complete study of the wages paid the laundry workers at the Military Academy was made and compared to wages paid in this locality, and such study resulted in an adjustment to a minimum wage of thirty cents per hour—or \$53.95 per month. Laundry supervisory workers wages were also adjusted and resulted in an increase of from five to ten dollars per month.

Another important change in civilian personnel status during the fiscal year 1940 was the extension of annual and sick leave with pay, provided for in the Act of March 14, 1936, to civilian employees at the Cadet Laundry and Cadet Store, paid from *non-appropriated* funds.

Under Executive Order 7916 there have been 7 teachers at the Post School and 53 Cadet Mess employees given a classified status.

d. Enlisted. The authorized strength, all organizations, for the year was 1294. About 60% of the enlisted men are occupied in maintaining the animals and military equipment used in connection with cadet instruction and in assisting with such instruction. The remaining 40% are used largely in maintenance and operation of the plant.

There are present units and detachments of all the arms except Infantry. While there is not a need for a tactical unit of Infantry, there is a distinct need for a small detachment for the care, operation and demonstration of the use of Infantry weapons in the instruction of cadets.

During the year the Field Artillery Detachment was reorganized into a battalion of two truck drawn batteries. A horse drawn platoon and pack section have been retained for demonstration purposes.

4. APPOINTMENTS AND ADMISSIONS.

Since last report information has been received that it is not deemed advisable at this time to endeavor to stabilize and make uniform the size of entering classes. The advantages of so doing are such that the matter should be taken up at some appropriate future time.

During the year legislation was proposed by the War Department to permit vacancies under the Act of June 8, 1926, (sons of veterans who died prior to July 2, 1921) to be filled from other sources but final action has not been taken. Of the 40 vacancies authorized by the Act only 11 are now filled. There was one 1940 entrant under this Act.

The practice recently inaugurated of substantiating high school certificates by the Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Entrance Examination Board instead of by our own Validating Examination, where the candidate preferred this substitution, has not yet attained any considerable usefulness. In this, the second year of existence, only 7 candidates elected to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test in preference to the Validating Examination. Of these 7, two failed to report, the other five all passed, but only one was admitted. In addition there were 4 candidates who submitted records in the Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Entrance Examination Board before the March Examination. Two of these were given complete exemption and the other two were required to take the Validating Examination on account of low marks in the test. It is believed that not enough time has elapsed to permit a fair estimate of the value of this provision and that the method of qualifying which it presents will gain in favor as time goes on.

5. ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION.

Throughout the year the Academic Board was engaged in making a study of the curriculum. An examination was made of the scope, content, and objective of each course now taught, together with a consideration of subjects which are not at present a part of the curriculum. This study will be completed during the summer and such changes as may be found desirable will be made effective for the academic year 1940-41.

During the past year the Academic Board completed a study of the advisability and feasibility of installing a central records office. Using modern machine-bookkeeping equipment, this office could keep all records of cadet grades and prepare numerous reports of averages and standings that are required. Reports and records would be expedited and the great amount of time now spent by instructors on clerical work of this nature would be released for constructive educational work. It is believed that the new system should be installed and a request for the necessary funds for equipment and operating personnel will be submitted at the appropriate time.

For a long time the Academy's class lecture-room facilities have been very inadequate. This deficiency has become more serious in recent years, due to the larger classes and to an increase in the number of lectures. During the past year some relief was afforded by the reconstruction of the lecture room of the Department of Chemistry and Electricity so as to provide seats for the largest class now at the Academy and improved facilities. Good lecture room facilities for the entire Corps, or for more than a class, are non-existent.

The program of general lectures was further extended during the past year. Eight general lectures were sponsored by the lecture committee of the Academic Board; twenty-two outside lecturers were brought to the Academy by the academic departments; seventeen lectures and entertainments were sponsored by the cadet lecture committee. The experience of the past year, and a moderate increase in the funds available will improve the lecture program during the coming year.

The completion of the new Ordnance and Engineering Laboratory building has provided improved facilities for instruction in automotive engineering and the mechanical trades and in civil engineering. This building was used for the first time during the past year.

6. MILITARY INSTRUCTION.

The objectives of military training have continued to be the inculcation and maintenance of high standards of honor, loyalty, discipline and conduct, and a broad and basic military education concerning all arms and branches, including their organization, armament, powers and limitations and their functions and uses, singly and in combination. The development of individual proficiency in the technical duties of the various arms cannot be attained in the time available and must be left for post-graduate work.

Several new training developments took place during the past year. The new close order drill and ceremonies have been used with satisfactory results. A new protected 1000-inch rifle range was completed and range work with the M-1 rifle was started. The annual Air Corps training trip was changed from Mitchel Field to Langley and Patterson Fields with beneficial results. The First Class took a Coast Artillery training trip to Fort Hancock, New Jersey, where valuable anti-aircraft, seacoast artillery and mine instruction was presented.

Upon reorganization of the Field Artillery detachment, the horse field artillery instruction was decreased with a corresponding increase in motorized and other field artillery work.

The summer training schedule for the past year stressed more than ever before the exercise of command and leadership on the part of First Classmen with very beneficial results.

With a view to better coordination and improvement in practical training, the chiefs of all Arms were consulted. They were given a synopsis of training in effect in their Arms and suggestions for improvement invited. Their replies, with War Department comment and action thereon, now being studied and coordinated by a board of officers, will bring about some changes, largely of a minor nature, in next year's training. The change of greatest importance will be a reduction in the time devoted to equitation.

7. PHYSICAL TRAINING AND ATHLETICS.

These activities continued without material change during the year. They were greatly facilitated by availability of the new field house which was used for practice and competition in many sports. Due to war conditions the annual hockey game with the Royal Military College of Canada was cancelled.

8. RECREATION AND WELFARE.

Special attention has continued to be directed to these important matters.

In my last report the need of an additional building suitable for general assemblages, dances, theatricals, lectures, concerts, etc., was stressed. Although the desirability of such a building is recognized the War Department does not deem its inclusion in the construction program to be desirable at present. In view of its importance to the Academy, it is believed the building should be provided as soon as conditions permit.

9. HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The general health of the command has continued to be excellent. There were no deaths, and a complete absence of epidemics of any character. Two officers and nine cadets were transferred to General Hospitals during the year for further observation and treatment, and five cadets were discharged on account of physical disability. Of minor illnesses among the cadets, common respiratory diseases constituted the largest number.

10. CADET ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPLY.

A material change was made in administration pertaining to the First Class. With a view to easing the transition from cadet to officer, a relaxation of restrictions and extension of privileges was effected March 1, 1940. Major changes were: later taps; permission to visit the First Class Club; limits extended to limits of reservation; going individually to and from classes; permission to draw cash on account, to have money in possession and to make cash purchases at business places on the post; permission to leave post with friends or relatives on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The response of cadets to the increased privileges and responsibility thus placed upon them was excellent and believed to be highly beneficial to them. Continuation of this practice with further extension of privileges and throwing greater responsibility upon the First Class is contemplated.

Housing, messing, supply and services have been quite satisfactory during the year with the exception of laundry service. By curtailing somewhat the use of white uniforms some improvement in laundry service has been effected but satisfactory service will not be assured until the plant is enlarged and renovated.

The reconditioning of cadet barracks has been in progress during the year and will be completed by September 1st.

11. DISCIPLINE.

The state of discipline in the Corps of Cadets has been very satisfactory. In one instance only was recourse had to court martial. The most gratifying aspects of discipline are the attitude of cadets which condemns serious offenses and the acceptance and discharge of responsibility by cadets in regulating conduct and preserving good order.

12. INSTALLATIONS.

The installations of the Academy are, in general, satisfactory and well balanced to the needs of the present size of the Corps and instructional staff.

During the year there were completed the Ordnance and Engineering Laboratory, the installation of a 1000 kw turbine generator and a 1500 h.p. boiler in the power house.

The West Point Land Project is progressing actively. With most of the preparatory legal and survey work completed, the condemnation proceedings are now being prosecuted vigorously. To date, the Commissioners of Appraisal in these proceedings have submitted their report and an award of \$29,940 on 93.71 acres of land with improvements. Valuation hearings have been completed on parcels containing 94.15 acres and 31.98 acres of land, on which it is expected that the Commissioners of Appraisal will soon submit their report and award. 528.11 acres of land have been acquired by purchase, and 267.04 acres of land are in process of acquisition by purchase. This makes a total of 1,014.99 acres of land which has either been acquired or is in the final stages of acquisition. In addition to this, there is pending a combination purchase and trade with the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, by which the United States expects to acquire 699.88 acres of land now owned by the Park Commission.

During the year the restoration of our most valuable historical flags was completed. A program has been approved for continuing the process of restoration as funds become available.

A board of officers is making a study and report with a view to placing suitable markers on all historic sites on the post.

The two outstanding needs of the physical plant continue to be an enlarged and rehabilitated laundry and a suitable building for memorials and for general assemblages for recreational and instructional purposes. Laundry construction at a cost of \$299,000 has been authorized by Congress and I am informed funds will be included in the 1942 estimates. The status of the memorial building is stated in paragraph 8 above.

Other needs to round out the plant, for the present authorized strength of the Corps, are included in the War Department Construction Program. The latter does not include the item of enlargement of the filtration plant which will soon be necessary, nor the item of a sewage disposal plant. In accordance with State law, all communities along the Hudson River are discontinuing dumping sewage into the river and the Military Academy should conform.

13. EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

During the year the external relations with other educational institutions, with government agencies, with the community and with the public generally have been very satisfactory. The Second Class of the Naval Academy visited the Military Academy in two increments during the summer destroyer cruise.

14. DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

a. Of the United States Senators and Representatives appointed to the Board of Visitors, only two, Honorable J. Buell Snyder and Honorable Albert J. Engel, visited the Military Academy on May 17, 1940. No report of their visit has yet been received.

b. Distinguished United States visitors included: Major General Allen W. Gullion, The Judge Advocate General, Oct. 6, 1939; General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, Nov. 3, 1939; Mr. Laurence Duggan, Chief, Div. of American Republics, Dept. of State, Nov. 5, 1939; Major General Henry H. Arnold, Chief of the Air Corps, Feb. 10, 1940; Brig. General Henry J. Reilly, Officers Reserve Corps, Feb. 19, 1940; Major General Robert M. Danford, Chief of Field Artillery, April 6, 1940; Major General John K. Herr, Chief of Cavalry, May 2, 1940; Major General Julian L. Schley, Chief of Engineers, June 7, 1940; Lieut. General Hugh A. Drum, Commander of First Army, June 11, 1940.

c. Distinguished foreign visitors, in chronological order, included: Maj. Gen. Pedro A. de Goes Monteiro, Chief of Staff, Brazilian Army, accompanied by Maj. Gen. Hugh A. Drum and party of 14, July 7, 1939; General Rafael Trujillo, Former President of Dominican Republic, accompanied by Senor Don A. Pastoriza, Minister of Dominican Republic, and party of 7, July 12, 1939; Maj. Gen. C. J. E. Auchinleck, British Army, Commander of the Meerut Dist., India, July 21, 1939; Major Carl Nils G. Armann, Chief of Personnel, Swedish Army Staff, July 24-29, 1939; H.W., The Hon. Patrick J. Dollan, Lord Provost of Glasgow, Scotland, accompanied by Lady Dollan and party of 5, July 29, 1939; H.R.H. Prince Consort Felix and H.R.H. Crown Prince John, Princes of Luxemburg, Lt. Konsbruck, Aide, The American Military & Naval Aides, Mrs. Stanley Woodward, Acting Chief of Protocol, and Mr. Robert D. Fitch, Special Agent of Dept. of State, August 31, 1939; General Manthos Matheou, Commander General of Union of War Veterans of Macedonia, Sept. 8, 1939; Colonel Gustav Laraque and Captain Arnaud Mercheron, Aides to the President of Haiti, Dec. 7, 1939; Colonel Juan J. Tarra, Venezuelan Army—Second in rank at Venezuelan Military Academy, Jan. 18, 1940; Colonel Isais Medina, Minister of National De-

fense of Venezuela, accompanied by 2 Aides, Feb. 9, 1940; Major A. M. Lobo accompanied by Capt. Jose Lima, members of Brazilian Army, Feb. 19-21, 1940; Mr. Pablo Rocha, Architect with Ministry of Education, Columbian Govt., March 15, 1940; Brig. General Adolfo Infante, Military Attache to Italian Embassy in Washington, accompanied by Senora Infante, May 27, 1940; Major A. Roland, Haitian Guard, May 28, 1940; Major F. G. L. Weijerman, Netherlands Army, May 31, 1940; Capt. Hastil, Lt. Corbington and Lt. Mercier, Haitian Officers, May 31, 1940; Lt. Colonel E. L. N. Glass, Director Guatemalian Military Academy, accompanied by 2 Guatemalian officers, June 9-11, 1940; Dr. Jorge Esquerro-Lopez, Director, Health Department, Columbian Army, accompanied by Mrs. Lopez and party, June 27, 1940.

15. GRADUATION EXERCISES.

The graduation exercises for the Class of 1940 were held on Tuesday, June 11, 1940 in the field house.

Lieutenant General Hugh A. Drum, U. S. Army, delivered the address and presented diplomas to 448 graduates and commissions to 444 graduates.

16. RECOMMENDATIONS.

The following recommendations on important matters beyond local control are submitted:

a. That efforts be continued to secure reallocation of the 40 vacancies now provided for sons of veterans which are mostly vacant through lack of eligibles for such appointment.

b. That every effort, short of lowering of standards, be made to keep authorized vacancies filled; to include any legislation deemed necessary for this purpose.



JAY L. BENEDICT,
Brigadier General,
Superintendent.



