

ANNUAL REPORT

June 30, 1941.

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

1. In compliance with the provisions of paragraph 2a (7) (d), AR 350-5, there is submitted herewith report covering the operation of the United States Military Academy for the period November 15, 1940, to June 30, 1941. Attention is invited to the fact that my predecessor, Major General Jay L. Benedict, just prior to his departure, submitted a special report concerning matters which he had been considering or with respect to which he had intended to take early action. In general, therefore, that special report can be considered as having covered the period July 1 to November 15, 1940.

2. ADMINISTRATION.

During the period covered by this report, no changes have been made in the existing administrative organization and procedure. Any changes that appear desirable, and in the interest of efficiency, will be made as experience dictates.

3. PERSONNEL.

a. COMMISSIONED - The authorized strength of the commissioned personnel during the period covered by this report was 280. However, in February, 1941, 20 selected cadets were assigned to duty as instructors thus releasing 10 officers for duty away from West Point. Of the remainder 192 were assigned to the academic departments, 22 to the department of Tactics, 14 to organizations, 17 to the Medical department and 25 to administrative positions.

In addition to the above, there were 1 librarian, 6 language students abroad and 7 civilian instructors on duty here (2 in French and 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 Thomas J. J. Christian, Field Artillery, relieved as Executive and Commanding Officer of Troops, January 5, 1941 and succeeded by Colonel Robert C. F. Goetz, Field Artillery; Lieutenant Colonel Clarence H. Danielson, A.G.D., relieved as the Adjutant General, June 19, 1941 and succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Arthur C. Purvis, A.G.D.; Lieutenant Colonel R. Ernest Dupuy, Field Artillery, relieved as Public Relations Officer, March 26, 1941, and succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel Meade Wildrick, C.A.C., and Lieutenant Colonel Joshua

A. Stansell, S.C., relieved as Post Signal Officer, April 15, 1941 and succeeded by Major James G. Renno, C.A.C.

b. THE CORPS OF CADETS.

The authorized strength of the Corps remained at 1960. The Corps reached its maximum strength on January 1, 1941, with a total of 1843 cadets and its minimum on June 30, 1941, with a total of 1317 cadets. The average number of cadets was 1766 and the average strength of classes was: First, 428; Second, 382; Third, 430; Fourth, 569.

Fifteen ex.cadets were readmitted in January, 1941. The total number of cadets discharge for deficiency in studies was 104; separations for causes other than by graduation and deficiency in studies amount to 11. The aggregate loss of 115 was approximately 7% of the average strength. 420 cadets (including 1 Filipino) were graduated on June 11, 1941, and of this number 416 received commissions. One cadet graduated on June 12, 1941, and 1 cadet graduated on June 30, 1941, both being held over for disciplinary reasons. 2 cadets of the Class of 1941 (not included in above) are to be graduated upon release from General Hospitals where they are patients. 1 cadet of the class of 1940, graduated June 11, 1940, was not graduated until his release from Walter Reed General Hospital in March, 1941. 2 foreign cadets (1 - Ecuadorian) and 1 - Dominican Republic) and 4 Filipinos received instruction during the year.

c. CIVILIANS

There were 863 civilians employed at the Military Academy as of June 30, 1941; 604 of these occupied classified positions and 264 occupied unclassified positions; this strength was composed of 813 male employees and 55 female.

Labor regulations, governing the employment of unclassified laborers, were adopted at the Military Academy since the submission of the last report. 124 employees, serving in unclassified positions at this Headquarters, were recommended for inclusion in the permanent unclassified service under these regulations.

The Personnel Board for Civilian Employees, U.S.M.A., examined the work performed by the various employees of the Cadet Laundry, Dry Cleaning Plant and Cadet Store Tailor Shop and compared the work and the salary of the incumbents of these positions with corresponding positions in commercial establishments and rates under Civil Service. The salary rates of the incumbents of the positions of the aforementioned facilities were increased in accordance with the recommendation of the Board.

d. ENLISTED.

The authorized strength, all organizations, was 1430. About 60% of the enlisted personnel is occupied in assisting in cadet instruction and in maintaining the animals and military equipment used in connection therewith. The remaining 40% is used largely in maintenance and operation of the plant. It is hoped to reduce this percentage in the near future by substitution of civilian employees for soldiers.

There is a pressing need for an infantry Detachment at the Academy. Each combat branch of the service is represented here by a detachment of demonstration troops. Under modern conditions, missions and technique of arms of this branch are so complex that it is impossible to imbue a cadet with the proper basic importance of infantry through theoretical methods, the only means available under our present set-up. All possible steps are being taken to have such a detachment either organized at, or assigned to, the Academy.

The Second Squadron, 10th Cavalry, was relieved from assignment to station at West Point and transferred to Fort Riley, Kansas, A U.S.M.A. Cavalry Squadron was organized to take over the duties of this organization. The personnel of the detachment, medical Department (colored), was transferred to various stations and was replaced by white personnel.

4. APPOINTMENTS AND ADMISSIONS.

During the year no change was made in the prescribed methods of appointing and admitting cadets. An important change, contemplating a Corps of Cadets always at full strength, was recommended to the War Department and by it submitted to the Congress but the bill which would have placed this change in operation failed to pass.

Failure to fill the vacancies under the Act of June 8, 1926, for sons of veterans was again registered. Of 33 such vacancies only 1 was filled. Five candidates appeared for the examination and only 1 among them qualified for admission. Eligible candidates are few in number since the sons of most veterans who died as a result of the world War are now passing the maximum age for admission.

The use of the Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Entrance Examination Board to substantiate secondary school certificates in place of our own Validating Examination has not yet become widespread. Only a very few candidates availed themselves of this method of qualifying. However, it is still felt that it will become more popular in the future and is worth retaining in the meantime.

5. ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION.

In the last annual report, reference was made to the study of the curriculum by the Academic Board. During the past year this study was completed and the changes found desirable were placed in effect. These and other changes which have been made from time to time have given the Academy a modern curriculum in every respect. Since the Airplane, tank and wheeled motor vehicle have such an important part in modern warfare, special emphasis is placed on basic instruction in aerodynamics and the gasoline engine. In connection with the latter, both airplane and automotive engines are studied, use being made of well-equipped laboratories. The cadet of today is made thoroughly acquainted with the most modern methods of map making and map reproduction and is given an excellent course in the reading of aerial photographs. In the instruction in foreign languages, recognition has been given to changes in world affairs by decreasing the time spent on French and increasing that devoted to Spanish. In addition, the study

of German is being introduced for a number of cadets. In their course in military History the cadets of the First Class are given intensive instruction on the campaigns of the present war and have brought home to them the important lessons that are to be drawn from those campaigns. The above are but a few examples of the changes that have been made in the academic courses. The Academy authorities will continue on the alert as regards the curriculum and will see that it is kept well abreast of the latest developments of the times.

The program of general lectures was continued during the year. Almost without exception the subjects discussed were those related to the great events that are now taking place, both political and Military. Distinguished civilian authorities spoke on international affairs and a number of outstanding officers of the Army, most of whom had just returned from abroad, discussed the events and lessons of the present war. As in past years these lectures have been most beneficial in broadening the instruction of cadets and in widening their viewpoint. However, with the expansion of the lecture program the deficiency in lecture-room facilities becomes more and more apparent. The acoustics and ventilation of the limited number of small lecture rooms available are, in general, poor and satisfactory lecture facilities for the entire Corps, or for more than one Class, do not exist.

In connection with the selection of 20 cadets as academic instructors, noted in paragraph 3, this communication, special arrangements were made whereby these cadet instructors could continue their own studies. During the next academic year this system will be extended and approximately forty cadet instructors will be used to take the places of twenty officer instructors.

During the coming year a central office for military personnel and cadet records will be established, in which the most modern machine bookkeeping equipment will be used. This sorely needed improvement will relieve officer instructors of many thousands of hours of clerical work on cadet records, time which can now be used to great advantage in preparation for their classroom work. It is expected that this installation will also provide the means of greatly expediting the monthly reports of Class standing to parents and guardians.

6. MILITARY INSTRUCTION.

Cadet military training has been conducted in accordance with the mission of the Military Academy to produce officers for the Regular Army. Its objectives have been to develop in the cadet the highest qualities of leadership, to equip him with a broad, basic knowledge of all branches of the Army and of the employment and functions of each in modern war and to prepare him mentally and physically for a lifetime career of effectiveness and efficiency in the military service.

This training has been kept abreast of the most recent tactical developments and practices by requiring that all military instruction be based upon a thorough study of the latest War Department and service school training publications and upon a familiarity

within his chosen branch, in the belief that the practical experience thus acquired will increase the cadet's knowledge of an enthusiasm for the service and will better prepare him for the conditions he is to meet upon graduation.

The First Class was taken by rail to Langley Field, Virginia, and Fort Benning, Georgia, during the period June 11th to 22nd, 1941, inclusive, thereby combining the Air training trip of previous years with a visit to the Infantry training center where instruction and demonstrations in the employment of the combined arms was given. While on this trip the Class was able to observe the organization, equipment and training of the most modern tactical units, including parachute troops, armored forces, air forces, and the new triangular division. It is strongly believed that this trip to Fort Benning has far greater training value than any other trip and that it should be authorized as an annual feature of our training schedule.

During the present summer, training of the First and Third Classes is being carried the entire day on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays instead of just during the morning hours that have been used for that purpose in recent years. The additional hours thereby made available have been devoted to command post exercises, course in chemical defense and an increased amount of combat principles and military engineering instruction for the First Class. For the Third Class the added training time has made possible the conducting of new courses in motor vehicle driving, chemical defense, bayonet combat and military engineering and a greater amount of instruction in coast artillery materiel, infantry supporting weapons and infantry combat principles.

Within the period covered by this report, additional infantry weapons of the newest type and some modern anti-aircraft and seacoast artillery equipment have been received. The U.S.M.A. Cavalry Squadron has been equipped with four scout cars but has not yet received any light tanks.

The greatest handicap encountered by the Department of Tactics in its conduct of cadet training is the lack of an infantry detachment at this station to assist in instruction in subjects pertaining to that branch. All demonstrations of infantry organization, training, and combat have to be improvised and put on by the cadets themselves and, in view of the limited amount of time available for preliminary rehearsals and the comparatively small number of cadets that can be used to prepare an infantry problem, the results are not as effective as desired. It is not believed that infantry training here can ever be made as satisfactory as that of field artillery, cavalry, coast artillery and engineers unless an infantry detachment, similar to those of the other arms can be obtained and permanently stationed at the Military Academy.

7. PHYSICAL TRAINING AND ATHLETICS.

This program consists of Fourth Class gymnastic instruction, intramural athletics and inter-collegiate competition. The spring intramural program of the First Class was somewhat curtailed by reason of additional hours devoted to branch military instruction.

with the contents of current military intelligence reports on operations in Europe and Africa. Tactical principles and their application have been illustrated by the frequent presentation to the classes of historical examples from the present war. Many outside lecturers, who have observed operations and conditions in Europe and on the battle-fronts, have been brought to the Academy to present to the cadets first-hand information on modern methods of warfare.

The amount of instruction in the following subjects has been materially increased: air forces, armored forces, antiaircraft defense, antitank defense, infantry heavy weapons, motor transport operations and maintenance, combat principles, field exercises, use of maps and aerial mosaics, and unit administration. The number of hours devoted to equitation, close order drill and ceremonies has been considerably decreased.

During the spring an intensive program of military training, in addition to that regularly scheduled, was prepared and presented to the First Class. This consisted of a practical refresher course in certain subjects common to all branches, such as company administration mess management, unit supply, and map and aerial photograph reading and/of an intensive course of instruction for each cadet in the basic training of his chosen branch of service. The object of this additional military instruction was to better prepare the graduating cadet for those duties which he would be most likely to encounter upon his first assignment as a second lieutenant. The time required for it was made available by the cancellation of certain periods of equitation that had been scheduled and by the termination of all academic work, except military Law, on May 14th. The results of the plan were so satisfactory that its repetition next year is contemplated.

In connection with the above training the entire First Class was taken by motor convoy to Fort Dix, New Jersey, where the cadets were afforded an opportunity to observe the organization, equipment and training of an infantry division and the facilities and operation of one of the large reception centers for selective service trainees. A feature of this trip was the attachment of the cadets for a period of two days to various companies and batteries throughout the 44th Division, a maximum of four cadets to each unit. The Division was engaged at the time in a field exercise in south-east New Jersey and it was arranged that the cadets should be assigned such field duties with the organizations to which they were attached as would normally devolve upon second lieutenants.

This attachment of cadets to Army units for observation and duty, even for so brief a period, was a distinct innovation in training methods at West Point. The value of the idea has been attested by its enthusiastic and favorable acceptance by the cadets concerned and by the officers of the 44th Division with whom they served, as well as by the favorable reports rendered by the officers of the Tactical Department who accompanied the class on the trip. Careful consideration is being given to the possibility of attaching the members of the present First Class for a period of at least one week during the coming spring to active tactical units of the Army, preferably each to an organization

8. RECREATION AND WELFARE.

Cadet participation is authorized in thirty extra-curricular activities of a recreational type. All of these activities require office and assembly space and many of them require paint shops, dark rooms, carpenter shops, dormitories for visiting teams and storage space. It would greatly add to the efficient administration of the recreational activities of the Corps if these facilities could be provided in one building. There is also need of a building suitable for general assemblages, dances, theatricals, lectures and concerts. It is possible that all of these requirements could be met in one building. The emergency for such a building of this type is present and becomes more acute each year with the added increase in interest of the Corps in these essential and highly beneficial activities.

9. HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The general health of the command has continued to be excellent. There were two epidemics, one of mild pneumonia in the Corps of Cadets during the fall and winter and one of German measles during the late winter and spring. There was one death of a cadet, due to a gunshot wound, self-inflicted, while a patient under mental observation at Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C. One officer and six cadets were transferred to general hospitals during the period covered by this report and three cadets were discharged on account of physical disability. Of minor illnesses among the cadets, German measles and common respiratory diseases constituted the largest number.

10. CADET ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPLY.

In the case of members of the graduating class, efforts to ease the transition from cadet to officer were continued with added privileges and increased responsibilities. On Saturday, Sunday and holiday afternoons they were permitted to leave the reservation individually and to drive personally owned cars, which afforded relaxation and instruction. On April 1, 1941, individual checking accounts were established to insure a measure of training in personal finance. Cadet instructors were utilized with marked success. The increased privileges and responsibilities resulted in favorable reactions. This policy will be continued.

Housing, messing, supply and services have been satisfactory except that the present facilities for laundry service are inadequate to meet peak loads. The need for enlargement and renovation of this service is clearly evident.

11. DISCIPLINE.

Discipline in the Corps of Cadets has been satisfactory. In certain cases, involving serious breaches of discipline, court-martial proceedings were resorted to. This proved extremely salutary. In one case, because of a cadet's manifest inadaptability, action was instituted under paragraph 118, Regulations, U.S.M.A. This resulted in a denial of a commission to the cadet concerned. The attitude of all

classes toward the acceptance and discharge of responsibility pertaining to conduct and regulations was excellent.

12. INSTALLATIONS.

The installations of the Academy require augmentation for a well balanced physical plant to meet the needs of the present size of the Corps of Cadets, the instructional staff and the maintenance force.

On February 10, 1941, a Board of Officers, consisting of the Professor of Drawing, Post Executive Officer, Quartermaster, and Treasurer, was appointed for the purpose of conducting a study and advising the Superintendent as to the existing and anticipated needs for additional permanent construction at the United States Military Academy. The Board in its deliberations considered as a whole the immediate need for additional permanent buildings and those required for the future development of the Academy and recommended to the Superintendent that the following items, arranged in order of priority, be submitted to the War Department for inclusion in its construction program: (1) Mess Attendants Building; (2) Addition to Cadet Hospital; (3) New Pipe Line from Popolopen Lake via Long Pond and Washington Valley, including Filtration Plant; (4) Coast Artillery and infantry Barracks, Garage and Materiel Building; (5) Additional facilities, U.S.M.A. Cavalry Squadron; (6) Engineer Ponton Shed and Rigging Loft; (7) Enlisted Men's Center; (8) Addition to West Point Army Mess; (9) Plans for New Memorial Hall; (10) Warehouses; (11) Comfort Stations; (12) War Department Theater (13) Sea wall; (14) New Memorial Hall; (15) Sewage Disposal Plant. Detailed justifications for all of the above-listed projects were prepared and presented to the Superintendent by the Board in connection with its recommendations.

An appropriation of \$299,000.00 for a new Laundry at this station was made in the Annual Appropriation Act for the Fiscal Year 1942. Mr. Paul Cret has been selected by the War Department as the Architect-Engineer for this work. Mr. Cret formerly designed the new East Academic Building, the new Armory and the new Ordnance and Engineering Laboratory. It is planned to place the new laundry building on the site of the present building.

During the year the program of restoring historical flags was completed when 90 flags in the Ordnance Museum were completely repaired under contract at a cost of \$8,272.13.

During this period a new intake dam was constructed on Popolopen Creek and connected to the 20-inch pipe line that leads to Lusk Reservoir. This intake, with the intake on Queensboro Brook, will provide an additional flow of water to Lusk Reservoir. This will contribute materially to the existing deficiency in our water supply at West Point.

A program for access roads to the training areas being acquired in the West Point Land Project has been started and the following projects are now under way:

The State of New York, without any assistance from Military Academy, is building a 23-foot concrete road from the Old Crossroads to Washington Gate.

From Washington Gate the Military Academy is sponsoring a WPA project to connect this new State road with the main roads of the Post. These two projects will furnish an upper level route from the Washington Gate via Merritt Road and Mills Road to the South of the Post.

A project is being undertaken for access roads leading from the southern exit of the Post and at the present time the State has made certain survey and Orange County is condemning certain rights-of-way for this road. The Military authorities must obtain certain land west of new highway 9-W near the Cragston Estates for a right-of-way for the overpass to new 9-W. When this project is completed it is hoped that the Public Roads Administration will make funds available to connect up the State project through the Village of Highland Falls to the south gate of the military reservation.

At Stewart Field the Military Academy is sponsoring the construction of two runways of asphaltic concrete, these runways to be 150 feet wide and 3400 feet long. The first of these runways will be completed by August 1, 1941. The other runway should be completed by October 1, 1941. Two permanent structures have been completed at Stewart Field, one a transformer house for housing electrical utilities and the other a house for radio and night lighting system control.

13. EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

During the period covered by this report our external relations with other educational institutions, government agencies, adjacent communities and with the public generally have been most cordial and satisfactory. It is realized that in these changing and difficult times a sincere and sympathetic interest in the problems of the civilian populace near the Academy, and helpful participation whenever practicable, are of the highest importance. Nothing is being left undone to maintain and extend the friendly relations now enjoyed by the Academy on all sides.

14. DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

On May 12, 1941, the following members of the board of Visitors, House of Representatives, visited the Academy:

Honorable J. Buell Snyder
" David D. Terry
" D. Lane Powers
" Francis Case

On May 22d and 23d, 1941, the following members of the Board of

Visitors, United States Senate, visited the Academy:

Honorable Albert B. Chandler
" Mon C. Wallgren
" Chan Gurney

Distinguished United States visitor was Major General Henry H. Arnold, Chief of the Air Corps, on February 8, 1941.

Distinguished foreign visitors, in chronological order, included:

Major Ignacio Carneiro de Azambuja, Brazilian Army,
December 18, 1940.

Colonel Guillermo Lopez-Larrain, Military Attache,
Chilean Embassy, Washington, D.C.
February 1, 1941.

General Julio Sanjines, Bolivian Army,
February 28, 1941.

Major General E. L. Morris, British Army,
March 26, 1941.

Congressman Pedro Opitz, Chile, May 15, 1941.

General Juan Felipe Rico, Mexican Army,
May 16, 1941.

Colonel Fidel C. Garay, Asst. Secretary of War,
Navy and Aviation, El Salvador.

15. GRADUATION EXERCISES.

The graduation exercises for the Class of 1941 were held on Wednesday, June 11, 1941, in the field house.

Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, delivered the address and presented diplomas to 420 graduates and commissions to 416 graduates

16. RECOMMENDATIONS.

I should like to renew the recommendation of my predecessor, contained in his Annual Report of September 3, 1940, that every effort

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

R. L. EICHELBERGER,
Major General,
Superintendent.

