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MILITARY INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING

AT

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

Under date of June 29, 1918, the Adjutant General of the Army of the United States sent to me the following information concerning military instruction and training which the War Department proposes to give during the coming year:

1. GENERAL OBJECT. The purpose of this plan is to develop as a great military asset the large body of young men in the colleges. This will be accomplished by providing efficient military instruction under the supervision of the War Department for students in all colleges enrolling the required minimum of students. In order to receive this instruction all students over eighteen years of age must volunteer and enlist in the Army of the United States.

2. (a) STUDENTS' ARMY TRAINING CORPS. There will be created in the Army a Students' Army Training Corps. The training units to be organized under this plan will be designated "The Students' Army Training Corps Units."

Training units will be organized in the colleges in the various branches of the service in accordance with the needs of the Army as determined by the War Department, taking into account the character of the institution. The great majority of the training units will be for instruction in the line branches of the service. Such units will be organized in all non-technical institutions. Most of the units will be infantry units. Others will be field artillery, heavy artillery, and possibly one or more cavalry units. A limited number of units for training in the staff departments of the service will be organized in technical schools, e. g., medical training units will be organized in selected medical schools, engineering units in engineering schools, and a few units for other special branches of service.

(b) ENLISTMENT AND ENROLLMENT. All able-bodied students in the colleges in which training units are organized will be encouraged to *enlist* if over the legal enlistment age of eighteen. Students under eighteen will be encouraged to *enroll* in the training units. Students neither enlisted nor enrolled will not be entitled to enter the training units or to receive the instruction. *The enlistment contract of all students over eighteen will constitute them members of the Army of the United States, and they will become thereby subject to active service at the call of the President.* The enlisted students will be on furlough status until called to the colors and will receive no pay or allowance except when attending summer training camp, in which case they will be entitled to transportation and rations as provided in Section 78, Bulletin 16, 1917, for members of the R. O. T. C. All enlistments will be in the grade of private.

(c) CALL TO ACTIVE DUTY: POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT. It will be the policy of the Government not to call members of the Students' Army Training Corps units to active duty until they reach draft age, unless urgent military reasons compel an earlier call. A system will be devised whereby the military instructors at the colleges will certify to the Adjutant General of the Army the names of those students who are members of The Students' Army Training Corps who have reached draft age. Orders will then be issued calling such students to duty on the thirtieth of the following June. This will permit them to

complete the college year in which they are then engaged. It is emphasized that the student body is not to be made a deferred or favored class under the Selective Service Act.

(d) DISCHARGES. Provisions will be made for discharge in appropriate cases, unfitness, misbehavior, dependent relatives, and the necessity to leave college for causes beyond the student's control. No such discharges will remove the student's liability to draft.

3. NATURE AND AMOUNT OF TRAINING.

(a) The character of the training will depend upon the kind of training unit which is organized. The standard time to be allotted to military work will be in the case of all units ten hours per week during the college year, supplemented by six weeks of intensive training in a summer camp. The ten hours a week standard, however, will not involve the hours of outdoor work in drill. A feature of the system will be the giving of liberal credits for academic work in line with the military instruction, so as to hold the outdoor work to feasible limits. In this connection due regard will be had to the character of the academic courses and the nature of the training unit.

(b) The summer camp will be an important feature of the system. Summer camps for a period of six weeks each year will be provided for members of the training units. At these camps there will be an intensive and rigid course of instruction under experienced officers. Transportation to and from the camps and rations while at the camp will be furnished by the War Department.

4. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT. The Government will supply the necessary uniforms, rifles and other equipment, so far as supplies are available.

5. ADMINISTRATION AND INSPECTION.

(a) The Students' Army Training Corps, including the R. O. T. C. units, will be supervised and controlled by the Training and Instruction Branch, War Plans Division of the General Staff, in accordance with instructions of the Chief of Staff. An advisory Board to this Committee representing educational interests has already been appointed by the Secretary of War. This will insure the closest co-operation between the War Department and the colleges in the administration of the system.

6. The Courses of training will be uniform in all colleges, including those now having R. O. T. C. units, and uniform standards will govern the selection of students to attend officers' training camps. The general purpose is to provide a uniform system in all colleges, while not prejudicing in any way students who are already enrolled in the R. O. T. C. It is expected that the above plan will qualify a considerable percentage of the students to enter officers' training camps on being called to the colors, and a large percentage of the remainder to serve as non-commissioned officers. The number to be certified for training as officers from any institution will not be based on an arbitrary percentage. It will depend on the quality of the men developed at that institution and the necessities of the service at the time.

YOUR GREAT OPPORTUNITY

At Kalamazoo College you will have the great opportunity of putting yourself in line for an officer's commission and getting that preparation which is absolutely necessary for you to do your part in winning this war. At the same time you will be securing such college training as will be demanded after the war. Can you afford to neglect it? You certainly can not.

H. L. STETSON, President.