

Military at Delaware

1922-1923

THE spring of 1923 saw the R.O.T.C. Battalion of the University of Delaware reach its highest apex in the history of the college, for the grand culmination of our military inspection of that spring, our classroom work, and our big demonstration of field tactics brought us the exceptional honor of being rated as a Distinguished Military College, of which there are now only two in the Second Corps Area. Delaware is one, and Cornell the other.

Since this honor, the Battalion has endeavored to maintain the high morale and organization pride which was directly responsible for our accomplishment in June, 1923. We were equally gratified in June, 1924, when we learned that we had again been denoted as Distinguished College.

Too much emphasis cannot be given to the distinction thus brought to the doors of Old Delaware. We are perhaps the smallest college in the whole Corps Area, and the feat of being made Distinguished College from all the competition that we naturally encountered is not to be disdained.

Major Row is largely to be thanked for bringing about our good fortune. As a commandant, Major Row was energetic, fore-sighted, and conscientious. These qualities, coupled with his ability to organize and his sincere admiration and love for Delaware College and Delaware men, could do no less than bring success to his efforts, and it is almost entirely due to him that Delaware was made distinguished.

The Battalion, during the year of 1922-23, was commanded by Cadet

Major Richardson Cole, who had previously seen service in the A.E.F. Earl Brandt was Adjutant with the rank of Cadet Captain. The three Company Commanders were Cadet Captain Wallace Cook, Company "A;" Cadet Captain Edwin Hoey, Company "B;" and Cadet Captain John F. Challenger, Company "C." With a staff of officers of such calibre and spirit as these men, Delaware could scarcely help but succeed. Captain Roy Sparks, Captain William Morse, and Major Row acted as coaches and directors of the three Companies.

The competitive drill in 1923 was especially keen. The three Companies were in top shape, and were so evenly balanced that there was scarcely any perceptible difference among them. Company "B," the habitual winner of the medal, was the favorite, however, throughout the drill; but Company "C," hardly considered until close-order drill came off, came through in big style and won the sabre for Captain Challenger.

The demonstration of a tactical problem proved to be a deciding factor in the minds of the inspecting officers from Washington. A sham battle, in which the three Companies were united into one war-strength Company, was given on the grounds of the Newark Country Club. The exceptionally fine behavior of the cadets and their business-like execution of the problem erased any doubt in the minds of our visitors from the Capital. Shortly after school closed in June, we received intelligence that we had been named Distinguished College.

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The following year saw several innovations that proved very beneficial to the appearance of the Battalion. Major Row, through a new system of finance and management, provided for tailor-made uniforms for the two upper classes. Each Senior and Junior was given a regular officer's tailor-made uniform, and each of the cadet commissioned officers was given a Sam Browne Belt and leather puttees. Another institution was installed that made each Senior a commissioned or non-commissioned officer. The remaining non-coms were chosen from the Junior ranks.

The Battalion was commanded by Cadet Major Frederick B. Smith. The post of Adjutant with the rank of Cadet Captain was awarded John Schaefer. The three Companies were commanded by Cadet Captain Harold Clift, Company "A;" Cadet Captain Wilbur S. Shockley, Company "B;" and Cadet Captain Jeffries Hoagland, Company "C."

This year the Battalion maintained the high rating that it had reached the previous year. The inspection came off on a dirty, drizzling, rainy day, and the competitive drill was executed in the face of a steady downpour that soaked the men. The spirit of the Battalion was not in the least dampened, however, and the boys drilled like hardened campaigners. The field problem the next day was given as efficiently as the drill. Company "B," under Cadet Captain Wilbur S. Shockley, brought back the medal and the sabre to the "B" colors.

The same year saw the Second Military Ball that has ever been given here at Delaware, the first being back in 1902. The function was conducted under the auspices of the Military Department and proved to be a very enjoyable social event. The Commons was decorated in military style with stacked arms and machine guns placed about in the windows and corners of the room. The hours were formal.

1924-1925

The Class of 1925 invaded Plattsburg in June, 1924, with a contingent of thirty men, who proceeded under the tutelage of Captain Roy Sparks and Captain William Morse to "clean up" about every honor that was hanging loose around the Plattsburg R. O. T. C. quarters.

The Delaware men were fortunate in that Captain Sparks was assigned by Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell to the position of Supply Officer of Company "A," the Delaware outfit. Captain Sparks, although Supply Officer, was in charge of the Company a greater part of the time. His true Delaware spirit and his never-tiring interest and liking for the Delaware boys imbued them with a pride and mo-



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rale that accomplished a great deal in the way of military honors.

To begin with, Delaware men comprised half of Company "A." The rest of "A" was made up of men from Rutgers and Cornell, with a couple of men from Lafayette. Delaware started things off by qualifying more men than any other school in the entire camp in not only rifles and pistols, but in the machine gun section as well. Not content with this, they produced the highest shot in pistol and machine gun work. Massey Gum, a Sophomore taking his work with the Juniors, held the steadiest arm and eye on the range where the Colt .45 prevailed, and for his service he was rewarded

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with a handsome silver loving cup. In the machine-gun section, Russel P. Hunt ran up the highest score. Then, to culminate their conquests, the Delaware rifle team, composed of Skewis, Jackson, Shuster, Lowber, Donaldson, and Rinard, won the Inter-Collegiate Rifle Championship of the camp. This brought home a valuable silver plaque to the Military Office. The Delaware stay at Plattsburg ended in a brilliant social affair which should not be slighted. On the evening before final manoeuvres, the entire Delaware contingent attended a banquet in the Hotel Cumberland at Plattsburg. This affair was attended not only by the Delaware men, but also by Captain Sparks, Captain Morse, Captain Rhodes, the Company Commander, and Lieutenant Lovejoy of the Publicity Staff. The two Staff Sergeants, Davis and Nelson, were also our guests. The dinner was a great success and every man there pronounced it to be the most celebrated event of his school career. The evening

was rendered exceedingly entertaining by the work of "Stump" Crothers, "Choc" Gibson, "Russ" Hunt, "Dick" Long, and "Charlie" Green, who put on several skits and recitations. The banquet lasted from eight in the evening until three the next morning.

So far this year the Battalion has endeavored to keep up the record of the outfit. The winter months of drill have been handicapped by bad weather and a great many periods have been devoted to some other phase of the work rather than drill in the inclement weather. The Cadet Staff this year is composed of capable officers and hopes are entertained for another citation as Distinguished College.

Cadet Major John G. Leach is Commander of the Battalion. Francis G. Miller, with rank of Captain, is Adjutant. The three Companies are piloted by Cadet Captain Ralph L. France, Company "A," Cadet Captain William S. Jackson, Company "B," and Cadet Captain Roger W. Cann, Company "C."

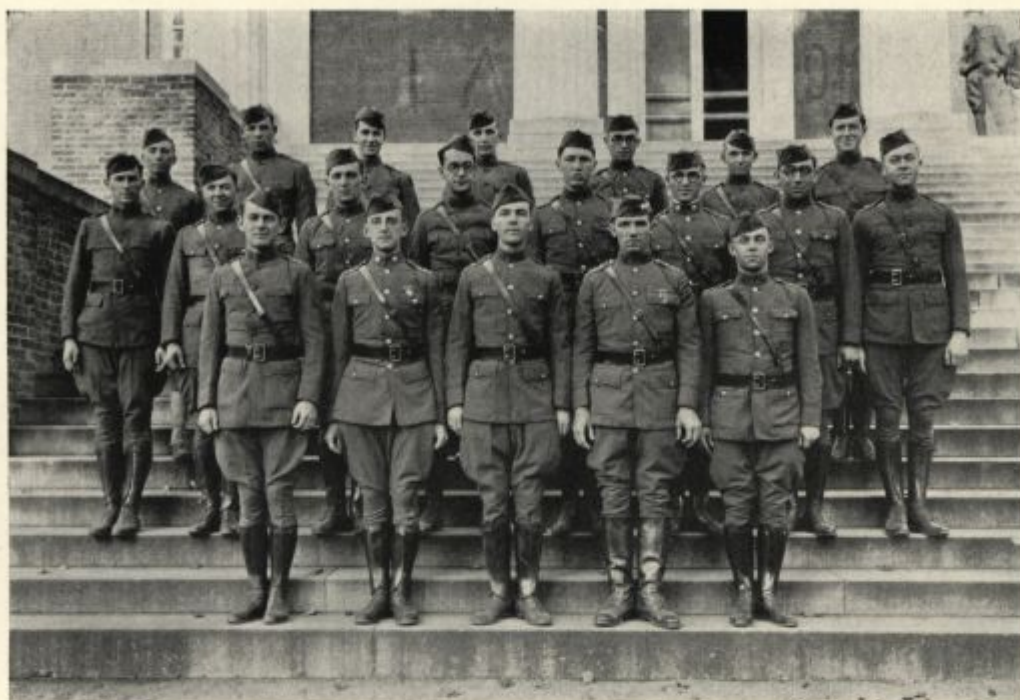
On January 20th of this year the Battalion went to Dover, where it formed the main division of the military parade at the Inauguration of Robert P. Robinson as Governor of the State of Delaware. The trip was made in very disagreeable weather. The Battalion marched to the Pennsylvania Station in six inches of slushy snow and a drizzle of rain. At Dover the streets were clear of any slush but there was a steady drizzle of cold rain that chilled everyone. The National Guard preceded the Delaware Battalion in the parade, but the Cadets stood out as eminently better than any other military unit there. The parade was highly gratifying to Major Underwood and the officials of the State. We returned from Dover at four

o'clock by the same special train that took us down.

This year has seen a more rigid discipline in the unit than has heretofore been practiced, and whether this will have any effect on the morale and spirit of the men is a question that will be settled only by the outcome of this year's work. Discipline has never been accorded a very hearty welcome in the ranks of the Delaware R.O.T.C., but they have always evinced a voluntary inclination to "putting a thing over" for the men who command them. Discipline may or may not tend to kill this willing attitude. It is sincerely hoped by those who are really interested in the school that the men will give their best and come through this spring when the inspection takes place.



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CADET COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

JOHN G. LEACH Major

FRANCIS G. MILLER, Adjutant

Captains

WILLIAM S. JACKSON

RALPH L. FRANCE

ROGER W. CANN

First Lieutenants

JAMES E. DEPUTY

PAUL R. RINARD

ALBERT KREWATCH

CORNELIUS TILGHMAN

HERBERT ICKLER

HARRY PIKUS

Second Lieutenants

RUSSEL P. HUNT

JEFFRIES LANK

HOWARD HEDGER

GEORGE SHUSTER

CHARLES E. GREEN

WILLIAM D. MCKELVIE

PAUL SKEWIS

RALPH L. SIEGRIST

WILLIAM DONALDSON



LATHE B. ROW

MAJOR LATHE B. ROW, who was here at Delaware during the years from July 1, 1920, until June, 1924, as Professor of Military Science and Tactics, proved himself to be one of the most ardent supporters and promoters of Delaware College that have come here for a number of years. At all times he first concerned himself with Delaware College as a Military Unit, and through his individual efforts and work the rank of Distinguished College came to us. He built up the Battalion as a drill unit, and he contributed a great deal of personal effort and attention to its welfare at all times. As a man, Major Row was well liked by the Delaware students, who never failed to comply with his wishes. He will always be remembered by those who knew him during his stay here.

He entered West Point in 1909 and was graduated as a Second Lieutenant in 1913. Immediately upon graduation he was assigned to Eleventh Infantry, Texas City, Texas, and was transferred to Yaco, Arizona, with the Eleventh Infantry in December, 1914, during the attack of Yaco Lowro by Villa forces. Two months later he was transferred with the Eleventh Infantry to Douglas,

Arizona. In November, 1915, he commanded an entrenched Company during the attack by General Villa on Agua Prieta, Mexico. Soon after this a series of promotions followed, First Lieutenant in July, 1916, and Captain in May, 1917. During the same year he was transferred to Chickamauga Park, Georgia, as Adjutant Fifty-Second Infantry. On June 17, 1918, he was promoted temporary Major, also in that same month he was appointed Brigade Adjutant of Eleventh Infantry Brigade, Sixth Division. He sailed for France on July 6, 1918, and served with the Sixth Infantry until transferred to Army General Staff at Longres, France, on October 9, 1918. On January 27, 1919, he was appointed Division Inspector Eighty-Eighth Division and later appointed Assistant to Inspector General, Brest, France, May 28, 1919. He returned to the United States on December 21, 1919, and was transferred to Duquesne University, January 4, 1920, as Professor of Military Science and Tactics. On August 23, 1920, Major Lathe B. Row, having been promoted to Major Regular Army on July 1, 1920, was detailed as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of Delaware.

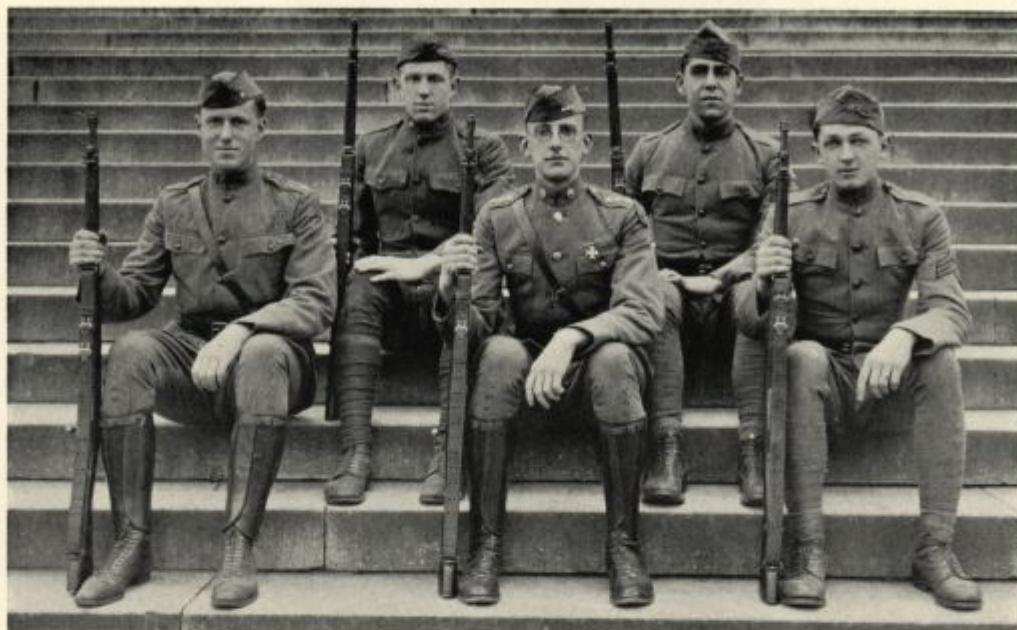


ARTHUR UNDERWOOD

MAJOR UNDERWOOD was born May 20, 1885, at Bowling Green, Kentucky. He received his preparatory education at Ogden College in that city, and was appointed to the United States Military Academy in 1905. Upon his graduation from West Point in 1909, he was attached to the Twentieth Infantry, then stationed in the Philippine Islands, as a Second Lieutenant. After two years of service, he was transferred to Utah. In 1913 he was sent to El Paso, where he was attached to one of the units then guarding the border. In 1914 he was placed in D.O.L. and assigned to the Kentucky State University. After a year and a half, the outbreak of hostilities in Mexico under the leadership of Villa forced his recall to active service, and he was back again along the Mexican border. In 1916 he was made a First Lieutenant in the Thirty-fourth Infantry. In 1917 he was appointed a Captain and attached to the Sixty-fourth Infantry. In 1918 he was promoted to a Majorship

in the replacement camp at Camp Pike, Arkansas. The same year he was transferred to the War College at Washington to take the short course for general staff work. He was then attached to the Fortieth Infantry, and was under orders to go overseas when the Armistice was signed. However, he was sent to Europe in 1919 as disbursing officer in the Ordnance Department of the A.E.F. Returning to the States in September, 1920, he was attached to the Fifty-third Infantry with headquarters at Camp Grant, Illinois, and then at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming. In the summer of 1922 he commanded a demonstration battalion at Fort Logan, Colorado. In the fall of that year he was sent to the infantry school at Fort Benning, Georgia, and in 1923 to the school of command and general staff at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In June, 1924, he was appointed Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of Delaware.

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RIFLE TEAM, 1923-1924



PLATTSBURG RIFLE TEAM