

# They're in the Army Now

Alumni returning to the Washington and Lee campus this year will be amazed. Dotting the traditionally civilian University grounds will be students in army uniform. If the alumnus looks at the athletic field he will be apt to see squads of students performing close-order drill, and if he visits the school on the right afternoon he will see a full-fledged Washington and Lee Corps parade. On Saturday nights he will hear students singing *Sound off* and *You're In the Army Now*.

For the first time in 202 years Washington and Lee has an efficient complete four year course in ROTC, the Army's Reserve Officer's Training Corps.

Actually it isn't the first time the Army has invaded Washington and Lee. The school had an ROTC unit during the 1917-1918 session. This was dropped the following year and The Student's Army Training Corps came into being. This also lasted only one year. With the ending of World War I and the return to normalcy, Washington and Lee decided it simply wasn't a military minded institution.

But last year, due to the existing world tension, it was thought advisable by the University officials to attempt to bring the ROTC course to Washington and Lee. An application was presented to the War Department, and approved. This year the unit is in full operation with an allowance of government training aids and a cadre of regular Army officers and enlisted men assigned to supervise the training.

Lt. Colonel Richard W. Jones, a graduate of St. John's College of Brooklyn, is Professor of Military Science and Tactics. He received his commission in 1926 and served in the Southwest Pacific during World War II. Lt. Colonel John G. Bowes and Cap-

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tain George L. Brashears assist Colonel Jones. Four Sergeants have been detailed by the Army to do the administrative work and serve as assistant instructors.

In keeping with current practices at the Army's own Service Schools, the ROTC makes maximum utilization of graphic training aids, all manner of charts and demonstration equipment, and visual education methods.

The unit here is equipped with an auditorium type 16mm motion picture projector, a large Bal-Optican slide and opaque projector, a Vu-Graph for visual slides, and a powerful 2x2 slide projector for film-strip projection.

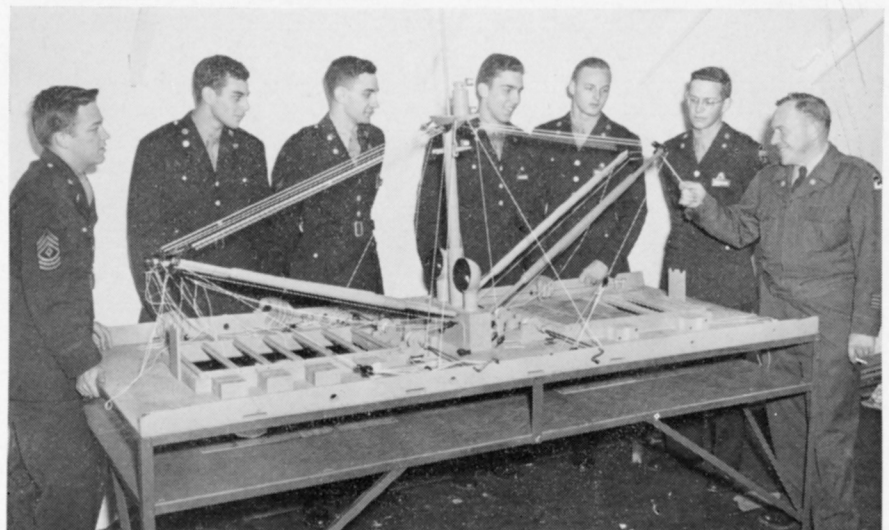
Training films and film-strips from the Army's extensive library at Fort Meade covering a host of general military subjects are drawn as required for the individual instruction. Visual-cast slides, dealing with the technical subjects of the course, are sometimes prepared by the Unit's instructors here but most of them are furnished directly by the Transportation School at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Outdoor assistance is rendered

the drillmaster by a complete two-speaker public address system, equipped with turntable for march music when the ROTC band is not itself practicing or drilling on the field. Through the cooperation of the PMS&T, this set has been extensively used by the University, at Freshman Camp and at home football games. The projectors, set up in the Reid Hall ROTC classroom where a large screen has been installed, are likewise available for other departments' use and have been used by them on a number of occasions.

At the present there are 263 first year basic and 25 second year basic students. There are 25 students in the first year advanced course. Advanced students receive credit for prior work in military schools and high school ROTC units.

The Transportation Corps was selected as Washington and Lee's branch of service for three primary reasons. The small student body, the relatively small amount of equipment and ground necessary for training, and Washington and Lee's proven reputation as a producer of graduates skilled in administrative business planning and leadership.



A LESSON IN CARGO HANDLING—ROTC cadets "learn the ropes" on Transportation Corps model landship.

The first two years, the basic course, provide indoctrination in military subjects common to all branches of service. They include: an introduction to Military Science, organization, military policy, evolution of warfare, personnel management, military psychology, and other related subjects. The second year of the basic course includes an introduction into logistics. A third of the training time is devoted to the development of leadership through drill and the exercise of command.

The third and fourth years delve into military transportation techniques in all phases; railway, highway port, and over-sea supply. Between the third and fourth years, students attend a six weeks summer encampment at the Army's Transportation center, Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Academic credit is given at the rate of two hours per year for the basic course, and four hours per year for the advanced course. Advanced students receive monetary allowance of \$.90 per day, approximately \$27 per month. All uniforms, books, and training materials are furnished by the Army.

Students are required to wear uniform only when attending military classes or in actual training. All military standards of discipline and courtesy are observed during these periods.

The Washington and Lee Battalion is organized into three companies, a marching band, and a headquarters detachment. Advanced students are alternating in the responsible positions, which range from corporal up to lieutenant colonel, the battalion commander.

Training includes two full-dress parades monthly, and also range firing. The ROTC Department is now in the process of obtaining and developing range facilities.

Many activities in connection with the military program are either now underway or planned for the future. Most important is

an ROTC marching band which has been organized from the student body under the direction of Colonel Bowes. Dave Comegy is the student director. A full complement of instruments has been obtained from the Army.

It is hoped that the school will have a rifle team and a schedule is now being tentatively arranged with other ROTC schools.

Two military honor organizations will be formed during the year; *Scabbard and Blade*, and the *Washington and Lee Order of Military Merit*. A student chapter of the world-wide organization, *National Defense Transportation Association*, is being organized.

One of the most interesting activities to emerge from the new military set-up is a model railroad club, *The Generals' Short Line Railroad*. Complete equipment for the building of a large scale-model railway has been received by the military department from the Army, and the construction work is now in process. These activities will be covered in a future issue of this magazine.

Students enrolled in the ROTC under the presidentially determined quota are deferred from the draft until the completion of their college work, provided they are in good standing both in ROTC and academic work. When a student registers for the ROTC he must first agree to accept a commission in the Army, if offered, upon graduation from college, and thereafter to perform twenty-four months military service as a commissioned officer.

Colonel Jones, the Professor of Military Science and Tactics, says he finds Washington and Lee an ideal environment for a technical branch training center. No Virginia Military Institute facilities are used although Washington and Lee maintains an excellent liaison with the VMI ROTC staff.

"We take our work seriously," says Colonel Jones, "Young Americans selected for commissions

must have the integrity to lead troops in ground combat. Among the fundamentals of leadership we are attempting to develop here are those of character, initiative, intelligence, and energetic alertness. At Washington and Lee we have found some exceptionally fine material in which to further develop these traits."

"Among the students now in my classes," Colonel Jones continues, "may easily be found some who will eventually serve under me, or even lead my son into battle. With that in mind we cannot afford to be lax. I take my job, and my responsibility, seriously."

Dean of Students Frank J. Gilliam says, "I am amazed at the simplicity and efficiency of the ROTC program. It has fitted into our schedule without a hitch."

And actually, returning alumni will hardly be aware that they are walking among hundreds of future United States Army Officers. The alumnus may be aware that there is a new feeling of seriousness of purpose among the students. But Washington and Lee University, for all intents and purposes, is still a civilian institution.