

Cadet Life at VMI During World War II

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THE date was 7 December 1941. There was a Dodger-Giant football game at the old Polo Grounds in New York City. Station WOR, announcing the game, interrupted with a flash at 2:26 P.M. with the first public announcement: Japanese aircraft had attacked Pearl Harbor. About one half hour later, CBS repeated an earlier bulletin, just as the New York Philharmonic musicians were about to start Shostakovich's "Symphony Number One." Through these broadcasts did Americans learn the staggering news. No matter how they learned, every VMI cadet alive at the time can vividly describe how the news first came to him. No matter what else was to happen, the thrust of the lives of more than 700 cadets then living in the historic VMI Barracks that fateful day were dramatically changed. The lives of all future cadets to wear the grey until 15 August 1945 were also significantly affected.

The very next day, many cadets heard President Franklin D. Roosevelt, following a brief introduction by Speaker Sam Rayburn, begin a six-minute radio address to the American people:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States was suddenly and deliberately attacked.

The word "infamy" was the key to that stirring speech. It welded together all our countrymen for the long and bloody struggle ahead. All VMI cadets then in Barracks were to be caught up in the war effort one way or another; none were to escape; all were to be affected.

General Charles E. Kilbourne '94, the man who led VMI throughout World War II, and who guided it with good humor as well

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as a steady and authoritarian hand, was the son of an army officer, a Virginian by birth, and a distinguished soldier who was graduated from VMI in 1894 and was recipient of the Jackson-Hope Medal, Second Honor. He was the holder of the Medal of Honor for distinguished gallantry in action in the Philippines, and his army career spanned the period from 1898 as a second lieutenant to major general in 1935.

"Stick to your own job" was the keynote speech given by the superintendent on the morning after Pearl Harbor in an address to the Corps, faculty and staff and their wives. He said he had thought for some time war was inevitable, but he thought the declaration of hostilities would first come against Germany and that there was no immediate hope of reinforcing our Asiatic possessions. He further predicted the war would be long and slow and that we would suffer "the probable loss in short time of our quite unprotected holdings such as Midway and Guam." He predicted the conflict would be an air and naval war for some time to come. At this time, he said there was little chance of an American Expeditionary Force or any other type of overseas expedition.

The editorial in *The VMI Cadet* for 8 December was entitled "Let the Generals Run the War" and cautioned, "nobody ever won a fight by losing his head." Interestingly, the same issue of *The Cadet* indicated that the movies for the week would be "Three Cockeyed Sailors" at the Lyric and "Great Guns" at the State. El Patio Grill, at 171 South Main Street, was advertising steaks, chops, and sea foods and emphasized it was open after the dances and that "all cadets' credit is good." The Dutch Inn was serving "just wonderful food," and Colonel William Couper's recently published four volume *One Hundred Years at VMI* was on sale for \$12.00 plus six cents postage. William H. Milton, Jr. '20, later to become the eighth superintendent, was featured as having just been promoted to the position as manager of the General Electric Company's plastic department overseeing the company's five plastic plants in Connecticut, Indiana, and Massachusetts.

Within a month and a half after Pearl Harbor, the Corps was saddened to learn the first casualty in action was George Ben Johnston Handy '40, of Richmond, Virginia, who had fallen on 23 January 1942 while serving with the Philippine Scouts. Handy had entered the University of Virginia School of Medicine after graduation but applied for active duty in October 1941 and was ordered to the Philippines shortly after entering the service. He was but twenty-two years of age and had been promoted from second to first lieutenant. Memorial

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services for him were held Saturday, 7 February, a few days after notification of his death was released by the War Department. The services were conducted by the Right Reverend Beverly Tucker, Bishop of Ohio; Lieutenant F. H. Barksdale '40, Army ROTC cavalry instructor, gave a brief talk on the career of his classmate. The entire Corps, staff and faculty attended as did Lieutenant Handy's family, his friends and many others. There was not a dry eye in Jackson Memorial Hall as Abisha "Bosh" Pritchard sang "Rock of Ages." Lieutenant Handy was the first of more than 130 VMI men who were to die in service in World War II.

VMI had but two commandants of cadets throughout the war period, Colonel Henry B. Holmes '16, Coast Artillery, and Colonel John M. Fray '08, Field Artillery, both Regular Army officers. Fate could not have picked two more different men for that all-important position. Colonel Holmes, who also was professor of military science and tactics, was slim, aristocratic, autocratic, and a stickler for details and attention to regulations. An early riser, he had a habit of reviewing the Corps marching to Crozet Hall for BRC; his favorite post was on the stoop in front of Scott Shipp Hall. He had already inspected the stables and the enlisted detachment prior to the formation of the Corps. Colonel Holmes served as Commandant from 24 June 1940 to 23 December 1941, when he was called to duty with the War Department General Staff.

Colonel Fray was commandant from 1 January 1942 until 15 September 1946. He did not assume the dual position of commandant and professor of military science and tactics until later that first year. He was bluff, friendly, outgoing, and big-hearted. It has been said by numerous cadets that tears appeared to well up into his eyes whenever he had to receive a Special Report from a misbehaving cadet. He was often overheard by his clerk, Sergeant L. E. Sperka, to say on such occasions, "Son, now why did you do *that*?"

Almost as soon as he departed VMI during the Christmas furlough in December 1941, the former commandant, Colonel Henry B. Holmes, was selected in February 1942 for promotion to brigadier general. He had been elevated to his colonelcy only in November 1940, so the promotion saw him a general officer very quickly for a man of forty-nine years. As *The VMI Cadet* of 16 February 1942 reported, "He was responsible for many improvements [as commandant] none of which were given any publicity because he wanted none."

Colonel Holmes instituted a sound training system, particularly for those who served as privates of the First Class. Each first classman

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was given the opportunity and challenge to act as an officer on guard and at drills and ceremonies. Objectives to be attained at each drill were determined in advance. After February 1942, the PMS & T established an officers school for all members of the First Class, thereby giving second classmen the chance to gain more experience in directing, drilling and instructing the Third and Fourth classes. The officers course emphasized leadership, methods of instruction, defense against chemical agents, relations of junior officers to their seniors and subordinates, customs of the service, and other topics which enabled first classmen to gain confidence. In addition to the increased command and leadership activities for old cadets, special physical education classes provided training for all new cadets to increase their agility in wrestling, swimming, boxing, tumbling, rope climbing, and basketball.

As a result of these and other innovations, army authorities increased from two principals and one alternate to seven principals and seven alternates the number of graduates to receive Regular Army commissions. Six members of the Class of 1942 were tendered commissions in the United States Marine Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel William A. Ellis, USA, in charge of the infantry ROTC unit, was promoted to the grade of colonel the day before Colonel Fray arrived and by virtue of seniority became professor of military science and tactics. This was the first time since the inception of Army ROTC that a commandant of cadets did not serve in both capacities. The unusual arrangement caused no embarrassment; both officers served and acted only in the best interests of cadets and the college. Colonel Fray was promoted to the grade of colonel 16 March 1942 but did not assume the duties of PMS&T until Colonel Ellis's departure later that year.

If ever there was a highly respected and greatly beloved Army ROTC officer, it was Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. Roxbury. He was a faculty member for only a brief span, from February 1942 to March 1943. During those thirteen months, his demanding ways sharpened the skills of all First and Second Class artillerists in Companies D, E, and F. (Companies A and C were composed of cadets enrolled in the cavalry branch; Company B was composed of infantry cadets.) The annual report stated: he revised and extended the course of instruction in field artillery, and his work was so greatly appreciated by the cadets whom he drove to the limit that the college annual, *The Bomb*, was dedicated to him by the Class of 1943. The dedicatory citation read, "To the man who gave the strongest push to VMI's wartime training program; who made ROTC the most important course in the book;

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who assigned two weeks' work every two days, collected FCP's, and expected every cadet to do ten points better than his best; to the Colonel who was big enough to laugh with his cadets and great enough to command their respect; to this man this 1943 BOMB is dedicated." Colonel Roxbury was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1917, served one year in the A.E.F. in France in World War I, was commissioned a second lieutenant, and was stationed at many United States posts until ordered to VMI. He was severely wounded in France on 24 August 1944 while commanding the Eighty-third Field Artillery Battalion and died shortly thereafter.

General Kilbourne was a highly perspicacious person. Early in 1942 he addressed all alumni in these stirring words: "In this emergency it is my view that all [alumni] organizations such as ours should hold fast to everything we have gained insofar as is possible. VMI has lived through four wars and will continue after this one is settled. And any time conditions seem discouraging just take a minute off and hum "The Spirit"; then start over again. I trust as many of you will come [to Finals] as can so as to wish the Class of '42 good fortune, a chance to strike the enemy and prompt victory."

The superintendent, as the Institute official responsible for its operation, always reported closely upon his perception of the Honor Court's operation. He was also closely interested in the operation of the General Committee. The membership in these two student government organizations differed only slightly, mainly the elected officers of each upper class, except the historian of the Third Class while a voting member of the General Committee was not a member of the Honor Court.

Although it is not well known, the plan for an extension of the Barracks was approved by the Board of Visitors in 1941 and, shortly thereafter, in 1942 the project was funded by the Commonwealth. Unsettled wartime conditions, particularly the difficulty of obtaining critical construction materials such as steel, copper, and tin, prompted Institute authorities to refrain from setting a date for construction to begin. The original plan approved by the Board called for an extension, a new wing containing a second courtyard smaller than the original, running along the parade ground beginning where the old Alumni Hall was. Some \$200,000 was provided at that time for the work to include renovation work on other buildings; a larger sum was ultimately required for the new Barracks subsequently constructed between V-J Day and the Korean War. The original plan for the new addition to Barracks was faithfully carried out when it was built. One

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wonders what might have happened had there been capacity for more than 1,200 occupants in 1943 rather than 700. Surely, enough qualified young men of less than draft age could not have been found to join the Corps.

The General Committee forbade the practice of throwing bombs in the courtyard during 1941-42. This VMI tradition had been followed by the Third Class for several years, the number of "bomb in the courtyard" cries to match the last digit in the class's year designation. For instance, the Class of 1942 was traditionally to throw two, the Class of 1943, three, and so on. The prohibition followed the unfortunate accident involving Richard C. Niess '44, who lost an eye during one such incident; he was later to play an important role when the size of the Corps drastically shrank and when assigned enlisted army personnel numerically overshadowed those who wore the grey.

As one evidence of war preparedness and civilian seriousness, trial blackouts were held in the VMI Barracks to test the defense against aerial assault by enemy planes. Three distinct practice blackouts were held on Friday, 13 February 1942, at 1930, 2100 and 2130. Actual practices were to last approximately fifteen minutes and all cadets living above the first stoop were advised to walk carefully down to ground level as soon as all lights were extinguished. As all lights were extinguished within fifteen seconds, the Officer of the Day was deprived the opportunity to pull the main switch.

VMI attempted to assist local defense officials on Friday, 6 March 1942, when the entire Corps "took over" Lexington in an emergency drill exercise. The town and its environs were divided into six company areas with each cadet company commander supervising his own command. Units guarded streets, intersections, major road entrances to the community, and bridge approaches. Premedical students manned first aid stations; another group acted as a rescue squad. While Lexington occupied no strategic area, it is at the intersection of major north-south and east-west highways. Local officials and residents who saw the exercise were impressed. It was another indication that VMI was readying itself for any eventuality.

In the spring of 1942, social activities proceeded generally without change, except the Mid-Winter Hop "sets" ended the Friday and Saturday night affairs which usually scheduled informal tea dances on Saturday afternoons. Informal or First Class Hops became the rule. The Second Class Show, "A Murder Has Been Arranged," was held as scheduled. *The VMI Cadet*, *The Turn Out*, and the 1942 *Bomb* continued to be published as originally scheduled. Life had returned to a

somewhat more other rationing basis.

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Upon removal of the Board one month ago make such a percent of its one exception disqualification were ordered was the last Summer Enrollment Class of 1942. The Classes their regular

somewhat more stable pattern even though food, gasoline, ABC and other rationing programs were in the planning stages on a nationwide basis.

Early in the spring of 1942, contrary to persistent rumors that pervaded the ranks of the alumni, VMI announced plans to carry out its previously planned 1942 football program as scheduled. Spring practice was held with two squads of almost equal strength. It is to the Institute's everlasting credit that both varsity football and basketball programs were continued throughout the war years. Because so many colleges folded their major athletic programs, adversaries were sometimes hard to schedule or the opponents faced were overpowering. But field teams VMI did throughout the wartime period. Another example of continuing cadet events was realized in late April 1942, when the VMI Glee Club, sixty strong under the direction of Major Herbert N. Dillard, toured eastern Virginia and visited the Norfolk Naval Air Station and Fortress Monroe. As commercial bus hire was restricted, the navy furnished two service buses with enlisted drivers throughout the journey. The entire trip, while tiring, was reported to be a success.

Reports from the field returning by various channels contained commendations regarding the efficiency and reliability of VMI graduates on active duty. The reports convinced Institute authorities of the effectiveness of discipline (Corps of Cadets), military (ROTC), and professional (academic) programs offered in this small, mountainous Virginia village. The significant change in the program was to emphasize and accentuate those details and problems which confronted any subaltern at his first duty station. The life of an army or marine second lieutenant, or navy ensign, upon his initial reporting was not an easy one.

Upon recommendation of the Academic Board, and with approval of the Board of Visitors, the Class of 1942 was graduated almost one month ahead of schedule. Of this class, whose members were to make such a distinguished record during the conflict, 127 men, or 91 percent of its graduates, were called to active duty, and the others, with one exception, entered dental or medical colleges or had some physical disqualification. Much to the joy of its graduates, the class members were ordered early to join their designated military assignments (this was the last wartime class to attend a regularly scheduled ROTC Summer Encampment). Final examinations were not required for the Class of 1942, and "proficiency for the term was based on class marks." The Classes of 1943, 1944, and 1945 remained in residence to complete their regular schedules—and, of course, were required to complete

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At early graduation on Friday, 15 May 1942, the seventy-sixth anniversary of the Battle of New Market, there was no baccalaureate sermon. However on the Sunday preceding, 10 May, all local ministers were requested to note that the first classmen were attending services in their churches as a group for the last time. Without exception, the ministers addressed their sermons to the cadets. Due to weather conditions on graduation day, there was no Final Formation on the Hill. The First Class was relieved of duty, following the announcement of appointment of officers in the lower classes, after the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" in Jackson Memorial Hall. The final closing of the session did not occur until the lowering of the flags and the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner" on 5 June, when all underclassmen had completed their examinations. Thus ended a turbulent year in the history of VMI.

Some interesting statistics for the 1941-42 academic year may be in order. There were enrolled in September 1941 a total of 726 cadets as follows:

First Class ('42)	139
Second Class ('43)	161
Third Class ('44)	191
Fourth Class ('45)	<u>235</u>
	726

During the year only forty-one cadets dropped out or were "casualties" as the Institute officially recorded them: two from the First Class, nine from the Second, thirteen from the Third Class and only seventeen Rats. This is an amazingly low number to withdraw, only 5.6 percent. Of the forty-one, four had been ordered to duty as Reserve officers and two left to join the services.

Ever the forward thinker and planner, Colonel R. A. "Buzz" Mann '18, professor and head of civil engineering in June 1942, just six months into the war, addressed all alumni. He wrote, "While no activity must be permitted to divert energy or money from the 'All-Out' defense effort, we must remember that many of the evils following World War I came from a lack of planning for the inevitable post-war period. It is not too early to plan for this grave period of readjustment [following World War II] lest a sudden end to this War again catch us unprepared." That end was to be three long years away.

VMI's last normal wartime year officially began 11 September 1942. During the 1942-43 session, the strength of the Corps on enrollment day was as follows:

Casualties Class (Class of which the 1946), 120, before, the Corps but 581, a g

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First Class ('43)	150
Second Class ('44)	166
Third Class ('45)	205
Fourth Class ('46)	<u>240</u>
	761

Casualties were as follows: First Class (Class of 1943), two; Second Class (Class of 1944), fifteen; Third Class (Class of 1945), forty-three, of which thirty-four entered the armed forces; Fourth Class (Class of 1946), 120, of which ninety-three entered the armed services. Therefore, the Corps began with a strength of 761 and ended the session with but 581, a grim forecast of what was to come.

In late September 1942, General Kilbourne addressed an assembly of the Corps and explained the Enlisted Reserve Corps. As a sign of the patriotic times, when he made the remark, "Of course I appreciate the fact that you young men don't care a hang whether you are called to the colors or not," he later wrote that he received the most spontaneous applause he had ever known. He explained that generally an applause ripple is started by only a few and then taken up by many, but in this one instance it "was a simultaneous and practically universal outburst." There is no doubt, he wrote, "that the spirit of VMI is very high today."

Very little has ever been written about the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps, or ERC as it became better known to literally hundreds of cadets. The ERC came into being under the National Defense Act of 1916 with an authorized strength of 24,000, a paper strength of 10,000; on 30 June 1917, the ERC had only a total of 3,500. By June 1940, the Organized Reserve Corps, which included the Officers' Reserve Corps, had a strength of 104,288 officers (mainly ROTC graduates), and the ERC boasted an enlisted strength of 3,233. This was a ratio of 32 officers for every enlisted man!

After 7 December 1941, volunteers for the army signed on with the ERC in a veritable deluge. College students all over the country were enlisted in the ERC and ordered to duty at the end of a semester or full college year. Civilians could also enlist in the ERC for the Aviation Cadet Program, before being assigned to flight training.

Regulations for the revised Enlisted Reserve Corps were announced by the War and Navy departments on 26 August 1942. The announcement followed a conference of officials of those departments with presidents of colleges held 27-29 April 1942. The purpose of the new regulations was to retain in colleges by some means a number of young men who would be suitably educated to become officers. The

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draft age was about to be lowered to eighteen, and all United States males affected were required to register under the Selective Service Act by 30 June 1942. Members of the First Class (Class of 1943) in the advanced course ROTC were not to be enlisted; they were to be inducted and after graduation were to be sent to the basic school of their ROTC branch for a special course, then commissioned. Members of the Second Class (Class of 1944) were required to enlist in the ERC to be eligible for enrollment in advanced ROTC. Members of the Third Class (Class of 1945) and Fourth Class (Class of 1946) were "authorized to enlist"; anyone under twenty-one was required to obtain parental consent to do so. By 10 September 1942, over 100 VMI cadets had so enlisted; as the year ended virtually all cadets eligible by age and physical condition had entered the ERC voluntarily; on 7 December 1942 voluntary enlistments were discontinued. The initial regulations were changed frequently. The Institute officials made every effort to inform cadets and their parents of service decisions affecting them. As General Kilbourne often stated when asked what a young man should do, his advice was to enlist. He knew that it was the United States government's intent that as many as possible of the country's eligible males over eighteen should be in the armed services, voluntarily or otherwise, by 30 June 1943.

Ten days after the 7 December 1942 cancellation of enlistments, the War Department announced a major policy change formulating the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP). In brief, under this program army enlisted men with appropriate educational background, after three months of basic training, would be detailed to selected colleges for critical courses of instruction under a contract between the college and the War Department.

The eight military colleges (i.e., Clemson, North Georgia College, Norwich University, Pennsylvania Military College, Texas A & M, The Citadel, Virginia Military Institute, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute), following recommendations by the respective college presidents, were all promised government contracts under the ASTP concept. Members of the underclasses in the military colleges were allowed to complete the academic session through June 1943. ROTC instruction was permitted to continue unchanged through the same period and to operate in a modified form for the emergency. Cadets in advanced ROTC continued to receive twenty-five cents per day or thirty dollars per semester; this commutation stipend ceased in May 1943. The first ASTP trainees, or students, or cadets, as they were variously called, reported to VMI on 7 May 1943, fifteen days before

the regular 1942-43 session terminated; the first ASTP instruction began 10 May just as the VMI cadets were about to commence their second semester examination period.

The commandant announced on 5 October 1942 that the First Class capes would be added to the war list, so the underclasses were out of luck insofar as this popular item of uniform was concerned. No more new ones were to be manufactured by Mr. Sol Sachs in the Military Store; all capes for the remainder of the war would be second-hand ones left behind by the Class of 1943 or handed down from father to son.

In the fall of 1942 the superintendent reported that September's enrollment was the largest in the Institute's history—761. The Barracks had an estimated capacity of 686. The overcrowding was somewhat relieved by moving Alumni Hall to the Anderson House (the approximate location of Moody Hall today on Letcher Avenue) and utilizing space in the old Alumni Hall (north end of the west side of Barracks) for cadets. The tower rooms over Jackson Arch, formerly assigned for cadet publications use, were also renovated for use as quarters for fourth classmen.

The removal in the summer of 1942 of Alumni Association offices from the Alumni Hall permitted use of the added room for a reception room for guests calling on cadets. The old reception area was an entirely unsatisfactory, cramped, and unattractive space (the tower portion of current Room 101) opposite the commandant's office in Washington Arch. This new location provided a great boost in morale to all and was ready for use by Ring Figure. The top three floors of Alumni Hall, formerly quarters for sub-professors, were converted to cadet rooms. Therefore, premedical cadets of the Class of 1943 and six other first classmen occupied the second and third floors. Five new cadets roomed on the fourth floor. Space allocated to *The Bomb* on the fifth stoop over Jackson Arch was converted to cadet rooms which were occupied by eight new cadets.

The General Committee adopted three new rules for the new 1942-43 academic session, which may be of interest to today's cadets.

1. A cadet making himself conspicuous in any manner by over indulgence in intoxicants in any other place than the interior of barracks will be liable to a personal pledge and confinement or (may be) recommended for dismissal. Any cadet offering or giving intoxicants to a new cadet is guilty of a violation of these rules.

2. Hissing or booing at any time in public places or

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unsportsmanlike conduct at any athletic event is a violation of these rules.

3. Collarettes may be worn uptown under overcoats.

The Class of 1946, which matriculated in September 1942, had many stalwarts among its ranks. An amazing feat accomplished by one of them was during the Rat gymnastic class the first week in February 1943, when Stuart D. Loughborough, of Richmond, Virginia, in the presence of many cadets who witnessed the feat, "performed 1,371 sit-ups which greatly surpassed any known previous record at VMI." Young Loughborough was taking a recently inaugurated physical fitness test under the direction of Mr. Herb Patchin in the physical education department. Robert T. Lemmon, Jr. '43 was the official judge and Colonel Daniel P. Card, M.D., Post Surgeon, was hastily called to stand by as the event entered its latter stages. At the conclusion of such a remarkable achievement, young Loughborough "jumped up and hurried off to M.E.I." *The VMI Cadet* of 15 February 1943, reporting on this obvious record, recorded that Loughborough had maintained "a 9.3 (out of a possible 10.0) average . . . was passionately fond of outdoor life . . . was one of the first rats to obtain horse riding privileges . . . a conscientious trainer . . . for some unknown reason takes vitamin pills to build himself up . . . has rosy cheeks, red hair, and is known as the cutest boy in his class." Loughborough was known affectionately as "Muscles" and when his class was released from the Rat Line, he was asked his opinion of VMI now that he had been relieved from the tortures of the Rat Line. His reply, "I now like it so well that when I get my call for the Army, the two weeks leave that I will get will be spent here at the Institute."

Interest by cadets in the 1942 North African campaign was fierce. Howard Hill '45 wrote an interesting article in the 1943 Spring issue of the *Alumni Review*, outlining that a VMI graduate, Lieutenant A. Rudd Spencer '41, later killed in action in Italy, commanded the battery that fired possibly the first American artillery shots at the Germans in World War II. Tunisia was the scene of action. Characteristically, Spencer was a cadet private during his entire cadetship. Cadets also read that on another African battlefield Lieutenant Walton Goodwin III '34, a civil engineering graduate, directed the abandonment of his wrecked tank, amputated a wounded enlisted man's leg with a pocketknife, and then carried the wounded man across the battlefield commanded by enemy machine guns. A full-blooded Sioux Indian in Goodwin's company furnished the knife. Lieutenant Goodwin administered morphine, applied sulfanilimide to the wound, then

amputated the leg. He put the wounded man on his shoulder and, running, crossed the brow of a hill until he was out of range while the Germans, in respect for the heroism, withheld fire. It was events like these that captured the imagination of all VMI cadets. Goodwin was awarded the Silver Star and French Croix de Guerre during the war, in addition to the Purple Heart.

A third event in the 1942 North African desert warfare which caught the vivid attention of VMI cadets was that of an alumnus of the Class of 1930, Edgar Marshall Dickerson, who matriculated from White Post, Virginia, and who was a cadet for six and one-half months. He had once been on the staff of *The Washington Post* and, reportedly, had served as a captain in the Bolivian Army which had commissioned him to train machine gunners, even though he held a lieutenant's commission in the U.S. Army Officers' Reserve Corps. Dickerson was described as a desert phantom fighter. He had joined the French Foreign Legion and although officially reported as missing in action and generally believed to be dead, was "seen" in action long afterwards in the thick of battle. He had been in the historic and epic battle of Bir Hakeim but broke out with the Fighting French. Dickerson was missing after the battle of Hamimat Ridge on 30 October 1942, in the opening round of General Montgomery's offensive at El Alamein. He was reported to have fallen in a bayonet charge against machine gun emplacements. His body was never recovered so the French listed him as officially *disparv*—missing. Strangely, a New Zealand soldier reported seeing him, two months after he was missing, in another bayonet charge. One month thereafter, a member of an Army Air Corps ground crew said he saw Dickerson in a Liberator bomber as a rear-gunner on a bombing mission. The latter person believed Dickerson to be in the American Air Force under an assumed name. A British soldier, who recognized a picture of Dickerson in his Foreign Legion uniform, reported seeing him in the battle for Tripoli, Libya, in the latter part of January 1943. All of the stories followed a general pattern. "Corporal Dickerson shows up in the heat of battle, pushes resolutely forward, urging others on, then disappears." He was described after the Battle of Bir Hakeim to be "a tall, handsome corporal with a strained face but resolute eyes, standing forlornly, covered with dust and with a few bloodstains on his coat." The latest *VMI Register of Former Cadets* laconically states: "Missing in action in North Africa since 30 October 1942."

On 11 November 1942 ceremonies were held interring the remains of Colonel Claudius Crozet, a Napoleonic War veteran captured on

the retreat from Moscow. After his release, Crozet emigrated to the United States and accepted a faculty position at the United States Military Academy. Later he became the Principal Engineer of Virginia, a position similar to the present-day Commissioner of Highways and Transportation, and was appointed by the governor to be the first president of the VMI Board of Visitors. He and General Francis H. Smith greatly and mightily labored to get the fledgling college on a sound financial and educational basis. After his remains lay overnight on 10-11 November under cadet guard in the foyer of Preston Library, a solemn procession escorted the casket just to the west of the main library doorway along Letcher Avenue in full view of the massed Corps of Cadets facing south on the parade ground immediately across the avenue. The Post Band played a dirge during the procession. Taps were sounded, three volleys were fired, and garrison flags were flown at half staff. Minute guns were fired by the cadet artillery battery from the time the casket left the Preston Library terrace until it arrived at the grave.

Nine days following the interment of Colonel Crozet, who had been buried in Shockoe Cemetery in Richmond at his death during the Civil War, word was received that Lieutenant General John Archer Lejeune, retired fifth VMI superintendent, had died in Baltimore. After SRC that night the Corps, faculty, and staff and many citizens of Lexington who had known General Lejeune during his superintendency gathered in Jackson Memorial Hall for memorial services in honor of that legendary Marine.

In the 1942-43 session, bayonet combat drills were introduced to the ROTC instruction for all cadets, as were street fighting, obstacle courses, and rifle marksmanship. A Truck Company arrived from Camp Lee Quartermaster Center, and the upperclassmen were permitted to become experienced in day-night convoy movements. A memorable training film series, "Why We Fight," gave vivid evidence that the Nazi and Japanese war machines would not be easy to defeat and destroy. Training in command was afforded to cadets in all classes by "requiring them to instruct at close order drills." Many cadets who entered the armed forces wrote back to either the superintendent or commandant indicating how much they had benefitted from this requirement. Time for the special training was grudgingly taken from parades, ceremonies, and the endless close order drills.

The shortage of rifles for the expanding U.S. Army and Marine divisions caused the ROTC department to turn in all stocks on hand at the end of the 1941-1942 school year. VMI succeeded in securing as

replacements some of the earlier 1903 Springfield rifles which were considered unfit for issue to combat units because all parts were not interchangeable.

In 1942-43 a decision was made by army authorities that all ROTC basic cadets (first two years of the program) be issued olive drab uniforms and that ROTC advanced cadets (last two years of the program) were to wear uniforms of officers' patterns. After appeals by the superintendent and others, those military colleges whose traditional uniform was cadet gray, or of similar cloth, received permission for priority for gray and other cloth purchases. However, none of the new cloth could be utilized to manufacture coatees for new cadets. Those old cadets who had coatees could continue to wear them. To outfit new cadets the superintendent appealed to alumni to send as many coatees, shakos, and breast plates as might have been retained in family closets or attics. Cadet swords were also at a premium. Fortunately, the authorities were able to obtain twenty-four swords which permitted all new officers to be equipped with sidearms at ceremonies.

All special public assemblies of cadets in 1942-43 were related to the war effort. Examples of such meetings in Jackson Memorial Hall indicated a sense of seriousness about getting on with the war effort. On 27 October 1942 the Office of Price Administration sent a board to explain wartime pricing and its effects. A portrait of Lieutenant George Ben Johnston Handy '40, the first VMI graduate reported killed in action, was unveiled 28 November 1942. On 7 December 1942, Pearl Harbor Day was solemnly observed as was Army Day on 6 April 1943. In addition, the garrison flags were flown in honor of the victory of allied forces in Tunisia.

Public lecturers and outside visitors almost disappeared from the scene in 1942-43. Colonel Alcio Souto, commandant of the Military Academy of Brazil, who was then visiting many U.S. Army cantonments and the United States Military Academy, arrived at the Institute on 20 November 1942, and a garrison review was held in his honor. He addressed the Corps and was warmly received.

The 1942 VMI-VPI football clash was held on the same day as the dedication ceremonies for the new Victory Stadium in Roanoke, and 600 cadets attended. The senior cheerleader, Gordon Smith '43, requested the Corps, by an article in the 2 November issue of *The VMI Cadet*, to learn ten yells, among them one that time has forgotten. The cheer was named for two legendary VMI mathematics professors, Colonels B. D. Mayo and William E. (nicknamed Phi, pronounced by cadets as Fee) Byrne:

The B-D-Phi Yell

Tangent—Secant—Cosine—Sine
 Three point one four one five nine
 Integral x dx dy
 Slipstick—Sliderule
 VMI

The Turn Out, a cadet humor magazine, was published four or five times a year in the late 1920s through the graduation issue in May 1943. The single sales price was twenty-five cents, and it contained feature articles, a section devoted to "Certy, It's a Fact," drawings of beautiful girls, a serious article now and then, and just good fun. Many of the jokes, some with pictures or cartoons, were considered risqué for their day, but all in all the magazine was done in good taste and was quite popular both inside and outside Barracks. For instance, soon after Pearl Harbor Day, there was a drawing of a toothy Japanese radio announcer delivering a newscast, who gave this reassuring comment: "Tokyo happy to report terrible conditions at VMI. Spy say many cadets sleeping on hay and living in holes; only mess served in eating hall; and barracks full of 'rats'."

Other examples of Barracks humor in the early days of World War II:

Rat: "Sir, I'm stuck on this problem."

Colonel Blandy Clarkson: "Glad you like it."

Strausser: "I hear the Institute authorities are trying to stop necking."

Aston: "Zatso? First thing you know they'll be trying to make the cadets stop too."

Semite-1: "I had to change my seat six times at the movies."

Semite-2: "Goodness, did a Mink get fresh?"

Semite-1: "Well, finally."

Rat to Sgt. Zollman, ROTC instructor: "Sir, is it true that the harder I pull on the trigger, the farther the bullet will go?"

Keydet (in McCrum's Drug Store): "Won't you take some thing off for cash?"

Salesgirl: "SIR?"

Major Herbert Dillard (in English classroom): "Mr. Byers, are you smoking back there?"

Bill Byers: "No, sir, that's just the fog I'm in."

Virtue is learned at Mother's knee, vice at some other joint.

McGrath: "Why are you eating with a knife?"

Lemmon: "My fork leaks."

Colonel B. D. Mayo: "Now watch the blackboard while I run through it again."

Virginia has her whiskey,
W & L her rye
VPI for ginning,
But for coffee, VMI .

There was an unusually large multi-service military presence in Lexington from 1 December 1942 to 31 January 1946, when Washington and Lee University was the locale of the Army Special Forces School for Personnel Services. The school, originally located at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, early in 1942, was established for the purpose of devising, planning, and supervising practical recreation and welfare activities for combat troops in theaters of operations, domestic and overseas. The school's purpose was to instruct and train army personnel in morale, recreation and theatrical functions. At least one, and later two, recreation officers were to be assigned in regiments and separate battalions worldwide. Coast Guard, Navy and Marine personnel were also admitted as students. By early 1943 a curriculum of 192 hours of instruction was offered, including information and education, athletics and recreation, technical training, military training, ceremonies, and so forth.

There were 19,741 graduates from the school representing all services, including 12,497 male and 581 female officers, 5,961 male and female enlisted personnel. Famous entertainers such as Red Skelton, David Wayne, Lanny Ross, Phil Foster, and Melvin Douglas were assigned to the unit as was Ben Hogan, the golfer. Price Daniels, later to become the governor of Texas, was also a student. Thomas B. Stanley '47 remembers that cadets were permitted to purchase cigarettes and candy at the school's Post Exchange.

The length of the Christmas furlough was a burning issue in late fall 1942. The superintendent presented five furlough plans to the Board of Visitors which had been voted on by the Corps. The final decision was

announced 16 December. The selected hours and dates were from 10:00 A.M. Thursday, 17 December to (hours varying on the basis of bus and train arrivals) Monday, 28 December. The schedule was in compliance with the government's request to relieve Christmas travel jams.

Also at this time speculation was rife about the yet unannounced date of graduation for the Class of 1943. A *VMI Cadet* reporter polled eighty-three members of the First Class and asked this question: "When do you think we will graduate?" Only Braden Vandeventer, Jr., of Norfolk, hit the date exactly—22 May. Other notable answers: William G. McClure, Jr., "The Lord only knows, and He's not sure;" George E. Parker, Jr., "If hoping had anything to do with it, we'd be out of here yesterday;" Robert R. Barton, "I don't think we'll ever get out of this hole;" William H. Emory, Jr., "When hell freezes over;" and Joseph R. Wyatt, Jr., "I think the class will get out in March—I have hopes of leaving someday."

In an era of wartime turmoil, the authorities made one significant academic change. With approval of the Board of Visitors, a Department of Mechanical Engineering was formed and the appointed new head was Colonel R. J. Trinkle '14, longtime member of the Department of Electrical Engineering. His main responsibility was to offer thermodynamics and certain mechanically related courses as a separate service department. More than forty years were to elapse before the department was elevated to degree-granting status and the first mechanical engineering degree was awarded.

All VMI cadet hearts beat a little faster when the first issue of *Time* magazine in 1943 was delivered to a number of VMI rooms. There, emblazoned on the cover, was "The Man of the Year" General George C. Marshall '01. The article which accompanied this nationally-recognized accolade went on to say: "The man who, more than any other, could be said to have armed the Republic was George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff . . . he shuns all avoidable publicity, he is a man of great personal reserve, but the people have learned why they trust General Marshall more than they have trusted any military man since George Washington: he is 'a Civis Americanus'." It went on to say "He had kept faith with the people. In a general's uniform, he stood for civilian substance of this democratic society . . . he had gained the world's undivided respect." Some 3,074 VMI alumni were to serve in the United States Army under this Man of the Year's leadership.

The VMI Cadet, in seeking opinions in February 1943 about their postwar plans, asked members of the Class of 1945, almost all of whom would be in the service within four months, "Do you wish to return to

VMI after the war?" Some cogent answers: Robert E. Jones '45 (killed in action in Luxembourg, January 1945), "I would sincerely like to come back, but I feel we will all be too old;" Charles H. Augustine '45 (killed in action in the skies over Germany, December 1944), "Yes, if I'm not too old and if the rest of the boys are here;" Richard P. Dillon '45 (killed in action in France, January 1945), "Yes, I like the place and would want a VMI diploma;" Franklin W. Coffman '45, (killed in action in the Central Pacific Area, November 1944), "It's the only sensible thing to do;" David G. Waller '45 (killed in action in Germany, December 1944), "To a class reunion, yes, but to come back to school, no;" and William H. Humlong, Jr. (killed in a plane crash in Formosa, March 1946), "Definitely not. I much prefer feminine company to Billy Taylor's."

Cadets were distressed to learn that William Morison Wood '67, last survivor of the Battle of New Market, died in Old Hickory, Tennessee, on 3 March 1943 at the age of ninety-seven. He was from a true VMI family, matriculating in January 1864 from Gate City, Virginia. Three of his brothers, a cousin raised in his home, four nephews, and three of his great-nephews had been members of the Corps. As one of eleven Confederate veterans attending the New Market ceremonies in 1939, at a special review of the Corps in his honor, he attached to the colors the New Market Battle Streamer. Though he had been a member of the Corps for but one year, he was awarded a diploma *honoris causa* by the Board of Visitors following the Civil War.

In the summer of 1942, members of the premedical curriculum attended special summer school classes and thereby advanced their graduation date to 20 March 1943. A traditional graduation parade was held the previous afternoon for the thirteen graduating cadets. The entire First Class attended the brief and mostly informal ceremonies in Jackson Memorial Hall with the Board of Visitors present. Cadet William G. McClure, Jr., president of the Class of 1943, made the address. The post surgeon, Colonel Daniel P. Card, U.S. Army (Ret.), also spoke, and the superintendent presented diplomas. With the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and benediction by the Reverend W. A. Wright, of the Lexington Methodist Church, the simple, yet moving ceremony was completed. Every single cadet in this group ultimately was awarded a M.D. or D.D.S. degree.

The Board of Visitors authorized a certificate to former cadets who completed successfully one or more semesters at the Institute and subsequently entered the armed forces. The certificate stated the course pursued and dates of attendance. It had a heading, "Virginia Military Institute," in block letters under which was the seal of the State of

Virginia. It was signed by the superintendent and the secretary, Academic Board. The name of the cadet and his state were entered in engineering block letters. It was on heavy paper and was suitable for framing. The charge to each former cadet was \$1.50 to cover the cost of the forms, preparation of each individual certificate, and the mailing charge. The certificates were first prepared for members of the Class of 1944 who had completed one year of advanced ROTC but were required to complete army basic training prior to assignment to an Officer Candidate School of their service branch.

On 26 April 1943, *The VMI Cadet* announced its final issue was scheduled to appear on 17 May and that after thirty-five years of continuous publication the newspaper would be suspended for the duration of the war. The 10 May issue welcomed the Army Specialized Training Program cadets, 144 strong, who arrived on 7 May. The superintendent had already addressed the Corps on 4 May about the problems now facing the Institute, and he discussed the pending arrival of the army contingent. Peyton W. Thompson, Jr., editor-in-chief, welcomed the army cadets, wished them luck, and reminded them of the heritage of VMI and that the Institute's future reputation might well rely on their actions. The final issue appeared, as promised, 17 May, and the editorial entitled "Thirty" said in its opening paragraph that this was the "closing phase of the old Institute." Yea, verily. The Southern Inn was still advertising Genuine Italian Spaghetti Dinners for fifty cents and full-course cadet Steak Dinners for one dollar. The last three words on the bottom of the last page was an advertisement placed by McCrum Drug Store, "where friends meet."

War conditions limited Finals exercises in May 1943. The baccalaureate exercises were held on 16 May in Jackson Memorial Hall and presided over by the Most Reverend Peter L. Ireton, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. With everlasting gratitude to the Class of 1943, the members of the Class of 1945, the rising Second Class, were permitted to conduct their Ring Figure Dance at 10:00 P.M. on Thursday, 20 May. The Garrison Review, scheduled for 10:30 A.M. on Friday, 21 May, was not held, owing to inclement weather. Nor was there a regimental review for the Board of Visitors that afternoon. However, a bust of General George C. Marshall '01, chief of staff of the U.S. Army, by Nison Tregor, was unveiled by L. K. Nicholson, president of the Times-Picayune Publishing Company of New Orleans. The donor was Mr. E. A. Tracey, president of the Majestic Radio and Television of Chicago. Mr. Tracey was unable to be present; Lieutenant Colonel Frank McCarthy '33, assistant secretary of the War Department General

Staff, represented with General Ireton. The ceremony was concluded.

The Graduate's Reception Saturday at 10 A.M. I attended VMI Academy, was a graduation speaker. I received the valedictory address. "Promotions in Syne," the last

With the graduation of the years of ROTC instruction were any advanced courses offered as time permitted with a limited amount of ammunition. A ditch, barbed-wire, and Leadership instruction training, all VMI defense against

The only ROTC during World War I units. Consequently, there were a number of commissions; two Marine officers, and in the classes of 1941 and 1942, personnel in both those classes entered the volunteer program.

The large number of ROTC graduates contributed to a unit of the USMC received in 1942, just after I received my commission to enlist.

Staff, represented him. General Kilbourne spoke of his own army service with General Marshall. The ceremony, on a nationwide radio broadcast, was concluded with the Post Band playing the "VMI Spirit."

The Graduation Parade was held Friday at 5 o'clock, the Superintendent's Reception at 9:00 P.M., and the Final Ball two hours later. On Saturday at 11:00 A.M. Major General Walter Reed Weaver '04, who attended VMI for three years before entering the United States Military Academy, was awarded a Diploma of Distinguished Merit; he was the graduation speaker. Cadet Billy Sunday Clark, of Dallas, Texas, delivered the valedictory. Thus, following the reading of appointments and promotions in the Corps of Cadets, and the playing of "Auld Lang Syne," the last regular VMI Finals passed into history.

With the graduation of the Class of 1943, the last two, or advanced, years of ROTC were discontinued for the emergency. All military instruction was offered as "basic infantry, branch immaterial." Gone were any advanced cavalry or artillery instruction other than that offered as time permitted. In brief, "school of the soldier" was emphasized with a 1,000-yard outdoor range available for firing 22-caliber ammunition. A 300-yard assault course consisting of a jump, water ditch, barbed-wire entanglement and wall obstacle was constructed. Leadership instruction was emphasized; in addition to assault course training, all VMI and army cadets were schooled in bayonet training, defense against chemical agents, street fighting, and marksmanship.

The only Reserve Officer Training program offered at VMI from World War I until 1947 was that sponsored by the United States Army. Consequently, the great majority of VMI alumni serving on active duty in World War II did so in that branch of the service. Nevertheless, there were a number of alumni who served with distinction in the U.S. Navy and the Marine Corps. For instance, the record shows an unusual interest in the Marines. In the Class of 1942, six received Marine commissions; twenty-five members of the Class of 1943 were also Marine officers, as were thirteen in the Class of 1944. A number of cadets in the classes of 1945, 1946, and 1947 served as either officers or enlisted personnel in both the Marine Corps and navy, but by far the majority in those classes entered the army through the Enlisted Reserve Corps or other volunteer programs. A relatively small number were drafted.

The large number of Marines commissioned in the Class of 1943 is attributed to a unique chain of events, according to W. G. McClure, Jr. '43. A USMC recruiting officer visited Washington and Lee in January 1942, just after Pearl Harbor. McClure met with him and made a decision to enlist. Enlistment papers were signed early in February and a

number of other cadets followed suit. When the superintendent became aware of this action (the cadets were already enrolled in advanced ROTC) he would not release them from their army commitment. One enterprising cadet contacted Captain Charles P. Nash '17, a wounded veteran of World War I who also served in World War II, but all applications for commissions were denied. Ultimately, a USMC recruiting team visited VMI and offered two Marine commissions, one to McClure as the principal, and the other to R. A. Aussicker '43.

The Class of 1944 was inducted one year before scheduled graduation into the U.S. Army as privates in May 1943; they received basic training at camps specializing in their ROTC branches (infantry, artillery, cavalry). Almost all members of this class were later commissioned through Officer Candidate Schools. Thirteen members of the class who were enrolled in Army ROTC and who completed their second class year were offered a commission in the Marine Corps through the Marine Recruiting Office in Richmond, according to Harry W. Easterly, Jr. '44. The same Captain Nash, who had won the Distinguished Service Cross in France during the 1917-1918 conflict, was instrumental in arranging this unusual procedure. These thirteen also entered on active duty as second lieutenants at Quantico and shared assignments similar to the Class of 1943.

The training offered the Virginia Protective Force in the previous years was not requested in the summer of 1943. However, Troop 628, Virginia Reserve Militia, a horse cavalry unit, did hold one week of training after the Corps left on 22 May 1943. Company 82, Virginia Reserve Militia, was formed in the Rockbridge County area by Lieutenant Colonel R. P. Carroll, associate professor of premedical studies; he was assisted by Sergeant William Zollman of the army enlisted detachment. Certain old cadets were detailed to help the company in matters of drill during the formative stages of that outfit.

Army trucks pulled up to the Barracks on 7 May 1943 and out clambered 144 members of the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP), enlisted men who had completed army basic training and who would spend a minimum of twelve weeks and a maximum of either thirty-six or forty-eight weeks as basic engineering trainees. One hundred twenty-eight men began the first term's work, and sixteen began in the second term (the descriptive word was later changed to "cycle" rather than "term"; a cycle lasted twelve weeks.) Many of the ASTP cadets, as they were locally called, had previously been assigned to Georgetown University; they had earlier arrived by train in Staunton where they were met by Lieutenants F. H. Barksdale '40, and R. H. Ingle,

Jr. '41, Army ROTC instructors. A number of VMI cadets drove army trucks to and from Staunton to provide transportation. The first contingent of 144 soldiers was the forerunner of a total of 2,148 men who were to follow in twelve cycles. ASTP cadets were to be in continuous residence from 7 May 1943 to 27 April 1946. Among those who are prominent today are Gore Vidal, playwright and author, who was in the second cycle from August to November 1943, and Mel Brooks (Melvin Kaminsky), comedian, assigned during the fifth cycle from May to August 1944.

The first ASTP class received the same VMI orientation system as new cadets. By the middle of the summer of 1943, with both VMI cadets and ASTP cadets outfitted in army cotton khaki uniform for drills, ceremonies, class parades and mess formations, the casual observer could tell no difference between the two groups.

The initial ASTP class also formed a class organization and an Honor Court; the latter had seven elected members. These young men, many sent to VMI against their wishes, drew up a constitution to govern by a class organization. For their Honor Court they adopted a set of rules which was accepted by all of the initial group of soldiers.

To Colonel John M. Fray must go great credit for maintaining discipline and coordination among the three military organizations in the Barracks, each operating under different regulations. His task was a demanding one, and he met the challenge with limited resources but with jocularly, an abounding good humor, and a genuine trust in all who reported to him.

By May 1944 the army program had resolved into three separate entities or the following cadet categories: the Army Specialized Training Program (Regular) Cadets; the Army Specialized Training Program (ROTC) Cadets; and the Army Specialized Training Program (Reserve or E.R.C.) Cadets.

The first category has been reported on previously. The initial group arrived in May 1943. They were mostly former college students who, after army basic training, were sent to VMI for mostly basic or advanced engineering studies. The second category consisted of former VMI cadets, mostly in the Class of 1944 but a few in the Classes of 1945 and 1946, who returned to VMI in the ROTC ASTP group. They had completed seventeen weeks of basic training in their ROTC branch (armor, field artillery or infantry) and were awaiting assignment to an Officer Candidate School. One hundred five former VMI cadets returned in November 1943 and took academic subjects related to their former academic majors; most had departed for reassignment by the end

of the following February. The third category, ASTP Enlisted Reserve Cadets, or Reservists, were members of the army's new preinduction program. They were young high school graduates generally without prior military instruction or training. Following competitive tests which qualified them to become army reservists, they were admitted to the program principally from New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. On 7 May 1944 some 348 young men in this new category were added to the Institute's rolls. A cadre of Regular ASTP cadets trained them upon arrival. Army officers later gave formal training in basic military subjects and military courtesy to prepare them for induction into the army. These young men also took academic subjects and generally were separated from VMI for army service three months after they reached draft age. They were observed to be an enthusiastic group, full of life, who took quite well to their initial military indoctrination.

For the most part, there was close cooperation among the regular ASTP, the ASTP ROTC, and the ASTP ERC cadets. They messed together, attended drills and ceremonies together, and shared guard duties (each unit furnished guard teams on a rotating schedule). While a very few incidents among the groups arose, the superintendent was able to report "the utmost harmony prevailed. This is an outstanding achievement." To that the writer would definitely agree.

Several ASTP cadets returned after the war to become VMI cadets. S. J. D. Morena is a case in point. Morena attended the City College of New York from February 1940 to June 1942 when he joined the army. He was ordered to the Institute the next summer and began the army program in the second cycle on 9 August 1943 and completed four cycles, departing in late July 1944. Morena matriculated as a VMI cadet in September 1946, when the Class of 1948B was beginning its First Class year, was graduated 11 June 1947, earning a B.S. in Civil Engineering, and is carried on the rolls in the Class of 1944.

On 9 June 1943 the Class of 1947 matriculated with 186 members; late arrivals, because of conflicting high school graduation dates, boosted that number. The total number of cadets, VMI and ASTP, present for duty on 30 June was 411, distributed as follows:

First Class ('44)	16
Second Class ('45)	18
Third Class ('46)	35
Fourth Class ('47)	<u>199</u>
VMI Cadets	268
ASTP Cadets	<u>143</u>
	411

Throughout the war years the orientation period of about three to four days for new cadets did not change. First or Second Class privates were detailed as drill instructors. These instructors conducted the new cadets to laboratories, the library, military store, and other locations and gave "gentle and helpful advice" to assist the bewildered Rats to become acclimatized to their new surroundings and life. Each faculty member had assigned four to six new cadets as faculty advisees for guidance and personal advice. Assemblies of faculty advisers and their advisees were historically held in Jackson Memorial Hall, with the smaller groups of cadets then meeting with advisers in their offices or in quarters on the Post.

The real personnel turmoil at VMI, or to use the present day term of turbulence, began in June 1943. ASTP cadets, now by far the numerical majority, and VMI cadets "turned over" at a sometimes alarming rate. In the ASTP contingent of 144 original trainees reporting in May 1943, one had departed by 1 July. Forty-one days later the number enrolled had climbed to 494. Between that date, 10 August, and 16 January 1944, the numbers fluctuated between a low of 407 and a high of 508. There were numerous transfers in and out. One week later the number had fallen to 319, increased to 481 the next month, and by March 1944 was down to eighty-six. As the reader might expect, the plans for the Normandy invasion on the coast of France were draining all available army personnel from American shores. All of the eighty-six ASTP cadets were in advanced engineering courses and of "superior quality." Perhaps the army was attempting to save its "seed corn."

By April 1944 the eighty-six increased to 105 when there was a transfer to VMI of nineteen advanced engineering students from other colleges. Then a new army program appeared on the scene in the form of ASTP reservists and 348 of that fledgling group arrived in May. By 30 June 1944 there was a total of 432 trainees in Barracks and in just over fourteen months, since 7 May 1943, there had been 1,231 enlisted men enrolled at the Institute since the inception of the army program.

The 268 cadets present on 1 July 1943 had been reduced to 204 by February 1944, the end of that academic session. Authorities had anticipated about 100 new cadets would matriculate but only some sixty reported. The new academic year began 7 February with 225 cadets, which dropped to 198 by the end of that month, and only 170 remained in May 1944. Of those, thirty-five had submitted resignations effective 30 May with the intent to volunteer for the armed forces. And so it went; there were many fewer VMI cadets in Barracks then than during the height of the Civil War.

In effect, the Institute was operating on a year-round schedule. All army trainees were academically occupied for four cycles a year of twelve weeks duration, each with one week vacation between terms. VMI cadets had three terms (semesters) of sixteen weeks each, with one month off between every two semesters and eleven days at Christmas. The ASTP cadets received only Christmas day off. VMI and ASTP cadets therefore were rarely away at the same time, although they did sometimes attend class together, particularly in the Second and First Class engineering courses. Three VMI semesters and four army quarters totalled seven times a year that new terms had to be scheduled. The members of the faculty were teaching almost continuously, some having only brief periods off; extended vacations, like Lucky Strike green, had gone to war! For whatever reason, the Academic Board could not bring itself to alter the semester system of cadets for the quarter system mandated by army policy. Failure to act in this regard caused much more turmoil and many scheduling problems for faculty and students—problems which were never resolved.

Without a doubt the most serious problem facing the Institute was obtaining and retaining a qualified faculty, particularly in engineering. Young instructors were called to the colors as Reserve officers, volunteered, or departed for war industries and related work. Large influxes of ASTP cadet levies would overnight boost the size of the entire student body by 250 or so. Many VMI faculty members, a number with twenty or thirty years of service, and others with but a few years of teaching experience, really had to “change horses in the middle of the stream” and do so quickly. For instance, a representative few who did change fields are listed here:

<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Former Courses</i>	<i>New Courses</i>
BG S. W. Anderson	Electrical Engineering	Mathematics
COL R. L. Bates	Psychology	Geography
COL W. M. Hunley	Economics	History
COL S. M. Millner, Jr.	French	Mathematics
COL H. M. Read	English	Physical Tng.
COL R. A. Marr, Jr.	Civil Engineering	Mathematics
LT COL S. F. Blain	Spanish	Physics
LT COL J. C. Hanes	Civil Engineering	Physics
2LT J. Daher	Mathematics	Physical Tng.
2LT J. A. Love, Jr.	English	Physics

The faculty problem was acute because the Institute operated continuously after June 1943. An accelerated pre-medical program for the

Class of 1943 brought back those enrolled cadets during the summer of 1942 to enable them to be graduated in March 1943 and enter several medical colleges in the spring; the nation's medical schools were also on accelerated programs. In June 1943 the VMI academic program went on an accelerated schedule for three basic reasons: to hasten graduation for the few old cadets who might qualify; to bring in new cadet matriculants faster than they could volunteer or be called to the colors; and to run the ASTP program on a series of continuous "academic cycles." Cadet life was on an ever-increasing tempo, even though there were fewer VMI cadets in Barracks than there had been.

In the early days of VMI, cadets were appointed by General Francis H. Smith to act as instructors for other cadets. There was one such young man appointed to the VMI faculty during World War II. He was Earl A. Miller '44. Like many of his class, Miller completed his Second Class year in May 1943 and was called to active duty in the field artillery and assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to complete basic training before entering Officer Candidate School. His army physical uncovered a heart murmur and by June he was separated from the service. On his way home from Fort Bragg he stopped by the Institute to seek the possibility of returning as a cadet. He did not fit into the academic scheduling of the accelerated program and would not until after 1 January 1944. General Kilbourne immediately offered him a position in the Physics Department as an assistant instructor until then. Therefore, Miller was a member of the faculty as an undergraduate and is officially carried on the faculty rolls. He later served as a full-fledged faculty member in electrical engineering from 1948 to 1954. From September to December 1943 Miller was quartered in Alumni Hall with Lieutenant James C. Wheat and Captain O. L. Denton, instructor in civil engineering and alumni secretary, respectively. In December 1943 he returned to Barracks as a cadet and continued to work in the Department of Physics with duties mainly consisting of grading test papers, homework, and laboratory reports. His First Class year, during which he served as a cadet captain, was compressed into the period January to June 1944, with many classes consisting of two-hour recitation sessions once a week, with much reading and problem solving in between. The Class of 1944 was originally scheduled to be graduated 12 June 1944, but Miller beat that by two days. He received his diploma in the office of the dean, General Stewart W. Anderson, about two hours after his last examination. Three faculty members were present, as was Mrs. J. H. C. Mann, secretary to Colonel Couper. General Anderson simply handed Miller

his diploma, shook his hand, and away Miller went. His mother's bus was one-half hour late arriving in Lexington for the ceremony, so she missed her son's graduation.

In June 1943, shortly after the new cadets reported, the Corps of Cadets was organized as a battalion of two companies. This basic organization lasted through the end of the war. Initially, there were few old cadets and it became difficult, after more than ninety percent of the 1942-43 Corps departed, to select officers and noncommissioned officers, as very few had previously occupied any responsible military positions.

All old cadets in Barracks were saddened at the death in August 1943 of Brigadier General Francis Mallory '89, retired professor of physics, who made his home in Lexington after giving up his career which stretched back to the turn of the century. In a span of cadet and faculty service covering fifty-five years, Mallory was then regarded as the man who had come into contact with more cadets than any other man in the Institute's history to that time. This grand old man, one of whose daughters lives today in Lexington, in his last address to cadets after World War II had begun in Europe, gave advice that had guided him throughout his career: "Meet the problems of life with VMI spirit, with fortitude and loyalty. The greatest contribution a VMI man can make to VMI is a life of honor, of integrity, of hard work. Be not unwilling to bear hardships, and learn not to crave the soft overindulgence of modern life." That advice is sound for cadets of any period.

On Founders Day, 1943, a battalion review of the VMI Corps was held, celebrating the 104th anniversary of the college. By order of the superintendent, the cadet adjutant read an order listing the names and classes of the eighty-nine VMI men killed in action or who died in service in World Wars I and II; fifty-five former VMI cadets were honored for giving their lives in World War I and thirty-four former VMI cadets by that Founders Day had died in service during World War II. Of significance, five who had been cadets on Pearl Harbor Day had lost their lives: Louis Armistead Heindl, Jr. '42; Lewis Archie Lillard '41; John Knudson McCullough '42; Hawes Netherlands Adams '43; and Walter Pleasants White '45.

L. L. Nichols, Jr. '44, now a VMI faculty member with over forty years of service, was one of the ASTP ROTC cadets to return in late November 1943, following basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas. He was to attend classes at VMI while awaiting entry to an OCS class. Nichols reports that Colonel R. A. Marr in the Civil Engineering Department and Colonel John S. Jamison of the Electrical Engineering Department

made every effort to insure that those returning members of the Class of 1944, then in army uniform, would be enrolled in course work which would, if completed, contribute towards credit for graduation from VMI. He states that among courses prescribed for him was proficiency in using the metal lathe and other shop machines. His exact assignment included making some electrical terminals and producing an all-metal hammer. Nichols did not remain long in an ASTP ROTC status, and after a brief furlough he, with other cavalry ROTC cadets in '44, reported to the Armor OCS at Fort Knox just after New Year's Day, 1944.

Nichols has mentioned a memorable prank which occurred during his return, a prank that is talked about today. Even though a VMI cadet for three years, as an ASTP student Nichols roomed on the fourth stoop (408) as did his other classmates who had returned as army privates. One evening during CQ some former VMI cadets made a well-constructed and rather life-like dummy. W. S. A. McIntyre '44 was enticed to enter into a "mock fight" with the dummy on the fourth stoop while another group of ASTP ROTC cadets loudly yelled to encourage those in Barracks to "look at the fight, look at the fight!" At an appropriate moment, McIntyre delivered an uppercut to the dummy and threw it over the fourth stoop rail, much to the chagrin of virtually the entire guard team. Another cadet, stationed for the purpose, emitted a terrifying scream as the dummy passed the third stoop and then struck the courtyard grass plot below. Waiting members of the Class of 1944 in on the stunt instantly disassembled the dummy, and when the guard team arrived with a stretcher, there was no *corpus delicti*. Everyone had a good laugh, no damage was done, and an otherwise dull night in the Barracks passed into history.

There was an accelerated graduation of twelve pre-medical cadets (Class of 1944) on 31 December 1943. How many other VMI graduates can make a claim to fame of receiving their diplomas on New Year's Eve! Thirty-six days later, on 5 February, three other cadets, two in civil engineering and one in a special course, received their degrees.

By early spring 1944 the chances of admitting a new cadet class of reasonable size and quality were faltering. The lowering of the draft age to eighteen, the army and navy programs for providing federal assistance to young men between seventeen and eighteen, and the services' concurrent plans to enlist seventeen year-old boys and send them to college at federal expense greatly curtailed the number of VMI applicants. The decision to induct all college males on reaching age eighteen—except for 10,000 exempted as students largely at medical, dental, and veterinary colleges—practically depleted the Corps of Cadets. Of those 10,000

exemptions, VMI had a quota of fifteen. These fifteen exemptions, those under eighteen years of age, aliens, and any who were classified 4-F in the draft were all of the cadets VMI could expect to retain. The attrition due to induction into the armed services was excessive at times.

General Kilbourne made a written plea to alumni chapter officers to bring this state of affairs to the attention of all chapter members. He further appealed by asking them to seek among their friends those who had likely prospects who would not be more than seventeen years and three months old on 1 July 1944, to influence them to enroll these sons at VMI. A cadet entering at not only seventeen years and three months was assured of one year of college education. In his appeal the superintendent concluded by saying that one year would benefit the young man by "putting him that far ahead in his college education . . . and . . . if called to the Colors thereafter he will benefit greatly by having the privilege of one year's attendance at VMI."

The dark days of late winter or early spring have always been known in cadet parlance as the Gloom Period or Dark Ages. General Kilbourne, as was often his custom, addressed the Corps in Jackson Memorial Hall early in 1944 when it seemed spring would never arrive. This distinguished gentleman was then in his seventy-first year. The tenets he expressed then are just as true and viable forty-five years later:

Due to many letters requesting my aid in seeing that cadets obtain as much as possible from attendance at VMI, I have asked you to assemble for a talk on education as it affects you.

First, I want to suggest to each of you that he ask himself, 'Why am I here?' I imagine there will be many answers such as 'Father or brother went to VMI,' 'Don't know,' 'Heard it was a good military school,' etc. None of these are good reasons. I suggest you consider the following as reasons for attending any college:

To fit myself to earn a living by getting an education;

To learn how to concentrate on any problem with which I am confronted;

To learn how to analyze data from reading or lectures and to come to logical conclusions;

To form the habit of applying myself industriously to any task presented to me;

To form the habit of doing what must be done promptly—not putting things off;

To learn how to live among other people—respecting their rights while demanding respect for my own rights;

To develop into a useful and patriotic citizen, ready to do my share in national and local affairs.

Try to get out of your minds that you are here to pass all subjects and get a diploma. You are here to *learn* and to develop an active mind and a strong character.

New Market Day 1944, just twenty-two days before the Normandy invasion which sealed Germany's fate in World War II, was highly eventful. The Class of 1894 held its fiftieth reunion. The Class of 1894 had furnished two superintendents, Brigadier General William Horner Cocke (1924-1929) and General Kilbourne. A unique distinction of the selection of these two gentlemen for VMI's highest office was that Cocke was the First Honor Jackson-Hope medalist and Kilbourne took the Second Honor. The eightieth anniversary of the Battle of New Market was selected for the occasion, because under the accelerated academic program the usual Final Exercises would not be held in June 1944. Six of the twenty-four living members of the class (there had been ninety-three members to matriculate in 1890, the year after the fiftieth anniversary of VMI's founding and six months following the death of the first superintendent) attended. The record shows the members of the reunion class dined with the Corps for lunch on Monday, the 15th, New Market Day, "relishing a standard frankfurter and sauerkraut midday meal."

The new VMI academic session which began 28 June 1944 saw the arrival of the Class of 1948B; the Class of 1948A had matriculated just five months earlier on 7 February. The session which began in June ended its first semester 14 October 1944, and the second semester was concluded 17 February 1945. On 19 February the Class of 1949A was admitted and the Class of 1949B arrived five months later on 11 July, the last class to enter before V-J Day. The fortunes of war and the continual call-up of young men under the Selective Service System were having a significant and debilitating influence on cadet enrollment, even though new classes were constantly matriculating. Enrollment patterns for the period make one appreciate the effect the war was having on the size of the Corps even in the latter stages of the conflict:

28 June 1944	275 cadets enrolled
16 October 1944	214 cadets enrolled
19 February 1945	173 cadets enrolled
9 June 1945	153 cadets enrolled

As far as is known, the 9 June enrollment was the smallest Corps at commencement (Class of 1946) since 1888. And by 30 June 1945, due to resignations, call-ups to the colors, and academic failures, there were only 120 cadets on the rolls.

Always conscious of the plight of Rats, the superintendent addressed the presidents of the First, Second, and Third classes on 14 February 1944, to emphasize his concern:

The so-called 'Rat System' must be changed because of the small number of Fourth Classmen. The new cadets must be left alone during study hours and after Taps. These do I ask in the name of fair dealing since any man who puts on the VMI uniform is entitled to make good and his time must not be taken up and his rest disturbed. No gentleman would ask another gentleman to shine his shoes and if we have any in Barracks who do so, the sooner he is out the better.

General Kilbourne, in the summer of 1944, again took extraordinary efforts to insure the proper operation of the Rat system as classes of new cadets were matriculating on an accelerated schedule. He wrote on 27 June to the presidents of the classes of 1945, 1946, 1947, and 1948A to encourage those officers to use their influence to keep the operation of the system such to avoid unfavorable opinion of the Institute. The general had previously expressed his views on this subject to members of the staff.

1. The Rat System is intended, he stated:
 - a. To impress the Honor Code on new cadets at a time they are willing to accept guidance;
 - b. To expedite military bearing, conduct and discipline;
 - c. To teach self control;
 - d. To teach the conceited, loud-mouthed boy to keep quiet till spoken to;
 - e. To show the selfish, spoiled boy that he is no better than others and can expect consideration only if he earns it;
 - f. To show new cadets that, until they prove they are able to stand up in a difficult situation, they must show respect to those who have proved themselves;
 - g. To place the son of the rich and influential on the same level with the son of the poor and obscure citizen and show each that the better of the two will take the lead at VMI;
 - h. To teach them they must show respect for those in higher position regardless of personal feeling;
 - i. To teach them that a man usually gets what he deserves—that "lucky breaks" generally come to those who earn them;
 - j. In brief, to make them stand on their own feet rather than take cover behind others;

- k. To clear out of the Corps those unworthy to be VMI men. This requires judgment. Care should be exercised not to discourage a new cadet unless and until he has demonstrated traits of character showing him unfit to be a cadet.

All of the foregoing can be accomplished by the "Rat Rules" of the General Committee and other requirements such as standing quiet before formations and during rests at drill, being served last at meals, etc.

2. The Rat System is not intended:

- a. To make new cadets believe that to control men brutality and harshness are necessary;
- b. To subject new cadets to treatment or language lessening self respect;
- c. To enable old cadets having sadist or bullying tendencies to indulge the same;
- d. To punish or humiliate a new cadet who is doing his best to conform;
- e. To prevent a new cadet from applying himself to his studies or from getting the rest he needs;
- f. To permit physical punishment either by striking a new cadet or requiring him to perform physical exercises or to stand immobile to excess;
- g. To require any service not proper for a gentleman.

The problem of too few old cadets and too many new cadets was a recurring one after May 1943 through August 1945. It is a wonder the VMI cadet system did not fall apart. Old cadets in the First and Second classes had not one or two Rats assigned to them as dykes, but often as many as ten or twelve. There was just not enough maturity among all old cadets to rub off on the sixteen-year-old Rat. Colonel R. A. Marr '18 summarized the feeling, but from a faculty standpoint, when he spoke to the Richmond Alumni Association in November 1944:

Let's stop and think of the impact of the war on such education at VMI. You, as Rats, had above you three full classes of old cadets—older, more mature, and well versed in the customs and traditions of VMI. You ate at the mess and listened; you were in ranks with them, you played with and against them in athletics, and you spent much time in their rooms (some of it not too pleasantly), and you had four long years in which to grow up and mature and to absorb this background. Remember that the younger you are, the more you look to your immediate superiors for guidance.

In May 1943 our entire old cadet body, with few exceptions, was called to the colors. Since then we have operated with a full Fourth Class who are sixteen and seventeen years old; a fairly full Third Class, *but* with sometimes as few as *two* first classmen.

In addressing the administration of the student government—Honor Court, General Committee and military organization—General Kilbourne found in 1945 that the whole structure was complicated by frequent changes in the Corps, particularly among upper classmen. He further reported that in the years 1944–1945 there were five reorganizations in the structure of the class system, etc., within that short time span. The entire membership did not change but there were changes within the membership with five different presidents. Similarly, there was an even more rapid turnover among first captains. On the recommendation of the General Committee several lectures were presented to all cadets by alumni on the topic of cadet customs and standards since the turn of the century. “The Bullet” or “Rat Bible” was reprinted. In the next year the superintendent reaffirmed his faith in cadet government when he again reported, “The system of control through the Honor Court and General Committee has operated well in spite of many changes in personnel.”

The last war-time academic session began 9 July 1945. One hundred five old cadets were in attendance, and on the 11th of the month the new Class of 1949B matriculated with 177 members, making a total of 281 VMI cadets in residence. The war in Europe had already ended with the complete surrender of Germany; the surrender of Japan was but a little more than a month away. With the end of hostilities, prospects for VMI brightened. A conventional calendar could be planned; former old cadets then in the armed services would return to complete their education; the advanced ROTC program would be reinaugurated; and the ASTP cadets would disappear from the scene.

The history of one war-time class reflected: “Now on the verge of our second class year, we realize the endless chain of expectancy our cadetship is, and how with each advancement comes more responsibility and a new goal.” That single sentence truly sums up the universal feelings of those cadets who matriculated in June 1943 and thereafter; they were on a treadmill of academic progress, maturity, and also faced a sure call to serve their country. As classmates were called into the armed services, fewer and fewer cadets remained behind to advance to the next highest class. Those who remained behind had thrust on them awesome responsibilities and numerous jobs. Most of those youngsters readily

responded and performed exceedingly well, certainly much better than even Institute authorities could or did expect.

During the period of the war, general good health was enjoyed by almost all cadets in both gray and olive drab. A fairly serious scarlet fever epidemic began 13 February 1945 and continued almost through the first warm days of early spring. Cadets were quarantined from 20 February through 27 March and a partial quarantine was observed for a short period thereafter. The last cadet affected was not released until 9 June. It was deduced by the post surgeon that the disease had been introduced by one or more army cadets arriving on 5 February. Thirty army cadets were affected before a VMI cadet noticed any symptoms. There were no deaths and, fortunately, the disease was light in character. In all, some forty-two VMI and army cadets were hospitalized.

All VMI and ASTP cadets assembled in Jackson Memorial Hall at 1615 hours 8 May 1945 to mark the end of the fighting in Europe in World War II, and to pay honor to all who served to bring victory there, especially those who had paid the supreme sacrifice. While this was a joyous occasion, particularly for those who had family members or friends serving on the continent, emphasis was placed on the fact that "all energies must now be transferred to the War against Japan." Speakers included Colonel John M. Fray, First Lieutenant Stanley R. Navas, assistant professor of military science and tactics, who had lost an arm in the desperate fighting at Anzio in Italy, and Dr. Edwin Bethea, rector, R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church. Garrison flags, at half staff for the late President Roosevelt, were flown until Retreat.

As the reader may imagine, it was to VMI's everlasting credit that it fielded varsity football and basketball teams throughout 1943 and 1944 with so few and such young cadets in residence. The official tally on the win-loss-tied record for these major sports was: football for the falls of 1942, 1943, and 1944, won 6, lost 19, tied 1; basketball for the winters of 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45, won 17, lost 43. The only other major varsity teams which survived throughout the war were the polo and wrestling teams. The wrestling team scheduled no matches but did have exhibitions held during the halves of several home basketball games. Colonel S. M. Heflin '16, professor of physics, continued as coach. War conditions prevented regular polo matches but intrasquad games were sometimes conducted on Hop and other special weekends. Captain H. W. Ellerson, Jr. '39, Army ROTC staff, was the polo team coach.

Social life did not dim. There was a reasonable number of Hops. For instance, the Ring Figure of the Class of 1947 was held Saturday, 30

September 1944, with music provided by Betty McGuire and her All-Girl Orchestra. John Reid Davis '45 was the president of the Hop Committee and Jean Edens, Jr. '45 the vice-president. Davis vividly remembers scurrying around at the last minute while the Figure was in process because the band's business manager demanded cash, not a check. The Class of 1947 Hop Committee sponsored the Finals Ball for the Class of 1946 on Friday, 8 June 1945; J. F. Ewell '47 and D. H. Williamson, Jr. '47 were the president and vice president, respectively, of the Hop Committee. There were exactly two graduates in the Class of 1946 who were so honored at the Ball, F. T. Dresser and M. P. Echols, Jr., the latter having served as president of the Hop Committee. Unfortunately, no written record of all Hops during the period May 1943 and August 1945 has been uncovered in the Institute files.

There were the usual parties in Barracks rooms from time to time. Picnics to Goshen Pass and hayrides to the same locale were held in the late spring, summer, and early fall months. There were many attractive young ladies who resided in Lexington, not a few of whom were daughters of VMI faculty and staff members, who provided wonderful female companionship. The love lives of some cadets and some of these young ladies were in constant turmoil. Humor, while not apparent every waking moment, did prevail; jovial chuckles abounded; the Barracks bull sessions and endless poker and bridge games continued; and Barracks personalities were in sufficient numbers to keep the human-interest stories interesting. Of course, there were still in the Corps quiet and inhospitable cadets who seldom spoke or raised general cain.

The small number in each class entering their final year insured that almost all first classmen were commissioned or saber-bearing officers. Many of the survivors in each Second Class were cadet sergeants. It can be stated without equivocation that each cadet so appointed carried out his duties to the best of his ability. Most cadet officers were very "running" and tried to be a role model for the numerous members of the Third and Fourth classes. It was not unknown for a second classman to be appointed a cadet lieutenant or cadet captain.

Among the cadets of these war-time days from Pearl Harbor to V-J Day were to arise some prominent alumni. Many of them were highly capable, academically and militarily motivated. Many became prominent business leaders. Two of them became Rhodes Scholars and twenty rose to general officer or flag rank in the armed services. In comparison, as of this writing, VMI over 148 years has produced nine Rhodes Scholars and 262 general officers.

As a group, the pre-medical cadets in the Classes of 1943 and 1944 appeared to be the most serious. Their approach to their diligent work and their serious attitude were acknowledged and admired by all cadet contemporaries. Most of them were quiet and modest as well as highly conscientious. They seemed genuinely indefatigable as they tirelessly plugged from biology to chemistry classes under accelerated schedules. They were serious and any who had been cut-ups or inclined to trifling soon lost those tendencies, gave up roistering, and got down to the important job ahead of them all.

A very few old cadets during the period from Finals 1942 to V-J Day enjoyed a unique distinction. At the annual meeting of the General Alumni Association on 10 June 1940, a motion was passed that no ex-cadet would be considered an alumnus until after the graduation of his class. As subsequent classes graduated on an accelerated basis after May 1942, and as service veterans from the classes of 1944, 1945 and 1946 returned before the end of the war, they held a unique distinction of being both cadets and alumni. Very few realized they enjoyed this dual status.

As a tribute to the administrative staff and particularly Colonel William Couper, business executive and official historiographer, the many army, navy, F.B.I., and Civil Service Commission inspectors who frequently visited to check alumni files told Institute authorities that they found "VMI records to be superior to those of any institutions where they make examinations."

Horses still played a part in the lives of cadets. More than 100 horses were maintained at the Institute throughout the war period. At least 106 of them were reported available for duty at the war's end. Although equitation was not included in the "associated arms" portion of the basic infantry branch immaterial ROTC program, such instruction was still given to those VMI and ASTP cadets who requested same during available free periods on Wednesdays, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. It was Colonel Fray's desire that every cadet at least know how to mount and ride. Instruction included such basic items as saddling, grooming, feeding, watering, and care of mounts on marches and in the field. Cross country rides were taken which included jumping certain obstacles (four one-foot jumps blindfolded without reins and stirrups) and jumping three-foot obstacles credibly. Individual riding privileges were granted cadets who were considered qualified to take horses out alone for country rides. A few overnight bivouacs, including marches with some minor tactical problems, were conducted. A cavalry

troop consisting of two platoons of VMI cadets frequently participated in battalion reviews, a miniature and mere shadow of those long-gone glorious Garrison Reviews.

By August 1947 only four ROTC schools had army horses assigned for ROTC instruction. VMI had the largest number, 106. New Mexico Military Institute had 100, while Norwich University had 35 and Cornell but 30. Just before July 1947 the Oklahoma Military Academy supported ninety horses but had released them after the War Department's decision not to continue the cavalry and field artillery instruction. The 100-odd horses remained at VMI until June 1948, largely because of the efforts of U.S. Senator A. Willis Robertson, of Lexington, a member of the Board of Visitors.

With the detonation of the two atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, the few VMI cadets in Barracks in early August 1945 instinctively knew the World War II conflict was surely ending. When the Japanese emperor made this fact official, the Corps spontaneously gathered in front of the superintendent's quarters in the late afternoon. He addressed them quietly and soberly. His words are lost to posterity but his intent was clear: go about your duties seriously to prepare for life; if called into the service, do your duty; always conduct yourselves as gentlemen. He then announced release from quarters for all, even those under confinement or arrest, until midnight. With much joyous noise many cadets quickly changed uniforms and headed into Lexington to join the local citizens in celebrating the end of hostilities. Many parties were attended, the most notable ones being held in Lexington's leading hostelrys.

On the morning after the surrender of Japan was announced, 15 August 1945, the superintendent made a stirring address to the Corps and faculty. He concluded with these sobering remarks for all those who heard him:

Today we celebrate the triumphant conclusion of the greatest and most terrible war of history. We are at the end of an epoch. Another is beginning. Whether the United States continues to hold the balance of power in the world depends upon the intelligence, the knowledge and especially upon the character of our citizens. Only by our young men developing their intelligence, knowledge and character can we hope for a successful solution of the many problems that will face us.

Therefore I urge each of you, while rejoicing in our triumph, while being proud of your country and countrymen,

and while giving thanks that your fathers and brothers in the theaters of operations are no longer facing death by violence, I urge each of you to determine today that he will do his utmost to take advantage of the opportunity to prepare himself to be a loyal and useful citizen of this great country.

And thus, after more than three years and eight months full of hard-fought days, the guns of United States armed forces and her victorious allies were stilled. The Axis Powers were defeated everywhere. Our airmen, Marines, sailors and soldiers, over 3,700 of them former VMI cadets, half of all living alumni, stood down. Families offered public thanks for those spared death or wounds and private prayers for those who had lost their young lives. VMI entered a new era, but that is another story.

Appendix I
Schedule of Matriculation and Graduation
Classes in Residence between Pearl Harbor and V-J Days

Class	Matri- culants	Matriculation Date	Graduates	Graduation Date	Remarks
1942	210	12 Sep 38	132	15 May 42	
1943	247	11 Sep 39	13 136	20 Mar 43 22 May 43	Pre-med students
1944	21	9 Sep 40	12 3 1	31 Dec 43 5 Feb 44 10 Jun 44	Pre-med students
1945	234	8 Sep 41	3 1 1	29 Jul 44 28 Oct 44 17 Feb 45	
1946	222	14 Sep 42	2	9 Jun 45	
1947	186	9 Jun 43	7	2 Mar 46	+ 1 graduate from the Class of 1945
1948A	60	7 Feb 44	12	1 Feb 47	+ 16 graduates from other classes
1948B	151	28 Jun 44	53	11 Jun 47	+ 55 graduates from other classes
1949A	47	19 Feb 45	15	8 Jun 48	+ 55 graduates from other classes
1949B	177	11 Jul 45	84	29 Jan 49	+ 5 graduates from other classes

Appendix 2

Class Officers, Military Officers, and Valedictorians

Class	Year	Effective Dates	President of Class	First Captain	President, Honor Court & General Committee	Valedictorian
1942	1942-42	4 Sep 41 15 May 42	R. P. Williams	R. P. Williams	R. P. Williams	J. C. Hooker, Jr.
1943	1942-43	10 Sep 42 22 May 43	W. G. McCluer, Jr.	J. H. VanLandingham	W. G. McClure, Jr.	B. S. Clark
1944	1943	22 May 43	H. W. Easterly, Jr.	J. R. Chambers	H. W. Easterly, Jr.	—
1944	1943	9 Jun 43 31 Dec 43	R. Q. Marston	G. H. Richmond, Sr.	R. C. Niess	—
1944	1944	3 Jan 44 5 Feb 44	R. C. Neiss	R. C. Neiss	R. C. Neiss	—
1945	1944	7 Feb 44 29 Jul 44	J. T. Adams	R. M. Lewis, Jr.	J. T. Adams	J. T. Adams
1945	1944	29 Jul 44 28 Oct 44	J. R. Davis	J. R. Davis	J. R. Davis	—
1946	1944-45	6 Nov 44 17 Feb 45	F. T. Dresser	J. Edens, Jr.	F. T. Dresser	—
1946	1945	20 Feb 45 9 Jun 45	F. T. Dresser	F. T. Dresser	F. T. Dresser	M. P. Echols, Jr.
1947	1945-46	14 Jul 45	J. F. Burton	J. M. Morgan, Jr.	J. F. Burton	W. B. Adams

Appendix 3

VMI Faculty and Staff:
December 1941 through August 1945

Superintendent:	Lieutenant General Charles E. Kilbourne
Faculty:	<p><i>Colonels:</i> W. M. Hunley, T. A. E. Moseley, R. E. Dixon, E. Steidtman, B. D. Mayo, R. L. Bates, S. M. Millner, M. F. Edwards, R. A. Marr, J. D. P. Fuller, W. E. Byrne, S. M. Heflin, R. J. Trinkle, H. P. Boykin, H. M. Read</p> <p><i>Lieutenant Colonels:</i> J. E. Townes, R. P. Carroll, L. German, B. B. Clarkson, J. H. C. Mann, R. C. Weaver, Paul Wells, J. S. Jamison, Jr., H. E. Ritchey, S. F. Blain, R. H. Knox, J. C. Hanes</p> <p><i>Majors:</i> W. L. Lowry*, I. G. Foster, H. N. Dillard*, A. M. Lipscomb*, R. C. Horne</p> <p><i>Captains:</i> F. L. Kelly*, A. H. Morrison*, J. B. Newman*, Mr. L. E. Thomas, Mr. (later Major) A. L. Lancaster*</p> <p><i>Lieutenants:</i> G. B. Ax*, A. R. Flinn, Jr.*, C. J. Lang*, Mr. W. R. Callahan, C. B. Goolrick, Jr.*, C. J. Laslie*, H. R. Gantt*, W. S. McCauley*, W. B. Wilson, R. H. Ingle, Jr., Mr. J. W. Willard, Mr. R. E. Leed*</p>
On Leave:	On 7 December 1941, eight faculty members were on leave, two undertaking graduate study and six had been called to active service in the Army; of those only Colonel K. S. Purdie returned before August 1945.
Faculty Joining between Dec. 41 and Aug. 45	<p>1942-43: Dr. F. M. Velte; <i>Major</i> C. C. Tutwiler; <i>Captain</i> I. R. Littrell; <i>Lieutenants</i> G. R. Sledge*, G. M. Brooke, Jr.*, J. C. Wheat, J. A. Love*, C. M. Drake, Jr.*, J. Mullen*; Dr. R. S. Leopold, Mr. A. G. Turley, Dr. N. H. Binger, Mr. Herbert Patchin</p> <p>1943-44: <i>Captains</i> D. B. Reeves and O. L. Denton; <i>Lieutenants</i> J. S. Carr*, M. M. Brantley, Jr.*; Messrs. J. T. Showalter, J. E. Bethea, D. E. Kinzle, and A. T. S. Hubert; and <i>Cadet</i> E. A. Miller</p> <p>1944-45: <i>Lieutenants</i> J. G. Daher, J. M. Satterfield, W. C. Judd, V. M. Bowers, and W. H. Smart; Messrs. F. E. Atkins, C. P. Campbell, G. F. Drake, M. A. Ecklund, C. W. Ewing, W. W. Grover, F. A. Lee, Jr., T. E. Lothery, Jr., C. J. McWilliams, S. E. Miller, C. P. Obenschain, E. K. Paxton, J. E. Peters, J. R. Taylor, K. A. Thompson, F. R. Hurt, W. A. Parker, M. B. Potter, R. W. Nelson, and <i>Captain</i> N. W. Tobey</p>
ROTC and Army Staff:	<p><i>Colonel</i> H. B. Holmes, Jr., commandant of cadets until 23 December 1941 when he was succeeded by <i>Colonel</i> John M. Fray, commandant of cadets 1 January 1942.</p> <p><i>Colonels</i> W. A. Ellis and George D. Wiltshire; <i>Lieutenant Colonel</i> G. G. Heiner, Jr.; <i>Major</i> B. P. Cooper; <i>Lieutenants</i> E. T. Arnold, J. M. Tabb, and F. H. Barksdale</p>
ROTC and Army Staff assigned in:	<p>1942-43: <i>Lieutenant Colonels</i> J. N. Caperton, W. A. Holland, and E. J. Roxbury; <i>Lieutenants</i> H. W. Ellerson, C. B. Goolrick, Jr., and R. H. Ingle, Jr.</p> <p>1943-44: <i>Lieutenant Colonel</i> J. F. Hepner; <i>Captain</i> J. C. McCombs; <i>Lieutenants</i> J. H. Culpepper, P. L. Cambreleng, and W. R. McClanahan</p> <p>1944-45: <i>Major</i> G. B. Ax; <i>Captains</i> J. J. Curley and W. R. Hills; <i>Lieutenants</i> E. J. Tice, L. S. Hix, D. M. Leach, B. J. Golbus, J. P. Hart, H. F. Hickman, R. R. Brooks, and S. R. Navas</p>

* Called to active duty in the Armed Forces.

Note: Captain Littrell was the military storekeeper and was assigned additional teaching duties in the Department of Physics, as was Captain O. L. Denton, secretary of the VMI Foundation. Mr. Allison T. S. Hubert, the varsity football coach, was assigned additional duties in the Department of Physical Education.