Na great hope is... that to the latest generation our young men shall have cause to bless the wise forethought of the men of this age, who have amidst gigantic war, not only vindicated the free institutions and ideas of self-government, but also founded this splendid nursery of freemen and enlightened patriotism... Wisdom and patriotism, hand in hand, are invincible.--Richard Yates, greeting on Inauguration Day, 1868.

The campus in the summer of 1914 was, outwardly at least, a peaceful place. The academic quiet of the summer session was disturbed by little more than the usual sultry drone of locusts and the receipt of occasional letters from faculty people on European vacations who were worried about their trips home. Some had tales of hardship and excitement to tell when they came back. Dean Kinley, who was stopping at London while on his way to an international conference at Lucerne, stayed longer than most, assisting the return of stranded Americans with his advice on their finances. One member of the faculty, Otto Rahn, a German bacteriologist, joined the German army, and a distinguished visiting French professor of mathematics could not fulfill his engagement, but the fall registrations and faculty roster otherwise showed little effect of the war. Not until the United States was itself a belligerent was there to be any notable decrease in attendance.

Commencement in June had been a memorable occasion, combining exercises commemorating the Gregory period, the decennial of James' presidency, and the graduation of the largest class up to that time. The imposing speaker, Count Johann von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, spoke glowingly on German social legislation. He had been given the salute
with cannon due his rank and was the honored guest at a special Senate luncheon. An unusually hot summer set in. A group of military students was at a camp near Ludington, Michigan, with Major Webster, the department's commandant. Perhaps it was Urbana's heat and envy of the campers that led President James to consider opening a summer camp near Starved Rock, Illinois' principal resort, for the civil engineering, botany, zoology, geology, agriculture, military and other departments which might benefit from field work. But nothing came of it.

Rather unconsciously the University had been preparing for war. When the cornerstone of the chemistry building addition was about to be laid in October, 1914, James took occasion to call attention to the training of chemists "of a kind able to free us from dependence on German laboratories and factories." The great new Armory for which funds had been secured in 1913 was under construction and was being used for the first time in late 1914; and Major Webster was reorganizing the military department, increasing the number of units to correspond with the larger number of cadets. Illinois' military companies, with the largest enrollment in military classes in any American university, were being transformed into a brigade, the first college brigade in the country. War Department inspectors had for the first time that spring given the department the "distinguished" citation. When Congress, moved by the events on the Continent, turned to look into the condition of the national defense, President James was quick to point proudly to the Illinois establishment. Addressing a public letter to President Wilson, James outlined a simple plan which with little more effort would enable Illinois and the other land grant institutions to give the country a reserve of several thousand regular army or national guard officers a year. That the suggestion was necessary indicated that the government, not to say the nation itself, had forgotten the military tradition of the
2. See Alumni Quarterly, 8 (July, 1914), passim. There was almost an "incident" when a drunken policeman shot at the automobile in which the ambassador was driving to the campus. Champaign Daily Gazette, June 17, 1914, 1.


The policy of training in military tactics, the step-child of the Land Grant Act of 1862, had been maintained by the land grant colleges through fifty years of vicissitude without ever having been put to a test. It had been both magnified as a main purpose and minimized as an incidental inspiration growing out of dark military fortunes in an early year of the Civil War. At the time of the Spanish-American War it had been ignored as non-existent. It would be hard to say that the training had a place in the military organization of the nation. Yet by the time of the crisis of 1914-1918 the land grant colleges, among which Illinois was in the lead, had developed a distinctively American approach to the problem of military preparedness.

The first trustees had taken seriously the injunction to provide for the study of military. General Mason Brayman, a Civil War hero experienced in organizing northern regiments and who was chairman of the committee on the University's military department, investigated at first-hand the opinions of the War Department and the organization of West Point before proposing a military course that would make the Illinois Industrial University a satellite of the national military academy, conforming to its standards in every practicable detail. Brayman anticipated campus life based on the well-ordered routine of a garrison, complete with reveille and taps. Discipline and uniform would stimulate the desirable qualities of gentlemen and officers, the common apparel placing rich and poor man's sons alike on a Spartan level of republican equality. Drill would obviate the need for costly gymnasiums.

The report was enthusiastically adopted in 1867.
That the three-year military course introduced in 1868 was intended to be the equal of the agriculture and engineering courses is evident from the fact that for a time tuition was free to students who studied exclusively in any of these three. In the earliest years, male students marched in squads, worked in squads, responded to the call of a bugle rather than a bell, saluted the faculty, and were disciplined by adjutants in the dormitory. Until chapel was abolished in 1894, all students, men and women alike, lined up in companies in the corridors of University Hall before entering the assembly room for the daily fifteen minute exercise. Uniforms, for which West Point set the fashion and which were commonly worn on three "drill days" a week, included the familiar cadet grays and blue sugar-scoop caps with buttons and specially designed I.I.U. insignia. The first drillmaster was Professor Atherton; after January, 1869, it was Professor Shattuck; in September, 1869, "Captain" Snyder took over. As officers, which they all had been, they must have despaired at the motley crew of boys they had to form into companies, yet the record they left was highly creditable. Their first band suggested the spirit of '76—a drum, a fife, no more.

Both J. B. Turner and Regent Gregory were warm supporters of military training. Asked in 1865 by I. N. Haynie, the state adjutant general, "Can a plan of military education be engrafted upon our present system of common schools, or adopted by our high schools and colleges, so as to be practically successful in preserving the military knowledge now possessed by the country?", Turner answered with the same enthusiasm with which he had championed agricultural education when his farm was at its peak: "I have thought so for years; further reflection does not weaken but every day deepens and strengthens my conviction..." When the question was discussed by land grant college leaders in 1872, Regent
7. Ibid., '69: 86.
8. Faculty Record, Feb. 8, 1878, 1: 243.
9. Official descriptions and regulations appeared annually in the catalogues. There were complaints against the high cost --$27.50 in the earlier years—but the military department regarded the uniform as essential. MT, '73: 74.
Gregory was chairman of the committee set to draft a plan. The Morrill Act, he reported, was "an incipient effort to establish a system of military schools," and proposed that Congress grant $15,000 annually to each college that would introduce a full-fledged school of military science. West Point would become, in effect, the graduate school of the profession. Few land grant college leaders were ready to accept so large a plan, and Gregory was left to make what he could of the military course at his own institution.

Anecdotes of early drilling reveal that there was some diversion as well as the almost endless marching. Snyder, a veteran of the Austro-Prussian as well as the Civil War, was the object of many a tale; old grads delighted to contrast his classroom meekness with his brusqueness on the field. It was he who led the battalion in its first public appearance in October, 1871, when at the governor's call 157 cadets excitedly collected the equipment and boarded a special midnight train to Chicago on the third evening of the great fire. They patrolled the streets until the regular army arrived, and were commended by General Sheridan. After this the battalion was on its mettle. Two years later, when crew members of the Virginia were executed as pirates for running guns to Cuban rebels, the battalion resolved that the government should demand severe redress and announced their readiness "to march at any time for the achievement of the aforesaid purpose." In 1874, they policed the grounds and were reviewed at the dedication of the Lincoln Monument in Springfield. There was/ indeed/, no complaint when the legislature formalized a University requirement by passing an act making military drill compulsory for all male students. In the same year, 1875, graduates of the military course were commissioned for the first time as brevet captains in the state militia and Commandant Snyder was made a colonel. Three years later the battalion was incorporated as the Sixth Battalion of Infantry, or University Battalion, in the Illinois State
12. The Student, 1 (November, 1871), 4.
13. Ibid., 2 (November, 1873), 128.
17

Guard. The seven companies with 247 members were regarded as the state's best organized military unit.

The first regular army officer detailed by the War Department, Lt. W. A. Dinwiddie, a retired cavalry officer, came to the campus in early 1878. Since the battalion was a state unit under Snyder's command, an amusing complication arose. Colonel or professor of tactics, which was the superior officer? The issue was settled by the withdrawal of the battalion from the state guard under a new military code adopted by the legislature in 1878. Although military training was probably better served under Dinwiddie and later officers detailed by the War Department, the novelty wore off and drill lost its appeal when the opportunities for excursions to fires and dedications had passed. With no place for its graduates, the course lost its popularity and disappeared from the catalogue; parents and students alike, with fading memories of the war, became indifferent, and farmers were intolerant of the "uniformed dudes" at agricultural colleges. The rebellion of 1880, caused by restrictions on the faculty's nomination of students to captaincies in the state guard, described in an earlier chapter, brought in a decade of little development. Peabody regarded the military training as "merely an incidental thing," and by the regulations of 1881 the seniors were excused from drill. The Illini noted its decline and in less respectable publications it was mercilessly lampooned. Commandants showed little interest and had little control; absence from drill was the most common student misdemeanor. That the students seemed to have won their tilt with the faculty in the second rebellion in 1891, did not help matters. Releasing the juniors as well as seniors from the requirement and granting scholarships to the student officers merely reduced the length of time one had to suffer.

A revival of interest is noted in the advent of Captain D. H. Brush
17. Ibid., '76: 180.
18. Laws... 1877, 131-138.
19. Ross, Democracy's College, 122-123.
20. BT., '82: 57.
in 1894. His military manner commanded respect. The drill hall became the armory, and dress parades were dramatized with flags. Women students were encouraged to attend the reviews; Saturday afternoon "military hops" and the annual military ball were inaugurated. When Brush left for active service in the Spanish-American War it looked for a time as if the battalion, now at the strength of a regiment, would follow him. He was marched to the station, and as the train was about to leave he reminded them for the last time to be sure to finish their courses.

The Spanish-American War disrupted rather than promoted military training. For a year there was none; no officers could be spared. The army took the two cannon which pranksters had been accustomed to push into the Boneyard, and some of the guns. Fifty-four students and alumni enlisted; two died in training camps. But Illinois hardly felt the war. Military instruction was resumed in 1899 when a retired captain was sent to reorganize the department. He was not popular and remained only a year, but his successor was a hale and hearty old Indian fighter who in ten years added much to Illinois' military tradition.

Major Edmund Gustave Fechet, a huge hulk of a man, was a picturesque figure who had enlisted in the army at seventeen and had become a lieutenant within a year. Most of his thirty-two years of unbroken army life had been spent at western outposts. Though there is a legend that he claimed never to have seen a university or college building before he came to Urbana, he was soon a conspicuous and popular figure on the campus. His after-dinner speeches at fraternities established for him the reputation of a master story-teller; many were the versions of his campaigns against Geronimo and Sitting Bull. Everyone knew him as "the Major" and, after 1904, "the Colonel." He probably knew more about the boys and their pranks than did Dean Clark himself. To all he
One of the better known incidents took place in the days of the second military rebellion in 1891, when a gang said to have been led by G. Huff, and which thought well enough of itself to be photographed broke open the drill hall and secreted the muskets in a graveyard vault and in fairground stalls. Sabers were thrown into an old well. The cannon were set at the Boneyard edge and, when fired, bounced back into the stream. IAN, 9 (July, 1931), 475.

Chapin, Military History, 31-37.
was the veteran soldier in heroic proportion. Under Fochet the military quickly became a glowing department; unstinted praise followed the annual inspections.

Fochet's reviews were even more famous than Brush's. He began the custom of climaxing the year's activity with an annual military day on which military honors, the oldest of which was the Hazelton Medal (1896) for the best drilled student, were bestowed, and made it a rival of commencement itself. In 1902 the first cadet colonel, Thomas I. Pullenwider, '02, stood at his side at reviews. In the class he had seen graduate in 1901 was W. C. Short, lieutenant general and commanding officer of the Hawaiian Department in 1941, who had been a cadet captain. In 1907 there was T. F. Dodd, an engineering student who had been a corporal in 1905, and who in his later career in army aviation before his death in 1919 earned recognition as "having done as much as any man" to develop it. By 1904 the regiment—three battalions of infantry and an artillery company—had marched twice in governors' inaugurals at Springfield. On Illinois Day at the St. Louis Fair, they paraded again; had death spared former Regent Peabody but two days he might have been in the reviewing stand. Distinguished visitors came to review the regiment not only on military day but on other occasions. In 1910, the year Fochet retired, the ranking officer in the army, General Miles, held a personal inspection and paid high compliments to Illinois' cadets and commander; William H. Taft, secretary of war, had come once in 1908 and came again as president in 1911 with an entourage of reporters who sang Illinois' praise. Thanking James, Taft later wrote, "whenever you need the support of the Chief Executive...call on me."

The building of a strong military tradition depended as much on the president of the University as on the departmental commandant. Draper

had strongly supported the department, but in James it found a champion. Oddly, James often identified himself as "a pacifist of rather an extreme type." A cosmopolitan, but also a strong nationalist, he had as early as 1907 proposed that state universities sponsor five-year military courses. No one was more anxious than he that his department attain the rank of "distinguished," which carried with it the appointment of the "honor graduate" to an army lieutenancy, a distinction accorded in 1914. When the corps had attained twice the usual strength of a regiment by 1912 and the need for a larger armory arose, James was prompt to make the request. The legislature, in 1913 the General Assembly provided $100,000 as the first of several appropriations for the new building, which at the time had the largest unobstructed interior (200 x 394 feet) in the country. Yet it was just large enough to hold the brigade that formed in the fall of 1914. The reorganization of the department to adjust it to its new space requirements was begun by Major E. C. Morse (1910-1914) and continued by Major F. D. Webster (1914-1915). By 1916, when a cavalry unit was added, the corps of nearly two thousand men consisted of two regiments of twelve infantry companies, a battery of artillery, a signal company, a company of engineers, a hospital company, two regimental bands, and a trumpet and drum corps. Illinois took pride in its military division, and, like Gregory, James often referred to it as "the West Point of the West." And Illinois' high opinion of itself was seconded by the General Staff inspector, who in 1915 informed General Wood, the army's senior officer whose complaint was that the country was not arming fast enough, "President James is a big man, doing one of the biggest and finest pieces of patriotic work of anybody in the country."

In the period of preparedness the University experienced the diffi-


ulty of true neutrality. The highly cosmopolitan faculty had fringes which by reason of birth, cultural heritage, and intellectual training had sympathies toward one or the other of the belligerents. But this was not different from the experience of most midwestern communities. Professor Greene and Director Windsor of the Library began gathering war documents, which grew into an excellent collection, especially of European newspapers. A two-weeks' campaign in December which netted a carload of winter clothing for Belgian refugees in England was the first of many of this sort. During the following summer Professor T. E. Oliver went abroad for six months to assist in the administration of Belgian relief. American participation in the war was not yet presumed inevitable; campus life was little perturbed. S. Dix Harwood, '16, managing editor of the Daily Illini, joined Henry Ford's peace party in December, 1915, but on reaching New York found he had forgotten his passport.

The University contribution to preparedness was more notable. Cadet officers opened in early 1915 a division of information on the opportunities in the various military branches. Numerous students joined local National Guard units; there were two companies of cavalry largely manned by University personnel, and in late 1915 an "all-Illini" battery of field artillery was formed. Special significance, however, must be given to the renewed presentation of the "James plan" of military training, which was outlined to a Congressional committee in early 1916 and gave impetus and inspiration if not actually form to the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program adopted later.

James' plan of 1916 was much the same as those he had proposed in 1907 and 1914, and differed but slightly from Gregory's in 1872. It outlined a four-year course in military art and science to last six years if taken in connection with another university course and a year's

32. Chapin, Military History, 115.


army service to qualify candidates for second lieutenancies in the
army. With $250 scholarships, Illinois alone might furnish fifty gradu-
ates a year—half the number trained by West Point, and at far less
cost. Other advantages were the high development of related subjects—
mathematics, the sciences, and engineering—in the land grant colleges
and their democratic organization. The plan met with general approval
by the public press, and though some colleges hesitated—eastern edu-
cational spokesmen called the plan undemocratic because it would favor
the public universities—Congress adopted the Reserve Officer Training
Corps system. President James accepted the result and planned also
to have Illinois introduce the system he had outlined, but pending sup-
port by the federal government action was postponed by the University
Senate in June, 1918.

The formation of ROTC units in February, 1917, began a new Illinois
era in military. In the first brief period, up to temporary suspension
in June, 1918, the new corps was not well organized. Major Webster,
who had been relieved in early 1916 and left the campus with a gold-in-
laid saber representing the affection of his command, was succeeded by
two less gifted commandants. In the fall of 1916 the War Department had
detailed five officers, and later six sergeants, to do the work Webster
had done singlehandedly, but only the infantry units could be equipped
with the latest weapons. Cadet blue-gray uniforms had been lately re-
placed with olive drab, the color of the battlefield. Drilling was be-
coming a grim and serious business even before the ROTC was organized.

Events moved rapidly in the year between James’ appearance before
Congress and the establishment of the ROTC. March, 1916, brought the
Mexican crisis. In April, Champaign-Urbana held the first preparedness
parade in the state, and the brigade marched in it. In June, President
James put on the uniform of a colonel (he had been made an honorary

36. 64 U. S. Statutes at Large, 191-33.

37. Senate, Minutes, Jan. 28 and June 5, 1918, 5: 30, 72, 75. ET, '20: 17.

38. Chapin, Military History, 81-82.
colonel on the governor's staff), and led the fourteen hundred cadets who marched in Chicago's mammoth preparedness parade, to the delight of Chicago Illini. Urbana units of the Illinois National Guard, in which were enrolled university staff members, employees, and students, were being put in war-time readiness. There had been for several years two companies of cavalry which were largely manned by students, and in November, 1915, B. W. Benedict, the director of the mechanical engineering shops, organized with the permission of the Board of Trustees an "all-Illini" battery of field artillery. This was the popular Battery F, First Regiment of Field Artillery, Illinois National Guard, later part of the 149th USFA and of the Rainbow Division. By spring, 1916, it seemed likely Battery F might be called to service on the Mexican border. Arrangements were made for leaves of absence and, for seniors, diplomas. The call did not come until July. After two months of border policing Battery F was mustered out of active service. The cavalry companies, B and M, First Cavalry, ING, also called during the summer, returned later, one in time for Homecoming and the other in March, 1917.

The tempo of preparation increased as the fall term opened in September. Anticipating the part aviation would play, a course in aeronautical engineering was organized by the mechanical engineering department with E. N. Fales, an aeronautical engineer, as assistant professor of aeronautics, in charge of the fifty-four students and James looked hopefully on this as the beginning of a school of aeronautics and an ROTC course in aviation, but at the time it was impossible even to secure a plane. The students studied theories of speed, horsepower, climbing power, and balance. They looked forward to a ten-foot wind tunnel, "largest yet built... two aviation motors, and other airplane parts for shop instruction." The ROTC had hardly been established in the
39. Ibid., 77-78.


41. The Mexican uproar aroused much interest. Two out of the three best acts in the Post-Exam Jubilee in February, 1917, were based on it. Colonel T. F. Dodd, '07, of the regular army, a pioneer in army aeronautics, flew the first plane against an enemy when he set out after Pancho Villa in Mexico in March, 1916. The airplane was still a novelty then, seen mainly at county fairs where fliers clattered up over the trees while the band played. *A&FN*, 1 (June 1, 1916), 375.


43. BT, '18: 42, 162.
following February when the break with Germany occurred. Never lacking prompt resolution, James placed the laboratories of the University at the command of President Wilson. In early March a branch of the Intercollegiate Intelligence Bureau was opened, and Assistant Dean H. W. Miller of the College of Engineering, the adjutant in charge, took a census of war man power by sending out fifteen thousand blanks on which students and recent graduates indicated what they could do. By August, 1917, the bureau had assisted in the placement of some two hundred men. The great hallucinosis was already turning; after February, 1917, we could tell what the next move would bring. That students could no longer expect a normal routine was evident in numerous regulations, chief among which were the decisions to grant degrees four times a year (December, 1916) and to commute the last two months of senior study if the candidate for a degree enlisted (April 4, 1917). And while the highest uncertainty prevailed, President James and the Trustees were forced to consider the most serious deficiency in buildings the University had yet faced and to place before the legislature the biennial request for an appropriation.

How deeply the University was committed to preparation was no better shown than by the action of President James himself. Next to America, his sympathies had been with Germany, the country where he had obtained his doctorate, in which he had found his wife, and which had developed the universities in which he found most inspiration. On the morning of April 3, shortly before going to Chicago to give the principal address at a rally of the city's great foreign-born population, James wired President Wilson, "I hereby volunteer for any service in which I may be of use. In this situation, there can be only patriots and traitors." He also wrote Wilson a letter: "I am physically strong for my age, though I presume the recruiting sergeant at the next station would throw me

   The files used were of the punch-card variety—perhaps the first instance of this kind of record at the University.

46. BT, '16: 181-182.

47. Ibid., 262.

out for service in the ranks, but I may be of use in other places
and for other purposes, and I place my services whole-heartedly at
your disposal." How large the part of the University would be was
suggested by the national weekly, The Independent, which in February
had pictured the brigade, Battery F, and the band with the comment,
"From Connecticut to California our colleges are getting ready to do
their part if war must come. The University of Illinois is first...
in military importance."

Once war was declared, President James renewed his offers to place
himself, the University and its personnel at the disposal of the nation.
The Daily Illini, speaking for the students, announced their readiness
to serve. What should be expected was a matter of speculation that was
only partly resolved when Vice-president Kinley and Professor Newell,
the head of the department of civil engineering, returned from hasty
consultations in Washington to advise a mass meeting on April 17 to
"stay at your books, acquaint yourself as best you can with those things
which may be of value to you in serving your country." They said further
that the nation's need for food producers was as great as for soldiers.
Earlier in the day the Council of Administration had announced that any
student enlisting would receive his semester's credit, that a daily
two-hour military course would be begun for juniors and seniors, and
that as many afternoon classes as possible were to be held at seven in
the morning to free the afternoons for additional drilling.

Anxious to help, Illinois men rushed in equal numbers to the train-
ing camps and the agricultural front. The first move was to the fields.
By April 17 an energetic agent who had come to Champaign recruited 189
49. Ibid., 343.


students to man Canadian wheat fields under the Canadian government's liberal offer of fifty dollars a month subsistence for six months and homestead privileges. Dean Davenport promptly pointed out that American fields also needed men, and proposed a plan to organize an auxiliary farm labor army. Not to be stayed, another 653 withdrew before June to work on farms in the United States. The dean also set in high gear extension activities in behalf of the food conservation campaign, and when Herbert Hoover took over the nation's food economy in the fall Miss Bevier was asked to head his home economics advisory committee. Meanwhile, seventeen counties were organized by the home economics extension division with home bureaus and home advisors.

By June nearly five hundred students had also entered military service or some closely related activity, although it was late June before Battery F and other units of the Illinois National Guard were called. Illinois' first contribution was the formation, by Christian Gross, '17, and others in March and April of an ambulance unit, to be financed by students, faculty members, and alumni. The first unit of twenty-one men sailed from New York May 19. They joined with other groups to form SSU 65 to take over regular French army ambulances. A. A. "Mike" Dailey says in his recollections that six of the units smelled the garlic-like Boche powder for the first time July 6, and that Hawley Smith taught the Senegalese to yell "Oakeemowwow." Second and third units went over later, at government expense. Another group, a larger one, of seniors, graduate students, and faculty volunteered for officers training at Fort Sheridan. Illinois' first to go were Harold Hillebrand and two associates from the English department, who left the campus before the end of April. Most students, however, were urged to wait for the draft, for which everyone registered in early June, and to join the Enlisted Reserve Corps.
53. Chapin, Military History, 144. MQFM, 2 (June 1, 1917), 345.
54. MQFM, 2 (May 1, 1917), 312.
55. Ibid., (June 1, 1917), 343.
56. BT, '18: 260.
Meanwhile, numerous opportunities for specialized training and service had been opened on the campus. A six-weeks concentrated course for quartermasters was begun by the College of Commerce in late April, with Professors H. T. Soovill and H. D. Oberdorfer in charge. Women Students were encouraged to enroll in Red Cross courses, for which credit toward graduation was given. When the semester ended the chemistry department organized a chemical manufactures division in which seniors and graduate students worked full part-time in preparing rare chemicals for which the country had in the past been dependent on Germany. The entire country's supply of one compound, dimethyl glyoxime, used in the testing of nickel steel in armorplate and projectile heads, was produced. James had also proposed other uses of the campus to the army, among them the shops for the manufacture of shells, the Armory for a training camp, the physical training staff for the army program, and the College of Engineering for a school of aeronautics. The last was accepted.

James' insistence that a military aviation unit of the ROTC be set up at Illinois was partly answered by the War Department's decision in late April, 1917, to establish a School of Military Aeronautics, a ground school giving preliminary training to fliers. Illinois was one of six universities chosen. E. N. Fales and six other members of the College of Engineering faculty were hastily sent to Toronto, Canada, to copy a British course in progress there. By the end of May the War Department had acquired the site of Chanute Field, at Rantoul, also at the insistence of the University and local interests. Fifty prospective fliers began the eight-weeks course on May 21. Additional groups joined the school weekly until nearly eight hundred men were there at one time in the spring of 1918. One of the first SMLa cadets, Dwight H. Green, became later (1940) an air-minded governor of Illinois.
60. AOFN, 2 (June 1, 1917), 342.
61. Ibid., (May 1, 1917), 511.
64. "I am anxious to obtain a University landing field—it will take a long time to get the proposition through. Our great grandchildren may profit by our efforts, even if we see no immediate results."
   A landing field to be built west of the Armory did not materialize; neither did the one suggested for the Bondville neighborhood, several miles west of Champaign.
School of Military Aeronautics

But the SMA was not part of the University, though its instructors were drawn from the teaching staff and its facilities were provided by it. The Armory was used as the principal classroom; for dormitory and mess hall space the YMCA building and Bradley Hall were taken over. Old University Hall was seen as a barracks possibility but was quickly forgotten when the newly-built and as yet unoccupied Women's Residence Hall became available. The athletic field southwest of the Armory became a trap-shooting area, with the rather surprised Harry Gill installed as instructor, confronted with youngsters who had never before fired a shotgun. The SMA was a trying, though creditable, experience for the president and his aides, who soon learned the military men's predilection for issuing confusing and contradictory instructions and changing their minds while insisting on immediate compliance.

Commencement in June, 1918, climaxed a year in which there had been a steady flow of departures. President James himself presided. His address, "The College Man and the War," was a rousing appeal in which the war was spoken of as an opportunity. "Seek the trenches," he urged, and added, "Oh, my young brothers, I envy you your chance to get personally into this great world conflict on the side of right and justice and mercy." But the graduating class was the smallest since 1913 and less than two thirds of it were at the exercises.

The fall enrollments in University courses showed a decrease of twenty per cent in spite of a gain in the number of women students. There had been rumors the University would not reopen. Only the College of Medicine, the School of Music, and the School of Library Science had increases. Some departments were badly disorganized, and most of all the military department which had been Illinois' pride. All officers and enlisted men had been withdrawn in June and it was August
before the War Department detailed a retired major and three sergeants. Though many cadet officers had failed to return, a double complement was sworn in, and in spite of inexperience the brigade was again made presentable. Several departments gave special war courses, and the annual program of academic lectures was turned to war subjects. The first formal war convocation of the year was opened by Vice-president Kinley on October 2, and a weekly series in which the faculty and military personnel from Chanute Field helped was begun on October 10. Another lecture series dealt with the "War on Waste" and "Food and the War." Social functions were reduced to a minimum, and student energy was absorbed in the enthusiastic campaigns for the Red Cross, Belgian and Armenian relief, books for soldiers, and the YMCA fund, all of which were over-subscribed.

War issues discussion groups among the students were encouraged, though the group of Indians bent on arguing their country's independence from Britain remained on intractable element. Fifty-three Northfield Discussion groups were formed by those who wished to orient war issues to Christian doctrine, while others found expression in groups with economic, political, and social interest. The French Club naturally experienced a sudden rise in popularity; Der Deutsche Verein, eclipse and report of disloyalty. The departments sponsoring them were lionized and suspected. Choosing names for the inscriptions on the frieze of the new Smith Memorial Music Hall was a special problem; too many famous composers had the misfortune of being German or Austrian. Nor did the excited campus escape the necessity of proving the loyalty of all its elements. It was the small Socialist Club, with its bright young instructors and assistant professors, which had most to defend itself.

Some of the Socialists and one or two others had failed to buy
bonds in the second great campaign in the fall and had openly criticized it. Two aliens in minor staff positions were also suspected. The agent of the Department of Justice who was called in to investigate was a harried man and perhaps none too acute, for he had the poor sense to hold his meeting near midnight on Halloween. At least one among those who were summoned knew little of the purpose of the meeting, found no one there at the appointed place and hour, and assumed that a prank had been played on him. Those who were interviewed by the tardy agent seem to have perturbed and confused him, because "they didn't talk like patriots." He left Urbana irritated, and as abruptly as he had come, but not before giving the newspapers an account of a group of "intellectuals" who were disloyal and adding that if the University did not act, the government would. Perhaps it should be mentioned that the government did act; within the next month two of the accused were holding responsible positions in Washington. The incident scarcely warranted its notoriousness, but with vague rumors crackling and spiraling, five of the accused asked a hearing before the Board of Trustees to clear themselves. On the day before the brief Thanksgiving recess a board committee composed of heard testimony far into the night before concluding that the charges were no more than gossip.

Thus were seen some of the dangers of uncontrolled enthusiasm. Though the financial campaigns were highly successful, the receipts regularly surpassing the quotas set, there was a need for greater central control. On December 11 the Trustees established at President James' request a War Committee for co-ordinating and energizing the activities. Vice-president Kinley was named chairman and Dean Davenport, Professors Forbes, Newell, Sherman, C. M. Thompson, and Charles Alton Ellis, of civil engineering, were appointed. Many of the seventeen subcommittees formed by June, 1918, included student members as well as faculty. A service flag,

69. BT, '18; 617, 624-625.

70. Ibid., 636-637. Report of the War Committee of the University of Illinois For 1917-18 (Urbana, 1918), 1.
given to the University by the Grand Army of the Republic through Professor Forbes, the last campus Civil War veteran, was raised in February, 1918. Dean Clark's subcommittee on Illini service records reported that Illinois had 2,886 men and women in the fighting services, and 268 stars, one for every ten, were sewn on the great flag which was hung in front of the Library (Altgeld Hall). The records also showed that eight Illini had already given their lives—one, Lt. Orlando Gochnaur, Med., '15, in active combat with the British army. His was the first Illini death recorded.

The contribution of other committees and subcommittees included, before June, 1918, the publication of a large number of war leaflets giving factual and inspirational information. Among the first were "Practical Suggestions for Food Conservation," by Miss Bevier, "The War Garden," by Professor Lloyd, and an address by James, "War Activities and Moral Leadership." The annual Corn Growers' and Stockmen's Convention, the College of Agriculture's annual short course in late January, which had been made a great rally for food growers, was attended by Governor Lowden and other state notables. President Wilson sent to it one of his major war addresses. In April the Third Annual Better Community Conference focused its attention on the relation of the small city to the war effort. All short courses and conferences were similarly reoriented. A committee on off-campus lectures readied a corps of speakers to visit nearby communities and army camps—C. M. Thompson, J. E. Miller, J. W. Garner, and Carl Rahn. They undertook two-week engagements at Camp Grant, Illinois' largest campment, where they spoke twice a day to thousands. One subcommittee joined with the YWCA in providing weekly entertainments for the flyers at Chanute Field, and the committee on publicity began a weekly press service.

By mid-winter of 1917-1918 the campus war effort was in high gear.

72. Ibid. (Feb. 15, 1918), 196.


74. Report of the War Committee..., 1917-18, passim.
Special calls for the expert services of the University staff were frequent. Of course it must be kept in mind in noting them that war activities came more naturally to some parts of the University than to others; engineering, for instance, more than law or music. The British government asked Professor Dewanup, a British citizen, to return to England to take an important place in the military management of Britain's railroads; he became a brigadier in the British Army. But among the earliest to serve their own country in special capacities away from the campus were Director P. L. Windsor of the library, who aided the organization of training camp libraries; Professors Adams and Tolman of Chemistry, who headed work on gases and explosives; Professor Oldfather of classics, who went to Washington to be on the staff of the Committee on Public Information; and Professor Greene, who became chairman of the Committee on Historical Investigations. Professor Bartow, who headed the Water Survey was named to a similar post in the Sanitary Corps of the American Expeditionary Force and was made responsible for the water supply of all cantonments in France. Others worked on professional committees and as advisors, as did Talbot and Willard of the College of Engineering for the army's barracks construction and heating. In the concrete ships which were being suggested as a substitute for metal construction Illinois had a special interest because of the data and some of the personnel were from the campus: A. H. Talbot, W. A. Slater, H. F. Zimmerman, F. E. Richart, H. M. Westergaard, W. M. Wilson, H. C. Hollister. Several College of Agriculture graduates were in Europe, Africa, and the Near East stimulating the production of foods in those areas, and later when Greece undertook its agricultural reconstruction Professor C. G. Hopkins was asked to direct the rehabilitation of that country’s soils. He was decorated by King Alexander, but died at Gibraltar on the way home.
75. George Chapin, *Military History of the University of Illinois, 1862-1920* (First draft, 1923), 623 et seq. AQFM, passim.
Dean Davenport called him the world's foremost authority on soil fertility.

Still, more was done on the campus than off. Through the National Research Council and other war agencies many special research projects were placed with the experiment stations and the chemistry department. War-time secrecy lent the element of mystery to sixteen projects begun by the Engineering Experiment Station, nine each by the Agricultural Experiment Station and the chemistry department, four by the physics department and two by psychology. The contribution of the College of Agriculture, through its college program of extension, the Extension Service, and the station, was one of the largest in any category, dealing with the problems of food production and conservation under the slogan, “Food Will Win the War.” At the Engineering Experiment Station some work in submarine detection, kept secret for a time, was of dramatic interest. Professor Morgan Brooks, though by training an electrical engineer, voluntarily studied airplane propellers, suggesting a new design, and H. S. McElwain was working on airplane engines. The more commonplace research on the most effective use and storage of coal was also important. Professor Washburn of the ceramics department was discovering the adaptability of LaSalle County's rich deposits of sand for optical glass, much of which had previously been imported from enemy countries. Social scientists found a rich field by turning to analyses of war aims and historical trends leading up to the war. As early as January, 1918, Professor Bogart of the economics department was working with the Carnegie Foundation on a study of the costs of the war. Professor Simon Litman was also with the Foundation. Not content with special skills alone, over a hundred faculty members were drilling evenings at the Stock Pavilion, which had been taken over by the military department for the ROTC.
The Annual Register reflected the war less than any other campus publication. Except for the footnotes indicating faculty military leaves of absence and the addition of several war courses, the issue for 1917-1918 hardly revealed the change. Both graduate and faculty research were directed toward subjects with some bearing on the war. The AQFN often noted that most courses were also being reoriented in the light of the war. Recognizing the tendency to make every course a war course at the expense of the normal, Vice-president Kimley said before the Council of administrators, report from the War Committee recommending that beginning in September, 1918, every department offer at least one "war course." The plan was followed, but only two courses out of about seventy had the vitality and content to survive the war. One, a course on the war itself, given by Professor A. H. Lybyer, became the basis of the annually extending course on the war and post-war period of European history, the history department's most popular advanced course; and the other concerned the United States and the World War. The popularity of the first course grew notably after Professor Lybyer was asked to serve on the House inquiry into the terms of the peace in 1918 and in the next year as a specialist on the Near East with the American delegation at Versailles.

Also from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were Madison Bentley, psychology department, captain in aviation, examining recruits; Russell Story, political science, YMCA in Russia; H. L. Rietz, mathematics, with quartermaster department, Washington; H. A. Wells, architecture, lecturing on camouflage; J. W. Garner, political science, lecturing at American camps in France. In the College of Commerce was L. E. Young, fuel administration and bureau of mines, Washington.

The College of Engineering included, besides those already mentioned,
77. Council of Administration, Minutes, July 2, 1918, 171, 135.
E. G. Schmidt, major in fuel administration; John A. Dent, overseas in signal corps; H. E. Babbitt, with sanitary division; J. E. Smith, helping out the sugar shortage by running a sorghum mill in Urbana. And in Agriculture were W. A. Nolan, agricultural supervisor for the state; H. W. Mumford and R. H. Wilcox, in marketing investigations at Washington. Remarkably accelerated were state farm bureau activities, promoted by College of Agriculture, bringing about greater good production in war. The number of counties with county agents increased from twenty-four to sixty-three.

Among the librarians, Ola Wyeth, '06, was a pioneer in camp hospital library work, and Mary Booth, '04, was in charge of canteen workers in France.

Illinois men were conspicuous among the builders of war plants and camps. A smaller number helped manage the agriculture and industry of the smaller allied countries whose war production was vital. Every class since 1885 and between 1877 and 1882 was represented in uniform. Seventy-seven, the oldest sent Dr. C. B. Gibson to the Medical Corps, while '81 pointed to Major General John Huesman, who headed the Southern Department of the American Command. Quotas for the Ft. Sheridan Officers Training Camp were more than met. Battery F, in the thickest of the fighting, had emerged unscathed. In the great financial campaign the University's record was among the best. Almost three-quarters of a million dollars were subscribed to the relief funds and government loans. To the first liberty loan the University community subscribed $50,000; to the second, $220,000; and to the fourth, $314,000. The first war fund drive brought $31,000 and the united drive more than $46,000. War savings stamps amounting to more than $25,900 were sold. Relief appeals met generous response—to the Belgian, $12,000; Syrian-Armenian, $8,744; for the Red Cross, $12,955; for the University ambulance unit, $4,800;
78. Chapin, Military History, 156.
In the midst of the war one new college, Education, was formed, though it could not be effectively organized until later. All colleges noted an influx of women into fields which had previously been dominated by men, and the number of women students showed steady increases. Registrations of men dropped from 5,187 in 1916-1917 to 3,909 in 1917-1918, rose with the SATC to 5,372 in 1918-1919, and then to 6,947; while the registration of women during the same years was 1,641, 1,681, 1,785, and 2,261. Engineering subjects, favored by the army, suffered least in the loss of male students, while the College of Law, on the other hand, was virtually cleaned out. Only 46 were registered in it in 1917-1918, half the usual number, and 50 in the next year—but before the end of each year the number had been more than halved. The College of Agriculture also experienced the halving of its enrollment, but the School of Music, which was mainly a "woman's school," even gained a little. General student activities were minimized—Interscholastic week-end was abandoned in both 1917 and 1918 and Homecoming in 1918, when the football schedule was cut to four conference games, all of which the Illini won. Two service games were also played. The most drastic curtailment of social life followed the war, however: the second appearance of the influenza epidemic and the coal shortage. Probably no activity was more popular than the YMCA during the year and a half of the war, but it had early given up its building to house the SMA trainees. It moved first into the old President's house, then to a standard army hut built at the southwest corner of Wright and Green streets. It remained there, a popular center for several years, until destroyed by fire, December 8, 1923.


81. AOFM, 4 (Dec. 1, 1918), 105.
With the lowering of the draft age from twenty-one to eighteen in the spring of 1918 the prospects of maintaining even the war-organized program of study seemed unlikely to hold men students on the campus. The popular poster on which Uncle Sam looked down a long finger and said "Uncle Sam Wants You" was indeed more effectively supported than the slogan the War Department had given the colleges, "Uncle Sam Wants You to Stay in College." Faced by large and small institutions alike, the issue was met by college representatives and the War Department in the spring and early summer of 1918 with the organization of the Students' Army Training Corps, the SATC. President James said late in August that Illinois would be among the institutions accepting the SATC program, which replaced the ROTC, and that we were ready to receive five thousand trainees under its provisions.

The SATC was an attempt to combine the military training of army camps with the regular courses of the colleges and universities. As finally adopted, the government offered to qualified young men the privilege of attending a trade school (Class B) or a college or university (Class A) of their own choosing. Class A institutions were to become the recruiting ground for future officers' training camps. The Class A program which Illinois accepted was for eleven hours of weekly drill under army officers, ten to thirteen hours of study in classes chosen by the student and taught by the University faculty, and a required three-hour course on war aims based on the state papers of President Wilson.

Where would the expected thousands of SATC men be housed and fed? The School of Military Aeronautics was already in possession of the U.M.C.A., Bradley Hall, the Old and New Armories, the new Women's Residence Hall, and parts of other buildings. It was finally decided to
82. BT, '20: 28, 101-102, 108.

83. Condensed Official Statement, The Students' Army Training Corps at the University of Illinois, Sept. 17, 1918 ( Mimeographed informational leaflet, 1918).
take over the new Armory for the purpose. With a small army of men Professor J. M. White, supervising architect, began the work of remodeling. Laborers were not easy to find, but a patriotic appeal and the offer of over-time brought in all the carpenters and plumbers to be had. Many stepped work on other important contracts and came in to help out. A thrill of patriotism seemed to run through the big job. Men were rushed to Chicago and St. Louis and succeeded in buying up lumber and other material a few hours ahead of other midwestern universities that had just signed SATC contracts. Three carloads of lumber were hurried out of St. Louis just before the embargo began. The most sweeping change in the Armory was the addition of a second or upper floor, to provide sleeping room for one thousand men—later called "the biggest bedroom in the state." The lower floor was concreted and fitted up as a vast dining room, also used for a study hall, with latrines and store-rooms in the east end. From the outside the Armory looked the same as usual from the north, but on the south side two annexes sprang up—a kitchen and store-house of typical cantonment architecture, and a boiler house from which rose a tall iron smoke-stack of the sawmill kind. Here was generated all the steam used for cooking and sterilizing.

All of the "Grand Army of the SATC Republic," as it was sometimes later called, was to be fed in the remodeled Armory, but sleeping space was available there for only half of the men. To house the remaining fifteen hundred, the University leased sixty-five fraternity and rooming houses in the student district and had them made ready for military use.

Preparations were made for five thousand men, but only about three thousand filled the quadrangle north of the Auditorium on that memorable morning of the induction of the SATC, October 1, 1918. A misty rain dampened the many-buttoned and belted high school suits, the sweaters,
Fraternity houses in general were not in good financial condition anyhow because of decreased enrollments, so the army leasings had their favorable side. The fraternity chapters meanwhile were perched here and there over stores, or packed away in apartment buildings. Although the fraternity men in the SATC might get assigned back to their old quarters they could not well hold their highly inflected meetings there with crowds of SATC raw recruits looking on.
jackets, coats and shirts of the cadets, who were still without uniforms. The companies of men, in charge of forty lieutenants of the army, extended back almost to University Hall. On the Auditorium steps were the faculty and special guests, and all the footholds on the sidelines were filled with what was left of the campus population. A band hastily recruited by the ever-resourceful Harding played the National Anthem as a squad of soldiers raised the flag at eleven o'clock. But by this time the rain was coming down hard, and the rest of the exercises took place in the Auditorium. President James and the new SATC commandant, Colonel Abercrombie, made addresses.

The SATC, which might have become the American college and universities' chief contribution to the war, became instead their greatest headache. There had been similar difficulties in establishing the School of Military Aeronautics, but by the summer of 1918 it was running smoothly. The SATC was a larger and vastly more complicated venture involving close co-ordination between agencies of equal but divided authority, and included five-sixths of the undergraduate men. A last-minute conversion of the University to the quarter system, adopted on September 85 at the request of the army, caused some of the early confusion; its continuance was due mainly to the lack of co-operation between the academic and military organizations. The major and forty-odd officers who formed the army personnel assumed their authority was supreme, an idea contrary to the original intention but for which there was some justification since the student corps had been sworn into the army and was subject to call to active service at any time. The fingerprinting, the guard details, and the other unsavory duties ordered by the headstrong young officers conflicted with class schedules to the disadvantage of the University, and a war issues course arranged by Professor Greene and given by nineteen instructors was attended by only half the corps in spite
85. Senate, Minutes, Sept. 9, 1918, 5: 76. BT, '20; 153.
85: Senate Minutes, Sept. 9, 1918, 5: 76. BTs '20: 153.
of War Department orders to regard it as of foremost importance.
The local commandant forbade enlisted men to explain their absences to their University teachers. But all these differences were being adjusted by a new commander appointed in November.

As if the SATC were not enough excitement, an epidemic of Spanish influenza, the "flu" moved in. At first it was simply "the grippe," but by the middle of October it was much more severe, and hundreds were affected. When it was at its height in the latter half of the month, two thousand students were sick, and five buildings were in use as hospitals—a converted barn on the south campus, College Hall, a large private residence hall which had been requisitioned for the SATC, the Beta Theta Pi house, Osborne Hall, and the women's gymnasium. In all, nine students died before the crisis subsided in early November. That more did not die was due largely to the mobilization of auxiliary aides by the Health Service. Dean T. A. Clark and Dr. J. H. Beard were the most active. "Shorty" Fay was out in the ambulance day and night. A. W. Jamison and H. A. Ruehe were very much on the go, and Director George Huff did an unbelievable amount of work, as did Mrs. Huff. Mrs. R. D. Burnham should also be mentioned, as well as Dr. Cleaves Bennett and Dean F. H. Rankin.

In December the same disease again reached epidemic proportions, with 500 students down, and had to be quelled again. The second appearance resulted in ten deaths before the end was in sight.

Meanwhile, the course of the war was being felt on the Chicago campus (Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy) about the same as at Urbana, though of course on a much smaller scale. The SATC was sworn in on the
87. Council of Administration, Minutes, Oct. 30, 1918, 18: 35.
same day it was at Urbana, and there were the same troubles of ad-
ministration. The early confusion was aggravated by a course reor-
ganization, the second in as many months, from the three-term to the 
four-quarter system, and by the co-existence of the Medical Enlisted 
Reserve Corps. As at Urbana, an influenza epidemic made life miser-
able for some of the students, and the inconvenient barracks were in 
a hall about a mile away.

"The students did not know whether they were in the army or not," 
wrote Dean Eycleshymer, "and if they did they did not know whether they 
were in the MERC or the SATC." Class work was badly broken up. "Study 
was well nigh impossible."

In Medicine half of the students were in some kind of war service 
including the Enlisted Reserve Corps. Fifty-three of the faculty were 
listed, five of them in France. Dean D.A.K. Steele, though sixty-five 
years old, was head surgeon and major in charge of the new base hospital 
at Lakewood, N. J. Others in base hospital or training camp work in-
cluded Majors F. B. Metcalf, H. H. Pécéy, Horval Pierce, and C. S. William-
son, the latter being the first man from the medical faculty to enter 
war service. Other majors included A. J. Ochsner, surgical advisor in 
the surgeon general’s office at Washington, and Casey A. Wood, on the 
staff there; Channing W. Barrett, in charge of a 350-bed hospital in 
France, and As E. Halstead, on his way there to do similar work. A. C. 
Eycleshymer was getting out with Tom Jones’ assistance a military emer-
gency edition of a book on surgical anatomy for use in the army, and 
Major W. A. Pusey was working on a similar army manual for the treat-
ment of venereal diseases.

In the College of Dentistry over half of the ninety-two students 
were in service, seventy-three of them in the Enlisted Reserve. From
Before Dean Steele left, he had secured the approval of the Trustees for a course of sixteen lectures on military hygiene, military surgery, and medical department administration, to be given at the College of Medicine in 1916-1917.
the faculty, seven were first lieutenants in the Dental Officers
Reserve Corps. From the School of Pharmacy sixteen students were in
active war service. Dean W. B. Day was appealing to young women to
register in pharmacy so as to be ready to replace men clerks going to
war. The School's staff, headed by Professor E. W. Gathercoal, inven-
toried American drug plants and looked into the elution and pro-
cessing of them.

The six hundred men on the Urbana campus not in the SATC were main-
ly those over twenty-one and went about their studies in the usual way.
The thirteen hundred coeds (a five per cent increase) were inclined to
cling to their comforts. The sorority pledge day frolic, carried out
with even shriller excitement than before the war, was sharply criti-
cized by some people, but the girls retorted with stories of several ex-
pensive fraternity men's pledge banquets in down-town hotels—though
it could be said for them that they had their doings early in the quarter
before the influenza epidemic arrived. Incidentally, about this time
some of the sororities were moving to the Urbana side.

Student publications there were none, except the Illini. "No ukule-
les or mandolins—all bugles. Class politics all gone because there's
really only one class, the freshman." Reveille was at 6:30, mess at 7,
military drill 7:30 to 9:30 in the field south of the Armory, study and
recitation, till noon, and from 1 to 5; recreation, 5 to 6; supervised
study, 7:30 to 9:30; taps 10:30. Saturday afternoon off.

Nobody was wholly unprepared for the news of November 11. A few
91. Alumni Record, Chicago Departments (1921), XXX.
days earlier President James had interrupted a convocation to an-
ounce the abdication of the German emperor. News of the armistice
came in the middle of the night, but the hour was no bar to a cele-
bration. The Alumni Quarterly and Fortnightly Notes preserved a suc-
cinct account for the record:

The great news reached the University over the Illini’s
Associated Press wire at 2 in the morning. Within a few
minutes the old convocation bell and the siren fire whistle had roused everybody. A big procession including all
the campus soldiers was formed, with the band and a color
guard bearing 35 flags of the allied nations and war work
organizations in the lead. After a trip downtown and
back the throng filled the quadrangle north of the aula-
torium. Stretched high above the crowd were the flags of
all the allied nations, illuminated with searchlights.
Below was the speaker’s stand and the University band.

Dean David Kinley spoke with deep feeling, inter-
rupted frequently by the enthusiasm of the crowd.... G.
V. Knight of the debating team spoke for the students...

The talks were followed by the raising of the flags
of France, Great Britain and the United States, the band
playing the national airs of each country.

Hilarious celebrations took place in the business
districts of both Urbana and Champaign, and a parade al-
most endless, took up most of the forenoon. The University
was well represented. No classes were called in the morn-
ing, and little serious work was done in the afternoon. 92

The orders marking the end of the SATC followed within three days,
but it was December 21 before the last of the 2,398 trainees were mus-
tered out. Meanwhile the letters SATC were dubbed with a new mean-
ing: Stick Around Till Christmas. Three-fourths of the corps stayed
to complete the two remaining quarters of the University year. The
School of Military Aeronautics and its force of 335 aviators was dis-
banded on November 23.

News items about the feats of the fighting Illini overseas filled
the war sections of the campus and of the Urbana-Champaign newspapers
for two years after November, 1917—and hundreds of home-town papers be-
sides.
94. EZ, '20, 181-182.
When all the war contributions made by the Illini had been summed up it did not take long to learn that they had given a good account of themselves. Dean Clark's records showed as early as June, 1918, that there were 3,992 men in the services, of whom over 3,600 had been volunteers. The Cornell University Daily Sun, reporting in early April, had noted that while there were larger universities, Illinois had sent the largest number to the fronts. When the grand totals were summed, the Illinois figure was found to be 9,442. One hundred and eighty-three men and one woman gave their lives. The Army claimed the largest number—5,353, of which 2,923 were officers, a list headed by two major generals and four brigadiers. Ninety joined the Marines, among whom 25 were officers. The Navy accounted for 833, of whom 263 were officers. In the SATC the final totals showed the enlistment of 5,137 men, and another 3,625 "Illini by adoption" had entered the course of the SMA. Twenty-four men were in the YMCA's auxiliary functions. The American University Union, which Illinois had supported as early as 1917, accounted for several more, among whom was Professor McKenzie, the head of the office in Rome. Illinois had men in or attached to virtually all the armies of the major Allied powers. The Alumni Association's records indicated also that 106 women were in service, twenty-nine of them overseas.

The footfalls of the SATC and SMA having died away, the University largely resumed its old routines, although it did not return to the semester system until June, 1919. War courses quickly disappeared. Liberal credits for service were extended to veterans; most were exempted from further military. The military classes were promptly reorgan-
95. Ibid., '18: 814.


97. List of names published in program, University of Illinois Memorial Stadium Dedication Exercises (October 17-18, 1924), 19. Also in IAM 3 (October, 1924), 9. The one woman on the list was Gladys Gilpatrick, '17, a student nurse.


100. Council of Administration, Minutes, Dec. 5, 31, 1918, Jan. 23, 1919, 18; 60, 76, 80, 103. Senate, Minutes, Dec. 9, 1918, Feb. 10, 1919, 5: 86, 92.
ized after the Christmas vacation. About fourteen hundred men were
soon drilling again four hours a week under the temporary direction
of Major Opperman, late of the SATC, who carried on until the arrival
of Major Ben M. Fields, the new commandant. Most of the reporters
misspelled his name, but he seemed used to that, and entered on his
new work with vigor, saying that he would use the West Point system of
instruction and discipline, as far as possible. Several of the student
officers were veterans of the world war, and worked hard in the reor-
ganization of the ROTC. By September, 1919, it had the largest repre-
sentation of units to be found on any campus: two regiments of infan-
try, a battalion of field artillery, engineers and signal corps compa-

nies; and soon afterward, cavalry and aviation units. Once slow in
sending equipment, the War Department now furnished Illinois with near-
ly a million dollars' worth.

Although there were exceptions, the students in general seemed to
have had enough of war. "The war is over everywhere except at the
University of Illinois," might be the sad comment of the students who
have to drill," said one observer, "as they see arriving carload
after carload of cannon, caissons, ammunition trucks, military motor-
cycles and artillery horses (ninety of them)\/. The latest shipment of
war machinery to renew the groans of the cadets included two cater-
pillar tractors, a battery wagon, and several carloads of horse-feed."

Soon after the armistice came suggestions for a war memorial. Com-
mitttees were at work, sifting ideas, as early as January, 1919. More
than a year later (April 24, 1920) 173 trees with name plates were planted
around the drill field on the south campus in memory of the 172 men and
one woman then known to have died in war service. The ceremonies
This was the total number known at the time. It had increased to 184 (183 men, one woman) by 1924, when the stadium, the final memorial, was dedicated.
included an address by Dean Davenport, a parade of the Brigade, and the planting of the trees by 173 students. The expense, about $1,500, including a maintenance fund, was raised by the students, under the direction of the Illinois Union.

In the fall of the same year (October 30) the chimes in the Library tower were dedicated. At first planned as a memorial to the classes of 1914 to 1921, inclusive, and to President James, it was decided later to dedicate one of the fifteen bells to the alumni of the School of Military Aeronautics. The School had left a recreational fund of some $5,000 for a memorial of some kind, which Dean Clark happened to think of when the student committee found that they did not have the money to buy enough bells to play "Illinois Loyalty." Two more bells were then added, but it soon became evident that the playing of "Loyalty" was a chimes problem, no matter what was done. The total cost of the chimes, including the clock mechanism for striking the hours, contributed by the Class of 1922, and the memorial tablet, has been about $16,500.

But the tree memorials, the chimes, and some other suggestions, commendable as they were, did not seem to give adequate expression of student, faculty, and alumni sentiment. Something on a much larger scale was wanted. A war memorial committee studied such things as a memorial arch, gateway, museum, and a Union building. The Union was by far the most favored. A vote taken at a mass meeting March 20, 1918, had revealed that 358 students favored a "useful building" and that 307 of these preferred a Union. Thus the situation stood for several months while campus thought streamed past into more urgent matters such as the honor system and the ten-per cent cut rule. Not until the fall of 1920, in fact, was very much heard about a stadium as a war memorial. The football season had ended up with a resounding
Further difficulty came up when the three upper bells turned out to be off pitch, but these seem not to have greatly bothered the panting youthful carillonneurs who hopped and skipped their way through simple college tunes.

104. AQPN, 6 (Nov. 1, 1920), 36. BT, '20: 750.


game with Ohio State. Many could not get into Illinois Field to see it. Ohio was then on the home stretch of a million-dollar stadium campaign. How about Illinois? The Illinois in a poll of the campus found that 1,353 persons wanted a Stadium, 627 a Union building, 614 a "combined Stadium and war memorial," 320 a combined Union building and war memorial. "Some kind of a war memorial combined with other projects," said 950 voters, 179 wanted a combined war memorial and Gregory memorial, and twenty-four merely said "war memorial." One reason given for the comparatively low vote for the Union was that by this time it was fairly well situated in the old YMCA building.

Without going into details of the first general large-scale money-raising campaign in the history of the University, which is described in another chapter, suffice it to say that the students, faculty, alumni, and other citizens contributed almost $2,000,000 for building the vast structure we know as the Illinois Memorial Stadium, one of the most elaborate and beautiful war memorials at any university. It was dedicated October 24, 1924, two years after the ground was broken. To each of the 184 Illini who died in the war, a column was dedicated, filling two halls of fame, one on each balcony. A column for the unknown Illini dead also was provided; also columns for the SATC and SATC, and one each for a graduate of Michigan and a graduate of Churc.

The effects of the war can also be measured in subtler things. There is no doubt that it accelerated the rising demand for a college education, and placed an even greater premium on technical skills than had growing demands of peace. The fact that collegians had been favored in choosing officers for the army was not overlooked. In some of the students returning from the war a new maturity could be seen. They had seen life...
in the raw. A revival of creative writing flickered through the campus in the early 'twenties. The war also quickened the tendency toward higher costs of college education. Pre-war appropriations would no longer be adequate. During the war years faculty salaries had remained stationary, while the relative value of money was down by nearly half. The war also bred a restlessness with ideals of university life—the values of scholarship and the position of the professor—which tended to undermine the spirit of the University community. The foundations of the older "university spirit" were shaken. Perhaps this was coming anyway, but the intensity of the mobilization for war accentuated the effects at Illinois. Finally, the strain hastened the premature retirement of President James.

James’ health had never been robust, and after the death of his wife in 1914, his vigor appeared to decline. A digestive disorder recurred with increasing frequency. When the war broke out in Europe he hoped America might remain neutral, but by late 1915 he apparently no longer believed this possible and he espoused the cause of preparedness with all his energy. By the time war was declared he felt that his service to the country must be something direct and personal, but age barred him from the work he would have gladly assumed. The routines of the presidency no longer challenged him. Numerous obligations were transferred to Vice-president Kinley, who became the chief liaison officer in the early negotiations with the War Department, who was in December, 1917, made head of the important War Committee, and in early 1918, was also chosen by James to represent the University in all its relations with the School of Military Aeronautics. Kinley’s cool ability to master the intricacies of war-time administration saved James from shouldering many a thankless burden. Still hoping to find a more active duty, James sent in his resignation in September, 1918. The trustees refused to
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sent in his resignation in September, 1918. The trustees refused to
accept it, and after the armistice induced him to withdraw it. His health was broken, however; it was impossible for him to preside at Commencement in 1919. A second resignation was again refused and a year's leave granted. But his health did not mend, his eyesight began to fail, and he was regretfully made president emeritus at the time of his third resignation in March, 1920.

The University Senate offered its sincere appreciations:

Under his leadership this institution has recognized more fully than ever before the obligation which rests upon a true University to serve the state, not merely by the transmission of inherited learning, but also by fresh contributions to science, literature, and the arts. To those of his associates whose scientific achievements had already given them an assured place in the society of scholars, he brought the encouragement of generous appreciation and steady support. To many of his younger colleagues he rendered even greater service by his personal interest in their work, and by stirring in them something of his own discontent with mediocre standards.

With his deep appreciation of scholarly ideals he has combined remarkable skill in the interpretation of these ideals to the general public. Through his efforts the people of the state and their representatives in the legislature have been awakened to a new realization of the varied services which a University may render to the commonwealth, and a new sense of partnership in the working out of this great democratic experiment in higher education.

Though James was only sixty-five at the time of his retirement, he was unable to recover his health completely. He lived for five years in a small community near Los Angeles, taking long automobile camping trips from time to time to quiet his restlessness. On the evening before the stadium dedication he spoke a few words of greeting over the radio to the homecoming throng. Seven months later, on June 17, 1925, he was dead.


111. Senate, Minutes, Apr. 13, 1920, 6: 7.