

# Penn State, In The First World War, Was An 'Armed Camp'

## Students Trained In SATC Barracks

Surveys show it, national leaders predict it and some of them urge it—everything points to the fact that the United States is drawing closer and closer to the theatre of World War No. 2.

"Just how much will the crisis affect college life," students ask as the draft cuts inroads into campus organization.

Students may get the best idea of what to do in case of war by delving back through the records of Penn State in the first World War. What was the College like then? Prof. John H. Frizzell, College chaplain, says, "The campus was practically an armed camp in 1917 and 1918."

Here is the story:

Immediately following America's entry into the World War, the Board of Trustees placed the entire facilities of the College at the disposal of the government. Being a Land Grant College, Penn State already had military training on the campus and was not faced by a problem as difficult as colleges which had to provide army training for the first time.

On the campus, students were trained under the SATC—Students Army Training Corps. Barracks were built to house civilians who came to the College for regular camp training as well as additional preparation received from special college courses.

What is now Holmes Field was Penn State's own "no-man's land" in 1917. Trenches were dug, dummies were set up to provide bayonet practice, and in several months the campus virtually became an armed camp.

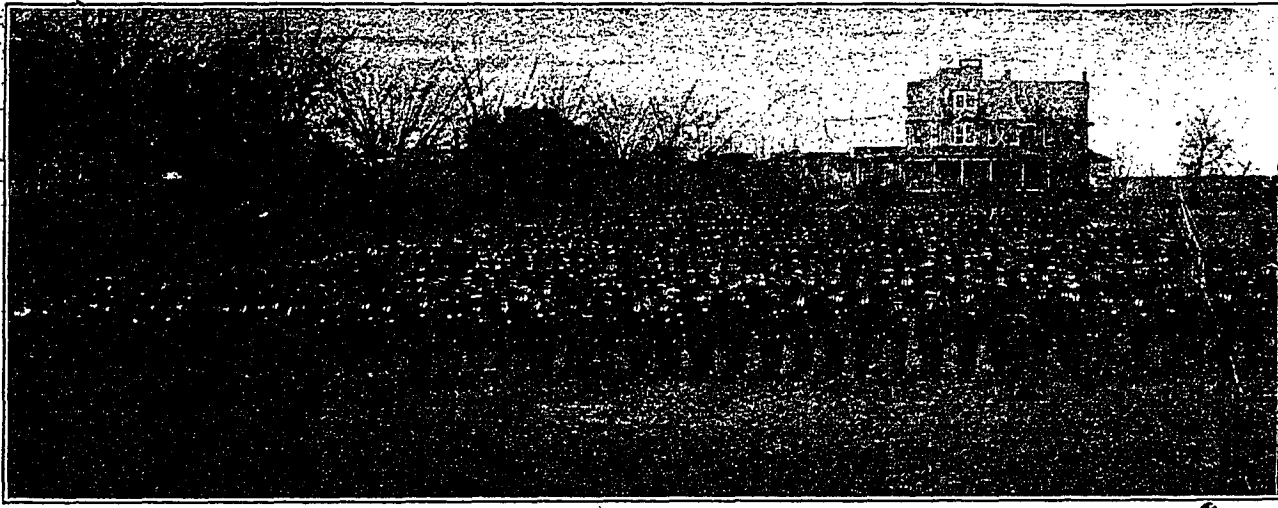
Strangely enough, costs did not vary much for students, although a slight increase was introduced at the dining commons. Members of the faculty and administration were hardest hit by rising prices, as their wages remained the same while living costs in town rose from 20 to 50 per cent.

When, despite President Wilson's plea "to remain neutral in word and spirit," American citizens sided with the Allies, war fever spread quickly to the College.

"Four-minute men" became a nightly attraction at the Pastime, which was the only movie in State College during the war. The purpose of these minute men was to stir up interest in Liberty Bonds. During a period of four minutes between the feature picture, these men—chief among whom was Professor Frizzell—would make their "pep" talks in the face of hazing from some of the army trainees who were stationed in barracks on the campus.

Another patriotic demonstration was the dropping of German as a College course. However, the College was not responsible for this, but only did so because students refused to study the language.

Although it was believed that several people in town were aiding the German cause, the dominant spirit decidedly favored America and the Allies. One of the most noted examples of Am-



## This Might Happen Again

In this picture, the Students' Army Training Corps at Penn State during World War I is shown at muster on the campus about where the mechanical engineering laboratory is now. Approximately 1,400 men were in the collegiate section of the SATC.

ericanism was shown by the late O. Fred Boucke, professor of economics, whose picture now hangs in the main lobby of Sparks Building.

Professor Boucke was of German descent, his family and friends lived in Germany during the war, but he was one of Penn State's top patriots, despite the fact that he was often forced to say, "I can't tell who my real friends are on the campus."

Penn State's "all-out" program during the first World War met with tremendous success in every department except sports, as over 2,000 students, alumni, and administrative officers offered direct and indirect services to their country.

Football, the king of college sports, was hardest hit, especially during the autumn of 1918. The first hint of football's downfall came in the 1917 season, when Captain Conover joined the army along with most of his teammates.

The following season, Penn State played only four games on the gridiron. During the campaign, Captain Robb also answered the call to service and was replaced by Unger. In fact, most of the team had to be replaced. Attendance dropped to record lows and the football outlook was decidedly black—so black that many fans began to wonder "if college football would ever regain its old prestige."

Strangely enough, the grid sport at Penn State rebounded into the limelight more quickly than it had fallen. The war was over, and three past captains and a host of stellar teammates all returned to College for the 1919 season. The next three years were probably the greatest in the history of football at Penn State. Losing only to Dartmouth by a 19-13 count, the Lions chalked up an enviable record of twenty-two victories, four ties, and one setback. All in all, it was a quick comeback in contrast to the dark year of 1918.

## 4-H Clubs To Meet Here

Two annual 4-H Club events are scheduled at the College for the week of August 10 to 16. The sixteenth annual Leadership Training School will be in session all week, while the twenty-first annual State Club Week activities are on the calendar for August 13 to 16. The latter include judging contests for the selection of state championship teams.

## Polyolith Valuable To Geologists

Several thousand students walk by it every day. It occupies a central position on the campus. It is sufficiently different to attract attention. Yet the polyolith, the "monument" in front of the Armory, is probably the loneliest thing on the campus.

For the first month or so of the year the freshmen stop to read its inscriptions. During pleasant weather student surveyors set up their tripods and aim their transits at and around it. At frequent intervals visitors to the campus stop and inspect it, and leave wondering just what it is and why it's there.

Since 1896, or for 45 years, it has stood there, an experiment that has never been written completely and, the chances are, won't be for hundreds of years.

Erected as a method of testing the lasting qualities of Pennsylvania building stones, the polyolith is made up of 281 samples of stones from 150 localities. Its chronological series of rocks, 33 feet high and weighing 53.4 tons, represents a span of millions of years in the geological formations of the earth's crust in Pennsylvania.

In addition to samples of Pennsylvania stone, it contains two types shipped from England, two from Massachusetts, and one each from New York, Ohio, Indiana, and New Jersey.

Because it tells how various stones withstand weathering, the polyolith attracts building specialists and geologists from all parts of the country.

Back in the days when freshmen were really green, the upperclassmen's favorite sport consisted in telling the gullible frosh that beneath the foundation of towering rock rest the bones of Old Jerry, the mule that hauled the stone for the construction of Old Main.

## Vic Dances

Victrola dances will be held every Tuesday evening at the Sigma Phi Epsilon and Phi Kappa Sigma houses and every Wednesday evening at the Sigma Nu house.

## Plan Amateur Night For Last Week of Session

Plans for an "Amateur Night" for summer session students and faculty members are now under way and anyone who possesses such talent as singing, playing an instrument, offering a dramatic, magical or stunt act may apply for an audition by calling White Hall before Wednesday.

Auditions will begin in the Little Theatre at 8:30 o'clock Wednesday night. The final "Amateur Night" program will be held during the final week of summer session and the date will be announced in the next issue of the Summer Collegian.

## War Friendship Brings Unusual Student Here

A student who came to Penn State as the result of a World War friendship between his father and a Penn State dean has turned out to be a "five-letter man" in scholarship—an achievement almost as rare as winning letters in five different sports.

The student is John D. Morgan Jr., '42, whose father, now vice-president in charge of engineering and research for Cities Service Oil Co., and Edward Steidle, dean of the School of Mineral Industries, were fellow captains in the First Gas Regiment (30th Engineers) of the A.E.F.

"John's father told me at the end of the war," said Dean Steidle, "that if he ever had a son who was interested in mineral industries he would send him to my school. To have him turn out so well scholastically is a double pleasure."

In winning election to eight different honorary societies, the son has made his mark in five separate subjectmatter fields. Although enrolled in mineral industries, he has been named to two societies for distinction in engineering, one for mathematics (liberal arts), another for chemistry, another for mineral industries, and two for top-ranking cadets in the ROTC.

He is president of Sigma Tau, engineering honorary, and also is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, general scholastic honorary. This record, for diversity, is probably unmatched in the College's history.

## Can You Do Better Than This?

Chamberlain is Prime Minister of England and John Garner is still Vice-president of the United States—according to answers submitted on a test given to 100 education students by Dr. Frank A. Butler of the department of education and psychology.

The test, composed of 25 questions concerning current political, social, and economic facts and events, was given to 40 men and 60 women who will be qualified to do practice teaching next semester.

"Information possessed by these students is surely disheartening to anyone who surmises that college students are well-informed individuals," Dr. Butler said. Specifically, 15 did not know the name of the present English Prime Minister, while 30 could not name our own Vice-president.

Over two-thirds of the Students tested did not know the Secretary of War and Secretary of the Navy of the United States. "Their notion of the population of the U. S. was pathetic," Dr. Butler said. Answers ranged from 130,000 up to numbers using 16 figures.

Dr. Butler plans to give the same test to 100 high school students to determine if the pupils know more than their prospective teachers.

## Geography 'On The Spot'

There is an increasing tendency in colleges and schools toward teaching history and geography of Pennsylvania "on the spot," according to the State Department of Commerce.

The tourist division of the Department has cooperated with various groups in planning Pennsylvania tours covering outstanding points of historic and geographic interest.

Most recent of the schools to make an objective study of Pennsylvania's history and geography is Indiana State Teachers College in Indiana. The college has inaugurated an elective course which will take classes on a 1,200 mile tour to the following places: Cresson, Portage, Bedford, Pennsylvania Turnpike, Gettysburg Battlefield, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Coatesville, Kennett Square, Chadds Ford, Philadelphia, Valley Forge, Easton, Delaware Water Gap and the Pocono region, Scranton, Wellsville's "Grand Canyon", Coudersport Ice Mine, Erie, Pymatuning State Park and back to Indiana.

Following the trip students will organize, study and classify accumulated material. According to M. J. Walsh, director of summer sessions at the college, it is believed that a course conducted in this manner will give students a living, vital knowledge of the field that cannot be secured by the more orthodox class procedure.

## STATE COLLEGE'S 3RD ANNUAL

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