

ASTP To Disband After 2½ Years On Campus

By AUDREY RYBACK

The AST will leave the College tomorrow after spending two and one-half years on campus. The unit will be reassigned to stations throughout the country.

During its stay at the College, the unit has had three commanding officers. They were Col. E. D. Ardery, Lt. Col. G. G. Mills, and Col. E. H. Taliaferro, present commanding officer.

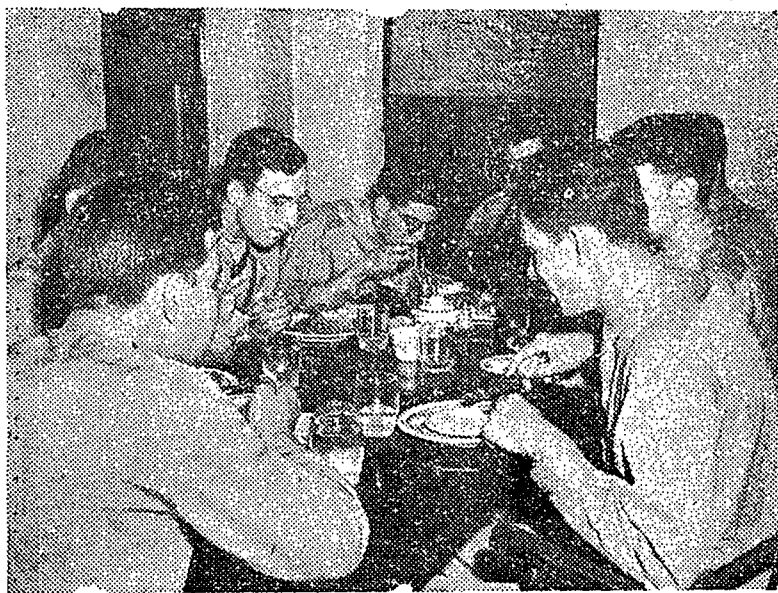
Colleges and universities which had adequate facilities for the required fields of instruction were approved for AST contracts in 1943. All institutions which participated were accredited by national or regional accrediting associations for higher institutions. Training in the advanced phase of engineering curricula was given only in institutions whose corresponding curricula had been credited by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development.

By the end of December, 1944, some 225 colleges and universities had met the War Department requirements and had participated in the AST program. The College participated during the entire program from June, 1943, to December, 1945.

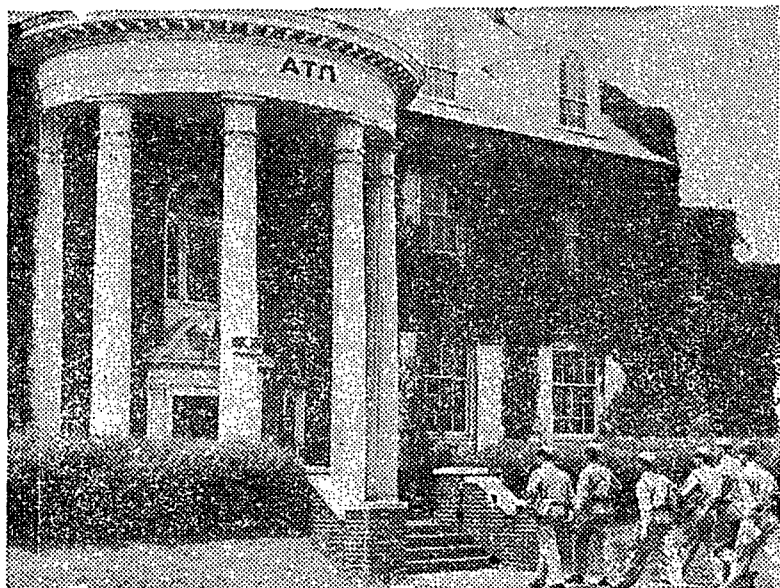
AST trainees and students at the College have been housed in fraternities which were temporarily converted into barracks. These houses were secured by the College through arrangement with the house owners. The number of houses occupied by the AST varied from 21 for the



A typical classroom scene. ASTP men had special programs prescribed by the Army. Students studied all phases of engineering.



Chow—unanimously voted the most popular hour of the day. Men ate in the barracks.



AST's returning to Barracks 8 (Alpha Tau Omega house) one of the 22 fraternity houses taken over by the Army during its stay at the College.

Study, Drill; Study Drill-- Joe College, Army Style

Life for men in the AST unit at the College has been a busy one ever since the khaki-clad men hit the campus in June, 1943.

Beginning the day with a cafeteria style breakfast at 6:30 the men go to classes where they study engineering and more engineering until dinner time at 12:30 p. m. During the afternoon, and free periods the men may have are turned into compulsory study hours at the main library.

Chow is served again at 5:45 p. m. From then until 7:30 p. m. the men's time is their own.

Quiet hours are observed in the barracks just like they are in college dormitories, only with more strictness. From 7:30 to 10:30 p. m. no radios or loud talking are allowed, and after "lights out" at 10:30 p. m., those who need more studying may use a special room for this purpose for another hour.

Medical attention for the AST unit has been provided by the College Health Service. Medical checkups are made each month in individual barracks. In case of severe sickness, men have been transferred to Army hospitals such as Valley Forge, Deshon, and Indiantown Gap.

Now the AST is leaving. The

familiar sound of their marching feet as they go to classes will be missed by the College. They've spent two and a half years of intense studying here, and many of them will use their knowledge to help in post-war reconstruction overseas.

term beginning in June 1943 to 5 for the term beginning in September 1945. Trainees and students were housed and fed in the barracks to which they were assigned. Insofar as possible, men pursuing the same curriculum were assigned to the same barracks.

The following fraternity houses were occupied by AST men for at least one term during the program:

Acacia, Alpha Chi Rho, Alpha Chi Sigma, Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Kappa Pi, Alpha Sigma Phi, Alpha Tau Omega, Beta Sigma Rho, Delta Theta Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Epsilon Pi, Phi Kappa, Phi Kappa Psi, Phi Kappa Tau.

Phi Sigma Kappa, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Phi Sigma, Gamma Sigma Phi, Tau Phi Delta, Theta Chi, Phi Sigma Delta, Theta Xi.

All trainees and students in the AST unit were under the direct control of a commandant. The commandant was assisted by officers and enlisted men detailed to duty with the unit. At the College the number of officers and enlisted men assigned to the AST unit varied from 23 officers and 32 enlisted men in December 1943 to seven officers and nine enlisted men in October 1945.

The commandant was directly charged with the military instruction of all trainees, and with the supervision of housing, messing, medical service and physical training.

The military training was organized and operated under the "cadet system." Selected students and trainees were appointed student and trainee officers and non-commissioned officers to fill the positions for the grades provided by Tables of Organization for infantry rifle units. The cadet system was under the supervision of the regularly assigned officers, and trainees and students were required to perform duties pertaining to their assigned positions. Duties were not allowed to interfere with academic training.

For purposes of military administration, trainees and students were organized into companies of 200 men. The total number of men enrolled in the AST unit at the College for the entire period numbered 2800.

White Hall Redecorated

Miss Marie Haidt, head of the women's Physical Education department, has announced that for the first time since White Hall was erected in 1938 the complete interior—walls, rooms, gyms, and bowling alleys—is being repainted.

Barracks Bag

By PVT. RALPH TEMPLES

As I start to write, there's a tendency for me to brood in a rather pensive mood—but that wouldn't help matters. This is the final copy of this article to appear in your paper. After two and a half years on the Penn State campus the AST is leaving for good.

We who are here now have something to be thankful for. Being pulled out of basic training for duty here was almost like manna from heaven. We were spared the hell of combat, and how well I remember the day the corporal pointed to a small mansion on Fairmount avenue, and said, "That's your home." It was like a dream—living in a house with its own mess hall downstairs, lady cooks, duty in the form of school on a campus filled with coeds, having civilian instructors and doctors, carrying books instead of packs and rifles—just to be sent here was something that couldn't happen.

There have been complaints, and some have expressed how glad they would be to leave here. It seems a soldier always wants to go somewhere else, but if you were to take a poll of the men here I think you'd find about 99.8 per cent would rather stay. Not many in the Army get such a break, and believe me its something to appreciate.

Graduation Tonight
The government contract with the College officially closes tomorrow. Classes end today at noon, the remainder of the day to be used for turning in books and supplies. President Hetzel will award certificates and deliver a short address at graduation exercises in Schwab Auditorium at 7:30 tonight. Only two classes, one civil and one electrical engineering, approximately 50 men, will complete their curriculum.

With the exception of Captain Young, who has volunteered for overseas duty and is awaiting orders, all the officers and cadre will probably continue on at this post to facilitate the new advanced ROTC program. Lieutenant Blackburn, a member of Penn State's 1943 graduating class and veteran Infantryman of 13 months in Europe, has recently been added to the College's military staff. Leave Tomorrow

All men are to leave State College tomorrow. The term five Civils will go to the 804th Replacement Battalion, Fort Bragg, N. C.; term six Civils to the 802nd Replacement Battalion at Fort Jackson, S. C.; terms, four, five, and seven Electricals will be at Camp Crowder, Mo. for ASFTC; and the term four Mechanicals will be in an ASFTC at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The unit set quite a record this week when 41 per cent of the men enlisted in the regular Army for one year. If the recruiting officer gets a bonus we certainly deserve it a set-up.

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