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H88-0266. Military Training Programs. Records, 1917-1951. 3.50 linear ft. PARTIALLY RESTRICTED

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H88-0266. Military Training Programs.

Records, 1917-1951. 3.50 linear ft. **PARTIALLY RESTRICTED**



Abstract

The collection consists of records, correspondence and informational materials from military training and enlistment programs at Hope College during World War I, World War II and the immediate post-World War II period. The bulk of the collection is from the World War II era and consists of materials from two training programs at Hope College: the Army Specialized Training Program and the Civilian Pilot Training Program. Part of the collection consists of academic records (student transcripts, exam scores, etc.) and is **RESTRICTED**.

Accession No: H88-266
Provenance: Hope College
Donor: Hope College
Photographs: 32 images (Box 1)
Processed by: Bill Van Dyke, October 1999

History

When the United States entered World War I, World War II and the Cold War, Hope College and the Hope student body responded. World War I, which the United States entered in April 1917, was the first major war faced by the college and her students. Initially, the Secretary of War and the college counseled students to stay in college until called into service under the Selective Service Act of May 1917. However, many Hope men left college before being drafted. In May 1918, the Hope College *Bulletin* reported that 81 Hope men had left college since the beginning of the war to enter their country's service.

On October 1, 1918, a Student Army Training Corps (SATC) unit with a quota of 100 men was formally instituted at Hope. The Hope College Council authorized the college President to make application for the establishment of a SATC unit after much discussion and with a great deal of reluctance. The action was seen as breaking all precedents and traditions and one that could have far-reaching consequences for the future. But, it was expected better physical training and general discipline would result from the experience. The men were formally inducted into the United States Army and were in uniform and under military discipline. Carnegie Gymnasium converted into a barracks, an infirmary and dispensary were placed in Van Vleck Hall and a mess hall was situated on the third floor of Van Raalte Hall. Officers were appointed by the Army with a Lt. Jacobson as Commanding Officer. Daily infantry drills, marches, calisthenics and instruction in military science were instituted for members of the unit. Academic subjects were taught by regular members of the Hope faculty while military subjects were taught by army officers. The signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918, brought the war to an end and the SAC unit was disbanded in December 1918.

Hope College also organized The Ceylon Cadet Corps during World War I, primarily to meet the military needs of the preparatory students and college students disqualified from membership in the SAC. This voluntary organization was commanded by Agminate Maniac

who led daily military drills for the approximately 40 students in the corps.

Hope women contributed to the war effort through the Patriotic League that was organized in the fall of 1917 under the direction of the Dean of Women. The League organized a system of letter writing by Hope faculty and students to Hope men in the military and later sent "comfort kits," Christmas boxes and New Testaments to them. In 1918, the League, in cooperation with the city of Holland, sold \$15,000 worth of bonds during the Fourth Liberty Bond drive.

The coming of World War II once again involved Hope College in war support efforts. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the greatly increased manpower needs of the military and the reduction of the draft age to eighteen reduced the number of men attending Hope College and colleges throughout the United States. Yet, the various military services needed men with the academic and technical training in such fields as science and engineering provided by colleges and universities. During 1942, the military services relied on various college enlistment programs to provide a flow of men with the needed educational background and technical skills to serve as officers and as technicians. These programs were intended to allow men at approved schools to enlist in reserve units, and complete their education provided they passed a qualifying examination, maintained satisfactory college standing and if the exigencies of the service permitted. Many Hope men participated in the various enlistment programs. Professor Bruce Raymond, Ph.D., of the History Department was the College's principal coordinator for all of the programs. These enlisted reserve corps units came under increasing criticism at the national level, however, during 1942. They violated ideals of equality of obligation to serve, they conferred privileges on young men whose parents could afford the costs of a college education, and they tolerated general educational pursuits which bore no necessary relation to war needs. Meanwhile, the draft was beginning to run out of potential draftees in the younger age groups, and turning to drafting men forty years of age and older in its attempts to keep up with the Army's growing manpower demands. Nationally, students were enlisting in the enlisted reserve corps units to escape the draft. At the end of 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered an end to all voluntary enlistment programs, resulting in many Hope men leaving college for the military.

Hope College contributed to the war effort in two additional ways. The college contracted with the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CA) and the U.S. Army to provide training through two programs: the Civilian Pilot Training Program and the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP). Professor Raymond also served as the principal coordinator for these programs.

In July 1942, Hope College and Holland Air Service began training men in the Ca Civilian Pilot Training Program. The program was created in 1942 to train pilots for service with the Army Air Forces. In January 1943 the program became the Ca War Training Service. The program consisted of intensive eight-week courses for men sent to the college by the CA. Five different groups received training in sessions beginning in July 1942, October 1942, January 1943, March 1943, and May 1943. Hope College faculty members Robert Cavanaugh, Milton Hinga, Clarence Kleis, Albert Lampen and Albert Timmer provided instruction for ground school courses in mathematics, physics, meteorology, navigation, physical education, and civil aeronautics regulation and aircraft identification. Gilbert Walker was employed to provide instruction in radio code and Major Henry Rowen was employed to provide military instruction and serve as military officer in charge. Van Raalte Hall was used to teach ground school classes and housed the first groups of men in the program. Starting in March 1943, classes were held

and the men were housed in the North Shore Community Building across from the Park Township Airport. Flight instruction was given at Park Township Airport by Holland Air Service using a fleet of J3 Piper Cub Trainers. Flight instruction was described as elementary, elementary cross country, and glider. Flight instructors included W. B. Blain, Kyle Sinclair, Raymond Lane, William Carey, Guerdon Norton and Gordon Patterson. The Hope program provided training to 100 persons, including two secondary school teachers, Clyde Geerlings and Evelyn Steketee. The teachers were part of a CA program to train them to teach pre-flight aeronautics and other aviation courses in secondary schools starting in the fall of 1942. Most of the trainees came from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, and most had not been students at Hope College prior to becoming part of the pilot training program. One notable trainee was Victor Reuther who, along with his brother Walter Reuther, would play a leadership roll in the United Auto Workers union.

The ASTP was created to provide specialized technical training to soldiers on active duty. In 1943, the college enlistment programs were phased out and students in the programs were called to active duty. The Army and Navy still needed men with the academic and technical training provided by colleges and universities, and contracted with selected colleges and universities for the use of their facilities and faculties to train soldiers and sailors on active duty, in courses prescribed by the services. The ASTP involved giving army recruits a specialized college education in two years instead of four. After this shortened education, the new graduates were sent up for active service. In the fall of 1943, Hope College contracted with the Army for the establishment of a unit of the ASTP on campus. Hope was to provide instruction in the basic phase of the program. A company of 252 men plus officers started arriving on campus on October 11, 1943. The men came from 37 different states; the majority, however, were from the Midwest. Captain Homer L. Morgan was the commandant, assisted by Lieutenants Lawrence A. Read and John E. Moore. To introduce the cadets to Hope College and Holland, the college published a booklet entitled, "We're in the Army Now."

The men were housed in the former Emersonian fraternity house and Western Theological Seminary's Zwemer Hall dormitory. The Music Building became the Army's administrative office and infirmary and Carnegie Gym became the mess hall. The Holland Armory was used for physical education. Classes met in the Memorial Chapel (now Dimment Chapel), Van Raalte Hall, and the Science Building (now Lubbers Hall).

Instruction was to be given in three terms of 12 weeks beginning on November 8, 1943. The men were divided into ten sections with some men in term 1 courses and others in term 2 or term 3 courses. Hope College faculty members, reinforced by some additional instructors hired for the ASTP program, taught courses in chemistry, engineering drawing, English, geography, history, math, physics and physical education. Army officers taught military science. Several Hope students acted as academic assistants. The curriculum was intensive, with many hours in the classroom and lab daily. Study time was mandated in the evening in the library.

The ASTP unit had a major impact on campus life. The cadets substantially increased the college's enrollment, which had been previously reduced by the manpower needs of the military. They were in uniform and under military regulations. They assembled in formation in the early morning and late afternoon, using 12th Street as a parade ground, marched between most campus destinations, and followed military courtesy in the classroom. There were opportunities for socializing with civilian Hope College students, and events, including a formal military ball, were held to facilitate inter-gender blending. A highlight was a show staged by the ASTP cadets in early March that included varied musical, comedy, choral and dramatic numbers and sold

\$22,500 in War Bonds.

The Hope ASTP unit was closed down in March 1944 by the Army. Instruction ended on March 18, 1944, six weeks into the second term. Roy Berry, a cadet in the Hope ASTP unit, states in his 1998 memoir that the order to close the unit came without warning. He says, "The corp was told that families of troops on active duty were unhappy with the program and the resulting political pressure caused its cancellation. However, the *Holland Sentinel* reported that due to a 200,000 draftee shortfall, the army cancelled ASTP, freeing up the 100,000 enrollees to partially make-up the deficit." The *Hope College Anchor*, in an article written by ASTP men, reported that the ASTP men were needed elsewhere in the Army because an invasion of Europe was coming in 1944, and draft boards had nearly exhausted the supply of men eligible for combat service. A farewell assembly was held in the Hope College Chapel on March 21.

Nationally, the ASTP program had been criticized for taking men away from more critical jobs in the army. Capable young college age men were being recruited into the program and allowed to pursue college studies in subjects useful to the Army, while fathers in their mid-thirties were being inducted and taken away from their families and war industry jobs, creating resentment against the ASTP, which became pronounced in some college communities. By late 1943, many local draft boards, reflecting the repugnance the public felt toward drafting fathers, failed to meet their quotas. In the last three months of 1943, they supplied only two thirds of the selectees asked for. In early 1944, the United States was facing the cross-channel invasion of Europe and found itself alarmingly short of vigorous young soldiers with which to fill the ground combat divisions. General George C. Marshall told Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson that without the ASTP cadets, the United States would lose ten divisions from the invasion forces, divisions that were essential. Faced with these circumstances, the decision was made to phase out the ASTP.

The closing of Hope's ASTP unit brought to an end the College's involvement in military training during World War II. The post-war period brought some minor involvement with military training once again. In September 1946, four men selected by the Navy for the Naval Aviation College Program (V-5) enrolled at Hope. The College entered into contracts with the Navy to provide academic instruction, with tuition, books, supplies and fees, paid by the Navy, to men who would enter the Navy as aviators upon completion of the program.

The men received up to two years of college instruction with courses in mathematics, physics and English required. Only four Hope men were in this program, which came to an end at Hope in June 1948.

In the fall of 1948, Hope became involved in negotiations with the Navy to lease the college owned former home of Rev. Albertus Van Raalte to the Navy to house the Naval Reserve Electronic Warfare Company 9-125 based in Holland. Also, that fall Hope applied for the establishment of an Air Force ROTC unit at the College. The application triggered study and debate. Hope College President Irwin J. Lubbers continued efforts to obtain an Air Force ROTC unit into the 1950s. (See collection H88-0097, Lubbers, Irwin J.)

Additional sources for this history:

Eller, Keith E., *Mobilizing America*, Cornell University Press, 1997

Hope College Anchor, 1942-1944

Kennedy, David M., *Freedom From Fear*, Oxford University Press, 1999

Kennett, Lee, *G.I. The American Soldier in World War II*, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1987

Wichers, Wynand, *A Century of Hope*, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1968

Scope and Content

The collection is divided into two parts: unrestricted records, correspondence and informational materials (Boxes 1 and 2), and restricted academic records (transcripts, exam scores, and correspondence about individual students) from the World War II era training programs and enlistment programs (Box 3). The materials are divided into three eras: World War I, World War II, and Post World War II, and arranged by program within each era. The World War I Era section contains materials and photographs about the response of Hope College to that war. Records from the Student Army Training Corps form the bulk of this part of the collection. The World War II Era materials come from two training programs at Hope College during the war, the Army Specialized Training Program and the Civilian Pilot Training Program, and from various college enlistment programs that Hope students participated in. The post-World War II Era materials are from a Naval Aviation training program at Hope in the late 1940s and two proposals, one to rent the home of the late Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte to the Navy for a Naval Reserve Electronic Warfare Company and the other to establish a Air Force ROTC program at Hope College.

Additional information on the military training programs can be found in the *Hope College Anchor* for the period. The collection of President Irwin J. Lubbers (H88-0097) contains additional materials on efforts to obtain an Air Force ROTC unit for Hope College.

Container List

Box 1

World War I (WWI) Era

- Certificate for Students Army Training Corps, 1921
- Holland Cadet Battalion, Instruction Sheets, 1917
- Hope College and the War, *Hope College Bulletin*, May 1918 and Nov. 1918
- Songs for Community Singing (booklet published by Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction), 1918
- Student Army Training Corps (SAC)
 - Hope College membership, n.d.
 - Hope College schedule of calls and drills, 1918
 - Photographs, n.d. (5 images)
 - War Dept. memo on curricula, 1918
- U.S. Army Song Book, 1918

World War II (WWII) Era

- Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP)
 - Academic assistants payroll records, 1943-1944
 - Absence report, 1943
 - Announcement of Specialized Training Programs for the Army and

Navy, news release, 1942
Army Manual: "Training Unit Contract Instructions for University and College Authorities...", 1943
Army Service Forces circulars, 1944
Audit report Hope College Training Unit, Oct. 15, 1943-June 15, 1944
Authorized ASTP allotment at Hope College, 1943
Berry, Roy E., ASTP Cadet, Memoir of Hope College ASTP Unit, 1998, 1999
Cadet orders, n.d.
Campus map, n.d.
Class schedule (Oversized - in oversized drawer)
Comments by President Wynand Wickers (partial), 1943
Company roster, n.d.
Correspondence between Hope College and Army, July 1943-Sept. 1943
Curriculum memos, 1943
Daily bulletin, 1944
Data on Hope College ASTP cadets, n.d.
Exams, 1943
Government property, equipment, 1944-1945
Hope College
 Billings to U.S. Army, 1943-1944
 Contract with the War Department, 1943
 Cost data, n.d.
 Faculty and administration, 1943
 Publication, "We're in the Army Now" about the ASTP at Hope, 1943
Information on Holland Armory requested by Hope College, 1943
Memorial Service program, 1945
Newspaper Clippings, 1943-2014
1944 *Milestone* report
Photographs, n.d. (27 images)
Special orders assigning men to Hope College ASTP unit, 1943
Textbooks and teaching supplies, 1943-1944
Thank you letter from U.S. Army, 1946
College Enlistment Programs (CEP)
 Air Forces of the U.S., newspaper supplement, Philadelphia *Inquirer*, June 25, 1942 (Oversized - on top)
 Army Air Force Enlisted Reserve Program, correspondence, 1942
 Army Enlisted Reserve Program, correspondence, 1942
 Call to active duty students in Army Enlisted Reserve Corps.
 Unassigned group, Jan. 1943
 June 1943
 Coast Guard, appointments to cadetships, pamphlet, and application, 1940, n.d.
 Hope College students in Military College Enlistment Programs, rosters, 1942-1943

Joint Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard pamphlet on College Enlistment Plans, Aug. 26, 1942
List of accredited colleges accepted for enlistment of students in all College Enlistment Programs, 1942
Marine Corps Officer Candidates Program, correspondence and Information, 1942
Naval Officer Procurement Programs
 Informational memos, telegrams to college representatives, 1942-1944
 Notices of student status, 1942-1943
 Orders to student, inactive status, 1942
Navy recruiting publications, n.d.
Navy Sea Gee Program, news release, 1942
 Navy Training, swimming suggestions for Navy men, news release and pamphlet, n.d.
Summary of opportunities for enlistment (prepared by Central Michigan College), n.d.
Miscellaneous, Major code sheet, Baccalaureate degree, n.d.
Pilot Training Program
 Air agency certificate, 1942
 Aviation Cadet Program publications, U.S. Army Air Force, 1942
 Business and financial records
 July 1942 - Sept. 1942 session
 Oct. 1942 - Jan. 1943 session
 Jan. 1943 - March 1943 session 43-E
 March 1943 - May 1943 session 43-G
 May 1943 - July 1943 session 43-I

Box 2

World War II (WWII) Era (cont.)

Pilot Training Program (cont.)
 Certificate of Acceptance, 1942-1943
 Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938
 Civil Aeronautics Administration (CA) Communications
 Information sheets on Pilot Training Program, 1942, n.d.
 Instructional memorandums to contractors, 1942-1943
 Performance manual, 1943
 Pilot training for Army Air Corps enlisted reservists, 1943
 Reports on aircraft accidents, 1942-1943
 Class schedules, 1942, n.d.
 Correspondence, 1942-1943
 Course of study outline, 1942
 Declaration by trainee, application, 1943
 Enrollment lists by session, 1942-1943

- Examinations, exam keys, 1942
- Hope College contracts with CA for pilot training, 1942-1943
- Individual student application forms, 1942-1943
- Instructor information filed with CA, 1942-1943
- Insurance certificates, 1943
- Insurance programs for students in pilot training, 1940, 1942-1943, n.d.
- Inventory, May, 1943
- Medical exam records, 1942
- Military Officer-In-Charge, payment dispute, 1943-1944
- Notice of approval of Hope College as a ground school, 1942
- Notification of assignment and travel order to student, 1943
- Notification of discontinuance and travel order, 1943
- Receipts for lodging, board and transportation, 1942-1943
- Reuther, Victor O. B., Student in Hope PTP, 1943, n.d.
- Student certification about dependents, 1942
- Student travel misunderstanding, 1943
- Study guide for Powerplants (Aircraft Engines), instructional aid, 1942
- Technical bulletins from War Dept. and CA, 1939-1942
- Textbooks, 1943
- Wings presented, 1943, n.d.

Post World War II Era

- Effort to locate a Military Foreign Language Training Program at Hope College, 1950-1951
- Hope College Veterans' Day Observance 1965, program with listing of Hope men killed in military service
- Naval Aviation Program
 - Correspondence, 1946-1947
 - Hope College contracts with the Navy, n.d.
 - Instructions to colleges, 1946-1947
 - Vouchers, 1947, n.d.
- Naval Electronic Warfare Company of the Naval Reserve, lease of the A. C. Van Raalte home, 1948
- Proposal for an Air Force ROTC Program at Hope College, 1949-1951

Box 3 (ACADEMIC RECORDS - RESTRICTED)

World War II Era

- ASTP
 - Academic records - exam scores
 - Academic transcripts
 - A
 - B

C
D
E
F
G
H
I, J
K
L
M
N
O
P, Q
R
S
T
U, V
W
X, Y, Z

Prior transcripts of ASTP students

CEP

Correspondence about student academic standing
Naval Officer procurement - test results for some students

PTP

Correspondence about students from Aviation Cadet Examining Boards
Exam scores, grades
7/42 - 9/42 session
10/42 - 12/42 session
1/43 - 3/43 session
3/43 - 5/43 session
5/43 - 7/43 session

Ground school record

B
C
D
E, F
G
H
J, K
L
M
N, O
P
R

S
T
V, W