

FORT MONROE CAMP ENDS

(Continued from page 1)

camp was published the previous week. Since then, Major Nichols, C. A., has been relieved and placed on other duty. Major K. S. Purdie, C. A., becoming Company Commander and Morale Officer.

The Weekly Trips

"Cook's Tourists" have nothing on the R. O. T. C.—not at all, for once a week the whole camp goes on a sight-seeing trip to some spot of far more than local interest. Last week the big Naval Operating Base at Norfolk was inspected. The good launch Q-3, loaded down with R. O. T. C. men started gaily out over Hampton Roads at 1.30 P. M. on Friday, July 25, bound for the haunt of the sea-plane, the "Blimp," and the naval aviator, as well as the submarine and the "gob." Within almost touching distance of the concrete arch which marks the entrance into the landing place, built during the famous Jamestown Exposition, (better known to those who had to attend it as the "Jamestown Imposition") the good ship Q-3 stuck fast in the mud. Col. Burdick, ready for the occasion, promptly stepped out on the bow and exchanged semaphore signals with the station on shore, as a result of which he learned that the channel was further to the right. After much churning of propeller and backing and tacking, the Q-3 moved over to the indicated channel, only to stick in the mud once more.

The Naval Air Base

The Navy finally rescued the stranded Coast Artillerymen and took them all ashore, while the Q-3 at last got out of the shallows and moved down to the Submarine Base to await the class there. The naval aviators greeted the visitors enthusiastically and showed them all around the place, from hangar to field and water. There was every possible type of sea-plane at hand, including a few of a type which are being tested out for commercial purposes in the future, as well as the F-1. Blimp, and the students acquired a lot of valuable knowledge and experience concerning this line of activity. The instructors were fortunate enough to get a hop up over Hampton Roads and surrounding country in the seaplanes, which all felt was a real treat; the students were all rearing to go up too, but had to forego the pleasure and watch the planes start out over the bay and land again, and watch the dirigibles come and go. All in all, however it was a mighty successful trip for everyone.

The U. S. S. New Mexico

Although the latest sight-seeing trip was to the Naval Base, none of the camp will ever forget their famous trip the previous week to the dreadnought New Mexico. Admiral Rodman's flagship for the Pacific Fleet. While the party was on board the ship, the Commanding General of the Coast Artillery Training Center made a formal call on the Admiral, and gave the students an opportunity to see the Admiral and the General, the ceremony of turning out the ship's band, the Marine Guard, and the firing of a salute of eleven guns for the visiting General. On July 29, it was the pleasure of the students to witness the departure of the fleet on its way through the Panama Canal, for its long journey to a new home in the Pacific. Its arrival there will mark a naval supremacy which is a new epoch in our national history. The Newport News Shipbuilding Yards was the scene of another of the students' visits, as was the Aviation Station, at Langley Field, Va., and the next trip on the program, the longest of all, will be up to Camp Abraham Eustis, the big artillery camp, with its immense range for heavy artillery. These trips have been the spice and variety of the training camp work, have been thoroughly enjoyed by all, and afford the students most ample educational opportunities, to exercise and to develop their powers of observation. The authorities of the camp cannot be given too much credit for their far-sightedness and broad-minded attitude in inculcating this idea into the camp curriculum; it has shown itself to be a feature of real and lasting value.

Subjects Taught

The subjects taught in the camp and the number of hours given to each are as follows: Artillery Drill, 21 hours; Artillery Material, 18 hours; Battery Administration, 6 hours; Guard Duty, 3 hours; Gunnery, 12 hours; Infantry Instruction, 30 hours; Mess Management, 5 hours; Military Courtesy, 7 hours; Motor Transportation, 9 hours; Orientation, 11 hours; Physical Training, 29 hours; Horsemanship, 20 hours; Marksmanship, 22 hours.

In addition to these subjects, lectures were delivered in the evenings on such subjects as personal and military hygiene, military law, customs of the Service, ideals of service, and uniforms. It can be seen from this schedule that a great variety of subjects are covered some of them very thoroughly and others in a more general way. This first

camp does not expect to turn out its students as experts in all these varied military lines, but it does give the men an introduction into each subject which will enable them to later on perfect themselves in any line for which they have a particular fancy. It is in the development of habits of neatness and punctuality, obedience to orders, as well as the building up of a healthy physique that the camp has its real value.

Colonel Morrow Inspects the Camp

During the week ending July 26, the camp was inspected by Colonel F. J. Morrow, General Staff, Chairman of the War Department Committee on Education and Special Training. The Colonel had the misfortune to strike the camp during a prolonged rainy season, the rain coming down more or less regularly during the whole of his stay of several days, so that he was unable to witness as much of the camp activities as he would have liked. However, a long and thorough drill was given for him by the camp, in the gymnasium of the Post Exchange, the students going through every phase of infantry work from 'Squads Left' to volley firing. At the close of the drill, Colonel Morrow made a short address, in which he stated how pleased he was with the work and appearance of the camp, and the progress made. Colonel Adeno Gibson, C. A., head of the Coast Artillery R. O. T. C. Division in Washington, also visited the camp, but made little comment besides the fact that he was well satisfied with the progress made.

Artillery Drill

Drilling on the big guns, both the mobile heavies of the tractor artillery and the big 12-inch disappearing guns and mortars of the fixed Coast Defense armament, has been covered by the students, and the next thing in that line will be the actual firing of the guns in target practice next week. The firing, and the results thereof, will be discussed in next week's 'Liason,' as well as the results of the work on the rifle range which is now going on. Some excellent scores have already been made at some of the ranges, and still better ones are looked for later on. The men have already studied machine guns and automatic rifles and there was a limited amount of firing with these weapons just to show the students how it was all done. Fancy shooting with machine guns is a science which lack of time forbids the R. O. T. C. camp from studying.

Noteworthy Features of the Camp

On the whole it can be safely said that this camp has been a success. The work has been hard, but there has been plenty of variety and interest, and it has been to a large extent practical. The discipline has been strict, but the men have responded heartily have entered into everything with much enthusiasm, and are all enjoying the camp thoroughly.

Riding on real army mounts, under the instruction of an experienced officer, a graduate of the Mounted Service School at Fort Riley, Kansas, work on the big artillery guns, tractors, trucks, and motor cars, under the guidance of some of the country's most expert authorities along these lines, bayonet work under an experienced Infantry officer, Infantry drill and instruction under skilled officers, orientation work and mapping, military hygiene, calisthenics, athletics, and swimming, were some of the big features of the camp. These, together with the valuable inspection trips, the healthful life here at the sea-shore, and the association with men and officers who have seen and learned things, combine to make it a camp worth while.

Importance of the R. O. T. C.

This war, more than any other, has shown this country the need of preparedness. The untold millions in money and thousands of lives, and the economic saving of material that would have undoubtedly resulted had we entered the War with a reserve of both trained men and modern munitions must certainly have brought this fact home to everyone. Those who do not realize it now will most assuredly do so when they pay the taxes of the next few years to come. The average American believes in life insurance. The building in time of peace of trained reserves for possible use in time of war is but the extension of individual life insurance to national insurance. This is the underlying object of the R. O. T. C. System. Functioning as it does on the youth of the country at its most impressionable age, and instructing them in subjects which are far more than military in their value and application, it is believed that the R. O. T. C. affords the country the most profitable, the most inexpensive, and the most pleasant way of teaching the young American his individual duties in the great and vital matter of National Defense.

—BU. W. S. S.—

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