

Past bureau aid dispells vital question

by Private Gordon Lund

(Editor's note: This article is the work of the former Assistant Director of IIT's News Bureau, now in the Army. Although originally written for the newspaper of Mr. Lund's alma mater, we felt it so pertinent and expressive that we reproduce it here.)

Education does pay in wartime.

That, it seems to this writer, is the most vital message one in uniform could send on this anniversary of infamy to college students who today are probably skeptical, even a bit cynical, as 300 of us were a year ago as we spent an unforgettable Sunday night with ears glued to loudspeakers that brought only bad news.

Far into the night and morning most of us sat and waited, while stories of death and defeat poured in from Hawaii, Luzon, and every other point where the Rising Sun had suddenly shown its color. To most of us, as typical Americans convinced of the inherent invincibility of this nation, those reports were incomprehensible as well as tragic. So we waited on—knowing, as we thought, that before dawn the tenor of the news must change, that the planes and bombs in Oriental skies would bear a different emblem, that Tokyo itself would be ablaze.

Story now almost legend

The rest of the story is now almost legend. The hours lengthened into days, weeks, months. But, while an angry and hurt populace went on waiting the news was slow in changing. And the 300 of us gradually resumed our normal school activities. But even while we went back to classes, many of us wondered—wondered why we were doing so and whether it made any difference.

We can now tell you it does—it makes a great deal of difference—even those of us whose military service is measured in terms of a few weeks or months.

Gaelic wars, French verbs

True, it is of no particular advantage to a soldier to know the date of the Gaelic wars or the correct conjugation of French verbs. Sometimes, indeed, it seems that the army cares little about either ability or training, for the Harvard Phi Beta Kappa and the boy who failed in grade school look quite similar in a fatigue suit scrubbing a barracks floor.

But the fundamental fact is this—no other life throws the individual into such a kaleidoscope of new environment as military service. And education is the best foundation for making adjustments to new circumstances.

Work with variety of people

In no other endeavor is the individual called upon to work and live with such a variety of people. As I sit here writing, for example, on one side is a former sharecropper from Georgia while on the other side is a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Both are wearing the same private's uniform, but there is a definite difference in the way in which they wear it, in which they fit themselves into the pattern which war has thrust upon the nation.

And what is true of us under arms

Professor Larkin appointed public member to War Labor Board

Professor John Day Larkin, chairman of the department of political and social science, has recently been appointed as a public member to the War Labor Board of Region 6, comprising Illinois and six neighboring states. This board consists of representatives of labor and management and public members.

Since last September, Professor Larkin has been serving as a special mediation representative on the National War Labor Board in Washington, D.C. In this capacity he has mediated between the Inland Steel Co. and the CIO, in addition to others. At present he is working on three cases involving the International Harvester Company.

Women invade drafting field

Women invaded another field that has heretofore been almost exclusively masculine, on Monday, February 8, when a war engineering program will be inaugurated by the ESMWT program, of the Illinois Institute of Technology.

This program will give women the opportunity to train for engineering positions. The course will feature full time study 40 hours weekly; it will last three semesters and it will be so arranged that women may go to work at the termination of any one semester. High school graduates are eligible for enrollment, which will be limited to 100 women. College credit will be given.

After one semester's study a woman should be able to do acceptable work in an engineering department or drafting office, this might include, tracing, detailing, and simple design. Acceptable work in elementary machine design should be accomplished by a woman finishing the second semester of training. Those who complete the third semester will be ready for employment in shop cost accounting and estimating.

or destined soon to be is equally true of the college-age generation. For every individual is now confronted with new situations created solely by war conditions—new jobs, new responsibilities, new difficulties.

And when the struggle is finished, be assured that we Americans will be less satisfied than ever to find a prosaic, settled existence. We have heard, and some of us seen, enough of other lands to be hardly content to remain static.

Hugest task in history

Most important of all, however, is the fact that the reconstruction era will force upon today's youth the greatest project in all human history—that of bringing half the world's human population from a state of starvation—both physical and spiritual; of rebuilding wrecked homes and factories; of inculcating new faith in a disillusioned humanity; and of operating a much discussed democracy. For, although men in uniform don't talk much about democracy and freedom, they are the things we want to find waiting when we return. And we depend upon you at home—and especially upon you who are trained and educated—to preserve them in the interior.



JOHN DAY LARKIN

Oldenberger visits Canadian author

While in Montreal, Professor Oldenberger was entertained by Stephen Leacock, the Mark Twain of Canada.

This great author of Canada is now 71 years old, and still writes prolifically. He gets up at five each morning to begin his days work. He was retired from McGill at the age of 65 along with 13 other members of the faculty, a move which he protested vigorously. Since his retirement from public life he has turned from humorous to serious writing. Just appearing are his books on "Montreal" and "Canada", the latter being privately published by Seagrams Distilleries. About the time of the publication a law went into effect that distilleries were not allowed to advertise. This book cannot be bought and was given by the company to prominent Canadians and people connected with the whiskey business.

The following phrase, taken from one of his books, with the proper gestures and inflection of voice, might be heard by some of Dr. Thompsons students. "Where is the record of the nobly indolent, those great men whose resolute inertia and self denying negation of the necessity of effort has rendered possible the false eminence of his fellows." Mr. Leacock had a reputation when a young man of having no sense of humor as a professor. This got around to him through the grape vine, and he wrote some articles to disprove this theory. These articles were so successful that he began in earnest on his now famous literary career. He is the author of about fifty books such as "Nonsense Novels" and "Literary Lapses".

Advisor task successful

This semester, following a system which has proved successful in the past, the incoming freshmen were taken under the wing of the "Senior Advisors." Due to the February graduation, this time the senior advisors are all juniors. They are: Don Maihock, Tim O'Leary, Bill Parker, Byron Round, Gordon Theurich, John Valentine, Bruce Worcester, Harry Gillespie, Robert Durham, and Earl Mills.

These men were on hand Thursday to help the newcomers through the registration procedure, and aided in administering the Orientation Tests Friday and Saturday. The plans for the future include a division of the freshman class into groups of about twelve, each of which will meet once a month with its advisor to discuss its problems.

Honor system

Activities of board reviewed

This column will come to you as a weekly analysis of the Honor System, together with some of the actions of the Honor Board. The aims and projects of the Board will also be reviewed.

At the present time there are six student members on the Board. They are Laurus Magill, FPE 3; Earl Mills, Che 3; William Nash, CE 3; Tim O'Leary, CE 3; Milton Platzner, Co-op 5; and Byron Round, ME 3. Dr. Bicek and Mr. Budenholzer, faculty members, also serve on the Board, but their status is merely advisory and they have no vote in the proceedings. Each member was recommended by his department chairman and then elected to the Board by the retiring Board members. However, in the future the Board will be elected by the entire Student body and will include all classes, with upperclassmen predominating.

The cases reviewed here are published only to show how the board has been functioning. At no time will a review disclose names involved, but rather truthfully state the facts and outcome of the case.

Two students were recently reported to the board for apparent cheating in a hour quiz. Both scholastic and orientation test records were reviewed in each case. The fellows were then requested to appear before the board to relate their side of the situation. One of the fellows knew nothing about the incident, and was dismissed while the other admitted that he had copied.

Through questioning, the board discovered that this student who admitted his guilt, was working thirty hours a week in addition to taking a full time program in school. The board suggested that he drop his outside work and offered to secure a student tutor to aid him in his studies.

The student took the advice and secured a part time job around the school, but declined any other assistance, stating that he would now be able to spend more time on his studies. This student due to the hardship of earning money for school expenses was handicapped in his school work. Once the handicap was alleviated he continued his school work and obtained good grades. Thus the honor board has been an aid in helping a student on his way to becoming a good engineer.

The Honor System also serves as a good pre-officer training. In the very near future all of us will be serving our country in the armed services. Most of us, because of our technical training, will be holding positions of responsibility. As an officer, a man must possess knowledge, gentlemanly traits, and be respected by his men. The knowledge, the man can obtain from his studies, his manners from home environment and training, but respect, he can only earn by being an honorable leader. A student should begin now while in school, to practice fulfilling these prerequisites of a good officer.

ASK THE ARMY ENTERTAINER FROM THE TROPICS

"IT'S FUN TO BE HERE TO ENTERTAIN YOU BOYS"

"HOW ABOUT A COKE DATE?"

"HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE?"

"THAT'S THE OLD ARMY LINE, BOYS"

"FLOWERS AND A COCA-COLA ... JUST LIKE HOME"

"You always enjoy it when you connect with a Coke no matter where. There's something about it that's special. All the difference between something really refreshing and just something to drink. Yes, indeed. The only thing like Coca-Cola is Coca-Cola, itself. But you've found that out already."

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