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The Bayonet (July 26, 1918)

Valparaiso Training Camp of the United States Army

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U. S. TRAINING DETACHMENT AT VALPARAISO

A GREAT UNIVERSITY AND ONE OF THE FIRST TO OFFER ITS SPACIOUS BUILDINGS TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

There is a temptation here to write the history of the University of Valparaiso, instead of the real purpose of this article merely to outline the work of the training camp. For, strange as it may seem to the civilian reader, one of the first ideas set forth in the University Bulletin, harmonizes with the real purposes of a military Training Detachment. "Where work would be the standard" is the phrase in the paragraph referred to.

Indeed it is work—hard work—of the highest order that is ever the aim and ideal in this camp today. Many hundred enlisted men, have now gone out from this camp, to other institutions and detachments, there to complete a course of training in some one of the many trades contingent to present military requirements. These men have carried the praises of Valparaiso University and the Training Detachment, to all parts of the United States. From Orono, on the coast of Maine; from far beyond the Rockies in the west; from sunny, southern camps, there has been wafted back through many channels, expressions of highest commendation of the beneficial aid and correct start in the right direction received here. But we are "ahead of the line", so we'll "guide right" and get in step with our little chat about this training Camp and a patriotic act on the part of a large University. Forty-five years ago—1873—Henry Baker Brown, than whom no more esteemed educator and philanthropist ever honored a great commonwealth, founded this University, and continued as its first and only President until September, 1917, when he passed on to a plane of higher education. But his years were crowned with the glory and victory of a life worth while, and he lived to see his institution he loved so well, grow under his kindly care and that of his faithful lifelong friend and associate, Oliver P. Kinsey; from one little college building to the 14 large Halls and Dormitories that now grace the campus.

It was but fitting that this University, standing by the very first declaration of its principles—Democracy, "Where RICH AND POOR should have an equal chance; where WORK NOT WEALTH should be the standard," would, when our great National Army was in the making; try in some way to be of real service to the cause of right.

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"University Military
Organization"

From THE BAYONET
July 26, 1918

So, when the War Department put into execution its plan whereby men with the required qualifications would be trained in some one of the selective mechanical service branches, Henry Kinsey Brown at once offered the large available facilities of the University to the War Department for the training of men in the wood working and sheet metal crafts. The Department inspectors made a careful survey of all available buildings and facilities. Capt. C. H. Briscoe, representing the War Department Committee on Educational Training in his final report, recommended that the University was amply qualified for more extensive purposes than at first intended, and was adequately situated as to location, railroad transportation and environs of the city of Valparaiso, for the establishment of a Detachment Camp, instead of mechanical training. Men would be received, qualified, given some training, and then sent on to other trade schools and camps. This plan was adopted, and early in May the first contingent of enlisted men arrived from various points in the United States. Soon South Dakota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Michigan, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and other middle west states were represented by its citizen soldiers. The camp begun to hum with military activities, and the city took on the appearance of a cantonment town. Officers from Camp Taylor arrived for duty, and Capt. Herman Schierloh assumed command. The steady increase in the number of new men sent here by various Local Boards, necessitated increasing the number of companies, and the assignment of additional officers for duty. The latter arrived from Camp Custer, early in June. Space does not permit publishing the roster of all the officers now present for duty, in this issue, but Capt. Schierloh, who has proven a capable and efficient executive officer, is deserving of more than passing notice. Capt. Schierloh has

been in the Regular Army for a number of years. He served six years in the Philippines, also in Alaska and Panama. Was commissioned from the 30th Infantry, and in 1914 assigned to duty at the Officers Training School at Plattsburg, New York. In 1915 he was assigned to the Training Camp for civilians at San Antonio. Has also acted as instructor for the 1st Wisconsin National Guard and the 1st Tennessee National Guard. Special instructor at the Kansas City High School, and detailed on duty at Headquarters, Fort Riley, Kansas, under Major General Henry T. Allen. In 1917, Capt. Schierloh was assigned to duty as instructor at Ft. Sheridan; thence to Camp Taylor, Louisville, Ky., from which station he was assigned to duty at this camp. At all times he has met the military requirements of this camp; maintained a consistent and efficient schedule of drills, encouraged healthy athletic features and recreational movements, all of which have proven invaluable in rounding out well balanced military training for all the men.

The new men, upon their arrival in camp are first sent to the Personnel Office, where a complete statistical record of their qualifications and special occupations is completed. They are then assigned to one of the companies and given quarters in the large buildings formerly occupied as dormitories. Naturally, men, new in the service are curious to know just what "is coming to them" in an army camp. One can imagine their pleasant surprise to find themselves assigned to rooms, with modern plumbing system, hot and cold water; and each building containing ample bathing facilities. The first call for mess, usually is a rather mysterious event for the new man. But, instead of being provided with a meat pan, and tin cup and marched to some Camp Kitchen, there to stand in line and have food dished out to them; the men are conducted to a large, spacious dining hall, and seated at individual tables with ten places to a table. The food is brought in by men detailed on duty from the various companies. The quantity and quality is above the average, carefully selected and prepared. Following are sample menus from the official list, taken at random.

(Continued on page 2)
Breakfast: Cream of Wheat, fried potatoes, stewed figs, bread, coffee, milk and sugar. Dinner: roast beef, potatoes, cabbage, green onions, corn bread, butter. Supper: macaroni and cheese, succotash, boiled potatoes, stewed peaches, biscuits, hot tea, sugar. The meat and vegetable items vary for different days, but in every instance there is plenty of good wholesome food for every man.

The Personnel Department of this camp is made an important feature under the able guidance of Mr. J. B. O'Connor, in charge of Personnel work for various camps under the direction of the Committee on Educational and Special Training.

The working of this department and what it means to the service will be outlined in a special article to be published in the next issue of The Bayonet.

Not alone are the men given on an average of four to eight hours a day of intensive military training, but a schedule of interesting and instructive lectures is also provided. Four hours in each week are devoted to these special lectures. Dean Bowman of the University Law School, delivers a course of lectures on topics concerning the work of the armies in France, and the cause for which we are now fighting. Professor Zoethout, also of the University Faculty covers the ever important subjects of Personal Hygiene; The Health and Moral of the Soldier; while Capt. S. A. Muhlhauser gives the required talks on Army Regulations, Military Courtesy and Discipline, the attitude of the new soldier in this army, his Moral and efforts toward the highest possible military efficiency.