

Commencement Number

The Skirmisher

ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL, SALINA, KANSAS

Vol. X.

JUNE 10, 1927

No. 4

BISHOP MIZE HEADS NEW BOARD TRUSTEES

Colonel Ganssle Remains Superintendent

COLONEL PERKINS RETURNS AS COMMANDANT

The greatest stride forward that has been made for St. John's in many years is the adoption of a new basis of operation for the school, which went into effect June the first. In addition to its being the greatest thing for the school, the new arrangement will bind the military school closer to Salina itself. The old method of a board of trustees is again in operation. The Right Reverend Bishop R. H. Mize, who has been rector of the school for the past eight years, and at one time was superintendent, is president of the board and will be the official head of the school. Other members of the board are: E. A. Hiller, C. A. Lee, Col. W. L. Ganssle, C. B. Dodge, E. C. Woodward, J. S. Hargett, F. C. Utt, Col. F. R. Fitzpatrick, L. G. Gottschick, and C. F. W. Seitz.

Col. W. L. Ganssle, who has been superintendent for the past twelve years, will remain in that capacity. Enrollment is already under way and it is thought that there will be at least a twenty-five per cent increase over last year.

Of a special interest, not only to the whole student body, but to the people of Salina in general, is the fact that Col. Roy W. Perkins will return to the school as Commandant. Col. Perkins was Commandant at St. John's in 1924-25, when he resigned to accept the position of assistant adjutant general of Kansas, which he has held most successfully.

PROGRAM

Saturday, May the Twenty-eighth

9:30 A. M.—Twelfth Annual Field Meet between Army and Navy Athletic Clubs.

5:00 P. M.—Ceremony of Guard Mounting.

9:00 P. M.—Senior Dance, Memorial Hall.

Sunday, May the Twenty-ninth

8:00 A. M.—Corporate Communion, School Chapel.

11:00 A. M.—Commencement Sermon and Presentation of Diplomas by the Right Reverend Robert H. Mize, D. D., Bishop of Salina, Christ Cathedral, Salina, Kansas.

3:30 P. M.—Bugler's Contest. Competitive Drill in Manual of Arms. Battalion Parade. Presentation of Commissions and Warrants.

Monday, May the Thirtieth

10:30 A. M.—12:00 M.—Rifle Drills. Extended Order Drill. Crack Squad Drill. Awarding of Athletic Trophies and Medals.

12:00 M.—Alumni Luncheon. (Admission by Card.) Awarding of Cups and Scholastic Prizes.

2:00 P. M.—Lowering of Colors.

Smith—just before assembly at four o'clock in the afternoon:

"Where are we going to recreate today?"

MILITARY BALL AT MEMORIAL HALL

One of the greatest features of the St. John's Commencement Exercises is the Military Ball, which is given in honor of the Senior Class. This year the Ball was held at Memorial Hall and proved to be one of the best dances ever given in connection with St. John's.

In the receiving line were: Colonel and Mrs. Ganssle, Colonel and Mrs. Perkins, Captain and Mrs. Shideler, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barker, Captain John Barker and Mrs. McDonald, and Captain Donald McGrew.

Promptly at 9:30 o'clock Cadet Major Bruce Edwards and Miss Vivian Cochrane led the Grand March, followed immediately by members of the class of '27 and their ladies. After the Senior Class, the members of the Cadet Corps and their ladies, completed the line. With the Grand March ended, dancing was immediately taken up.

Refreshments were served later in the evening by the cadets who were not accompanied by ladies, and were welcomed with a cheer from various parts of the hall.

After the refreshments had been served, Colonel Ganssle called all the cadets, whose heart-breaking qualities are prominent, onto the floor, and introduced a new form of competition. Balloons were distributed among these cadets for the purpose of selecting the man who could blow the hardest for his lady. At a given signal from the Colonel, they all began to blow with might and main, until, with a report, not unlike a cannon, Lieutenant Holmes had ended the conflict. Colonel Ganssle then presented him with the prize, a corsage bouquet, which he had so val-

(Continued on page 3)

SUMMER SCHOOL BEGINS JUNE 27

Best Original Skirmisher Article of the Year

ST. JOHN'S A LA CAMP

By Herbert Hake

We all know now that Bob White isn't a bird, that his Ford isn't an automobile, why black snakes are called that and why people gather together for solace in cities. We know these things and hundreds of others, we're primitive, we've been to camp.

Just a matter of eight miles, but oh those eight miles! Plunk-plunk-plunk, Lieutenant Crooks, an artist at drum beating; blare-blare-blare, the whole bugle corps a discord and most of all, tramp-tramp-tramp, two hundred tired feet beating a miserable tattoo on burning pavement, which sounds like a funeral dirge or a death plank march. Not much, we don't kick, that's just the cadet corps camp-bound. And anyway it wasn't so bad after we left the town with its hard pavement. There was an occasional snake to put the little fellows in a frenzy of delight and more often, a cow to make the larger ones homesick.

Good time was made, better than last year and at about three o'clock Wednesday, May 11th, with a cheer we were at the foot-bridge ready to cross the Smoky Hill River. Just a word about that Smoky Hill, it was up high. It seethed and gnashed its teeth but engineers Kreipke and Biggs covered the situation and the river with twelve inch planks. Foot-bridge describes their achievement to a T. Big feet weren't allowed so Prather D. was brought across in a boat.

The first night in camp was spent in filling bed-ticks, wrecking the only pump and in playing "soak up the river"—most everybody did.

The next morning at approximately nine o'clock, the only watch in camp had stopped, firing was started on the range. The day wore on like a 1912 shirt and several center bull's eyes were reported. It's funny how big the black circle on a target looks at close range and yet so small at two hundred yards. Nevertheless, as before mentioned, several of the boys turned out to be regular "William Tells."

Almost all the days were like the first. On the second "Gopher" Fuhrman risking life and tree limbs scaled the high tree just south of the camp and hung the swing rope. Such a

swing! If ever it was discovered by the idle rich, derbies would go out of business. First you grab the rope—second you jump—third you pull yourself up on the knot and last you fall in the water. People have been known to land without getting wet but it isn't the regular thing.

Many of the cadets spent their evenings over at the oil well estimating how high the oil would shoot in case it turned out to be a gusher—it didn't.

Did you ever see Colonel Ganssle with a two days growth of beard on his chin? It's a grand and glorious sight. However, he wasn't the only two-fisted, red-blooded man in camp. Bussey Scott was taken twice for a grizzly bear and nearly shot while Phil Shortt's beard grew long and curly and had to be tied up with ribbons. Each and every man in camp looked like "Les Miserables" before we returned.

In spite of all the masquerades everyone managed to dress up on Sunday and play host to a bevy of visitors from town. Our diary for that day shows two things of importance: Ice cream for desert at lunch and a splendid chapel service in the evening led by Bishop Mize.

Camp was struck early Friday morning and let me say right here, it's much more tiresome returning than going but everyone came through with a smile in spite of burning backs and tired feet—and did that shower feel good? Say!

All in all camp is a swell place. You sleep in hard uncomfortable beds and like it, you eat everything

and love it. Man may have been an ape once, I don't know or care but thank heavens he's still primitive enough to enjoy being uncomfortable.

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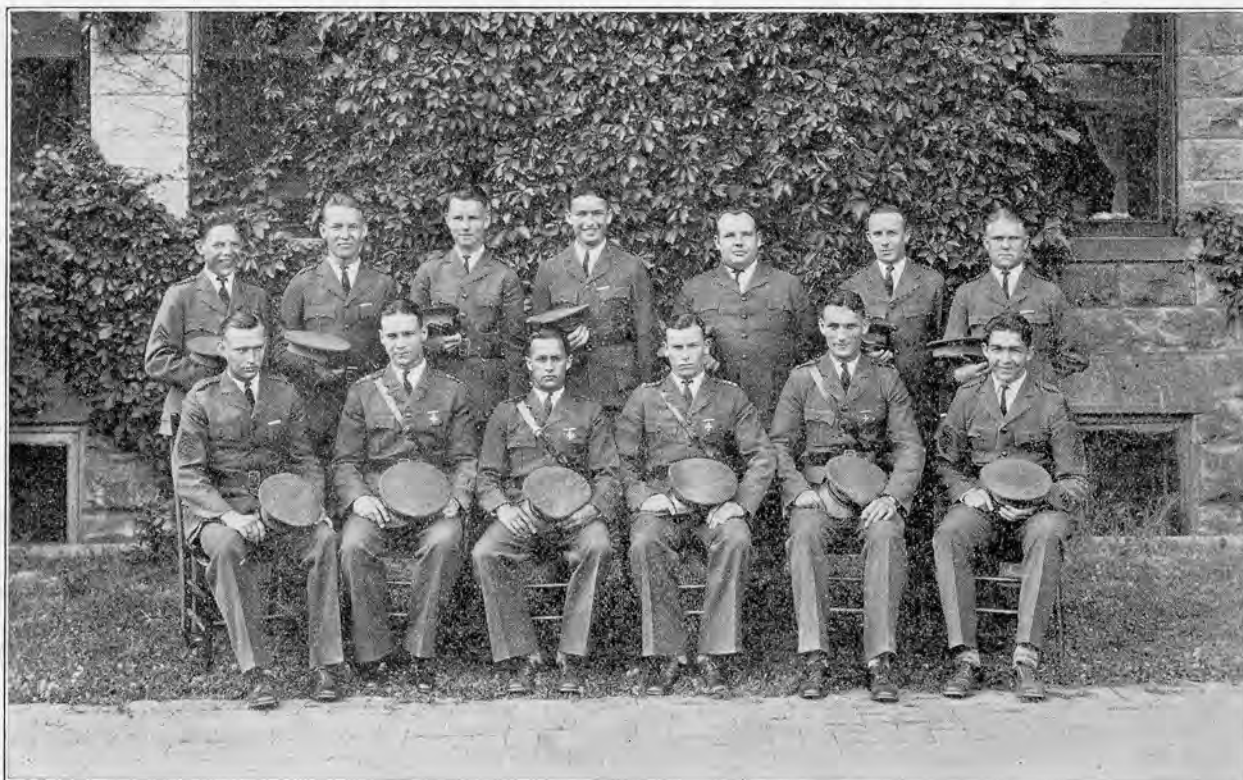
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SENIOR CLASS—1927

MILITARY BALL AT MEMORIAL HALL

(Continued from Page 1)

antly won, and he in turn presented it to his lady fair, who by the way was Miss Jean Elston.

At twelve o'clock, with the sweet old refrain of "Home Sweet Home" floating through the air, bidding goodnight to everyone, the last school dance of the season came to an end.

CRACK SQUAD DRILLS AT COMMENCEMENT

Of the activities at St. John's, the Crack Squad easily holds the highest place in the minds of the cadets. Its drill demands the closest attention and requires the most excellent display of military precision on the part of its members.

Lieut. Horace Holmes was elected in the early part of the year as its Captain and had as his assistant Captain Robert Crooks, Lieutenant of Crack Squad and Lieut. Woulfe, 1st Sergt. of Crack Squad. Because "Pete" was also football and basketball captain, the practice drills in the early part of the season were under the direction of Captain Crooks. After Basketball season Captain Holmes perfected the various move-

ments of the silent drill. The concentration required to execute the movements places each man on his metal, in as much as a single mistake will confuse the whole movement. A great deal of credit is due the officers of this organization, since they have received no help whatsoever from Col. Ganssle or any other drill master of the faculty as was done in previous years.

The Crack Squad drilled in public Y. W. C. A., at the Kansas Wesleyan College of Business; during music week at Memorial Hall, during all School week at Claflin Hall, Oakdale Park, at the military ball given in honor of the senior class at Memorial

Hall and at the Commencement Exercises.

The members of the Crack Squad are as follows:

Lieut. Holmes, Captain
Captain Crooks, Lieutenant
Lieut. Woulfe, 1st Sergeant
Captain Farnsworth
Lieut. Kreipke
1st Sergt. Hake
Sergt. Caldwell
Sergt. Jones R.
Corp. Thompson
Corp. Prather D.
Corp. Thamer
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Cadet Hookey
Cadet Gordon I.
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Lieut. Kreipke, Sergt. Woulfe, Hurst

"TO THE COLORS"

For months, cadets can tell you to the exact instant, the number of hours till school is out. Each breakfast brings one day less of books and drill; even the meals are tallied in diminishing numbers.

The barracks ring with happy shouts of anticipation, and one would expect cheering at the last formation.

Still there is always tucked away and hidden in our makeups a pathos which we try so hard to hide, that the last formation brings to the surface when leaving those with whom one has lived at school.

Assembly sounds—the companies are dressed, reports are made.

"Parade Rest!"—snap,—and the bugle corps sounds off.

"Well, we're leaving, but it's been a fine bunch of fellows to be with."

"Battalion Attention!"—and again that wonderful old call, the voice of reverence and loyalty to our flag—"yes, and loyalty to school and friends."

The last note dies away as the flag is caught above the ground by the color guard.

"Captains dismiss your companies forever."

No, there is no cheering when we leave St. John's. The old school means something after all. And we are glad to say with the students of an old university:

"And tho, the tide of years may roll
And drift us far apart,
For Alma Mater still shall be
A place in every heart."

WHAT THE FELLOWS SAY

"Red" McIninch whose home is at Beloit, Kansas, visited the school last week just to see how things looked. He is recovering from an auto accident but will be all right soon.

Claud Eichenberger stayed over night with us on his way home to Cheyenne Wells, Colorado. He has been doing some good jumping for his local high school this spring and his motorcycle seemed to follow suit as it bucked him off on the way to Wichita and hurt his feelings so much that he sold it.

Col. Ganssle received a nice letter from First Lieutenant Kriepke of Oklahoma City in which he says that he would like to come back next year for a post graduate course.

Jack Leaf, the Charleston expert of St. John's, says that he arrived home safely and hopes to come back next year.

John Myers of Bingham Canon, Utah, writes that he is to work on an outside crew for the Utah Power and Light Company. We hope that he won't grow lighter but will put on weight for football next fall.

Kenneth Jones of LaFayette, Colorado, is home and helping in his father's drug store. The candy counter is his specialty.

Junior Underhill, our midget cotillion leader, wrote to say that he arrived home safely and that he enjoyed his year at St. John's very much.

Major Bruce Edwards remained at school the first two weeks of June to

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make up his English and Algebra. He did very well and seemed much interested in his work—and other things.

Bartle of Denver is studying music this summer.

Capt. Bob Crooks will be at St. John's this summer with the exception of a few side trips to Denver.

Sergt. Ralph Caldwell writes that he wishes his friend Crooks to visit him. And we believe that "Deg" would be glad to see any St. John's-ite who may be passing thru Formosa, Kansas, although his soul may be in his farm work his heart must have clung to Salina.

First Lieutenant Harry Fuhrman remained a week in Salina visiting friends—Oh well, maybe it was only one friend.

"Abie Morrow has a Ford—plenty said.

"Trinidad" Jeannin is pacifying cows out at Capt. John's and hoeing, mowing, plowing—sleeping.



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First Essay in Senior Class

AN OUTLOOK ON AMERICAN LITERATURE

By B. N. Edwards

Literature produced in the United States did not begin as an independent literature. England had a world-famous literature before a permanent settlement had taken place across the Atlantic. Shakespeare had died four years before the Pilgrims had landed at Plymouth.

An American, when going to Paris, can neither read the books nor converse with the citizens, without first having gained some knowledge of their language. The same American can cross the way to London and will find a different atmosphere; immediately he will feel at home, as far as the language and literature are concerned, although more than three hundred years have elapsed since the first colonists came to America. For nearly two hundred years after the first English settlements in America the majority of the works read there were written by English authors. The difficulties that arose there were a great hindrance to the development of a literature.

When Americans began to write in large numbers, there was, at first, close adherence to English modes, but later a decided change took place and American literature stood in a field by itself.

Notwithstanding the fact that America owes a great debt to English literature, cultivated Englishmen today, willingly admit that without the supreme knowledge of men like Cooper, Poe, and Hawthorne, English literature would have been somewhat at a loss in giving adequate accounts of landmarks of achievements in fiction. Even today several European nations reprint nearly every year, practical sayings of Franklin, the great American philosopher of the practical. English critics, such as Addington, Symonds, Stevenson, and Dowden, have testified to the power of the democratic elements in our literature. The most important reasons for American literature developing along original lines, thus conveying a message of its own to the world at large, were the struggles leading to the Revolutionary War; the formations and guidance of the Republic, and the Civil War. These things combined tended to give individuality to

American thought and literature.

American literature has not only produced original work, but it has also delivered a worthy message to humanity. A selection of good and indifferent authors can be found in the study of American literature.

Franklin voiced an unsurpassing philosophy of the practical. Emerson was a great apostle of the ideal, an unexcelled preacher of the New World self-reliance.

Walt Whitman's philosophy of individuality could not be more explicit. American poets and prose writers have disclosed the glory of a new companionship with nature, and the impressive moral lessons taught by these men of fame are ever present in some minds.

Now we take the literature of today; it affords the greatest of pleasure and usefulness to the lover of literature and to the critic. The lover of literature can find sufficient reading matter worth while in the books given to us by men such as Lowell, Longfellow, Whittier, Hawthorne, Emerson, Mark Twain, and Poe; while the critic, without too much effort, can satisfy his intellectual desires thru one magazine, mainly the Literary Digest. This magazine contains literature written by some of our ablest writers of the day. It not only tells of the ways of our own country, what is happening and what should take place, but it goes into detail with the situations of our neighboring nations. In addition to these remarkable features, the Literary Digest deviates from this kind of liter-

ature to a certain extent and gives to us along with the other, a page called "Topics in Brief," which, in "modern" lingo, "gets 'em told." This section of the magazine is one of the most interesting parts.

With the remarkable reading matter found in this magazine and other literature, just as valuable, the American citizen has opportunities not granted others.

HONOR LIST FOR YEAR 1926-27 Upper School

Hake	92.4
Shields	92.2
Shortt	92.1
Thamer	89.5
Beresford	88.1
Hays II	85
Gibbs	84.5
Biggs	84.4
Carpenter	84.2
Elkins	83.9

Lower School

Boatright	85.8
Underhill	85.6
Brach II	85.1
Shipherd	84.9
Weaver T.	84.4
Gordon II	83.9
Leaf	83.5
Voigt	83.4
Degman	82.2
Bivens	81.6

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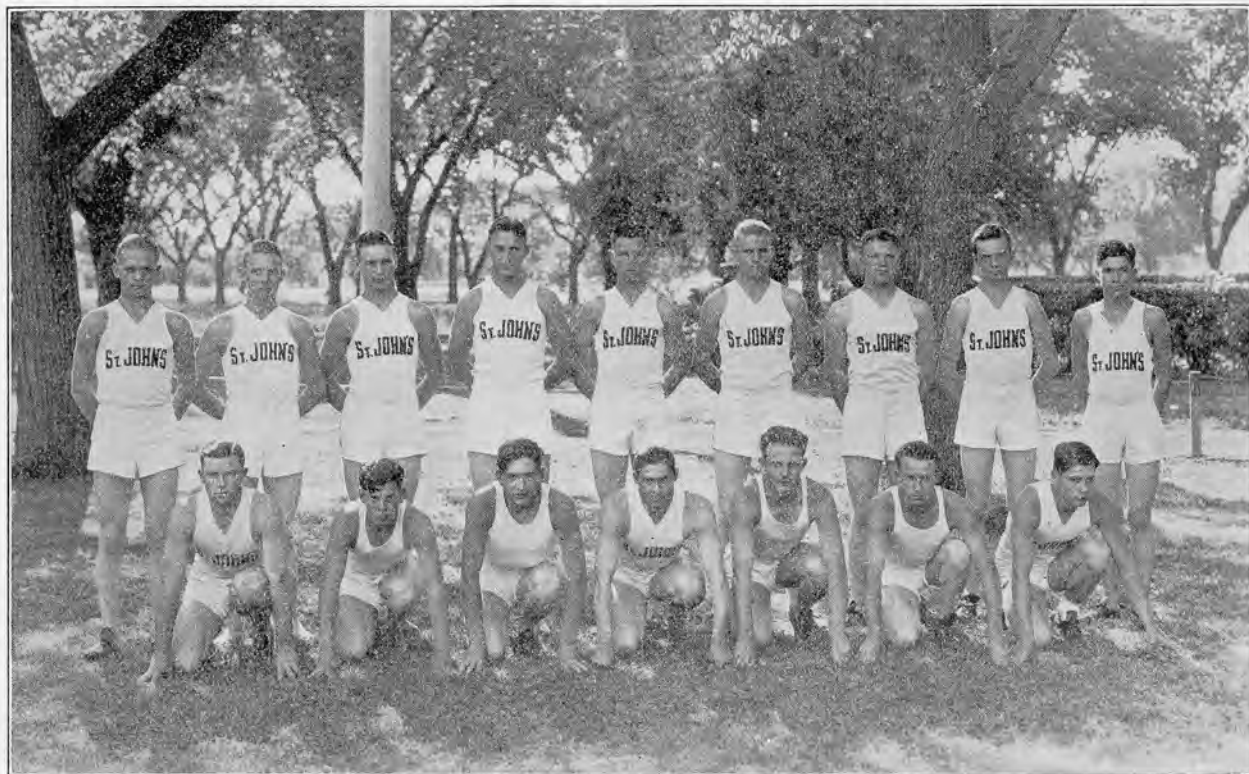
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TRACK TEAM—1927

BISHOP MIZE FINDS SEVEN POINTS OF EXCELLENCY FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE SENIORS

For the Senior Class the highest point of the year is reached when Bishop Mize presents the diplomas at the morning service at Christ Cathedral May 29. Parents and friends filled the church long before the Battalion arrived. The first pews were reserved for the Senior Class from which they listened to the Bishop. "Approve the Things that are Excellent," was the text of his sermon in which he found seven points of excellence for approval.

Following the sermon the members of the Class were presented with their diplomas from the Bishop assisted by Colonel Ganssle. Corp. Niles Moffat sang "My Task" for the offertory, after which the Bishop pronounced his benediction. After congratulations the Seniors' parents claimed them for dinner with the understanding that they were to be back at school by three-fifteen in the afternoon.

BISHOP MIZE CELEBRATES LAST COMMUNION SERVICE

The annual Corporate Communion for the cadets was held in the school

chapel at eight o'clock on Sunday morning, May 29. Bishop Mize celebrated at the altar. This was the last chapel service of the year and carried with it the dignity and close feeling of comradeship that is remembered in later years.

Captain Shideler played the organ and Cadets Harris and Horton served. Beside Mrs. Ganssle and the faculty Mrs. Moore and Daniel were the only guests.

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ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL

Alumni Luncheon Program May 30, 1927

Orchestra Prelude	The Grand March
America	First and Last Verses
Grace	The Right Rev. R. H. Mize
"Woodland Waltz"	Orchestra
Baritone Solo	"My Old Kentucky Home"
Cadet Allyn Thamer	
Tenor Solo	"Somewhere a Voice is Calling"
Cadet Niles Moffat	
Saxophone Solo	"Angels Serenade"
Sergeant Major Lloyd Gibbs	
"Friends of Yesterday"	Glee Club
"Sing a Long"	Glee Club

Presentation of Awards and Trophies

Medal or Trophy	Presented By	Presented to Cadet
Sage Memorial Medal	E. A. Hiller	Sergt. Otis Jeannin
Junior School Medal	Harry Crooks	Corp. Robt. Bivins
Frank Bangs Medal	Frank Bangs	Corp. Allyn Thamer
Army-Navy Medal	Cadet Joe Jordan	Capt. Phil Shortt
Tinsley C. Fry Ath.	Frank Parker	Lieut. Horace Holmes
Ath. Scholarship Medal	James Hargett	Wesley Shields
Bugler's Cup	Pete Richardson	Allyn Thamer
Thesis Medal	Capt. John Barker	Major Bruce Edwards
Van Trine Medal	N. A. Barker	Sergt. Ralph Caldwell
Commandants Medal	Major Cravens	Cadet Carrol Carpenter
Effort Medal	Cliff Dodge	Sergt. Herbert Hake
Manliness Medal	L. G. Gottschick	Lieut. Ott. Kreipke
Loyalty Cup	W. W. Watson	Sergt. Richard Mitchell

Names of Recipients for Marksmanship Badges

Presented by National Rifle Association

Booster Ring	W. L. Ganssle	Lieut. Horace Holmes
Head of Sixth Form	Bishop Mize	Sergt. Herbert Hake—92.35
Second in Sixth Form	Bishop Mize	Capt. Phil Shortt—91.1
Head Fifth Form	Bishop Mize	Cadet Wesley Shields—92.8
Second Fifth Form	Bishop Mize	Cadet Everett Biggs—84.4
Head Fourth Form	Bishop Mize	Cadet Allyn Thamer—89.52
Second Fourth Form	Bishop Mize	Cadet Edward Harris—81.6
Head Third Form	Bishop Mize	Corp. Robt. Beresford—88.1
Second Third Form	Bishop Mize	Cadet Carrol Carpenter—84.14
Head Second Form	Bishop Mize	Cadet Shipherd—84.9
Second Second Form	Bishop Mize	Cadet Jack Voigt—84.42
Head First Form	Bishop Mize	Cadet David Boatright—86.4
Second First Form	Bishop Mize	Cadet William Brach—85.11
Head Shell Form	Bishop Mize	Cadet Junior Underhill—85.6
Second Shell Form	Bishop Mize	Cadet Jack Leaf—83.48

God Be With Us Till We Meet Again

Benediction By Right Rev. R. H. Mize

Immediately after the luncheon the Colors were lowered as the final ceremony of Commencement.

CAN YOU IMAGINE:

A Wednesday without an inspection?

Capt. John waiting for the dining room doors to be opened in the morning?

Harris with long flowing tresses?

A questionless new boy?

Anyone dying of suffocation in the barracks just because the windows were closed?

Beresford slim and sinious?

Bussy Scott more so?

Capt. Shideler getting pinched for loitering in traffic with his Dodge?

A Flint car being of any worldly use?

Major Heller dying of laughter?

Jones R. interested in anything but "honey" bees?

The writer ever doing anything worth while?

Anything as difficult as the above?

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Cadet Major Bruce Edwards for his soldierly appearance and efficiency.

Cadet Captain Phillip Shortt for his efficiency as range officer at camp.

Cadet Captain and Adjutant Robert Crooks for his untiring efforts as Lieutenant of the Crack Squad.

Cadet First Lieutenant Horace Holmes for his untiring efforts as Captain of the Crack Squad.

Cadet Sergeant-Major Lloyd Gibbs for his efficiency as Sergeant-Major.

Cadet Corporal Niles Moffat for his exceptional effort in the development of music.

Cadet Donald Johnson for his capable work in the kitchen at camp.

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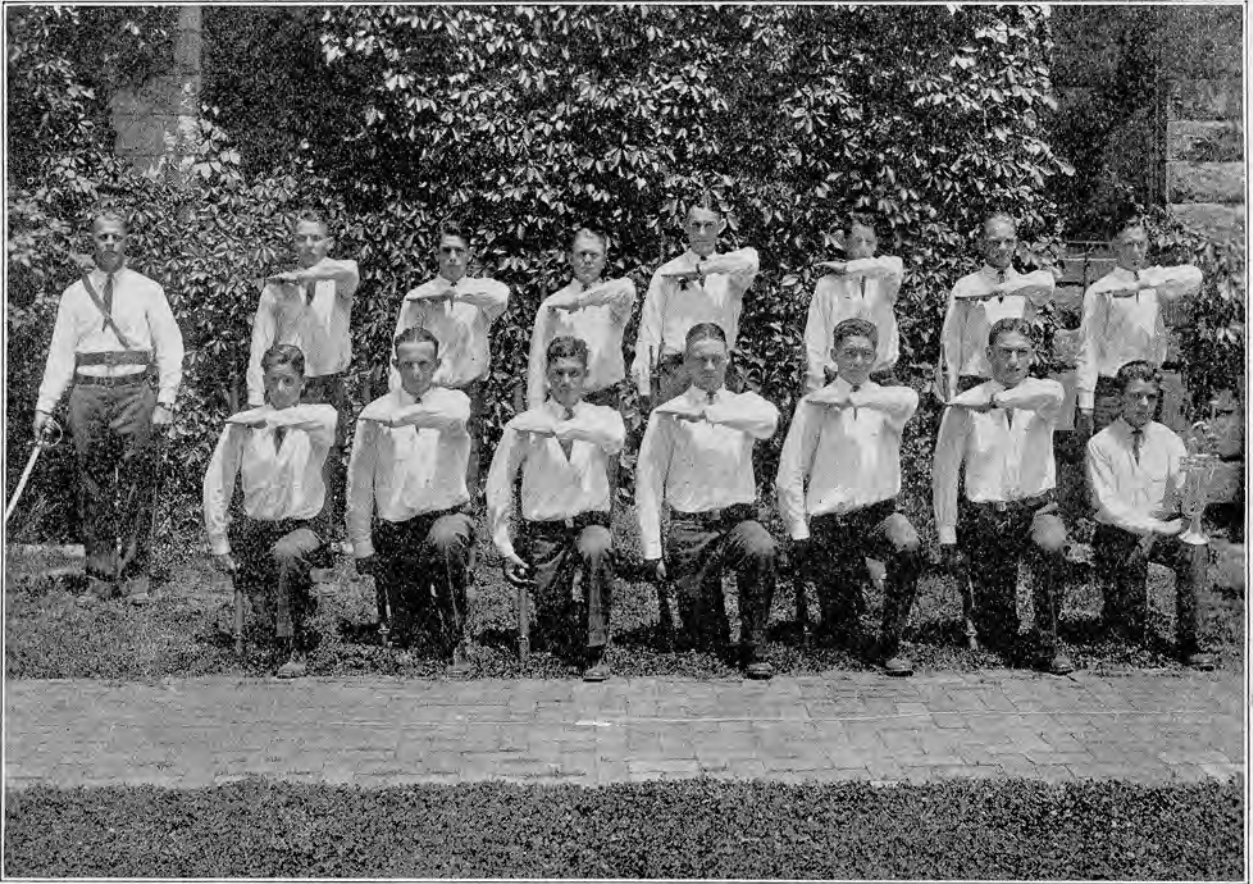
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