

Black-Bound Volumes, Musty Files Tell of Carolina's Tragic War History

1914, '17 Editions Tell Vivid Story Of Wartime UNC

Twenty-four years have yellowed the pages, made them almost a fragile, given them a near-mustiness. But for all their age, those pages tell a story that no history book could tell—and about history.

Whether it be the yellowness or the fragility or the mustiness, they give one a feeling of depression, of tragic hopelessness that there must be something so overwhelmingly pernicious and compelling about war that sanity and common sense just can't stand again.

Tucked away on the shelves of the University library newspaper room are two rows of black-bound volumes—volumes that tell vividly, tragically, just what happened when war comes to a university.

They are the old bound editions of the Daily Tar Heel—the Tar Heel of 1914 and of 1917.

Dr. Edward Kidder Graham was president of the University in 1917, a year that will not be forgotten by those in school at that time. The Tar Heel carried a speech which he made at the opening of school, a speech that could be repeated this year in its exactness and it would be true.

"The immediate problem of an educational institution such as this is to readjust itself to the strange and new conditions, and to adapt as efficiently as possible its present means and resources to the gradually developing needs,—both immediate and future—of the national government," Dr. Graham said. "The single thought of the University is to co-operate in every intelligent way with the government."

Urged to Stay in School

Urging the students of 1917 not to withdraw from school, President Graham continued, "It is our desire, and we believe the desire of the government and the largest and best interest of the nation, that our students should remain where they are now until specially called out. They can serve best where they can learn most. General Leonard Wood has said that the most useful service the college men can render is to stay at their universities. The committee on engineering education, the committee on medical schools also, has strongly expressed the same convictions."

In the Fall of 1917, military training was introduced to the University. The training was arranged as a course for five hours' credit toward graduation in the academic department. "Every since the war was declared," the pages of that campus paper said, "Carolina has been living up to her old traditions in furnishing men in all branches of service, and the course in military science gives the men who are not yet called a chance to become well prepared for any emergency."

Four weeks later, the campus paper, in an editorial, said that, "Four weeks of intensive military training has brought out four rudely efficient companies. College men are rightfully expected to assimilate training more rapidly than those who have not had equal opportunities. There is a spirit of seriousness bred of responsibility. It has expressed itself in a constructive manner in campus customs. College men have struck a new and deeper note than has been sounded before. Tardiness at meetings and classes has been reduced by half. Fun and pleasure there is plenty; but it is rid of its boisterousness."

"The height of patriotic fever," records one student writer, "was reached in the fall of 1918, when the University ceased to be a university and became a government camp, the Students Army Training corps taking over the campus, lock, stock and barrel." The 750 University students who were enrolled in the corps were part of 150,000 men in 500 American colleges who were inducted into the organization at the beginning of the fall term.

Rush to Camp

Over 250 alumni and students, almost at the first outbreak of war, had rushed to the first officers' training camp at Fort Oglethorpe, the university's representation being 10 per cent of the total number from five southern states. One hundred and fifty men attended the second Oglethorpe camp. From then until hostilities ceased, the stream of university students to the camps was steady and continuous.

A United States army officer, Lieutenant G. W. S. Stevens, moved into the Sigma Chi fraternity house, his military headquarters, and assumed control of the University S. A. T. C. The dormitories were referred to as barracks, Swain Hall (the boarding place) was known as the mess hall, and old Memorial Hall became the armory. President Edward K. Graham

was regional director of the S. A. T. C. for the South Atlantic states.

The University reorganized its curriculum. A course in military French was added by the French department, and other departments changed their courses or added new ones, until the university was prepared to train students for the infantry, field artillery, heavy artillery, air service, ordnance and quartermaster service, engineer corps, signal corps, chemical warfare service, motor transport and truck service, naval service and marine corps. Students were grouped by ages instead of classes, and eleven hours of military training and three recitation hours in the study of the issues involved in the war were required. These classes in War Issues were the largest of any in the university.

The nation had gone to war. It called upon the university to contribute its share and found the response most gratifying.

There are no TAR HEELS to tell of other wars but the university has taken its stand. David L. Swain, president of the university during the War Between the States, wrote this statement in a letter to President Jefferson Davis of the Confederacy: "The freshman class of eighty members pressed into service with such impetuosity, that but a single individual remained to graduate at the last commencement; and he in the intervening time had entered the army, been discharged on account of impaired health, and was permitted by special favor to rejoin his class." Swain was recounting the university's contribution to the struggle. Simultaneously, he was telling the story of the bravery and loyalty of college men for all time.

President Swain was writing of the circumstances in 1861 and afterward, of the loyal spirit with which the student body and faculty had taken up arms when their State called on them. Similar words might have been written by President Kidder Graham when the nation sent out its call in 1917. President Frank Porter Graham could look for the same hearty response if war comes another time.

"Pinned by Bayonets"

The University had been a center of Union sentiment, but, as Professor R. D. W. Connor once wrote, "the Union which inspired this sentiment was a union based upon mutual esteem and confidence and a regard for constitutional guarantees. A union pinned together by bayonets and upheld by force of arms had no charms for them, for they believed even less in the doctrine of coercion than in the doctrine of secession. Consequently when President Lincoln, in April, 1861, issued his call for troops, the ringing reply of Governor Ellis, a University man, 'You can get no troops from North Carolina,' found a ready response in the hearts of University men everywhere."

Military Tactics became a part of the university course and the students—those who had not already taken up arms on the battlefield—were drilled and taught the use of military equipment.

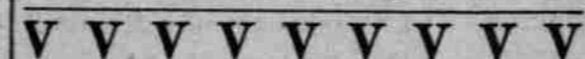
As students gather today in Memorial Hall for programs of various sorts, they can see all around them the memorial tablets erected in honor

of the 312 students and alumni who were killed or died in service in the Confederate army. A total of 1,062 University men fought under the Stars and Bars.

The highest military rank held by a university man was that of lieutenant-general, attained by Leonidas Polk, who was outranked in length of service only by Longstreet and Kirby-Smith. Another son of the university, Bryan Grimes, reached the rank of Major General. She had 13 brigadier generals, many lesser officers, and hundreds of privates.

"When the war began," declared Dr. Stephen B. Weeks in an address at the centennial celebration of the opening of the institution, "the boys of the University rushed away to the struggle like men who had been bidden to a marriage feast. There was great vivacity of spirit, even gaiety of temper displayed, and Governor Swain was proud of their enthusiasm."

The faculty, too, quickly responded to the call. Five volunteered for the war. The other nine, with one exception, were either clergymen or be-



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yond age. The University had for the year 1860-61 five tutors, all of whom volunteered. Four of them never returned.

World War No. 2

Typical of the colleges in North Carolina should be the University. Old Trinity, Davidson, Wake Forest and other schools were just as loyal during the War Between the States, and the World War. Now that there is talk of World War II these schools along with the University are again doing their bit. June 1941 saw the DAILY TAR HEEL express the feeling of college students at this time in this manner: "Finish the job at hand, which means your college education, if possible, and don't give it a lick and a promise. Stay in there and really punch. Come back next year and go as far as you can. Your duty to your country is not to go, if and when you're called, but also to prepare young for larger service while awaiting call."

A look at the new \$370,000 University airport, which will be completed in September, gives assurance that University officials are looking to the future, ready to help the na-

tional defense program in any way possible.

Full of meaning and significance in this year of 1947—24 years later. THE DAILY TAR HEELS, files of this year will eventually grow old and yellow too. Perhaps they will not carry a story of a country at war,

but they will carry a story that will give ample proof that the youth of '42 were prepared to meet the crisis. We hope some day some one will be able to skim over their pages and read that the class of '42 learned a lesson from those old yellowed volumes of 1917.

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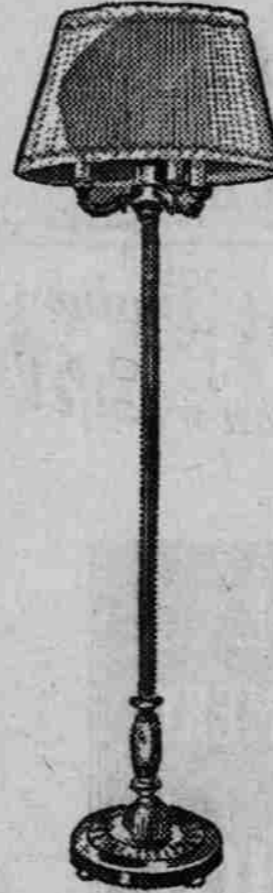
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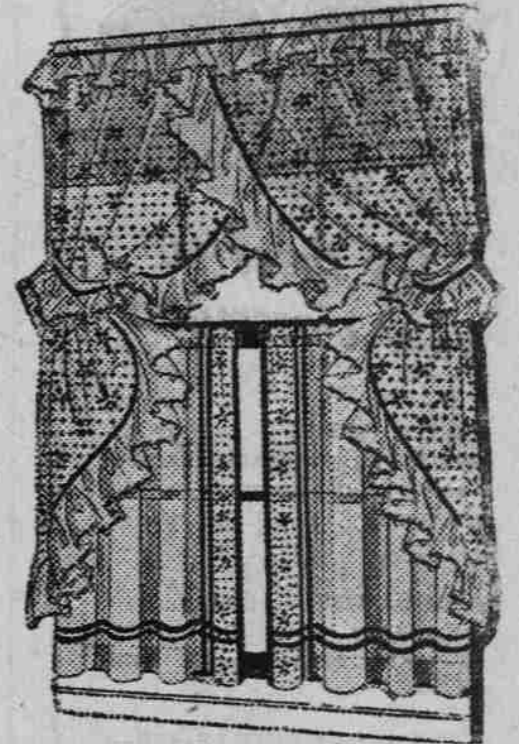
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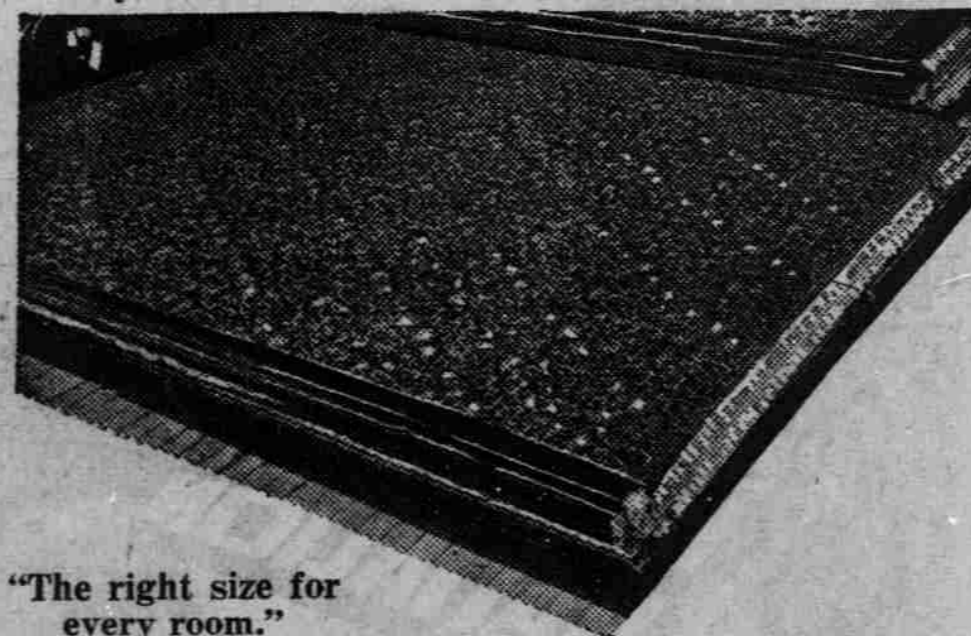
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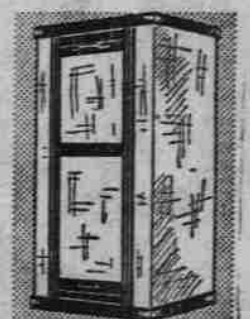
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