Service Units Here Keep Up Tradition Of UNC In Wartime

School Has Sent Men To Battle Since Founding

Out of the freedoms won in the Revolutionary war came the University of North Carolina. Said Reverend McCorkle in his dedicatory speech for Old East in 1793, "Liberty and law call for general knowledge in the people and extensive knowledge in matters of the State, and these in turn demand public places of education."

If UNC was born of wartime victory and idealism, it has certainly sent her young men out to fight the battles of the republic whenever the nation called. First test came in 1812, when Tar Heels fought with Jackson to save New Orleans. Then, the Mexican episode and again Carolina men were in the saddle.

Saddest battle in which UNC alumni gained honor and prestige was the War Between the States. The story of the University during the tragic years of civil strife is one of manpower resources poured into the fight. Within two years after the war broke out, enrollment dropped from 376 to 63; and even those 63 would have been in the service had not the President of the Confederacy stated that "the seed corn should not be ground up." But the turning tide of conflict demanded even greater sacrifice and on 1866's commencement day, three Seniors received their diplomas.

The manhood of the South was bled white and of the many who left to fight with Lee and Jackson only a few returned.

It wasn't until the first World War that preparation for conflict was brought to the campus. Speeches by then-President E. K. Graham and Spanish-American War veteran Charles Helmer introduced the men to the SATC. Every male falling under the proscribed regulations automatically was inducted into the Student Army Training Corps of the University of North Carolina, went to classes as before, got private's pay for doing it.

Only changes in regular routine were the extra orders, uniforms, dormitories were to be called barracks. Soon the initials SATC were re-interpreted to mean "Stuck At The Colleges." Finally, shipment orders for the first contingent came through—a week before the armistice. Out of the Army's grandiose plan for mass production of officers had come chaos and futility.

Training Plan

In World War II, America's war chieftains profited from experience and when December 7 came, plans were already drawn up for the greatest program of officer-training in history.

First result of this program for Carolina was the coming of the Pre-Flight school. Navyators were to get their toughening here before going on to flight training. The time was short, the program tough. Obstacle courses, sports, classes got the body and mind ready for fast action. There was no time to waste on amenities, you either produced or got out. By the same token, there was no time for the cadets to get well acquainted with the campus and Carolina life. Only liaison officers between the civilians and upper-lower quad Pre-flight were the coeds, who served very effectively in this capacity.

By the end of 1943, there were on active duty wherever the Navy fights, 1,000 flyers who had originally passed through Chapel Hill Pre-flight. The first five battalions had already reported for active duty and each week another group left to go on to flight training and finally to combat service in the "greatest air arm any fleet possesses."

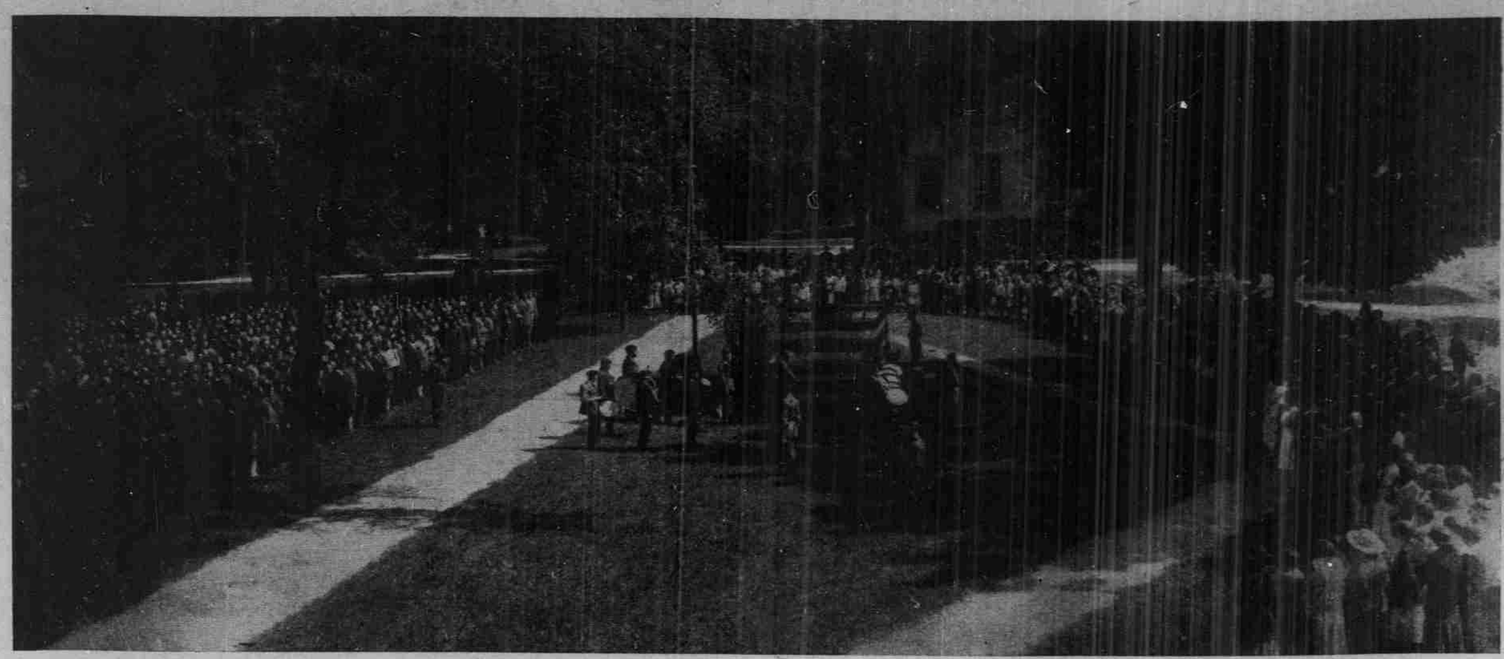
But even before war brought Pre-flight in all its vastness, a more conservative program had been instituted. In the NROTC the Navy had set up a college unit that would produce officers on graduation. NROTC men received a diploma in one hand, a commission in the other. Entrance standards kept high by special tests, the NROTC was the closest any group came to Annapolis.

In July of '43, there was no longer any doubt as to what the prime function of the nation's colleges was. To Carolina were sent 1,300 men—former V-7, V-1, NROTC, Marine Reserves—in the new V-12 program. The students were allowed to remain in college for shortened times, lived under Navy rule, in bell-bottoms, ROTC

Final addition to the wartime scene blues, Marine khaki.
were the soldiers in ASTP. Studying languages, these men would go out to serve AMGOT wherever needed.

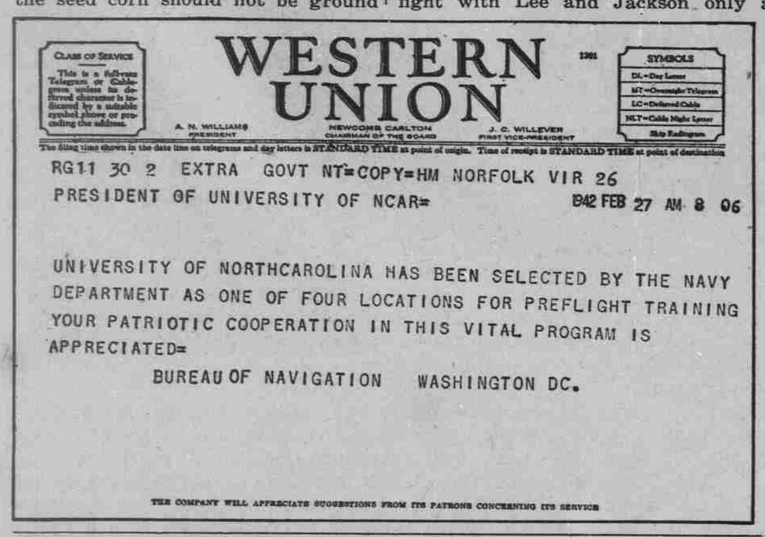
The war that had been going on for 10 years in various lands suddenly took on definite and ugly shape as a true world conflict. The Carolina campus has felt, as it had to, the impact of this struggle for survival.

First it was a few leaving to sign up, then the units, and now the V-12. Carolina has sent its sons into battle for the republic. In 1943 it was training many thousands more of them for active duty.



CAROLINA'S SATC, some 650 strong, took the oath of allegiance that day of induction on October 1, 1918. Then-President E. K. Graham leads the students in the words of the oath. The first training unit assigned to Carolina, the SATC soon came in for ridicule, was renamed, "Stuck At The Colleges."

Civil War Took High Percentage Of Enrollment



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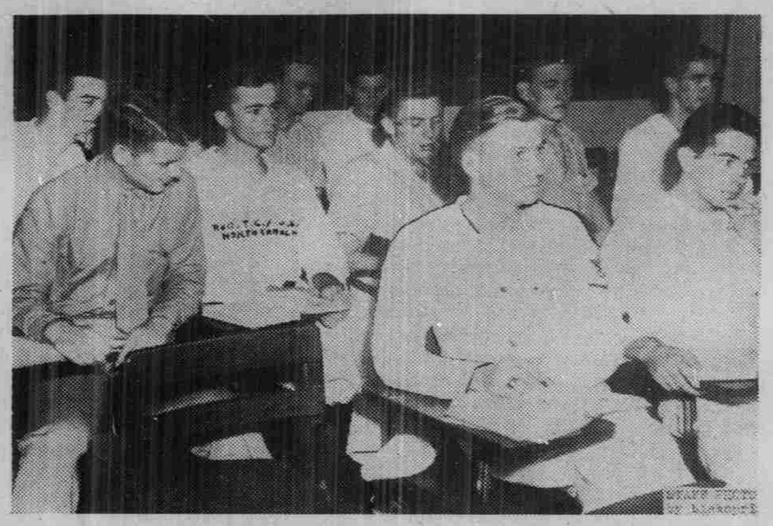

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