

# O.U.'s Part in National Defense

Sooner Students Learn  
How to Meet the Foe On  
Land, Sea or in the Air

**I**F and when any invader attacks the United States, graduates of the University of Oklahoma will be fighting on land, on sea and in the air to repel the enemy.

The University's role in national defense is being considerably expanded this autumn, but it is not a new role by any means. Back through the years, long before national defense attracted the attention of the general public, O. U. was turning out approximately 145 commissioned officers every year for the Reserve Corps of the United States Army.

Training received in Field Artillery and Ordnance units of the University R. O. T. C. have enabled a total of 1,753 Sooners to receive reserve officers' commissions. This represents just about one tenth of all graduates of the institution.

Back in 1917, the United States Army discovered that the number of reserve officers was pitifully inadequate for an emergency. So after the World War the government encouraged the development of R. O. T. C. units in universities and colleges to train officers who would be quickly available in an emergency.

The results of this farsighted policy could be seen last month in Oklahoma newspapers, as headlines almost daily reported the calling of reserve officers to active duty—a large proportion of them graduates of the University of Oklahoma.

Reserve officers were called back to Norman to take over the work of military science instruction in order to relieve regular army officers for other work. Others were called to various army units to prepare for the great increase in man-power being planned for the army.

Students enrolling in the University of Oklahoma this autumn will find a wider field of choice for military training than has ever before been offered on this campus. Besides the customary training in



the R. O. T. C., the University will offer for the first time a four-year course in Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, to be directed by three graduates of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Basic flying instruction will be available to students under the Civilian Pilots' Training Corps, and courses in aeronautical engineering are offered by the College of Engineering. Work on the University's wind tunnel is being accelerated, and it is expected that there will soon be opportunities for aeronautical research work of considerable importance.

The University requires that each male student who is physically normal complete two years of basic military training. Students who desire to continue with advanced military science are then allowed to apply for admission and are chosen for advanced work according to ratio and qualifications set forth by the United States government.

This fall, upon request of the University and because there has never been a naval base in the Middle West, the campus will have one of the eleven Naval R. O. T. C. units now operated on college campuses.

The other ten units are located at Yale, Harvard, Northwestern, Georgia School

of Technology, the University of Washington, the University of California, Tulane University, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Minnesota and the University of Michigan. Tulane University, at New Orleans, Louisiana, has been the nearest unit to which men from this region could go for naval training.

Naval science will be offered as a four-year course, accredited by the University and adjusted to other curricula offered. Books and equipment will be furnished by the Navy Department, and courses will be planned in duplicate to those offered at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. One summer practice cruise on a combat vessel of the United States Navy will be required of each student who enrolls in the course.

Eighty freshmen will be admitted to the training this fall, to be chosen according to citizenship qualifications, physical fitness and mathematical aptitude.

These students will be in favorable position to gain appointments to the United States Naval Academy; they may be appointed to regular commissions in the Supply Corps and the Marine Corps of the United States Navy; they may be allowed entrance to the Naval Aviation

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base at Pensacola, Florida; or, upon graduation, they may become commissioned ensigns in the United States Naval Reserve.

Since the advent of the European war crisis, each of the larger ships in the navy fleet has been using two naval reserve officers, usually selected from units on university campuses.

Supervising the new naval program will be Dr. William Bennett Bizzell, president of the University; Capt. Robert S. Haggart; Lieut. Commander John L. Brown; and Lieut. Alexander M. Kowalzyk, Jr.

Not all military training in Norman is confined to R. O. T. C. work, for two active companies of the National Guard claim a portion of the students. Walter H. Kraft, superintendent of University Utilities, is commanding officer of Company C, 120th Engineers.

The national defense program also has influenced the short course program of the University. This summer the Extension Division and the College of Engineering sponsored an aircraft welding short course, aimed toward qualifying men to pass the welding test given by the United States Army.

Sixty of two hundred applicants were selected to take the first course which began July 22, nine days earlier than it was originally scheduled. Other applicants were considered again for a second welding course, which began August 20. Jobs in airplane factories awaited all men who completed the course satisfactorily.

Enrolment in the Civilian Pilots' Training Corps has had such wide popularity and success on the campus during the last year that plans for enlarging the airport near Norman, and applying for permission to enlarge the local program to include secondary training for aviators were being considered by the directors of the course last month.

Possible effects of the proposed draft of men for the United States Army on University enrolment was still a matter for speculation at mid-August.

Lieut. Col. Paul V. Kane, commandant of the University R. O. T. C., expressed belief that some special provision probably would be made for college men.

"Two years in a college R. O. T. C. unit, plus a stiff six-weeks summer camp that may be assigned in addition, would be about equivalent to one year's training in a selective draft," he said. "I shouldn't be surprised if the government in the future made military training compulsory in all the colleges, instead of in only approximately one-third of them as is now the case, and also made a strenuous summer camp compulsory."