

COAST ARTILLERY SCHOOL

Fort Monroe, Va. Oct. 25, 1918

FROM: Chief of Coast Artillery.

TO: Commandant, Coast Artillery School, Fort Monroe, Va.

Subject: Candidates for Officers' Course.

1. It is desired that report be made to this office as to the relative quality of the officer-material you are receiving from the various sources; i.e., the Students' Army Training Corps; by induction direct from civil life; and from the enlisted men of the various Coast Defenses.

2. It is particularly desirous that we receive a report on the class of candidates we are receiving from the Students Army Training Corps—their average age, qualifications, and in general, just what progress they are making in the Course.

By direction of the Chief of Coast Artillery.

G.E. Brigham,  
Colonel, Coast Artillery.

1st Ind.

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COAST ARTILLER SCHOOL, Fort Monroe, Va. Oct. 31, 1917 -- To the Chief of Coast Artillery, Washington, D.C.

1. Since October 1st, fifty-five percent of all the Candidates for the officers course have been from the S.A.T.C., thirty-one percent from the Coast Defense and the remainder have been inducted men.

2. There is but one company containing inducted men along with those from Coast Defense and S.A.T.C., that has been under way a long enough time to give accurate data for comparison. From the deficiency report of the company fifty percent of the failures to date, are from the Coast Defenses other than those of Chesapeake Bay - Forty percent are S.A.T.C. candidates, and the remainder were inducted.

3. In general, the type of men coming from Coast Defenses is an improvement over those received in previous camps, especially insofar as their preparation in mathematics is concerned.

4. The general status of the incoming S.A.T.C. men of October 12th and October 19th, was outlined in letters to you of October 15 and October 25. The failures in the preliminary mathematics this week was about thirty percent of those reporting. The correlation between success in this examination and future success in camp is so great that one can predict failure from failures in the examination. The burden of providing opportunity for mathematical review for these failures has fallen upon us.



5. In general, the S.A.T.C. candidates are young and immature. The average is nineteen, but the type depends on the section of the country from which the S.A.T.C. men come. Those from the North and West average sophomore college men. Those from the South on the whole are below average.

6. Although these men are from the S.A.T.C., there is no evidence that those who have come here to date have had any academic or military training this Fall. It is believed they have been sent here before they have had an opportunity for training and before any plan for testing their qualifications for our work were determined upon.

7. The inducted men can be divided into two groups: - (a) those inducted through the Communication Officer here, and (b) those from other sources. As a rule, it does not seem that those inducted through (b) are as high a grade as those selected through (a). In fact, we have had occasion to advise a number of those inducted through (b) to enter the Enlisted Men's Department. This they have done willingly on knowing the requirements for both departments.

R.R. Welshimer,  
Colonel, C.A.,  
Commandant.

Copies to be furnished to presidents of all universities and commandants of all Student Army Training Corps sending candidates to the Coast Artillery School.

R.R. Welshimer,  
Colonel, C.A.,  
Commandant.

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