

(Advance Copy)

C.b.10.

WAR DEPARTMENT
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPECIAL TRAINING

Special Descriptive Circular

GERMAN

The courses in German are designed for two purposes: first, to prepare the student-soldier for service in all active branches of the Army, and, secondly, to enable him to read scientific German in order that he may be better fitted for further study in preparation for technical branches of the national service. In preparing these recommendations, all other considerations than those just cited have been disregarded, and the methods which are emphasized below are intended to arrive at these results most quickly. Under the intensive system of instruction outlined for the S.A.T.C. every effort must be made to attain with the greatest practicable speed the two aims in view: on the one hand, as great a facility as possible in the use of spoken German, with a vocabulary of military value, and, on the other hand, the ready command of a technical vocabulary for reading. Since a large number of men will have only a short time in college, it is necessary to use every device for simplifying formal instruction in grammar, with a minimum of written translation of English into German. Even a slight amount of oral training in German may be at times of great value to military and naval units, and on this side, especially in the military courses, no effort should be spared to intensify the work and put the student-soldier in a position to make actual and practical use of all that he knows at any moment.

There are at the present time almost no books available which are adapted for the teaching of military German. Until this need is met, use must be made of such German military and naval works as are to be found in college and university libraries. By means of dictation, mimeographing of selected passages and similar devices, the student can be put in possession of such a technical military vocabulary as will supplement the more general material to be found in numerous college handbooks descriptive of German life and institutions. So many simple grammars and so many texts for scientific reading are already on the market and known to every instructor that it has not been thought necessary to specify any of these.

I. Elementary Course. (Three terms of twelve weeks each. Nine hours per week, including supervised study.)

It is suggested that this course be divided into two parts: Part 1 (two terms), and Part 2 (one term). The course is intended as a basic course for both the Military and Scientific groups. Since the mastery of a skeletonized grammar is a necessary basis for both, it is not advisable to divide these two groups of students in the first part. Wherever possible, however, it is desirable to form separate sections in Part 2, as indicated below.

PART 1. For those who have had no German.

Outline: Elementary forms, with especial attention to pronunciation. The development of a simple vocabulary should be begun as early as possible through the reading of easy material. Especial emphasis should be laid on the verb and pronoun forms and on the uses of the preposition, with the minimizing of other grammatical material.

PART 2. For those who have completed Part 1, as above, or those who have had one year of secondary school German or its equivalent.

Outline: Wherever possible, a differentiation should now be made between those students intended for active service and those seeking further technical study. For the military student, the vocabulary will include colloquial terms dealing with the family, food and drink, clothing, house, home, travel, personal intercourse, etc. This class of students should be taught to write the German script as a means of learning to read it. Every effort should be made to train the ear to German sounds, with the employment of the phonograph, dictation and other devices. For the scientific student, constant attention should be given to the cultivation of an essential vocabulary through reading, word lists, etc.

TEXTS: A brief grammar, with the elimination of all non-essential material; and a reader, in the selection of which the two groups of students should be borne in mind.

II. Intermediate Military Course. (Two terms of twelve weeks each. Nine hours per week, including supervised study.)

It is suggested that this course consist of two parts, and that both parts be given in each term.

PART 1. For those who have had the Elementary Course, as above, or two years of German in a secondary school or its equivalent.

Outline: Memorizing of idioms and word phrases, with constant insistence on the spoken word. The ear should be trained by dictation, conversational exercises and the use of the phonograph. Some exercise should be given in writing simple German as an aid to memorizing forms. The reading of German script. The reading of German prose fiction of military content. Study of an English-German "phrase book" containing military terms.

PART 2. For those who have had Part 1, as above, or three years of secondary school German or its equivalent.

A continuation of the work of Part 1, with constant exercises in conversation. Even in written work, the refinements of grammar must be sacrificed to rapid progress in mastering the essential vocabulary for military purposes. Further reading of works of fiction and of historical prose of military content for increasing the vocabulary and for extended practice is recommended.

The categories of words to be covered in this course should include the following: The individual (anatomically)—identity, clothing, and military outfit; family; vocations and occupations; arms of military service; prisoners of war; industrial and commercial concerns; merchandise

and materials; cities, with their physical and political features, names of officials, etc.; the open country—fields, farms, woods and common terms of topography; climate—meteorology, the weather (Centigrade and Réaumur systems); means of communication and transportation—postal service, telegraph, telephone, wireless, roads, canals, railways, automobiles, bicycles, airships and aeroplanes, ships of various classes, submarines, etc.; newspapers and periodicals; money; weights and measures (metric); sanitation and health—disease, drugs, medicines, wounds, hospital service, etc. They should also include the terminology of active field service, with translation of German military records, reports, orders and proclamations.

III. Intermediate Scientific Course. (Two terms of twelve weeks each. Nine hours per week, including supervised study.)

It is suggested that this course consist of two parts, both parts to be given in each term if practicable.

PART 1. Open to those who have had the Elementary Course (Course I) or two years of German in a secondary school, or its equivalent.

Outline: Reading from an easy technical reader, with a gradual advance to more difficult material. The acquisition of a simpler scientific vocabulary through the selection of material common to several branches of science, thus leading the student as quickly as possible from a basic vocabulary of common words into the simpler vocabulary of science. Some practice in word formation as an aid to learning a vocabulary.

PART 2. For those who have had Part 1, as above, or those who have had three years of secondary school German or its equivalent.

Outline: More difficult scientific material. In selecting materials for reading, attention should be given so far as possible to the scientific subject chosen by the individual student. By private, parallel assignments the efforts of the learner should now be concentrated on the special field of his chosen scientific work.

TEXTS: A carefully graded scientific reader. The works of popular writers on science, and scientific journals.

IV. Advanced Military Course. (One term of twelve hours per week. Nine hours per week, including supervised study.)

This course may alternate with the Advanced Scientific Course (Course V). It is suggested for those who have had the Intermediate Military Course, or four years of secondary school German or its equivalent and who can speak and understand the language with facility.

Outline: Emphasis to be placed on colloquial and spoken German from the start. Much practice in reading difficult German script. The vocabulary should be expanded to include the whole range of military terms, with trench warfare and fortifications, ordnance—various types of firearms—quartermaster's department, military signal and communication service, engineering and aviation. A study of the system and organiza-

tion of the armies of Germany and her allies. A study of German geography (physical, commercial and political) and of German public institutions. More difficult reading taken from historical (non-fictional) prose with a military vocabulary. The colloquial exercises should seek to embody material directly useful in training men for the interpreters' and intelligence services. Wherever possible it is very desirable that the reading of German shorthand be included.

When desirable, a section should be formed for the members of the naval unit.

TEXTS: Available material will have to be taken for the present, from current historical readers and from technical military works.

V. Advanced Scientific Course. (One term of twelve weeks. Nine hours per week, including supervised study.)

This course may alternate with the Advanced Military Course (Course IV). It is intended for those who have had the Intermediate Scientific Course, or four years of secondary school German or its equivalent.

Outline: The reading should, so far as possible, be specialized in those subjects to which the student intends to devote his technical study. The work should, therefore, be taken not merely from current scientific readers, but also from chemical, physical, electrical, biological, medical and other journals, with assignments for private and parallel reading from these and from works on those subjects. The student should be encouraged to extend his vocabulary immediately to include the materials, instruments, etc., with which he is in contact in the scientific classroom and laboratory, and every effort should be made to give him at the earliest possible moment a working vocabulary for his immediate scientific purposes and to develop this to include as large a range as possible of the fundamental terms of the science in which he is specializing and its related subjects.

TEXTS: One of the more difficult scientific readers. Technical journals and works.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPECIAL TRAINING,

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