

Dedicated, in the name  
of a grateful Soonerland  
to

Those Sooners who gave  
their all and as the badge  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA**

**IN**  
**WORLD WAR**

Edwin K. Wood

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PREFACE

Some day the true perspective will have been attained and the true and balanced story of the great conflict will be told. We of the present generation who it is our duty to tell, lead-

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PREFACE

Some day the true perspective will have been attained and the true and balanced story of the great conflict will be told. We of the present generation who knew the war - knew it in all its meanness and dross, its sorrow and dull, deadening blight; we who had our share as participants, in the forces "Over There" or in the camps of the homeland, in the armed ranks of the nation or as vitally interested spectators - contributing to the financial upkeep of the country - we shall have passed on, making way for the new generation. Our war-weariness will be succeeded by the lively curiosity of an unmenaced people and the efforts we put forth that freedom, democracy and decency should not perish, will be the pride of the future.

The reaction of our colleges and institutions - the way in which they met the challenge of the centuries, this will doubtless have a place in the future writer's narrative. Also, the new generations of college men will gather in the Memorial Halls of our colleges to pay tribute to the spirit of those gone on, those who gave their all that civilization might live.

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publications; to the Norman Transcript for a similar courtesy; to Roy Gittinger, Registrar, J.L. Lindsey, Financial Clerk, E.R. Kraettli, Secretary, and Dr. Guy Y. Williams, of the University of Oklahoma. Thanks are also due Brigadier General Markham and Major Earl Patterson of the Oklahoma National Guard, who turned the war record files over to the writer who owes them a deep debt of gratitude. Dr. E.E. Dale has ever been an inspiration and help in this compilation. To these individuals should be given the credit for anything of value contained herein; the writer is wholly responsible for errors of omission or commission.

CHAPTER I.Introductory: The Years Before 1917

Measured in terms of years the University of Oklahoma is an infant among the larger institutions of learning in the United States, just as the State of Oklahoma is a late comer among the proud sisterhood of commonwealths. Less than a year after the historic run of '89 when the pioneers poured into the promised land of undeveloped Oklahoma, it had been decreed that the children of the last frontier should enjoy educational advantages as extensive as could be provided for them in a new country and in the fall of 1892 a new university modestly began its career amid the uninspiring second story of a store building in the little town of Norman.

With four men for a faculty and a student body of some one hundred and twenty-five members minus the gothic architecture or the ived walls which glorified the ancient and famous schools of older communities, the early life of the new institution was a slow and difficult progression over a series of disheartening obstacles. The first degrees were granted in 1896 but it was not until the coming of the Twentieth Century that a real organization began to emerge. With a steady increase in enrollment going hand in hand with a physical growth in buildings and property, an esprit de corps was established among the student body which has never failed to lift high the morale of the institution.

In 1914 the University of Oklahoma presented the spectacle of a rather typical middle western state university, differing little from other such institutions of neighboring states, except in the rapidity of its growth and the - as yet - small enrollment as compared with those others. The enrollment for that year was approximately

a thousand, the total number of graduates including 1914 was about nine hundred. We of Oklahoma were a self-contented people in those days, busily engaged in building an empire of prosperity on the recently raw sod of the prairie, building a great school on the hope and faith of a loyal faculty and student body. Like State, like nation. America was still the great land animal; while the European volcano frothed and bubbled, emitting from time to time noxious fumes of malice, premature explosions presaging trouble and grief for the future, our people were oblivious. No ties we felt, bound us to the woes of another continent. Daily we gave thanks to the bordering seas nor did we "heed the rumble of a distant drum." All pacifists, we felt with our prophets of economic fact that modern war was a financial impossibility, an evil dream which the rising sun of the Hague Tribunal had banished from the minds and hearts of men.

Then came Sarejevo! How insignificant the causus belli seemed! The unpronounceable capitol of an unheard of province where an imperial prince was assassinated meant nothing to us. A flare in the papers for a day or so and the incident was forgotten. But a month later came the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia, followed by the declarations of war, then in succession the principal powers of Europe entered the arena.

Dazed and uncomprehending, our people witnessed a world gone to war. The enormity of the thing held us in awe; we had proved that such a thing could not be, yet it was. The general collapse of our prosperity reacted on the State Schools and seemed to threaten their growth. Our only hope was that no such gigantic slaughter could long continue and we looked forward to an early cessation of hostilities, but the boys were not out of the trenches by Christmas - the war went on into the new year. Slowly our prosperity returned with the floods of war orders, slowly our opinions crystallized. Be it said from the first the University

faculty and the student body were almost unanimously pro-ally; as the German struck down nation after nation and brought the western allies to their knees, the hopes of those allies became our own.

Whatever personal beliefs might be, the university was strictly neutral. Oklahoma is a democratic state and she would do nothing to embarrass the first democratic president since Grover Cleveland. Obey and back the President became the watchword. While the east grew hysterical for intervention, the west was content to follow the judgment of those in authority. The sinking of the Lusitania profoundly stirred the state, but the president made no move, and Oklahoma followed his lead.

Few in the Sooner commonwealth knew anything of war first hand, fewer yet, perhaps, in the university. The State Guard consisted of only one infantry regiment and a few other units. Two of the latter located in Norman, Company A, Engineers, and Company A, Signal Corps. At various times a good many students and some faculty members were enrolled in these units, and of course others had seen service in other guard outfits or attended schools giving military training, yet less than ten percent of the men of the university had ever had any military training of any nature whatever. Early in 1916, the Signal Corps was mustered out and the equipment turned in to the Adjutant-General. With the firing on Columbus, New Mexico, and the abortive chase after Villa, the national guardsmen of the various states were called to the Mexican border. About twelve university men went with Company A including the first lieutenant, Professor Guy Y. Williams of the faculty. Others joined various companies and went thru the hardening process of border patrol, but they were mostly discharged in time to re-enter the university in the fall.



Today we see the border experience as it was, a great experiment in mobilization, a pruning arrangement to trim the deadwood from the Guard and prepare officers and men for the sterner call soon to come. To that extent, those Sooners who went to San Benito, Texas, benefitted by the hardening and the taste of real army life, but the majority of students were not on the border and returned the raw, unprepared sons of a raw unprepared nation.

In this same year, 1916, Professor House of the Foreign Language Department joined the American Relief Commission, popularly known as the Hoover Commission, and from January to June served in Belgium, getting first hand information concerning the war. Upon his return he was much in demand for lectures, giving a number in different Oklahoma towns and thus aiding in fixing and crystallizing the rising war spirit of the people.

Then came the war year - 1917. Determined to crush England thru starvation, to cripple France and Italy thru stoppage of war supplies, Germany cast the die and announced an unrestricted submarine blockade of the British Isles. Our answer was the severance of relations. War was inevitable, America but waited for the overt act. A great wave of patriotism swept the nation, we were ready to face the foe. On March 28th, Ex-president Taft stirred the state by a great war speech delivered in the Auditorium at Oklahoma City. On March 29th, the First Oklahoma Infantry was ordered to prepare for mobilization. On April 1, mass meetings in all parts of the state declared "the time for temporizing is done.... the time for action is here." On April 2nd, President Wilson appeared before Congress and in his famous war message demanded a declaration of war against Germany.

On April 3rd, a patriotic rally was held in the Norman Opera House and President Stratton D. Brooks made the principal address to the eight hundred citizens present.

April 4th, at a special meeting of the University faculty, it was voted to give full credit for the second semester's work to all students of the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Fine Arts, the College of Engineering, the School of Pharmacy or the Graduate School, who should enlist in the armed services.

Upon the same day, April 4th, the Senate by a vote of 82 to 6, passed the war resolution as follows:

"Whereas, the Imperial German Government has committed repeated acts of war against the Government of the United States of America, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that the state of war between the United States and the Imperial German Government which has thus been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared; and that the President be, and is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on war against the Imperial German Government; and to bring the conflict to a successful termination, all the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States."

On April 5th the First Oklahoma Infantry was ordered to Fort Sill. On April 6th, after two days of incessant debate, the House of Representatives passed the war resolution at three in the morning by a vote of 373 to 50. America was in !

CHAPTER II.America Draws the Sword.

In the previous chapter the purpose has been to show as clearly as possible the state of unpreparedness, both mental and physical, which characterized the university and to stress the fact that the university was but typical of state and nation in this regard. Ex-secretary of War Baker said that he gloried in the fact that America entered the struggle unprepared. When one remembers the hopeless snarl of red tape which bound all initiative at the beginning of the War and when he recalls the duplications, the wasted effort, and the lack of plan or purpose or true understanding of the seriousness of effort needed, he will agree we were unprepared, but doubt the glorious aspect of the case.

However much one may regret the failures of the War Department to function properly, they are magnificently redeemed by the splendid response to the call to arms on the part of the college men of the nation, and what a task was exacted of the college man in 1917 and 1918. After three months training, he was expected to become a first class field officer, to lead his men with success against the best prepared nation military history records; or with a short post graduate course added, he was expected to perform the intricate and delicate duties of a staff officer as well as any German soldier of five years training. It was this centering of our entire military program upon the college trained man which makes his response to the country's call of so transcendent an interest. Had he failed or proved unworthy, no great American force could have reached France and successfully snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

One thing must be kept in mind. If we were slow to enter the war we were also slow in becoming orientated to our new responsibilities. The vast majority of people felt that America would not be called upon for any great contribution in man power; our allies would furnish the men while we supplied money and munitions of war. The recent disintegration of Russia was not understood, it was believed the Slav was merely discarding the encumbrance of Czarism in order to wage the war with greater effect and skill. Nor did we reckon with the utter war-weariness of the western allies or the vast and successful destruction caused by the submarines of the enemy.

The politicians were a unit in demanding that the old system of volunteering be adhered to. The cry of Colonel Roosevelt for the early dispatch of an expeditionary force to France was laughed at. The million men who were to spring to arms overnight according to Mr. Bryan, were unaccountably detained from the recruiting offices. Probably the fixation point in our war policy was reached in the latter part of April with the coming of the British and French War Missions. Both frankly informed our officials of the actual situation, in terms which rudely rent the roseate veil we had erected. The old victor of the Marne, Joffre, pleaded for the immediate dispatch of American forces to the front. The result of the frank warnings was immediately apparent in President Wilson's firm stand for a conscription Law, and the designation of fourteen war camps for the training of civilian officer material.

During this temporary period of vacillation now happily dispelled by the representations of the Allied War Missions, Oklahoma University had prepared for a real war. Reference has been made to the action of the faculty in allowing credit to those students who enlisted and war talk of President Brooks' has been noted. On April 9th a mass meeting was held by the girls of the

school and under the leadership of Marian Brooks steps were taken to form an auxiliary of the Red Cross. # One hundred and sixty girls were organized in first aid and home nursing classes by the last of April. ## On April 10th the entire membership of the class of 1917 (Medical) took their final examinations preparatory to a call to the colors. All had placed themselves upon the reserve list for war service and were accepted by the government. ### Upon the same date over forty men came to Oklahoma City from the University and enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard. ####

It might be well to mention here that no unit of the Guard was now stationed at Norman, Company A, Engineers, having been mustered out and dissolved February 17, 1917, upon its return from the border. Thus there were to be no distinctive units appealing to school pride to fill their ranks as was the case at the majority of colleges, and those who enlisted from the University of Oklahoma had to take the step more cold-bloodedly and upon their own initiative.

April 11th was a big day in the Sooner preparedness schedule. Let us quote from the news dispatch to the Oklahoman of April 12th:  
 "Students in the University of Oklahoma came to the colors in a mass meeting Wednesday afternoon when, by a unanimous vote of virtually the entire male student body, they made military training compulsory for every man enrolled in school, abolished athletics for the rest of the year and made arrangements for training just as stringent as

- # Oklahoman - April 11th, 1917.
- ## Oklahoma Magazine - May-June Number, 1917.
- ### Oklahoman - April 11th, 1917.
- #### Oklahoman - April 11th, 1917.

would be provided by the War Department itself if the men should enlist now.

Dr. Guy Y. Williams, Professor of Chemistry who was a First Lieutenant in Company A, Engineers, of the Oklahoma National Guard, on the Mexican border was elected Colonel of a skeleton regiment that will be organized and Coach Ben G. Owen, famous as a football mentor was elected Lieutenant-Colonel after he made a talk to the students, declaring that to continue athletics training for pleasure was foolish when every man had a man's job for the nation before him.

The Student governing body will see that every student takes training."

Dispatch to the Oklahoman of April 15th...  
.....the University of Oklahoma is being transformed from an ordinary college..... into a military camp with everything else subordinated to work that will make the one thousand men attending the state university better equipped to enter active service.

More than fifty Sooner students have already answered the call and joined one of the military organizations open.....

The Hospital Corps of the Oklahoma National Guard, Troop B Cavalry (also a Guard outfit) and the navy are the three departments most favored.

.....  
A skeleton regiment has been formed with headquarters and regular machinery of a military organization.....

President Stratton D. Brooks has already wired to War Department Officials asking for arms and if possible a regular army man to take charge of the student work."

Drill was held for the first time April 16th and 17th by the new outfit and a schedule adopted providing for an hour and a half of drill on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, while Tuesday and Thursday were reserved for lectures on Military Tactics.#

About the same time the Intercollegiate Intelligence Bureau thru Ervett R. Newby, Secretary-Registrar of the university, was sending out a flood of questionnaires to all students and graduates designed to secure information of their special talents or training, which might be at the nation's service.##

April 24th, President Brooks was appointed a member of the Oklahoma Council of Defense and on April 26th a member of the State Food Commission. On April 30th he went to Washington where he represented Oklahoma at a meeting of the Federal Trade Commission, National Council of Defense and National Committee Boys Working Reserve. He returned home on May 8th.### On May 17th, he was appointed Chairman of the Sciences and Research sub-committee of the State Council of Defense and a member of the sub-committee on publicity.####

With the opening of the recruiting offices on April 25th for the R.O.T.C., Oklahoma students rushed to join. Out of a total for Oklahoma in the first camps of only 300 men, the University furnished 118 candidates.#####

All this time the fight had been raging at Washington over the volunteer plan of conscription, the majority of Congress favoring the former plan for raising men, the administration the latter. On April 26th a poll of male students in the university showed them unanimous for the con-

# Oklahoma, April 18th.  
 ## Oklahoma, April 22nd.  
 ### Oklahoma, May 9th.  
 #### Oklahoma Magazine - May-June 1917.  
 ##### Oklahoma Magazine - May-June 1917.

scription method, tho they would practically all be liable to call. #

The University Regiment had been organized as we have seen and drilled with perseverance until its disbandment on May 11th. It consisted of twelve companies, nine infantry of eighty men each, a medical detachment of thirty-five, a signal corps of one hundred sixty and an engineer company of forty, making a total of nine hundred fifty-five men. ##

On May 18, Pershing was ordered abroad with the first expeditionary force and from this moment may be dated our real participation in the war.

# Oklahoman, April 27th.

## Oklahoma Magazine, May-June, 1917.



CHAPTER III.The Armed Services.

When the last shot was fired, and war-weary combatants stacked arms on that momentous morning in November, 1918, twenty-three hundred and four stars graced the folds of the service flag of the University of Oklahoma;# twenty-three hundred and four Sooners had dedicated themselves to the grim task of staying the autocratic rush of Kaiserism run amuck, had given themselves to break the midnight of hate and bestiality, to hasten the coming of the sun of a new to-morrow.

Not all of these were in the fighting branches of the service; some were in the Y.M.C.A. and kindred war service movements, many were in the reserve and were not called for active duty, while many others were in Training Corps unit established at the University.##

In the present chapter we shall discuss the contribution made by the University in furnishing man-power for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. As we have seen, the first reaction of the people upon our entrance into the war was one of bewilderment, succeeded by a feeling of undue optimism expressed in terms of much flag-waving but little rifle-bearing, in a rush to hear the "spread-eagle" orators tell what our forefathers had done in the past and prophesy glorious things for the future, rather than a rush for the recruiting offices to make those prophesies come true. We were perfectly willing, in fact throly anxious, to see the world made safe for Democracy, but we were obsessed by the notion that our principal role was that of spectator, cheering for our team of course, but never venturing over the sidelines.

# See Victory Sooner, or War Memorial.

## This number, 2304, is approximate.

If the coming of the British and French missions and their plain statement of the need for American troops on the front had opened the eyes of officialdom, the dispatch of the Pershing expedition at least partially opened those of the general public. The result officially had disclosed itself not only in the sending of the Pershing expedition to France, but in the irrevocable stand of the administration for the selective service or draft method of raising the majority of the forces needed. Unofficially, there was a reaction toward real "win the war" plans and a decrease in the "hurrah" type of "let George do it" patriotism.

Withal, the general situation seemed favorable enough. Spurred by our entrance, it seemed, the French made a great effort in the Chemin des Dames region, the British forces captured Vimy ridge and overran the blown out crater of once impregnable Messines, while the Russian forces again menaced the Eastern front. But everywhere stark disaster met the Allied effort. The Russian front disintegrated, her army became a rabble, her government under Kerensky fell and Lenine and Trotsky with their cohorts took her out of the war. The British offensive slowed down and finally halted, bogged by the mud of Flanders and held by the really excellent German defensive. The French offensive under Nivelle was of sky-rocket duration, for the moment a brilliant success, it was speedily stifled, carrying the commander into oblivion.

The sinister thing back of these failures was that national spirit was at low ebb in all the Allied countries, the will to fight, to resist was at the breaking point. Treachery was rampant in high circles and the viciousness of party politics was all too apparent. Especially was this true in France. The Chemin des Dames offensive was stopped not only because of the ghastly toll of casualties, ill as bleeding France could suffer

such losses, but primarily thru political interference and personal animosity aroused against Nivelles. Traitors, like Bolo Pasha, plied their arts almost openly and the Government shrank from a contest with them. Britain was suffering from loss of man-power, the Irish problem was baffling and serious, her high command in France seemed unable to secure a flash of genius, but led her youth to slaughter in the hopeless campaigns of Flanders and the Somme.

In the meantime, how pitifully slow the time of American training seemed. The officers training camps were opened in May, the graduates were commissioned about the first of August. In the meantime the first registration of men from twenty-one to thirty was held in June, and the cantonments were rushed toward completion for their use. The National Guard moved to the mobilization camps in June and July, the camps being merely tent cities as their locations were in Southern States where climatic conditions would not be severe. In September, the first draft moved to the cantonments. All men from Oklahoma and Texas were sent to Camp Travis, located at San Antonio, Texas. By October we had a nucleus of forces in France but the A.E.F. was a very small affair, indeed. The First Division was present en toto, the units of the Second were about all assembled as was the major part of the Twenty-Sixth. The Forty-Second was in process of arrival. In addition some ten regiments of engineers - mostly railway - several medical units, and a few airmen in addition to the Lafayette Escadrille were on hand. Altogether less than a hundred thousand men and we had been in for a half-year.

Then Caporetto brought a dismal year to a dismal close. With the rest of the Allied line held firm, the Italians had been making real progress against the Austrians in the slow fight for Trieste and Italia Irredenta. But the Russian debacle had released the Austrian forces from the East front, and they massed against the Italian advance.

A powerful German reinforcement was added. A great artillery concentration was made, shells - especially mustard gas - were plentiful. Then the most proficient pupils of Wilhelmstrasse were sent to clear the way. Wives and mothers of Italy were urged to write loved ones to desert the front. The services of supply were meddled with and disarranged. Finally, floods of propaganda were used to destroy the front line morale and the Italians were told the war was over and they might go home. The result was a catastrophe of nearly fatal proportions. One army was totally destroyed, two others were virtually annihilated, half the artillery was lost, approximately a quarter of a million prisoners were taken. Finally, the rout was halted at the Piave but only thru the aid of strong French and British reinforcements from the weakened lines in France. The third ally on the western front had suffered failure and her people, too, were ready to give up the fight.

By the beginning of 1918 five complete American divisions were in France, the Forty-first being added to the others. But two of these had seen any service, elements of the First and Second having entered the trenches in quiet sectors for training with the French. Our supply and troop schedule were far from efficient, due partly to bad management at home and also to the inefficiencies of the S.O.S. of the A.E.F., but more than anything else to the viciously successful submarine campaign of the German navy which scored heavily during 1917 in spite of the sending of many of our available destroyers to Europe under Vice-Admiral Simm's command. But by 1918 the ratio of destructiveness was decreased. This was due partly to the building campaign which replaced ships faster than the Germans could destroy them, and partly to the American reinforcement which enabled the Allies to adopt the convoy system and in time to establish the North Sea mine barrage, as well as to assume an offensive upon the sub, hunting it out with microphones and destroying it with depth bombs.

Steadily during the last of 1917, and the first months of 1918, the German Armies of the East were transported to the Western front. From a numerical inferiority, the German forces increased to a number nearly double that of the Allies. The old German leaders of the West front were superceded. Too long on the defensive, their places were taken by the men who had crushed Russia, men thoroly imbued with the offensive spirit. To oppose them were the Allied leaders, men imbued with the theory of trench warfare only, content to assume a defensive position. The French and English troops were no longer taught the use of the rifle, their instruction was in terms of hand grenades and other weapons used in trenches. From the first General Pershing had realized this disintegration of the fibre of the allied soldiery and had insisted upon the thoro training of the American forces in marksmanship and the use of the bayonet, for it is an inviolable axiom of warfare that the defense accomplishes nothing, and Pershing looked forward to the day of the Allied offensive, if victory were to be obtained. For the same reason he refused the Allied requests that American forces be used as replacements for their Armies. Fearing the corroding effect of the trench spirit upon our men, he insisted upon the creation of an integral American Army, and achieved his ends in spite of heart-breaking obstacles and discouragements.

In view of the conditions behind the lines in England and France, in view of the lassitude of their soldiers and the inadaptability of the officers, finally when the disproportion in numbers is taken into consideration, the successes of the Germans in the spring of 1918 are easily accounted for. The wonder is not that they did so much but rather that their success was not complete. Striking the British Fifth Army on March 21, the lines were ripped asunder. A complete break thru was accomplished. Ten, twenty, thirty miles the hordes of the Kaiser pushed into Northern France.

The raw Fifth Army was no more. They had been wiped out virtually to a man. The advance was finally stopped, not so much thru the Allied resistance as thru the incapability of the supply services to keep up with the advance.

Scarcely had the German advance been stopped in Picardy, when another offensive was launched in the North. Picking the weak point in the line with almost Napoleonic skill, the new effort was directed against a section held by a Portuguese Army Corps. The latter was speedily demoralized and broken and another heavy loss suffered by the British forces. At this time Pershing made his celebrated offer of American forces for the Allies and urged a unification in the command. He was taken at his word. The First American Division was rushed to the Montdidier sector, and the others held in readiness.

At last the issue was made clear to all. It was a race between Germany, striking her final blows in an eleventh hour attempt to win the day, and still holding the superiority in numbers, and America, laggard at first but now pouring such a stream of men into France as the world had never seen. Would we get there in time? The combined sea power of the Allies was virtually turned over to us. Ruthless priority was given infantry and machine gunners, the leaks in the dyke of the West must be closed.

Again Germany struck. The hard-won French position on the Chemin des Dames was overrun almost in a moment's time. Again the gray-clad enemy was on the Marne. To Chateau Thierry went the motorized seventh machine gun battalion of the Third Division to bar the crossing of the Marne. In the wheatfields before Belleau stretched the thin line of forest green which marked the Fifth and Sixth Marines. In the north the Twenty-eighty Infantry of the First Division launched our first offensive and captured Cantigny. In the south the Twenty-Sixth Division held its own at Slicheprey. When the Germans attempted to

widen the salient south of Soissons the French held. Then came the attempt to push on toward Paris, and the spectacular stand of the marines who immediately counterattacked and took Belleau Wood, while their comrades of the Second Division were taking Vaux and the Third was holding at Chateau Thierry.

On July 14 was launched the last German offensive. Smothered to the east of Rheims by the French forces aided by the Forty-second Division, the advance went over the Marne to the West but was held in a vise by the magnificent stand of the Third Division - "The rock of the Marne." By this time, a million American troops were in France. The deeply indented salient in the German lines before Chateau Thierry invited attack. But there were no more shock troops in the Allied Armies, trench warfare had ruined them for the time being, besides, few could be spared from the lines. The only appreciable force in reserve was American. We had done well on the defense, were we capable of the offensive? Foch, the new generalissimo, hesitated; Pershing urged the qualities of his men. Finally, the decision was made.

On July 18th, the First and Second Divisions with the First French Moroccan, drove with the thrust of an arrow, and the strength of a battering ram into the sensitive side of the salient. It was irresistible. Retreat sounded for Germany and from this moment her every movement was backward as every allied army took up the chase. July 18 is the turning point of the World War and America turned the trick. It would be redundant to tell of the rest. Of the clearing of the salient, the forcing of the Ourcq and the Vesle, St. Mihiel, the Meuse-Argonne. Suffice it to say that November 7, the day our advance brought the artillery into play on the Carignau-Sedan four track railway, that day Germany applied for an armistice.

The foregoing has been written not with the idea of telling the full story of the War, but in order to emphasize the Supreme part played by America in the closing days of the struggle, a part impossible without the contribution of our colleges and universities of their students and alumni to officer the armies upon which all depended in the last emergency.

To the fighting forces of the nation - Army, Navy, Marine Corps, - those in actual active service at home and abroad, the University of Oklahoma furnished 1139 men. Of this total, 972 served in the Army, 147 in the Navy, and 20 in the Marine Corps. It is interesting to note that of this number, 885 volunteered, while 254 were drafted. That is, about 77 2/3 percent enlisted. # These figures are not given with any idea of making invidious comparisons, for all did their duty equally well, but simply as historical data. Of the total of 992 men in the army and marine corps, 444 served overseas, 548 on this side, making a percentage of about forty-five for those in the A.E.F. Of this total number, 1139, 487 were commissioned officers, making a percentage of approximately forty-three, a very high average. The number of officers serving in the Army was 468, in the Navy 16, in the Marine Corps 3, making a percentage in each instance of forty-eight, ten and fifteen.

The various ranks attained were as follows:

Army and Marine Corps

Navy

Lieutenant-Colonels - - - - 4	Lieut-Commanders - 1
Majors - - - - - 11	Lieutenants - - - - 2
Captains - - - - - 60	Lieut. (Jr. Grade) - 3
First Lieutenants - - - - 199	Ensigns - - - - - 10
Second Lieutenants - - - - 197	

# Files of the University and Adjutant-General's Department.



It will be seen that the highest rank attained was that of Lieutenant-Colonel. In regard to the greater number of first rather than second lieutenants, which seems improbable at first glance, it may be explained that this interesting variation is perhaps due not only to promotions, but more especially to the number of medical officers, the lowest rank in this branch being first lieutenant.

Those in the army were in the following number in the various branches: Machine Gun, 28, Signal Corps, 38, Engineers, 78, Tank Corps, 4, Quartermaster, 57, Artillery (both Coast and Field), 160, Air Service 142, Medical Corps (including nurses), 215, infantry 222, all other branches or departments, 28. The number and percentage for each arm of the service in the A.E.F. is as follows: Machine Gun, 18, 64%; Signal Corps 19, 50%; Engineers, 43, 55%; Artillery 74, 46%; Tank Corps, 3, 75%; Quartermaster 21, 37%; Air Service, 51, 36%; Medical Corps 104, 48%; Infantry 93, 41%; all others 13, 46%. #

The officers in each branch with the percentage follows: Machine Gun, 8, 28%; Signal Corps, 12, 31%; Engineers 25, 32%; Tank Corps 4, 100%; Quartermaster 20, 35%; Artillery 93, 58%; Air Service 75, 53%; Medical Corps 99, 46%; Infantry 121, 54%; All others 11, 39%.

Sooners were among the personnel of most of the divisions of the A.E.F. Of the right regular divisions of the A.E.F., namely the First to Eighth inclusive, all but the Sixth had Sooner representation. Among the National Guard divisions, overseas, - Twenty-sixth to Forty-second - only four were without representatives of Soonerland, these being the Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Thirty-third and Thirty-eighth. The University was not

#Information from the files.

quite so well represented among the National Army divisions tho even with these out of a total of eighteen, only five were unrepresented. The greatest number, sixty-seven, served in the Thirty-sixth Division, Oklahoma and Texas National Guard. The next largest group was that of the Ninetieth Division - Oklahoma and Texas draft troops - with forty-six. A close third was the Eighty-seventh division with thirty-eight.

The divisions with the number in each are given below:

Regular	National Guard	Nat'l. Army.
First- - - 6	Twenty-Sixth- - - -1	Seventy-eighth-- 3
Second- -- 4	Twenty-Seventh- - -1	Eightieth- - - - 3
Third- - - 6	Thirtieth- - - - -1	Eighty-first- -- 2
Fourth- -- 2	Thirty-first- - - -3	Eighty-second- - 1
Fifth- - - 4	Thirty-second- - --6	Eighty-third- -- 2
Seventh--- 5	Thirty-fourth- - -13	Eighty-fourth- - 1
Eighth- -- 6	Thirty-fifth- - -- 1	Eighty-sixth- -- 5
	Thirty-sixth- - --67	Eighty-seventh--38
	Thirty-ninth- - -- 5	Eighty-ninth- -- 5
	Fortieth- - - - -- 2	Ninetieth- - - -46
	Forty-first- - --- 3	Ninety-first- -- 1
	Forty-second- - -- 8	Ninety-second- - 1
		Ninety-third- -- 2

(#)

It will be seen that the history of the A.E.F., expressed in terms of the combat divisions is also the history of the part played by Oklahoma University men in the War.

#: Information from the files - very difficult to obtain.

## CHAPTER IV.

### Civilian Work.

In the World War, as in every other great struggle, there were two fronts to be considered, a home front as well as a battle front. We have seen how seriously the Allied cause had been menaced during 1917 by collapse of this home front in England and France and more especially in Italy. In 1918, with the destruction of the German home front, the whole cause of the Central powers was lost. It was, then, the primary motive of the civilian workers to keep up our courage here in America, to make civilian morale equal to that of the armed service. Some, of course, in the various welfare organizations would devote their energies toward work with the troops or the navy. In any case the idea was the same, the perpetuation of a state of confidence and well-being, both among soldiers and civilians, and the fixation of their belief in the righteousness of the country's aims and the installation of a burning desire to sacrifice all if necessary in order to achieve victory.

We have seen the start made in the spring of 1917 toward civilian organization at the University, thru President Brooks' appointment to the State Council of Defense, and the beginnings of local Red Cross work. In July, President Brooks was made Federal Food Administrator for Oklahoma, a position he retained until April 22, 1918. During this time the offices were located at the University, twenty employees being required to handle the volume of work transacted. During virtually the entire war period, Dean Roy Gittinger served as Chairman of the Cleveland County Council of Defense, Professor Guy Y. Williams, being a very efficient member of the unofficial "strong-arm squad" maintained by the council.

One of the finest achievements was the use of the Extension Department for the dissemination of thoughtful and worthwhile war propaganda. Over five thousand citizens of the State were reached thru this department, while scores of "three minute men" and others were aided in composing their oratory thru material loaned by the department. At the same time special correspondence courses were offered with an especial appeal to the men in service, hundreds utilizing them in studying for commissions or for general information. The French course was especially popular. In addition the University furnished special instructors of French for several of the camps or cantonments, both for direct instruction and for the organization of classes. # A series of lectures was also given at Ft. Sill by six members of the faculty, each individual giving full time for a week. ## This was arranged under the general head of the War Aims course. The latter was a special course of study given under the direction of Professor Foster with the object of giving a clear insight into the history and causes of the War and our obligations to our Allies. The curriculum at the University was thoroly overhauled, courses not directly applicable to war needs being abolished, and new ones substituted where desirable.

Along this line may be cited the courses in stenography and typewriting which were stressed from the desire to fit students for work in Governmental departments at Washington, as well as to prepare them to assume the clerical duties of men in the service. The department of agricultural education stressed food production and carried the message all over the State. The director, J.W. Bridges, was made Assistant Regional Director of the United States School Garden Army for Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado.

# Prof. House directed the French work at Camp Doniphan.

## These men were Profs. Dale, Foster, Buchanan, Floyd, Phelan, and Cheadle.

Many members of the faculty served the Government in other capacities during the War, as with the Federal Trade Commission, the Bureau of Standards, the Naval Academy, and the War Department. In the fall of 1917, the University conducted courses in orthopedic surgery for medical officers. Generally speaking, the entire Red Cross work of the County, from first to last, was under the direction of the wives of faculty members. Incidentally, the faculty and student body subscribed fifty thousand for Liberty Bonds, and donated twenty thousand to the various war welfare groups.

Sixteen men of the University served in the Army Y.M.C.A. during the War. Of these, four were across, the others serving in the camps on this side. One man, turned down at the First Officer's Training Camp because of physical disability, joined the Y. and was sent to France where he was successful in winning a commission in the Air Service. Another, Frank Wyatt, took a very prominent part in promoting and managing the Interallied Games at Paris and was later retained by the Government and given a Major's commission thru his development of the massed play movement among the wounded at Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C. One individual served with the Friends war relief agency in France under the supervision of the Red Cross.

It may be stated as an incontrovertible fact, that no organization or agency did more to keep up the morale and spirit of the people of Oklahoma than did the State University. While Sooners were taking care of the Front in France, their brethren at home were making a magnificent record in caring for the needs of the Home Sector.

CHAPTER V.Training Men at Oklahoma University.

When America entered the War in the spring of 1917, apparently no one in official circles gave a thought toward the conservation of the college student bodies. In fact, the reverse was true. College men were in demand by every branch of the service. Many of the best students enlisted in the Guard at the first call and served in the ranks thruout the struggle, altho of excellent officer material. Others joined the regulars and they, also, frequently remained in the ranks. With the dawning realization on the part of officialdom that our participation in the War would require a tremendous Army for service overseas, came the equal realization that an inexhaustible supply of officers must be obtained, for it was realized that Russia's collapse and failure was to a great extent due to the loss of her regular officers, whose places could not be filled. Furthermore, the splendid results obtained at the First Officers' Training Camps had demonstrated that the college-trained man was the logical officer candidate.

At once an appeal was sent out, signed by President Wilson, urging all men then in college below draft age to remain at their studies. Having issued this appeal, the Government again subsided. But young America is not accustomed to scan a textbook while a fire is in progress and here was a world conflagration. So those of tender years continued to wend their merry way to the recruiting offices, while the Government did nothing to prevent.

The real steps to stop this highly undesirable exodus were taken by the University and college men themselves, aided and abetted by the executives of the various institutions. We have

read of the organization of the University regiment shortly after War was declared and learned of its functioning as a voluntary unit until disbandment shortly before the close of the spring semester. This work was continued during the summer session, most of the students enrolling. That it was still in no way considered a unit in the national effort but instead a sort of play, is indicated by the fact that most of the women enrolled that summer were enthusiastic members, doing the wrong things with prodigious energy. By the beginning of the fall semester, order and system were evolved. Drill was made compulsory for all first and second year men and six companies, comprising four hundred and ninety men were organized. At the same time, units of the Engineer and Medical Enlisted Reserve Corps were organized among those students, the first comprising thirty, the latter forty men. This arrangement was in effect all during the school year of 1917-1918.

The work was under the general direction of Professor Terrell of the Engineering college, and was carried on with the approval of the Government, but with little aid therefrom. It was not until June, 1918, that the authorities determined to make use of the facilities at the University. At this time a Vocational Training School was established, four hundred and sixty men being trained in three units as wireless operators, auto mechanics, and general mechanics. Before the War was over some five hundred and ten men had received this training at Oklahoma. It should be explained that these were largely men obtained thru the draft and sent here for this special instruction.

Finally, on October first, the Student Army Training Corps was established here. The idea is clear enough. Very few, indeed, expected the War to end in 1918. It was expected a spring and summer campaign would be necessary in 1919, before

Germany could be crushed, and in that campaign America was expected to do all the work, since France and England had thrown in virtually their last reserves already, a huge American force of four million men was projected in France by June of 1919. Under these conditions the Government's desire for officers is easily understood.

The collegiate section of the S.A.T.C. numbered 1173. It was composed only of men eligible for college work. Included in this total was a naval unit of 82 men, made up largely of young boys who had enlisted in the Navy late in the summer or early in the fall of 1918, and were returned by the Navy for further training and aging. Also included were the members of the enlisted reserve corps previously referred to. The unit was placed under the command of Captain Fred C. Bachman and some eighteen officers were detailed by the Government for this work. Most of them were young college men only recently commissioned at Ft. Sheridan, just as a number of Oklahoma students were similarly commissioned and sent to S.A.T.C. units of other schools. In spite of the flu epidemic, the work was pushed with vigor until the armistice, when enthusiasm for things military died a sudden death. The unit was disbanded on December 21st.

In the meantime, 110 students too young to enter the S.A.T.C., were given similar training by Professors A.J. Williams, Guy Y. Williams, and Soutar.

Though started at too late a date to accomplish anything during the War, the S.A.T.C. movement was a forward step on the part of the nation and as the progenitor of the present collegiate R.O.T.C. must be regarded with great respect.



## CHAPTER VI.

### After the War.

With the increasingly rapid discharge of service men after the Armistice, there seems to have been a general disposition on the part of former students to return to the University and finish their interrupted courses. The majority were out of the service by the late spring of 1919, and a good many were enrolled in the Summer School that year, while many more entered that fall. The returning students found that the University had made giant strides during their absence. A very rapid increase in enrollment had been registered from about 1912, and this record had been maintained during the war years in spite of the large number in the service. Physically, the plant had been enlarged to nearly double capacity by the completion of four new buildings and the rearrangement of others. Aesthetically, the campus had been beautified until it presented one of the prettiest college settings of any in the land. From this time to the present, the University has been expanding with giant strides in an effort to keep abreast of the rapid growth of the State and the needs of the youth of Oklahoma.

The newly re-entered students, fresh from the battlefield or camp, were not at all dulled by their period of service. Of those in the A.E.F., over half had either attended some one of the numerous universities of England and France which opened their doors in a hospitable welcome to American students, or had attended the A.E.F. university at Baume, or various divisional and area schools. As an example may be cited Lieutenant John O. Moseley, at present a member of the faculty. Appointed a Rhodes Scholar before our entrance in the War, he had given up any idea of utilizing this prize and had secured a commission in the first Officer's Training Camp at Ft. Logan H. Roots. Assigned to the Supply Train of the

Thirty-second Division, he served thruout the War with this unit but in the spring of 1919 was detached and allowed to enter Oxford at once. Staying until the spring of 1920, he returned to the University of Oklahoma that fall, but returned to Oxford the next summer and secured degrees of much worth. This individual experience is given because it is typical of the desire for completion of collegiate work which animated very many Sooners in the days succeeding the War.

One of the members of the faculty, Professor E.E. Dale of the History Department, brought great honor upon himself and reflected glory upon the University by his work for law and order during the Boston Police Strike, a phaze of the radical and Bolshevistic movement which menaced our country in the immediate post-war period. Professor Dale, then on leave of absence at Harvard for the purpose of securing his Doctor's degree, was one of the first to answer the call of a stricken city, cowardly deserted by its defenders and lying helpless before the predatory designs of the denizens of the underworld. When the mayor of the city, the Governor of the State and the President of Harvard called upon Harvard men to preserve the honor of the Old Bay State, this Oklahoman stepped into the breach and with the pitifully few others, sternly upheld the honor of Boston and thru it of the State and Nation, and did his share to bring order out of the chaos of the impending "red night." Upon his relief, Dr. Dale found himself famous and the University of Oklahoma was proud to appropriate some of the glory for her own.

With the demobilization of the S.A.T.C. in December, 1918, it seemed to many that the Government and the people had once again forgotten all the lessons learned during War-time and would again be compelled to improvise officer material in the event of another war. But the lesson had

been well learned and in February, 1919, a unit of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps was established here. The first commander was Colonel Armistead who was soon succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Baehr and the latter in turn by the present commandant, Major Gruber. The policy has been to have an artilleryman for Commander as this is a higher branch of the service than the infantry. Up to the present time, only these two branches have been represented. Should the officers and men of the unit realize their ambition and be granted an honor rating, as seems probable, several other arms of the service will be represented in the future.

The object of the course is to qualify students for commissions in the Officers' Reserve Corps of the United States Army. Uniforms and other equipment are furnished by the Government, which also details the officers and a number of enlisted men for the training and also for the custodial care of the valuable property used by the unit. Besides uniforms and personal equipment, rifles are provided for the infantry, while a number of guns, horses, motor trucks, automatics, etc., are provided for the artillery. A large and commodious Armory is used for the offices and for the storage of most of the equipment. This training is compulsory for first and second year men not over twenty-one, unless they have seen an equivalent amount of service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or a recognized school, and are not excused for athletics or for physical disability. Advanced students who take more than the required work are paid a small amount by the Government and with the addition of summer camp work are eligible for commissions in the active service.

The R.O.T.C. puts the Government's complete stamp of approval upon the wartime record of our colleges and the officers whom they furnished, and definitely bases the future upon the college man as the ideal officer material.

When all is said, however, our greatest post-war contribution has been in the line of training vocational students. These men, wounded or otherwise disabled in the service, are given training toward the realization of their general or professional aims, at selected schools of unquestioned character thruout the nation, and it is a matter of pride that Oklahoma so readily meets the exacting governmental standards. The expenses are borne by a grateful government for which these men sacrificed health and position.

The first contract entered into between the University and the Government for this instruction was dated September 3, 1919, and provided they were to be enrolled in regular classes at a charge not to exceed regular tuition rates or fees; the Federal Board to pay in addition all charges for books and other student supplies; bills to be paid at the close of semesters; those withdrawing or compelled to leave, to be paid for on the basis of their actual attendance.#

A second contract went into effect June 2, 1921, which substituted a flat charge of fourteen dollars a month to cover every school charge or requirement.## The third contract, April 24, 1922, under which the school is now operating, is merely a duplication of the second.###

The number of students trained at the University under these provisions is as follows: Second Semester, 1919-20, 49; Summer 1920, 46; Year 1920-21, 95; Summer of 1921, 48; First semester, 1921-22, 102; Second semester, no record; first semester, 1922-23, 90; second semester, 1922-23, 85. It will be seen that an average of about eighty vocational students per semester have been in attendance.

# Contract of Sept 3, 1919.

## and ### See contracts of these dates.

Altogether, some notable things have been accomplished by the University in healing the scars of the last conflict, and, also, in providing against future unpreparedness.

... were attempted to show that the United States' participation in the World War is found in epitomized form to be the history of Oklahoma University in and during that War. Starting slowly and gradually, unorganized, unprepared, with only a false promise and with little real understanding of the nature of the war before us, the country slowly awoke to its great mission. Like a giant newly aroused from slumber it carefully gathered itself together until the great crisis came, and then launching forth, it tried to save the day, and change the world's destiny. No more dramatic episode in the world's history from Thermopylae to the Battle of Stalingrad. Like the tiny pebble which in the ancient legends were our ancestors, the pebble started rolling toward the sea.

No people change, no race in all history can ever equal that race in the spring and summer of 1918 between the waning night of Kaiserism and the freshening night of the great democracy beyond the seas. How near, how dimly near the Allied cause was to disaster in 1917 and 1918, it is even yet hard to grasp. How many "ifs" abound in our contemplation of the drama. If we had been one month later, if shipping had not been found, if the subs had stopped for even a week the mighty engine across the seas? Who knows? On July 10, America started the tidal wave of history, on November 7, with the attack upon Sedan Germany fell to her knees, on November 11, the armistice was signed as two great offensives were forming to hit Metz.

## CHAPTER VII.

### Summary and Conclusion.

In the previous pages we have attempted to show that the broad history of America's participation in the World War is found in epitomized form to be the history of Oklahoma University in and during that War. Starting slowly and gradually, unorganized, unprepared, with many a false premise and with little real understanding of the nature of the task before us, the country slowly awoke to its great mission. Like a giant newly aroused from slumber it carefully gathered itself together until the great crisis came, and then launching forth, arrived in time to save the day, and change the world's destiny. No more dramatic epic in all the world's history from Thermopylae onward has been witnessed. Like the tiny pebble starting on the distant hillside were our early days; like the crashing roar of the pebble started avalanche was the part we played toward the end.

No steeple chase, no race in all history can ever equal that race in the spring and summer of 1918 between the waning might of Kaiserdom and the freshening might of the great democracy beyond the seas. How near, how dismally near the Allied cause was to disaster in 1917 and 1918, it is even yet hard to grasp. How many "ifs" abound in our contemplation of the drama. If we had been one month later, if shipping had not been found, if the subs had stopped for even a week the mighty exodus across the seas? Who knows? On July 18, America started the tidal wave of victory, on November 7, with the attack upon Sedan Germany fell to her knees, On November 11, the armistice was signed as two great offensives were forming to hit Metz.

The manpower of the University responded in time to the great heart-throb of the nation. It was in the late fall of 1917, and the spring of 1918, that we furnished our greatest number of recruits just as those were the times the country had most need of them. By July of 1918, 882 were in the service, # the other 250 odd fell in line thereafter.

To summarize we can do no better than quote from the Victory Sooner of 1919: "The University of Oklahoma was a real 'win the War' institution for more than eighteen months.

From April 6, 1917, until November 11, 1918, the University participated heart and soul in the world movement to abolish those famous twins, Kaiser and Kultur, from the face of the earth.

An enviable record was established along nine distinct lines. These were:

1. Furnishing man-power for the Army.
2. Maintaining a Student Army Training Corps on the campus.
3. Maintaining vocational training unit on the campus.
4. Maintaining Oklahoma food administration for nine months.
5. Furnishing war lecturers and material for war speakers.
6. Lending members of faculty to government for special war work.
7. Training medical officers in orthopedic surgery.
8. Offering special courses to prepare students for military service.
9. Keeping up the morale of the people thru current events study contests." ##

# University of Oklahoma Bulletin--Biennial Report, 1916-1918, page 10.

## Victory Sooner, 1919, page 28.

It will be interesting at this point to compare Oklahoma's record with that of other schools of this and neighboring states.

University of Oklahoma.

1. Total number in service	2304
2. Actively engaged	1139
3. In the Army	972
4. In the Navy	147
5. In the Marine Corps	20
6. Collegiate Section, S.A.T.C.	1173
7. Killed or died in service	24
8. Wounded	37
9. Y.M.C.A. service	16
10. Officers	487
11. D.S.C.'s awarded	4
12. A.E.F.	444
13. Highest rank attained-Lieut.Col.	
14. Infantry	222
15. Artillery	160
16. Engineers	78
17. Air Service	142
18. Medical Corps	215
19. Signal Corps	38
20. All others	117

Oklahoma A.&M. College. #

1. Total number in service	1438
2. Actively engaged- -not differentiated	
3. Army	not differentiated
4. Navy	not differentiated
5. Marine Corps	not differentiated
6. S.A.T.C.	not differentiated
7. Killed or died in service	27
8. Wounded	no information
9. Y.M.C.A. service	no information
10. Officers	no information
11. D.S.C's.	no information
12. A.E.F.	no information
13. Highest rank	Lieut.Colonel.

\* No detailed information

# Victory Redskin, 1919.



## University of Tulsa.

Only information available--126 in service.#

## Phillips University. ##

1. Total number in service	244
2. Actively engaged	138
3. Army	105
4. Navy	7
5. Marine Corps	3
6. S.A.T.C.	106
7. Killed or died in service	7
8. Wounded	1
9. Y.M.C.A. service	12
10. Officers	20
11. D.S.C's.	---
12. A.E.F.	35
13. Highest rank	---
14. Infantry	105
15. Artillery	5
16. Engineers	---
17. Air Service	3
18. Medical Corps	3
19. Signal Corps	1

## Kansas State Agricultural College. ###

1. Total number in service	2138
2. Actively engaged	1400
3. Army	1140
4. Navy	200
5. Marine Corps	60
6. S.A.T.C.	738
7. Killed or died in service	44
8. Wounded	---
9. Y.M.C.A. Service	---
10. Officers	438
11. D.S.C's.	---
12. A.E.F.	---

13. Highest Rank- -Major-General.

No further detailed information.

#Letter of March 19, 1923, from Pres. J.M.Gordon.

##Questionnaire - returned by Pres. McCash.

###Questionnaire returned March 13, 1923, by Registrar.

## Kansas University.

1. Total number in service	3000
2. Actively engaged	3000
3. Army	2600
4. Navy	300
5. Marine Corps	100
6. S.A.T.C.	3400
7. Killed or died in service	128
8. Wounded	---
9. Y.M.C.A. service	---
10. Officers	about 20%.
11. D.S.C's.	---
12. A.E.F.-	55%
13. Highest rank - - - Brigadier-General.	
14. et seq. Not given. #	

## University of Colorado.##

1. Total number in service	1812
2. Actively engaged	756
3. Army	---
4. Navy	---
5. Marine Corps	---
6. S.A.T.C.	1056
7. Killed or died in service	45
8. Wounded	---
9. Y.M.C.A. service	---
All civilian activities	400
10. Officers	---
11. Decorated or cited	15
12. et seq. Nothing further given.	

## University of South Dakota.###

1. Total number in service	790
2. Actively engaged	410
3. Army	292
4. Navy	81
5. Marine Corps	37
6. S.A.T.C.	380

# Questionnaire from Alumni Secretary.

## Questionnaire from Acting Registrar.

### Questionnaire.

7. Killed or died in service	7
8. Wounded	9
9. Y.M.C.A. Service	-
10. Officers	30%
11. Decorated or cited	5
12. A.E.F.	116
13. Highest rank - mpt given.	
Special Honor - 1 Congressional Medal of Honor.	
No further information.	

## Southwestern College, Winfield.

1. Total number in service	370
2. Actively engaged	277
3. Army	255
4. Navy	15
5. Marine Corps	7
6. S.A.T.C.	93
7. Killed or died in service	16
8. Wounded	--
9. Civilian work	10
10. Officers	62
11. D.S.C's.	--
12. A.E.F.	120
13. Highest rank - Lieutenant-Colonel	
No further information. #	

## Missouri School of Mines, Rollo.

1. Total number in service	555
2. Actively engaged	440
3. Army	373
4. Navy	60
5. Marine Corps	7
6. S.A.T.C.	115
7. Killed or died in service	9
8. Wounded	15
10. Officers	193
9. Y.M.C.A. service	22
11. D.S.C's.	5
12. A.E.F.	130

# Questionnaire.

13. Highest rank - Brigadier-General.		
14. Infantry	118	
15. Artillery	51	
16. Engineers	120	
17. Aerial service	33	
18. Medical Corps	10	
19. Signal Corps	5	
20. All others	36	#

## University of Iowa. ##

1. Total number in service	3000	(over)
2. Actively engaged	1326	(over)
3. Army	----	
4. Navy	----	
5. Marine Corps	----	
6. S.A.T.C.	1674	
7. Killed or died in service	81	
8. Wounded	--	
9. Y.M.C.A. service	--	
10. Officers	1000	(over)
No further information.		

## Friends University ###

1. Total number in service	218
2. Actively engaged	195
3. Army	160
4. Navy	17
5. Marine Corps	6
6. S.A.T.C. (No S.A.T.C. 23 in other units.)	
7. Killed or died in service	6
8. Wounded - No information.	
9. Y.M.C.A. and Friends Services	12
10. Officers	15
11. D.S.C's.	--
12. A.E.F.	60
13. Highest rank - Major.	
No further detailed information.	

# War Record Bulletin, issued January, 1920.

## Questionnaire.

### Friends University Bulletin- November 1, 1918.

From the foregoing data it may be seen clearly that the University of Oklahoma, in proportion to its student body and alumni, ranks on a parity with any other college or university of the middle west in its contribution of man-power to the nation. Every institution of higher learning in the land did its "bit" during the crisis. As repeatedly emphasized, if this had not been the case, our supreme effort in the crucial times of 1918 would have been an impossibility. So there is no disposition to claim for the University of Oklahoma any honors beyond those of other schools except as they may have been demonstrated above. We were merely young America - all young America, - and we met the call as youth everywhere met it, in a spirit of noble obligation. When youth in the Allied countries grew weary and faltered, the sons of the democracy of the West rushed to bolster the falling line - to carry on until the ideals they had absorbed amid the environs of peaceful campuses were triumphantly implanted as the hopes of a universe.

In one feature, indeed, our University seems to have a pre-eminence. This is in the percentage of commissioned officers to the total of those in active service. Oklahoma with forty-three percent commissioned may be contrasted with Phillips with fourteen percent, Kansas Agricultural College with thirty percent, Kansas University with thirty percent, South Dakota with thirty percent, Southwestern with twenty-two percent, Missouri School of Mines with forty-three percent, and Friends with less than one percent. This large proportion may be attributed first to the splendid training and curriculum of Oklahoma, and second, to the redoubtable pioneer Sooner spirit. The same push which carried their fathers into the raw new country of the Southwest and builded a state in a span of years, evidently operated to carry them toward dominance and leadership.

No Sooner received a Congressional medal of Honor for his bravery in France, but four were granted the Distinguished Service Cross, while a number of French medals were granted. The four to be honored with the Cross were: Captain Meade Frierson, Jr.; Captain Elmer Heard; Lieutenant W. Ross Gahring; Sergeant George C. Abbott. Their citations follow in order:

"Meade Frierson, Jr., Captain 125th Infantry, (32nd Division). For extraordinary heroism in action near Sergy, France, July 31, 1918. He was continually at the head of his company in the attack on Hill 212, near Sergy, and was constantly exposed to the terrific enemy fire while leading his men forward. After the objective had been gained and the men had dug in on the crest of the hill, he remained on watch the entire night, constantly patrolling his company sector under the heavy rifle, machine-gun, and artillery fire from the enemy's lines. He was later killed while on a hazardous reconnaissance in the vicinity of Juigny, France." #

"Elmer Heard, Captain, 360th Infantry, (Ninetieth Division). For extraordinary heroism in action near Le Grande Carre Ferme, France, November 1, 1918. After all other officers of his company had been wounded, Captain Heard remained in command, though he had himself been severely wounded and was suffering from illness, courageously leading his men throughout two days and nights of severe fighting." ##

"W. Ross Gahring, first lieutenant, 28th Infantry (First Division). On May 28-31, 1918, at Cantigny, France, he was severely wounded by machine-gun fire shortly after successfully leading his platoon to its objective. Notwithstanding this, he remained on duty for nine hours, thereby setting a brave example for his men." ###

# Official Publication, War Department, 948-page 688.

## Official Publication, War Department, 948-page 588.

### Official Publication, War Dept. 948, page 369.

"George C. Abbott, sergeant, Company A., 357th Infantry (90th Division). For extraordinary heroism in action near Feyen en Haye, France, September 12, 1918. He saved the life of a soldier who was directly under the fire of an enemy machine gun by rushing the gun, killing the gunner, and capturing the gun. His gallant conduct inspired the men of his platoon to continue the advance." #

In every great cause it seems necessary that some must be a sacrifice. It is with sadness we call the roll of our dead, those who gave their lives in the great struggle - martyrs for their country. Twenty-four of Oklahoma University's best sleep the good sleep, conscious with Saint Paul of having fought the good fight, of having kept the faith, and we the living shall ever honor their memory and keep it fresh, ever enshrined in our hearts.

Of these our dead, nine were killed in action, two died of their wounds, two were killed in accidents, one died of an operation, ten died of disease, mostly the flu. The name, unit, rank, place and date of death is given below:

First Lieutenant George R. Anderson, Battery E., 102 F.A., 26th Division, A.E.F. Killed in action, July 22, 1918 - Chateau Thierry.  
 Second Lieutenant Walter H. Drew, 141 Infantry, 36th Division, A.E.F. Killed in action October 9, 1918, St. Ettiienne.  
 Corporal Wesley F. Grube, Company D., 7th Engineers, 5th Division, A.E.F. Killed in action October 14, 1918, Cunel in Meuse-Argonne.  
 Corporal Charles B. Milam, Hdq. Co., 358 Infantry, 90th Division, A.E.F. Killed in action, October 24, 1918 - Grand Carre Farm, Meuse-Argonne.  
 Private Arnold J. Rasmussen, Med. Det., 357 Inf., 90th Division, A.E.F. Killed in action October 30, 1918 - Bantheville, Meuse-Argonne.

#Official publication, War. Dept. 948, page 583.

Second Lieutenant Dick B. Breeding, 167 Infantry, 42nd Division, A.E.F. Killed in action July 29, 1918 - Chateau-Thierry.

Private Robert E. Alexander, Co. A., 358 Infantry, 90th Division, A.E.F. Killed in action September 12, 1918 - St. Mihiel.

Private Samuel J. McAdams, Co. L., 142 Infantry, 36th Division, A.E.F. Killed in action October 8, 1918 - St. Etienne.

Captain Meade Frierson, Jr., 125 Infantry, 32nd Division, A.E.F. Killed in action, August 29, 1918 - Juvigny.

Private Wakefield Revelle, 656 Aero Squadron, Air Service, A.E.F. Killed in accident December 1, 1918 - Paris.

Second Lieutenant Charles S. Price, Air Service, killed in accident February 23, 1919, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas.

Sergeant Fred L. Allen, Company B., 30 Engineers, Gas and Flame, A.E.F. Gassed October 2, 1918 - Died of effects October 15, 1918 - Charpentry, Meuse-Argonne.

Private Lonnie L. Lyon, 111 Engineering Train, 36th Division, A.E.F. Died of wounds, November 20, 1918 - Base Hospital #25.

Sergeant Edward Hardin Davis, 472 Engineers. Died following operation for appendicitis, August 15, 1918, Washington, D.C.

Lieut. Commander John M. Kates, Navy, instructor at Annapolis. Died of influenza January 8, 1919, Annapolis.

Corporal Lewis H. Isle, Air Service, died of heart failure, March 14, 1918, Sedalia Missouri, enroute home from a port of embarkation.



Eloise Eagleton, Student Nurse, died of influenza-pneumonia, October 19, 1918, Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas.

First Lieutenant Henry G. Adams, Medical Corps, 41st Division, A.E.F., Died of spinal meningitis, September 25, 1918 - Zone of advance.

Sergeant Homer Stocking, 165 Depot Brigade, Camp Travis, Texas. Died of influenza-pneumonia, October 15, 1918 - Camp Travis.

First Lieutenant Benjamin G. Jones, Medical Corps, Camp Stuart, Virginia, died of influenza October 17, 1918 - Camp Stuart.

Captain F.B. Sorgatz, Med. Corps, Fort Bliss, Texas. Died of influenza, October 5, 1918. Fort Bliss.

Major Robert L. Hull, Medical Corps, San Francisco. Died of influenza, October, 1918 - Laternan General Hospital.

James D. Avery, S.A.T.C., O.U. Died of influenza December 9, 1918.

Louis B. Sutherland, S.A.T.C., O.U. Died of influenza, November 4, 1918.

"It is with special pride that the University considers its war record. For a generation there have been from time to time questions as to the utility and desirability of a university education. But when the nation faced the period of greatest need it was to the colleges and universities that the first appeal was made. The responses of college men and their success is the best demonstration of the efficiency of training provided by the American educational system." #

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Alumni Files.

Victory Sooner Files.

Complete files, Adjutant-General's office.

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