

U. S. INFANTRY' = AND CAVALRY
SCHOOL.

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, September 12, 1888.

General:

I have the honor to submit for the information of the Major General commanding the Army the annual report of the Infantry and Cavalry School, which includes the first year's course of the present class, commencing September 15, 1887, and ending May 31, **1888.**

This being the *first* year's experience in the new curriculum, also the first year's trial under the new regulations for the school, it affords me pleasure to report good progress in the former, with success in administration under the latter.

The commandant of the school, as well as some of the instructors for duty here, have given their best thoughts in formulating a course of study, the theoretical and practical knowledge of which could not fail to be of service to the progressive military student. In the performance *of* this duty many obstacles presented themselves, as the subjects sent to the school for instruction are selected from the graduates of the Military Academy, from appointments from civil life, and the promotions from the ranks; hence it was impossible to establish a purely post-graduate course.

The one most needed should be adapted to the capacity and comprehension of all who would study and apply themselves to it, at the same time to be sufficiently advanced to require application and study

from any of the subalterns of infantry and cavalry who may from time to time be detailed to the school.

The course for the last year was as follows:

September 1 to September 15: Practical instruction in the ceremonies (guard-mounting, parades, reviews, inspections), each arm separately and then combined.

September 15 to October 29: Theoretical course in infantry tactics (school of the soldier, battalion, skirmishers.)

Student officers detailed to companies for practical instructions in the various drills.

September 15 to October 29: Theoretical instruction in cavalry tactics (school of the trooper, company and battalion, and skirmishers); practical instruction at drills.

September 15 to November 21: Theoretical instruction in minor tactics; orientation; functions of the three arms; advanced guards; reconnoitering; attack and defense of infantry; attack and defense of cavalry; attack and defense of the three arms; rear guards.

In this course the following problems were solved in the section rooms on a large scale (6 inches to 1 mile) map containing topographical features in colors; time occupied in the movement of troops; space occupied by troops on the march; space and time required for marches and formations; advanced guard opposing an advanced guard; posting of outposts; infantry strong patrol against infantry advanced guard; small cavalry patrol and point of infantry advanced guard; infantry combat; engagement of two infantry patrols; cavalry combat; squadron against troop; the three arms combined, engagement of two forces; rear-guard holding advanced guard.

Mondays, during the autumn months, were devoted to practical field exercises, applying the principles of minor tactics, in the country and in and about Fort Leavenworth, to a distance of from 10 to 15 miles. In these exercises the student officers and the companies, of the garrison took part; the enemy was usually represented by a force of a greater or less strength. Student officers with each column were required to make rapid reconnaissance sketches (with colored crayon) of the country passed over, with

written reports giving required information, and the sketches and reports were required to be submitted a few hours after the end of each exercise. The exercises were made to conform as far as possible with a supposed real situation in war, and were under the direction of the instructors of infantry and cavalry.

November 22 25, 28, 29 and 30: Oral examinations in infantry tactics, cavalry tactics and minor tactics.

1st Lieutenant F. D. Sharp, Twentieth Infantry, deficient in minor tactics.

November 1 to February 24: Practical and theoretical instruction in military topography. For instruction in topography the student officers were divided into sections, and those who developed a lack of knowledge of mathematics sufficient to pursue the course in topography were reported from time to time by the instructor and formed in a section of mathematics, and afterwards resumed their course in topography.

From December 1 until December 21, and from January 4 to February 2, the course in military law.

February 6, 7 and 8: Oral examination in military law.

1st Lieutenant J. D. Sharp, Twentieth Infantry, deficient.

February 12 to April 5: Theoretical and practical instruction in hippology.

February 20 to May 31: Course in modern tactics, consisting of recitations, lectures and problems. The problems were solved on a large scale map, representing a varied country (topographical features, contours, and artificial features in conventional colors). The problems consisted of a general situation, giving the general zone of operations, the supposed position of the enemy, and of friendly troops, and the general plan. Special ideas were then worked out by the student officers, each with a designated force, a special plan, and keeping in view the proper relation between the forces engaged and the terrain; all orders received and issued being given in writing, and each operation of a combat or march being described in detail.

February 7 to May 21: Theoretical and practical instruction in military surveying.

April 24 to May 24: Completion of the course in infantry tactics (school of the brigade, marches and camps.)

April 24 to May 4: Completion of the course in cavalry tactics (evolutions of the regiment and brigade, marches and camps.)

May 5 to June 1: Theoretical instruction in bits, biting and saddling.

June 1: Written examination in military surveying and topography, (Examination questions).

June 2: Oral examination in infantry tactics.

June 3: Written examination in cavalry tactics.

June 4, 5 and 6: Written examination in modern tactics.

The following-named officers were declared deficient at the examination in June in the following studies:

1st Lieutenant W. O. Cory, Fifteenth Infantry, military topography and surveying; 2d Lieutenant R. R. Stevens, Twenty-third Infantry, military topography and surveying; 2d Lieutenant S. R. II. Tompkins, Seventh Cavalry, military topography and military surveying; 2d Lieutenant S. M. Hackney, Sixteenth Infantry, military surveying; 2d Lieutenant J. II. Duval, Eighteenth Infantry, military surveying; 1st Lieutenant W. S. Scott, Twenty-fifth Infantry, military surveying and modern tactics, 2d Lieutenant T. II. Wilson, Second Infantry, infantry tactics, surveying and modern tactics.

No reasonable excuse for their deficiency can be offered by the student officers who failed to pass their June examinations. In most instances, devotion to social pleasures, neglect, idleness, and a lack of proper appreciation of the seriousness and dignity of the military profession are the causes for this want of success.

There should be a penalty attached to such conduct; for officers who have not taken advantage of the opportunities presented to them for instruction and improvement at the school will, when returned to their regiments, evince the same neglect and indifference to duty there that has characterized their conduct during their tour at the school.

I am pleased to report, however, that the above remarks apply to but few of the present class.

I would respectfully recommend that instruction in the Spanish language be given at the school. Should Saturday mornings be utilized for this instruction and practice, I am convinced by personal experience that under the Meisterschaft system a working knowledge of this idiom can be gained by all officers on duty here who will apply themselves to this interesting work, at the same time not interfering with other studies of the school,

The Manual of Field Artillery, Brackenbury series, by Major Sisson C. Pratt, R. A., has been adopted as a text-book at the school.

It is respectfully recommended that paragraphs **10** to 11, school regulations, be carried out to the letter, in order that candidates for admission may have a year to prepare for their entrance in the school.

When the last class reported for duty it was found that eight of them were married, some with children.

Four of these families are now quartered in a few rooms of McPherson and Thomas Halls, very uncomfortable, but little privacy for ladies, and almost without conveniences for health; no modern improvements in their apartments.

Were all the officers present belonging to companies for duty at the school there would be great discomfort produced by crowding families into quarters, one above the other, in common halls, in some building.

Crowding produces discomfort; discomfort breeds discontent: with discontented subjects the best work cannot be obtained.

On account of this great necessity, I urgently recommend that \$20,000 be allotted to the post of Fort Leavenworth for the erection of ten additional cottages, small but comfortable, for the use and occupation of student officers who are married and have their families at the post.

In order that intelligent and progressive instruction can be had in the cavalry department, the immediate creation of a drill shed is deemed of pressing necessity; this shed to be used in teaching officers how to ride and instruct in their profession, also biting and training horses. Drill of the trooper, platoon and troop can be carried out in winter months.

A drill-shed of less dimensions is much needed for the use of the infantry companies of the post for drill, exercise, etc., during winter and the soft months of spring and autumn, when all outside is covered with snow, slush or mud, making it impossible to do work on the outside with any degree of comfort.

It is also requested that the officers on duty at the school as instructors be not detailed away from their assigned duties. During the past year the instructor in charge of the department of the art of war and infantry, also the instructor in charge of the department of cavalry, were ordered from the school, one in January, the other in March of same year.

The latter instructor is still absent on a tactical board, and it is not known when he can return; the duties of the former are efficiently performed by Major Jacob Kline, Twenty-fourth Infantry.

Were there sufficient quarters at the post, some special instructors from the Army at large would be asked for, which would improve the condition of the school.

There should be a professional library at the school, containing books of reference not to be found in the ordinary library. The secretary of the school has made a commencement in this direction.

This school should be placed before Congress upon the same basis as the Artillery School at Fort oe.

The sum of \$5,000 should be appropriated by Congress each year, especially for the use of the school, and to continue until the appliances of a military university are secured.

The present infantry and cavalry school can now be considered as crystalized, and with proper appropriations, with the support and fostering care of the Major-General commanding the Army, will grow to

-the dignity of a valuable war college, of which this great nation may justly be proud.

I have no further recommendations as to the course of study or change of regulations, preferring to subject both to another year's trial.

The success attending the school at the present time is due in a great measure to the intelligent assistance of the school staff, and to the fidelity and devotion to duty of First Lieutenant O. L. Hein, First Cavalry, the secretary of the school.

The duty of the latter has been arduous and constant, and to him am I personally and officially indebted for valuable assistance in bringing the school to its present status.

Enclosed please find reports of the proceedings of the school staff during examinations in the different subjects ; the individual reports of the instructors of the art of war and infantry, of the departments of cavalry, law, and of military engineering and surveying, all of which is respectfully submitted.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A, McD. McCOOK,
Colonel, Sixth Infantry,
Bvt. Major General, U. S. A.,
Commandant.

Adjutant General, U. S. Army,
Washington, D. C.