

WEST POINT CADETS RECEIVE TRAINING AT LANGLEY FIELD

ARRIVING by Army transport at Fortress Monroe, Va., from West Point, N.Y., on June 12th, were 352 Cadets of the Class of 1933 at the United States Military Academy. This class of students was divided into three contingents, one of which was temporarily stationed at Langley Field, Va., for instruction in Air Corps tactics. The second group proceeded to Fortress Monroe, Va., for the purpose of studying the rudiments and principles governing the employment of Coast Artillery weapons, while the third group, going to Fort Bragg, N.C., conducted their annual firing of Field Artillery weapons. Each of these contingents remained at their respective stations for a period of one week and then alternated stations.

At Langley Field, the Cadets had the time of their lives, the mornings being devoted to flying and ground classes, with the objectives of demonstrating to the students what part the Air Corps takes in the scheme of National Defense. Various missions were performed, among which were included message dropping, road sketching, fire adjustment, navigation, night flying and a tactical ride in a 30-ship bombardment formation.

Upon the arrival of the Cadets at Langley Field, Colonel Roy C. Kirtland, Commanding Officer, conducted an introductory lecture, and following this the men received their initial flight, followed by classes in machine gunnery, bombs and bombing, and radio - all the essential factors incident to the week's training at Langley Field for the Academy students.

Five Air Corps officers from West Point, Major H.R. Harmon in command of the unit, 1st Lieuts. T.A. Sims, J.M. Weikert, R.E. Randall and 2nd Lieut. D.F. Meyers, were stationed at Langley Field to supervise the training of the Cadets. Social and recreational activities played as large a part as did the training of the Cadets, and numerous athletic and social events as part of the program daily served to make the training of the students more enjoyable. Swimming parties at Fort Monroe beach, boating at the Hampton Yacht Club, and informal dances at Langley Field made up the social features for the Cadets, while tennis, polo and golf were the athletic activities in which all participated, as well as in other major and minor sports which were included in the recreation program.

The training received by the West Point Cadets at Langley Field proved unusually popular, as approximately 50% of the students expressed their desire to join the Air Corps branch of the U.S. Army upon their graduation in June, 1933. In closing the training on July 2nd, a final demonstration was scheduled to be held at Langley Field, with all the ships participating, as well as others from Edgewood Arsenal, Md., to be ferried down for this special occasion. Smoke screen demonstrations and aerial formations were to constitute a prominent part of the review, also a combined maneuver of Bombardment, Attack and Pursuit tactics as a grand finale to the three weeks' training of the West Point Cadets at Langley Field.