

WHAT THE COLLEGES OF ILLINOIS ARE DOING FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE

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The accompanying table furnishes a general picture of the ways in which the colleges and universities of Illinois are cooperating with the war program. The picture, however, is not complete. There is no report from some 14 other colleges where war-connected activities are likely in progress. Also most of the schools which have reported are carrying on a variety of activities hardly classifiable under the general heads chosen.

As may be expected the three larger universities of the State, also the technical and engineering schools, have been carrying on large war-connected programs for some time. Also the universities in particular have supplied many staff members for technical and confidential governmental research. Research work for the branches of the military service is now being engaged in actively by teaching and research staff members. Both on and off campus the University of Chicago estimates that 80 per cent of all research now carried on is specifically directed toward some war end, 232 members being so engaged. Here at the University of Illinois the department of physics has granted leaves to Professor Loomis, the head of the department and to 6 of its principal men to carry on a highly technical program of research in the East, all of which has been in progress for over a year. Also the department of chemistry at Illinois has a number of men similarly engaged on very important research projects related to the war for various departments of the government. Professor Roger Adams is now serving as chairman of division B (chemistry and chemical engineering) of the National Defense Research Committee. In addition to such service as this, the Universities have furnished a large number of staff members and students who have gone into military service, most of them as volunteers. Northwestern University reports 43 faculty men and 161 students plus an additional 42 men

scheduled to leave with the hospital unit number 12, February 15.

Most of the military units are in the universities only, such as R. O. T. C., Signal Corps, Coast Guard, Meteorological Institute (at Chicago, one of five in U. S.) and Naval Aviation. However, it is to be noted that an R. O. T. C. Unit has been functioning in Knox College for some time, also a volunteer unit using the R. O. T. C. manual has been working at Shurtleff College which is near Western Military Academy also in Alton, Illinois. Also training with sea planes is in progress at Carthage College. Civilian pilot training is or has been carried on in many of our small colleges. The Bradley Polytechnic Institute, have had a ground school and flight training program in operation for some time.

War time courses of one kind or another are to be found in practically all of the colleges. It should be pointed out in this connection that the elementary courses in physics, chemistry and mathematics which have long been a part of the regular curricula furnish very valuable background training for all branches of the military service. ESMDT courses have been offered in profusion by the universities and many of the technical schools. These courses are offered either on the campus of the institution where they are organized or are given as extension courses in surrounding areas, such extension courses being in charge of industrial trained men or instructors in nearby colleges. At the University of Illinois, for example, there are now 24 such extension courses involving a total enrollment of 3,600 students. These courses are taught in centers distributed throughout the State. Other courses are in process of being organized. At Northwestern University there are 24 ESMDT courses with an enrollment of 1,500; at the University of Chicago there are 18 courses with an enrollment of 1,100. At Bradley Polytech there are 900 stu-

dents at present enrolled in ESMDT courses, also there are 1,500 students enrolled in a separate vocational industrial program. It is expected that next year a 24-hr. round schedule will be in operation. At Illinois institute of technology there are 60 courses now being taught with such typical enrollments as 30 or 40 per course. It is noteworthy to note that at this Institution courses are being organized for training women for the industrial plants in the Chicago area. At Shurtleff College there are 18 ESMDT courses with a total enrollment of 600. All courses of this kind are for the most part non-credit courses taught by instructors in many cases at night or out of class hours as overtime, and are taught to students outside the regular college or university enrollment. It would appear that this total program of courses, pointed towards training for specific war aims, represents the greatest single contribution that the colleges and universities are making toward the war-preparedness program.

There are a number of courses that are either regularly taught in the curriculum or have been recently added which are of distinct service to the war program as, for example, radio, electronics, meteorology, and navigation. Of particular interest is a three-year radio course now organized in the physics department at Eastern Illinois Teachers College at Charleston. This course is being offered at the expense of certain other courses dropped temporarily from the physics major.

There are many other ways in which the colleges are contributing to the war program, as for example, the Southern State Teachers College at Carbondale. The college has loaned to the community for half-time duty, a director of the Civilian Defense Council, also another for coordinator of War Activities in the area acting as liaison officer between the different civic and political organizations in the area and the local ordinance plant. Another member of the faculty is chairman of the rationing board; still another a member of the local draft board. Similar contacts have been reported in other colleges.

In many cases where a college is near an industrial or war-production plant various mutually beneficial contacts have

been established. Members of the college staff may serve in advisory capacities for plant operations or men in the plant may serve as instructors in vocational or in ESMDT courses at the college. Modified credit courses may be offered which are pointed directly towards the training of students for work in the local plant and many of the graduates and undergraduates go into the plant as civil service inspectors, etc.

A summary of activities on our local campus will serve as typical illustration of what has gone on apparently in most of the colleges of the State. For the past year a college defense committee has been developing possibilities for war connected activities in which the College could function. A regular College representative has also been appointed to serve as general liaison officer between the College and surrounding areas. Under this set-up the following things have developed or are in process of development. (1) A committee on Civilian Morale has administered a program of training discussion leaders. Up to now these leadership training programs have been set up in 25 centers serving about 900 persons. The materials used at these meetings have been endorsed by the U. S. Office of Education. Requests for them have come from Western Teachers College, University of Illinois, University of Kansas, and Columbia University. (2) The College was one of the first to be accepted for the V-1 program. (3) A plan with the Great Lakes Naval Training Station under which groups of 300 men are to be sent to the campus for training periods is under consideration. (4) Several special courses are being carried on or are being arranged. (a) Visual Education materials (University of Illinois, supervision) (b) First Aid (c) Public health and Sanitation (University of Illinois) (d) Fundamentals of Radio (ESMDT) (e) Foundations of Engineering (ESMDT) (f) Lathe Practice and Map reading. (5) The Social Science Department has conducted a winter series of lectures and forums for the past several years. This year this Department has brought in other members of the faculty for discussions of topics pertinent to the war emergency. (6) The college has cooperated with the local town officials in the promotion of trial blackouts, also in an air raid warden emergency course

TABLE I

School	Civilian Morale Program	R.O.T.C. V-1 C.P.T.	Other Military Units	E.S.M.D.T. Affiliation Vocational	New or Modified Courses	Phys. Ed. Program Increased	Accelerated Schedule
1. University of Chicago..	yes	1000 V-1 yes	Signal Meteor. Coast G.	18q(1100)	yes	yes	4 quarters
2. University of Illinois...	yes	4243 V-1 yes	Signal Exptl.	24 (3600) others	yes		3 semesters
3. Northwestern Univ....	yes	Naval V-1-7 yes	Nurses Train.	24 (1500)	yes		4 quarters
4. Augustana.....		C.P.T.			10 sect.		
5. Bradley Poly Tech....		V-1-5-7 C.A.A.		(900) (1500) 24-hr. Sch.			year-round
6. Carthage.....	yes	V-1 Sea Plane			3 sect.		
7. Eureka.....					2-yr. Sci. Schedule		6 8-wk. terms (single units)
8. Illinois Inst. Tech.....				60 Courses	Courses for Women in Industry		
9. Illinois Teachers..... Carbondale	yes	V-1 C.P.T.		5 sect.			4 quarters
10. Illinois Teachers..... Charleston	yes			7 sect.	3-yr. Radio Course		4 quarters
11. Illinois Teachers..... DeKalb	15 centers	V-1 Navy Plan		2 (planned) 1 (planned)			8 wks. summer
12. Illinois Teachers..... Normal		V-1 C.P.T.		yes			
13. Knox.....	yes	R.O.T.C. C.P.T.			yes	Calisthenics yes	
14. Lake Forest.....	Pre	Ind. Plan V-1			yes		
15. MacMurray.....					4 sect.		8 wks. summer
16. North Park.....	yes	V-1			2 sect.	yes	
17. Quincy Jr. College....	yes	C.A.A.			First Aid		
18. Shurtleff.....		V-1 C.A.A.	Volunteer Unit	18 (600)			
19. Springfield Jr.....	yes	V-1 Cadet Air Corps			3 sect.		12 wks. summer for premedics
20. St. Francis.....	yes				7 (350) First Aid		
21. St. Xavier.....	yes				yes		
22. Wright Jr.....	yes	V-1 Army Plan			4 sect. Others Planned		

It has also carried on selective service registrations and sugar rationing.

Accelerated schedules have been adopted in several schools. This has taken several forms as shown in the table. Some schools, the University of

Chicago for example, have been offering eleven to twelve weeks of summer sessions made up of two terms and are continuing to do so. Others which have offered no summer work before are doing so now, at least in some subjects. Others

are extending their summer session say from six to eight weeks (MacMurray College) or from eight to twelve weeks or an entire semester as the University of Illinois and some of the teachers colleges are doing. Others, like Bradley Polytechnic Institute are putting on a continuous year-round schedule, eliminating the usual holiday vacations. In

this connection there is difference of opinion as to the efficiency of an unbroken teaching period of several months duration.

It would appear from this brief survey that the institutions of Illinois, over and above their ordinary programs, are doing a fair share in helping to train personnel for this highly mechanistic war.
