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The Coast Artillery School

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FOUNDED in 1824, 111 years ago, as the "Artillery School of Practice," the Coast Artillery School was the first school established in this country for the training of commissioned officers. At that time the Army consisted of 11 regiments of Infantry, 4 regiments of Artillery and a few staff troops: a total strength of about 6,000 officers and men. The construction of Fortress Monroe (the present old fort) had been begun in 1819, and in 1824 the War Department ordered 10 companies of artillery (about 600 men, about 1/3 of the artillery of the Army) to Fortress Monroe, to be called "The Artillery Corps for Instruction," and "The Artillery School of Practice" was organized by Lt. Col. Abraham Eustis. The training which was given to both officers and noncommissioned officers of the garrison covered little more than routine garrison duties. For 10 years the school was carried on in the face of great difficulties, without funds, facilities, or adequate personnel. The garrison was frequently depleted by the detachment of batteries for duty in connection with slave uprisings, Indian activities, and election disturbances. During this period, however, 33 of the 36 batteries of artillery had served tours of duty here with a resulting marked increase in the efficiency of the artillery of the Army.

As the result of the increasingly frequent moves of troops during the Florida Indian Wars the school was discontinued in 1834, and, due to the Mexican War and to the widely scattered western stations of the artillery thereafter, it was impracticable to reopen it for nearly 25 years, or until 1858, when the "Artillery School" was reorganized along much the same lines as before. Only one class had graduated, however, in 1860 when the Civil War broke out, and the School was again discontinued. The School had, however, demonstrated its value in the severe test of two wars and soon after the close of the Civil War it was reorganized as "The Artillery School" in 1868. Since that date it has been in continuous operation, except for a temporary suspension of two years during the Spanish War. At that time all school duty, for the instructors and the students, was in addition to regular post duties; all newly commissioned second lieutenants were ordered to the school; and the courses for officers and for noncommissioned officers (the latter including reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography) were for one year. By 1875 practically all the lieutenants of artillery had passed through the school and the course was at that time extended to two years and considerably expanded in its scope.

It was not until 1878, however, that Congress recognized the outstanding value of the school by appropriating, for the first time, \$3,923 for its maintenance. Prior to that time the school, from its beginning, had been carried on without funds and

with little facilities for instruction. That it had continued its development, with increasing influence, under the adverse conditions which had confronted it for the 50 years since its foundation, is a tribute to the vision and to the determination of those artillery officers who appreciated its value to the service.

In 1898 the Artillery School, after a period of 30 years of uninterrupted operation, was temporarily discontinued on the outbreak of the War with Spain. During the latter part of this 30-year period, the advent of the modern high-power, breech-loading, rifled gun rendered obsolete the cast-iron muzzle-loading weapons previously in use, and required the development of an entirely new tactics and technique for seacoast artillery. During this transition period it became necessary for new texts to be prepared for use at the Coast Artillery School and the important and original studies made in this connection by the faculty of this school, including such men as Ingalls, Wisser, Pratt, and Walke, constituted, to a large degree, the basis upon which the United States Coast Artillery has developed to



Coast Artillery School Library

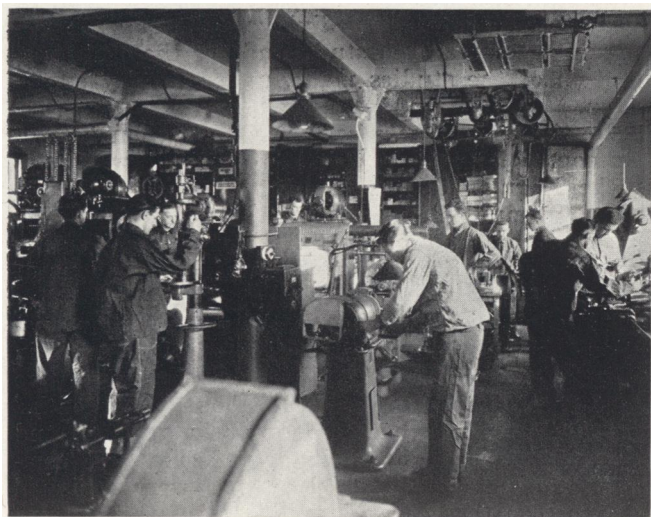
its present preëminent position, and served to establish for this school an international reputation and a high prestige which it has since maintained.

The school was reopened, after an interval of 2 years, in 1900. Due to the increase in the artillery authorized by the Act of February 2, 1901, and to the considerable number of new officers, of Spanish War Service, who were appointed into the Artillery Corps, it was decided to return to a one-year course. At this time the school for enlisted men consisted of the "school for electrician sergeants." In 1902 the school for master gunners was organized. In 1901, for the first time in the history of the school, the student officers were exempted from all ordi-

nary garrison duties and this exemption was later extended to the faculty.

The separation of the Coast and the Field Artillery, in 1907, brought about a reorganization of the school under substantially its present organization and with its present name of "The Coast Artillery School," with which was combined the School of Submarine Defense previously conducted at Fort Totten. Funds were obtained at this time for the construction of the present school buildings, which were first occupied in 1909, in which year the present school detachment was authorized by Congress, and the Coast Artillery School became almost entirely separated from the post of Fort Monroe. From that time until the beginning of the World War the only changes made at the school which were considerable were the inauguration of the Advanced Class for officers in the class of 1909, which continued until the class of 1912, when, due to the provisions of the Manchu law, it was necessary to discontinue it, and the introduction of a radio course for Enlisted Specialists in 1912.

For 50 years prior to our entry into the World War the purpose of the school had been to educate officers and enlisted men in the duties of seacoast artillery. Unlike preceding wars, the World War did not cause the school to suspend its operations. Instead, as part of the Coast Artillery Training Center, its mission became that of training, in large numbers, officers and enlisted specialists for railway, tractor, antiaircraft, and trench-mortar artillery in the field. By the time the Armistice was signed, its output had expanded to 200 officers per week, 200 motor transport specialists per week, and 50 master gunners, 80 clerical specialists, and 100 radio operators every 3 weeks. A total of 3,944 officers and 2,388 enlisted men completed the courses of instruction during the 15-month period preceding



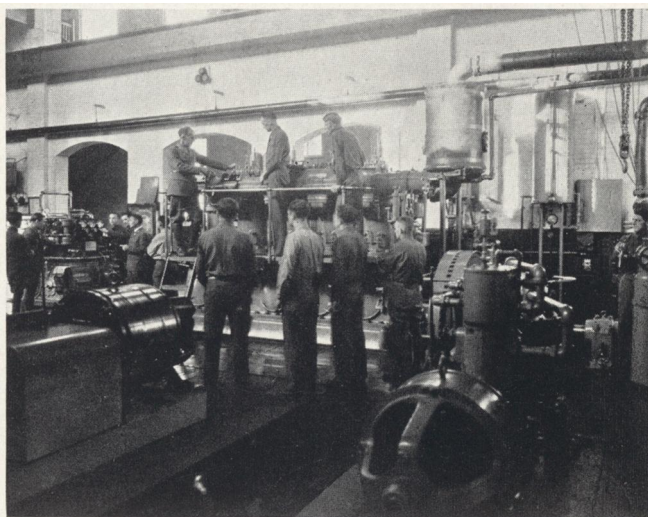
The Machine Shop

September 25, 1918, as compared with some 50 officers and 125 enlisted men per year which had been the normal output.

That the school was able to undergo such a tremendous expansion in so short a time, involving as it did the preparation of new special texts covering entirely new subjects, was a remarkable achievement and was, in itself, a sufficient justification for

the maintenance of the school for the 50 years during which, with one brief interruption, it had been in continuous operation.

With the close of the World War the school began preparations for resuming its normal peacetime operations. As the result of the new materiel and methods introduced during the war, it was necessary for the entire system of instruction texts



The Power Plant

to be revised extensively, and for many new texts to be prepared. Normal operations were resumed for the Enlisted Specialists Division in 1919, and for the Officers' Division in 1920. The organization of the school and its set-up for instruction was substantially the same as formerly except that the Advanced Class, covering tactics chiefly, was again instituted, in addition to the regular class, which was designated as the Battery Officers' Class.

This organization continued until the year 1934-1935, when, under War Department instructions, the Advanced Class, as such, in all Special Service Schools, was discontinued.

The history of the Coast Artillery School is one of achievement and success, attained, at times, under great difficulties.

School Organization

The faculty and staff consist of the Commandant, who is also the District Commander and the Commanding General, Fort Monroe, the Assistant Commandant, the Secretary, four Directors, nineteen officer instructors (including one each from the Infantry, the Cavalry and the Air Corps) and sixteen noncommissioned staff officer assistant instructors in the Enlisted Specialists' Division.

For the conduct of its assigned work the school is organized into five departments. The scope of the work of each department is indicated below.

In the *Officers' Division*, there is the Department of Tactics, which includes Tactics and Technique of Seacoast and Antiaircraft Artillery; Infantry and Combined Arms, to include the Reinforced Brigade; Field Artillery; Cavalry; Air Corps; Chemical Warfare Service; Combat Orders; Organization; and Logistics.

The other two departments in this Division are the Department of Artillery, covering Seacoast and

Antiaircraft Materiel and Gunnery and the Department of Engineering covering Electrical Materiel, Submarine Mining, Military Topography, Military Field Engineering, and Orientation.

The second division is the *Enlisted Specialists' Division*, comprising the Department of Enlisted Specialists, the work of which covers Electrical, Master Gunners, Motor Mechanics and Radio Specialists subjects; Clerical subjects; and Motor Transportation.

The *Extension Course Division*, which includes the Department of Extension Courses, takes care of the Preparation and Revision of Coast Artillery Extension Courses, Special Texts, Training Regulations, Manuals and other publications as directed by the Chief of Coast Artillery.

Courses of Instruction

During the present school year (1935-1936) the following courses have been, or will be, conducted.

I. OFFICERS' DIVISION

1. Regular Course, for Battery Officers of the Regular Army; a ten months' course attended by thirty-three Coast Artillery Corps officers and by one Marine Corps officer.

2. Advanced Technical Course, for selected graduates of the Regular Course; a ten months' course attended by four Coast Artillery Corps officers.

3. Special Course, for Battery Officers of the National Guard and Organized Reserves; an eight weeks' course attended by twenty-three National Guard officers and by fifteen Reserve officers.

II. ENLISTED DIVISION

Course	Length	Number of Students	Source of Students
1. Master Gunners' Course	10 months	10	Regular Army
2. Electrical Course ..	10 months	22	Regular Army
3. Electrical Course (Automotive)	10 months	10	Regular Army
4. Radio Course	10 months	6	Regular Army
5. Special Radio Operators' Course	14 weeks	4	{ Regular Army local
6. Special Clerical Course (2 classes) ..	21 weeks	15	{ Regular Army local
7. Special Radio Course for National Guard	14 weeks	11	National Guard

Comments on Courses

Regular Course. The purpose of this course is to instruct officers in the latest approved methods of artillery technique; to train officers in the organization, tactics, and technique of all classes of artillery assigned to the Coast Artillery Corps, and in the organization and tactical employment of the associated arms to include the reinforced brigade; and to provide qualified instructors for the Coast Artillery of the Army of the United States. The primary mission of this course, which is normally attended by all battery officers, is to afford the training in artillery technique required for a battery officer. It is necessary, however, that this course give not only training in artillery technique, but also training in tactics, which is no less essential today than technique.

It is sought to afford to all officers taking the course as comprehensive a course in the tactical employment of both fixed and mobile Coast Artillery as is practicable, and, at the same time, a sufficient knowledge of the other arms, to include the reinforced brigade, to prepare those officers, who later attend the Command and General Staff School, to take that course to advantage and to enable those who do not attend that school to acquire a satisfactory basis for the future study of tactics by taking the Extension Courses of the Command and General Staff School and by other individual study. Roughly speaking, about one-third of the time in the Regular Course is devoted to tactics and about two-thirds to technique and materiel. The difficulties confronting the school in arriving at a decision in this matter will, it is believed, be apparent when it is recalled that since the World War the Coast Artillery, in addition to the fixed seacoast armament which it has always manned, now mans anti-aircraft, tractor-drawn, and railway mobile artillery, each with a highly developed and specialized technique and materiel; and that it is now necessary, in the Regular Course, to give instruction in the technique and materiel of all these types of artillery in about two-thirds the time formerly devoted to similar instruction in seacoast artillery alone.

Also, in this course there is included a series of "General Conferences." At each of these conferences, which are held once a week, two student officers each give 20-minute talks on assigned subjects of general military interest, including a general survey of important contemporaneous international relationships, and two others give 10-minute talks on current events in an assigned country or group of countries. The general purpose of these conferences is to stimulate the interest of all the student officers in the subjects discussed and in so doing to afford to the individual officers some opportunity for research study and for the oral presentation of the studies made, under faculty supervision.

The Advanced Technical Course. The purpose of this course is to train suitably qualified graduates of the Regular Course for duty as artillery engineers, communications officers with troops, for duty as instructors at the Coast Artillery School or for Coast Artillery Staff duty at the higher echelons of command.

This course is somewhat in the nature of an evolution. Upon the reorganization of the school in 1920 there were introduced into the curriculum two short special courses, each of about five months' duration, one an advanced course in gunnery and one an advanced course in engineering and communications. These special courses were designed to give to a few selected graduates of the Battery Officers' Course, specialized training in either gunnery or engineering with the view of preparing them for duty as gunnery experts or as artillery engineers or communications officers, or for duty as instructors at the school in these subjects. It was soon recognized that this system was unsatisfactory both from the viewpoint of the individual officer concerned and from that of the service itself, in that the student, although specially selected for his qualifications for advanced training, was ac-

tually given such training in but one specialty with which he could not expect to be associated for more than a limited period. The situation was materially improved when, beginning with 1933-1934, both of these courses were combined into one full nine months' course, and when, beginning with 1935-1936, the course was lengthened to ten months and the scope of the course was extended to include special training for Coast Artillery staff work at the higher echelons of command. The present limitation on the total number of students authorized for the school does not permit the advanced training afforded by this course to be given to more than from two to four specially selected officers each year.

Special Course for Battery Officers of the National Guard and Organized Reserves.—The purpose of this short special course is to give to Battery Officers of the National Guard and Reserve Coast Artillery intensive training in artillery materiel and gunnery, both theoretical and practical. Due to the short time available it is necessary to divide this class into two sections, one of which is given training in seacoast artillery materiel and gunnery and the other of which is given similar instruction in anti-aircraft artillery only. In the subjects covered by these courses the instruction given is equally as thorough and comprehensive as that given, in the same subjects, to the Regular officers in the Regular Course.

Enlisted Specialists' Courses.—The purpose of these regular courses is to train suitably qualified enlisted men of the Regular Army for appointment as staff sergeants, Coast Artillery Corps (master gunners, electricians, automotive electricians, or radio). The purpose of the special courses are indicated by their designations.

The Coast Artillery School was the first Service

School in the Army to provide regular courses of training for enlisted specialists.

The noncommissioned staff of the Coast Artillery Corps is primarily responsible for the care, operation, and efficiency of the complicated fire-control, power-plant, searchlight, automotive, and radio equipment upon which the Coast Artillery is dependent for its success in peace and in war. The accomplishments of the graduates of the Enlisted Specialists' Division, over a period of many years, have been a source of much pride to the Coast Artillery School and there is no part of the instruction given in this school to which more thought and care has been devoted than to that given in the Enlisted Specialists' Division. These courses compare favorably with similar courses given in the best engineering schools and they serve to impart to the graduate a professional education which is of great value to him whether he remains in the Army or whether he returns to civil life.

Conclusion

From its beginning the courses and methods of instruction of the Coast Artillery School have been subject to frequent changes in order that they might best serve to meet the demands imposed upon them by the rapid, continuous, and evolutionary developments in artillery organization, materiel, technique, and tactics. From its beginning this school has exercised a marked influence upon the advancement of the science of artillery. It has been the greatest single factor in the development and maintenance of the noteworthy *esprit* and of the high professional standards that have always characterized the personnel, both commissioned and enlisted, of the Coast Artillery Corps. Its story is, in large part, that of the Coast Artillery Corps.



The Coast Artillery School