



REGULAR STAFF

## R. O. T. C. Training – University of Illinois

By Colonel Fred R. Brown, PMS and T and Commandant

**T**HE Military Department, University of Illinois, welcomes the thousands of patriotic citizens who, today, have done us the honor of attending our annual Military Day Review and other exercises.

You are invited to come each year.

During the entire seventy years of its existence, our great University of Illinois has maintained military training as a required course for all physically fit male students, not exempted therefrom for exceptional reasons. The widespread benefits of such training are evident in the continued patriotic support of its citizens.

More than two hundred of the finest young men in the University are commissioned each year in the Officers' Reserve Corps, United States Army. Many of our R.O.T.C. graduates apply for and are given a year of active duty with the Regular Army and, at the end of the year, are given an opportunity to gain a permanent commission in the Regular Army. A considerable number of our cadets secure appointments to the United States Military or Naval Academies, or as Flying Cadets at the Air Corps Training Center. Each year several of our most outstanding graduates receive commissions in the United States Marine Corps, without further examination, upon recommendation of the President of the University.

In addition to the military opportunities mentioned above, our R.O.T.C. graduates are sought out for employment by many of our greatest corporations and firms, and are given preference in employment over young men without military training.

General world conditions and widespread increase in armament and armed forces by all principal European and Asiatic Powers, have been largely instrumental in silencing, to a large ex-

tent, the ineffective, sporadic opposition to the R.O.T.C. and to preparedness for National Defense, which has been noted throughout our country in former years. I am pleased to report that no such opposition has developed here during the current school year. On the contrary, our people have accepted, with approval, the betterment in our National Defense through the increases in our Military and Naval material and personnel just made by the Congress. The value and importance of military training in our schools and colleges are better appreciated, and insistent demands for an increase in such advantages are widespread.

The September R.O.T.C. enrollment in this University, of 4,323 (exclusive of Band enrollment), was an all-time high. The 492 quota for our Advanced Course is exceeded only by one university. The desirable applicants from the present sophomore class, for admission to the Advanced Course class, are greater in number than for any previous year, and are more than can be accepted, unless Congress shall provide sufficient additional appropriation for the R.O.T.C. Some increase is provided for in the appropriation bill just passed by the Congress but, largely, it is for new units rather than for increases in existing senior R.O.T.C. units such as ours.

The parents and friends of our students have just reasons for being proud of the fine young men comprising our R.O.T.C., or who have completed the military training. This includes practically all physically fit male students now in the University or who have attended in past years.

The Army officers and enlisted men on duty with the R.O.T.C. are proud of the results of their instruction, as demonstrated to you today by our R.O.T.C. Brigade.