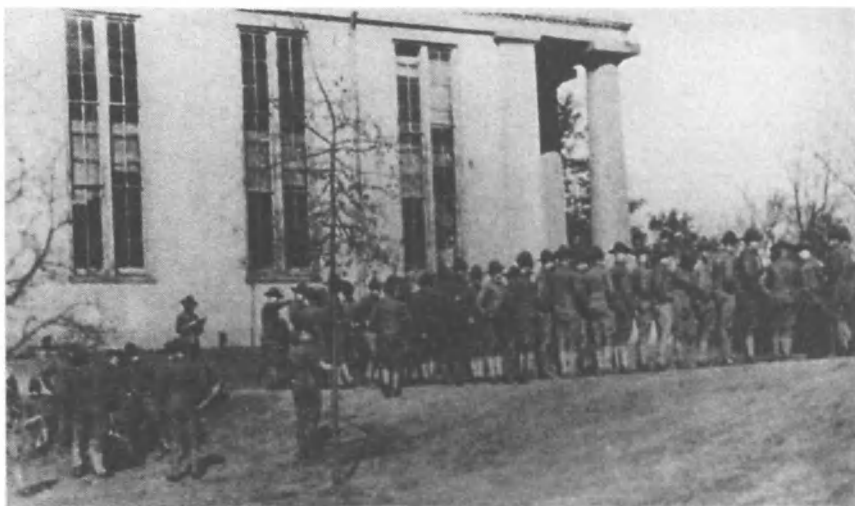


Georgia History in Pictures

"Our Patriotic Duty at Home and Abroad": The University of Georgia in the First World War

BY RICHARD S. FAULKNER

I N early April 1917, the thoughts of many of the University of Georgia's seniors turned from their impending graduation to the concerns, fears and excitements of war. In the proceeding weeks, the German's resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare and the "Zimmerman Telegram" plot to embroil Mexico in a war with the United States had finally pushed Woodrow Wilson to ask Congress for a declaration of war against Germany. On the

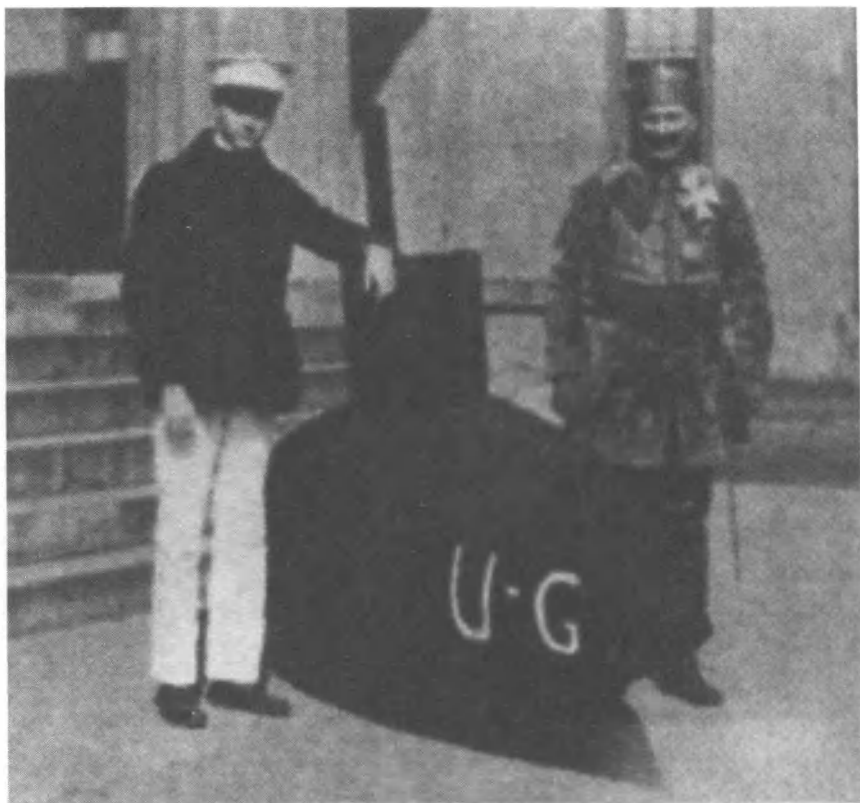


In this 1918 photograph, the University of Georgia's Corps of Cadets gather beside the chapel for their daily drill session. Although the First World War temporarily "militarized" academic instruction, it brought few long-term changes to the institution. *Photograph from the Clifford Cagel Scrapbook in the Anne and Branch Howe Collection.*

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money for the Red Cross, YMCA, Liberty Loan program and a host of other war related charities and organizations. Following one request for money during a campus chapel service, the usually cash strapped students managed to scrape together over \$100 for the War Library Fund to buy books for American soldiers serving in France.

The University of Georgia's wartime activities were not limited to parades, rallies and fund raisers. With America's entry into the war a number of students, alumni and faculty rushed to join the military. When the army established a camp at Atlanta's Fort



As the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare brought German-American relations to the breaking point, some students took a rather irreverent interest in world events. On March 1, 1917, senior-turned-Kaiser Neal Gillis and Roff Sims circled the campus shooting off fireworks with "U-boat Georgia" as part of a Sphinx Club initiation. Seventeen days after this photo was taken, the sinking of three American ships by German U-boats finally prompted Woodrow Wilson to enter the war. *Photograph from the 1917 Pandora.*

ficers' Training Corps.³ Unfortunately, the university's manpower commitment to the war effort came at a cost. Forty-seven students and alumni died in military service during the war. With the loss of 9 of its 120 graduates (8 percent), the Class of 1917 was the hardest hit by casualties. By comparison, the West Point class of 1917 lost 7 percent (11 out of 151) of its graduates. Among Georgia's dead was Henry Jewett Williams, the son-in-law of university chancellor David C. Barrow.

While some students opted for active service, others remained content to limit their military pursuits to the university's Corps of Cadets. Under the provisions of the 1862 Morrill Land Grant College Act, able-bodied freshmen, sophomores and juniors had been required to join the Corps and participate in military training since 1871. The university's existing Department of Military Science and Tactics provided a strong foundation for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) detachment established by the 1916 National Defense Act. While this training was seldom applicable to modern warfare and far from arduous, the Corps of Cadets sufficiently impressed an army inspector to name Georgia one of the nation's fifteen "Distinguished Military Colleges" in 1917. The war encouraged the university administration to increase the cadets' drill time from three to five hours per week. In addition to the daily drills, the cadets participated in four-day camps of instruction at Camp Stevens in Gainesville, Georgia. These camps, held in the springs of 1917 and 1918, emphasized close order drill, guard duty, marksmanship and mock battles but left time for a myriad of social events hosted by the citizens of Gainesville. In June 1918, 120 members of the university's ROTC detachment attended an intensive month-long training camp at Plattsburg Barracks, New York. The cadets made a good impression and by the fall of 1918 the University of Georgia's ROTC was rated the sixth highest in the nation.⁴

In the summer of 1918, the Wilson administration launched a radical program to restructure American academia to better support the war effort. Under the program, all able-bodied college

³"The Answer in 1917," *The Georgian*, Special Memorial Issue, May 1920, p. 147 and W. D. Hooper, "The University of Georgia in the Great War," *Georgia Alumni Record*, December 1920, pp. 106 and 109.

⁴Hooper, "The University of Georgia in the Great War," 107.



At the beginning of the war the army was critically short of soldiers trained in certain technical specialties. At the request of the Army Quartermaster Corps, the university trained 610 enlisted specialists during its brief life as a vocational-technical school. The soldiers in this photograph attended Georgia's auto-mechanics course. *Photograph from Hargrett Rat Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries.*

tent, the instructors were expected to demonstrate the justness of the American cause and place the blame for the war squarely on the Germans. Like a majority of American academicians, none of Georgia's faculty objected to the "militarization" of the campus or the overt propaganda in the "War Issues Course." Latin professor W. D. Hooper later stated that the SATC "was the greatest compliment that had ever been paid the colleges of America."⁵ By the armistice, the university had 483 students enlisted in the SATC detachment and 141 in the naval detachment. The program was abandoned in December 1918 after three months of operation.

Throughout the war, the University of Georgia continued its traditional role of providing education for professional occupations. To overcome critical shortages of certain military specialties, officers and cadets received instruction in law, engineering and veterinary science. At the request of the Army Quartermaster Corps, the university also established a training center for army enlisted specialists in the summer of 1917. It provided technical training for 610 soldiers in auto mechanics, carpentry, tool-making, power plant electricity and radio telegraphy.

⁵*Ibid.*, 110. David M. Kennedy, *Over Here* (New York, 1980), 55-58; and Edward M. Coffman, *The War to End All Wars* (Madison, Wisc., 1968), 58.



In this student patriotic tableau, Uncle Sam extends the hands of friendship and support to the allegorical figures of England (left) and France (right) from the steps of Athens' Ladies Memorial Association Confederate monument. The war unleashed a torrent of patriotic and militaristic sentiment among the university's students and faculty. *Photograph from 1918 Pandora.*

to admit women. While their admission was perhaps inevitable, the war was the catalyst that eroded the last major barriers to co-education.

With the exception of the short-lived SATC and a rather weak resistance to the admission of women, the lives and routines of most students attending the University of Georgia were not greatly effected by the war. Most of the wartime changes were superficial. The college yearbook for 1918 abandoned its traditional black color to sport an olive drab cover and patriotic motifs. To the students, the most notable change was the lack of varsity football during the two war years. The football team's coach, assistant coaches,



With American industry straining to produce modern rifles for the American Expeditionary Forces, students training at Georgia had to make do with obsolete weapons and equipment. The cadet on the left carries a Russian Model 1891 Mosin-Nagant rifle, while the one on the right is armed with a Spanish-American War vintage 30-40 Krag. The Mosin-Nagants were produced for the Czarist army by Remington and Westinghouse and seized by the American government after the Bolshevik Revolution. *Photograph from the Clifford Cagel Scrapbook in the Anne and Branch Howe Collection.*



Students drilled on Herty Field behind Moore College and the chapel. Without proper equipment and knowledgeable instructors, training on machine guns, the effects of artillery, trench warfare and other realities of modern war took a back seat to endless rounds of close order drill and bayonet practice. *Photograph from the Clifford Cagel Scrapbook in the Anne and Branch Howe Collection.*



In the fall of 1918 the physically fit members of the student body were enlisted in the military as members of the Student Army Training Corps or its naval equivalent. While none of these members of the university's 141 man student naval detachment received commissions under the program, 65 students from the army's 483 man detachment entered advanced officers' training camps before the armistice. *Photograph from the 1919 Pandora.*



With the university chapel as a backdrop, students in Company A of the Georgia Corps of Cadets strike a martial pose in this 1918 photograph. After passage of the 1916 National Defense Act, the Corps of Cadets began to merge with the newly formed Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The war disrupted the full integration of the two organizations, leaving the ROTC as a separate program limited only to those juniors and seniors actively pursuing a reserve commission. *Photograph from the 1918 UGA yearbook Pandora.*



Formed in 1905 by Army lieutenant James A. Kimbrough, the University of Georgia Band remained under the direction of the Department of Military Science and Tactics until 1944. Originally intended as an aid for keeping time during the cadet's close order drill, the band slowly evolved the less martial role of promoting "school spirit" during sports events. After 1926, band members replaced their standard army uniforms with a more colorful red and black caped costume. *Photograph from the 1917 Pandora.*



Despite the major mechanical innovations of the early twentieth century, armies of the First World War continued to rely on horses to move most of their artillery and frontline supplies. The AEF received 68,694 horses from the United States alone and purchased more from France and England. Georgia's College of Agriculture helped to ease the army's shortage of trained veterinarians by actively recruiting ROTC cadets for its veterinary science courses and teaching classes on the care of draft animals. *Photograph from 1919 Pandora.*



ADAIR



BRAXTON



BROWN



CONNOLLY



COCHRAN



CRAIG



COBB



DERRICK



DOBBS



EVANS



ETHERIDGE



FLEMING



GENTRY



GRIFFITH



GEORGE



GILLESPIE



GOLDSMITH



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JOEL



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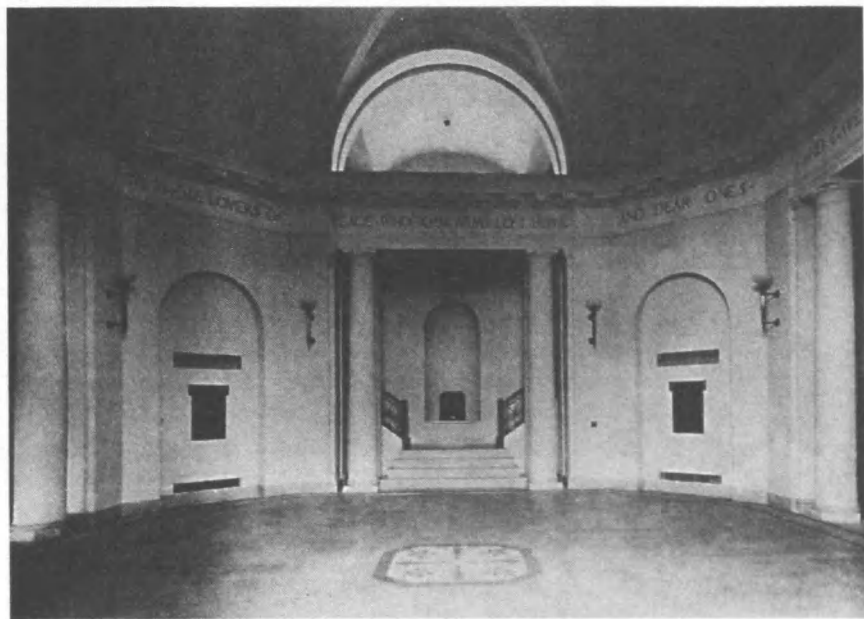
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THE names and records of its many famous and distinguished alumni make an impressive page in the history of the University of Georgia. Their Alma Mater is justly proud of them, but not more so than of those men, who, following the brave example of their predecessors of the War of 1812, and the War Between the States, made the supreme sacrifice to the cause of liberty.

Forty-seven Georgia alumni and students lost their lives in military service during the First World War. This photograph shows 39 of the university's war dead. Included in the rolls are Virgil Craig and Homer Gentry, both of whom died on campus while serving in the Student Army Training Corps. Not shown are Rufus Clarke, James Anderson, Covington Jenkins, Percival Jones, James Rayle, Tom Beazley, Frank Clay, and Clyde Lee. *Photograph from 1921 student welcome booklet, Old Georgia.*



Memorial Hall is the only tangible reminder of the University of Georgia's contribution to the First World War. Between 1920 and 1922, the Alumni War Memorial Fund raised over one million dollars for the Hall's construction. *Photograph from Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library.*



While the rest of the building was given over for student activities, the alumni intended Memorial Hall's rotunda as a quiet place of remembrance. To the left and right of the staircase are the bronze plaques inscribed with the names and classes of the university's Great War casualties. Below the rotunda's cornice is Chancellor Barrow's inscription. The rotunda hall now serves as a faculty dining facility. *Photograph from Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library.*