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Notre Dame History

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Early Military Training at Notre Dame: As Seen through Student Publications

Introduction

The history of military training at Notre Dame is almost as long as the university itself. This history can be split up into two distinct segments based on the official standing of the units which trained there. During the 19th century, the units were student or faculty run, and had little real affiliation with the United States Army. However, as the 20th century approached, the Army began to create official training units on campuses nationwide. These units were part of programs such as the Students' Army Training Corps, and later the Reserve Officer Training Corps, which remains a part of the Notre Dame community today. This essay will provide an overview of the first segment of the history of military training at Notre Dame, with special emphasis given to the student and faculty organizations which provided the first formal military training at the university. The most prominent of these units, each of which were sometimes referred to as the "military company" were the Continental Cadets/Washington Cadets, Otis Light Guards, and the Hoynes Light Guards, though other units appeared at interim stages.

An introduction to the origin of military training at Notre Dame is found in a display case which is located on the first floor of Pasquerilla Center, the Reserve Officers' Training Corps building on campus. This display case holds numerous items from

American military history which are related to Notre Dame. These items include Civil War swords, letters, bayonets, pictures, and clips of news articles. Along with the pictures, a series of printed cards recounts the history of military training at Notre Dame. The introduction of the series reads as follows:

“Military exercises were part of Notre Dame’s earliest curriculum. Father Edward Sorin, Notre Dame’s founder, encouraged the training just as he promoted Fourth-of-July celebrations, programs on Washington’s birthday, and other patriotic endeavors in order to prove that a university run by French clerics could be truly American. Two companies known as the Continental and Washington Cadets were formed in the late 1850’s. They were described at the beginning of the Civil War with many of the cadets joining the 1st Company of the Indiana Volunteer Regiment which was organized in the South Bend Area.” [Pasquerilla Center, Placard]

The Continental Cadets/Washington Cadets

What was most likely the first organization devoted to military training at the University of Notre Dame was referred to as the Continental Cadets, with a second unit existing at the same time known as the Washington Cadets. These units appear to be extremely similar, and there are few mentions of the Washington Cadets, so I will focus on the Continental Cadets in this section. Contemporary sources about the Cadets are scarce, but later generations related information about them, with several retrospective articles appearing in *Scholastic*, which was the primary campus newspaper at the time. One article appears in the 12 February 1887 issue which talks specifically about the origin of military training. “It is interesting to note...that the late lamented Prof. Ackermann organized, and was Captain of the first Military Company ever established at

Notre Dame. The company was organized in 1853, and continued in existence, with the variations in membership incidental to college life, until the outbreak of the war.”

[*Scholastic*, 12 Feb 1887] It is possible that this article is referring to the Washington cadets, but it goes on to mention that members of the group reached high rank, including BG Lynch. Lynch was a member of the Continental Cadets. Perhaps the author or his source was confused, or the unit founded by Ackermann merged into the cadets. As for Ackermann, there were several professors by that name, and it is not clear to whom this article is referring. The Notre Dame Archives lists this entry as concerning Harvey Ackermann, who was an artist who helped fresco several of the buildings on campus.

Another article appears in the *Scholastic* of March 13th, 1886. This article recounts that the Cadets were “the best drilled, the best equipped, and the best uniformed military company for years at Notre Dame’ [*Scholastic*, 13 March 1886] Whether this means that there were other military units which existed concurrently with the Cadets is unclear. However, the article mentions that the Cadets disbanded upon the outbreak of the Civil War, when almost all of them enlisted in the Army. This statement, of course, means that none of the Cadets, even their “captains” were actual members of the military, but rather had simply formed the company themselves. It should be noted that the United States was far less unified then it is today, and, for a time, Notre Dame was printing its own money, as were all the states. In the same way, while the Army was rapidly consolidating, having just fought the Mexican War, and the militia system was disappearing, there was still sufficient emphasis that young men should benefit from military training, especially if a militia was needed quickly.

One interesting fact pointed out in the article is that the uniform of the Continental Cadets was a replica uniform of that worn by George Washington's soldiers. This means that the Cadets were wearing a uniform that had not been worn for some sixty years, and would certainly not have been appropriate for modern military maneuvers. This fact suggests that the Cadets played a largely ceremonial role, similar to that of the modern JROTC (However, JROTC is run by the United States Army and staffed by actual Army soldiers and officers). This is further backed up by a second article written in 1880, which states that the Continental Cadets won a series of drill competitions in various places in Indiana. Thus, the Cadets served as a sort of military sports team for the university. This tradition of a competition drill team continues to this day in the existence of the Irish Marauders Drill Team & Colorguard.

One of the most often-mentioned facts in the articles is that two members of the 79-man unit (at the time of the outbreak of the war) were brevetted Brigadier-Generals during the conflict. These men, William Lynch and Robert Healy, were the "captain" and "1st lieutenant" of the Cadets. In addition to these two, the unit (at the outbreak of the war), had a "2nd lieutenant" and a "1st sergeant." The majority of cadets came from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ohio, but there was a cadet from Connecticut, one from New York City, and even one from Ireland.

An article from the 13 January 1872 *Scholastic* reveals some information regarding the formation of the Cadets. It says the Cadets were formed in the spring of 1859, and gives credit to the aforementioned William Lynch for the establishment. Lynch is said to have been a military enthusiast who formed the company immediately upon his arrival, but the article does not mention what his exact role at the university was, though

he appears to have been a faculty member. The article states that a personage no less than Fr. Sorin himself obtained arms for the Cadets from the governor. Lynch attempted to form a second company after getting around seventy men, all seniors, to join the first. Apparently there was not enough interest to form a second company, and the idea was scratched. The article then goes on to tell a series of jokes about an unnamed man who was elected “major” of the second company. Next, it mentions various members who served in the Civil War, including one who was killed. The overall tone of the article is positive, and it mentions the Cadets as an “institution” [*Scholastic*, 13 Jan. 1872] and says that old members recall their time in the unit with fondness.

Though the placard in Pasquerilla Center mentions that many of the cadets joined the Indiana Volunteer Regiment during the Civil War, there were actually several regiments of volunteers formed in the South Bend area during the war, so it is unclear which one is actually being referred to. Nevertheless, it is clear that enough cadets joined the unit as to make further military training on campus impossible.

Otis Light Guards

After the disruption of military training during the Civil War, it appears that students attempted to form another military company to continue the tradition. However, this company was only made permanent in 1885 under the name Otis Light Guards. A *Scholastic* article of 1880 is one of few sources that provides an account of military training during the period between the war and the Guards. It refers to two companies, a junior and a senior (coinciding roughly with high school and college) under the command of Mr. T. Cocke, of Memphis, a member of the Chickasaw Guard (a local Memphis unit). Fr. Corby was present at the time, and stated that, “it was his intention to have a stand of

arms and a number of field pieces secured for their use as soon as possible, and that he hoped before June to see them all in full uniform, and forming a company that all might be proud of.” [*Scholastic*, 15 May 1880] Judging from Fr. Corby’s statement, it is clear that the logistical state of the military company at the time was not very good. It is unknown whether Fr. Corby was able to actualize his intent. As far as I can tell, there is no further mention of field-pieces, though some pictures do appear in later yearbooks. However, I cannot be certain from the photos whether these had been used by cadets or were simply Civil War pieces for display. Nevertheless, there is scant information about the military company until the solidification of the program under COL Otis.

The placard in Pasquerilla Center describes COL Otis in the context of a general description of military training after the Civil War:

“The lack of professional officers during the Civil War, especially in the North, led to the inclusion of military tactics in the curriculum specified for state colleges established under the Land-Grant Act of 1862. In practice the military training consisted of little more than drill instruction with an eye toward achieving good posture and bearing among students. Many of these programs were set up by officers from the War Department or by retired soldiers. Such was the case in 1882 when Elmer A. Otis, commanding officer of the 7th U.S. Cavalry, spent a six month leave at Notre Dame organizing military classes and establishing the Otis Light Guard” [Pasquerilla Center, Placard]

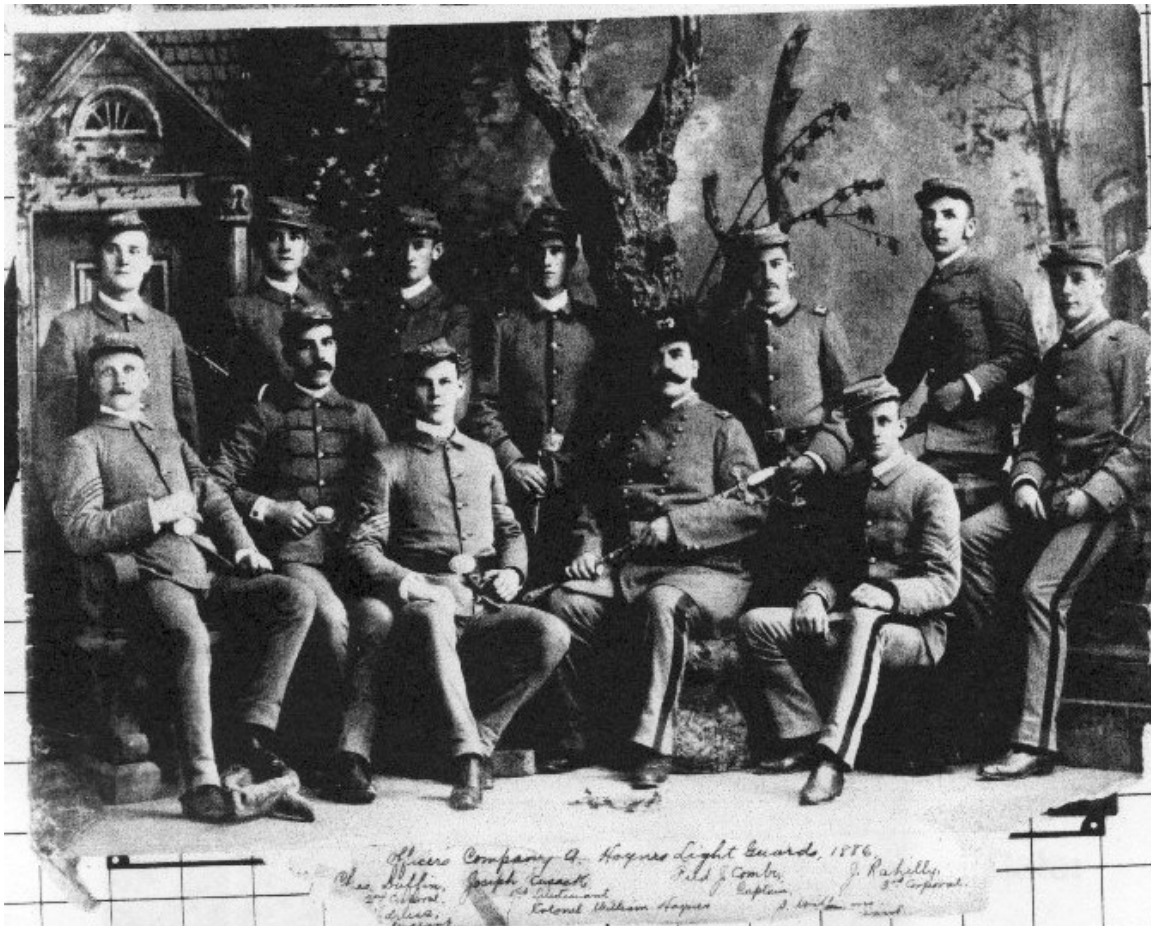
A *Scholastic* article of 19 November 1881 gives an overview of COL Elmer A. Otis, USA, who apparently spent a six month leave of absence at the university. The article says he lived at Notre Dame, but does not specify what his role actually was. The

article was written upon Otis's departure from Notre Dame, upon which he resumed his service on active duty, taking over the position in the 7th Cavalry previously held by George Custer. One interesting statement in the article states, "He will be greatly missed by all, but by none more than the cadets, with whom he took special pains and in whom he felt a great interest—his last charge to the drill-master being, 'Don't you let that military company go down'". [*Scholastic*, 19 Nov. 1881] This statement seems to reveal that while Otis did not create the military company per se, he appears to have reorganized it and assisted in planning training. Otis's influence is important because he was an active duty officer with over thirty years of service, and no doubt would have been able to teach the cadets modern drills and tactics. On the occasion of his departure the military companies (the plural is used in a quotation from the *Register*) performed a pass-in-review, a type of military ceremony now performed annually for the university president. An excerpt from a speech given at the occasion praises Otis for being a great part of university life, and for helping teach the "necessity of physical development, that we may be able to apply our moral and mental training." [Ibid.] Presumably, Otis instilled this emphasis on physical training on the cadets, and one can assume they followed an extensive regimen.

In the 21 February 1885 issue of *Scholastic*, an item states that "The Military Company is now permanently organized under the name of the 'Otis Light Guards.'" One can assume that the students changed the name of their company to honor the man who had taken time to train them with care, if he had not established the name himself. This article mentions the time for drilling as three hours a week, one hour each on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. No mention is made of what exactly is done at these

drills, but it was probably known to the campus community. One should note that the term drill can refer to two things in the Army. “Drill” is used as a part of “Drill & Ceremonies” and refers to marching, moving a rifle to different positions, and various other movements used to instill discipline in Army units as well as to present a professional and imposing appearance. At this time, drill served a practical function, as Army units still moved in close formations on the battlefield and needed coordination to unleash volleys of fire as well as discipline to maneuver in battle as a cohesive unit. Thus, drill served a tactical purpose at the time, and was thus more prominent in training than it is today. “Drill” is also used to refer to a period of training. In the modern Army National Guard, “Drill” refers to weekend-long training periods that occur monthly. The term is also used by the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps to refer to their weekly training period. The contents of these “Drills” vary greatly, and may include rifle marksmanship, tactics, etc. The “Drills” referred to in this article most likely refer to the second meaning of the word, namely, a training period for a reserve (or part-time) military unit.

Hoynes Light Guards



[Image from Notre Dame Archives]

A few months later, another article appears in the *Scholastic* of 31 October 1885 stating “The military company was reorganized on the 25th inst., under the name of the ‘Hoynes Light Guards.’ Temporary organization was effected by the choice of Prof. Wm. Hoynes as President, and Chas. Finlay, Secretary. On permanent organization, the following officers were elected for the present session: Director, Rev. T.E. Walsh, C.S.C.; President, Rev. M.J. Regan, C.S.C.; Secretary...” [*Scholastic*, 21 Oct. 1885] It is hard to determine what the difference between temporary and permanent organization, especially since the unit was said to be permanently organized just a few months earlier. The article presents two sets of officers; the first set consists of positions which appear to be those of

a university club, namely, director, president, secretary, and treasurer. The second set of officers hold military ranks—one commander, one captain, two lieutenants, and five sergeants. It is possible that the temporary and permanent organization was similar in function to the modern system of campus clubs which falls under the Club Coordination Council. This organization grants clubs a temporary status upon election of officers and composition of a constitution, and permanent status when certain conditions are made, such as existing for one year, collecting club dues, and gaining a certain number of members. It seems to me most likely that the company suffered after the departure of COL Otis, and was only saved by the arrival of another military man, William Hoynes.

William Hoynes was a Notre Dame fixture and influential law school professor. Although very hagiographical, the book *Colonel Hoynes of Notre Dame*, by Thomas A. Lahey, C.S.C. provides a large amount of information about the man. Hoynes, a native of Ireland, enlisted in the 20th Wisconsin Infantry at the age of fifteen. At the Battle of Prairie Grove near Fayetteville, Hoynes was shot in the head and severely wounded. Nevertheless, he recovered from a fractured skull and returned to his regiment, participating in the Siege of Vicksburg. However, during the siege, Hoynes fell victim to sunstroke, and was later discharged. Hoynes, despite his illness, still desired to serve his nation: “By applying, with some ingenuity, to another division of the army, he was able once more in spite of the constant daily pain in his head to risk his life all over again in the defense of his adopted country.” [Lahey, Thomas A., *Colonel Hoynes of Notre Dame*, Ave Maria Press: Notre Dame, 1948, pg.7] After successful surgery on his skull, Hoynes joined a regiment and remained with it until the war ended and he was discharged. The

book never mentions what rank Hoynes actually achieved, but it was most likely a lower enlisted rank.

After the war, Hoynes, who was unable to see in his right eye and suffered a fair amount of pain, saved money and eventually was able to enter Notre Dame as a student in 1869. The book says he was studious and most likely did not give much time to extra curriculars. Nothing is mentioned about whether there was a unit of “cadets” at the university during the time Hoynes was there, or whether he was a member. Even if there were such a unit, it is possible that Hoynes was unable to participate due to his physical condition. However, Hoynes had served successfully in the army even after his injury, so perhaps this was not the case. In any case, Hoynes graduated from Notre Dame and became a journalist, eventually using the money to attend law school at the University of Michigan. When the law school at Notre Dame, still in its infancy, was in trouble due to the fire of 1879, Notre Dame sought Hoynes as someone who could keep the ship afloat. Hoynes became a professor of law in 1883. Thus, Hoynes was at Notre Dame during the time of COL Otis, and no doubt witnessed the Cadets on several occasions. Eventually, students endearingly began to call him “the colonel” and so the nickname was born. Unfortunately, the book does not mention Hoynes’s influence on the cadets, but focuses on his impact in the law school and in the university as Dean. While this might seem to suggest that the company was not of great importance to Hoynes, it is important to note that the author knew Hoynes personally, and, as a member of Holy Cross, was less likely to be involved with that aspect of Hoynes’s life. The author may simply be focusing his work on the areas of Hoynes’s life where he witnessed the admirable qualities he extols.

The next mention of the military company in *Scholastic* occurs in the issue of 21 November 1885, and briefly recounts the report of the *Laporte Chronicle* that the “Cadets” had now become the Hoynes Light Guards. This suggests that the name “Cadets” had continued on after the war years, and that there was a connection, at least in the eyes of the students and the local community, between these light guards and the Continental Cadets who had existed before the war. The article does not mention the Otis Light Guards, but it might have been that since this name was so short-lived, the newspaper did not think it worthy of mention.

Much more is revealed about the Guards a few months later in the *Scholastic* on 06 February 1886. Two items appear in this issue, the first of which describes a parade of the Guards in an unmentioned location. Reviewing the parade were a priest, a colonel, and a judge. The Guards are mentioned to have been “drilled in marching and the manual of arms.” [*Scholastic*, 06 Feb. 1886] The manual of arms is the series of distinct movements that involve loading, aiming, and firing a rifle or musket. Manuals of arms were developed soon after the rise of firearms in the 15th century. Though the development of rifles made firing quicker and easier, the tactics of the Civil War still involved lines of men firing in rotations. Since the movements of the manual were timed, the manual ensured that each rank could fire in succession, resulting in a steady stream of firepower. Though quickly diminishing in usefulness, the Manual of Arms was still an extremely important skill in the tactics of the day. This may be simply exaggeration, but the *Scholastic* reports that “Col. Rand [(the reviewing officer)] highly complimented the boys upon their proficiency, and said that during the war he had frequently seen veterans who could not so accurately and creditably execute the commands given. Before

commencement the Light Guards will be one of the best-drilled military organizations in the State.” [Ibid.] The second item talks about a regular meeting of the Guards, where Hoynes was presiding. Two members are elected into the company, which presumably reveals that each man applying for membership had to be approved by popular vote. Minutes of the previous meeting were read, discipline was discussed, and the officers decided to give a medal to the best drilled private. A company dress parade was held the following Thursday. This seems to reveal that parades were an important part of the regular duties of the company, and, according to the rest of the article, specific cadets were appointed as adjutants or corporals for the parade, hopefully giving them valuable leadership experience.

A further article in the same paper on 13 February 1886 is similar to the last. It speaks of another dress parade, this one interestingly held on a Sunday evening. Hoynes was said to have commanded, “resplendent in his grand new uniform.” [*Scholastic*, 13 Feb. 1886] This once again reveals the difference between the unofficial military training of the 19th century and the more formal of the 20th. Hoynes, who was not actually a colonel, and who was no longer serving, was allowed to not only wear a uniform, which, although more than likely not of official issue, probably had his official combat awards on it, could take a false rank and command and train the unit as he saw fit. Later on, informal military organizations would be banned, and civilians would no longer be able to take unofficial “ranks” or appear to be an organized force. Though citizens are free to assemble and may purchase various types of uniforms, military units having official or unofficial university standing are prohibited. Even JROTC, the participants of which are civilian, does not grant actual ranks other than “cadet major” or “cadet private” and does

not allow any mixture of actual army awards with cadet uniforms. The article also mentions that an award would be presented to the cadet who had the neatest equipment.

Another long article appears fourteen days later, and describes some different activities of the guard. Apparently there was a formal reception for the Guards hosted by a certain Professor Edwards. The event seems to be similar to a military dining-in, which is a formal military reception and long-standing tradition. Flags and patriotic photos were displayed, much as they are today, and music was also part of the event. The article notes “United States flags were used in profusion to decorate the chandeliers and walls of the reading-rooms, and portraits of Sherman, Sheridan, Grant, and other heroes were placed in conspicuous positions to show our young aspirants to military fame the possibility which lie within their reach.” [*Scholastic*, 27 Feb. 1886] The article does not mention where the event, and neither did any of the previous articles give any intimation as to where the Guards had their meetings. However, this article is the first to mention that the Guards themselves might have actual military aspirations. Presumably, most of those who joined the guards had some interest in the military, and it would thus not be unlikely that they would consider military careers, but this was not stated explicitly. The article does not mention, however, how they would go about entering the military after graduation. Commissions were given out then through a less formal process than in modern times, and it is likely that many of the graduates would be able to get commissions immediately, though some may have had to go through some enlisted training first. The article also mentions that Colonel Hoynes gave a speech at the event, which once again supports the notion that he was intimately involved with the club.

The second item in the article provides a great deal of information about the organization of the Guards. It says that Co.B. of the Guards held a meeting. This, of course, means that the Guards had more than one company. This was probably the case from the beginning, since the article announcing the formation of the guards names two “captains”, each of which would have presumably commanded a company (with Hoynes being the overall “commander”). Thus, when the Guards are spoken of as the “company”, they are not being referred to as a unit of a particular size, but rather with a term which means something like “local unit.” The name “company”, of course, must have come from the Continental Cadets, who, having one “captain” were therefore a “company.” I leave out the question of the number of cadets enrolled, because the actual number of men in a company could vary greatly at the time, especially in reserve units. Many units were not fully manned as well. The article goes on to mention that officers were elected, revealing a more democratic process than in the modern ROTC program, where the training cadre select the cadet officers based on a number of factors. The Guards at this time choose a Major (presumably the executive officer) and an adjutant (both battalion level positions). With this formation in place, the Hoynes Light Guards would constitute a battalion, made of two companies of two platoons each. It should be noted that the Guards, as was the case with the entire Army at the time, had less officers than in modern times. The Guards appear to have two lieutenants for each company, whereas a modern company would have three, two platoon leaders and a company executive officer. The article mentions that a cadet was selected to draft a constitution and by-laws. This may have been part of the increasing formality of the system regarding university clubs and organizations. A committee was drafted to assist the “major” in

selection of a uniform. Once again, since the Guards were a private organization, they could apparently furnish themselves as they saw fit. The uniform selected, as is apparent in pictures, was similar to that which was then and is still now used by West Point.

The first mention of the U.S. Government in relation to the Guards appears in the 01 May 1886 issue of *Scholastic*. The newspaper reports a letter which Hoynes received from the Adjutant General of Indiana. Thankfully, the entire letter is reprinted in the paper. The letter reads:

“Executive Department,
Adjutant General’s Office,
Indianapolis, Ind., April 24, 1886

“Col. William Hoynes,
University of Notre Dame:

“Dear Sir:--Would your companies like to go into camp with the state militia at Lafayette, and take part in the exercises, which commence on the 26th of July, and end August 2nd? If so, arrangements could be made by which they would be transported from Notre Dame to camp and return, and furnished with the requisite quarters, ammunition, and rations, free of charge. In all these particulars they would be placed upon the same footing as the militia.

We hope to make the State encampment of this year as the finest ever held in Indiana. I am, dear Sir,

“Very Respectfully,
George W. Koontz,

Adjutant General.”

[*Scholastic*, 01 May 1886]

This letter appears to mark the beginning of a new phase in the history of military training at Notre Dame. This appears to be the first time Notre Dame’s own units participated in a large scale government-run military exercise. Most likely, the cadets had drilled or been instructed by local militia units, but it must have been a profound honor to be invited to participate in Indiana’s major annual training exercise. What is more, the cadets were to be treated as equals to the militia, which must have meant that the adjutant considered them to be close to equally well-trained. During the last part of the 19th century and into the 20th, the Army was making a concerted effort to incorporate the civilian university into its officer education system. Gradually, the percentage of the officer corps who were UMSA graduates began to decline, and the Army was more willing to commission young gentlemen from civilian universities.

The next mention of the Guards from *Scholastic* seems to confirm the interest that the Army showed towards them. On 15 May 1886, it was reported that two Army Captains drilled the guards, and were “surprised and pleased” [*Scholastic*, 15 May 1886] at their proficiency. The captains taught the guards some new movements and were apparently pleased at the ability of the guards to learn new maneuvers. It seems that the cadets were displaying only drill or the manual of arms, but the journalist nevertheless exclaims, “It is no exaggeration to say that they are as efficient a military body as can be found at any University in the United States.” [Ibid.] Though that was probably exaggeration, the article at least shows that the guards could be drilled easily by active duty Army Officers, and thus must have been learning up-to-date tactics and skills.

One of the important roles for the military units at Notre Dame was ceremonial. United States Army units hold ceremonies throughout the year at several occasions, and have done so since the very beginnings of the force. Dates which would normally involve ceremony are the Army Birthday, Independence Day, Veterans' Day, Memorial Day, and, in the modern era, Patriots' Day. Such ceremonies are a crucial way for Notre Dame units to express their solidarity with soldiers around the nation, and with their predecessors. The local community, especially local veterans, is invited to these ceremonies as a gesture of respect and an invitation to celebrate the heritage of the armed forces. The Army considers such ceremonies an important part of community building. The *Scholastic* of 05 June 1886 describes in detail the participation of the Hoynes Light Guards in a Memorial Day ceremony. Unlike modern times, where the Notre Dame ROTC units hold their own ceremony on campus, the Guards apparently participated in a local ceremony. They marched down Michigan Street over the bridge into central South Bend, and met with what was apparently a military band. The ceremony then proceeded to the South Bend courthouse. Joining the Guards in the parade were various "commands and societies." [*Scholastic*, 05 June 1886] This most likely refers to societies such as the Masons, American Legion, and perhaps various ethnic societies or veterans' organizations, many of which still participate in such services today. One such society created at Notre Dame was the Grand Army of the Republic Post #569. This war veterans' organization was founded primarily by the Holy Cross priests who had served in the Union Army as chaplains, as well as other veterans such as "colonel" Hoynes himself. A picture of the founding members appears below:



[Image from Notre Dame Archives]

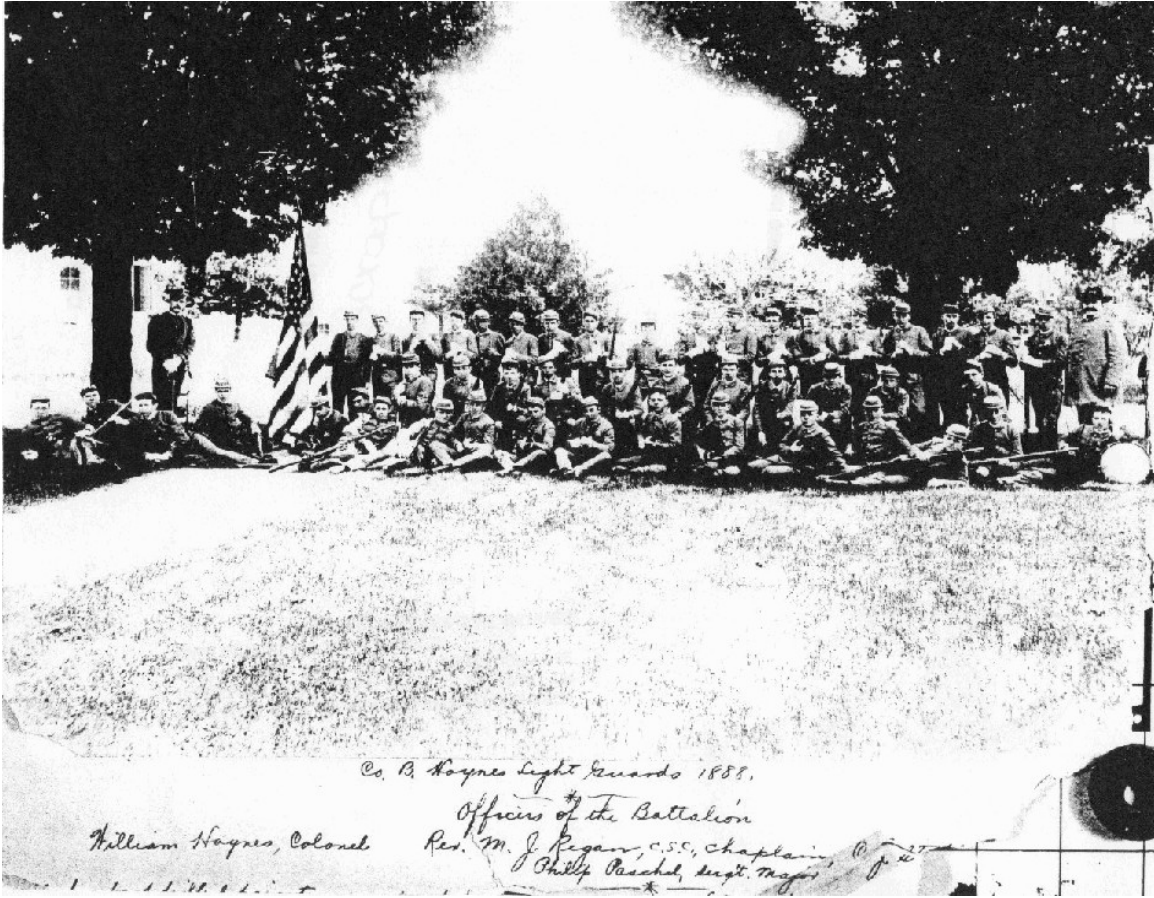
“Commands” probably refers to the local militia units. The units proceeded to the cemetery and participated in services there, which were most likely of a religious and patriotic nature. They then returned to the courthouse and gave a drill exhibition before heading back across the river. The article concludes by stating, “It was an occasion which will long be remembered with pleasure by the Light Guards and by all who witnessed their soldierly bearing, gentlemanly appearance and dignified deportment.”

[Ibid.]

A later article on 05 June, 1886, recounts the reaction of the local media to the events of the ceremony. It quotes the South Bend Tribune as saying, “Prominent among these were the Hoynes’ Light Guards, of Notre Dame University, accompanied by Col. Hoynes himself. The company, dressed in the gray uniform, attracted general attention for the soldiery bearing of its members. The precision with which they maneuvered was credible to soldiers who had fought and drilled, and drilled and fought for four long

years, and these last were loudest in the praises showered upon the soldier students of Notre Dame.” [*Scholastic*, 05 June 1886]

The *Scholastic* of 21 August, 1886 speaks of an entirely different aspect of the university’s relationship with the Guards. Other than Fr. Sorin’s procurement of the rifles for the Continental Cadets, the *Scholastic* does not mention any further support which the university provided to the military company. This issue, however, mentions that a new building is being built between the college of music (now Crowley Hall) and the gymnasium (no longer extant). This building was to be used as an armory and drill hall, in addition to a bicycle and box-room, a Crescent Club Hall, and *Chambre a fumer*. Apparently, this building was to be used for a variety of purposes for various university clubs. However, the article shows that the Guards were considered an important part of the university community, one which warranted the investment of money into new facilities. Indeed, there appears to be no discussion as to the acceptability of a military unit on Notre Dame’s campus, nor any protests of military events. It seems that the modern peace movement which began during the Vietnam War had no predecessor during the first century of Notre Dame’s existence.



[Image from Notre Dame Archives]

A second item in the same issue grants various people thanks from the Director of the Historical Department for various gifts which he received. One of the people thanked happened to be COL Otis, who had given the department a sword which was used in the Mexican War, Utah War, and Civil War by MG John Sedgwick, a personal friend. Sedgwick, the most senior Union officer killed in the Civil War, was slain by a sniper's bullet during the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. Military relics from many eras are preserved at Notre Dame, and have been collected over the years by soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who have graduated from the university.

The next mention of the Guards in *Scholastic* comes on 02 October 1886. This article recounts another meeting of the Guards. At this meeting, new officers were

elected, and one gentleman was appointed “Treasurer of the Military Association”, [Scholastic, 02 October 1886] though it is not clear what this is referring to. It is also mentioned that the Guards have a chaplain, the Rev. M.J. Regan.

The 16 April 1887 *Scholastic* recounts a shipment of arms which was received by the Guards. It states, “Quartermaster-General Shepherd shipped last week to Col. Hoynes 25 Sharp’s rifles, with bayonets, belts, and other necessary accoutrements. They came on Monday, and were promptly distributed... The two companies now have 125 Sharp’s rifles on hand, and are ready to settle the ‘Fishery Question,’ or any other international difficulty.” [Scholastic, 16 April 1887] The “Fishery Question” regards the issue of American, British, and French rights to Canadian waters, especially in regards to fishing boats. It does not seem readily apparent what the Notre Dame cadets would have to do with such a scenario, but it could be that there were questions regarding rights in the Great Lakes at the time. The Sharp’s rifle was a breech-loading rifle used widely in the Civil War and afterward. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharps_rifle] The rifles must have been somewhat old, with the last model being made in 1878, and the rifles supplied to the cadets may well have been leftovers from the Civil War. Nevertheless, the rifles were accurate and effective weapons, and were praised greatly by members of the Army. Though only one round could be fed at a time, a well-trained soldier could fire eight to ten shots per minute, and the rifle had an effective range of five hundred yards.



Sharp's Rifle [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Sharps_1863_Carbine_.50-70_Calibre_antique_original.jpg]

On 14 May, 1887, *Scholastic* posted a letter which had been written to Col. Hoynes from Mr. James F. Blaine. He thanks the Guards for performing military escort duty at the funeral of his father, MAJ John E. Blaine, USA. Escort duty at funerals is now usually provided by local National Guard or Reserve units, but during the 19th century, when the Army was considerably smaller, it was less likely that militia units would be available for every military ceremony. The Hoynes Light Guards, while perhaps serving more as a ceremonial unit than an actual training battalion, nevertheless served the local and military community in a greater capacity than some of their more modern successor units. Col. Hoynes is addressed in the letter as “Commandant of Cadets”, a term taken from West Point which is now used in ROTC units to denote the Senior NCO trainer among ROTC cadre at a particular college.

A further mention of the Guards appears in *Scholastic* on 11 June, 1887. This article recounts a drill competition held between the cadets. This was apparently an individual competition with a medal going to the winner. Competitions and awards are an integral part of unit moral, and drill competitions continue at Notre Dame to this day. One tradition which continues in particular is a game of “last-man-standing”, in which a series of drill commands are called in quick succession. The company has to perform the drills to standard, and once a man makes a mistake he falls out of the formation. The last man remaining is declared the winner.

Sorin Cadets

In 1903, during a decline in overall interest in the military company among the junior and senior departments, a minimis' department was formed, calling itself the Sorin Cadets. The minimis were elementary and middle school aged students who lived in St. Edward's Hall. An article in 1903 mentions the event: "Some weeks ago several companies were organized, and drills are regularly conducted under the direction of Mr. James P. Fahan. The various exercises correspond to the infantry drill of the United States army, of which Mr. Fahan is an ex-non-commissioned officer." [*Scholastic*, 14 March 1903] Fahan had served in the 9th Infantry, fighting in the Boxer Rebellion in China and in the Philippines in the Spanish War. He was apparently a student at Notre Dame at the time. St. Edward's Hall continued to host these drill companies until 1909, when the minimis' program was disbanded. The name of Fr. Sorin as a patron of military training was not forgotten, and is continued in the Sorin Cadet Fund, which provides money for many Army ROTC events, and in the Sorin Rifle Team, a club which operates out of the Army ROTC.

Decline, Revival, and Transition

"Colonel" Hoynes, who by the late 1880s was an influential person in legal circles and Dean of the law school, was increasingly called to other duties which removed him from his troops. He was selected for a committee which dealt with Indian affairs, as well as several other matters which required his time. Interest in military training also seemed to decline, especially as the Civil War retreated further into the past, and the Indian Wars came to a close. The Spanish-American War, although a major conflict, did not require the Army to draft troops (public volunteerism was sufficient to create the numbers needed), and so there was little need to expand military training on campus as a result,

although many argued just that. During the period between the end of the war until about 1910 military interest gradually waned, with the only real exception being the minims' department mentioned above.

However, during this period, another influential individual, this time sent by the government, would return Notre Dame's military company to glory and guide it for the last few years of its independence before the government would become more deeply involved. Captain R.R. Stogsdall arrived on campus in 1910, and began reorganizing the unit. Stogsdall was not the first officer sent by the War Department, however. The *Scholastic* in 1910 mentions that Lieutenant Otto J Deal had been training the students of Carroll Hall. Lt. Deal was an Adjutant in the Indiana State Troops, and had fought in the Spanish-American War. The article says Deal was to focus on drill, but would also take the cadets on a camping trip and teach them field skills. [*Scholastic*, 05 March 1910]

When Stogsdall did arrive, there appears in *Scholastic* an immediate recognition that he was serious about training the cadets. The "company" is now a "battalion" of four companies, and Stogsdall is hard at work teaching drill and the manual of arms. Stogsdall, who was retired, somehow was appointed by the War Department to his position at Notre Dame. It is apparent that Stogsdall put great emphasis on rifle marksmanship, and created a crack rifle team for each company. [*Scholastic* 04 Feb. 1911] For the first time, the *Dome* yearbook (which began in 1906) featured a spread on the battalion at Notre Dame. The yearbook includes a great number of pictures, as well as information about the revival of the program and the training regimen. It states "This is the second year of the revival of the Military Department at Notre Dame...Captain R.R. Stogsdall...met with a success hardly anticipated...Four complete companies were

enlisted, not including the Carroll Company [junior division], and the membership of all together reached nearly three hundred cadets...Drill occurs three times during the week, and lasts from five o'clock in the afternoon until six." [*Dome*, 1912, pg. 267] The yearbook also greatly extols the benefits of military training, and suggests making the program mandatory for freshman and sophomores, a suggestion that would later become reality. The photos of the group at this time show the cadets wearing the same West Point style dress uniforms worn by Hoynes's Guards, but also wearing the brown field uniform which was worn in the Spanish-American War. The following year, the *Dome* again included a photo spread, and announced that military training had been made compulsory for freshman, sophomores, and the high school division. The Rifle team is greatly praised for having beaten numerous opponents and becoming one of the best in the state. The article concludes "It is enough to say that the military department has ceased this year to be an experiment." [*Dome*, 1913, pg. 159] Stogsdall, in addition to training the cadets, wrote and gave lectures about the military. One editorial later appeared in *Scholastic*. [24 Jan. 1914] This article recounts a military history of the United States and argues for a larger Army which is better trained and equipped. Stogsdall says the Army is on the right track, but not moving fast enough. His thesis was proved true when the Army suffered numerous problems just a few years later in World War I. Stogsdall gets very specific in his suggestions for force size, and says he is not advocating extreme militarism. He does denounce extreme pacifists "of whom there are two many in our country." [Ibid.] This is the first hint in any student publication that there might be some who oppose the military training at Notre Dame. However, all of the articles written present the battalion or cadets in an extremely positive light, and the university

administration appeared to echo this sentiment. By 1915, Stogsdall had gone to the South Bend Board of Education for approval to create a system of military training for which one could receive academic credit. Stogsdall apparently established military classes for high school juniors and seniors. [*Scholastic*, 06 Nov. 1915]

A few years later, acquiescing to the requests of both the students and administration of Notre Dame, the government established the SATC on campus. The placard at Pasquerilla Center, summing up the whole time period, states: “By the turn of the century interest in military training had waned. But in 1910 the military department was revived with the arrival of Captain R.R. Stogsdall, a retired U.S. Army officer sent to Notre Dame by the War Department. Along with drill instruction there was also a champion rifle team and a military ball which, according to the 1912 Dome, ‘was carefully planned as are all other operations connected with the military, and consequently could not fail to be successful.’ It was about this time that the federal government’s concern for its ability to mobilize ‘great armies of citizen soldiers to meet the emergency of modern war’ led to the National Defence Act of 1916, which established a Reserve Officers’ Training Corps as a means of offering a standard course of military instruction during peacetime. At Notre Dame, this plan was carried out in the Students’ Army Training Corps, which was established in the fall of 1918.” [Pasquerilla Center, placard—internal quotations as stated] This paragraph adequately summarizes the transition of military training at Notre Dame into a more formal system which was regulated nation wide. The SATC would go on to be replaced by the Naval ROTC, V-7, and V-12 programs during World War II. After the war, only the NROTC remained, but it was joined during the Korean War by the Army and Air Force ROTC programs. Each of

these programs remains at the university at the present time, but enrollment numbers, training, and other factors certainly varied over the half-century between their inception and the current day.

Training

Finding information about the actual training of the cadets at Notre Dame is a difficult task. However, information can be taken from a variety of military manuals published and in use at the time. The placard at Pasquerilla Center provides an example of at least one manual that was used:

“Cadets were taught ‘the maneuvers, manual of arms, and all the ordinary evolutions of the U.S. Army as taught in Upton’s Tactics’... ‘the authorities of the university duly encourage such organizations on account of the salutary physical exercise they afford, the respect for wholesome discipline they tend to establish, and manly bearing they serve to promote.” [Pasquerilla Center, Placard—internal quotation source unknown] Upton’s Tactics is not an actual book title, but rather a nickname for a book published in 1867, *A New System of Infantry Tactics, Double and Single Rank, Adapted to American Typography and Improved Fire-Arms*, by COL Emory Upton. Emory Upton had been a Major General in the Civil War (his rank reverted after the war, as he stayed in the Army), who fought in and commanded infantry, cavalry, and artillery units. He was an intelligent tactician, and used his skills not only as a combat commander, but also as an instructor at West Point after the war was over. His book focuses on combined arms tactics, and begins to get away from the French tactical system, which grew out of the Napoleonic Wars and was used extensively in the Civil War. Upton was considered an

innovator, as influential to the Army as Mahan was to the Navy. The cadets at Notre Dame would have been training on, or at least reading, the latest in military theory.



Emory Upton [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emory_Upton]

[Morris, James M., "Emory Upton", *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War: A Political, Social, and Military History*, Heidler, David S., and Heidler, Jeanne T., eds., W. W. Norton & Company, 2000]

As I have stated before, much of the training was largely ceremonial. The *Scholastic* of 30 June 1886 describes the military company going to camp out in the woods. The cadets enjoyed the following amenities while “camping”: refreshments, a steak dinner, ambrosial coffee, biscuit and hard tack, ice-cream, and lemonade. The writer notes that he does not think that many of those items are found in the camp menu of Upton’s *Tactics*, and is making some jest of the trip. [*Scholastic*, 30 June 1886]

In the years just before the establishment of the SATC, one article did appear in *Scholastic* which does give a more detailed account of the training. In 1915, the article reports of operations during a camp for the Carroll Hall Cadets at Bankson Lake, Michigan. The cadets traveled by train to the town and then marched to the lake, where they erected a camp. They had a company drill and then attended Mass. Afterwards, they played baseball with a local team. The next day they had first call at 0645 (about the

same as modern times), took a plunge in the lake, formation at 0710, calisthenics (now called physical training) from 0710 to 0730 (rather short for a modern session), and breakfast from 0730 to 0755. They then policed the camp and had an inspection, followed by a military lecture and company close order drill. Next, the cadets had “extended order, scouting, patrolling, field work and rifle practice.” [*Scholastic* 31 May 1915] This was followed by dinner (apparently lunch), recreation, another formation, mess call (dinner) and night prayer. This is an impressive schedule, and shows that the battalion was truly teaching worthwhile skills to its members. While the cadets had more free time than one would at regular army training, the timing is very similar to training conducted at the present day. Drill is no longer taught when camping, but most of the other tasks are, though some names have changed. Also, Notre Dame training exercises will still involve a Mass if they occur on Sunday. It is clear that by the end of the history of the student and faculty-run military units at Notre Dame, the training had evolved alongside the tactics of the Army.

Conclusion

There are many other articles in both *Scholastic* and *Dome*, which pertain to military units in Notre Dame’s early history, but many of them are quite boring, or very similar to articles I have already presented. All of the articles help to provide a chronicle of military training at Notre Dame during its early years. Several trends appear during this time. First, from shortly after Notre Dame’s inception until the present day, there has been near-constant military training at Notre Dame. Second, the government gradually got more involved in military training at the university, eventually taking over in 1918. Before then, they had supplied weapons and equipment to the units, invited them to drill

with state militias, and eventually had begun to send instructors to the school. Third, the administration, as well as the student publications, were extremely supportive of the presence of military training on campus, and often extolled its virtues. Fourth, the Catholic faith was an important part of this training, and numerous Holy Cross priests, especially those who were veterans, helped out with training and religious support. Fifth, for the period when Notre Dame had both college age and high school age students, both participated in military training, although in separate divisions. Finally, that during most periods, military training at Notre Dame was of a high quality, with cadets being well-drilled, participating in a variety of both practical and ceremonial events, being well-supplied, and very well instructed by experienced current or retired soldiers.