MILITARY PRESENCE
at
PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Displays prepared on occasion of the
50th Anniversary of the Army
Reserve Officer Training Corps
at Providence College

THE WAR MEMORIAL GROTTO:
OLD AND NEW
THE "LOST CLASS"—ARMY
SPECIALIZED TRAINING
PROGRAM UNIT 1188
50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING
CORPS AT PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE, FALL 1951–PRESENT

Prepared by Jane M. Jackson, Director of Archives
Exhibition dates: May 4, 2001–June 29, 2001
Moore, Robert J. "Providence College Shrine Dedicated at Sunday Service: Thousands Fill Amphitheater To Witness Ceremony Honoring War Dead At College" clipping, The Providence Visitor May 13, 1948.

**War Memorial Grotto Dedication May 9, 1948**, b & w photo.

The Providence College War Memorial Grotto of Our Lady of The Rosary [Dedication May 9, 1948, Program]: cover, clipping "Honor Roll" no page, clipping "Our Lady of the Rosary" no page.


"Offering of Old Gold and Precious Stones to be used in Making The Golden Ostensorium..." undated, envelope.


**1917-1992: Celebrating 75 Years of Values That Endure:** Jubilee Calendar July 1992-June 1993: clipping "December 12, 1957: Christmastime at the War Memorial Grotto" no page.

**Back of the War Memorial Grotto, Viewed from Eaton Street June, 1959, color photo.**

"Grotto Beach" Spring 1972, b & w photo.

**May 27, 1975: Last Commencement held in War Memorial Grotto, color photo.**
War Memorial Grotto demolition began July 1, 1999
[“Please Note...final outdoor Mass...”] undated flyer.
Piece from base of the altar of the War Memorial Grotto on loan from Dr. Donna T. McCaffrey, fieldstone.
Fieldstone being removed from the façade Aug.24, 1999, color photo.
Before and after cleaning of all the white Carrara marble statues (shown here, St. Thomas Aquinas and Our Lady of the Rosary) June, 2000, color photo.
Construction of the smaller scale Grotto Aug.11, 2000, color photo.
Statues of St. Dominic and Our Lady of the Rosary being moved into the new Grotto Jan.25, 2001, color photo.
THE 'LOST CLASS'—ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM
UNIT 1188

Aerial View of the Campus: the 3 buildings: Guzman Hall (now Martin Hall), Aquinas Hall, Harkins Hall ca. 1940, b & w photo.


July 12, 1943: 563 trainees move onto campus, b & w photo.

Waiting for the Mathematics Refresher Course July, 1943, b & w photo.

Inspection and review of troops 1943, b & w photo.

Aquinas Hall Dining Room 1943/1944, b & w photo.

ASTP Physical Fitness Program 1943/1944, b & w photo.

John Jordan Dillon, O.P., President of PC; Major Howard B. Smith, U.S.A., Commandant of ASTP Unit 1188 1943/1944, b & w photo.


ASTP Graduation Jan. 28, 1944, Scroll of Appreciation b & w photo.

ASTP students living in Guzman (now Martin) Hall Feb., 1944 donated by George Fisher May, 1998, b & w photo.
Trainees notified that they will be leaving the College,
Thomas E. Troland, Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
Commanding, to Each Army Specialized Training Trainee,
Feb. 19, 1944, reproduction of letter sent to all
trainees notifying them they will be leaving the
College.

"Our last night at Providence was March 19, 1944. The
Fathers of the college gave us a stag party that night
and we all had a swell time. Plenty of beer,
sandwiches, and music. Below is a list of autographs
I collected at the party." donated by Robert Madson
May, 1998, reproduction of list of faculty and staff
attending.

"The next day, we marched from the college to the station
and boarded a troop train. As usual we did not know
our destination, but were quite sure that we were
headed for some infantry outfit. It turned out to be
a two and one-half day trip and we debarked at Camp
Forest, Tenn." --donated by Robert Madson May 1998,
3 b & w photos.

donated by Robert Madson May, 1998, Robert [Madson] to his parents, Nov.27, 1944, reproduction of letter written “on Nazi stationery ...liberated from some office.”

donated by Malcolm Ekstrand Oct.24, 1998, “This tag was put on me April 24, 1945 in German military hospital in Straubing. I slept alone in room with 20 German soldiers. Rather lonely.” reproduction of hospital tag.

J.A. Ulio, Maj. Gen., Adjutant General of the Army, to Mrs. Jennie A. Ekstrand, May 14, 1945, reproduction of telegram notifying Mrs. Ekstrand that her son has been missing in action since Apr.24, 1945.

Army Specialized Training Program Commemorative Ceremony at Providence College: Saturday, October 17, 1998: cover, clipping reproduction, Deasy, Robert L. "History of the Army Specialized Training Program at Providence College" no pages.

ASTP Providence College 1998: All above have Purple Hearts and Bronze Stars, color photo.

ASTP Unit Reunion on Oct.17, 1998, included dedication of plaque in memory of the 37 “classmates and comrades in arms...who made the supreme sacrifice,” color photo.

1st application for a ROTC Unit-1940, John Jordan Dillon, O.P., President, to T.S. McDermott, O.P., Provincial, July 23, 1940, letter notifying the Provincial that the President is writing to the War Department Adjutant General for information on how to apply for a ROTC unit.

from the J. Howard McGrath Collection, John J. Dillon, O.P., President, to J. Howard McGrath, Governor of Rhode Island, June 10, 1941, letter asking the Governor to renew the request through Senator Theodore Francis Green (D-R.I.) for a ROTC unit.


Robert M. Webster, Major General, U.S.A.F., Commanding General, 1st Air Force, to Vincent C. Dore, O.P., Dean, Dec. 17, 1947, letter concerning visit by Air Force representatives to investigate the possibility of an Air Force ROTC unit at PC.

Vincent C. Dore, O.P., Dean, to Charles L. Bolte, Major General, Army Department Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, Dec. 22, 1950, letter requesting information on the status of the College’s Army ROTC application.

Approval—1951, Edward F. Witsell, Major General, U.S.A., Army Adjutant General, to Robert J. Slavin, O.P., President, Jan.12, 1951, letter informing the President of the approval of the establishment of a PC ROTC unit effective at the beginning of the 1951-52 academic year.


“Providence College Frosh To Join In ROTC Program” clipping, The Providence Visitor Mar.1, 1951: 1, 12.

Col. Walter H. Kennett, Professor of Military Science and Tactics, to Col. Roy P. Moss, U.S.A., Providence College, June 4, 1951, letter advising Col. Moss on various matters re: setting up the ROTC program at PC.
PC ROTC Transportation Corps, b & w reproduction of patch.


"To Give ROTC Deferments In December" clipping reproduction, The Cowl Nov.28, 1951: 1, 6.

The College’s First Rifle Team held its matches in the newly constructed rifle range (now part of the Central Heating Plant) 1st match–Ohio Wesleyan University 1817, P.C. 1540 Nov.30, 1951, “Rifle Team” clipping reproduction, Veritas 1952: 175.


J. Lawton Collins, Gen., U.S. Army Chief of Staff, to Robert J. Slavin, O.P., President, Feb.6, 1952, letter thanking PC for its support of the ROTC program in strengthening the concept of “the citizen-soldier... [as] the backbone of the Army of our democracy.”


Donnelly Hall ROTC Arms Storage Room Apr. 1953, b & w photo.

“ROTC Railroad Club” clipping reproduction, Veritas 1953: 133.

The ROTC Unit on Parade: Armistice Day Nov.11, 1953:
  marching up Westminster Street, b & w photo.

"College ROTC Program Goes General Military [in September

Summer Camp, 1954 Fort Eustis, Virginia, b & w photo.

Dedication: Alumni Hall: Providence College July 10,
1955: cover.
Robert J. Slavin, O.P., President, welcomes Col. Roy P.
Moss, U.S.A., Professor of Military Science and
Tactics, and others to the blessing and open-house of
the multi-purpose gymnasium July 10, 1955, color photo.
Alumni Hall (Gymnasium) Rifle Range ca. 1955, b & w
photo.
Arms Storage Room in Alumni Hall ca. 1960, b & w photo.
ROTC Space 1956, "Alumni Hall Gymnasium Basement Plan"
reproduction of hand-drawn floor plan.

"Cadet Officers’ Honor Club" clipping reproduction, Veritas
1956: 134.

Vincent C. Dore, O.P., Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Dean of Studies, and Raymond B. St. George, O.P.,
ROTC Band Adviser, visit Major Andrew DelCorso, Inf.,
U.S.A., and the PC cadets at Fort Devens, MA, Summer
Camp 1956, b & w photo.

ROTC Band, ca. 1957, b & w photo.

Fall, 1957 ROTC Program enrollment no longer mandatory for
freshmen and sophomores, Robert J. Slavin, O.P.,
President, to the incoming freshmen of Providence
College, [Sept. 1957?], reproduction of letter urging
freshmen to join ROTC.
Lawrence V. Troiano, Lt. Col., Inf., Professor of Military Science and Tactics, to Robert J. Slavin, O.P., President, Oct. 22, 1959, memo recommending that the ROTC Drill Team not participate in the March, 1960, Southeastern Invitation Drill Meet in Greenville, South Carolina.

Commencement Exercises June 7, 1960: Lenny Wilkens receives his commission as 2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Army, from Lt. Col. Lawrence V. Troiano, Inf., U.S. [sic], Head of Department of Military Science and Tactics, b & w photo.


“Pershing Rifles” clipping reproduction, Veritas 1960: 182.

“K-12 Pershing Rifles,”


Drill Dec., 1962, b & w photo.

1963 Dean of the College Joseph L. Lennon, O.P., visits Summer Camp in Fort Devens, MA, b & w photo.


"Faculty Senate to Look into ROTC Curriculum Changes" clipping reproduction, The Cowl Apr. 30, 1969: 1, 7.


ROTC Annual Review and Awards Ceremony May 4, 1969, b & w photo.


Ralph F. Paglieri, Ad Hoc Student Strike Committee Member, and William J. Connolly and Richard L. DeLorey, Jr., Senior Class Officers, to William P. Haas, O.P., President, May 10, 1970, reproduction of letter requesting that ROTC Commissioning be held off campus.

William Paul Haas, O.P., President, to Ralph F. Paglieri, Ad Hoc Student Strike Committee Member, May 20, 1970, letter asserting "tactics of disruption and violence ...will not prevail" in any decision re: Commissioning.

William Paul Haas, O.P., President, to Gideon B. Hevenor, Col., U.S.A., Professor of Military Science, May 20, 1970, memo informing Col. Hevenor that the 1970 ROTC Commissioning will be held off campus.

35 Dominican faculty, staff and residents and 37 lay faculty and staff to William Paul Haas, O.P., President, May 27, 1970, reproduction of petition objecting to moving Commissioning off campus.

Gideon B. Hevenor, Col., U.S.A., Professor of Military Science, to All Members of the Providence College Staff, Faculty and Administration, June 5, 1970, memo thanking the community for its support, especially by attending the off-campus Commissioning.
ROTC Program in Era of All-Volunteer Army, C.E. Hutchin, Jr., Lt. Gen., 1st U.S. Army, to Thomas R. Peterson, O.P., President, Aug.25, 1972, letter asking for support of the Military Science Department so as to increase enrollment in ROTC.


January 1980 Bryant College signs agreement to be the 1st Extension Center of the 'Host' PC ROTC Program, Robert C. Stiepock, LTC, Chairman of Military Science Department, to Thomas R. Peterson, O.P., President, Jan.9, 1980, memo recommending that the President approve the establishment of an Extension Center at Bryant College.


30th Anniversary of the ROTC Program at Providence College—RI Governor proclaims Apr.29, 1981, as ROTC Day in the State of RI. left to right: Vincent C. Dore, O.P., Chancellor; J. Joseph Garrahy, RI Governor; Thomas R. Peterson, O.P., PC President; Col. Robert C. Stiepock, Chairman of Department of Military Science, b & w photo.
Summer Camp, 1982 Fort Bragg, North Carolina: "At the invitation of the U.S. Army, Dr. Carol Crafts, Chairman of the Biology Department and Adviser to the Health Professions, visited Advance Camp where she attended information briefings, observed training, and met with cadets from Providence College. Dr. Crafts was with a group of 32 educators from colleges throughout the Atlantic coast area. Army ROTC, along with Navy and Air Forces, needs to enroll students in scientific disciplines and was especially pleased that Dr. Crafts had accepted the invitation to learn more about options available to students in science and in the health professions"—Annual Report to the Faculty 1982, Annual Report to the Faculty 1982: excerpt, "Report of the Department of Military Science" no page; b & w photo.

John A. Wickham, Jr., Gen., U.S.A., Chief of Staff, to Providence College, Feb. 12, 1985, commendation for excellence, PC being in the top 5% of over 300 detachments.


William E. Hudson, Chairman of Political Science Department, to John F. Cunningham, O.P., President, July 18, 1986, letter reporting on the Ft. Bragg advanced training camp.

Army ROTC Rappelling Clinic Apr.2, 1987, b & w photo.


The ROTC Patriot Battalion raised $3,225 during its 12-hour run for Meeting Street School Feb.11, 1990, b & w photo.


John E. Lalli, Lt. Col., Inf., Professor of Military Science, to James H. McGovern, Enrollment Management Committee Chairman, undated, reproduction of letter proposing a pilot Army ROTC Scholarship Incentive Program to attract quality males to Providence College.


ROTC Military Awards Ceremony Apr.27, 1997, b & w photo.


The Annual Army Ten-Miler: Each year the Patriot Battalion sends teams to compete in the Army Ten-Miler Road Race held in Washington, D.C. This is the biggest 10-miler race in the country. In 1999 over 16,000 runners, coming from all over the world, entered. PC’s ROTC team placed 3rd and 39th out of 53 ROTC teams. Photographs of the 1996 Team, which placed 3rd, 2 color photos.


Military Commissioning Exercises May 19, 2000, 2 color photos.


“Straight talk about the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps Program at Providence College” [on “character traits instilled and developed in...students” and scholarships] flyer, [Spring 2001].
James A. Driscoll, O.P., PC ROTC Co-Chaplain, to John F. Cunningham, O.P., President, [ca. 1991], handwritten note presenting ROTC 40th Anniversary colorguard notecard as part of PC's 75th Anniversary.

ROTC 40th Anniversary colorguard, notecard.

[Jackson, Jane M.], "Chairpersons of Military Science Department" list, [Mar.19, 2001].
