

Scimitar



DEDICATION

This SCIMITAR is dedicated to those cadets of the corps, the members of the faculty, and the alumni who take pride in being, or having been, a part of this Academy.

THE STAFF

1964



Editor-in-Chief

William Stillgebauer

Associate Editors

John W. Diggs
A. G. Fejes

Layout Editor

Darrel Tyler

Art Editor

Greg Hudson

Business Manager

Jeffrey Mayfield

Circulation Managers

Richard Gilbert
J. G. Flynn

Exchange Editor

Greg Thomson

Typing Editor

Ray Jarvis

Writing Staff

Mark Schlobohm
Everett Doffermyre
Robert Hill

Typing Staff

Michael Campbell
Charles Giarraputo
Fred Warren
Fred Hazlewood

Art Staff

Mark Schlobohm

Faculty Advisor

James W. Walker

THE STAFF

Editor-in-Chief

David R. Pomeroy

Assistant Editor-in-Chief Donald Westbrook '69

Distribution Editor Daniel Crapps '69

Exchange Editor Lawrence Miller '69

Poetry Editor George Tompkins '69

Art Editor Reid Hearn '69

Art Staff Lawrence Miller '69
Donald Westbrook '69

Typing Editor Donald Westbrook '69

Faculty Advisor Lt. Neilson

INTRODUCTION

THIS ISSUE of the SCIMITAR is entirely devoted to the history of the Staunton Military Academy with supplementary articles concerning persons and activities associated with it. The purpose is to bring to the cadets a history of the Academy in words and pictures that are clear, concise, and interesting.

The staff of the SCIMITAR would like

to express their deep appreciation to those who contributed information for these articles. The staff is deeply indebted to Colonel William G. Kable, II, whose keen interest and unselfish assistance in compiling materials and facts was greatly beneficial.

The staff acknowledges the following for their donations of information:

Mr. S. Brooke Blackford
 Captain Dennis G. Case
 Mr. John R. Collins
 Colonel Harrison S. Dey
 Lieutenant Colonel Russell P. Ferguson
 Major Jack E. Fincham
 Major Garland D. Haddock
 Captain Harold Johnson
 Mrs. J. Emory Kable
 Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
 Colonel Ruben Moody
 Major William C. Moon
 Mr. A. E. Newton
 Major William M. Pandak
 Mr. Fred Thacker
 Mrs. Eleanor Kable Whitehead

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE



1	Dedication	
4	Introduction	
7	Founder	A. G. Fejes
9	Staunton Military Academy	A. G. Fejes
12	"Buzz"	A. G. Fejes
13	Highlights of Sports	A. G. Fejes
17	The History of Staunton Military Academy	James J. Heinz
19	Staunton's Profile In Courage	A. G. Fejes
21	History of Publications	Robert Hill
23	Memorials	Everette L. Doffermyre
24	Blue and Gold	

EDITOR'S NOTE

IN THIS ISSUE of the SCIMITAR, we have departed from the usual format of poetry and prose, for the purpose of presenting a history of Staunton Military Academy. Since its establishment in 1860, Staunton has grown from a small school for boys to the large and refined educational institution it is today.

Staunton's founding and its early development are history now, and as we know, history for history's sake is worth little indeed! To be of value, history must be conscientiously compared with and applied to the present and future.

The present and the future are not out of place in a discussion of history. Today's world is one of changing trends and styles, whose vast importance must be recognized. Any educational institution which refuses to recognize and adapt accordingly is surpassed, trampled under and left behind to choke in

the dust. Therefore it is the duty of the faculty, the students and the military department to approach the future with two things: (1) an open willingness to adapt and (2) a firm knowledge of history in order that past mistakes may be avoided.

Unfortunately, it's true that during the school's development, mistakes have been made. Staunton Military Academy is not perfect. However, if the two forementioned points are utilized, Staunton has a much greater chance of attaining perfection, as an ideal, than if it disregards these points.

As a concerned student, I can only urge that a policy of open-minded willingness to adapt be accepted. For the second point, however, I can present a history of the school, which if used as a yardstick against future actions, will help to assure Staunton's future success.

DAVID POMEROY
Editor-in-Chief

FOUNDER

A. G. FEJES

CAPTAIN WILLIAM HARTMAN KABLE was born on September 25, 1837, in Jefferson County, Virginia (now West Virginia). As a boy he attended a private school near his father's plantation. In the fall of 1857, he matriculated at the University of Virginia. Leaving the University about a year before the War Between the States, he began his teaching career at the Charles Town Male Academy.

In April, 1861, Mr. Kable enlisted in the 10th Virginia Cavalry "Southern Army" as a private. He won promotion rapidly, being elected lieutenant the next year and captain the following year. Captain Kable fought under "Stonewall" Jackson. During battle in the Gettysberg Campaign, he was wounded at Hanover, Pennsylvania, where he also had his horse shot from under him. He stood by the side of his commander General Robert E. Lee at Appomatox during "the time that tried men's souls". General Lee commended Captain Kable when he said, "This was a good officer."

After the war, Captain Kable resumed teaching at Charles Town. Still ambitious to better equip himself, he graduated from the University of Virginia with a Master of Arts degree in June, 1868. Captain Kable was both a linguist and a mathematician. After

graduation, he taught at West View, near Staunton. However, due to defective eyesight which had just developed, Captain Kable temporarily gave up his teaching career and became a farmer. It was during this period that he met and married Miss Willie Lobban Gibbs of Lynchburg, Virginia.

Captain Kable again began teaching in 1872, this time to continue until he had fifty years of credit as an instructor. He became Headmaster of the Charles Town Male Academy and remained in that position for twelve years.

In 1884, Captain Kable moved his school to Staunton where it has remained ever since. While in Staunton, Captain Kable began the first men's Sunday school in the Baptist Church.

Captain Kable was the Principal of the Academy until his death May 3, 1912. During his life, Captain Kable experienced many difficult times. This learned man who loved boys devoted his life to educate and prepare them not only for college, but also for a successful journey throughout life. From humble beginnings inspired by his devotion to education, Captain Kable made many personal sacrifices which helped to make Staunton what it is today.

STAUNTON MILITARY ACADEMY

A. G. FEJES

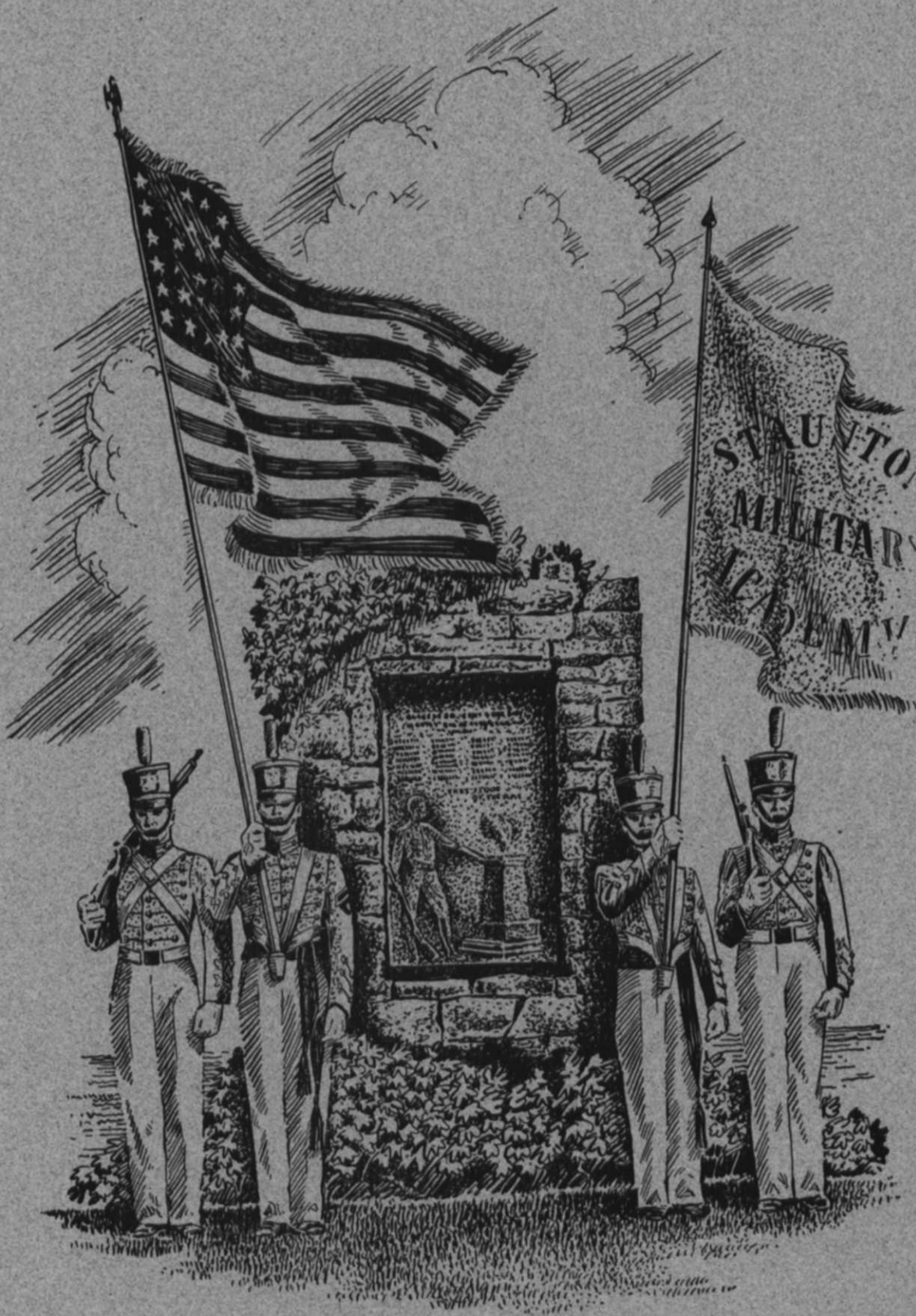
IN THE EARLY part of September 1860 in Charles Town, Virginia, William Hartman Kable founded the Charles Town Male Academy. While teaching there the War Between the States began. He entered the Confederate Army where he attained the rank of captain. At the end of the Civil War, Captain Kable returned to Charles Town to resume teaching.

After an unsuccessful attempt to purchase Mordington, Charles Washington's home called "Happy Retreat" where he had planned to expand his school, Captain Kable moved his academy to Staunton, Virginia, in 1884. Known as Kable's School in Staunton, the actual name was the Staunton Male Academy.

The building where Captain Kable lived and taught class was a large brick house (at the present time, it is the administrative building) constructed around 1845. At first Captain Kable conducted a day school for boys. Approximately twelve pupils would arrive early in the morning, attend classes, eat lunch in the dining room, finish their classes, and return home. The following year he built a wooden dormitory which would accommodate the boarding students plus the classrooms. The enrollment for the first session was seventy-five which included twenty-two boarding students.

In 1886, the school became a military academy. An 1888 catalogue listed seventy-eight cadets in two companies. Some of the courses not only included mathematics, English, and science, but also Greek, German, botany, geology, surveying and civil engineering, and telegraphy. Staunton's courses in chemistry and its well equipped laboratory surpassed practically all of the southern colleges and ranked next to the University of Virginia. Within a few short years Staunton became the finest preparatory school for boys in Virginia, if not the entire South.

On June 23, 1893, a group of men filed a petition for a charter in Staunton court. The second section of the petition follows: "That the Company is formed for the purpose of keeping and conducting a boarding and day school of the above name and of teaching and giving instruction to such persons as may be admitted to their care as pupils of said school in all the various studies and courses of instruction in Ancient and Modern languages, Music, Fine arts, sciences, Military tactics and in all other things usually prescribed in schools and colleges of the highest grade, with the right and privilege to make and foreshcribe such rules and regulations as from time to time may seem fit and proper to them and to



change and alter the same as the best interest of the said school may require." It was signed John E. Massey, president and director of the future corporation. The Honorable Charles Grattan, judge of the court of Hustings for the City of Staunton, signed the charter on June 20, 1893. The name of the company was changed to the Staunton Military Academy, Incorporated.

The school continued to grow not only in size, but also in prestige. Then on the chilly day of November 21, 1904, a disaster struck the Hill. A fire gutted the wooden structure of South Barracks and an adjoining building. As the corp was preparing to leave for furlough, one cadet remarked, "Well Captain, you've lost everything you had. What are you going to do?" "What am I going to do?" replied Captain Kable as he gazed into the ashes, "Why, my good sir, I'm going to find it again where I lost it." The undaunted principal was there on March 18, 1905, when the first stone was laid and witnessed the completion of the building on September 20 of that same year. The new stone barracks contained the complete school plant except the mess hall.

Upon the death of the founder in the spring of 1912, Captain Kable left the entire capital stock to his son Colonel William Gibbs Kable, who was commandant from 1900-1912. Combining his dynamic personality with his knowledge of business as president of the Academy, the school rapidly grew in numbers. During his administration and following Colonel Kable's

death, the plant has expanded in order to meet the needs due to the growth of the Academy. The mess hall was finished in 1912, the administrative building and the junior school were completed in 1914, North Barracks in 1919, the laundry and power plant in 1920, Memorial Hall in 1926, and Kable Hall and West Barracks were finished in 1932. On February 1, 1921, the Post Office Department authorized the establishment of Kable's Classified Finance Station, located in North Barracks, for the purpose of serving the faculty and cadets of the Academy. Due to increased residential development in the area, Kable Station extended its services to the general public.

In 1917, the War Department of the United States issued an order constituting Staunton as a Junior Unit in the Reserve Officers' Training Corp. Staunton was the first, and for many years the only Honor School in the South. The school still maintains this high distinction.

When Colonel Kable died in 1920, he willed that Colonel Thomas H. Russell, his brother-in-law and headmaster for many years, be employed as Principal, now known as Superintendent. As a wise educator and able executive, he continued the high standards which were set by his predecessors.

During this era the cadets enjoyed a large variety of extra-curricular activities. There was the Alpha Bible Club, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Deputation Team, Sun-

day evening programs, The Blackfriars, the Woodrow Wilson Literary Society, and the Debating Team. Ranging from religion to dramatics and from literature to athletics, each cadet was given the opportunity to acquaint himself with the various activities which composed the cadet life. From time to time different clubs and organizations were started to meet the requests of cadets interested in a particular hobby.

Since the death of Colonel Russell in 1933, the Board of Directors has appointed numerous superintendents of equal prominence, one of whom was Major General Wilton B. Pearsons, U.S.A., Retired, who resigned from the Academy to become personal aide to President Eisenhower. The present Superintendent, Colonel Harrison S. Dey, joined the Academy in 1927 as an instructor and athletic coach. He was appointed Superintendent in 1953.

Several faculty and staff members have gained national prominence in the military. General Alexander M. Patch, Commanding General, Seventh Army in World War II, was a Professor of Military Science and Tactics. However, probably the most famous World War II hero was Major Thomas D. Howie, remembered by the people of Virginia and the cadets of Staunton as "The Major of St. Lo."

It is interesting to note that the grandchildren of the founder of the Academy are now members of the Board of Directors of Staunton, and that it is in its fourth generation. Ownership is still controlled and owned by

the Kables who take an active and keen interest in the administration of the school. The founder's grandson, Colonel William Gibbs Kable, II, has been secretary of the Academy since July 1951, although he has been a member of the Board years prior to being appointed to his present position.

From those dark days of the South, through two World Wars, from a depression to prosperity, from the times of Captain Kable and Colonel Russell to the present, Staunton has both prospered and suffered. But Staunton has continued to grow and ranks among the best military high schools in the nation. Prominent persons in the areas of politics, sports, and business who have graduated from Staunton are evidence of the education and discipline offered by the Academy. Senator Barry Goldwater, who is currently campaigning for President of the United States, is probably Staunton's most distinguished alumnus. Other famous alumni included Lou Michaels, place kicker for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and Warren Giles President of the National Baseball League.

Each cadet is part of Staunton's history which already spans over a century. Every cadet should take pride in being a cadet in this corps, a member of the Academy, and a student in this institution. It is the cadets' attitude and accomplishments that write the pages of history. What took one hundred and four years to develop and maintain can be destroyed by a few careless individuals who neither take pride in their school or in themselves.

"BUZZ"

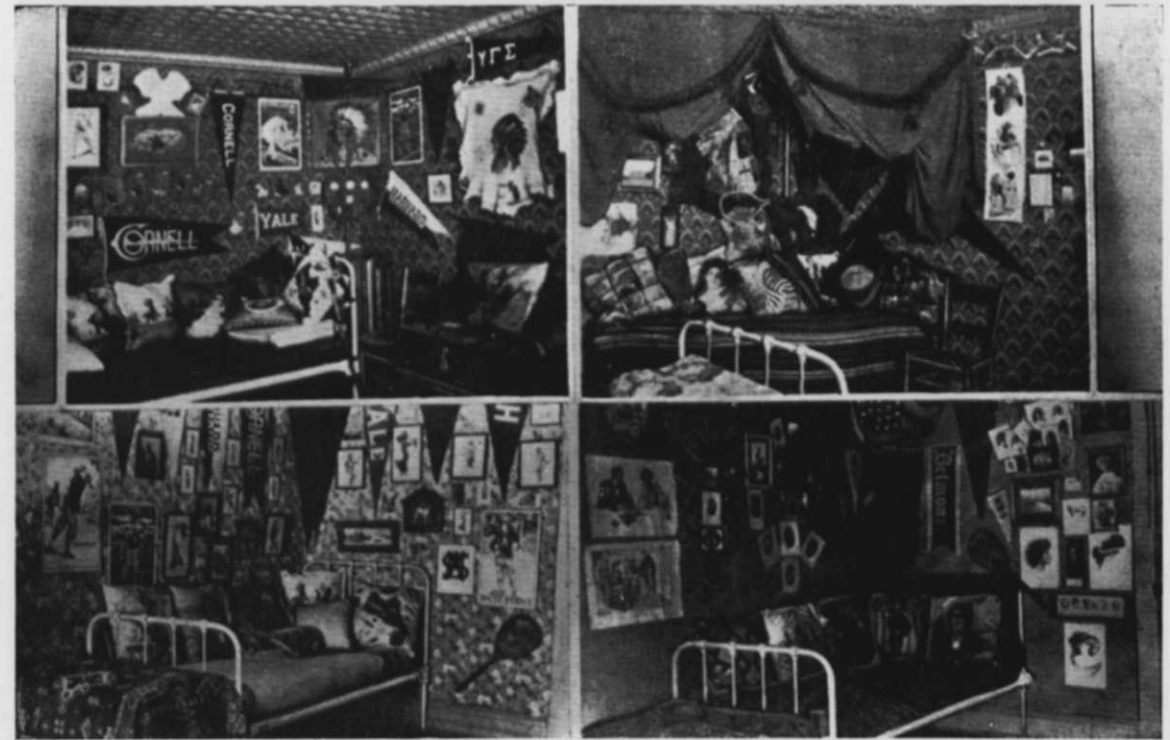
A. G. FEJES

ALL OF THE CADETS have seen his photograph on the cover of Staunton's catalog and in many of the nation's leading magazines, but who is he? To the majority of the corps, he is known as "The Staunton Boy."

His real name is Dewees N. Crawford. "Buzz", as he was called by his classmates, entered SMA in 1903. During his stay, "Buzz" excelled in all phases of cadet life. He was Secretary of the Athletic Association in 1906 and Vice-President in 1907, manager of the baseball team in 1907, a member of the football team from 1904 to 1906, a member of the Alpha Literary Society in 1906, Social Editor of the *Annual* in 1907, member of the Swager Club from 1906 to 1907, Captain of "D" Company, and Vice-President of the German Club. The 1907 *Blue and*

Gold said this: "The school tenders a vote of thanks to McKeesport, Pennsylvania, for the contribution of this youth to us. During the four years of his attendance here, the school has discovered no better man."

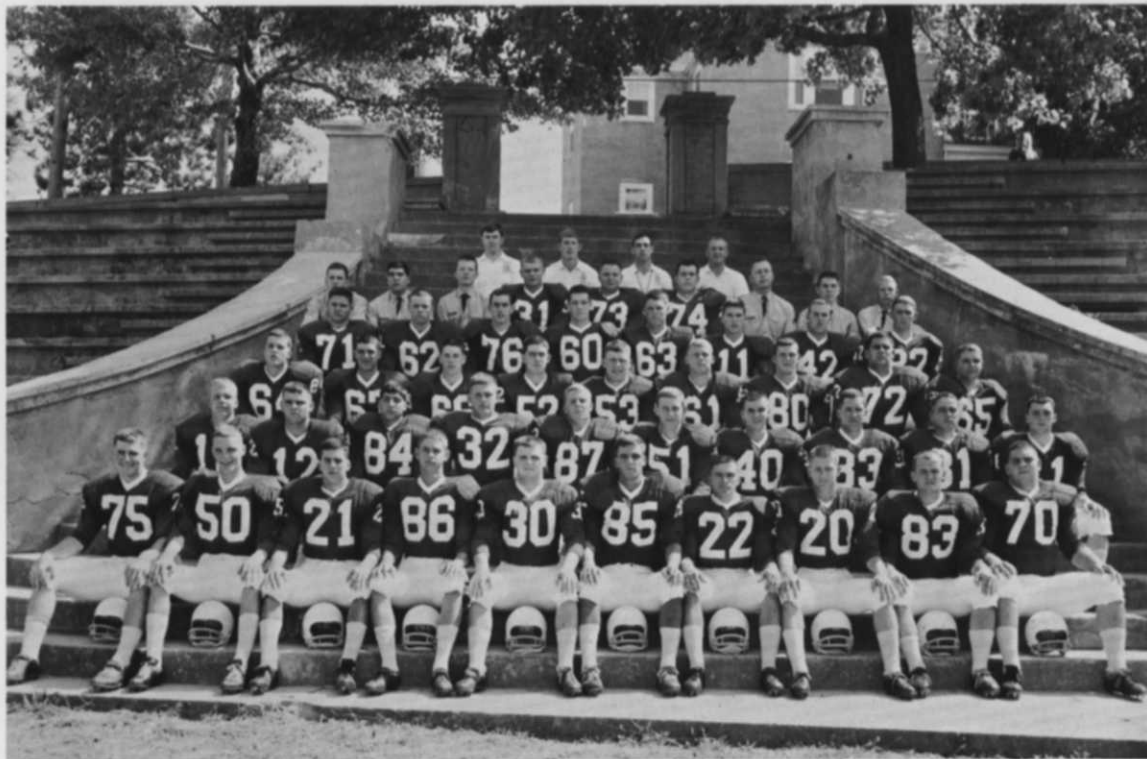
Many stories have been started concerning the reason Dewees Crawford's picture was chosen to represent the Academy as a typical Cadet. The following is part of the Last Will and Testament of the Class of 1907: "I, Dewees N. Crawford, do hereby bequeath my photograph to Captain Kable, and my command of "D" company to Cadet Spear." Nobody actually knows why Captain Kable selected his picture. We can only assume Captain Kable felt that Dewees Crawford looked like the model cadet, a perfect image of a Staunton boy.



Typical Cadet Rooms In 1906.

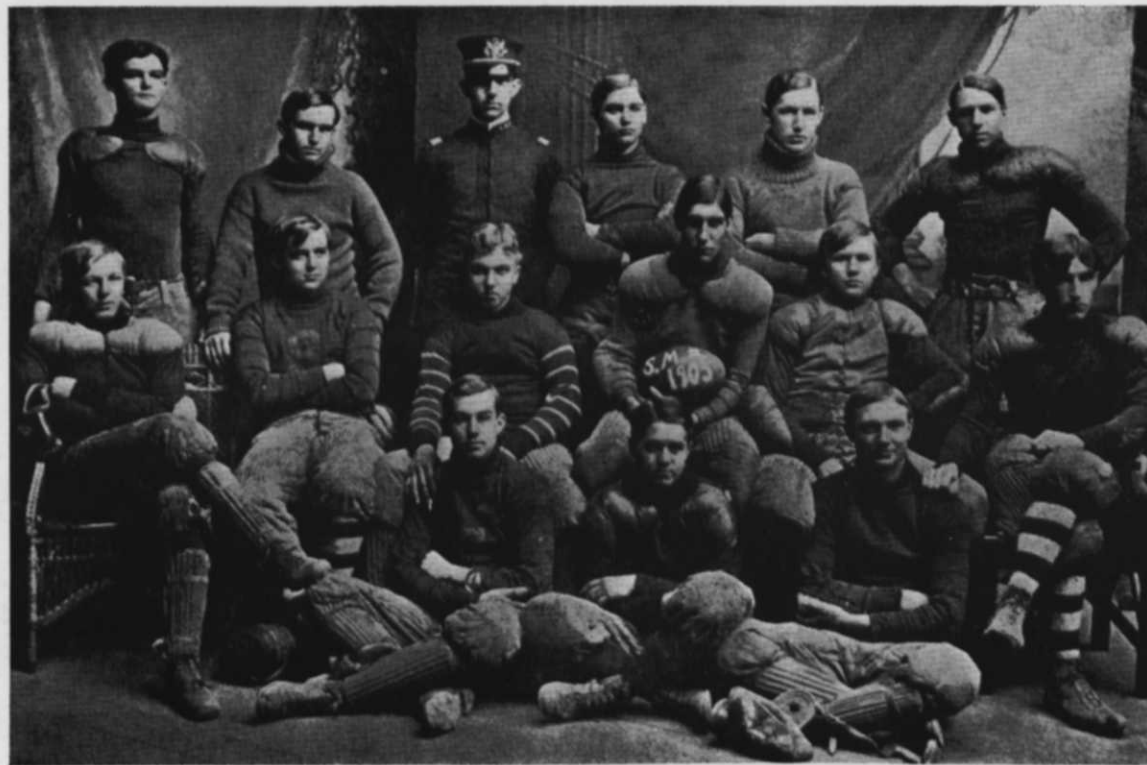


Laundry Formation In 1905.



Staunton Military Academy's 1968 Varsity Team.

Compare their uniforms and equipment with the members of the 1905 Football Team.



Bust of Major Howie in the front of Kable Hall.

The Superintendent's home before Wieland Gate was erected.



HIGHLIGHTS IN SPORTS

MARK SCHLOBOHM

THE ACADEMY has always had an impressive record in interscholastic athletics. The present program includes football, basketball, swimming, rifle, baseball, track, tennis, and golf. Soccer, which is presently an intramural sport, may eventually become a varsity sport.

A few sports have been discontinued because of various reasons. However, during their existence they were very successful. For example, boxing, which was a very popular competitive sport, had a very distinguished record. The team held the state championship in 1942 and 1943.

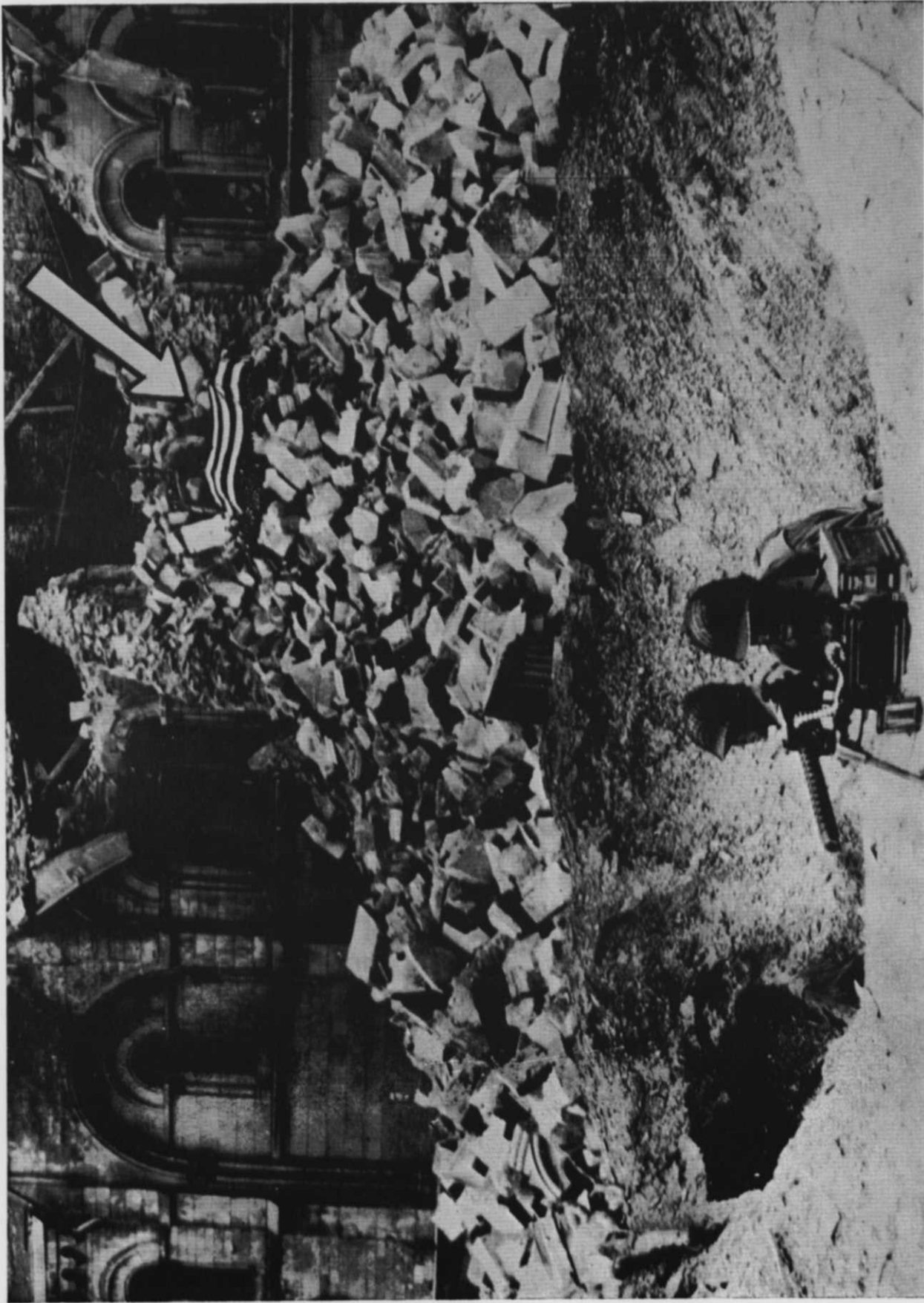
Prior to 1960 when the Virginia Military League was organized, there were "mythical" state titles and championships. Trophies and other awards were presented to teams that had excellent records. Therefore, it is difficult to say exactly when Staunton was a champion. During this era, Staunton received many state titles and championships.

Football is probably the Academy's most spirited sport. It has won numerous state championships, special awards, and was V.M.L. champions in 1961-1962 and again in 1962-1963. Many outstanding athletes who once played on Kable Field have risen to prominence in professional football. Lou Michaels, defensive end and place

kicker for the Pittsburgh Steelers; John Morrow, center for the Cleveland Browns; Dave Lloyd, center and linebacker for the Detroit Lions; and Bill Quinlan, defensive end for the Philadelphia Eagles, all played for Staunton. Many exciting moments have been experienced by the cadets watching the team score a touchdown or quell an opposing team's drive.

Basketball has also been an extremely popular sport. Its success can be verified by the many trophies and plaques. This year's team captured the V.M.L. Championship with a record of eleven wins without a defeat. An outstanding player of the past was Lenny Rosenbluth who later played with the Philadelphia Warriors. During one game in which Rosenbluth scored over seventy-five points, SMA was enjoying a very comfortable lead of over one hundred points. In disgust and dismay the opposing team, which had less than ten points, walked off the floor.

Swimming is another sport whose success is unquestionable. This sport has produced many winning teams. In eastern and southern interscholastic competition, the swimming teams have had many triumphant years. In 1960-1961 and repeating the following year, the tankmen were the V.M.L. Champions. Peter Fick, 1936 Olympic swimmer, and Frank Chamberlain, who



Arrow indicates the flag-draped body of "The Major of St. Lo" resting on a pile of rubble beside the Church of St. Croix in St. Lo, France.

swam at Yale University and in the 1952 Olympics, were both Staunton tankmen.

Baseball at SMA is another sport that has provided many interesting moments. Winning the V.M.L. Championship for the 1962-1963 season, the baseball teams have always proved themselves to be a strong contender. A standout at SMA, Billy Hitchcock, a former major league ball player, is currently the manager of the Houston Colt 45's. Other present day baseball men, who have graduated from the Academy, include Calvin Griffith, owner of the Minnesota Twins; Larry MacPhail, former co-owner of the New York Yankees who established the modern Dodger power; and Warren Giles, president of the National Baseball League.

The rifle team, which won the V.M.L. Championship in 1960-1961 and 1961-1962, continues to produce excellent records. The team's reputation is nationally known. Aside from firing against the plebes of West Point and Annapolis, the sharpshooters com-

pete in various matches such as the Bolling AFB-NRA Sectional Matches, the All State Matches, the Second Army Match, and the National Match.

Track is another very popular sport offered at SMA. The trackmen, who won the V.M.L. Championship in 1960-1961 and again in 1961-1962, can boast of a very fine team. An all around athlete while at SMA, "Chuck" Simmons, a member of the 1948 and 1952 Olympic decathlon teams, is an excellent example of Staunton's strenuous training.

Tennis has always been a victorious sport. The netmen have won the V.M.L. Championship in 1960-1961 and 1962-1963. A good competitor, the team works hard under fine coaching.

Throughout Staunton's history, athletics has become a vital phase of cadet life. Harmony between the coaches and athletes produces teamwork which makes a champion. Athletics and the spirit that it kindles will forever remain an important chapter of Staunton's heritage.

Roll up the score
Staunton Varsity Varsity
Roll up the score
Staunton Varsity Varsity
Roll up the score
You have done it before
You can do it some more,
Staunton Varsity Varsity.

THE HISTORY OF STAUNTON MILITARY ACADEMY

JAMES J. HEINZ

IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, 1860, in Charles Town, Virginia, a school known as Charleston Male Academy was founded. Its founder was Captain William Hartman Kable, a graduate of the University of Virginia, and during the Civil War, a captain in the Tenth Virginia Cavalry of the Southern Army. Captain Kable, a teacher with many years' experience, conducted a private school in Charles Town for a number of years. Later, his school became so well known that it was called the Male Academy with accommodations provided for boarding pupils. The school was founded immediately after the Civil War, but it did not assume the name of Charles Town Male Academy until 1872.

After the Civil War, that part of the state of Virginia where the town of Charles Town was situated, Jefferson County, became a part of the new state of West Virginia. Captain Kable stood the new state of affairs as long as he was able to, but finally, his longing for the South became too strong and in 1884 the school moved to its present site in Staunton, Virginia. The

school was not military while it was in Charles Town. Upon the school's move to Staunton, the military feature was added and, in 1888, the name was changed to the Staunton Military Academy.

While at the original location in Charles Town, the school enjoyed an unusually large patronage with many sons of prominent families receiving their first training there. Among those prominent families were members of the Washington family.

When Captain Kable first moved his school to Staunton, he bought the site it then occupied from a Mr. Alley, a prominent business man of the decade following the Civil War. The original grounds were much smaller than the present campus. Acquisition of the large areas of land near the Alley estate continued until 1910.

The Junior School Principal's residence, which was originally the school hospital, was owned by Commodore Skinner of the Confederate Navy. Upon his death, it was willed to a maiden sister who was to will the home to the University of Virginia. Upon

her death, in 1912, the University sold the property to the Academy. The home is the oldest building on the campus, being about 145 years old. The frame structure which extended from the rear of the house, was used as the Junior School Barracks until 1966, and was built around 1912. This structure, which had served its usefulness was dismantled in the spring of 1966.

In the Academy's early years at Staunton, the founder of the school lived in the building now occupied by the offices of the Superintendent, or President as he was then called, and the Headmaster. The cadets lived upstairs in the building over the home of Captain Kable. Other cadets lived in a frame building which stood on the site now occupied by the Southeast corner of South Barracks. In addition to these two buildings, there was another which contained classrooms and a study hall.

The Academy grew rapidly and was incorporated in 1893. The original charter was written by Judge J. L. S. Kirky, a brother-in-law of Captain Kable, who along with General Robert E. Lee, left the United States Military Academy at the outbreak of the Civil War to fight for the South. For many years Judge Kirky was in charge of all the legal business of the Academy.

Due to the infirmity of his years, the late Captain Kable turned over the administration of the Academy to Colonel William G. Kable in 1900.

In 1904, disaster struck the Academy. The disaster was a fire which destroyed the entire establishment except for the founder's home and the old school hospital. Both of the school's barracks burned to the ground in this fire. No injuries resulted in the 2 A.M. fire, thanks to the efforts of Colonel T. H. Russell, who had just come to the Academy as a teacher the year before, and a cadet who woke up the remainder of the school and led them to safety.

With the entire establishment burned to the ground, the Corps had to be furloughed from the twenty-fourth of November until the tenth of next January. During this period of time, a frame structure was erected on the site of the present South Barracks. In this building, school was held from January 10, 1905 until June 15 of the same year.

Construction of the present South Barracks began on March 1, 1905, with the building being completed by October 1, only 214 days later. Over one hundred men had worked on this task, day and night, with the aid of large lights.

Colonel Kable was Commandant of the Academy from 1900-1912. During Colonel Kable's administration the Academy was nationally advertised. This advertising was one of the main reasons behind the Academy's enrollment increase from one hundred to three hundred by 1910, and the expansion of the Academy. The Mess Hall

was finished in 1912, the administrative building and the Junior School were completed in 1914, North Barracks in 1919, the laundry and power plant in 1920, Memorial Hall in 1926, and Kable Hall and West Barracks in 1932.

Also in 1913, the Academy came under the supervision of the War Department with a tactical officer stationed on the campus.

With the enlargement of the military aspect of the Academy and the Academy's continuous build-up and remodeling, by 1917, the Academy was recognized as a Junior Unit of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and was designated as an Honor School. This Honor School rating meant that two Regular Army First Sergeants would be assigned to duty at the Academy. This was continued until 1965, and was reinstated again in 1966.

When Colonel Kable died in 1920, he willed that Colonel T. H. Russell, his brother-in-law and headmaster for many years, be employed as Principal, now known as Superintendent. As a wise educator and able executive, he continued the high standards of the Academy which were set by his predecessors.

During this era the cadets enjoyed a large variety of extra curricular activities. These activities were the Alpha Bible Club, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Debating Team, and the Woodrow Wilson Literary Society. Ranging from religion to drama

and from literature to athletics, each cadet was given the opportunity to acquaint himself with the various activities which composed the cadet life.

Since the death of Colonel Russell in 1933, the Board of Directors has appointed numerous superintendents of equal prominence one of whom was Major General Wilton B. Pearsons, U.S.A., Retired, who resigned from the Academy to become President Eisenhower's personal aide. The present Superintendent, Colonel Harrison S. Dey, joined the Academy in 1927 as an instructor and athletic coach. He was appointed Superintendent in 1953, and has since then improved the Academy in many ways.

From those dark days of the South, through two World Wars, from a depression to prosperity, from the times of Captain Kable and Colonel Russell, to the present, Staunton has both prospered and suffered. But Staunton has continued to grow and ranks among the best military high schools in the nation.

Each cadet is a part of Staunton's history which already spans over a century. Every cadet should take pride in being a cadet in this corps, a member of the Academy, and a student in this institution. It is the cadet's attitude and accomplishments that write the pages of history. What took one hundred and nine years to develop and maintain can be destroyed by a few careless individuals who neither take pride in their school or in themselves.

STAUNTON MILITARY ACADEMY SUPERINTENDENTS (through the years)

Col. Harrison S. Dey Jan. 1, 1953 to	Col. Emory J. Middour Major Roy W. Wonson (interim)
Col. Homer W. Jones Feb. 1, 1952 to Dec. 31, 1952	Mr. Robert T. Hall (one year) 1934 to May 1, 1935
Maj. Gen. Wilton B. Pearsons Aug. 1, 1949 to Jan. 28, 1951	Col. L. L. Sutherland 1933 1934
Brig. Gen. Earl McFarland Sept. 15, 1943 to July 31, 1949	Col. T. G. Russell 1920 to 1933
Col. S. S. Pitcher (interim) June 1, 1943 to Sept. 15, 1943	Col. W. G. Kable (founder's son) to 1920
Col. E. R. Warner McCabe March 15, 1941 to May 21, 1943	Capt. William H. Kable (founder)

STAUNTON'S PROFILE IN COURAGE

A. G. FEJES

"HE WAS A VERY versatile individual who possessed that little extra which made him popular with everybody." These are the words of Colonel Harrison S. Dey describing his very close friend and colleague Major Thomas Dry Howie who was killed on the field of battle while leading his battalion in the attack on St. Lo, France. Today he is remembered as the "Major of St. Lo."

Major Howie was born in Abbeville, South Carolina, on April 12, 1908. He attended the Citadel where he excelled in academics as well as athletics. He missed getting a Rhoades scholarship by a fraction of a percentage point. In 1929 he graduated with a B.A. degree.

Coming to SMA in the fall of 1929, Major Howie taught English until 1933 when he became head football coach and director of athletics. In February 1938, he was made alumni secretary in charge of the school publications and publicity and served as field representative which he held until granted a leave of absence on February 3, 1941.

He was a second lieutenant in Company "L", 116th Infantry, Virginia National Guard which was stationed in Staunton. In the early part of 1941 he left here with his unit for intensive

training. Within three years he attained the rank of major.

Eight days after the Normandy Invasion, Major Howie declined an operations post at regimental headquarters to take over the 3rd Battalion of the 116th Infantry. His mission was to relieve the 2nd Battalion which for three days had been encircled by the Germans just outside St. Lo, key objective of the Allied Forces breaking out from the Normandy beachhead. The German's stronghold lay in the zone of advance of the 116th Infantry. Upon leaving headquarters, Major Howie said, "Dead or alive, I'll see you in St. Lo."

Just finishing a company commander's meeting where Major Howie discussed the attack plans, the Germans began a mortar barrage. Before taking cover in a nearby foxhole, Major Howie turned to see that all of his men had their heads down. Without warning a mortar shell hit and exploded a few yards from where he was standing. A fragment hit him in the back apparently piercing a lung. He murmured, "My God, I am hit." He died within two minutes in the arms of his executive officer Captain William H. Putteney.

At the request of his battalion and the 116th Infantry as a whole, Major

General Charles H. Gerhardt ordered Major Howie's body be taken into St. Lo. Displaying daring night action, an ambulance protected by armored cars carried his flag-draped body into St. Lo. It was placed on a pile of rubble beside the shell-wrecked Church of St. Croix. His battalion, which broke through the Nazi wall and into St. Lo, passed in review through an artillery barrage thrown by the withdrawing Germans. An obituary written by a soldier said that you felt comfortable around Major Howie even though you might be a private and he was a major.

Many memorials and organizations honoring Major Howie bear his name. The Howie Rifle Honor Society was established at SMA on March 21, 1945, to perpetuate the qualities of the "Major of St. Lo." On January 22, 1947, Governor William M. Tuck of Virginia, Major George Pierre Lavalley, who was the mayor of St. Lo, and

many friends of Major Howie assembled in front of Kable Hall to dedicate a bust of him. Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman, a Richmond editor and Pulitzer prize winner, delivered the main speech. A similar bust of Major Howie stands in St. Lo. John Auslander wrote a poem describing Major Howie's heroic feat. A monument was dedicated in Abbeville, South Carolina on September 10, 1952. On December 5, 1954, the Citadel dedicated the Thomas Dry Howie Carillon in memory of its honorable alumnus. In 1956, the Thomas D. Howie Memorial Armory was opened and still serves the 116th Infantry.

Major Howie is dead, but his spirit will continue to linger in the minds of those who knew him and the people who read about him. Each cadet should strive to attain those soldierly qualities that were possessed by the "Major of St. Lo."



HISTORY OF THE PUBLICATIONS

R. E. HILL

STAUNTON MILITARY Academy's publications have undergone many changes in the past years. The present-day *Shrapnel*, *Kablegram*, and *Scimitar* differ considerably from the early publications. Such names as the *Blue and Gold*, the *Alumni Bulletin*, *Points for Patrons*, and the *Handbook* have either been changed or dropped from the annals of the Academy's publication history.

Our present yearbook, the *Shrapnel* originated as the *Blue and Gold* back in 1906. This yearbook has remained practically the same throughout the years although most of the earlier issues contained quite a few poems and short stories. In 1932 the *Blue and Gold* changed its name to the *Shrapnel* as it is known today. This yearbook has been very successful right from the start. Within the covers of this book are found many things that delight the reader, such as satirical remarks of the graduating class and faculty, a novel humor section, pictures of the various athletic teams and school societies, and excellent editorials on the graduates and organizations. The possessor of this book will never forget his old alma mater, for when he glances through the pages once again, the memories of his days at S. M. A. begin to return, and it is then that he will

begin to appreciate what S. M. A. has done for him.

Before our yearbook took the title of the *Shrapnel*, the name applied to an annual handbook distributed to both new and old cadets to familiarize them with the Academy's general policies and organization. This book has been partially replaced by today's *Blue Book* except the latter does not contain all the information about cadet life that the *Shrapnel* contained.

In order to maintain a loyal connection between the alumni and those following in their footsteps, the *Alumni Bulletin* was published in previous years. It was distributed to the alumni four times during a year. This *Alumni Bulletin* is no longer published here at the Academy.

Points for Patrons was published for the benefit of the parents and relatives of the students of the Academy in order for them to be familiar with the progress of their boys. The *Points for Patrons* has also been discontinued.

The *Kablegram*, which started forty-seven years ago, has changed considerably throughout the years. It started out as a single sheet, front and back, containing stories and poems which made it more of a literary publication than a newspaper. Approximately ten years after its origin it became what

it is today, a four page school newspaper. In its early years the *Kablegram* was a bi-weekly paper, but now it is published every three weeks. The name *Kablegram* is a pun on cablegram using the family name of Kable. The purpose of the newspaper is to print school news of importance to students, teachers, graduates, and the parents of S. M. A. cadets. The *Kablegram* provides cadets with the opportunity to do journalism work, which is of great importance in later life. The *Kablegram* has won a variety of awards over the past years in the judging of the Southern Interscholastic Press Association which meets every year at Washington and Lee College in Lexington. There is a very limited amount of advertising in the *Kablegram* and the students do most of the work.

The *Scimitar* is a general interest

magazine enjoyed by the cadets three times a year. It started in 1957 and has been with us since that year. The *Scimitar* contains poems, short stories, cartoons, and a "Dear John" section, which is of particular interest to the corps. Three times a year cadets gather information and thoughts, sit down, and put this magazine together. A *Scimitar*, being a type of weapon, was chosen as the title of this magazine to go along with the *Shrapnel*.

Staunton Military Academy's publications have been proved highly successful over the past years. Cadets have always shown a high interest in the school's publications and have sacrificed many long hours to make them successful. The publications are put out by the cadets, and the cadets are therefore responsible for their success or failure.



MEMORIALS

E. L. DOFFERMYRE

THROUGHOUT THE CAMPUS of S. M. A. are many memorials honoring those people who have added notably to the Academy or their country. These men devoted their lives to a cause in which they believed. Though they are no longer with us, their spirits still prevail over the Academy. Their lives have been an inspiration to many cadets and their high ideals and great accomplishments have set for us a goal that we should all strive to attain.

One of the most significant memorials at S. M. A. is the one dedicated to the honor of the "Major of St. Lo," Thomas D. Howie. His bust now rests in a niche in the facade of Kable Hall. The sculptor of the bust was William Wescott of New York. It was dedicated on January 22, 1947, at a ceremony attended by many famous dignitaries. His life was a living example which we all should hope to follow.

The large majestic Weiland Gates stand at the entrance of the Academy. Constructed in honor of Dr. John Thomas Weiland, Lieutenant, USNR, they are a fitting tribute to a man who gave all he could for his country—his life. Dr. Weiland was killed in the Southwest Pacific during World War II on December 2, 1944. He was a member of the faculty here from 1931-1935. The Weiland Gates honor a man who put his country before himself.

Memorial Hall is the "largest" mem-

orial at the Academy. Built in honor of Colonel Thomas H. Russell, the Hall stands "as a lasting symbol of Colonel Russell's faith in, idealism for, and inspiration to the Corps of Cadets of S. M. A." Inside, directly above the white porcelain drinking fountain, is a bronze plate with the inscription, "This plaque is erected in honor of a great educator, officer, and gentleman, a loyal friend and leader, whose life was an inspiration to the Cadet Corps of the Staunton Military Academy." These words were the characteristics of Colonel Russell, who served as President of the Academy from 1920-1933. In this time he gained the respect and admiration of all those who knew him. Nothing better can be said of Colonel Russell than the elegant dedication in the memorial.

Just above the volumes of the Encyclopedia Americana in the library is a personal portrait and a simple phrase which stand as a glowing tribute to Colonel James Worth Pence. He was a member of the faculty from 1919 until 1938 when he became acting Headmaster. The following year he undertook that position permanently and fulfilled his duties admirably until his tragic death in 1958. As the phrase reads, he was a "Faithful friend and devoted servant" of S. M. A. The memory of such a fine man will live on infinitely.

Lieutenant Colonel Harold Cedric James was born in 1896 and came to S. M. A. in 1917. While here, he was a physics teacher and the head of the science department. A man of military merit, Colonel James fought in both World Wars. On the right at the doors of North Barracks is a small plaque with the following words inscribed: "Beloved teacher and counselor of cadets, 1917-1960." Such was Colonel James—loved by all and always ready to advise those who sought his wisdom.

When speaking of memorials, it is

only proper to recognize the people from S. M. A. who have given something for their country, not just for the Academy. After World War I there was erected a stone monument to honor all who fought and died for our nation in that first "global conflict." Now its significance extends to all alumni of the Academy who have given their lives in the service of our country. "They stood by their flag" is all that was put on the monument. Those gallant men who put their country first, honor not only the Staunton Military Academy, but the entire United States.

BLUE AND GOLD

Strive on, our dear old schoolmates
 Fight for the goal in sight
 Fight for the fame of old S.M.A.
 Fight on with all your might
 Don't let defeat cause sorrow,
 Think of the victorious of old.
 One day's defeat means victory to
 meet
 So fight on for the Blue and Gold.
 Hail to our Alma Mater!
 Hail to the Gold and Blue!
 Here's to the glorious past, S.M.A.
 Here's to thy future too!
 Under thy glorious colors
 We'll double the victories of old
 We'll shout thy name and bear thee to
 fame,
 So fight on for the Blue and Gold.