

By Lieutenant C. A. LADERA

**L**ITTLE known outside of its location in Fort McKinley, Rizal, the School for Reserve Commission of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is the fertile training ground for officers who in time of war will lead our reserve components in the field.

As early as 1937, the Philippine Army had its Schools for Reserve Commission. In June of that year, two SRCs were opened at Camp Ord, Tarlac and at Camp Keithley, Lanao for the Infantry and another was established at Camp Dau, Pampanga for the Field Artillery. Two years later, a fourth school was opened for the Coast Artillery Corps at Fort Wint.

These pre-war SRCs were opened only for outstanding trainees who had shown exceptional qualities and aptitudes for military leadership during their regular training period. When these schools were closed in June, 1941, the Philippine Army already had a sizeable corps of reserve officers. Along with the ROTC and the ROSS, the SRCs had trained and furnished the reserves who were to man the infant Philippine Army in the gallant defense of the Philippines in 1941-42.

The first post-war SRC was opened at the PAF Training Group, Nichols Air Base in March 1951 pursuant to GHQ Training Directive No. 9. Admission to the School was however limited to non-commissioned officers who

had at least three years of active service, at least high school graduates and who were not more than 30 years of age.

Before the opening of the Nichols School, enlisted men could get commissioned only if they possessed exceptional qualifications and very few of them did. Three classes were graduated from the Nichols SRC with a total turnout of 244 reserve officers before the school was closed.

In 1952, a new School for Reserve Commission was established under GHQ Training Directive No. 22, series of 19-52. This directive provided for Officer Candidate Courses at the Philippine Army Training Command, the Philippine Air Force and the Philippine Navy, but so far only that at the PATC has been established for training all officer candidates from all the major commands of the Armed Forces.

The course at the SRC covers a 24-week schedule designed to develop selected non-commissioned officers of the Regular Force, selected trainees, and basic ROTC graduates into commissioned officers of the reserve force. The age qualification has been raised to not more than 45 years, obviously to give a chance to enlisted men who have spent the best years of their lives in the service to go up the rank and achieve officership. The size of the classes at the school depends on directives issued from

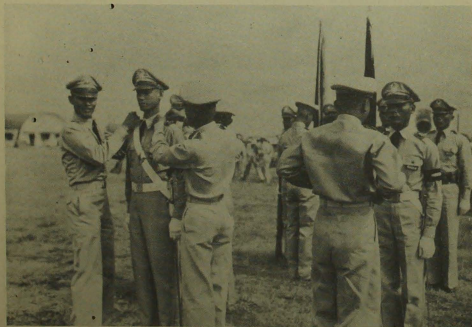


**CADETS' LIFE AT THE SRC** *A pattern of rigid training, in the field and in classrooms, and the glamour and thrill of cadet life in a military school make up the daily existence of aspirants for reserve commission at the SRC in Fort McKinley. Above, the cadets test their marksmanship at the firing range. Below, cadets practice the crawl, the mastery of which is so indispensable in actual warfare.*



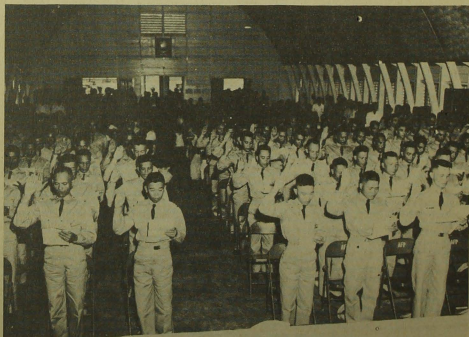


The 24-week training is not complete without the long marches with which foot soldiers should be familiar. Physical fitness and endurance are essential assets, especially for those who in the future will lead the citizen army of the Republic. Above, the SRC cadets cross a wooden bridge in the country in the course of a long training trek. The rigorous life is not without its compensation. Below, "Recognition Day" sees the incoming first captain and cadets get their senior stripes.





*Social affairs to break the monotony of continuous training are held by the cadets. Red-letter day is the Senior-Junior Hop, above. Then, after the long schooling, the cadets realize their one ambition: to be commissioned in the Reserve Force. Photo below shows the cadets taking their oath after the graduation ceremonies culminating their stay at the SRC.*



time to time. Each class usually starts with 120 cadets, from all major commands of the AFP.

Major Jose Q Arce, commandant of the Ground Combat School at the PATC, is concurrently the SRC commandant. He is assisted by the GCS staff and faculty. For administrative purposes, the SRC is a part of the student battalion under Captain Daniel C Agustin and his tactical officers. It consists of SRC 3, 4, and 5. SRC 1 and 2 were graduated early this year with some of their top men now in active service.

As in other military schools, a class system exists at the SRC, each class traditionally known as "Seniors", "Juniors", and "Plebes". The Seniors, the lords of the SRC world, are distinguished by two black bars on their red shoulder loops. They are the privileged class, the lawmakers and the source of officers for the SRC corps. The internal management of the corps is mostly left to them.

Cadets with a single black bar on their loops are the Juniors, the corps middlemen. They have been recognized by the upper class and vested with the responsibility over the Plebes. The latter are in the lowest rung of the SRC class ladder. They wear a plain red shoulder loop with their khaki uniforms and have their collars closed with their HBT's.

Cadets in the SRC are given two ratings, one in Academics and the other in Military Aptitude. The weights assigned to these ratings are: Academics, 1,000 points, and Military Aptitude 150 points. The sum of these two ratings determines a cadet's class standing which is the basis for appointment as a cadet officer and for priority in recommendation of SRC graduates for call to active duty. The 1,000 points for Academics is allotted among the different subjects taken during the entire course, the allocation depending on the importance of the subject. The points credited to a cadet for each subject is the percentage-grade he obtains in a graded examination on the subject multiplied by the weight allotted

to the subject.

A cadet must satisfy the following requirements in Academics before he can graduate:

- (a) He must obtain a minimum of 700 points.
- (b) He must have satisfactory grades in at least 2/3 of the subject of the course.
- (c) He must have a satisfactory grade in Map Reading.
- (d) He must qualify in Marksman-ship Course with the M1 Rifle.

The 150 points for Military Aptitude is credited to the cadet on the following basis:

- |                                           |      |        |
|-------------------------------------------|------|--------|
| (a) Merits and demerits                   | — 40 | points |
| (b) Physical fitness tests                | — 20 | "      |
| (c) Tactical Officer's evaluation reports | — 30 | "      |
| (d) Classmates' evaluation reports        | — 30 | "      |
| (e) Instructional ability                 | — 30 | "      |

Ratings on merits and demerits are rendered every month. Physical fitness tests are given on the second, fourth and last month of the course. A minimum of two performance tests in the conduct of instruction are given during the course. Each cadet renders an evaluation report on all his classmates after the first three months of the course and another report at the end of the course. The tactical officer renders his evaluation report at the end of the course.

The rating for Military Aptitude does not affect a cadet's passing or failing the course except when his rating is exceptionally low in which case the Academic Board of the school conducts an investigation to determine the advisability of returning the cadet to the school or sending him back to his unit.

The program of instruction is a systematic blending of General Instruction, Tactics, and Weapons subjects taught by instructors at the Ground Combat School. The twenty four weeks in the school is a continuous field and classroom instruction, the field work covering about 55% of the entire period.

Most of the cadets have learned their army ABC the hard way, the large percentage of them coming from the regulars. The instruction has therefore been devised so as to endow them with the finer and higher points of "soldiering" through lectures, seminars, training films, demonstrations, field exercises, orientation trips, and the like. The 26-hour subject on "Command and Leadership", for example, is supplemented in the senior class with assignments of the students as cadet officers, commander of the guard in the PASC interior guard duty, platoon leaders for school troops during parades and inspections, and instructors in training courses for enlisted men which the PASC conducts from time to time. In the subject "Unit Mess and Supply", the students undergo a weekly rotation as assistant mess officer in the PASC consolidated mess.

Upon graduation, the successful cadets earn a commission in the Reserve Force of the Armed Forces. The top men (usually the first ten, depending on GHQ policies) are discharged from the service as enlisted men and are called to active duty as officers. The rest are returned to their respective units in their NCO stripes to wait for possible call to active duty as officers. In some units graduates of the SRC are assigned as acting platoon leaders and other responsible positions which are vacant due to lack of officers.

The state of discipline in the corps is most exemplary. In the short span since SRC 1, traditions strictly SRC have been evolved by the cadets themselves. The spic and span appearance, while traditional with any military unit, has found an added gloss, an additional spring in the steps of these battle-tested men. One has to visit their area and their quarters or see them at Saturday inspection and mid-week evening parades to wonder how such hardened men brought together from all units of the AFP can be knit into a group the Armed Forces can be proud of. There is no army, no navy, no air force, no PC here; just a "damn good

and fine-looking bunch of men", in the words of General "Iron Mike" O'Daniels who once had an SRC company for his escort of honor. The SRC is the show house of the PATC, always a stopping point for all important visitors.

The school operates on an Honor System. Breaches of regulations are punished with penalties which range from the "drop" (push-ups) and weekend tours to dismissal and possible discharge from the service. Cheating during examinations cases are rare and when they come up, the book is thrown at the offenders. Cheating is one of the gravest offenses an SRC cadet can commit.

Recognition Day is a red-letter day for the corps, especially for the Plebes. They get their black stripes on their shoulder loops and their HBT collars are opened by their uppies over a hand-shake and to the traditional tune, "Auld Lang Syne." Their double-timing days end with this day which is usually starting with intricate ballroom stepping in the Senior-Junior hop.

The corps is at its best during the evening parade, a much-awaited event at the PASC every week. These are occasions for the award of decorations earned by cadets in one battlefield or another and the publication of commendations.

These days when the opposite camps of the world are at loggerheads, the matter of preparedness should be lifted from the planning stage. An indispensable part of our preparedness program is the establishment of a sufficient well-trained and well-officered Reserve Force. The SRC stands at the forefront in the efforts to realize this objective. We have the officers and men ready, willing and eager to prove what blood and fire have tested in the past: the worth of Filipino soldiery. The School for Reserve Commission makes it eloquent with their motto, "DO OR DIE AND KNOW WHY!"



# TRAINING THE YOUTH FOR DEFENSE

# ROTC

The youth of today are the hope of tomorrow. Nowhere do these words ring with more truth than in the great task of national defense. The youth of today will be the vanguard of the nation's defense in tomorrow's wars. And to prepare them for the tasks ahead, to train their minds and hearts and develop their courage and skill, is one of the primordial undertakings of the Armed Forces of the Philippines today. This is achieved through the Reserve Officers Training Corps in colleges and universities throughout the country.

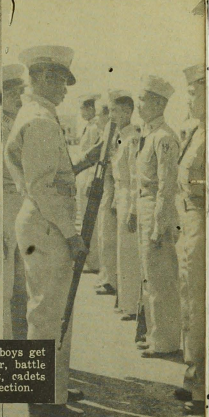
## PICTORIAL



Since 1936, when the Philippine military organization was established, the regular cadence of marching college boys and the swish and glamor of passing military colors have been familiar sights in university campuses and public squares. Above, ROTC colors on parade in Manila; below, ROTC boys in a big gathering.



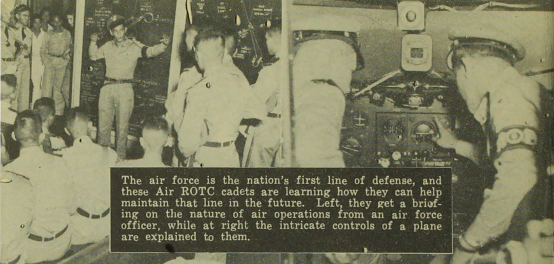




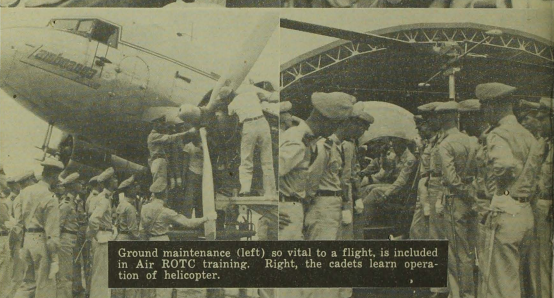
As leaders of tomorrow's fighting men, the ROTC boys get rigorous training in theories and principles of war, battle tactics, and military discipline and bearing. Left, cadets learn strategy on drawing board; right, arms inspection.



Both brain and brawn of future military leaders must be developed. Left, infantry cadets take exams in field; right, arduous obstacle course.



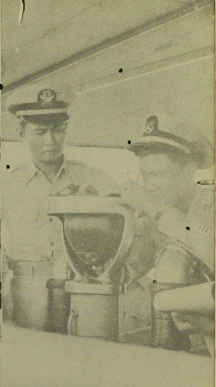
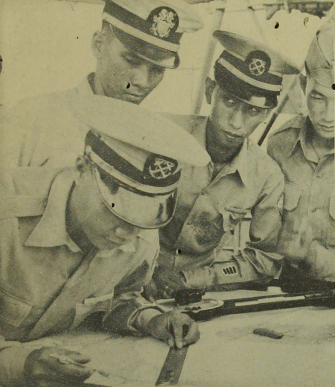
The air force is the nation's first line of defense, and these Air ROTC cadets are learning how they can help maintain that line in the future. Left, they get a briefing on the nature of air operations from an air force officer, while at right the intricate controls of a plane are explained to them.



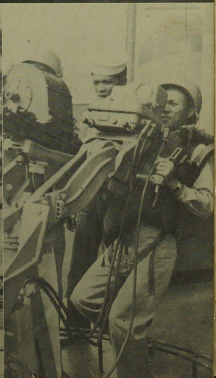
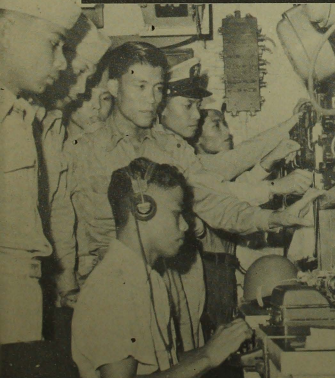
Ground maintenance (left) so vital to a flight, is included in Air ROTC training. Right, the cadets learn operation of helicopter.

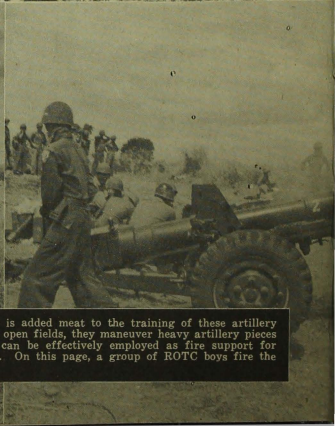
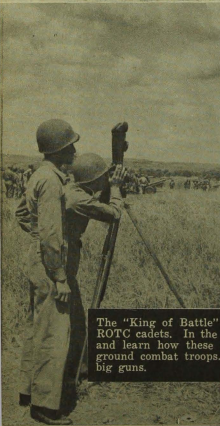
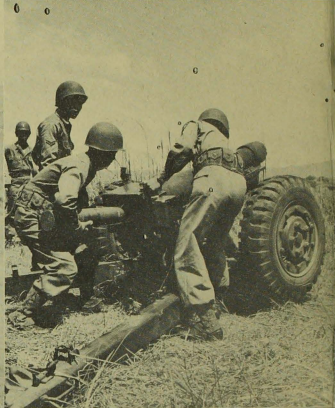


Air cadets get fill-in on how to handle an amphibian (left) and Mustang twin-propeller fighter planes (right).

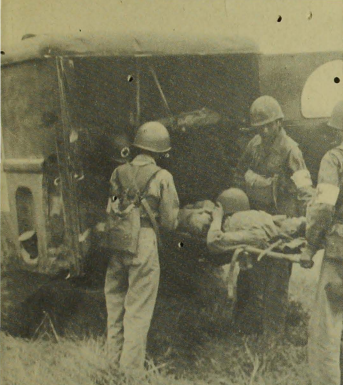


And for a country surrounded by vast seas, the Philippines must have men to guard its sea frontiers and guide its military vessels. On this spread, Naval ROTCs are shown getting the feel of military seamanship. Above, left, PN officer shows cadets how to plot the course of a ship and, right, they learn to take bearings. Below, left, cadets see radio room operations and, right, man a 20-mm anti-aircraft machine gun.

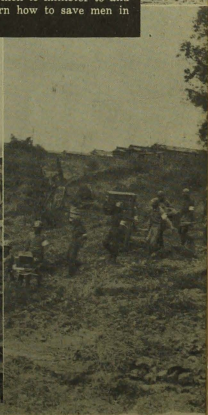


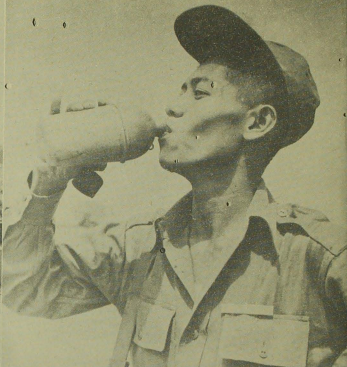
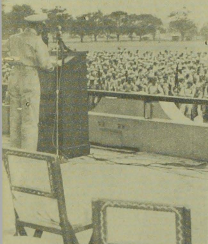


The "King of Battle" is added meat to the training of these artillery ROTC cadets. In the open fields, they maneuver heavy artillery pieces and learn how these can be effectively employed as fire support for ground combat troops. On this page, a group of ROTC boys fire the big guns.



As in yesterday's wars, the casualties will be heavy in tomorrow's battles and there will be great need for medical men to minister to and save those who fall fighting. ROTC cadets learn how to save men in simulated battle conditions.





Military life is hard and tough, these ROTC cadets find out. But tomorrow's war will be a lot harder and tougher and they must, aside from drawing upon the experience of the nation's military leaders, know how it feels to have a parched throat after a long hike in the blistering sun, the hunger that gnaws after an arduous field operation, and the tiredness of limb and body after a heavy day fighting the imaginary battles that may come to reality in the future.

