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Aug 29 1918

General Peyton C. March, Chief of Staff, today approved, by order of the Secretary of War, a plan for the organization of a Student Army Training Corps in the educational institutions of the country to train men as officers and technical experts in the army. The plan for the Student Army Training Corps, as altered to conform to the plans of the War Department for lowering the draft age, will utilize the plant, equipment, and organization of the colleges to maintain a reservoir of officer material for training, from which it will be possible to meet the enlarged needs of the various branches of the service.

The length of time during which men will be trained in the colleges will depend upon the needs of the service. As fast as one group of trained men is drawn from the colleges into the service their places will be taken by a new quota obtained by voluntary induction or through the draft. In this way the educational facilities of the country will be used to maintain a constant supply of men who are trained to meet the needs of the army.

Under the regulations provided for the Student Army Training Corps selected young men who are physically fit for military service, who are 18 years of age or over, and who have had a grammar school education may be voluntarily inducted into the army and enter upon a course of special training. Those who have had a grammar school education but no more will ordinarily enter Special Training Detachments to be trained along mechanical lines of military value. These Detachments will become a part of the Student Army Training Corps and young men who prove in the course of their mechanical training that they are officer material may be transferred to a unit in one of the colleges to be prepared to enter a Central Officers' Training Camp.

Young men who have had at least a high school education will be allowed to enter the colleges for more advanced training as officers and as technical experts of various kinds, according to their experience and abilities. Those men who show promise under this training will be kept in college until qualified to enter Central Officers' Training Camps or to go directly into the service as technical experts. Those who do not will be sent either to Non-commissioned Officers' Schools or to the nearest Depot Brigade or, in case they show special technical or mechanical ability, to the detachments where men are trained for such work.

Arrangements will be made for transferring from the Depot Brigades to units of the Student Army Training Corps men whose ratings in the cantonments indicate them to be officer material but not yet ready to enter Central Officer Training Camps. Every effort will be made to give every young man who enters the service under this plan opportunity for the training best suited to his natural ability and preferences in order to enable him to serve the country in the most efficient way.

Washington, D. C.  
August 20, 1918.

RALPH BARTON PERRY,  
Executive Secretary, Committee on  
Education and Special Training.