

# STUDENTS ARMY TRAINING CORPS

## I

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ON the lawn adjoining the academic quadrangle the Students Army Training Corps<sup>1</sup> of the Rice Institute assembled for the first time on October 1st, 1918, at eleven o'clock in the morning. Under a bugler's call "To the Colors," the prospective members were drawn up in hollow square formation. In the presence of the Trustees, Faculty, friends, and students of Rice, these four hundred men took the pledge of allegiance—"I pledge allegiance to my flag, and the Republic for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all"—following phrase by phrase the lead of the commanding officer, Colonel

<sup>1</sup> Immediately on the entrance of the United States into the European War the Rice Institute petitioned the War Department, under the National Defense Act of June 3rd, 1916, to establish an infantry unit of the Reserve Officers Training Corps, senior division, at the Rice Institute. Despite the fact that upon the declaration of war the War Department discontinued the establishing of further units of the R. O. T. C., the Rice Institute's application was, on recommendation of the Chief of Staff, granted by special dispensation of the Secretary of War. The first act towards the actual establishment of the Rice unit was made by the War Department on May 12th, 1917, by the detailing of Major Joseph Frazier, United States Army, retired, as professor of military science and tactics at this institution. Major Frazier reported promptly for duty, and effected a military organization of the students. He was relieved on October 9th, 1917, by Captain Taylor M. Reagan, United States Army, retired. Captain Reagan, having received permission from the War Department to assume duties as major of a regiment of the Texas National Guard, was relieved on September 1st, 1918, by Colonel Charles J. Crane, United States Army, retired.

Under the revised plans of the War Department, the Rice unit of the R. O. T. C., senior division, is being this autumn absorbed in the Rice unit of the S. A. T. C., college section. The present military personnel of the Rice S. A. T. C. consists of Colonel Charles J. Crane, United States Army, retired, Commanding Officer; Captain R. W. Knight, Supply Officer; Captain Smith S. Mullin, Medical Officer; 1st Lieutenant Nathan Zoglin, Medical Reserve Corps; 2nd Lieutenant Emanuel J. Coyle, Personnel Adjutant; and 2nd Lieutenants Bentley F. Adams, Marvin Eickenroht, Lothrop F. Follett, and King Vivion.

Charles J. Crane, United States Army, retired, who, before reading the official orders of the day, and messages from the President of the United States, the Acting Secretary of War, and the Chief of Staff, addressed the assemblage in the following words:

“At this very hour to-day in five hundred colleges of the country, located in every State of the Union, the same ceremony which we are holding is taking place. Here and at the other five hundred colleges the organization of the Students Army Training Corps is being completed by the reading of the same orders from Washington and by the taking of the oath of allegiance to the flag.

“What does the flag represent that we should swear allegiance to it? Gentlemen, the flag represents our country. And this any man who leaves his country knows and feels whenever he sees his flag, the flag of his country. In such circumstances a man’s feeling towards the flag of his country is appropriately described by Sir Walter Scott’s well-known lines:

‘Breathes there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
“This is my own, my native land!”  
Whose heart hath ne’er within him burn’d  
As home his footsteps he hath turn’d  
From wandering on a foreign strand?  
If such there breathe, go, mark him well;  
For him no Minstrel raptures swell;  
High though his titles, proud his name,  
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;  
Despite those titles, power, and pelf,  
The wretch, concentr’d all in self,  
Living, shall forfeit fair renown,  
And, doubly dying, shall go down  
To the vile dust from whence he sprung,  
Unwept, unhonour’d, and unsung.’

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If a man is a true patriot, such should be his feelings towards the man who does not love his country; nor can any man be a patriot who feels otherwise. And on coming in sight of his own country, when returning from a foreign shore, he is sure to have the feelings Sir Walter Scott describes. Such is the soldier's experience.

“Moreover, we of the Army, we soldiers, feel towards our flag and our country exactly as Stephen Decatur felt when he said in a toast :

‘My Country! may she always be right!  
But, right or wrong, My Country!’

“Gentlemen, Sir Walter Scott and Stephen Decatur have described how we feel towards our flag and our country, and that is why we are to-day, at five hundred different colleges, swearing allegiance to the flag, which represents our country.”