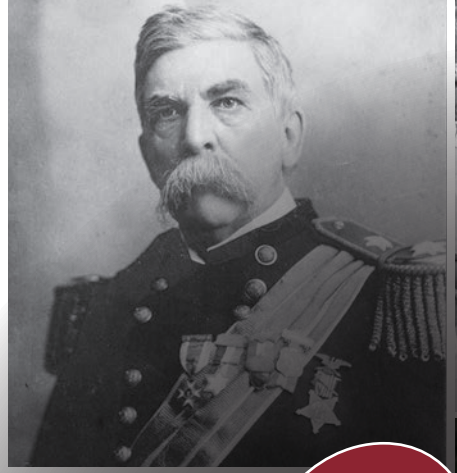
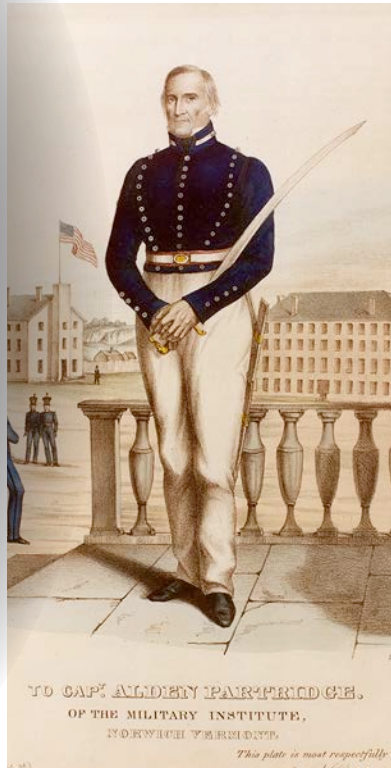




200 THINGS ABOUT NORWICH

200 THINGS ABOUT NORWICH

Introduction

In 2019 we celebrate Norwich University's 200th year of service to our nation. As part of our commemorative activities we launched an exciting initiative that has been a learning experience for all of us.

In June 2015 we commenced a four-year campaign to highlight "200 Things" that make Norwich unique. In other words, the people, events and objects that provide a perspective on how enduring the legacy of Alden Partridge is—and will be—going into our third century of existence.

Let me give you an example. One of our graduates, Thomas Clemson, Class of 1825, is the founder of Clemson University. I didn't realize that until I learned about this project!

I know some of the big names, of course, but it's the others, those who have served our country or in their communities in ways most of us are unaware of. We have had soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, many who have served with great distinction. But we have also had people who have served our nation in other important ways. That's a significant part of our legacy.

What a great place and what a great way to start the week. Every Monday morning for four years, we posted a new fact and many, people said, "Gee, I didn't know that." We want you to feel that you are a part of the bicentennial celebration as well as the community of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of Norwich.

Please take some time to read *200 Things About Norwich* and the 'things' that make us so proud to be part of this institution.

Norwich Forever!

GEN Gordon R. Sullivan, USA (Ret.) '59
Honorary Chair, Norwich Bicentennial

Special Thanks and Credits

In honor of the 200th anniversary of Norwich University's founding, the Bicentennial Commemoration Committee developed a series of weekly online posts to "tell the Norwich story". First launched in June 2014, 200 Things About Norwich highlighted the people and events that have impacted the development and legacy of the university over the past two centuries.

There were many contributors to the project over four years' time. They include:

Gary Appleby, NU 1990
Jacque E. Day
Lori Duff
Clarke T. Haywood, NU 2012
Gary Lord
Curtis Ostler
Peter F. Young

Mark Bushnell
Carlo D'Este, NU 1958
Gary Frank
Paul Heller
Duane Martin, NU 1967
Martin Suydam, NU 1965

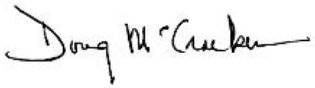
William Crittendon, NU 1965
Timothy H. Donovan, NU 1964
Robyn Greene
George H. Kabel, NU 1970
Bonnie McShane
Diana Weggler

We are sincerely grateful for their support of this project. The most prolific contributor to the series was Mary Margaret Groberg, Outreach Archivist for Norwich University Archives. The work she and her colleagues committed to research and write approximately 150 of the 200 'things' was nothing short of heroic.

Additional thanks goes to the staff of the Sullivan Museum & History Center. They were a resource for 200 Things About Norwich as well as partners in creating an additional 20 posts to extend the original series. The 200+20 Things About Norwich series allowed the project to continue until the culminating bicentennial events at Homecoming 2019. Though those 20 posts are not included in this publication, they are available online at bicentennial.norwich.edu/200things.

On behalf of the Bicentennial Commemoration Committee, it is our sincere hope that you enjoy learning more about our university's remarkable story through 200 Things About Norwich.

Norwich Forever!



Douglas M. McCracken, NU 1970
Chairman
Bicentennial Commemoration Committee

Diane M. Scolaro
Associate Vice President
Alumni Relations & Bicentennial Celebrations

200 THINGS ABOUT NORWICH

200 THINGS ABOUT NORWICH

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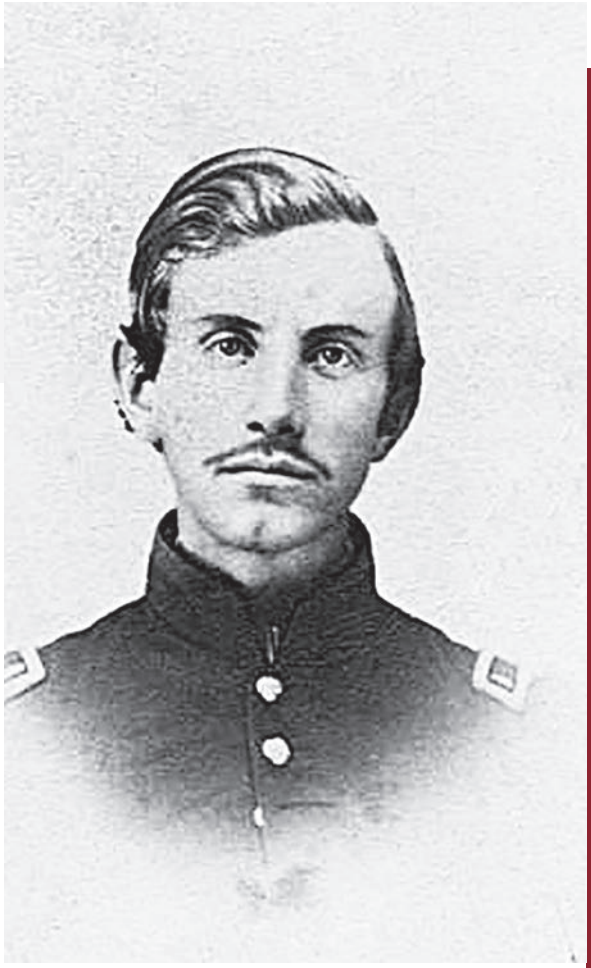
#1 Robert E. Hitchcock '59

US Marine Corps Second Lieutenant Robert C. Hitchchock, NU Class of 1859, is believed to be the first Norwich alumnus and the first Vermonter to die in the Civil War. He was killed in action on July 21, 1861, while leading his company in a charge at the first Battle of Bull Run. He and nine enlisted Marines were buried in mass graves dug by the Confederates near Sudley Church in Manassas, Va.

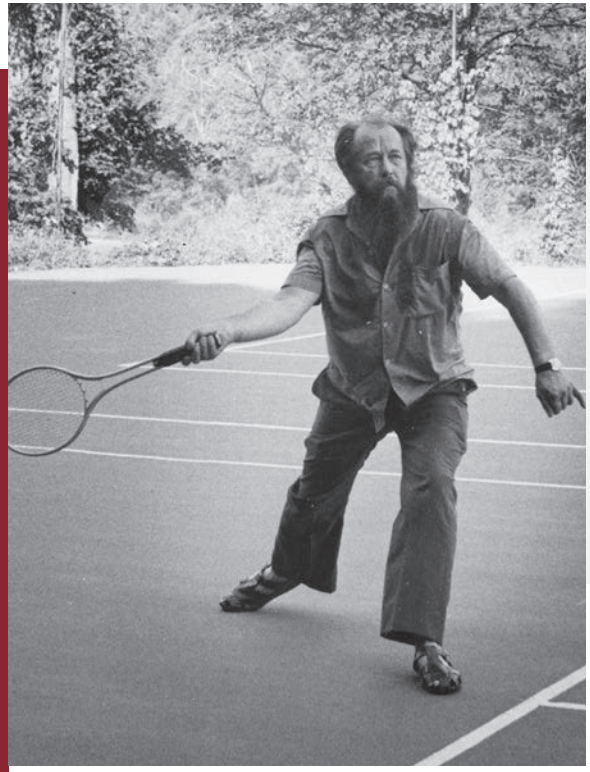
Full story:

On 14 July, 1861, 2nd lieutenant Robert E. Hitchcock, NU Class of 1859, was notified that Marines would take part in an offensive against the Confederates in Virginia. After a wave of excitement passed through the command, the difficulties of the assignment were reflected in a letter Hitchcock wrote that night: "Last night after I passed down the line to receive the reports of the companies, I was met by Capt [James Hemphill] Jones, who said to me, `Mr. Hitchcock, prepare to take the field on Monday morning.' So tomorrow morning will see me and five other lieutenants with 300 Marines on our way to Fairfax Court House to take part in a bloody battle which is to take place, it is thought, about Wednesday…We have no camp equipage of any kind, not even tents, and after all this, we are expected to take the brunt of the battle. We shall do as well as we can under the circumstances."

On 21 July, it is believed that Lt. Hitchcock was the first Norwich alumnus to die in the Civil War while leading his company in a charge at the first Battle of Bull Run. He and nine enlisted Marines were killed in action and buried in the mass graves dug by the Confederates near Sudley Church in Manassas, VA.



2nd lieutenant Robert E. Hitchcock, NU Class of 1859
Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.
Seth F. Sterlin Photograph Albums Collection.



Soviet dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.
Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.
George R. Turner Collection

#2 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn Played Tennis at NU

In July 1975, famed Soviet dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn visited Norwich University shortly after his exile from the USSR. The Nobel prize-winning author of *The Gulag Archipelago* and *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* spent 11 years in prison for criticizing his country's policies before leaving the Soviet Union and eventually settling in Cavendish, Vt. He visited Norwich at the request of his friend Nicholas V. Pervushin, director of Norwich's Russian School. Professor George Turner took many photographs of Solzhenitsyn during his stay on campus, the most famous of which depicts the reclusive author playing a game of tennis, in sandals no less.

Full story:

The Russian School was originally at Windham College in Putney, Vt., and moved to Norwich University in 1968. The program offered a six-week intensive undergraduate program in Russian language and culture, as well as graduate courses in literature, culture, and theory. In addition to five hours of classroom instruction each day, the school included a full theater production, a festival production, a film series, a study cafe, and a lecture series. During the Cold War era, enrollment swelled to more than 300 students. The Russian School at Norwich University was once the second-oldest and third-largest language school in the nation. After 32 years at Norwich University, the Russian School closed in the fall of 2000.

#3 Walter Aiken

The first Cog Railway was designed and built by Norwich alumnus Walter Aiken.

Submitted by George Kabel '70

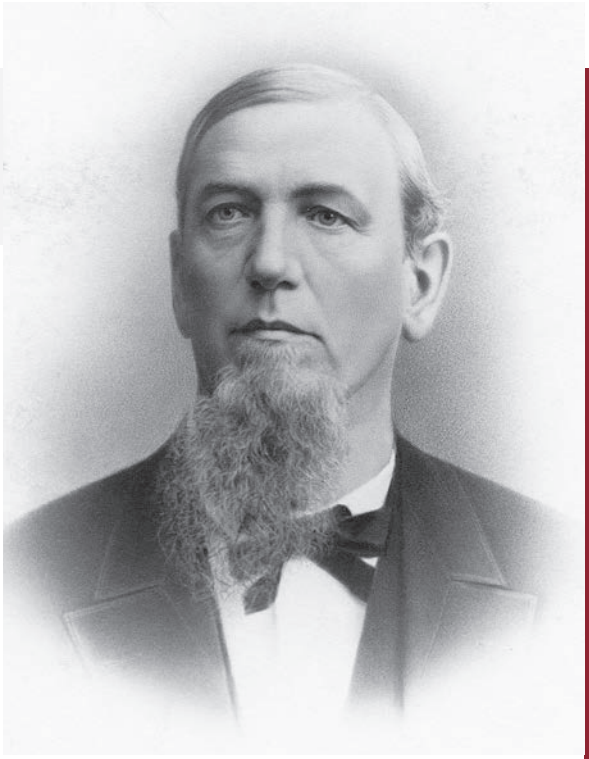
Full story:

Born in Dracut, Mass., Aiken began tinkering in his father's machine-shop at an early age and had a natural talent for mechanics. Aiken, who attended Norwich from 1850-1852, took out more than forty patents. At the age of 22 he invented and built one of the first knitting-machines in the country. He pioneered the manufacture of knitting-machines that could produce four hundred pairs of stockings per day. He also invented a machine to make gimlet-pointed screws and latch needles which were sold extensively in foreign countries.

In 1855 he was approached by Sylvester Marsh to design and build the world's first mountain-climbing Cog Railway to the summit of New Hampshire's Mount Washington. Marsh had previously presented his idea to members of the New Hampshire Legislature, but they laughed and said that he "might as well build a railway to the Moon."

Undaunted, Marsh solicited Aiken to design the project. The task was not an easy one, as equipment and materials had to be hauled by oxen for 25 miles to Bretton Woods, and then another six miles through thick forest to the base of Mount Washington. But on July 3, 1869, 'Old Peppersass' became the first cog-driven train to climb 6,288-foot Mount Washington.

Though best known for his invention of the Cog Railway, he also owned the "Hamilton Hotel" in the Bermuda Islands. His financial success made him well known to the First New Hampshire Regiment. During the Civil War he visited them at Camp Poolsville and distributed money among the boys in the unit, thereby embodying the Norwich tradition of "service to others."



Top: Walter Aiken

Bottom: Mount Washington Railway Postcard.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Top: LtCol Jackson B. Butterfield '38

Bottom: Scene of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives. War Whoop.

#4 LtCol Jackson B. Butterfield '38

"On 19 February, 1945, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions conducted their assault on Iwo Jima. Leading from the front was the battalion commander for the First Battalion of the 28th Marines."

– LtCol Jackson B. Butterfield, Norwich Class of 1938.

Contributed by Gary Appleby '90

Full story:

The 1/28 were tasked with hitting the beach first and severing the head from the snake; cutting off Mt. Suribachi from the rest of the island. After the LVT(A)'s from the Second Armored Amphibian Battalion hit Green Beach and took up positions up on the left flank of the beach, B and C Companies came ashore followed closely by A Company and began their advance across the narrowest point of the island. Moments later, LtCol Butterfield came ashore and the push to isolate Mt. Suribachi was on. By the end of the day, 1/28 would be the only battalion to meet its objective on the first day. Over the next 35 days, LtCol Butterfield would lead his Marines to victory. The Marines of 1/28 would go on to receive at least 67 citations for valor, including two Medals of Honor and six Navy Crosses. LtCol Butterfield was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during the battle. His citation reads:

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Colonel Jackson B. Butterfield (MCSN: 0-5840), United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the First Battalion, Twenty-eighth Marines, FIFTH Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, from 19 February to 25 March 1945. Landing his Battalion in the assault on 19 February, with the mission of getting quickly across the Island, Lieutenant Colonel Butterfield skillfully maneuvered his force in the face of heavy enemy machine-gun and mortar fire from the front and both flanks. When the assault elements were pinned down on the beach immediately after landing, he urged them forward and started the Battalion on a steady advance which did not halt, despite continuous and bitter opposition, until the other side of the Island had been reached. His outstanding courage and devotion to duty in directing the attack were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

While a cadet at Norwich, Jackson Bayley Butterfield was affectionately referred to as "Butts". Butterfield was of diminutive stature and was known to have a great sense of humor. He was recognized as a leader at Norwich long before commanding the First Battalion of the 28th Marines and was an accomplished cadet. A Civil Engineering Major, he received the Freshman Military Medal, the Sophomore Military Medal, the Sons of the American Revolution Medal, the Wheatley Medal, the Shuttleworth Saber, and the Grenville Ellis Rifle Cup. He was a member of Phi Kappa Delta, played football, wrestled, was Captain of the Rifle Team and held the Cadet ranks of Corporal, Master Sergeant and Cadet Major (Corps of Cadets Commander).

#5 Emily Caruso '00

Emily Caruso '00, was Norwich's first female alumna to compete in the Olympics. A psychology major from Fairfield, Conn., Caruso was a four-year All-American and 1998 NCAA individual air rifle champion. She competed in both the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens and the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing in the 10-meter air rifle category. Caruso has won four gold medals in USA National Shooting Championships and has competed in the world championship as a member of the U.S. shooting team. She won the gold medal at the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Emily Caruso '00

Full story:

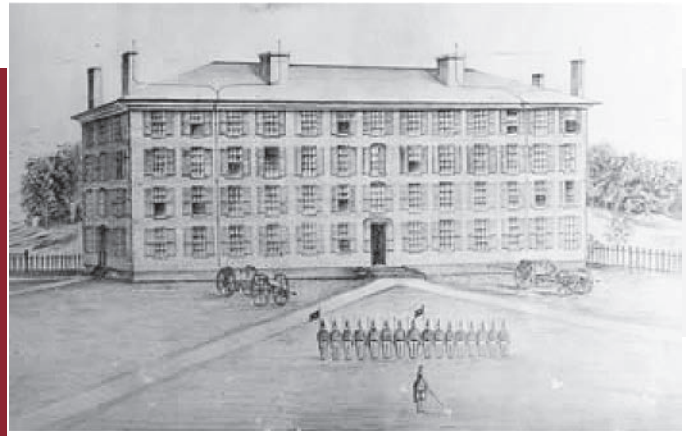
Caruso blazed the Olympic trail for NU's female athletes. But a number of Norwich male alumni have also competed at or been involved with the Olympics. They include:

Roger Flanders '22, who wrestled at the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris.

Paul M. Martin '21, a member of the U.S. pistol and rifle team who competed at the 1928 Summer Olympics in Amsterdam.

NU President Ernest N. Harmon, who attended Norwich briefly before transferring and graduating from West Point, competed in the pentathlon at the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris

I.D. White '22, who managed the U.S. equestrian team at the 1948 Summer Olympics in London.



#6 Founder's Day

On 6 August, 1819, the first bricks were laid in Norwich, Vt., for the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy. News of the groundbreaking was reported in a number of local newspapers, including this excerpt from the *Essex Patriot* of Concord, N.H.

CONCORD, (N. H.) AUG. 17.

Military Academy.

The erection of the building on Norwich Plain, (Vt.) for a Literary, Scientific and Military Academy, has already been commenced. Mr. Joseph Emerson, who has undertaken to erect and finish this magnificent building, has begun his work with a spirit of enterprize, which affords assurance that he will not disappoint the most sanguine expectations of the donors in its completion.

On Friday, the 6th instant, the first bricks were laid; under which, at the two front corners, were deposited several pieces of money by the spectators present. On this occasion many inhabitants of the village, attended by a respectable concourse of ladies, convened at the spot to unite in praise and gratitude to the author of our existence, to implore his blessing on their efforts, and his benediction on those that may resort to this Temple of Science for an Education. A temporary platform was erected, upon which the Rev. J. W. Woodward ascended, and in an affecting and appropriate manner supplicated the throne of grace in behalf of the institution; after which he delivered an affectionate address to the audience and workmen, inculcating the duty and necessity of imploring the blessing of God on all our undertakings.

Full story:

On Friday, the 6th instant, the first bricks were laid; under which, at the two front corners, were deposited several pieces of money by the spectators present. On this occasion many inhabitants of the village, attended by a respectable concourse of ladies, convened at the spot to unite in praise and gratitude to the author of our existence, to implore his blessing on their efforts, and his benediction on those that may resort to this Temple of Science for an Education.

The first students entered the Academy little over a year later, on 4 September, 1820.

200 THINGS ABOUT NORWICH

Top: Rendering of the South Barracks, courtesy of the Sullivan Museum.

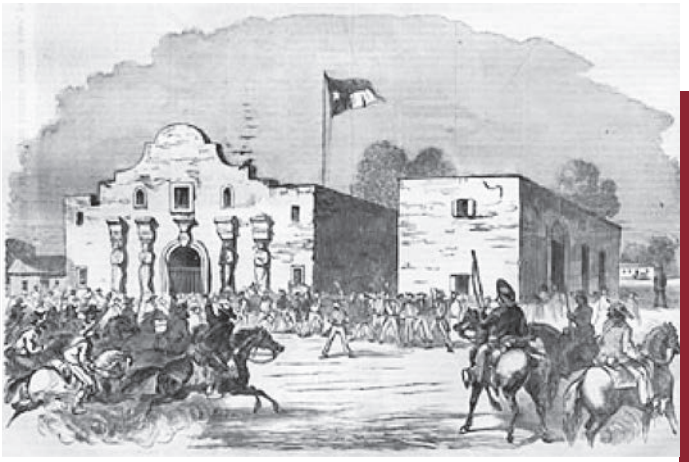
Bottom: Essex Patriot, *1819 August 28*

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

To view early documents related to the founding and construction of Norwich University, visit Norwich Archives and Special Collections.

#7 Albert Martin at the Alamo

Captain Albert Martin is considered by many to be a hero in the 1836 Battle of the Alamo. It is widely believed that Martin attended the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy (the precursor to Norwich University) during the 1820s when it was located in Middletown, Conn. No one has yet had success in proving this claim.



Depiction of the Battle of the Alamo.

Full story:

A native of Rhode Island, Albert Martin followed his father and brothers to Gonzales, Tex., where he ran a successful general store. On Feb. 23, 1836, approximately 1,500 Mexicans led by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, marched into San Antonio in a campaign to retake Texas. A small number of Texian citizen-soldiers including Captain Martin, occupied the Alamo Mission complex. Fearing that his garrison could not withstand an assault, Lt. Col. William Travis, commander of the Texan forces, sent Martin as an emissary to meet Gen. Santa Anna's adjutant, Col. Juan Almonte. Almonte rejected Martin's request to come to the Alamo and speak directly to Travis.

The following day, Martin traveled to Gonzales with Travis' famous letter, titled "To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World" seeking reinforcements and supplies from supporters. Local publishers distributed over 700 copies. Martin's father pleaded with him to not return to the perilous situation. In response, Martin reportedly said, "This is no time for such considerations. I have passed my word to Colonel Travis, that I would return, nor can I forfeit a pledge thus given."

Martin raised a company and returned to the Alamo on March 1 with a relief force of 32 men. In the early morning hours of March 6, the Mexican Army advanced on the Alamo. After repulsing two attacks, killing or wounding an estimated 600 Mexicans, the Texians were unable to fend off a third attack. Martin was among the more than 200 Texians who died defending the Alamo.

News of the defeat and Santa Anna's cruelty during the battle inspired many Texians—both Texas settlers and adventurers from the United States—to join the Texian Army. By then, Travis' letter had appeared in the two largest Texas newspapers and was printed throughout the United States and Europe. Buoyed by a desire for revenge, men throughout Texas and the United States began to gather in Gonzales. They formed the nucleus of the army which defeated the Mexican Army at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, and ended the revolution.

Top: Ernest Harmon, presidential portrait, 1950, courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Remaining uncaptioned images from D'Estes 2012 article.

#8 NU's Maj. Gen. Ernest Harmon: "The Second Patton"

2015 represented the 65th anniversary of NU President Ernest Nason Harmon's inauguration in 1950. President Harmon had an immeasurable and lasting impact on the university. During his 15-year presidency, he oversaw a period of unprecedented growth in the student body and physical campus, instituted many practices and traditions that are an integral part of Norwich today, and ushered the University into the modern age. President Harmon attended Norwich for one year before graduating from West Point in 1917. He served in both World War I and World War II and commanded the U.S. Constabulary, the function of which was to restore law and order to post-WWII Germany. He retired with the rank of Major General before embarking on his illustrious career at Norwich.

The following was originally published in World War II Magazine *in 2012 by Carlo D'Este '58. D'Este was a cadet at Norwich when Ernest Harmon was the president and is the author of the acclaimed biographies* Patton: A Genius for War *and* Eisenhower: A Soldier's Life, *among other books on World War II.*

Ernie Harmon: The Other Patton

There are times in combat when a commander must do the unthinkable. In the early hours of February 19, 1944, Major General Ernest N. Harmon, commander of the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division, was faced with this situation. It occurred at one of the most critical moments of World War II: the fourth day of a massive German counteroffensive on Italy's western coast. And it involved weighing the potential loss of the tenuous Allied hold on the beachhead at Anzio against the near-certain sacrifice of an American battalion.

Operation Shingle began with great promise on January 22, 1944, when the Allies invaded the port cities of Anzio and Nettuno, some 35 miles south of Rome. Although Shingle's objectives were deliberately vague, its purpose was to threaten the capture of Rome—rather than taking it directly—thereby drawing off German forces from the main Allied front at Cassino, roughly 80 miles to the east, where the bulk of the Allied forces in Italy were stalled and unable to advance on the Italian capital.

The initial Allied force at Anzio was composed of 40,000 British and American troops under the command of the American VI Corps—not enough to capture Rome or to seize and defend the Alban Hills, some 18 miles inland, and simultaneously secure the beachhead. In the days following the invasion, the Allies advanced their beachhead only a few miles before suffering bloody setbacks at Cisterna and Campoleone, and then reverting to defensive positions in anticipation of a German counteroffensive.

Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, the wily German commander in chief in Italy, had swiftly reacted to the Allies' slight foothold on Anzio by sending massive reinforcements to block the advance. By the night of the Allied invasion, some 20,000 German troops had arrived in the Anzio area; others were rushed there from as far away as France and Yugoslavia. By early February, nearly 125,000 soldiers of the German Fourteenth Army were deployed on the plains beneath the Alban Hills, ready to launch a decisive counteroffensive to drive the Allies back into the sea.

Hitler had decreed that his commanders at Anzio "lance the abscess south of Rome." The Germans facing the outmanned and outgunned Allied force intended to do just that. Preliminary attacks began on February 3, and escalated in the days that followed as, one by one, American and British positions were overrun and captured. Allied possession of the beachhead became a life-or-death struggle.

The crucial phase of the battle began on February 16, when huge waves of German infantry, supported by tanks and artillery, began a relentless advance. In all of World War II there were few bloodier, grislier, or more appallingly deadly battles than those fought at Anzio. "The fury of the German assault was almost unbelievable," the official history of the U.S. 45th Infantry Division records. One American soldier described it as "deafening, mad, screaming senseless hatred" that seemed virtually unstoppable.

The final defensive line just outside of Anzio was along a road called the Flyover. It was here that VI Corps would have to hold back the powerful German wave; otherwise, the beachhead would be lost.

The 1st Armored Division had arrived at Anzio shortly after the initial landings. Its commander, Ernie Harmon—one of a small, almost extinct breed of hard-nosed cavalry officers who excelled as commanders during the war—was nicknamed Old Gravel Voice for his distinctive rasp. On February 19, Harmon was in command of the beachhead reserve and quickly recognized that the only way to prevent the Germans from overrunning the Flyover was to counterattack and contain the enemy that morning. In the hours before dawn, however, he had also learned that a battalion of the 45th Division was occupying positions at the focal point of his proposed counterattack. There was no time to remove them from harm's way. As the commander on the spot, Harmon was caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place.

"If we laid down our barrage we would kill our own troops," he later wrote. "There are times when the responsibilities of a military commander are, in the true meaning of the word, awful. To order the artillery attack might mean the death of many fine, brave American soldiers. To abandon the artillery attack would be to abandon the sortie upon which, I was convinced, the saving of the beachhead depended. The brutal, naked choice seemed to be between the lives of some hundreds of men and the loss of many thousands…. I gave the order to fire."

Years of experience went into Harmon's daring decision—and it was one of the primary reasons why the Anzio beachhead survived. The Allied counterattack on the morning of February 19 broke the back of the German advance, saving the beachhead and thwarting what would have been one of the greatest German triumphs of the war. The 1st Armored Division's savage resistance earned Harmon's "Old Ironsides" division a new nickname: the Anzio Fire Brigade. Only later did Harmon discover that the battalion he believed he had to sacrifice was actually a platoon that was in no danger. But as Harmon pointed out, this did "not change the reality of the decision I had to make. Looking back, it seems to me I could have made no other."

Cut from the same cloth as George S. Patton—and like Patton, occasionally prone to putting his foot in his mouth and raising the ire of his superiors—Ernest Nason Harmon became one of the army's most audacious, fearless, and respected division commanders. Built like the turret of one of his tanks, the barrel-chested Harmon—once described as "a cobra without the snake charmer"—was a blunt, no-nonsense leader whose most outstanding trait was his decisiveness. General Omar Bradley would later say that Harmon possessed "the rare combination of sound tactical judgment and boldness that together make a great commander. More than any other division commander in North Africa, he was constantly and brilliantly aggressive; in Europe he was to become our most outstanding tank commander."

Harmon was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, in 1894, and was orphaned at age 10. He grew up dirt poor in rural West Newbury, Vermont, under the hardscrabble conditions

Norwich University Archives

of rural New England at the turn of the century, where hard work was the norm and few escaped poverty. Harmon spent a year as a cadet at Norwich University before winning an appointment to West Point, where he earned the middleweight boxing title. He graduated in 1917 as a second lieutenant of cavalry and soon found himself on the battlefields of France with the last American horse cavalry unit to fight in the Great War. Like so many other officers who rose to high command in World War II, his experiences in France imbued him with abhorrence for the needless loss of life that symbolized the war of the trenches.

Harmon was also an Olympic athlete, competing in the modern pentathlon in Paris in 1924, as Patton had done in Stockholm in 1912.

During those post–World War I years, Harmon became convinced that the horse cavalry was a thing of the past, and was one of the first to embrace the new concept of the armored force, the future of which was anything but secure in the late 1930s.

By 1942 this belief had placed him at the head of one of the first two American armored divisions, as a major general in command of the 2nd Armored Division. "I hear that you think you are pretty good," he told his troops, in his typically crusty manner. "I hear that you've got a commendation from the president of the United States about your abilities. What the hell does he know about it? What counts with me is what I think about your capability!"

The division was first deployed that November, landing in Morocco as part of Patton's Western Task Force during the Allied invasion of North Africa. In early 1943, Harmon was training the division for the upcoming invasion of Sicily when he was summoned to fight a new battle.

The war was going very badly for the U.S. II Corps in Tunisia. The 1st Armored Division had been routed by a German offensive at Sidi bou Zid in February, and the subsequent debacle at Kasserine Pass, in which German field marshal Erwin Rommel inflicted a humiliating defeat on the Americans, left the division reeling.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower had sent for Harmon just before Kasserine, and ordered him to the front to help restore order to the disorganized and demoralized II Corps, which was being badly led by the inept Major General Lloyd Fredendall (see "Triumph at Kasserine Pass," May/June 2011). While Fredendall cowered in a massive concrete bunker some 65 miles from the front lines, Harmon took charge of the battle.

He arrived too late to affect the outcome at Kasserine Pass, but he was instrumental in restoring order to a chaotic, highly perilous situation. One of his first acts was to visit a ragtag collection of Anglo-American units, called Nickforce, at Thala, some 35 miles northwest of Kasserine. Thala was the last line of defense against Rommel's threat to rupture the Allied front with the 10th Panzer Division. The overall Allied commander in Tunisia was British Lieutenant General Kenneth Anderson, who had ordered three battalions of U.S. artillery at Thala to withdraw. With no time for the niceties of a request to Anderson to cancel the order—which, given the high level of British distrust of American fighting ability, Anderson was certain to ignore—Harmon risked a court-martial for insubordination by unilaterally canceling the order: "No one goes back from here," he commanded. His rationale was typical of his leadership and his willingness to take risks others would spurn. "I figured if I won the battle I would be forgiven," he recalled. "If I lost, the hell with it anyway."

The massed artillery fire that rained down upon the 10th Panzer Division at Thala, and Harmon's fearless decision to keep Nickforce intact, were vital factors in Rommel's decision to call off his offensive and withdraw. In the aftermath, Harmon reported to Eisenhower that Fredendall was unfit to hold command. Ike offered Harmon command of II Corps but Harmon declined, saying he could not accept the job after recommending the relief of its commander. He recommended Patton instead and went back to Morocco and the 2nd Armored Division. It was a measure of the esteem in which Harmon's men held him that they lined the road for five miles, waving and cheering his return.
Fredendall was dismissed, and on April 6—a month after Eisenhower gave command of II Corps to Patton—he summoned Harmon to assume command of the faltering 1st Armored Division, which had been decimated at Faid and Sidi bou Zid, and was in need of a change of leadership. (The 2nd Armored Division remained in Morocco under new command, training to participate the invasion of Sicily in July 1943.)

Harmon inherited a division of men who were feeling sorry for themselves. "This battlefield no longer is going to be the graveyard of the 1st Armored," he told the officers and senior NCOs; "it's going to be the symbol of its resurrection." Never one to mince words, he said that men had died unnecessarily at Sidi bou Zid and Kasserine. Some, interpreting that

as a suggestion they had acted cowardly, booed Harmon. He didn't respond, but it was the last time anyone ever booed Ernie Harmon, who quickly began to restore confidence at every level of the division.

As one of his first acts, Harmon summarily sacked the British liaison officer, who had been handpicked by the new Allied ground commander in Tunisia, British general Harold Alexander. The division staff strongly resented having a Brit in their headquarters at a time when there was a great deal of misunderstanding and bad blood between American and British commanders. General Alexander, in particular, was seriously mistrustful of American fighting ability. The Americans knew this and resented, it so Harmon's move was a welcome one.

Harmon spent most of his time at the front, where he bullied, cajoled, lectured—and always led by example. A typical instance occurred during the final, decisive battle in Tunisia, when Harmon came upon a group of Allied tanks pinned down by heavy German antitank and machine gun fire. "All right, you follow my jeep forward," he told the commanding officer. The sight of the division commander deliberately exposing himself to enemy fire spurred the embarrassed officer to stir his tanks into action.

As the 1st Armored Division began winning battles, anger against their new commander ebbed. By the time the Tunisia campaign ended, in May 1943, Harmon had restored credibility to the 1st Armored Division.

Despite his stern demeanor, Harmon was an authentic GI's general, a notorious night owl who made it his business to take the best possible care of his men. On one occasion in Tunisia, he showed up at 3 a.m. on a cold rainy night where engineers were building a bridge, decided they needed coffee, and saw to it that they received it right away.

One wartime account called Harmon a legend: "A stocky figure of medium height who pops up in odd places at odd times for a friendly chat with an enlisted man. Scores of lone sentries, orderly room clerks, mess sergeants, and tank commanders on outposts have shared cigarettes with the General (who never seems to have any of his own) and have discussed the 'big picture' until the wee hours of the morning. A soldier with his arm in a sling would be questioned for twenty minutes by 'Old Gravel Voice' as to whether he was getting the best medical attention available. And woe to the mess officer if 'Ernie' dropped in to sample the men's food, as he did regularly, and found it below par."

When the 1st Armored arrived at Anzio in January 1944, the British commanders viewed Harmon with suspicion for his Patton-like habit of wearing two ivory-handled revolvers in shoulder holsters. Suspecting an imitation Patton, their first reaction was to question his gruff, profane image. However, those who saw him in action soon came to believe that, as with Patton, his external posing masked a superb military leader.

During the planning for the breakout from the Anzio beachhead in May 1944, Harmon went to extraordinary lengths to prepare the 1st Armored. Every trooper in the division was thoroughly briefed. "We did more than tell the troops the plan of attack; we made them study it," he recalled in his postwar memoir, Combat Commander. Platoon and company commanders were taken aloft in small aircraft to study the route of advance from the air. Harmon also had a 50-square-foot terrain model constructed, showing every road, bridge, river, and village. A walkway spanning it from above allowed his men to come in shifts to study it in detail. "Day after day I would see them using sticks and twigs as pointers tracing the routes their units were to pursue," Harmon recalled.

The result of this meticulous preparation was that, despite ferocious resistance, the 1st Armored successfully spearheaded the breakout and tore a gap in the German lines, enabling Harmon's tanks to advance with stunning success. It was the implementation of Ernie Harmon's philosophy of command at its best: prepare diligently and act with ruthless tenacity.

After the Allies captured Rome in early June 1944, Harmon returned to the United States. But he chafed to return to combat. His wish was soon granted when Eisenhower asked General George C. Marshall to send him back to Europe to command his former unit, the 2nd Armored Division.

By December 1944, the Allies were stalled in a stalemate in the frozen Ardennes Forest, which spans regions of Belgium, Luxembourg, and France. On December 16, Hitler gambled everything he had by launching a sudden massive counteroffensive in a last-ditch attempt to split the Allied armies. Hitler believed that with a lightning attack, his spearheads could reach and cross the Meuse River and advance into the Belgian lowlands, driving clear to Antwerp and compelling the Allies to sue for peace.

He nearly succeeded. The German spearheads advanced rapidly, driving a large wedge in the Allied lines that created the so-called bulge for which the Ardennes campaign was soon named. One of the reasons Hitler failed was Ernie Harmon and the "Hell on Wheels" 2nd Armored Division.

On December 23, the division had marched nearly 100 miles at night and, unknown to the Germans, was situated just east of the Meuse when Harmon learned that enemy tanks had been sighted near the Belgian

town of Marche, only four miles from the river. The unit was the 2nd Panzer Division, one of the Wehrmacht's best. Recognizing the unit threatened to breach the Meuse, Harmon obtained permission from his corps commander, Major General Joseph "Lightning Joe" Collins, to attack.

The attack took place soon after dawn on Christmas Day, with Harmon's entire division—more than 10,000 fighting men—committed. What followed was a debacle for the Germans, as the 2nd Armored pounced on the 2nd Panzer with all its might and fury. "The bastards are in the bag," Harmon exclaimed. "In the bag!"

That would prove to be true—but only after three days of savage battles. When it was over, the spearhead of the great German counteroffensive had been effectively destroyed. The 2nd Panzer Division lost 405 vehicles, including 88 tanks and assault guns, all of its artillery, an estimated 2,500 killed or wounded, and 1,200 taken prisoner.

For the third time in the war—first at Thala, then at Anzio, and now at the Bulge—Ernie Harmon's leadership had played a vital role in the outcome of a crucial battle. The movement of his division in the dead of winter across hostile terrain was a classic example of successful blitzkrieg warfare. A VII Corps intelligence summary noted that the 2nd Armored Division attack "may well be remembered as having one of the most far reaching effects of any action of World War II, for the masterful execution of this attack by the 2nd Armored Division not only stopped the German 2nd Panzer Division long before it could reach [the key Belgian city of] Namur, but annihilated a great part of it…, thus bringing to a halt the greatest sustained German counter drive against Allied troops on the Continent since D-Day." In the annals of armored warfare, the action by Harmon's 2nd Armored is remembered as one of the most audacious and successful ever conducted by an American tank unit.

In January 1945, Harmon was given command of the XXII Corps, which he led until the end of the war. In all, 250,000 officers and men served under Harmon during World War II. One of them, Hamilton H. Howze—a battalion and regimental commander under Harmon in the 1st Armored Division who later rose to four-star rank—summed up Ernie Harmon and his accomplishments:

"He was as independent as a hog on ice. But boy, he loved to fight and he understood fighting. I never knew anybody of any rank who enjoyed war as much as Ernie Harmon did. When he had everything in the division fighting he thought the world could give him nothing better.

And he had that quality of every really successful battle commander I have ever known, and that is drive. A lot of people call it leadership, but I choose to call it drive…. Ernie provided that sort of drive. He was a very ebullient, hard driving kind of guy and a fine commander. No doubt about it."

Like the other cavalry officers of his generation, the army had no use for men like him in the postwar years, and in March 1948, at age 54, Harmon retired. Two years later, he returned to Norwich University, the nation's oldest private military college and the birthplace of ROTC, this time as its president. To the surprise of his detractors, who questioned how a profane combat officer like Ernie Harmon could possibly function effectively in such an unlikely environment, the university grew and prospered under his leadership; he held the position until 1965.

When Ernie Harmon died in 1979 at the age of 85, he left a legacy as of one of World War II's most outstanding, courageous, and utterly fearless combat commanders. No one else in the U.S. Army successfully commanded two armored divisions (one of them twice) in combat. A veteran of two world wars, Harmon understood better than most commanders that battles are won as much by determination as by the implements of war. His explanation for that was simple and straightforward: "What a difference a will to win can make!"

Learn more about President Harmon's life, career, and legacy through his large collection of personal and administrative papers, available in the University Archives.

#9 Alcoholics Anonymous Founder "Bill W."

William Griffith Wilson was one of the most influential people of the 20th Century. Known to millions as "Bill W.," Wilson attended Norwich from 1914 to 1917 and was the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. Since its inception in 1935, Wilson's 12-step program to recovery has helped countless people achieve sobriety and overcome addiction. Today, Alcoholics Anonymous has more than 2 million active members and 100,000 chapters around the world. Time Magazine listed Wilson in the top one hundred people of the last millennium and Aldous Huxley called him the "greatest social architect of the century."

Contributed by Duane Martin '67

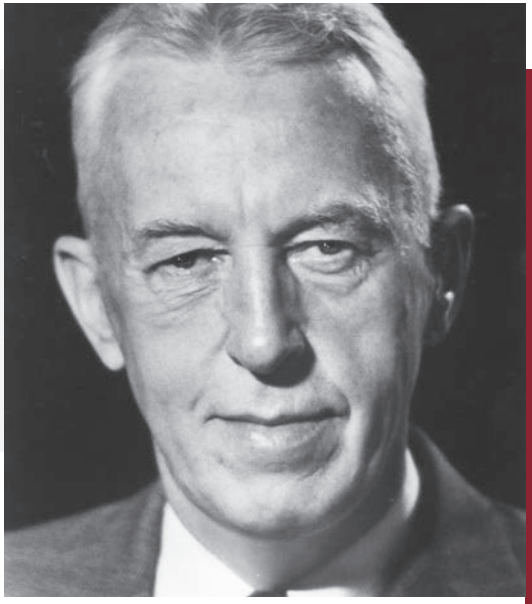
Full story:

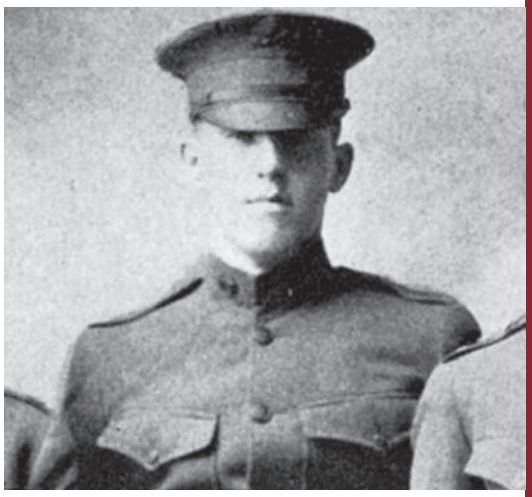
William Griffith Wilson was born in Dorset, Vt., in 1895. His father's alcoholism led to his parent's divorce and subsequent abandonment of Bill and his sister at an early age. They were raised by their maternal grandparents. Bill attended Burr and Burton, a prep school in Manchester, Vt., becoming captain of the baseball team and president of his class. He entered Norwich in as a freshman in 1913, however depression and panic attacks forced him to leave his second semester. He returned to Norwich on and off through 1916.

Like many of his classmates, Wilson enlisted to serve in World War I and never finished his degree. It was in the army that he learned to drink excessively. In the 1930s, Wilson was a failed stockbroker. He set his sights on a law degree and struggled through law school. It has been reported that he passed all of his classes but was too drunk to attend commencement and accept his degree. At the end of his rope after several attempts to detox, Wilson admitted himself to Town Hospital in New York. He was visited by Ebby Thatcher, a close friend who had found sobriety through a Christian evangelical organization called the Oxford Group. Wilson accompanied Thatcher to meetings of the Oxford Group and he adopted the belief that human suffering is caused by sin, absolution comes from prayer, and confession is a pre-requisite to change. AA was founded on the concepts of self-examination, acknowledgement of character defects, and restitution for harm done.

In 1935 Wilson befriended Dr. Robert Smith, a proctologist and another hopeless drunk. They formed a pact to stop drinking, and a partnership began. When Smith became sober, he returned to active medical practice and his name added credibility to the fledgling Alcoholics Anonymous. Wilson introduced the concept of support groups, advocated spirituality meetings and prayer, though he was actually an agnostic. As the program took hold, Wilson introduced the "12 step program" and The Big Book that taught participants to accept powerlessness and turn their lives over to God or some higher power.

Dr. Smith died in 1951 following 15 years of sobriety. Wilson remained sober for 37 years until his death of pneumonia in 1971 en route to an AA convention in Miami, Fla. Upon his passing, a memorial was held for Wilson in White Chapel. Norwich awarded him a posthumous degree in 1995.





William Griffith Wilson
Images courtesy of the Norwich University archives. War Whoop, *1918.*
The collections of the Norwich University Archives and Special Collections include biographical information on Bill Wilson. A scrapbook compiled by Wilson's close friend, Gus Nelson '24, features photographs of him as a student.

Norwich University Archives

Professor Seth Frisbie with village crowds.

Images courtesy of Professor Frisbie.

#10 The Professor Who Solved a Mass Poisoning Whodunit

Criminal Justice may be the most popular major at Norwich. But it took an associate professor of chemistry to solve a truly terrible case on the other side of the globe—the largest mass poisoning of a population in history. Working in Bangladesh since 1997, analytical chemist Professor Seth Frisbie revealed that over 50 million Bangladeshis were drinking water with unsafe arsenic levels from recently installed deep water wells.

Full story:

These wells supply drinking water to 97 percent of the populace. Analyses of water samples by Frisbie and his colleagues also discovered significant amounts of manganese, lead, nickel, chromium, and nearly three-dozen other inorganic chemicals. Long-term exposure to these heavy metals in Bangladesh pushed incidences of cancer and other chronic diseases to extraordinary levels. Children as young as seven were affected. And in some villages, few residents lived beyond the age of 30, Frisbie observed.

The Cornell-trained chemist was unwilling to sit idly by. That same year he worked with his wife and a handful of colleagues to establish the nonprofit Better Life Laboratories to more deeply investigate the causes of toxic drinking water. The team also scoured water samples for other trace minerals known to aggravate or mitigate toxic metal poisoning. The researchers partnered with the Bangladesh government, NGOs and other research institutions in North America and Europe. Frisbie has worked since then to continue his investigation and to pioneer swift, practical solutions for the impoverished country. These include developing keener, cheaper tests for drinking water arsenic and well-drilling strategies that can provide 85 percent of those affected access to safer drinking water.

This work has expanded into neighboring West Bengal, India and Myanmar (formerly known as Burma). Approximately 150 students from Norwich University have helped with various aspects of these projects. Some of these students have co-authored important scientific papers and conference posters with Dr. Frisbie and his longtime colleague from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Dr. Bibudhendra Sarkar, an Invited Speaker at the Nobel Symposium under the auspices of the Nobel Foundation in Sweden. A new project in Nepal is currently being planned.

#11 Thomas Green Clemson

Norwich University and Clemson University in South Carolina have a shared legacy. Thomas Green Clemson attended the American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy (the precursor to Norwich University) in Norwich, Vt., from 1823-1825. According to Clemson University's history of their founder, the most notable influence on Thomas Clemson's vision of higher education was the result of his time at the Academy.

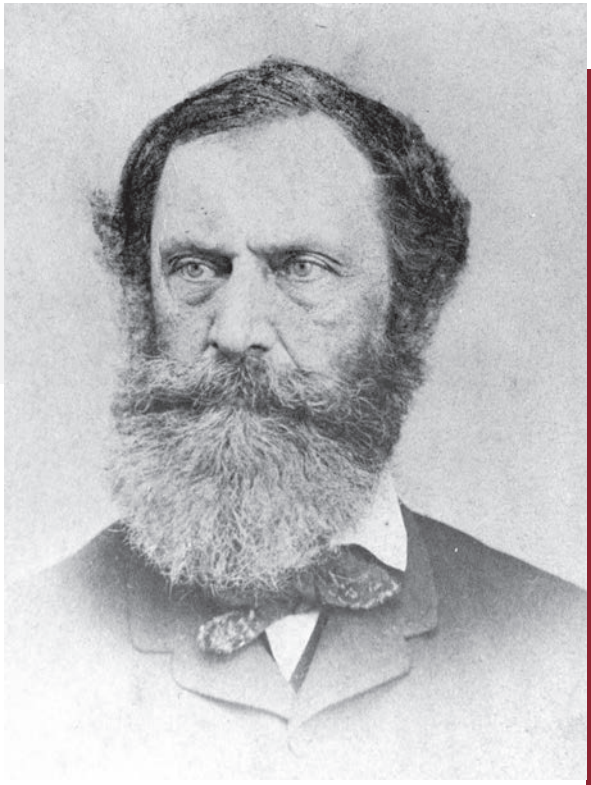
Contributed by George Kabel '70

Full story:

After leaving the Academy, Clemson toured Europe and attended school in Paris, eventually becoming certified as an international mining engineer. He also participated in the Revolution of 1830 which dethroned Charles X of France.

Like many Americans, following the firing on Fort Sumter in 1861, Clemson had the difficult decision of choosing between the Union or the Confederacy. He decided to support his adopted state of South Carolina and enlisted at age 54. After four years of service he was paroled and began his quest to establish an institution of higher education that would provide practical education in agriculture and the sciences.

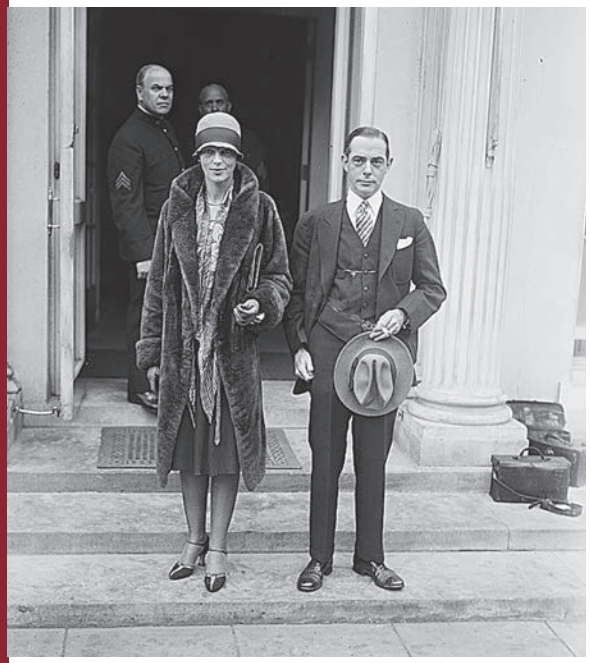
Clemson was privileged to have experienced higher education and was motivated to create a great legacy. The school that became Clemson University was actually established in Thomas Clemson's will and founded a year after his death in 1888. It was started on the plantation of his father-in-law, John C. Calhoun.



Thomas Green Clemson

Image courtesy of the Norwich Universtiy Archives.

The Norwich University Archives and Special Collections include a biographical file on Thomas Clemson and a biography published by Clemson University. There are also two letters from Thomas' older brother, John Baker Clemson, to Alden Partridge in which he outlines his desires and expectations for his younger brother's studies.



Top: Amelia Earhart, 1928

Bottom: Amelia Earhart and Porter Adams. Image from the Library of Congress. Harris & Ewing, photographer.

#12 Amelia Earhart

While Amelia Earhart's exploits are known the world over, few may be aware of her connection to Norwich University. On March 7, 1935, the pioneering aviatrix visited her longtime friend, Norwich's 16th president, Porter Adams, and addressed the Corps of Cadets.

Contributed by C.T. Haywood '12

Full story:

In 1935 Earhart spoke at the Vermont State House in support of increased aviation in the region. She captivated the media and a crowded gallery of citizens with details of the flight she made from Hawaii to California earlier that year.

Earhart and Adams became friends in the 1920s when he served as president of the National Aeronautics Association in Washington, D.C. Like Earhart, the thrice-married Adams was a colorful character. An MIT graduate, Adams was an early proponent of aviation and supported the efforts of aviator Charles Lindbergh. When Adams married his former secretary, Sue Shorter, Earhart served as the bride's matron of honor.

Adams served as President of Norwich from 1934 to 1939 and shared Earhart's spirit of adventure and love of technology. He built the first wind tunnels on campus and in the summer of 1937, President Adams was seen on the streets of Northfield demonstrating his new three-speed bicycle. That same summer Earhart's plane disappeared somewhere over the Pacific Ocean. When classes resumed in the fall of 1937, President Adams took the first steps to establish Norwich's aeronautics program. Civilian pilot training and the Norwich Flying Club program continued on campus until 1960.

The Norwich University Archives and Special Collections have numerous collections that give insight into Porter Adams' administration and the history of flight and aeronautics at Norwich. Two newspaper articles from the 1930s, one from the Record *and one from the* Guidon*, mention Earhart. These articles are not yet online but can be viewed by visiting the Archives on the 5th floor of Kreitzberg Library.*

#13 The College Cavaliers

In October 1862, twenty-three Norwich cadets returned to campus from a stretch in the Civil War with an amazing story to tell. They had been part of "the College Cavaliers", a Union cavalry unit made up of college students primarily from Dartmouth and Norwich. They had signed up for a three-month enlistment, and during that time participated in a daring escape from Harper's Ferry that resulted in the capture of a Confederate cavalry wagon train. It turned out to be Gen. James Longstreet's 40-wagon reserve ammunition train, and the capture of these materials hindered the Confederates in the coming battle of Antietam.

Full story:

In early 1862, Confederate troops in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley threatened Washington, D.C. The U.S. Government called for short-term, "three-month" troops to help defend the Capital. The Governor of Rhode Island was charged with raising a three-month cavalry squadron to counter the threat and put out a call for volunteers.

Dartmouth College junior Sanford Burr proposed organizing a troop of cavalry composed entirely of Dartmouth students and offered their service to the State of Rhode Island. Many Dartmouth students signed up but later dropped the idea when their parents and faculty disapproved. Sanford Burr then turned to the rival Norwich cadets for help in filling up the ranks. Twenty-three Norwich cadets enlisted their services.

The cadets convinced their families and professors that they would serve their three-month enlistments over their summer vacation and return to college in the fall. The troop became known as the "College Cavaliers." It was the only unit of its kind in the Civil War, composed entirely of college students.

The College Cavaliers left for Providence, Rhode Island amid the cheers of their fellow students on June 18, 1862. They were mustered into service along with another company of cavalry, this one enlisted mainly from working-class men from the city of Providence. The two companies were united as the 7th Squadron, Rhode Island Cavalry. By the toss of a coin, the Providence company won the distinction as "Troop A," while the College Cavaliers became "Troop B."

In September 1862, the Confederate Army moved north into Maryland. The College Cavaliers retreated to the town of Harper's Ferry, in western Virginia, where a force of 11,000 Union soldiers, including 1,300 other cavalrymen, was stationed. The advancing Confederates surrounded Harper's Ferry and it soon became evident that the Union forces there would be forced to surrender.

The Union cavalry commanders in Harper's Ferry met and decided on a bold plan. Instead of surrendering with the rest of the Union soldiers, they would attempt a night-time escape through the

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EDITORS FOR THE SPRING TERM.
DUDLEY F. PHELPS, EDW. D. ADAMS.
CHAS. D. GREGORY.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Theta Chi.

Alpha Sigma Pi.

Pi Kappa Alpha.
FRESHMAN SOCIETY.

A. H. F. C. F.

The College Cavaliers are mentioned in a number of primary sources available through the Norwich University Archives and Special Collections. Their activity is cited in Grenville Dodge/ William Ellis' History of Norwich University, *volume 1 and described in an 1863 edition of the student newspaper, the* Reveille.

Content courtesy of the Sullivan Museum and History Center, with contributions by University Archives staff.

Confederate lines. On the night of September 14, the College Cavaliers mounted up and joined the long column of 1,500 Union cavalrymen. They left the town of Harper's Ferry and crossed the pontoon bridge over the Potomac River. The river muffled the sound of the horses' hooves on the bridge and they were able to sneak under the Rebel guns posted on the hills above. The College Cavaliers, along with the other Union horsemen, made a dash through the lines of the sleeping Confederates and began a fifty-mile ride to safety.

Before dawn, the Union cavalry came upon and captured a lightly-guarded Confederate wagon train. This turned out to be Gen. James Longstreet's 40-wagon reserve ammunition train and the capture of these materials hindered the Confederates in the coming battle of Antietam. On the morning of September 15, the Union cavalry, with the captured Confederate wagons, finally crossed into Pennsylvania. Both men and horses were exhausted, but had managed to escape from Harper's Ferry without a single casualty.

There would be no rest for the cavalrymen. Even though the three-month term of enlistment for the 7th Squadron, including the College Cavaliers, had just expired, they all volunteered to remain on active duty until the emergency of the Confederate invasion had passed. A few days later, the College Cavaliers were part of the reserve force guarding the flank of the Union Army engaged in the nearby battle of Antietam. On September 23, shortly after the battle, College Cavaliers disbanded with most, if not all, of the Norwich students returning to complete their studies. For some of these cadets, the College Cavaliers would be their only experience of military service. However, others went on to re-enlist and fight on with other units later in the War.

#14 Luther Swift Dixon

Ever since the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787, the issue of states' rights versus those of the federal government have been debated. In 1859, Luther Swift Dixon, Norwich class of 1847, became Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court and took on the hotly contested Fugitive Slave Act and the right of states to overrule the federal government.

Contributed by: George H. Kabel '70

Full story:

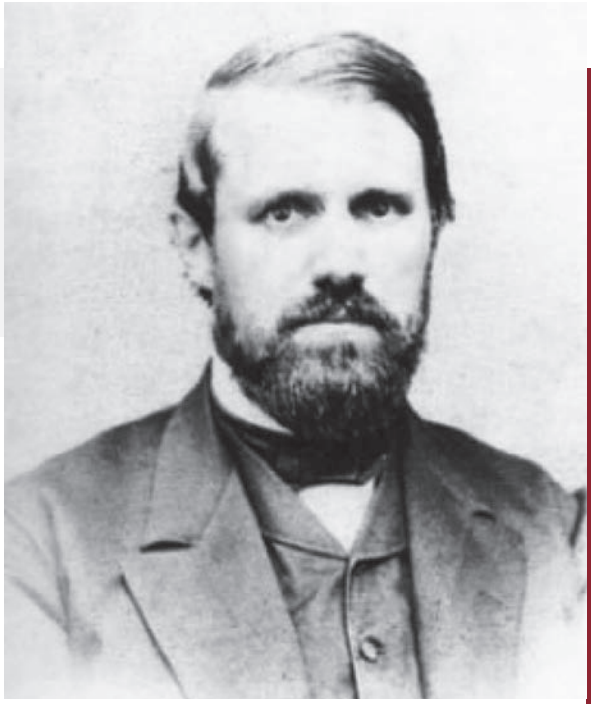
A native of Milton, Vt., Luther Swift Dixon attended Norwich from 1845 to 1847 and entered the Vermont Bar in 1850. He moved to Portage, Wisc., and in 1859, at the age of 33, he became the state's youngest Chief Justice. At that time, as each new state was added to the Union, the federal government decided whether it would be a Free State or a Slave State. The US Congress passed The Compromise of 1850 to provide rules regarding the designation of each state. One of the most divisive sections of this legislation was known as the "Fugitive Slave Law", which required northern states to return runaway slaves to their owners under penalty of law. It was this law that led to Dixon's historic ruling as it pertained to state vs. federal rights.

Many of the northern states did not agree with the conditions of the Fugitive Slave Law, and in 1854 the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled it was unconstitutional. In 1859 the US Supreme Court reversed the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling. Chief Justice Dixon and his colleagues argued over whether or not to file the mandate of the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice Dixon feared that if a state could overrule the federal government, it could render the U.S. Congress ineffective. Though unpopular with his constituents, Dixon concluded that the U.S. Supreme Court had the power to reverse the state court and voted to file the mandate. However no action was taken because the Wisconsin Supreme Court stood divided. To this day, the mandate has not been filed.

It is important to note that Dixon ruled in favor of federal authority in spite of his personal opposition to the Fugitive Slave Act. According to the Wisconsin Bar, "Dixon took pains to state that he personally believed the Act was unconstitutional."

In his book, The Story of a Great Court, Justice J.B. Winslow writes of Justice Dixon's decision, "A great question was presented to him for examination; the clamor of the partisan moved him not; neither the echoes of the battle which had just closed nor the premonitory murmurs of the contest which was soon to rage, disturbed the serenity of his judgement. Duty called him to investigate the subject for himself. This he proceeded to do, and in a luminous opinion he demonstrated that the United States Supreme Court had jurisdiction to review and reverse judgements of the state courts in cases where the validity of a law of the United States was attacked and the law held void."

Judge Dixon died December 6, 1891. In 1911, the Wisconsin State Bar Association dedicated a 40 foot granite monument to Dixon. The inscription says, "His name is synonym of Justice, Integrity, Truth and Honor. These were the virtues which illuminated his character, radiant as the sunlight, shining as the stars."



Luther Swift Dixon.

The Norwich University Archives and Special Collections has a file of notes and correspondence from William Arba Ellis' work on Dixon's profile for Norwich University, 1819-1911; Her History, Her Graduates, Her Roll of Honor. *Dixon is also listed in some cadet rosters during his period of attendance.*

Alden Partridge

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#15 Alden Partridge: The first extreme hiker

Alden Partridge had an astounding idea: He would hike two of Vermont's highest peaks, Mount Mansfield and Camel's Hump. That might not sound like such a revolutionary notion to us. After all, thousands of people hike those mountains each year. But this was 1818, a time when hiking wasn't exactly a popular sport. Just saying you wanted to climb a tall mountain might have made you seem eccentric.

Contributed by Mark Bushnell. Bushnell's column on Vermont history is a regular feature in Vermont Sunday Magazine.

Full story:

The other remarkable thing about Partridge's idea is that he planned to get to and from the mountains by foot. Though this was still three decades before the arrival of railroads, Partridge could have traveled there largely by a combination of horse and boat. Instead he opted to walk the 150-plus miles round trip from his home in Norwich.

He made the entire journey in a week, mostly in the rain.

Looking at Partridge's lifetime of hikes, however, this trek hardly stands out. Partridge would become New England's first long-distance hiker. He wrote widely circulated newspaper columns about his wilderness treks and in so doing helped popularize the sport of hiking.

Looking at the history of hiking in New England and the East Coast in general, all trails seem to lead back to Partridge. Some writers link his hikes to the tourism boom that hit New Hampshire's White Mountains, and to a lesser extent Vermont's Green Mountains and Taconics, during the mid-1800s.

Later, in the early 1900s, reports of his exploits inspired schoolteacher James P. Taylor to create the Long Trail, which runs the length of Vermont. The Long Trail, in turn, helped inspire Benton MacKaye's vision for the Appalachian Trail, which now runs from Georgia to Maine.

A high purpose

As heartened as Partridge would be to know what his hiking habit helped spawn, he was pursuing his passion for another purpose. He was trying to craft hardy citizen soldiers and give them what he termed a "physical education" to complement their book learning. Partridge, whose father was a Revolutionary War veteran, was a career Army officer. He had been born in Norwich and attended nearby Dartmouth College, before transferring to West Point.

After graduating, he taught mathematics and engineering at West Point. In 1814, he was named superintendent of the school. But his tenure was short-lived. His changes to the curriculum and administration of the school proved unpopular with superiors, who dismissed him. Partridge's response showed a stubborn streak. He returned to work as if nothing had changed.

His superiors had a different opinion of what Partridge's duty was and decided that he was derelict in fulfilling it. So they court-martialed him and he was cashiered from the Army, a dishonorable way to be discharged. But President James Monroe interceded, allowing Partridge to resign instead.

Partridge's experience at West Point left him disillusioned about the role of the military in American society. He worried that West Point was creating a professional officer class in control of a standing army, which he saw as a danger to the republic. Partridge put his faith in local militias run by citizens.

He returned to Norwich and soon founded The American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy, a private school to teach young men to become citizen soldiers. It was the first school of its kind in the United States. Partridge would found similar schools in Delaware, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire. His Vermont school would become known as Norwich University, though it would move briefly to Connecticut; it's now in Northfield.

'Not a dry thread'

It was shortly after resigning from the Army, and while his military academy was still just a dream, that Partridge set out on his expedition to Camel's Hump and Mount Mansfield. Trails in the wilderness were essentially nonexistent, so he had to bushwhack up Camel's Hump, and did it in a driving rain.

At the summit, he pulled a barometer from his pack and measured the barometric pressure, using it to estimate Camel's Hump's height. He came up with 4,088 feet, only 5 feet higher than the peak's accepted height today.

It had been a hard day, he noted in his journal that night: "Not a dry thread in my clothes, and somewhat fatigued, having ate nothing nor drunk anything but water during the day."

The next day Partridge walked to Stowe, where he met an old friend. Together, they bushwhacked to the summit of Mansfield the following day. They were back down by 5 p.m. — "as usual, drenched with the water which fell from the bushes in passing through the woods."

Perhaps after eating some food, Partridge bid his friend adieu and walked on to Waterbury, reaching it at 10 p.m. In the course of the day, he had hiked 34 miles, a rather pedestrian total for Partridge.

This trek had been mostly a solitary experience. At Norwich, he would make group hikes a regular part of the program. In August 1821, he led eight 13- and 14-year-old cadets from the Norwich school, as well as a number of Dartmouth professors and students, on the more than 75-mile trip to Crawford Notch in the White Mountains. From there they scaled Mount Washington, where they slept near the summit before returning home.

Two months later, he led the entire cadet corps, roughly 100 students, on a hike to Woodstock and back. The next year, the corps hiked to Montpelier, where the governor watched them drill.

Then in September 1823, Partridge marched his cadets to Manchester, where 20 local residents joined them in climbing Mount Manchester. Lacking a trail, they chose a steep route. Later, one of the cadets would recall having to hold onto trees or anything that came to hand "to prevent our falling backward."

The hike, during which Partridge measured the mountain's height, took place near the fall equinox. Some suggest that's how the peak came to be renamed Mount Equinox.

During this four-day expedition, the cadets hiked more than 150 miles, covering 45 miles on one of the days.

Two feet vs. four

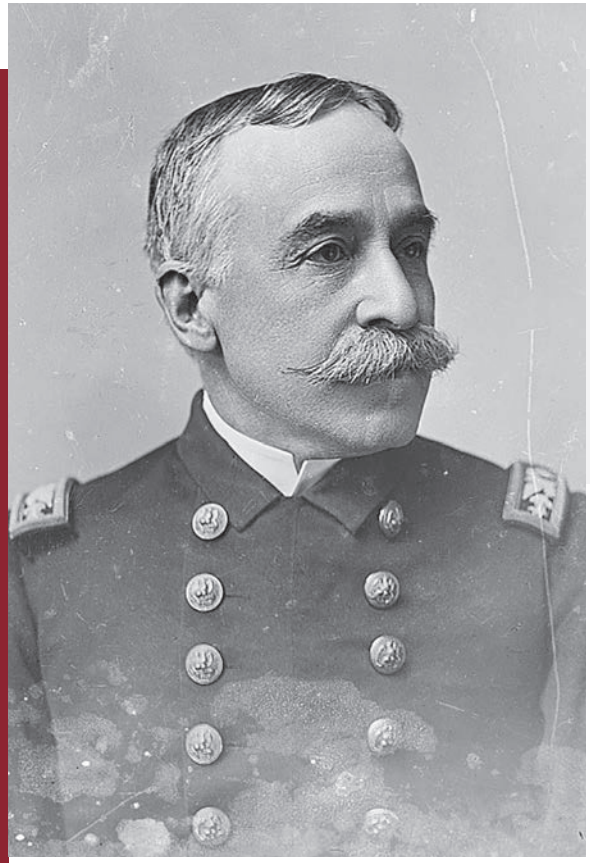
During his life, Partridge would climb many if not most of the high peaks of New England. He once offered others this prescription for a healthy life: "Walk about 10 miles per day at the rate of 4 MPH; about 3 or 4 times each year shoulder your knapsack and with your barometer, etc, ascend to the summits of our principal mountains and determine the altitudes, walking from 30 to 80 miles per day, according as you can bear the fatigue."

Partridge's love of hiking and his endurance seem only to have grown as he aged. In his 45th year, he hiked 152 miles in three days to climb Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire and then hiked 220 miles in four days to climb mountains in western Massachusetts. On another Massachusetts excursion that year, he walked 300 miles round trip, including 64 miles on the final day.

Guy and Laura Waterman in "Forest and Crag," their 1989 history of hiking in the Northeast, relate a story told about Partridge. He was setting out one day from Concord, N.H., heading to Hanover, when a stagecoach driver offered him a ride. Partridge declined, noting that the coachman would have to change horses three or four miles up the road. He'd see him then. By the time the new horses had been harnessed, Partridge had already passed the spot. The stage passed Partridge along the road, before making another scheduled stop. When the stagecoach finally reached the hotel in Hanover, the driver spied Partridge sitting on the porch, reading.

The story is no doubt apocryphal. Nobody could walk that far, that fast. Or could they?

The Alden Partridge Records in the Norwich University Archives and Special Collections include written accounts of some of Capt. Partridge's excursions including his planning and execution, and scientific observations recorded on his journeys.



Admiral George Dewey

Image from the C.M. Bell Studio Collection, Library of Congress.

#16 Norwich University and the Naval Service

Although Norwich University has not been closely or prominently identified with naval affairs, a long and important tradition of naval education does exist, and many Norwich alumni have distinguished themselves in naval service. For example, Admiral George Dewey, a student at the University between 1851-1854, became an enormously popular hero during the Spanish American War because of his stunning victory at Manila Bay.

Contributed by Professor Emeritus Gary T. Lord adapted from an article originally published in the December 1982 issue of The Record.

Many have considered Dewey an anomaly and have assumed that practically all Norwich alumni demonstrated a preference for the Army over naval service. George Dewey was, in fact, the third Norwich alumnus to command a fleet in the Far East. He was preceded by Commodore Josiah Tattnall, NU 1823, and Rear Admiral Charles Carpenter, NU 1850. Furthermore it can be noted that even though a large number of Norwich-educated Army officers participated in the Mexican and Civil Wars, a significant number of alumni also served with distinction in the Navy. The latter group includes three rear admirals, six commodores, three captains and three commanders.

The founder of Norwich University, Alden Partridge, is generally recognized for the important role he played as an educational reformer during the first half of the 19th century and he is credited with originating the concept upon which the Reserve Officer Training Corps is based. Unfortunately, his contributions to naval education largely have been overlooked.

Partridge first proposed a plan for improved naval education in 1815 while serving as superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point. His scheme for improving naval education was part of a larger, highly innovative plan which involved the creation of a national system of academies which would prepare both Army and Navy officers.

The Partridge plan called for the creation of two new academies: one in the vicinity of Washington, DC, the other in a western state. The academy at West Point, also part of the projected system, was designated for a thorough reformation. Regarding the existing course of studies at West Point was inadequate, Partridge proposed a significant broadening of the curriculum.

Partridge's system of military academies was designed to serve all elements of the American military establishment. The academies would furnish the Army with officers, but the same institutions would also supply the Navy with well educated midshipmen. Captain Partridge's proposals for remodeling West Point and the expansion of the national system of military education won the approval of his superiors and key politicians, but ultimately failed to attract sufficient support from a parsimonious congress.

After he left West Point in 1817, Alden Partridge remained strongly committed to his plan for educational reform, naval education included. He returned to his home town of Norwich, Vermont, where in 1819 he established the American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy, later known as Norwich University. There Partridge implemented his progressive "American System of Education" which broadened the prevailing classical curriculum by including instruction in such subjects as engineering, modern languages, political science, economics, and military science. In addition, Partridge successfully advanced his plan for educating naval officers—a quarter of a century before the United States Naval Academy opened in Annapolis.

In an effort to attract the attention of prospective students with an interest in naval service, Captain Partridge observed in an early catalog that "young gentlemen…destined for the Navy, can here be instructed in the scientific part of their profession, and at the same time obtain a correct knowledge of fortification, and of military operations generally." Students with naval interests seem to have been particularly attracted to the courses offered in mathematics, navigation, gunnery, fortifications, and modern languages.

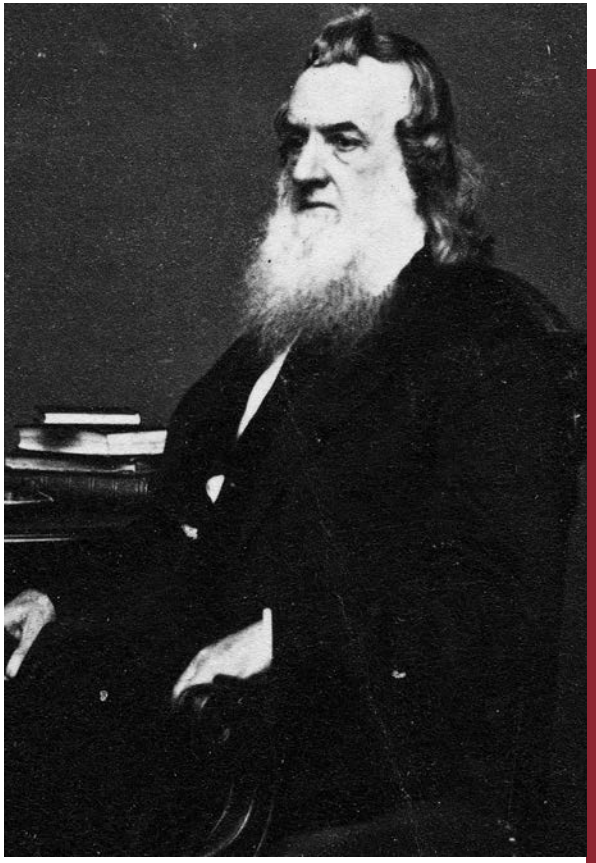
Numerous Navy personnel took leave from active duty to improve themselves at Partridge's academy. For example, of a total of 480 students in attendance at the academy through the middle of 1825, twenty were commissioned or warrant officers in the U.S. Navy, including four lieutenants, one surgeon, and fifteen midshipmen.

Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy

Some of Partridge's students were veterans of the War of 1812. Josiah Tattnall had served as a midshipman in the frigate Constellation between 1812 and 1814. He enrolled in the Vermont institution to study French and Italian and to hear Captain Partridge's military lectures. Tattnall's high opinion of Partridge's school apparently prompted Gideon Welles, later Secretary of the Navy under Presidents Lincoln and Johnson, to attend. Lieutenant Hiram Paulding, later a rear admiral, had served under Commodore Thomas Macdonough and had seen considerable action on Lake Champlain. Subsequently Paulding had a long and distinguished naval career. Lieutenant William Carpenter, later a commodore, was another veteran of the War of 1812 who attended the academy at Norwich in the early 1820's.

Two of Alden Partridge's protégés were destined to have an important impact on the early development of the U.S. Naval Academy. James Harmon Ward was regarded as one of the best educated officers in the Navy when the academy was established in 1845. A highly competent and energetic officer, Ward was appointed the first executive officer and president of the academic board. Some of his lectures were published as Instructions on Naval Ordnance and Gunnery (1845). It is tempting to speculate that Ward's interest in the subject was sparked by his mentor, Alden Partridge, who did pioneering studies in the field of ballistics. Ward also published a Manual of Naval Tactics (1858) which was used as a Naval Academy text for decades. Captain Ward had the unfortunate distinction of being the first Union naval officer killed in the Civil War.

Rear Admiral Thomas Craven, another of Partridge's students served through much of the decade of the 1850's as the commandant of midshipmen at Annapolis. He is credited with establishing the summer cruise as a practical training experience. A very able officer, Craven was referred to by one historian of the academy as the "arch-seaman of the navy." Craven and Rear Admiral Charles Boggs, yet another student of Partridge, were two of Admiral Farragut's stalwart commanders and were conspicuous for their bravery and skill in the



Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

BG Hiram I. Bearss

Union assault on Confederate forces on the lower Mississippi River in 1862.

Captain George M. Colvocoresses left Alden Partridge's School in 1831 and subsequently was attached to the Wilkes expedition to the Pacific and Antarctic Oceans. Colvocoresses recorded his experience in Four Years in a Government Exploring Expedition (1852). A son, Rear Admiral George Partridge Colvocoresses (named after Alden Partridge), finished a one-year stint at Norwich University in 1866 and subsequently compiled a forty-five year career in the Navy. During the Battle of Manila Bay he served as the executive officer in Admiral Dewey's flagship Olympia.

BG Hiram I. Bearss

In the first half of the 20th century equestrian training, not seamanship, was central in the training program of the Norwich Corps of Cadets. Nevertheless, a significant number of Norwich men did serve in the Navy, including Rear Admirals Frank C. Dunham, NU 1914, and Clifton A. F. Sprague, NU 1917. Donald P. Loker, NU 1927 was one of approximately forty Norwich alumni who served as naval officers during World War II. Loker is perhaps best known as actor Don Terry, who played the leading role in the popular film series Don Winslow of the Navy.

No account of Norwich alumni in the naval service would be complete without mention of the Marine Corps. In recent years a growing number of Norwich students have been commissioned as Marine officers. They have become part of a truly impressive tradition of served to the Marine Corps which includes officers such as Brigadier General Hiram I. Bearss, NU 1898, and Major General Jonas M. Platt, NU 1940. Bearss was awarded a Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism in combat in the Philippines in 1901 and received an equally impressive cluster of decorations for his meritorious service in World War I. During his thirty-year military career, General Platt saw action as an infantry officer in World War II, and in Korea and Vietnam. He has received numerous decorations for his distinguished service.

#17 The Rook and the Corps Shoulder Patch

During the 1961-62 school year a contest was announced to replace the Norwich University Corps of Cadets shoulder patch. The prize was $50. At that time $50 was a respectable prize award. Entries were to be submitted to the Office of the Commandant in color and full-size. The competition was open to all members of the Corps. I had designed many patches in Boy Scouts and had created many "works of graphic art" while in high school, so I felt I had a shot at winning. However, as a Rook (Norwich recruit), dominated by everyone senior in rank, I was sure I would have no chance. But, I had a passion for creating icons, before iconography became a science—and a patch is an icon.

Norwich University Corps of Cadets shoulder patch.

Contributed by Martin Suydam '65

Full story:

To my amazement, I won. The announcement and prize award were made at an evening formation in the spring of 1962 in front of the assembled cadet corps. With no advance warning, I remember hearing my name over the loud speaker and had to march up to receive the award with my heart pounding—I was a Rook after all and that kind of celebrity was something I never expected—nor wanted.

The design started as an exercise in "doodling" while in English class to keep awake. The professor was one who could drone on about some subject, often even putting himself to sleep during lectures I don't remember today, and never remembered then.

The pencil sketches started with the shape of a more distinctive shield with colors of maroon and yellow to give it distinctive visibility replacing the existing drab, circular patch with overlapped NU letters, dark gold on maroon.

The centerpiece of the design was an eagle and I wanted to pack as much Norwich heritage symbology as possible into that iconic image. The model for the eagle design was a brass bookend on my cadet desk given to me by grandmother when I went to college.

The palm leaf in the right talon was to represent peace and the 5 arrows in the left talon representing wars (Mexican War, Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, and Korea) fought by Norwich cadets and graduates to that time. I remember trying to come up with some connection to the twelve leaves on the palm, and believe it represented the significant and heroic accomplishments in peace by Norwich men. These contributions were memorialized in paintings that were on the Dining Hall walls at that time and recognized such accomplishments as General Dodge's involvement in creating the Transcontinental Railroad.

NU Mountain and Cold Weather Company patch.

The original design of the shield on the breast of the eagle had 21 alternating red and white vertical stripes to represent the number of states in the Union at the time Norwich was established. That design was later simplified to be just a shield with the founding date of 1819. The final submission was sketched on cardboard and colored using model airplane enamel paints.

Later I was asked to make a large painting of the patch on a 3' x 4' panel—all this was a lot of work for $50. The facts that the design has persisted for over half a century, has been worn by thousands of cadets over the years, and continues to be a recognized symbol for the college is worth more than any monetary reward.

During my junior year, as a member of Mountain & Cold Weather (M&CW) Company, I suggested to Sergeant Don Jennings a new patch should replace the existing and "boring" stitched-felt patch. I "painted" it using successive acetate overlays, so that various combinations of designs could be tested. I never heard back from anyone, but later discovered, as I was developing a similar program at Colorado School of Mines in 1970, that the patch had been created and is still worn today—guess I missed a second $50 award.Cavaliers retreated to the town of

#18 "Daredevil" Hersey: Rough Rider and Aeronaut

Henry Blanchard "Daredevil" Hersey, Norwich class of 1885, led a colorful and adventure-filled life in which he played many roles, including as a meteorologist, balloonist and member of the Rough Riders.

Contributed by Professor Emeritus Gary T. Lord adapted from an article titled "Henry B. Hersey: Rough Rider and Aeronaut" that was originally published in the Spring 1999 issue of the Record.

Full story:

A native of Williamstown, Vt., Hersey entered Norwich in 1881. Like many students in the nineteenth century he left after two years to enter the United States Signal Service at Fort Myer, Va. He was assigned to the US Weather Bureau and became inspector for the bureau's Western Department, which covered the West and Southwest.

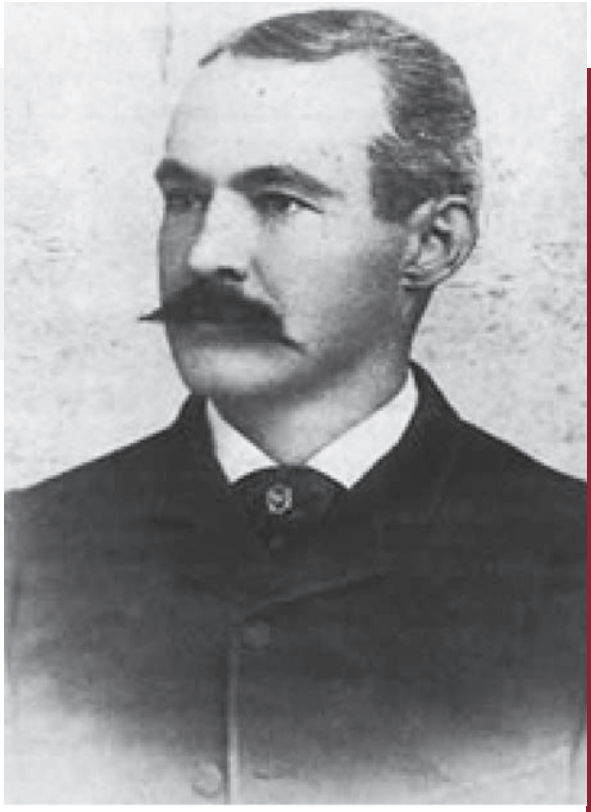
When the Spanish-American War began in 1898, Hersey was commissioned a major in the First United States Volunteer Cavalry, commonly known as the "Rough Riders." The enthusiastic volunteers were a motley assortment that included college athletes, cowboys and "Fifth Avenue Boys," men from socially prominent, wealthy families. Hersey served ably as a drillmaster of the regiment, but his role was eclipsed by Theodore Roosevelt, who served first as lieutenant colonel and later as commander of the regiment.

In widely circulated accounts of the activities of the regiment, including the dismounted assault against Kettle and San Juan Hills in Cuba, the "Roosevelt" Rough Riders became the objects of adulation by an admiring American public. Roosevelt's book The Rough Riders (1902), greatly magnifies his own role in the war at the expense of others, including Henry Hersey.

After the Spanish-American War, Roosevelt's attention became fixed on the White House, and Hersey was drawn to ballooning and arctic exploration. In 1906 he participated in the first Gordon Bennett International Balloon Race. Seven countries were represented by sixteen balloons in a race that started in Paris.

Hersey and his partner, Lt. Frank P. Lahm, upset the favored contenders in the race. Hersey's expertise in meteorology was undoubtedly helpful in taking advantage of wind currents that carried their balloon across the English Channel to the Yorkshire coast, just short of the North Sea. They traveled 402 miles in 22 hours, beating Italy by 31 miles. Lahm and Hersey shared a 12,500-franc prize and brought to the United States not only its first trophy in international aerial competition, but the honor of hosting the next international competition in St. Louis.

Maj. Hersey was one of the first American aeronautical analysts to recognize that dirigible balloons and the primitive "aeroplanes," then under development by the Wright brothers, had enormous military implications. In a 1909 article he wrote for Century Magazine, he reported that most of the great



Henry Blanchard Hersey.

Norwich University Archives

Maj. Hersey and Lt. Frank P. Lahm stand proudly in the basket of the balloon named the United States, at the start of the first Gordon Bennett race.

nations were in the process of developing battle fleets of "war-balloons." He also ominously warned that airships with the capability of "hovering like vultures over cities, harbors and fortifications, dealing, with hawk-like swiftness, death and destruction, and then disappearing as suddenly" constituted a grave potential menace. The development of aeroplanes, Hersey speculated, would be tantamount to the creation of a "cavalry" unit in an aerial army and the heavier dirigibles would "constitute a combination of infantry and artillery." Dirigible bombers would not only have great destructive power resulting from their ability to drop "aerial torpedoes" inside lines of defense, but would also serve to undermine enemy morale. Given those circumstances, Hersey urged the United States to devote more resources to aerial warfare and, eventually to create a separate aerial corps within the US Army.

During World War I, Hersey was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel and given command of the U.S. Army Balloon School at Fort Omaha, Neb. As school commander, he tried out every new parachute before allowing a student to use it. Promoted to colonel, Hersey next served in France with the Balloon Division until 1919. In addition to his aeronautical and wartime achievements, Hersey was an active member of the Aero Club of France and the Aero Club of America. Hersey was also a fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society of London.

Hersey was conferred a Bachelor of Science degree from Norwich (designated as for 1885) in recognition of his substantial accomplishments. He was also awarded a Master of Science degree in 1906. The statoscope (an instrument for measuring a rise or fall in balloon altitude) that Hersey used in the 1906 Gordon Bennett Race is on display in the Sullivan Museum and History Center at Norwich University.

Additional information on Henry Hersey, including the full article written by Prof. Lord for the Record*, can be found in the Norwich University Archives and Special Collections.*

#19 Glen Leet '30: Founder of Trickle Up

Shortly after his graduation from Norwich University in 1930, Glen Leet began an extraordinary 60-year career in public service. Originally from Brockton, Mass., Leet became a field representative for the American Public Welfare Administration, where he helped draft many of the social welfare laws during the Great Depression. In 1944 he was appointed by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to direct relief efforts in Greece. It was there that Leet became involved in antipoverty work. With very little capital, Leet helped Greek peasants pull themselves out of the extreme poverty and deprivation that prevailed in rural areas.

Full story:

The success of Leet's work received worldwide recognition and led to similar individual improvement and community development initiatives in other parts of the world.

Leet met his wife, Mildred Robbins, through their mutual involvement in international development. She served as the president of the Save the Children Federation and also as the first chief of the Community Development unit of the United Nations. Mildred was a member of the International Peace Academy and a past president of the National Council of Women. Together, Glen and Mildred formed a consulting firm and travelled the world to help organizations working on social issues.

During a trip to the Caribbean nation of Dominica, the Leets recognized that even the world's lowest income people have entrepreneurial potential. In 1979, at the age of 70, Glen and Mildred formed Trickle Up, an international nonprofit designed to assist low-income populations. With the help of local agencies and $1,000 of their own money, they gave 10 people grants of $100 to launch their own microenterprises.

The new businesses ranged from manufacturing building blocks to selling eggs, jams, and school uniforms. Along with a seed grant, the Leets taught grant recipients the skills to run successful and profitable microenterprises, including how to keep records, balance accounts, and reinvest profits in their businesses.

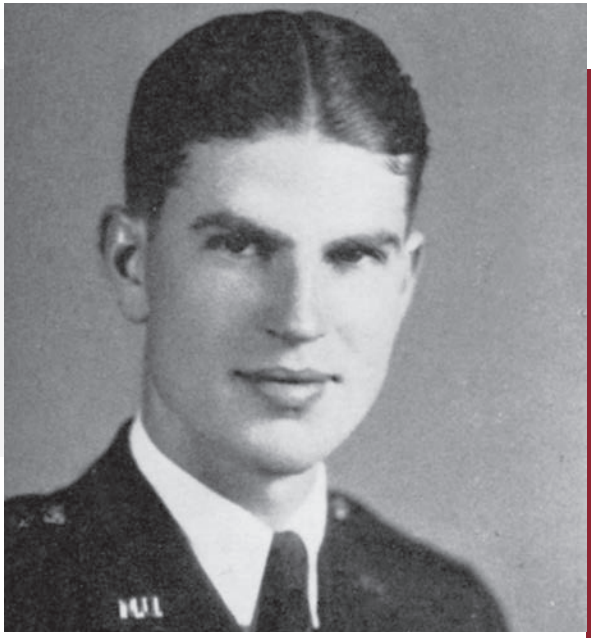
The quality of life improvements were overwhelmingly positive for the participants and several of the original enterprises still exist.

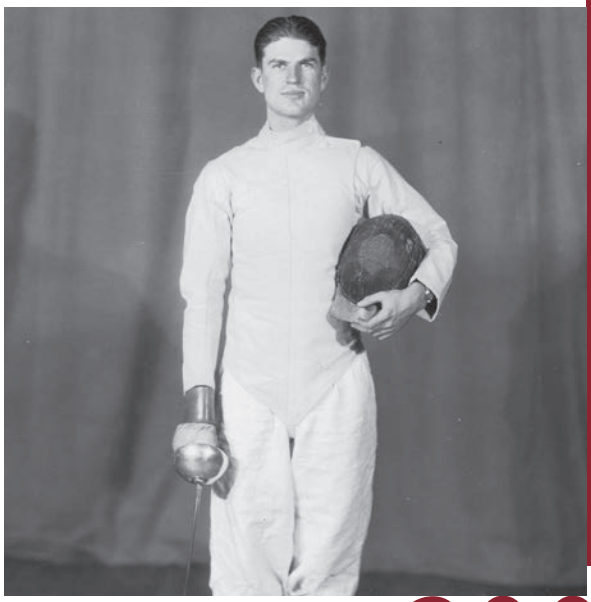
In a 1997 interview with the *New York Times*, Glen Leet said, "People all have potential. The question is how are you going to reach them."

Trickle Up has grown since its inception and by the time of Glen's death in 1998, the program had served as the catalyst for more than 75,000 businesses in 115 countries. The program has created more than 400,000 jobs in the United States and in developing countries throughout the world. The small grant model has remained the same. Entrepreneurs in the United States can receive a maximum of $700. Overseas, they get $100.

The Leets received a multitude of honors and awards for their community service, including honorary doctorate degrees from Norwich University in 1994.

In 1980, on the 50th anniversary of his graduation from Norwich, Glen Leet presented Norwich University a large collection of his writings, which are available in the Special Collections of the Kreitzberg Library.



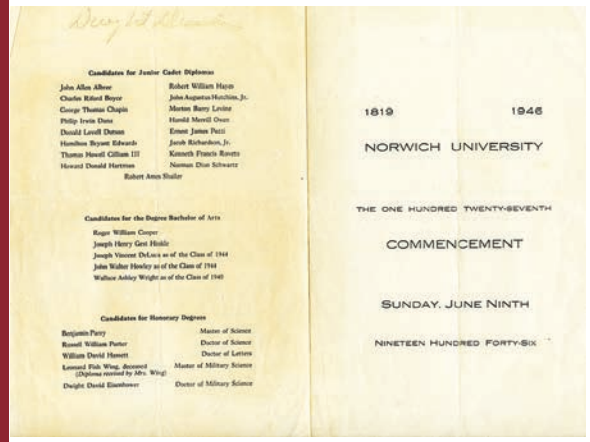


Glen Leet '30

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives, printed in the War Whoop.

#20 General Dwight Eisenhower spoke at Norwich commencement in 1946

The Norwich University commencement exercises of 1946 were an auspicious occasion. Dubbed the "Victory Commencement," it marked the completion of the first regular academic year following World War II. In fact, it was the first full-fledged commencement ceremony to be held since 1941.



1819 1946

NORWICH UNIVERSITY

THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH

COMMENCEMENT

SUNDAY, JUNE NINTH

NINETEEN HUNDRED FORTY-SIX

Top: Vermont Senator Warren Austin, General Eisenhower and Norwich president Homer Dodge at NU Commencement in 1946.

Bottom: Signed copy of 1946 Commencement program.

Contributed by George H. Kabel '70.

Full Story

The occasion attracted a prominent commencement speaker: Army Chief of Staff and former Supreme Allied Commander of Forces in Western Europe, General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

During the war, Norwich had been in turmoil, with no cadets from 1943 to 1944 as the campus was converted to a special air training facility. The 1945-1946 academic year was the beginning of a return to normalcy, though with so many cadets having interrupted their studies for military service, only five young men graduated in the class of 1946, one of the smallest graduating classes in NU history. Despite their small numbers, the graduates had an audience of over 4000 by virtue of the commencement speaker, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Eisenhower was accompanied by US Senator from Vermont, Warren R. Austin, recently appointed Ambassador to the United Nations. General Eisenhower delivered an address in support of the fledgling United Nations and personally greeted each graduate of the Class of 1946.

In his remarks, General Eisenhower said:

"I have tried earnestly but futilely to marshal the words that might convey to you the sense of distinction I feel in the honor conferred on me today by Norwich University. I am here in the name of millions of allied fighting men, authors of memorable victories in the Mediterranean and in Western Europe. I will never be able to adequately express the greatness of my pride in their accomplishments. So I am unable to make them, or you, understand the depth of my humility when a great institution such as this calls on me to act as their representative to receive tribute to their soldierly virtues."

As General Eisenhower was reaching the end of his address he turned to the graduates and said:

"You men, and others like you throughout the country, are equipped to lead us, in safe stages, towards our goal. With your appreciation of history's lessons, you will fight the indifference, the blind complacency, the selfish inertia that more than once have let us drift into a war that might have been prevented. Moreover you will bring under your banner a constantly increasing army of citizen-soldiers determined, with you, to win the peace. With the qualifications of determination, good humor, firmness and optimism, I know you will let no setback, no discouragement, diminish the effectiveness of your efforts … To you of the graduating class, your time to begin taking over is at hand. Within hours you will be called upon to assume roles that with the years will constantly grow greater in importance and responsibility. Your role is that of citizen leaders of the greatest nation on earth during one of the most critical periods of its history. You are an essential part of the nation's strength against the dreaded possibility of war, but more importantly in providing constructive leadership for peace."

The 127th Commencement culminated with General Eisenhower receiving an honorary Doctor of Military Science. The address was further highlighted by being a front page story in the *New York Times*.

200 THINGS ABOUT NORWICH

Some content courtesy of Norwich University Archives staff. The complete text of Gen. Eisenhower's address was reprinted in the Norwich Record, *Vol. 37, No. 24, on June 21, 1946.*

Norwich University 1819-2019

#21 Lieutenant Colonel Harold Watson '40, Pilots B25 on Doolittle's Raid

In the months following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt was looking for something to give the American people a boost in morale for what was expected to be a long war both in Europe and the Pacific. The Navy and Army Air Corps presented a plan that became famously known as "Doolittle's Raid."

Contributed by George H. Kabel '70.

Full story:

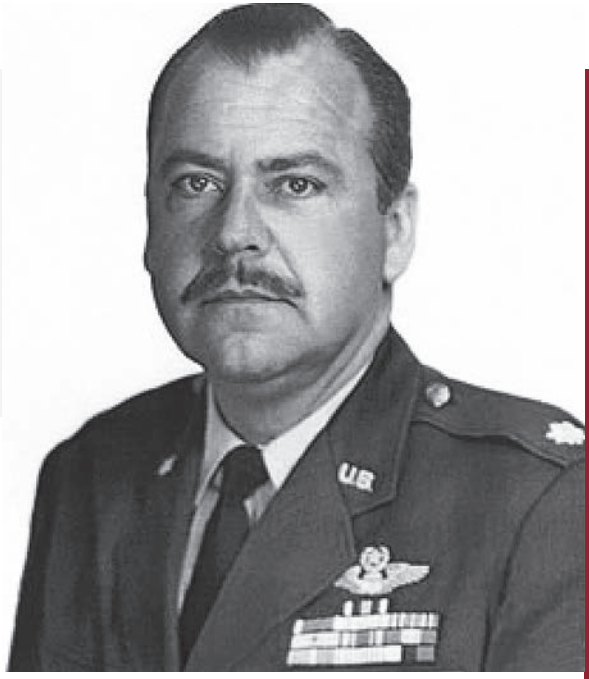
It was a yet untried combat mission where sixteen short range bombers were to launch from the deck of an aircraft carrier to attack mainland Japan. The pilot of plane #9, the Whirling Dervish, was Harold Watson, Norwich Class of 1940.

After months of specialized and secretive training, the sixteen bombers were loaded onto the deck of the USS aircraft carrier *Hornet*. Because of the distance and fuel available on each plane, the mission had a one-way flight plan to a designated target on the Japanese mainland. The tail guns had been replaced with wooden sticks to reduce the weight of the planes and accommodate extra fuel. The Norton bombsights had been removed so that the new and sophisticated technology would not fall into the hands of the Japanese. This required the bombers use an improvised and very simple sighting device.

On April 18, 1942, the sixteen planes launched from the Hornet toward Tokyo. The mission was led by LTC Jimmy Doolittle who would later rise to the rank of Lieutenant General. The squadron successfully bombed a Tokyo electrical plant and then flew toward China where each plane was expected to land or crash. Colonel Watson and the rest of his five-man crew parachuted out, coming down in mountain wilderness. He was injured when his arm got caught in the chute's lines, severely dislocating his shoulder. Taking refuge in a Chinese farmhouse, he was eventually rescued and admitted to Walter Reed Army Hospital from June 1942 until May 1943. While there, General Doolittle presented Colonel Watson with the Distinguished Flying Cross.

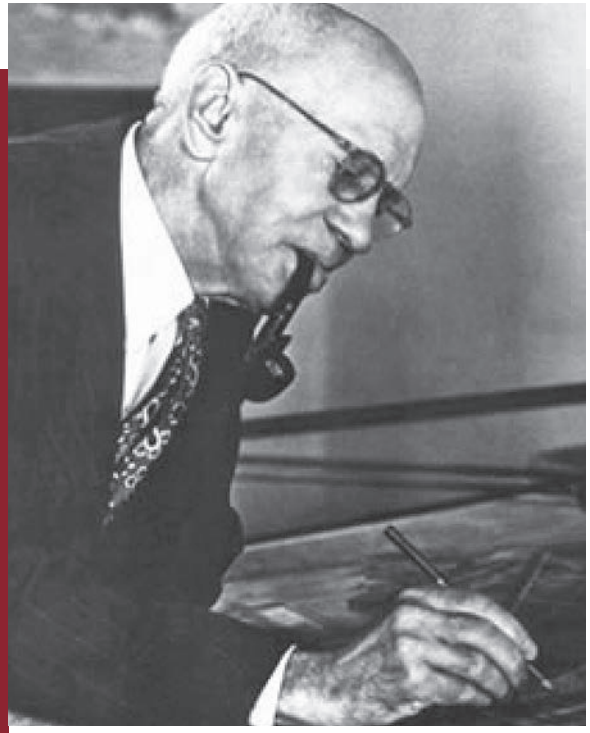
Of the sixteen bombers that took part in the mission, thirteen were abandoned in mid-air and three crash-landed. One airman died bailing out of his plane and two drowned. Three were executed by the Japanese and one died as a prisoner. Twelve died in combat during WWII.

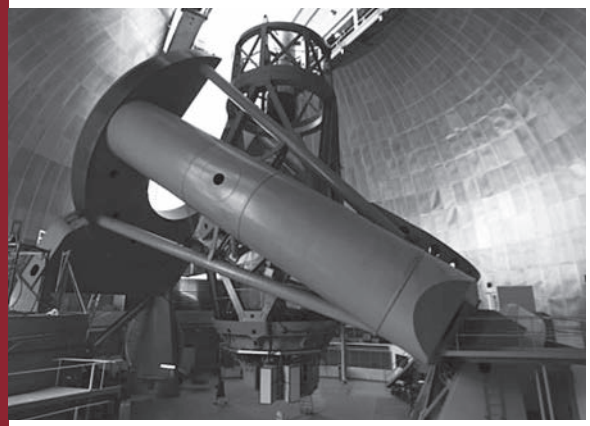
General Doolittle held an annual reunion with the survivors of the raid. A special case carried 80 silver goblets, one for each Raider. The goblets representing the men who had died were turned upside down and saluted by those who gathered each year. An agreement had been made that when there were only two remaining members they would open a bottle of 1896 Cognac, the year that Doolittle was born, and drink to all the other Raiders. Colonel Watson died in September 1991. On Veterans Day 2013, with three of the four remaining survivors in attendance, it was decided to open the bottle of Cognac and drink the final salute to the Doolittle Raiders.



Top: Lieutenant Colonel Harold Watson

Bottom: LtC Harold F. Watson (second from left) on the deck of the USS Hornet





Top: Russell W. Porter

Bottom: 200-inch reflecting telescope at Palomar Observatory

#22 Russell W. Porter: Telescope Maker

Russell Williams Porter was enthralled by the questions that swirl in a thoughtful man's mind when he contemplates the stars.

Full story:

Porter, who attended Norwich from 1889-1890, is regarded as "the father of the amateur telescope movement." Among his life achievements was designing the 200-inch Hale telescope at Mount Palomar, Calif.

A native of Springfield, Vt., Russell Porter was an architect in Maine when he made his first telescope in 1910. During World War I he worked in optics for the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C. In 1919 he returned to his hometown and was hired by the Jones and Lamson Machine Company to develop optical components for precision tools. While there, Porter taught a local group of machinists how to make telescopes. The group formed an astronomical club and the first meeting of the Springfield Telescope Makers took place in December 1923. They built a clubhouse on a 30-acre hill outside of town and called it "Stellafane," which is Latin for shrine to the stars. In 1926 the Springfield Telescope Makers invited other groups of stargazers to their clubhouse to compare telescopes and exchange ideas. An annual event was born from this gathering and continues in Springfield, Vt., to this day.

The president of Jones & Lamson Machine Company, James Hartness, introduced Porter to astronomer George Ellery Hale. Hale had been commissioned by the California Institute of Technology to build the world's largest telescope, and in 1928 he hired Russell Porter to work on the design. Porter's grasp of telescopes and optics and his ability to convert engineering blueprints into precise, three-dimensional drawings was crucial in shaping the design of the reflecting telescope and observatory.

The 200-inch telescope on Mount Palomar took 20 years to complete and was the largest on earth from its completion in 1948 until the BTA-6 was built in Russia in 1976.

Porter died in 1949 at the age of 77. In recognition of his design of the "giant of Palomar" and other contributions to the fields of optics and astronomy, there are craters on both the Moon and Mars named in his honor.

#23 Robert F. McDermott: A Maverick in Education, Insurance and Basketball

When Robert F. McDermott ’41, became the first dean of the U.S. Air Force Academy, he took some lessons from Alden Partridge’s playbook. General McDermott created the first service academy program that blended military training with the “whole person” concept. Like Norwich founder Captain Partridge, General McDermott emerged as a pioneer in higher and military education.

Brig. Gen. Robert F. McDermott

Full story:

After studying at Norwich, McDermott entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1943. He served in the Army Air Force during WWII, flying 61 combat missions as a P-38 fighter pilot and received the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with six battle stars, as well as the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

In 1954 McDermott joined the staff of the newly established U.S. Air Force Academy. President Eisenhower appointed General McDermott as the first permanent professor of the Academy in 1957 and as the first dean of faculty in 1959. The promotion to brigadier general that accompanied his appointment made McDermott the youngest general or flag officer on active duty at that time. It also gave him the military equivalent of tenure and the power to challenge traditions in military education.

Among his first steps, McDermott instituted a comprehensive curriculum enrichment program designed to challenge cadets to advance as far and as fast as they could based on their aptitudes, interests, and prior preparation.

McDermott also wanted to change the science and engineering courses required at other service academies, many of which he was forced to retake after leaving Norwich for West Point. As a result, he introduced about 30 academic majors to the Air Force Academy, bringing a degree of flexibility to curriculum requirements.

In another service academy first, McDermott introduced the concept of selecting candidates based on moral and leadership attributes, as well as physical and mental qualifications.

Brig. Gen. McDermott faced strong objections among traditionalists at the start. However application rates to the Air Force Academy quickly grew and soon surpassed those for West Point or the U.S. Naval Academy. Over time, this led the other service academies to follow Brig. Gen. McDermott’s curriculum example.

Norwich University Archives

Robert McDermott in a P-38.

McDermott also wrote books on finance for service personnel, which attracted the attention of Charles Cheever, the president of the USAA insurance company. In 1968, McDermott retired from the Air Force and moved to San Antonio to become USAA's chief executive officer. Under his leadership, USAA grew from the 16th to the 5th largest insurer of private automobiles in the nation and the 4th largest home insurer.

As in his role as an educator, Brig. Gen. McDermott developed a reputation as a maverick in the insurance business. He advocated for air bags as a crucial safety measure despite the objections of auto manufacturers, who claimed they were too costly. He hired minorities and equalized wages. He established four-day workweeks and made employee child care a feature to attract working mothers.

Brig. Gen. McDermott also played a leading role in the economic development of San Antonio. In the mid-1990s, he led an investor group that bought the San Antonio Spurs basketball franchise. In a controversial move, he hired Gregg Popovich to be the club's coach and general manager. Popovich had limited experience, however Brig. Gen. McDermott was impressed by his character, military record, and leadership qualities. General McDermott's faith in Popovich's leadership abilities has paid off. In February 2015, Popovich became the ninth coach in NBA history to win 1,000 games.

Brig. Gen. McDermott died in August 2006 at the age of 86. Paul Ringenbach, a retired Air Force colonel and USAA executive, who wrote a biography of his boss said, "General McDermott fought traditional ways of doing things and thinking about things and opened doors to something different. He made significant changes wherever he went."