

Address by Brigadier General C. M. Thiele, Commandant,  
at the Opening of U. S. Army University, Shrivenham,  
England, 1 August 1945.

General Lee, General Thompson, distinguished guests, members of the Staff and Faculty, and students. Today marks the birth of the U. S. Army University, Shrivenham, England, and I wish to officially welcome you to the institution.

This university is unique. While the Army has always engaged in educational activities, they have been principally for the purpose of instructing in the military art and science. [The object of this University is to instruct in the higher levels of education normally reserved for our universities and colleges, both in the graduate <sup>in the</sup> and undergraduate fields.]

To accomplish this end we have assembled a faculty of 214 members from 100 different universities and colleges, representing practically every state in the Union. These gentlemen are not just educators, but are from the top levels; and I think I may safely say that few institutions are better fitted than we are to instruct in the 250 courses we offer. 132 of our faculty have been taken directly from our civilian institutions and I cannot speak too highly of the cooperation given us by the executives of those institutions in releasing such key personnel. The other 82 members have been drawn from the military, both enlisted and commissioned. They are, however, really professors in disguise.

Not only have we planned carefully for the instruction of our students, but we have planned equally carefully for their welfare and recreation. We have assembled selected instructors in practically every sport, and the Army has furnished us with the best of athletic equipment. The Red Cross has established two excellent clubs and our Special Service Division is prepared to assist the student in occupying his spare time

with tours of England, movies, plays and many other forms of recreation and amusement.

I think it most fitting that at this time I pay tribute to those who, in the short space of two months, have made it possible for us to open on this date. To the officers and men of our station complement who have organized and prepared Shrivenham Barracks for the housing, the feeding and the well-being of all our personnel. To our faculty who, in the shorter space of two weeks, have organized and prepared 250 courses for the instruction of 3,616 students. And last but not least, to our British Allies who have placed this magnificent plant at our disposal and who have cooperated so whole heartedly in putting at our disposal personnel and facilities we could not provide from our own resources.

And now just a word as man to man with our students. [The Army is giving you <sup>an</sup> ~~opportunities~~ <sup>such as</sup> ~~never~~ before offered to <sup>the</sup> members of our Armed Forces. Take full advantage of them, but do not abuse them. While you are here, you will be required to perform no military duties; your status will be that of a student and <sup>our object is to make the atmosphere the same as you</sup> ~~we wish to create the same atmosphere as exists on~~ <sup>would find on any</sup> ~~any of our university campuses.~~ ] There will be no military formations excepting reveille, and that we are having in order to get you out of bed.

There are certain things, however, which I insist upon being observed. One is courtesy. There is nothing strange about that because courtesy is found both in the Army and out of the Army. We have a special form of courtesy in the Army which is peculiar to us as soldiers, and that I wish you to scrupulously observe and practice.

Another matter which I desire to be observed is the matter of correct dress. In the free and easy atmosphere of a university there is an inclination to be equally free and easy in one's dress; however, we

wear a uniform and there is a prescribed manner in which that uniform must be worn. I therefore request that you all pay particular attention to your appearance and that when you appear outside of your quarters, and are not engaged in sports, that you appear in the prescribed uniform worn as it should be.

And once again, welcome to Shrivenham.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

"Brigadier General Paul W. Thompson, Chief of Information and Education, and the Commanding General, Staff, Faculty and Students of Army University Center Number 1.

"Hearty congratulations to all concerned! I am confident that thousands of our American soldiers will take advantage of the splendid educational opportunities provided by the Army University Center."

Harry S. Truman  
President.

**TEXT OF GENERAL EISENHOWER'S STATEMENT**

**TO: Brigadier General Paul W. Thompson, Chief of the Information and Education Program, and to the Commanding General, Staff, Faculty and Students of the Army University Center #1.**

"The opening of the Shrivensham University Center gives me an opportunity to wish you every possible success in the educational courses for American soldiers. It is a particularly happy circumstance that the first of these centers should start in the country of our great partner of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

"This center will afford to individuals of this command an opportunity of participating in the Army educational system on a university level. It will be a most valuable feature in that system.

"Some of America's leading educators have been brought into service to further this program. I feel confident that if every student makes the most of this opportunity he will return to civilian life better educated and better equipped for the future. Particularly will his understanding in the international field be broadened and his readiness to cope with world wide peace problems be immeasurably sharpened."

(TRANSCRIBED BY MAJOR TOMMY AFTER A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH COLONEL GAULT, GENERAL EISENHOWER'S AIDE.)

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ga lee amwis

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ga lee speaks

Reel Two · Interiors

Lowerclass Class

Commerce · Class w Accountancy

Chemistry · Dr. Stau demonstrates glass  
bonding

Fin Art · Drawing · Room 62

10 AM

liberal Art · Philosophy · Room 89

11 AM

English History

Music

11-30

Agriculture · ✓ 13-00 hrs Post HQ.

Engineering · Survey · ✓ 15-00 hrs.

Athletics · ✓

Agriculture

Agriculture

Mr. Earl Weaver

Dept. Dairy Husbandry

Michigan State College

Capt. Grady, Sellards

University of Kentucky

Journalist Animal Husbandry

Sketches

As Toronto in Summer

Edward Elgar

from K. J. class. - Mr. Henry Veldt

Augustana College

Rock Island, Illinois

Reel 3

Norma A. Chemistry

Dr. David Evans explains Bureau

Business -

Dr. Charles demonstrating Chemical

Balance to a WAC.

Captain RUTH ENDICOTT

BELGRADE - MAINE

120'

Reel 4 Interior Fine Arts

Drawings up to 120'

Box No. 13905

Attending opening ceremonies of the U.S. Army University Center No. 1 at Shrivenham, Berkshire, are Lieutenant General John C.H. Lee, commanding general, Theater Service Forces, European Theater; Brigadier General Claude M. Thiele, school commandant; Brigadier General Paul Thompson, chief, Information and Education Division, European Theater; Brigadier General R.C. Tindall; Military Attache, U.S. Embassy, London.

Guests include: General Sir Ronald F. Mann, Bart, the Adjutant General to the Forces, Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London; General Sir Charles Bonham-Carter, Shrivenham, Berks; Major-General D.G. Johnson, Ministry of Information, the Governor's House, Reading; Brigadier General Cyrus L. Seavey, commanding general, Centralized Technical School, U.S. Army, Mr. Giles Allington, secretary, Oxford University Leave Courses, Oxford; Squadron Leader A.C. Boycott, Chief Training Officer, RAF Resettlement Centre, RAF, Sunninghill Park, Nr Ascot, Berks.

The 50-piece band of the Wiltshire Regiment under the direction of Mr. James Labryple, furnished the military music.

Latest figures from the registration office showed that 5,611 students had registered for 9,871 course hours. Included in this figure are 22 270 officers, 14 nurses and 8 Wacs. Rank ranges from private to lieutenant-colonel. The average education for the students is one year of college. Their age ranges from 19 years to 46 years. Most are combat men who are waiting to return to the United States.

The commerce section has the greatest number of students with 2,835 course hours registered. Business administration course under this section is the highest single course with 922 students registered.

Your first assignment will be to write a

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500 word story on the opening ceremonies

today at <sup>your</sup> university centre hall.