

### 3. US. ENTERS WWII

7 DEC 1941

**Day of Infamy**: Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in 7:55 a.m. surprise attack. Of 92 U.S. Navy vessels in the harbor, 21 were destroyed or damaged, along with 300 aircraft. Japan swept across the Western Pacific unchecked for the next six months, but America rose in arms.



8 DEC 1941

U.S. declared war on Japan, entering WWII.

11-13 DEC 1941

Germany and the other Axis nations declared war on U.S.

18 DEC 1941

Bureau of Navigation circular stressed the need for accelerated pilot training, listing on 21 DEC the V-5 aviation course requirements for upperclassmen in V-5 training, and V-7s wanting to transfer to V-5 by 1 JUN 1942. Goal was to add 2,500 men per month. CAA Special Memo #77 explained standards, requirements and how to transfer CPT civilian students to V-5.

22 DEC 1941

Navy asked colleges, especially those hosting NROTCs, for help in growing the V programs, and encouraged V students to attend summer classes and graduate in three years. Marquette's enrollment was too small to benefit from V-program expansion.

*Notre Dame was chosen to train 1,000 V-7 Midshipman; Iowa trained 2,000 V-5 Naval Aviation Cadets; Wisconsin trained 1,200 radio operators.*



Capt. Kelly, Fr. Quinn & first NROTC staff



Capt. Kelly instructing present swordsmen.

- 1942** Army and Navy pilots were in great demand due to high attrition and an influx of new planes. The CPT aviation program became the CAA-WATS program (War Training Service). Funds were provided, females were excluded and military physical fitness standards were instituted. Schools operating CPT had to choose between Army or Navy systems. Marquette chose Navy because of its NROTC.
- Fr. George Ganss, S.J., became MU military chaplain.
- Navy V-5 Unit moved into Miller House, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., donated to MU in 1941. A bus took them to campus and the airfield. Expansion of the program put new cadets in Brooks Hall, the MU Gym (which opened in 1922) and the YMCA, so morale suffered.
- JAN 1942** Ninth Naval District asked Fr. McCarthy if MU could handle more Navy training. McCarthy made all MU facilities available to the Navy but dorms were full; maximum was 250 for one dining seating. Much jockeying followed. McCarthy feared 18-age draft would hurt MU.
- 1 MAR 1942** Navy circular outlined the new V-1 program. V-1 Trainee exam in March 1943 and physical fitness allowed high-scoring V-1s to transfer to V-5 aviation. Required course adjustments were made.
- SPRING 1942** Devastating Japanese Pacific victories resulted in NROTC staffs being reassigned to combat duty. Capt. Dallas D. Dupre replaced Capt. Alford as MU Unit C.O. Lt. Hooper launched the NROTC Drum & Bugle Corps, which grew to become the Navy Band at MU.
- SUMMER 1942** Donald J. Keegan, S.J., Liberal Arts Dean, became Marquette's V-1 faculty advisor, informing new students about V-1. After physical exams, students were advised on the branch of service best for them.
- 4-7 JUN 1942** U.S Naval forces won the crucial Battle of Midway in the Pacific, but heavy casualties kept Navy manpower needs high.
- JUL 1942** Chief of Naval Operations approved the enlistment nationally of 10,000 college juniors for V-7 training. Navy and CAA-WATS jointly standardized curricula requirements for V-5 aviation students.
- Besides about 200 NROTC Midshipmen, MU now had 687 male students out of 3,000 in military training: 242 in Army Enlisted Reserve, 175 in Air Force Enlisted Reserve, three in Merchant Marine, 152 in V-1, nine in V-5 and 48 in V-7 programs.

Including NROTC, 30% of MU's male students were in military programs.

**FALL 1942**

U.S. victories halted Japanese "island-hopping" at Guadalcanal.

**NOV 1942**

New CAA system was announced to identify sessions and classes. First session after that date was labeled by fiscal year, then A, B, C in sequence. (First class of July 1942 became 43-A, etc.) This eased student transfers between schools.

**13 NOV 1942**

President Roosevelt amended Selective Training & Service Act, lowering the draft age from 20 to 18. Reduced enrollment resulted, so colleges worked to attract military programs. The Navy planned to increase its source of collegiate officer candidates.

**5 DEC 1942**

Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 9279, banning men ages 18-38 from enlisting. This prevented losing officer potential to enlistments, and put control of the draft, and assignment of men to service branches and programs, in the control of Selective Service.

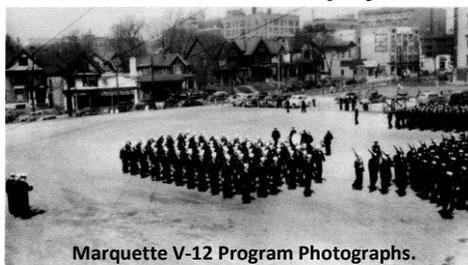
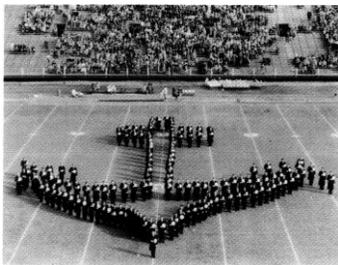
**12 DEC 1942**

Fr. McCarthy, to dispel rumors, assured students that the growing military programs would not end normal MU classes.

**17 DEC 1942**

American Council on Education (ACE) and War Manpower Commission (WMC) set new college military program standards.

The Navy program, V-12, was shaped by Capt. Forrest U. Lake, "father of the V-12 program." Capt. Bruce Canaga implemented it, with a start date of 1 July 1943. BUPERS' College Training Unit (CPU) or Section (CPS) developed curriculum, standards and physical training details.



Schools with NROTC Units had Navy priority for V-12, but had no guarantee. Fr. McCarthy began lobbying, and explored options for sufficient housing and messing, including the Navy commandeering hotels.

- MAR 1943** Navy requested that MU provide a single lodging for all V-5s, so gym handball courts were removed and MU refitted the gym basement as barracks. The present NROTC area, then only a ground-level “basement” lab, became a V-5 rec/study area. MU now conducted only elementary (eight week) and Intermediate (four week) V-5 courses. Schedules were hectic, but frequent dances relieved tension.
- LATE MAR 1943** Navy informed MU it would be sent 590 men for V-12 program. MU leased the Stratford Hotel, 1404 W. Wisconsin Ave. for 300 Navy students; on 29 May MU purchased Monitor Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> Street to house 120 more; and used Brooks Hall (purchased in 1940) for another 155 Navy men. (*Brooks Hall became Noonan Hall in 1953. It was razed in 1968.*)
- The three buildings were quickly updated. The actual influx was 794 men, since 200 medical and dental Navy students were added; but these men were allowed to arrange their own housing.
- 1 APRIL 1943** College Entrance Examination Board, Princeton, NJ, administered national V-12 and Army tests. Of 315,952 men tested, 117,925 (37%) chose Navy. Navy narrowed that field down to 16,000. Physical exams at colleges further cut this to 14,500 nationally. Others included V-5 & V-7 transfers. At the end of the first term, 52,079 Navy and 8,120 Marine trainees remained in V-12.
- APR 1943** MU Engineering Dean Kartak resigned in bad health, replaced by Raymond Severson, who also resigned in September. He was not replaced until March 1944 by Peter Prim. Assistant coordinator Stanley Lowe provided stability, handling crucial housing, messing and transport for MU’s CPT V-5 aviation program. V-5 students began naval preparatory classes at MU at this time, wearing surplus green Civilian Conservation Corps uniforms which helped morale.
- SUMMER 1943** Crowding, dampness, open windows, flies and gym noise made the gym untenable, and Bellarmine Hall was overcrowded, when the V-12 program came to MU. Navy said V-5/V-12 universities needed a single housing/messing contract for both programs. MU went to work on this.
- NOV 1944** President Roosevelt defeated Thomas E. Dewey, earning a record fourth term in office.
- 1 JUL 1945** The 794 new MU V-12 students received a 26-page NROTC & V-12 handbook on the structure and program, including restrictions such as hours, out-of-bounds areas and forbidden establishments.

V-12 program went into effect even before colleges signed contracts. Schools shifted to a trimester system with Saturday and summer classes, allowing military students to finish the equivalent of eight semesters in two years, eight months. Freshman “Regulars” studied pre-engineering, while those of advanced standing (“Irregulars”) simply continued. After their second term, Regulars scoring best moved into NROTC.

Daily V-12 Regimen at Marquette:

Reveille 0545

Calisthenics 0600\*

Breakfast formation, inspection – by battalion

Sick call – by battalion

Classes 0800

Lunch formation & inspection 1200

Classes 1300

Athletics/recreation 1600\*

Dinner 1800

Study 1950-2200

Lights out 2230

Liberty: 1300 Saturday – 2200 Sunday

*\*V-12 physical fitness program, designed by Capt. Gene Tunney, former heavyweight boxing champ, required nine and a half hours per week, with conditioning tests and combative exercises. Student NROTC officers conducted V-12 military drill. Non-swimmer training was held at Eagles Club, 24<sup>th</sup> & Wisconsin Ave. Other colleges provided dance invitations; USO offered tickets and party invitations.*

**JUL 1943**

Tide of war turned in favor of the Allies.

Lower V-5 requirements increased the number of recruits so well that there were not enough trainers to handle students. Extra V-5 students were shunted to the new V-12 (a) as a holding program.

**FALL 1943**

MU enrollment: 3,081 (wartime low). Male student enrollment was 1,920: down 30% versus 1941.

**AUG 1943**

NROTC CO Capt. Dupre, V-5 Lt. Taylor and Severson of the WTS program helped MU find solutions to gym housing issues.

**AUG 1943**

Capt. Robert A. Dawes, USN took command of MU NROTC and V-12 programs until 1945.



Capt. Robert Dawes USN

**1 SEP 1943**

**Dahl House, 3328 W. Highland Blvd., near the V-5 Miller House, was leased and renovated by MU; together they housed and unified 128 V-5 CPT students and resolved the gym problems. Morning and evening meals were served at nearby Marquette U. High School, with lunches at the airfield. A bus was leased from Mt. Mary College for transport.**

**1944**

**MU NROTC graduates participated in most of the major WWII campaigns in Europe and the Pacific after 1943, including command of amphibious ships in landings in summer 1944, and many saw action at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. MU NROTC graduate Ross Fragale witnessed the actual flag raising at Iwo Jima, not the one staged for photographer Rosenthal that became the model for the Marine Corps Memorial statue in Arlington, VA. Fragale was partly responsible for the surrender of 10,000 Japanese soldiers on Okinawa.**

**Many MU NROTC graduates served as junior officers aboard battleships, cruisers, carriers, destroyers and destroyer escorts. Some became aviators; some served on subs.**

**Navy men dominated 1944-45 MU varsity sports teams. Football: 23 Navy men. Basketball: nine Navy men (half the team.) Track: 15 Navy men.**

**15 JAN 1944**

**The reduced need for pilots scaled back naval aviation programs.**

**FEB 1944**

**First V-12 (a) aviation class finished training and was designated V-5. Cadets went into training for flight prep, pre-flight and primary flight schools (each four months); then single engine (Corpus Christi) or multi-engine (Pensacola) schools. Other students went on to "tarmac" schools, mainly working on aircraft.**



**Fr. Peter Brooks**

**Fr. Peter A. Brooks, S.J., replaced Fr. McCarthy as MU President. He was Superior of Missouri Province, 1937-43. A native of Watertown, WI, former MU student Brooks enlisted in the Coastal Artillery force, served in France, finished his MU degree and became a Jesuit. He was a perfect role model to continue MU's strong support of the military.**

**30 APR 1944** Marquette terminated its lease on the V-5 Dahl house. In its four years, MU trained 224 men in CPT and 747 more in V-5 aviation.

**SUMMER 1944** Planned Normandy and Philippine amphibious operations required early activation of many NROTC and V-12 trainees. The Holloway Plan allowed them to return later to earn their degrees.

**6 JUN 1944** **D-Day:** U.S. and British troops conducted the Normandy invasion, opening a second front against Germany and the Axis.



Now only replacement pilots were needed; improved training and aircraft were saving lives. Many V-5s returned to the V-12 holding program for alternate training.

**25 JUL 1944** Anglo/American forces broke out of Normandy, reaching Paris 20-25 August.

**3 AUG 1944** MU was one of the last three schools, of a total of 27, running V-5. The program terminated with 3 August 1944 MU graduations.

**FALL 1944** Marquette fall enrollment: 3,772.

**SEP 1944** Bureau of Aeronautics told 18,000 V-12s that only half of them would graduate due to reduced needs; the rest could transfer to other Navy programs. Many chose NROTC.

**20 OCT 1944** U.S. troops landed in Philippines.

**1 NOV 1944** Tide of war had turned, and the Navy began eliminating the V-12 program. The program concluded on 30 June 1946, but resulted in new NROTC programs being initiated at 15 more colleges, for a total of 57 NROTC colleges.

V-12 was the Navy's largest and smoothest-running wartime training program, other than NROTC, despite an awkward start.

- MAR 1945** Paul Whear organized 60-member MU Navy Choir for radio, banquet and special event appearances. V-12 class dropped to 470 men, so Monitor Hall was converted to a dorm.
- APR 1945** 100 Marquette student/alumni war casualties had occurred by now.
- 12 APR 1945** President Franklin D. Roosevelt died; Vice President Harry S. Truman became 33<sup>rd</sup> U.S. president.
- 30 APR 1945** Hitler committed suicide in his Berlin bunker.
- 8 MAY 1945** **V-E Day**: Allies celebrated Germany's surrender to western Allies.
- MAY 1945** Navy christened S.S. Milwaukee (Victory class): 445', 10,730 tons. Allies conquered Okinawa, the last island leading to Japan.
- JUNE 1945** MU ended Stratford Hotel lease and returned control to owner.
- SUMMER 1945** Navy built four barracks-type classroom buildings on MU campus to accommodate the influx of GI Bill Navy veterans. Two of them were built north of the NROTC parade ground and two were west of Gesu on 13<sup>th</sup> St. All four were razed in 1960.



Barracks-type classroom buildings.



The old gym.

MU began building a first floor over the gym's west "basement" addition for NROTC classrooms and offices.

Capt. Clinton H. Sigel, USN commanded MU NROTC until 1946.



Capt. Clinton Sigel

**JULY 1945**

**MU quota of Navy students was 390: 202 in NROTC, 43 aviation V-12s transferred from V-5; 145 were V-12s with five trimesters, transferred to NROTC.**

**Final MU V-12 unit: 189 in NROTC; 147 transferred aviation cadets, 35 continuing aviation cadets and 20 V-12 engineers.**

**6 AUG 1945**

**U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, and 9 AUG on Nagasaki.**



**AUG 1945**

**Final V-12s graduated flight school; few if any of them saw combat.**

**2 SEP 1945**

**V-J Day: Japan kept 14 AUG promise of unconditional surrender, formally ending WWII.**

**SEP 1945**

**V-12s were still being assigned to MU through November. Those with six trimesters plus were commissioned in the USNR; those with five trimesters or less were moved to the NROTC Unit.**

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