

Superintendent's Order Book, April 1-20, 1861
Virginia Military Institute Archives
Originals in volume 1861-1863, pp. 38-43

*April 1861 Orders conform to the following unless noted. April 4-16, signed "By order of Col. Smith; T.M. Semmes Adjt." ;
April 17-30, "by order of Major Preston" ; issued from Headquarters, VMI, Lexington. Minimal spelling corrections, with exception of cadet names.*

April 4, 1861
Order No 55

Cadet B. Warwick is hereby transferred from the 4th to the 5th class in all its departments

April 5th, 1861
Order No 56

The first class will recite on Artillery daily at 11oclock A.M. commencing on Monday next.

April 9, 1861
Order No 57

Cadets Clopton and Shepherd for violation of the 125 Article of the Regulations are confined to the limits of the Inst. for one month and receive four extra tours of Guard duty.
[class transfer list follows; not transcribed]

April 17, 1861
Order No 58

The reconsideration of the delinquencies of Cadet Polk, W. for the month of January having resulted in a considerable reduction of his demerits, the order dismissing him is revoked & he will return to his duty.

April 17th, 1861
Order No 59

In order to secure as far as practicable the comfort of the Corps in the event that orders are received for a sudden march, the tailor has orders to make up as rapidly as possible a supply of clothing, especially winter pants. All cadets who have need of more pants will put in permits immediately. No pants when made will be delivered by the tailor without a special permit. Cadets are enjoined not to part with their old clothing and to be careful in the use of all supplies. The tailor has directions to make the clothes with an easy fit, as tight coats are an impediment in actual service.

The Quartermaster will open the store and issue necessaries at his discretion. Cadets Lee N., Whitehurst, Moncure, Warwick B., Smith N., Hickman and Harman of the 5th Class will be instructed with 4th class in Infantry Tactics.

Cadet Boydston, T.W. of Va. has reported for duty, and is assigned to the 5th Class

Order No 60

The Superintendent having received orders from the Governor of Va. to report to him for special duty in Richmond, the com'd of the V.M. Institute will in the mean time devolve upon Majr Preston.

It is directed that special instruction be given by the departments of Infantry and Artillery, & Engineering, the practical instruction of all the duties appertaining to service in the field

The Corps of Cadets will be kept in constant readiness for marching orders. Their guns & equipment will be held in perfect order, & no one will leave the premises without special permission

Ammunition will be prepared, & held in readiness for immediate transportation

Members of the 1st & 2nd classes will hold themselves in readiness for any special service to which they may be called for instructing the volunteers of the state.

Cadet Bray & Heth, J. will repair to Staunton & report for duty to Majr. Gen. Harper

The most particular attention of every cadet is called to his duties. There must be no shortcomings on the part of any at such a time as this. Every true son of the state of the South, must now show his loyalty by the most rigid attention to duty, and respect for authority. Those who have had the privileges of this Institution cannot render a greater service to the state than by making themselves the examples of order, attention, and duty. Dismissal now would be disgrace indeed, & it is hoped that the confidence which is reposed in the Corps of Cadets will be met by a generous & manly spirit of emulation in discharging faithfully the duties which the emergency calls forth.
by order of Col. Smith

April 18th, 1861

Order No 61

The following is the order of exercises until further orders.

- Drill at Battery daily from 5.30 to 6.30 p.m.
- 2d Class Mil. Engineering from 8 to 10 a.m.
- 4th Class Inf. Tactics from 8 to 10 & 2 to 3
- 3rd Class Art. Tactics from 9 to 10 a.m.
- 4th Class Mortar & Rifle Cannon Drill 6 to 7 a.m.
- Battallion Drill from 3 to 4 p.m. daily
- Art. Tactics from 8 to 9 a.m.
- Strategy from 9 to 10 daily
- Light Infantry from 10 to 11 a.m.
- First & second class in the Laboratory from 11 to 1.

April 18th, 1861
Order No 62

An application from the faculty and students of *Washington College* having been made for instruction in Tactics; by consent of Majr Williamson he is detailed for this purpose aided by Capt. Hardin, Lts Henderson & Semmes, & such cadets as may be detailed by the comd't for the purpose.
The comd't will have issued to the students flint muskets.

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Superintendent's Order Book, April 21-30, 1861
Virginia Military Institute Archives
Originals in volume 1861-1863, pp. 43-49

April 1861 orders conform to the following unless noted. April 4-16, signed "By order of Col. Smith; T. M. Semmes Adjt."; April 17-30, "by order of Major Preston"; issued from Headquarters, VMI, Lexington. Minimal spelling corrections, with exception of cadet names.

April 21st, 1861
Order No 63

The following order has been received by dispatch.

"Richmond, April 20th, 1861

Send courier to Majr Preston immediately to send *Corps of Cadets to Richmond*. Let inefficient cadets remain to aid as guard and get volunteers from Lexington to aid as guard. Bring down all the ordnance and ordnance stores with full supply of ammunition. Majr Gilham and Mr. Catlett will report here without delay

Wm. H. Richardson, Adjt. Genl"

When the muster is held for men who have souls to defend their native soil from violation insult and subjugation the heart of every true Virginian responds to the voice as with stern delight he answers Here! Words are not necessary now to stimulate.

The Corps of Cadets will prove their birth & breeding and exhibit to Virginia the worth of her favorite Institute--The cadet will not fail to manifest the advantage which the military education gives to him over those not less brave than himself. The Corps will go forth the pride of its friends, the hope of the state and the terror of her foes--May the blessing of the God of Hosts rest upon every one who is battling in this holy cause.

The march will be performed as directed by special order.

In the march the Corps will be under the command of Major Jackson. Major Colston is assigned to duty as Acting Comd't of Cadets and will report to Majr Jackson. Lt. Cunningham will act as Asst Comd't of Cadets and will report to Majr Colston. Lt. McDonald is assigned to the Artillery and will report to Majr Jackson. Lt. Semmes will accompany the Corps as Adjt.

Dr. R.L. Madison, Surgeon, and Dr. J.R. Page Asst Surgeon will compose the medical staff. Asst. Surgeon Pages will be with the Corps on the mach. Commissary Gibbs will accompany the Corps as far as Staunton.

By order of the Adjt. Gen't Lts. McCausland and Shipp will remain here to raise companies

The "kits" will be prepared as heretofore ordered, & ready to be inspected at 10 o'clock. At 12 1/2 o'clock they will be formed to march. Dinner at 12 o'clock.

The following detail is made of cadets to form a guard of the V.M. Institute

Detail

Park, Wight, Holt, Barton, Norris, Hempstead, Grasty, Alcorn, Adams, Burruss, Boggess, Bonner, Boydston, Burks, T., Chamberlain, Cooper, Chewing, Crump, Gillespie, Gregg, Hammet W., Jones, Kindred, Kollock, Lee N., Lee R., McCalley, Martin H., Martin C., Meriwether, Nicholls C., Nicholls G., Nicholls, J., Price C., Richardson, Sheppard, Sullivan, Sims, Seawell, Savage, Taylor M., Turner S., Urquhart, G., Upshur, Warwick, B., Walton, Jordan, G.

April 21st 1861

Order No 64

The detail to remain at this post will be immediately organised into a company Majr. Crutchfield will act as Comd't of Cadets and Capt. Hardin as Assist. Comd't The whole Corps is now in active service, and the detail made for this post, is made by the same order from the Adj't Gen'l of Virginia, which put on the march those that have just left us. Those who remain are doing duty to Virginia as really and it may be as efficiently as those who are gone. It is not the service that any one of us would prefer, but the soldier who is prepared to do only such duty as pleases him is not to be trusted. The soldier that would desert a post, would fly in battle Strict Military Law & discipline will be enforced, all academic duties are suspended.

The following appointments of officers are made. Park--Captain; Wright--1st Sergeant; Holt--2nd Sergt; Barton--3rd Sergt; Norris--4th Sergt; Hempstead--5th Sergt; Grasty--6th Sergt.

April 22, 1861

Order No. 65

The Corps of Cadets and the Rockbridge Greys under Capt. Updike will until further orders be consolidated into one command at the Institute under the commanding officer of the post. The command will be under the rules and articles of War, as prescribed for when on service. Military exercises to be conducted strictly by Army Regulations. The Rockbridge Greys will be quartered in the two large section rooms at each end of Barracks & will mess at the Mess Hall. The Rockbridge Greys will be turned out for drill in an hour from this time. No soldier will leave the post without written permission from the Officer in charge. Comd't of Cadets will detail a sufficient guard for duty. The sick call will be at 9 o'clock every morning & there will be an inspection immediately by the Surgeon of the Regiment of

men to ascertain if any are unfit for duty. Lts. Henderson, Ross & Morgan will assist the Comd't in his duties until further orders.

April 22, 1861

Order No 66

Orders have been received by dispatch to forward to Richmond by way of Staunton 10,000 muskets. Capt Urdike will detail from his company 25 men under the com'd of Lt. Ship (Shipp) to accompany the wagons as a guard to Staunton and return immediately. He will also make a sufficient detail of men to assist in loading the arms in the morning.

April 22, 1861

Order No 67

A dispatch has just been received from Majr. Gn. Harper ordering ammunition to be transported to Harpers Ferry. As an escort for guard the following detail is made.
Lt. Ross in com'd of escort. Cadets Wright, Holt, Norris, Hempstead, Burruss, Burks T., Lee N, Turner S., Savage, & Taylor M. The detail will prepare for an immediate departure.

April 22, 1861

Order No 68

The following named cadets, citizens of other states, have tendered their resignations, which are hereby accepted and an honorable discharge is granted to them, viz. W.B. Seawell, Alabama; G.O. Jordan, Miss; J. Cooper, Miss; H.N. Martin, Miss; H.C. Martin, Louisiana.

April 30th, 1861

Order No 69

The following order has been received from the Gov of Va.

Executive Dept Richmond, Va.

April 28th, 1861

The Superd't of the Va. Military Institute is authorized & instructed to afford facilities at the Institute for the discipline & instruction of volunteer companies, so far as the same may be effectively done without sacrificing the interests of the school. It is to be understood that the state shall bear no charge for the support of such volunteers until they

are called into the service of the state, & they are to be regarded as fully under military control & subordination in all respects as if they were in service, & will obey all orders of the Superintend't or acting Supt, and officers attached to the Institute.

(signed) John Letcher
Gov. of Va.

by order of Majr. Crutchfield, Act'g Supt.

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VMI Archives
Superintendent's Order Book
May 1-15, 1861
Virginia Military Institute Archives
Originals in volume 1861-1863, pp. 49-57

Orders from this period issued by Maj. Stapleton Crutchfield, Acting Superintendent.

May 1st, 1861
Order No [no number]

The resignation of Cadet W. Bonner (Willis Bonner, Class of 1864) of Louisiana is hereby accepted to take effect from this day.* **Bonner was killed in action later in May*

May 3d, 1861
Order No [no number]

Cadet G. J. Kollock (George J. Kollock, JR., Class of 1863) of Georgia wishing to tender his services to his native state, his resignation as a cadet of the Va. Mil. Institute is hereby accepted to take effect from this day.

May 4th, 1861
Order No [no number]

The following order has been received from the Gov of Virginia.

"Executive Dept Richmond Va.
May 1st, 1861

The Executive of Virginia would tender thanks to the "Greys" Rockbridge Volunteers for the laborious fidelity with which 10,000 arms were removed by the Greys to the canal boats. Their conduct is fully appreciated by the state authorities, & Maj. Crutchfield is directed to supply this company with the smooth bore cadet muskets as an evidence of the appreciation in which their conduct is held
(signed) John Letcher, Gov of Va."

The high compliment conveyed by the above order must be a source of lively gratification to the numerous friends of the company of Greys, & therefore it is with great regret that the Acting Supt deems it his duty to suspend for the present the execution of the order in consequence of various disorders and irregularities which have recently appeared among some of the members of the company. Should these breaches of discipline & good order continue, a special report of the same will be made to the Executive with a request that the order of the delivery of these arms be countermanded.

Special complaint has been made to the Act'g Supt that on the evening of the 3d inst. several of the shell in front of barracks, were rolled down the slope into the road to the great peril & in one instance to the actual damage of vehicles passing along the public highway. There is reason to believe that cadets were also engaged in this outrage, & the offenders of both companies if apprehended will be severely punished. The offence could not have occurred had the

sentinels been other than culpably faithless & negligent in the discharge of their duties, & they will hereafter be held rigidly accountable for all such breaches of discipline. The Act'g Supt hopes however that it will be enough to call the attention of the men to the wanton & unjustifiable nature of such violations of good order & propriety, & that the suggestions of a proper pride and self respect on their part will prove sufficient security against any future repetitions of such offences.

In order to promote good order & discipline among the commands here assembled, attention is directed to the regulations prescribed for the governance of the guard & the men in quarters & especially to the regulation which forbids members of the guard, whether officers or men, leaving the guard room during their tour of guard duty. The guard are at all times charged with the maintenance of good order & quiet in & about the Barracks, & full authority is given them to enforce the same; an authority which they will be required to exercise with promptness & decision on all offenders, whomsoever they may be.

After the call to quarters the men are required to remain in their quarters & not to leave the same for a longer period than 10 minutes when they will report to the Corporal of the Gd through the sentinel, & also report when they return. Their quarters will be liable to official inspection at any moment. These regulations as well as all others, apply of course equally to cadets, & any violation of them must be promptly reported to the Officer of the Day through the Off of the Guard.

The archway between the guard room is the proper guard parade, & therefore it will always be kept clear of all loiterers save members of the guard. No one shall be allowed to enter or remain in the guard rooms except he be a member of the guard sentinels, & officers & Corporals of the guard are especially charged with enforcing these & all similar regulations & the Officer of the Day will see that the guard properly discharge their duties in this respect.

At the drills all cadet drill masters will be promptly & early on the ground & form their squads & report to the officer of the day quickly upon the beating of the second drum & no cadet will transfer his squad to another without a previous written permit.

Thirty minutes after the return of the corps from supper the call to quarters will be beaten by the officer or serg't in charge of the guard when the regulations relating to quarters will be in force.

Cadet McCalley for light after taps on the 3rd Inst. is hereby sentenced to walk post as sentinel for two hours at such time as may be hereafter designated.

Head Qr's Artillery Barracks
Baptist College, Richmond, VA
May 4th 1861

Ordnance Serg't Hempsey
Va Mil Institute
Lexington, Va
Sir

Having been assigned to duty by the Commd'g General with this command you will forthwith repair to this post and report yourself to the commanding officer for duty. By order of Col Magruder
I am sir very Respectfully/your ob't Servant/Theo. P. Mays Post Adj't/

May 6th, 1861
Order No [no number]

The resignation of Cadet R.D. Lee of Arkansas (Robert D. Lee, Class of 1864) as a cadet of the Va. Military Institute, is at his own request, hereby accepted to take effect from this date

May 7, 1861
Order No [no number]

The resignation of Cadet J.B. Walton (James B. Walton, Jr., Class of 1865) of Louisiana, as a cadet of the Va Military Institute, is at his own request, hereby accepted to take effect from this day.

May 13th, 1861
Order No [no number]

In consequence of a call upon cadet T.T. Upshur (Thomas T. Upshur, Class of 1864) of the country of Northampton for military service in one of the volunteer companies of his county, his resignation as a cadet of the Va. Military Institute is hereby accepted to take effect from this day.

At the special request of his guardian and for good and sufficient reasons, the resignation of Cadet T.W. Boydston (Theodore W. Boydston, Class of 1864) of Marion county as a cadet of the Va. Military Institute is hereby accepted to take effect from this day.

May 14th, 1861
Order No [no number]

The company of [Rockbridge] Greys having been ordered off from this post, the duties of guard to the Institute will devolve upon the corps of cadets. For this purpose the regulations of the Institute as heretofore presented for the government of cadets will be in full force, & the corps will be placed upon its former footing except that there will be no academic duties & the instruction will be exclusively military. Full & complete arrangements have been made for the admission of additional cadets, & a sufficient number of cadets will be ordered back from Richmond to report for duty here, to afford competent military instruction. In the meantime there will be constant & regular drills among those now here as the Comd't may direct. Cadets will forthwith arrange themselves into room mates in parties of 4, & occupy the rooms in the west wing of Barracks. The number of cadets now here is insufficient for occupying all the rooms now in use, & this step is necessary in order to effect the requisite contraction in space. Inspectors of divisions will at once detail on orderlies of rooms & report the same to the comd't & will enter upon all the duties proper to their position as prescribed by the regulations. Regular reports will be handed in by the various officers in the prescribed form & []. The demerit will be kept as heretofore at the office & when any cadet gets as many as ten he will be required to serve an extra tour of guard duty. The proper details for recitation in the several branches of military instruction will be made hereafter from time to time as the requisite preparations may be organized & completed.

Capt M.B. Hardin (Mark B. Hardin, Class of 1858/Faculty) is detailed on duty as Comd't and will be obeyed & respected accordingly.

May 14th, 1861

Order No [no number]

Upon the recommendation of the Commandant of Cadets a temporary organization of corps will be for the present effected by the appointment of the following officers.

Gillespie, to be Captain

Barton-- O.S.

Grasty, Shepherd, Crump, Urquhart G., Meriwether & Gregg to be Corporals.

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Superintendent's Order Book
May 16-31, 1864
Virginia Military Institute Archives
Original order book, pp. 57-67

All orders originated at Head Quarters, VMI.

Orders for this period issued by Capt Hardin or Maj. Preston, in the absence of Supt. Francis H. Smith

May 17th, 1861

Order No [no #]

Mr. J.B. Walton of La [James B. Walton, Jr., Class of 1865] having been reappointed a cadet in the Va Military Institute, will forthwith return to his duty

May 18th, 1861

Order No [no #]

In consequence of the absence of Majr Crutchfield the duties of Supt having devolved on the acting commandant, Lt. W.H. Morgan is hereby detailed on duty temporarily as commandant of Cadets, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

May 18th, 1861

Order No. [no #]

Upon the special application of their guardian, the resignations of Cadets C. & J. Nicholls [Class of 1865] of the State of Miss as cadets in the Va Mil. Institute are hereby accepted to take effect from this day.

May 20, 1861

Order No [no #]

1st--Hereafter the store will be opened twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 4 o'clk for the purpose of issuing such articles as cadets may require.

2nd--No cadet shall enter the store more than once during the same week, nor shall more than one cadet enter the store at a time.

3rd--Cadet R. Chamberlaine [Richard Chamberlaine, Class of 1863] is hereby appointed temporarily QrMasters Sergeant of the Corps of Cadets.

May 20, 1861

Order # [No #]

In consequence of the retrun of certain cadets, a reorganization of the corps becoming necessary, upon the recommendation of the Commandant, the following temporary appointments of officers are made.

Wise, Captain; Bishop, 1st Lieut; Gillespie, 2nd Lieut; Burkes, J., Adjutant; Urquhart G., 1st Sergt; Sheppard, 2nd Sergt; Cahmberlaine, 3rd Sergt; Barton, 1st Corporal; Grasty, 2nd Corporal; Scales H. 3d Corp; Merewether, 4th; Crump 5th; Cameron 6th; Gregg, 7th; Morgan E., 8th.

May 21, 1861

Order No [no #] Lt. H. W. Hunter of the Va Forces having, upon the order of Brigadier Genl Gwynn, reported to the commanding officer at this place, is hereby assigned to duty as an Instructor of Tactics and will be obeyed & respected accordingly.

May 22, 1861

Order No [No #]

For good & sufficient reasons, a leave of absence for one week is granted to Cadet J.L. Burks (James L. Burks, Class of 1862), at the expiration of which time he will return & report for duty.

May 22, 1861

Order No [no #]

Upon the recommendation of the Commandant the following promotions & appointments are temporarily made, to take effect this day.

Sheppherd--Sergt Majr; [Gatewood](#), Carter, Warwick J. & Kindred Corporals.

May 24th, 1861

Order No [no #]

It having become proper, in consequence of the return of certain cadets, to change, in part, the temporary organization of the corps affected by previous orders, upon the recommendation of the commandant, the following appointments & changes are temporarily made to take effect from this day.

Chew, Capt; Wise, 1st Lieut; Bishop, 2nd Lt.; Gillespie, 3d Lt.; Holt, 1st Sergt; Rouse, 2nd Sergt; Urquhart, 3d Sergt.

May 24th, 1861

order No [no #]

Cadet Warwick J. (James W. Warwick, Jr., Class of 1864) having tendered his resignation as Lance Corporal the same is, upon the recommendation of the acting commandant, accepted to take effect from this date.

May 24th, 1861

Order No [no #]

The order of the 18th inst. accepting the resignations of Cadets C & J. Nicholls is hereby revoked, & they will forthwith return to duty.

May 27th, 1861

Order No [no#]

Lt. Ross (John DeHart Ross, Class of 1859) having returned to the Institute & reported to the Acting Supt is herby detailed on duty temporarily as commandant of cadets & will be obeyed & respected accordingly.

May 28th, 1861

Order No [no #]

Cadet Carter (Edward Carter, Class of 1864) will repair without delay to Camp Mason, Loudoun Col, & report to the commanding officer at that post. So soon as the work upoin which he is detailed shall be completed, he will return to the Institute & report for duty.

May 28th, 1861

Order No. [no #]

For the present the corps will be organized into classes for instruction in Field Fortification & Infantry Tactics; the classes to be composed as follows: [class rolls follow; not transcribed].

May 28th 1861

Order No [no #]

Mr. J. P. Lynch (John P. Lynch, Class of 1860) having been appointed as assistant professor in the Va Mil Institute & having reported to the Acting Supt is assigned to duty as assistant Instructor of Tactics & will be obeyed & respected accordingly.

May 30th, 1861

Order No [no #]

I. As a large number of new cadets have been recently admitted into the Institute, it is deemed proper to say that the positions and obligations of all are the same. All are cadets, and the discipline and government of the Institute as heretofore exercised will be [re] modified only by the circumstances of the country which require the instruction to be mainly military.

- II. The system of demerit will be in force as heretofore and quarterly report will be made to parents & guardians. For every 10 demerit an extra tour of Guard duty will be imposed.
 - III. Several Officers of the Provisional Army as have reported to his post under orders from Head Quarters, will be provided with quarters in barracks, but will provide their own subsistence. They will receive instruction in Tactics and in becoming familiar with the duties of officers as of Officer of the Day, Officer of the Guard & c.
 - IV. The instruction of the Corps of Cadets for the present will be daily instruction for the 2st and 2d classes in Field fortifications & Infantry Tactics. For the 3d & 4th classes 2 daily recitations in Infantry Tactics.
 - V. The new cadets will be assigned according to the proficiency either to the 1st & 2d or to the 3d & 4th classes.
 - VI. The existing organization of the corps will continue for the present. Permanent appointments of officers will be made hereafter.
 - VII. Instruction in Field Fortification will be given by Mar Crutchfield.
 - VIII. Instruction in Tactics will be given by Capt Hardin, assisted by Lts. Ross, Morgan, Hunter & Lynch.
 - IX. Majr Crutchfield will be Commandant of Cadets; Captain Hardin assistant commandant.
 - X. The duties of the Lts will be assigned by the commandant. Cadets will be detailed from time to time to assist in drilling the volunteer force of the state.
 - XI. A new and cheap uniform will be prescribed for the corps, and no more new cadet uniforms of the old style will be allowed.
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May 31st, 1861

Order No [no #]

I. Office hours at Supts office will be from 8 1/2 to 9 a.m.

II. All permits for leave to be absent will be presented to the Commandant of Cadets.
