Colby in Wartime

By Ben Grimmig
World War I: Colby as a Military Camp

- April 4, 1917: Colby forms military company
- The U.S. amended the Selective Draft Law on August 5, 1918, lowering the minimum draft age down to 18.
  - U.S Government initiates Students’ Army Training Corps (SATC)
  - “Gentlemen, you are here primarily as soldiers of the United States and only incidentally as students of Colby.” –President Roberts
Effects of WWI on Colby

- Delayed start in 1917.
- The Colby Echo did not publish any issues in 1918 until December 12\textsuperscript{th}.
- Coal shortages
- Suspension of fraternity activity in 1918.
- SATC military courses offered
Armistice signed on November 11, 1918
645 men participated in some form of military service, and 15 men were cited for bravery
18 Colby men lost their lives in World War I.
SATC demobilized on December 10, 1918
Creation of the R.O.T.C deemed not feasible at Colby
- Substitution of “moral force in the place of physical force”
World War II
Effects of World War II on Colby

- Declining Male enrollment
  - Increased female authority on campus
- Air Force program comes to Colby
- 1350 Colby men and women served in the armed services
- 63 Colby people lost their lives
Adoption of ROTC

- 1951: ROTC comes to Campus
- Why bring the ROTC to Colby?
- General student and faculty support for a temporary ROTC unit on campus.
The Vietnam War

- Military recruitment sit-in
- 1970: Cambodian Incursion

What's This World Coming To?
Half of Faculty Oppose Viet War

The Colby Echo
Referendum: 54% Against War; 22% Support LBJ

Viet Demo Raps Recruiters
Navy Cancelled Fear of Violence

Last Wednesday the campus was rocked by demonstrations against the presence of military recruiters on campus. The demonstrations were led by students and a few faculty members who set up an Army recruiting booth in the lobby of Roberts Union, in order to protest the draft. The protesters held a rally on the steps of the library and continued their demonstrations until the recruiters left at 1 p.m.

During the demonstrations, a number of Colby students gathered around the recruiters who were sitting in front of the recruiting booth and heckled them. Occasionally small groups of the counter demonstrators would march through the protesters and talk to the recruiters. During these trips, the counter demonstrators would try to call attention to draft men who were drafted during the operation of the draft. Mr. Gould then challenged the recruiters to debate the Vietnam war but the recruiter declined. The demonstration continued in an orderly manner until 11:00 p.m. when people who were going to lunch stopped to watch. As the number of onlookers increased, people in the crowd began to heckle and jeer the demonstration. Among the counter demonstraters were a few campus leaders such as Bud Xernow, President of the Junior class, and Lee Urban, terminal officer of NSA.

A number of administration officials were present at the demonstration. Among these present were Texas Seaman and Queens and
Strike!

COLBY ON STRIKE!!

Last week, President Nixon received a groundswell of student protest against his decision to withdraw American forces from Vietnam. The movement was organized on campus by the Colby Student Association (CSA). The event was met with a wave of student protest across the country. On Monday, the National Student Association (NSA) called a nationwide boycott to protest the invasion of Cambodia. Students across the country, including at Colby College, were called to join the protest. The warm was met with a wave of student protest across the country. On Monday, the National Student Association (NSA) called a nationwide boycott to protest the invasion of Cambodia. Students across the country, including at Colby College, were called to join the protest.

American foreign policy, as demonstrated in Vietnam, is a source of great concern to students. The NSA strike has only 3 or 4 supporters. However, the question of a strike has provoked more opposition. After a long discussion, President Nixon decided to support the NSA's decision of a national boycott. The NSA's decision led to a national boycott. The NSA's decision led to a national boycott.
ROTC PROTEST

ROTC - RIGHT OR WRONG?

The Air Force ROTC unit at Colby is officially treated like any other

Courses leading to commissions, under a voluntary ROTC training plan, in the United States Air Force.
Conclusions

- Colby currently partners with an Army R.O.T.C. program at the University of Maine.
  - Today 50 alumni serve in active duty
- Future research