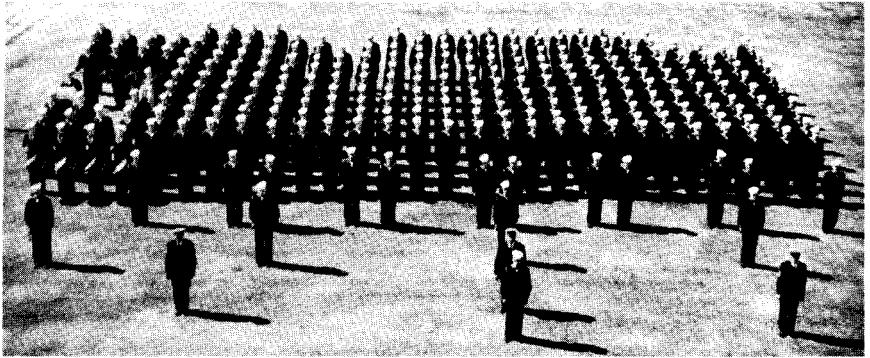


St. Ambrose College Davenport, Iowa



St. Ambrose College Library

Like many schools, St. Ambrose College had a world of new experiences with its V-12 unit. Previously, nearly all of its students had been Catholic, but of the 296 trainees the college received, only 20 percent were Catholic. An overwhelming proportion of the V-12s came from the state of Iowa or nearby sections of Illinois.

The college had expected 60 freshman V-12s, but 178 arrived. As a result, many first-year classes were overcrowded, but academic standards were strictly maintained. At one time in the spring of 1944, 166 of the 284 trainees were on the academically restricted list.

To make room for the V-12s, St. Ambrose moved faculty and civilian students out of Davis and Ambrose halls. It already had a unit of sixty V-5s on campus when the V-12s arrived.

To replace the discontinued *Ambrosian News*, the V-12s started their own mimeographed weekly, the *Sea Breez*, in September of 1943, and it continued until October 13, 1945, just before the unit disbanded.

The Davenport USO, American Legion, Masonic orders, and other civic groups staged lots of dances, parties, open houses, and concerts for the V-12s. They held their own dances, too, and gave one specifically for the departing commanding officer in August of 1945. They thought so highly of him that they chipped in to present him a set of *Lee's Lieutenants* and a gold watch band, even though the practice was against naval regulations. The ladies of the First Presbyterian Church made free clothing alterations and repairs for the V-12s.

Some St. Ambrose V-12s: Vice Adm. Kent J. Carroll, USN; Keith A. Foiles, senior vice president, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich; Dr. Dwight C. McGoon, Stuart W. Harrington Professor of Surgery, Mayo Medical School; Kenneth F. Thompson, executive vice president, Sperry Rand Corporation; the Reverend Dr. Norman Ullestad, senior pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa.

	1943		1944			1945	
	Jul.-Oct.	Nov.-Feb.	Mar.-Jun.	Jul.-Oct.	Nov.-Feb.	Mar.-Jun.	Jul.-Oct.
Navy	286	266	288	230	217	157	145
C.O.	Lt. Clifford S. Blackburn			Lt. A. K. Burt			Lt. Arthur E. Jensen