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REMARKS OF
ADMIRAL R. A. SPRUANCE, U.S.N.
PRESIDENT, NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
AT GRADUATION EXERCISES
15 MAY, 1948

Sixty-three years ago, in September 1885, Admiral Luce assembled the first class of students at the Naval War College. It consisted of nine officers. The Staff, with Admiral Luce as President, consisted of one professor from the Naval Academy and one Army officer. Rather a small beginning, but Admiral Luce's conception was sound and destined to have a slow but healthy growth, though often in spite of bitter opposition from within the Navy itself.

Today we have the largest number of officers in the graduating classes in the history of the Naval War College. This is due to the establishment last summer of a Logistics Course.

For the first time the College has had to expand outside of its group of Gray Granite Buildings on the South End of Coaster's Harbor Island. To meet the needs of the new Logistics Class, the Navy Department turned over to the War College Old Barracks "C", the yellow brick building with three wings, which is across the street from this auditorium. The east wing was modernized and converted for the use of the Logistics Class. The center and west wings are being reserved for the use of a greatly expanded Junior Class, which, it is anticipated, will come within the next few years after the peak load of officers taking the General Line School Courses has been passed.

before July 1, 1947 Barracks "C" was renamed Sims Hall *October 16, 1947* in honor of Admiral William S. Sims, who was President of the Naval War College just before and again after World War I. Admiral Sims was always a strong advocate of the value of War College Training. It is a source of much satisfaction to me to have the name of this great Naval Officer permanently enshrined in the institution for which he did so much.

Our Logistics Course was the Brain Child of Vice Admiral Robert B. Camey, who, as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics), obtained, first, the authorization for its establishment, and, then and more difficult, the money that was needed to effect the conversion of the building. Without his efforts we would not have had this Logistics Course, which has provided such a valuable complement to our work in Strategy and Tactics.

In the operation of the Naval War College, where we normally expect to have a turnover of about fifty per cent each year in our Officer Staff, the specialized knowledge and techniques and the continuity of effort that are supplied by our Civilian Staff are most valued assets to us. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the contributions made by the members of our Civilian Staff to the success of the Courses which are ending today. With the establishment of the Logistics Class, involving a fifty per cent increase in our Student Body and the operation of an additional and separated building -- all with an increase of ten in the strength of our authorized civilian personnel --, this has involved the best of cooperation and plenty of hard work.

It has been a great source of satisfaction to me to follow the progress of our Student Officers during the past ten months. I have been particularly impressed with the interest, intelligence and open-minded objectivity with which they have attacked their work. The close association here of officers from all of the Military Services and from the Foreign Service can only result in their having a better understanding of many of the problems which will confront the United States in the future. It should result in an increased tolerance for the opinions of others, and an improvement in the ability to work with officers of other services. This ability to work together in harmony must be the basis for a real unification of the Armed Forces.

Our speaker today is a very distinguished, philanthropic and public-spirited citizen of the State of Rhode Island, of the City of Providence and of Newport itself. A graduate of St. George's School in 1918, he later gave to the School its beautiful Gothic Chapel, a product of the genius of that master of Ecclesiastical Gothic Architecture, Ralph Adams Cram.

Following his graduation from St. George's, he entered Harvard University, from which in 1922 he received his BA degree, Magna Cum Laude. Later on he returned to Harvard for postgraduate work, for which in 1928 he received his Master's Degree. While at Harvard as an Undergraduate, he was enrolled in the Naval ROTC of the University.

There followed busy years devoted, partly to business affairs, but largely to duties associated with scientific, philanthropic and governmental matters. Among the latter was his service during World War II as Chief of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section of the United States Group of the Allied Control Council under General Eisenhower.

In the autumn of 1946 he was asked by President Truman to become the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air. Once again he was to be associated with the Navy, but this time as one of its four principal Civilian Officials in the Navy Department.

In that position he has won for himself the highest regard of the Navy as a man of high intellectual capacity and great devotion to his duties, as a capable administrator, and, above all, as a most modest and courteous gentleman of outstanding integrity of character.

These are very busy days in our National Capital, as you all know, so we are doubly appreciative of his taking time off from his many duties to come up from Washington to address us today, and to present the diplomas to the members of the Graduating Classes of the Naval War College.

It gives me great pleasure to present the Honorable John Nicholas Brown, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Air.