

The Military Police Service School, Autun, France

By Master Sergeant Patrick V. Garland (Retired)

On 17 May 1918, General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in France, issued a directive to the commanding general of the Services of Supply that a “Training Depot for both officers and Soldiers of the Provost Marshal Service be established.” On 9 July, General Pershing—in support of that directive—included instructions in General Order No. 111. The instructions stated, “There shall be established a training depot for the military police corps at a suitable place where all of the personnel will be received and trained before being sent to the military police units. This training depot shall be directly under the supervision of the provost marshal general.” And on 9 September, the Military Police Training Department opened at Caserne Changarnier, Autun, France.¹

On 27 September 1918, Brigadier General Harry H. Bandholtz was appointed provost marshal of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Using the constabulary experience that he had gained in the Philippines, Brigadier General Bandholtz set about developing the Military Police Corps into an effective organization. He made major contributions to the organization and operation of the Military Police Service School at Autun.

The first commandant of the school was Captain Thomas Cadwalader; he served in that capacity from 15 September to 1 November 1918. Captain Cadwalader was succeeded by Major Frederick J. Osterman, who commanded the school for only 7 days. On 8 November, Lieutenant Colonel John R. White assumed command of the school, but he remained in the position only until 19 November. On that date, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel McIntyre assumed command; he continued in that position until 20 January 1919. The last commandant of the Military Police Service School was Lieutenant Colonel Harvey Llewellyn Jones, who took command on 31 January 1919 and left when the school was closed in April of that year. Who were these men and where did they come from?

Captain Thomas Cadwallader

Thomas Cadwalader was born to John and Marie Cadwalader on 22 September 1880 in Jenkington, Pennsylvania. The family moved to Maryland, where young Thomas followed in his father’s footsteps, training for a career in the legal profession. He enlisted in the Maryland National Guard; and by 1917, had risen to the rank of sergeant major in the 5th Maryland Regiment. Later that year, he attended Reserve Officer Training and was commissioned as a captain of cavalry. Cadwalader chose to resign from the National Guard and immediately joined the National Army, where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant of cavalry. He then transferred to the Field

Artillery Branch and rose to the rank of captain. He was appointed commandant of the Military Police Service School on 15 September 1918, but his stay was short, as he was honorably discharged in January 1919. Following military service, Cadwalader practiced law in Maryland.² He and his wife Elizabeth had three children—one boy and two girls.

Major Frederick J. Osterman

Frederick J. Osterman was born on 22 July 1880 in Columbus, Ohio. He joined the Army and served two enlistments, rising to the rank of sergeant. On 25 January 1906, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the 11th U.S. Infantry. He later transferred to the Signal Corps. Eventually, he trained as a pilot in Mineola, New York, and at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas. In 1918, Osterman served as a lieutenant colonel with the Aviation Section of the American Expeditionary Forces. At the end of the war, he transferred to the 132d Military Police Battalion in Paris, France. Frederick was honorably discharged in January 1920. He and his wife Alice had two children—a boy and a girl. Frederick died on 5 April 1955 in California, and he is buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, California.³

Lieutenant Colonel John R. White

John R. White was born in 1879 in England. He enlisted in the Greek Foreign Legion in 1897, and he fought in the Greco-Turkish War.⁴ He returned to England and then traveled to the United States. In 1899, White enlisted in the U.S. Army and, in 1901, was attached to the Philippine Constabulary as a lieutenant. He rose to the rank of colonel within 6 years—a rare accomplishment. In 1906, White was awarded the Medal of Valor (the highest award of the constabulary) for his extreme bravery while wounded in action. After 15 years in the constabulary, White left the Philippines⁵ and rejoined

the U.S. Army as a lieutenant. After his brief stint at Autun, White was appointed provost marshal of Paris. After retirement, he went to work for the U.S. National Park Service.⁶

Lieutenant Colonel Samuel McIntyre

Samuel McIntyre was born on 17 June 1872 in the Chattanooga, Tennessee, area.⁷ On 6 June 1891, at 19 years of age, the young plumber enlisted in the U.S. Army at Lexington, Kentucky. He was assigned to the 6th U.S. Infantry Regiment, where he served a 5-year enlistment—rising to the rank of sergeant. In 1898, McIntyre joined the 3d Tennessee Infantry and was commissioned as a captain of volunteers. In 1899, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant of the 37th U.S. Infantry and rose through the ranks.⁸ In 1920, he transferred to the Finance Branch and was promoted to colonel. Samuel McIntyre died on 11 March 1929; he was laid to rest at the Chattanooga National Cemetery, Chattanooga, Tennessee, alongside his wife Agnes.

Lieutenant Colonel Harvey Llewellyn Jones

Harvey Llewellyn Jones was born on 27 November 1877 in Tuckerton, New Jersey. He and his family moved to Maryland, where he joined the Maryland Army National Guard and was assigned to the 4th Maryland Infantry Regiment. In 1917, the 4th Maryland Infantry Regiment was combined with other National Guard units to form the 29th Infantry Division “Blue and Gray” for service during World War I. During this transition, Jones supervised the training of enlisted Soldiers who were to be commissioned into the officer ranks.⁹ In preparation for overseas duty, Jones was assigned as the division inspector general; he served in that capacity until the armistice.¹⁰ Harvey Jones and his wife Sadie had two daughters. The family returned to New Jersey; and Jones, who had studied and practiced law before he joined the military, returned to that profession following his military service.

Due to the inexperience of American military police officers, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Foley of the British army military police was appointed as the chief of instructions at the Military Police Service School. He commanded a faculty of fourteen British military police officers. Second Lieutenant John C. Groome, son of the American Expeditionary Forces provost marshal who preceded Brigadier General Bandholtz, served as the adjutant.

Classes were offered for the following types of students:

- Military police officers.
- Officer Candidate School cadets.
- Student instructors.
- Enlisted military police.

Twenty-one enlisted men were selected for the first class; they subsequently became the first American instructors at the school.¹¹

Officers and enlisted Soldiers basically received the same 4-week training, which included coursework in the areas of esprit de corps, crowd psychology, rules of evidence, charge sheet preparation, criminology, provost branches in allied armies, map reading and sketching, authority and power of the Military Police Corps, general duties, march discipline, duties during engagements, straggler control, traffic control, road rules, area policing duties in cities and ports, duties in billets and camps, control of civilians in forbidden zones, searches, duties during train movements, range practice with pistols, and prisoners of war.

By the spring of 1919, 263 military police officers, 101 Officer Candidate School cadets, and 4,557 enlisted Soldiers had graduated from the Military Police Service School at Autun. Formal Army Military Police Corps training was not reestablished until 23 years later.

Acknowledgement. Thanks to Colonel John Baber, the regimental secretary of the Royal Military Police of England, who painstakingly attempted to locate information on Lieutenant Colonel Foley and his staff. Unfortunately, many of the British records were destroyed during World War II bombing raids.

Endnotes:

¹“The Great War,” Part I, *History of the United States Army Military Police School (USAMPS)*, <http://www.mpraonline.org/docs/USAMPS_History.pdf>, accessed on 14 June 2011.

²*Maryland in the World War, 1917–1919: Military and Naval Service Records*, Maryland War Records Commission, Baltimore, 1933.

³*Official Roster of Ohio Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the World War, 1917–1918*, Volumes I–XXIII, F. J. Herr Printing Co., Columbus, 1926.

⁴John R. White Papers, unpublished personal biography, University of Oregon.

⁵John R. White, *Bullets and Bolos*, Century Company, New York, 1928.

⁶Harold H. Elarth, *The Story of the Philippine Constabulary*, Globe Printing, Los Angeles, 1949.

⁷*U.S. Census 1900 (Georgia)*, U.S. Census Bureau, 1900.

⁸*Official Army Register for 1916*, 1 December 1915.

⁹John A. Cutchins and George Scott Stewart Jr., *History of the Twenty-Ninth Division “Blue and Gray”: 1917–1919*, MacCalla and Co., Philadelphia, 1921.

¹⁰*Maryland in the World War, 1917–1919: Military and Naval Service Records*, 1933.

¹¹*Final Report of the Provost Marshal General to the Secretary of War on the Operations of the Selective Service System to July 15, 1919*, 1920.

Master Sergeant Garland retired from the U.S. Army in 1974. During his military career, he served in military police units and criminal investigation detachments and laboratories. At the time of his retirement, Master Sergeant Garland was serving as a ballistics evidence specialist at the European Laboratory. He remained in this career field until retiring from civilian law enforcement in 1995.