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3-22-2023

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Recommended Citation

Moehlenbrock, Caroline, "Yearbook Analysis: Wartime" (2023). *Digital History Student Projects*. 18.
<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/dighist/18>

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eGROVE Collection Analysis: "War Time in the Grove."

Caroline Moehlenbrock

The University of Mississippi has a long history of first-hand experience during wartime. From the University Greys during the Civil War to the modern-day ROTC program, wartime has greatly affected life on this campus. I used ten yearbooks (1914, 1915, 1919, 1939, 1941, 1943, 1946, 1968, 1970, and 2002) from the eGROVE Collection and its digital search tools to explore wartime-affected student life on this campus. Using the digital search tools, I searched five terms (war, victory, Freedom, military, and soldier) to identify specific examples of how the University adapted to wartime and conflicts in other nations. The results reflected the cultural beliefs of the country during wartime, both pro and anti-war sentiments. The research took hours of work, more time than internally, though.

The process of identifying words and yearbooks took a lot of work. Initially, this project aimed to show the Daughters of the Confederacy's impact on the campus; however, it was challenging to discover where and when their impact was most prominent. Then an attempt was made to understand the evolution of sorority life and its effect on campus; however, the results were less attractive than other topics. War Time in the Grove was chosen for its significant impact on this campus. The idea came from a search in the 1919 yearbook for sorority life when the obituary pages for fallen soldiers were discovered. This accidental search result gave the idea for military history during wartime. The next step was identifying significant dates sounding wartime; 1915, 1943, 1968, and 1970 were chosen because they were dates during active conflicts. 1914, 1939, and 1941 were selected because they were the yearbooks before future disputes. 1919 and 1946 were the yearbooks after the war had ended. 2002 was the yearbook after the events of 911 for words. The original terms were war, victory, military, soldier, and

service. The phrase Freedom replaced the term service because Freedom was a buzzword used on the 911 memorial page in the 2002 yearbook. ("The Ole Miss" (2002), n65)

The first war searched was the term war. While the term war did not have the most search results, it did have the most fruitful and exposed some exciting patterns. For example, in the 1915 yearbook, this term reveals two anti-war poems on pages 59 and 72. This reflects the remarkable consensus about the war that it is "King English" and people should not enlist. On page 59, there might have been censorship in the original yearbook as the last line says, "Neglect to remove all of the" In the 1919 yearbook, the search results from war do a complete 180, as the yearbook is filled with pro-war sentiments. One example is on page 90, in the paragraph about the Engineering class celebrities, the men who went off to fight in the great war. 1941 had zero results. 1943 exposes how WW2 affects the student body with them through this yearbook, that the future is uncertain but that they should not fear it. This reflexes the time period as this is the middle of America's involvement with WW2. One fun article found was on page n261, a war bond ad at the back of the book. In 1946 the search results show that this yearbook was dedicated to the students who fought and died protecting their country. It also mentions the students' resilience in the face of the war. ("The Ole Miss" (1946), n12) 1968 and 1970 no mention of the war in the context of Vietnam. This was surprising when comparing them to the 1915 yearbook, which was very antatmently anti-war.

The next word search in every yearbook was a victory. This term came up in the search the most. However, most of these results applied to sports teams rather than wartime. 1914 had three results, none mentioning the war. 1919 showed "The Battle of The Flu," which discussed the influenza epidemic and included pro-war sentiments about America's victory. 1939 had 19 results; however, zero applied to the topic, and 1941 and 1943 had four, none of which were

used. The 1946 yearbook results show the dedication on page n12 but also showed that the ASB had sponsored a Victory Bond Drive, an example of how students participated in the war effort. ("The Ole Miss" (1946), 79)

The next word searched was military. This is where a crossroad arose in my research on whether I wanted to focus on wartime specifically or mention ROTC and its impact on campus. Searching for the military in 1919 resulted in the obituaries of fallen soldiers but also noted the SATC program, a precursor to ROTC ("The Ole Miss" (1919), 19). This term especially exposed the evolution of military involvement on campus. One pattern was that the Title of Military was searchable in some books but not others. For example, a title with the military in 1919 did not come up, but in 1939 it did. The 1939 results expose the increased prominence of military life and culture on the campus, including the yearbooks now having a military editor. The most significant search result from 1941 is the first mention of the crisis in Europe ("The Ole Miss" (1941), n131) 1943 results are not necessarily about the war rather than how students were training through pre-military programs ("The Ole Miss" (1943)) In 1943 the search military results show how the war had effected the band, because so many members, including the band leader, were off fighting. The 1968 yearbook had around ten-speed purely dedicated to military life at the University; this was fascinating and showed the prominence military culture had on the campus.

The next word searched was a soldier. In the 1919 yearbook, this result shows a poem about the confederate monument on page 8. This poem blurs the line comparing the confederate monument to the soldiers who fought in WW1. The results of soldiers in 1940s books show a mock war camp.

The last term searched was the term freedom. This term has the least results; however, it was the term I used to get 911 results. This result was very beneficial in the last two yearbooks I searched (1970 and 2002) while not existent in the others. In 1970 on page n25, there is a small paragraph about Freedom with a mix of hippy images and the American flag. This is a great visual example of the divisions in the country surrounding the Vietnam war. The other result was the 2002 spread of 911, reflecting the sense of togetherness that 911 brought the country.

One major disadvantage of relying heavily on the search result was that essential pieces of information were missed; for instance, there was a dedication in the 1919 yearbook to the men who died, or the forward mentions the war affecting the yearbook's quality. Two significant roadblocks would not have happened if this was by hand. First, the search result numbers and the accurate number on the yearbook only sometimes add up. This can cause significant issues with citing, and thankfully it was caught early. The other problem was with miss types. The search result thought the word "was" was "war," for instance, on page 149 of the 1939 yearbook. The last issue was with words like military and soldier, I often misspelled them, and when refreshing in the search bar, I had to refresh 3 or 4 times to get results. Some avengers of this tool are that it is much quicker, as all the results are at your fingertips. You could also click an arrow to jump from one search result to the next.

The act of searching was the most rewarding part of this process. It was fun to hit roadblocks and then finally get the result I was looking for. Like with the Vietnam war, Freedom was the last term I was looking at, and I was frustrated I could not find anything. So when I saw It, I was overly excited. Searching made me look at big-picture themes rather than getting hung up on details. For instance, while manually going through 1919, I went on a side quest to look at all the men who had their service in their senior bio. If I were going to explore this theme of aging, I

would also look at old daily Mississpians to get an idea of students' evolution on the war and war efforts.

| | War | d.n.a | Victory | d.n.a | military | d.n.a | soldier | d.n.a | freedom | d.n.a |
|------|-----|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1914 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1915 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1919 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 14 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 1939 | 4 | 4 | 19 | 19 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1941 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1943 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1946 | 9 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1968 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1970 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 2002 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

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