

LEFFLER HEADS V-12
TRAINING UNIT

1943

Crawfordsville, Indiana, July 19.—Nineteen states and the District of Columbia are represented by trainees in the Navy V-12 unit and the civilian student body this term at Wabash college at Crawfordsville, where the Navy Officers' Training school opened July 1.

For the first time since the unit was established here, Dr. Frank H. Sparks, president of Wabash, now on leave as director of labor utilization for the War Manpower Commission, returned to the campus Saturday to spend the day with navy officers in command of the unit and to inspect dormitories, the mess hall and other buildings in use in the school. President Sparks expressed himself as well pleased with the arrangements.

Two hundred ninety-one men, all high school graduates, some of whom have completed one or even two years in college, are enrolled in the V-12 unit. Commanding officer is Lieutenant (s. g.) Harold G. Leffler from Columbia university, New York City, where he recently completed special training as a commander of officer candidates. He had previously served as an assistant instructor at the Cape May, N. J., naval base. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois and had been principal of the Grade school at Newton, Illinois, several years.

Administrative office of the unit is Lieutenant (j. g.) Lyle J. Hayden, who in civil life has been supervisor of schools in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, the last eight years. He also is a University of Illinois graduate, class of 1925, who has been a school man ever since his graduation. Lieutenant Hayden holds a master's degree from Penn State college and studied for his doctorate at Cornell university during the past year, before enlistment in the Navy.

Medical officer at the unit is Lieutenant Commander Wendell W. Ayers, who was a practicing physican at Hartford City, before his enlistment last year. A graduate of the University of Indiana medical school, Lieutenant Commander Ayers has his office in the college hospital in Kingery hall.

Announcement of the number of students in the unit and the states represented was made Monday morning at chapel, at which Lieutenant Leffler made the address. Professor Myron G. Phillips of the department of speech also spoke. Dr. W. Norwood Brigance, head of the speech department, presided. Washington has the largest number of trainees from any one state and for the first time in the history of Wabash, students from Indiana are in the minority.