The challenge of the war to Brooklyn College

The war has made three demands on the colleges: 1. programs have been 'accelerated' to make it possible to train students more quickly; 2. a new emphasis on basic training has appeared because of the war needs for good English, mathematics and the sciences; and 3. special courses and training programs have been designed to meet specific needs.

The first and second demands raise no special problems at Brooklyn College. We have always graduated our students one or two years earlier than the average American college because our students have normally 'accelerated' their programs by taking our own summer session work. Our program has always featured mathematics and the sciences as well as a broad core of courses required of all students—and we have normally insisted on more mathematics for admission than hundreds of American colleges have required for graduation. The war requirements simply called for our normal program, pulling in the slack and speeding up the pace.

The special war courses and training programs were a new challenge. We have re-tooled and re-trained. I think the college has introduced every new course suggested by the armed services—many of them were introduced before any suggestion came to us from official sources. It has been a great strain on our resources because a normal program had to be administered and taught to a large student body at the same time—and both programs are taught with a smaller staff.

I believe the record will show that the community can be proud of the college's conversion to war purposes, and that it can be confident we will meet any further challenge which the future may present.

HARRY D. GIDEONSE
President, Brooklyn College