



Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

HOOVER, COLONEL PAUL VANCE

On 24 October 1997, AMA and most of its living alumni lost one of the most enduring and colorful figures of memory. Colonel Paul Hoover, aged 92, died peacefully in his bed, in his home, in Lancaster, PA.

For many of us, Hoover and AMA were inseparable memories. He was everywhere; he did everything; and he touched everyone in his own unique and memorable way. When we think of AMA, his is one of the first names that come to mind.

Hoover graduated from Franklin and Marshall in 1927, a modern language student, majoring in French. (It was there that he lost the sight in one eye due to an accident involving acid in their chemistry lab.) He first taught and coached soccer and lacrosse at the Severn School in Annapolis. Ten years later, in 1938, he came to Augusta, where he remained until the school closed. He taught foreign languages, he taught math and chemistry, and he taught remedial reading. During the summers, he taught at Deane's Camp Kannata, or drove down to Mexico City, often taking several cadets with him. He always carried a stack of AMA catalogs with him and visited

parents who had shown an interest in AMA but had not yet committed their sons to attend. Some summers he went to graduate school. He earned no fewer than *six* master's degrees.

Every year he coached one or more sports: fencing, swimming, football, lacrosse, and soccer. A varsity football coach once wrote General Roller and complained that Hoover was not "cooperative", which inspired Colonel Deane to note that Hoover coached more boys than all the other coaches combined! Among his credits, he introduced the three-weapon fencing team - foil, epee, and saber. He coached the first lacrosse team south of the Mason-Dixon line to have a full schedule. And he introduced soccer at AMA. In his spare time, he was the faculty advisor to the yearbook and the *Bayonet*, a self-supporting student newspaper.

Paul Vance Hoover: "*Teacher. Coach. Relentless taskmaster. Innovator. Tough disciplinarian. Profane. Warm. An unduplicated, complicated, contradictory man, as hard as steel, yet soft as the drifting fog,*" reads the *Bayonet* of November 1997, which announced his death. One could not ask for a better mentor or a more loyal friend.

(1997 November *Bayonet*)