

William G. Wharton VPI Cadet Uniform

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1920



Title Statement

William G. Wharton VPI Cadet Uniform William G. Wharton VPI Cadet Uniform, 1920 Textile.1993.015

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Textile.1993.015

Unit Date

1920

Language

The language in this collection is in English.

Abstract

The William G. Wharton VPI Cadet Uniform consists of three parts: a uniform coat, two pairs of trousers, and a overcoat with attached cape. The uniform coat is navy blue with black lining and is made of a wool blend with a satin lining. There is a black outline down the center, around the collar, along the bottom, and around the sleeve at the bottom. The sleeves also have a single thin stripe above the black strip on each sleeve. There is a "US ROTC" shield shaped patch on the lower left sleeve above the gold stripe. The patch has light blue lettering on a dark blue background. There are two gold colored pins on the collar of the blouse. One button has "VPI" with a propeller and wings on it. The other button has "ROTC with a torch between "RO" and "TC." The trousers are a blue gray color with an off white cotton lining around the waist and for pockets, the rest is mainly a wool blend. There is a wide black stripe down the outside of each leg. The manufacturer label is too faded to make out. Other faded labels in the trousers read "William R. Kyle [?-37-46]" and "[W____ Kyle ____] [?-?-46]" The condition is fair, the bottom button is disattached from the trousers, as well as one of the labels. The seat, knees, and inner lower legs are worn and/or stained. The overcoat with attached cape is blue, with red on the underside of the cape, and a darker blue lining except in the sleeves which have black lining. All buttons have the school seal with "VPI" above and "UT PROSIUM" below. There are diagonal gold [bullion] single stripes on lower sleeves, the right sleeve has an ROTC patch located over the gold stripe (light blue lettering on a black patch). There is also a single interior pocket on left side.

Extent

3.1 Cubic Feet 2 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to Special Collections and University Archives in May 1978.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the William G. Wharton VPI Cadet Uniform was completed in June 2025. Preliminary description was completed in 2016.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], William G. Wharton VPI Cadet Uniform, 1920, Textile-1993-015, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical

William G Wharton was born January 4, 1898 in Richmond, Virginia, and passed on July 28, 1982. Wharton was a part of the Class of 1920, was a part of Company "D" and majored in Civil Engineering. He later served in the US Army and World War Two. He enlisted in World War Two in 1942 in Richmond, Virginia.

Sources:

"William G Wharton in the U.S., Find a Grave® Index, 1600s-Current," Ancestry, Accessed June 9,2025, https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/search/collections/60525/records/14494929?tid=&pid=&queryId=8c04f220-2c5b-4d55-bdf2-f601464062dd&_phsrc=xCV5&_phstart=successSource&_gl=1*1ohd1tq*_up*MQ..*_ga*MTU5NjA2MjY3MC4xNzQ5NDkyMDM1*_ga_4QT8FMEX30*cZzEzOWIxN2FhLTA0ZjYtNDQxNC

"William Granville Wharton in the U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947," Ancestry, Accessed June 9,2025, https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/search/collections/2238/records/10477356?tid=&pid=&queryId=8c04f220-2c5b-4d55-bdf2-f601464062dd&_phsrc=xCV7&_phstart=successSource&_gl=1*dfw0pw*_up*MQ..*_ga*MTU5NjA2MjY3MC4xNzQ5NDkyMDM1*_ga_4QT8FMEX30*cZzEzOWIxN2FhLTA0ZjYtNDQxNC

Scope and Content

The William G. Wharton VPI Cadet Uniform consists of three parts: a uniform coat, two pairs of trousers, and a overcoat with attached cape.

The uniform coat is navy blue with black lining and is made of a wool blend with a satin lining. There is a black outline down the center, around the collar, along the bottom, and around the sleeve at the bottom. The sleeves also have a single thin stripe above the black strip on each sleeve. There is a "US ROTC" shield shaped patch on the lower left sleeve above the gold stripe. The patch has light blue lettering on a dark blue background. There are black metal buttons snapped through the outer lower sleeve going through the black strip. Exposed to the outside are circular disks [perhaps to hang a cord from], the disk on the right sleeve is a cloudy translucent plastic, the disk on the left sleeve is a matte silver colored metal. There is also a thread stitched yellow five pointed star on a black circle (differs from the gold bullion star seen on other uniforms). The blouse also has two stripes extended up the back almost to the top with black plastic buttons on the right and hooks on the left. There are two gold colored pins on the collar of the blouse. One button has "VPI" with a propeller and wings on it. The other button has "ROTC with a torch between "RO" and "TC." There is a white plastic button sewn onto the inside of the collar. The manufacturer label reads "Blacksburg: Virginia Polytechnic Institute Uniform Department." Condition is fair, some stitching and lining is worn on the collar, and there is a worn patch on the front right side as well as a small spot on right sleeve, possibly a moth hole.

The trousers are a blue gray color with an off white cotton lining around the waist and pockets, the rest is mainly a wool blend. There is a wide black stripe down the outside of each leg. The waist has five black plastic buttons with a large flat metal hook at the waist. The manufacturer label is too faded to make out. Other faded labels in the trousers read "William R. Kyle [?-37-46]" and " [W_____ Kyle _____] [?-?-46]" The condition is fair, the bottom button is disattached from the trousers, as well as one of the labels. The seat, knees, and inner lower legs are worn and/or stained.

The overcoat with attached cape is blue, with red on the underside of the cape, and a darker blue lining, except in the sleeves which have black lining. The cape is made up of a wool blend, cotton, and satin. On the interior of the collar, there is a silver colored metal chain sewn in. On the body of the cape are eight gold colored buttons on the right of the cape, and six larger gold buttons on both the right and left of the coat. Button holes can be seen on the left of the cape. Four large gold buttons on the back of the garment, and two more where the cape ends and two at the bottom, buttons mark the ends of folds which extend down the back of the coat. There are folds on the right that separate and expose overlap in material. All buttons have the school seal with "VPI" above and "UT PROSIUM" below. There are diagonal gold [bullion] single stripes on lower sleeves, the right sleeve has an ROTC patch located over the gold stripe (light blue lettering on a black patch). There is also a single interior pocket on left side. The condition is fair, there are white strings coming through the lining, a few very small worn spots and stains, a gold stripe coming off right sleeve, and small holes near inner pocket. This collection was donated by William G. Wharton of the Class of 1920. Address: 4217 Park Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221. Sent to library by way of the Alumni Association on May 5, 1978. There was a note attached.

Keywords

University History

University Archives

Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Corps of Cadets (1944-1970)

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (1896-1944)

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Description of Subordinate Components

William G. Wharton VPI Cadet Uniform Coat

Unit Date 1920

box 1

William G. Wharton VPI Cadet Trousers (2)

Unit Date 1920

box 1

William G. Wharton VPI Cadet Overcoat and Cape

Unit Date 1920

box 2