

1107-01-473

Brit Shields*, History & Sociology of Science Department, University of Pennsylvania, 249 South 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. *"The god Mars helped his fledging endeavor:" World War II, Richard Courant and Mathematics at New York University.*

The Second World War's impact on scientific research and education in the United States has been well documented. At New York University (NYU), Richard Courant led the Graduate Department of Mathematics in contractual work for the National Defense Research Committee's Applied Mathematics Panel. Following the war, the NYU mathematicians maintained contracts with various military and governmental organizations. Decades later, NYU mathematician Cathleen Morawetz reflected, "As Courant himself said years later, the god Mars helped his fledging endeavor." This paper will discuss the efforts to develop mathematics research and education at NYU from the time of Courant's arrival in 1934, during the Second World War, and through the postwar years. Particular attention will be paid to the dynamic relationships between the mathematics faculty, university administrators, and government officials as they negotiated the role of research mathematicians in the war effort. (Received January 20, 2015)