

Excalibur

*The romantic tales about King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table are among the best-known legends in the Western world. For most of us they were introduction to the world of chivalry — of knights in shining armor seeking honor and glory in combat, of beautiful women watching their lovers engage in brilliant tournament competition. That world seems far removed from our own technologically advanced but uncertain times. The Camden Military Academy connection, however, between this publication, **Excalibur**, and the legendary Sword Excalibur of King Arthur, is immediate. Our link with the hero Arthur, moreover, is not to a myth but to an actual historical figure who lived in Britain fourteen hundred years ago in times that were, like our own, full of threats.*

Daily, contemporary society confronts economic turmoil on an international scale, crime that reaches our very neighborhoods, prospects of nuclear destruction that threatens our very existence. No magical sword scabbard, such as that of Arthur's Excalibur, protects us. But we cope much as Arthur's followers did, staging tournaments on football, baseball, and soccer fields of battle, living by a modern code of honor as knights lived by their chivalric ideals, preparing to transfer lessons learned here to the arena of life, seeking to achieve future goals and to realize present aspirations. Dedication and pride in every turn, each salute harkens to knightly custom, its origin the mutual lifting of helmet visors to reveal identities.

In bonds of honor we salute the legendary, the fabled past and the real present, of which modern myths are made.

The sword