

Clearing the Desk

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THE PHONE rang about midnight in President Brandt's home—as it often does unless someone remembers to have it cut off. The voice of a student, tinged with discouragement asked for the president. Mrs. Brandt explained that he was out of town, and added, "Is it something that I might help you with?" The student hesitated momentarily and then explained the reason for his unhappy frame of mind. He had been thinking over the developments that occurred at a student mass meeting that evening, held for the purpose of trying to arrange for more definite participation by students in the work of University committees. "You know, Mrs. Brandt," the student explained morosely, "I've come to the conclusion that it was the best example I've ever seen of organized confusion."

THAT APT PHRASE could be applied in other quarters now, but we won't go into that. Instead, we will use this space to inquire how many realize that the University has participated in three wars? We are told by C. Ross Hume, '98ba, '00ma, of Anadarko, that at least three or four O. U. men fought with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War.

MAIL SERVICE to Sooners on foreign duty is naturally delayed occasionally, but on the whole the service is surprisingly good. Sometimes the mail to a certain alumnus is delayed because we have not been given the full military address. One card which the Alumni Office sent to a '42 graduate, requesting information, took a month and a half to reach him but he was able to reply by air mail in four days. Of course when the Alumni Office sends a letter to an A. P. O. address we have no way of knowing whether the man addressed is still in this country or whether he is half-way around the world in Australia or Egypt or some other far distant point.

EVEN THE photographs are being censored. A snapshot of Capt. R. L. Sigler, '34-'38, who is in Australia, arrived with a "passed by censor" stamp. In answer to a few inquiries as to whether *Sooner Magazine* is reaching alumni overseas we can cite a renewal check from Lt. Paul Harkey, '39-'40, which arrived in an envelope bearing the postmark "U. S. Navy" and also carrying the "passed by censor" stamp. Lieutenant Harkey was serving aboard a warship at last reports.

MARY FRANK HELMS, one of the first O. U. alumnae WAACS, created quite a sensation when she appeared in uniform in the Union Cafeteria last month while

en route to her new assignment at the WAAC Training Center at Daytona Beach, Florida. Faculty members and students necks to get a good look at the trim, efficient looking, *and* glamorous looking lady soldier. She reports confidentially that the WAACS soon cured male officers from saying "please" when issuing orders to the ladies. The girls consider themselves soldiers and plenty capable of taking it as well as dishing it out. Also, when the girls decide there is something wrong in traditional procedures they start aching about it; commanding officers throw up their hands in helpless resignation; and things get changed!

"SAILOR" McDERMITT, '42eng, who isn't a sailor at all but is now a lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps writes us from England to say hello and that we folks in the United States don't know anything about rationing yet as compared to the people in England. Sailor, who is called that because he was in the Marines before coming to O. U., is scheduled to preside at the 1947 reunion of his class, and knowing the way he gets a job done, we have full confidence that he will do his part to finish up the current task in Europe and get back in plenty of time for that reunion.

AN AIRMAIL letter from Major John B. Miles, one of the alumni executive board members serving in the Medical Corps, reports that he is commanding officer of a station hospital serving the "United States Armed Forces of India, Burma, and China," which is covering a lot of territory, but is just another sample of how O. U. alumni get around in this war. Major Miles explains that Oklahomans are sticking together in his vicinity, but that so far they are outnumbered by Texans. Major Miles enclosed a clipping from a service newspaper published in India which had on its front page a picture of Lt. I. Frank Haxel, '32. To relieve your curiosity, we'll explain that the picture was used to illustrate a new regulation on wearing officer insignia, and had no great military significance.

BEING HUMAN, we were naturally pleased to learn that *Sooner Magazine* received an Award of Merit for achievement in the year 1942, at the annual fall meeting of the Southwestern Association of Industrial Editors held at Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater. This association is composed of editors of company magazines and association magazines, and has been active in raising the editorial standards of publications in these fields.

—R. C.