

# Sooners at Home and Abroad

## Yarbrough Watches Sea Battle

Few persons—even the generals and admirals—are getting as good a look at World War II as Tom Yarbrough, '32, foreign correspondent for the Associated Press.

When Germany began its all-out bombing blitz of London, Yarbrough was there to cover it. When the Japs made their sneak raid on Pearl Harbor, a passenger ship on which Yarbrough was traveling sailed into port at Honolulu right in the midst of the raid. And when a section of the U. S. Fleet clashed with 20 heavy Japanese bombers west of the Gilbert islands "right at the enemy's front door," Yarbrough had a box seat for the thunderous battle that saw 18 of the Jap planes shot down.

In an AP dispatch, Yarbrough wrote in part:

"This spectacular battle of planes against plane-protected ships was our first brush with the Japanese in these waters—at their own front door, about 3,000 miles from Pearl Harbor. It bore out the recent statement of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the Pacific fleet, that we would carry the fight to the enemy across this trackless battlefield of 70,000,000 square miles. xxx

"From the highest point on the destroyer beside the aircraft carrier, I watched the battle from beginning to end.

"The carrier and her brood had been patrolling the broad reaches of the blue Pacific but this was her baptism of fire. She came through majestically, launching more planes in the midst of the attack and blazing away with her own guns in chorus with the screen of cruisers and destroyers around her.

"There was one breath-taking moment—when a Japanese pilot tried to crash his flaming bomber on the stern of the carrier's big flat deck. As the staggering raider glided in crackling with flames started by an attack of our own fighters, the carrier held her fire until the right instant. Then her guns lashed out with a sheet of flame and steel.

"The bomber fluttered like a stricken bird, turned on its side and shuddered into the sea. It would be hard to imagine a more fascinating sight.

"By this time bombs were falling all around us, sending up geysers of warm spray in the tropical sunlight. The metallic blast of the anti-aircraft guns was almost deafening but every man on our swaying director platform sang out with loud and long cheers. The carrier steamed on, ready for the next one.

"More bombs came down and I made a silent prayer: 'God be with us all.'"

Yarbrough reportedly was on his way to Cairo, Egypt, when the war with Japan broke out.

## Political Campaigns Start

Many Sooner alumni will be involved in campaigns for public offices this spring.

Frank P. Douglass, '16law, district judge at Oklahoma City, was the first to make formal announcement as a candidate for a major office. He is a Democratic candidate for governor of Oklahoma.

A few weeks later Robert S. Kerr, '15-'16, Oklahoma City oil man and Democratic national committeeman, announced for the Democratic nomination for governor. In announcing his platform, Mr. Kerr presented one plank directly affecting the University. He advocated repeal of the co-ordinating amendment recently added to the state constitution, commenting that "I favor co-ordination of our educational facilities for the purpose of rendering the most service to the greatest number at the least cost, but I strongly oppose the grasping of power from the legislature by the chief executive under the guise of 'educational reform.'"

Two other alumni who have been mentioned as possible candidates for governor removed themselves from the race by announcing for other positions. Lewis R. Morris, '17law, veteran county attorney of Oklahoma County, announced that he would be a candidate for the Oklahoma County district judge position now held by Judge Frank P. Douglass. Mac Q. Williamson, '10, attorney general, who had considered the race for governor decided to run for re-election as attorney general.

Two well known O. U. graduates are pitted against each other in the race for United States Senate. Senator Josh Lee, '17ba, the incumbent, is opposed by Orel Busby, '14law, Ada attorney and former justice of the State Supreme Court.

## Monroney Acclaimed

National acclaim was won last month by Rep. Mike Monroney, '24ba, fifth district congressman from Oklahoma.

His lonely fight in Congress for economies in the Agriculture Department appropriations bill, and his equally lonely (at first) fight for repeal of the 40-hour week during the war emergency drew the warm commendation of H. V. Kaltenborn, popular radio commentator, and re-

sulted in a surge of public opinion that brought at least partial victories to the young Oklahoma congressman.

Representative Monroney made a careful study of the travel budget in each of the many bureaus of the Agricultural Department and as each section came up, requested a 50 per cent reduction in the travel allowance. Each time he was voted down. However, when the bill finally passed the House, Representative Monroney succeeded in tacking on a limitation of \$8,000,000 (half the original amount) on the total which may be spent on travel by agricultural department officials and employees.

Commenting on Representative Monroney's fight to remove the 40-hour week restriction on defense industries, the *Oklahoma City Times* said editorially:

"Congressman Mike Monroney of this district won national fame last week. He stood up practically alone and fought the 40-hour week for defense industry. Overwhelmed by timid politically pressured colleagues, he manfully stood his ground and fought for the United States of America. His brave act attracted the attention of a nationally famed radio commentator, but even that is not necessary, for the people everywhere are clamoring for just that kind of leadership, which is so extremely scarce these days. He won the respect of the whole nation."

## Alumna Writer Honored

Angie Debo, '18ba, '33ph.d, Oklahoma author and historian from Marshall, Oklahoma, received the award presented to an outstanding state writer by Theta Sigma Phi, women's journalistic fraternity at the University.

The presentation was made at the fraternity's annual Matrix Table dinner March 17. During the past year Miss Debo was the author of two books published, *And Still the Waters Run* and *The Road to Disappearance*. She was also co-editor with John Oskison of the *Oklahoma Guidebook*, acclaimed by critics as one of the best in the series of 52 volumes in the American Guide Series.

Other Theta Sigma Phi awards went to Dr. Eleonora Schmidt, physician at Ellison Infirmary, as an outstanding faculty woman, and Helen McClurg, arts and sciences senior from Tulsa, as the outstanding senior woman student. Mrs. O. H. Lachenmeyer (Hattie McAtee, '22), editor of the *Cushing Daily Citizen*, was the Matrix Table speaker.