



ENSIGN THOMAS C. REYNOLDS, '37

Believed to be the first Sooner alumnus to die in action in World War II

Sooners at Home and Abroad

ENSIGN THOMAS C. REYNOLDS, '37, formerly of Valliant, Oklahoma, and a student in the O. U. College of Engineering from 1933 to '37, was killed December 16 in an airplane crash near Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, nine days after the Japanese raid on the station.

Although few details were reported, it was assumed by newspapers that the crash occurred during action against the Japanese. As far as can be determined now, Ensign Reynolds is the first University of Oklahoma alumnus to lose his life in action in World War II. He took military training at O. U. and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the ordnance reserve.

In a letter to his parents written the day before his death, Ensign Reynolds reported that "things have quieted down here," and that everything was "pretty well under control." The letter was received two days after the Reynolds were notified of their son's death.

As an O. U. student, Ensign Reynolds participated in Tau Omega, national honorary aviation fraternity. He was married in 1939 to Miss Irene Peterson, of Sitka, Alaska, who was with him at Pearl Harbor.

One of the first Oklahomans to become a naval aviator, he was among a dozen Sooners out of 200 applicants who qualified in 1937 for naval aviation training at Pensacola, Florida.

Memorial rites for Sgt. Jack V. Allen, former Norman High School student who was killed while in action with the U. S. Marine Corps December 7 in the Pacific war zone, were held recently in Norman.

Cleveland County's first fatality in the present war, Sergeant Allen was the son of George Allen, '15law, Norman lawyer, and Mrs. Allen. Survivors, in addition to the parents, are a sister, Mary Lou, who lives in Norman, and a brother, Wallace, of Amarillo, Texas.

The 23-year-old youth joined the Marine Corps in 1937. Last May he was sent from San Diego, California, to Pearl Harbor. "I know the boy did his very best," his father said.

Funeral services for Lt. Ralph R. Hughes, 37ba, who died January 8 at Fort Knox, Kentucky, were held in Norman. The 28-year-old army officer was one of four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Hughes, of Norman who are in military service.

No details regarding Lieutenant Hughes' death were received immediately.

Before being called to active duty, he was employed by the Hall Motor Company in Oklahoma City. At the University, the lieutenant made an outstanding record in military science and athletics. He was commanding officer for one semester of the R. O. T. C. honor battalion and won top honors in a competition for first ser-

geants. He also was a member of the wrestling team.

Lieutenant Hughe's body was accompanied to Norman by a military escort and military honors were paid the young officer at the funeral rites.

Survivors, in addition to the parents, are five brothers, Lt. Harry Hughes, '29ba; Capt. Robert T. Hughes, '28ba, Camp Blanding, Georgia; Lt. Charles E. Hughes, '39bus, Victoria, Texas; Roland F. Hughes, '26eng, '33m.eng, Cuero, Texas; and Reginald Hughes, St. John, Kansas; and two sisters, Regina Hughes, '38ed, Crescent, Oklahoma, and Mary Hughes, of Norman.

Flier Honored

A former O. U. student, Lt. Francis R. Thompson, '40, El Reno, has been recommended to President Roosevelt for a Distinguished Flying Cross, highest air award made except those given for actual combat.

Lieutenant Thompson was among 75 United States army fliers who made a secret flight last September from Honolulu to the Philippines.

An engineering major, Lieutenant Thompson was an advanced military science student while attending the University but did not receive a commission.

The first former University student to receive a Distinguished Service Cross was Lt. Kenneth M. Taylor, '40, Hominy, who downed two Japanese planes in the raid on Pearl Harbor. His citation from the War Department has been received at the University R. O. T. C. offices.

Bombing Experience Described

Courage and fast thinking exhibited by Lt. Sam Maddux, Jr., '36bus, during a Japanese air raid on the Philippines in late December were described in a syndicated column used by metropolitan newspapers throughout the United States.

Columnist Royal Arch Gunnison, representing the North American Newspaper Alliance, told of being with the Sooner aviator when Japanese bombs began falling at the air base where they were stationed.

"Pick a rabbit hole near the target. That's the safest place," Lieutenant Maddux, advised the reporter, who was glad enough to follow the suggestion as the bombs did not hit near the target, although the ground shook considerably in the vicinity.

Lieutenant Maddux's father, a monument works operator at Lawton, says the statement is characteristic of his aviator son who has a great enthusiasm for hunting and an equally great scorn of Japanese aerial marksmanship.

A member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps

shortly after graduating from O. U. and took training at Randolph and Kelly Fields in Texas. He was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone more than two years, and at March Field, California, before his orders to the Philippines.

Social Welfare Leader

Neal Sullivan, '22ba, '24law, Newkirk attorney, has been elected president of the Oklahoma Social Welfare Association by the organization's executive committee.

Mr. Sullivan formerly served as first vice president of the association, composed of full-time social workers, professional people and other interested Oklahoma residents. While attending the University, Mr. Sullivan was president of his freshman class, a member of the Student Council, the Glee Club and the Sooner Men's Quartet. He is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Official organ of the welfare association, *New Frontiers*, is edited on the O. U. campus by two faculty members of the School of Social Work, Fern Boan and William Harold McCullough. Plans are being made under President Sullivan's direction to insure the active participation of as many members as possible.

Musician on Camp Tour

Making music for Uncle Sam's soldiers, Helen Swan, '40fa, violinist from Konawa, has been traveling around the United States for the last two months playing at army camps along with other members of an all-girl orchestra.

The orchestra, well known in and around Chicago, Illinois, for a number of years, is known as the Ada Leonard All-American Girl Orchestra. It was selected by the Chicago unit of the United Service Organizations to make a four-month tour of Army, Navy and Marine camps, accompanied by three specialty acts.

Miss Swan joined the orchestra as violinist shortly after receiving a master's degree in violin at Northwestern University, Evanston. She and her fellow musicians have already played at the larger camps and bases on the east coast, are now appearing in the southern states, and expect to end their tour on the west coast.

At the University, Miss Swan was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority and the O. U. Symphony Orchestra.

Pilot for Secretary Knox

Pilot of the bomber in which Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox flew to Honolulu to survey damages of the Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbor was Allen Waggoner, '36ba, formerly of Oklahoma City.

Pilot Waggoner received his wings in 1938 at Pensacola, Florida, and has been on duty with a patrol squadron aboard a Navy aircraft carrier.



ENTERTAINS SOLDIERS
Helen Swan, '40fa, member of girls
orchestra on tour of army camps

Rescue at Sea

Ensign Med Cashion, Jr., '38eng, naval aviator from Oklahoma City, was credited with playing a large part in the recent rescue of any army pilot who parachuted into the Pacific off the California coast after his plane developed motor trouble.

The army pilot, Lt. A. D. Johnson, was pulled out of the ocean by two men in an outboard motor boat. Ensign Cashion spotted the motor boat while on coastal patrol duty and flew the pilot to a government hospital.

Until last September, Cashion was stationed at Honolulu. Transfer back to the United States caused him to miss the first Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor by less than three months.

Defense Course Instructors

Nine University alumni and students are instructors for special defense courses being given in Oklahoma City under University sponsorship.

These classes, which offer training in engineering, science and defense management, are held in the evening. Supervisor is R. V. James, O. U. engineering professor, who is institutional representative working under direction of the U. S. Commissioner of Education.

Special defense course instructors in Oklahoma City are Wyman H. Meigs, '31ba, '34ms, Guy H. Parkhurst, '27ba, '34ms, '35ma; John Simonson, '30eng; E. M. Craighead, now enrolled in graduate work at the University; Charles Harp, '38ms; Paul H. Horton, '35bs; M. A. Witte, '38eng; C. E. Herring, '24ma, and Albert Tillotson, '29ms.

Classes are held in Oklahoma City schools, at the Oklahoma Testing Laboratories and at Will Rogers Air Base.

Father of Alumni Passes Away

Judge James R. Tolbert, Hobart attorney who fulfilled his ambition to send all five of his children through the University of Oklahoma, passed away in January.

The sons and daughters, who hold a total of seven degrees from O. U., are James R. "Bon" Tolbert, Jr., '24law, Miles G. Tolbert, '21ba, '23law, and Raymond A. Tolbert, '12ba, '13law, all three of whom are Oklahoma City attorneys; Mrs. W. A. Fowler (Virginia Tolbert, '14ba), of Norman, and Ruth Ann Tolbert, teacher in the high school at Amarillo, Texas.

Post-War Planning

Jack Fischer, '32ba, chief of information for the Farm Security Administration, Washington, D. C., for several years, has been appointed to an important Department of Agriculture post-defense planning committee.

Mr. Fischer, as vice chairman, and other members of the committee are working through state and county agricultural organizations and colleges to help prevent an agricultural depression and economic slump after the present war.

By the middle of next year, one-third of the nation will be engaged in some kind of defense work, twice as many as at the peak in World War I, Mr. Fischer says. Purpose of his planning group is to lay the groundwork now for a shock absorber to function when defense activity is cut and farm population changes accordingly.

A former Sooner newspaperman, Mr. Fischer has worked on the *Daily Oklahoman*, has been foreign correspondent for *United Press* in London and Germany, and a member of the Senate staff of *Associated Press* in Washington, D. C.

Screen Contract

As a result of his audience popularity when he appeared on the Fred Allen radio program, and a subsequent screen test, Jack Wilson, '39bus, law senior, has signed an option with Twentieth Century-Fox studios in Hollywood. The option permits him to finish his law course, graduate from the University and pass the bar examination.

Petroleum Conference

George P. Livermore, '31eng, and John Pierre Klep, '34eng, were speakers for the third petroleum engineering conference of the school year, which was held in January.

General subject was Drilling and Completion Problems. Mr. Livermore, whose home is in Lubbock, Texas, spoke on Drilling and Completion Problems in the Permian Basin. Mr. Klep, who is with the Sperry-Sun Well Surveying Company, Fort Worth, spoke on similar problems in the Gulf Coast area.