

Clearing the Desk

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE DUE TO COPYRIGHT
RESTRICTIONS.

A paper copy of this issue is available at call number LH 1 .06S6 in Bizzell Memorial Library.

NO MATTER how high the problems and headaches stack up on the desk in Room 126 Union Building, it is always a bright spot in the day when your editor opens the letters that flow into this office from O. U. men in the service in all parts of the world. The same mail one day brought one letter from North Africa and another from the Fiji Islands. Most of the letters contain a wisecrack or two, the old "rock 'em and sock 'em" Sooner spirit, and a brief sentence or two telling that they are interested in hearing about O. U. and their Sooner friends.

THAT LETTER from the Fiji Islands didn't say where it was from, but the writer did say that Mike Monroney and certain other men with a special interest in the house at Boyd and DeBarr in Norman would fit right into the picture there, and that Mrs. Aultman ought to be present to act as hostess. Since the general area mentioned in the letter was the South Pacific, you can draw your own conclusions.

CAPT. W. R. CLARKE, '36eng, who has used the dates of three years—1941, 1942 and 1943—since he was sent to the South Pacific, writes that it is a small world and that hardly a day goes by but that he meets a fellow Oklahoman in Australia. He indicates that he will be perfectly happy to come back to the United States when the time comes, but meanwhile he likes the Australians. "Talk about Southern hospitality all you can, and that will also apply to these fine people over here. They have their ups and downs and don't have all we have in the States but certainly do wonders with what they have."

FROM NORTH AFRICA comes a note from Major Earl Sneed, Jr., '34ba, '37law, who reports that he and Lt. Tom C. Smith, Jr., '40-'41, read *Sooner Magazine* together, and that he recently saw Lt. Donald Hickman, '37law, Capt. Samuel T. Coleman, '38law, and Fred Newton, '34eng, '34ba.

ACCORDING TO the general tone of a letter from Sgt. John Darendinger, '39-'41, whose current address when he wrote was the Libyan Desert, the morale of American troops in North Africa is highly satisfactory. "We're out here givin' 'em hell and enjoying it," he reports. He adds that he has not been fortunate to meet any Sooners in Libya or

Egypt but that "I do a good job in some arguments holding up for the old school."

ONE REASON for that good morale is possibly the food. Lt. Col. R. H. Parham, '33bus, who used to be employed by the United Press before the war, reports that he had two Christmas dinners by virtue of visiting two different post on Christmas day, one of which had dinner at noon and the other in the evening. He had a fine steak at one dinner and broiled chicken at the other, with appropriate trimmings.

ENSIGN JIM HANING, '36ba, '39law, who used to practice law in Ada and work as a member of the O. U. Advisory Council for Pontotoc County, writes from District Naval Headquarters at New Orleans that he is running into many Oklahomans there—"such as Judge Knox Byrum, Ed Vaught, Jr., R. E. Swan, J. H. Holley, Harold Shoemake, and many others." Jim writes that he is convinced "if it weren't for Oklahoma and Texas I don't believe you could run this war. Wherever you go there are many men from Oklahoma and Texas in the service."

FROM NORTHERN IRELAND Capt. John W. Amend, '35bus, comments that "any news from Oklahoma is certainly appreciated over here."

SOONERS IN INDIA please note that Mary Frances Hunter, '41phys.ed, has arrived in India in connection with her duties for the American Red Cross. She is said to be the first Oklahoma girl sent overseas by the Red Cross in connection with a recreation program for the armed forces.

WHEN THE 77th Congress adjourned in December, Wilburn Cartwright, ended a long and constructive period of service in the national assembly. He was first elected to Congress in 1926 and served continuously for 16 years. He served on the Committees of War Claims, Elections, World War Veterans' Legislation, Irrigation and Reclamation, Indian Affairs, Insular Affairs and Roads. For the last eight years he was chairman of the House Committee on Roads. The *Washington Post* commented that "Wilburn Cartwright of Oklahoma grabbed off the honors when retiring House members were being toasted the day Congress adjourned... No less than 17 colleagues, including five Republicans, delivered speeches paying tribute to the popular Oklahoman." —R.C.