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# Clearing the Desk

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TO THE many readers of this magazine who took time to write a note of appreciation for the special February issue containing the list of Sooners in the armed forces, we want to extend our thanks for your thoughtfulness. Your editor also wants to make it clear that about 99 percent of the credit for making the service list so complete and so accurate (as accurate as it could be in such a rapidly changing situation) goes to the managing editor, Edith Walker, '41journ, and the assistant editor, Elaine Larecy, '42journ. We want to thank, also, the readers who were kind enough to send us information about omissions and out-of-date information they detected in the service list.

INCIDENTALLY, there was such a tremendous demand for the February issue that 300 extra copies were soon exhausted, and it was necessary to print 500 more copies of the service list to give to new subscribers who asked for the list. Paid membership in your alumni association is now at the highest point in history.

WE HASTEN to assure everyone that the connection between the business of the Alumni Association and the state Pardon and Parole Board is more apparent than real. The explanation is that Elmer Fraker, '20ba, '38ma, of Mangum, is president of the Alumni Association and also a member of the Pardon and Parole Board. It's about 150 miles from Mangum to Norman or Oklahoma City and one doesn't make a trip like that lightly in these days of gasoline rationing. So you frequently will find conferences of alumni officials being held on the same dates as meetings of the pardon and parole board!

IN WRITING to the public relations officers of various camps, forts and posts for pictures and information about alumni stationed there, the magazine staff isn't too surprised to get a reply from some O.U. alumnus. A request addressed to the public relations office at Fort Sill the other day brought a reply from Pvt. Lou Gelfand, '42, who a year ago was reporting campus news. A letter to a P.R.O. at a camp in the South brought a reply from Harold Dexter, '40journ, who incidentally enclosed with his letter a check for a membership-subscription. Inquiries sent to the public relations officer at Pendleton, Field, Oregon, will go to the desk of Capt. T. M. Beard, '21ba, your own alumni executive

secretary on leave of absence. Captain Beard recently was appointed public relations officer there in addition to other duties.

THE LETTERS we receive are a good indication that Sooner spirit is thriving in all parts of the world now, but it remained for Lt. Col. James E. Ensey, of the Army Medical Corps, to describe it in expressive terms: "The Sooner spirit carries on in this army and whenever and wherever two Sooners meet, there lives and reunites the spirit and traditions of Soonerland."

AN ARMY WIFE who has been reading about the exploits of the O.U. men in the armed forces says that she thinks we ought to pay a little tribute now and then to "Mrs. Sooner." This correspondent writes: "Here's to Mrs. Sooner! She has given up her home and is trying to bring up the future little Sooners in garage apartments at \$75 per, or the lonely one waiting at home until her soldier returns to his family. The spirit of the pioneer woman still prevails."

HOMER HECK, '35, who used to direct the University radio station before accepting a top-flight position as radio production director for NBC network in Chicago, sends a newspaper clipping from a Chicago paper which indicates that Oklahoma is outgrowing the "Okie" reputation given it by John Steinbeck. Says this newspaper editorial from the windy city:

#### STILL 'SOONERS'

A Nazi newspaper is printing Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" as a serial. The idea is that it is good propaganda against the American "plutocracy."

Turn about is fair play, even in war, so we are not protesting, and our own stage reeked with morbid plays about Germany before 1914. But by way of a footnote for the Nazis, and for Mr. Steinbeck, too, we would like to call attention to the fact that of 11 American aviators cited as "aces" by General MacArthur's headquarters, four are natives of Oklahoma, that blighted land from which came Steinbeck's "Okies."

Before the Los Angeles Babbitts coined the word "Okie," they called them "Sooners." The general idea of a "Sooner" is a fellow who beats the gun, and the Japs must think so, too.

ONE PIECE of unfinished business to end the "Okie" tradition is the discovery of some way to stop the thousands of sailors stationed in central Oklahoma from referring to Oklahoma City as "Okie City." That custom has become so universal that it appears to be established at least for the duration. —R. C.

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