

Letters to the Editor

Sooners, Sooners Everywhere

Thought you might be interested in what a small world it is for the Sooners. After traveling some seven thousand miles I find myself face to face and in the same battalion with one Maj. F. W. Akright, class of '34, and one Capt. T. W. (Pappy) Darnall, class of '35.

Needless to say we hold the Sooner colors high around here, in fact almost fail to recognize the existence of any other state in the Union. Of course we do have a bit of sporadic difficulty with Texans, but they are outnumbered, and don't count anyway.

Personally, I think the alumni office is doing a grand wartime job. I am sure it is appreciated by all of us Sooners who are on the fighting fronts. More power to you.

Sincerely,

E. F. Stephens, Jr., '31
Captain, Field Artillery
APO San Francisco

Over here Oklahoma acquaintances become old friends in no longer time than it takes for both to recognize the other as an Oklahoman. There are a lot of Oklahoma men on this side of the world and all of them are making a record the state will be proud of.

On the 22nd of this month I will have been overseas 19 months. I have been here long enough to vote, but no elections are held where I am at the present. Wish I could return to Oklahoma where I could "exercise my franchise" otherwise I am going to forget how. Think I will write Uncle Sam in about a fortnight (two weeks to you) and apply for foreign service with first preference in the good old United States.

Keep up the good work on the *Sooner*. You are doing a good job and we in the far corners of the earth on both sides of the equator appreciate reading it.

Bryan R. Rakestraw, '39law
Major, Army Air Forces
Southwest Pacific

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Fair Umbrella, Too

I've been receiving my alumni magazine regularly over here. I highly appreciate the benefit it affords us in keeping us in touch with friends and acquaintances of our school experience.

However, to me that is not the greatest good this magazine provides. It is the very best coffee pot cover we got!

Yours truly,

Vincent Shea, '40ba
Sergeant, Army Air Forces
North Africa

P. S. Sgt. Dan Knight, '34-'38, and Sgt. John B. Logan, '32law, of this theater for your list of Sooners.

Achievement

.... At the Air Corps officers mess last night I discovered I was sitting next to two Sooners, Lt. Dooley Mallory, '36-'37, and A. Byron Potter, '40bus, a U.S.E.D. employee.

So we started singing Boomer Sooner, and eventually were joined by two more, Lt. G. A. Boatwright, '33, and Lt. L. E. Rush, '38.

It was quite an evening. At one time we were even able to drown out "The Eyes of Texas."

With best regards,
Arnold Court, '34ba
Lieutenant, Army Air Force
APO Seattle

One for All

Your news letter of 15 October reached me today—somewhere in the Southwest Pacific area.

Since joining the Air Corps I have certainly had some valuable experience and have seen a lot of territory.

I deeply appreciate reading the accounts of O. U. men in the service as published in the *Sooner*. I read the May issue while flying over the rugged Owen Stanley Range which is surpassed in its ruggedness only by its height of about 14,000 feet.

I have today seen Maj. Ellis E. Brown, a squadron commander who graduated from the Engine School at O. U. in '39. We were both glad to see each other. Even the lawyers and engineers get along on this side of the world. Yesterday I met Neil Schedler, a war correspondent for U.P. who lives at Stillwater and is an Aggie. We forgot our former Aggie-O. U. feud and immediately became old friends of long standing.

Gets Bird's-eye View

The latest news from me follows. I have just completed a year of overseas duty, having made the landings with U.S. troops in French Morocco, Africa, on November 8, 1942.... I was promoted to captain on February 23, 1943, and became the father of a bouncing baby girl named Carol Ann on February 17, 1943, weight 10 pounds, 12 ounces.

I am in the process of making a sight-seeing tour of the island (Sicily) in a captured Italian airplane. There is much of interest here from a historical standpoint. I have also traveled quite a bit about this part of the world with the Air Transport boys, getting my flying time.

I am flight surgeon for a red-hot fighter squadron with quite a combat record.

Sincerely,

Sam T. Moore, '38med
Captain, Medical Corps
Somewhere in Sicily

Out of the Blue

Enclosed is a check for \$2 for a year's subscription to the *Sooner*. I've been getting my copies regularly, if a little late.

I'm now in the Paratroops and made the Sicilian invasion. Quite a thrill dropping in by air. My brother, Captain Carl Thain, '37-'41, is in the same battalion. Also Capt. John T. Cooper, '36ba. I've seen one other Sooner here, Lt. Tom Shockley, '36-'39, also in the Paratroops.

It's really great to receive the *Sooner* and know where everybody is. Good luck.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Thain, '42ba
Lieutenant, Paratroops
Sicily

Season's Greetings

Have wanted to write before, but it's difficult at times to take time out when you want to. Have never told you how I enjoy the *Sooner*. It brings back memories of the "good old days" when Peace was in power. Sincerely hope and pray that those days will come again in the not too distant future.

This will be the second Christmas in 22 months "over here." Best wishes to all Sooner alumni at home and abroad for a happy Christmas season.

Roy Bailey, '36-'38
Sergeant, Signal Corps
Somewhere in Italy