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# Clearing the Desk

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HOW MANY readers have heard the title song from the popular musical show *Oklahoma!*? Aviation Cadet Neal J. Mosely, '43eng, writes from New Haven where he is attending an Air Force school at Yale that he believes this song would make a good school song for O. U. if permission could be secured to adopt it for that purpose. He points out that the show was adapted from a story written by an O. U. man (*Green Grow the Lilacs*, by Lynn Riggs, '23) and that the show "will do much to preserve the heritage of our own state." Anybody second the motion?

THE ALUMNI OFFICE is about ready to start a foreign exchange department. From time to time we have received, in payment for membership-subscription, a 100-lire piece of Allied Military Currency from Italy, a one-pound Australian banknote from New Guinea, a 10-shilling Bank of England note from somewhere in the European area, and two banknotes totaling 150 francs on the Banque de L'Algeria, and currency issued by the Banca d'Italia. We found them most interesting to look at, though our bookkeeping department is beginning to get jittery every time a letter comes in with an overseas postmark. P. S. to men overseas: except for British and Australian currency, the foreign money seems to have no value in Norman.

A LETTER received in Norman from Major Frank R. Reese, '34-'36, soon after he landed in Italy related a weird incident. About the third day after Major Reese arrived there, an officer in another regiment sent him a copy of *Sooner Magazine*. It had been taken from a dead German. "Good delivery service; only about a month old," Major Reese commented. "The Jerry had no doubt taken it from an American PW casualty."

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## Neighbors

I would like to renew my subscription to the *Sooner Magazine* for another year. Inclosed you will find a money order for \$2.00.

At present I am with an Ordnance Medium Maintenance company in Italy. Our trip to Italy has been by the way of England and Africa. Lt. Robert Bixler and Lt. Raymond T. Foor, both of the Class of '42, are neighbors of mine, both being in the Ordnance department also.

I have been receiving the magazine quite regularly even though my location has been shifted constantly and it has been of much service and pleasure to me.

Sincerely yours,  
Stratton D. Loucks, '42eng  
Lieutenant, Ordnance  
Italy

AS THIS is written, all but about 20 of the 200 Glee Club and Choral Club Record Albums have been sold. The wide interest in this project, which was sponsored by the Alumni Association at the request of the two clubs, indicates that other albums of Sooner music might be a good idea. How many readers would like an album of three records of O. U. songs by the University Band?

IT WAS swell to have a good visit in mid-December with Maj. Ted Beaird, '21 ba, the original "Rider of the Sooner Range" who since August a year ago has been on leave of absence as alumni executive secretary to serve in the Army Air Force. He made a flying visit to Oklahoma on an Army assignment, and had approximately one million questions to ask about what's cooking on the O. U. campus. Commissioned from civilian life as a captain in the Army, he has earned his gold oak leaves the hard way by handling tough assignments for more than a year. His present spot is in the Air Service Command at Spokane, Washington.

WHEN THE Alumni Office fixed up a War Record Information Form on which to make a permanent record of the war participation of each alumnus, we thought we might as well make it really complete and include a line for "date discharged" even though it would perhaps be quite a little while before that information could be filled in on most of the forms. From time to time we send out copies of the form to men in the service, and as we look over the data that bounces back to this office, we sometimes wonder about our judgment. The great majority of men who have filled in the form seem to feel it absolutely essential to write something on that "date discharged" blank line. Sometimes it's just "wishful thinking" or "Duration and six months" or a philosophic "Who knows?" But we're convinced of one thing. Sooners in the service, and particularly those overseas, have excellent morale and never miss a chance to make a bright remark. A few seem a little discouraged over the fact that Texans aren't willing to let Oklahomans take the major responsibility of winning the war. Texans keep barging up to win distinctions on every front, but Oklahoma is reported to be holding its own.

NEXT MONTH, if all goes well, *Sooner Magazine* again will proudly present the full list of Sooners in the service, now totaling nearly 7,000 names. This issue will be one you will want to keep.

—R.C.

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