

Riding the Sooner Range

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Ho HUM! Let's take a worldwide gallop this January 15th morn and Ride the Sooner Range to the four corners of the globe by editing down to one sentence plus a limited *few* of airmail, V-mail and other notes which have come in, in recent days, from Sooners in the various theaters of operations. Yes, these boys are doing a lot of wide galloping and—here is what they say:

LT. COL. GARRETT L. HILL, '36-'39, Norman (Belgium), says: "Glad to see you back in the old seat. I ran into JOHN A. GETTY, '38eng, Kaw City, the other day. He's a real field soldier. Haven't any news worth publishing—although there is one little thing—you haven't lived until you see one of those damned 'Buzz Bombs.'"

CAPT. WALTER FEAGIN HOOD, '29ba, Norman and Oklahoma City (Belgium), writes: "You should see my 'Gopher Hole' with all the comforts of home (that makes me laugh). Even running water, in fact the water runs all of the time. You will have to pardon this writing as I am now in the 'Gopher Hole,' and trying to write to you by flashlight so if you can't read this don't blame me."

LT. COL. H. A. VINSON, '35med, Alva (New Guinea): "I have a hard time remembering what life used to be like back there in the States. I have been overseas for two and a half years and in the jungle of New Guinea for nearly two years! After the war all I ask for is a nice quiet place where there is no jungle, no bugs and where it doesn't rain all the time."

CAPT. J. F. JOHNSON, JR., '36ba, Oklahoma City (France): "I've seen so many former Sooners in France we should start an annex to the University here. Is Oklahoma the only state in this war? Just wondered, that's all! Please excuse this paper, but it's all I have. It happens to have come from a captured Hun warehouse. We utilize their equipment to the fullest advantage."

CAPT. ROBERT B. AUSTIN, '41geol, Kansas City, Missouri (France): "There's not much news from here you don't get from the papers, but tell the girls not to worry about the pictures of Paris. All's not gold that glitters."

COL. LAURENCE H. (TEX) CARUTHERS, '34-'36, Norman (Netherlands, East Indies): "I have had the pleasure of meeting several of my old students at O. U. since I have been out here. Most of them are majors or lieutenant colonels. All of them are making good, which pleases me no end and confirms my belief that O. U. had one of the best R.O.T.C. units in the country."

CAPT. CHARLES H. LARSON, '42ed, Norman (Germany): "I can report that my division (102nd) is a part of the fine Ninth Army and that we are really giving 'Jerry' one terrific plating. Then, too, you can imagine my chagrin, two of my lieutenants are Texas A. and M. boys. I must admit they are pretty fine boys even with that handicap. I guess they got as close to O. U. as they could."

CAPT. CHARLES P. GOTWALS, JR., '38ba, '40law, Muskogee (France): "Since coming to France over four months ago we've been keeping our collective nose to the grindstone—and it's getting somewhat boring. Saw CAPT. BILL STUBBS, '41law, Tulsa, the other day—he came in (a fightin' man) to take a shower in our sumptuous quarters. MAJ. HESS CROSSLAND of Tulsa was through the other day and said he had seen some of my other Tulsa attorney friends

—MAJ. SAM CLAMMER, MAJ. HAROLD STUART, and LT. COL. FELIX BODOVITZ, '21ba, Ardmore, in Paris recently."

CAPT. W. H. FREELAND, 60th General Hospital, '38fa, Norman and Dallas (New Guinea): "The other day BETTY EDGINGTON, '38bus, Ponca City, was by to see me and you can well imagine our conversation. It was impossible for me to keep up with her for I don't see any old grads here in the hospital, fortunately. The life in a hospital is about as interesting as a class in math."

LT. J. F. MALONE, '37ba, Oklahoma City and Norman (Philippines): "It is good news to hear that you are back in the saddle again and Ridin' the Range once more. I'm ready to get it over with and get home to see wee Peggy Malone. Louise says she looks like me, but my Dad thinks maybe she will outgrow it."

CAPT. I. FRANK HAXEL, '32, Purcell and Drumright (India): "Have never tasted a cucumber pickle since I have left the states for they don't have such over here. There is one coffee shop in town where they make coffee like we are used to and believe me, it is continually swamped by American soldiers."

LT. COL. JACK A. CLARK, '34ba, Muskogee (France): "I ran into a Red Cross Clubmobile the other day named Oklahoma City. Whoops! By Jesus, I cried. They've sent me transportation to get home. And lo and behold there wasn't an Oklahoma gal amongst the two of them. They were both Damn Yankees from up in Massachusetts or some other foreign country. Can't you people do something about manning these vehicles with Oklahoma gals?"

LT. VICTOR W. JOHNSON, JR., '39bus, Pueblo, Colorado (Italy): "Life during this past year in Italy has been uneventful. Never a dull moment, however. Living on the Anzio beach-head was not conducive for growing old."

LT. GEORGE L. COFFEY, '39-'42, Norman (France): "I'm flying a P-38 doing reconnaissance work for the invasion armies. We have occasional brushes with the Luftwaffe. Don't pay any attention to that propaganda there is no German air force left—cause there sure is! Wonder what O. U. will look like after the war—hope it's as lively as it was before the war."

CAPT. BILL BLACK, '42, Oklahoma City (England): "Just a little news from here—FLIGHT OFFICER EDGAR G. THEUS, '34ba, '36law, Oklahoma City, has just been awarded the Air Medal along with F/O J. P. SMITH, '38-'42, Chelsea, 2ND LT. JONATHAN E. SHARP, '39-'42, Carthage, Missouri, F/O JACK LESTER. They wear two battle stars and a cluster, and we all got a Presidential Citation for outstanding performance on D1, 2 and 3 and for our work in Italy."

"You see, the boys from the University of Oklahoma who fly are doing their part, especially my boys. You see we are the work horses of the air and nothing stops us. Our ships are unarmed and unescorted when they visit the enemy. It takes a lot of stuff to do what they have been doing and the Okies have it. No matter how they feel, and I know they all are scared to death, but they always deliver the goods. Don't hold it against me for blowing my horn a bit, but I like to let the people back home know what a fine job their kids are doing."

Impossible to continue as we are nearing the zero space line. There are literally hundreds of these notes and letters—all masterpieces. Shall we in future weeks continue to bring these boys back home to you via the written page in this Riding of the Sooner Range?