

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

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ALL TRAILS have been open in this Riding of the Sooner Range these past 30 days and nights! Club charters have been rollin' off the press at Headquarters, being properly signed and sealed, and rushed away via air mail to their destination to the assembled Sooner groups. The alumni in Panama Canal Zone (headed by LT. (Navy) HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma, on leave of absence from his civilian duties as director of the University Extension Division) met, organized, became O. U. Club No. 15 as of January 15, 1945. Dozens of new and many not so new "clubbed in" at the Canal Zone fracas. Nearer home (at the Alumni Headquarters) LEN LOGAN, '14ba, (on leave of absence from O. U. and the "Planner of Planners" on the State Planning Board) worked with us on "revitalizing" the Cleveland County (and Norman) O. U. Alumni Club. Len (plus dozens of others) hopes to get the ball rollin' for the new Charter along about March 14 and thereby change from the old County Advisory Council to a new chartered functioning organization.

Hundreds of new annual memberships in the Association have rolled in during the month of February from as many points throughout the world. Saturday morning, February 10, 1945, proved the "breaking point" and the establishing of the all-time record of new annual memberships paid for in the Association in any one mail. (Indeed, there have been quite a few incoming mail bags since June 1, 1898—47 years ago, when the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association was born!) In that morning's mail, plus callers at the executive office who paid for new annual memberships, a total of 169 new Sooner names went on the roster in the active membership records. Dozens of these were men and women of the armed forces scattered to remote sections of the world, in the various theaters of operation. Yes, they realize as never before that SOONER MAGAZINE and the news letter service to O. U. alumni, thousands of miles from these United States and participating in a strange and an unusual activity—mean the equal of 50 letters from home each 30 days! And—letters from home are the lifesavers and morale builders to those multiplied thousands!

Yes, the more than 10,000 Sooners recorded on our addressograph system as "O. U. Alumni Serving in the Armed Forces"—continue to ride their own Ranges! Hundreds supply letters to your Association each month. Today, in one mail delivery letters were received from LT. COL. HAL MULDROW, '28bus, Norman, European Theater; CAPT. BOYD GUNNING, '37ba, '37law, and LT. J. F. MALONE, '37ba, O. U. staff members, both in the Philippines; LT. (Marine) THURMAN WHITE, '41ms, O. U. staff member, Southwest Pacific; LT. (Navy) HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma, O. U. staff member, Canal Zone; LT. BOB COCANOWER, '37-'42, Oklahoma City, Italy; C. W. O. JOHNNY HILL, Fort Worth, Saipan. All these plus 11 others, asking for and receiving service from your Association—So—let's again edit down to a sentence, a few of the letters from the boys and try, as best we can, to visualize how, where, and under what conditions they find themselves in this far flung series of battles!

CAPT. ROBERT E. KENT, '38-'42, Oklahoma City (Dutch East Indies): "The Division I am in is fairly reeking with Oklahomans. Most of those I've run into are officers, though I've hit a few enlisted men. In our Bn are CAPT. JOHN SPRADLING, '41ba, Oklahoma City, and

myself from O. U. and several Oklahomans who weren't so fortunate to attend classes in the South Part of Norman. Also from O. U. are CAPT. JOHN McNAUGHTON, '37ba, Miami, and LT. NORMAN REYNOLDS, '41ba, Oklahoma City. There are several others scattered around but we are enough to let the Florida Crackers (who form the nucleus of the outfit) know that we are not to be forgotten."

LT. JAMES H. DAVIS, JR., '42geol, Mountain View (Iran): "I have contacted three other Sooners here in Iran in the last few months. They are LT. DOMER DOUGHERTY, '42eng, Oklahoma City, now in the Signal Corps, MAJ. THOMAS WALSH, '36, Fort Reno, and CAPTAIN CHAPPEL. Well, this Sooner has some news for a change. I am now one of those much talked about 'Shave Tails.' I received a spot commission in the field the 10th of October."

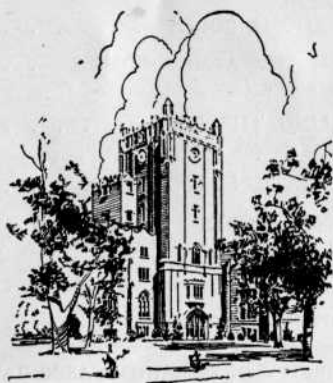
LT. HERBERT O. PARSONS, '36-'37, Oklahoma City (Germany): "MAJ. MARION A. FOREMAN, '34ed, Winfield, Kansas, and I have been watching every mail for a SOONER MAGAZINE. This Battalion is making a good record for itself. So far, we have shot more ammunition than any other battalion in the Division. We have given 'Jerry' a lot of headaches to put it mildly. You have probably already heard about the weather in Germany. Everything you have heard is true."

CAPT. REGINALD S. WILLIAMS, '31ba, '32ma, '42law, Kansas City, Missouri (England): "Here's a believe it or not. The first package of cigarets I saw here had on the label a red and white sticker reading: 'Compliments of the alumni and football fans of the University of Oklahoma!' I asked the chap who had it to let me tear off that sticker. I am carrying it with me."

MAJ. MAC Q. WILLIAMSON, '10, Oklahoma City (France): "What we're deep in the heart of is not Texas—no newspapers, no trains or busses, no electric lights (to speak of) no radio (to speak of) and 13 out of the past 14 days have been rainy ones; so this letter coming to 'Sunny France' helped break the ice of 'no mail'—to speak of. I do most seriously want to congratulate you on its newsworthy contents. You might be interested in knowing that we have here at present (besides the writer) MAJ. (and former State Senator) JOE B. THOMPSON, '27ba, '27law, Ardmore, CAPT. GENE BUMPAS, '40-'41, Ardmore, and PFC. BOB DAVIS (R. L.), '41-'43, Muskogee, who formerly roomed with BILLY HOLLOWAY, '41-'43, at O. U. These Oklahoma 'delegates' are taking their work very seriously and are stacking right up rather well as fit representatives of O. U."

LT. COL. JAMES E. ENSEY, '28med (France) "Welcome back to the Sooner Alumni Range. We have missed your regular line of chatter, and know you will bring back to the campus there renewed interest of every Sooner now in service. Renewed activity on this front precludes any social life, or occasion to visit the many 'Okies' now in this theater. The following Sooners are with us here: MAJ. ROBERT W. DUNCAN, '34med, Oklahoma City; CAPT. ESTEL B. MCCOLLUM, '29med, Waynoka; IST LT. JACK F. FLOOD, '36, PVT. HERBERT L. OWEN, '42pharm, Oklahoma City, and yours truly, LT. COL. JAMES E. ENSEY, 28th U. S. Army Field Hospital, Commanding."

Those quotes above are a mere few from hundreds of messages BUT enough to cause all of us to realize that Riding the Sooner Range will not be smooth *until* they are safe at home again.



Serving a Need for Alumni

University alumni visiting the campus will find the Oklahoma Memorial Union a convenient place to have meals. The Cafeteria serves breakfast, luncheon and dinner six days a week.

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