

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

MARCH 20, 1945 and the curtain "unfolds" at 1420 o'clock on that B-29 Captain—the Captain of the United States Army Air Forces that we have carried on World War II Memorial Plaque—name standing out in letters of gold with the inscription "Capt. Howard Ray Jarrell, Jr., '40, missing in action in B-29 flight over Manchuria."

But there he stands, smiling, military, alert and erect, in the door of the O. U. Alumni Headquarters Office! Swiftly I make a pass for the G. I. specs—

And—when upon departure he said, "Gosh, Ted, it's grand to be an American! I'm off for Miami Beach and reassignment. Off for Miami Beach with my wife, where for two weeks we expect to spend our delayed honeymoon—and where I expect to grow acquainted with my two-year-old daughter whom I have not been able to know or once see before!" The curtain closed! He went forward with the stride of a soldier—off to Miami. O, that 326 other names in gold on that memorial plaque there could be *so removed!*

Ten minutes later in the delivery of the "pro-

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE DUE TO COPYRIGHT
RESTRICTIONS.

A paper copy of this issue is available at call number LH 1 .06S6 in Bizzell Memorial Library.

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION
OKLAHOMA MEMORIAL UNION BUILDING
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA



Hq. 17th Airborne
Division
APO 452, 8 PM,
New York, NY

Maj. R.A. Norton - 0546562
Det. CIDI, Co. F, ECA
Bert. APO 658, 4 PM
New York, N.Y.



*Hy 17th Airborne
Div - APO 452*

Dear Ted:

Received your Dec 25th letter and enjoyed it very much. Its most interesting to be able to read about other sooners and to learn where they are and what they are doing. Your research for facts and

figures is indicative of ~~your tireless efforts~~, and I for one sincerely appreciate them.

No actually there isn't a paper shortage here, but thought I'd drop you a note on this beat-up letter in order to call your attention to a change of address for future reference.

For your information I am now the Chief Military Government Officer of this division and we are finding our work most interesting. Right at the moment we are sort of resting - licking our wounds so to speak, from our recent engagement with the enemy in the Bulge Battle - and are enjoying the luxury of good french cooking and a clean bed with real white sheets on it - I'm enjoying it thoroughly.

Have run across many sooners over here and in England. Its always good to reminisce a bit about dear old OU and what used to cook there in the good old days - about the campus - the Engine school - the law ~~school~~ - oh yes the gals - God bless them - the frats and the ~~some of the~~ stuff.

Good luck to you and keep it up!

Richard A. Norton
RICHARD A. NORTON
Major CE

LOTS OF MILEAGE ON THIS ENVELOPE

The above Alumni Office envelope, after two trips across the Atlantic, arrived recently in the Range Rider's stack of mail from O. U. servicemen. The much-traveled envelope went out last fall to Maj. Richard A. Norton, '29eng, serving as a military government officer in the heart of Europe, with a letter from the Range Rider and news of the University. Major Norton ingeniously made a piece of stationery out of the envelope and shipped it back with a note and change of address.

grope for more vision as it is impossible to believe my own eyes; when with snap and precision he exclaims, "Take the name plate off the plaque, Ted—Here I am in person and very much alive!" What a pleasant hour—an hour helping him plan for the future, an hour in checking and rechecking the G. I. Bill of Rights—an hour helping that fine young American officer realize he was back—back on old familiar boyhood grounds, back under the quiet and calm of American life—back to relive those memories of University days—of that age when he and others of us little dreamed of the dark hours ahead!

verbal stack" of overseas mail, another curtain unfolds! What Ranges these lads, (and some who are not so near lads), have ridden outside the confines of the Sooner Range! Maj. Richard A. Norton, '29eng, from over on the other side of the world, has dropped your Range Rider a unique note.

Since it represents the life in which thousands upon thousands of other Sooners are "existing" on the opposite side of the world, we quote it because of its significant trend and its unique mailing. Thus, hour by hour the curtain unfolds and these boys record the Riding of *their Ranges!*