



# With the Armed Forces



► Among former Sooners attending Shrivvenham American University are Tech. Sgt. James A. McMillan, Jr., '40, Oklahoma City, and M. B. Woolsey, '41, Oklahoma City. Sergeant McMillan is studying horticulture, plant ecology and philosophy of science. Private Woolsey is studying accounting, statistics and money and banking.

► Capt. D. G. Willard, United States Naval Reserve, '29med, Norman, received his promotion to his present rank at the Naval Air Base in Pensacola, Florida, recently. After passing a course of instruction in aviation medicine and receiving his wings in flight surgery, he was designated a flight surgeon.

Captain Willard served overseas in the Southwest Pacific for more than a year. At the present he is assigned to the Naval aviation base at Pensacola.

## Decorations

First Lt. William K. Garms, '37-'42, Norman, was awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroism not in action against the enemy.

► Lt. Col. J. S. Oldfield, '35bus, Oklahoma City, earned the Silver Star on Iwo Jima during the first night of battle fury.

► Capt. William H. Klein, '42eng, Oklahoma City, has been awarded the Bronze Star for service in France, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany.

► Capt. William L. Boosa, '34eng, Oklahoma City, a supply officer stationed in Germany, recently was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

► Capt. William F. Collins, '40-'42, has earned the Silver Star on Okinawa at Kakazu Ridge. He also holds the Purple Heart.

► Capt. Colonel H. Nelson, '39journ, Okmulgee, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his achievements during 165 days of combat on Luzon.

► Col. George L. Beatty, '29med, Okeene, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in Hollandia for the care of the sick and wounded from various combat units in Hollandia.

► Lt. Col. Walter O. Beets, '28-'31, Comanche, commanding officer of the 60th Field Artillery battalion, has been awarded the Silver Star for distinguished service at Hamback, Germany.

► Maj. Meredith E. Allen, '37bs, '37law, Pond Creek, has received the Army's Bronze Star. He has served seven months overseas.

► Capt. Bruce H. Beesley, '34ba, Tulsa, has been awarded the Bronze Star for achievements in Australia.

► Sgt. James B. Capps, '43-'44, Oklahoma City, has been awarded the Air Medal in the Far East Air Forces for operational missions in the Southwest Pacific area.

► Capt. John Kayser, '38journ, Chickasha, was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously for service on the German line. Captain Kayser was buried at Limey, France.

► For valor in action on Bataan during the early part of the war, Lt. Col. Ralph W. Hubbard, '32med, Oklahoma City physician, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Colonel Hubbard was a Japanese prisoner of war for many months and only last spring was liberated.

► Lt. Guy E. Elliott, '39bus, Blanchard, has been awarded the Navy unit commendation for service in the evacuation of wounded from Okinawa enemy fire.

► Maj. Fred W. Dunlevy, '35ba, '37law, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal in the India-Burma theater. Major Dunlevy, who has since returned to the States, was a member of the military observation group.

► Capt. James K. Kerr, '40-'41, Muskogee, earned the Air Medal and the DFC while stationed in the China-Burma-India theater of operations. He recently returned from there after 18 months of service.

► Lt. Col. William A. Lucas, '36ba, Tuttle, has been awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French government. A veteran of Tunisia, Sicily, Nor-



*Returning from the various theaters of operation, Lt. Comdr. Herbert H. Scott of the USN, seated, takes over his desk and the tabulated reports of activities of the University Extension Division as they unfolded during his tour of duty in the Panama Canal Zone at the outlet operational naval station. Comdr. Scott was on special military leave from his duties as director of the Extension Division more than three years. Capt. R. Boyd Gunning, assistant director of the Extension Division reports back to his civilian duties from his long tour of duty with the U. S. Army in the South Pacific. Capt. Gunning returns to his civilian duties from his command post in the Philippine Islands. The third member of the Extension Division staff, Lt. Harold Tacker, USN, reports back at the time of Scott and Gunning after serving with distinction as a photographic specialist in the Aleutians and various combat posts over the Pacific. Tacker received special commendation and citation for the motion picture recordings of the Aleutian campaign. He reports back to his civilian duties on the University campus as the director of University photographic service.*

mandy, northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland and central Europe, he has also received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

► Lt. Everett S. Palmer, '39-'43, was recently awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in Belgium and Germany.

► Maj. Charles W. Himes, '38arch, has been awarded the Bronze Star for insuring the flying safety of more than 1,000 combat planes in England.

## Killed in Action

Capt. Denver B. Davison, '36-'41, Ada, has been declared dead after being listed as missing since September 28, 1944. His plane was shot down by flak south of Metz, France, after a dive bombing mission over Luneville, France.

► Second Lt. Richard Mann, '36-'38, Cairo, Illinois, was lost aboard a Japanese prison ship during the torpedoing by an American submarine. He was a prisoner of war in the Philippines from March, 1942, until September, 1944.

► Second Lt. Edward Lee Roark, Jr., '42-'43, Tulsa, was killed in the crash of an observation plane near Clark Field, Manila, November 6. Lieutenant Roark had been overseas since July and was co-pilot on a B-24 based at Clark Field.

► Capt. John W. Kayser, '38journ, Chickasha, was pursuing three German soldiers the last time he was seen alive. He was killed in action near Metz, France, while serving with the 95th Division Field Artillery, and has been awarded the Bronze Star posthumously.

► First Lt. Everett P. Brown, '42bus, Oklahoma City, who has been missing in action since March,

1944, is now presumed to be dead. He was believed to have been shot down while returning from a bombing raid on Frankfurt, his twenty-fourth mission as a B-17 pilot.

► Lt. Lambert Root, '39ba, Pawhuska, was killed in an airplane accident in England.

► Lt. Joe E. Thompson, Jr., '40-'42, Cushing, was reported missing in action July 8, 1944, and was presumed dead as of July 9, 1945. Lieutenant Thompson wore the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters.

## Army Chorus Director

Capt. Donald Johnston, '37ba, Oklahoma City, was the director of the 102nd Infantry Division chorus composed of 60 voices. The members of the chorus are veterans of combat and have sung in nearly 70 concerts.

The chorus was formed last June when Major General Frank Keating, commandant of the 102nd Division, heard about a chorus from the First White Russian Army. He decided there were undoubtedly some good voices among his own soldiers and so tryouts were held. Out of the 500 that showed up for these tryouts, the members of the chorus were picked. The chorus sang recently before a group of newspapermen who are covering the Nazi trials. They have been promised a date in Radio City, New York, upon their return to the States.

Capt. Johnson sang with the men's glee club at the University in 1935-36-37 and with the men's quartette in 1937.

## Back From Battlefronts

- ▶ Lt. Col. Rollin C. Boyles, '25, returned home recently after spending three years in the European theater of operations.
- ▶ Lt. Harold B. Wilson, '34eng, Oklahoma City, is home after 32 missions in enemy territory in the Pacific. Lieutenant Wilson wears the DFC, the Air Medal with three clusters, the Presidential Unit Citation and the Pacific Theater ribbon with three battle stars.
- ▶ Cpl. R. G. Gillespie, '40-'42, Holdenville, returned to the States recently from the South Pacific. He has been in the service about three years.
- ▶ Lt. Col. T. T. Beeler, '37med, Norman, has returned to the United States after Army service in Bremerhaven, Germany. He was sent to England in January, 1944, and went into Normandy the fourth day after D-Day. Colonel Beeler wears the Bronze Star, Pre-Pearl Harbor ribbon and the ETO ribbon with four battle stars.
- ▶ Lt. Col. Robert E. Rogers, Jr., '29eng, has just returned from two and a half years service in the Chinese Theater with the Chinese Combat Command. He was stationed at Kunming, Kweilin and Nanjing, China. Colonel Rogers will return to reserve status February 28.
- ▶ Ernest Hogan, seaman first class, '44, has returned from submarine duty on the *USS Diablo*. He entered the Navy in December, 1942.
- ▶ Sgt. John William Roddy, '40-'42, Oklahoma City, arrived recently in the States from the European theater of operations and was discharged from the Army. He served three years in England, France, Germany and British Guinea.
- ▶ Lt. Bradley Scheer, USNR, '41law, Norman, has returned to the States after three years duty at sea on a transport ship. He was stationed in a hospital at Long Beach, California.
- ▶ Maj. Alex Welcher, '40geol, Norman, has returned to the States after five years of service. For 23 months he was a prisoner of war in Japan.
- ▶ Col. Aubrey L. Jennings, '29med, Oklahoma City, has returned to the States after two years overseas with the Ninth Bomber Command in Europe. He wears the ETO ribbon with six battle stars, the American Defense ribbon and the Bronze Star.
- ▶ Lt. Col. Jack High, '36law, Holdenville and Oklahoma City, returned recently to the States following 38 months of service as assistant judge advocate of headquarters services and supplies in Italy. He was awarded the Bronze Star at Caserta, Italy, for work as chief of the military justice advocate's office.
- ▶ Robert Dean Conrad, pharmacist's mate second class, '41-'42, Stillwater, is back at Great Lakes, Illinois, after two years in the Pacific. He was in New Guinea and the Philippines as a member of a surgical team with amphibious forces.
- ▶ Lt. Col. Walter Lampton, '32bus, has returned to the States recently from Yokohama.
- ▶ Lt. Col. Webster Wilder, Jr., '31law, Cherokee, has returned to the United States from China after serving in China-Burma-India since August, 1943. For his service he wears Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two Bronze Stars and the Chinese Service Medal.
- ▶ Maj. Ansel P. Chellenger, '25eng, '33m.eng, Oklahoma City, returned from France recently where he has been since February, 1943. He is on leave of absence from the University where he was assistant professor of electrical engineering for five years.
- ▶ First Lt. James F. Watkins, Jr., '41-'42, Norman, has returned to the United States from the Far East Air Force. A navigator with the 13th Air Force, Lieutenant Watkins participated in 46 missions over enemy territory.
- ▶ Capt. Jack N. Smith, '41ba, has returned to the States from Luzon after two and one half years overseas. He has served in Hawaii, Guadalcanal, Bella La Vella, New Zealand and New Caledonia.
- ▶ First Lt. Lawrence Fuller, '42, Norman, returned the first of October from the European

theater of operations and at the end of his terminal leave plans to enter the University for the second semester. He was in Europe 12 months, flying an A-26 light bomber.

- ▶ Lt. Col. Nevelle E. McKinney, '40pharm, Guthrie, returned from the European theater of operations August, 1945, and is now on terminal leave from the Army. While overseas he served with the Ordnance Section of the 99th Infantry Division.
- ▶ Lt. (jg) Douglas Van Dyck, '40bs, '42law, Oklahoma City, returned recently from 18 months duty at Attu in the Aleutians.
- ▶ Sgt. G. William Van Wie, '35ba, Pauls Valley, has returned to the States after eight months' European duty with the Medical Corps.
- ▶ Lt. Frank Austin, '38ba, Granite, returned to the States recently after being released from a German prisoner of war camp.
- ▶ Capt. Paul Toma, '36-'37, Granite, has just arrived in the United States from the Pacific theater where he has served as a surgeon for 43 months.
- ▶ Capt. Kellum Toma, '31-'32, '36-'37, Granite, recently returned from overseas after one year service as a surgeon with the 15th Division in Europe. He holds the Bronze Star and Purple Heart awards.
- ▶ Capt. Edward H. Geiger, '42bs, Sapulpa, has just returned to the States from France with the 75th Infantry Division.
- ▶ Lt. Col. Wayne Starkey, '34med, returned to the United States recently from Manila.

## Injured

- ▶ Lt. Oscar B. Jacobson, '38-'40, Norman, was injured in a motorcycle accident in Manila and suffered a broken right shoulder. Once before he had broken his left shoulder in a jeep accident in New Guinea.
- ▶ Lt. William J. Monroe, '35law, Marietta, was wounded July 22, 1944, near St. Lo, France. He is now in Borden General Hospital, Chickasha.

## Lieut. C. D. Darnall Assigned Staff Duty

Lieutenant Clifton Dennis Darnall, '33ed, USNR, of Pueblo, Colorado, has reported for duty as assistant planning officer, on the staff of the Chief of Naval Air Reserve Training at command headquarters, Naval Air Station, Glenview, Illinois. The Naval Air Reserve Command has supervision over Naval Air Stations and Pre-Flight Schools located throughout the country where Naval Aviation refresher and pilot training courses are conducted.

Lieut. Darnall earned his Master's degree in Business Education from the University of Southern California in 1939. In civilian life he was the head of the commerce department at Pueblo Junior College.

Lieutenant Darnall was commissioned in the Naval Reserve in May of 1943. He took his training to become a naval aviator at WTS, Fort Worth, Texas, NAS Dallas, Texas, and NAS New Orleans, Louisiana. Upon graduation he was assigned as a primary instructor at NAS Norman. In October, 1944, he went to NAS Atlanta, Georgia, for advanced instrument training and subsequently became officer-in-charge of instrument training at NAS Norman, Oklahoma.

## Liberated

Pvt. Gareth E. Ruggles, '40ed, Oklahoma City, has been liberated from a Japanese prison camp and has returned to the States. He was reported missing at the fall of Bataan and was later listed among the prisoners in Camp No. 1 in the Philippines. Still later he was sent to the Japanese mainland.

Capt. Jack Boyer, '24ba, Chickasha, has been released from a Japanese prison camp. Captain Boyer, who was taken prisoner at Bataan and is one of the survivors of the Death March, was hospitalized in the Pacific.

## Discharged

- ▶ Maj. Kenneth M. Robinson, '38ba, '38law, Muskogee, was on terminal leave from the Army after returning from overseas duty in Europe.
- ▶ Louis Lindquist, radioman third class, '36-'38, Norman, has been discharged from the Navy.
- ▶ Maj. Harold L. Gassaway, '36law, is now on terminal leave from the Army after returning from the European theater of war. He went to Europe 18 months ago and was in the psychological warfare department of Supreme Headquarters Army Expeditionary Forces. He holds the Pre-Pearl Harbor and the European theater ribbons with three campaign stars.
- ▶ Maj. Ollie J. Blankenship, '39law, Norman, has been honorably discharged from the Army. He was operations officer and pilot in a B-24 Liberator Squadron of the 15th Air Force. He has the DFC, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Presidential Unit Citation with cluster, six battle stars, ETO ribbon, the American Defense ribbon, for South American service, and the Pre-Pearl Harbor ribbon.
- ▶ Lui J. Antonelli, '41ba, Wilburton, has been discharged from the Army after three years and four months service. He is entitled to wear the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, ETO ribbon, American Theater ribbon, Victory ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal.
- ▶ Paul Warren Reed, '16, Sulphur, reverted to inactive status in the Navy December 10. Mr. Reed served as a major on Guadalcanal and in the consolidation of the Southern Solomons. He holds the Presidential Citation.
- ▶ Lt. Robert Dawson, '42bus, Ponca City, has returned to the States and for the present plans to remain with the Navy.
- ▶ John W. Ervin, '40ba, Oklahoma City, has been discharged from the Army after serving for five years. He took part in the drive of St. Lo and was with the Third Army throughout the rest of its campaign. He holds the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.
- ▶ Milton H. Bradley, '35-'41, Oklahoma City, was discharged in November from the Army Signal Corps after two years service. He was a staff sergeant at the time of his discharge. Mr. Bradley holds five battle stars and the ETO ribbon.
- ▶ James L. Quong, '39-'40, Oklahoma City, has been discharged from the Army after five years of service. He held the rank of first lieutenant at the time of his discharge.
- ▶ First Lt. Nobel O. Frederick, '43eng, Bethany, has been discharged from the Army after 36 months of service that included a 16-month tour of duty in the China-Burma-India theater.
- ▶ Howard Parker Rice, '40m.ed, Ada, has been placed on inactive status in the Army as of December 24. Mr. Rice was a captain in the Army and holds the Bronze Star and six battle stars.
- ▶ Lt. Fred Cobb, Jr., '44, Norman, has been discharged from the Army Air Forces after two years of service.
- ▶ First Lt. Foy Rice, '40, Norman, received his discharge from the Army in December after seeing service in Normandy, Holland, Belgium and Germany. Lieutenant Rice was awarded the Bronze Arrowhead, the Bronze Star, the European ribbon and four battle stars and the Purple Heart.
- ▶ Staff Sgt. Simon B. Spradlin, Jr., '39-'41, Norman, has received his discharge from the Army Air Forces after 13 months overseas services.
- ▶ Ensign Marion Trufert Hall, '43bs, Norman, has been separated from the Navy with a reserve officer's status. His discharge became final October 23.
- ▶ Capt. Harold B. Dane, '39-'41, Oklahoma City, has received his discharge from the Army Air Forces after nearly three years service. During 11 months overseas with the Eighth Air Force, he earned the DFC and the Air Medal with four clusters.
- ▶ R. R. Burba, chief pharmacist's mate, USNR, '40pharm, was discharged from the Navy at Norman after three years in service. He served two years overseas with duty in New Guinea and the Philippines.



LT. DARNALL



► Lt. Harold R. Miller, '40-'41, has been discharged from the Army Air Forces after 52 months of service.

► Lt. William L. Hulén, '38-'40, Elgin, who wears the DFC and the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, has been discharged from the Army Air Force.

► Lt. George A. Meacham, Jr., '40-'42, Clinton, has been discharged from the Army and has resumed his studies at the University. He was awarded the DFC and the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters before getting his discharge.

► Lt. (jg) Wilson E. McCrary, '41ba, Lawton, was discharged from the Navy recently after four years' service. He wears the American Defense and ETO ribbons. His patrol squadron has Admiral and Presidential citations pending.

► F-O Jerry W. Long, '43, Bonita, Texas, has been recently discharged from the Army Air Forces.

► S/Sgt. Clark L. Boyer, '40-'42, Oklahoma City, received an honorable discharge from the Army Air Forces after serving for 32 months. His decorations include the DFC, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the European theater of operations ribbon with three battle stars.

► Lt. (jg) Panos James Demopolos, '37ba, '39law, Oklahoma City, was discharged from the Navy after six months of sea duty with the Allied Force Headquarters at Algiers.

► Capt. Samuel R. Cross, '41eng, Oklahoma City, is now on terminal leave after returning to the United States in October. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in France, Belgium and Germany.

► Lawrence H. (Larry) Robinson, '37journ, Eldorado, received his discharge from the Naval Reserve in October. He had been in the Navy since 1941 and served for 12 months aboard the *USS Converse*.

► First Lt. Johnson Miller, '43, and James Miller, petty officer first class, '35-'38, both of Duncan, have been discharged from the service. Johnson served in the Air Corps for two years with six months overseas duty. James has been in the Navy for 43 months and had served overseas 35 months aboard the *USS Absecon*, a seaplane tender.

► Lt. Roy Winfield Jones, '37ph.d, Bartlesville, has been released to inactive duty in the naval reserve. He will return to his previous duty as dean and professor of biology at Central State College at Edmond.

► Flight Officer Donald J. Keen, '42-'43, Norman, has been discharged from the Army Air Forces after two years service.

► Lt. Joseph J. Rigg, '41-'42, Taloga, has been given an honorable discharge from the Army Air Forces. He served in Europe from February, 1944, until May, 1945. He wears the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

► Maj. Robert D. Coggeshall, '37-'39, Tulsa, has been discharged from the Army after five years of service. He had served with the Eighth Air Force for 10 months as a pilot. While overseas he was awarded the Air Medal, the DFC with Oak Leaf Cluster and the European theater of operations ribbon with four battle stars.

► S. Prentiss Mooney, '28, Oklahoma City, was discharged from the Navy October 25, 1945, after three years and nine months of service.

► Lt. Roy DeWitt Clem, '39-'42, Granite, was a prisoner of war in Germany for two years. After recently being discharged he is employed in Lawton.

► Lt. Col. Lloyd W. Taylor, '41med, Oklahoma City, recently was discharged from the Army Medical Corps.

## Aide to Admiral Returns to Norman

Home from duty as fleet personnel officer with Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, chief of the Pacific fleet, is Commander W. M. Holmes, '34eng, Norman. Commander Holmes formerly was an assistant professor of naval science and tactics at the University.

He left Norman to go to Washington, D. C., for duty with the bureau of personnel before being assigned to sea duty.



*O. U. Lifer Sue Starr Virtue greets the "B-29er" from the South Pacific—the hubby, another O. U. Lifer, Cpl. Dick Virtue of the old 73rd Materiel Bomb Group. Now, Mr. Dick, back on the O. U. campus, relates to Sue the command channels of Guam while the wife takes charge of the new command post on the Law Barn steps where "B-29er" Dick steps in for his last series of lectures in becoming another O. U. barrister. Mrs. Virtue is now assistant director of the Placement Service and was formerly assistant executive secretary of the O. U. Alumni Association.*

Commander Holmes won the Bronze Star medal for duty in the Pacific, the citation pointing to his outstanding service during which his "mature judgment" proved of especial value in keeping the fleet admiral advised concerning personnel. He went into Tokyo with Rear Admiral C. H. McMorris, chief of staff, and assisted in planning the naval operations at Yokosuka.

He also holds the Navy Unit Commendation and wears the American Defense, Asiatic and American theater ribbons.

Commander Holmes plans to return to civilian life and the oil business in the near future.

## Nagoya Reunion

A big reunion of eight Oklahoma Army officers who, having sailed together from the United States on April 21, 1942, met for the first time since they parted in Hawaii in 1942 as they assembled at the 11th Replacement depot near Nagoya to await shipment back to Sooner State homes.

In the group were Maj. C. H. Nelson, '39journ, Okmulgee; Capt. J. B. Sanders, '41bus, Oklahoma City; Capt. Edwin Hurst, '40ba, '42law, Oklahoma City; Capt. E. A. Ellinghausen, '41ba, Tulsa; Capt. Lloyd Johnson, '29-'33, Tulsa; Capt. Wayne A. Vernon, '39journ, Newkirk; Capt. Roy G. Gill, '37ba, Okmulgee, and Capt. Collie James, '39bus, Sulphur.

## Promotions

Promotion of Ralph Lowell Wassell, '34eng, Higgins, Texas, to the rank of colonel was announced recently at Air Technical Service Command headquarters. Colonel Wassell is chief of the research branch, power plant laboratory, and his section has been actively connected with the recent development of jet-propelled aircraft and experimentation on robot bombs.

Colonel Wassell received his Army flying training at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas, in 1932.

He later attended the Air Corps Engineering School at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, and was assigned to that field in 1942. He has been connected with the research branch of the power plant laboratory almost continuously since that time.

Promoted to lieutenant colonel recently were Robert B. Harbison, '30law, Ralph E. Keehn, '35-'37, and M. A. Aldrich, '45bus. James A. Eads, Jr., '36-'40, Oklahoma City, has been promoted to the rank of captain.

First lieutenant promotions included Everett S. Palmer, '39-'43, Warren V. Trent, '41-'42, Owen M. Panner, '41-'43, Shawnee, and Robert Milton Prater, '41-'43, Hobart. Robert L. Moore, '40-'41, Idabel, has been promoted to staff sergeant and H. Leslie Robinson, '41-'43, Norman, was promoted to corporal.

The Navy list of promotions included Seth E. Aiguier, Jr., '40eng, Oklahoma City to lieutenant commander; C. V. Kemendo, '42bus, New Orleans, and William Harold Landram, '34llb, both to lieutenant senior grade; and W. Norman Johnson, '42, Kingfisher, to lieutenant junior grade.

## O. U. Grad Receives Congressional Medal of Honor

Lt. Richard M. McCool, Jr., '41ba, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in the White House on December 18.

He was cited for heroism in commanding a landing craft that picked up survivors of a sinking destroyer off Okinawa while under attack by Japanese suicide planes. In spite of his own burns and wounds, Lt. McCool fought fires to save his ship and rescued the men from the blazing compartments until help arrived from another ship.

Lt. McCool, who is also a graduate of Annapolis, is the second Oklahoma naval man to receive this medal.

## Old Ivy and Towers

By A. LEON HOCKSTEIN, '40ba

England's Oxford University and the American GI, two of the world's greatest institutions, came face to face for the first time early in October. For a while they looked each other over suspiciously, but soon found they liked each other.

During the latter part of September, American soldiers throughout the European theatre were being interviewed by their respective information and educational officers with the view of their being selected to attend Oxford University for one full term. Different units received varying quotas, depending upon the category into which the unit fell. My division, the 78th Infantry, being a part of the Army of Occupation was given a large quota—five to be exact. My particular regiment, the 309th Infantry, was allotted two men, and I consider myself most fortunate in having been selected as half of this quota.

Some 80 men were expected to be present when the first term (Michaelmas Term, 1945) opened on October 15th. However, in typical GI fashion more than 160 of us arrived here; so the powers that be got together with the powers that are and all of us remained. We represent every branch of the Army, and all ranks from private to major.

The majority of us have degrees of some sort from one or the other large university in the States. However the only academic requirement was that the applicant have completed two years of college. Without bending my elbow too far out of place, I might add we were selected generally on the basis of benefit likely to be gained and from our individual records within our respective units.

It goes without saying that being here at Oxford is a good deal. Our favorite Uncle is footing the bill for tuition, room, board and books, while we continue to draw our regular Army pay. Expenses are high at Oxford, and a student's yearly bill is so detailed that it is likely to include deductions for the depreciation of furniture and the use of mustard.

It is hard to find words to describe school here, because it is so completely different from our system, or at least from the plan that Oklahoma University offered when I was a freshman there a decade ago. I believe we can vouch, though, that there is little of the "rah rah" of American college life at Oxford.

Instead of being subject to Army rules and regulations here we abide by those of the ordinary Oxford undergraduate. Therefore, we have the same privileges, too. We must be in our rooms by midnight or pay a one pound (four dollar) fine, plus an unpleasant visit to the Master. I have now discovered the importance of the Army obstacle course, and every night or so some one or other of us puts into use the knowledge of scaling a wall—a 12-foot spiked wall.

The university comprises twenty-one colleges for men and four for women. At our first meeting with the Area I and E officer we were assigned to different colleges. Nearly every one of these was open to us, and since the faculties of the school are available to all colleges it didn't really matter whether we were here to "read" English or science. I was assigned to New College, which incidentally is one of the oldest in the university being founded in 1386 by William de Wykeham. New College was lacking in living accommodations however, and twenty of us were found quarters in buildings belonging to another college—this time the newest of the Oxford colleges—St. Peter's Hall.

Upon arriving at our quarters, we were assigned a suite of rooms consisting of a sitting room and bedroom. Staircases lead from these rooms to the quadrangle or patio in the center of each building. Combined dining and lecture halls and the chapel are the central features of most colleges, although many have libraries and beautiful gardens.

Each staircase has a Scout (porter, gentleman's gentleman) whose duties include keeping the rooms in order and waking us up. One of the fellows was completely satisfied with conditions here from the first morning. His scout knocked on the door at 7:15, entered and greeted him with a cheery "Good morning, sir, jolly nice day, today." This was nearly too much for the new student, for as

he said, "Being a Pfc, I've been called everything from 'Hey you' to 'f&§ £¶!'; in the morning for so many months now, that when I heard that 'sir' I knew I was in just the place I wanted to be."

Breakfast is no longer served in one's room as it was prior to the war. All meals must be eaten in the Hall. Breakfast is between 8:15 and 8:45, lunch is at 1:00 and dinner at 7:15. We do have tea in our sitting rooms around 5:00. With such a late dinner hour, plus the fact we are living on British rations, even non tea drinkers look forward to their daily hour of tea. I never thought I would admit that army "chow" would be welcome, but oh for a good substantial meal.

Then there is the traditional Oxford gown. It is of waist length and sleeveless. This is a "must" when in the Hall for dinner, seeing the Master, attending lectures, academic visits with tutors and for matriculation. It does break the monotony of olive drab.

After settling in St. Peter's Hall I went to see the Bursar (registrar) and New College. He assigned me to a moral tutor—Lord David Cecil. My moral tutor explained that he was to be my advisor on non-academic matters, and since I was here for a creative writing course he would also be my academic tutor.

The academic tutor is in reality the student's personal teacher. It is he who assigns the lectures which the student is to attend, the books he is to read and the essays he is to write. One hour each week is spent with this tutor.

We had been given complete freedom in selecting our subject. Oxford doesn't have a short story or playwriting course, so provisions were made that two of us would have Lord David Cecil as our tutor and he has assigned certain plays for me to read. I was unable to find any courses offered this term in English language and literature even closely related to the work I wanted, so technically I have no lectures to attend. However, I am free to attend any lectures given in the university.

There are no examinations, other than a pre-lim which is given when the student arrives. That means that three years of work are completed and then the student is tested by written and oral examinations over all this work for his degree. Grades are thus based solely on this final examination. If students pass exams successfully, they are given B.A. degrees rated as first, second, third or fourth class, depending on their grades. After receiving a B.A., one automatically receives a Master's Degree four years later.

Opinion is divided among us as to the relative merits of Oxford and American universities. A great number feel that the tutorial system and the combined social-academic life of the halls is very valuable, while others feel too much emphasis is placed upon the classics and not enough on the present workaday world. We all, however, feel that our experience here has been of much value, and we have come to know and understand more fully the British people.

I have in the eight weeks I have been here completed several manuscripts, and I hope some publisher will think them worthy of publication. My tutor has allowed me to be away on most of the week-ends and as a result I have seen much of England, especially London, and have also managed several days in Edinburgh, Scotland. However, that is another story.

The time has gone past rather rapidly, and I know I will miss being here once I have gone; but being Sooner-bred and Sooner-born, I have never been able to find anything in life to surpass the years I spent at the University of Oklahoma.

## Surplus Energy

There's no lack of energy in uranium. Dr. William Schriever, director of the School of Engineering Physics at the University of Oklahoma, states that if only one-tenth of one percent—one atom in a thousand—of the atoms in one pound of uranium-235 were to be disintegrated, 11,400,000 kilowatt hours of energy would be released. This is the amount of energy liberated by burning 1,500 tons of coal or 200,000 gallons of gasoline.



CAPTAIN FRED LABOON

## Sooner of the Month National Vice-Commander

By ELMER L. FRAKER, '20ba, '38ma  
*Oklahoma Department Adjutant of the American  
Legion and Past President of O.U. Alumni  
Association*

Captain Fred LaBoon, '39eng, Chickasha, a veteran of the Bataan campaign and of the infamous "Death March," was elected national vice-commander of the American Legion recently at the national Legion convention held in Chicago.

The new national vice commander has only been back in the United States since October the 16th. He spent three years in Japanese prisons after the fall of Bataan.

Captain LaBoon holds two Presidential Citations and several other medals indicating the valor of his service.

In 1934, the now Captain Fred LaBoon, graduated from Chickasha High School and in 1939 he was graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's Degree in mechanical engineering.

While at the University of Oklahoma he was a member of the R.O.T.C. and upon his graduation was given a Lieutenant's commission in the reserve. He was called to active duty in March of 1941 and in September of the same year was shipped to the Philippines.

He was in the midst of the Philippine fighting from the time the Japanese launched their attack until the surrender on Bataan. After the "Death March," he was held in a prison in the Philippines for six months and then transferred to a prison in Osaka, Japan for eight months. The remainder of his time as a prisoner of war was spent in other prison camps in Japan.

Upon his return to Chickasha, Captain LaBoon became active in the affairs of the Raymond T. Hurst Post of the Legion at Chickasha. His terminal leave will not be up for some time. He is the first man to ever be elected to a high national office while yet in the uniform of his country.

At one time, Fred was head of the SAL Squadron in Chickasha. He was reared in a home where the American Legion and its affairs were considered of paramount interest. He was well acquainted with the problems and program of the American Legion long before he was eligible to its membership.