

★ ★ With the Armed Forces ★ ★

Deaths in Service

Capt. George V. Bell, '37-'40, Seminole, has been officially declared dead by the War Department as of December 11, 1945. He had previously been reported missing in action on August 21, 1943, Captain Bell, at the time of his death, was serving with the Army Air Forces in the Asiatic theater.

► Capt. Henry W. Reaves, '41bus, has been officially declared dead by the War Department. Captain Reaves, Norman, was reported to have been on an extra flight, after his quota had been filled, when his plane was struck by Japanese fire. No trace was found after the plane crashed into the sea, and sank immediately. He was on an observation flight over enemy-controlled waters near Naha, Okinawa, when hit.

► 1st Lt. Frank M. Culwell, '26-'33, died of an infection of the blood stream at Brooke General Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Culwell had been in the Army since 1942. He served 11 months of that time in the Aleutians, and was also in Europe for several months, returning to the states in 1945.

► Lynn Frensey, '41, was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree posthumously from the University, in May 1946. Frensey was killed in action in Europe. His parents received the degree in Duncan.

► Lt. Warren Lee Keely, '41, who was killed in action, is holder of the nation's second highest medal, the Navy Cross. He was reported missing for some time, and later declared dead.

► Lt. Bion Leigh Taylor, '35-'39, El Reno, has officially been declared dead after having been missing in flight in action since May 3, 1943.

► Lt. (j.g.) Louie Lauren Davis, '41-'42, previously listed as missing, has been officially declared dead by the War Department. Lt. Davis' home was in Pauls Valley.

► First Lt. Carl E. Blackwell, '39-'41, who has been missing since November 27, 1944, in combat over Thailand, has been declared dead as of March 26, 1946. Lt. Blackwell served as an instructor until going overseas in 1944.

► S/Sgt. Ben Thornton, '41, Norman, is officially reported to have been killed on the day he was originally declared to have been missing, July 27, 1945. Thornton was a flight engineer on a B-29, and had been overseas about a month at the time of his death, his plane being the only one out of 350 that did not return to the base. He was stationed at the Marianas Island base.

Murder of Mills in Germany Told

A revelation of how Capt. Roger L. Mills, '41bs, Norman, was murdered in the bloody massacre of Malmédy is told by one of the few survivors, Virgil P. Lary, Lexington, Kentucky, a former first lieutenant. At the time of his death, Captain Mills was in command of a 30-vehicle column of Battery B of the 285th Field Artillery which was stopped at the crossing of Malmédy by small arms fire, mortar and some artillery. Captain Mills ordered his men to hit the ditch, and a few minutes later they were rounded up by the Germans into ranks of approximately 20 abreast and 8 deep. While the prisoners stood helplessly with hands clasped over their heads, the German fired madly into their midst, some of them taking careful aim, laughing deep, guttural laughs.

Captain Mills was shot in the head by Colonel Joachim Peiper, one of the defendants at Dachau. The Nazis slaughtered all but six of the officers and men who stood with up-stretched hands before them, and those who survived did so only by lying quietly in the sticky blood of their comrades and pretending to be dead.

Ruth Awarded Bronze Star

For risking death and brutalities at the hands of the Japanese to tend to his sick and exhausted comrades during the "death march" of Bataan, Lt. Col. Weldon K. Ruth, '33med, a patient at Brooke General Hospital, Brooke Army Medical Center, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

The award was made by Brig. Gen. John M. Willis, commandant, Brooke Army Medical Center.

Colonel Ruth, a resident of Okeene, Oklahoma, entered the Army 11 years ago. He went to the Philippines in June, 1940, and was captured with the fall of Bataan. He was liberated from a prison camp on Formosa on September 6, 1945.

Colonel Ruth was graduated from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in 1933 and served his internship at Hollywood hospital, Hollywood, California, specializing in internal medicine.

Besides the Bronze Star, he wears the Presidential Unit Citation with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon with two battle stars, American Defense ribbon with one battle star, the Philippine Defense ribbon with one battle star, the Victory ribbon and the American Theater of Operations ribbon.

Mrs. Ruth and their two daughters, Mary Ann and Sarah Jane, reside in Okeene. Two brothers also make their homes there: Donald D. and Roland R. Ruth, who served in the Navy during the war.

Following is the citation of Colonel Ruth, who was a major at the time it was written:

"Major Weldon K. Ruth, Medical Corps, performed meritorious and heroic services from 10 to 22 April 1942 during the march of captured Americans from Bataan province to a Japanese concentration camp near Capas, Tarlac, Philippine islands.

"Disregarding his own condition and risking brutalities and death at the hands of the Japanese, he continually attended his sick and exhausted comrades. He prevented the murder of two officers on separate occasions by interposing his body between them and enemy soldiers until he could revive them enough to continue the march. Major Ruth's ministrations did much to alleviate the terrible suffering of his fellow prisoners of war."

But Where's My Vet Pay Check?

What's a mere Croix de Guerre compared with "moola"? That seemed to be the opinion of Don MacLeod, Wichita, Kansas, veteran now enrolled in the University, when he recently received a registered letter containing the medal for helping liberate Ste. Mere Eglise on "D" day.

MacLeod's comment was, "Look what I have! But, I'd rather have those veteran subsistence checks I've been expecting!" MacLeod was with the 82nd Airborne Division while overseas.

Hoberecht Commended by Navy

Earnest Hoberecht, 1941 graduate of the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism, has received a commendation from the Secretary of the Navy for his work as a war correspondent.

During the war, Mr. Hoberecht reported activities of the United States Navy and saw action with the famous Third Fleet of Admiral William Halsey.

The commendation, signed by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal, was given Mr. Hoberecht "for outstanding performance and service rendered to the United States at war as an accredited Navy War Correspondent."

Mr. Hoberecht is employed by the United Press. He is now a United Press Foreign Correspondent in Tokyo where his assignments include covering the office of General Douglas MacArthur, reporting the activities of the Allied Council for Japan and handling news of the war criminal trials.

Cpl. Verdon Rogers Awarded Army Commendation Ribbon

Technician Fifth Grade Verdon L. Rogers, '42-'43, Eldorado, was awarded the Army Commendation Ribbon at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, on June 8. This is the second time in the history of the camp that an enlisted man was given the award.

Corporal Rogers was decorated by command of General J. M. Wainwright, commanding General of the Fourth Army, for his work in organizing a newspaper at the camp.

"This paper was published in a new, modern and distinctive manner. . . His aggressiveness, adaptation and spirit reflect the highest credit upon the armed forces," read the citation.

The award was for meritorious service rendered from November 1, 1945, to April 12, 1946, during which time Corporal Rogers was editor of the Camp Chaffee Armorer and served as chief reporter of the Public Relations office.

Due to deactivation of the Camp Chaffee Personnel Center, Corporal Rogers is being transferred to Fort Knox, Ky.

Before entering the service, Corporal Rogers was assistant editor of the Eldorado Courier, Eldorado. He was a journalism major at the University.

Legion of Merit Award Winner

Lt. George C. McGhee, '33bus, Dallas, has received the Legion of Merit award for planning, organizing and co-ordinating air-sea rescue activities in support of long-range bombardment operations from the Marianas while serving as Naval liaison officer to the 21st Bomber Command from November, 1944, to August, 1945. His efforts resulted in the employment of a network of submarines, destroyer, surface craft and aerial observers that rescued hundreds of airmen from ditched aircraft.

After graduating from the University in 1933, Lt. McGhee had attended Oxford University, England, as a Rhodes scholar and received his Ph. D. degree there in geophysics. He is now employed in the economic affairs division of the Department of State after having spent 27 months in the Navy.

Discharges

► Former University students who have recently received discharges from military service are Bert K. Smith, Jr., '31bus, Fort Worth, Texas; Christian L. Sheedy, Jr., '39eng, Emporia, Kansas; Paul C. Starks, '41-'42, Butler, and Ralph E. Williams, '35-'36, Poteau.

► Capt. Burdette C. Smith, '38law, former Tulsa attorney, is now on terminal leave. He recently returned from three years of service overseas.

► Lt. Jay B. Smith, '36-'37, Oklahoma City, was released to inactive duty after serving 44 months in the Navy.

► Ralph E. Smith, '40-'42, Norman, has returned to Norman recently following his discharge from military service.

► Lt. Talmadge Sollenberger, '37bs, '40ms, has been discharged from the service.

► Ed Edmondson, '40ba, Muskogee, has received his discharge from the armed forces.

► Capt. John T. Spradling, '41ba, Oklahoma City, recently was placed on terminal leave following 44 months in the service. He served two years in the Southwest Pacific and Japan.

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Marion Donehew at 14 when he entered O. U. in 1892 as the first student.

O.U. Student Number One

Number one, that's it! Number one meaning the first student to enrol in the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Marion Donehew, now residing at Stratford, Oklahoma. Recently his young daughter, Lorene (fourth grade, 14 years of age), wrote the

Lorene (fourth grade, 14 years of age), wrote the Alumni Office in part, "would you like a photograph of my father, Marion Donehew, the first student to enrol in O. U. in 1892, as he looked when he enrolled at 14 years of age in 1892 and as he looks today?"



LORENE DONEHEW Immediately upon receipt of the note from Miss Lorene, the News Staff of Sooner Magazine advised we would like the two photographs of the first student to enrol in the University of Oklahoma along with her picture. After the exchange of correspondence, the pictures were received, and

in the late fall of 1891 about nine months before I enrolled in the University of Oklahoma, September, 1892. G. C. Baum was the photographer. The clothes that I was wearing were provided for me by my parents in outfitting me to attend the Baylor University at Waco, Texas, with my favorite teacher, Dayton B. Steed, who afterwards was County Judge of Grayson County Texas, for many years.



DR. DONEHEW Health conditions along the Brazos River in the vicinity of Waco caused my parents to cancel the arrangements for my attendance at Baylor during the summer of 1891. I wore these clothes minus the old

style detachable shirt cuffs as shown in picture during my first attendance at the Oklahoma University. There was very little change in my appearance between the date of the picture and the opening date of the University. I did not attend any more public schools after April, 1891. We moved from Texas to Oklahoma in the Spring of 1892, leaving Whitesboro, Texas, March 13, and was snowbound at Ardmore March 10, 1892, during that historic snow storm and blizzard.

"My father filed on a claim near where McLoud is now. My parents became interested in the educational possibilities that the opening of the University would bring, and moved to Norman in July, 1892. My father and I hauled some of the material and brick used in the construction of the first University building. We formed an early friendship with Dr. David R. Boyd, and the rest of the faculty, and when the opening day came, my mother and I were there promptly, and I took my examination for entrance. She and I did not know that I was the first to enrol until I passed and received the congratulations of the entire faculty for the honor of being the first student to enrol in the University of Oklahoma. The examination and enrollment were in the upstairs, northwest room of the old rock building, that is known as the first home of the University."

Discharges

- ▶ Discharges from military service were received recently by Robert Spurlock, '40-'41, Norman; Charles Daniel Hille, '41ba, Tulsa; Ralph Merkle, '41eng, Fort Stockton, Texas; Joe S. Rockwood, '32ed, '37law, Sapulpa, and Gervase D. Spradlin, '41ed, Pauls Valley.
- ▶ Lt. Col. Joe Stamper, '33ba, '35law, Antlers, is now on terminal leave from the Army.
- ▶ Howard G. Stanley, '44-'45, Marshall, Michigan, was discharged from the Navy.
- ▶ George Steckel, '43ba, Wetumka, recently received his discharge from military service.
- ▶ Tech. Sgt. Leroy E. Stewart, '37ba, '38ma, and Pfc. Elton G. Davis, '41-'42, both of Norman, were discharged from the Army at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, March 14.
- ▶ Maj. Charles Storms, '42bus, Ponca City, is now on terminal leave after returning recently from Frankfurt, Germany, where he has been stationed for the last 14 months. He has been in the service for the last four years.
- ▶ Jack Strong, '41-'43, Okemah, received his discharge from the Army at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, February 25 after three years' service.
- ▶ Lt. Col. Hirst B. Suffield, '34ba, Gage, has returned to the States after serving 18 months in the European theater of operations. His terminal leave expired March 17.

- ▶ Staff Sgt. Fletcher Blake Swank, Jr., '37journ, Norman, has been discharged from service after 40 months. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific theater of operations.
- ▶ J. B. Sweeting, '45, Westmoreland, New York, was discharged February 1 from the Navy after serving as an ensign aboard a destroyer.
- ▶ John E. Turnbull, '41-'43, Norman, received his discharge from the Army March 5. Mr. Turnbull had served with the infantry in the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe.
- ▶ Flight Officer Charles Turner, '43, recently was discharged from military service.
- ▶ First Lt. James D. Wallace, '38-'40, Oklahoma City, was discharged from the Army Air Corps in November.
- ▶ Lt. Homer A. Weeks, '27ms, Norman, has been placed on inactive status in Miami, Florida.
- ▶ Sgt. Leland W. West, '37-'38, Norman, was discharged from the Army Air Force January 18 after 41 months in the service.
- ▶ Lt. Col. W. W. Whiteman, Jr., '36ba, '37law, '40bus, Oklahoma City, received his discharge from the Army in November following five years in the service.
- ▶ Reginald Williams, '31ba, '32ma, '42law, Oklahoma City, and Ron W. Woodhouse, '35-'36, Sacramento, California, have been discharged from the armed forces.
- ▶ Three former University students who recently were discharged from military service were M. L. Willis, '42pharm, Altus, and Ellis Liebman, '30bus, Frederick.
- ▶ Lt. (j.g.) Robert E. Wolfard, '40-'42, Norman, has been transferred from inactive status to duty as an instructor at Todd Field, Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas. Lieutenant Wolfard returned from the Pacific in December and was released to inactive duty.
- ▶ W. C. Woodward, '42zool, Oklahoma City, recently received his discharge from military service.
- ▶ Col. Elwood Wright, '34pharm, '35m.pharm, Elk City, received his discharge from the Army March 11. He was overseas for 20 months in the New Guinea, Leyte, and Philippine invasions. His corps was among the first to enter Japan for occupation duties.
- ▶ James Neil Yowell, '42, Norman; Thomas Hickman Wilson, Jr., '40ma, Seattle, Washington; O. L. Williams, '28-'31, Elk City, and Thomas George White, '44, Sulphur, are a few of the former students who have been discharged recently.

Hal Muldrow, Jr.

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