

# With the Armed Forces

## Inside Korea—with Munson

With a distinguished record of his University of Oklahoma career climaxed with a B.A. '29 and LL.B. '31—and with an equally distinguished military career in the European theater during World War II—Lt. Col. Merton E. Munson, Lawton, is now on new "territory." Colonel Munson recently supplied O.U. Alumni headquarters with the interesting report listed below:

### U.S. ARMY MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN KOREA

Fall of 1946  
Chonju, Korea

"Dear Ted:

"I left Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on June 11 for Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, where I took a short course in the School for Government of Occupied Areas. After finishing there I took a trip across country to Fort Lawton, Washington, and sailed from Seattle on August 1, arriving in Yokohama on August 12. On the ship I sailed on, the General Freeman, were about 80 families joining their husbands in Japan. They had quite a homecoming when we landed in Yokohama.

"After a few days in Yokohama, I started for Korea, although a typhoon was reported in the area. It took us six days to make Inchon, Korea, after playing hide and go seek with the typhoon for four days. Everyone was mighty glad to get off the ship when we arrived at Inchon.

"We first went to Seoul, capital of Korea, a city of over a million people. Here you see the old and

the new. Many modern buildings and mud huts with a straw roof, motor cars and ox carts make up this contrast. One of the things that impressed me the most was the tremendous loads the men could carry on their backs, with the help of a wooden frame. Some one might have to help them to their feet with the load but once on their feet they could carry it. Also the women carry everything on their heads, without touching them with their hands.

"There are some very nice buildings and temples in Seoul, like the Chosun Hotel, the National Capitol, and the Duk Soo Palace.

"After a few days in Seoul I got on a Korean train, loaded to the capacity, Koreans being both inside and on top of the train, and headed for my destination which was the 96th Military Government Group at Chonju (Zenshu), Cholla Pukto Province, Korea, where I was to be the legal officer. Chonju is a city of about 90,000 people in the southwestern part of the country, it is in the "Rice Bowl" of Korea. Although the rice fields, as a rule, are small there are thousands of acres of rice in this province alone. The 96th Military Government Group is located in the Provincial Capital Chonju, and has four Military Government Companies in smaller towns in the Province.

"Korea, in contrast to Germany, is not a conquered country but is being occupied by United States Forces only until such time as the Koreans become a self-governing people. The mission of the United States Army here, as set out by higher authority, is to assist the Koreans in attaining this goal. Korea has been occupied by the Japanese since about 1905 and as most of the important jobs in the government and in business were held by the Japanese, the Koreans have not had much opportunity or experience in self-government, in these past 40 years. Whereas the Germans have been running their own government the past 40 years, and up until the occupation by U.S. Forces.

"All major departments of the government have both an American and a Korean director. The government is being gradually turned over to the Korean people and before too long it is hoped that only a supervisory capacity will be necessary. United States Forces have all the territory south of the 38th parallel and the Russians have all of Korea north of the 38th parallel.

"Wherever I have been either in Europe or the Orient I have run across former class mates and Oklahomans. A few days after D Day I was walking, between two hedge rows in Normandy, when someone yelled at me. It was a former class mate, whom I don't believe I had seen since Law School days, Carter Todd. He had landed with the 82nd airborne. Some fellow stopped by my C.P. in Germany—I was not there but he left a message with my executive officer. The message was: "Tell that so and so hello for me." My executive officer forgot the fellow's name but I knew it was some "Sooner", and later learned it was Joe Rucks of Oklahoma City. I was sitting in a hotel in Cannes on the Riviera, and who should walk up but Joe B. Thompson.

Once when I was wounded and was lying with a blanket over my face some fellow raised up the blanket to see how I was doing, it was an O.U. Medic. I stopped by Munich one day and who did I see but Hal Muldrow. Everyone I saw or heard of was doing a "swell job." It really made me proud of the old school. It was no exception here. When I arrived here in Chonju at night, a fellow called me by name and told me to get out of the jeep. It was Lt. Col. Harmon Williams of Muskogee. I could go on for pages recalling other meetings similar to these.

"As I mentioned, among other things, I am the legal officer for this province. I was really surprised how well the civil courts, judges, and prosecutors were all functioning. A few days after I arrived, I went over to the court house and I saw about six or seven people going to be tried. They all had straw looking baskets over their heads. Upon inquiring, I was told they wore those baskets so that if they were found "not guilty" they would not "lose face." I have found out a lot is done to keep from losing face over here.

"At the present time, we have two American families in Chonju, but more are on the way and by the first of January should have 10 or 12 families here. I have made application for my family to come over and am expecting them in December of this year.

"The Koreans are much like the Chinese in culture, but they have their own language. According to my "hand book", Confucianism, Buddhism, and Christianity are the major faiths in Korea. In addition, Shamanism, and a native cult, Chon Dok Yo, are practiced. As to climate, Korea is hot and wet in summer, cold and fairly dry in winter. Seoul, about midway of the area, north and south, closely resembles that of Des Moines, Iowa, except that the summer here produces much more rain than does the summer of Des Moines.

"I don't believe I have seen a Korean woman wearing modern or Western dress. Some of their dresses are very beautiful and very colorful, especially during a holiday. Some of the children wear a dress, the sleeves of which have as many as 10 or 12 different colors. Some of the old gentlemen or Yang-Ban, wear a long white coat, a little black Pilgrim-father hat and a long beard. They usually smoke a little pipe with a long stem, measuring about two feet in length.

"It is really amazing to Americans, how many Koreans can live in one mud hut with a straw roof, and it is equally amazing to see a Singer sewing machine in these huts, but I have seen hundreds of them.

"The family is still the traditional unit of Korean society, although a married woman does not take the name of her husband, as in western countries.

"In the old days of Korea, the women never

come out on the streets until after dark, so that no one could see their face, and even today you very seldom see a man and his wife walking together. In contrast to Germany there is almost no fraternization between Korean girls and American soldiers.

"I was all set to see some football at O.U. this fall but will postpone that for a couple of seasons now.

"The best of regards to you and thanks so much for your letter. The Sooner Magazine is like a letter from home to hundreds of Sooners around the Globe.

Sincerely,  
MERTON E. MUNSON, Lt. Col.  
APO 6-3 c/o P.M.  
San Francisco, California."

## Hale Serves Year in Japan

Lt. Col. Russell D. Hales, '38bs, will soon round out a year of occupational duty in Japan with the Fifth Air Force.

Commissioned in February of 1941 at Kelly Field, Texas, he is now a senior pilot in the occupational Air Force of Japan and Korea.

Colonel Hale's wife, Frances, and two-year-old son recently joined him in Japan. They were among the first dependents to arrive at the headquarters in Nagoya.

## Bannister Gets Legion of Merit

The War Department announces the award of the Legion of Merit to Lt. Col. Ray K. Bannister, '32law, El Reno, Oklahoma, for performance of outstanding services in planning the staging and transportation of redeployed military personnel and their dependents to the United States from Southampton, England, where he served with the 14th Major Port between August, 1944, and May, 1946. Presentation was made personally by Major General Edmond H. Leavey, Chief of Transportation, at ceremonies in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.



In addition to his duties as director of Staging and Reception Areas, Colonel Bannister was cited for the effective manner in which he carried out responsibility for internal transportation of personnel, supplies and equipment to supply the Port of Southampton and its attached units. He returned to the United States in July, 1946, after 26 months service overseas.

Colonel Bannister is now serving as assistant executive, Office of the Chief of Transportation.

## Col. Collier Awarded Silver Star

Col. James V. Collier, '34ba, recently received the Silver Star for heroic action in the defense of the Philippines.

Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, Fourth Army commander, made the presentation at Fort Sam Houston.

The citation reads:

"During the early afternoon of 8 April 1942 Headquarters, Luzon forces, was entirely cut off from all communications with front line units. These units were so disorganized that repairs to existing lines or installations of new lines was not possible. It was of the utmost importance that orders reach certain of the front line units prior to daylight 9 April. At about 3:00 a.m. 9 April 1942 Colonel Collier, during a heavy bombardment from bursting artillery projectiles and at grave risk of personal injury, voluntarily and beyond the call of duty, left Headquarters, Luzon force, and proceeded on foot about one kilometer through the thickest of the bombardment to Headquarters Service command, Luzon force, Motor Pool, in or-

der to assist in and insure the securing of a motor vehicle by Col. Everett C. Williams and party in time to go forward and reach certain of the front line units with orders prior to daylight."

Colonel Collier, who formerly was stationed with the University R.O.T.C. recently received the Legion of Merit.

## Ratliff Cited

Lt. Col. Frank G. Ratliff, '36ba, '39law, Oklahoma City, was recently presented the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service, while serving in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. The award was made by Col. T. E. deShazo, assistant commandant of the Field Artillery School.



The citation accompanying the medal for Colonel Ratliff read: "For meritorious service as S-3 (Operations Officer) of Headquarters, Intermediate Section, China-Burma-India Theater. His successful planning and supervision of operations led to a continuous flow of troops and supplies to the combat units in the forward areas of the India-Burma and China Theaters. The leadership, devotion to duty, and successful achievements demonstrated by Colonel Ratliff reflect the highest credit upon himself and the military service."

Colonel Ratliff received a reserve commission in the Army upon graduation from the University in 1936. Entering active service in the Regular Army in September, 1939, Colonel Ratliff attended the Battery Officers Course of the Field Artillery School in 1941-42 and the Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. At present he is attending the Officers Advanced Course at the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

## Stevenson Appointed Secretary

Lt. Col. Ralph L. Stevenson, '42bus, Ponca City, former gridiron star of the University and the Cleveland Professional Rams, has been appointed secretary to the General Staff of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command, Scott Field, Illinois.



The China-Burma-India theater was Colonel Stevenson's first overseas assignment, where he served first as executive of organizational planning, and then as deputy chief of staff of the India-China Division of the Air Transport Command. He was later appointed chief of staff under the commanding general of the India-China Division of the Transport Command, Brig. Gen. Charles W. Lawrence, who is now serving as deputy commanding general of the A.A.F. Technical Training Command at Scott Field. Colonel Stevenson was transferred to the Africa Middle East theater when General Lawrence and his staff were reassigned to the North African Division of the A.T.C. on February 11, 1946.

Returning to the United States on June 1, 1946, Colonel Stevenson immediately assumed the duties of administrative officer of the Continental Division Headquarters, Air Transport Command, Memphis, Tennessee. On July 19, he arrived at the A.A.F. Technical Training Command Headquarters, Scott Field, Illinois, and was appointed chief of Training Operations of the planning division. Now serving as secretary to the General Staff, Colonel Stevenson directs administrative functions under Major General Kepner, former commanding general of the

8th and 9th Air Forces in the E.T.O. and more recently Deputy Task Force Commander for Aviation at the Bikini atom bomb tests in the Pacific.

Colonel Stevenson starred for three seasons as guard on the Sooner's football eleven. He signed with the Cleveland Rams in August, 1940, and played the following season with this professional football team. His brilliant gridiron career was interrupted by his entrance into the service the following year.

Colonel Stevenson wears the Bronze Star Medal; the Pacific Theater ribbon with three battle participation stars for the China Offensive campaign, the India-Burma campaign and the Central Burma campaign; the Army Commendation Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters; the Europe-Africa-Middle East Theater Ribbon and the American Defense Ribbon.

## Thompson Gets Army Discharge

Capt. William Best Thompson, '43med, Medical Corps, returned to civilian life recently after two years service in the armed forces. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Otis Thompson, 524 N. W. 17th street, Oklahoma City.

Captain Thompson received an unusual honor when he was awarded a commendation for meritorious service and outstanding work in an exceptionally difficult assignment while serving at Camp Polk, Louisiana.

During his period of service in the Army, Captain Thompson was ward officer and consultant in general medicine and ophthalmology. His outstanding ability was recognized when he was selected as one of the few doctors to instruct in the Army Nurses Training Center at Fort Lewis, and to attend a post graduate school in the Army.

His tentative plans are to return to the practice of general medicine in Oklahoma City.

## Muchmore Named to Med Board

Clyde E. Muchmore, a K.U. grad and an O.U. Dad, publisher of the Ponca City News, has been chosen a member of the Board of Directors of the recently incorporated Oklahoma Medical Foundation. This month the foundation will launch a drive to raise an eventual three million dollars for a research center in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Lee K. Emenheiser, '28bs in med, '31med, and John Lamb, '28ba, '32med, both of Oklahoma City and many other Sooner medics are active in the Medical Foundation.

## Miniature Town

Valued at \$10,000, a scale model of a prehistoric Indian village uncovered in LeFlore county, is on exhibit at the University Anthropology Museum. Depicting a funeral ceremony, the authentic model was prepared by members of the University staff. Handiwork and implements belonging to the ancient Spiro Indians who lived 700 to 1200 years ago also are exhibited in the museum. These relics of the civilization were taken from a Spiro mound discovered near the village.

## Press Prints Book on Democracy

A modern restaurant of democracy organization, "The Design of Democracy" by George Washington Goble will be published by the University of Oklahoma Press in October. The author is professor of law at the University of Illinois.

Dr. J. Rud Nielsen research professor of physics at the University of Oklahoma, represented the University at a conference on nuclear physics and chemistry held at the Los Alamos scientific laboratory.

There are 300 veterans enrolled in highschool correspondence courses from the University of Oklahoma.

## Medical School Notes

Dr. Ethan A. Walker, '43med, has opened his office at Yukon, Oklahoma, for the practice of general medicine and surgery.

Dr. Charles A. Winter, associate professor of physiology has resigned from the Medical School faculty to accept a position with the Merck Pharmaceutical Company, Rahway, New Jersey.

Dr. Howard Glass, instructor in pharmacology has resigned to accept a similar position with Marquette University School of Medicine, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Dr. Albert D. Foster, professor of anesthesiology, and Dr. Jack Milowsky, assistant professor of anesthesiology have resigned from the Medical School faculty. Dr. Foster plans to enter private practice.

Dr. Henry W. Hooper, instructor in histology and embryology has resigned to return to the faculty of Northeast High School, Oklahoma City.

Dr. H. Gray Carter, '43med, recently returned from the armed forces and is connected with the Tulsa Clinic, 915 South Cincinnati, Tulsa.

Dr. Calmen P. Bishop, '37med, became director, Muskogee City County Health Department, on September 1, 1946.

Dr. R. H. Gingles, '36med, Director, District I Health Department, Tahlequah, was recently released from active duty with the Army Medical Corps.

Dr. Lenor S. Goerke, '36med, was recently appointed Director, Bureau of Medical Services, Los Angeles City Health Department, Los Angeles.

Dr. James O. Hood, '31med, until recently Director of Cleveland County Health Department, was appointed Director of Student Health Service for the University on September 1. Dr. Hood succeeds Dr. John Y. Battenfield, '37med, who has accepted a position with the Firestone Rubber Company at Monrovia, Liberia.

Dr. George E. Winn, '43med, became Director of Comanche County Health Department, Lawton, on September 1.

Leonard J. Ellis, '43med, was recently discharged from the Army after spending two and a half years in England and France. He intends practicing medicine somewhere in the state.

Joy Ann Wiley became the bride of Dr. George Henry Guthrey, '44med, September 1, in the Epworth Methodist Church, Chickasha. The bride attended the School of Nursing at University Hospital and completed a graduate course at Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Guthrey served with the Navy until July, and was graduated from the University Medical School.

Mary Emma Hall became the bride of Bob Dean, August 29, in the First Christian Church. Mr. Dean is a senior in the Medical School of the University. He is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Epsilon Delta and Phi Chi Fraternities. Mrs. Dean attended the University.

Dr. Elizabeth Irby Tutwiler, '43med, became the bride of Dr. John Jerome Coyle, '43med, August 14, in the Independent Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Alabama. The bride served her internship at University Hospital and recently she has been associated with the Children's Hospital at Birmingham. Dr. Coyle was recently discharged from the Army. Dr. and Mrs. Coyle will establish a home in Chandler.

Bruce H. Brown, member of the senior class, was married to the former Mildred Anderson on August 2, in the First Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City.

## Special Study Program Started

A special program of study in the basic sciences was started at the School of Medicine July 22, 1946, for those members of the faculty who desire to avail themselves of the opportunity to prepare for examinations for certification by an American Board. This course covers material in the fields of anatomy, histology, bacteriology, parasitology, physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry and pathology.