

# With the Armed Forces



LT. SAMMY T. SYKES  
and friend

## Sykes Moves to Chitose Base

FIFTH AIR FORCE, CHITOSE ARMY AIR BASE, HOKKAIDO, JAPAN—First Lt. Sammy T. Sykes, '42, recently was assigned to Chitose Army Air Base on Hokkaido in the northern part of Japan.

Receiving his flying instruction in the Western Training Command, Lieutenant Sykes was commissioned at Luke Field, Arizona, in December 1943. Upon promotion to first lieutenant at Meuter Field, California, he was placed on overseas duty and arrived at Yokohama in August 1946, where he was assigned to the "Fightin' 49th" Fighter Group. He is currently Ground Safety Officer and Element Leader of the 7th Fighter Squadron.

## Lawrence Named Assistant Exec

Capt. Robert L. Lawrence, '42, Anadarko, recently was appointed assistant executive officer of the Second Detachment of the Artillery School, Fort Sill.

Formerly stationed at Halloran General Hospital, New York City, Lawrence returned to Fort Sill, where he was commissioned through Officers Candidate School in March 1943, last December.

As executive and reconnaissance officer of Battery B, 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, Captain Lawrence participated in the Northern France, Ardennes, and Rhineland campaigns in the European War Theater. His decorations include: the Silver Star, for gallantry in action; the Purple Heart, and the E.A.M.E. ribbon with three Battle Stars.

Lawrence, who was graduated from Anadarko High School, and Oklahoma Military Academy, Claremore, also attended the University of Oklahoma. Prior to entering the service he was associated with the construction department of the Public Service of Oklahoma in Lawton.

## Col. Burba Moves to Ft. Knox Experimental Training Station

One of Oklahoma's most highly decorated servicemen, Lt. Col. Edwin H. Burba, '33bus, of McAlester has been selected as one of 75 officers for the Army Ground Force-Universal Military Training Experimental Unit activated recently at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Choice of the officers came after a nation-wide screening to determine those best qualified to conduct a six-month test training course under the War Department U.M.T. plan.

Colonel Burba, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Burba, McAlester, arrived at Fort Knox from the Second Armored Division at Camp Hood, Texas. He had previously served in Africa and in the European Theater with the First Armored Di-

vision and the Eighth Armored Division.

As the result of his overseas service he has received the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with one cluster, the Purple Heart, The Czechoslovakian Order of White Lion, the French Croix de Guerre with a gold star, the Commendation Ribbon, Occupation Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon and the European Theater Ribbon with four battle stars.

## Barry Joins Regular Army

After terminating five years of Army service in January, 1946, William G. Barry, '46ba, Purcell, decided to return to the swing of college life at O. U. But after a year of campus life, Barry, who is a senior law student, is all set to resume his Army activities.

His application for a regular commission in the Army has been approved by the War Department, and he will re-enter the service with the rank of first lieutenant.

Barry entered the service as a private in March, 1942, and rose to the rate of master sergeant while serving with the 9th division at Camp Berkeley, Texas. After receiving his commission from Officers Training School in February, 1943, he served in the Engineer's Corps.

From January to March, 1945, Barry attended the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Following this, he was stationed at the Engineer's Depot, San Bernardino, California, where he served as transportation officer.

A history major at the University before entering the service Barry is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity; Phi Delta Phi, honorary legal fraternity, and Eta Sigma Phi, classical language fraternity.

He was married to the former Rose Louise Groot-house, '39-'41, Purcell, in August, 1942. They have two children, Georgianna, 3, and Suzanne, 2.

## Lt. Col. Bland Receives D.F.C.

Because "he succeeded in drawing antiaircraft fire away from a formation of American fighter bombers over Germany, in April 1944, and in so doing effected the destruction of two German Tiger tanks," Lt. Col. Edwin A. Bland, Jr., '34-'39, was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross recently by Maj. Gen. Charles F. Born, commanding general of the 15th Air Force with Headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Later, on the same day, Colonel Bland was shot down in an A-36, dive bomber, and was taken prisoner by the Germans for 13 months. While in Stalag Luft III, a prison camp for allied aviators, he was named American commander of the North Compound. At the time of his capture, he was commander of the 86th Dive Bomber group which was stationed in Italy.

Together with the Distinguished Flying Cross, Colonel Bland wears the Air Medal with two clusters, the Purple Heart with a cluster and the European-African-Mediterranean Theatre ribbon with three campaign stars.

Colonel Bland was a close personal friend of the late Ernie Pyle and was frequently mentioned in Pyle's book, "Brave Men."

Son of Edwin A. Bland of Waurika, Colonel Bland is married to the former A. Jane Graham. The couple has two children, Edwin A. III, age 4 and Maxine E., age six months.

As chief of tactical inspection division of the air inspector's section, Colonel Bland is considered among key personnel of Headquarters 15th Air Force which supervises the training and operation of very heavy bombardment groups, long range fighter groups and allied organizations.

The citation accompanying the award said, in part, that "Colonel Bland's outstanding flying ability and his courageous actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces."



Lt. Col. Edwin A. Bland, Jr., (left), recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross is shown being congratulated by Maj. Gen. Charles F. Born, commanding general of the 15th Air Force, following the presentation ceremony at the Air Force headquarters, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Colonel Bland earned the award in April 1944, when, as a dive bomber pilot, he drew antiaircraft fire away from a formation of American fighter bombers over Germany.

## Andruss Cites Army Schooling

An alumnus of the University of Oklahoma who has gained no small measure of prominence in educational circles is Harvey A. Andruss, '24ba, president of Bloomsburg (Pennsylvania) State Teachers College.

Executive, scholar, educator and author, Andruss gained his latest distinction by contributing a featured article to *Business Education Outlook*, the journal for teachers and administrators of business educators.



HARVEY A. ANDRUSS

Entitled "Army Education in Retrospect" and appearing in the 1946-47 issue of the *Outlook*, Andruss' article discusses the Army's educational system during World War II in comparison with public and private civilian education.

"We educate for peace"; Andruss writes, "we go to war reluctantly; and then we try to find a scapegoat for our shortcomings . . . Reluctance to increase the income of teachers and to improve the conditions surrounding the profession are evidences of the disinterested attitude of the layman in education—until his son cannot get into the armed services as an officer.

"Literacy of hundreds of thousands of physically fit inductees was a major problem attacked and solved (during the war.) In a few short weeks mature men were taught to read and write . . . cost was not a factor, classes were small, students were carefully selected, known psychological procedures were applied without hampering parental interferences or political influences; and most inductees were stimulated by a natural desire to find a place in the armed services . . ."

Andruss, who helped organize and later headed a department in the first American Army University overseas during the war, became president of the college at Bloomsburg in 1941 after having served as dean of instruction and acting head of the institution for two years.

Author of several text-books and many bulletins, articles, and monographs, Andruss has received degrees from Oklahoma and Northwestern Universities and has taught at both schools. He served on the faculty of Indiana State Teachers College for three years before going to Bloomsburg College in 1930. He organized the Department of Business Education there and directed it until 1937. From 1937-39 he was dean of instruction.

While attending O. U. Andruss was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Kappa Delta Pi, Acacia Fraternity, Pick and Hammer Club, Los Dos Americas, Websterian and the Debating Club.

Hale Wingfield, '36journ, recently was appointed director of public relations for the American Hotel Association.

Wingfield was discharged last summer from the Army after serving as an officer in the Army counter-intelligence corps in Korea.

After leaving O. U., Wingfield was a special writer for Blue Ribbon Publications in New York. Later he was a staff member of Youth Today Magazine and an assistant in the sales promotion department of the Vick Chemical Company.

Max E. Johnson, '36ba, '37med, '39md, recently released from the Army Medical Corps with the rank of major, has opened offices in New Orleans, Louisiana, for the practice of medicine.

Hammet Field Hough, '32bus, has returned to his position as a buyer for the John A. Brown Co., Oklahoma City, following three years of active military duty.

William R. Moore, '32ba, has rejoined the Associated Press at Denver, Colorado, after several years' service in the Army. He held the rank of major until his discharge recently.

## Sooner N.R.O.T.C. Skipper, Exec Receive Navy Citations



Capt. E. W. Armentrout, Jr., U.S.N. (left), commanding officer of the University N.R.O.T.C. unit, receives the Bronze Star medal from Maj. Gen. Keller Rockey, U.S.M.S., at a Navy Day banquet held by the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce in October, 1946. The medal was awarded Captain Armentrout for meritorious service as executive officer aboard the U.S.S. Astoria from May, 1944 to March, 1945. During air attacks and shore bombardment he served as evaluator in the ship's combat information center.



President George L. Cross (left) congratulates Comdr. W. M. Rakow, executive officer of the University N.R.O.T.C. unit, after he received the Legion of Merit at ceremonies held December 10 on the campus. The award was for Commander Rakow's outstanding work while in command of a destroyer, the U.S.S. Stevens, during Japanese air attacks in January, 1945. The medal was presented by Capt. E. W. Armentrout, Jr., commanding officer of the University training unit.