Inside Korea—with Munson

With a distinguishing record of his University of Oklahoma career climaxing 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

Ball 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 there on August 1, arriving in Yokohama on August 12. On the ship I saw, the General Freeman, were about 80 families joining their country to Fort Lawton, Washington, and sailed 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 on their heads.

"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 passing through several typhoons with the typhoon for four days. Everyone was mighty glad to get off the ship when we arrived at Inchon.

"At the present time, we have two American families in Chonju, but more are on the way and will be 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," Confusianism, 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 modern or Western dress. Some of their families have cars, some do not have cars.

"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 Sooner all 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, '38b, 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 Hales' wife 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, '32aw, 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 South America, a command where he served with the 14th Major Port between August, 1944, and May, 1946. Presentation was made personally by Major General Edmond H. Leavy, 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.

Col. 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 force, 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 burning artillery projectiles and fire have 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-
Ratliff Cited

Lt. Col. Frank G. Ratliff, ’36sa, ’39aw, 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. M. deShazo, commandant of the Field Artillery School.

The citation accompanying the medal for Colonel Ratliff read: “For meritorious service in connection with operations 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 Office Advanced Course at the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Stevenson Appointed Secretary

Lt. Col. Ralph L. Stevenson, ’42hus, Ponca City, former gridiron star of the University and the Cleveland Professional Rams, has been appointed secretary to the Board of Training 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 organization planning, and then as deputy chief of staff of the China Division of the Air Transport Command. He was later appointed chief of staff under the commanding general of the China-China Division of the Transport Command, Brig. Gen. Charles W. Lawrance, 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 for the Universal General 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 that command’s operations planning division. Now serving as secretary to the General Staff, Colonel Stevenson directs administrative functions under Major General Keprer, formerly 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 started for three seasons as guard on the Sooner’s football eleven. He signed with the Cleveland Rams in 1940, the professional football team he 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- and China Theater ribbons; the China-Burma and India Theater ribbons; the American Meritorious Service Medal; and the American Defense Service Medal.

Thompson Gets Army Discharge

Capt. William Best Thompson, ’43md, Medical Corps, returned to civilian life recently after two years service in the armed forces. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Thompson, 321 N. W. 17th street, Oklahoma City.

Captain Thompson received an unusual honor when he was awarded a commendation for meritorious service and outstanding performance of 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 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 research centers throughout Oklahoma.

Dr. Lee K. Emmenheiser, ’28bs in med, ’31med, and John Lamb, ’28bs, ’32md, both of Oklahoma City and many other Sooners 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. Hardwood 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 democratic 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. Red Nibleen 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 high school correspondence courses from the University of Oklahoma.

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.