By Ted Beard

Observing “War Activities” through the window to the West at the close of this December 1, 1942 day, is a new experience in Riding the Sooner Range! Not that there is anything unusual about the window on this third floor—not that it is unusual for a heavy fog to settle over this West Coast and the sun fail to break through until late afternoon (as it has this December 1)—not that it is unusual for planes (real American war machines) to zoom in and out at this large air base—but unusual that I find myself “temporarily parked” (No, not due to gas or mileage rationing) to receive “reprimands” at this blackout-out, reinforced concrete and steel, plus excellently equipped, base hospital on the Coast! And—the days can grow into weeks—the nights into months (and do) during this “relax” period—following weeks of 5 a.m. rise and shine to late evening taps with hundreds of real American soldiers on the drill fields, on the rifle range—on the “alert” of training!

But—in a pause such as this, one can (and does) look over the field of the hurried and scramble, the busy activity of change, the hardship and frustration caused during the first year of World War II as it draws up to the one-year line this week.

Sooner of O. U.—by the thousands—are in this fight; in it to the finish! Your well organized and excellently functioning alumni office at O. U. has a staff devoting endless hours to keeping track and recording the list of sons of O. U. throughout the world who are serving. And—now the struggle is beginning to take its toll. Late last night a bulletin came to me—Lt. AL NAIFEH, ’37ba, ’401aw, brought quite close to us! Yes, there have been thousands, the Nazis whipped, and they will be! Thus the war is closer. One of O. U.’s finest students of law—a young man in the beginning of an outstanding career—an O. U. alumni board member at the time of his untimely passing. Thus the war is brought home closer—ever closer. One of O. U.’s finest students of law—a young man in the beginning of an outstanding career—an O. U. alumni board member at the time of his untimely passing. Thus the war is brought home closer—ever closer. One of O. U.’s finest students of law—a young man in the beginning of an outstanding career—an O. U. alumni board member at the time of his untimely passing.

O. U. men taking a few minutes out from war activities at their various posts of duty all over, drop a hurriedly written letter our way and they have reached me finally at this “relaxation” point. Indeed, there are many notes breaking the monotony of the hour. Major C. GUY BROWN, ’28ba, from his post of duty, War Department Headquarters of the Army Air Forces, Washington, pauses long enough to say, “Enjoyed a visit recently here in the capitol with HERB SCOTT, ’26ba, ’26ma, and J. H. ‘Zeke’ VANZANT, ’25ba, ’26ma. The venerable dean of the O. U. extension division and the big butter and egg executive of Enid were probably forced into the nation’s capitol on war problems of their own.

From far away “Somewhere in Australia,” another alumni executive board member writes—Maj. BUS MILES, ’28ba, ’27med, Anadarko contribution to the United States Army Medical Corps. In part Doc says, “This young brother-in-law of yours, Lt. FRANK HAXEL, ’32, seems to be doing OK in acting as the president of the board of directors of the U.S. Army! We are here strong—O. U. is well represented, but the Texas Longhorns are here in our outfit also, and we have ‘struggles.’” Lt. CY EL LINGER, ’28ba, in Las Vegas, Nevada, no longer the big-time banker in peaceful Purcell, Oklahoma, writes us—“Catch a cross country bomber and drop in some day.” Yeah—we will catch you! When this struggle is over we will catch a ride to the cabin near Purcell and along with Cy and the rest of the McClain County gang, enjoy broiled Oklahoma Sooners Select Steaks—and sleep past “revell—revell”

Mrs. “Maj” Malone drops a note our way from her war industry employment center in Atlanta, Georgia—to say, “Oh boy—Maj (T. P. MALONE, ’37ba, ’36ma, staff member and the fair lady’s husband) will graduate from officer school tomorrow, December 1, and has a ten-day ‘furlough’ heading toward Georgia. I have seen him twenty-four hours in seven months.”

From “Somewhere in Scotland” a glamorous engraved Christmas card has just arrived from one of my Union chaps—Lt. L. D. “Bill” THOMAS, ’38ba, who, while asking the latest news of ANDY CROSBY, ’39ba, ’41aw, Lt. HAROLD REEDY, ’41, RALPH KENYON, ’37ba, ’38aw, and numerous O. U. cronies, states, “I was in England for three months—now (and have been for three weeks) in Scotland. Even though it’s thousands of miles from this spot to the campus of the University of Oklahoma, ‘my heart’s right there!’”

A letter from GEORGE ED WALTON, ’39aw, an O. U. alum “lifer” recently of Camp Walters, Texas—more recently of a specialized training school in Santa Monica, California—gives complete details on his training unit and announces the fact that he graduates this week and will be on his way “somewhere” for the U.S. Army Air Corps.

From across the way—indeed, how far across the way, Boston, Massachusetts and headquarters of changes, the hardship and frustration caused during the period of the first year of World War II as it draws up to the one-year line this week.

Sooner Reunion Down South

Sooner down Tennessee way congregated for an impromptu shindig November 17 in Memphis after word got around that several members of Eddy Young’s orchestra, on an engagement there, were former musicians in the Varsity Club orchestra while attending the University. The reunion took place in the Balinese Room of the Hotel Claridge where the orchestra was playing. Present for the celebration were Ernie Thorpe, ’41, former reporter on the Memphis Press-Scimitar, and Mrs. Horace Arey, ’37, Lewis Mock, ’38-40, optometrist at Greenview, Mississippi, and Mrs. Mock (Rosemary Fair, ’39-41). Mr. Mock was pianist with the Varsity Club orchestra during student days and his wife was vocalist. Mrs. Mock is now singer and announcer with radio station WJPR in Greenville. Sooner members of Eddy Young’s orchestra were James Emery, ’42; Marvin Rice, ’41; and Jack Musick, ’40-41.