With the Armed Forces

SOONER ALUMNI, many with the 45th Division, were in action in the Sicilian campaign last month as Allied forces carried out strong offensive warfare on the land and in the air over the Mediterranean.

Lt. Col. Edward F. Stephenson, '40m.ed, Oklahoma City, commanding officer of an Army battalion, was among the first to land on Sicily. A United Press dispatch written on board a troop transport off Sicily described the landing of his group.

After the signal to disembark was received, the story related, Colonel Stephenson stood up in his boat and told his men, "If the Navy and the Coast Guard get us there, I promise we're going to give somebody hell when we hit the beach."

Colonel Stephenson, a former assistant principal of Capitol Hill Junior High School in Oklahoma City, is a Marine Corps veteran of the first World War. He joined the National Guard and went into active service when the 45th Division was activated.

Operating over another European front, Capt. L. D. Griffin, '37-'39, Cyril, piloted The Lady Duck, a Flying Fortress which bombed German aircraft repair and assembly plants in France.

Captain Griffin reported that the anti-aircraft fire in the engagement was the heaviest he had ever been under, "I didn't know they had that much flak in France... it was just like Germany. The weather was clear and we knocked hell out of the target," the pilot said.

Decorations

Decorations for two alumni reported to be Japanese prisoners of war last month were added to the growing list of Sooner heroes. Latest total of awards won by O. U. men showed that 77 Sooners have won 122 decorations, according to Alumni Office records.

Cecil McFarland, '25, Norman, believed to be a prisoner of the Japanese, has been promoted to lieutenant colonel and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for action in defense of the Philippines where he was stationed with the Army Air Forces.

Report of the promotion and the decoration was carried in the June issue of Air Force Magazine, but Colonel McFarland's family in Norman has received no official notification. He is believed to have escaped to Australia with General MacArthur's party, but to have been captured by the Japanese when he returned to the Philippines on a mission.

Maj. John W. Primrose, '28aw, Eufaula, who was taken prisoner by the Japanese when Corregidor fell, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star.

He was sent to the Philippine Islands in September, 1941, as an instructor of a native Infantry group in northern Luzon.

Maj. R. Julian Mason, '34-'36, Norman and Houston, Texas, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his participation in combat action with the Army Air Forces in Alaska.

One of a group of U. S. Army pioneer pilots in Alaska, Major Mason has been attached to Air Force headquarters there since last summer. Recently he returned to the States for training at the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Capt. Charles T. Moore, '41, Oklahoma City, believed to be a prisoner of the Italians, was awarded three Oak Leaf Clusters to add to the Air Medal, indicating a second, third and fourth award of this decoration. Captain Moore holds a total of six decorations for action with the Army Air Forces in North Africa—a Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster and an Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Capt. Loyd D. Griffin, '37-'39, Cyril, was awarded the Air Medal in June for action with the U. S. Army Air Force over Europe. He was stationed at Minter Field, California, and in Kansas at the Topeka Army Air Base before going overseas.

Lt. Robert J. Nespor, Jr., '38-'40, Newkirk, pilot with the Army Air Forces in the Middle East, was awarded the Air Medal for outstanding service. Former University geology student and member of Delta Chi fraternity, Lieutenant Nespor enlisted in the Air Corps in July, 1941.

Lt. Glen L. Dark, '41, navigator now listed as missing in the African campaign, was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to add to an Air Medal which he already held. Reports of the presentation of the two awards to Lieutenant Dark followed word received last February that he was missing in action.

Hope that he still was operating with American forces in Africa was further strengthened in April when the flyer was mentioned in a letter from an Oklahoman in North Africa.

Capt. Don R. Greenhaw, '40-'41, Sentinel, who was wounded in action with the Field Artillery in North Africa, was decorated with the Silver Star for gallantry while recovering in an Algiers rest camp.

The citation accompanying the award stated that Captain Greenhaw took over several 155-millimeter howitzers which were firing upon approaching enemy tanks and forced them to withdraw during the action in Tunisia in February. Former business manager of the Oklahoma Daily, Captain Greenhaw earlier received the Purple Heart.

Lt. Otis R. Rogers, '40bus, Oklahoma City, former O. U. football star, was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in the Tunisian campaign in which he served as a member of a Reconnaissance company.

The citation accompanying the award stated that Lieutenant Rogers voluntarily went forward with a Tank Destroyer vehicle into an exposed position to attack an enemy observation post which had been shelling the American unit. So effective was his maneuver that the enemy was forced to evacuate the post and cease firing.

Maj. Jack Romerman, '40law, Oklahoma City, received a commendation from General Patton following the action around Kasserine Pass and El Guettar where he served as an intelligence officer with the Air Force.

The commendation from General Patton stated, "In many critical times during phases of operation leading up to the critical battle of Kasserine Pass, Major Romerman's judgment and evaluation of intelligence obtained by air reconnaissance made invaluable contributions to command decisions."

Word has been received of the award of additional decorations to five Sooners in service already holding medals. Maj. John D. Bridges, '34-'37, Oklahoma City, now
stationed at Biggs Field, Texas, after serving with the Air Force in the Pacific, received a commendation for initiative displayed in handling evacuees from Java. He also holds the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross.

Lt. Edward LeRoy Leonard, 40hus, Chickasha, and Sgt. Bill M. Stolzer, 40-'41, Oklahoma City, both with the Air Force in North Africa, received Oak Leaf Clusters to add to Air Medals which they had previously won. Sergeant Stolzer received three clusters and Lieutenant Leonard was awarded "several," according to word from relatives.

Lt. Euel A. Travis, 40ed, former Indiana teacher, navigator on a bomber in the Pacific, was awarded the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross. He also holds the Silver Star for gallantry in the Pacific, was awarded the Air Medal.

Pvt. Harold S. Hirschi, 35ba, Oklahoma City, a prisoner of the Japanese since the fall of Bataan, died at a prison camp in the Philippines according to a War Department message to his parents.

No word had been received directly from Pvt. Hirschi since February 7, 1942, when he was stationed at Clark Field. A short time later he was listed as missing in action and two months ago he was officially reported a Japanese prisoner. Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Hirschi of Oklahoma City.

Ensign Samuel K. Shook, '39-'42, 20-year-old Navy pilot from Cogar, Oklahoma, was killed July 16 when his fighter plane crashed and burned in a park in Berkeley, California.

Formerly on active duty with a Navy Fighter squadron, Ensign Shook was assigned to the Naval Air Station at Alameda, California. He was a student in the College of Arts and Sciences in the University. Survivors include his mother, Mrs. Samuel B. Shook of Cogar.

Aviation Cadet Frank Robert Monroe, '34-'35, St. Louis, Missouri, was killed the night of June 1 when the plane he was piloting on a training flight crashed near Pampa, Texas, where he was stationed at the Army Air Base.

Cadet Monroe entered the Army Air Force last September at Kelly Field, Texas, and would have received his commission and wings July 1. Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Monroe, and his wife, the former Dorothy Marston, all of St. Louis.

Lt. (jg) Thomas Eugene Harrison, '41 bus, Anadarko, died June 2 in a Navy Hospital at Portsmouth, Virginia, following an attack of acute appendicitis.

Former letterman in track and participant in all intramural sports while attending the University, Lieutenant Harrison received his commission at the Naval Reserve Midshipman's School in Chicago. He was promoted to lieutenant junior grade and transferred from San Francisco to the east coast shortly before his death.

Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Harrison, and his wife, the former Virginia Thompson, all of Anadarko.

Wendell King, '40-'42, civilian instructor for Army Air Force cadets at Hale Field, near Oklahoma City, was killed in a plane crash June 25 southeast of Oklahoma City.

Originally from Woodward, Mr. King lived in Oklahoma City for several years before his death. He was a former student in the School of Law. Survivors include his parents, Judge and Mrs. H. B. King, Oklahoma City.

Deaths In Service

Lt. James H. Gill, '38-'41, Oklahoma City, with the Army Air Force in the Southwest Pacific, was reported killed in action after a search for his plane proved futile. He previously was listed as missing in action.

Lieutenant Gill and other members of his fighter squadron were over enemy territory when Japanese planes attacked, breaking up the formation. The Sooner pilot was last seen in pursuit of an enemy ship and a search of the area later failed to find him.

The commanding officer of Lieutenant Gill's fighter squadron wrote his father that the pilot had been recommended for the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster. Former aeronautical engineering student in the University, he entered the Air Force in September, 1941. Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest H. Gill of Oklahoma City.

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Missing in Action

Four alumni with the Army Air Forces last month were reported missing in action in North Africa, the European war zone and in the Southwest Pacific.

Staff Sgt. Norris D. Dickey, 28-'30, winner of an Air Medal and an Oak Leaf Cluster, was listed as missing in action in North Africa as of April 4. He was employed by a motor company in Seattle, Washington, before entering service the day after Pearl Harbor.

Lt. Leonard C. Goode, '35-'38, Oklahoma City, an Air Force navigator, was reported missing in action over Europe. He joined the Air Force in January, 1942, and transferred to England in April.

Lt. Richard A. Snoddy, '37-'38, Stratford, bomber pilot in the Pacific, has been missing in action since June 10. His brother, Lt. Bill Snoddy, '37-'38, is with the armed forces in North Africa.

Capt. Paul G. Smith, '38-'39, Oklahoma City, squadron commander of a flight of Liberators, was reported missing in action in the Southwest Pacific. Several times

HONORED BY CHINA
Lt. Duane Clapham, '38bus, Norman, who was killed in a crash in India while testing planes for the Chinese government, and China's Meritorious Medal which he was awarded posthumously. Lieutenant Clapham could have bailed out and saved his life but chose to remain in the plane to save the lives of others. The citation which accompanied the medal appears on the cover.

Captain Smith has been mentioned in dispatches from Australia for valorous action.

Prisoners of War

Three alumni recently reported prisoners of the Japanese were Lt. Donald H. Smith, '33pharm, Fairview, Victor Jack Howard, '37, Seminole, and Ensign William A. Berry, '40law, Stillwater.

August, 1943
Lieutenant Smith was stationed at Fort Stotsenberg in the Philippines. He received a medical degree from the University of Tennessee in 1938 and served his internship at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, British Columbia.

Mr. Howard, a member of the Air Force, was stationed at Clark Field. Both men are thought to have been taken prisoner on Bataan.

Former county attorney of Payne County, Ensign Berry went on active duty and was transferred to the Philippines just before Manila was bombed.

Injured in Service

Lt. Wheeler Burkett, '37-'38, Oklahoma City, pilot of a Flying Fortress, was wounded by flying German shell fragments in an air battle over France in June.

Doctors in the English hospital where he was confined removed from the wounds 25 to 30 pieces of shell, one of which chipped an ankle bone and injured a nerve. Both Lieutenant Burkett and the bombardier were hit when the shell landed between them and exploded.

His parents in Oklahoma City received word in July that he was ready to leave the hospital. He had been on foreign duty not more than a month, having received his wings and commission in January at Houston, Texas.

Back from Battlefronts

Capt. Kenneth M. Taylor, '40, Hominy, first Sooner alumnus decorated for heroism and veteran of the Southwest Pacific aerial war, was home last month for the first time in two years.

Met at the Tulsa airport by his parents, his wife and his baby son whom he had never seen before, Captain Taylor said, "Good gosh, he's beautiful. But don't hand him to me. I'm scared I might drop him."

Captain Taylor was on leave to recuperate from a knee-cap injury received in May on Guadalcanal when he dove into a foxhole while enemy planes were dropping bombs nearby. He has a total of three enemy planes to his credit.

Recently home in Norman on leave after recuperating in a London hospital from wounds received in Merchant Marine action was Jim McIntyre, '40-'41, former University engineering student.

Mr. McIntyre, a seaman in the Maritime Service, has crossed the Atlantic three times, twice to Africa and once to England. While on the voyage to England, his convoy was attacked by German planes as it was about to dock. He received cuts on the face and his right eye was injured by flying steel splinters.

Maj. Mitchell Escue Sims, '39, Norman, holder of the Silver Star for gallantry in action in the Southwest Pacific, was home on leave in June before receiving orders to a new station.

Major Sims visited his wife, the former Dorothy Stogner, and their 18-month-old son Mike after whom the flier's pursuit ship

Report to tell of life in North Africa where he was commander of the base at which he was stationed.

Food included thick steaks from native beeches, frozen fruits and vegetables and bananas at 20 cents a stalk, Captain Walker reported. As base commander he had the duty of welcoming guests, who included foreign correspondents, Martha Raye, Jimmy Doolittle and the presidential party.

Movies every night, shortwave broadcasts and Army newspapers all combined to keep the men informed about what was going on in the States, he said.

On Active Navy Duty

Approximately 200 University Naval R.O.T.C. cadets went on active duty in July when members of the Naval Training unit arrived on the campus. While continuing University work they will wear seamen's uniforms and draw seamen's pay, but will be classed as midshipmen.

Members of the senior Navy class are as follows: Garth A. Abbott, Delaware; Russell J. Alexander and Charles H. Colpitt, both of Collinsville; Robert N. Barson, Robert E. Chancellor, Robert E. Chandler, Jr., Austin G. Dill, Calvin W. Hendrickson, Kenneth C. Knight, John C. Murdock, G. Dudley Strother, Jr., Billy M. Van Eaton, and Lloyd L. Von Tuneln, all of Oklahoma City.

Virgil R. Bennett, Dierks, Arkansas; Glen L. Gaines, Ringling; William B. Harris, Jr., Hugo; Francis L. Hayhurst, and Robert M. Loefler, both of Bristow; Washington L. Kennedy, Jr., Wilson; John B. Leake, Charles D. Manson, Jr., Robert D. Ortenburger, John E. Pantier, and Kenneth L. Sain, all of Norman.

Raymond T. Geller, Coffeyville, Kansas; Harry C. Mitchell, Tulsa; Garrison E. Munson, Jr., Enid; Frank T. Oweh, Tipton; Kenneth M. Roberts, Sapulpa; Charles L. Prokop and C. Rex Scott, both of Shawnee; Jack L. Trentman, Jr., Wichita, Kansas; Carl L. Wenz, Jr., San Diego, California; Ray M. Whiblee, Dallas, Texas; Daniel H. Carter, El Reno; Reatlo P. Clinton, Ponca City, and William L. Howard, Jr., Oklahoma City.

Included in the junior class are Samuel T. Allen, Sapulpa; Joe L. Artman, Norman; Jehue B. Baker, Amarillo, Texas; Robert B. Benear, Randal W. Clark, Jack C. Felber, Harvey L. Kymen, Daniel A. Painter, and Arthur F. Whitt, all of Tulsa.


Jim C. Curry, Blanchard; George Dobervich, Ironton, Minnesota; William B. Duncan, John H. Graham, and Billy R. Stokes, all of Shawnee; Charles E. Gassaway, Carnegie; Ambers W. Gentry, Lawton; Har-
old D. Hansen, Carmen; Samuel H. Hathaway, Cordell; Samuel L. Hendrix, Okemah.

Frank H. Hubbard, Jet; Charles L. Hughes, Keytesville, Missouri; Clovis G. Killian, Anadarko; Homer C. Leland, Wirt; Donald R. Link, Chase, Kansas; Lewis M. Long, Roanoke, Virginia; Walter J. McFarland, Sayre; Joe A. Taylor, Clinton; John A. Weideman, Mount Pleasant, Michigan; Eugene R. Wright, Webb City, and Guy T. Simmons, Tuttle.

In the sophomore class are Thomas B. Albright, Sulphur; Rufus Y. Bandy, Fred E. Cordell, Oberon K. Fowler and John W. Williams, all of Bartlesville; Benny D. Barnes, Steve R. Sawyer, Daniel K. Teis, Jack S. Osborn, and Jack C. Ware, all of Tulsa.


Robert W. Berry, Eldon H. Hatfield, Ernest A. Hogan, Derald Lebow, Robert C. Mayfield, John F. Meacham, Wendell S. Taylor, and George H. Ware, all of Norman; Billy J. Clark, William L. Fry, Jr., and Jack G. Kennedy, all of Durant; John R. Clifton, Davis, and Merle L. Dinkins, Blackwell.

Jack E. Dodson, Haskell; Mark L. Douglas, Kirk Dyer, Kenneth A. Humphreys, and Thomas G. Johnson, all of Ardmore; Richard L. Fenster, Ada; Tom D. Finney, Idabel; Bill G. Forrester, Altus; Chester R. Gates, Seminole; James G. Greenwood, Boswell; Grady D. Harris, Alex; Wallace L. Hunt and Homer A. Sparkman, both of Anadarko.


Robert H. Martin, Muskogee; Edward S. Morris, Amarillo, Texas; Henry L. Muehl, Providence, Rhode Island; Elgin H. Newkirk, Okmulgee; Robert P. Ranck, Huntsville; Raymond S. Parratt, Euclid, Ohio; Hillard Parsons, Fayetteville, Tennessee; Robert J. Penny, Healdton; James C. Pugh, Chatham, New York.

William M. Randle, Clinton; Melvin F. Roberts, Sapulpa; Paul M. Robinson and Robert L. Stover, both of Enid; Roy W. Roring, Davis; R. Grant Scott, Oklahoma City, Kansas; Donald E. Smith, Greenfield, Indiana; Ralf N. Steward, Weatherford; Henry J. Tanner, Chicago, Illinois; Robert G. Walter, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Robert V. Walter, Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Charles E. Witten, Dallas, Texas, and Judson S. Woodruff, Birmingham, Alabama.

Capt. Hannah Ashby, '37-'38, Norman, former WAC company commander at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and her executive officer, Lt. Pearl Mount Wood, '32, Oklahoma City, appeared in a colored photograph used with an article on the WAC in a recent issue of McCall's magazine. Captain Ashby, who is now reported on foreign duty, is in the center and Lieutenant Wood to the right.

- Reprinted courtesy of McCall's magazine.

Rescued From Channel

Returning to his British base from a sweep over France recently, Lt. Howard Hively, '37-'40, Air Force ace, was forced to bail out of his burning plane into the English Channel.

As described by Lt. Vic France, '40, who was in the same flight, "After swallowing several gallons of salt water, and being slapped from one wave to another for an hour and a half, he was picked up by an English Air-Sea Rescue boat. They revived him with a big slug of rum and let him keep the bottle, and he was back on the job next day."

Top Man

Oley E. Attebery, '41-'42, Norman, air cadet in the U. S. Coast Guard, graduated at the head of his battalion upon completion of training at the Navy Pre-flight School at Athens, Georgia.

Cadet Attebery, former University engineering student, was transferred to the Primary Flight Training School in Dallas,
Texas, following completion of the pre-flight instruction.

Arab Chief Likes Sooner

An unusual honor recently was awarded in North Africa to Lt. Robinson J. Andrews, '38-'39, Oklahoma City, while buying a steer from an Arab chief for his squadron's mess.

"This 'caid' is head of a tribe and quite a noble-looking Arab, well-dressed and well-bred," Lieutenant Andrews reported. "As a token of the mutual agreement we came to, he presented me with one of his medals. After this ceremony he served us tea on a silver tray, out of a silver teapot. It was easy to see that he is a man of means...He really thought I was the 'fair-haired boy,' and practically wanted to adopt me."

Meets English Playwright

A momentous evening during which he saw Winston Churchill, sat in Noel Coward's box at a theater and later met the British dramatist-actor backstage was enjoyed recently by Lt. Chad Brown, '41, Oklahoma City.

Lieutenant Brown, with the Air Force in England, met Mr. Coward through a London newspaperman friend, who arranged for the Oklahoman and three of his friends to attend Mr. Coward's performance, and introduced them to him afterwards.

When Lieutenant Brown spoke to Mr. Coward, the Englishman said, "Ah, a southerner." Mr. Churchill also attended the play.

Doctor on African Front

Lt. Col. Paul Sanger, '28ba, former Charlotte, North Carolina, physician, was mentioned in a recent column by Ernie Pyle, newspaper columnist in North Africa, describing the work of Army doctors and nurses on the battlefront.

Colonel Sanger is chief surgeon of an Evacuation Hospital set up in an old oak field, with tents to live in and absolutely no conveniences. Mr. Pyle quoted Colonel Sanger as saying, "I never go into town. I feel better out here than I've ever felt in my life. We're all prima-donnas back home... We would have been shocked at the idea of living like this. But we love it...I suppose we'll be making our families live out in tents when we get home."

Hybrid Rank Adopted

The title of Third Lieutenant has been adopted by Howard Gail Carpenter, '37, Oklahoma City, and other non-commissioned fighter pilots in Tunisia.

An article in a recent issue of Yank, the weekly Army publication, described them as "Sad Sacks," a group of 67 men who graduated together from Luke Field, Arizona, and were shipped together to the fighting front.

Their insignia resembles that of warrant officer, though officially they are flying sergeants. The "third lieutenant" is something they dreamed up themselves.

Yank Humor Not Foiled

Privations of jungle life can't check American fliers' sense of humor, according to Lt. Ellis L. Brown, '39eng, Duncan, an Air Force Liberator pilot in New Guinea.

The spirit of the men on the island is high, Lieutenant Brown said. Hardships such as no ice, no fresh food and no feminine acquaintances within several thousand miles are brushed off with comments like, "I'm not going to date that red-head any more--she did me dirt last night," or, "Those steaks we had for dinner were too rare."

Lieutenant Brown, formerly with the Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Company at Duncan, has been overseas since March.

Teaches War Reporters

Capt. Guss Zeldich, '37ba, '39law, '40ma, was featured in a story in Newsweek for May 17 which described an Army school set up in England for war correspondents.

The curriculum at the school includes map reading, motor transport repair, enemy personnel recognition and aircraft recognition, taught by Captain Zeldich. "He gave us aircraft recognition until our heads spun and we couldn't tell a Spitfire from a spittoon," wrote the Newsweek correspondent. "At the bell, he pronounced us a bright group and retired in good order."

The reporter described Zeldich as a "tall, bespectacled young captain...from Tulsa, Oklahoma."

Honored by French

As a token of the friendly relations existing between the American and French armies, Maj. Robert F. Brooks, '33geol, Oklahoma City, has been made an honorary member of the Sixth Spahis Regiment of the French Native Cavalry in North Africa.

The honor was bestowed upon Major Brooks by Col. Charles Amanrich of the French Army. Major Brooks was an oil engineer in Oklahoma City before joining the Air Force in 1940.

Medical Students in Uniform

Training of medical students in the Army and Navy programs was well under way last month following activation July 1 of the Navy unit. The Army group, designated as Army Specialized Training unit No. 3865, was activated May 10.

The Army unit, composed of 161 students, includes freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. The students are officially privates in the Army, wear uniforms and draw fifty dollars a month outside of food and lodging. Commanding officer of the Army unit is Capt. Lyman F. Barry.

Capt. J. F. Donelson, commandant of the Navy R.O.T.C. unit and the Navy Training program at the University, has command of the medical students in the Navy unit.

Freshmen Out, Then In Army

Ruling in a House appropriation bill before the Senate that would require Medical School freshmen to be discharged was killed at the eleventh hour last month just in time to keep some sixty medical freshmen in the Army.

Under the ruling, expenditure of money would be prohibited on medical education of enlisted men who would not complete their training within 24 months. The absolute minimum for training doctors is two years and nine months.

On June 30, with the end of the fiscal year only hours off, the Congress still had not passed the military appropriations bill. Under Army orders, the freshmen medical students checked in their uniforms and took physical examinations for discharge.

About an hour before the end of the fiscal year, Congress passed the bill without the stipulation that medical training for servicemen should not exceed 24 months. Freshmen checked out uniforms and returned to classes as Army privates.

How Sooners Serve

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