

for former Sooner athletes in the service, only.

Dec. 19, 1944.

CHATTER....Our boys are all over the world and here are a few recent excerpts from their letters....from Capt. Waddy Young who piloted a super-fort on the first bombing of Tokyo, "You know, I won two gallons of catsup from Col. "Pelly' Diltman, Texas A. and M. boy. His school loyalty misled him. By the way, this catsup makes powdered eggs taste like real home cooking. The food here is fine and it is just that time. Speaking of ball team, dam that Tex. U. I guess that is what I get for getting a little cocky."....from Bob Estep, who played five games with us this fall before being assigned by Navy to midshipman's school at USS Prairie State, New York city, "Remember Herb Smith? He is here and will get his commission Dec. 15. Also, Grover Ramsey(all-Big Six basketball center last season for Oklahoma) is here with me. Ask Dinkins, alias 'Merle Pretty Curls,' if he doesn't think it is about time to make a touchdown?"(Dinkins did, Bobby, in the finale against Nebraska. Lebow hit him with a pass and the redhead cut back through the secondary 35 yards for a touch)....Lt. Thelton "Sonny" Wright, football and track star of 1941-42 who is now a marine company commander at Camp Pendleton and awhile back was decorated for pulling a comrade out of a river at night during maneuvers, finally wrote in. Asked about the new company commandership, Son broke down and admitted it. "I have 337 men to be a mother and father to. I teach them the drive and hustle method. They eat it up. I am also transportation and recreation officer. I am so pooped at night I can hardly find my shoe strings with both hands," Wright said....One of the earliest Christmas cards this year came from Cliff Mell, our gritty little Texas broadjumper of 1931 who still holds the Big Six Indoor record and is now a litter-bearer in Europe with the medical corps....Mell was always known for his native wit. Once he was trying to make the American Olympic team in the hop, step and jump(there were too many good colored boys among the broadjumpers). It was Mell's last jump and he still hadn't done as good as fourth place, necessary to make the team....He kept waiting and waiting at the head of the straightaway. He had a reason. On the other side of the field a couple of Californians were pole-vaulting for the world record. Mell waited until the attention of the big crowd, and also of the hop, step and jump officials, was on the pole-vaulter. As the latter ran down his runway with his pole on the east side of the stadium, Mell foxily sped down the hop, step and jump runway on the west side of the stadium, unseen by his own judges who were watching the pole-vaulter. Mell hit the board, took a hop, TWO ~~jump~~ steps and a jump, but still didn't go far enough to get that fourth place....Sgt. Billy Cross, an Army Air Force gunner just transferred to England(son of Bill Cross, Sooner quarterback of '04-07 and business manager of athletics) writes, "We have a stripped down fortress called the Green Hornet that crews use as a taxi to Paris and I am going to try to get over there once or twice before I come back. I haven't seen any of the boys recently but Bill Caldwell was a co-pilot in our group when I came over. Tell Bruce Drake if I have a chance I'm going up to Scotland and take a look at some of their golf courses as they have some honeys."....Pvt. Bill "Chigger" Pruitt, crosscountry '43, was in the Battle of the Philippines and described it as being like "a good football game, plenty of action." "However it has settled down to plenty of hard work now. I'm in the best physical condition that plenty of hard work and lots of sleep will put one. I feel like giving Vicklund a good run in the two-mile. Ha. I am writing this by candle light and it is almost out."....Capt. Herb Scheffler, basketball '39-40, also sends Christmas greetings from the Philippines. Herb, a big 6-foot 3-inch left-handed rebounder deluxe who is still Oklahoma's greatest backboard rebounder of modern times and loved to rile enemy crowds, would have a picnic now that the 5-personal foul rule is in effect(for the first time this year)....Lt. Ken "Crow" Farris, our Big Six champ broad-jumper who is now a marine quartermaster, writes from eastern USA, "Had a swell visit with Stan Green and Butch Chancellor a couple of Sundays ago. They go to Quantico around the 3rd of Jan. Stan played six games with Ark. A&M while in V-12 school this fall. We are planning a New Year's party with them. I see where Dub Lamb(who played with the Maxwell Field team this fall) was chosen on the powerful Bainbridge Commodores all-opponents team. I had a letter from Ray Mullen this week. He is at a transit center overseas(Pearl Harbor, I think; his address was an APO) and he and Kerbel (Joe Kerbel of Seminole) were playing football on the transit center team. Recently