

THE DOPE

July 15, 1943

Published now and then at Douglas, Michigan,
for its sons in the Service. No. 19.

Everything in full summer swing here now: Dancing and movies at the pavillion....Bycycles swarming on the roads....Boats on the river and bathing at the beach. The cottages at the shore are practically full and things bowl along in much the old way - but there's a difference this year and a big one: Those able-bodied males of 18 to 35 - they've disappeared like the Indian.You boys have been missed since the day you left home - but you're missed more than ever right now.

— V —

2 more for Douglas: Armour Wiegert breezed into town the other day, sporting the uniform of a Lt. Commander in the Coast Guard, and is now on duty as an S.S. Inspector in Chicago. And Ted Engel, one of our fine 18-year-old boys, has reported at Camp Custer. That makes 45 for Douglas - & some showing for a village of 400.

— V —

Excerpt from "PROP WASH" a swell little service sheet published in Grand Rapids: "I snatched the joke about the rookie and the horse from 'The Dope' - a newssheet published in Douglas, Mich., and sent to service men, many of whom are the young fellows who used to play on my softball and basketball teams down there. I believe the idea of 'Prop Wash' came from 'The Dope'". (Signed) Father Sweeney.

— V —

"Small-world-after-all" notes: Ed Cobb and Leonard Shumaker got together up in Newfoundland recently; Charlie Gilman writes about a session with Boss Jennings in Hawaii; and who should Ev Bekken bump into on a road in New Caledonia but his old bank buddy, Heath Crow. Ev writes: "Boy, what a surprise! Lieut. H- and I were riding along when I heard somebody holler 'Bekken'. I turned around and there was Crow. I really don't know who was the more surprised. I jumped out of the peep and made for him - and you can imagine the rest.....Am meeting him again soon - we sure have a lot to catch up on". (Heath and Ev left the Bank for the Army exactly one year apart).

— V —

Did you hear about the draftee who, when being questioned about his qualifications, said that his father was descended from John Adams, his mother was a De Peyster, and one of his aunts was a Vanderbilt. "Well, that's fine" said the interviewing officer, "but of course we want you for fighting, not breeding".

From Smoky Miller "somewhere in Australia" June 20th: "Just received The Dope - the May 15th issue - but it's still news to us.Fosdick, Severens and yours truly are back in the hospital again, but we're all feeling good and will be out in a few days. (The boys are 'nt allowed to say, but we understand it's malaria). Tell Jack Powers to write me. I wrote twice to his old address but never heard.....Yes, I remember when I used to wrestle with him.....but tell him I won't be able to meet him in Berlin. If he could meet me in Tokio, though - boy, what we could do to that punk, Tojo".

From Val Smith "somewhere in England" July 2nd: "Well, here I am again...That last issue...where Johnnie wrote about the mustache deal with Smoky - I sure did get a kick out of that.....Made another move lately, so don't see Jake Jennings any more..... I'll bet Douglas and Saug are a treat now. They're the prettiest towns in the U.S.A."

From Steve Hamlin at Camp Santa Anita, California: "Am back in school again and this is my first day of classes. Got through Basic, thank the Lord, and have been transferred to another company. Now they have me slated for supply clerk. Hello everybody".

From Vic Culver, just out of Meat Inspectors School and now on duty at Peterson Field, Colorado: "When a guy says he can read a girl like a book, he's usually just poring over her lines". (Yes, Vic graduated at the top of his class).

From Jane Foster with the WACs in Washington, D.C.: "I'm getting so sick to see Michigan I can hardly stand it....We're all still hoping for foreign service - but whether we'll get it or not is a matter of coin-flipping. All you can do is work hard and hope. And man, I really have been doing plenty in that working hard department.....Also finally got serious in the romance department and hooked myself a man. I sort of like him".

From Ev Thomas "somewhere in Australia" June 14th: "Little info on what goes on here: Jack Campbell is about to receive his commission as a 2nd Lieut. - three cheers for Jack. Dick Severens was just promoted to Staff Sergeant - Mess Sgt. in Anti-tank. Smoke and Fuzz in hospital again - tough. Bennie is still the same; ditto myself. Lawrence Stehle also in hospital. Roy Slater doing O.K., Pfc, I believe; and Hank Orr is a Corporal/T. Heard Charlie Bird was in town but didn't get to see him - may yet. Don't know where Johnnie Smith is - Bull Durham still in New Guinea. We're all looking forward to the day when we can have one big reunion.....Good luck, and thanks to all for the Dope".

Since receipt of the above, the welcome word has reached Douglas that Jack Campbell has gotten his commission. Swell work, Jack. You came up the hard way and your home town is proud of you.

A number of our boys have had furloughs lately: Alfred Pshea, SF2/C, was here for a week from the Submarine Base at New London, Connecticut. Cpl. Harold Scott came from the Advanced Flying School at Marianna, Florida; and Cpl. Clair Schultz was here from San Luis Obispo, California. Douglas seemed to look pretty good to the boys - and they certainly looked good to Douglas.

— V —

Lots of pike in the river now, we're told. They're running all the way from a half to four pounds and "everybody's getting 'em. They're going for worms just like we'd go for beef", said Osie Welch - then added thoughtfully: "if there was any beef".

— V —

Lt. Chas. Dailey popped into town for a few hours not long ago. His ship, the W. W. Holloway, loaded with 11,000 tons of ore, had rammed the William Hosford, another ore-carrier loaded with 10,000 tons, in a fog in Whitefish Bay. The Hosford was so badly hit that she had to be beached and Chuck's ship was laid up in Toledo for a new bow. Chuck is First Mate on the Holloway now and looked like a million in his new uniform.

— V —

Three service members from one family at St. Peter's Church recently: Lieut. Carmela Marfia (Fennville) was home on leave from Ft. Devens, Mass. Lt. Frank, her brother, had leave from a camp in New Mexico. And Pvt. Joe, another brother, was on furlough from North Carolina. All three in one pew was quite a sight.

— V —

News has just reached Douglas that in the pre-invasion bombing of south Italy, Bud Standish's plane was shot up over Sicily, was forced down on a friendly island in the Mediterranean - and it took Bud and his shipmates two and a half weeks to get back to their base in North Africa. And to cap the whole business, S/Sgt. Standish, top radio gunner, was decorated for his part in the action. We salute you, Bud - every one of us.

— V —

This issue of The Dope has been mailed to all Douglas men in the Services by Mr. and Mrs. Webster Corlett of the Lake shore.

— V —

Getting out a paper is no picnic. If we print jokes people say we are silly. If we don't people say we are serious. If we clip from other publications, we are too lazy to write ourselves. If we don't we're too fond of our own stuff. If we don't print contributions we don't appreciate genius. If we do the paper is filled with junk. If we make a change in the other fellow's writeup, we are too critical. If we don't, we're sound asleep. Now, like as not, someone will say we swiped this from some other paper. WE DID.

So long,

H. S. K.