

THE DOPE

Dec. 1, 1943

Published now and then at Douglas, Michigan,
for its sons in the Service. No. 28.

Thanksgiving has come and gone - and a sunny and mild one it was in Douglas. . More like something from early April than a day in late November. . . But we had much to be thankful for this year: The war goes well on every front; the folks at home are busy and hale; and most important of all, our forty-six sons in every land are alive and well and happy. For this we believe that every family in Douglas gave thanks on this Thanksgiving Day.

We've heard a lot about the Manpower problem lately, but the best statement that we've seen of the case to date comes from a grand Service sheet published in Madison, Connecticut. . . Here it is (just as the Madison gals see it):

1941: What a man!!! 1942: What? A man? 1943: What's a man?

More notes on hunting: Lots of geese have been coming in lately but they're flying high and are hard to bring down. Ed Force, Frank Wicks, Morrie Herbert and Harry Newnham have each gotten one. Joe Volkers came back from the north woods with a deer, but Bill Wicks and Ruf Monique were out of luck. Also, Howard Schultz and John Campbell returned empty-handed, though they've gone back for another try. And Ralph Miller, of Saugatuck, got a buck, as did Bud Kirby and Morg Edgecomb. Altogether, the deer-hunting has'nt been too good this year (only 1837 bucks had come over the strait up to Nov. 22nd) and what with gas and ammunition shortages too - well, the game is'nt what it was.

From Jake Jennings in England to his brother Floyd: "How is my War Bond nest coming along? When I get enough of them to start a junk yard I'm going to quit buying. But I'll have to buy an electric welder, won't I? . . . I'm not trying to be funny about this junk yard business either". . Attaboy, Jake! We've already picked out a swell location for you - in Saugatuck.

Try this one in a spare moment - it really works:
Take your age....multiply by 2. Add 5. Multiply by 50. Subtract 365. Add the loose change in your pocket under a dollar. Add 115. The first two figures in the answer will be your age and the last two the change in your pocket.

One more for Douglas: Don Hall, another of our fine eighteen-year-old boys, has been accepted for duty in the Air Corps and is awaiting assignment in Chicago. Congratulations, Don. The good wishes of all Douglas are with you.

And Shirley Dunn, of Ganges, daughter of the West-Michigan Turkey King, joined up with the WACS in New Mexico and is now on duty at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. (By the way, Shirley, did you hear about the G.I. oiling the wheelbarrow, and the wide-eyed WAC saying: "My, it must be wonderful to know all about mechanized warfare").

Three changes of address already: Cpl. William O. Goshorn, 16145317, 519th Sqdn., 392nd Bomb Grp., APO 634, c/P.M., N.Y.; Pfc. Buren G. Osterberg, 36412022, Cannon Co., 409th Inf., APO 470, Camp Howze, Texas; and A/C Matthew J. Sabo, 16035978, 300 Alexander St., College Tng. Det. (Air Crew), Rochester, N.Y. "Am fine and very happy" Matt writes his folks, "have been appointed a student officer. Did you get the picture of Suzanne? Some baby that Sabo girl".

Sarge: "We're going to have a swell time tonight, Honey. I've got three seats for the movie".

Girl Friend: "Why three seats?"

Sarge: "One for your father, one for your mother, and one for your kid brother".

From the one and only Benny "somewhere in the southwest Pacific", November 6th: "Just a bit of propaganda...everything under control over here. Of course none of us know what the score is, so everything's still normal. All I know are my name, rank and serial number - and probably wouldn't know them if they didn't keep telling me. . . . I got quite a kick out of Bob Mueller talking to that French girl - and her dream man comes strolling along. I don't blame him for taking off. That also happens in Australia, only the colored boys claim they're North American Indians. I saw two American sailors give four of those "Indians" one hell of a going over not long ago, over just that. . . . The bugs are out in full force tonight. They're something like the Japs - always seem to get reinforced no matter how many you bump off. If I had a little salt and pepper to season them with they wouldn't taste so bad. Then again if I'd close my yap for a minute that might help too. . I guess Ev Thomas has gone to Officers School. The guys from home seem to be getting up into the power. All except me. I can still carry my own barracks bag. . . . Gotta close now. . . My best regards to everyone. . . And I hope you all have a swell Christmas".

Basketball: Nov. 19th at Saugatuck - Hopkins 32, Saugatuck 24. Almost a complete new team in Saug. this year (Breckenridge, center; Jones & Engel, forwards; Davis & Hoffman, guards; and Hamlin, sub) but for a green outfit they played a smart game. If gas restrictions permit any kind of schedule this winter these boys should show plenty before it's over.

We got our first Christmas card last week - from Frank Haven "somewhere in North Africa". It showed an old guy with a black beard, all wrapped up in a bed sheet and sitting under a palm tree (we certainly hope it was 'nt Frank) and the following greeting: "Captain Frank S. Haven vous presente ses meilleurs voeux de Joyeux Noel et de Nouvel An". Thank you, Captain. Hersch Konold vous presente the same.

The moon was yellow, the lane was bright,
As she turned to me in the autumn night.
And every gesture and every glance
Told me the lady craved romance.
I stammered, I stuttered -- and time went by.
The moon was yellow -- and so was I.

From Heath Crow in New Caledonia, November 10th: "Hello Ky!... Washington has its dollar-a-year men and the Army has its letter-a-year man -- and here he is. First of all, I am well, lonesome and desperate. The girls are not what the posters say. Really you should see some of the women down here. . . . But I'm kept plenty busy - have hardly had time to go ashore for a haircut. One of the treats I look forward to is that chair of yours, and the soothing "silence" that goes with it....Now, darn you all, can't you do a little of that fancy talking on paper? ...P.S: Hello to all for me. And tell Frank Wicks that home would look so good to me I'd even kiss him to get there".

This issue of The Dope has been mailed to all Douglas men in the Services by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wilson of Saugatuck.

Inscription on a tombstone "somewhere in England": "In memory of Maggie, an Army mule, who in her lifetime kicked 1 General, 4 Colonels, 10 Captains, 24 Lieutenants, 42 Sergeants, 463 Privates . . . and one bomb.

So long,

H. S. K.