

THE DOPE

Apr. 1, 1943

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for its sons in the Service. No. 12.

We were all set to write you about the beautiful spring weather we've been having - when the skies opened up in their usual spring way and gave us a real soaking. The thunder rolled in just over the roof-tops, took a nasty crack or two at Douglas personally, and left us dripping from every eve and running from every gutter.But this morning it's clear air and sunshine again - the buds and birds are doing their best - and (if we did 'nt read the newspapers) we'd say it was a very swell world.

Here's a letter from Val Smith, sent to The Dope on March 1st from "somewhere in England": "Hi Folks - ...Who do you think I met here the other day? None other than Jake Jennings. What a talk we had! I go over and see him every day now, and it sure is a treat to see someone from home. Glad my brother John is with the Michigan boys in New Guinea....Beautiful weather here now....Give my regards to all, and will gladly answer any letters from home. Keep the old town in good shape - we're going to tear it apart when we all get back there".

And a few days later along came a letter from Jake telling about running into Val. Jake says Val's "a Model T Corporal.. the only person I've seen here that I knew before coming into the Army. And Val says the same goes for him too....Went down to London not long ago....fine subways, just like New York.... Saw so many other sights that I can't remember them all.... Everything O.K. and getting along just fine".

Another for Douglas: Eighteen-year-old Don Kingsley has passed his mental and physical examinations with flying colors and reports this week to the 6th District for training as an Aviation Cadet. Swell going, Donald - Douglas is proud of you.

Did you hear the one about Hitler, driving through the country and running over a small dog? Halting the car he sent his chauffeur to the nearby farmhouse to express his regret. The driver came back a few moments later with a large package under his arm. "The farmer was not angry" he assured der Fuehrer. "What did you say to him?" asked Hitler. "When I went to the door", the driver explained, "I saluted and said 'Heil Hitler - the dog is dead'. The farmer yelled 'Hooray' and gave me a ham".

Benny Fisch sends the following to Floyd Jennings, from "somewhere in Australia", March 10th: "As I sit here smoking my pipe, with the smoke getting into my eyes and nose, I'll drop you a few lines. Remember those riding boots you used to have and was always telling me how comfortable they were? I agree with you. I bought a pair a couple of weeks ago and they sure are swell. Of course I had to try them out, so I rented a horse. At least it looked like a horse, smelled like a horse, and ate like a horse. But it ran like a duck. How anything so full of hay could be so darned hard - WOW!I was breezing around a corner when I spotted a merry-go-round, so I tied the old plug up and took a ride on something comfortable.Wonder how Boss and Jake like their new homes. I hope they make out O.K. and don't get into trouble right off the bat. ..All for now, Floyd. I think I hear someone hollering for me. Probably some General".

"Saugatuck Takes Thriller". Under that headline a post-season basketball game between Saugatuck and Oakleigh High Schools was written up in the Grand Rapids Press as follows: "In a thrilling game in which the lead changed hands eleven times, Saugatuck nosed out the Oakleigh Wolves last night at Union Gym by the score of 23 to 22. Oakleigh held a 3-2 margin at the end of the first quarter, and after a see-saw second quarter, the teams were tied 8 to 8 at halftime. The third frame was a repetition of the second, but Saugatuck led as the quarter ended, 18 to 17. With three minutes to go, Saugatuck built up a 21 to 18 lead, but baskets by Zoe and Reynders sent Oakleigh briefly ahead, 22 to 21. Then Biller's field goal made it 23 to 22 for Saugatuck, a lead the Resorters were able to hold during the final two minutes of play. Reynders, with 7 points, and Bruinsma, with 6, led the Oakleigh scoring; and Biller's 9 was high for Saugatuck.

Ev Bekken's folks report that it's not T/5gr for Ev any more, but Sgt. Congratulations, Sarge; that's good news to all here.

The following letter was received recently by Ky Walz from Jack Powers in North Africa: "Hello Unk - Have moved to a new city. (Algiers, from Casa Blanca) Travelled a lot and seen plenty of interesting country. Have nice setup here. Much larger place but not as quiet as before - if you know what I mean. (Bombing?) But you get used to it.....Swell Service Club here.....Also met and talked to some WAACS - sure is nice to talk to a girl who speaks our language.....Be seeing you one of these days".

This issue of The Dope has been mailed to all Douglas men in the Services through the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Koning.

Have you heard about the Jap secret agent who sent home the following confidential report on morale in the United States: "Conditions very bad. People all very hungry. When two people meet on street one always says to other: 'What's cookin'?'".

From Pfc. Orville Millar at Lowry Field, Colorado: "Just a note tonight as I get KP in the morning. Not complaining, though - it's my first in five weeks.....Army life is very good here... everybody friendly, and the food good and lots of it....Had a letter from Walter Welch recently. He's only 160 miles from here, but says it's quite cold up there in the mountains....And a letter from Steve in Alaska says he's putting on fat. Can you imagine that?" (No, Orv, we can't imagine a fat Steve).

Father Nugent, Chairman of the Red Cross drive in Douglas submits the following final report: Quota \$225. Donations: \$318.95. Some report for a village of four hundred people.

Another quotation from the Grand Rapids Press: "Vets Earning Commissions...Soldiers who fought in New Guinea attend Officers School deep in Australian Bush.....Expect to turn out finest type of officers". We're happy to report that one of our own Douglas boys, Cpl. Jack Campbell, has been selected to attend the above-mentioned school. This is a real distinction. The folks at home congratulate you, Jack - and we'll all be pulling for you and your commission.

After reading Ev Thomas' note in the March 1st Dope (about New Guinea wives, plus acreage, at \$15 a head) Vic Culver writes from Kearns, Utah, that he's ready with a cash offer.

And no sooner did we have Gordon Durham safely landed in Australia than a letter arrived from him postmarked "Somewhere in New Guinea". And though Gordon had'nt been there but a few days, his letter stated quite casually: "Sally is with me". We contacted Gordon's mother immediately on this and she stated positively that Sally was her son's pet mule - but we still find ourself wondering.

Sign posted in a Grand Rapids grocery: "God gave man two ends: one to think with and one to sit on. Success is determined by which end he uses most. Heads you win; tails you lose".

So long,

H. S. K.