

T H E . D O P E

May 1, 1943

Published now and then at Douglas, Michigan,
for its sons in the Service. No. 14.

We picked up a head of cauliflower at the grocery the other day and announced we'd take it. "Forty-five cents" said the clerk. We dropped the thing like a hot rivet and came home and started a Victory garden. But apparently everybody else had the same idea - perhaps they'd priced the same cauliflower. In any case, you never saw such a plowed-up village in all your life. If all our new acreage goes into garden truck (and it is'nt going into hay) Douglas will soon be crawling with vegetables....How soon do you get your next furlough?.....And how are you with a hoe?

Speaking of gardening, did you know that the early radishes in New York State came up wearing overcoats? It's the cold truth.

The following letter from Dick Severens (of Fennville and now with our boys in Australia) was written to Ky Walz on March 31: "Back in Australia now and for a few months will be out of it. But this outfit, as you know, has too good a reputation, even from the last war, to be kept out for long. All the boys from around the old towns - Douglas and Fennville - all came through with flying colors. Especially Smoky Miller. He was a fighting fool. As good a soldier as he was a bartender - so you know how good he is. Just before Smoke and I pulled out of Buna we ran across Johnny Smith - fat and happy as ever. It was sure good to see him...I went on furlough last week but it didn't pan out too good....ended up in the hospital. Nothing serious, though, and will be out in a few days. Met Doc Coxford's brother-in-law here at the hospital - a Navy M.D. Good boy. Tell Charlie Ten-Have's wife I wish I had her here to nurse me again.Sure do miss the old times at home - most of all, the sports. We certainly laid it into old Baldy Fisch when Fennville beat Douglas at Basketball this winter.....Guess we'll have to organize an old men's club when we get back. We'll give 'em a go, though, and still raise a little Hell".

We had a pleasant visit with Buren Osterberg last week. Buren had a 10-day furlough and spent practically all of it in Douglas. His 6-foot-3 and 190 lbs. were a very impressive sight indeed in Uncle Sam's uniform. Incidentally, it's Pfc. Osterberg now, top rifleman in his regiment and 1st gunner in his machine-gun company. God help any Japs or Heinies who may ever have to look at a gun with our boy Buren behind it.

Osie Welch was taken to the hospital last week; torpedocordytis. Turned out to be a mild attack, however, with everything fine now and Osie back at the filling station again. In this connection, Dave Plummer has closed his station at the corner of US31 and is now doing defense work in Holland. That leaves only three stations open between the bridge and M89: Floyd Jennings, Al Lundberg and Ted Parrish. You'd never recognize old US31 these days - it's more like a graveyard than a great thoroughfare connecting Chicago and Douglas.

From Steve Millar, "somewhere in the North Pacific", April 3rd: "Can't tell you where we are, but am still alive and working hard....A few boys from Grand Rapids here with me, so it's not too lonely.....Any ball team this year?" Not much chance, Steve. Douglas and all the other towns are cleaned out of material. Even Jerry Bekken and Joe Volkers have been put into Class 1A.

After four months on manouvres in the Arizona desert Cpl. Clair Schultz sends the following to Fr. Nugent from San Luis Obispo, California: "We left the dear desert - lizards, jack-rabbits, lungsful of dust and all - on March 25th and arrived here in Heaven on March 27th. This is a beautiful camp.....in a valley between foothills, all covered with green grass about knee-high, and grazing white-faced cattle. We live in six-man huts, with electric lights and oil heaters. Also have shower baths - and we're not rationed on water any more.....I sure enjoy The Dope. Please give my best wishes to all at home who help to send it to us.....And tell Ky I'll be dropping in for one of his haircuts before long - we're starting on furloughs now in our company".

(O.K. Clair. By the way, we understand that those haircuts have been made more attractive since our last report. We've noticed a goat tethered around there lately, and Pat Engle says that Ky is now throwing in a quart of goat's milk with the 50¢ job).

This issue of The Dope has been mailed to all Douglas men in the Services through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bieler.

On the following page is a brief questionnaire which we hope you will fill out, tear off, and return in the enclosed envelope. We ask you to do this not only to get our records straight and to give us your ideas, but also in the interest of your personal safety. Ky says: "Tell those guys to fill out that form. Tell 'em that if they don't - I'll slice their damned ears off the next time I get 'em in the chair". Ky looked very menacing when he said this - so better play safe and shoot it along.

Name: _____ Serial No. _____

Correct mail address: _____

Location: (if censorship permits) _____

Do you like the ^{Army?} Navy? _____ Do you like your job? _____

How's the grub? _____ The beer? _____

How are the girls? _____ What color are they? _____

How are the ^{non-coms?} petty officers? _____

What do you do in your off time? _____

Ever see any boys from around here? _____

Any message for anybody on the Douglas roster? _____

Anyone you'd particularly like to hear from around here? _____

Do you enjoy The Dope? _____

What can we do to improve it for you? _____

Any further remarks: _____

What can we do for you back in Douglas? _____