

THE DOPE

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for its sons in the Service. No. 33.

More snow, more cold, more of everything in fact that we should have had two months ago but didn't. Perhaps that's why Mr. and Mrs. Norton picked this month for their winter vacation in Florida. . We'd sure rather be sitting under the sun down there now than running a drug store in Douglas. Or a dope sheet either.

Here's our valentine from Jake Jennings "somewhere in England" February 14: "I enjoy every issue of The Dope, but accusing me of living under pub tables is far from the truth. . Recently in London I was at the Universal Bar and the place was so crowded I had to almost bivouac on the bar to get even a beer. Also I saw the worst fog in London that the town has had in years. All traffic stopped, and even the pigeons in Trafalgar Square were grounded. A fog that thick is really indescribable - you've got to see it to believe it. . Haven't seen Val Smith for some time nor have I seen Billy Goshorn at all. Guess they figure that one guy from Douglas in any area is enough. . . . I might tell you something about my work. Yes, I said work - and wipe that silly grin off your face! What I do is done to vehicles mostly. The jeep is a very tough machine and is built to take a lot of punishment. But things do loosen up on them and it's best to keep a constant check. That's where I come in. . . I find that the easiest thing to keep tight on a jeep is the driver".

We take pride in reporting that once more Douglas has exceeded its quota in the Red Cross drive. Betty Schreckengust, Louise Van Syckel, Phoebe Van Dragt & Mildred Konold did bang-up jobs of soliciting, as did Father Nugent and the Rev. Dawe in the churches, and Louis Quade, Chairman. . Result: a ten per cent oversubscription - and three more weeks to go.

From Aviation Cadet Matt Sabo down in Marianna, Fla., March 2: "After 5 months in college up in Rochester, New York, I've been classified a Bombardier. Now I'm doing Pre-flight, which takes 9 weeks; then 6 weeks of gunnery and 12 more of advanced bombing practice; then, if I'm lucky, I'll have a chance to drop bombs and duck golf balls in the greenhouse. As you know, I've been in this Army since '41 and haven't done a thing but go to school & teach. Now I'm going to get off the bench and into the line-up. Wish I could see my old Douglas buddies and tell them how proud I am of them. Please give my regards to every one of them".

More dope on Leonard Shumaker and his recent 26-day leave: Just before returning to duty Leonard's old friends in the Highway Department threw an all-Saturday-night party for him. After about a week back in camp Leonard wrote as follows: "Yes, I'm getting a little rest again. I sure felt that month at home - got pretty soft. . . And then last week they drilled the hell out of me. . . Started three weeks of technical training this week; then we have two weeks on the range and then take three weeks of advanced commando training. . . A lot of my mates are transferring to submarine duty - the younger ones, that is. Wish I were ten years younger, I'd go for it myself. . . . Time for lights out now, so will ring off. . . And I promise never to wake up anyone in Douglas on Sunday morning again".

(Since writing the above Leonard has been called back to Douglas by the serious illness of his mother. We regret to report that, as of March 9th, it's touch and go with Mrs. Shumaker - but we're all hoping for the best.

And Bob Dempster was called home recently by the expected passing of his father. But old Jim fooled everybody, so Bob hustled back to camp. Jim's in Allegan now, and planning a trip to Ann Arbor.

New Naval slogan: "Join the Jap Navy and see the next world".

Notice to Benny, Smoky & Bull: Clair Schultz has landed on your island. Address: Pvt. Clair E. Schultz, 36155677, Co. M, 1st Inf., APO 6. We know that's a big spot of ground you boys are holding, but sure hope you can get together sometime.

Incidentally, Benny reports that his file of Dopes (it seems he'd saved them) got all wet recently and had to be destroyed. . . . "Something like that always happens", he writes, "and it burns me up - after carrying them around for so long. You'd be surprised what a heavy bundle they are". (God bless you, Benny, we've tried to make 'em light). Benny continues, February 10: "I heard from Bull Durham the other day. He seems to be getting along as well as ever. I'm in the same place he is only farther up the line. We've been here for over a month now - though I've had my stuff all packed a dozen times, thinking we'd go somewhere else. But it doesn't seem to make much difference; one place is either as good or bad as the next one. I have it pretty darn good only I don't know enough to appreciate it. But I'd trade Douglas for it in a hurry. I'm ready to go there any time now. I've seen all I care to after being in on this beach landing. They're very exciting, and to see the Navy open up with a barrage is really something. I'm darn glad I wasn't on shore. . . . Have a pot of tea on and think it's about ready. . . . Say hello to everyone".

I see no evil, I hear no evil, I speak no evil -
Boy, am I a sissy!

From young Jack Wicks at the Naval Training Station out in Far-
ragut, Idaho: "This is quite a place out here if you like it -
but there don't seem to be many who like it. The climate is ab-
solutely crazy. It snows every night and thaws every day. . . .
I enjoyed a 12-hour liberty yesterday and visited Spokane, Wash.
It sure is great to get out of that main gate and walk as you
damn please and not in a military manner. . . .As for Spokane, it
isn't much of a town, for 200,000 people. Though I did run into
a restaurant that served wonderful T-bone steaks. They even have
civilized prices in this part of the wilderness. . . Well, have
to close now. Still have to push this pen across many a mile of
writing paper".

This issue of The Dope is mailed to all our men by Mr. and Mrs.
Lew Symons, of Ganges. . . And the printing on our new envelopes
is the gift of Cadet Larry Symons, of Barbour Hall, Kalamazoo.

Basketball: Feb. 29th at Fennville. Fennville 29, Saugatuck 20.
This was really a heart-breaker. Doc Waugh was called away by
the death of his mother but evenso the boys were within 3 points
of winning in the last quarter when two men went out on fouls.
Jack Breckenridge was high scorer for Saugatuck and Lloyd Engel
did a fine job of representing Douglas. And in the district tour-
nament in Allegan Hopkins took Saugatuck by the score of 40-21,
then went on to win the tournament by beating Fennville 44 to 40
in the last three minutes of play. . . Hopkins was the team here
this season - and no doubt about it. But considering what the war
has done to Saug basketball - whittling us down to a 6-man squad
& 1 veteran - our boys did a swell job and we're proud of them.
As Jack Breckenridge says, "We're like the Brooklyn Dodgers now -
living for next year. Only Ray Biller will be lost by graduation,
so watch our dust".

Have you heard England's great new bottle-hymn:

When the nations lose their war-sense
and the world gets back its horse-sense,
What a day for celebration that will be!

When someone shouts "The fight's up"
and "It's time to put the lights up"
Then the first thing to be lit up will be me.

You will find me on the tiles, you will
find me wreathed in smiles,
'Cause I'm going to get so lit up
I'll be visible for miles.

Me too,

H. S. K.