

T H E D O P E

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for its sons in the Service. No. 35.

Not much of a spring in Douglas so far - and until we can write something cheerful about it, we'll just let it go at that.

After 2 months at home with his family, Harmon Jones, S2/C, has been ordered to the Naval Receiving Barracks at Camp Parks, California. Hallie, his brother, was with the Marine Raiders in the South Pacific at last report; and Hugh, 17, has finished his boot training at the Marine Base in San Diego.

And young Jack Wicks has been transferred from Farragut, Idaho, to the Naval Electricians School at the University of Minnesota. "Just got here and don't know much about it", he writes, "but as I understand it, we get a year's course in electricity in four months. . . . And I'll either come out of here an electrician or just a plain gob. . . . Hello everybody".

Sign of the times (in a G.R. store window):
"Young Women Wanted - between 16 and 60"

A couple of notes from Capt. Frank Haven since our last issue - the first reporting him in hospital "somewhere in North Africa" and the second "improving rapidly". "Have acquired an injury" he writes, "nothing serious - but the Army takes no chances and keeps its patients until they're cured. . . . Conditions here are fine. . . doctors and nurses superior, beds excellent, food good & plentiful. And time doesn't drag. Commensurate with patients' physical condition we have light calisthenics, light drill, lectures & recreation. Just now my assignment is to give a lecture & supervise recreation. . including craftsmanship, making briar pipes, leather work, weaving etc. Really it's all very wonderful. The alternative is to sit on one's bunk and think of home. . . . Sure hope this finds everything O.K. in Douglas. The community is certainly doing a fine job of furnishing men for the Service".

In connection with this most recently reported hospitalization - what is there about an Army commission that doesn't seem to agree with our boys? Bill Tisdale was in hospital for almost a year; Ev Thomas no sooner got his Lieutenant's bar than he was lugged off to hospital; and now Frank's laid up in No. Africa. How you feeling, Jack? You had a physical lately?

Gene Bieler writes from the "Aleutian Area" that he and Steve Millar have been getting together rather frequently lately. (He doesn't say where, but it sounds like Dutch Harbor). Gene, as usual, tells us exasperatingly nothing about himself, but says that Steve has a fine job, works nights, and looks swell.

2nd Lieut: "Your reports should be written in such a manner that even the most ignorant can understand them".

Sergeant: "Yes, Sir; what part is it that you don't understand?"

From Alfred Pshea at the Submarine Base in New London, Conn., to Ky Walz, April 7th: "Had the pleasure of dining in New London recently with none other than our good friends Carl Wicks and Junior Edgcomb. They both looked fine and Carl really takes to the uniform. We poured a few beers down the hatch and took in a show. They had to be in at 2200 (10:00 P.M.) so we didn't quite make a full evening of it. I hope to spend some more time with them before they ship out. . . . It sure seems good to get with someone who talks your language. Of course I'm referring to that special Michigan language that comes from around Saugatuck and Douglas. . . So long for now - and tell the folks back home and all the boys Hello for me".

G.I.: "The Army's sick of pin-up girls".

2nd G.I.: "What Army?"

The Red Cross drive in Douglas wound up on April 3rd. Quota: Two hundred and fifty dollars. Funds collected: Five hundred and eighteen dollars and sixty cents. . You've got to hand it to the whole village on this - from Louis Quade, Chairman, right down to our youngest subscriber. . . We folks at home are mighty proud of you boys out there -- and we think you boys can take pride in the homefolks too.

Here's a story about Winston Churchill - hailing a cab recently in the West End and telling the cabbie to drive to the British Broadcasting Co., where Churchill was scheduled to make a speech. "Sorry, Sir", said the driver, "You'll 'ave to get yourself another cab; I don't go that far". Mr. Churchill was somewhat surprised and asked the cabbie why his field of operations was so limited. "It ain't ordinarily, Sir", apologized the driver, "but you see, Mr. Churchill is broadcasting in an hour, and I want to get 'ome to 'ear 'im". Mr. Churchill was so pleased that he pulled out a pound note & handed it to the driver - who took one quick look and said: "Hop in, Sir. To 'ell with Mr. Churchill".

Francis Fitzgerald, a former resident here who is known to most of you, is home from the wars. After 20 months in the Army, 9 of which were spent in Australia and 3 in New Guinea - and temporary residence in 5 hospitals - Fitz has been honorably discharged and placed in the Enlisted Reserve. He's spending a few days here with his uncle, Bill Devine, and plans to return soon to his old job in G.R. Sends his best to all of you - and says he's sure looking forward to seeing you in Douglas.

Miss: "That was a beautiful sermon that Father Nugent preached on matrimony, was 'nt it?"

Mrs.: "Indeed it was that -- and I wish I knew as little about the subject as he does".

Steve Hamlin's a Sergeant now - and an expert on everything from flapjacks to fricassees out in Pomona, Calif. And Jerry Bekken, who joined up with him, is also a Sergeant down in Jackson, Miss. Nice race you boys are running; more promotions to both of you.

Bud Standish has gone back to duty - after three weeks of rest in Douglas and Grand Haven. And if ever a guy deserved 3 weeks we thought it was T/Sgt. Bud. He's really been in there -- and Douglas never looked better to anybody. . . . Bud went to North Africa in April, 1943, and has served as radio-gunner on a Mitchell bomber ever since. He took part in the Tunisian, Sicilian and Italian campaigns, flying from North Africa, Sardinia & Corsica - and was always assigned to strategic bombing. His fifty missions included most of the great Mediterranean objectives: Tunis & Bizerte, Pantelleria, Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, the first bombing of Rome, and points in north Italy and the south coast of France. Only once was his ship disabled - by anti-aircraft fire over Sicily - and flew on one motor to Malta. (Incidentally, it was the first Mitchell ever landed on Malta). Rather diffidently Bud admitted having nine oak leaf clusters - but preferred to talk about the new assignment he's put in for: somewhere in the Japanese area. We finally asked him what message he had for the rest of you, but he only smiled and shook his head. Then, as a sort of afterthought he added: "Well, everybody asks me if I was scared. You might tell 'em, Hell, YES!"

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

TAPS

Beneath this sod an ice-man sleeps; they brought him here today. He lived the life of Reilly - while Reilly, was away.

So long,

H. S. K.