

## THE D O P E

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for its sons in the Service. No. 42.

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Another beautiful October - the trees all red and green and gold - and the sky an endless blue. . . . We had our first hard frost last night - there's a zing in the air this Sunday morning that keeps one on the move. Even the children are hurrying to Sunday School. You know there must be some reason for that.

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The big news this month is the return to Douglas of three of its overseas veterans: Ev Bekken from New Caledonia, Gene Bieler from the Aleutians, and Smoky Miller from New Guinea. Between them these men have spent more than nine years away from home - and we've never seen men happier to be back in Douglas. We hope it is needless to tell you that we're getting a tremendous bang out of seeing them - and we know it's only a foretaste of the thrill we're in for when all of you come back.

Ev's outfit left New Caledonia on August 29th, sailing straight for San Francisco and completing the trip in 16 days. They're now stationed at Drew Field, Florida. Ev weighs almost 200 pounds, all in the right places, and if he only had a few wrinkles might easily be mistaken for a General. Right now he's down in Louisville, Kentucky, with Geraldine Biller and her sister Kay - all visiting Bud Bekken at Fort Knox. If he survives the experience he plans to return to Drew Field.

Gene left Adak Island, in the Aleutians, about one month ago and landed in Douglas last Thursday. He, too, looks bigger and handsomer than ever - now tipping the beam at 210. At that, he says he sloughed off a dozen pounds, rolling over that cold North Pacific. Incidentally, if you don't know where Adak is, as we didn't, you'll probably be surprised to learn it's as far west as Midway & only slightly north of Vancouver. Gene spent 28 months there, in the Coast Artillery, and says it's the end of the world absolutely. After 21 days here, which he wishes were 21 years, Gene will rejoin his outfit in Texas.

As for Smoky, we couldn't get much out of him. He couldn't tell us when he left, how he came, or where do we go from here. We suppose there's a good reason for it all, but we'll certainly be glad when you boys can take off the wraps and tell us more about yourselves. In any case, Smoky looks swell, has put on 14 pounds, shows no trace of that malaria we've heard about, and now wears the stripes of a Staff Sgt. And if the Brass Hats have cramped his talking style we must say they have'nt cramped his intake. Over at the Hotel Saugatuck, where he's holed up, they say it's taking one man's full time just to service Smoky.



After a session in hospital at Truax Field, Wis. Lawrence Monique is on his feet again and banging away in Radio School. Lawrence thinks the Army's fine but seems to have had a tough time lately raising his favorite smoke, Old Golds. An S.O.S. to Douglas, however, got Ruf and Mrs. Monique, the girls, Kenny and his wife and Floyd Jennings all out scouring the countryside - with the result that Lawrence got his Old Golds all right - a carton of them. (And all this time we civilians thought we were going without them so you Service men could have them! It must be the Republicans).

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Two more Mueller boys in the Service - Otto & Jacob - making our first family with four stars in its flag. Otto, 17, has enlisted in the Navy at St. Petersburg, Florida; and Jacob, who has'nt been at home for some time, is in the Army at Camp Blanding, Fla. Congratulations to both of you, boys - your home town is proud of every one of you.

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Steve Millar blew in last month - from Camp Parks, California - and we really mean "blew". Steve flew from Oakland to Chicago, thereby extending his visiting time in Douglas by about two days. He looked hard and lean and happy - and ready for the push his outfit seems headed for - somewhere in the Pacific. The D.A.C., incidentally, threw a big party for Steve and Charlie Ten Have, which from all reports was quite a party.

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His wife was a WAVE, he waved at a WAC;  
The WAC was in front, the WAVE was in back.  
But instead of a wave from the WAC, be it said,  
What he got was a whack from the WAVE he had wed.

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From Johnny Smith somewhere in New Guinea, Sept. 21: "Hi, folks! Yep, September in the tropics - and in Guinea in September there are no mosquitoes, Japs or rain. Well, it sounds good anyway. . Wish you could have seen Smoky the day he left for home - he sure was one happy guy. Guess Baldy and I will make it next year some time. . By the way, my better half (formerly of Holland) has been in the Marine Corps Womens Reserve since March - now going to school in Oklahoma. . Hello to you all and hope to see you soon. Saug & Douglas are still the best little towns in all the world".

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Did you read about the British Tommy, stationed in the near East, who applied for home leave and gave as his reason that he wanted to have a baby before his wife was too old. The application was granted, and in no time at all the outfit had five thousand three hundred and thirty-six similar applications.

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Benny's a Sergeant! Swell work, Benny; the only better news you can send us now is that you're on your way home!



From Jake Jennings in France, September 29: "Yesterday I was 35 years old. If the next 35 are as tough as the first 35 I'll be an old man before I'm 100. . . . Am learning a little French now. Have found that 'No compre' which means 'I don't understand', if used at the right time, does save one money, gum, cigarettes or whatever they're trying to talk me out of. . . . Also have sampled the Cognac and Calvados. This Calvados is powerful stuff. After a heavy charge it will have a guy chasing rainbows all night".

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Tommy Thomas got married last month. He and Miss Rosemary Goff, of Watervliet, were married at her home on Sept. 11th and are now living in Chicago. Tommy's employed by Chrysler over there - working on B-29's, we understand. . . . And Frances Ann Campbell & Dale Van Leuwen were married on Sept. 30 - in Enid, Oklahoma. Dale's an A/C in the Air School out there, and he and Frances are temporarily settled in Enid while he works for his wings.

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Definition of horse sense: Something a horse has that keeps him from betting on people.

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From Gordon Durham in New Guinea, October 2nd: "Today has been a swell day. I spent most of it visiting with Gerald Bekken. He called our outfit at 3:30 this A.M., then again at 6:00 o'clock. I talked with him at 6:00. He said he was passing through and was going to be here all day and wanted me to come down and see him, so that is what I did. I went down at 7:30 and stayed until 2:30; we sure had a swell visit". (We can believe it all right - this was Bull's first sight of anyone from home in over two years).

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A number of our boys (heretofore stationed in this country) have sent in APO numbers lately: Freddie Ash, Max Campbell, Buren Osterberg and Horsie Van Os - all c/o Postmaster, New York.

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Already a line from Horsie: "Well, here I am in 'jolly England', that the fellows have been telling me about for over a year. . . . Have'nt had occasion to hit London yet but when I do they're going to have another Blitz. You should see where they have me working now - after all the training I've had - tech school, college etc. Running a switchboard in the hospital! Can you beat it?"

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This issue of The Dope has been mailed to all Douglas men in the Services by Mr. and Mrs. Royal Reeder of the What-Not-Inn.

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And as the chorus girl said as she danced out onto the stage: "Well, I guess I might as well put the motion before the house".

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Adjourned,

H. S. K.