

THE DOPE



FEB. 1st.

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Published now and then at Douglas, Michigan,  
for its sons in the Service. No. 31.

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There he is - the old Maestro himself - in all his tonsorial splendor. He has just wound up with a two-bit shave and is now promoting the fifty-cent haircut. . The victim, of course, is your old friend Newt Belgium -- giving the matter his profound consideration. (We heard later that the boys had about two dollars worth of argument - but no haircut).

And incidentally, the interior of your old G.H.Q. has recently undergone a face-lifting, not apparent in the above picture. The walls are now a soft buff color, and the woodwork, chairs and executive department (the desk) are a gleaming turquoise. Supplement these with Ky's white jacket and pink puss, and the general effect is one of great richness. Unquestionably we're in for higher prices.

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Leonard Shumaker has just finished the longest leave that any of our men have had yet: 25 days from Argentia, Newfoundland. He was hard as nails and still thinks the Seabees the greatest outfit in the world. (There must be something in it - we've never seen a Seabee who didn't think at least that). Leonard now goes to Davisville, R.I., for 2 months of special training.

And De Thomas was in town for a few days recently - had 10 days from Camp Sutton, but spent most of them in G.R. with his wife, year-old son and two-months-old daughter. It was Priscilla's first look at the old man and they say she was nuts about him.

And Don Hall popped in the other day, staying just long enough to see a basketball game, then hightail it for Chicago. He, too, looked swell. Don has finished his basic, down at Jefferson Barracks, and now awaits assignment to some college Air School.

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Did you hear about the telegram the sailor sent to his Dad?  
"No mon, no fun, Your son". And the reply that Dad sent  
to the sailor? "That's sad; too bad. Your Dad".



Here's a note from Stormy Weatherston, our old baseball Ump, now an S2/C out in Farragut, Idaho: "I want to thank the Douglas A.C. for remembering me at Christmastime - it sure made me feel good that they had not forgotten me. . Please remember me to all the boys in Service and tell them that I hope the time is near when we can all be home and together again. . It must be lonesome as hell there now, with all those good boys gone".

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From young Don Kingsley, Aviation Cadet out at Cal-aero Field, California: "Am really having a good time now; we're allowed to do snap rolls, slow rolls, split "S" and loops solo. Yesterday I was flying upside down and the darn motor stopped on me. Had a funny feeling until I flipped it right side up and the motor started going again. Guess I'm doing Okay; the instructor never says anything so really don't know what the score is".

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From Ev Bekken in New Caledonia December 27: "Have'nt anything startling to report - I just keep busy day after day - and the time really flies by. . The Christmas holidays were very good; a nice tree, beautifully lighted, concerts every evening, and on Christmas Eve Santa arrived in a jeep. . Have had some very hot weather lately -- how I'd like to get up there in good old Mich. and have some of that snow and cold. For us northerners it just is'nt Christmas without snow. . . Regards to all".

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Nos. 46 & 7 for Douglas: Young Jack Wicks, 18, has joined the Navy and reported for duty at Detroit; and Carl, his brother (until recently on the Lakes) has been sworn into the Merchant Marine and is now in the M. M. Officers School in New London, Conn. Once again, boys: Your home town is very proud of you.

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Nice little game at the Club the other night - dealer's choice, nickel limit. Frank Wicks, Dode Wilson, Lennie Hemwall, Einer Sather, Bud Bekken, Charlie Redebaugh, Frank Oliver and, for a brief interval, your Editor. No place for him, however - before the deal even reached him those wolves had his dough.

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Bob Dempster again. Bob's been home on his third furlough in 16 months - looking bigger and healthier and happier than ever. In fact Bob's only beef about Texas this time seemed perfectly legitimate to us: it concerned the liquor in that dispensary he works in. Bob says it's awfully good stuff (Old Taylor and Old Grandad) but it's kept in a safe behind two locked doors, with the keys in another safe in the Commandant's office. As a loyal employee, that looked like putting property rights ahead of human rights to Bob - and it does to us too.



Our Red Cross Unit has been doing its stuff again - and doing it with a bang! About 50 women from Fennville, Ganges, Saugatuck and Douglas (Chairmaned by Mrs. Harold Van Syckel assisted by Mrs. Joseph Wilson & Mrs. Kenneth Martin) have rolled over 6,000 bandages in the last two weeks. And if you don't think that's a lotta bandages, just try rolling one sometime.

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From Capt. Bill Tisdale, now with the N.Y. Port of Embarkation: "After telling you that my brother White might be home Christmas he arrived on the 27th. His ship spent Christmas Eve on a bar somewhere off the east coast. They could see the lights on the beach but, for them, there was no Santa Claus. . . You know, it occurs to me that Ev Thomas will be having his eighth birthday this year. Ev's a leap year baby, not quite like the rest of us".

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Basketball: Five games since our last report - some good, some not so good. Saugatuck 27, Bloomingdale 25. Fruitport 33, Saugatuck 23. Fennville 35, Saugatuck 19. Hopkins 33, Saugatuck 21. And Saugatuck 21, Holland Christian 2nds 14. No doubt about it - the lure of the Services has not helped Saug basketball. Ray Biller is the only veteran left on the team and the entire squad numbers only six. These boys are learning the hard way, and for a green outfit have turned in some excellent performances.

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Husband (answering phone): "Don't know. Call the weather bureau".  
Pretty young wife: "Who was that?"  
Husband: "Some sailor, I guess. He asked if the coast was clear".

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In the same mail last week we received letters from Pfc. Vic Culver and Cpl. Charlie Ten Have - those two top-drawer retailers without whom Van's is 'nt Van's. . . Vic's still out at Peterson Field, Colorado, still the big steak-&-chop man of the post, but wishing with all his heart that he was back in Douglas. . . And Charlie's up in Skagway, Alaska, spending a good part of his time wondering whether it's day or night. He, too, longs for the old care-free days - when life offered no greater problem than selling 20¢ cauliflower for 40¢.

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And in conclusion we take great pleasure in making the following acknowledgements: The picture of Ky and Newt was suggested and contributed by Mr. Webster Corlett of the lake shore. Our new paper was donated by Mrs. Fred Asman, of Grand Rapids, in behalf of her brother, Capt. Frank Haven in North Africa. The envelopes, for this and many subsequent issues, were contributed by Master James Haven, Frank's five-year-old son; and the issue is mailed to you by Mr. Harrison Hutchins, Vice-Commander of the American Legion, Department of Michigan.

So long,

H. S. K.