

## THE DOPE

July 1, 1943

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for its sons in the Service. No. 18.

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Lots of weather in the village these days. Sun, rain, heat and cold. 90 degrees in the shade last week - and 54 today..... Cully says "it's spots on the sun". But we like Newt Belgium's explanation better. Newt says it's the Democrats.

— V —

Another star for Douglas: De Thomas reported for duty last month and is now in an engineer outfit at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. This makes three in the Service for the Thomas family - the only family in our village with that distinction.

— V —

Here's a letter from Benny Fisch to his sister Marge from "somewhere in Australia", June 11th: "Think nothing of it if I date these letters a month or two behind time - I think I'm going bush crazy. We've moved again and we sure do get the lovely spots. ....Work like the devil to build a decent camp and then some other outfit takes over....It's been that way ever since we got back here....By the way, they have plenty of Army camps in the States now, have'nt they? Hope we don't have to build any \*\*\*\* back there.....I was in one of the largest cities in Australia recently - a swell place. I was all tangled up from the time I got there until I left. Had a swell time.....We were issued woolen clothing a short time ago. Class B jobs. They'll 'B' shot after you wear them a few times.....Say hello to everybody".

— V —

Special report on Douglas' other ball team - the famous Lake Shore "Neversweats": As we go to press Vince Bekman is here on furlough and has taken the team's uniforms to Father Nugent to go into mothballs for the duration. Like our own team, the Lake Shore boys are scattered far and wide. Here's the dope:

Paul Bekman, pitcher, is a Lieut. of Field Artillery and is executive officer of his battery at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana.

Jack Bekman, catcher and manager, is studying for the priesthood at the Jesuit Novitiate in Milford, Ohio. Jack spent a number of months in the Army and was all set for the O.C.S. when the Novitiate got him. His highest ambition now, he says, is to conduct a mass at St. Peter's in Douglas.



Bill Clark, 1st base, is an Ensign in the Navy and is now stationed in California. Bill was recently married to Jo Watt, of Montclair, New Jersey and a lake shore girl for many years.

George Convey, also 1st base, is in the Coast Guard in St. Louis. George too was married recently to a girl he met in Douglas.

Dick Garesche, 2nd base, is a Naval Ensign in Hawaii.

Jack O'Donnell, shortstop, is a Lieut.(j.g.) in the Navy and is now training in Rhode Island for duty on a PT boat.

Bill Corley, 3rd base, is a Lieut.(j.g.) in the Navy and is at Lambert Field, Missouri.

Jack Corley, roving short, went through the Naval Supply School at Harvard. He's now an Ensign with the Seabees in the Aleutians.

Vince Bekman, left field, has been in the Q.M. Corps in Boston. After his furlough (which he's naturally spending in Douglas) he goes to the O.C.S. at Camp Lee, Virginia. Vince is engaged to Miss Betty Desloge of St. Louis, whom he met here. (Incidentally, he's the man to whom you're indebted for this news of the Lake Shore team - and he's one swell-looking soldier).

Bob Walsh, center field, is a Lieut.(j.g.) in the Naval Air Corps. Bob's with American Air Lines and pilots ships from Kansas City to the West coast. Also married to a lake shore girl.

Chief Franciscus, right field, is a Corporal with the U.S. Army in Alaska. And his younger brother, Buzz, was with the Marines on Guadalcanal, was wounded in action, and has been awarded the Purple Heart. Buzz is now in the Marine Hospital in Boston - and our hats are certainly off to him.

Bill Walsh is an Ensign in the Navy, now training at Dartmouth.

Joe Wynne is a Naval Ensign now training at Princeton.

Bob Fuensch has been deferred in order to finish Medical School.

Jay Lee is in the Naval pre-flight School at Murray, Kentucky.

And Phil Garesche is with the U.S. Army in India.

————— V —————

This issue of The Dope has been mailed to all Douglas men in the Service through the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Herman Bekken.



Here's one for Service men only: Sambo Jones, colored stable-boy home on furlough was asked about his job in the Army. "I'se a pilot in the Cavalry" said Sambo. When his friends asked further about the duties of a Cavalry pilot Sambo explained jauntily: "I pile it here and I pile it there".

— V —

Final gleanings from our questionnaire of May 1st: A number of replies have been received since our first report but the general picture remains the same. The Army and Navy are popular with men from Douglas. The food is excellent, the non-coms and petty officers are well-liked (what else would they be with so many of our men wearing stripes?) and the girls run the entire gamut of humanity, reasonableness, charm and color. A popular answer to the question about off-time was "What off-time?" Apparently many of the boys don't have any. But a number report "reading, writing letters and going to shows", and Bob Dempster says he just likes to "sit around and bitch about everything". Very few of the boys ever see anyone from around Douglas, though Jake Jennings sees Val Smith occasionally in England, Boss Jennings has seen Charlie Gilman in Hawaii, Buren Osterberg met up with Charlie Grenall in Louisiana, and of course the Douglas boys in Australia see each other rather often. The question about correspondents produced some specific requests: Gene Bieler wants Steve Millar to write; Bob Dempster wants "Riot-call" Wicks to write; Bruce Gates wants Bob Mueller to write; Don Kingsley wants Jerry Bekken to write; and Val Smith wants everybody to write. Lewis Mueller, Matt Sabo and Ed Cobb all want to be remembered to Benny Fisch, and practically everybody on the roster sends a breezy "Good luck" to everybody else. Under "Remarks" Tom Thomas says it's hotter than the proverbial hinges in Tennessee, and Walter Welch reports snow in Colorado; Ev Bekken asks us to keep the ball-field in shape saying "we have a lot of good games left in us" and Steve Millar practically begs us to "hold down Ky Walz". In fact, there seems to be considerable concern among the boys about "that hair-cutting Dutchman". Johnnie Smith says: "Tell Ky to keep his chin up and his teeth won't fall out"; Lewis Mueller writes: "If Ky wants to help business why doesn't he throw in a beer with those haircuts?" and Benny Fisch implores: "For God's sake, keep that Dutchman on the beam". (It's a job, gentlemen, but we're doing it).....And lastly, as for what we might do for you back in Douglas, Boss Jennings seems to express the sentiment of just about all of you saying "There is'nt much that you can do but, boy, what I could do if I were there".

So long,

H. S. K.