

Your Letter From Home

A man went into a bar and ordered a Martini, drank it, chewed off the bowl of the glass, swallowed it, and threw the stem of the glass over his shoulder. He continued this five times and then noticed the bartender staring at him. "I guess you think I'm crazy, don't you?" "I sure do," replied the bartender, "the stems are the best part."
—The Belvoir Castle, Ft. Belvoir, Va.

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"There's a rat in my room," a greatly agitated girl phoned down to the desk."

"Send him down, lady," said the clerk. "He must register."

—The Belvoir Castle, Ft. Belvoir, Va.

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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

April 6, 1945

☛ **DEAR JOE:** April 25th isn't far away when men of good will from nearly all the nations of the world will meet in San Francisco to plan for peace . . . Here at home we're planning and planning big for peace. Planning for more factories, more stores, more jobs, planning for better schools and better homes. Two or three congregations are planning new churches. The Moose are planning for a new home. At least one motor company is in the blue print stage with plans for the most modern garage in Iowa. New highways and bridges are being located. The city is planning a new water tower way out at the east end of town and for a great extension of the sewage disposal plant . . . One great industry in town plans to double or triple its capacity. People are talking about a new theatre, as fine as any anywhere. And a new auditorium—that's a must—one that will seat five to six thousand, house hockey games, ice carnivals, basketball tournaments, auto shows, great public gatherings, the victory ball, and a lot of conventions and gatherings . . . and a college for Fort Dodge . . . Because, Joe, you are coming back here to live and we want this town to be worthy of you and one that you'll be proud of.

☛ **ALONG MAIN STREET.** The Fort Dodge Serum Company has been acquired through stock exchange by the American Home Products Co. with offices in New York. A. H. P. is big, makes "Anicin," Kolynos Tooth Paste, Bisodal, and other well-known home remedies. Under its ownership, the Serum Company should grow even beyond its present size. Personnel and policies of Fort Dodge Serum will remain unchanged . . . Cops will hold their annual ball April 11th . . . Webster County is out to collect 125,000 lbs. of clothing for the distressed and needy peoples of the world . . . The Red Cross drive in this county is over the top by more than \$5,000. Our goal was \$46,000.00; we raised \$51,000 and returns are still coming in . . . St. Olaf's Choir is coming here April 19th . . . Everyone is talking about building a new auditorium as soon as the war is over . . . The Lions Club is producing the play "You Can't Take It With You" . . . Maurie Thompson's warehouse had a \$25,000 fire last Friday. The fire was in 200 tons of alfalfa, bran and meat scraps and was hard to put out. The fire department was called back twice after the fire supposedly was out . . . Everyone is planning a victory garden for this year. Maybe more necessary this year than ever before. I'm planning one, neat but not gaudy.

☛ **APRIL SNOW STORM.** Easter was as pretty as a cocker spaniel pup. It was warm and friendly and beautiful. Everyone went to church. And wore their best bib and tucker. The sky was blue as the sea. The buds on the lilacs were pushing out, tiny leaves were showing on the elms. Our front yard was covered with those long strange seeds that poplars have. In the afternoon it was so warm that we went to Crawford Park and shot a bow and arrow and watched teen-age anglers catching bullheads in Soldier Creek. We went bare-headed and without coats. And everyone said what a wonderful spring . . . Monday it started to snow and it kept right on Monday night and Tuesday morning until finally the sticky white stuff was piled everywhere fifteen inches deep on the 4th of April. One thing it did. Gave kids a holiday. Every school in Fort Dodge closed and in Clare and Barnum, and Badger and Rockwell City and Eagle Grove and lots of other places. We announced that schools were closed in thirty-five places on our early morning news. Roads were blocked in every direction. The snow was wet and heavy. It was almost impossible to shovel. And besides everyone was so griped no one felt like shoveling. A fine thing on the 4th of April.

☛ **WEDDING BELLES.** Shirley Mae White and Sgt. Homer Knutson, of Williams, at Baltimore, Md., March 10th . . . Loretta Carroll and Leo J. Delamore, C. Ph. M., of Clare, in Fort Dodge, April 2nd . . . Winivere Robinson and Harold Schoolcraft, SK 1/c, at Bremerton, Wash., Feb. 16th . . . Frances Mitchell and Cpl. Fred B. Whitlock, in San Diego, Dec. 9th, 1944 . . . Lowene Rutherford and Paul Hasselmann, of Rock Rapids, in Fort Dodge, April 1st . . . Ruth Marjorie Beck and Glenn Bamberger, in Chicago, March 3rd . . . Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Anderson, married fifty years April 3rd . . . Betty Jane Heileman and Harris Grether, of Dayton, Ohio, in Evanston, Ill., March 23rd . . . Charlotte Kulild and S/Sgt. W. J. Anderson, of Missouri Valley, April 14th . . . Rosemary Kirsh and Sgt. Leo E. Simmons, in Fort Dodge, April 3rd . . . Arlene Yetmar, of Clare, and A/C John E. Heun, of Duncombe, in Fort Dodge, April 4th . . . Florence Holst, of Clare, and Leo Loots, MM 1/c, March 22nd, in Trinity Lutheran Church in Deercreek Twp. . . Audrey Sweeney and Peter Lang, P. O. 3/c. No date has been set . . . Beverly Williamson and Lt. Paul F. Kuhn, of Red Wing, Minnesota. No date set . . . Shirlee Dawson and Harry T. Kennedy, Jr. Ph. M. 2/c, March 24th, in Fort Dodge.

☛ **HIGH C'S.** From aboard the U. S. S. Bering Strait somewhere in the Pacific, Adam Reis, S. S. 3/c, says "Hello" to everyone . . . Vincent Bestick, G. M. 3/c, is on the U. S. S. Rockingham. He had a swim recently at the beach at Waikiki.

☛ **PHILIPPINES.** Pfc. W. McAlpine is somewhere in the Philippines. "The weather here now is much like that of Southern California." Or as Fred Allen says, "a wonderful climate for you if you happen to be an orange."

☛ **MERRY ENGLAND.** T/5 Glenn Rezabek is in England.

☛ **NIGHT MARE.** A night combat patrol over Iwo Jima completed, Paul W. Wilke was bringing "Mississippi Night-Mare" to her home strip. On the runway the Mare came to an unscheduled stop against, and astride, an unexploded Jap mortar shell. Despite the impact it didn't go off. Bomb disposal crews pried it loose and a few hours later Wilke was again in the air with his Mississippi nag.

☛ **THE CASE OF THE WOUNDED PILOT.** Easter Sunday afternoon Kenneth Clark, instructor pilot at the Eno airport, was taking two friends of his on a ride. As his plane flew over Dodger stadium a bullet ripped into the bottom of the plane through his leg and out the top of the tiny cabin. Clark flew back to the airport and went to the hospital. Fortunately it wasn't much of a wound. A number of lads suspected of being in that neighborhood with rifles at the time have been questioned. No one has admitted firing the shot. When hit, the plane was flying at 800 to a thousand feet.

☛ **PACIFIC.** Pfc. Bob Maier was at some unnamed island in the Western Pacific on D-Day, probably Iwo Jima. "We didn't have any trouble getting here, but after we got here we caught hell. The Japs flew over and dropped their eggs which landed about forty feet off our port side. We are still living in holes, but hope to be top side soon" . . . James L. O'Connor, Ph. M. 3/c, is one of the ones that lived through Iwo Jima. "I'm in the hospital now. I forgot to duck. A Jap put one through me. It went in under my right shoulder and came out my back. I was scared so I could run, and weak so I fell and got out with only getting hit once." Jim, in the hospital now, expects to be in the states in May . . . K. O. Strain, Mo. M. 3/c, and Lt. Comdr. Dr. Emerson B. Dawson were together on the U. S. S. Sibley at Iwo Jima. "We were some of those who helped put across the game of Put and Take at Iwo Jima. We put marines ashore and they took the island." . . . 1st Lt. Robt. Hogan is a Corsair pilot and operations officer of a Marine air group. "On the whole island where I'm located there is not a single other person from Fort Dodge. We'll be sending you Wally's address pronto . . . Wayne Laird, Ph. M. 3/c, wounded on Iwo Jima says "Hello" to Bud Demitroff. Wayne is in a base hospital now "Because I got in the way of a mortar shell" . . . Chief Carpenter S. E. Sprigel is on an island in the South Pacific. "It's been raining for a week. Soon I'll be able to put a boat from the front of the shack." The Chief has been through five campaigns so far and is looking forward to coming back to Fort Dodge . . . L. T. Parker, F 1/c, now on a landing craft tank met an old friend atchow recently. It was a can of condensed milk from the Fort Dodge Creamery. "Condensed milk from home." L. T. was so happy to see it, he peeled off the label and wrote a letter on the back of it. "It may not seem much to you at home, but I'm over 8,000 miles away in the South Pacific." . . . From Island X Major C. B. Hamilton sends us his Christmas menu and a program from their armed forces station. On the back of the program is an excerpt from a local newscast as done by the native announcer in pigeon English. Here's a line or two you can try on for style, "Fight long Philippine still very strong, long some place a hard too much, but altogether America e still try hard for pushem altogether big eyes. Long ormac plenty Japanese e die time altogether e fight, and three big transport b'long Japan e sink down and die long same time." Thanks, Major . . . T/Sgt. Louis Charon is now in New Caledonia after spending thirteen months on an island three miles long and one mile wide, two degrees south of the equator.

☛ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The Western Pacific edition of "The Yank" published at Saipan; "Gooney Tales," "This Small World," and "The Sea Bee" from Carl E. Theiss, W. T. 2/c, C-1. Thanks, Carl . . . "The Crusader" of the 310th Sig. Opn. Bn. from Pfc. G. A. Samuelson, somewhere in Holland. Thanks, G. A. . . The patch of the 1st Division worn by Capt. Al Sinnott from Kasserine Pass to somewhere in Germany. Thanks, Al . . . An Easter greeting from Frances and Billy Russell Goodman in El Centro, Calif. . . Vol. 1, No. 1 of "The Red Bulletin," the publication of the 34th Division, from Pfc. Ray Peed. Thanks, Ray . . . "The Salvo" from C. F. Hollis, F. C. 1/c, Rec. St. Navy Yard, Washington, D. C. Thanks, Cliff . . . The very fancy Sunday edition of the Stars and Stripes, colored comics and all, from Sgt. H. M. Kinseth in Italy. Thanks, Sgt. . . A very handsome life-size colored photograph of A/C Bobbie Williams, former KVFD program director. Thanks, Bobbie . . . An Easter Greeting from Pvt. Charles Walker, Camp Polk, La. . . Easter Greetings from T/4 F. A. Engelbart, somewhere in Italy . . . The 83rd Spearhead from Pfc. Harold Bothe, somewhere in Germany. Thanks, Harold.

☛ **COMING HOME.** S/Sgt. Victor L. Rutland, of Lehigh, has completed 35 missions in Europe and is homeward bound. He was waist gunner on a Fort based in England. Recently he spent a

three day pass with Pfc. Larry Lang, of Lehigh . . . H. R. MacDowell who has been doing war work in Honolulu is on his way home. Expects to be here in May.

⊙ **SMALL WORLD.** Sgt. Deno Gardini and Cpl. Carl Lippi, both of Lehigh, somewhere in Holland. They hadn't seen each other in five years . . . Chief Petty Officer Junior Drain and Servia Vandi, A. M. M. 2/c, both of Lehigh, somewhere in the Admiralty islands. First time in four years . . . Lt. David Hill and Arne Hanson in London. Arne is navigator on a heavy bomber. A couple of weeks ago Dave ran into the Alstead brothers in London on Picadilly Circus. Dave is in the hospital now and probably will be for quite a while after a nasty crack-up . . . They met one morning when they were taking a town, Sgt. M. C. Bickford, Lt. Douglas Stowe and Capt. Charles Atwell, all with the 104th Timberwolf Division and now somewhere in Germany. "Gosh, it was swell to talk to someone from home." Thanks a lot for that patch, Sgt. Here's Doc Dawson's address. He's a Lt. Comdr. on the U. S. S. Sibley, A. P. A. 206, c/o F. P. O., San Francisco, Calif. . . Pvt. R. W. Taylor has met Joe Stapleton, his brother Pfc. Dale Taylor, William R. Jordison, and Chuck Isaacson. R. W. is somewhere in the South Pacific . . . Leo D. Campbell, S. P. 3/c, Paul Shappell and George Daniel on the beach at Waikiki. Leo is on shore patrol in Honolulu. "Sometimes, Ed, I think I am the most hated man in Honolulu (Ha Ha)." . . . Cletus Haire, Duke Sawyer, and Einar Haugen in the Todd shipyards, Tacoma, Washington . . . S/Sgt. V. Macek and Sgt. Marshall Bickford, both with the 104th Inf. Division somewhere in Germany.

⊙ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Wally Deniser is somewhere in Germany. Thanks, Wally, for the editorial . . . Pfc. Leo Foster is with the Red Diamond 5th Inf. Division in the 3rd Army. He was in Iceland fifteen months and spent quite a lot of time in England. Thanks, Leo, for the patch and the history . . . Somewhere in Germany T/5 Ned Ackerson is enjoying a command post, "That for once has the roof, four walls and all the windows in it" . . . From Germany, Pfc. Rosette Harp says "Hello" to Harry Gleim, Myron Olson and Vernon Sharp—and to Mrs. Beckett. The 83rd Spearhead, of the 83rd Division, shows a picture of buck private Mickey Rooney up front doing a show for the 83rd. The paper reports that American troops pushing into Germany are being greeted by signs like these in English on nearly every house. "Please treat this home as you would your own." "We have done you no harm—do not harm our little home." . . . The damage in Germany, reports Pfc. Foster Funk, is worse than that left by the storm in Fort Dodge last summer . . . Cpl. Lewis F. Bilek is with the 3rd Army in Germany. He has been in England, France, Scotland, Iceland, Luxembourg, Belgium, and now Germany, "none of which can compare with the state of Iowa" . . . Pfc. Byron D. Jeys is somewhere in Germany. On the march Dale operates and packs a radio.

⊙ **CHINA.** Cpl. Guy E. Feeley is somewhere in China.

⊙ **BELGIUM.** T/Sgt. Carl S. Heffner reports that the weather in Belgium is wonderful.

⊙ **OVER HERE.** Sgt. Arthur J. Anderson is at Tonopah, Nev. . . Richard Block, S 2/c, is at Shoemaker, Calif. . . Back from the Aleutian Islands, Pfc. Grant Schwendemann is now at Camp Gordon, Ga., the peach blossom country also known as the tobacco road country. Thanks, Grant, for the patch and for "The Camp Gordon Cadence." . . . Sgt. H. L. Davidson is at Robins Field, Ga. Thanks for the paper, Sgt.

⊙ **WE PLAY ALL REQUESTS** even though we no longer acknowledge them in the letter. When making a request please send address and telephone number, if possible, of the person to whom the request is dedicated.

⊙ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** "The Krauts are about 'Kaput.'" That's the way it looks to Pvt. Eugene Taylor somewhere in France. "It can't be too soon as we all want to see good old Main Street again and cut a rug over at the Armory." . . . Lt. Col. John C. Shrader is with the 116th Evacuation Hospital somewhere in France.

⊙ **SUNNY ITALY.** Pfc. Lester Evans is in a hospital in Italy with pneumonia. "But am coming along fine."

⊙ **BURMA.** Lt. Earl R. Larson is with the 48th Evacuation Hospital in Burma.

⊙ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Eugene L. Johnston, S 1/c, from Shoemaker, Calif. . . James "Bud" Gormally, Rd. M. 2/c, from two years in the Pacific, one in the Atlantic. He's been on a troop transport . . . T/Sgt. Leo Simmons, from England . . . Pvt. John E. Mann, from Ft. Sill, Okla. . . Ensign and Mrs. John Markey, from Beaufort, S. C. . . Albert Dayton, S 2/c, from Camp Endicott, R. I. . . T/Sgt. Stan Anderson, enroute to Ft. Meade, Md. . . Merle J. Richenberg, A. M. M. 3/c, enroute to New York City . . . Cpl. Willard C. Morrison, Jr., of Barnum, enroute to a hospital in Philadelphia . . . J. C. Otten, S 1/c, from Baltimore, Md. . . Robert Russell, A. C. M. 3/c, from 17 months in the Pacific . . . S/Sgt. Wilbur Courtney, from four years overseas . . . Cpl. and Mrs. Robert W. Carlson and infant daughter, Linda Carol, Black Hills Ordnance Depot, Iglo, S. D. He's a tech at the hospital. Were here for two weeks . . . WAVE Luella Carlson, H. A. 1/c, Naval Hospital, New Orleans, La. Just left Tuesday after two weeks' leave.

⊙ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Pfc. Wayne Hendrickson was wounded in action in Germany March 15th . . . Sgt. R. L. Schulz is a prisoner of war in Germany . . . T/Sgt. Robert Johnston, missing in action in Italy now more than a year, is presumed by the war department to be dead. He failed to return from a night patrol into enemy lines in Italy . . . Pfc. Clayton Peterson was seriously wounded in action in Germany March 20th . . . Sgt. W. H. Griggs has been missing in action in France since Feb. 22nd . . . 1st Lt. Robert McDonnell was killed in action in Germany March 19th . . . T/5 Wyatt D. Anderson is a prisoner of war in Germany . . . Major C. C. Acher was slightly wounded in action in France recently . . . Pfc. Francis Rodenberg is a prisoner of war in Germany . . . James L. O'Connor, Ph. M., was wounded on Iwo Jima—see Jim's letter . . . 1st Lt. D. K. Straub was slightly wounded in action in France, March 15th.

⊙ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** Wings and appointment as flight officer to Donald Cook at Ellington Field, Texas, recently . . .

Wings and a commission to John Wold at the navy air field in Corpus Christi, Texas, March 21st . . . The Silver Star to Lt. Col. Ray V. Porter, of Ohio . . . Another Navy cross for Lt. Robert Durian for a direct torpedo hit on a Jap heavy cruiser . . . The Silver Star to T/Sgt. Carl E. Strom at O'Reilly General Hospital, Springfield, Mo. Carl was in command of a self-propelled howitzer in Leyte. When the gun jammed, the Nips concentrated their fire on the open turret. To return that fire, Sgt. Strom stood in the open turret working a machine gun until he dropped seriously wounded.

Cpl. Robert Zeka, India. "This is really getting to be the army over here. They have signs all over camp with 'Salute This Is Not a Combat Zone.' We will get a court martial and fined if we are caught not saluting. We may not be in debt so bad after the war is over! There are at least 10 to 20 court martials a month with fines varying from \$15.00 to \$35.00, and maybe a little time in the stockade. The soldiers are court martialed mostly for being in out of bounds area (brothels). They get a few cases that are really a case of someone trying to show his authority. There isn't room on the bulletin board for all the court martials, so they are tacked on the side of the day room. We have to be careful, because the M. P.'s are after everyone now. I'm still supervising coolies on the post. We will have all the brush cleared off in a couple of months. Work is going along fairly well here."

Lt. Col. B. G. Marchi, North Italy. "I haven't had much of a chance to write since I came back as they really put me to work. I didn't get back to my old battalion as when I got here they were on the attack, and at 3:30 a. m. they sent me to the 3rd Bn., as they thought they needed me there. I have been here ever since. I would much rather go back to the old gang but that's the army. I have seen many of the boys, as they come back to see me every chance they get and I really miss them. When I got here the snow was still pretty deep and it was cold on the lines. The mud was always present, even with the snow, but we got along somehow. Now the weather is much better and I hope it stays this way, as soon we should be on the move again. These mountains are really tough and don't let anyone tell you different. (You see I am still trying to type, but heck that's better than when I write, even if I hit the wrong key as often as the right one!) Saw Roger, the Dodger, Minkle, Burnquist, Ralph Coats, Chuck Knutson, John Callissis, Behrens, Sgt. Berg and a lot more of them from home and they are all Okay. I have been trying to see Doc Thatcher but haven't been able to get back that far since I came here, should have stopped on the way up but didn't." Thanks, George, for the Bulletin.

Pvt. Raymond Dencklau, Germany. "At the present time we are in a small village with civilians living just across the street from us. We have quite a few comforts of home—beds and everything that goes with a kitchen. A guy from my squad is a cook, his third cake is in the oven right now, and we also had fried potatoes. Oh yes! the American Red Cross served us doughnuts and coffee this afternoon. They have done a lot for us already."

Pfc. Bernard Loth, Somewhere in Germany. "We have done quite a bit of moving since we reached Germany, and we have had an opportunity to see some of Germany's more recent ruins. We have been fortunate, however, in being able to locate, when we have a pause, in the smaller villages that have not been badly hit by the offensives and counteroffensives that have been waged in this part of the country. We are usually billeted in the German houses and have recently been improving with each move. At present, although most of us sleep on the floor, there are those who have beds or cots and most of the rest of us have mattresses at least. Many of the rooms we occupy have had stoves, and we find quite a bit of excellent coal in this area, so we do manage to keep warm. The policy here seems to be to give the soldier all he needs for his personal comfort and necessities as long as he is in the billets, but to discourage the 'requisitioning' of private property by individuals for either souvenirs or personal use. And I believe that the fellows in this outfit have cooperated very well in this practice. Not many of them are taking souvenirs from here. Almost every house I've been in has many army manuals and militaristic books in it, as well as many song books, and I have spent my little spare time looking over many of these. The view from the village in which we are now billeted is beautiful and very inviting, but not many of us have taken advantage of it. Doctors may tell us that walking is the best exercise in the world, but in these parts, a lonely stroll may be downright unhealthy."

Cpl. Thomas J. Dowd, Edmonton, Canada. "Just returned from town, and I still can't get used to the way these Canucks do some things. For instance, the way they sell their beer. They manufacture a very high grade of beer here, and rumor has it that it's percentage of alcohol is between 10 and 12%. At any rate, it is a very potent mixture. So here is the payoff! At 2:00 P. M. every day the taverns open up, and at 8:00 p. m. they close. During this time, the beer is sold only on the hour and on the half hour. And if you aren't sitting down, you just don't get any. Another thing, the men and the women drink in separate places. So you just can't enjoy a glass of 'suds' with your girl! But I guess that I can't holler about something like that when the boys on the real fighting fronts can't get any beer or women." Thanks, Tom, for "The Northwest Newscast."

As we get to the bottom of this letter, we find there are still a lot of swell letters we haven't acknowledged. They come from Pfc. Foster F. Funk, Germany . . . T/5 W. R. Bottieri, Holland . . . Pfc. Robert Staska, Wagner, South Dakota . . . Verl E. Eklund, F 1/c, FPO, New York . . . Sgt. Eugene Person, APO 558, New York . . . 1st Sgt. John F. Burk, APO 86, San Francisco, Calif. . . Henry Chantland, Long Beach, Calif. Thanks so much, all of you. I don't know how you ever find the time to even think of us. It's wonderful that you do . . . The snow is almost gone. Once the sun got at it, it ran off in rivers. And I don't believe it did much damage to the young green things of spring. I hope not. Everything was so beautiful . . . That great day may come tomorrow. Thursday we got rid of Koiso. Tomorrow it may be Hitler's turn. Goodluck, fellow. I'll be seeing you.

Your home town correspondent,

Ed Breen.