

Your Letter From Home

Merry

Sent To You With
Veterans of Foreign Wars
The Gates Dry Goods Co.
The Fort Dodge Creamery Co.
The Fort Dodge Serum Co.
The Tobin Packing Co.
The Elks Club of Fort Dodge
The Loyal Order of Moose
American Legion and 40 & 8

The Best Wishes of
The Clinic Pharmacy and Supply
Larry Geer Ballrooms
Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric Co.
Fort Dodge Tent & Awning Co.
Rialto & Strand Theatres
Dr. Macdonald's Vitamized Feed Co.
Brady Transfer & Storage Co.
The Becker Florists

Christmas

Radio Station K V F D

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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

December 15, 1944

☉ **DEAR JOE:** I have been sitting here making scribbles on the paper wondering how to say it. Really all I want to say is rather simple and very old. My Christmas wish is that you may find peace in your heart and such faith in mankind as to wish all men well . . . Today is another beautiful day in December. We had snow and zero weather for a day or two, but today is warm and everyone is on the streets . . . One or two cutters were out during the first fall of snow and tobogganing has been wonderful. The slide in Phinney Park is cleared away and 'teen agers have been having lots of fun there . . . Saw a golden winged woodpecker—flicker, I believe is the correct name—going into a hole in a tree one of the very cold nights recently. I wonder if they stay here all winter . . . Rev. Drake was in a little while ago to pick up a radio he had fixed. He tells me a new luncheon club is starting called "High Noon". It will meet on Friday at one of the hotels . . . There's even a simpler way to say it, "MERRY CHRISTMAS".

☉ **AROUND THE TOWN:** Thieves broke into Eddie's Grocery, got \$10.00 in pennies and 48 cigars! They went to the Ho Hum lunch and took a hunting knife and a box of shells for a .22 . . . A 65 year old woman lifted a bracelet from a local jewelry store . . . Thieves made away with 70 lbs. of chicken feed from the David Bradley residence at 527 Eleventh St. S. W. . . . All thieves are still at large . . . J. J. Plaunt, former paint and glass man, and now owner and boniface at the Johnston Hotel, has purchased the garage just to the south of the hotel. Sullivan's will continue to occupy it . . . The Charity Ball will be held December 27th in the Wahnonsa. Mrs. D. E. McTigue, chairwoman, says get your tickets at Goldie Hoffman's . . . The sign on the Goody Shop is now recording the progress of the 6th War Loan Drive. Everything indicates that Webster County will go way over the top . . . The Louisiana Barbeque, which had been doing a whale of a business in the spot occupied by the Wilson Cafe across from the Wahnonsa, did a quick fold up when creditors wanting rent and fixture payments closed in . . . The revived Junior Chamber is holding bi-weekly meetings—dinner meetings at the Warden—The night meetings are conducive to social entertainment afterwards . . . The American Legion Auxiliary is collecting gifts for GI Joes and GI Janes hospitalized in this country . . . A. C. Stoddard, Humboldt farmer, took a rope, hung himself on a tree a mile from home . . . The candlelight Vesper service will be held at the M. E. Church this next Sunday evening at 5:00 o'clock . . . Mrs. D. E. Potter is president of the Community Nursing Service . . . The Moose will initiate 200 next Sunday . . . Over last week-end we had the heaviest snowfall of the season—about four inches—but up to a foot in the eastern part of Iowa . . . G. and E. employees had their Christmas party at Wraywood a week ago Thursday . . . R. P. Doud, of Gates Dry Goods Co., is the new treasurer of the Webster County Red Cross . . . A farm census is being conducted all over the county. The office for this district is in Ft. Dodge. Ray Walsh, of Varina, is in charge. He will have 130 people under him. Where the help will be gotten, I don't know . . . There are lots of new neon signs in Ft. Dodge. KVFD has one celebrating its fifth birthday, Dec. 24th. The Veterans Information Center has one just east of us on 1st Ave. So. They are hard to get. You have to buy one second hand and have new letters put on it. Our letters are the new neon pink . . . Mahlon George has purchased the Dessinger Cafe just behind the Court House.

☉ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Eugene Goodspeed suffered fractures of both legs on Nov. 17th during the invasion of the Philippines . . . Newton O. Williams, serving aboard the Mount Hood, is missing in action. His ship blew up at a Central Pacific base . . . Pvt. J. C. Aldrich was killed in action in France, November 16th. He was with the 3rd Army . . . Pvt. V. F. Harvey is missing in action as of November 22nd . . . Pfc. Warren Winslow received a bullet burn from a Jap rifle when the bullet passed between him and the radio he carried on his back . . . Lt. John B. Foley is in a hospital in the South Pacific with an ear infection . . . Pfc. Emil Kolesar has been wounded for the second time in five months. He is in France and was wounded on November 20th.

☉ **TWO HEARTS THAT BEAT AS ONE.** Martha Claussen, of Gilmore City, and Gene Cage, of Clare, at Gilmore City, Dec. 3rd . . . Lucille Follett and Don Strong of Portland, Ore., in Portland, Dec. 3rd . . . Violet Johnson and Bob Rykhus in Worthington, Minnesota, December 3rd . . . Catherine Hogan and Melvin Lillig, of Lehigh, at Ft. Dodge, December 6th.

☉ **SCOREBOARD.** The Dodgers were doing their Christmas giving early this year. They made a present of their first conference game to the Polar Bears of North High Des Moines. The Dodgers made plenty of field goals but out of 14 free throws dropped only 3. The Bears made seven of theirs good and won 33 to 31 in a game in which the Dodgers led all the way up to the last minute. Davidson was high scorer with 13 points . . . Dayton stopped Ogden 30 to 19 . . . Pomeroy beat Callender, 33 to 24 . . . Sacred Heart took Bode in an overtime hard-fought game, 27 to 25 . . . Corpus Christi rocked up an easy win over Moorland, 50 to 25 . . . Sacred Heart dropped a game to Pocahontas, 50 to 21 . . . Harcourt defeated Corpus Christi, 23 to 20.

☉ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** F/O Dick Leonard, from Lubbock, Texas. Dick is a glider pilot . . . Pfc. Mervin Bowman, from Skagway, Alaska, where he has been doing motor transport work . . . Russell Jondle, AEM 1/c, from the South Pacific . . . Frank Rezabek from 27½ months service in the army, honorably discharged . . . Sgt. Alice Woolsey, from Camp Stewart, Georgia . . . Joe Hergentreter, Cox., and his brother Sgt. John Hergentreter.

Joe has been on the Atlantic; John is at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri . . . Pvt. Lawrence Bloomquist enroute to Ft. Meade, Maryland . . . Cpl. Marcus Cavanaugh enroute to Columbia, So. Carolina . . . Sgt. William Pray from Co. G and the 34th Division in Italy . . . F/O Bob Michael, from the Marana Air Field, Tuscon, Ariz., to the 4th Air Force, Lemoore, Calif. . . . Pvt. Ted Duncombe from two years in Alaska . . . Ensign Richard Whitcome, from Green Cove Springs, Florida, enroute to San Diego . . . Cliff Hollis, petty officer 1/c, from Washington, D. C. . . . Sgt. Paul R. Meyers, of Clare, from Italy . . . He's a member of Co. G . . . Pfc. Robert Van Gundy, from Dayton, Ohio . . . Sgt. Howard Sheker, from Santa Monica, California . . . Pvt. Robert E. Nugent is home for good, honorably discharged.

☉ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIAS.** "The Masthead" from Allen E. Weber, F 2/c, Treasure Island, San Francisco. Thanks, Allen . . . "The Mock Up" from Conrad Taylor, MoMM 1/c, Fort Pierce, Florida. Thanks, Conrad . . . "The Wilderness" from Pfc. A. C. Maricle, Big Delta, Alaska. Thanks, A. C. . . . "The All American Paraglide" from Pfc. Donald A. McClure, somewhere in Holland. This paper is published for the 82nd Airborne Division by the Gelderland Press of Nijmegen, Holland, and is the only one of its kind in Holland. A very handsome sheet. The editor of the paper has four initials—G. H. J. B. Bodewes. Thanks, Don . . . The button from a German S. S. garrison cap from Pfc. Harvey Finney, of Pioneer, now somewhere in Europe. Thanks, Harvey, we'll do that request . . . The Iceland Base Command patch from Pfc. Lloyd Lumsden now in France. Thanks, Lloyd . . . "The Boot Hill Marauder" from S/Sgt. Cecil S. Julius, Dodge City, Kansas. Thanks, Cecil. Surprise—there is a Fort Dodge, Kansas. Your letter was sent there before it got here . . . The "Thanksgiving Day dinner menu from Lt. D. V. Beem, Hq. Btry., Ft. Bragg, No. Carolina. A very elegant dinner it was with pineapple juice, roast young turkey and all the trimmings down to chocolate cake, pumpkin pie, apples, cigarettes, nuts, candy, and coffee. Thanks, Lt. Thanks, too, for "The Observation Post" . . . "The Club House News" from Cpl. Tom Dowd, Alberta, Canada. Thanks, Tom . . . "The Duration Daily" from Cpl. Arthur Ross in the Aleutians. Thanks, Art. We'll play that number, Cpl. . . . "Prop Wash" from W. D. Cunningham, AP 1/c, NAS, Whidbey Island, Washington. Thanks, W. C.

☉ **HIGH C'S.** Julius A. Krebs, GM 2/c, is on the U. S. S. Les-L65, somewhere in the Pacific . . . Robert R. Babcock, RT 2/c, is on the U. S. S. Menges headed now for a couple places he never hoped to see. Bob had turkey, too . . . At sea on the good ship U. S. S. Charles S. Sperry, Lt. (j. g.) J. E. Goodrich hasn't seen another Dodger in two years. "The law of averages should act soon, so I'm waiting to extend a welcome aboard the Sperry."

☉ **OVER HERE.** Pfc. Dean Wright is at Camp Hood, Texas . . . Lt. R. W. Peterson is taking multi-engine training at Pensacola, Florida . . . J. V. Guttenfelder, MoMM 2/c, is at Camp Bedilion, Port Hueneme, California . . . Pvt. Kenneth Christensen of Lake City is at Camp Blanding, Florida. We'll play that number, Ken . . . A/C Bobbie Williams, of Dayton and KVFD, is at San Antonio, Texas . . . Pvt. Eric Nelson is at Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey. He was with Wilbert Strom until a couple of weeks ago. Strom has gone to P. O. E. . . . Sgt. E. J. Savage is at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma . . . Merrill Fink, RT 2/c, is at Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois . . . N. S. Bemino, S 1/c, is at Litchfield Park, Arizona . . . Dick Muhl, S 1/c, now at Farragut was a contestant on Kay Kyser's program Wednesday night. Did all right, too.

☉ **DOWN UNDER.** "Today is Thanksgiving and we are having turkey for dinner" writes Pvt. Bob Wickwire, from New Guinea. And from letters from all over the world, it appears that nearly everywhere Yanks had turkey for Thanksgiving Day dinner . . . 1/Sgt. Harold Ogan, overseas 27 months, is now in New Guinea . . . E. A. Zuelaw, PTR 2/c, is in the Solomons . . . Cpl. Glen Hanson finds the Dutch East Indies as romantic as a travel folder "except there is nothing romantic about the moon because the girl is only a dream interrupted by a shrill air raid siren" . . . T/5 Floyd Carter is somewhere in New Britain. Yes sir, Floyd, we'll play those requests and hope that "all the love and wishful dreaming will go with them". About the pin-ups, that attractive project is still on the agenda but not quite solved . . . Fauncey Bemino is in the Netherlands, East Indies . . . Cpl. Russell B. Rae is somewhere in the South Pacific. Thanks, Russ, for the Christmas poem from your battalion.

☉ **PACIFIC.** Wayne E. Laird, Ph M 3/c, is somewhere in the Pacific and doing o. k. We'll do that request, Wayne.

☉ **DAS REICH.** Sgt. Charles A. Garlock is somewhere in Germany. Yes sir, C. A. we'll play that number. The Captain is an old subscriber now and we're sending the addresses.

☉ **BELGIUM.** Pvt. Foster Funk is somewhere in Belgium.

☉ **MERRY ENGLAND.** The cigarette problem is really one in England. "They really are a problem over here" writes Pfc. Eugene Messerly. "England is a very interesting place. I only wish I had more time to look it over" . . . Pfc. Merton Sweet is in W. 207, U. S. Army Hospital Plant, A. P. O. 69 in England. We'll play that number, Merton . . . Capt. Gilbert E. Merris reports that cigarettes are non-existent in England right now but that Uncle Sam did himself proud on the Thanksgiving dinner. "I've been here and in France since Sept. 20th and have seen all I want to of either country. I know now what the Vets of the last war meant when they told of the mud in France."

☉ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** T/5 John A. Wagner is in France. We'll play those requests, John . . . Lt. Bob W. Cahill would like to find

that spot in France described by Foster Funk where it has rained for only 25 days. "My crew and I would like to find that spot. We have had a soaking daily for three months. We are not claiming a record however, until the rainy season finally comes to a close. Our business (postoffice) is good. Fellows are sending home everything but the kitchen sink as souvenirs. This place looks like a real Christmas rush, some carrying it in and some carrying it out." Bob is in France and sends a "poop" sheet that I'm going to launder a little and present at a later date." Thanks, Bob . . . Pfc. August Kastendieck writing from France says "hello" to Paul Reedy who is on his way home from Italy.

⊙ **GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER.** John Hamann, S 1/c, and Cpl. Majel Eckerman, of Duncombe, at the Coast Guard Training Station, Alameda, California. John is getting to go overseas . . . Edward Moon, MoM 2/c, McCarville and Whittles from Burnside somewhere overseas. Yes sir, Ed. we'll play that number.

⊙ **OVERSEAS.** On Turkey Day, they played football, six man football, at the 250th Medical Hospital, APO 519, New York, and Lt. M. (Mike) L. Hayes played for the Tigers against the Bears. "We lost but we had a lot of fun." Afterwards they sat down to a swellegant turkey dinner.

⊙ **SUNNY ITALY.** T/Sgt. J. F. Simpson is with a bomber crew in Italy . . . S/Sgt. Guy Slagenweit has seen Pisa and Florence and Rome. "Am sweating out Bologna now. Haven't any tales to tell. Only the usual from this front—mud, rain and cold weather. We'll play that number, Sgt. . . . Pfc. Glen Lund is in Italy "with the mud and all".

⊙ **PERSONAL NOTE** to W. S. McGill, BM 2/c—Took a package of recordings to the postoffice. Couldn't get them through the mail. Too big. We'll try again.

⊙ **PHILIPPINES.** Pfc. Marvin Ewing's outfit was the first to land on Leyte in the Philippines.

⊙ **TRINIDAD.** Joe D. McTigue is in Trinidad. On his 25th birthday his rank went to Lt. (j. g.).

⊙ **HAWAII.** Pvt. Ferris L. Malcolm, of Gilmore City, now in Oahu, Hawaii, sure misses the good bass fishing in the river between Humboldt and Ft. Dodge. "I'll bet Joe Kautzky hasn't had any competition at all this year. Tell Joe for me that Buss Brown and I want some next summer. We plan to be home and we are going fishing every day." Ferris' wife has taken over his job at home and is delivering the mail on his rural route. Yes sir, Ferris, we'll play that number.

⊙ **JOES AND JANES SEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.** Capt. T. G. Herrick, of Gilmore City, now in India. Yes sir, Capt., we'll do that number . . . S/Sgt. C. Cooklin, somewhere overseas. Yes sir, Clarence, we'll play that song . . . Cpl. Don Johnston somewhere in the Pacific . . . Sgt. Wesley V. Hill with the Persian Gulf Command . . . T/3 Earl R. Larson in Burma . . . Cpl. R. A. "Al" Geiger in India . . . Cpl. Lloyd Vanderhoff in Italy. Yes sir, Cpl., we'll play that tune . . . From T/4 C. W. "Wesley" Graffunder with the USA—Canadian Black Devils somewhere overseas . . . Cpl. George W. Hutchinson, APO 920 . . . Jack Clark with the British 8th Army in Italy . . . Phil Dorweiler, S 2/c, somewhere in Hawaii . . . Joe Thomas Sandell, CM 1/c, Navy 905, FPO, San Francisco . . . Lt. (j. g.) "Mel" Essary with the "Black Cat"—a line boys, patrol bombing squadron somewhere in the South Pacific . . . Cpl. Bob Metcalf in Florence, So. Carolina, and thanks, Bob for the patch . . . Neville W. Halbach with the 8th U. S. Naval Constr. Bn. "Seabees" somewhere in the Pacific . . . Capt. James D. Rhodes somewhere in France . . . Pfc. Doyle J. Livasy, somewhere in the Pacific with the Marines . . . L. M. Smith, Cox., on the U. S. S. Savo Island, somewhere in the Pacific . . . Lt. (j. g.) Geo. E. Schnurr from somewhere in the South Pacific . . . Sgt. C. C. Scott with the air corps somewhere in Italy . . . Cpl. Harland J. Yates with the 5th Army in Italy . . . Cpl. Harold A. Bothe somewhere in France . . . Sgt. John A. Snook somewhere in Germany. John says, "Here is our Christmas card which the Army furnished us" (A very beautiful one, by the way). "I am now in Germany, having come from France to Belgium then up through Holland and now in Germany" . . . Pvt. Paul Mundt somewhere in Alaska . . . Cpl. Vyron Nelson somewhere in France . . . Sgt. R. E. "Dick" Cleveland somewhere in the Yukon . . . S/Sgt. Ted Rule, San Pedro, California . . . Mary Strait Stratton, S 1/c, Jacksonville, Florida . . . Rene Isabelle Ulm, Plaza Hotel, Washington, D. C. . . Pvt. M. L. Moreland, Colgate University, Hamilton, New York . . . T/5 John Steib, Jr., somewhere in Italy . . . T/4 Roy G. Carlson somewhere in France. Roy's beautiful Christmas card was one size smaller than the electric sign on top of the Goody Shop. How you got it through the mail, Roy, I don't know . . . Ens. Helen Zenkovich, Farragut, Idaho . . . Cpl. D. K. Dick, Tampa, Florida . . . Sgt. S. E. Cammerer, somewhere in Iran . . . T/4 W. J. "Fritz" Schrandt, somewhere in Italy . . . Cpl. Floyd Glidden with the Persian Gulf Command . . . Pfc. George E. Belthius somewhere in Italy . . . J. E. Haring, Telephone Office, USNATB, Coronado, California . . . And Bill Skophammer, HA 1/c, now in the Aleutian Islands.

⊙ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** S/Sgt. Roy Blunk, China. "The Japs seem to think they will have us run clear out of China by Christmas, but I think they are wrong, as usual. The only thing I don't like is them interfering with our sleep every night. Hitting those fox holes in the moonlight is no fun. Or any time as far as that goes. Three of us fellows were to the village tonight for dinner. It cost us \$3,000 Chinese money. Sure is some price! In U. S. gold it would amount to 10 dollars. Gee, what a meal we could have back in Fort Dodge with a blonde thrown in with it. I sure envy Elmer Apt now. Suppose he leaned back in that easy chair with a bottle of beer at his side. (Ha!)" Ensign Queento L. Vandi, England. "I had a visit to the Admiralty Mine Laboratory recently and enjoyed listening to a British Commander relate the story of how he recovered and made safe the first German mine in the early part of the war. We were standing right beside the mine and he showed me how he pulled the fuse to render it safe—and also how his helper had almost pulled the wrong fuse which would have blown them to bits. It was all very interesting, to be sure. While he was relating his experiences he glanced at his watch and told us it was the 5th anniversary—exactly to the minute—that he accomplished this feat so—"natch-erly"—we had to drink a toast to that. Ha! This commander was later decorated by King George for his fine work and accomplishments in this field (mines) of the war. It is indeed a pleasure to be working with the commander and best of all to learn from his past experiences. This afternoon we are going to visit the "Victory"—Nelson's old ship in the Battle of Trafalgar. It is

much like our "Old Ironsides" back in the States and should be very interesting!"

S/Sgt. Jim Skophammer, APO 550, New York. "Just thought I'd drop you a couple of lines this fine Thanksgiving Day morn and let you know what's going on over here in the Spam circuit. Received the last letter of the first year and the first letter of the second year together; methinks they get better every time I read them. Numerous things have happened in that year and I guess a guy can be pretty thankful that he's still around to read them. I think every guy from home who has ever read one of the letters can thank you and the people who sponsor it 'cause it really fills the bill. Am coming down the home stretch on these missions and any day now it will be "Bingo"! Will be kind of glad when they are over, as there are some rough days coming up. Received a good letter from Bob Swanson the other day. He was in the Metz Area so imagine he'll be diggin' his fox hole in German soil by now. Say hello to him for me and to keep pitchin' and it won't be long before the old gang is together again." (Thanks, Jim, for the swell pictures.)

Cpl. J. E. Deck, somewhere in England. "The countryside here is beautiful. It seems so strange to see flowers blooming in November. Tell Larry Geer hello and to keep the floor in good shape for the "Oakey Pokey" (English version of a stable stamp). It's fun, though. There's a small town near here. We have a dance nearly every night. Our outfit bought their own projector and we're getting some good films, too."

Pfc. Gerald D. Schmecker, Assam, India. "I arrived at APO 629, my present base, a couple of months ago. I am a radio operator on a transport plane and our primary job here is to help keep China in the war by keeping supplies moving over "The Hump." The job isn't easy as the rockpile between us and China is one of the most treacherous in the world with constant storms, fog, rain, shifting up-drafts, down-drafts, and what have you. I have twenty-six trips across now but it's just a good start."

Pfc. Lauren M. Magoon, Marianna Islands. "We are now stationed in the Marianna's Islands—perhaps I had told you that before. We have had air raids in this region the past few nights due to the moon being full. Some damage was done, but most of the Jap planes were shot down. Probably 85%. Lt. Bessie Nordstrum and the others have moved out of their tents into the new quonset huts nearby."

Phil J. Dorweiler, S 2/c, FPO, San Francisco. "I finally have the strength to write! Why I joined the Navy instead of a land organization is beyond me. For the past two days I have been in my bunk so darn sea sick it isn't even funny. I would start to get up and instead I would (to use a bad term) throw up! I have been hanging over the side of the ship for safety sake alone. I couldn't move without having my stomach turn over. This is the first time I have felt good in 3 days. I guess the happiest day of my Navy career will be when this ship stops and I can touch "dry" land!"

Cpl. Donald W. Gross, Central India. "I can't see India as being either glamorous or romantic—it's thoroughly dirty and filthy. Our depot is fairly nice, though. We had a new picture here tonight—"Saratoga Trunk". Special service billed it as its "World Premier". I was fortunate enough to make Corporal last week." Sgt. Carl A. Rummie, APO 403, New York. "Last night I received Vol. 2, No. 1 of "Your Letter From Home" and the letter from one of the younger generation. The letter I got was from James Lentsch of 712½ Ave. "C" in Ft. Dodge. It surely was a cute letter and I really enjoyed it. More of them would be swell. A buddy of mine occasionally reads your letter and enjoys it even though all the names and places are strange. Speaking of YLFH, a short time ago you mentioned something about the Cavalry. Well, Mr. Breen, may I refresh your memory. Yours truly is in the cavalry. There still is a lot of cavalry in use, but it's probably not like what you're thinking of. Horses are something of the past and all the cavalry is mechanized now."

Florence Murphy, Principal, Hawley School, Ft. Dodge. "Thank you for asking Hawley School children to write the letters to GI Jane and GI Joe that were sent with YLFH. In addition to the many interesting replies, a GI Jane, Army Nurse 2nd Lt. Esther Seil, from the New Hebrides Islands, called in person to answer a letter she received from a fifth grade boy. Elmo Schmoll sent a five franc French note and a two franc De Gaulle invasion note plus a French bronze one franc coin and a one franc coin made of an alloy under the German occupation. 'All three kinds of money are recognized in France today', writes Pvt. Schmoll. Harold MacDowell, a member of a labor battalion in Hawaii, sent a cocoanut to a fourth grade boy. The school children are always ready and willing to do their part to aid in the war effort, but we feel that we've done very little to reap the rich rewards, information and happiness of GI Jane and GI Joe correspondence."

Pvt. Robert J. Donly, somewhere in the Philippines. "This part of the Philippines wouldn't be bad if it didn't rain so much. I know now why they raise rice here. It takes plenty of water and take it from me, they got it! Remember when Iowa didn't have many paved roads and the cars were always getting stuck in the mud—well, that's what it is here now. Mud and that's just what it is. I wish I could tell you some of the things that the Japs did to these people, Ed, but due to censorship I can't. Some day perhaps I can, but take it from me, it's pitiful. If ever the need arises the people back home are asked to give old clothes for our brothers over here put your heart into the drive, for these people need them. I can't help but feel sorry for them."

What with the Christmas greetings, the mail bags were bulging this week and our desk was covered. Other swell letters, not otherwise acknowledged, came from Pvt. Cecil C. Markley, San Francisco; Lt. Donald Schoeberlein, Malden, Missouri; Lou Jaroslousky, FPO, New York; Cpl. Julius Sender, Indiantown Gap, Pa.; Pvt. Clarence McCarville, Camp Gruber, Oklahoma; Ellis E. Hughes, FPO, San Francisco; Pvt. Charles S. Walker, Key Field, Mississippi; Sgt. Maxwell R. Smith, Ft. Lewis, Washington; and Faye Jurison, A/S, Bronx, New York . . . Christmas is always wonderful, Joe, because it tells again in music and in story and the gleam of children's eyes the loveliest legend of them all. And its wonderful to be able to write to you, to say hello and wish you well. But those of us who are here are living for that Christmas when you'll be home. We had hoped it might be this Christmas. Now we are certain it must be next Christmas. Good luck, Joe. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your Home Town Correspondent,
Ed Breen