

Your Letter From Home

Mother to Dad: "But if you don't explain radar to him he may pick it up from the boys on the street."

—From "The Pied Piper"

Sent To You With The Best Wishes of
 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
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Radio Station K V F D

Sponsors of "Your Letter From Home" heard over KVFD daily 12:45 p. m., Monday through Friday.

A soldier in Iceland wrote "It's so cold here the inhabitants have to live elsewhere."

—From "The Pied Piper"

Vol. 2, No. 7

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

December 8, 1944

☉ **DEAR JOE:** Saturday evening we had a wedding in our official family—kind of a Montague-Capulet affair—East meeting West and that sort of thing. Helen Crook of the Messenger Staff, and Franklyn Strode, of KVFD. "A marriage made in heaven," said Chas. Rubenstein of the daily sheet. As we toasted the absent honeymooners at the Top Hat someone else said, "Like the wedding of the Atlantic and Pacific—and we don't mean the chain store either." . . . That night we started out to have weather. As we left the Top Hat, it was raining and freezing. Sunday morning the state was covered with a quarter inch of ice. No busses moved. Des Moines newspapers were not on the front door step. Between Humboldt and Ft. Dodge, nine cars were in the ditch. People taken unaware stepped out onto front porches and landed in the front yard. Laswell Collins, an English Marine, stepped off the Illinois Central to get a breath of air, slipped and wrenched his knee and was taken to the Lutheran Hospital . . . But today the skies have cleared and it's as lovely a December afternoon as you ever saw. Outside the thermometer stands at about 40 above.

☉ **ALONG THE MAIN DRAG.** Margaret Speaks and Conrad Thibault sang to 1000 at the high school auditorium Monday evening. Radio net work stars, they were excellent. It was the first concert of the season sponsored by the Men's Civic Glee Club. Next day, Speaks and Thibault practiced most of the afternoon and evening in KVFD's studio A. Swell people. Night before, after the concert, they went to Wraywood and sang for the Wa Tan Ye party and from there to Roy Gillman's until the wee small hours of the morning . . . John Bestick, pioneer carpenter is dead at age 64 after an illness of many months . . . A Liberty Cab drove up in front of the fire station Saturday evening—not to pick up fare but to have a fire put out. The front seat was on fire. Damage—one burned seat cushion . . . Rev. J. J. Davies delivered the memorial services at the Elks Club Sunday . . . Webster County passed the half way mark in the 6th War Loan drive last Saturday . . . Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7th, was celebrated by local theatres with a free show for all buying war bonds that day . . . "The Blue Diamond," teen age night club at the YMCA, entertained grown-ups Thursday evening with refreshments and a floor show . . . Mrs. James Kearns is the new commander of the Army Mothers post . . . Moppets are pouring into KVFD studios daily to talk to Santa Claus and listen to the Cinnamon Bear . . . James Francis Lockman, 15 year old colored boy accused of assault upon a white girl, has been sent to Eldora . . . Arthur Rush, age 60, veteran F. D. letter carrier, now wears a gold star on his sleeve. That designates 35 years with the local office . . . The Junior Red Cross has sent 550 Christmas boxes to Europe. These go to children in the liberated countries . . . Lowell Johnston is home for good on an honorable discharge after 21 months service in the army . . . Four hills have been roped off for coasting . . . The Moose Lodge has purchased the property on the square where the Ring used to be just across the street to the south from the Eilers Hotel. The lodge will build there after the war . . . The Farm Bureau is launching a drive for 1350 members . . . Ft. Dodge may have a college. One is thinking of moving here from another Iowa town.

☉ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Pfc. Kenneth Fuller from 32 months in Puerto Rico . . . William Beresford, R 1/c, from 23 months in Puerto Rico . . . Lt. Katherine Saunders from Philadelphia, Pa. . . Sgt. Joe Presler from Orlando, Florida . . . Herb Lefler, who has just received his commission as a second Lt. in finance. He will return to Washington at the end of his furlough . . . Sgt. William Caine from Italy where he has been with Co. G . . . Lt. Willis Olson from Guadalcanal and New Britain . . . Sgt. Merle L. Hill from Camp Cooke, California . . . A/C Ted Newman from San Antonio . . . Lt. Kermit Hanson from the east coast enroute to a new base . . . Cpl. and Mrs. Pete Hillesland from Muroc Army Air Field . . . Pvt. Bob Kurtz from Ft. Riley, Kansas . . . Cpl. Joe Collins from Shreveport, Louisiana . . . Lt. William W. Kennedy, of Somers, from India after 30 months overseas. Kennedy was formerly a member of Co. G . . . M/Sgt. Paul R. Meyer of Clare, back from Italy.

☉ **TWO HEARTS THAT BEAT AS ONE.** Jessye Cloud and Sgt. Don McVicker of Portland, Ore., in Portland, Nov. 25th . . . Jeanette Oppel and William P. Devou, Jr., USN, in Los Angeles, Nov. 25th . . . Mary Jo Anne Teehey, of Des Moines, and Lt. Dale M. Sperry, June 29th, in Roswell, New Mexico. Just announced . . . Evelon Carlson, of Gowrie, and Ens. Loren Baxter, of Clearfield, at Virginia Beach, Virginia, Nov. 11th . . . K. Lucile Karel to 1/Lt. Geo. A. Hunt in Minneapolis, Nov. 14th . . . Harriet Voss and Thoralf Haugen, of Badger, in Ft. Dodge, Nov. 25th . . . Wiladeen Wood and Phillip Hunt, of Sibley, Iowa, Nov. 24th, at Ft. Dodge . . . Blanche Perret and Robert Adams, Nov. 26th in Barnum . . . Mary Morrow and Richard T. Flattery, Nov. 28th, in Ft. Dodge . . . Bonita Bodenstien and Carl E. Russell, P. O. 3/c, both former residents of Fort Dodge, in Washington, D. C., Nov. 25th.

☉ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** Here's how Pfc. Sterling Stensrud got his silver star. On May 9, 1944 he volunteered for a dangerous daylight raid into enemy lines. With three others he crawled 500 yards across flat open terrain to reach the enemy. There they destroyed two enemy machine guns. Two men went back with prisoners but Stensrud and the other man remained and searched the area. They surprised nine men entrenched in a culvert and forced them to surrender.

☉ **SCOREBOARD.** Dodger matmen were second in the meet at Eagle Grove with 30 points. Eagle Grove was first with 35 points. Schuh, Smith and Carlson of Ft. Dodge won titles in the 95 lb. 129 lb. and 155 lb. classes . . . The Dodgers, with a veteran cage line up, started the season by defeating the Boone Toreadors, 35 to 19. The first team ran wild in the opening minutes of play, the half ending 18 to 3. After that everyone got to play. Junior Janssen was high man for the Dodgers with 6 field goals and 3 free throws. The Dodgers starting line-up is Knack and Janssen, forwards, Davidson at center, and Beers and Woodard, guards. Max Moore, of Boone, was high for Boone with seven points. The Dodger second team is made up of Merris and Constantine, forwards, Lefler, center, Robinson and Wold, guards. The Dodgers look very good . . . Dayton rung up its fifth straight win of the season defeating Harcourt, 24 to 13 . . . Sacred Heart won from Varina 49 to 22 . . . Dayton whipped Gowrie 29 to 19 . . . Lanyon defeated Lehigh 53 to 19 . . . Here's the complete schedule for Dodgers football in 1945. Albert Lea, here; Boone, here; Sioux City Central, there; West Waterloo, there; East Waterloo, here; East Des Moines, there; Roosevelt, of Des Moines, here; Mason City, there; and Charity game, Shattuck Military School, here. Looks like a tough old row for what promises to be a very strong team.

☉ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Pvt. Robert "Bob" Newsom was killed in action Nov. 20th somewhere in France. Bob was a machine gunner with the 3rd Army . . . Pvt. Robert Ackerson is in a hospital in England. Struck by shrapnel in Germany, his right leg has been amputated above the knee . . . Pvt. Oliver McGruder reported missing in action is alive and well and back with his company somewhere in Germany . . . S/Sgt. Ivan F. Hunter, of Gowrie, is reported missing in action over Germany as of Nov. 10th.

☉ **HIGH C'S.** The tailor aboard the U. S. S. Hamlin is Howard L. Hutchison, S. S. M. T. 2/c. Howard used to be with the Ft. Dodge Tent & Awning Co. He says his shipmates really keep him busy and he does all the work himself. With him is M. J. Alstalt, S. S. M. L. 3/c who runs the laundry. M. J. was with the Ft. D. Serum Co. Thanks, Howard, for "The Pied Piper" . . . Richard Freimuth, S 1/c, is on the U. S. S. California. So is another Dodger named Gerrard . . . Ronald Wearmouth, S 1/c, now on the U. S. S. Hyman says "hello" to Gil Fletcher. We'll play that number, Ron.

☉ **OVER HERE.** Dan Smith, A/S, has been in the hospital at Farragut with diphtheria, strep throat and tonsillitis. Now he's up and about again . . . Cpl. Joe Brown is at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. Sorry, Joe, B. J. Price died last summer . . . It's strictly hush-hush but Cpl. Richard "Dick" Purkapile is a cryptographer at Camp Pinedale, Fresno, California. Thanks for the patches, Dick . . . R. W. Munn, WT 3/c, is at Camp Bradford, Norfolk, Virginia . . . A/C Vyron Frye is at Gardner Field, California . . . R. W. Tierney, SK 2/c, is at Camp Elliott, San Diego, California . . . Lt. Thomas Mann, now living on this side with his wife and baby at 1233 Irwin Street, San Rafael, California, is starting his ninth year in the army. "Looks like I'm a thirty year man for sure". Marion is a subscriber now, Tom . . . Pvt. Frank Murphy is at the Municipal Airport, Oakland, California . . . Ensign Leo B. Adams is at Atlantic City, New Jersey. His brother Edmond, RM 3/c, is on the U. S. S. Salmon . . . Chas. R. Clauss, S 1/c, is at the Navy Overseas Freight Terminal, Pier 48-A, San Francisco. He's planning to see Mickey Castagnoli. Thanks, Chas. for the "Wharf Rat" . . . Carl J. Graves, EM 2/c, is at the Minecraft Training Center, Little Creek Branch, Norfolk . . . Verl E. Ecklund, F 1/c, of Dayton is at Little Creek, Virginia . . . Ensign and Mrs. John Markey are at Lake City, Florida . . . Sgt. Don Buck is at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina . . . Cpl. Eugene D. Person is engineer and top turret gunner on a B-24 at Charleston, So. Carolina . . . Raymond R. Liljegen, S 2/c, is at Lakehurst, New Jersey . . . C/N Kathryn Willis, writing from California says, "The rest of the student nurses here in this hospital are native Californians and to them Iowa is something like a foreign country. They don't know what it's like to see snow at Christmas time or tall corn fields in the autumn. You can still find 'real people' wherever you go, however, so I guess we all have things to be thankful for." . . . Basil L. Barnhill, ARM 2/c, is just back in the states after a 3 month tour of the European theater . . . "The Childress Field Bomb Blast" published a picture of Sgt. Ernest Flickinger, one of four interviewed on the question, "American Legion or Post War Organization?" Sgt. Flickinger and two others out of the four favored joining the Legion.

⊙ **GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER.** Cpl. Bob Horton and Bob Crosby somewhere in France. Bob H. had been watching a little gun fire. When it was over he glanced and there across a Peep from him was Bob Crosby. "We were both left speechless for a little while" . . . Pvt. Donald Duncan, USMC, with "D" Company, Navy 128 is looking for Dodgers. So far he's seen Rudd Messerly, of Ft. Dodge, and Jr. Williams and Fred Campidilli, of Lehigh . . . Bernard Hood, S 2/c, of Clare, Gene Davis from Gilmore City, and Richard Fitzgerald, from Clare, in Seattle, Washington.

⊙ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** Lt. Lloyd Stott, Burt, Iowa, jumped on France with the paratroopers August 15th and has been fighting there ever since. Lloyd is a former Co. G man . . . Sgt. Pete Yates is in France. Met Edward Beck on the boat going over. We'll play that number, Pete, and thanks for the souvenir . . . Pfc. John W. Brown is somewhere in Southern France. While Webster County was going Democratic, the rest of Iowa went Republican by a narrow margin . . . Sgt. Glenn Larson is somewhere in France.

⊙ **PACIFIC.** Pfc. Francis Peed somewhere in the Pacific is with the 1st Marine Division. Sorry, Francis, you must have forgotten to put in the patch . . . Pvt. Bob Hoover somewhere in the Pacific would like to hear from Eddie Lawton . . . Pfc. Ernest L. Carr is with the 1st Marine Division somewhere in the South Pacific. Thanks, Ernest, for the 1st Marine Patch . . . Cpl. Olin J. Maage and Bob Hogan somewhere in the Pacific. We'll play that number, Olin . . . The 13th Marine Corps patch from Pfc. Virgil Jones somewhere in the Pacific. Thanks, Virg. Hope to see you soon . . . Ben F. Anderson, ARM 1/c is with a bombing squadron somewhere in the Pacific.

⊙ **SEASON'S GREETINGS.** From Sgt. Billy Russell Goodman who says it in Chinese, "Jung Tuok Yoo Fook." Looks almost indecent but Billy says it means, "May your way of life be calm and serene and may you always have great enjoyment in living" . . . From Ensign R. C. Larson, now flying B-24's at Boca Chica, Florida . . . From Pvt. Delbert Wilshusen at Denver, Colorado . . . From Cpl. Paul T. Davidson, somewhere in China . . . From Lt. K. A. Hill somewhere overseas.

⊙ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIAS.** "The 15th Corps News Briefs" from T/5 Dan Thornton of Gilmore City, somewhere in France with the 7th Army. Thanks, Dan . . . "The Critic" from S/Sgt. R. A. Johnson somewhere in the South Pacific. Dick is now on D. S. working as a radio instructor. Thanks, Dick . . . The 5th Army Patch from H. S. Ash, Jr., somewhere in France. Thanks, Jr., we'll play that number . . . The Rainbow patch and 97th Division patch from Pfc. Richard C. Olson, Camp Cooke, California. Thanks, Dick . . . "The Eight Ball" from C. A. Van Eps, MM 3/c, with the Seabees, somewhere in the Pacific. Thanks, C. A. . . . "The Ford Islander" from Kenneth O. Wertz, Pearl Harbor, T. H. Thanks, Ken.

⊙ **HOLLAND.** Pfc. Arnold Block is in Holland. "The beer is pretty good but not like the states by a long shot."

⊙ **MERRY ENGLAND.** Sgt. Wesley Sandell is in England.

⊙ **DAS REICH.** T/5 Vyron Nelson is with the 3rd Armored Division somewhere in Germany. Thanks for the patch, Vyron.

⊙ **INDIA.** S/Sgt. Richard Carroll is a weather forecaster for the air corps in India. Recently he met Pfc. Gerald Schmoker. Bob has visited and flown over a great portion of the China, Burma, India theater.

⊙ **ICELAND.** Lt. David Hill is now flying a Liberator out of Iceland.

⊙ **DOWN UNDER.** Pfc. Arthur Sigurdson is in Townsville, Australia, with the signal corps attached to the air force . . . From "Base A" on New Guinea, Pvt. Darr Brand writes, "I'd give anything to be back in Miss Schmoker's English class in junior high reading about his place instead of finding out for myself." We'll play that number for Mom and Dad.

⊙ **ALASKA.** Pvt. Paul H. Mundt, of Farnhamville, is working on the post ski-run about 15 miles from Anchorage, Alaska. It's 24 below up there in November. Thanks, Paul, for the picture.

⊙ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Pvt. Rosette A. Harp, somewhere in Luxembourg. "I was on pass to Paris just a few days ago, and had a grand time. I stayed for two nights at the Grand Hotel which is the most known hotel in Paris. Went to subway where I almost got lost but I found my way out all right. I also took a bus for sight seeing and which was full of G. I.'s who were going for the same purpose. A civilian who spoke English went along with us. He gave us a talk about every place we visited. The prices of most everything are very high. Had my picture taken while there, so will enclose one for you." (Thanks, Rosette, for the fine picture.)

T/4 W. J. Schrandt, in Italy. "There isn't any news to report from this forgotten front as the weather has hindered us from doing anything but patrolling. During the last couple of months it has been raining about five days out of the week and the roads have been turned into almost impassable slippery trails. The mud can be measured in depth by feet rather than inches. The last week, however, heavy frosts have become prominent and snow has made its appearance. Higher up in the mountains as high as nine inches have been reported. The natives around here have warned us that the weather will get between zero and fifteen below and that snow as much as three feet in depth can be a possibility. It is not a pleasant thing to think about as we have a hard enough time at the present trying to keep warm. Had the opportunity last week of visiting the city of art and architecture and to attend the stage production, "The Barrets of Wimpole Street," starring Brian Aherne and Kathryn Cornell. It was a wonderful stage

production with superb acting throughout. I can speak for other G. I.'s as well as myself that it was enjoyed very much."

Lt. Donald J. Hicks, Isle de Corsica. "I am sitting here on a speck of land bombing hell out of the huns, so to speak, in support of numerous ground forces and enjoying every mission of it. Berlin Sally spends a few minutes every night talking directly to us and one of these nights we'll drop one down her smokestack and shut her up—I hope! As of September 4th, there are 3 in my family, it being a great big girl. I would like to find out if any Dodgers are in this area so I could contact them. Gettin' pretty homesick, I guess."

Eugene Wilcox, S 1/c, F. P. O., San Francisco. "Have been pretty busy the past few months working hard and playing dirty games with the little yellow fellows who insist on giving us trouble. As you know, I am a C. B. who must defend what I build. One night last week I was called out in the middle of the night to unload food supplies. I wasn't very happy about the idea until I picked up the first box and read Tobin Facking Co., Fort Dodge, on the side of it. A funny feeling seemed to come over me. Knowing where it was from made me proud and happy to unload anything from T. P. Co." (We'll play that request, Gene.)

S/Sgt. Ronald A. Hade, Buckley Field, Denver, Colorado. "It sure feels swell to be back in the states again and to have gotten home to see all my old friends, etc. Most of the guys are gone but it was still home sweet home. When I got off the train at Ft. Dodge about 4 o'clock in the morning of Oct. 12 it was a sight for sore eyes. I looked down the main drag and thought maybe it was all a dream. The town that really looked good was Harcourt, though. It is a small town but a darn good little town. I had a swell furlough (except it could have been longer) and the people treated me real nice."

Pfc. James M. Lang, Somewhere in England. "Spent four months in France and sure enjoyed your letter. Had a nice trip back. Flew from Paris to London in a transport. Paris is one nice city. The only thing wrong was I just didn't have enough time to spend there. England is just the same but guess it will be 100 years from now. Am working in supply now. Quite a bit easier than the boys have it in the engineers but not near so interesting."

Helen A. Brofer, S 2/c, WAVES, Milton, Florida. "One night while I was bowling at the Saufley Bowling Alley some army officers came in from a cross country hop. One happened to be Bob Segar who is stationed somewhere in Louisiana. Several days later I attended the U. S. O. show on the base and in the officers' section sat Earl Henderson and his wife. We met outside of the theatre after the show and had a lengthy chat of home. Shortly after I came to Whiting I got a call from Mainside. It was Clifton Gawtry who learned I was somewhere in Pensacola and called Mainside, Saufley and finally Whiting Field before he contacted me. I didn't realize the world was so small."

Duane W. Wendle, Philippine Islands. "This invasion I believe to be the beginning of the end of Japanese aggression in the Philippines. Words cannot describe how overjoyed the people were to see us. The Japanese fear the native guerrillas for they can expect no quarter from them. "Prisoner of War" is something that is forgotten if these people get their hands on a Jap. It is a very pretty sight to see the canoes come, loaded to the gunwales with possessions of the people, each carrying a white flag. The people are again returning to their homes, to the towns, yes, to the planting of the rice paddies that will soon start. As a side note, I will put in that I believe I have seen Jap planes come down practically every conceivable way they can except with their wheels down. It seems rather unfair for two of our planes to jump on a single Jap but it certainly makes a mighty pretty picture to see the results."

There were many other fine letters from Pvt. Douglas Viers, APO 34, New York; Pvt. Irel Willett, APO 257, New York; Phil J. Dorweiler, S 2/c, F. P. O. San Francisco; 1st Lt. Raymond W. Walsh, Camp Gordon, Georgia; T. P. Lind, CM 2/c, FPO, San Francisco; Joan R. Mills, S 2/c, WAVES, Bethesda, Maryland; Cpl. Paul Jordan, Italy; S/Sgt. Ted Rule, San Pedro, California; Pvt. Woodrow E. Pride, APO 350, New York; Sgt. C. E. Dueker, Camp Crowder, Missouri; Sgt. Otto Jacobson, Jr., APO 559, New York; Pvt. Silvio Ronconi, APO 953, San Francisco; Cpl. Stanley R. Ulrich, France; Pfc. V. R. Vannoni, Italy; Cpl. Wyatt D. Anderson, APO 443, New York; Pfc. M. D. Bowman, New Orleans, Louisiana; Cpl. Vernon Fiderlick, Victorville, California; Ralph Stephans, Camp Livingston, Louisiana; Chester F. Youngren, F 2/c, Great Lakes, Illinois; L. S. Davis, Coxn., FPO, San Francisco; Pfc. Donald Willis, Richmond, California, and many more that we've copied a line from or boiled down to a bare fact. They are all wonderful. And each week as you write it seems like a recurrent miracle. And each week as I sit at this comfortable desk in an easy chair, with reams of paper and a good fountain pen to work with, I wonder humbly how you do it. If I were tired and dirty and cold and sick with the weariness of battle, I wonder if I could write a letter to anyone. I don't know, but you write and I wish I could tell you how much those letters mean to us. The other day I got a letter from a boy with his picture. I suppose he'd sent one to his father, too, but mine got here first. I called his father in, a man twenty years older than I am. He kissed that picture when he saw it and there were tears in his eyes . . . Nobody can tell you how much they mean. Your kid sister and your little brother carry them to school. Your mother and your dad wear them out reading them, showing them to the neighbors. And then they go in a box, Joe, in a box that holds every letter you've ever written . . . Be good, fellow, and God bless you.

Your home town correspondent,
Ed Breen.