

I'm done with all the
dames,
They cheat and they lie,
They prey on us males,
To the day we die.
They tease and torment us,
And drive us to sin—
Did you see that blonde,
That just walked in?
"The Bayonet" from Fort
Benning, Ga.

Your Letter From Home

Sent To You With The Best Wishes Of
Veterans of Foreign Wars
The Gates Dry Goods Co.
The Fort Dodge Creamery
The Tobin Packing Co.
The Fort Dodge Serum Co.
The Elks Club of Fort Dodge
The Loyal Order of Moose
The Dairy Chemical Co.
Larry Geer Ballrooms
The Oleson Drug Co.
The Fort Dodge Grocery
Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric
Radio Station KVFD
Ft. Dodge Tent & Awning
The Brady Transfer and Storage Co.
Sponsors of "Your Letter From Home" heard over KVFD
daily 12:45 p. m., Monday through Friday.

My Rifle
The hours I spend with
thee, dear gun,
Are cans of oil and rags to
me.
Each part a piece,
Each piece a part,
As o'er each part I gently
hover.
My God! I have a sping
left over.
"The Bayonet" from Fort
Benning, Ga.

No. 45

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

September 1, 1944

☛ **DEAR JOE:** Today I had the pleasure of hearing Mayor Jesse Poole discuss the post war plans that your good old town has in mind. They sounded darned good to me and hope you'll like them . . . First of all, we're going to have more water—that good artesian well water. Another well is to be drilled to supply a million more gallons a day. We are going to need it for certain industrial expansion that's coming after the war . . . And we are going to have a new water tower—a big one—located at about 22nd Street and Central Avenue, out near the Great Western round house . . . The sewage disposal plant will have to be doubled in capacity at a cost of about \$350,000 . . . The highways coming into town from the west are going to be routed north past the radio tower to join 169 again up near the Badger bridge on the west side of the river. That will give us two paved roads coming into Fort Dodge from the north, one on each side of the river . . . The \$100,000 has been voted for the airport and when the right time comes, that's to be taken care of . . . All this ties up with plant expansions in Fort Dodge that should mean fifteen hundred jobs. More houses, more garages, more stores, more filling stations . . . And the school program looks almost as ambitious. Hurry home fellow. There's lots to be done and you are the guy that can do it . . . Don't sell your future short. There are great days ahead.

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☛ **HOME TOWN.** The last band concert of the season was rained out Sunday evening. Talk about the monsoon rains in India. It rained Friday, Saturday and Sunday—all day long and all night as far as I know. Sunday noon the temperature was down to 58 degrees. It's H_____ for swimming . . . Frank Frost, Jr., is in Mercy Hospital for an operation . . . Mrs. Catherine O'Brien will celebrate her 100th birthday September 1st. She remembers four American wars, beginning with the Civil War. Many parties are being planned for her . . . 48 candidates turned out for the Dodger football squad. Looks like we'd have as big a team as last year with a smart experienced back field and a green but rugged line . . . A former army man, Floyd Chaney, 32 years old, is charged with killing his wife near Clarion. He pushed her from the car. He has entered a plea of guilty to manslaughter . . . The scrap paper drive was on Monday. 40,000 pounds were collected . . . This has been a poor year for fishing in the river. The water has been too high . . . Junior College opens soon. 21 freshmen have registered so far . . . Gale Johnson is suing the city, Chief of Police Mericle and Capt. Bill Gormally for false arrest. He wants \$10,000. The police say it was a case of mistaken identity.

☛ **THEY ARE DANCING TO THESE AT EXPO.** "A Kiss to Remember", "Amor", "Apple Blossoms In the Rain", "Swinging On a Star", "I'll Be Seeing You", "I'll Get By", "Time Waits for No One", "It Had to Be You", "Goodnight, Wherever You Are", "Long Ago" and, last but not least, that popular campaign song, "Is You Is or Is You Ain't?" N. B. "Lili Marlene" is already a juke box favorite in some parts of the country.

☛ **THESE ARE THE TEN MOST POPULAR BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY:** "Stranger Fruit" by Smith; "Canal Town" by Adams; "Helmets to Lipstick" by Haskell; "The Night is Ending" by Ronald; "We Live in Alaska" by Helmericks; "Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Smith; "Land I have Chosen" by Berlin; "Leave Her To Heaven" by Williams; "Razor's Edge" by Maugham; and "The Robe" by Douglas.

☛ **DOWN THE CENTER AISLE.** Patricia Walters, of Fonda, and Harry Barber, Jr., sometime. Harry was inducted this week . . . Wilma Wilson, of Harcourt, and Robert Johnson, of Gowrie, in December.

☛ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** The 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster to 1st Lt. Francis Prendergast, navigator on a Fort out of England . . . To S/Sgt., Russell L. Schultz. He's top gunner on a Fort in England . . . Flight Officer John A. Gelino has his wings as a glider pilot . . . To T/Sgt., James F. Fulton. He is a radio gunner on a Martin Marauder based in Italy and has flown over 50 missions.

☛ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** S/Sgt. Paul Buegel, from Yuma, Ariz. With Paul is his dog, Blinker, who has flown in every type of army plane at the base. Paul is on his way to Kearns, Utah . . . Edward Flinn, EM 3/c, on his way to Camp Shoemaker, Calif. . . James Dolliver, A/C, on his way to Corpus Christi, Tex. . . Capt. Chet Acher, from Camp Howze, Texas . . . Chief Petty Officer LeRoy Davis, from Camp Parks, Calif. . . Pvt. Verne Goeldner, from Ft. Meade, Md. . . Cpl. A. E. "Bud" Tollefson, enroute to Hot Springs, Ark. Bud was in the African invasion, the Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns. He was ill for some time in England . . . Cpl. and Mrs. Lester Ramsvig, from Paris, Texas . . . John Prokop, S 2/c, from Camp Thomas, R. I. . . Edward E. Christensen, S 2/c, from Urbana, Ill. . . William and Robert Cunningham, from the South Pacific. Bill is a pilot and Bob is an ordnance man. They were with Rankins Night Raiders, a squadron of Navy Flying Boats . . . 2/Lt. Richard Trukken, former KVFD engineer, from Davis, Calif.

☛ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Cpl. Wm. Peed, of Duncombe, is a prisoner of war in Germany. He was captured in Italy, May 12th, with an armored division . . . Capt. Darrell Lindsey is missing in action over France as of August 9th. He was a B-26 pilot and had instructed in the states for a couple of years before going to England in March. He is 24 years old . . . Pvt. Robert Dobmeier was wounded in France. He writes that he is recovering.

☛ **STREET SCENE.** A cab driver waiting in front of a Fort Dodge hotel late one night noticed a pretty girl standing on one foot, with the other one lifted behind her against the wall. When she kept her awkward position for 20 minutes, he approached with an offer of assistance. She explained: "My boy friend, an infantry sergeant, has to go back in a couple of hours and went up to pack. I guess he's afraid I might not wait for him, because he took one of my shoes with him." "You sure he's not giving you the brush-off, sister?" asked the driver. "Maybe he's pulled out with your shoe for a souvenir." "Oh, he'll be back any minute now." For the first time the girl lowered the foot behind her to the sidewalk. Definitely not bare, the foot was engulfed in a shoe—size 12 and strictly GI. H. C. McConaughy. Reader's Digest—September, Page 17.

☛ **DOWN UNDER.** Sgt. John Ascherl, from down New Guinea way, says a big hello to Larry Geer . . . Sgt. Ed Vosika is in India, overseas almost 22 months. His wife, Cpl. Betty Vosika, is in the European theatre and has been overseas 9 months. Thanks, Ed, for the picture . . . Pfc. Vernon Mulinix is with the Air Corps in Australia.

☛ **OVER HERE.** Pvt. Alan Breen is in O. C. S. at Ft. Benning, Ga. . . Pvt. William H. Phipps is a cryptographic (\$10.00 word for a guy that codes and decodes messages) technician at Selfridge Field, Michigan. I didn't know that. Bill told me . . . Okay, Bob, we'll put the stripes back again. R. E. Johnson is a Cpl. and stationed at the air base at Lincoln . . . Lt. Comdr. Dr. Emerson B. Dawson is in San Francisco assigned as senior medical officer to a battle transport . . . O. J. Anderson, F 1/c, likes the weather and the town of Newport, Rhode Island. He's waiting there for his ship to leave dry dock . . . Pfc. Gene Blunk is at Fort Ord, Calif. . . Hassan Habbab, PhM 1/c, is at Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y. Thanks, Hassan, for "The Banter." . . . S/Sgt. Ted Rule in a six game bowling match the other evening at Ft. MacArthur, amassed a total of 1149 for a game average of 191. And still didn't win. Ted's cryptic remark, "From champ to chump in two matches." . . . Vince Bestick, GM 3/c, at Advanced Hydraulic school, Treasurer Island, Calif., visited the Herb Crinnigans the other day. Their son, Duane, is in the South Pacific . . . Eddie Vannoni, Cox., wounded on D-Day in France, is back in the states at St. Albans, U. S. Naval Hospital, Long Island 12, N. Y.

☛ **FOR LT. DICK GADD.** Capt. Jack Douglas is in Italy. Lt. Nels Glesne is in San Marcos, Texas; and Lt. Don Tepfer is in England. Dick himself is in the South Pacific with a bomb squadron.

☛ **SERVICE PAPERS.** "The Canadian Veteran", "The Red Patch", of the 1st Canadian Division in Italy, and "The Eighth Army News" from Sgt. R. Tornabane, in Italy. Thanks, Sgt. . . . "Yank—Down Under" from Sgt. E. Reling, somewhere in the Great Southwest—Pacific. Thanks, Sgt. . . . "The Tyndall Target" from Pvt. Don Ellinger, Tyndall Field, Fla. Don was outstanding gunner in his class of 535. He's home now, enjoying Mom's cooking. Thanks, Don . . . "The Bayonet" from Sgt. Everette E. Rice, with the Signal Corps at Ft. Benning, Ga. . . "The White Cap" of the Waves from Margaret Laurent, S 2/c, Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif. Thanks, Margaret . . . Vol. 1, No. 1, of the "Stars and Stripes", published in Rome, June 5, 1944, and Vol. 1, No. 2, of the same paper, from S/Sgt. Geo. M. Webb, the very day that Rome fell. And the answer is "yes", we are in the market for that patch . . . "The 4th Bits" from Pvt. Robert E. Gilbranson, from Ft. Geo. Meade, Md. Thanks Bob . . . "The Depot Transmitter" from Pfc. Chas. "Bob" Peterson, of Dayton, now in Seattle, Wash. Thanks, Bob.

☛ **OVERSEAS.** Cpl. Geo. C. Robeson, on Saipan for a time, is now on Tinian Island . . . Carl Theiss' Labor Day greeting from Island of Oahu, says, "Labor Day, the day of rest, finds us this year at our best. We'll celebrate the day, by heck! Tightening up on the Axis neck." . . . Pfc. Dick Collins writes under the watchful eye of a CENSOR who finds something subversive in the letters Y. L. F. H. He carefully cut them out of Dick's letter . . . Pfc. Delmar Crouse is with the Second Armored Division that cracked the unbreakable St. Lo-Lessay defense line in Normandy. Thanks, Delmar, for the patch . . . Pfc. Edward M. Fawcett, of Otho, who used to work at the Fort Dodge Creamery, is on Guam with the Marines . . . Lt. Chas. R. Atwell is civil affairs fiscal officer with the General staff of the 9th Army in England . . . Pfc. Don Mathey is in England . . . Pfc. Bernard Loth is in jolly old England . . . Pvt. Hans R. Jochimsen, who was in on the Normandy invasion, is now in the hospital in England . . . Donald D. Edwards, Bgmstr 1/c, is somewhere in the Pacific on an island. He is attached to the battleship Iowa . . . Dean Linn, AEM 2/c, of Lehigh, is getting his

mail FPO San Francisco . . . Matthias Nilles, CM 2/, is in Hawaii with the Seabees . . . Donald Burkgren, PhM 3/c, is in Hawaii helping to fill a lot of teeth. Don saw his brother, Omar, just before he left the states . . . Cpl. Bill E. Algood is back in Hawaii after a trip to the Ellice Islands. I'll send Al's address as soon as he gets one, Bill . . . Sgt. K. W. Ricketts, writing left handed from a hospital in Italy has been trying to figure out which is worse, "white sheet life or life in a foxhole up front." One good thing has happened. He gets to see his brother, Lyle, quite often now after having been separated for two years.

⊙ **INSIGNIA.** The Red Bull, the patch of the 34th Division, modestly referred to by most Dodgers in Italy as the best in the army, from Pfc. Percy Vannoni with Hq. Co. Thanks, Percy. I've been hankerin' for one of those. And about that "Sweetheart Contest" in Y. L. F. H.! Sounds good to me. How do the rest of you guys like it, a contest where servicemen enter their wives' or sweethearts' pictures? It's Percy's idea. Let me know what you fellows think . . . The patch of the 84th Division from Pfc. Curtis D. Olson at Camp Claiborne, La. Thanks, Curtis . . . The Electrician's Mate badges from Edward "Bud" Flinn, F 1/c. Thanks, Bud . . . The patch of the 11th Armored Division from Elmer F. Theiss, Lowpoi, Calif. Thanks, Elmer . . . The 7th Air Corps from Sgt. Vernon F. Richards, Island of Oahu. Thanks, Vernon . . . The 8th Armored Division from Sgt. Glen Farmer, Camp Polk, La. Thanks, Glen. We'll play that number . . . The China, Burma, India patch from T/5 Robert E. Hines, who is in India. Thanks, Bob . . . The Sea School patch of the Marines from Pvt. Dean Olson, at San Diego. Other night, Dean ran into Karl Loots, who is at Camp Pendleton and Ada Hafner, who is working at Consolidated Aircraft. Thanks, Dean . . . The yellow cross on the black shield—the 33rd or Chicago Division from Lt. Louis Katzman, Aberdeen, Md. Thanks, Lt. . . . The 7th Inf. Division from T/4 David Bailey, Oahu, Hawaii. Thanks, Dave . . . The 9th Air Force Patch from Lt. C. E. "Red" Moreland, in France. Thanks, Red.

⊙ **GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER.** Willard Whitcome, S 1/c, and Marvin Intermill, F 1/c, at Camp Bradford, Norfolk, Va. Willard is training now on L. S. T. . . . Chester Moore, PhM 3/c, and Pfc. Francis R. Peed, somewhere in the South Pacific. Chet is with the fleet hospital and Francis is in it . . . Gerald F. Toohey, S 1/c, Tom Powers, Pete Lang, Chester Moore, Dick Williams, Cpl. Johnson and Frank, all on the same island in the South Pacific . . . G. H. Gronwall, SM 2/c, and Raymond T. Wilcox, S 1/c, at Keywest. Gerry is now somewhere at sea in the Pacific. . . T/Sgt. Harwood Boggs and Jim Buckroyd somewhere in the Southwest Pacific. Harwood met Ernie Alpers about four months ago and is looking for Jack Sulzbach. That address is on its way, Sgt. . . . S/Sgt. Jim "Duke" Skophammer and Lt. Mildred Johnson, A. N. C., in jolly old England. Duke says "Mildred is looking swell." . . . Pvt. C. A. Garlock and John Maddox, in jolly old England. C. A. says "England may be beautiful but I'll take Loomis Park any day." We'll say that hello, C. A.

⊙ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Lt. Lawrence Merrill, England, "I have met several fellow Fort Dodgers since I've been here. A short time ago Donn Richey stopped by my office and last week Harold Grannon spent his leave here in London with me. I also met John Bice in our mess hall the other evening. So far, I've been very lucky in dodging the buzz bombs but several times I've found myself hiding under a table. It is a most peculiar sensation to hear one coming and have its motor stop when you are dead sure it is directly overhead. I'm enclosing a shoulder patch for your collection. It is one I wore here for several months and was worn by all Etouse Headquarter personnel before we were combined with other units. I wish to again thank you for a grand job of editing Y. L. F. H. and also the firms who make it possible. I'm sure it is deeply appreciated by all its readers." (Thanks, Merrill, for the patch.)

Pfc. George L. Loots, Guam, "I'm on Guam now and doing O. K. Made the landing and came through just fine. We've secured the island and things have quieted down a lot. Some of the boys from home are on the island. They are Jim Dickerson, Bud Youngstrom and Dick Rosenow. There are others but haven't seen them as yet. This island reminds me of the states, more than the other islands I've been on. The natives are half civilized and friendly."

Pvt. John Brand, Guam, "I am now on Guam and have been for some time. Things were pretty hot here at first but now we're able to live like human beings because we finally got out of those damn foxholes. We're living in our pup tents which are lots better than a hole in the ground. One morning after I got off work I took a trip up to the front lines looking for souvenirs. I was looking over some dead Japs when a Jap sniper took a couple shots at me. You can't see the little devils so I got out of that vicinity. I haven't gone up there again because the next guy might be a better shot. Life is too sweet."

Pvt. Andy Stensrud, APO New York, "We had a U. S. O. show the other day and they told us the definition of a sailor. He's the guy who shows the marines what island to fight on in the Pacific. I wondered if anyone could confirm this?"

Lt. James Dickerson, FPO San Francisco, "Just a line to let you know that I've just come through the Guam campaign with just a scratch and plenty thankful of it. It was no picnic but the way these marines roll over the Japs it probably sounds like play back home. The natives are sure grateful for their liberation and give us a big wave, smile and "Hi ya, Marine," every time we meet."

Conrad Steib, S 1/c, FPO San Francisco, "I dropped in on old Jack Hogan and found the Democratic Center to be still the same. Dick looked great and I was glad to see it because I was once an employee there. I'm back out on the high seas again and I'm sure it would interest you to know Lt. Bastain is now aboard our ship. As yet, I haven't been able to contact him but hope to in the near future. With Clarence Hively, Mr. Bastain and myself we represent the old Home Town rather well, don't you think?" (We'll send that address, Conrad.)

Sgt. Rudi R. Anderson, Italy, "I just came back from Rome where I had a very interesting visit. If I have ever seen a city that looked like Chicago or New York, it is Rome. While there, I visited the

Vatican City, where I saw the Pope. I also saw many lovely buildings, one was the lovely St. Peter's Cathedral. I also had the pleasure of seeing Winston Churchill. In fact, I shook his hand. He seemed like a cheerful old man. I needed the rest. I have two more planes to my credit so I have three all together. I got my other two in the last 16 days."

Cpl. Robert Isaacson, New Guinea, "The native "Fuzzy-Wuzzies" are very interesting—of rather short stature but pretty well built. They are crazy to dye their hair red (from betel nut) or yellow (with atabrine) or blond (with peroxide). One of their most peculiar customs is the art of chewing betel nut. The betel nut looks and tastes much like a small lime. Chewing on a piece of betel nut they dip a lime stick into a gourd filled with lime and then suck the lime off the end of the stick. Combining lime with betel nut causes a fermentation that is extremely potent. And it is quite detrimental to the mouth—teeth turn black and lips and gums become bright red. The intoxicating effect is what they desire but only the oldest men are allowed to use it. Natives don't live to be very old, due to so many tropical diseases and I don't suppose chewing betel gum helps any. They are a friendly people and many of them speak fairly good pigeon English. They work for us and have built a most beautiful Chapel at our base. All bamboo, with a thatched roof." (We'll say hello to the folks, Bob, and thanks for the "Guinea Gold.")

Lt. Bessie Norstrum, Saipan Island, "As you can see, I've changed address and tents once again. This time a real move. We flew down and I doubt if I will ever have a greater thrill in my life. The trip was wonderful and flying up there above the clouds and into them was something I'd only thought of doing sometime. Everything is going along swell here. We are busy but that's what we need—a little hard work,—we're getting fat and lazy. Lots of flies and some mosquitoes but not as bad as expected.

Pvt. Donald O'Connor, France, "France is a pretty country but it's plenty warm right now. But they sure have some pretty French gals over here—ones you could love to pieces. A few drinks once in a while, cider and cognac. Things are really popping over in this country now and I don't mean maybe. But of course one of these days it will be over and back home we'll be."

Bob Daehm, S 1/c, Davisville, R. I., "I'm stationed here in Camp Endicott, R. I. as the Regimental Bugler. I play calls over a P. A. system and the call reaches thousands of men." (We'll send that address, Bob).

Joseph Vratny, S 2/c, San Bruno, Calif., "Found something finally that I can write you about. I met up with a sailor here that I went to Fort Dodge high school with by the name of Ed Bodaken. We were going to the show "Sensations of 1945" when I spotted him and hollered "Bodaken." He says "Yeh, what do you want?" I says "Ed, don't you know me?" And he said, "No, can't say as I do." Well, when I told him who I was, he couldn't believe it, cause, he says, I've changed so. I hadn't seen him in seven years and I guess a person can change plenty in that time. Well, to make the long story short, we met after the show here at Tanform and talked about the best town in the world. Yeh, you're right—Fort Dodge, Iowa. You can travel as far as you like but you'll never equal or beat our town and I really mean that."

Lawrence Doyle, RM 3/c, FPO San Francisco, "Dear Ed, I've been delegated by a few of the boys to post this little note so here goes nothing. It seems that last Tuesday I had a few visitors waiting at the Master at Arms dock. So I ventured down to see what form of animal would see me. Who should I see but four high powerful Fort Dodgers, namely, Don Spillman, S 1/c; Don Willis, Pfc. USMC; Jack Rohn, S 2/c, and "Roaming" Joe Dinoto, Pfc. USMC. Don Spillman is a vet from Tarawa; Willis just came back from Saipan; Dinoto is stationed here and so is Rohn. We all proceeded to Ship services and had a little Bull Session. The boys were sort of gunning for me cause I was home less than two weeks before. So I let them know the latest. But meeting people seems to be a habit for me the past week. I also ran into Bill Fields, S 1/c; Bob Riles, S 1/c; Stan Olson, S 2/c; Joe Pud, S 2/c, and a fellow by the name of Isaacson, Pvt. (army), also my brother-in-law, N. E. "Hub" Nelson, C. R. E., USN. I have yet to look up John Broe and Russ Messerly. So you see I have had sort of a "field day" as far as meeting the fellows. Ten boys from Fort Dodge within three days is more pleasure that I should have. Space is up so I must close. Best of luck to all. Larry Doyle."

There were other welcome cards and letters from Orville Walters, S 2/c, Corpus Christi, Texas . . . F. E. Nicholas, Little Creek, Va. . . Sgt. M. F. Liljegren, Camp Ellis, Ill. . . Pfc. Lorell McFarland, New Guinea. (We'll play that number, Lorell.) . . . Pvt. Delbert Wilshusen, Denver, Colo. . . Pvt. M. O'Connor, Washington, D. C. . . Lt. (j. g.) C. D. Anderson, Alameda, Calif. . . Pvt. Warren Slawson, APO San Francisco . . . M/Sgt. Mert Williams, APO New York . . . Lt. Delbert E. Williamson, England . . . Elmer L. Courter, PhM 3/c, Southwest Pacific. (We took care of that request, Elmer.) . . . Pfc. Grant Schwendemann, APO Seattle. (Send that picture, Grant. We'd like to have it.) . . . Tipton Austin Tennant, WT 1/c, FPO San Francisco. (We'll do that request, Sailor.) . . . T/5 Stanley W. Widland, India . . . Pvt. Ray W. Neil, France . . . Pvt. Walter Smith, England. (We'll take care of that request, Walt.) . . . Pvt. Cecil Markley, Inglewood, Calif. . . J. H. Henderson, S 2/c, Olathe, Kansas . . . Lt. Dale Sperry, Ardmore, Okla. . . Phil Dorweiler, A/S, Farragut, Idaho.

Those letters that you write are the fuel that keeps this project going. And now it's the end of another letter and summer almost gone. Next Tuesday school bells will be ringing. Already they are out there at Dodger field booting the pigskin up and down the field. One big last splash on Labor Day at the Pool and the finals of the Beauty Contest, and then we'll pack it away in moth balls until next year. Joe, when we open up next year you can have first dive and it will be for free . . . The way things are going over in France, you ought to be all out of breath just running those Jerries up one hill and down the next . . . So long, Joe. Good luck, fellow, and keep 'em running.

Your home town correspondent,
Ed Breen.