

Your Letter From Home

Doctor: "Any intestinal trouble?"
California Boot: "I don't know. It ain't been issued to me yet."
Doctor: "Do you know the King's English?"
Boot: "Is he?"
Doc: "My, but you're stupid."
Boot: "You should see my brother, he walks all humped over."
"The Masthead," Treasure Island, California.

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
American Legion and 40 & 8

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

Radio Station K V F D

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

"Oh Doctor, I'm scared to death. This is my first operation."

"I know just how you feel. You're my first patient!"

"The Masthead," Treasure Island, California.

Vol. 2. No. 13

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

January 19, 1945

☉ **DEAR JOE:** This is that time of the year when merchants used to have sales. Remember? But not anymore. Today they hurry off to markets to find things for shelves that look like Mother Hubbard's . . . Now this is the time of the year when Washington and war plants compete with the WAVES, the WAC's, the LADY Marines, and the Cadet Nurse Corps for pretty Iowa girls who used to be thinking at this time of the year about Valentine's Day and spring formals, romance in May and weddings in June . . . This is the time of the year still for bob-rides and toboggan parties, and crackling hearth-fires and oyster stew. When girls' cheeks are pink and their eyes are sparkling as the new fallen snow. This is the time of the year for skating on the river and at Hydro Park and on the little neighborhood ponds around town. The time for snow men and snow forts and snowball fights, and for skiing and sliding. Little boys and little girls go belly buster on any hill they find and older folks go off to Crawford Park or Phinney Park or down to Dolliver Park to that terrific slide down there . . . This is the time of the year when Russians march and when the guns of the Western front intone a requiem in blood and flame over deserted fields and little towns now dead.

☉ **AROUND THE TOWN.** Ft. Dodge is to have a new park. Louie Armstrong is giving the land east of the swimming pool to the city for a park and play ground. To be known as Armstrong Park . . . The girls' county cage meet is on at Callender. Semi-finals tonight. Finals tomorrow night. Full report on the glamazons next week . . . H. T. (Bish) Ryan long-time local police officer has resigned. He's going to work at Tobin's as a special officer . . . Foxes are increasing so rapidly around here and doing so much damage to game birds as well as to chickens and other farm livestock that neighborhood hunts are being organized against them . . . Monday was an income tax day—a very sad day in the life of most civilians. The internal revenue office in the post office building stayed open until 9:00 p. m. . . Mrs. Marva Acher, wife of Dr. A. E. Acher, died last Friday evening following a heart attack . . . Frank McTigue, county scrap drive chairman, reports that we collected 226 tons of scrap paper in December. The January drive will be held the 31st . . . The ladies of the Red Cross are starting in with their knitting needles on 200 pounds of yarn just received. Most will go into sweaters. They'll be ready April 15th . . . At the winter formal, Nancy Pilcher was selected as De Molay sweetheart for 1945.

☉ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** T/5 Darrell Nash from Camp Crowder, Missouri. Darrell has been working there in the post-office . . . Cpl. Edward Flattery on his way to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he'll be a gunner-radio man on a B-24 . . . T/Sgt. Don Kling from Trinidad and British Guiana . . . Sgt. Merle Locke, Jr., of Vincent, from the South Pacific. He was in on the invasion of the Marshalls . . . Lt. Robert Marsh, P-51 pilot, from Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, Florida. Bob was taking a trip one of these days . . . Ensign Lloyd D. Schwendemann, of Burnside, from Boston, Mass. . . Joe Scharfenberg, F 2/c, from combat duty . . . Sgt. Ernest R. Peterson from Fort Snelling, Minnesota . . . S/Sgt. and Mrs. R. K. Sperry from Liberal, Kansas . . . Pvt. Dick Holm from Iceland . . . Sgt. Merle Hill from Camp Cooke, Calif. . . Pfc. Stephen A. Cahill from Venice, Florida . . . P. O. Emmett Cahill from Brooklyn, New York . . . Lt. John Morrow from E. T. O., where he had completed 35 missions as a B-17 pilot . . . Pvt. Walter Gilday, Jr., from 33 months in the Yukon. He's on his way to Camp Bowie, Texas . . . Cpl. Robert Geiger from India. He's on his way to O. C. S. at Ft. Benning, Georgia . . . Pfc. R. J. Parsons from Stewart Field, West Point, New York . . . Pvt. Robert C. Olson from Springfield, Missouri . . . Pfc. Lewis Cook from Iceland.

☉ **TWO HEARTS THAT BEAT AS ONE.** Carole Mae Halverson of Black River Falls, Wisc., and Sgt. Laverne Peterson at Siloam Springs, Arkansas, November 6th . . . Iris M. Chalgren and Delbert Funk, Y 1/c, January 3rd, at San Francisco . . . Joyce Coleen "Connie" McMath and Cpl. Marcus Cavanaugh, Jr. No date set. . . Phyllis Rosene and Basil Barnhill, G 2/c, January 1st in Norfolk, Virginia . . . Dorothy Jean Peterson and Burton Stensrud, January 20th, in Fort Dodge. Burt, honorably discharged from the Army,

saw service in four campaigns in the Pacific . . . Katherine Meyer and Joe Winninger, February 12th, in Fort Dodge . . . Helen Sprick and Arnold Soeldner of Fulda, Minnesota, February 4th, in Fort Dodge . . . Lorraine Carlson and Sgt. Don Buck. No date set . . . Lynn Johnson and H. Jack Wilson, BM 1/c, of Valparaiso, Indiana, December 16th, in Fort Dodge . . . Joella Blunk and Vincent E. Harrold, P. O. 2/c, of Pochahontas, in Los Angeles, December 13th . . . Irene Benson of Dayton, and Joe Sandell, CM 1/c, of Dayton. No date announced.

☉ **SCOREBOARD.** Sacred Heart defeated Fonda, 43 to 22. Powers, Sacred Heart forward was high scorer with 16 points . . . The Dodgers went to Mason City last Friday and took nothing with them but their gym suits. They were lucky to get back with those. Our boys sank three field goals in the first half, none in the second half. The Mohawks scalped us 31-16. It was the last game for two fine Dodgers—Merle Davidson and George Knack. The same evening at home, we entertained the Eagle Grove Eagles and got scalped again. They took us around and around the mat for a final score of 27 to 13 . . . Lanyon defeated Paton 49 to 24. Corpus Christi dropped one to Storm Lake, 36 to 30 . . . The annual diocese tournament will be held in Dodger High gym February 6th, 7th and 8th . . . St. John's of Bancroft, last year's champs, will be here defending their title . . . The boys' county cage meet starts in Harcourt, January 24th . . . The Irish lost to St. Cecelia's of Algona, 43 to 25 . . . Corpus Christi took Barnum, 33 to 16.

☉ **BRONZE STARS.** S/Sgt. John Snook in Germany with the field artillery, has been awarded the bronze star. He rescued his radio operator in a forward observation post after he had been wounded and was responsible for the capture of 32 Nazis . . . Lt. Commander Clayton "Wee" Paige has been awarded the bronze star . . . T/5 Edward Wafful has received the bronze star for administering aid to the wounded under intense fire during the campaign on Leyte.

☉ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** S/Sgt Carl A. Sandahl was killed in action in Belgium December 28th. He had been overseas since September '43 and landed in Normandy on D-Day . . . Pvt. Fred Good is reported missing in action in Belgium as of December 22 . . . T/5 Wyatt Anderson has been missing in action in Belgium since December 19th . . . Carlyle Kelly, S 1/c, was on the U. S. S. Spence when it went down in a typhoon in the Western Pacific. He is listed as missing in action . . . S/Sgt. Ivan Hunter of Gowrie, is a prisoner of war in Germany. Tail gunner on a B-17, he was recently reported missing in action over Germany . . . T/Sgt. Don Schmadeke of Callender, was killed in action, December 18th in Belgium . . . S/Sgt. A. L. Rabiner is reported missing in action in Germany since December 21st . . . Paul Staver, GM 2/c, was killed in action in the South Pacific, December 31st . . . Pfc. Lawrence O. Greenfield of Gowrie, wounded in Germany some time back, is now reported missing in action. It is thought he was taken prisoner in the German offensive as it swept over the hospital he was in in Belgium . . . Major "Bill" Hinsch, with the 2nd Division infantry, was killed in Germany the 21st of December.

☉ **OVER HERE.** Veteran of 25 missions, two of them on D-Day, T/Sgt. Carlyle Hansen returned to Fort Dodge, July 12, 1944. Carlyle thinks he was the first back to the old home town from D-Day on the Normandy beach head. Anyone back sooner? Carlyle is now at Sioux Falls, South Dakota with the air corps . . . Stationed at Morro Bay, California, with Standard Landing Craft Unit 46, George Bomberry, Jr., F 1/c, would like to meet any Dodgers located at Camp San Luis, Obispo . . . Ensign D. A. Freed is at Jacksonville, Florida . . . Back from overseas, Pfc. Leonard Stahl is at Schick Hospital in Clinton. Leonard flew back from Italy . . . Margaret Flickinger, Ph M 3/c, is at Mare Island, Calif. . . Having housing trouble, Capt. Leroy N. Larson is in "the Washington whirlpool"—(pentagon). "If some of the Congressmen think they are having trouble, I'd like to tell them mine!" . . . S/Sgt. Ted Rule is up and about working every day but favoring a bad knee that may put him out of the army. Ted is in the post office at Ft. McArthur, San Pedro, Calif. . . Pvt. Barbara Black is at Santa Ana, California . . . Neva Thompson, S 2/c, is at Indianhead, Maryland . . . Ralph Hanson, BM 2/c, is now in the naval hospital at Annapolis, Maryland. Sigurd Olson and his friends of the V. F. W. wish him

a speedy recovery and the best of luck . . . Sgt. Joe Rutledge, now at Percy Jones Hospital, Battle Creek, Michigan, sends a picture of the place. Thanks, Joe. Hope you are getting along fine. Joe says the place cost twelve million bucks. Looks like it.

⊕ **PLEASE, PLEASE, PRETTY PLEASE** with sugar on it, when you get a new address send it to us. When your mail starts coming back, when you become a "nixie," we put your name on the air asking for your new address. We try to find your folks to ask them where you are, but ladies and gentlemen, it is a ——— of a job! We are now sending out over 4,000 copies of YLFH every week, and we hate to have any of them come back. Our "sad" file contains the names of over 500 guys and gals who used to get the LFH. Now we don't know where they are and they don't know what's happened to us. Finally, one by one, they will write in and say "Are you still publishing YLFH? If you are, put me on the list. For some reason or other, I haven't been getting it lately." So please, please, pretty please, etc. etc.

⊕ **HIGH C'S.** Lt. A. A. Carlson is on the U. S. A. T. Evangeline . . . On the U. S. S. Prichett, DD 561, is Arthur Raymond Cote, S 1/c . . . Jude Oberbrockling, S 2/c, is ship's cook on the destroyer, U. S. S. Irwin. "So I get some Tobin meat once in a while . . . Al Kennedy, EM 3/c, formerly of Tobin's, and Lt. Hendricks on board the U. S. S. Burias. "I was very sorry to hear about my Tobin pals. Messerly, Ackerson, and Maddox. My best hopes and prayers for them and their families" . . . R. W. Munn, WT 3/c, is on the U. S. S. L. S. T. 1117. Now there's a discouraging thing for the Japs. We've got so many of those boats we don't even bother to give 'em a name—any more—just a number! . . . Now on the U. S. S. Admiral W. L. Capps, Pvt. Dean Olson saw Dale Bloomquist and Geo. Hodges before he left Treasure Island. Geo. is at Shoemaker. "The Capps is a beautiful ship, coast guard manned. Didn't know anything so big could float" . . . Leonard Johnson, S 2/c, is on the U. S. S. L. C. T. (6) 1359. Getting to be as bad as army serial numbers. Right now he's at Oceanside, California.

⊕ **BELGIUM.** Pvt. Ralph Rosales is somewhere in Belgium . . . Pvt. Clarence E. Stouffer is in Belgium. He has been doing clerical work, having been placed in a non-combat division because of injuries received in France in August.

⊕ **MERRY ENGLAND.** Pfc. George Davidson is in England . . . Pfc. Wilford Peterson is somewhere in England . . . T/5 John A. Woodard is now in a hospital in England. "One of the ward nurses is from Boxholm. She enjoyed the letters very much."

⊕ **GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER.** Sitting in the Rialto Theater in Times Square, New York City, Cpl. R. N. Smith turned around and there just across the aisle from him was T/4 Keith Nordeen. They hadn't seen each other in over two years. R. N. is going to school learning to be a submarine cable operator. Bob Kurtz, he says, is now a corporal . . . Don Spillman, Stan Olson, Phil Dorweiler, John Broe, Dick Waddell, Earl Bittner and Larry Doyle in Honolulu. Larry has been living at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Navy rest and recreation center. "I think the Navy spoiled me by showing me what life is really like!" . . . Cpl. Mel Inman and Bill Blanchet, of Dayton, are now at the Lincoln Army Air Field, Lincoln, Nebraska . . . Oscar D. Williams, Mo MM 1/c, and Donn Winders, both of Lehigh, at Norfolk, Virginia. Oscar is on his way home. "I'm waiting for my discharge and am coming home. I think the old hills of Lehigh will look pretty good" . . . Major Walt Arnold and Sgt. Bob Castor at an entertainment for soldiers given by the Optimist Club at Reading, Pa. The toastmaster introduced everyone by name and rank and home town. Walt and Bob were the only two there from the same town. "Both of us gazed at each other and Bob moved over to our table."

⊕ **CANADA.** Pvt. Richard Hoye is somewhere in Canada.

⊕ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** "Nats Packet" from Russell J. Anderson, AMM 1/c, FPO, San Francisco. Thanks, Russ . . . "The Masthead" from Pvt. Dean Olson, Treasure Island, California. Thanks, Dean . . . "The Gator" from John R. Malloy, S 2/c, Little Creek, Virginia. Thanks, John . . . A picture from Pvt. Robert Swalla, Portsmouth, Virginia. Thanks, Bob. We'll play that number for Jean . . . The patch of the Cadet Nurse Corps from Barbara Basler, 416 So. Kingshighway, St. Louis, Missouri. Thanks, Barbara . . . An unnamed paper "Our First Issue" and a Christmas program from C. F. Hollis, FC 1/c, Washington, D. C. Thanks, Cliff . . . "The Shavetail" from O/C Alan V. Breen, Ft. Benning, Ga. Thanks, Al . . . Three swell pictures of three Dodgers. "By a series of strange coincidences, three Dodgers were thrown together on board one of the Navy's better fighting ships. Jim Buckroyd came aboard to take pictures of a recent operation. Bob Hulett, Loren Swanson and I have been together for the past year." Thanks, Loren . . . "The Ford Islander" from Kenneth O. Wertz, HA 1/c. Thanks, Ken . . . A beautiful collection of French and German paper money from T/5 Max Kanner at Ft. Devens, Mass. Thanks, Max . . . "Seadust" from Gordon Cavanaugh, S 1/c, Gulfport, Miss. Thanks, Gordon . . . A picture from H. S. Ash, Jr., somewhere in France. Thanks, Hank, we are putting Belvy on the list. Sorry about those pictures. Just haven't gotten the job done yet . . . "The Mare Island Navy Yard Grapevine" from E. Eslick, Berkeley, California. Thanks, folks . . . A patch I haven't yet identified. A blue background and on it a gold sun with 12 points from Lt. Willis Olson of the 185th Infantry. Willis was here a short time ago back from Guadalcanal and other South Pacific

parts where he'd seen a lot of fighting. Thanks, Willis . . . The patch of Amphibious operations and the pocket patch of the amphibious engineers from Cpl. William R. Oswald, a four year soldier, one of the first in from Ft. Dodge. Bill was at the Normandy beach on D-Day. He's on his way to Camp Callan. Thanks, Bill.

⊕ **OVER SEAS.** Capt. William Landgren, writing from somewhere overseas, says, "Hello to Mrs. Rigby. I appreciate those little notes of hers on the letters. I used to be her paper boy way back when ———"

⊕ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Pfc. Dale Fiala, somewhere in France. "Christmas was pretty quiet, although we did get our turkey without the dressing. The fellows in the squad shared part of the turkey with the family they are staying with. We helped give them the Christmas spirit. Some of the fellows received packages from home with nuts and candy. The children were more than thrilled. Their Father said it was five years since they have even thought of Christmas. He cried just at the thought of it. And then it wasn't long until he had me thinking of my last Christmas at home."

S/Sgt. Charles A. Garlock, somewhere in Germany. "Just a line to end the year right. I want to wish you and all the folks back home a "Happy New Year." I'm happy and thankful to be alive. I hope that the new year will bring peace to the whole world so that all of our boys can come home again soon. "Your Letter From Home" has certainly been a wonderful morale booster to us over here. I hope we all can thank you in person in 1945."

Lt. Vernon J. (Foxy) Hart, Italy. "I am sitting in sunny Italy (where that name started still puzzles me). I have met several Ft. Dodgers over here. I ran into old Co. "G" about 2:00 o'clock one morning and had a couple hours' bull session with them. I also paid them a visit late last summer. Of the ones that were still there, they were the same old Co. G that I knew in '41 and '42." (Thanks, Lt., for the patch).

Pvt. David H. Thorsness, somewhere in the Aleutians. "I met my older brother, Lowell, up here on the island. He is in the Air Force Boat Sqdn. We had a swell Christmas dinner together. I am in the engineers, and am a hell'va engineer. I would like to say hello to all the fellows from Vincent. I can't say where I am but it is somewhere in the Aleutians."

Bill Skophammer, HA 1/c, Aleutian Islands. "Last night I received my copy of "Your Letter From Home." I sure have a lot of them now. I save them all. You know, to read over and over again. When there is no mail, I break out a couple of the letters and re-read them. You'd be surprised to find out how much of the actual news you miss at the first reading. For instance, the other night I was reading over one of the first copies I received and to my amazement I found out where two of my buddies are. I have been trying to locate them since '43 and now a year and a half later, I discover where they are—or rather where they were. (If this is too confusing, throw it away!) But anyhow, your li'l letters really do mean a lot to me. Every item in it is interesting. Send my thanks, or rather, give my thanks to the girls of the Wa Tan Ye Club. They're doing a fine job." (We'll play that number, Bill).

Sgt. Leo H. Hilsabeck, somewhere in China. "Well, here I am spending my second Christmas "somewhere in China." It is a beautiful day here, but some good old Iowa snow would look a lot better to me. We had a nice dinner and have been listening to some beautiful music put on by the Japs with the purpose in view of making the American soldiers homesick, lowering their morale, etc., but don't take it that way at all. On the contrary, we enjoy every bit of it; good music is still good music, whatever the source. So, they'll have to think up a better one than that. I hope I receive some more copies of "Your Letter From Home" soon. It is the best little paper in the world. We soldiers so far from home and friends can never express our deep appreciation to the ones who go to so much trouble and expense to send it out. We don't have much to write except to the folks at home, but we are thankful just the same."

And so we say good bye for another week. Your letters are wonderful. Write when you can. I know how difficult that must be most of the time. We had other swell letters from Pfc. Harold Spittal, APO 957, San Francisco; E. Eslick, Berkeley, California; and Cpl. Stanley R. Ulrich, APO 256, New York, and of course, many, many others that we've acknowledged in one way or another . . . We finally got a break in the weather. It's been very decent the last few days and we've had another wonderful snow storm. Not a storm, just a nice quiet fall of snow. About six inches and really beautiful. Remember how it stands like frosting on every roof and how black the branches of trees look beneath it and how lovely they are as you look down second avenue. Dogs and kids love it. Remember how your old dog used to run through the snow . . . The city has a new kind of a shovel now that works from a tractor. It scoops it off the streets in a hurry. About five or six scoops fill a truck . . . Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey may come to town next summer. They'll set up across the tracks and east of 22nd Street between 5th Avenue South and 2nd Avenue South . . . The news sounds better from every front every day. Hope you'll be home soon. So long.

Your home town correspondent,
Ed Breen.