

Your Letter From Home

Minister (From Pulpit):
 "Those in the habit of putting buttons in the collection plate will please use their own buttons and not those from the cushions on the pews."

From "The Flame"—Ft. Lewis, Washington.

The Fort Dodge National Bank
 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
 American Legion and 40 & 8

Sent To You With The Best Wishes of

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

Radio Station K V F D

The GI-packed transport pulled into the harbor. As it passed the Statue of Liberty the eager returnee—a corporal—shouted: "Put down your torch, honey. I'm back."

From "The Flame"—Ft. Lewis, Washington.

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

Vol. 2. No. 25

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

April 13, 1945

☉ **DEAR JOE:** See that date line? Shades of black cats and spilled salt. Friday, the 13th day of April. For my money a very lovely day but I hope a very unlucky one for all the cruel and ill willed men of the world . . . Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has just released a broadside on the bathing beauty contest of last summer and there is our own **Mary Alice Zeigler** chosen bathing beauty queen of Iowa and placing eighth in the national contest. The picture we took last of Mary Alice didn't reach New York in time for contest judging. If it had, we might have scored another first . . . You should see all the gardens that are going in, more than ever before, I believe . . . There's the fire siren again. We had a fire early Thursday morning on Central Avenue. It was in the **Magazine Exchange** on the north side of Central Avenue between 11th and 12th streets. The fire got a good start before it was discovered and those people who were living upstairs were rescued in the best approved fire laddie style, carried down the ladders in the wee hours of the morning. Mrs. **George Purkapile** was overcome by the smoke and was taken to the hospital for treatment . . . Last Monday, following directions given by **John Brown**, we found our way into a little ravine near the mouth of Lizard Creek. Maybe you've been there. It's on the south bank. It was full of dutchmen's britches, blood roots, and dogtooth violets, one bank was covered with them. Two rabbits popped out from under our feet. **Freddy**, who is six and who had never seen dutchmen's britches before, gathered all he could carry and took them off to school with him the next morning . . . The boat club opened its doors for its first party last evening. It was a little cool but everyone had fun . . . The 7th War Loan Drive is on, the lucky seventh. This is the advance sale, the real drive starts May 14th . . . Soon they'll be opening the road thru Loomis Park and we'll go out there for—I was going to say a steak fry—but I'll settle for a hamburger . . . We'll have that steak fry when you come back . . . Last minute flash—**Lee Shannon** bought the building occupied by the Cook Paint and Varnish store between 11th and 12th on Central, the old Plaunt Paint Store; **John** and **Jake Kirchner** bought that string of single story brick buildings on Central between 10th and 11th, across from the Dodge Theatre. Both purchases made from the Massachusetts Mutual.

☉ **ALONG THE MAIN DRAG.** Dr. **Pablo Martinez del Rio** is speaking here tonight on the subject "Mexico." He is a professor of history at the University of Mexico . . . The **Leighton** building, northwest corner of Central Avenue and 11th Street, has been purchased from the Massachusetts Mutual by **Fred Beckenbaugh**. Reported consideration, \$33,000.00 . . . **Eugene H. Thissen** is the first veteran to apply for a home loan under the G. I. bill of rights. Gene is asking for \$3,500. If the loan is granted, the government will guarantee fifty percent of it . . . The **Chamber of Commerce** is planning to bring two major sporting events to Fort Dodge. A major league baseball game and a major league football game . . . **W. L. "Bill" Hamilton, Jr.** has arrived in South Africa, where he will supervise the dissemination of propaganda for OWI. Bill is stationed at Johannesburg . . . The school board has granted an increase in all teachers' salaries in Fort Dodge of 6.6% . . . The **Dodgers** opened the season against **Moorland** Tuesday at Dodger Stadium. Score, Dodgers 9, Moorland 3 . . . The **Boat Club** opened its season with a dinner last evening and entertainment. A very pleasant affair . . . **John J. Brennan**, 84, former merchant and councilman, is dead. He had lived in Webster County 74 years . . . The United Nations Clothing drive is on. Webster County's quota is 222,000 lbs. of good, clean, serviceable clothing. We hope to do better than that. We know the need is great . . . **Jayne Livingston** has been elected to the union board at the University of Iowa . . . Ft. Dodge was the second safest city in Iowa last year in our class. We get a bronze plaque . . . **Little Jeanne Heller** went to the parlor to get her straight locks a new turn. But while she was there, in the **Powder Puff** chair, all she got, so she says, was a burn. She said, "I will sue for a thousand or two and a lesson these people will learn." The jury it heard, every single last word but it couldn't agree worth a dern. (The jury came in deadlocked after 24 hours) . . . **Thorwald Thorson**, of Forest City, is the architect who is doing the plans for the new **St. Olaf Church**. Plans are beautiful . . . A man from Carroll is buying the Presbyterian Church corner, First Avenue South and Eighth Street. Church will move to a new home. The old church will be replaced by a super market . . . All city employees were reappointed after the recent election . . . **St. Olaf's Choir** will sing here April 19th.

☉ **TOP TUNES.** We are singing and whistling and hearing these. "My Dreams Are Getting Better All the Time," "Candy," "I'm Be-

ginning To See the Light," "A Little on the Lonely Side," "Saturday Night Is the Loneliest Night in the Week," "Rum and Coca-Cola," "Dream," "Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive," "Just a Prayer Away," and "All of My Life." Of course, almost no one but the Andrews sisters can sing "Rum and Coca-Cola."

☉ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** To Sgt., **Leonard Handeland**. Len was recently wounded in the arm but is back in action now in Holland . . . To 1st Lt., **Ken Moreland**, flying a P-51 out ahead of the ground forces in Germany . . . To Major, **Howard Gamber** . . . Major **Lowell K. Brueland**, of Callender, Iowa, has boosted his score for downed enemy planes to 16½ . . . To 1st Lt., **Pauline Powers**, of Duncombe, with the Army Nurse Corps, in Germany . . . Wings and a commission to **John Dowd** last week at Big Spring, Texas. He's home now e. m. c. . . To Ensign, **Carl H. Lind**, in the navy engineering corps . . . To Capt., **Thomas Mann**, San Rafael, Calif.

☉ **WEDDING BELLS.** **Pauline Carlson** and **James R. Swank**, of Bloomfield, April 15th, in Ft. Dodge . . . **June Campbell** and **Melvin Stevens**, in Fort Dodge, March 31st . . . **Phyllis Brown** and Ensign **Donald Lobdell**, in Las Vegas, Nev., March 28th . . . **Marcella Mae Berg**, of Dayton, and Sgt. **G. L. Adcock**, of Detroit, Michigan, May 2nd, in Lubbock, Texas.

☉ **HIGH C'S.** **Gene R. Smith**, S 2/c, is on the U. S. S. **Valla Gull** . . . **Nels Larson**, S 1/c, is with the S. S. **John Isaacson** in the Central Pacific. Thanks, Nels, for the Jap money . . . **Robt. Peed**, S 1/c, is on the U. S. S. **New Jersey**.

☉ **OVER HERE.** Cpl. **Howard Jordon** is stationed in Portland, Oregon . . . S/Sgt. **Ronald Hade**, back from overseas, is now at Sheppard Field, Texas. And he says it's true what they say about Texas . . . **Jack Dean Waggoner**, S 1/c, is now stationed in the Mojave desert, "Some place to have a sailor, what do you think?" . . . Sgt. **Earl Kaplan**, back from Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines, is now at Eagle Pass, Texas . . . Pfc. **Ray Trickle** is back from Iceland after thirty-one months of it. Ray ran a barber shop to keep from going native . . . Pfc. **Ray Black** is flying at Tonopah, Nevada.

☉ **DAMON AND PYTHIAS.** Main Street, U. S. A. Take a good look at your first two fingers as you hold them close together. For years **Blank Swaney** and **Steve Constantine** have been that way. Now under the strain of war nerves and the difficulties of rationing, comes the rift. It was the morning for cigarettes and Swaney wanted two packages, or was it one, or was it a carton? Blank was insistent and Steve refused. In high dudgeon, Swaney stomped out onto the almost empty corner of Central Avenue and Ninth swearing never to return. And now six weeks have passed. Swaney has been getting his coffee, if any, at the Oasis. But rumors of peace are in the air. **William J. "Bill" Carter** is acting as Steve's diplomatic representative and **Karl L. King**, alias the maestro, is acting for Swaney. Constantine is holding out for an almost unconditional surrender. The terms of the negotiated peace, to be printed by **Joselyn**, and distributed to all interested parties at the **Elk's Club** and up and down Central Avenue, provide that Swaney is to apologize for his unladylike behavior before all of the members of the **Coffee Club** and to refrain from asking for cigarettes for sixty days. Steve says, "I have already saved two quarts of whiskey and ten pounds of candy. Until my friend Blank meets the terms, I will go on saving." When this home town V-day comes, YLFH will be there to report it.

☉ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** Cpl. **Bob Wood**, now in France and just back from a furlough in England with his wife, says "Hello" to **Phil** and his wife back in Colorado.

☉ **BELGIUM.** Pfc. **Henry A. McCaffery** is in Belgium with General Hospital 238.

☉ **IWO JIMA.** Sgt. **Eric Dangelowsky** was wounded in Iwo Jima. He was with the 28th Marines. "It wasn't bad. I'm all in one piece and I guess that's what counts."

☉ **SGT. DICK ZIMMER** is on his way overseas with **Dick Jurgens** Marine Dance Band on a tour of the Pacific. He would like all Dodgers who see the show to look him up.

☉ **EASTER GREETINGS.** Easter Greetings from **Henry Thomas Pliner**, MM 1/c. Henry is on the U. S. S. **Cecil J. Doyle** . . . Easter Greetings from Pfc. **Kenneth Quinn**, somewhere in France . . . Easter Greetings from S/Sgt. **Wesley Hill** with the Persian Gulf Command.

☉ **SUNNY ITALY.** **Harlan Williamson**, CPhM, is now in Italy . . . Pfc. **Paul Reedy**, of Co. G, has been in the hospital in Italy for two months, expects to come home soon.

◉ **SMALL WORLD.** Pvt. Dale Decker, Johnny Ludgate, and Clayton Brewer, somewhere in the Pacific . . . Sgt. James J. Hill and his brother-in-law, Henry T. Pliner, MM 1/c, in Honolulu. "Old Waikiki Beach is crowded daily with devotees of the sun." . . . Pvt. Ed Vanderslice, Archie Vancil and William Keck, somewhere in England.

◉ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Lt. Johan Thorsen, of Thor, from Ft. Benning, Ga. . . Evrette Johnson, Sp (W) 1/c, of Gowrie, is home from Great Lakes. He has been there thirty-one months . . . Lt. Duane Ustlad, back from England after thirty missions on a B-17. He was bombardier on a lead ship . . . Seabee Jack McHenry, SF 2/c, from 27½ months in the Pacific . . . Pfc. Claude Gibson, from the Aleutians . . . S/Sgt. Dean "Pat" Saigh, from the Aleutians . . . Pfc. August Kastendieck, from Europe where he was in railroad service . . . T/5 Harry Chellberg, formerly with Co. B, from Europe . . . Pvt. Ed Beck, former Co. G man, from the transportation corps in Europe . . . P. V. Beminio, F 1/c, from the Atlantic theatre . . . Pvt. Waldo Borgsten, from New River, N. C. . . . 1st Lt. Francis C. Pendergast, from San Marcos, Texas . . . Lt. Fenton Isaacson, from Georgefield, Ill. . . Sgt. Francis E. Wills, from Ft. Riley, Kansas . . . Cpl. and Mrs. Robert Carlson, and infant daughter Linda, from Igloo, South Dakota . . . Pvt. James E. Dennis, from Ft. Meade, Md. . . 1st Lt. Irene Strom, from Schick General Hospital at Clinton . . . Pvt. Valdo V. Peterson, from Ft. Meade, Md. . . Capt. Leo Kelleher, dive bomber pilot, is back from the Pacific . . . Lt. Howard B. Johnson, B-24 pilot, is back from the Pacific . . . Pvt. Robert M. Hood, from Jefferson Barracks . . . Pfc. Keith Rowley, from Great Falls, Montana.

◉ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Sgt. Robert C. Reinartson, ball turret gunner on a B-17, is missing in action over Europe. His ship, "The T. N. T. Katie" failed to return from a mission March 15th . . . Ensign Oscar Habhab was killed in a plane crash in the Pacific, April 1st . . . Pvt. Walter DeNio was wounded for the second time in Germany on March 9th . . . Sgt. Joe Holm has been wounded in the South Pacific . . . Pfc. Dwight E. Fawkes, Jr., of Otho, was seriously wounded in action in Germany on March 18th . . . Pvt. Fred Good, reported missing in December, is a prisoner of war in Germany . . . Pfc. K. E. Johnson was wounded in action in Germany, March 14th . . . Pfc. Bert Hartquist, of Lanyon, was killed in Germany, March 28th . . . Pvt. James M. Bass was wounded in Luzon, March 29th . . . Pvt. Robert E. Samuelson, missing in Germany since March 15th.

◉ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Foster Funk is somewhere in Germany . . . Sgt. Bob Roske is in Germany with a tank destroyer outfit. "I've seen the Rhine and believe me, I'd rather be looking over the river in good old Ft. Dodge." . . . From somewhere in Germany, Cpl. Leonard Messenbring writes, "We are thinking of coming home so keep all the hot spots in shape." . . . Sgt. Fred Nordgren is with an anti-tank company somewhere in Germany . . . Pvt. C. A. DeHart was with the company in the 63rd Division that first crossed the Siegfried line and drove deep into Germany . . . Pfc. Pat Derrig is with the 7th Army in Germany. "The jerries are still battling along, just holding out and that is all. Of course, we are drinking the German generals' whiskey, smoking their cigars, going with their pretty gals, Ha. Ha." . . . Cpl. Rex Moore is with the 3rd Army in Germany . . . T/5 John Vohs is with the 3rd Army in Germany . . . Sgt. Carroll Miller was with the first infantry unit to cross the Rhine. "When we get to Berlin, I'll drop you a line." That's a promise, Sgt. . . . Somewhere in Germany, Pfc. Bernard Loth has gotten in on a couple of ball games lately. "These are becoming popular with the warm weather we are having. We run around in our shirt sleeves most of the day." . . . S/Sgt. Curtis R. Scott, somewhere in Germany, APO 339, would like to know where are Dwight Dick, Bill Arent, Don Hauser, Bill Carroll, Bill Henean. Come on fellows, come on out, it isn't nice to hide. Company's here. Thanks, Sgt. for "The Cries and Bitches."

◉ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** "The Gosport" from A/C Lloyd Hambleton, from Pensacola, Fla. Thanks, Lloyd . . . "The White Falcon" from Lt. Gene Soppeland, Iceland. Thanks, Eugene . . . A swell picture of the Fort McArthur Bowling Team with S/Sgt. Ted Rule in the back row center. Also, a copy of the Ft. McArthur Alert. Thanks, Ted . . . "The Depot News," from Capt. W. L. Viergiver, Chicago Signal Depot . . . "The Flame" from Sgt. G. J. Porter, Ft. Lewis, Washington. Thanks, Sgt. . . . "The Newport Navalog" from C. P. O. Kenneth L. Olsen, Newport, R. I. Thanks, Ken.

◉ **PACIFIC.** Pfc. D. E. Zuetlau is operating a bulldozer, or a cat, on the night shift out that way. Wherever Don is, it's hot and dry but the gals are okay. "Really nice looking and very nice builds. They are more like the American girls. Help to bring back old memories." . . . Phil Dorweiler, S 2/c, is at Admiral Nimitz' headquarters in Guam . . . Lt. Comdr. H. T. McMasters will headquarter at Guam and have charge of ships service throughout that Pacific area.

◉ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Pfc. Foster F. Funk, Germany. "A little ditty taken from the Stars and Stripes. Tune: "The Trolley Song." Chug, chug, chug went the mortar. Bang, bang, bang went the shells. Whiz, whiz, whiz went the shrapnel, and the moment I heard it I fell. Crank, crank, crank went old meanie. Whee, whee, whee screamed her shells. Thump, thump, thump went my heart strings. And it started to pounding like hell."

F/O Merlyn E. Natto, France. "France is still the same as ever, except that prices are going up on liquor and the people are leading a more moral life. Money has practically no value compared with soap and cigarettes. Food is more scarce, but we manage to have enough fresh eggs from the farmers. I have finished about one third of my tour and I'm hoping to be home for next Christmas. The tour for a B-26 Group is 65 missions. The work has become

a lot more interesting since I made Flight Lead Bombardier and can do my own sighting on the target instead of toggling on someone else. You may have read about some of the targets the marauders are hitting--railroad bridges and road junctions. The German anti-aircraft fire seems to be letting up instead of increasing as we supposed it would do. So far I haven't run on to anyone from Fort Dodge, but I may be able to get together with Tom Keenan, who is in a Photo Recon. outfit over here. With the good weather we're having they are keeping us pretty busy."

Lt. (j. g.) Robert Welp, FPO, San Francisco, Calif. "I was very much surprised to read R. O. Steyer's statement that out of 100 bachelors in his unit over half of them have married English or Irish girls. Maybe they picked the right theater after all. After looking over some of the scrawny little brown things running around out here, none of us will ever believe anything Hollywood does again. In the last three months I have seen several Fort Dodgers. Roy Carlson, Bud Smith, Don Rodenborn and Dick Swendelman (Dick Martin to most Fort Dodgers). Roy Carlson is piloting a Torpedo Bomber, Bud and Dick are day fighter pilots and Don is a radioman on a night torpedo bomber. Don looks just like his brother Bill, whom I used to room with at SUI a few years ago. Dick and I have been in the same Air Group for several months, we spent some time with Task Force 58, until one fine evening we turned up on the wrong end of a few bombs. Now we are rested and refreshed (we say over and over attempting to convince ourselves), and soon we will go out to pay the little men back ten-fold. (we say over and over.) There are several other Iowans with us at present. Lt. Gene Case, of Storm Lake, is our Radar Officer, and Lt. (j. g.) Knopp, of Des Moines, is one of our night fighter pilots. For a time we had an Ens. Murphy from Emmetsburg with us, a day fighter pilot. He and I have an acquaintanceship with the Critz boys (formerly of Fort Dodge) in common, so we had plenty to talk about."

Robert J. Riles, G. M. 3/c, FPO, San Francisco, Calif. "My job here is blasting and it sometimes runs into a lot of work. There is one thing that's nice about my job--it's always the Fourth of July with all the noise we make! We have blown up a lot of Jap buildings and roads, and built things in their places that only the Seabees can do. I like this outfit and have learned many things that may come in handy after this war."

Cpl. Ray S. Millard, Somewhere in Germany. "There are a few people left in these towns, but if you get caught speaking to them it's a \$65.00 fine."

Pfc. Frank Weiss, Germany. "I think some of the farmers in Iowa would find farming a bit different over here, as far as machinery is concerned. In one field you can see a man with a modern tractor doing his plowing, and in the field next to him you see another doing the same kind of work with a yoke of oxen. This must be what is called bringing the old and the new way of farming together--whatever you want to call it, it looks a bit out of place after seeing modern farming in the states. But I guess you can expect anything over here. In one direction you will hear the church bells ringing and see people going to church, and the other way the guns are firing away most of the day and night."

Leo Locatis, M 2/c, FPO, New York. "We got a German Sub a short time ago and at present are looking for more. It's getting so they ration them to us now."

Pfc. William Phipps, APO 920, San Francisco, Calif. "They call us the AACCS, dit-happy boys are we. We copy the code for weather and transit for the ATC. We're scattered from hell to breakfast, not knowing our own C. O. Attached to a hundred outfits, we're orphans wherever we go. Hand-me-down parts for equipment, most of it borrowed or stole. Some shacks and tin-covered stations, to carry on our communications. We're stuck in far-off places, from Maine to Timbuctoo. In steamy tropics or icy arctics, we'll get those planes through. Our guys don't get medals, for this we don't give a damn. But we're the guys they call on, when an airplane gets in a jam. Our emblem covers the world to keep our glory unfurled. Now we have a global address, and when we build a station in Berlin and Tokyo, we'll tune in for the Glory of AACCS."

We had lots of other letters this week. Some not acknowledged in any other way came from T/5 John J. Steib, Jr., APO 464, New York . . . W. M. Skophammer, HA 1/c, FPO, San Francisco . . . Pvt. Harold L. Bass, APO 72, San Francisco . . . Pvt. Ray Scherff, APO 86, San Francisco . . . Cpl. Lester Ramsvig, APO 331, San Francisco . . . Pfc. Edward Hubel, APO 761, New York . . . Marvin L. Inter-mill, E. M. 3/c, FPO, San Francisco . . . Cpl. Wm. H. Gadbury, APO 40, San Francisco . . . Pvt. Cecil C. Markley, Hunters Point, San Francisco, Calif.

But the mail bag was not as full as it has been. From what I hear over the air, that's understandable. I guess you've been pretty busy along the Rhine and Elbe and above Bologna and in Okinawa and Luzon and all those other places where you've been fighting for us. I often wonder how you ever find time to write. When you do, we feel very humble and happy. We are very proud of you, Joe. No one could ever be worthy of all you've done and endured for us--for us who have done so little. Good luck, fellow. Let's hope you'll soon be home.

The news of the president's death reached us last evening at ten minutes of five. We are still suffering from the shock. The whole town is closing tomorrow for church services from 2:30 to 4:30. A great and gallant friend is gone whose like we shall not see again in our life time.

Your home town correspondent,

Ed Breen.