

# Your Letter From Home

Sent To You With The Best Wishes Of

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The Fort Dodge National Bank  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
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Radio Station K V F D

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OD: Well, it certainly took you long enough to find me. Didn't the sergeant tell you how to recognize me?

Private: Yes, sir. But there were several men around here with large stomachs and red noses.

—From the "Belvoir Castle," Ft. Belvoir, Va.

"Atten-shun!" bawled the drill sergeant to the awkward squad.

"Lift up your left leg and hold it straight in front of you."

By mistake one rookie held up his right leg, which brought it out next to his neighbor's left leg.

"All right, all right! Who's the wise guy over there holding up both legs?" shouted the sarge.

—From the "Belvoir Castle," Ft. Belvoir, Va.

Vol. 2, No. 26

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

April 20, 1945

☛ **DEAR JOE:** We've been getting all our March weather in April. We've had lots of rain lately and it's been raw and windy and cold. Very discouraging to an old Victory gardener like me. But the trees are coming along and the grass and the flowers. Just one or two days of warm weather and the world will be clothed in that beautiful first green of spring . . . Fishing started the 15th and **Paul Leaverton** says it should be good later on—too much water in the river now . . . Speaking of the river, the **Chamber of Commerce** is giving some attention to a plan to make the river navigable. They say—those who have proposed it—that a series of low head dams and locks would give us four feet of navigable water clear up the forks at Humboldt. You know there was a company organized once to make the Des Moines river navigable. And in payment for their work the promoters of that Des Moines bubble received every second section of land for five miles back on either side of the river from Humboldt clear down to Keokuk. That was back in the 1850's. Wouldn't it be strange if that ancient nineteenth century fraud should become a twentieth century reality? . . . It's been a tough week, Joe. First **Roosevelt** and then **Ernie Pyle**. The flags are still at half mast. We're going to miss 'em both. **Roosevelt** loved the common man. **Ernie** loved 'em and was one of them.

☛ **ALONG THE MAIN DRAG.** You've got to squash your tin cans now or the city won't pick 'em up. That's to aid in the drive for tin. So in the future all good Dodgers will wash, clean, remove the wrappers of tin cans and then accentuate their flatness by stepping on them firmly. We hope to collect a carload a month . . . **Irv Nyquist** is the new exalted ruler of the Elks . . . The city is out to stop the sale of beer to minors. First victim of drive, **Jim Partchofis**, who runs Jim's Cafe on South Seventh Street. Jim was fined \$100.00 for selling beer to a sixteen-year old and a seventeen-year old. Now his license is up for revocation . . . **Carl Olson**, of Dayton, was sentenced to six months in jail for passing bad checks . . . An option has been secured on the Larabee farm west of town by the **Wartburg College Committee** for the location of the college, an experimental farm, a site for a municipal auditorium, and the **4H Club Fair Grounds**. This farm of 182 acres lies just west of **Lutheran Hospital** and along highway 20 . . . **St. Olaf's Choir** sang here last night to a capacity crowd . . . **Mary Dolliver**, back from Italy, comes to Fort Dodge next Friday . . . **Glenn Walker** is the new president of the **N. W. Iowa Boat Club** . . . The **All-Girl Choir** sang at Badger, Tuesday evening . . . **Vincent Rodenborn** was elected post commander of the **Veterans of Foreign Wars**. He has occupied that post since **Clarence Case** left to work in France . . . Two bus companies have been granted permits to operate bus lines between here and **Estherville** . . . A large retail store in Fort Dodge will soon announce post-war plans for a new Central Avenue building . . . Old No. 17 and old No. 18 are expected soon to be chugging back and forth again between Fort Dodge and Winthrop, Minn. . . The annual **Sadie Hawkins'** formal of the **Rainbow Girls** is being held tonight at the **Wahkonsa Ballroom**. **Nancy Pilcher** is general chairman, with **Theano Pappas** co-chairman . . . The **American Legion** had a stag Monday night . . . **Dr. E. T. Peterson**, of the University of Iowa, has made a survey of Fort Dodge schools and the school board is planning the post-war improvement of the local school system.

☛ **DAS REICH.** Somewhere east of the Rhine on April 4th, **Pfc. Foster Funk** anxiously awaits the next letter from home, "to see what school kid I can write a letter to. Would enjoy one of these in every one of your letters." . . . **Lt. Don Charles**, alumnus of J. C. and the "Stop and Shop" has been "wheelin' and dealin'" with the first tank company to reach the lower Rhine, still going strong . . . **T/Sgt. R. H. Peltz**, with 899th Tank Destroyer Bn. somewhere in Germany, has been in the army over fifty months. He left Fort Dodge with **Sgt. Rydman** and **Sgt. Hansch** in February of 1941. They all thought then as they headed for Des Moines that they were going in for a year's training. And now they are in the fifth year. You are an old subscriber now, **Sgt. . . Pfc. Richard Culver**, **Laurence Bloomquist** and **Delmar Borer**. They are all in the 313th Infantry somewhere in Germany . . . **Cpl. Warren E. Phillips** is somewhere in Germany with the 95th division . . . **Pvt. Albert Habhab**, hospitalized from the front line in Germany, is now in the air corps over there. "They are putting almost all men unfit for front line duty in the air corps. It sure is better than sleeping in a fox hole, eating C ration and having someone shooting at you all the time." . . . **Cpl. Clarence T. Julius** is across the Rhine somewhere in Germany . . . **1/Lt. John A. Metcalf** is somewhere in Germany. Recently he saw his brother-in-law, **Sgt. Joe Smith**, who is with the 36th fighter group.

☛ **PACIFIC.** **Cpl. William H. Gadbury** is somewhere in the S. W. Pacific . . . **L. A. "Red" Vaughan**, **PhM 1/c**, is with U. S. Navy Base Hospital No. 17, somewhere out that a-way . . . **Joe R. Taylor** is on an island base somewhere in the South Pacific . . . **Pfc. Floyd "Buck" Derrig** is sweating it out in the Philippines. "The terrain is a good deal like that southeast of town, down around Coalville." . . . **Donald Burkgren**, **PhM 3/c**, is in the dental lab at U. S. Navy Hospital No. 10, somewhere out that a-way. Two of his patients were **Bud Youngstrom** and **Lee LeValley**, both of Dayton . . . **Sgt. Carlyle Macken**, whose mother died recently, is stationed in the Philippines. With him are **John Laska** and **Mercurio Bilette**. **John** was wounded in the last operation, but not seriously . . . **Clarence W. Weiss**, **S 1/c**, is somewhere in the Philippines.

☛ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** **Pfc. Robert J. Henry** is home from Germany. He is seeing his two-year old son, **Junior**, for the first time . . . **Lt. Alan Breen**, from Ft. Benning, Ga. . . **Orville Walters**, **S 1/c**, from Corpus Christi, Texas . . . **S/Sgt. R. D. Phillips**, from Italy after fifty-six missions as a radio gunner . . . **William J. Kruse**, **PhM 2/c**, back from the Pacific . . . **Kenneth Ackerman**, **A/S**, from Great Lakes . . . **Pvt. Dean Freitag**, from Camp Lejeune, New River, N. C. . . **Pvt. Varick Dingman** is home for good with an honorable discharge in his pocket . . . **Pvt. Melvin Messerly**, from Winter Hospital, Topeka, Kansas . . . **James Ryan**, **Cox.**, from the Pacific, where he has been on a sub tender . . . **Pvt. Wallace E. McCubbin**, of Gowrie, from Perrin Field, Texas . . . **Pvt. Morris K. Sigurdson**, of Gowrie, from Grand Island, Nebraska, where he is working on B-29's . . . **Ensign Lynn Gray**, of Rockwell City, from the Pacific, where he has been flying a dive bomber from the air craft carrier, Essex. He saw **Ensign Art Brooks** out there . . . **Lt. (j. g.) George T. Hamilton**, from Tarawa.

☛ **SCOREBOARD.** **Dodgers**, 14; **Callender**, 0. The game went only 4½ innings with the **Dodgers** bombing **Callender** for nine hits, including two doubles and a triple. In addition, **Fry** and **Hanson**, pitchers for **Callender**, gave the **Dodgers** five free trips to first. **Chelleen** and **Cochran**, pitching for **Fort Dodge**, held **Callender** hitless. Here's the **Dodger** line-up; **Wold**, **3b**; **Constantine**, **ss**; **Kaufman**, **ss**; **Messerly**, **C**; **Potter**, **c**; **Woodard**, **1-2b**; **Schuh**, **2b**; **Fevold**, **lf**; **Nordstrom**, **lf**; **Vedvig**, **cf**; **Hovick**, **rf**; **Thorson**, **rf**; **Ankrum**, **rf**; **Martin**, **2b**; **Leffler**, **1b**; **Chelleen**, **p**; **Cochran**, **p** . . . The **Dodgers** took two firsts in the **Valley** relays at **West Des Moines**, the half-mile relay and the high hurdles. **Kruckman**, **Pollard**, **Wasem**, and **Osam** did the half-mile in 1:35:9. **Henry Wasem** took the high hurdles in :15:7, defeating **Nygaard**, of **Atlantic**, who won the event in the state meet last year . . . **Dodgers**, 0; **Eagle Grove**, 10. Despite this lop-sided score, the **Dodgers** looked good for five innings. **Chelleen** up to that time had not allowed a hit. The game was played in very bad weather.

☛ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** **Sgt. Don Munn** was killed in Germany April 6th . . . **Sgt. John Scully** is missing in action in Germany . . . **1/Lt. Don Hicks** was critically injured in a crash landing in Columbia, S. C. . . **Pfc. Russell Forsberg** was wounded, March 17th, in the Philippines . . . **Roland Stillman**, **S 2/c**, is reported missing in action in the Pacific. He was a radio man on an aircraft carrier . . . **Pvt. Robert E. Samuelson** is missing in action in Europe since March 15th.

☛ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** The distinguished **Flying Cross** to **Major Jack Douglas**, somewhere in Italy . . . The **Navy and Marine Corps Medal** to **J. E. Messersmith**, **Coxn.**, for heroic conduct in connection with diving operations at **Pearl Harbor**.

☛ **QUEER BIRDMEN.** Down at **Perrin Field, Texas**, where **Wallace E. McCubbin**, of Gowrie, is stationed, **Turks**, **Brazilians**, **Filipinos** and **Chinese** are among the many nationals of the **Allied nations** who are there taking instructions in flying. The uniforms are so many and varied that you never know whether "the guy with all the brass is a four star general or only a top sergeant."

☛ **DOWN THE CENTER AISLE.** **Hilda Weiss**, of **Humboldt**, and **Elmer W. Gansz**, in **Humboldt**, April 5th . . . **Irene Newton** and **Urban Kramer**, of **Whitemore**, April 24th, in **Fort Dodge** . . . **Florence Porter** and **Cpl. Merlin Koester**, of **Duncombe**, April 12th, in **Fort Dodge** . . . **Sophie Spocharski**, of **Cleveland, Ohio**, and **Robert M. Ertl**, at **Fort Dodge**, April 7th . . . **Pauline Carlson** and **James R. Swank**, of **Bloomfield**, April 15th, in **Fort Dodge** . . . **Dorothy Taylor**, of **Tampa, Fla.**, and **Cpl. Karl J. Bilek**, April 4th, **Baltimore, Md.** . . . **Charlotte Kulild** and **S/Sgt. W. J. Anderson**, of **Missouri Valley**, April 14th, in **Fort Dodge** . . . **Esme Grace Williams**, of **Letchworth, England**, and **Sgt. Elmer Hensen**, early in **March**, in **Letchworth, England** . . . **Dorothy Showers** and **Robert V. Theiss**, April 1st, in **Fort Dodge** . . . **Elaine Wagner** and **Archie Larson**, April 7th, in **Fort Dodge**.

☛ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** **1/Lt. Ann Murphy** is somewhere in France, with the **173rd General Hospital**.

☛ **CALLING THE "MARS" TANK OR TASK FORCE** operating in **Burma**. **Lt. R. M. DeLanoit**, of **Badger, Iowa**, was killed over the front lines near **Lashio**, while flying with the **9th C. C. Sq.** His mother, **Mrs. P. DeLanoit**, of **Badger, Iowa**, understands that he was buried by members of the "Mars" tank or task force operating in that area. She would like very much to hear from any member of that force who knows about her son's death and burial.

☛ **HIGH C'S.** **Bill Nelson** and **Hal Stewart**. They are on the same ship somewhere at sea . . . **Jordon F. Tonsfeldt** is on the **U. S. S. Robert E. Perry** out of **New York** . . . **Willard D. Soppeland**, **MoMM 1/c**, is on the **U. S. S. Tryon** out of **San Francisco**. **Bill** is hoping to see **Doc. Dawson** some day soon.

☛ **SMALL WORLD.** **Gerald Gronwall**, **SM 1/c**, and **Ralph Waldschmidt**, **SC 2/c**. They are both training for an **AKA**, the **Olgethorpe** at **Newport, R. I.** . . . **T/5 Wayne Aurand** and **Keith Nordeen**, somewhere in **Belgium**. **Wayne** is with **Hqts. of the 15th Army** under **Lt. Gen. Gerow** . . . **Carl E. Theiss**, **WT 2/c-C1**, and **Paul Peterson** are with the **Seabees** in the **Marianas**, where they are planning on **Iowa** day similar to the one they enjoyed at **Midway**. Thanks, **Carl**, for the **Easter** greetings and the papers . . . **Sgt. Garland J. Porter** and **Pvt. Joe Brennan**, at **Fort Lewis, Washington**. They have both been at **Camp Sibert, Alabama**, and **Joe** was on the **Alaskan Highway** for seventeen months. Thanks, **Joe**, for the patch . . . **Pfc. Arnold Block** and **1st Sgt. Floyd Anderson**, somewhere in **Germany**.



♣ **MERRY ENGLAND.** Cpl. **Bob Horton**, with Battery C, 449 AAA, with the 9th Army has seen **Bob Crosby**, but is a pinin' to see other Dodgers, too. Thanks, Bob, for the insignia. We'll keep the letter going as long as Webster County boys are far from home . . . S/Sgt. **Norman Dilocker** is somewhere in England with Medical Section G-23, A. P. O. 556.

♣ **WE'VE BEEN GETTING** a number of recordings lately from various parts of the world, interviews with fellows in service. We broadcast these on our 12:45 show. If there is an army recording unit operating near you, get them to record an interview and send it home to KVFD. After we use it, we send it on to your folks.

♣ **ALL REQUESTS THAT** you send in are played although we no longer take the space to acknowledge them in YLFH. So send 'em along, but with the name and address and telephone number, if you know it, of the person to whom you want the number dedicated. Then we can call and let them know in advance.

♣ **OVER HERE.** **Imogene D. Peterson**, HA 1/c, of Lanyon, stationed at San Diego, says "Hello" to **Darlene Laird**, of Otho . . . S/Sgt. **K. L. Newbrough** is back to civilization from overseas, an instructor in gunnery at the Sioux City air base . . . Cpl. **Dean E. Daniels** is at Yale University . . . Exiled in Camp Howze, Texas, Pvt. **Paul H. Mundt**, from Farnhamville, would like to meet anyone from Webster or Calhoun County. He's with Co. A, 64th Bn., 16th Reg. 1 ARTC . . . Cpl. **Kenneth W. Clarno**, back from overseas, stationed at Tacoma, Washington, says the Chamber of Commerce there has seen a copy or two of YLFH and is thinking of putting the plan into effect out there. Hope they could. Could use that patch, Cpl. . . **Leo H. Glenn**, S 2/c, is stationed at Oakland, Calif. His wife and three daughters are living in Los Angeles . . . Lt. and Mrs. **Robert Caron** are the proud parents of a son, **Michael Alan**, born March 25th, 1945 . . . **R. D. Macek**, F 1/c, is stationed in St. Louis. Recently he saw **Duane Zierke**, who is going to radio school at Scott Field.

♣ **SUNNY ITALY.** S/Sgt. **William J. Fisher** and **Paul Savage**, in Italy. They see each other nearly every day. Bill is gunner on a Liberator and has almost completed his missions. "I've seen most of Europe from the air." Thanks, Bill, for "The Bomb Blast" . . . To 2nd Lt., **Gwendolyn Newton**. She is with the army nurse corps at the 182nd Station Hospital in Italy.

♣ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The patch of the 3rd Marines from Pvt. **Merle H. Freund**, who is driving a jeep with a Marine artillery outfit somewhere in the Central Pacific. Thanks, Merle . . . The Stars and Stripes published in London from Lt. **David D. Hill**, who is hospitalized in England, after a severe crash landing in France. Dave calls my attention to the Fort Dodge story on page 4. "Fort Dodge, Iowa: a bullet apparently fired from the ground struck **Kenneth Clark** as he was flying in a plane 1,000 feet over the local athletic field. He landed the plane with no trouble." That happened here April 1st. The story got into the April 3rd issue of Stars and Stripes. Thanks, Dave . . . The Nancy edition of the Stars and Stripes from Pfc. **Marvin McCoy**, somewhere over there with the 587th Signal Depot Co. Thanks, Marv . . . No. 3, Vol. 1, of "The Red Bulletin" from Sgt. **Bob Bowers** with the 34th division in Italy. Thanks, Bob . . . "This Small World" from **George C. Robeson** in the Marianas. Thanks, George. Woody didn't do a thing to your letter. George hopes soon to fly to Guam to see his cousin, **Calvin Ellis**.

♣ **OVERSEAS.** Pfc. **Paul Webb**, is somewhere in Europe . . . Sgt. **Morris E. Edwards** is now getting his mail APO 562, N. Y. He is with the 784th Base Depot Co. T. C.

♣ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Cpl. **Robert Leiss**, APO 520, New York. "Mother nature seems to be doing her best to make Italy a liveable place again with her cherry and apple blossoms, sunshine and green grass; but the people are surely suffering and there is a lot of sickness over here. I am in the hospital now, but it's nothing that will last more than a few days. It's really swell getting letters from you, and I can't say enough for them. Give my regards to Mr. and Mrs. **Fred Scharf**. I am glad to hear that **Benny Salvadore** is free at last. Congratulations, **Norman Bloomquist** and **Eva Holliday**. I didn't know about my new cousin until I read Y. L. F. H. I'd like to say "hello" to all my friends and by the way, would you play something nice on the 13th of April, if you get this in time, for my wife and children, **Barbara Jean** and **Tommy John**, also for the folks at home. The 13th makes six wonderful years of married life for us."

Pfc. **Bernard Loth**, APO 230, New York. "The outfit is still in Germany, although we have been pretty much on the move, along with everyone else in this sector. We have been very fortunate and have been billeted almost all of the time in German towns. The German wine is quite good, and the fresh eggs taste even better. On one of our stops, we occupied the house of the former Gestapo Chief of the area, and the boy was really well off. You can spot the more ardent Nazis—they are the best off."

Pvt. **John Doud**, Somewhere in Burma. "Read in one of your recent letters about the possibility of building a memorial auditorium for basketball, hockey, etc. I want to give my whole hearted approval of such a move and believe many of the other fellows feel the same as I do. The weather lately has been ideal, except for the traditional March winds. Tonight there is a full moon shining down from a cloudless sky and it is getting quite cool. Surely makes you think of home. We've been playing some softball lately. Our team is having its ups and downs. But Sunday we definitely had a field day—beating the Officers' team. We wanted to win that one most of all."

**Phil J. Dorweiler**, S 2/c (Y), Island of Guam. "I have been a busy 'sailor.' We flew down to Guam in these new or rather new C-54 transport planes and it was an experience-plus. I had trouble with my ears every time the plane gained or lost altitude, but the last time we set the wheels down I couldn't hear at all. It was two days before I could hear perfectly again. It is a good thing I am in the Navy instead of the Air Corps. We were served meals on the plane and they were really good. We received them free and the officers (majors, captains, and other gold braid) had to dish out fifty cents. That really hurt them, but it made me feel good. We landed twice on the way, but I am not at liberty to say what islands. We got off though and toured the mole hills. I do mean small, because you could really throw a rock from one side to the other. Around the edges were Jap Zeros and other worn out war material. The fellows seemed satisfied with life on that rock, but I like Guam so darn much better. We can

turn around here and breathe. After we got off the plane we got in a jeep and threw our gear aboard and started for chow. It was darn good, better than I expected for a forward area. I am working in an office and like my work better every day. It is interesting because it is personnel work and you know the fellows. We have a grand bunch of fellows in our group. **Bobby Riggs** is stationed here and plays exhibitions all the time, also **Lief Erickson**, former movie actor, and a lot of other noted people, including **Fleet Admiral Nimitz**. We sleep right below him. There are a few Japs on the island to be rounded up and they catch them all the time at unexpected places. I know we don't wander at night because the marine guards shoot first and ask questions later."

S/Sgt. **W. D. Johnston**, Long Island City, New York. "This Signal Corps Photographic Center here in Long Island City is really an interesting place to work. Many celebrities come here to make short movies. **June Havoc** has been here the past week and judging from some of the scenes being shot yesterday the G. I.'s should find her movie very interesting." Thanks, Bill, for "Close Up."

Ens. **Q. L. Vandl**, Scotland. "We are operating with a British Mine Sweeping Flotilla. Ours is the only U. S. ship in the Flotilla, and we find it very interesting working with the British. At present we are enjoying a visit to a port in Scotland. The city nearby is noted for having one of the most beautiful streets in the world—Princess Street. This part of the country is more like home than anything we've seen. The flowers and lawns are so pretty and green and fresh looking. There are several very good theaters here also. This week I saw the Premier Performance of **Vivien Leigh** in "The Skin Of Our Teeth"—a history of mankind—and I guess the job was pretty well done! Quite a comedy!"

Cpl. **Lloyd C. Woodard**, APO 655, New York. "I was another one of the unfortunates to be sent overseas without having a furlough. Since I left New York harbor I've been in England, France, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and now Germany. It's all been rather interesting, but I long for the good old U. S. A. Germany is a nice looking country and very modern. It's quite a change after spending nearly eleven months in the dirty little towns of France. However, after crossing the Rhine one realizes that he's deep in enemy territory and certainly can't enjoy any improvements in living conditions."

S/Sgt. **S. Manford Rhodes**, APO 520, New York. "Recently at Rome, while I was officially missing in action over Austria, I ran into a couple of my buddies, **Paul Gerald**, of Duncombe, and **Bill Olson**, of Thor, (both 34th Div.). P. J. Gerald almost fainted when he saw me. We had quite a time 'bending each other's ears' until Paul had to go back to the front and I to the mighty 15th Air Force. Before I left, though, I had P. J. convinced he should be a Junior Birdman instead of a 'ground gripper' or 'gravel agitator.'"

Sgt. **L. B. Parsons**, APO 218, New York. "This is a pretty good outfit. The Japs really hate this sqdn. We're known as the Burma Bridge Busters or the Burma Dental Clinic. Maybe you can guess why they hate us. They build 'em and we bust 'em. I'm pretty sure Cpl. **Thie** has heard of us. We have a joke over here that might be interesting. It seems the gunners in our Sqdn.—whenever they need a rest—report that they saw and shot a Jap Cpl. with two buck teeth (one gold). I recently saw that same Jap. I think I wounded him!! Ha!!"

Pfc. **Deon W. Olson**, FPO, San Francisco, Calif. "We got back to the states a couple of days ago. We were gone about two months altogether. I really have been doing a lot of traveling during this trip. We went to Finchaven, New Guinea, from San Francisco; then to Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea; then to Tacloban, capital of Leyte; and Samar in the Philippines; then to Los Negros and Manus in the Admiralty's; from there to Pearl Harbor; then back to San Francisco; and then to Seattle, Washington, and that's where we are now. I still think Fort Dodge is the best. The climate here is about the same as Fort Dodge, pretty hot out there in the Pacific though. It was 107° in our compartment one day. I really got a working over when we crossed the equator. I'm a shellback now, graduated from a lowly Pollywog. Sure had a lot of fun. Filipinos are not as dumb as I thought they would be. They will give almost anything for clothes or cloth. They really have a varied wardrobe. Army shirts and no pants, or shorts and no shirt or something like that."

Pfc. **Byron Dale Jeys**, Germany. "Hello, **Joe Nimnechek**, thanks for the help you tank boys have given us over here. The sound of your vehicles moving up is music to our ears. We stopped for a breather after a 3 day 40 mile push, and from what was the front then became almost rear echelon within a few days time, as the heavy artillery moved up. The G. I.'s in our regiment staged a rodeo with the Army horses the Jerries left behind in their flight across the Rhine. There were enough harnesses, carts and wagons to have at least 100 horses. There were chariot races, four hitched races, bare-back, etc. We used two large trucks for a bucking chute. The Divisional band came up to play for the parade, which was about 1½ lops of the field. Charley's Company, with boys from Texas (some of us old T. D.'s) won a lot of the events. We are getting Coca Cola rations now—two bottles per man. A warehouse of beer was distributed among the men—two bottles per man. This rodeo I wrote about was sort of staged impromptu, but went off with a bang. Three observation planes circled overhead as it progressed. It was equal to anything at Expo Park."

And so we come to the end of another letter, with spring hiding around the corner, playing peek-a-boo. I drove to Clinton yesterday from Dubuque. Everything down there is at least two weeks ahead of us. But it was cold even there. Not many cars on the roads now-a-days. Lots of them around town, but not many out on the highways . . . The Federal government is planning two super-highways across Iowa, east and west. We are hoping one of them will be highway 20. Then there will be another coming down from Minneapolis and running to New Orleans . . . Joe, when this war's over everything is going to start wheeling again. I hope you'll have all the fun that all the post-war world can hold. And that you'll live in days of peace and for at least a hundred years . . . Soldiers luck—at the Strand the other night **Wally Oleson's** name was called for \$375. Wally is in the South Pacific. Three weeks ago for \$1000 out came Stanley Johnson's name. Stan is a T/5 with the First Army in Germany . . . So long, fellow. Be good and don't forget to duck.

Your home town correspondent,  
Ed Breen.