

# Your Letter From Home

A mother's flea is one who knows for certain that her children are going to the dogs.

Dadja hear about the GI who claimed to be a two-letter man? Let'er neck or let'er walk.

from Belvoir Castle, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Sent To You With  
The Fort Dodge Grocery Co.  
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

The Best Wishes Of  
American Legion and 40 & 8  
Clinic Pharmacy and Supply  
Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric Co.  
Fort Dodge Tent & Awning Co.  
Rialto & Strand Theatres  
Brady Transfer & Storage Co.  
Becker Florists  
Larry Geer Ballrooms

Joe wants to become a detective so he can unravel the mystery of the sweater girl.

Vital statistics for 1944 indicate that a lot of people went stork mad.

from Belvoir Castle, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Radio Station K V F D

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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

July 6, 1945

DEAR JOE: I was shaving the morning of the 4th when little Freddie came in. We were the early birds in our family. It was a very beautiful morning, cool and quiet with the lawns still wet with dew. It was quieter even than Sunday, because no church bells rang and no one was about going to early services. I couldn't help but remember the days when you and I rushed out at four and five and six in the morning to remember the nation's birth of freedom with a horrific blast of sound. Cannon crackers, yellow kids, torpedoes, sparklers, cap pistols, nigger chasers, bombs and all those other things we saved our money to buy. Freddie doesn't know anything about those at all, or about cannon made out of gas pipe, or how a tin can will jump in the alley after you've loaded it with a 3 inch salute . . . Remember how your dog used to slink around on the fourth; it really was a bad day for him . . . As I looked at my screwed-up face in the mirror and pulled the razor this way and that, I began to wonder if the 4th had made any impression on my 6 year old. I thought "gosh, I ought to do something about his patriotic education." So I said, "Freddie, this is the 4th of July." He was sitting on the floor coloring in a picture book. His crayon never missed a stroke. He said, "Is it?" and I thought, "Now I ought to be able to go on from there. I ought to be able to tell him about Franklin and Washington and Tom Jefferson and some of those fellows" but I couldn't. I just bogged down. All I could think of was fire crackers and yellow kids and three inch salutes . . . All I could think of was that spring back in 1937 when we passed the law in Des Moines making the 4th safe and sane and quiet. When I came home that week end I noticed a little coolness. We were sitting at the table that evening and Al, then 12, said, "What's a matter with that old Baldwin that he wants to take our fire crackers away from us kids?" Sparring for time, I said, "Howard isn't old. He's the youngest man in the Senate." And Al said, with menace in his 12 year old soprano, "I know a lot of guys who would like to meet him."

AROUND THE TOWN: R. R. Brandrup drove down to the river to watch the fishing. While he was watching his car tumbled down hill and into the river. They finally got it out. There were no fish in it. Next night R. R. went fishing. He caught a big one but he hooked it in the tail . . . 4th of July evening despondent Selmer Johnson, about 48 years old, got a rope and hanged himself . . . Over 100 years old, Mrs. Catherine O'Brien, who had lived here for seventy-eight years, died the morning of June 30th . . . June was the coolest June on record. Most corn instead of being knee high by the 4th of July, was only ankle high, about two weeks behind . . . 5,452 Iowans have been discharged from the service during the past three months . . . Wm. Johnston, head of the Kalo Brick and Tile, died unexpectedly last Sunday afternoon. He was 78 years old . . . Carl Flynn is the manager and sec-treasurer of a new realty company in Fort Dodge, called Realty Inc. Austin Hogan is president . . . Judge Richard Mitchell is getting around with the aid of a cane, a crutch and a trick shoe. He stepped on a bottle up at the Lakes and broke his ankle . . . Blank Swaney celebrated his 41st birthday July 4th by catching several innings of sand lot soft ball . . . Restrictions on hiring have been lifted in Fort Dodge. Employers may now hire without regard to previous quotas and employees are not forced to accept employment in critical industries . . . The well groomed man in Fort Dodge spends a dollar seventy five now with his favorite barber when he asks for a hair cut and shampoo . . . Dr. E. N. Zinn and A. C. Swanson were winners in the McQuilkin Trophy handicap played at the Country Club the 4th . . . The Country Club has been re-organized with O. C. Pfaff as president. Drive is on to build the membership up to 175 . . . The Air Medal has been awarded to Lt. Robert Keith Ashford missing in action over the Philippines since September 13th, 1944.

DOWN THE CENTER AISLE. Edith Fiala and Paul Bloomquist, of Dayton, June 30th, in Dayton . . . Cheryl Darlyne Chapman and Charles Bearman, of Luverne, in Hiawatha, Kansas, June 9th . . . Gwendolyn Fuget and Torrance Pugh, of St. Paul, in Fort Dodge, June 24th . . . Joan Dawn Armstrong and Lloyd Heinonen, of Van Nuys, Calif., in Fort Dodge, June 28th . . . Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hanrahan celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary June 16. Their son, George, is with the 103rd Infantry Division at Innsbruck, Austria, and their son, Jim, is with a light pontoon company near Aschaffenburg, Germany.

ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING. T/Sgt. Thos. A. DePue is home for good, honorably discharged from the army . . . Pvt. Fred Good from four months in a German prison camp . . . Cpl. Wm. Peed, of Duncombe, from a prison camp . . . Pvt. Lewis Cook is out of the army, honorably discharged . . . Cpl. Joe Monahan is out of the army, honorably discharged . . . Donald Leighton, PhM 3/c, from the US Naval Hospital at Seattle . . . Lt. Frank Vratny, from the German horror camp Buchenwald, where he was a prisoner for some months . . . Lt. Robert Berry, from a German prison camp

. . . S/Sgt. Faber Cripps, from three years in England with the ground forces of the air corps . . . S/Sgt. Harry Bryson, honorably discharged, out on points after more than three years overseas . . . Sgt. W. Gordon Barrett, from Tinker Field, Okla. . . Lt. Stan. Pingel, from overseas. Stan got his commission on the battle field, also a silver star . . . S/Sgt. William D. Johnston, from Long Island City, New York . . . Wally Olson from the west coast where he is a purser with A. T. C. He has flown over half a million miles and been on nearly all of the occupied islands . . . Lt. Frank J. Sims, from a German prison camp . . . Lt. John I. Lynch, from 23 months in the Mediterranean . . . S/Sgt. John Ondrejka, honorably discharged after 24 months in a prison camp . . . Pvt. Phyllis Strobel from Ft. Des Moines . . . Ray Prohaska, S 1/c, from Berea College, Berea, Ky. . . S/Sgt. Bob Bollard, from a German prison camp . . . Pvt. Gerald Minton, from 23 months overseas . . . Lt. and Mrs. Geo. Hendricks, after three years overseas . . . Sgt. Sam Evenson, honorably discharged after 34 months overseas. . . Pvt. Alan Evenson . . . Pvt. Fred Grode, from a German prison camp . . . Cpl. Francis Haglund, from a P. O. W. camp . . . Sgt. Al Rabiner, after having been captured in the battle of the bulge, and his brother 2/Lt. Gary Rabiner, navigator on a B-29, stationed at Topeka, Kan. . . Sgt. Douglas Viers, out on points after 53 months in the service . . . Pfc. Douglas Mailander, from the E. T. O. . . Pfc. Selmar Lenarson, of Gowrie, from the E. T. O. . . S/Sgt. Richard Davis, from a prison camp in Germany.

HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD. Bob Allen, Gunnery Officer with the B-29 group, shot down a Jap fighter over Kobe shortly after he was promoted to Captain.

WAR'S GRIM TOLL. Pfc. James Larson was killed on Okinawa, May 9th.

THE BELVOIR CASTLE, official post paper of Ft. Belvoir, Va., is edited by Capt. V. E. Bluedorn who is married to the former Betty Ann Garlock, of Fort Dodge. We received the paper for over a year and reprinted many squibs from it. Recently it received top honors among service papers. Only two papers received higher honors. "The China Lantern" and "The Drew Field Echoes." China Lantern is a comparatively new publication at Kunming. Drew Field Echoes was a prize winner last year also.

FOURTH OF JULY. It was clear and beautiful and not too warm. By ten o'clock moppets were splashing in Expo Pool. Other youngsters were at Dodger Field watching the first of the day's three ball games. The Junior Legion team from Fort Dodge was in trouble right from the start losing to the Lohrville Junior Legion, 9 to 3 . . . Down-town Fort Dodge was deserted. Constantine's was closed. So was the Warden Coffee Shop. Tierney's and Treloar's are closed for several days. But at noon those of us who were working at the station found food at Ford Hopkins and the new Steak House across from the Wakkonsa Hotel . . . We still eat pretty well back home. I had roast beef, string beans, mashed potatoes, salad, rolls with butter, two cups of coffee with cream and sugar, and an excellent piece of apple pie—all for sixty-five cents . . . In the afternoon more people were in the pool, more were at Dodger Field and thousands were in the parks, and hundreds out on the river . . . The Dodger Independents defeated Gowrie, 10 to 1, and Vincent dropped its first league contest to Pomeroy, 13 to 6 . . . The evening found us in Crawford Park on a ten family picnic, with everyone there from little Cindy, eight months old and whose dad is in the Marines, to Grandpa Elmer, back from two years in China. The park was full of picnickers and parkers and smoochers and waders. We played soft ball for awhile and the children went wading, especially the two or three pretty girls with beautiful gams well set off in smart shorts . . . Finally the Armstrong children had to go home. They took the bat and ball but long before that we'd knocked most of the cover off the ball . . . We ate fried chicken and scalloped potatoes, and baked beans, and cottage salad and French bread and coffee and finished up with home made ice cream and birthday cake . . . Floyd brought a keg of beer and we tapped that . . . As it grew darker, some played poker, some played bridge and there was one expensive session of head and head pitch. . . There was a wild and unorthodox game of "drop the handkerchief." The age range ran from Freddie, who is six, to Grandma. Yeh, she's a young grandma . . . Out at Oleson Park the band was playing. June Lowry sang and Lt. Col. Roger Minkle, back from Italy and the 34th, spoke . . . Around ten o'clock the mosquitoes began a suicide attack. We rounded up the youngsters, who were still running thru the woods playing "Hide the Flag" and went home . . . It was a good day . . . I didn't hear a fire cracker all day . . . Next year it'll be a better day. You'll be home with us enjoying Crawford Park and Mom's home made ice cream.

PACIFIC. Pfc. Leo Lennon is in Hawaii with the 4582nd Q. M. Service Company . . . James Crosby, SC 2/c, down on Guam has run into a lot of Fort Dodgers, among them Bill Robins, his own brother, Neil, and Merle Freund. And Jim is looking for others.

"I like it a lot better here than I did down in the Marshalls." . . . T/Sgt. Ron Wheat and Mess Sgt. Dick Lourey, both on Okinawa, would like to see anyone from the Marine Air Group No. 22 who happens to be in that area . . . 1st Lt. N. G. Glesne is navigating a B-29 out of Guam and is interested in meeting any Dodgers thereabouts . . . Hod Ericson is home and looking fine . . . Donald W. Johnston, E. M. 3/c, is now in Hawaii after having been stationed on Midway for ten months. Recently he met Eugene Conway . . . Cpl. Glen H. Hanson is on his way home from the South Pacific after 40 months overseas . . . Cpl. Charles Isaacson, on Okinawa, with the 6th Marine Division, has had thirty months on the "rocks" of the South Pacific and is hoping for an early furlough home . . . Pfc. Edward Chada is somewhere out there a-way with a warehouse platoon . . . Cpl. Wm. H. Phipps is now on the island of Biak and looking for Dodgers. Look up Lt. Dick Mulrone, Bill . . . Over on Guam, Kenneth Hagberg has been advanced to the rank of Sgt. . . . Linzey T. Parker, F 1/c EM, is in the Russell Islands.

☀ **SUNNY ITALY.** Pfc. John Renquist, of Gowrie, is in Naples, awaiting shipment home.

☀ **RUM AND COCA COLA.** Pfc. Duane Nelson, of Gowrie, is stationed on the island of Trinidad, the home of rum and Coca Cola. "Boy they really have it down here." He has been in England, France and Germany. The planes in his outfit were the first across the Rhine. While in France he met Floyd Peterson, of Harcourt.

☀ **HIGH C'S.** Lt. C. Fletcher Moore, on the USS Portland, was in on the initial landing operations at Okinawa . . . Fred W. Crouse, S 1/c, recently in Fort Dodge on furlough, is aboard the USS Noble, APA . . . Fred S. Zoss, F 1/c, is on the USS Nevada, somewhere out there a-way . . . Neal V. Irvine, GM 3/c, somewhere in the SW Pacific, says "Hello" to the gang at Clayworks and to all of the Johnston boys in the service. Neal is aboard the SS Morton M McCarver.

☀ **PERSONAL TO SGT. CLARENCE CASE,** Stawmarket, England. Your letter has been forwarded.

☀ **OVER HERE.** Pvt. Robert Ball is at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. . . . Pvt. Eddie Steinhoff is at Ft. Meyers, Fla. . . . M/Sgt. Roger E. Reuvers is at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas . . . Pvt. Nello A. Dellachiesa is at Camp Fannin, Texas . . . F/O Harold Brown, of Lohrville, recently flew over his home town while taxiing General Patton and other brass to the west coast. Mrs. Patton was also aboard, and General Jimmie Doolittle from Denver to Los Angeles. As he flew over Lohrville he circled the town and dropped an apple with a note attached to it . . . Cpl. Don Schill is at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and hoping to be home and out of the army soon . . . T/5 Amandus Koepfer is in the office of the Inspector General, Camp Hood, Texas . . . Sgt. Jim Collins, down in Florence, South Carolina, would like to hear from Merle Davidson and Louie Beisser . . . Pvt. Frank Murphy, of Lehigh, is now at the separation center at Ft. McArthur, San Pedro, California . . . R. C. Dowd, AS, at Great Lakes, timed the barber who cut his hair for the first time, Navy style. "It took just seventy-three seconds on my mane and half of that was brushing it off my shoulders." . . . Pfc. Elmer Rosendahl, who is somewhere secret says "Hello" to all his friends and relatives at Fort Dodge and Knierim . . . 1st Lt. Lyndon E. Kilgore is in Birmingham General Hospital, Van Nuys, California . . .

☀ **SMALL WORLD.** Donald C. Burkgren, PhM 3/c, of Dayton, and his brother, Omar, at the crossroads of the Pacific. Omar was on his way back from a furlough home . . . Pvt. Wm. Ruebel and MoM 3/c Heun, while traveling from Blank Island to Blank Island. Bill is with the American Division somewhere in the Philippines. He says hello to Mrs. Rigby . . .

☀ **WE TAKE CARE OF ALL REQUESTS EVEN THOUGH WE NO LONGER MENTION THEM IN THE LETTER.** When sending in requests please include with the name of the person for whom you want the number played, the street address and telephone number, if possible, as we like to let them know in advance that the number is going to be played . . .

☀ **OVERSEAS.** Sgt. Robert O. Larson is out of Miami with the Hdq. Squadron of the 92nd Air Service Group, APO 695 . . .

☀ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The Great Lakes Bulletin from Mabel F. Leiss, SK 2/c, Thanks, Mabel . . . The patch of the 20th Corps from Reuben Peterson, now in Germany. Thanks, Reuben . . . The Beachhead News from Sgt. Bob Lawson, somewhere in Germany. Thanks, Bob . . . The Whitehorse Star, from Sgt. R. E. Cleveland, up in the Yukon Territory. Thanks, Sgt. . . . Tank Tracks from Pfc. Richard Andrews, from Amberg, Germany. Dick is living in an old German artillery camp built in 1914. Thanks, Dick . . . A whole flock of pictures from R. W. Jones, MaM 1/c, in the Philippines, Thanks, R. W. . . . The TTF from Sgt. Bob Hamlow, published in Bavaria, Germany. Thanks, Bob . . .

☀ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Leslie M. Sorenson is serving with a security patrol with the Seventh Army somewhere in Germany . . . In Gutersloh, Germany, Pfc. Foster Funk is guarding a huge food warehouse. "It's all German. From the looks of it there can't be much of a food shortage over here. A lot of it is beginning to rot. The place where the food is stored hasn't much ventilation and the weather is getting pretty warm." . . . The outfit Pfc. E. M. Peterson, of Harcourt, is with found a truck load of German paper money. Somebody probably going down town to buy a loaf of bread. E. M. is at Wiesbaden, Germany. He says it is prett tough not to get to talk to some of these pretty German girls. "I hope they lift that ban pretty soon." Thanks for the German money, Everett . . . Sgt. Dale E. Brand is at New-Isenburg, Germany, with the 3rd Armored Division with plenty of points for a discharge. Dale hopes to be home and in civies by fall. Thanks, Dale, for the "Overs n Shorts" . . .

☀ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** Sgt. Warren Burlison is in Paris. Sgt. Dorothy Schubert works across the street in the Chief Surgeons

office . . . T/5 Barney Loth is in Rennes, France, having traveled from deep in Germany in the back of a truck to his present location, about a thousand miles . . . Merle F. Ormuad is now a second lieutenant and stationed at Deauville, France. He saw Bob Morris before leaving Paris. Merle is with the military police . . .

☀ **CHINA.** Lt. Donald G. Anderson, of Harcourt, now one of General Chenault's boys and flying a P-51 in China, is in the same squadron with Lt. Bob Marsh. Another Dodger he met recently was Dick Friesth . . . Lt. Col. Fred O. Kelso, of Duncombe, is now in China . . .

☀ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Pfc. Byron D. Jeys, Lebach, Germany. "Our quarters are right in the city hall and our mission has been with the military government in connection with a Displaced Persons Camp—and what a task it is sometimes. Well, it was at first! The greater part of the company pull guard duty about the perimeter of the camp. For awhile the Russians would evade the guards and plunder and murder the civilians during the night. Even in the daytime they attacked a flock of sheep that some farmer was driving thru along the edge of the camp. There was enough commotion to start a riot and the whole company was forced to quell it. The older boys had little sympathy for the Jerries after the breakthru, as the ones of ours captured were killed on the spot. The other night a discharged Jerry, who has been in this sector against us fell into our hands. It was my duty to guard him after he was picked up for questioning. When it was learned he was in the Ardennes it was hard to keep the jeers and taunts to a minimum."

Emil H. Slotten, S 2/c, FPO, San Francisco. "I'm abroad the CVE-113 now. It was commissioned the 18th of June. The day turned out swell and a large crowd attended the ceremony. This ship is a small city afloat. We have just about every convenience that there was ashore. A few of them are: Library, laundry, tailor shop, ice cream counter, canteen, cobbler shop, athletic equipment, small modern hospital and movies. The navy is doing a good job of seeing that we have everything possible for welfare and recreation. When the full crew is abroad we will have well over a thousand officers and men. There is another boy from Webster county aboard, his name is Richard Espelund and he's from Burnside."

Cpl. Floyd Zeka, India. "On the second of June my brother, T/5 Robert Zeka, visited me here at the base. The night before he arrived I met Sgt. Harold Armstrong so we both waited for Bob to arrive. The next day we looked up other Dodgers here. We had quite a get together over some beer that evening. Besides the three of us, there were F/O James Rigby, Sgt. Louis Weideman, and Sgt. James Richey, of near Somers. One thing we would like to know is what Richard Machovec finds so interesting and beautiful about India. Wait till he has been here a few months, then he will change his mind. The beauty disappears mighty fast and what we will remember will be the filth and the mud from the monsoons. Also the heat that makes one sweat eighteen out of the twenty-four hours a day. I'd like to have Richard's opinion of India six months from now. Harold got the best laugh for he has been here nearly twenty-three months and has seen a lot of India. The other morning I was surprised and happy at breakfast—on the table I saw a can of milk with a very sweet picture of a baby on it. Looking closer I noticed Fort Dodge Creamery Co. on it. That was it for I have been looking for products from home for a long time. Sure made me feel closer to home."

Pfc. R. W. Lewis, Austria. "I can look over the hill and see into "Czech". The Russians are over there and we are not allowed to cross into their territory. I haven't met any Dodgers since I left the states. There is a lot of deer around here and good trout fishing. We have killed five deer in the past week. I caught eight brook trout last night. It is surprising to see what the people around here eat. I just ate some Elderberry Blossoms fried in a batter of some kind. It wasn't too bad, but I didn't try any of the so called 'Bull nettles' fried in the same kind of batter. Most of their clothes are made by the one wearing them."

S/Sgt. Robert E. Gilbranson, Traben-Trarbach, Germany. "Now old man sun is really out and I hope he stays out as this gives us a chance to hit that big swimming pool about a mile down the road from where we are staying. We are now living right in the heart of the greatest grape producing land in Germany and there is all the good wine and champagne one could want to drink for the price of 4 marks or 40 cents a quart. That is good, we all think. We have a bar of our own in the hotel we are at, and all in all it is a wonderful place to spend one's evenings when things get so lonesome and blue. Would you put in YLLFH "Hello" to Guy E. Feeley, somewhere in China, for me."

And there were welcome letters from Pfc. Charles Fortney, APO 14208, San Francisco . . . Sgt. Roland Laird, APO 95, New York . . . Cpl. Paul R. Zierke, APO San Francisco . . . LeRoy Daiker, S 2/c, Norfolk, Va. . . . Cpl. Don McLaughlin, APO 133, New York . . . Verl E. Ecklund, MoMM 3/c, FPO San Francisco . . . Cpl. John Whittington, APO 636, New York . . . 1st Lt. Lyndon E. Kilgore, Van Nuys, Calif. . . . T/5 Kenneth F. Depew, San Francisco . . . 1st Lt. James C. Dickerson, FPO San Francisco, Calif. . . . S/Sgt. Willard Rossow, APO 887, New York . . . Pvt. W. C. Ruebel, APO 716, San Francisco . . . and Cpl. Earl H. Ball, APO 720, Seattle, Wash. Wish we could print 'em all . . . Bob Halback was just in, back from basic training at Camp Fannin, Texas, on his way to Camp Maxey. Looks fine . . . Ft. Dodge was the warmest spot in Iowa on the 4th. Official high was 89 . . . Sgt. Othello Duckett, out of the hospital and still walking with a cane, but looking very fit, just came in. Duck says it's the one you don't hear that gets you . . . And so again we come to the familiar corner. Good luck, fellow. I'll be seeing you.

Your home town correspondent,  
Ed Breen.