

Your Letter From Home

Sgt.: Where in hell have I seen you before?

Pfc: I don't know. What part of hell are you from?

—Belvoir Castle, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

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
Iowa Auto Supply Company

Sent To You With 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
Radio Station K V F D

Girl: Could I see the officer in charge?

Sailor: He's forward, Miss.
Girl: Oh, I'm not afraid.
I've been out with sailors.

—Belvoir Castle, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

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

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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

July 27, 1945

☛ **DEAR JOE:** It's a hot sticky night. And its been hot and sticky for days. The pool has been crowded day after day. Sunday 820 swam before four o'clock. Golfers, mad dogs and Englishmen still brave the week-end sun. The corn is growing so fast you can hear it. When you walk along the blazing side walks the air oozes around you like thick oil. The parks are full and people sit on the side walks along the Warden and Wakhonsa and Johnston. The moon has been bright and hot as molten lead. The early morning milkman finds people in their night shirts draped on porches and inside doorways and out on the back lawns. Even our cocker, Beau, has taken to lying out on the front step and looking at me with a glassy eye when I suggest he's coming in. Sunburned old fellows with gray hair on their chests go around munching salt tablets and hoping they won't have a stroke before they reach the club house. It's not that its been so hot but we've had a combination of sun and then rain and then more sun until we have a climate now in which you can raise breadfruit, bananas, Casaba pears, and pink elephants. What it is raising mostly of course, is corn and oats and soy beans. Here at the station tonight a perspiring little theatre group is proposing to do "The Plaster Saint." Canoeing is good and down on the river its been cool. The other night we paddled up to Riverdale.

☛ **AROUND THE TOWN.** Celotex is planning to build a 2 million dollar board plant near Fort Dodge . . . W. P. "Bill" Clark, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, is out with a new campaign slogan "40x55". Bill explains "we are out to build the population of Fort Dodge to 40 thousand by 1955" . . . Fred Loomis, who is game for anything once, left terra firma the other day in Louis Armstrong's sail plane with Louie at the controls. Fred says he liked the ride and plans to go again . . . Nearly all the buildings on the U. S. Gypsum farm were destroyed by fire early Wednesday morning . . . Maurice Charon is campaign chairman of the Community Chest and War Fund Drive. Drive will be held in October . . . Frank McTigue, chairman of the special events committee, plans to bring to Fort Dodge three days in August the finest Barnes Caruthers evening fair acts. Show will play at the Band Shell in Fort Dodge to an estimated 30,000 people. The festival to be called "Cardiff Giant Days" will be sponsored by "The 25,000 Fort Dodgers" . . . The culprits who robbed Sylvia's Cafe on highway 20 have been caught. So far the police have refused to release their names altho one seventeen year old confessed to 35 or 40 breakins and thefts totaling a thousand dollars . . . Stan Betters back from England and France has every copy of YLFH from No. 1, Volume 1 . . . A heavy hail did a lot of damage to a few farms west of Fort Dodge on Number 5 early Tuesday evening. It struck the farms of Mert McMahon, James and Steve Powers, Don Anderson, Elmer Quade, Marion Lossee, the Murphy Brothers and Joe Winniger. Many of these farms suffered heavily last year from the tornado . . . Cpl. Eugene O'Neal, 37, of Grand Prairie, Texas, knocked down and killed William Ostercamp, a farm hand from Round Lake, Minn., at Arnolds Park last Sunday night. The argument was over fifty cents that Ostercamp picked off the ground. O'Neal is stationed at the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, air base and was spending the week end at the lakes . . . Monday night police swooped down on the carnival being held by the American Legion, stopped the bingo and other gambling games. No arrests were made . . . The school board has announced that next year's schools cost will run a little over half a million dollars, an increase of \$35,000 over last year . . . On Sunday, Lohrville defeated the Dodgers, 1 to 0; Manson took Farnhamville, 6 to 5; Eagle Grove defeated Vincent, 9 to 3; and Gowrie nosed out Pomeroy, 6 to 5 . . . Over 400 have signed up to detassel corn—women, girls and boys . . . A. J. Cote is the newly elected head of the County American Legion . . . Alice Ford is going to China for the O. W. I.

☛ **SOME WEEKS AGO YOUR LETTER FROM HOME** reported to you that Judge Richard F. Mitchell was getting around with the help of a cane and a trick shoe, that he had broken his ankle up at the lakes when he stepped on a bottle. Now some smarty-pants up Tacoma, Washington-way, wants to know, "Are you sure it was 'stepping on a bottle.' Who is the jedge in this case?" You see how some people's minds work!

☛ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Foster Funk is doing MP duty in Regensburg, Germany.

☛ **SMALL WORLD.** Cpl. Pete Rodenborn and his brother Lt. Bill got together somewhere over in Germany. "It was almost a 900 mile trip but it was worth it. The last time we were together was in England in '44." Pete is stationed at Kassell. He saw General Ike in Frankfurt, the third time he has seen him, once in England and once in France. "Southern Germany is a beautiful country. Surprised me to see they grow a small amount of corn and tobacco. But the corn could never compare to Iowa's" . . . Duane O. Johnson, S 1/c, now in the Hawaiian Islands, met Elaine Peterson, Wave, 2/c, and "one of Hawley School's best teachers" at San Bruno.

☛ **WE PLAY ALL THE REQUESTS YOU SEND IN.** When you send them include the street address and the telephone number of the person for whom you wish to have the number played. It's a big help. Thanks.

☛ **OVERSEAS.** Pfc. George Davidson is now getting his mail APO 403, New York City. George is with Battery A of the 949th F. A. Bn. . . Lt. Merwin Lyall is with the Headquarters of the 8th Fighter Group, APO 321, San Francisco . . . Pfc. Richard Collins is getting his mail APO 29, New York . . . T/3 James J. Hill is getting his mail APO 958, San Francisco. Jim is with the 3925 Sig. Photo Service Company . . . Cpl. Mervin Bowman is now APO 837, New Orleans . . . Glenn Evans, Tech. Rep., is getting his mail APO 710, San Francisco . . . Pfc. Bob Carlson is now getting his mail APO 75, San Francisco.

☛ **PACIFIC.** Verne Skoland, S 1/c, is sitting on the beach in Hawaii. "The scuttle but is that the men in this battalion are going home but there are 600 of us and only fifty go each month so I guess my chances of getting home soon are slim." . . . Pfc. Bill Campbell is on Okinawa . . . T/5 Luther Chinberg is on Oahu with Battery A of the 294th AAA S/L Bn. . . Pfc. Pershing Reed who is with the 305th Fighting Marines has been a little busy lately. He was on Aka-Shima, Ie-Shima and fought through Okinawa, where he picked up some nice souvenirs before the island was secured . . . Lt. Robert G. Smith is in Luzon with the 11th Airborne Division. "Little children run after you and say, 'Hi, Joe, Cigarette, Joe?'" I think those are the first words of American the Flips learn." Bob saw Capt. Sulzback on the 16th of July . . . Pfc. Chester Showers, now overseas three years and on Okinawa since "D" day, saw his first show a few days ago. "All these USO shows that people talk about, I sure would like to know where they keep them." Buck is on his way home, Chet. He ought to be here any day now.

☛ **HIGH C'S.** Calvin E. Davis, MoMM 3/c, is on the USS Orion A. S. 18, Division 12. He is anxious to hear from some of his old buddies. Write him in care of the PM, San Francisco . . . All in one month, David Peterson, GM 2/c, an Iowegian from Callender, made Gunners Mate 2/c, qualified as Gun Captain and became the father of Paul David, whom he hopes to see soon. Dave is on the USS James C. Owens . . . John Talbot, S 1/c, formerly of Tobin's, is now aboard the USS PCE 868, somewhere out ther a-way.

☛ **OVER HERE.** Eddie Vannoni, Cox., back from overseas is now at Treasure Island awaiting reassignment. Thanks, Eddie, for the Masthead . . . W. S. McGill, BM 2/c, is at the U. S. Naval Hospital at Lee Hall, Va., having some minor surgery . . . John Bockert, S 1/c, is at Lambert Field, St. Louis, Mo. . . Back from his hospital in Casablanca, which was decommissioned, Gilbert Lindquist, PhM 3/c, is visiting his parents in San Diego. Gilbert was married recently in Fort Dodge to Miss Ann Leners, of Manson, who is stationed in Omaha at the signal center of the Seventh Service Command . . . Pvt. Arlo Godfrey is at Camp J. T. Robinson, Ark. . . Lyla Kelly, Y 2/c, is at the Naval Training School at Richmond, Va. . . Out at Farragut, Stuart Baird, MoMM 3/c, is driving a semi-trailer that seats 80 people and measures 53 feet from bumper to bumper . . . Pvt. Eugene Hair is at Camp Lee, Va. . . Pvt. Paul J. Tilp is at Lowry Field, No. 2, Denver, Colo. . . Lt. F. R. Coe, USN, is at the U. S. Naval Ammunition Depot, Crane, Indiana . . . Laurence F. Stupka, CM 3/c, is with a torpedo boat repair unit at Melville, R. I. He was in the ETO for two years having served in Africa, Sicily, and Italy . . . Plt. Sgt. F. D. Bailey reporting from Great Lakes where he is guarding prisoners says he saw Pvt. Hoyer recently and Ort Mills. "Mills is at Pendleton now and Hoyer is the Admiral's orderly. Tom Kennedy is on his way to Dago." F. D. says hello to Zeke Zimmer with whom he enlisted. "I talked him into it. I wonder what he thinks of me now?" You are right, F. D., Lois is the girl on the bottom step. Bud Trost is at Great Lakes with F. D. . . Glenn E. Musselman, S 1/c, is at the AA Training Center, Pacific Beach, Washington . . . Pvt. Robert Halbach is at Camp Maxey, Texas . . . Pvt. Roger Grove and his family are at Camp Maxey, Texas . . . George Blunk, S 2/c, of Moorland, is now at Camp Parks, Calif., being processed for overseas service. George is with the Seabees.

☛ **TUNIS.** Sgt. R. J. Miessler is now in Tunis. "The change of address I would like is some street or RFD number in the USA. Seems almost like a foreign country, having been away for so long."

☛ **ENJOYIN' MOM'S COOKIN':** Capt. and Mrs. Ray Holmberg. The Capt. has been overseas in Germany 11 months . . . Sgt. Alvin W. Towers, out on points after action in the Solomons, New Guinea and in Luzon . . . Pfc. Vasilli Vannoni, Fort Dodge, R. F. D. number 4, home for good on points after long service in Africa and Italy . . . T/4 Max Huffman is out on points after many months in

the Pacific . . . Sgt. Gordon L. Martinson, of Harcourt, is on his way back to school at Iowa State College after serving four years with a bomb squadron which started its action in North Africa and fought in the Balkans, in China, in India and in Burma . . . T/5 Art Olson is back from the Italian theatre honorably discharged on points . . . Pat Chester Forness, of Moorland, is home for good honorably discharged . . . Sgt. John Snook is back home honorably discharged after three years in the army . . . Pvt. Otto Hansen is back home recovering from wounds received on Okinawa . . . 1/Lt. and Mrs. Louis H. Pfaff enroute to Fort Ord, Calif. . . William Rowell, GM 2/c, from 20 months on a destroyer in the Pacific . . . Capt. and Mrs. Roland Stahr enroute to their home in Reno, Montana . . . Mary Elizabeth Koenig, Sp. 3/c, from Washington, D. C. . . T/Sgt. Gene Person, of Badger, after two years in England . . . Lt. (j. g.) Joe McTigue enroute to a west coast base . . . Cpl. Ray Nation, of Badger, home for good, out on points after 27 months in Iran . . . William Rowell, GM 2/c, from Okinawa and the South Pacific . . . Burris Calkins, from the ETO, has an honorable discharge . . . Paul Reedy, from the ETO, has a medical discharge . . . James Somerville, Coxn., after action from Normandy to Okinawa . . . Pfc. Dale Peterson after a year in Europe where he served in an anti-tank group with the 3rd army . . . Sgt. Milford Jenison, home for a 30 day furlough after 31 months in Iran . . . Pvt. Wayne Shofer, of Harcourt, from overseas . . . Pvt. Earl E. Martin enroute to Fort Riley, Kansas . . . Chief Commissary Steward and Mrs. Richard Ahrens enroute to New London, Conn. . . T/5 Ken Benson, of Duncombe, home for good, out on 116 points . . . Marvin, Roy and Oscar Vieg. Oscar and Roy have been in the Pacific for 30 months. T/Sgt. Marvin is enroute to Topeka, Kansas. Oscar is a PhM 1/c; Roy is a Chief PhM . . . Flight Officer Charles D. Freed, of Burnside, enroute to Lincoln, Nebr. . . Silvan B. Manick, PhM 1/c, after 21 months in the Pacific . . . Cpl. Howard Libbey after serving with the air corps in England . . . T/5 Glenwood Crow enroute to Camp Grant, Ill. . . Pat Bernard Wagner from Camp Hood, Texas . . . Capt. F. C. Burleson after three years in Australia and New Guinea . . . Capt. Bill Thatcher back from Africa and Italy after 29 months overseas . . . Earl Hively, BM 2/c, from several months in the Atlantic theatre . . . Doral Constable, MM 2/c, from the east coast . . . Pfc. Roy Carlson from the ETO . . . Lt. (j. g.) C. E. Wilson from 22 months in the Aleutians . . . 1st Lt. Earl Foster enroute to the west coast . . . Myron Macek, MM 2/c, from 21 months in the Pacific . . . Orlan Saucke, S 1/c, enroute to Farragut, Idaho, from Great Lakes, Ill. . . Stanley Betters from France and England, where he served with the PT boats . . . T/Sgt. Marvin Pugh, USMC, is back from a navy hospital in California. He was injured in an auto accident, . . . Lt. and Mrs. Arnold Lott and their two children on their way from San Diego to Bainbridge, Maryland. It was the first time Arnold had been in Fort Dodge in many years. This is his fourteenth year in the Navy . . . Cpl. Walter "Buck" Vargason is out of the Army on points. Flew back from Italy via Africa and landed in Miami early this month. He was discharged at Ft. Meade, Md., and is now in Washington with Mary. They are coming out here soon . . . T/5 Henry E. Tschertler, of Otho, is out of the army on points, home for good. His sister, Pvt. Evelyn J. Tschertler is at Schick General Hospital in Clinton . . . He is now Mr. Joe Rutledge and ex-Sgt. and ex-Percy Jones hospital Battle Creek, where Joe has it figured out he spent 8,040 hours. Joe is at home at 603 11th Avenue North . . . John Hill, S 1/c, from the Great Lakes.

★ **BELGIUM.** Cpl. Clarence Hyde, writing from Belgium thinks that he may be shipped to the Pacific. "I don't mind saying though that one war is enough for me."

★ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Pfc. Tom Lawler was seriously wounded on Okinawa, June 22.

★ **DOWN THE CENTER AISLE.** Donita Marie Dillon and Robert C. Bowers soon. Bob was with Company G. in northern Africa and Italy and was recently discharged . . . Elizabeth Mitchell and Bernard F. Doornbos, of Denver, in Denver, July 9th . . . Lucile Harp and Pfc. Claire Cochran of Baltimore, Md., in Fort Dodge, July 19th . . . Hazel Mussleman and Laurence Hansch, of Vincent, Aug. 26th . . . Helen Stufflebean and Petty Officer James Egesdal, of Eagle Grove, July 8th in Eagle Grove . . . Virginia Johlfis, of Joplin, Mo., and T/5 Gordon Samuelson, back from overseas, at Joplin, Mo., July 9th.

★ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The Masthead from Eddie Vannoni, Cox., Treasure Island, San Francisco, California. Thanks, Eddie. . . The Battalion News, Vol. 1, Number 2, from S/Sgt. George M. Webb, Darmstadt, Germany. Thanks, Geo. . . "Biggestuff" from Sgt. Melvin Inman, Biggs Field, Texas. Thanks, Mel. . . The Schick Winner from Pvt. Evelyn J. Tschertler of Otho. The paper contains a very good picture of Pvt. Charlotte Davis of Fort Dodge, better known as Anne. She is picked as the G. I. Jane for the July 18th issue and I can understand why. The article says she is working in the hospital as a surgical technician. Thanks, Evelyn . . . The "HAD" News from Pfc. L. M. Magoon in Oahu. Thanks, L. M. L. M. says "keep the press rolling and thank all the ladies and gents who make it possible for us to get the news." . . . The "99ers", the publication of the 99th General Hospital, and the first edition of the same, from Alice White with the American Red Cross, Verdun, France. Thanks, Alice.

★ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Carl C. Ricketts, AM 2/c, FPO, San Francisco. "I'm on beautiful Hawaii, on the Island of Oahu, not too far from Honolulu, have hit a beautiful place. The grass is green, flowers of all kinds and the funniest trees, but what wonderful shade. It gets warm in the day time, but cool at night. There are mosquitos here, too, wake in the morning scratching. Our barracks looks like a B. O. Q. back in the states. Have a radio and phonograph combined on the sun porch, with records three or four years old when I left home. Having them reminds me of Expo Park, those wonderful dances.

Keep things the same, I love that city. I've got Fort Dodge carved on every building and bench I can find."

Cpl. Donald D. Berhow, APO 695, c/o PM, Miami, Florida. "I am now in the land of Rum and Coke. I didn't get to go home after VE day, but I can't kick as I only have eighteen months overseas, and three little gold bars. I'm in what the Army calls the green project. The idea is to fly as many men home as possible from Europe. My group, along with several others, was given the job of maintaining a fleet of over 250 C-47's in this area. We do all of the repair work here except for minor repairs at other bases along the route. I hope to see the end of this and be eating Mom's cooking for Christmas."

Pfc. Elmon Rosendahl, APO 980, c/o PM, Seattle, Washington, Aleutians. "These Aleutians are really the place. Why there is a girl behind every tree. Yeh, there isn't any trees. I have been sneaking around every day trying to get a look at the sun, but I haven't got the job done yet."

Geoffrey L. Landmesser, F 1/c, c/o FPO, San Francisco. "I'm on an L. S. T. (Landing Ship Tank) otherwise known as a (Large Stationary Target). We have a much better name for it but I'm afraid the censors might object. Some day I'll let you in on it. We were in the Panama Canal Zone for awhile. Then we hit Pearl Harbor and Honolulu. From there to the Marshal Islands and from there is what the censors call a military secret, I guess. I can tell you where we are now is nothing like good old Iowa."

R. I. Ulm, SP (I) 3/c, Washington, D. C. "Just as my room mate and I were leaving to go to work this morning, we heard the news broadcast of Stalin's late arrival in Potsdam, and with him came the rumors of peace conditions from Japan. We got all excited about it, and immediately began planning our post war wardrobe, etc. I only wish we could seriously plan on all the things we want to. My room mate, Virginia Foy, is from Baltimore, Maryland, and she has had me over to her home several times on week-ends. In October she is coming home with me, and I promised her a brass band at the station. (The train only gets in at 4:45). I told her the mayor would probably be there with the keys to East Overshoes somewhere. (Only Kidding)".

Sgt. Herschel J. Dueker, APO 331, c/o PM, San Francisco. "My job is tail gunner on a Liberator bomber. We in our crew have flown over and dropped bombs on Japan. I get a thrill out of firing my two machine guns at Jap cities below us. The landscape is quite pretty, rice fields, little checkered Jap farms, mountains, pine forests, and rugged bays. As far as I know we are the first ones to fly in Army B-24's over Japan. I've been busy building a fox hole right next to our tent so that it will be easy to roll out of the sack into the shelter. Sand bags filled with dirt make up the walls and roof. The Japs like to fly over and wake us up."

1st Lt. Don G. Culver, APO 252, c/o PM, New York. "How do you like the heading on this letter? BERLIN—yes, I finally got to see it and we finally got moved in here even after as many times as they said we weren't going to. I was sure if any American troops went into Berlin it would be none other than the Second Armored "Hell on Wheels" Division as they would want the best to be the first in here and here we are. I am sure it doesn't look like it did before the war but it is great to say you have been here and seen it anyway. Just recently I had another nice experience. About a month ago I got a letter from some very good friends of mine in America who lived practically next door to us for about two years. They wrote and wondered if I would try and find their grandmother for them who lived in a city over here about 20 miles from where I was then stationed. The town had been hit pretty hard by bombing so, of course, they were very much interested in knowing about them. One afternoon I went to Hildeshiem, Germany, where they were living the last my friends had heard from them which was before the war and sure enough I found the grandmother, her daughter and her granddaughter. The grandmother was 80 years old and was about the happiest person in the world when I told her I was a very good friend of her grandchildren in America. It really does your heart good when you can bring a little bit of happiness to people in this world even over here. I know my friends in the States will be very glad to hear their grandmother and relatives are all right."

When we get to this point it always seems to me that I've forgotten something very important. I examine both cuffs and bite the pen . . . Dave Sinclair just stuck his head in the door and said, "Did you tell 'em that Readers Digest Story?" No, I didn't but I will. "It seems it all happened in Cairo on a night like this. Guests who should have known better looked out when they heard what sounded like a fox hunt in the corridor. There they spied a lightly clad damsel racing down the hallway pursued by an English major who was not wearing his insignia of rank or anything at all for that matter. In fact he was in the buff, the bare skin. Well the sheriff's posse got him, or whatever takes the place of it in the British army—got him and had him up before the court-martial. They charged him with being out of uniform and things were not going well until his counsel pointed out the rule that it is proper for an officer to abandon his uniform if engaged in a sport for whatever costume best suits that sport. The court held that he was properly attired for the sport in which he was engaged. Case dismissed." . . . Congress is out and Jim Dolliver will be home sometime soon . . . Everyone is canning peaches. The crop is the biggest in years . . . One of the biggest grocery stores in town didn't have a scrap of meat in it yesterday. Only chicken and fish . . . We are still the best fed, most fortunate people in the world, and we'll be the happiest when you come home. May that be very soon. Good luck, fellow.

Your home town correspondent,
Ed Breen.