

Your Letter From Home

Junkman: Any old clothes—any old rags?

Non-Com: Of course not. This is an Army Air Field.

Junkman: Any old bottles?

—From the Belvoir Castle
Published at Ft. Belvoir, Va.

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.

Sent To You With The Best Wishes Of

The Elks Club of Fort Dodge
American Legion and 40 and 8
Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric Co.
Rialto & Strand Theatres
Brady Transfer & Storage Co.
Becker Florists
Larry Geer Ballrooms
Radio Station K V F D

The superintendent of an insane asylum noticed an inmate pushing a wheelbarrow upside down.

"Why do you have it upside down?" asked the superintendent.

"You don't think I'm crazy, do you?" was the reply. "I pushed it right side up yesterday and they kept filling it up with gravel."

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Published at Ft. Belvoir, Va.

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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

December 21, 1945

☀ **MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR, JOE.** In your stocking I hope you find points enough to stock a grocery store, enough to win that piece of paper that spells war's end for you and a return to your family, your home, your sweetheart, to all those things that are your dream of home and happiness. I hope you will like the roto section of your home town that we enclose with this letter. Although it is clear and the sun shines every day, we are very deep in December, deep in the cold of December. When you step outside the door you pull your coat a little closer, pull your collar higher and your hat lower and hurry along as your breath plumes out in the frosty air. You shiver and without looking at anyone's thermometer, you know it's cold. Regularly for several mornings it has been eight and nine and ten below. You hurry out to the car and step on the starter and there isn't even a groan. You start down the street on foot and find other cars being pushed. And the cars that cough and rumble past you have windows frosted over inside as thick as paint. The Milkman's wagon crunches over the snow with an iron ring and youngsters hurry along to school covered in clothes clear up to their eyes. But this is Christmas time and they love it. Santa Claus isn't far away. Vacation begins today. All week they have been singing carols and doing PTA programs. At home they are helping Mom decorate the tree and there is that room that none may enter—that mysterious room where packages seem to disappear. And in the kitchen it's warm as toast and there are great things going on. Mom is making cookies and fruit cakes and there is a turkey frozen and hanging in the back porch where it is cold. It is your Christmas and theirs, the one you've made possible and this year a lot of their dads are home to share it with them. Tuesday night the high school had its Christmas concert with H. A. Bergan directing the orchestra and Clayton Hathaway directing the chorus, a very beautiful program and well attended. Last Sunday afternoon KVFD broadcast a special program of Christmas carols sung by all the fifth and sixth grade choirs of the town. It was done from the Junior High School auditorium with nearly five hundred children in the combined choirs. A fox hunt was scheduled for Badger last Sunday morning but it was so cold I doubt if many turned out for it. Foxes are becoming so numerous that they are a menace not only to the chicken yards of the county but also the pheasant and rabbit population.

☀ **AROUND THE TOWN.** Carl Klatt, former guard at the Eldora Training School for Boys, was found guilty of assault and battery here by a jury in district court. The conviction was in connection with the death of Ronald Miller, an inmate at the school, last August. Miller died from the effects of a severe beating in the disciplinary cottage, and being forced to work under a hot sun, the next morning, on the school coal pile. So, Klatt was sentenced to 30 days at hard labor in the Hardin county jail at Eldora, starting Jan. 2. In addition, the costs of the trial were assessed against the defendant. The trial started Nov. 23, and was not completed until Dec. 19, nearly a full month. Another former guard, Harold Nelson, was also charged with second degree murder in Miller's death, but after Klatt got off with only assault and battery, the state reduced his charge to assault. Nelson's trial is scheduled for February. It has been cold in Fort Dodge for the past week with the mercury down to 10 below, 13 below, or what have you. The prediction is for more severe cold for the holidays. About 175 men and women took the obligation of the American Legion here Monday night. Nancy Sittig, former servicewoman, was asked to draw the names for the turkey and other prizes. The first one drawn—for the turkey—was her own name and she was very embarrassed, much to the amusement of all present. F. M. Derrig, on his way home after discharge, had a close call on the train. He awoke and found two of his \$100 bills were stolen. Soon a girl, Arlene Dehmlow, 21, came across with the cash and Derrig felt better. She was arrested, pleaded guilty, and was bound over to the grand jury, under \$3,000 bond. Fire, early Wednesday, did considerable damage to the home of Mrs. L. L. Ruby, 1422 Eleventh Avenue Southwest. Mrs. Dorothy Knudson, of Badger, is awarded this "orchid"—she wrote 2,945 letters to servicemen since March, 1942. We had an eclipse of the moon Tuesday night. It lasted about 3½ hours. Mrs. Alava Hanson, 100 years old, died at her home here Tuesday. Fire Chief R. H. Grant has warned all about cautionary measures against fires, to be taken during the holidays. Charles F. O'Connor is now practicing law here with an office in the Snell building. The captain was recently discharged. Frank Collins, 87, former city and county official, died Saturday night. The Dodgers beat Roosevelt, Des Moines, 46-32, Saturday night, but the night before, lost to East Des Moines, 27-19. Four Clarion trainmen were killed in a Great Western wreck near Carroll, Friday. Two others

were injured in a head-on collision, between a deadhead engine and a freight. There now are three flooded rinks in the city for ice skaters. Fort Dodge has been allotted 150 housing units by the government. Now all the city has to do is find them and move them here. Lt. W. A. Rodenborn is in the east to meet his wife and daughter. He married in England. Chuck Hartung, a veteran, has opened a sandwich shop at 922 Central. Hugh D. McMahon has joined Realty, Inc. Dr. L. F. Smith has resumed his dental practice in the city.

☀ **JAPAN.** Lt. George Burnet, Jr., is in Honshu, Japan. S/Sgt. Robert Isaacson is in Yokohama, Japan, but hopes very soon to be coming home to enjoy Mom's cooking.

☀ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Harry Draper, who has been stationed in Garmisch, Germany, at the base of the biggest mountain in the country, will soon be on his way home to 1133 Elm Street, Webster City. "I wish to thank everyone that helped to send the Letter From Home to us boys while we were overseas, away from our families. It was a big help to know what was going on back in the states; and I think Ed Breen did a very good job of writing the paper for us, because he wrote just what we would like to know about home." Harry says he has been skiing on that mountain. "I wish Ed was here to ski with me for awhile, for we sure would have a lot of fun."

☀ **HOME FOR GOOD.** Sgt. Dale A. Peterson is home at 1509 4th Ave. South after service in France and Germany, and nearly three years in the army. August Kastendiech is home from overseas, out of the service and living at 503½ Central Avenue. Arnold S. Osberg is a civilian once more and living at Good Thunder, Minn. "I wish to thank all of the sponsors and the people who sat so patiently putting addresses on all the letters. All I can say is thanks a million." Isabel Knutson Larson is out of the service and living at 2245 Van Courer, San Diego. Her brother, Elwood Knutson, Y 3/c, is on the USS DeHaven. Sgt. Wilfred K. Kohlhaus is back home out of the army and farming north of Livermore. Earl Hoover is out of the army and living on Route 4, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Cornell Wing is out of the service and now living in Minneapolis. Pfc. Delmar L. Borer is home at 1427 1st Ave. N., Fort Dodge, Iowa. Delbert H. Herrington, S 2/c, and S/Sgt. Embert F. Jessen are out of the service, honorably discharged. Pfc. Paul Ponzi is out of the service and home for good. Lloyd Norstrum, F 1/c, is out of the service, home for good. FO Charles D. Freed, John C. Cuckie, S/Sgt. Joe Ponzi, Alva Long and T/Sgt. Merlin Ruffer are all honorably discharged. Werner W. Starr is out of the service and living at Onamia, Minn. Bob O'Connor is now at the State University and may be reached at the D U House, Iowa City, Iowa. Charles Cummins is out of the service, after 24 months in Europe, and may be reached at 2400 West 45th Street, Des Moines, Iowa. Calvin M. Goodspeed is out of the Navy. Octavius L. Anderson, MoMM 2/c, out and home for first time in two years. WAVE Vanna Hoffman has been discharged; she had been a control tower operator at Moffett Field. S/Sgt. Sam Tornabane is back after service in the Pacific theatre. Francis H. Allen, QM 2/c; Hillis A. Peterson, MoMM 1/c, out of the coast guard. Duane M. Engels, MoMM 2/c, Pvt. Edward O. Vanderslice, Dwight I. Mare, Harold Oleson, S 1/c. Comdr. Robert Williams is back and will live at Lakota. Joe McLigue plans to enroll at Iowa State College after the holidays. Dallas Durschmidt, S 1/c, out of the coast guard. Ted Anderson home from the army. 1st Lt. Douglas D. Dunsmoor, after 31 months in the Pacific theatre. T/Sgt. Maurice J. Callahan. Lt. Joseph J. Wall plans to enroll at Columbia University. Darly E. Burtis is out of the Navy. Evan E. Cooper, EM 1/c. Lt. G. Fletcher Moore, inactive status. 1st Lt. Ben P. Larson, Jr., inactive status. 2nd Lt. Merlin Natto, inactive status. Lt. A. A. Arata, inactive status. Lt. (jg) C. G. Pilcher, to inactive duty. Cpl. Leo McDonnell, after 39 months. Harold and Robert Hernkel, out of the Navy. Wendell C. Watts was discharged Nov. 26, and is at home at 718 No. 18th St. Donald L. Cobb was discharged in Oct. and is at home at 1809 1st Ave. So. Ray Finch arrived in Fort Dodge, Dec. 12, after receiving his discharge. Marvin Forslund is discharged and at Harcourt. W. W. Newsum, discharged. Eugene C. Case, discharged. Thomas G. Berry is discharged and at Duncombe. Robert B. Porter is discharged. Conrad J. Steib is discharged from the Navy. Galen B. Parsons is discharged and living at Lehigh. Laurence Kuehnast, discharged and living at Badger.

☀ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The Shepard Field Texts from Pvt. Earl G. Pulis, Sheppard Field, Texas. Thanks, Earl.

★ **DOWN THE CENTER AISLE.** Rita Clark to John J. Moore, Jr., at West Palm Beach, Fla., Nov. 29 . . . Marian McClain is engaged to William S. Burnquist . . . Beverly A. Gilday to Marvin Moreland here, Dec. 5 . . . Delvera P. Hyde to Dale J. Davis, here, Dec. 13 . . . Helen Plog to Leo J. Balchis, at Chicago, Nov. 10 . . . Dorothy Wiese to Frank Hicks, here, Nov. 24 . . . Phillipa Taylor is engaged to C. H. Klinger, Jr. . . . Harriet Anderson to R. M. Petersen, at Gowrie, Dec. 9.

★ **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.** Christmas greetings from T/5 Bob Zeka in India . . . From Lt. Golda Van Tassel, Ft. Benning, Ga. "Thanks for the wonderful letters. I've appreciated each and every one from the bottom of my heart." . . . Christmas greetings from Lt. and Mrs. Don Lehman and Karen Kay, Wichita Falls, Texas . . . Christmas greetings from Frances, Bill and Jackie Goodman of 1407 Tripp Avenue, Chicago, Ill. . . . A Swedish Christmas card from Joyce Mayclin, who has been with the American Legation in Sweden during most of the war. "Receiving a weekly copy of YLFH has meant a great deal to me, so from Sweden I would like to say Swedish thank you, Tack sa mydktet." Joyce hopes to be home soon . . . A Christmas greeting and a little note of appreciation from Jack H. Clark who is with the Canadian Army Engineers . . . A Christmas card from R. Rex Funk, CPhMM, who is on the USS Bright, now at the inactive fleet berthing area at Green Cove Springs, Fla. . . . From Jack Fitzgerald of the USS Kingfish . . . From Pfc. Roger Fevold with the 2nd Marine Division, APO San Francisco . . . From Ruth Eubanks, now out of the service and back home at Higby, Mo. . . . From Wilbert Babcock, out of the service and back home at 1315 13th St. Place, Des Moines, Iowa . . . From Okinawa, from Pvt. R. R. Dickerson . . . Christmas Greetings from Pvt. Otto C. S. Hansen, Camp Lejuene, N. C.

★ **PERSONAL.** Pfc. James E. Craft, APO 102, New York. Your wife writes us a note, saying, "Please tell him in your next YLFH that we will still have our Christmas tree when he comes home."

★ **COMING HOME.** T/4 Sigwel Simonson of Badger is back from India and China and is now in Seattle . . . S/Sgt. Morris E. Gleason writes from Fusan, Korea, that he'll be on his way home soon. "First I'd like to thank you and all the sponsors that made the YLFH possible for myself and the other Joes and Janes in the service. It's been swell to get a paper of such news interest so regularly. It is difficult to really say how much it has meant to know the Letter would be in the mail. Thanks again to all of you, Merry Christmas and I hope to be in Fort Dodge for the New Year. It's a selfish thought, perhaps, but it has been some time now since I've been there, but really, I do hope everyone in the Home Town has a great time during the Holidays." . . . Bob Daehn, S 1/c, is leaving Wake Island to return to the States for discharge . . . Joe Thomas Sandell, CM 1/c, is on his way home to Dayton, Iowa . . . T/4 Robert Crist of Lehigh is being discharged . . . FO Stanley Manchester is on his way home to Lehigh . . . Lt. Bessie Marie Norstrum is being discharged Christmas Day. Nice Christmas present . . . John Carlton, PhM 1/c, is heading for the USA, aboard the USS Hornet . . . William S. Ray, AEM 3/c, is aboard the USS Fremont, enroute home . . . Carl W. Hopkins, MM 1/c, is aboard a carrier, heading for the states from the Pacific theatre . . . C. J. Pilcher is getting his discharge papers in a few days, at Dallas, Texas.

★ **OVER HERE.** Clifford C. Guild, Navy V-5 at Cornell University, is expected home for the holidays . . . 1/Lt. Richard Lynch is in the states and is to be discharged soon. His wife is the former Mary Wasem . . . Sgt. William Day is on the east coast and will be home for the holidays . . . James E. Hinton, BM 2/c, has arrived on the west coast and will get his discharge soon . . . Lt. William Simonson is to be out soon . . . Pvt. Clayton Peterson, wounded in Germany, has been moved to the hospital at Camp Custer, Michigan . . . Robert W. Porter, Navy, is expected home shortly . . . John J. Sterling, RM 3/c, has landed at Frisco and is due to be out soon . . . Capt. D. Cole McMartin, Jr., is home . . . Pfc. William Koll is due home soon . . . Pfc. Paul Burch has landed in Boston . . . 2/Lt. John B. Foley is in the states and will be hospitalized . . . F/O John D. Owen is back from China and is to report at Romulus, Michigan . . . S/Sgt. Merrill Saunders is back from Okinawa and is to be out soon . . . Pvt. Herman Hale is at Portland, Oregon, but says he'll be home soon at 21 4th Street NW, in Fort Dodge . . . T/5 Carl L. Reed is at Warrenton, Va. . . Ed Christensen, SM 3/c, on the USS Yahara and Richard Streff, GM 3/c, on the USS Hyiliger, are both on the high seas out of San Francisco. Yes sir, Carl, their names are on the list now and they are old subscribers . . . Pvt. Ralph Phillips is at Camp Robinson, Ark. . . . E. R. Marsh, CEM, is now with his ship, the USS Apollo, at the submarine base at New London, Conn. "We came back here from Guam shortly after the war ended. I really do appreciate the letter and hate to think of the day it will stop." So do we, E. R. Maybe we will be able to do something about that . . . Pvt. Cecil C. Markley is at the separation center at Jefferson Barracks . . . Verle W. Beckman, S 1/c, is at the Personnel office, Port Chicago, Calif. . . . Curtis Donald Peterson, THM 1/c, is at the US Navy Frontier Base, Charleston, S. C. . . . Pvt. Ralph E. Phillips is at Camp Robinson, Ark.

★ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Pfc. Robert Skophammer, who has reenlisted for a year in the Army Air Corps, is spending a 30-day furlough at home . . . Arthur Hoeflin, GM 3/c, is home for a short leave . . . Pfc. Clair D. Cochran is here for 21 days . . . Sgt. John Atwell is home until the first of the year, and then will return to Schick hospital, at Clinton . . . Robert I. Pingel, RM 3/c, is here for 30 days . . . Walter S. Manchester, is at home for a furlough at R. R. 1, Fort Dodge . . . S/Sgt. Galvin Olson is home on a furlough at Burnside . . . Richard C. Freed is home on furlough at Burnside . . . Donald Sampson is home for 30 days at 628 11th Ave. North. He will leave Jan. 17.

★ **JUST REWARDS.** Bronze star to 1st Lt. Joseph M. Dunn, for service in Germany . . . Bronze star to Lt. Col. John C. Shrader, for service in Europe.

★ **GOING UP.** Karl R. Kolacia, from Pfc. to Sgt. He now is in Seoul . . . Bud E. Gochee, now is T/4 at Manila . . . John Vohs, in Japan, from Sgt. to S/Sgt. . . Richard F. Muhl, SKV 3/c to 2/c . . . Robert A. Isaacson, now a S/Sgt. . . James P. McMahon, now an Ensign . . . Golda I. Van Tassel, now a Lt. . . Fred M. Dalvey, T/5 to Sgt. . . Morris E. Gleason, now a S/Sgt. . . Carl L. Reed, Pfc. to T/5 . . . Curtis E. Tessum, Pvt. to Pfc. . . Earl T. Hay, Pvt. to Pfc.

★ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Cpl. Floyd Zeka, Malir Camp, Karachi. "Good Fortune finally came my way. I'm on my way home to be a civilian once again. I am now awaiting a ship to leave India for good. Now stationed at Malir Camp at Karachi. About half of the men of India leave through here. We are billeted in English style tents. The camp is nothing but sand and fine dirt. Everything always stays dusty. We sure can stand it though knowing we are on the way home. When I got off the plane at the base at Karachi, I called my brother Henry. I got to talk to him awhile then and have seen him twice since then. We are only a short ways apart so will see each other quite often."

Pfc. Curt Tessum, Manila. "I'm in Manila as a radio operator for the headquarters of the Far Eastern Air Forces. And with the war over, it's really rough on us to work once every three or four days. The only trouble is that the old story of Army discipline is starting in full swing in Manila, so it's getting more "statewide" everyday. Anyway—a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you, and the staff of "Y. L. F. H." You're doing a swell job.

Sgt. Emmett J. McGough, Erlangen, Germany. "I take this means to thank you and all the members of the staff of "Your Letter From Home" for the splendid job you have done by keeping the weekly missal coming so regularly. I have been receiving it now for more than two years, even before I left the states, and it has been a real pleasure to read it each week. I know you have all put forth a great effort, and you can rest assured that it has been greatly appreciated by all the fellows in the service. I have been going to write you many times, but somehow just never did get it done. Since I left the good old U. S. A. I have gotten around considerably, and have seen a lot. At present I am in Germany, as you can see from the heading on the letter. I am located about eight miles north of Nuremberg, and have had a chance to see the famous Soldiers Field there, a stadium that excels anything of its kind that I have ever seen. It is quite a different sight now, than it was a year ago, when Hitler used to make some of his speeches there. There are a number of fellows from home around here, but I have not had the good fortune to meet them. Of course by now a lot have been redeployed and are being called Mr. again. I am looking forward to that day, and I am hoping a little that I might get home by Christmas. Prior to coming here I spent several months in England, quite near London, and I did enjoy it there a lot. I also was fortunate in being located fairly close to Paris, and went there a lot. I guess Paris is really a great city, but seeing it in wartime, one did not gain too favorable an impression. From there I moved to Luxembourg and that really is a nice place, more like our cities and towns at home than any other I have seen anywhere on this side of the ocean. The people there were very friendly, too, and that helped a lot. I must run along now, but thanks again for keeping us so well informed of what has been going on at home during our absence. I hope to see you by Christmas or early in 1946."

Pfc. Charles E. Johnson, Shiogama, Japan. "I'd thought I'd better write and give you my change of address. I haven't had any mail now for some time, because of the move we made, and I feel rather lost without "Your Letter From Home." I have a pretty good deal here so far, but it won't last too long. There are seven of us on an outpost here guarding ammunition. You see they bring in all the weapons and ammunition here and load them on the boats and take them out to sea about 30 miles and dump them over the side. We have three ships loaded down now and about 2,000 tons of bombs and artillery shells and caps on the docks. So far since I have been on this outpost, we have killed two Japs and wounded one. But they don't give us much trouble. Two boys from the Division were knifed in the back and killed about a week ago."

Lyle Ricketts, Excelsior Springs, Mo. "It has been a long time since you have heard from me. I have been in the hospital for seventeen months now and will be in maybe another year because of a chest ailment. My two brothers, Carl in the Navy and Kenneth in the Army, are both discharged and living in the good old town of Fort Dodge. I am also discharged from the Army, but am in a Veterans' hospital recuperating and still hoping to see Fort again. I haven't been back since entering the army back in July of 1942. Y. L. F. H. really has been a great help to all the men and women of the armed forces from in and around Fort Dodge. We can learn the whereabouts of many of our friends and their experiences, plus the home town news. Keep up the good work. Wishing all the sponsors who have made this great paper a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

From the cards, we know that wherever you are it's Christmas. Whether it's India or Japan or Germany, or an airfield in China, if you are there Joe, it's Christmas. It may not have the trimmings of a real old fashioned Christmas and some of these APO numbers will look a little strange to Santa Claus but the spirit will be there. And behind every service flag still keeping its long vigil there'll be a family dreaming of other Christmases and of those still to come. How can they ever forget those years when the tree was there especially for you, those mornings when you were up before dawn to find what Santa Claus had left . . . Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your home town correspondent,

Ed Breen.