

Your Letter From Home

Sent To You With The Best Wishes Of

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Radio Station K V F D

Two Cattlemen were talking shop. "I shipped a thousand bulls last fall," said one. "I shipped over two thousand bulls last year," said the other. The first one remarked, "I guess that makes us about the biggest bull shippers in this part of the country."
Both from The Super Fort, Okinawa.

It seems that three men appeared at the Golden Gate in uniform and were greeted by St. Peter. "I'm Col. Jones," said the first. "I was decorated for bravery twice." St. Peter shook his head and motioned him away. "I'm Capt. Smith," said the second. "I was a great hero at Guadalcanal." Again St. Peter shook his head. The last soldier walked toward St. Peter. "I'm Private Brown," the lowly one said. The gates flew open and St. Peter shouted, "Come in, come in, we need KPs badly."

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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

December 28, 1945

★ **DEAR JOE:** We are writing this on one of the most beautiful mornings that I have ever seen. It snowed all day the day before Christmas and Christmas Eve and most of Christmas Day. The snow plows never stayed their ceaseless effort to keep us moving. But, in spite of their best efforts, belated Santa Clauses delivering presents were stuck at curbs and finally right out in the middle of streets, everywhere but on the main thoroughfares. It was six and eight and ten above most of the time. Christmas morning, people were off to church, wading through the snow that no one had time to shovel. And later in the day, they were going in little groups to family dinners. But once they were home that evening, they were content to remain inside out of the wind and the snow. Last night, Jack Frost trimmed the black branches and twigs of every tree in town. And there, this morning, was winter in all its beauty, the deep white snow on the ground, the black trees arched against the delicate blue sky and every twig and branch filagreed with winter's ermine. There was not a cloud in the sky and sunlight sparkled over everything. It was fun just being alive. Moppets and teen-agers were out with their sleds, and others were off to skate at Hydro and on the ponds around town . . . This is that season when everyone is either looking backward like Lot's wife, or looking into the crystal ball and saying what's going to happen next year. Looking back, the newshawks in Iowa say that among the leading stories of the year were two from Fort Dodge and one that involved Fort Dodge. The Warrick-Grell escape from the Fort Dodge jail was listed as one of the leading news stories. You remember, the lads had a saw and a file smuggled into them in a watermelon and a cake by two bobby soxers, who were enamoured of them, and cut their way out of jail, all the while singing lustily to drown the noise of the filing. In the sports field, the amazing record of the undefeated Cinderella Dodger football team was listed as third or fourth from the top. The top news story of the year in Iowa was generally referred to as the Eldora case. This involved the mass escapes from Eldora Training School, the death of Ronald Miller and the trial at Fort Dodge of Karl Klatt . . . For my money, the years happiest story is the return to Fort Dodge and every other town of hundreds of the fellows who left two and three and four years ago to fight a war that we wanted no part of . . . Today's big story is John Atwell's comment on the sentence of life imprisonment for the Jap prison guard, known as "little glass eye", accused of beating and killing many American soldiers. John, who spent three years in the prison camp where this Jap was a guard had only this to say, "It's not enough." . . . Last night the DeMolays and the Rainbow girls had their Christmas formal at the Laramar . . . Saturday night the Study Club stages its annual Charity Ball, this year at the Warden . . . Saw Joe McGigue and Herb Leffler at the Royal 400 the other night. They are both going back to school. So is everybody else, I guess. Saw Dick Woodard on the street the other day. He says he'll be back at Iowa next fall. Clint Bailey was with him. He says Clint now weighs about 250 and he is going to get him down at Iowa to buck up that forward wall.

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★ **AS THE SNOWS OF WINTER** pile the streets and the old year dies these are the books we are reading these long evenings: **The Black Rose**—a story of how a Saxon lad who was very handsome and very brave loved and wed a beautiful Chinese gal who was only half Chinese in the rugged but picturesque days of Kubla Kahn, many centuries ago, all done in the best tradition of Walter Scott and Arthur Conan Doyle. **Cass Timberlane**—Sinclair Lewis mumbling in his beard as he half forgets in the retelling, a story that he told in Main Street these many long years ago. **The White Tower**—the story of a mountain and of the loves and desires that impel five men and a woman who seek to conquer it. **The Peacock Sheds His Tail**—all about a rich and aristocratic family in old Mexico and how it falls apart at the seams. **So Well Remembered**—about a husband and a wife who do not see eye to eye and who do not stand shoulder to shoulder. All right if you like James Hilton a lot. **Three O'Clock Dinner**—the old south and the new south, as represented by two families in Charleston. And last, and I would say least, there is the sensational, silly, story of Hughie Long's life that is going to make its author, whoever she is, a very wealthy woman, **"A Lion Is In The Streets."** It'll be bad as a movie, but it couldn't be worse than the book. But as I say, my friend, lots of people are reading it.

And as you sit at home of an evening and turn on the radio, its ten to one that you'll hear these tunes, "It's Been a Long, Long

Time"; "I Can't Begin to Tell You"; "Chickery Chick", a nonsense tune that everyone hums, but whose word noises few have mastered; "It Might As Well Be Spring"; "Symphony"; "Waitin' for the Train To Come In"; "That's For Me"; "White Christmas", after Crosby doing all he did for this sweetie, now they got Sinatra singing it; "I'll Buy That Dream"; "It's Only a Paper Moon"; "Did You Ever Get That Feeling in the Moonlight"; "Till the End of Time"; "Just a Little Fond Affection"; "Lily Belle"; and "In the Middle of May".

Around the country, people who are seeing things at night say these movies are among the best now showing: "Cornered" with Dick Powell in his new role of tough detective; "The Bells of St. Mary's", the crooner back in a cassock again going along the same way and the Bergman looking very beautiful in a sister's wimple; "The Lost Weekend", or boy what a weekend, with Ray Milland as the guy with the bottle; "Saratoga Trunk", Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman making love in the gay nineties. It was okay then, too. "Confidential Agent". We were sure Lauren (the look) Bacall wasn't going to have to waste all her sweetness on Bogart. Here, she garners in that aging prince of all lovers, Charles Boyer.

★ **AROUND THE TOWN.** The home Christmas decoration contest sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce was won by Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Thomas, 1813 Sixth Avenue North. It brought an award of \$15 and a photo of the display. Next year, greater things are expected with hundreds of entries wanted to make Fort Dodge the best decorated city in the United States . . . Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Umsted, Dayton, have observed their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married Christmas day in 1895. He is a brother of Bob Umsted, deputy sheriff . . . Sgt. John Atwell offered to be a witness against Tatsuo Tsuchiya "little glass eye" in the latter's war crime trial. The Jap was a guard at the prison camp where John was confined. John was not called by the government . . . Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Ward Wednesday observed their 50th wedding anniversary . . . The AMVETS are planning a big New Year's party at the Warden Hotel, Dec. 30 . . . The Dodger Matmen defeated East Des Moines last Friday, 31 to 11 . . . Corpus Christi cagers won over the Sacred Heart five 31-26 last Friday . . . One bit of good news is that tire rationing will be over January 1 . . . Dr. H. C. Kluever and Dr. C. H. Coughlan have resumed their practices here . . . Rev. Arnold Bertram, former army chaplain, has been installed as pastor of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Waterloo . . . A pet crow of John Kolesar, Jr., has been raising the dickens. He has been seen looting mail boxes in the South 15th Street area and the neighborhood is alerted for further thefts . . . Capt. W. R. Cox has retired from Co. G. after 29 years service. Command has been turned over to 1/Lt. Leonard J. Pint.

★ **KVFD CHRISTMAS PARTY.** The KVFD gang had survived Christmas Day with all its trimmings only to continue the festivities by holding a party the night after Christmas. The gang gathered at the Royal 400 about 8:30 for a big steak dinner and what have you. It was a fine party and all the gang would have liked to have had all of you on hand to enjoy the fun.

★ **We play all requests.** Just send us the name, telephone number and home address of your best girl and, of course, the name of the tune you'd like. We do the rest. This service is free!

★ **OVER HERE.** Pete Lang is with the ships company at the US Naval Air Gunners School at Jacksonville, Fla. He is the company's Master at Arms. His wife, the former Audrey Sweeney, of Fort Dodge, is with him. They are going to have a baby along in February. "I hope it's a boy," writes Pete . . . Edgerly Watts is going to school at Jacksonville and Willard Castor and Joe Herkenrider are stationed at Green Cove Springs not far away. "Willard is my cousin. I hadn't seen him in three years." Pete will be out in January of 1947. . . S/Sgt. Gene Person is stationed at Great Bend, Kansas, and when last heard from had hopes of being home for Christmas . . . Pvt. Duane Longstaff who recently reenlisted in the army for 18 months is now in an overseas replacement depot at Kearns, Utah. "It looks as if I'd be on the high seas soon headed for Japan." . . . Pvt. Bobbie Black, MCWR, is still in at Santa Ana, Cal. "I'll be coming home just as soon as they lower those points below my sixteen." . . . Leonard Myer, MoM 2/c. is at Whidbey Island, Wash. . . Chaplain T. V. L. Harvey, pastor of the First Baptist Church, has reported at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., for his discharge after service in the Philippines . . . John Hefley, MM 3/c, is at a western separation center on his way out . . . S/Sgt. Vernon G. Johnston has landed at Nor-

folk, Va., from Europe . . . Cpl. J. E. Duncan . . . Maj. John O'Connell has landed at Seattle from Okinawa . . . T/Sgt. Verle T. Smith is in the states . . . James E. Hinton, BM 2/c, is at Minneapolis awaiting discharge.

★ **ON OKINAWA.** Cpl. Wilbur J. Swanson is with the quartermaster corps on Okinawa.

★ **HOLIDAY FURLOUGHS.** Pvt. Richard Albright is here from Lowry Field, Colorado . . . Lt. William Rice had 15 days delay in orders and was home . . . Ens. Lloyd Fuhrmeister . . . Lt. Blaine Asher at his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Clark . . . Merwin J. Hood, RM 3/c, here for the holidays . . . Sgt. Dean Tuel . . . Lt. (jg) Nora M. Toohy here from Quonset Point, R. I. . . F/O John Owen . . . Pfc. Dean Olson . . . Lt. (jg) Norman Carroll . . . Sgt. J. F. Krivolavy . . . Lt. Don Hauser . . . Lt. Col. George Schoolcraft . . . Richard E. Woodard, S 2/c . . . John Anderson . . . Pfc. Albert Habhab . . . Officer Candidate Jack Foster from Fort Benning, Ga. . . 2/Lt. John J. Dowd.

★ **DOWN THE MIDDLE AISLE.** Virginia M. Cummins to Robert Post here Dec. 20 . . . Margaret Hergenreter to Donald Dickerson here Dec. 10 . . . Evelyn Johnson to Sgt. Robert Bannister at Camp Lejeune, N. C., Nov. 10 . . . Mrs. Anna Quade to George L. Brown here Dec. 12 . . . June Gibbs to R. D. Graham at Forest Park, Dec. 7 . . . Mrs. Velva DuBois to Ed Freitag here Dec. 22.

★ **IN PHILIPPINES.** Cpl. James Hanrahan has arrived on Luzon after a 46-day ocean cruise from the European theatre.

★ **HOME FOR GOOD.** Major George R. Anderson is home at Griswold, Iowa, on terminal leave, expects to be out the 1st of February . . . T5 Edward Riley is out of the service and living the life of Riley in California . . . He is now Mr. Harold Rohrer and living at Emmetsburg, Iowa . . . Elmer L. Courter is out of the service, home for good, and living at 115 North 8th Street . . . Wesley Ramsden is out of the service, home for good, and living at Union, Iowa . . . B. J. Willis is out of the service and back home at Williams, Iowa . . . R. F. Hart, Y 1/c, now home on furlough from the Canal Zone, leaves soon for the Great Lakes Separation Center and a discharge . . . Jack D. Brown is out of the service and living at 711 Maple Street, Atlantic, Iowa . . . Harold Vere Barnes was discharged Nov. 24, and is at home at 1220 South 24th Street . . . Joe W. Dodgen is discharged and living at 1129 South 17th Street . . . John N. Hartquist, discharged . . . Ralph Crosby, discharged . . . Conrad Taylor, discharged . . . Harry Rounds, discharged and in Fort Dodge . . . Frank Medd, discharged and at West Union, Iowa . . . LeRoy R. Nelson, discharged . . . Roy Schaeffer, discharged . . . Carroll Miller, discharged and at home in Callender . . . Myron G. Piltingsrud, discharged . . . Omer Peterson is discharged and in Fort Dodge . . . Capt. Willis F. Rich, Jr., inactive duty . . . Ralph Kurtz, QM 2/c . . . Howard Ericson now is enrolled at Iowa U . . . Eldred Prang is again working as display man at Gates after 45 months in the army . . . Cpl. R. J. Parsons . . . Ens. L. A. Hambleton plans to attend Junior College the next term . . . Lt. (jg) George A. Otto . . . 1/Lt. Paul E. Webb out after three and a half years . . . Kenneth J. King, S 1/c, is back home at Barnum . . . James R. Skinner is out of the Marines . . . S/Sgt. Merrill Saunders . . . Cpl. Ralph E. Butzier . . . Dale Irvine, EM 3/c . . . Lt. (jg) Francis Anderson, terminal leave . . . Capt. Clarence T. Johnson on terminal leave . . . Cpl. Robert Bonnell . . . Capt. D. Cole McMartin, Jr., inactive duty . . . M/Sgt. Merlin S. Rufer again is working for the Webster County Abstract Company . . . Sgt. Ralph Boge . . . S/Sgt. Byron Fjetland . . . William Leadley.

★ **PACIFIC.** Pfc. Harold E. Bentley is on Luzon island in the Philippines. He is attached to a chemical outfit checking gas masks and is located east of Manila below the Sara Mochie mountains . . . Robert J. Ault, S 1/c, is in the Ship Repair Base at Manicani Island in the Philippines . . . Cpl. Edward C. Chada is moving from New Guinea to the Philippines. "I've been here helping the Dutch work hell out of the Jap prisoners."

★ **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.** Christmas greetings from Mr. and Mrs. John Bergstrom now living at Newton, Iowa . . . Christmas greetings from John D. Bockert, AM 3/c, now located at the US Naval Air station, Coco Solo, Upham, Canal Zone. John says it is really hot down there and that there isn't much to do . . . Greetings of the season from Pvt. William Ondrejka, stationed at Camp Robinson, Little Rock, Ark. . . Christmas Greetings from Sgt. Edith Fiderlick, Ft. Mason, Cal. "It's hard for me to picture Christmas without snow since this is the first Christmas I have spent away from Iowa." . . . Christmas greetings from LeRoy Daiker, Ships Service Station, Little Creek, Virginia . . . A Christmas card from Ensign and Mrs. John F. Potter, East Greenwich, R. I. "Hope to be home sometime soon." . . . A Christmas card from Mr. and Mrs. Ted Rule, 6119 Brayton Ave., Long Beach 5, Cal. They were married in Las Vegas, Dec. 15, 1945.

★ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** No. 2, Vol. 2 of the Super Fort from Okinawa from someone, don't know the sender. Some diligent little pixie got the wrapper off before it ever got to me. But thanks, fellow. You know how those things happen, even in the best of families.

★ **COMING HOME.** S/Sgt. Herbert Skoog, of Dayton, is on his way home from the Haneda Air Base at Tokyo . . . Sgt. Tom Welch is on his way home from somewhere out there-a-way . . . Salathiel and Duane Andeberg, brothers, are coming home soon . . . Dick Sternitzke's parents received a telegram from him stating he was leaving Osaka, Dec. 23, for a disposition center . . . Frank Welch, MoMM 3/c, is aboard ship on the way to the U. S. A. . . Pfc. Wilbur Hendrickson is on his way back from Okinawa.

★ **GOING UP.** John M. Dodgen, S 2/c to S 1/c . . . Donald McLoughlin, Cpl. to Sgt. . . Willard Jamison, from Cpl. to Sgt.

★ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Leo Campbell is home for 30 days before receiving his discharge . . . Earl Larson is home on terminal leave and will receive his discharge Jan. 22.

★ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Pfc. C. A. Wegman, FPO, San Francisco—"I believe I wrote you before and said I hoped to be home for Christmas with our division. Most of us did think we would go home with the division, but we just sent all men with 50 points or 24 months overseas home. The division was to go state side but because of trouble in China we are making drafts out of the division and being sent to China and Japan. Most all of us will be sent to China where it's to be very cold with all the winter gear we are now getting. We will leave here just before Christmas though I wish it was now so we could have a white Christmas in China. Besides this we are having trouble here with Japs who have been hiding in the jungle and are coming into camp at night. We send patrols out in the day for them and get one now and then but have lost five marines on patrol being shot. I look to be coming home from China about in July of '46 for I'll have two years overseas with a couple of battle stars then. Some of us boys over here have received letters from the folks at home saying it was on the news, "all men who fought on Iwo Jima were coming home." We have never received that news over here so when they ask us when we are leaving for home, the answer is we are going to China. The boys here asked me to ask you what kind of news they are giving the people at home to get the folks at home hopes up. When in writing home, we can only say it isn't true because we fought on Iwo Jima and are going to China. I'm glad we are getting off this rock and going to China. It will give us something to do, also make time pass faster until we leave for home. We will be able to see some cities, have liberty once again, and tell about being in China. There's nothing like seeing the country while we are over here and can't get home yet." I hadn't heard that story, Clarence, but we have been disappointed in other statements made by army officials.

Capt. M. O. Barbee, Kyongsong, Korea—"I am very happy to announce that I am among those old timers who have finished their job in the Army and are now awaiting transportation back to the U. S.—and civilian life. Almost 4 years with this division fully explains my travels and experiences in this war. (Reference: Saturday Evening Post "The 7th Division Made it the Hard Way"). It is unexcelled anywhere. I'm proud of it. I have appreciated the news letter immensely the past two years and would like to continue getting it until I get back to Fort Dodge. In the meantime, please send it to me at: 2707 Lafayette St., St. Joseph, Mo.

Pfc. Earl T. Hay, APO 957, San Francisco—"Am on Oahu, in Hawaii, with the Medical Detachment of the 30th Engineers, working in an underground plant. Was over to the gymnasium the other day and ran into Clifford Hahn. Was glad to see him. I learned from Your Letter From Home that he was stationed here. We're only a block apart. Would like to be back in the cold weather. It's warm here the year round."

Pfc. Bernard Kutz, Okinawa—"Today I received a nice deck of cards from you and I am very thankful to you all for them as the cards we have were getting rather thick. My buddies and I play a lot of rummy to pass the time some, yet it is plenty long sometimes. My outfit is one of the outfits that is stationed on the southernmost part of the island of Okinawa. At present, we are pulling guard duty around an ammo dump. My company goes on duty every third day for 24 hours at a time. The weather here has been quite rainy for the most part, and now it is getting colder as winter is coming on. I'd sure like to be home now but don't look like I'll get there for quite awhile yet as I only have 44 points and there are still boys here with 80 points."

And there were other grand letters from everywhere. And now just over the horizon lies the New Year full of hope and promise. A New Year that begins with the world no longer at war, a New Year in which we may lay the foundations of a lasting peace, bind up the old and bitter wounds of war. I hope it is a year that will bring you home to your family, your sweetheart, your friends, back to your own state and your own town. I hope that it may be full of opportunity for you and that you may fully realize and exploit those opportunities. Shucks, what I mean is, I hope you'll be well and happy and successful, that things will come your way. You've given a lot for all of us, a lot that we will never be able to repay. All we can say is, thanks for everything. We'll be happy when you are home. Happy New Year.

Your home town correspondent,

Ed Breen.