

Your Letter From Home

Son: Pop, I got a bad mark in school today and it's your fault.
 Pop: How's that son?
 Son: Remember when I asked you how much a million dollars was?
 Pop: Yes, I remember.
 Son: Well, a "helluva lot" ain't the answer.
 (From Belvoir Castle, Ft. Belvoir, Va.)

Sent To You With The Best Wishes of
 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 Loyal Order of Moose
 American Legion and 40 & 8

Soldier: "I've called to ask your consent to marry your daughter, sir."
 Father: "Have you seen her mother?"
 Soldier: "Yeah—but that is all right. We'll be living out of town."
 (From "The Transmitter, Boca Raton, A. A. F., Fla.)

Radio Station K V F D

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

Vol 2, No. 18

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

February 23, 1945

☉ **DEAR JOE:** This is Washington's birthday. And Fort Dodge looks like Valley Forge must have looked during that terrible winter when the tattered army of the Continental Congress starved and froze and cursed the luck as they fought on in what often must have seemed the hopeless cause of liberty . . . We had a snow storm yesterday—a New England, Currier and Ives snow-storm—well-mannered and picturesque but very industrious. It started in the morning at eight o'clock and kept up 'till six in the evening. And all day long it fell as beautifully as snow in one of those glass paper weights. And by night it had covered everything with eleven inches of snow . . . This morning when we came to work we put on our four buckle galoshes and plowed down the middle of the street. It isn't cold, 24 degrees above, but school is out nearly everywhere but in Fort Dodge. School is out in Barnum, Clare, Manson, Lehigh, Rockwell City, Somers, Calender, Otho, Moorland, Dayton, Burnside, Gilmore City, Jolley, Deercreek No. 4, Colfax Township Schools, No. 1, 2, 3, and 4, Douglas No. 2, 6, and 9. The Rosedale School, the Neudeck School, Cooper No. 2, Clay No. 1, Elkhorn No. 6, and the Topper School in Elkhorn Township. And even the Methodist luncheon at Lehigh had to be postponed . . . Wouldn't it be great to be a kid today?

☉ **AROUND THE TOWN.** Banks, public offices, the municipal building, all were closed yesterday, Washington's birthday. In the evening the Legion held its all-town vaudeville show with thirteen groups competing for prizes . . . The Iowa State College Symphony orchestra is playing here Monday evening for the milk fund . . . The Sportsmen's dinner for Ducks Unlimited was so big last week that many members are still holding their heads. Over eleven hundred came for dinner and stayed for games and light refreshments . . . Chief business so far of the Iowa legislature has been the raising of salaries. An 86% increase in the salary of mayors of various Iowa cities was opposed by Senator C. V. Findley, of Fort Dodge, but it passed anyway, 35 to 3 . . . Don Chapman, age 27, was killed while at work in the Certainteed Mill last Saturday evening. He was caught in a belt. His brother Walter is an ensign in the navy . . . W. L. "Bill" Hamilton is on his way to South Africa, where he will carry on for Uncle Sam as head man in an OWI office, supplying propaganda to the Boer area . . . Want a horse? The police have four. The owner disappeared after leaving them at a local stockyard. He forgot to leave his name and address. The police are tired of buying hay. Anyone want a horse? . . . The Fort Dodge Serum Company and all other defendants in the Department of Justice case charging them with restraint of trade have been found not guilty. Case was tried in Chicago . . . Harold Burch is the new president of the Ft. D. Retailers . . . Fulton Lewis, Jr., is speaking at the High School auditorium, Feb. 28th . . . K V F D is giving away "Twinkle Kid," a black and white Tom Mix pony to the grade school boy or girl collecting the most scrap paper in the next two weeks . . . The boys and girls of Webster County are going to write you some more letters soon. Last fall they wrote 2500. This spring we hope they'll write 4500 so that there will be one letter to go with every Y L F H. Last time we proposed it. This time, because you wrote such grand letters back to them, they proposed it . . . With today's letter you'll find a postcard. Please fill it out and send it back. We want to bring our files up to date and add to them your home address or those of your parents, and any other information you want to give us. You might tell us when you went in and where you've been. Decorations, wound stripes, etc. It will be a big help if everyone does it. Thanks a lot.

☉ **OVER HERE.** "Keep 'Em Praying" writes Harry James Lansman, S 1/c, from Port Hueneme, Cal. "I have been mightily blessed and am now in the station force out here" . . . Ralph Stephan is at Alexandria, La. "It's my first winter in 40 spent without seeing a single flake of snow." . . . Dean Wright is now T/5 and at Camp Hood, Tex. "I was home in January and had a wonderful time but my feet were cold all the time. I could get used to that, though." . . . Cpl. Cliff Strand is working on heavy bombers and going to school on Superforts at Hunter Field, Ga. . . Lt. (j. g.) H. E. Fryer is at the Naval Training Station, Newport, R. I. . . Ens. F. W. Anderson is at Pensacola, Fla. . . Pfc. Florence Dixon, M. C. W. R., is at Cherry Point, N. C. . . Leo H. Glenn, S 2/c, is a papa. His daughter was born Feb. 13th in Los Angeles. "Both (mother and daughter) are doing swell." Leo is at San Pedro . . . Pvt. James A. Fairbanks is at Roswell, New Mexico . . . 1/Lt. Al Langehaug, in Cambridge, Ohio, and Congressman James I. Doliver, in Washington, have come to the aid of your beat-down editor in securing thumbnail information on the GI Bill of Rights. We'll have something for you soon. A letter to Waltah the Winchell has brought no reply as yet. It would appear that I have not the old Maestro's touch . . . Pvt. Joe Coughlin is at Camp Roberts, Cal. . . Enfred E. Linder, R. M. 3/c, is now a backseat driver in a Curtis Helldiver. He's getting his mail UB-18, F. P. O., San Francisco . . . Lt. Dale R. Hauser is at Camp Howze, Tex. . . Jack R. Kearns, A/S, is at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn. Thanks, Jack, for the Gustavian Weekly . . . Eugene Conway, S 1/c, is at Morro Bay, Cal. . . Lt. Don J. Perkins is at Langley Field, Va. . . Lt. (j. g.) C. A. Black is now at San Pedro, Cal. C. A.'s previous rank was B. M. 2/c. Congratulations! . . . Pvt. Sam Westbrook is at Camp Robinson, Ark. . . J. H. Henderson, SP (V) 3/c, is with Naval Air Transport Service at Amarillo A. A. F., Texas . . . Pvt. Phillip N. Hunt, formerly of the 34th Division, is now at Camp Carson, Colo., in charge of arms and instruments shop. He says "hello" to Bob and Dale Wood and all his old friends here and over there.

☉ **BELGIUM.** From Belgium, Sgt. John E. Sully says "hello" to all his friends and asks us to play for Mrs. John E. "I'll Walk Alone." We played it, John . . . T/5 Al Saboe, writing from Belgium says, "The news sounds pretty good. Come on, Russians!"

☉ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** T/4 Glen Farmer is in France. We'll play that number, Glen, a little late, but still good . . . Somewhere in France is T/5 Morris Peterson, and hoping to be in Germany soon . . . The Red Diamond of the 5th division from Sgt. David Price somewhere in France. Thanks, Dave . . . Somewhere in France, Pvt. Bobbie Fallon is in a hospital with a fractured arm and bad knee. He was hurt in an accident . . . Here's the latest weather report (Feb. 4th) from Pvt. Clarence Forstlund, somewhere in France. "Just like spring in Iowa. Sunshine, warm breezes and a little rain. It makes me a little homesick." . . . Dale Lindquist, R. M. 3/c, is working at the biggest naval radio station in France. Stationed near him is Dana Perrin . . . Cpl. Ray Fuller is in France, in one of the towns that his uncle spent some time in, in World War I . . . Lt. Oliver H. Smith, with the Signal Corps, is somewhere in France.

☉ **HOLLAND.** Pfc. Foster Funk is in Holland. "I just heard of the death of Joe Tierney. That was quite a bad shock."

☉ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** "The Yankee Bee" from E. L. Courter, Ph M. 3/c, c/o F. P. O., San Francisco. Thanks, E. L. . . The shoulder patch of the 2nd Marine Division from Roger L. Fevold, somewhere in the Pacific. Thanks, Rog . . . "Division Doin's" and the patch of the 8th Division from S/Sgt. C. A. Garlock, somewhere in Germany. Thanks, C. A. I hope your platoon leader is right. P. L. says, "end of the war—March 15th." . . . The patch of the Amphibious Corps from Willard Soppeland, Mo M. M. 1/c. Thanks, Bill . . . The Seabees patch, and the first one in the collection, from Don Smith, S 2/c, Port Hueneme, Cal. Thanks, Don . . . "The Sunflower" from Lt. Robt. Riggs, Topeka, Kansas, Winter General Hospital. Thanks, Lt. . . A very rare patch from M/Sgt. Paul R. Meyer, now at Lowry Field, Denver, Colo. This patch is worn by the personnel of the 15th Army Group—American and British Combined Hqs., above the U. S. 5th Army and the Br. 8th Army in Italy. It's a small patch, an almost square red background outlined in blue, on this a white dome-shaped center crossed horizontally with three wavy blue lines. Thanks, Paul . . . "The Stars and Stripes" from Sgt. Harold Moen, somewhere in Germany. Thanks, Harold. We'll play that number for the folks at Badger. Harold and his group are sleeping in the basement of a hotel. "A good place to be when the guns sound off." . . . "The Casual Observer" and "The Clipper" from Lyle O. Bloomquist, Le Moore, Cal. Thanks, Lyle.

☉ **IRAN.** Cpl. Stanley Lawson has been in India, Egypt, and South America. Now he's in Iran and hopes to be home this summer.

☉ **HIGH C'S.** Kenneth R. Janssen, F 1/c, is on the U. S. S. Ajax . . . Still somewhere out of San Francisco is W. S. McGill aboard the U. S. S. Independence. Hope you get those packages sometime, fellow . . . J. D. "Don" Berry, S 1/c (RdM) is on the U. S. S. Harmon, out of San Francisco . . . Allen E. Webber, F 2/c, is on the U. S. S. Shields in some part of the Pacific where the rain comes down "just like someone turned on a faucet." Thanks, Al, for "The Salute." . . . Jack M. Fitzgerald, E. M. 3/c, writes from a submarine rest camp, "Tell the fellows to watch for the Kingfish and I may be able to meet someone I know."

☉ **SUNNY ITALY.** There's 14 inches of snow on the Italian front, writes Pfc. Vasilli Vannoni. "Now we've got snow instead of mud." Pfc. LeRoy Guderian is in the hospital in Italy with yellow jaundice. "My first time in 2½ years overseas." Good luck, fellow . . . T/5 F. A. Engelbart, writing near a smokey oil drum stove in Italy, says a very special "hello" to Larry Geer.

☉ **PACIFIC.** Lt. Bob Tucker is flying with the "Jolly Rogers," a heavy bomb group in the Dutch East Indies . . . Pfc. Neno F. Diane is working on the line on all types of planes on the island of Oahu.

☉ **MERRY ENGLAND.** Jack Skophammer is a Sgt. now. He's in the hospital with acute tonsillitis somewhere in England. Sgt. Girard is another Fort Dodge patient.

☉ **GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER.** Lt. I. C. Wogensen and F/O John Owens, somewhere in England. "That's the only Dodger happenstance I've encountered to date." . . . Merlin James Williams, S 1/c, and Robert Riles, on Island X. While they were looking up Lt. Don Evans, they got a ticket for crossing an airfield without permission. They plan to look up Jack Jones, who chauffeurs the commander of the naval base . . . R. W. Jones, M. A. M. 2/c, Paul Steinmaus, of Duncombe, and Walter Brockman, somewhere in New Guinea. R. W. is a mailman. In the navy since '41, he's been sorting letters ever since. Thanks, R. W., for the "Evening News."

☉ **RECENTLY TED GALLUP,** former Jefferson, Iowa, boy, now Prof. Gallup, of Gallup's poll, announced to the world that in his survey of people throughout the country, Texas was about third among places where people would like to live. Your editor has been in Texas. What I saw was all right. I didn't fall in love with it nor did I hate it. BUT I have yet to hear from one GI who wants to live in Texas. Many refer to it as foreign duty. S/Sgt. Ward Roberts, whose picture appears in this week's "Bomb Blast," Childress Field, Texas, adds his bit. "Keep YLFH going—something like that helps to take one's mind off Texas." Texas promoters, hot-dog stand operators, Jesse Jones, and Jack Garner, please note. I wonder, I wonder whom Ted talks to!

☉ **BROTHERS INDIA.** Now there are three brothers from Fort Dodge in India, and not together either. Floyd Zeka and Bob Zeka have been there some time. Pfc. Henry joined them this month. He's at Korachi, India. Thanks, Henry, for the "Depot Echo."

☉ **EVERYTHING HAPPENS** to me. Bob Porter, who is now in Cuba, has taken to writing me postcards in Spanish. All I can read in it is "YLFH." If it means what I think it does brother, when you say that, smile."

★ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Sgt. Floyd Messerly from Camp Croft. He's on his way to Ft. Meade . . . Cpl. George Haire from Belgium, where he was with an evacuation hospital . . . Sgt. Joseph A. Hughes, from two years duty in the Aleutians . . . M/Sgt. Gayle Archibald, of Lehigh, from Iran . . . Maurice Tomlinson, S 1/c, from Farragut . . . Bernard Sadler, S 2/c, on his way to the west coast . . . Cpl. Warren Harding Yancey, from Hobbs, N. M. . . Sgt. Harry Bryson, from Italy . . . Raymond Prohaska, S 2/c, from Memphis, Tenn., where he is in radio school . . . Lt. Robert Wasem is back from the Pacific . . . Ray Salvason, Ph M 1/c, from an LCI used in the European Invasions . . . Sgt. Francis Stoddard, from Moxton, N. Carolina . . . T/Sgt. Robert Bell, from Selfridge Field, Michigan. Bob was in the Central Pacific for three and a half years . . . S/Sgt. Fred Vannoni from Australia, New Guinea, and the Philippines . . . Sgt. and Mrs. C. C. Flickinger from Childress, Texas . . . Merle J. Riechenberg, AMM 3/c, from Hutchinson, Kansas.

★ **LUCKY FELLOWS.** Bonniage Lowery and Cpl. Waldo Ballhorn, of Leke Park. No date set . . . Darlene Yvonne Mattram and Pfc. William Krambeck, of Spencer, Feb. 15th in Fort Dodge . . . Barbara Kershaw and Pvt. Robert Ballow, of Duluth, in Duluth . . . Thelma Maricle and Kenneth Gleason in Fort Dodge, Feb. 3rd . . . Burdette Beaulieu, of Bruce, Wis., and T/Sgt. Edmund Gochee, Feb. 5th in Bruce . . . Mary H. Gunderson and Bernard Bickford in Fort Dodge, Feb. 16th . . . Eunice Marie Gayette, of Spencer, and S/Sgt. Robert Paul Moore, Feb. 4th, in Spencer . . . Helen Pitkin, of Memphis, Mo., and Lt. (j. g.) George Rich in Dartmouth, England, Feb. 21st. Miss Pitkin has been overseas with the Red Cross. George is second in Command on a PC boat . . . Mr. and Mrs. Fred Scharf. They were married twenty-five years ago, Feb. 15th . . . Kathryn Meyer and Joe Winniger, in Fort Dodge, Feb. 12th . . . Jane Gross and Gaylen Parson. No date set . . . Eetty Jane Steburg and G. W. Adams, S 1/c, of Carlinville, Illinois, in Fort Dodge, Feb. 12th . . . Eva Marie Holliday and Norman Bloomquist in the Little Brown Church at Nashua, Feb. 12th . . . Hazel Jordison and A. B. Fitzner in Fort Dodge, Feb. 2nd . . . Lola Klingler and Russell Ball, Jr., S 2/c, of Moorland, in Portsmouth, Va., Feb. 7th . . . Carol Harris and Edward L. Lehman, of Humboldt, Feb. 22nd.

★ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** Lt. Col. Carl Youngdale, of Harcourt, has won the legion of merit award for exceptional ability and leadership during the invasion of Saipan. He is with the Marine artillery . . . Lt. Col. John Shrader is medical chief at evacuation hospital 116 with the 6th army in France . . . Robt. E. Mockett got his wings and was made a flight officer at San Marcos, Texas, last week . . . S/Sgt. Dale Reichert, S/Sgt. Keith Smokstad, S/Sgt. John P. Ondrejka, Jr., and T/4 Benny Salvatore are on board ship bound for home. They'll arrive at Charleston, S. D. early in March . . . Cpl. Richard "Dick" Welch has been awarded the bronze star for meritorious service on the 5th army front in Italy . . . Capt. Chester C. Acher, now Major Acher, has been awarded the bronze star for heroism in action. Single-handed, while leading his infantry company, he wiped out one tank, and his company neutralized three more.

★ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Reported missing in action on January 22nd, Lt. Jack McMahon is now reported by the war department as having been killed on that date. Jack was piloting a Thunderbolt over Luxembourg . . . Pfc. Darrel C. DuBois was wounded in action in Belgium, January 25th . . . Newton Williams, Sig. M 1/c, of Lehigh, was killed Nov. 10th, in the explosion that sank his ship, the Mount Hood . . . S/Sgt. Robert Willits has been wounded in action in France, and is now in a hospital in England. He was wounded in the foot Jan. 25th . . . Sgt. Paul Bloomquist was slightly wounded in action in Belgium, Jan. 15th . . . Pvt. Merle V. Gorman was slightly wounded in Luzon, Jan. 18th . . . Sgt. R. D. Ballard is a German Prisoner. He was reported missing in action on a flight over Austria, Dec. 11th . . . Eugene Smith, F 1/c, is reported missing. His ship, The Ommaney Bay, was sunk Feb. 6th, near Luzon . . . T/5 Russell Rae was wounded in action on Luzon, Jan. 19th . . . 1/Lt. Maurice J. Tierney is in a hospital in France with a broken leg. He fell into a fox hole . . . T/Sgt. Russell L. Schuly is missing in action over Germany since Jan. 22nd . . . T/5 Louis B. Eastwood was wounded in action in Belgium Jan. 17th . . . Cpl. Russell Rhodes was wounded in action in Belgium, Jan. 23rd.

★ **SCOREBOARD.** Dodger matmen, after the poorest season in years, staged a swell comeback for Coop and finished third in the district meet at Eagle Grove with three wins and one second place. Schuh at 95 pounds, Smith at 129, and Carlson, 155 pounds, were first place winners. Steinhoff, 145 pounds, took a second and Holland, at 135, and Prine, in the heavyweight class, took thirds. We'll have four men in the state meet. Eagle Grove won the meet with 37 points, Clarion was second with 27. Fort Dodge was third with twenty two . . . In their last home game, despite a garrison finish, the Dodgers lost again to the Mohawks, of Mason City, 22 to 21. The Mohawks piled up a 15 to 7 lead in the first half. The third quarter ended 20 to 13 in favor of the Mohawks. In the fourth quarter, the Dodgers went into a blazing finish, bringing the score up to 22 to 21. DiMarco, of the Mohawks, got the ball, held on to it for the closing two minutes, stalling 'till the clock ran out. Dodgers' Lockert was high scorer with 11 points. The Dodgers were good in the field, but couldn't connect on the free throws, sinking only one out of eight . . . New track shoes can't be had for money so Dodger Coach, Ben Duce, has issued an appeal to householders, asking them to dig out of basements and attics, the track shoes of yesteryear. Wonder what happened to Al's . . . Manson took Corpus Christi, 35 to 13, last Friday evening.

★ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** W. M. Skophammer, HAIC, Somewhere in the Aleutian Islands. "YLFH is always welcome in our hut. The other guys that read it are former residents of our fair city. Once in a while they find someone that they used to know. It is very interesting to note their reactions. Sometimes it is 'There is that bum I used to work for' or 'There is that swell old guy I used to caddy for.' Sometimes there is great joy when they find someone that they knew and were wondering what happened to them. So you see the paper serves quite a multitude of people."

James W. Ackerman, F 1/c, San Diego, California. "Perhaps you are curious about the training we receive. I can best give you some idea by relating my activities for today. Here goes: At five-thirty this morning the bugler opens the door and sounds reveille. By five-forty, and after many discourteous remarks from the barracks P. O., we are on our feet. Then we clean the barracks, eat, and scrub ourselves; it is then time for our seven o'clock muster. After that we wait; we're going out into the surf today. They issue us our lovely K rations; then more waiting, but we're in no hurry. Finally it is our turn to go abroad, our ship is an LCVP—length 36 feet. We cast off and maneuver out into the Bay. Varying our speed and course we thread our way thru the heavy stream of cross traffic. We lay to and let a ferry pass; then we speed up to

avoid an APA; now a PBY comes in low over our head for a landing. At last we are out in the open, and pulling alongside the training ship. I cannot tell you what maneuvers we go through next, but at last we are heading for the beach, our throttle at battle speed. Our deisel, which is my big worry, is running at her top RPM. There's no shutting her down or turning back now, because we're going through the breakers and have to get as far up on the beach as possible to keep our landing craft from broaching. If we turn sideways now the breakers will take the sides out of her. Now we cast out our anti-broaching lines to the beach party. We're ready to back her off now, and that is where our man at the wheel must display all of his skill. One wrong turn of the wheel and we're all in the drink. We have successfully backed out of the breaker line and one of the crew notices we are pumping out fuel oil with our bilge pump; so we pull alongside the repair boat. They discover a fuel oil leak, and now we're shipping more water than we should. The job is too big for them so the control boat orders us in. We return to the base; naturally we are disappointed. Naturally. The day ends with a five o'clock muster. Not a very exciting day, but another to be checked off of that large number of days still to be accounted for before our return to civilian life. The happiest day of our life."

Roger E. Viers, G. M. 3/c, Somewhere in France. "I've been seeing a lot of this country lately. It sure is in ruins. There are some of the prettiest cathedrals over here that one would ever wish to see. I saw the one the other day where Joan of Arc was tried and held prisoner."

T/5 James Buckroyd, Philippine Islands. "The Japs had pretty well convinced some of the poorer Filipinos with this 'Asiatic Co-Prosperity' talk. The Japs preached that the Filipinos and Japs were of the same color and should be treated as equals. But when the Japs started slapping and kicking them, the Filipinos caught on in a hurry. After that the Japs made no bones about a 'phony' friendship and started making it tough for the Filipinos. They bought most of the civilian cars for about 4,000 pesos or just enough money to pay for four bushels of rice. Japanese socks, (which the Filipinos couldn't wear because they contained no heels) were sold for about seventy-five pesos. But, the Filipinos had their own method for getting even. They planted fields of what the Japs thought was rice, but when it grew up it turned into an ugly green plant which no respectable Carabou would eat. We were invited to a Filipino's house the other night. He played several original Filipino Tunes, 'Niepia Hut' and 'Planting Rice' on the piano or us. For the next three hours he entertained us with his arrangements of pre-war American Tunes, and it was strictly out of this world. Radio Tokyo's views of this war are sometimes very humorous. They summed up our re-capture of Manila in this way: 'The Americans claimed to have retaken Manila. This is pure Allied Propaganda, for the bulk of the American Forces are trapped in their original beachhead; and even if this report is true, the fall of Manila is insignificant.'

Pvt. Dean Wilcox, Belgium. "Nothing much new in this part of the world—getting plenty of snow and cold weather—living like gophers, but managing to keep warm and dry. We do have a borrowed stove and does it ever consume the wood. I certainly see now why the buzz saw was such a huge success—just now put five big chunks in, and I know it wasn't ten minutes ago that I did the same thing."

Lt. Col. Roger M. Minkel, Somewhere in Italy. "B. G. Marchi is back again, arrived in the division about a week ago. I haven't seen Bill Thatcher for about a month, but he is well and we got together in Florence early in January. Col. John M. Price was in to see me the other day—he's with the heavy bombers over here. Absolutely, he is the largest man I have ever seen. If he isn't on your mailing list I'm sure he'd like to be. Dorothy can give you his address—I don't have it here. Of course, I see Bill Burnquist nearly every day. Dick Welch is attached to the division, but I haven't seen him yet. Say hello to Al Loomis, Tom Healy and any of the rest that are around there for me. Hope to see them soon." (We'll play that number, Rog.)

Sgt. Earl D. Beck, New Jersey. "I am stationed at Caven Point Terminal—part of the Transportation Corps. They call us 'Rear Gunners on the Sea Beach Express'—just a short name for guard duty. Knowing the army as you do through letters, you must know how they change names to suit themselves. The work is uninteresting after the Infantry, but is of a secret nature. My wife and son, Earl D. (Butch) Jr., are staying here with me now. We are living in Newark, New Jersey. Butch is only four months old, but he's learning about Army Life early, but if he takes his first step on the left foot I'll cut it off. That's too G. I. for me."

Cpl. Sol Ashkenaze, France. "It hasn't been too long since I last talked with you, but so much has happened that it seems like a dream. Spring is breaking thru here, and all the farmers are out from dawn to dusk with their hand plows. The countryside is really beautiful. Say 'Hello' to Al and all my friends for me. Receiving YLFH regularly. I wish it were only larger."

Lt. Ben Larson, Belgium. "Came bouncing through Belgium and on into Germany without hardly a care in the world. Had no more than stretched out a bit, when up came brother John. His outfit was located on the next hill. Hadn't seen him since '42. We arranged dinner together on the 16th of Dec. We sure missed that meal. The Germans seemed to come forever, and I lost track of most everything except that little fox hole. Several weeks ago we were able to make contact again, and I was able to pass on the news from home. Am now located, I am sure, close to George H., but as yet haven't been able to find his unit. My best to Al—I do miss our beer. This stuff is pretty lousy. All in all, it's been interesting and damned exciting—am ready to come home, but quick!"

Happy Washington's birthday everyone. It was swell of you to write so many wonderful letters. Besides those we've acknowledged one way and another, there were others from Cpl. Floyd Wempe, APO 16959, New York; W. S. McGill, B. M. 1/c, FPO, San Francisco; S/Sgt. John J. Moore, Santa Ana, Calif.; Sgt. John E. Scully, APO 257, New York; Pfc. Marvin Inman, APO 205, Fort Riley, Kansas; Pfc. Foster F. Funk, APO 339, New York; Cpl. Ernest E. Beverlin, APO 34, New York; Capt. Max S. Wortman, APO 230, New York; Pfc. Wilbur C. Springer, APO 772, New York; Pvt. Roy P. Largent, APO 502, San Francisco; Pvt. Virgil Booheister, Camp Haan, Calif.; Lt. John I. Lynch, Little Creek, Va.; Walter Cooklin, APO 406, New York. (We'll play that number, Walt.)

Thanks so much . . . and here we are at the end of letter number 18 in Volume Two, Printed this 23rd day of February, in this year of victory, A. D. 1945 . . . We cannot tell a lie. We did it with our own little pen. And here's hoping you have ice cream with your cherry pie. So long Joe. Keep 'em crying, "Kamerad." As for the Japs, just keep 'em crying.

Your home town correspondent,
Ed Breen.