

Your Letter From Home

Cpl. I'd like to get a book.
Librarian: Something light
or heavy?

Cpl. Doesn't matter. I've
got my car outside.

—Belvoir Castle
from Ft. Belvoir, Va.

Sent To You With The Best Wishes Of

Royal 400 Oil Company
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
Radio Station K V F D

"Say, Pop, did you go to
Sunday School when you
were a little boy?"

"Yes, son, regularly."

"I'll bet it won't do me any
good, either."

—Belvoir Castle
from Ft. Belvoir, Va.

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

Vol. 2, No. 47

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

September 14, 1945

DEAR JOE: You know the first thing you are going to ask when you come home? I know. We're going to be standing on the corner near Constantine's or the Postoffice or in front of Donly's (Henderson's to you) or out in front of the Warden, and a beautiful gal is going to float past. And I'm going to say "hello" to her—it's all right at my age for me to say "hello" to all beautiful girls from six to sixty—and I honestly try to know them all—if I don't, I ask—and that's what you are going to do. Yes, sir, you are going to ask. And I'm going to be your pal. I'm going to tell you. And most likely you are going to find that the gorgeous femme is the little pig-tailed girl that you used to see working on an all-day sucker as she brought a loaf of bread home from the neighborhood store. . . . Yes, sir, Joe, she's all grown up now and pretty wonderful. But she misses you. I envy you, fellow. You're going to have a swell time getting acquainted again, meeting a lot of charming people in your own home town. It looks to me like the world was your oyster. Hurry home, Joe.

AROUND THE TOWN. The streets just aren't wide enough for some of our fellow citizens since gas came back. Sunday morning about 2:30 a. m. Carl Heinze, driving a truck and feeling very happy, smacked into Bert Burnquist's car which was parked on 1st Ave. South right in front of the Warden Apts. The impact drove the Burnquist car back into another parked car owned by the Delano Marble Works. Both cars got chewed up horribly. Next morning Carl paid a \$100 fine. . . . Tuesday morning early Fay Johnson found the street a little narrow near the S & W Drug so he drove onto the sidewalk and into the building. Fay thought nothing of the big hole in his radiator and without a by-your-leave drove home. Clever cops followed the radiator trail, nabbed Fay as he was going into his home at 216 So. 16th St. \$100 or 30 days. . . . Fred Cooper has been interviewed by the state board of control. Local big wigs have talked to the governor. Dope is that Fred will be appointed superintendent of the boys school at Eldora, a kindly, stout hearted fellow for a very tough but worthwhile job. . . . KVFD has been presented with a certificate of commendation by the American Legion Auxiliary. The presentation was made by Mrs. A. Z. Lloyd, president. . . . Everyone turned out Wednesday evening, grown ups and children, for the fall opening; bobby soxers and fancy pantsers for the annual pep rally outside the stadium. All that got burned up this year was a park table and three barrels of oil liberated from a down town filling station. The high school mob drove like mad around town in chariots older than the one Ben Hur used. No one was killed. . . . Mrs. Guy Knudson, of Badger, will continue her letters to boys from her congregation who are in service. . . . What with games of chance still frowned upon by the City Fathers, the annual Ducks Unlimited party this year was so circumspect that it went high hat and moved into the Wakhonsa Ballroom. Everybody could see and enjoy the movie, "Good Hunting Brother". . . . Harry Brown went fishing Thursday morning below the lower dam, caught himself a walleye pike, weight 8 pounds 6 ounces, tied the seasons record. The tied walleye was caught by Gordon Cristopher of Humboldt, July 1st. . . . County employees had their annual picnic this week at the Lauderdale cabin. . . . Tonight we play Albert Lea, first of the Dodger grid battles for 1945. Watch the scoreboard next week. . . . Flash—the city swimming pool will show a profit of about \$500. for the season. . . . Sgt. Herbie Tyrrell telephoned his sister, Mrs. Margaret McGhee from Rome this week. Herbie'll be home for Thanksgiving. . . . Exclusive of junior college 3,779 pupils are now in school in Ft. Dodge, an increase of 50 over last year, and the first gain in years.

GOING UP. Richard C. Anderson, of Lanyon, from Petty Officer 3/c to Petty Officer 2/c. Dick's been in the navy nearly four years and will be out in November or December. . . . Orville Smith, Pfc. to Cpl.; Edwin A. Adson, MM 3/c to 2/c; Lennis W. Bloomquist, S 1/c to GM 3/c; Wilbur Derrig, Pvt. to Cpl.; Sigwel J. Simonson, Cpl. to T/4; Walter Steburg, Pfc. to Sgt.; Vergil Carl Larson, S 2/c to 1/c; Sidney Haase, Cpl. to Sgt.; Louis Fideler, Jr., Pfc. to Cpl.; Edward Hadden, Pvt. to Pfc.; Richard T. Clark, Pfc. to Cpl.; T/Sgt. John Brady, last heard from when he was supervising the removal of half a million silver dollars from a cache near Manila, has been awarded the bronze star for meritorious service in the campaign in northern Luzon. He was chief non-com in the intelligence service in that sector.

OVER HERE. Pvt. W. Glenn Schuh is in radar school at Chanute Field, Ill. . . . Dean Wilcox, now out of the army, is farming near Boone. Address, R. F. D. No. 4, Boone, Iowa. . . . Pvt. Joe Powers is at Ft. Ord, Cal. . . . Miss Beverly Allen is a cadet nurse at Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines. . . . Howard Larson, HA 2/c, is stationed at the U. S. Naval Hospital, San Diego. . . . 1/Lt. Grant Henry is at Rosencrans Field, St. Joseph, Mo. . . . Kenneth Haugen, S 1/c, of Badger, with the armed guard is now at Treasure Island, San Francisco. The chow is very good and they get a lot of liberty, two nights out of every three from 4:30 to 7:30 p. m. . . . Camp Maxey, Texas, is about to close and Pfc. Roger Grove is glad of it. "I wouldn't trade one acre of Iowa for all of Texas. I finally made Pfc. so I guess I am coming up in the Army but all I want is that white piece of paper that says go back to Fort Dodge for good." . . . Lennis Bloomquist is now a GM 2/c, and is stationed at Shoemaker, Cal. . . . Cpl. Ray Black is at Walla Walla, Washington. . . . M. C. Edson, RM 2/c, is now stationed in downtown San Francisco. . . . John A. Mitchell, Sp (V) 2/c, is with the air transport command at Olathe, Kansas, and is flying wounded back from the islands. . . . Sgt. Richard N. Miessler is back in the states. He flew back from Casablanca via the Azores and Bermuda to Miami. "And without doubt it's great to be back again." Dick is now in Louisville, Ky. . . . Walt McGill, BM 2/c, is still at the Navy Hospital at Norfolk. . . . Lt. (j. g.) Don McKirchey is now at San Pedro, California, piloting for the Navy Ferry Command. . . . Lt. "Al" Cook, with the 55 days furlough tucked under his belt and waiting the commissioning of his new ship, a freighter, is leading the life of Riley in Chicago. Al has been in command of a ship in the Navy since 1943. "I have enough points for a discharge and am expecting my papers almost any day now." Al says hello to all his friends. Address Croydon Hotel, Chicago. . . . Betty Lou Howick, who has been holding down a federal job in Washington, is coming home to Iowa soon and will go to the University of Iowa this fall. . . . T/Sgt. Bob Hansen is back in the states stationed at San Luis Obispo. . . . Norman L. Rosen, S 2/c, says hello to all his friends from Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California.

PACIFIC. Cpl. Melvin Duehring, now on Okinawa, finds it's a little difficult to buy birthday presents there. We'll take care of that little item, Mel. . . . Sgt. Sid Haase is on Ie Shima with 28 months overseas and plenty of points if the army will only stop to count them. . . . Pvt. Harold L. Bass is on Ie Shima. . . . Major W. L. Viergever, formerly with Brady Transfer, is somewhere out there away.

SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA. The patch authorized for those who participated in the battle of the Bulge from Lew Edward Strait, of Clare, who is with the Medical Corps, 76th General Hospital. Thanks, Lew. . . . The paratrooper's patch from Pvt. Donald E. Strait, Fort Benning, Georgia. Thanks, Don. . . . The War End edition of the Fly Paper from Floyd W. Long, AMM 3/c, at Nas Kahului, Maui, T. H. Thanks, Floyd. . . . The Bulletin Index of Pittsburg from Lt. Harold Dessinger. Thanks, Lt. . . . Finito, the

story of the Po Valley Campaign, from Cpl. R. L. Nelson, somewhere in Italy. Thanks, R. L. . . . The Key Outpost from R. L. Wilcox, S 1/c, Key West, Florida. Thanks, R. L. Ray has 43 points for sea duty and will be on his way home soon. "It will feel good to walk down Central in civvies and not have to worry about reporting back for duty." . . . A very handsome five hundred dollar Chinese bill from T/4 Sigwell Simonson, now in Nanning, China. Sigwel has been in India and more recently in Kunming, China. Thanks, Sigwel. . . . The Aircrafter and a piece of Jap invasion money and a piece of American invasion money from Pvt. Warren Slawson, who is on Okinawa. Thanks, Warren, and we hope you will make it by Christmas. . . . Patches of the 3rd and 15th Armies from T/5 Bernard Loth who was in Austria, but who is now in Manila. Thanks, Bernard. . . . The Thunderbolt of the 83rd Division from Pfc. R. A. Harp, Passau, Germany. Thanks, Rossette.

IF YOU HAVE A LEGITIMATE gripe about the point system or any phase of demobilization, send it along. We'll try to get it to the proper people in Washington without embarrassment to you.

GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER. Pvt. Eugene Huske and Harold Harvey have been together ever since they entered the army. Now they are guarding and running down prisoners of war in Leige, Belgium. "Tell all of the sponsors hello and tell Larry I hope it won't be long until I can get back to his dances."

WE PLAY ALL YOUR REQUESTS. When you send in a request it will help if you will send the address and telephone number of the person for whom you want the number played. We always write or telephone so that she or he will know when the request is being played.

COMING HOME. T/Sgt. Dave Naylor is leaving his island paradise in the South Pacific for Jefferson Barracks very soon, "And glad to be going, too. We seem to have more than our share of juvenile thugs back there. What's the matter with the sheriff and the cops? Here's the latest. My wife informs me that the antenna was stolen off her car last week. Ha, Ha." . . . Gordon R. Foster is on his way home from Buchen, Germany. "Hold everything down until I get there." . . . Capt. Fred R. Ainslie is on his way home from the ETO. . . . Sgt. Don Ellinger is on his way home from Assam, India. . . . Paul Savage is on his way home to be discharged. We are losing an old subscriber. Paul got YLFH in Africa, Italy and Texas. . . . Cpl. R. L. Nelson is on his way home from Florence, Italy. . . . T/5 Leo Foster is on his way home and ought to be in here seeing us soon.

ENJOYING MOM'S COOKIN'. Everett Garrett, MoM 1/c, is home for good, honorably discharged and living at 324 Doud Block. . . . S/Sgt. Chas. Wheeler is out of the Army honorably discharged after 3½ years in Italy. Chuck, who is going to be an optician, is the last of the original B company to be discharged. . . . 1st Lt. Jack Larson, home from overseas. Jack was in on the invasion and the battle of the bulge, is still short a few points. . . . Paul Schwering is out of the army honorably discharged. Paul's going to farm. . . . Pfc. Russell Martin is home with his folks, honorably discharged, and living at Fairbault, Minn. . . . Edward J. Blasen, CCM, is leaving the service, home for good. When last heard from, Ed was at Brunswick, Maine. . . . He is now ex-Sgt. Merle W. Olafson, and he got his honorable discharge at Ft. McArthur, California, and is planning on making California his home. His brother, Armin, is on his way home from Italy and should arrive here soon. . . . Donald Peterson has been honorably discharged and is home at 1509 4th Avenue South. . . . T/Sgt. Leo Simmons out of the army on points. Leo is going to law school at Drake. . . . Pat Darby, SC 2/c, is home, honorably discharged after 27 months overseas. Pat is 38. . . . Clarence Chas. Blaha, WT 2/c, honorably discharged, after 31 months overseas. . . . Sgt. Robert Lloyd from six and a half months in the ETO. . . . Pvt. Merlin Pingel enroute to Fort Riley. . . . Lt. Bernard Gillespie on his way to Los Angeles. . . . Leroy Higgins, AMM 2/c, from San Diego, California. . . . William Cunningham, AP 1/c, from Oakland, Calif. . . . S/Sgt. Clare Ness, of Duncombe, honorably discharged with 117 points. . . . Sgt. Emil Gerard, of Duncombe, out after many months overseas. Gerard had 117 points. . . . Miss Irma Youngstrom, PhM 3/c, from Seattle, Washington. . . . T/Sgt. Stanley Anderson from France and Germany. Stan has been in four years. . . . Pvt. and Mrs. Dale Decker enroute to Norman, Oklahoma. Dale was wounded on Okinawa. . . . Sgt. and Mrs. Forrest Ferguson from Topeka, Kansas. . . . Carl O. Gilliland, S 1/c, from San Francisco. He is on the Alnitale. . . . Lt. C. E. "Punk" Larson from Italy. . . . Sgt. Earl Crimmins from Italy. . . . T/5 Dick Welsh honorably discharged and home for good after three and a half years in service. . . . Major W. Harold Welch, visiting his father, from Pyote, Texas. . . . Robert Ulstad, S 2/c, from Great Lakes. . . . Ed Pratt, PhM 1/c, from New Guinea. . . . 2nd Lt. John Dowd from Kearney, Nebraska. . . . Dean Buck, GM 1/c, from Philadelphia. . . . T/Sgt. Kermit Olafson enroute to San Pedro, California. . . . Pfc. Chas. Schuster is home for good, honorably discharged after four years of service. Charles was overseas 39 months in the Pacific theatre. . . . Cpl. Ray Ricke out after nearly five years in service. . . . Frank Muterspaw, A Sp 2/c, from Treasure Island. . . . Edgerly Watts, S 2/c, from Alameda, California. . . . Pfc. Marvin Bowers enroute to Jefferson Barracks. . . . S/Sgt. Jack Gadbury out with 102 points, one of the original Company G men, overseas 40 months. . . . T/Sgt. E. R. Nesler, Jr., out on 87 points. He was in the army 42 months, 21 overseas. . . . S/Sgt. Ted Essig from long service in the South Pacific. Ted was wounded in parachuting onto Corregidor last February. He will return to Bushnell General Hospital, Brigham City, Utah. . . . Pvt. Dennis A. Johnson from Scott Field, Illinois.

WAR'S GRIM TOLL. Lt. (j. g.) Ronald L. Schwendemann, of Lehigh, officer on the Submarine U. S. S. Snook, is presumed by the Navy to be dead. The Snook is presumed to be lost.

EXPO WATER CARNIVAL. Winner of the coveted title of bathing beauty for Northwest Iowa for 1945 is Donna Hanrahan, 16 year old Fort Dodge beauty who was awarded top honors at Expo Municipal Pool last Sunday by Judges, Mrs. Ray Maher, Mayor Poole, Mrs. Lloyd Isaacson and Fred Cooper. Second was Betty Cervene and third was Mary Jane Greenway. Donna, besides the crown placed on her head by Mayor Poole, was awarded a complete fall ensemble, top coat and suit. Betty got a very snazzy coat with a lining that zippers in and out and Mary Jane was awarded a \$25.00 Victory Bond. Your peripatetic reporter was there as master of ceremonies. Mayor Poole opened the show after a terrific summer squall had delayed the show for a half hour. I never before saw so much rain driven by so much wind. There was an egg race, with web feet like Bob Beers and Red Rankin running off with the prizes. Then a watermelon fight. Three of the younger generation ganged up and brought the pink and green trophy ashore. Dick Mayne, state champion diver for two years; Roger Watts, AAU indoor free style title holder; and Dorothy Collins and Mary Maloy, glamour aquabats, all from Des Moines, did some beautiful diving and swimming. Then the gals, all very lovely, paraded around the pool and before the judges' stand. They were all beautiful. My tired old eyes must be going arthritic because the comely miss I had picked to win, place or show didn't land in that group. In this corner, however, we are still casting our vote for JoAnne Williams. . . . The girls had their pictures taken. You'll see them later. And then the grand finale, the money scramble with Ray Carlson and Bud Winslowe throwing money like mad into the pool. The sight of all that metal was too much

for some of the spectators and Heinie Wasem, George Constantine, Stew Pfaff and other high school luminaries added to the gayety of the occasion by leaping from the sidelines and joining the web feet in a mad rush for gold. Then it started to rain again and we scurried for home.

★ **ALTAR BOUND.** Nancy Murphy and Lt. Howard Ericsson, Sept. 11th in Ft. Dodge . . . Helen Louise Snearly and Lt. Sylvester Becker, of Ft. Wayne, Ind., in Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 1st . . . Betty Harrelson, of Owosso, Michigan, and Lt. Frank Griffith, Sept. 12th in Ft. Dodge . . . Grace Mullen, of Fonda, and Julian Halligan, Sept. 25th, in Fonda . . . Darleen Morris and Albert Zemke. No date set . . . Irene Ferguson and Robert Linn, BM 1/c, of Lehigh, in Fort Dodge, Sept. 2nd . . . Deloris Davis and Paul J. Wessar, in Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 2nd . . . Lorna Longstaff and Ray Christofferson. No date set . . . Cheryl Schuh and Sgt. Elbert Gibson, of Houston, Texas, in Stockton, Cal., Aug. 25th . . . Lydia Birocci and Lt. Galen Hamblton, sometime this fall . . . Margaret Vogel and Paul Reedy, in Ft. Dodge, Aug. 18th. Paul is a veteran of five years, discharged last July . . . Betty Seidensticker and Major Jack Douglas, in early August in Hobbs, New Mexico . . . Marie Sandahl and Lewis Sheker, of Otho, Aug. 29th, in Ft. Dodge.

★ **OUT OF JAP PRISON CAMPS.** Sgt. John Atwell, who was with Wainwright on Bataan, has been freed. A prisoner more than three years and a half, John returned to American military control Sept. 7th and the war department notified John's wife, Sue Atwell, on the 11th . . . American Army troops have liberated Jack Hood, formerly of Clare, from a Jap prison camp in Thailand. He was taken prisoner Dec. 12, 1942, five days after Pearl Harbor . . . Sgt. Bruce Youngclass, from near Duncombe, shot down over Yokohama on his 19th mission in a B-29 was liberated in late August. He was shot down in the spring of 1945 . . . There are seven or eight other Webster county men, Jap prisoners, still to be heard from.

★ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Ray Dencklau, of Vincent, is now in an ordnance company stationed outside of Kassel, Germany . . . He is now Cpl. Orville Smith, sweating it out whether he is going to stay on in Germany or come back to the good old U. S. A. "I'd feel better with about thirty more points."

★ **HIGH C'S.** Ralph E. Bishop, St. SF 2/c, is somewhere at sea, somewhere out there away. Ralph, your letter written August 1st reached us September 10th . . . Richard H. Schmidt, S 1/c, is on the U. S. S. Burias out of San Francisco.

★ **INDIA.** Cpl. Wilbur Derrig is in Assam, India, and has been awarded two bronze stars and the presidential citation.

★ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Pvt. R. E. Arn, APO 75, San Francisco. "I just completed a nice little trip from France through the Panama Canal, Pearl Harbor, Caroline Islands, and now I am on the Island of Luzon in the Philippines. On arrival, we were very fortunate and had mail call. I received 'Your Letter' from last March up to the August dates, and as yet haven't read them all. While I was in France, I received a pack of cards from the 'Home Town Canteen'. The cards came in mighty handy on the ship; in fact, we wore them out. It was really swell to get news from the home town, and I wish to express just plain old 'Thanks' for the trouble and effort you and the sponsors (and I imagine a great many others) have gone to to send us boys that wonderful little sheet of paper. The prices here are a trifle high and the so-called whiskey and rum is half poison. Ice cream is one dollar a dish; coconuts, fifty cents each; eight small bananas the same; and even a glass of ice water is a quarter. Homemade cakes are only fifty cents and a fried egg sandwich is a dollar and a half. On top of all this, we have no beer. Will you drink a nice cold bottle of beer for me, along with every other favor you have done for us fellows?"

R. D. MacDowell, EMS/c, FPO, San Francisco. "Here's an 'extra special' I think you will like—note the stamp cancellation on the envelope. (U. S. S. Missouri, September 2, 1945, Tokyo Bay, Japanese Formal Surrender). As you know we are anchored in Tokyo Bay. Several days ago we were in Sagami Wan—there I could see the famous volcanic Mt. Fujiama. I've also seen many Japanese submarines that have surrendered, besides many other things that will be easier to tell you."

Vergil Carl Larson, S 1/c, FPO, San Francisco. "This is not a letter but just a short note or greeting from Tokyo Bay. For months we have been working for the goal and motto of 'Destination Tokyo' and so now that we have accomplished the great task, I feel it appropriate to send you this short greeting."

Arnold A. Hagge, SK 1/c, Norfolk, Va. "This is the letter I've been wanting and waiting to write to you. The war is over and I'm coming H-O-M-E. To us fellows that have been away for so long, it's a wonderful feeling. When the notice was given out that those in the Navy that had 44 points would be eligible for discharges, my name was one of the first ones at our base to be sent in. I should have written when I made SK 1/c but kept putting it off. Have often wondered if you folks that are responsible for this little paper called 'Your Letter From Home' really know what it means to us in the Services. Right now I want to 'Thank' all of you. You know there is quite a lot of reading in that little paper and all the time one is reading it is almost, but not quite, like a visit home. It's been a long three years since I left Fort Dodge on August 5, 1942. I surely didn't think I'd be gone for so long a time. So far I have no plans for my civilian life. It won't be very many days now until I'll be seeing you folks in Fort Dodge and I'll be wearing 'civvies' with a little gold button on the lapel. A wonderful place is Iowa and a wonderful little city is Fort Dodge. Only a friendly place like Fort Dodge could send out a letter to her boys and have it mean so much to them."

S/Sgt. Robert J. Powers, APO 500, San Francisco. "So far I've met two fellows from home. I met Joe Segreto in Seckenheim, a small town just outside of Mannheim, Germany. I thought I'd get to see him again but I didn't get the chance. I also saw Voss (can't remember his first name) at a Red Cross in Nancy and shortly after, again in Marseilles, France. We covered France and Germany pretty well and now we are in Manila. Manila has taken quite a beating. The buildings are still standing but damaged extensively. Very little has escaped the destruction. However, it's a little different when the frames of the buildings are left standing. In Germany when they were hit, there was just nothing left. Well, it's over now, so we can be thankful for that. Right now we're living in the grandstands at the Rizal Stadium with plenty of open air. The open air is all right because whenever there's a breeze you want to catch it. It gets hot there in Fort Dodge, I know, but home was never like this."

S/Sgt. Melvin Dencklau, Camp Bowie, Texas. "We just got back from making a round trip around the world and landed here June 13th, having 27 months overseas to our credit. We were all set for another trip to the South Pacific but when the new ruling on points came in, it sort of saved us. As far as I'm concerned, anything overseas beats this state of Texas. The war has been over a couple of weeks but they are still giving us training on Jap tactics, but I guess it's just one of those things."

T/5 Donn Rickey, APO 887, New York. "I changed outfits into special service, for V-Mail is closing its doors fast here on the continent. This company is a new one and the first of its kind in the Army. We are a theatrical company—a branch of the USO. We live in Chaton, a rich residential suburb just outside of Paris. Our billets consist of a large French chateau with our own lake in the back—nice carpeted floors, big mirrors, crystal chandeliers—a beautiful place. We have maid service and they do our washing for us. The chateau has become very famous. During the liberation of Chaton, the Germans rounded up 27 Frenchmen, lined them up and shot them beside our garage and buried them on the spot. The chateau was housing some of the German intelligence staff. The town just finished a three-day celebration in their memory. The street leading to the chateau is named for them. Some of the members of the company are Mickey Rooney; Bobby Breen; Hugh Martin, who wrote the Trolley Song; Eugene List, who played in the Big Three; Jimmy James' Orch; Tommy Farrell (Glenda Farrell's son); the amateur and professional ping pong champions, Stuart Canin, Lt. Tom Brown, Lt. Zimbalist (son of the famous violinist); the guy who was the original Dizzy in the Henry Aldrich program; Constance Dowling; Billy Holop—golly, I can't think of them all. I'm in

charge of the scene shop and with an assistant do all of the construction of scenery for our productions. I have two German P. W.'s working for me now. I did have ten of them originally. They are a splendid bunch of workers. No guard is necessary for them. They are the last minute draftees and are all tradesmen—most of them between 50 and 60 years of age. In the two months we have been organized we have produced four productions—Hooty Heart, the Broadway play which we opened in famous Palace Theatre in the palace grounds in Versailles; Golden Boy, with Billy Holop and Constance Dowling; O. K., USA, a musical, with Mickey Rooney, Bobby Breen, Ned Buttons, and Jimmy James' Orchestra; and the G. I. Sextette from the movie "Winged Victory" in the 9th Air Force Theatre in St. Germain on Loya; No Time For Love, a musical opened in the Modchine Theatre in Paris. The musical score for OK, USA was done by Hugh Marton. You'll probably be hearing the hit tunes from it before long—Rainbow's End and "America Is the Place For Me". Antole Litvak, the famous Hollywood director, viewed the production and a Life cameraman took shots of it. Forthcoming productions are Brother Rat with Tommy Kelly; The Drunkard, a melodrama of the deep south; Voice of the Turtle, and an unnamed musical. Last week our company married Dona Gibson in the lawn of the chateau. Mickey Rooney was the best man and Constance Dowling was the bridesmaid. Shortly to arrive are 100 girls to work with us in productions. My first Sgt., Stanley Wood, formerly of Cedar Falls, went to college at Cedar Falls and knew Mr. E. S. Cortright while there. The guy sleeping next to me, Lewis Wilson, is a former bit player for Columbia Pictures and is now working in a film for a French company. As for the movie stars in the USO half, I have seen Betty Hutton, Raymond Massey, the Lumts, Bob Hope, Jerry Colonna, Don Cosack Chorus, Paul Robeson, Information Please Cast, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Lukas, the Rockettes, Shep Fields' Band, Hal McIntyre's Band, Anna Neagle, Laurence Olivier, and many others. Mel Galliant is now in charge of AFN, Berlin."

Pfc. R. W. Lewis, Germany. "I moved from 'Linz', Austria, into Germany. It took us a day and a half to get here by train. We came by the railroad known as the 40 and 8. That is the boxcars are 40 feet long and 8 feet wide. It rained the night that I spent on the train. The roof leaked so that I got rather wet. This surely is a beautiful place here. I took a ride on a cable car yesterday. The ride was a little over a mile long. At the highest point the car was over 300 feet off the ground. There is a restaurant at the top where beer, pea-soup, and lemonade is served. I don't know why the Germans call it lemonade because it tastes like 'straw'. I noticed in the August 3rd edition that Ch. A. H. Bertram, Captain, is now stationed close to where I just left, and only three or four miles from where I used to be. I still haven't met any Fort Dodgers since I have been over here. I saw Bill Hoover before I left 'Linz'. Bill and I came across together." Thanks, R. W., for the post cards and 65th Division patch.

Conly Hill, S 2/c, U. S. S. Bunker Hill, FPO, San Francisco. "Ike Isaacson and I got ahold of a couple of Y. L. F. H. from a buddy and were reading them in the chow line so the chow line wouldn't seem so long, but they're still long any way you look at it. Tonight news came over the radio that the peace papers were being signed. It's really good news. A lot of fellows have died to make the peace come about. It would be a great honor to shake their hands. Ike is just going out on liberty so he stopped by to have me tell you and the gang hello. We are both waiting until we can again go dancing at Larry Geer's ballroom and go skating. Well, Ed, I guess it's about time to close. Thank everyone that has helped make Y. L. F. H. possible for us guys."

Cpl. Donald P. Jensen, APO 513, New York. "I'm stationed in Moumellon on LeGrande, France. We're servicing all the troops in the vicinity of Camp Pittsburg, which is one of the many re-deployment camps in the area. These troops are part of the Assembly Area Command. I'm in a General Hospital and am doing Special Service Work and trying to keep the morale of the soldier up to as near as par as can possibly be attained. Now that the war is practically over it is hard to keep the men's thoughts occupied while they are in the process of being redeployed or sweating it out. I used to be an Army Physical Trainer but now business has been a little slack and they don't have much of a Rehabilitation program going. I'm stationed 15 miles from Rheims. I would be glad to hear from anybody from the old Home Town. It's been almost three years since I've seen the place. What a day it will be when all of us weary, tired out force members get home and just talk about our experiences. It will make us tired just talking about them. Say 'Hello' to all those who might still be around."

Pfc. R. B. Schwieger, Murnau, Germany. "We have a beautiful setup here and plenty of recreation such as horseback riding, swimming, boating, baseball, etc. However, the past week the weatherman has been strictly against us as we have had lots of rain and cold weather but we are all hoping that one of these days we will have a break and be able to take advantage of the setup here."

Dan F. Townsend, Compton, Calif. "I am (should say was) in the Maritime Service, St. M 1/c. I am now discharged but bound back out on a Victory ship as second cook and baker. This will be my last trip if it is not too short. I am enclosing a couple of items for your collections. The triangle insignia is Australian. It is 132 Australian Heavy A. A. Btry. The red one is the U. S. Maritime Service for ordinary Seamen. The Tarakan Times was given to me by an Aussie and I'm passing it on to you as I know it is getting into better hands. We have been hauling Aussies for months and I have made some very good friends. I am so taken by Australia that I want to make my postwar home there. I'm enclosing a couple of Jap postcards. I picked them up in a cave. If I run into anything else, I'll enclose it." Thanks, Dan, for all the loot. If you'll write and tell me what kind of a job you'd like over there, I'll go to work on it."

Morris W. Moore, S 1/c, Japan. "As to my impression of Japan, the place stinks. Actually and literally stinks. You can't conceive the filth that these people live in. The sewers are all just troughs in the ground, with slow running water. All the hills here are practically hollow. The Japs were dug in like rats. We are set up here in the middle of a big naval air station and naval operating base. I think there is more under ground than there is above ground. Today the peace was signed and I got to see more of the heavy gold braid, such as Nimitz, MacArthur, Halsey and several others. We moved into Japanese barracks today. They are all wood construction, and are very strongly built, although they seem crude. We are sleeping in double deck bunks which are only five feet eight inches long. You ought to hear some of the six-foot boys griping. The Japs left all their mattresses, pillows and blankets behind, and they stink. The place has been fumigated, and tomorrow they will be sprayed with DDT."

K. M. Lockner, BN 1/c, FPO, San Francisco. "I got to see all of the big shots from MacArthur on down, and even the Japanese big shots. I even had my picture taken by a newsreel camera man as Wing and I stood behind the Japs when they were being photographed. I went over to the business section of the city on ships business today and there isn't much left of it. All you see is a few Jap policemen and firemen. The city is bombed out but not nearly as bad as Manila. I saw one street car that was running. The dirty Japs just opened the gates of the War Prison Camps and let the War Prisoners loose and now the Army is out looking for them and some are so weak, they can hardly move—just skin and bones. You will probably see our ship in the newsreels and newspapers as we were the first transport to dock in Japan and all the gold braid we had aboard sure makes news."

Other swell letters came from Ensign L. B. Adams, FPO, San Francisco . . . Edwin A. Adson, M. M. 2/c, FPO, New York . . . T/5 Elmer C. Aurand, APO 253, New York . . . After several cold days and nights, the sun has come out and the weatherman says "fair and warmer" . . . And now we're off to Dodger Stadium. The lads in maroon and black ought to be good this year—a big, rugged line and a fast, versatile backfield. Tell you about it next week. So long, pal.

Your home town correspondent,

Ed Breen