

Your Letter From Home

"Judge, I would like to change my name."

"What is your name, now?"
"Joe Outhouse."

"I don't blame you for wanting to change it. What do you want to change it to?"

"Charley Outhouse: I get tired of people saying, 'Hey, Joe, whatdaya know.'"

From "The Belvoir Castle,"
Ft. Belvoir, Va.

Sent To You With The Best Wishes of
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
American Legion and 40 & 8
The Clinic Pharmacy and Supply
Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric Co.
Fort Dodge Tent & Awning Co.
Rialto & Strand Theatres
Dr. Macdonald's Vitamized Feed Co.
Brady Transfer & Storage Co.
The Becker Florists
Larry Geer Ballrooms

An aviator had just returned from a raid into enemy territory.

"Why are you back so late?" asked the commanding officer.

"I misunderstood instructions and pushed the leaflets under people's doors."

From "The Belvoir Castle,"
Ft. Belvoir, Va.

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. 21

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

March 16, 1945.

★ **DEAR JOE:** For the first time in my life, I saw the ice break up and go out. I'd been told there was a good sized jam near Riverdale and that it was starting to move. That was Tuesday morning. Howard Gilman and I drove down to the river north of Loomis Park about 1:30 in the afternoon. The ice started to move just as we stopped the car. Great grinding chunks reared up in the air. Slowly and with a crunching noise the whole mass started moving. It swept on down stream about a half mile and stopped. We went back late in the afternoon and waited. About 5:30 the break came. We watched at the dam as those huge masses of ice leaped and plunged into that fury of black and terrifying water below the dam. Some of the ice was old and worn but other great battleships of it were blue and cold and three and a half to four feet thick. A school of fish, carp and catfish, some pretty big, three or four pounds in weight, had gotten trapped someway or other on one huge section and lay there dead as fish in a market . . . The robins are here. Saw two bouncing around the yard this morning. Soon youngsters will be coming in with the first wake robins. Spring is here and the snows of winter are gone. Soon, we hope, you'll be coming home.

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★ **ON MAIN STREET.** The last of the Barnum circus clowns heard the Fulton Lewis jr., broadcast from KVFD, Fort Dodge, and wrote to Mayor Poole. He is Bob Sherwood, now 88 years old, but hale and hearty and running a book store in New York. He played in Fort Dodge on July 13, 1880. P. T. Barnum was with the circus and bought hay and oats from several farmers living near Fort Dodge . . . Mrs. Dan Townsend heard it, too, on a rebroadcast during the graveyard shift at 3:00 in the morning in Compton, Calif. . . . Tom Collins, Kansas City funny man, will be the chief entertainment at the Farmers-Businessmen's party next Monday night . . . Monday we voted for school directors. In a three cornered race, Sam Bickel and O. J. Whittemore made it back to their old seats beating Elmer Apt about two to one in an election that saw only 499 votes cast . . . The next day, people stayed away from the polls by the thousands as the city went through the motions of a no-decision primary. The Mayor and two commissioners, Jess Poole, Bill Johnston and C. B. Pilcher ran two to one ahead of their opponents, W. E. Cadwell, Connie Beiser and Marvin Thomas but all will run again in the finals a week from Monday. Only 700 votes were cast . . . The jury in the Gale Johnson false arrest suit came in at 1:10 last Saturday morning with a \$500.00 verdict against Chief of Police, Everett Maricle, and Capt. Wm. Gormally. Johnson had been held incommunicado for 14 hours . . . After 60 years in business in Fort Dodge, E. I. Leighton sold his interest in the Leighton Supply Company this week to Gib and Donna Schnurr. C. E. Anderson has been elected the new president and general manager of the business . . . Central Avenue and income property is still being bought and sold like property in a game of Monopoly. Elmer Apt is reported to have bought an apartment house after having sold his home to Alan Loth. The Williams brothers bought the Snell Apartments; and Fred Beckenbaugh is buying or thinking of buying the northwest corner of 11th Street and Central Avenue. Elmer Hall bought the Goodyear property and then sold it back to them. He is dealing for another property on 1st Ave. North. It is said that the Carver Building is being sold to a capitalist who recently retired from another business. All you have to do to sell a house is to name your figure . . . Ten year old Alan Price, of Gowrie, won KVFD's Tom Mix pony, Twinkle Kid, in the big scrap paper drive. Alan turned in 4,230 pounds of paper to win. Nearly eleven hundred youngsters took part in the various contests and attended the big free show at the Rialto. About 50,000 pounds of paper was collected in the three week drive. Runners up were Victor Carlson, age 13, of Fort Dodge; Gail Von Alstine, of Douglas School No. 1; Dona Stewart, R. F. D. No. 2, Duncombe; and Norman Goumer, of Fort Dodge.

★ **MERRY ENGLAND.** T/Sgt. Don Cottrell is the head non-com in the statistical control office, 8th Air Force, England . . . Cpl. Clarence Youngren, of Lehigh, is somewhere in eastern England. We'll play that number, Clarence. About the extra copies: We have only one set but we'll have more later . . . Cpl. Phil Nugent, formerly of the Fort Dodge Creamery, is at a Liberator base in England.

★ **BELGIUM.** Lt. D. R. Hemerson, of Bradgate, is somewhere in Belgium with the 7th Armored Division. We'll play that number, Lt.

★ **BONNIE SCOTLAND.** Lt. Ruth E. Nordstrum is with the 316th Station Hospital in Scotland. Thanks, Ruth, for the "Dizzy Dice"

. . . Dwain Edwards, RDM 3/c, is in Scotland. We'll play that number, Dwain.

★ **HOLLAND.** Pfc. Foster Funk is in Holland with the 9th Army . . . Pfc. Ray R. Martin says "hello" from Holland.

★ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** Lt. Louis Katzman, who fought part of the war in the So. Pacific, is now in northern France . . . 1/Lt. Mary Grace Puth is with the 108th Genl. Hospital in France . . . From somewhere in France, Cpl. J. E. Deck says "hello" to Johnny Brand and Dick and Bob Broadstone. Sorry, J. E., we don't have Mel's address . . . Pfc. Arnold K. Piltingsrud is with the engineers somewhere in France . . . S/Sgt. Bob Kurtz is in France . . . Lt. Thomas Jordan Hogan is now in France. "I now lack only the few hundred miles between this spot and jolly old England to complete the round the world tour to which my sponsor, Uncle Sam, is treating me. To England and back, across the Pacific to India, to Iran and here. Not bad for an Iowa farm boy, eh?" . . . M/Sgt. Mert Williams is somewhere in France. Scotty's on the list, now. Nice story, pal . . . Pfc. Woodrow Pride was wounded by a buzz bomb in Holland. He is now in France taking basic training . . . Pvt. Eugene Taylor is somewhere in France. We'll play that number, Gene.

★ **INDIA.** After 17 months in Egypt and 11 months in India, Pfc. Harry L. Shourek is on his way home from Karachi, India . . . Don Ellinger is in India, APO 217. On a hunting trip, he got two baboons.

★ **DAS REICH . . .** Somewhere in Germany, Cpl. Felix Ruthart with the 3rd Army, remembers Christmas dinner. "It came in a can with beans and carrots in it. Dehydrated turkey, I guess." . . . Earl Gravman is somewhere in Germany with Major General Terry Allen's Timber Wolves, the 104th Division. Writing from before Cologne, Earl says, "We are all right. We have all we need and all we want." . . . S/Sgt. Victor Macek, after requesting several numbers for his family, adds a postscript. "I believe an appropriate selection for me would be 'Show Me The Way To Go Home', or a reasonable facsimile." Vic is in Germany.

★ **PACIFIC.** Sgt. John W. Litzner is with the 13th Air Corps in the Dutch East Indies . . . K. C. Hamilton, F 1/c, is with the Seabees in the Marianas. We'll play that number, Kermit . . . Pvt. Michael McLaughlin has been evacuated from Leyte and is back in New Guinea waiting reclassification . . . From somewhere in the Marianas, Cpl. George N. Phillips says "hello" to everyone . . . Robert L. Netland, F 1/c, is on a rock somewhere in the Pacific.

★ **PHILIPPINES.** Down in the Philippine Islands, where Pfc. Lawrence Bock is, the pay is in Victory pesos. Sounds like a new Bing Crosby—Andrews Sisters number.

★ **HIGH C'S.** Morris Nyren, of Gowrie, is on the U. S. S. Colorado out that way . . . L. W. Bloomquist, S 1/c, is on the S. S. Russell H. Chittendon, out of New Orleans.

★ **OVER HERE.** Pvt. Bill Ruebel, here visiting not long ago, is back on the west coast . . . Cpl. Carmen Norlin, USMC, of Dayton, wants an harmonica. Corporal, if it's possible, we'll find it for you. Carmen is in San Francisco . . . Out of San Diego, on San Clement Island, Frank Gutsafson, SC 1/c, has had the pleasure of using a lot of Tobin products . . . K. Kelly, RT 3/c, is at Navy Pier, in Chicago . . . Back from the S. Pacific, John Hartquist, C PHM, is at the U. S. Naval Hospital, at Quantico, Va. . . W. H. Robert Juengel, MoM 2/c, is on Chincotague Island off the coast of Virginia, where Shteland ponies run wild. Every year they have a pony penning picnic—"something like a western rodeo." The main industry is oyster packing . . . Pvt. Phil DeFoe is guarding prisoners in Camp Livingston, La. . . S/Sgt. Ted Rule still does some bowling. In Long Beach the other night he averaged 191 for eight games . . . John D. Bockert, S 2/c, is in a metalsmith's school at Norman, Okla. . . Cpl. James C. Patton is at Paris Island, S. C. . . From Camp Bowie, Texas, Cpl. Lawrence Burns says "hello" to all the boys . . . Alfred Thompson, GM 2/c, is at the sub-base, at New London, Conn. . . Ron Parker, BM 2/c, is at Algiers, La. . . Pvt. Roger Grave is at Camp Maxey, Texas . . . Chas. R. Clouss, SK 3/c, is now at 246 Mason St., San Francisco.

★ **GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER.** Pvt. John Craft and his brother, somewhere in Italy. John is in a tank outfit. We'll play that number, fellow . . . Walter Cooklin and James Hart, somewhere overseas . . . Dr. Frank J. Anderson, Lt. (j. g.), and O. L. Brown, S 1/c, on the USS Sicard, in the Central Pacific . . . Pfc. Dale Peterson and Sgt. Bud Price, somewhere in Germany . . . Darlene Laird, S 2/c; Helen Brofer, AMM 3/c; Lt. (j. g.) Mable Burk; Clyde Clark, Y 3/c, and Ensign Frank Anderson, at Whiting

Field, Milton, Florida. Thanks, Darlene, for the paper . . . Carl Theiss, WT 2/c C-1; Paul Peterson, of Otho, and George Parradie, of Bode, in the Marianas. Thanks, Carl, for the papers . . . Pvt. Chet Haugen and Pvt. Gil Fletcher, in New Hebrides. They have seen Lt. John Rhodes, too . . . S/Sgt. Duke Skophammer, Dean Gadbury and Bob Gawtry, in San Antonio, Texas . . . Betty Jeffers, S 2/c, Helen Newsman and Bobby Lou Peterson, in San Diego . . . James W. Ackerman, F 1/c; Don Clark, BM 2/c, formerly with the Gas & Electric, now staying at Dr. Dawson's residence in Coronado, and Wesley L. Cochran, F 2/c, of Farnhamville, all at Coronado. Thanks, Jim, for the "Ramp Age" . . . Lt. D. C. McMartin had an interesting evening recently in Paris with a Russian Captain. "He spoke excellent English." As we recall, Cole's Russian was on the weak side.

☉ **IN THE FUTURE.** About requests for musical numbers. We will play them all as requested without mentioning it in YLFH. We have been acknowledging all requests in the letters. They are becoming so numerous it isn't practical to use the space to say for each one, "We'll play that number." Another thing. When you send us the address of some Webster County boy or girl who is not getting the letter, his name or hers will then and there go on the roll as an old subscriber. About requests again. Nearly everyone does it but just as a reminder, if you want a piece for Mom and Dad or the little woman or the best and only girl, give us the address and telephone number so that we may call before the number is played.

☉ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Pvt. Paul Mundt, from the Aleutians. He has 30 days at home in Farnhamville . . . Pvt. Walter Lehne, from Fort Knox, Ky. . . Gordon Cavanaugh, S 1/c, from Navy Pier, Chicago . . . Sgt. Lester Challberg, enroute to Salt Lake City . . . Pvt. Bob Brechwald, enroute to Fort Meade, Md. . . Chief Photographer's Mate Leo Delamore, of Clare, and James Fitzgerald, from the air craft carrier, Essex . . . Sgt. Marvin Andrews, from Quantico, Va. . . Neal V. Irvine, petty officer, from Treasure Island . . . Earl Jordison, CM 1/c, from Santa Monica . . . CPO John E. Callahan, enroute to Philadelphia, where he reports for officer's training . . . S/Sgts. Keith Smokstad, Dale Reichert, John Ondrejka and Cpl. Ben Salvadore, from German prison camp, Stalag 3B. They were exchanged under the Geneva convention for non-combatant German prisoners. All of them are medical corpsmen. They look fine. And apparently feel fine . . . Harold D. Gerard, Coxn., from his ship.

☉ **SCOREBOARD.** Gowrie is still in there fighting for the state championship. They will play against Creston tonight in the Des Moines sub-state tournament. Complete returns next week. All other teams from Webster County are out. Webster City is still in and should go to the state meet having not too tough competition to face at Storm Lake tonight and tomorrow . . . Wiota's girl wonders took the state tournament for the second straight year and all 237 people in Wiota were out to meet them when they came home last Sunday evening together with thousands of others from the surrounding countryside.

☉ **TWO HEARTS THAT GO PITY-PAT.** Helen Marie Johnson and John Leslie Thompson, of Minneapolis, March 11th, in Fort Dodge. Thompson was with the 34th Division in North Africa and Sicily . . . Ivola Mae Wilson and Calvin R. Ellis, S 1/c. No date set . . . Evelyn Lundberg and Merrill J. Anderson, of Burnside, March 10th, in Fort Dodge . . . Georgia Ann Wilkins, of San Bernardino, Cal., and Fred N. "Bud" Cooper, navy petty officer, at Riverside, Cal., March 11th . . . Helen Bowers and Cpl. Eugene Curl, March 8th, in Fort Dodge . . . Helen Marie Jordison and Cpl. Wm. Gerhart, of Sioux City, in Sioux City, March 6th.

☉ **HOME EOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** To Captain, Maurice "Moe" Tierney, in a hospital somewhere in France.

☉ **MRS. GUY KNUDSON** has set a new world's record. She has written 2380 personal letters to boys on the honor roll in her church (Central Church of Christ), and has received 900 letters in reply.

☉ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** A swell picture of a Super Fort from Lt. Gary Rabiner, who is a navigator on one down at Alamogordo, New Mexico. Thanks, Gary . . . "The Barbarian" from O. J. Davidson, Y 1/c, Naval Air Station, Oahu, T. H. Thanks, O. J. . . The "Hump Express" from Lt. James Rigby, somewhere in India. Thanks, Jim . . . "The Seabees Coverall" from H. J. Lansman, S 1/c, Port Hueneme, Calif. Thanks, H. J. . . "The Philippines Wing-Ding" from Cpl. Tom Merryman, somewhere in the Philippines. Thanks, Tom. We'll play that number. And thanks for that cute picture of the three little girls. I just found it. It was stuck in the envelope . . . Jap invasion money from Pfc. Verlyn Langerman, somewhere in the Philippines. Thanks, Verlyn . . . "Iowa Co-eds Took Up Smoking Pipes." This picture on page 10 of the Yank far east for January 12, 1945, sent to me by S/Sgt. R. A. Johnson, now in the Philippines, shows Mary Ellen Crowl and Janie Sheerer taking up the corn cob pipes of their great, great grandmothers. "You can't keep Fort Dodgers out of the people's eye anywhere."

☉ **OVERSEAS.** Easter greetings from T/Sgt. Ray Kutz somewhere overseas.

☉ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Sgt. O. C. DUCKETT was wounded somewhere in France. He is in a hospital now and will be there several months . . . Jack Watson is a prisoner of war in Germany . . . Lt. Robt. L. Sill is missing in action. His ship, a P-51, failed to return from a flight over Germany February 20th . . . Pfc. Chas. A. O'Connor was wounded in action on Iwo Jima . . . Pfc. Shirley Patton, of Gowrie, was killed in action in France recently . . .

Pfc. Robert Laird was wounded in action in Holland, February 1st . . . Pfc. Richard Hill is recovering from shrapnel wounds suffered in Germany on February 14th . . . Pfc. John W. Linn, of Lehigh, is missing in action as of February 16th, somewhere in southern France.

☉ **TREASURE TROVE.** An American shell landed near the high-way close to Rosario in the Philippines. The bottom of the crater dug into a horde of silver coins. The Army took over and under the watchful and supervisory eye of S/Sgt. John J. Brady, Filipinos dug for two days, loaded four trucks with American and Filipino coins worth half a million dollars.

☉ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** 1st Lt. Maurice J. Tierney, 75th Inf. Div., Somewhere in France. "I had an experience in Mass this morning that really made me stop and think. Sitting in the same pew with me were six men in German uniform. They are some of the Prisoners of War that work around the hospital here. Yet just a matter of days, or weeks previous, they were throwing bullets at us and possibly me, and today they were right beside me worshiping in their chosen fashion. On seeing something like that this morning a fellow asks, "Why War?" ("Moe" is now a captain.)

S/Sgt. R. A. Johnson, Philippines. "I started the day off by eating breakfast with Herbert Hood, also in the 312th Bomb Group, then traveling down the road—via my thumb—I found Wilbert Babcock, of the 392nd Service Squadron. I ate dinner with him. After dinner, hit the road to find Warren "Bud" Winslow, of the 382nd Inf. Reg. His battalion had Boxing Bouts that afternoon so we watched the fights for a while and then spent the rest of the afternoon shooting the breeze. I left him about 4:00 p. m. and started back to my outfit. On the way back I saw the 383rd Inf. Reg. C. P. so I stopped to see if Ed Wafful was there. He was at chow. After chow, we gabbed a while, but he had to go to work so I came on back here to my tent. Hit the road again this morn and can now say that I've also seen M/Sgt. Herb Smith. Spent most of the morning and part of the afternoon with him. He's looking good."

Cpl. Thomas Gollob, Philippines. "The natives are getting to look better with a few surplus G. I. clothes they bartered off of us. The clothing situation is very acute but their morale and smiles cover all embarrassment of worn-out clothing. Seeing civilized men and women without shoes makes me realize how hard the war has been. Keep up the good work, Ed, because we have a lot to be thankful for." (Thanks, Tom, for the Seahorse.)

Phil Dorweiler, S 2/c (Y), Hawaiian Islands. "Now that I am through school, I can tell you that I had a treat and experience I will never forget. I was privileged to work under and be instructed by Albert Tangora, world's champion typist. I am a Yeoman striker now and hoping that I get my petty officer rating soon. They call us 'feather merchants' and the 'Waves' relief' but I don't mind. It's a good racket."

Cpl. A. K. Noland, A. P. O. 252. "Say, I have a question. Aren't there more people getting married now, or are there? Every time I pick up the Y. L. F. H., I see where one of my old buddies has made the horrible mistake." (I think it just seems like there are. We'll play that number.)

Capt. John F. Sulzbach, Somewhere in the Philippines. "I was amazed at the modern concrete highways, the splendid artesian water supply and the excellent school system the Filipinos have developed. Also have seen quite a few railroad engines and trains. The first time I heard a train whistle, I was startled and for a minute thought I was hearing the Great Western at home." (Thanks, John, for the Jap money. We'll play those numbers.)

Pfc. Jestin E. Ober, with the 7th Army somewhere in France. "After crossing the channel, we bounced across France in a boxcar. A very colorful means of travel, I must say. I have often wondered what 'Forty and Eight' meant and now I know. Believe me, seeing Paris from a horse's eye-view isn't so hot. Sure hope I get to look around on the way back. You could tell all the girls back home to take it easy with that 'Down the Center Aisle' stuff till all of us get back so we can go along. Also, tell all the boys, whoever and wherever they may be, 'Hello and the best of luck.'"

There were other welcome letters from Cpl. W. C. Strom, APO 665, New York City; Lt. Harold E. Kullberg, APO 265, San Francisco; Cpl. Wm. D. Weber, APO 966, San Francisco; Pfc. A. Breno, APO 957, San Francisco; T/4 O. Daniels, Fort Knox, Ky.; Sgt. Joe P. Loftus, APO 237, San Francisco; S/Sgt. Raymond E. Anderson, APO 758, New York City; Lt. Harold Peterson, Port of Embarkation, Charleston, S. C.; S/Sgt. R. B. Howie, APO 942, Seattle, Wash.; W. S. McGill, USS Independence, FPO, San Francisco; Sgt. Rollie Sorenson, APO 27, San Francisco; (We'll play that number, Rollie.) Pvt. Roger Grave, Camp Maxey, Texas; (We played those requests, Rog.) Leo Clifton Rojohn, S 1/c, Navy 128, Rec. Stn., FPO, San Francisco, (We played it, Leo.), and LeRoy A. Daiker, F 2/c, Norfolk, Va.

Thanks so much to all of you. We've had Spring Opening. Easter's coming. Merchants are still discussing Saturday evening closings. We've had the brownout and the curfew. Everyone is happy because we know the war is won and because we hope it will not last much longer. Tomorrow is the 17th of March, St. Patrick's day. There'll be a great wearing of the green and a great rejoicing in the hearts of all Notre Dame alumni, real and synthetic. So it's "Erin Go Bragh" and the top of the morning to you; and may the luck of the Irish be with you for at least a hundred years. So long fellow.

Your home town correspondent,
Ed Breen.