

# Your Letter From Home

She: "Do you believe in love at first sight?"

He: "I gotta. I only have a three day pass."

From "The Jackson Journal, Fort Jackson, S. C."

Sent To You With The Best Wishes of

The Fort Dodge National Bank  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
The Gates Dry Goods Co.  
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The Becker Florists  
Radio Station K V F D

"Do you serve women at this bar?"

"Nope, you gotta bring your own."

From "The Jackson Journal, Fort Jackson, S. C."

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

Vol. 2, No. 19

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

March 2, 1945

☛ Dear Joe: Although this comes first its always the part of the letter I write last. As I was reading over the first line of "Around the Town" a little while ago it sounded to me like something that Herr Hitler might have written. Only over there he's losing them for keeps . . . In case you haven't heard, **Fulton Lewis, jr.**, said Wednesday evening, "I am as certain as I am that I am standing here that the war in Europe will be over in two months." That would wind it up about April 30th. The way you are going, Joe, it looks to me as if it would be sooner than that. I go to bed every night expecting the phone to ring before morning. For some reason or other wars over there always seem to end in the middle of the night over here . . . We had a repeat performance of last week's big snow storm. It came Sunday. Started in about nine in the morning, a fine thick snow driven by the wind into a whirling fog. Six inches of it came down in a hurry and by noon all bus service in Fort Dodge had suspended. It subsided by three and by five the busses were rolling again . . . March came in as mild as a lamb and the streets today were a mess of slush and snow water . . . The first robin came with the storm last Sunday. Some tomorrow soon we'll wake up and find it's spring.

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☛ **AROUND THE TOWN.** We're losing a railroad—not the whole line, just a couple of trains, old No. 17 and old No. 18 on the M. and St. L. These trains used to run up thru Estherville to Winthrop, Minn. Not enough people riding so the O. D. T. says, "no more trains till after the war." Gosh, and I'd always intended to go to Winthrop . . . The curfew's got us. All the local niteries—**Coconut Pete's**, **Royal 400**, **Treloar's**, or name your own tavern, are closing now at 12 o'clock. That's Mr. Byrne's order . . . And now local stores are talking about closing Saturday nights . . . One cigarette company has announced, "no more cigarettes for civilians" . . . The **F. D. Serum Company**, for these many months one of the sponsors of **YLFH**, is merging with the **American Home Products Company**. Local stockholders in the switch receive shares in **American Home Products** for shares in **F. D. S. C.** Officers and employees will remain the same . . . New sponsor up at the top there this week. The nod goes to **Frank Moeller** and **Ernie Zuerer** over at the **F. D. National Bank** . . . **Mrs. L. W. Wheeler** is dead. She died Tuesday night . . . **Fulton Lewis Jr.**, **Mutual's** ace commentator, heard nightly on **KVFD** at 6 o'clock, spoke Wednesday evening to 1000 people at the high school auditorium. **KVFD** brought him to town . . . **The Red Cross** drive took off after a delayed start Wednesday evening. **Joe Youngstrom**, clerk of the district court forgot to unlock the **Legion Hall** for the 7:30 meeting, was finally located in the high school auditorium listening to **Fulton Lewis, Jr.** **Joe** says it was someone else who forgot. Okay, **Joe** . . . The big \$14,600 robbery has been solved—rather the money has been recovered. It was stolen from the **Chas. E. Bushnell** apartment last Wednesday morning after an intruder had bopped his daughter-in-law, **Mrs. Loretta Higginbotham**, over the head. Monday the money all but \$150 was discovered in the water reservoir of the toilet in the apartment building. And the rest, folks, is still a mystery . . . **B. H. Wilder** has been elected president of the **Drake Alumni of Webster County** . . . **Mayor Jesse Poole**, **Commissioners C. B. Pilcher** and **W. E. Johnston**, are candidates for re-election to the city council. So far, no opposition . . . Last Friday at **Ft. Madison** we hung **Bill Jarrett**, the morose, the silent slayer of **Everett Warden**. Some day perhaps we will end these legalized killings . . . **Mary Dolliver** will be home in the states soon and will come to Fort Dodge . . .

☛ **PACIFIC.** Pvt. **William Jordison** is with the 6th Marine Division, A. P. O. San Francisco . . . **Lt. H. J. Kjarsgaard** is in the Hawaiian Islands . . . **Alva Long**, A. M. M. 2/c, is in the Hawaiian Islands . . . **Robt. Tierney**, S. K. 2/c is somewhere in the S. W. Pacific . . .

☛ **HIGH C'S.** **Wilbur A. Rush**, S 1/c, is on the U. S. S. **Fortune**, out of San Francisco . . . **James E. Somerville**, S 1/c, is on the U. S. S. **Chas. Carroll**, out of San Francisco . . .

☛ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** Cpl. **Jack Dick**, with the engineers in France, is with a company putting up Bailey bridges . . . **Sgt. Wesley Sandell** is somewhere in France. Wes is with the 199th Gen. Hospital . . . Cpl. **Glen Krug**, who has just landed in France says, "The most amusing things over here are us soldiers with our French books in town." . . . Cpl. **R. H. Peterson** is with the signal corps in France . . .

☛ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKIN'.** **Robert Keeler**, S 1/c, from the Philippines . . . **T/Sgt. Robert L. Bell** from **Selfridge Field, Michigan** . . . **John Vanderhoff**, MM 1/c, from **Tulagi** . . . **S/Sgt. Harry Bryson** from **Belgium** . . . **Lt. Frank Helsell**, comin' from somewhere, goin' somewhere. Frank was here between trains . . . **Robert Larson** from **Lowry Field, Denver, Colo.** . . . **Lt. Mason Haire** back long enough to see his brother, **Cpl. George Haire**, back from **Belgium** . . . **Pvt. Eugene Coleman** enroute to **Fort Meade, Md.** . . . **Jack R. Kearns**, Navy V-12, from **St. Peter, Minnesota** . . . **Capt. Howard Pollock** from **Normandy** . . . **Pvt. Helen I. Bales** from **Ft. Robinson, Neb.** . . . **Clyde Palmer**, S 1/c, from **San Diego** . . . **John Toohey**, SK 1/c, from **Key West, Fla.** . . . **Seabee Joe Lyon** from the S. W. Pacific . . . **Pvt. Edwin H. Lawton**, from **Ft. Benning, Ga.** . . . **Pvt. Jack Steyer**, from **Baltimore, Md.** . . . **Sgt. Howard Brown**, from **Bermuda** . . . **Lt. Vyva Cavanaugh** Kerr on her way to **Le-Jeune, N. C.**, from the west coast . . .

☛ **MERRY ENGLAND.** Pfc. **Wilfred Peterson** is somewhere in England . . .

☛ **PICTURE OF A KID FROM HOME.** He's seventeen and has been in five major battles. At the invasion of **Leyte**, his ship was hit and broke in two. He plugged the oil line with his stomach. Now he's on his way to **Portsmouth** for six months in the hospital. They gave him the **Navy cross** and the **Purple Heart** and a lot of other medals. But he doesn't wear his ribbons. And I guess maybe he wouldn't thank me if I told you his name. So just write him down in your little book of heroes as a kid from home . . .

☛ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. **F. J. Miller** is somewhere in Germany . . .

☛ **WARS GRIM TOLL.** S/Sgt. **Manford Rhodes**, of **Duncombe**, previously reported missing in action, is back with his outfit in **Italy** . . . Pfc. **Richard Hill** was wounded in action in **Germany**, Feb. 14th . . . **Lt. Mervin Danielson** has been released from a **German POW** camp and is on his way home. He was captured Oct. 31st . . . **Cpl. Merlin D. Algoe** lost on a Jap freighter where he was a prisoner, Sept. 7th, 1944. We torpedoed the freighter . . . **Pvt. Wm. Bornholt** has been wounded in action in **Germany** . . . **Sgt. Dean Taylor** was lost on the same Jap freighter on which **Merlin Algoe** was a prisoner, Sept. 7, 1944 . . .

☛ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** To 1st/Lt., **Kenneth Hill** in **Belgium** . . . To F. O., **Charles W. Heringlake**. He got his wings as a navigator at **Selman Field, Monroe, La.**, February 23rd . . .

☛ **TWO HEARTS THAT BEAT AS ONE.** **Evelyn Lundberg** of **Burnside**, and **M. J. Anderson**, of **Harcourt**, at **Fort Dodge**, Feb. 25th . . . **Maribelle Durschmidt** and **George Williams**, of **Duncombe**, at **Fort Dodge**, Feb. 25th . . . **Betty Lucas** and **George E. Peterson**, AMM 1/c, no date set . . . **Oda Scherff** and **Duane Anderson**, S 1/c, of **Gowrie**. No date set . . . **Marie Wise** and **Ens. R. L. Stanfield**, of **Houston, Texas**, in **Des Moines**, Feb. 19th . . .

☛ **SCOREBOARD.** This time we lost one overtime to the **Rough Riders** of **Roosevelt High** in **Des Moines**, 25 to 23. The **Dodgers** with an almost fine basketball team had the hard luck this year of losing all their close games to wind up fourth in the **Big Seven** . . . In the State wrestling meet, the **Dodgers** took fifth place with **Kenny Carlson**, 155 lb. class, taking a second, and **Wayne Smith**, 129 lb. class, taking a third . . . **East Des Moines** knocked off the **Dodgers** in their next to last game, 23 to 21. Another hard one to lose . . . The sectional basketball tournaments are going this week. Full report next week . . . **Callender girls'** team lost to **Stanhope** in the district tournament for girls. Score 41 to 30 . . . **Corpus Christi** lost to **Algona** last Thursday, 39 to 22 . . .

☛ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** "The 83rd Spearhead" from Pfc. **Rosette A. Harp** somewhere in **Belgium**. Thanks, **Rosette** . . . A new patch to me, as yet unidentified, from **T/5 John J. Steib, Jr.**, with the engineers in **Italy**. This patch is oblong with rounded corners, white figures on a blue background, the Roman numeral two in the center, an eagle on one side and a lion rampant on the other. Thanks, **John** . . . The patch of the 103rd or Cactus Division from **Sgt. Bob Lawson**, stringing wire somewhere in **France**. Thanks, **Bob** . . . "The Jackson Journal" from Pfc. **Harold Foran**, Ft. Jackson, S. C. Thanks, **Harold** . . . "The Golpibian" from **Lt. A. C. Kramer, Jr.**, Galveston, Tex. Thanks, **Lt.** . . . **Werner H. Muenster**, CM 1/c, is on the U. S. S. **Tulagi**, out of **San Francisco**. Thanks, **Werner** for the "Tulagi Tattler." He'd like to hear from his old friends . . . "The Interceptor" from **Pvt. J. H. McNeilley**, Camp Pinedale, Fresno, Cal. Thanks, **J. H.** . . . Jap invasion money from **Sgt. James Hill** in the Hawaiian Islands. Thanks, **Jim** . . . "The Beachhead" from **Richard Schmidt**, S 1/c, **R. M. Dick** and **Don Guthrie** met last week in **San Diego**. **Dick** is at **Oceanside**. Thanks, **Sailor** . . . "The Yank" from the Far East where it is priced in centavos! And guilders! From **S/Sgt. R. A. Johnson**. Thanks, **Sgt.** . . . "The Aeronaut" from **S/Sgt. Harold E. Campbell**, A. P. O. Miami, Fla. Thanks, **Sgt.** . . . Pfc. **Marvin Bradshaw** sends us **Black Landmarks** from **Blackland Army Air Field, Waco, Texas** . . . The pony edition of "Time" Mag. and Jap money from Pfc. **Cleo D. Hanson**, A. P. O. 629, N. Y. Thanks, **Cleo**.

☛ **OVER HERE.** Pfc. **Wm. M. Roberts, Jr.**, is at the air field at **Florence, S. C.** . . . **Francis L. Hoyer**, E. M. 2/c, is at 1401 **Fairmont St. N. W.**, **Washington, D. C.** His brother **Paul**, a Pfc., is in **Ward 107**, **National Navy Medical Center**, **Bethesda, Md.** . . . **J. R. Doak**, S. M. 2/c, is in the service school command at **Sampson, N. Y.** . . . **Pvt. Phil DeFoe** is at **Camp Livingston, La.** . . . **Pvt. Don Nodtvedt** is at **Keesler Field, Miss.** . . . **John R. Jordison**, S 2/c, is at **Norman, Okla.** . . . **Robt. G. Ditzenberger**, S 1/c, is at naval air gunner's school at **Jacksonville, Fla.** . . . **Jesse Eugene Easley**, S 2/c, formerly on the U. S. S. **Doneff**, is in **Ward 7**, **U. S. Naval Hospital**, **Seattle, Wash.** **Jesse's** got a broken arm . . . **Cpl. Paul W. Rodman** is at **Indiantown Gap, Pa.** . . . **T/5 Clarence G. Werling** is at **Camp Shelby, Miss.** . . . **Cpl. Fred Wallace**, formerly of the **Boston Store**, is now at **Childress, Tex.** . . . **M. A. "Dee" Laurent**, S 1/c, with the **WAVES**, is at **Camp Elliott**, **San Diego, Cal.**, and very anxious to see any **Dodgers** located thereabouts. "I've only seen one service man and his wife from home, **Willard Soppeland**." . . . **Cpl. E. J. Flattery** suggests the promotion of a memorial ball park in **Fort Dodge**. Sounds o. k., **E. J.** What would you think of promoting a fund to build permanent stands on the ball park at **Dodger Field**. That's one of the finest fields ever. All it needs is



stands. Thanks for a swell idea and a grand letter. E. J. is at the Army Air Field at Lincoln, Neb. . . . Lt. Don Schoeberlein is at George Field, Lawrenceville, Ill. . . . Cpl. Melvin Inman is at the airfield at Ardmore, Okla. . . . S/Sgt. John Struhar is in Atlanta, Ga. . . . Ensign C. J. Pilcher is at Charleston, S. C. . . . Pvt. James A. Fairbanks is at Roswell, N. M. . . . S/Sgt. Fred Heidick is at Camp Ellis, Illinois . . . Wayne C. Jondle, H. A. 2/C, is at the U. S. Navy Hospital, Perris Island, S. C. . . . Pvt. John C. Madison is at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia . . . Lloyd Palmer, W. T. 2/C, is at the Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa. . . . Pvt. Carl L. Reed is now at Camp Howze, Texas, his third camp in Texas "and each time they get worse." . . . Gerald H. Gronwall, S. M. 1/C is at Newport, R. I. . . . Irma Marie Youngstrom, Ph. M. 3/C, is at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Seattle, Wash. Her brother Earl is an aviation student at Roswell, N. M., and Cpl. Joe Jr. is somewhere in the Pacific . . . Cpl. Roy C. Felky is at Camp Pinedale, Fresno, Cal. . . . George Casey, S 2/C, at Memphis, Tenn., was at the Bob Hope broadcast recently. "I fought like hell to get to the mike to put in a plug for KVFd, but I couldn't make it."

☛ **SUNNY ITALY.** Milfred Rasch, U. N. R. R. A. is in Italy . . . Cpl. Floyd Wempe is with the 429th Bomb. Sq., 2nd Bomb. Gp. (H), A. P. O. 520, N. Y., and anxious to meet any Dodgers thereabouts . . .

☛ **GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER.** WAVE Faye Jurisin, S 2/C, WAVE Betty Koenig, Margaret Struhar and WAVE Donovan in Washington. Faye is at the WAVE barracks, Mass. and Neb. Ave. N. W. . . . Roger Carlson, S 1/C, Sgt. Bill Hartman, Don Campbell and Bud Gormally somewhere in the Pacific. Roger's ship is the U. S. S. Catskill. And from way down there, he says "hello" to his brother in France whom he hasn't seen in four years . . . Robt. E. Hedburg, H. A. 2/C, and Harris E. Putzke, S 1/C, both of Dayton, in the U. S. Naval Hospital, Corona, Cal. Bob hopes to be home for a few days soon . . .

☛ **PHILIPPINES.** Deane Smith, S 2/C, signs himself "The Wonder Boy of the Seabees." He's down in the Philippines on Island X. "If it ain't raining, it's the heat. I've only been cold once. That was while unloading a reefer ship." (Editor—I finally figured that out. You can, too.) I was up 32 hours doing that. Of all the men on this island, I and eight others were picked for it." We're sending Dean Olson's address . . .

☛ **VALENTINES.** Our first valentine from Pfc. Dale M. Olson, somewhere in France, a clever cutout backed up by a French five franc note. Thanks, Dale . . . A second valentine "to all the gang" from T/5 F. A. Engelbart somewhere in Italy. Thanks, Fred . . .

☛ **BELGIUM.** Cpl. Bob Horton is somewhere in Belgium . . . Cpl. J. O. Holmes has been in England, France, Luxembourg and is now in Belgium . . . Pfc. Don Derrig is somewhere in Belgium . . .

☛ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD—**Mary I. Stratton, S 1/c, Jacksonville, Fla. "My husband, Pfc. Robert L. Stratton and my eldest brother, Pfc. Lue Edward Strait, met over in Belgium last month. Lue Edwards is in the 76th General Hospital Division and Bob is in the 289th Inf. I have bumped into a lot of Fort Dodge men here through the postoffice. Walt Swenson was here for several weeks schooling, but is back in Norfolk now. Father Robert J. Quinn (whom so many of the boys know personally) is our Catholic Chaplain here at Natts."

A/S Howard B. Grooters, La Junta, Colorado. "Despite the proximity of the snow-covered Rockies most Coloradoans seem blissfully unaware of the sports possibilities in those peaks. Skiing, however, is popularly indulged in—by Easterners! For me the bright spot each month is spending several days trying to break my neck in a most ungraceful manner. My latest achievement is a sprained knee suffered from a tangle with one of the fairer fans of the sport (she wasn't even bruised, darn it!) This mountain climate with its consistently sunny days and its invigorating, crisp air makes the Rockies a skier's paradise—what trails and slalom courses!—Fortkonsa's slopes in years past used to give the gang plenty of spills and those moonlit nights when we would use tow ropes behind our 'model A' on the snowpacked roads north of Fort Dodge were great, too. Before closing I'll mention our old quartette of High school and junior college days (we all are in: Gustafson, Tempel, Novy). We used to sing most everywhere—even at (PLUG) KVFd. One year we surprisingly took your amateur contest with a loving cup (we still have it) and \$20 from Paris Cleaners as first money. Great stuff, those little experiences make life worth looking back on."

Sgt. Warren Winslow, Philippines, "Here's a note from a plain 'dog face' way out here in this big Pacific Ocean. I met my first 'Dodger' the other day—S/Sgt. Dick Johnson finally decided it was safe enough, so he moved up from Guinea. It sure was swell seeing his big frame come walking in on me. Just as always our meeting turned into a big 'bull session'. Say hello to everyone around the town—sure wish I could be back." Thanks, Warren for "Deadeye Features", they're swell.

William H. Nelson, S 1/c, San Francisco, Calif. "Since I last wrote you, we have crossed the equator. Whenever a sailor crosses the equator, he is initiated by the ones on the ship that were across before. The ones that were not across before are called "Polywogs". Well, the "Shellbacks" really made a real initiation for us. It started by coming up a ladder with someone at the top with a fire hose on you with a lot of pressure. Well, that got you soaked for sure. Then—under a canvas with guys pounding on you with boards, pieces of hose and etc. Then you crawled along the deck a ways past guys hitting you with boards, up in front of the King and Queen of the 'Shellbacks'. He told you things to do, and you did them because they had guys behind you with knives and tongs, with electricity in them. And boy it would lift you right up in the air. It really went through you, too, because you were all wet before you got there. While you were there you had to eat paste on bread, kiss the deck, and a number of things. Then came the haircut. They got you in a chair and whacked your hair off with scissors, then you had to jump in a tank of water, with the hair they had cut off other guys floating in it. So once again my hair is about that long. Then on top of that, after they had cut off all your hair, they painted the top of your head, back, neck, face and ears with red, gray and yellow paint. That's just a few of the main things they did. So now I am a 'Shellback'. I will

get a big certificate about the size of my big picture and a card to carry in my billfold."

S/Sgt. V. A. Spinharney, Germany. "We are enjoying Y. L. F. H. now in Germany and it's a cold and muddy place. It sure seems funny to see these German civilians carrying and pushing all their worldly belongings in a little cart down these muddy roads. I guess they at last realize how horrible war is, now that it is tearing up their homes and country."

R. O. Black, Cox. B-4, Port Hueneme, Calif. Would like to inform our beloved 'Coach' Fred Cooper, from up at the senior high, that I've wrestled and thrown a fellow out here, who was three times a state champion (New York) in 1939 through 1941, also a finalist in nationals—1941—here on our local mat in camp gymnasium." (R. O. is just back from 19 months overseas.)

Pfc. Kirsten N. Lyngstad, Auburn, Calif. "Am in pretty good shape now. This case of trench foot I have bothers me very little now, and in a few days I'll be transferred to a convalescence hospital. Met an old time Fort Dodger out here in this place, by the name of S/Sgt. Merle O'Hara. He knew a lot of the old time Fort Dodgers. He mentioned a few—Walter Merryman, George and Roy Gillman, B. B. Burnquist, Don Vincent, Doctor Dorr and many others. He was married to one of the Allen girls and she died in December I believe. Merle said to say hello to all his old friends, and that he will be back sometime to see some of them. I wonder if anyone remembers Merle." (Everyone my age and older remembers Merle. Give him our best.)

Pfc. Delbert Porter, Luxembourg. Since I left the states I've been in England, France, Belgium and am now in Luxembourg. There's only one more place I can go now, and I hope I get there soon. All the snow and cold weather that we've had over here all winter (you've probably read about it) is now gone, but the mud is now almost as deep as the snow was. It rains every day, too. Cigarettes are plentiful over here. I have accumulated about three cartons and we are issued seven packs a week so you can see we have no shortage. I got a Xmas package this afternoon and it had a carton of camels in it. I couldn't even give them away. Chewing gum is also plentiful. In fact, I'd say they keep us well supplied with everything." (Thank God, the gum and cigarettes are getting to the front. We wondered where they'd gone.)

2nd/Lt. Audrey Eslick, ANC, England. "We're very, very busy over here, sometimes I wonder if we can plug along another day, but we always manage. At present our Evacuation Hospital is inactive and most of the officers and enlisted men are out on detached service with General Hospitals. We're patiently waiting for the day when we can toss our belongings in our bedrolls and take off for the front."

R. A. Waddell, S 1/c, FPO, San Francisco, "I'm still on the Mighty Maryland. I've only been out of the states ten months, but that's about ten months too long. I rate four stars, but that's about four battles too many for a peace loving fellow from old Fort Dodge. We were at the Mariannas, Palau Islands, Philippines, and Second battle of the Philippines. Just recently I saw four fellows from home that I knew well. Earl Bittner, Phil Dorweiler, Red Doyle and Don Spillman. We really had a swell time together, talking about the good old days back there. I bet we sounded like a bunch of women. We didn't mind though. Seeing some fellows you know boosts your old morale way up there."

Sgt. Bob Bowers, Italy. "This finds me still in the mountains of northern Italy, and from my position I can just see Bologna, sure wish we were there. There's a heavy artillery barrage (ours) going on now and every once in a while we can see a few Jerries running to better cover. Our machine gunners just spotted six and are firing at them. Well, didn't see the Jerries, but they claim they got two—so 'Hitler count your chilluns once more'. A couple of days ago I met an old friend of mine. I met this fella in Naples last winter and now he's one of our mule skinnners. He's Italian and speaks a little English, and I haven't had so much hugging and kissing since I left Fort Dodge. He was so glad to see me, and he wants me to come and visit him after the war is finished. His home is in Catania, Sicily,—said he would fix me up with the prettiest signorina in all Sicily, and he's just the type to do it. Well, I received my Jan. 12th YLFH—well, in fact I got all of them—had a nice talk with Doug Viers and Ray Paul last week." (We'll play that number, Bob.)

Maj. F. H. Ferguson, Somewhere in France. "Note the change of A. P. O. Here we sit in another part of France. Really weather today! Living in an old Chateau, save for windows broken in, no heat, sleeping on tile (red brick) floors. No water, no crapper, but a 50 watt bulb to see our comrades by. Was in mud knee deep for some time. No mail for so darn long—do get on the ball over there! Was in Reims yesterday, has been a beautiful city. Countryside here is rolling hills, lots of trees. Oh! those hedge rows. Got a haircut, shampoo, shave and tonic today for 23 F. F. here, worth about 2 cents. Haven't had a bath in about five weeks. Am going to splurge tonight and do a helmet job. Send those letters along."

And there were other swell letters from Dorothy J. Havens, AMM 2/c, Pensacola, Fla.; Al Knutson, ARM 3/c, Corpus Christi, Texas; Nick A. Hergenreter, Jr., S 2/c, Shoemaker, California; Cpl. Frank D. Valashek, Jr., APO 444, New York; F/O Warren M. Peterson, Chandler, Arizona; Cpl. Bernard F. Shimon, APO 957, San Francisco, Calif.; F/O C. M. Bloomquist, APO 133, New York; Frank V. Pierce, Tacoma, Wash.; Cpl. Nels Pearson, Jr., Fort Dix, N. J.; Keith C. Webb, S 1/c, FPO, New York.

Did I inadvertently say something about spring in this letter. Ah, then that it is that grips me, the spring fever. A great yearning to lie on a green bank and look through the budding leaves at a blue sky full of woolly lamb clouds playing tag with each other. And maybe I wouldn't look very long. Maybe I'd just close my eyes and listen to a cricket and a speckled little frog singing lullabies and making a most enchanting racket about how good it is to be alive in the spring. I'd listen with one ear till I was full of sleep. Then I'd wake up with a wonderful code in the doze . . . Iowa, it's a beautiful land. Hurry home, fellow.

Your home town correspondent,

Edward Breen.