

Overheard in a Pullman:  
 "I'm deeply sorry, ladies,  
 I'm a married man . . . a  
 man of respect and stand-  
 ing in my community. I  
 cannot have a breath of  
 scandal touch me. I'm sor-  
 ry, but . . . one of you girls  
 will have to leave."  
 —From "The Flyer," Reno  
 Army Air Base.

# Your Letter From Home

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

Jim: "Do you believe it's  
 bad luck for a kitten to  
 follow you?"

Joe: "That depends on  
 whether you're a man or a  
 mouse."

—From "The Flyer," Reno  
 Army Air Base.

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. 29

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

May 11, 1945

☉ **DEAR JOE:** Big, fat, wet snowflakes have been falling all afternoon this 9th day of May, A. D., 1945, in the city of Fort Dodge, county of Webster, and State of Iowa. Am I regusted! I agrees with Durante. It's mutiny! Sunday was beautiful. Everyone got outside and puttered around, or went on picnics. Kids flew kites and older girl kids got on sun suits and did a little flirting with old Sol. But then the weather changed just as we were all on edge waiting for V-E Day. It changed about eight o'clock Sunday evening. We were sitting on the bank of the river above the dam in Loomis Park when it happened. Wind and black thunderheads rolled up from the southeast and soon a fine spray of water was being whipped back over the dam. People pulled on extra jackets and sweaters, had another cup of coffee, packed their lunch baskets and headed for home. Summer had gone again. And all the time we were getting more and more edgy about when, if ever, V-E Day would come. Monday morning came and we were all set for V-E Day. From many quarters came the announcement that Germany had surrendered. The phone company notified us that the President would speak at 11 o'clock CWT. Some of the stores didn't open at all Monday. The day dragged on. Then the announcement came that Pres. Truman and Prime Minister Churchill had been ready to make the announcement at 11 o'clock, but that Stalin was not ready. The day wore on, everyone jumpy. Nothing happened. We went to bed. Still it was not V-E Day.

☉ **V-E DAY IN YOUR HOME TOWN.** At 8 o'clock Pres. Truman spoke over the air and everyone knew the day we had waited for so long and so prayerfully had come. The fire sirens blew, but I haven't found out yet whether it was because of V-E Day, or because of a fire. The sun shone brightly, but the wind was chill. Not a store, or an office, or beer parlor, or restaurant opened. Factories closed. Everyone went home. There was no one on the streets. The schools were closed. At noon you could have fired a machine gun down Central Avenue and injured no one. The theatres were closed and the filling stations. Federal offices stayed open. The newspaper people worked and so did we here at the radio station. The liquor store was closed. Most store windows were hung with flags. Gates Dry Goods Store had put in a beautiful window built around a great white lettered word "Peace" . . . Over the radio from all corners of the world came the story of the war's end. We intended to do a broadcast from Central Avenue and tell what was happening. But nothing was happening. There was no one there . . . At 10 o'clock every church in Fort Dodge had a short service of prayer and thanksgiving. Nearly everyone went . . . In the afternoon there was a ball game between the Dodgers and Eagle Grove. The Dodgers won 8 to 7 after everyone had been shocked by the death of Umpire Elmer Curtis . . . In the evening we all went out to the band shell in Oleson Park. It was very cold for May, but thousands of people were there to join in the songfest. The patriotic organizations presented the colors, Father Robert Dougherty asked God's blessing; Karl King and the band played; we sang The Star Spangled Banner, the patriotic songs that stir your heart. The All-Girl-Choir sang and so did the Men's Glee Club and the high school mixed chorus. Dr. J. J. Davies talked for a few minutes. Then we sang America, taps were sounded and we drove home through the chill night. Not jubilant, but relieved, thankful, soberly happy that the war in Europe had ended . . . Now the brownout is over, the lights are on again, curfew has ended, censorship is lifting, ponies are getting ready to run again . . . And there is the hope in everyone's heart that the war in the East may end suddenly, dramatically. And that's today's best hope for the world.

☉ **ALONG THE MAIN DRAG.** The Red Shield, brand new Salvation Army service club, opened its doors for the first time V-E Day . . . In Dubuque, the OPA has ordered the city's 163 taverns to cut their prices back to pre-war levels . . . Maurice Breen appeared before the supreme court of Iowa on V-E Day to ask for a rehearing in the case of Dorn Machovec, who shot and killed his stepfather, Paul Voss, a year ago last January. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. Machovec is in Father Flanagan's Home pending the appeal . . . Lt. Col. Bob Heath has been very ill—double pneumonia. He is now at Okoboji . . . Pfaff Baking Co. is celebrating its 25th anniversary . . . A Fort Dodge post of the American Veterans of World War II has been formed with Glenn Orr as acting commander . . . At a private showing at the Rialto of "The Woman in the Window" local Hawkshaws from the police department, sheriff's office and other law enforcement agencies were asked to put the finger on the killer. Only bright boys in the class were guest Rev. F. E. Drake, retired Episcopal minister, and Patrolman Clinton Henry, of the Highway Patrol. The twenty-three others can go sit in the corner . . . Mrs. Wayne Bonnell has been elected state treasurer of Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs . . . No. 17 and No. 18 started chugging back and forth between Winthrop, Minn., and Fort Dodge last Monday . . . The wet fields and the cold weather have made corn planting late . . . For some reason or other the lakes and streams of the state are short of minnows. So the state conservation commission has had to prohibit the seining of minnows in all of the lakes of the state. It must be the war . . . Weather note: Sioux City had 3½ inches of snow May 9th. July 4th is sure going to interfere with the sleighing.

☉ **SCOREBOARD.** In the sectional tournament held at Dodger Field, Eagle Grove defeated Moorland 21 to 2, and Fort Dodge defeated Burnside, 14 to 1. Both were semi-final games. In the finals the Dodgers met and defeated Eagle Grove on the afternoon of V-E Day, 8 to 7. Right at the beginning of the second inning of that game, the umpire dropped dead just as he had finished dusting off home plate. He was Elmer Curtis, of Webster City, about 60 years old and widely known as a high school baseball umpire. He was dead before Dr. Fieseler, who was in the stands, could get to where he lay along side of home plate. After a delay of a half hour, the game continued with the Dodgers finally winning, 8 to 7. Mericle, Chelleen, and Woodard pitching for the Dodgers. Woodard went in, in the last inning with the bases loaded, no body down and the Eagles trailing by only two runs. He shut 'em out without a hit, one man scoring on a fly ball . . . Next week the district tournament—which may be played here—and then the State tournament at Manson . . . In the first round of the tournament Eagle Grove defeated Webster City, 9 to 0; Moorland defeated Lehigh, 4 to 3; Burnside defeated Woolstock, 5 to 4 and Fort Dodge defeated Otho, 10 to 4 . . . In the Grinnell College track meet, Wasem won the high hurdles in :15.7. The Dodger miler relay team set a new record, 3:31.9. The same team, Osam, Kruckman, Wasem and Pollard won the ½ mile in 1:33.6. Lindner took the high jump at five feet seven . . . St. John's, of Bancroft, took the Dodgers last Friday, 8 to 5. The Dodgers were held to five hits. Bancroft hammered out nine hits . . . In a dual track meet the Dodgers defeated Boone, 101 to 45.

☉ **BLOODY OLD WAR.** In the Civil War, 13,000 Iowans lost their lives in service. Our death loss in the World War II is 5,906.

☉ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** Wings and a commission to Navy flyer Don Dillman at Corpus Christi, May 2nd . . . Bronze stars to Edward Pratt, PhM 1/c, and Lt. Blaine Asher. Pratt met Lt. Norman Runge, recently in a base hospital in the Pacific . . . The Bronze Star to Harwood Boggs in the Philippines . . . The Bronze Star to Cpl. Harland Yates, somewhere in Italy . . . The Bronze Star to Sgt. William Burnquist at Hot Springs, Ark. . . The Bronze Star to Pfc. Bob Wickwire on Luzon . . . The Bronze Star to Sgt. W. K. Boots, with the signal corps in Germany . . . To 2nd Lt., Stanley Pingel in Germany. Stanley also received the Silver Star.

☉ **ORANGE BLOSSOMS, RICE AND OLD LACE.** Gladys Click, of Callender and Lt. Glen Pedersen, of West Brook, Minn., April 26th in Callender . . . Ruth Lindhart and Ensign Lloyd D. Schwendemann, of Burnside, May 5th in Fort Dodge . . . Alvina Nekvinda and Stephan Rusnak, AMoMM 1/c, May 1st at Omaha . . . Doralene Henkle and Edward K. Johnson, QM 2/c, of Humboldt, May 1st, in Humboldt . . . Barbara Lou Rhinehart and Cpl. Orval M. Harjes, of Storm Lake, in Fort Dodge, May 4th . . . Oda Scherff and Duane Anderson, S 1/c, of Gowrie, April 29th, in Gowrie . . . Norma Durham, of Louisville, Ky., and 1st Sgt. Aaron Holm, of Duncombe, in Louisville, April 29th.

☉ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** One hundred and twenty-one Webster County men have given their lives in World War II. This is the ninth highest county death loss in the state . . . Pfc. Victor Hanson, of Callender, was wounded in action in Italy on April 15th . . . Pfc. Allison Hill, POW in Germany, has been liberated. So have all the POW's, we hope, but this was before V-E Day . . . Others reported liberated before V-E Day—Lt's. Owen Walton and Delmar Schmidt and Sgt. Vernon L. Johnston . . . Sgt. Warren Winslow was slightly wounded on Okinawa, April 7th . . . S/Sgt. L. D. Cobb was seriously wounded in action in Germany April 19th . . . Pfc. Arthur D. Porter is missing in action in Germany since April 14th . . . Pfc. Don Halsey was wounded in action in April . . . Pfc. Robert Hay, of Otho, was wounded in action in Germany, April 19th . . . T/Sgt. James Semprini, of Lehigh, was wounded in Germany, April 15th . . . Lt. Robert Armstrong, B-26 pilot in Europe, has been missing in action since April 18th . . . Cpl. Ralph I. Maberry is missing in action in Germany since March 13th . . . Pfc. Joe Balchitis was seriously wounded in action in Germany April 13th . . . T/5 Andrew Sorenson has been liberated from a German prison camp . . . Pfc. Robert D. Johnson was wounded in action on Cebu Island, April 14th . . . Clinton I. Ruby has been liberated from a German prison camp and is on his way home.

☉ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Lt. (j. g.) Nora Toohey, from Quonsit Point, R. I. . . Major E. J. Baker, from Germany . . . Sgt. Ralph Coats, from Italy, where he has been with the 34th Division . . . T/5 George Hoyer, from Hawaii . . . James O'Connor, PhM, from Farragut, Idaho. Jim was wounded on Saipan and has been in the hospital recovering from severe chest wounds . . . Stephen D. Hufford, of Gowrie. While home he was notified that he had been made a warrant officer . . . 1st Lt. Howard Smith, from Stuttgart, Ark. . . Sgt. Dennis Berry, from a prison camp in Germany . . . S/Sgt. Victor L. Ruthart, after 39 missions as waist gunner on a B-17 "Five Grand" in the E. T. O. . . Francis P. Kelly is home for good, honorably discharged. He's working for International Harvester in Sioux City.

☉ **DAS REICH.** LeRoy T. Thorson, of Somers, now somewhere in Germany, is looking for a good folding camera, size 120 or 620. LeRoy has had a couple of close calls. In the last one the truck on which he was riding was hit by an eighty-eight and all of his



belongings including a couple of cameras, two German lugers, and a fine set of German field glasses destroyed . . . Pvt. Dale Davis is with the MP's in Germany . . . Dana Perrin, RM 3/c, is way over in the middle of Germany. Funny place for a sailor. "The part of Germany I am in would remind you of Wisconsin or Minnesota, except the towns. Those would remind you of a city dump."

☉ **PACIFIC.** Sgt. John Conway, Hdqts. 746th AAA, APO 718, is looking for other Dodgers. He's on an island somewhere in the Pacific . . . Ray G. Thorsness, MoMM 2/c, is with Sub Division 162 out of San Francisco . . . Earl Vought, GM 3/c, is on Mindoro in the Philippines. Thanks, Earl, for the Filipino Press . . . Jim Van Gundy, F 1/c, on the USS LCI 655 is now in New Guinea. He is looking for Dodgers not having met any since he left home. "What am I, a lone wolf?" . . . Sgt. Joe Loftus is on an island somewhere in the Pacific . . . Leonard R. Johnson, Cox., out that way, FPO, San Francisco, says hello to all the fellows and wishes them luck where ever they are . . . Leland L. Clare, SK 3/c, is somewhere in the Philippines . . . Pfc. Richard Wonders is in a hospital in the Philippines. His old outfit had so many casualties that it was disbanded. Dick is now assigned to the engineers . . . C. E. Davis, MoMM 3/c, is on the USS Orion somewhere in the Pacific.

☉ **SMALL WORLD.** Lt. R. E. Enfield, P-38 pilot, recently sent to Italy, was surprised to find that Dick Gadbury was the squadron bombardier. "We use P38's for bombing quite often and Dick tells us when to let them go." . . . Lawrence "Larry" R. Johnston, S 1/c, and his cousin, Howard McIntyre, somewhere out that way. "So far we have spent four days together discussing the good ole times in the old home town. It helps a lot to see someone you know."

☉ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The patch of the 2nd Division from Pfc. Bernard Guggisberg, now in a hospital in England. He has been there since January 9th. Thanks, Bernie . . . A picture from Rudi Anderson, somewhere in Italy. Thanks, Rudi. . . The Ramp Age from E. J. Conway, S 1/c, Coronado, Cal. Thanks, Gene . . . The China Lantern from T/5 Vince Powers, somewhere in China. Thanks, Vince . . . The Sentry from Lt. J. E. Peschau, Quantico, Va. Thanks, Lt. . . The Flyer from Lt. F. W. Griffith, Reno. Thanks, Lt. . . The Windsock and The Brief from S/Sgt. Merrill Saunders, somewhere in the Pacific. Thanks, Merrill . . . A beautiful German medal from Pfc. Newell S. Porter, somewhere in Germany. Thanks, Newell . . . The Cuckatoo News Summary from Pfc. Eugene C. Anderson, of Callender, now in the Philippines with the 20th regiment of the 6th Infantry Division. When Gene wrote, the 20th Infantry regiment had just been pulled out of the line after 100 days of continuous combat—a record for the southwest Pacific theatre. Thanks, Gene . . . The Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune for April 25, 1945, from Major Howard B. Gamper. Thanks, Major.

☉ **MERRY ENGLAND.** T/Sgt. Roy Kutz is somewhere in England . . . Merle J. Richenbaur, AMM 3/c, is in England.

☉ **OVER HERE.** Suzanne Peschau, AMM 2/c, is stationed in Memphis, Tenn. . . Sgt. Merle Olofson is in the Birmingham General Hospital at Van Nuys, Calif. "This makes the 11th one since I was in Italy a year ago. I am feeling fine and hope to be discharged soon." . . . Pfc. Ray Nelson is getting along fine at Wake-man Convalescent Hospital at Camp Atterbury, Ind. . . Cpl. Warren Kelly is now in Ward 41 B of the US Naval Hospital, Oakland 14, Calif. . . Ens. H. C. Elmore graduated from Corpus Christi April 25th, and is now at Green Cove Springs, Fla.

☉ **OVERSEAS.** Sgt. Robert Z. Lloyd is with the 254th General Hospital overseas.

☉ **HIGH C'S.** Merle R. Crockett, S 1/c, is aboard the USS Boxen, an air craft carrier and "a swell ship," somewhere in the Atlantic.

☉ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** T/5 Ned Ackerson, Somewhere in Germany. "The Germans, for all their modern war machinery, are surely backward to my estimation, especially when it comes to farming. It's nothing to see a farmer out in the field using an ox and a milk cow to make a team for plowing. Their plows are made mostly of wood with a metal plate on the cutting edge. I should think the people would stop fighting wars for awhile and take care of other things. You should see the buildings, especially in the smaller towns. I don't know whether you could call them houses or barns. Their living quarters are okay, but if you should happen to open the wrong door, you would more than likely find yourself face to face with the livestock. The chickens roost up in the attic. They have a step-ladder affair that runs up the side of the building and the chickens have quite a time getting up there to roost. Oh yes, another thing—the cars they have here are what you call charcoal burners. How they make them run beats me, but I'm intending to find out one of these days."

Pfc. George C. Brown, Somewhere in Germany. "We were rambling over a German highway the other day and came on a large hole. Looking up to the roof of a barn, we noticed it had been heavily sprayed with manure. A fellow, sitting at the end of the truck and looking at the roof said, 'Boys! that was caused by the Ninth Air Force, otherwise known as the Ninth Air Force Manure Spreader!' Gosh! Ed, you should have heard us guys laugh. If it had not been for the Letter From Home, I would not have known that a friend of mine, Fred O. Mann, was married. I met him while pitching horseshoes, and let me tell you, Ed, that boy could really pour ringers at that stake. Congratulations to them."

Phil Dorweiler, S 2/c (Y), Guam. "The news of our president's death was quite a blow to all of us out here on Guam. We are flying the flag at half mast for thirty days in his memory. After that shock had let down a little we heard about the death of Ernie Pyle. Mother and Dad have a picture I sent that was taken of Ernie at our hut one night. He was a great man and a friend of the serviceman."

S/Sgt. Robert E. Gilbranson, Germany. "It has been wonderful weather over here on this side of the world. The German farmers almost have all the crops in and the gardens are already showing green. I see some places they already have fresh green onions to eat. The pastures are all green and the trees are all loaded with buds and the flowers are all in bloom, and all in all it makes a person very homesick and lonely for those summer days way back in 'Good Old Iowa.' These German typewriters are quite the thing, the letters are somewhat changed around and I get mixed up once in awhile and hit the wrong keys, so you'll have to forgive

me for all the mistakes. Well, Ed, tell all the folks 'Hello' for me on your program and we all over here hope to see you all soon." Thanks, Bob, for the German Marks.

Cpl. Thomas Merrill, Germany. "I have been going to write and tell you that I met John McMahon last January, just about a week before he went down. He was the first from the Old Home Town and the only one I've seen since I came over almost two years ago." Dale A. Rebmann, B. M. 2/c, FPO, San Francisco, Calif. "My first trip out in '42 took me down to New Caledonia. At the time I was on a destroyer, namely U. S. S. Preston. We participated in every battle from the Coral Sea to the time of our gallant death, which occurred Nov. 15, 1942, at Guadalcanal. The odds, that night, were 29 to 6 against us so maybe you can visualize what a time we had. For my part it's something I'll never forget! My good buddy, Lloyd L. Thomas, who joined the navy with me was on the same ship at the time and we were fortunate in getting off alive and unhurt. So far in my travels of this vast ocean I have been quite lucky in meeting friends and buddies from Fort Dodge. Not too long ago I happened to see Jack Jones, brother to Paul and Bill. Everything seemed to be going quite well with him. Since I have been on this sea going vessel no moss has had a chance to gather, but she always seems to go the wrong way, Tarawa, the Marshalls, Saipan, Guam, the Admiralty's, and a few others against regulations to mention are under our belt. My only hope is that I am here when they sign that document which says we can quit."

Cpl. Fred E. Williams, Paris, France. "I certainly feel lucky in having the opportunity of seeing Paris. It is every bit as beautiful as I have heard it to be. The pretty trees along the boulevard of the business district, modern stores, styles, and sidewalk cafes attracted my attention. The hats in Paris are the best yet! You should see them. Naturally, I am speaking of women's hats! Many of the G. I.'s are busy purchasing perfume etc—the lines are long in front of a few of the shops, as good perfume is hard to get. Paris is a gay city and the soldiers go in for a big time. Especially in the barber shops. I get quite a laugh out of watching the boys getting massages and manicures. They were really enjoying it, too, can you blame them? During my visits to the city, I saw the Eiffel Tower, Arc of Triumph, Napoleon's Tomb, Notre Dame Cathedral and many other interesting places. The American Red Cross has a very nice tour, they take us G. I.'s to all these places. Incidentally, the Red Cross has been a very helpful organization overseas. We have enjoyed the clubs and the one in Paris is ideal."

Pfc. Raymond L. Conway, APO 256, New York, New York. "Believe it or not folks, but I just finished eating a nice piece of deer meat that I cooked myself, and if I have to say so myself it was really good. You surely could enjoy yourself over here in Germany, there isn't a day that goes by that we don't see several nice young deer. Wild ducks or geese, I'm not certain which, seem to be pretty plentiful. You know this war wouldn't be bad if it wasn't for those—Germans shooting at you, and all we had to do was ride through the country. Today we opened our first box of new type K Rations. All of us think they are pretty nice, it must be the Milky Way Candy bars in them. We get quite a little candy, more cigarettes and lately all the cigars we want. We captured a town with a cigar factory in it, and if you know anything about G. I.'s, you know that we have a good supply of cigars."

Fauncey Beminio, APO 719, San Francisco, California. "We had three or four U. S. O. shows there at the time, and I guess they all like our bunch of boys. We met lots of U. S. O. Girls, who were with the show. I was one of the lucky guys, and got to take some of them out. There wasn't a day that there weren't four or five of the girls eating in our mess hall. (We were the only ones that had an ice cream freezer at the time.) I have met about 20 U. S. O. girls, who were really nice girls. Most U. S. O. girls go with officers, but these girls were, as we call them, enlisted men's stuff. I have met Candy Jones, The Yank Pin-up Girl; Roberta Carney; Nancy Norman, and some I can't remember from 'Hellzapoping.' Then there were Lou Costello and Bud Abbot from 'Three On a Tour.' I didn't have much of a chance with 'Mexican Hayride' for they had to work all night and sleep all day long. They were all Power's Models, and didn't go out with enlisted men much. We were peacefully watching the Hellzapoping Stage Show, when all of a sudden all hell broke loose. Poor little me never knew, until the next day, that one bomb dropped 15 yards from where I was lying. I don't think I could have gotten up to go to bed had I known it. They sure are rotten shots, and didn't do as much damage as we thought. They surely make the noise though."

Pfc. William C. Ruebel, Somewhere in the Philippines. "On the trip over we got very little exercise, and after lying around for more than two months before coming out here, the work is terrible. It will take from two to three months to get used to it, as the work we have done since we arrived has practically killed me." Other fine letters came from S/Sgt. Chester W. Gerth, APO 558, New York; Frank Gustafson, S. C. 1/c, Shoemaker, Calif.; Lt. M. O. Barbee, APO 7, San Francisco, Calif.; D. C. Noland, S. C. 1/c, San Francisco, Calif.; Pvt. Karl R. Johnson, Minter Field, Calif.; Pvt. Royce Cornell, Scott Field, Illinois; T/Sgt. Thos. A. DePue, Bowman Field, Kentucky; Pfc. L. L. Weiberg, APO 129, New York, New York; 2/Lt. Carolyn C. Schill, C/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

We are nearing the end of another letter and we hope the end of all letters that must go to such far corners of the earth. We'll like it much better when we can see you on Central Avenue, meet you in Tierney's or Constantines', or Jack Hogan's, wave to you at the swimming pool, or talk to you across the desk. That will be the day when we'll really celebrate, Joe, that day when we know that the whole war, East as well as West, is over, that day when we know that you'll soon be coming home. Then we'll blow off the lid . . . It's great to have V-E Day behind us, but we at home, your brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, wives and children, sweethearts and friends, aren't going to feel really that there's much cause for celebration until it's all over and you are on your way home. That day's much closer now. And for that we are most thankful. It can't come too soon. Good luck, fellow, twice as much as you'll ever need.

Your home town correspondent,  
Ed Breen.