

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.
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Radio Station K V F D

Three cross-eyed gents were appearing before a cross-eyed judge. Looking at the first fellow, the judge said, "What's your name?" The second guy said "John Doe." "I wasn't talking to you," shouted the judge. The third guy murmured, "I didn't say anything."
Pic. Foster Funk, Germany.

Hans: "What are you carrying?"
Fritz: "Shhh, it's the new secret weapon."
Hans: "Oh, it's nothing but straw and hay."
Fritz: Sure, it's for the asses that still believe in secret weapons."
—"The Eagle Eye," Eagle Pass, Texas.

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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

May 18, 1945

☛ **DEAR JOE:** This is lilac time at home and every bush is covered with lovely purple clusters. The grass is ready for its second or third mowing, depending upon how industrious you are. Tulips are up and the peonies are in bud. The woods are full of sweet williams, blue and yellow violets and butter cups. Mushrooms are scarce this year. **Russell Whipple**, the postmaster at Lehigh tells me he has been out several times but has gotten only a few. We are still waiting for a rain followed by a very hot sun. Little boys are flying kites and playing One O-cat. Seniors are getting ready to graduate. They had a skip day at **Humboldt** last week and classes are visiting Fort Dodge from **Lanyon, Rolfe and Dayton, and Burnside**, and other places. The cabins are open in all the parks. The road is open thru **Loomis Park** and everyone is planning a picnic for tomorrow night. . . . The state baseball tournament starts in **Manson** Monday. The **Dodgers** were eliminated. **Somers** beat 'em 8 to 3. It'll be either **Somers** or **Stanhope** from this area. We'll know late this afternoon.

☛ **AROUND THE TOWN.** We are going to have a new \$150,000.00 water tower. It will be located out along the Great Western tracks near 22nd Street and will hold a million and a half gallons of water. Best part of it is, the water dept. has the money in the bank to build it. . . . **Mrs. Elizabeth Saeger** has been elected president of the **Business Girls' Club**. . . . **Capt. M. J. "Moe" Tierney** is on his way home. . . . **S/Sgt. Robert Merryman** is out of the army under the point system. . . . The annual **Badger Community picnic** is being held this afternoon. . . . The Coast Guard band is playing a 7th War Loan concert here Saturday evening at the High School Auditorium. . . . **H. P. Lefler** has been elected president of **Rotary**. . . . The **Kiwanis Club** presented **Radio Station K V F D** with a plaque in recognition of community service. . . . **Fort Dodge** is to have a team in an eight or nine team semi-pro baseball league this summer. Two games a week will be played. . . . First big fish of the year, a 7½ lb. northern, was taken on a phantom minnow below the lower dam last Tuesday. Lucky **Isaac Walton** was **H. R. Rohrer**. . . . 600 Retailers went to a war bond rally at the **Rialto Theatre** Monday morning. By 1:00 o'clock, Webster County had sold a substantial portion of its seven week quota. . . . Altogether we collected 90,700 pounds of clothing for the distressed peoples of the world. . . . **Maurice O'Reilley**, of Barnum, has been named head of the crop insurance program for Iowa. . . . **Earnest (Speedy) Coleman** is in jail for five months for selling beer without a license. . . . **Janet Barrett** is leaving the home town to be a **Red Cross** worker overseas. . . . **Gen. Chas. Grahl**, Iowa head of selective service, will speak at Fort Dodge, June 17th, for the **Elks Flag Day** celebration. . . . We are still waiting for **Louie Armstrong** and **Allen Loomis**, local birdmen, to take off in their motorless planes looking for thermals. . . . **Robt. Wright**, of Carroll, who bought the Presbyterian church property at the S. E. corner of 1st Ave. South and 8th Street, will build a super market there as soon as the war permits. . . . **Chas. Linginfelter**, the last Civil War Vet in Humboldt County, died May 11th, age 103. . . . **Pfc. Berger J. Nordin**, first man inducted from Gowrie, and a German PW for two and one-half years, has been freed. . . . This new water tower, if it looks like the picture, will look like a baking powder biscuit supported by a bunch of tooth picks. . . . If you haven't seen **Bogart's** lovely **Bacall** of the wild, here are **Breen's** efforts at a thumbnail portrait. For my money, she's a 6th Avenue Hepburn, she's a Garbo from Chicago. Remember what **Elmer Wheeler** said about the sizzle that sells the steak? Brother, she's got the sizzle. Their next picture is "The Big Sleep." I can hardly wait.

☛ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** **Orville Anderson**, S 1/c, from Fort Hueneme, Calif. . . . **Sgt. Joe Rutledge**, from Fort Custer, Mich. . . . **Lt. Robt. Drushella**, from New York. . . . **Pvt. Robt. Ackerson**, from McCloskey Genl. Hospital, at Temple, Texas. . . . **1/Sgt. Richard Van Horn** from Italy. . . . **Pfc. Howard Hamilton**, wounded in Germany, Feb. 24th, is home from McCloskey General Hospital. His left leg has been amputated below the knee. . . . **Francis Hartman**, CBSn. M, from the Pacific. . . . **Robt. E. Russell**, AOM 3/c, from the south Pacific. . . . **Cpl. Don Knutson** from Italy. . . . **Richard H. Ahrens** from the SW Pacific. . . . **Sgt. Dwight Dick** from MacDill Field, Ga. . . . **Jack Henderson**, N (Sp) 3/c, from Amarillo Air Field. . . . **Lt. and Mrs. Wm. G. Hesser** from Warrensburg, Mo. . . . **S/Sgt. Paul Savage**, from Italy, enroute to Jefferson Barracks. . . . **Lt. Herbert M. Smith**, from Stuttgart, Ark. . . . **Pfc. Dale Walrod**, from Fitzsimmons General Hospital, in Denver. . . . **Sgt. and Mrs. Richard Vohs** and daughter, **Susan Kay**, from Dyersville, Tenn. . . . **Sgt. Harold Knudson**, of Moorland, from Ft. Riley, Kansas. . . . **Norman Dickerson**, from San Francisco. . . . **Pfc. Clinton Ruby** back from a prison camp in Germany. . . . **Cpl. Joe Youngstrom, Jr.**, of Dayton, from the Pacific. . . . **Pvt. Gus Strom**, from Ashburn Hospital, in McKinney, Texas. . . . **T/Sgt. John Floyd** from Italy. . . . **Orville Walters**, AMM 3/c, from Corpus Christi, Texas, enroute to Shoemaker, Calif. . . . **Joe Bill Dodgen**—he got his ensign's commission and wings last week in Corpus Christi, Texas. . . . From Guam, **Cpl. Bob Taylor**, enroute to Dover, N. J. On Iwo, Bob saw **Lt. Jim Dickerson**. **Pfc. Bob Loots** was in his company and at other places in the Pacific, he saw **Sgt. Jim Thill** and **Pfc. Tom Jordan**. **Mrs. Taylor** is going with him to Dover. . . . **John Woodard** is out of the army honorably discharged and living at 917 East Butler, Adrian, Michigan. . . . **John H. Hamann**, S 1/c, of Gowrie, is back from the Pacific. . . . **Lennis Bloomquist** and **Pat Butler**, both with the armed guard and S 1/c, are the first Robinson Crusoes we've seen. They are back home after being rescued from a desert island. Their ship, a tanker, was caught in a storm and went down when it hit a reef. All hands took to the small

boats and made it to an island fifteen miles away. They were there eating coconuts and living on canned rations for five days. They were picked up by a British destroyer.

☛ **DOWN THE CENTER AISLE.** **Barbara Ann Hamilton** and **Richard L. Kehm**, June 5th in Fort Dodge. . . . **Mary Anderson** and **Cpl. Robert J. Diehl**, of Mt. Angel, Oregon. No date set. . . . **Oleta Hayden**, of Cheyenne, Okla., and **S/Sgt. Frank Falco**, May 10th, in Fort Dodge. . . . **Hattie Lund** and **Dr. Abel Lundgren**, in Fort Dodge yesterday. . . . **Audrey Cheryl Hottman** and **M/Sgt. Wade Till**, of Jackson, Miss., May 5th, at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. . . . **Margaret Dahlien** and **William J. Thomas**, of Washington, D. C., in Washington, April 13th. . . . **Ellen Thorson** and **Lt. Dale R. Ommen**, of Manson, sometime soon. . . . **June Overem** and **T/5 Benny Salvatore**, May 4th, at Blue Earth, Minn.

☛ **SCOREBOARD.** In the district track meet, the **Dodgers** finished second to **Ames** by 1½ points. **Ames** has 101½ and the **Dodgers** an even 100. **Wasem** won the high hurdles in 15.4. **Osam** was first in the broad jump with 20 feet, 3½ inches and he also won the 100 in 10.5. **Hutchinson** was first in the shot put with 40 feet 10 inches. **Pollard** took the 220 in 22.9. The crowning events of the meet for the **Dodgers**, however, were the two relay events, the mile and half mile. The finest Dodger team in years, **Osam, Kruckman, Pollard** and **Wasem**, won both events in record time clipping several seconds from both old Dodger stadium marks. The times were 3:34.7 and 1:32.8. We are looking for three firsts in the state meet. . . . The Dodger tennis team, **Bob Rathernel** and **Seymour Spilka** finished fourth in the Big 7 meet at Waterloo.

☛ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** **Pfc. John Maddox**, German PW, has been liberated. . . . **Pvt. Robt. Samuelson**, reported missing, was a prisoner of war for a short time but was liberated by the 7th Army. . . . **Sgt. C. W. Carroll**, German PW, has been liberated after seven months in prison. . . . **Pfc. Merle Gorman** was wounded in the Philippines March 27th. . . . **Lt. Frank Vratny**, German PW, has been freed. . . . **Pfc. Robert O'Connor** was wounded in action in Germany, April 29th. . . . **Pvt. S. E. Reece** was wounded in action in Germany April 9th. . . . **Pfc. Perry Ford**, of Lehigh, was wounded in action April 15th, in Germany. . . . **Lt. Vic Merryman** and **Lt. Willard Hadjes**, German PW's, have been liberated. . . . **Pfc. J. J. Simon**, German PW since 1943, is free. . . . **S/Sgt. Manford Rhodes** is missing in action in the E. T. O. He is waist gunner on a heavy bomber. . . . **Pfc. R. F. Wonders**, of Otho, was wounded in action in the Philippines sometime in March. . . . **Pfc. Catherine Lennon**, of Duncombe, was killed May 10th, in an auto accident at Labesco, S. C. . . . **Pfc. Robert O'Connor** was wounded in Austria on April 29th. . . . **Sgt. Harold L. Moen** fractured both legs in a truck accident in Germany on the 14th of April. He is in England now, was flown there by plane. "It was my first plane ride, but I didn't care to get it that way."

☛ **OVER HERE.** **Sgt. Robert English** is now at home, Clare, Iowa. . . . **Cpl. Ralph E. Christenson** is at Yucca, Arizona. . . . **S/Sgt. Robert Isaacson** is at Sioux Falls, S. D. . . . **Cpl. Vernon Fiderlick** is at Victorville, Calif. . . . **Pvt. Virgil Bookleister**, who says he moves around so much he can't even keep track of himself, is now at Camp Maxey, Texas. . . . **S/Sgt. Ted Rule** has undergone an operation at Ft. McArthur and will soon be out of the army. "My legs are the reason. Give **Larry Geer** and the **Elks** and all my old friends my very best regards. A message of highest praise to all the sponsors and workers on 'The Letter'." . . . **Pvt. Earl Martin** spent VE Day on maneuvers with a heavy weapons outfit in South Carolina. . . . **Pvt. Eugene Brown** is at Ft. Myers, Fla. . . . **Ensign Hassan Habbab** is at the Everglades Hotel, Miami, Fla. . . . **Ralph Wheaton**, who says "tell **Vernon Sharp** if he doesn't remember me, that I am the boy that drove the mules out at Dolliver," is now at Great Lakes. . . . **Lt. Donald Hicks**, who was in a bad plane crack-up wants me to let everyone know that he is getting along fine. However, he will be at the hospital at Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia, for about a year. . . . **Pfc. Roy Hedron** is at South Camp Hood, Texas. . . . **Weldon R. Davis**, ARM 3/c, back from overseas, is an instructor at Jacksonville, Fla. . . . Just graduated from Norman, Okla., **Johnny Bockert**, S 2/c, is now at Lambert Field, St. Louis, Missouri. . . . **Pvt. Harold S. Johnson** is at Tinker Field, Okla. . . . **Lt. Clifford O. Johnson**, who has been on Guadalcanal, is moving. . . . **George Burnet** is in OCS at Fort Sill, Okla. . . . **Pvt. Roger Grove**, his knees all shot, is "stuck" with a cadre in Camp Maxey, Texas. . . . **Cpl. Quentin Parker** is at Kearns, Utah.

☛ **MERRY ENGLAND.** **Sgt. A. A. Guarill** is with a bomb squadron somewhere in England.

☛ **DAS REICH.** **Pfc. Robert Baker** is somewhere in Germany. . . . **Pfc. R. W. Lewis**, somewhere near the Czech border, saw one of the German horror camps. In a letter to his mother, **Mrs. Wayne Lewis**, he describes it vividly. "In one of the buildings there were fifty or sixty bodies stacked up like cord wood and covered with lime. Those who were alive were so starved their ribs stuck out. . . . In a trench near the camp, it looked as if prisoners had been buried alive. You could see legs and half-buried bodies sticking up in the air. . . . There was a gallows in camp where even children were hung. It was a simple affair, two poles with a cross beam. The prisoner stood on a bench, a noose made of thin cable was put around his neck and the bench kicked out from under him." . . . **S/Sgt. Edward J. Klotz** is in the Hartz Mountains in Germany. He'd sure like to be back for a dance at the **Laramar** but "I guess all us Joes will have to wait until the war is over and then I'm afraid **Larry** will have to build a bigger ballroom to hold us all." . . . Out of the States for three years, **Sgt. Charles Wasko** is now in Germany. By the way, that ought to add up to plenty of points. . . . **Pfc. Harold A. Bothe** is in Germany with the rag tag "Travelling Circus," the 83rd Infantry Division that rode and fought over

200 miles in Germany in ten-days . . . Pfc. **Defmar Estlund**, now in Germany, has been in England, France, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

⊕ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** Pfc. **Wayne Hendrickson** is somewhere in France . . . Lt. **Robert W. Phipps** is with the 201st General Hospital in France . . . T/Sgt. **A. L. Blaskovich**, of Gowrie, is somewhere in France with the Signal Corps . . . In the Fox Newsreel on German atrocities which we saw in Fort Dodge at the Rialto, 2nd Lt. **Dorothy M. Anderson, ANC**, of Dayton, is one of the two nurses seen in the picture assisting the cameramen. Lt. **Anderson** is now with a general hospital unit in Paris . . . Cpl. **Don McLaughlin** is in France at a troop-carrier base.

⊕ **PACIFIC.** Any Dodgers that happen to come around Navy Repair Unit 3149, somewhere in the Philippines, are invited to look up **Robert Ault**, S 1/c . . . **Marvin Johnson**, AMMF 1/c, of Gowrie, is back in the Pacific, this time in the Philippines . . . **McClellan W. Long**, S 1/c, who says he sure could use some snow, is in the Philippines . . . **H. L. Culver**, MoMM 1/c, is in the Tulagi area with landing craft repair unit number 1 . . . Lt. **Clifford O. Johnson**, who has been on Guadalcanal, is moving . . . Hospital Hi-Lites from **Donald Burkgren**, PhM 2/c, Aiea Heights, T. H. Thanks, Don . . . T/5 **Luther Chinberg** is in Hawaii . . . **John, Bob** and **Ivan Laska**, all are in the South Pacific but not together . . . Pvt. **Roger Fevold**, C Co., 2nd Pioneer Bt., 2nd Marine Div., F. M. E., FPO, San Francisco, is yearnin' to hear from fellow Dodgers. The other day **Art Dilges** and **Bill Conner** came to visit him, but Rog wasn't home . . . Pfc. **George Barber** is at rest camp. He went there from Iwo Jima . . . **M. M. Brooks**, Sp 3/c, formerly of the Highway Patrol, is somewhere out in the islands. Thanks for the paper, M. M.

⊕ **SMALL WORLD.** **Don Cottrell** and S/Sgt. **R. E. Johnson** are together in England. Bob says, "The way we met was funny. I was going to a late show and I recognized his voice." Bob will probably get to go to school in England. He'd like to hear from **Wm. H. Fisher**, last heard from at Sioux Falls, S. D. . . **Joe Doyle**, S 2/c; **Floyd Sherrill**, CMM; **Joe Taylor**, and **F. L. Davenport**, somewhere in the Philippines. "We really had a good session talking over the old home town." . . . **Genevieve Brofer** and **Kenneth Frye** on the 20th of April at Newport, Arkansas. They are both PhM 2/c. As a matter of fact they got married . . . **WAVE Faye Jurisin** and Lt. **H. E. Freyer** in New York on V-E Day. A few days earlier, Faye saw **Bob Brake** in Washington, where she is stationed . . . **R. D. Macek**, F 1/c, and **Kenny Schmoker**. Bob is in St. Louis and Ken is at Scott Field . . . S/Sgt. **Bob Hansen** and S/Sgt. **Mary Welch**, somewhere in England. Bob is in Germany, but had an eight day furlough to England . . . **Walter Cooklin** and **Paul Macek**, somewhere over there . . . **R. O. Black**, Cox., and **Johnny Hayes** at Port Hueneme, Calif. . . **Don L. Engelman**, MoMM 3/c, and **Milt Johnson** are together in the Philippines . . . **A. L. Gsmanson, Jr.**, Sp (P) 3/c, and **Ensign Habbab** in Washington. You'll find **Jim Dolliver** in the House of Representatives office building.

⊕ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The arm band of the Deutscher Volksstrum Wehrmacht from Sgt. **Bob Lawson**, somewhere in Germany. Thanks, Bob . . . A wonderful box of Filipino cigars that all my friends are enjoying from T/5 **James E. Buckroyd** with the signal corps photo lab, somewhere in the Philippines. Thanks, Jim . . . **Acorn Action** from **J. G. Gibson**, MoMM 2/c, Port Hueneme, Calif. Thanks, J. G. . . The Windsock from Pvt. **L. E. McCarville**, from Oahu, T. H. Thanks, L. E. . . The Stars and Stripes, Germany edition for April 28th, with the headline, "Yanks Meet Reds" from Lt. Col. **John C. Shrader**. Thanks, John . . . The Key Outpost from **Ray Wilcox**, S 1/c, Key West, Florida, with a long article on Lt. **Ralph Bastian**. Thanks, Ray . . . The combat history of the 79th Infantry from Cpl. **Gould W. Armstrong**, somewhere east of the Rhine. Thanks, Cpl. . . The last edition of "Eagle Eye," the publication of Eagle Pass Field, Eagle Pass, Texas, from Cpl. **J. F. Krivolovy**. Thanks, Cpl. . . The Sky Dozer from Pvt. **J. H. McNeiley**, Geiger Field, Wash. Thanks, J. H. . . Japanese money from Pfc. **Verl Pugh**, who is in the Philippines. Thanks, Verl.

⊕ **PLEASE, PLEASE, PRETTY PLEASE WITH SUGAR** on it. A lot of you guys are going to be moving, changing addresses. A lot of you are coming home, getting out of the army and into civies. It's important that we have your address, if you are going to continue to get the Letter. So, please let us know what happens and send in that new address.

⊕ **CHINA.** Lt. **R. E. "Bob" Marsh** has settled down for a while in China. "It's a far cry from 'Uncle Sugar' as the U. S. is known over here." Bob met Lt. **Ray Stone**. "He's in the same group."

⊕ **OVERSEAS.** Wherever S/Sgt. **Mel Dencklau** is, it's getting warm, "only about 140 today and all the desert dust you can eat."

⊕ **ALASKA.** Pfc. **Keith B. Rowley** is in Nome, Alaska . . . Dipping his pen in whale fat, **W. M. Skophammer**, HA 1/c, writes from Radio City in the Aleutians that he will be home shortly.

⊕ **FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Cpl. **J. D. Deck**, Germany. "Great news! Yesterday, while guarding 3,500 'Ratzi' PW's, it was my great good luck to run into **Bob Sam** also; who'd just been liberated from a German Concentration Camp by the 7th Advance. Most people will remember him as "Scoop," I guess. He was the first Dodger I've seen in 2 years of service and my biggest thrill overseas. I went to school with him in '36 and '37. We didn't have much time because I had a guard detail to post, but in about 20 minutes we re-lived a lot of experiences. We talked over old times when we used to tear around with "Butch" **Cleveland**, **Mel Spackman**, **Dean** and **Dale Cummings**, and a host of others. They'll all be glad to hear about his liberation, I'm sure."

T/5 **Ned Ackerson**, Germany. "It seems that the deeper we go into Germany the less things are torn up. The Germans fought hard on the Seigfried Line and all the way up to the Rhine, but there it seemed as if they just took off without any delayed action of any importance. Of course, any town that had any rail depots of considerable size at all were pretty well taken care of by the air corps. Some of the bomb craters are big enough to bury a fair sized house in. They must have dropped some big babies in a lot of the places I've seen. We have a wonderful C. P. this time. We are set up in an apple orchard—out of the mud for a change, but if it keeps on raining we'll be right back in it again. I'm not kicking though, everytime it rains and gets muddy I thank the Lord I'm not in the Infantry. Those boys are out in all sorts of weather, while I can get out of the rain and cold at least once in a while. My hat goes off to the Infantry, and so does the hat of every man in this outfit. There have been a few times when we were mighty thankful to see the Infantry running up past us in the early dawn to spread out and clean up the Germans in the Wooded areas. They can praise the Air Corps, and the tank corps and all the

other self-propelled units, but my praise goes to the **Infantry Joe**, who sits in his foxhole and takes everything the Germans can throw at him. And yet, when he is called, he crawls out of his foxhole and goes on to take another objective."

E. A. Conrad c/o Fleet Postoffice, New York. "This ship I am on is a transport and one of the biggest and best. You will hear of our record after the war, and I can say we are proud of it. We have been to every continent in the world, and have made every major port (with a few others thrown in), almost all the islands in the So. Pacific. So you see we've really covered the world. I would not trade Webster County for the world, believe me."

Cpl. **Richard T. Machovec**, India. "I'm at Agra, India, right now and I've seen some pretty interesting sights. India is certainly a land of beauty and mystery. I've seen the Taj Mahal—one of the seven wonders of the world—and it's simply beautiful. It's made out of blocks of white marble, inlaid with many different colored designs. I've also seen a lot of other old tombs and ruins—too numerous to mention. I was in Delhi over the week-end, and I looked up a fellow from my home town, **Lee Poynter**. So we had quite a time discussing old times. He used to be superintendent of the Moorland High School for a number of years. I, myself, graduated from Otho, but his school and mine used to have some pretty good baseball and basketball games."

Pvt. **D. E. Wilshusen**, Seattle 8, Washington. "Talking about good fellows getting together, we had an old home town day yesterday. Marine Pfc. **Dean Olson**, **Gene Eastley**, S 1/c, and family and myself had a real honest to goodness 'session' last night. Dean is a sea going Marine and got my whereabouts through Y. L. F. H. Boy! It puts the old stuff back in a fellow when he meets some buddies from home. I took Dean through some B-29's out here and he swore he didn't know how a plane so big could fly."

Sgt. **Keith Nordeen**, Germany. "I was having a wisdom tooth pulled and a couple of teeth filled yesterday when I heard a guy say he was from Iowa, so with my mouth full of instruments I asked where. He said **Fort Dodge**, so I asked him to come around in front of the chair, yep, it was T/5 **Wilbur Strom**. We tried to carry on a conversation, but it was very difficult for me, if you have ever tried it when you were in a dentist chair you'll know what I mean. Wish I was back in the states, but I guess it will be a long time yet."

R. D. Lawrey, S 1/c (SK), San Francisco, California. "I am, as you can see by my letter heading, in the Marshall Islands, a little hunk of rock out in the Pacific. Spring is here with its big rains and etc, but it's warmer now than it was a few months ago. It's about 120 here now, and in July it will vary from 140 to 150. We have no foliage at all and I mean there isn't even a tree stump left. The only shade we have is in our tent and along side of a quancet hut. The ground consists of nothing but coral rock; and the reflection of the sun on the water and rock makes you have a perpetual squint. Our rock is about three miles long and 3/4 mile wide, and after walking around it once you wonder what keeps the waves from going across it. At the highest spot it is only 12 feet above sea level."

W. M. Skophammer, HA 1/c, FPO, San Francisco. "Again I sit down on my ice covered desk, by candle light, and dip my pen in whale fat to write you a brief note. I have exactly 27 days left of my tour of duty (18 months) in the Aleutians. I do hate to leave here, it is such a wonderful place. Say, do they have any good psychiatrists left in the states? I think I should visit one don't you? All joking aside, though I will really be glad to see Fort Dodge again."

Jack Fitzgerald, E. M. 3/c, San Francisco, Calif. "The news in Europe is more than news. It's not the end of the war, but it's the beginning of the peace—a peace that shall know no end. I feel that we have made the down payment on the peace, and now as soon as we can meet the next installment it will be ours and after paying so dearly for it we must care for it and make it last no end. I had the good fortune of running into **Johnny Ludgate** and we had the better part of the day together talking of old times around Fort Dodge. Johnny is on the U. S. S. **Rawlins**, (P. A. 226). That disputed game with **Rolle** really must have stirred the town up a bit. Perhaps we will insist on a gun to end the games from now on as someone suggested. I am in a rest camp for Submarines and taking life rather easy these days—not even any ration books to worry about."

Byron Knutson, MM 1/c, FPO, San Francisco. "We have been in the Pacific ever since last May and have made two trips out Tokyo way. On our first trip we went as far as Saipan and Tinian, making several stops in the Marshalls and Gilberts both going and coming. The second trip which we just recently completed took us as far as the Ryukyu Islands and the invasion of Okinawa. Our ship took an active part in the invasion of the Kerama group, which is a small group of islands about fifteen miles from Okinawa proper. The invasion of the Kerama group took place on Palm Sunday and the Okinawa invasion was on Easter Sunday, so you can imagine how we spent those two week-ends. Stepping out Easter Sunday with that new Easter outfit is nice to think about but Jap air raids and suicide planes just don't seem to harmonize with Easter at all. On our way to Okinawa we made short stops at Eniwetok, Ulithi and Leyte, but all the Pacific Islands combined don't interest me nearly as much as a field of good old Iowa corn."

Also other swell letters from Pvt. **Wilber J. Swanson**, APO 331, San Francisco, Calif.; Pvt. **Cecil C. Markley**, San Francisco, California; Pfc. **Gill Fletcher**, APO 331, San Francisco, Calif.; **L. Jaroslovsky**, ROM 1/c, FPO, San Francisco, Calif.; **Keith C. Webb**, S 1/c (AOM), New York, New York; Pfc. **Merton T. Sweet**, APO 562, New York, New York; Pfc. **Walter W. Otto**, APO 953, San Francisco, Calif.; **Wm. McGill**, BM 2/c, San Francisco, Calif.; Pfc. **Foster Funk**, APO 339, New York, New York; Pvt. **Robert G. Buras**, APO 96, San Francisco, Calif.; Major **Marvin C. Burkgren**, APO 634, New York, New York; **L. A. Vaughan**, PhM 1/c, Navy 3115, San Francisco, California.

Old spring fever is catching up with us. We nearly didn't get this letter written. The printer is waiting. So we got to hurry. Then tonight we jump on our horse (Buick 1941) and drive over to Williams to deliver a graduation speech. If the kids can take it, I guess I can. I'll be seeing you. And I'm not kidding. **Sam Neil** is on his way home and so is **Bill Jondle**. The **Jerries** got **Sam** at **Faid Pass** in February of 1942, and **Bill** last October in Italy. And a lot of other guys are on their way. And the experts in Washington, my spies tell me, say the Japs will fold in 90 days. O. K. that's fine with me. And I'll trail along with them. Good Luck, fellow.

Your home town correspondent,
Ed Breen.