

# Your Letter From Home

A defense plant worker announced that he had just rec'd a "bundle from heaven", and was passing out cigars.

"Boy or girl?" asked a lady welder.

"Neither", ans'd the man, "It was my laundry!"

"Twice Told Tales".

Sent To You With The Best Wishes of  
 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  
 The Loyal Order of Moose  
 American Legion and 40 & 8  
 Radio Station K V F D

Colonel — "Your reports should be written in such manner that even the most ignorant may understand them."

Sergeant — "Well, Sir, what part is it that you don't understand?"

"Twice Told Tales".

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

Vol. 2, No. 6

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

December 1, 1944

✶ **DEAR JOE:** Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know it's going to be that time of the year before this letter reaches many of you. Churchill and Eisenhower and Henry Ford and Gordon Gammack and I—we had this thing figured all wrong. We kinda thought you'd be home by Christmas. We had a hankerin' to see you, cheeks red and blowin' steam, plowing along through the snow. We wanted to yell the season's greetings across the street. And bend an elbow in some friendly kitchen . . . It's disappointing, plumb disappointing. Even old Mother Nature was fixing up for it. We have the most beautiful Christmas snow on the ground today that you've ever seen. It's the kind you see on post cards and in those Christmas eggs you look into. Soft and white and laid over everything as carefully as frosting on a birthday cake. It was down to 20 this morning and we are in for a blow and colder weather tonight. The weather bureau says 5 below before morning. But it's been such a wonderful fall that everyone seems to be happy about winter. We're happy about most anything right now. Happiest of all in the thought that IT can't last much longer, that soon there'll come a Christmas when we can be together.

✶ **AROUND THE TOWN.** Christmas decorations are swinging in great loops of evergreen up and down and across Central Avenue. Stores are crowded with shoppers. Everyone is carrying bundles. Looks like Santa is just around the corner . . . Corn will be sealed in Webster County this year for 92 or 93 cents a bushel . . . The waste paper drive was held Thursday of this week. Paper will win the war!!! A Webster County jury found that Thomas Crane, who was suing the Great Western for damages on a crossing accident, was not entitled to recover anything . . . A 15 year old colored boy is being held in jail on the charge of attempted rape. He is James Francis Lockman . . . James M. Campbell is dead at the age of 59. He died suddenly after a heart attack Monday evening . . . Commissioner Pilcher is selling the cord wood cut from the trees blown down in Phinney Park. Hopes to make enough to pay for having it cut. A veterans' information center has been established at 918-920 1st Ave. So. just east of KVFD. If you have a question about anything connected with your services, this is the place to go to get the answer.

✶ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Cpl. and Mrs. Herbert Sayre and children from Laredo, Texas . . . Lt. and Mrs. Tom Kelly and daughter from Victorville, California . . . Lt. Nels Glesne and wife enroute to Lincoln, Nebraska . . . Margaret Laurent, S 1/c, from Camp Elliott, San Diego . . . P. O. and Mrs. Laurence Koerner from Columbus, Ohio. Also his sister, Alice Koerner, SK 2/c, from New Orleans, Louisiana . . . Don Larson, S 1/c, from the west coast after three years in the Pacific . . . F. O. and Mrs. John Owen enroute to Nashville, Tenn. . . Sgt. Carroll Evans from San Antonio, Texas . . . Lt. Keith Peterson wearing his wings and looking fine . . . O/C Alan V. Breen from Ft. Benning, Georgia . . . Pvt. Eugene Coleman from Camp Robinson, Ark. . . John Otten, S 1/c, from Baltimore, Maryland . . . Cpl. Wm. Gadbury from Camp Roberts, Calif. . . A/C Deon Gadbury from San Antonio, Texas . . . Melvin Phipps, S 1/c, from Whidby Island, Washington . . . Ivan Laska, GM 2/c, from Casablanca . . . Red Doyle from the west coast.

✶ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** Here's the why of Lt. Bob Durian's Navy Cross and D. F. C. Bob and two other members of Torpedo Squadron 19, flying with Mitscher's Task Force dove through intense anti-aircraft fire to sink a medium cargo ship near Ansan Naval Base on Oct. 11th. On that assault upon Formosa and the Pescadores Islands, Bob was at sea 81 days . . . H. T. McMaster has been advanced to the rank of Lt. Comdr. at Farragut, Idaho . . . He is now Capt. Richard V. Gadd and is flying out of New Guinea . . . Joe McMahon, jr., has been commissioned as a warrant officer in the U. S. Maritime Service.

✶ **SCOREBOARD.** George Knack made everybody's all state high school team. He scored the second highest number of points ever scored by a Dodger back—114. High was Bob Rankin in 1918. In addition, he was a college punter and a splendid defensive back, undoubtedly the best in the state. He gained over 1000 yards in scrimmage for an average of 14.5 yards. At the end of the season he weighed 185 pounds and stood 6' 1" in height . . . Ralph Woodard was picked by Jack North for end on his second all state team. Ralph was one of the finest ends ever to wear the scarlet and black. Because of the running of Knack, Carpenter and other break away Dodgers backs, Ralph had little chance to show what he could do as a pass receiver. Look for him to go far in college . . . Joe Carpenter and John Fieseler and Bob Dickerson drew honorable mention on Jack North's team . . . It was a fine Dodger team and there's another great one coming along next year . . . Dick Woodard, U. of I. halfback received honorable mention in the big ten.

✶ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** 1/Lt. Frank Vratny, reported missing in action over France on May 11th is a prisoner of war in Germany. Frank was first pilot on a Liberator based in England and had

completed 10 missions . . . Sgt. Fred Barkhaus, jr., reported missing from his company in Italy on Oct. 21st, rejoined his unit on Nov. 10th. Fred has been wounded twice . . . Pfc. Harold Rhoades was killed in action on Saipan . . . Pfc. John Maddox, jr., reported missing in action in Germany October 3rd, is a prisoner of war in Germany . . . Lt. V. C. Merryman, missing over Germany since October 12th, is a prisoner of war in Germany.

✶ **TWO HEARTS THAT BEAT AS ONE. WAVE** Mabel Lindstrom, AMM 3/c, and Feber Thaanum at Yuma, Arizona, November 15 . . . Jean Tressel, of Des Moines, and Cpl. Richard Broadstone November 10 in Des Moines . . . Shirley Underberg, of Humboldt, and George Lyons in Fort Dodge, November 18 . . . Marjorie Lind, of Harcourt, and Cpl. D. R. Deye of Sioux City, in Denver, November 10 . . . Adeline Darby and Sgt. H. D. Ballowe of Lynchburg, Virginia, at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma . . . Kathryn Peterson and Lt. William Simonson at Las Vegas, Nevada, November 13 . . . Delva Ruby Torres and Cpl. Clair I. Stewart. Their engagement was announced on his birthday, November 20th. Clair is in France . . . Lorraine Mathtys and Cpl. John E. Vohs, December 1st or 2nd, in Ft. Dodge.

✶ **G. I. JOE LETTERS** have been coming in from all parts of the globe in reply to the letters we sent over seas with YLFH. Mary Faith Cooper, of Lincoln sixth grade, was the first in her building to receive one. It was interesting in that it came from the father of one of the first grade children in Lincoln Building. He told about the bull fights and the great fiesta taking place where he is stationed. Eleanor Trowbridge, Jim Peters and Robert Shaw, of Duncombe, received letters from somewhere overseas, Alaska and Newfoundland. At Arey, Charles Butler, of fifth grade, received a letter from Lynn Irish who has been in the Arctic Region for three and one half years. Donald Michelson received one from Pfc. Marvin Inman who lives near Vincent, Iowa. Donald Johnson received one from G. I. Joe, Leland Christianson. Jerry Dawson heard from Clarence Cooklin who is in France. He promises they will get together when he gets back and that he wants Jerry's picture which Jerry will send when he answers. Harold Brown, of Carpenter fifth grade, was the first one in his school to hear. He received his letter from the Aleutian Islands. Etta Mae Bryan had an interesting experience at Riverside School when she received a letter from Eugene Peterson, a former pupil of Riverside School. He is stationed at Panama. He told interesting things about the country and promises to send a picture of the Indians who live there. Emmet Scharf, of Riverside sixth grade, received a letter from Lyle Porter who has been in Iceland for sixteen months. He told interesting things about the land and sent some coins. Lucille Halligan, of Riverside second grade, received an interesting letter from Joseph Peed, the father of Gertrude and Donna Peed, of Riverside School.

✶ **GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER.** James W. Gormally, RM 2/c, Corky Coughlin and Don Campbell aboard the U. S. S. William P. Biddle. With them also is a brother of the late Dr. Spingarney of Barnum. They were with McArthur at Leyte. "The opening barrage preceding the landings reminded me of the days when Duco Mattice cut loose on the kettle drums. It saved many American lives." Jim says that aboard ship his name is pronounced Gor Mally. A bit of the old sod, that . . . Pfc. John E. Ford, Al Strait, Lt. Peg Boland and Carl Wrede and Duane Anderson, of Gowrie, are in the same hospital unit in Belgium. John spent six wonderful days in Paris. "The French people are swell and the girls, well, there isn't any way to describe them but I sure hope we stop there on our way back as our stay was too short and would sure like to renew some acquaintances." . . . Sgt. Gene Fallon and Leo Bittner somewhere near Germany . . . Lt. and Mrs. James Tucker and Lt. Bill Fennessy in Hampton, Virginia. They are at Langley Field. Bill's bride from New Mexico is with him . . . M/Sgt. Mert Williams and Pvt. Edward Beck are together in France. "Not much doing around here right now. Everyday is the same, rain, rain, rain and more rain!" Sounds just like '17 and '18 . . . Cpl. Geo. Collins and Walt Davis's son made the trip to Hawaii together. Yes, sir, George, the "Job Hunt" still goes on, mostly now it's a case of jobs hunting for men . . . Cpl. Bill E. Algood, William Phipps and Silvio Ronconi somewhere in the Pacific. Bill says they have been getting good old Fort Dodge Creamery condensed milk for breakfast and "if I'm not wrong F. D. eggs that have been converted into those so-called delicious? ? ? powdered eggs" . . . Cpl. and Mrs. Glenn Laffer and Dick Muhl in Spokane, Washington. The Col. is at Army Air Field in Spokane; Dick is at Farragut.

✶ **OVER HERE.** Helen B. Newsum, S 2/c, is at San Diego, California . . . John Dodgen, S 2/c, is with the 6th War Loan Drive at Hastings, Nebraska . . . Cpl. Bob Thatcher, jr., is at Ft. Meyers, Florida . . . Lt. R. J. Mulrone lives near Walter Reed Hospital. He'd like to visit any Dodger who is there. Speak up, guys. You can drop him a card at "Hdqtrs., Air Transport Command, Wash-

ington, D. C." (I'm going to look into that, Dick, and thanks for the tip) . . . Henry E. Wesley is back home for good with an honorable discharge . . . Pvt. Lauree Lindberg, of Lehigh, is at Fort Des Moines. Her brother Ted is fire control man on the destroyer flag ship, U. S. S. Putnam . . . A/C Lloyd "Red" Hambleton, now at Corpus Christi, says it's true, "Texas is that place in the world where there are more cattle and less milk, more rivers and less water, where you look farther and see less than any other place in the world." Red, you are breaking my heart . . . Curt Anderson is in the Marine Hospital, 4141 No. Clarendon, Chicago, Illinois . . . Pvt. Byron D. Jeys now at Camp Howze, Texas says "hello" to the Ft. D. Creamery Co. . . . Pfc. Rayburn Lentsch, home from overseas, is guarding German War prisoners at Ruston, Louisiana . . . Art S. Chantland, S 2/c, is still pushing the "meat wagon" around there at Farragut . . . Cpl. John A. Peterson, home from Topeka, Kansas, spent most of the time out on the farm getting the corn in the cribs . . . Capt. Walter Viergiver is back at Chicago Signal Depot.

⊛ **OVERSEAS.** Ensign Oscar Habhab is flying a F6F Hellcat, VF-98, c/o F. P. O. San Francisco . . . He is now Sgt. Herman F. Etzel, APO 81, San Francisco.

⊛ **BELGIUM.** Pvt. Foster F. Funk is somewhere in Belgium. "The first of the Christmas packages were received by some of the boys yesterday (Nov. 16th) and last night we consumed quite a few of them. My latest travels were via box cars. My first experience and I hope my last one". We'll play that number, Foster.

⊛ **DAS REICH.** Cpl. Harold Fortney is in Germany. He has been in France, Belgium and Luxembourg. "Regardless of where I go, the weather is the same. Lots of rain and mud." . . . T/5 Harold Beckett who is in Germany says Dr. Goebbels' propoganda really sticks. "A German air man was captured here about a week ago. He was hoping they would take him to a P. W. Camp in the U. S. A. so that he could escape and join the Luftwaffe in Chicago. He said New York wasn't any more. Looks like you people are in danger!" . . . Pvt. Kay Noland, somewhere in Germany with the 2nd Armored, hopes for an early end of the war. "It's getting cold as hell over here and these tanks are like ice boxes."

⊛ **PHILLIPINES.** Cpl. Paul Zierke landed on Leyte on the first day of the invasion. "My fox hole and I became good companions." Many of the Filipinos he has met are well educated being dentists and lawyers and instructors from the college in Manila. "They all seem happy since the Americans have returned."

⊛ **DOWN UNDER.** R. I. Pingel, S 1/c, is on the U. S. S. Wedderburn in the South Pacific . . . Cpl. Dick Rosenow is in the Pacific with a new Marine outfit . . . Wayne E. Laird, HA 1/c, is in the So. Pacific. His brother Bob is with the paratroopers in Holland . . . Leonard R. Johnson, Cox., somewhere in the Pacific says "hello" to all his friends in service . . . Paul E. Trusty, WT 3/c, somewhere in the So. Pacific dreams of a Christmas at home with his wife. So far they haven't been together for one yet.

⊛ **SEASON'S GREETINGS.** From Capt. Al Sinnott who is in Holland . . . From Pvt. B. C. Grimes with the 9th Division, APO New York . . . From Rudi Anderson with the air corps somewhere in Italy . . . From Lyle E. Culmer somewhere in the South Pacific . . . From Pvt. F. W. Bovee in Iceland.

⊛ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** "The Observer" from Sgt. Clare V. Smith, Tallahassee, Florida. Thanks, Clare . . . The Alaskan Bear, of the Aleutians, and the hunting knife of the A. T. F. from Pvt. M. R. Friesth who is in the Aleutians. And the season's greetings. Thanks, Mervin, Glad those Christmas packages came through . . . "The 83rd Spearhead" from Pvt. R. A. Harp somewhere in Luxembourg. Thanks, Rossette . . . "The Masthead" from Frank Muterspaw, Sp (A) 3/c, Treasure Island, California. Thanks, Frank . . . "The Pearl Harbor Banner" from H. R. MacDowell, Honolulu. Thanks, Mac . . . "The Bedside Examiner" from Farragut, Idaho, from Thomas P. Donovan, Ph M 3/c. Thanks, Tom . . . "The Badger Navy News" from Don E. Bruntlett, S 1/c, Madison, Wisconsin. Thanks, Don . . . "Evening Malum" from Lt. F. W. Griffith, somewhere in China or India with the air corps. Frank says he'll be home in a few weeks. Thanks, Frank . . . The Blood and Fire patch of the 63rd Division from Pvt. Arleigh Kullberg, Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi. Thanks, Arleigh . . . "The Bealiner" from Pvt. Robert Conway, Camp Beale, California. Thanks, Bob . . . "The Invader" from Eugene J. Conway, S 1/c, Norfolk, Virginia. Thanks, Gene . . . "The Bomb Bay Messenger", The Keesler Field News" and "The Army Times" from Lt. Eugene Soppeland, Lincoln, Nebraska. Thanks, Gene . . . "The Command Post" from Pvt. Bob Zeka in India. Thanks, Bob.

⊛ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** Cpl. Ronnie Huebsch who has been in France five months and thinks it has it all over England would like to be back here to roll a few lines at the Sport Bowl . . . Dale Brand's outfit, the 3rd armored, was in on the break through at St. Lo. They went from there to Paris, north to Soissons and on to Mans, Belgium. Dale says, "We are now in the Seigfried Line" . . . T/4 Roy Carlson is living in old French chateau, walls, towers, etc. He recently ran across a Major Heskett from Spencer . . . Companions of Roy's are an artist formerly with Colliers, Joe Trainor, well-known boxer, and former M. C. and radio announcer, Johnny Lyons . . . Pvt. Paul Burch is in France. He saw St. Lo and says the city is completely demolished . . . Pvt. Marvin Bowers is somewhere in France; somewhere where champagne costs only \$2.50 a quart.

⊛ **MERRY ENGLAND.** Pfc. Delmar J. Estlund somewhere in England reports that fence lines over there are frequently mounds of dirt five to seven feet high covered with small trees or a hedge of some sort . . . Dwain Edwards, S 1/c, is in England. He was with his brother, Lt. D. F. Edwards, a few weeks ago. The Lt. is in the air corps and has completed 28 missions over Germany. Dwain says "hello" to Mr. and Mrs. Wilder. We'll play those numbers, Dwain . . . Pfc. Arnold Piltingsrud is somewhere in England.

Yes, the skating rink is still going and so is the "Dutch Mill" and so are the dances at the Laramar. When you get back here, Soldier, we'll eat chocolate marshmallow sundaes together . . . Lt. Lyndon "Pete" Kilgore is somewhere in England. Yes sir, Lt., we said that "hello".

⊛ **ITALY.** Rudi Anderson with the air force in Italy had his hand frozen while attempting to unjam a machine gun over Germany. Rudi was in the hospital for two weeks, is now back on duty.

⊛ **HOLLAND.** Pvt. John E. Scully is now getting his mail APO 257, New York and waiting for the day when he can get it at 419 So. 19th in Ft. Dodge. John is in Holland.

⊛ **NOVEMBER 28, 1940,** Sgt. Melvin Burke of Harcourt, left Ft. Dodge for Ft. Des Moines for induction into the army. There were three others with him; the first four men to leave Webster County for army service. The others are 1/Sgt. Archie Luhman, of Dayton, who is now overseas; S/Sgt. Robert Phipps, of Ft. Dodge, also overseas; and Eugene Partello, of Ft. Dodge. They were volunteers under the selective service act. Mel is at North Camp Hood, Texas.

⊛ **THE FARRAGUT NAVAL BASE** will be de-commissioned March 1, 1945. The beautiful experiment in "fever valley" is at an end.

**HELP, HELP, HELP!** The postal service is tightening up. Lots of letters are coming back because of new regulations which prevent them from being forwarded. We must have your latest address. Help! Help!

⊛ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Pvt. Joe Ritts, Pacific. "This brief interview is being conducted from within the walls of the Army's White Prison, yes, a hospital. I have been here some two weeks, and still have a much longer stay in store, knowing not what the future days have in store to render me again fit and sound but let's hope for the best and nothing but the worst can possibly happen, so everything is SNAFU. This afternoon, one of our men received the Silver Star, for action above and beyond the line of duty, and it was presented and bestowed upon him by Miss Betty Hutton, who then rendered him almost immediately helpless by a resounding kiss. Bewildered and happy, he slowly limped away still under the intoxicant of the afore-mentioned kiss."

Capt. Marvin Burkgren, with the 8th Air Force in England. "You get regular news reports on what the Eighth is doing in the skies over Germany but did you know about our successful War Bond Drive? For a five week period late last summer we had a quota of \$6,000,000 in new Bonds. Bonds already in effect by allotments didn't count. The final outcome was \$3,000,000 over the quota. My little outfit average a \$50 Bond each. It's almost time to hit the old sack, so good luck to the Dodgers and a hello to all the folks around Dayton." (Thanks Capt. for the patch.)

C. R. E., H. E. Nelson, Oakland, California. "I left my old station, Navy Yard Pearl Harbor, on 12 Oct. after 47 months of continuous service there, (30 of them separated from my family) and after spending 15 days with my family in Los Angeles, brought them up here to my new station where I've been for 2 weeks. It seems good to be back on the mainland, (people of the Islands don't refer to "the States", or "the Continent", it's always "the mainland", as tho it were 3 miles away) but I've found conditions—transportation, housing, restaurants, etc—much more crowded in San Diego, Los Angeles area, and Frisco Bay area than in Honolulu. When it comes time for me to leave this station, I'll try to go back to Hawaii. During the seven months of '41 and '42 that my wife was there, she grew to like it quite well, too. If you don't already have the news, Jack Doyle, my brother-in-law, left about a week ago for "someplace in the Pacific". I saw him a couple of times. Saw a fellow named McCarville from somewhere south of Fort Dodge, in Honolulu a few times. He's in the Army. Oh, another item: I've been promoted! Last June I was made Chief Radio Electrician (Chief Warrant Officer) so I'm a full-pledged gentleman now (Congress says)."

F. 1/c Kenneth O. Strain, U. S. S. Sibley, c/o Fleet Post office, San Francisco, "We have several doctors aboard our ship—amongst them Dr. Emerson Dawson. I'll have the opportunity of getting acquainted with a Dodger quite a ways from home. I discovered that he was on a ship and also heard that we had a Dr. Dawson aboard as Senior Med. Officer. So when I got it all added together I found a Fort Dodger. Haven't had an opportunity to speak to him yet but will soon."

Sgt. R. E. Cleveland, Alaska. "Here I am back in camp again in the far north. I arrived in camp last Friday noon. I left Chicago by train and went as far as Edmonton, Canada. I had to wait there four days for transportation back to camp. I came the rest of the way by plane. It was a very beautiful trip. We are really having winter here. It was 26 below last Sunday morning and there is a lot of snow. We noticed the first snow just after we crossed the border. I was very surprised when I got back and found out I had a new rating, T/4-Sgt."

There were other letters, a great pile of them that we've acknowledged here and there. There were others that we enjoyed from Pvt. Frederick J. Miller somewhere in England; Clyde E. Gerth, AMM 3/c, C/o F. P. O. San Francisco; Harold Rohrer, AOM 2/c, C/o F. P. O. New York; Pvt. Ed Davis, APO 230, New York; Chas. A. Bird, Tacoma, Washington; Lt. Lee Bodensteiner, APO 758, New York; Chester F. Youngren, F 2/c, Great Lakes; Pvt. Paul F. Ivory, Italy; Cpl. Don McLoughlin, Boca Raton, Florida; Capt. John F. Sulzbach, APO 565, San Francisco; Pvt. R. C. Hogan, Truax Field, Madison, Wisconsin.

And that's all for now. Be good and don't forget to hang up your stocking Christmas eve. Santa'll get through all right. And so, we hope, will YLFH. We'll be back here again next week, same time, same place. Be seeing you, Joe, and I hope soon.

Your Home Town Correspondent,  
Ed Breen.