

Merry
Christmas

Your Letter From Home

Happy
New Year

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
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Radio Station K V F D

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Vol. 2, No. 9

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

December 22, 1944

DEAR JOE: There are no lights strung across Central Avenue this year but the long streamers of evergreen loop up and down and across the street and wreath every store front. Nearly every home has its tree a-gleam with lights and every door has its holly wreath and its bow of red ribbon . . . Girls are wearing gardenias and camillias to parties. Almost no one has worn formal clothes for a long time but now girls are beginning to buy them again. And wear them, too, very attractively . . . Junior High did its beautiful Christmas pageant this week and the Candle Light Service was held at the Methodist Church last Sunday evening. I never heard the girls' choir sing more beautifully. All the choirs were good. There was one very fine hymn, new to me, from a Sioux Indian tribal song . . . Other schools have been having parties and programs, with moppets reciting verses and singing songs. Tuesday was the last day of school and now vacation is on and lasts until January 3rd. Co-eds are home where college and lots of G. I.'s are home on leave . . . Kid toys this year are better than last but still a little strange, mostly wood and paper. No electric trains, no toys of metal, no toys that wind—and very high priced—dolls at twenty dollars, hobby horses at twenty-eight. Most boys this year seem to want cowboy suits, bows and arrows, skates, guns . . . Little girls still want dolls, nurse sets and toy furniture. There are no dolls any more that go to sleep . . . No matter what Santa brings there'll still be that same early morning Christmas thrill. Remember how you stole down stairs long before daylight and found your things under the tree. Remember how you tore the wrappings away and finally were sitting there enraptured in a glorious jumble of paper and string and ribbon and wonderful, wonderful toys . . . I hope Santa Claus remembers you with something very special. Maybe a furlough tucked away in the toe of your stocking.

AROUND THE TOWN. Iowa's drift for January will be 60% greater than for December. General Grahl says men between the ages of 26 and 38 will be reconsidered. Varne Hale's delinquent county tax list is the smallest in years. 24 veterans of World War II joined the American Legion at its meeting Monday evening . . . The skating rinks are ready as soon as we get weather cold enough to do a good job of freezing . . . Charles Maher, home from Nicaragua where he works for Pan American Airways, spoke Monday to the Wa Tan Ye Club on life in Nicaragua . . . Marshall Perrett, 21, was sentenced to four months in jail for breaking into Eddie's Grocery. Four younger boys involved in the break-in were sentenced in juvenile court . . . Al Loomis has been named as director of the Iowa Milk Dealers Association . . . Sunday night thieves stole gas ration coupons from Peterson's Service Station at First Avenue North and 12th Street . . . Tom Roderick announces the purchase of a new boiler for the G. & E. It will up present capacity 25% and the new turbine going in in January will increase power from 10,000 to 15,000 watts . . . The county went over the top in the 6th War Loan Drive although we are still lagging on individual purchases . . . Congressman-elect Jim Dooliver has gone to Washington. You'll find him at 308 House Office Building. The latch string is out and welcome is written on the door mat . . . John Madrox, Sr., has been appointed constable to take the place of Arthur G. Carlson who resigned to work in the postoffice . . . Capt. James Kempley has been given a six months leave of absence from the police force to open a tavern in Palmer . . . Dr. Dorsey is the new head of the county medics . . . L. L. Larson is asking for permission to run a bus route between Ft. Dodge and Estherville. It would go through Manson, Pomeroy, Pocahontas, Malvern, Emmetsburg, Graettinger and Wallingford . . . Rev. E. J. Carlson is going to a church in Cadillac, Michigan.

SCOREBOARD. Sacred Heart has won its fifth game this season. Koll is the top scorer with 23 points . . . Last Friday evening the Dodgers defeated the Cubs 26 to 27. During a hard fought game several plays were called. Stars for the Dodgers were Janssen and Knack at the forwards, Davidson at center, Beers and Woodard at the guards. Janssen was high scorer with 14 points . . . Saturday evening the Dodgers and Roosevelt of Des Moines did a slow waltz with an occasional basket being tossed. Final score Dodgers 21, Roosevelt 15 . . . Corpus Christi defeated Barnum 31 to 14 . . . Next evening Corpus Christi polished off Bode 31 to 18 . . . Somers defeated Callender 39 to 24 . . . The county basketball tournament in January will be held at Callender for the girls, at Harcourt for the boys.

WAR'S GRIM TOLL. Pvt. R. P. Higgins was wounded in France on December 3rd but not seriously . . . Pvt. James R. Deaton is missing in action in Germany as of November 25 . . . Pfc. Ted Rivera was wounded slightly in action in Germany on November 26 . . . Pfc. Lawrence Vrchotisky was wounded for the second time in Germany on November 17 . . . Pfc. Virgil Young was wounded in action in France on November 25.

HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD. Navigator's wings and a commission to Gary Rabiner, at San Marcos, Texas, December 16. He's home on furlough . . . Lt. (j. g.) John Goodrich has been decorated for gallantry in action in the South Pacific. He is on a destroyer . . . The Silver Star to Lt. Robert Perkins for gallantry in action. Badly wounded on the bomb run over Rouen, France, on August 27th he continued as leader of a flight of six air craft.

TWO HEARTS THAT BEAT AS ONE. Myrtle Lokken, of Washington, D. C., and Max E. Essary, GM 1/c, in Washington, November 11th . . . WAVE Marianne Schwendemann and Ensign Lloyd Fuhrmeister at Miami, December 2nd . . . Helen Stringer and Cpl. Geo. Cox, jr., in Ft. Dodge, December 14 . . . Onnalee Greenlee and T/5 Glenwood Crow, Christmas Day in Ft. Dodge . . . Elsbeth Feldman, of Milwaukee and F/O Norman Wiche . . . No definite date . . . Norman is in England . . . Mildred Miller and Capt. Richard Gadd in Atlanta soon . . . Ruth Fitch and Robert Jenk, in Ft.

Dodge, December 26th.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS. S/Sgt. Leo Edwards from England where he has been servicing B-24's . . . Pvt. Ann Hepperle from Miami Beach, Florida . . . Pfc. John Kersten from Northwestern University . . . Lt. and Mrs. Richard F. Thompson from San Antonio, Texas . . . Lt. Mason Haire from duty with the air forces . . . Ens. Charles Heileman from duty on a Liberty ship where he is in command of the armed guard . . . Merlin Enburg, Rdm 1/c, from Cuba . . . S/Sgt. William D. Johnston, formerly with Co. G . . . Warrant Officer Edward Graff from the Southwest Pacific . . . Cpl. Don Bonnell from Lincoln, Nebraska where he is a member of a B-17 crew . . . Cpl. Roy Felky after 19 months overseas . . . Lawrence Hively, WT 3/c, one of the survivors of the Princeton . . . Richard H. Schmidt, S 1/c, enroute to Shoemaker, California . . . William Newsum from Phoenix, Arizona . . . Pvt. Stanley Johnston enroute to Ft. Meade, Maryland . . . Ens. Tom Berry dive bomber pilot, from the South Pacific . . . Lt. Glenn Anderson from Lincoln, Nebraska, where he is piloting a B-17 . . . Edward Adams, Rdm 3/c, from sub. duty in the South Pacific . . . Bob Jurian from the South Pacific . . . Bernie Thomas, navy ordnance man from North Africa . . . Sgt. Merle Olofson from O'Reilly General Hospital, Springfield, Missouri . . . F/O Bob Michael enroute to Lemoore, California . . . Cpl. Lyle Diemer from 28 months in the Pacific . . . Cpl. Don Zakeer from Camp Campbell, Kentucky . . . S/Sgt. George Rebarcak from England where he finished 35 missions as a tail gunner on a B-24 Liberator. S. A. W. Jensen, Ptr. 1/c, from 21 months in Australia . . . Sgt. Warren Edwards, USMC, from 20 months in the Solomon Islands. Warren is the presidential citation. He's been with the Marine Flyers . . . Cpl. Frank Vlashek of Lehigh from Camp Campbell, Kentucky.

SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIAS. "The Conning Tower" from New Thompson, A/S at Hunter College, New York. Thanks, Neva . . . The Amphibious Training Force insignia from Kiska from T/Sgt. Bernie Nygaard now in England. Thanks, Bernie . . . The patches of the 10th division and of the 102nd division from Sgt. Keith G. Nordman, Camp Swift, Texas. Thanks, Keith, and also for the Christmas greeting . . . "The Missourians" publication of the U. S. S. Missouri from Robert D. MacDowell, EM 3/c, "Big Mo" is almost 900 feet long, carries 2500 officers and men. Nobody's going hungry on her either, not with a bake shop that turns out 300 loaves of bread a day. Thanks, Bob . . . The patch of the 4th Service Command from Pfc. Thomas DeO'Neil at Ft. McPherson, Georgia. And an interesting pamphlet describing the famous colorama to be seen in its own building in Grant Park, Atlanta, depicting the battle of Atlanta . . . "The Havelock" from Rena Uhl, Sp. 1 3/c, Washington, D. C. Thanks, Rena . . . "The Ft. McArthur Alert" from S/Sgt. Ted Rule, San Pedro, California. Hope the knee is on the mend, Ted . . . "The Flying U" of Love Field, Texas and "The North Star" of the Alaskan Air Transport Command from Cpl. J. Donal, Edmonton, Canada.

HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD. Stars and Stripes November 6, 1944. "Two Second Infantry Division Cubmen (flyers of Cub Liaison planes) Lt. James B. Barber of Raton, New Mexico and T/Sgt. R. Nestor, Ft. Dodge, spotted a wrecked P-47 in one sector and noticed by the activity on the ground that the pilot was seriously wounded. They flew on to a base and brought back a doctor who saved the pilot's life. Thanks, 1/Lt. Arthur Braginton . . . A former Ft. Dodge and KVFD Program Director sang in London's world-famous Westminster Abbey on Thanksgiving Day as part of a special Armed Forces Thanksgiving Service. He is Pfc. Mel Gallart, KVFD's first program director. He is now serving in England with the Army Post-Office-Mail station.

GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER. F/O A. G. Edwards and Cpl. Dick Rose from the air base in Reno, Nevada . . . Cpl. Chuck Isaacson, Warren Kelly, Tommy Jordan and others met in the Pacific . . . Pvt. Bernard Guggisberg and Lt. John Bice met in Belgium. Bernie was out of the States on a 2 day pass from Germany. With him is Meinhard Hoffman, of Burnside. "We are fox hole buddies". Bernie says "hello" to Bob Harrington and all the gang.

OVER SEAS. Pvt. Maurice V. Peterson, of Dayton, is now APO 15651, New York . . . Clarence C. Case, past commander of the V. F. W. in Ft. Dodge, finally got there. He's working over there now. Just where, we don't know. That's the word the censor cut out . . . He is Capt. Ronald McEwen now. Ron got the extra bar recently in the Mediterranean theater . . . On his way home is Cpl. Dwight Sweet after 31 months in the South Pacific. We'll be looking for you, fellow . . . Cpl. DeWayne Godfrey is working on B-29's somewhere in China or India or Saipan. Thanks for the patch, Cpl. and we'll play that number . . . R. W. Porter, S 1/c, is now in Cuba. Yeh, Bob, Merlin is back here now on furlough. Ran into him at the Top Hat. Bob, incidentally, is on a luxury liner playing the Southern Waters. Nice going, pal. I'll say those "hello's" . . . Ten YLFH's came all in one day to R. Rex Funk, Ph M 1/c, on one occasion in the Palau's. On his first liberty in 5 months in Hawaii he ran into a fellow Dodger, Orville Davidson, Y 1/c. Thanks, Rev. for the "Peleiu-Pu" . . . George Robeson's censor "out that way" is KVFD alumnus Lt. W. G. Eberhart, USMC, who with Jack Duncan installed KVFD in the Warden building and at the junction of 169 and 20, in the fall and winter of 1939. "Woody," as he was known to us, was our radio engineer and Milly, his wife, handled traffic. George, who used to work at the Wahkonsa, is the mail clerk "out that a-way". And by the way, George, thanks for the pamphlet showing all the Marine insignias.

OVER HERE. Pvt. George L. Brehm is at Camp Kearney, San Diego, California . . . Pfc. David Minton, USMC, back from overseas, is at Babbit, Nevada . . . Lt. N. G. Glesne is now flying B-29's at Geneva, Nebraska . . . Faye Jurison, A/S is at Hunter College, Bronx, New York . . . Pvt. Robert D. Ault is on tank school at

Camp Polk, Louisiana . . . S/Sgt. H. W. Morgan is at La Guardia Field, New York City.

✪ **ENSIGN L. C. GRAY**, Torpedo Sqdn. 4, F. P. O. San Francisco, would like to hear from or about Bob Durian, Jack Foley, Bob and Art Brooks, Don Rodenborn, Byron Adams, Willie Moeller, Bill Crowl, Paul Hannon and Jim Pilcher. That ought to do it, Lynn.

✪ **HOLLAND**. Pvt. Foster F. Funk is somewhere in Holland.

✪ **IRAN**. "In this hell-hole of the world," Iran, Sgt. Melvin Dencklau has been stationed for 20 months. He's met McBride and Dick Hemon, from Ft. Dodge. Dick is playing football for Kharramshas and Mel for Kurramabadgess. The two teams will tangle soon. I'd like to hear the yells that go with those names. Yes sir, Mel, we'll play that request.

✪ **LA BELLE FRANCE**. Pvt. Varick E. Dingman got a kick out of watching a Frenchman work a pair of oxen. "I have even seen them plow with two oxen and a horse". Varick is in France.

✪ **ITALY**. Cpl. Joe Monohan, somewhere in Italy, has a new nickname. For 2½ years he's been known as "Ace". He saw Frank Lentsch recently, the first time since they left home. They both worked for Ft. Dodge Bottling Co. "A bottle of Pepsi-Cola would go good right now". Thanks, Joe, for the patch.

✪ **"AN AMERICAN DESTROYER** was either bombed or hit a mine about 3:00 a. m. December 3, and was blown into two main sections. In 55 seconds both halves of the destroyer went down, her bow and stern coming together as they sank. Twelve hours later the many shipwrecked men were rescued by Navy Blackcat flying boats in spite of bad weather and Japanese gunfire. Some of the planes were so heavily loaded with exhausted and injured men that they could hardly get back to base. Along with the tragedy, the suffering and the heroism, there was one amusing incident reported in connection with the rescue of the men who had clung so long and so courageously to their rubber rafts. One of the men, as the destroyer sank, snatched up a can of salmon, held it all through the long tedious hours of floating in the water and on the flying boat to base and safety. We quote: 'Lt. Melvin Essary of Ft. Dodge, Iowa, fished forty-three men and three officers, including seven stretcher cases out of the water with his Blackcat and likewise returned to base. Back at the base, Lt. Essary said, 'I couldn't forget one of the boys rescued. He had a can of salmon in his hand. So much did he like canned salmon that he wouldn't give it up. We brought that can of fish right along with him.'"

✪ **JOES AND JANES SEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**. Pfc. Wilbur Derrig in India . . . O. H. Bohannan, S 1/c, New Guinea . . . Sgt. H. G. Bodenstener from New Guinea . . . From the Mariana Islands, Carl E. Theiss, WT 2/c, with the SeaBees . . . S/Sgt. Richard A. Johnson from New Guinea . . . Pfc. LeRoy E. Jones somewhere in Italy . . . Ray Fallon, S 1/c, New Guinea. "About the only thing white and cold about this Christmas will be the ice cream for Christmas dinner. Am scheduled for a radio program Christmas Day. Still doing shows, hospitals and regular broadcasts" . . . Pvt. Hughey L. McCahill, APO 507, New York . . . 1/Sgt. Charles F. Buss, U. S. Army 8th Air Force, England . . . Cpl. Clarence A. Carlson, USAAF, England . . . Pfc. Robert Bock somewhere in France. "We are resting in a school, some dump." . . . Phil Dorweiler, S 2/c, Hawaii. "Dear Santa: Please send me an honorable discharge for Christmas" . . . Pvt. Roger Fevold, F. P. O. San Francisco . . . Sgt. Joe O'Hern, somewhere in England . . . M/Sgt. Herb Zemke, somewhere in Italy . . . Cpl. Joe Sorvetti, F. P. O. San Francisco . . . Sgt. Clare V. Smith, Dale Mabry Field, Tallahassee, Florida . . . Sgt. Francis W. Stoddard, Maxton, No. Carolina . . . Sgt. Merle Meyer, March Field, California . . . T/Sgt. Regis Farrah, Camp Mackall, No. Carolina with the glider infantry . . . Cpl. E. R. Loissell from somewhere where it's mighty cold . . . Sgt. and Mrs. E. C. Flickinger, CAAF, Childress, Texas . . . S/Sgt. and Mrs. Cecil Julius and Kay, Dodge City, Kansas . . . Sgt. Glenn Moen, Mayo General Hospital, Ward C-9, Galesburg, Illinois . . . T/5 L. L. Chinberg, Fort Bliss, Texas . . . Joan R. Mills, HA 2/c, Bethesda, Maryland . . . Pfc. Marvin McCoy, Ft. Jackson, So. Carolina . . . Sgt. James J. Hill, Hawaii . . . Elaine Russell, Sp Q 3/c, of Clare, from 1820 Calvert Street, Washington, D. C. . . . Ralph W. Rutledge, SC 1/c, Camp Endicott, Rhode Island . . . Harold F. Willey, RM 2/c, U. S. S. Gen J. R. Burke, F. P. O., New York . . . Edgerly C. Watts, S 2/c, Norman, Oklahoma . . . Cpl. R. E. "Bob" Johnson, Boise, Idaho . . . Pfc. Robert O'Connor, Camp San Luis Obispo, California . . . Cpl. R. A. "Swans" Swanson with the 24th Regulating Station somewhere in France . . . 1/Sgt. John F. Burk with the 72nd Fighter Sqdn. somewhere in the Pacific . . . M/Sgt. Glenn Stockwell somewhere in the Pacific . . . Pvt. Robert Zeka somewhere in India . . . Clarence A. Will, GM 2/c, with the Navy in the E. T. O. . . . Cpl. Robert L. Newby, APO 81, San Francisco . . . Cpl. John R. Cawelti, somewhere in the Marianas . . . S/Sgt. M. L. Campbell, APO 86, New York . . . Lt. Clyde Dickerson, somewhere in France . . . M. W. Moore, S 1/c, in the Mariana Islands . . . Cpl. Don Hendricks somewhere in France, APO 374 N. Y. C. . . . Lt. R. M. and Sylvia Carson, Ft. Sill, Oklahoma . . . Pfc. Darr Brand somewhere in the Pacific . . . Thomas P. Donovan, Ph M 3/c, Farragut . . . Lt. and Mrs. C. L. Ponsness, Galveston, Texas . . . S/Sgt. Chris Chardoulis who is studying Japanese in Chicago says in Japanese, "Thanks a million for YLFH" . . . Pfc. Irene Lennon, Parris Island, So. Carolina . . . Arnold A. Hage, SK 2/c, Norfolk, Virginia . . . Fred "Bud" Cooper, Ph M 3/c, Oceanside, California, c/o Fire Department . . . Mr. and Mrs. Alva L. Long, AMM 2/c Corpus Christi, Texas.

✪ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD**. Pfc. Robert O'Connor, Camp San Luis Obispo, California. "The State of California seems to be swarming with Ft. Dodgers. Since I wrote you last I have seen several more Dodgers. One evening in San Diego I ran into Ensign Ray Carlson who was leaving for overseas the following morning. While aboard a ship on amphibious training, I met a fellow by the name of Kelly who was radioman on the ship. I had been on ship for nearly four days and seen him a couple times before recognizing him. However, we did see each other for the last two days. Another night in Santa Maria I ran into Bob Courtright. He is in the 97th Division in an infantry regiment. In Camp Cooke one Sunday night I went to the 97th Field Artillery and saw Davy Mailander and spent most of the evening comparing addresses, etc."

Pvt. D. E. Zuetlaw, somewhere in the Philippine Islands. "The Philippine people are surely glad that we came back and they will do anything for us. They can speak good English, too. I was over to a school where they were teaching the children how to speak English as we do. Their schools are just like ours and very nice. The girls are really good looking and they really go for the American boys so we don't have any trouble of getting a girl. I suppose you all had a very nice Thanksgiving. Well, we had turkey for once and very nice, too."

Pfc. Jerry R. Coughlon, England. "England is quite different from the states as you probably already know. I had quite a time

getting onto their system of money. The bobs or shillings, half crowns, pence and half pence were sure hard to get onto. The pence is what gave me all the trouble. They are copper and about the size of a half dollar. They are worth about two of our cents. A shilling is worth 20c and there are twelve pence in a shilling. I still can't figure it out, but I am getting used to forgetting our money and staying strictly to the English. The people here are friendly but I have a hard time understanding some of them. They seem to get their tongues twisted or something. They drive on the left side of the street and it was hard getting used to looking the opposite way to see if a car was coming before crossing a street. I almost got hit a couple times looking the wrong way. They have some large trucks here. Their trams and omnibusses (street-cars and busses) are almost all double deckers. Their trains are much smaller. It isn't anything to see a couple men pushing a freight car along the tracks. Most of their automobiles here seem to be all dehydrated Fords. The cars are surely small. About the size of a Bantam or Crosley. Some are a little larger and then they have some large Fords, Buicks, Packards, etc. The country is really beautiful. It is green and nice. There are lots of hedges and they are kept trimmed up nice and neat. The streets are narrow and the stores are small house-like places called shops. Everything is rationed here so there is very little we can buy. We can get a lot of fish and chips. In our language it is fish and French fries. Potato chips here are called crisps. I don't like the weather here. It's that unusual California weather. I think you know what I mean. Everybody rides a bike over here. Old and young. They even have seats for small children on the back fender and I have seen a little enclosed side car about the size of a baby buggy. Most all the movies here are American. In fact they try and copy the American people."

Capt. Stephen Manchester, jr., APO 34, New York. "I just arrived back in the mountains from Rome. They decided I needed a rest so they gave me one. Duane Crouse happened to be resting at the same time so we had a chance to talk over old times and Fort Dodge. It's been three years but you can't forget home. Fort Dodge can be proud of its "Company G." They've more than upheld the Iowa's 133rd Infantry and the 34th Division. I think you have a 34th Division patch—the old red bull's head. The Krauts know it and don't like it for obvious reasons. I walked into an Army PX in Rome and an English speaking Italian girl saw the insignia and said, "Oh, you wear the famous beast, too!" Our poor old bull is called everything from Red Devil to cow but we're all proud of its record. So is Iowa, I'm sure, even though it has cost Iowa many tears and heartaches. I'm sure we will all do our best to see that the cause of those tears is 100% justified. Things are quiet here tonight. Every now and then Jerry expends a round. He must have found a ration book. A few planes are buzzing around trying to shoot somebody. About the only thing they're shooting is Kraut tax payers' money. To increase your vocabulary, I had two Gurkha drivers the other day. Right is Dienay and left is Bainay—phonetic, of course. My lessons stopped there as I lack something in my throat to gurgle their way. Had to learn those two, though, to get where I wanted to. Stopping was accomplished by jumping up and down and yelling!"

McClellan W. Long, S 2/c, somewhere "Down Under." "The weather is very warm here and the rains aren't cold like back in the states. There is an island ten miles away from the one I'm living on, and there it rains about every night. It is nothing to see a rainbow when we are returning from work in the evening. The skies are very beautiful about dusk when it has been a very hot day. I think the lowest the temperature has been is seventy degrees since I arrived."

Pfc. Bernard Loth, Belgium. "I'm sitting in a nice small room with electric lights and an electric heater (which our gang bought) and running water. Believe it or not! It's the nicest set-up I've had since I left the States and even though it's only temporary, it's nice to get out of the mud. We are in Belgium and the people here—especially the barmaids—all understand and speak German so our little threesome gets along fine. In fact, we have already made arrangements at our favorite bar to have a table near the radio Saturday night so we can hear the Army-Navy game. Now, if we don't get alerted!" (Thanks, Bernie, for the picture.)

D. R. Perrin, S 1/c, France. "I'm in France now and am living in a former German officers' barracks. There are about 20 of us out here maintaining a radio transmitter station and it is really good duty. We have, as you no doubt know, the best equipment that money can buy. I'll bet that you would sure enjoy a trip through our station. It is set up in a former German hospital that has walls that are about 3 feet thick. I like France much better than England even though it is much harder hit. The people are as friendly as possible considering the fact that they speak a different tongue and that the airforce and shell fire made a miserable wreck of their once beautiful and prosperous city. Dale Lindquist, also from Ft. Dodge, is an operator down at the receivers."

Lt. Col. C. A. Youngdale, USMC, Harcourt, FPO, San Francisco. It has been a long time since I have been in Webster County but to me it is still home. I would like to be back enjoying the snow with you right now. It could be that you would enjoy this Pacific weather we are having here, too. I have been with an Arty Bn. in the Fourth Marine Division since we left the States and I hope that I can still be with them when they return to the States, a wonderful bunch of boys as the Nips have found out the hard way. You can't beat a bunch of men that only know one way to go and that is forward. We have seen action in the Marshals—Roi-Namur, and the Marianas—Saipan and Tinian. The 4th Division was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for it's work on Saipan and Tinian and naturally we are mighty proud of that award."

Oh, to be a mailman now the holidays are here. Those faithful friends who come rain or shine deserve some special decoration. Three times a day the front office desk is piled high with the most welcome letters in the world, your letters from everywhere. Wish there was space to tell you about all the funny and beautiful Christmas cards that have come from everywhere. You'll see them some day. They are all being saved. Other letters that we haven't somewhere or someway else acknowledged came from Joan R. Mills, HA 2/c, WAVES, Bethesda, Maryland; Don G. Beckman, Ph M. 2/c, San Diego; and Phil J. Dorweiler, S 2/c, somewhere in Hawaii. They were all wonderful. Thanks so much . . . Another Christmas without you here. It's hard to take, Joe. We wanted you home. Every sponsor of this letter would like to shake your hand, would like to say 'hello'. And so would every boy and girl and man and woman in this whole countryside. That isn't possible, so Joe, we'll say for all of us "Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!"

Your Home Town Correspondent
Ed Breen.