

Happy

Your Letter From Home

New Year

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 The Fort Dodge Creamery Co.
 The Fort Dodge Serum Co.
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 The Elks Club of Fort Dodge
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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

December 29, 1944

☉ **DEAR JOE:** Nothing could have been quieter than the snow that fell Tuesday evening. There was not a whisper of wind—and not a sound did it make. But in the morning, six inches deep, it clothed the world in beauty. It was cold, 16 below, but no winds whipped it into fury. And Wednesday night's full moon flooded the world with magic radiance . . . And so the old year prepares to die. It saw many days of sorrow—many days of gallant deeds and brave men dying. And the hope of the world lay in those days—the hope that such days might never be repeated, that the bloody awful courage of you and your brothers might win a new world. To secure that world we at home must work as hard as you are fighting. A decent world in which no man may be oppressed by his fellow man nor any nation be enslaved by another. A world dedicated to the arts and crafts of peace. A world in which every man is his brother's keeper and in which every neighbor is a friend. For such a world we wish when we dream of 1945. It's for such a better, happier world that we wish when we say "Happy New Year!"

☉ **AROUND THE TOWN.** Dec. 24th was Christmas eve. It was also KVFD's fifth birthday . . . Dec. 24th was Christmas eve but many a Christmas celebration started Saturday evening, Dec. 23rd . . . Stores in town were sold out of nearly everything. They looked like the day after a fire sale . . . The Elks celebrated with Tom and Jerry's Christmas morning . . . Churches were crowded as mothers and dads and wives and sweethearts and brothers and sisters prayed for Joe and Jane who were in a far country, prayed to the Christ child that peace might return to a stricken world . . . Dr. W. W. Bowen, veteran physician, is dead. He was 75 years old . . . Dec. 20th, Dr. H. E. Nelson, of Dayton, celebrated his 50th year as doctor and surgeon in Webster County. He is 75 years old and still going strong . . . The soap box derby car built by the police department and entered in the Jr. Chamber—KVFD Soap Box Derby three years ago was auctioned off day before Christmas. High bidder was D. E. "Slim" Jennison, well known cigarette salesman. (I wonder what Slim's doing now?) Slim bought it for his favorite teen age nephew. The \$15.65 Slim paid goes into the police benefit fund . . . The C. G. W., due in here at an early hour, left the tracks at the "Y" out on 22nd Street last Thursday morning and tied things up for five hours. No one hurt . . . Jane Kurtz and Ann Garver have been named as outstanding college students. Their biographies will appear in "Who's Who in the Colleges and Universities." Both are students at State Teachers . . . "The Blue Diamond," teen age night spot, broadcast their Christmas floorshow over KVFD, 10:30-11:00 p. m., Dec. 23rd. The "Ten Discards" beat out the rhythm . . . Stores stayed open until 9:00 Saturday evening December 23rd, but the liquor store closed at 6:30 after doing a terrific business. Stores will close tomorrow night, Saturday, Dec. 30th, at 6:00 . . . Oh, woe is me! Income tax blanks—the 1040's—are now available.

☉ **JOES AND JANES SEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.** Lt. R. E. Marsh from Bartow Field, Florida. "Still flying the finest fighter Uncle Sam's got—the P-51. Hope you can enjoy a white Christmas for me." . . . Pvt. Foster F. Funk, somewhere in Holland. "Wishing you and your swell sponsors a very Merry Christmas." Foster is with the 9th Army . . . John Potter, A/S, Camp Endicott, Rhode Island . . . Lt. and Mrs. Don Lehman and Karen Kay, Carlsbad, New Mexico . . . Sgt. M. Orenstein, Mitchell Field, New York . . . Sgt. Dale E. Brand with the 3rd Armored Division in Germany . . . Pvt. Clarence A. Forslund, somewhere in Belgium. Yes sir, Clarence, we'll play that number . . . Chaplain Arnold H. Bertram with the 2nd Armored Division somewhere in Europe . . . Pfc. Edward M. Fawcett with the 4th Marine Regt., 6th Marine Division somewhere in the Pacific . . . Lt. Louie Beisser, Greenville, So. Carolina . . . T/5 Henry L. Whitaker, somewhere in Belgium . . . Cpl. Hershel J. Dueker, island of Kauai. "This is a tropical paradise. We go swimming and fishing in the ocean. It's more like a resort than an army camp." Bill Weber is on the same island . . . Cpl. Sol Ashkenaze, Camp Butler, No. Carolina . . . Cpl. D. E. Nash, Camp Crowder, Missouri . . . T/5 Werner H. Starr on Saipan island, "home of the B-29's" . . . Lt. Robert K. Rhinesmith with the 7th Armored Division in Holland. We'll play that number, Bob . . . R. C. Wales, ARM 2/c, who is first radioman on a PB 4Y-2, somewhere in the Pacific . . . Lt. Florence Erickson, Lowry Field, Denver . . . S/Sgt. Ralph E. Shaffer with the 34th Division in Italy . . . Tom Nash, RM 3/c, U. S. S. Dobler, F. P. O., New York . . . Pfc. Dale Olson, Camp Shelby, Mississippi . . . Lt. Robert L. Sill, 8th Air Force, England . . . Ben F. Anderson, ARM 1/c, somewhere in the Blue Pacific . . . Dr. E. B. Dawson, Lt. Comdr., U. S. S. Sibley, somewhere in the Pacific . . . Sgt. Jim Janvrin, of Webster City, from somewhere in France . . . Sgt. Don McEwen, the Philippines . . . S/Sgt. Geo. J. Swartz from somewhere in the Pacific . . . S 1/c and Mrs. Raymond Wilcox, Key West, Florida . . . S/Sgt. Embert F. "Jay" Jessen, APO 467, New York . . . Lt. E. C. "Ed" Degner, Corsica . . . Cpl. Fred Brisbin, Port Townsend, Washington . . .

Cpl. Edith Fiderlick, Ft. Des Moines, Iowa . . . Thomas Timmons, SF 1/c, U. S. S. Geo. W. Ingram, FPO, New York . . . James F. Knickerbocker, Ph M 3/c, U. S. S. Longshaw, Pacific . . . Capt. N. B. Slagter, somewhere in the Philippines . . . Lt. Mary E. Kearns, ANC, Santa Ana, California . . . Louella E. Schwering, Y 3/c, Oakland, California . . . R. Rex Funk, Ph M 1/c, somewhere in the Pacific . . . Pfc. Dean Wright, North Camp Hood, Texas . . . S/Sgt. and Mrs. Elliott B. Collson, Rochester, New York . . . Floyd R. Stoner, QM 3/c, U. S. S. Cummings, Pacific . . . A/C D. W. Cook, Ellington Field, Texas . . . Pfc. Emil Heggen, somewhere in North Africa . . . Walt Woodman, F 2/c, U. S. S. New Hanover, FPO, New York . . . Don W. Clark, BM 2/c, Coronado, California . . . Lt. Al Langehaug, Fletcher General Hospital, Cambridge, Ohio . . . S/Sgt. Harry C. Roach, Hunter Field, Georgia . . . Lt. (j. g.) J. D. McTigue, Trinidad . . . Cpl. G. T. Robb, APO 862, New York . . . Lt. Maurice Field, somewhere in Italy. "Have about 200 Italians working for me, but still haven't acquired much of their lingo. Really is a picnic on pay day trying to get them to sign their names the Army way." . . . Carl Theiss, WT 2/c, the Marianas Islands . . . W. C. Kruse, CSE, FPO, San Francisco . . . E. D. "Trapper" Evans, S 1/c, U. S. S. LeJeune, FPO, New York . . . Lt. K. I. Hartman, somewhere in Europe . . . Pvt. Donald Becker, Ft. Geo. G. Meade, Maryland . . . Pvt. William J. Jones, APO 864, New York . . . Pfc. Erle Mae Stevens, Mitchel Field, Long Island, New York . . . Sgt. Glen H. Johnson, C-2, RAAF, Roswell, New Mexico.

☉ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** Beulah Stowe has been commissioned an ensign in the WAVES . . . Capt. Al Sinnott has been awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct by Genl. Eisenhower . . . To Capt., Clarence T. Johnson somewhere in France.

☉ **SCOREBOARD.** Corpus Christi defeats Sacred Heart in a thriller. Sacred Heart led them three quarters then the Celts got the range and sunk more shots in the fourth quarter than they had during all the rest of the game. Score, Corpus Christi, 30, Sacred Heart, 24 . . . Dodger mat men defeat Tech Wrestlers of Des Moines. Score: Dodgers, 50, Tech, 0 . . . Gowrie loses to Dayton, 40 to 16. That was in the boys' game. In the girls' game, Gowrie won 31 to 30.

☉ **WARS GRIM TOLL.** Pvt. Marvin White, of Coalville, wounded Nov. 19th in Germany, is in an English hospital and getting along fine . . . Pvt. John H. Ort has been wounded in Germany . . . Lt. Mervin Danielson, of Lehigh, is reported by short wave German radio to be a prisoner in Germany. He has been listed as missing in action since Oct. 31st . . . Lt. Richard Willits was killed in action in France, Dec. 11th. He was the pilot of a Thunderbolt and had been overseas since Oct. 1st . . . Sgt. R. D. (Bob) Bollard is missing in action over Austria as of Dec. 11th. He was waist gunner on a Liberator based in Italy . . . Mrs. John Atwell has heard from her husband, John, who is in a Jap prison camp near Tokyo. The letter was dated last March. John has been a prisoner since the fall of Bataan . . . Pfc. Weldon Eichelberger was wounded in action in Germany Dec. 6th. Not seriously, however.

☉ **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.** Thomas L. Curyea, PR 1/c, from Washington state. Tom is with the Coast Guard and P. R. is not public relations but parachute rigger . . . Lt. Fenton Isaacson from Lawrenceville, Illinois . . . Sgt. and Mrs. Forrest Bailey from Great Lakes Naval Hospital . . . Lt. R. E. Prieskorn from Hotspur Island, Savannah, Georgia . . . Pvt. Bobbie Black on her way to the West Coast . . . Joan Mills, HA 1/c, from Bethesda, Maryland, on her way to San Diego . . . Pvt. Lillian Vit, from Camp Atterbury, Ind. . . Ray McCarville, C. B. M., of Moorland, from 14 months on a mine sweeper in the Mediterranean . . . Sgt. Major and Mrs. Leonard DeVilbiss, from New Bern, N. C. . . Floyd Buffington, from McCluskey hospital, Temple, Texas. Floyd lost his left leg in Italy last June . . . Lt. Mary E. Kearns, from Santa Ana, Calif. . . Cpl. Warren Kelley from the South Pacific. He has been stationed in the New Hebrides . . . A/C Robert Winslow from Childress, Texas . . . Ed Vaughn is back home for good, honorably discharged from the Navy after two years service. He will go back on the fire dept. . . Pvt. Donald Nodtvedt from the University of Colorado; his brother, Magnus Nodtvedt, A. S., from Notre Dame . . . S/Sgt. Kenneth R. "Bob" Gawtry, after 50 missions on a B-24 based in Italy . . . Lt. Roger Isaacson from Victorville, Calif. He's on his way to Luke Field, Ariz. With him are his wife and son, Terry . . . S/Sgt. and Mrs. Fred Heidick, from Camp Ellis, Ill. . . T/5 Hartley J. Nelson from Ft. Benning, Ga. . . T/Sgt. Robert L. Bell from the Central Pacific . . . Pfc. Marlin D. Hottman, from Italy . . . A. M. M. 1/c and Mrs. James M. Little, after 16 months in the South Seas . . . Sgt. Lester M. Challberg, from Flora, Miss.

☉ **GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER.** Lt. Dale Thomas and Ensign Richard Whitcome Christmas Day in Los Angeles. They

met accidentally and ate Christmas dinner together . . . Faye Jurison, Lenore Bappe, S 1/c, Doris Isaacson and Darlene Laird. They are together in the WAVES at Bronx 63, New York . . . Pvt. Roger Fevold, Art Dilges and Lee LeValley, of Dayton, somewhere in the Pacific . . . Orville R. Lindner and Lt. Dunsmoore in the Marshall Islands. Bob Hope, Jack Benny and Betty Hutton were recent visitors . . . Don Spillman, MM 3/c, Stan Olson, S 1/c, and Phil Dorweiler, S 2/c, at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Hawaii. Talked about Fort Dodge "from Central Avenue to Treloar's Inn" . . . Betty Jeffers, Helen Peed, Bobbie Lou Peterson and Helen Newsum, S 2/c, at North Island, San Diego, California. Thanks, Helen for the "White Cap."

★ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIAS.** Two Jerry propaganda leaflets from Sgt. Bob Lawson, France, and a two mark note. Bob is also sending a Jerry flag and an arm band. Thanks, Bob . . . The patch of the new 36th Corps from Pvt. Verne F. Vladeff, Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. Thanks, Verne . . . The patch of the 51st defense battalion, USMC, from Pvt. Dean Olson, Treasure Island, San Francisco. Thanks, Dean . . . Three posters put out by the counter intelligence corps from John Brady, Jr., somewhere in New Guinea. Thanks, John . . . "Shot and Shell" and "The Range Finder" from Pfc. William Armstrong, Camp San Luis Obispo, California. Thanks, Bill . . . "The Command Post" from Pvt. Robert Zeka, India. Thanks, Bob . . . "The Yank" from S/Sgt. Richard A. Johnson, somewhere down under. Thanks, Dick . . . The 14th Coast Artillery patch from Lt. Bill Casey. Thanks, Bill . . . "The Bainbridge Main Sheet" from Franz Sprecher, Bainbridge, Maryland. Thanks, Franz.

★ **OVER HERE.** Pvt. O. J. Collins is at Camp Howze, Texas . . . Sgt. J. S. McElhinney, USMC, is at Santa Ana, California. "Keep YLFH coming. Thanks again to the swell backers from Fort Dodge" . . . Alfred Thompson, GM 2/c, is back in San Francisco from the Marshall Islands where he was on a submarine as one of the sub-relief crew. "I am now Master of Arms in the chow hall on the sub base here" . . . Geo. Bomberry, Jr., F 1/c, is at Morro Bay, California . . . Everett John Brehm, F 1/c, is at Shoemaker, California . . . Pvt. D. E. Wilshusen is at Amarillo, Texas . . . A/C Eugene Brown is at Selman Field, Monroe, Alabama . . . Paratrooper Pvt. Ren D. Crummer is at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

★ **CANADA.** Cpl. Tom Dowd, at the air transport station in Edmonton, Canada, has put out the welcome mat for all Dodgers stopping off at that base. "Ask them to look me up. Only Dodger I've seen so far is Al Maricle who is now at Big Delta, Alaska." Tom missed seeing Sgt. Dick Cleveland. Doesn't want to miss any others. Tom says his LFH gets to him in 26 hours.

★ **ALASKA.** Pvt. Earl H. Ball, of Callender, is getting his mail APO, Seattle, Washington.

★ **OVERSEAS.** Pvt. Dale D. Decker, USMC, is now getting his mail 23rd Repl. Draft, Co. D, FPO, San Francisco . . . Pvt. Glen R. Rezabek is on his way overseas to the E. T. O. . . . Pvt. Byron D. Jeys is somewhere overseas in the E. T. O. Since being in the army, Byron has been doing some boxing. "Nothing spectacular but fun and a few extra privileges granted." We'll play that request, By.

★ **PACIFIC.** Robert Ewing, S 1/c, is somewhere in the Pacific. His buddy, Pvt. Don Adam, is with the parachute infantry somewhere in the E. T. O. . . . Pvt. Melvin Wehrheim is in the Hawaiian Islands on Oahu . . . Leslie M. Smith, Coxn., is a member of the crew of the escort carrier, the U. S. S. Savo Island, one of the 16 little carriers that whipped and destroyed by air power alone, a Jap force of four battleships, eight heavy cruisers and 10 destroyers in the battle of San Bernardino Strait . . . Dwayne E. Bonnell, RT 2/2, has moved from Gilbert atoll to Kwajaleen. "The climate here is a lot cooler. It was 100 about every day on the Gilberts" . . . Sgt. Mahlon Carlson is on the Marianas. "There won't be a white Christmas here as all you can see is a coconut tree, coral and mud. It has rained some every day since I arrived." We'll play that request, Mahlon . . . Ernest J. Tschertter, GM 2/c, is somewhere in the Pacific.

★ **LA BELLE, FRANCE.** Pfc. Bob Crosby is somewhere in France . . . S/Sgt. Clarence J. Cooklin is with the 3rd Division, 7th Army in France. We'll play that number for your sister, Clarence. Your letter took a long time getting here.

★ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** S/Cgt. Richard P. Wretman, P. O. W., Germany. "Just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and 'kicking.' Time is passing very fast, contrary to my belief. I am getting enough to eat, but miss lots of things that I have been accustomed to. Haven't received any mail but hope that you have written. Today is Sunday, so Church is first on my schedule for the day. The orchestra is playing this afternoon and there's an all-star softball game today, so that completes the day. The climate here is swell; much like that of Colorado. I haven't lost any weight yet. Still weigh 170 lbs."

A/C Bob E. Williams, San Antonio, Texas. "Next time I get to visit the station, please hide all head sets. Code is driving me nuts. I'm a 'sad sack.' They put me in a pressure chamber and took me up to 38,000 feet. (I passed out). P. T. has made me a cripple—I catch hell daily for not shining my brass. My mother just never brought me up to be a soldier!"

Pvt. John Brand, Philippine Islands. "The first day I got off the boat I saw some excitement. A couple of Jap bombers came over and tried to bomb us. Just as soon as our plane came in sight one turned tail and ran but the other stayed. Just as he dropped his bomb one of our boys got on his tail and gave him just two bursts and he burst into flames. He had guts though, because he tried to crash the ship but he just missed. You ought to have heard the shouts and cheers when we went down. That same day I saw four more Jap planes shot down. After seeing all of them fall over that particular area I don't doubt we shoot down as many as we claim. We're right in the jungle and it's really

jungle. Lots of birds, insects, snakes, and crocodiles and also lots of rain. I've only seen the sun twice since I've been here."

Sgt. R. J. Scott, APO 758, New York. "Recently and unexpectedly, I met Lt. K. I. Hartman, a friend of mine, in Epinal, France. After about shaking and breaking our arms off he informed me about what some of the rest of the servicemen from the home town are doing. It seems that Hartman is getting a paper distributed by KVF and is getting a lot of dope from the home town. I am hereby requesting that I be placed on the mailing list for your publication." (O. K., Sarge, you're on!)

Chaplain Theo. V. L. Harvey, New Guinea. "From the largest island 'Down Under' comes just a word of cheer. The letters you send mean a great deal more to me than they did in the States. I think I read and re-read every word several times. I feel as if I have had a visit with the 'Old Home Town.' The election news was good. Some of us have not heard—did Jim I. Dolliver win? When this war is over I want to stand somewhere and watch the people go in and out of their homes. It is a wonderful thing to live in a real house where people know each other and even have trouble because they know each other too well. The weather here in New Guinea is hot. The natives are very backward. They speak a little English. They seem to like our Joes and Anns. They spend a great deal of their time around our camp especially when chow is on. I too have not run into a Fort Dodger since coming across, and only one in the States. 'Oh where, oh where, are the Dodgers Down Under?!!'"

Pvt. Robert E. Moore, Luxembourg. "I've seen quite a bit of the world since I played my last game of pool at 'Henderson's.' I've been through England, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, France, Luxembourg and part of Germany. As yet, I haven't met anyone from home over here. This country is very beautiful from a tourist's viewpoint; which, of course, is quite different from my own. It's not uncommon here to see Fords and Buicks racing down cobblestone streets along with oxen drawn wagons; or a "Coca Cola" sign with "the pause that refreshes" written in German. See you next year, I hope."

Lt. A. B. Ricke, somewhere in England. "Wish I were seeing you this Christmas, but I imagine there are thousands of Joes all over the world who would like to be home, too, so I can't complain. Just light a light on a Christmas tree for us—for there are no lights over here—and we'll all be with you in spirit. November 25th was the great day for my crew and me. We flew our last mission on that day. Now we are going to remain here for a couple of months as instructors and then we hope to return home on leave. Oh, happy day! I can assure you, it's swell to be finished!" (Thanks, Lt., for Vol. I, No. 1 of "War Weary." We'll do that number.)

T/Sgt. Ronald Wheat, USMC, FPO, San Francisco. "As you can gather, I am back overseas again. Although I hope that this time I will not have to remain over as long as the last. I am very anxious to get back to good old Fort Dodge and see my wife, folks and friends. And especially to see my son for the first time. I would enjoy very much having the experience that some of the fellows from home have. That is, running into a Dodger on one of these islands. I have met two fellows in this squadron that are from Iowa. One from Des Moines and one from Council Bluffs."

Pfc. Floyd Zeka, somewhere in India. "Sure missed the Letters since I left the States. I finally got a few of them this week. What a thrill that was to read them again. You know they give me plenty of the news and once they stop coming to us we miss them very much. They may be only one sheet but they are packed with more news than any other paper that could be sent to me. Our thanks to the sponsors of "Your Letter From Home." We are always grateful to them. May we someday be able to repay them for it all. In this location where I am now is the only place in India that I've seen that is much like our home town surroundings. I've seen a good bit of India, too. Wish it were possible to see more of it besides where the rails run. One main crop I've noticed here is rice. They still use the oxen and wooden plows although there is some modern farm machinery. Seems as if they are staying with the old modes of living. Our appreciation to the children of the schools. I rec'd a very nice letter from an eight year old girl. In some way I hope you will be able to express our thanks to them. The letters were very interesting."

There were other letters and cards that you'll find we've acknowledged in this way and that; and still others from Pvt. Cecil C. Markeley, San Francisco; Phil Dorweiler, S 2/c, somewhere in Hawaii; Pvt. Eugene R. Good, APO 957, San Francisco; Walt C. Gerth who is being transferred from Key West, Florida; T/5 Ned Y. Ackerson, Holland, and Pfc. Bernard Loth, somewhere in Belgium.

It's been a sad old year and yet a wonderful one, too. It's brought me your letters laden with friendship and good will. It's given me the opportunity to write to you and to meet you, and to talk with your folks and all the people back here who love you. It's made me realize humbly how many fine people there are all around me everywhere. The fellows at the top of this letter, the sponsors, the guys who dig down deep into their pockets to put up the money that makes these weekly epistles possible, they are continually wondering if there isn't something else they can do. And the girls of Wah Tan Ye who come over here every Tuesday evening to address the more than 4000 letters that go out each week, I marvel at them as I tip toe thru the hall. And the people here at the station who work on the letter. They consider it a privilege . . . They are all wonderful people, proud people, proud of you and loving you and living for that happy day when you'll be coming home . . . Got to do some soul searching now, Joe, and make a couple of resolutions. Kind of a habit, I guess. But harmless . . . For everybody here at home, Joe, here's wishing you a much, much happier New Year. Be seeing you.

Your home town correspondent,
Ed Breen.