

Pat was killed in an explosion. The boss said to Mike, "Go along with the boys and break the news to Mrs. Murphy gently." "It's me that can do that!" said Mike. When they got to the Murphy place, Mike rapped on the door, and herself came. Mike asked, "Is the widow Murphy in?" "I'm Mrs. Murphy but I'm not a widow." "Shure and you are that now," said Mike. "You can be bringing in what's left of Murphy now, boys."

Your Letter From Home

SENT TO YOU WITH THE BEST WISHES OF

The Gates Dry Goods Co.
The Fort Dodge Creamery
The Tobin Packing Co.
The Fort Dodge Scrum Co.
The Elks Club of Fort Dodge

Larry Geer Ballrooms
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Mike was appearing in court in his own defense. He had gotten into a heated controversy with the judge. Their remarks grew more and more offensive and personnel. At last the judge could tolerate it no longer. "My man," he said "You are extremely offensive." "Yes, your Honor," said Mike. "I agree. We both are. But I'm trying to be and you can't help it."

No. 21

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

March 17, 1944

☀ **THE TOP OF THE MORNING TO YOU JOE.** And a fine grand morning it is, too, with all of us wearing a sprig of green and wishing that St. Patrick might come again to drive the snakes out of old Ireland—Eire—pronounced Air'ruh by all of us radio commentators . . . Saw the first robin the other day. Have been wondering what he has been doing this week because we've had crazy weather—rain, sleet, snow and ice. All the trees were sheathed in ice for a day or two and the branches swaying and cracking in the wind made a far off sound like the chattering of crickets. But it's top of the morning to you, Joe, and a grand St. Patrick's Day. Another month and we'll be digging in our gardens, wishing you were here to enjoy again the beauty of Iowa in the spring.

☀ **WEDDING BELLS.** Thelma Larsen, of Seattle, Wash., to Clyde R. Johnson, Y 2/c, of Burnside, at Seattle, February 18th . . . Carrie L. Cades, of Ventura, Calif., to Gale V. Winters, January 26th in Ventura . . . Mary Ann Kelley, of Grand Junction, to John Keegan, March 11th at Fort Dodge . . . Rosamond Ruppert, of Iowa City, and Dean Cooper, sometime in April. Cooper is a medical student at Iowa City . . . Edna Olson, of Dayton, and L. R. Hein, Sp 2/c, of Loveland, Colo., at Ames, March 4th . . . Irma Bloome and Oswald Jacobson, of Jewell, March 12th, in Fort Dodge . . . Jean Rutledge to James Lawhorn, of Knoxville, Tenn., March 19th in Bridgeport, Conn. He's a radio engineer.

☀ **SCOREBOARD.** It wasn't our night. When the gun sounded, ending the game, the Dodgers had the ball, it was headed toward the basket but not in and we were behind one point. And so in the district tournament at Webster City we bowed out to Webster City. Final score, Webster City 30, Fort Dodge 29. Incidentally, Webster City has one of the most beautiful gyms we have ever seen. The Lynx were beaten the next evening by Eagle Grove. In the B classic, Harcourt came through beautifully, beating Jewell in no overtime period, 26 to 25 . . . Down at the Drake Field House in Des Moines, the Gowrie girls were making history in the State Tournament. Playing their hearts out, they came from behind in two games to go into the finals with Wiota. Wiota had been to the State Tournament five times. They were not to be denied. Gowrie lost in the finals, 44 to 25. Plans are under way for a celebration in their honor . . . Harcourt will meet Roosevelt, of Des Moines, at Creston this week in the sub-state. Roosevelt was Big Seven Champion this year, lost a game to the Dodgers. Flash—Harcourt beat them easily, 42 to 28.

☀ **WE'VE DONE OUR HITCH IN HELL.** I've been sitting here and thinking of the things I left behind. And I'd hate to put on paper, what is running thru my mind. We've dug a million ditches, and cleared ten miles of ground. And a meaner place this side of hell, is waiting to be found. But there's one consolation, listen closely while I tell. When we die, we'll go to heaven, for we've done our hitch in hell. We've built a million kitchens, for the cooks to stew our beans. We've stood a hundred guard mounts, and cleaned the camp's latrines. We've washed a thousand mess kits and peeled a million spuds. We've rolled a dozen bed rolls, and washed the Major's duds. The number of parades we've stood, is very hard to tell. But we won't parade in heaven, for we've done our hitch in hell. We've killed a million rats and bugs, that crawled out of our eats. We've pulled a hundred centipedes out of our dirty sheets. We've been bitten by mosquitos, and flying ants. We've picked up trash and matches, in our only Sunday pants. But when our work on earth is done, our friends behind will tell. "When they died they went to heaven, for they did their hitch in hell." And when life's work is ended, and we lay aside life's cares. We'll do our last parade up those Golden Shining Stairs. The angels all will welcome us, and the harps will start to play. We'll draw a million canteen books, and spend them in a day. It is then we'll hear St. Peter say, with a loud and husky yell, "Take a front seat soldiers, you've done your hitch in hell." . . . Sent from England, as clipped from the "Stars and Stripes," by Cpl. George "Bob" Mickelson. Thanks, Bob.

☀ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** He's now S/Sgt. Bob Knapp of the U. S. Marines, stationed at Cherry Point, South Carolina. Shhhh—ra--and ra-- . . . He's now Sgt. Chas. E. Swanstrom and is stationed at Clovis, New Mexico . . . To Midshipman, Quinto Vandi, at Notre Dame . . . To Corporal, Robert Van Scoy, at Camp Beale, Calif. . . . Lt. (j. g.) W. J. Carroll spotted the 19 officers and men who had been adrift in the Gulf of Mexico for 23 hours after a crash landing at sea . . . To first class boatswains mate, Allan Johnson, veteran of Casablanca. He's now in the Southwest Pacific.

☀ **OVER HERE.** They're still having Iowa picnics in Los Angeles come fire or heavy dew and Sgt. Ted Rule, our west coast corres-

pondent, will be there to report on the doings of our ex-patriates . . . Pfc. Dick Black is at Mitchell Field, New York, working in a physical fitness program assisting in the rehabilitation of overseas patients . . . Pvt. Vincent Powers is in the hospital at Camp Adair, Ore. Knee injury, not serious . . . 2nd Lt. J. E. Peschau, with the marines, is stationed at the air station at Miami. He's met a lot of Dodgers, Pfc. Bob Pfaff, Fred Muhl and wife, Bob Walker and Wally Evans but is looking for more. Joe says let's get together, "because there is nothing like meeting someone from home." . . . Cpl. Ronnie MacKenzie says his present camp at Ardmore, Oklahoma, is the best he's been in yet. He's there with a combat crew . . . Ross Edwards, AMM 2/c, who used to coach at Callender, is now helping to keep the Navy "Corsairs" flying at Green Cove Springs, Fla. Recently, he met Francis Meyers who is at Lee Field . . . A/C Ken Moreland, now at Greenwood, Miss., had a visit with his brother "Red" one day recently. Ken will be going on to Napier Field, Alabama, soon. Thanks for "The Gremlin" Ken . . . Cpl. R. E. Cleveland is way up north somewhere with the Eskimos. In his camp, they have a radio, phonograph, and 25 or 30 records. But they are only able to get a couple of stations from the U. S. —and those only on short wave . . . Bernard Simpson, in training at Camp Peterson, Farragut, Idaho, is just starting a sixteen week course in Storekeepers' school . . . Pvt. William D. Weber is now stationed in the Hawaiian Islands. He formerly worked at the Fort Dodge Creamery and says that most of the canned milk they are using in the Hawaiians come right from the Fort Dodge Creamery . . . Pvt. Herschel J. Dueker is at Harlingen, Texas, receiving training as an aerial gunner . . . Pfc. Ivan F. Hunter is now in his last training period in Tampa, Florida, for a crew position on B-17's. He is hoping to meet S/Sgt. Harold Bemrick and Lt. W. J. Whalen . . . Cpl. Stan Ulrich, who is teaching at Fort Knox, Kentucky, used to have classes where the ages ranged from 20 to 27. But now he writes that the men in class are either 18 to 20 or 28 to 40. The second battalion at Fort Knox is almost all Iowans . . . Pvt. Tom Gody is honorably discharged. Wounded in Sicily, he's been at Schick Hospital, in Clinton, for some months . . . Lt. C. F. Barnhill had his arm broken in a crash at Presque Isle, Mo. Pilot was killed, eight others injured. Chuck is a bombardier. The Fort he was with left the runway and crashed into a hangar . . . "Duke" Nelson, world champion long distance swimmer, is now with the Navy at the University of Pennsylvania. He's with the athletic department . . . John Owen is now with the army air transport command at Dallas, Texas.

☀ **VISITING THE HOME FOLKS.** From the Southwest Pacific, Sgt. Major Leonard DeVilbis, of the Marines, and his wife. He was with Carlson's raiders at Makin and elsewhere . . . From Washington D. C., Edward Pratt, PhM 2/c . . . From Gulfport, Miss., Cpl. Donald E. Strom . . . From Camp Davis, N. C., Lt. and Mrs. Tom Dunsmoor . . . From San Diego, Gene Dolder, F 2/c . . . From Pyote, Texas, S/Sgt. Willard Schmidt and wife . . . From Camp Lee, V., Pvt. Adolph Weiss. He's in the quartermaster corps on his way to Camp Beale, Calif. Mrs. Weiss, formerly Dorothy Atwell, will remain in Fort Dodge . . . From Camp White, Oregon, Capt. Julian Hogan . . . From Camp Cooke, Calif., Pvt. Ronald Enfield . . . From India, Sgt. Donald Erb, after 425 combat hours and 49 missions over Burma. Don is a radio operator, photographer and gunner . . . From Green Dover Springs, Fla., Lt. Paul V. Hogan. He's a marine fighter pilot.

☀ **ALONG THE MAIN DRAG.** Fred Clarke, of Tobin's, and J. W. Rath, of Waterloo, and are carrying photos snapped with William Bendix, of "Wake Island" movie fame and now starring in the Blue Network show "The Life of Riley." They caught the Bendix show at the Blue studios in Los Angeles . . . Gene Ross, 16 year old home town Broadway Star, currently with La Barrymore in "The Corn is Green" recently sent us 250 copies of sheet music for shipment overseas. They'll go to Mary Dolliver in Red Cross in North Africa. Thanks, Gene . . . Alec Templeton is coming to town. The Men's Glee Club is bringing him for a piano concert March 30th . . . The paper drive was on again this week. Because of the weather, ice, sleet, rain, we put our bundles on the porch. City trucks pick them up . . . Badger Twp. is first over the goal in the Red Cross Drive . . . We had a school election this week. Old board members Brooks, Whittemore and Wasem were opposed by candidates Spooner, Greenlee, and Reynolds. It stormed and sleeted all day. Few voted. Old board members won almost 2½ to 1 . . . Three Fort Dodge children are missing since last week. Only eleven and thirteen. Police and parents are worried. . . Flash—they have been found in Chicago. . . B. J. Price is back from Rochester. He's better . . . Dr. G. W. Clark is spending the winter in Mexico . . . The Thos. Rial barn burned at Clare Sunday night. Loss of several thousand dollars . . . Income taxes—ever hear of 'em? They are driving most of us slightly nuts . . . D. M. Kelleher has been named head of the telephone company to succeed O. M. Oleson . . . Sen. Gillette has decided to run for re-election.

☛ **OVER SEAS.** Walter "Buck" Vargason, erstwhile KVFD H. L. S. cowboy is now banging a guitar in Italy when he isn't pointing a Garrand Cassino way. He took to "Pistol Packin' Mama" like a G. I. to a furlough . . . Over in Africa where Cpl. Bill Jondle is, the seasons are getting all mixed up. It was colder this winter and they even had snow. Bill ought to know, he's been there two years . . . More power to them. They are all overseas. 2nd Lt. Pauline F. Powers, somewhere in the European theatre. S/Sgt. William J. Powers, and Pvt. Paul M. Powers. They are somewhere in the Pacific . . . Cpl. Walter Lehman is now overseas with a bomber squadron in Italy . . . Libero Birocci, who is with the field artillery of the 7th army division is back in Oaku Island in the Hawaiians after taking part in the occupation of Kiska and the invasion of the Marshalls. He writes Mrs. Bisocci that he really enjoys "Y. L. F. H." . . . After having seen all of Northern Africa, Cpl. Michael Brennan is now in Italy . . . Pfc. Newell S. Porter had the pleasure of going on a furlough to Scotland recently. In Scotland, he visited the grave of his cousin, Merle Davis, who died in training in Scotland. He also visited Durham, Scotland, the town from which his grandmother, Mrs. Ann Porter, came . . . Pvt. James Long, who is now in England, tried to buy some popcorn recently and learned some things about the English language. First, he discovered that the English clerk to whom he was speaking didn't even know what he was talking about. Then he found out that the word "corn" in England means "wheat"—and that over there, they refer to "corn" as "maize." And he thought he knew English! . . . Cpl. Louis R. Eastwood, now in England, is looking forward to a meeting with Ed Davis. They plan to meet at a Red Cross station in Bournemouth. Louis is engaged in welding work, mostly on tank repairs . . . Cpl. George W. Hutchinson, of Lehigh, is being kept very busy as a corpsman in a hospital somewhere in New Guinea. The weather has been very hot lately and their only relief from the heat comes with the torrential rainfalls . . . Captain A. W. Sinnott is now serving in Italy with the engineers . . . Lt. Ralph Pooler, serving in Italy, is with an anti-aircraft artillery battalion. He reports that they have shot down several enemy planes. But he has met no Dodgers either in Italy or in North Africa . . . Capt. Wm. T. Paden is now in India . . . First he was listed as missing. Now word comes from the German government that he was killed on February 10th. 1st Lt. D. O. Croft, first pilot of a fort based in England, died in the raid over Brunswick. He had many missions behind him and hoped to be home soon.

☛ **MOVING AROUND.** To Great Lakes, Ensign Joan Cunningham. She's in the N. C. . . . To Fleming Field Mary I. Strait, S/c . . . To Mexia, Texas, Pvt. Carl H. Kirckhof . . . To a ship from Washington D. C., Clarence A. Will, SM 2/c . . . To the Army Air Field at Dalhart, Texas, Cpl. Earl D. Wendt, Jr. . . . To Farmingdale Army Air Base, Long Island, Sgt. Wayne C. Larkin . . . To Laredo, Texas, Lt. M. F. Holenda . . . To Camp Davis, N. C., Pvt. Alice B. Woolsey . . . To Buckley Field, Denver, Colo., S/Sgt. Joe Panzi. Joe is with a photo mapping squadron . . . To Gunter Field, Alabama, A/C Irvin C. Wogensen . . . Neal V. Irvine, S 1/c with the armed guard, was away for a while. When he got in the other day, he found 12 Y. L. F. H's waiting for him . . . To New Guinea, Pfc. Chas. Mahoney, "The Natives and animals are interesting. Beautiful birds and wild pigs are plentiful." . . . To England, Cpl. J. F. McCarville . . . Roger Carlson is now in boot training at Farragut . . . Cpl. Earl Walter Heggen is now somewhere in the South Pacific . . . Pvt. H. E. Nevanon, formerly in the insurance business in Fort Dodge, has now been moved to Camp Crowder, Missouri . . . To England, S/Sgt. Marvin Farrell . . . He's at Big Spring, Texas, bombardier school, A/C Merlyn E. Natto . . . To England, Lt. Kenneth Hill . . . To Camp Howze, Texas, Lt. Geo. H. Lawler. He's a liason pilot with the field artillery.

☛ **GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER.** They met in the mountains of Calif., Pvt. Glen F. Krug and Robert E. Laird, both of Otho. Glen is in Camp Roberts. He says the nearby mountains are full of deer, fish, lions, bear, besides plenty of snakes and lizards . . . They are in Puerto Rico together, Pvt. Harold E. Campbell and Johnny Suer. Harold says "You say it's rum week in Fort Dodge. Well, it's rum week all the time over here." . . . "Hi, Rody!" This familiar call brought five Fort Dodge boys together in a restaurant somewhere in England on February 29. For "Rody" is the nickname of Peter J. Rodenborn, Jr. and that greeting came from Bob Wesser and Dick Webster as they walked into the eating place only to find "Rody," Faber Cripps and Herb Bennett also there. Rody reports that the boys had a hearty meal and indulged in what they call "shooting the breeze" for quite a while indeed . . . Bernard J. Thomas, now serving with the Navy in North Africa, has visited Casablanca a number of times. Bernard went over on the same boat with Dean Wilcox but did not see him or know that he was on the boat until after they had landed. The only other Fort Dodger Bernard has seen is Albert Gilpin, whom he met one day driving a Jeep. Bernard and Albert were together only a short time.

☛ **FUNNY THING** about V-mail. If you get a four page letter it comes in 4 separate envelopes. And sometimes you get two copies of one letter. That happened this week. Got two, same letter, from Bob Bowers. Then you think you are seeing double. Other times you struggle with one and think you are going blind. The next war I'm going to have mine printed in Braille.

☛ **FUNNY THING** about censors. Got a letter from a G. I. Joe recently. He has referred several times to Y. L. F. H. The censor had carefully razored out each Y. L. F. H. Thought Joe and I had a code. My thought, that censor had a permanent code in his head.

☛ **IT'S MURDER.** They came to Fort Dodge for a Saturday night out. Then they drove home to the farm near Humboldt. The young man was a farm hand. The old man was his boss. They quarreled as they were going to bed, so young 21 year old

Ronald Ackland took the whiskey bottle out of which they had been drinking and beat 48 year old Lester Giddings to death. Then he rushed off into the night in Giddings' car. He had an accident in Missouri, was arrested and told police officers of the killing.

☛ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Cpl. Wayne L. Hiatt, New Guinea, "I have been stationed here in New Guinea for about sixteen months now but have not been able to find anyone from Ft. Dodge. Now for a little about this island of paradise: Who said that? As I said before, I have been here about sixteen months and the only difference between the natives and myself now is that their hair is a little more kinky than mine but, gimme time."

Gilbert Lindquist, PhM 3/c, North Africa, "I think I'm the only one around this vicinity from Fort Dodge because I've got the town and the state, in white, on the back of my jacket. They have a town nearby which I can't mention, which is full of Arabs and French. It's really funny to see them go around with old ragged sheets, turbans, and barefooted. They are always wanting to buy something or sell something. We have a dance at the recreation hall here on the station every month and we get the girls from town which are French and they bring their mothers along. I still can't figure that out yet, maybe they can't trust these sailors."

Pvt. Robert G. Wickwire, Camp Fannin, Texas, "We sure get plenty of walking in here. When I get home I am not even going to buy a car as I can just take my girl on my back and walk where ever I want to go."

Lt. Comdr. H. C. Klucver, Lambert Field, Missouri, "I'm out here at Lambert charged with caring for and examining aviation personnel and getting in my flying time for "flight surgeon" and incidentally, the wings which go with it. The latter, of course, is hoped for but you can't hold it against a fellow for hoping. Dr. Runge has his office directly across the hall from mine and his home is directly across a creek in St. Ann's Village."

Pfc. Bob Bowers, Somewhere in Italy, "Well, at the present, we're in a rest camp and after two months' of fighting Jerry and the mountains we really deserve it. Boy! those Jerries have been throwing everything at us, including gun barrels. They have a 6 barreled rocket that fires shells which scream as they start coming down and it is very de-moralizing—we call them "screaming memes"—it's nothing but a racket affair. They certainly do dig in—their pill boxes are tank turrets and they are re-enforced with steel girders and cement and artillery shells have no effect on them, so along comes the Inf. And bayonets and hand grenades are the only things that will get them out. Well, I guess this is about all the news for now so I'll close and say—I named my dugout "Hotel Fort Dodge."

Dale A. Irvine, F 1/c, Australia, "I have been over here in Australia eight months, and I am doing electrical repair work and it's really interesting work. There are two lowans here besides me and they are sure swell fellows. They are Jones, from Dundee, Ia., and Howell, from Council Bluffs, and I also ran into Red Garret, from Tobin's."

John E. Swartz, Somewhere in Italy: "It has been a long time since I left. In fact, about three years ago this month, we marched up Main Street to the Great Western Depot, and headed south. A lot of water has passed over the dam since then. Paul Cain was around the other day to see me, first time since Africa, over six months. Some of the boys saw Merle Olofson. He said he would be around to see us, but has not showed up as yet. I want to thank all the sponsors that make this "Your Letter From Home" possible. Just keep 'em coming as long as we are away. We all are doing our little part over here to get this war over with; and we all know that some day in the future this will be over, and this world will be free again. The best of luck to the sponsors of 'Your Letter From Home'."

Pvt. Elmer N. Eggen, England, "To make sure I keep getting the coming issues of that small but mighty letter that packs a wallop called "Your Letter From Home," I would like to have you change my address. I am now somewhere in England. The good old U. S. A. is still the best in the world and especially that city of generous people and beautiful women. I am referring to Fort Dodge, Iowa—my home town, and of which I am indeed very proud."

A/S D. W. Cook, Superior, Wis., "P. S. An order came out today for all in the Detachment to have a haircut not longer than 1 1/8" or shorter than 1". Meet 1 1/16" Cookie. Sure are some odd shaped noggins. Mine is no exception." (Thanks Cookie for the copies of Solo. Swell).

And other deeply welcome letters came from Pfc. Palmer Strom, Italy . . . T/5 Dean Wilcox, England . . . Carl E. Theiss, Wt 2/c, FPO San Francisco . . . Pfc. Robert Knudson, Ardmore, Oklahoma . . . Pvt. Herschel J. Dueker, Harlinger, Texas . . . Pvt. Bob Moe, North Africa . . . T/S Earl Walter Heggen, South Pacific . . . Cliff Castor, S 2/c, Great Lakes, Ill. . . . Cpl. Edgar Williams, APO San Francisco. (Yes sir. "Always it shall be.) . . . Pvt. Catherine Jensen, Ft. Riley, Kansas . . . Cpl. Harold Carl, Italy. (Yes sir. That order will be taken care of.) . . . Cpl. George Hutchinson, New Guinea . . . Sgt. Rudi R. Anderson, Italy . . . Pvt. Frederick Miller, Elkins, West Va. . . . Pvt. Ivan Akins, Italy . . . Pvt. William R. Blanchet, Amarillo Field, Texas . . . Cpl. Robert Bonnell, England and Herbert Reisner, FPO, San Francisco. So to an end, a letter done in Green for St. Patrick's Day. We had many other letters, nearly a hundred, that we've acknowledged by reference. Thanks so much for all of them and your kind thoughts for us. And the luck of the Irish be with you.

Your home town correspondent,
ED BREEN.