

Your Letter From Home

Famous last words: "If the colonel will kindly button his lip for a minute, I can explain everything."

The Thunderbolt.

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
The Clinic Pharmacy and Supply
Larry Gear Ballrooms
Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric Co.
Fort Dodge Tent & Awning Co.
Rialto & Strand Theatres
Dr. Macdonald's Vitamized Feed Co.
Brady Transfer & Storage Co.

Radio Station K V F D

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

Famous last words: "If the sergeant will just quit beating his gums a minute, I'll tell him what it's all about."

The Thunderbolt.

Vol. 2, No. 5

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

November 24, 1944

☛ **DEAR JOE:** Thanksgiving was one of those beautiful days in Iowa that makes you want to live forever . . . The town was quiet in the morning with few people down town. But away from Central Avenue, church bells rang and people went soberly to church, to pray and to give thanks and to remember all our blessings. Every mother's heart was full of you. Every father whispered a prayer for your safety. We thought of our responsibilities—the obligation of free people to make this victory of yours worthy in its effect upon the world of your sacrifice . . . And so we prayed and were thankful and were humble of heart . . . At noon and at night we tucked napkins under our chins and ate such fabulous turkeys as grow only in Iowa, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce and pickled peaches and tomatoes and pear salad and last of all a great slice of mince meat pie . . . All day long the sky was cloudless, the air crisp and the sunshine was a bright yellow wine. No bombs fell, no planes droned overhead. You could hear bird songs and the wind as it rustled thru the corn. Your land was free and safe and happy because somewhere you fought to keep it so.

☛ **AROUND THE TOWN.** The firemen held their ball for the 49th year at the Laramar Thanksgiving eve. A very large party, everyone happy, Sam Campbell and his orchestra played . . . Next scrap drive in the county November 30th. It's for paper . . . We get a new city directory this week, the first since 1941 . . . Tom Crane is suing the Great Western for \$3,000.00. His truck was run into on a crossing in Manning, Iowa, a year ago in August . . . The liquor store has a bonus for December. Regular allowance, two fifths of whiskey. Sounds exactly like the black market operation in cigarettes to me. If you buy a sandwich, you can buy a package of cigarettes . . . The city council is considering an ordinance to make you separate bottles and glass from garbage. Penalty—if you don't separate, no pick up . . . Bob Frotscher, 32, instructor at the air port and Gilbert Freeman, 28, his student, were killed in a plane crash at the air port Sunday at 5:40 p. m. The motor conked out on the take-off. Frotscher lived originally at Gowrie and Freeman at Rolfe . . . The 6th War Loan Drive opened last Monday. County quota, \$2,518,000.00 . . . Men's Glee Club sang at the new gym at Somers Monday evening . . . Bobby soxers now have a night club of their own. It's "The Blue Diamond" at the Y. M. C. A. 200 boys and girls were there for the opening dance last Saturday evening . . . Tom Roderick announces the Gas and Electric office will be closed from 1:00 o'clock Saturday afternoons beginning last Saturday . . . City ukase now requires all milk sold in Fort Dodge to be pasteurized . . . Verne Hale is getting ready to issue new county license plates, the first time in three years—you get just one—for the rear of your car—and a sticker to put on the front windshield . . . New officers of the Farm Bureau are Ivan States, of Dayton, President; Sofus Hanson, Callender, V-P.; Irving Black, Otho, secy.; and Herbert Bothe, R. F. D., Fort Dodge, treas. . . Floyd E. Harrington, of Fort Dodge, pleaded guilty to draft dodging last week. Was sentenced to four years in prison by Federal Judge Graven. Harrington said in his own defense that he was a member of Jehovah's Witnesses and that his religious beliefs made it impossible for him to bear arms.

☛ **FUNNIEST CARTOON STRIP OF THIS WEEK:** "Lace", in "Male Call", saying to her escort, "Paratrooper or not, this is a formal party we're going to, and you've got to put your pants legs outside your boots!"

☛ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** Keith Peterson got wings and a commission at Douglas, Arizona, last Monday, Nov. 20th. Now he's home on furlough . . . The Navy Cross to Lt. Bob Durian, torpedo bomber pilot somewhere in the Pacific . . . The D. S. C. to Capt. Lowell K. Brueland of Callender. The award was made by Lt. General Spaatz . . . to First Lt., Harry M. Tucker with the air corps . . . To Major, Rev. Phil Dailey, army chaplain, in Greenland . . . To First Lt., John Morrow, pilot of a heavy bomber based in England.

☛ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Lt. John M. Watson, previously reported missing in action Sept. 12th is a prisoner in Germany. He was pilot on a bomber . . . Cpl. Craig "Gene" Speedling is dead. He was wounded at Guam and died a few days later . . . Frank Steburg, jr., CMM was killed in action in the S. W. Pacific Oct. 24th . . . Lt. Paul Richardson is missing in action over Germany. He is a bombardier . . . Pfc. Raymond Kehm missing in Italy since Oct. 10th is a prisoner in Germany . . . Pfc. Dale Blanck died of wounds received in action in Italy Oct. 22nd . . . Billie James Nitzel, Petty Officer 1/c, is reported killed in action in the South Pacific. He was a bombardier . . . Pvt. Melvin Messerly has been seriously wounded in France . . . Cpl. Merlin Algoe of Duncombe, Jap prisoner for two years, was on a Jap boat sunk by our Navy. It is not known whether or not he was rescued.

☛ **THANKSGIVING DINNER.** At the Royal 400 the menu read: "Tomato Bouillon or Chilled fruit cocktail; baked young tom turkey with celery dressing, roast spring chicken with old fashioned dressing, deep fried fillet wall eyed pike and tartar sauce, roast sirloin of beef, au jus, Virginia baked ham with raisin sauce, or grilled chicken fried steak and sliced tomato. Cream whipped or candied sweet potatoes; hearts of lettuce; French dressing or cranberry salad. Buttered Lima beans or fresh parsnips; Mint sherrybet with chocolate topping or mince pie, pumpkin pie with whipped cream. Parker house rolls, coffee, tea or milk. Joe, this is that land the Bible talks about, flowing with milk and honey. Hurry home!"

☛ **TWO HEARTS THAT BEAT AS ONE.** Beverly Lawson and Ted Whittington, MoM 3/c, in Reno, Nevada, November 11th . . . Blanche Marie Perret and Robert G. Adams, Nov. 26th in Ft. Dodge . . . Koula Constantine and John Fotes of Los Angeles at Ft. Dodge,

Nov. 19th . . . Alice Walsh of Moorland and C. J. Condon of Clare, in Moorland, Nov. 22nd . . . Mary Jane Cranny and D. C. Lindstrom of La Moure, N. D., Nov. 16th in Ft. Dodge . . . Ruth Fitch and Robert Jenk, Dec. 26th in Ft. Dodge . . . Mary Morrow and Richard Flattery sometime this month in Ft. Dodge . . . Lavon Jensen and Cpl. Arthur Anderson of Goldfield Oct. 14th at Tonopah, Nevada.

☛ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** From Las Vegas, New Mexico, enroute to Madison, Wis., Pvt. R. C. Hogan . . . S/Sgt. Don Saucke, of Farnhamville, from Italy where he has completed his 31 missions as photographer on a B-17 . . . Sgt. Harold Knutson, of Moorland, wounded at Anzio with the 3rd Division, now home from southern France. Harold, in on four invasions, Casablanca, Sicily, Anzio and Southern France, met S/Sgt. A. G. Quick while in the hospital at Naples . . . A/C Norman Locatis from Stuttgart, Arkansas . . . Cpl. Quentin J. L. Parker from Independence, Kansas . . . Sam D. Bailey, S 2/c, from Norman, Oklahoma . . . 1/Lt. Robert Stewart of the U. S. Marines, back from 50 dive bomb raids in the South Pacific . . . During that time, Bob walked away from three crash landings. He was with the Black Panthers Squadron . . . Pvt. Paul Reedy of Co. G. is back from Italy . . . Clarence L. DeLanoit of Badger from Ft. Riley, Kansas, enroute to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma . . . T/Sgt. Harold Strong after 65 missions over Europe on a medium bomber based in England . . . Sgt. Lester Challberg from Jackson, Mississippi . . . Ensign Dorance Freed of Burnside enroute to Jacksonville, Florida . . . Pfc. Don Willis from the South Pacific . . . Sgt. Merle Olafson from Springfield, Missouri, where he is being treated for a leg injury suffered in Italy . . . Lt. Chas. Barnhill from Lovell General Hospital at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts . . . Pvt. Carl C. Jones from Camp Edwards, Mass. . . S/Sgt. Herbert Watson from the Pacific . . . Robert Cartee, S 2/c, from Farragut . . . Jack Jones, GM 2/c, from France . . . Lt. Don King from Mobile, Alabama . . . Sgt. Don Strom from Buckingham Field, Fort Myers, Florida . . . Mel Calkins, GM 2/c, and his wife from San Francisco, California . . . C. P. O. Carlin Acher from Hawaii . . . Cpl. Johnny Rebarcak and Pfc. Robert Vinson from Sioux Falls, So. Dakota . . . Cpl. Bob Fischer from Ft. Benning, Georgia . . . Sam Cannon, S 1/c, from a destroyer in the Atlantic.

☛ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The 7th Air Force Patch from Carl E. Theiss, WT 2/c CI with the Seabees somewhere in the Pacific. Thanks, Carl . . . "The Flying Dinosaur" from Pfc. Floyd Derrig in New Guinea. "After a year and a half in this so called jungle paradise, I can tell you I wouldn't trade an ounce of Webster County soil for all of its eleven hundred miles." Thanks, Buck . . . "The Pointer", from West Point, "Prop Wash" from Stewart Field and a patch still unidentified from Pfc. Robert J. Parsons, at Stewart Field, Newburgh, N. Y. Thanks, Bob. Bob wishes his brother, Sgt. L. B. Parsons, "good luck." L. B. is on his way over. We'll play that number, Bob . . . "The Cadet" from A/C Vyron Frye, of Callender who is home on furlough. Also the cadet patch and the air force patch. Thanks, Vyron . . . "The Transmitter" from Boca Raton Field, Florida, from Pvt. Don McLoughlin. Thanks, Don . . . "The Parris Island Boot" from Pvt. Mary C. Anglin, Parris Island. Thanks, Mary . . .

☛ **GOOD FELLOWS GET TOGETHER.** Capt. Thos. E. Pederson, M. C., S/Sgt. Ben Carroll, Sgt. Bill Hartman, somewhere in New Britain. Tom, who just missed seeing Joe Tierney, is stationed at a 750 bed hospital . . . Lt. Bert Peterson and A/c John Dowd, at Big Springs, Texas. John nearly got 1st Lt. Bob Anderson for a flight leader at Deming, New Mexico. Army decided John was there by mistake . . . K. Kelly, S 1/c, James Ackerman, F 2/c, and Erwin Jones, S 1/c, in Gulfport, Miss. K. ran into Ackerman on the L and N to New Orleans. Jones lives only a half block away. K. says "hello" to Larry Geer . . . Pfc. Robert O'Connor, Bill Armstrong and Tom Dorsey are together at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif. Bob saw Bud Cooper at Oceanside and Irving Smith at the Palladium a couple of week ends ago . . . Allen E. Webber, F 2/c, Phil Strom, Frank Muterspaw and Neil Crosby in San Francisco . . . S/Sgt. R. E. "Bob" Knapp and Sol Askenaze at New Bern, N. C. Bob is at Cherry Point, Sol at Camp Butner . . . Russell John Anderson, AMM 1/c, Dixon Brunenkant and Lee MacDowell in San Francisco . . . Pvt. Wm. H. Phipps, Jack Davis and Cpl. Bill Algood on the island of Oahu, Hawaii . . .

☛ **OVER HERE.** Pfc. Francis W. Rake is at Kingman Airfield, Arizona . . . Herbert G. Carlson is out of the army for good on an honorable discharge . . . Bud Cooper, PhM 3/c, who is at Oceanside, Calif., has been listening to KVFD regularly at 4:30 in the afternoon. Bud, you got something there. If that radio is for sale, I say, buy it Bud, buy it!!! . . . Lt. Roger G. Isaacson is at the army air field at Victorville, Cal. . . Robert W. Wilson, S 1/c, is at Guntery School, at Coronado. So is Duane Frantz. "In my wanderings I've seen a number of Fort Dodge fellows. Hershel Johnson and James Fields at San Diego; Wayne Vath and Dick Muhl at Farragut, Idaho; also Harold (Hockey) Hill and Don Carlson . . . Lloyd Schultz, PhM 3/c, is with the dental department at Norfolk. "You wouldn't believe there were so many young men without choppers until you were around here awhile." . . . Sgt. Bob Heater is part of the cadre at Ft. Ord, California, and is looking for Dodgers. So far has drawn a blank. Urges visiting D's to drop in. Thanks, Bob, for "The Panorama." . . . Pvt. Geo. Burnet is in X-ray technicians' school at Fitzsimmons General Hospital, Denver, Colo. . . Pvt. Jim Saigh, Camp Bowie, Texas. No, Jim, haven't a 13th yet. Thanks . . . Pvt. Verne Vladiff is at Camp Chaffee, Ark. . . Alva Leo Long, AMM 2/c is still at Corpus Christi, Texas, "doing the same work I've been doing for two years." Thanks, Alva, for "The Beam." . . . Bud Dimitroff, PhM 2/c, stationed at

Cherry Point, N. C., says "Hello" to Wayne Laird in the So. Pacific . . . Pfc. Robert Dobmeier is at O'Reilly General Hospital, Springfield, Mo., Ward F-5. Bob's getting along fine . . . Lt. J. B. Anderson is at the Navy Yard, at Charleston, So. Carolina . . . Cpl. Don B. Hood is now at Cherry Point, N. C. . . . Vincent Bestick, GM 3/c, is at San Francisco. Says "hello" to Mom, Dad, Elmo; saw Omar Peterson a day or two ago . . . Sgt. M. F. Liljegen is at Ft. Ord, Calif. . . . Lt. Don Lehman is instructing cadets at Thunderbird Field, Ariz. . . . DeWayne B. Peterson, A/S, of Dayton, is at the School of Mines, Butte, Montana . . . Doris Simmons is in nurses training in Omaha . . . The "Ft. McArthur Alert" this week carries two pictures of S/Sgt. Ted Rule—one showing him on the bowling team, the other in his official capacity as head of the postal section . . . Robert Elston, ARM 3/c, recently honorably discharged from the navy, is now back in his official capacity at KVF D . . .

⊕ **SEASON'S GREETINGS.** Pfc. Lawrence Bock sends the season's greetings from somewhere in the Pacific . . . Pfc. F. J. Howard sends the season's greetings from Alaska . . . A Christmas card and the patch of the 80th division from Pvt. Wilbur Springer, somewhere in France. Says "hello" to Bill Carroll, Bob Haire and Jim O'Connell; and season's greetings to everyone. Thanks, Bill . . . The season's greetings from T/Sgt. Bill Burnquist somewhere in Italy . . . The season's greetings from Pvt. Donald Haring, somewhere in France, and a copy of "Thunderbolt", the publication of the men of the 517th parachute infantry combat team. "We are billeted in a building which the Germans occupied not so long ago. The country side is really beautiful though it's rather cold. Our bathroom and laundry is a crystal clear stream that tumbles along just behind our quarters. This country reminds me a great deal of the Black Hills. Plenty of snow though it's still early in November. Say "hello" to my four best girl friends, my mother and three sisters." Thanks, Don . . . The season's greetings from Capt. John Sulzbach down in New Guinea. He reports that Bob Haire is much better and ought to be home soon. We played that number for Diane. John says "hello" to the "legal eagles", Elmo and Maurice.

⊕ **LUXEMBOURG.** 1/Lt. John A. Metcalf is in Luxembourg with the 83rd division. On D plus 10 he saw his brother-in-law, Si Frantz. Since then he has seen only one Dodger, Clarence Cammerer who is with the 90th. Thanks, Lieut., for "The Spearhead" and the 83rd patch . . .

⊕ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** From Pvt. Rosette Harp, somewhere in France, a German helmet and a pair of German leggings. Thanks, Rosette . . . Chaplain H. G. Belsheim is up on the front somewhere in France . . . A German garrison cap from Sgt. Bob Lawson somewhere in France. Thanks, Bob . . .

⊕ **SUNNY ITALY.** S/Sgt. Bill Fisher has completed twenty combat missions in Italy. Mary Dolliver is with the Red Cross not far from Bill's field. Bill, who has the air medal, has visited Rome, Naples and "what's left of Cassino." . . .

⊕ **NEWFOUNDLAND.** Cpl. Gerald Robb, of Goldfield, is in Newfoundland with the coast artillery. "It's awfully cold and damp here and how the wind does blow!" We'll play that number, Cpl.

⊕ **MERRY OLD ENGLAND.** S/Sgt. Burris Calkins, of Callender, is repairing damaged fighter planes somewhere in England. His brother, Mel, is a gunner's mate in the navy . . . Pvt. Al Habbab is somewhere in England.

⊕ **BELGIUM.** Sgt. LuVerne Whitson, of Webster City, is in Belgium. We'll take care of that request, Sgt.

⊕ **HIGH C'S.** J. J. Reiss, CGM, is on the U. S. S. Alaska . . . W. S. McGill, BM 2/c-6, is on the U. S. S. Independence . . . Leo Edward Loots, MM 1/c, is on the U. S. S. Monterey and has been on the go in the Pacific for over a year. He has seen Jerry Munn and his uncle, Arnold Knierim.

⊕ **OVERSEAS.** T/4 Dallas DuBois is now getting his mail APO 758, New York . . . Al Kennedy, EM 3/c, formerly of Tobin's, now in a place which is the navy's secret, says "hello" to Bob Knutson and Red Mann, of the navy recruiting office . . . Bob Gadd, S 1/c, is at Barbers Point, Oahu, Hawaii. He's in gunners school. Carle Acher, now home, was with him while there.

⊕ **DOWN UNDER.** Earl L. Vought, S 2/c, is in New Guinea. Yes sir, sailor, we'll play that request . . . 1/Lt. Dick Gadd led a medium bomber raid on the Jap's Namba air base on Boerol Island, 200 miles west of New Guinea . . . Cpl. Jim Mailander is moving around in India. "We are busier than bees with all the SNAFU attendant on a moving day." . . . Cpl. Jesse Chadwick, of Pioneer, is in Assam, India . . . In the "fighting" Air Transport command, Cpl. Curtis N. Sorenson is in India helping in the job of flying them over the hump into China. S/Sgt. Embert Jesson, of Fort Dodge, was with him for awhile.

⊕ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Cpl. Lawrence Stanek, somewhere in Holland. "From France we went to Belgium; that is one place that we will never forget. Before all of our tents were erected, people were coming from every direction to watch us and by the time we had finished the area looked like a circus. The people treated us very nicely also; they brought us so many things to eat that we didn't have to worry about what our cooks had prepared for us. Fresh eggs, homemade bread, cookies, cake, large delicious grapes, tomatoes, butter, pears, plums, waffles, etc. were some of the things they brought us. We were fortunate upon arrival in Holland to get a building in which to set up our hospital. We have things so nice now that it will seem rather hard to sleep on the ground and live in tents again when that time comes. Since our arrival on the continent, I've had the opportunity to meet several men from Fort Dodge. I didn't know either of them before coming into the Army but we had a nice talk about Fort Dodge and it made one feel like he had met an old friend of his. Bob Reuben was the first Fort Dodge person that I met since I've been in the Army and that is a little over two years already. Victor Moline was here recently and I had a nice visit with him also." (Thanks, Lawrence, for the pictures and also for the patches.) W. M. Skophammer, HA 1/c, F. P. O., San Francisco. "I got the 53rd copy of the "Your Letter From Home" last night. In it was a letter written by a lad in school. I was very surprised and glad to get it. I wrote the boy, whose name is Fred C. Rennke, a letter and I hope to keep up a steady correspondence with him. His letter was really a good one. Who knows, we may end up to be lifetime friends. Thanks a million."

T/5 Alvin H. Jochim, Holland. "The people over here are in pretty bad shape, as the Germans didn't leave them very much. We aren't allowed to buy anything to eat as they hardly have

enough for themselves. This is the most up to date country I have seen since I left the states."

Joan R. Mills, A. S., WAVES, Bronx, New York. "I was in my first Regimental Review today and it certainly was a big thrill. The Armory here at Hunter is the largest in the world. It's impossible to explain to anyone the immensity of the place."

Pvt. Robert E. Gilbranson, France. "I am writing this from a fox hole in a prone position. Guess I'm just the 'Fox Hole Kid.' Today is my anniversary and I am celebrating it by eating 'K' rations instead of 'C' rations. Quite a life, sure wish I was back in the good old U. S. A. where people and things aren't in such a mess." Cpl. Richard C. O'Connor, Newfoundland. "Noticed some time ago, July 21st, Ed, where you were embarking on a fishing trip up into the Minnesota woods and followed it with interest. My reaction in this case can be blamed entirely on these 30 months that I've spent in Newfoundland—prior to coming here all the information I had on fish was gathered on Friday, but being stationed in a fisherman's paradise like this I soon learned to take advantage of leisure hours (they do have 'em in the army!) and in due time could cast my line with the best of 'em. We've had a lot of pleasant hours in this sport up here; fellows from all 48 states just as enthused as I am about it, so I'll perhaps find some sort of excuse the remainder of my life to steal away and let my line play out upon the water up in Minnesota, Wisconsin or down around the Gulf—but never Newfoundland, not if I have anything to say about it. I've got all I want of it for the remainder of my life! But it's still a fisherman's paradise up here, Ed, so make up a party some week-end and drop in. I'll get the 'C' rations and we'll be off to some good streams and lakes in this immediate vicinity. Certainly enjoyed the letter enclosed with the anniversary copy of YLFH, perhaps doubly so since it came from little Bobby Shaw, age 10, who lives next door to my folks at 107 3rd Ave. No. I've never met the lad as yet, but he's been described to me so often that I feel I have known him for some time, so I really got a whale of a bang out of this swell letter. All thanks to you and everyone concerned in making YLFH what it is! Met another Webster County refugee up here, purely by accident. It came about through a copy of YLFH, as I happened to glance up and spot a copy of it in his hands one evening up here and he was reading it so intently that I had to walk around him and check to see that it wasn't my eyes playing me tricks, or that it wasn't a cheap imitation of the real thing, a copy of YLFH. It turned out to be one though, a duplicate of the one I'd received the same day. So I began a conversation with him immediately about the best town, county, and state in the world, learning that his name is Sam Greenley (not sure if spelled properly) and that he hailed from Gowrie, Iowa, although he'd been employed out in California for about the last four years. It sure did both of us good though, after all, we talk the same language and it wasn't long at all before we had everything about the home town up for discussion, old memories and new alike." (Thanks, Dick, for "Sport Sheet"). Pvt. William J. Jones, Harmon Field, Stephenville, Newfoundland. "We are located on the southwest tip of the island. It's mostly hills and woods in this section. There aren't very many civilians around here and the ones that are here mostly hunt and fish for a living. I guess there is a little farm land in Newfoundland but here about all they raise is potatoes and turnips. About the only piece of machinery I've seen is a walking plow. It is very odd looking and is pulled by oxen. All in all they are about sixty or seventy years behind times. We have it pretty nice on the base here. We have a nice recreation hall, with bowling alleys, pool tabs, ping-pong etc. The Red Cross is doing a wonderful job here too. We also have a dance every Friday night. There are girls working here on the base and some come from small villages close by. Even if we do have it pretty nice here, there's still nothing I'd like better than getting back to that farm at Duncombe." (Thanks, Bill, for the picture and patch.)

Pvt. Robert Zeka, India. "I am a coolie pusher at present. I have fifty of them clearing out jungle in camp along with three hundred under the supervision of other soldiers. It sure is a job to keep the Indians working. It is quite exciting work at times. My tent buddies get in on the excitement also. Lee Shaffer and I catch snakes alive and put them in cages. We have the cages in our tents. The other tent buddy, Irby Brown doesn't mind them and helps us out also. You may have seen big snakes at a circus and so have I. They have the big snakes over here but we haven't caught the biggest one yet. Our largest catch is an eight foot jungle snake caught about 100 yards from our tent area. The snake is nonpoisonous but I don't know its official name. We have it in a cage in front of our tent. We have only caught one poisonous snake. "Russel's Viper," but we couldn't keep it long because the boys complained about it being around. Shaffer and I pulled its fangs for experience before disposing of it. A five foot lizard and not an alligator is another oddity to me. The natives get about six dollars for lizard hides that size in the market. The weather has been swell. The moon is beautiful and wasted!"

Cpl. George Michelson, APO 595, New York. "Mother dear, I'm writing you from somewhere in France, hoping this finds you well. Sergeant says I'm doing fine. Here's the song that we'll all sing. It'll make you laugh. We're going to hang out the washin on the Siegfried line, have you any dirty washing, Mother dear? We're going to hang out the washing on the Siegfried line 'cause the washing day is here. Whether the weather may be wet or fine we'll just rub along without a care. We're going to hang out the washing on the Siegfried if the Siegfried line is still there. Ev'rybody's muckin in and doing their job wearing a great big smile. Ev'rybody's got to keep up spirits today. If you want to keep in swing here's the song to sing."

There were lots of letters this week. Most have been acknowledged here and there. There were others that we enjoyed from Cpl. Don W. Sperry, somewhere in England; Phil Dorweiler, S 2/c, F. P. O., San Francisco; and Gene R. Gerth, A. S. V-6, Great Lakes, Illinois.

Thanks so much, all of you, for the grand letters that you write. From them we gather the vital statistics of each week's communique . . . Another holiday is gone and now only twenty-six more shopping days 'til Christmas . . . Already we are reading letters to Santa Claus and listening to the adventures of Paddy O'Cinnamon and the Barton twins in their quest of the Christmas star. Time for me to start writing to Santa Claus. Got a little matter to take up with him about V-Day. Twenty-six days. Kinda short notice but I'll bet he can arrange it . . . So long, Joe, Merry Christmas.

Your home town correspondent,
Ed Breen.