

Your Letter From Home

GI: "What's that gargling noise?"

Gal: "That's me, trying to swallow your line."
—From the Belvoir Castle
Published at
Ft. Belvoir, Va.

The Fort Dodge Grocery Co.
The Fort Dodge National Bank
Veterans of Foreign Wars
The Gates Dry Goods Co.
The Fort Dodge Creamery Co.
The Fort Dodge Serum Co.
The Tobin Packing Co.

Sent To You With The Best Wishes Of

The Elks Club of Fort Dodge
American Legion and 40 and 8
Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric Co.
Rialto & Strand Theatres
Brady Transfer & Storage Co.
Becker Florists
Larry Gear Ballrooms

Radio Station K V F D

Drunk (to bartender):
"Give me a horse's neck."

Second Blotto: "I'll have a horse's tail. No use killing two horses."
—From the Belvoir Castle
Published at
Ft. Belvoir, Va.

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Vol. 3, No. 8

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

December 14, 1945

DEAR JOE. Our Christmas snow is here, the first real snowfall of the winter. We had two days of very cold weather, when the thermometer registered down to nine and ten below, with little warm-up all day long. Then Wednesday morning it was warmer and cloudy, and in the afternoon the snow began to fall. It fell thru twilight and on into evening, until finally everything was beautiful and immaculate in the first white ermine of winter. Central Avenue, with its windows full of toys and gifts, and lights swinging overhead, and snowflakes swirling down, was a child's dream of Christmas. It was all ready for **Saint Nick** to swing out of the sky with his sled and his reindeer, careening around the Court House clock in a flurry of snow and stars, and a ringing of sleighbells . . . People are funny. A little while ago everyone was hoarding red points and blue points, and sighing for the days that were gone, for the vanished pats of butter and top sirloin steaks of yesteryear. That was only a little while ago. Now rationing is gone and people are going on diets. We have even been advertising a book called "Eat and Grow Slim". Lots of people have been buying it. I decided to try it myself. And I found out something about diets. The one most in vogue now is from Vogue and then there's another one from Harper's Bazaar. And there are many variations of both. But they all amount to about the same thing. You live, or exist, during the nine or ten days, on grapefruit, tomatoes, scrambled eggs, black coffee and small helpings of broiled lean beef or lamb chops. And you lose weight because you are hungry all the time. As a matter of fact, you are starving. On the diet I was on, I lost twelve pounds in nine days. I've been off it two days now, and am rapidly regaining all the weight I lost . . . The state conservation commission was entertained in Fort Dodge last Monday night by the sportsmen of Webster County. After the dinner at the Wahkonsa, **Joe Kautzky** introduced **Frank Mathis**, of Odebolt, chairman of the commission, and he described a project that the commission is working on near Ruthven. It takes in 8,000 acres of land and includes Trumbull, Round and Mud lakes, Berringer's slough and Dewey's pasture. Lost Island Lake is in it, too. Through the building of dams and control structures, everything in that area will be greatly improved. It'll put more ducks and muskrats in there. The fishing in Lost Island Lake will be improved. It's very good now. The rough fish will be removed from Trumbull Lake and it is hoped it will again become a good lake for certain types of game fish. In these same gatherings of late, there has been more and more talk of the possibility of creating a very fine artificial lake west of Fort Dodge. Everyone is hoping it will go through . . . The Christmas shopping still goes on. One store was brash enough to advertise 400 pairs of nylon hose. At one o'clock the que was stretching down Central Avenue for the sale that was to start at two. Everything was orderly but there were not enough stockings to go around. The gals will have to hang up some of those old ones.

AROUND THE TOWN. **Carl Klatt**, former guard at the Eldora training school for boys, was expected to take the witness stand in his own defense Thursday. Klatt is charged with a second degree murder in the death of **Ronald Miller**, 17, an inmate of the school, last August 29. The case, as you will recall from other YLFH's, was brought to Fort Dodge on a change of venue. Miller received a severe beating at the school after an escape plan in which he and six others were involved, was uncovered by school officials. The state called 27 witnesses to the stand and so far the defense has called nine . . . **Robert A. Knudson**, chief recruiting specialist, has been relieved here by **Walter O'Neill**, CPO. Knudson is on his way out of the service . . . Fines collected in Judge **Elmo McCormick's** police court in November totaled \$1287.50, the highest for 11 years . . . **Fort Dodge High** cagers dropped their opening game to North Des Moines, there, Dec. 7, 49 to 35 . . . A prisoner of the Japs for nearly four years, **Donald Tapscott**, CPHM, has arrived in the states. He is a patient in the naval hospital at Oakland, Calif. . . . **Art Johnson**, Iowa U griddier, has been named "most valuable" player by the Hawks . . . **John E. Scharf** has been reelected AAA chairman of Webster county . . . **Glenn Orr**, commander of Hurley-Scully Post No. 5, Amvets, was elected second vice commander of the state department at the convention in Des Moines over the weekend. Other delegates were **Marvin Andrews** and **Delmar Schmidt** . . . A capacity crowd attended the 18th annual presentation of "The Messiah" here, Sunday night . . . **James Sloan**, 49, 426 First Ave. North, has trouble—a year ago he yawned and dislocated his jaw. Then Dec. 9, he did the same thing again . . . **Vern H. Kramer** has been reelected president of the Prairie Gold Area council of the Boy Scouts. The meeting was held at Storm Lake, Dec. 6.

OVER HERE. Pvt. **Dick Cervene's** furlough has been cancelled. He is at Ft. Logan, Colo., and hopes for a furlough in January . . . **George Truckenbrodt**, who used to supply YLFH with a great many subscribers, is now living at 1037 1/2 Bellwood Ave., West Los Angeles . . . **H. T. McMaster** is enjoying terminal leave at West 2727, LaCrosse Street, Spokane, Washington . . . Cpl. **M. D. Bowman** is at Camp Plauch, New Orleans . . . **Rena Isabelle Ulm**, Sp. (1) 3/c, is with the Waves, Delaware Hall, Arlington Farms, Virginia . . . The weather is very nice in San Diego and **Paul Bestick** is afraid he'll get a discharge before spring and have to come home to all of the ice and snow . . . Sgt. **Willard B. Rod** is at Clovis, N. M. . . . Pvt. **Dana E. Cavanaugh** has been transferred from Fort McClellan, Ala., to Fort Riley, Kan. . . . **Robert F. Gramenz**, S 1/c, now is serving aboard the USS Lexington.

DAS REICH. Pfc. **Valdo Peterson** is in Toging, Germany. "In three days I'll have my first year in." . . . Pfc. **Rosette Harp**, now with the 90th Division in Windscheschenback, Germany, says "The rumor is, we'll be on our way by the 28th of November. By the time this reaches you I may be on the boat." . . . Sgt. **Wm. R. Bottieri** is in Rosenheim, Germany, with the army of occupation . . . T/5 **Delmar Estlund** is in the hospital at Nurenberg, Germany, with a strained back.

CHINA. James D. Peterson, AMM 2/c, is in Tsingtao, China, a member of the crew of the USS Boxer. "I went on liberty yesterday and visited the Russian section of the town. It is very similar to the residential districts in the states, except there are no sidewalks." Thanks, Jim, for the Jap money.

SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA. The Bavarian, the US

Military government paper, from Pfc. **Verne F. Vladeff** in Kreis Landsberg, Germany. Thanks, Verne . . . The Daily Tent Town Twister from Pfc. **John D. Cook**, on Okinawa. Thanks, John. A lot of people in Washington, and elsewhere in the states, are asking the same questions that you are asking out there, and getting the same kind of answers. It's the old army game.

PHILIPPINES. **Kenneth Haugen**, S 1/c, is on Manicani Island in the Philippines . . . T/5 **Robert J. Carlson** is now on Luzon, where he is a truck driver with 3769th Quartermaster truck company.

SMALL WORLD. **Harley Isaacson** and **Robert Neumann**, S 2/c, are together at the US Naval Receiving station at Seattle, Washington . . . T/5 **R. W. Rabbitt** and **Wayne Slezzer**, of Cherokee, are asking in Kochi, Shikku, Japan.

HIGH C'S. **Robert L. Oppold**, PhM 3/c, is on the USS Bland, out of San Francisco . . . **Raymond C. E. Johnson**, EM 3/c, of Dayton, is on the USS Waxwing, out of San Francisco.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS. Season's greetings from Sgt. **Nick Folden** now on Okinawa . . . A Christmas card from Paris, from Pvt. **L. R. Cummings** . . . The Season Greetings from **Fred Crouse, Jr.**, S 1/c, of the USS Noble, which this year has made many trips back and forth across the South Pacific.

PACIFIC. **Verne Kinne**, who has been driving a truck on Saipan has been transferred to the MPs, and is now a Pfc . . . **Lester Larson**, F 1/c, on the USS Floyd B. Parks, is in port at Pearl Harbor. "The Christmas decorations are up in Honolulu and it reminded me of the main street of Fort Dodge, the way it looks during December. Things are sky high here. You can't buy much for a dollar." You can say that around here too, Lester . . . Pfc. **Clarence Wegman** is still in Guam waiting for a ship. "Outside of that there just isn't a thing to write about."

YOU NAME IT. We play it for all sweethearts, wives, mothers, fathers, sisters, relatives, etc, etc. This service is free! P. S. Please send phone number and street address if possible.

ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING. Pfc. **Don Nodtvedt** is home for 30 days . . . Pfc. **Dale Davis** is home for 45 days prior to reassignment, for which he will report to Fort Sheridan, Ill. . . . **Raymond Ault**, S 2/c, home for 30 days . . . **Merle J. Williams**, S 1/c, has 60 days before he returns to duty after reenlisting for two years.

GOING UP. **James D. Peterson**, AMM 3/c to 2/c . . . **Dale W. Hudson**, Pvt. to Pfc. . . **Robert Riggs**, 2nd Lt. to Lt. . . . **Joseph M. Dunn**, now a 1st Lt. . . . **Willard B. Rod**, is now a Sgt. . . . **Melford Johnson**, from F 1/c to MM 3/c . . . **Herman F. Etzel, Jr.**, from Sgt. to S/Sgt. . . . Pvt. **Edward E. Anderson** now is wearing the "boots and wings" of a paratrooper . . . **John C. Larson**, from Pfc. to Cpl.

JUST REWARDS. Purple Heart to Sgt. **William Peed** in Italy.

IRAN. Pfc. **Julius Hockemier** is stationed in Iran, dismantling freight cars.

WAR'S GRIM TOLL. T/Sgt. **Russell D. Johnson**, of Rolfe, has been officially declared dead. He was shot down over Italy.

RE-ENLISTED. **Marion B. Hare**, veteran, has reenlisted in the regular army . . . **Robert J. Farmer**, 13, **Dale L. Spurlin**, 18, and **Clayton D. Lowrey**, 18, have signed up, too . . . **Howard L. Duncan**, 18, of Alden, and **Gaylard E. Coil**, 17, have signed up for two years each in the Navy.

JAPAN. Pfc. **Clyde L. Rodreick** now is at Ominato, Noithem Honshu, Japan . . . Pvt. **R. E. Fitzgerald**, is in Japan with the "Red Arrow" infantry division.

DOWN THE MIDDLE AISLE. **Louise Stewart** to **Arthur C. Marlow**, at Augusta, Kan., Nov. 17 . . . **Bernadine Campbell** to **Charles Brandel**, S 2/c, at Lohrville, Dec. 8 . . . **Kathryn McCarville** to **George Loots**, at Manson, Dec. 6 . . . **Marilyne Fawkes**, of Otho, is engaged to **Roy R. Johnson**, of Wichita, Kan. . . . **Phyllis Mork** to **Ens. W. J. Moeller** at Cherokee, Dec. 5 . . . **Truth Tripp** to **S. W. Neill, Jr.**, at Somers, Dec. 8.

HOME FOR GOOD. **Cleo Harter** is back home in Farnhamville and once again in the produce business . . . **Joe Brown** is back home for good, living at 529 7th Street, West Des Moines . . . Cpl. **Wm. Beckett** is out of the army, back home at Clarion, and working at a top and body shop. Mrs. Beckett writes, "we are in our own home (a whole house!)" . . . **Carroll L. Olson** is out of the service and living at 549 Highland St., Hammond, Indiana . . . It is now **Mr. Earl Stauffer**. He is back at work at the Sieg-Ft. Dodge Company and living at 1117 South 24th Street . . . **Walter and Glenn Schuh** are back home for good and working at the US Gypsum Company . . . **Jerrold, James and Rudolph Patton** are all home for good, back in Gowrie . . . **Angie and William Johnson** are out of the service, home for good in Duncombe . . . **Floyd Wempe**, ex-S/ Sgt., is now a good, distinguished-looking Mr. and is living at 548 4th Ave. North, back home for good . . . **Leonard Pearson** is out of the service, home for good . . . **Robert Kahout** is out of the service, home for good . . . Sgt. **Rolland Sorenson** and his two brothers are at home with their folks at Gilmore City . . . **Harold Burke**, back from 37 months in the African and European theatres, is making his home in East Chicago at 4621 Magoun Avenue . . . **Henry Plmer** is home for good and living at 1032 South 15th Street . . . **Arlo Hewitt** is out of the Navy and living in Mason City . . . **Robert J. Burke** is out of the Navy and home for good . . . **James L. Peters** is discharged from the service and has been home several weeks now . . . **Elliott Kinseth** is discharged and back in Fort Dodge . . . **Oral L. McCullough** is discharged and at home at 411 Ave. F, Fort Dodge . . . **Ferris L. Malcolm** is out of service and living at Gilmore City . . . **Lloyd Nelson**, discharged and in Harcourt . . . **Marvin S. Nelson** is discharged and living at 1124 South 18th St., Fort Dodge . . . **Eugene Peterson**, discharged and in city . . . **Katherine Saunders** is now home after receiving her discharge . . . **John L. Merrill**, discharged . . . Pvt. **Fred Barkhaus** is discharged and back home in Fort Dodge . . . **Edward Bodaken**, SK 1/c . . . Sgt. **Orion E. Allard**, after 15 months overseas . . . **Harold D. Fishel**, BM 1/c, after 5 years . . . Capt. **Richard Merryman**, after 31 months in the Pacific . . . **John Ault**, AMM 2/c, 2 years in the Pacific . . . 1st Lt. **Paul Martin**, inactive status . . . 1st Lt. **George M. Robertson**, terminal leave . . . T/Sgt. **Marvin Vieg** . . . Lt. (jg) **Earl D. Henderson** is back after three years in the Navy . . . Ens. **Don Dillman**

is out and plans to attend college at Cedar Falls next term . . . Earl R. Samuelson, ARM 1/c, is out and on his way home from Florida . . . T/3 Lavern Peterson has been discharged . . . T/3 Frank J. Heiser, home after four years . . . Donald E. Larson, S 1/c, home wearing nine battle stars . . . Druard W. Neiford, out of Marines . . . 1st Lt. Bruce Hanson, after being a German prisoner of war . . . Lt. Richard Wasem, on terminal leave . . . Pfc. Tom Moore . . . Ens. Joseph W. Dodgen, inactive duty . . . Alex Tetrault, CPhM, is out and will work for Squibb and Sons in this territory . . . Alvin Spilka is home from the army . . . Sgt. Thomas Keenan is out of the Army Air Corps . . . S/Sgt. Richard M. Haugen.

⊙ **COMING HOME.** Lt. (jg) C. A. Davis is on his way home . . . Pfc. Ward Gray is on the long way home from Manila to Rockwell City. Ward has been one of the wire chiefs at the Manila long distance telephone office. Thanks, Ward, for the Daily Pacifican . . . Gerald H. Gronwall, SM 1/c, aboard the USS Oglethorpe is on the long way home from Noumea, New Caledonia, headed for Algona, Iowa . . . S/Sgt. Vincent Powers is on his way home to RFD No. 3, Fort Dodge, from India . . . Pfc. Richard B. Stell is on his way home from the ETO . . . Herman Reedholm was recently discharged from the USS Randall at Tacoma and hopes to be home for Christmas . . . Sgt. L. M. Magoon is stateside now. "Oh! Happy Day!" He'll soon be at home at Callendar . . . Sgt. Al Rumme, formerly of KVFD, is leaving the ETO for the states on the 12th of December . . . Verl E. Ecklund, MoMM 3/c, is on his way home from Eniwetok. "This sudden change of leaving will be a shock. One I know I'll enjoy." . . . Wm. S. Ray, AEM 3/c, is shoving off for stateside and will soon be home . . . Joseph Vratney, SC 3/c, is on his way home from Guam. He ought to be walking in the door sometime next week . . . Tommy Lynch is back in the United States . . . Evelyn Johnson has received her discharge at Camp Le Jeune, N. C., and will be coming home . . . J. W. Rigby is expected home soon . . . Lt. G. Fletcher Moore has received his discharge at Chicago, and will be in Fort Dodge soon . . . S 2/c Harold Olson arrived in San Francisco Dec. 3, from Shanghai, and expects to be discharged and home before Christmas . . . Pfc. Louie F. Rumme has arrived on the West Coast from Okinawa, and hopes to be home soon . . . Richard Freimuth and Harold Dell Gerrard are aboard the USS California, enroute to the States . . . Pvt. Dwain L. Hart has reached Hawaii from Saipan, enroute home . . . Robert Gramenz left Tokyo Dec. 1, aboard the USS Lexington heading for home . . . M/Sgt. Walter Horn has arrived in New York City and will be discharged soon . . . Loren J. Maynard, MoMM 2/c, is expected home this week . . . Cpl. Harry Jahn, Jr., has landed in New York City and will be out in a few weeks . . . Mark Anderson, MoMM 2/c, has reached Frisco, and will be discharged . . . Pfc. Earl L. Murphy arrived in the states Dec. 9, and is to be discharged . . . LeRoy Petersen, MM 3/c, William C. Robbins, MM 3/c, coming home soon.

⊙ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Pfc. Clyde L. Rodrick, APO 81, San Francisco, Calif. "You can see the Japs were really getting prepared to fight for their own homeland. It's really unbelievable, Ed, to see the work they've done up in these mountains. One hundred yards right behind my living quarters, I can take you through tunnels which are packed in with medical supplies, tires, chinaware, machinery, etc., and they have underground miniature railroads. Regular living quarters, rooms and halls with electric lights, etc. I can take you through any tunnel (they all join) and you tell me where you want to come out and we'll walk for an hour or an hour and a half underground before I bring you out a mile or two in the opposite direction we started in. They've practically built underground cities. Yes, it's really unbelievable, and it's done by hand, too. I can see for myself after seeing a lot of this territory around here and knowing now that they are also masters at camouflage, that we should all be thankful that we never had to fight on this land."

Bob H. Guffey, MoMM 3/c, Yokkaichi, Japan. "The army took over a Jap arsenal here and when they got ready to get rid of the arms they let the navy have what they wanted. I had 9 rifles and a shotgun but I gave all of them away except two Czechoslovakian rifles. The two I kept are really nice guns. They were made in 1937 but were never used. They are almost like our 30.06. (They are 30.03) I also have about 600 rounds of copper jacket shells for them but doubt if I'll be able to get the ammunition back in the States. I also have four Jap flags, kimonos, an old pistol, a hankari knife, and numerous other souvenirs. Things are really looking bad for the minesweeps out here as they say there are about 15,000 mines in Jap waters to be swept yet. Just hope we don't have to go to China. I spent ten days sweeping in the China Sea right after July 4th and that's enough for me."

Gene L. Johnston, RM 3/c, Yokohama, Japan. "This month I can qualify for two different departments of 'YLFH' all at once so I can't afford to put off writing this letter. About four days ago a couple of guys from this ship were riding back from Tokyo in the back end of a truck with a couple of soldiers and they embarked on the inevitable subject of home towns. When one of the soldiers claimed Fort Dodge for his former residence, the boys from the ship promptly informed him that he had a fellow townsman right here in the area, namely me. The next day said soldier made a trip down to the south pier to see me. It turned out to be none other than Sam Westbrook, son of the local minister, who is now at Clinton, Iowa. Sam is the first Dodger I have seen since that fateful day I left Frisco going west, and the bull session that followed was something for the history books of Japan. I snowed him under. We spent about three days together and he ate supper with me on the ship two of those days, one of them being our Thanksgiving dinner. (Our second one). It was really wonderful being with one of the boys again. His outfit is headed for the states now and he should be home for Christmas. They left this afternoon on a transport that was tied up to the same pier as we. I was on the ship with him till the warning siren chased me off and then I watched him pull out heading for the breakwater and the open sea which eventually leads to that wonderful place called home. Believe me, I was more than a little jealous when I watched him pull out, leaving me here standing on the dock with a bunch of Japs and a couple of shipmates. We have been tied up to this same pier since early in September when we brought a convoy of LST's up from Batangas in the Philippines, and so far, we have not even any rumors about leaving. I guess pretty soon I'll be taking out my Japanese citizenship papers. I can already swear fluently in Japanese and am learning a few ordinary words, too. Right now, I am looking forward to a merry Christmas in Yokohama."

Sgt. Bernard C. Loth, Kure, Japan. "First of all, I want to congratulate a great team for a great season—the Dodger eleven. After the first few games, we were all 'sweating out' an undefeated season, but we couldn't help but remember the 1933 team and those of the last few years and we were afraid of the jinx. But here it is—Three letters from you telling of victories over East Waterloo, East and Roosevelt of Des Moines—and a couple of letters from Dad telling of the continued string over Mason City and Shattuck. My congratulations to Coach Marquis and the 'unofficial state champs'. It must be a great team. Dad says Cooper rated it the best we'd ever had at Fort Dodge in his time—and we've had some good ones. I left Kobe the thirteenth of November in charge of a nine man switchboard team and we came here to run the Kure Base switchboard. They sent three teams down

but didn't need them all. We played a hand of "showdown" for the privilege of staying and I lost. So here I am. The barracks are better than those we had at the stadium in Koshun, and the installation is a nice one in which to work, but the town itself is shot and nothing is left for us to do in our spare time. We are only thankful that the "chicken" is kept at a minimum. The food is very poor—the worst I've had since I existed on "C" rations last winter. We are only thirteen kilometers from Hiroshima and we've been able to make a supervised tour of the place. Contrary to my expectations, the power of, and damage done by the atomic bomb have not been exaggerated. Hiroshima today is nothing but a huge pile of rubble with a fringe of rickety, half demolished dwellings and shops. It seems as though man has finally found the means to destroy not only civilization but mankind itself. It is no longer a question of war or peace but one of life or death for the human race. With all its imperfections, the United Nations' Charter is the hope of the future—it must work."

Donald J. Hicks, Regional Hospital, Ward B-7, Santa Ana, Calif. "I was transferred to this hospital a couple of weeks ago and am well settled and being treated very well. Last April I had a bad crash in South Carolina and am slowly on the mend. With crutches and a brace on my left leg I do get around pretty well. I have about eight to ten more months of convalescing and then will be retired from the army. I am told that I will carry a limp on the right side the rest of my life but will be able to get around. I am planning to return to college under the Bill of Rights and supplement my three years of college with about four more and attain my Ph. D. in Psychology and go into Social Service work with my aim in life to be a child delinquency specialist. Please ask any Dodgers in this vicinity to give me a ring and we will get together."

Eddie Fisher, Jr., U. S. S. Fred T. Berry, FPO San Francisco, Calif. "I'm now at Jinsen Korea. We seem to be traveling farther away from the States all the time. Last week at this time we were anchored in Tokyo Bay. We had been there three weeks when our sailing orders arrived. We had to take the lead through mine-infested waters to protect an A. K. which had troops on it. We arrived safely having sighted only two mines. Tomorrow we go back to Japan. As far as is known, our new destination is Nagoya. I made several liberties to Tokyo. The people seem to be starving. So far I haven't noticed any food whatsoever. Money doesn't seem to be the problem as children of five or six years pull out rolls of yen and try to buy cigarettes, candy, or gum. They were paying as high as two dollars a pack before the military authorities took over. The one thing that interests us are the souvenirs. The people sell or barter everything they own. Our recreation officer got a Jap rifle and bayonet for every member of the crew. Our planes seem to have done a good job on Tokyo. The downtown area has a bomb for every block. The factories between Tokyo and Yokohama seem untouched, though."

Gizella Macek, AMM 3/c, Great Lakes, Ill. "This Base is pretty big. Golly, it seems so different than the one in Ottumwa. Right now, I'm working in the Waves Separation Center. You get to meet quite a few gals, and I've run across a few from Fort Dodge. That's what I like. I do altogether different work than when I was at Ottumwa. I was a mechanic here. But now I'm a group leader, taking the girls around to be discharged. I'd like to sneak in a group and get discharged myself. I guess I'm needed too much. I've only got eighteen points. Golly, I'll probably be the last to close the door and throw away the key."

Faye Jurisin, Arlington Farms, Va. "I'm still at the Bureau of Personnel, only I have a new job in demobilization. Every so often I get a service record of some lucky Fort Dodger who is now a memory to Uncle Sam's Navy. In fact, recently I had my cousin Milan Macek's discharge."

S/Sgt. Kenneth Anderson, Matsuyama, Shikoku Island, Japan. "I became eligible for discharge the 1st of November and haven't even heard anything official on getting out yet. First it was transportation that held us up. Now it's these recruits re-enlisting that have priority on us going home. Most of them haven't been in the army over six months and overseas about three months. They came over after the war was over but still they have priority on transportation over us old-timers who were over here when it really counted. I think it's about the most unfair thing that has been pulled so far. I have 66 points, and they are hard earned points because I'm a single man. But So What? There are still guys here with 70 points that haven't any idea when they are going home. So what chance have I got? I'm just another G. I. that has done his part while the war was on, and by the looks of things, forgotten about since it's been over. I guess from what people think back home, everything is ahead of schedule on demobilization. I know you'd think differently if you heard some of the G. I.'s opinions on it over here. I think a little help from State-side on getting guys that are eligible for discharges home wouldn't hurt any." Ken, we aren't any happier about demobilization than you are. In spots it stinks.

Pfc. Verne F. Vladeff, Kreis Landsberg, Germany. "We have a very nice life over here. In the military government, we live and eat like civilians. About the only thing that reminds us that we are still in the army is the army pay and our clothes. Also our three jeeps but we hardly ever use them as we have civilian cars to drive around in. We may be living a nice life over here but we also have a lot of work to do governing these people and trying to get the Nazi ideas out of their heads. With just five enlisted men and four officers in our outfit, we have a lot of privacy. There was another guy here from Fort Dodge, also, and we used to get together and remember all the fun we used to have back in Fort Dodge. When he went home for a discharge, it was hard to see him go back to the old home town and leave me behind. He is Laurence Pliner."

There really was a drift of letters this week. It's the Christmas spirit. Many of them from GIs ready to shove off for home and many others from fellows who are sweating it out waiting for the next boat. Everyday, on the streets, you see fellows you haven't seen in years, back from God knows where. It's like old home week everyday. You feel that the town is alive again and the pulse of its living quickens to a vigorous tempo, as its own sons and daughters come back. We don't stop to think often enough how lucky we all are. That you are coming back and that there is something for you to come back to. It's your town, it's held you in its thoughts and in its heart from the day you left. It's not a great city but its little streets have missed you and we'll only be happy when you are back wearing your own duds. And incidentally, I hope you saved everything you had before you went away. I heard of a man here the other day whose brother had just gotten out of the service in Texas. He stayed there to take a job and wrote up here for some clothes. He couldn't buy any down there. His brother had none to spare and couldn't buy any new, so he bought a second hand suit from a friend, spent seven dollars having it tailored to fit him (he's the same size as his brother exactly) and sent it off to Texas with a card on it reading "Merry Christmas". That's what I was leading up to all the time. Merry Christmas, Joe; and the next one in Fort Dodge.

Your home town correspondent,

Ed Breen