

# Your Letter From Home

Marc Anthony: I want to see Cleopatra.

Slave: She's in bed with laryngitis.

Marc: Darn those Greeks.

—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.

Radio Station K V F D

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 Geer Ballrooms

T-4: Come on, take a bath and get cleaned up. I'll get you a date.

T-5: Yeah, and then suppose you don't get me a date?

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

Vol. 6, No. 7

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

December 7, 1945

★ **DEAR JOE:** Wednesday evening we had the pleasure of entertaining one of your friends and great admirers, Miss Margaret Bourke-White, the first woman photographer ever accredited to the US Army. She had lots of fine things to say about you and like the rest of us she wishes that you were home for Christmas. She talked about her experiences in Italy with the 34th division and with the 3rd Army in Germany. She was there until just a few weeks ago. On her way to Fort Dodge all her personal luggage was stolen so when she got here all she had was a hand bag and a hat box. She spent part of the afternoon pressing the suit she was wearing and the rest of it shopping in Fort Dodge stores. When we put her on the train last night she had as many little bundles as a displaced person in the ETO. The thing that hurt her worst of all was the fact that she had lost the new suit she had just purchased in Paris and the jewelry and knick knacks that she had picked up all over the world. She is a grand person and the thousand or so people who heard her last evening on Winter Chautauqua would hardly let her leave the platform to make the ten five train. While she was here we interviewed her on KVFD, Keith Peterson took her picture and Frankie Sims signed her shortsorder bill. Frankie said, "I signed right next to General Patton. I bet he wouldn't like that." One thing I noticed though. They make women's hats just as silly in Paris as they do anywhere else in the world. Yes, sillier . . . We have been having beautiful weather, the kind that makes you want to stand out doors in the sunshine without a hat or coat on. Of course the next day you have the sniffles. Lots of towns around about have been having minor flu epidemics and this has caused a few schools to close. We had a call the other day from Rutland saying that the schools there would be closed for a short time. And last Sunday the county home was closed to visitors. Not because of flu in the home but because the doctor in charge of the people there didn't want it brought in . . . Basketball will be starting soon and Junior College is going to have a team. Some of the former high school stars back from the wars have been working out and for about five minutes they really go. Johnny Wold and Keith Peterson say its really going to be tough to get back in condition . . . Christmas is coming and the shopping is going on like mad. Sales are up ten to fifteen per cent over last year and that was the biggest year the country ever had. But for most of us Christmas merriment is going to be sombered by the thought of you still far away. I know what you want and I hope you find it in your stocking Christmas morning. When you unwrap the army red taps I hope you'll find that its your one way ticket home.

★ **AROUND THE TOWN.** The trial of Carl Klatt, former guard at the boys' training school at Eldora, is moving slowly. Klatt is charged with second degree murder in the death of Ronald Miller, 17, an inmate, last August 29. The prosecutor had called eighteen witnesses up to Tuesday afternoon and many more were expected to take the stand. Stress has been laid on the beating Miller underwent in which a harness tug, and a wooden night stick referred to as an "Anamosa stick", were used. The trial was brought to Fort Dodge on a change of venue . . . Mr. and Mrs. Edgar A. Seavers, of Garden City, recently observed their 57th wedding anniversary . . . The Junior Chamber is sponsoring a home Christmas decoration contest and many are entering the affair . . . The AMVETS have organized a cage team and Keith Johnson will be the manager . . . Alvin Larson, 10, died Nov. 20 after having been accidentally shot with a .22 caliber rifle earlier in the week . . . The Elks held their annual memorial service in the lodge rooms Sunday with a large attendance . . . A new theatre is planned for the city by the Central States Theatre Corporation. It will be back of the post office facing on Ninth Street. The cost is announced as \$200,000.00 . . . A Dodge, Pfc. Francis L. Kaufman, is aboard the liberty ship Henry Ward Beecher which Tuesday sent out an SOS 340 miles northeast of Bermuda after she had lost her propeller. The weather was reported as moderate . . . There were 22 auto accidents in Fort Dodge the past month . . . Sears Roebuck Company is planning to remodel its store. The cost is estimated at \$35,000.00 . . . Another 29-passenger bus has been added to the Fort Dodge Transportation Company . . . Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Brush December 9th will observe their 55th wedding anniversary . . . Boyd Christenson, Y 2/c, 20, of Badger, was instantly killed in an auto accident here at 2:30 Wednesday morning on highway No. 169 just north of the city. He was riding in a car driven by Jack Weyen, BM 1/c, 25, of Fort Dodge. The car went down an embankment and struck a tree in the Oakland Cemetery. Weyen is in a critical condition at Mercy Hospital. Both men were home on leave . . . Ray Berrier has been named Dean of the Junior College . . . New radio equipment for the police and fire departments has been OK'd by the city council.

★ **SEASON'S GREETINGS.** Christmas greetings from the ETO from Cpl. Delbert Porter, APO 403, New York . . . From Pfc. Delmer J. Estlund somewhere in the ETO.

★ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Pfc. Dale Davis is here for 45 days . . . H. L. Wilson, PhM 1/c, will be home until December 15 . . . Sgt. Kenneth Quinn is enjoying 60 days at home . . . Morris W. Moore, Metalsmith 3/c, here for 30 days . . . Lt. Maurice W. Field for 30 days . . . H. L. Wilcox, PhM 1/c, is home for a visit until December 17.

★ **COMING HOME.** John W. Bassett, barber 2/c, enroute to States

from Pacific theatre . . . Evan Cooper, EM 1/c, from Pacific area . . . Mark E. Anderson, MM 2/c, from Guam . . . Elmer H. Alexander is expected before Christmas . . . Cpl. Robert Bonnell is in the States and expects to be discharged soon at Camp Grant, Illinois . . . Pfc. Charles W. Lane has arrived on the east coast . . . 1/Lt. Ben P. Larson has reached the States and is expected home early in the week . . . Robert E. Swanson is on his way to the States . . . Cpl. Tom E. Merryman, on his way home . . . Lt. Maurice B. Haskell has arrived in the States from Japan and expects to be in Fort Dodge soon . . . Pfc. John M. Kahout is on his way home from Landshut, Germany . . . S/Sgt. V. A. Spinharney is on his way home from Le Havre, France . . . Allen E. Weber, F 1/c now at Taku Bar, China, is on his way home and should arrive here about the 1st of January . . . Phil Dorweiler Y 1/c, is on his way home from Guam. Got here today . . . Pfc. Victor Moline is pretty happy about having 60 points. He is at Camp Phillip Morris in France and on his way home . . . R. G. Thorsness, MoMM 2/c is out of the service and on his way home . . . Pfc. Foster Funk is back in this country from France and should be home soon . . . Chas. G. McCarthy, GM 3/c is on his way home, out on forty points . . . Cpl. John Whittington is on his way home from Nurnberg, Germany . . . Charles W. Lane sent a telegram from New Jersey, to his folks, stating he had just arrived from India and hopes to be discharged soon.

★ **IN PHILIPPINES.** Sgt. John A. Olson now is at Manila.

★ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Alfred Holm once on his way from the ETO to Japan is now at Wurzburg, Germany with the Army of Occupation . . . Cpl. Orval D. Steburg is at the 17th Replacement Depot in Bamberg, Germany, where he is working in the Army Post Office. "Quite a few Fort Dodge boys come thru here."

★ **WE PLAY ALL REQUESTS,** for blondes, red heads and brunettes. We play all requests for mothers, fathers, wives, sweethearts, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, friends, relatives, etc., etc. Just send the address and telephone number if it is convenient. This service is free!

★ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** The war department has announced that Lt. Wallace J. Wise, died in action over Italy February 24, 1945.

★ **REMEMBER CLOE?** Well Joe, you are like Cloe. We got to go where you are and we can't do that if we don't have your CORRECT address. Catch? Natch! OK pal.

★ **OVER THERE.** Pfc. David Larson sends us the seventh change of address in four months. He's getting mail now APO New York.

★ **HOME FOR GOOD.** J. S. McElhinney, Jr., is a civilian once more and living at Beverly Hills, Cal. . . . Nels Glesne is back from Guam and once more a civilian. He is living at Evansville, Wis. . . . Ens. Lynn Gray of Rockwell City is out of the service. He and his wife are going to the State University and are living at 717 E. Washington Street, Iowa City. Lynn's youngest brother Jack is now at Fort Logan, Colo. . . . Mary Strait Stratton is out of the Waves and home with her folks near Gilmore City, waiting for her husband to join her. He is still in the service . . . Arthur H. Axen of Lehigh is a civilian once more, home for good . . . Howard B. Grooters, was discharged from the Army Air Corps, Oct. 30. He has gone to Purdue University to study Chemical Engineering. He and a pal of his flew to Fort Dodge awhile back, in their own plane, and spent four days with Howard's parents. He expects to come home for Christmas . . . Stuart Baird, is home after being discharged . . . Arthur C. Marlow, is discharged and living in Wichita, Kansas . . . Clair Stewart, discharged . . . F/O Robert Winslow and brother, Warren W. Winslow, are home again . . . Wayne Kline is back and is route salesman for Gus Glaser Meats . . . W/O Lawrence H. Koerner is on terminal leave . . . Gerald Carroll, S 1/c, plans to work again at Kruckman's . . . Stanford Griffith has returned and is associated with his father, Frank Griffith, architect . . . Roy Ostrander, CPO, home after three years service . . . WAVE Suzanne Peschau, AMM 2/c . . . Lt. (j. g.) Robert Kelley is back with Kelley Insurance . . . Dr. H. J. Schwidder again is practicing dentistry here . . . Frank P. Schuster back to Moorland . . . F/O Robert E. Mockett is home on inactive status . . . George A. Reis, S 1/c . . . Forrest Bendixen, F 1/c . . . Ensign John R. Wold, inactive status . . . Henry T. Pliner, MM 1/c . . . Sgt. Robert Fisher . . . Sgt. Charles Crimmins . . . Lt. (j. g.) Ray Carlson, inactive status . . . Don Cunningham is out and will work for the state tax commission . . . 1/Lt. Robert Friedrich, inactive status . . . Pfc. Raymond G. Johnson . . . Maj. William J. Terrill, inactive status . . . T/4 James H. Faust . . . Glen Farmer is out and is back with the Fort Dodge Lumber Company . . . Ralph Meyers is out and working for VFW at Council Bluffs . . . 1/Lt. Clarence Larson, Jr., inactive status . . . William R. Swanson received his discharge from the Navy and is at home in Fort Dodge . . . Arnold C. Franzen is discharged and living at Paton, Iowa . . . Robert Nickless is discharged and at home at 325 G Street . . . George C. Robeson, discharged . . . Carl Leiss has received his discharge from the Army at Kansas City, Missouri, and his wife, Mabel F. Leiss, also is discharged . . . Libero Birocci, discharged . . . Kenneth B. Anderson, discharged . . . Lawrence R. Bunda, discharged and at home in Moorland.

★ **REENLISTED.** Donald F. Cook for three years in the army . . .

**June E. Tanner** with Army for another three years . . . **Edward T. Collins**, of Clare, army for three years.

★ **PACIFIC.** Capt. **R. J. Patterson** is getting his mail FPO San Francisco . . . **Ens. Warren B. Englebart** writes from out there-away, "will be spending the following months of post war turmoil most quietly on the rocks of Tinian." . . . Of all things, as my grandma would say. **Pfc. Tom Stapleton** is guarding Italian prisoners in Hawaii. And here I thought we had quit fighting Italy a long time ago. I guess that's a civilian secret they are keeping from the Brass Hats. And how did they ever get to Hawaii? It must be someone was working on that old theory that the longest way round was the shortest way home . . . **Lt. Bob Allen**, skeet shoot champion of Iowa, and the author of the Air Force book on skeet shooting, has just gotten thru organizing the 20th Air Force skeet championship match on Guam. The front cover of a recent issue of **Bomb Rack**, 20th Air Force publication, shows Bob in action. Bob organized and managed the whole match. It received more publicity than any other sporting event ever held over there. Bob writes that **Don Hamilton**, formerly of **KVFD** is now a 2nd Lt., having graduated from **B 29 Flight Engineer's school** shortly after **VJ Day**. Thanks **Bob**. **Bob** expects to be back in the old home town for Christmas.

★ **DOWN THE MIDDLE AISLE.** **Mrs. Mary A. Block** to **Gerald H. Steussy** here December 3 . . . **Phyllis Mork** engaged to **Ensign Willis Moeller**, plan to marry soon at **Cherokee** . . . **Peggy M. Rabel** to **George C. Robeson** at **San Diego**, October 18 . . . **Ruth Tomlinson** to marry **Dan Johnson** here December 9 . . . **Pauline Ondrejka** to **Edwin Staver** here November 17 . . . **Agnes V. Wingert** to **Neil L. Bradley** at **Norfolk, Va.**, October 30 . . . **Jeanne E. Sandeline** to **Sgt. H. W. Kirtley** here November 27 . . . **Dorothy E. Carlson** to **Rev. E. L. Pearson** here November 24.

★ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The Thanksgiving Day Program of the 659th Field Artillery Battalion, featuring the game between the 659th Howitzers and the 80th Ordnance Battalion as played at **Howitzer Stadium** in **Sontheim, Germany**, from **Sgt. Floyd D. Messerly**, who is now at **Heilfann, Germany**, at a **P. W. camp**. Thanks **Floyd**. The program shows that **Floyd** was the star tackle for the **Howitzers**. "**Floyd 'Mess' Messerly**, is the big rugged tackle from Iowa whose sterling play has earned him the respect of fans, friends and opponents in every game." **Floyd** played on that great **Dodger team of '33** that was nosed out of a state championship in the last game, 2 to nothing at **Mason City**. **Floyd** says, "I'll never forget that game." In the **Turkey Day** game in **Germany**, **Floyd's** team won 19 to 0 . . . The **China** edition of the **Stars and Stripes** from **Cpl. Floyd Zeka**, whose **APO** is 433 **New York**. Thanks, **Floyd**.

★ **OVER HERE.** **Walt McGill** has a sad tale to tell. That land based sailor, is marooned in a place in **Maryland** "where the women aren't as friendly as the gals that are raised in the old home town." The town is **Bainbridge, Md.** **Walt** is at the separation center there . . . **T/5 Carl Reed** sends us the menu of his Thanksgiving dinner at **Fort Jackson, S. C.**, everything from roast turkey to apples and nuts, "the best meal that I have had in the Army." Thanks **Carl** . . . **Comdr. Emerson B. Dawson** is back from the Pacific and stationed at a naval base near **San Francisco**. He hopes to be out and home shortly after the first of the year . . . **Irwin Umsted, S 1/c**, is stationed at **Bevertail Point, Jamestown, R. I.** He is in a radar station. "In case a plane goes down we send out crash boats and a rescue ship." . . . **Capt. Maurice B. Haskell** has arrived in the States from **Japan** and expects to be home soon . . . **M/Sgt. Marvin Dilocker** is at **Camp Grant** for his discharge . . . **Peter Mitchell** is back in the States from **Europe**.

★ **JAPAN.** **Lt. Kenneth Sternitzke** is with the 33rd Division in the occupation of **Japan** . . . One of the boys that has really made the grand tour is **S/Sgt. John E. Vohs**. He was in **Canada** and **Alaska** for a long time on the **Canal project**. From there he went to **England**, **France** and **Germany**. Then thru the **Panama Canal** to **New Guinea** and the **Philippines**. **John** is now in **Japan**, about 30 miles from **Tokyo**, at a town named **Omiya**. He recently met a boy from **Fort Dodge** named **Anderson**, who is with the medics . . . **Chas. M. Watson, RdM 2/c**, of the **Fort Dodge Fire Department** is now in **Yokohama, Japan**. He says there is some talk over there about bringing the **Japs** back from the mainland to their home islands in **LST's**. "If we should happen to be one of the unlucky ones we will have a number of sick boys aboard."

★ **GOING UP.** **James P. McMahon** has been commissioned ensign . . . **Charles L. Fritz, Pfc.** to **T/5** . . . **Carl Peed, Pfc.** to **T/5** . . . **Don Hamilton** is now a 2nd Lt. . . **Scott C. Pfaff**, now a Lt. . . **Glenwood A. Crow, T/5** to **T/4** . . . **Russell A. Novy, Cpl.** to **Sgt.** . . **Valdo Peterson, Pvt.** to **Pfc.**

★ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** **Jacob Tungesvik, Fort Dodge, Iowa.** "I arrived home here in good old **Fort Dodge** yesterday, **Dec 2**. I'm home for good now, **Ed**, and the town sure looks wonderful. It took me two weeks to get a discharge, that is, from the time I left **LeHavre, France**, till I got a discharge. We sailed **Nov. 17** on the **George Washington**. We were 6,820 on board, about 500 **WAC** and 100 civilians, so we had a big load. We crossed in eight days and docked in **Boston, Mass.** At this time I want to thank you for the wonderful letters you sent. It was just like reading the home town paper. **YLFH** was and is the best idea I ever heard of and I enjoyed all of them. I say, keep up the good work and keep sending them to the boys in the service wherever they may be."

**Kermit H. Hansen, Lt., USNR, c/o Fleet Post Office, New York, N. Y.** "V-me Day has finally come. I was relieved as **Commanding Officer** of this **Command** this morning. I have my orders indorsed and the **Admiral** is flying to the states in the morning and has granted me a ride with him. So it won't be long till I hope to set foot on good old **American terra firma**. I plan to spend **Christmas** in **Fort Dodge**, and at this moment I couldn't think of a **Merrier Christmas**."

**Robert W. Licht, Honshu, Japan.** "Well, here it is **Thanksgiving** and I've just finished the biggest **Thanksgiving dinner** I've ever had. We had **turkey** with all the trimmings. It was really good. We have **chicken** quite often and I guess we can't complain about the **chow**. The weather is fine here now, although it gets pretty cool nights. We have an **orange grove** right in our back yard and the oranges are beginning to get ripe. Our troop of about 120 men are the only **Americans** here in this city of about 40,000 population,

so we have it pretty good. We're far enough away from any other outfit so that we're never bothered by **M. P.'s** and there are no places in town that are off limits. I guess most of the guys will agree that that's not so bad, if there were only some white girls around. In that respect the guys in **Europe** really have it over us."

**Orlan A. Saucke, F 1/c, c/o Fleet Post Office, San Diego, Calif.** "I am now located at pier No. 1, **Naval Repair Base (Destroyer Base)**, just a short distance from town. We arrived well over a month ago, of which time we have spent preparing our ship for decommissioning the first of the year. There are also seventeen others lined up here for the same purpose. I received a so-called white collared job and have heard much about it to that effect. Was previously in the engine room but was given the job as log room yeoman on the way over here. Am wearing the red stripe on the left shoulder so that goes to prove that the **Navy** will do anything whenever it has a notion. I had previously gone to a **machinist school** but end up as a **pencil pusher**. Am now spending my spare time in the ship's office where I hope I will be working later on."

**Pfc. Clifford A. Lawson, Phuson, Korea.** "I am in **Phuson, Korea**. We landed here four days ago. The people here are way behind the times. They have oxen for field work instead of horses. Once in awhile you see a horse drawn cart but not very often. The **Japs** occupied these ports for some time but we are sending them back to their home land as quick as transportation will permit. The few that are here are being used for labor-workers in our depot and also to clean up around the docks and ship-yards. Our company is making their living quarters in a college, one of the biggest in this part of **Korea**, and it sure is a swell place to live. The weather here is about like fall weather back in **Iowa**. Cool at night, but warm in the day time."

**Floyd N. Ewing, US Atlantic Fleet, Green Cove Springs, Fla.** "They can say all they want to about spending the winters in **Florida**, but I have seen places I would rather be. It is now 6:30 A. M. and the decks are covered with frost. I almost freeze every time I go out on deck in weather like this after spending two winters in the **South Pacific**. Maybe I'll crystalize when I get back to a real old **Iowa** winter, but I'll surely try it once anyway. From the looks of the towns around here anyone would think the whole fleet was in here instead of just a small part of it. There seems to be more sailors around here than there are civilians."

**Donald G. Beckman, PhM 2/c, Kwajalein, Atoll.** "I am now in the **Marshall Islands** on **Kwajalein Atoll**. This is really quite a place. I only wish we could have just about 10 or 15 degrees of your cool weather now. We could really use it out here, believe me. These fellows going back to the cold climates from here will probably freeze to death. This little island is only about 2 miles long and 300 yards wide but it is large enough for two long airstrips for **B-29's** and transport planes. Also there is a fairly good anchorage for ships inside the circle of coral reefs. The main activity is the air strip right now, though. We are out here to set up a **Naval Base Hospital**. We are now operating in tents and **Quonset Huts** but hope to soon have a new hospital built by the **Seabees**. The **Seabees** have some very nice constructions to their credit on the **Atoll** so it is hoped we can move into a much better setup. Of course we are all looking forward to the day we can embark for the States again and thus to civilian life—that will really be the day. Here's hoping it is sooner than we expect. We sort of hate to spend another **Christmas** away from home but we all intend it to be the last. I've missed your weekly chat so it will really be appreciated to get "Your Letter From Home" regularly again. Believe me it is a great boost to the morale to read about the old home grounds. You have done a great job and we all appreciate it very much."

**Pvt. R. W. Lewis, Germany.** "We had our first snow here yesterday, but it is all gone today. We are still able to hunt deer. Three of us went out this morning and shot three in 2 hours. I am now stationed near **Munich**. We just got waitresses in our new mess hall. It is almost like eating at home."

**John H. Hamann, SSMT 3/c, Div. S, USS Aquarius, c/o PM, San Francisco, Calif.** "We went to **Hong Kong, China**, and started to take a load of **Chinese Troops** (us and 23 other ships) to take over **North China**, unloading at **Yingkow, Manchuria**. About half way up they decided not to risk our lives landing them in the territory held by **Chinese Communists** so we unloaded them at **Chingwang-too, China**. That is north of **Peiping**. Today in **Hong Kong** again we loaded more **Chinese troops** to be taken just north of **Shanghai**. This **Civil War** is not Peace in my opinion. The rumors here today were that the army we took north are captured already. There are 30 (I think) **Marines** in that town, too. The **Marines** told us up there that trains flying **U. S. Flags** have been fired on 'till they (**Chinese Communists**) blew up 3 railroad bridges. The **Admiral** says they are going to take the **Marines** out of **China** so they won't have another war to fight. I hope we can help on this job, I think we will, and take them home to the States again. Once I get in the States I should be able to get a discharge in a few months. When loading at **Saipan** for the occupation of **Nagasaki**, I spent several days with my brother, **Arthur**, who is stationed there. He advanced from **Pfc.** to **Cpl.** and I advanced from **S 1/c** to **SSMT 3/c**. That is **Petty Officer 3/c** and those letters stand for "Ship Service Man, Tailor." I have a nice shop and do all that type of work up here so you see I put in plenty of hours to keep the work done. Thanks again for those lovely letters and tell **Evelyn Anderson** 'hello' for me."

The mail as always was wonderful this week. It's the thing that keeps this little sheet going. Sooooo when you got a minute and when you have written to your Mom and to your best girl and to that guy you owe a letter to, we'd like to be remembered, too. We'd like to know what goes in your corner of this post war world. The thing that may be a commonplace to you now is still entertainment out of the **Arabian Nights** to us. So my dear front line correspondent let us know who you've seen and what you do and where you are. If you have a last minute **Christmas shopping** job that you need done, we'll do our best. Next week we ought to have that **Christmas roto** section ready to mail. It has been with the printer several weeks now. Hope you'll like it. **Shopping note**—No war toys in the stores this year. **Moppets** are asking again for nurse sets, dolls, teddy bears, cowboy suits, bows and arrows, tricycles and baby carriages and electric trains. **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**.

Your home town correspondent,

Ed Breen.