

Your Letter From Home

Patient who was asked to give his name, replied: "Joneseddie."

"That's an unusual name," the nurse commented.

"That's only my military name," confessed the soldier, "My real name is Eddie Jones."

—From "Patrol"—a Submarine Squadron publication.

Sent To You With The Best Wishes Of

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.
The Elks Club of Fort Dodge

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Larry Geer Ballrooms

Radio Station K V F D

Stupid Steve Says: Intuition is what tells a woman she is right whether she is or not. Then there was the Scotchman who was pummeled nearly to death because he thought the sign on the door said "Laddies."

—From "Patrol"—a Submarine Squadron publication.

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

Vol. 2. No. 34

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

June 15, 1945

✶ **DEAR JOE:** Summer peaked in on us for a day or two as welcome and as delightful as a pretty girl. Tuesday and Wednesday of this week it was a treat just to be alive. Farmers went to work in their fields like mad. The tractors never stopped. The whole family pitched in and we got in a lot of good licks. Around town, back yard gardeners did some re-planting, got in some late tomatoes and beans. During all the rain, the grass has been growing just like the sun was shining and it's been a problem keeping it whittled down. There seem to be more birds around this year than I've seen in a long time. Last Saturday after I cut the grass, we had whole families of cat birds, thrushes and robins prospecting for worms. Finally, they were joined by a turtle dove while a wren chattered at them from the clothes line pole . . . And the nights have been beautiful, clear and hung with a very new moon over in the west. We all wish you were here. Maybe you will be soon. It's really swell seeing so many fellows back and so many who are leaving the service after a three or four year grind.

✶ **AROUND THE TOWN.** The 20 acre Martin Fireworks property, at the junction of 169 and 20 about a mile west of the Lutheran Hospital, has been sold to the Horn Manufacturing Co. Martin's will go on with the sale of flags. Horn's plans are not announced . . . Fort Dodge will have a new hardware store soon in the building just east of the State Bank . . . Sears will soon open the finest farm store in the middle west, in the old Sullivan Garage next to the Johnston Hotel on North 7th street . . . Expo Park opened Monday with plenty of swimmers. The rickety old shelter at the north end has been torn down, greatly improving its looks . . . Square dancing is being taught on the playgrounds this summer. Swing your partners and do-see-do . . . Fulton and Jackson twps. and the towns of Clare and Dayton are over the top in the 7th War Loan Drive . . . Blank Swaney has discovered a new way of beating the butter shortage. He bought two gallons of cream from Howard Gillman recently, put it in the Maytag washer, flipped the switch, an hour later had eight pounds of Maytag butter . . . Father Shanahan, of Barnum, took off by clipper plane for Ireland last Sunday . . . Wednesday was a fatal day near Lehigh. In the morning Tom Timmons found Lyle Jordan, 24, dead near Cutting Rural School. He had shot himself with a long barreled revolver. He was worried about the crops. Early in the evening, little Dean Woolsey, 13, found the body of Fred Auger on the Woolsey farm near Homer. Auger, 65, a hired man on the Woolsey farm, had died of a heart attack, while planting corn. The bodies of Jordan and Auger were less than two miles apart . . . Alcoholics Anonymous is holding regular meetings in Fort Dodge at 700½ Central Avenue . . . John Amond and H. J. Greenleaf have sold their coal business to Joe Beddow, of the Engineer's Coal Company . . . The City Council toyed with the idea of raising the beer license fee from \$150.00 to \$300.00 a year. Later lowered their sights to \$225.00. Beer dealers, with less beer and less business, are not happy . . . W. J. Laufersweiler is the only living charter member of the Elks in Fort Dodge. But Wm. Maher became an Elk that first year. Both are being honored in the Golden Anniversary Celebration . . . Burnside is over the top in the Seventh War Loan . . . Twenty-one people out of the two hundred fifteen living in Moorland commute to work in Fort Dodge daily . . . Bernard O'Brien, of Duncombe, home on a furlough, smacked into a tree at the corner of 15th Street and 5th Ave. South last Sunday evening. He's in the hospital now with a broken leg . . . Badger is over the top in the bond drive . . . The City Council is figuring on boosting sewage disposal rates. The new rates will affect only the small householder and the largest users. No increase to inbetweeners . . . Mrs. Jett Wray has resigned as manager at the Country Club . . . Rev. H. L. Jacobs, of the Congregational Church, has been named head of the Ministerial Association.

✶ **OVER HERE.** This is a new one on me. Floyd Bollard, not wanting to claim any army kudos to which he is not entitled, says that he is a Lance Sgt. and not a S/Sgt. as we had him listed. His wife, the former Isabelle Flaherty, is holding down a government job in Washington . . . Gerald Williamson, HA 2/c, and LaVern Sinclair met at Oakland, California. LaVern is at Treasure Island. Gerald is taking care of patients with "fractured skulls and broken backs." I hope before long it will be all over and there won't be any more casualties to bring in." . . . Donald Haupt, HA 1/c, is at the Naval Hospital at Astoria, Oregon . . . Sgt. Frank Jensen, Dodger Class of '33, is back in the states after three years in India. He is at Santa Rosa, California . . . Pvt. Bob Telleen is in Amarillo, Texas . . . Pvt. Roger Lundberg, of Gowrie, is in William Beaumont General Hospital in El Paso, Texas, with a leg wound . . . Pvt. Foster Rutledge is in Seattle, Washington, with a searchlight battery . . . Raymond T. Wilcox, S 1/c, now at Key West, has been sunk twice on convoy duty.

✶ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** T/4 C. W. Graffunder is now in France . . . 1st Lt. Ann Murphy is in France, with the 173rd General Hospital.

✶ **SOUTH PACIFIC.** Lt. Roy B. Jensen, Dodger class of '35 is in the South Pacific. He has been there for the past year . . . M. O. Pete Barbee is with the artillery on Okinawa . . . Floyd T. Sherrill, CMO/MM, is at the Small Boat Maint. Dept., Navy 3419, somewhere in the Philippines, and is pinin' to see more Dodgers. Lately he has seen Joe Doyle and F. L. Davenport. You ought not have any trouble finding Fred Faine . . . A. B. Petrie, EM 2/c, has a small complaint to register. "I have seen a lot of the so called Hula girls since I have been here, but I have not been able to find any of them dancing under a pineapple tree." A. B. would be interested in meeting any Dodgers at Navy 128 or in the Hawaiian Islands. He is at SM Base, Div. "X." C. D. Johnson, of Gowrie, is in his outfit. Thanks for "Patrol," A. B.

✶ **CHINA.** T/5 Cleo D. Hanson, of Callender, is somewhere in China . . . Pfc. John Doud is now in China. He flew over the hump from India.

✶ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** A nice snapshot from W. F. Buehler, with the 301st Airdrome Squadron in India. There are three boys from Fort Dodge in his outfit. Thanks, W. F. . . The Caduceus from Lt. Comdr. Otto Glesne, at New River, N. C. Thanks, Otto. . . A swell bunch of postcards, the Beachhead News and a tourist folder of Innsbruck, Austria, from Sgt. Bob Lawson. Thanks, Bob. . . The Klipper from R. H. Jewell, AMM 1/c, Kaneohe Beach, T. H. Thanks, R. H. . . The Letter Pusher from Wm. Byron Bales, S 1/c, from Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif. Thanks, Sailor . . . The TTF from Pfc. Harold Bothe, somewhere in Germany. Thanks, Harold . . . The combat History of the 79th Division, from Sgt. D. J. Gardini, somewhere in Germany. Thanks, Sgt. . . Hell On Wheels, from Pfc. Frank Weiss, somewhere in Germany. Thanks, Frank . . . A German insignia from S/Sgt. V. A. Spinharney, from somewhere in Czechoslovakia. He is hoping his friend, Sam Neill, Jr., who was long a prisoner of war, is on his way home. And Sam is. Thanks, Sgt.

✶ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Clarence Pessica is in Germany with the 94th Division. He is at a displaced persons camp and is in charge of 600 Russians, seeing that they get clothing, food and shelter . . . Because of a mistake in his original orders, T/5 Bernard Loth and three companions traveled two thousand miles and spent four months catching up with their outfit. The correct order would have sent him on a four hour, hundred mile trip from Lichfield to Dartford in England . . . Pvt. Eric M. Nelson, of Gowrie, is with the 9th Div. stationed about 30 miles north of Munich with the 3rd Army. He is with Battery B of the 60th F. A. Bn. . . Pfc. Francis Kaufman, who is in Bad Neundorf, Germany, says hello to all the boys who are headed for the Pacific. "Good Luck and good hunting. I may be there soon, myself." . . . Pfc. Sidney Thompson is somewhere in Germany . . . T/Sgt. Lawrence Stanek is now in the small town of Iserlohn, Germany. This is about thirty miles south of Hamm. His outfit is being kept busy "supervising some twenty hospitals containing German civilians, German POW's, X-PW's, etc.!" The scenery here is beautiful; there is very little damage caused by bombing. When a person sees how nice some of the towns are and how nicely the houses in which we are living are furnished, he wonders just why the people weren't satisfied with what they had."

✶ **ORANGE BLOSSOMS, RICE AND OLD SHOES.** "Irene Gunderson, Jr., SK 2/c, was formerly Irene Brown, SK 3/c. She is stationed in Brooklyn . . . Ilean Eisenhart, of Des Moines, and Ens. Lynn Gray, of Rockwell City, at Trenton, Michigan, June 2nd. They are now at Grosse Ile, Michigan . . . Loretta Zimmerman, of New Haven, Michigan, and Pfc. Merlin Fawcett. Merlin is in Germany—no date set . . . Naomi Olsen and Robert M. Merryman, in Fort Dodge, June 17th . . . Mr. and Mrs. Art. J. Johnson were married twenty-five years ago last Saturday . . . June Krebs, of Rolfe, and Eugene Davis, of Barnum, June 14th, in Fort Dodge . . . Ruth Fox, of Valejo, Calif., and Sgt. Clifford O. Jensen, June 12th, in Marysville, California . . . Kathleen Thayer and Darrell Bailey, AMM 1/c, no date has been set . . . Katherine Smith, of Dayton, and Kurt Schmidt, of Farnhamville, June 21st, in Nashua . . . Mildred Humphreys, of Callender, and Elroy Williams, Petty Officer, 1/c, May 16th, in Fort Dodge . . . Joan Armstrong and Lloyd Heinonen, of Negaunee, Michigan, June 28th, in Fort Dodge.

✶ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Pvt. John Berry was wounded in the right arm on Okinawa, April 20th . . . Pvt. Otto Hanson was wounded on Okinawa, May 11th . . . Edward Kallin, Soundman 1/c, missing in action, May 22nd.

★ **SCOREBOARD.** Fort Dodge and Vincent battled for eleven innings Tuesday evening at Dodger Field. Darkness ended the game 1 to 1. Proeshold, of the Dodgers, and Shotwell, pitching for Vincent each struck out 20 men.

★ **OVER 85 AND OUT.** S/Sgt. Clarence Cooklin, of Gowrie, and Richard Stoddard, first man drafted from Gowrie. Both are home. Dick's English wife is with him. . . Sgt. Robert Bowers. Bob left Fort Dodge with Company G, in Feb. 1941 . . . Sgt. Bill Burnquist, after 39 months overseas . . . T/4 Glen W. Behrens, of Humboldt, after entering service with Company G in Feb. of 1941 . . . T/5 Arthur Kolb, after more than three years in the South Pacific . . . S/Sgt. Charles F. Buss scribbles a hasty note that he is headed for America on his way out.

★ **SUNNY ITALY.** Sgt. Don Hunifield, somewhere in Italy, says hello to Dale Rebmann, R. A. Conrad and Don King. For a time Bob Bollard, Jim Ralston and Don were together in the same group.

★ **CZECHOSLOVAKIA.** T/5 Elmer Aurand, writing from the Czech Border on the 4th of June, says, "We are back on the old army routine and of course we are disgusted with it already." . . . Cpl. Ray Oleson is getting some good deer hunting near the town of Plana in Czechoslovakia. "We never come in empty handed and they surely are good." Ray is with the 16th Armored Division, 3rd Army.

★ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** They are Corporals now, Melvin V. Wehrheim, who is APO 246, San Francisco, Calif., and Don Mathey, with the 602nd T. B. Bn., in Langfeld, Germany . . . Bob Wasem is now a Lt. (j. g.). He is somewhere out the-a-way . . . Kenneth A. Hill is now a 1/Lt. . . Gill Fletcher, down in the South Pacific, is a Corporal now.

★ **HIGH SEAS.** Harold Rohrer, AOM 2/c, is on the USS Antieram, CV-36, and he is hoping some of you guys will write to him. The rest of the address is V-4-O Division, FPO, San Francisco . . . Don Bruntlett, S 1/c, of Gowrie, is aboard the Acorn 13 out of San Francisco.

★ **SMALL WORLD.** Fred L. Faine, S 1/c, and Joe Doyle, down in the Philippines. After finding Joe, Fred found that two other Dodgers were with him, Joe Davenport and Joe "Rock" Taylor. In the same outfit with Fred is Frank Hamilton . . . F/O D. W. Cook is at MacDill Field, Fla. In the same outfit are Russell Johnson and Harold McGuire. "See where Dwight Dick is on the field. Hope to meet him. Lost him in Santa Ana, California." . . . Laurence Arnold and Harry C. Osborn, S 2/c, are in the same outfit in the Marianas. Harry says hello to Peter Frank and George Sweeney.

★ **HIGH C'S.** Nels Jorgenson and Tom Bockert are on the USS Hollandia, somewhere out the-a-way.

★ **WE PLAY ALL NUMBERS REQUESTED.** We always notify the person for whom they are being played and if you send us the address or telephone number or both it helps. Thanks.

★ **TEXAS PAPERS PLEASE COPY.** A/C Norman Lacatis, somewhere in Texas. "We haven't figured out an APO number for Texas yet. It's the only state where so many are so proud of so little."

★ **IT HAD TO HAPPEN.** The instructor glared at the cowed G. I. and demanded "What are you reading?" The G. I. uncovered a copy of YLFH. "Come with me" ordered the instructor and the two surprised Dodgers stepped outside and had a fine old fashioned bull session. Yeh, it happened in Portalis, New Mexico. The two strangers from Fort Dodge were Cpl. Wilmer Stowe, the instructor, and Pfc. Dick Hansen.

★ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKIN'.** Robert J. Stillman, RM 2/c, from his ship at Boston. Bob has been in the South Pacific for 22 months. He is just back from Iran on convoy duty. His twin brother, Rolland, who was on the aircraft carrier, Franklin, is missing in action . . . Cpl. John L. Heden, of Humboldt, home for 30 days, from the South Pacific. John is on his way to the US Naval Air Base at Miami, Florida . . . S/Sgt. Robert Lee Bell, who spent three and a half years in Hawaii. Lately he has been at Selfridge Field, Michigan . . . Lt. Art Brooks, from almost a year in the Pacific. He goes from here to the West Coast for re-grouping of his squadron . . . Lt. Col. and Mrs. Roger Minkel, from Chicago. Mrs. Minkel met her husband there as he returned from 40 months in Africa, Sicily and Italy. After his 30-day leave, Roger reports to Miami Beach for re-assignment . . . Lt. and Mrs. Tom Kelly and daughter Loretta, from Roswell, New Mexico, enroute to Lincoln, Nebraska . . . Sgt. William Johnston from Long Island City, New York . . . Lt. James Jenks from Habbs, New Mexico . . . Pfc. Don L. Peterson from the E. T. O. . . . T/S Wyatt D. Anderson from a German Prison camp . . . Pfc. Arthur Porter from a P. O. W. camp. He was captured in Germany in April . . . 1st Lt. and Mrs. Jim Tucker and son Gary from Langley Field, Virginia . . . James E. Haring, Cox., and his wife and son Kenneth from San Diego . . . Doris Simmons, Cadet Nurse from Omaha . . . Sgt. L. K. Gregerson, from the E. T. O., and headed for the Pacific . . . Lt. Oral Thompson, from a prison camp in Germany . . . Ensign Beulah Stowe, from Washington . . . Lt. Wm. Rice, from Hondo, Texas . . . Pvt. R. E. Fallon, from Nicholas General Hospital in Louisville, Ky. . . Lt. V. C. Merryman, back from a Nazi prison camp . . . Pfc. Edwin L. McMahon, back from 27 months as a P. O. W. in Germany . . . Lt. Joe McTigue, from PBM convoy duty . . . Pfc. John Maddox, from a German Prison camp . . . Ensign Lloyd Hamblton, from Pensacola, Fla. . . Sgt. Ted Rule, from San Pedro. Ted is out of the Army, looks fine . . . Lt. R. C. McLauray, from the E. T. O. enroute to Miami . . .

T/4 Max Huffman, from New Guinea . . . Pvt. Delbert E. Wilshusen, from Seattle, Washington . . . Sgt. Ralph Barnes, of Duncombe, from Italy, where he spent 3 years with the 15th Air Corps . . . Joseph J. Johnson, AOM 2/c, home from CASU 17, going to CASU, 33, Los Alamedas, Calif.

★ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Delbert Porter, Zwickau, Germany. "It was about the last part of February, while we were still in the Siegfried Line, that Jerry must have accumulated a lot of artillery shells. He was throwing everything at us, mortars, screaming meemies, 88's artillery and I guess everything he had. My buddy and I were digging fox-holes about a rod apart, but when we got down about a foot and a half the water started seeping in and soon our holes were about half full. I was too scared to pay much attention to the water and lay right down in it, but my buddy decided he'd go over on a spot a little higher and try it there. In about an hour, working in between barrages, he got his hole down a couple of feet and about that time we heard some coming in. We flopped down in our holes and when it was quiet again, we looked up and a shell had landed directly in his old hole. There wouldn't have been enough left of him to bother picking up if he had stayed there. Don't think he didn't say a prayer of thanks." Thanks, Del, for the History of the 76th.

S/Sgt. Robert Gilbranson, Buer, Germany. "By the way, Ed, over here we only have about five hours of darkness now. It is light till almost 11:00 p. m. and then at 4:00 a. m. the dawn comes again so you see our days are still quite long. We still have a big job to do over here, and it must be done right or our children will be back in our places in the next 25 years again, and of course, none of us want that to happen. Well I must sign off for this time and will be waiting for your next YLFH. By the way, I almost forgot, we had a competition drill with the English soldiers today and one of them said, 'I, for the life of me, don't see how you Americans do so much all at the same time and still be able to do more when you have done that.' We all got quite a laugh out of that. We told them that they were pretty good themselves and he said, 'Bly me you're good too.'" Thanks, Bob, for the Memorial Program.

★ **Sgt. Mel Galliard, APO 413, New York.** "I am, in addition to being on the staff of American Forces Network, also an American on the A. E. F.—General Ike's Allied Expeditionary Forces programme—a combined ABC effort—American, British and Canadian, needless to say, I am thoroughly enjoying radio over here. I am also doing a series of servicemen interviews and a weekly commentary for KFI, Los Angeles, and KGO, San Francisco, under the title "We Speak From London." I am doing quite a bit of broadcasting on my own, to the states for the BBC North American Service. Some of these are available I understand, Ed, so if you contact BBC in either Chicago or New York you might be able to use them. I did a special V-E Day commentary that was broadcast throughout the U. S.—you see, just a mere ocean can't keep me 'off the air.' Back home WLS has carried some of my BBC shows."

Sgt. Bob Lawson, Innsbruck, Austria. "This is the city I was in on V-E Day. I can't begin to tell you how glad all of us are that the Jerries have surrendered. We chased them a long way and at times it was slow—Cassino, Anzio and the Vosges Mts. But after we crossed the Rhine at Ludwigshaven and Manneheim we knew that it was just a matter of a few weeks. I saw a convoy, back there in Germany, of over a thousand men driving their own trucks and all of them flying white flags, under escort of two American Guards. When complete convoys began to surrender, we knew it was getting close to the big finale. I spent a few days in Garmish-Partenkirchen, that is the place they held the 1936 winter olympics. The scenery here is beautiful, but I'd rather be down in the city park. I don't know what's in store for us in the future. I have 97 points, but if I'm declared essential to the Bn. that's another thing. See in the April 27th edition of YLFH that Clarence Will says 'Hello' to me. Give him one right back for me."

Pfc. Dale Fiala, Innsbruck, Austria. "We are in an apartment house across the street from the Central Hotel. It's really a nice set-up. We can see the snow-caps on the Alp Mts., but below here it's hot. I'm not kidding when I say this is a nice country. I could almost make my home here and enjoy it. The lady that takes care of the rooms is an opera singer, she is a blonde and practices singing all the time, so we don't like her. The civilians put on a show for the Company the other night and it was really good. We heard some real Alpine Yodelers."

Thanks for all the wonderful letters that you've written. We wish there were room enough to print them all . . . We have just redecorated the windows in the studios. We must have at least a hundred patches in one window. We mount these on red bordered cards with your name and address underneath and the name of the patch. We have a lot of beautiful patches but there are notable vacancies in the collection and, Joe, you're the only person we know that can fill them. We never received, never even seen, the type of patch that Eisenhower wears, the one with the sword, and there are a lot of others we don't have . . . Our collection of papers and magazines is wonderful. And we've been receiving some fine flags and pictures and snapshots . . . It's wonderful of you to take the time and the effort that it takes to send them . . . In one window we have two complete Nazi uniforms, a couple of helmets, a lot of German and Jap money, a Nazi flag, a lot of snapshots of the fellows from Webster County, a great collection of buttons and metal gadgets from Nazi uniforms, a rifle and a bayonet. Everyone stops to look at them. Thanks so much, everyone. Good luck. We'll be back here at this same corner next week.

Your home town correspondent,
Ed Breen.