

# Your Letter From Home

Little Willie: "Mama, where do elephants come from? And don't try to stall me off with that gag about storks."

Sent To You With The Best Wishes Of  
 The Fort Dodge Grocery Co.  
 The Fort Dodge National Bank  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars  
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Mother: "Have a good time at the party and be a good girl."

Daughter: "Please make up your mind, mother."

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

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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

May 4, 1945

☛ **DEAR JOE:** This was Mary Dolliver week in Fort Dodge — a week for the Red Cross and Wa Tan Ye and her thousands of friends and admirers and well wishers . . . Mary spoke 19 places in five days. She attended teas and club luncheons and dinners. Elsie Will closed her office and took over as Mary's secretary while she was here. Mrs. Castle and Mrs. Rudolph were with her almost constantly. Mary spoke at Burnside and Estherville and numerous other places. She was on the air once with Drexel Peterson on the "Letter From Home" and again on the "Home Town Canteen." . . . Ed Klapka got her to play boogie woogie at Rotary. Mary said it wasn't boogie woogie but it will do 'till b. w. comes along. So we had a repeat on that at the Junior High School that evening. Mel Dalvey and Rube Wretman came up to the platform and acted as song leaders. Everyone sang army songs and had a wonderful time. Everyone knew why you loved her wherever she went, wherever you were, why from Iceland to Foggia you gathered at her canteen and called her "Mom." . . . After a trip across the country, our Mary—I think we used to call Mary Pickford that—but it's Dolliver now—is going back to Italy for another two years. We wish her God speed and the best of everything. Our love goes with her . . . The weather has been unusually cool . . . Hitler is dead, Berlin fallen, Italy surrendered, yesterday's bully boys in hiding, in disgrace, slain, dishonored. The rubble will be cleaned and we will start the hard but welcome task of building tomorrow's fairer, better world.

☛ **ALONG THE MAIN DRAG.** The main stem is still a little dark at night—half the street lights out, no signs on and no windows or theatre marquis lighted. When the lights do come on again, we'll probably have to wear dark glasses . . . Fern Johnson, of Gowrie, has been commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the A. N. C. . . . S. Henry Dencker is dead. As long as I can remember, he was the genial proprietor of the Gold Bar on the corner of 1st Avenue South and 12th Street . . . J. Henry Muenster, city building commissioner, died last Monday . . . The Country Club opened with a dinner and dance last Monday evening. Two hundred were there. The club house is completely remodeled. This is the first time it's been open since the big wind last spring . . . Tyrus Hahn has sold the Paris Cleaners to Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Ostrem and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin O. Johnson . . . The contract for handling all the garbage collected in Fort Dodge has been awarded to Floyd Garrett. Garrett feeds the garbage to his hogs on a farm just south of Fort Dodge along the east bank of the river . . . 52,000 pounds of clothing have been shipped from Fort Dodge in the United Nations Clothing Collection . . . Plans are under way to start a wholesale market for rabbit meat in Fort Dodge. A plant will be built here by the Rabbit Breeders Co-op. Burkley Earles, of Fort Dodge, is president of the association . . . Johnny Savage has a beautiful new sign for his inn south of town on 169. Indians and teepees and covered wagons. And beautiful neon which will not be lighted until after the brownout . . . After several years unexplained silence C. L. R. is again brightening the Saturday news with a few carefully polished paragraphs yclept "The Old Home Town" . . . This is Paint Up, Clean Up Week. But it's been so unseasonably cold up to now, May 4th, that few have even removed their storm windows . . . Corpus Christi parish had a party Wednesday evening at the Laramar . . . The new telephone directory listing more phones in Fort Dodge than ever before goes to press next week . . . O. L. Norgaard, of Gowrie, has resigned as manager of the Gowrie Co-op Creamery and will move his family to Arizona. It is hoped the move will be beneficial to his son's health . . . The Salvation Army is opening a serviceman's center in its home on the square . . . The city parks opened last Sunday . . . Flash, Mayor Jesse Poole has ordered the sale of beer suspended until V-E observances end. Those observances contemplate the closing of all stores, etc., for 24 to 48 hours, a community songfest at the band shell, church services . . . The district convention of the Rebekah lodge will be held at Lehigh next Wednesday.

☛ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** Ensign Willis Moeller, carrier-based Hellcat Pilot, was in on the rescue lately of a fellow pilot who parachuted into Kagoshima Bay. Willis and the pilots of three other planes circled around the downed flier until a flying boat rescued him. They fought eight Zeroes during that time shooting down five . . . The Air Medal to Lt. Bob Stewart, navy dive bomber now at El Toro Air Station, Calif. Bob flew forty-four missions against the Japs in the South Pacific . . . Lt. Col. B. G. Marchi rode into Bologna on top of the first tank to enter the city.

☛ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Sgt. John T. Dishman, after 37 months in the E. T. O. He is now in Hot Springs . . . Harold Rossing, S 2/c, enroute to Shoemaker, California . . . Pfc. D. L. Johnson, after eight months in India . . . Sgt. C. A. Garlock, from deep in the heart of Germany . . . Ensign James M. Dolliver, home from flying with the coast guard . . . Lt. Frank Larson, from Okinawa . . . 1/Lt. and Mrs. Dale Calkin, from Rosecrans Field, Mo. . .

Gladys Thompson, S 2/c, is home for good, honorably discharged . . . Leonard F. Albright, Coxn., from England . . . S/Sgt. William Hubel, from Wakeman General Hospital, Camp Atterbury, Indiana . . . 1/Lt. Robert Chase, enroute to Vallejo, California . . . S/Sgt. Joe Stapleton, from the South Pacific . . . Sgt. James Mailander, from the C. B. I. theatre, where he flew 400 hours across the Hump . . . 1/Lt. Del J. DeWitt, B-24 navigator, from the E. T. O. . . . Johnny Dodgen, from Norman, Okla. . . Don Campbell, HA 1/c, from a troop transport in the Pacific . . . Pfc. Joe Dorsey, from Camp Howze, Texas . . . Cpl. H. E. Gardner, from the E. T. O. He was wounded in Luxembourg, Jan. 20th . . . Sgt. Tony Chardoulis, from 33 months in the Pacific . . . Cpl. Virgil "Bob" Taylor, from Iwo Jima . . . Major Lewis D. Baughman, from Camp LeJeune, N. C. . . Floyd J. Doty, Jr., from two years sub duty in the Pacific . . . S/Sgt. Ralph W. Coats, of Otho, from Co. G. in Italy . . . S/Sgt. Dale E. Wood, from Co. G. in Italy . . . T/5 William A. Freed, Rt. No. 1, Fort Dodge, from the 34th Div. in Italy . . . Capt. Joseph Kral, of Mallard, is back from Burma after two and a half years overseas . . . Otis Butrick, CY, now in Boston, has been in the Navy since Jan. 1938. It is the first time he has seen his brother, Fred, in seven years . . . Lt. R. J. Spinharney, of Barnum, back from North Africa and England, where he's been doing sub patrol in a B-24 . . . Major Walt Arnold, from Redding, Pa., where he has 600 civilian mechanics under him working on army trucks . . . Arnold Ewing, Petty Officer 1/c, from Norfolk, Va., on his way to a navy school for refresher course preparatory to pilot's training.

☛ **HONEYMOONERS.** Patricia Anne Jefferies, of Sutherland, and Cpl. James E. Davis, in Sutherland, Iowa, April 15th . . . Miss Bena Fellows, of Southwold, England, and S/Sgt. John Gilligan, in Southwold, March 7th . . . Betty Ann Ramler and Hubert Horner, April 25th, in Fort Dodge . . . Alice Gormally and Navy Petty Officer Alex M. La Rocca, of Sioux City, April 25th, in Fort Dodge . . . Ila Mae Tracy and Cpl. Robert C. Dunsmoor, in Fort Dodge, April 15th . . . Irene Newton and Urban Kramer, of Whittemore, in Fort Dodge, April 23rd . . . Lt. Isabel Knutson, of Callender, and George Larson, of San Diego, in San Diego recently . . . Mary Louise Hay and Pfc. Joe C. Brezovan, April 21st in Fort Dodge.

☛ **SCOREBOARD.** The Dodgers half-mile team—Melvin Pollard, Reyburn Kruckman, Henry Wasem and Duane Osam—won the half-mile at the Drake Relays last Saturday in 1:33.1, the fastest time in four years. Wasem finished second in the high hurdles and Lindner tied for third in the high jump . . . Last Friday night the Dodgers took Manson in a free swinging contest, 12 to 8. The Dodgers got eleven hits, Manson, five. Chelleen pitched most of the game for the Dodgers with Mericle doing relief duty in the final inning. Egli pitched for Manson.

☛ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** Pfc. Donald J. Windchanz was wounded in action in Germany April 16th . . . About twice as many Iowans have been killed in this war as died in World War No. 1. The death toll was 17 Iowans a day in March, 13 a day in April. Total since Pearl Harbor 5,728 . . . Pfc. John Maddox, Jr., who has been a prisoner of war is now liberated. So is Al Rabiner, Sam's boy . . . Sgt. John L. Weiss, Rt. 3, Fort Dodge, was killed on Luzon April 11th . . . Pfc. Art DuBois, of Lehigh, POW, has been liberated . . . Cpl. Wyatt Anderson, POW has been liberated and is in an English hospital . . . Sgt. D. R. Champlin, of Vincent, was wounded in action in Europe, April 3rd . . . Lt. Bruce Hanson, bombardier, and POW, has been liberated . . . Cpl. Howard Messerly has been wounded in action in Germany . . . Lt. Ed Law, B-29 pilot, of Clare, is reported missing in action as of April 2nd. His plane was based in the Marianas . . . Pfc. Robert Broadstone was wounded in Belgium January 13th . . . Pfc. John Laska was wounded in the Philippines in March . . . Pfc. Roy Johnson was wounded in Belgium January 14th . . . Sgt. J. R. White, of Coalville, was killed in action on Luzon, March 3rd . . . Pfc. Glen Brazier, is or was, a POW in Germany . . . E. C. Duehring, Seabee's Petty Officer, was killed in action in March.

☛ **OVER HERE.** Kenneth Haugen, S 2/c, of Badger, is going to signalman's school in Great Lakes and liking it fine . . . Lt. R. M. Bloomquist is going through army officer's maintenance engineering school at Chanute Field, Illinois . . . Lt. Alan V. Breen is at Camp Fannin, Texas . . . S/Sgt. Ted Rule is in the hospital with a bad knee at Ft. McArthur, Calif. . . Lowell Gleason, A/S, V12, of Webster City, is at Peru, Nebraska . . . Donald G. Lee, Chaplain, is with the Rome Air Service at Rome, New York. Thanks, Chaplain, for the "Vox Pop" . . . Don Barr, S 2/c, is at Miami, Fla. . . Lee Hagen, S 1/c, AOM, is at Banana River, Florida . . . Lt. R. W. Peterson is in Jacksonville, Fla. "I'm slowly progressing in multi-engine training and hope to end up in Liberators eventually."

☛ **SMALL WORLD.** T/5 Ernest Gabrish and T/Sgt. Verle T. Smith are in the same company and on Okinawa. They took part in the landing. "I like this place a lot better than the Philippines. More civilized. Gardens all over the place. Looks more like home."

Grow about the same vegetables." . . . Eugene Conway, S 1/c, and John Wells in Coronado, Calif. Gene talked to Joan Mills on the phone and saw Bobbie Peterson and Dee Laurent . . . R. W. "Bob" Wilson, S 1/c, Davy Crinnigan, BM 3/c, and Jack Jones, MoMM 2/c, somewhere in the South Pacific. Bob says, "We are looking for Bud Trost any day" . . . L. B. Arnold, MoMM 2/c and Harry Osborne, both formerly of Tobin's and now together in Hawaii. L. B. says, "This is a beautiful place, but I haven't seen any hula gals yet." . . . Capt. Maurice "Moe" Tierney and Cpl. Chet Smith got together in Germany somewhere on April 18th. "Moe" recently picked a piece of shrapnel out of his upper lip and acquired the Purple Heart. Friends may send mustache cups.

⊛ **PACIFIC.** On Okinawa now, Sgt. Quentin Fideler, with the 1st tank Bn. of 1st Marines, has been overseas 26 months and hasn't had a liberty in two years. He has seen Jim Peters, George Loots and Jimmie Burke . . . Lloyd W. Garrod, EM 3/c, is down in the South Pacific "on one of the largest things afloat." . . . Pfc. Bob Wickwire's outfit, somewhere in the Philippines, has been in combat for the last seventy days. Bob is holding down a Sgt's. job and pounding a typewriter . . . Cpl. Robert Young, of Lehigh, is in the Marianas working with the B-29's. Vee Montgomery is somewhere in the same island group . . . Cpl. Otis Cunningham is in the Marianas . . . T/5 Chas. C. Nutt, Jr., is stationed on a large and beautiful island in the Pacific. Then the little man with the big scissors stepped in and lopped off half a page. Aren't scissors wonderful, or are they? . . . Cpl. Richard Dallam is somewhere in the Pacific with the 65th Bomb Squadron . . . Sgt. Harry E. McBride is on Midway Island. "I would like to see some good black ground again. All we have out here is sand and gooney birds. You've heard about them!" . . . Pfc. Robert Kehm from down in the Marianas says "Hello" to John Schaupp and the gang at Tierney Electric. He says "hello" also to his cousin, Mrs. Bob Akerson and to Bob. "I'd like to hear from them."

⊛ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Bernard Loth, somewhere in Germany, found out through YLFH that his dad had bought a new house. But he still doesn't know where it is. Barney, it's up near Dodger Field. A very pretty place. When you come home, I'll take you out . . . Pfc. Al Saboe is somewhere in Germany . . . Cpl. W. C. Strom is somewhere in Germany. "Our boys ahead of us have sure done a swell job of tearing up the place. Have seen a number of towns flattened. Am living in an old hotel now and have a nice set-up." . . . Lt. Jack L. Jones with a Q. M. Service Company is somewhere east of the Rhine . . . Lt. Louie Katzman is across the Rhine with the 20th Armored Division . . . Sgt. Bob Lawson is somewhere in Germany. "This part of Germany makes me think I'm down around Lehigh. Wish I were. I'm getting pretty anxious to get back around the old Fort Dodge Lumber Company." So far this spring the fishing hasn't been too good, Bob. Too much rain. Thanks, Bob, for the post cards . . . Pfc. Gordon Hemerson, of Bradgate, is somewhere in Germany.

⊛ **MERRY ENGLAND.** Cpl. Art Zuetlaw is with the air corps in England . . . T/5 Fred Dalvey, with the signal corps, has been stationed in London for the past year.

⊛ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The history of the 133rd Infantry Regiment, of the 34th Division, from Lt. Col. B. G. Marchi, somewhere in Italy. Thanks, Col. . . A post card showing the new auditorium at Norfolk, Va., from E. "Mickey" Maguire, F 2/c. Thanks, Mickey. Ours will look just like that only more so . . . The 83rd Spearhead from Pfc. R. A. Harp, somewhere in Germany. Thanks, R. A. . . The Camp Clark Sentinel, Camp Clark, Missouri, which T/Sgt. M. H. Van Horsen says comes out or "just happens" every two weeks, is a mimeographed job and a good one, 16 pages long, typed in its entirety by Ruth Van Horsen. Van did the lead editorial in the last issue on the president's death. Thanks, Van. . . The Port of Embarkation patch from Cpl. K. W. Clarno, Tacoma, Washington. Thanks, Cpl. . . The European edition of the Yank for March 9th from Pfc. Vasilli P. Vannoni, somewhere in Italy. Thanks, Vasilli.

⊛ **OVERSEAS.** Ens. Jim Pilcher, blimp pilot, has been in Jamaica, Columbia, Panama, and is now c/o F. P. O., New York.

⊛ **HIGH C'S.** Ted O'Connor, Jr., S 2/c, is on the U. S. S. Niagara, out of San Francisco. He saw Norman Dickerson, GM 3/c, in San Pedro and heard from Willard Whitcome lately. "He is over in the thick of the Pacific affair and has seen plenty of action." . . . Lyle Barber, S 1/c, of Lehigh, is on the U. S. S. Seriano out of San Francisco.

⊛ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** To Lt., William K. Huskey, with the Engineers, somewhere in Italy.

⊛ **ALEUTIANS.** William H. Johnson, EM 2/c, is in the Aleutians. One of these days he's going to look up Bill Skophammer.

⊛ **BURMA.** Pfc. Tom Lentsch is in Burma. Several weeks back he spent 15 days in a rest camp in Calcutta in what used to be a girls' college. "It was a wonderful place." Thanks, Tom, for the "Ledo Road" patch and the Jap money . . . Lt. Earl R. Larson is with the 48th Evacuation Hospital in Burma. "It's getting very hot over here. I'll be glad when the monsoons start."

⊛ **SUNNY ITALY.** Pfc. Wendell Reed is in Northern Italy. He is with a traffic regulation Bn. in charge of supplies. "One hardly realizes until he sees it, the variety of equipment needed. Everything from a common pin to a tank. We have the job of seeing that this stuff gets to the proper places on time and without snarling up the roads."

⊛ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** Lt. Audrey Eslick, ANC, of Lehigh, is somewhere in France with the 133rd Evacuation Hospital. "There seems to be work for every minute, but no one minds because when we are busy, time flies." . . . Pvt. Clarence A. Forslund, writing from France, winds up his letter, "It's getting late so I'm going to cooshay toot-sweet. I don't parley-voo this Fransay's so very well, but I get by." Gosh, Clarence, are we going to have to go through all that again?

⊛ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Sgt. Warren Winslow, Okinawa. "Here's a report from Okinawa—just a hop,

skip and a jump from Tokyo. I'm sitting under a tall pine tree—artillery shells singing overhead, and in the background the sharp chatter of machine guns. With all this for a background I will tell you something about this place. The island in general is beautiful—small, well kept farms, sandy pine covered hills and many red tiled-roof villages. All along the hills are century old tombs and in the deserted homes are many beautiful red lacquered dishes. Many of the tombs, they say, contain much jade—haven't been fortunate enough to run onto any as yet. I met T/4 Blaine Phillips from home while I was in the hospital getting a sniper's slug attended to—nothing serious—enough for a 'Purple Heart.'

Leonard Fuller, M. M. 2/c, San Francisco. "I was reading one of Y. L. F. H. tonight when I noticed Kenneth Janssen's name in it, giving his address as the U. S. S. Ajax. The ship I'm on happens to be anchored in the same harbor with the U. S. S. Ajax. I'd like to tell you where it is, but I'm afraid the censor would object. As yet I've never met anyone from the Old Home Town. I guess I just don't get around much anymore."

1st Lt. Richard Sternitzke, APO 301, San Francisco. "Several weeks ago as I was thumbing through a phone directory, I saw the name of Lt. Morris Haskell. I called him, made arrangements to see him, and later had quite a chat with him. You probably know he's Special Service Officer for the 32nd Div." (Ed, Morris is now Capt. Haskell.)

Cpl. Vince Powers, China. "I just came over the 'hump' from India, via the Ledo-Burma Road. It was quite an experience. I drove all the way and didn't have a bit of trouble. Not even so much as a flat tire! Some of the fellows weren't so lucky. We lost a couple of trucks over the cliffs, but as a whole we did very well. It was one of the best convoys to go over. When we arrived in China, we were welcomed by a Major General, a Brigadier General and a full Colonel. Their names are censored topics for the present. It was quite a reception for a small outfit like ours. I guess they expect a lot of us."

Pfc. Marvin McCoy, France. "By the way, Ed, I met one of the old home town boys the other night, Joe Segreto. I was in the Red Cross center when I saw him, and it certainly was a surprise. We had quite a chat and talked over old times. He's only about 15 miles from here and I hope to see him again soon. It was great seeing him, first time in three years! He will appreciate the letter every week, I know."

Cpl. Richard Purkapile, APO 234, San Francisco. "At the present time we can say we are with the 21st Bomber Command and stationed in the Marianas Islands. At the present, we are plenty busy building our future quarters and are making some headway. We are living in pup tents until they are finished, so I'm getting used to sleeping on the ground. We had enough experience sleeping in them in the states, so it isn't new to me. There are plenty of coconuts around here, and I had my fill of them the first few days. In the states you find they are easy to crack, but here we just knock them out of the tree and cut the husk, or outershell, and plug them for the milk, which isn't bad. There are some banana trees on this island, too, but I haven't been over to that part yet. The food has been fairly good, in fact better than I expected over here. Fresh meat and vegetables once in awhile and today we had ice cream, sure could go for a malted milk or milk shake right now! We are rationed everything at the PX, one beer, one candy bar, one cigar a day, but all the cigarettes we want so that makes up for the other things. We moved out of Seattle on our trip over and had a few days at Pearl Harbor, although we weren't allowed off the boat. It seemed good to see land again, and everybody wished they could get off the boat even for a few minutes. We had some rough weather on the trip and I sometimes wonder what kept the boat from rolling over the way we tossed around the ocean. Quite a few cases of sea sickness, too, but it passed me by. I never knew the ocean was so large until the trip we took was over, and I was glad to set foot on land again no matter where it was."

Pvt. Marvin Bowers, Germany. "Well it's been some time since I've written, I believe the last time was while I was in France. Since then I've been in Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and now I'm stationed in Germany. We are living in an old factory and it's quite a mess, but we've fixed up some pretty nice places. They really bombed it! There are dead horses and cows around and we also found some dead men, which they didn't have time to bury. We have four German motorcycles and we have quite a time on them. I've taken two spills so far—one today, and my legs are sore now. We have a washing machine and a sewing machine, also an overstuffed set. We just walk in the houses and take what we need—every house and village around here is a wreck. I've been in Aachen and I saw the Siegfried Line—that's something to see! The best country is Holland. I've been to Leige, Belgium, on passes and we get ice cream and candy there."

And so to the end of another letter as the brute world of Hitler and the Prussian lords of war comes crashing down upon them. It's a horrible spectacle to witness even from this distance . . . Other swell letters came from S/Sgt. Elmer H. Gross, APO, San Francisco . . . Cpl. Woodrow Pride, APO, New York . . . Pfc. Foster F. Funk, somewhere in Germany . . . Pvt. Cecil C. Markley, Columbia Square, San Francisco, Calif. . . T/5 Cleo Hanson, Somewhere in China . . . Pfc. Marvin J. McCoy, Somewhere in France . . . Pvt. J. H. McNeilly, Geiger Field, Spokane, Washington . . . Melvin Oscar Phipps, c/o FPO, San Francisco, Calif. . . T/4 W. C. Allen, APO 408, New York . . . John F. Estlund, Newport, Rhode Island . . . Pfc. Lawrence Kuehnast, Roswell, New Mexico . . . 1/Lt. Carl E. Bahls, Laughlin Field, Del Rio, Texas . . . Pfc. Richard R. Dickerson, APO 18610, San Francisco, Calif. Thanks so much to all of you . . . Italy, Germany and now, Japan. The Nips shouldn't take long. Hurry home, my friend, we need you here.

Your home town correspondent,  
Ed Breen.