

Your Letter From Home

"What is your job?" asked the Judge.

"I'm a locksmith, sir," replied the prisoner.

"Then what were you doing in the gambling house when the police raided it?"

"I was making a bolt for the door."

—Belvoir Castle.

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

American Legion and 40 & 8
 Clinic Pharmacy and Supply
 Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric Co.
 Fort Dodge Tent & Awning Co.
 Rialto & Strand Theatres
 Brady Transfer & Storage Co.
 Becker Florists
 Larry Geer Ballrooms

Radio Station K V F D

A Russian recently returned from America, was telling the story of his experiences. "In America," he said, "you drive around in a limousine—for free. You get all sorts of beautiful clothes—for free. You stay in wonderful rooms in the best hotels—for free."

"All this happened to you?" asked his comrade.

"To me, no—but to my sister, yes!"

—Belvoir Castle.

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

Vol. 2, No. 35

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

June 22, 1945

☛ **DEAR JOE:** Here it is the first day of summer and very tall and handsome. I've been real proud of the weather the last few days. It's rained hardly any; it's been reasonably warm, the nights have been full of a moonlight and the days have been dripping with that very special sunshine that grows corn and oats and soy beans and makes this river valley one of the world's most beautiful garden spots.

☛ **AROUND THE TOWN.** Tierney's Restaurant is beautiful under a new coat of green and cream paint . . . The west window at Gates is showing a pup tent, and camp layout for the State Guard, now on the recruiting drive . . . **Fort Dodge By Products Company** is a new concern which will manufacture animal proteins . . . **Fred Cooper**, County Commander, has announced a county wide picnic for the **Legion** at Dolliver Park Sunday . . . **KVFD** has finally waxed its contribution to the Army's "Let's Go To Town" series, to be shortwaved to the battle fronts of the world. If you are listening you'll hear the band with **Karl King**, the **All-Girl Choir**, the **VE Songfest** in Fort Dodge, **Sully Mason's** band playing at **Larry Geer's Expo Ballroom**, the high school assembly giving a Fort Dodge cheer and singing a Dodger song, the fire trucks going out on a run, the town clock, the **Men's Glee Club** and **Mayor Poole**, **Al Loomis**, **Fred Cooper**, **Imogene Castle**, **Bill Bogart**, **Joe Kautzky**, **Fred Clark**, and a touch down run that **George Knack** reeled off last fall . . . The **Hargrave Company**, of Cedar Rapids, has gotten the contract to repave 100 blocks of pavement in Fort Dodge . . . "A" Gas coupons are now good for six gallons each . . . **Bob Merryman**, now discharged but entitled to a soldier's furlough allotment of gas, didn't get over to the ration board in uniform. When he finally went, he was in civics, wrote on his application "Need gas for a honeymoon." Sure he got it, but **Rion Dow** said, "We're going to have one heck of a time explaining this to Des Moines." . . . The **Crawford Hotel**, completely repaired and re-decorated after the fire last January, is holding open house tonight . . . They were lined up six deep and a block long for the war bond premier at the **Rialto** Wednesday evening. You got a ticket with the purchase of a war bond . . . Last Thursday evening **KVFD** did a three hour war bond show called "Command Performance." The deal was you ordered a bond and got to make a request. We promised to bring in anyone to sing, whistle or do tricks. High spots in the show—a pair of nylon hose brought a bond purchase of \$3,450.00. **Capt. Bill Gormally** read nursery rhymes; **Norris Nelson** and **Maxine Lund** howled like wolves, **Rube Wretman** and **Kenneth Hakes** got out of bed to sing; **Bill Shaw**, **Stan Brown** and **Dave Sinclair** were caught in a police cordon and brought in to sing "My Wild Irish Rose." . . . **Joe Steinmaus**, 53, of Duncombe, was drowned in Lost Island Lake, Monday night. He was fishing with two companions when the boat overturned . . . The city compromised. A beer license now costs \$225. Former cost, \$150. . . **John Brady** has been elected vice president of the Iowa Warehouseman's Association . . . The City has made a gain of 292 in population since Jan. 1st . . . **Blank Swaney's** pooch, "Meathead," a pedigreed Labrador that has gone to college, has been ruled out of the Elks Club rooms, **Blank** says, under Rule 10. Inspired by "Harvey," **Blank** is planning to adopt a rabbit. He says there is no rule against rabbits . . . **Dr. J. J. Foley** took a pair of shoes to a local boot shop recently. **Foley** said, "I like to wear these shoes and I'm in a hurry for them, but while I'm waiting my turn could I wear them and bring them back when you are ready to fix them." The repair man said, "No, you'll have to leave them here." **Foley** thinks the shoe repair business should be re-organized along dental office lines. **Foley** says, "I've got patients who have appointments for as far as September, and I don't make 'em sit in my office from now until then." . . . Speaking of shoes, **Swaney** says **Don Pearson**, sand and gravel merchant at **Humboldt**, has twenty or thirty pairs of shoes. **Swaney** explains it this way. "There are no shine parlors in **Humboldt**. Whenever **Pearson** got a pair of shoes dirty down at the plant, he just threw them in the closet and bought another pair." **Humboldt** vets take notice. Wonderful post war opening.

☛ **WEDDING BELLS.** **Velva Hay** and **Robert Pavey**, of **Humboldt**, MM 2/c, in Fort Dodge, June 24th . . . **Jerroldyne SeEVERS** and **Geo. John Strong**, EM 1/c, June 12th, in Newport News, Va. . . **Annabel Davidson**, of Bakersfield, Texas, and **F/O Irvin O. Smith**, at Alpine, Texas, May 25th . . . **Evelyn Cleveland**, of Badger, and **Sgt. K. D. Mandsager**, at Buzzard's Bay, Mass., June 9th . . . **Rita Harbacheck** and **Sgt. F. W. Willardson**, in Fort Dodge, July 3rd . . . **Colleen Sweeney** and **Pvt. Earl Page**, of Woolstock, June 18th, in Fort Dodge . . . **Betty Gaffey** and **Clarence Suer, Jr.**, in Oakland, California, June 6th. **Clarence** is just back from the Pacific Theatre . . . **Neva Knickerbocker** and **John Skinkaytis**, of Long Island, N. Y., June 29th, at Columbus, Ohio. They are both parachute riggers, second class in the navy . . . **Marion Pingel** and **Lloyd Messerly**, June 17th, in Fort Dodge . . . **Alma Siefert** and **Arthur Kolb**, June 10th, in Fort Dodge . . . **Ruth Hofmann**, of Vincent, and **FO Carl H. Schmalenburger**, of Omaha, Nebr., June 8th, in Vincent.

☛ **SCOREBOARD.** The **Manson Jr. Legion** team defeated the **Dodger Jr.** nine 8 to 0 in the first game of the season. **Ed McNeil**, of Somers, pitched for **Manson** assisted by **Dahlke**. The **Dodgers** got no hits. **Geo. Constantine** and **Dale Cochran** were clipped for eight hits . . . In the 5 county league last Sunday, **Fort Dodge** defeated **Farnhamville** 8 to 0; **Vincent** defeated **Manson** 3 to 0; **Gowrie** defeated **Lohrville** 3 to 0; and **Eagle Grove** defeated **Pomerooy** 13 to 5. **Proeschold** pitched for the **Dodgers**, allowing only three hits. **P. Lungrin** pitched for **Farnhamville** . . . The **Dodger Independents** defeated **Bancroft** 8 to 3 last Wednesday.

☛ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** **Fred W. Crouse, Jr.**, S 1/c, from the **USS Noble, APA**. **Fred** was at **Guadalcanal** and **Tulagi**, **Ulithi** in the **Carolinas**, and was in on the invasion of **Okinawa** . . . **Sgt. Arthur Zuelau**, from 23 months with the air force in **England** . . . **Max Treloar, GM**, is home from the **Pacific** after ten major engagements. **Max** was in on **Iwo Jima** and **Okinawa** . . . **S/Sgt. M. J. Yetmar**, home from the **German** prison camp at **Moosburg**. He was held there a little over three months . . . **Pvt. Paul F. Whittington**, from **Camp Hood, Texas** . . . **T/Sgt. Harry Largent**, from **Camp Lee, Va.** . . . **Erwin O. Jones, S 1/c**, from the school of music at **Washington, D. C.** . . . **Lt. Kent Damon**, enroute to **Portland, Maine** . . . **Lt. Richard Gadbury**, from **Italy** . . . **F/O Robert Winslow**, from **Childress Field, Texas** . . . **Clarence Suer, Jr.**, **Mo MM 2/c**, after two years in the **Pacific** . . . **Ens. John R. Markey**, Pilot of a navy search plane in the **South Atlantic** . . . **Mrs. Neva Thompson**, **S 2/c**, from **Indianhead, Md.** . . . **Chief Commissary Steward Richard Ahrens**, from 22 months sub duty in the **South Pacific** . . . **S/Sgt. T. John Trowbridge**, from **England** after completing 30 missions in a **B-24** as a nose gunner . . . **Lt. Edward Kelleher**, from 23 months in the **South Pacific**, aboard a mine sweeper . . . **Lt. Vic Merryman**, from a **German** prison camp . . . **Lt. Tom Tierney**, from the **Pacific** theatre . . . **Pvt. Joe Harrington**, from **Sioux City** . . . **T/Sgt. Chas. Klinger**, from a **German** prison camp . . . **Pvt. Paul Schwering**, of **Duncombe**, after 34 months overseas in the **Mediterranean** theatre with the ground crew of the army air force . . . **Lt. Vyva Cavanaugh Kerr**, from **New River, N. C.** . . . **S/Sgt. Richard Wretman**, from a **German** prison camp . . . **1st Sgt. William Todd**, from **Shreveport, La.** . . . **Sgt. Frank W. Jensen**, from **Santa Rosa, California** . . . **Capt. Francis E. Drake**, from **Washington, D. C.** . . . **Don Echelberger**, **Petty Officer 2/c**, from **Liberty, Mo.**, where he is in flight training . . . **Durwood Burtis**, **MM 3/c**, and **Daryl Burtis**, **AGM 2/c**. **Durwood** has been in the **South Pacific** for over a year. **Daryl** is at **Varo Beach, Fla.** . . . **Lt. Bruce Hanson** from 19 months in a **German** prison camp.

☛ **WAR'S GRIM TOLL.** **Pfc. Albert Broz** was killed in action on **Okinawa**, **May 8th** . . . **Pvt. A. B. Parker** died of wounds on **Luzon**, **June 7th** . . . **Pvt. Earl Morley** was badly burned on **Luzon** recently. A smoke grenade exploded near him . . . **Pfc. James Lyons** was slightly wounded on **Luzon** recently.

☛ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** **1st Lt. Willard W. James** sends his best regards to his old buddies, **Sgts. Smoksted** and **Reichert**. **Willard** is in **Reims, France** . . . **Pfc. John D. Cook** is now in **France**, stationed near **Marseille**.

☛ **BURMA T/5 Stanley Widlund**, of **Manson**, is in **Burma**, **APO 218**.

☛ **PACIFIC.** **Pfc. Ward Gray**, of **Rockwell City**, has returned to civilization from the jungles of **New Guinea** to the streets and boulevards of **Manila** . . . **Leonard E. Meyer**, **AO 3/c**, is a member of the air-sea rescue group in the **Marianas**. The **PHY's** used by this group can land on either land or water, and because of its efforts many a "lost" airman is now back fighting the **Japs** . . . **Pvt. Karl Loots** is in the hospital down on **Guam**, the first time in his life he has ever been in a hospital, and he doesn't like it. "I stuck my square head up at the wrong time. The bullet went through my right cheek, and through my right shoulder and out my back. I'm all right though, it's not even bad enough to send me state-side, damn it." Hope you find **Phil** . . . **Cpl. Harold E. Wiley**, of **Burnside**, who was wounded at **Iwo**, is now with the **MP's** somewhere out that a-way . . . **Don Anderson**, **PhM 1/c**, of **Humboldt**, is with **LCT Group 100**, **Flotilla 34**, somewhere out that a-way . . . **Cpl. Louis E. Fidler, Jr.**, was in on the **D-Day** of the first landing of **American** troops to re-capture **American Territory** from the **Japs** . . . **W. C. Nowlin**, **CM 2/c**, is at **Camp No. 5**, **Shop X61**, **Navy 926**, **FPO**, **San Francisco, Calif.** . . . **Cpl. Richard Purkapile** is on **Guam** with the **21st Bomber Command** . . . **Russell Hill**, **Y 2/c**, in the navy three years and a half, is now stationed in **New Guinea** . . . **Pvt. Harold Bass** is getting his mail at **APO 74**, **San Francisco** . . . **Albert McMahon** is in the **South Pacific**.

☛ **CHINA.** Over in **China** where **Pvt. John Doud** is stationed, **GI's** are organizing a soccer team to play the **British** and **French**. "I've never played before but I think I'll try it anyway."

☛ **S/Sgt. Jacob Tungesvik**, with the air force in the **ETO**, had a busy day recently, three planes cracked up on the field. "The busiest we have been since **VE** day."

☛ **HIGH C'S.** **R. Rex-Funk**, **PhM 1/c**, is on the **USS Bright, DE 747** . . . **C. J. Graves**, **EM 1/c**, is on the **USS Redstart, A. M. 278**, out of **New York** . . . **Clifford L. Clabaugh**, **SC 1/c**, is on the **USS**

New York, out of San Francisco, California . . . Conrad Taylor, MoMM 1/c, is on the USS Tyrell out of San Francisco.

☉ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** Volume 1, No. 1 of the Southern Germany Edition of Stars and Stripes, from T/5 Newell S. Porter, somewhere in Germany. Newell has been overseas more than two years, and has yet to meet his first Dodger. His APO is 350. Thanks, Newell . . . The China Lantern from Cpl. Sigwell Simonson, of Badger, now in China. Thanks, Sigwell . . . The Skylighter from T/5 L. L. Chinberg, on Oahu Isle. Thanks, L. L. . . . The Mine Sweeper's patch from Milford Johnson, F 1/c. Milford, who is on the USS Thompson, DMS, is home now enjoying Mom's cooking.

☉ **DAS REICH.** T/5 Bernard Loth, somewhere in Das Reich, is teaching a class in "Backgrounds to Modern European Political History." . . . Pvt. Stanley Schrepfer, who used to work at the U. S. G. is somewhere in Germany . . . Stationed at Tamback, Germany, with a 57 MM anti tank gun, Gilbert J. Strait is now a staff sergeant. In villages near him are other Dodgers, Lt. O'Connor, Pfc. Dixon and Pvt. Raymond Anglin. Thanks a million for the 5000 marks, Gib. . . Pfc. Lawrence Larson, Jr., of Badger, was with the 331st Med. Bn. of the 106th Division when they were cut off for four days in the battle of the bulges. Larry now has a wreath for Meritorious Service to wear on his sleeve. This outfit is doing border duty between Saarbuecken and Wessienbourh.

☉ **85 CLUB.** Walter "Buck" Vargason is now a Corporal and on his way home with a bronze star. Buck and Mary are yearning to get back to Fort Dodge and the green fields of Iowa, to the land of milk and honey where it is still possible, on occasion, to find a T-Bone steak two inches thick . . . S/Sgt. C. A. Garlock, back from Germany, was discharged at Jefferson Barracks last Friday . . . Sgt. Robt. Moore was discharged this week at Fort Logan, Colorado.

☉ We play all requests that you send in, in your letters, and notify the persons for whom they are being played before they go on the air. Soooo—if you will send along the address and telephone number of your requestee it will HELP!

☉ **OVER HERE.** Dorothy J. Havens, AMM 1/c, is actually working on planes now at Ellyson Field, Pensacola, Fla. . . LaVerne E. Clausen, Sk. 2/c, is at Treasure Island, San Francisco . . . Bud Becker is out of the army, honorably discharged from the army hospital at Camp Carson, Colorado, and is now with his folks at Pharr, Texas . . . Walt McGill, is back in the states on leave and is expected in Fort Dodge soon . . . Jesse Easley, S 1/c, is in the US Naval Hospital at Seattle, Washington. "Doing fine. Back to duty soon." . . . Capt. Leroy N. Larson is enjoying life at Ocean Spray Hotel in the center of Swank Miami Beach. "I am thoroughly enjoying this atmosphere." . . . Major William J. Terrill is stationed at Camp Butner, S. C. . . Sgt. Billy Russell Goodman, my Marine salesman, and his wife are now stationed at El Centro, California. "Out in the climate that oranges love." Billy says, "It was 130 on the airfield yesterday." . . . Ist Lt. Bernard Gillispie is back in the states from a German prison camp, he's at Norfolk, Virginia, and expects to be in Fort Dodge by the middle of July.

☉ **HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD.** After nineteen months of work and sweat, he is now F/O Chas. D. Freed, and has his silver wings. Chas. is flying B25's at Douglas, Arizona . . . Bernard Loth to T/5 . . . Herbert Tyrell to Cpl. . . Paul Halligan, EM 3/c, to 2/c . . . Harold L. Harvey to Pfc. . . Gill Fletcher, down on Okinawa, to Cpl. . . M/Sgt. Mert Williams is now 2nd Lt. with the 599th Ambulance Company in Germany. Mert got his commission in the field . . . Dave Hill, hospitalized in England, after a bad plane crack up, is now a 1st Lt. . . Capt. Duane Crouse recently had his picture appear in the press with Gen. Clark and Gen. Tato. . . Doug. King, Donna Bell Bodenstein's husband has been doing army errands over in Italy in a car that was formerly the private car of German General Kesselring. He is driving from somewhere in Italy to the Swiss border.

☉ **SMALL WORLD.** In the hospital in Naples, Clarence "Punk" Larson, Civy Nelson and Herbie Tyrell. Herb has been over there for two years and is looking forward to coming home.

☉ **POE TREE DEPARTMENT.** These gems were found in my office after the last letter addressing bee of the Wa Tan Ye girls. Thought you'd like 'em . . . Effusion No. 1 . . . If he parks his fliver down beside the moonlit river . . . And you can feel him all a' quiver, baby, he's a wolf! If he says you're gorgeous lookin' and you're dark eyes set him cookin' . . . But your eyes ain't where he's lookin', baby, he's a wolf! When he says you are an eye-bul but his hands begin to trifle . . . And his heart pumps like a rifle. Baby, he's a wolf! If by chance when you are kissin' you can feel his heart a missin' . . . And you talk and he won't listen, baby, he's a wolf! If his arms are strong like sinew and he stirs the gypsy in you . . . So that you want him close agin' you, maybe, you're the wolf! . . .

Drip No. 2 . . . He grabbed me by my slender neck . . . I could not breathe nor scream . . . He took me to his dingy room . . . Where I could not be seen . . . He tore away my flimsy wrap . . . He gazed upon my form . . . I was cold and chilly . . . Ah! but he was nice and warm . . . He pressed his feverish lips to mine . . . I could not make him stop . . . He drank away my heart and soul . . . I could not call a cop . . . He made me what I am today . . . Broken, cast off, thrown away. And that is why you see me here . . . A disillusioned bottle of beer.

☉ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Pvt. Leonard E. McCarville, Island of Oahu, T. H. "The beer over here that is made on this island is the real McCoy. It's plenty high though, costs 20c a glass; but then the beer at the PX isn't fit to sell to a bum and that's no kidding! I have been to a lot of Luas over here and I really have had a swell time at all of them—all the pig and drinks you can pack away. They always have one for a new baby, or when it is a year old, or when someone is married. By the way, I still can't eat this raw fish and Poi, but if I stay here much longer I am liable to. I saw Leo Campbell, who is with the shore patrol, in Honolulu sometime ago. Guess I'll have to look him up the next time I go to Honolulu again and shoot the breeze with him. Tell his brother, Jim, on the police force 'hello'."

T/5 Bernard Loth, Deutschland. "Last Sunday we had a trip to Berchtesgaden and Salzburg. It was a very interesting trip and we took a lot of pictures. Hitler's hideout was not in Berchtesgaden itself, but on up the mountain in a little town called Obersalzberg. The place was badly ruined by bombs, but we did get plenty of pictures and I'll send you some when they are finished. We also got some pictures of Goering's special train and had a chance to go through it. We got to Salzburg in the afternoon and visited the famous old castle and much of the town. The one thing we didn't get to see was the Art collection in Goering's home at Berchtesgaden. It is estimated that there is five hundred and fifty million dollars worth of stolen art there. The army seems to feel that the only ones who can really appreciate it are the officers, anyway the average enlisted man isn't allowed to go through the place. It burns us up a little! Goering thought that the only people that should appreciate the art were the Germans, and then later decided that only the top ranking Nazis could appreciate it."

Cpl. Don Horner, Okinawa. "There are four Fort Dodgers in this outfit and all of us keep in pretty good touch with one another. As this campaign is in sight of the end, all of us realize we are one step closer to home as well as to Tokyo. We are getting the necessary things that a combat outfit would expect to get such as: cigarettes, candy, gum and meals, but it surely would be a relief to get back home and live out of the garden instead of these tin cans all the time. We have had some fresh vegetables out of the Jap gardens here. Sweet potatoes, garlic and onions grow wherever you put seeds here, there are a lot of rice paddies too. It rains a lot here, but today the sun was out and dried things off a little. Every night it usually rains though, and it's a pretty safe bet you'll wake up to the tune of raindrops in your face. I haven't had a chance to get around much yet, but was up to Shuri, and it was easy to tell that the Infantry and Marines were ahead of us. The buildings here are all poorly constructed. They are made of bamboo and lumber with a thatched roof. The last letter I received from you had a word on it from Mrs. Roy Tyler and Mary Keough and I want to thank them for the greeting. The fellows from Fort Dodge in this battalion are Laurence E. Day, Mel Deuhring, Harold Lowe, and Don L. Horner." Thanks, Don, for "The Sunday Salvo."

Pfc. Foster Funk, Brunchweig, Germany. "Have been keeping myself pretty busy at our Straggler Point. Lately we have been taking care of Civilian War Criminals, hauling them to an internment camp. We really have them toeing the line. I just came back from a two day trip this morning and I'm plenty tired out. I've got a German phonograph here beside me and I'm trying to get a little music out of it. All I've got are German records, and about two out of twenty are good enough to listen to."

Sgt. Richard T. Zimmer. On tour of So. Pacific with Dick Jurgens Band. "So far I've met Russell Novy, Paul Hannon, Paul Peterson, Carl Theiss, Leonard Fuller, Eldon Faine, Jim Clark, Duane Hart, Bill Day and John Hanna and I almost forgot Arthur Hammond. Lord knows how many more I'll meet. Of all the guys in Dick Jurgens' Band, I've met the most guys from home. I have sort of a record on that subject. Looks like old Fort Dodge is well represented in the Pacific. I've met many more too, but they are in hospitals and I don't know if their folks have been officially notified of their wounds yet. All are doing well, and I might add I'm sure all concerned at home can rest at ease as the hospitals we have are the finest, and the doctors and nurses too, as well as the equipment. During the day a small portion of the show and band goes through the ward entertaining the boys. So I've seen what we have. One thing that amazes me is the skill with which the doctors repair burned, damaged and otherwise mutilated faces of boys. Not practically good as new, but just as good as new. With God's help and Medical Science a great percentage of the boys are being saved, where in the last war—well the old timers can tell you about that."

Cpl. Don F. Mathey, Langfeld, Germany. "We are now slowly moving back over the same territory we had to fight our way over not long ago. Everything looks about the same, except that summer is now here and the countryside is beautiful."

Pfc. Robert O'Connor, England. "I'll be home before long, should have been home over two weeks ago. I'm holding my breath that I'll be hospitalized in northern part of the mid-west when I get there. I lost all my addresses etc., so hope all the guys I was writing to will know why I haven't answered their letters. People from the old home town have been more than writing and it is a swell way to kill time. I'm with a swell bunch of guys in this ward and we have the best doctors. It took four operations to get my arm all set and now it should only be a matter of time before it's all right. I also got hit in the end, and that hit a nerve which I'm hoping time will heal."

Cpl. Frank Valashek, Schlading, Austria. "Our Field Artillery Battalion is located up in the mountains. We are told they are part of the Alps. Our Bivouac area is a flat plot of land, bordered on two sides by snow-covered mountain peaks. On one side is a fast flowing mountain stream, which is fed by snowbanks and the water is plenty cold. The mountain sides are covered with trees. We have a village near here with winding streets and it has fairly large highly decorated buildings. There are two church steeples that extend above the other buildings. They really look pretty with the mountain side as a background; the scenery is beautiful."

And there were lots of other swell letters from a lot of other grand people. This little poop sheet just isn't big enough to hold them all . . . Now I am going down to the river and get out the canoe. And maybe we can persuade the little woman to bring along a tin of beef or some wieners or even a bite of K rations and we'll have a picnic, maybe rub a couple of sticks together and build us a fire. Charlie says he once knew a gentleman who knew a trick better than any boy scout. He could start a fire by rubbing an insurance policy against the rafters of an empty building. Hoping you are the same, I'll be back in this spot next week. So long and good luck.

Your home town correspondent,
Ed Breen.