

Your Letter From Home

Conductor: "Can't you read that sign that says 'No Smoking?'"

GI: "Sure, bub, that's plain enough, but you've got a lot of crazy signs here. One of 'em says 'Wear Nemo Corsets'—so I ain't payin' attention to any of 'em."

—The Ship's Log, Bremer-ton, Wash.

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 Scrum Co.
 The Tobin Packing Co.
 The Elks Club of Fort Dodge
 Radio Station K V F D

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

A little girl said: "Mamma, that iceman must be an awful good Christian." "Why?" asked the mother. The child said: "He dropped a big piece of ice on his foot and hopped to the sidewalk and sat down and talked to God."

—The Ship's Log, Bremer-ton, Wash.

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Vol. 2, No. 31.

WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

May 25, 1945

DEAR JOE: Another class is graduating, the girls and boys of 1945. The Dodger is out in Fort Dodge. Appropriate inscriptions have been written in them. The various ceremonies have been held and last night J. Ray Files, who years ago coached winning debate teams at Dodger high—Judge Richard F. Mitchell was one of his proteges—was here to deliver the commencement address. Ray lost one son in the service—in the ill-fated paratroop operation north of Nimegen in Holland—and another boy is a Lt. Col. in the Air Corps . . . Many of the girls have summer jobs—most of the boys are waiting for that notice if they have not already received it. Some are already in and only waiting their call . . . We were canoeing Sunday. Lots of people were out and the river is beautiful but the rains keep on, the damdest rains you ever saw. The skies clear for a little while and then again we are in a down-pour. It's terrific. We've been trying to get the state baseball tournament started right but everything has been against us . . . The Army show "This Is Your Infantry" will be here tomorrow night at 8:30 at the stadium. All stores are closing at 8:00 o'clock . . . We hope that when another year rolls by, that the boys of the class of 1946 will NOT be looking forward to life in the army, the navy, the marines, or the air corps.

AROUND THE TOWN. "Here's Your Infantry" is coming here tomorrow night to show Ma and Pa and little sister Annie what makes the infantry tick. Thirty-nine vets from all fronts will take a Jap pill box set up in the center of Dodger Field. The town is planning to close about eight o'clock so that everyone can take in this little bit of hell. The show is put on by the Army for the Seventh War Loan drive . . . Father James Shanahan, of Barnum, is completing arrangements to go back to Ireland for a visit with his mother . . . Paper is critically short and Frank McTigue is urging us all to carry market baskets . . . Algon's only war baby, the hemp mill is closed. It had a short life . . . Rev. Magnus Nodtvedt delivered the sermon Sunday evening at the graduating exercises of the Senior Class . . . The Big Dodger for '45 is out, a fine book with a front piece photograph in full color . . . Kiwanis Club is celebrating its 25th anniversary in Fort Dodge. Eleven charter members were present at the anniversary dinner Tuesday evening . . . The May waste paper pickup was held last Wednesday . . . Joe Fiala, age 51, had been in ill health for months. Last Sunday he went to the basement of his home and hung himself . . . A Pied Piper from Ames, Iowa State College, is here to run the rats out of town . . . J. Ray Files, former Fort Dodge attorney, now practicing law in Los Angeles, delivered the commencement address to the Dodger senior class last night. Files was once debate coach at Dodger high . . . Lanyon and Slifer are over the top in the war bond drive . . . Charlotte Ford is returning to Fort Dodge to direct the town's new recreation program. She has been a U. S. O. director with headquarters in Washington . . . For several days we have been having mysterious explosions. Now the mystery is solved. Five boys stole 100 sticks of dynamite from one of the mills on VE day and since then have been having fun shooting it off . . . The Lions played to standing room only when the KVFD players, under the direction of Frank Strode, produced "You Can't Take It With You" for Lion's charities. 1200 laid a buck each on the line . . . Last Saturday evening Duncombe used its new city well for the first time. The new well is a thousand feet deep and supplies very good water.

ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING. Lt. Jack Cedarholm, of Gowrie, from the Pacific. He met Capt. John M. Rhodes in the New Hebrides. Jack has been with the Inspector General's office and has covered lots of territory from New Zealand to Peleliu. His short snorter bill carries the names of Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Bing Crosby, Ray Milland and many other celebrities . . . Pfc. Lucian E. Peterson from overseas on a 30 day leave . . . Lt. Galen Hambleton from Childress, Texas . . . Ens. Lloyd Hambleton, newly winged and commissioned, Galen's brother from Pensacola, Florida . . . Lt. Frances Knutson from Camp McCoy, Mo., enroute to Camp Beale, Cal. . . Floyd Doty, SM 1/c, from the west coast . . . David Sternitzke, F 1/c, from the Pacific . . . Pvt. Murray Markley from Camp Crowder, Mo. . . Robt. and Darrell DuBois, Darrell from a hospital in Brigham City, Utah; and Bob from a veterans' hospital . . . Pfc. Jimmie Boggs, out of the Marines and home honorably discharged . . . Lt. and Mrs. Richard Mulroney from Washington, D. C., enroute to Sacramento, Calif. . . Pfc. Clinton Ruby from a Nazi prison camp . . . Cpl. Warren E. Kelly from the Pacific enroute to the Philadelphia Navy Yard . . .

WAVE Ruby Garrett from Washington, D. C. . . Pvt. Clifford Schlesinger from Brookings, S. D. . . S/Sgt. Otto Jacobson, Jr., from six months overseas . . . Pfc. Carl Jones from Camp Edwards, Mass. . . Lt. (j. g.) Robt. Welp from the Pacific . . . Pfc. Geo. Katnik from Ft. Sam Houston, Texas . . . Pfc. Richard Hanson from Gulfport, Miss. . . F. O. Robt. D. Michael from Santa Maria, Calif.

LIBERATED. Lt. E. E. Weiss from a German P. W. camp. He is in a hospital in England having a physical checkup . . . Pfc. Raymond Kehm. He was captured in Italy . . . Pfc. Glen Grazier. He was a prisoner since January 6th . . . Sgt. R. L. Schultz. He was taken prisoner January 22nd. Lt. Howard Erricon after one year in a German camp . . . Pfc. E. L. McMahon, of Clare. He had been a prisoner for over two years . . . Sam Neill, Jr., after 27 months in a German prison camp . . . Sgt. W. D. Jondle. He was captured in Italy last October 17th . . . Lt. Delmar Schmidt. He was taken in the fall of 1943 . . . Pvt. W. W. Chellean. He had been a prisoner since last July 30th . . . Pfc. B. J. Nordin, first

inductee from Gowrie, is free and back in the U. S. A. . . Pvt. V. F. Harvey, made a prisoner October, 1944, is out . . . Lt. Chester Bruce Hanson is liberated . . . Lt. Donald Kehm, prisoner since March 6, 1944, is free . . . A prisoner since Jan. 30, 1944, Lt. R. E. Davis, is free . . . Pfc. Arthur DuBois, of Lehigh, is home from a Nazi prison camp . . . S/Sgt. Richard Wretman, from 17B, near Vienna. Dick is expected home daily.

WAR'S GRIM TOLL. Pfc. A. P. Johnson was wounded in Germany, April 30th . . . Pvt. Dale Decker was wounded on Okinawa May 5th. He was hit by shrapnel in one hip and both legs . . . Sgt. S. R. Sapp died suddenly of diphtheria in the Philippines . . . Cpl. William Pum was wounded in action in Germany last month.

HOME TOWN BOYS MAKE GOOD. The air medal to Sgt. Jay G. Hanson, of Dayton . . . The air medal to Lt. Dale Sperry . . . The presidential unit citation to Lt. Kenneth E. Moreland . . . The Congressional Medal of Honor has been awarded posthumously to Capt. D. R. Lindsey who went down over France with his Martin Marauder after he had given his crew time to bail out. It was August 9, 1944. Capt. Lindsey was leading a formation over a railroad bridge in France. His ship was hit and the bomber took fire. He held the ship on its course, dropped the bombs on the target and ordered the crew to bail out. Before he could leave himself, the ship went down in flames. He was 25 years old and married. He had completed almost fifty missions. Only one other Iowan has received the Congressional Medal.

SCOREBOARD. In the Big Seven meet at Des Moines, the Dodgers knocked off four firsts and picked up a few other points to finish in 3rd place with East, of Des Moines, out in front and North, of Des Moines, in 2nd place. Osam won the broad jump with a mark of 20 feet 5 1/8 inches. Wasem took the high hurdles in 16.2, a good mark for the wet track. The relay team, Osam, Wasem, Pellard and Kruckman won the mile and the half mile in 3:38.2 and 1:34.9. The final track meet of the year will be held at Ames tomorrow . . . The state baseball tournament got off to a late start on account of rain. The first games were played Wednesday. Roosevelt of Cedar Rapids defeated Somers, score 6-0. Elkader took Harlan, score 4-3. In the afternoon Mason City nosed out Dowling, Des Moines, and won from Dowling by a score of 4-2. East Waterloo won over Anthon, score 3-1. In the semi finals played yesterday, Roosevelt of Cedar Rapids defeated Elkader, score 3-1; and E. Waterloo beat Mason City, score 2-0. Today Cedar Rapids and E. Waterloo are matched for the state championship. Final scores will be given next issue.

HIGH C'S. Gerald H. Gronwall, SM 1/c, is on the U. S. S. Oglethorpe out of New York.

INDIA. Floyd Zeka, now a corporal, says hello to Clarence Youngren wherever he may be. Floyd is in India with the Air Transport Command and says it looks as if his outfit would be there until the end of the war. They were glad, in India, when the war ended in Europe but there wasn't much celebrating. "Most of the men took it calmly as we know it isn't over for us."

HEARTS AND FLOWERS. Violet Savill, of Southland, England, and Sgt. Chas. Waske, of Moorland, in England recently . . . Marian Anne Pingel and Lloyd Messerly, June 10th, in Fort Dodge . . . Betty Reimers and Curtis Pieper, June 10th, in Vincent . . . Eileen Scholl, of Gilmore City, and James Blanchet, of Dayton, June 4th, in Clare.

PACIFIC. Sgt. Olin Maage is in Okinawa . . . Pfc. Earl Phillips is now in the Philippines after having stopped over in New Guinea and in the Dutch East Indies. Earl says New Guinea stinks. "The Dutch East Indies was one of the best places we've been. The only trouble was it was too dusty or it was raining. But the moon sure came out bright and that was when I wished I was home again. In the Philippines everyone we saw was glad to see us. People along the road would salute you. A lot of them would take off their hats and come to attention." . . . Maurice A. Fiferlick, AEM 3/c, is working on Navy Liberators somewhere out that way . . . Sgt. Carlyle Macken is in action in the Philippines . . . Den E. Bruntlett, S 1/c, is somewhere on Luzon . . . Cpl. Wilbur J. Swanson is on an island recently invaded in the western Pacific . . . Pfc. Earl Phillips is somewhere in the Philippines, APO 31 . . . R. H. Seidles, SC 3/c, is somewhere in the Pacific. "I am a cook or at least I carry the third class cook's rate. That seems to be a matter of opinion." . . . Lt. J. B. Anderson is headed for a new station in the Pacific with LCI (L) Flotilla 5, Group 15 . . . Pfc. Darwin Brand is now in the Philippines, APO 159 . . . John H. Hayes, AM 3/c, is now somewhere in the Pacific . . . Cpl. Bernard Shimon is APO 331, C/o PM, San Francisco . . . Lawrence "Red" Doyle, RM 2/c, now on a cruiser, is back in "beautiful" Hawaii. Recently he met George Loots. Larry writes, "Say hello to my brother in the Philippines and to all the others of the Class of '43." . . . Cpl. Wm. R. Oswald is now on the Island of Oahu. Says, "From the looks of this place am convinced that the guys that wrote about the beauty of Hawaii have never been here." . . . Sgt. James L. Rodenborn, APO 502, San Francisco, has been moved from Saipan to New Caledonia. He has met two Dodgers, namely: Louis Charon and Cliff Melison.

SMALL WORLD. On the island of Oahu, Pvt. Leonard E. "Chick" McCarville has been out calling on the home town boys. Recently he and his brother Ray got together with Vera Richards. "I have also been over to see Leo Lennon. He is on the same field with me but he is in the hospital. He was operated on for

hernia about three days ago and is getting along fine. I get over to see Danny Hide every now and then. Tell my old buddy, Bob Lawson, hello and tell my wife I send her love and kisses." Chick has been classified 4F and is hoping to get back to God's country soon. Thanks, Leonard, for the clipping . . . Pvt. R. E. Arn and Maurice Bestick in Bonn, Germany. "Had quite a time, plenty of liberated wine and beer." . . . Pfc. Ray Dixon and Cpl. Gilbert Straight. "It was quite a coincidence meeting Gilbert. We were in a town here in Germany parked along a street waiting for orders and I noticed his identification bracelet. I asked him to look at it and lo and behold, he had his name and home town on it. We were both quite surprised as we had been riding together for a week and didn't know each other." . . . Joseph G. Doyle, S 2/c, and Lt. Paul Hogan at Samar Island in the Philippines. Joe is in the postoffice there; Paul is flying a Corsair. Thanks, Joe, for the callet and the snapshots . . . Lt. Harold Dessinger, Howard Merryman and Dick Heman at a Depot near Paris. They spent two days together. "It was like money from home or like receiving YLFH."

☉ **SUNNY ITALY.** Sgt. Ernest R. Peterson is back in Sunny Italy after a fifty-two day furlough in the states . . . S/Sgt. Floyd Wempe is somewhere in Italy, APO 520, with the 429th Squadron.

☉ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** Pfc. Richard Culver sends the Combat History of the 79th Division. "I've been a part of this Division since June 22nd, 1943. Thanks, Richard . . . The insignia of the Army Hostess, librarian service, from Glada Strode, Topeka, Kansas. Thanks, Glada . . . The Combat History of the 79th and the Story of the 79th from Sgt. Richard W. Humphrey, Hq. Btry., 311th F. A. Bn. Thanks, Sgt. . . . The European edition of Yank from T/4 F. A. Engelbart. Thanks, Fred . . . Flight, Sky Supply, WAVES News Letter, the Alway and a copy of a story about Pvt. Anver Habhab and his dog Scotty from the Detroit Press which includes a very handsome picture of Scotty, from Lt. (j. g.) Katherine Saunders. Thanks, Lt. . . . The Letter Pusher from Wm. Bales, S 1/c, C/o Fleet Postoffice, San Francisco. The first issue of it. Thanks, Bill . . . The Memflite from Susan Peschau, AMM 2/c, Memphis, Tenn. Thanks, Susan.

☉ **OVERSEAS.** Pfc. George Brown writing back from somewhere overseas does a little ribbing of his uncle John. George writes, "Can this be the great John Brown of the John Brown Grocery, who sent the painters to paint a church steeple and they got the wrong church? This created quite a difference between the Arm-strongs and the John Browns until the error was corrected." . . . Fred N. Cooper, Jr., PHM 2/c, is with Draft No. 6188 from Shoemaker, C/o FPO, San Francisco . . . Pfc. K. E. Gilbert is now getting his mail APO 953, San Francisco . . . Lt. Fenton R. Isaacson is with the 69th Camp Wing, New York, APO 211.

☉ **AUSTRIA.** On the evening of May 7th, Pfc. Bill Armstrong's platoon, somewhere in Austria, staged an impromptu burlesque. "None of us have laughed so much or felt like letting go like that since we got here."

☉ **LA BELLE FRANCE.** Cpl. D. Hendricks, languishing in France, would like a lot of pictures of the Old Home Town. Don, that's been our dream for a long time and now it's going to come true. We've got the pictures, we've made up the eight page layout. It's in the hands of the engraver and one of these days there is going to be one of those eight page roto sections in everyone's letter.

☉ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Foster Funk reports that in his area in Germany the favorite G. I. tune is the Crosby-Andrews Sisters version of "Don't Fence Me In." . . . Now with Railsplitter Division, "The Bloody Hatchet Men," Pfc. Francis Kaufman, somewhere in Germany, says "hello" to his former buddies in the Rainbow Division . . . Pvt. Gordon Foster is somewhere in Germany . . . In Germany somewhere, Pvt. Pat Derrig was in the hospital seven days and is now out again.

☉ **OVER HERE.** Pfc. Keith Livasy is with the air corps at Van Nuys, Calif. . . . Cpl. Kenneth Depew, of Pocatontas, is at Camp Gruber, Okla. . . . Cadet Jack O'Leary, former Dodger, is at Chapel Hill, No. Carolina . . . Emil Slotten, S 2/c, is at Bremerton, Washington. He is going to school preparatory to going on an escort carrier for duty with the fleet. Thanks, Emil, for "The Ship's Log." . . . Lt. Comdr. H. T. McMaster is at Room 1406, 342 Madison Ave., New York City . . . Pvt. Robt. Teelen is at Shepard Field, Texas . . . S/Sgt. DeWayne Burke is at Kearns, Utah . . . Pvt. George McGhee is at Camp Wolters, Texas . . . Pvt. James Scheerer is at Camp Hood, Texas.

☉ **FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Mervin Hood, S 1/c, FPO, San Francisco, Calif. "Since the first of the year we have spent most of our time at sea. It isn't so bad and the time passes rather quickly. We have really been in on a lot of bad weather, and a destroyer really takes a beating then. It rolls and tosses on the heavy seas. When we ate our meals most of our food would fall on the deck, and the mess hall would really be a mess. When in port we enjoy a liberty on a Pacific Island. Usually we can walk about the island as much as we wish. Most of the islands we have had liberty on have been small and one can easily walk from one side to the other. There is always a swell beach and the salty blue Pacific to swim in. The best entertainment we have is receiving letters from home. We always wait anxiously for our 'Uncle Sugar' mail. We have movies both in port and at sea. Sometimes they are rather old, but we enjoy them anyway. We also have a ship's library. We often hear Tokyo Rose and the Japanese propaganda."

R. W. Theiler, C MoMM, FPO, San Francisco, Calif. "My travels have taken me practically all over the Pacific from Wellington, New Zealand, to the back door of Japan. Strange though it seems I've only bumped into one Fort Dodger. I saw Bob Haire in Townsville, Australia, in July, 1943, at a Red Cross Service Club. My last advancement in rating, that of Chief Petty Officer, came in July, 1944. The full designation is Chief Motor Machinist Mate. I've noticed in the "Letter" you have received the Jap's Invasion Money. I will enclose a few pieces of our Invasion Money. This was printed by our military authorities for use in Japan and its possessions as we invade them. The designations are Sens and Yens (dollars and cents). 100 Sens equals one Yen and one Yen is worth 10 cents. Oh, it's all very simple. I've had to learn the monetary system of New Zealand and Australia (pounds and shillings); the Dutch Netherlands (guilders); the Philippines (pesos and centavos) and now yens and sens. Can't beat our system! In fact the world around, it's the same. Name any product you wish, if it's stateside, it's superior." Thanks, Bob, for the sens and yens—first we've seen.

Virgil A. Beyer, S 1/c, USNR, FPO, San Francisco, Calif. "I have seen some action in the Pacific. I have been in on the invasion of Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines, and Iwo Jima and Okinawa. I also was in the sea battle of Surigao Straits. We have shot down Jap planes, but I didn't enjoy that—it's a lot different from hunting pheasants, for these birds can shoot back."

T/Sgt. Robert J. Carroll, Somewhere in China. "Since the last time I wrote to you I have moved to China and within eighty miles of my brother-in-law, Paul Davidson. The country is a lot better than India and the weather a hell of a lot cooler—especially at this time of the year. The Monsoons are starting to set in and this is the time of the year all the flyers dread. I will include myself in this class, also, because I am still forecasting weather over here. This kind of weather is really tricky and it surely makes a fool out of the weather man. A good deal of our work is guess work over here, which may bring the remark from you that all weather forecasts are guess work. I fly the hump about once a week and so go to quite a few fields. Everytime I go anywhere I look for Fort Dodgers, but so far know the whereabouts of only two Fort Dodgers. One is my brother-in-law and the other one is Sgt. Jack Hauser at APO 629. I never got to see Jack last time because I was not on the ground long enough, but I did talk to him over the phone. Next time over I will get together with him and have a good long talk. We were in Fort Dodge Jr. College together."

Cpl. W. C. Strom, APO 655, New York, New York. "I like Belgium the best of any place I've been including Scotland, England, France and Germany. The people in Belgium were so nice and friendly—can't say that about the ones here. Although we aren't allowed to talk to them, if we do it's a \$65.00 question. And who in the hell wants to pay to talk to a German!"

Cpl. Tom Merryman, APO 710, San Francisco, Calif. "I had quite a surprise the other day. While pitching a few horseshoes some fella walked into the area and yelled at me. I didn't recognize him at first until he told me his last name. He turned out to be Tom Helferick. He had noticed my name on a Red Cross book in a small town near here and he ran into a buddie of mine in town, who in turn brought him out to our area and to my tent. Incidentally, he's the first Fort Dodger I've seen since I was at Camp Doomben in Brisbane, Aust. (16 Mo.). Surely would like to see a few more! We talked about our Latin class with Miss Boxwell—seven years ago. I guess the reason I didn't recognize him was because I hadn't seen him for seven years. Boy, how the time flies! Guess it's time to mention what the fellas thought when we heard Germany signed for peace. It was about 2:00 a. m. in the morning when they got the flash here. They turned on the loud speaker in the area and told us about it—then played about four or five hot swing numbers. All the fellows were really excited and you could hear them talking an hour afterwards. I don't believe anyone got much sleep the rest of the night. Now we are all wondering how long this will last, I hope it's not so very long. Can't use this army business! I think I was cut out to be a civilian."

Pvt. Maurice L. Bestick, APO 131, New York, New York. "I'm in Germany proper and today is rumored to be VE Day, but I can't hear any shouting or cheering. The German civilians still walk around with long faces. Guess I'll hit the sack as soon as I finish this. I ran across my first Fort Dodger the other day since leaving the hospital. He was Bob Arn, whom I met on the banks of the Rhine. He and I drank some liberated wine and beer together, and also shot the breeze for awhile. It was kind of good hearing the news from someone who was home just last March. This is my fortieth month on this side."

Pfc. John Brand, APO 235, San Francisco, California. "The day Ernie Pyle was hit, I wasn't far from him. A Jap sniper opened fire on him, and hit him square in the head. After all he went through in Europe; but then there are no favorites in this game. On the spot where he was killed a sign reads 'This is the place where the 77th Inf. Div. lost a buddy—Ernie Pyle—April 18, 1945'."

Pfc. Foster F. Funk, Germany. "We heard the broadcast today of the surrender of the German army in northern Germany, and the signing of it. Montgomery was the spokesman, and we could even hear the scratching of the pen on paper as they signed the names."

T/5 Robert Zeka, India. "I didn't think the people over here played cards like Americans do, but they do. The coolies get a deck of cards out of the trash box and they are as happy as they can be. Some of them are good gamblers, too. It only starts out with a few small coins but ends up with a pocket full! They play cards during the noon hour, and that includes the ones who work for me. Sure, they even fight like anybody else over a game of cards."

☉ Other swell letters from Pfc. Bernard Loth, APO 403, New York, New York . . . Pvt. Merle F. Howard, APO 959, San Francisco, Calif. . . . T/4 Henry E. DePue, APO 159, San Francisco, Calif. . . . Sgt. Alice B. Woolsey, Fort George G. Meade, Md. . . . Pfc. Richard Black, APO 21056, San Francisco, Calif. . . . Sgt. Duane M. Klinger, APO 331, San Francisco, Calif.

As another week comes to a close, we are off to Burlington to meet with members of the Iowa Tall Corn network, to see the shell loading plant and to drive once more thru the beauty that is Iowa in the spring . . . Even though it's raining, a trip in a car is a treat in war time. It's been a long time since we just got in the old jalopy and drove anywhere we pleased. It'll be great when you are back here and everything is running again the way it used to, only better. It would be a terrible world with no young people in it. And, of course, the girls find this game of "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" all right while it lasts but it's a long time between games. They are all ready now for a return engagement that will lead to something permanent . . . But things look good. Every day more people are heard from, more fellows are emerging from the hardships of prison camps, more men are coming back from battlefronts . . . Today's news tells the story of our broadcasts to Japan, telling them that the destruction of their country is inevitable unless they surrender now. So apparently the brass hats believe there's a chance of promoting an immediate unconditional surrender. It seems almost too good to be true but we can dream, can't we?

Your home town correspondent,

Ed Breen.