

# Your Letter From Home

I know a couple who talk in their sleep. He plays golf, and she loves to go to auction sales. The other night the golfer yelled "Fore" and the wife yelled "Four Twenty Five."

From "The Porpoise" of the U. S. S. Case.

Sent To You With The Best Wishes Of

Royal 400 Oil Company  
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.  
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Larry Geer Ballrooms  
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Groom: "Just as the widow and I started up the aisle to the altar every light in the church went out."

Friend: "What did you do then?"

Groom: "Kept on going, the widow knew the way."

From "The Porpoise" of the U. S. S. Case.

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WRITTEN EVERY FRIDAY

November 23, 1945

☉ **DEAR JOE:** Tomorrow you and I will enjoy our first peace time Thanksgiving in four years. I hope yours will be very happy. I hope it will be graced by a real old fashioned Thanksgiving dinner, with turkey and cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes and giblet gravy and punkin pie topped with whipped cream. It won't be quite like home but home won't be the same either with you gone. We'll be remembering the last time we saw you and how handsome you looked and what a tug there was at our hearts as we smiled and waved goodbye. It wasn't easy. There was never an easy day in the whole long weary time the war dragged on. And now we are thankful beyond all telling that the dark hazard of war has passed you by and that it won't be long until you'll be back with us and eating turkey as only Mom can fix it. Humbly we are thankful that you are well and safe and that through your courage and skill we are free, our little towns unoccupied, our great cities unshattered. There'll be silent tears and lips moving in prayer in the lonely homes of those friends of yours who aren't coming back. The memory of them, bitter-sweet will be with us tomorrow, and tomorrow and tomorrow . . . The cornpickers are clanking in the fields. Up 'till now the weather has been everything anyone could ask for. But today across the southern and eastern parts of the state the snow is falling two and three and four inches deep and the weatherman says that Thanksgiving in Webster county will be cold and clear. Cold, down to zero, brrrrr . . . Last night we had a wonderful dinner at the Warden Hotel for the Dodger football squad, all sixty-two of them. The Junior Chamber of Commerce with Frank Cooley, Jr., acting as chairman arranged it. Sec Taylor of the Register, was there and made a little speech. So was Tony Cordaro, taking pictures for the sports section. Dr. Eddie Anderson made a speech and Glenn Divine showed the pictures of the famous game between Indiana and Iowa in 1939 with the final score 32 to 29 in favor of Iowa and the great Nile Kinnick playing one of his greatest games. Eddie and Glenn were introduced by B. B. Burnquist . . . No state selections yet. We'll have 'em for you next week, we hope . . .

☉ **AROUND THE TOWN.** We chartered two buses to take school kids to the Mason City game and also had Keith Peterson along with his camera. Keith took a bunch of shots of the kids and then we sent them to the Des Moines Register. The Register published them in the Roto section last Sunday and they were swell . . . The Register Monday in the sport section recognized Forrest Marquis as the "Prep Coach of the year in Iowa." . . . The \$50,000 addition to the Coats Loaders and Stackers plant is nearly completed . . . Floyd T. Sherrill, CMoM, is opening a plumbing and hardware shop at Thor . . . Webster County salvage workers were honored at a dinner Nov. 13th . . . Norman Miller is the new commander of the Disabled American Veterans . . . The Tierneys - - John, Maurice and Don - - have opened a new tap room at 1112 Central. It is named "Pastime". Nice place . . . A lot of school kids are ill with a mild attack of influenza with an average of 112 a day out last week in the senior high . . . Frank Grell, Jr., that 17-year-old Fort Dodge kid who has been in a jam all summer and fall, was picked up in Riverside, Calif. He refused to waive extradition to Fort Dodge to stand trial for robbing the Jackowell grocery store. So, Sheriff Joe McMahon and Ass't. Co. Atty. Horace Melton are driving to the west coast to bring him back . . . Luke Cavanaugh's brother, Lt. Comdr. Frank M. Cavanaugh, is a visitor here . . . Dr. Dan S. Egbert has moved here from Atlantic to practice medicine . . . Mary Rhodes now is a stewardess with United Air Lines . . . Jack Saeger has been added to the staff of Sheriff Joe McMahon as a deputy. He is just out of the Marines . . . Christmas decorations are up on Central avenue and the lights will be turned on Wednesday night if work is completed by the electricians . . . Lawrence Meeske, Pocahontas farmer, was killed Friday in a corn picker accident . . . Mrs. Ben P. Larson, Jr., is the Charity Ball chairman this year . . . It is now closed season on squirrels . . . With a yield of 91.1 bushel an acre, G. J. Hanson's 10-acre plot won first in the annual contest held by the Farm Bureau . . . Word has been received of the death of Sgt. Peter A. Hillesland from polio. He was stationed in the Philippines . . . Cpl. Dean Wilcox again is operating the D-X filling station at 24 No. 12th St.

☉ **HOME FOR GOOD.** Sgt. Paul Henderson . . . T/5 V. E. (Joe) Cannon . . . Mark Tuel is out of the army air corps . . . Harris C. Renquist, Infantry, is back at the State Bank . . . Roy M. Vieg, CPhM, is resuming practice as a chiroprapist in the Carver building . . . Sgt. Don Hendricks is again with the Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric, and so is S/Sgt. Mel Campbell . . . W. R. Swanson, CM 1/c is with the Walker Construction Co. . . . S/Sgt. Ross J. Tierney . . . Wave Helen Peed, SK 2/c . . . Sgt. Theodore Meyer Pfc. Oliver McGruder . . . Lt. Kenneth W. Vieth, inactive duty . . . Allen Roth now is back with the Webster County Lumber store . . . Lt. Howard Hughes next Monday will resume his teaching duties at the high school . . . Wave Lt. Katherine Saunders . . . John J. Toohey, ASK 1/c . . . Lt. Comdr. George Smith, inactive status . . . Eugene Olsen, S 1/c . . . Luther Olsen from army . . .

Ivan Laka, GM 2/c . . . Clayton M. Core out of army . . . Lt. Harold (Al) Cook, inactive status . . . Cpl. Frank Blaha . . . Lt. Clarence E. Larson . . . Lt. Frank Medd . . . Harold F. Willey, RM 2/c, is back in Thor . . . Pvt. Harold L. Bass . . . Cpl. Paul H. Krueger . . . Robert Hulett, SM 3/c . . . Sgt. Edwin Millange . . . Pvt. John A. Cuckie, USNR . . . Lawrence W. Hively, WT 3/c . . . Pfc. William E. Martin . . . 1/Lt. Calvin E. Jones . . . Sgt. Marvin Ewing . . . A/C John W. Ryberg, Jr., is out of the service and back home at Harcourt . . . Once more he is Mr. Earl Heggen and back home at Callender . . . Forrest L. Palmer is out of the navy and living now at No. 12 Carmalt Apts., Cocoa, Florida . . . Earl E. Crimmins is out of the service and living now at 242 7th Ave., North, Fort Dodge . . . Pfc. Geo. Hanrahan got home on Nov. 11th after two years and seven months in the service. Eleven months he was in France and in Germany . . . John M. Gustafson is out of the service and living at 9762 Gregory Way, Beverly Hills, California. He sends his regards to the Dodger class of '41 . . . Eugene Evenson, out of the army, is living at 4116 Colby Avenue, Everett, Washington . . . S/Sgt. Leo Hilsabeck is back from the CBI theatre, out of the army, home for good at Rt. 4, Fort Dodge . . . Clarence L. Brooks, of Otho, is out of the service, home for good . . . Bruno Sestini is a civilian once more and living at 1709, University Avenue, Des Moines.

☉ **PACIFIC.** James E. Hinton, Cox., now at Hilo, Hawaii, hopes to be home by Christmas. Thanks, Jim, for the paper . . . T/5 Eugene Urbon is stationed in the Hawaiian islands near Honolulu . . . Cecil L. Wills, PhM 1/c, is out on Guam. Communication received and mission accomplished, Cecil. Glad to be able to do it . . . Cpl. James Hanrahan is in the Philippines . . . Pfc. Gordon Swanson with the Marine Corps is somewhere out thet-a-way.

☉ **JAPAN.** Pfc. Charles McBride writing from Japan says we ought to get a laugh out of this. "I was made Pfc. today. I have been in the army 45 months and that is the first rating I've gotten. It took me forty-two months to get the good conduct medal." . . . Pvt. Charlie Ernst, over in Japan where the weather is so cold it reminds him of football, wants to know how the team is doing. "We've got a good deal over here guarding a warehouse or something like that." Charlie says there is a rumor going around that the 32nd Division, that's his outfit, may be coming home in March . . . Paul Genco, F 1/c, is on the island of Okinawa, supervising the work of 23 natives. In self defense, he is learning the Japanese language . . . Cpl. Lloyd M. Gaster is at Hiro, Honshu, Japan . . . Pvt. F. Merle Bollard has arrived at Jinsen, Korea . . . Pvt. Jim Scheerer is at Fhibata, Japan.

☉ **COMING HOME.** Pfc. Edward Lindner coming from the far east . . . Walter Heileman, SK 3/c, from the Pacific theatre . . . Lt. John Metcalf has reached the states from Europe . . . 1/Lt. Robert Friedrich is enroute home from Japan . . . Sgt. Walter Steburg has landed on the west coast and will be discharged soon . . . F. W. Crouse, Jr., S 1/c enroute to states from Pacific theatre . . . Jerrold Patton, 2/Lt. . . Julius A. Krebs, CM 2/c, of Rolfe, Iowa, RFD No. 2 is on his way home from Tokyo, Japan . . . Pfc. John C. Larson, of Callender, is on his way home . . . S/Sgt. Merrill Saunders is on his way home from Okinawa. He ought to be getting in here this week. Thanks, Merrill, for the photographs and leaflets . . . Cpl. Herbert J. Tyrrell is on his way home from the Mediterranean theatre . . . Pfc. Bert Strong is on his way back home from Oahu, Hawaii . . . Pfc. Merle Freund is leaving Guam for HOME. His sailing orders read for the 14th and he hopes to be here in time for Christmas as "just a plain Joe Blow civilian" . . . Pfc. Foster Funk, separated from his old outfit by an illness that put him in the hospital, is up and around again and waiting at Camp Boston, Reims, France, for transportation home. "Have hopes of getting home for a part of the bowling season or what's left of it" . . . Sgt. E. D. Gram is on his way home from Borneo . . . Earl L. Vought, GM 2/c, now on Mindoro Island in the Philippines, is leaving for home soon. Thanks, Earl, for the Jap money . . . Lt. Douglas Stowe sailed for home on November 11th from the port of Bremen . . . Cpl. Leonard Mesenbrink is at Camp Phillip Morris, LeHarve, France, and ready to sail for the good old USA the 28th of this month. Bon voyage, Leonard, and thanks for the patch of the 89th . . . S/Sgt. Jack Hauser has been in charge of the 234th General Hospital at Assam, India. He is now at Karachi, India, awaiting transportation, home . . . Kenneth Knudson, of Moorland, is out of the service, home for good . . . Sgt. Lloyd Whiting.

☉ **SERVICE PAPERS AND INSIGNIA.** The patch of the Panama Canal Zone Department from Pvt. Paul H. Mundt who is running a switchboard about 800 yards from Gatun lock. "I saw the fleet come through. That battleship Missouri is sure a swell ship." Thanks, Paul, for the patch . . . A picture map showing the trek of the 42nd Rainbow Division from southern France up through Germany and down into Austria from Ch. Harold Belsheim. Thanks, Harold.

⊛ **We play all requests.** Remember your favorite girl or your Mother or your Dad or the little woman. But please include the street address and the telephone number if you remember it. Thank you.

⊛ **ENJOYING MOM'S COOKING.** Robert F. Neumann, formerly of the Bunker Hill, is now back at Somers on furlough. He'll return to Seattle soon for reassignment. With him on the Bunker Hill were Elmer Quick, Conly Hill and Jay Adams . . . Lt. (j. g.) Frank J. Anderson, MC, was on USS Gosper in Pacific and stopped here for a few hours on his way to the USS Tennessee in the Atlantic . . . Roger Brown, HA 1/c, from Great Lakes . . . Fred Peterson, MoM 1/c, home for 30 days . . . Carl W. Anderson, CPO, and his brother Walter . . . Pvt. Robert B. Franklin for 15 days . . . S/Sgt. Gerald Olsen . . . Pvt. Wesley I. Seaver for 15 days.

⊛ **HERRY ENGLAND.** Pvt. Valdo Peterson is leaving England to rejoin his old outfit on the continent.

⊛ **DAS REICH.** Pfc. Delmer J. Estlund is now in Furth, Germany, doing duty as company supply driver. He hopes to be starting home next spring . . . Fergus W. Kenyon is at Weisbaden, Germany . . . Janet Barrett, Red Cross worker at Munich, Germany, recently enjoyed a cruise on the Rhine aboard Hitler's yacht.

⊛ **PHILIPPINES.** George Ann Neudeck has arrived in the Philippines for duty with the Red Cross.

⊛ **OVER HERE.** J. A. "Tony" Cacioppo is at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. Tony, drop around and see Capt. Bluedorn. He is an Iowan and married to the former Betty Ann Garlock of Fort Dodge. He runs your swell paper, Belvoir Castle . . . Sgt. Garland Porter is now in Camp Haan, California . . . Bob Andrews is now an Ensign in the Navy and is at Supply School at Harvard . . . Robert M. Fortney, GM 2/c, is at Astoria, Oregon, unloading ammunition from ships coming in to be tied up as inactive . . . Sgt. Billy Russell Goodman, proud papa, is back in El Centro, California . . . Paul Harmon, SOM 2/c, is now at Shoemaker, California . . . Cpl. Jessie Borges is at the air base at Santa Ana, California . . . Lt. David D. Hill is at MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla. His brother, John R. Hill, S 1/c, is at Gulfport, Miss. . . Lt. Margaret L. Boland arrived on the east coast from Europe and is expected to be home soon . . . Sgt. Major Arthur Gallentine has landed at San Diego, Calif., and his wife has gone out to meet him . . . Wave Ensign Beulah Stowe was here from Washington, D. C., a few days . . . T/5 Newell S. Porter has landed at New York City from Europe . . . Sgt. Ernest W. Zuerrer has reached the states . . . Robert L. Norton, S 1/c, has been transferred to the minesweeper USS Devastator.

⊛ **HIGH C'S.** Jordan E. Tonsfeldt is on the USS Robert Perry out of New York. Thanks, Jordan, for the paper.

⊛ **SMALL WORLD.** T/5 Arthur Donner and Dick Sheker are in the same outfit in Manila . . . Brothers Larry and Joe Doyle met on the Philippines on Tabalo island. Joe is on Samar with the Navy ARO repair unit. He found out through his Catholic Chaplain that Larry was on Tabalo and got a furlough to go over and see him. Since then Larry has been in the infirmary with a fever but is getting along fine now and waiting for a ship . . . Eugene Conway, S 1/c, of Clare, is at a permanent base on Okinawa. His fellow townsman, Tom Fitz, is at the same base with the 82nd Seabees. During the recent typhoon all the tents in that area were blown down but Gene's. They haven't had any fresh meat since then. Thanks, Gene, for "The Beachcomber" . . . Bud Kirsch and Cpl. Warren H. Yancey in Lincoln, Nebraska. Bud is working at the separation center and Warren was transferred to the Air Field from Denver.

⊛ **DOWN THE CENTER AISLE.** Rose McEney of San Antonio, Texas, and Lt. Don Hauser in Big Spring, Texas, July 28th, 1945. Don is now instructing a French Squadron at Midland Field, Texas . . . Mrs. Agnes Lucas to Deno Castagnoli at Brownwood, Texas, Nov. 14 . . . Delores Williams to R. D. Cunningham at Bell, Calif., Oct. 7 . . . Velva Von Stein to Robert Skophammer at Albert Lea, Nov. 8 . . . Patricia Fitzgerald engaged to Ensign James A. O'Brien . . . Nancy E. McCann to Capt. Warren Rogers at Washington, D. C. . . . Helen Brezovsky to Diamond Gochee at Fort Dodge, Aug. 15 . . . Carmen Pavey engaged to Cpl. Keith Mayfield.

⊛ **PLEASE, PLEASE, PRETTY PLEASE** with Sugar On It, let us have your present address. Don't make those poor so and so's in the post office work far into the night trying to find out where you are. Put it on a card—send it to Y L F H Now!

⊛ **REWARDS.** Bob Wickwire now is S/Sgt. . . Walter Anderson is up to Sgt. . . Pvt. Joseph Carpenter has been awarded the expert infantry badge and his "wings" as a paratrooper . . . Melvin Edgerton, in Japan, from T/5 to Sgt. . . Wm. Peed from Cpl. to Sgt. . . Robert Kurtz, T/3 to T/Sgt. . . Lloyd M. Gaster, Pvt. to Cpl. . . Paul E. Harmon, SOM 3/c to 2/c . . . Charles McBride, Pvt. to Pfc.

⊛ **REENLISTING.** Pfc. George F. Gerrard, Jr. . . Milford M. Dahms, for three years.

⊛ **FROM THE FIVE CORNERS OF THE WORLD.** Pvt. Richard Cervene, Unit No. 1 W. E. P. C., Ft. Logan, Colo. "We have been working quite steadily here at the separation center. I believe all the separation units in this area are closing down, leaving Ft. Logan the only separation center in this area. We are turning them out like mad! Yesterday we put a man through with the very small amount of 21 points and he was only 18 years of age. Some of the "veterans" here with 50 and 60 points sit here and 'sweat' out their turn with a grimace and a hopeful look. A new order from Washington came through the other day with a new reason for being discharged: "Discharge of Surplus Personnel in the Zone of Interior." And many have been becoming civilians through this reason."

Pfc. William C. Ruebel, American Division, Tachikawa, Japan. "I have finally arrived in the land of cherry blossoms and polite little people. To look at them now, you sometimes stop and wonder if these are really the people whom we fought so long and so bitterly. They fall over backwards trying to be nice to us. They bow to us upon meeting us on the street and offer their seats on the trains."

R. C. Dowd, S 2/c, U. S. S. Oklahoma City (CL-91) FPO San Francisco. "I notice that Erwin Jones, Mus. 3/c, is on the U. S. S. Prairie, which is anchored just inside the breakwater, and which

we pass every time we go to Yokosuka on liberty. We're going out off the coast tomorrow for a 5-day training cruise, which, I might add, is a big bother, but I'll try and get over to see him when we come in on Saturday. I also noticed that Capt. T. E. Pederson is at a station hospital in Tokyo. If I get liberty there again, I'll try the 251st Station Hospital, which I passed as I was returning to the Fleet Landing yesterday. Don't let anyone ever tell you that Japan is any place for us. I don't ever look forward to getting liberty any more, because everything is so dirty and smelly wherever you go. As you can probably tell by the letterhead, I'm striking for storekeeper and run 3 storerooms; stationery, line and cable, and fountain supply. It's a swell deal and Ray Johnson, of Lehigh, and Bill Eaton, of Mason City, are with me. Bill and I went to Boys' State together in '44 and always looked each other up when in his home town."

Pfc. Leland A. Benson, Shikoku Island, Japan. "We landed here on this island the twenty-second of Oct. Near the town of Matouyama, the Third Bn. which I am in came by train to here. We are occupying the town of Zentsiyi. Really some pretty country over here. Big hills and mountains, its surprising where these Japs farm. Upon the sides of the mountains where you could hardly stand, you see patches of garden stuff. They farm every little piece of ground available. Do all their work by hand. They work hard. Hardly see how they raise enough to get by, but all seem to be healthy. They all seem to be friendly, don't think we will have any trouble. They are crazy about candy and cigarettes. This weather is about like Iowa; like it better. We are staying in barracks. Used to be a Jap calvary here. They're old and dirty but won't be bad when we get them fixed up. Merry Christmas."

Cpl. Marvin J. McCoy, Luzon, Philippines. "We are in a small town, namely San Fernando, and its nothing but a bunch of little buildings made mostly of bamboo. I received a letter from Ed Coughlan a while back and he was in Manila and wanted me to come down so I got a pass and took the puddle jumper 175 miles which took about 15 hours to go each way. The ship he was on was pulled in for repairs but he doesn't know how long he'll be there. We had a fine get-together. We used to pal around in civilian life and I hadn't seen him for about 2½ years so we had a lot to talk over."

Sgt. Bernard Loth, Koshim, Japan. "After a nice (?) trip on an LST, we landed at Wakyoma beach October 28 and drove the forty odd miles to our present location. Koshim is considered a suburb of Osaka—the second largest city in Japan—but it is actually about half way between Kobe and Osaka. We are living—or existing—in the Olympic Stadium of Kosheim. I understand that the world Olympics of 1928 (or was it 1924) were held here. It is a nice stadium with a good ball park—but a lousy barracks. It is damp and cold, but at least we are inside. I have also been told that Babe Ruth is the only man to hit a ball out of the stadium and that only one Japanese has ever hit a homer. So it is quite a stadium. Seriously, although I haven't been in Japan long, I've found it unusual. The people remind me of whipped dogs—trying hard to be friendly, smiling, and almost wagging their tails—but they seem very unsure of themselves. In most cases, these self-proclaimed "Rulers of the World" live in worse conditions than the people they conquered. There is little doubt that they admire our equipment right down to combat shoes. As in Germany, the Black Market rages despite the efforts to curb it. Yet prices to the G. I. are the most reasonable since we left home."

Pfc. Ernest Hutchison, Rosario, La Union, Luzon. "I am located up north of Manila about 150 miles. It is right near where the 6th Army made their landing on White Beach in the Linguyan gulf. It is pretty well deserted now but was really a busy place for a while. I have been with another Ft. Dodger until we were in the 6th Replacement Depot at Angeles. His name is John Thobaben and he used to run the little hamburger shop on Central Ave. between 11th and 12th Sts. I haven't heard from him since we were split up. Am enclosing a paper that we have over here and usually there are a few good articles on the slowness of the demobilization. If you turn to the Mail Bag section on the inside you will see a few. If I had thought I would have saved some back copies to send also but can't seem to get hold of any. But you can get an idea of the situation over here. I got a letter from my wife in Manson telling me about my brother, Howard L. Hutchison, getting back to the States for his discharge. He was on the U. S. S. Hamlin, and I guess by the way the letter states he is mighty happy to get home."

There were many other grand letters full of talk about home and getting home. And every day more and more fellows are in that we haven't seen for a long time, shaking hands with everyone, saying "hello," glad to be home and finding civilian life a very good deal even though white shirts are a little scarce and even though very often the best your home town clothier can do for you in the way of a new suit is a sport coat and a pair of slacks. When you get back, Joe, you'll see some of the sportiest looking G I's you've ever seen. Really sharp . . . Have I told you about the new gypsum pits east of town? One of them just off Highway 20 is already big enough to drop the Carver Building in and they are just starting. That's for the Certain-teed. Another one farther south just northwest of the Vincent Clay Products is almost as big. Looks as if they were moving the hill over into the valley. I think that is for National, but I'm not sure . . . Some people were over from LeMars today with the Mars Skycoupe, a plane that almost flies itself, steers like a car and won't spin. They want us to build it here and a group of Fort Dodge manufacturers were out there taking rides and looking it over . . . Bill Clark and the Mayor are just back from Illinois where they went in quest of government houses. Nothing doing yet. The latest effort, a request that the Warden Apartments go ahead and finish the two floors that have stood empty in this building ever since it was built a way back when . . . Turkey tomorrow. If you don't get a drum stick and white meat too, let me know. There was something I wanted to write to the President about anyway. Be seeing you. Happy Thanksgiving.

Your home town correspondent,

Ed Breen.