

Sunday Night

Dear Mama, Dad and All,

No doubt you might be thinking that I'm on another boat trip in the wrong direction but it is not that way. Lately we have been having inspection upon inspection and we have been working day and night. What makes the whole thing so disgusting is that we will work for days and days for an inspection and when it does come it only lasts about an hour for the entire battalion. No one can inspect even a platoon in that time, much less a battalion.

For the past week or ten days we have been in Genoa after being in the group that drove up from just south of Massa. No doubt you remember the push the Germans made in the Serchio River valley around Christmas: Well we were unlucky in that we had just finished receiving our equipment and they threw us right in to it then and there. The papers say that the real Italy drive started on April 9th but I know from some experiences that I'll never forget that it started a few days before ~~at~~ that just south of Massa. That time we hit it just in time for ~~at~~ the show. Our negro tankers did fine but I still don't kiss the ground that is treaded. I still have the same desires that I have had for many months now. In fact it has been almost long enough that I can say years. I have been in this outfit over two years and will soon complete my second year as a captain. They can have their promotions, all I want is to get home. ~~Today~~

The tale I mentioned about getting hit in the head as I was passing through a town one night just after we had captured it was Gallicanne in the Serchio Valley. That was really rough going there during the worse part of the winter.

Today was V-E Day over here and we had a battalion parade that was attended by many of the civilians here in Genoa. The people here are very nice and they are different than any I have met in Italy. The people in the Serchio were nice also and I had one friend near or rather in Viareggio (on the west coast) who would do anything in the world for me and was the same as a personal body guard. People here wear shoes that look like shoes and the street cars, which we ride free of charge really look like civilization again. I'm going to send ~~to~~ you some pictures that a photographer took yesterday and some others that I took a few days ~~ago~~ of some of the things around here.

Right now we are sitting in suspense, hoping that we will get sent back to the states pretty soon. None of us care to see China or Japan. Everyone is thinking of nothing but home. I was very glad to receive the light bulbs and they were all in good shape. Thanks so much and I'm hoping to find time to get yours off soon. I'm feeling fine except for a slight head cold. Luck to all.

Love,
Bill