

16 May 45

Dear Dad, Mama and All,

Right now we are having real spring and summer weather added together as far as the heat is concerned. The length of the days seems so very long. The sun sets around eight thirty or nine o'clock and I wonder what it will be like when the longest days get here. Never in all my life have I seen as many flies as they have over here. Maybe it is a result of the fertilizer that they use over here in the spring. Every morning they remind me of the airplanes that used to pass over our heads on the way to the Po Valley or to our front where they would really let the bombs fall. These people fear nothing as they fear an airplane. Screen wire isn't to be found over here and there is little we can do to keep the flies out. Starting tonight I'm going to start sleeping under my mosquito net so I can sleep half way decent.

Today I saw the pictures that a local photographer took of our V-E day exercises over here Sunday. No doubt you will like to see some of them and in this letter I'm sending a couple of pictures that I had made a few days ago. I'll send the pictures that were taken last Sunday as soon as I can get some made.

A few days ago I met a man over here who runs a shoe factory and he is going to make me a holster for my little Italian pistol along with a few other things such as a nice leather belt. He says he will make me a pair of boots as soon as he makes one pair to see if they will be satisfactory. He has never made a pair of boots before.

As yet I have had little time to get into the heart of Genoa and look around as I would like. The center of the town is not destroyed very much and the people there are very fortunate. Most all of the buildings here are made of brick or tile and if they were made of wood it would have some advantages. They wouldn't have to haul so much trash away to start rebuilding. As it is the houses and buildings are nothing but rubble. Electric trains are running here now but nobody knows when one of the train tunnels might see light for the first time as a result of explosives that the Germans left behind inside them.

I have a feeling that I will see the ~~State~~ States before we go to the Pacific before going to the Pacific when and if we go. It might not be patriotic to say it but I don't care to make that trip. This business of war really gives a person a funny feeling that just can't be explained. As I told you before I came over here- I knew I would be scared and I was just that many times. It just isn't human to have some one wanting to shoot at you.

Except for a little head cold I am feeling fine and I hope all of you are well. Luck to you and I hope to see you before Christmas.

Love to all,

*Bill*