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432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.  
A.P.O. 520, % Postmaster N.V.C.



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Censored by:  
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A.P.O. 520, 9<sup>o</sup> Postmaster, N.Y.C.  
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Hello Folks -

It's been quite some time since I wrote you a real letter - so I guess I'll at least start one now. - Haven't written for various reasons. - First off I guess little enough happens that we can write about - and second - I heard rumors that due to the Sicilian operations our regular mail wasn't going thru for awhile! - So now maybe you will see the futility of writing about nothing.

My mail is beginning to trickle in, by bits. - I got Pops letter written on Mother's Day about 2 days ago - and yesterday I got 2 V mails from Henry + Phyl and 1 from Fred - all dated from six weeks to a month ago. After once start getting mail direct to this address and it no longer has to make a tour of Africa - I should have fairly good service. But I guess we're pretty lucky to be getting mail at all - with all things considering. I was thumbing thru a manual on the organization and stuff about the different Nations armies - and

it was sorta interesting to note one  
thing they all tried to do - i.e. - get a  
rapid + efficient mail service to & from  
the fellows on the front lines. - It seems  
to be one of the keys for keeping the  
morale up - and there's no doubt but  
what they're right.

At long last I'm unpacked - and  
living out of something besides barrack  
bags. Yesterday we went over to an  
administrative dump and got some boxes that  
a certain type bond comes in for shipping.  
It's very well made - with hinges and  
everything so makes a nice foot locker.  
I also have one on a stand that makes a  
nice cabinet to keep my writing,  
shaving, - and miscellaneous equipment  
on. - Pure luxury. - We had regular canvas  
cots given to us when we first got  
here - so we tore up our old wooden  
beds and used the lumber to make  
a sorta combination table + bookcase!  
It's a weird looking contraption - but  
answers the purpose. - You know - with  
wood + nails very limited - it takes  
contriving to make things so one piece  
more or less acts as a support for  
not only another piece, but for itself!  
You should have seen all the stuff

2/ I unearthed in unpacking my bags.-  
Ye gods.- I've so many articles of clothing  
that I've had to leave some of em packed  
up! - often times along the way over it  
was more convenient to go to a Q.M. and  
buy stuff like shorts & socks instead of getting  
them laundered - or looking thru all my  
baggage for a clean pair. - So - I kept buying  
them - I don't know how much I have -  
yesterday in getting stuff out - I'd stop looking  
when I got up to 12 pairs of shorts, or 8 or  
10 prs. of socks! - They will all come in  
the, for everytime you get your clothes  
washed over here - they either lose them  
or you get back some one's else's whose  
doesn't fit ya. - It's just a question of turnover  
I guess.

I went swimming again the other day.  
It's funny to watch the different things  
used as bathing suits. And the way they  
are put on. - Especially the English moreso  
than us I think. - The beaches are usually  
crowded with soldiers - but - there are  
a few of the locals around, too, - including  
women. - But do you think that stops 'em  
from changing clothes right on the beach?  
Definitely not! - They just go about it like

they were on the beach all by themselves).  
There really isn't much else they can do  
tho. - There isn't any place to change clothes  
and it's too hot not to get in the water if  
it's at all possible. - The part that tickles  
me is that no one looks shocked or  
anything - It's as common as anything  
else - so what harm is in it? - What  
do you think the attitudes of the censors  
board of Will Hayes or the people who control  
our beaches would be?

In Fred's V mail he mentioned a Paul's  
visit to you folks. - off hand I would guess  
Paul Hughes? - Anyway he said biste had  
written about it - so guess I'll get all the  
details if I just hang on. - I hope it was  
"P.J" as we usually call him - I know  
you would like him. - He's a character  
of his own and a swell fellow.

Have been having a lot of fun with  
this fellow Fitzpatrick I mentioned - called  
Fitz for short. - His home is in La. - not  
far from Shreveport. - He got a letter the other  
day from his brother - telling him he was  
now in Africa - and flying B-17's. - He's been  
about crazy trying to figure out how and

3/ when they can meet! - There's another fellow from around the New England States somewhere - and we found out we had a lot in common? - He wears - or wore before the Army - the same shoes I did - and he at one time not only had a girl in school in Boston - but at the same school Anna Leggett went to! No, it wasn't Anna! - And today I met another who used to work for the Washington Post and knows several from the Pan American Belly-a - it's no telling who you're going to run into next! - So what?

Just got paid - 55.25 Francs. - It was my June pay just coming thru. It's the first time I ever got paid entirely in Francs. - Sounds like a lot - but it only amounts to \$110.50 of our money. - I'll probably be sending most of it to Joe (Gud) one of these days - as soon as I know how much I'll need. - At present I still have about 60 on hand. - You can spend money over here, but with few exceptions they don't have anything I want. - But what I want I get - don't get me wrong!

Am about to be checked out as a first pilot again. - It won't make any difference at present except it will be entered officially on my records which won't hurt me any.

Over here - on raids or sorties or missions or whatever you want to call them - the pilot & copilot fly about the same amount of time - the only thing the pilot flies from the left side which makes it a little more convenient. - Then, too, - I'll be able to get a plane just to fly around N. Africa in general if I can think up plausible enough excuses! -

One of our crews left the other day to go back to the States! - Boy - what envy we all watched him take off with! - And he wasn't feeling too sorry about it either, for after he took off - he circled the field and did us a buzz job - coming just over our heads at somewhere near 300 m/h. - Even the engines sounded happy! -

Say - while I think of it - sometime get Bill Netzel's address - and if he's over here - maybe I'll be landing at his field someday - who knows?

Well, - honestly - I'm worn out and will just have to stop. - I'll write you V-mails as often as I can get hold of the blanks. - Bye now - and lots & lots of love.

Love,  
Frank

4 P.S. - By some hook or crook - a comparatively recent issue of "Life" got into our "day room" and I just got them looking at it. - It has the close of the Tunisian Campaign - and some pictures of a familiar section to me. I see some of the scenes pretty often whenever I go to town - If that's a hint! But all the pictures are what you might see anywhere around! - Look on pages 26-27-28 & 29 especially of the June 14th issue if you can still find one! - You see - there's no harm done - cause I still haven't told you where I am? - just referring you to peruse some of the same literature I've been reading!

Bye again.

Maybe some day "Life" will have other pictures of our "work"? - Who knows?

J

(If you don't still have this magazine, they were pictures of Tunisia and captured German equipment. Those particular pages dealt with Tunis and its vicinity)