

Lt. Frank W. Loops, O-667527
432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb Gp.
A.P.O. 650, 9th Postmaster N.Y.C.



Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Loops
5418-13th St., N.W.
Washington, (D) D.C.

U.S.A.

Censored by:
FwLoops, A.C.

432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A. P. O. 650, 9th Postmaster N.Y.C.
April 16, 1944

Hiya Folks,

Don't know but what a year ago today I wasn't sitting down and writing you, too. - My last letter before leaving the States! - Nope, - I take it back. - I remember I talked to you on the phone! - For tomorrow makes a year to the day that I pulled wheels up & severed my last physical contact with Florida! - But just you wait & see - I'll just bet it isn't long before I can once again renew that "contact" - with my own big flat feet! - Wouldn't be at all surprised if I shouldn't kiss the ground, too!

- But whoa! - Don't go getting the wrong impression; that I've gotten my orders or something, for I haven't. - As far as I can see it will still be awhile yet, for

2! nothing has changed - I just got sorta carried away with myself by allowing my thoughts to travel far enough to be all the way home again! - No harm meant - just daydreaming, I guess!

Not much to add that I didn't say the other day - but one thing - I forgot to mention the yo yo that was in the package! - I find I'm a rank amateur in the science of it! You should see some of the fellows go to town with it! - Real professionals, no less. - See where I have lots of practicing to do - but then, I have the time.

I have to go to the parachute tent tomorrow and get some ~~the~~ string for it as we've had to make repairs twice on the original equipment! Have plenty

3! of just plain string on hand - but
the parachute man has some
that is lots stronger and thinner,
so it ought to be just the
thing. - ~~Don~~ Don Allen was here
when I opened the package
and offered me a dollar just
upon seeing the Yo-Yo. - See, - I
really have something of value.

Something else of importance
too. - The other day in our PX
rations were coca colas! - Real
honest to goodness McCoys! There
weren't enough for everyone to
have 2 - so it was sort of a botching
affair to see who would get the
extra ones. - Some bottles were
marked and those getting the
marked ones were entitled to
an extra one! - Me. - my luck
has changed for I got 2. - I drank
one - and am saving the other for

4! a special occasion. - Probably when I get my orders! - Our method of cooling the bottle while primitive, worked. - Just a simple matter of wrapping the bottle in a wet rag and placing it in a cool but windy place - letting it cool by evaporation! - The same as I kept my drinking water cooled last summer. - It's a good thing I took Physics some time in my life - and that I retained a precious little of the knowledge of it! -

Hope, - I didn't get in the sunburn from Vesuvius. - I was in Capri about a week or so before that. - And am just as glad. - Some of the fellows who were said it was pretty miserable. Ashes a couple of inches thick on the ground, all in the air, all over your clothes, and that the only salvation was to stay indoors! - And Capri indoors

5!

sure wouldn't be much fun.
Due to a change in censorship regulations I can now write letters
in Naples & Capri - but I won't
dwell on it. - Naples is a rushing
place - and as all European &
African Cities I've seen - crowded,
narrow streets & dirty. - From lots
of the shop windows you would never
know they had been in a war, for
I saw lots of things, and in quantities,
that I know no American store
has been able to get a hold of in
a long time! - Can't imagine where
they had it, or got it, unless they
had it hid during the German
occupation - and in truth years
before!

Everywhere are all sorts of hand-
made trinkets and souvenirs. - All
beautiful and delicately made - but
as always - expensive to Americans.
I was going to get lots of things in

6! the line of Cameos & stuff, but actually got back without a single one! - The only thing I bought was a tortoise shell mandolin & guitar - about 5 or six inches long! - Don't ask me why, or what I'm going to do with them, - as I thought they were "cute" and bought them on the spur of the moment, without rhyme or reason! - Maybe if I get to make another trip in that vicinity I will break down and get the other usual trinkets & stuff. - Will just depend on how I feel at the time, I suppose!

Hell, - somehow, I seemed to have filled up quite enough space for a decent size letter, so think I will take advantage of it and sign off for now. Don't know any real news anyhow! -

So - keep me crossed and write. Be seeing you one of these days!

Lots of love,
Frank