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



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Censored by:
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A.P.O. 520, 90 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 Pop's 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 I 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 seemed 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 ammunition dump and got some boxes that a certain type bomb 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 so
10 prs. of socks! - They will all come in
tho. 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 in
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 Sister 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 Ann Leggett went to! No, it
wasn't Ann! - And today - I met another
who used to work for the Washington Post
and knows several from the Pan American
I tell ya - 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 in francs 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, got - coming just over our heads at somewhere near 300 m.p.h. - Even the engines sounded happy! -

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

Well, - honestly - I'm writ 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 thru looking at it. - It has the close ~~up~~ 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)