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432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 650, 70 Postmaster N.Y.C.



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Censored by:
FW Loops, Lt. A.C.

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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 get
sorta carried away with my-
self by allowing my thoughts
to travel far enough to be all the
way home again! - No harm
meant - just day dreaming, 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. - I 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
string for it as we've had
to make repairs twice on the
original equipment! - Have plenty

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--

of just plain string on hand - but the parachute man has some that is lots stronger and thinner, ~~so~~ so it ought to be just the thing. - ~~But~~ 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 lottery 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 smother
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 Lovers in Naples & Capri - but I won't dwell on it. - Naples is a rushing place - and as all Europeans 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

6.1 the line of Cameras + 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!

Well, - 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