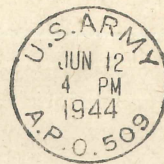


Lt. Frank W. Loops, O-667527
432 Sqdn, 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 650, 90 Postmaster, N.Y.C.



Censored by:

FW Loops, Lt. A.C.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Loops
5418 - 13th St., N. W.
Washington, (11) D.C.
U.S.A.

432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A. P. O. 650, % Postmaster N. Y. C.
June 11, 1944

Hiya Folks,

I didn't think I would be able to write until this afternoon, or tonight, but being as how they've change the briefing to a "stand-by". I'll take advantage of already being up and get this off. Seems like I can write better in the mornings anyhow. and goodness knows I need everything to my advantage!

Missed out writing in the middle of the week. - Had an opportunity to go to Catania, Sicily so jumped at it. Was supposed to go & return all in one day, - but fortunately we found a good enough excuse so managed to stay over night! - Good Luck!

The trip was particularly interesting to me, cause the one other time I was there was in August of last year, and at that time everything was a wreck. In fact they were fighting within 50 miles of the place, so you can imagine!

By now they've managed to clean the town up surprisingly good. tho traces of bombing + shelling are still plainly visible. The people are well dressed and clean - in fact, the whole thing is just about the cleanest spot I've seen since leaving the states.

That night we took in a movie, and returned to the officer's club at the transient hotel. The movie was "Sweet Rosie O'Grady" or something. - Anyway, Betty Grable starred in it. At the club, we ran into several people we hadn't seen

in a long time - even ran into one of the nurses I met in Capri! - Boy, you sure never know in this Ol' Army.

About 4:45 in the morning we were about scared to death when some church bells next door started their clanging + banging. We had observed the day before that bells all over town would ring about every $\frac{1}{2}$ hour and had inquired about it. - Seems that every day is some particular saint's day - and they place no favorites. - They observe them all! - Had no idea they would start so early in the morning tho'!

Old Mt. Etna sits just beyond the town - and quite a mountain. It could put 3 or 4 Visuviuses on it and still tower above. - Must be all of 10,000 ft.!! But I remember seeing it quite often about a year ago. It used to make me more scared

than now. I wonder if it being German territory could have had any effect on my nerves?

How do you like this flare up in Italy - as well as France? We are all sweating out a trip to Rome in the near future. Hardly expect to see it, but I sure would like to, from the ground. - Have quite often looked the city over from the air and it looks very interesting to say the least.

Well, - it looks like we are going to have to go on more than sixty missions. Today I would start for the seventies. - Sure seems like an awful lot, - but there's not much we can do about it, apparently. Am pretty sure I could go home on a medical just because a fellow ought to be suffering from combat fatigue by this time! - However, have hopes that before I can put in many more, my orders will work thru under the

regular rotation. - I won't use the medical unless I actually start breaking. It sorta goes against the grain to have to use it when regular rotation should take care of it now. Anyway - by keeping all fingers crossed, maybe my luck is still thick enough to hold up a little longer.

Some of the boys went down to the beach yesterday, to go swimming. - I couldn't quite work up enough ambition to go along, but from the reports, I'll have to make it next time. - Hater's still a little cold, yet, but the beach is nice. - Only trouble, it's sorta hard to get to. A rather long ride over rough roads - and that gets plenty tiresome in a jeep! - We often discuss ~~at~~ how we will feel riding down a smooth road in a car with cushions and shock absorbers!

You should see our tent now. - Still not among the concrete aristocracy, but

at least we have it mosquito & fly
proof now! - We got a hold of some mosquito
bars and by cutting them up, made
screening of a fashion. Even made us a
screen door! - You've no idea of the
comfort it affords to be able to get away
from the flies, particularly. They were one
of our greatest pests all thru last
summer, because until we built our
club, we were never free of them.
Naturally the hotter it gets, and ~~of~~ the
more you sweat, the worst of a pest
they become!

Well, - today being June 11th - guess
the Loo po's "almost" family reunion is
beginning to hold sway. - In about
3 or 4 more hours guess Sister & all of
you will be getting up to go meet
the train with Brother, Melba & Janet!
Sorry I can't be with you at this
particular time, but perhaps it's just

7!

as well! - I can just hear the jabber now.
Why it will be worse than when Miss
Alga used to come over to see Aunt Libby!

Well, guess I'd better stop for now,
and if there's anything I haven't said - say
it for next time. Keep your hats on
and maybe soon I will be writing the
thing we have all been waiting for.

Remember - Keep 'em crossed -

Lots of Love,

Frank

P.S. - Sister - next time my Wash. Post
subscription comes due - guess it will
be just as well not to renew it. The
papers usually run from 4 to 6 weeks
behind so I ~~sa~~ should have plenty on
the way to take care of me!

Frank or Jan