





DAILY DIARY


1

Pfc. WALTER SIKONOWIZ

ASN 32471172

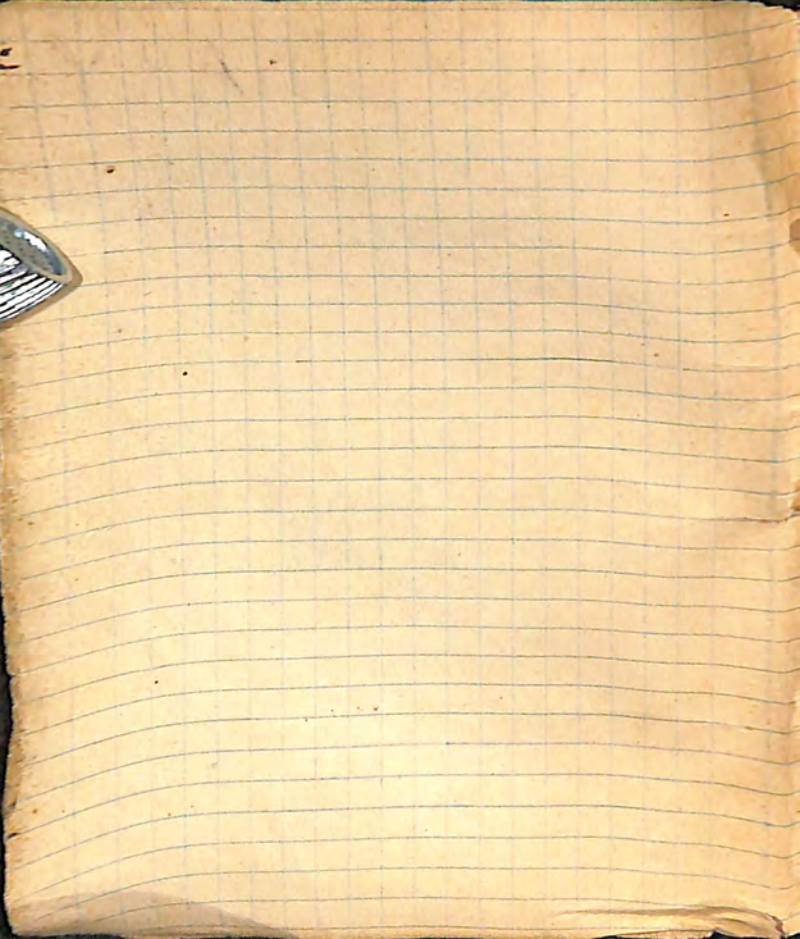
736 ORD. (LM) Co., 36 INF. DIV.

APO # 36

HOME ADDRESS 

84 GARROW ST.

AUBURN, NEW YORK



APRIL 1943 1

thur. 1

Boarded the "Thomas H. Berry"
of New York harbor

fri. 2

Sailed out the ocean at
7 A.M. Later it became foggy as we went further out.

tues. 13

Arrived in the afternoon at
the port of Oran and pitched tents out
in the outskirts.

Sat. 17

Got a pass to Oran with
Jerome and got a few drinks of wine.
Some wine - a couple of drinks started
to make us feel good. Stopped at a few
places, then we got roused. Finally we
went back to the bivouac area.

Tues. 20 Moved to Magenita area of
a dense cork forest.

Wed. 21 Pitched pupo-tents in the Cork forest

Thurs. 22 Rec'd letter from home.

2 MAY 1943

- * Sun. 2 Wrote a letter home
- * Sun. 9 Wrote a letter home, to Robert and Joe.
- Fri. 21 Started to move towards Robot
First stop at Oufda
- Sat. 22 Second stop at Fez.
- Sun. 23 Third stop at Meknes.
stood guard in that area
- Mon. 24 Arrived in the afternoon about
1:00 o'clock. During the rest of the
afternoon pitched pyramidal tents.
- Wed. 26 On guard at the A.D.
Rec'd Easter Greeting card from
Betty also a letter from home
dated 4-22
- * Thurs. 27 On guard all day - Wrote a
letter to Betty & Home
- Sun. 30 On guard at the Co. area.
- Mon 31 On guard all day.

JUNE 1943 3

Wed. 2 Rec'd letter from Virg.

Thurs. 3 Went to Rabat with Jerome and had a pretty good time

★ Fri. 4 Had movie in Co. area called "China Girl". P.M. - sent a post card greetings home.

Sat. 5 On guard in the Co. area
P. 4 - 1 R.

Sun. 6 On guard all day

Mon. 7 Sent a letter and pictures to Virg.

☞ Tues. 8 Rec'd a letter from home. In the afternoon went to Rabat with Jerome.

Wed. 9 Rec'd a letter from F. F.

Fri. 11 On guard in the Co. area
P. 3 - 1 R.

Sat. 12 Rec'd a letter from Yuroslaw Malysa and wrote to him that day.

JUNE 1943

- Sun 13 Wrote a letter and sent pictures home also to Betty + Frank F.
- Mon. 14 On guard all night.
- Tues. 15 On guard all day
P.1 - 3R.
- ★ Wed. 16 Sent a large pocketbook and 2 cigarette cases home.
- Thurs. 17 Went to Rabat with Hank Neimyer and Felix Stoy. Frank and I ate at a restaurant.
- Sat. 19 On guard at the A.D.
- ★ Sun 20 On guard all day the
Wrote a letter home
- = Mon 21 Rec'd letter from home
dated 6-7
- Tues. 22 Worked all night until
8:30 A.M. of the next morning
- Wed. 23 Slept during the day
On guard at night.

JUNE 1943

- ★ Thurs. 24 On guard all day P.1 - 1R
Wrote a letter home
- Sat. 26 On guard at night P.3 - 3R
- Sun. 27 On guard all day
Rec'd a letter "V" mail from home.
- Mon. 28 At night saw a movie -
"Pacific Blackout" After
I worked till A.M.
- Tues. 29 In the morning slept till
noon. Went to work
again in the afternoon.
- ★ Wed. 30 Rec'd a letter from Betty
dated 6-8 5-27
Rec'd a greeting card from
home.
On guard at night 3P. - 1R.

JULY 1943

★ Thurs. 1 Wrote a letter home (w/ "V" - ...)
☒ Wrote a letter to Betty

Fri. 2 In the morning sent out a money order of \$75 to home.
Afternoon went to Rabat with Olson. In the show saw "Shadow of the Thin Man"

★ Sat. 3. At 2:00 o'clock rec'd typhus and typhoid shots
P.M. wrote a letter home

Sun. 4 Wrote a "V" mail to Robert C.
At night saw a movie called "Pittsburgh"

Mon. 5. Saw a movie - "Now Voyager"

Wed. 7 Movies - "Orchestra Wives"

Thurs. 8 In the morning went to the medicals and got my front tooth filled

JULY 1943 7

- ★ Sun. 11 Wrote a letter home
at night went to a movie
saw "3 Stoges & Ranger Bandit"
- Tues. 13 Talked and demonstrated
on the 105 How. and 9mm
(german) at the 143 Reg.
At night on guard 2 P.M.
- Wed. 14 Went to movie saw
"Falcon and His Brother"
In the morning went to
the dentist again to get my
front teeth filled.
- Thurs. 15 saw stage act "As you
Were"
- ★ Fri. 16 Rec'd 3 "V" mails from
home and a letter
from Joe S.
- Sat. 17 Worked all day on guns.
- ★ Sun. 18 Wrote a letter to Joe and
Home
- Mon. 19 Rec'd 6 rolls of film
from home.

JULY 1943

Tues. 20 On guard 12 hr. post.

Wed. 21 Movies saw "Grapes of Wrath"

Thurs 22 Movies saw "Son of Fury"

Sat. 24 Rec'd a letter from Frank F.
and from Betty dated the
7-7 6-13

☒ Sun. 25 Wrote a letter to Frank F.
and to Betty.

Mon. 26 Went to Rabat with Gerald
Luncan. Walked around and
drank at a couple joints. Went
to the movie and saw "The Most
the merrier". Later hanged
around in the park.

Wed. 28 On guard at night.

Thurs. 29. Played horseshoes excel.
for the first time and beat
a few games with the fellows.

★ Fri. 30 Wrote a letter home
At night broke down the
pyramidal tents.

JULY 1943

- * Sat. 31 Sent a telegram home in the morning. Afternoon played in a horseshoe tournament and won \$3.86.

AUGUST

- Sun 1 Packed our belongings and then cleaned the area.
- Mon. 2 Left Rabat in the morning and made the first stop at Taza. At night on guard.
- Tues. 3 Second stop at Oujda area. While waiting around I joined a high dice game and won \$22 in that game. At night a movie was shown there called "Whistling in the Dark".
- Wed. 4 third stop reached the area in Mostaganam at night.
- Thurs. 5 In the morning we cleared the area and pitched pyramidal tents.
Rec'd a letter from Virg.

① AUGUST 1943

Fri. 6 Got European Campaign ribbon

Sat. 7 Afternoon went swimming
to the beach on the Med. Sea.

* Sun. 8 Wrote to Home and Virg
at night on guard.

Mon. 9 Movie "Somewhere I'll
Find You"

Tue's. 10 Swimming at the Med. Sea

Wed. - 11 Swimming at the Med. Sea.

Thurs. 12 Movie saw "Santa Fe trail
Before the movie coffee and
doughnuts were served by
the Red Cross. Later I ate
twelve doughnuts with
Cappuccino.

* Sat. 14 Saw "Stage Door Canteen"
Wrote a letter home from

* Sun 15 Worked all day. P.M. wrote a
letter home

AUGUST 1941 13

= Mon. 16 Rec'd and answered a letter from home on the letter I wrote yesterday and sent them both out.

In the afternoon me, Henykin, Worskawa, & Rabbert pulled out for the water proofing area.

Tues. 17 Stayed out at the W.P. Area.

Wed. 18 In the morning still at the W.P. Area.

In the afternoon at the staging area.

Thurs. 19. P.M. rec'd a letter from Betty at the staging area.
dated 7-19 7-1

Fri. - 20 P.M. returned back to the old area before.

☑ Sat 21 Wrote a letter to Betty.

★ Mon 23 Wrote a letter home.

Tues. 24 Rec'd & Wrote a letter to Frank F.
A.M. walked 8 miles a long and tiresome hike

0. AUGUST 1943

Wed. 25 - hiked out 8 miles again.

Thurs. 26 - hiked out 12 miles more.

Fri. 27 - hiked out 9 miles

Sun 29 saw Movie "7 Day Leave"
at the H.Q.

Tues 31 Got payed in the morning.
Saw Gen. Clark & Eisenhower
in review in the afternoon. We
stayed in formation on the road in Montejunon.

SEPTEMBER 1943

=Thurs 2 Rec'd a letter from home
dated 8-16 and a
"V" mail 8-18

Sat. 4 Left the area and boarded about
with Lt Murphy, Stephens and Gabbert on the "Urontus"

Sun. 5 Sailed out into sea. (Med.)

=Mon. 6 Got letter & pictures from
home 8-4 and a
letter from Betty 8-6 [7-25]

15

SEPTEMBER 1943

★ Wed 8 Wrote a letter to home
and to Betty ("V" mails)

Thurs 9 Landed at 3^{PM} o'clock on the
(Landing boat) invasion day. Walked through
(Drownings) water knee high from the
Beach of Salerno L.C.C. Then walked on the beach
Salerno and hopped onto a half-track
with Lt. Murphy, Hemphins
and Rabbert looking for the
D.W.P. Area. A bullet whizzed
low overhead and then we
ducked low in the half-track.
Finally we reached the D.W.P.
Area and met Wordham and
Baylis. After de-waterproofing
we took off along side of the
old ruins along the side of the
road running East away from
the beach and ducked into
the side of the road into a ditch.
Sniping was going on. Artillery
firing over our heads to the enemy
lines and from the enemy lines.
It was a miserable sight that day.
Later barrage of anti-aircraft
opened up on the enemy planes
along the beach of Salerno.

14 SEPTEMBER 1943

= Sat. 25 - Rec'd a "V" mail from
Home - 8-31

Wed. 29 - Rec'd a br. brh from
home

* Thurs 30 - sent a telegram home

OCTOBER 1943

Fri. 1 On guard at night.

= Sat. 2 Rec'd a "V" mail from
Home dated 9-15

Mon. 4 Rec'd Frank F. letter
dated 9-13

Wed. 6 Movie - "Amazing Miss
Holiday"

Thurs 7 On guard at night

= Sun. 10 Rec'd a "V" mail from
home 9-27

* Mon. 11 Mailed a letter home

OCTOBER 1943

15

Wed 13 Moved to Pozzula above
Naples.

= Sun. 17 Rec'd air-mail from
home - 8-25

= Mon 18 Rec'd "V" mail from home 10-5
and a letter from
Robert 9-2 also a letter
from Malysa 9-3 & 10-5

Tues. 19 Mailed letters to F.F. and
to Malysa.

= Wed. 20 Rec'd air-mail from
home - 9-30

Thurs. 21 Rec'd letter from Virg 8-31
Am. Locomotive 8-23
and Malysa 9-20

★
= Fri. 22 Rec'd a "V" mail from home 10-9
Sent Greeting "V" mails to
home, covered (small boys, uncle, guitar)
Betty and 1 package (cameo)
Virg Joe and Robert.

☒
△△
★ Sun 24 - Sent a letter and Am. Loco.
books of 1738 home

16 OCTOBER 1943

* Mon 25 sent a Greeting telegram home.

Tues 26 In the morning rec'd a "good conduct ribbon"
In the afternoon on a 24 hr guard 1P.-1R.

Wed. 27 On guard all day

= Sat 30 Rec'd 2 "V" mails from home 10-19
In the afternoon went on a pass to Naples with Garga

Sun. 31 In the morning went on a pass to Pompeii. Went and looked throughout the ruins.
In the afternoon went to check there with Garga. Later stopped at two restaurants and had steak, macaroni, and fried potatoes and a quart of wine in each restaurant.
at night was on guard 3P.-2R
Bought a mosaic clock for Betty in Pompeii.

NOVEMBER 194

17

Tues. 2 Went to the show saw
"Big Street"

★ Thurs. 4 Sent a "V" mail home


☒ Fri. 5 Sent a mosaic check to
Betty

Sat. 6 On guard at night

Sun 7. Moved to new area
further up from Pozzuli

Mon. 8. Slept till morning in the
cab of a 2 1/2 ton truck. Got
up hit rain & hailed. Later
helped put up the kitchen tent.
Later camouflaged the vehicle
then pitched my tent with Garga

★ Tues. 9 Rec'd a "V" mail letter from
home 10-28

☒  Also a letter from FF.
Wrote a "V" mail home
and to F.F.

© H. M. Brock
Modification

☒ Thurs 11 - Wrote "V" mail with Xmas
sketching to Betty

18 NOVEMBER 1943

Fri. 12 In the morning went to the dentist and got my two molar teeth filled.
At night on guard.

Sat. 13. Rec'd an Xmas package from Virg and Ann.

★ Mon 15 Wrote a letter to Virg and Ann and a "V" mail to home.

Tues. 16 Co. moved from the Pazzoli area to Mazanello. Stalled there till morning.

Wed. 17 I moved from that area over to Mazanello - sleeping quarters in a 24 hr. guard (in house).

Sun. 21 Went to church here in Mazanello with Garza at 10:20 A.M.

= Mon. 22 Rec'd a "V" mail letter and a camera from home 11-3
In the afternoon on guard
P.6-10R.

NOVEMBER 1943

19

★ Tues. 23 On guard during the day on No 1 post.
At night wrote a "V" mail home.

Wed. 24 Met a fellow over in the arms section. After talking for a while, I found out that he had been in the same company with me in Aberdeen Co. "C" 3rd Bn. Bill told me that Bernstein, the fellow I used to go around with in Aberdeen, is now a first Sgt. at the bomb disposal. He's located in Naples now.

The weather today showers and at times clear.

At night wrote a "V" mail to Frank F.

Thurs. 25 Thanksgiving Day

In the morning fixed a .57 gun. Rained occasionally in the morning. Had turkey, sweet potatoes, olives and crushed pineapple also coffee for dinner. In the afternoon fixed a mobtac 81 MM. Rained slightly at PM also a little cooler.

NOVEMBER 194

20

Fri. 26 Partly cloudy in the morning
and a little clearer in the afternoon.
In the morning I repaired a motor.
At dinner time had beef, macaroni
and tea. In the afternoon Hank and
I decided to go on the hill here in
Mozanello with our cameras to take
some pictures. We climbed half a
later Pe Vine and DeBacco met us
with us. We looked at the shell holes
there overlooking the hill. There were
bomb craters too. Hank found a
german hand grenade but we did
not pick it up. We went through
ruins and looked over the inside of
the church. We came back to our
section at about 3:00 O'clock. Sgt. Cas
told three of us to see the first Sgt. of
Canada if he wanted to see me too. I
said, No! Then I told him that I was
with the other three too. So then he told
me to go along with them. We saw
1st Sgt. then went to the kitchen to
a 6' x 6' carbage pit. I guess
we are the first ones to ever dig
a hole in Italy in our Company.
Didn't finish it yet. We will
continue it tomorrow. Took
picture from the hill & will go on tomorrow.

Sat. 27 - In the morning fixed a 60mm mortar. Rained a little in the morning and cleared up in the afternoon. P.M. - cleaned out the trailer and drilled a few holes in the front for water drainage cleaned the parts and covered them with compound grease and put them back into the trailer. At night was on guard 1 P. - 3 R. a 24 hr. post

Sun 28 On guard in the morning from 9:15 to 11:15. In the afternoon took a bath and put on clean clothes. Then went on guard again at 3:15 to 5:15. It was clear all day & warm. At noon took a picture of the Chashine. A.M. pictures of the living quarters & hill

★ Mon. 29 A.M. - fixed a 81MM mortar. The weather was cool & cloudy. Later during the day it rained slightly. Made a ring in the afternoon. Sent telegram P.M. Received a letter from home dated 11-11 also snapshots and money order for ten dollars. At night was called out by Lt. Bannister to fill 105 Ho

Tues 30 A.M. - fixed a 81MM. Mortar. The weather was partly cloudy. At noon had frankfurts, sweet potatoes, pear and water.

22 NOVEMBER 1943

★ Tues 30. - PM - gave a coating of lubricating oil on a 37 MM gun. Modified the sliding bracket of a 81 mm Mortar.
In the morning got payed. The money I loaned out has been returned. The allotment of 30 and also another one which I made out today of \$40, which I had saved up; had sent all home. At night wrote a letter home - air mail

DECEMBER 1943

Wed 1 A.M. - partly cloudy and clear in the afternoon. fixed an 81 MM Mortar
P.M. worked on a 37 MM gun. At night had some coffee made in the house

Thurs. 2 A.M. - worked on the 37 MM gun then got to working on the 75 MM pack How.
It was clear and cool.
P.M. - Continued working on 75 MM How.
At night 7.30 to 11 worked on the 105 MM How.

Fri 3 In the morning rained slightly. Worked on the 75 MM pack How. At dinner had dropped back

DECEMBER 1943 23

Fri 3 - gravy, potatoes, tomatoes, sliced
cocktail fruit and coffee. At noon
received a package from home
In the afternoon worked on the
75 MM pack Howitzer. At night
was on a 12 hr. post 3P. - 1R.

* Sat 4 - AM Rained quite often throughout
the morning. Stayed in the battery trench
and repaired 60 MM mortar adjusting legs. At
noon had frankfurts, carrots, beans,
peaches and coffee.

P.M. Rained quite a bit. At
night worked on the 105 MM How. from
7:15 to 8 PM. At night wrote an
air-mail letter to home.

Sun 5 - AM. - clear and warm, worked
on the 75 pack Howitzer. At noon
had chicken, potatoes, gravy and
peaches and lemonade. P.M. worked
on the 75 pack How. At 3 o'clock took
a bath and put on clean clothes. At
4 o'clock rode over to 131st F.A. with
Satoon to check on the 105 MM How.
We returned at 7 o'clock. Met up
with heavy traffic on the way back.
We ate supper at 7:45 and after
that I returned to my quarters.

24 DECEMBER 1943

= Mon 6 - Cloudy in the morning. Worked on the 75 MM How. At noon had fried salmon beans, beans, chocolate pudding, bread with jam and lemonade. At noon rec'd 2 letters ("V") from home dated Nov. 21 & 23d. P.M. - Boston and I rode in a jeep to 131 FA. to check up on the 105 MM How. at the B^o Battery in the afternoon later returned at 5 which in time for supper. At night Sgt. Richardson impersonated and made a theatrical that he was a woman. It is too numerous to mention to what just had happened. Lots of the boys got fed up. After they got in the mood the light just then would light up and were they terrified & angry. At the end it turned out to be a great joke among the fellows who made fun of the ones who participated in the act.

= Tues 7 - Partly cloudy in the morning - Worked on the 75 pack How. bore-sighting. At noon received a "V" mail letter dated 9-14 which Lt. Bernstein found in the doodle-bug. He found his dated of the same month there also. P.M. - Worked on odd jobs around the shop area. At night wrote a "V" mail letter home. On the next morning lost my steel helmet.

DECEMBER 1943²⁵

Wed 8 - Partly cloudy and clear in the afternoon. At dinner had cut what a gravy, tomatoes, pie and grapefruit juice. Before noon took my shoes over to the cobbler here in Marginalia to put on extra length over the ankle with buckles. Afternoon worked on a 37MM A.T. gun. At supper had stew, peas and carrots, and pineapple & pineapple juice. At night had a hair-cut at Spin's barber shop.

Thurs. 9 - Partly cloudy all day. Worked on a 37MM A.T. gun and a 57 A.T. In the afternoon the newspaper correspondent took pictures of me. Bluffin and Case working on the 57MM A.T. gun (6 lbs) also picture of all the others, on the yard working, from the balcony of the house. Pictures were taken by Jack Rice - A.P.

Fri. 10 mostly cloudy during the day. In the morning worked on the 37MM A.T. gun and a 60MM. Mortar. In the afternoon worked on another 60MM. Mortar and two tubes. Had my watch overhauled by Kramer. He took it apart and fixed the spring on the balance wheel. At night on guard 3P.-3R. Borrowed Neimyer's steel helmet for guard.

26 DECEMBER 1943

☒ Sat 11 - Clear and bright in the morning. Worked on the 105 MM How., replacing the tilting and the recoil mechanism from one bad gun carriage to another good gun carriage. In the afternoon repaired a damaged 60 MM Mortar leg also worked on a 75 MM pack How. recoil mech. bracket piston rod holder. At night wrote a letter to Betty.

★ Sun 12 - Partly cloudy in the morning. Fixed the brow-bar rod on the 75 MM pack How. and also the piston rod bracket with grease. In the afternoon painted two 60 MM mortar tubes. Rec'd a pair of combat high-top shoes from Mauple. Wrote a V mail letter to home.

Mon. 13 Partly cloudy in the morning - Helped the small arms clean the bayonets. Later fixed a 60 MM mortar. In the afternoon helped to change a tube on a 105 MM How. After supper got my steel helmet at the supply which Foster had found for me.

Tues. 14 a little clear all day. In the morning fixed a 81 MM mortar. In the afternoon repaired a jeep tire and tube. In the morning got ~~staphylococcus typhus~~ typhus shots in the arm.

DECEMBER 1943 27

Wed 15 - In the morning clean & bright
cleared my tools and also helped
put a new tube on a 105 MM How.
In the afternoon clean - Lubricated
bolts in the small arms.

Received a V-mail from home 11-30
at night wrote a V-mail home.
Rec'd an extra woolen blanket.
Wrote a V-mail letter to Joe
and to Yaroslav Indysa

Thurs 16 Clear all day - In the morning
made a couple of bolts for the hand guard on
a 97MM. AT. In the afternoon bought some
P.V. supplies. Later in the afternoon helped
replace a 105 MM. tube on a tank retriever.

Fri 17 Clear all day. - In the morning
fixed two 60 MM. Mortars and tube. Gave a
coat of paint on the tube. In the afternoon
adjusted the 105 MM How. Later helped to
take a worn tube (005 MM How.) out of the
M-7 prime-mover. Organized at night
4P - 2R.

Sat. 18 In the morning got a pair of over-
shoes (artics) and a shelter-half which
Plater printed my name on. In the
afternoon worked a 105 MM How. tube.

28 DECEMBER 1943.

Sat 18. Also in the morning I got back the pair of spade which I took over to the Cobler's the 8th. Went to bed early with a chill at 6.0' clock.

Sun 19. Made revellie in the morning - didn't eat any breakfast. Peter went on sick-call and got some kind of a powdered formula to mix with water to drink every two hours. After returning with Sam & Hargh - I went to my quarters in the house and rested for the day. - didn't eat all day.

Mon. 20. Tried to eat in the morning but couldn't eat very well. Went on sick-call in the morning and got some more powder and pills. laid in bed all day in the quarters.

Tues 21 Ate very little in the morning. Didn't feel so well. In the morning took some supplies with a 3/4 ton truck with Humphreys to the 141st service. Ate a little there at dinner time. Then drove up past Vanafro to the 141st then from there with White to the cannon Co. to check on the M-7's in front line positions. From there we took White back to his Co. and then from there on we proceeded back to our Co and got there at 5:30 P.M.
Rec'd a Christmas Greeting Card from Robert. (There was little sniping at Vanafro).

DECEMBER 1943-29

Wed. 22. Felt better in the morning & ate breakfast. In the morning fixed two 81MM Mortars and in the afternoon two 60MM Mortars. It rained all day. Modified four 81MM sliding brackets and five 61MM sliding brackets. Wrote a V-mail letter to Robert.

Thurs. 23. Rained in the morning. Felt better today. At noon received greeting cards from Mother, Father & Brother. In the afternoon worked on the 105MM how. At night on a 24 hrs. guard. 2R-1P.

Fri. 24. In the morning on guard from 7:15 to 9:45 A.M. After guard washed and cleaned up and shaved. At night at 5:45 P.M., Melinger, Cass & Page hootched up a 5 gal. can of wine at some ginza place. Now the hoe-down's about to begin on this Xmas Eve here in Margenello, Italy. The inside of the room here will soon be cramed full. We got a Christmas tree set up with colored strips of papers hanging from limbs. The radio is playing and it almost seems like home. Heard President Roosevelt's speech over the radio at 8 P.M.

30 DECEMBER 1943.

Sat. 25 - Christmas Day - no revellic in the morning. Had ham and sunny-side-up eggs and coffee. After breakfast worked on rifles - half of the Co. had worked on them - taking comalines off and test firing. A full truck full of rifles had to be cleaned. At 10:30 AM. a red-cross girl came over to our mess camp and served doughnuts and coffee. She is from New Jersey. At noon we had Turkey, gravy, pudding, potatoes, peas, cranberry sauce, pineapple pie, cake and desert and coffee. We sure had plenty to eat. After dinner we worked on the rifle again and stopped work just before supper time. At supper-time we had beef, peas, potatoes, raisin bread & coffee. At noon I took two pictures around the mess tent here in Manzanello. The weather was clear in the morning and part cloudy at noon, then mostly clouded later in the afternoon with a little of sprinkling rain. Wrote letters to home & to Betty.

Sun 26 Revellic in the morning. Had bread dipped in eggs and fried, doughnuts cereal and coffee. In the morning slept till ten finished writing. At noon had breakfast a saw-croat for dinner. At supper had hash, peas, and raisin pie. At 6 P.M. went to church with Garga & Wallen.

Mon. 27 - Latson, Maninger and I rode over to 155 F.A. to check up on the 75 MM pack howitzers. Took one how. apart and took out the defective equilibrator spring. Also checked the sighting equipment and condition of carb. how. Returned back to the company at 12:30 PM. In the afternoon fired a 60 MM. Mortar. Sky clear all day.

Tues. 28. - In the morning Henpkins, Maninger and I rode over to the 155 F.A. and took along the equilibrator. Took an extra equilibrator out from an extra pack how. and put it in one of the good conditioned ones. A couple of bombs fell around in that vicinity hitting the high snowcrown in Venafro. We returned back to the company at 12 N. Rec'd a V mail letter from Malaya in the afternoon. Sky clear all day, very cool.

Wed 29. In the morning Henpkins and I rode over to the 141st S-4 in a jeep to Venafro. They were moving from there so we went along with them. I drove the jeep from there back to the company here in Meyanullo. In the afternoon we packed every thing into the vehicles and got ready to move everything apart our personal belongings. At night I was on 12th guard. - 2 P. - 1 A.

(I was in this Division one year from this date)

Thurs 30 In the morning after breakfast packed up the personal belongings and moved out of Mazonella area. Pulled out of combat zones for awhile to a resting place... Reached this area at 12:30 P.M. and unloaded the trucks and put my boys to work in tents. Later in the afternoon I pitched my pup tent. After supper they had a vehicle going to the nearby town to a movie. I went along with the gang and saw a first movie in a long time - Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy in "Keeper of the Flame".

Fri. 31 In the morning right after breakfast went to the 143rd reg. to inspect the equipment with the other boys. There inspected the mortars when Peter went back to the company with Jerome M. Then was worked on the 81 mm mortars there.

1944 JANUARY

Sat. - 1 A terrific wind started around at 4 o'clock in the morning and rained furiously. It blew practically all the tents in the area. Didn't eat breakfast in the morning because the kitchen had been blown down and there was no turkey that noon. They finally around 2 o'clock got fixed up and fed with Turkey, potatoes & coffee. All other pup tents blew down except mine and Medaig's, Shelby's and America's.

JANUARY 1944 33

Sun. 2 After breakfast worked on the 60MM

Took 3
pictures

Mounts. Later in the afternoon after
dinner packed up our belongings
into the trucks and started to move
out of that area. It was a clear day
and warm. We moved to a better place

Alife before supper. Unloaded the equipment
then pitched a pyramidal tent for
seven of us fellows; Story, Neuziger, Adams,
Wallenburg, Cahill, Garza and me. Then ate
supper and after returning I read a
letter from Virg and Solue. ^{Guard} 3P. 2R.
12-8 12-8 & 12-9

★ Mon. 3. In the morning after breakfast fixed
a 81MM mortar. Later in the morning rec'd
a package from home (Xmas package). In the
afternoon worked on the 105 MM Howitzers
I wrote a "V" mail home to Malysa.

Tues. 4 In the morning right after breakfast
went out with the contact team, Maxie,
Baze, Wallenburg and Neiringer to inspect
the fighting equipment. At noon ate dinner
at Cannon Co - had beef. In the afternoon
Wallenburg and I inspected T-30's at the
Cannon Co. and 57MM. A.T. guns at the Anti tank
Co. Returned to the Ard. Co. for supper. At night
Deothers and I bought a giant piece of
some good bread in Alife and drank it
up in Josephine's house with her old man family.

34 JANUARY 1944

Wed. 5. A high wind blew from 6 A.M. and is still blowing. The tents seem like they are to fall any time. In the morning after breakfast I repaired 8 IMM Motors and the same after dinner. At night Brothers and I went to Alife and bought two more quarts of brandy there and came back to Josephine's house and drank one round of a shot apiece with her old man Tony and the family and five other G.I's. I didn't stay there long as yesterday. I brought my gun along to the tent and went to bed. Rec'd a V-mail letter from home 12-15

★ Thurs 6. In the morning after breakfast worked on 8 IMM Motors and the same after dinner. At night went to a movie in a show-truck from the Co. area to Piedmont saw "Fired Wife" and a comedy 3 stages in "I can hardly write". In the afternoon rec'd a V-mail letter from home 12-21
Wrote a V-mail home.

Fri. 7. In the morning after breakfast worked on 5 7MM. A.T. Guns. After dinner went to Naples with St. Berenstein & Willie in a jeep to inspect graphing book-motor at 703 rd Dist. At night stayed in 82nd General Hospital and got some sleep on a cot with three bed.

Sat. 8. Last night we rode all around Naples to get a place to sleep. - finally we found one. In the morning St. B. came around with the jeep to where we slept and met us there. We ate in the Gen. Hoop. kitchen - had coffee, biscuits and cake & orange. Then we started out on the road to Alife at 6 A.M. reached there at 9 A.M. It was so cold on the way we stopped at some bus. outfit and warmed up a bit. After in the Co. I inspected 37 AT guns. In the afternoon worked and finished three anti tank guns. Guard 4P-3R.

Sun 9. In the morning after completing the 3rd relief shift on guard and waking the rest of the boys up I then went to eat breakfast. After breakfast worked on the 57 AT guns. Had chicken for dinner. After dinner etc went to take a shower - first showers taken since left Africa. After showers changed into clean clothes. After supper Cahill, Garza, Walleburg and I went to Alife and drank a few rounds of wine in a saloon. After that I showed them a good place (private) where we got good wine and the people of the house there gave us permission to feel like at home drinking wine and listening to the radio. There was no charge on wine.

(were issued
a carbine
rifle
today)

(In the
morning
went to
church)

= Mon. 10 - In the morning at 9 A.M. H. Bernstein, Griffin, Wallenberg and I went to 411 Blvd at Caiazeros to have the trails changed from the 6.00 to the 57 M.M. A.T. guns. We dined there at the Co. Returned back at 5 P.M. Found letters on my bed - A letter from home with a (12-27) greeting card from Virg. At night went to the movie in Alife with Jerome. saw "Sky's the Limit" with Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers.

Tues. 11 Arouse 9:30 A.M. went to Piedmont in a 2 1/2 ton with the boys to get deloused - returned from there 11: A.M. The showers there was warm after that we were issued different clothing. In the afternoon worked on 81 M.M. Mortars. At night went to Alife with Cahill, Wallenberg, Adams and Griffin to a private house and drank some wine there - returned at 9 o'clock.

Wed 12 In the morning worked on a 57 A.T. gun and also on 81 M.M. Mortars. In the afternoon worked on 81 and 60 M.M mortars. At night went to a movie in Piedmont and saw "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" - Came from the show at 9:45. Then went to sleep early. Got vaccinated against small pox before noon.

JANUARY 1944 37

★ Thurs. 13. Clear all day and quite warm. In the morning repaired 60 MM. mortars and checked for three new M2A1-57MM anti tank guns to be kept in stock in the Co., with Johnny Powers. Later worked on a 57MM anti tank gun - then refilled oil in the recoil cyl. of another 57MM. anti tank gun. At noon right after dinner rec'd a letter from Frank F. In the afternoon worked on 60 MM. mortars and also 57MM. anti tank gun. After supper received a letter from Betty (12-15)

X Wrote a "V" mail letter home and Frank F.

Fri 14. Clear all morning - In the morning worked on 60 MM. mortars and a 37MM anti tank gun. Just before noon rec'd a Christmas greeting card from Virg. In the afternoon worked on 60 MM mortars. At night went to a movie in Piedmont - saw Humphrey Bogart on stage in person. Ralph Hart - the accordion player and Bogart's wife. Also the 143rd Inf. Band. Later a movie was shown called "Let's face it" with Bob Hope and Betty Hutton. Returned from the show at 10 P.M.

★ Sat. 15 On the morning the advance party moved up from here (Alife). All the division artillery except one and Wall's company worked on a 3.5 M.M. A.T. gun till noon. At noon rec'd a "V" mail letter from home. Wrote a "V" mail letter home. 12-30

In the afternoon went out with Sgt. Canada to try out the modified trigger mortar at the place we want to dismount from that area and as we couldn't get ammunition for the 60 M.M. mortar to test fire. Found a place where they were target practicing and the sniper's rifle didn't shoot accurate so Sgt. Canada adjusted the sight (the range) and I helped him. We soon got it adjusted and after that returned back to our Co. in Alife at 3:45 P.M. At night after supper over Cahill, Sergeant went to that town to a private place and drank six quarts of white wine. Later we returned from there at 9:30 P.M. I was dizzy when I wrote this in this diary of course and after I returned I went back to sleep. Before I went to bed I read Betty's letter over again. Then finally Cahill struggled in behind later and I helped him to get in bed.

JANUARY 1944 39

Sun 16. - In the morning packed our personal belongings and then took the pyramidal tents down. Left from the town of Alife area to another area further north.
Susanynna
Greg at 10:30 P.M. Arrived in the new area around noon. Then we pitched pyramidal tent and then ate late meal (2nd) at 4 o'clock. At night on guard 1P-2R. 24 lbs. post shot hit in the knee with the sharp point of an ad and got gashed but not severely.

Mon 17 In the morning after breakfast went on guard from 7:15 to 9:15 A.M. Later wrote a V-mail letter to Virg. After dinner went on guard again from 1:15 till 3:15 P.M. At night went to a movie near our area about 8 miles from from the coast zone saw "Barbarian". The movie was shown outside.

Tues 18 In the morning after breakfast worked on 60 MM. mortars also the same in the afternoon.


☒ Wrote an air mail letter to Betty

Wed 19 A.M. - worked on 60 MM. mortars and P.M. worked on 81 MM mortars. Rec'd V-mail from home
★ Wrote a V-mail home 1-1

40 JANUARY 1944

Thurs. 20. In the morning after breakfast worked on 81 MM. mortars also in the afternoon. In the afternoon had drawing on going to town. I drew an ace and so did Cahill out of the whole bunch. Then he and I drew again. He drew a six and I a four, so he got the high and is going to town (Casserta)

Fri. 21 In the morning after breakfast worked on 81 MM. mortars. At noon it was news to me that I had rec'd a corporals rating. In the afternoon I worked on 81 MM. mortars again. Also at that time I turned into the orderly tent my soldiers pay book to have the rank and pay changed out. After work rec'd a letter from home dated 1-6

★ Sat 22 In the morning repaired 60 MM mortars. In the afternoon did a few old jobs. After worked rec'd a  letter from Betty. Wrote a "V" mail home and an air mail letter to Betty

Sun 23 In the morning no reveille. After breakfast went to church with George & Wellens at the village on the hill. After I returned I made out the "Parto Modificato" for each type of gun and mortar. Spent the afternoon of it.

JANUARY 1944 41

²⁴
Mon. In the morning after breakfast I cleaned all my tools and rearranged things. In the afternoon checked and cleaned out some 81MM mortar tubes, and got rid of some parts to be salvaged, at night on 12 hr. guard. 3P-2R.

Tues. 25 - In the morning after breakfast fixed a 60 M.M. mortar and a 50 cal. mach. gun mount. In the afternoon replaced a telescope mount, tube and tire from the wheel, took off front shield to be welded and took off hand brakes and righting cable to be repaired.

Wed. 26 after breakfast went out with two 46 Ord. fellows to 132 F.A. to check the 105 MM How. It was pretty hot around there. We made the check-over then returned at 10:30 P.M. In the afternoon repaired 60 & 81 M.M. mortars.

★ Thurs 27. After breakfast worked on 81MM mortars later went out with three 46 Ord fellows to 155 F.A. to check the 155 How. After when we finished, around towards noon it began to get plenty hot around there. Shells were dropping around and we scooted back to our Co. Returned at about 1:30 P.M. In the afternoon worked on mortars again. Rec'd V-mail from home - 1-11 wrote 6 "V" mail home.

42 JANUARY 1944

FRI. ²⁸ After breakfast went out with the two 46 Ord. fellows to 131st F.A. to check the 105 M.M. How. Returned at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. When I got back we packed everything and got ready to move from Casanaya to Mignano. After we got there we pitched our pyramidal tents and were ready before 7 P.M.

Sat. 29. After breakfast went out with the two 46 Ord. fellows to 133 F.A. to check on the 105 M.M. How. and make a written report. Returned from there at 1:30 P.M.

★ SUN. 30 - After breakfast went out with the two 46 Ord. fellows to 155 F.A. to check on the 8 pack 75 M.M. How. Returned from there at 11:15 A.M. Worked on 81 M.M. Motors in the afternoon. P.M. rec'd a "V" mail from 1-14 home and a letter from Frank. Wrote a "V" mail letter home and to Frank F.

MON. 31 In the morning worked on 81 M.M. Motors and at afternoon the two 46 Ord. fellows came up to this Co. and from here I went up with them to find the 142 Co. and A.T. Co. After looking around for it at the first we then returned back at 3:45 P.M. Got payed and allotment of 30 sent home.

FEBRUARY 1944 43

Tues - 1 In the morning and afternoon worked on the 105 M.M. Hows. Replaced a tube. In the afternoon got a new fellow into the artillery ord. section - H. Roberts. At night on guard 2 P. - 1 R.

Wed. 2. In the morning and afternoon worked on 81 M.M. mortars. Was clear and very warm all day.

Thurs. 3 In the morning and afternoon worked on odd jobs. - finally got a hair cut in the afternoon. At supper time the Red Cross girls gave out doughnuts. After supper rec'd a "V" mail from Frank. Wrote a "V" mail to Frank.

Fri. 4 In the morning worked on odd jobs. In the afternoon we drew cards to see who was to go to Caserta for four days. Wollenburg drew a high ace and all the others drew low cards - I drew an eight. Also drew cards to go to the show in the afternoon. I was one of the six that got to go. We went that afternoon and got there early. It rained. The show was to start at 3 P.M. - a stage show. So we turned back. Loreng, Veltz, Wollenburg and I hitchhiked back to the Co. area. After supper got a Bronze Star to put on the campaign ribbon. Star indicates for being in combat

44 FEBRUARY 1944

★ Sat. Mailed a "V" mail letter to Joe.
In the morning fixed a connecting piston
rod bracket for the 75 MM pack flow.
In the afternoon had the mortar tubes
welded. Afternoon rec'd a "V" mail 1-20
from home. Wrote a "V" mail home.

Sun 6 In the morning had no work
to do. In the afternoon checked over a
75 Pack flow. Also ran a monometer test
on it.

Mon 7. In the morning cleaned and
repaired a 75 pack flow. Also ran a
monometer test on it. Cleaned it and had
it painted.

Tues 8. In the morning and afternoon
worked on 75 MM Pack flow. Have a monometer
test on one of them and Sgt Burns took pictures
of me and midrizer working on it. At mail
call rec'd a New Year Greeting card from Lilla
and a letter from Virg. Rained at night.

★ Wed. 9. In the morning and afternoon worked
on 75 MM Pack flow. At mail call rec'd a
2-V mails from home - 1-24 & 1-25 and two
air mails from Betty 1-5 & 1-14.
Wrote a "V" mail letter home.
at night on guard 4 P. - 2 P.

FEBRUARY 19445

Thurs. 10. In the morning worked on a 75 km. Pack Hon. In the afternoon went to movie at 1443rd. and saw "Front Line Follies". A well stage act. At night raised. Saw one of the highest card nos. and got the chance to go to Caserta for five days.

Fri. 11. Got dressed in the morning and left out in the trucks at 10:10 o'clock and arrived at Caserta at 11:30. Waited around till 1:00 o'clock and then got in. Were issued passes, and blanks for ration and clothes. Later took a bath then ate supper. At night saw stage act. Louise Albritton, Janet Clark. Then saw a movie "High Diddle Diddle"

Sat. 12. Went around Caserta and also Santa Maria. At night at the rest center saw a movie "Having Fever" with Kay Kojas.

Sun. Went around in Santa Maria took pictures then went around in Santa Maria. At night in the rest center saw a movie "Remission of France".

Mon. 14. Went around Santa Maria, Santa Barbara and Marcelline. Saw show in rest center "This is the Army" - Technicolor.

46 FEBRUARY 1944

Tues 15. Ate breakfast in the rest center
★ then got ready to leave. First took showers
then turned in the blankets and then packed
left the rest center at 12:20 Pm after dinner
and arrived at the Co. area at 2:50 P.M.
at supper time rec'd a "V" mail from
1-28 home. Wrote a "V" mail home and
also to John Baulich.

Wed 16 In the morning and afternoon
worked on 60 and 81 MM Motors. Clear all
day.

Thurs. 17 In the morning worked on 81 MM
motor Bipod. In the afternoon there
wasn't anything to do.
at night wrote an air mail letter to Betty

Fri 18 In the morning cleaned up a lot
with buffin & mesinger. In the afternoon same
★ thing for a while, then Core and I repaired a
recoil collar. At night rec'd a "V" mail
from home 2-3 and also from Frank F.
Wrote a "V" mail home and to Frank
and also Herby.

Sat 19. In the morning worked on a 60 MM Motor
and 81 MM tube. Nothing doing in the afternoon

FEBRUARY 1944

★ Sun 20. Went to church at 7:30 AM.
In the afternoon worked on 105MM How.
2-6 Rec'd a V-mail letter from Home.
Wrote a "V" mail letter Home.

Mon. 21 In the morning replaced a tube on
the 105MM How. In the afternoon repaired
a 60 mm. mortar.
At night on guard 1-P. - 1-R (24hr).

Tues 22. On guard all day and noted
on my time of guard.

Rec'd a letter from Robert C.

★ Wed. 23. In the morning went out with
the 46th Ord. fellows to 133rd F.A. and
got the totally rounds fired in each How. and
checked the condition of each tube. Finished
"C" try. then started back to the Co. area. It
had started to rain terrible and by the time
I reached the co. area, I was thoroughly soaked.
Rec'd a package of candies and writing from
Home. Wrote "V-Mail" letter Home.

Thurs. 24 In the morning helped to take
down and fold the camouflage nets.
In the afternoon packed up the trailer.

18 FEBRUARY 1944

FRI. 25. In the morning after breakfast packed our personal belongings and put them into the vehicles. Then took down the pyramidal tents and packed everything and were ready to leave. Left Mignano at 9:45 and went south to San Angela. ar. there at 11:55 A.M. Unloaded the trucks then pitched pyramidal tents and then took our personal belongings into the tents. Got through at 4:20 P.M. when the time had come for chow. Had steak, macaroni, peas and coffee.

* Sat 26 - In the morning worked at the 75 mm. Pack How. Took a 8 monometer test of one of the recoil mechanisms. Later put them together. In the afternoon took our old pyramidal tent down, and put up a new one in its place. Later hauled some gravel on a 3/4 ton truck. Rained mostly all day. Rec'd a "V" mail letter from home. (2-7)-(2-9)
Wrote a "V" mail home.

Sun 27. In the morning went to church at H.Q. After dinner went past a life to Piedmont to get deloused - got new clothing in exchange. At night developed some films. Out of three rolls one came out good on the sensitive film. Two spoiled on account of improper solution

FEBRUARY 1944 45

Mon. 28. In the morning repaired a COMM motor and in the afternoon there wasn't a thing to do in artillery. At night on guard 4 to P. - 1st P. Rained night.

Tues. 29. In the morning helped Curvine to fit an elevation shaft off a 155. In the afternoon worked on 57 MM anti tank guns. At noon took a shower. Later in the afternoon ^{story} took a picture of myself against the A.T. guns. At night went to a movie and saw "Colt's Comrades". After the show developed a roll of film.

Wed 1 MARCH

== In the morning and afternoon worked on 57 A.T. guns. Took picture of the boys test firing. Rec'd a "V" mail letter from home. ^{2-1?} At night developed some pictures with Canada

Thurs. 2. In the morning worked on two
★ A.T. guns 57 M.M. In the afternoon helped Case clean the motor of his truck. Later went to a movie and saw a stage act, "K.I. Review"
× Rec'd an air mail letter from Betty. 2-5
At night developed a couple of films and also printed ten pictures. Got a first bottle of Coca Cola since I left the States.
Wrote a "V" mail home.

50 MARCH 1944.

FRI. 3. In the morning went to get deloused at 10 A.M. Took hot showers and had all clothes exchanged for clean ones. In the afternoon had gotten three bottles of Coca-Cola issued to each one. At night printed pictures with Canada, Maple and Duncan. We started at 6:30 and finished at 9:50 P.M.

Sat. 4. In the morning it had rained. Made a combination tool for a telescope for Horton. In the afternoon went to a show. When we got there the show had not been ready so we returned back for supper.

△ Wrote a "V" mail to Robert

SUN. 5 In the morning went to church. Father Roamer conducted the mass. After returning from church we, Griffin and Hammond took two 105 M.M. tubes over to 131st F.A. where the 46 Bnd. had been working and needed them. In the afternoon fixed a barrel loading for the 105 M.M. How's took pictures.

Wrote an air mail letter to Betty

Mon 6 In the morning packed up my personal belongings and left with Lt. Romaine in a 3 1/2 ton truck and Eaton with his jeep. His jeep got in a crack up so we returned to the Co. area in Los Angeles and

proceeded back towards north again
to San Pedro with Dotson, Lt. Buerstein in the
3/4 ton truck and arrived at noon in the designated
area. Met Medinger, Poorman and Frame in
the tent there. We unloaded our personal
belongings into that tent. Lt. Buerstein occupied
it with us too. The business exchange and salvage
transactions had slightly begun that afternoon.

Tues. 7. Did a pretty fair job for that day
At night saw a movie which the
New Zealanders had shown next to our
area. A pretty good show with Quik Hurray.
A few shells had dropped at a little north
of our area when we went to the movie
and also when we had been in bed.

Wed. 8. In the morning and afternoon
we had taken care of the work pretty
well for that day. At night I played
poker with Frame, Poorman, Medinger.
I lost a dollar at the end of the game.
Had taken a picture of Mullizer and I.

Thurs 9. In the morning there was a few
jobs taken care of. In the afternoon Medinger
and I cleaned the grease out of a 105 M.M. Tube
breachblock and carriage. At night
played some cards again. I wasn't very
lucky throughout the entire game. I
wound up with a loss of six dollars.

²⁻¹⁴ FRI-10 In the morning cleaned up and shaved, done a few errands. In the afternoon took a shower at the New Zealand shower point with, Medinger, Fraime and Pomman. At night Rec'd a V-Mail from Horie & Franke and an air-mail from Betty. 2-9

Sat. 11. In the morning did a few odd jobs and in the afternoon Pomman, Fraime and I chopped some wood for our stove. Later had a book "The Straw Hat". After Lt. Cuzzo came over and relieved Lt. Bernstein for that day. After supper had a card game with Lt. Cuzzo, Pomman, Fraime, Medinger. I lost five dollars. At first I began winning a considerable amount then after gradually began declining to the last cent and then borrowed a dollar and lost that too. I guess I've learned my now and reached my final decision. About ten o'clock I had started to lay down on the cot. I had my shoes off and had started to dress off. The boys were still playing cards. Lt. Cuzzo, Fraime, Pomman and Medinger. All of a sudden a few german shells whizzed low over past the tent. They tipped the table over and the candles went out and everyone lay flat on the ground. Then a few more came over then I hopped off my cot and lay flat on the ground and put on my shoes too. The shells ceased at about 11 P.M. Our artillery went over a continuous barrage for a while.

SUN. 12. In the morning ate breakfast
 ★ cleaned up and read a book. At noon after
 sitting rec'd a letter from Home 2-26
 ▲ and a letter from Virginia. Started to
 rain in the afternoon.
 Wrote a V-mail letter Home & to Frank

Mon. 13. Mon afternoon german shells came
 in around the vicinity of our area from 3 to
 4 P.M. Roberts relieved Watson in the afternoon

Tues. 14. No activity throughout the day.
 In the afternoon Rook and Bill B.
 relieved Bonman and Frame. At night we
 all went to bed - it was quiet then. About
 12.10 A.M. Roberts woke us all up. Germans
 shelled around our area. St. Bernstein,
 Sidner, Meringer, Rook, Bill, Roberts and I all done
 in for cover. Later further south we saw ack-ack.
 Heinies pulled an air-raid in Naples.

Wed. The big day. Formations after formations of
 Heavy and medium bombers of ours came over.
 Enemy installations and fortifications in the
 Cassino sector received a terrific blow. This is the
 day we waited for. Three thousand sorties dropped
 Fourteen hundred thousand pounds.

54 MARCH 1944

Thurs. 16 Quite a bit of activity over
Cassino. Wasn't quite so busy that day.

Fri. 17. In the morning made a trip
with Eiltnier to 94th Ord and got some tanks.
In the afternoon made another trip with
Roberts to the 94th Ord and gave a saluator
there for repair work order. etc supper there
then returned back to an area near San Pietro.
Over shelled at 12:30 A.M. by Germans.

Sat. 18. In the morning and afternoon
did odd jobs. Shells fell north of the area.
At night Sgt Burns and Lt. Murphy came
over to this area in San Pietro. Received a
"V" mail letter from home. 3-2

Sun. 19. In the morning went to 94th Ord.
with Eiltnier to Venaf. At noon ate salmon
crackers and coffee. After dinner took the
pyramidal cut down. Put our personal belongings
in the truck. Sgt Burns, Roberts and I rode in the
3/4 ton truck. Rook and Bill Brunner rode the
wrecker. From San Pietro we moved further south
where our Co. had been. We started at about 20 o'clock
and reached Medolane after supper time about
6:30 P.M. Also got another "V" mail letter from
home 2-22. Moved into the tent house with
Sgt Canosa, Brothers and "Shorty" Mason.

MARCH 1944.

50

Mon. 20. In the morning and afternoon worked on 60 MM. and 81 MM. mortars. At night on guard 1 R.-1 P.

Tues. 21. In the morning and afternoon worked on 81 MM. mortars. At night went to a movie in Caserta with Lunada and Wallenburg. The 36th Div. Band played at the Royal Opera House put out by the Special Service Section called the "T" Patch. Time it was broadcasted and recorded on this date at 10:30 P.M. by the 5th Army Mobile Radio Station. Tech Sgt. Charles E. Kelly who won the Congressional Medal of Honor has been interviewed. After that there was a movie called "His Butler's Sister" with Deanna Durbin and Spencer Tracy.

Wed. 22. In the morning worked on 60 MM. and 81 mm. mortars. In the afternoon on 81 MM mortars and a 57 MM. A.T. Gun. At night went to a movie in Madelonie New Prince O'Rourke with Olivia O'Brien and Robert Cummings. Rec'd a "V" mail letter from home. 3-8
★ Wrote an air-mail letter home.

Thurs. 23. In AM. worked on 81 MM. mortars. At P.M. worked on the 75 MM. How. on a half track. At night washed up and put on clean clothes.

FRI. 24 In the morning layed out our personal
 Δ well equipment on our beds for inspection.
 I got gipped for having a little dirt on the cup
 and a little dirty knife. In the morning
 worked on #1 wire motor and a 60 H.M. I in the
 afternoon. After supper rec'd a letter from
 Frank F. and also a "V" had been returned
 back to me which I had wrote to you on
 Oct. the 22nd. 1943. At night went to a
 movie in Maddaloni and saw "Jungfrau
 for Tomorrow" with Margo

Sat. 25. In the morning worked on #1 wire
 motor. In the afternoon had it off. Rained.

SUN. 26. In the morning left to Pompeii
 with Medinger. On the way over and back
 saw the volcano Mt. Vesuvius. It wasn't
 erupting and belching violently as it did a
 few days before. The streets in Pompeii were
 from two to three inches of volcanic dust. Took
 a picture of the Mt. on the way back. Drank
 cherry brandy and cogniac. Later bought a bottle
 of champagne and another bottle of cherry brandy.
 and drank it on the truck going on the way back.
 The drinks that I had mixed made me
 sick;

Mon 27. In the morning and afternoon worked on 81 M.M. and 60 M.M. mortars.

▲ Rec'd a "V" mail letter from home and Robert C. 2-14

At night on guard 24 hrs. post. 5 P. - 3 R.

★ Tues 28. Slept in the morning from 7 A.M. to 10 A.M. Went on guard at 10:30

▲ A.M. until 12:30 P.M. In the afternoon wrote a "V" mail home, Robert & Frank

Wed. 29. Worked on 60 and 81 M.M. mortars in the morning and 81 M.M. in the afternoon. At noon had Mr. Dault sign the V.F.W. Application for me and Meckinger. Then we had the money order sent with it in the envelope (53 fee)

★ Thurs. 30. In the morning worked on 81 M.M. mortars and in the afternoon Meckinger and I worked on the 37 M.M. gun on the M.P. vehicle and then cleaned three 105 M.M. How. tubes that were coated with condense. I might want to a movie over "Stoney Weather" with Gene Home & Carl Colaway & Bill Robinson

3-17 Rec'd a "V" mail from home; Write V-mail home

58 MARCH 1944

□ FRI. 31. In the morning put on new tubes on three 105 MM. How. with Madrigal, Griffin and Wallenberg and Burns. also cleaned the commolens from the inside of the tubes after. In the afternoon put oil around the breech ring and the breech blocks. Rec'd a package from home and also an air mail letter from Betty 3-5
Wrote an air-mail letter to Betty

Sat. 1 APRIL 1944

In the morning had complete field inspection. Later I worked on 81 MM Motors. In the afternoon took a shower. At night went to a movie with Madrigal to Madoloni and saw "The Heat On" - Mac West

Sun 2. no work in the morning In the P.M. Griffin and I went to Madoloni outskirts to 11th Eng. to see his pal.

Mon. 3. In the morning worked on two 105 MM How. changed tubes from one How. to another. Later worked on three 155 MM. How. also the same in the afternoon. A night guard 1 P. - 3 A.

Tues. 4. In the morning and afternoon worked on 81 MM & 60 MM Motors. At noon rec'd a
★ "V-mail from home & air mail from Betty 3-10
3-23 Wrote V-mail home 1/ 3-10

A P R I L 1944

58

Wed. 5. In the morning worked on 60 MM motors & checked the 81 MM Motors from the 46th Div; In the afternoon went to a movie and saw Background for Danger. - George Raft.

★ Thurs. 6. In the morning blood spitted
In the afternoon helped PeVine build me a piece
on his truck. Rec'd a "V" mail letter from
home. 3-25, A Sec. vs. S. Sec. 11 - 6 ball
Wrote a "V" mail Home.

FRI. (Good Friday) In the morning worked
on 81 MM & 60 MM Motors. In the afternoon
went to check over in Div. Hq. in Madaloni
at night went to a movie and saw "Phantom
Lady" Frankrotone, Ellen Raines.

Sat. 8. In the morning repaired a 60 MM
motors and in the afternoon. Took showers in
the afternoon. Amusement Sec. vs. Hq. Sec. played
baseball 4. Sec. won 10-5 I was base umpire
at night developed two rolls of film.

Sun. 9. In the morning went to church
at Div. Hq. at Madaloni with George Cahill
In the afternoon played baseball with the 143rd
Inf. We won a score of 11-5 at night printed
some pictures with Duncan.

60 APRIL 1944

Mon. 10. Packed up our personal belongings and loaded the trucks. Then took our pyramidal tents down, and cleared the area. They waited around. At noon ate "C" rations. It got pretty cloudy in the afternoon. Rec'd a letter from Joe 2-27
Wrote to Anellina

Tues. 11. In the morning and afternoon worked on the 105 MM How. and later on the 155 MM How. with McGuire & Griffin. At night on guard 3 P. - 1 A.

Wed. In the morning worked on the 155 How. and in the afternoon. Later worked on one range quadrant for the 155 MM How. Rec'd a "V" mail from Frank. Wrote "V" mail to Frank and Joe L.

Thurs. 13 In the morning worked on the sight quadrant of a 105 MM How. In the afternoon repaired a 60 MM mortar and worked around the 105 MM and 155 MM Hows. After supper unloaded boxes of ammunition for the D.A.O.

FRI. 14. In the morning fixed a 57 A.T. gun trail & lunet. After supper Lee got all his hair clipped off. Then later Lee & DuCharme clipped Lenz's hair all off. Rec'd a "V" mail letter from home.

APRIL 1944

61

Sat. 15. In the morning the lightning helped
me working on the 81 & 60 MM mortars. In
the afternoon we had the half day off.
At night went to a movie saw "Bomber's
Moon" - George Montgomery -

Sun. 16. Slept till 9 A.M. Traveled in the
* winter over coats. 9:15 A.M. took shower
had us breakfast. Ate at noon. Late
in the afternoon wrote an air mail
letter home & 6 pictures

Mon 17. Revellie in the morning. Later
worked on 81 and 60 MM mortars. In
the afternoon S/Sgt. Burns, St. Moore, O'Leary
and I rode over to the Chemical Warfare and
saw the demonstration on the 4.2" mortars.
Later returned and worked on 60 MM. mortars
At night played baseball against the Puerto Ricans.
I was played C.F., didn't strike out throughout
the game, We lost 28-15.

Tues. 18. No Revellie in the morning. At 8 A.M.
got a pass to Salerno. Adams and I walked
around the place. ate dinner at the N.A.A.F.I.
then at 3: P.M. then went to a movie there saw
"Kiss Crazy" - Mickey Rooney & Judy Garland. Came
back to the Co. and after supper unloaded ammo
for the D.A.O. Took photo's in Salerno 6 for \$7

62 APRIL 1944

Wed. 19. In the morning worked on 81 M14 mortars. Around 10 A.M. Aid Cross girls served donuts & coffee. In the afternoon straightened a lunet on a 57 A.T. and drove it over on a 3/4 ton truck over to the automotive and had the lunet brackets reinforced by arc welding. After that we drove it back. At night was on guard 1 P. - 2 P. Not relief I felt alright but when I went on the second time I felt sort of weak and had a headache. Saw Montlight over Vermont before going.

Thurs. 20. In the morning gave DeMassi the receipt for those pictures I had taken at Salerno. Humphreys went up there with him and later had brought them back. I felt a slight fever and had a headache in the morning. Had only a cup of coffee for breakfast but later threw it up. I went to bed for the rest of the day. At noon Lorenz brought me a mess kit of food and tea. In the afternoon layed in bed till supper time. After supper sewed on stripes and a "Patch" on my O.D. shirt and also attached the campaign ribbons above the left pockets - all for tomorrow's company inspection by Colonel Brown.

FRI. 21. In the morning had a company formation at 10 A.M. then Colonel Brown inspected each one in ranks and asking personal questions after inspecting each one's rifle. We were all dressed in O. D. uniforms, steel helmet & wet equipment. Inspection was over at a little over 11:30 A.M. In the afternoon worked on 60 M. mortars. At night saw a movie called "Corvette K-225".

Sat 22. Got up at 6 A.M. and dressed into O. D. uniform then ate breakfast and got ready by 7 A.M. to leave for Naples. Five including myself left from this C. We arrived there at 9:45 A.M. At noon ate dinner at the all day pass center the meal was free. In the afternoon saw a movie at the Red Cross saw "Campus Phlythron". Later after the show walked around and the stopped at the largest Red Cross building and had a couple cups of coffee or ice and four cookies each. Got back on the truck at 6 P.M. and hauled back to the Co. area. Sgt. Munson, Sgt. Yudd and Genfro and I got some cats at the kitchen when we had arrived.

SUN. 23. In A.M. got up at 8:45 then fried some eggs and made some coffee. Later ate dinner and decided to go to Salerno. We got a pass at the Orderly tent. Melinger got his 3/4 ton truck and Long went along with us. Saw a movie there called "More the Merrier". Later

APRIL 1944

Sun 23. - we returned back to the Co. area with the rest of the boys. Arrived at 6:10 P.M. Had ⁹⁻²⁵ received a Letter Greeting Card from Betty and a "V" mail from Home. 4-6
 ★ "V" mail and an air-mail Home 3 pictures

Mon 24. In the morning and afternoon worked on 81 and 60 MM mortars. Practiced fall. & A

Tues. 25. In the morning and afternoon worked on 60 MM mortars and odd jobs. At night saw "This is the Army".

Wed 26. In the morning worked on 81 MM mortar and a 57 A.T. Gun in the afternoon.
 ▽ Rec'd a letter from Herby Q. Wrote "V" mail letter to Herby Q.

Thurs. In the morning and afternoon worked on 57 MM. A.T. Guns. Guard at night 4/P. - 1/R Rec'd letter from Frank

★ Fri. 28. In the morning and afternoon worked on 57 MM. A.T. Guns. Afternoon rec'd a package from home and an air-mail from ⁴⁻¹⁸ Betty. After supper played baseball. First two innings played short center then after that pitched throughout the entire game. Wrote "V" mail Home & Frank

APRIL 1944

65

□ Sat. 29. In the morning and afternoon worked on 57 MM A.T. Gun. After supper played baseball and I've catched during the entire game. Wrote air-mail letter to Betty & picture

Sun 30 Side wall that of the small house fell down from the terrific wind before night, so we filled it. Later got something to eat, fried some eggs and had some coffee. Got up at 9.30 A.M. Later hid on the bunk during the rest of the day.

MAY 1944

Mon. 1 In the morning and afternoon worked on mortars. Afternoon rec'd a letter ⁴⁻²⁰ V-mail from home also Easter Greeting Card. Show "Hi Ya Sailor"

★ Tues. 2. In the morning worked on 61 MM. Mortars. In the afternoon took a shower and had changed clothes. Wrote "V-mail Home."

Wed. In the morning worked on 57 MM A.T. Gun and in the afternoon worked on the 105 MM. Howitzer 57 A.T. Gun. After supper played baseball and pitched. Rec'd 2 V-mails 4-11; 4-17 from home and a V-mail 4-17 from Herby G. and also Robert C. At night saw a movie called "Is Everybody Happy" & Ed Louis

66 MAY 1944

★ Thurs. 4. In the morning worked on
52MM. A.T. Guns. In the afternoon saw a
stage show put out by the special unit #164.
Wrote "V" mail letter Home

FRI. 5. In the morning repaired a
vehicle with Malinger on the 105 How.
at noon rec'd a letter from Betty 3-28

Sat. 6. In the morning packed our personal
belongings and loaded our trucks and went
through around noon. Waited and rested in the
afternoon. Rec'd a letter from Yal Danko
and also a V.F.W. membership

Sun 7. In the morning packed up the
rest of the equipment into our trucks
and left at 7:30 A.M. from Wellington
and arrived a little ways from America
at 11 A.M. Got on a detail and put up the
C.P. tent first then late took showers
in the afternoon about 5 P.M. then made camp
and put up the mosquito bar over the
bunks and then went to bed early (Quiliana)

Mon. 8. In the morning worked on a detail
then on the mortars in the afternoon. Rec'd a
two packages from home:
now that Joe came home in A.M. (8)

MAY 1944

Tues. 9. In the morning worked on a 105 MM How with Case & Madaloni; put on an equilibrator. Later after finished work on the mortars. In the afternoon marched and practiced for the coming review. At 5 PM left to Santa Maria and saw a stage show there "This Is The Army." ^{He visited the house}

Wed. 10. In the morning worked on 8/1/44 mortars. In the afternoon around 4 P.M. had practiced marching for the coming review. Rec'd an Easter Greeting Card from Virg.

Thurs. 11. In the morning got ready and were dressed in O.P.'S to go on the review. We left at 8 A.M. to the parading area where we had reviewed there and then Sen. Clark had presented the D.S.C. to Sen (major) Walker. Later Sen. Walker presented medals to the rest of the soldiers and also shook hands with everyone that rec'd their citation. Returned back at 7 o'clock. At night went to the movie and saw "Madame Curie" with Greer Garson & Walter Pidgeon.

Fri. 12. In the morning worked on 8/1/44 mortars also in P.M. Rec'd a "V" mail from home 5-4 Wrote a "V" mail home

58 MAY 1944

Sat. 13. In the morning made out a requisition for mortar parts. In the afternoon went to see a stage show saw Marlene Dietrich there and took pictures of her. At four P.M. had a typhus shot and teeth inspection. At night on guard / R. - 4 P.

★ SUN. 14. ^{Mother's DAY} In the morning helped to get the No. 1 tent down so Melnick, Sgt. Cum. Dutton and Roberts could take along with them up to the front. Later I went to Church. In the afternoon worked on 8144 mortar later took showers. Wrote "V" mail home - "Dangerous Blonde"

Mon. 15. Worked on mortars in the morning and afternoon. Rec'd "V" mail from Frank. At night saw a movie "A Lady Takes a Chance"

Tues 16. Worked on mortars in the morning & afternoon. After supper took a shower.
△ Wrote "V" mail to Frank, Joe Banko and Herby Q.

Wed. 17. Worked on 57 MMA.T. Gun and a 155 MM how. in the morning and on odd jobs in the afternoon. Wrote a "V" mail to Robert C. Movie saw "Larceny for Music" -

MAY 1944

69

★ Thurs 18. Worked on an S.M.M. motor in the morning and on odd jobs in the afternoon. Rec'd a "V" mail from home - 5-10
Wrote "V" mail home

FRI. 19. In the morning cleared around the art. truck. In the afternoon loaded the trailer and took the shop tents down. Took our knuckes quart and slept on the ground thereafter.

SAT. 20. Sat around and waited that day. The truck drivers and the ass'ts left that afternoon. In the afternoon Brothers, Cavill and I went to a nearby farm-house and drank wine.

SUN. 21. Made up our bed rolls then took the pyramidal tents down and cleared the area. At 10:30 A.M. left Squaliano and got on the L.S.T.'s that afternoon and started toward the high seas, around 6:20 P.M. Got to sleep on the deck at 9 P.M. XXXX

Mon. 22. Got out of my bed roll and rolled it up and threw it on the truck down stairs (below deck). Unloaded around 11:30 A.M. at Anzio and got to our area later in the afternoon. Dug a deep hole and then slept in it all night while the shells whistled by. (Landed on Beachhead) ***

Tues 23. Dug a A.A. Gorgepit, then later dug out a deeper hole that Kings and I slept in. Slight air raid and shelling that night.

70 MAY 1944

Wed. 24 In the morning at 8 A.M. went to church - the services were held in our Co. area. In the afternoon checked some of our artillery in stock after that reinforced the dug out with logs. Rec'd a Y mail from Nerby A. 5-10

Thurs 25. Cleaned the 155 mm. Bush block and greased it and put it away. Bought another truck on the 105 mm. ring. There was no shelling over head that night.

Fri 26. In the morning did odd jobs and in the late afternoon packed up the vehicles and nets.

M² SAT. 27. Got up at 5 A.M. and ate breakfast then packed up our personal belongings and left Anzio and went north to Cisterno past Hwy. 7. At night was pretty hot near by with enemy planes

SUN. 28. In the morning filed the land grips on my 32 pistol. At night on Guard 5 P. - 3 A.

Mon. 29. In the morning filed a mortar.

V Late in the afternoon one of our flying tiggos was forced to land - it was riddled a few places by enemy fire. The pilot was just unconscious and he landed the plane in its belly. A night German plane was shot down near our area & crashed to pieces

MAY 1944.

71

Tues. 30 - Memorial Day. In the morning after breakfast went over to see the german plane that was shot down by our S.A. guns. Later in the morning fixed 8/260 M.M. motor. In P.M. had finally finished fixing the hand grip on my .32 pistol. Later cleaned the 105 M.M. How. tube from crossolene. Then took out the old tube out of the How. carriage and placed in that new one with Case, Mubinger, Kief pin and Roberts. Night A.A. activity at night.

★ Wed. 31. In the morning cleaned out the old tube 105 M.M. and oiled it. Fixed the firing pin on my .32 pistol. In the afternoon took a shower under a tree under a can full of water syphonning through a hose then put on my clean clothes and washed the other old dirty ones. First shower I took since we landed on this beach. Wrote "V" mail home

Thurs. 1. JUNE 1944

↓ In the morning worked on 8/1 M.M. Motor and did odd things in the afternoon
△ Wrote "V" mail to Herby G.

FRI. 2. Did odd jobs in the morning & afternoon. At night on guard 1P. - 2 R. 24 Res. post.

JUNE 1944

Thurs. 8. — to another area again. Got there in Piscino at 3:30 P.M. was on guard there at night 1 P. - 2 B.

FRI. 9. In the morning ate breakfast had pancakes and coffee. After that filed mortars. Later Cass was trying to turn around his trailer, just at that time it had turned over and rolled clear down the side of the hill. Later we had it hauled up with a 10 ton wrecker. In the afternoon we had started to move again from Piscino further north about 17 miles: past the beach then north east. Me and McIninger rode in on the back of a 10 ton wrecker. We got there in the afternoon and had camouflaged our vehicles. I made a place in the straw stacks to sleep over night. Took a bath in the ² reservoir full of water. Then washed my clothes. Then later went to sleep in the straw stack.

SAT. 10. Fell asleep till 8 A.M. then went to the kitchen and got a cup of coffee. Later worked on the mortars. Then in the afternoon went over in a 3/4 ton truck with the logs to the near-by town which was taken yesterday and took a look at a 230mm. P. R. gun which the Germans had left behind. Took a picture of it at Civitanova P. Yorks. "A 231 ton angio Express 6.4 and 1" long, shoots a 550 lb projectile

JUNE 1944

75

M 10
 Sun. 11 Got up at 3.30 A.M. and had coffee and bread. Then packed our trucks and moved further north again. Masinger and Dole over in a 3/4 ton truck with the other two fellows, Gibbons and Nunnmond. We had trouble with the vehicle all the way. It had stopped almost every 200 feet after it had started. We finally had it fixed by the automotive fellows who were about to pass us by as they were going for our new area but we stopped them and so they fixed the trouble. The gas filter had been clogged with dirt. We got to the new area around 8.30 A.M. and the vehicles of ours were already set up when we got there. We had them in the few buildings. Had worked on mortars all day then. Had rec'd a "V" mail letter from home dated May 30th also "V" mail from Frank F. dated the 27th.

Mon. 12. Got up at 6:45 A.M. and ate breakfast then later worked on a 105 MM how. changing track and wheels from one how. to another which was in better shape. Worked with Case Masinger Griffin and Wolubly. In the afternoon had worked on a 60 MM mortar and then on other different jobs.

Rec'd a letter from Robert C.

Wrote "V" mail home

After supper time rode in a german tank which the automotive boys have dragged into the area. Pete Smith drove it and we rode all over the fields.

Tues. 13 In the morning worked on a 57MM. A.T. Gun which had been burned. Griffin, Medinger and I had worked on it changed tires, and polished the breechblock from carbon. Later I worked on another 57MM A.T. gun and replaced an elevating rack, and safety lock on the firing mech. also bore-sighted and completed the work. Took picture of the German tank in our area.

Wed. 14 In the morning worked checked and adjusted the traversing turret of the M. B. tank. In the afternoon worked on two 81 M.M. mortars. Later the artillery and small arms section moved to another area further north about five miles. Wallenburg and I were left behind to repair the two firing mechanisms lever arms and cooking arm on the two M. B. tanks. Later after we had finished in the afternoon Hank Weismeyer drove down from the other area and picked both of us up. When I got there I had washed up after supper and got ready for guard mount. Wed. 3P. - 2R.

Thurs. 15. Roy Burns, Mo Farland, Medinger, Wallenburg and Roberts and I had worked on the 105 MM. How. and made the equalizer bar operate properly and had repaired other small items on it. In the afternoon soldered the legs on the 81 MM. mortars. Later Medinger, Wallenburg, Roy Burns

JUNE 1944

Thurs 15 - and I worked on a 57MM A.T. gun. Changed a flat, telescope sight and lunet lock and had finally finished the gun after supper. Rec'd an Air-mail letter from Betty 6-7.

FRI. 16. Worked on the lunet lock with Mr. Farland. Later ate dinner at 11 A.M. and then packed our vehicles and were ready to move. I was selected as one of the road guides again. To direct our vehicles to the next bivouac area. Later I got to the area which was about 40 miles further north from where we left. Later went to take a bath in a creek with a few fellows then returned and put up my bed roll on the ground. Felt a whole lot better after that bath.

SAT. 17. In the morning worked on 8/44 and 60 MM mortars and in the afternoon had a little job done on the 57MM. A.T. gun.

SUN. 18. In the morning Hudinger and I repaired a 57MM. A.T. Gun. In the afternoon Hudinger and Wallenburg and I placed a new tube on a 105MM. How. Carriage. Later I made a requisition for some gun parts. Rec'd a V-mail letter from Home 6-6. Wrote V-mail home.

78 JUNE 1944

Mon. 19. Worked on 81 and 60MM mortars in the morning. Later brazed some sign supports for Loreng. In the afternoon worked on a 105 M.M. How. then later on a 57MM. A.T. gun.
Rec'd a letter from Joe Parks.

Tues 20. McFarland and I worked on a 57MM. A.T. gun, had a lunet bracket which was cracked taken out to be rewelded. Later we worked on an M8 tank and replaced two broken bolts on the 75 M.M. How. Later in the afternoon I had the 57mm. A.T. gun taken to the automotive to have the lunet bracket reinforced. After I had returned another M8 tank came over and had to replace one bolt which was sheared off on the 75 M.M. How., then that was all for that day. In the morning there was an accident in our Co. a gas tank which the two boys were welding had exploded, one was slightly injured in the leg and the other one had cuts on his face and was unconscious.
at 7:30 A.M. attended church services which was held here in our company area. Father Pinner preached the mass.

Wrote an air-mail to Betty

Wed. 21. Packed up our personal belongings into the truck and also other things and started out at 10:30 AM further north got there at 11:30. and pitched tents. Rec'd birthday greeting cards and a "V" mail from home 6-10. A night on guard 4P-3P

JUNE 1944

79

★ Thurs 22. Kept till 10 o'clock after getting off guard. then wrote a V-mail letter home. In the afternoon McFarland, Medinger ^{and I} unloaded the truck then cleaned it out. ~~Had~~ then loaded it up again. After supper went to a nearby town with McFarland, Case, Medinger. Didn't get any wine while we were up there.

M
14
= Fri 23. In the morning right after breakfast loaded up our personal belongings and were ready to move to another area further north. Got there at around 1 o'clock then unloaded and pitched our gyp tents. Later put on a new tube on a 10.5 M.M. Now. At supper time had beer first time issued to us here in Italy. Rec'd a package from home.

SAT. 24 Repaired a couple of 60 M.M. mortars in the morning. Changed into cleaner clothes after had taken a shower in Brocceto. After supper had packed up our personal ~~belongings~~ then later went to bed.

M
15
Sun. 25 Got up at 4 A.M. and rolled up our bed rolls and got ready to move. Had started at 5 A.M. and moved north for about 15 miles then had unloaded and set up after we had gotten to that area near Livorno.

JUNE 1944

Mon. 26. In the morning right after eating took a ride with Jimmy Hemphre up closer to the front up to the Service Co. of 143rd. We later are there after speeding 50 to 60 miles an hour to get there. We got there and left them notice so they take down the carriage, recoil and take no's. of each M.8 tanks with the 75MM pack how's on them. We were about 2000 yds from where they were actually shooting to the enemy's side. We stayed there for a while then we headed back and over. Before dinner. Just before dinner had ~~myself~~ repaired two motors. 51 MM, bipoda. There was hardly a thing to do in the afternoon.

★ Tues. 27. There was hardly a thing to do in the morning. In the afternoon had fixed an expansion rod and spring for the window of a trailer for Sgt Johnny Powers.
 X In the morning sent a post-card home. Wrote "V" airmail to Joe Parker.

Wed 28. There was hardly a thing to do all day.

Livorno N. of Grosseto - Pulled away from Combat

M
16
Thurs. = 29 = Got up at 5:00 A.M. and ate breakfast and got ready to move. Packed our personal belongings and started south at 7:30 A.M. Got payed in P.M. Pulled from Combat. It night on guard. 1F-28.

JUNE 1944

FRI. 30. Went over to the 156th F.A. with
McFarland & Wallenburg and ^{made} the check-
up report on each blow. Returned at 11 A.M.
then worked on a 57 M.M. A.T. gun with
Case. In the afternoon had worked on the
57 M.M. A.T. gun again. Later had taken a
shower at the clothing exchange unit.
At night saw a movie "Destination Tokyo"
Rec'd a "Y" mail from home 6-17

JULY 1944

SAT. 1. Got a first pass to Rome. Started
a little before eight and got there at 8:15 A.M.
Cabill and I had went along together to different
places. At first we went over to the Vatican and
went into the St. Peter's (Basilica) and have
seen one of the most beautiful master pieces
and the treasures of that large temple of
which the artists of all times have contributed
during the centuries to its building. It was built
of marble, travertine, bronze, and the most beautiful
mosaics and stuccos ornated the ceilings
of the nave and the dome. I bought a few
post cards there and also had taken a few pictures.
Cabill had around for a very good friend of his who
had been his companion during his days at Fordham
University. Later Cabill and I had walked around
the town sight seeing, then had to just before we left Rome.

JULY 1944

SUN. 2. In the morning after breakfast had worked on 81 and 60 M.M. mortars with McFarland. In the afternoon McFarland and I had worked on the mortars again also had Wallenburg. At night went to the show for the second time since bit of action, and saw the three Marx brothers in "Never a Dull Moment"

Mon. 3. In the morning McFarland and I had worked on the mortars. Later we had changed a tube on a 105 M.M. How with Roy Burns and Case and the two fellows from the automotive with the wrecker who done the lifting. In the afternoon had worked on the 81 M.M. and 60 M.M. mortars again. Later had gone to the clothing exchange unit and had taken a shower and got clean clothes. Rec'd a "V" mail letter from home. 6-23
Wrote a "V" mail home

Tues. 4. In the morning had worked on the 81 M.M. & 60 M.M. tubes had checked and cleaned them also had them painted. Later in the afternoon had taken a shower at the clothing exchange unit.

Wed. 5. Al that day had been on gas in Rome. Had visited many interesting places with Goldman, Leigh, Ulrich, & Shutz, all five of us

8

Together visited the Colosseum, the Forum
and had seen a miniature set-up of the
Christmas crib in the church next to
the Roman Forum. Every little detail and figure
figures appeared to be life-like. At noon had eat
in the Italian restaurant and had paid quite a
price for a small meal which consisted of a small piece
of steak, a spoonful of potatoes, and a bean soup which
amounted to \$1.20 a piece. In the afternoon we had gone
to an outdoor show performed by the Italians. For
a small fee of \$.20 a piece they had made a pretty good show.
After that we went to another Italian restaurant and
had a very small piece of meat, which they called steak;
a spoonful of potatoes and a bean soup again and a quart
of wine which had amounted to 1.35 for each of us. We
were still hungry when we came out of that restaurant
so we finally after walking a little ways had
located a R. D. place. For only \$.20 we had quite
a large size of steak (it looked like beef), which was
very appetizing, a half dish of macaroni, bread
and butter and coffee. That meal had satisfied us
so we decided to see a movie until it was time
to return back to the Co. area. We saw "Irene and
Vernon Castle" a good picture. We had to leave
just before it was over so that we'd have time
enough to make it to our trucks back to our Co. area.

Thurs 6. The day of my birthday. In the morning
after breakfast we had packed up our personal
belongings and got ready to move again. Just before

JULY 1944

morning, a bunch of us had rode over to the clothing exchange unit and had taken a shower and were issued new clothing. We had started around 1 o'clock in the afternoon to move and headed from south away from the combat area towards Salerno. I never thought that I'd be down that way around Naples or Salerno or any other place down in the southern peninsula. We went through Benevento, Ciiterna, by passed Anzio and Nettuno, Terracina. The road was flat, level and flooded fields on both sides of the road spread for miles between Ciiterna and Terracina. Everything sure seemed different from the way it was before. The roads were clean and not muddy like they were at the time. Then went through Capua, Naples, Pompeii, Salerno and then finally into Paestum. Got there at 2 A.M. Took out my bed-roll and spread it out on the ground and dozed off until the 8 A.M.

6
27 Fri. 7. In the morning had my packes our personal belongings after breakfast. Had rec'd a "V" mail letter from Home, a "V" mail from Derby G. and a letter from Frank F. In the afternoon I send out the artillery truck with the Island. At night went to a movie saw "Song of Bernadette"

Sat. 8. Worked on 81 and 60 M.M. stars. Later on a 57 M.M. A.T. gun with McIsland and Griffin, same in the afternoon. At night went to a movie saw "Grey Dawn"

JULY 1944

85

Sun. 9 Worked on motors in the morning.

Later around 11 o'clock went to church service which was held in our Co. area.

In the afternoon worked on the new 155 M4 M4 How. which had a defective right wheel. The wheel had come off on the road and had run over a couple of at the time. The valve stem had been sheared off and there was a bulge around the center part of the wheel rim, so the whole part had to be exchanged. At night went to a movie and saw "Follow the Voice".

Mon. 10 Worked on 81MM Motors in the morning

and afternoon. At 4:00'clock got cleaned up and put on my C.D. clothes and got ready to leave to rest center right after supper had started out with the rest of the boys at 6 P.M. to Agropoli rest center. Arrived there at 6:20 P.M. We put our beds into the pyramid tents on the edge. We didn't stay there very long. It was a place just slight way away from my town. The only beautiful spot was the Malteser museum in front. Warner Heimmeyer, Larry Weig, Joe Cangiarro and I had all taken off to Salerno that night. We had hitchhiked. Got a lift from Agropoli for Salerno. Then from there on caught another ride to Salerno. After we had gotten there we had looked all around for a place to sleep for that night. Finally at 10 P.M. we had found a place. It was in a

JULY 1944

morning, a bunch of us had a ride over to the clothing exchange unit and had taken a shower and were issued new clothing. We had started around 11 o'clock in the afternoon to move and headed down south away from the combat areas towards Salerno. I never thought that I'd be down that way around Naples or Salerno or any other place down in the southern peninsula. We went through Rome, Civiterna, by passed Anzio and Nettuno, Terracina. The road was flat dirt and flooded fields on both sides of the road spread for miles between Civiterna and Terracina. Everything sure seemed different from the way it was before. The roads were clean and not muddy like they were at the time. Then went through Capua, Naples, Pompeii, Salerno and then finally into Paestum. Got there at 2 A.M. Took out my bed-roll and spread it out on the ground and dozed off until the 8 A.M.

6-27 Fri. 7. In the morning had unpacked our personal belongings after breakfast. Had rec'd a "V" mail letter from Home, a "V" mail from Kerby Q. and a letter from Frank F. In the afternoon sent out the artillery truck with Mr. Farland. At night went to a movie saw "Song of Bernadette"

Sat. 8. Worked on 81 and 60 M.M. mortar. Later on a 57 M.M. AT gun with Mr. Farland and Griffin came in the afternoon. At night went to a movie saw "Coney Island"

JULY 1944

85

SUN. 9 Worked on motors in the morning.

Enter around 11 o'clock went to church service which was held in our Co. area.

In the afternoon worked on the new 155 M.M. M.M. How. which had a defective right wheel. The wheel had come off on the road and had run over a double at the time. The valve stem had been sheared off and there was a bulge around the center part of the wheel rim, so the whole part had to be exchanged. At night went to a movie and saw "Follow the Voice".

Mon. 10 Worked on 8 I.M.M. motors in the morning and afternoon. At 4 o'clock got cleaned up and put on my O.D. clothes and got ready to leave to rest center right after supper had started out with the rest of the boys at 6 P.M. to Agropoli rest center. Arrived there at 6:20 P.M. We put our beds into the pyramid tents on the edge. We didn't stay there very long. It was a pretty neat slight way away from any town. The only beautiful spot was the Mediterranean sea in front. Kaerner Neimyers, Long, Weitz, Joe Canzinarro and I had all taken off to Salerno that night. We had hitchhiked. Got a lift from Agropoli for a Balizaglia. Then from there on caught another ride to Salerno. After we had gotten there we had looked all around for a place to sleep for that night. Finally at 10 P.M. we had found a place. It wasn't

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very comfortable sleeping throughout that night because the bed-bugs had crawled and annoyed us till morning. Kramer, Heimeyers and I had a good night's sleep. I had been disturbed by the bed bugs until 5 A.M. from there on I had finally fallen asleep for while.

Tues. 11. Got up at 7 A.M. and had awakened Lorenz, Weiz and Joe Cuginaro who had slept up staying that same house. They were sleeping well when we came there to awaken them, from there we had split into two groups. Heimeyer, Kramer and I went along together. At 10 A.M. the three of us had caught a ride all the way up to the outskirts of Naples. From there on we had proceeded with another lift, direct into Naples. Just as we got there we had found a hotel to rent for the night for \$1.15 a piece. Then we went out to the Red Cross building and had a snack then after went to the movie in the afternoon and saw "Andy Hardy's Secretary" after we had gone up the main drag and found a restaurant where we had ate a pretty good supper which had cost us a total of \$6.38. Then went back and slept in our rented hotel.

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Wed 12. Slept good all last night. Had
gotten up at 7 A.M. and had started for the
Red Cross building with Frances. Weirmyer
went his way somewhere for awhile but
was going to meet us at noon at the Red Cross
House and I had done some shopping that
morning. I had bought a pillow case which
was beautifully made and has an inscription
"a souvenir of Italy - to my Mother"; also bought a silver
ring with a mother pearl cameo, a picture of ^{St.} Mt. Vesuvius
on cameo, and two souvenirs of Mt. Vesuvius
during the eruption. In the afternoon we had
met Weirmyer then had eaten rolls and drank
coffee at the Red Cross. Then went over to theater
and saw "Pin-Up Girl" with Ginger Rogers.
Later we went to the A.A.F. Rest center and had
roast chicken, potatoes, salad and peas, coffee, cake
and fruit for supper which had cost us
nothing. Later we went to another show
at the other end of the city and saw "Jimmy
Come Lately" with Jimmy Cagney. After the
show we were riding back to our hotel and at
that time there had been an air raid which
had lasted about five minutes.

Thurs. Had got up at 7 A.M. and had gone
over to the Red Cross with Weirmyer and Frances
and took a shower and had our shoes shined.

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After that we had eaten a few rolls and had some coffee. We started out at 11:30 A.M. from Naples and caught a ride from there to Pompeii. We got off there and stopped at a restaurant and had a glass of Vermont which had cost us \$1.00 for both of us. I never did drink any. We had started out at 12:30 and caught a ride straight to Salerno which got us there at 1:45 P.M. We met Lorenz, Weig and Joe Canigaro at the N.A.A.F.I. building. Had taken a little snack there and then proceeded again. We divided into two groups again. Caught a ride from Salerno at 3:15 and for as Paestum. From there we rode on a jeep with the Lt. Col. for as two miles. Then caught another ride from there to the Agropoli rest center and arrived there at 2:55 P.M. We packed up our bed rolls when we got there and got ready to get back to the company area and arrived there at 4:25 P.M.

Rec'd a letter from Robert Carberry and also a letter from Betty G. 7-4

★ Fri 14. In the morning and afternoon worked on 81MM. Meritax, also on a 57MM A.T. Gun with Madinger. Wrote V-mail home. At night on Island I.P. - 1 B.

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SAT. 15. Worked on 81MM mortars in the AM & P.M. also on a 105MM How.

★ Rec'd a "V" mail from home. Wrote "V" mail home had ice-cream & cake after supper.

Sun 16. In the morning worked on mortars. Later around 11 o'clock went to church services which were held in the Co. Area. In the afternoon cut out a few reinforcing plates for the 105MM pack how. At night went to movie "Going My Way" with Singlesky.

★ Mon. 17. In the morning worked on the mortars. In the afternoon done some straightening of spades on the 105MM pack how. Sent a package home ^{came, contents of naples, yellow case, ash tray, two mugs & hair ice-cream} at 8:15 P.M. ^{old coin medal, & 2 parent pictures}

△ Wrote "V" mail to Herby G.

Tues. 18. Went to 155 F.A. to check on the 155MM How MI with 2/Lt. Roy Burns Lt Murphy Moore and other two fellows including another officer Lt. Healy from the 46 Ord (MM) Co. We returned at noon. Worked on 81MM mortars in the afternoon. Rec'd V.F.W. Magazine. Had two bottles of beer issued to each one at supper time. Real bottled beer from the states.

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cont'd next Diary # II



