

25 March 1945

Dear Mom:

The radio is just playing the Intermezzo from "Calve
"Cavellera Rusticana". Remember how I used to love that piece
at home. Certainly wish I can get more of that kind of music.
We are again on the move, although none of us know where we
are going. We had high hopes, as rumor was going strong that
we would be sailing home but know that it was just wishful
thinking on our part. We hope, however, that it will not
be long before we will be going home.

By the way, I saw Raymond the other day - tell his folks that
he looks alright and only hope that he will not have to see
any combat. He is quite the same feller, quite cheerful but
still quite green in the army.

Yes I will be seeing the Malenottis and will tell them that
you have sent a package to them. Just when I'll be able to
see them - I do not know but know it won't be for long.

Jane is getting to quite an active baby - so please keep a
good eye on here. Hope she is not too much trouble for you.
She is certainly a cute baby - judging from the pictures you
send me of her. By the way, I loaned Ihara a hundred dollars
and his parents at home will mail you the check so if you re
ceive a hundred from the Ihara family, you'll know what it
is for.

Am very proud of Peter and his very good showing in school -
I hope the teachers don't spoil him though as is very apt to
happen to a misnisters child. I remember my own school days
and how the trachers and friends used to make me think I was
the only one that counted around the old homestead. It didn't
do me any good in later life.

My asst

26 March 1945

Well, here we are in our new destination. They tell us that
in a few days we will be thrown into the line again and you
know how we dread it. It seems that it gets harder and harder
each time we are thrown into the line - to go back. The last
assignment was such a lark. Guess, good things do not last
forever.

Received the fountain pen today and thanks. It is such a
wonderful pen - hate to carry around it, in my pocket but
guess it is made to be used. Please thank Martin for me -
I never did own anything so nice in my life and never expect to.

Just received the Stars and Stripes, and it says that the allied armies are crashing through over the rhine in great style. I hope for an early end to the war here anyway - however, I realize the casualties that must come with any push like that and my thoughts are with those men there. I wonder if the home folks do realize the price of every yard gained in this war - its not riding through with tanks for usually except in good tank country - the infantry slogs ahead first. I've seen the kind of wounds the men come in with and the kind of death they meet - and none of them have been very pleasant things to see - the longer this war lasts - and for every inch gained - we know what it means.

By the way - hope the things get to the Malenotti family alright. I met them last year in Rome. Maybe I told you about the incident - the day I was caught in a barrage and ran in a house to shelter, and met this refugee family with four beautiful youngsters in the basement. I made coffee for them - and from then on got to know the family well. I took a message for them to their daughter and son in Rome, the Malenottis. Mr. Malenotti is sort of a up and rising business man with his fingers in almost all kinds of business - at the present time, managing a film company. Sort of a movie company - his wife Fernanda Malenotti, comes from a very well to do Roman family - good class etc. They asked me to stay over - and from then on we got to be good friends. They have two sons now I am told - Roberto about five years of age and Franco, just born in January. I know how they would appreciate things for the children here like clothes and ~~diapers~~ and stuff - and especially soap. They have none here that would wash off anything - I once gave some people in the last area a tube of toothpaste and some soap that was left over from Christmas. They really went "ga ga" over the toothpaste. Thus you can see just what they need and how happy a few things these people get along with.

Take care of the children honey - and perhaps in a few months I will be back home again. The allied armies are certainly pushing through quite ok and within a few months we should see the end of this mess. My love to the children and to obachan

love

Dad