



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

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A. L. Rendall

24 Bata

N. Z. E. F.

C. M. F.

10.8.44

Dear Albert,

I received your letter last night and will answer same today although whether it reaches you this side of the ocean remains to be seen.

So you guys are on your way back to the best little country in this world. Well good luck to you and believe me I hope that we are not too long in following after you guys.

Your mention of liquor sounds good as these last few days have been very dry up this way and the position we are in doesn't help any. As per usual we are engaged with the angry Hun although at present he is pretty quiet. Maybe our fighter bombers dropped some of their eggs on his guns yesterday as they were out in force. For every shell old Jerry sends over I guess he gets repaid at the rate of 50 to his one so that makes him keep his head down.

My home at present is in a wine cellar. Sounds good doesn't it but the wine is not the best. A few of that putrid vino rosso is all that is in there so we leave it pretty much alone. A guy



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wakes up in the mornings with a thick head as the fumes are pretty strong and the old saying of getting drunk on the smell just about is correct here. However that spot has its drawbacks too as the mosquitoes come round at night by the millions and the lighters seem to be able to crawl through our nets as a guy is a mass of bites in the mornings. I guess you experienced these cursed flies down that way well the bs. are twice as bad up here. They sure pack a bite in this goddamn country.

The old Eytie civvy on the whole is a 100% more like a human being than some of those specimens down in the southern parts. The food position is a bit grim up here in these recently liberated parts but the Eytes are far better off than they are down south. The fruit is beginning to ripen in these parts now so they won't starve. I have just been out in the orchard red indian fashion as old Herman can observe us and lay were the peaches and grapes buono. I can see me living on a vegetable and fruit diet for the rest of summer. At least it will be far better than some of this goub the army turns on. Just tell those firms who produce this dehydrated stuff what we think of them when you get home.



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It's a pity you didn't have an opportunity to see Rome before you go home as it's well worth seeing. I had a days leave there. We got three days leave and had to travel approximately 200 miles each way so that sort of put a damper on our activities. However we saw all the main parts of interest including the Vatican State and St. Peter's Cathedral. The N.Z. Forces Club have things well organised there and for our days leave they sponsor guides to show us round. I guess that after seeing nothing else but drab towns and villages for months on end the sight of a real decent city comes as a sort of shock to one. Prices are more or less the same as throughout the rest of the country. High as hell.

A thunderstorm has just begun here and the br. mud is almost three inches deep already a sort of reminder that winter is approaching again. Having an odd thunderstorm we have had no rain up here for months. However the sight of these mountains up ahead doesn't look very promising for a dry bed every day in the future. I hope to God old Hitler throws in the sponge before winter sets in as the last one was sufficient for me over here. So they have been giving the P.I. a chase



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round at base. I hate the worst of a camp
like that they do too much pinching and
it gets on one's nerves.

Thanks for sending my parcels Albert
as they will be much appreciated.

Well Albert I guess this about finishes me as
I'm no letter writer. Remember me to all your
people and let's hope the day is not far distant
when this war is over.

Bob Vorage,
Fluff.