

S/L A.N. Carscallen, C3066  
RCAF DHQ CMF.

Dear Mother:

I hope you will get this little letter by Christmas time. Certainly it is the last that has any chance of reaching you by then. My letter writing of late has been a bit more sporadic than usual, I think. Maybe because of the fact that although I am a sitting duck now I have been away twice during the last month. Each of my journeys -- in opposite directions -- has lasted about a week. For some reason I always seem glad to get back. Possibly it is because I have a nice apartment here and a combination housekeeper-cook to look after it. also I am my own boss. Or, going further, maybe it is because this is a nice clean town with interesting places to see -- and with some civilians whom I know. I think, however that it is merely that this is the place my grip is unpacked, where my clothes are hanging up and where I know that I can make all of my own arrangements without danger of upsetting some mess rule or conflicting with some schedule. (e.g. who can have a bath on what day?)

You asked in one of your recent letters if I was learning any European languages. Since you specifically mentioned "European" may I set any possible doubts aside by first saying that I have not learned any African languages. Yes I suppose I am learning -- or absorbing at least one of them. That is Italian. I adopted rather a negative attitude toward any effort in that respect when I first came to Italy a year ago. That attitude has persisted until recently. In spite of it however I find that I probably have a vocabulary of several hundred words. Having done no bookwork or studying, however, it must be atrocious to an Italian to hear me "speak". The fact remains though that I can understand almost any sentence in Italian if not spoken too quickly. What is more I can put across almost any simple idea or instruction -- or request, using, however, either the infinitive or some some unknown-to-me form of the verb. Yesterday I wrote out, for the first time the declensions of the verbs "to be" and "to have". -- also listed all of the prepositions and common adverbs that I knew. I have no officer friends with whom I hob-nob here. The result is that all of my off duty company is with Eye ties. If I were to put forth an organized effort I would, in three months time, be able to speak fairly well. The main reason, however, that I have not been anxious to work on the Italian is that I have always had the idea in the back - and in the front- of my mind that I should devote all of my feeble efforts to improving what French I already have. A planned campaign in that direction could well produce results. Have been half hearted about it though and have never really got down to fundamentals -- which would mean either going with a French speaking girl "steadily" or living with a French family. ---- or conversely). Incidentally am going to the opera tomorrow (Madame Butterfly) with the most attractive and intelligent French speaking girl I have yet met. She is Russian by birth. Shirkoff. Is 21 and is in third year universty. Literature. Speaks itie too of course, and several other assorted languages.

I cant help but feel that I must again be an uncle by now, and am anxiously awaiting news. There was a tie up of the mail service across the atlantic for about ten days recently however and any letter may be delayed as a result. I hope all is going very well and that Tebese is not having any recurrence of the previous trouble.



Please don't bother paying any more of my McDermid bills for the time being as I sent them a cheque for \$50 which will leave me quite a bit in credit. Fortunately received three rolls of Kodachrome the other day. That is the first I have had - except the tail end of a roll since being here. Must take a day off soon and photograph a few arches, fountains, churches and bridges of historical interest.

My Christmas shopping, as usual is quite unsatisfactory. Aside from the few things I was able to pick up in the Middle East have not got anything. Result is that several of the family, Thorntons particularly, have been completely neglected.

Fold Here

If anything is enclosed in this letter it will be sent by ordinary mail.

FROM:  
(Sender's full name and address)

S/L A.N. Carscallen

Can/C3066

RCAF CMF

Fold Here

CFQ 11  
40 P & S 1448

Fold Here

Think the deadline for letter mail has now arrived for Canada. Am going to a photo place this afternoon to pick up some snaps my Sergeant took of me in the office against a "Merry Christmas" sign. They may do as cards. You will no doubt be spending Xmas with Beth and possibly with Eul and Gord as well. I hope for all of you it is a pleasant time. Am looking forward to the next Christmas when, all going well, I should be with you. And so, Mother dear, it is au revoir for now, and God bless you.

Love, Nan

Open Here

AIR MAIL

ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER

This letter must be posted in Armed Forces Postal channels. If posted in a Civil Post Office or pillar box, it will not be given air transmission.



TO:  
Mrs. S. N. Carscallen,

21 Neville Park Boulevard,

Toronto

CANADA

