

12-7-44

S/L A. N. Carrallan C 3066
RCAF Dist HQ
C.M.F.

Dear Eul & Gord & Martin;

Thank you most heartily Eul for your several letters of recent months. They have been most welcome - and it is much appreciated that you have not stopped merely because I have not answered them all. When a good deal of one's business is letter writing it seems to result in the personal correspondence suffering. This little note should arrive about the 29th if it does may it convey my wishes for many happy returns of the day.

I am on the road again on one of my many trips. This time only a hundred or so miles from the Villa we call home. The country and the weather here are very reminiscent of Mackinac or Stethbridge Alberta. Flat, dry, hot windy and dusty. There is compensation tonight however for in this battered place there is an officers transient hotel that is run by an American sergeant who "has all the clues" (or is "well clued up" to use airforce parlance). There is hot & cold water in the building. The former is simply unheard of. And the meals! They are of course based on American rations which in many respects are more welcome to a North American than British rations. A glass of fruit juice in the morning - wonderful coffee - steak for dinner tonight - and ice cream!

If I am suffering tonight it is merely from overeating. Incidentally, should you ever wonder, there is no shortage of sugar or tea so far as the forces go in Italy. In fact I must admit to giving away the box of tea bags I he sent me last Christmas - to a Canadian girl I met last time I was in Rome. She is a Torontonian (nee Eileen Selwyn) who is married to an eye-type general there.

Ran across a Calgary lad today on one of the units I visited. He had a look of semi-recognition in his eye & finally said "Oh I remember where I have seen you! - you worked in the liquor vendors at Calgary!" Whereupon I of course was forced to admit - not wanting to disappoint him or cause him to lose faith in his own memory - that I was merely one of their more frequent customers & he had probably seen me there on many occasions.

There isn't much glamour to the work the chaps are

doing - or more correctly - to the way in which they are living near here. Wind & dust & heat - and tents - but nothing to do when not in the air. Just sit & sweat, & sweat flies! Needless to say one of their most frequent questions is "what is the latest repatriation policy?" or where will we be posted on this tour completion of this tour of ops..? If the answer is "Middle East" rather than 'V.K.' they are not very happy.

Harvest has already taken place - for wheat & other grains. There are quantities of apricots & plums on the market now. Oranges & lemons are getting expensive. Olives are not ripe yet.

At the moment Jerry is still holding Daghorn, Florence & Acrema. He is certainly a wonderful soldier. Everybody expects our pressure

FROM:

(Sender's full name and address)

M S/L A. Carrallan
C 3044

R.C.A.F.

C.M.F.

PROCESSED BY
CENSOR
No
0002
Mrs. Gordon Lapp
The Manse
NESWICK, ONT.
CANADA.

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

AIR MAIL

ARMED FORCES
AIR LETTER



will force him back again soon however. In fact the whole European situation is gradually working its way up to a climax in my humble uninformed opinion. In keeping with my hereditary tradition of gambling I have been known to place several bets that Jerry would be out of the war before November '5. Well that sort of talk is for bigger men than I.

Would certainly like to see Martin at this stage. He must be most interesting now. Well there is one thing I am pretty sure of - If I go to the far east I shall at least get home first. That speculation is at the moment however too far enough away to be unjustified - or should I say not worthy of consideration. Well folks, I am at the end of the page & at the end of the day. And so its under my mosquito net into bed & get ready for another day.
Love, Alan.