

Good morning, dear - & it is a very early morning hour - 2:15 AM - to be writing a letter but I have been awakened for some urgent business & it looks like I'll be staying up for a while, so I thought I'd continue the letter rather than be unable to send more than a half letter.

Leip returned to the company Saturday after a 4 day stay at the hotel in Rome. He seems to have enjoyed himself altho he didn't do very much. He saw the Catacombs, Song of Bernadette, but didn't see a single play. He says his evenings were occupied. I'm sure it was with that hag with whom I saw him because one of my ambulance drivers saw him with her. He certainly doesn't have any taste for a man who is going to cheat on his wife. He says the prices in Rome have gone up tremendously since we first went there - at least quadrupled on all items. I'm glad I bought my souvenirs early. Actually he had very little to say about his visit. He did tell a story about a nurse who stayed at the hotel for 3 days & who was constantly drunk, even in the mornings, for the entire time. She threw a plate of soup at a captain in the dining room for no reason whatsoever, & he wasn't even with her. That's what liquor does to some people.

To-day was a routine day except that for a while it threatened to rain, & I moved his stuff into our tent from beneath the tree where he had set it up, & then moved it back out when the rain failed to fall. He has quite a comfortable set up beneath his tree, but I'm gregarious & I like to read late at night - two things which aren't satisfied by sleeping in the open beneath a tree.

That detail I had in Rome of checking shooting has resulted in my being visited & called by several high ranking officers. It seems that they have to undergo a summary court martial & if they plead guilty they pay the fine but if they ~~don't~~ plead not guilty then the court officer has to check with the accusing officer in order to get both sides of the story & then decide the case on the entire story. In each case it was the court officer who contacted me & when I explained just how I decided on their failure in military courtesy they seemed satisfied. I'm surprised any of those fellows pleaded not guilty because I really caught them cold in each & every case.

This afternoon I went down to the brook - it flows hardly any faster than the water in our sink in the bathroom, & took a swell bath in the clear cool water under the bright sun's rays. It was really refreshing for a day as hot as to-day has been. Gosh the kids would love the brooks they have around here - just the right depth for them.

I finally had my radio fixed & have been using it to-day for the first time. We heard Rosalind Russel, Cary Grant, & Edward Horton in a play, the movie of which I had seen back in the States. It was one of those fast moving, wise cracking comedies & reminded me of sitting at home with you & listening to the radio. It really should make things much nicer, to be able to hear music from home & hear war news fresh.

Well darling, I believe I'll close, now. Remember always that I love you, and give the kids a great, great big hug & kiss for me.

Walt.