

Cpl. J. Plafare 11081793  
140th Airborne Div. Sgdn.  
A.P.O. 650, 1/2 P.M. N.Y.

9 May

1945

Dear Mrs. Lynn.

I've been away from my base for a few days - & on my return find that another nice letter has arrived - as always it certainly makes fine reading - though the past few weeks have been a reunion time here in Italy - with Rustin Lodi - dropping in - & letters from Penault, "Big Ed" & Bob - I hadn't heard from John for about a year - & it was really great to get some word from him - I wish I could have seen him while he was near by - but some day he may get into Italy again.

Russ - almost floored me when he walked in - I didn't recognize him at first & when I did recover from my surprise - I found that he has changed but little since the last time I saw him at Salvo. Like the rest of us - he seems to have become a little more mature - we must have been a care-free group at school & while we aren't exactly

"old men of the mountain" now - a few years especially, at our age certainly makes a big difference - but you should be able to see that yourself. From what you have seen of the fellows who have returned - in some cases it is more noticeably than others. At any rate Russ & I spent enough time together to have a long talk about the "old days" at Salem.

I told you I had been away - & the place I visited was the Isle of Capri - It has been taken over by the Air Force as a rest center for Air Corps personnel & what a deal. We stay at the finest hotels - eat meals in a real salon - music et al - sleep between sheets & on comfortable beds - (don't tell Malony - this - when he found out that there were some WAC's stationed near by - from one of the newsletters - he obtained that info - he was all for joining our forces here in Italy).

Two of us spent our "rest time" tramping from one end of the Isle to the other - seeing just about all there was to see - We were not able to see the

famous blue grotto - as during our stay  
the water was too rough to enable  
us to enter the narrow opening into the  
cavern.

Some of the places we did see  
were the ruins of Liberius' Castle - which  
stands on a high peak - atop the Island.  
Our guide showed us the spot where  
the Emperor was wont to push his unloved  
wife into the sea below - & believe me  
it is a long way down - when he grew tired  
of <sup>her</sup> ~~him~~. I guess the Romans had no faith  
in divorce proceedings.

The village of Ansa da Capri - was  
very pretty - & here too we found the ancient  
church of St Michael - The church itself  
is more like a good size chapel - It has  
a marble altar that was once inlaid with  
diamonds - when the French took the Island  
many years ago - some of the French soldiers  
were quartered in the church & proceeded to  
remove the stones - all that remains now are  
the places where the chips used to be.  
The floor was made of baked clay - & had a  
tile-like appearance - on the floor - baked  
into the clay - was painted the story of  
the Garden of Eden - This is supposed to

is the only floor of its kind in Italy.  
The ceiling was bare - which is very dif-  
ferent from most of the churches I have  
seen so far here.

The Island itself is very small  
about 3.5 miles I'd say. Very steep slopes  
reach to the water's edge & there are only  
two or three places where boats are able  
to tie up to the shore. It is a very  
hilly bit of land & to go any where one  
finds himself going more "up & down" than  
forward.

There are only ~~two~~ three roads large  
enough for vehicles - the remainder of the  
Island is reached a-foot - or a meter -  
The "streets" are little more than side walks -  
running between two walls & the only time  
you can see - out to either side, is when  
you reach a high hill & are able to look  
over the walls.

The people are a friendly lot & all  
have a smattering of English to throw at you.  
Some of the younger folks can talk fairly  
fluently in English to you & even the  
youngsters understand most of what  
you say -

Outside of this recent trip

Things are about the same - school  
has closed for a "spring vacation" - but  
I don't intend to do any more teaching  
this year - pulling regular duty & trying  
to make the close worst - while - in a little  
more than I was able to do - to my own  
satisfaction - I enjoyed the experience very  
much - & as I told Ed in my last letter -  
I feel that I have chosen the site vacation -  
in any event if I do not make the grade  
as a teacher - it will be due to my own  
short comings & not because I do not  
like to teach.

I hope that your family is all  
well & that the "finals" are <sup>not</sup> causing  
too much uneasiness among the students  
yet -

Arrived  
John.

P.S. I finally found  
a church in Italy with  
some thing that resembled  
our globe.