

19 November [1944]

Dear Miss McGlynn,

First chance I've had to write and tell you that I received the latest news letter very much - wanted you to know that I sincerely appreciated the compliment on my last letter hope any future ones I write will measure up to it.

A few things have come up since last I wrote - that I thought might interest you - things that are bothering some of the fellows I'm stationed with - and for that matter quite a few G.I.s in this country.

I guess its only natural that being of Italian descent I should bear the brunt of the attacks on the way of life of some of the

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natives. Many of our boys can see little rhyme or reason to some of the mores - customs of the Italians - some of the queries are based on an honest effort to clear up a question in a fellows mind - others you can easily imagine are set up merely for the sake of argument- the first are the ones I like to work on - though the latter ones I enjoy too. (a throwback to our days in the Debating Society) -

One of the things that has been bothering many of the American soldiers is how the Italian people can build such beautiful buildings - churches - palatial monuments - why about any church you stay into is vertically a storehouse of priceless paintings and objects of art- yet another these buildings little children seen raggedly clothed- shoeless - looking

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as though they could stand a good square meal - their homes often times beneath the eaves of these same buildings are little more than four walls and a floor of stone.

The only possible way I can explain these actions is through the fact that deep inside of every Italian dwells a love of beauty and fine art - this coupled with a deep sense of religion - is the basis I know of their customs.

The average Italian is in no condition - alone- to give vent to these emotions he has neither the friends nor often times the materials to build himself a fine home - or occupy himself in the pursuit of a collector's hobby - and yet he finds some way of giving vent to their inner feelings - Then each of them feel that by banding together pooling some of their meager funds that they can build something beautiful they can have something to look at

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and feel that they were a portion of it. It may seem a little "odd" to us - but who are we to say that they are wrong in doing this.

We are fairly certain now that we still have a fight on our hands over here - I don't know what is keeping them going but I hope some thing happens to "knock the props" out from under them soon - what will happen after that is anyone's guess - but I'm fairly certain that we are in for a rude awakening - if we expect a peaceful Europe - soon after -

Italy itself is like a way rite now she is like a whipped puppy. That has been left to lick its wounds - she needs a leader desperately - the only semblance of authority is now the monarchy - yet I think it will last only as long as Allied Troops are in the country - I'm afraid Italy is in ripe for a whole lot of internal

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discord - It won't be a strong majority that will win out because there is none - but it will be rather a strong minority group - that will force itself on a weak majority. They are a people torn asunder with political strife and lack of trust in any one set up - above all they are afraid to vest too much power in one authority. The memory of Benito [Mussolini] is still top firmly embedded in their minds - and yet they need a central power to rally around - to give them a foundation - on which to start to rebuild - rite now the outlook is dark and dismal - but I hope for our own good as well as the good of the Italian people that a solution is forth-coming and molta subita. [very quickly]

I've finally heard from Bob - glad he is well - Ed wrote again from France - still on the lookout for Parks- would like to see him-

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Again thanks for the “newsletter” - my best to the rest of the family - Hope to receive another letter soon.

Sincerely,
John