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Sorry that I was not able to write for a bit - but I've been away from Caserta for about three weeks and on my return found a "News Letter" and also a letter from you telling of Ed's visit to your home. Bob had written that he thought the "Tall One" was home - but this is the first news I've had of his whereabouts for some little time.

We here, are "sweating out" and the official word of the end of the war - Thank God that it has come quickly- I have a younger brother on Legion- and the knowledge that he will not have to make any more landings is joyous news indeed.

You were right when you said the nature of our work is different. A good number

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of the old timers in our squadron were flown home - soon after VE day [Victory in Europe Day] but for the remainder of the Squadron here - our stay is indefinite. Our primary task now is to furnish the occupational forces in the Mediterranean area with weather data. While our work is nowhere as great as during the war - it is still necessary. We have been told that as long as American aircraft are here - an American Weather Service will be maintained - our biggest question now is are we going to be left here to man it - or will they send over new men. In any event we probably will not know for some little time - I'd as soon remain overseas a bit longer and get out sooner - then come back and sit in the states for seven or eight months. - I don't have enough points for an immediate discharge now so I'll have to wait a bit.

I'm hoping to make a

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flight to Paris and London - in the very near future - I'm the next man scheduled to go and it will be a seven day jaunt - with three days at each city - I only hope nothing happens to ruin it. Then too, there are prospects of my getting to Switzerland for a week or so - would like every much to see Geneva and Zurich - so all in all the prospect of a fairly interesting two or three months lies ahead of me.

I mentioned the fact that I had been away - The purpose was to attend a coaching school - at Rome - I know it sounds strange a weather man going to a sports school - that's what my C.O.

[Commanding Officer] thought too - I was finally able to obtain too - I was finally able to obtain his permission to go - and spent the most profitable two weeks of my army life there. The material I obtained will not help me now - but as I hope to do some coaching where I did get

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out - I found out a whole lot about coaching that will prove very helpful to me in future years.

While at Rome - I attended Mass at St. Peters - and though this was not my first trip there - I was still left spellbound by its majestic beauty - I've never seen anything to compare with it just to stand inside seems to do something to one -

An interesting side - light - to my trip - The school was conducted at what was to be the site of the 1944 Olympic games. There were two large stadiums - a good swimming pool - and several large buildings - that are now used to have Ground troops - while they are attending the Rest Camp. The stadiums were ornate affairs with huge statues depicting various sporting feats all about the edge - done in marble - I couldn't help but wonder what those Roman "marble men" were thinking as they looked down

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in stoney silence at a groups of yelling Americans - running though a football drill or working out on the baseball field - By the way our instructors were all civilian coaches from the universities back home -

That's about all from here at present. Thanks for the promotion but I'm afraid I'm still a Cpl [Corporal] - My best to Priscilla and the family - hello to any of the old gang that you may see -

Sincerely,  
John

Maloney didn't mention matrimony did he? -

Ledo expects to be a daddy in about eight months -

Pineault and I keep in fairly close contact - via the mail - Folsom and Tripp I haven't seen for some time.