

SOMEWHERE ON THE ANZIO BEACH-HEAD
17 MAY 1944

MONTHLY SERVICE BULLETIN
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA.
MRS O.B. THOMPSON, SEC.

DEAR MRS THOMPSON AND MEMBERS OF TRINITY:

JUST TAKING A FEW MINUTES OFF TO THANK YOU AND THE MEMBER FOR YOUR KINDNESS IN SENDING ME A COPY OF THE MONTHLY BULLETIN. I REALLY DO APPRECIATE HEARING FROM ALL OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS NOW IN THE SERVICE. IT SEEMS THAT THE SERVICE (ALL BRANCHES) IS LIKE A GROWING FAMILY, STARTING IN THE THOUSANDS AND ENDING IN THE MILLIONS.

THOUGH I'VE ONLY BEEN OVERSEAS SOME 27 MONTHS, IT FEELS MORE OR LESS LIKE 27 YEARS. ITS HARD TO EXPLAIN HOW EASY IT IS FOR A FELLOW AWAY FROM HOME AND ESPECIALLY HIS COUNTRY FOR SO MANY MONTHS, SEEMS TO FORGET MOST OF THE PLEASANT MEMORIES HE ONCE HAD OF HIS FAVORITE TOWN. OF COURSE THERE ARE MANY KIND MEMORIES THAT ONE HOLDS THAT WILL NEVER FADE AWAY EVEN THROUGH THE YEARS. YOU CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT AN IMPORTANT PART YOUR BULLETIN PLAYS IN REVIEWING SOME OF THOSE THOUGHTS. EVEN THOUGH IT IS ONLY A TEMPORARY DELIGHT, THE FLAVOR IS LASTING. A FELLOW OVER HERE FEELS THAT HE IS JUST ANOTHER MAN DOING HIS DUTY TOWARDS HIS COUNTRY, AND AT TIMES HE FEELS A BIT ON THE BLUE SIDE OF THINGS, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE DOESN'T COME IN CONTACT WITH ANY OF THE THINGS HE USE TO KNOW. I CAN TRULY SAY THAT THE TRINITY BULLETIN CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS MORALE BUILDER NUMBER ONE.

AS FAR AS TRAVLES ARE CONCERNED I GUESS I CAN BE CONSIDERED AMOUNG THE FORTUNATE. I'VE TOUCHED THE SHORES OF ENGLAND, AND SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IN IRELAND. NEXT ON THE LIST CAME AFRICA, WHICH IS REALLY RATHER AN ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY. (IN PLACES) MY NEXT DEPARTURE TOOK ME TO THE SHORES OF SICILY WHICH IS AN EXPERIENCE THAT ONE WILL NEVER FORGET. SICILY IS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES NOTED FOR

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IT'S ANCIENT ROMAN RUINS.ON OCCASION I'VE MANAGED TO VISIT MANY OF SAME.TO BE DESCRIBED BY WORD IS BEYOND QUESTION.THESE HISTORICAL SIGHTS ARE SO REALISTIC,THAT ONE FEELS THAT HE HIMSELF HAS BEEN PART OF HISTORY DOWN THROUGH THE MANY AGES.THESE IMPRESSIONS SHALL BE EVER-LASTING.MY NEXT STOP WAS IN ITALY ITSELF.NATURALLY THERE ISN'T A COUNTRY IN THE WORLD THAT CAN COMPARE WITH IT FOR ITS ANCIENT RUINS AND CULTURE,AS WELL AS FINE SCULPTURE.EVEN THE PEOPLE ARE MORE OR LESS ARTISTIC,EVEN DOWN TO THE HORSE DRAWN WAGONS.YOU WILL FIND THESE WAGONS HIGHLY DECORATED,WITH PAINTING AND DESIGN OF ALMOST EVERY NATURE.MANY OF ITS BUILDINGS ARE OF MODERNISTIC DESIGN,THOUGH ITS ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURE GIVES MORE THAN A BROAD HINT OF ITS ROMAN ORIGINATOR.THEIR EXQUISITE WINE,WHICH I ALWAYS IMAGINED WAS CONSIDERED AS A LUXURY TO THESE PEOPLE,AND MORE OR LESS,TREATED AS A DELICACY,IS THEIR NATURAL DRINK,SUCH AS WATER IS TO US.THE ITALIAN DRINK THEIR WINE WITH REFINEMENT AND WITH SENSITIVENESS,IT IS THEIR TRUE FOOD,AND IS TREATED AS SUCH.AT THE PRESENT TIME I AM ON THE BEACH-HEAD AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING NORTHERN ITALY,THO I WOULD GLADLY TRADE IT ALL FOR ONE TOUCH OF THE GOOD OLD U.S.A.TERRA FIRMA.

WELL I'M AFRAID THAT I WILL HAVE TO CALL THIS TO A CLOSE,AND MAY I ASSURE YOU AGAIN THAT I APPRECIATE YOUR SENDING ME THE CHURCH BULLETIN,AND AM LOOKING FORWARD TO ITS NEXT COPY,ANXIOUSLY.

AS ALWAYS,

Ray Kavey