

Saturday Sep 23

Gnr Gianelli 1116024
Rear HQ
'M' Military Mission, CMF.

Dear Ma,

Just received yours of the 17th and am glad to hear things are OK and that you'll be having a bit of light to get around in for a change. As you will notice above I've got another address (whata game, eh?) but its merely a change of name and not of place. And if things go well this should be the last one until the finale which doesnt seem so far off now. We are now billeted in a school right in the middle of the 'tiger quarter'. It reminds me of the old quarter 25 years ago. Hundreds of kids on the loose-vagabondi--disgraziati. Running around like mad. I walked into the middle of a brick battle the other day--it reminded me of old times with the Gerry gang and the Biddle Gang. The houses are little poke holes with no water--they draw it from taps in the street and the waste water is collected by tank carts. Mussolini did a lot a swanking about the improvements he had made but as far as the little guys are concerned he didnt seem to bother. I've made a note of Maria's instructions if I get up Lucca way and if I can touch for a bit of leave here I'll certainly try to get up. Its quite a way but I'll manage it on the thumb; 16/- a pound for grapes is certainly a change from here where you can touch for a nice bunch for a couple of cigarettes. I'm having a go for that conserva and oil and with a bit of luck I may touch shortly. Dont worry about the money question. I'm doing alright and as you can see from the papers apart from being well up the scale on the demob scheme I'll be rolling in it on this new pay scheme. I'll need it

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL.

PASSED BY
CENSOR

No.

7108 MRS GIANNELLI

ISLINGTON PLACE

LIVERPOOL 3

UK.



Army Form W3077

To open cut here →

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First fold here

I certify upon my honour that the
contents of this letter refer to
nothing but private and family matters.

Signed, *Gianneli*.....

→ To open cut here

51-8077 (3)

because I'm going to do a lot of lounging about when this is over.
Hope Steve is keeping up with things over there and keeping out of
trouble. Also the old Martie. I can just imagine Martie mopping up
vin blanc in an estaminet telling the tale. Did I tell you that Babe
Stewart is on his travels again. We did hope to meet at this place but
that came unstuck. I nearly forget to mention that last Sunday here
was the Festa della Madonna dei Galluci- something to do with cock a
doodle do. They were eating chicken all day. What a pastime. I call
it 'Chicken Sunday'. Did they ever have anything like that in your
village? Sunday Sep 17. In two days time I'll be 39. There'll be a
fine time for the old men when the young men go away. I should say so.
All the best for now. Keep your fingers crossed.

Love, JOEY

Wed 18 Apr 45

Bdr Gianelli, J
Rear HQ 37 Military Mission
CMF

Dear Ma,

Just another line to let you know everything is going along OK. I think I mentioned in my last letter that the application had been turned down but it shouldnt be long now before I'm home for good. I've just sent in an application for permission to travel to Lucca and if it comes off I may get up there fairly quickly. If not I'll take leave to Rome and hitch hike it from there. We had quite a big explosion down here the other week. The quarter where we live got quite a shaking. I was in a little tinsmiths getting a tin made to send the oil home in when the bang-bang went off. I wondered what day it was and was glad I was in doors because apart from the bits that started to come down it rained oil as well. Everybody in the streets got covered in it. Things have settled down again and all the talk now is about how soon it will be over and who's going home first.

Hope you are keeping well and not overdoing things.
All the best for now to Maria and the lads.

Get my tea ready,

yours

Joey

Wed 18 Oct 45

Mr Bianelli, J
Rear HQ 39 Military Mission
CUB

Dear Ma,

Just another line to let you know everything is going along OK. I think I mentioned in my last letter that the application had been turned down but it shouldn't be long now before I'm home for good. I've just sent in an application for permission to travel to Lucan and if it comes off I may get up there fairly quickly. If not I'll take leave to Home and hitch hike it from there. We had quite a big explosion down here the other week. The quarter where we live got quite a shaking. I was in a little tinmiths getting a tin made to send the oil home in when the bang-bang went off. I wondered what day it was and was glad I was in doors because apart from the bits that started to come down it rained oil as well. Everybody in the streets got covered in it. Things have settled down again and all the talk now is about how soon it will be over and who's going home first.

Hope you are keeping well and not overdoing things.

All the best for now to Maria and the lads.

Get my tea ready.

yours

Joe

Thursday 11 Jan 1945

1116024 L/Bdr Gianelli, J
Rear HQ 37 Mil Mission
CMF

Dear Ma,

Just another line. Am glad you got the parcel but sorry the chestnuts were bad. Did the garlic come out alright? If you want any more conserve let me know and if you fancy any garlic give the word.

I was in the Fleet Club here the other day and met Henry D'Annunzio's brother, Phil. He's been down Naples way looking out for some of the old Neapolitans. He says he saw De Siano and some one else I can't remember. He's stationed around here so shall probably be seeing him again.

I'm sorry the cat got the turkey (nearly) but I'll bet the remains were better than the tinned stuff we got. Anyhow don't worry. Next Xmas will be a better one or I'm a Dutchman.


I'll show you how to cook Turkey in a petrol tin with sparking plugs for stuffing.

The weather here is quite cold now and I could certainly do with a bit of Egypt's sunshine. Still the Spring won't be long coming along and if they live themselves up here I might get a bit a leavecum summer - that is if the war isn't over by then!!!!!!!

Excuse this old typewriter, it's an old gerry one, and right now the owner wants it, so here's to the next time.

Hope your cold is better and that you are looking after yourself. All the best to Maria and the Gang.

Hope the Olive oil gets through.



Tu Thursday 11 Jan 1945

1116024 L/Bar Gianelli, J
Rear HQ 37 M 1 Mission
CMY

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Hope the Olive oil gets through.



Tuesday 5 Jun 45

Mr Gianelli J
Rear HQ 37 Military Mission
CMF

Dear Maria, Just received your letter about the election and as you say there should be some fun. As regards my vote put it on Labour. I'm not interested in Mrs Braddock or Col Shute the only thing I'm interested in is a change of Government from the one that was in when this bloody war started and many years before. I think everybody wants a change from that and Labour may give it to us. They are the only party strong enough to hold the reins so put my money on the bob-tailed-nag.

About getting home as I am Group 20 I should be home and out of the Army before the end of the year but I think they should get the three year lads abroad and over home as soon as possible. If you want to ask Mrs Braddock or Col Shute any questions ask them that one. Tell them that we are not so much interested in getting out of the army as in getting home for a break. Still another few months wont kill me - roll on !!

I should be in new job in a couple of weeks as this pl is breaking up. I hope I touch lucky and get shifted up north somewhere near the old place. Then I should be able to get a bit of leave in at the old place and that wouldnt be so bad.

I'll be sending you some snaps soon. I was going to send you one of that pin-up girl snap but old Babe Stewart beat me to it. Tell Wally I'll be seeing him and no three cornered scapers this time.

Glad the car is on the road again and that the lads will be able to take Mam out a bit more. Hope she's keeping well and not worrying too much about me. We've come a long way and I think we can hold on a bit longer.

All the best for now

Jim Guley

I suppose you got my other letter telling you that I'd got up to Luaca and seen Valentina ?

Sunday 10 Dec

1116024 L/Bdr Gianelli, J

Rear HQ 37 Military Mission, CMF.

Dear Ma,

Glad your throat is better again. Now look after yourself and keep that way. I got another parcel of cigarettes so that makes two now - not bad. Thanks again. I'll probably have that tin of olio off anytime now. If its a bit thick you know how to manage it. Things here are much the same. The weather is a lot milder but we are getting some rain now - just like home. About the leave its hard to tell here whos likely to go home. We do know that the lads up front will get the preference and I should'nt be surprised if Babe Stewart touches. Still you never know. If our outfit gets a quota I should be fairly high on it but if we get the finish early next year as I think it will I should get home early on the demob scheme. So keep your fingers crossed. I've had another letter from Steve - he seems to be doing alright. I've made a note of Joe Zanin's address and if I can do anything I will. Things should be clearer up Lucca way shortly and I'll try to get up there in the New Year if possible. I bet they'll be surprised to see me.

Hope the weather is better now.

All the Best to the Maria and the Lads,

Joe
2

Sunday 10 Dec

1118024 1/Bdr Gianelli, J

Near HQ 37 Military Mission, C&P.

Dear Ma,

Glad your throat is better again. Now look after
yourself and keep that way. I got another parcel of cigarettes so that
wees two now - not bad. Thanks again. I'll probably have that tin
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getting some rain now - just like none. About the leave its hard to
tell here since likely to go home. We do hope that the lads up front
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be surprised to see me.

Hope the weather is better now.

All the best to the Maria and the lads.

Joe
Z

Sunday 10 Dec

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Rear HQ 37 Military Mission, CMF.

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Hope the weather is better now.

All the Best to the Maria and the Lads,

Joe
2

Dec. 13th

G. Grunell 111602X
% Fox 399
"Conf."

Dear Maria,

you of the 6th. And if I do get
Lucey way I'll remember your instructions. I think things
are clear up that way now. Things here are much the same
and we are all waiting for the final bell to ring, which
should be long now. The summer is dying out now &
the nights are starting to get chilly. I'll be glad of a bit
of winter weather often all the heat I've had & it will
be a toughening up process for the winter back home. The
groups are starting to go off & the castles should be along
shortly. If I can possibly send some cornmeal & oil I will
do. For now I'd send it like a shot if it was plentiful.
I haven't met that little negroina yet but as I said
before a bowl of soup would do me more good. Hope
Mam is keeping well - also all the gang. Hope Steve
is getting along ok. Also old Marty - I wonder what he
doing. Still have some yarn to tell in front of the fire,
eh?

Are the Zats for now and keep that kettle on
the boil.

Yours
Joe

Sep 13/08

Y. Smith 1116024
Y. Jones 399
CONF.

Dear Maria,

you of the box. And if I do get
leave my Die remember your intention. I think things
are clear up that way now. Things here are much the same
and we are all waiting for the first best to sing, which
probably be long now. The summer is coming at us &
the nights are starting to get chilly. Do be glad of it. With
winter weather often all the best. Die has Die will
be a long time up for the winter but home the
boys are starting to go off & the costume show is
coming. If I can possibly find some someone & one I will
do. For now I am sure it will be a show of it can please you.
I haven't met that little negro woman yet but in I will
before a word of my work do no more good. Hope
then is helping her - and all the gang. Hope Steve
is getting along OK. do see Marty - I wonder what he
says. Will have some you to tell in good of the fine,
P!

Out the Zoo for now and keep the kids in
the line.

John Goe

Friday 1 June 45

Bdr Gianelli, J
Rear HQ 37 Military Mission
CMF

Dear MA,

Well the first thing I must tell you is that we just got back from Lucca. I saw Valentina and her husband but didn't have time to get up to Partigliano. I went up from here on a duty trip to Sienna - had a look at Rome and then went on from Sienna to Florence where we stayed a night. Next day we went on to Lucca then Pisa and back through Rome back here. Valentina looks well and told me that Partigliano was untouched by the fighting and that everyone she knows is well. She wants to know when you are coming again. I told her that as soon as things are settled we'll all make the trip. She was afraid from what she'd heard about the bombing of Liverpool that something might have happened to you but I told her about the old house being the only one standing in the block. When I found the Piazza San Frediano I went in the Cafe Gamboge and asked for Pedino but the girl there didn't seem to understand but when I mentioned Valentina from Valdottavo she said 'si, si' and pointed out Valentinas house just by the church. She opened the door herself and when I said 'mi conoscete?', she said straight off, 'Mio cugino.' He was just getting her husbands dinner ready and for the first time since I left home I had some macaroni that tasted like yours. I've taken some snaps of the Piazza and roundabout also one of Valentina and her husband and will send them on later. I couldn't stay more than an hour but as this outfit is closing down in a couple of weeks I may get posted up there and then I'll be able to get some leave in and do the thing properly. As we were leaving the town an old man asked us for a lift to Viareggio - and he didn't half remind me of old Velga. We dropped him off at Pisa. Tuscany is the finest countryside I've seen yet. Rolling hills with little picture villages plastered all over them. Compared with the south its heaven. Up North it surely is hell' Italia. All the boys I've met who are up that way don't want to leave it.

About my getting home as you have read we have been promised home and out of the army by the end of the year and I do think I'll be seeing you well this side of Christmas. They may get a move on when things get more settled - lets hope so.

Glad old Joe Soap is back and looking well, remember me to him. Babe Stewart told me that his father was getting worried about him but chats that.

Valentina thought Maria would have been married by now but I told her Maria belonged to my school.

Glad you got the record - the oil should follow shortly. If the post office are still not taking mail for Italy send a note to me and I'll forward it.

Hope you are feeling better now. All the Best to Maria and the gang.

Joe

Wed 11 April 45

Bdr Gianelli
Rear HQ 37 Military Mission
CMF

Dear Ma,

Have just received Maria's letter saying you are home again. They cant keep you away from the old place can they. Hope you are better for the rest and that you are bucking up with the fine weather.

We heard officially today that they couldnt let me go home but they have given me a lower release number which means that when they start sending us home I should be among the first - so lets hope it wont be too long now. I shouldnt think so.

In the meantime I am going to try to get some leave and get up to Lucca. The weather here is picking up again and we should be getting our summer kit soon.

There's nothing much further to tell you , so keep well and keep your fingers crossed.

All the best to Maria and the lads.

Joe

Friday Feb 16th

1116024 L/Bdr Gianelli, J.
Rear HQ 37 Mil Mission CDP.

Dear MA,

Just another line to let you know everything here is much the same - even the weather is starting to pick up again. Maria tells me you are going into a nursing home and I think it will do you good if you dont worry too much about me and Steve. I'M trying to get some leave and we are still waiting for word from higher up. In any case it may all be over any time now and I should be among the first out - not only for a months leave but for good. So keep your fingers crossed and dont worry. I see Gervase and Basilio are back at the old game again. Where are they working from - the old place? I bet they're glad. How are all the others, I wonder - By Crackie, Amadio and Joe Zanin. We'll have a real do when we all get together again. I got a letter from Babe Stewart who came out the same time as I did and although he is still up front he says leave for him is a long way off - so you see all these stunts work in weird and wonderful ways. Some are lucky and some are not. Anyhow keep smiling and maybe I'll be having you up at Sefton getting the Tomatoes ready.

All the Best for now,

Love

Joey

Thursday 14 Nov 63

Mr. Giamelli, J
Room 311 57 Military Mission City

Dear Sir,

Got your two letters together. Tell the boys at least

I wonder how long its going to be here before I get ~~have~~ Once they start with
the release groups it shouldnt be too long because the 1 to 20 are a very small
percentage of the army and we are willing for the most part. The officers around here
are still enthusiastic. I have not given all the Gage out and the books are
laying every day. We've had a stock of uniforms in - the real stuff and although some
missing it every night there's still some left. Eddie Murray is giving it to his kids.
I've written to Valentine and say a reply any day now I'm also looking another try to
get up there. I think its all over Capron, say he able to write himself. I don't
at all know right away and I'll get something.

Every old Jerry is dead - I'd like to have seen it be remembered the
last I got know. He must have been sitting in a lift. They just remember by accident got
at the will. Do you want any more examples? Let us know.

Hope you are keeping well and not worrying too much about your eyes.

If the best to the Gang -

Yours truly

July

Thursday 10 May 45

Edr Gianelli, J
Rear HQ 37 Military Mission CMF

Dear Ma,

Got your two letters together. Well its here at last
- I wonder how long its going to be now before I get home. Once they start with
the release groups it shouldnt be too long because the 1 to 20s are a very small
percentage of the army and we are waiting for the word 'go'. The natives around here
are still celebrating- 'festa ogni giorno'. All the flags are out and the bands are
playing every day. We've had a stock of Guinness in - the real stuff and although weve
en drinking it evry night there's still some left. Eddie Murray is giving it big licks.
I've written to Valentina and may a reply any day now I'm also having another try to
get up there. Now that its all over Gerwas' may be able to write himself - if not
let me know right away and I'll get cracking.

Sorry old Gerry is dead - I'd like to have seen if he remembered me
when I got home. He must have been getting on a bit. Have you received my record yet?
And the oil? Do you want any more conserva? Let me know.

Hope you are keeping well and not worrying too much about your eyes.

All the Best to the Gang -----

God Bless

Joey

Thursday, 10 May 68

Mr. Giamelli, J
Room 311 37 Military Mountain Club

Dear Sir,

Got your two letters together. Well the boys at least
I wonder how long its going to be here before I get home. Once they start with
the release group it shouldnt be too long because the 1 to 10 are a very small
percentage of the army and we are waiting for the rest. The officers around here
are still celebrating. 'Cause you know all the boys are out and the tanks are
driving every day. We've had a stock of weapons in - the real stuff and although some
staying in every night there's still some left. Eddie Murray is giving it his list.
You written to Volentine and say a reply my day now I'm also having another try to
get up there. How does its all over Capron? say to all the write himself - if not
at the time right away and I'll get nothing.

Harry old Harry is back - 27th like to have him if he remembered his
name I got home. He must have been writing in a bit. These great mistakes by accident got
in the way. Do you want any more changes? Let me know.

Hope you are having well and not worrying too much about your work.
If the best to the Gang -

Yours truly

John

Sunday July 12th

St. James, Mont
to the Valley Gate
27 Area
Camp

Dear Mama,

Just received your letter with the
challenge. As you saw there was empty without them but
we must get used to it. I wish the case had been but
because Liza is come back from 5 days here at
Bakersford. I got me from here & spent a night at
Valentin. Went up to Paces the next day where I had
dinner with Anna, Pedro's sister and then went up
to Participation later. Mr. Aida Nicolson where Mam was
the day - then Ylana & Gigi & his wife. They and
also all the other speaking relatives & it's like the
English up here. They had a pretty rough time with
the Germans who one time threatened to shoot all
the village but they only took the men away to Capi
di Paces where they stayed & stayed on the mountains
all the American came. I went back to Bakersford
that night & the next day I spent with Gigi & the
gang. We went up to the chapel at Gujivilla where
the Pastor is held every 5 days. They were

this crop that you took. I had
 dinner with Aldo. Riccardo then
 we went to Gigi's plot where
 we killed a rabbit for supper.
 & while with much drinking &
 mollys bins I wasnt feeling too good
 next day. When things are better we
 must get over for a long holiday.
 I've taken a lot of pictures
 & will send them when they are
 ready. Everbody is well there
 & wishes to be remembered. Ennio
 are not from Yolanda. In
 to the Riccardo.
 Hope you are bearing up.
 With Mom had been alive I
 have been glad of that.
 all the Best to Giovanni, Maria
 & the others.
 Your Dad

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL.

Affix 3d.
British
Stamp
here



First fold here

Second fold here

Army Form W.3077-A

To open cut here

The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:—

I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope
refer to nothing but private and family matters.

Signature }
Name only }

Fabrizio Gianelli
 San Pietro de Frascati