

No.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To

Mr. & Mrs. George Chisler
421 1/2 No. M. New Ave.
Wh. H. R. Calif.
U.S.A

From

John H. Richardson
(Sender's name)

C. I. B., 444, 5th St. N.W.
(Sender's address)

APO 444, Philadelphia, Pa.

16 June 1945
(Date)

Dear George and Ruth,

About three weeks ago I drove to Venice through the Po Valley, with my friend Lawrence Smith, and with a strange French girl whose story I will some day tell you. The next day I put her in prison on a serious charge. Venice is as beautiful as it has been described, different from all cities of the world. We rode in a gondola for two or three hours on a beautiful swamped day, through the Grand Canal, and saw San Marco, and the happy figures that shake the home of the dog, the home of Bradamante and Skylock.

A few days ago I made another hurried jeep trip over the back of the Appennines to Naples where I spent eight hours with my girl, returning the next day to Bologna. On 15 June 1945 I started Lake Garda, one of the most beautiful sights in the world, going at the foot of the Alps. Then in the afternoon Gordon Mackay and I, and some other friends, drove up through Brenner Pass stopping at Bologna, then coming on to Innsbruck where I am staying for two or three days prior to assignment in another part of Austria. I shall be among the occupational troops of Austria. For the Brenner and Innsbruck I can only say that I could not put into words their great beauty.

Yesterday I was awarded the Bronze Star not for combat but for meritorious service in support of combat operations. Although I do not think that decorations should be given for anything but real combat service, it is pleasant to have this mark of recognition for many months of hard work. I shall be sending it home soon.

V-MAN

John