1945

Dickerson, J. -1945 (photostat)

MSRC Staff

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Dear Sir,

Italy

But the conditions are flexible, unconventional & often ironical. A common statement among the Doughfeet—"This is the Damndest War!"

Take the case in which the platoon occupied the small Italian Villa. Each squad had a house, complete with kitchen, bedrooms, living room, library room, & toilet. They ate, slept, & in general lived like gentlemen during the lulls in the battle. The payoff is the vino barrel in each house (not very potent stuff but stronger than water).

Then there're the rugged set-ups; atop some of Italy's highest mountains.

(Cont'd)
Where an all-winter layer of snow (15" or more) covers a barren, rocky ground. And into this is the unfortunate Doughfoot gauges his home.

These are the days when supply is scarce, for the Doughfoot is where jeep or mule cannot go. And these are the days when the Doughfoot curses Jerry & all his ancestors, loudly & vehemently.

The war here has also brought about an ironical disregard for class or caste. This was brought out by Monk Madison when seeking a site for his motor pool, he applied at the estate of a wealthy Italian (the only available area).

The Italian was indignant & replied, "I am Giuseppe Garibaldi, Admiral of the Italian Fleet! You can't stay here!"

The undaunted Monk replied, "I am Robert P. Madison, Lt. of the American Motors! I will stay here!" He stayed.

(Cont'd)
Only trouble is, GI's back for a rest from the front have little appreciation for the "Fine Arts."

See beaucoup of Howardites here in Italy & we can proudly say that Ho Ho is well represented.

When I say that we are always interested in E & A affairs, I speak for Benny Rich, Monk Madison, &

Yours truly,

Dickerson

Speaking of Monk Madison, he won himself a Purple Heart recently. Got all hemmed up with a Jerry "88" shell, but I'm thankful to announce that he's ok now & none the worse for it.

Here also is a unique opportunity to study Italian residential construction with particular interest to stress, strain, tensile strength, etc. opposed to Jerry shells. And Jerry, the cordial bastard, makes no bones about ripping down a house in detail for our further edification.

Rome & Florence are especially fruitful in art, arch'l history & traditions.

Division 92

REPLY BY V--MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?