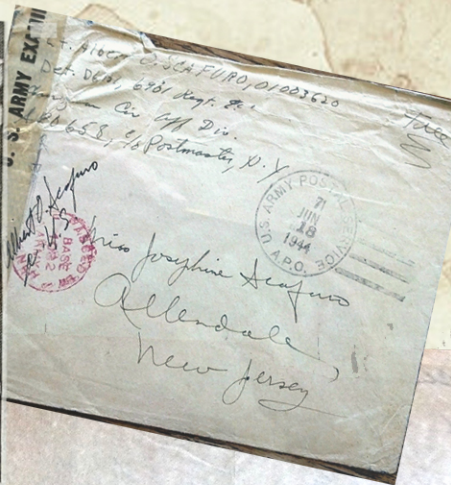




Civic Affairs Officer Albert Scafuro shakes the hand of Prince Charles, brother of the King of Belgium, after commemorative funeral services for President Roosevelt in April 1944.



To all the Family:

I don't worry about me. I'll be alright. My letters may not be as frequent for a while. As you know in America the "great day" whatever call is made will be performed. My thoughts are with you at this moment and I hope you will be safe.



Hot Water, Clean Sheets for Yanks As Spa Is Taken  
By Jules B. Grad  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer  
MAGNOLES  
dream of "the American home" was a reality for the GI's.



# Something to Write Home About



Hello Frank:  
I am please with you. I will be in the security of your arms. I will be in the security of your arms. I will be in the security of your arms.

Remember me to your always. I will be in the security of your arms. I will be in the security of your arms. I will be in the security of your arms.



Mama don't fear - I'm just a little bit away from home. I will be in the security of your arms. I will be in the security of your arms. I will be in the security of your arms.





## WWII letters from the Scafuro and Vultaggio families, 1943 - 1944

Allendale, NJ, had its own Band of Brothers serving in the Armed Forces during World War II. With so many family members to keep informed, "Frank & Fil" Scafuro gathered news from siblings and extended family members and sent out frequent newsletters to those serving as near as the Newark shipyards and as far as China, the South Pacific, and Europe. Filippa preserved much of the family correspondence as well as photos from this period. In the interest of preserving the documents, they are presented here in simple chronological order with a few explanatory notes on items that piqued my curiosity, *e.g.*, who/what was the *HOLC* man lurking around Allendale looking for Uncle Vic?.

Much of the writing is repetitive – "assure Mom I'm O.K", "don't worry about me" – or deals with home-front shortages and Victory Gardens – "two quarts of onion sets are in the ground and tomatoes, celery, cabbage, kale, kohlrabi "hatching" in the cellar". Correspondence on the progress of the war was necessarily censored and hence, frequently bland. But taken altogether – and with the gift of hindsight to fill in some of the gaps, the letters weave a rich tapestry of a family torn by war but bound by love.

Putting the various writers' letters together in chronological order provided a few new insights. At first reading Albert's October 9, 1944, letter asking after a Mr. Wagner seems unremarkable. However, Frank's September 9, 1944, newsletter includes this passage:

ALBERT: I learned from Allendale tonight you had to give up your luxurious room with hot water and clean sheets at Bagnoles. That's tough. You should never fall for those swanky places. They soften you up. If you are going into Germany couldn't you say, "Au revoir, Paris." If you are in Belgium say, "Boy, I'm so dry. I can't get this phlegm out of my throat." Phlegm for Flemish. If in Holland, "I almost got in Dutch." *If you are on the Seigfried line ask me how Mr. Wagner is.* All this goes for you too, Willie."

Items currently available but not yet incorporated are:

- a few letters from Uncle Victor and
- letters from several cousins, *e.g.*,
  - Frankie A. Scafuro (stationed in New Guinea) and
  - Dominic Magro (stationed in China)

I'll update this document as pieces surface and time permits. If you have additional letters – or stories or photos - from this period that you would like to share, please send me a copy. In particular, I would be grateful if you would send copies of any of "The Scafuro Home Front" Newsletters *not* listed below :

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1944-02-22-SHF-Vol\_II-8  
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1944-05-03-SHF-Vol\_III-3  
1944-05-11-SHF-Vol\_III-4  
1944-05-16-SHF-Vol\_III-5  
1944-05-30-SHF-Vol\_III-6  
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– missing second page

Thank you,  
Liz (Scafuro) Webbink

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

### SCAFURO

Mom            Maria Scafuro

*Sons:*

Frank	wife Fil	daughter MaryFil
Tony	wife Angie	son Ralph
Victor	wife Rose	
Larry	wife Jo	daughter Barbara Ann/Bobbie
Albert		
Ralph		
Ange		
Lindy		

*Daughters:*

Maggie	husband Jim	daughters Nancy, Mary, Angelina/Bubbles
Jo	fiancé Charlie	

*Cousins:*

Frankie A. Scafuro  
Dominic Magro

### VULTAGGIO

Mom

*Daughters:*

Filippa Scafuro (Frank's wife)	
Jo	husband Dominic Ciaravella

*Sons:*

Willie  
Frank

*Cousin:* Joe Alcuri

THE SCAFURO HOME FRONT

Branch office at  
9949 Shore Road  
Brooklyn (9)  
N Y

Vol. 1 #7

8/2  
7/8/43

Branch outposts:

Opl. L. Scafuro - 547<sup>th</sup> Ord. Co. Bks 2 - M.C.P. Jackson, Mississippi  
Cand. A. Scafuro - Off. Cand. En. Co. C(22) Bldg. 117 Ft. Wash. Md.  
S 2/c R.J. Scafuro - Bks 26 U Sec 3 Nav. Air Tec. Tr. Center, Memphis, Tenn.  
A/S V.E. Scafuro - A.S.N.T.S. Co No 391, Newport, R.I.  
A/S Angelo Scafuro - at Newport, (we think)  
Affiliated!

P.P.C. V. Vultaggio - 1st Prov. Co. Holabird Ord. Depot, Baltimore, Md.  
Pvt. I. Charles Demco - A S N 38759999 710 T.T. Gr (Skip it- he's on  
his way to Louisiana)

Lieut. D. Cieravalla - address unknown- still somewhere in Louisiana.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ange left this morning to strengthen the U.S. Navy. Last night we had a little party for him; pizza, hot from the oven- potato chips, pretzels, popcorn, nuts and plenty of ice cold beer. We couldn't muster much of a crowd: Mom, Miss Josie, Lindy, Ange, myself Tony and family, Maggie and family, Mrs. Josie and Bobbie, Bob Curley, "Sonny" Loscalzo and Kelly one of Ange's classmates. About 11 P M Bob Curley took the "kids" down to Dan Mackerly's house. Ange left with Dan at 5:45 A.M. today. No fanfare. He picked up his duffel bag in one hand, his "bluejackets" manual in the other, kissed Mom, Josie, Lindy and me, turned quietly and off he went in the car. At 8:30 A.M I got a phone call from Ange. He said he was bound for Newport, R.I. (still with Dan Mackerly) to join Vic. (I just checked up 9:15 P.M. by phone with Mom and so far we have no address but as soon as we get it, let's all make sure to bombard our "baby" sailor with morale building letters. After all he has never been away from home.

Lindy is fully recovered. Bandages were removed from his arm on July 5 He has one cut above the elbow and one below (right arm) and another on his right forefinger. No permanent scars. Still a bit of metal in his right forearm but it doesn't bother him. The doctor says it isn't serious. He wants to wait and see if the little piece of a shrapnel will come to the surface so he can take it out easily. We'll wait a while and then X-Ray.

Now that it is over I suppose we can "un-senser some of the gruesome, exciting details. I'm doing this because you are probably dying of curiosity to know the whole story. On Sunday afternoon, June 20 (after I had gone home to Bklyn) Lindy came home with a so-called torpedo, a R.R. one, which he had picked up somewhere. It was one of those things R.R. signal men put on tracks to warn trains of danger ahead. Both Lindy and Ange tried their luck in attempting to explode it by throwing rocks at it from a distance. The darn thing just wouldn't go off. Ange walked off, probably in disgust. Lindy, however was persistent. As soon as Ange turned his back Lindy picked up a good sized rock and let the 'torpedo' have it. The torpedo (made of steel and lead) finally gave up and exploded. Lindy instinctively shielded his face with his elbow and thus, luckily, got the heavy pieces in his arm, rather than the face and neck. That was a miracle. Fortunately Ange was near. Had it not been for his calmness and cool headedness things might have been different. He applied a tourniquet and phoned the doctor who arrived i



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less than five minutes followed by the Allendale ambulance which raced Lindy down to Hackensack. There the internes cleaned the two main wounds in the arm and were about to discharge the patient when one of the doctors suddenly got the bright idea that if holes were made in Lindy's arm there must be something at the bottom of those holes. After that brilliant deduction Lindy was hospitalised. Three days & later after X-Rays etc, Lindy went to the operating room where the doctors played tidly winks for two and half hours and found a couple of pieces of the "torpedo". Of course Lindy took ether- at least I just got a bill for \$15.00 for that. I don't know yet what the doctor will charge but again we were lucky to have hospitalization. I brought Lindy home on Saturday, June 26. He is in perfect shape - no scars and no effects but (I hope) a strong abhorrence of explosives indelibly impressed on his mind. Of course it caused Mom a little anxiety but it served to take her mind off the war and concentrate on the home front. She's O K - and hard as nails. Naturally with Lindy's arm temporarily on the blink my arms have been working double time in the garden and the Fish tank ornament business has suffered a set back.

"Admiral" Vic reports from Newport that he is enjoying the clean Navy life and getting the best of everything. He is still battling for a place in the Recreation Dept and Athletic Dep't. He's already had one crack at the Selection board but is due to come up at bat this Friday (July 9) for his final licks. We are all praying for a hit and a home run - our fingers (and toes) are all crossed in the hope that he will be selected. Rose went to see him last Thursday and will be with Vic (or near him) for the next 2 weeks. Vic has been seeing Louis Caputi from Allendale who is now a third class petty officer.

Lawrence says he didn't get that joke of mine in the last issue. Look out Lawrence, you may be sent to ~~England~~ ~~they~~ ~~discover~~ you are so English. After having raised our hopes with reports that he might be coming North, L. now ~~writes~~ flashes the news that he's Texas-bound (between the 17 and 27 of July) - going to Camp Maxey. Well, there is one consolation. The Texas climate is better - dryer at least. Don't worry too much about the whereabouts of the 2nd Army, Lawrence. The fact that you are in the 3rd Army signifies nothing. Things don't necessarily work out that way. Believe nothing but official orders, - discount all latrine rumors and you will be lots happier.

We visited your wife Jo and Bobbie on Sunday. Both look fine. Bobbie is a little witch - she devours you with her eyes and Lord help you if you get near her when she is in a fighting mood. Her conversation improves each time we see her. Jo went to see Dr. Guidice and is following his orders. He's a good doctor. There is nothing seriously wrong with Jo. She looks very well. Naturally your being away plus taking care of the baby is a tax on her nerves but then if she didn't react that way she wouldn't be human. Anyway we'll keep an eye on her and see that she stays in good health. Don't you worry about her. We'll talk to her in a couple of weeks and if she needs a check up by another doctor we'll arrange it with her.

Well, Ralph, by the time you get this, you should have received your year book and copy of the diploma. It's interesting to hear that part of your training now includes 3 hours a day work on the farm. What are you raising - tobacco? Maybe you'll be a 3rd petty farmer? I wouldn't brag about the 100 degree weather you have been getting. It has been very hot up here, too. One day it was 102. The past week it got down to 55 and people are getting the sniffles. Sorry to hear about that cold of yours. Take good care of it. Have you seen a doctor? You seem to

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have had that cold quite a while. You can't do real justice to your studies in that condition. How are things coming? How much more time do you have up there? Is your average still climbing? By the way, if you have a bad cold, do you still have to take swimming lessons? Can't you skip it for the present? Has any basket ball team signed you up yet for after the war? Now that all the ball players have left I'll have to begin playing again. Maybe we'll win some games for a change!

Albert was home for 3 days over the past week end. By a strange "coincidence" Miss Gibbs, his Washington Glamour girl "happened" to be in New York and we ended up by celebrating our sixth anniversary by having dinner at an Italian restaurant last Sat. night with Miss Gibbs, her mother and Albert. After dinner we saw the show "Arsenic and Old Lace" and closed the evening with a drink at the St. Moritz sidewalk cafe near Central Park. Both mother and daughter are charming. "Janine" (that's Miss Gibbs) likes men with beards, so Al is growing a mustache. He'll never make a good officer. He's too easily affected by propoganda. I got your note of July 7 tonight. Ange is going ahead as suggested with the allotment I'd like to make up some kind of budget. Therefore whatever you decide on should be a fixed monthly figure - would \$25.00 be too much? Let's know.

Will Vultaggio got home this morning for a three day stay. He's now a corporal and is going to an Inspection foreman's school from which he will graduate a technical sargent. Lawrence should be doing something like this. How about it?

Lieut. Ciavarella is still on "tour". He's found out how to get away from the jiggage - he lives up in a pine tree. Mrs. Jo goes back to Macy's next week, we think. She's getting to be quite a cack. Her cherry and peach pie was quite a treat.

Charlie Dekeo has been out-predicted by the Army. Last word from him was sent from Philadelphia - enroute to Lake Charles, Louisiana. Boy, is he going to tell the Colonel off when he gets there. They can't do that to him ( and to us - we'll miss you Charlie - but chin(8) up!

Victory Garden News: Tomatoes will be ripe in about one week. Pulled out 4 rows of peas and planted four more rows of corn. Planted more cucumbers and watermelons. Everything is flourishing. Neither the Vultaggios nor the Seafures have bought vegetables recently. Also set out ( awfully late) a bushel of gladioli.

Mom has already canned 15 quarts of string beans. The Home Front is doing its share!

Well boys, it's awfully late and we still have work to do - So cheerio and write soon.

Frank

Fil

and

Maryfil



Thursday, October 28, 1943

Dear Jo,

From Filippa to her sister Josephine in California

Before I forget:

1. Don't mention Will's leaving in your letters at all. Mom doesn't read English but sometimes she has Connie or Rosie read your letters before Frankie gets home and they don't know anything and probably would not stop to omit anything from your letter.
2. We have your jewelry insurance policy which we will take to Mom's. If you want it let us know and we'll mail it out to you.
3. Gene is at home ~~he~~ on leave. I haven't seen him but Mom says he is looking swell. He is stationed at Mississippi right now- so maybe he isn't going West either. Who knows but that they might meet? I mean Will and Gene.
4. Your package is going out tomorrow- Friday. I put everything in it but the yellow sweater which Mom gave to me just last week because she said it was too big for you and the white scarf which has been lost at Barrett Nephews or it couldn't be found because Frankie had no ticket. At least he made a special trip there yesterday and they couldn't find it. Have you the slip or is it home somewhere? And furthermore most of those places will not hold goods after 30 days.
5. Your hospitalization is taken care of. I explained that. The \$5.00 you gave me for the blouses plus the toilet paper you bought for me. I had forgotten that little item. If they begin to make the blouses at Margaret's factory for civilians, I'll get them for you anyway. So don't worry.

We are very glad you are enjoying your stay with your in-laws. We called Mary last week and she repeated how nice John and Mary are. Mom is quite happy to hear it. Please don't tease us with the fruit you are able to buy for next to nothing and what you can pick for nothing. It makes us quite jealous or should I say envious.

Frank is up at Allendale tonight. We got the sad news on Monday last. He got his 1 A classification. He is up at the draft board tonight to ask for deferment on the basis of the work he is doing at the bank. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

Just reading over your letter to Mom and I remembered she said you were not to eat figs and prickly pears if you were having that diarrhea again. Take it easy and don't fail to go to a doctor if you don't feel well.

Mom wants to know where you learned that mixed up Italian you wrote to her. It is quite a mess. That might be a good project for you- study your Italian again.

Goodnight, dear. I have about an hour and a half ~~and~~ ironing ahead of

of me and it must be done tonight.

Mary'll and I are quite over our solids. The infant gets spatter and coter everyday - at least so her proud parents think..

Give our regards to your in-laws and to Don when you write or talk to him and here's hoping he comes in as often as he can.

Love,  
Filippa.

P.S. Enclosing some mail for you under separate cover.

P.P.S. Be sure you write to Will anyway.

You have the A.P.O. address on the bulletin - if you have not the letter in which I sent it.



Sunday, Nov. 7, 1943

Dear Jo,

First of all, you have never mentioned a zone number or even shown it on your address. Did you get the letters I forwarded at the same time? There were quite a few of them. And I hope you get the package of clothes which I mailed out last Saturday.

Genea, whom you don't seem to remember is Jean De Gaetano. Remember?

The next time I mail a package will be within this week some time and I shall include your pink dress and probably hat, says Mom. She doesn't think you can wear that dress with any other hat. I do hope they get there in time for you to wear them for Dom's leave. But, first of all, I hope he gets his leave. Nice he could come in for the week end. He must have been plenty tired. I think I mentioned in your last letter that it was Mary who called Mom and told her about the call.

No, my dear, I didn't listen to Eddie Cantor's broadcast. We find that the radio disturbs Maryfil's sleep so it is rarely on, outside of the morning when we want to know the right time and the latest news.

Yes, the dimout has been lifted here, too but I haven't even looked out side the window since it was lifted. Yes, I know, we have a woman now to take care of things more or less but there seems to be a million and one things to do all the time. I haven't even been near a movie in over a month or 5 weeks.

We had a rather nice day today. The Scafuros came into Brooklyn again but fortunately we did not have to go into St. Albans to see Ange at the hospital. We picked him up yesterday since he was granted liberty for the weekend and today we had a leisurely dinner at a reasonable hour and just took it easy. Then we took the baby out for an airing and you should see how cute she looks in her new snow suit. Mom was persuaded to come over without too much difficulty and tonight she was going over to visit the Ciaravinos.

Yes, Mom knows about Will now. She received a card from the War dept on Wednesday giving his APO address and his cable address, which is AMGIBO. So we told her, she took it pretty well and told us she knew we had been hiding something. And what made her suspect more than anything was the fact that the last night Will was home on those few hours leave he wanted to see me and the baby. I told you we had arrived home and he called up a few minutes later and Frank went for the car again and picked up Will & Mom and Frankie and we had coffee and then he left almost immediately.

Frank sent in an appeal on his classification just this Thursday. Now we shall have to wait patiently for results.

A few people have told me they received cards from you but I don't remember who they all are. The girls, I suppose, Ines and Peter, etc. Yesterday I went to the Language meeting and met Annunciata Costa. She asked about you. I asked about her brother. Seems he is still someplace where in the SW Pacific. Has been for over a year. Expects to be coming back soon. Evidently when his 18 months service overseas is over.



Genie was home on leave for ten days, did I tell you that? I don't think his Mother knows that he is scheduled to go out too. They just received news of Rico after 6 weeks. They think he is in Australia.

We think that Will is possibly in England. I don't know where else he might be that would take such a short time. The card from the War dept came exactly two weeks from the last we saw or heard of him..

Maryfil is growing to be quite a young lady. We have gotten to the spelling stage with her. There are certain things she will want if we mention them - so we spell out the words. One of these days at the rates she are going even the spelling wont do any good. She will probably spell right back. She seems to be getting along quite well with her nurse - except for the mornings. She cries bitterly when we leave but she seems quite happy when I get home. So Mrs. Hughes must be keeping her amused, well-fed and aired.

That's all for now. It's 9:35 and I did have about 7 sets of papers to mark, but if I don't get this letter out tonight I wouldn't be able to write for the rest of the week. Tomorrow is parent-teachers day at school and we have to stay until 6- which means no earlier than 7 at home. Tuesday is my first aid course and Wednesday we are going to the annual dinner at International House. So there goes my week, how about yours?

Love from us all and best regards to your in-laws (of course this goes for news from Mom, too)

Fil, Frank and Maryfil



November 24, 1943

Dear Jo,

It has taken me a few days to answer your letter. I was all set on Mon. night. I wrote to Will first and just as I finished his letter - we had an air-raid drill, the first in some time. So, needless to say, no letter to you that night. The drill lasted from 9:00 P M to about 10:00. I had a very nice nap and then undressed and went to bed. Tuesday I got in late and by the time I prepared dinner and did the dishes it was too late for any writing.

Frank went into De Natale's tonight to see what was what. Of course he really cannot do anything until you let him know about how much you should like to spend. There isn't much to choose from anyway. You more or less have to take what you find. The well known makes such as Longines, Whithauers, Bullovas, Hamiltons and Elgins just don't exist. There may be a scattered one here or there. Frank went into 3 places to night & none of them had the usual steel cased service watches, shock proof, waterproof and etc. But in all three places they had one or two gold service watches. For \$70.00 you can get a solid gold, Swiss movement watch with the large "second hand" but it is only shock proof and not water proof. For \$100.00 you can get a solid gold Swiss movement watch which is shock proof, water proof and proof everything. These prices are already less the discount of about 30%. One place thinks they may have within a week to 3 weeks a watch which has all of the features of the \$100.00 watch just described excepting for the solid gold case for about \$40.00. As a matter of fact the watch has the same Swiss movement. But you can't bank on this expected arrival. So you must decide on range in price and whether it is to be gold or steel or gold plated and also the kind of a strap. We are not making any promises on delivery but it won't do any harm for you to specify. We always try to please our customers. (Hurray) and this is one outfit that doesn't think the customer is always right. (Shades of Macy) Oh, yes, how about it, do you think we could contact anyone at Macy's to see about digging up a timepiece for you? Write immediately for time flies.

We were very glad to hear you were so pleased about your birthday gifts. But don't look forward to Xmas. It's going to be a White Xmas - bled white (by the gov't and others)(plus the nursemaid).

Saw your pictures and you do look as if you are gaining weight. Keep it up and don't go gallivanting too much or you will lose it again.

We got the olives and have already consumed quite a few. Mom put them up immediately in her good old fashioned way. She made a jar for me and one for my mother-in-law and I suppose one for Mary. Speaking of Mary we may go over tomorrow after dinner. She asked Mom to go over and I said I might take her there, stay for a short while and then leave.

The cute little bugger gets more talkative everyday. Her latest this morning was, if you please - "dopey daddy". So you see I must be very careful what I call my husband. So long for now. I still have to do my dishes. Frank wants to take this out now so it can get on its way before the holiday. I hope you all have had a pleasant Thanksgiving.

Love

Phil, Frank and Maryfil



Wednesday  
(reclining in bed with the  
grippe)

Dear Jo,

It never rains but it pours. Just when you want to earn as much as possible a little bug comes around and says " Well, I guess I'll bite you. A little less money won't hurt you." Says he. Anyway I was feeling grippy on Sunday night when I wrote to you, and I went to school on Monday thinking it was a simple cold that might go by but Monday night I had quite a temperature so consequently we called George who has ordered me to bed for the rest of the week. Nice goings. We received your check for \$40.00 and why didn't you make it for \$38.00? Now we owe you money again. Suppose we do this. When Mom gets your hospitalization bill we will pay for it. Remember we still owe you the \$5.00 for the blouses and that will make us even. O.K.?

We received Xmas cards from Willie and he sent the baby 2 English nursery rhyme books. Wasn't that nice of him. We also received another letter from him the other day. He says he is finally doing for the Army what he should have been doing 7 months ago. (This sounds familiar- did I mention it to you in the last letter?) He is issuing clothing and shoes and has been complimented on his knowledge. He doesn't know whether it means a rating. Poor kid it's about time he got it. He had really expected his corporal's rating in September.

Maryfil has about gotten over her cold. I do hope mine will get over soon. I called Mom this morning and she thinks she's getting one, too. I got a letter from Pasqualina on Monday. She wrote to me because she said she had received a card from Willie and was shocked to see that he was in England and she didn't want to write to Mom thinking that perhaps she didn't know as yet. Nina has been quite ill and was operated on for goiter. She has been at a hospital in Worcester for several weeks and she was expected to come home this week and stay

with Pasqualina for some time. P. also said you sent her a card without a return address, therefore I am sending your her best wishes for a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year. It might be nice if you wrote to Nina.

So long for now. Keep your chin up. It won't last forever and try to have as nice a Xmas and New Year as possible. I suppose I'll have my troubles trying to persuade Mom to come with us. She insists she is going to stay at home.

Love from us all to you both ,

Filippa

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed. It returned a few weeks ago. Certainly took them a long time, didn't it?

F.



December 27, 1943

Dear Jo,

Before I forget:

About the sweaters Mom says O K provided you get the measurements. She also suggested that you might, if one of yours fits whoever it is you want to give it to, give one of yours away (that is if they wont be offended) and then she'll make you a new one. Otherwise she'll make them both. Be sure you get the right measurements or the size dress the person wears might help and height. *color?*

Mom received a telegram from Willie today wishing us all the best for the holidays and the New Year. Of course she sounded pretty thrilled. She said she had a headache I wouldn't be surprised if it weren't from tears, though she didn't say.

Now I suppose I should sit down and give you a lecture and tell you you shouldn't have done it and gone thru all that expense. But I wont for we all are going to enjoy the gifts you sent us. The baby was thrilled with her robe. She went around saying: "See, pretty, see?" and kept stroking it. I heard this from Mom. Mom put it on her while I went to do a little shopping on Friday just to show it to Gen. The peewe did pretty well by herself. She got another robe from Mrs. Hughes but its a size two which is a little small and another handsome one, homemade but really nice from Mrs. Fontana. For now she is going to wear the Fontana one because yours will fit her nicely next fall, and the Fontana one will fit her for just a little while. She received a very pretty pink pinafore from Margaret, a red corduroy from her godfather and family, a red plaid skirt from Grandma Scafuro, a silk slip from Barbara Ann, a Mother Goose book from Delia Brigiotti, a xylophone from Connie, a horse, books and various other toys from Mommie and Daddy and a carriage from Grandma V. and a doll from zio Momme, a telephone from Frankie, and had I told you that Willie had sent her two nursery rhyme books from England and also a card? Some list, eh?

Frank and I thank you very much for the things you sent. Mom kept your secret pretty well. I had no idea what I was getting. She only told me about the baby's because Fontana brought hers over and Mom said yours was prettier. The package I understand was loose. She didn't open it on purpose. She also liked your cross very much. Frank also hopes that now that he has that pretty set the Gov't should release some stuff to use it on. It really is a good idea. We tried to guess what was in the package and that certainly was a complete surprise. I think I mentioned it to you that he was ready to open it the same day he got it but I told him it wasn't right, even tho' I was very curious myself.

I didn't do so badly. I received a swanky Shaeffers pen and pencil set and six pairs of stockings from my husband, wasn't that something? gloves and a hat which we bought together. Your brunch coat fits very well. I guess that's why Frank said O K when I told him not to bother getting me a new one, that I would have my old one cleaned and finish out this winter in it.

Between the baby and myself we gave Daddy, tie, handkerchiefs, pajamas, and socks - all things which he needed badly since he has refused to buy



himself anything- you know he was going to be drafted. But he got his nicest Xmas present last Saturday- he was classified 2A until June 1, 1944 which should mean that he is out of it since he will be 38 on May 18. Wasn't that nice?

I hope what we sent you was alright. I forgot to write a little note with the fruit cake and tell you to soak it in a little rum or brandy before you used it, but I guess it is too late now and that you probably enjoyed it just as it was altho Josie thought it was quite dry. And did I say your slippers could be cleaned with a little Carbona when they get soiled?

Another news item before I forget: Ines Romeo Amato is going to be a Mamma come next summer. She and Gennie were here this afternoon and Ines looks very well. I hope she keeps it up.

I hope Dom was able to come in for the holidays and what seem to be his prospects and when will those manouevers be over? Any news?

We had supper at Mom's on Xmas eve and then left for Allendale. We had expected Ange, Victor, and Ralph home; Albert couldn't come because he's at Shenango awaiting orders to be shipped and instead he surprised us all completely by showing up on Friday night about 11 P.M. The poor kid had been on the road since Thursday 7 P.M. The engine broke down somewhere and the 12 hour trip took almost 30 hours instead. Ralphie never showed up. He can't have his leave until he receives his orders. He wrote today, I understand, and hopes to be home for New Years. We'll be with Mom for New Year's and then probably go up to Allendale to see Ralph. Here's hoping the kid really gets home. He hasn't had a leave since last March.

Some mixed up letter as usual. I hope you can make head or tail out of it. But I have been wanting to write and I have been up to my neck in work, and also tired and also not ~~the-~~ quite over my attack of the grippe. I got kind of scared yesterday I really thought I was getting it bad again, but I have felt much better today.

I guess this will be all for tonight. I hope I have thanked you properly and forgive me for not answering your letters any sooner but it has been almost impossible.

Write soon.

Love from us all

Dear Jo -  
I guess you can  
understand why I removed  
the envelopes.

Fil  
Frank  
Mangif.



(REFERENCE: <http://www.worldwar2database.com/>)



Classified 4-F (health deferment) because of poor eyesight, Mr. Scafuro was a second year law student at the University of Virginia in 1942 when “several of us went down to the induction center and volunteered.”

“The dean of the college was the head of the draft board in Charlottesville (Va.,” Mr. Scafuro explained. “I told him ‘Look, I’ll sign any kind of waiver. I don’t have enough money to finish the term anyway.’ Somehow he put me through.”

**May 19, 1994, Veteran recalls D-Day Invasion by Marsha Stoltz**

Mr. Scafuro started out at Camp Lee, Va., in September 1942, then served as a clerk in the Commandant’s Office for a balloon-barge regiment at Camp Tyson, Tenn. However, a talkative nature, sharpened as a member of the debating team, soon got Mr. Scafuro a spot on a bond-selling tour with famous actors and sports figures. This, in turn, led to his nomination for

Officers Candidate School. **May 19, 1994, Veteran recalls D-Day Invasion by Marsha Stoltz**

After spending a few months in a barrage balloon battalion stationed in Tennessee, he was assigned to the Judge Advocate School near Washington.

REFERENCE: <http://www.skylighters.org/barrageballoons/>

Before completing his officer candidate course, however, he was called out of classes on day, given his lieutenant bars and discovered he was now training for a drop behind the Allied lines in Italy to work with the Italian partisans.

**May 27, 1979, “Scafuro plans invasion to recapture memories” by Grace Archer**

Sent to Harvard to study history and language so he could be sent behind enemy lines and work with partisans in Italy, Mr. Scafuro had to change studies when “Italy capitulated, so I was changed over to France.”

**May 19, 1994, Veteran recalls D-Day Invasion by Marsha Stoltz**

Fortunately, however, he says, Italy capitulated before the completion of his training for this project and subsequently he was transferred to Harvard University to begin training as an American military government officer for future duties in France. (Ed: See Civil Affairs Training School, Harvard)

**May 27, 1979, “Scafuro plans invasion to recapture memories” by Grace Archer**

REFERENCE: U.S. Civil Affairs Training School, Stanford University Records, 1942-1945: As United States involvement in the Second World War deepened, the American military began to make contingency plans based on the likelihood of an eventual Allied victory and the need for qualified personnel to administer the occupation of liberated countries in Europe and Asia. In 1943, a training program for such personnel was established at Stanford and other universities (including **Harvard** and the Universities of Chicago and Michigan) under the authority of the Office of the Provost Marshal General of the United States Army. This program, known as the United States Civil Affairs Training School (or CATS) program, drew upon military personnel with experience in civil affairs or with special language abilities. The schools' curricula involved intensive courses in the languages, history, sociology, and culture of the various countries which were considered likely to be occupied by Allied forces. Particular emphasis was placed on the study of the economies of these countries, and exercises were conducted which simulated the kinds of problems likely to be encountered by occupation authorities. <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf8t1nb33h/>

After leaving Harvard he was assigned to the American School Center\* and Oxford University in England where he continued his training. **May 27, 1979, “Scafuro plans invasion to recapture memories” by Grace Archer**

*N.B.:* See several pages towards the end of this document describing the American Center School in Shrivenham near Oxford. Assuming this is where Albert was sent initially, it provides an interesting background to his commentary on life in England in subsequent letters. Accommodations were described as subpar for American military personnel. Even some field grade officers were put in 16-bed rooms, which sometimes doubled as classrooms. The average age of the Civil Affairs trainees was in the upper thirties, the youngest was 22. Albert would have been one of the youngest at 24 upon his arrival. REFERENCE: [The US Army in the Occupation of Germany, 1944-1946](http://books.google.com/books?isbn=0160872669) (Hardcover ...books.google.com/books?isbn=0160872669... give its location in relation to **Swindon**, ... at Shrivenham, ETOUSA had established the American School Center

**1944-01-04**

January 4, 1944

Dear Josie,

Well Christmas and New Year have come and gone and by the way you have said nothing about the package we sent you. I do hope you have gotten it by this time. It was mailed out on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. We had a rather quiet New Year's Eve. The usual thing – had dinner at Mom's, waited for twelve o'clock, then went calling next door and at Tripi's and we got home about 1:30 AM. New Year's Day we had to wait until Frankie got home from work at about 5:30. Then we had dinner and left for Allendale about 7 o'clock. Ralph came in on New Year's Eve for a short leave and then has to report to Seattle and then will probably be shipped to the South Pacific. You know he is a tail gunner on a bomber. It certainly isn't an easy assignment but he is plenty thrilled and excited about his work. God be with him and the best of luck. And you just think about this, too. You certainly did a great deal of crabbing in that last letter. You forget that Dom is in the Army and under Army rules and that as much as he would love to be with you he has to obey rules and regulations. I'm sure that if he doesn't call you it isn't because he doesn't want to but because he can't. You ought to thank your lucky stars that he hasn't been sent overseas as yet. Did you know that Dee is on his way out and he has only been in a few months? And lots of other cases we could enumerate for you. Think of the times and the situation and not of yourself. There is a war going on and your own selfish desires must be lost. I know its hard but crabbing about it won't help you. Just keep hoping that he will come home as often as he can and that he will stay in this country.

We just got a letter from Albert and he is on his way out. He thinks he is going to England so we gave him Will's address. It would be nice if Albert could locate him. Also, did you hear that Genie is somewhere in England. I bet both Will and Gene would be tickled pink if they could meet. A little news item I read in the paper last week – Prospect Mule was wounded somewhere in Italy. That's something else to think about.

Sunday night we took some pictures of the baby – wait till you see them. As soon as I have some developed I'll send you the one we think is the nicest, and when you get home we'll show you the rest. Is she getting to be vain. Anytime we put something new on her she says: "See – mirror." And Talk – boy oh boy! And what a politician: Did I tell you that it is almost no use spanking her because she only turns around and says: Hello Mommie. Hello peetie pie (her version of sweetie pie) or sweetheart! Mrs. Hughes is certainly teaching a great many things. We think she is learning a lot for her age. You won't recognize her at all.

Mom has been feeling all right. She has been working hard trying to finish up a sweater that Will asked for. She expects to send it out tomorrow. She only started it on Sunday. Last week one night she went to Alma's with Kay. She seems to have had a good time. At any rate she stayed out until 12 o'clock. She manages to get around and she is still going to the movies on Friday to finish your set. Mary was over one day last week to bring Mom some figs you people sent. I cooked some for the baby tonight. I hope they do her some good.

I think I'm going to say goodnight. I want to get a letter out to Will tonight. How's the weather out there? Have we had a snow storm here and did I have a time getting to school this morning. How about sending us a little heat from there?

Frank sent out a check for your hospitalization and I think this squares us.

Good night – the best to you both and be good.

Love,

Frank and Fil and

Lots of kisses from MaryFil



Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1944

Dear Jo,

First I shall apologize for thinking some things about you. I wondered why you hadn't mentioned the things that we sent you for Xmas. I was really beginning to think you hadn't liked them. In one of Mom's letters you thanked her for the bedjacket and still said nothing about the things I had sent you. But just before I was reading thru your letter of Jan. 3, to pick out any items I had to answer and found the last page sort of stuck to another sheet. And there it was- you mentioned everything and so on and so forth. I'm awfully glad that I read thru this letter or I might have gone thinking awful things about you. Not of course that we expected special thanks but, you know..... And come to think about it, did I say anything about the package in my last letter to you which was I think, in answer to this one of Jan. 3? You must have thought I was goofy.

Glad to hear you got yourself a job, even if it is as a factory gal. Do try to really learn how to sew. You may do us some good when you get back home. And by the way, if there are any nice bargains you might be able to strike, think of us back home. It might be worth the postage. And I still wear 14 in a jacket. (And it is understood the money would be coming from this end.) And another idea- Little remnants make cute dresses or skirts for the baby. (Haven't I the nerve?)

Next point: you mention something about Mary P. talking. It was no such thing. If Mom was bothered it was because Kay had told her that you had gone down to 100 lbs. again. Frankie told me this on the side one day. I hadn't mentioned it. The only thing Mary P. had said was that your in-laws thought you were unhappy because you didn't see or hear from Dom often enough and that you seemed to forget that he is in the Army. And as much as you feel they might be interfering in your privacy when Dom is at home they are right about this (or did I say that once before?) Mom swears by all that is holy that Mary P. hasn't said anything. And rest assured I think Mary has been pretty nice and I think she is genuinely fond of you- so try to keep it that way.

Another thing- you're a nut! Why didn't you give Ruth my address and telephone number to give to her husband. Of course Mom would have fed him but she would have expected me there to entertain so if you get in touch with Ruth and mention it again, give her our number, etc. Anyway it was a nice thought on your part and I'm sure both Ruth and her husband appreciated it even if he doesn't take advantage of it.

Sooo..... you're freezing! We did too for a couple of days last week. Particularly Saturday and did I hate to leave the Opera (by radio, of course) to go out to do some very necessary shopping.

You must be having a very boring time-- nothing to do but go to the movies and broadcasts. Think of me sometimes. I haven't been to a movie in weeks. Ines Munisteri is supposed to get tickets for something for the week we are off at the end of this month but I haven't heard from her as yet. I do hope she gets something. That week Mrs. Hughes is going to come in and I'm going out to have a good time every day, I think. Speaking of the Munisteris I am going to teach at



January 26, 1944

Dear Jo,

Your sister is on vacation for one week beginning today, isn't that wonderful? This is what they call the fuel conservation vacation. We thought that because of this vacation we might not have an Easter one but we were assured that there would be one. Of course, they can always change their minds. Leave it to the N Y City Board of Education. As it was this week was supposed to begin as of Feb. 2 - that would have given some people to whom it made a difference two week ends rather than just one exact week. It is too bad for several who had planned to go and visit husbands in Florida and other more or less near places. I am going to spend a more or less lazy week. I could have asked Mrs. Hughes if she wanted the week off but I decided I would take it easy. Today if it doesn't rain (and it looks as if it were going to come down soon) I intend to go to Ines Munisteri's. (By the way, my transfer to Manual Training came thru.) Tomorrow I am going shopping with Mom- she needs new shoes. Friday I may help Mrs. Hughes to give the furniture a good polishing and Saturday I am meeting Florence for lunch and I don't know what else. Sunday, I suppose we will be in Allendale. I had wanted to go to the theatre once but it is so difficult to get tickets to anything decent on short notice- so I guess I won't go.

Even if the jackets are for men, maybe you can pick up some good material- cheap. Did I tell you that it is almost impossible to get anything decent in a suit for less than \$49.50? And I certainly am not Mrs. Rockefeller, and I should have a new suit. I'll wait a little while and see if I don't strike a bargain, somewhere. And if as you say your sister-in-law can pick up some pieces, how about you?

Mom got a letter from Will yesterday. I haven't read it yet but anyway she says that he is now a corporal. He expects to have a few days leave for his birthday and intends to go and meet Gene. He hasn't been able to get together with him because it takes sometime to get there and they can't make it on an overnight basis. The fellow Will met was Tom Fiore.

Nothing new as yet about Dom, eh? Well maybe it's for the best. No news is good news, altho that doesn't mean anything in the Army.. They certainly can send orders out fast. I suppose you noticed that Albert has an A P O address now and so does Ralph. In Ralph's case however, he thought he was going to be stationed in Seattle at least 3 months before going anywhere else but it seems as if they got a letter from him yesterday and he is being moved to San Francisco. It doesn't look too good. Here's luck to him, too. Ange is still around at St. Albans with a tonsil infection and when he gets over that it may be Iceland for him. We'll have this combined family in the 4 corners of the earth before long. It won't be so bad if they stay there tho, will it?

Mary fil is making a mess of this living room right now. She doesn't understand our brand of English. Don't do this, of course to her means do this. I have put out the radio at least 10 times already but it is no go. On it goes again as soon as I sit down. What did I tell you? She just put it on again. Oh, well, we'll let it play.

So long.

Forgot- What do you think of the pictures I enclosed?

Love from us all,  
Fil, Frank, Maryfil, Mom and Frank



1944-02-22:

Vol. II #8

Feb. 22, 1944

The Scafuro Home Front  
Branch Office  
9949 Shore Road, Bklyn  
New York (9)

Lt. A. Scafuro-0-1003620, Civil Affairs Center, Amer. School Center, APO 645 c/o Postmaster, N Y  
P.O. 3/c V.E. Scafuro, A&R Dept. Unit #1, U S N T S, Newport, R I  
S 1/c R.J. Scafuro – V-C #84 c/o Fleet P O, San Francisco, Cal.  
S 2/c Angelo Scafuro – U S Naval Hospital, St. Albans, L I, N Y  
Affiliated:

Cpl. Vito Vultaggio, 32812599- 541<sup>st</sup> QM Deport Co (Supply) APO # 508, P.M, NY

Cpl. I. Chas DeMeo- ASN 32759999 -434<sup>th</sup> AAF Band AAB, Lake Chas, La.

Lt. D. Ciaravella c/o Mrs. J-1675 Dahill Rd, Bklyn, NY

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, this time the slow down can be blamed on the Home Front. But it wasn't exactly a sit down strike. Both the editor and the printer have been extremely busy. Meetings, income tax reports (and thank your lucky stars you don't have to go slowly but surely crazy over the report) on top of that Frank just finished his 25 page report to that steel company and we are now awaiting results.

The last time we went to press was on Feb. 7. On Sunday Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> we went to Allendale (with our hearts in our mouths – there was about a foot of snow on the ground). The anniversary mass for Papa was said at St. Luke's at 10:30 – communicants: Mom, Frank, Jo, Lindy, Ange; - Tony, Maggie and Lawrence were at the Mass but had not been able to go to confession. We hope the other Scafuros in the Armed Forces were able to join us.

On Sun. Feb 20 we went over to Mom Vultaggio to prepare for Jo's homecoming. She arrived at Penn Station at 11:30 AM. The two Franks and Mom V. picked her up by car. We then had dinner with Jo's in-laws at Mom's. Jo looks well and it appears that she may be home for a little while Dom is relatively close by for the present at least.

Albert hasn't written to us direct but there is still a pretty steady stream to Allendale. That's good. Keep it up, Albert. It seems, Al, you are among friends wherever you go. Since you found one of your law professors there and a few of your U of Va. classmates why not establish an overseas branch of your Law School? Quite interesting to hear about that experience you had at the church. Sure must have been surprising to see Al Biangardi at the altar rail with you. How are your studies going?

\* N.B.: The Civil Affairs Center in Shrivenham was activated in December 1943 ... "Col. Hardy C. Dillard, who had been associated with civil affairs training since its early days in the Provost Marshal General's Office and at Charlottesville, was transferred from the United States to head the division. On his arrival in December along with the 48 –officer faculty and staff, most of them also from the United States, the division opened at Shrivenham with no students. When the first forty students came in mid-January, they were outnumbered by the faculty. . . REFERENCE: [The US Army in the Occupation of Germany, 1944-1946 \(Hardcover ...page 62 and 64 Hardy Cross Dillard](#) (23 October 1902 – 12 May 1982) was an American lawyer who served as a judge on the [International Court of Justice](#) from 1970 to 1979.<sup>[1]</sup> He previously served as Dean of the [University of Virginia School of Law](#) from 1963 to 1968. Dillard completed his Bachelor of Science degree at [West Point](#) in 1924, but resigned his commission because of the limited military activity of the time. He earned his J.D. from University of Virginia in 1927 and joined the faculty that year.

Victor at last report was still at Newport and we hope he'll continue to report from Newport. Vic expected to go to Communion on Sun. the 13<sup>th</sup> and we're sure he got there. Vic, about those Navy allotments – you wanted to know the story they gave me. The reason, it seems, is that they decided that neither you nor Ange gave substantial support before entering the service. I have Photostats of the reports and copies of letters I sent them. Would you like me to send them to you? IT might be easier to go over them with someone at the base. It's true that no one of four boys in the service gave individually substantial support but the four as a group did give majority support. Rules are rules but it seems to me they could be made to fit an unusual case such as Mom's. I'm sure it is not the intent to create hardship if it can be avoided.

Ange is still residing at the hospital. The last time we saw him he looked extremely well. His chances of being assigned to Newport have pretty well faded out. He doesn't know himself exactly what disposition they will make of him, but it seems to us he might be able to make himself useful in and about his present post. Ange, if you are going to be assigned to land duty there is no other more useful spot, next to the fighting fronts than where you are right now. Why don't you have a good talk with Nick? If you wait too long you may regret it.

Ralph has been very conscientious about his writing since our last issue. We received letters dated Feb. 7, 13, and 15. He expects to be moving on to his next base (probably his last land base) about Mar. 1. He's gotten himself a new pilot – another Lt. I don't know whether we got the story right but it seems Ralph's been starting up airplanes at the base and one of them got balky and started running away with Ralph all alone in the plane but the unruly craft was brought to a safe halt by Ralph. How's that little mascot. What color dog is he? "Gremlin" is a good name for him but be sure he remains a good Gremlin. We were happy to learn that you are doing a good job keeping up the morale of the girls on the Home Front.

Will, we hope you get this by your birthday – March 3. Have you thought about it? Your birthday came sooner where you are. You can start celebrating about 4 hours earlier than you would here. Isn't that something? By the way the package containing the things you asked for was mailed and should be reaching you soon. Albert writes that he has begun efforts to contact you. Have you any ideas as to your relative positions? MaryFil is at this moment holding your last V-mail letter jabbering away as though she were reading it and has just ended up by saying: "I write Uncle Willie card." But I imagine it is going to take quite a while to polish her handwriting.

Charlie is incommunicado as far as we are concerned. We haven't talked to Jo so we haven't had a chance to get in on any of the private correspondence. We did see that nice birthday gift he sent Jo – a lovely gold bracelet with her birthstone. Very fine taste, Charlie!

Lindy needs some back talk from the boys in uniform. He's wasting entirely too much time on basketball and Curley. Sports are O K but his studies must come first and the second first is to earn some money to take up the slack from the allotments that didn't materialize. So each of you Scafuros make it a point to write him a letter and jolt him to his senses. I have a feeling he'll listen to you. It's true he has done quite a bit with the ornaments but (and you might note this, Vic) when I saw him last – Feb. 13 he said he lacked certain supplies. The point is he might get a job in a store in the afternoon and do his studying and ornaments making at night. The other important reason: Mom and Josie are alone and he should be home nights.

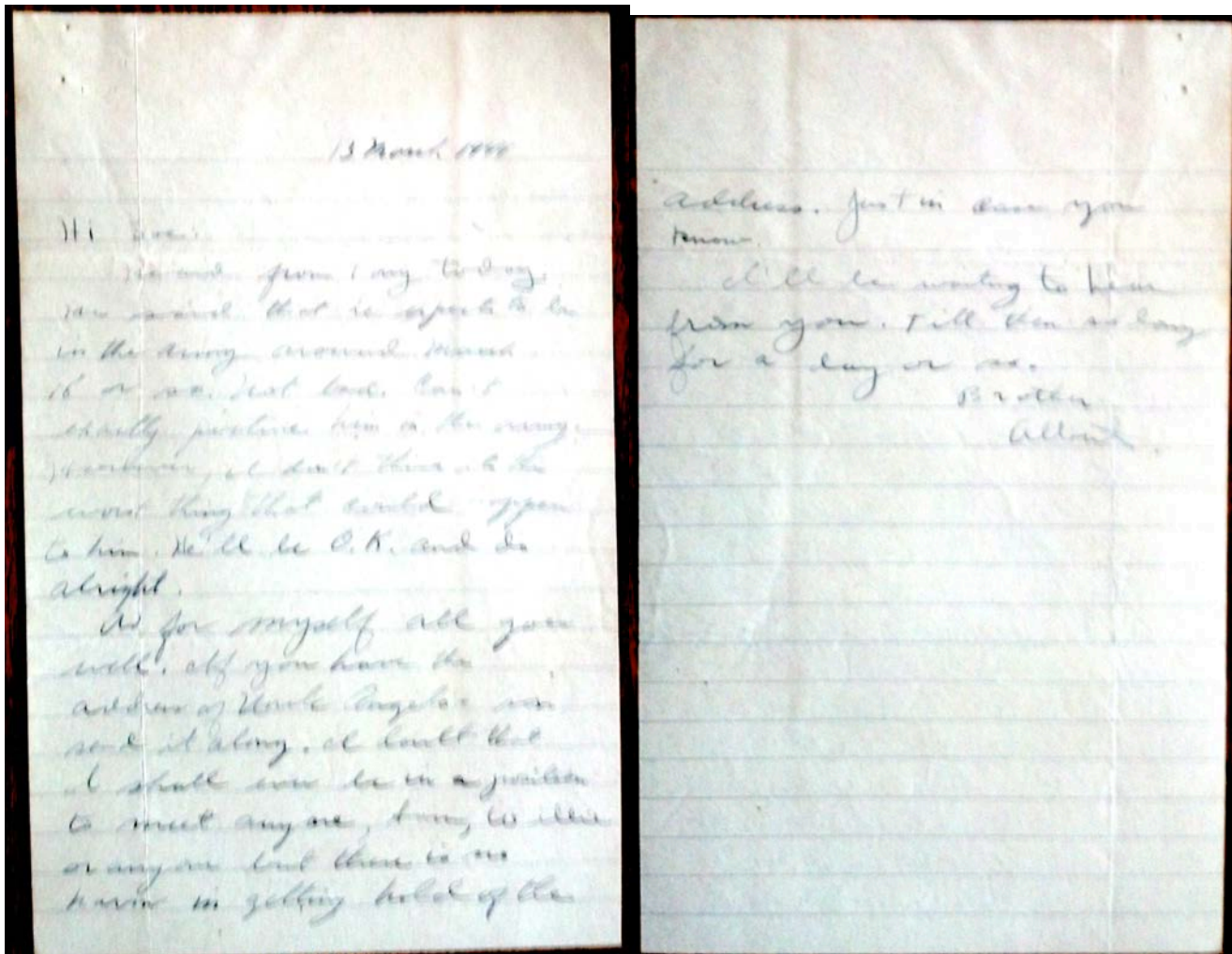
Is it possible for you to send some snapshots of yourselves? Why don't you make it a regular practice periodically so we can build up a scrap book you can all look back upon in years to come? We've got all your letters and copies of the "Home front" what we need is some color.

Fil is itching to get into the kitchen. It's an odd time to be writing this thing. It is 12:30 in the afternoon on Washington's birthday. Lunch is partially on its way and MaryFil is beginning to call for her "lamb chop". The "lamb" she pronounces with a broad "A" like "lahmb". She's picking up quite a bit of Scotch from her nurse, Mrs. Hughes.

Love to you all and Good Luck,

Frank, Fil and MaryFil





13 March 1944

Hi Joe,

Heard from Tony today. He said that he expects to be in the Army around March 18 or so. Not bad. Can't exactly picture him in the army. However, I don't think it's the worst thing that could happen to him. He'll be O.K. and do alright.

As for myself all goes well. If you have the address of Uncle Angelo's son, send it along. I doubt that I shall ever be in a position to meet anyone, ????, Willie or anyone but there is no harm in getting hold of the

address. Just in case you know.

I'll be waiting to hear from you. Tell them so long for a day or so.

Brother

Albert

13 March, 1944

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I'll be waiting to hear from you. Tell them so long for a day or so.

Brother  
Albert

Sister Josie and brother Ange Scafuro



14 March 1944

Dear Josephine:

I had a tough day today and feel quite tired now, almost too tired to write. I was glad to hear today that you are sending me a package. I'm sure everything will be very welcome.

Gosh I said in a pervious letter that I was going to start sending more money home. But I'm just beginning to discover how much it costs to live in this country. So I guess I had better hold in for a while longer to see how things develop. Love to Mom & all.

Albert

17 March 1944

Dear Joe:

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Listen today I cabled you \$40. You should get it in about two weeks.

When you do please see if you can start an account in the Allendale Bank for me. Deposit \$35 for me and keep \$5.00 for Mom.

If I have to sign any papers tell the Bank to send me the necessary papers. Give them my address. See Mr. Hamilton preferable. That's all for today. Love to Mom & all

Brother Al

14 March 1944

Dear Josephine:

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Albert

17 Mar 1944

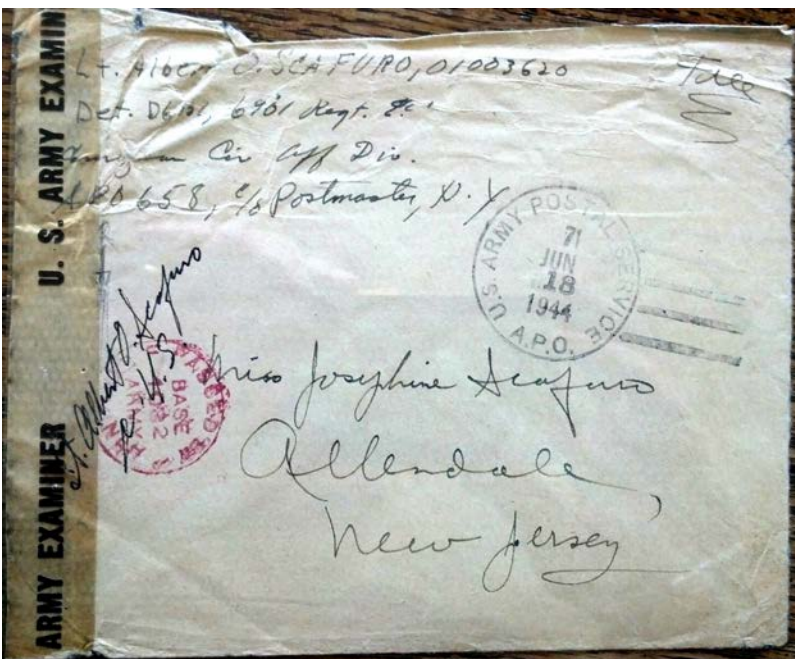
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Brother Al





Somewhere in England  
19 March 1944

Hello again.

It's a dreary Sunday afternoon and nothing much to do, but just sit around and reminisce. I must at least look forward to these week-ends back in the states. Week-ends come and go here and nothing much to do except taking a walk into the country, going to a picture show perhaps, or spending a few hours in a very crowded "pub" drinking "bitters". Yes - life here is indeed different than I knew it just a few short weeks ago. Already it seems so long ago.

well that not much more can be expected in this country. The people have given themselves over entirely to the war. I don't believe there is a family that has not been touched. Everyone is doing something including the age, women and even children. These people have been doing this for nearly five years now and there is good reason therefore, and I can easily understand, why there is so little time and why they are not just in the mood to pay much attention to the gayeties.

Here are a few observations I have made about England so far.

1. England is more in the war than we are. As a people I mean. That's natural though for the war is very close to them. England is on the "front lines".
2. Although the people have suffered more than our people at home, they have adjusted themselves and do less bitching and complaining than Americans at home.
3. The ordinary Englishman doesn't appreciate our American sense of humor and "carefree spirit". We speak "almost" the same language but the English character is different than our own. It is more "continental" I suppose. I don't think that the average American would like to stay here permanently. A nice place to visit.
4. Education in England is poorer than in America. Ninety percent of the population only go to school until the age of 14. They know very little or any history outside of England. Their knowledge of America is little. It's difficult for them to believe some of the common knowledge things about America.
5. American music is popular and American films very much preferred to their own.
6. American homes are much more comfortable than the English. Their plumbing is atrocious, and central heating almost non-existent.
7. The Englishman loves his "Emerald Isle" intensely. I am looking forward to the beauties and comforts of Allendale.

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The Englishman loves his "Emerald Isle" intensely. I am looking forward to the beauties and comforts of Allendale. Best regards to all.

Somewhere in England  
19 March 1944

Hello again:

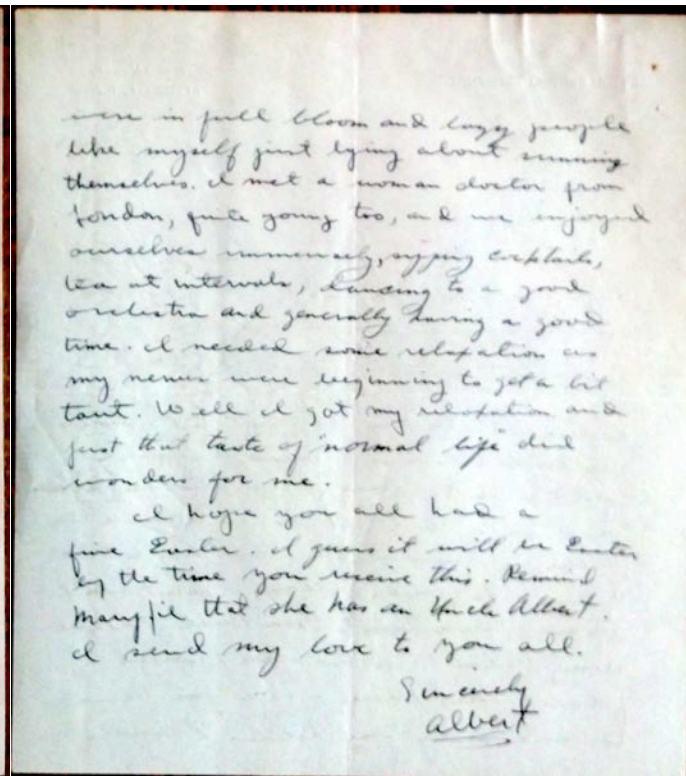
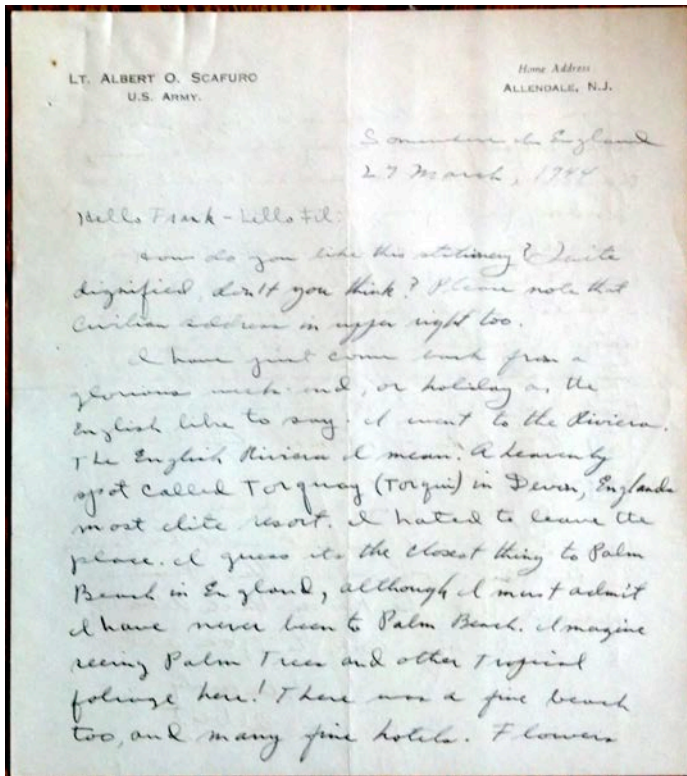
It's a dreary Sunday afternoon and nothing much to do, but just sit around and reminisce of how much I used to look forward to these week-ends back in the states. Week-ends come and go here and nothing much to do except taking a walk into the country, going to a picture show perhaps, or spending a few hours in a very crowded "pub" drinking "bitters". Yes - life here is indeed different than I knew it just a few short weeks ago. Already it seems so long ago.

Of course I realize only too well that not much more can be expected in this country. The people have given themselves over entirely to the war. I don't believe there is a family that has not been touched. Everyone is doing something including the age, women and even children. These people have been doing this for nearly five years now and there is good reason therefore, and I can easily understand, why there is so little time and why they are not just in the mood to pay much attention to the gayeties.

Here are a few observations I have made about England so far

1. England is more in the war than we are. As a people I mean. That's natural though for the war is very close to them. England is on the "front lines".
2. Although the people have suffered more than our people at home, they have adjusted themselves and do less bitching and complaining than Americans at home.
3. The ordinary Englishman doesn't appreciate our American sense of humor and "carefree spirit". We speak "almost" the same language but the English character is different than our own. It is more "continental" I suppose. I don't think that the average American would like to stay here permanently. A nice place to visit.
4. Education in England is poorer than in America. Ninety percent of the population only go to school until the age of 14. They know very little or any history outside of England. Their knowledge of America is little. It's difficult for them to believe some of the common knowledge things about America.
5. American music is popular and American films very much preferred to their own.
6. American homes are much more comfortable than the English. Their plumbing is atrocious, and central heating almost non-existent.
7. The Englishman loves his "Emerald Isle" intensely. I am looking forward to the beauties and comforts of Allendale.

Best Regards to all.  
Al



LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

Somewhere in England  
19 March 1944

*Hello Frank - hello Fil:*

*How do you like this stationery? Quite dignified, don't you think? Please note that civilian address in upper right too.*

*I have just come back from a glorious week-end, or holiday, as the English like to say. I went to the Riviera, the English Riviera I mean. A heavenly spot called Torquay (Torqui) in Devon, England's most elite resort. I hated to leave the place. I guess it's the closes thing to Palm Beach in England, although I must admit I have never been to Palm Beach Imaging seeing Palm Trees and other tropical foliage here! There was a fine beach too, and many fine hotels. Flowers were in full bloom and lazy people like myself just lying about sunning themselves. I met a woman doctor from London, quite young too, and we enjoyed ourselves immensely, sipping cocktails, tea at intervals, dancing to a good orchestra and generally having a good time. I needed some relaxation as my nerves were beginning to get a bit taut. Well I got my relaxation and just that taste of "normal life" did wonders for me.*

*I hope you all had a fine Easter. I guess it will be Easter by the time you receive this. Remind Maryfil that she has an Uncle Albert. I send my love to you all.*

*Sincerely,  
Albert*



MaryFil and Filippa



March 20, 1944, Monday nite

Dear Jo,

I haven't much time to write, but I just wanted to tell you that I am fine and am getting all of your letters. Got one from Charlie today. Sends you his love.

I am leaving for Canada in the morning but will be back in a couple of days.

Give mom my love. Glad to hear you received a letter from Mary Lou.

Got to catch a loco now. Bye for a while.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph

March 26, 1944, Sunday

Hi Ange,

Thanks a lot for all the letters and the sports page. Try and send me some more sports pages.

Well Ange I wish you could have read the letter I send to Sister Al. I only hope she doesn't get mad at me for what I said about that team. I guess it must have been some of Bob Curley's work. Can you imagine them trying to compare that "grammar" school team with the teams that Jim Kosch, Bud Rawl, Tim Driscoll and all used to play on.

We're leaving this dump for Holtville Calif. The day after tomorrow. We'll be down there only one month, just for nite flying alone.

It's going to be darn tough leaving this girl that I have been going with here. We've had a heck of a lot of fun together.

I swear you're the luckiest guy in the whole darn Navy. I never heard of a guy that got so many leaves as you. Someday when you're stationed way out of civilization like I am you'll look back and wish you had just one of those days back.

I am sending Mom some pictures of myself for her birthday. I'm also sending her my air crew wings. The pictures are pretty damn big. I got them done pretty cheap. Tell Jo to save the ones she doesn't want because I may need it some time.

I hope Kane and you both had a good time. How does he look?

I doubt if I can find any gas coupons for you. A lot of the group are driving to California and need the gas.

Well take it easy now. I'll write later again.

Bro Ralph

April 1, 1944,  
Saturday

Hi Jo,

I wish I could think of some good April Fools joke to pull on you. But I can't

Well we were all set on moving out of here last Wednesday but we're still here. And I have no idea when we'll be leaving for Cal. That's the Navy for you.

The weather here is just like summer and boy is it beautiful. I certainly would like to play some baseball. Tell mom I'm feeling fine and give her my love.

All my love to all,  
Bro Ralph

Apr. 2, 1944,  
Sunday

Dear Frank and Family,

Your Vol. #II #12 Home Front news has arrived and now acknowledging receipt of same.

Again must say that it was enjoyable and getting to be where I expect it once a week, otherwise I may lose sleep knowing that something has happened to it, so keep up the good work Frank, and I will anxiously await its delivery.

Frank enclosed you will find a clipping which ought to interest you very much and I believe it to be from good source as it came out of an army magazine and all statements are true and confidential. This magazine is for Army use only, but my purpose of sending you this clipping is to give you inside information on what is happening and what chance a fellow has in this war, also you will find the latest news reports from the united press.

Well until we meet again must close, but before must apologize that I can't enclose a piece of palm on Palm Sunday not being able to go to church due to a hurricane storm early this morning, so as always before closing hoping MaryFil will be all better before you get to reading this phrase and remember me to all at home and all you brothers.

I remain always the same, until I get home to exchange some army talk Frank, which may be the second half of June.

Always sincere in thought.

Charlie





April 4, 1944,  
Thursday

Hi Jo,

Received two letters from you and also the swell birthday cards. It makes me feel pretty good to know that you all think of me. Do you know I sent mom my wings, pictures, card and Frank the \$5 for her birthday and forgot altogether that it was my birthday too until I got the cards. I thought they were Easter cards.

I haven't received your package as yet but will probably get it tomorrow.

Well Jo I want to drop a line to my girl. The weather here is just swell. Don't let anybody use my baseball glove. I hope mom has a grand birthday. Tell me about it. Give her my love.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph

April 9, 1944  
Easter Sunday

Hi Jo,

Well this makes the second Easter Sunday I've missed being home. But let's hope I'll be there for the next one. I hope mom received the Easter telegram and also the birthday telegram that I sent her. I'm sorry that I had to spoil it by sending it collect, but I had to phone it into Western Union and besides I'm pretty low on funds.

I hope everyone had a very nice Easter—nicer than I had. It was the same old work day here except that I got a chance to go to Mass this morning. We never have a holiday around here.

Tell Ange I received his letter yesterday and to keep writing. The newspaper that you sent me had the sports section missing. That was what I wanted most.

Jo, if you haven't written to my girl yet, try to soon. I want your opinion of her picture. She looks twice as cute in person, and I hope you can meet her someday. Give my love to mom.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph

April 10, 1944

Hi Frank,

Received the swell birthday card and also the money, which came in handy. So thanks a lot for both. Thank Fil for me too. I hope mom had a happy birthday and also a nice Easter.

I haven't received the "Home Front" for quite a little while now and am going stale in the news. What's wrong? Slacking up on us?

We were supposed to leave here the 29<sup>th</sup> of March. But as you can see we're still here. By now you ought to know how fast the Navy changes its mind. I don't know how long we'll be here now. Anyway it doesn't make much difference. It isn't too bad here, although I'd like to get to some civilized place where I can play some good baseball. Boy I miss it.

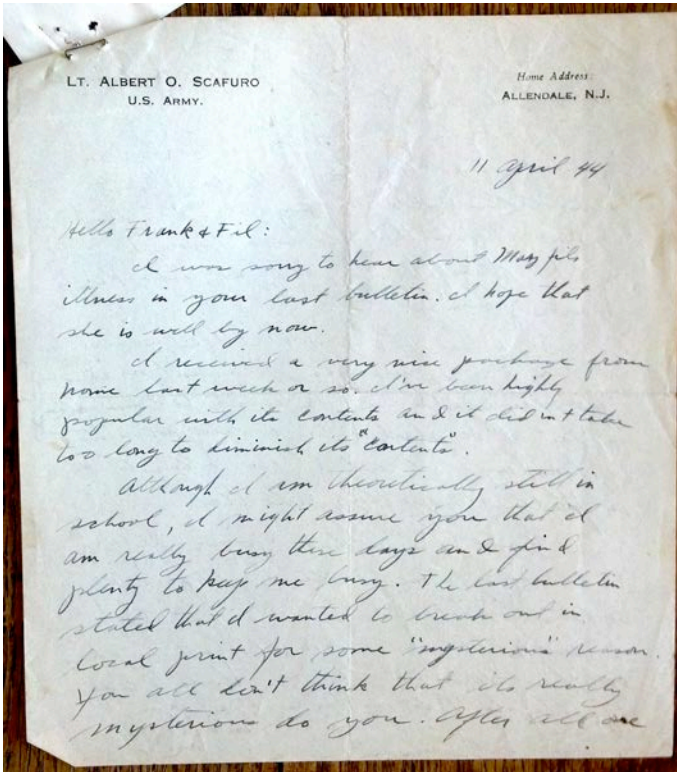
I guess by this time you've already seen my pictures. They're pretty stingy but I got a break on the price. Hope you like the one of Mary Lou. She really is twice as nice as she looks in that picture.

When I joined the Navy I told you I'd be in this country for at least a year, remember? Well it's 16 months now and I'm still here and I ought to be around for another three. Guess I'm pretty lucky.

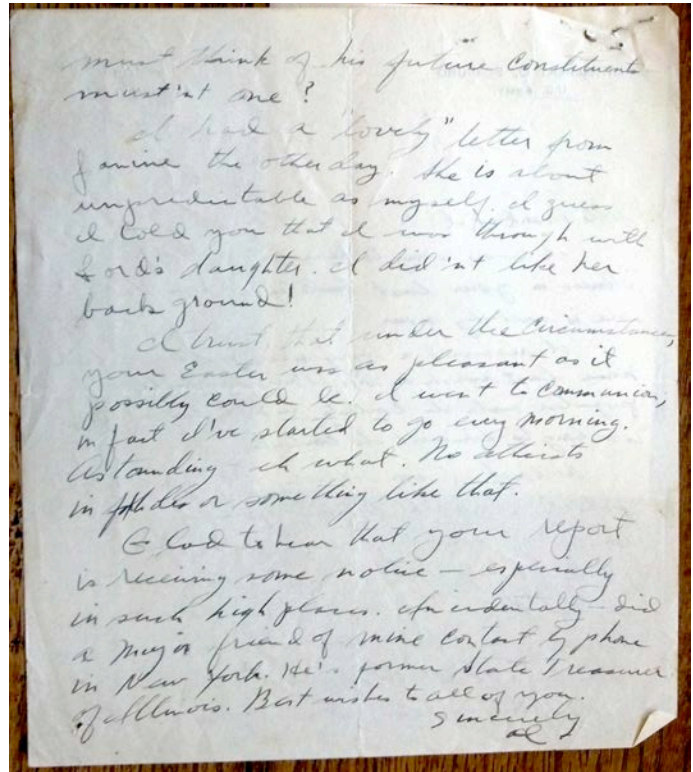
That's all I can think of at present. The weather here is pretty nice except that the wind blows and it rains once in a while. But I'm feeling fine and looking for some exercise. Hope everyone back home is OK.

Regards to all,  
Bro Ralph





LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY ALLENDALE, N.J.



Home Address

Somewhere in England  
11 April 1944

Hello Frank & Fil:

I was very sorry to hear about Maryfil's illness in your last bulletin. I hope that she is well by now.

I received a very nice package from Mom last week or so. I've been highly popular with its contents and it didn't take too long to diminish its "contents".

Although I am theoretically still in school, I might assure you that I am really busy these days and find plenty to keep me busy. The last bulletin stated that I wanted to break out in local print for some "mysterious" reason. You all don't think that it's really mysterious do you. After all one must think of his future constituents mustn't one?

I had a "lovely" letter from Janine the other day. She is about {as} unpredictable as myself. I guess I told you that I was through with Lord's daughter. I didn't like her background!

I trust that under the circumstances your Easter was as pleasant as it possibly could be. I went to communion, in fact I've started to go every morning. Astounding - eh what. No atheists in fox holes or something like that.

Glad to hear that your report is receiving some notice - especially in such high places. Incidentally - did a Major friend of mine contact by phone in New York. He's former State Treasurer of Illinois. Best wishes to all of you.

Sincerely,  
Al



Frank and Maryfil

18 April 1944

Hello Frank:

As you likely already know I have a new address. We have been kept pretty busy getting oriented here and as a result I have had to let my correspondence, which has never been anything to brag about, slip a bit. Excuse please.

I like this place and what I am doing much more than my last post. I'm finally beginning to do, in the best way possible, that work for which I came here for and for which I trained.

I live in a private home. The surroundings are excellent,

and the people fine. It's a very beautiful home and very comfortable, even though it's over 300 years old. It's situated on top of a hill and overlooks the town a short distance away. The people are retired folk and quite well to do.

My office is located in the village in one of the main buildings there. Naturally I am looked upon as one of some importance by the local gentry, and of course I do my best to uphold that impression or mis-impression. I have already met all the local people of any importance. You know

just part of my job. I have a fine group of enlisted men to assist me and we get along fine. They don't realize I censor their mail, and so far I have read some glowing accounts of myself. Hey Frank - aren't I conceited?

Well I'll close now, but will write again as soon as I get the opportunity. I just about have time for one or two letters a day. Love to all, Fil, Maryfil and all the rest.

Cheerio  
Al

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Cheerio,  
Al



1944-04-18: From SHF To All Vol. III #1 The Scafuro Home Front

Vol. III #1 The Scafuro Home Front  
Branch Office  
9949 Shore Road  
Bklyn (9) New York

Lt. A. Scafuro-0-1003620, Civil Affairs Cen, Amer. School Cen, APO #645 c/o PM, N Y  
V.E. Scafuro, Sp.3/c A&R Unit #1-Bks B, P O, USNTS, Newport, R I  
R.J. Scafuro, A.O.E. 3/c V-C #84 c/o Fleet P O, San Francisco, Cal.  
Angelo Scafuro, S 2/c, 811-30-49, U S Naval Receiving Station, General Detail, Flushing Ave, Bklyn, NY  
Affiliated:  
Sgt. Vito Vultaggio, 32812599- 541<sup>st</sup> QM Deport Co (Supply) APO # 545, c/o PM, NY  
Cpl. I. Chas DeMeo- ASN 32759999 -734<sup>th</sup> AAF Band AAB, Lake Chas, La.  
Lt. & Mrs. D. Ciaravella-2005 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Harrisburg, Pa  
Pvt. Frank Scafuro-32691476- Co. C-149<sup>th</sup> Inf. APO#38, c/o P.M. San Francisco  
Pvt. Dominic Magro-32604823 – Station 12-1 C W= A T C, APO #488 c/o PM, NY

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It's been so long since thee last issue (3/28/44) that we thought we might just as well stop with #12 and begin Vol. III.

We're glad to report health on the home Front generally better especially after one week's "vacation". As the Army and Navy gobbles people up civil life becomes busier, tougher; time more scarce and precious but again we will strive to make this thing what it started out to be – a weekly. However we want some cooperation from you fellows out there. You can't be half as busy as I am with apologies to some. Please try to send one letter a week with some bit of interesting news that will help us make this sheet more interesting to read.

The Easter holidays passed quietly and relatively happily at least with the thought that we were all, though scattered, well in body and united in spirit. We spent Holy Saturday with Mom Vultaggio until 1:30, then dashed to the doctor's for a final check up on MaryFil's ears to make sure she could travel. On to the International House where from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. MaryFil enjoyed a hilarious, diversified children's Easter party. There were real, live rabbits, golden little chicks and ducks, musical numbers, dances, etc. MaryFil watched a stage show for about a half hour, quiet as a mouse and serious faced. Suddenly during a dancing skit MaryFil turned to Daddy and declared solemnly and with great assurance: MaryFil do it. I go up there, too". Well the result was we had to leave the room. She was too persistent.

The week from April 8 to April 16 we spent tin Allendale. The weather wasn't what we hoped for. There were 2 sunny days, one very windy day with a capricious sun, darting behind gathering storm clouds, a couple of raw days and finally a drenching Saturday and Sunday. But with it all the garden was cleared of all debris, the old flower garden space spaded and the place otherwise made ready for plowing. Two quarts of onion sets are in the ground and tomatoes, celery, cabbage, kale, kohlrabi "hatching" in the cellar. (Needless to say Fil got a terrific kick out of this week. She was so thrilled she marked only one set out of 3 stupid examinations.)

O.K. That's all for the Home Front! Sorry, fellers, a little more. We almost forgot to report on Mom's birthday. You know it fell on Wed. Josie was instructed to take her out Holy Sat and buy her a complete outfit. For some reason she didn't do it. So Easter Sunday we slipped a birthday card under her dinner plate. With it was a cute little paper wallet containing a crisp \$50.00 bill and one ten dollar. She was speechless and we all solemnly warned her that it was to be used only to buy herself wearing apparel.

Thanks all of you for subscribing to the idea and also to those of you who sent her greetings. She appreciated them all.

ALBERT: Your letters are much too slow. Use air mail. That's the latest thing you know. Your messages have taken about a month to reach here while Willie's average 6 to 10 days by air – not V-mail either. Your letters of Mar. 19 and the other on your new letterhead were very interesting. Glad you and Will finally got in touch. Too bad your leaves were cancelled and your date at the Roman Baths put off. Try again. Have you seen that cousin of ours there yet?

VICTOR and Rose spent Holy Sat., Easter and Mon and Tues at Allendale. Had hoped to team up with him in the garden but instead we teamed up on his car. O.K. Vic when you come up the next time you can have the leaves from that old car spring for your salad.

RALPH is still at that little jerk town of North Bend, Oregon. Says the weather is beautiful, the wind strong, girls fine. Got your letter of April 9 tonight. That's right you have been in now for 16 months and you're still in good old US. Keep your fingers crossed. Hope you will be here more than three more months. Do you mean to tell me there aren't enough of you out there to play baseball? We liked the picture of you with the big broad smile. It's a honey and that picture of Mary Lou is very sweet.

ANGE: We called up the Bklyn Navy Yard tonight to get the address listed above. Hope it's right. We are all keeping our fingers crossed and pray that that will be your permanent address for the duration. Even if you get home only twice a month, that won't be too bad. Don't be jealous you fellers, give the boy a break. After all he did see some action.

WILLIE: You are our most faithful outpost correspondent. Thanks a lot. We enjoy your letters some of which get to us in astonishing short time. Do you find yourself losing your Bklyn accent? How about sending us a recording? A cockney accent would be tough on the boys at the corner but then Gene is there too. Your requests for further shipments of provisions will be complied with promptly.

AT this point received a call from Ange who will be at Bklyn Navy Yard about one week. He's taking classification test tomorrow and very likely will be assigned to New York Area.

CHARLIE: Thank you for your G I Reports. They certainly are up to the minute but some days behind New York newspapers. But it is good to see they keep you fellows posted. Do I understand you are coming home in May or June? Will be looking for you. How is that broken finger? That's what comes from too much leisure time. Since when do you play ball?

Lt. and Mrs. Ciaravella returned to their Harrisburg, Pa. quarters last Thurs. but a strict censorship surrounds them except that Dom has had a cold which we hope is better.

FRANKIE: We have had no news from you since Mar. 21. We know you lost your pen, what did you do, break your pencil now?



DOMINIC Magro you are a tough man to reach. We thought we would be hearing from you in a month but no word yet. You are excused however. We know things are pretty tough in your neck of China. (Well boys, lack of space and the shortage of paper compels us to cut it short. There is more to tell but will keep. Greetings and salutations and prompt replies, If you want the next issue in a week.

Frank, Fil, MaryFil

V.E. Scafuro Sp 3/c  
R& A dept. Unit 1, Bks B  
U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION  
NEWPORT, R. I.  
April 20, 1944

Hello Frank, Fil & Mary Fil:

We arrived back in Newport safe and sound, as a matter of fact the **fliver** got us here two hours before schedule. i think the new fuel pump and the Spring put new life in it.

Received your copy of the Scafuro Home from and it was interesting to read. Was glad to hear that you got the garden cleaned up, let me know when everything is ready to eat and I will put in for a leave.

By the way I noticed that you mention not hearing from Dominic Magro. Well I was surprised the other day by receiving a letter from him. I don't have it here with me now or I would send it to you. He didn't have much to say only that he was having a good time with the Chinese girls, he said "Boy some of these China girls are good" He also mentioned receiving the Scafuro Home Front and he was glad to hear from us.

I wrote to him on Feb 26th and he said he received my letter that day meaning April 16th the date used on his letter. He also asked about Mom how she was etc. Well i guess you will hear from him soon.

Well I'm back to the same routine up here and Rose has gone back to work. I think her boss must have really missed her working and maybe didn't think she was coming back to work for him. Clear out of a blue sky he told her that he was going to give her a raise in pay starting May 1st. He told her this the day she came back. Wouldn't it be nice if the Navy felt the same about me.

Well folk well close now haven't much else to say.

Give Mary Fil a big kiss for us both.

Love,  
Brother  
Vic

fliv·ver 1. Older Slang. an automobile, especially one that is small, inexpensive, and old. 2. Slang. something of unsatisfactory quality or inferior grade. **Origin:** 1905-10, Americanism; origin uncertain

April 22, 1944

Hi Frank,

Well, as you can see, I'm still here in North Bend. Boy it will really feel nice to get back to a big city again. Our squadron is the only squadron that has remained here over one month. It's going on to the fourth month now and I don't know how much longer we will be here.

One thing I miss a lot out here is baseball. Oh they play plenty of it our here but not in this particular town. I miss reading about it too. In the N.Y. Times each weekend, on the sports page a short summary for the whole week is given. It isn't so big but I could appreciate it if you could mail it to me each week. I think it's Sat.'s Times.

Well I'm glad to hear that you're getting the garden in shape. Home wouldn't be what it is without a garden.

It rains here quite steadily but I don't mind it in the least.

Hope everyone is feeling fine. Give my love to MaryFil and Fil.

Regards to all,  
Bro Ralph

*Below, the 1946 Allendale American Legion Post 204 second baseball team (won 8, lost 4, tied 1). The players are, bottom row, left to right: Ralph Scafuro, Norman Critchley (also the team's manager), Bill Hill, Magro, Benny Job. Top row, left to right: Gene Caputi, Gil Morgan, Wehner, Louis Caputi, Al Scafuro.*



<http://www.fellhouse.org/images/Allendale/Chapter10B.pdf>

Vol. III #2

THE SCAFURO HOME FRONT

BRANCH OFFICE

4/25/44

9949 Shore Road  
Bklyn (9) New York

Lt. A. Scafuro-0-1003620, Civil Affairs Cen, Amer. School Cen, APO #645 c/o PM, N Y

V.E. Scafuro, Sp.3/c A&R Unit #1-Bks B, P O, USNTS, Newport, R I

R.J. Scafuro, A.O.E. 3/c V-C #84 c/o Fleet P O, San Francisco, Cal.

Angelo Scafuro, S 2/c, 811-30-49, U S Naval Receiving Station, General Detail, Flushing Ave, Bklyn, NY

Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vultaggio, 32812599- 541<sup>st</sup> QM Deport Co (Supply) APO # 545, c/o PM, NY

Cpl. I. Chas DeMeo- ASN 32759999 -734<sup>th</sup> AAF Band AAB, Lake Chas, La.

Lt. & Mrs. D. Ciaravella-2005 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Harrisburg, Pa

Pvt. Frank Scafuro-32691476- Co. C-149<sup>th</sup> Inf. APO#38, c/o P.M. San Francisco

Pvt. Dominic Magro-32604823 - Station 12-1 C W= A T C, APO #488 c/o PM, NY





Vol. III # 2

4/25/44

THE SCAFURO HOME FRONT  
BRANCH OFFICE  
9949 Shore Road  
B'klyn (9) NY

Lt. A. Scafuro-O-1003620-Civ. Aff. Gen., Amer. Sch. Gen. APO 645 c/o FM, NY  
V.E. Scafuro, Sp 3/c, A & R Unit #1 Bks. B. P.O., WSHS, Newport, Rhode Is.  
R.J. Scafuro, A O M 3/c, V-C # 84 c/o Fleet P O, San Francisco, Cal.  
Angelo Scafuro, S 2/c, 811-30-49, US Naval Receiving Station, General Detail,  
Flushing Av, Bklyn, N Y

Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vultaggio-32812599- 541st Q.M. Depot Co (Supply) APO #546, c/o P M, NY  
Cpl. I. Chas De Mac-32789999-734th Army Band A A F, Lake Chas, La.  
Lt. & Mrs. D. Ciaravella-2005 N. 3rd St, Harrisburg, Pa.  
Pvt. Frank Scafuro-32691476- Co. C-149th Inf. APO 38, c/o FM, San Francisco  
Sgt. Dominic Magro-32604823- Station 12-1 CW- A T C, APO 488 c/o P M, NY

\*\*\*\*\*

Before we get away from the addresses here is the new one for Albert:

Lt. A. G. Scafuro - O-1003620-  
Det. 6, Co. B, 6901 Regt., E C A D  
4th Inf. Div. (C.A.)  
A P O # 4  
c/o P M. N Y

Well, here we are right on schedule. It's been a miserable rainy week but we think that with a couple of warm days the country side will blossom out in full spring.

We went to hell with ourselves the last week end. Friday night we were up until the wee hours of Sat. morning celebrating Dr. George Primavera's birthday. Sat. aft. was a beautiful day and for once we were mischievously unpatriotic. We used up most of our accumulated gas ration to drive to Point Pleasant, N J. about 60 miles from here. Object: to rent a summer cottage at the beach with Dr. Primavera. Result: Dr. George got his cottage. Scafuros and Munisteris still undecided. Reason: Prices. On the way back had a swell sea food dinner. Frank had a luscious lobster spread out on a 12 inch plate. ( I think he's a meanie, fellers, don't you?). The others ate, too. We spent Sunday in bleak, foggy, rainy Bklyn ( Jersey wasn't any different). Went to church with Maryfil. She kept quiet for about 1/2 hour but the collection got her started. The collector passed her up whereupon Maryfil shouted: " Here God, take penny." Frank tried to muffle her up with no success. On the way out she dropped her coin in the poor box and commented " See, God take penny." That's that for Maryfil's precocity. From church we went to Mom Vultaggio's where we had a pleasant dinner and a restful afternoon. Frankie V. tried negotiating with Frank for the tux (Willie's) and also for a white coat to step out at the Junior Prom. What do you think of your kid brother, Will?

We just telephoned Allendale and all is well there. Mom has bought a spring coat and a pair of shoes and expects to get a dress and a hat this weekend. So there you are boys, the pledge is fulfilled. By the way - all of you- don't forget MAY 9 is MOTHER'S DAY and some special communications to all the mothers is in order.

Lawrence came down to Allendale tonight to strew the lime on the garden but his car broke down and he got there too late to do the job. Lindy has finally discarded his crutches after one month. Had we told you about his little accident? He was helping clear off the baseball field and while moving a the trunk of a large tree forgot to take his foot out of the way. His ankle was badly sprained and bruised. He won't be able to play ball for at least another month but more important has missed out on some useful dollars he



Apr. 25, 1944

could have earned in spring gardening. However we are thankful he has suffered no permanent damage.

Albert, you are a lazy correspondent. We got the news from Mom tonight about the changed address and the fact that you are living in a nice home, large room with fireplace. Pretty snazzy now with your sargeant chauffeur. from Passaic, NJ and your private jeep, Maria. Good Luck. Isn't there something you would like. Will you request it in your next letter?

Vic, at the rate the Allendale garden is growing you'd better not wait until you can come to eat from the garden. The labor situation is really tough. Congratulations to Rose, on her pay advancement. If I were you I'd go to the Admiral and tell him about it. It's no good for your morale to have your wife making more than you. Certainly got your dates messed up on correspondence with Dom Magro. You wrote him Feb. 26. He answered April 16 and you got it on April 20th - what on the China Clipper? Glad we contacted him anyway. Ralph you're getting as bad as Al. We know you've got to keep up with all the girls you've left behind but at least you could drop us a card. Glad you are still out on the coast. Do you still have the same type of plane. are you doing much flying? Have you been assigned to a carrier yet? If these aren't military secrets would like to know something about what you are doing.

Ange, so you were home again #4 for 1/2 day last week. Would you like some postage stamps and a Wave as a secy or wouldn't you have time to dictate, you lazybones. Mom said tonight she hasn't heard from you since you left. What's new? How did you do in that classification test? Call us up and try to come over some night, if you are still in this area.

W I L I E - by golly you must have a special plane at your disposal. Your letter of April 16 reached us on the 22nd. Too bad you can't get together with Albert. Wonder if he is any nearer to you now. Here is Olga's address: Sgt. Egidio Brigiotti -42031963 - Headquarters 80th AAA Brigade, APO 508, PH, NY. Hope you can manage to see each other soon. Tell him I saw Della and she is looking very well, so was Olga. That was quite a treat you had, two eggs with ham shared with your two companions. Wish we could mail you some. What's this rugged E.T.O. business? Your Barracini should be on their way by the end of the week. Saw Gileen Kamber, gave her your request for nuts and she was going right down to see about. She looks like a pretty nice person.

CHARLIE: I guess you're busy too. Your invisible letter written with invisible ink is completely undecipherable and therefore leaves us with no basis for comment. Say can I count on you to get up here in time for spring planting?

DOM AND JO: You leave us speechless. How about some news. Disgraceful Jo, there you are in a strange city, one room, all alone and too busy to write. Here we are with full time jobs, pounding this thing out. Indeed, shame on you. Write a little more often and give us some real news. Glad to hear Dom is enjoying the few meals he manages to get home for. Keep it up, Jo. We'll remember your culinary accomplishments and let you do all the cooking when you get back.

Frank "Honolulu" Scafuro, you, too. You started off alright. We'd like to see some more letters. One of these Sundays I'm going to pick up your father and bring him up to Allendale. We're still looking for the grass skirt. If you send it in time we'll let Fil's brother Frankie wear it to the Prom.

DOMINIC: Congratulations, Dom. So you are a sargeant. By the way the idea of this bulletin is that you drop me a line once in a while so that I can say something about you to the rest of the boys. Address your letter to Francis X. Scafuro- 9949 Shore Road, Brllyn 9, NY. So you like those China girls, (so Vic says). Wouldn't you look funny coming home with a couple of a squinty eyed kids. Write us and tell us something about the country. How does it compare with the U S? Would any

would any of you like a weekly sports "letter" cut out of the NY Herald Tribune. If so, request it. That's all for now. We're going to have some coffee, work a until about 12 M and then hit the hay. Goodnight, good luck,

Love from, Frank, Fil and Maryfil



V.E. Scafuro Sp 3/c  
R & A dept. Unit 1, Bks B  
U. S. N. T. S. Newport, R. I.

Hello Frank, Fil & Mary Fil

I don't even know how to start this letter as there is hardly a thing new or exciting that I can tell you about. Oh! yes I might mention that last Monday May 1st i was recommended for a commission. As yet i haven;t been called for an interview, but I know that I was officially recommended. I don't think that it has gone to Washington as yet because usually we are interviewed by an officer in the personnel dept. before it is sent to Washington. The commissions have been coming in quite fast for men with a college degree. The one I was recommended on was an order from Washington asking for recommendations from heads of departments for men having a good background 4.0 in conduct and a good leader, education did not matter. I was one of six recommended out of approximately 120 men. If mine should go through it will be in the Supply or Commissary dept. Believe it or not I'm not too anxious to get it.

Rose and I are in fine health and hope the same is true with you all. I am sending the **H.O** check for May & June. Give our love to all.

Bro. Vic

UNITED STATES NAVY

May 5, 1944

Dear Frank,

Well at last it seems like I'm settled in my permanent station. And so far I like it an awful lot  
This station-- although large has not got many INCOMPLETE LETTER

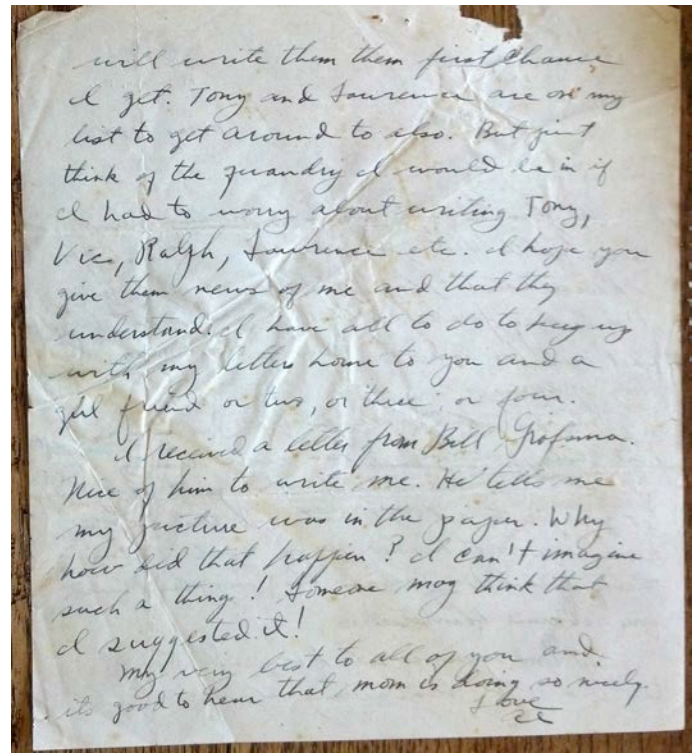
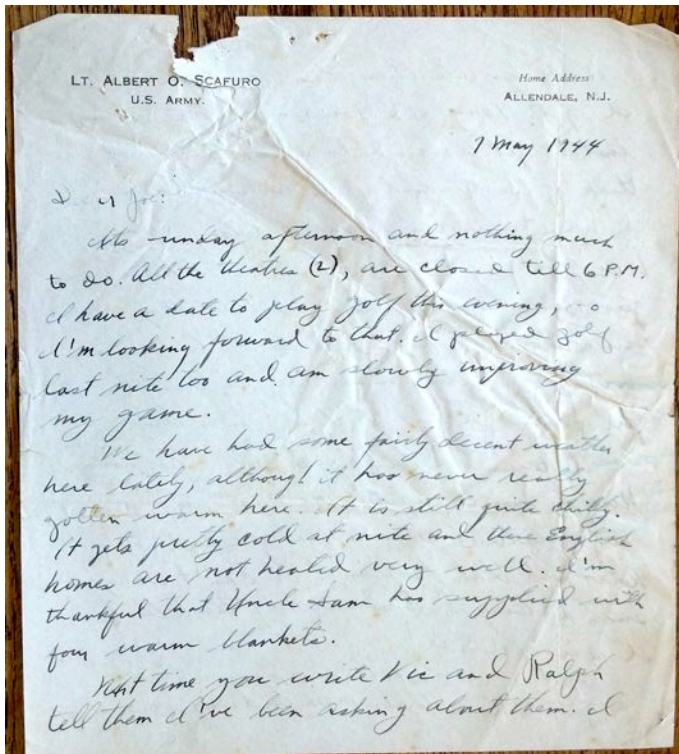
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home\\_Owners'\\_Loan\\_Corporation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_Owners'_Loan_Corporation) .

### **What is the Home Owners Loan Corporation?**

As part of President Roosevelt's New Deal legislation, Congress passed the Homeowners Loan Act of 1933, which in turn created the Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC). This federal agency's main task was to refinance home mortgages that were in default or at risk of foreclosure due to the 1929 crash and the collapse of the housing industry.

### **Loan Repayments and Foreclosure Policies**

Between 1933 and 1935 the **HOLC** made slightly more than one million loans. At that point it stopped making new loans and then focused on the repayments of the loans. The typical borrower whose loan was refinanced by the HOLC was more than 2 years behind on payments of the loan and more than 2 years behind on making tax payments on the property. The HOLC eventually foreclosed on 20 percent of the loans that it refinanced. It tended to wait until the borrower had failed to make payments on the loan for more than a year before it foreclosed on the loan. When the HOLC foreclosed, it typically refurbished the home. In many cases it rented out the home until it could be resold. The HOLC tried to avoid selling too many homes quickly to avoid having negative effects on housing prices. Ultimately, more than 800,000 people repaid their HOLC loans, and many repaid them early officially ceased operations in 1951, when its last assets were sold to private lenders. HOLC was only applicable to nonfarm homes, worth less than \$20,000. HOLC also assisted mortgage lenders by refinancing problematic loans and increasing the institutions liquidity. When its last assets were sold in 1951, HOLC turned a small profit.



LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

1 May 1944

Dear Joe:

It's Sunday afternoon and nothing much to do. All the theaters (2), are closed till 6 P.M. I have a date to play golf this evening, so I'm looking forward to that. I played gold last nite too and am slowly improving my game.

We have had some fairly decent weather here lately, although it has never really gotten warm here. It is still quite chilly. It gets pretty cold at nite and these English homes are not heated very well. I'm thankful that Uncle Sam has supplied with four warm blankets.

Next time you write Vic and Ralph tell them I've been asking about them. I will write them first chance I get. Tony and Lawrence are on my list to get around to also. But just think of the quandary I would be in if I had to worry about writing Tony, Vic, Ralph, Lawrence etc. I hope you give them news of me and that they understand. I have all to do to keep up with my letters home to you and a girl friend or two, or three, or four.

Sincerely,

Al



Vol. III # 3

5/3/44

THE SCAFURO HOME FRONT  
BRANCH OFFICE  
9949 Shore Road  
B'klyn (9) NY

Lt. A.Scafuro-0-1003620, Det.6, Co.B., 6901 Regt, ECAD, 4th Inf. Div. APO #4  
A P O # 4, c/o PM, NY  
V.S.Scafuro, Sp.3/c, A & R Unit # 1 Bks B, P O, USNTS, Rhode Island  
R.J.Scafuro, A O M 3/c, V-6 # 84 c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco  
Angelo Scafuro, S 2/c, 811-30-49, W-2-Nav- Base Service, Waterfront Duty  
Office, Bayonne, New Jersey

Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vultaggio-32812599- 541st QM Depot Co (Supply), A P O #545, c/o PM, NY  
Cpl. I.Chas De Neo- 32759999- 734th Army Band A A F, Lake Chas, La  
Lt. & Mrs. D. Ciaravella- 2005 W.3rd St, Harrisburg, Pa.  
Pvt. Frank Scafuro-32691476- Co.C-149th Inf. APO 38, c/o PM, San Francisco  
Sgt. Dominic Magro-32604823- Station 12-1 CW-ATC, APO 488 c/o PM, NY

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Sorry we misinformed you boys on Mother's Day date. It falls on May 14.

While writing this we're listening to a guy named Dunninger who guesses the audiences thoughts by reading their thought waves. Wish we could do that. Communications would be quicker.

I just asked Fil to help you-g- me give you a review of the week. Her reply: "What can we tell them? Nothing ever happens to us." Well, isn't that lucky! Isn't God good to us? Life is what you make it. I think we had a wonderful weekend. (He would, boys, wouldn't he, just listen.) We had two cloudless, warm sunshiny days. Perfect for cooperating with Nature and the soil to bring forth its bounty. Sounds pretty mushy. But we got to Allendale at noon on Sat. The garden was nicely plowed and ~~was~~ I plunged right in preparing the soil while Mom cut up 100 lbs of potatoes to be planted. (Some K P for Mom, heh fellers?) We worked until almost 8 o'clock. Then Lindy, Ange and I went to confession to begin our weekly communion for May. Won't you join us, boys? Sunday looked a little like old times. Ange, Lindy, Lawrence, the two babies and myself put in a concentrated 4 hours in planting about ten varieties of vegetables and in resetting the stones along the paths which stones Tony had removed & only two days before to facilitate the plowing. On the way in to Bklyn we stopped at the Prattarelli farm and picked up an assortment of about 200 plants: lettuce, kohlrabi, cabbage, beets which I planted at Mom Vultaggio's on Monday night along with some potatoes. Luckily 'Zi Mommo' had done a good job of spading up the garden.

A Y L B E R T: You certainly made up in your correspondence of last week Received 3 letters dated April 2, 11 and 18. They certainly catch up with each other. Well, it looks as tho you are thru with school for the duration So you are now doing the work you were trained to do. Sort of difficult to understand since you are still in England. But it is good to hear you are living in that 3 centuries old mansion with very nice people and that you have your own office in town and that you are liked by the group of boys who work with you. Josie told me by phone tonight about your meeting the local barrister and that you were to play golf with him over the weekend. What, that too? So you and Janine are at it again. We are very pleased to hear about your daily communion. Keep it up! It's the most impenetrable armor plate.

R A L P H: You're still in North Bend, Oregon. That's good. Don't be too anxious to get away. I suppose you cant tell me whether you are on a ship



at least you didn't answer the question. You've been there almost 4 months isn't it time that you got another break in your rating? Aren't there some exams you can take? How about correspondence courses thru the Navy? With the next bulletin I'll send you both the Times and the Tribune sports review of the week and you can let me know which you prefer.

V I C T O R: Your letter must have gone astray this week. I didn't get it. You should see what a neat path I made up to your house. By the way did you say you could buy nice white shirts at nice prices? I'm in the market, size 15-3 that is collar 15 sleeve length 33 inches. At the right price I'll take 6. If they are available get them and I'll send you a check. Oh, before, I forget, remember the HOLC. When will you be coming home again?

A N G E: I missed your phone call Monday morning by 3 minutes. Got at my desk at 8:40 A.M. Thank God for your lucky break. You above all should show your appreciation by going to communion weekly. Spoke to Mom over the phone tonight. She told me you called her last night, that you are working in the office down there, that you like your job and that Jo Job is there with you. What a break! Hope you can arrange to come home with him whenever possible. Bad news for you! Wycoff cops called Mom requesting your car be removed from roadside. Tony and Jim towed it in tonight but your battery is gone. Better save your pennies. There aren't any home. Don't be so trusting next time.

W I L L I E: You make me jealous. So you're down to 170 lbs. What an Adonis! And here I am accumulating a spare tire but not in the right place. I'm still 186. What's the secret? Don't tell me it's hard work. That's all I've done for 25 years. Sorry about those Barracini. They're tough things to get. I stood on line  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour one night, got 1 lb. and will do my darndest to get the other tomorrow. Fil went to Namm's, got a nice break on another pair of shoes for the baby. Mrs. Lang wants to be remembered.  $\frac{1}{2}$  She didn't see anyone else. Mabel was off and Jenner was in New York. Mom is well; Frankie is working quite hard. We're glad to hear that you like being billeted. Hope you stay there.

C H A R L I E: Would you like us to send you some paper? Bags are awfully short up here but we can spare a couple of sheets. We're sure Josie won't mind if you sneak one little letter out to us once in a while.

J O & D O M: Jo, you are just like your sister Fil. Your "days" are uneventful. What do you mean? Life is chuck full of drama all around you. You're just caught in a whirlpool and don't see it swirl. We sympathize with you, sis. Sometimes I think a job wouldn't do you a bit of harm. It would make the days go faster and crowd your evenings a bit so that they wouldn't stretch out so long. Keep praying for the best.

FRANK 'Honolulu' Scafuro, what say, old chappie, are you still there? You don't have to be bashful about writing because you haven't sent the grass skirt. That can wait but your letters can't. How about it cousin, tell us what's buzzin.'

DOMINIC MAGRO: I'm getting discouraged. I still have no word from you. But I realize that where you are things are humming and there may be little time to write. All I'd like to know is whether you are getting this bulletin All's well. Maryfil is getting a suntan. Fil is looking forward to June 30th already. Until next week -goodnight, good luck, write soon.

Love, Frank, Fil and Maryfil



UNITED STATES NAVY

May 5, 1944

Dear Frank,

Well at last it seems like I'm settled in my permanent station. And so far I like it an awful lot

This station-- although large has not got many ...

Victor Emmanuel Scafuro, Birth: 1914, Death: 8/1965 SPOUSE: Rose Torregrossa Scafuro Sankus 1914-81 owned a house on Boroline Road that had been built in 1932. later lived at 132 E Allendale Ave. He served in WWII and was VP and director of Sternco Industries of NY; founder and president of the Aquarium Supply Co at Allendale. He was a well-known baseball figure. During the 40's and early 50s he was one of the best know semipro baseball managers in NJ. While still in his teens he organized his first baseball team, the Allendale Blue Sox Later he formed the Allendale BBC which played in the Bergen County Baseball League. After WWII he organized several teams, the first of which was the Allendale Legion, another entry in the BCBL. Other teams with which he was connected during the late 1940s and early 1950s were the Paterson Silk Sox, East Orange BBC, Madison Colonels, and the Bushwicks. It was during this period that he made headlines by bringing to the area such players as Harvey Haddix and Whitey Ford, soon to become major league standouts. "Vic loved baseball," said his brother Angelo, "He refused to admit that semipro baseball was a dying sport in those days, and he often spent his entire paycheck to pay his players and to bring top talent to Bergen County." SOURCE: Allendale, Background of a Borough, Fell House

V.E. Scafuro Sp 3/c

R & A dept. Unit 1, Bks B

U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION, NEWPORT, R. I.

May 11, 1944

Hello Frank, Fil & Mary Fil,

Hope this letter finds you all well and behaving. Rose and I have been quite busy this past week trying to find a place to live. We have to move from where we are by the 1st of June. Mr. and Mrs. Hazel have been quite sick lately and haven't been able to care for the house so they are having a daughter move in with them which means we must move. I got some good news today though from **Tomony Homes Authority**, this is a Navy project but the catch has been that they don't take anything in under a chiefs rating. WWell through a bit of maneuvering, I was promised to get an apartment there by the end of next week.. They are very nice apartments right near the station. Just about 3 to 5 minutes away and only a 10 minute ride on the bus for Rose to go to work. They have 3 rooms and bath. I'm not sure but I think its going to cost me \$28.00 per month compared to about \$50.00 which it's been costing us. The only thing is that I have to furnish it. We are going to do with as little as possible.. a bedroom suit and a few chairs i about ll I'm going to buy. Mr. Ferretti promised Rose a kitchen set that they are not using, and it's a pretty nice set at that.

Well I hope that the promise isn't just another promise.

I woill probably be taking a quick week end trip home to pick up a few things from home, however, I'm not doing anything until I am absolutely sure.

Haven't heard anything about the commission yet at took my athletic test last week and got 3.84 out of a possible 4.0 the next score was 3.76 several men had the same score but as usual i was hight man out of 42 men (stop bragging I know) Now this doesn't give me my next stripe until I take the Petty officer test on May 20th. That's the tough one. If I pass it I will then be petty officer 2nd class. this is the equivalent of a Staff or Technician Sergeant in the Army. From there on it will take 9 months to make 1st class petty officer and the 18 months to make Chief P.O. which is the same as Master Sergeant in the Army. Do you think the war will last that long? I'd rather be discharged P.O. 2nd class.

Well I think I'll knock off for the night I have to put out the light in this building and secure it for the night. Boy we really have a heavy fog our here tonight it looks like large clouds of heavy white smoke. I'm on duty in what they call the station palace the newest building on the station 3 decks of beautiful furniture 8 bowling alleys in the lower deck and about 20 pool tables on the 3rd deck t. The 1st deck is beautifully furnished with heavy maple furniture with real leather cushions on the chairs a nice big radio. i have a gold fish aquarium on one of the tables but not gold fish they all died someone must have tried to feed them billiard balls.

It's 9 PM and have to close now, so good night and God bless you all.

Love,

Bro Vic

1. [Army and Navy Chronicle - Volume 6 - Page 232 - Google Books Result](https://books.google.com/books?id=Q_kRAAAAYAAJ)  
[books.google.com/books?id=Q\\_kRAAAAYAAJ](https://books.google.com/books?id=Q_kRAAAAYAAJ)

1838 - Military art and science

In the vicinity of Newport, is a celebrated hill, now called Tammany Hill, a name which devotion to St. Tammany has probably corrupted from **Tomony** or Tonomy, ...

aka "Tammany Hill", after indian sachem Miantanomi, once ruled this portion of the island but was probably home of his son Wannemetonomie, a son of Miantanomi.

Built for WW2 Navy Housing, turned into "Section 8" housing since the Navy pulled out in 1973 and relocation of Chad Brown project residents from Providence was put into place...

But starting sudden to his path,  
 A phantom seemed to glide,  
 A plume of feathers on his head,  
 A quiver at his side.

He pointed to the rifled grave,  
 Then raised his hand on high,  
 And with hollow groan invoked  
 The vengeance of the sky.  
 O'er the broad realm so long his own  
 Gazed with despairing ray,  
 Then on the mist that slowly curled,  
 Flew mournfully away.

*From the Boston Mercantile Journal.*

OLD NAMES—No. III.

MR. SLEEPER: I have already alluded to the beautifully appropriate name of HONICON, "the lake of

habited its borders; and probably

In the vicinity of Newport, is a celebrated hill, now called Tammany Hill, a name which devotion to St. Tammany has probably corrupted from **Tomony** or Tonomy, an abbreviation of MIAN TONOMY, or WONNUME TONOMY, one of the sachems of whom Gen. Coddington purchased Rhode Island, then called Aquadneck. The restoration of the aboriginal name will here be very easy; and I hope that those who are interested in the subject at Newport and Providence, will see to it that it is done.

I find the original names of the Sachems who resided on this hill, variously spelled by different authors. Roger Williams says Meantinomy and Miantunnomu; Stoughton spelled it Miantonimo; Winthrop Miantonomoh and Miantunnomoh; Hubbard Miantomo, Miantonymeh, and Myantonemo. He also calls him Mecumel, Mecumeh, and Mexanimo. Other writers, Miantonomy, Miantonomy and Miantinemo. The other sachem I sometimes find spelled Wannemetonomie.

The name of LAKE SUPERIOR is a translation of



Vol. III # 4  
5/11/44

THE SCAFURO HOME FRONT  
Branch Office  
9949 Shore Road  
B'klyn (9) NY

Lt. A.Scafuro-O-1003620, Det.6, Co.B.,6901 Regt, ECAD; 4th Inf.Div.(C.A)  
APO # 4, c/o F M, NY  
V.E.Scafuro, Sp. 3/c, A & R Unit # 1 Bks E. P.O., USNHS, Newport, Rhodelia.  
H.J.Scafuro, AOM 3/c -V-C # 84, C/o Fleet P O, San Francisco  
Angelo Scafuro, S 2/c; East Coast Base Unit, U S N Supply Depot, Bayonne, NJ

Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vultaggio- 32812899- 541st Q M Depot Co (Supply) APO # 345, c/o FM, NY  
Cpl. I.Chas De Neco -32759999-734th Army Band AAF, Lake Chas, La.  
Lt. & Mrs. D. Ciaravella-2008 North 3rd Street, Harrisburg, Pa.  
Pvt. Frank Scafuro-32691476- Co.C- 149th Inf. APO #38. c/o F M. San Fran.Cal  
Sgt. Dominic Magro-32604823- Station 12-1 CW- ATC, APO 488, c/o FM, NY

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I don't know what I'm going to write about this week. Out of 9 subscribers only 4 of you wrote. Come on, wake up America! This has been an extremely tough week. I've put in about 60 hours at the office with about 10 more office hours at home and I get paid for 40. I'm exempt - not from work but from overtime payments. The - Steel job stole away as stealthily as it came. This was one time when I was too good for my own good. My careful conservative analysis dissuaded my prospective employers from launching into the export field. But the episode seems to be bearing some fruit. As of the 18th of May I'll be 2nd in charge of "Latin American affairs" at the bank. It remains to be seen how much of an improvement this will mean. For the moment it removes me from the "crowd". Whether I can wear down the eternal prejudices to the point where I will be made an officer remains for time to tell.

We stayed in over the weekend. Had hoped to do a little more planting at Mom Vultaggio's garden but the weather interfered. Sunday we took Maryfil to another birthday party of one of her little friends. She looked like a little butterfly in her new white organdie dress, quite ravishing with her newly shampooed hair, set in curls and adorned by a crisp, white ribbon. Three young men varying in age from 2 1/2 to 6 years fought jealously for her attention. But she kept them all at peace with her diplomatic impartiality.

Fil took gas this week, not in the kitchen but in a dentist's chair. It was all a mistake, - so the dentist says, and so Fil found out. She had to be taken home in a taxi from lower Bklyn to Dahill Rd. But the tooth is out and now we have to save our pennies to put it back. It's silly.

We telephoned Allendale a few minutes ago. Lindy was the only one home. Mom and Josie had gone visiting in Ramsey. Lindy reported the whole garden is surging forth, even the potatoes are breaking ground. We expect to go up this weekend, armed with about 400 plants. Can't say we're not adding to the food supply!

A L E X E R F: No letter reached us from you this week. How did you like that article in the Ridgewood Herald, about yourself? Do you think I'll pass as a newspaper man? Guess Josie has told you Curley published your recent letter to him. Boy, you'd think we were paying Curley a retainer; he seems to devote himself entirely to the Scafuro family. How about it are you going to ask us for a package. We've got about 200 sticks of gum here waiting for you. Under a London dateline today the world Telegram says: A



5/11/44

-2-

hand-picked force of several thousand American and British experts in civil administration was ready to accompany the invasion spearheads to the European continent to aid the immediate restoration of normal civilian life in the liberated territories." We hope you are ~~not~~ neither too handpicked nor too spearheaded. In anycase will be praying for you, lots of luck and keep out of the way of the French girls. How are those eyes of yours? Are you well supplied with glasses? Do your superiors know that you are inseparable from them?

VICTOR: It was pretty thrilling to hear that you have been recommended for a commission. More power to you. We hope that everything will happen for the best. Won't your allotments stop? But then I suppose you will get maintenance, anyway. An HGLC man has been hovering around Allendale trying to contact me. I think I'll let them keep looking. I'm fed up between the Navy cutting down on allotments and the HGLC looking for more money. What's the idea of ignoring my inquiry about shirts in the last bulletin? Did they censor it? In the meantime I have bought 4 at fabulous prices.

RALPH: I guess it is your turn to be lazy and not write. You'll find enclosed the N Y Herald Tribune weekly Overseas Sports-letter. I forgot the Times one. Let me know what you think of this one. I'm sending one to all of you except Vic, Ange and Josie. If you want me to continue to send it, those of you who want it ask for it. Lindy told me tonight, Ralph, that you had moved. He couldn't give me the new address but I assume it is the same.

ANGE: That's a swell job you have down there at Bayonne. KEEP A TIGHT, UPPER LIP (AND A LOWER ONE, TOO) ABOUT WHAT YOU HEAR AND SEE. You seem to be in a very important spot. Hope you appreciate it and will do everything to prove yourself worthy. How do you get along with the Captain? Did you get your jeep or scooter yet? So you're taking weather readings? Will it rain this weekend? I understand you were home last Sunday. Are you coming up to help me this Sunday? Keep away from those civilian sec@s at the office. Give my regards to Jo Job.

WILLIE: Got your letter of April 30 on May 9. Don't faint - the Barracinis are finally on their way. Hope old Man Neptune doesn't influence their taste too much. Pretty soft you're getting time to sit out in the sun to get tanned. Frank got a good dose of it about two weeks ago - got as red as a lobster and peeled like a baked potato (Does this make your mouth water?) We're sitting on pins and needles waiting for that famous letter to recross the Atlantic. It must be something. Did she propose? Give the girl a break, Will. The accounts of the air activity over there are more astounding each day. If they could only chase those Jerries clear back to Berlin and 6 feet under.

CHARLIE: We give up! Peek a boo, where are you? That's all for you. You know, no tickes no shittes!

Josie and Dom: Sorry to hear about your tooth. Expected to see you this weekend but Mom just called to say that you have definitely out it off. I do hope Dom will feel much better soon. He has all my (Fil) sympathy, having gone thru such an awful time myself so very recently.

FRANKIE & DOMINIC: What's the matter with you two guys? I'm sure you must be getting this bulletin or it would come back. How about a little acknowledgement? Anyway, hope you are both well.

We'll call it quits here. Cheerio until next week, by which time I hope to have letters from all of you. Love - Fil, Frank and Maryfil



May 12, 1944.

Friday nite

Hi Frank,

I received your letter today and was glad to get some news from back home. Sorry I haven't written sooner but I've been kept pretty busy.

I guess by now you already know that I'm down here in Holtsville, Cal. Yeah, way the hell down here in the desert. We're just six miles from the Mexican border. The flies are so bad here that I am afraid to fall asleep for fear they might carry me away. And some are awful big and mean too. For example - the other morning I was awakened by two, big flies on my chest who were arguing. One was saying to the other, "Let's take him outside and eat him" but the other replied: "Naw, let's eat him right here, a little at a time."

But it isn't too bad Frank. It's kinda warm - 140° in the mid-afternoon. But it cools off at nite. Now I understand why in Mexico the people have a noon "Siesta" (Is that how you spell it?)

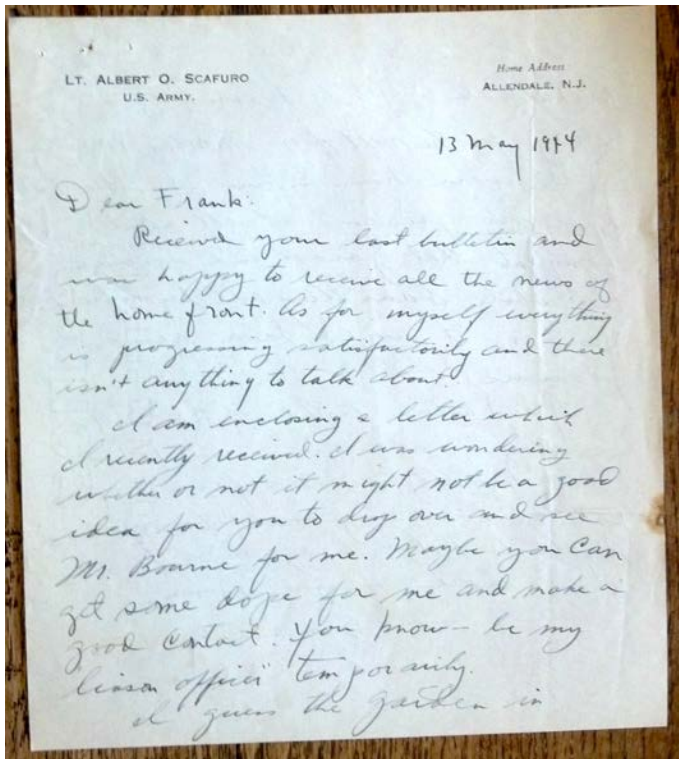
No, I'm not on any ship yet. But I know what I'm going to be on. It's going to be a CVE or what you call a "Baby Carrier." We'll be doing mostly convoy or escort duty. But I don't have to worry about leaving the states yet. It will be quite a while yet. Anything could happen. I could even be transferred to another squadron and start all over again. What we're here for now is to get the last bit of training. This is our last training base - definitely.

Well if I had some money I would go across the border to Mexicali and get some souvenirs. They also have silk hose there for the women. But I am completely broke and I'm sorry I can't send you any souvenirs. I doubt if I'll ever leave this base as long as we are here.

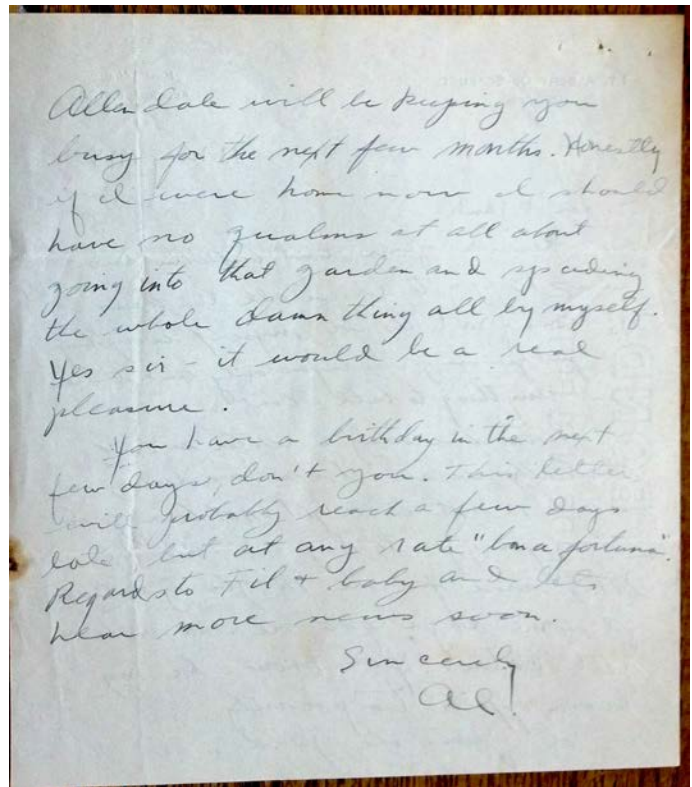
I was glad to see that Ange got such a good break and is stationed in N.J. I received a letter from Al yesterday. My but he just loves to make them short.

Well Frank, I'm feeling fine and have a nice tan. I'll bet you wish you had it. We have a pretty nice gym here and I get a little exercise. And for your information the only two girls I write to are Mom and Mary Lou. Hope everyone is fine. Give my love to Fil, MaryFil and all.

Bro Ralph



LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY



Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

13 May 1944

Dear Frank:

Received your last bulletin and was happy to receive all the news of the home front. As for myself everything is progressing satisfactorily and there isn't anything to talk about.

I am enclosing a letter, which I received. I was wondering whether or not it might not be a good idea for you to drop over and see Mr. Bourne for me. Maybe you can get some dope for me and make a good contact. You know - be my "liaison officer" temporarily.

I guess the garden in Allendale will be keeping you busy for the next few months. Honestly if I were home now I should have no qualms at all about going into that garden and spading the whole damn thing all by myself. Yes sir - it would be a real pleasure.

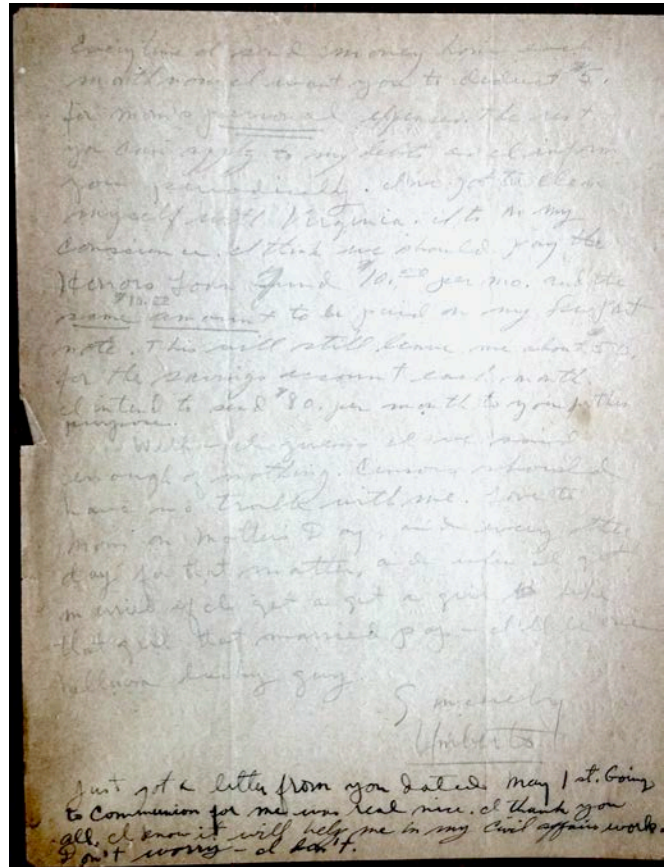
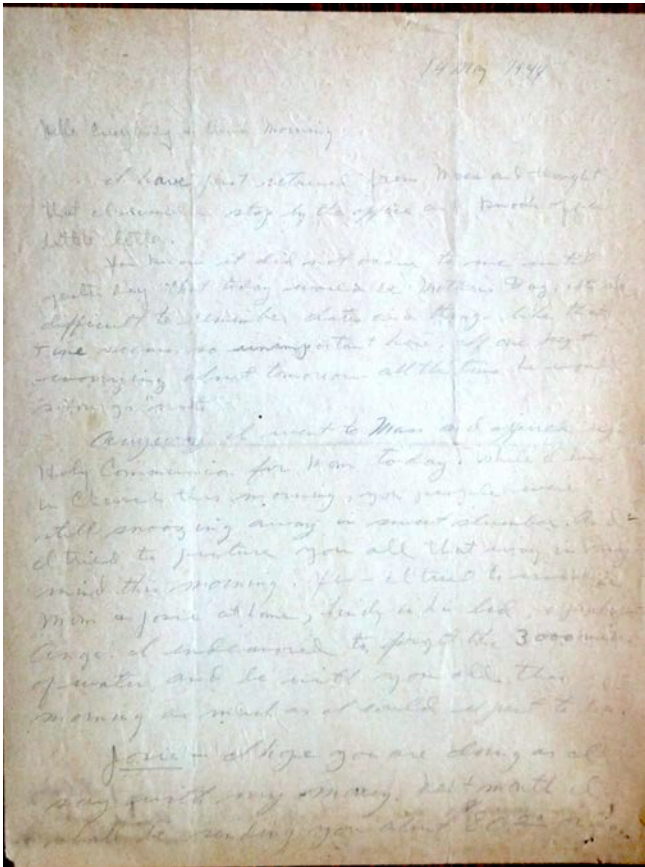
You have a birthday in the next few days, don't you. This letter will probably reach a few days late, but at any rate "buona fortuna". Regards to Fil & baby and lets hear more news soon

Sincerely,  
Al



Frank and Maria "Mom" Scafuro in the garden





14 May 1944

Hello Everybody and Good Morning,

I have just returned from Mass and thought that I would stop by the office and knock off a little letter. You know it did not occur to me until yesterday that today would be Mother's Day. IT's so difficult to remember dates and things like that. Time seems so unimportant here. If one kept worrying about tomorrow all the time he would soon go "nuts".

Anyway I went to Mass and offered up Holy Communion for Mom today. While I was in Church this morning, you people were still snoozing away in sweet slumber. And I tried to picture you all that way in my mind this morning. Yes - I tried to ????? Mom & Josie at home, Lindy in his bed, ???? Ange. I endeavored to forget the 3000 miles of water and be with you all this morning as much as I could expect to be.

Josie - I hope you are doing as I say with my money. Next month I shall be sending you about \$80 or so. Every time I send money hoe each month now I want you to deduct \$5 for Mom's personal expenses. The rest you can apply to my debts as I inform you periodically. I've got to clear myself with Virginia. It's on my conscience. I think we should pay the Honors Loan Fund \$10.00 per mo. And the same \$10.00 amount to be paid on my ???Part note. This will still leave me about \$50 for the savings account each month. I intend to send \$80 per month to you for this purpose.

Well, I guess I've said enough of nothing. Censors should have no trouble with me. Love to Mom on Mother's Day and every other day for that matter, and when I get married if I get a get girl like that girl that married pop - I'll be one helluva lucky guy.

Sincerely  
Umberto

Just got a letter from you dated May 1<sup>st</sup>. Going to Communion for me was real nice. I thank you all, I know it will help me in my Civil Affairs work. Don't worry - I don't.

May 15, 1944  
Monday

Dear Frank, Fil and MaryFil,

First I hope that my apologies are excepted for not writing sooner, but your "Home Front News" arrived this morning which prompted me to write, however, this news is Vol. #III #4 date of the 5/11/44

Before going any further, your letter arrived just on the date of your advancement to your new dept and at this time wish to congratulate you and lots of luck for the future.

Here's hoping that Fil and MaryFil are just as nice and well as when I saw them last and I do wish to be remembered to them.

The opportunities of writing are very few as we are working both day and night taking in almost everything and anything in music and soldiering, at present half the band is now attending Camouflage School etc. which after tomorrow, I expect to be in the other group.

Frank I will say that time is nearing when we will meet again I hope, and as far as I remember it will be on or about June 4or 5<sup>th</sup> and if possible I may fly from this base either to Sta. Louis or Penn. However, I will keep you posted by wire if I'm in or around New York.

Before closing must also add that the big surprise of all our engagement will be announced during the course of the furlough when you will be present.

As you probably know I'm working extra hard to do this up right as Jo is deserving of the best and I do think a log of her, so let's keep our fingers crossed until we meet, again will have to close as I'm Charge of Quarters and kept busy.

Until we meet again remember me to the Vultaggio family and Vito and always my best to MaryFil and Fil

Good Luck to you again, Frank

Sincerely in thought  
Charlie



VOL. III / 5

May 16, 1944

THE SCAFURO HOME FRONT  
Branch Office  
9949 Shore Road  
B'klyn, 9, NY

Lt. A. Scafuro-0-1005620-Det. 6, Co. B, 6901 Regt, ROAD; 4th Inf. Div. (C.A.) APO #4, PR.  
V. S. Scafuro, Sp. S/c, AMB Unit #4, 8th Unit #1, Eke S. P. O., USNR, Newport, R.I.  
R. J. Scafuro ADM S/c -V-C #84, C/O Fleet P. O., San Francisco, Calif.  
Angelo Scafuro-S S/c, East Coast Base Unit, U.S. N Supply Depot, Bayonne, NJ

Affiliated:  
Sgt. Vito Valtaggio-32812699-341st AM Depot Co (Supply) APO #648, c/o P. M., NY  
Cpl. J. Ches De Moo- 34729999- 734th Army Band A P, Lake Charles, La.  
Lt. Mrs. D. Ciaravella- 2005 North 3rd St, Harrisburg, Pa.  
Pvt. Frank Scafuro-22891476- Co. C- 148th Inf. A P O # 38 c/o P. M., San Fran  
Sgt. Dominic Magro-32804823- Station 12-1 C B - A F C, APO 488, c/o P. M., NY

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As Fil was typing addresses Frank spent his time clipping the weekly overseas sports letter from this morning's Herald Tribune. A copy of the letter is coming to each of you with this bulletin. Victor, Ange, and Harrisburg Jo are excluded- they're not baseball fans. (Is he kidding?) Interruption- Frank had to get himself a couple of aspirins. I wonder if it's because of his new job- it was the first day. Yes, fellows, after 10 years at one desk he has been moved up a very little rung in a ladder that may prove - maybe (at least he's hoping again)- easier to climb. Right now the field is clear. He has no competition in this sphere of new business development for South America. At last his knowledge of Spanish becomes important and he is thinking of immersing himself in the study of Portuguese very soon.

The usual routine weekend took place again- to Allendale. Sat. afternoon Frank picked up a collection of about 500 plants and completely "populated" the Allendale garden. Boy, it's a war! Every bit of space utilized, everything coming up and very early. The dep't of Agriculture needn't worry about us. On the way back to Bklyn Sunday afternoon Frank picked up more plants for the Cahill Rd. garden which is also well under way.

Mom has a brood of little chicks. There was a little tragedy. One of the setting hens didn't live to see her offspring. On the very day the chicks were coming out the hen passed away, quietly and peacefully while setting on the incipient, chirping chicks. Maryfil, of course, got a special treat from the little yellow bundles of joy (the chicks). She kept Mamma Scafuro to sit at a distance from the chicks while she, Maryfil, cuddled up to them, lowered her face down to the beaks of the chicks and gently caressed and kissed them. Pretty touching. Another real estate man came up over the weekend. This time they looked the place over pretty carefully. Took down full measurements and description. Asked price - \$7,500.00 for Mom's place and \$3,500.00 for Vic's (G.E., Vic). Aids - none yet.

Lindy is stealing the show on baseball Scafuro news with Tony getting mention here and there. Josie is busy turning the house upside down, throwing out old furniture. She's also taking care of the flower garden this year. Although we warned both Moms not to work hard in the gardens, they are getting a big kick putting around.

ALERT: You'd better tear some pages off that calendar of yours. This is 1944 and the month is May. Surely the last letter we got from you wasn't written on April 4th or was it? It's the one where you said you had received a letter from Willie and that you thought you had previously pretty close



May 16, 1964

to each other. You say you haven't received a bulletin in some time? That's strange. Willie has been getting his. Willie's last letter dated May 9th acknowledged bulletins #1 and 2 (Vol. III, dated 4/18 and 4/26). This bulletin is #5. Have you gotten them all? Maybe it's your change of address. At the rate you are going our State Dept. could use you as Ambassador to England. That is, if that Lord and Lady are the real thing, and, if your golf is really golf. But I have my doubts, if you persist in saving yourself for the American girl market as you stated in your last letter.

VICTOR: So you slipped on soap and caught yourself on a rusty screw and got a foot infection. Take care of it. Let's know how it is. Pretty tough if you have to move by June 1st and can't walk around to look for an apartment. That was nice work about the athletic test you took. 3.84 out of a possible 4.0 and highest man in 48 - not bad, kid. We'll let you brag. You don't do too much of it. You just get things done. Congratulations and good luck on Sat., your next test.

RALPH: We can't blame you for not writing. That was quite a trip you had - 1800 miles from Oregon to the Mexican border with a nice stop off at Hollywood and Beverly Hills. How did you get out of there alive? Jo told us tonight about the 140 degree heat and the swarms of hungry flies. Write soon, will you?

ANGE: was home on Sunday and Frank put him to work in the garden - just like old times. Ange likes it very much where he is. It's a perfect spot with a very responsible job. Remember, be alert, and don't shirk work. If you come home this weekend try to take that old jalopy away from the yard.

WILLIE: Thanks for your cards to Maryfil and Frank. Nice of you to remember. So you have found "a Coney Island" in England. They can't stop from imitating us, can they? We can just picture you trying out all those rides. We feel sorry for you. Too bad they didn't have hot dogs and side shows. Why don't you tell them about it? The English are rather slow in catching on, you know. They don't bite so easily. ~~They're~~ Their hot dogs might. (Will - I don't get this attempt at a joke. If you do, you're a better man than I.) Mom and Frankie are coming over for dinner tomorrow night. We were supposed to go to Dahill Rd but Frank has to study for a final on Thure so Mom decided to come here. She's been doing quite a bit of gallivanting. But I'm glad she has. It keeps her mind off a lot of things.

CHARLIE: Incommunicado. Completely censored by the Army. What are you brooding about?

DOM & JO: We haven't heard about any floods in Johnstown or Harrisburg. Freight trains are moving and so is the mail. Are you boycotting the Post Office dept? You know, Jo, if you'd break up your six page letter into 6 daily parts it might be better. Why don't you try it? The postman has to live too, you know. Mom received her flowers. They were very lovely.

Frank "Honolulu" Seafure: Are you so busy chasing those grass skirts that you can't find enough time to drop us one little letter? You must be getting the bulletin because your sister Margaret wrote to Jo in Allendale that Frank was corresponding with you. How about it, Red?

DOM: MARGO: Contact at last! Received 2 letters on the same day dated Mine April 24 and 30. Glad to hear you are well and hope your stillwell when you get this letter. Keep the news coming. So you like the China girls? I thought they were keeping you busy, those squint-eyed beauties.

Toodis-oo, everybody. Goodnight, good luck  
God bless you all. Love, Frank, Fil, Maryfil



May 18, 1944,  
Thursday morning

Dear Jo,

I received two letters from you, one from Vic, one from Frank and the sport sheets and a letter from Lindy yesterday. Not bad huh? Tell Lindy I'll answer his letter soon. Well I started on a new schedule yesterday. I don't have to report to work until 2:30 in the afternoon and quit around 10pm. It's not bad at all. I haven't done a single thing since I've been down here except write and go to a show. In between those hours I usually go to a movie.

I don't know for sure how long we'll be here but the squadrons that were here before us usually stood here about six or seven weeks.

Thanks a lot for getting that plant for mom. I'll try to pay you back someday. I hope she liked it.

You don't have to worry about mailing me the whole paper—just send me the sport sheets.

Well it's almost time for chow so I'd better close until tomorrow. Don't forget to write to "Swammie" soon. Give my love to mom.

Bro Ralph

V.E. Scafuro Sp 2/c  
R& A dept. Unit 1, Bks B  
U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION  
NEWPORT, R. I.  
Probably May 20????, 1944  
Hello Frank, Fil & Mary Fil,

How was that Party Mary Fil{Ed: May 20}, did you save me a piece of cake? Well folks here I am on duty tonight in the Recreation Bldg. It's a foggy night out and its rather quiet here in the building I guess all the sailors are ashore having a few beers.

Received the Scafuro home front and also recieved a letter from Ralph, all he talks about is how much he misses baseball and how the flies are bothering him. I wrote him a letter and told him that they have started to take men in the physical Instructors school in Bainbridge, MD again and they are making them 1st class and chiefs. i told him to get together with his C.O. and get transferred to P.I. school . I told him to explain to the C.O. that when he enlisted he knew nothing about the P.I. school and that's just what he likes, if he gets along with the C.O. this might be possible to swing however, not probably since he has gone through so much training, although we have a number of washed out air cadets in our program. i know of at least 8 of them. If he gets into this program he will get all the baseball, basketball, and sports that he wants.

Well as you can see in my new address I am now Specialist second Class. i was notified today that i passed. i haven't heard anymore about the commission.

We haven't heard yet if we are sure of getting an apartment in the Navy housing project, however, we are banking on a definite promise that we would get one by une 1st.

Rose and I are fine and hope that this letter finds you all the same.

OH! that price on the houses is OK by me if you can get it.

i hope to get home on the night of the 17th of June. The B's are playing Glen Rock on the 18th. "Secret" I am bringing Red

Evans [http://4.bp.blogspot.com/\\_W2Ncx2XIww4/S8k2vrvaZuI/AAAAAAAAAGMw/cwkDON4zzQU/s320/1990\\_target\\_evans.JPG](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_W2Ncx2XIww4/S8k2vrvaZuI/AAAAAAAAAGMw/cwkDON4zzQU/s320/1990_target_evans.JPG) who pitched for the Brooklyn Dodgers last year and Bill Enos who played 1st base for St. Louis Browns. We will beat Glen Rock s pants off of them.

Well until then good luck &

God bless you all

Bro

Vic

May 22, 1944  
Monday

Dear Frank,

Got your letter yesterday and also the sports letter. So thanks for both.

Life has been pretty easy since I hit this place. I fly about one hour a day and that is all I do. The rest of the 23 hours are mine. I think I'm sleeping too darn much and getting lazy.

Frank, I put in for a leave for June 1<sup>st</sup> till June 15<sup>th</sup>. Of course everybody puts in for leaves but very few get them. I doubt if I will. I did want to wait a couple months before asking for it so I could have some money saved for it but you can never tell what may happen by then. They may stop all leaves. Well, what I wanted to tell you was that just in case I do get it, I'll need money. I may have to wire you for 50 or maybe 75 dollars. What I want to know is, it that OK with you. I probably could save enough to pay you back later.

There isn't much to say I received a letter from Chuck Forrisier today. The first in about six months. He's in New Guinea. Well give my love to Mary Fil, Fil and all.

Love,  
Bro Ralph

May 25, 1944,  
Thursday morning

Hi Jo,

Received another letter from you yesterday. Jo, the reason why the money took so long to reach me was because you sent it to Fleet Post Office. It must have got there in about an hour. But from there they just sent it by mail. Now what I want to tell you is, and tell Frank this too – in case you want to send ma a telegram – or in case I wire to Frank for money – wire it back to:

R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c  
VC84  
Western Union Office  
Holtville, Calif.

Don't worry about me leaving here so soon. If I do leave here I can always let you know and I won't go no further than San Diego. That's our next stop I think.

You wanted to know what I'm doing with my money. Well one thing you can be sure is that I'm not spending it on girls. The girl I went with up in North Bend must have spent over \$100 on me the time I was there. That's no lie. I'll bet I didn't spend more than \$15 on her the time I went with her. That's the way they all were. Well my base pay is \$78 a month. \$22 comes out for the allotment, \$10 out for the Red Cross, \$7 for insurance, which makes a total of about \$40 out each month. That leaves me about \$38 a month and I have to do a hell of a lot of things with that. It would take too long to list. However, this is the last month I have to pay the Red Cross. Another thing you don't know is that I've been getting flight pay every other month. That's about \$40 extra a month for flying. But with that I pay back everybody I owe money too. But I think starting next month everything will be OK.

Tell Lindy to send me the sport sheet.

Don't count on that leave too much. But have the car in case I get it. I'll send you a telegram if I get it. If I don't get it now I'll get one before I leave the states. I'm pretty sure of that.

Don't forget to give Frank that address in case I wire for money. If I ever do wire, have him wire back as soon as possible.

Well tell mom I'm fine and I hope she is too. Give her my love.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph



Vol. III # 6

May 30 (begun May 23)

THE SCAFURO HOME FRONT  
Branch Office  
2942 Shore Road  
B'klyn (9) N Y

Lt. A. Scafuro-O-1003680, Det. 6, Co B, 8901 Regt, ECAB; 4th Inf. Div. (C.A.)  
APO # 4, c/o P.M., NY  
V.E. Scafuro, Sp. 3/c, A & B Unit #1 Bks B P O, USMIS, Newport, R.I.  
R.J. Scafuro, AGM 3/c- V-C #84, c/o Fleet P O, San Francisco  
Angelo Scafuro, B 2/c, East Coast Base Unit, U S N Supply Depot, Bayonne, N J

Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vultaggio-32812599- 641st QM Depot (Supply) APO #545, c/o P.M., NY  
Cpl. I. Chas De Leo-32789999- 734th Army Band A A F, Lake Chas, La.  
Lt. & Mrs. D. Ciaravella-2005 North 3rd St. Harrisburg, Pa.  
Pvt. Frank Scafuro-32691478- Co. C- 148th Inf. APO # 38, c/o P.M., San Fran.  
Sgt. Dominic Negro-32604923- Station 12-1 Cw- ATC, APO #498, c/o P.M., NY

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2 If - 2 - 2 21

Oh! Oh! the baby got here before we did. She thinks she has a special code of her own. Yes, fellows the Home Front has been extremely busy. Brave attempts were made to get this out sooner but there just wasn't enough time and energy left to do it. Frank got his 38th birthday greeting from the draft board. He's in the discard, S&K for the moment. A week ago last Sunday, that is May 21 we had a combined birthday celebration for both Frank and Maryfil. Mom Scafuro and Jo as well as Mom Vultaggio, Frankie joined us for dinner. Later in the afternoon Jo and her husband, Dom paid us a surprise visit and by about 8 PM Maryfil's young friends, B to be exact, came for ice cream and cake and to raise Hell generally. Of course the parents came with them with the result that the apartment was swimming with 29 people. We learned our lesson.

Last weekend May 27 and 28, we spent in Allendale. Mom has a nice new brood of chicks. She gets as much kick out of them. Almost, as Maryfil does. Mom is about to acquire an addition - a pig - to be donated by Tony. In all probability he will take up an apartment in the old kennel quarters on the Victor and Rose estate (at Newport?) Remember the old picket fence in front of the house? It isn't there anymore. It now lines the interior of the grape arbor where we had so many of our joyous Sunday dinners. We are kidding Maryfil (we think) late believing that this enclosure will be her private estate. We'll see, - whether she will agree to the confinement. Sunday afternoon we visited and decorated Papa's grave in Burlington. From there we went to Grandma's and Grandpa's grave and planted some flowers there. Today we made a tour of St. John's cemetery visiting Papa Vultaggio's and Grandpa Annicelli's graves. On our return Frank did a little more work in Mom Vultaggio's flourishing little garden. We had dinner there and now here we are, - pounding this out at the apartment.

Fil will add another wrinkle to her aging brow on Sat. next, June 3. We is us. I hope she doesn't get crabtier (fellows, I'm too tired to think of any suitable retort. Fil.)

ALBERT: Your letter of May 13 reached us on May 23. Much better - but - we want more. We know you censor your mail but you needn't censor yourself out. Thanks for your birthday greetings. We're glad you had the urge to work in the garden. Preserve it. The garden will be there when you return.



May 30, 1944

-2-

Regarding your contact with the Standard Oil - haven't done anything yet but will try. Have you changed your mind about finishing your law course? You would probably be foolish, - that is- if your sponsor's offer to put you thru - married or unmarried- still stands. Incidentally do you keep in touch with him? Saw your letter of May 14 to Allendale, and noted your intentions regarding remittances for your credit. Jo asked me to make payments to the U of Va which I shall be glad to do. Do as you wish but you might pass your business matters along to me. God knows I have enough to do but I want to be sure that your affairs remain straight.

**VICTOR:** CONGRATULATIONS.- on your new specialist' second class rating. Let's give him 3 cheers, boys. The old tar is doing allright by himself. And come on you other two sailors, Ange and Ralph, haven't you any pride? Thanks to both you and Rose for that nice brown Teddy bear, for Maryfil's birthday. Right now it is her choice companion. She'll thank you in person when you come down. Glad you advised Ralphie about reopening of Physical Instructors school. Certainly hope he can make it. Happy to hear you've got an apartment. Enjoy it. That's a nasty trick you are going to play on Glen Beck bringing up Red Evans of Dodger and Bill Knox of St. Louis Browns. Do we have to prepare staterooms for them? Or will you open up your country house?

**RALPH:** Glad to get your letter of May 22. Hope your furlough June 1-15 is okayed. Wired you May 26 would be glad send you money for trip home when furlough approved. If you get this bulletin before approval comes thru give me specific directions as to where money is to be sent.

**ANGE:** Was home over the last weekend and as usual was out all night (almost) and slept all morning (almost). Lindy worked at Keidel's so Frank found himself alone in the garden with Maryfil asking about the names of everything poking its head above the ground.

**WILLIE:** Sorry to say but we've received no letters from you in the last two weeks. But we shouldn't kick. Thanks for the birthday cards,- all three of them. Mom hasn't gotten any letters. But we realize that you fellers over there must be extremely busy judging from press reports of accelerated activities.

**CHARLIE:** Hoorey, at last the boy came thru, - with a letter, dated May 15. He will probably be on the way home when this gets to your bunk. I suppose as the elder male member of the Scafaro clan I may have the pleasure of announcing your engagement in this humble journal. How I wish it were possible for all the boys to behove to make it a real joyous occasion. We'll be seeing you.

**CHAS JO:** What did you do walk to Harrisburg? What's the idea of getting there at 2 o'clock in the morning. Jo, the theatres in Harrisburg must have a tough time keeping you supplied with new pictures. Will you write about some of them to us? When will we be seeing you again?

**FRANK SCAFARO:** Our only conclusion is that you must be traveling but we sure wish you would send back just a couple of words. And that goes for you too, DON MAGRO.

Late news item: Tony has received a permanent appointment as U S Deputy collector of Internal Revenue. Hats off to Lazybones. Chiefly for the benefit of you boys in the service, Frank received communion every Sunday in May and will try to continue until it is all over, over there and you boys are all safe over here. Good night, good luck, good news. Love, Frank, Fil and Maryfil



31 May 1944

Dear Joe:

I haven't written in several days I guess so I had better get this little note off to you before you begin getting wrinkles in your pretty little brow!

Everything is going along fine and I'm still getting three meals a day. My social life has been suffering lately, but this was never intended to be a tea party anyway. The newness of England has begun to wear off for me and needless to say I do get pretty homesick now and then and it certainly will be a pleasure to see the good old U.S.A. Damn America is a great country, a beautiful country, the best on earth. We'll all be glad to get back -

Nothing else to write about. I never do write much of anything anyway, do I? But don't let that worry you just be assured that I'm O.K. No worries are in order for me at all. I'm O.K. and going to be O.K. Now forget it! Give my love to Mom and please don't let her worry about me.

Love to all  
Albert

3 June 1944

Dear Joe:

Don't know what the hell to write about. There is nothing to say and it's even difficult for me to write and say nothing sometimes.

The weather has been just fine lately - not too hot nor too cold; just comfortable. I haven't received your third package as yet. Instead of sending me newspapers why not just cut out some items of interest and enclose them in letters.

I've got my May pay now and at first opportunity I shall send you about \$80. Remember about sending \$10 to U.Va. each month. Tell Lindy I enjoy his letters; just received one today. All my love to Mom and

Cheerio  
A

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Dear Joe,

Don't know what the hell to write about. There is nothing to say and it's even difficult for me to write and say nothing sometimes.

The weather has been just fine lately - not too hot nor too cold' just comfortable. I haven't received your third package as yet. Instead of sending me newspapers why not just cut out some items of interest and enclose them in letters.

I've got my May pay now and at first opportunity I shall send you about \$80. Remember about sending \$10 to U.Va. each month. Tell Lindy I enjoy his letters; just received one today. All my love to Mom and

A



## Writes Family On Fateful D-Day

### Letter Reflects Note Of Spiritual Faith

Four sons of the family of Mrs. Maria Scafuro of East Allendale Avenue, Allendale, serving in the armed forces include Aviation Ordnance-man Third Class Ralph Scafuro, serving as an aerial gunner on an air-craft carrier, stationed at Reams Field, California; Seaman Second Class Angelo, stationed at Bayonne, New Jersey; Petty Officer Victor serving in the Athletic and Recreation Department at Newport, Rhode Island, and Lt. Albert O. Scafuro serving with the Civil Affairs Division overseas.

A letter received by Mrs. Scafuro Tuesday from Lt. Albert, dated the day of the Invasion follows:

"Dear Family: Don't worry about me I'll be all right. My letters may be necessarily few for a while. As you have heard in America the Great Day has arrived. Whatever call is made upon me I shall perform. My thoughts at this momentous moment are of all of you and of the great apprehension you must have for my welfare and safety.



LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO

"Let us lift up our voices to our God and pray for a speedy victory. Let us hope that the world will soon resound again to the voices of free men and the peaceful ways, and finally let us pray that only a minimum of blood should be spilled in its process.

"Remember one thing, I shall be with you always. I will return. I have kept my peace with God and with his protection all will be well. And if my comrades, who have this day gone before me, shall open their ranks to me, I shall be content, for in a little while I shall return to you. Mama, don't fear—pray for me, I love you and cherish dearly all you have done for me.

"Love to all the family—Brother Albert."

Lt. Albert was a senior in law at the University of Virginia when he entered the service in August of 1942.

5 June 1944

To all the Family:

Don't worry about me. I'll be alright. My letters may necessarily be few for a while. As you have heard in America the "great day" has arrived. Whatever call is made upon me I shall perform. My thoughts at this momentous moment are of all of you, and of the great apprehension you must have for my welfare and safety.

Let us lift up our voices to our God and pray for a speedy victory. Let us hope that the world will soon resound again to the voices of free men and to peaceful ways. And finally let us pray that only a minimum of blood should be spilled in its process.

Remember one thing - I shall be with you always. I will return. I have kept my peace with God and with his protection all will be well. And if my comrades, who have this day gone before me, shall open their ranks to me, I shall be content - for in a little while - I shall return to you. Mama don't fear - pray for me - I

Love you and cherish dearly all you have done for me. Love to Frank, Maggie, Tony, Vic, Larry, Joe, Ralph, Angelo, Jimmy and all the rest.

Albert.



Little did Mr. Scafuro know how he would arrive in France when he went to Great Britain in 1943 as a second lieutenant in the Civil Affairs division. He was training in Tiverton, England, when orders came to proceed within six hours to Port Southampton, marshaling grounds for what turned out to be the D-Day invasion trip across the channel.

May 19, 1994, Veteran recalls D-Day Invasion by Marsha Stoltz

**The Ridgewood Herald-News**, Thursday, June 22, 1944

Four sons of the family of Mrs. Maria Scafuro of East Allendale Avenue, Allendale, serving in the armed forces include Aviation Ordnance-man Third Class Ralph Scafuro, serving as an aerial gunner on an aircraft carrier, stationed at Reams Field, California; Seaman Second Class Angelo, stationed at Bayonne, New Jersey; Petty Officer Victor serving in the Athletic and Recreation Department at Newport, Rhode Island, and Albert O. Scafuro serving with the Civil Affairs Division overseas.

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*Let us lift up our voices to our God and pray for a speedy victory. Let us hope that the world will soon resound again to the voices of free men and the peaceful ways. And finally let us pay that only a minimum of blood should be spilled in its process.*

*Remember one thing. I shall be with you always. I will return. I have kept my peace with God and with his protection all will be well, and if my comrades, who have this day gone before me, shall open their ranks to me I shall be content, for in a little while I shall return to you, Mom, don't fear—pray for me. I love you and cherish dearly all you have done for me.*

*Love to all the family – Brother Albert (written June 6, 1944)*



VICTOR SCAFURO



RALPH, MARIA, & ANGELO SCAFURO

Vol. III # 7  
June 8, 1944

THE SCAFURO HOME FRONT  
BRANCH OFFICE  
9949 Shore Road  
B'klyn (9) NY

Lt. A. Scafuro-O-1003620, Det. 6, Co. B, 8901 Regt, KCAB; 4th Inf. Div (CA.)  
AFD #4, c/o PW, NY  
V. E. Scafuro-Sp. 3/c, A & R Unit # 1 Mes B, F O, USNHS, Newert, N I  
R. J. Scafuro, AOM 3/c - V-C # 84, c/o Fleet P O, San Francisco.  
Angelo Scafuro, S 2/c East Coast Base Unit, U SM Supply Depot, Bayonne, NJ

Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vultaggio-32012599-541st QM Depot (Supply) APO #545 c/o PW, NY  
Cpl. I. Ches De Neo-32759999- 734th Army Band AAF, Lake Ches, La.  
Lt. & Mrs. D. Ciavarella-2005 North 3rd Street, Harrisburg, Pa.  
Pvt. Frank Scafuro-32691476- Co. C 149th Inf. APO #38, c/o PW, San Fran  
Sgt. Dominic Negro-32604823- Station 12-1 C W - ATC, APO #489, c/o PW, NY

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Well, at last, this is it! <sup>Thursday</sup> ~~Monday~~ morning we turned on the radio and almost froze to the spot when we heard the news that it had started. Naturally our thoughts immediately flashed to Albert and Willie and we instinctively prayed for their safety wherever they might be. Tuesday noon Frank went to St. Peter's on Barclay St. to offer a prayer. At 3 o'clock that afternoon there was a universal period of silence and prayer everywhere, offices, streets, schools, everyone stopped and fervently prayed for your well being and success. Yesterday morning Frank received communion as a special offering for Willie's and Albert's safety. He missed this morning but hopes to go every morning possible until we are sure you boys are out of danger. This we believe and hope will be our most powerful rearguard support.

Last Saturday was Fil's birthday. She thought we had forgotten but by the time 9 o'clock rolled around at least 15 people were sitting around the living room cheering her on to the next lap. Don't take it up wrong fellers, there weren't many enticing laps anyway, - mostly girls. At 11 o'clock a 14 inch cake arrived, accompanied by 4 quarts of ice cream. You'd be interested in the cake decoration: a dried up old teacher, a scowpuss, holding a book in one hand, pointing with the other at a frightened student who apparently hadn't learned his lesson. As Fil sliced the cake strains of "Let me call you Sweetheart" could be heard coming from under the icing. But the grizzled teacher on the cake didn't change her expression. Mind you fellers, this was all pre-invasion stuff, altho at 12 o'clock that night a shrill report came over the radio, thru error, that the invasion had begun.

Sunday morning we went to Allendale, chiefly to pick up a good bunch of peonies but also to do some work in the garden. It's beginning to pay dividends already. We brought back quite a few plants and Monday night we went over to Mom Vultaggio's and while Mom amused Maryfil or really vice versa Frank and Fil set out another 50 or 60 plants. Boy you should see that "Brooklyn farm"!

ALBERT: The last letter we got from you was dated May 13th. Mom told Frank over the phone tonight that they had received your letter of the 21st. We appreciate that for a little while mail will be very slow, but as long as you are safe we don't care about the mail. Mom is fully acquainted with the invasion and her voice over the phone tonight betrayed no distress whatsoever - she's a good soldier and keeps praying constantly for you and the others.



June 8, 1944

SIBLIE: Mom was here tonight. She's OK. Stayed only a short time. Today was Brooklyn Day and Fil was home. She went over to Dr. Primavera's on a social visit and Mom met her there, also on a social call only. We got your letter of May 20 yesterday. We shall be waiting anxiously for next word from you. We hope both you and Al are still in good old England, at least we like to think that. In any event the best of luck to both of you. Try to keep in touch with each other if at all possible. Had you tried to see Sig, Olga's husband?

VICTOR: We were very sorry to hear that your furlough didn't come thru. How about that game with Glen Beck, are you letting Tony down? I wish you'd let me know something about those shirts. The 3 new shirts I bought 3 weeks ago have gone with the wind, together with a whole bag of laundry which somebody other than our laundry man picked up, to wash but I'm sure not for us. How do you like that. That's Bklyn for you. Do you wonder why the insurance rates are so high here? Pretty cheap crooks!

RALPH: The heat sure must have you! Can't you push that pencil around a little bit? You haven't even acknowledged the telegram I sent you 2 weeks ago, telling you it was OK to ask for your fare, if you got your furlough. Too bad it didn't turn out. What are your chances now?

ANGE: So you lost your wallet! What were you doing in New York today on the subway. I just got a phone call a few minutes ago from a Miss Catanzaro in Fort Chester, N Y. She picked up your wallet, found my telephone # in it and called here. I telephoned your base but couldn't get you. Then I called back Miss Catanzaro and told her I would go to her office in NY tomorrow to pick up your wallet. It has some money in it. I'll deduct my commission for phone calls, subway fare, rewards etc

CHARLIE: Is home on leave and expects to decorate Josie with a ring next Sunday. We all plan to be present, those of us who are around. Charlie is due back at camp June 20.

Lt. & Mrs. Ciarravella: Nothing much to report, except that Jo is so busy cooking for Dom and Dom so eagerly relishing her concoctions that there just isn't time for us leisure-cursed people in this city of turmoil. OK! Enjoy your peace while you can. When you come to New York, Jo, this bulletin job will be yours. You're a better typist. (Better be careful- he's trying to get around you).

Frank A. SCAFURO: At last you came thru. Your letter of May 26 got here June 6th. Don't worry about that grass skirt, we were kidding more than anything else. I know how tough things are. We'd like to hear from you a little more often.

DOM Magro: You wrote your letter on the same day your cousin Frank did and they got here on the same day. I see you are still sticking around China. Do you like those sorts letters from the Herald Tribune.

The editor has fallen down on the job a little bit. He has failed to tell you that the letters received from each of you usually ask for that regards be given to the rest of the gang. Well, regards to all from all and from us lots of love and prayers. Frank, Fil and Maryfil

June 8, 1944,  
Thursday morning

Hi Jo,

We started on dawn patrol this morning. We start flying at three in the morning and knock off at 11 am. It only lasts about one week. I slept all this morning though because I didn't have to fly.

I could have come home on another leave yesterday, but I refused it because I wasn't ready but most of all because it was only 10 days. I'll take one latter on even if it is only 10 days. But do you think it would be worth it to be home for only about three days?

Well if Charlie is home give him my regards and give mom my love.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph

June 11, 1944

Dear Jo,

By the time you receive this letter. I'll be on a new base. Our squadron is moving up a notch to Reams Field. It is on the outskirts of San Diego, about 150 miles from here. Only a few hours ride. We're going up there Tuesday.

Sorry I couldn't be there with Charlie and Vic. I guess I could have but I just wasn't ready. Unless things change I'll be home some time between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Did you tell Frank to send me the money? If he hasn't sent it by now, tell him to hold on to it and I'll wire for it. But if he has sent it, it's just as good. By the way I may need some dough when I get home. And tell mom to hold on to that gas for me and to get all she can.

Well Jo, I'm gonna hang up now. Give my love to mom. Hope you're having a good time with Charlie!

P.S. Just got back from Communion

Love,  
Bro Ralph

June 14, 1944,  
Wed

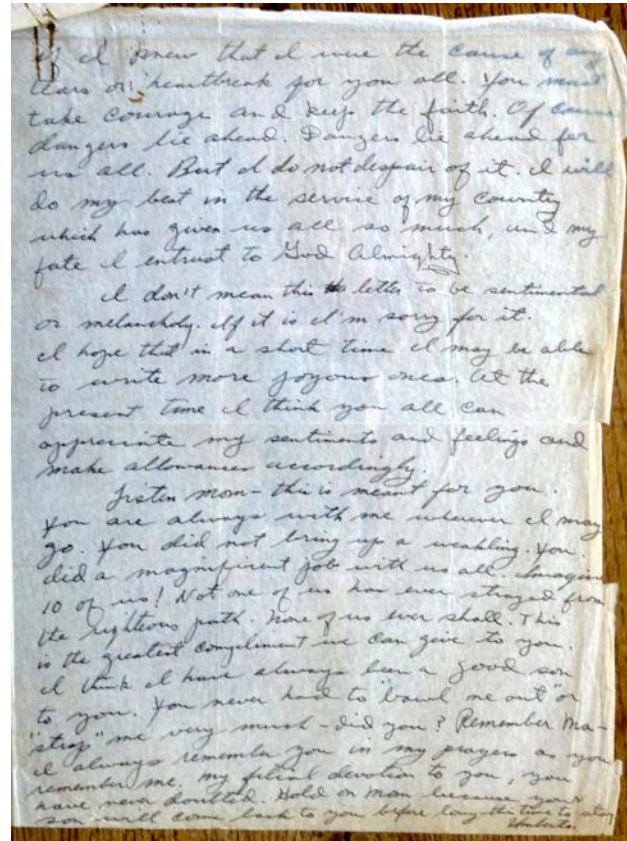
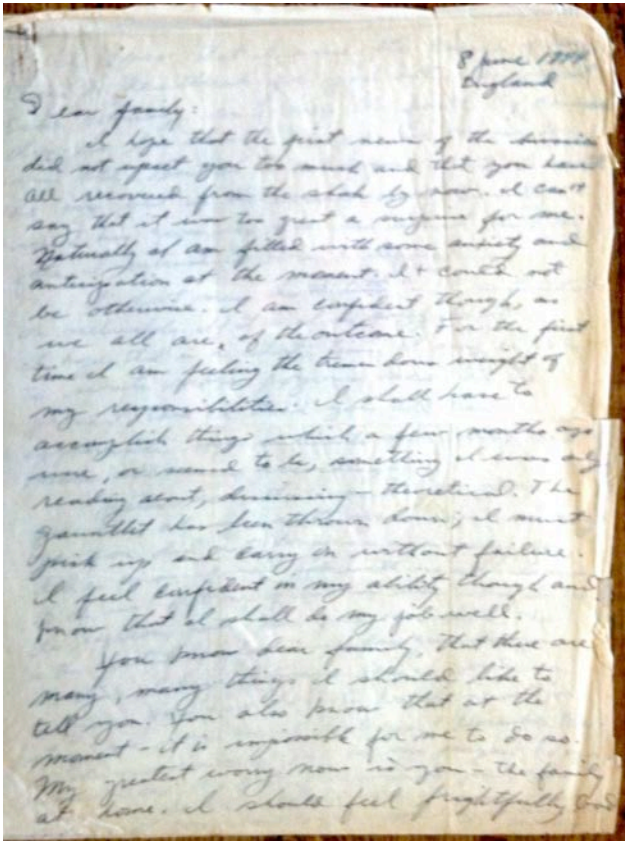
Dear Jo,

We got here yesterday. It only took four hours. The name of the place is Reams Field and its nine miles from San Diego. There's quite a change in weather here. It isn't even half as warm as it was in Holtville. It's very cool, too cool sometimes.

I don't know how long we'll be here. How's everything at home? Nothing else to write about. Give my love to mom.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph





8 June 1944  
England

Dear family:

I hope that the first news of the business did not upset you too much and that you have all recovered from the shock by now. I can't say that it was too great a surprise for me. Naturally I am filled with some anxiety and anticipation at the moment. It could not be otherwise. I am confident though, as we all are, of the outcome. For the first time I am feeling the tremendous weight of my responsibilities. I shall have to accomplish things which a few months ago were, or seemed to be, something I was only reading about, discussing - theoretical. The gauntlet has been thrown down, I must pick up and carry on without failure. I feel confident in my ability though and know that I shall do my job well.

You know dear family that there are many, many things I should like to tell you. You also know that at the moment - it is impossible for me to do so. My greatest worry now is you - the family at home. I should feel frightfully bad if I knew that I were the cause of any tears or heartbreak for you all. You must take courage and keep the faith. Of course dangers lie ahead. Dangers lie ahead for us all. But I do not despair of it. I will do my best in the service of my country which has given us all so much, and my fate I entrust to God Almighty.

I don't mean this letter to be sentimental or melancholy. If it is I'm sorry for it. I hope that in a short time I may be able to write more joyous ones. At the present time I think you all can appreciate my sentiments and feelings and make allowances accordingly.

Listen Mom - this is meant for you. You are always with me wherever I may go. You did not bring up a weakling. You did a magnificent job with us all. Imaging 10 of us! Not one of us has ever strayed from the righteous path. None of us ever shall. This is the greatest compliment we can give to you. I think I have always been a good son to you. You never had to "Bawl me our" or "strap" me very much - did you? Remember Ma - I always remember you in my prayers as you remember me. My filial devotion to you, you have never doubted. Hold on Mom because your son will come back to you before long this time to stay.

Umberto

This story was submitted to the people war Website by a volunteer from Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life on behalf of Peggy Ellicott 11/29/2005. Excerpted from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/64/a7392864.shtml>

I was four and a half when WW2 started. I lived with my parents and younger sister at Claypitt Cottage, Howden, Tiverton, which was the gardener's cottage belonging to Howden House — now demolished and which stood on the site which is now Palmerston Park. The house belonged to a solicitor — Mr. Johnson — who lived there with his family. When the war started they moved to South Africa — leaving the house empty. The property was then taken over by English troops — The Durham Light Infantry and after that in 1943 the **American 4th Infantry Division**. The American troops were stationed in several areas of Tiverton — St. Paul's schoolrooms, which we passed on our way to school each morning. The soldiers always called us over to the window and gave us some of their breakfast food, which included oranges which were a great treat. They were also stationed at Collipriest House and Westexe Recreation Ground. Knightshayes Court was a Military Hospital for English and Americans. I was walking home from school one day — which was at least a mile — a convoy of American forces passed me in our lane. One of the vehicles stopped and the driver said “we've been looking for a nice little girl like you to give our rations to”. I went home laden with coffee, tea and candy. They were very kind to the local children. I now realise they were moving out of the area and were sent to Normandy for the D Day landings. Most of that division were killed there. I recently visited Normandy and visited an English Military Cemetery where my husband's brother is buried. We also visited the American Cemetery and saw several headstones showing the names of soldiers of that 4th Division and wondered if any of them were the lively young men who were so kind to us. See also [Nice American Soldier](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/user/22/u1260522.shtml). (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/user/22/u1260522.shtml> ) and [BBC - WW2 People's War - Tiverton Museum of Mid-Devon Life](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/user/22/u1260522.shtml) [www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/user/22/u1260522.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/user/22/u1260522.shtml) Tiverton Museum of Mid-Devon Life is in partnership with the BBC's People's War and is actively involved in collecting World War 2 memories of local people.

“We had two Jeeps typewriters, carbines and off we went,” Mr. Scafuro recalled. “Two days later we were in the English Channel.”

**May 19, 1994, Veteran recalls D-Day Invasion by Marsha Stoltz**

1944-06-09. Then, much to his surprise, he found himself crossing the Channel in the Normandy Invasion with the first invasion forces.

He was attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> infantry Division and landed with the invasion forces on Utah Beach in support of the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne divisions which had already established the beachhead. **May 27, 1979, “Scafuro plans invasion to recapture memories” by Grace Archer**

It was stormy, Mr. Scafuro recalls of his landing on “Utah Beach” in an LST vessel with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division June 9, 1944, the third day of the invasion operations.

“We had waterproofed the Jeep, run the exhaust pipe above the roof and so forth,” Mr. Scafuro explained. “I was not a good driver at that point. We had a boy from Washington State in our group who was 6'5” and I told him, ‘Put your foot on the gas when we go into the water and don't let up.’”

“I never had such a bad short trip, and when we got on the beach it was still pretty rough. They were strafing the beach, and the German planes came in as we landed,” he continued. “I dove for a foxhole even though there was a soldier already in it. He had a cigar still lit in his mount. He was dead.”



[http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-7c3K\\_n1kMfA/UlEoyEAKBtI/AAAAAAAAACSM/6aLT8q3WpCk/s1600/John+Steele.jpg](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-7c3K_n1kMfA/UlEoyEAKBtI/AAAAAAAAACSM/6aLT8q3WpCk/s1600/John+Steele.jpg)

For his trouble, Mr. Scafuro says he was greeted by his colonel with “Where you been? We've been waiting for you!” when he arrived at 4<sup>th</sup> Division command headquarters about 2,000 feet from the shore. **May 19, 1994, Veteran recalls D-Day Invasion by Marsha Stoltz**

“They gave me a map and told me to go to Ste.-Mère-Église, the town made famous in war films because of the paratrooper whose parachute got caught in the church steeple,” Mr. Scafuro went on. “We were non-combatants, and our job was to work with the civil governments in the towns to keep civilians pacified, off the road and out of the army's way.”



Mr. Scafuro's group was the first civic affairs unit to operate in liberated France, and remains the enduring symbol of liberation for the town.

"People came pouring around," he recalls. "I was supposed to set up a headquarters so I did, right in the street. Then an American colonel came by and bawled me out. 'Get it the hell off the street,' he told me. 'We'll run the people over.' So I moved opposite the church, and worked with Mayor Alexandre Renaud who was the local pharmacist."

May 26, 1994, "Allendale vet at Utah Beach by Marsha Stoltz in The Town Journal



Mr. Scafuro's most vivid memories of those first days in France were the dead farm animals scattered around the countryside and the "underground partisans who were intent on getting retribution from those who had collaborated with the Germans during the war."

"They were shaving collaborators' hair off in the town square so they would be visible. I thought that was rather barbaric and said we can't have that. But I got bawled out again and told to mind my own business they weren't being hurt and there were more important things to attend to."

The civic affairs unit issued travel passes to minimize the presence of civilians on the few secured roads which were needed for movement of armed troops and equipment.

"The first day we were set up, two men and two women came to us asking for passes. They said they had been visiting friends when the invasion broke out and wanted to get back to their families." He remembered. "There was something strange about them, though. The men had heavy coats on and wouldn't answer my questions. Turns out they were disguised Germans, probably pilots, harbored by the French women. We turned them over to intelligence."

May 26, 1994, "Allendale vet at Utah Beach by Marsha Stoltz in The Town Journal- Part 2/3



## THE SCAFURO MOMS FRONT

Branch Office

9949 Shore Road

B'klyn (9) NY

Lt. A. Scafuro-O-1003620- Det. BIDS "B" Co, 6901 Civ. Aff. Regt ECAD  
APO #658 c/o PM, NY

V.E. Scafuro-Sp. 2/c A&R Unit #1, Bks B, P O, USNTS, Newport, R.I.

R.J. Scafuro, AOM 3/c-V-C # 84, c/o Fleet PO, San Francisco

Angelo Scafuro, S 2/c East Coast Base Unit, USN Supply Depot, Bayonne, NJ

Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vultaggio-32812599- 541st QM Depot (Supply) APO # 545 c/o PM, NY

Cpl. I. Chas DeMeco-32759999-73rd Army Band AAF, Lake Chas, La.

Lt. & Mrs. D. Ciaravella-2005 North 3rd St., Harrisburg, Pa.

Pvt. Frank Scafuro-32691476- Co. C. 149th Inf. APO # 38, c/o PM, San Franc.

Sgt. Dominic Magro-32604823- Station 12-1 C W -ATC- APO # 488, c/o PM, NY

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Once a week when we sit down to pound out this thing and review the past week's activities we realize over and over again the same old thing: - a humdrum, hard, uninteresting life. Work and more work, little sleep and less sleep - that's our lot. But we thank God nevertheless! Our only time of relaxation is the weekend which more often than not is no relaxation at all. We dash out to Jersey - Fil and the baby sun themselves a bit Frank struggles with his vegetables, we eat, lounge around a bit, pack up and dash for New York. But last week end was somewhat more cheerful, even tho the invasion cloud hovered over us. We had quite a gathering- 25 of us, including Barbara Ann and Maryfil, and Frankie and Mom Vultaggio. The occasion as we told you in the last issue was Josie's engagement to Charlie. They exchanged very lovely rings and as Charlie said- he realized this was not a proper time for us to celebrate but that under the circumstances we make the best of it. In any case our first thought Sunday morning was the boys at the front, for whom a mass was offered at Mom's request in the Allendale chapel. Fil and Lindy and I received communion Sunday morning and Fil and I again received this morning - the feast of St. Anthony.

ALBERT: Yesterday we received your undated letter bearing the changed address and acknowledging receipt of our bulletin Vol. III # 4 of 5/11/64. At least I guessed it was that. I'm glad you liked all the publicity (unsolicited) which Curley has been giving you. How about it? Maybe you can get next to Ernie Pyle? He puts in a personal item now and then. Or is your publicity agent Farrell? who in today's Telegram writes "The 4th Inf. Div. to which I am now attached participated in the early assault landings on D-Day." Another headline in today's Telegram dated somewhere in England says "The 4th Division aims at Berlin." We hope you knock the Hell out of them, that is whomever you find in Berlin. I'm assuming a lot of things because at one time part of your address was "4th Inf. Div." Praise the Lord and pass the prayers. That's all we can do. Serve zealously but don't try ever try to be heroically dramatic.

WILLIE: We just can't help keeping you and Al foremost in our minds. Mom got your letter of May 24 on Sat. June 10. Frankly we don't think she quite realizes what tremendous changes have occurred on your front. It's just as well. We'll keep it that way. Naturally we're waiting anxiously from day to day to get some fresh news from you and we hope all has gone well. If you think packages can get thru we're still in the mail order business, Mom received a letter from Castellammare on Sat. also.



June 13, 1944

He says Parrina is well, that they have been living in the country outside Castellammare, that he had built just before this whole mess a little house there with all possible conveniences so that it hasn't been too hard on Parrina. On the other hand he says nothing at all about papa's brother in Alcamo. He was of course very sorry to hear that you were away from home but he hoped that you would make a trip to Italy before you come back to America. Let us hope that this can be made possible before long.

**VICTOR:** Sorry for that very discourteous reception you got from our daughter when you phoned from Newport. We had mistaken it - that is - Maryfil had mistaken it for a call from Frankie. Thanks for calling, hope you can get the shirts. It's good to hear that you are coming up over the weekend. As I told you Maggie is having a little party for Nancy who graduates from grammar school tomorrow night but the party is Sat. However don't let it interfere with your plans. They don't have to know that you know. In his last letter Albert hoped you weren't just spoofing about that commission. How about it? Have you any news for him?

**RALPH:** I'm waiting for that telegram of yours. Got your letter of June 8 in which you say that if you are still there by Sat. June 16 you'll try to get the leave starting around the 20th. What will you do - fly? I imagine the train trip will take about 4 or 5 days. How are your dawn patrols coming on? Boy, what a different life you are living. By a long stretch of my imagination, I can see how fantastic, thrilling and glorious it must be to be moving in and out of the early morning clouds, high up in the heavens looking at the sun creeping up over the side of the earth. Is that how it happens? How are your descriptive powers? Can't you tell us about it? Certainly, that isn't a military secret. Let's see what kind of a masterpiece you can turn out. We'll let Fil grade the paper for you. Maybe we can even get it published. (There he goes talking again.) You know by our agent, Curley.

**ANGE:** Came home on Sunday chiefly to get his wallet which I retrieved from an honest Italian girl, who picked it up in a New York subway. Did you fellows know that after his relatively short but dramatic sea duty Ange learned enough about ships so that he now is seaman by day shipworker by night. The son of a gun has been putting in 15 to 28 hrs a week in a shipyard and keeping mum. OK, Handsome, but I think you might confide in your family sometimes, that's what they are for.

Charlie - we've said enough about you for this issue.

JO & Dom of the Harrisburg, Pa society There isn't much we are going to tell you because you've already been privileged by a special letter tonight. From what you say you'll be home this weekend - with Dom we suppose. But whether it is for good - well you don't answer that. We'll be seeing you.

**Frank A. SCafuro:** Did you ever look around Honolulu or somewhere in Hawaii there is a boy called John Donahue from up our way in Jersey. How about searching for him in your spare time?

**Dom:** Your aunt, that is my mother, was a very happy to receive your letter two days ago Don't forget keep the news coming. We're always glad to hear from you.

It's 11 PM, Fil is keeling over the machine, Frank has other work to do - So let's say goodnight, good luck and God bless you all.

Frank, Fil and Maryfil



Somewhere in France  
16 June 1944

Dear Joe:

Sorry if I have been unable to write.  
Not my fault. Hardly ever have time to even  
think. Sleep very little and am damn tired, with  
very little time to rest.

My love to all - I think of you always -  
Will write later. Now I've seen  
everything. Don't worry.

Love  
Al

P.S. Assure Mom I'm O.K.

Somewhere in France  
16 June 1944

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Al

P.S. Assure Mom I'm O.K.



17 June 1944

Dear Joe:

I'm got a few spare moments again and I'm just dropping a little note to say hellos. Hope you bought Marie those graduation flowers for me.

I sent home some more dough. Happy to hear you are paying the University off. Keep the receipts. Keep up my monthly payments.

This work I'm doing certainly covers everything. Deal with every sort of situation. Even help mothers who are about to be mothers again. I have three times. I had to. Feed starving people; get dead people buried; get wheat to mill into flour for bread; supervise road work and a million other things that cannot be written about. I'm O.K. at present. Don't fret. Love to Mom.

Au Revoir.  
Al.

19 June 1944

Dear Joe:

Just a line to let you know that everything is going along as well as can be expected. My only trouble is that I seem to have lost my appetite. I wish I could eat.

I haven't received your other packages as yet. The one with the lighter etc. Someday it will catch up with me. I hope. I get about 3 or 4 hours sleep a day and as a result I never feel very much like writing letters in the dark.

All my love to Mom and the rest. Tell her that I have been able to get plenty of good wine to drink. It's a necessity here.

Love to all.  
Albert.

17 June 1944

Dear Joe,

I've got a few spare moments again and I'm just dropping a little note to say hellos. Hope you bought Marie those graduation flowers for me.

I sent home some more dough. Happy to hear you are paying the University off. Keep the receipts. They? Up my monthly payments

This work I'd doing certainly covers everything. Deal with every sort of situation. Even help mothers who are about to be mothers again. I have three times. I had to. Feed starving people; get dead people buried; get wheat to mill into flour for bread; supervise road work and a million other things that cannot be written about. I'm O.K. at present. Don't fret. Love to Mom.

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All my love to Mom and the rest. Tell her that I have been able to get plenty of good wine to drink. It's a necessity here.

Love to all  
Albert

June 22, 1944,  
Ream Field

Dear Jo,

I've just finished writing to Ange and Al and thought I better include you. I received all the sports pages and Lindy's letters yesterday. They were good. Tell him I said thanks and I'll write to him soon. I was sorry to read about the B's losing that game. How are they making out?

I still haven't touched a bit of work since I've been here. I go horseback riding every; once in awhile. But most of the time I am laying down on my bunk, sleeping or reading. Saw a swell picture here on the station last nite. It's called "The Adventures of Mark Twain." It's a new one.

Do you still writ to "Swannie?" She's over in Evansville, Ind., right now. She's in charge of a playground for kids over there and plays softball for what is supposed to be the Champion girls' softball team of Indiana.

Well I'm gonna hang up now. Give my love to mom.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph



Vol. III #9  
June 22, 1944

THE SCAFURO HOME FRONT  
Branch Office  
9949 Shore Road  
B'klyn (9) NY

Lt. A. Scafuro-C-1003620-Det. BID6 "B" Co, 5901 Civ. Aff. Regt ECAD, APO 688, NY  
V.E. Scafuro, SP. 2/c -A&R Unit #1, Ems B PO, USNIS, Newport, Rhode Island  
R.J. Scafuro, ACM 3/c, V&C #84, c/o Fleet PO, San Francisco  
Angelo Scafuro, S 2/c East Coast Base Unit, USN Supply Depot, Bayonne, NJ

Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vultaggio-32812899-541st GM Depot (Supply) APO #545 c/o PM San NY  
Cpl. I. Chas De Meo-32759999- 734th Army Band AAF, Lake Chas, La.  
Lt. and Mrs. D. Ciavarella- 2005 North 3rd St., Harrisburg, Pa.  
Pvt. Frank Scafuro-32891476- Co. C. 149th Inf. APO # 38, c/o PM, San Fran.  
Sgt. Dominic Magro-32604523- Station 12-1 C W-ATC- APO # 488, c/o PM, NY

\*\*\*\*\*

I just asked Fil if she had any bright ideas to start this bulletin. All I got was a yawn. Better get going before she collapses on the machine. (What does he expect from me, - I only had 5 hours sleep last night -- and we weren't out either! Mistake, I wasn't but Frank was.) He came back at one o'clock this morning, as the newly elected Vice President and Chairman of the Finance Committee of International House Alumni Association. More work! But idealism must prevail! Last Friday night Frank collected his first commercial graft. We went stepping with a couple of Whillean business men their wives and together with one of the officers from the bank and his wife. They took us to the Copacabana, swanky night club, or in other words a hold up clip joint. But we didn't have to foot the bill, so what? Fil and I certainly had an opportunity to practice our Spanish. I am practicing it everyday, will have to begin brushing up on it seriously soon.

Sat. afternoon we went to Allendale and in the evening attended our neice's graduation party, - that is Margaret's daughter, Nancy Biangardi. She's quite a grown up young lady. Our gift to her was a lovely gold filigree cross and chain. Vic and Rose arrived at the party about 8 PM. Among others present were Charlie's mother and the rest of his family. There is no use bragging to you about the garden. It is just wonderful. Everything is flourishing. That goes for the branch garden at Dahill Rd, too. You never saw such healthy and tasty stuff. Yes, we have had our first vegetables from the gardens- beet tops and Kohl rabi, and of course, lots of lettuce and onions, and radishes.

ALBERT: Josie telephoned last night and read me your letter of June 6th. Naturally we were thrilled to get it. It was quite touching. On his way from the post office Lindy showed it to Mr. Henry who insisted on calling up the Ridgewood News. Result: the letter and your picture appears under a headline. That's what Ange told me by telephone tonight. Tomorrow I expect to get a copy of the paper and if I do will enclose the article with this bulletin. If there is time I'll have a copy made and insert it for the other recipients of the bulletin. I didn't mean Farrell in the last bulletin. It seems that Henry T. Gorrell, United Press correspondent has been covering the Fourth Inf. Div. movements. I've been following him rather closely. If you are still with that outfit you sure must have gotten your share. But of course this is pure guess work on my part. Anyway we are all praying very hard for your health and safety. Our frequent communions and vigil lights continue for both you and Willie from whom we have had no word yet, that is since D-Day. If packages can go thru, ask for something.



June 22, 1944

-2-

**WILLIE:** Your letter of May 31st arrived Sat. June 17. 'Shore' were glad to see it! But we are anxiously watching the mails for some post D-day communication. We're investigating the possibility of exporting some cans of beer to you. Don't be too optimistic. We were over at Mom's Tues. night, and after dinner took her over to the Dragottas to say goodbye to Charlie. He left for the Navy last night. Pauline heard from Joey. He's in new Guinea. We almost wish you were out there instead right now. Frankie was supposed to write the other night but if he didn't blame it on the fact that he has been studying very hard for his Solid Geom. Regents which was today.

**Victor and Rose:** It was nice to have you home over the weekend and we trust you got back to Newport safely and on time. You probably didn't hear what Maryfil was saying to you from the back of our car from Allendale to Washington Bridge. "Don't bump my car, Uncle Victor." (Victor trailed us in his car. Maryfil stood up on the rear seat of our car and she and Vic and Rose had a good time making faces at each other.),

**Ralph:** The last letter we got from you was that of June 8th. We understand you have moved and we guess you are in Ream field near San Diego, Calif. Give me specific, exact, directions as to which Western Union office you want your carfare money sent in the event your furlough comes thru. I don't think you ought to ask for the money until you are certain the furlough is granted. It only takes an hour to get the money thru to you by telegraph, wire me in Bklyn until June 30, after that Allendale.

**Ange:** Has a bag inspection on Sat. so he was up in Allendale tonight to pick up his ~~sketch~~ clothes here and there.

**Charlie:** I guess by this time you're back on the bandwagon in Lake Chas. How were your Pullman accommodations? Did you get pulled apart much? Get the joke. That's one of your kind,--- mine, too.

**Jo and Dom:** I wish you two would make up your minds as to when you are coming to town. This suspense is terrible. Now we think we'll see you and now we don't. Here's an idea, Jo. Why don't you join the Wacs and stay at the camp with Dom? You would be in the right company. (P.S. also a joke!)

**Frank:** We keep saying you are in Honolulu - are you? Mail time from there is pretty good. But somehow your letters get lost (?)

**Dom Magro:** Your letter of June 6th reached us June 17. Glad to hear you are fine. See you have been having a lot of rain up there in China. Happy to hear that you like the clipping from the Tribune. Do you pass it around to the other boys?

Maryfil has caught the Scafuro baseball bug. The other night she took an orange out of the refrigerator and then wanted a broomstick to bat the orange around the apartment. That is what comes from her association with little Ralphie over the weekends. Tonight as her Daddy stepped inside from work she observed: "Daddy take your suit to the tailor; make it better. Send shirt to laundry". She was rite. My pants were baggy. My shirt was soiled. She's been attending the "Tiny Tot School" next door this week and will continue thru next week. This morning as we left her at the entrance to her "school" she remarked: "Daddy go to Bank, Mommie go to school; I go to school too." and with that she kissed us, said good and walked inside the school.

Well, another bulletin, another day ~~draws~~ draws to a close. Next we'll turn to the radio for the latest war news, then a bit more work- and to bed

Love, Frank, Fil & Maryfil - God Bless you all!



France  
23 June 1944

France  
23 June 1944

Hello Folks:

How y'all? I'm fine thank you. How do you like this captured German paper I'm writing on. The weather in France is much more palatable than that of England, even if the atmosphere may not always be.

I'm sitting here in my Civil Affairs Office hoping that no one interferes while I am writing these few lines. I had a pleasurable experience a little while ago. Of all people Dr. Ross from Allendale walked in. He's a Colonel now. Walked in by accident too. We had a nice get-together over some good cognac. I think he'll be around my vicinity for a while.

I guess you're waiting for me to tell you about some of my experiences. I have had many and after the war I hope to sit down with you all by the fireside and give you all the low down but not now. My mind isn't functioning very well lately. Pretty much of a blank too.

Well nothing much more that I can say for now. You have probably read all about my "palace" in the newspapers. You know I've been scratching like hell - I think I'm lousy. Love Ma - Lindy, Joe, Frank, Larry, Tony & all.

Albert

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Albert



France  
26 June 1944

France  
26 June 1944

Hello Joe:

After some pretty harrowing experiences I'm finally settling down to almost normal life. Although I must admit, that one is not permitted to forget that there is a war going on about you.

Right now I am living in a very comfortable home; it's our office too. Here we deal with all the tremendous problems which wars bring. This morning I had an old woman looking for her husband; another looking for her son. A father walks in looking for his dead son who is supposed to be in my town. I help him find him. And then there is the nun. A very sweet faced, kindly looking sister. She has a group of bright faced little orphans with her. They are homeless. Can I help them. I tease the sister a while, telling her I don't like Sisters; that they are all very mean at least they were to me in school. She uses every technique to convince me that she is very kind. In a few minutes I have her laughing and troubles are momentarily forgotten.

These events represent only a few of the numerous human interest events that take place daily. I have learned one thing so far. That is to despise war and all that goes with it. I hope that this time we shall learn a lesson and that war in the future shall be only a bad memory. My love to all and especially Mom. Pray for me always.

Albert

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Love,  
Albert



June 24, 1944

Page 13

The Talk of the Town

Notes and Comment

*That was me!!*

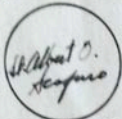
Our teams of Civil Affairs Administrators for Occupied Territory landed in France with the assault troops, carrying -- through the surf and up the bullet-swept beach -- typewriters, mimeograph machines, folding desk chairs, pencils, paper, and filing cabinets. In a news photograph we saw of a Civil Affairs team of thirty-nine officers and enlisted men, we counted twenty-one rifles and five typewriters, or approximately one rifle to every two men and one typewriter to every eight. We suspect that the term "typewriter commandos," used opprobriously for O.W.I. writers and others, will have to be discarded so far as these lads are concerned, since they seem as heroic as the sub-machine-gun commandos, and somewhat more heavily laden. It makes us feel somehow that the wheezy, battered old machine upon which we grope through these sentences has been dignified by this development, as though we owned an obscure and laughable mongrel dog who was suddenly discovered to be the half-brother of a champion.

THE SPACE PROVIDED. USE DARK INK OR DARK PENCIL. WRITE VERY PLAINLY. SMALL WRITING IS NOT SUITABLE.

No.

PRINT ADDRESS IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS

SENDER'S RETURN ADDRESS



CENSORS STAMP

FRANCIS X. SCAFURO  
9949 Shore Road  
Brooklyn, New York (9)

Lt. Albert O. SCAFURO  
(Grade or Rank and Name)  
(Army Serial Number) 61002620  
Det. B1D6, "B" Co.,  
6901 CIV. AFF. REGT., ECAD  
APO 1 658 4th POSTMASTER,  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Hello Frank:

Your news bulletin was certainly welcome today. I was getting slightly depressed because of the scarcity of letters from home. Today I received three. Even got one from Lindy. Josephine enclosed that article by Curley containing a letter which I "never intended" that he should publish. Oh yeah! It wasn't bad was it? Herald-Tribune Weekly Posts Home very good idea.

I'm happy to hear that you read that article about Civil Affairs in the news paper. I thought that you would probably run across it. I think it self-explanatory, needing no further elaboration from this source.

Maryfil must certainly be growing up. I guess she will be going to school by the time I get back. Pretty little girl too. Beyond me where the good looks came from. Of course it must be on the Scafuro side. We are a handsome lot, aren't "I". I hope Vic isn't just spoofing about that Commission. That would be great. I'm rooting for him. Carry on.

Cheerio  
Al

V...-MAIL

Uncertain date

V... - MAIL

Lt. Albert O. Scafuro

Det. B1D6, "B" Co.

6901 Civil. Aff. ,???? ECAD

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Cheerio

Al





The Seafuro Home Front  
Branch Office  
9949 Shore Road  
B'klyn (9) NY

June 27, 1944

Lt. Al. Seafuro- O-1003680- Det D & B 1, "B" Co, 6901 Regt. MCAB, APO 659, FM, NY  
V. E. Seafuro- Sp. S/c- 44th Unit 21, Box "B" PO, USNS, Newport, Rhode Is;  
R. J. Seafuro, ASN S/c V-8 #84, c/o Fleet P O, San Francisco  
Angelo Seafuro, S S/c East Coast Base Unit, U S N Supply Depot, Bayonne, NJ

## Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Valtaggio-3881250- 241st AM Depot (Supply) APO #545 c/o FM, NY  
Spl. I. Chas De Moo- 3478999-734th Army Band AAF, Lake Cham. Ls.  
Lt. & Mrs. B. Siarevalle- 2005 North 3rd St., Harrisburg, Pa.  
Pvt. Frank Seafuro-3869126- Co. C 149th Inf. APO # 38, c/o FM, NY  
Sgt. Dominic Magro-3860483- Station 18-1 C W- ATC, APO #489, c/o FM NY

## Special Notices:

Changes of address - Home Front News - Allendale, New Jersey beginning July 1,  
Look at Albert's new address

Stayed in the past weekend. Maryfil had a bit of cold. Had Mom V. and Frankie over for dinner. They brought their own chicken and vegetables from the garden. Believe me, they are some vegetables- e.g. lettuce 18 inches high, luscious and tender.

Fil is looking up the school on June 30 - gee won't the kids be glad. Fil is looking forward with great anticipation to spending the summer pulling up weeds (that's what he thinks!) but if certain things come out she might be at the shore a few weeks.

Frank still finds his new job interesting. For example: He had a two hour lunch period today in an old downtown tavern with the consul-general of Venezuela, a banker and an industrialist from the same country. Cocktails and a thick filet mignon, broiled on charcoal. I know this is mean but I'm paying for my sins I'm up to 194 lbs (the pig)- take note, Willie. I'm getting lots of invitations to go to South America but the bank has something to say about that.

Maryfil's latest accomplishment is training flies. The other day one of the "nasty" things (as Maryfil calls them) fluttered on the outside of the window pane, interfering with her vision. Maryfil exclaimed: "Go away, nasty fly, behave yourself!" The fly went away - to think it over.

Just phoned Allendale. Lindy, keeper of the house was the only one at home. Mom and Jo had gone to a housewarming party at Lawrence's new apartment, midway between Allendale and Ramsey on Franklin turnpike.

ALBERT: I got from Jo tonight your letters of May 31 and June 8 and on the phone tonight Lindy says another letter received dated June 11, still indicating somewhere in England. Hope it is so and thank God for that. That 4th Inf. Div. part of your address certainly had me guessing. Had you following Correll of United Press all over the Normandy peninsula. Enclosed you will find clipping from tonight's Telegram about 2 AMG officers who captured 65 Germans. Funny but one of the fellows is reported as former oil executive and both officers left New York sometime after Kmas



June 27, 1944

quite a coincidence, eh? You didn't by anychance get any part of those 55 Germans. Al, those last two letters of yours were literary masterpieces I hope you don't mind if I send copies with this bulletin. For the last time - will you please ask for a package, if it is possible for you to get one? There are 400 sticks of gum waiting here for an overseas trip. Haven't forgotten your Standard Oil connection, will try to get to it one of these days.

WILLIE: Mom received your letter of June 13 yesterday. Glad to hear you too are where you were. Fil took Mom over to Meringolce this afternoon to listen to Genie's account of your one day outing together. Good! No progress on those beer cans yet. That is #15 on the list of personal business items to be handled from my office. No, I haven't any new offers for jobs. Don't want any for a while. Let's see how this turns out. We'll let you know about that insurance matter. Glad to hear you got our Barbasmins. Were they in good condition?

VICTOR & Rose: Understand you phoned Sunday, but Lindy couldn't tell me anything about you, and I've received no news otherwise. In case you get those shirts make it 18¢ - 35¢. Let me know full cost including postage and insurance. Don't forget HCLC by return mail.

RAIFE: we're all terribly disappointed. We had looked forward so much to seeing you. I carried \$100. in my pocket for two weeks waiting for your telegram. Couldn't you hop into one of those planes coming East? Anyway keep trying. How is Mary Lou or is it Betty Igu? Do you know I haven't gotten a letter from you in almost a month?

Angie: Surprised you weren't in Allendale tonight when I called up. Don't let the Navy take up too much of your time. How about dropping me a word so I can drop it in this bulletin. The idea of this thing is to exchange news among all of you. If I get no news there is nothing to exchange.

Don and Jo: There you go playing hide and seek again, now you are coming now you are not. What is this? Jo had a tough time last week. Actually washed Don's laundry. Well, this war is doing some good after all. Say, you two, how about a furlough in Allendale for a while? You know, so you and Don take care of Maryfil while we take in a movie. (Isn't he bright?)

Charlie: I understand he has been writing to Josie but Lindy couldn't tell me what was in the letters. It seems Josie doesn't let him read them. Private stuff - Hot stuff. Oh boy!!!

Frankie and Don Negro: You fellers are certainly sleepakes. Come on, snap into it! Lay down your rifles, put your feet on a Jap's neck and write a note to us.

Sorry, fellers, if this issue skips the Tribune clipping. Will try to get it tomorrow, if possible. Instead of this clipping will probably enclose copy of Albert's letter of June 8 to offset this bulletin's flippancy tone. Don't let it fool you though. Underneath this apparent joviality. We feel the war with all its weight and constantly pray with all our might that you all return, speedily, safely sound in body and mind and spirit. Frequent communions continue to be offered by the family.

Goodnight, fellers,

Love from us all,  
Frank, Fil and Maryfil

June 29, 1944  
R. J. Scafuro  
General Leland Naval Repair Station,  
San Diego, Calif

Hi Jo,

I'm going to write this to you in a hurry while I have time. I have the time because I realize it's been almost a week since I last wrote to you, or anyone. But I have been receiving your letters and I also got Frank's and Lindy's. The picture of mom looked swell.

As you can see by my address, I'm not with squadron VC84 any longer. My pilot and I and seven other gunners are going to another squadron. Only this squadron isn't in the U.S... It's in Pearl Harbor. I'm telling you this while I have the chance just in case you don't hear from me for a stretch at a time. Four of the gunners are from N.J... We may start for Pearl H. tomorrow or it may; take a week. I don't know, but do know it will be soon.

The only reason I'm telling you this is because there is nothing to worry about. Pearl H is just like another training base in the U.S. and I'll probably be on that island a long time before we go aboard our carrier. Tell Frank I said that I think I am getting a better deal this way because if I would have stood with my squadron I would have been on one of those very small carriers. But now I'm going to be on a large carrier and with pilots that have had plenty of action and had experience. Anyway my old squadron is due to go out in a month or so.

We're not doing a damn thing here except waiting to hear our names over the loud speaker which means to start packing. While waiting we're getting everything ready.

Well Jo the only thing I'm sorry about is that I couldn't get home before going out. But I think I've been pretty lucky in spending over a year and a half in this country. I'll write you more before I leave and I'll have more to say then. I'll also try hard to phone before leaving.

Give my love to mom and tell her I'm feeling fine.

P.S. Don't write to this address. I won't have it long. But in case you want to send me a telegram, it's OK.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph

San Diego  
June 30

Hi Jo,

How is everyone? Fine as I am I hope. As you can see, I am still here in San Diego. Jo, I can't tell you when I'm leaving because I don't know myself. It could easily be tomorrow as it could be two weeks from now. Even as I am writing you this letter I have to sit somewhere where I can hear the loudspeaker - just in case they call our name.

As long as Lindy won't be sending me the sports page for a little while, tell him I said that he better start writing an account of the baseball games and then sent it to me later.

Have you hear from Mary Lou lately? I hope so.

Well I can't think of anything else to write. Until tomorrow give my love to mom

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph



San Diego  
Sun. July 2

Dear Frank,

Sorry I didn't write sooner. I guess by now Jo has told you that I am waiting to go across. They asked for seven gunners from our squadron. Four of us are from N. Jersey. However my pilot is still with me.

We're going to Pearl Harbor to be attached to another squadron. I'm not sure but I think we're supposed to be there by the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It only takes four or five days to get there. I think we'll be getting a better deal this way because the squadron that we're going to will have plenty of experience. Also another thing, we might be getting a large aircraft carrier instead of a small one. However, I think we'll be at P.H. a long time before we go to meet the enemy.

I told Jo not to write to me while I was here because I didn't know for sure how long I would be here. Well you can tell her to write if she wants to because the letter will catch up to me anyway if I don't get them here.

You might be glad to know that I just got back from Mass and Communion. I was surprised to see so many Catholics at Mass. I offered it up to pop because I didn't have a chance to on Father's Day.

This is a receiving and repair base. All the fellows who just get back or are heading for sea duty stop off here. VCF4 is about ready to go out so this transfer will not make much difference. I think I'm going to like it more.

Mary Fill must be getting to be quite a character. Every time you mention some of the things she does I can just picture her. Tell her that Uncle Ralph sends his love.

Sorry I had to put you through all that trouble about getting the money ready to send to me for my leave. I was ready a couple times to come home. That's all for now. Say Hello to Fil.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph

San Diego, Calif  
4<sup>th</sup> of July  
Bang! Bang!

Dear Jo,

Well here is another fourth of July. It's 10 minutes past 10AM here so it must be 10 minutes past two pm there and all the ball games going on. I hope you all have a good time.

I'm still here in Diego waiting. I'm sorry but I can't think of anything to write. So I think I'll close now and get a little sleep before chow. Give my love to mom. Hope everything is OK.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph

July 6, 1944

Allendale, N.J.

Lt. A.C. Scafuro-0-1003620- Det D & E 1, "B" Co, 4901 Regt, SCAD, APO 688, NY  
 V.R. Scafuro, Sp. S/c- A-A R Unit #1, Bks B P.O., USMTC, Newport, RI  
 P.J. Scafuro- ADM S/c, U.S. Naval Repair Base, General Detail, San Diego, Cal.  
 Angelo Scafuro, S S/c East Coast Base Unit, USN Supply Depot, Bayonne, NJ

## Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vultaggio- 38913599- 541st QM Depot (Supply) APO 9645, c/o FM, NY  
 Cpl. T. Chas DeLee, 38759999- 734th Army Band AAF, Lake Charles, La.  
 Lt. Mrs. D. Giaravalla- 1678 Behill Rd, Bklyn, NY  
 Pvt. Frank Scafuro-38691476- Co. C. 149th Inf. APO 338, P M, San Fran  
 Sgt. Dominic Nagro- 32604823- Station 12-1 C S - APO, APO 488, c/o P M, NY

## Special notices:

Changes of address for Ralph, Giaravalla, and us.

of : The preceding two letters, composed by Maryfil, at the request of Frankie in Honolulu. We caught her just in time. )

We moved to summer headquarters last Sunday morning after spending part of the weekend with Ken Vultaggio, that is until 5 P M Sat. when Fil and I struck out for the great white way to celebrate our 7th wedding anniversary. Saw newsreel, and then show "Garden of Eden", dinner at "Business" then for Behill Rd where we arrived at 8 A M for some shut eye but between milk wagons and that old silver line, old Morpheus could not come near us. After giving the Behill "farm" a final check we boarded our loaded "van" for Allendale.

Yesterday was a very quiet 4th here. The only traditional excitement was provided by Lindy capturing first prize for 100 yd. dash, 1st prize for 200 yd. dash and 2nd place in standing broad jump. This all proves Lindy's ankle is O.K. For some of you copy of program is enclosed. Pause: Bob is just feeding Lindy - it's 10 P M and he just got back from baseball practice.

Ken canned 10 qts of beans today. Are we glad! We've been eating string beans until they are almost coming out of our ears. That goes for all other things in the garden - growing abundantly.

Special news bulletin : Synopsis "Bill of Rights" signed by President 5/22/44. (1) Provides 52 weeks unemployment compensation at \$20.00 weekly. (2) Guarantees loans up to \$2000.00 for veterans to establish homes or business. (3) Authorizes allowance \$2,000.00 for 4 years (total) educational purposes plus monthly subsistence of \$50.00 - for single or \$75.00 for married veterans. Better start making your plans now, boys.

ALBERT: Your mail is coming thru in fine shape. Received those dated 6/1, 14, 16, 18, 23, 26. Don't suppose the censors can stop us from guessing but it seems you went over to France between June 11 and 14, just about the time the 9th Div. cut across Normandy and swung northward to Cherbourg. Some guessing, eh? By the 16th of June Al says he had seen "everything" By the 19th he tells us he had lost his appetite, probably from drinking the wine and brandy he mentions on June 14. By June 23 Al is pretty chipper. He writes on 4 captured German paper and says weather in France is fine while writing that letter Al received a visitor- Colonel (Dr) Ross from Allendale. Quite a thrill, we bet. June 26 finds Al in his stride, doing

Frank, Fil and Maryfil



July 5, 1944

the work he was trained to do, helping the liberated Frenchmen with their problems and kidding a poor nun who came to him for assistance in taking care of a group of orphans. Keep up your good work, Al. Thank God our prayers have been answered so far.

WILLIE: We haven't received anything from you this week altho we understand you received 2, one of which was dated 6/18. Willie, it seems if you want beer you will have to ask for a transfer to the Pacific war theatre. Spoke to Continental Gen Co today and was informed all beer in cans is shipped to soldiers in Pacific where it is issued as part of their rations because water supply is bad. I understand they'll get around to European theatre soon when you'll be able to buy it thru post ex. Sorry old boy, can't buy any to send to you.

ATTENTION EVERYBODY, THIS APPLIES TO ALL OF YOU:

Willie asked whether it was advisable to switch from his present "5-yr level premium term insurance" to straight ordinary life insurance. It is definitely advisable to make the change as soon as you can afford it. The insurance all of you now carry in the army is good only for 5 years and at the end of that time will have no cash value. The Army can give you: 5 yr level term insurance, ordinary life insurance, 50 payment life and 30 payment life insurance. The expense of the insurance increases with the types in the order in which I have listed them. Generally speaking "ordinary life" is cheapest and best in long run. To illustrate relative cost at age 28: 5 year level term for next 3 yrs would cost you \$124.00 for \$5,000.00 whereas ordinary life would cost \$ 248.00 but while the first, that is 5 yr term, would be worth nothing in cash at the end of 3 yrs, ordinary life would be worth \$80. Sorry can't cover this in greater detail here. Main thing to remember is that rates get higher if you wait until later, and if you switch now you will be paying about twice as much as you are now paying but you will be accumulating a cash reserve. If you are not carrying any other insurance but Army insurance - now is the time to make your change to ordinary life insur.

Ralph: It was quite a shock to hear that you have been alerted for possible transfer to Pearl Harbor. If at all possible telephone before you leave. Reverse the charges if you have no money. If you don't get a chance to call from Cal. and it looks as tho you may move from Pearl Harbor after you get there, put in a call from there. Here's an idea try to find Frankie while you are there and maybe we can get his father together with us and y u can share the call. Think before you call, try to prepare what you want to say and watch your time. Good Luck to you.

Frankie: Glad to get your letter of June 18 and to learn that Jo and Maggie was playing out your way. Wait until Ralph gets there.

Don Magro: Got your letter from somewhere in China dated June 21. Nice to hear you are O.K. I am passing your regards along to the rest of the boys.

Charlie: All we know is that Jessie picks up a couple of envelopes from you each day and she sends you a couple each day but you can't tell much from the envelopes. There aren't even any xx's on them. At least I don't think so.

Victor, Rose, Jo and Don: No tickes, no shirtee. He who sends, gets news. Velly funny. Vic, don't forget Ralph.

au revoir, Love from us all,

Frank, Al and Maryfil



<http://culturevisuelle.org/dejavu/files/2013/11/04-Life-August-7-1944-page-27.jpg>

1944-07-12 Scafuro vividly remembers the death of 4<sup>th</sup> Division Brig. Gen. Quentin Roosevelt (Ed: correction - Theodore Roosevelt III) and the general's burial in Sainte-Mère-Église. **May 27, 1979, "Scafuro plans invasion to recapture memories" by Grace Archer**

In Sainte-Mère-Église, Normandy, France, Albert became friends with Mayor Alexandre Renaud and Madame Renaud, with whom he corresponded through the years. Mme. Renaud is shown in a photograph taking care of Brig Gen Theodore Roosevelt Jr.'s grave (\*Theodore "Ted" Roosevelt III (generally known as Theodore, Jr.) (September 13, 1887 – July 12, 1944), was an American political and business leader, a veteran of both the world wars, who was awarded the Medal of Honor. He was the eldest son of President Theodore Roosevelt and Edith Roosevelt. One month after the landing at Utah Beach, he died of a heart attack in France. He is buried at the American cemetery in Normandy, next to his brother, Quentin, a WW I air corps pilot shot down and killed behind enemy lines July 14, 1918. After the war, he and his brother Quentin, a Lt who died in the First World War, were buried side by side at the US Military Cemetery, Colville-sur-Mer, Omaha Beach, Normandy, France.

Among the happier memories of Ste. Mère-Église is the sight of Madame Renaud preparing his first Crepes Suzette on a small, iron, wood-burning stove in her kitchen, at the rear of the Renaud pharmacy.

<http://www.usaaftroupcarrier.com/Normandy--fromITV/TheRenauds.htm>

1945: Alexandre Renaud, with wife Simone, are visited by troopers of the 508th PIR on the first anniversary of the liberation of Ste.-Mère-Église. In the background is the Renaud's pharmacy, now operated by son, Henri-Jean.



Brig. General Theodore Roosevelt's grave in France's "defiant" by Mrs. Renaud, the wife of the mayor of Ste. Mère-Église. She keeps it decked with flowers. When the General died, he was acting assistant commander of the Fourth Division. In World War I he was general staff, wounded, twice, decorated 13 times. In World War II he fought in France, Italy, Italy, France. On D-Day he was the first American general to land in Normandy. On the night of Roosevelt's death General Eisenhower was preparing to give him the highest military honor he had ever received—command of a division. At the same time he was to have been promoted to major general. He has now surrounded by 4,000 other American dead.





## Adoption Of American Military Graves In Europe Common Practice



<http://www.motherofnormandy.com/>

The idea of caring for American graves began not long after the Normandy Invasion of June 6, 1944. One of the first French citizens to tend the grave of a fallen American soldier was Simone Renaud, of St. Mere Eglise, France. This photo, taken by Life Magazine photographer Ralph Morse, shows Mme. Renaud placing flowers on the grave of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. at the American military cemetery in Normandy.

By ALEX McRAE alex@newnan.com When Netherlands resident Marco Weijers adopted the grave of Newnan's Albert Partridge, he became one of 8,301 local residents who adopted the grave of an American soldier at the American Military Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands. According to Newnan resident and World War II veteran Gene Cook, adoption of American military graves is now a fairly common practice at the American military cemeteries scattered across the European continent. Cook says the idea of caring for American graves began not long after the Normandy Invasion of June 6, 1944. One of the first French citizens to tend the grave of a fallen American soldier was Simone Renaud, whose husband was mayor of St. Mere Eglise, France, which was the first town liberated by Allied forces when American paratroopers landed there before dawn on June 6, 1944, and suffered heavy losses before claiming victory. Mme. Renaud became famous when Life Magazine photographer Ralph Morse photographed her at the newly-opened military cemetery in Normandy placing flowers on the grave of Theodore Roosevelt Jr. just weeks after the Normandy invasion. After the article appeared in Life, Mme. Renaud was swamped with requests from American families asking her to tend the graves of their lost loved ones. She did all she could personally and organized countless others to follow her lead. That tradition endures today. Cook says because of Mme. Renaud's efforts in tending the graves of fallen Americans, she became known as the Mother of Normandie, which is home to the largest and most heavily-visited American military cemetery in Europe. Mme.

Renaud's son, Henri-Jean is Cook's best friend in Normandie and the two correspond regularly, Cook said. A documentary film was released last year about Mme. Renaud and her lifelong mission to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice to liberate Europe from German oppression.

The Mother of Normandy film has been completed.  
The U.S. Premiere of the film was at the GI Film Festival in Washington DC in May of 2010.

The European Premiere for the film was held in the town of Sainte Mere Eglise in Normandy France on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2010.

OFFICIAL SELECTION  
GI FILM FESTIVAL  
2010  
GifilmFestival.com

For the moment the film will be making the rounds on the Film Festival Circuit and then on to cable TV.  
DVDs and books are NOW available. Click the "Buy Now" button to purchase them. Please check back for updates.

<http://www.times-herald.com/local/Adoption-of-American-military-graves-in-Europe-common-practice-2031722>

Tuesday nite,  
July 25

Dear Jo,

The mail is finally beginning to arrive. I received four letters from you, three from Frank, and Lindy's Sports page. It sure was good to read all those letters. By the way how long does it take to receive a letter from me? For your information, I haven't received the newspaper yet. You better tell them my address has changed. Maybe you better not, because it will be changed again in about a month.

Frank included a coupla letters he got from Al. Glad to see he's OK. I had forgotten all about Frankie being in Honolulu. I already told you that Brad Donohue and Ed Unser have left here.

Before I forget, here is Mary Lou's add.  
"2208N. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Evansville, 10, IND."

I think that's a good idea about learning to drive. I wouldn't give up until I got my license if I were you.

I might be sending home some money in the next few days. I'd like to start a bank account. Can you do that for me? Maybe I'd better tell Frank to do it.

Well tell mom I'm feeling fine and that I pray for the whole family every nite. Give her all my love. Glad to hear that she's taking everything like a wonderful mom.

Have to write to Frank and Swannie now.

Love to all  
Bro Ralph  
R.J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN

Thursday,  
July 27

Dear Jo,

I wrote a letter to Al last nite. That's why I skipped you.

I'm going to see what should be a very god game Sunday afternoon. The Navy is playing the Army and they're both tied for the league lead. There ought to be at least 35,000 people jammed into the stadium.

Enclosed I am sending the first of my money orders for \$85. I'm hoping that you will put this in the bank for me and continue to do so with the rest I send home. I'll probably need it later. Please let me know as soon as you receive it. Say hello to all. Give my love to mom.

Love,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN



26 July 1944

Dear Folks:

So dark I can hardly see. Mail hasn't been good lately. I must have loads of it held up some damn place.

Haven't time to write about much. Still waiting for my promotion. Yes and the "Chump" may get a decoration on these days too! Keep your fingers crossed!

Say, sometime when you all have a nice big dinner, Sunday dinner, under the Arbor invite my gal - Marie over with her Mom & Pop. Set a chair for me too will you. I want you all to meet her. Just a crazy thought, only I intend to marry the girl. At least that's the way I feel now. So dark I can't see what the hell I'm writing and perhaps I sound like it too. All my love to my Mom and all of you.

Sincerely  
Al



A dinner in 1937 "under the arbor".

From left: Josie, "Mom", Maggie  
In front: Filippa Glass raised: Grandpa "Raphael:" Scafuro

now. I sound like it too. All my love to my mom and all of you.  
Sincerely  
AL



30 July 1944

Dear Joe:

I got a letter from you yesterday. It was good to hear from you. First letter in quite a long time. So now you're engaged. Well hurry up and get married will you? All kidding aside - my very best wishes and a big kiss little sister. Sorry I couldn't be there to enjoy everything. Glad Mom is taking everything so well. She's great. Give her my love. I'm in a terrific mood. Don't feel like writing or anything. Love to all.

Sincerely  
Albert

Home Address:  
ALLEDALE, N.J.

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY.

France  
7 August 44

Dear folks:

I haven't been able to write for the past few days. I don't know when I shall be able to mail this one, but I may just as well have it written. It's difficult to stay in ~~one~~ one place any length of time at the rate our forces are advancing.

So far I've been fortunate enough to see a good deal of France; at least I've been in practically every important place we have "liberated". I'd like to come back and visit some of these places in peace time - maybe on my honeymoon!

The "big berthas" are making a helluva racket and it's difficult to concentrate on letter writing. I'll stop. Love to all and may you all be well.

Love  
Al

30 July 1944

Dear Joe:

I got a letter from you yesterday. It was good to hear from you. First letter in quite a long time. So now you're engaged. Well hurry up and get married will you? All kidding aside - my very best wishes and a big kiss little sister. Sorry couldn't be there to enjoy everything.

Glad Mom is taking everything so well. She's great. Give her my love. I'm in a terrific mood. Don't feel like writing or anything. Love to all.

Sincerely  
Albert

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

Home Address  
ALLEDALE, N.J.  
France  
7 August 1944

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Love  
Al



"Big Bertha" - Dicke Bertha - literal translation "Fat or heavy Bertha" — a type of super-heavy howitzer developed by the armaments manufacturer Krupp in Germany on the eve of WWI. The name subsequently came to be applied generically by the Allies to any very large German gun.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big\\_Bertha\\_\(howitzer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Bertha_(howitzer))



Monday nite,  
July 31

Hi Jo,

In case you have been wondering, I've been receiving all of your letters. I was certainly surprised Sat. Morning when I received a letter from you addressed to this squadron. I never expected on so soon. I thought it would take at least another week. Your letter took only three or four days to get here. I hope you are receiving mine as quick as that.

I received a honey of a baseball hat from a player I know on the N.Y. Giants team.

Glad to hear that mom and you are going out a little.

I went to early mass and communion yesterday and then saw a ball game. Guess who I met at mass? Ray Casey from Waldwick.

I wrote Al a letter yesterday. Got another letter from you today. I'm allowed to write all I want to now.

Give my love to mom and all.

Love,

Bro Ralph

R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN

Tuesday nite  
Aug. 1, 1944

Hi Jo,

Received another letter from you this afternoon. Glad to see that mom and you are both going out. Keep it up for my morale.

If Frank is still there, tell him the reason I haven't been writing him is because there isn't any news that I can write him. Give Fil, MaryFil and Frank my regards though. I almost got into some serious trouble for writing something I shouldn't have in a letter. But it's O.K. now.

Have you received the \$45 I sent you? Let me know. I may also send home some clothes in a coupla days. I'll send some winter underwear, my pea coat, blues, etc. You can wear the underwear. (Ha-Ha)

Glad you're hearing from Al. Give my love to mom

Love to all,

Bro Ralph

R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN

Thursday  
Aug 3

Hi Jo,

Received another letter from you today. In answer to your question, I don't need anything so thanks. There's nothing you can send, except some newspapers. There's one other thing you can send me. How about a nice blonde?

Well another week is practically gone which means we're that much closer to victory. The time moves by pretty fast here and before you know I might be home some day.

Wish I could write more but there isn't very much more I can say. Give my love to mom.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN

Wednesday nite  
Aug 9, 1944

Dear Jo,

It is getting dark out right now so I'm going to hurry this letter to you.

Things happened fast since I last wrote you. For one thing I am aboard a ship now and that's where I'm writing you from. And I'm no longer with Torpedo Squadron 100 as of last nite. Instead I'm with Composite Squadron 76 now and there isn't very much difference.

The only other guy that was transferred with me is my radio-gunner. So everything is still okay.

I'll write to you again tomorrow so good nite for now. Give my love to mom. Tell Frank I said I'm sorry he has to change the address every week but I can't help it. I think this one here will stick with me for quite awhile. This squadron is about the same as the one I was in before - VC84.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN



LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY.

Home Address:  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

9 August 1944

Dear folks:

Still taking a sort of "little vacation" and everything goes well. I'm getting a nice rest and very thankful for it; I needed one. I'm expecting to receive some of those newspapers you once mentioned in one of your letters. As yet I have received nothing.

It's very hot today and frankly I feel awfully lazy. If I can dig up enough energy I'll wriggle out from under this shady tree and go to sleep in the sun. Maybe I can have a tan by the time I get home! I've already mustered out a pretty healthy looking mustache! I haven't seen Doc Ross in quite sometime now. We just

sort of got ourselves a little separated. How is Lawrence doing? Gee Barbara Anne must really be a little chatter-box by now. She really has to go some though to match her mother!

Can't make any more loose talk so I will just quit here. Tell Mom I could really sit down to one of her meals now. I think I could eat just bowls and bowls of good Italian Salad. Boy, oh boy how you miss those little things. Give Mom my love and let's hear some real news.

Love  
Al

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

France  
9 August 1944

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Can't make any more loose talk so I will just quit here. Tell Mom I could really sit down to one of her meals now. I think I could eat just bowls and bowls of good Italian Salad. Boy, oh boy how you miss those little things. Give Mom my love and let's here some real news.

Love  
Al

{Ed: Uncle Al was a master salad maker. One of the techniques he taught us was to rub a wooden bowl with the cut side of a clove of garlic to give just a hint of flavor to the salad.}

Friday morning  
Aug 11, 1944

Dear Jo

Haven't heard from you in a couple of days, but I expected that. I guess I won't receive any mail for about a week.

I hope you haven't told the newspapers to change my address yet. Because if you have you'll have to tell them to change it again to Composite Squadron 76.

I haven't yet met the other aircrewmen in this squadron but I hope to soon. But from what I hear, the pilots of this squadron and their aircrewmen are all pretty good fellas.

I'll bet you couldn't ever guess what I'm doing while I'm writing to you. I'm smoking a cigar of all things! Oh, I don't smoke them often – only in between cigarettes sometimes. Right now it's getting in my way and I can't see where I'm writing.

By the way, Mary Lou's address right now is "1362 Mississippi Blvd., Memphis, 6, Tenn.

Well how is everyone at home? Heard from Al lately? Sister Al. wrote to me. Just before I left the last squadron so I'll try to answer her letter. Hope mom is feeling fine. Tell her not to worry about me. We even have a chapel and chaplain aboard

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN

Sunday evening  
Aug 12, 1944

Dear Jo,

Just a short letter to let you know that I am well as I hope everyone at home is also.

Today is Sunday (but I lost track of the date) and I attended mass in our new little chapel aboard ship. I also went to communion. And That is one thing That I want mom and you to understand. Just in case something should ever happen, always remember that I'm keeping my peace with God and that [my] soul is clear. Church services are held every day aboard ship.

I slept out on the fan tail (aft end of ship) last nite. It was nice and cool with the moon and stars overhead and nothing but ocean surrounding.

I think [of] you all often. Remember that in case you don't hear from me for some time, not to worry. I'm going to write as often as I can. Give my love to mom and tell her I'm fine.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN



Aug. 12, 1944

Lt. A. Scafuro-0-10036-U- Det. D 581-"B" Co, 1st Regt, ECAD, APO #658, FM, NY  
 V.E. Scafuro-SP. E/c-AMC Unit #1, Box U, P.O., COATS, Newport, RI  
 R.J. Scafuro- AME E/c- USN Torpedo Squadron 100, c/o P.F.S., San Fran. Cal.  
 Angelo Scafuro- E/c- East Coast Base Unit, USN Supply Depot, Bayonne, NJ

## Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vultaggio-32812598- 541st GM Depot(Supply) APO #545, FM, NY  
 Cpl. I. Chas. Demeo- 32759998- 734th Army Band AAF- Lake Ches, LA.  
 Pvt. Frank Scafuro- 32691478- Co. C- 148th Inf. APO # 38, FM, San Fran. Cal.  
 Pvt. Dominic Negro- 32624523- Station 18-1 C B- APO, APO # 498, FM, NY

\*\*\*\*\*

It is 10 PM and just about cool enough to settle down to get off this much delayed #3 of Vol. IV. The weather here has been scorching for about 40 days. Rain has been very scarce. Our Victory garden seems defeated in spite of the bottle feedings of water. Tonight I had to fix at least 10 breaks in the hose.

This week was vacation week for the Scafuro Boys Reserve group- Frank, Tony and Lawrence. (Lindy worked). Lawrence went to a some lake in Penn for 3 days; Tony went to Ft. Pleasant, NJ for 2 days and then went crabbing a few times. Twice he brought us about a bushel of soft shell crabs. As usual I went nowhere. Stayed here to try to patch up months of accumulated little jobs and thus give the place a little life. It looks as though its my last year at this job. Mom and Jo have been hounding me for the past year with complaints that they wouldn't stay here another winter. For years Mom has kept a "For Sale" sign tacked up in front of the house. So I decided to end it once for all by making a concerted drive to sell the place this month. There are practically no houses left for sale - and none <sup>to</sup> rent in All. Prices are at the peak. *we* are asking \$8,000. for Mom's house and \$5000. for Vic's. Le Clair from Ridgewood is advertising the property in the Metropolitan newspapers and he has 23 days within which to sell. But to make the place look more attractive and bring the best price we are having the roof and plaster repaired. and now comes the pay off! After busting my brains out trying to push things I'm confronted with two dilemmas. First we can't find a place for Mom to rent. Second- after seeing people come around and showing a desire to buy Mom suddenly shows sign of not wanting to part with the place. So there you are! I'm going nuts! And my vacation is gone enjoying only interviews with real estate brokers, repair men and prospective buyers. The solution would be to rent the place. Mom could rent her home for \$70.00 (if we spend at least \$500.00 for repairs) but where will Mom rent another? Enough of this. It will be pleasant to get back to the office Monday.

Mom has been doing some canning. She has about 35 qts of beans and 20 of tomatoes, so far. Her spring chickens are beginning to displace red ration stamps for beef and eggs from the old hens are plentiful. She'd go wacky in an apartment. This is her life. I hope we don't sell for her sake.

Jo didn't go to work yesterday because we were planning to go to the zoo at Bronx Park with Lawrence and his family but Maryfil played us a dirty trick. When we were about to leave, at 1 pm she looked a bit sheepish. Fil took her temperature. It was a hot 104°. Dr. Canning rushed over and said it was the flu. Last night her fever went up to 105.8 and we were a bit nervous because of infantile Paralysis being around. However the unpredictable brat was back to normal today but we confined her to her bed anyway. She was quite frisky at the dinner table tonight. When Lindy tried to argue with Fil in favor of some labor strike, Maryfil chimed in with a clear "Lindy, you're a pain in the neck." That ended the argument.



IV # 3

Aug. 18, 1944

BT: You've had us a bit worried the last few days. No letters since yours of July 26 which reached us 8/1. However we keep in touch with Marie in West, and she phoned us 2 days ago to say she had a letter dated 8/3 indicating you're moving. We expected that. This morning we got an envelope postmarked 8/3 & containing only your money order of 8/3. You had you didn't have an opportunity to put in all the notes. Anyway we trust and believe you're OK. I'm making another payment to the Univ. Will send you a statement with the next bulletin. How abt that decoration you mentioned on 7/25? He is said you expected your raise to lat it, in about 2 wks i.e. by now. Hope you get it. We will try to arrange to have Mariess and her folks over for dinner one of these days. I hinted it to her the other day on the phone and she seemed to like the idea. Are you sure it won't be too compromising?

RALPH: Keep up your fine correspondence. Got 5 letters here before me dated 7/25 to 8/3. Congratulations on your opening that savings acct. I thought it best to put it in Jessie's name in trust for you because she's home here all the time and it's the easiest way to make deposits. We wise accounting and life will be easier when you get back. Your letters take 5 or 6 days to reach us. Will get after the newspaper and see that you get your copy. Went back for Frankie anymore. He's in New Guinea. Boy you certainly are getting your share of big league ball games. What are you going to do with that hat you got from the Giant player. Nice to hear you also met Ray Casey from Waldwick. Let's hope you'll always be among friends. Why, even the Pros and Bearhug visits you. Is that what the censor objected to your telling us? We're waiting for that package of clothes-- Jessie especially is anxious to wear your winter underwear/ sorry we can't comply with your request for a blonde-- they weigh over five lbs.

WILLIE: The last letter we have from you is 7/25. It was interesting to hear that you have been able to meet Frankie and phone Gene. Even tho we did not get your version of Al's D Day letter we have come to the conclusion that you're probably trying to catch up to him by now. We hope and pray eachday that all is well with all of you.

Vic & Rose: After reading Rose's letter of July 27 to Jessie I don't feel so bad abt waiting 11 days to write this bulletin. Rose is so busy she began a letter on a Sun and ended it on the foll. Thurs. We're glad you've both been well and it tickles me to hear that Vic must go to ball games as part of his job. Maybe he won't be so crazy abt the dis' god after a while.

Frankie is now somewhere in New Guinea. Frankie keep your eyes open for a John Donahue. He left Honolulu about the same time you did. He's from Saddle River. You'll probably know him. It was good to hear you had a pleasant trip and that you are going to mess so frequently. Write as often as you can.

Angie is still at his secret coastal job. Comes home quite frequently but he is no more of a shiner. He seems to have put on quite a few pounds and his looks improve with each day. Boy what a fellow! Ralphie - you'd better warn your girl friends out this way- Angie is quite a wolf.

Don Negro- We haven't heard from you for the past 2 weeks but we assume that all is well on the China front.

I've been writing this long hand for the past 3 hours while Mom, Jo, Lindy, Maryfil and Fil sleep. It's almost midnight and time to retire. I was awake all night last night holding an ice bag on Maryfil's forehead. So you see it was quite an effort to sit here and write this thing with only the Katydid chirping encouragement from outside. Poor Fil- she'll have to copy this tomorrow (and it has taken me almost two hours to type with all the stops in between.)

Good Luck and God Bless and save you all.

Love- Frank, Fil, Maryfil, Mom, Lindy, Jo



LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

14 August 44

Dear folks:

Yesterday was really a red letter day for me. Really hit the jack-pot. I received about 3 letters from Joe (M. J.), 2 of Frank's bulletins, 1 from Ange, 1 from Ralph, 3 from Marie, 2 from Janine, and a couple of other miscellaneous ones including Alumni bulletin! Quite a haul ??? what? Really I almost went hysterical with joy, I just spread them on the ground, danced around them and exulted in crazy laughter. ??? of my friends thought I was acting abnormally ??? all. That's the way we all are!

I don't have the time to convey thanks, or write letters to all of you individually, and since Frank and family are still in Allendale presumably this letter will I am sure suffice. In answer to your questions as I remember them (I destroy your letters after reading) I am feeling fine - in tip top shape etc. My "appetite" has been very good. I'm getting to be a real veteran!. In answer to your curiosity Frank your first guess is more nearly correct and is so. I'm very satisfied the way you are handling my account and payments and wish you to continue in the best way you see fit. However - don't leave me penniless.

As for Marie, I feel that I am quite serious about her, although Janine is by no means out of the picture. I'm just keeping two in the fire. I'll let the future take its course. No use getting bothered too much at present. If I meet someone else in the meantime - I can always "reconsider". This is a "shrewd" game!

At present I am gallivanting around Brittany. Much nicer - more scenic etc. than Normandy. Anything in the papers about me yet? I mean the big papers. I did have an interview with those 6 correspondents. All for today folks - see you later. Boy wish I could - Love to Mom & all.

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LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

France  
12 August 1944

Dear folks:

Yesterday was really a red letter day for me. Really hit the jack-pot. I received about 3 letters from Joe ????? 2 of Frank's bulletins, 1 from Ange, 1 from Ralph, 3 from Marie, 2 from Janine, and a couple of other miscellaneous ones including Alumni bulletin! Quite a haul ??? what? Really I almost went hysterical with joy. I just spread them on the ground, danced around them and exulted in crazy laughter. ????? of my friends thought I was acting abnormally ????? all. That's the way we all are!

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Al



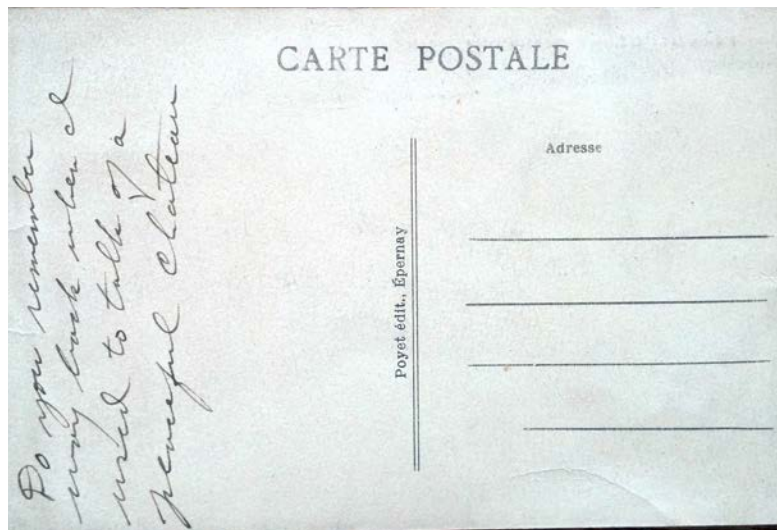
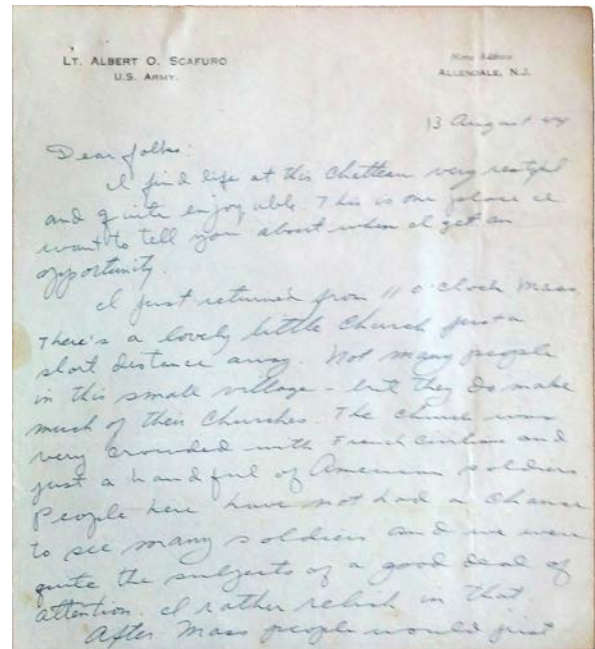
Albert may have gone to this chateau near Epernay.

*"Do you remember way back when I used to talk of a peaceful chateau.*

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

Home Address  
ALLEDALE, N.J.

France  
13 August 1944



Dear folks:

*I find life at this Chateau very restful and quite enjoyable. This is one palace I want to tell you about when I get an opportunity.*

*I just returned from 11 o'clock Mass. There's a lovely little church just a short distance away. Not many people in this small village - but they do make much of their churches. The church was very crowded with French civilians and just a handful of American soldiers. People here have not had a chance to see many soldiers and we were quite the subjects of a good deal of attention. I rather relish in that.*

*After Mass people would just crowd around and stare. Then the handshaking began. The French are undoubtedly the greatest handshakers in the world. Everybody wants to shake hands with you. Last night I was invited to a woman's home for dinner. Very nice little French widow. I really enjoyed myself. I had chicken, French fires, salad, wine, cider, Calvados, Cognac, and coffee. I got a little "tight" I guess, because I sure felt better than I ever felt before - that is since coming to France. The "kid" knows how to take care of himself - so don't worry. Yesterday some Frenchmen told me 2 "Hermies" had just gone down the road on bikes dressed as civilians. Here was my chance thought I but lo and behold after overtaking them and with my machine gun cocked and ready - they turned out to be innocent Frenchmen with German Bikes. Ho hum*

Love - Al



August 16, 1944  
Wednesday

Dear Frank and Fil and MaryFil,

It's been a long time since I've dropped you a line and feel as though I owe you an apology in one manner and then again haven't forgotten you unless Jo didn't mention anything to you in my past letters to her regarding the Home Front News and your family.

However this morning your letter arrived with Vol IV #3 News and see where you left me out in the cold with not even a question mark, so this prompts me all the more if you'll please remember me to all the boys in the service and at home.

The main reason for not writing is that time is limited as we now have a new first Sgt and our work has increased about fifty percent more so if you don't get work from me after any period of time you'll understand as I'm always in thought of you all, it seems that there's less work being done overseas than a cantonment like this, aside from the fierce fighting and loss of sleep etc.

After I complete this letter to you we are proceeding to the hospital for yellow fever shots and a few more to go along with them etc.

Before closing may I say I may have the opportunity of seeing you soon again, as the new application for a furlough went in to be effective in Sept. on or about the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>, I guess I'm very fortunate again to be starting the new year which started July 1 giving me my first 15 days for the new fiscal year leaving a balance of 15 to be had after six months of the same year.

Now Frank again please check with Jo and ask her not to be too absentminded as to my asking about you.

Until we meet again as always my best to Fil and MaryFil and keep the home fires burning as it looks pretty close to the end of the war.

Sincerely in thought of you all.  
Charlie

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY.

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

17 August 44

Hello Frank:

I received your Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Front Bulletin yesterday. My mail is coming in quite regularly now so I don't have much to gripe about. I'm not at all surprised that you are following Gorrell's Column with interest.

I had a very nice letter from Janine yesterday. Her pop is over here, although I haven't had the opportunity nor the occasion to meet him as yet - but expect to. Between Janine and Marie I'm left quite in a daze. Of course Janine still reminds me in each letter of her family's intention of returning and taking up their home in France, as soon after the war as possible. This makes this rather awkward.

News of the new landings in Southern

France was very welcome indeed - although I can't actually say it came as any great surprise. We've got the Hun quite groggy according to all reports and in my opinion a couple of good "haymakers" will send him down for the long count.

I'm sorry I am unable to write anything of great interest at this point, but I promise letters of a more interesting nature in due time. I am enjoying life at this 13<sup>th</sup> Century Chateau and frankly I'm not at all in too great a rush to leave this tranquility for more adventurous pursuits.

I'm looking forward to the camera but remember send films along with it. It would be useless otherwise.

Love to all the family  
Albert

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

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Love to all the family,  
Al

\*\* Gorrell was the chief reporter with American troops for United Press as the United States entered the war. For his actions during an air mission in 1942, he became the first correspondent to be decorated in the Middle East during World War II and only the second correspondent to be decorated during the entire war. He was awarded the Air Medal for gallantry by order of President Roosevelt. He also filed the first report on the invasion of Normandy in 1944. On August 26, 1944, he was among the first, along with Ernie Pyle, to enter the city after the liberation of Paris.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Tilton\\_Gorrell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Tilton_Gorrell)



Thursday  
Aug 17, 1944

Hi Jo,

I've been wanting to write you the last coupla days but I couldn't find a place to sit down and write. I hope you'll be able to read this.

I've been going to mass and communion pretty near every day. The chapel is only a few steps away.

You'll probably laugh when you hear the title of a book I've been reading: "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"! I just had a feeling that I should read it so I did. And it was swell too. Brought back old memories of childhood days.

I told you that it would probably be a week before I hear from you again. Well I wish that were true. It'll be at least six or seven weeks - at least.

Don't worry if you don't hear from me. It's just that I can't write. But I'm feeling just well as ever and I hope everyone at home is too. Give my special love to mom.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN

# Hot Water, Clean Sheets for Yanks As Spa Is Taken

*LUCKY GUYS*

By Jules B. Grad

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

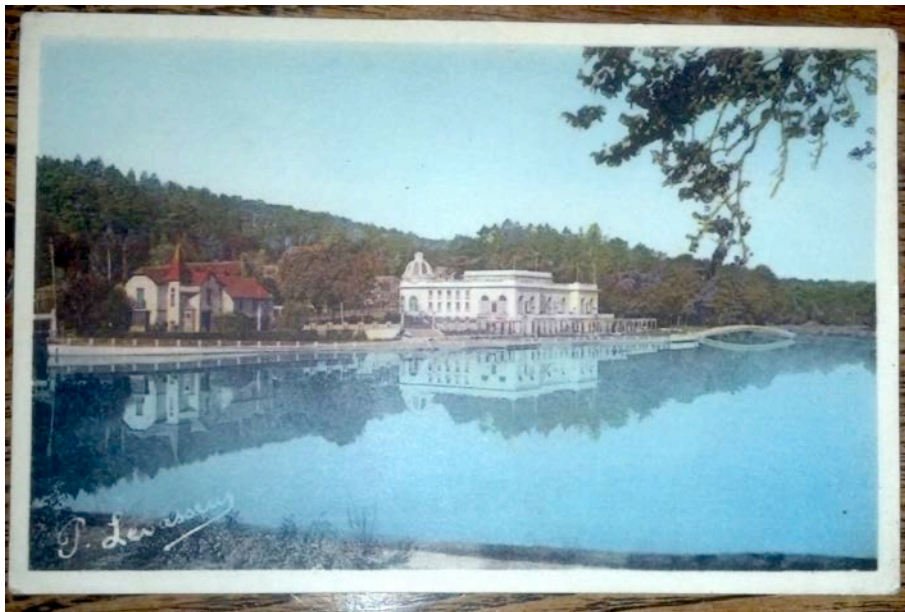
BAGNOLES, Aug. 20—The GI's dream of "the next best thing to home" was this world-famous Normandy spa where for two days and nights, battle-grimed American doughboys lived in a paradise of hot baths and clean sheets.

A hamlet nestled in a deep rocky gorge on the Vee River, less than 23 miles north of Mayenne, Bagnoles was a rest center, for the Luftwaffe, up to its recent capture. It escaped the destruction of war and Yanks were quick to make use of its warm mineral baths and swimming pools.

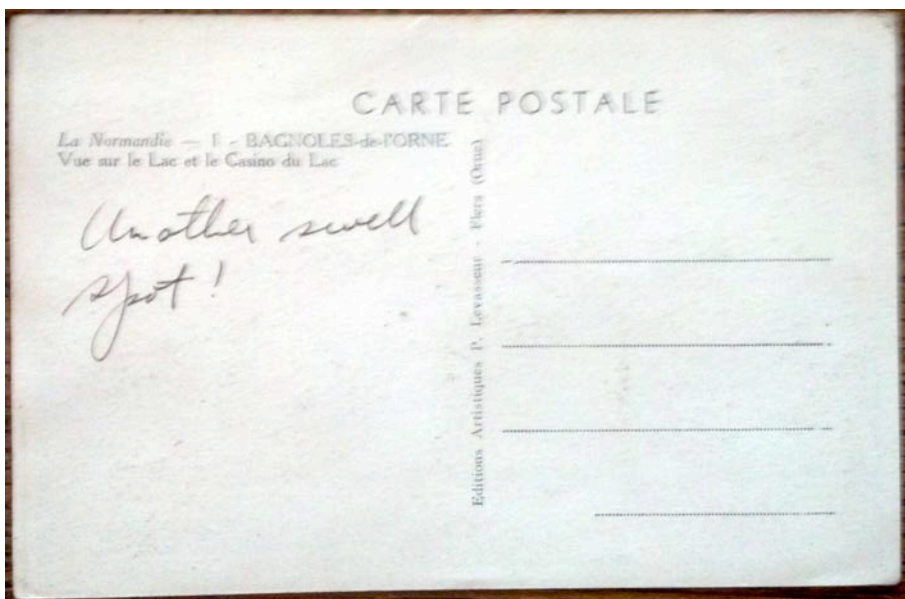
Maj. Leonard Peters, of Boston, a headquarters commandant and the first American officer to enter the town, was greeted by wildly-cheering civilians who took him into their homes and to a chorus of toasts opened up bottles of champagne they had saved until their town was liberated.

A mecca for evacuees, Bagnoles was a town where the GI could talk with the people without need of his French guide book. Almost 75 per cent of the civilians speak English, Peters said. Four of the city's hotels and its gambling casino were owned by the Arthur Gould Corporation of New York City.

Several months before the invasion, the Germans made part of Bagnoles into a training center for what the French called "The Girls in Grey." These were young German women, dressed in long grey frocks, who learned to become teletype operators and technicians. They stayed there for six-week periods and then left for posts in occupied countries. After the landings, the school was closed and the hotels turned into hospitals for the Nazi wounded.



Hotel/Casino - Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, France - "Another swell spot!"



LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

France  
21 August 1944

Hello folks:

Well I pulled up stakes and just went out roaming around. My latest adventure is a story from "rags to riches" almost.

Yep, I'm living like a king! I've got a swell new assignment. Living in a hotel; a room with double bed all to myself. Couldn't find better conveniences at any hotel in America. Hot and cold running water, bathroom, plush bed, soft chairs, cognac, champagne, etc.

It's turning into a pretty good war after all. Will write more later. For the present

Au revoir  
Albert



August 25, 1944

Dear Frank,

It's been quite a long time since I last wrote to you. I'm writing you this while I am on my back here in the sick bay on this ship. So I hope you will excuse the writing considering the circumstances.

I guess that Jo hasn't heard from me in quite awhile. Well we're out at sea and I wrote her up until the last day. Since then we [portion excised - by censors?] ...because I'm laid up.

You remember what happened to me while in Florida, don't you? Well, something similar to it happened to me about a week ago. Well I've been in here ever since. I'm feeling OK now thought I should be getting out in a coupla days. My radioman is here beside me. I'll tell you about it someday. Right now I wish I could get off and get (no beautiful nurses to look after me like I had in Florida. I could use some of their touch) a glass of beer before the ship leaves here. Tell mom I'm feeling fine. We get good music over our radios.

Here's a surprise for you. You know how very good I am at meeting people from back home. Well the first day I was down here in the Sick bay the Chaplain came down to see us. He said a mass for us that afternoon. When he came back the next day I asked him where he was from. He told me from Paterson, N.J. His name is Father David McCarthy and he knows mostly all the kids that I went to High School with, also all the nuns and priests that I know. When he enlisted, the villa in Saddle River gave him a farewell party. He has spoken to Sister Alaoue and Sis. Pat many times. Went to Darlington Seminary with Father Manz. And I was attending his services every day and didn't know it. It would be nice if someone phoned the nuns and told them I met him.

I haven't received any mail in quite a long time but I think we're supposed to pick it up here. That's all for now. Give my love to all and especially mom.

Love,

Bro Ralph

R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN

Aug 26, 1944

Hi Jo,

I received a letter from you today. There were only two - one from you and one from my girl. I expected more. But I'll probably get more on my next stop. As you have probably heard from Frank, we're in a port right now. I wish I could tell you which one but that's impossible. Doesn't make much difference anyway. You certainly don't know anyone here.

All I know is that we're here in this port but I haven't seen any land since I left the last Squadron. I guess you must have heard I'm in the Sick Bay and that is where I'm writing you from. So you'll have to excuse the writing because I am writing in a difficult position. I wish you'd do me a favor and not tell mom I'm in here. I'm almost all better now. I might tell you what happened if you will ask me when I get home. Anyway all that matters now is that I'm in pretty good health and ought to be up and around soon.

While I was down here, the Chaplain on this ship came down to see my radioman and I. He said a mass for us that afternoon. When he came to see us the next day I found out he was from Paterson, N.J. He knows all the kids that I went to High School with, also, the nuns, and priests. But Frank has probably told you this so there is no use repeating.

It's very warm here but I'm very lucky because I have a fan going just above my bed. I had a little mustache and beard but they had to shave them off.

It was swell to read your letter again. Keep writing. Tell mom I'm feeling fine as ever. Must stop now. Give my special love to Mom.

Love to all,

Bro Ralph

R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN

Monday,  
Aug 28, 1944

Hi Jo,

Still here in the same port and still her in the sick bay. But as I told you before I don't mind it at all as long as I have something to read and a fan over my bed. I'm feeling a lot better and my leg is the only thing that pains me.

I still haven't gotten a look at the Island we're at. That isn't all. I haven't seen any daylight or sunshine in over a week.

In the news this morning I heard that we had freed Paris again. Well that was good news because Al is there. Maybe he'll get a little rest.

Tell mom that I am feeling fine and that I remember her and all the family in my prayers. Give my love to all.

Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN

Saturday,  
Sept 2, 1944

Hi Jo,

It was a happy day for me today. I received five (5) letters today! Two from you, two from "Swannie" and one from Sister Al.

Father McCarthy came in while I was reading them. I let him read Sister Al's letter because he knows her. He was kidding me about getting so much mail.

Remember Jo, that even if you don't receive mail from me in weeks it means that we're out where we can't mail any letters. But you'll get them all at once. I want you to tell mom that right now. I know how mom worries and I don't want her to. I was up and around this afternoon and went to mass and communion.

Jo, I didn't know anything about renting the house until I just read the letters. Bit tell mom not to worry about us wanting to come back to the same house. I guess maybe when we first come back we will want to see the old place but after awhile we'll be wishing we lived some other place like we always did when we were home. But I hope you find a nice place to stay especially where there isn't much work for mom.

Well, Jo, don't worry about me. I'm getting along fine. I'm getting out this Monday or Tuesday.

Give my special love to mom and tell her that [I] think of her every night and day. And always in my prayers.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN





# 'Americans Across the Seine'--Berlin

## The Trap Closes on the Nazi 7th

**By Harry Campbell**  
 Paris and Rennes, Aug. 20—From master-perfect observation points on the rim of a semi-circular valley, hundreds of Allied heavy artillery guns poured round after round of fire today, into concentrations of German tanks and trucks too thick to thin.

After thousands of German soldiers surrendered and when there was no longer a German vehicle moving in the narrow valley, American soldiers, French and Polish soldiers poured off the rim of the valley to occupy this town and officially close the most important trap of the war in France.

The stage for one of the greatest scenes of modern war was the little valley running from Argentan to Chambois. Running through the open wheatfields of the flat basin was the only main road over which the Germans could hope to move men and equipment. Against the edge of the basin, hidden in the hills, was the Allied artillery with not more than ten yards between guns in many places.

Early this morning powerful columns of German armor boldly pushed out into the valley from the protection of the woods near Argentan in an attempt to break through. For many gunners it was the first time they had seen their targets with their own eyes and within a few seconds after the first vehicle in a Ger-

man column had crossed the trap, the position of a column of German armor was known.

With ordinary field glasses a hundred yards or more, a German tank or truck could be counted before it had even crossed the trap. The German armor had no chance of escape. Destruction would come not from the protection of a column of tanks and in no instant the armored car would be turned into a red inferno and a column of black smoke. Through glasses, patiently trained German soldiers could be seen draining water from fighting vehicles, while other cars and armored tanks flew over the water daga.

American armored columns pushed into the valley in an attempt to close the trap and cut the road over which the Germans were trying to escape. At ten o'clock a strong force of German tanks made their last determined effort to break out. The German armor had no chance of escape. Destruction would come not from the protection of a column of tanks and in no instant the armored car would be turned into a red inferno and a column of black smoke. Through glasses, patiently trained German soldiers could be seen draining water from fighting vehicles, while other cars and armored tanks flew over the water daga.

By mid-afternoon, columns of Germans divided into full platoon and companies were making up the little dirt roads leading from the valley to the hills all around. Many of the surrendering German columns were more than 200 strong and weary U. S. military police would keep up with the influx.

Continued on Page 4

## Allies Mopping Up German 7th Army In Normandy Trap

German radio reports said last night that American tanks had crossed the Seine River north and south of Paris and had formed a three-quarter arc around the city. American reports at the first told of local operations inside the city, indicating that the Germans were ditching important buildings in expectation of the city's starvation or capture.

Other Allied units meanwhile, looked tight the trap on the remnants of the German Seventh Army in the Falaise-Pauis-Angoulême sector yesterday and were engaged last night in systematically mopping up and destroying the enemy's manpower and equipment inside the trap. A correspondent of the official Allied Press Service said the pocket was being reduced rapidly on the northern side, while the south artillery blasted enemy troops, literally plastering the area. German prisoners streamed back toward the Allies rear.

German radio yesterday said that American paratroops had been landed on the far side of the Seine River, facilitating the tank crossings on either side of Paris.

The Normandy pocket now has been compressed to an area running about nine and a half miles from east to west and about six miles north and south, said the correspondent from Allied Press Service.

A German attempt to break out of the Normandy pocket between the Falaise-Pauis-Angoulême sector and the Seine River, which closed by

## Reds Develop Drive in North, Nearing Tartu

Without any weapons save quick thinking and ready answers, including a few captured German tanks, the Soviet forces are pushing their drive in the north of Estonia.

The Russians have captured 27 hours, 47 pilot winds up captor of 27 Nazis.

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## Allies Develop 3 Major Drives From the South

French armored forces Saturday liberated St. Maximin. They are bypassing centers of resistance and advancing so rapidly that the Germans have no time for demolitions.

Advance units of British and American paratroops are reported in contact with the French Forces of the Interior. Allied planes strafed troops and bombed bridges and communications in the Durancé and Rhone valleys Saturday, while the heaviest once again battered oil installations at Floetz.

In Italy, the Polish and Italian forces on the Adriatic front took advantage of decreasing enemy resistance to push northwest of Montefalco and contact German forces in the high ground near San Costanzo. Patrolling continued in the Pario-Magna Mountains southeast of Florence. The situation in Florence and on the First Army front to the west remained unchanged.

## Seek to Cut Off Nazis Inside Baltic Bulge; Riga 50 Mi. Off

Seeking to annihilate German forces isolated in the Baltic bulge, the Russian Army yesterday continued to develop a strong offensive on the northern front in Estonia and Latvia and drove from seven to ten miles of Riga, an important rail junction in Estonia.

In Latvia, the Russians were reported within 30 miles of Riga, the capital.

The Russians said German counterattacks in the vicinity of Praga, a Warsaw suburb, but added that all the Nazi attempts were thrown back. Two hundred and fifty German tanks were destroyed or disabled Saturday on all fronts, Moscow said.

## Hot Water, Clean Sheets for Yanks As Spa Is Taken

**By Jules B. Grad**  
 Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

**BAGNOLES, Aug. 20**—The GIs dream of "the next best thing to home" was this world-famous Normandy spa where for two days and nights, battle-grimed American doughboys lived in a paradise of hot baths and clean sheets.

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## General in Jeep Machine-Gunning Bags 5 Prisoners

**By Seagham Mayne**  
 Reader Correspondent

**WITH U.S. THIRD ARMY, Aug. 20**—Even the generals in the American forces are prepared to open fire at any moment on the Germans. Such is the character of the fluid warfare created by the swift U.S. drives deep behind enemy positions.

One American general has taken five German prisoners at the point of a machine-gun. The general was driving down a road in a Jeep when he spotted the enemy, old or, crouched behind a hedgerow with rifles.

The general swung his machine-gun on them, and the Nazi came out with their hands held.

On another occasion, the general had to fight a running battle with a group of Germans who were at the point of a road along which the general was leading a column of troops in his jeep.

The general and the German both opened fire. The general won.

## Super-Forts Hit Targets in Japan

The War Department last night confirmed Japanese reports that Super-Fortresses had bombed "industrial mainland" on Japan's southern mainland. The Washington announcement did not announce the exact location.

However, Tokyo Radio said that the bombers had attacked the Yawata steel mill, Japan's largest. It was the fourth attack by Super-Fortresses on the steel works.

**BOUGREVOY LOOKS AHEAD**  
**PORT DEVENES, Mass., Aug. 20**—Hospitalier Dorothy Ellis of the Devenis Service Club hopes a boy friend in Normandy knew what he was talking about when he wrote optimistically, "How about a date on New Year's Eve?" The GI's name was not given.

## 3 Major Warships Launched at Once

**WASHINGTON, Aug. 20**—Three major combat ships will join the U. S. Navy next Sunday when the 27,000-ton aircraft carrier and two 13,000-ton cruisers, the Chicago and Los Angeles, will be launched at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

It will be the first occasion in U. S. history when one shipyard has launched three major combat ships at once.



French armored forces Saturday liberated St. Maximin. They are bypassing centers of resistance and advancing so rapidly that the Germans have no time for demolitions.

Advance units of British and American paratroops are reported in contact with the French Forces of the Interior. Allied planes strafed troops and bombed bridges and communications in the Durancé and Rhone valleys Saturday, while the heaviest once again battered oil installations at Floetz.

In Italy, the Polish and Italian forces on the Adriatic front took advantage of decreasing enemy resistance to push northwest of Montefalco and contact German forces in the high ground near San Costanzo. Patrolling continued in the Pario-Magna Mountains southeast of Florence. The situation in Florence and on the First Army front to the west remained unchanged.



22 AUG 44

Hi family:

Busy as hell - when I get thru it's too dark to write - so I'll dash off a few words between mouth-fulls. We're really in high gear.

I can only say that I'm well and very happy where I am. I'm waiting for your package. Thanks for all your postcards and letters.

Nothing else yet.

Love  
Al.

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY.

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

Sept 2, 1944

Dear Joe:

Sorry that I have not been able to write. Just rest assured of my well being and please understand that if I have not written for a few days it has been with good reason.

Can't write much now. I'm at a very historic battleground. Someday I'll tell more about it.

Love to all. Call Marie for me. Tell her I'm O.K.

Love to Mom and all.

al.

22 August 1944

Hi family:

Busy as hell - when I get thru it's too dark to write - so I'll dash off a few words between mouth-fulls. We're really in high gear.

I can only say that I'm well and very happy where I am. I'm waiting for your package. Thanks for all your postcards and letters.

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Vol. IV #4

THE SCAFURO HOME FRONT

AUG. 28, 1944

Vacation Beachhead,  
Point Pleasant, N.J.

9-

- Lt. A. Scafuro-1005620- Det. B 681-"M" Co, 1st Regt, MCAD, APO#658, PM, NY
  - V.E. Scafuro- Sp.2/c- AsR Unit #1, Hqs M, R C, USNHS, Newport, R I
  - R.J. Scafuro- ADM 3/c USN Torpedo Squadron 100, c/O WFO, San Francisco, Cal
  - Angelo Scafuro- S 2/c- East Coast Base Unit, USN Supply Depot, Bayonne, NY
- Affiliated:
- Sgt. Vito Valtaggio-32912899- 641st OM Depot (Supply) APO# 548, PM, NY
  - Cpl. I. Chas DeMeco-32759999-734th Army Band AAF, Lake Chas, La
  - Pvt. Frank Scafuro-32691476- Co.C- 149th Inf APO #38, PM, San Fran. Cal
  - PFC Dominic Magro- 32634523- Station 12-1 C W- ATO, APO #468, PM, NY

\*\*\*\*\*

Well here we are- Frank, Fil and Maryfil- at Pt. Pleasant, NJ for a pleasurable week of relaxation as the honored guests of Dr. and Mrs. Primavera and their bouncing offsprings- Johnny and Carol Ann. We arrived here Sat. Aug. 26 in the early afternoon- after several weeks of hectic work and planning at Allendale. You'll be interested to know that Mom's house is rented as of October 1st for a period of one year at \$70.00 per month to a young Harvard construction engineer, his wife and child. His name is Paul Trumpler. You can just imagine the repairs needed to be made on the place before it could be rented but I don't think you can possibly imagine the job it has been to find workmen to do the repairs- carpenter, plasterer, electrician, plumber, painter, floor scraper. and before these fellows could be put to work I had to go over the place with a fine comb to note in detail the things to be done by each. Well the work is finally underway. Where will Mom live? I don't know yet. She'd like to get closer into town but it's almost impossible to find a place. So she may end up by renting Vic's place. She started this moving business, not I. Of course the house had to be repaired and this is one way to do it.

It's about 80 miles to Allendale from here. I just talked to Mom on the phone. Everything is OK. We will be going up there again at the end of this week. Lindy said he had dug up three rows of potatoes and harvested 1 bushel. There are more in the ground.

The resort at which we are is a very restful spot. It's about 10 miles from the Lakewood Naval Station. The Primavera cottage where we are staying is about 300 feet from the boardwalk and a clean restful beach. The water is nice to look at. Fil has wet her feet once; Frank has remained at a safe distance on the sand and already looks like a lobster while Maryfil is doing her best to catch up to the lovely color acquired by the Primavera children, Carol Ann and Johnny.

The Home Front news office will move back to 9949 Shore Rd, Bklyn on Sept. 5. Fil will go back to her blackboards, chalk and brats on Sept. 8. Maryfil will enter the "Tiny 1st School" for one month and then will get back her Scotch Irish nurse.

ALBERT: Your letters have been plentiful and cheerful. Keep it up! I'm holding 5 in my hand dated Aug. 7 thru Aug. 17th. I've given up trying to guess your whereabouts- but have an idea you're on the outskirts of Paris if not in it. Your mail has been reaching us in 8 or 10 days.

Al says he has been seeing a good deal of France and that he's been in practically every important liberated place. He'd like to go there on his honeymoon - with whom, I? Stop taking the girls for rides. So say, you must look pretty, "Frenchy" with that mustache. Be



you really want us to have Marie over for dinner? Would Janine and the other Mademoiselles like that? Hey, brother, you've got me mixed up.

Al- Dean Ivey F. Lewis of Univ of Va. wishes to be remembered and hopes it won't be long before you return to them. I hope you haven't given up the idea. Say, you've been at that chateau for about 6 or 7 days. Don't let the Army come slip away from you. Better go easy on those fancy French dinners. It'll be tough getting used to our plain civilian American dishes.

Here's a good one fellas.---After one of those fine feasts some French civilians excitedly told Al that two heines had just gone down the road on bikes and dressed as civilians. When Al's jeep - bristling with machine guns caught up to the bicyclists, Al discovered that there was a slight error- the cycle cycles were German- the men French.

This goes for all of you guys. When you write to me will you please mention the number and date of the last bulletin received? Al, how is Correll? Haven't heard much of him recently. I'll try to send tat camera in about one week. I hope it reaches you in time to catch a glimpse of the Boches going over the French borders.

WILLIE: The last letter from you is dated Aug. 9th. We hope your roughing period in France is over and that you have been set up in some sort of headquarters. At the rate the boys are rushing all over France, you should be doing a thriving shoe business.

RALPH: You've got us guessing. Your last letter, dated Aug. 11, indicated you were somewhere in the Pacific on an aircraft carrier. Hope it's one of the big ones. I think we'd feel better if we at least knew that. By the way Ralph's address is changed now- Composite Squadron #76  
c/o F P O, San Francisco, Cal

Ralph is now a full grown man- he smokes cigars. What are you going to do lay your own smoke screens? It's good to hear you have a chapel and chaplain aboard. Stay close to both and thru them with our Lord and Lady and all will be well. Ralph, for your own information the only money order received was the one for \$45.00. In case you sent other money you'd better trace it.

VIC: Mom told me tonight that Rose is in Eklyn and that you'll be home in Allendale over the Labor day week end. Good! I'll be seeing you. Will you take care of the advertising.

ANGIE: Hope you'll also come home for the week end. There is an awful lot of work to be done. By the way will you please come home with some plan as to your studies.

CHARLIE: You're forgiven. Finally got your letter of Aug. 16. First one in 4 months. Glad to hear you are well and tickled to hear you're so busy. But you want kid me. A guy who finds time to write his girl friend two letters a day can certainly spare one for us each week. Agreed, fellas? It's unanimous.

DOM MAGRO: Is Stilwell chasing Japs in China. Dom sends best regards to all his cousins in arms.

Frank Scafuro: No further reports from you in New Guinea. Write soon. Stay away from Fussy Wuzzies.

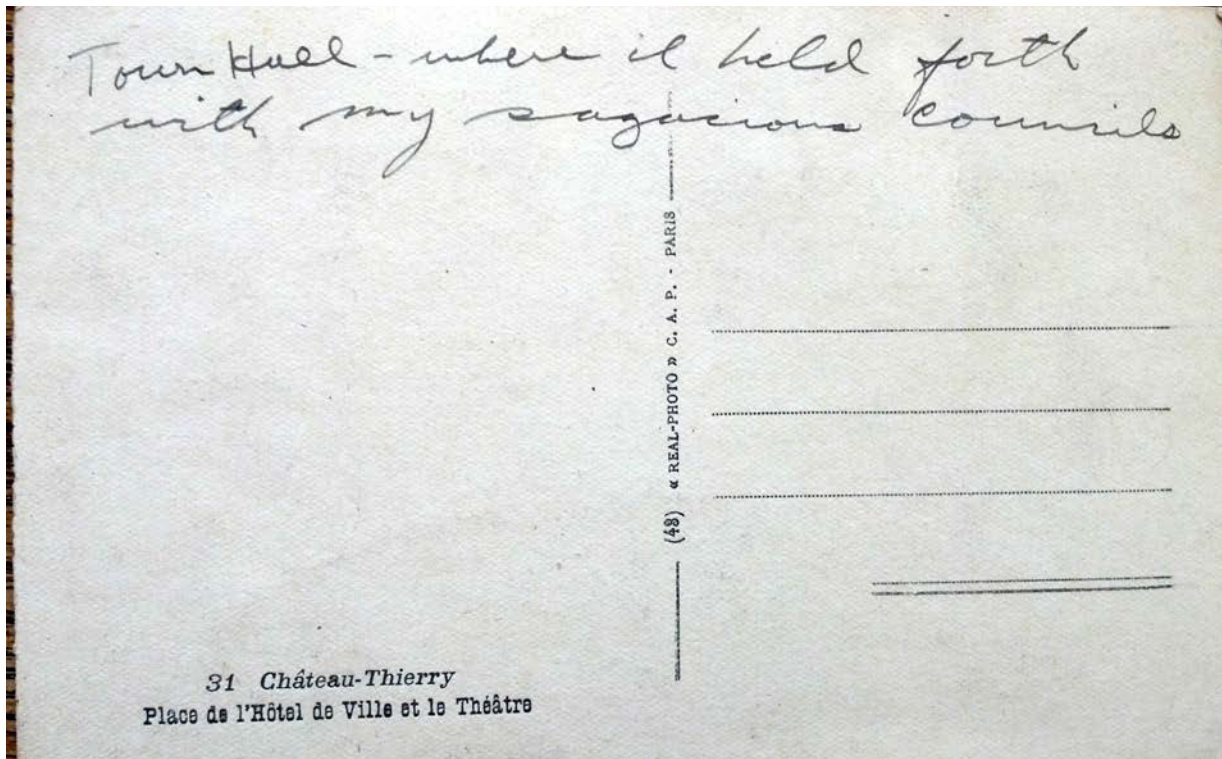
11 P.M.- closing time. Have to clear the table. Dr. George and his wife will be back soon for coffee. Love, Frank Fil and Maryfil



After a few weeks he led his small detachment to Chateau Thierry (where he spent 2 weeks) following Patton's 1944-08-29 break through from Normandy; became friends with Mayor Rene Aruel who owned the local movie house in Chateau Thierry, Scafuro recalls, and his great ambition was to visit Hollywood. Aruel later visited his war-time friend, the former Army lieutenant, in Allendale.  
May 27, 1979, "Scafuro plans invasion to recapture memories" by Grace Archer



*"Town Hall - where I held forth with my sagacious councils"*



LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY.

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

4 September 44

Dear folks:

Sunday again and another day. I have just returned from Church and in about twenty minutes I will be going to the Mayor's home for dinner. The days at that resort are over and very far behind.

It's wonderful progress we are making. Old names of another war recall themselves: Verdun, Chateau Thierry, Belleau Wood, Vimy Ridge and on we go. I shall never forget these days; they cannot be forgotten. I now know what the true meaning of liberty is; I can now see, for I have seen what freedom means

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

to a people. I have been overwhelmed at times by the reactions of the French populace. It's strange to be hugged and kissed by men and boys; the girls - oh well - that's to be expected, but men - it's just different. This place was made famous once before by the generation before me. It is free of the tyrant once again and the people just treat us like friends of old returned.

I have received no letters in over a week now. Things have been moving too fast and I along with them. Love to all the family.

Love  
Al

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

France  
4 September 1944

Dear folks:

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I have received no letters in over a week now. Things have been moving too fast and I along with them. Love to all the family.

Love,  
Al

In 1974, Albert and his wife Adele returned to Chateau Thierry to visit to Mayor Rene Aurel, who visited his war-time friend, the former Army lieutenant, in Allendale several years before. Mayor Aruel owned the local movie house in Chateau Thierry, Scafuro recalls, and his great ambition was to visit Hollywood.



LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY.

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

8 Sept 1944

Dear Folks:

Just a note. Everything is moving rather rapidly as you are no doubt gathering from your newspapers.

I have just time to say hello and tell you that I am quite well and everything is alright.

Tell Frank that I saw a Lukas family not long ago and that he should inform Mr. W. H. Reese of the Chase National Bank that they are all well and safe.

There is nothing else at this

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

point to relate. One sad note - I have lost all my personal belongings and am left with what I am wearing. I guess the loss was over \$200. in clothes etc. The other 3 officers with me lost theirs too so that I am not alone.

I will probably have to keep this month's pay to try to replenish my wardrobe, if I can find a place to buy anything.

Love to Mom and all of you.

Albert

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

8 September 1944

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Albert

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY.

Home Address  
ALLEDALE, N.J.

11 September 44

Dear folks:

I'm sorry if you haven't been hearing from me as much as you should like to. You must realize though just how rapidly events are moving - and I with them. I feel like a damn tourist. Yes I've gone a long way since those first few days! In distance anyway.

I feel as keenly about receiving mail as you do. I haven't been receiving mail either - that is lately. It will catch up with me later I'm sure.

Has Marie visited you

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

all yet. I'm sure she must be as pretty as can be and I'm just dying to see her again. Janine from D.C. is getting to be quite insistent, or consistent, with her correspondence. She says she wants me to stay in France with her. I think I like America.

Have you heard from Ralph lately. Give him my best. I guess Mom is pretty happy about the way the war is going now. She has reason to be! Tell her I'll be back before too many months. Love,  
AL.

Home Address  
ALLEDALE, N.J.

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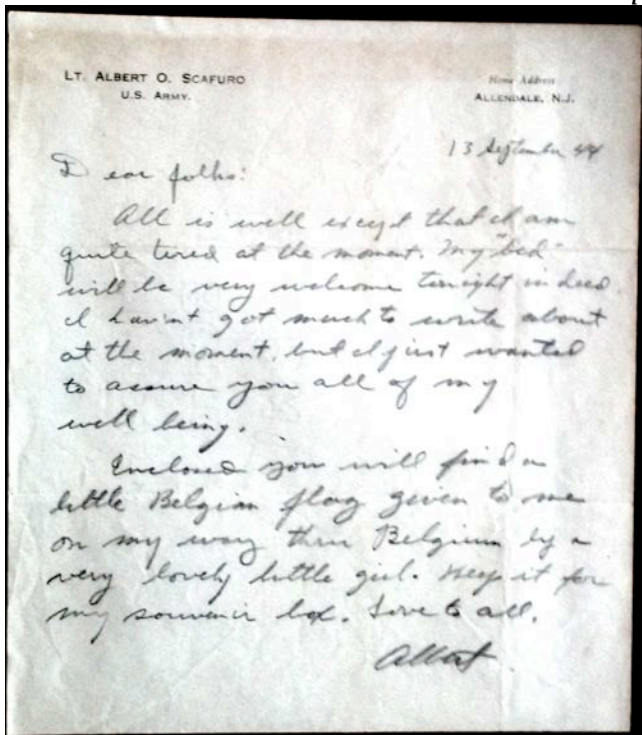
AL



After Chateau Thierry, Albert was ordered to Charleroi in Belgium where he worked feeding and transporting 5,000 displaced civilians and soldiers, including many Russians. "None of the Russians wanted to go back," he recalled. "We had to practically beat them to get them on the trains. They had seen the west. They thought it was lies when we told them that at home we had a house, a bike and a car, etc." May 26, 1994, "Allendale vet at Utah Beach by Marsha Stoltz in The Town Journal- Part 2/3



"Keep for Souvenir"



LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

13 September 1944

Dear folks:

All is well except that I am quite tired at the moment. My "bed" will be very welcome tonight indeed. I haven't got much to write about at the moment but just wanted to assure you all of my well being.

Enclosed you will find a little Belgium flag given to me on my way thru Belgium by a very lovely little girl. Keep it for my souvenir box. Love to all

Albert

"Remember the Barges"  
15 Sept 44

Hells Frank etc:  
I know its quite sometime since I last addressed an envelope to you, but a travelling man doesn't get much time for such niceties nowadays. I've been pretty much on the go, in fact the whole U.S. Army has and I'm not proving the exception.

Hated to leave France. It was such a lovely country and the people treated us royally. Didn't have long in Belgium, but what I saw was very interesting and I regret I did not have longer to tarry about. The faster we move along though, the sooner this war will end. That's the main thing.

I have received very little of my mail during the past couple of weeks. It will catch up with me in due time I suppose. I have been following our offensive in the Pacific and honestly a bit apprehensive about Ralph. Pray that all goes well.

Regards and love to you all - Fil - Maryfil, Frank / 44



Ralph Scafuro

LT. ALBERT O. SCAFURO  
U.S. ARMY

Home Address  
ALLENDALE, N.J.

Somewhere in Europe  
15 September 1944

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Al



In fact, Ralph had been wounded and was in Sick Bay at about the time of this letter. A typically cryptic wartime note from a Lt. Unser notified the family, although they had received some reassuring notes from Ralph in the interim.



THE SCAFURO & ONE FRONT

Sept. 19, 1944

9949 Shore Road  
B'klyn, N.Y.

L.V. Scafuro-103280- Det. 8041- "B" Co, 1st Regt, 80AB, APO #688, FM, NY  
 V.S. Scafuro, Sp. S/c- A & B Unit 81 Bns 8, P.O. 40878, Newport, N.I.  
 S.J. Scafuro A/S S/c VUSK- Composite Squadron -US 878, s/o P P O, San Fran  
 Angelo Scafuro-8 S/c East Coast Base Unit, USN Supply Depot, Bayonne, NY

Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vuitaggio-32812888- 541st CM Depot (Supply) APO #350, FM, NY  
 Cpl. I. Chas De Neo-32788888- 704th Army Band AAF, Lake Chas, La  
 Pvt. Frank Scafuro- 32881478- Co. C. 149th Inf. APO # 38, FM, San Fran  
~~32881478- Scafuro~~  
 Pfc Dominis Nagro- 32884888- Station 1B-1 C S- A T C, APO #468, FM, NY

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Wow! Long time no see- velly velly sorry. We've been trying to squeeze 28 hours out of every day- just can't seem to make it. The repairing, leasing and renting have all combined to give a bunch of headaches. The repairs and redecorating on Mom Scafuro's house are practically complete. She'll move to 48 West Allendale Ave., Allendale, New Jersey, this coming weekend. It's the house before the Telephone building - first floor. Pretty convenient and we think - and hope- that she will like it. There is still plenty of work to do and too few hands to do it.

Mom Scafuro picked about 25 baskets of grapes about the place and has some red juice brewing up in the garage. Let's see which one of you can get here first to sample it.

Did you hear about the terrific hurricane we had Sept. 14? About 80% of all the trees heeled over in BKlyn and after almost one week electric light service is still out in some spots. Fortunately none of us was affected. In fact, believe it or not, service was not disrupted in Allendale and very few trees blown down.

Maryfil gets her governess back tomorrow - Mrs. Hughes, remember! It's a good thing - we only had about 5 drops of gas left in the car and could not have taken Maryfil to Grandma Vuitaggio. Any of you fellas got any extra gas coupons? Fil is back at school, same old dive, Man, training High, teaching all Spanish and running the Pan-American club. Frank has been invited to deliver a speech at international house on Sunday, Oct. 1st to red-define the purposes of the house and its place in the world that you fellas are making. Get a load of this - he's pinning it for a brigadier general.

Mail has been pretty scarce from you fellas. Shake it up. We know as you are all moving pretty fast but heck the war will have to wait a few minutes.

ALBERT: I learned from Allendale tonight you had to give up your luxurious Pouch with hot water and clean sheets at bagnoles. That's tough. You should never fall for those swanky places. They soften you up. If you are going into Germany couldn't you say, "Au revoir, Paris. If you are in Belgium say, hey, I'm so dry. I can't get this phlegm out of my throat. Phlegm- for Flemish. If in Holland, "I almost got in Dutch." If you are on the Weigfried line ask me how Mr. Wagner is. All this goes for you, too, Willie. Of course "The Stars and Stripes" are very helpful. Al, what are you doing with all your money? Cut out the crap games, remember your bank account, - and your future. We got the camera repaired but we want to take some pictures with it to see if it works. Will ship it out next week for sure. If you are with the First Army, 4th Div, say, that was some hurricane you had on the 14th of Sept.



Sept. 10, 1944

ALMA: I should have written you weeks ago. Haven't forgotten by any means, have gone to communion for you 3 times since receiving your letter of Aug. 26. in which you told me about your accident. There was quite a chunk cut out of that letter but your reference to what happened in Florida made it clear, that you were in some sort of a collision. Your subsequent letters seemed to indicate that you must have ~~some~~ sustained some leg injury. The news ~~is~~ that you were with Father Mc Carthy took the edge off the shock. What a great coincidence to get a priest who has been at St. Luke's and knows so many of your friends. Stay close to him. I'll write him as soon as I can. We have not told mom anything about the mishap. I understand the last letter we had from you is dated Sept. 2nd. You must be pretty near the Philippines now. You want to know who to vote for? Remember Franklin hasn't had a vacation in 18 long years, he's been working very hard and deserves a rest. Let's retire him. I think your Admirals can carry on, with a new Commander-in-Chief. By the way if you are with the 3rd Fleet say to me in your next letter I got your letter of Sept. 3rd. I understand you are up and around, hope you are all O.K.

WILLIE: We were over at Mom's for dinner tonight, read your ~~new~~ shredded letter. Those censors must have their fun. They must be making a collection of place names, the meanings. All we know is that you are in France. You went from here to there by way of the other place. Will you send Bing Crosby home. We need him to make another good picture like "Going my way". Did you see it? Are you still going his way? (This won't mean anything to you unless you have seen the picture.) That was a nice remittance you made. But, you, too, lay off the crap games. You might lose, you know, or have you found it out? You should be catching up to Albert one of these days. How about telling us what Army you are with. Refer to it as a date of a letter you received from us, if possible. Have you received any packages lately?

VIC & BOB: Have you dug yourself out from under that hurricane rubbish? I expect to have something definite to tell you about the house tomorrow. I'll write you separately from the office. I'll have to move Mom's things this coming Sat. Let me know your wishes about the bedroom set as well as storage of the rest of your things. Do you want that room in the Alendale house at \$5.00 per month. Or, do you want Mom to try to store the things in her rooms.

ANGE. Just got thru a 10 day furlough. Listen, Ange, if you get home during this week do one of two things: pack all of Vic's ornaments, or put up the rest of the poles for the fence.

FRANKIE: Thanks for your letter of Aug. 26. and the 10 shilling of Australia money. Don't tell me that's where you are. What are you doing walking backwards, or are you still an old guinea in New Guinea. Don't get sore. Will save the note for you.

DOMINIC: What's the matter with you? Have you run out of paper. Looks as tho things are clipping in China. I hope you weren't a Kellin-Air Field. And if you are I hope you are out of there.

CHARLIE: Home on leave until Sept 27. He's gotten all his shots and thinks they have plans for him when he gets back. Here's hoping they won't change the tune. They still need music in Louisiana, and the Japs don't like trombones any ay.

Goodnight, fellas, Good luck and God Bless you.  
Love, Philippe, Frank and lots of kisses from  
Maryfil



Sept. 22, 1944  
Thursday, Sept 14

Dear Jo,

Just a short note to let you all know that I am well and hope that everyone at home is the same.

I hope mom isn't worried because [of] your not hearing from me. But Jo even if I did write you every day it wouldn't make any difference because our letters are held back for a little while.

I go to mass and communion daily so you can see I'm a very good guy.

I hope you have found another place to live. Tell mom that I don't mind coming home to a different place. Give her all my love and tell her I remember her in my prayers.

Love to all,

Bro Ralph

R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN

Sept 22,1944

Hi Jo,

How is everything? I hope everything is fine at home. I'll bet it's beautiful back in Jersey now. Autumn has always been my favorite season. Maybe it's because its football season but I've always loved it. Out here a guy can't tell the difference between August and January.

Well it's been over nine months since I was home, but the time has certainly gone by fast. I guess it's because I've been moving so fast.

I was just thinking of something today. Lindy is getting close to seventeen. I hope he doesn't get any idea about quitting High School and enlisting. Tell mom I said not to let him quit High School.

Tell mom I'm feeling fine and think of her and all of you a lot. Nearly every day Father McCarthy and I talk a little while about back home in Jersey. I think he knows Lindy or Ange. Give my regards to Frank, Fil, Tony, Larry, Jo, Little Ralphie, Lindy, etc. Love to mom.

Bro Ralph

R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN

Sept. 26, 1944

9949 Shore Road  
B'klyn, N. Y.

Lt. A. Scafuro-O-1005680-Det. USM "B" Co, 1st Regt, ECAB, APO 688, FM, NY  
 V. S. Scafuro, Sp. W/c- AAM Unit #1 Hqs B, CO, USM, Newport, N.I.  
 R. S. Scafuro, AOM S/c - USM- Composite Squadron 76, c/o F & C, San Fran  
 Angelo Scafuro, S W/c East Coast Base Unit, U S N Supply Depot, Bayonne, NJ  
 Affiliated:

Sgt. Vito Vultaggio-38812590-341st QM Depot (Supply) APO 360, FM, NY  
 Spl. I. Ghas De Maco- 38759999-754th Army Band A & F, Lake Oahu, La.  
 Pvt. Frank Scafuro- 32691476- Co. C. 149th Inf. APO 538, FM, San Fran  
 PFC Dominic Magro-32634623- Station 12-1 C V- AF C, APO 468, FM, NY

\*\*\*\*\*

Bill is pinchhitting for the editor tonight. He made me promise faithfully that I would write you fellers a few words tonight and at least let you hear from us for this week. He is extremely busy: meeting tonight, trip to Allendale tomorrow night to attend to some last minute details on Mom Scafuro's moving into town and a speech to prepare for Sunday night. Some of you fellers are probably cheering at the thought that you won't have to listen to him rehearse but just think of me, fellers, not only do I have to type it out for him and ~~listen~~ listen to him rehearse it but I have to hear him deliver it on Sunday night. All joking aside it ~~is~~ is quite an honor. He is going to make the main address at the first Sunday night supper at International House.

Mail has been very scarce from most of you fellers. We received 2 letters from Albert this week. We were very sorry to hear that he has lost all his clothes but what he has on his back. Here's hoping that you say have recovered at least some of them by this time. We shall try to make up some of them. We've got Mom Vultaggio started on a sweater for ~~him~~ him. He says that he has been thru France, thru Belgium and that he is now in new territory. It can only mean Germany. Is this right, Al?

No letter from Ralph since the one dated Sept. 2, I think. How goes it, feller. Hope you are all better now.

Bill wrote home today and said that he is in a large city of France, stationed in ~~an~~ a university that had been occupied by the Germans. He is on the sixth floor and complains about climbing the six flights. Better climb six flights than crawl on your belly, what do you say? Do hope you had a nice day sightseeing. By the way is our guest right if we say you are in Paris?

Charlie was home on leave and I think he's on his way back tonight. Hope you had a pleasant furlough and a pleasant trip back.

Frankie and Dominic have been much too busy, I suppose. No letters from you in some time. Hope you haven't been occupied with the ensky. Try to drop us a line. We'd like to hear from you.

Also all quiet on the eastern front. What's the matter Vic and Rose?

Bill's latest remark showing keen observation and unusual intelligence. (Not proud or modest ~~these~~ these parents) A woman gave her a doll the other day and this is what Mary had to say. "It's a pretty dollie, a nice dollie, but she's wearing too much rouge." She is also at the "Baby" stage. Frank says he now understands how Daddy feels on the Baby Snacks program.

Love from us all  
 P. J.



September 31, 1944

Dear Frank,

I hope this letter finds you and all the folks at home in the best of health these days. I've been meaning to write you the past few days but found it next to impossible.

No doubt you're wondering why I'm writing. Ralph wrote ma and asked if I'd get a letter off to you at home. However, his letter was delayed somewhere en-route and I didn't receive it till a week ago. I don't know if Ralph has written home since he wrote me. In the event he has, there's really no need in answering this, as I know you must be very busy.

If I'm the first to tell you of this, I hope you all won't take it as too much of a shock. Ralph was injured after he left here. How bad I don't know for sure but do know at the time he managed to get the letter off to me, he was feeling much better.

I do have a pretty good idea of what happened even though Ralph didn't, or I should say, couldn't say. He did say that I should know and I think I do.

I answered his letter immediately but as yet have received no answer. This mail system really takes a long time in getting around.

I wouldn't worry about this too much as I know you're all inclined to do because from Ralph's letter he sounded just like the fellow I spent many evenings with here in the barracks just discussing things in general.

If I am the first to inform you of this, I'm sorry it had to be news of this type. If you haven't heard from Ralph and, he might be able to get a letter through to me, I'll be more than glad to keep you posted on happenings.

As I mentioned before, if you have heard from Ralph, just disregard this letter. I will write more just as soon as I hear of it.

I guess that's just about all for now as I am very much pressed for time. Please give my regards to the rest of the family.

Sincerely yours,  
Ken

Kenneth L. Unser AMM 3/c

26 September 44  
"Somewhere in Luxembourg"

Dear folks:

Haven't written in a couple of days so first to put your minds at ease here's a little note just to say how you all are and all is well on this side. Nothing has changed much since my letter.

Sometime ago I had the good fortune to spend about two weeks in Chateau Thierry, famous battle ground of the last war. Belleau Wood is right close by. The Americans fought their greatest battles there in World War I and the people were absolutely magnificent there. Treated us like prodigal sons. Even better than Paris.

Well - I've got to get some work done. I'm quite busy here and have a few distractions. Will sign off. Love to all and I think of you always.

Love  
Albert.

4914  
Sept  
27 September 1944  
"Somewhere in Luxembourg"

Dear Frank:

Well hello again and how are you all? I'm still in great shape and still roaming about. I've been quite occupied lately which fact should explain my very feeble attempts at letter writing lately.

I have nothing new to write about (not in this letter anyway) but I do have a request to make. I met a friend of George Schwarz, of the Royal Leather Works, 52 Wall St. His name is Cooymanz (sp?). The latter wishes Schwarz to know that all is well and safe; also to tell Leon that the factory is in best condition and all are working for him. Best regards to Leon from Cooymanz.

Will write a real letter before long, but right now I just wanted to pass on the above to you. Best regards to all.

Love to all  
Brother  
Albert.

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Love,  
Al

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Brother  
Albert



30 September 44

Dear Joe,

Well here it is the last day of the month already and incidentally I am also reminded that today is payday. If I can manage to get near a pay office today I'll probably be sending another \$100 or so in my next letter. My, my how my bank account must be growing! Should have started this long ago. I've got the bug on saving now and will probably keep it up from here on.

Everything is going well with me. I hope Ralph is O.K. too. Let me know each time you hear from him.

I have also seriously considered becoming "officially" engaged to

Marie. She's a grand little girl and will make me a fine wife. I'm getting to be an old man you know and can't waste too much more time just piddling around. What does Mom think of my ideas on this? I will write Frank on the subject later and if all are in agreement well I can't find any reason which should prevent any announcement of my engagement.

I am not certain yet just how Marie's "old man" feels, but I do know her mother approves. In her last letter though, Marie did say that her pop was beginning to soften and would probably be agreeable.

I started this letter yesterday (Saturday) and it is now Sunday. I just had a couple of eggs for breakfast along with some good coffee. All in all, life is not really bad.

Well I've seen it lots worse.

Well I'm going to church in a few minutes so I'll just stop here and say cheerio. Remember me to all and all my love to Mom.

Lovingly  
Brother  
Al.

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Lovingly  
Brother  
Al

Oct. 2, 1944,  
Monday

Dear Frank, Fil, and MaryFil,

Finally arrived back and sure do miss my well spent days at home, but upon getting back to camp I am in receipt of your Home Front News which without a doubt would feel lost without. Today's issue is Vol. IV #6, and Fil, must say you did a fine job of pinch-hitting for Frank and before going further wish to express my feelings and hope that Franks speech turned out ok.

I guess by this time everything must be under control in Allendale and ready for a good hard winter while I had to come back to this hot climate!

Yesterday was our first in a series of football games which we had to play and won by a score of 12 to 20 putting Lake Charles on top, I do believe we may travel to New Orleans some Sunday, etc!

Well things still look on the bright side out here, but did get some news about consolidation on the field and movements of personnel. I'll try to keep you posted etc.

Well after writing all morning practically talk out and can only say Frank will be expecting your Home Front News as ever and always hope to hear good news about the boys – give them all my best of luck and wishes and hope that MaryFil is well and Fil also., and last but not least yourself Frank, keep the home fires burning as it can't last much longer.

Before closing would like to tell you we had a case of Infantile Paralysis of the brain of one of our band members while on furlough in Niagara Falls N.Y. and thought it may be instant death if it didn't change in twenty four hours, however, they claim he contracted it en route home on the train etc. I will let you know more later – as always until tomorrow.

Sincerely in thought of you all  
Charlie

Oct. 4, 1944

Hi Jo,

We finally reached a place where we could receive our mail. I've never seen the guys on this ship so happy before. And me – I think I'm happier than any one of them. I've so much mail that it's taking me all day to read it. I've received letters from Frank, Lindy, Al, Larry, my girl, Bob Curley and 12 from you. And the best part about it is that there is still plenty more to be assorted. Boy this is better than Christmas. I never thought that letters could mean so much to me. I'm going to try and answer as many as I can from here so they'll go right out.

Well I don't know where to start. I'm glad that mom has found a place close to town. It's better all away around. Charley is pretty lucky on getting leaves. Give him my regards.

If I don't get a chance to write to Frank, tell him that I received his letter of Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>. It's the biggest letter I've received from him. Also, if I don't get a chance to write to Jo Muti's husband, tell him that I've met and spoken to Larry several times. I'll write them both as soon as I get a chance.

That \$45 that I mailed you was all that I sent you.

Next time I write you I'll let you know what parish Father McCarthy was from. I see him about three or four times a day. He's always kidding me about something or other, and I do the same. He told me that he wrote a report of me to Father Path yesterday.

The world series begins today and honest Jo I'd give the next five years pay to be there to see it.

Tell mom that I said if anyone can use the close that I sent home to go ahead and use them because I probably won't.

How is Charlie and also the baby? I hope they're both okay.

I've been trying to grow a mustache to hide that little scar over my lip. It was Father McCarthy's idea and now he says he doesn't like it. What a guy!



I hope I get a chance to go ashore this time. You know I haven't set foot on the good earth for over two months.

Well bye for a little while. I'll try writing a short letter to Frank. Tell mom that I am feeling fine. All my love to her.

Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR

Oct 4, 1944

Hi Frank,

Received your letter of Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>. It sure is a long letter. So thanks a lot. I never saw the guys on this ship as happy as this before. It's wonderful what mail can do.

Jo tells me that you have been pretty busy. I guess you're doing more than you share on the home front. Jo Mutie's husband might like to know that I've seen and spoken to Larry several times.

Well our job at where we were is completed but now I don't know what is next. In your letter of Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, you were right about being pretty near to town. It's really convenient for them.

I see and speak with Father McCarthy about three or four times a day. He's always kidding me about something or other - maybe because I'm always doing the same to him. [We're] really pretty good pays. I'm sure Lindy should know him. If we get to the states together, we're going to fly home together.

Something that has been on my mind is what I'm going to do after the war. Well the other nite it came to me all of a sudden about the only thing I think that I am capable of doing is being a physical educational instructor. The salary is pretty good and I'm more than positive I would enjoy the work.

Well I hope you had a good time at Point Pleasant. There is still plenty mail to be assorted and I'm sure there should be another letter from you. So I'll sign off now. I'm feeling fine. Give my love to Fil, MaryFil and all.

Love,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR

Sunday Oct 8

Hi Jo,

Received quite a few more letters from you since I last wrote. About twenty or twenty-five from you all together. The last one I received from you was dated Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> which wasn't bad at all.

I hope you like the new home by now. At least you don't have to walk very far to get to town.

Last nite I listened to the third world series game in which the Browns beat the Cards 6-2. Boy it was swell to hear a ball game. I'm pulling for the Browns.

Altogether I must have received over 50 letters. A couple from Larry, Ange, Vic, Frank; three from Sister Al and about 15 from my girl. I hope we'll still be around to get more. I hope every one is fine. Give my love to mom.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR

10-27

THE SCAPURO HOME FRONT  
8949 Shore Road  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Oct. 5, 1944

It. S. C. Scapuro-0-1003620-1st. 26th "S" Co, 1st Regt, 25th, APC 1080, PR, NY  
 V. Scapuro, 2nd S- 2nd Unit of 2nd B, 20, USMA, Newport, R.I.  
 S. J. Scapuro ADM 3/o - 2nd Composite Squadron (VS) 76, c/o V P O, San Fran  
 Angelo Scapuro, 2/o, East Coast Base Unit, USN Supply Depot, Bayonne, N J  
 Affiliated:  
 Det. A  
 Sgt. Vito Valtrechia-326125994 Station ON Depot (Supply) 270657, PR, NY  
 Cpl. I. Chas de Keo -32759999-734th Army Band AAF, Lake Chas, La  
 Pvt. Frank Scapuro-32621476-Co. C 149th Inf. AFOS 36, PR, San Fran  
 PFC Dominic Magro-32634523- Station 12-1 Co- A T O, 2nd 2408, PR, NY

Here I am on the job again. It's been a tough grind these past two weeks. The speech at International House went over OK on Sunday night. Mom is finally settling down to her new home on the first floor of that big house before the telephone building in Allendale. The telephone # is Allendale 349 J. Boy I don't want to see another phone bill for some time. The Brooklyn bill was \$17.00, the Allendale bill about 12.00 besides out of pocket expense calls. That's some bill for a month, dictating repairs, painting, moving etc, by phone from N Y and Okla. Mom has quite a bit of room in the new place- two very large bedrooms, big living room, roomy kitchen and good sized bathroom and chicken coop- but the financial headaches are by no means over- just a bit more complicated. We are moving up to Allendale this week-end. We've been invited to supper by the prospect- Mom's tenants on E. Allendale Ave. Boy, you'd never recognize the old place inside. It's had a rebirth. New paint, new window, newly finished floors- new screens, etc.

ALPH: I got 2 letters from you dated Sept. 8 and 13. You sure are moving rapidly. I hope those Belafried Lind's dragon teeth were pretty well smashed before you rolled up. I called Mr. Reese at Chase Bank to tell him about the loan family you met. He was tickled pink. Mrs. Lukas is Reese's wife's sister. The news came at the right time because Mrs. Reese was very ill and your news was a morale booster. Have you had any luck replacing your clothes? Too bad you have left France and Belgium. Can't understand why you should be going to Germany when you were trained for French area military govt. Glad you are taking it OK though. You must have had the same presentation about Ralph that I had but thank god he seems to be OK now.

RALPH: It was good to get your letter of Sept. 24. It was all in one piece. Censor agreed with you this time. Better have a talk with some one and see why it is your letters are all chopped up. I'm almost convinced now you're with the 2nd Fleet near the Philippines. Judging from accounts here you're giving the Japs a helluva shellacking. I hope by the time you get this you've set foot on land again after 2 months and that you have not eaten too much dirt as you unretarded. I told Lindy to write you about the exploits of the "B's". I'm no good at that stuff. I'll begin sending the sports letters again next week. It makes all of us feel good that Father McGarity is with you. I'm sure that with your frequent communications and his prayers you will pull thru OK. I've been going almost every Sunday chiefly for you and Al and also for the rest of the boys.

WILLIE: I suppose we'll have to write you in French soon. Boy, what a surprise - you in Paris. We're worried- stay away from the Hotel Marguerite and those other places. By the way you weren't living at the American house at the 11th Ave. I think that is where you stayed back in 1932 during her stay in Paris and what hotel you were living in Paris let us know if you can. I couldn't carry to about the demobilization



Oct. 5, 1944

plan just yet. You'll be better off than many thousands who are still here.--you'll have your overseas service and points to your credit. We'll keep an eye on your place in line. Of course a couple of kids would help. Are you holding anything back? Is there anyone over here we should be watching? That was quite a coincidence meeting Mike de Sance. He must be in the European Civil Affairs Division and might know something about Albert's whereabouts.

Victor & Rose: Spoke to Allendale tonight. Babcock -the carpenter has been working on your roof. I'll go take a good look this week-end, and give more details. I'm waiting to receive the signed lease from Allendale and I'll send it to you for your signature. I'm sorry things have moved so slowly but I've had too darn much on my hands at one time. Don't call Saturday night- if you do, call late - say about 9:30 PM and make it person to person to me. Sunday I'll be floating around between the old place and the new. If you make a person to person Sunday, you'll be able to tell you where I am and you can call the other number.

Agge: Was in Allendale when I phoned tonight. I suppose we'll see you this weekend. Better show up- we have to clean up the garden and transfer the chickens. You're always such a big help. He's OK, fellow, Agge, Lindy and Tony moved Mom's stuff on Freddy Roger's truck. That's something when you consider refrigerator and all. Lawrence helped too. We sold the plant for \$10.00. That's something too but not much.

Charles: By this time you're sunning yourself again while we driver. Say what's your license? Still have one, got anymore?

Walter: Your last letter was rec'd in Allendale this week so I don't know where you are. But I'm glad you're OK. I guess our letters crossed each other on the way. I acknowledged the 10 shillings you sent me, 's the money didn't do any damage. Only Brooklyn and Long Island got it and that is what trees did.

Walter: No letters from you in some time. By the way have you learned to speak Chinese yet? Learn it if you get a chance then come back to the States, not married and go back to China for a job. Do you think that is a good idea? You'll probably say "stooey!!"

Charles: I almost forget again. Do you know that only the first money order for about \$45.00 got here? If you sent any more you better check up from your bank.

Two packages from Frank, Al and Maryfil are already in the mail to Willie, Mom's, and Bonnie. Albert's package containing a nice wooden camera, and a set of other with second hand (just repaired) camera and film will get there next week. Hope this makes up for some of the things you lost. So look out for these packages, boys.

Maryfil is interested in the war tonight. She asked: "Who are the Germans, daddy?" "They're naughty. They hurt little girls." Maryfil "Why?" Daddy changed the subject. "Uncle Al and Uncle Willie chase them away." Maryfil "Germans come here, Daddy?" Daddy: "No, Uncle Al and Uncle Willie beat them up." Maryfil "Germans take my lollipops, daddy?" "There's been a lollipop shortage in the last few weeks and if you doesn't get one at night you make her trouble. She misses the lollipops very much."

Well, here's hoping by the time I write the next bulletin that the Germans will have decided they've had enough. God bless you all, pray hard and keep well.

Love, Frank, Al and Maryfil.



5 October 1944

5 Oct 1944

Dear Joe:

Just a line to say hello and everything is well. Enclosed find money order for \$100. to be put in my account.

It's getting cold over here now and I've got a slightly sore throat. I'll just shake it off.

Well gal tell mom I'm O.K. and not to worry.

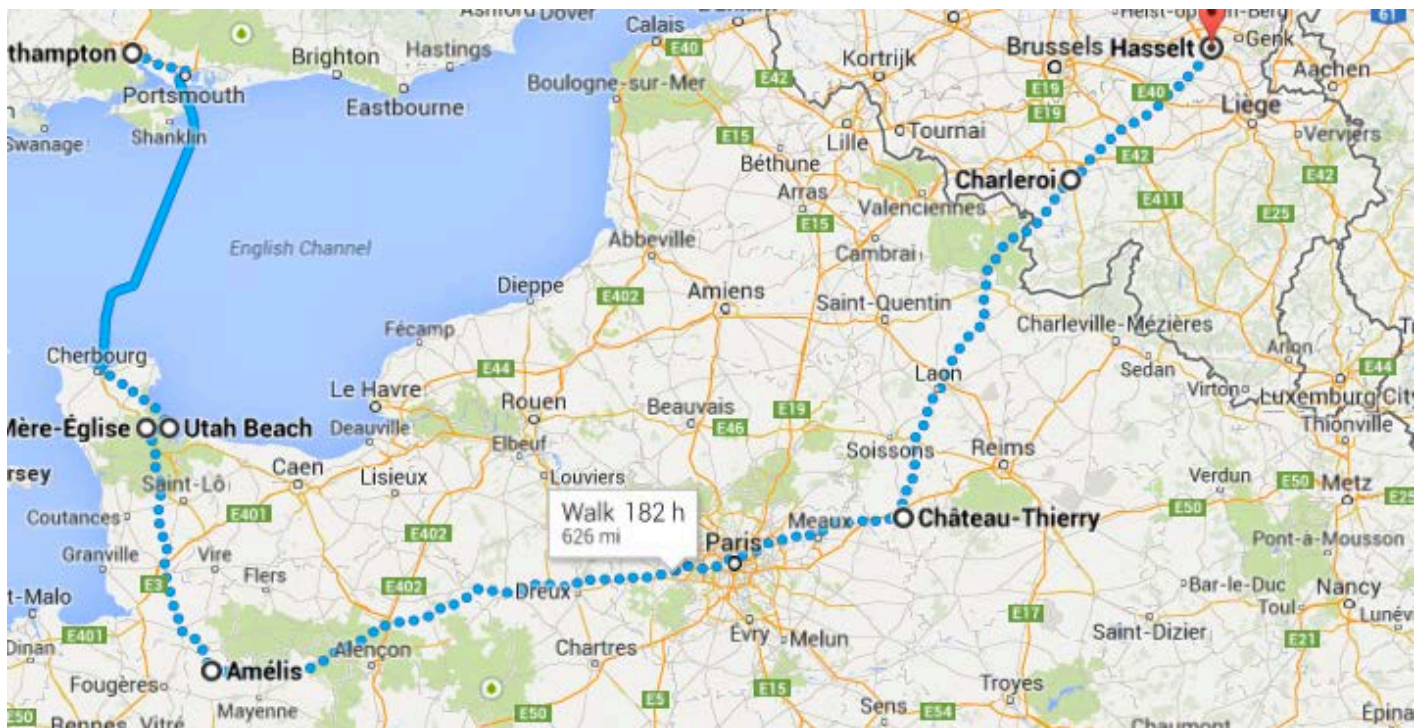
Love to all  
Al.

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Love to all  
Al





9 October 1944  
Dear Frank  
I received your Vol. IV #5, 19 Sept 44 issue of the Home Front a few days ago. I've been waiting for an opportunity since to drop you a line and it looks as if this is it.  
From all reports from home I gather that you have been kept busy as usual with all that renovating and renting going on up in Allendale. I suppose, in fact I know that the house in Allendale was certainly due for a going over, and if renting the house afforded means of doing so profitably, then I think it was a very wise move. The new location for Mom sounds excellent to me.  
I'm really quite surprised by your show of concern as to what in hell I'm doing with all my money. Especially since I have been sending a money order for \$100 home each month. That added to the \$25 deducted for Mom leaves me with about \$20 each month which is sufficient for my present purposes. I'm quite sure that the explanation of this, all lies in the fact that perhaps my last one or two money orders at \$100 per have not arrived as yet. But they'll be there I assure you. Incidentally, if as you say, Mom is changing her address it might be well for you to advise the Office of Dependency Allotments of the change of address.

(2)  
Office of Dependency Allotments of the Change of Address.  
What do you all think of Marie and myself talking "engagement". Silly? Well maybe. I'm in a hell of a predicament what with Janine still wooing to me about "we're going to settle down to a wonderful life in France "après la guerre"/ That even sounds more silly. If I had to make a choice from here right at the moment I would give Marie the nod. She's a wonderful little girl, pretty, full of personality, versatile and intelligent. Not as much a "woman of the world" as Janine, which might be to my benefit, at this point of my career anyway.  
Your references to Ralph have disturbed me somewhat. Has he had another recurrence of that Florida incident? Just how badly was he injured? Do you have any further information? I trust and pray that he is alright. He has been real fortunate in meeting friends hasn't he. I don't exactly recall Father McCarthy.  
That must have been quite a storm, gale, cyclone, or something that hit the Atlantic Coast, Jersey included. Read all about it in our Stars and Stripes.

(3)  
Nothing new that I can report at this time. I'm living interesting days, always however, of that you may be sure. I note that the demobilization plan makes no provision for students whose studies were interrupted. I had hoped that this factor would not be overlooked. Apparently it has. Oh well.  
My very best regards to Dad and the baby. Please send me a picture of my remembrance to my spirit of mine when you might see it. How is Mr. Wagner? Well, I hope. That all brother - that's all!  
I might  
Brother Al  
P.S. Call up Doc Conline for me sometime and give him some news will you?

9 October 1944

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That must have been quite a storm, gale, cyclone, or something that hit the Atlantic Coast, Jersey included. Read all about it in our Stars and Stripes.

The '44 hurricane — called the Great Atlantic Hurricane — hit with winds of 96 mph, according to "Great Storms of the Jersey Shore," by Buchholz and Larry Savadove. Faced with an arduous clean-up, officials used German prisoners of war imprisoned at Vineland to help. Even though the nation's main focus was on the war effort, commanders at Fort Dix dispatched soldiers to the shore to prevent looting.

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/08/hurricane\\_irenes\\_predecessor\\_t.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/08/hurricane_irenes_predecessor_t.html)

The hurricane was infamous for the amount of damage it caused along the New Jersey coastline. The shore towns on Long Beach Island, as well as Barnegat, Atlantic City, Ocean City, and Cape May all suffered major damage. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1944\\_Great\\_Atlantic\\_hurricane](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1944_Great_Atlantic_hurricane)

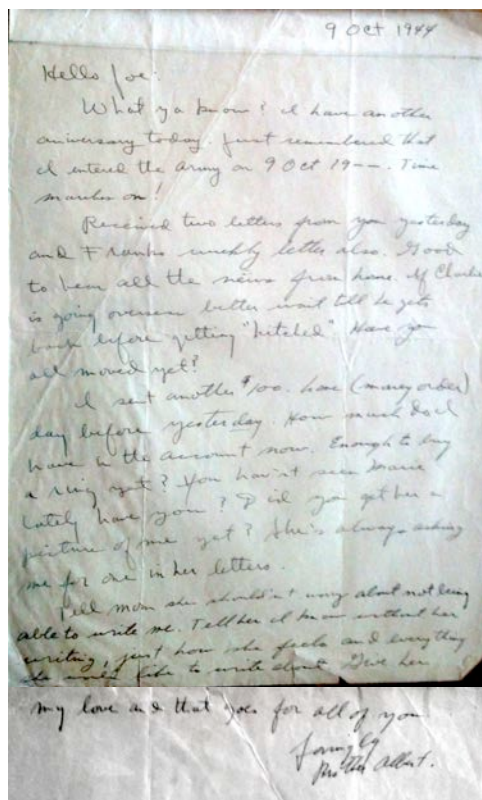
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My very best regards to Fil and the baby. Remind me and give my remembrances to any friends of mine whom you might run into. How is Mr. Wagner? \*\* Well I hope. That's all brother - that's all!

Lovingly  
Brother Al

P.S. Call up Doc Carlisle for me sometime and give him some news will you?

\*\* "Mr. Wagner" was the code Al's brother Frank had suggested to indicate - without alerting the mail censors - that Al was somewhere on the Siegfried Line. { [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siegfried\\_Line](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siegfried_Line) The Siegfried Line was a defence system stretching more than 630 km (390 mi) with more than 18,000 bunkers, tunnels and tank traps. It went from Kleve on the border with the Netherlands, along the western border of the old German Empire as far as the town of Weil am Rhein on the border to Switzerland. More with Nazi propaganda in mind than for any strategic reason, Adolf Hitler planned the line from 1936 and had it built between 1938 and 1940.}



9 October 1944

Hello Joe:

What ya know? I have another anniversary today. Just remembered that I entered the Army on 9 Oct 19--. Time marches on!

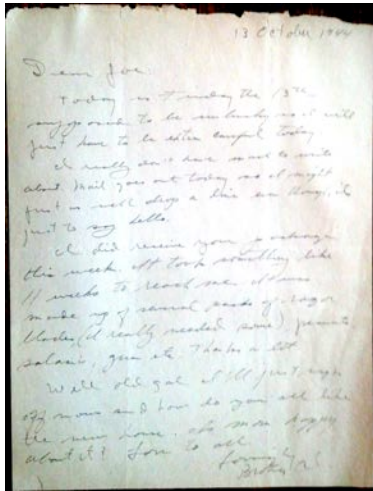
Received two letters from you yesterday and Frank's weekly letter also. Good to hear all the news from home. If Charlie is going overseas better wait till he gets back before getting "hitched". Have you all moved yet?

I sent another \$100 home (money order) day before yesterday. How much do I have in the account now. Enough to buy a ring yet? You haven't seen Marie lately have you? Did you get her a picture of me yet? She's always asking me for one in her letters.

Tell Mom she shouldn't worry about not being able to write me. Tell her I know without her writing, just how she feels and everything she would like to write about. Give her my love and that goes for all.

Lovingly  
Brother Albert





13 October 1944

Dear Joe:

Today is Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> – supposed to be unlucky so I will just have to be extra careful today. I really don't have much to write about. Mail goes out today so I might just as well drop a line even though it's just to say hello.

I did receive your package this week. It took something like 11 weeks to reach me. It was made up of several packs of razor blades (I really needed some) peanuts, salami, gum, etc. Thanks a lot

Well od gal I'll just sign off now and how do you all like the new house Is Mom happy about it? Love to all.

Lovingly  
Brother Al

Friday,  
Oct 13, 1944

Hi Jo,

Received another letter from you last nite. It was dated Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. So you can see it didn't take very long to reach me. Oh yes, it was the same letter in which you included a letter of my mine – or I should have said a half a letter. [Ed. See \* below] Boy they really did a job on it. Thanks for sending it. I'll have to be more careful from now on.

This will be the last letter you will receive from me for quite awhile. So tell mom to please not to worry. By the way how is mom? I hope she is happy. Tell her to take care of herself for me. In regards to Frank's letter of Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, tell Frank I had it for a little while but threw it away. But since we've been here I've received another from him dated Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. I'm sure this is the one that has everything in it.

Well it's now 4:15 and time for mass. So I'll be thinking of you and all. By for a little while. Lots of love to mom.

Love to all  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR

\* I hope that by this time you are pretty well settled in your new home. How do you like it? I hope mom finds it more convenient than the other house.

I haven't sent you anymore money since the first \$45 I sent you. But I may send you \$100 next payday. I'm not sure.

Well Jo that's all for today. Try and send me some newspapers if you can. Lots of love to mom.

Love to all,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR

*Somewhere in Luxembourg*

*15 October 1944*

*Dear Frank & Fil:*

*Received your Vol. IV, #7 today. Mail has been coming in rather nicely lately. Hope it keeps up!*

*From all Reports from home you certainly have had your hands full. I imagine things should begin to settle down now. Mom seems pretty well located now and that should relieve things somewhat. Glad to hear that your speech went over well. Did it knock the war off the front pages?*

*It does appear as if Ralph has been having his share too He's been having censor trouble. I think he doesn't realize just how serious that offense can be. It could mean a very, very severe penalty. I have seen too many cases to take it lightly. I wouldn't relish several years in the penitentiary for an oversight. I'm sure relieved to hear that he is well.*

*That Willie is really a lucky fellow now isn't he? What a catastrophe to get stuck in a place like Paris! Poor fellow!*

*The weather here has been abominable. I've experienced very few pleasant days since coming here. It certainly doesn't help to keep your spirits up. At least I've got a place to sleep. That's a lot more than a lot of my buddies have. I'm in pretty good shape, except for a little cold I'm fighting to shake off. I still haven't been able to get any clothes. I'm not too bad off though. I have two shirts that I alternate with, a couple of pairs of socks and one pair of trousers. I expect to be able to make some purchases and more replacement within the next week. I will really be able to use the articles you mentioned in your letter My sincerest thanks to Mom Vultaggio for her kind thoughtfulness. I was over in the capital city of Luxembourg the other day; really a beautiful little city.*

*Say, can Mary-Fil really talk the way you say she does! I can't believe it. It just sounds incredible! I'll bet she's a pretty little girl, must take after the Scafuro's!*

*One of these days this war is going to end. Then I will have the problem of when I will be getting home. That "demob" plan did not give much consideration to students who were yanked away from their studies and careers did it? Oh well I'll worry about that when the time comes. Right now I'll worry and concentrate on staying in one piece. Give my regards to all and thank you again for your remembrances*

*Lovingly  
Brother Al*



Willie Vultaggio  
Fil Scafuro's Brother



15 October 1944

Dear folks:

Another Sunday, another day, and so it goes. The weather here never does seem to improve any, just the usual wet, damp and cold. I have seen very little sun of late. Even now it is raining.

Enough about the horrid weather. Let's change to a more pleasant subject. But what pleasant subject? That's quite difficult to find in war. So far I have found very little that is nice or pleasant. The greater part of the time it has been not nice and not pleasant. On the other hand most of us here didn't expect to find pleasure or go "picnicking" when we crossed the Channel. The only way to cure all this is to get this war over with, just as quickly as we possibly can. On that point every G.I. is in full agreement. We know that we have got to win and we want to do it just as quickly as we possibly can.

When one listens to radio and news reports from back home he soon gets the

impression that the war is all over with, that there is nothing to worry about now, and Germany is licked. I would like to invite people who talk like that over here for a few days and show them a few things. There are plenty of men dying at this moment and many more lie wounded and suffering in our hospitals. Big battles are still being fought and will be fought before these fanatical Germans throw in the towel. We have gone a long way since D-day and we have given the enemy a severe trouncing and little respite. His losses have been terrible in men and equipment. We have got him groggy now but we don't intend that he should be permitted to recover. He can still fight back and it will still be a little time before we can keep him down for the 10 count. That's why I feel provoked when I hear people saying that the war is over from the comparative security of their firesides. Nope - there's still a war to be won. Don't start those parades just yet.

Now if you see any in hell I got

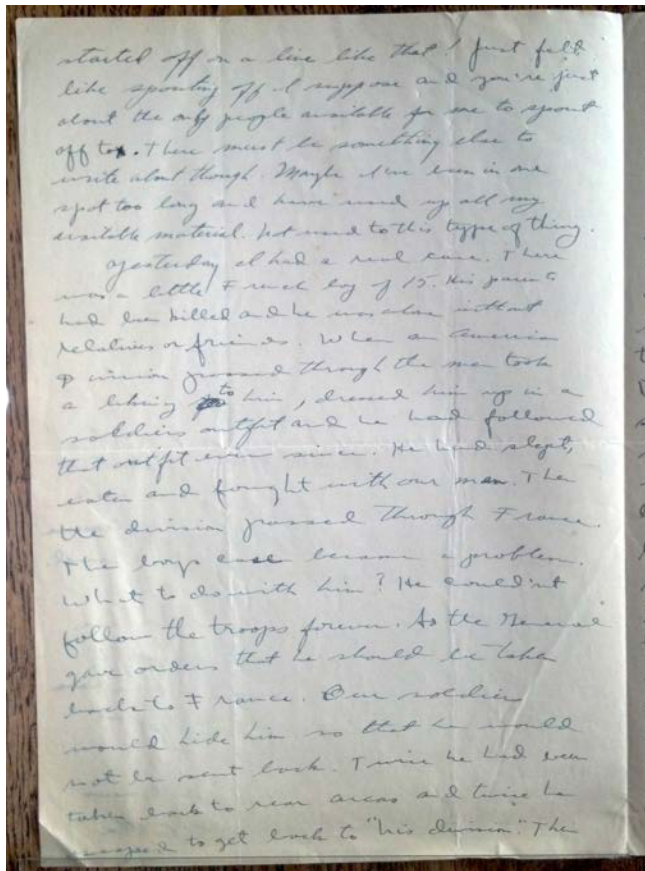
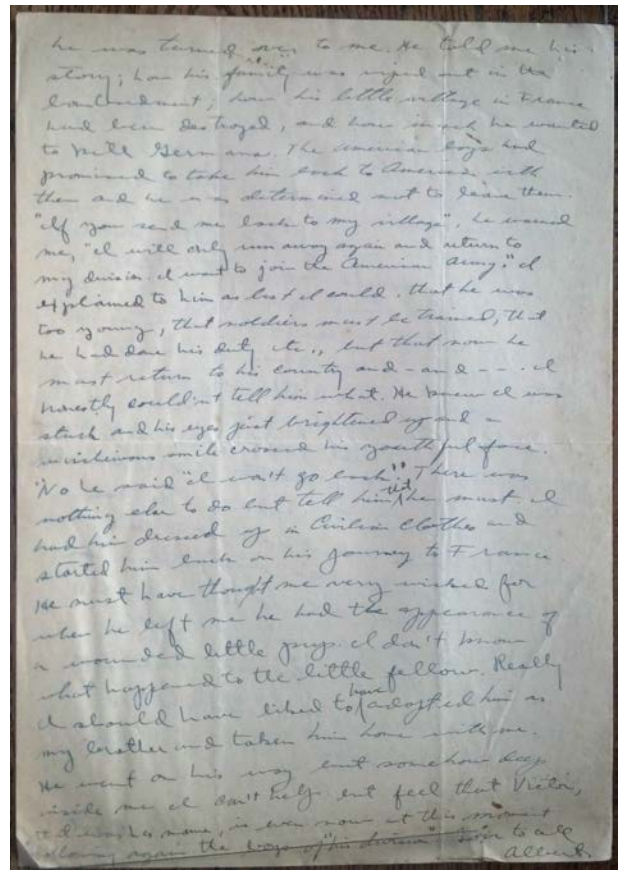
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A photograph of a handwritten manuscript page. The text is written in cursive and matches the typed transcription on the right. It begins with "started off on a line like that I just felt like spouting off..." and ends with "The boys case became a problem. What to do with him? He couldn't follow the troops forever. So the General gave orders that he should be taken back to France. Our soldiers would hide him so that he would not be sent back. Twice he had been taken back to rear areas and twice he escaped to get back to 'his division'." The page is slightly aged and shows some ink bleed-through from the reverse side.A photograph of a handwritten manuscript page, the second page of the story. It continues from the first page, starting with "he was turned over to me. He told me his story; how his family was wiped out in the bombardment; how his little village in France had been destroyed, and how much he wanted to kill Germans." The text concludes with "He went on his way but somehow deep inside me I can't help but feel that Victor, that was his name, is even now at this moment following again the boys of 'his division'." The handwriting is consistent with the first page.

. Now I wonder why in hell I got started off on a line like that! Just felt like spouting off! I suppose and you're just about the only people available for me to spout off to. There must be something else to write about though. Maybe I've been in one spot too long and have used up all mu available material. Not used to this type of thing.

Yesterday I had a real case. There was a little French bot of 15. His parents had been killed and he was along without relatives or friends. When an American Division passed through the men took a liking to him, dressed him up in a soldier's outfit and he had followed that outfit ever since. He had slept, eaten, and fought with our men. Then the division passed through France. The boy's case became a problem. What to do with him? He couldn't follow the troops forever. So the General gave orders that he should be taken back to France. Our soldiers would hide him so that he would not be sent back. Twice he had been taken back to rear areas and twice he escaped to get back to "his division". Then he was turned over to me. He told me his story; how his family was wiped out in the bombardment; how his little village in France had been destroyed, and how much he wanted to kill Germans. The American boys had promised to take him back to America with them and he was determined not to leave them. :If you send me back to my village", he warned me, "I will only run away again and return to my division. I want to join the American Army." I explained to him as best I could that he was too young, that soldiers must be trained, that he had done his duty, etc., but that now he must return to his country and - and - and-. I honestly couldn't tell him what. He knew I was stuck and his eyes just brightened up and a mischievous smile crossed his youthful face. "No" he said, "I won't go back." There was nothing else to do but tell him that he must. I had him dressed up in civilian clothes and started him back on his journey to France. He must have thought me very wicked for when he left me he had the appearance of a wounded little pup. I don't know what happened to the little fellow. Really I should have liked to have adopted him as my brother and taken him home with me. He went on his way but somehow deep inside me I can't help but feel that Victor, that was his name, is even now at this moment following again the boys of "his division".

Love to all,  
Albert



OCT. 15, 1944

Lt. A.C. Scafuro-O-1003620-Det. Detl-"B" Co, 1st Regt, HQAD, APO #688, PW, NY  
 V.E. Scafuro, Sp 2/c As R Unit Al Bks B, P O, USMHS, Newport, R I  
 R.J. Scafuro, ADM 3/c USN Composite Squadron (VC) 78, c/c PPO, San Fran  
 Angelo Scafuro, S 2/c East Coast Base Unit, USN Supply Depot, Es,onne, NJ  
 Affiliated:  
 Sgt. Wito Valtaggio-32812599-Det. A 541st CM Depot(Supply) APO # 807, PW, NY  
 Cpl. I. Chas DeMoo-38759999-734th Army Band AAP, Lake Chas, Ia  
 Pvt. Frank Scafuro-32691476- Co. C 149th Inf. APO#38 ,P B, San Fran  
 PFC Dominic Magre-32634523- Station 18-1 CW- APO, APO #400, PW, NY

We've spent a slow quiet day at the apartment today. Maryfil had a slight cold. Yesterday I went out to Allendale for a quick inspection. Everything seems to be working out alright. Mom was very happy with all the mail she got this week. Josie has done a pretty good job fixing up "new" apartment - it's not bad. If Mom would only step outside now. But I'll fix that up. I'll put up a chicken coop, then she'll have to go out and visit the chickens. Lindy has been working very hard- he's janitor of the town house, landlord of the places on East Allendale Ave and caretaker for Seidel. However he manages to get some football in also.

You know that speech I made at International House on Oct. 1st - well there's a chance the U S Office of War Information may ask me to beam it short wave to Italy in Italian and if that goes over it may be broadcast to other areas.

ALBERT: Boy you sure pulled a fast one on us- getting engaged to Marie before we even get a look at her. Do I go over and put the ring on her finger? We would have asked her over long before this but things have been rather confused all summer with repairs, renting, moving, etc. Of all the prospects you've talked about or bragged about Marie is perhaps the most wholesome. But hold your horses, brother, there is still a war to be won and I wouldn't think about asking her to come to France, her mother may need her. She does have some brothers in the service, hasn't she? That long letter you wrote about attending Mass in that little church in Luxembourg was very touching. We can just imagine how you felt being the only Allied soldier there, being stared and smiled at while Mass was going on and then suddenly to have our national anthem struck up on the church organ just before Consecration. Got in touch with that firm you mentioned Schwarz was out of town, so was Leon but gave message to Fabio. They were quite thrilled with the news. Frankly these business transmissions are not quite according to Hoyle. I suppose you know that. Personal messages are OK. Your \$100. money order arrived. Am making \$20. payment to school. Sweater, scarf and camera on way to you. Write Mom Valtaggio a little thank you note at 1675 Bahill Rd.

EMILIE: We had hoped to go over to Mom's today but baby had a slight temperature. I talked to her on the phone today and she is quite well. We stopped at Bahill Road on Thurs, Columbus Day on our way back from the Zoo, where Maryfil saw those "nasty" monkeys as she called them today. We were disappointed. She wasn't as thrilled or as excited as we thought she would be. She took them as a matter of course. I guess she has seen too many of them in her books. Miss Kember called Fil on the phone this week and asked if there was anything special she could send. Fil couldn't tell her anything specific because you never ask for anything. Also Miss Kember is mad at you because you haven't answered her last letter which she wrote about 6 weeks ago. From your accounts of Paris it looks as tho the seines

took good care of it, even left cognac around for you fellows to drink.  
 How about some packages westbound?????



Oct. 18, 1944

HALPE: We sure got a batch of letters from you. The last one is dated Oct. 6 and got here Oct. 12 only 6 days. You must have been back in Pearl Harbor. You seem to be getting along better with the censor. Nothing crossed out this time. Now that I guessed so well that you are with the 3rd Fleet would I be right if I said that you're with Admiral Hitchens' famous Task Force 58. I also think you are on a ship with a Russian name. You sure must be seeing plenty of action. According to the radio you have been seen disembarking Hall out of Fremosa for the past 3 or 6 days. Hope you get some relief soon. It's good to hear you're sticking close to the chaplain. Got a letter from Kenny Unser. He didn't say much. Glad to hear you have decided on a post war job as physical instructor. I think it's a wise choice if that is what you like to do. Wish you would write to Lazbones Ange - that age Stepin Fetchit - to get some ambition, go to school and think about the future. If Task Force 58 is right say "I agree with you on the balance of my account." By the way when are you sending more money for your account.

VICTOR ARSHEE: Your house is cleared out. Your tenants will move in tomorrow. Watch for a credit advice from the bank because I told Critchley to deposit the \$30. He gets tomorrow to your account. The roof is practically finished. The bathroom plaster is fixed. Simon was to go over there this morning to paint the new plaster and fix the Sanitas. Told Babcock about fixing that tin in the dining room. Will write you about other details later this week.

ANGE: If you get home during the next few days Lindy has a list of things to be done. The first thing we want to do is to rig up that chicken coop at the new place. It's important that Mom have something else to think about during the day. Next, please try to get that picket fence lined up at Trumpler's. You might get the scythe or sickle and start cutting down those tall weeds in back of the new place. Clean up there generally. This sounds like old times, fellers, doesn't it? I'll let you know next time how much Ange does. He's a good skate. Trouble is he does most of his skating at Parnassus.

Charlie: I'm still waiting for your license number. They ~~eww~~ shure must be hard up for football players. What are you 4- the rear guard?

Frankie: No news from you at all! But we did get one postmarked Sept. 24 which we acknowledged last time.

Dominic: It's b en ages since we heard from you. How about it?

By the way, Al, we got those cards - Bugnocks and Chateau Thierry. Send more - they will add to our museum. Got your Belgian flag too. How about your decoration? Didn't you get anything for capturing those 40 Germans. Was that in Normandy? I read about 2 ANG officers who got ahead of their company, ran into machine gun nest and after getting them persecuted the other 40 in the barn the jig was up. Newspaper article mentioned one of the officers was a former oil executive from New York. Your boss, by chance? Are you still a 2nd Lt? Come on, give an account of yourself. We'd like to brag, too. That picture in "Stars & Stripes" of Sept 2, page 4 was the feller in the center, you? or were we just to look for your officer?

Keep writing and if it can be arranged for you to send some cable messages for Mom to the mothers, start thinking about it, now.

Goodnight, good luck and may God bless you all.

Love,

Frank,

Bill and

Maryfil



Oct. 18, 1944  
Wednesday

Dear Frank and Fil and MaryFil,

Just before starting this letter came back from a band drill out in the field and on the tired side but made it my business to get this off to you all before your next "Home Front News" which arrived this morning Vol IV 8 giving me quite a bit of pleasure to complete the day.

However I feel quite fine and must say I can't remember whether or not I have written you since my return to camp, I have, then I have nothing to worry about, otherwise I am on the apologizing side again if you'll al accept.

Now that I'm in the clear I can almost feel assured that everything in Allendale is quite finished and quite a relief on you mind Frank, and hoping that the family are all well including MaryFil and Fil.

Before going any further you specifically asked me two or three times for my license number and probably never gave it a thought, I don't think you really need it Frank but in case, it's #343-977.

If you remember I was tired before I started and if you can e3sxcuse a short letter I promise one of these days I will contemplate on writing a long letter.

Until tomorrow as always missing the folks and our stay together. My best to all the boys in the Home Front News and home.

Before closing must say they are preparing for an extensive practice of use of gases in Camp yesterday being a first series of test having two casualties in our outfit as we went through the gas chamber. The gases they are using are lung irritant etc.

As always will have to close goodnight and pleasant dreams to all.

I remain Sincerely Always  
Charlie

26 October 1944

Dear Joe:

Just a few words before laying this tired and beat-up corpse of mine into a place I call bed. I haven't received a letter for over a week now. I don't suppose that I can really blame anyone now either. Well - that's life I guess. Or is it?

I made a trip to the capital of Luxembourg today for a conference with "high" government officials. I don't feel like writing about it tonite. I'm not in the mood. However, I might tell you that my experiences today, as far as any "high points" in my "young career" are concerned reached their "zenith". I'll write my next letter Sunday, that will be the 29<sup>th</sup>. Tell you all about it then. Give my love to Mom and all the rest of the familia.

Tommy G.  
November 4, 1944

Luxembourg was liberated by Allied forces in September 1944. Allied tanks entered the capital city on 10 September 1944, where the Germans retreated without fighting. The Allied advance triggered the resistance to rise up... In mid December, the Germans launched the "[Ardennes Offensive](#)" in Luxembourg and the Belgian Ardennes. Though the city of Luxembourg remained in Allied hands throughout, much of the north of the country was lost to German forces and had to be liberated again.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luxembourg\\_in\\_World\\_War\\_II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luxembourg_in_World_War_II)



*Félix of Bourbon-Parma  
Prince consort of Luxembourg*

26 October 1944

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Lovingly  
Brother Al



27 October 1944

Dear Jo:

Received one of your letters yesterday. The one about me and Marie. I guess you all weren't taking me very seriously. Perhaps I'm to blame for not sounding serious. No - I think I know what I'm doing and what kind of girl I want. Marie is that girl.

I've had quite an opportunity to meet and to know quite a number of girls during my college years and after. I've met a lot and Marie is tops of them all. Without boasting I think that I can say that I could have landed, at one time or another, girls relatively wealthy or girls whom it would have been "justifiable" to marry. The fact that I didn't should prove just how much I think of Marie. You'll all love her, I'm certain.

I received a wonderful letter yesterday from Marie's mother. She told me how happy she was about Marie and me "getting hitched". She's wonderful too. Mrs. Montaigne plans announcing her daughter's engagement to me in November. When Frank is home some week-end - how about a little

cooperation with Mrs. Montaigne in that little matter. I plan to write Frank tomorrow or thereabouts.

On another subject. Remember that "highlight" I was referring to in my last letter. It happened when I went to Luxembourg to discuss a problem with an Allied Mission. I had the unlooked for opportunity of speaking with the Prince Consort of Luxembourg and having luncheon with him. His wife, Princess Charlotte is ruler of the country. What a man!

Enclosed is a picture I found in Life Magazine. It is self-explanatory. I know the woman well. She was one of my best friends. She fixed me up many a nice meal. Keep the picture for me. Any little thing like this that I may send home from time to time guard carefully for me.

Tell Mom she's going to have a sweet little daughter-in-law some day. I think Mom will trust my choice. Give her my love huh? Incidentally, this damn war "ain't" over yet.

Love  
Al

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Love,  
Al

Oct. 31, 1944

Hi Jo,

How is everything at home? I hope you are all well as I am

I started this letter about a week ago but never had a chance to finish it in between. But I'm pretty sure that we'll be receiving mail soon so I thought I'd better write so that you will get this.

Everything is going along okay right now. I have a lot of things to tell you when I get home. But I guess all that mom is interested in now is my health. Well you can tell her not to worry because I'm fine as ever.

I sure will be glad to get back home as I'm sure everyone else will also. You never realize how much it means until you're away from it for so long – especially out here.

How is Frank's wife? Ya know I'm ashamed to admit it but I've forgotten her name. What is her first name anyway? Give them both my regards but don't let Frank know I've forgotten her name already. Lots of love to mom.

Love,

Bro Ralph

R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR

**The October lapse in Ralph's writing would be explained in a letter dated November 6, 1944, indicating his carrier had been involved in the BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF:** This World War II clash followed the Allied landing at the Philippine island of Leyte in October 1944. The Japanese sought to converge three naval forces on Leyte Gulf, and successfully diverted the U.S. Third Fleet with a decoy. At the Suriago Strait, the U.S. Seventh Fleet destroyed one of the Japanese forces and forced a second one to withdraw. The third successfully traversed the San Bernadino Strait but also withdrew before attacking the Allied forces at Leyte. With much of its surface fleet destroyed in the battle, Japan was hamstrung in its ability to move resources from Southeast Asia to the home islands.

The aerial and naval battle conducted as Allied forces invaded the Philippines began with Leyte Island on October 20. Expecting an invasion, the Japanese fleet command ordered its forces to sea at the very first sign of Allied landings. Due to the effects of previous engagements and to Japan's precarious fuel situation, however, the Japanese fleet was deployed in a scattered fashion: carrier forces in Japan were training new pilots; battleship units near Singapore (close to the fuel sources) and some cruiser forces, formerly in the northern Pacific, maneuvered in the wake of the Allied carrier strikes on Taiwan (October 10-12). When Japan ordered its fleet into Philippine waters, these forces had to sail separately and for the most part operated independently in the battle that followed.

Headed toward the Philippines, the naval command suggested that Admiral Kurita Takeo of the battleship unit detach an element of his fleet to enter Leyte Gulf through the Surigao Strait. He did send a force that way, which was annihilated in surface naval combat in a classic crossing of the "T" on the night of October 24-25. The cruiser element from the north tried to follow but recoiled before making contact. Japan's aircraft carriers successfully decoyed north the U.S. Third Fleet of Admiral William F. Halsey, uncovering the San Bernardino Strait, through which Kurita's main fleet passed after turning away momentarily under the pressure of fierce U.S. submarine and air attacks. Kurita came closest to Leyte Gulf, in the process encountering several forces of small U.S. escort carriers, which the Japanese mistook for regular fleet carriers. Aircraft, however, made more and more powerful attacks on the Japanese as time went on, at length forcing Kurita to withdraw from Philippine waters.

Leyte Gulf was decisive in that it destroyed much of the remaining Japanese surface fleet while virtually ending Japan's ability to move resources from Southeast Asia to the home islands. Japanese losses included four aircraft carriers, three battleships, six heavy and four light cruisers, and eleven destroyers, along with several hundred aircraft and over 10,500 sailors. Allied losses were one light carrier, two escort carriers, two destroyers and one destroyer-escort. Despite overall failure, however, the Japanese showed that with determination they could still press home attacks against an Allied armada with huge technical and material advantages.

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<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-leyte-gulf>



Lt. Albert Scafuro-O-1003680-Det DCBd "B" Co, 1st Regt, MCAD, APO #658, RM, HI  
V.E. Scafuro, Sp 2/c A & R Unit #1 Mks B r O, USMIS, Newport, RI  
R.J. Scafuro, AOM 3/c USN Composite Squadron (VC) 78, c/o FPO, San Fran  
Angelo Scafuro, 2/c East Coast Base Unit, USN Supply Depot, Bayonne, NJ

Affiliated:  
Sgt. Vito Vultaggio-32812599-Det. A 541st QM Depot (Supply), APO #513, RM, HI  
Cpl. I. Chas De Meco-32759999- 704th Army Band AAF, Lake Okeechobee, LA  
rvt. Frank Scafuro-32891476-Co. C 149th Inf APO #38, RM, San Fran  
rFO Dominic Magro-32634523- Station 12-1 CW-ATC, APO # 468, RM, HI

\*\*\*\*\*

Life moves very fast and time gets scarcer and scarcer. Besides working at the bank, attending business luncheons and International house meetings I come home loaded with literature:- business reviews, newspaper clippings etc, about the South American countries- so that I can keep posted about all that happens there. Today I had a two hour luncheon session with the Commercial attache from Uruguay- he wants us to help him organize a Uruguayan-American friendship society.

Last Saturday if you were listening shortwave to an Office of War Information broadcast beamed at Italy you might have heard the Announcer present one of America's pioneers in the development of friendly relations among peoples- Mr. Francis Scafuro--yeah! That was me! The talk was in Italian beamed on at Italy, but I've got to stop some of this tomfoolery and get down to brass tacks at the University, to get my final degree.

This is for the Scafuros only: Only 53 shoppin g days to Xmas. Another bright idea. The gas cooking stove at Mom's apartment looks as tho it had been pulled off a ten year old junk heap. Even when she moves back to the house she'll need a new stove there. So how about it? Can we pool our pennies about \$150.00 worth and give Mom a real treat- something she'll appreciate every day for a long time to come. Make your contribution as large as you can.

I've been too darn busy to put up a chicken coop for Mom so she's gradually killing off the fowl. Maybe it is just as well, she's awfully expensive to keep.

Sunday Oct. 23 we had quite a get together at the house- not all for dinner out members of the family dropped in all day. Tony and Ralphie came up in the morning (Ralphie is 6 years old today and goes to St. Luke's kindergarten. Maryfil rushed up to Nance nine, threw her arms around and gave him a big kiss- for once Ralphie responded but then he ran for the door and said "Daddy take me home". Bobbie came with her Mom and Daddy. If you ever saw two amiable little cousins- Maryfil and Bobbie are the ones. They get along swell but Maryfil tries to be the teacher. She got a big kick when Bobbie pronounced "nut" as "nut". Maryfil giggled gleefully and a bit scornfully and said "She say 'nut'". Should say "nert" Bobbie." Maggie and her three graces "Nancy, Mary and Bobbie" came up in the afternoon. Those girls have grown. Nancy is now in 1st year high at St. Lukes.

ALBERT: Marie is OK with us. Of course we only met her for about 4 hours at Mom's last Sunday. She's quite a personable young lady. One thing I'm glad of is that she's got your number- bull thrower- but she likes it and I think she will make good most of the time. Another thing that pleased us is



Nov. 1, 1944

that she expects you to finish up your law course. I'm going to write the U of Va and see what they have to say about possible obscure provisions of GI bill that might put you up on the Demo. schedule. I'm going to send another \$20. also. I want try to advise you on correspondence with the other femme. I should think one is enough. Called up Carlisle, had quite a long talk with the Mrs. They still think you're one nuts. The last letter rec'd from you is dated Oct. 15 and arrived Oct 23. We're glad you have a place to sleep and we do hope you'll get some clothes soon.

**MALM:** The last letter from you is dated 10/15/44. It arrived all in one piece. Attaboy, be careful about the censorship. Al says it can be a very serious matter. Maybe you should let Father McCarthy take a look at your letters when you're in doubt. By the way we are you still together? nope no. That shift to the 7th came at a tough time, you sure gave those yellow b----- a helluva pasting. Sure we're a bit nervous about you but with your sticking close to God there and our pleading with him here we trust that you came out OK. We read about the Princeton and two escort carriers going down. It was good to hear that most of the crews were saved but we're still waiting to hear from you in the next few days we hope. As soon as I get a chance I'll have St. Luke's and Ramsey's school records sent to Springfield College so they can tell if you're eligible for entrance when you come back.

**Willie.** Fil says she visited the Madeleine when she was in Paris but didn't attend Mass there at all. You're one up on your sister. We haven't seen a letter from you in some time now. Mom received one last week with your latest ArO and telling us that you might be getting a chance to acquire a taste for Champagne. Have you gotten the chance? We can't figure out whether you have gone north or south. Are you up near Belgium or Luxembourg? Have we mentioned that Albert is in Luxembourg? Maybe you'll catch up to him some day. Try to let us know in some way where you are. Frank just did some research. It seems that Reims is the city for the best Champagne. Is that where you are? You might have mentioned the famous cathedral. If that is where you are, hurry up and get to Luxembourg. Albert needs some clothes. He only has a pair of pants and two shirts. Now you know what wardrobe to fix up for him.

**Age:** Before you make those arrangements to work part time at the Jersey City Stockyards - how about writing Vic and arranging to make some money on ornaments instead. If you're home this week-end - please get together with Lindy and clean up the backyard at the new place - cut the grass and burn up those fall weeds.

**Charlie:** Thanks for your letter and that number. Say, you're quite a musician. Heard the phonograph records you sent Josie; but for goodness sake next time write out your speech. Don't let us sit there in suspense waiting for you to say something other than "I love you, I love you, I love you." We know that.

**Frankie:** Thanks for your Xmas card. I wonder if you are in the Philippines. Your mother and father together with Joie and Anthony came to Allendale Sunday for Nancy Magro's wedding.

**Dominick:** If you don't write soon I am going to cable Chiang Kai shek to kick you out of China. Boy, don't you wish your name were Stillwell.

Next time we'll tell you all about our new Pres. - let's hope the winner will have God's blessing and the foresight to win a just, equitable and lasting peace. Have been going to frequent communion - 3 times in past 10 days - not for me but for you all and your safe and speedy return.

God bless you all, Frank, Fil and Maryfil



1 November 1944

Dear Jo:

I received one letter from you, one from Frank and of course, several from Marie. What a girl! She told me she had received a letter from you inviting her to the house and that she was planning on coming over the following Sunday. How did you all like her. Pretty girl, isn't she? Make Umberto heap fine Missus - NO?

I'm really happy to know that you are hearing from Ralph regularly. May those letters continue to come. I imagine he saw his share of activity during the past week.

What are your plans with Charlie? I hope that you are not planning marriage till the war is over. I think getting engaged was swell, but getting married before the war is over is another thing. There are many good reasons against it I think. This is just my own personal opinion.

I feel were in Charlie's shoes I should think I'd give it a little more thought. First of all, I'd figure that trying to support a wife while in the Army would be quite difficult. When I get married I'd like to settle down for good and really make a marriage of it. Secondly, I'd keep in mind that the war isn't over, and that there is a good possibility still of some overseas service. This is especially true when you consider the demobilization scheme.

You have probably thought about the couple of things I have mentioned above. Of course there are other considerations. I don't doubt but that you have come to the same conclusions I have. Who knows - maybe we can make it a double wedding or something like that. Some fun eh? I think Charlie is a helluva good egg too, and will make you a good husband.

Let me know how Mom likes my babe will you? I've got to buy some winter clothes with this month's pay. Don't expect too much. All my love to Mom & all the rest.

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All my love to Mom & all the rest.

Fondly,  
Brother Al

4 November 1944

Dear Joe:

Well it's Sunday again and things haven't changed any since my last letter which I wrote Nov. 1, if I remember correctly.

Church services were very nice this morning. I attended a Solemn High Mass of Requiem for the dead in a small but beautiful little church, "somewhere in Luxembourg".

I guess Winter is really beginning to set in over here in this part of the world. It's quite cold already. I think that I will have to buy myself another overcoat. I lost my other one - remember? I expect to be near an Officer's Sales store this coming week and will probably get myself some new clothing to replace part of what I have lost. I don't think I'll buy another "dress uniform" till later. No use for it any way.

I gather that I will have quite a few packages to look forward to during the next several months!

Marie is sending me a couple too. Looks like Santa Claus is going to be good to me. I wish he'd drop me down "our chimney" though sometime before next Xmas. Let's see - this will make the third Xmas I will have spent in the Army. I started to write something, then censored it myself. What a jerk!

Say have you all met my little number yet? Marie I mean. Cute little devil isn't she? Let me know if she's gotten fat or ugly since I left. Then again you wouldn't know cause you didn't know her before. Give me your impressions anyway. Lindy's too. He's got good taste! How's the little twerp doing anyway. Still give you and Mom a lot of trouble. How old is Lindy anyway - 17? I've forgotten whether he's a Junior or Senior in High School. "Junior" I hope!

Say hello to Larry, Tony and the rest around the house. I miss them all. Tell Mom her little lieutenant is still kicking and intends to keep doing so, till he can come home and nestle where he belongs. So long and Bee-gurk.

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Lovingly,  
"Jerk"



Nov 4, 1944

Dear Frank,

We're back in port again and I'm glad I can say that. We haven't received any mail yet but last time I was here I received two letters from you dated Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

I'll make this letter short then I'll answer your letter when I receive it. I sure would like to be back there to read some of the New York papers. Say Frank how about doing me a favor and see if you can set some of the N.Y. papers from the week beginning Oct. 24 and ending Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> and saving it for me? I'd like to see it.

I may be lucky enough to go ashore here for a few weeks. I haven't had my foot off of this ship since the first day I came aboard.

I hope everything is OK back there. How's Al making out? Give my regards to your wife. I wrote to Jo and told her to give my regards to both of you. I also told her that I had forgotten your wife's name. I think you forgot to mention it in your letter. What is it anyway? Boy it was a helluva line!

Well Frank I'll write soon again. I am fine as ever.

Love,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c

Nov 5, 1944

Dear Frank,

Last night the censor gave us permission to mention certain things in our letter. I guess they knew that we would like to write about it awful bad. Of course there is plenty that we are not able to say but anyway I'm glad we can say where we were, which of course you probably already know.

We were one of the first ships to invade Leyte Island in the Philippines. Frank it was the biggest show on earth. Things were rather quiet and peaceful the first three or four days there but after that everything began to happen. You already know that it was the first time in two and a half years that the Jap fleet came out. Well we took care of them. Our planes were about the first ones to hit them. Boy they really did a wonderful job. I can't tell you some of the things that I would like to tell you. I don't know if I've said too much now. I hope not. The natives on the Island hate the Japs very much. When our soldiers and marines landed on the island they were very glad to see them. They helped in every way possible. They can speak well enough English to understand them.

When I was back in the States Frank, I read a lot about erasing the Jap race off the earth. I thought it foolish then. But I've changed my mind since. They just aren't human. Any people that would use the tactics they did against us must be insane or injected with some kind of a dope. That's why we have to knock off every one.

Yesterday I received five letters. I ought to be getting yours soon. Oh I almost forgot. I received your package last nite. Thanks a lot. I'm glad you sent me the canned food. Just what I wanted. I read that part in the paper about Palau. Say hello to Fil, Mary Fil, and all

Love,  
Bro Ralph  
R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR

Nov. 6, 1944

Dear Jo,

Received two letters from you yesterday which made me very happy of course. Also received a nice long one from Curley. Glad to hear that everything is the same around home. Hope it remains that way.

The censor gave us permission to [?] about the battle we were in. Just a few things though. I already wrote to Frank and told him about it so you can ask him if you want to. We were one of the first ones in on the invasion of the Philippines. The Jap fleet finally came out after so long. It was one of the greatest battles in Naval history. But as usual we came out on top. We were in around Leyte Island.

The natives on the Island hate the Japs. They were glad to see our Yanks. They speak a little English. After seeing some of the tactics the Japs use I'm convinced that they are not human. Right now we're sort of [taking] it easy.

Jo, I was going to send you the hundred dollars but I changed my mind. I thought that I'd better keep it because as soon as we hit the States again I'm going to need all the money I can get in case we get a leave.

By the way I received a package from Frank. The canned food tasted good.

Father McCarthy is still with me. I guess we should be together till we reach the States again.

Tell mom not to worry one bit about me as I am very well. Tell her that I want her to be happy. I go to mass and communion a lot for her and Al too.

Well I hope I hear from you again before we leave. :Lots of love to mom

Love to all

Bro Ralph

R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR



8 Nov 1944

Hello Joe:

Enclosed please find \$75. to deposit in my "steadily growing bank account."

Haven't had any letters from you all in over a week now. That mail man had better show up - but soon. Hope that everything is going along fine at home. Me - I'm fine. Just finished a damn swell dinner of French fries, steak, peas, salad, peaches and coffee. Rough life at this point alright.

Love to Mama and best regards to y'all.

Lovingly  
Al.

9 Nov 1944

Hello folks.

Dropping in to say hello - that's all. Hello! I'm sending along a couple of souvenirs - one if you'll look closely is a snap-shot of me. Not good, but a picture anyway.

We're getting our first snow here today. Boy I have never seen snow flakes so big. About the size of a window pane. No kidding they really are big. I like snow sometimes. But not here, makes everything that much more unbearable; I mean living conditions etc.

I don't have any hot news - so I'll quit here. I guess you heard F.D.R. was re-elected? Well he was! Gee - I must be really getting into sad shape. Tell Mom, I'm watching out for colds and I'm keeping warm O.K., aloro non e necessario de fare pensiero.\*

Love all  
Al

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Love all,  
Al

\* Roughly translated: So, no need to worry.



November 21, 1944

Et. A. Scafuro- O-1003620-Det BSB1, "B" Co, 1st Regt, ECAD, APO #688, FM, NY  
V.E. Scafuro, Sp 2/c AMB Unit #1 Hqs B, F C, USMTS, Newport, R I  
S.J. Scafuro, AMN 3/c USN Composite Squadron (VC) 76, c/o FPO, San Fran  
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Pvt. Frank Scafuro, 32691476- Co. C 149th Inf. APO # 38, FM, San Fran  
Cpl. Dominic M. ro- 32604623-1338th AAF, Base Unit APO, APO #688, FM, NY

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Sure has been a long stretch since the last issue but the typewriter has been in the hospital getting some badly needed repairs. Notice the difference  
All is well on the home front.

We were in Allendale over the week end- first time in 3 weeks. But I had been there election day. Fil and I voted for Roosevelt after all because as the campaign drew near its end it was plain to us that the other fellow just didn't have what it takes at this time. So God bless Roosevelt, give him health and strength and the light to see right-- always.

Saturday I went over to check the old place. The painting of the outside trim is coming along slowly. After Mom's home is finished Mr. Babcock (-the carpenter turned war worker who does painting in his spare time) will get busy on Vic's place.

Saturday night Maryfil went to sleep early and while Fil maked papers (old Scrooge with her low marks), Josie was busy knitting a sweater for Charlie and I talked with Mom. Finally Mom and I went out - 400 hundred feet up the street to Sinter Bros.- to do a bit of shopping.

Sunday Lindy and I built a coal bin in the new place for pea coal used for the hot water pot belly stove. Lindy is beginning to appreciate the good old motor stoker. He has to fire the furnace by hand now. Lindy started working at the Ridgewood A & P on Saturday. Ange was home for a short time Sunday morning and had me chasing down to Ridgewood for a second hand car he didn't buy.

Ange gave up his job at the Stockyards in Jersey City -(a part time affair) after he saw a fellow clipped by a bull.

Tony and his son Ralphie were up for a few minutes in the morning. Tony is quite a prosperous govt man- owns his own home by the tracks in Waldwick near the railroad bridge on Rycoff Av. Reggie and her 3 girls and Jim are all OK but they are rare birds around family gatherings.

Mom and Josie go to the St. Luke's Bingo parties Friday evenings- 2 weeks ago they won \$22.50. The jackpot this coming Friday night is \$250.00. I have a good mind to go up and win it.

Last night was Josie's (Fil's sister) birthday. So we were (Fil, baby and I) all at Mom Valtaggio's house for dinner and cake. It was Maryfil's 23 birthday too. Boy is her vocabulary growing. Last Sunday little Bobby asked Maryfil how she got the little burn on her hand, and this is the long answer Maryfil gave. "I burn myself by the oven. God punish me because I disobey Mommie." Honest to goodness those were the exact words - exactly pronounced. She answers all our phone calls now and if she recognizes the person calling - she asks about everyone in the particular family - in-



Albert was ordered to Luxembourg in the fall of 1944.

“I was in Bastogne visiting colleagues when we heard the first signs that there was going to be some kind of attack. We could hear artillery, a lot of planes. No one knew what was going on. It wasn’t supposed to be a combat area.”

But it would be. May 26, 1994, “Allendale vet at Utah Beach by Marsha Stoltz in The Town Journal- Part 2/3



... and then to Wiltz, Luxembourg, only a few miles from Bastogne where he assisted in setting up a temporary hospital for the wounded in an old castle. 1944-12-19? (REFERENCE:

<http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/american-saint-nicolas/> the ancient castle overlooking Wiltz. It was now a convent)

Here he met near disaster during the Battle of the Bulge. He recalls the fighting in the streets when he was attached to the 28<sup>th</sup> Division – a division nearly wiped out in the first German onslaught of the Battle of the Bulge. He had lingered too long to get out of Wiltz, he says, and he was given refuge by nuns who operated a hospital there. “The good nuns hid me out for several days in a coal bin,” he says, “and there remained until our forces retook the town.”

After the successful [Invasion of Normandy](#) and the subsequent eastward push through [France](#), the Allied front lines extended from [Nijmegen](#) in the north down to neutral [Switzerland](#) in the south. The valuable port city of [Antwerp](#) had been captured during the push, and by the time winter arrived, the Allies even had control of German territory near the city of [Aachen](#). [Adolf Hitler](#) soon laid out a plan to attack the Allied lines in [Belgium](#); 25 divisions would launch a surprise attack through the Ardennes, with the aim of crossing the [Meuse River](#) and recapturing Antwerp. Despite major misgivings from his senior commanders, including [Gerd von Rundstedt](#) and [Walther Model](#), the plan was not modified and the jump-off date was eventually set as 16 December 1944. Meanwhile, the

Allied commanders considered the Ardennes area to be unsuitable for a large-scale German attack, mainly because of terrain issues. In addition, intelligence reports suggested that the only German divisions stationed in the area were weary, and in the weeks leading up to the assault, no Allied commander saw reason to believe that an attack was imminent. Bastogne, a hub city that commanded several important roads in the area, was defended mainly by the [28th Infantry Division](#), which had seen continuous fighting from 22 July-19 November, before being assigned to this relatively quiet area. The Allies believed only an infantry division was present opposite the 28th Infantry, and they believed any attack along this sector would be limited in scale. ...

On 19 December, the 28th Division command post transferred to Bastogne from [Wiltz](#), a large village to the southeast. At Wiltz, the division put up its last stand; 3rd Battalion of the 110th—supported by armor and artillery—arrived at the city around noon of that day. The [44th Engineer Battalion](#) was set up north of the town, but they were soon overwhelmed and retreated into the city, blowing up a bridge behind them. This small force—numbering no more than 500 in total—held out until the evening, when their position became completely untenable and they retreated to the west. With the 110th Infantry completely destroyed as an effective combat unit, it would be up to the rest of the Allied army to defend Bastogne.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege\\_of\\_Bastogne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Bastogne)

The Allied Counter Attack 25 December 1944 - 28 January 1945: Civilians of Wiltz in Luxembourg at the window of the hospital, watch as the Luxembourg flag flies again after the town's liberation by the 4th Armoured Division on 25 December as Patton's 3rd Army began the attack which would relieve Bastogne.

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Liberation\\_of\\_Wiltz\\_in\\_Luxembourg.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Liberation_of_Wiltz_in_Luxembourg.jpg)

There are bitter memories, too: “The cold-blooded murder of the town’s mayor by the German SS troops; the town’s chief of police who turned out to be a traitor and gave the Germans a confidential list of local citizens who had cooperated with the Allies.



Civic Affairs Officer Albert Scafuro shakes the hand of Prince Charles, brother of the King of Belgium, after commemorative funeral services for President Roosevelt in April 1944.

1945-04-12: Subsequently he served in several towns in Belgium - as civil affairs officer in Hasselt Belgium, and it was while he was there that Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt died. He remembers the outpouring of sympathy from officials and citizenry and his attending a church service at the cathedral in company with Prince Charles, brother of Belgium's King Leopold. **May 27, 1979, "Scafuro plans invasion to recapture memories" by Grace Archer**

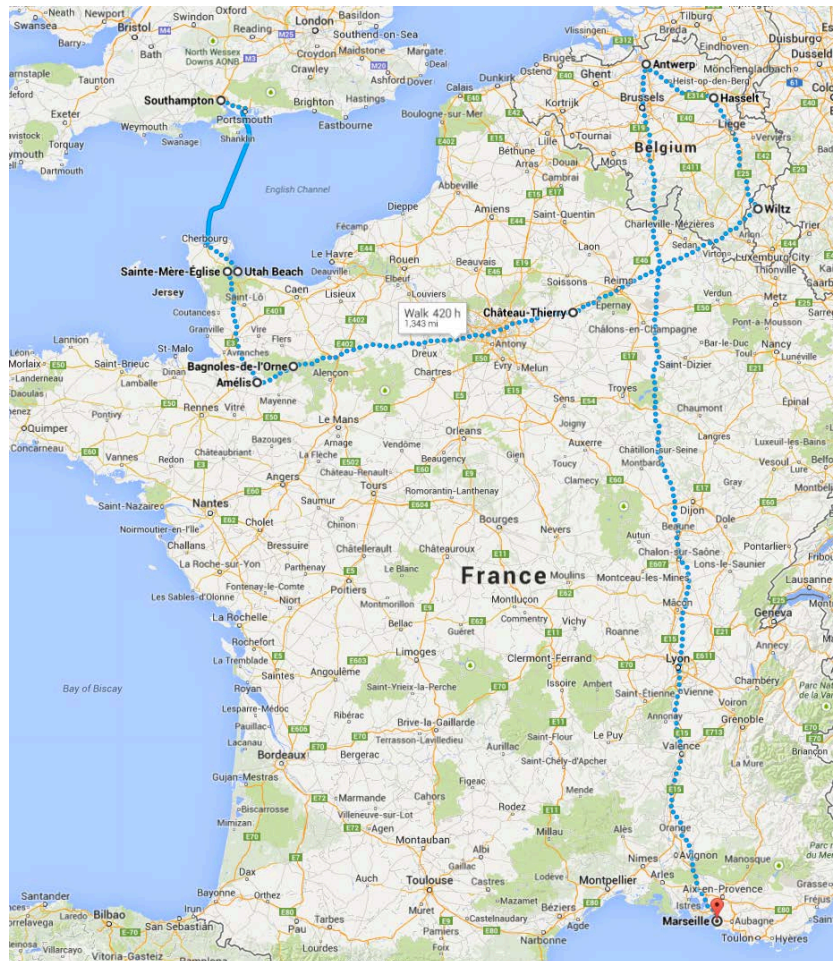
... was seated at a church service at the cathedral with Prince Charles, brother of Belgium's King Leopold

Accompanied a train of 1000 displaced persons from Antwerp running along the Swiss/Italian border to Marseille. Among those he found himself helping was his first cousin, Anthony, son of his father's brother, Angelo.

Received many honors from his own country as well as the French Medal of Freedom, French Croix de Guerre with palm, and a citation from Luxembourg.

Albert O. Scafuro, Aug. 31, 1918 - May 2, 2001

- Education: St. Luke's High School, Hoho-kus, NJ; B.A. University of Virginia; UVa Law '46
- WWII MILITARY SERVICE 1942-10-09 to 1945 Summer, Army, first lieutenant
- Married 3 July 1948  
Spouse: Adele C. Sankus Scafuro (b. 1919 d. Jun. 11, 2009) daughter of Anthony Sankus, received her degree in law from John Marshall School of Law in Jersey City
- 1942-completed first (or second?) year of law school
- 1946: Graduated UVa Law
- 1957-58: Mayor of Allendale





Returned to complete law school on August 31, 1945 graduated '46

Then set up practice in his hometown of Allendale. But the war years and the many friendships he made during that time are not to be forgotten. He has over the years kept in touch with many of the civil officers with whom he had contact more than 30 years ago.

JULY 3, 1948 Wedding Party  
Anthony Sankus, Adele. Brother Lawrence's daughter Barbara, Brother Frank's daughter Maryfil, and unknown



June 3, 2000

Adele & Albert at 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday party for brother Frank's widow Filippa.



# Albert O. Scafuro, was 82; former Allendale mayor

By ELISE YOUNG  
*Staff Writer*

Albert O. Scafuro, a lawyer and onetime Allendale mayor who played semipro baseball in the 1940s, died Wednesday. He was 82.

Mr. Scafuro — raised in Saddle River and one of 10 children — took to baseball young, when Route 17 was a country road and local teams had names such as the House of David and the Paterson Silk Sox.

Mr. Scafuro pitched for the Allendale Baseball Club, a semipro team headed by two older brothers.

"Allendale in the late Thirties and early Forties had probably the best teams," Mr. Scafuro told an interviewer in 1992. "In those days we made damn sure the fields were in shape. Every Saturday and Sunday you were at the ballpark."

Once, Mr. Scafuro said, Babe Ruth obliged to umpire a game.

"I was so nervous I had trouble finding the strike zone," Mr. Scafuro said.

He continued playing at the University of Virginia, where he was a varsity pitcher. In 1942 he left the university's law school to enlist in the



**ALBERT O. SCAFURO**  
Decorated World War II veteran

Army, joining six brothers also in the service.

He served much of his time behind enemy lines, and was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre avec Palme and the Belgian Military Cross.

When the war ended Mr. Scafuro returned to Virginia and earned his law degree, then returned to Bergen County.

In 1956, Mr. Scafuro's election as Republican mayor of Allendale drew considerable attention because at the same time his brother, Anthony, was the Democratic mayor of Waldwick — and the only Democrat in the Scafuro family.

In 1960, after Albert Scafuro's term as mayor expired, he made an unsuccessful bid for state Senate.

In addition to serving as mayor, Mr. Scafuro was the attorney for a number of municipal and school boards.

He was a former parishioner of Guardian Angel R.C. Church, Allendale.

At the time of his death he was a resident of Spring Lake Heights.

He was predeceased by seven brothers and two sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Adele; four daughters: Maria Ashe, Adele C. Scafuro, Alberta Armstrong, and Susan Bussy; and four grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Feeney Funeral Home, Ridgewood.

May 19, 1994, Veteran recalls D-Day Invasion by Marsha Stoltz in The Town Journal- Part 1/3

**Veteran recalls D-Day invasion**

Marsha Stoltz

When Albert O. Scafuro lands in Normandy in June, he expects it will be easier than his first trip 50 years ago.

**D-Day +50**

Former mayor of Allendale (1956 - 58), long-time resident, and local attorney Albert Scafuro is among those who will travel to France to participate in the 50th anniversary commemoration services for D-Day June 6.

Mr. Scafuro is returning to Ste. Mère Eglise, where he will meet with Mayor Alexandre Renaud's sons, who were just boys when he first helped liberate the town. He will also attend ceremonies at Wiltz, Luxembourg for dedication of a Liberation Memorial on June 11.

See VETERAN page 7

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**Poor eyes**

Classified 4-F (health deferment) because of poor eyesight, Mr. Scafuro was a second year law student at the University of Virginia in 1942 when "several of us went down to the induction center and volunteered."

"The dean of the college was the head of the draft board in Charlottesville (Va.)," Mr. Scafuro explained. "I told him 'Look, I'll sign any kind of waiver. I don't have enough money to finish the term anyway.' Somehow he put me through."

*Thought to would like to read the article getting strong each day*

THE TOWN JOURNAL - Thursday, May 19, 1994 - Page 7

*Joe Hill  
John Hill  
Hope to see you soon*

**Veteran recalls D-Day** *Continued from page 1*

Liberation Memorial on June 11.

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Mr. Scafuro started out at Camp Lee, Va., in September 1942, then served as a clerk in the Commandant's Office for a balloon-barge regiment at Camp Tyson, Tenn. However, a talkative nature, sharpened as a member of the debating team, soon got Mr. Scafuro a spot on a bond-selling tour with famous actors and sports figures. This, in turn, led to his nomination for Officers Candidate School.

Sent to Harvard to study history and language so he could be sent behind enemy lines and work with partisans in Italy, Mr. Scafuro had to change studies when "Italy capitulated, so I was changed over to France."

**Given six hours**  
Little did Mr. Scafuro know how he would arrive in France when he went to great Britain in 1943 as a second lieutenant in the Civil Affairs division. He was training in Tiverton, England, when orders came to proceed within six hours to Port Southampton, marshalling grounds for what turned out to be the D-Day invasion trip across the channel.

"We had two Jeeps, typewriters, carbines and off we went," Mr. Scafuro recalled. "Two days later we were in the English Channel."


**Rough passage**  
It was stormy, Mr. Scafuro recalls of his landing on "Utah Beach" in an LST vessel with the 4th Infantry Division June 9, 1944, the third day of the invasion operations.

"We had waterproofed the Jeep, run the exhaust pipe above the roof and so forth," Mr. Scafuro explained. "I was not a good driver at that point. We had a boy from Washington State in our group who was 6'5" and I told him, 'Put your foot on the gas when we go into the water and don't let up.'"

Did he bring anything for good luck?  
"I guess I had a St. Christopher medal," Mr. Scafuro struggled to recall, then paused. Even now, 50 years later, he must compose himself before going on.

"I never had such a bad short trip, and when we got on the beach it was still pretty rough. They were strafing the beach, and the German planes came in as we landed," he continued. "I dove for a fox-hole even though there was a soldier already in it. He had a cigar still lit in his mouth. He was dead."

For his trouble, Mr. Scafuro says he was greeted by his colonel with "Where you been? We've been waiting for you!" when he arrived at 4th Division command headquarters about 2,000 feet from the shore.



Former Allendale mayor and local attorney Albert Scafuro will be among those traveling to Normandy, France to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Europe at Normandy June 6.

*Last of a three-part series*

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# Allendale vet at Utah Beach

Marsha Stoltz


ALLENDALE—Fifty years after landing on Utah Beach, former Mayor Albert Scafuro can still remember the first words

## D-Day +50



of his commanding officer when he finally made his way to command headquarters: "Where you been? We've been waiting for you!"

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# Allendale vet a

famous in war films because of the paratrooper whose parachute got caught in the church steeple," Mr. Scafuro went on. "We were non-combatants, and our job was to work with the civil governments in the towns to keep civilians pacified, off the road and out of the army's way."

Mr. Scafuro's group was the first civic affairs unit to operate in liberated France, and remains the enduring symbol of liberation for the town.

"People came pouring around," he recalls. "I was supposed to set up a headquarters so I did, right in the street. Then an American colonel came by and bawled me out. 'Get it the hell off the street,' he told me. 'We'll run the people over.' So I

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## t Utah Beach

*Continued from page 1*

moved opposite the church, and worked with Mayor Alexandre Renaud who was the local pharmacist."

### Animals and partisans

Mr. Scafuro's most vivid memories of those first days in France were the dead farm animals scattered around the countryside, and the "underground partisans who were intent on getting retribution from those who had collaborated with the Germans during the war."

"They were shaving (collaborators') hair off in the town square so they would be visible. I thought that was rather barbaric and said we can't have that. But I got bawled out again and told to mind my own business, they weren't being hurt and there were more important things to attend to."

The civic affairs unit issued travel passes to minimize the presence of civilians on the few secured roads, which were needed for movement of armed troops and equipment.

"The first day we were set up, two men and two women came to us asking for passes. They said they had been visiting friends when the invasion broke out and wanted to get back to their families," he remembered. "There was something strange about them, though. The men had heavy coats on and wouldn't answer my questions. Turns out they were disguised Germans, probably pilots, harbored by the French women. We turned them over to intelligence."

### Crepes Suzette

The unit was also responsible for help-

basement full of crates containing bottles of Calvados was quickly emptied by invading forces, he recalled. However, the town residents managed to feed themselves.

"The mayor's wife had a little kitchen in the back of the pharmacy, and she'd cook Crepes Suzettes for me," he smiled.

One of his orders was to requisition property for a cemetery and oversee burying the dead from the Battle of Normandy, a task that would "tear your heart out" as the bodies came in stacked in trucks.

After about two months of securing the Normandy peninsula, Gen. George Patton ordered his officers to begin moving troops. Mr. Scafuro was ordered to Chateau Thierry, then Charleroi in Belgium where he worked feeding and transporting 5,000 displaced civilians and soldiers, including many Russians.

### Unwilling to go

"None of the Russians wanted to go back," he recalled. "We had to practically beat them to get them on the trains. They had seen the west. They thought it was lies when we told them that at home we had a house, a bike and a car, etc."

Mr. Scafuro was then ordered to Luxembourg in the fall of 1944.

"I was in Bastogne visiting colleagues when we heard the first signs that there was going to be some kind of attack. We could hear artillery, a lot of planes. No one knew what was going on. It wasn't supposed to be a combat area."

"They gave me a map and told me to go to Ste.-Mère-Église, the town made famous in war films because of the paratrooper whose parachute got caught in the church steeple," Mr. Scafuro went on. "We were non-combatants, and our job was to work with the civil governments in the towns to keep civilians pacified, off the road and out of the army's way."

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### **Crepes Suzette**

The unit was also responsible for helping civilians get food and medicine. A basement full of crates containing bottles of Calvados was quickly emptied by invading forces, he recalled. However, the town residents managed to feed themselves.

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But it would be.

# June 1944 — A Memory

David S. Quackenbush, Col. USAF, Ret.

On June 7, 1944 I was 19 and on a landing barge in the English Channel. I will not return this year to hear the speeches or the bands play. There are musical sounds that jog my memory of that June in Normandy. Fifty years ago, following the invasion sweep from Ste. Mère Église, and Isigny, I was a private in General Omar Bradley's American First Army. During a lull in the action, I walked with a friend down a narrow dirt road bounded by high hedgerows. The spring leaves were caked with thick road dust as were tangled communication lines and cables strung by our Signal Corps. I believe we were just outside the town of Saint Germain du Pert. At a clearing, the banks of hedgerows had been bulldozed aside and we had come upon a forward U.S. Army Graves Registration Collection Point. The unit was manned by black troops in what was then the old segregated "Army of the United States" (as the top of my Army Honorable Discharge reads from 1946).

A line of "six by six" trucks was pulling into this cleared field from the dusty roads. Five or six of the trucks were carrying their sad cargo of battlefield carnage, American and German dead, piled like loose cord wood. The black enlisted personnel were lifting the dead from the trucks and depositing them on brown canvas stretchers. Before each soldier was slipped into a white mattress cover, all uniform pockets were slashed and personal effects removed for mailing to the next-of-kin. I was told that all snapshots of girls were destroyed, one not knowing if the "girl left behind" was from England or the U.S. This transfer of the dead was mechanical, yet respectful. I recall how utterly quiet it was, there were no singing birds - only the rumble of the trucks waiting to be unloaded.

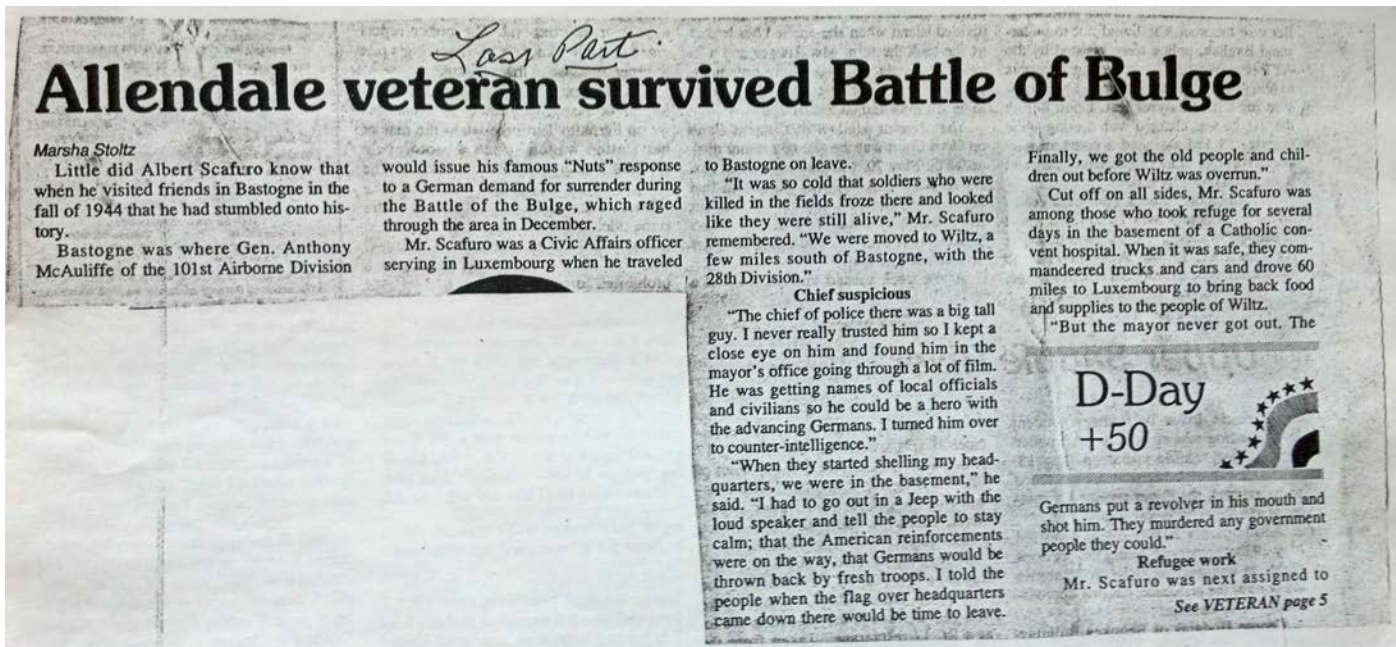
We walked through to an adjacent field, completely cleared of vegetation - a wide open area of brown earth. It stretched far as the eye could see to the distant hedgerow; row upon row of thin white pine stakes - markers for the American and German dead. Each marker had nailed to it that second dog tag issued to each GI, with name, blood type and religion - but not rank. Looking down, I read the name of one little tag, "Roosevelt, Theodore" (i.e., son of our 26th President). The sun was filtering through the trees, it was afternoon and a light breeze swept slowly across that open field and, as though upon command, hundreds of metal tags spring into an orchestral jingle against their wooden stakes in a wave of soft, gentle sounds, as though saying "Remember me."



David S. Quackenbush,  
Col. USAF, Ret.  
Veriers / Belgium / December 1944

*Editor's note: David S. Quackenbush is a longtime resident of Allendale.*





Little did Albert Scafuro know that when he visited friends in Bastogne in the fall of 1944 that he had stumbled onto history.

Bastogne was where Gen. Anthony McAuliffe of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division would issue his famous "Nuts" response to a German demand for surrender during the Battle of the Bulge, which raged throughout the area in December.

Mr. Scafuro was a Civic Affairs officer serving in Luxembourg when he traveled to Bastogne on leave.

"It was so cold that soldiers who were killed in the fields froze there and looked like they were still alive," Mr. Scafuro remembered. "We were moved to Wiltz, a few miles south of Bastogne, with the 28<sup>th</sup> Division."

### Chief suspicious

"The chief of police there was a big tall guy. I never really trusted him so I kept a close eye on him and found him in the mayor's office going through a lot of film. He was getting names of local officials and civilians so he could be a hero with the advancing Germans. I turned him over to counter-intelligence."

"When they started shelling my headquarters, we were in the basement," he said, "I had to go out in a Jeep with the loud speaker and tell the people to stay calm; that the American reinforcements were on the way that Germans would be thrown back by fresh troops. I told the people when the flag over headquarters came down there would be time to leave. Finally we got the old people and children out before Wiltz was overrun."

Cut off on all sides, Mr. Scafuro was among those who took refuge for several days in the basement of a Catholic convent hospital. When it was safe, they commandeered trucks and cars and drove 80 miles to Luxembourg to bring back food and supplies to the people of Wiltz.

"But the mayor never got out. The Germans put a revolver in his mouth and shot him. They murdered any government people they could."

## Allendale veteran *Continued from page 1*

Hasselt, Belgium as the chief Civil Affairs Officer, meeting with government officials and working with the homeless, especially those recently released from labor camps. He was there when President Roosevelt died April 12, 1944. As the ranking U.S. officer in the area, Mr. Scafuro was invited to sit with Prince Charles, brother of the King of Belgium, and other dignitaries at a commemorative service for the President in the provincial cathedral.

Mr. Scafuro next accompanied a train of 1,000 displaced persons from Antwerp running along the Swiss/Italian border to Marseille. Among those he found himself helping was his first cousin, Anthony, son of his father's brother, Angelo.

With the war winding down in Europe, Mr. Scafuro expected to be sent home. When he saw his name listed on a bulletin board for transfer to Japan, he said, "No way, I've got enough points. I want to go back to law school. I retract my waiver." On my birthday, August 31, I was back at the University of Virginia walking into a classroom."

*(Last of a three-part series)*

### No souvenirs

Asked about memorabilia from World War II, Mr. Scafuro apologizes for his modest collection of medals—including the Croix de Guerre or Military Cross—and dispatches saved from the field.

"I didn't do that (collect souvenirs)," Mr. Scafuro shrugged. "I was more interested in the girls. We went back to Wiltz 15 years ago; they put on a luncheon and dedicated a plaque at the town hall for the 28th Division. During lunch a waiter hands me a note saying a Madame Braun would like to talk to me in the garden. My wife said, 'It figures—one of your old girl friends.' But she said I had good taste."

Mr. Scafuro's first request when he got home after the war, was "a big bowl of salad."

"We were prohibited from eating any local produce in Europe because they used human fertilizer, so when I got home I told my mother I wanted this big bowl of salad. I got it."



Civil Affairs Officer Albert Scafuro shakes the hand of Prince Charles, brother of the King of Belgium, after commemorative funeral services for President Roosevelt in April 1944.

## Refugee work

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## May 27, 1979, "Scafuro plans invasion to recapture memories" by Grace Archer

Since the end of World War II, former Mayor Albert Scafuro has marched with a small band of veterans in the borough's Memorial Day parade and joined fellow townspeople in paying tribute to their war dead at simple rites in Memorial Park. Tomorrow will be no exception.

After the parade, however, Scafuro and his wife, Adele, will take off for Kennedy Airport to participate in "Operation Friendly Invasion" - veterans of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the 28<sup>th</sup>, 101<sup>st</sup>, and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Divisions who will be retracing their steps in England, France, Belgium and Luxembourg. For the former mayor, it will be his return for the first time since that history-making invasion 35 years ago.

There will be some special celebrations for the borough lawyer, too, both in the town of Ste.-Mère-Église in Normandy, where he had the distinction of being "mayor", and where he helped set up the first American cemetery and in the town of Wiltz in Luxembourg, where he assisted in setting up a temporary hospital for the wounded in an old castle.

The former mayor made many friends in Ste.-Mère-Église, especially Mayor Alexandre Renaud and Madame Renaud, with whom he has corresponded through the years. Although Mayor Renaud died a few years ago, Madame Renaud will be among the villagers on hand to welcome the Scafuro's.

In Chateau {ed. Thierry}, the Allendale couple will pay a return visit to Mayor Rene Aurel, who visited his war-time friend, the former Army lieutenant, in the borough several years ago.

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As for millions of others throughout the world, World War II came as an interruption to the career of Scafuro, one of six brothers who served in all branches of the military during that great conflict.

The St. Luke's High School graduate had received a BA from the University of Virginia and had completed one year at UVA Law School when he left school in the summer of 1942 to serve his country.

After spending a few months in a barrage balloon battalion stationed in Tennessee, he was assigned to the Judge Advocate School near Washington. Before completing his officer candidate course, however, he was called out of classes one day, given his lieutenant bars and discovered he was now training for a drop behind the Allied lines in Italy to work with the Italian partisans.

Fortunately, however, he says, Italy capitulated before the completion of his training for this project and subsequently he was transferred to Harvard University to begin training as an American military government officer for future duties in France.

After leaving Harvard he was assigned to the American School, Center and Oxford University in England where he continued his training. Then, much to his surprise, he found himself crossing the Channel in the Normandy invasion with the first invasion forces.

He was attached to the 4th Infantry Division and landed with the invasion forces on Utah Beach in support of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions which had already established the beachhead.

Scafuro vividly remembers the death of 4th Division Brig. Gen. Quentin Roosevelt and the general's burial in Ste. Mère Église. Among the happier memories of Ste. Mère Église is the sight of Madame Renaud

Albert and Adele Scafuro of Allendale look over map of Germany. (Photo by Carl Wiederhold)

preparing his first crepes auette on a small, iron, wood-burning stove in her kitchen, at the rear of the Renaud pharmacy.

After a few weeks Scafuro led his small detachment to Chateau Thierry, following Gen. Patton's break-through from Normandy peninsula.

Subsequently he served in several towns in Belgium and then to Wiltz, Luxembourg, only a few miles from Bantogne. Here he met near disaster during the Battle of the Bulge.

He recalls the fighting in the streets when he was attached to the 28th Division - a division nearly wiped out in the first German

**Scafuro plans**  
(Continued from Page 4)

onslaught of the Battle of the Bulge. He had lingered too long to get out of Wiltz, he says, and he was given refuge by nuns who operated a hospital there.

"The good nuns hid me out for several days in a coal bin," he says, "and there remained until our forces retook the town."

There are bitter memories, too: The cold-blooded murder of the town's mayor by the German SS troops; the town's chief of police who turned out to be a traitor and gave the Germans a confidential list of local citizens who had cooperated with the Allies.

Still later Scafuro served as civil affairs officer in Hasselt, Belgium, and it was while he was there Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt died. He remembers the outpouring of sympathy from officials and citizenry and his attending a church service at the cathedral in company with Prince Charles, brother of Belgium's King Leopold.

At the war's end he returned to complete law school in Virginia and then set up practice in his home town of Allendale. But the war years and the many friendships he made during that time are not to be forgotten. He has over the years kept in touch with many of the civil officers with whom he had contact more than 30 years ago.

These friendships and memories are even more valuable to him than the tangible evidence of service - many honors from his own country as well as the French Medal of Freedom, French Croix de Guerre, Belgium Military Cross and Croix de Guerre with palm, and a citation from Luxembourg.

(Turn to Page 99)

As for millions of others throughout the world, World War II came as an interruption to the career of Scafuro, one of six brothers who served in all branches of the military during that great conflict.

The St. Luke's High School graduate had received a BA from the University of Virginia and had completed one year (2?) at UVA Law School when he left school in the summer of 1942 to serve his country.

After spending a few months in a barrage balloon battalion stationed in Tennessee, he was assigned to the Judge Advocate School near Washington.

Before completing his officer candidate course, however, he was called out of classes on day, given his lieutenant bars and discovered he was now training for a drop behind the Allied lines in Italy to work with the Italian partisans.

Fortunately, however, he says, Italy capitulated before the completion of his training for this project and subsequently he was transferred to Harvard University to begin training as an American military government officer for future duties in France. (Ed: See Civil Affairs Training School, Harvard)

After leaving Harvard he was assigned to the American School Center and Oxford University in England where he continued his training. Then, much to his surprise, he found himself crossing the Channel in the Normandy Invasion with the first invasion forces.

He was attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> infantry Division and landed with the invasion forces on Utah Beach in support of the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne divisions which had already established the beachhead.

Scafuro vividly remembers the death of 4<sup>th</sup> Division Brig. Gen. Quentin Roosevelt (Ed: Theodore Roosevelt III ) and the general's burial in Sainte-Mère-Église.

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Subsequently he served in several towns in Belgium and then to Wiltz, Luxembourg, only a few miles from Bastogne. Here he met near disaster during the Battle of the Bulge.

He recalls the fighting in the streets when he was attached to the 28<sup>th</sup> Division – a division nearly wiped out in the first German onslaught of the Battle of the Bulge. He had lingered too long to get out of Wiltz, he says, and he was given refuge by nuns who operated a hospital there.

“The good nuns hid me out for several days in a coal bin,” he says, “and there remained until our forces retook the town.”

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## Shrivenham and Manchester

### *The Civil Affairs Center*

Shrivenham, situated a few miles north of the railroad from London to Bath and Bristol, is not found on every map; and gazetteers, when they do so at all, give its location in relation to Swindon, which lies six miles to the southeast and bears the distinction of actually being on the railroad. A thoroughly unremarkable Berkshire village of somewhat less than six hundred inhabitants, Shrivenham was, nevertheless, long to remain in the memories of the World War II generation of American civil affairs officers—excepting possibly the minority who experienced the elegance (mostly architectural) of the British center in the Grand Hotel at Eastbourne.

On the grounds of what had been a private school for girls at Shrivenham, ETOUSA had established the American School Center in the summer of 1942 to train officer candidates and various categories of supply specialists. When Colonel Stearns visited there in October 1943 looking for space to billet the American civil affairs contingent, he found room for 1,000 men. Upon activating the Civil Affairs Center in December, he planned to receive the shipments of civil affairs officers and enlisted men at Shrivenham and there assign them to detachments and give them additional training.<sup>1</sup> The program, as it de-

<sup>1</sup> SHAEF G-5, Hist Sec, The Education and Training of Allied Officers for Duty with Civil Affairs, Military Government, European Theater

veloped, envisioned a regulated, synchronized flow of officers and men and a course of training and instruction that would produce fully organized and equipped detachments, each thoroughly acquainted with its pinpoint assignment—the actual locality for which it would be responsible in the occupation.<sup>2</sup> The detachments which had completed their training would be sent to Manchester, where Stearns had located 8,000 billets, to await their move to the Continent.

The program looked good, but some early signs were ominous. On close inspection, Shrivenham proved to be sorely wanting in the amenities expected by officers, particularly field grade officers, of whom there would be a substantial number. All officers, lieutenant colonels and below, would have to be billeted sixteen to a room. They would do their own cleaning and sweeping, and some rooms would have to double as classrooms in the daytime. The officers would be required to carry knives, forks, and cups to the dining hall where they would eat off compartmented metal trays which they would have to wash themselves.<sup>3</sup>

of Operations, Sep 41–July 45 [no date], in SHAEF G-5, 60, Jacket 7.

<sup>2</sup> Rpt, ECAD Training Div, Admin Sec, to Director of Training Div, sub: Organization and Activities Through 27 May 44, in SHAEF G-5, 604.

<sup>3</sup> Memo, SHAEF CAD for ACofS G-5, sub: Accommodations at Joint CA Center, 19 Feb 44, in SHAEF G-5, 17.03.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the Provost Marshal General's Office had found the morale of the officers who were slated for shipment to Shrivenham already sagging. One of its inspectors who observed the graduates of the Civil Affairs Training Program (CATP) assembled at Camp Reynolds, Pennsylvania, reported that they were "feeling pretty well kicked around." Many had graduated from the course in one university and then been sent to another to take the same course a second time. All they would accomplish at Camp Reynolds would be to acquire enough familiarity with the .45-caliber pistol to fire for record. They would then go to the staging area at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, where they would wait for an undetermined time before being shipped out.<sup>4</sup>

In December, when Stearns set up the Civil Affairs Center there, Shrivenham, in addition to being the reception and training depot, became the administrative headquarters for civil affairs-military government in the field. The Civil Affairs Center proposed to continue as parent organization for the detachments after they were formed and when they went into action on the Continent. For the time being, however, two functions, assignment and training, overshadowed everything else.

For the incoming officer, his encounter with the assignment division of the Civil Affairs Center could easily be the most important event in his military career. Its four boards would determine where he was to serve, and this placement in most instances proved permanent. The numerical designation of each board, as new officers quickly learned, reflected the level and, hence, desirability of the assignments it controlled.

<sup>4</sup> Memo, Col Harley L. Swift for Col George G. Berry, sub: Camp Reynolds Inspection, 7 Jan 44, in PMG, MG Div, classified decimal file 333.

The first board selected men for army group, army, corps, and division staffs, the second for civil affairs detachments, and the third for service with the British. The fourth board, really the first in the order in which incoming officers encountered them, screened all officers and sent them on to the others for final assignment. The vast majority of the officers would go to the detachments. The early assumption was that British and U.S. personnel would be mixed about fifty-fifty, but, in fact, only 250 U.S. officers were sent to Eastbourne, and they later returned to serve with American detachments.

The detachment board additionally selected officers for specific types of detachments.<sup>5</sup> There were four types: A (17 officers, 2 warrant officers, and 24 enlisted men), B (9 officers, 2 warrant officers, and 16 enlisted men), C (5 officers and 9 enlisted men), and D (4 officers and 6 enlisted men).<sup>6</sup> The A detachments were designed for employment in major cities, including national capitals such as Berlin and Paris, and were regarded as elite detachments. The others would be stationed in smaller cities or rural communities. The A and B detachments offered the most desirable berths in terms of probable location and opportunity to specialize, not to mention rank and prospects for advancement. But the C and D detachments, although individually smaller and destined most likely to operate in unglamorous and out-of-the-way places, would be needed in far greater numbers and would absorb the larger number of officers.

The training division had the mission of

<sup>5</sup> Hqs, CA Center, *American School Center*, to Chief, Hist Subsec, COSSAC, 31 Dec 44, in SHAEF G-5, 17.02.

<sup>6</sup> Memo, Liaison Officer at FUSAG for Col H. McE. Pendleton, sub: G-5, Its Evolution and Functions, 17 May 44, in USFET CAD 314.7.



turning out essentially finished detachments, an estimated 70 of them for France and 273 for Germany.<sup>7</sup> As originally planned, each class would be given two months of general civil affairs instruction and military training which would be followed by an indefinite period of regional study and planning for pinpointed areas. In the later part of the second stage the enlisted men would join the teams. Col. Hardy C. Dillard, who had been associated with civil affairs training since its early days in the Provost Marshal General's Office and at Charlottesville, was transferred from the United States to head the division. On his arrival in December along with the 48-officer faculty and staff, most of them also from the United States, the division opened at Shrivenham with no students. When the first forty students came in mid-January, they were outnumbered by the faculty.

The regulated flow of officers that had been planned was not going to materialize. At noon on 27 January the first large shipment, 416 officers, arrived at Shrivenham with full field packs after a twenty-hour trip by train from port. The center mustered enough trucks to transport the lieutenant colonels and majors; all the others marched the two miles from the station in rain carrying their packs. Two days later, while the boards were immersed in interviews with the first group, another 308 officers arrived.

At the end of the month the Civil Affairs Center, with none two weeks before, now had 770 officer trainees aboard and, if nothing else, a statistical sample of the men who would make up the civil affairs organization in the field. About 40 percent of the officers were commissioned directly from civilian life. The rest had received their

<sup>7</sup> SHAEF G-5, Hist Sec, Education and Training, in SHAEF G-5, 60, Jacket 7.

commissions in other branches of the Army or in the National Guard. The youngest was 22 years old, the oldest 60. The average age was a few months short of 40; and the largest single increments were from ages 38 to 46, which together constituted about 40 percent of the total.<sup>8</sup> (Subsequent shipments brought the proportion of commissioned civilians down to near 30 percent, but the average age remained constant.)<sup>9</sup> Youth was going to be in somewhat short supply, which was no surprise since few officers below the draft age limit, 38 years, and in first-rate physical condition had been accepted for civil affairs duty.

Maturity was considered to be an asset in a civil affairs officer. It did not prove to be so for many, however, in their initial confrontation with the English climate. On 14 February, out of a thousand officers then at Shrivenham, 46 percent went on sick call, most with colds which had already put 10 percent in the hospital.<sup>10</sup>

On 7 February, after the assignment boards had processed the January arrivals and detailed at least an officer or two as a cadre to each of the 343 detachments, the training division started its first course. By then the center was on notice to expect another thousand officers at the end of the month and large shipments of enlisted men in March. With these additions, the civil affairs force for northwest Europe would be practically complete, and something would have to be found for it to do, since RANKIN was dimming and OVERLORD not expected until late spring. In both opera-

<sup>8</sup> Hist Rpt, Hqs, CAC, ASC, to Chief, Hist Subsec, SHAEF, sub: Activities of CAC, 18 Jan-1 Feb 44, in SHAEF G-5, 17.12.

<sup>9</sup> Hist Rpt, Hqs, CAC, ASC, to Chief, Hist Sec, SHAEF G-5, sub: Activities at CAC, 15 Feb-1 Mar 44, in SHAEF G-5, 17.02.

<sup>10</sup> Hist Rpt, CAC, ASC, to Chief, Hist Sec, SHAEF G-5, sub: Activities of CAC, 1 Feb-15 Feb 44, in SHAEF G-5, 17.12.

tions, civil affairs—military government had the same two, though not mutually complementary, missions: to be ready and to wait. Waiting would be the more difficult.

Before the first course began, the training division had revised its program. The first course ran for nine weeks. The second began in late February for the officers arriving then and lasted six weeks. In the first week of April the two classes were merged and given a composite course. To handle the whole student load in two increments instead of four or five as had been planned at first, the faculty had to be doubled. Since there was no other source, the additional faculty were recruited from among the incoming officers even though doing so increased the risk of the whole program being looked upon as busy work by students and faculty alike.

Since the first segments of both courses would be given before planning at SHAEF had progressed far enough to provide more pertinent subject matter, they contained little that the students had not heard before at least once. To compensate, the training division decided to concentrate on the known weaknesses of the trainees, languages and military training—the latter embracing both formal military drill and physical conditioning. Intensive courses were offered in French, German, and Russian; and the training schedule included two to four hours per day of military training in the form of calisthenics, games, and, specifically, two or three road marches of four to twelve miles each week—this last activity being less than universally popular with the students.<sup>11</sup>

The composite course started on 6 April

<sup>11</sup> Rpt, ECAD Training Div, Admin Sec, to Director of Training Div, sub: Organization and Activities Through 27 May 44, in SHAEF G-5, 604.

and ran for eight rather than six weeks, ending on 27 May. During this time, the students, their theoretical training complete and pinpoint assignments in hand, were to have studied the towns and cities in which they would be posted. By April, a pinpoint location had been determined for each detachment, but by then, too, SHAEF had imposed severe security restrictions on any information that might compromise OVERLORD. Consequently, the locations could not be revealed to the detachments. The disappointment was enormous, but the actual loss was probably not much since the assignments all had to be changed later anyway. As a substitute for the pinpoint training, all students took part in a four-week exercise, an elaborate but obviously contrived military government war game vaguely laid out in the German *Land* (state) Hesse. When the war game ended, the course reverted to lectures and conferences sporadically enlivened by guest lectures on Germany, France, and the Low Countries; language and military training also continued. Toward the end, in near desperation, the faculty resorted to demonstrations and dramatizations—a detachment in action in a mythical German town, a military government court, bomb disposal—some useful, some not, and all undisguisable time-killers.<sup>12</sup> Word that SHAEF would stock the British Stella water purifier for use on the Continent set off a search across southern England for a specimen around which, hopefully, more hours of instruction could be devised. One was found, but then SHAEF announced that it would retain the already familiar U.S. equipment after all.

To the student officers the courses at Shrivenham seemed most of the time to be an elaborate effort to generate mass bore-

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*



dom while at the same time assaulting individual self-esteem and possibly physical well-being as well. Hastily devised courses led by instructors with no more knowledge than the students, and sometimes less, resulted in disgruntlement that no amount of ingenuity in devising lectures, recitations, demonstrations, and similar activities could dispel.<sup>13</sup> The living conditions of recruits, unheated classrooms, drills, and cross-country hikes during midwinter and a cold, damp spring smacked almost of sadism to middle-aged men who assumed, not illogically, that if the Army needed them at all it ought to be for something better. They had come expecting to be given important work but instead found themselves trudging across the English countryside or taking canned courses and solving stereotype problems. Worst of all was the feeling of being excluded from what appeared to be very worthwhile and important activity going on around them. The SHAEF Special Staff and the country sections, which had moved to Shrivenham in March, seemed to be immersed in vital projects. From occasional appearances as lecturers by members of these groups, the student officers gathered that the really important work was going on behind a curtain of security and that they were only marking time. A morale study in the Civil Affairs Center in April reported the commonest complaint to be the feeling of working in a vacuum without knowing what was really going on.<sup>14</sup>

The truth was that most of the more than two thousand civil affairs officers in training at Shrivenham, barring a sudden development of so-called RANKIN conditions, were only getting a taste of the frustra-

tion they would experience before finding their place in the war. Sooner or later they would have to be so informed, hopefully in a manner that would raise their morale, or at least not destroy it completely. Consequently, 9 May 1944 was later remembered as the first day of spring in Shrivenham by the students and as something akin to Resurrection Day by the Civil Affairs Center staff. In the morning, Eisenhower arrived to inspect the school. Toward the end of the ceremony, which had included a more or less well-executed and enthusiastic parade, he invited the students to break ranks and gather around him, saying they reminded him too much of a firing squad "standing out there." Having implied that he too saw the incongruity of field grade officers doing close-order drill, he went on to assure them that they were not forgotten. They were as modern, he said, as radar, and just as important to the command. Although humanitarian in its results, their job was to help win the war. If they failed, the armies would fail; the fighting front of the modern army was "only the fringe of a tremendous organization." What Eisenhower said was less important than that he said it, particularly his closing remarks:

Now a word about what you are doing here. No commander can ever accumulate the supplies, the organization, the men that he needs in exact timing with the existence of that need. In other words, he piles up reserves. For some time you have been in reserve. You're probably getting bored, some of you. You are a little tired of idleness, particularly when some of you were extraordinarily busy men in civilian life, and you gave up many things—made many sacrifices—and you are getting damned tired of not being used usefully in view of your sacrifices. Your time is coming, so don't worry.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> SHAEF G-5, Hist Sec, Education and Training, in SHAEF G-5, 60, Jacket 7.

<sup>14</sup> Memo for Brig Gen McSherry, 19 Apr 44, in SHAEF G-5, 17.02.

<sup>15</sup> Coles and Weinberg, *Soldiers Become Governors*, p. 679.



MILITARY GOVERNMENT TRAINING AT SHRIVENHAM

Nothing substantive had changed, but the Supreme Commander had shown that he was aware of the students. They were at least not the victims of wanton mismanagement. To enhance the mood, the Civil Affairs Center sponsored an all-day press conference at Shrivenham on the 10th. Fifty correspondents attended. It gave the newsmen something to write about at a time when the security on all other SHAEF activities was at its tightest, and the ensuing publicity made the continued waiting in the wings a little less onerous for the student officers.

Although it continued in nominal exist-

tence until the last week of June, the Civil Affairs Center completed its essential work in May. By the end of the month, the whole anticipated U.S. civil affairs officer contingent for northwest Europe had been assigned—and sometimes, as plans changed, which they often did, reassigned.<sup>16</sup> After the training division completed the composite course at the end of May, there remained only a small course for warrant officers and officers with no previous civil affairs training. Ever since the first full de-

<sup>16</sup> Hqs, ECAD, Extract from Hist Rpt, May 44, 17 Jun 44, in USFET CAD 314.7.



tachment, a D detachment, was formed and sent to U.S. First Army on 15 March, the student officers had been moving out, gradually in April and in large numbers in May, to join their detachments.<sup>17</sup> On its closing in June, the Civil Affairs Center left behind in St. Andrews Parish Church in Shrivenham a plaque and two bells to complete the church's octave of chimes.

#### ECAD

One of the first lessons learned from AMGOT in Sicily and Italy was that military government in the field ought to be able to take care of itself. The line troops there had frequently been too busy and almost always too preoccupied with what they regarded as more important affairs to provide support and services for members of an organization whose acronym they were inclined to read as "Aged Military Gentlemen on Tour."<sup>18</sup> More often than not the AMGOT officers had gone into action with no more than their personal gear, flags, proclamations, some stationery, and some money. They had counted themselves lucky when they had a jeep, a trailer, some spare gasoline, a tent, and a typewriter. Their priority was so abysmally low that before the Sicily landing some tactical units had even refused to embark the civil affairs officers themselves.<sup>19</sup>

Civil affairs plans for northwestern Europe recognized early the need for a housekeeping organization. The detachment concept, developed under COSSAC, provided a basic unit; but the detachments, although they would be attached to the tac-

tical commands, would not be part of them. Neither would they be self-sustaining. They would, as AMGOT had, exist in a kind of administrative void. To correct this shortcoming, Civil Affairs, ETOUSA, had begun thinking in the fall of 1943 of creating a separate administrative organization for the detachments and in November had asked Washington to furnish seven skeletonized military police (MP) battalions, that is, headquarters and medical personnel only.<sup>20</sup> The detachments would be attached to the battalions which would go into the field with them providing continuous administrative services and support and thereby integrating civil affairs solidly into the Army. The Civil Affairs Center would do the same at the top.<sup>21</sup>

Apparently because seven military police battalion headquarters were not to be had in the United States, General Hilldring was obliged to invent the European Civil Affairs Division (ECAD). At the end of December he proposed that in place of the MP battalions, ETOUSA set up a division with a normal division headquarters, twenty-eight companies (the equivalent of seven battalions), and seven medical detachments. The division, he suggested, ought to provide administration for all U.S. civil affairs personnel in the European theater except those assigned to SHAEF and Headquarters, 1st U.S. Army Group.<sup>22</sup> Two weeks later the Civil Affairs Division approved a strength of 2,528 officers, 124 warrant officers, and 5,147 enlisted men (total 7,799) for the division. Of these numbers, 2,280 officers, 120 warrant officers, and 3,600 enlisted men would be

<sup>17</sup> Rpt, Hqs, ECAD, G-2, Historian, sub: The Manchester Phase of the ECAD, 20 Jan 45, in USFET CAD 314.7.

<sup>18</sup> C. R. S. Harris, *Allied Military Administration of Italy* (London: H. M. Stationery Office, 1957), p. 82.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 28.

<sup>20</sup> ECAD G-3, ECAD Organization and Development 1944 [no date], USFET CAD 322.

<sup>21</sup> Rpt, Hqs, CAC, ASC, to Chief, Hist Subsec, COSSAC, 31 Dec 43, in SHAEF G-5, 17.02.

<sup>22</sup> ECAD G-3, ECAD Organization and Development 1944, USFET CAD 322.

detachment personnel and the rest administrative, except for forty-eight instructors and several dozen enlisted men assigned to the Civil Affairs Center.<sup>23</sup>

On 7 February 1944, by General Order No. 13, Headquarters, ETOUSA, established the European Civil Affairs Division (U.S. Contingent, SHAEF Provisional).<sup>24</sup> A letter accompanying the order named Colonel Stearns as division commander and gave him a free hand in organizing the division within the War Department personnel allotment. On the 12th, Stearns, in the first ECAD general order, activated the division at Shrivenham and formally assumed command. At the same time he attached the Civil Affairs Center to the division, thereby giving civil affairs outside the higher staffs a single and separate administration.<sup>25</sup>

From the first, one thing everyone associated with the division was aware of was that ECAD was an unusual military organization, unique in some respects, curious in others. No unit like it had ever existed before in American history. Perhaps somewhat overestimating the importance of the distinction, the division's historians extended it also to world history.<sup>26</sup> Among other firsts, the division was the first known to have been organized entirely outside the continental boundaries of the United States, and it claimed the record in World War II for achieving combat readiness—ten weeks, as opposed to thirteen months for the average infantry division.<sup>27</sup> On the

curious side, the division had the overt characteristics of a tactical organization without being one. In the field it would have no command function. Its operating personnel would receive their orders exclusively through the tactical units to which they would be attached. ECAD would in fact cease to be a unit in the usual sense once it left England. Some part of it would go wherever SHAEF troops went. The sole function of the division headquarters would be to act as parent organization for the civil affairs personnel, "keeping their records, promoting them as they deserve, disciplining them if necessary, paying them, getting their mail to them, relieving them, taking care of them if they are ill, burying them if they die, and getting them help if they need it."<sup>28</sup>

The division was formed into three regiments, the 6901st, 6902d, and 6903d (all provisional) European Civil Affairs Regiments. The 6901st Regiment, with eight companies, was earmarked for France and the Low Countries but was to be trained also for Germany. The 6902d and 6903d Regiments, ten companies each, were to be trained exclusively for Germany.<sup>29</sup> Each company would have 80 civil affairs officers and 113 civil affairs enlisted men, plus an organic component of officers and enlisted men not specializing in civil affairs, who would provide services and administration.<sup>30</sup> The detachments were designated

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> GO 13, Hqs, ETOUSA, 7 Feb 44, in USFET CAD 314.7.

<sup>25</sup> Hist Rpt, Hqs, CAC, ASC, to Chief, Hist Sec, SHAEF G-5, sub: Activities at CAC, 15 Feb-1 Mar 44, in SHAEF G-5, 17.02.

<sup>26</sup> Draft ECAD History, Sep 45, in USFET CAD, Hist Doc file.

<sup>27</sup> Hqs, ECAD, Extract from Hist Rpt, May 44, 17 Jun 44, in USFET CAD 314.7.

<sup>28</sup> Hist Rpt, Hqs, CAC, ASC, to Chief, Hist Sec, SHAEF G-5, sub: Activities at CAC, 15 Feb-1 Mar 44, in SHAEF G-5, 17.02.

<sup>29</sup> A fourth regiment, brought into being briefly in the spring of 1944, was to have had responsibility for officers serving with British detachments, as was also a fifth regiment, which was planned but not activated.

<sup>30</sup> Hist Rpt, Hqs, CAC, ASC, to Chief, Hist Subsec, SHAEF, sub: Activities of CAC, 18 Jan-1 Feb 44, in SHAEF G-5, 17.12, Jacket 1.



by type, company, and regiment, hence D5B1 was the fifth D detachment of B Company, 6901st Regiment. In action, the companies would move with the tactical commands to which their detachments were attached, and the regiments would station themselves as close as possible to their companies, though they—and to an even greater degree the division headquarters—could scarcely avoid becoming remote entities for most of the detachments.

The outstanding peculiarity of ECAD was that only its smallest components, the detachments, had an operating civil affairs—military government role. Independently of the division, they would be the instruments through which the combat troops would be relieved of civil commitments and the primary SHAEF civil affairs objective would be attained, namely, “to ensure that conditions exist among the civilian population which will not interfere with operations, but will promote these operations.”<sup>31</sup> They would be small, self-contained and partially self-sufficient headquarters, which, although not designed to govern, would have sufficient authority and possess enough technical knowhow to revive, instruct, and supervise local governments. In doing so they would accomplish the second SHAEF civil affairs objective, which was to achieve the first with maximum economy of military manpower.

In liberated areas, the degree of military control would depend on how well the indigenous authorities functioned without assistance. In enemy territory, however, military government, though indirect, would be firm and comprehensive, and each detachment in its own locality would be

concerned with the whole spectrum of governmental affairs. In the first stage of the occupation every detachment would carry out the following essential actions:

#### Governmental Affairs

1. Hold a conference of local officials. Announce the military government proclamations and ordinances and make the necessary plans for enforcing them.
2. Post the proclamations and ordinances, noting time and date.
3. Reconnoiter the area.
4. Make arrangements for billeting military personnel in the area.

#### Public Safety

1. Hold a conference of local public safety officials.
2. Secure guards for supplies, important installations, and municipal records.
3. Control circulation of the local population (especially displaced persons and refugees).
4. Impound all weapons, explosives, narcotics, and radio transmitters in civilian hands.
5. Inspect local prisons and detention camps.
6. Investigate unexploded bombs, mine fields, booby-trapped areas, and ammunition dumps.

#### Public Health

1. Re-establish local public health organizations.
2. Secure care for civilian sick and wounded.
3. Report incidence of communicable diseases.
4. Correct serious hazards in environmental sanitation, particularly in water supply and sewage disposal systems.
5. Establish strict control over medical supplies.

#### Public Welfare

1. Re-establish local agencies for handling relief.
2. Provide adequate food distribution facilities.
3. Establish information and lost and found bureaus.

<sup>31</sup> Hqs, First U.S. Army, Office of CA Officer, sub: Guide to Initial Functions of CA Detachments Operating with Combat Units, 27 May 44, in SHAEF G-5, 17.16.