

**NAME:** Marion

**RANK:** Staff Sergeant

**ORGANIZATION:** 463<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group (Heavy)

**OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE:** Mediterranean and European Theaters of Operations

- The following excerpt is directly from an original wartime letter written by Marion. This is the only letter from Marion in the site curator's possession.
- The following excerpt is presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpt aside from edited profanity for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

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**Marion writes a friend who is also serving in the U.S. Army Air Forces:**

“Italy 8 – 6 - 44

Your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> has arrived and was sure glad to get it, especially those clippings...I really got a kick out of them and as for the baseball scores I wasn't sure if they were still playing or not, as we never see a paper from the states and if we do it is two months old. As you know you helped check most of the 40 crews that left there, well we have lost 29 of those crew's already, so there isn't a lot of us left. The going is really rough & if we didn't have to worry about flak, every thing would be alright.

I now have twenty-nine missions in and still have twenty-one to go, before coming back to the good old U.S.A. If I ever have the chance to get back there, I sure will look all of you up...

...The food is fair over here, but we are not allowed to eat off of the post, as the Italian's are so d \_ m dirty and never wash any food. They also run around with no clothes on & that isn't any help to the soldier boy's.

I have been in Naples, Bari, and was at a rest camp at the Isle of Capri.

We are hoping to go to Cario to a rest camp the last of the month...

...I am sorry that I don't have to have an excuse from P.T., as we get all we want in the air...

...Keep up the good work, and the best of luck to all of you.

As Ever  
Marion”

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- Marion made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 80s.

- **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers the above time period and Marion's organization (viewer discretion advised):**  
<https://archive.org/details/75212AirSiege>
- **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Marion's wartime organization, the 463<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group (Heavy) (reader discretion advised):**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/463d\\_Operations\\_Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/463d_Operations_Group)