

NAME: Josef

RANK: Second Lieutenant

ORGANIZATION: 15th Air Force

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Mediterranean and European Theaters of Operations

- The following text is directly from two original wartime period letters written by Josef. These are the only letters from Josef in the site curator's possession.
- The following text is presented under public domain provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following text. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Josef, a foreign volunteer serving with the 15th Air Force, writes his girlfriend in the United States:

“Italy, XXX XX 1944.

Afternoon 2 o'clock.

I will answer for your last letter dated XXX XX; it was only one of your 12 letters dated. Really I was surprised why your letters have'nt been dated, but I know now why. But I will again tell you it was'nt nice, you waited so long time for writing to me, believing I will not write more to you! I knew you are some time pretty capricious as I saw when I have been there, but I did'nt suppose you will be so much. I have so horrible time bieng without your mail, you made me pretty indisposed when you told you waited my first next letter. But I should go through it, because it past already. Anyway I see, the time by time we can't understand each other, -- what it means, darling? I am little affraid maybe it will be also after in our future life, please darling tell me what you think for all about! I am endeavoring to be quite good boy, but how I could be, when I must wait for your letters 6 weeks – and at the same time 2/3 of your letters never reached me. Meantime my friends are receiving their mail very regularly – Some time I could'nt think it just any thought about it! But, of course, it made me very nervous, much more than my work have done the nervous situation! – But better if I change my theme! – The pen came for a very good time there, I made again a trouble to you for it, but honey, really I would be very glad if they can repair it. A few days ago I lost this last pen, (which is good for writing but can't hold the ink, always my fingers are dirty) and I was horrible mad. After three days a friend of mine found it and now again I have it. But now I am watching for him always. I have a trouble, because I am not able to write with every pen, I need a very sharp and hard pen because only with this kind I can write. – My dearest, how you are looking for the news on our combat front, is'nt it pretty good, I don't know how it looks your places, but I hope everybody now is thinking the things are going pretty good! Here in Italy we made so good progress after fall of Roma that I am excited with it. Of course, on other side at West, it is growing slow, but it is just begining. I hope will go much better after a couple weeks. – I am very jealous you wrote you are going swimming I have opportunity here also, but I am always or busy, or lazy to go! I so like to swimm specially I adore to plunge, in my country several years ago I could be under water 2 min. and 15 second: it is pretty much, is'nt! – Where you are going for swimming, some open water or in a pool? I could go here on the sea and really I will start to go soon! – My honey here is a very nice weather, clear and sunshine with blue sky as your eyes – it is just for love and kisses, darling do you can understand that I am feeling very blue & alone without you, I so much wish you all, I hope you would be happy with me

too, if you are here. Never in all my life before, I thought that I will love a girl so much as I love you now, I am asking some time myself: is it my first real love, because never before I thought so much for a girl as I am thinking for you now? Darling, some time I am believing (althought it is funny!) you have put some poisons when I was there in my drinks, is it the truth? But it must be a very heavy poison, because 8 months past and I feel this poison always in my heart! – Today is exact 8 months I left the States, but my love is now eight times bigger than before. My dearest, I wish to tell to everybody: I love you very, very much – do you love me too!! – I will close now because I have some little work at my tent – at evening I will write a V. letter – perhaps I could receive this evening more mail from you, it will be satisfied, because is your birthday! – All my love with heartest regards and many sweetest kisses!

I am for always only yours

Josef. --”

Josef writes his girlfriend again in the United States:

“Italy, XXX XX 1944.

Your letter from XX(XX!) XXX came this morning, I was pretty glad to receive it, although there is not so many lines. Thank you very much, my darling! – This your letter is air mail like V. letter, have been written XXX XX, but mailed XXX XX, -- you probably forgot it in your bag to mail before. It came for less than two weeks, exact 12 days – I think it is a pretty good time. – Darling, I am very glad you are receiving more of my letters, -- it looks I am writing you too many, but, honey I really prefere to write you than do anything other! You said my regular letters are coming much quicker than V. letters, -- I really last couple weeks wrote almost all regular letters and I hope they will reach my little fairy very soon! – But with your mail is very different thing! Your regular letters are unable to reach me most frequently, a very few of them past the blockade wich is around me, -- and only V. letters are coming here. Yes, your regular letters like V. letter (you know which I mean: with colored edges) are coming here pretty regularly too – but I like bet you, 2/3 of your letters never reached me for some very misterious reason! It is our fate, darling, I got used this! – No, my darling, I could’nt come there for my leave because it is not truth I feel ‘wonderful’ !! – How I would like to write this word of mine so sweet letters! – but really I can’t! And my dearest, it is whatfor I am losing my nerves and some time all my moral: I am so affraid you will not see me for a long time more! After finishing my job here, I really do’nt know what will happen, but I am very doubt, they will send us over there! Honey I was born under very unhappy star, and I could’nt see some light point on front of me! I think if this situation will be more for a long period of time, I will be forced to give you free hand: because I will be a crazy boy very soon! My dearest if you some time have’nt written to me the things, which little keep my moral – I think I could finish all these troubles with a bulet as quickest way for help. I am telling it all, darling, because I really feel so horrible that I could’nt explain at all it. I cried, when I saw your writing, ‘I am quite sure that I would see you before the summer is over’! Darling I am so sure I will lost all my nerves soon, -- and of course, I will not be good for anything...I hope if I would be lucky, soon I will go again to C. for a week or 10 days, and after returning, for a month, with help of good Lord, I will finish, but for after I can put only a big? – Dearest, my great love from the bottom of my crying heart with many sweetest kisses! Do you know that I love you, so very much and that I am for ever only yours good little boy

Josef. --“

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- Josef was killed in action later in the Second World War.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that**

covers the above time period and Josef's organization (viewer discretion advised):

<https://archive.org/details/GIMovieWeeklyOperationTitanic1944>

- **For additional detail, this link connects to a Wikipedia article that covers Josef's wartime organization, the 15th Air Force (reader discretion advised):**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_Expeditionary_Mobility_Task_Force