

NAME: Fred

RANK: Private First Class

ORGANIZATION: VI Corps

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Mediterranean Theater of Operations

- The following excerpt is directly from an original wartime letter written by Fred. This is the only letter from Fred 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. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Fred writes a friend in the United States:

“8 OCT 1943

JUST RECEIVED YOUR LETTER AND GLAD TO HEAR THAT THINGS ARE ALL OK WITH YOU. ALL IS THE SAME WITH ME. JUST CHANGED LOCATIONS AND THAT IS ALL...I HEAR THAT THE PRICES ARE SKY HIGH BACK IN THE STATES. THE BLACK MARKET MUST BE COINING A FORTUNE. WE DEAL PRETTY ROUGH ON THEM HERE. SO WE HAVE NONE TO WORRY ABOUT. THE BOYS ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TRINKETS TO BUY AND SEND HOME. THE ONLY CATCH IS THAT THEY ASK TOO MUCH FOR THEIR ITEMS. THEY MUST THINK THAT WE ARE MAKE OUT OF MONEY. I SLEEP IN A GRAPE ORCHARD AND THAT IS A TREAT FOR ME. I HAD NO GRAPES FOR A LONG TIME AND NOW I TRY TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME BUT THAT IS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT GETTING A STOMACH ACHE. SO FAR I AM OK. ALSO GET A LOAD OF FIGS AND NUTS. THE FORESTS ARE FULL OF TREES WITH THEM ON. WE PICK THEM AND LET THEM DRY OUT BEFORE THEY ARE FIT TO BE EATEN. THEY ARE HAZEL AND WALLNUT. NO MORE FOR A WHILE SO I WILL CLOSE WITH MY BEST WISHES TO YOU. AS EVER FRED”

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- Fred made it through the Second World War but when he passed away is unknown.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime newsreel in the public domain that covers the above time period and Fred's organization (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/ARC-38979>
 - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Fred's wartime organization, the VI Corps (reader discretion advised):**
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VI_Corps_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VI_Corps_(United_States))