

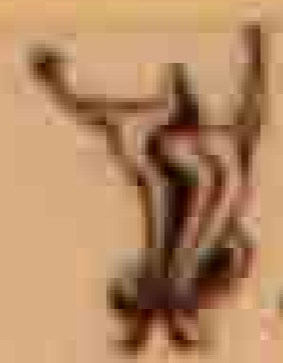


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Venice, Italy

Aug. 14, 1920

Dear Mother:

This is Saturday night and I'm in another country again. It seems I strike a new one every week now. Four weeks ago in Turkey, then the next in Syria, the next, Palestine, then Egypt, Crete, Greece, & now Italy. I wrote a letter from Port Said which I forgot to mail, so you may not get it, and then mailed another at Corfu, an island off the coast of Albania. We stopped for half a day at Corfu so I went ashore. It was a very interesting town. Corfu was the base for the American sub chasers in the Adriatic during the war, & they sunk several subs near there. Next we stopped at Brindisi, Italy, a famous old town. This was a big naval base, & while we were there several sea planes skimmed around the harbour & landed on the water. At our next stop, Bari, we heard of a general strike which was to begin that night, so left quickly. We



2/
arrived here in Venice at 2 P.M. today,
after a ten days journey from Port Said. This
morning we passed a floating mine but
luckily didn't hit any.

Venice is certainly a wonderful city, and
the streets being canals makes a big
difference. The gondoliers however are
the biggest robbers you can find. At the
ship this P.M. they thought we had no other
way to get to the hotel & would pay
anything they demanded. A dirty
crag wanted 10 liras for carrying
my suitcase down a flight of stairs
and 50 liras to row me to the
hotel - (one lira = 7 cents now.)
I told him "Ogotohello" and later
got one for 10 liras. They do their
best to cheat you at every turn.

My companion on the trip from
Port Said was a Syrian-American chap
but hasn't got much "manners" and
so we had a scrap & parted here, I
told him if he was going to call himself
an American he would have to be more



3/ polit to people. So now, just in today & tomorrow, I am seeing Venice in company with a "Kopt". The Kopts are the descendants of the ancient Egyptians, & are Christians. He is a lawyer from Cairo & certainly has A in for England, as all Egyptians do, & with good reason. He is on his way to Milan for an operation on his stomach. We took a gondola together from the station to the hotel. He didn't like the idea of so much water & so little sidewalk, & our first impression of the "safety" of the streets was a bad one, for we hadn't gone more than several hundred yards when we heard screams & ~~say~~ saw a boy struggling in the water. He had fallen off the curb into the "street" & was drowning. A gondola came along and fished him out, unconscious, & took him off to a hospital.

The Grand Canal is quite some street. My hotel is on this canal, near St. Marks, which is a wonderful place. From the hotel I saw a motor boat



scooting up the canal with the American flag flying & two American sailors in it. There is an American destroyer here.

The Plaza of St. Marks is a wonderful place. We spent the evening strolling around there, & tomorrow will go inside the church, & also the Palace of the Doges then take a gondola ride to see the canal again. Trains leave for Florence only at night, ~~and since~~ I will arrive at Florence at 3 A.M. I am not going to stop there ~~but~~ will go right on to Rome, leaving here tomorrow night. Cooks here say that no passage can be booked to New York for two months! If I can't get anything at Naples I'll go to England. The same U.S. transport that fooled me in Port Said will be in Naples the first of August & I may try to pull ropes to go on it to N.Y. This being the case I may possibly not reach America as soon as I expected, but will do my best. I'm anxious to get home, as this traveling business isn't all it's cracked up to be, especially alone. I wish some of you were along & we could enjoy it together. I must close & go to bed. You are all well & enjoying summer vacations & getting rested from all your hard work. Give my love to all the folks. Lots of it, from Stanley