

Sunday
11.06 AM

March 3, 1946

Dear Mom and Pop,

I went to Florence yesterday and you'll never guess what I bought. Give up!

I bought a tea set for six people. We (Jerry and I) went to Richard-Giorri's and looked around. This place is not one of the best, but the best manufacturer of china in Italy. Even Tiffany's in New York use to send to their china before the war. The company was founded in 1757 so it's well known.

Well, Jerry bought a dinner set before so he picked it up yesterday. I looked around and wanted to buy a dinner set too. I had the money but if I bought it, it'll leave me with only \$20 for the month so I ordered a tea set for six. They have all kinds of patterns and if you see something you like you order it and they make it for you. Everything is hand made and painted so it takes about a month.

The one I ordered is royal blue with gold
gild designs. It's really beautiful. The cups
are so thin when you hold it in your hand
and hit it, it sounds like a bell. I
paid (don't jump) \$145 in Italian currency
so it's about \$65 American value. It'll
be sort of a birthday gift for you. I thought
I may as well buy something worth while
that we can use for a long time.

I'm planning to buy a dinner set for
eight people. It's about \$295 - the one I
want. That's about \$132 in American currency.
I'd buy it if you'll send the cigarettes that's
the catch. I need about 20 cartons (that's about
\$30, eh?). You see the man that has the biggest
store of Gervin's is willing to trade the cigarettes
at \$25 a carton for the dishes. If I can get
20 cartons I'll have about \$500 in Italian
currency and I can buy the dinner set
for our family and I'd like to buy one

for Bob and Missa as sort of a
wedding gift, but don't tell them yet until
I'm sure and you say it's OK.

I had \$300 in pay saved up so I
bought the tea set spot cash and it'll
be ready in about 25 days. It's all packed
to ship to the states. I think you'll go
crazy if you saw the place. You want to buy
everything you see.

If by chance, anything breaks (very unlikely)
there's a complete list with numbers so if
you'll send the numbers I can replace it right
away.

I hope you can wait one month for the
dishes. It'll take long to reach the states.

I'll write a request for the cigarettes but
I'll write it for magazines and cigarettes. I
think you can buy about 10 cartons in a
package you.

This dinner set I'd like to get is
very nice. It has a very thin line of
blue and gold gold around the edges.

It's very plain but good looking.
The man over there said that before the
war the various American companies
put it orders for dishes like mine but they
have to pay a large export taking the value
way up. The one I'd like to get is, as I
said before, \$132 but when it gets to
American they have to pay a freight \$200
for it. When the stores sell it, they have to
get a profit on it too so the price goes up
some more.

Well, I'll write the request.

I REQUEST you to SEND ME SOME
MAGAZINES AND CIGARETTES.

Well, this is about all for today so
more forever

Joe



T/5 TAD / SHIDA 39932612
3V Co 442 INF REGT
APO 782 c/o PM NY, NY



Mr & Mrs V SHIDA
c/o Mrs HEATLEY
3728 JACKSON ST
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIF

VIA AIR MAIL



339 Monday March 18, 1946

Request for candy, magazines
and cigarettes.