

Tears Greet Roseto Soldier Visiting Parents' Home Town

Pfc. Fred Vario Visits Roseto, Italy
And Meets Kin of Many Roseto (Pa.) Folk

In the northeast section of Northampton County, cheek by jowl with the thriving borough of Bangor, is the town of Roseto; a picturesque place nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge where most of the families are of Italian descent and where the ties with the homeland are kept strong by the continuance of many old world customs.

Roseto in the United States has its counterpart, Roseto Valfortore, in Italy, and from the latter village have come to live in Pennsylvania many, many families whose names have become familiar in these parts. In the Feast of Mt. Carmel each Summer they have perpetuated one of the religious rites of the homeland, and in the naming of their streets—Garibaldi, Columbus, Dante, Falcone, Dewey, Roosevelt, etc.—they have honored the heroes of Italy's glorious past and of America, their new land, too.

Forth from our Roseto, when the call to arms was sounded, streamed many sons whose parents knew Roseto in Italy as their home years ago; and some of these sons have fought the good fight in Italy against people of their own blood. Who can know the anguish of divided families at war with each other?

Among these young men in the uniform of the United States Army who have found themselves on the soil of their ancestral land is Pfc. Fred Vario, member of an anti-aircraft battery, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luke Vario, Rosetans.

TWO-DAY PASS TO ADVENTURE

Fred, finding himself in Italy and with a two-day pass on his hands, decided to visit Roseto Valfortore and look up his relatives there, and his letter home to his family telling of this adventure is revelation of the close affection with which the people in the Old Country regard their brothers, sisters, uncles

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PFC. FRED VARIO

and cousins.

Dated January 30, "Somewhere in Italy", the communication runs thus:

Dear Mother & Dad and Lucy:

Well Mother and Dad, here is good news. I left for Fuggio and arrived there safe. I went to the Italian police and asked them, "Where is Roseto Valfortore?", and they told me where to go.

So I jumped into the "Peep" and away I went. On my way, all I had in my mind was, "I'm going to see my uncle and grandma!" That's all I was thinking of. Over the hills and rough roads I went till I came to a town and saw a big sign, "Roseto Valfortore."

My heart was up in my neck, my mouth was dry, but I pulled myself together and asked a man, "Do you know of a family named 'Vario?'" He said, "Yes."

EYES FULL OF TEARS

Then my eyes were full of tears. The man said, "Who are you?" I said, "My name is Vario, and I have my grandmother and uncle and aunts here."

He said, "Your grandmother is dead, but your uncles and aunts are living. Go to the center of town and ask someone there." So I went and stopped in the center of the town. I asked again, "Is there a family named Vario?" and a man said, "Who, Antonio Vario?"

I said, "Yes", and he said, "There he is, by that store, talking to that man." I look, and before my own eyes is my Uncle Tony, and he looks just like Uncle Mathew and a little like Dad. So this man and I walked up to the front of the store and the man said, "Antonio, this is your nephew, son of your brother Luca," and Uncle Tony burst out crying.

By that time all the town was there, and I met so many people. Everybody was asking, "Do you know so-and-so in your town?" I said, "I know everybody."

UNCLE TONY'S WIFE

Then Uncle Tony's wife came and said, "Who is he?" and Uncle Tony said to his wife, "This is my brother's son, Ferdinono." She had a

dish in her hand and dropped it on the floor and broke the dish. She started kissing me and crying.

By that time the house was full of people. Then came Dad's two sisters and Dad's godmother. She is Aunt Grace, and Aunt Lucy's sister, and they just about drop over!

Tell Joseph Falcone that his father came over (Fausto) with his wife and asked, "How was Joe and his family; and Sam Renaldo?" And I told him that I had received a letter from Joe; a few days ago. Then I went outside into the center of the street, and all the people were around me, asking about the people back home.

First I talked to Peter DelGrosso. Remember, he had the store near home? He looks just the same. Then I met some relations of Joseph Ledonne, the baker, so I told them that Joseph was dead.

Mother and Dad, tell all the Ledonne family that their relations are fine.

Then I met Dan Confalone's brother from Philadelphia, and he looks just like Dan. So, dear Dad,

write to Dan his brother's

Then I met relations. (He lives by our them the sal the relations Cascioli; and Pete Denicoli and she is fi

After I we Uncle Tony's asked me do and I said, you send him so I told her go to the bas

As soon as it to Nick Co Dad, Uncle I to tell you I am sending it and to show

Then I met his people, so fine. I also friends and asked me ab

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