

## Corp. Breslin Presented to Pope Pius

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Letters descriptive of their experiences in far-flung theatres of war have been received, it is almost certain, by every family having a son overseas. They have become common-place. An audience with Pope Pius, however, is a rarity and few GI's have had this privilege.

Today the family of Joseph B. Breslin, superintendent of the composing room of the Bethlehem Globe-Times received a letter from his son, Corporal Richard Breslin in which the latter describes his visit to Rome and his fortune in being presented to His Holiness.

After telling of his trip into the Eternal City, Corporal Breslin writes ... "We saw the Pope—and he spoke to me. The audience was held in a long, narrow reception hall. His throne was at one end, with a long narrow aisle leading from the entrance. The GI's (members of Breslin's party on leave) stood on either side and the Pope blessed religious articles as he passed, sitting on his palanquin which was borne by Swiss Guards. Around his throne were benches—where we were. After speaking in French, Polish and Italian, he stepped from his throne and mingled among the men. "As he approached where I was standing his right hand was extended, so I kissed his ring. As I put out my religious articles he looked at me and said: "American?" I answered "Yes." Then he asked, "How old are you. I said 25 and he replied: "You look very young." All I could say was "thank you." He blessed my religious articles and said "My Blessing on your family." He's very nice, looks terribly tired, but is always smiling. It was a thrill I'll never forget. Some day soon you'll receive a document with the papal blessing made out to Joseph B. Breslin family. One of the women of the Catholic Club of Rome is taking care of it for me and will send it to you to save me time."

Corp. Breslin left his home as a member of a unit of the 213th Anti-Aircraft Regiment commanded by Col. L. C. Atwood, of this city.

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