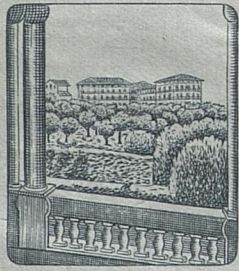


We were going into Florence today but it's a Fete Day of some sort & everything is closed.



GRAND HÔTEL & LA PACE
MONTECATINI TERME

I'll write again soon. don't mind if I only send cards as they are easier to write

All my love to Dado's
your Hummy

April 25th

Dearest Dick

Glad to get your letter with the news of your successful Mardi Gras. I am happy to hear you are well & eating well. We are enjoying the stay here as the Hotel is very pleasant (no tourists) & the season not yet started it's a palatial place & the Duke of Windsor had the suite below ours we have a lovely view over trees & mountains. We get anything we ask for in the dining room & the service is superb. The head waiter & ~~his~~ two assistants watch us & rush over if we attempt to help ourselves from a dish. The younger one insists on peeling my oranges which he does in a very fancy way with a knife & fork & separates the flesh from the membranes. They try to give us some of the Italian delicacies like gnocchi & pietze macaroni which altho' the doctor is not against we know we won't lose weight.

I have a slim figure for an Italian woman so the doctor says I should eat everything except raw salads (which I like). They must have a wonderful chef as everything is cooked with minimum of fat looks delicious in spite of everything we eat about 5 to 6 courses at each meal. The young waiter is training for the job he is only 18 & lost his father the last day of the War in Monticettino he was killed by a ^{cannon} ~~the waiter~~ shot. The head waiter told me he went out first ~~the~~ to meet the Americans who gave them bread & cigarettes, the Ciceronians took their food but he says they were ~~hungry~~ poor things. They are a very gentle people - (I also thought the Portuguese were gentle & modest)

General Mark Clark had a table in the dining room, the waiter proudly showed me "there he sat". I shall send you a catalogue of this town. Just now only one establishment (water drinking centre with treatments places) is open. Its very pretty, marble halls & flower gardens a string orchestra plays every morning. & people (older ones) walk around with glasses of water & gossip. I have seen the other places & they look somewhat like the Creek or Roman Baths. Dad & I are going to some steam caves. It seems men & women go together to sweat ~~that~~ it will be fun watching people wandering around in white shirts.



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