

**Corporal Edwin B and Jeanie Lasher***[Archive]: 7th Motion Picture Unit World War II*

Sicily, Italy: 1944-1945

**\$3500**

A collection of 262 letters from Private First Class then Corporal Edwin B. Lasher and his wife, Jeanie, while he was serving with the 7th Motion Picture Unit (16mm) apparently as a technician during World War II. In all, there are about 400 pages. All letters are very good with some tears with a single envelope.

Lasher was a member of the 7th Motion Picture Unit (16mm) as a technician. His unit appears to have gotten preferential treatment in the choice of places to stay and to set up their laboratories, which were safely in Allied hands. He is very literate and describes events well even though he is extremely aware of the censor, one of his first letters from Sicily is cut to shreds. One letter reads, "this will be a terrible letter as I cannot tell you a thing because of censorship. After 30 days or so I will be able to say a lot more but at the present time don't expect much." Because he wrote almost a letter a day, his letters give a GI's continuous impressions of Italy just after the Allies defeated the retreating Germans and then after V-E Day when the reconstruction began. He sometimes talks of his assignments but reminds himself of the censor, thereby keeping these observations brief.

Many of the letters tell stories of interacting with the Italian populace in a war torn country, especially women that he did not find attractive and food that was not very good. One of these reads, “the Italian women and girls are the worst looking things you have ever seen and Main St. in L.A. is spotless in comparison to here. All of the women seem to be about 4 feet tall, have big noses, dirty faces and are awfully fat and sloppy looking.” In one letter he lists things that he wants to be sent from home which reads, “175 snapshots of yourself. Honey this is the most important of all. I don’t care what they look like as long as it’s pictures of you. Don’t fail me here!” With the letters to his wife is a single snapshot of his unit in front of St. Peter’s at the Vatican and a few letters to his parents.



Additionally there are 106 letters from Lasher’s wife Jeanie to him dated from January 18 to August 2, 1945. About half of the letters are handwritten and half are typed. Jeanie lived in Los Angeles, California and related what is happening to her in detail. Because all of her letters are present, it is easy to see exactly what she was doing for the 8 month period when her husband was overseas. She provides extensive details of the life of a woman married to a soldier.

An excellent account of a soldier and his wife in World War II and their desires to be together again. [BTC#418999]