

February 16, 1944    Pompeii Airfield, Italy

Dear Mick,

I wrote you a few words last night but I just got a letter from you today so here's a few more. If the old adage that the first year is the hardest is true, then the hard part of the war for me is over. I don't think it's true tho, because we still got a long way to go. Speaking of time, if you check back you'll discover that I am about to put in my first hitch in the army. On my August pay I draw an extra 5 percent. That's one pay increase I don't particularly like. I won't refuse it tho.

I got a big kick out of you asking me what my job was over here. Over here you have a primary duty but what else you might do nobody knows. Myself I've done every thing from digging shit holes to pushing trucks on our moves. My primary duty is group file clerk, which is a specialist rating, but if anything else comes up, I'm also that. I'm told that what I do is necessary, and that it helps keep the planes flying, so I just believe 'em and do it.

You know what type of planes our group has so when you read of what they're doing in Italy, it's a safe bet that the 340 was also in there dropping 'em. If you don't believe me ask the "Krauts." On Christmas Eve our group was mentioned by name over the German radio. They said they were going to bomb the hell out of us but the weather was lousy that day. We're still waiting for 'em.

So Abe is still talking about going home. That's a good fast way to get a Section VIII. We're almost certain that we won't see the States until it's all over and that's a long way off. The papers might be able to bull the people in the States but here we learn of things that the papers can't print. There's plenty of blood to be spilled yet.

I've been meaning to ask you this for a long time. Can you get any films at the P.X. Or ship stores or whatever you call it in the navy? If you can, send me a few rolls of 127's from time to time. There was plenty of film here but when the "Krauts" left they took it all with 'em or burned it. They got this

destruction business down pat. When they leave they wreck any thing of value. They sure know how to fight a war.

I reckon that's all for this time. Our new slogan around here is, "Golden Gate in '48." What's your guess?

Hymie



*Hymie was a taxi driver in civilian life. His nickname in the army was "Taxi." He said he spent a lot of time overseas driving officers around.*



*"I've done every thing from digging shit holes to pushing trucks on our moves."*

Feb 16, 1944  
A.P.O. 650  
Italy

Dear Nick,

I wrote you a few words last night but I just got a letter from you today so heres a few more. If the old adage that the first year is the hardest <sup>is true,</sup> then the hard part of the war for me is over. I don't think its true tho, because we still got a long way to go. Speaking of time if you check back you'll discover that I am about to put in my first hitch in the army. On my August pay I draw an extra 5 per cent. That's one pay increase I don't particularly like. I won't refuse it tho.

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So Abe is still talking about going home. Thats a good fast way to get a section ~~VIII~~ VIII. We're almost certain that we won't see the States until its all over and thats a long way off. The papers might be able to bull the people in the States but hear we learn of things that the papers can't print. Theres plenty of blood to be spilled yet.

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Hymie