May 3, 1945    Rimini, Italy

Dear Mick,

Yesterday we got the news that the Germans quit in Italy which just about ends the war for us here. Of course the rumors are flying around just like a plane does but what our fate will be of course we don't know. I'm afraid to even venture a guess because I'm sure it would be wrong. We all like to think that we're going back home for a while any how, but even that no one knows. This thing moved awful fast in its last stages. Not so long ago we could hear the boom of the big guns and now everything is silent. One can even notice the absence of the number of planes in the air. Every day our group alone used to make the earth shake when they all flew over at one time, to say nothing of the other groups that followed. When the planes stop flying it's definite proof that it's all over.

I got your package that contained the callus pads and the pads that are shaped round is the kind I like best. I'm going to Rome tomorrow on official business.

Hymie
The war in Europe was over, but everyone knew that there was still a war to be won in the Pacific.

All of the GI's fully expected to be re-deployed to help the war effort against Japan.

However, until then the 340th Bombardment Group could enjoy the accommodations in the Italian resort town of Rimini on the Adriatic coast.

*Hymie and two unidentified buddies on the beachfront at Rimini*
Group HQ in nearby Riccione

Life was more comfortable and more interesting here than on Corsica
Yesterday we got the news that the German gun in Italy which just about ended the war for us has been captured. Of course the rumors are flying around just like a piece of bread but what our fate will be of course we don't know. I am afraid to even venture a guess because I'm sure it would be wrong. We all like to think that we're going back home for a while. Any hour but even that no one knows. This thing moved really fast in its last stages. Not so long ago we could hear the boom of the big guns and now everything is silent. One can even notice the absence of the sound of planes in the air. They say our groups alone used to make the earth shake when they all flew over at one time. To say nothing of the other groups that followed. Now the planes stop flying and definite proof that it's all over.

I got your package that contained the collar, pants and the pade of the shaped rounds to the kind I like best. I'm going to have tomorrow an official reunion.