

April 4, 1944

Paestum, Italy

Dear Mick,

I sat down with the intention of telling you all about the eruption of Vesuvius, but I find that I just can't paint the picture. I'm trying to describe it, all I can say [is] that at night it was a very beautiful picture. Lava was spewed hundreds of feet in the air only to run down the side and make it appear as tho the whole mt. Was aflame. Inside the thing roared as tho it was having convulsions. It was just like an earth quake except that the ground didn't open up. At the same time chunks of lava [were] falling the size of basket balls. You wore your helmet all the time. Lava buried almost everything and in some of the towns miles away from the top of the mt., lava that had been blown by the wind piled up as high as 3 ft.

At some places close to the mt. It piled as high as 50 ft. Like I said it was a very beautiful sight, but not a nice place to be when those basket balls were falling. I'll tell you more about it when I get back.

I finally got the towels you sent, and they were soak and wet when they got here. The package must have lain out in the rain for some time. I like the way you stenciled the name on 'em. Thanks a lot. Did anybody have any luck about the radio?

Hymie

(Read more about the 340th Bombardment Group and the eruption of Vesuvius in the War Diary of the HQ Section here:

http://57thbombwing.com/340th_History/340th_Diary/15_March1944.pdf)



AFTER ERUPTION VEQUING





Mr. Setzer P.M.S. 1/c
Norfolk Naval Hospital
Portsmouth,
Virginia

3304438-2
310 P.M. A.P.O.
6:50 P.M. New York
4/1/44 Italy
(Date)

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Hymie