

April 9th, 1945

My dearest Billy,

What great joy I feel every time I receive one of your kind letters. Are you receiving mine?² Every evening, as soon as the stars appear, I look at them and I am very sad because we are not together to look at them. Billy, darling, maybe one day you will forget me, but for me, you will always be in my thoughts, I could never forget you. With my mother and my friends, we very often speak about you since my friends know you from photos and if one day you come back to Nice, we will host a big party. Dear Billy, I don't know what to say to you but I still write with all my heart. Write me often, your letters give me such joy. Please accept my mother's best wishes and from me my greatest love with the hope of seeing you again one day.

Yours truly,

Jany

²Mail during WWII was the second most important aspect of military life during the war after food. These letters were the only connection that most of these men had to their families and friends, especially because most of these men would not make it back to their loved ones. The letters provided stability and consistency in a time of such turmoil and uncertainty. Reading and writing letters were the only times that many of these soldiers were given the time and space to express emotions amidst the hyper-masculinity of war. In addition to receiving letters from loved ones, during the war, many civilians were encouraged to write to soldiers in order to boost and foster morale. Civilians were encouraged to write about daily life and random gossip so that the soldiers may get a taste of normalcy within the chaos. Another staple of mail during WWII was "Dear John" letters. These letters of wartime romance allowed couples to stay in touch despite the distance between them, especially for those couples with newborns. Some soldiers even wrote to civilian women to kindle relationships because of the loneliness and boredom of war. Mail during this time was known as V-Mail or Victory Mail. This system allowed for increased speed in communications and ensured the security of the contents of the letters. V-Mail was also heavily advertised and promoted by the military and the government to boost team spirit and confidence.