

Nice, April 30th, 1945

My dearest Billy,

It is with great joy that I received your charming letter. Unfortunately, a great misfortune has hit our family, the cruel loss of my little cousin at the age of 14 years. Please excuse me for not sending you photos again this time because of this misfortune. I couldn't take care of it but you have my word that I will send you some in my next letter which will be very soon. I ask you to write me as often as possible, your letters give me such pleasure. In your letter, [you said that] you wish to get back to your civilian clothes and your dear family again, I hope that for you from the depths of my heart and I think you will soon be excused.⁶ I hope that once arrived in your country you will not forget me right away, and that you'll keep corresponding with me. From where I write, I can see our dear little star, which we will see once again together unless you return directly to your family. Dearest Billy, excuse my short letter but I have such pain that I cannot write even though writing to you is my only distraction, my only joy. When I receive your letters, I am so happy to feel that someone is thinking of me. Give my best regards to Bob, mother joins me in sending you our best wishes. Billy dear, please accept all my love and a thousand kisses.

Jany

⁶The transition from military life to civilian life was a very trying process. Switching from a regimented, demanding and dangerous lifestyle back to normal life and duties was not an easy segue for soldiers to make following WWII. There were many different variables involved with returning to civilian life such as emotional, physical and psychological changes. In Billy's case, he would be moving from being at the forefront of the war and witnessing the deaths of countless soldiers' deaths to leaving Europe, returning to the states and trying to make a living in California in the grocery store business. The stark contrast was emblematic of the lives of returning soldiers who needed to pickup where they left off in terms of their families, businesses and lifestyles after returning to their respective countries. However "Billy himself felt extremely insecure about returning to civil life, he did not know what his three years of service had meant to this country or what life would hold for him outside of an army uniform." Though because of the popularity and notoriety of the 442nd regiment, Billy's transition did contrast to other veterans seeing as his regiment was more widely known and celebrated; this meant more recognition and more opportunities after the 442nd soldiers returned home.