

May 20th, 1945

My dearest Billy,

Finally one of your letters, it had been a while since I received one, and that made me very sad, but now I smile because your letters bring me joy. I celebrated the Day of Peace with my mother and a couple of friends.<sup>7</sup> Only, during this day of celebration, there was someone missing to bring me complete joy and it was you. I have started my dances at the Red Cross again but without you, the dances are very sad, I hope that one day we can dance together again. In your letter, you asked me if I am able to decipher your letters, I can with little difficulty. It makes me feel good. And you, dear Billy, do you understand mine? I'm sending you two little photos that were taken on stage while I was dancing. Dear Billy, I ask you to kindly excuse me for these photos, but I will send you others. I have a very big one that I cannot send you, I'm saving it for you, and one day, if you come back, it will belong to you. I also, dear Billy, reread your letters often, life is so sad for me at this moment, and seeing your letters gives me a little sunshine. I spend my afternoons on the Walkway of the English with my mother and two friends. Sometimes, I have a dance lesson or a singing lesson. Every evening, I contemplate your little star that seems to be speaking of you to me. Dear Billy, I hope that if one day you return to Nice, your first visit will be to me, oh how happy I would be if that happened. After all, in life, you have to keep hoping. Now, dear Billy, I leave you, if you see Bob give him my best regards. Mother and Christiane's most affectionate thoughts are with you. Hoping to see you again very soon, receive, dear Billy, a thousand kisses with all my love.

Jany

P.S. Dear Billy, definitely write me quickly, I beg you. A thousand thank yous accompanied again by a thousand kisses. Note: In the photo with my friend, I was 14 years old but I am sending it anyways.

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<sup>7</sup>This could be in reference to the French victory over the Germans in May 1945. On May 7th, the German Marshal Alfred Jody signed an Army surrender. French journalists quickly spread the news of surrender and celebrations erupted around France. The Germans also signed an additional surrender act in Berlin. The military surrender marked the end of German occupation in France and an overall victory for Europe over Germany. However, this surrender did not mark the end of WWII. The Victoire, May 8th, 1945, is represented today by VE day, la Fête de la Victoire de France. This has become a national holiday and is still celebrated by citizens and politicians alike.