

Thursday, July 12th, 1945

My dearest Billy,

I have not received any news from you, and I am scared. May you have already left for Austria?¹ Billy darling this morning I went swimming with the Lodins and Lolo but the sea wasn't very calm. Today, Aunty, Uncle and Lolo ate lunch at the house. After lunch, Uncle did some of your impressions. Dearest Billy, I beg you to write me soon. On July 14th, there will be a big celebration, I regret with all my heart, that you are not among us.² Billy darling, have you been receiving all my letters? Dear Billy, I don't really know what to tell you since you know my days, they are always the same. I stay at the house all the time with my good friends and mother. At this moment, I am writing you while listening to the American hymn. I can't wait for August 1st so that I may begin my singing lessons again. I ask you, Billy darling if the next time that you write me if you could maybe write down in your letters, a few song titles, especially if they are Beguines or Rumbas since I have to learn some new pieces and I don't really know which ones to pick.³ Dearest Billy, we speak of you constantly and we hope with all of our hearts to see you again someday soon. I ask you once more to write me quickly because I am so depressed and your letters give me such pleasure, they give me such joy. Billy darling, I leave for today. Mother, Aunty, Uncle Lodin and Lolo send their sincerest and deepest regards. Give my best wishes to Bob and for you Billy darling, my love and a thousand kisses.

¹Austria, colloquially, is known as Germany's first victim during the war. Soviet occupation in Austria was dictated by the policies and practices outlined by the Moscow Declaration of 1943. This declaration, however, signified that Austria would eventually become an independent state and should be treated as such going forward. The Red Army, the army and air force of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic occupied parts of Austria like the capital while Anglo-American soldiers, like Billy presumably, entered Austria from Germany and Italy. This must have been Jany's fear, that Billy was entering into Soviet territory. Following the American invasion into Austria in the immediate aftermath of the war, the four political players (France, Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union) divided Austria into four different occupation zones. The American troops initially crossed the border into Austria on April 26th, followed by the French and the British respectively. Until the end of July however, Western allies could not ascertain any first-hand intelligence from Eastern Austria causing American troops to make their way into Vienna.

²The 14th of July, otherwise known as Bastille day in Paris, is a national holiday celebrating the anniversary of the fall of the Bastille (medieval fortress used as a prison) in Paris. The storming of the Bastille was very symbolic for many French citizens as it signified the first victory of the people of Paris against the "Ancien Regime" or the Old Regime. Often Bastille day involved countless celebrations and firework displays to commemorate the victory. Today, the festival is as popular and as celebrated as ever. This day was composed of military parades and many family activities, all to show the power of the French. There is music and dancing in the streets, coupled with different entertainment and performances. All in all, it is a day to remember, and reflect but most importantly to celebrate and acknowledge the past bravery of those who stormed the Bastille.

³Beguine is a dance and music form that was very popular in the 1930s. It originates from the islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique whereas Rumba is quintessentially a Cuban musical drama derived from Africa and Spain. This most is very upbeat and syncopated and was first brought into the limelight in the 1930s as well.

JANY