

Nice, July 19th, 1945

My dearest Billy,

I am writing you to let you know some news that has made me sad and gay at the same time. I leave Tuesday the 24th for Marseille to sing for the American soldiers.²³ It will be maybe for 1 or 2 months, I do not know yet. I will take all of your photos with me which I will put in my room. Mother is accompanying me, she will stay for maybe 2 weeks. Billy darling, I ask that you write me at Uncle Lodin's who will get your letters to me. Billy darling, my biggest desire is for you to be able to come to Marseille. Oh how much more I would have preferred to work in Nice. There, I will sing every night and I think at 4 different locations. As soon as I arrive in Marseille, I will write you. This afternoon or tomorrow, I will be photographed in my theater costume. As soon as I have the photos, I will send you one. Billy darling, write me very quickly and often because in Marseille, I will feel very lonely, especially once Mother is in Nice. There will only be your photos to keep me company and your letters to give me joy. Maybe I will have an American chaperone. So I hope to then make some progress in English. Billy darling, my dearest desire is to see you again very quickly. I hope to receive your photo before I leave, if not Uncle will get it to me. At this moment, I am very busy because I have to finish sewing my costumes which are half finished. But with Uncle Lodin, it is going rather quickly. Billy darling, I ask you also to send me your photos so that I could add them to the ones that I will put in my room. There will be your photos, some of Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Lodin and I would be so happy if you could send me a photo of your sister. Billy darling, I leave you for today. Mother sends you her best wishes and her deepest love. Please receive Billy darling, all my love and a thousand kisses.

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P.S. Uncle and Auntie Lodin send you their most sincere regards.

²³Entertainment troupes were a large part of the project of keeping soldiers' morale high during the war. These troupes would often travel with certain regiments and were sometimes dangerously close to the front lines. One of the major organizations providing these types of entertainment programs was the United Service Organization (USO). This nonprofit organization founded in 1941 was known for providing "a home away from home." The organization brought people together and hosted many different events and celebrities. Singers and performers would often put on "camp shows" for the soldiers sometimes even performing multiple shows a day for different audiences. Camp shows reached France in 1944 and from then on the troupes usually consisted of 5 or 6 people. The USO even had a record high of putting on 700 shows in just one day. During WWII, the USO oversaw a variety of social hubs, from clubs to lounges, and even a hospitality service. Additionally, the USO camp shows were not restricted to performances but also included comedy shows, theater scenes, live music, singing, and dancing. The goal was to provide a comfortable space for the soldiers or military personnel to just enjoy themselves.