

Nice, August 5th, 1945

My darling Billy,

It had been 5 days since I received one of your letters and I was starting to find the time long. Today, I received your letter from the 28th and I am really happy. You were more spoiled than me since you received 5 letters on the same day, the mail is very irregular.²⁸ My darling I remember, I remember the good days that we spent together during your last leave. We were so happy then. I hope, despite it all, that we will soon have the happiness of reliving those days. Did you give my letter to your Captain?²⁹ I am certain that he will no longer refuse your leave. It is with pleasure that we learned about the welcoming that America has reserved for the General de Gaulle.³⁰ We are certain that Paris will extend the same welcoming for President Truman during his next visit. The visits only reinforce the friendship that exists between our two nations.³¹ A week ago, I went to be photographed in costume. I will have the prints tomorrow night and I will send you a photo as soon as they are finished. I hope that they come out well. I already would like to have them. Today I am writing you again from Uncle's home where I am spending the afternoon. Billy darling, yesterday I helped Uncle write you a letter in English. I hope that you were able to understand it. But Billy darling, you never told me if you received the photos that we had taken on the beach and the ones that Uncle had sent you. I hope my darling, that despite everything, your officer will grant you leave for Nice soon and that you will come and surprise

²⁸As stated earlier, letter writing was one of the central components of military life. It not only connected families hundreds of miles away from each other but also provided soldiers with an outlet to talk about what they were witnessing. These letters also now serve as important primary source archives which have helped provide context to the war. Though the Army taksed itself with providing efficeint and expeditious mail delivery, this wasn't always possible as soldiers were stationed in many different locations with different levels of accessibility. A lot of mail, in its journey to arrive to its desired destination, was often funneled through different mail centers or hubs which were then sent overseas. Additionally, mail services were frequently suspended or interrupted because of battles or destroyed transportation routes which made it difficult for some letters to arrive in a timely fashion.

²⁹Jany is referring to a letter she must have written to Billy's commanding officer in an attempt to convince him to provide Billy with a leave so that he may visit her in Nice. Later on, Jany references another letter she wrote to the Captain which can be found attached to a letter she sent on August 29th.

³⁰President Truman invited Charles de Gualle (well know French Army officer who led the French soldiers in the fight against the Germans) to Washington in order to "clarify French-American relations at [a] crucial starge of Europe's transition from war to peace." The invitation was extended to de Gualle because Truman felt it would give de Gualle an oppportunity to make up for his actions during the war which the Americans didn't approve of.

³¹The French-American relationship did have some tension during WWII but the relationship improved through shared responsibility. The French needed supplies which the Americans could provide like transport, rations including food and soap. As German forces grew, the French were worried that the Americans would withdraw from Europe but when the French and Americans started working towards a common goal, their relationship was strengthened and each side attempted to keep their friendship diplomatic.

us like you had done the last time. What joy that would be for me. But Billy darling, I am going to leave you for tonight because it is time to go eat. Mother, Aunty, and Uncle send all of their best regards and me Billy darling, I send you all my love and a million kisses.

JANY

P.S. Write quickly.