

Marseille, August 7th, 1945

My darling Billy,

Today I received five letters from you, among which a little photo and the one from Chadel's. I am very happy, especially today since I am very sad. I have an immense sadness, it is my day of rest and I find myself all alone in my little room and I am sick. I caught a nasty cold. Thus, I think that I will return to Nice in 5 or 6 days because here I feel too sad. Tomorrow I will let the lieutenant know, what a face he will make! But I would rather return to Nice. Seeing mother, Aunty and Uncle Lodin, restarting my swims and waiting for you to have a leave to see you because I hope to see you again very quickly. I have to thank you also for the chewing gum that you sent me.³² As soon as I get to Nice, maybe in 5 days, I will get photographed at the beach and I will send you the photos since all of the ones that we had taken until now are ruined. Billy darling, this evening I feel like crying and reading your letters to see your photos, this is my only joy. Therefore I hope that you will come back very soon on leave. I ask you if you could maybe get a photo of your sister to send me, I would be very happy because I like her. Billy darling, send me photos as often as you can. You cannot even imagine the joy that I get when I open a letter and see one of your photos. Finally, Billy darling, I leave you for tonight because I have a massive headache. Hoping to see you again very soon, receive Billy darling all my love, and a million kisses. *I Love You.*

Your JANY

³²Chewing gum was a big aspect of the government's attempts at keeping their troops fed and comfortable during wartime. "Small creature comforts, such as chewing gum, chocolate, and cigarettes, were regularly added to field rations as a means of keeping soldiers sane." The favorites were mint gum and bubble gum, one serving as a sweeter treat while the other allowed the soldier's to keep their breath fresh and their brains awake. Due to the increased demand for gum, the chewing gum industry doubled down and began mass producing gum and because most of it was reserved for the soldiers, Billy must have sent some to Jany and her family. Interestingly, gum was also used a propaganda tool often depicting the atrocities and brutality of war on the back of the packages that the sticks of gum were distributed in.