

Nice, August 14th, 1945

My darling Billy,

Finally, the war is over.³⁷ I am happy because now there is no worry that you will go to Japan. Maybe, in a little bit of time, you will be able to return to your dear family. My heart is full of joy for you Billy darling. But I beg you, do your best to come to Nice before returning to your dear country. Because thinking of you returning to America without having seen you would be an agony for me. Billy darling, are you happy? When will you be demobilized?³⁸ I hope that it is quite soon. My darling Billy, I have gone back to my old calm life, I only go out very rarely because I do not feel like it. But all day, I read because I adore reading, except for the morning because I have to help mother. Billy darling, I have not been able to start my swims again because I still have a cold but I hope to start them again very soon, I was starting to get so tan. My darling Billy, I did not get a letter from you today, maybe I will get one tomorrow. My darling Billy, I leave you for today. Mother sends her regards and her best wishes. Receive Billy darling, all my love and millions of kisses.

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P.S. Billy darling, do your best to get leave soon. All of my love and kisses.

³⁷Leading up to August 14th, US forces were quickly and successfully breaking down Japanese forces bringing an end to the most destructive war in history, On the 6th, the US dropped its first atomic bomb over Hiroshima and then two days later, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan which was followed by the US dropping a second atomic bomb over Nagasaki. This was the last straw for the Japanese government and they decided to accept the Allied forces surrender terms on August 14th, 1945.

³⁸The Army's plan to demobilize soldiers came down to a mission named Operation Magic Carpet which singlehandedly transported over 22,000 American soldiers every day for nearly a year after Victory day using ships, airlifts and trains. This plan emerged following a national citizen outcry to "Bring the Boys home" with the slogan "Home Alive By '45." This kickstarted military demobilization and the Army was no responsible for transporting over 2 million bodies. In the meantime, while soldiers waited for their ticket home, they were assigned various duties at a multitude of military bases which did cause some tension because most of the soldiers were aching to return to their homes and families. Eventually by the end of 1946, there were only around 700,000 thousand soldiers remaining abroad.