

Nice, August 26th, 1945

My darling Billy,

Yesterday night I went with a friend to the Red Cross. I was very sad and did not want to dance. I was seeing you everywhere, unfortunately it was only an illusion Billy darling. But right before the Red Cross [dance] ended, I saw one of your friends. I did a dance with him and he spoke about you to me. He told me that you were one of his best friends. But Billy darling, maybe you will be made at me for speaking about you? Because maybe you don't want them to know that you know me.⁴⁶ But I was so sad and so happy to be able to talk to one of your friends about you. Do you want me to Billy darling? Last night, I went to the Red Cross but I did not think I would return so soon because I had no desire to, it is so sad without you. My darling Billy, now that I know that you will maybe be able to obtain a leave for Nice, the days of waiting seem even longer. With mother, Aunty, Uncle and Charley, we talk about the happy day where you will be among us again incessantly. Will it come soon, this heavily awaited day? My darling Billy, your photo and the one of your sister are in my room and at night before I go to sleep, I look at them for a long while. I look at your photo because I love you and the one of your sister because she is so beautiful and so pleasant. My darling Billy, do you best to get a leave very quickly because I am impatiently waiting to see you again. Have you learned any new impressions? At this moment, I am listening to the American radio where I play all the songs that we danced to my Billy.⁴⁷ My darling Billy, I leave you for today. Mother, Uncle, Aunty and Charley join me in sending you all of our deepest regards and best wishes. Hoping to see you very soon, receive, Billy darling, all my love and millions of kisses.

JANY

⁴⁶Since Billy was a proud Japanese American Nisei, he feared how his relationship with Jany, a white French girl, would be perceived not only by his fellow Japanese friends but also by his family back in America. Interracial couples were not very accepted and even to this day the relationships between Japanese soldiers and French citizens are not well known. (Look to footnote 65 for more information)

⁴⁷Radio was one of the main sources of entertainment during WWII and also provided war updates and news to citizens. American radios were known to send frequent broadcasts via shortwave to many European cities. Many networks during this time increased the amount of airtime that was devoted to news and also developed comprehensive news teams to give citizens as much information as possible. From special military programs, to commissioned celebrity guest stars like Bob Hope and Frank Sinatra, the radio was a way to remain connected to the larger world, the war but most importantly each other.