

Nice, August 27th, 1945

My darling Billy,

*I love you. I love you very much. Please darling, come back to Nice very soon. I am very eager to see you and give you more sweet kisses.* As you can see Billy darling, I am making a lot of progress in English, oh la la! But this progress does not prevent me from wishing to see you again very soon. Today I received your letter from August 15th. For you, it is a glorious anniversary because, as you told me, a year ago your friends and you disembarked on the French coast where you came to liberate us.<sup>48</sup> Know that for us, this day is equally very significant and it was celebrated on the coast with all the ceremoniality imaginable.<sup>49</sup> Tomorrow, Nice will also celebrate the anniversary of its liberation and the parties that will take place will hold both our FFIs and the American soldiers in the same recognition.<sup>50</sup> I am happy to know that some of your friends were awarded with the Military Cross.<sup>51</sup> Yesterday night, I went with Mother, Aunty and Uncle to see the motorcycling and cycling races happening to commemorate the liberation.<sup>52</sup> It was superb and it pleased me. I did regret that you were not with us because I know that it would have interested you. Today, all four of us are going to the cinema to see “The Fantastic Night”

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<sup>48</sup>The 442nd regiment trained in Rome before invading their way through Southern France. They landed on the coast in Le Muy on August 15th, 1944. There they teamed up the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The Southern France campaign which last from August 15th to September 14th resulted in the 442nd’s second Presidential Unit Citation.

<sup>49</sup>The liberation of Paris, France’s capital, is a very important part of WWII history. American and French troops alike were responsible for infiltrating a heavily Nazi occupied Paris and successfully liberated it on August 25th, 1944. That morning, French troops attacked German resistance forcing around 20,000 German troops to surrender. On August 26th and 27th parades flooded the streets of Paris led by Charles de Gaulle.

<sup>50</sup>The Free French Officers of the Interior were members of a movement designed to combat German occupational forces led by General de Gualle. The FFIs were responsible for not only unifying the French resistance forces across France but they also amassed over 300,000 volunteers. These forces helped in the various invasions of Southern France and Normandy against the Axis Powers. As more and more of France became liberated, the FFI become more formally organized and transitioned from a resistance to formalized infantry units called the French Regular Forces.

<sup>51</sup>The Military Cross is a military decoration reserved for third-tier officers and is awarded for acts of “exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy on land.” These medal may have been awarded following the 442nd’s mission to rescue the “Lost Texan Battalion,” a mission that no other unit wanted to accept. During the rescue, the 442nd suffered heavy casualties around 800 men. The 442nd, after facing tanks, machine guns and more, rescued the battalion and further solidified the 442nd’s loyalty to their fellow Americans.

<sup>52</sup>To celebrate the anniversary of the Liberation of Paris, contests, fireworks and races immersed all over the city. The people flooded the streets and celebrated a memorable day wherein Parisians were no longer living in fear.

with Fernand Gravey and Micheline Presle.<sup>53</sup> You will find me annoying Billy darling but I ask you again about your leave. When will it come? You cannot even know how long time seems without you and how I am dying of desire to see you again. Thankfully, your letters help me deal during your absence. But no matter how beautiful the letters are, they cannot replace you. Also Billy darling come back to me quickly. Unfortunately, a leave is very short and I already shudder at the thought that after this leave I may not see you again because what is the good in hiding it from myself and trying to hide it from you, I love you Billy with all my heart. You may find me very daring but I had to tell you my feelings. I leave you Billy darling because it is late. But before I go, let me tell you again just how much I love you and to give you a million kisses.

JANY

P.S. Excuse my writing as I am on a table that is moving and I had to write quickly. Mother sends her best regards.

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<sup>53</sup>La Nuit Fantastique or The Fantastic Night is a French fantasy film released in 1942. This film not only changed the spirit of independent French film-making but also explore realistic fairy-tales which was an excellent distraction from the horrors of the war.