

Nice, July 4th, 1945

Dearest Billy,

Tonight I will only give you a couple words because we spent the day at Cap-d'Ail near Monaco and we spent most of the time in the water.⁷⁸ Also, like everyone else, I am very tired this evening. But Jany must have told you in detail all about our day. We definitely thought about you and we regretted that you were not among us. Since your departure, the weather has improved and the sea is very calm. This allows Jany to make a lot of progress in her swimming. As of now she swims alone but is not yet venturing into the open waters. She is already taking long swims. But I think that tonight you have gone back to the edges of Lake Como and found all of your friends.⁷⁹ They will help you tolerate your exile. I suppose that you will restart your swims and when you come back to us, you will be so dark that we would take you for a "Negro."⁸⁰ My skin is also becoming more and more tan. Today, July 4th, it's Independence Day and in Nice, this day is commemorated like it should be. But alas, we are all too tired to attend the fireworks, the races and the basketball games.⁸¹ But I leave you my dear Billy in telling you goodnight and good luck.

Sincerely yours,

Gilbert

Dear Billy,

Tonight, I send you all my love and my best regards. With the deep regret of not having you near us.

M. Lore

Dear Billy,

Like Gilbert just told you, everyone is very tired this evening and excuse me for only writing you a couple of lines. Despite everything, please find all my love. Best regards,

Gaby

⁷⁸Cap-d'Ail is a seaside commune in southern France.

⁷⁹Lake Como is a lake located in Northern Italy. It is shaped like an upside-down Y with different branches all leading to the town of Bellagio. During the 1940s, Lake Como was site to many historical events like the culmination of the war in Italy. It is also notably where Mussolini, the Prime Minister of Italy, met his fate. Additionally, Lake Como has housed "amazing collections of preserved historical items" in its waters which includes WWII tanks, weapons, unexploded bombs, seaplanes and a variety of military vehicles.

⁸⁰An antiquated derogatory way to describe Black people

⁸¹Though France's Independence Day is May 8th, 1945, they most likely also celebrated the 4th of July due to the friendship between America and France in addition to the help provided by the US Army during the war.