

Nice, July 22nd, 1945

Dearest Billy,

It is with great pleasure that we received your kind letter. We were waiting for it impatiently. We are very happy to know that your return trip went well. But, above all, don't thank us. We were so happy to have you with us and to give your for a couple of days, a little insight into family life. I see that you have found at your camp again not only your jobs but also your swimming and the contemplation of your star. But about Jany, I have to tell you that she helped me translate your letter. Because Lolo is in the country on vacation and there is a passage that gave her particular pleasure. Jany must tell you in her letters that every day she comes with us swimming. But I don't know if she told you about the progress she has made. Now she leaves the shore and goes alone to the open water and I assure you that she likes to swim. But her swims will be interrupted because in this week, two envoys from the Delta Base of Marseille came to hire her to sing and dance over there.<sup>82</sup> She is leaving Nice on Tuesday with her Mother and she is very happy about it. It is an excellent opportunity for her to perfect her art. Life in Nice is still the same one you had like every morning we went to swim. But we take, as of now, a second swim at night at 10:30 or 11 and it's the best of both swims. At this time, the water is very calm and seems even hotter. Yesterday, we saw in Nice some of your friends with the insignia on their arms of your regiment. The torch of liberty.<sup>83</sup> But I didn't dare ask them about you. And now my dear Billy, I will retire here. Write us quickly and give us good news of you and come back quickly to Nice where we will have the pleasure of welcoming you again.

Sincerely yours,

Gilbert

Dear Billy,

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<sup>82</sup>The Delta Base section was located 12 miles from Marseille along the Mediterranean coast and was an American military camp built to receive American soldiers in transit to other bases or battlegrounds. One of the Delta Base's main goals was to assist and support the invasion of Southern France. The Delta base was part of a long supply chain that provided resources to American soldiers in addition to clearing harbors, operating beaching, collaborating with various Army groups and opening lines of communication. The Delta Base operations remained in effect in Europe until the last of the American Forces were withdrawn.

<sup>83</sup>The 442nd battalion flag and symbol is represented by the Torch of Liberty. Not only is it a proud reminder of the 442nd's success but also represents the determination of the soldiers. This insignia, usually found on the sleeves of the 442nd Combat Team features a white torch which symbolizes light and guidance. Additionally, the torch is featured on a blue background lined with a red and white outline to represent the colors of the US flag. Not only was loyalty to America a big part of the 442nd's mission to be seen as American citizens but also represented their dedication to the United States Army which came in to question several times.

It is my turn to tell you how much your letter pleased us. Gilbert told you in his letter about the imminent departure of Jany and her mother. I will then find myself alone during a little bit and I almost have the blues. They are, the both of them, two of my good friends that I like a lot. Please come quick to Nice dear Billy and spend your leave among us

My best regards,

Gaby