

August 18th, 1945

My dear Billy,

This afternoon at the house the painting looked very touching on the couch. Jany's mother and Gaby are talking and at the table Jany and I are each writing our letter. Besides, I am angry because Jany is moving the table. Charley just left us and will also write you. He tasked us with giving you his best wishes. And now, my old Billy, I have to thank you once more. Really I am embarrassed. You spoil us too much. This morning, while I was at work, your friend came to the house and woke up Gaby who was still sleeping. Since it was 9:30 it wasn't really important and he gave her the package that you entrusted him with. I don't really know how to thank you. But be sure that you really gave us a lot of pleasure. You are really too nice my dear Billy and I thank you again very sincerely for your package. I really regretted not being home this morning because I would have had the pleasure of seeing your friend and talking with him about you. Your friend speaks French very well it seems. But I see on your side that you have made a lot of progress in French. I was very surprised to see your letter from August 5th that I received the day before yesterday was written in French. I assure you that if I had to write that letter in English, you would be completely incapable of deciphering it. Also, excuse me for writing you in French. Nevertheless, I think that it's a good exercise for you because I see that you would like to learn French. But now my old Billy, I think that it's becoming serious, Gaby has also started writing you as well as Jany's mother. All four of us seem like we are all at school. So my poor Billy, you wrote us about the day all your friends abandoned you to go to the beach. I think that you shouldn't miss going as well seeing that that beach is not very pretty. Do one thing, come back quickly to Nice and if the beach is not too beautiful at least you would be in Jany's company and well I think that the beach will seem beautiful. At this moment we no longer go [to the beach] because the wind blows very hard and the sea is bad. Nice's sky is no longer blue and Nice without sun is not Nice. Yes my old Billy, with 3 meters of fabric Jany will have enough to have a dress made. However, your package that I sent to Marseille didn't come before Jany's departure and it hasn't been sent back to me. I hope that on Monday the package will have come back. I think, my dear Billy, that you have definitely received the photos that we took in Nice. They are not very good alas. There was a big gala on the night of August 14th in Nice for the

benefit of the families of the FFIs that were killed or deported.⁹² It was splendid! Unfortunately Jany didn't attend because we played before her return to Marseille. We saw Aimé Bareille and his orchestra. Mistinguette, Fernandel and our big star Maurice Chevalier (Tra la la la. Tra la la la la...Louise) All the stars had very great success. I am sending you today a little package, a souvenir from Nice. I hope that it will get to you quickly. I leave you my old Billy. But I hope to soon have some news from you and also another visit. Again, a thousand times thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Gilbert

⁹²The 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 became more formally organized and transitioned from a resistance to formalized infantry units called the French Regular Forces.