

May 13th, 1945

Dear Bill,

I received your letter yesterday and I hasten to reply, as you ask me for it, and because on reading what you tell me about Tom I think you should do like he does and try to come here the soonest. Oh! yes, try, because later I don't know if I'll be able to see you again on the Riviera.<sup>38</sup> If we can go to Vichy to take care of my mother's liver and mine, I think we shall leave Nice about July 15th.<sup>39</sup> Or, if we go directly to Paris, may be we shall go only at the end of July. So, Bill, try to come with Tom. But really if you can't come before we start, you will come to visit me in Paris, have I your promise? Thanks for the picture, you look to get on quite well with the young girl; but; take care, it seems me you get fat in Italy. Take care of your self! ... As for your sun tan, I think it's perfectly well. You are lucky, because mine is missed. I suned a too long time and now my skin peels off! Hi! Hi! Hi!<sup>40</sup> Poor little one who has not any moment to go to swim. It's so delightful by so warm days! But my skin.... It is a long time you did not talk me about your friends. Where is Johnnie, your faithful? and the other? Well, you are quite anxious about the cloth? So am I! It did not reach me yet and I'm afraid it has been stolen or lost. If really it was so I should be disconsolate after having wished so much to receive it. Something from America! But I hope still. For, as you know, hope is a very tenacious virtue... However when such a case happens in France, the sender puts a claim to the post-master. May be you can do as we do? Anyhow, as soon as it reaches me I rush on my pen and I write you the good new. About nearly the same way I forgot, I think, to tell you something in my last letter. I don't know if you can find the silk stuff, but I have just read in the paper that everything was extremely expensive in Italy.<sup>41</sup> So, Bill, I let you judge if really it's too dear. Here, a meter costs about 500 francs and more and everybody thinks it's very expensive. Oh! What a tiresome girl I am!... please, forgive

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<sup>38</sup>This in reference to the French Riviera also known as the Côte d'Azur. It is located on the Mediterranean coastline of France.

<sup>39</sup>Vichy France is the common name of l'État français (French State) ruled by Marshal Philippe Pétain during WWII. During the war, Vichy solidified itself in the "Free Zone" of unoccupied France and handled the civil administration of France.

<sup>40</sup>*he he he*

<sup>41</sup>Fabric of any kind was relatively scare during WWII, fancier and better quality fabrics like silk were even harder to obtain. Silk played big role in the war because the material could be used for manufacturing parachutes, making durable and easy to hide maps and most importantly, silk was the best material for powder bags for naval guns. This meant that once the guns were fired, the silk would disintegrate completely and remove any residue inside the gun barrels make it easier to reload.

me. This time I have a picture to send you, I don't think it's a very good one; but that's all I have. Tell me what you think about it. I hope it will please you however, and forget you have been waiting for it such a long time...And, before I close my letter, what do you think about my english? Please, if you see too many mistakes, tell me, and help me to correct them. I wish to become very good. And you, monsieur, what are you waiting [for] to learn french? I offered you to be your teacher and you never answered about it, lazy boy. So long, Bill,

Sincerely yours

Suzanne