

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

o.O., 1945-04-26

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Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

From

To

Mrs. Thomas MANN,
1550 San Remo Drive,
PACIFIC PALISADES,
Calif. U.S.A.

Sgt. Klaus MANN, 33697970
(Sender's name)

P.W.B., HQ 5th Army,
(Sender's address)

APO 464, c/o Postmaster,
New York, N.Y.

[CENSOR'S STAMP]

[Date]

Italy, April 26

MY BEST ONE: Since I wrote you last, the following items arrived from Mother dear: Letter No. 6 (of January 26); letter 10 (of Febr. 28); letter No. 11 (March 4); a package containing beautiful fountain pen, beautiful flash light (the batteries of which have somehow managed to "die," during the trip across - but that isn't so bad, for I can get batteries here), and two cartons of beautiful cigarettes (THANKS): one little pack containing a beautiful pocket knife (T H A N K S). All this was greatly welcome, and almost as much of a surprise as if I had never asked for the things; for I had already given up every hope that they would ever reach me. It seems that our GI mail service is slow but honest and, au fond, reliable. That's the way the Army does things.

Did my last letter sound somewhat gloomy, by any chance? If so, it was all a mistake. One should never write letters if one happens to be in a bad mood. Today things look already brighter again -- although it's raining as hell and my tent is practically flooded. Yet there are always interesting experiences and prospects. For instance, I discovered a screamingly funny English-Italian language guide about which I wrote a rather amusing article. Or, I spent a stimulating weekend with Sferzino and the Croces -- just the after day after the formation of the new government. Croce looks very old (which he is - namely almost eighty), but seems to become younger when he speaks - surprisingly fresh and lively. He sends his best regards to my dear parents - remembering a charming evening he spent with them in Munich, in dear Nebel's home... It was quite an experience to meet the grand old man, whose prestige and influence in this country are remarkable... Speaking of prestige, a few days ago somebody brought me a picture of "il romanziere e filosofo Th.M." published, with a highly complimentary caption, in an American-sponsored Italian magazine. Everybody says that I look just like my Dad, and that my Dad looks so young, and that he has such a lot of hair... What I would like to get is occasional selections of clippings from THE NATION ("Argus"), AUFBAU, and the like -- about such subjects as German morale, post-war schemes, new political books, atrocity stories, jokes, etc. Not too much - just some stimulating titbits, once in a while.

En attendant le plaisir de vous lire, and with all my love:

V-MAIL

Aging soldier boy, K.

Just received your dear No. 19 (19 April.)
How terrible - Bruno's collapse! Hope he is
better now. My most cordial wishes to him.