

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

o.O., 1945-03-24

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THE STARS AND STRIPES

UNIT No. 1

MEDITERRANEAN

APO 512

24 March, 1945

Ma très chère,

Have I already thanked for the last Mimosa beauty? I suppose I have -- and, in any case, I remamber having already acknowledged and duly praised the package with slippers and cigarettes. The slippers came particularly handy, under the changed, more civilized conditions which are those of my present life. As for the delicatessen, they are always welcome -- although I must admit that the food is remarkably good where I am stationed now. Nevertheless, ~~it~~ it's pleasant to have some extra goodies -- if only because they ^{are} so useful in making friends with half-starved, yet sometimes attractive, civilians. To mention a three-quarters-starved, but not very attractive, one -- your old cousin Luigia --: how she beamed when I offered her a piece of juicy chocolate! Incidentally, I am playing with the idea to take Italian lessons from here -- which would be a good thing for me to do and, moreover, a tactful way of helping the poor thing with a few lire...

Yes, I am still stationed in Italy -- you'll never guess, where --, although I hope, and expect, to be sent somewhere else, in the not too distant future. But even if this little plan should fail to work out, I am pleased with my job and happy to be out of messy old P.W.B. I am doing a lot of writing

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(two samples of which I enclose) and am seeing quite a few people, which I haven't done for a long time -- among them only too many "Little Birds." They are in the embarrassing habit of visiting me here in my office, where I am helplessly exposed to their holdups, and asking me absurd favours in their ugly native tongue. Just this morning a Jew from Munich dropped by and told me that he and 500 other Bavarian Jews in Italy did not wish to return ~~to return~~ to Germany but preferred to emigrate ~~to~~ to the United States: would not Dad be please good enough to write a line to the President and fix up the whole matter. When I explained to him that this could hardly be done, he seemed rather hurt. What a silly Little Bird!

I wonder if I'll ever hear from Leyden's mystery man, Mr. Brown. Probably not. But I know that such things are in the making. This whole "Cultural Relations" setup begins to look rather promising -- with Archibald MacLeish as the great man in the background.

Poor Bruno-Liesl! I am going to write to them, one of these days.

Had a touching letter from Uncle Heini.

I do hope the Magician is better. Mes affections pour lui.

Overjoyed to have your friendly messages of 19 February (including Sis's picture) and 11 March (the latter, being ~~A~~ V-Mail, much faster!) The war will be over any moment now. Tomorrow, K.