

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

o.O., 1944-12-31

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New Year's Eve, 1944

Ma très chère,

Just a last little Hello, before this cumbersome old year is definitely and irrevocably over. As for the next one -- well, let's hope for the best and expect the worst!

Friedrich (who has become a most assiduous and conscientious correspondent) wrote me about the Kröger disaster. What a shame! What an embarrassing, superfluous, u s l y tragedy! It must be an awful blow to poor old Heini -- who is likely to follow her soon. Couldn't she wait a few years? What deplorable, objectionable lack of consideration and self-control! Yet I feel sorry for her. She should have stayed in Germany, with people of her own kind. He has ruined her life by transplanting and uprooting her. But then, that's what she wanted. I suppose it was completely on her own account when she followed him to Bandol, or wherever he was at the time. Stupid thing she was! But back in Nice she used to cook really delicious suppers for us. It's all very sad.

(I'll try to write a few lines to the Uncle. But there is n o t h i n g to say, really...)

... Nothing new from here -- except for what you read in the papers (which isn't very much, either, right now). ... I expect to go to Rome for a few days before long, which may clarify my future status a little. Christmas up here in the mountains was, as I predicted, very calm. As planned, I dropped by at G-2 and enjoyed lobster and ~~marzipan~~ marzipan. That was about all. As for New Year's Eve, I have decided to ignore it altogether. In any case, it's a little better this year than it was in 1943, when I left the States just on Christmas Eve and spent the holidays, including New Year's Day, in a hole that was pitchdark after five o'clock in the afternoon -- crammed together like a sardine with literally thousands of men... That journey from Virginia to Casablanca was probably the worst experience of my Army life.

Poor Bib! Now he has to go through that damned Basic Training! I hope he'll manage to get himself into Special Services. My Lord, I'll ~~write~~ have to write to him too!

Happy New Year to you and Dad and to all men of good will!

Trevor, K.

PS The article enclosed herewith is my first contribution to STARS & STRIPES -- published in today's Sunday- and New Year's number. They wanted me to write about this subject, which I would hardly have picked myself... I hope Hubertus will see it!

Somebody just showed me the G. M. C. Army edition of Stories from Three Decades. Very nice little job. And amazing how much text one of these tiny volumes contains!

From, Sgt. Klaus Mann (32697270),
P.W.B., HQ Fifth Army, APO 464,
c/o Postmaster, New York, NY

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To,
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas MANN,
1550 San Remo Drive,
Pacific Palisades,
Calif.
U.S.A.



Handwritten signature or initials in blue ink.