

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

o.O., 1944-12-22

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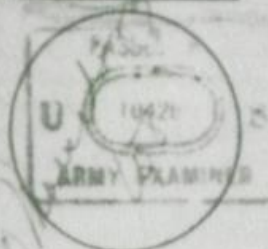
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No.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Mrs Thomas Mann,

1550 San Remo Drive,

Pacific Palisades,

CALIF. U.S.A.

Sgt. Klaus Mann, 32697270

(Sender's name)

PWB, HQ 5th Army,

(Sender's address)

APO 464, c/o Postmaster,

New York, NY

(Date)

Italy, 22 December, 1944

Ma très chère,

Latest arrivals were: your dear letter of 22 November; a belated "Mimosa" -- mailed last August, if I am not mistaken --; a remarkably rich and tasty fruit cake; package with cigarettes (1), scarf, pyjamas, and handkerchiefs. Everything has given me great pleasure. Vergeltsgott. ... What is new? Not much, I am afraid. Of course, one is somewhat worried about the new developments on the Western front. Even though it is difficult to say how important, or how inconsequential, the initial German successes are -- it remains appalling that they have so much energy and impetus left. Well, maybe it's their last gasp, and the bastards will really collapse, once this final effort has failed... Let's not speak about Greece! It's a nightmare... As for my own little affairs, they remain unchanged, with various possibilities pending. The newest prospect is a job with STARS AND STRIPES, our Army newspaper; they want me for their editorial staff. Curiously enough, the proposition is not unattractive to me -- mostly because I would much rather write in English again, and also considering the discouraging implications of Elmer's letter. But then, I doubt very much that PWB will be willing to let me go. The major who is my immediate boss here, at HQ, thinks it would be an awful mistake on my part to abandon our organization; and when I explained to him that, with PWB, my present status as an enlisted man is, and will remain, a serious handicap, whereas with ST&ST it would make no difference, for the newspaper is completely run by enlisted men -- when I tried to make this clear to the major, he talked me into making an application for a commission as a PWB officer. Which I may do -- just for the record --, although I am pretty sure that there is no chance of success. In any case, I don't believe that I shall stay with 5th Army very much longer -- unless the commission comes through (which is more than unlikely). Otherwise, I suppose it will be London, or STARS & STRIPES, or at least another PWB job in Italy. So there we are. And meanwhile it's bitter cold. I am going to celebrate Christmas here, with Army, instead of going to Florence, which would be pseudo-jolly and therefore all the more depressing. I guess I'll drop by at G-II, where I know some nice enough fellows, and participate in a picnic party -- my contribution being your lobster and marzipan which I saved for this occasion. Gille choses for everybody -- Dad Hauptsächlich, but also Fränkchen and all the other fine-feathered birds. Tell Medi, if she still is with you, that I enjoyed her gift, and that I'll write her soon.

V - MAIL

T. Mann K.

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