

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

o.O., 1944-09-23

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No.



To

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

From

Sgt. Klaus Mann, 32697270.
[Sender's name]
P.W.B., HQ 5th Army,
[Sender's address]
APO 464, c/o Postmaster,
New York, NY
[Date]

Italy, 23 September

Treasure Island:

I haven't written to you for a comparatively long time, and am even now somewhat reluctant to write, because of the uncertainty of my present status and the mix-up with my addresses. As I told you, I was sent as a "loan" from Fifth Army to Eighth. This "loan" was meant to last only for ten days or so, but by now it is already four weeks ago that I left Fifth Army, and I don't know yet if and when I am to return. However, I have decided to keep Fifth Army as my mailing address, as it is more likely than not that I shall be sent back there, ~~eventually~~ eventually. As things stand now, I have not received any mail for about three weeks -- in fact, I think it is even longer since I heard from you last. As for packages, I haven't had any for two months at least. Too bad and sad -- but it's just "one of those things." For the time being, I am working in a Prisoner-of-War Camp. The job is quite interesting and living conditions are not too unpleasant -- especially as my partner happens to be an old friend of mine: Kurt Gerstmann, who was a great friend of Ricki's and lived with him, when we came to New York, in 1928. So that makes things rather cozy -- with nostalgic evening conversations about the good old days, and so forth. Besides it is a new and rather enjoyable experience to become so closely acquainted with the British. Their food is even worse than ours, but apart from that their manners are much more civilized and their whole way of living is somehow more agreeable than in our army. Another difference is that a sergeant in the British Army is much more than in the American: here I am eating in rather comfortable Sergeants' mess, while at Fifth Army I have to stand in line with all the privates for my ugly "chow." ... Of course, I have no news whatsoever as regards my application for change of my status. I hope you received my letter in which I asked you to approach good old Uncle Elmer. He should be able to do something about it -- if he wants to, that is. Are there any new developments on the "Free German" front -- as far as Dad is concerned? Of course, I still feel that he should not get mixed up with any of the Committees. On the other hand, I rather suspect that the State Department will come out, sooner or later, with some kind of flattering proposition. They have so few people (if anybody!) whom they could use to represent something like a "Free Germany." Certainly, there is no body in Germany itself. But again, the whole matter is so hopelessly confused and complicated that one doesn't really know what to wish for... Well, goodbye then, dear old thing! No doubt, your letters and packages will eventually catch up with me -- which will be a holiday for yours,

V.-MAIL

affectionately
K