

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

o.O., 1944-08-22

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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

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)



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To

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

Italy, 22 August

MAMAN:

A few days ago I received, surprisingly, your letter of July 1 (No.29), which must have somehow fallen into the water and the delirium of which was consequently delayed. It reached me in a somewhat reduced shape -- discolored but still readable --, including the well-preserved newspaper clipping with the portrait of Dr. Th.M. and his wife Katherine, after Oath of Allegiance. Both of you look rather young and stately, but strangely grave and worried -- which seems a little odd, considering the joyful occasion. The story with the picture is one of the elaborately idiotic ones -- with son K. in Nordmandy, son Gottfried in Italy, and German author conversing with Wife Katherine about the future of the defeated Reich... Shortly afterwards I got also your little V-Mail of July 30 (No.33). In the meantime, you ought to have received various notes de ma part, alluding to the excellent little Royal, the presence of which I enjoy and appreciate every day; to Dad's dear letter, etc. It seems sadly long, however, that I have not received any package -- a month at least, if I am not mistaken --, although I presume that something must be on its way. Incidentally, a gift that would give me considerable pleasure and satisfaction is -- some cakes of good toilet soap (good old Yadel, perhaps?), and a bottle of after-shaving lotion. It's almost impossible to get hold of this kind of stuff, in this theatre. What do I have to report? Not a hell of a lot, really. As for the great sweeping events, I feel about as remote from them here as you are in California. Of course, things may become more lively in this area too, before long; but for the past weeks we were having an extremely quiet time. About the most dramatic interlude was the visit of Grand Old Churchill, at whom I was lucky enough to have a fairly close look. Besides, these are hot and rather boring days. My transfer seems to be more or less out of the question, although my former boss still tries to make arrangements for me in London. But I seem to be considered "indispensable" here -- which cannot but strike me as somewhat ironical, considering the character of my present job. But if that's the way they want it, I don't care... It won't be long anymore. Eva in Rolf's palazzo! How elegant and cozy that must be! I'd like to have a cool drink on her terrace, right now... But our living room wouldn't be bad, either. Who is living now in my room with the beautiful view? The letter to good Uncle Henry must have been from good brother Golo; I haven't even thanked him yet for his very curious and enjoyable little message.

V.-MAIL

Love and wishes,
K