

Sylvia Wiener to Moe Wiener, June 6, 1944

Image

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June - June 6, 1944

Hello - my dearest -
Well - D-Day! It has come -
God! So long awaited - so feared -
so rejoiced - such release - such
new tension - such excitement - such
quiet - Well - darling - all of these
feelings + emotions were expressed +
felt by American people today - as
you can well understand. People +
that includes me were torn between
feelings of gladness that "the beginning of
the end" had come - and with the
fear of great sacrifices -
As much for the general feeling - dearest -
except - that I want to tell you that
the whole thing is being handled in
the usual exciting American manner -
with blow by blow description - comments -
by radio - long discussions on stage
information in the newspapers - a day
of prayer by Mayor, workers - +
President -
Now for the exciting event as it
was reflected in my own day -

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(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC09414.0286)

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3.
Awake at the usually time - & my
usual quiet fashion because David
is still sleeping (can't turn on the
radio) - ~~pressed~~ + left the house -
In the bus - I noticed ~~an~~ movement -
a restlessness - a nervousness amongst
the people - but scarcely paid any
attention to it - as I was occupied
with my own thoughts. Arrived at
Shepherd Bay + couldn't get a paper
at the usual place because of the
crowd around the paper vendors -
So I looked over to another stand -
& grabbed the first Herald Tribune
available - the headlines of which
were not sensational (it was not the
"Extra" - But as I was about to
dash away - noted PM - It was
sensational - The first page just had
the following words splashed across
the page - "Japanese Extra" - I
bought a copy - As I got into the
train - & thank Heaven! got a seat -
looked at the rear page ~~covering~~ covering
latest Bulletin - & then saw
Gen. Eisenhower's speech - corroborating
the real invasion - I became excited
& read the paper through - It
was so exciting - People were

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3.
deep in their papers - like here before -
Few spoke - even people traveling
together did not speak - I read
every word. When I arrived at the
office - several girls were crying -
others glad it had finally come -
Tension which had been accumulating
during the last few weeks was released -
Needless to say - no one could work -
As for myself - I didn't cry - laughing -
I felt as I have been feeling all
along that it was good it had started -
What will happen will do so - & the
 sooner this gets started, the sooner it
will be over - I am fully aware of all
the dangers & sacrifices - I am ready
for them - I have been thinking of them
for so long - So - I spent my time trying
to reassure others - I called Olga
early - & learned she was feeling quite
low - but she cheered up - Decided
to have lunch with her -
We finally found ourselves to work -
& became immersed in it, so that
it was 11:45 before I knew it -
We were permitted 15 minutes for
personal prayer - But - as you know
how I feel about that - I departed
for Palmer & Marcus -

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4.
Found Olga in fairly good spirits -
Had lunch with her & learned she
planned to go to Chicago on Saturday -
Gave her the pictures & she liked
them so much - spoke of you &
Marty & exchanged thoughts &
memories - Finally left but walked
back - trying to get a few words for
radio's blaring out all over the
streets - Finally bought the latest
paper - Came back to the office -
& read the paper thru - as there
was no radio handy - There was much
talk about the immensity of the
undertaking (Remember when we spoke
about an umbrella of airplanes in
that long ago - seated in a library
chairs -) about whether this is a feat -
it is a real thing - about the whereabouts
of the Luftwaffe - about what
Russia would do - about when Tito
would strike & about Rome -
about this beginning of the end of the
war - how long it would take -
Perhaps - 1945 - the beginning -
Perhaps - I didn't have time then
to picture you - your position -
your place in this - & I am glad -
Late in the afternoon we were informed
that the "Little Flower" requested

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presence at a "Prayer Meeting" in
Madison PK - where a legit
business ever for the soldiers who died
in the last war - So at 3 P.M. -
went there - around the corner from
the office - There were crowds & crowds -
The Mayor came with Mr. Wheeler - &
lots of camera men - etc -
A Catholic priest, & Rabbi (Wese)
& Protestant pastor - said prayers -
then - an English opera singer sang
"God Save the King" - a French (Free)
who received a lot of applause sang
the "Marseillaise" which is very stirring -
Pipers drifted down from the Hall
building - Then the Italian Anthem
was played - as Italy was welcomed
as a member of the Allied Nations -
Then Igor Gorin (a white Russian) sang
of all things - the "Internationale" -
What a foul gas - Evidently, there had
been no time for Igor to learn the new
Russian anthem - & it was funny to
hear a white Russian singing "Comrades
Prisoners of Starvation" to the crowd -
How! I was terrified - & funny - because
most of us knew about the real Russian
Anthem - By the way, attitude toward

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Russein has changed considerably here -
It is realized that she has taken her
place as a nation alongside with
us - & that she no longer is a bogged-
down people. Think Russein is going
Capitulate - while other nations will
lead toward socialism - who knows?
Is it ended - & how I come - There
were no appointments scheduled at
the Draft Board - Thank Heaven!
As I sat myself down at the Radio -
& had not left it since - Every once
in a while program breaks in constantly
with news bulletins - It is exciting
& in between times - I think of you -
& your place - The President read a
so-called prayer - what was a great
document & sounded like a new
"Gethsemane" address - How long this
interest & excitement will
people united remain to be seen -
Now to you - I hope you are alright -
& I have shed only a few tears in my
fears - But - no matter what - I love you
I love you, love you - love you - & I'll wait
will be ready for your homecoming -
Soon - I hope -
To Victory Soon -
Dear Moe -
Syl - Good Good Luck!
Good Luck!
To all 4 you Days!

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7.
P.S. Called Mom - & as usual - she
was wonderful - Just - but interested
in all the gang's on - had just listened
in to the President's prayer - & she
prayed - too -
My Dad called to ask how I was feeling
& planned -
As - dearest - this time I really -
forgot to say "God rest" -
As - darling; Beloved -
"God rest" - I hope a
good night for people all over the
world -
Sincerely
Sylvia

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Transcript

Tues- June 6, 1944

Hello – My dearest, —

Well – D-Day! It has come – God! So long awaited – so feared – so rejoiced – such release – such new tenseness – such excitement – such quiet – Well – darling – all of these feelings & emotions were expressed & felt by American people today – as you can well understand. People – & that includes me were torn between feelings of gladness that “the beginning of the end” has come – and with the fear of great sacrifices –

So much for the general feeling – dearest – except that I want to tell you that the whole thing is being handled in the usual exciting American manner – until blow by blow description – comments – by radio – long discussions on meager information in the newspapers – a day of prayer by mayor, workers – & President –

Now for the exciting event as it was reflected in my own day – Awoke at the usual [*struck* ly] time – & my usual quiet fashion because David is still sleeping (can't turn on the radio) – dressed & left the house – In the bus – I notice a [*struck*] movement – a restlessness – a [illegible] amongst the people – but scarcely paid any attention to it – as I was occupied with my own thoughts. Arrived at Sheepshead Bay & couldn't get a paper in the usual place because of the crowd around the paper vendors – So I dashed over to another store – & grabbed the first Herald Tribune available – the headlines of which were not sensational (it was not the “Extra” – But as I was about to dash away – noted Pm – It was sensational – The front page just had the following words splashed across the page – “Invasion Extra” – I brought a copy – As I got into the train – & thank Heaven! got a seat – looked at the rear page [*strikeout*] covering latest Bulletins – & there was Gen. Eisenhower's speech – [commanding] the real invasion – I became Excited & read the paper through – It was so exciting – People were deep in their papers – like never before – Few spoke – even people traveling together did not speak – I read every word. When I arrived at the office – several girls were crying – others glad it had finally come – Tenseness which had been accumulating during the last few weeks was released – Needless to say – no one could work – As for myself – I didn't cry – darling – I felt as I have been feeling all along that it is good it has started – What will happen will do so – & the sooner this gets started the sooner it will be over – I am fully aware of all the dangers & sacrifices – I am ready for them – I have been thinking of them for so long – So I spent my time trying to reassure others – I called Olga early – & learned she was feeling quite low – but she cheered up – Decided to have lunch with her –

We finally forced ourselves to work – & became immersed in it, so that it was 11⁴⁵ before I knew it – we were permitted 15 minutes for personal prayer – But – as you know how I feel about that – I departed for Palmer & Marcers –

Found Olga on fairly good spirits – Had lunch with her & learned she planned to go to Chicago on Saturday – Gave her the pictures & she liked them so much – spoke of you & Marty & exchanged thoughts & memories – Finally left her & walked back – trying to get a few words for radios blaring out all over the streets – Finally – having the latest paper – Came back to the office – & read the papers then – as there was no [radios] handy – there was much talk about the immensity of the undertaking (Remember when we spoke about an umbrella of airplanes in that long ago – seated in a blue chair –) about while this is a first – [or] a real thing about the

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whereabouts of the Luftwaffe – about what Russia would do – about when [illegible] would strike & about Rome – about this beginning of the end of the war – how long it would take – Perhaps – 1945 – the beginning – Perhaps – I didn't have time then to picture you – your [position] – your place in this – & I am glad – Late in the afternoon we were informed that the “Little Homer” requested presence at a “Prayer meeting—” in Madison PK – where a light burns ever for the soldiers who died in the last war – So at 5 P. M – went there – around the corner from the office – There were crowds & crowds – The mayor came with Mr. Whaler – & loads of camera men – [&] – A catholic priest, & Rabbi (Wise) & Protestant pastor – said prayers – then – an English opera singer sang “God Save The King” – a French (free) who received a lot of applause sang the “Marseilles” which is very stirring – Papers drifted down from the tall buildings – Then the Italian anthem was played – as Italy was welcomed as a member of the Allied nations – Then Igor [Goun] (a White Russian) sang of all things – the “Internationale” – what a faux Pas – Evidently, there had been no time for Igor to learn the new Russian anthem – & it was funny to hear a white Russian signing “And ye Prisoners of starvation” to the crowd – Wow! I was terrified – & funny – because most of us knew about the new Russian Anthem – By the way, attitude toward Russia has changed considerably here – It is realized that she has taken her place as a nation alongside with us – & that she no longer is a bugaboo – Most people think Russia is going [capitulated] – while allied nations will tend toward [illegible] – Who knows? So it ended – & home I came – There were no appointments scheduled at the Dept Board – thank Heaven! So I sat myself down at the Radio – & have not left it since – Every once in a while programs break-in constantly with news bulletins – It is exciting – & in between tunes – I think of you –& your place – The President read a so-called prayer – what was a great document & sounded like a new “Gettysburg” address – How long this interest & excitement [inserted: will] keep the American People united remains to be seen –

Now to you – I hope you are alright – & I have shed only a few tears in my fears – But no matter what – dearest – I love you, love you – love you – & [illegible] will be ready for your homecoming –

Soon – I hope –
To Victory soon –
Dearest –
syl

Good Luck! Good Good Luck!
to all of you boys!

P.S Called Mom – & as usual she was wonderful – Just – but interested in all the goings on –had just listened in to the Presidents' prayer – & she prayed – too –

My Dad called to ask how I was feeling – explained –
So dearest – this time I nearly – forgot to say “Good night” –
So darling ; Beloved –

“Good night” I hope a great night for people all over the world –
Love Syl