

Image

286

June - June 6, 1944

Hells - my dearest -  
Well - D-Day! It has come -  
Gad! 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" had 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 -  
with blow by blow description - comments -  
by radio - long discussions on radio  
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 -

Sylvia Wiener to Moe Wiener, June 6, 1944.

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

Sylvia Wiener to Moe Wiener, June 6, 1944

3.  
Awake at the usually time - & my  
usual fault finding because David  
is still sleeping (can't turn on the  
radio) - ~~David~~ + 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  
Sheephead 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 - noticed PM - It was  
sensational - The first page just had  
the following words splashed across  
the page - "Japanese Extra" -  
bought a copy - As I got into the  
train - & thank Heaven! got a seat -  
looked at the rear page ~~covering~~ covering  
latest Bulletin - & there was  
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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Sylvia Wiener to Moe Wiener, June 6, 1944

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 her & walked  
back - trying to get a few words from  
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  
chair -) about whether this is a feat -  
or 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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Sylvia Wiener to Moe Wiener, June 6, 1944

5  
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 Gouin (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 "Comrade - ye  
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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Sylvia Wiener to Moe Wiener, June 6, 1944

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 bogalov-  
Most people think Russia is going  
Capitulate - while other nations will  
lead toward socialism - Who knows?  
Is it indeed - & how I care - 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 - which was a great  
document & sounded like a new  
"Gethsemane" address - How long this  
interest & excitement 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 - & I am with you  
will be ready for your homecoming -  
Soon - I hope -  
To Victory Soon -  
Dearest -  
Good Luck! - Good Good Luck!  
To all 4 you days!

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Sylvia Wiener to Moe Wiener, June 6, 1944

7.  
P.S. Called Mom - & as usual - she  
was wonderful - quiet - but interested  
in all the going 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 "Good night" -  
As - darling; Beloved -  
"Good night" - I hope a  
good night for people all over the  
world -  
Love, Sylvia

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## Sylvia Wiener to Moe Wiener, June 6, 1944

### Transcript

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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 11<sup>45</sup> 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



## Sylvia Wiener to Moe Wiener, June 6, 1944

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