

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Berlin, July 20 45

Dear Bess:- It was an experience to talk to you from my desk here in Berlin night before last. It sure made me homesick. This is a hell of a place - ruined, dirty, smelly, forlorn people, bedraggled, long dog look about them. You never saw as completely ruined a city. But they did it. I am most comparatively fixed and the palace where we meet is one of two intact palaces left standing. Jim Blair came to see me yesterday and had breakfast with me this morning. He is a Lt. Col. and is in charge of food and clean up for

American forces here. Said it was
the fittest place he ever saw
when he arrived - but it's clean
now.

We had a tough meeting yester-
day. I reared up on my hind
legs and told 'em where to get off
and they got off. I have to make it
perfectly plain to them at least once
a day that so far as this President
is concerned Santa Claus is dead
and that my first interest is U.S.A.,
then I want the Jap War won and I
want 'em both in it. Then I want
peace - world peace and will do
what can be done by us to get it.

But certainly are not going to
set up another foil here in Europe,
pay reparations, feed the world
and get nothing for it but a nose
thumping. They are beginning to awake
to the fact that I mean business.

It was my turn to feed them
at a formal dinner last night.
Had Churchill on my right, Stalin
on my left. We toasted the British
King, the Soviet President, the U.S. Pres.
the two honor guests, the foreign min-
isters, one at a time etc etc ad lib.
Stalin felt so friendly that he toasted
the pianist when he played A. S. Kowinsky
(you spell it)

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piece especially for him. The old man loves music. He told me he'd import the greatest Russian pianist for me tomorrow. Our boy was good. His name is List and he played Chopin, Valtter, Schubert and all of them.

The Ambassadors and Jim Byrnes said the party was a success. Anyway they left in a happy frame of mind. I gave each of them a fine clock, specially made for them and a set of that good navy luggage. Well I'm hoping to get done in a week. I'm sick of the whole business - but we'll bring home the bacon. Kiss Margie, lots & lots of love
Harry.

THE WHITE HOUSE



Miss Mary S. Turner
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Mo.