

29 June 1955

Dear Colonel Black:

When you were so gracious as to visit me in the hospital last April I was particularly happy to meet you and to have the opportunity of exchanging a few words. Then, the next day when a very lovely basket of fruit, candy and nuts arrived, as a gift from you, I was quite overwhelmed; naturally I wanted to thank you as soon as possible for your thoughtfulness. Accordingly, I asked Mrs. Friedman to write you a note and to have it delivered at once to the hotel at which you were then staying in Washington. However, when Mrs. Friedman telephoned my office to learn the name of the hotel, which turned out to be the Shoreham, and get your full name she received a bit of information which was not quite correct; namely, as regards your first name. I called her attention to the fact that your card gave as your first name Robert but the people in my office insisted that they had ascertained that the note should be addressed to "Colonel P.G. Black." Mrs. Friedman thereupon had the note delivered by messenger to the Shoreham and we assumed that it was delivered to you because she had telephoned the hotel to ascertain whether a Colonel P.G. Black was still registered there, which they assured her was the case.

You can therefore imagine my astonishment to receive from the manager of the Shoreham Hotel a letter dated 7 June 1955 and inclosing one dated 6 June from the secretary of a Colonel P.G. Black. I inclose these letters for your information and I hope that you will begin to understand why you did not apparently receive from me some acknowledgment of receipt of your lovely gift, an acknowledgment which is expressed by Mrs. Friedman in her original letter of 29 April (also inclosed herewith) and which you of course never received.

I was allowed to go home from the hospital on 2 May and was convalescing at home for three weeks and getting along, I thought, quite well and so did the Doctors. Nevertheless, I had a relapse and was taken back to the hospital for another three weeks. I am once more in my own home and am getting along nicely.

With reiterated thanks for your visit and gift, I am,

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

Colonel Robert Black  
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