Mat - Max

1356 E. Vernon Ave.
Los Angeles 11, Cal.
May 7-'45

Dear Mrs Roosevelt,-

This I'm sure is a very unusual letter & request to you; however I'm sincerely hoping you will please give it some consideration. All of these numbers were written just a few months prior to the memorable date of Dec. 7-'41. The march, the last composition written in May '41, was first written for piano with a military band in mind; but on completion, my teacher liked the melody so well 'til upon her suggestion I then endeavored to add words suitable to the music. I'd never attempted to write verse before, but as I lay abed at nights the words came very forcibly to me. When completed, I tried to get it published. I consulted my music dealer & friend who told me to send it to the person whose name & address is written on the music envelope you see. It was returned to me

MATTHEWS, V. 1

II

ating, they didn't publish that particular style of music. Next I mailed it to Capt Bender of the U.S.N. Band who replied that they'd be glad to add it to their list if it were arranged for a band. At that time I was not able to have it arranged for a band so tried to get some influential folk interested in helping to get it on the market. I was told the words were too serious, that the general public wanted something more on the jitter-bug, jazzy or boogie woogie type. Was also advised to lay it aside on a shelf & to write the less serious type. I spent the winter of last year Phila, Pa and N.Y. city & tried to get it published in N.Y., but could not because of paper & man power shortages. Those who previous to Dec. 7-41, had been doing that work had joined in some branch of service. Today is the day following V.E. Day. Ein

III

So we all are most grateful & thankful for V. E. day, we realize there is still a big fight ahead to bring about V. J. Day & finally the days which you & yours so untiring sought to instil in the minds of the peoples of the world during the years you were Our President & First Lady...

What do you think of these numbers? If you think they're O.K. will you help to get them publicized & I'm sure you are personally acquainted with Capt. Bender or whoever has the U.S.N. band in charge. Will you ask him to have the band record this number? I'd love to hear some radio artist or group sing these words in memory of the millions who have given their all for the peace & freedom of mankind, and as an inspiration to the millions more who must fight on 'til complete victory is won.

over

IV

I'm a person of very limited means but hoping that in some way I shall be able to get these numbers published so that others may be inspired & too can realize enough financially to carry on. I've a copyright on "American Defense Speech" & the others are registered. I think "Waiting" is so applicable to all of us nowadays. Again I ask, What do you think about them & can you or will you help to publish 'em. In advance I'm saying Thanks a million, 'til I can say it in a more substantial way for your help.

I am

Yours Truly

Minnie B. Matthews

P.S. Please return if you do not think they are worth while & answer at your earliest convenience.

Please excuse crooked lines & blurs: I'm sitting in bed trying to write