In December 1941, less than a week after Pearl Harbor, Eisenhower was ordered to Washington by Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall, who quickly assigned him to work on the organization of U.S. and Allied military efforts in the Far East. By early 1942, however, Eisenhower was already looking beyond the immediate crisis and toward the development of a broad strategic concept for conducting the war. On his desk pad he wrote: "We've got to go to Europe and fight—and we've got to quit wasting resources all over the world and still worse—wasting time. If we're to keep Russia in, save the Middle East, India and Burma; we've got to begin slugging with air at Western Europe; to be followed by a land attack as soon as possible." Planning for this operation, which was approved by President Roosevelt in April and given the code name BOLERO, would occupy virtually all of Eisenhower's time and energy in the ensuing months. In May he flew to London to confer with the British Chiefs of Staff on the critical issue of a unified command. He returned to the War Department on June 3, the same day on which he wrote the following brief note to Swede. A week later, Marshall named Eisenhower commanding general for the European Theater of Operations, and on June 23 he left for London once again.
3 June 1942

Dear Swede:

My excuse for not answering earlier your nice invitation of May 21 is that I have been out of the country. I just returned this morning and find that Mamie has been up at West Point and will return this evening or tomorrow.

I am sorry to have missed the ball-game, but I expect to take most seriously your invitation to come to Annapolis for a weekend. Just when that can be, the Lord only knows, but it would be a real pleasure to spend a quiet time with you and Mrs. Hazlett.

I hope it won't be long before I can send you a warning note that we will be on the way unless you stop us.

Thank you a lot for your congratulations and good wishes. I am not sure that the congratulations are deserved, but the good wishes are certainly needed!

Cordially,