

# Operation Cobra Source Analysis

## Source A

Using the narrative of Operation Cobra, use two colors to draw the routes and label the dates of the U.S. and German soldiers on the map.

Using the map, estimate how many miles a day soldiers traveled between the following cities.

a. Caen to Saint-Lô: \_\_\_\_\_ b. Saint-Lô to Avranches: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Avranches to Mortain: \_\_\_\_\_ d. Avranches to Falaise: \_\_\_\_\_

Using the timeline and the map, estimate the distance Allied soldiers traveled from July 20 to August 7, 1944: \_\_\_\_\_

The average pace for marching soldiers is two miles per hour. What factors might interfere with the rate of travel from city to city?

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## Source B

What event is being described in this article?

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What is the author's purpose in writing about the event in this manner?

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Why do you think that the bombing of the Allied front line receives such little attention in the article?

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What impression does it leave with the reader?

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## Source C

What event is Ernie Pyle writing about?

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How does this account differ from the *New York Times* article of the same event?

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What is the author's purpose in writing about the event in this manner?

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How might that explain why details of this account are missing from the *New York Times* article?

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Why do you think Pyle's article was written so many days after the event?

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## Source D

What battles/events recently transpired that would have affected the tone of the letters Lieutenant Shelfer sent home?

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What is missing from the Lieutenant's letters? Why do you think it/they are missing?

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How does the content and tone of Shelfer's letters either reinforce or conflict with the reporting published in the *New York Times* or written by Ernie Pyle?

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