Group B: Battlefield Experience Materials

Directions: Using the primary and secondary sources below, learn about the experience of soldiers who fought in both the Normandy Invasion as well as the push into Northern France. After exploring these sources, you will write a letter describing training or deployment of U.S. soldiers in this campaign, so look for ideas and facts in these sources to help inspire your letter.

Letter, Curtis A. Kirkwood to Mrs. A. T. Kirkwood, 1944, Page One
State Historical Society of Missouri

Dear Mother,

France is a beautiful country, even under these adverse conditions. One cannot help but observe the scenic wonders and picturesque customs and habitations. There is evidence of the tragedy of war everywhere. One can see it written on the faces of wandering refugees as they plod weakly along the road, trying to smile at the liberating Americans. The idle farm implements, unharvested fields, shell-damaged homes.
all part of the devastation
left in the wake of the
retreating enemy. This all
impresses me in many ways,
but mostly with a profound
appreciation for our own
country. Don't worry too
much about me, I'll be
back some day.
Request sandwich spreads
and wafer. Regards to all
Maxine is fine.
Love, Al
Group B: Battlefield Experience Materials
Letter, Curtis A. Kirkwood to Mrs. A. T. Kirkwood, 1944, Transcript
State Historical Society of Missouri

Dear Mother,

France is a beautiful country, even under these adverse conditions one cannot help but observe the science wonders and picturesque customs and habitations. There is evidence of the tragedy of war everywhere. One can see it written on the faces of wandering refugees as they plod wearily along the road bravely trying to smile at the liberating Americans. The idle farm implements, unharvested fields, shell torn homes - all part of the desolation left in the wake of the retreating enemy. This all impresses in many ways, but mostly with a profound appreciation for our own country. Don’t worry too much about me, I’ll be back some day.

Request sandwich spreads and wafers. Regards to all. Maxine is fine.

Love, Al