



Writing a wartime letter

Name _____

Wartime letter writing

P.O.Ws were only allowed to send basic post cards, such as:

33400 Major C.P. Wood
20th February 1943
DARLING DORCAS
YOUR LETTER RECEIVED LAST MONTH
DATED 6TH JULY 1942.
AM IN GOOD HEALTH. DONT WORRY.
LOVE TO YOU, THE BOYS, AND FAMILY
Charles

One of the hardest things for the families at home was not knowing what had happened. Who had survived? Where were they held? It was many months before news filtered through with Red Cross assistance, so letters assumed a great importance, as they always do in war-time between separated families and friends.

Letters to prisoners were vital for sustaining morale and giving the men something on which to fix their hopes for the future, whether it was reports on the harvest, or news of a granny in Worthing.

Imagine that someone you love or are good friends with has been taken prisoner in a foreign country. Imagine that it is during the war and write a letter to a POW like Charles Wood.

Try and write a letter which is chatty and newsy; not too emotional but painting a picture of normal life for your special person to enjoy, imagining all the faces and places.

Note to Teacher: An example of what this activity requires can be found below.

August 15, 1943

My Darling Old Chas,

I cannot tell you how wonderful it was to see a P.C from you in your won handwriting. Dorcas sent it on to me last week with the sweetest photo of your three children. They are so lovely, how I would wish that they would allow one to be sent to you.

I so often wonder if you have had any of the letters which I have written to you. Doody is typing this for me as I am not very good at printing, so I hope it will get through.

We have good news of John and we hope that he will soon be home. We are all getting very excited.

We have had Heather McLean here for two nights, as she is nursing quite near here.

I have not had a P.C from you, but hope that every post will bring me one.

Dorcas told me that the boys now have a donkey, and that Garry is becoming quite the horseman.

Dolly and I went for a weeks holiday last May to Penzance, we did so enjoy it and it was wonderful having nothing to do for a week.

Doody is up at Cambridge, and has done most frightfully well. I do so wish you could see her as she looks so fit and well now. She has lots of friends, and so am afraid that she finds it quite dull here.

Gwen is looking for a house in Sussex for after the war. She and Doody are going to look at some. Gwen is going away when Betty goes to school in September 1943. It will be the first time she has been away since we have been down here.

Good luck Old Boy and may we see you soon.

Love from everyone here.

Love Pegs