



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. Then 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; you can pretend that it is during the war and write a letter to someone like Charles Wood, or you can be yourself today writing to a special person, perhaps they are a hostage held by terrorists.

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.