Excerpts from the Archives
An Infantry Officer Writing Home
"Today hasn't been the most pleasant thing, first
thing off the inspection did not go off as well as I
thought it should. Then I had to write letters of
condolence to the parents of the men we lost in com-
bat. It makes me feel bad to think of those days of
fighting. I just hope that the parents of those fine
men find some measure of comfort in my letters."

Deitch Collection
Catherine Deitch, WAC in India

GI Letters (1945, Philippines)
"I spent the morning writing up some awards
for the men. We have one man who has been rec-
commended for the Medal of Honor. His name is
Diamond, and he makes Commando Kelly look
like a PX cowboy. If you see any stories about him
in the papers send them to me. He is a great sol-
dier and is one example of the type of men that
only America, its schools, baseball and way of life
could produce."

"I have some mighty fine men, they have lots of
spirit that makes them a good soldier. Over here if
a fellow can't laugh he soon 'blows his top.'"

The Institute on
World War II
and the
Human Experience

To donate memorabilia . . .
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Department of History
The Florida State University
To Preserve a Legacy of Historical Perspective

As we enter a new millennium, it is of prime importance that the experiences of the millions of men and women who fought in the Second World War be kept alive for the benefit of all future generations.

Florida State University's Department of History has established The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience to systematically and professionally preserve the letters, unit histories, and interviews of those who gallantly served their country.

Despite voluminous writings on campaigns and major personalities of this time period, the war's impact on the individual American man and woman has not been thoroughly investigated and documented.

A nationwide collection and preservation of materials that reflect the daily life, the humor, and the heartache of your experiences — aspects that bring history to life — are the first concern of the Institute.

The focus of the Institute will be the everyday lives of men and women, both military personnel and civilians, who experienced the pressures of wartime.

From 1941 to 1945, millions of Americans left the security of their homes for the uncertainty of war in unfamiliar lands — to do their duty, very often at the sacrifice of life and limb.

It is now our duty to compile for present and future generations an accurate account of the sacrifices they made and the parts they played in the Second World War.

If you are a veteran of any military branch of the Second World War, or if you are a family member or friend of one who served under the colors in any capacity or in a defense industry we need you . . . again! Please help us preserve your legacy and assist us in the challenge of collecting and preserving the historical contributions of your loved ones.

We cannot protect that heritage without your cooperation and your:

- Letters
- Books
- Newsletters
- Periodicals
- Diaries
- Maps
- Photos
- Music
- Documents
- Poetry
- Memoirs
- Artwork

General Douglas MacArthur once said, "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away." Through the preservation of written words, film, and war mementos, the experiences of these courageous and selfless individuals will not be lost.

Please contribute to the preservation of the historical perspectives of the men and women who fought, in diverse ways, for our future.

In response to the very real possibility that this history could be lost, the Institute is assembling a substantial body of intellectual and material resources that will utterly transform the study and teaching of the history of World War II. The Institute's archives will be indexed on the World Wide Web and equally accessible to the scholar, the historian, and the average citizen — in short, anyone interested in understanding the true social history of "the War that saved the world."

Each small piece of history the Institute receives is another square on the patchwork quilt of our understanding.