

# THE **WAR** IN EUROPE

## PRIMARY SOURCES



PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

SIGNS
DL - Day Letter
NM - Night Message
NL - Night Letter
LCO - Deferred Cable
NLT - Cable Night Letter
WLT - Week-End Letter

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT  
J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Received at Main Office, 608-610 South Saltonstall St. Always Open

February 16, 1944

Dearest Tony and Vic:  
I am in the best of health and I hope to hear the same from you and the babies always. ... I think of you always even though I don't write as often as I should. I could just picture us all sitting down together eating talking and enjoying ourselves as soon as this war is over and that won't be long now. ... Don't worry about writing to me because Olga does a very good job writing. ... Take good care of mom for me and I will send you a souvenir from Italy as soon as I get the chance ... I guess I have said enough for one day, so give my love to Mom, Teresa, Olga, Tommy, Donna, Thomas, Jr. and give my regards to all the relatives and friends ...

Your loving brother always,  
Babe

**DOCUMENT A** IS A LETTER FROM CORADO "BABE" CIARLO TO HIS SISTER AND HER FAMILY IN CONNECTICUT. CORADO WAS WITH THE FIFTH ALLIED ARMY FIGHTING THE GERMANS IN ITALY.

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December 24, 1944

Dear Mom.

It's the evening before Christmas, but it's quite hard to realize this. I'll just sort of skip this year and we'll all celebrate twice as much next year. We stayed in a fine building last night. And may tonight. It's funny how much a building can mean. This is the first one we've been in since our arrival on the continent. Most of the people here seem to be quite glad to see us. They throw fruit to us. I don't think they're throwing it at us. And we wave quite happily. I hope you and Dad and Grandma all have a happy holiday and that you don't worry too much about me. I'm really quite all right. And even enjoying my little trip up to now very much.

Love,  
Burnett

**DOCUMENT B** IS A LETTER FROM BURNETT MILLER TO HIS MOTHER ON CHRISTMAS EVE 1944. BURNETT WAS WITH THE THIRD ARMY FIGHTING THE GERMANS IN FRANCE.

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After some time, I told my assistant gunner to man the gun as I was going out to cut some large branch logs that had been knocked down from the shelling. This was afternoon, January 11, 1945. The logs were to be placed over our foxhole to protect from further shell bursts. I left the gun and went about 100 yards toward the lead tank that had been knocked out during the battle. I got about four logs cut when WHAM, I was shot through the face by a German sniper. He had been left behind as we drove Germans off the hill. He was out in front of the knocked out tank.

I fell flat on my face in about 15" of snow. My only thought was, "When will he let me have it again?" The bullet must have been a soft-nosed one as X-rays later revealed that I had pieces of shrapnel in my cheek and the roof of my mouth. The bullet had gone through my left cheek just below the jaw bone and exited out my right cheek, taking nearly all of upper teeth and gums as well as most of the lowers. I remember feeling numbness in my mouth. I thought my tongue was gone. I put my hand in the opening and was relieved to find it intact. The opening of the right cheek was up to under my eye and back nearly to my right ear.

**DOCUMENT C** IS AN ACCOUNT OF FIGHTING IN WESTERN FRANCE AS TOLD BY AMERICAN GI RONALD McARTHUR. McARTHUR WAS WITH THE THIRD ARMY FIGHTING THE GERMANS IN FRANCE AND WAS WOUNDED IN BATTLE. HE RECEIVED THE PURPLE HEART.

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Always Open

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November 28, 1942

Tafaroui, Africa

Just got back from an eight hour bombing mission on Bizerte, Africa. Up at 4:30 -- breakfast to 5:00 -- briefing at 5:30 -- take off 8:00, over the target 11:30, and landed at the base at 4:00 P.M. No. 1 classmate "Toby" was shot down and the plane exploded when it hit the water. Capt. Bruce of the 32nd also went down. These were the first two crews and planes we've lost. It's kinda hard to take when they go down like that. Some of the crew members might have bailed but it is doubtful, nothing like living in hopes though. This was the roughest one yet, more flak and a hell of a lot of enemy fighters -- FW 190 -- ME 109 -- and ME 210. We got a number of them but there is no way to tell how many. I saw one go down in flames and explode in mid air about 5000' above the water. I'll never forget it.

**DOCUMENT D** IS AN ENTRY IN THE WARTIME JOURNAL OF 1ST LIEUTENANT WILL S. ARNETT. ARNETT WAS A B-17 BOMBER PILOT WHO RAN BOMBING RUNS OVER NORTH AFRICA.

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February 1, 1945

My Dear Mrs. Johnson,

The Division Commander has directed me to express his sincere regret to you upon the loss of your husband, Private Melvin W. Johnson, 37483507, who died on 18 November 1944 of wounds received in action while serving his country in France.

Your husband was properly buried in a military cemetery in eastern France with a Protestant Chaplain officiating at the burial.

His loss is most keenly felt by all the officers and men of the organization with whom he served so gallantly.

Again, we extend to you our deepest sympathy and our most sincere regret, and we assure you that his sacrifice shall not have been made in vain.

Yours very sincerely,

John H. Hansen  
Lt. Col., A.G.D.  
Adjutant General

**DOCUMENT E** IS A TELEGRAM SENT BY THE U.S. WAR DEPARTMENT TO MRS. DOROTHY JOHNSON. HER HUSBAND, MELVIN, WAS WITH THE THIRD ARMY FIGHTING THE GERMANS IN FRANCE.