

NAME: Charles

RANK: Private

ORGANIZATION: 85th Infantry Division

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: North African and Mediterranean Theaters of Operations

- The following excerpts are directly from two original wartime letters written by Charles. These are two of many letters from Charles in the site curator's possession and more will be transcribed in the future.
- The following excerpts are presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpts aside from an edited derogatory term for Germans for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Charles, a Native American soldier, writes his aunt in the United States:

[JUN 8 1944]

“Sure enough I rec. your paper and also a great big box of stationary...I could never use it all so my buddies are helping me.

I've had a letter from Mom saying she has been neglected in my writing her But she was so neglectful when...she never left a forwarding address and Ive had 4 of her letters returned to me. Her lack of foresight – then I get the blame. Looks as if she could possibly understand that I cant even keep up with myself much less her at this distance apart...by now she has rec my mail I hope so anyway.

Since my letter to you from my fox hole I have been in meny more close shaves for you cant carry a foxhole with you & J _ rr _ is on the run and meny times there must have been a guideing hand on my sholder for I'm still in one piece and in the best of health

Ever Your Nephew

Charles.”

Charles writes his aunt again in the United States:

[AUG 12 1944]

“Well as you once said things do happen with all suddenness. I've certainly opened mine up & stuck my foot in it. Upon my last pass to Rome I & some more fellow soldiers decided to get just as xxxxxxxx drunk as we could, well we did & here I am in the Disciplinary Training Center. I'll be safe as can be for three to six months My allotment & pay will be forfeited as meny other of my privileages have been – and writeing, only one 'wee-V' per week...We can recieve as meny as comes our way though...I must have till I get xxx out a carton of ciggs per week can you do this for me? I would like my presencence in here very lemededly exposed you must promis me on that now

Love

Nephew Charles,”

- Charles made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 70s.
- **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime newsreel in the public domain that covers the above time period and the Italian Campaign (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/ARC-39022>
- **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Charles’ wartime organization, the 85th Infantry Division (reader discretion advised):**
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/85th_Infantry_Division_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/85th_Infantry_Division_(United_States))