



V...-Mail not E-Mail

During World War II, the only means of communicating with soldiers away from their homes was through written letters. This was the time before cell phones and internet connections. Thus, writing letters to and from the United States to the European or Pacific Theater during World War II led to tons and tons of paper mail that took up much needed space on ships crossing the oceans. This space was needed for supplies and equipment necessary for soldiers and the front lines, thus the U.S. government implemented new technology to create V...-Mail. Victory mail utilized microfilm to take pictures of a hand written letter on a pre-set template that was then reduced to a quarter of a square inch. When it arrived at a V...-Mail station, it was blown up and folded and mailed to the addressee.

Focus Activity: Primary Source Analysis, have students read through and identify how and why V...-Mail was invented and used during World War II.

Processing: Students can utilize the V...-Mail template to

Option 1) Summarize what they learned about World War II by writing a letter to a person during the time period of World War II.

Option 2) Extend the concepts of supporting the war effort as seen by a nation during World War II by having students use the V...-Mail template to write a letter of support to a soldier currently serving in the military for the United States.

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO:

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

(Sender's complete address above)

FOLD TOP AND BOTTOM IN, THEN FOLD IN CENTER AND SEAL
NO OTHER ENVELOPE SHOULD BE USED

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT PERMIT NO. 28

FROM:

SEE
INSTRUCTION
NO. 5

V... MAIL

TO:

FOLD

HERE

FOLD

HERE

V-Mail service provides a most rapid means of communication. If addressed to a place where photographing service is not available the original letter will be dispatched by the most expeditious means.

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) Print the name and address in the two spaces provided. Addressees of members of the Armed Forces should show full name, complete military or naval address, including grade or rank, serial number, unit to which assigned or attached and army post office in care of the appropriate postmaster or appropriate fleet post office.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates. (3c ordinary mail, 6c if domestic air mail service is desired when mailed in the U. S.)