



Letters from the Greatest Generation: Writing Home in WWII

Howard H. Peckham (Foreword) , Shirley A Snyder (Editor) , James H. Madison (Foreword)

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Victory and defeat, love and loss are the prevalent realities of Letters from the Greatest Generation, a remarkable and frank collection of World War II letters penned by American men and women serving overseas. Here, the hopes and dreams of the greatest generation fill each page, and their voices ring loud and clear. "It's all part of the game but it's bloody and rough," wrote one soldier to his wife. "Wearing two stripes now and as proud as an old cat with five kittens," marked another. Yet, as many countries rejoiced on V-E Day, soldiers were "too tired and sad to celebrate." While visiting a German concentration camp, one man wrote, "I don't like Army life but I'm glad we are here to stop these atrocities." True to the everyday thoughts of these fighters, this collection of letters can be as amusing as it is worrying. As one soldier noted, "I know lice don't crawl so I figured they were fleas." A fitting tribute to all veterans, this book is one every American should own and read.

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Melinda Crews Kirkley says

This book was very well put together. Each section had a short history as well as a description of each person who wrote the letter. As I was reading the letters, I really felt like I was there. I could feel what each person was feeling, and I felt the sadness as I realized that some of the letters were the last letters written. I can only imagine what the families went through as they received a letter one day and the next receiving word their loved one was killed in action. A definite 5-star book.

Foxglow says

It is so easy to lose sight of what really happens during a fight for freedom. These letters were inspiring, tragic, and enlightening. These men and women truly saw the world in a way it is hard to understand. Given our current situation, these letters are stark reminders of what we have to lose when we forget to respect everyone's rights - not just our own.
