

**NAME:** Hiram

**RANK:** Staff Sergeant

**ORGANIZATION:** 81<sup>st</sup> Chemical Mortar Battalion

**OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE:** European Theater of Operations

- The following excerpt is directly from an original wartime letter written by Hiram. This is the only letter from Hiram in the site curator's possession.
- The following excerpt is presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpt. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

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**Hiram writes a friend in the United States:**

“29 Nov. 44.

Thanks for the long newsy letter. I was so glad to learn that you are doing so good. Thanks, too, for the picture of the boys. I can see that they both favor you quite a bit, don't you think?

No, I am afraid I didn't get kissed by the girls in Paris, not that I didn't want to be, but we didn't stop or they would have pulled us out of the vehicle – they were so glad that we were there. The boys who follow us later are the ones who enjoy being in the cities and towns. We have not, to date, enjoyed any of the things, which you probably read about in the papers. The places where we are always at are not where one could go out and enjoy a healthy time...

...Don't know much news. I don't hear much now-adays, except the 'Stars and Stripes' our army paper which we usually get each day...

...Give all the folks my regards and I'll say 'Merry Christmas,' because it will probably be that time when you get this...

...Write when you can find the time.

Best Wishes

Hiram.”

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- Hiram made it through the Second World War but when he passed away is unknown.
  - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers the liberation of Paris which Hiram participated in (viewer discretion advised):**  
<https://archive.org/details/CB-18>

- For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Hiram's type of organization, the Chemical Mortar Battalion (reader discretion advised): [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical\\_mortar\\_battalion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_mortar_battalion)