

Some handy (or not) paperwork tips.

If you purchase a variety of bundles or order the BIG bundle, DON'T necessarily put everything in your pocket. Be selective – select a few bits of paperwork, and think about where and when you were given the paperwork, invent a story that works for your impression...Don't forget that you can add some original items to your paperwork as well. Remember, you are trying to create a "snap shot" of a moment in time. You can very easily work out a variety of stories and vary your paperwork each time you go out. By all means, buy a variety of items, but use them wisely and you will add greatly to your impression.

Don't forget to FILL IN THE PAPERWORK with a fountain pen or typewriter. Also, don't forget to mark off the PX and tobacco vouchers...make them look like you have had a couple beers or gotten a couple packs of smokes from the PX. I have provided scans of most of my original stuff to help you get started in filling in the information.

Here are some examples of what sort of paperwork to carry given a specific time during the war:

#### North Africa / Middle East

Troops here would have less stuff from England, but they would have a lot more mail. The distance from home made the writing and receiving of letters that much more important. Remember, the lighter weight desert uniforms had less pocket space for paperwork.

#### Normandy

Most troops embarking for Normandy had been in England and free to move about the country up until just a few weeks before June 6th. You could quite easily have theatre tickets, soccer programs, bus tickets, etc.

#### Arnhem

Pretty much the same as in Normandy as the troops were generally free to move back in England. 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> paratroops might have some souvenirs from Normandy.

#### Belgium / Holland – Late '44/Early '45

Troops that had been through Normandy could have items from a Paris leave, ENSA shows, and other local items. By this stage in the war, they would be less likely to have a bus ticket from England in their pockets.

#### What to Carry

Get each member of the unit to think about what paperwork he is carrying. FILL IN THE INFORMATION. Perhaps you could use an envelope or postcard and make it look like it came from home or your brother stationed in the PTO – add censor marks, or you could have a letter already written to your sweetie that you have yet to send. Letters from your kids are good, too. Scribble little notes on the backs of things – a girl's phone number or address of that Pub you liked so much back in England. Be creative, perhaps a cutting from a repro newspaper fold it in the back of your Paybook. Think about having photos – your sweetie, your buddies on leave – they don't have to be of anyone you know; just make your own story.

– Taken (in part) from the defunct Polarbear Enterprises website

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United States Army World War II Reproduction Paperwork

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