Introduction

Cpl. Brett G. Coughlin arrived with Delta Company in Saudi Arabia at the port of Al Jubail on September 13, 1990. For the next three months the company trained in the northern desert of Saudi Arabia. By Christmas, its headquarters were near the Al-Wafra oil fields of southern Kuwait. Coughlin wrote this Christmas letter to his girlfriend, Catherine, whom he later married.

Questions for Discussion

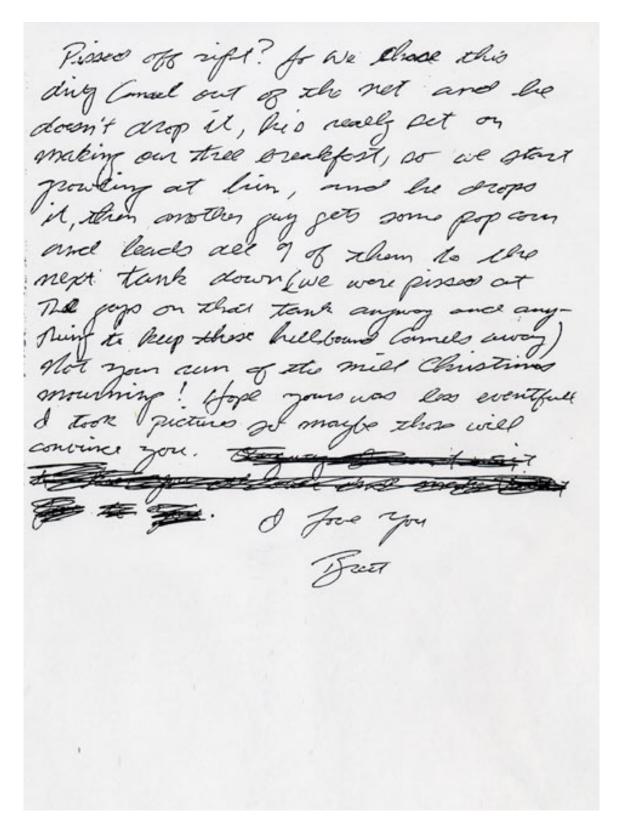
THE LETTER CONTAINS SOME WORDS THAT MAY BE OFFENSIVE TO SOME READERS. IT CAN BE SUGGESTED FOR MATURE STUDENTS.

Read the document introduction and the transcript of the letter. Then apply your knowledge of American history as well as the content of the letter to answer the questions that follow.

- 1. During what military action did Cpl. Brett Coughlin find himself in Kuwait? Why was the United States involved?
- 2. Soldiers have always anticipated gifts from home. Why was the gift Coughlin received very appropriate?
- 3. How does this letter support the often-heard complaint from soldiers that "all we do is hurry up and wait"?

Dec 26 Vear Kil Christmes morning and they was great wen short There was a Toz (sandstorm) blowing all day, I were then anyway These really obnoxious Camels showed of yesterday and six to make of with our christmos thee - owen to We had a real free about 1/2 Ft. face That unother of my made parents cent and its yone. These Camel a into our net yesterdy, and this had never happened to us before, and startes sating Jocks and andland and all sorts of this. for any ung this one real bally one steps up and champs onto our christmes tree. Carrely Cames and all, and Photeens to drag it away now we are

Brett G. Coughlin to Kit, December 26, 1990, page 1 (Andrew Carroll/The Legacy Project)



Brett G. Coughlin to Kit, December 26, 1990, page 2 (Andrew Carroll/The Legacy Project)

Christmas in Kuwait, 1990

Transcript

Brett G. Coughlin to Kit, December 26, 1990 (Andrew Carroll/The Legacy Project)

Dec. 26

Dear Kit,

Happy New Year! I opened your presents on Christmas morning and they were great especially the Ray Ban's They are great & even though there was a Toz (sandstorm) blowing all day, I wore them anyway. I really miss you and wish I was there to hold you.

These really obnoxious camels showed up yesterday and tried to make off with our Christmas tree – swear to God. We <u>had</u> a real tree about 1½ ft. tall that another of my mates parents sent and its gone. These camels came into our net yesterday, and this had never happened to us before, and started eating socks and cardboard and all sorts of shit. So anyway this one real balsy one steps up and chomps onto our Christmas tree. Candy canes and all, and Proceeds to drag it away, now we are [2] Pissed off right? So we chase this dirty Camel out of the net and he doesn't drop it, he's really set on making our tree breakfast, so we start growling at him, and he drops it, then another guy gets some popcorn and leads all 9 of them to the next tank down (we were pissed at the guys on that tank anyway and anything to keep these hellbound camels away) Not your run of the mill Christmas mourning! Hope yours was less eventful. I took pictures so maybe those will convince you. [struck: Anyway I can't wait to see you [illegible]]

I love you Brett