

**V-mail** or **Victory mail**, was a valuable tool for the military during World War II.

Photographs were taken of the original letters and these were scaled down (made smaller) and put onto something called microfilm.

**V-mail** ensured that thousands of tons of shipping space could be saved for other war materials.

American servicemen in Shipdham wrote thousands of letters to their family and friends using **V-mail**.

- Your task is to pretend that you are an **American serviceman** living at Shipdham airbase. Use all the information you have learnt to write a piece of V-mail home to America.
- You should be **imaginative** and **creative** in your writing. No-one would want to get a **REALLY BORING** letter home!
- You must try and write clearly, using **full sentences, capital letters, full stops** and lots of interesting **adjectives**.
- You should include information about:
  - Life in England
  - The weather
  - The countryside
  - The buildings
  - The food
  - The English people (friendly? Grumpy?)
  - Life on an airbase
  - Friends that you have made
  - What you do in your spare time
  - What Shipdham village is like
  - Your hopes for the future
  - Your fears about the war
  - Flying in a war zone



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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FROM

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(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

# How to use Victory Mail

Write the  
Address you are  
writing to here

Write you address  
here

Write the main part  
of your letter here.  
Remember there  
would be some  
things that you  
would not be  
allowed to write in  
case the letter fell  
into the wrong  
hands!

The diagram shows a standard Victory Mail envelope with red borders and text. At the top, it says "Put the complete address to which letters to the post below, and your return address to the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, block ink, or block pencil. Hand or cursive writing is not suitable for photocopying." Below this, there are two main sections: "TO:" on the left and "FROM:" on the right. A large central area is designated for the letter. At the bottom, there is a red banner that reads "REPLY BY VICTORY MAIL". On the right side, there is a vertical strip of paper with text that reads "DO NOT WRITE OR STAMP HERE. THESE ARE RESERVED FOR THE POST OFFICE." The envelope is shown with a yellow flap on the right side.