

Confidence and Concern: Late 1944

Primary Source Organizer Teacher Key

	Description: What is the source?	Date/Author	What is the source telling you? What is the main idea?	Outside knowledge that helps you understand this document	Does this document give reason for Allied confidence or concern? Include your reasoning.
Source #1 Photograph of Infantrymen pushing through the Hurtgen Forest	Photograph of American soldiers in dense woods.	Unknown date, but students might reasonably guess 1944. This photograph is from the Department of the Army. Students might also guess it is from a journalist.	The terrain was difficult. Hard to see where your enemies are. Heavy armor could not make it through. Hard for air support to see from above.	Late fall/early winter would lead to concerns about the weather. Supply lines were long and it was hard to resupply.	
Source #2 Photograph of the endless procession of German prisoners	Photograph of long lines of men in uniforms. They do not have guns. There are individual soldiers walking alongside the lines. Students might also note the damage to buildings in the photo.	Students will not know, but guide them in making an educated guess as to when and where they think this might have happened. Reveal that it was in Aachen in October 1944.	German soldiers have been captured. This means the Allies are making positive strides. Prompt students to think about the challenges of taking in so many prisoners of war.	Geography of Aachen (inside German borders).	
Source #3 Photograph of American soldiers look down the Siegfried Line	American soldiers look over the dragon's teeth obstacles laid out by the Germans.	1944, Department of the Army	There are obstacles that would preclude tanks and vehicles from getting through. Students should reason that the Germans set these up.	Siegfried Line Style of helmets is American Dragon's teeth	
Source #4 Annex No. 4 to After Action Report, 104th Infantry Division	Records of 104th Infantry Division from November 1944	December 7, 1944 104th Infantry Division	Replacement soldiers are lacking in combat training. Officer replacements are scarce.	Late in war and numbers of drafted and enlisted soldiers were comparatively low. Little time to train replacements on the line.	

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Source #5 Annex No. 5 to After Action Report, 104th Infantry Division	Records of 104th Infantry Division from November 1944	December 7, 1944 (though this is not clear if you are only looking at this one document) 104th Infantry Division	It is getting cold. Soldiers need more blankets and overshoes. There is a lot of organization required for basic necessities for the soldiers. If students look beyond the highlighting, they will notice the high number of casualties and especially the issues of exhaustion and trench foot.	The weather in Germany in November 1944 was awful with lots of rain and cold. Mental health services for soldiers were nonexistent.	
Source #6 United States Strategic Bombing Survey Summary Report	Review of the effects of Allied air power/ bombings during WWII.	September 30, 1945, commissioned by Secretary of War. While produced after the fall/winter of 1944, this source is so close to the time and refers so much to the Allied efforts of late 1944, it should help students see what military planners at that time were seeing.	There were some challenges to the success of Allied bombing over Germany, but overall it was very effective in limiting Germany's ability to wage war.	Germany was fighting on two fronts with extended supply lines.	