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Wesley F. Diedrich First World War Correspondence #23

Wesley F. Diedrich

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The General Manager of the Citizens Unit, Mr. Harry A. Ackermun, has just returned from a hurried visit to Camp Logan and the 108th U.S. Engineers. The trip was made for the purpose of securing certain necessary data and establishing an even closer relationship between the Unit and the Regiment.

Camp Logan which quarters the 33rd Division of Illinois troops, is located about 4 1/2 miles from the heart of Houston. The 108th Engineer Regiment is well situated near one of the principal roads of travel and not far from one of the Y.M.C.A. shacks.

The 108th camp is laid out and drained with mathematical precision such as only an engineer regiment is capable of planning. A street for traffic separates the commissioned officers from the body of the Regiment, with the captains' individual tents so placed as to look down their respective company streets.

The privates' tents are large and airy—being occupied by six men. The floor, half wall and entire frame is made of wood covered with heavy white canvas. Each tent is provided with a stove and electric light. They eat in a long wooden mess shack, large enough to accommodate an entire company at a sitting. These shacks are at the head of each company street and the mess kitchens are all carefully inspected and graded each day according to their respective merits. The "chow" is very substantial, even elaborate at times, and served in generous portions.

At the other end of the streets, each company has its immaculately clean lavatory containing hot and cold baths. The water is piped from the regular city supply of Houston. The stable of well kept horses is always pointed out as the model of Camp Logan.

Mentally, morally and physically, the men of the Regiment are of an exceptionally high calibre—all undesirables having long since been weeded out. The only note of displeasure voiced by the men generally was at the delay in securing passage for some unknown camp "over there." They are all anxious to take their turn at Fritz. From every external evidence, this time is not far off.

SITUATIONS WANTED
We continue to receive applications for positions from dependents of the men at camp. At present we have three applicants:
(1) Master Carpenter; good estimator, experienced in building, repair and maintenance work; salesman, valuator and fire loss adjuster; age 43.
(2) Experienced man wholesale groceries.
(3) Watchman.

Do not fail to advise the office of any vacancies which may come to your attention. We are usually in touch with very capable people and may render you a real service.

Citizens Unit
Telephone Harrison 5900
Room 1187-208 S. LaSalle Street,
Chicago, Illinois.