6-17-1918

Wesley F. Diedrich First World War Correspondence #31

Wesley F. Diedrich

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Dear Folks:

Just a few lines to let you know that I am well a little nearer the line than ever.

We moved forward several days ago and are now pretty close to the front. We are living in dugouts for protection from shrapnel and we have them fixed up quite comfortable, not quite as good as 108th I know but good enough under the present circumstances.

The shells are shelling a town in short way from us, the shells shattering over us now and again during the entire day and night. Last night they dropped a few just outside of our camp but did no harm from a small hill near our camp we can see the battle front and at night it has any fireworks display I have ever seen, feet a mile.

Another thing we have to furnish us with amusement and excitement are the aerial duels that take place in the clouds above us just before dark last night a German plane came over the lines and downed
one of our observation balloons, but it had 
scarcely finished its task, when it 
was hit by shrapnel from an antiair-
gun. Nearly every day several german 
planes are brought down within sight 
of us.

Have not heard from you for several 
weeks, the last letter being addressed to 
Camp Merritt. Have not heard from Ralph 
since I have been over here either. Inquired 
about the location of his regiment, but 
it must be on a different sector of the 
front, as I have found no one who 
knows anything about it.

No further news. I will close 
with love.

"Yrs.,"

Please excuse pencil and writing, but as I 
am writing on the stock of my rifle it 
will have to do.

[Signature]
W. W. Diedrich
Eng. M. U.S.A.

Answercard
7-31
Mrs. W. Diedrich
108 Glenwood Ave.
Joliet, Ill.
U. S. A.

Passed by Censor No. 5250
Wesley Diedrich
Engrs. U.S.A.

Mrs. N. Diedrich
108 Glenwood Av.
Joliet, Ill.
U.S.A.

[[written diagonally across:]] Answered 7-7-18
Dear Folks:

Just a few lines to let you know that I am well & a little nearer the line than ever.

We moved forward several days ago & are now pretty close to the front. We are living in dugouts for protection from shrapnel & we have them fixed up quite comfortable, not quite as good as 108 Glenwood but good enough under the present circumstances. The huns are shelling a town a short way from us, the shells shrieking over us now and again during the entire day & night. Last night they dropped a few just outside of our camp but did no harm. From a small hill near our camp we can see the battle front & at night it has any fireworks display I have ever seen, beat a mile.

Another thing we have to furnish us with amusement & excitement are the aerial duels that take place in the clouds above us. Just before dark last night a german plane came over the lines & downed
one of our observation ballons, but it had scarcely finished its task, when it was hit by shrapnel from an anti-aircraft gun & fell. Nearly every day several german planes are brought down within sight of us.

Have not heard from you for several weeks, the last letter being addressed to Camp Merritt. Have not heard from Ralph since I have been over here either. I inquired about the location of his regiment, but it must be ion a different sector of the front, as I have found no one who knows anything about it.

No further news. I will close with love.

“Wes.”

Please excuse pencil & writing, but as I am writing on the stock of my rifle it will have to do.

[Illegible signature of commanding officer]