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Wesley F. Diedrich First World War Correspondence #37

Wesley F. Diedrich

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Dear Folks:-

Have received no word from you for about a week but trust you are well. Have received no word from Ralph, but suppose he is O.K. by now.

One of Ralph's old friends, Ned Doolan, who was formerly a machine gunner at the 'L' & who was in this regiment was killed yesterday. He had his arm torn off by a piece of shrapnel & received several pieces in his body. Ralph would probably like to hear about it, so you might write him about it.

In Yarmouth, whose father is connected with the American Ice Cream & Bakery Co. of Joliet was also severely wounded last week &
Illinois, as the men who received the medals come from there.

I am sending you a little souvenir in the shape of a German shoulder-strap, cut from a German shoulder in a recent hop-over. I have some real souvenirs here, but we are allowed to send practically nothing home.

Well, folks, it is getting dark as no lights are allowed on account of Jerry planes. I will close, with love.

[Signature]

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died of his wounds yesterday. You probably remember him, as he used to chum around with Leonard. Keep a good deal up to their home quite often.

Believe me I have seen enough more than enough of war to last me the rest of my life, I believe I hope however that it will soon end.

Last week nine men from our division were awarded medals for conspicuous bravery in the field by King George of England. General Pershing, General MacArthur and many other officers of high rank were present.

Our men from each unit in the division were chosen as guards of honor for the ceremony. I happened to be one of them. Many pictures were taken of the ceremony, it is possible that you may see them, as they will probably run through.
Dear Folks:-

Have received no word from you for about a week but trust you are well. Have received no word from Ralph but suppose he is O.K. by now.

One of Ralph’s old friends, Neil Doolan, who was formerly a machinist at the “I” & who was in this regiment was killed yesterday. He had his arm torn of by a piece of shrapnel & received several pieces in his body. Ralph would probably like to hear about it, so you might write him about it.

La Vern Olhaver[?], whose father is connected with the American Ice Cream & Bakery Co. of Joliet was also severly wounded last week &
died of his wounds yesterday. You probably remember him, as he used to chirm around with Leonard Riep a good deal & was up to their home quite often.

Believe me I have seen enough, & more than enough of was to last me the rest of my life. I believe & hope however, what it will soon end.

Last week nine men from our division were awarded medals for conspicuous bravery in the field, by King George of England. General Pershing, General Haig & many other officers of high rank were present. Four men from each unit in the division were chosen as guards of honor for the ceremony & I happened to be one of them. Moving pictures were taken of the ceremony & it is possible that you may see them, as they will probably run through
Illinois, as the men who received the medals come from there.
   I am sending you a little sovenir in the shape of a german shoulder strap, cut from a german shoulder in a recent hop-over. I have some real sovenirs here, but we are allowed to send practically nothing home.
   Well folks it is getting dark & as no lights are allowed on account of Jerry planes I will close, with love
Wes.