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9-27-1918

### 1918-09-27, Wesley to Family

Wesley F. Diedrich

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## 1918-09-27, Wesley to Family

### Keywords

U.S.A., U.S. Soldiers, correspondence, Mother, Father, engineering, Infantry, France, Western Front, military occupation, bombardment, artillery, shelling, Germans, front line, comradeship, death, soldier slang, reading magazines, military draft, airship, racial slur, camouflage

### Identifier

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AMERICAN



ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
WITH THE  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Sept. 27

1918

Dear Folks:-

Just a few lines to let you know that I am well & still fighting the mud & dodging Fritz's shells. There has been a tremendous bombardment of the German positions for the last twenty four hours & the prisoners are pouring in by the thousands. The bombardment is so intense that the concussion of the exploding shells gave the whole body & makes a person sick to his stomach.

We are living in dug-outs about thirty feet under the ground & though they are rather damp they are an adequate protection from shells.



I saw a very exciting air battle today between one of our planes & a "ferry". It lasted for about twenty minutes & they were the two most skillful fliers I have ever seen. It ended in the German plane falling to the ground in flames. The American flier circled for a few times over him & then went off to attack some other German planes that were over the lines.

Tell folks as there is no further news, I will close with love

"Yes"

In my last letter I asked you to send me some magazines. Then you do I wish you would camouflage a large blue handkerchief or two between the leaves as I am very short of them.

I see by your letter that S. Kiep is enjoying himself, but it will be that much harder for him to break into army life if he is drafted & I am sure I should not want the stamp of a drafty on me. For my part I think he is yellow or he would be in the service long before now. I am sure I would not be in civil life for the world during these times, even though this life is a hard one & has plenty danger to give it a spice of excitement.

[Diedrich Correspondence #46]

[[Page 1-Letter]]

[[Letterhead]]

[[image- inverted red  
Triangle; American YMCA insignia]]

[[text: ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
WITH THE  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES]]

Sept 27

[[text: 191]] 8

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[[Page 2-Letter]]

In my last letter I asked you to send me some magazines. When you do I wish you would camaflage a large blue handkerchief or two between the leaves as I am very short of them.

I see by your letter that L. Kiep is enjoying himself, but it will be that much harder for him to break into army life if he is drafted & I am sure I would not want the stamp of a drafty on me. For my part I think he is yellow or he would be in the service long before now. I am sure I would not be in civil life for the world during these times, even though this life is a hard one & has plenty danger to give it a spice of excitement.



[[Page 3-Letter]]

I saw a very exciting air battle today between one of our planes and a "Jerry." It lasted for about twenty minutes & they were the two most skillful fliers I have ever seen. It ended in the german plane falling to the ground in flames. The American flier circled for a few times over him & then went off to attack some other german planes that were over the line.

Well folks as there is no further news, I will close with love

"Wes"