

ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

A. P. O. ---

Date, Dec. 24 1918.

Knights of Columbus
Overseas Service.

Dear sister Ida:

I thought I would write you to let you know I am still alive and well, and hope you are all well at home. Well sis I will tell you some of what has happened in the past few months. On July 11, we were ordered up to Chateau Thierry, arrived there the morning of the 13th which was the day the big drive started, we were up in the front line but I came out alright and I will tell you it was a tough one, but we didn't care, from there we went over to the St. Mihiel front and started something there that the GERMANS will never forget. Then we went over to the big front and lost, that was the Argonne Meuse Forest - This was the H--- of them all it is too hard to tell you by mail but will tell it all after I come home, which will be soon, I hope.

Now this is the most interesting part of my story -- On the 12th day of NOV. we had orders to move but we did not know where to - only the officers, so we started out and walked for a few days until we came to a place on the line where the German army had been, and the order came to get a train, and of course they asked who could run a train, and being Jack of all trades the thing fell to me so I started out with five men to get that train but where the train was no one knew - I made a guess so went to the nearest railroad station and looked for a map and that is how I found the train about 30 miles up the line, when we got to this place the Germans were just leaving the town but my orders were to get the train and we did, got two engines and 31 box cars and started back over the line, it was very slow going because the retreating army had taken up some of the rails and broken some of the switches, but I got through and when we got within a few miles of where I was to meet my Company I met an officer of the 21st Engrs. and he wanted the train, but my orders read - WARCQ' France, and I told him so, But he said that made no difference he wanted the train and so it was up to me to get to my destination with the train so got the crew together and told them just how we would work it -- It worked out alright and Mr. Officer is still hollering for me to stop -- but there is no such WORD in the army and when I told my officer about it he said I could be court martialled for disobeying orders -- I told him I had filled my orders, and when he told our Major about it he said -- WELL DONE -- and I was made a Sergeant -- and then I was made train master and conductor, then we loaded up our stuff and started to follow the retreating army into Germany Well we had some time, as some of the tunnel were mined and we had to go very slow, in all this time I had no sleep, and darn little to eat -- The 4th day out the Major asked me if I had any sleep yet and I told him -- no-- and he said What are you made of, iron? I told him my orders were to get to Luxemburg and when I got there, I would sleep. I could not sleep for it was up to me to get over the railroad, they left everything to me and I was responsible for 250 men on my train in a bad part of the country, but got through without an accident and arrived in Luxemburg Nov. 24th and staid there until the 30th, then went to Wasserhillig, Lux. that is the place where we crossed the Moselle river into GERMANY--crossed the river on Dec 1st at 6:12 A.M. WE were the first train and troops crossing into Germany--Went up to Trier and staid there four days and then on to Coblenz Germany arrived in Coblenz at 2:30 P.M. on the 6th day of Dec. the day before the German army left the city--A German officer asked us what we were doing there told him we were ordered to come there so he said nothing and walked away. The captain asked me to go over the Rhine river to look at a railraod yard and I did, but when I got on the bridge two German guards stopped me and asked me what I wanted and I told them, so they called an officer and he told me -- I had lots of nerve -- to come over where all the German soldiers were I told him THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS ARE FULL OF THAT STUFF-- and he said he knew it--so he let me go--SO Tell Dad that his son Dan was the first American soldier to take a train into Germany and into Coblenz -- WE -- CO. E 37TH ENGRS were the first American troops into Germany and if they dont Believe it tell them to look it up in the papers or later it will be in the History of the World's War Am down in Louvine now with the same old train and will send you a picture of it it my next letter.

Well, sis, will close for this time so good bye and good night, Best regards to all and a Merry Xmas and A Pappy New Year I am as ever Your brother, SGT. Daniel J. Dosey Co. E. 37th Engrs. American Expeditionary Forces,