

Somewhere in France

AMERICAN

ON ACTIVE SERVICE



WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Aug 16<sup>th</sup> 1918

Dear Bro Joe:

I thought I would write you a few lines, for the reason that you can understand my writing better than father, I mean see into what I say better. I am well in every respect and hope you all are the same when this reaches you. Joe I am in the front line trenches now and have been for four days, altho the sector in which we are is rather quiet but not altogether. Shells and shrapnel fall all around us, but it is great life, and very interesting. No man's land is right before in plain view only about 600 yds, pretty close eh? I'm under fire every night, but we stick to our dug outs and we're safe from flying shrapnel, but what

is worse for us is gas. It's hellish stuff  
 one good whiff of it is enough, and it  
 burns the outside like fire, where a  
 person sweats, but, we have our gas  
 masks on us all the time night and  
 day. We have what we call gas posts  
 where guards are stationed to give  
 the alarm. I am one of them myself  
 with three others, eight hours on and  
 sixteen off. On our bangon the alert  
 may save hundreds yes thousands  
 of lives, and save disaster. The whole  
 regiment depends on us for their  
 lives both night and day.

Tell how is things going in Oak  
 Park and vicinity? first rate I  
 hope. I hear you are raring to join  
 in and fight. Bully for you and  
 your spirit but Joe wait awhile. Mat  
 her needs you worse now than ever  
 since Dave is gone, but do your bit,  
 you will most likely be called on  
 this next call 18 to 45. If so you

will have plenty<sup>3</sup> of time to help me  
avenge David's death. But stay home  
as long as you can. This war will  
soon be over, the huns are about to  
give in. 3 or 4 more big drives by our  
boys and it will be over. Gosh but  
I feel bad and downhearted over  
Daves death. I'm all upset, It has  
changed my disposition altogether  
I'm not as lively as I have been, It was  
a complete shock to me when I read  
father's letter. I couldn't finish read-  
ing it, but Joe I'll get revenge if I  
aint picked off first. I just got a  
letter from him this morning written  
on May 27<sup>th</sup>. I'm sending it home  
as a keepsake for me, last letter  
written before he died. Keep it for  
me, you can keep it better than I  
can here.

Say kid who is the girl you're going  
with? I got a picture of you and her

from father, <sup>4</sup> Say tell Mother and  
Father that that is my wife that  
writes to you's from So. Dak, she  
going to get married after the war  
Gosh Joe you ought to be here now  
old Fritz is shelling us, throwing  
shrapnels at us, here in the dugout  
writing, sleeping and cooking cocoa.  
I'll Joe write some time, I'll write  
you next time, Love and regards to  
you all

your loving brother,

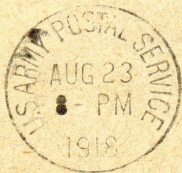
Priv. Elmer C. Thor.

Co H. 355<sup>th</sup> Inf.

Am. Exp. Forces  
via New York.

Elmer C. Thor

To 355 Dub  
AMERICAN 084



*Soldiers Mail*

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*OK  
of Goldsboro  
Pa. Duff*