

4. Yes, right for I have travelled quite a bit thro' & like the parable of reading "unto him that hath shall be given etc" so it is with the fighting I. M. & ordnance who are stationed in the big towns & cities. They are entertained freely & can obtain anything, anytime, but even so I would not change places with the best of them. Dad it seems miraculous when I think of what I've gone thro' so far & come thro' without a scratch I've been in every stunt we've gone into & that's more than a lot of the boys can say.

Now Dad I don't know just when we'll be coming back but I don't believe it will be more than a couple of months or so. In the meantime I want you to kind of get busy & see what kind of outlook or possibilities



ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Paris, Nov. 24, 1918.

Dear Dad, Today is a day set aside especially for the purpose of letting the "Boys" have a heart to heart talk with "Dad" at home. It is to give Dad an inside view as to conditions in France & one's inner feelings in plain words a confidential talk.

As you know by previous letter from me I have been thro' the mill & I can say with pardonable pride that the 27th Division has been in the scrap & stood the test as much as any other American Division over here & a great deal more than a lot of them. We have been used as shock troops in the 4th British Army was

writing this letter in Gay Paree in
a very fine house sumptuously
furnished given over to the Y.M.C.A.
There are quite a few of these
places in Paris in fact in most
of the big cities in France one
is sure of finding a well fixed
up place of the Y.M.C.A. In
the lines or sections near them
it is different a wrecked barn,
dilapidated farm house a couple
of candles maybe a few cigarettes
possibly chocolate & a Y.M.C.A. sec-
retary trying to keep his temper &
smile answering a thousand or
more times "No chocolate, soap?
no haven't had soap for weeks, can't
get the stuff no way of getting it
up, maybe tomorrow." Then the
fellow will walk away & say "This
is a hell of a canteen. Tell the guys
in the back areas get all the
stuff were the geezers that stuff!"

der Sir Henry Rawlinson. Conse-
quently we have been detached en-
tirely from the American Sector, but
our experience is the more varied
in that we have fought with the
Tommys & Australians, Scotch,
Welsh & New Zealanders. Our exper-
ience in Flanders & Belgium
was entertaining in a great many
ways but opened our eyes as to
the Belgians. They cannot be trust-
ed & we would be the last to aid
or help them if we had anything
to say about it. As to our living
conditions while in the fighting
area & front line better detailed
account have already been
written which you have undoubtedly
read. I might say that I would
not sell my experiences for a
million or go thro' it again
for the same amount.
You ~~too~~ have seen where I am



ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

191

There are, believe me I'm not going to lay idle when I get back but possibly take two weeks rest at the most & get right into harness. Of course I'm pretty sure I can land at Bernstein's if I choose but if I could land a job at Sartrams or on the road (leave it to me to talk) why I'd just as soon change, see how the land lays. A

I return to the regiment by tomorrow after having one of the best times I've had since joining the service. Just a word more, I am

7.
keeping clean & shall return
to you all as clean as when I
left.

Now Dad have a good hap-
py & merry time this Christmas
& I'll soon join you in the
New Year. Give my love to Ma,
Mama Leon & Glad & her's the
same to you with a kiss all-
round.

Your affectionate son,

Ernie.

Capt. H. E. Hyde,

Co. F. 107th U. S. Inf.

D. C. F.

SOLDIERS
MAIL

AMERICAN



Mr. H. Hyde,
No. 51 N. 128 St.,
New York N.Y.
U.S.A.

