



Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
MMN # 102496
Date: November 5, 1918
Description: Harry Marr writes home about his gas burns, France, 1918

1.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

NAME *Musician H. W. Marr*
Hdg. Co. 116 Inf. Band.
American E. F. A.P.O. 765

American Red Cross

France Nov. 5, 1918

Dear Eve + Ella:-

Just a few lines to let you know
that I am well and enjoying good
health, with the exception of mustard
gas burns on my set down.

It is not very serious at all, but
by golly it is certainly painful, and
smarts something ~~awfully~~ awful. It is
very hard for me to walk good, as every
time I take a step of course they rub
to-geather, oh! boy.

The burns are bad enough to
land me in the hospital, where I am
under going repairs. I think though
I may be able to get out with in a
month. Perhaps it will be ^{well to} explain how

I came about to get in ² touch with it.

One night Fritz began sending over a bunch of mustard gas, as it happen the wind was in the wrong direction, and not much gas came into the dugout, but how ever enough to put our gas masks on. In about half an hour or more we got the gas out by building a fire at the bottom, the smoke and warm air carries the gas with it.

The dugout we stayed in is about at a rough estimate twenty or thirty feet deep. As one goes in from out side, he enters a room about three feet deep from the surface. In this room were four bunks, table, and to our surprise electric lights ^{although not in use.} the germans certainly believe in comfort. At the rear of this room is a door which leads down to the dug out proper. Of course there are steps which lead to the bottom. As we go down

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3.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS



NAME _____

19

the supporting timbers and every thing
put to-geather resembles very much a mine.
There is two entrances to the dug out, the
other side being the same. I will say right
here, that the band was doing hospital work
and carrying litters. On one side we were
located and on the other side the first
aid or ^{medical} ~~medicall~~ men.

Well now to get down to where I
started about catching the gas. Of course
it was pretty stuffy in the dug out all
night. I went out side next morning
to get some pure air, and not thinking
about the gas set down on a stump, and
mustard gas is something fierce to hang
around on things, well I set in some
and as I have said acquired a great
burn.

We stayed on the front for over

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4.
three weeks and believe me in was a
trying period. We were constantly under
shell fire, and believe me the shrapnel
was flying in all directions.

I want to tell you the band worked
hard, going every minute of the day,
and sometimes way into the night.

Well Eve how are you + Ella? I
hope you are both well and in perfect
health. I suppose Portland is about
the same. How is old Eggy? I suppose
he is as lively as ever.

I bet the people are going
wild over the war news. It is certainly
great news. Tell Ella that I want
some of her fudge when I get back,
which I think this spring if not sooner.

Well Eve I will close now and
make my way to chow. Again hoping
you both are well and enjoying good health
I remain, as well,
Your Cousin Mutt.

P.S. Love
to all.

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