

The following letter was received by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Seidl, Sr., from their son, First Sergeant Joseph Seidl, a Marshfield soldier fighting for his country in France:

I regret to write this letter as I know it contains bad news.

You might be worried because I did not write sooner, but that was impossible.

Now, our dear Lord wanted it that way, so it had to be that brother Louis lost his life in action. I wanted to write, but was informed it was impossible to state any casualties until an official report was given.

Our company went into line July 28th; if you'll notice in some of the papers where the big American drive was made, that is just where we were.

We were held in reserve for one day, the next day in support, and in line on July 31st. August 1st, about 1:45 P. M., we were ordered to charge a city, under artillery preparations. Everything ran along smoothly until we were about 150 rods from our objective point, and then we were covered by a machine gun barrage from the Boche. Until then our casualties were not so bad but these machine guns got quite a few of the boys (that is wounded). Louis happened to receive a bullet wound in the left groin, just above the hip, but this was only a flesh wound. Our first aid men were and always are on the job, and Louis was sent to the rear with his wound dressed. He didn't feel bad a bit. After we drove the dirty Boche out of that town, we were held in line until the 7th and I was under the impression that Louis was safe at a hospital, but the morning of the 6th I got in touch with some of the litter bearers. Among these litter bearers were the Beaver boys of Loyl and Binder from Baberville, who were chums of Louis, and they were surprised to hear that I didn't know of Louis' death. There really was no chance because we were under heavy shell fire and were kept on driving the Boche. Louis Binder told me that the Beaver boys and himself found Louis' body about 400 yards to the rear of where our Company Headquarters were located when he received first aid. From what they told me he must have received a shrapnel wound in the middle of his back. After they saw who it was they at once carried his body to the rear, but their instructions were to take care of the wounded men first. I have the exact location, also visited his grave. He is buried along side of a Lieutenant. Chaplain Stearns our Regimental Chaplain conducted the burial services. It is too bad that Brother Louis should be among the first to fall, but if our Dear Lord wished it that way, we should consider it for the best.

Now, dear folks, do not take it too hard. Just at present I am in good health and resting up.

It was a miracle the way I went through all attacks, barrages of artillery, machine guns, gas clouds, caused by shell and rifle fire, without receiving a scratch. The afternoon of the 11th I took command of the company after all four of our officers were wounded.

L. Mueller was the only Marshfield officer with us at the time and he received a shrapnel wound in the leg.



Clipped By:

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