

## **In the Trenches: Andrew Carroll WWI - Letter October 3, 1818**

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### **Andrew Daniel Carroll - Letters Home During World War I**

The following excerpts of Andrew Carroll's letters home capture life on the front as well as home during World War I. From the letters and photographs, you will learn about the life of an Oswego County man and his experience during World War I.

Andrew Daniel Carrol was born on May 11, 1890 to James and Margaret Carroll who had seven other sons and two daughters. The family lived at 168 West 2nd Street in Fulton and were devout Irish-Catholics who were members of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Fulton, NY and later the Holy Family Catholic Church.

Andrew enlisted in World War I on July 23, 1917 when he was 27 years old. He was first placed with the 74th Regiment from Buffalo and three months later was transferred to the 108th Machine Gun Company Infantry. At the outbreak of the war, Andrew's mother said that she would unfurl an American flag at the family's home fo reach son who entered the service. Three flags hung outside the Carroll home for the duration of the war. One was for Andrew who was the first in the family to enlist and the others were for his brothers, Edward and Maurice. Andrew fought in several major battles in Europe during the war and was discharged on March 31, 1919.

What makes Andrew an "uncommon common man" is the fact that while he was stationed in Europe he wrote many wonderfully detailed letters to his family in Fulton, NY. These descriptive and moving letters have been wisely preserved by his family. These letters describe one man's experiences on the French war front in World War I. One major battle that Andrew took part in was the Battle of the Hindenburg Line in September of 1918.

Andrew Carroll died from a heart attack on January 18, 1939 at age 48.

*Note: This information is based on the work by Judith Wellman for the Oswego County Historical Society.*

# In the Trenches: Andrew Carroll WWI

*A letter dated October 3, 1918 from Andrew to Mother Mine.*

40th Stationary Hospital B. E. F.  
October 3, 1918 France

Dearest Mother Mine

At the present time I feel right enough to write you a few lines. I sent you a card yesterday but I wasn't satisfied with just a mere card knowing that you and the rest would be wondering and worrying all about it.

I was gassed recently and I don't know just how serious it will be. I feel pretty good at times but I guess it will turn out alright. So don't worry Mother Dear.

I wrote to Edward and Maurice. I haven't heard from Maurice in a long time and I haven't heard from Edward in about 2 weeks.

We are getting the best of attendance here where we are located. These British Doctors and nurses certainly do know their business and they handle everything in wonderful style. Do not write to this address as we are liable to move from here at any time.

I hope this finds everyone in the Best of Health and I hope to be in the same condition soon as we have work to do and must "carry on"

Good Bye Mother Dear

and all the rest

Best wishes

Andrew

Will try and write often

My present address is:

108 Inf-M.G.Co-A.E.F.

c/o. 40th Stationary Hospital B.E.F.



World War 1 soldiers equipped with the latest type gas mask. War Department, c. 1918. National Archives. This image is a work of a U.S. military or Department of Defense employee, taken or made part of that person's office duties. As a work in the U.S. federal government, the image is in the public domain in the United States.