

## **In the Trenches: Andrew Carroll WWI - Letters November 23, 24, 1918**

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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 Carroll 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 to 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 November 23, 24 1918 from Andrew to his Mother*

Nov 23, 1918

Dearest Mother,

Just a few lines to let you know, Mother Dear, that I am progressing wonderful. I just got back from a 7 day leave and I had a fine time. I went back up to Birmingham. Later went to London and I sure did have a fine time. Don't be a bit surprised Mother, if you see me back in the State soon, as there is talk of sending back all the casualties to the States. So much, so Good.

Did you get those two 25 page letters that I sent home? I hope so. Now that this man's war is over I want to be back to the "Good old U.S.A."

The people here went wild over the Armistice news. Well, Mother Dear, I haven't much time to write just now but will write soon.

I heard from Maurice & Edward. They are well. Good bye Mother and all

(over)

Love Andrew

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Oswego Palladium, November 11, 1918, page 1.



**TRUCE TERMS ARE SIGNED**  
**History-making Event Marking the End of the Great World**  
**Conflict Took Pace at 5 A.M. today — Hostilities Stop — at 11 A.M.,**  
**European Time.**

PARIS, Nov, 11. — It was announced that the armistice with Germany was signed at five a.m. and that hostilities were suspended at eleven a.m. This is twelve a.m. American time that the armistice was signed and six a.m. that hostilities ceased.

Berlin is in the hands of the revolutionists and the German Emperor and a large party, including Field Marshal von Hindenburg, are reported to have arrived in Holland yesterday afternoon on the way to Midschten Castle in the town of Desteeg. The soldiers council, in possession of most of the large cities, has decided to proclaim a republic.

Nov 24. Hello Mother Dear, Here I am back again. Further rumors say that we are to go back to France again and join our unit, other rumors are that we are to go to the States and between the two rumors we are still here. I rec'd a bunch of letters and some papers while I was in the Hospital and I was sure glad to get them too.

So Mary enlisted as a Yeowoman? I suppose by this time she has been discharged or has gone into the service. More power to her.

I have rec'd quite a few letters from Pop, Alice & David while here in the hospital and "Beaucoop" from Marguerite and they were greatly enjoyed.

Well Mother, I cannot get my mind working to write a decent letter so I will have to call it quits until later.

Love to all  
Andrew

**Image:** "I want you for the Navy promotion for anyone enlisting, apply at any recruiting station or postmaster: United States recruiting poster for women to enlist in the Navy, World War 1, 1917. This work is in the public domain as its copyright has expired.

**Questions for further research and discussion:**

- What does "armistice" mean? How did people react to it?
- What are some of the rumors Andrew is hearing about returning home?
- How does Andrew feel about his sister Mary becoming a "yeowoman"? Was this unusual for the times?
- What rights did women have during 1900 to 1920?

