

Letter to brother - John R. Southam
C. E. Southam (Corbett Southam)

Dan Southam Major Southam Tells Of Recent Hard Fighting__At the Front With Capt. Hultz Whom He Praises Very Highly__The following letter was received by C. E. Southam, November 29:__France, Oct. 13, 1918_Dear Brother:_Today is Sunday, and a rainy day, and Dr. Gill has told me to stay in my quarters, so I will write you a few lines and tell you how things are going and take it from me they are going some strong._We were in that drive that started September 26th and by battalion was the assault battalion the first three days and then the 3rd battalion took the assault, and five minutes before the 3rd went over the top the Colonel put me in command of it so I had an orchestra seat for the whole show, which by the way I wasn't the least bit greedy for. _Well, I have always wanted to see a battle and wouldn't take a lot for my experiences, but I wouldn't pay a thousand for any more; it isn't very comforting to see a shell in the air, and think that the next might have your name and address on it._Hultz and I were laying in a shell hole and one of those big boys lit five or six feet away and threw us in the air a couple of feet and then covered us up. Roy said "That's close enough for me." And it was. For six hours we lay on top of a hill and Jerry dropped everything he had on us until our artillery got busy and shut him up._If you see Mrs. Hultz, tell her that she has a son to be proud of and also that he probably will be a major before you get this letter as Major Houts was killed and Linn was sent to the S.O.S. and General Farnsworth asked me to recommend two captains, and he was one of them._I'm big boss now, as Colonel Van Gorder was put in command of the 148th and Col. Stansberry is a brigadier general, so I am running the shop till we get a new colonel and lieutenant colonel. I suppose that we will get one from the regular army division, as that is where they got them for the 146th and 147th. _I see by the official papers that Germany is talking peace strong, and I hope she will accept our terms as I want to get home, and when I do it will take an army to drive me out. _We don't see very much of France, for since the last of July we have been in the front area and I'm getting fed up on fighting. I would like to have one night that Jerry would keep still and let me sleep. Last night he dropped about a thousand shells about 100 to 400 meters to my right, and as I had nothing over me but a pup tent, it was very conducive to peaceful sleep._But we all hope and pray that it will soon be over. How are you and yours? Write when you get a chance as it seems good to get a letter from God's country. I haven't been near Co. A since we came out of the drive, but I hear that Bert Baesel and Joe Brant have got it. _With Love,_John_John R. Southam_Major Infy, U.S.A., O. A. S. __Since writing this Major Southam has been badly wounded and is in an English Stationary Hospital, No 8, British Exp. Force, France.__(Source: Elyria Evening Telegram, 2 Dec 1918)