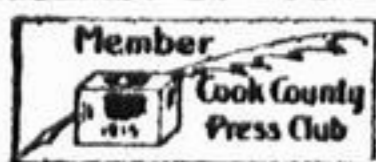


# Downers Grove Reporter

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C. H. STAATS, EDITOR

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"And The Star Spangled Banner Forever Shall Wave, O'er The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave."



## LETTERS FROM DOWNERS GROVE SOLDIER BOYS

### ART SCHLAUDER WRITES LETTER FROM GERMANY

Mayen, Germany, Jan. 1st, 1919. Dear Mr. Staats:

Received two Reporters today and was real glad to get them. I am at Mayen, Germany for a week or ten days having my truck repaired. The town has a population of about two thousand, and is a very busy little place. It is about 12 miles from Coblenz, which is one of the large cities of Germany. We passed through it on our hike from France. It sure was a good big hike too. We were at the Front when the armistice was signed and started for Germany the 13th, arriving at our destination on December 15th. We came through Luxemburg, and two days later crossed the Moselle river and on into Germany. We were welcomed by all of the German people and treated fine. One thing I can say for the German people is that they can figure a man's appetite just a little better than the French and we sure are the fellows with the appetite. If we were to stop at a certain town for more than one day, a couple of us would scout around and see if we could get some Dutch woman to cook us a chicken, rabbit or duck, whatever she happened to have. We always made good at that. Our company feeds good but a fellow likes a little change once in a while. My helper and I have a room in the schoolhouse to sleep in. A big store and lots of coal, but I am afraid we will have to move tomorrow for school is about to begin again. The weather is fine, had a little snow Christmas Eve, but didn't last very long. I can imagine the weather you are having in Downers. I have only seen it snow twice in the last two winters, but expect to see more of it next winter.

There are rumors going around about going home but those things get old. But I think we will be home this summer. Let's hope so anyway. I saw the Rhine river—it doesn't look any different than any other to me. Its not quite as wide as the Mississippi. There are lugs going up and down all the time, just like in the Chicago river. The 10th F. A. are stationed but a few miles from it. I wish we were about 3800 miles from it.

I was in the hospital with the flu for a while but am feeling fine now. Hope everybody in Downers is the same. Will close thanking you for the papers. As ever, Art Schlauder.

ing me magazines as reading matter is scarce here. Please send me the Popular Science and Flying as they sure are good, and any other magazine that you think I would be interested in. You seem to know what kind of a magazine I like, alright. All those you sent me so far were just the thing.

We had a fine Thanksgiving dinner and also one on Christmas, but this Christmas was the dearest one I have ever had, and hope it will be the last one. The days seem to drag to beat the dickens now. It hasn't been very cold here yet, but its raining every day and very sloppy out, and I don't feel like going out much and I go to bed around 8 or 9 o'clock every night.

I suppose a lot of the boys from Downers will be coming home right along now, but by the time I get back they won't know there ever was a war but I don't care as long as I get home all together. I will start tomorrow working on motor trucks. Most of these are foreign trucks.

Well, Marion, I still want to write a letter home so I guess I will ring off here for tonight. I sent you a nice souvenir card for Christmas, and I hope you got it.

With best wishes and hoping to hear from you soon,  
Your sincere friend,  
Ed. (Czechowski)

### ED. BOYDSTON IN HOSPITAL WITH THE FLU

December 31, 1918. Base Hospital 202

Dear Mother:  
Yes, I am here, have been here since the 23d so of course I enjoyed my Christmas in bed, also the turkey and Christmas tree. I had 'em all.

On the 18th I was taken with the flu for the second time and after laying in bed in a billet for four days, got a free ride in the ambulance and here I am amid white sheets and pillows. No more 415th for me. I am a casual and will be held as one. Which means home I hope. Gee! I had a swell Christmas here. When I woke up Christmas morn there was a pair, mind you, of socks filled up with nuts, tobacco, candy, and etc., enough to bring joy to anyone. Then the nurse brought me a young tree and set it up by my bed. It was all decorated and sure made me think of home. For dinner, which I ate in bed, I had turk and all the trimmings and a pound of chocolate bon bons which hit the right spot. Also a big bundle of magazines from home. Yesterday I received several letters, one of which was yours of December 1st. I felt better after getting the mail for that is what I want. Also a nice letter from Louie, and one from Leslie. He has been in the hospital since October 12th getting over the results of a gas attack. This morning I received a nice letter from Meriam. No I never heard from her uncle in England. If the war was still on I'd sure get a chance at Bill but its all too late now. Curses! I received the Reporter this A. M. too. But strange to say no sight of the Christmas box yet. It will show up soon tho I think. I'll go out and get a little fresh air this afternoon as I feel pretty well now. There were 25 from the company here with the flu but all but six got back before they transferred them. Now there are six of us here and its going to be a joke on them if we get home first.

The only thing that bothers me is to get my mail from the Company for they are going to move. From reports they are going to have to live out in the open for they can't get any billets and here the six are leading the life of Riley. And we are lucky at that I guess. Just before I came here I received a long letter from Jack Ball of Aurora telling me all of the news. I sent you an Xmas number of Stars and Stripes and have last months here to send you too. I hope you get them O. K.

Louie just rejoined his outfit after seven days down at Monte Carlo, but was pinched in Paris for being there at all. Its a hard life to get by the M. P.'s I was picked up here in Orleans once but got away O. K. Said I looked like a crook or somebody they were looking for when, honestly, I didn't believe there was any one in France that looked like me.

Oh, its a gay life, as Louie says, I haven't got a war to worry about anyway. Or a company either now. I am also enclosing a card or two I received today from Anne. She is studying English and inscribed her best wishes on the back. Keep them for me and that piece of fern too.

It snowed for two solid hours Xmas day, the first I've seen but it isn't anything. Its raining most of the time now but is not cold.

It feels strange not to have an outfit to be with anyway I get rid of K. P. and that was getting to be fierce.

I am glad that I was able to send you the snap shots before I was too weak. I did not have time to send one to Marie but did send two different ones to Hazel. Now everything is lost including helmet and gloves and everything unless I strike it lucky and get one of the boys to bring it down.

Just ate my dinner in bed, eating off of plates now. No more mess kits. Had a big dinner of roast beef boiled spuds with brown gravy, fresh string beans and bread and coffee. I feel better now.

I am broke now and almost happy. Don't suppose I will get any more pay now for awhile but don't try sending anything but letters for probably will have them stringing along after me when I get home. However, I am well supplied with tobacco and such. Now if the Christmas box comes I'll be O. K. for I hate to think of its running all around looking for an owner. Now I'll close with lots of love.  
Edgar (Boydston)

### FOUR LOCAL MARINES HOLDING SESSIONS

Paris Island, S. C. Jan. 22nd, 1919. My dear Mr. staats:

Since writing to you last relative to my experience here with the Marines in Battalion W, the publication on the Island of the Corps called "The Marine" has mentioned on its sheet the fact that our Battalion has established a range record that will stand for some time to come. This only substantiates the statement I made in the article you published some time ago. Thought it would be of interest to you and send you "The Marine" under separate cover.

Last Sunday Ted Erickson, Jones and Downer came over to our company bunk house making a union of four Downers Grove fellows, the largest circle of the home talent I've seen here together and it was sure like old times to see the familiar faces of the old town lads. We had an hour or so together talking over our experiences, going thru the training of the Marine Corps and have planned to make our meetings a regular thing, week-ends now that we are all at the Main Training Camp.

Downer qualified as high marksman on the range and Erickson and Jones are going thru their rifle training at present. Both of 'em are going thru anxious moments believe me, for the preliminary work to the record shooting is trying on a fellow's nerves. One would think to see our daily sessions of training stunts that we had hard fighting ahead instead of the probability of release from the service without a scrap. We go thru six training periods a day of nearly an hour each also two Parade Drills, one in the early morning called the "Sunrise" parade. These drills are very pretty with the band playing and Old Glory accompanied by the Marine colors flying in the breeze. There is a great deal of rivalry as to

the best drilled company on the field each parade. When it comes to correct drilling the Marines sure rank in a class by themselves.

The sessions of training consist of bayonet work, boxing, trench work, Swedish exercises and the manual of arms. We have also had wrestling, the Japanese methods as well as our American tricks were taught and some lively encounters took place.

No general demobilization of the Marine Corps will take place only those with proper affidavits for release will be discharged as far as I am able to learn. Even with grounds for release it takes some little time to obtain your honorable discharge. However, I expect to be back in civilian life about the middle of February.

With best regards I am,  
Yours truly,  
Hugh D. Wyllie.

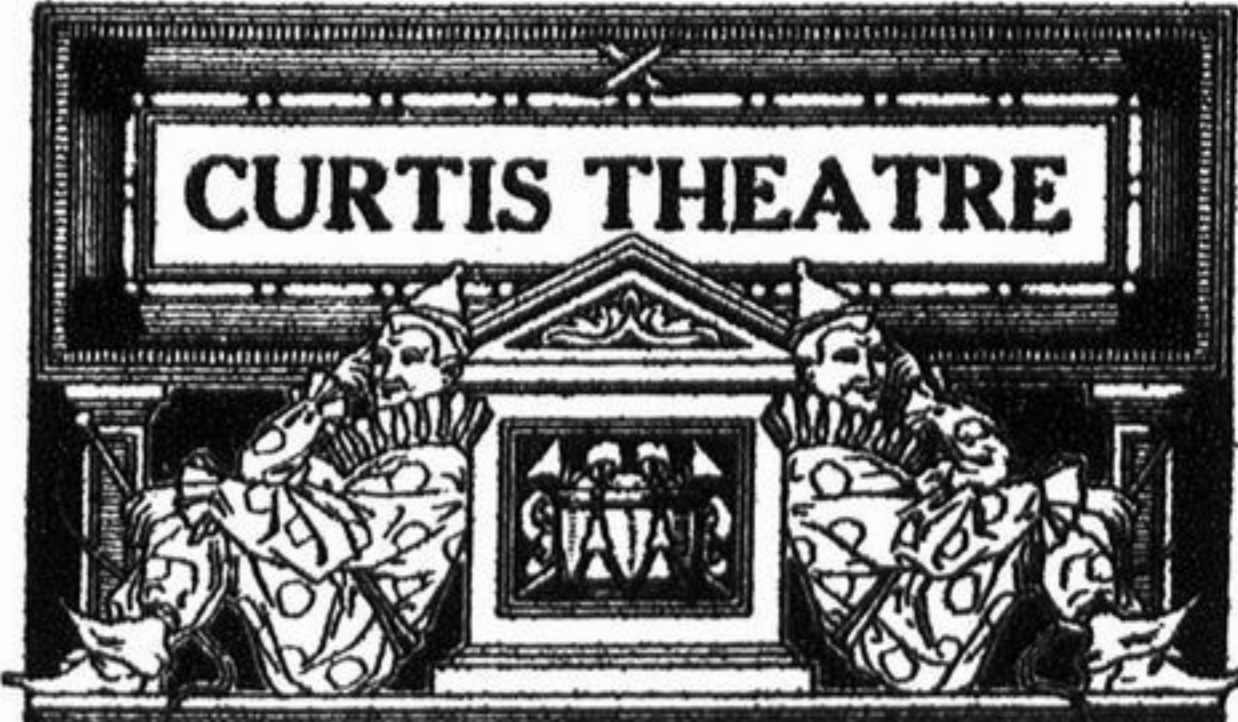
### BIG ADVANCE IN PRICE OF CHICAGO FARE

The residents of Chicago suburbs were advised recently of an important change in ticketing arrangements. While there is to be no change in the rates charged for individual 60 ride monthly tickets, the 10 and 25 ride tickets heretofore sold will be withdrawn on February 1, 1919, and a 26-trip family ticket, good for the purchaser or any member of the purchaser's family limited to six months will be sold at the rate of 2 cents per mile per ride. Unused rides of tickets of the old form purchased after January 25 will not be honored after February 1, but will be redeemed at a proportionate rate and tickets sold at an earlier date will be honored throughout the month of February, after which time they will be redeemed by the issuing railroads at proportionate rates. A representative of the railroads explained the reasons for this change as follows:

Some time ago the Public Utilities Commission gave the Aurora, Elgin & Chicago Railroad authority to advance its commutation fares to the statutory maximum rate of 2 cents per mile. As this road competes with the Steam Railroads, it found itself unable to take advantage of this permission, as such action would merely result in turning its traffic over to its competitors whose rates would continue to be lower than 2 cents per mile. By reason of the sharp increase in its operation the electric road was in financial straits. It appealed to the War Finance Corporation and the Railroad Administration in Washington. An investigation ensued in which it developed that the multiple trip ticket rates charged by the steam roads were below the present cost of the service and were also much lower than those charged for like service elsewhere -- the rates in New York City, for example, being substantially higher than those in Chicago. Following this investigation, the Railroad Administration authorized the Chicago roads under Federal control to advance their fares as stated above. Although the rates for monthly commutation tickets used by daily riders between their suburban homes and places of business are very much lower than those charged the occasional rider, the rates for these tickets will not be changed.

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## Has Any One

- Died—
- Eloped—
- Divorced—
- Had a fire—
- Embezzled—
- Left Town—
- Had a baby—
- Sold a farm—
- Had a party—
- Came to town—
- Been arrested—
- Had twins or colic—
- Sold a cow or lost an auto—
- Laid in a stack of whisky—
- Stolen a dog or his friend's wife—
- Committed suicide, or murder—
- Fallen from an airplane or—
- Fallen into a coal hole or—
- Fallen into a legacy?

## That's News!

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