

Downers Grove Reporter

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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

(Continued from Last Page)

the plays right from Broadway. They usually stay here about three or four days. Last night we saw 'His Bridal Night' and it was very good. Also have a fine big "Y" much larger and nicer than the one at Logan. Do you remember the library at Camp Logan? Well you should see the one here. It is certainly a wonder. They have thousands and thousands of volumes of light fiction by all the authors that ever lived. We can take as many books as we want and keep them too, to take across the water. And as fast as they are given out they have an endless supply to fill in with. This library is run by the American Library Ass'n. In connection with the library is a large billiard and pool room and also a cafeteria. The last mentioned is a very popular place and I am going broke fast. Good thing we aren't going to be here long.

Since starting this letter we have finished our steen thousandth equipment inspection. It was some inspection too. Everything must be absolutely perfect. Any clothing that has the slightest defect is called unacceptable and out it goes. Even a shirt with a button missing is condemned, and one hob nail missing from our field shoes means a new pair—they are certainly very lenient with clothing and we have no kick coming any more.

We are to be allowed 24 hours leave of absence before we leave. Twenty per cent of the company can go each day. Tom, John and I are going Thursday night and Friday and are going to N. Y. Art K. is still there and we are going to try and get to see him. Also intend calling on P & W Co. just to let them see what the Chicago office sent to war. P & W Co.'s main office is in New York and is supposed to be a fine place.

Guess I shall have to quit now as we have to line up for muster roll. Will probably get paid tomorrow or next day.

Will try and write as often as possible. Every day a line or two until we leave. Hope I hear from you before long.

Heaps of love to you mother dear, and to Dad and the kids.

Warren (Wells)

Somewhere in France,

Sunday, April 7, 1918.

Jack Reed, Downers Grove, Ill.

Dear Friend:

I received your most welcome and very interesting letter of March 2nd and sure was pleased to get same, and to know that my letter made a hit with somebody outside of my old friend and who was interested enough to drop me a few lines.

A letter from anyone back home sure is appreciated as it helps cheer a fellow up and also keeps us posted on what is going on back home. I also receive the Reporter regularly and it sure is a great pleasure to be able to read all the home town news and there isn't one bit of the paper that isn't read. I think it is very nice of Mr. Staats to send all the boys from home a paper each week and I'm pretty sure they all appreciate the papers as much as I do.

I note by your letter that you are particularly interested in Co. A, of the 13th Engineers because your father is with the I. C. R. R.

I am glad to know that your Dad is with the I. C. although I am not from the I. C. R. R. I sure am glad to be a member of Co. A and very proud to be a member of the 13th Engineers, as we sure have been doing our bit for Uncle Sam and also for France ever since we came over here.

We were the first of the American Forces over here to get into active service and we have showed the French that we could hit the ball on this road.

This road that we are operating is a very important road and we handle a lot of hospital, ammunition and supply trains. The British and Canadians tried to operate this road but couldn't and the French thought that we wouldn't be able to operate it either, but we can handle the trains faster than the French can take them off our hands.

I note by your letter that you read with great pleasure my letter in the Reporter dated Feb. 1st. I could make that letter look sick if we were allowed to write about the things we see and do and the places where we have been and where we are at, but the censorship is very strict. You sure would be surprised to know just where we are at.

I am glad to hear that your Dad is a member of the Veteran Corps. We are beginning to think that we are veterans as we have been in the service almost one year now and I live

In one of the "Choice Bungalows" at the Hairtrigger 13th and am sitting on my bunk writing this letter.

Maybe you would like to know how we got the name of "Hairtrigger 13th." While in England we paraded through London. There were four regiments of Engineers and we were reviewed by King George and Queen Alexandra. The 13th made such a good impression that they were called the Hairtrigger 13th.

I also note that you are loco over locomotives which I am glad to hear. I've been around locomotives for about 9 years. I fired a locomotive for 7 years and when I enlisted in the 13th Engineers I was an engineer on the C. B. & Q. R. R.

Private Johnson (whose picture of his engine that you saw printed in the Chicago Evening Post) sleeps the second bunk from me.

The road we are operating is all hilly, some of the hills have a 2 per cent grade. It is a military road and therefore has a lot of curves. When you see a long train going over the road it looks like a snake. The reason it is built like that is so the Germans can't get a good range on it with their big guns and it is also hard for the aviators to bomb it.

When we started on this road we had some small French engines without a cab on and without air brakes. All we had was a water brake on the engine and a wheel on the tank, which the fireman would work to set the tank brake.

We sure had our hands full to try and keep a train under control when we were coming down a hill, but the 13th made a good record and have a good reputation in France. They are known all over France and I think they are known all over the States too.

When our big American superheated engines came we sure had the laugh on the Frenchies, as our engines will pull a train that it took about 3 French engines to pull. I'm enclosing a picture of one of the French engines we used to run. It isn't a very good picture but will give you an idea of what they were like.

That must have been an awful wreck the "Q" had at Congress Park.

We have had spring showers ever since a week ago Friday. It has been raining all day today but not very cold. At night is the only time it gets real cold now. All the fruit trees and the flowers in the woods are in bloom. They sure are pretty and look good to us after putting in a pretty hard winter here.

Well Jack I think I have said enough for this time so will close.

I hope this finds you and all the folks and also all my friends back home well and happy as it leaves me and will be more than pleased to hear from you when time to write.

I remain sincerely,
Private C. H. Foyers,
Co. A, 13th Engineers (Ry)
U. S. Army A. E. F.
Via New York.

Camp Greene, N. C., April 26.

Dear Mr. Staats:—

I just finished reading the Reporter and wish to thank you very much for your valued favor as I have been receiving it regularly. I am pleased to read that Downers Grove is doing so well with its part in the Liberty Loan and it sure shows that good old D. G. is backing us up.

I am now in a permanent company of the Third Regiment of Motor Mechanics and will probably be with this regiment until the finish of the war or my finish. I like the fellows much better in this company than I did in the last casual company I was in. The cats are a hundred per cent better and we certainly have a fine Motor Sergeant.

They are keeping us pretty busy since I was transferred. We are now having instruction on the care, operation and mounting of machine guns on airplanes. I understand the Lewis Colt and Vicker guns pretty well and can handle a Lewis pretty good. They are certainly a wonderful piece of mechanism and very delicate mechanically.

We were all examined by the Major yesterday and given our technical ratings. I am rated as a corporal now and will probably get my stripes just as soon as they get them. The Major examined me pretty thoroughly and told me if I was older I would be given a sergeant's rating but most of the fellows are much older than I so they have to give them the preference and I will be satisfied with what they gave me. Anyway it is better to start a little lower and work up than start at the top and be put down, so I think I am better off at that. As far as I know we will leave this camp shortly for an embarkation point and then over there. I sure want some exciting work soon.

The weather has been pretty rainy and cold here for the last week and it is very muddy at present as clay is the predominating soil here and you can imagine what that stuff is when very wet. I am in good health and gaining weight right along so the life seems to agree with me.

Well I will close for this time and

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Thank you again for the Reporter.
Sincerely yours,
Ed. L. Czechowski

NEWSY NOTES FROM LISLE AND BELMONT

LISLE CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH NOTES

Bible School 10:00 a. m. Subject, "The Foreglove of the Cross" Mark 10:32-45.
Morning Worship, Mother's Day Subject, "Flowers Appear on the Earth."

Evening Lecture, "In far off Shan-si." Illustrated with 65 beautifully colored, new slides. These pictures and lecture have never been used and will be given at the Lisle church for the first time at 8 o'clock. Be sure and hear this lecture.

A large number of young people from Downers Grove and Naperville attended last Sunday evening's lecture on Ceylon.

We hope to announce the date of the State Council of Defense Lecture next week.

MEETS HORRIBLE DEATH

S. G. Matz, father of Charles Matz met death in a horrible manner at Congress Park last Friday. He had been working near Congress Park for the last three years and while trying to remove some obstruction from the crusher he was caught. When found he was still conscious and the first thing he asked was the time of the day. When told that it was three o'clock he said he had laid there ever since one. He was taken to a hospital where it was found that nearly every bone in his body had been broken, hemorrhages set in and he died Saturday. Funeral services were held Monday.

Elmer Haumesser is spending a weeks vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. Haumesser. Elmer has a position in Cleveland, Ohio.

Miss Ruth Bessey is quite sick with erysipelas and her many friends hope to see her out again soon.

Mrs. W. Plumb entertained several relatives from Downers Grove Sunday.

Mrs. Archie McPherson arrived home Sunday with her new little daughter, Ruth Evelyn, whose birthday was April 16. Archie is wearing a smile that won't come off.

Mr. F. J. Schwenker left for Port Washington, Wis., to attend the funeral of Mrs. Schwenker's mother. Mrs. Schwenker has been at the bedside of her mother for several weeks.

Mrs. Walter Plumb has received word from her son, Fred, that he has arrived safely, "somewhere over on the other side."



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