

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."

WHEN GERMANY TELLS THE TRUTH

When Germany is talking for publication—through the Kaiser or his hand-picked chancellor—she speaks a great desire for a "liberal peace." Conquest and tribute are the farthest things from her mind, she says.

When Germany is talking to her own people she tells the truth about the sort of peace she wants. Her real terms of peace—the terms the Kaiser and his chancellor promise the soldiers they are going to get when they win the war—were found in a trench taken by the allies the other day, and they are quite different from the terms advertised.

They were all written out plain and emphatic, and among other things they proclaim that Belgium must remain under German military, economic and political dependence. Of course that isn't conquest.

Courtland, Lithuania, Livonia and Esthonia are to be "Colonized" by Germany. Neither is that conquest.

Liberty of the seas is to be established, a "made in Germany" liberty by which the limit of the world's shipping is to be established, giving Germany and her friends—Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria 17,800,000 tons, and all the rest of the world—America, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan and all—a total of 10,900,000 tons. Nothing like world domination in that; just "liberality."

Roumania must "place at the disposal of Germany 1,800,000 tons of petroleum." Certainly that isn't tribute; just friendliness.

And for America and the other allies this: "Those nations which attacked peaceful Germany must pay all war charges in raw materials, ships, ready money and territorial concessions, leaving Germany with only five billions national debt." Tribute? Certainly not. Just a testimonial of appreciation of Germany's greatness and goodness—a forty or fifty billion dollar testimonial.

And there are still people in this country who pretend to believe Germany wishes to make peace on "liberal" terms.

FRED PLUMB WRITES FROM SUNNY FRANCE

Somewhere in France Mothers Day, 5-12-18

Dear Mother: I thought I would write a few lines as I know you are longing for a letter from me. My letters will be shorter from now on as there isn't very much we can say, due to the censor.

But, mother, they will be just as sweet as those I wrote in the states. I am always thinking of you and always will.

Our trip across the Atlantic was dandy. It wasn't very rough only for about a day. A few of the boys were

sea sick but I imagine there would have been several had it been very rough. Nevertheless, we were glad to get off, but we want to make the trip again. I am a good sailor, if I can have one foot on dry land, seeing nothing but water for several days don't go with me.

Well France is a very pretty country. Small fields with hedges, stone or dirt fences. The roads are pretty good. I am not crazy about traveling in box cars.

The buildings are of stone with mud for mortar. They are built close together, and the streets are narrow. Last night I went to a church in the town where we are billeted. This is an old fashioned building and very interesting.

The people here are industrious, and nearly every man is in uniform. The old men, women and boys are doing the work at home.

The cattle and horses are in excellent condition, all fat and sleek. There are all kinds of dairy cattle, but more brown Swiss than anything. A few Holsteins are in evidence and they make me think of home.

The ways of the French people look queer to us, but they cannot be criticised, they are very friendly. We only wish we could speak their language. I'll bet they are glad to see the American boys over here.

It's a long time since we received our mail, so a letter will look good to us.

I hope this will find you all well as it leaves me well. Remember me to all the folks.

With Love,
Your son Fred (Plumb)

ART SCHLAUDER MET FORMER RESIDENT OF GROVE

The following letter from Arthur Schlauder to his mother, Mrs. O. Schlauder, is very interesting, especially to those who knew Allan Hills when he lived here.

Somewhere in France, May 11, 1918.

Dear Mother: It's been an awful long time since you received a letter from me but you know I would have written before if I could. And it has been a long time too, since I received mail from home. I certainly am anxious to know all about you at home. I am feeling fine and dandy, and had a fine trip. I didn't get a bit sea sick. But most of the fellows did. A sailor told me that if I didn't get sea sick there was surely something wrong with me but I am o. k.

Your last letter which I received at the hospital in New York surely helped me while on the ship. I read it dozens of times.

The weather is just grand now, trees in bloom, scenery beautiful, nothing like we see at home. Women and girls selling fruit—four oranges cost 1 franc or 18c. It isn't hard to count the money here after you look at it a few times. \$20 would look big to us now. We had a swell dinner today. All a fellow could wish for and most of us came on for seconds. You know what that means don't you? I usually did at home too.

I was wandering around today trying to find someone from home if I could, and I met a fine young fellow in the kitchen. He asked me where I was from and I told him Illinois. Then he said what town? I said Downers Grove. His name is Hill, he said he lived in Downers Grove a few years ago, and that his mother lives at Clarendon Hills now. He was so glad to hear from home and I certainly was glad to meet some one too. You can't realize how welcome a stranger is in this land. When you meet a friend.

Well, Mother I didn't think a year ago that I would celebrate my 22nd birthday in France, and it is just a year now, when this letter reaches you, since I enlisted and saw you last. But it won't be long.

When you write again send me the address of some of the boys from home. There may be a chance to meet them.

Well it is time for drill now and I will have to say goodbye for this time. I will write just as often as I can. Remember me to everybody, for I certainly think of everyone I ever knew at home.

Just lots of love to you mother and for all.

Lovingly your son,
Art Schlauder,
Hdqts. Co., 10th F. Art.
A. E. Forces in France.

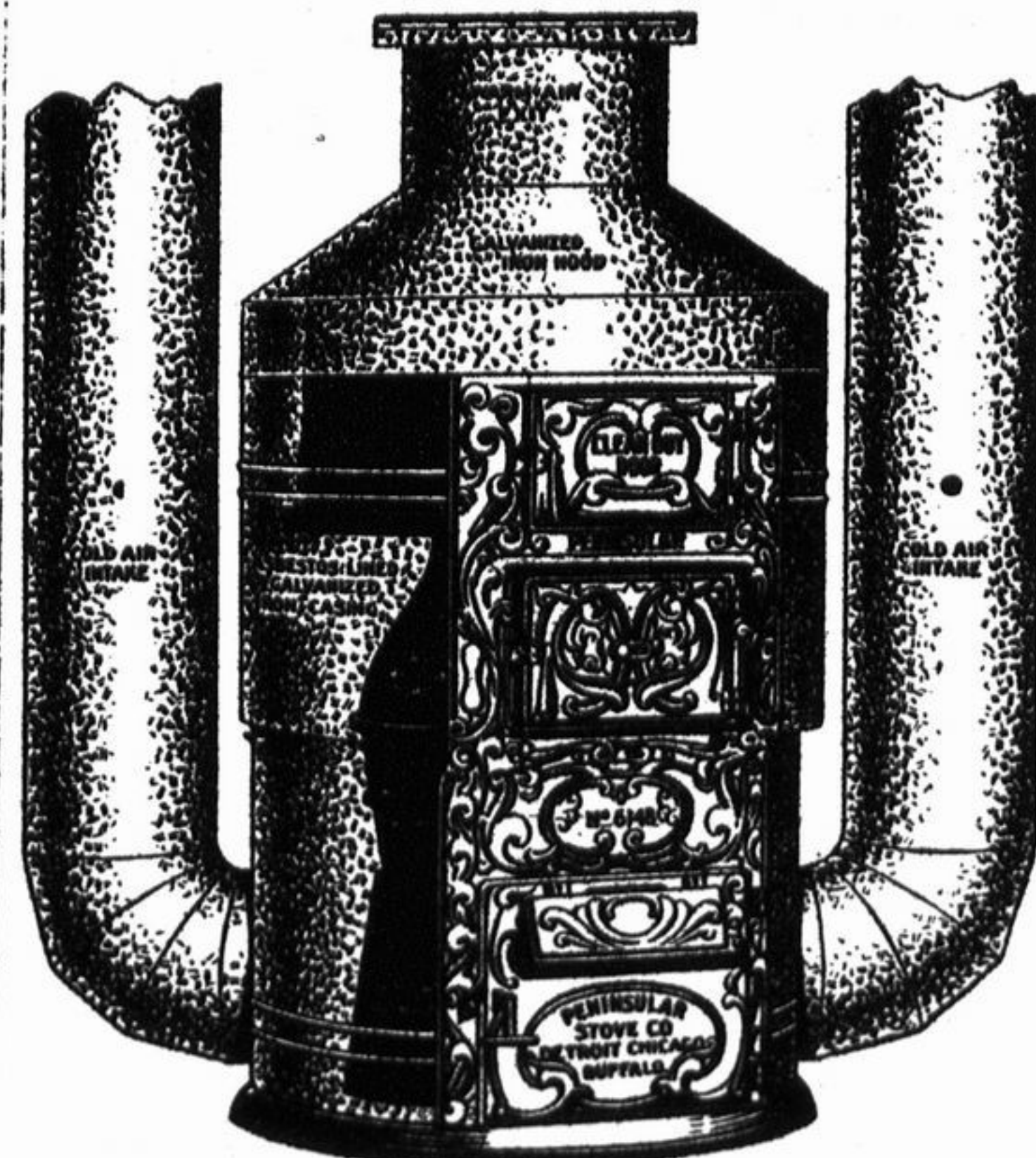
GILBERT LACEY WRITES INTERESTING LETTER

Somewhere in France, May 19, 1918.

Dear Walter: Have wanted to write you before but as you undoubtedly have heard that we have been very busy and at times have written home when I felt more like sleeping than anything else. Today being Sunday and nothing very rushing to do, we have a little time to ourselves.

We still receive that good old paper called "The Reporter" and are mighty glad of it. I also enjoy reading the letters the other boys write and that you publish. It gives us an idea of what they are doing, where they are and how their experiences compare with ours. I don't believe any of them can compare as yet with the boys of the...

The weather is ideal and during the day gets rather hot at times and then in another sense of the word it gets still hotter at times during the night. Get me? Well, that is what we are here for and are going right through to the finish. I saw Stewart Burns and Fritz Sacksteder a couple of days ago and they reported as feel-



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