

Downers Grove Reporter

Issued every Friday morning from the office of the Downers Grove Publishing Company, Belmont and Forest Avenues, Downers Grove, Illinois.

C. H. STAATS, EDITOR

Entered at the Downers Grove Post Office as second class mail matter. Advertising rates made known upon application. Subscription rates \$1.75 per year. Single copies 5c.



"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

EDGAR BOYDSTON WRITES INTERESTING LETTER

May 31st, 1918

Dear Mother and Ruth:

I just received your dandy letter of May 3 and it was handed to me just after I came in from a two day trip. Sounds like old stuff doesn't it. However, this time I have been touring France via motor truck. I did not expect the trip and night before last I was quite surprised to have the 2nd Lieut. call me up and tell me that I was to go along as an assistant driver to the town of N... for supplies. The trip altogether was about 300 kilometers or 200 miles for the round trip. It was sure a delightful trip. We had to get up at 4 a. m. yesterday morning and light out in the cool grey hours when we ought to have been in bed. It was pretty chilly that early in the morning and my sweater felt pretty good you may be sure. We took along some food but had forgotten all about the bread which we left laying here in the kitchen so at Bourges we stopped and got a loaf of war bread from the Red Cross which only cost about 50 cents. Who says bread isn't high over here when we have to buy it?

As the morning got pretty well along the sky cleared up and the sun came out strong. There was a good breeze blowing and it was so dusty riding second in the train of cars that we wore our slickers or raincoats all day. We were travelling north all of the time and got over to our destination about 2 p. m. That noon

we had stopped out in the country and some pea-ant woman made us an egg omelette to go with the bread and other stuff we had.

After another two hours we were loaded up and as we were getting hungry and about supper time, we arranged for supper at the American Barracks there. Watched a ball game between some colored go-man sojers and some white boys. That nigger sure cu'd pitch chile. There were a lot of the boys watching them play and how they would yell. These French don't compree ball at all. About 8 p. m. we started back and got out about 14 miles and parked for the night. Two men slept in the machines and the other four of us went up to the hotel. Mother, I don't know whether you ever saw a real French bed, but they are the funniest things you ever saw. We slept two in a room and the two rooms cost us ten francs or about \$1.75 for the night. I was going to tell you about the beds. They are all wooden bedsteads. Ours happened to be of walnut. The bottom of the bed stands about 4 inches from the floor and is then piled with three or four feather beds and ends up about 4 inches from the ceiling. When my pal and I got in we sunk down about 2 feet and we couldn't have been seen from the floor. Well do you know that after being used to these straw mattresses I didn't sleep worth a darn on that bed. It was too soft. We got out of town about 9:30 a. m. next morning which was this morning. It is about 7:30 p. m. now. Well we didn't come very fast all day and took our time and saw everything there was

to see. One of the boys took 24 pictures of us fellows in various out of the way places so I think one of them ought to be good and I'll try and send some. We were all in tonight on arriving here about 4 p. m. but we had a good time and saw quite a bit. We made a bee line for the kitchen and found the cook busy making some great big sugar doughnuts. Well I cut it short, got away with six then and two more for 6 p. m. mess so even if I had not have eaten anything else, but of course no danger of letting anything go. I would have had lots to eat. That made the fifth time I have eaten today. Now I'm drinking lots of water. I guess its because I have to try out our new fountain which was erected while I was gone. It is a big heavy canvas sack of about 20 gallon capacity and it has nickel plated faucets, about 6 of them and believe me it is pretty classy. There is one thing certain we have one of the best bunch of immediate officers that ever hit the trail. You see they have all been with us from the first and will do lots for us that officers transferred to us would probably overlook. Thru the instigation of our M. D. Captain our mess serg. was canned and we have a real mess serg. now, one of our former cooks. He knows his business and will give us all the law allows. Hence those doughnuts tonight.

On our way back we met nearly all of the company about 15 miles from here at a small town where they went to play ball with the 52 Bn. Today was observed as a Holiday by all U. S. troops not actually engaged and practically no one worked. We did not mind driving either, for it was pretty much of a vacation.

I am enclosing two or three cards which will give you a general idea of what we saw. They may cut off the names but I know what they are and will not forget.

Well folks I'll close now hoping you get this O. K. Glad to hear D. G. hit the ball on the 3rd Liberty Loan. Great Stuff!

By the way we travelled quite a ways along the Loire River. It sure is a great sight from the hills.

Write me soon.

Love,

Edgar.

Co. D, 415th Ry. Tel. Co. S. C. N. A. Amex force, via N. Y.

U. S. A. P. O. ...

P. S. Just received a letter from Tazel. I know she feels badly about not being able to send me anything but try and tell her that we are well supplied with everything necessary. Just think I have five hats and as soon as I am issued my helmet I'll have six. Ruth, if you don't get the letter I wrote before this I'll tell you now that I sent you a handsome lace collar.

one will not know how to repair the other will.

We have here twenty of the new Liberty trucks and they are some machines. I drove one up a grade that was almost straight up and down the other day and made it in third speed. We were out getting road experience, as that is part of the course, and made a trip through the hills north of here. They are part of the bluffs of the Missouri and remind one of the Ozark mountains. The roads are nothing to brag of and the grades awful, but those Liberty motors ran along as if on a boulevard.

I have been appointed acting Sergeant and leader of the fourth section of our company. The drill I had with company H, is surely coming in handy and I have not been stuck once. We do not use rifles but only get the foot movements. Although we have drilled but four nights our company is already learning right and left front into line and a few other rather difficult movements for rookies. Our captain who has seen twenty years service in the regular army, is a great drill master and can make the men learn the drill better than any officer I have seen working here yet.

Last week the weather here was very hot, 106 in the shade one day, the pastures were all dried up and the gardens looked pretty punk. Last night we had a rain which lasted about six hours which I venture to believe was worth a million dollars to farmers in this part of the country. The crops look pretty good only they are ragged. On one side of the road will be fine looking corn and on the other scraggly stuff. I can't understand it.

Well Dad will have to close now and will write more later.

Your son,

Walter.

"MIKE" SCHLAUDER TRANSFERRED TO FIELD ARTILLERY

Somewhere in France. June 4, 1918.

Dear Mr. Staats:

Received your paper this morning and was real glad to get it. It is the first I have received since I have been over here. I have transferred to Battery B 10th F. A. and like it a lot better than Hdqts. Co.

I met a young man in our camp that has been in the army for 7 years, his name is Hill. He said he was used to live in the Grove and he was asking about a lot of the fellows. He is in the 3rd Bakery Co.

Well we are having some real summer weather now and I hope it will stay this way for a while. I have not been able to run onto any of the boys from the Grove that I know, but I know they have been where I am now, by the carving in the wood around here, but expect to follow them up.

Well is just about time for retreat so will have to close. Say hello to all the boys.

As ever, "Mike" Schlauder.

ADOLPH WINTER WRITES FROM ABOARD SHIP

On board ship on the Atlantic

Dear Walt:

I have not received the Reporter for some time and sure do miss it. It might be you did not receive my new address.

I have been on board ship one week now, and I might be on a week more for all I know. I think we have the whole U. S. Army aboard ship and most of them are down on "G" deck, where my stateroom is. The bunks are 3 high one on top of the other. They would be 4 high, but the ceiling prevents it.

We have one deck on which to get fresh air, watch for whales and Kaiser Bill's submarines. So far we have not spotted any submarines, but some of the boys, whose eyes are extra good, have seen as high as 30 whales. I think I saw one.

We have 2 meals every 24 hours, and they are extra good. Quite a few of the boys have been getting

Hawkins & Hawkins

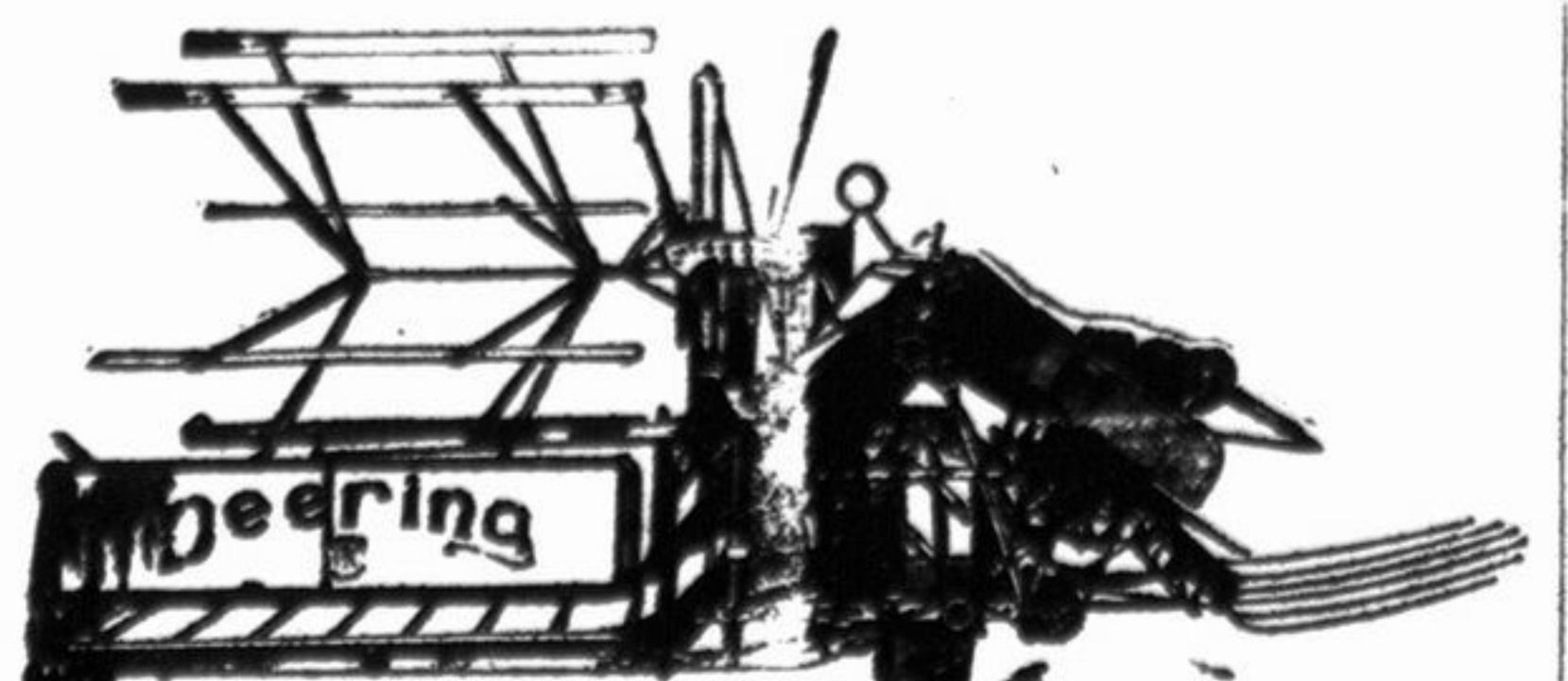
Telephone 267-J

We handle the best line of farm implements, tractors, plows, wagons, motor trucks and gas engines, made in America. Every piece of farm machinery we sell is fully guaranteed and by the best manufacturers such as the Deering line, the John Deere and Janesville; all well known the world over.

We give a repair service that talks for itself. In these days of shortage of men, it pays the farmer to get the best of labor saving tools and tools that are made and distributed as near home as possible and if you do this you cannot go wrong.

Come in and we will show you some regular farm tools.

Do not stay in the 18th Century class but buy up-to-date goods; cheaper now than ever before, considering the prices you are getting for your grain.



Buy a Deering Binder

A FARMER who has spent the best part of his life growing grain and who has figured out every side of the profits and losses of grain growing says that the binder is the one machine that made possible any great profit in the business of raising small grain. He also says that, no matter what he could buy any other binder for, he would buy a Deering, because, after years of experience in many different kinds of grain fields, he knows that the Deering will take care of any problem in grain cutting that it may have to face.

The Deering binder has been on the market for close to three-quarters of a century. More than any other machine, it has had the benefit of expert knowledge and of field tests of every kind.

You will appreciate the Deering binder. Come in and see us.

POTTER MFG & LUMBER CO.

MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS
BUILDING SUPPLIES, LUMBER, COAL, MILL WORK
"REDYBILT"
Portable Garages, Poultry Houses, Cottages, Poultry Equipment, Supplies, Etc.

Yard Entrance on East Curtiss street.

PHONE 15 After 6 p. m. phone 83-J or 89-W. PHONE 15

Our Repair Department Is At Your Service!

Every motorist knows how aggravating it is when you are out for a days outing to get stalled on the road. Forestall that accident by bringing in your car and let us look it over.

"A dollar spent in time save nine."

Save the high cost of charging by paying Cash for your Gasoline, Etc.

ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE FOR
EXPERT REPAIRING
RELIABLE SUPPLIES-DEPENDABLE ACCESSORIES
- GASOLINE - OILS - TIRES -
OXY-ACETYLENE WELDING
STORAGE AT REASONABLE RATES
BATTERIES RECHARGED & REPAIRED

DOWNERS GROVE GARAGE
PHONE 22 - DOWNERS GROVE, ILL.

We are able to supply your wants in
ICE CREAM & DRUG SUNDRIES

PHONE US AND WE WILL DELIVER THE GOODS!

HOUSEMAN DRUG CO.
Phone 6 Corner Main & Curtiss Sts.

WALTER STAATS LIKES LIFE AT ARMY SCHOOL

Rahe Army School, N. Kansas City, Mo., June 30, 1918.

Dear Dad:

Received your letter the other day and this is the first chance I have had to answer it. Even if today was Sunday we did not get time to ourselves until after 4:00. This morning I was helping issue uniforms and this afternoon we had muster roll and re-organized the company into squads.

The watchword of Uncle Sam now is intensified training and we sure get it here. Our schedule starts at 5:30 in the morning when the bugle blows and lasts until 9:00 o'clock at night, when we have finished our infantry drill. Here they cram both the mechanical and drill into a fellows head until he hardly knows where he is. As for having time to ourselves we hardly get time to shave during the week.

No one is kicking however, they realize that getting the Kaiser should be the direct thought of every American today and they are bending their energies in that direction.

We have a fine school here. The officers are, I believe, as good as any in service and are especially watchful for the care and welfare of their men. While they are strict disciplinarians, anyone doing the right thing will be treated in the same way.

As you probably know this school aims to make automobile mechanics out of us. They have a system of teaching that is hard to beat. While most everyone knows that a mechanic is not made in eight weeks, the length of time this school is supposed to run, those not acquainted with the army system, would be surprised to see how quick a man who has never handled automobiles can be taught to repair them. Most of the men will specialize in a certain part of the car, such as carburetors, magnetos, transmission, springs, tire repair, or some other part. After receiving the general course which will acquaint them with every part of an automobile and the basic principles he will be given special instruction in the line he chooses or for which he is specially adapted. In this way one of each of these special men can be sent to a base or camp, or even more, and what

away with 4 meals, 2 going down and I sent from New York, if you haven't 2 coming up. So far I have joined received them already.

the boys who are feeding the fishes. This is a very pretty country but but have not lost hope as the trip is very different from the States. The people are old and more or less old-fashioned.

Our mess line reminds one of the line of baseball fans going thru the White Sox ball park gates. It is getting bed time as it is past 3 2 minutes after they have opened for a World Series game. The first deck where we smoke our after dinner cigars, reminds one of the first deck of the Boston store on bargain days.

We have abandon ship drill once every day. I am assigned to a life-raft. If Kaiser Bill stoves a hole into our good ship, all I have to do is jump overboard and hang on to the life raft until picked up. Some nice job I say. We have some extra fine gunners aboard ship. They say one of them can hit a panel at 5 miles. I hope he is on duty when Mr. Sub shows up. I am enclosing a copy of the only paper published on the High Seas. It has most of the news of the Atlantic Ocean.

Well Walt, wishing you and all my friends the best of luck.

Adolph Winter.

P. S. Since I wrote the above letter I received it back, and I wish to add that we arrived safe in France, and things are going fine, having seen my first aeroplane fight and heard the roar of the big guns for the first time.

WM SHANNABROOK'S FIRST LETTER FROM FRANCE

Dear Mother:

Got off the ships this morning, hiked a few miles, pitched tents and are nicely located again. We had a fine trip, I expected to be sick but came through feeling well all the way.

I am usirg my mess outfit to write on and it doesn't make the best writing table in the world, but I guess you can read it.

I suppose you will receive my cards

received them already.

This is a very pretty country but very different from the States. The people are old and more or less old-fashioned.

Steve and I have been together most of the time and it sure seems good to be able to talk to someone from your home town almost whenever you want to.

Well mother I am somewhat at a loss as to what to write as you know we have to be careful what we write. It is getting bed time as it is past 3 now (although that means but 2 o'clock in the afternoon in the States) so will close for this time.

Hoping you all are as well as I am and also hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Your loving son,
Bill.

STANLEY BARRON IN HOSPITAL IN FRANCE

With the Amex Forces June 10, 1918.

Dear Sister:

This was my first opportunity to drop you a few lines.

I am in an American Field Hospital with a slight wound on my right leg. It is nothing serious so don't worry, and I expect to be back with my company in a few days.

Say I met John Michalek here, and he is sure some boy. I would not have known him but he asked me if I was from Downers Grove and then we had quite a talk.

And I can say the Americans hospitals sure take good care of the boys. I will have to close and hope to hear from you soon.

Wishing you the best of health and regards to all, your brother,
Pvt. Stanley J. Barron,
83rd Co., 6th Reg.
Amex. Forces. U. S. M. C.