

# 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

### CORP. S. S. SACKSTEDTER DESCRIBES CAFES OVER THERE.

Somewhere in France 3:30 p. m. July 12, 1918

Dear Mr. Staats:

It is cloudy and has been raining off and on, mostly on, for the last couple of days this is the first rain to amount to anything since our arrival in sunny France. I am on guard and my relief has just been posted so have a little time of my own. It takes about all ones spare time to write to the folks back home chiefly because our time is very spare.

I am writing in a little cafe, the table is the attraction not the Vin blanc; a menu kit is the usual writing desk for us. These cafes are not open for business to soldiers except between 12 and 1 p. m. and 5:30 and 9 p. m. They are busy places for the few hours that they are open.

Perhaps a few words about French beer, wines and champagne will be interesting to the people who have sons over here. I am speaking of the drinks to be had in the small villages, a soldier never or very rarely gets into a big town or village unless he is connected with Gen. Hd. (and it is not likely then) or is on leave.

There is absolutely no chance of a fellow "taking to drink" on the stuff that is to be had in these villages. I want say that you can't get drunk on the wine and champagne but it takes a fellow who has a good taste for "dop" to drink more than two bottles of the stuff, and that amount will effect you about like the same amount of weak vinegar with a little-epson salts in it to make it bitter, the beer tastes like strong rain water and will not hurt you as much.

The French people that run the cafes are sure getting rich off the U. S. soldiers.

The following price list will show to what extent beer old price 6 sou (6ct) new price 1 Franc, about 29c. vin blanc old price 1 Franc new price

15 Fr. about 70c champagne old pr. 1 Fr. (60c) new pr. 10 to 15 Fr. \$2.00 to \$3.00 these prices are for one bottle supposed? to be lgt. The champagne price is according to what they think you will pay. To illustrate the way these people figure I will tell you of one incident, a couple of us went into the Boozier (as the Tommy calls the cafes) and asked the price of a bottle of champagne "15 francs M'icous" we were told in very frenchy english when we kicked, Madam replied, "cheap enough for American" I told her politely to go to H. I am sorry to say I dont think she understood me.

In this sector the boys are almost forced to spend some of their money for via blanc etc. because their is little else to spend it for, there is very little in the eat line to be had either at the Y's or elsewhere, the Y's are doing a wonderful work here but they have a lot of trouble in getting supplies like cookies, and chocolate in large enough quantities and when they do the boys storm the place and the lads in the next village hear about it, why the whole issue is gone in a couple of days.

The Y's have to limit the amount of chocolate caramels and lucky strike cigarettes that one can buy in order to make them go around.

Do you know anything about billeting. Well the French law provides that any unused portion of a barn or house may be used by troops to live in, there is a billet warden in every town and when a company marches in the C. O. gets a list of available billets and you are scattered thru the town. They generally are able to keep the platoons pretty well intact, our platoon had to move the other day because the people wanted to put hay in the barn.

It seemed rather strange at first to walk into a lay barn, pull off your pack unroll your blankets and sigh, "home again" we have gotten pretty well used to it now and if after the war you see any of the boys walk into your chicken house or coat

shed and throw his coat on for a pillow and go to sleep dont think him "bugs"; he'll be quite all right and happy and won't set the place on fire.

The mail is begining to catch up to us, I have just received four copies of the Reporter the last being the June 7th. issue, this is to thank you for sending it to us and to tell you that no one but an A. E. F. knows how to appreciate his home town news, Billy and I are still together and he joins me in sending many thanks to you.

My time is up, with best wishes to you and all the rest of my good friends, I remain yours very sincerely.

Corp. S. S. Sacksteder.

### STANLEY BARON COMPARES TRENCH WAR-FARE TO FOOTBALL.

Somewhere in France. July 2nd, 1918.

Dear Friend Editor:

Just a few lines to let you know I am receiving the Reporter O. K. Each issue is like meeting an old friend from home. It gives me much pleasure to read about the big doings in Downers Grove.

The Marines have been very busy training while in France, which has prevented me from writing sooner. Our first months were spent in a quiet sector where we received our previous training.

One day we were given orders to "pack up" and "stand by" and soon we were on our way to a busy front.

No doubt, you have read what the Marines are doing. It has been "over the top" and "up and at 'em." All the boys are doing well and are full of "pep". It becomes quite an art to duck and dodge the "whizz bangs" and shrapnel. It is more interesting than a football game and almost as rough.

One dark night as I was at my post, a shell came screaming at me I fell to the ground face downward as it burst in the air near by. A piece of shrapnel struck me in the leg. They sent me to the hospital for a few days but am now back with my Company.

I know you hear enough stories about the war so I will not try to spin any here.

I must tell you what wonderful work the Red Cross and the Y.M.C.A. are doing. They are ever at the front with us in the most dangerous places. I dont know what we would without them.

Give my regards to the boys of the Royal League, how I would enjoy spending the evening with them and see all the old bunch together again. My time is limited so will have to close but first I want to thank you again for the good, newsy paper. Regards and best wishes to all.

Pvt. Staley J. Baron 83d. Co. 6th. Regiment U. S. Marines, A. E. F.

### ARNO UHLHORN SENDS DESCRIPTION OF BEAUTIFULL ITALY.

Somewhere in Italy. July 8th., 1918.

Dear Folks:

Everything is going fine so far and bids fair to continue the same. The only thing that has ever concerned me since joining the service has been the mess and we are eating much nox than we did at Camp Crane. We have battalion mess now and there can't be so much passing of the buck and the results are very good. Our mess allowance is also greater.

We had a wonderful reception awaiting us here. When we marched off the boat we were showered with flowers. I have never seen so many flowers in my life. It seemed a shame to walk on them. The streets were crowded and we marched with difficulty. They were leaning out of the windows, over balconies and roofs, showing us with flowers and shouting "Vivi L' America." We paraded again on the fourth and got another ovation.

We have a little camp at our own here and are now busy getting it in shape. You should see us 'unskilled laborers' swinging the pick and shovel in blue denims and hob-nailed shoes.

Our field garage is about three blocks from camp and they are busy as bees over there setting up the cars, -Ambulances(G. M. C). trucks (Pierce Arrow), touring cars(Dodge) and motor cycles(Indian).

Between our camp and the garage there is a British Convalescent camp and in the vicinity there is also an Italian rest camp so we are getting acquainted with our Allies.

As yet we have only been able to get a pass out of camp about once a week so haven't had much opportunity of looking over the place. This is only the experimental stage

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though, and we hope to have more liberty in the future.

The climate here is ideal. It gets pretty warm here during the day and has justly earned for the country the title of 'Sunny' Italy. Even in the daytime, however, it is possible to find comfort in the shade as there is always a breeze from the Mediterranean.

July 10th.

I had my day off yesterday and we were out sight seeing. There are more beautiful panoramas here than I have ever seen before. The first beautiful thing we saw yesterday was one of their cathedrals. We went all thru it even to the top of the tower. The thing that strikes you first when you enter is the hugeness of it all. The great marble pillars are draped in scarlet and gold and looked like a forest of big trees. It is filled with works of the old masters in paintings and sculpture and I took the opportunity of sitting in the chair of one of Italy's famous musicians. The big impression one gets is the indication of wealth and power and there are thousands of the same type here. From the top of the tower the whole city lies at your feet, the top is reached by a winding stairway and it sure takes your wind to get there. There is a balcony around the tower and it reminded me of the Woolworth tower.

In the afternoon we took a trolley up one of the mountains. The mountains are wonderful. They are not so rocky and forbidding as our western mountains but are covered with green. Where we stood yesterday we could look across the valley and see the billowy ranges on the other side piling up one after another. I would love to have time to journey thru them with burrow and pack. If I ever hit this side after the war, I certainly will spend most of my time down around the Mediterranean.

This country has some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. There is a large one near here but I have not been able to get out to it. We are going to take it in the next time we get out. By we, I mean 'we three', a brother from Penn. and one from Mich. When we go out we must go in groups so we five always try to go together. We are all in the same tent here and with the rest of our tent mates have a very congenial crowd.

We haven't received any mail yet since leaving Camp Crane and are, therefore, looking for some in the near future. We can get small editions of the London papers here about two days late. They are published in Paris and so we manage to keep slightly in touch with the outside world. Today we read of the death of John Purroy Mitchell and of the accident on the Illinois river.

July 11th.

Today was the biggest day we have had we got our first batch of mail today. There sure was quite a commotion around here when it was given out. I consider myself quite fortunate as I drew nine letters. I used to think that I appreciated the letters I got at Camp Crane but I see now that I didn't appreciate them at all so whatever you do---write. Our incoming mail is not censored. I didn't get any papers and don't know yet whether they will be forwarded or not. I hope that Fields will make the same arrangements about sending stuff here as they do to France because a box of candy would be very acceptable.

Four of your letters were forwarded from Camp and one came direct. I will try and number my letters so that you will know whether you get them all. The one I wrote on the boat will be 1. I don't remember whether I numbered it or not. I advanced one on the scale of labor today. I was a carpenter.

We read Pres. Wilson's Fourth of July speech here in a London paper. They certainly do hand it to him over. They have been fighting here for several years but he has been the first one to express plainly what they are fighting for.

My adress has been trimmed down a little as you will see from the envelope.

Don't worry as everything is better than I expected. Arnd.(Uhlhorn).

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**2--SERVICE STATIONS & REPAIR SHOPS**  
All automobile service stations, repair shops, stock rooms, establishments, where motor vehicles are repaired must be closed all day Sundays and on Legal Holidays and after 6 P. M. on other days.  
a. This does not apply to service stations, repair shops, stock rooms maintained for the purpose of repairing and servicing motor trucks and passenger cars that are used exclusively by licensed livery men for hire.

**3--AUTOMOBILE ACCESSORIES, SUPPLIES, TIRE STORES, VULCANIZING AND REPAIR SHOPS.**  
All automobile accessories, supplies, tire stores, vulcanizing repair shops for either new or used accessories or tires shall be closed all day on Sundays and Legal Holidays and after 6 P. M. on other days.

**4--GARAGES**  
Garages are permitted to remain open for the storage of cars and for the washing and polishing of same, and for the sale of gasoline and oils.  
a. Disabled motor vehicles may be towed by tow-wagons or other wise to garages, but no repairs of any nature whatsoever shall be done thereon during Sundays and Legal Holidays and after 6 P. M. on other days.  
b. Garages are prohibited from buying, selling or exchanging new or used motor vehicles, accessories, supplies, tires, parts, etc., Sundays and Legal Holidays and after 6 P. M. on other days.  
c. No repair work of any character shall be performed in a garage, service station or repair shop on Sundays and Legal Holidays and after 6 P. M. on other days, except as set forth in (a) of item No. 2 of this order.

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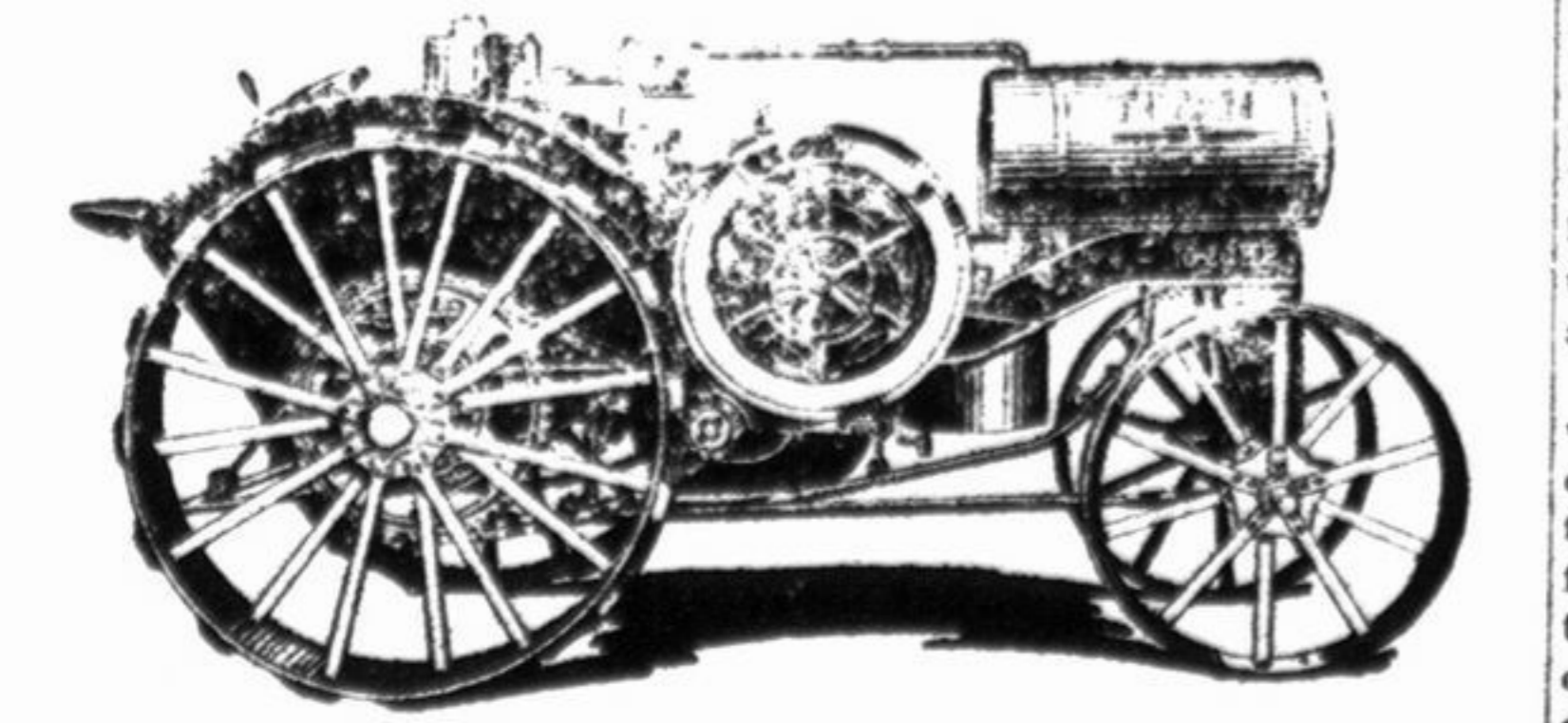
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**CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR PLANS SPECIAL PROGRAM** 11th, at 7 O'clock in the Church Auditorium.

The Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor of the Congregational Church has planned a special program for Sunday Evening August 11th. You are cordially invited to be present. A pleasant and profitable time is assured. Invite your friends.

## Reporter Want Ads Pay!



### Tractor Demonstration.

Outside of our man power the greatest aid to our nation to day is our farmer. We have got to hand it to our farmers, who are feeding the world to day. And next in line for credit comes the Tractor that helps the farmer feed the world.

The Titan Tractor is at work here to home and also at the front so what praise we give the Titan is not out of place.

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We will give a demonstration of plowing with a 10-20 Titan on the farm of J. Klein occupied by John Gansberg 1 mile south of Downers Grove on the East Grove road on THURSDAY AUGUST 22nd. COME AND SEE THE BEST OF THEM ALL.

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