

ROY JOHNSON PICTURES BATTLE ON THE MARNE

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Dear Folks:

How's that for some address? If there was anyone to it, I would have given it to you. Now if you want to know where Camp Le Courneau is just get out your map and look at a point about fifty miles south of Bordeaux and about four miles from the ocean and you will be about where this hospital is. It is not the most beautiful part of France, but answers the purpose very well. Now since I have been over here I certainly have traveled some, been all over France from St. Nazaire to Verdun, and from the river Marne (Chateau Thierry) to Paris and from Paris to Bordeaux, but while in Paris I could not see, as that was where I was taken in an ambulance from the front and was only there about three days, when I was shipped down to Bordeaux and from Bordeaux here. I will not try to describe all the places to you, as I would have to write a book and I would much rather tell you about it anyhow, which ought not to be much later than next spring, if the Allies can keep up the good work they are now doing and what it is more they are going to keep it up too. I had a nice lot of souvenirs I was hauling around with me, such as a German helmet, shoulder straps, bayonet, rifle, pistol and such stuff, all of which were picked up on the battle field around Chateau Thierry on the Marne, but when I was gassed I lost everything, so now I haven't a thing, but I might get a chance to get some more when I get back on duty. You can tell Mr. Campion at the retail, that I not only got my German, but got a whole train load of them. One day while I was doing observation duty at Verdun, I was looking from a high hill thru glasses and discovered a little white column of smoke away off in the distance coming from the direction of Etain, and I called up the artillery and in about four minutes the big boys began to whistle thru the air and the whole train was shot up. I had given them the correct coordinates and the artillery was able to make some direct hits, so Mr. Campion can rest assured that I got a German for every one of his family and then some, but Verdun was quiet compared to our big fight on the Marne in early June, that was the most awful mess I ever did get into in all my life, it was real war and every Marine got ten Germans for every Marine. The Country up there was certainly shot up some something fierce, night and day, the shelling kept up until it just made your head dance. About the most awful sight I saw was the burning of a town just north west of Chateau Thierry which we were going thru, the shells were bursting all around us and the shrapnel was just howling thru the air, dust was rolling up in dense black clouds from shell fire and gas was thick everywhere, every one had on their gas masks and dead Germans were lying about in the streets in heaps, great long dark shadows were dancing from the light of the burning houses and about the only thing I could think of comparing it to at the time was hell, but it never stopped the Marines, they just kept on going and getting more Germans.

Well, such it goes, I believe I will spin yarns for the rest of my life, when I get home, one thing always heads to another, as you can see by this letter, which was only going to be a note, so I will have to ring off for the present.

Remember me to everybody and as usual I remain,

Your loving son,

Roy.

(This young man worked in Ed. Graves' Department at Marshall Fields when he enlisted and on account of his interesting description we thought our readers would enjoy his letter.)

A LETTER FROM "OVER HERE" TO "OVER THERE"

Dear Friend George:

Maybe you don't remember it now that you and all the other fellows over there are so busy busting the huns and showing them that when they think Americans won't fight but have another good big think coming, but there used to be a song something about "It don't seem like the same old smile" that we used to warble together in the barber shop quartet, only it was a quintet or maybe a sextet most of the time.

Any how that old song, and it was a pretty one too where Ben used to hit the high note and hang on like he couldn't let go, keeps running thru my head only the words is different, and they always go "It don't seem like the same old town." That's as far as

I can get with it for the rest of the words don't fit the fellows names and if I could write free verse, you bet it would have to be free because nobody would be foolish enough to buy it, I would have something in it about all you fellows that are wearing khaki and sailor clothes and are chasing the Kaiser to his nest. But it is true just the same even if I cant write it nor sing it through. It dont seem like the same old town like it used to when the boys were here, it dont seem like the same old town with you away its awful queer. And it aint half the fun it was. Only there is a funny thing going to happen next week. Company G is going to play ball with Company H. The G and H dont stand for Gee and Haw like you yell at an ox or a mule but for the Hinsdale company, that's G and the Downers company that's H in the Reserved militia. Here is some of the H players and aint it a Haw Haw to think of them playing ball. Bill Blodgett, he played way back in 96; Glen Timke, he's the only man they got in the right place, shortstop; Guy Bush and Howard Jones, they never did play; John Reners, he must be for the backstop because he can stop any train on the Q since Mr. McAdoo took hold of the railroad. Sergeant Kidwell not because he is a sergeant but because you can see him even if the grass in left field is pretty high and they left off all the good players like Carl Staiger, Stanley Brown, Ed. Huntington, John Graves and Bill Eichelmann. But anyhow it will be a scream that game but it wont be a ball game and its a good thing to laugh and its the biggest laugh we have had in a long time.

You know the last letter I wrote you. Well Mister Staats put it in the paper and you remember what I said about Jim Chivers knowing everything that happens and not getting much sleep. Well he saw me the other day and I guess he must have thought I wrote that letter and he said that he wasnt sore at all but I kinder got a hunch from what he told me that he dont want you fellows to think that he is keeping cases on everything that happens in Downers and he said nobody need worry about him not getting sleep enough and he is a pretty strong fellow so I didnt argue with him at all and I guess I wont write anything more about him because I dont want him to get sore or nothing. But just the same he gets wise to a whole lot of things and he could tell you fellows some things although you have travelled a lot and maybe can speak French by now.

Since I wrote you Mayor Kidwell has got up a new scheme for war drives for war funds and everybody in town is going to have a number and committees and things are going around to collect liberty bonds and Red Cross money and all the war things only it will be one committee and the same fellows will call on the same persons so that they can get good and well acquainted so it wont be like giving your money to strangers and a whole lot more money can be collected. Sam Curtis is in it too and V. Simonson and a lot more bankers and the money will be well taken care of and if you were here you would loosen up too but you are doing a whole lot more than this giving money so you neednt write back saying you want to horn in on it because they wouldnt take your money while you're over there fighting for us, but you bet if any fellow here with seeds of coin dont come across he will wish he had before all these committees are through with him.

Before I close I will tell you the score of the ball game Company G 28, Company H 3. The game haant been played yet but it is a cinch that is the score with that bunch of mavericks trying to play ball.

Nothing has happened here and there wont anything happen till you fellows get back home.

Your friend Bill.

Editor, The Reporter:

Here's an interesting letter from one of our boys in the trenches, M. H. Towsley, Corporal in the 149th. F. A. It ought to be entitled, "Modesty." I'm asking you to publish it because it affords a cross-section study of that psychological process by which war transforms a timid knee-shaking boy into a fearless hero, for whom "thesleeping and dead Huns are but as pictures." I begged it from the boy's even more modest father, who also feared the public might think he was proud if the letter were published. So here it is:

CORP. TOWSLEY TELLS OF SENSATION UNDER FIRE

Dear Father and Folks: The Colonel says that one is foolish to let any unusual occurrence upset either your mind or your stomach. Now that is just what I was doing and an endeavoring to change myself. Would you think it unreasonable for a fellow to forget to eat and feel as though his mind were numb, never having been under real shell fire before and then to suddenly go thru the preliminary bombardment for a Gorman offensive? That was two days

FLAG RAISING

on St. Joseph's church grounds, Highland Ave. and Franklin St., Downers Grove.

Sunday Afternoon, September First Three O'Clock

- Hon. John F. Kidwell will preside
Chairman of Ceremonies Mr. William Bender
Grand Chorus Choir and School Children
Invocatory Address The Reverend Hugh McWhorter
Recitation Miss Fabiola Riedy
Our Flag Mr. P. F. Dillon
FLAG RAISING Clara Bender
Co. H. I. R. M.
The Star Spangled Banner Choir and School Children
Address Hon. John J. Gorman
Our Gold Stars and Service Flag Dr. F. J. Smith
Grand Chorus
Benediction Rev. E. B. Goodwin

ago—started at 12:05 a. m. July 15th. It's something terrible to pass thru. I was forty feet under ground all the time. Am now faced with the proposition of conquering my cowardice. My knees were positively unmanageable. But from now on it's going to be different that's all. Seeing dead and wounded is nothing. It's those darned whizzy shells that never seem to hit in the same place twice.

Then this follows from the censor. But in reference to the shaking knees. Your son volunteered to go out among the shells the other night to bring in a wounded Captain.

Respectfully submitted, F. J. Milnes

MORE SHOOTING STARS

An apology is due to members of Company H in last weeks column we called Burr Downes a private and Gee he's a Corporal. But that isn't the worst we didn't even give H. P. Jones the credit of being a private.

Say Guy! Did ya herbout the Home Guard and Firemen's picnic? Golly its gonna be jake. Gee Mr. Michel says theres gonna be all kind'a prizes—everything! An he oughta know cause he's the head o that stuff. Gee! all the kidswit their ma's gets in fer nottin. Aint that swell. Ya get a ticket fer two bits an ya get in an buy candy, or ice cream an knock the black nigger baby offen his pins. An they're gonna hav'a big indoor outdoor game in the afternoon. Those guys in Co. G of Hinsdale tink the're gonna beat but Capt. Bal said they wouldn't. I guess he knows,huh? Ooh an didja hear'bout that nifty piller they're gonna raffle. Gee! but I'm gonna get a buncha tickets. Everything is gonna be swell an it starts at two bells an runs all night. An theres gonna be a dance at night wit a reglar jazz band.

As we said before Capt. Bal and the men who were at Camp Steever show a lot of improvement in their method of giving commands etc. most of Monday evening wa spent in completing plans for the picnic. After all had been assigned to their special work at and before the picnic the committee was taken out and instructed how to execute commands correctly and also how to do the manual of arms in the right way. Capt. Bal expects to have the Company in tip top shape before long and by the looks of his energy Monday he surely will succeed.

Sh---! Capt. Bal has a new lid.

Work will be in order tomorrow p. m. for all company H men at the foot of Belmont avenue.

Now don't forget that picnic and bring the kids along. There will be races, nigger babies, prizes, paddle wheels and all that goes with a picnic help Co. H. and the Firemen make it a success and for yourself a good time.

Now then, a Co. H recruit Has a chance to be our "Lieut." V. T. C.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL OPEN MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th.

Professor Butler Announces List of High School and Grade Teachers For The Coming Year.

The Downers Grove Public Schools will open for work Monday, September 9th. Everything at the buildings has been put in excellent condition by our three Janitors, who have worked all summer cleaning and getting the buildings in the best condition possible. A few changes have been made at each building to add to the comfort of the pupils. The superintendent and principal will be at the High School building all next week of reached at their homes, to confer with any who may wish to talk with them relative to the work for the coming school year. A strong teaching force has been secured and everything points to a strong years work. The following are the teachers for the coming year:

- High School, N. R. Feasley Prin. H. S. and mathematics. Garnett Trott, Latin, Alta Fisher, Science and French. Frances Hughes, English. Hilda Swanson, History and Algebra. Elinore King, Commercial subjects. Irma F. Smith, Domestic Art and Physical Education.
Grades, Grammar School Departmental work. Maude Whiffin, History. Genevieve Robertson, Geography. Mary McIlhenny, English and music. Helen Johnston, Arithmetic. 6th Grade. (Teacher not yet selected). 6th North Side, Lois Bear. 5th North Side, Ruth Larson. 3d and 4th North Side, Zelma Briggs. 2nd and 3d North Side, Beth Scofield. 1st North Side, Agatha Sweet. 1st South Side, Isabel Walker. 2nd South Side, Lucy L. Smith. 3d South Side, Lucy Bellingier. 4th South Side, Anna Herring. 5th South Side Hattie Bryce.

STOP! LOOK! LISTEN!

Stop! at the Methodist church Friday evening, Sept. 6th. 8 o'clock. admission, adults 15c, children 10c. Look! at an interesting "Meeting of the Nations" given by the young people of the church. Listen! to reading and the cantata introduced by this "Meeting of the Nations." There will be a lawn social after the program. Interesting booths will be open to you for a penny or two. Every one welcome.

EHNINGER — MCALOON

Friends of Miss Helen Louise Ehninger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Ehninger of Fairview avenue, were surprised this week by receiving an announcement of her marriage to Mr. Owen J. McAlloon of Chicago, July thirteenth. So well did the young couple keep their secret that the bride's parents were in the dark until a few days ago when the happy pair told their story. Mr. and Mrs. McAlloon will be at home after October first at 4311 No. Winchester avenue, Chicago.

LABOR DAY PICNIC PLANS NOW COMPLETE

(continued from page one)

for the maintenance of these organizations.

Every dollar will go toward the protection of your home from the ravages of fire or from mob violence. Every person in the village should attend the Labor Day picnic to be given by Company H and the Firemen on Monday September 2nd. in Bryans Woods. Don't let anybody or anything prevent you from being there. It is a safe bet you who have attended these annual picnics in other years will come early and stay late. There will be something doing every minute.

Many valuable prizes will be given the winners of the races at the Labor Day Picnic. Any persons having articles in their possession suitable for prizes and who would feel disposed to contribute them, are requested to telephone any of the following persons who will call for the article, and suitable credit will be given to the person donating: J. W. Graves, A. G. Michel or L. E. Jones.

A Fillet lace pillow of original design and which required to complete it months of tedious hand work, has been presented to Company "H" by Miss Bertha Schultz.

This pillow is now being exhibited in Swearingen's window, and will be raffled at the Labor Day Picnic. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold. They can be obtained at Swearingen's, from any member of Company H or from the Khaki Kids.

The price of the tickets is 25 cents. The batting order of the base ball team of Company H follows:

- Sergeant Carpenter SS
Corporal Timke C
Pvt. W. H. Smith C
Corporal Henderson SS
Corporal Geisert RR
Private Ankoviak 2B
Sergeant Kidwell LF
Corporal Staiger CF
Corporal Browne 1B
Private W. F. Heintz 3B
Utility men, Pvt. R. Boldebeck; Pvt. J. W. Graves and Pvt. Chesman.

Do not forget that one of the toy balloons now being exhibited at Mr. Swearingen's window will be given to all children up to eight years old who compete in the races. This, of course, is in addition to the regular prizes which will be awarded the winners of races provided for children of their ages.

LABOR DAY RACES

BACKWARD RACE: 50 yds. (running backwards) for boys 12 to 15 yrs. 25 yds. girls 12 to 15 yrs.

QUADRUPED RACE: 25 yds. (on all fours) for boys 8 to 15 yrs. Boys up to 8 yrs.

3 LEGGED RACE: 50 yds. (two legs tied) for boys 15 to 18 yrs.

BLIND BAG RACE: 50 yds. (paper bag over head) for boys 15 to 18 yrs. Girls 15 to 18 yrs.

100 YARD DASH: for boys 15 to 18 yrs. Girls 15 to 18 yrs.

SACK RACE: 50 yds. (both feet in a sack) Free for all.

FIND SHOES and return to starting point: 50 yds. boys 8 to 15 yrs. Boys and girls up to 8 yrs.

ONE LEGGED RACE: tie both feet together and hop 30 yds.

HOP SKIP AND JUMP: Free for all

OLD MEN'S RACE: 50 yds. 50 yrs. and over.

OLD LADIES': 25 yds. 50 yrs. and over.

MARRIED MEN'S RACE: 100 yds. Ladies', 50 yds.

CHILDREN'S: 50 yard dash. Boys 8 to 12 yrs. Girls 8 to 12 yrs. Boys up to 8 yrs. Girls up to 8 yrs.

RUNNING BROAD JUMP: boys up to 15 yrs. Boys 15 yrs. and over. Girls up to 15 yrs. Girls 15 yrs. and over.

HIGH JUMP: from standing position. Free for all.

RUNNING HIGH JUMP: Free for all.

INFANTS RACE: 100 ft. For boys up to 4 yrs. For girls up to 4 yrs.

POTATO RACE: 50 yds. For married ladies. For single ladies. For boys. For girls.

FAT MEN'S RACE: 50 yds.

TUG-OF-WAR: (10 to a team) Company "H" VS. Firemen.

BALL GAME: Company "G" VS. Company "H".

Miss Ruth Briggs was the guest of Mr. Charles Daniel De Long of New Mexico, Chief Yeoman of the SS. Wilmette, at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station. Mr. De Long is one of the survivors of the recently rammed gun boat Schurz on which ship he held the rating of Chief Yeoman in the collision he feels that he was fortunate in being able to have saved the records and important ships papers entrusted in his care, having them upon his person at the time the crew were ordered to abandon the ship. Mr. De Long has served four years in the Navy and wears the honor band of re-enlistment for another four years, one of which he has already served.

PATRIOTIC MEETING OF Y. P. SOCIETY AT LACE HALL

Mr. C. Scheel Expounds Patriotism at the Lace Hall.

On August 7th., a patriotic celebration was held in the Lace Hall, under the auspices of the Young Peoples Society of the Lace Church. During the celebration a service flag was dedicated in honor of the men from the church who are serving their country.

Those who have been so ready in the past to cast suspicion and to make erroneous statements about the patriotism of the Lace people would have been welcomed at this meeting, where they would have been inspired to a loftier and nobler patriotism than that which consists of trying to cause dissension.

Mr. C. Scheel, a member of the Congregation voiced the sentiments of all the Lutherans in Lace in a most fervent patriotic address. His speech was well received and often interrupted by long applause. Among other things he said, "It is a sad thing that at a time like this, a time of national crisis, when all Americans, no matter what their nationality or creed may be, should stand shoulder to shoulder against a common foe, I say it is a sad thing that at this time seeds of distrust and hatred should be sown. But this is exactly what is being done. Many whose patriotism consists mostly of words have cast suspicion upon a loyal class of American citizens, namely those of German descent." He then went on to show with most convincing proofs that all these accusations were uncalled for and unfounded. He then spoke of the patriotism of his church. "The founders of our own Synod," he said, "left Europe because they were fearfully persecuted, because they would not tolerate government interference with their sacred rights as Christians and emigrated to America as pilgrim fathers in order to escape the slavery of the German churches. Today the largest part of our Lutheran Church is American born, we have mostly the second and third generations. Most of us know no more about European institutions than what we have read. We have never lived in Germany. It is not our fatherland. All our affections center in American freedom and American institutions. We love America and its freedom. As a church we would not allow the expression of a disloyal or seditious statement one moment. We abhor traitors and would not allow them among us. A true Lutheran is always a true patriot. It is impossible that a person be a Christian and a traitor to his country. Patriotism is a Christian virtue, a virtue flowing from the Christian faith, which causes him to dedicate himself and all his possessions to the protection and well being of his country and its institutions. Patriotism is a part of our religion. That is the teaching of our church."

The Rev. E. Engelbruht of Oak Park, spoke on the "Work of the Lutheran Church Board of Army and Navy." He stated that 20,480 members of the Synod were now serving in the Army and Navy and more than 250 Lutheran pastors and ministers were actively engaged in the various camps etc. He told of experiences and of the intense appreciation of the boys for this work of the church.

The program for the evening was as follows:

- 1. America and Assembly.
2. Address.—Mr. C. Scheel.
3. Violin Solo.— Miss Irene Andermann.
4. Presentation of Service Flag. Miss Malinda Andermann.
5. Acceptance of Flag by Rev. Walter Burmeister.
6. Violin and Piano.
7. Address.— Rev. Engelbruht.
8. Reading.— Miss Adele Mandel.
9. Dialogue.
10. Recitation.— Miss Ella Hinz.
11. Song.— Is There Any Better Country Than The U. S. A.
12. Flag Drill by children and Star Spangled Banner.

Those who took part in the dialogue are the following: Bertha Henry, Philmyra Rohmer Rose and Laura Henry, Arthur Hagemann, Arthur Schutt, Ed. Hagemann, Paul Hinz, Ed. Hogrefe, Elmer Mandel, Frank Hagemann and Albert Andermann.

DREW — COPELAND

Miss Nellie Ruth Drew, Daughter of Mrs. Nellie Drew, and Robert O. Copeland, of Dallas, Texas, were united in marriage Saturday, August 24, at the home of the bride's mother, of Oakley Blvd., Chicago. Bishop Fallows of the Reformed Episcopal Church officiating. The ring service being used. Mr. Copeland is stationed at Great Lakes Naval Training Station.