

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

L. E. POTTER APPRECIATES REPORTER

San Antonio, Texas, August 21, 1918. Mr. C. H. Staats, Downers Grove, Ill. Dear Sir,

Would have written some time ago to express my appreciation for the regular arrival of the Downers Grove Reporter this long time past but was in hopes of getting a furlough which would make it possible to do it personally. However, the situation at this post just now is such that furloughs are almost an unknown quantity, and I have had to give it up for the present.

I am in the Balloon Division of the "Air Service" which was formerly known as the Aviation Section, Signal Corps. Our camp or post is a comparatively small one. There being not more than 1400 men here during the summer. However, it is to be enlarged to accommodate five and six thousand men. Over two thousand new men have come in during the past two weeks and three companies of two hundred men each have gone on their way during the same time and more men are coming in every day. We are very favorably situated, being only a mile from the finest residence section of San Antonio and with unusually convenient transportation to town.

Have been here since March 9th, was made Corporal four months ago and have been acting in capacity of Sergeant since that time, in charge of the camp carpenter shop and maintenance of camp buildings.

The 40th company has been considered though not authorized as such. It is now outgoing and a real Headquarters Co. is being organized and to which all special duty men are to be transferred. This means that it will be some time before I get to go across, probably not before Christmas.

The entire camp is devoted to the training of men in the handling of balloons. They are captive balloons being controlled by means of steel cable and gasoline winches. The climate is very favorable here for this kind of work, there being little time lost because of bad weather. Four balloons are kept in the air from day-break till dark and it is expected that the number will soon be doubled.

I wish to thank you for the receipt of the Reporter up to the present time and also those who have made it possible for it to be continued. The letters from the boys in the various sections of the service, both here and over there are excellent news and thoroughly appreciated as well as the home news.

Yours very sincerely,

L. E. Potter,

40th. Balloon Co. Camp John Wise, San Antonio, Texas.

ONE OF THE BOYS WANTS REPORTER

On Board Ship, July 11, 1918. Friend Mr. Staats:

I thought I would write and let you know that I am on my way across at last. We expect to land very soon. This is some trip and the ocean was calm all the way across with the exception of one day it was a little rough. I have been receiving the Reporter right along and am certainly glad to read the news from home. I will thank you very much if you will send the paper to my new address.

The boat is rocking and I can't write very good. I will write again soon.

Your friend,
Bernard F. Kearney.

FINDS AN OLD REPORTER. GLAD? READ HIS LETTER

June 18, 1918.

Dear Mother: I have not had a chance to write you for quite a while, in fact there is not much to write about, that is that we are allowed to write. We are billeted here in this hamlet and it certainly reminds me of "back on the farm." But this country has the most beautiful spots I ever dreamed of. We came here in the evening and it sure was a great trip.

I wish I had taken French in High School instead of German, I might be able to talk enough to get by with it. I was washing my clothes this afternoon when an old woman came up after a long time we found that she and I had something in common and was telling us that there was a woman down by the railroad track that would do our washing for two francs, which is about thirty nine cents in our money July 3.

It don't seem possible that it is so near the 4th., the weather is hot enough but I have not even heard a fire cracker.

We are getting a big feed tomorrow by our Colonel and there is to be a ball game and races and at night wrestling and boxing. We expect to have some day out of it. They are in the midst of haying over here and the work almost day and night. It looks so funny to see the women and girls working in the fields. I saw a ten year old boy and sickly looking swing the scythe all fore noon. I felt like going out and helping them. I am in a gun crew over here and like the work real well. One half the day we drill on the guns and on the other half we exercise the horses.

This is France's Independence day and I suppose in larger places there is a lot of excitement, but there isn't any here. Outside of a few flags flying it is not any different than any other Sunday to me.

Don Hawkins got a Downers Grove Reporter yesterday. It was dated May 31, but we read it all thru and thru. It is the first bit of news outside of Floyd's letters that I have heard since I came here and it did seem good to have the home news.

I received another letter from you today and I certainly was glad to get it. The weather is very hot here now. I am drilling on the guns everyday now and also on the gas masks.

Clifford W. Davenport.

GERMAN PRISONER FORMER CHICAGOAN

A. E. F. August 3, 1918

Dear Folks: Received a letter from Hazel a few days ago dated June 30th. We were away from our regular army camp at the time doing some railroad work. Half of the Company went one week, and half the other, and as Wells and I were in different sections, we didn't see each other for two weeks. I have not seen any of the other Downers Grove boys since we have been in France. Guess I will write Gardner a letter and see how he is coming.

We were working on that narrow gauge railroad that they use behind the lines to haul up supplies. They use about a 12 pound rail, small steam locomotives, flat cars and box cars of a nine ton capacity. They use gasoline power when they get up towards the front. This certainly simplifies the transportation problem, especially in bad weather as it takes a good many trucks to haul what one train

would haul. The track being of narrow gauge, it can be twisted around to avoid hills and run through woods without much work and in case a shell hits it, it is not much of a job to repair. Not a very large gang of us laid a mile and a half of track in a day. When we were back at the beginning of the line, it seemed good to be where it was quiet and to walk around without a gas mask. While we were there we walked a few miles and looked over an airfield and it was such an interesting sight as it was such a busy place. Squads of planes are going up and coming down all the time. They also had a movie and vaudeville show with an orchestra that would be a credit to a show in Chicago. They showed some English and some American films, and it seemed good to see some American scenery.

We were talking to some German prisoners the other day and they hardly believed we were American but thought we were Australians in American uniform. One of them had lived in Chicago for 12 years and could speak perfect English but wouldn't believe we were from the U. S. A. until we mentioned several of the streets in Chicago.

It still rains most of the time. Must close now and will write again later.

Edgar D. McCallum

THE WORLDS GREATEST SHOW

Schedule Of Special Days For The Chicago Exposition; Aviation, With Allied War Heroes A Big Feature

While the World's Greatest War Exposition is open in Grant Park, Chicago, the world's largest flag will float above the grounds. The exposition opening on Labor Day, will run two weeks, closing Sunday, September 15.

There is no longer any question about it being the greatest undertaking of its kind ever seen, for the show is open and speaks for itself. There are trophies and more trophies, all the panoply and implements of war, taken from the enemy. There are also all the allied implements of war, all of them from the big guns to rifles; from tanks to gas masks and trench knives. Also there are at the show the men who use the implements, American soldiers and sailors in force, with a sprinkling of uniforms of the allies, British, French, Belgian and Italian. These men will demonstrate the uses of the tools, big guns and little, gas masks and airplanes.

The flying machine part of the show will be one of its big features, and every phase of air fighting is to be illustrated before the show is ended. Not only will American aircraft be shown daily—in the air—but there are on the program flights by the cracks of the French, British and Italian air services who will use all kind of machines from the little and swift Bristols and Spads to the heavy Caproni bombers. One of the identical machines of the Italian Squadron under command of Gabriel D'Annunzio, which recently flew over Vienna and dropped pamphlets, will be here. It is now in the United States and on the way to Chicago.

Daily Thought.

And what is reason? Be she thus defined: Reason is upright stature in the soul.—Young.



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WE ARE HAVING AN EASY TIME

And If We Do Not Support Men Who Are Fighting We Are Not Worth Fighting For.

"Gee whiz," some fellows will say when they read the announcement that there is to be a drive for another Liberty Loan next month and several other little drives in the interim.

At that, we are having a mighty easy time doing our civilian share of the work of whipping the Kaiser. We should remember that it is not the American army and navy that is fighting the Hun—all America is in this war, and those of us who cannot go to the front can do what the powers-that-be ask us to do at home.

And no matter what these powers-that-be ask us to do, it's a much easier task than that of the American boys who are wading into lead and gas to chase the Germans off the face of the earth.

Sit down sometime, close your eyes and try to picture yourself in the trenches waiting to go over the top. Out there in the space between you and the barbarians of Europe, known as No Man's Land, you are soon to meet a horde of savages who will kill you unless you can prove that you are their master. In a few minutes you are going over the top to face them. Imagine, if you can, what you would think of the fellows in Mount Morris, if after you went over, you realized that your gun was absolutely useless because you had no ammunition—and that the fellows in Mount Morris who sent you to the trenches with enthusiastic promises to stick by you "till hades freezes over" had utterly failed you.

Gentle reader, your imagination cannot stretch to cover the picture, but your reason fairly shouts to you that if YOU were left in the lurch like THAT, you would not consider the people back home worth fighting for!—Mt. Morris Index.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I wish to announce that I have opened an office in the Lindley Building. Have had several years hospital experience and am prepared to serve the people of Downers Grove and vicinity.

E. F. Worsley M. D.

It gets no sore shoulders, its effort need only be limited by your requirements; as long as it gets fuel, oil and water it gives power. At the height of a busy season, you know what it means to you to have plenty of power so you can take advantage of every favorable hour. In the morning full power is available in a moment—no feeding, watering and harnessing to be done.

One man can handle a greater amount of power in a tractor than with horses. It is about all the average man wants to do to handle four horses when plowing or enough power to pull one or two plows. One man on a tractor can easily handle enough for three or four plows.

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Primaries, Sept. 11., 1918.

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I advocated the 1-cent fare for soldiers and sailors, which is now in effect, and gave my services without cost.

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