

# 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

### THERON POTTER GETS SOUVENIRS

France, August 11, 1918. My dear folks:

I am all in excitement about telling you what I did this morning. Last night I woke up by hearing the sound of an air battle supposedly right over us. Well, I wasn't awake enough to have the ambition of getting up. I was dozing off when some fellows nearby cheered and clapped their hands. Well, I was up in a second and walked on Laurie Rehm to wake him up and hollared, come on, at the same time. Well we just saw the tail end of a fight and saw the German airplane catch fire and come down to the ground at a terrific speed. Just imagine the funny feeling of seeing the monstrous aeroplane all aflame and coming down thru the air. We then saw a big flare that lighted up the whole country when it landed, for, of course, the crash would burst open the gasoline tanks and the gasoline catching fire made the big flare. Well, sorry to say, we didn't dress up and go over, it was four miles away, but we thought it was only a few blocks. After breakfast Laurie and another postal clerk named Johnson, and myself started over there. My goodness we never imagined it was or could be so far for we could hear the awful whirring of the machine falling. We kept on going thru the fields and finally about nine o'clock we saw a crowd of soldiers, probably 50 or more so we hustled up and got there to see them all crowded around a dead German, and going thru his pockets for souvenirs. He was an awful looking sight—for every bone in his body was broken and blood coming out of his mouth, nose, eyes and ears. We learned that he had fallen from the machine. We saw another crowd about a block away and went there to see the machine and it certainly was a sight. Just think, it was the biggest German machine and the first of its type that the Allies had brought down. It carried eight Germans and was propelled by five engines. Can you imagine a machine of that size? They did not know how big it was in feet, but some they have captured with only four engines in them are 142 feet wide, from one end of the wings to the other, and 94 feet from tail to propeller. You can believe then that this was at least 150 feet wide, if not more.

When the machine fell it turned over and over and five men were thrown out and scattered around in the wheat field. Three of the men were in the machine all the way down but were burned to a roast. This was a German bombing machine and had already dropped a number of bombs before being attacked, however, it still had three monstrous bombs left in it and only one of the three exploded when it landed; the other two were laying about 30 to 50 feet from the ruins, the flying debris was over a patch of wheat field covering about 10 acres; some parts of machinery weighing 10 to 15 pounds were a block away from where the machine landed. The three Germans that were with the machine were all burned up; their feet were burned off and hands and head; their teeth were there and quite a little of the meat was clinging to the bones. I scraped around and found a 25 cent piece under one German. I picked up lots of parts of different things. We then went around and saw a couple of fellows running to another spot where they had located another body. We ransacked their pockets and some of the fellows got watches and all kinds of souvenirs. These fellows that were thrown out, of course, were not burned, so their clothes and everything

in them were just the way they landed. I got a 20 mark note, I am going to enclose it. It is worth \$4.68 in our money and I was offered ten dollars for it. Don't lose it for the love of Mike as it is quite a souvenir. I will also enclose a French franc, worth about 17.6 cents, and a half a franc, worth about nine cents.

Everybody is asking us all kinds of questions about the whole affair. One Lieut. has just finished asking me how to get there. I can't explain to you just how everything looked so that you could picture it, but it is a sight I shall never forget. There were about five of our machines after him. One reason that the Germans escape so often is because they have a respirator that enables them to breathe at a much greater height than the Allies can go, therefore they can climb up around the stars some place and get away. This fellow came down a couple of thousand feet from the ground to bomb troops and a squadron of Allies attacked it. They were all sides of him and under him and above him. One fellow in back pumped inflammable bullets at it and set it on fire. The Germans sure died an awful death. Laurie was luckier than I was. He got a fifty mark note and sold it to Major Henderson for \$15.00. Its value is only \$11.70 in our money.

I have a broken piece of propeller and a piece of the wings that I will wrap up and send.

If Pa will look carefully at the piece of French money I am sending he will tell you something you might like to know.

Well I have to go with the wagon and teamster to draw our Nations every afternoon at 2 o'clock. Tomorrow will see us on the hike for a different place. We will live in dugouts after tonight. I'll probably see lots more excitement than I saw this morning before you see this letter.

Best regards to everybody and love to you all.

Theron (Potter)

### ALBERT MEYER WANTS REPORTER IN ITALY

Porto Corsini, Italy, Aug. 3, 1918. Dear Folks:

I received your letter and thought I would answer right away. I am in a different place now and is very nice although the mosquitoes almost eat you up. We had a very fine trip here from Pauillac Gironde, France but I caught a cold the first day we started. I was one of the train guards and am in the guards here. The first night after we arrived here passed alright, the second night we had a little excitement, old Fritz came over and paid us a visit. I sure was excited, it makes one feel funny to hear the shrapnel singing in the air. We took shelter the best we could. I suppose Downers Grove is the same old place. Please don't forget to send me some of the addresses of the Downers Grove boys. I have received about a half a dozen Reporters. Thank Mr. Staats for them and give him my new address.

I think this is all for this time for I have to be on guard from twelve to four, so you see I will have to get a little sleep.

Best regards to all. Answer soon.

Albert Joseph Meyer.

### LIEUTENANT T REID IN FIRST BATTLE. WINS

In the Field.

Dearest Mother:  
Have not very much time to write now because of my duties but today is a holiday and we are all off. Some are going into a village but I shall stay at home and write you a letter.

Well, I have wonderful news to convey. Yesterday I went over lines and got my first Hun. It was very easy but the fact is I was more sick than happy. I got the poor devil in flames—it was rather an awful sight. I have been over a few times now and feel quite at home, even under anti-aircraft fire (Arehie), and we get plenty. It rather hurts the morale at first. First comes the "Wouff! Wouff!" and you feel like nothing on earth. So far I have had only three bullets in my machine and I feel rather bucked, although old men have had none.

France and the life out here is wonderful. We live in an orchard and wait for nothing. Fine fellows all, some with more Huns than I have fingers and toes, but they say nothing and that begets respect. 73 squadron is a dandy and I'm proud to be a member. How I will settle down to work in an office when it is over (and of course if I'm lucky enough to pull through) I don't know.

All night the guns roar only a short distance away and the flashes light up the whole sky. We are on the old ground long since fought over time and again—not pretty at all, I'll tell you, but our orchard is not touched. Only our Mess had to be rebuilt on account of a shell coming to close.

Well, dearest I must close but will write again soon. With all my love to you and the family.

Your loving son,  
Gordon (Reid)

### RAY GRENIER IN U. S. ARSENAL

U. S. Arsenal, Rock Island, Ill. My dear parents:

Your letter of recent date received. Am glad you all have good health and thank God that I enjoy the same, health, so far as health is concerned. The service flag I sent under separate cover was handed to me by the Commanding Officer here and came from Washington. Regarding same you will please follow the orders attached. Much as I would like to pay you a visit, it is altogether out of the question. There are no furloughs here. We are working seven days a week and overtime turning out toys that will make every enemy of Liberty and democracy play ball or get off the diamond.

Working conditions here are ideal. Uncle Sam is a strict but considerate boss. Everything here moves with military precision. Every officer, as well as department executives and foremen are men of unusual ability and exceedingly well versed in every detail of the workings of this immense institution.

I am sure it must be a great satisfaction to our commanding officer to know his efforts and those of his aids are appreciated by the great number of workers who accept their tasks and perform their duties as becomes American citizens imbued with patriotic zeal and sentiment.

While this is a nice town, I want to tell you that to me the fields are not quite as green, the trees not quite as majestic as they are in my home town.

Hoping to hear from you soon I remain,

Your loving son,  
Ray (Grenier)

### WAGONER ROCHE SOUTHERN FRANCE

August 7th, 1918.

Dear Father and Mother:

I am writing you a few lines to let you know that I am fine and lanky. We have been so busy that I have not had a chance to write. I was on the road for three weeks after trucks and did not have any paper to write on. I was all through the southern part of France and even in Paris. Most of our work is done at night and we sometimes are out for forty-eight hours and then we are in for three days. The nearest I have been to the firing line was three miles.

We can receive all the letters that are written to us. I have received about ten letters since I have been in France. We are sleeping in houses over here and have better eats than we had in the States. We have a good truck and one never has to be afraid of being stuck.

When it rains it keeps it up for a week at a time.

P. S. We are in a place now that the Germans were in a few weeks ago. In the last three weeks the Americans drove the Germans back nearly fifty miles and are sleeping in houses that the French were driven out of.

How is Margaret and the rest of the brothers and sisters. Tell them I was asking of them. I have a truck assigned to me and I draw \$40.80 a month now. I am what they call a wagoner. Tell Francis to find out what company some of the boys from Downers are in and I will try and find them.

One cannot tell everything because a German might get a hold of it.

Your loving son,  
Chas. H. Roche.

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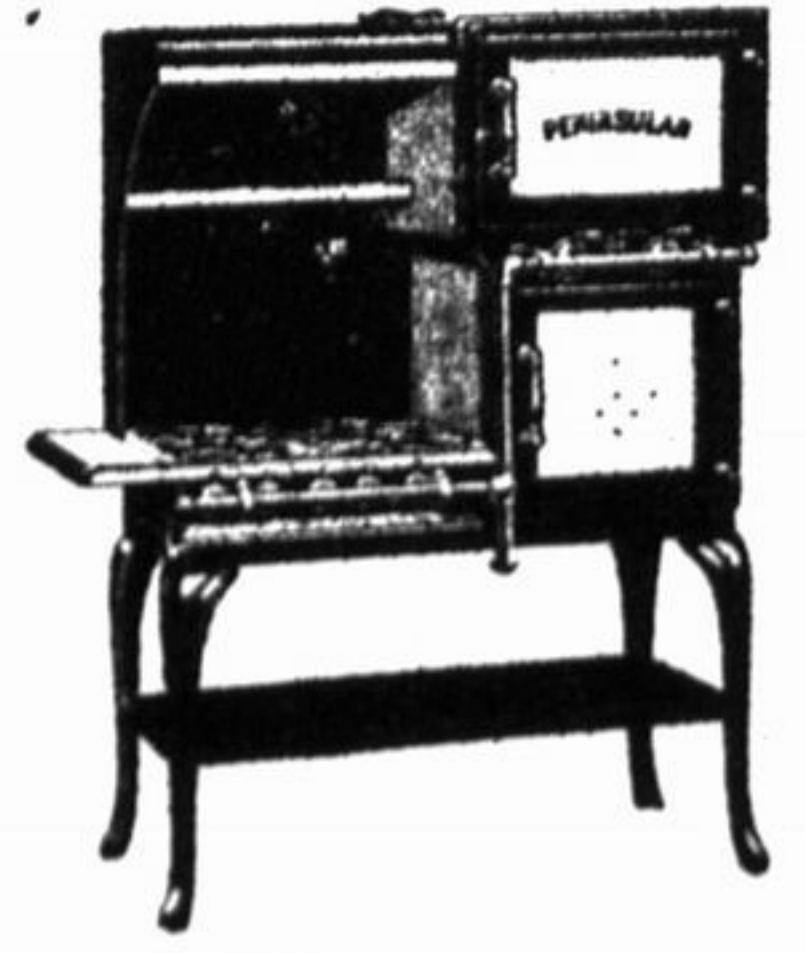
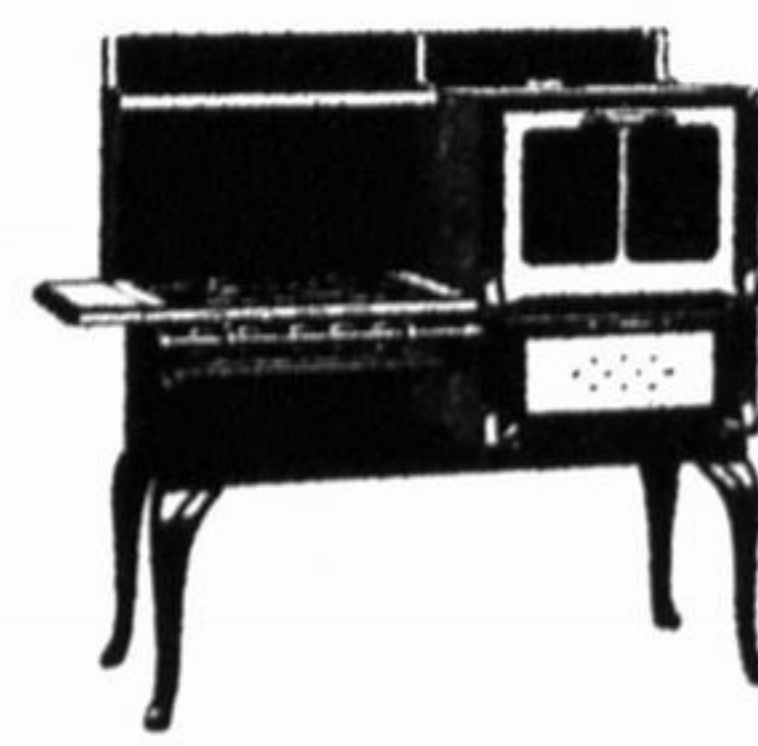
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## NOT WILL YOU BUY? BUT HOW MANY WILL YOU BUY?

It is An Obligation of Citizenship to Subscribe to the Fourth Liberty Loan, So Be Ready

Have you made up your mind yet how many Liberty Bonds you can buy when the big drive starts Saturday, September 28?

If you haven't, it is time to begin some careful thinking. The Government expects you to buy, and to buy just as heavily as you can.

The nation—to carry on the war and maintain its existence—needs each individual's money. It needs every cent each individual can spare, by living close and cutting out luxuries.

It is an obligation of citizenship for all to subscribe—not merely as camouflage to get their names on the list, but to dig deep into their bank accounts, the hidden stockings and even the baby's bank.

So do your thinking about it now and be ready to put your name down when the drive starts.

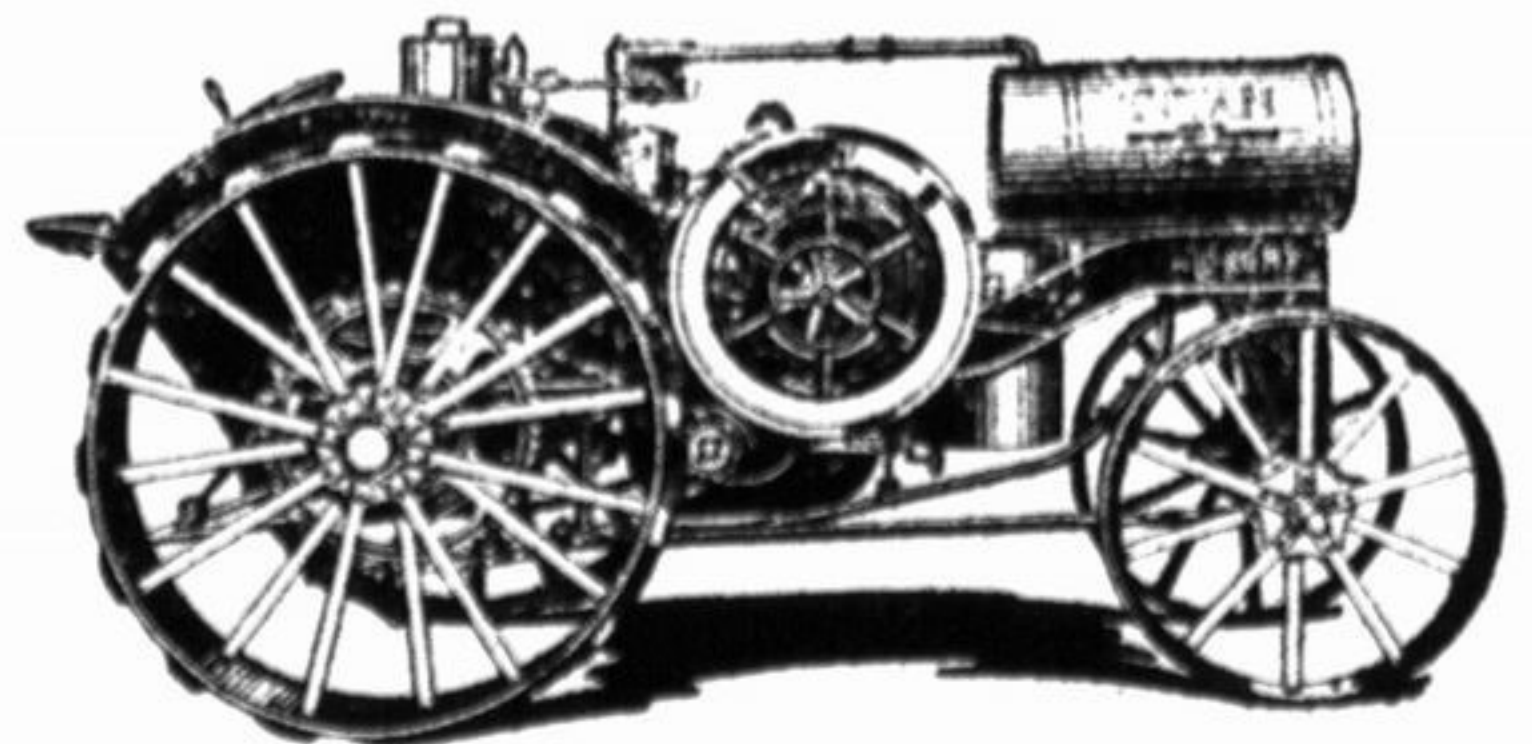
## THE COLORED AMERICANS

In commuting the death sentences of 10 or 16 colored soldiers convicted in the courts-martial growing out of the Houston, Texas, riots some time over a year ago, President Wilson says:

"I desire the clemency here ordered to be a recognition of the splendid loyalty of the race to which these soldiers belong and an inspiration to the people of that race to further zeal and service to the country of which they are citizens, and for the liberties of which so many of them are now bravely bearing arms at the very front of the great fields of battle."

It is believed that the action of the President, especially with his reason given for his clemency, will meet with the approval of the American people.

The colored Americans as a race have proved their loyalty as soldiers, as workers, and as citizens generally. There are no exact figures of the amount of Liberty Loan Bonds and War Savings Stamps they have purchased but enough is known to warrant the statement that according to their means and ability their financial support of the Government



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.

### Titan 10-20 Causes No Injurious Soil Packing.

Because of the large diameter and wide face of the drive wheels, the Titan 10-20 has a pressure of but 11 pounds per square inch on the soil. As compared with this, a 170-pound man wearing a No. 8 shoe creates a pressure of 14 pounds per square inch, while a 1,400-pound horse pulling a load creates a pressure varying from 18 to 33 pounds per square inch.

Of 110 owners of tractors in the Northwest, 101 say the tractor does not pack the soil.

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has been splendid. The Treasury Department has on more than one occasion referred to this fact. The President's action above mentioned, it is believed and hoped, will bring a hearty response from the colored Americans in the Fourth Loan.

## WHAT THE LIBERTY LOAN HAS BOUGHT FOR THE ARMY

From the beginning of the war to June 30, 1918, the last day of the past fiscal year, contracts were placed by the Ordnance Department of the United States totaling \$4,300,000,000. The estimate for the current year is over \$7,000,000,000. The major items of last year were as follows:

Artillery, \$1,050,000,000; automatic rifles, \$300,000,000; small arms, \$100,000,000; artillery ammunition, \$1,900,000,000; small arms ammunition, \$340,000,000; small arms ammunition (practice), \$80,000,000; stores and supplies (personal, horse and organization), \$230,000,000; armored motor cars, \$100,000,000; total, \$4,100,000,000.

Some other expenditures by the War Department were \$375,000,000 for en-

gineering operations, mostly in France \$37,000,000 for flour, \$145,000,000 for sugar, \$43,000,000 for bacon, \$12,000,000 for beans, \$9,000,000 for tomatoes, \$2,000,000 for rice, \$47,500,000 for rolling kitchens, \$127,000,000 for shoes, \$565,000,000 for clothing; for blankets, \$147,000,000.

Some smaller expenditures were over \$6,000,000 for axes, \$1,635,000 for field stores, \$2,700,000 for carpenter, and \$224,000 for blacksmith tools, \$2,500,000 for shovels.

The department has bought 266,000 wagons and carts, costing \$37,000,000; and 410,000 horses and mules, costing \$99,000,000; food for them cost \$62,000,000, and harness \$29,000,000.

These are only some of the figures. They seem large, but not so large when it is remembered that we have nearly 2,000,000 men in France and almost as many in training here at home. All of this money and all the other money raised by the Liberty loans goes to make our Army, our Navy, and our people powerful and victorious in their war for freedom and right.

"We've got the men, we've got the ships, and we've the money, too."