

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

ART SCHLAUDER WITH 10th F. A.

Excerpts from letters written by Art Schlauder to his mother. Somewhere in France Aug. 26, 1918. Dearest Mother:

This is Monday Morning and my truck repaired once more, after working on it for three days at the repair station. Yes, I was in that big drive in July and ready to go to the front again. I lost all my clothes, everything I had, but what I had on, I just came back from taking a load of soldiers down to the bath house, and there we received new outfits again. The Dutch have been pretty quiet today and they are all headed for home. Ha! Ha! I hope they will all land in the Rhine river. I suppose they will sooner or later. They are retreating at a great pace now, we will do the rest. I haven't been able to run into any of the home boys yet. But probably will when I'm not expecting to. Well, the old 10th F. A. are surely doing their bit. I noticed in the last Reporter that it stated that I was transferred to Field Artillery, some mistake somewhere. I have been in the 10th F. A. Battery H and D ever since I enlisted, sixteen months ago. As you know, just had my mail sent to Headquarters Company, as I was transferred to that while driving a truck. The Field Artillery consists of six Batteries, one Headquarters and one Supply Company. Tell Mr. Staats, if you get a chance too, so he will understand.

I saw General Pershing Saturday. He sure is a fine looking man. Well, Mother, some of the boys were talking to a wounded German, just captured, and he said that the war would not last long. They have boys 14 and 15 years old in their lines, on the "firing line."

I saw an Infantryman come in this morning with four German pistols in his belt, that looked good to us. He must have went over the top to get them. Just cheer up Mother, better days are coming and we will all be home for Christmas dinner. September 1st.

Just came back from a swell dinner. I'll tell you what it was. Lamb, potatoes, sliced tomatoes, apple pie and coffee, how's that, good?

Received letters from you today. I write to you two or three times a week and when busy once a week sure. I certainly hope you receive them. I received several other letters and magazines and am sending you a clipping out of one, the Downers Post. I think it pretty good.

We were aroused by a funny noise this morning, evidently a new bugler. It sounded like an old auto horn. One of the fellows stuck his head out of his tent, and hollered "hang it on a tree and let the wind blow it."

Last night one of the boys and myself went over to the Italian Aviation camp and we had a dandy ride, not very far nor very high, but it was a ride just the same, and we are going again next week. While out with the truck today I saw something I never expected to see and that was the home "Joan of Arc" was born in and the church that was built in 1412. That surely is a long time ago. But it does not look that old. In front of it to the right, is a monument of her father and to the left, her mother and inside are three beautiful paintings of "Joan of Arc." I noticed one in particular and that was where they were burning her to the stake. I studied that for a long time. As many other people who were there did. The church is on a big hill and has a steeple about 200 feet high and can be seen for miles around. There is a monument of her also in the middle of the room, her house is just a common

I took the train out about 3 p. m. for Genoa and arrived there at noon, just too late to make my connections for Rome so I had to stay over and with the aid of the American Consul and American Red Cross I found out when I could get a train on for Rome and then went to a hotel and learned that some U. S. boys were camped in Genoa. After inquiring I found out it was Ambulance and that it was the bunch that played "Good by Bill" in the States. Well I began to get excited and so in the morning I was directed to the camp and walked in and asked for the boys, Dick and Ed. Well, they told me they were over in the garage working so I went over and saw Ed, walking over toward one of the cars. You can imagine how I felt about 2000 miles from little old D. G. and here was one of its boys. We then walked over to see Dick and found him on guard. We waited for him to be relieved and of course no relief, but it came at last. We went over to their tents and met the rest of the boys. Wadell from Hinsdale and the other fellows from Chicago and I had dinner with them. At noon the mail came in and of course the Reporter came and we all gathered around and read the news from old Downers Grove.

In the afternoon we all went for a swim and while we were away from camp an Italian Aviator dropped some papers on the camp which were welcoming the boys from across the sea who had come to help them. Well, we got back from our swim and had supper and then went up town. The boys took me around the town and then we separated. I got the train for Rome and the boys went back to camp.

Well I arrived at Rome the next morning and reported to Headquarters and found out I could not leave until the next day so that afternoon I took in the sights of Rome, St. Peter's, and the Coliseum and other points of interest and left the next evening for Ravenna arriving the following morning and then arrived at my station to find another surprise. After I had turned my papers over to the O. D. I was going up to the Barracks with my grip and some one says "Hello, Griff" and I turned about like a shot to see Albert Meyers and we talked about Downers Grove again. I found out from him that he was in the reception the enemy gave on the second night he was here and a week later they celebrated my arrival with another reception but that was all and they have received my invitation but I guess they do not care to come now.

Will close now with best wishes to all. Owen H. Griffith.

F. A. DAWES NAMED IN Y. M. C. A. WORK

F. A. Dawes, former Downers Grove resident, in "overseas" Y. M. C. A. work, has thrilling experience in recent battle of Saint Mihiel.

The following cable received by the War Department of the "Y", tells of his gallant service and the valuable work rendered by the Y. M. C. A. organization behind the lines.

Some fifteen years ago Mr. Dawes organized and was Captain of the "Drill Corps", a military organization of the young men of our village which brought out the fine military spirit of the boys at the time. He was at the same time drill master of a young ladies "Drill Corps" which attained real success, and evidently he foresaw the excellent part women would play in the day of test of true soldierly spirit and patriotism, as gleaned from the following cable.

Paris, Sept. 23, 1918. Cable File No. 674 -

R. Barton, Divisional Chief of Staff, sends following to John Steen, head of YMCA work that Division: Division Commander desires me to express his appreciation of the particularly valuable service that YMCA rendered during recent operation against Saint Mihiel salient. You have furnished aid and comfort to American soldiers throughout trying experiences last few days and in accomplishing this worthy mission have spared in nothing. Division Commander wishes to thank you for Division and himself Chief Staff.

Marjorie Skelding, Southberg, Conn. Mabel Stillwell, Wilmington, Del., Dorothy Francis, Westfield, N. J., made ten thousand doughnuts before attack distributed free to troops, during attack worked in advance dressing stations bathing wounded, distributing cigarettes and hot drinks. Many YMCA men stretcher bearers, drivers advanced with regiment. YMCA drivers rushed over shell torn roads following advance providing tons of supplies for free distribution. YMCA provided distribution for cigarettes, hot biscuits with jam, hot chocolate, from Red Cross rolling kitchens. YMCA divisional organization supplied free to each soldier before attack, four packages of cigarettes, two bars chocolate, one package of matches, chewing tobacco, during drive distributed to wounded and to men returning. 17000 packages of cigarettes, 4

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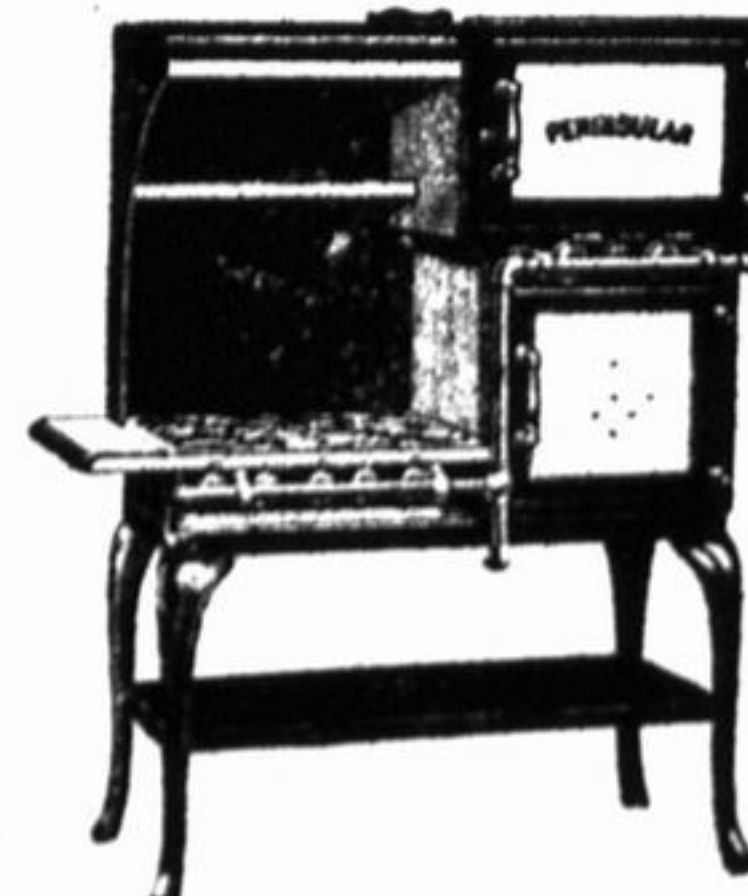
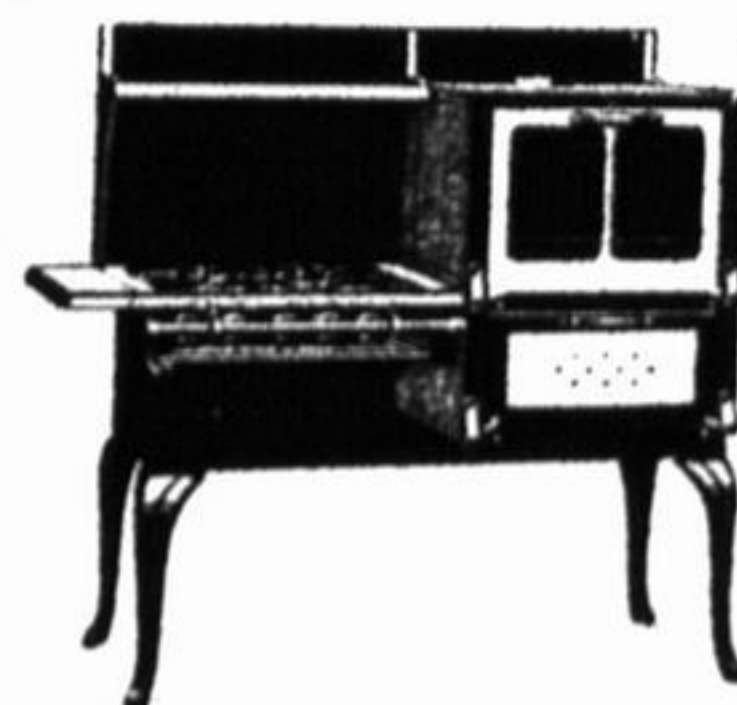
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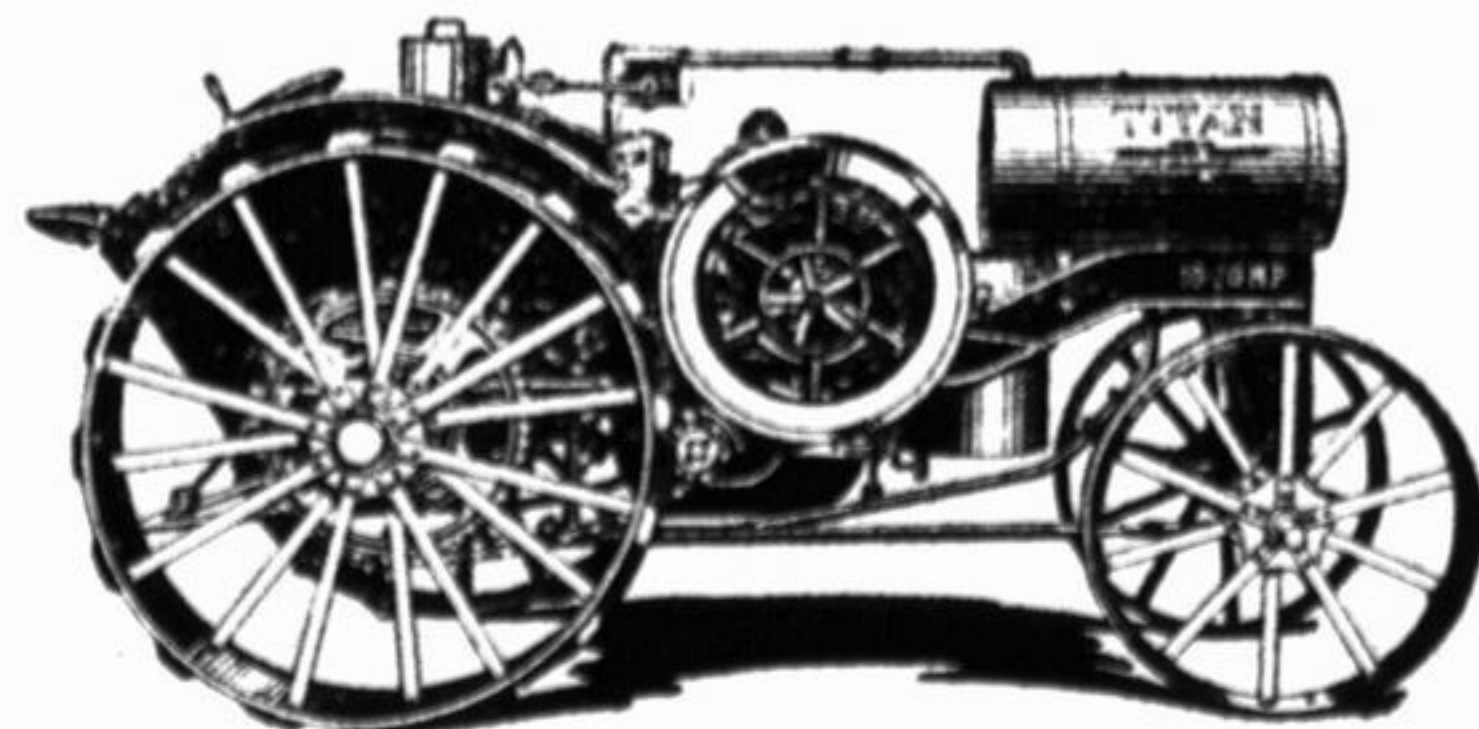


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Most of the cars have flat wheels. This is not a railroad outfit I am with so I don't get much of a chance to see our line of work. What I've told you about railroads is just what I've seen from time to time, traveling from one place to another. In regards to the coal they use here, it's alright to use for not making smoke but not worth a dam for steam. They compress screening into bricks and use slice bar to turn it over, you know, just like using Pocahontas coal. Well, so much for that.

We have been into the front line several times and did some work in no man's land such as stringing barbed wire and digging saps and things like that. I was up to the front the night before last when Fritz shot over a bunch of mustard gas. We had to work in our gas masks so you can imagine all the fun we are having. In most cases the boys would rather go over the bags than wear their masks for ten minutes. Fritz is pretty much scared right now an according to all the dope we can get here, the war won't last until Christmas. In fact, everybody is betting that way on this side of the pond. I'll be able to tell you a whole lot more when I get back because you know the censors are kind of particular what we write. There is one hing I can say

land that is that Sherman was right. If you could see some of the towns I've seen you would wonder how anything could live thru it. We are pretty close to one of the principal cities of France and the only thing left of it is the ground it was built on and that's full of shell holes. Well Ed, I will have to quit now as we are going to move again and I have to get my pack ready. Robert E. Elliott. (This letter was written to Mr. Constantine by a friend of his in France.)

How Farmers' Clubs Can Help. Meetings of the Grange and Farmers' clubs in rural communities should be utilized for the purpose of stirring up enthusiasm for the Liberty loan. The war which is now being brought home to all of us in the daily casualty lists will be the chief topic of interest, and it will be an easy matter to turn the discussions to the necessity and duty of participating in the war work by buying Liberty Loan bonds.

A Double Saving. Money invested in Liberty bonds not only insures quick assets when most needed with a good monetary return if held to maturity, but after the war the buying power will be greatly enhanced, making a double saving.

DESCRIBES FRENCH RAILROADS

July 25, 1918.

Friend Ed: Received your letter and am glad to know you thought of writing and giving me dope about Downers Grove. Well, Ed this neck of the woods isn't what its cracked up to be and this sure is a bum war. We've been here two months now and haven't killed a German so you see business is dropping off.

About the best joke of the season is the French R. R. It sure is funny. The biggest engine I've seen yet is about the size of the old slide valve engines we used to have on the Riverside runs.

Every time we move by railroad they shove us into some of their side door pullmans which have a capacity of eight horses and forty men. The cars are about twenty feet long, so you can imagine forty men trying to sleep in one car. They only use air on some o. their first class trains and then they don't know how to use it.