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 m truck repaired once more, after work ing on it for three days at the re pair 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 | Dear Mrs. Keiser: I was transferred to Field Artillery, was transferred to that while driving you brought them. a truck. The Field Artillery consists Please accept my most hearty

he will understand. "firing line."

I saw an Infantryman come in this Service Flag for me. them. Just cheer up Mother, better which enables the boys at the front the same time drill master of a young plies. Made beef into hamburger days are coming and we will all be to so bravely and happily serve their ladies "Drill Corps" which attained steak, served hot meals to hundreds. home for Christmas dinner. September 1st.

Just came back from a swell din- fires burning in their hearts. potatoes, sliced tomatoes, apple pic titude, I remain, 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 Denver Post, I think it pretty good.

We were aroused by a funny noise It son ifed like an old auto horn. One ter qualifying at Montchie, I was sent can soldiers throughout trying experof the fellows stuck his head out of

tree and let the wind blow it." self went over to the Italian Aviation Ravenna. the right, is a monument of her father al of the old rooms of the castle but vers rushed over shell torn roads fol. The biggest engine I've seen yet is imagine all the fun we are having. and to the left, her mother and in- none of the new part because the lowing advance providing tons of sup- about the size of the old slide valve In most cases the boys would rather side are three beautiful paintings of Prince lives in it. "Joan of Arc." I noticed one in par- After leaving Monte Carlo I came provided distribution for cigarettes, ticular and that was where they were back to Niece and took the train on hot biscuits with jam, hot crocofate, Every time we move by railroad ty much scared right now an accordence to Loan bonds. burning her to the stake. I studied to the border of France and had my from Red Cross rolling kitchens, they shove us into some of their side ing to all the dope we can get here, that for a long time. As many other baggage looked over and was let ac- YMCA divisional organization suppli- door pullmans which have a capacity the war won't last until Christmas. people who were there did. The church cross and checked in Italy at Venti- ed free to each soldier before attack, of eight horses and forty men. The In fact, everybody is betting that way is on a big hill and has a steeple mille. This was the first Italian city four packages of cigarettes, two bars cars are about twenty feet long, so on this side of the pond. I'll be able about 200 feet high and can be seen and so I got my money changed from chocolate, one package of ma ches, you can imagine forty men tryng to to tell you a whole lot more when I for miles around. There is a monu- francs to lives and met some English chewing tobacco, during drive distri- sleep in one car. They only use air get back because you know the cenroom, her house is just a common someone I could talk to.

two story building, just a mile from the Cathedral. Everything is written in French, so I was at a loss there to understand. There were many paintings and pictures and old coins and books and under the stairway in the church, sat an old lady selling souvenics. I hope I will have a chance to go again soon. I do wish I could tell you of some of the experiences I had while at the front. I will tell you of one incident but will save the rest until I get home, I suppose Lillian has grown so I won't know her when I get back, but it won't take long to get acquainted, will it?

Well it is time to make up my bunk in the truck now. Remember me to friends and will close with lots of love to all and a kiss for you

> As ever. Art Schlauder,

FRANKLIN HULING

It was quite a surprise to me for to come now. some mistake somewhere. I have been Mrs. Austin to call you on the telein the 10th F. A. Battery B and D phone in regard to the local Red Cross all. ever since I enlisted, sixteen months Society fitting me out with a sweaago. As you know, just had my mail ter, socks, wristlets and "Ditty" Bag, sent to Headquarters Company, as I and a more pleasant surprise when

six Batteries, one Headquarters thanks for yourself and all the mentand one Supply Company. Tell Mr. bers of the Red Cross in Downers F. A. Dawes, former Downers Staats, if you get a chance too, so Grove. This is where I spent my boy. Grove resident, in "overseas" Y. M. ing car full of cocoa, got ahead of hood days and my folks lived there C. A. work, has thrilling experience I saw General Pershing Saturday. for 25 years, and the gift of these in recent battle of Saint Mihiel. He sure is a fine looking man, Well. most useful things, and the fact they. The following cable received by the Mother, some of the boys were talk- were made by Downers Grove people, War Department of the "Y", tells of ing to a wounded German, just cap- will only serve to further endear to his gallant service and the valuable tured, and he said that the war would me the town and people of Downers work rendered by the Y. M. C. A. ornot last long. They have boys 14 and Grove. I feel highly honored that my ganization behind the lines. 15 years old in their lines, on the sister, Mrs. Littleford, has been ask. Some fifteen years ago Mr. Dawes kitchens got up. Ten thousand 'lons

Sincerely yours,

OWEN GRIFFITHS

Dear Mr. Staats:

down here to Porto Corsini. Well I iences last few days and in accomhis ten, and hollered "hang it on a had a splendid trip down here seeing plishing this worthy mission have on my way Borddeaux, Marsailles, spared in nothing, Division Comman-

very far nor very high, but it was a I went over to the Principality of the Mabel Stillwell, Wimington, Del. ride just the same, and we are going Prince of Monaco, at Monte Carlo, Dorothy Francis, Westfield, N. J. again next week. While out with the and saw the Casino where all of the made ten thousand doughnuts before truck today I saw something I never gambling is done, etc. and then went attack distributed free to troops, durexpected to see and that was the over to the Palace and went thru it. ing attack worked in advance dressing home "Joan of Arc" was born in and They have different rooms there like stations bathing wounded, distributthe church that was built in 1412. That the Red Room with everything red ing eigarettes and hot drinks. Many surely is a long time ago. But it does wall paper, etc. and then an orange YMCA men stretcher bearers, others not look that old. In front of it to room and etc. they took us thru sever- advanced with regiment. YMCA dri-

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 direced 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 af the boys. Wadeli 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 swint 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 seperated, I got the train for Rome and the boys went

Well I arrived at Rome the next morning and reported to Headquarters and found out I could not leave unto the next day so that afternoon I took in the sights of Rome, St. Peters, and the Coliseum and other point. 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 say-"Hello, Griff" and I turned about his 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 Day or Night THANKS RED CROSS week later they celebrated my arrival with another reception but that was October 5th, 1918 all and they have received my invi tation but I guess they do not care thousand packages of biscuits, four

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

ed to sew a star on the Downers Grove organized and was Captain of the given away from this point. Work "Drill Corps", a military organization done under shell fire. David Martin, morning with four German pistols in It is the brilliant loyalty and the of the young men of our village which YMCA Pittsburg, advancing with his his belt, that looked good to us. He unselfish service of those who are brought out the fine military spirit regiment came upon German kitchen must have went over the top to get "Keeping the Home Fires Burning", of the boys at the time. He was at with quarter of beef and other supcountry and all humanity. As Chap- real success, and evidently he fore- F. A. Dawes, Newark, N. J., YMCA lain I will seek to keep the home saw the excellent part women would working in advanced hospital moved play in the day of test of true sol- supplies to front on returning ambuser. I'll tell you what it was. Lamb. Again assuring you of my deep gra- dierly spirit and patriotism, as glean- lances, worked along fighting lines ed from the following cable.

Franklin G. Huling. Cable File No. 674 --

Staff, sends following to John Steen, late, thousands or gallons of hot drinks TRIP TO ITALY head of YMCA work that Division; and had several hundred workers on Division Commander desires me to this front, advanced with troops and Porto Corsini, Italy, express his appreciation of the par- served in manifold ways, Sept. -st, 1918, ticularly valuable service that YMCA rendered during recent operation a-Just a few lines to let you know gainst Saint Mihiel salient. You have this r coming, evidently a new bugler, of my doings and whereabouts, Af- furnished aid and comfort to Ameri- DESCRIBES FRENCH Last night one of the boys and my- Niece. Monte Carlo, Genoa, Rome and der wishes to thank you for Division and himself Chief Staff.

camp and we had a dandy ride, not I had a stop over at Niece and so Marjorie Skelding, Southberg, Conn. plies for free distribution. YMCA engines we used to have on the River- go over the bags than wear their

thousand boxes of matches, five thou-Will close now with best wishes to sand cigars. When troops replaced. half million cigarettes, quarter mil-Owen H. Griffith, lion cookies, distributed free, YMCA trucks were placed at disposal of army and used to carry wounded to hospitals. Edward Hobart, Chicago, in charge YMCA with another division. with Maud Radford Warren, Chicago started just behind advance with tour ammunition trains convey, found German rolling kitchen, established it just behind lines, made hot chocolate all night after night, carried to various companies in thermos kettles. For two days the only hot food available for wet weary troops, until army tossing packages to soldiers in shell Paris, Sept. 23, 1918, holes, YMCA covered every major unit in fight, giving away millions B. Bartom, Divisional Chief of of cigarettes, biscuits, cakes, choco-

(Signeri) Towers

July. 25, 1918

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 have'nt killed a German so you see business is drop-

is the French R. R. It sure is funny. to work in our gas masks so you can

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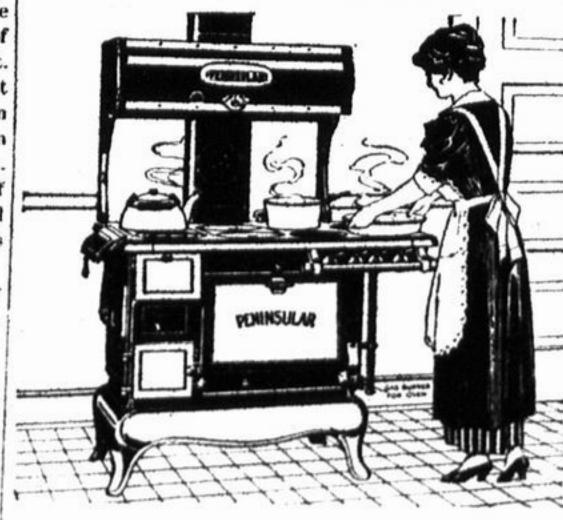
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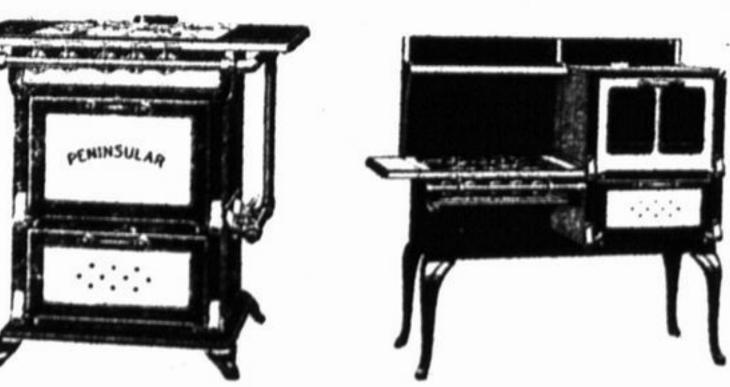
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Most of the ears have flat wheel. This is not a railroad outfit I am with see our line of work. What I've told. you about railroads is just what I've seen from time to time, traveling RAILROADS from one place to another. In regards to the coal they use here, its alright that's full of shell holes. to use for not making smoke but not worth a dam for steam. They compress screening into bricks and use have to get my pack ready. slice bar to turn it over, you know. just like using Pocohontas 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 About the best joke of the season over a bunch of mustard gas. We had masks for ten minutes. Fritz : pretment of her also in the middle of the soldiers and say, I was glad to meet buted to wounded and to men return- on some on their first class trains and sors are kind of particular what we ing, 17000 packages of cigarettes, 4 then they don't know how to use it. write. There is one hing I can say ly enhanced, making a double saving.

land that is that Sherman was right. If you could see some of the towns on I don't get much of a chance to 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

Well Ed. I will have to quit now as we are going to move again and I

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 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 participat ing in the war work by buying Lib-

A Double Saving.

Money invested in Liberty bonds not only insures quick assets when most needed with a good monetary return if held to meturity, but after the war the buying power will be great-