Downers Grove Reporter

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"And The Star Spangled Banner Forever Shall Wave, time with it now. O'er The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave."



LETTERS FROM DOWNERS GROVE SOLDIER BOYS

HUGH WYLLIE TELLS EXPERIENCES WITH MARINES

My dear Mr. Staata:

within six months after same was de-foune three miles distant. clared.

we stopped, thru the sunny South. The lies work, cotton fields were in full bloom and One session I had was a twenty- time. Still as a matter of fact, exper-

Dixon line or had seen a Jim Crow car on a train but the quility of the colored population seems to me to be even more marked in the Eastern Southern states than west of the Misaissippi. The lumber district of Georgia and South Carolina was very interesting and one could smell the odor of the panes on all sides, Everybody seems to take life easy and evidence lands we passed. During our trip we went thru (amp Hancock and the of what was coming on Paris Island.

They amused themselves with tales of what the Leatherneck training was as compared to the army schedule. I might mention that we were consolidated at Atlanta o h seventy seven other recruits or applicants as they call them and from thereon we were having a joyous time in charge of two recruiting officers (not drilled Marines) however our sport was short lived as a real Leatherneck detailed politan crowd to be sure. for the purpose of initiating us with Book Marine Life boarded the train and put the fear of the Brig into us if we didn't do just as he said and double quick. This chap gave us orders to tie our handkerchiefs around our faces to keep down the Flu. to sit one in a scat, keep our heads out of the windows, converse with no outsiders, keep in our cars as well as our rounds of ammunition as well as a physique rarely seen.

Any fool could see that we were up against the real thing. Upon arrival at Port Royal we embarked aboard boats to cross the Sound to Paris Island where we were to learn the fine art of the Devil Dogs in the killing of men. We were handled on the dock in rough and tumble methods and the language used was full of pet names of the Marine Corps such as you dope, you cock-eyed- mule, you plow-pusher and others stronger but behind it all was a tone of good fellowship and the voice of a man such as has made Dear Folks:

the service famous the world over. or more from other points and were tons beside some other material. examined that night when landing for now have working a force of 40 nethe Flu, while two poor fellows who groes, 30 Chinese and 20 French we were knocked off the dock onto some use as truckers. It sure is some job piling fifteen feet below were taken to keep things moving. Had a strike to the hospital for treatment.

Then we marched about two miles the explaining afterwards. with our bundles to the detention camp where we received our supper in our fine new warehouse, one of the at 10.00 p. m., got blankets and were best in France, built of cement and assigned to Bunk Houses. The next strong enough to stand for centuries, morning we were awakened by the It is 100x250 feet long, four stories liness.

hughe at 5:00 a. m. and were greeted stamping ground for a day or two. by others who had come in the day Have just returned from a trip to the before probably by "you'll like it." front where we are patting in a ser-This, one hears even yet when mostly um which we hope will protect againon a masty job. Following our first at gas gangrene. Arrendy I have been Paris Island, S. C. night's sleep we were kept busy get- over much of our front and as far period -Oxfordshire -2651; acres. November 11, 1918. ling our outfits and learning the du- forward as the first aid stations. It ties of a Marine in keeping up his i. all quite exciting and likewise very In accordance with my promise to clothes, bunk etc. While at the despecially i am surry for the write you regarding my experiences tention camp we were re-examined boys that get their wounds off in with the "Leathern " ks" Marines will physically and the unfits sent home, some spot which is in the woods or state that on the date I had expected For six days we were at this camp do- far out in the fields. They often lie to leave, October 30, I was sworn in ing kitchen police and janitor or por- there for hours before they are found for the duration of the war and to be ter work in general. Finally we shoved and cometimes even for days. Along mustered out in the event of peace, off to the drill camp and tent life the roads it is not quite so, for you

Here I am at present in Company I even saw one of the divisions go We left Chicago (myself in charge '418, Battalion W. Thru with the foot into action and a gallant lot of boys of five young fellows) and the six of and arms drills and going tomorrow they were. As a matter of fact, they us enjoyed a beautiful trip with first on the Rifle Range. Our drills had happened to meet with little resistclass Pullman accommodations and ex- been daily and we were at it from ance so that their ca-ualty list was penses at the leading botels at which morning to dark with occasional Po-remarkably low. That was their luck.

the weather ideal. Lookout Mountain four hour watch at the penitentiary jence counts for very much in this and various other historical places of shere we had a number of "gobs" game and veterans may no, do any the Civil War were pointed out to us | ailor; or jackies imprisioned . Guard better but they have fewer dead and while on our layover at Atlanta and duty with the Atlantic wind blowing wounded when the battle clears away. Augusta we were much interested in a gale at 2:00 a, m, is great sport. It has all been wonderfully intethe pecularities of the Southern people and part of the teaching of the boys resting and at the rame time very di-I was the only one of the fellows to do their duty. The guards are armed flicult. The roads are hard to manage, that had been South of the Mason with pump shot guns in case the pri- especially when they are muckly. Then lade or fence. Most of these were in mous ruts. The car is strained to its for desertion or overstaying their utmost in spite of the great care in leave. Where we go from the rough driving. and finish drill work remains to be We heard much noise but every

personally think many will be must dently very careful of their ammuniterrel out, especially those in essention these days and do not shoot any tial lines of work of men with depend- over unless they know just where it of this fact is on all the homes and ants. Have heard the that we may go is going and what it is going to do. to Haiti or Europe for police or guard Also by inquiry you can often deter-

> me and have not been sick so far a not shelling he just simply is not, fur minute. Have met a lot of fine col- thermore he is apt to have fairly deflege men as well as men trained in inite periods when he is and is no business life also ex-prize fighters, jail shelling. birds and fellows from every describable walk of life.

> C. A. the other day and one recruit gave \$1250.00 without batting an eye, coming and going and you know he You see with such givers and others is somewhere overhead and you wondead broke the Marines are a cos-

Have not met a man from the Grove the I looked for Ceeil Miley but it is on wonder for some 20,000

We had some good ball games with many a pofessional in the games, foremost was Chief Meyers, the Indian catcher once with the New York Giants. Among the boys playing ball is a Naperville boy I met while umseats and to enforce these orders he piring last Sunday. His name is Wochcarried a gat or gun and several rle and well known probably at the Grove among the younger set. He knew "Brick" Binder and "Billie" Shannabrook.

Well, as I can almost hear that reveille of the early morning hour. Sincerely. Hugh D. Wyllie.

ALFRED STRAUBE IN CHARGE OF TRUCKING CREW

October 14, 1918.

We sure had a busy day today, stor-Well, we landed with a few hundred ing cement from England, put in 800 today but settled it first and then do

We are now storing our material

with gravel bags for the upper floors and two cranes, one and one-half electric run on a track the entire length of the building. October 21st.

Today we had quite a visiting day. A train pulled in with 450 German prisoners who are to sleep on the upper floor. Two Lieutenants and 85 time they had a lean-to built in the back yard and their coffee boiling. They are given food rations with tobacco and good and willing workers.

I have my motor cycle now, it took some time to learn but can make good

Had a letter form my friend, the French Officer, who is now in London and will be there some time as he is on the Monetary Commission to regulate the sale of Exchange between the two countries, we miss him very much, he was such good company. The kind Provost Marshall has us in now by 9:30, no more movies or theatre for the enlisted villians. That birthday is drawing near so I will close with lots of love from your son, Alfred (Straube).

CAPT PEASE SEES OUR BOYS GET INTO ACTION

American Expeditionary Forces. October 26, 1018.

Dear Mother:

Here I am back again on my old are surely found and quickly.

which may be entirely different next

oners make a break over the stock- they get rough and slippery with enor

where I went it was due to our effort | them Since peace has been declared I and not to the enemy. They are evimine the safe periods, for the Hun is drafted men there gave us some idea | The training has done wonders for a systematic chap and when he is

I had a bombing experience that was trying, guess they try everybody' Collections were made for the Y. M. nerve. It isn't that they actually do Rose Trowels much damage but you can hear them der when he is going to drop them If you have a cautious disposition you get into the bottom of any little depression in the ground, only at present they are all mud holes; until he is safely by. They bombed alongside Telephone 30 Days the road I was on and then machingunned the other side and finally when I was safely in bed, went down the road the hospital was located on. bombing and machine-gunning there so you see there was something doing It was a lively night everywhere with Huns along the road on our side and our bombers busy on their side. Nearly everybody that I met had some sort of a story to tell the next day. We over here especially if we are very near the front have little love for I will close with best regards, I am, bright nights. When such a flight comes a good many openly and without shame make for a dug-out.

It is all very uncomfortable busiiness and I for shall be glad when it is overwith and I am again home with my family. It does seem a 'ery long time since I saw them and onere seems to be no real immediate prospect of seeing them in the near future Still it may be that something unexpected will happen as it always seems to be doing in this army game. What you figure on you do not get and what you never dreamed of receiving is

Your affectionate son, Capt. M. C. Pease.

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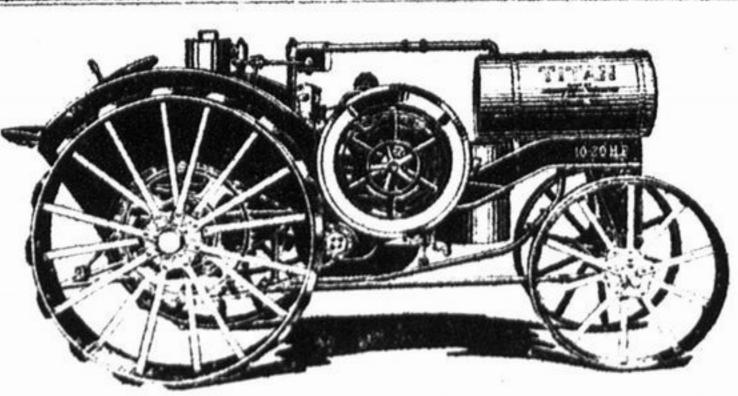
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MEL BINDER MEETS DOWNERS

Ooctober 27, 1918.

Dearest Father and Mother and all This has been a beautiful Sunday afternoon and I took a long walk. I started out at 1:30 p. m. and got back at 5:30, just in time for mess.

I had company and it was a fel low from Downers Grove. You will be surprised to hear who it was. The other night I was standing in the "Y" and line them all up and put the ers Grove. and a fellow came up behind me and said "Hello Brick", I turned around and it was Maurice Gustin who you will remember lived in Downers Grove I nearly fell over when I saw who it was. He has grown so much the last year that I hardly knew him. We sure had some good old talk and it was all about Downers Grove and our friends. We both think there is no place in the world like Downers Grove.

He enlisted last December. The same time I did only he is in the Ma- anics in the Ordinance. This work rines and is a corporal and sure makes am doing will help me out in my fu-

a good looking soldier, if he is only ture life,

eighteen years old. He has been down. This morning I went to church and

together. We are setting up all the at the Great Lakes.

cause Sergeant has left to take an fifteen dollars in the States and I have examination for a commission. I hope four blankets and a lot more things he gets it for he is a nice kid.

several days. I sure wish you all could see the shops the soldiers have put up over here and you would see that there are some wonderful mech-

in Cuba nearly all the time and he heard a very good sermon. I would GROVE BOY said it sure was some hot there. It have gone tonight but I really must must have been like Camp Hancock, write some letters. This week I re-I am working at a shop here and ceived Laura's letter marked No. 2 when we get it finished it will be some and several others. I sure was surprised to hear of the sad news of the Sergeant Larson and I are working death of Rose Bunning and the boys

machines to make wheels. There will If all my pals keep getting married be about twenty machines. I should I will be the bachelor of our bunch imagine that will make the wheel de- because there generally is one or two partment. We set up the machines out of a bunch like we had in Down-

countershafts up. So you see we are The other day I was issued some more clothes and I have some bunch Toight I will have to bunk alone be- now. This overcoat alone would cost too numerous to mention. You can see Tomorrow I will have to work alone that Uncle Sam is taking care of us as I do not think he will be back for over here. This letter is for the whole family. I have not time now to write to each one of you. I hope this finds you all in the best of health as it

> leaves me in fine condition. The other (Continued on Back Page)