

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

HUGH WYLLIE TELLS EXPERIENCES WITH MARINES

Paris Island, S. C. November 11, 1918.

My dear Mr. Staats: In accordance with my promise to write you regarding my experiences with the "Leathernecks" Marines...

We left Chicago (myself in charge of five young fellows) and the six of us enjoyed a beautiful trip with first class Pullman accommodations...

I was the only one of the fellows that had been South of the Mason Dixon line or had seen a Jim Crow car on a train...

The training has done wonders for me and have not been sick so far a minute. Have met a lot of fine college men as well as men trained in business life...

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...

Well, we landed with a few hundred or more from other points and were examined that night when landing for the Flu...

hugh at 5:00 a. m. and were greeted by others who had come in the day before probably by "you'll like it."

Here I am at present in Company 118, Battalion W. Thru with the foot and arms drills and going tomorrow on the Rifle Range...

One session I had was a twenty-four hour watch at the penitentiary where we had a number of "jobs" - all of them jackies imprisoned...

Since peace has been declared I personally think many will be mustered out, especially those in essential lines of work...

The training has done wonders for me and have not been sick so far a minute. Have met a lot of fine college men...

Collections were made for the Y. M. C. A. the other day and one recruit gave \$1250.00 without batting an eye.

Have not met a man from the Grove tho I looked for Cecil Miley but it is on wonder for some 20,000 men are here.

We had some good ball games with many a professional in the games, foremost was Chief Meyers, the Indian catcher once with the New York Giants...

Well, as I can almost hear that reveille of the early morning hour, I will close with best regards, I am, Sincerely, Hugh D. Wyllie.

ALFRED STRAUBE IN CHARGE OF TRUCKING CREW

October 14, 1918.

Dear Folks: We sure had a busy day today, storing cement from England, put in 800 tons beside some other material.

We are now storing our material in our fine new warehouse, one of the best in France, built of cement and strong enough to stand for centuries...

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.

Had a letter from my friend, the French Officer, who is now in London and will be there some time as he is on the Monetary Commission...

CAPT. PEASE SEES OUR BOYS GET INTO ACTION

American Expeditionary Forces, October 26, 1918.

Dear Mother: Here I am back again on my old stamping ground for a day or two. Have just returned from a trip to the front where we are putting in a serum which we hope will protect against gas gangrene.

I even saw one of the divisions go into action and a gallant lot of boys they were. As a matter of fact, they happened to meet with little resistance so that their casualty list was remarkably low.

We heard much noise but everywhere I went it was due to our effort and not to the enemy. They are evidently very careful of their ammunition these days and do not shoot any over unless they know just where it is going and what it is going to do.

I had a bombing experience that was trying, guess they try everybody's nerve. It isn't that they actually do much damage but you can hear them coming and going and you know he is somewhere overhead and you wonder when he is going to drop them.

It is all very uncomfortable business and I for shall be glad when it is over with and I am again home with my family. It does seem a very long time since I saw them and there seems to be no real immediate prospect of seeing them in the near future.

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

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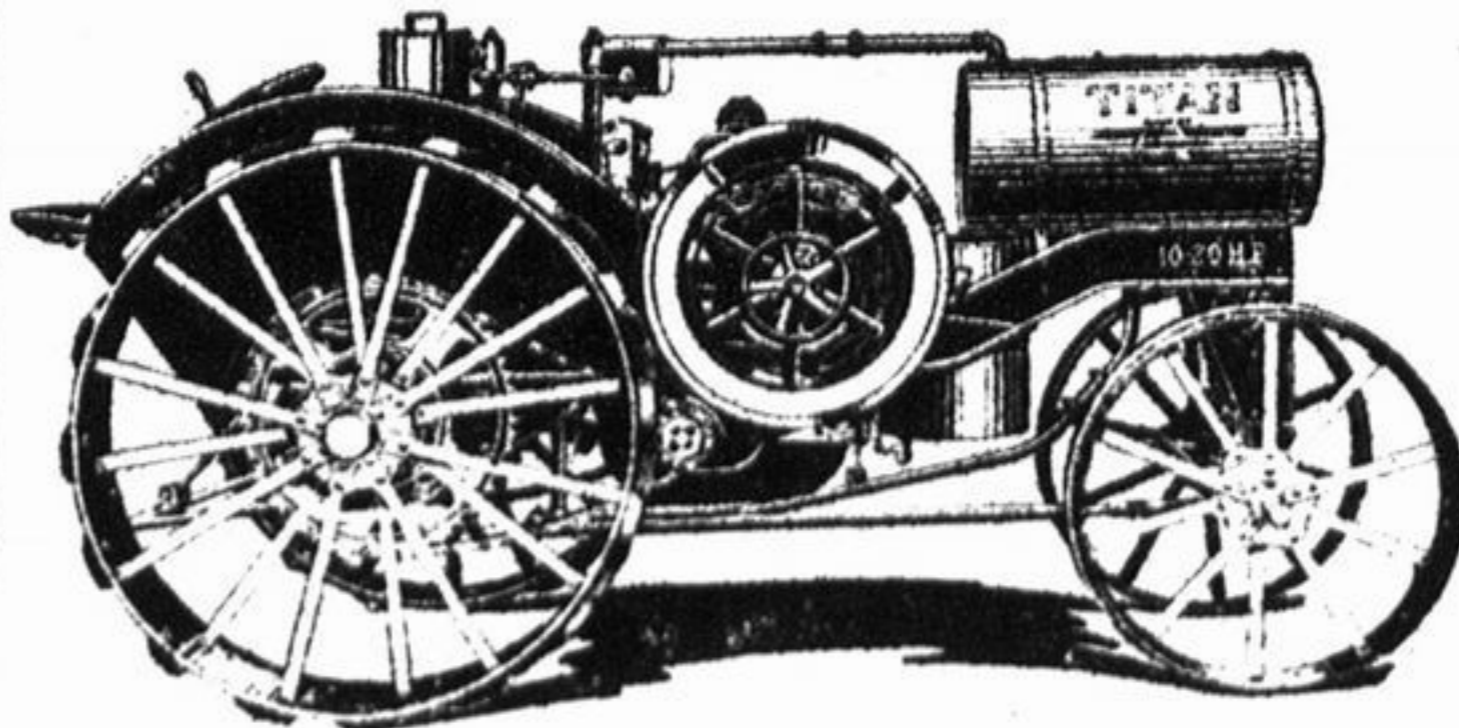
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MEL BINDER MEETS DOWNERS GROVE BOY

October 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 fellow from Downers Grove. You will be surprised to hear who it was. The other night I was standing in the "Y" 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...

He enlisted last December. The same time I did only he is in the Marines and is a corporal and sure makes

a good looking soldier, if he is only eighteen years old. He has been down in Cuba nearly all the time and he said it sure was some hot there. It must have been like Camp Hancock.

I am working at a shop here and when we get it finished it will be some woodworking shop. Sergeant Larson and I are working together. We are setting up all the machines to make wheels. There will be about twenty machines. I should imagine that will make the wheel department. We set up the machines and line them all up and put the countershafts up. So you see we are busy boys.

Toight I will have to bunk alone because Sergeant has left to take an examination for a commission. I hope he gets it for he is a nice kid. Tomorrow I will have to work alone as I do not think he will be back for 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 mechanics in the Ordinance. This work I am doing will help me out in my fu-

ture life. This morning I went to church and heard a very good sermon. I would have gone tonight but I really must write some letters. This week I received Laura's letter marked No. 2 and several others. I sure was surprised to hear of the sad news of the death of Rose Bunning and the boys at the Great Lakes.

If all my pals keep getting married I will be the bachelor of our bunch because there generally is one or two out of a bunch like we had in Downers Grove.

The other day I was issued some more clothes and I have some bunch now. This overcoat alone would cost fifteen dollars in the States and I have four blankets and a lot more things too numerous to mention. You can see that Uncle Sam is taking care of us 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

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