

Flying With Shaffer

SHOOTS DOWN BALLOON

LETTERS FROM A DAUPHIN BOY TO HIS MOTHER

Escadrille Squad 38, Secteur Postal 22, Aug. 6, 1918.

Dear Mother: Well we've got the hole in the line straightened out at last—to hear me say that one would think I actually was some help, which was not the case at all, unless letting the German army use me for a target could be called helping. They did that several times and incidentally scored a few hits—not on me fortunately but on my machine. And while this pushing back the Hun was going on lots of things were happening here and elsewhere.

One of the most hair-raising happened to my commander, who attacked seven of the new Boche "Fokkers." He sent one tumbling to earth, and then attacked another, but as he did so his propeller stopped, owing to loss of air pressure on his gas tank, caused by his quick diving and maneuvering. He fell right among the remaining six. I imagine they were six mightily pleased Huns at such an opportunity to shoot down a big "ace" but he did not give them much time to shoot, because he promptly went into a "vrille," coming out at 300 meters. Two Huns were still on his tail, so he went into another "vrille" and came out of that one at thirty meters.

Lands in Woods There was nothing under him but a woods and since he had no motive power he had to land. Sitting down on the top of a tree, he was naturally kindling. Oh yes, he got away with it, only being bruised about the legs a little.

I'll bet there was rejoicing in that Boche escadrille that night as they told how they had brought down the famous French "ace." And won't they be one surprised bunch when they see him in his red machine come tearing over the lines as dead as ever before?

Machine Burns Over One of the Lieutenants turned upside down as he was "taking off" (running along the ground preparatory to jumping into the air) the other day, another Lieutenant's motor stopped and he came down in the woods near the barracks; while I just to keep the jinx on the Lieutenants, nearly ran into another one who was "taking" along the ground, while I was "taking off." At the angles we were going we surely would have hit, but fortunately the Lieutenant seeing me slowed up and turned. As for yours truly he pulled on the rest of the gas and jumped into the air. Incidentally for allowing me to start while another plane was rolling along the ground.

Had two more letters from you yesterday which were very accepted. It certainly is a crime the way you are spreading around that flattering picture of me. The good old proverb is being proved again that "love is blind" for no other way can I understand why anyone wants that picture.

Helen Miller with the sunny smile has not appeared, and I'm tired of the gloomy view. Last night we had a concert with violin and guitar. The musicians all played by ear, which made it very nice, as any one with a favorite needed but to ask and it was played. Frenchmen you know are noted as singers, but artistically always, but like sketching, nearly every one of them can make a pretty good stab at it, so several members had rendered a ballad when they called on me, I being the only American there, for a song.

Want a Solo Unfortunately we were in a tent, so I could not sink through the floor as I wanted to. They coaxed quite a while but I absolutely refused to spoil a perfectly good concert by any vocal effort. It wouldn't have been an effort. It would have been a fizzle.

To get over the disappointment they had another drink all around and that with the music, making them feel playful, they resurrected a roulette wheel (I guess that's what it was) and made a candle into a ball and proceeded to gamble away sous at an enormous rate. One I think lost nearly 20, equal to 25 cents and he was considered the star player. Me? Oh, I dodged their drinks by saying I was sick, and when the gambling started, I eased up beside the guitar player and wheeled some more music out of him.

Have a heart and don't mention dances so often in your letters. It makes me wild! What I can't understand is why France had to stop the pleasant recreation—but of course, you don't look at it that way. Grandpa is surely a patriotic boy, going back to work at his age—any now I wonder if it isn't the girls in bloomers that are the attraction.

Gets a Balloon Under date of August 7 he writes: It was as big a surprise to me as it will be to you. I finally got one! No, not a Boche—a balloon, and on Sunday at that. I can see you holding your breath in horror, but if you could have heard the racket the Boche made over that one measly balloon you would hold them up some more. Many a prayer was uttered that day, I fear, by my unheralded appearance from a big, black cloud over that balloon.

You remember I wrote about attacking two in the same day in a former letter and how disappointed I was that they did not burn. Well, two days later information arrived that the second one I had attacked burned which is a mighty long time for even a "kultured" balloon to burn, as one pilot jokingly put it. But what makes me so sore is that I didn't lay so much to my dodging ability as to the bad marksmanship of the Huns.

Plenty of Fireworks Considering what they were chucking at me, shrapnel, flaming onions, machine-gun bullets and every other kind of fireworks, the German army could think of which can only be described as "Hell with the lid off" you can well believe I was quite busy enough in front without looking behind to see whether some belated ball had taken effect. I only got two bullets in my plane too, which should prove how successful I was in putting the "lid" back on again.

It is not boasting when I say I deserved to get that balloon for you have seen by my letters how often I tried to knock something "kultured" out of the sky—and failed. Twice I attacked balloons with no other result except a punctured plane, not that I minded this souvenir venting, but I did want to get a run for my money, and it seemed the Huns were having all the fun. At least, they certainly helped me to run.

Hard to Get Balloons You may wonder where the motive was in making myself a target so often, so I'll tell you. Of course, there was a reason, for attacking balloons is purely voluntary work, and since one must so rather close to the ground in attacking it is not what you might call a soft job, as many machine-guns as well as shrapnel and onion guns are placed in commanding positions to protect them.

Then there is the greatest danger, that of your motor going bad—several bullets could easily put it out of commission—and when one is at 400 meters he can't glide far with a dead motor. Yes, ma'am, landing in Germany strikes me as the greatest danger—just think of spending the next 10 years (who's that grinning?) in a German prison.

"Did You Get Your Hun Yet?" Now for the reason of all my sudden activity.

One day a girl wrote that she had read of Putnam and was watching the paper every day to see my name appear for like reasons. The next day two letters came from home in which Donnie, with his youthful brotherly freedom wanted to know why it was that Putnam got so many Boches and I got none, and "I hope I'll get my Hun before I write again." By this time my grouch against the Hun had risen to the 20th power and was still going up. Besides, every time I met an American he wanted to know if I had my Hun yet?

It seems—to be a slogan among the Americans that expression: "Have you got your Hun yet?" And all I could say was "not yet." I felt disgraced everytime I answered that way, notwithstanding the fact that there are many, many pilots in the same boat.

Wants Balloon Gun Then came another letter telling about the reflected glory I was getting from being Putnam's roommate. That was the last straw, for if there is anything I detest it is reflected glory, and right then I decided to ask for a balloon gun. If I couldn't hit a Boche I could hit a balloon.

This is a special gun which shoots a ball somewhat larger than the usual machine-gun. Being an incendiary bullet you can see why it is used on balloons. My commander had not lost his faith in the American's fighting qualities and gladly gave me the gun. And from then on, as one of my American comrades put it, "I began to run wild."

Plane Shot Up There was some ammunition for the remark judging from the results in my plane. In a fight with a biplane my plane was shot up so bad the upper wing had to be changed.

The next day I jumped on a balloon, and came home with six more holes in my plane. Two days later

I went after two more and that's when I got one. Only two bullets in my plane this time, which I didn't lay so much to my dodging ability as to the bad marksmanship of the Huns.

I have a wonderful commander though, and he has a very good opinion of Americans as fighters, for when he gave me the special gun he wasn't backward about telling me how successful he expected me to be. Although his ambitions for me were awe-inspiring they are not unattainable, as he wants—no "expects" is the word—me to equal the record of Colford, a famous French flyer with some 20 balloons to his credit.

A Large Order It's a large order, but there is nothing like trying. To-day one of the Lieutenants, who speaks very good English, and had a balloon gun mounted so he could accompany me in my "sausage hunting" kept introducing me as a balloon "ace" to everyone he met, which not only was embarrassing but just a little treacherous seeing that only one balloon stands to my credit—and it is a long and somewhat bumpy road to 20. However, my commander gave me permission to go for balloons at any time I please, which not only shows his faith in my judgment, but gives me a free rein as well.

Proposed For Adjutant Grade And here is some good news that will please Dad. As a result of my success I am being proposed for the grade of Adjutant. That doesn't

mean, of course, I am sure of the promotion, but it's a pretty safe bet. Looks as if I'm starting up the ladder, what? And now that I have proved I can really hit something you would be surprised as well as amused at the number of pilots who want to accompany me on my next expedition. It just proves once again the saying "nothing succeeds like success."

It's quite easy to see why they want to go along, since if two pilots attack a balloon and one gets it, the credit is divided. See the point? However, I prefer hunting alone, in bad weather anyway, because I use the clouds a great deal then, and

aside from the danger of running into my partner, I would lose him anyway. And now that I have shown you how swelled my head is I had better stop. WALTER.

PREPARE TO LEAVE METZ Amsterdam, Sept. 26.—"It is announced that, owing to the long-range bombardment of Metz and other places, preparations are making for the expeditious evacuation of civilians and movable property from places within range of such guns when the evacuation becomes necessary," says a dispatch received here from Berlin.

Use McNeil's Pain Exterminator—Ad.

Gray Hair and Hair Health A very meritorious preparation for restoring natural color to gray or faded hair, for removing dandruff and as a hair dressing, is not a dye. Generous sized bottles at all dealers, ready to use when you get it. PHILLO HAY CO., Newark, N. J.

Give Your Old Clothes to the Belgians This Week

BELL 1091-2356 UNITED

Draperies

Sunfast Madras curtains in all the popular colors, 2 1/2 yards long, plain-colored and two-toned. Friday sale, pair,

\$5.00

Barred Marquisette in white only, 36 inches wide. Friday sale,

30c

36-inch Madras in white and ecru, neat designs. Friday sale, yard,

19c

Figured Swiss for sash curtains—36 inches wide. Friday sale, yard,

25c

36-inch Filet net in white and ecru. Friday sale, yard,

25c

Bowman's—Second Floor

Shoes

Patent leather shoes—cloth tops, also kid tops—high heel and buttons—all sizes. Friday sale,

\$3.98

Bowman's—Main Floor

Stamped Goods

A nice line of stamped goods, consisting of pillow tops, table runners and centerpieces; also a few odd sizes in children's dresses and rompers.

1/2 Off Regular Price

Bowman's—Second Floor

White Goods

All linen table Damask—58 inches wide. Friday sale, yard,

\$1.29

Lunch cloths—size 45x45, subject to mill stains, but no holes or tares. Friday sale, each,

79c

Atlas dish cloths—made of best quality hard twist thread. Friday sale,

4 for 25c

Bleached twilled toweling Friday sale, yard,

8c

Fancy white voile with pink and lavender dots, 36 inches wide. Friday sale, per yard,

50c

New Maderia Nainsook—39 inches wide, 10-yard pieces. Friday sale, per piece,

\$2.98

Bicycles

Good make—28-inch wheel—slightly hurt. Friday sale,

\$25.00

Club, fraternities, cities and different colleges, all handsewed letters—suited for any decorations. Friday sale, each,

12c

Wholesale prices on all raw materials and laces and embroideries are advancing rapidly. Yet we can and do offer these splendid undermuslins at much less than our former prices. These envelope chemise are trimmed with lace and organdy.

Every single garment is of first-class quality, chic and dainty in style and perfectly made by the best undermuslin makers. They have just arrived and the values offered are the best we've offered in months and it's not likely that we can offer equal ones for a long time. Friday sale,

98c

Nicely embossed, Friday sale, each,

21c

Bowman's—Second Floor

Give Your Old Clothes to the Belgians This Week

HARRISBURG, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1918.

Bowman's

Give Your Old Clothes to the Belgians This Week

Economical Shoppers Seek

Friday Bargains

Thrift Prevails At These Sales

If you wish to cut down on your weekly expenses, do not fail to pay this sale an early visit. It will present to you ample opportunity to carry your intentions into effect. In other words, it will enable you to secure the many things you have been figuring on getting for much less than the amount you had figured on paying for them. Because all the goods which it extends to you for selection bear the stamp of prices that are less than the prices that goods of equal worth usually sell for.

Though odds and ends from the various departments, they represent extraordinary values. The green tickets indicate the special Friday bargains.

Special Sale of Handkerchiefs continues Friday and Saturday—fine assortment to select from

Jardinieres

Good size—they will hold a 7-inch flower pot, with beautiful color blend. Friday sale,

35c

Cereal Set

15 pieces—consists of 6 cereal jars, 6 spice jars, 1 oil bottle, 1 vinegar bottle, and 1 salt box—all nicely decorated. Friday sale, set,

\$3.98

Cut Glass Ware

Celery trays, fruit bowls, and other useful pieces. Friday sale, each,

\$1.69

Electric Lamps

Mahogany finished electric boudoir lamp with oval silk shade in various colors—complete with cord and plug, ready for lighting. Friday sale,

\$2.75

Jewelry

10-K solid gold jewelry in the following articles—bar pins, brooch pins, La Valliere, bracelets, tie pins, baby rings, etc. Friday sale,

\$2.75

Watches

Ingorsol watches—guaranteed. Friday sale,

\$1.10 and \$1.50

Lamp Shade

A lot of rich flowered cretonne lamp shades suitable for floor or table lamps—mostly light colored floral decoration with fringe, your choice. Friday sale,

\$2.98

Pottery Cuspidors

Nicely embossed, Friday sale, each,

21c

Gloves

Kid gloves for small hands—one and two-clasp, in white, black and a few colors; sizes 5 1/2 to 6 1/4. Friday sale, pair,

90c

Ladies' fine silk gloves—from one of the largest and best mills that is known for manufacturing perfect-fitting ladies' gloves. Two-clasp, gauntlet, and 16-button, in white, black, brown, tan, champagne and blue. Some of them are made of fine Milanese Silk; some have slight imperfections—not more than three pairs to a customer. They sold at three and four times the prices. Friday sale, pair,

45c and 65c

Clark's O. N. T. luster crocheted cotton. Friday sale, ball,

7c

Boyd's machine oil. Friday sale, bottle,

9c

Machine oil cans. Friday sale, each,

8c

Silk shoe laces—all colors, 30 inches long. Friday sale, pair,

10c

Snap fasteners. Friday sale, card,

4c

Lindsay blanket pins, No. 10 steel. Friday sale, each,

4c

Darning cotton—black and white. Friday sale,

3 for 5c

Lawn Bias tape fold. Friday sale, bolt,

4c

Buttons—all colors, for suits and coats. Friday sale, card,

4c

Notion Specials

Odds and ends of buttons—can be used for coats and suits—closing out for new lines; metal and bone buttons in black and colors. Friday sale,

Slipper trees. Friday sale, pair,

Colingbourne's crocheted cotton. Friday sale, ball,

Clark's O. N. T. luster crocheted cotton. Friday sale, ball,

Boyd's machine oil. Friday sale, bottle,

Machine oil cans. Friday sale, each,

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Dress Goods

36 to 54-inch all strictly pure wool remnants—blouse skirt, dress or suit lengths—all the best colors, plenty of navy and black, such as French Serge, Poplins, Taffetas, Whipcord, Suitings, Storm Serges, etc.

These are ends directly from makers and afford an immense saving from the regular price. Friday only, yard,

\$1.45, \$2.25 and \$2.55

Bowman's—Main Floor

Men's union suits—cotton fleece lined, ecru color—long sleeves, ankle length. Friday sale, each,

\$1.69

Good quality hem-stitched handkerchiefs—cotton and linen called Union cloth. Friday sale, each,

15c

Women's stockings—plain black and plain white, double soles, wide garter tops. Friday sale, pair,

35c

Women's extra fine thread silk stockings—black, white and colors—double soles, high spliced heels, silk garter tops (seconds). Friday sale, pair,

\$1.50

Sterling silver photo frames—oval and square. Friday sale,

One-Fourth Off Regular Prices

Bowman's—Main Floor

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Bowman's—Main Floor

Sterling silver photo frames—oval and square. Friday sale,

One-Fourth Off Regular Prices

Bowman's—Main Floor

W.B. FORMU BRASSIERES

worn in connection with W. B. Corsets, assure gown-fit perfection—slenderize bust-lines—add the grace and finish at bust that the corset accomplishes below, and give the necessary finishing touch to the "Form-Fashionable."

Bolero, Bandeaux and Surplice patterns, in filmy lace effects over silks and satins; also delicate batistes, daintily trimmed with lace and embroideries; making W. B. Brassieres second only to W. B. Corsets as form-beautifiers.

ASK YOUR DEALER FOR W. B. FORMU BRASSIERES.

W. B. CORSETS

W. B. NUFORM Corsets for slender and average figures. The low-priced corset with high-priced qualities. W. B. REDUSO Corsets for stout figures—reduce one to five inches and you look ten to twenty pounds lighter.

Sold Exclusively in Harrisburg at Bowman's

The best undermuslin bargains you've seen in months are here for you now.

Wholesale prices on all raw materials and laces and embroideries are advancing rapidly. Yet we can and do offer these splendid undermuslins at much less than our former prices. These envelope chemise are trimmed with lace and organdy.

Every single garment is of first-class quality, chic and dainty in style and perfectly made by the best undermuslin makers. They have just arrived and the values offered are the best we've offered in months and it's not likely that we can offer equal ones for a long time. Friday sale,

Nicely embossed, Friday sale, each,

21c

Bowman's—Second Floor

Bowman's—Basement

Bowman's—Second Floor

Bowman's—Main Floor