

Conditions at Camp Funston correspondence

This correspondence deals with complaints about the treatment of servicemen at the hospital in Camp Funston. Written during the summer of the Influenza of 1918, these various pieces of correspondence indicate the extreme concern shown for the health of the men being treated at Funston. Particularly interesting is the letter to Governor Capper that was sent to him by "an Anxious Mother." In the letter, the unknown mother of a soldier hospitalized at Camp Funston pleads with Governor Capper to do something about the poor food and sanitary conditions at the facility. A complete transcription is available by clicking "Text Version" below.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1915-1919: Capper)

Date: July 10, 1918-July 19, 1918

Callnumber: Governor's Office, Governor Arthur Capper, Correspondence Files, Alphabetical File Box 16 Folder 50

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HISTORICAL
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Conditions at Camp Funston correspondence

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Topeka Kans
July 10 1918
Governor Capper.
Sir
I am writing you in
behalf of our unfortunate boys
at Ft Riley in Section H.
a no. of the boys ask several
of us mother & wives to
write or talk to you on this
of the treatment they are getting
while in Camps they were fed
well & all was well but when
taken to Sec. H. they are in a
terrible condition corn bread
cold, rice, sweet potatoes consist
their eats, nothing at all to
drink and some of the boys do
not like corn bread & some sweet
Potatoes, and as to their treat-

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ment for their disease it is
terrible the same instrument is
used on every one white & black,
worst cases & better ones, and
the blacks & whites have to sleep
together the first 2 nights my
sons were there they slept with
colored boys then they rebelled,
now I was ask by the boys
or a number of them to write
you and they ask other Mothers
& wives also they are willing
to do what is right but say
they are getting worse instead
of better. Now want you please
do something for these boys to
better conditions, we dont want
these boys to desert but they
say they would rather face
the penitentiary than what
they are now.

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and who can blame them
they are human. they are some
mothers sons who sent them
away with an aching heart
they are forced by law. to
go now why should not the
law compell them to have
decent treatment if Parents
knew where or what their
boys were getting there. There
would surely be was at home
this may not be write to say
this but it is true for Mothers
would give their lives for their
boys. Please look into this
at once.
An Anxious Mother

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STATE OF KANSAS
ARTHUR CAPPER, GOVERNOR
TOPEKA

July 13, 1918.

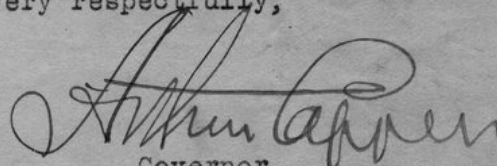
General Leonard Wood,
Camp Funston, Kansas.

Dear General:--

I enclose you an anonymous letter received by me
today.

I am sure there is no basis for her complaint,
but I thought you might be interested in the statements
made by the writer of the letter.

Very respectfully,


Governor.

To Camp Dugem:

Please look into this matter
and let me have an informal report so the
General can answer the Governor's letter.
Archer.

Received - Q, B. S. - 164th Depot Brigade

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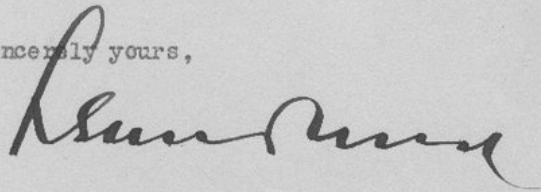
Camp Funston, Kansas.

July 19th, 1918.

Dear Governor Capper:

The within papers are self explanatory. I am sending them to you as they came to me. Please look them over and return them as they form part of our official record.

Sincerely yours,



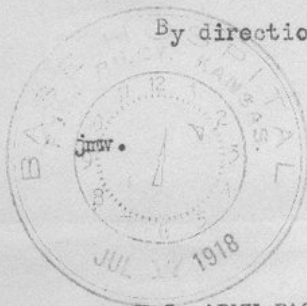
Hon. Arthur Capper,
Governor, State of Kansas,
Topeka, Kansas.

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Wrapper Ind.
Hq. Camp Funston, O.C.S. Camp Funston, Kansas, July 17, 1918-To the Commanding Officer, Base Hospital, Fort Riley, Kansas; forwarded.

1. For investigation and report.

By direction of the Camp Surgeon:



E.C. McCulloch
E.C. McCULLOCH,
Major, Medical Corps,
Assistant to the Camp Surgeon.

2nd Ind.

U.S. ARMY BASE HOSPITAL, Fort Riley, Kansas. July 19, 1918.- To the Camp Surgeon, Camp Funston, Kansas.

1. Returned. Attention invited to reports of inspections made by the Hospital Inspector and Chaplain Gray, attached hereto.

3 Encls.

E.R. Schreiner
E.R. SCHREINER,
Colonel, Medical Corps, U.S. Army.
Commanding.

ERS/1

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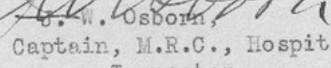
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U. S. Army Base Hospital
Fort Riley, Kansas.

July 17, 1918.

MEMORANDUM to Commanding Officer:

1. Relating to the charges in an anonymous letter in regard to Section G - the facts are these:
2. The diet is ample, corn bread is sometimes served but there is an abundance of good food well prepared and meat is served at least twice daily.
3. There is always some kind of hot drink, usually coffee but sometimes cocoa, at least twice daily.
4. The white and colored men are given separate barracks or tents, except that sometimes when the section becomes crowded it is necessary to keep them in the same quarters for a few days.
5. The same instruments are used on all men but they are sterilized after treating each man.
6. The men in Section G all have either gonorrhoea or syphilis and are improving under the treatment given.
7. In the past ten days more than 150 men have been returned to duty from this section.


G. W. Osborn,
Captain, M.R.C., Hospital
Inspector.

JWO/t

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OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN.
U.S. ARMY BASE HOSPITAL.
Fort Riley, Kansas.

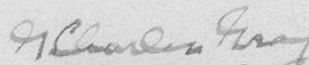
July 19, 1918.

From: The Chaplain.
To: The Commanding Officer.
Subject: Report on Conditions of Mess in Section "G".

1. Careful observation has been made as to conditions having to do with the mess in Section "G", the genito-urinary section, of this hospital.

2. Food is supplied for the section from the kitchens of sections just across the road. It is served to the men at Section "G" in mess kits. My observations, covering each mess during the past two days, have been that an abundance of food has been provided, that it has been handled and served in a thoroughly sanitary way, and that it has been served reasonably hot.

3. Three men, working under this office, and who visit section "G" every day, making special investigations of cases, have been consulted as to the general satisfaction of the men in the section as regards the condition of the mess. They all report that they have never heard a criticism.


G. Chas GRAY, 1st Lieut. N.A.
Chaplain.

GCG/1