

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

Around 1919, the Kansas State Historical Society and the American Legion solicited biographical information from returning veterans (primarily members of the 35th and 89th infantry divisions) and the families of those who died in service, notably from the Gold Star Mothers. Each veteran or family member was asked to provide letters, photographs, a biography, and military records. This file contains information on Joseph R. Sargeant, Co. E, 137th Infantry, 35th Division. Sargeant was killed in action on September 26, 1918. He was from Neodesha, Kansas.

Date: 1918

Callnumber: World War I Coll. #49, Box 39 Kansas Soldiers

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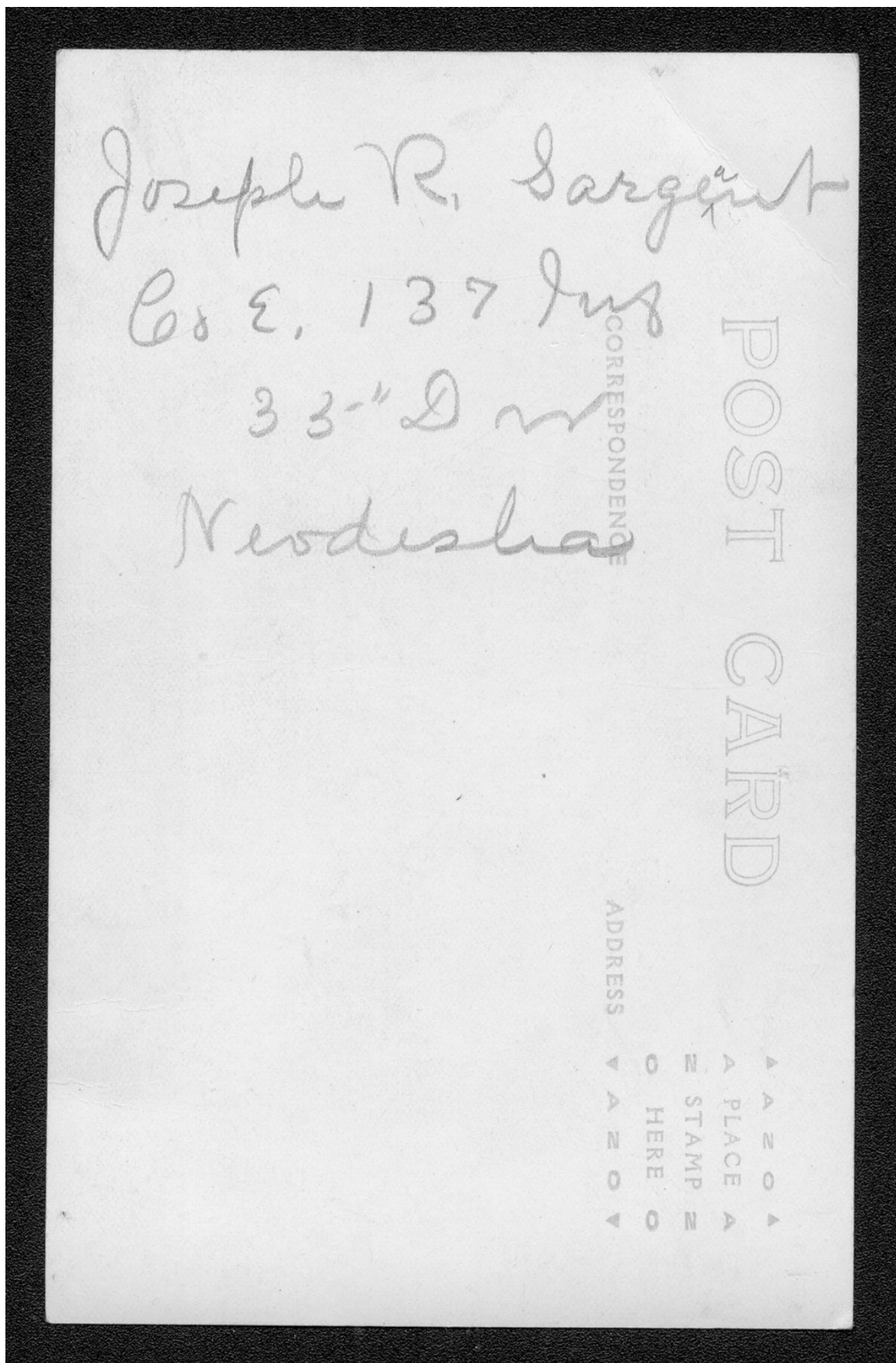
KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier





Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier





Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

Camp Mills
Long Island
April 21/18 New York

My Dear Mother: well I hear
here I am in New York but
won't be in the morning
we are leaving here about
5³⁰ and are going over in
New Jersey some where
mother I will not be in the
U.S. very much longer now
the way things looks we
have our steel helmets just
got them while ago and
130 rounds of ammunition
we have everything now
to go right in to the



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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trenches and it looks look
like we are going across
but I fear I hate to tell you
this for I know you will
worry about me but you
must ~~remember~~ remember
mother there is others ones
beside me that is going
along and they have mother
to so I am not alone.
well mother I went over
to New York City last night
and had a good time but
I don't like it at all I would
rather be in K. C. The
Captain said we could
go where ever we wanted



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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to as we may not get to
go any more so here I went.
gee wish you folks could
be here to see the city
but maby some day you
can, I got a letter from
Eunice today and she said
that she had been down
to see you since you
came back from Ft Sill
she just think that you
and Letha is about it I
am glad she does and I
am going to ask your
mother to look after her
while I am gone to war
and when I come back



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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I will pay you for it
some way, you know
I can not look after her
while I am in the Army
and she is only a girl
yet but mother she is
all this world to me all
of you Perry and Letha and
you so you see I am going
to fight for all I love,
Dear it has been raining
all day and rained hard
you ought to see ever thing
around here nothing but



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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~~neither~~ water and our tents
hasent any floors in there
so you can just think
how we get along but
I am going to make the
best of it for this ~~is~~
is nothing like it will
be when we get in France
well I hear I will close for
this time and write to
Lunice so by by to all
I am as ever your loving
son Joe.
write to me here and it will
be sent to me where ever
I am at. by by XXXXX
give my love to Perry and Letta

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

May, 1918

My Dear Mother: Hello
everybody how are you
folks hope you are all
well I am well. Mother
I have found it hard to
think of any thing to say
as we can not write about
our trip or what is going
on, but I guess I can tell
you all about that when I
come back home, but I
am going to tell you one
thing I don't know if it



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

will pass or not but I
wouldn't give two cents
for this trip again, gee
but I never got so tired
of any thing before in my
life it sure was "bum"
but as this is war times
it could be worse,
well Dear I am looking for
a letter or two be for
long I got a letter from
Eunice the day we went
in camp at Long Island
well Mother tell ever one hillo
for me, I dont know where to
tell you to write as I dont know
where I am at, well By By, as ever Joe. S




Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

July. 6. 1918.

my Dear home folks, how are
you by this time hope you
are well and getting along
abright I am just ~~fine~~
and have been seeing some
exciteing times but this is
just what I like I always did
like to be where there was
something going on,
well Mother Dear you wanted
me to tell you all about
this country over here, well
I dont know just how to
go about it to tell you
but anyway France is
away ~~thier~~ behind us over
thier that is in small
places of coarse in Paris it
is about like our citys but
in other ~~part~~ parts of France

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

.2,

it is just like a bunch of
Indians they still drive and
work open, it is Harvest
time now and they cut the
rye with knives this is what
the knives look like 
and another thing I seen back
of the line in some town was
a man and 4 women plowing
the 4 women were pulling
the plow by a rope and the
man was holding it up.
but the women do all of the
hard work here now. say
Dear I sure seen some church
~~the~~ in France it was built
in 1620 but it sure was
pretty inside,
well Mother how is Richard
getting along tell him hello



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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and to be a good boy till
I come home, and say I
sure am waiting for that
Picture that you said you
were going to send me, Tell
Major to take a good Picture.
I got a letter from Eunice yes
terday she said that she was
at home now while Harvest
was going on, Dear I am sure
glad you like her and about
you counting on her going
with me to your new home
if you get it you can bet on
that if I go she will, and ma
that is all I ~~thing~~ think of
now "when I have time to think
of home" is being with you
and Perry and Eunice and help
make a good home for us four.

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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and Dear Old Perry I never can
repay him for what he has done
for me. I knew that he loved
me it did not take this war for
me to know it but it has take
- in the war for me to show him
what I can do to make him
think more of me, and as you
have said in your letter it will
be a glorioust time for me when
I step off of the train at home
gee but it will be great.

well Dear I will close for this
time will write again soon

tell all hellos and that I send
my love, now By By Dear mother
I am always thinking of you
tell Perry this is for him (xxxxx)
a big one

P.S. I havent heard a word
from sister yet but am looking for a letter

your love
Joe

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier



ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

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Some where in the trenches, July 17, 1918
well folks how are you this pretty day gee but it sure
is a fine day not much doing today only a few air battles
a now and then we just had a air fight with three enemy
planes but they got away the air was full of sharpshells
for a while but it is quit now. I am down in a dugout
now I dont know how long I will get to stay but I hope
I can stay long enough to write this letter to you,
well Dear how is ever thing at home I am looking for the
picture that you was going to send of you and the colt and
your chickens, tell Perry I am sure glad that he is doing well
at the shops wish I was ther to help him but I am
still looking forward to the time when I can, Now Dear
I think you are going to deep about what you said ever
one though of me but I sure hope they do think that
if way, say mother is it right about you and Perry
going to Okla. if you do I sure hope I am ther to go
with you this fall but that is to far off to think
about right now, gee wish I knew where I was going
to be this fall but I can guess and that is right
here in the trenches or some where over here.
(over)

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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Dear I am sorry that I can not send you a splinter
of the ship I came over in but I will send you a
splinter of my dugout that is if the censor will let
it pass, the H. E. 6 on it is the dugout number,
will mother have you seen Eunice lately I am send-
ing her letter to your Box so you can give it
to her or send it as I don't know just where she is
at, Dear I havent seen Clarence since he went to
the Hospital he wont write to me so I cant write
to him as I dont know where he is at but I think
he is back in France some where,
ma tell your grandma I send hells and tell
much Sam hells to, I would write to all of them
if I could but I cant right now I might when
I get out of the trenches if I get out (Ha Ha)
will Dear Mother I will close for today will
try write again soon so By By give my love to all
I am as ever your
Ovin loving son
"Joe"
to
Mother - Perry

Kansas Memory



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

For last letter copied

Some where in the Trenches

July, 1918.

Dear Mother and all, I will write you a few lines today to let you know, I am well and alright. How are you folks today hope you are well. Mother & the Mail just came and there wasn't a letter from you gee but I sure thought I would get one from you this time but nothing doing. I read a letter from Eunice today saying that she was well and having a good time at home. I am glad she is for it would be to bad if she was lonesome with all of them Guys at home.

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

Well Mother this letter can't be
very long as I don't know what
to write but when I get your
letter I will write agin soon.
Tell Dad hello and take care of
himself. By By with all my love
from your Son.
Joe.

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

A.F.W. 8078
W 299/M 1950. 4/17.
E & J.

ACTIVE

This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.

NOTE:—

Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the Base.

The following Certificate must be signed by the writer:

I certify on my honour, that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters.

Signature }
Name only }

Joe R. Sargeant

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SERVICE

[Several letters may be forwarded in this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer. The Cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.]

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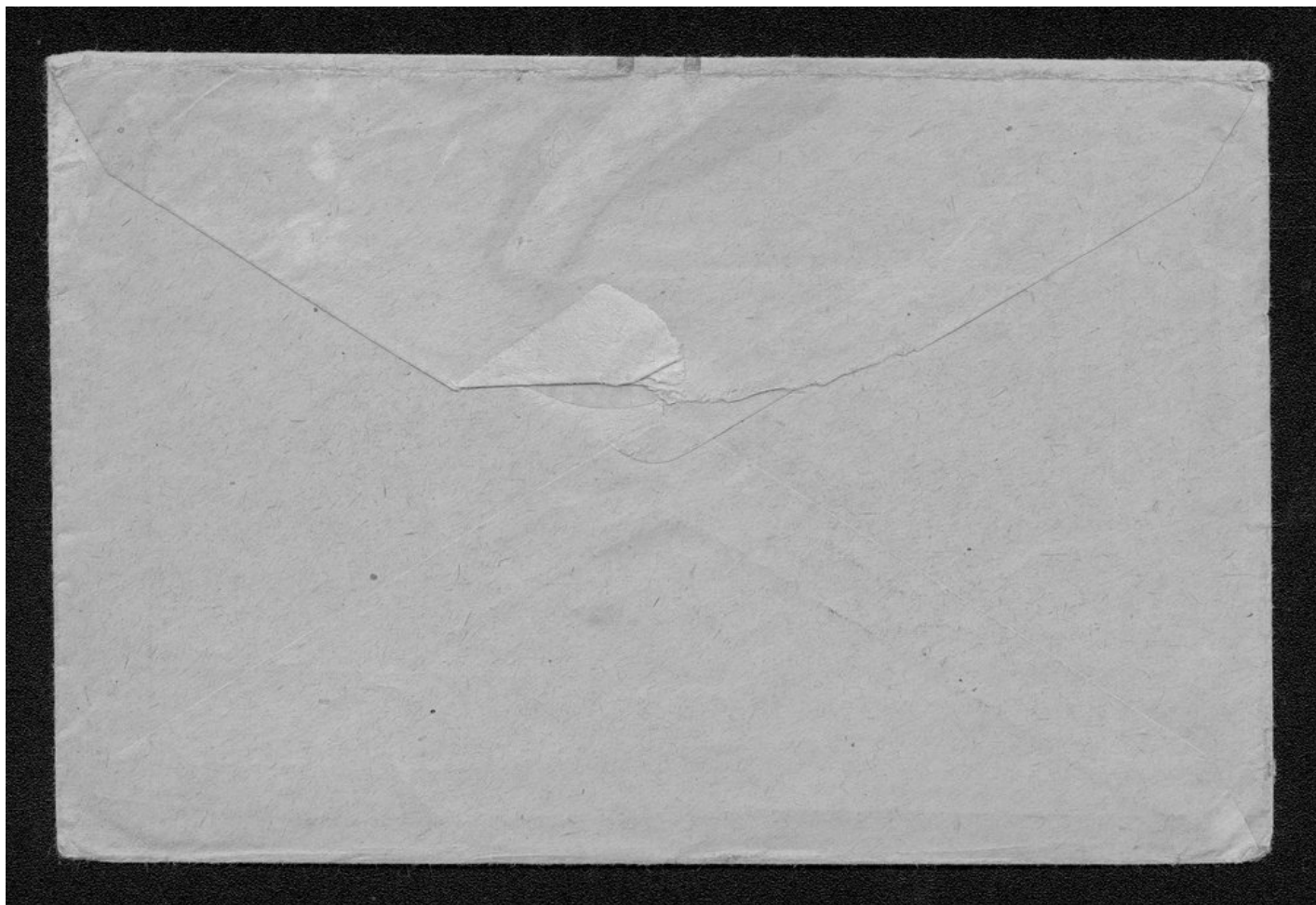
Mrs D. L. Carpenter

Skiatook

Oklahoma

Co J. S. Peters U. S. A.

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

France August 5th
1918

Mrs. D. L. Carpenter

Neodesha

Kansas

My Dear Mother I will
write you a few lines today
to let you know that I am
well and feeling fine. hope
this finds you folks well.
well Dear, we moved today
to some verry good Billits.
the best we have had since
I have been in the army
we have some real beds and
a good room there is just two
of us in this room and 5 in
the next room, this is like
home, but it is just my luck
to leave here in a few days.



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

(2.)
Oh say Dear do you remember
one year ago today I sure do
wonder where I will be another
year from today some where in
the states I hope, if the War
ends this year and I stay over
here and work the 6 month it
will be about a year.

well Mother I will close for
this time will write again
soon so By By with my
love to you and Perry
I am as ever your little
Joe, ++++++ ~~at present~~ ++++++

P.S. I am sending your
souvenir in this letter as
I was in a Hurry the other
letter I wrote to you and forgot
to put it in the letter. Joe

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

Letter no. 31

In The Trenches

Somewhere In France.

Aug. 20th, 1918.

Mrs D. L. Carpenter

Neodesha Kansas.

My Dear Father - Mother,

I am writing you a few lines today to let you know I am well and feeling fine and hope this finds you the same,

Have you been getting my letters all right I believe I have rec'd all of yours so far. it has been quit a while I think. since I last heard from you but am looking for a letter any time. I only get a letter from you and Eunice now Oh yes I do get one from Letha about ever six months (Ha Ha) I am going to start writing to ever one I know and see is I can't here from some of them, it is going



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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to be hard to write to so many you
know how well I like to write (Ha Ha)
Oh yes Dear you know I said the
other day that I was going to send
you apart of my pay well I have
made out a allotment of \$18.00 for
you and I want you to use it to.
I have found that money will get
a fellow in bad over here it did
me. and I don't want it to happen
agin. well Dear I will tell you about
our place here, we have a fair place
to sleep but it is verry dark even
in the day time we also have a verry
good Bath house witch I use ever
day we have good eats to. so what
more could a fellow wish for in War
times, thier is a lot more I would
love to tell you in this letter
but it can't be did but some day
I will tell you all about this. it
will be some time but I will

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

3.

be home some time so I can tell
you,

well Ma I am looking for the Pictures
you said that you would send,
if I ever get back to some City
where I can have my Picture taken
I will send you one. I dont suppose
you would know me now as I am
fat as a pig. so you see Army life
is agreeing with me. (Ha Ha)

Mother could you send me a \$1 bill
a new one, and if you send it write
~~your name~~ Mother - and have Perry put
Father and Letta Sister in the 3 corners
of it. like this  I want one to keep
while I am over here as I hardly ever
see U.S. money any more. I will see
the Captain some time and if it
will be alright I will send you
some French money.

Ma do you know if Jim Smith
was Drafted or not I haven't heard
from him since we left



Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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Camp Doniphan, I ran across a
Boy over here in H Company 137th
that knew Roy Sargeant. I would
also like to hear from some of
them down there if you can
get word to any of them send
them my address and have them
write me a letter or any of your
folks or your Friends you think
would like to write to me
while I am here.
Well Dear I will close
for this time write when
ever you can, Now By By
with all My love to all
of you, I will say good night

Your Son the
one that loves you
best, Joe Sgt
XXXXXXXX

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

NEODESHA BOY KILLED IN ACTION.

Joe Sargeant Made the Supreme Sacrifice in France, Sept. 26th.

From all indications Co. E., Wilson County's National Guard company, serving in France, has seen active service as indicated by casualties being reported. The Co. E casualties reported are:

Joe R. Sargeant, Neodesha, killed in action.

Sam Leech, Fredonia, wounded by shrapnel.

Capt. Ben Hudson, wounded in action.

Another Neodesha boy has made the supreme sacrifice, Joseph R. Sargeant, of Co. E, 137th Infantry, being killed in action in France, September 26th, according to a message from the war department, received here last night addressed to Mrs. D. L. Carpenter, the boy's mother, who is now making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Chas. Biddle, a sister of the soldier-hero, who lives west of the Missouri Pacific tracks.

Sargeant was formerly an employee of the Standard and was employed at the refinery when he joined Co. E. He was a very fine young man and everyone who knew him speaks of him in the very highest terms.

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

First Class Private Joe. R. Sargeant.
was Born $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles of ~~King~~ Newkirk Gray Co
Okla April 10th 1899 went to Wichita
Kans 1905 and came to Needlesha Kans
May 31st 1913 he volunteered his service
to his country in June 18th 1917 at Fredonia
Kans and was placed in the ~~National~~ Guards
and later to the regular army was sent
to Camp Honipham Fort Sill Okla Sept 5th 1917
to training camp left there about April
22nd 1918 for France he was killed in
the big drive Sept 26th of two children a
girl and a boy Joe was the youngest.
his was company F 137th U.S. Inf.
35 Division, 69 Brigade.

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

Neodesha, Kans.

Dec 22nd. 1918.

Memorial Building

Topeka, Kans.

Dear Sirs:

I recieved your offer of sympathy
and appreciate your kindness more than I can
say, in return will try to grant your
request tho my heart aches to part with any
of his letters will send you a few and a
picture and a brief sketch of his life as
best I can, Please send the letters and pictures
back to me

Yours and Oblige
Mrs Louise Carpenter
Neodesha Kans.

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

-1-

Camp Mills
Long Island,
April 21/18 New York

My dear Mother- well dear here I am in New York but wont be in the morning we are leaving here about 5:20 and are going over in New Jersey some where Mother I will not be in the U. S. very much longer now the way things look we have our steel helmets, just got them while ago and 130 rounds of ammunition. We have everything now to go right in to the trenches and it looks like we were going across but Dear I hate to tell you this for I know you will worry about me but you must remember mother their is others ones beside me that is going along and they have mothers to so I am not alone.

Well mother I went over to New York City last night and had a good time but I dont like it at all I would rather be in K. C. the Captain said we could go where ever we wanted to as we may not get to go any more so here I went. gee wish you folks could be here to see the City but maby some day you can. I got a letter from Eunice today and she said that she had been down to see you since you came back from Ft. Sill she just think that you and father is about it I am glad she does and I am going to ask you mother to look after her while I am gone to war and when I come back I will pay you for it some way. You know I can not look after her while I am in the army and she is only a girl yet but mother she is all this world to me all of you Perry and Letha and you, so you see I am going to fight for all I love. Dear it has been raining all day and rained hard you ought to see ever thing around here nothing but water and our tents hasent any floors in them so you can just think how we get along but I am going to make the best of it for this is nothing like it will be when we get in France. Well Dear I will close for this time and write to Eunice so by by to all I am as ever your loving son Joe.

Write to me here and it will be sent to me where ever I am at. give my love to Perry and Letha.

May, 1918

My dear Mother Hello everbody how are you folks hope you are all well I am well. Mother I have found it hard to think of any thing to say as we cannot write about our trip or what is going on, but I guess I can tell you all about that when I come back home, but I am going to tell you one thing I don't know if it will pass or not but I wouldn't give two cents for this trip again. gee but I never got so tired of anything before in my life it sure was "bum" but as this is war times it could be worse.

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier


-2-

Well dear I am looking for a letter or two befor long I got a letter from Eunice the day we went in camp at Long Island. Well mother tell ever one hello for me, I dont know where to tell you to write as I dont know where I am at.

By by, as ever Joe

July 6, 1918

My Dear home folks, how are you by this time hope you are all well and getting along alright I am just fine and have been seeing some exciting times but this is just what I like I always did like to be where there was something going on.

Well mother Dear, you wanted me to tell you all about this country over here. well I dont know just how to go about it to tell you but anyway France is away behind us over their that is in small places of course in Paris it is about like our citys but in other parts of France it is just like a bunch of Indians they still drive and work oxen, it is Harvest time now and they cut the rye with knives this is what the knives look like  and another thing I seen back of the line in some town was a man and 4 women plowing the 4 women were pulling the plow by a rope and the man was holding it up. but the women do all of the hard work here now. say Dear I sure seen some church in France it was built in 1620 but it sure was pretty inside.

Well mother how is Richard getting along tell him hello and to be a good boy till I come home, and say I sure am waiting for that picture that you said you were going to send me. tell major to take a good picture I got a letter from Eunice yesterday she said that she was at home now while harvest was going on. Dear I am sure glad you like her and about you counting on her going with me to your new home if you get it you can bet on that if I go she will and ma that is all I think of now "when I have time to think of home" is being with you and Perry and Eunice and help make a good home for us four. and Dear old Perry I never can repay him for what he has done for me. I knew that he loved me it did not take this war for me to know it but it has taken the war for me to show him what I can do to make him think more of me, and as you have said in your letter it will be a gloryest time for me when I step off of the train at home gee but it will be great.

Well Dear I will close for this time will write you soon

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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tell all hello and that I send my love, now by by Dear Mother
I am always thinking of you tell Perry this is for him

Your own son
Joe

P.S. I havent heard a word from sister yet but am looking
for a letter

Some where in the Trenches July 18, 1918

Well folks how are you this pretty day gee but it sure is a
fine day not much doing today only a few air battles now
and then. we just had a air fight with three enemy plains
but they got away. the air was full of shrapnell for a while
but it is quiet now. I am down in a dugout now I dont know
how long I will get to stay but I hope I can stay long enough
to write this letter to you.

Well Dear how is ever thing at home I am looking for the
Picture that you was going to send of you and the colt and
your chickens. tell Perry I am sure glad that he is doing well
at the shops wish I was their to help him but I am still look-
ing forward to the time when I can. now Dear I think you are
going to deep about what you said ever one thought of me but
I sure hope they do think that way say mother is it right
about you and Perry going to Okla if you do I sure hope I am
there to go with you this Fall but that is to far off to think
about right now, gee wish I knew where I was going to be this
fall but I can guess and that is right here in the trenches
or some where over here.

Dear I am sorry that I can not send you a splinter of the ship
I came over in but I will send you a splinter of my dugout
that is if the Censor will let it pass, the G. E. 6 on it
is the dugout number.

Well mother have you seen Eunice lately I am sending her
letter to your box so you can give it to her or send it as I
dont know just where he is at. Dear I havent seen Clarence
since he went to the Hospital he wont write to me so I cant
write to him as I dont know where he is at but I think he is back
in France some where.

ma you tell grandma I said hello and tell uncle Sam hello
to I would write to all of them if I could but I cant right
now I might when I get out of the trenches if I get out (Ha Ha)
Well Dear mother I will close for today will try to write agin
soon so By By give my love to all

I am as ever your
own loveing son
Joe
to
"mother- Perry"

Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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France August 5
1918

Mrs D. L. Carpenter
Neodesha
Kansas

My dear Mother I will write you a few lines today to let you know that I am well and feeling fine Hope this fines you folks well. Well Dear we moved today to some very good Billets the best we have had since I have been in the army we have some real beds and a good room their is just two of us in this room and 5 in the next room, this is like home, but it is just my luck to leave here in a few days Oh say Dear do you remember one year ago today I sure do wonder where I will be another year from today somewhere in the states I hope. if the War ends this year and I stay over here and work the 6 months it will be about a year.

Well mother I will close for this time will write again soon so By by with my love to you and Perry

I am as ever your little

Joe

P. S. I am sending your souvenir in this letter as I was in a hurry the other letter I wrote to you and forgot to put it in the letter. Joe

In the Trenches

Somewhere in France
Aug. 20th 1918

Mrs. D. L. Carpenter
Neodesha, Kans.

My Dear Father- Mother

I am writing you a few lines today to let you know I am well and feeling fine and hope this fines you the same.

Have you been getting my letters alright I believe I have recd all of yours so far. it has been quite a while I think since I last heard from you but am looking for a letter any time. I only get a letter from you and Eunice now Oh yes I do get one from Letha about ever six months (Ha Ha) I am going to start writing to ever one I know and see if I can't here from some




Joseph R. Sargeant, World War I soldier

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of them, it is going to be hard to write to so many you know how well I like to write (Ha Ha) Oh yes Dear you know I said the other day that I was going to send you apart of my pay well I have made out a allotment of \$18.00 for you and I want you to use it to. I have found out that money will get a fellow in bad over here it did me, and I don't want it to happen again. Well Dear, I will tell you about our place here, we have a fine place to sleep but it is verry dark even in the day time we also have a verry good Bath house witch I use ever day we have goos eats to so what more could a fellow wish for in war times. their is a lot more I would love to tell you in this latter but it cant be did but some day I will tell you all about this, it will be some time but I will be home some time so I can tell you,

Well Ma I am looking for the Pictures you said that you would send, if I ever get back to some city where I can have my picture taken I will sned you one. I dont suppose you would know me now as I am fat as a pig, so you see army life is agreeing with me, (ha, ha)

Mother, could you send me a \$1 bill a new one, and if you send it write Mother- and have Perry put Father and Letha Sister, in the 3 corners of it like this  I want one to keep while I am over here as I hardly ever see U. S. money any more. I will see the Captain some time and if it will be alright I will send you some French money.

Ma do you know if Jim Smith was drafted or not I haven't heard from him since we left Camp Doniphan, I ran across a boy over here in H Company 137th that knew Roy Sargent. I would also like to here from some of them down their if you can get word to any of them send them my address and have them write me a letter or any of your folks or your Friends you think would like to write to me while I am here.

Well Dear I will close for this time write when ever you can, now By By with all my love to all of you, I will say good night

Your son, the one that
loves you best, Joe Sgt.