

Alexander Heaton Case, 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 Alexander Heaton Case, Company D, 137th Infantry.

Date: 1918-1920

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Alexander Heaton Case, World War I soldier



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Alex.H.Case,
Enlisted
April,1917,
age 18 years.

Co. D, 137 Inf. 33 Div.

Alex.E.Case.
Enlisted
April,1861 in
Civil War.

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written to his parents. Two postal cards received from Alex.H.Case,
Dec.12"1918.

Nov.14"1918.
Am well and in our lines again.
Alex.

Nov.15"1918.
I have just been given this card by the Red Cross along with a swell dinner and am feeling fine.I don't think much of prison life in Germany and will have much to tell when I get home.I am in fine health and expect to be home soon.Believe me,this side is the best.

Alex.

Cablegram received Dec.13"1918,from Lieut.Burkholder.
Rosse Case,Marion,Kansas.
"Alex.returned prisoner,condition good.

Letter received Dec.18"1918.

Nov.21"1918.

Dear Folks.

I am able to get some paper and thought perhaps you might like to hear from me.

I was captured by the Germans on the 26th.of Sept.,the third day of the grand drive that made them beg for peace.I was lost from my company on the first day of the drive,and was with L company,139Regt.when I met a Lieutenant and a fellow from our company.We joined them and started to catch up with our company which they said was just a short distance ahead. Well,we got ~~lost~~ twisted in our directions and after a couple of hours walk, we landed plump up against a road that was packed with retreating Germans. We started to retire and had a couple of machine guns shooting at us,so we dropped into a shell hole and spent the remainder of the night.The next morning we found ourselves in the midst of the whole "dutch"army. We bagged about a dozen of them and as they showed great signs of blowing us out of the hole with bombs and of filling us full of lead if we stuck our heads up,we decided to stick up the white flag.Well,they took us back and tried to quiz us,but had very little luck.Then they put us to work pulling wagons around and carrying boxes.We didn't mind the work,but they didn't put up food service.One days grub was as follows:
Morning,one small bowl of parched barley coffee.
Noon,one small bowl of potato peeling soup.
Evening,parched barley coffee and one fourth loaf of black bread.The bread was made of rye,tree bark and potato peelings and saw dust.It did not"hit the spot"to our ~~liking~~ liking.

This was our menu for the seven weeks I was captive.You can imagine how glad I am to get back.

Alex.H.Case.

Letter received Dec.18"1918.

Vittel,France,Nov.25"1918.

Dear Dad.

I hear today is fathers day so I thought I would take the advantage of the opportunity of shoving a letter off to you.It is rather cold today and looks like snow and I would not be surprised to see it start snowing any minute.I suppose it is fairly warm in Kansas,nice automobilng weather.

I am in a hospital having a few sores treated which are the result of flea bites and an industrious scratching of the same.I am feeling fine and have an awful appetite.The sores are about all healed and I expect to get out of here any day.

Believe me,but the Bosch did get their fill of war all of a sudden.We started that drive on the 26th.of Sept.I had never heard a word about peace. Well,in two weeks peace became very popular(with the Germans)and in two ~~weeks~~ ^{months} we had it.The Germans killed more American by walking them to death trying to keep up with them,the Germans,in their retreat than by any other means.It surely was funny to see how excited they became,behind their lines while retreating.They would try to drive three teams through the same space they would not ordinarily have tried to drive one.They would hit their horses over the head trying to make them go forward,they would lock wheels,curse and try to beat each other home.I never saw anything so funny in all my life. Steam rollers were crashing into the rear of wagons,they were throwing everything away from rifle bullets to sixteen inch shells,machine guns,belts, huge wire cutters,helmets,wagons,trucks,thrashing machine engines,rifles,

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packs, boots and everything imaginable lined the roads for miles. The only object the dutch seemed to have was to beat each other home. To my notion, there was never ~~was~~ a much more badly whipped nation in history.

If the allies were glad to have the war over, I am sure the Germans were doubly glad and I can't say that I blame them for being glad. They were getting only one meal a day and that was vegetable soup and occasionally a little horse meat.

Well, I guess I wont bother you any more now,
lots of love, your son.

Alex. H. Case,

Company D 137th Inf'y, A.E.F.

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Company was kept at Marion, Kansas.

Alexander Heaton Case, son of Rosse Case, a Native Kansas and Emma E. Case, nee Emma E. Heaton, a native of Pennsylvania, was born March 24th. 1899 at Marion, Kansas, and was educated at our Marion schools and in May, 1917 was graduated at the Marion High School. On the 10th. day of April, 1917, when a few days more than 18 years of age he enlisted in the Kansas National ~~Guards~~ Guards, expecting to be called out immediately, but was not called until August 5th. 1917, the Company remaining at Marion, where it was drilled the same as though being in camp, then the Marion boys were ordered to McPherson, Kansas, and they were organized into ~~the~~ Company D 137th U.S. Infantry where the Company was in training until the following September when they were moved to ~~Exp~~ Camp Doniphan, Okla. In April, 1918 the Regiment was taken to Camp Mills, Long Island, and in a few days sailed for England, arriving there May 8th. They remained in England only a few days when the regiment was sent to France where he served in the 35th. Division until the "Big Drive" ~~of that~~ ~~Division~~, September 26th. 1918. On the 28th. he was taken prisoner by the Germans, remaining a prisoner until the Armistice when he was released and reached the Allied lines Nov. 14th. ~~1918~~ 1918, The last letter received from him is dated Dec. 9th. 1918 from Vittel, France, where he was still in a hospital suffering from sores caused by flea bites. He had not received a letter from home or any other place since before he was taken prisoner and was unable to locate his Company.

He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, is unmarried, ~~and no trade~~

Alexander Case

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ALEX E. CASE & SON
REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE
STEAMSHIP TICKETS
REAL ESTATE LOANS
MARION - KANSAS

FIFTIETH YEAR IN THE SAME BUSINESS IN THE SAME PLACE

January 18th.1919.

W.E.Connelly Sec'y, Topeka, Kansas.

I saw in the daily papers sometime ago that you wanted for the files of the Historical Society, copies of soldier letters and photos of soldiers.

I enclose herewith copies of ^{two} ~~se~~ postal cards and two letters received from Alex.H.Case of Co.D 137th U.S.Inf'ry. The young man enlisted in April, 1917 when he was 18 years old. Under another cover I send you his picture taken in March, 1918 when he was home on furlough from Fort Sill.

As I had enlisted in the Civil War service in April, 1861, his father, Rosse Case insisted that I have my picture taken with that of ~~the~~ my grandson. I am of the opinion you will agree with me that the young man had some experiences that were not exactly pleasant, from what he writes.

Very truly yours,

Alex.E.Case.

Alexander Heaton Case, World War I soldier

CASE & SON

REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE

STEAMSHIP TICKETS

REAL ESTATE LOANS

MARION, KANSAS

FIFTY-SECOND YEAR IN THE SAME BUSINESS IN THE SAME PLACE

June 18, 1920.

W.E. Connelley, Sec'y.

Topeka, Kansas.

Enclosed is my check \$1.00 for my annual dues.

I note what you say about the material gathered relative to the Soldier boys of the Great World War. I wonder if you have a write up of Alex. H. Case, my grandson who enlisted in April, ~~1917~~ 1917, aged 18 years and assigned to the Company D 137th Regt. Kansas Vol. Infantry, was captured in the Argonne fight and was for seven weeks a German prisoner. If you have, I would like to see it before its publication.

Very truly yours,

Alex. E. Case.

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Mr. Alex E. Case,
Marion, Kansas.

January 20, 1919

Dear Mr. Case:-

I was glad to have your favor of the 18th inst., enclosing copies of letters written by your grandson. I shall be glad to see the photograph you are sending. Please send me also a biographical sketch of this young man. I enclose you herewith card which will show you the points we desire to have covered in these biographies.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

Alexander Heaton Case, World War I soldier

ALEX E. CASE & SON
REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE
STEAMSHIP TICKETS
REAL ESTATE LOANS
MARION - KANSAS

FIFTIETH YEAR IN THE SAME BUSINESS IN THE SAME PLACE

January 24th.1919.

H.E.Connelley,Sec'y.
Topeka,Kansas.

Enclosed is a little biographical sketch of Alex.H.Case as per your request of recent date to be used in connection with the letters he wrote as a soldier from France.Did you receive the photo of him and his ~~granddax~~ grandfather,the writer of this,and was it received in good shape?

Very truly yours,

Alex.E.Case.

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Mr. Alex E. Case,
Marion, Kansas.

January 27, 1919

My dear Mr. Case-

I received the biographical sketch and photograph of your grandson, and by the grandson I noticed the grandfather, which is just fine. I am very glad to have the picture in this way, and when I get around to publishing it, which will be in three or four years, probably, if I am still living and have charge of the publishing, I shall put the picture in just as it is, grandson and grandfather, together.

Thanking you for the biographical sketch and photograph,

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

Alexander Heaton Case, World War I soldier

June 19, 1920

Mr. Alex E. Case,
Marion, Kansas.

My dear Mr. Case-

I thank you for your favor enclosing check for one dollar to pay for renewal of membership in the Kansas State Historical Society for the year ending June 30, 1921. It gives me much pleasure to enclose you herewith certificate for such renewal.

We have the biographical sketch and some other information of your grand-son Alexander H. Case. The biography was furnished by yourself. You also furnished us the letters and cablegrams we have, or rather copies of them. The photograph is a fine one and your portrait appears with that of your grand-son. If you have any further information about this fine young Kansas soldier I should be much pleased to have it.

With best regards

Sincerely yours,

Secretary