

## Loren Benson, World War I soldier

### Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

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 letters and their transcriptions from Loren R. Benson, 139th Infantry, 35th Division.

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"WITH THE COLORS"



Fort Still Okla  
Feb. 26-1918

Dear Papa.

Just have time to write  
you a few lines before I  
go to drill, I got the money  
O.K. don't know exactly  
when I will get to come  
home, but it will be soon  
will send you a telegram  
when I start. Lieutenant  
Woodward is keeping my  
money for me.

Answer soon  
With Love

Loren

HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SAVING, WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER





WITH THE COLORS "



1916

Camp Donphan

My Dear Father:-

Please forgive me for not writing sooner but I have just been so busy I couldn't write sooner but after this I will.

I am well and I hope this finds you the same.

Well papa I will get a 7 day furlough about a month and I will get to see you again Papa we had a divisional ~~Review~~ Review to see if we were ready to go across or not and we were not prepared so I don't think we will get to go at all now because I don't think the war will last



WITH THE COLORS "



191

2  
much longer do you?  
The Lieutenants say now  
that this Division will  
never see France

It sure has been cold  
down here we have had  
two blizzards since I heard  
from you last.

Well papa you can  
expect me home in about a  
month if I can get a pay day  
between now and then I  
will be all right but if I  
can't I will have to borrow  
money from you if you will  
let me I have it send my  
love to Grandpa & Laverne and  
answer so I remain as ever  
your loving son Loren





"WITH THE COLORS"



7 to Sell Okla  
March 15 - 1918

Dear Dad: -

Your letter received by me today, and was sure glad to hear from you, but sorry to hear Grandpa was not well.

Well, papa they said up at the office I would probably get my furl about next Monday, but anyway I will send you a telegram when I start. It won't be long now anyway, of course there is nothing certain but I am ~~first~~ on the next bunch that goes out, I don't

HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SAVING, WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER



"WITH THE COLORS"



know much now.  
So I will tell you all the  
news when I see you  
Answer soon.

With Love  
Your Son  
Loren R Benson

HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SAVING, WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER





Camp Doniphan  
March 23-1918  
Dear Papa,  
Got here all O.K.  
and I am well  
hope you are the  
same. Going into  
the trenches tonight  
till Monday morning  
for a sham battle  
will write more  
next time. Answer  
soon your loving son  
Loren



J. T. Sill

Dear Papa:-

I received your letter today. Now Papa you start from there in time to get into Lawton, Monday ~~isn't that~~ afternoon sometime and I will meet you in Lawton at Smokewells. Pool Hall about 7:30 Monday Evening. You can ask any of the people not in uniform and they can





tell you where it is  
Now be sure and start  
from Topeka in time  
so that you can make  
connections, to be able  
to get in Lawton Monday  
during the day sometime  
and if anything happens  
that I am or cannot be  
at the Pool Hall to meet  
you. Just take an  
automobile that says  
"Service Car" on it and  
~~come~~ tell them you  
want to come to Y. M. C.  
No. 58 and then ask any  
at Camp Sompson

Loren Benson, World War I soldier

of the soldiers where  
Headquarters Company of  
the 139<sup>th</sup> Infantry is <sup>after you</sup> get out there  
and they can't tell you  
now this is just in case  
I am not able to meet you  
And bring this letter  
with you so that you  
won't get mixed up  
where to meet me  
I will close  
I remain as ever your  
loving Son  
Loren





Camp Doniphan  
April 2-1918.

Dear papa:-

I received your letter  
yesterday and was sure  
glad to hear from you. I  
am well and I hope you  
are.

It is pretty warm down  
here now, but I like warm  
weather better than I do  
cold so I can't kick.

I have been sick for  
about 3 days I have had  
the grippe, but I am  
all O.K. now.

The first Battalion



Loren Benson, World War I soldier

of the 140 Infantry leaves tonight. I don't know where they go.

Well papa send on your safety razor I need it pretty bad, I am growing an awful crop of whiskers.

How is Grandpa and all the folks up there I am going to write to them tomorrow.

I got a letter from Aunt Mollie & Mahe & Aunt Mollie, isn't



Loren Benson, World War I soldier

feeling very well but  
Mabel is all right  
Well papa I will close  
for this time answer  
soon, I will tell you  
all the news next  
time

With Love  
Yours Son  
Loren



Ft Sill Okla

Oct 5-1917

Dear papa:-

I just received your letter  
I have been in the Hospital  
for a week I got one of my  
balls bumped and it  
sure laid me up for a  
while.

Well papa this water  
is something fierce I wish  
we were at Ripley park again  
so do all the rest of the boys,  
as far as that is concerned  
I think we will leave  
here if the water dont  
get better.

No papa I dont need any  
money I still have got \$5.00  
of that money I had in





②

Topeka, I am feeling  
fine now but for a while  
here I was on the blinker  
Papa our company is all  
busted up and consolidated  
with the Missouri Co. Capt  
Going is with the  
Missouri Cavalry. Lieut.  
Woodward and Serj. Thorne  
are with Headquarters Co. that  
is the company I am getting  
transferred to so I can be  
with my old Lieut. and  
Serj. Well papa I must close  
I will write more next time  
good by with love I remain your son  
Private Loren Benson

Headquarters Co.  
139th Infantry  
Camp Dampfhan  
Ft Sill Okla



"WITH THE COLORS"



Camp Doniphan

April 6 - 1918

My Dear Father,

How are you, I am just fine, and I hope you are.

Well papa we are leaving pretty soon now just a matter of a very few days, no one is allowed to go to town and we are all supposed to stay in the company street, so don't worry about me when I get to our destination I will write to you.

With Love

Your son  
Answer soon and maybe I will get it.  
L.

HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SAVING, WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER





Camp Mills  
Mineola N.Y.  
April 14-1918

My Dear Father  
Arrived here all or  
sure is some muddy  
country, we are on Long  
Island, the biggest part  
of New York City is on  
Long Island.

It was sure one long  
dreary ride we passed  
from Oklahoma, to Kansas  
then in to Missouri.  
then to Illinois then Ohio,  
then Indiana to Pennsylvania  
to New York then back to



Pennsylvania then into New York again then into New Jersey and then to Long Island, we rode from Hoboken New Jersey to Long Island on a ferry boat over the Hudson River, but I sure enjoyed myself, we passed through the Ozark and Catskill Mountains you know the Catskills are where old Rip Van Winkle went to sleep for 20 years.

This is sure a fine country down here though I like it a hundred times





✓  
better than I do Oklahoma  
the people down here treat  
a soldier half way decent  
but they are most all wops  
or Jews. they heard that  
a bunch of Westerners  
from Kansas & Missouri  
got in and they are scared  
to death they think we  
carry big 6 shooters and the  
New York soldiers and  
provs give us the side  
walk, but we are not  
near as rough as they  
think we are.

Now I hear a whistle  
for a detail so I will



= 4 =

close for this time I  
will tell you more next  
time Answer soon

With love and answer  
soon Your Son

Loren Benson

Hdq. Co. 139th Infantry

Camp Mills

Mineola New York  
Long Island



## Loren Benson, World War I soldier

Ft Sill

Dec

Dear Papa:-

I received your most welcome letter today and was glad to hear from you. Papa a division order came in today and it said there would be no Xmas furloughs so I guess you will have to come down. And if you can papa come down so that you can be here the Saturday before Xmas because the only time I can get off is Saturday & Sunday and Xmas day.

Papa there is a case of spinal-Meningitis in our company today so the Lieutenant told us to be awfully careful but there is no danger of it spreading the tent was quarantined immediately so don't be worried any about me. Now I want you to be sure and come down Xmas because they have gave us orders not to write home about when we are going to leave or anything like that see but I will say this 139th is trained well enough to go any time now I have wrote put near everybody a letter and can't get any answer at all.

Well I must close for this time now please answer soon and tell me about you coming down

I remain as ever your loving son

With Love

Loren

L. R. Benson

Hdg Co 139th Infay.

## Loren Benson, World War I soldier

Ft Sill Okla

Jan 2 1918

Deat papa

I received your most welcome letter tonight and was sure glad to hear from you. I am well and I hope this finds you well.

Well papa I got here alright the car I cane down on was 20 minutes late and I just caught the train as she was pulling out.

Yes papa there is a whole lot of talk about us getting furlough and I think it is the truth too And I also understand that a soldier can ride for 1 cent a mile so you see it wouldent cost much for me to come home.

You and me are both alike I like the country down by Uncle Jins and I think I would like to live there either there or Arkansas if I ever get out of this mans army we will go to Arkansas or some place wont we?

I got a card from Leverage today she said Libbie was in Detroit Michigan.

They are all well up there, Well papa I must close for this time.

Good Bye

With love

Your Son

Loren Benson

Hdg. Co. 139th U.S. Infty

Camp Doniphan Okla.

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## Loren Benson, World War I soldier

Ft Sill Okla

Jan. 9-1918

Dear papa:-

I received your most welcome letter today and was sure glad to hear from you, I also received the money. Well papa I dont know how much chance there is of getting a furlo but if I can I will let you know. It is sure cold here we have had a blizzard here for the last two nights and we nearly froze in these tents it snowed and sleeted and blowed all night but it is just a down right still cold tonight and oh how cold it is though.

I got a letter from Aunt Maggie they are all well she said George and Earl were down there. I wonder if she means Geo. J Jefferies.

Well papa I dont think we will be here very long of course I dont know but there is a whole lot of talk about us leaving, and I think there is something to it. We will take a final physical examination before we go across and they say it will be awful stiff toom and I may not pass it if I dont we sure will get us a little place somewhere or the other of course after living out side like I have been I would not want to work in side again if I could help it.

Well papa it is getting awfully late so I will close forr this time

With love

Your Son

Answer Soon.

Loren Benson



Y.M.C.A.

Camp Doniphan

Feb. 16-1918.

Dear Father:-

I am coming home most any time now, in not more than two weeks and not less than one week, can you spare the money right away, or send me a 30 day ticket, I want to be on the safe side, and I will pay you back as soon as I can, pay day is not until the 27th of the month, when I start I will send you a telegram, we cant leave unless we show enough money for a round trip ticket, or a round trip ticket.

Answer at once

With love Your Son

Loren Benson

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Camp Doniphan

Feb 14 1918

Dear Dad:

Will sit myself down an answer your letter tonight. I am well and I hope this finds you the same I am sure glad you have got a job where you can get away from that old mill dust because papa it would have killed you if you had stayed with it. I am motherless you know and I cant afford to lose you for you and Leverne are all I have in this world, so whatever you do take care of your health I did not realize what kind of a father I had till I was away from you for a while. I had \$10,000 worth of insurance made out to you they only take \$6.50 a month out of my pay for it.

My furlough is due in about 2 or 3 weeks they are giving every body one now without any excuse so we will have a good time



## Loren Benson, World War I soldier

Camp Doniphan

March 23, 1918.

Dear Papa:-

Got here all O. K. and I am well hope you are the same. Going into the trenches tonight till Monday morning for a sham battle will write more next time. Answer soon Your loving son  
Loren

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Ft Sill

Dear Papa:-

I received your letter to-day. Now Papa you start from there in time to get into Lawton, Monday afternoon sometime and I will meet you in Lawton at Smokewells. Pool Hall about 7:30 monday Evening. You can ask any of the people not in uniform and they can tell you where it is. Now be sure and start from Topeka in time so that you can make connections, to be able to get in Laeton monday during the day sometime and if anything happens tht that I am or cannot be at the Pool Hall to meet you. Just take an automobile that says "Service Car" on it and tell them you want to come to Y.M.C.A. No. 58 (and then ask any at Camp Doniphan) of the soldiers where Headquarters Company of the 139th Infantry is after you get out there and they can tell you now this is just in case I am not able to meet you And bring this letter with you so that you wont get mixed up where to meet me I will close I remain  
as ever your loving Son

Loren

when I get there.

Well I will close for this time be sure and answer soon

With love

Your son

Loren Benson.

[illegible]

Y.M.C.A.

Ft Sill Okla

Feb. 26-1918

Dear papa,

Just have time to write you a few lines before I go to drill, I got the money O. K. dont know ~~w~~ exactly when I will get to come home but it will be soon will send you a telegram when I start. Lieutenant Woodward is keeping my money for me.

Answer Soon

With Love

Loren

H't Sill Okla

March 15-1918

Dear Dad:-

Your letter received by me today, and was sure glad to hear from you, but sorry to hear Grandpa was not well.

Well papa they said up at the office I would probably get my furlo about next Monday, but anyway I will send you a telegram when I start, it wont be long now anyway, of course there is nothing certain but I am first on the next bunch that goes iyt, I dont know much now. So I will tell you all the news when I see you.

With Love, Your Son,

Loren R. Benson





Camp Doniphan

April 2-1918

Dear Papa:-

I received your letter yesterday and was sure glad to hear from your I am well and I hope you are.

It is pretty warm down here now, but I like warm weather better than I do cold so I cant kick. I have been sick for about 3 days I have had the grippe, but I am O.K. now.

The first Battalion of the 140 Infantry leaves tonight. I dont know where they go,

Well papa send on your safety razor I neet it pretty bad, I am growing an awful crop of whiskers.

How is Grandpa and all the folks up there I am going to write to them tomorrow.

I got a letter from Aunt Mollie & Mabel Aunt Mollie isen't feeling very well but Mabel is all right Well papa I will close for this time answer soon, I will tell you all the news next time.

With Love

Your Son

Loren

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Camp Doniphan

April 6-1918

My Dear Father,

How are you, I am just rine, and I hope you are. Well papa we are leaving pretty soon now just a matter of a few days no one is allwerd to go to town and we are supposed to stay in company street so dont worry about me when I get to our destination I will write you.

With Love

Your Son

Answer soon and maybe I will get it.

L.

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Camp Mills

Mineola N. Y.

April 14-1918

My Dear Father

Arrived here all O. K. sure is some muddy Insland, we are on Long Island, the biggest part of New York City is on Long Island.

It was sure one long dreary ride we passed Oklahoma, to Kansas then on to Missioru then to Illinois, then Ohio, then Indiana to Pennsylvania to New York then back to Pennsylvania then Into New York again then into New Jersey to Long Island, we rode from Hoboken New Jersey to Long Island on a ferry boat over the Hudson River, but I sure enjoyed myself, we passed through the Ozark and Katskill Mountains you know the Katskills are where old Rip Van Winkel went to sleep for 20 years.

This sure a fine country down here though I like it a hundred times better than I do Oklahoma the people down here treat a soldier galf way decent but they are most all wops or Jews they heard that a bunch of Westerns from Kansas & Missouri got in and they think we carry big 6 shooters and the New York soldeirs and provos give us the side walk, but we are not near as rough as they think we are.

Now I hear a whistle for a detail so I will close for this time I will tell you more next time    Answer soon    With love and  
answer soon    Your Son



## Loren Benson, World War I soldier

Loren R. Benson

Hdq. Co. 139th Infantry

Camp Mills

Mineola New York

Long Island

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Camp Mills

April 23-1918.

My Dear Father.

I received your most welcome letter and was glad to hear from you.

Well papa I guess this will be the last letter you will get from me until we get to where we are going and papa whatever you do dont worry about me I will get along all right we will have at least 5 months of training before we go in the trenches and peace may be declared before then and I will be home again and I will write to you ever chance I get.

The way they work it over in Europe, we spend 10 days in the trenches and 30 days out, so you see it is not so bad after all.

Tell Effie I got her cigars and I thank her very much I cant write now, to her.

If you ever see Katie tell her I will write to her as soon as I can.

Now papa dont wait for me to write every time, maybe I cant write as often as you can, see, so write every chance you get. Now papa I must close for this time and answer soon address it to the same address and I will get it

ByeBy With Love

Your Loving Son

Private Loren R. Benson

## Loren Benson, World War I soldier

Hdq. Co. 139 Infantry

Camp Mills

35th Division.

Mineola N. Y.

Send my love to Leverage.

Papa send smoking tobacco, whenever you can.

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Somewhere in England.

Dear Father:-

I arrived safely overseas and I am feeling fine and I hope you are well.

This is sure a beautiful country we are in, and I like it fine. Send my love to little sister and all the rest and tell them not to forget me.

Write me along letter and tell me all the news

Answer soon

Your loving Son.

Private Loren R. Benson

Hdq. Co. 139 U. S. Infantry

A. E. F.

Via New York.

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Somewhere in France

June 1-1918

My Dear Father-

I am writing a few lines today to let you know that I am well and I hope this finds you well.

We are now in France and from what I have seen of the country I like it fine. No I did not receive that tobacco you said you



## Loren Benson, World War I soldier

sent, probably it was delayed some way or other.

How is everything back in Topeka now? I suppose the old town is pretty dead now isn't it? And is it the truth about Mrs. Losh getting married again? Geo Jacques was telling me about it, he said he received a letter from his girl. I have only received one letter from you, dated April 28 or something like that, I have written you six since we arrived on this side of the "pond".

There is only one trouble of being in France, that is, I can't talk French, I can say, "Good morning", and eggs, milk, wine and bread but that is the limit, but we get along all right.

Do you ever see Dick Bradford, or Kagee if you do tell them to write to me, and I have received no letters from Katie yet, nor any of the other folks, tell them if they haven't got their hands cut off I want to receive a letter from them. My address is Private Loren R. Benson, Hdq. Co. 139 Infantry, A. E. F. France. Well I must close for this time hoping to hear from you soon I remain as ever your loving Son

Loren R. Benson.

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Y.M.C.A.

A. E. F.

June 14 1918.

My Dear Father:-

Will write you a few lines this fine morning to let you know that I am well, and that I received your letter dated May 14.

You said you received the tobacco you sent me back, I would sure like to have received it for American tobacco is rather hard to get, although we received an issue last night, and will probably get another one in a few days.

Artie Blake is in the company that I am in now. we are both working at 1st Battalion Headquarters no