

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 18

Section 23, Pages 661 - 690

These folders contain the correspondence of Governor Allen on a variety of topics. In the first letter Secretary John P. Shillady, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, argues against the segregation of Kansas schools. Other letters relate to issues facing veterans of World War I, such as bonuses, delayed mail, demobilization, discharge records, the release of the 89th Division, and employment for discharged soldiers.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1919-1923 : Allen)

Date: 1919-1923

Callnumber: Governor's Office, Governor Henry J. Allen, Correspondence Files, Subject Files Box 18

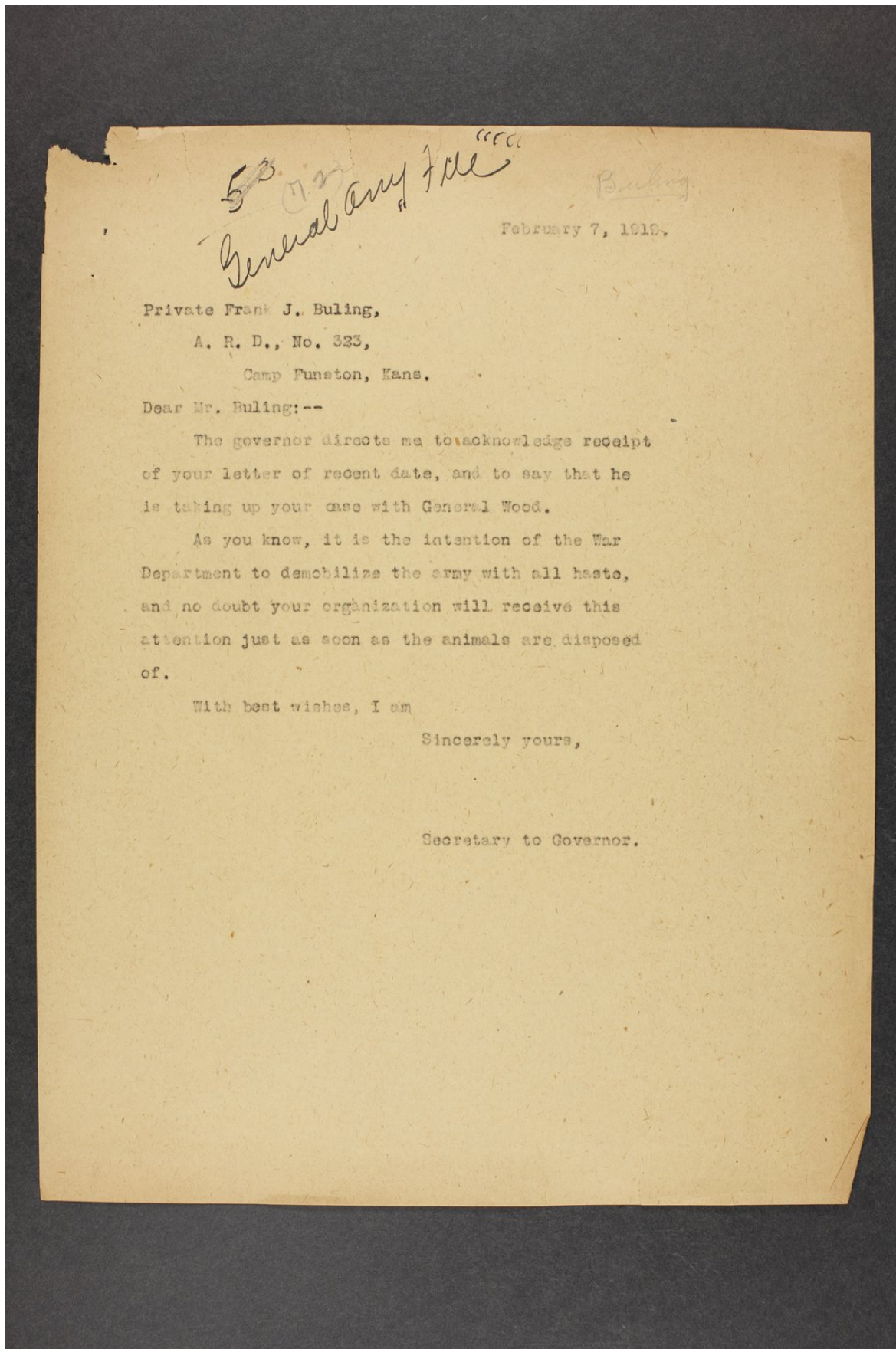
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ARMY AND NAVY
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
"WITH THE COLORS" YMCA

Aux Remount Depot
323
Camp Funston
Kansas

Governor Allen

Dear Sir,

I am writing you a few lines to tell you about this place and the order received here from General Woods, telling to leave the men out, I will send the order along with this letter, there are about 400 men in this Depot mostly all farmers from Kansas and Nebraska, and lots of married men with small babies, and they are not letting them out and the way it looks we won't get out for some time, I am a Kansas farmer and married and have a baby, I have been in the service 16 months now I would like to get out so I could farm, all the other boys are out but us in the Remount, some of the Nebraska boys wrote to their

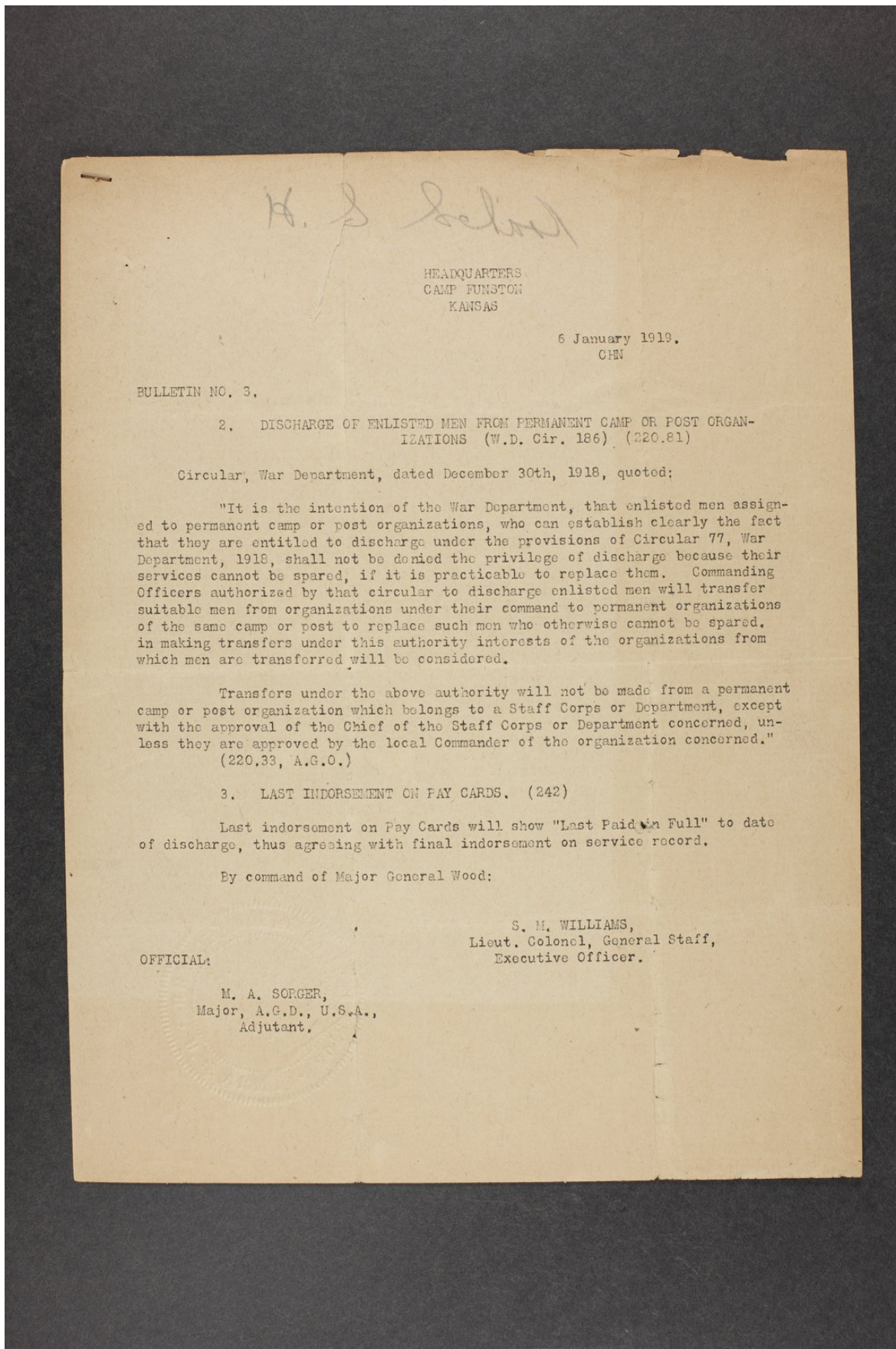
TO THE WRITER:—SAVE BY WRITING ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER
TO THE FOLKS AT HOME:—SAVE FOOD, BUY LIBERTY BONDS AND WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

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Governor and he went to Wash-
ington to see about getting the
boys out, so I thought I would
write to you, for I am needed
at home, hoping to hear from
you soon

I remain
Frank J. Buling
Aux Remount Depot 222
Camp Sumner
Kansas

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HEADQUARTERS
CAMP FUNSTON
KANSAS

6 January 1919.
CHN

BULLETIN NO. 3.

2. DISCHARGE OF ENLISTED MEN FROM PERMANENT CAMP OR POST ORGANIZATIONS (W.D. Cir. 186) (220.81)

Circular, War Department, dated December 30th, 1918, quoted:

"It is the intention of the War Department, that enlisted men assigned to permanent camp or post organizations, who can establish clearly the fact that they are entitled to discharge under the provisions of Circular 77, War Department, 1918, shall not be denied the privilege of discharge because their services cannot be spared, if it is practicable to replace them. Commanding Officers authorized by that circular to discharge enlisted men will transfer suitable men from organizations under their command to permanent organizations of the same camp or post to replace such men who otherwise cannot be spared, in making transfers under this authority interests of the organizations from which men are transferred will be considered.

Transfers under the above authority will not be made from a permanent camp or post organization which belongs to a Staff Corps or Department, except with the approval of the Chief of the Staff Corps or Department concerned, unless they are approved by the local Commander of the organization concerned." (220.33, A.G.O.)

3. LAST INDORSEMENT ON PAY CARDS. (242)

Last indorsement on Pay Cards will show "Last Paid in Full" to date of discharge, thus agreeing with final indorsement on service record.

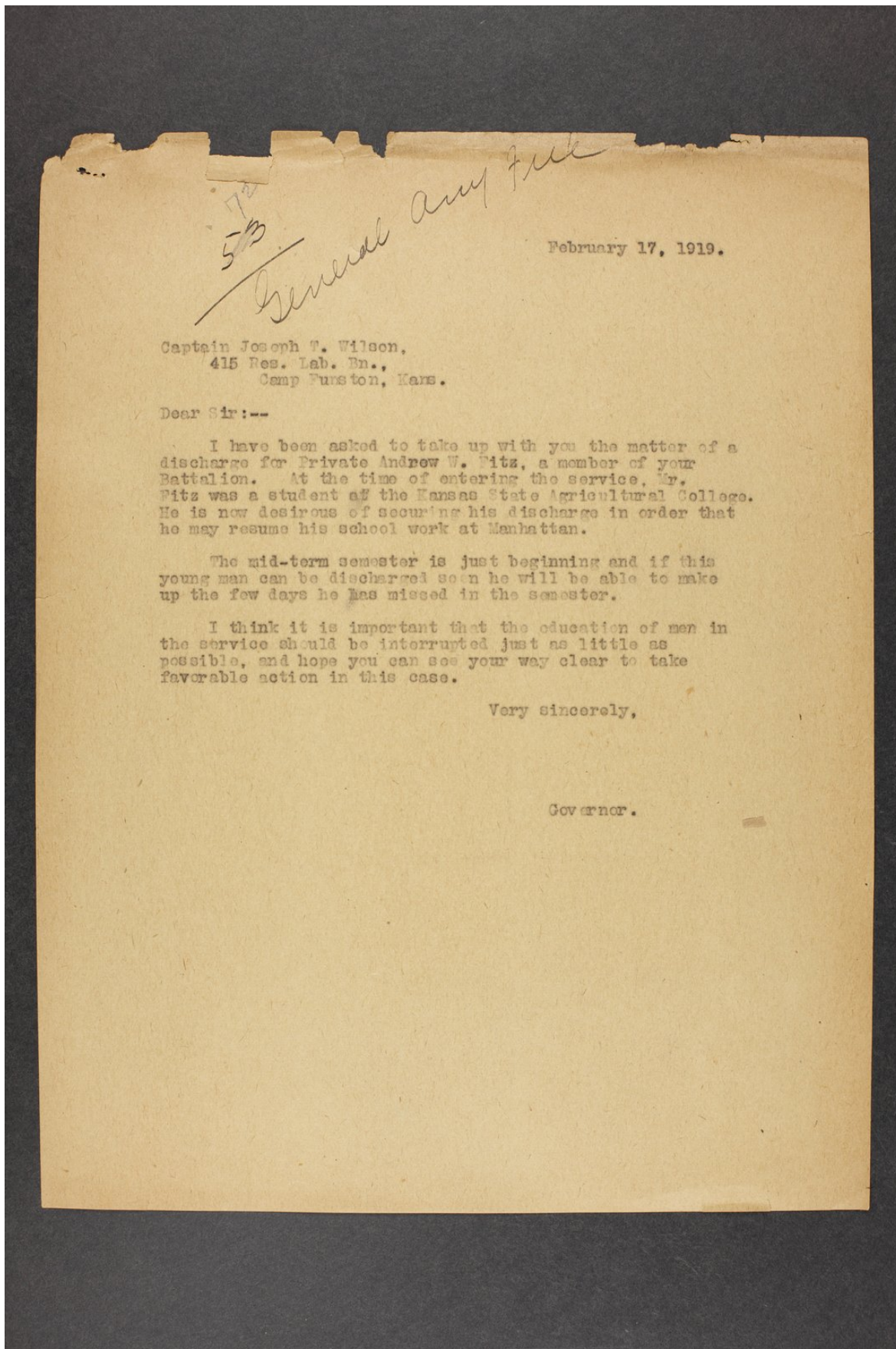
By command of Major General Wood:

S. M. WILLIAMS,
Lieut. Colonel, General Staff,
Executive Officer.

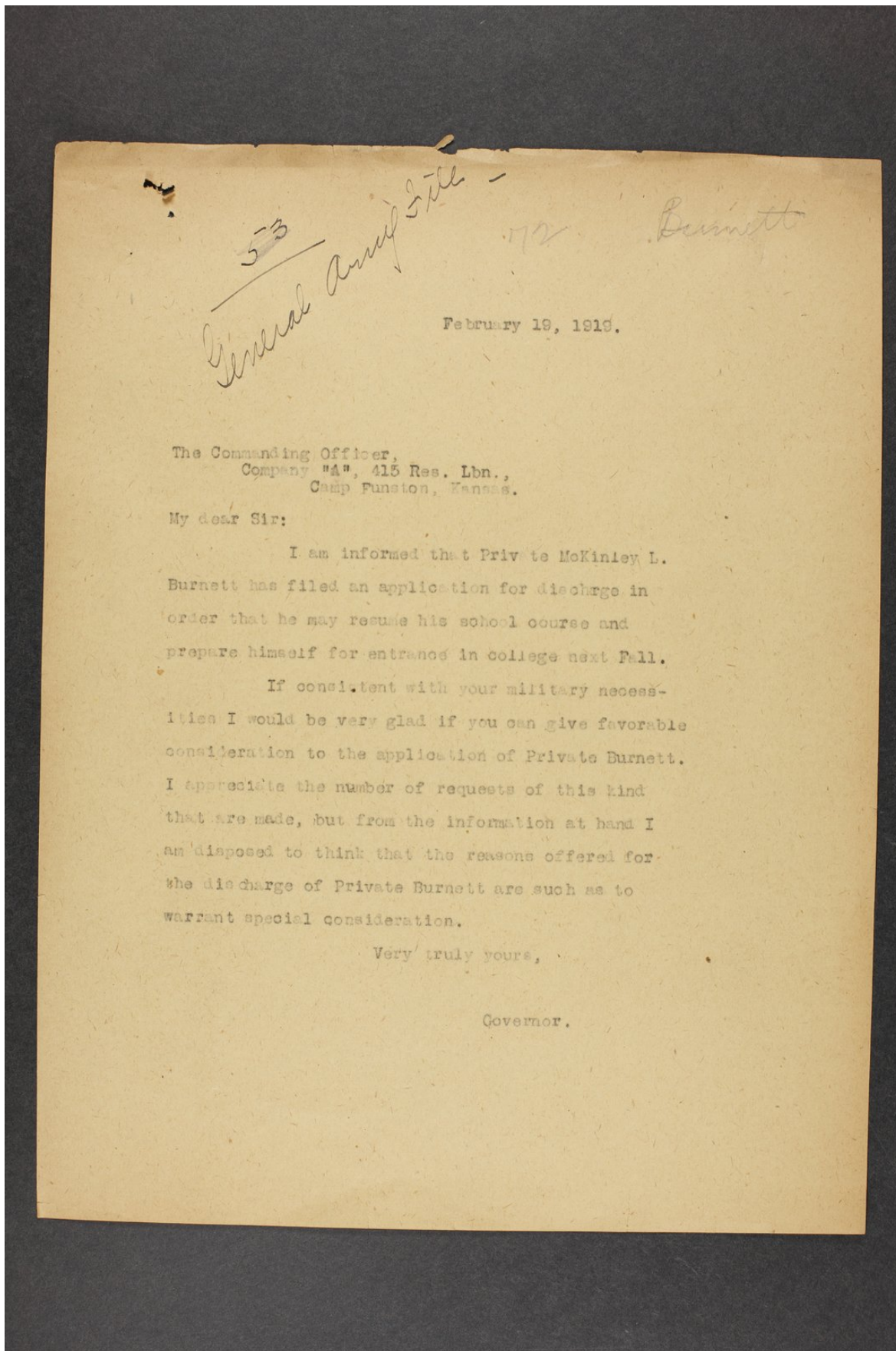
OFFICIAL:

M. A. SORGER,
Major, A.G.D., U.S.A.,
Adjutant.

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CO. A. 415 RES. LBN.
FEB. 18-19
CAMP FUNSTON KANSAS.

TO-- GOV. ALLEN
FROM McKinley L. Burnett
SUBJECT Desire for an early discharge.

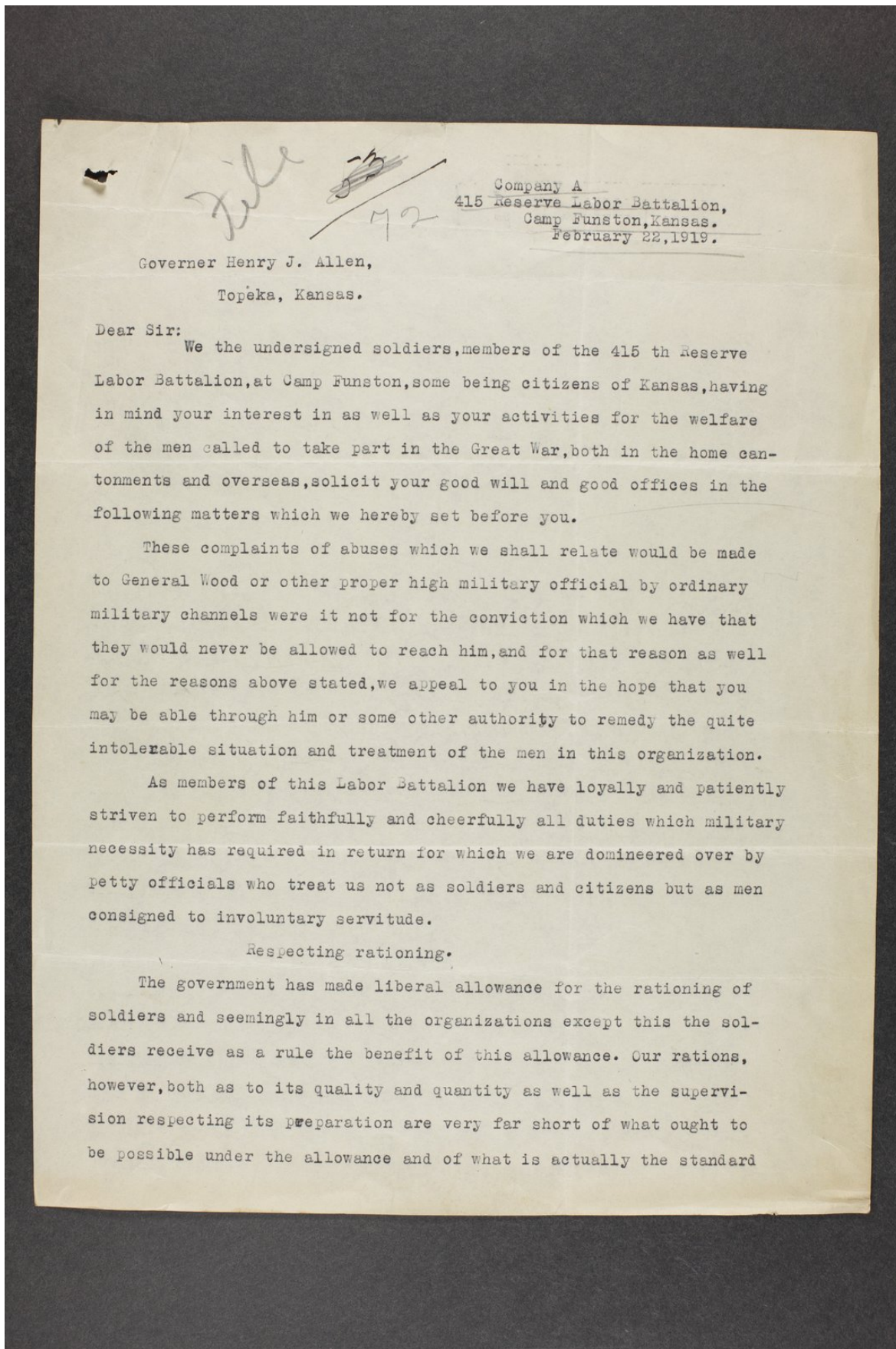
Dear sir I am writting you to see if I can get your help in assisting me to get released from the Army, I live at Oskaloosa Kansas and am a graduate of the High School there, and it is my intention if I can get released to take a preparatory for Law the balance of the year then take up the study of the Legal Profession next fall, and I understand that no one can enter College after March the 1st.

I formally belonged to the 65th. Pioneer Inf. and on the eve of it,s demobilization I with others were transfered and assigned to the Organization to which I now belong, and as my services are no more needed I think it is unnecessary for me to sacrifice my education to stay in the Army any longer when I can devote my time to something more beneficial, every day I spend here throws me that much behind in my education and the results of my future life depends on what I devote my time to now, I also feel that I can make a better citizen of myself and be more service to my country by going to school and developing myself mentally then by staying in this Army and do the manual labor whi ch it seems to me civilians should be doing.

If it would not be asking too much of you I would like for you to write to my Battalion Commander concerning this matter whose address is Capt. J. T. Wilson
415 Res. Lbn. Camp Funston.

Yours Respectively
Pvt. McKinley L. Burnett

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in other organizations.

Treatment of men.

When because of lack of sufficient food, or because of bad, tainted, or apparently spoiled food, the men have dared complain to the proper officer, they have been summarily thrown into the guardhouse or otherwise shamefully treated. Recently an officer publicly announced to the men that if what they get to eat doesn't suit them, he would give them each one Irish potato and let them cook it in the sun and eat it.

Concerning all these matters we are denied the right or privilege to speak to the Captain.

Non-commissioned Officers.

The non-commissioned officers lately placed over us are either lacking in soldierly character or disdain to exhibit it in their dealings with us. They are uniformly illmannered, often brutal and arrogantly boast at times that they will knock the men's brains out.

That tragedies have not occurred is due simply to the men's self-control and to their desire not to subject themselves to severe and arbitrary military punishment.



We have as stated above striven to do our duty by the government and are still willing to do so. We think that the government in return should give us relief from this Prussianism of petty military tyrants so that we may be accorded the treatment of soldiers and citizens.

We believe that you are able and disposed to give us the benefit of your good offices in these matters and for that reason we appeal to you.

Faithfully and obediently yours,

*Signed Kansas and other members
of the said organization*

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72 53
 *Amey* *file* *Bislering*
 ARMY AND NAVY
 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
 "WITH THE COLORS" 
 A. R. D. 323, Feb. 23, 1919
 Camp Funston
 Kansas.
 Governor Allen 53/
 Dear Sir,
 I will write you another letter, in regards to this Remount you said no doubt that when they sold the horses we would be let out but it dont look that way, they have had 2 sales since I wrote you, and they intend to keep the rest of the horses and the way it looks us to the war is over and I dont see why we cant get out all of the other boys are out, and it is soon time to farm if I dont get out soon I dont be able to do any thing for another year and I need it, I have been in here 17 months now I have a wife
 TO THE WRITER:—SAVE BY WRITING ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER
 TO THE FOLKS AT HOME:—SAVE FOOD, BUY LIBERTY BONDS AND WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

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and baby that I got to take
care of. I think there is some
thing wrong for keeping us
here and they make use work
I at and I am, we even had to
work on Washington Birthdays
unnecessary work, we are not getting
treated like human's at all, it was
all right while war was going
on, but it is over with now and
I am sure the Government dont no
about that, hoping to hear from
you soon, and that you can help
me I remain

Pvt. Frank J. Biling
Q.R.D. 323
Camp Funston
Kansas

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Boonville, Nebraska
February 23, 1919

Governor Allen,
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir:—

I am writing you
in regard to my husband
who is at Camp Funston; as
Mrs Day the president of the
Red Cross of this branch, said
perhaps you could help me.

My husband is Carl Fred
Handley of the 1st Casual Co.
Building 434 at Camp Funston.
He enlisted for period of war
at Manhattan Kansas in Aug.
1917 & was called on September

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fifth 1917 to Camp Funston
& put in the 15th Co., 164th Depo
Brigade. Remaining in that
organization till in August
1918. Then he was transferred
to the Co. "B" 69th Infantry of
the tenth Division. He was
in this organization untill
about a month ago. When he
took the mumps & was sent
to the base hospital at Fort
Riley where he remained for
two weeks & four days. Upon
going back to camp he found
his Co. all discharged & orders
made for his transfer to his
present organization already

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mentioned. I am the mother
of an infant child seven
weeks old & the Government
ows me nine months
allotment including this
month. I am staying with
my parents who are poor &
unable to help me much.
They are moving away so I
have no home no money
& not clothes enough to keep
me warm. So I am writing
you in hopes that you can
hasten my husband's
discharge. His Captain says
as he enlisted for period
of war he can hold him

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till peace is made. Is there
no & without no way in which
he can be discharged sooner?
The Red Cross Pers. made
out papers before a Notary
Public & had them signed
by four disinterested parties
asking for my husband's
relief but his Captain paid
no attention to them
I have written to Washington
D. C. about my allotment but
I have so many debts to pay
that there wont be much left
of it. Can you not help me out
by hastening my husband
discharge for I need him

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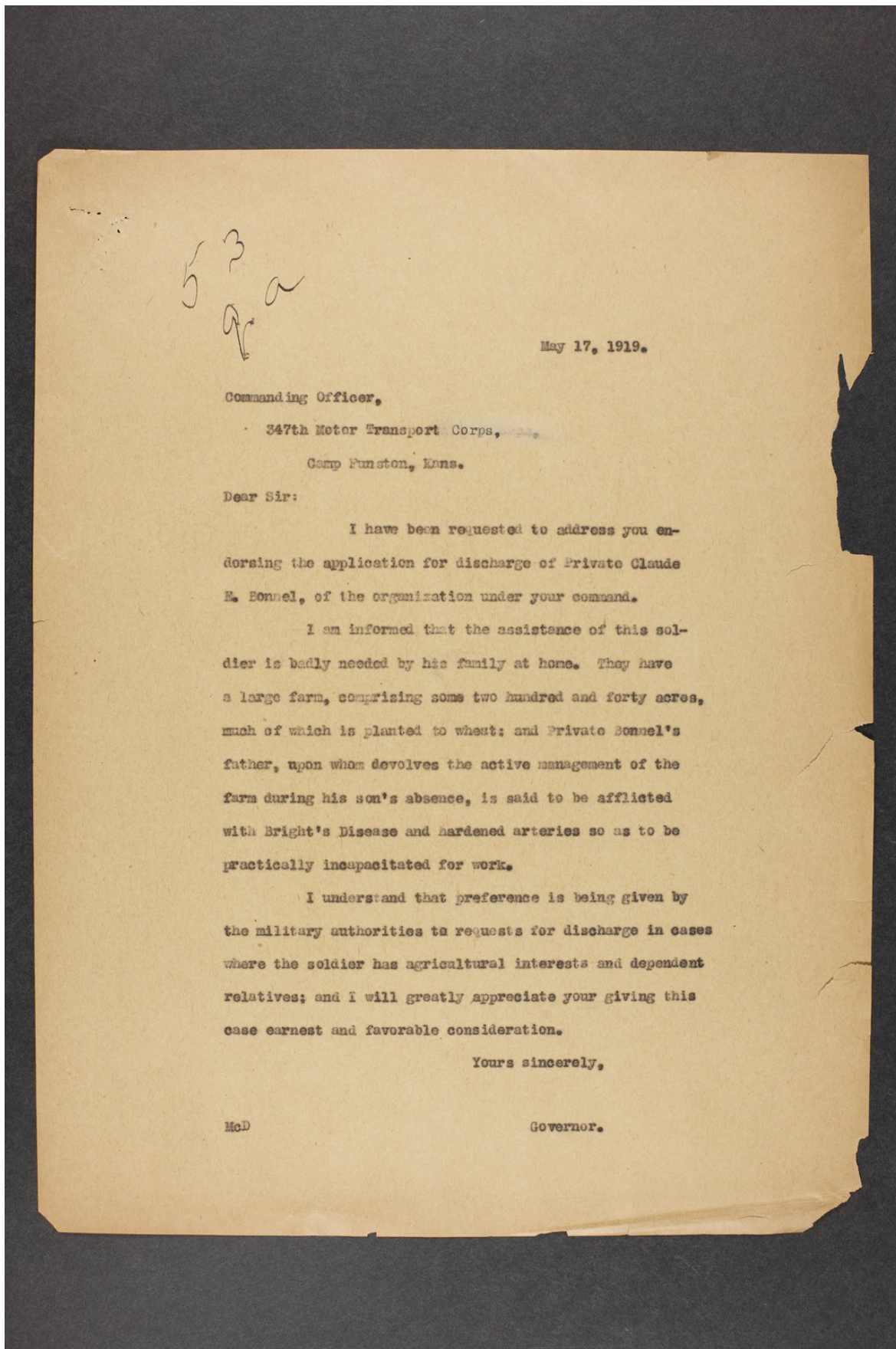
: 5 :

very badly. If Uncle Sam was
in war & needed him badly
I would say nothing, but as
it is he is not strong enough
to do anything & must
remain there when he is
needed at home so bad.

So I ask & beg of you to help
me if you can & let me
know if you can or cannot
And Oblidge

Address
Mrs. Earl Handley
Boetwick
Nebr.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 18



May 17, 1919.

Commanding Officer,
347th Motor Transport Corps,
Camp Funston, Kans.

Dear Sir:

I have been requested to address you endorsing the application for discharge of Private Claude E. Bonnel, of the organization under your command.

I am informed that the assistance of this soldier is badly needed by his family at home. They have a large farm, comprising some two hundred and forty acres, much of which is planted to wheat; and Private Bonnel's father, upon whom devolves the active management of the farm during his son's absence, is said to be afflicted with Bright's Disease and hardened arteries so as to be practically incapacitated for work.

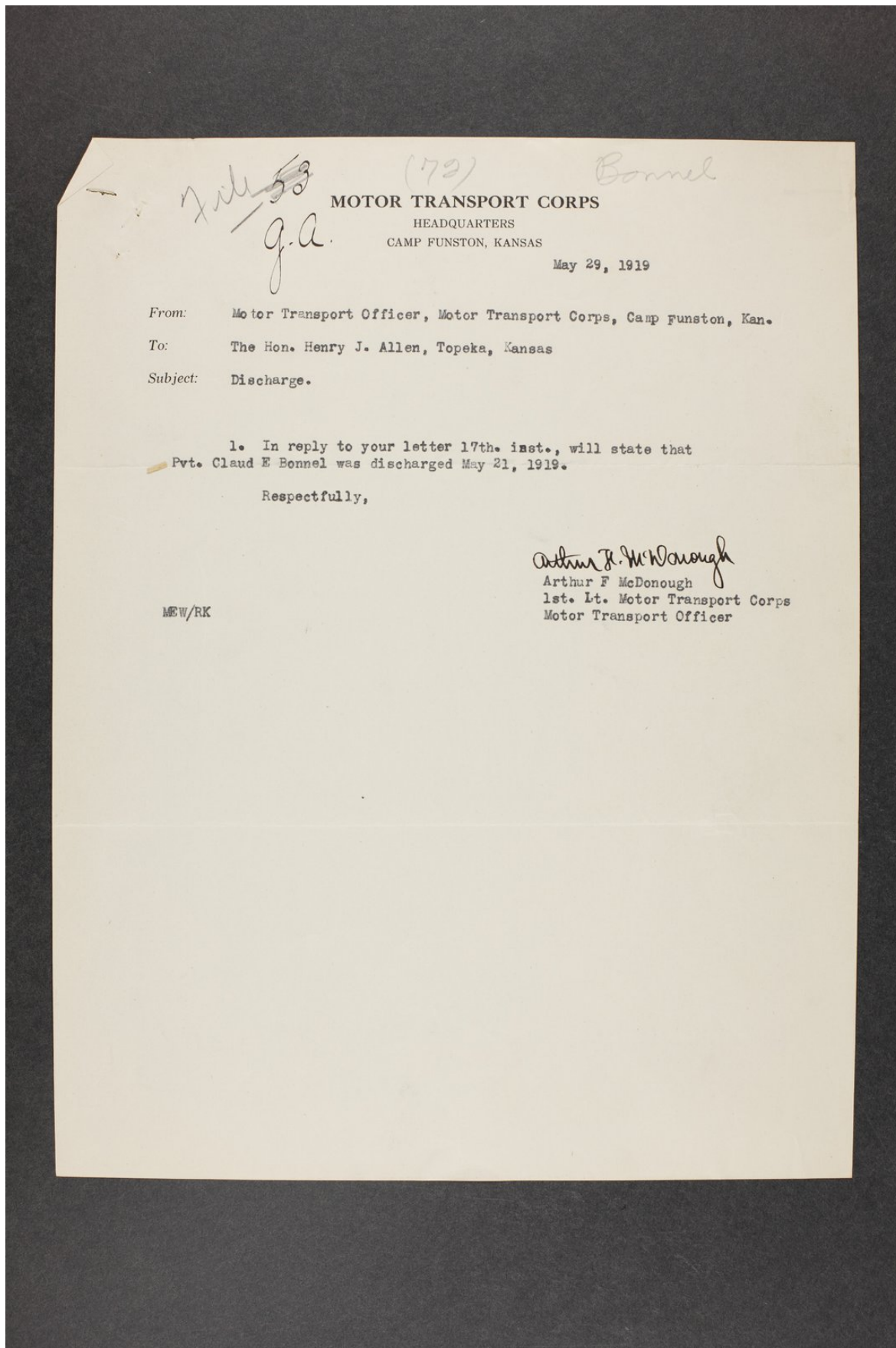
I understand that preference is being given by the military authorities to requests for discharge in cases where the soldier has agricultural interests and dependent relatives; and I will greatly appreciate your giving this case earnest and favorable consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hed

Governor.

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File 53
g.a. (72) *Bonnel*

MOTOR TRANSPORT CORPS
HEADQUARTERS
CAMP FUNSTON, KANSAS

May 29, 1919

From: Motor Transport Officer, Motor Transport Corps, Camp Funston, Kan.
To: The Hon. Henry J. Allen, Topeka, Kansas
Subject: Discharge.

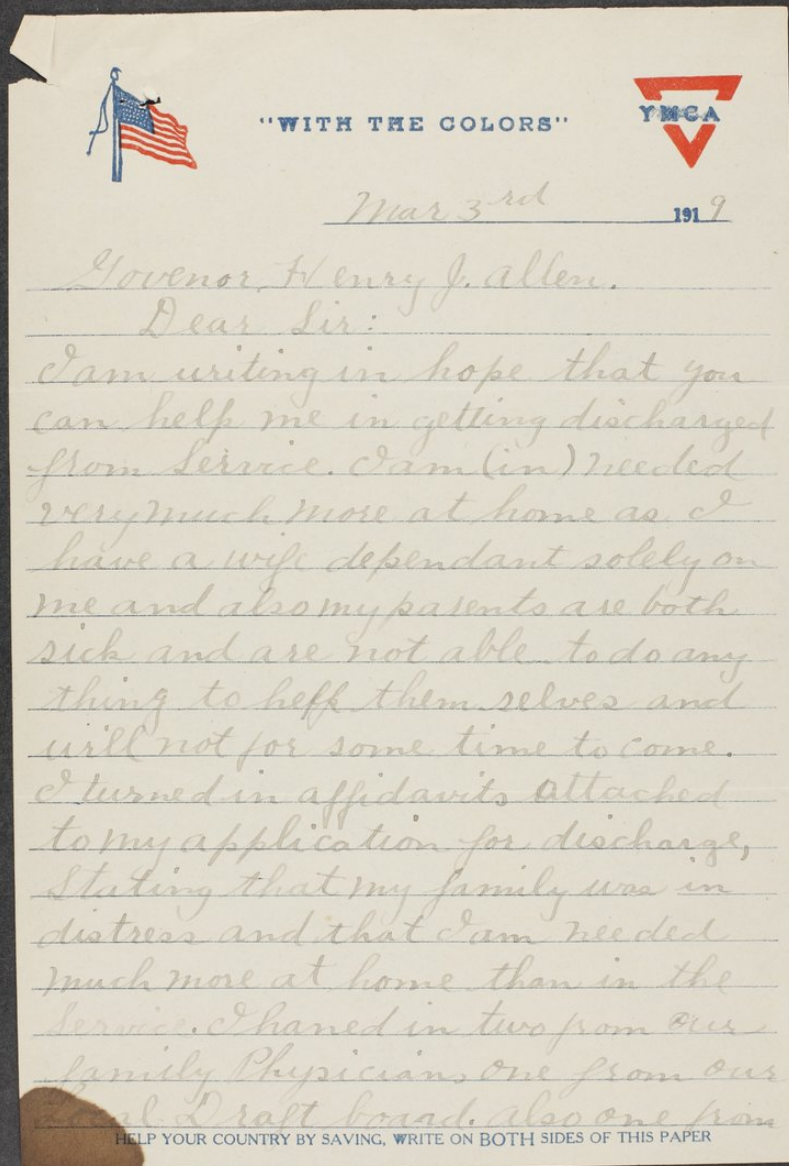
1. In reply to your letter 17th. inst., will state that
Pvt. Claud E Bonnel was discharged May 21, 1919.

Respectfully,

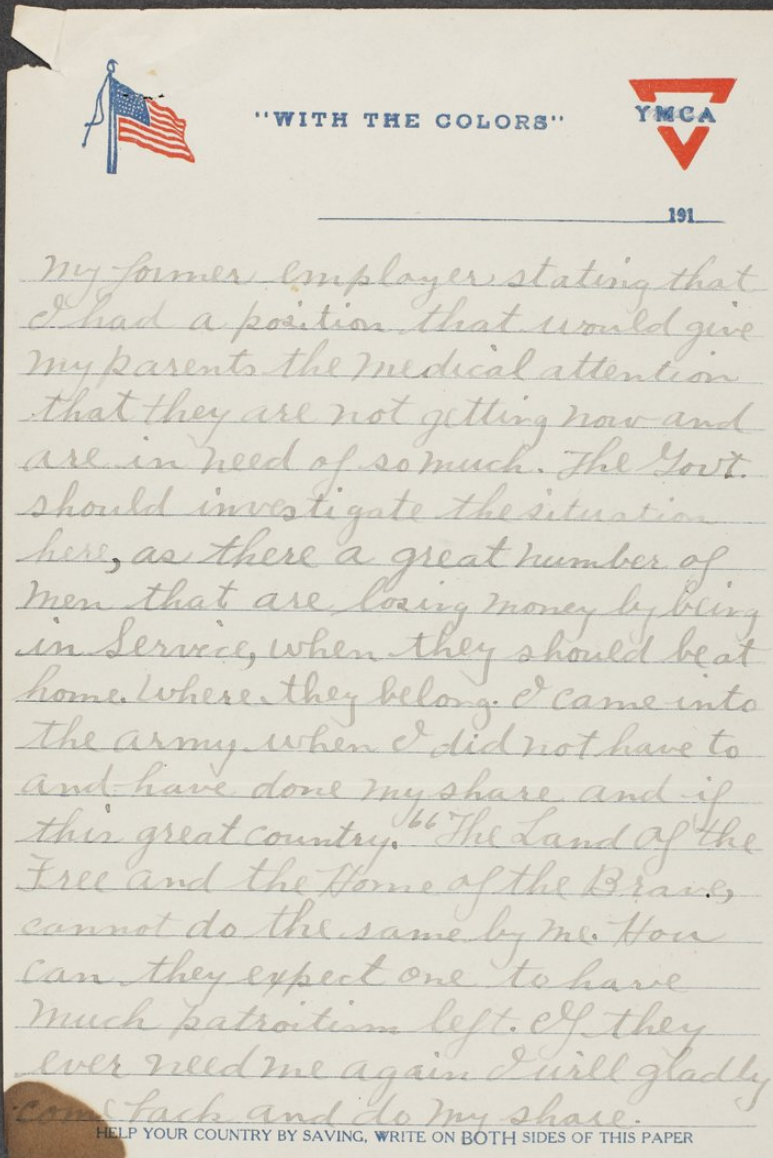
MEW/RK

Arthur F. McDonough
Arthur F McDonough
1st. Lt. Motor Transport Corps
Motor Transport Officer

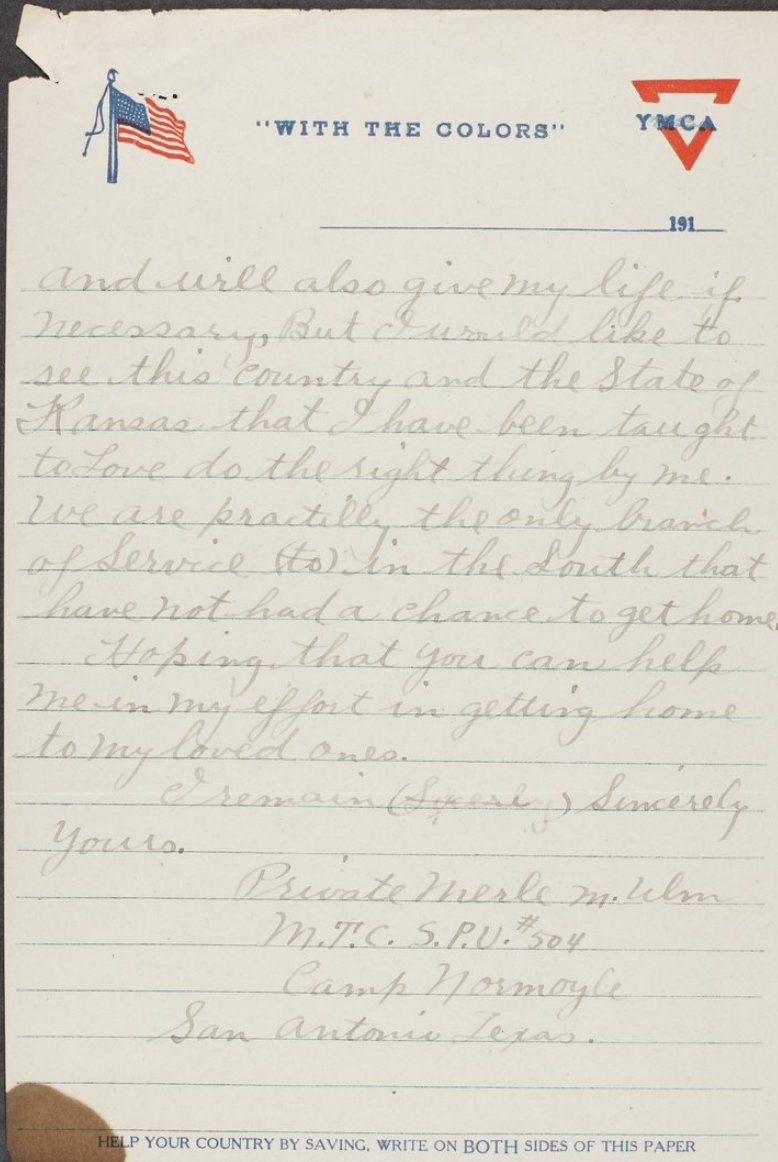
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 **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
WAR ACTIVITIES
CAMP Funston, Kans
Governor Allen Feb. 29, 1917
Dear Sir
Why are the Depot Brigades being held at Camp Funston. Nine out of ever ten in the 3rd. Bri. 164. D. B. are farmers. It is just holding us away from our spring work. The papers say the cities are flooded with discharged soldiers. They say they can't get work. Why are they holding the farmers here. When they could be at home at work. There is quite a demand for farm help. If they would work on a farm. Some of the boys here are, there fathers only help. Why haven't they gave the farmers an equal chance, with the rest of the boys. or was the camp made up of just farmers.

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 **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
WAR ACTIVITIES 

CAMP 2

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we feel that we havent had
an equal chance. have been
in Camp Funston every
since we was drafted. the rest
of the men that come in
the same draft, was
transferred to some other
camp in different Branches of
service, and are discharged now.
we dont understand stand why
we are held here at such
an awful expense to the
Government

Merle B. Hemphill
1st Co. 3rd Bn. 164 B. B.
Camp Funston
Kansas

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My Dear Gov. Allen.
The only apology
I can make, for writing to
you, is that you are a
humanitarian and care for
men more than ^{for} red tape.
My son, C. E. Brumwell, has
been returned from overseas,
a casual, and is in Base
Hospital, Ft. Riley - Ward 48 - section
H. We believe he does not
get as good care there, as
we could give him at home,
so his father, a physician
here, for more than 30 years
went out there this week, to
obtain a furlough for him.

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After much arguing, and protesting that he could not do it, the Capt. agrees to recommend a furlough of three weeks. We have been expecting him for two days and he has not arrived, but I suppose he will, in course of time. The question I'm asking you, is this - Is there any way to obtain an indefinite extension of that furlough, or a discharge, before he is well? He holds an A.B. degree and was graduated two years ago, in law, from the Missouri University. - He is a Presbyterian, a Mason, member of Phi Delta Phi

honorary legal fraternity, Frick's An inter fraternity at Mo. U. and a Kappa Alpha, which fraternity has no chapters north of Mason & Dixon line. He took pride in going into the Army when Uncle Sam called him, and being placed where his government desired to place him, thinking that was the democratic way to go to fight for democracy. He went over with the 89th division, was in the trenches from Aug. 6 to Oct. 6, when nearly his whole company was gassed because they were nearly enough famished to take off their gas masks to eat some hot food that was brought in to them. But that

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Was only the "Fortunes of War".
 He was in hospital at Toul and
 Nantes 5-9 days, when he was
 sent to St. Nazaire (40 miles distant)
 to take ship for home. He waited
 at that port 45 days - Dec. 4 to
 Jan. 18, before he sailed, stand-
 ing in line, in the rain, sock-
 et feet, for his meals, enduring
 the comforts that would have
 taxed a mill man. He reached
 the U.S. Feb. 2 & Camp Funston.
 Feb. 10 - was ^{recommended} sent to hospital.
 Feb. 20, & sent to Ft. Riley Feb.
 26. There they announced he
 has tuberculosis, and it is
 contrary to rules to release
 him and allow his family
 to care for him or take
 him west, when his father
 visited him, he found he had

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no fever, no accelerated pulse, and his sputum tests were negative, but he was in a ward with those, whose sputum tests were positive. With such fertile soil, what is there to prevent him having tuberculosis, which his father does not think he has now? There were dormies in the ward, a fact to which he seemed to pay no attention, but we know the psychological effect on a Southern man, and think segregation should be put in force, there. He is a real soldier and makes no complaints - only states facts when we ask.

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questions - Write home very
 little because he says
 "there is nothing to say".
 His case is but one of
 thousands of the human
 wreckage, returned to our
 shores from Europe, and this
 great government over the
 "Laddies who fight and won"
 more consideration, than to
 strangle them with Army
 red tape, and cast them
 up as flotsam and jetsam.
 You showed your interest
 in them by your personal
 work with them in Red Cross
 & "if" Capabilities, so I have
 dared to recount these things
 to you, asking if there be any
 way; after the ravages of
 war, and lack of care for
 three months after getting
 out of the hospitals, have
 done the worst for our son,
 we might obtain possession
 of him & devotedly care
 for him, or does his
 Country decree that he
 shall stay in those poor
 surroundings and die?
 His father served on the local
 draft board and later, on
 the advisory board - men were
 sent to war on his judgment,
 but he has not judgment to
 care for his own son.
 Respectfully
 Alice Grummall
 Mch. 9-19 over Salisbury Mo.

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 18

My son has no mail from
home from the last of Sept. to Feb.
tho many letters were written
him each week.
We have, as yet, received no
word from the government,
that he is a casual, tho more
than five months have elapsed
since his injury.

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72 Mch. 17- 1919

Dear Gov. Allen -

Our son reached home Mch. 15, on furlough until Mch. 27. We have promise of further consideration, if he does well during that period. I thank you sincerely for your kindly interest, and should I need your influence later, will let you know.

Some day Mo. women will have suffrage, and when that day dawns, I hope I may have the pleasure of voting for Gov. Allen of Kansas for President of the United States.

Sincerely,
Alice Brumhall
Salisbury Mo.