

Governor Henry J. Allen, correspondence files, box 18

Section 9, Pages 241 - 270

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.

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(One letter had nothing on it)
=2=

On three of the letters was
written "Base 50 A.P.O #798"
And on three others was—
"Not in 138 M.G. Bri"

I had written the address
on all letters —

Private Clarence C. Hart
138th Inf. Mich. Gun Co.
Am. Ex. Forces

I did not know the P.O.
number ⁽⁷⁴³⁾ until you told me
in your letter of Dec. or Jan.
when I wrote you asking
about the mail. so I had
used no number until
lately.

Besides what I have told
you was on these letters,
on eight of them in red
ink was — ~~138~~ N.C. 10/34/18

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N.C. 11/1/18 N.C. 11/16 "
 And that I did not
 understand - Don't know
 what "N.C." signifies.
 The figures in red ink were
 never the same as the ones
 in black on the same letter.
 Nor I think Clarence
 could have had all these
 letters just as easy as
 not and he would rather
 have had them than that
 amount of money. These
 are not all the letters he
 has not received as there
 are at least 75 or 80 more
 somewhere that he ought
 to have had. I wrote to
 the Red Cross Home Communi-
 cation Service Paris as you

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suggested and don't know
whether ^{or not} it was through their
efforts these letters were re-
turned but I told them
particularly to send the
letters to Clarence and I
gave them A.P.O. 143
as I had found out by
that time that he had
left hospital and was
back with his company.
We read every word in the
N.C. Star about the 35th Div.
and hope if they were not
treated right the guilty one
will be brought to justice.
Wishing you the best of happy
success with your administra-
tion and your investigations.
I am Mrs. Cora M. Hart

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We were counting on meeting
the 35th Div. coming here in
March - now on foot-camps.
To-day's Daily News it says
the 35th Div. will not sail
until April - we are so disappointed.
When Clarence wrote last
Jan. 26, he had not yet
received his Christmas box
- he was disappointed.

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS.

Extract from letter of

Miss Virginia Hiner,
Garnett, Kans.
Jan. 9-19

" We were getting letters from my brother pretty regularly at the time I had your letter, but he had received only three letters from home since the last of August and we were writing twice each week and other relatives had written too. Jan. 6, 1919, we had ten letters returned, which we had sent in August and September. They were addresses the same as the three he got. He was wounded in the Battle of the Aronne, Sept. 30th and was still in Base Hospital # 9, Nov. 10th when he wrote the last letter we have had. We have not heard from him for seven weeks....."

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Extract from letter of

Mrs. Earl B. Compton,
1018 North 18th St.
St. Joseph, Mo.

April 15, 19

" I see by the paper that you are going to meet
the 35th division and may I ask a favor of
you? Will you please see or ask if Mr. Earl
B. Compton is in that division? He is with
Field Hospital 137, 110th Sanitary train...
.....I have not heard from him since
October. I have written and also inquired
at the war department....."

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS.

Extract from letter of

Mrs. J.D.Fraser,

Lawton, Okla.

Jan. 17, 1919.

" When the 2nd Kansas Infantry, U.S. was mobilized and called into Federal service August 5th, 1917, it took with it my son, Private Rosser C. Fraser, Co. D, 137th Inf. A.E.F., 35th Division, who enlisted at McPherson, Kans. On September 29th, 1918, according to a wire from the Adjutant General's department at Washington, he was severely wounded in action. This is now the 17th day of January and we have had no report concerning him since--- nearly four months having elapsed without so much as a word. Up to his time of becoming wounded it was our custom to hear from him at three week intervals. Repeated efforts of mine with the war department at Washington have failed to illicit further information than that he was wounded in action September 29th 1918...."

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Extract from letter of

Mrs. I.M. Henderson,
Seneca, Kans.
Jan. 27, 1919.

" I have a dear boy who was in the 35th and in the battle at the Argonne Forest--he is in the artillery and am thankful to say he came out alright, but this morning I had a letter from him that made my heart ache as any mother's would. I am going to send you a few lines as he has written them to me. This was written Dec. 30. " My dearest Folks: I was going to write you a big Christmas letter but I had the blues so bad I could not. It rained most all day and we didn't have hardly anything to eat, and nothing to do, and no mail) The Red Cross urged us to send the Xmas boxes and I sent mine in November-- about the 16th I think.. why can't the poor boys who have sacrificed everything to go over there---- have their mail... I write every week as the government has urged us to, but whay can't the boys get t is mail? This is the first time my boy has ever complained, so I know things must be are pretty bad or he would not now. "

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS.

Extract from letter of

Mrs. Dora Fosnight,
Burlington, Kans.
Jan. 19-19

" On Dec. 12 I received a telegram from the War Department saying that my son Roy Fosnight had been severely wounded in action about Oct. 2. Since then I have had no word from him and his brother, in the same company knows nothing about what hospital he was taken to or anything than that he was wounded in the arm. I know that he would write home if possible, for he has written home at least every two weeks since last May when he landed in France. His last letter was written September 24, probably just before the battle."...

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS .

Extract from letter of

Mrs. D.M. Dean,
509 East Ave. North,
Lyons, Kans.

" Can you tell us of any way we can get any information of my son, Private William J.B. Dean in Company A. 137th Infantry of the 35th Division. We have tried every way we could think of . It has been almost four months since we heard from him. We had a message that he was slightly wounded on the second of October.We have been receiving letters that came back. They had written on them, " wounded". It seems if ever there was a time they would need a letter from home it would be when they were wounded, but it seems impossible to get any mail either to him or from him. We heard from him so regularly during the war I can't feel like it is his fault....."

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS.

Extract from letter of

ELBERT F. BALDWIN
The Outlook Company,
381 Fourth Ave.
New York City.

....

"...The great blots on the War Department have seemed
to us to be, first, the delay in the soldiers' mail; ..."

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS .

Extract from letter of

Mrs. May Strain Coleman,
Leavenworth, Kans.

Jan. 31, -19.

...! The Kansas boy of whom I wish to speak to you is my own son. ... His is the specific case. I judge there are many similar. These boys may in time come to be able to forget inadequate clothing and bedding and even drinking water, which was their portion while in camp. They may forget the weeks of waiting for letters while overseas--the months when they drew no pay. Yet I think the boys in the hospital for so many weeks, nothing but pain and suffering and strange faces about--
--and no letters from home through no fault of their families will have such treatment indelibly impressed upon them....."

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS.

Extract from letter of

Mrs. A.R.Bell, Sr.

Chetopa, Kans. Jan. 17, -19.

" We have a son in France in Base Hospital 82, having been badly gassed in the battle of the Argonne. He is in the 110th Eng. , Co. A-- Alexander R. Bell. We cant hear from him and today a letter I had written him Sept. 11 came back with " Base Hospital" stamped on the envelope--base hospital no. 114. I have another son in southern France in Base Hospital 99 and I get letters from him regularly, but he does not get ours. He has had none since Oct. 12th. Is there any way to hear from Alexander R.Bell..... ? I am almost crazy."

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS .

Extract from letter of

J.T. Bidwell,

Lansing, Kans.

" I thought I would write you in regard to a nephew of mine whom we have not heard from since the 22nd of Sept. The Government notified us that he was slightly wounded on the 28th of September. We have written to him, but all the letters came back marked "wounded ". We don't understand why they are not forwarded to him and if he is only slightly wounded why we can't hear from him. Could you help us to locate him ? His name is Alphonse J. Fillman, Co. B. 138th Inf. 35th Division, A.E.F., France...."

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS

Extract from letter of

Miss Margery Wallace,
511 North Wahsatch,
Colorado Springs, Colo.

" We sent the cablegram as directed to the Red Cross in Paris and in December received a return that he was on duty with his company. Shortly after that it came out in the papers that he was missing in action after the Argonne battle. His mother received no notice of this but in January received official notice that he was returned to duty Jan. 3. Next we received returned letters marked wounded in hospital....Lately a letter was returned marked Sick Sec. H? B. H. L. 12-20...." Can you tell us where this is or a section of what hospital it refers to, or give us any information as to the best method to pursue in searching for him? Any information will be gratefully received...."

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS

Extract from letter of

MR LUTHER TAYLOR,
Hudson, Kans.

" In making a very extensive search for our boy, Sergeant Arthur C. Goetzer, U.S.M.C., we have a number of letters from wounded marines that have returned to the States, which declare they wrote continuously and their people never heard from them until they arrived home. One letter from a captain who says he was wounded twice and wrote continuously and his folks never heard from him since the second of July, 1918, until he got home; and in the case of his brother whom they never heard from for seven months ..."

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS.

Extract from letter of
a corporal in the
Army of Occupation ;

" I have not heard from you for two or three
weeks, but that is not your fault; an enlisted
man's mail is treated little better than trash
anyway. You say that you have not heard from
me for three weeks. Well, I have written
at least every week and sometimes three times."

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS.

Extract from letter of

PRIVATE GEORGE HUNSINGER
Co. D, 117th Inf.
A.E.F.
dated March 2 , 1919.

" I got some old letters yesterday from Pete
and you folks. Some were written in October
and some in November and some in December...
..... I haven't been paid for five
months....."

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS.

Extract from letter of
MRS. TINA TREGO,
Little River, Kans.,
concerning her brother, Corp. Arthur L. Boyles,
Co. M. 137th Infantry, 35th Division, who was
reported missing in action since Sept. 30th:

" We have been getting the letters we wrote
to him back, the first one having ' missing '
on it and all the rest have ' wounded ' and
C.P.O. Tours We never have had an offi-
cial notice of his being wounded"

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Soldier MAIL DELAYS .

Extract from Mrs. Clara T. Thomas,
549 Greeley Ave.
Kansas City, Kans.

concerning the failure of her son, Arthur C. Thomas,
Co. B 129 M.C. Bn.
A.E.F.
to receive his mail:

"Up to and including Jan. 3rd, 1919.
He had received one letter from me.
Needless to tell you I've written
dozens. He had the misfortune to
have his pockets picked and wrote
home for money. On Nov. 13 I sent
him a money order from Kansas City
Kans., Gen'l P.O., that he has not
had; relatives in England sent him
parcels of candy; that and also
the Christmas box sent from here
through the Red Cross was never
received by him....."

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MAIL DELAYS

Extract from letter of Mrs. J.E. McConnell,
1216 Pacific,
Kansas City, Kas.

" I am writing you again in regard to my son, Edward Jackson McConnell, Co. K, 140th U.S. Inf., 35th Division.... Why do I get his letters back? Why do I get ' Incorrectly Addressed', ' Wounded', or ' C.P.O.' Tapes on the back of letters. I have received five back in Sept., in in Oct..... You see he always got his letters by this address--Co. K, 140th U.S. Inf., A.E.F..... I am almost crazy. ... just waiting every day but no word"

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS.

Extract from letter of
MRS. CHAS. E. WEEKS
Belvue, Kansas.
dated Feb. 15, 1919.:

" Our son, Corp. Everett J. Weeks, Co. I, 137th Infantry was told in July that he should be operated upon ...He wrote us so we would know, and made all proper arrangements to have his mail forwarded to him in the hospital. From the last week of July, when he entered the hospital, until he rejoined his command in mid-October, he never got one letter. We at home alone wrote him once and twice a week. In late October we received one letter back from Toul -- 'sick--no record'. In mid-January I received eight in one mail, the last week two more. ...Before leaving his company and after rejoining he got all mail from home with reasonable regularity addressed the same His letters from mid-August on held only one complaint--' If I could only hear from home. I'm treated fine and I only need letters from home'. What department took charge of checking in and out of the hospital? When a fellow was fully rational, was there 'no record' when he was changed? I hold a heartbroken letter from the sister of one good boy who lived in this neighborhood and who died of wounds in Oct.;...he never got any of our letters after he was wounded"

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SOLDIER MAIL DELAYS.

Extract from letter of

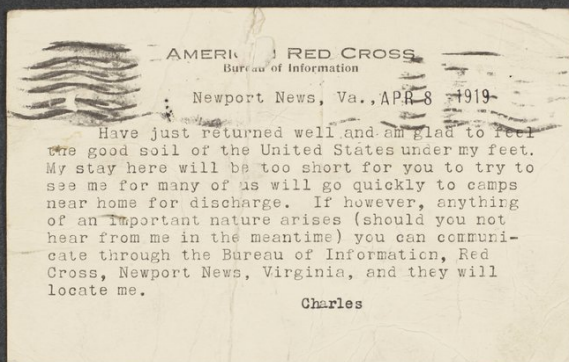
MRS. ADDIE HALL
1125 Vermont St.
Lawrence, Kans.
dated March 26, 1919.

" My son, Private Elmer B. Hall, Company H, 137th Infantry, 35th Division, has not had a letter from home since before the drive in the Argonne Forest. He was shot in the right cheek. The bullet came out at the back of the neck the 28th of September, when he was just outside the town of Cheppy. He was in the base hospital at Alleny until the first of the year; then was sent to Base Hospital # 99, Hyeres, France. I have tried by every known means to get a letter to him, but have failed. I sent a cablegram, but have no assurance that it will be delivered. The last two letters I received are such homesick letters. It breaks my heart to think that I cannot get a letter to him. "

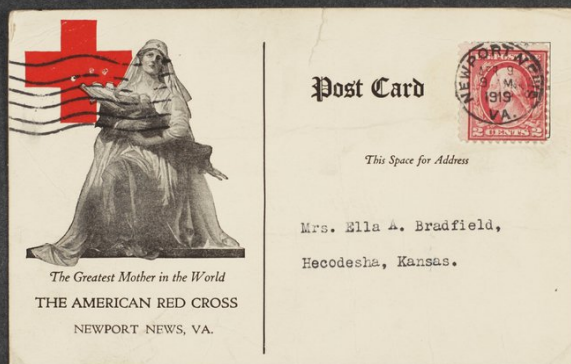
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-46 Moslesha Kans.
 -46 4-14-19
 Governor Henry Allen.
 Topeka Kans.
 Dear Mr. Allen. Your letter of April
 11th rec'd. And thank you so much
 for your kindness in helping to locate
 our boy. I am in closing a card
 we received from our boy Sat-
 urday April 12th. He was at that time
 in Newport News Va. we also
 rec'd. a letter from him Sunday
 stating he would in a few hours
 be on his way to Camp Funston
 so we hope it won't be long until
 he will be home. He wrote in his letter
 he had not heard from home for 7 mos.
 Again I thank you for ^{what} you have done
 and hope we have the chance of casting
 five votes for Governor Allen for Pres-
 of this U.S. Very truly Yours
 Mrs. F. A. Bradfield


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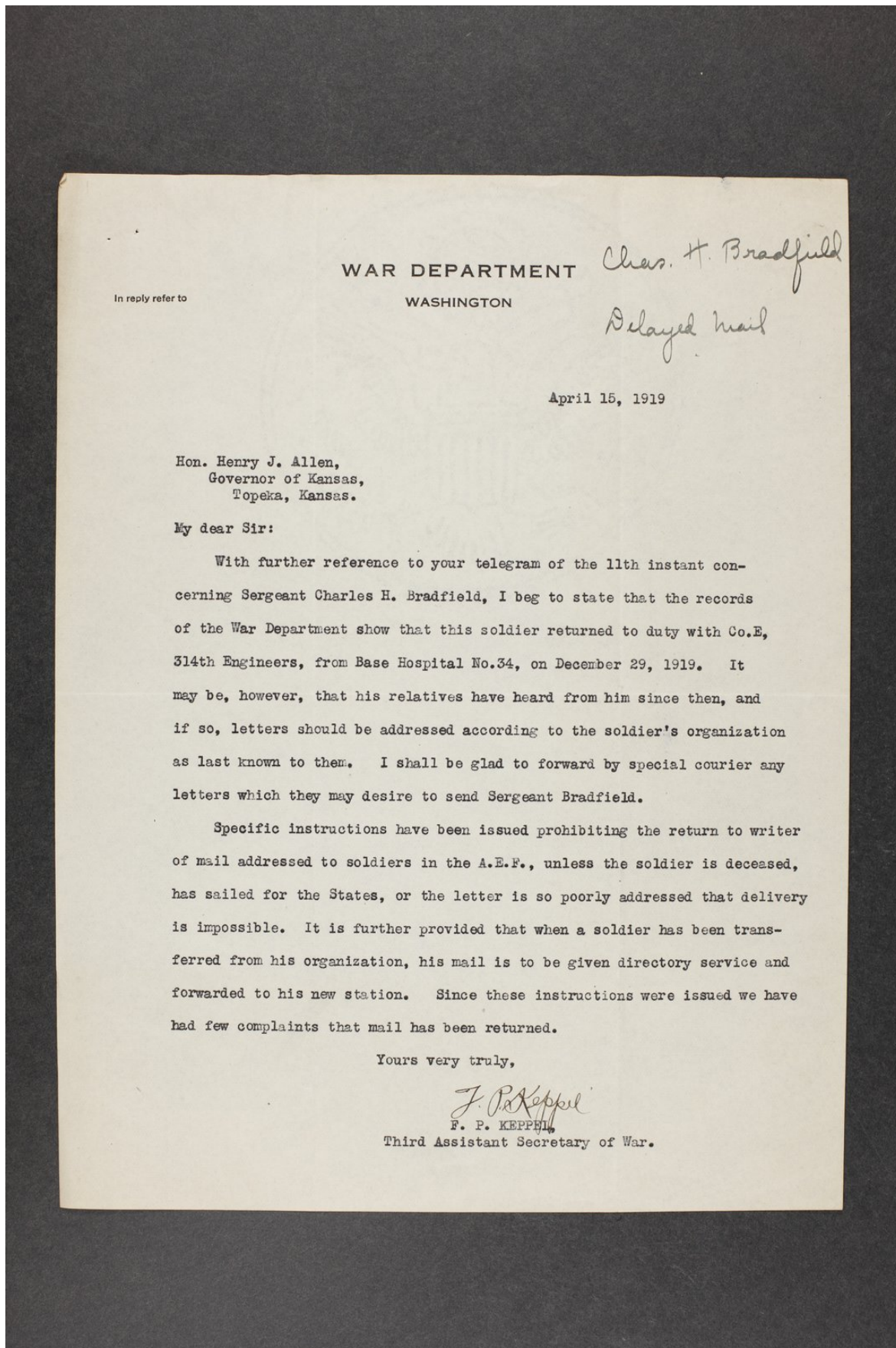

 Rhodesha Kans.
 4-9th 19-
 Gov. Henry Allen
 Topeka Kans.
 Long May It Wave
 Dear Sir - we today received
 25 letters returned to us from France
 they are letters we sent our boy Sgt. Chas
 H. Bradford Co. 314 Eng. 8th Div.
 Some of the letters date back to Oct 14th and
 they are letters written Oct Nov Dec 1918
 and once in Feb. he was wounded
 on the 9th day of Nov. sent to Base Hospital
 No 84 Nantes - was there from Nov 9th until
 Jan 4th he was sent to St. Aignan Replacement
 Camp - the last letter we received from him
 was dated Jan 2nd St. Aignan almost three
 mos. ago. While at hospital and up until
 since Jan 2nd we heard from him once or
 twice a week. He wrote us since number
 of his letters he had not received any word
 from home since the 4th day of Oct -
 and he was terribly worried about not
 hearing from home we have written him
 since Oct 4th over 30 letters

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and he hasn't received notice of them
what is worrying us now where is he
will you help us find him he has been
so good to write up until Jan 2nd now
we would love to know where he is as they
are sending his mail back to us.
We know you have helped others that
is why we are asking you to help us
find our boy. inclosed is the last
letter also envelope of one of the 28
returned letters. our boys that went
over & sacrificed so much to make
the world fit to live in. and why should
they be treated as they have been is what
we brothers want to know. trusting you
will do all you can for us in helping to
locate our boy.

Yours truly
Mrs F. A. Bradfield Mother
Mrs Chas. H. Bradfield Wife -
Topeka Kans.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

In reply refer to

April 15, 1919

Hon. Henry J. Allen,
Governor of Kansas,
Topeka, Kansas.

My dear Sir:

With further reference to your telegram of the 11th instant concerning Sergeant Charles H. Bradfield, I beg to state that the records of the War Department show that this soldier returned to duty with Co.E, 314th Engineers, from Base Hospital No.34, on December 29, 1919. It may be, however, that his relatives have heard from him since then, and if so, letters should be addressed according to the soldier's organization as last known to them. I shall be glad to forward by special courier any letters which they may desire to send Sergeant Bradfield.

Specific instructions have been issued prohibiting the return to writer of mail addressed to soldiers in the A.E.F., unless the soldier is deceased, has sailed for the States, or the letter is so poorly addressed that delivery is impossible. It is further provided that when a soldier has been transferred from his organization, his mail is to be given directory service and forwarded to his new station. Since these instructions were issued we have had few complaints that mail has been returned.

Yours very truly,

F. P. Keppel
F. P. KEPPEL
Third Assistant Secretary of War.

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April 19, 1919.

Mrs. F. A. Bradfield,

Neodesha, Kansas.

My dear Mrs. Bradfield:--

Governor Allen has received a telegram from the War Department at Washington, dated April 16, which reads as follows:

"Reference yours eleventh period records of war department show Sergeant Charles H. Bradfield company B Three Hundred Fourteenth Engineers returned to duty from Base Hospital Thirty Four December twenty ninth nineteen eighteen period letter will follow."

The letter referred to has not yet been received but as soon as any further information is received you will be promptly advised. The Governor hopes to be able to be of some assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

Secretary to the Governor.