

Berndsen,

(Surname.)

William A.

(Christian name in full.)

2,830,233

(Army serial number.)

Pvt.

Co L 16 Inf

(Rank and organization.)

State your relationship to the deceased

Brother

Do you desire the remains brought to the United States?

no

(Yes or no.)

If remains are brought to the United States, do you wish them interred in a national cemetery?

(Yes or no.)

If you desire the remains interred at the home of the deceased, give full information below as to where they should be sent:

(Name of person to receive remains.)

(Express office.)

(Telegraph office.)

(Number and street.)

(City or town.)

(State.)

(Sign here)

Ronald W. Berndsen
Route # 7 Merrill Wisconsin

(Number and street or rural route.)

(City, town, or post office.)

(State.)

Read carefully the letter accompanying this card.

Drawn by Am

27-24

11-3

Checked by
gmm. 11/6/20.

G.R.S. Form #114-B

FULL NAMEBERNDSEN, William A.....

RANK.....Pvt.....SERIAL.....2830233.....

DIVISION & ORGANIZATIONCo.L., 16th. Inf..... *Dir 1*

DATE OF DEATH.....*Nov. 30 - 1918*.....

STATE FROM WHICH HE CAME.....*Wisconsin*.....

MEDALS OR DECORATIONS AWARDED:

FINAL GRAVE LOCATION.....
Date Grave Row Block

Suresnes, #34

Cemetery

REC'D WORLD WAR DIV.
1 AUG 29 1924

GRAVE LOCATION BLANK

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF

Berndson.....**2830233**.....**William A.**.....
(Surname). (Number). (First Name and Initials).

Private.....**Co. L 16th Inf.**.....
(Rank). (Organization).

PLACE OF DEATH: **Base Hospital #114**.....

CAUSE OF DEATH: **Gun Shot Wound.**.....

DATE OF BURIAL: **December 3 1918**.....

PLACE OF BURIAL: **A. E. F. Cometary #27**.....

(Give Cemetery, Town and Department). Map references must specify clearly what map is used.

Merignac Gironde......

GRAVE NUMBER: **171**.....

HOW MARKED: Name Peg?.....Cross **Yes.**.....

Headboard?..... Bottle?.....

IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

Was one buried with body? **Yes.**.....

Was one fastened to name peg or stake used as a grave marker? **Yes.**.....

If name unknown and tags missing, description and marks should be given here?

NEAREST RELATIVE: **Mr. P. H. Berndson**.....

ADDRESS: **Route 7 Box 65 Merroll Wis.**.....

RELATIONSHIP: **Father**.....

REPORTED BY: *Clarence C. High Tower* Chaplain
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer)

This portion to be forwarded to Central Records Office, A. G. O., A. E. F.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

September 6, 1922.

FILE: 293.8 C-R #59673-
SUBJECT: Permanent Grave Location of Private William A. Berndsen,
Company L, 16th Infantry.
TO: Mr. P. H. Berndsen, Route 7, Box 65, Merrel, Wis.

1. The permanent grave of this soldier is No. 28 Row 8,
Block A, Suresnes American cemetery at Suresnes, Department of
Seine, France.

2. This is one of the permanent American military cemeteries
to be maintained by this Government in Europe. Each grave will be
marked by a headstone of white marble, of suitable design, with name,
rank, organization and date of soldier's death. The headstones will
be placed at all graves in connection with the improvement work now in
progress, as soon as possible and without waiting for special action
or request on the part of relatives.

3. In effecting removal, the utmost care and reverence were
exacted and more than willingly accorded by those performing this
sacred duty. The grave of the deceased will be perpetually main-
tained by this Government in a manner befitting the last resting
place of our heroes.

For the Quartermaster General:

MAILED

SEP 6 1922

G.R.S.

GEORGE H. PENROSE,
Assistant.

DATE Oct. 21st, 1921.

1. NAME BERNDSSEN, William A.

SERIAL No. 2830233

RANK Pvt.

ORGANIZATION Co. L., 16th Inf.

GRAVE LOCATION American Cemetery MERIGNAC (Gironde)

27

CTY. NAME

NUMBER

171

GRAVE

ROW

PLOT

2. ORIGINAL BATTLE AREA GRAVE LOCATION

171

Merignac, (Gironde)

GRAVE

COMMUNE

DEPT.

COORDINATES

None.

CONCENTRATED TO Dec. 3, 1918.

171

DATE

GRAVE

ROW

PLOT

Merignac, (Gironde)

27

CEMETERY

CTY. NUMBER

Data concerning any identification found on remains when concentrated, such as collar insignias, letters, broken bones, missing parts, etc.

SUBSEQUENT REBURIALS

DATE

GRAVE

ROW

PLOT

CEMETERY

DATE

GRAVE

ROW

PLOT

CEMETERY

SIGNATURE, AREA SUPERVISOR

W. R. Nichols, Major, C.A.C.

3. FINAL GRAVE LOCATION

Oct. 21st, 1921.

28

A

8.

DATE

GRAVE

Block

ROW

PLOT

S. RESNES AMERICAN CEMETERY # 34 (Seine).

CEMETERY

gc.



Sub 7/11/22

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT AND REBURIAL

1. REMAINS OF BERNDSEN, William A. SERIAL NUMBER 2830235

RANK Pvt. ORGANIZATION Co. I, 16th Inf.

2. Disinterred (date) : Sept. 20, 1921 From (give complete location) : Gr. #171, Cem. 27.

By : Group 1 Unit

3. Reburied (date) : October 21st, 1921. In (give complete location) : Suresnes Cemetery. - Block A - Row 8 - Graved 28.

By : Group Field Operations Branch Unit Nature of reburial Metal Casket and Blanket.

4. Report as to nature of original burial and condition of body upon disinterment : Pine box & uniform. Badly decomposed - Features not recognizable

5. (a) Identification tags : Buried with body ? Yes On grave marker ? Yes

(b) Other means of identification found upon disinterment, and general remarks : Disc only

6. What does examination of body show as regards the following identifying items ?

(a) Height (actual measurement) Impossible to determine

(b) Weight (estimated) Impossible to estimate *MBS*

(c) Hair—Color None visible

Quantity None *MBS*

Characteristics None

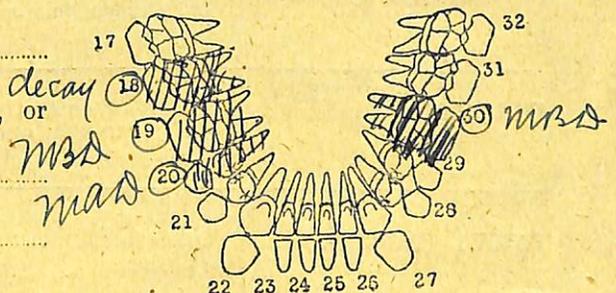
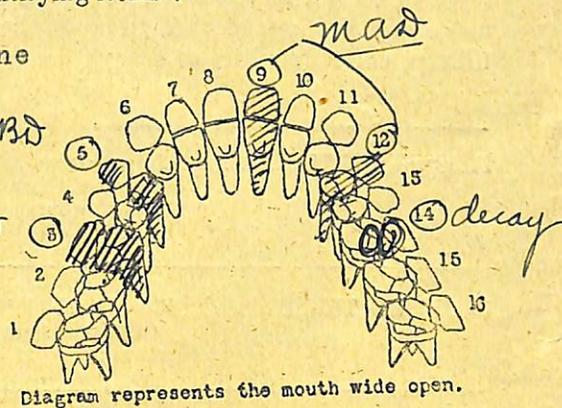
(d) Hair on face—Color None visible

Location None

Quantity None

(e) Permanent marks on body (old scars, peculiarities, or missing parts) None visible

(f) Wounds or missing parts (received at time of casualty) Left femur fractured



D-60320

E. G. Parker

7. Disinterment supervised by Ben A. Bradford

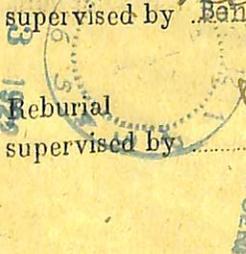
Approved : Danny

(Title)

8. Reburial supervised by R. C. RICHARDS, 1st Lieut. Q.M.C.

Approved : R. P. HARBOLD, Major, Q.M.C.

(Title)



SHIPMENT. (Show actual marking of box.) Box No. C-2133

32. Designation of body:

Name BERNDSEN, William A. Serial No. 2830233

Rank Pvt. Organization Co.L., 16th Inf.

33. Consigned to:

Name of Permanent Cemetery SURESNES AMERICAN CEMETERY #34

34. Casket boxed and marked (Date) Sept. 20th, 1921 By Don A. Bradford

35. I hereby certify that all the foregoing operations were conducted and accomplished under my immediate supervision and that the report above is correct.

Signature of G.R.S. Inspector C. S. Donny, 1st Lt., QAC.

36. Remarks

37. Shipped from point of Operation: (Date) Sept. 20th, 1921

To point of Concentration Bassens (Gironde) (Name)

Convoyer E. C. Chapman Signature Shipping Officer W. R. Nichols

38. Received at Railhead or Point of Concentration: Date 21 SEP 1921 S. D. Campbell, Capt., QAC.

By G.R.S. Representative W. R. NICHOLS Major C. A. C.

39. Shipped from Railhead or Point of Concentration: Date Oct 14 1921

39 (a) Received at Paris Morgue, October 17, 1921.

H. L. Ward
H. L. WARD,
Major, Q.M.C.

39 (b) Shipped from Paris Morgue, Oct. 21st 1921. To Permanent Cemetery No. 34, American, Suresnes (Seine) by Shipping Officer, Convoysed by:

H. L. Ward
H. L. WARD,
Major, Q.M.C.

42. Grave No. 28. Section

43. ~~First~~ Block A. Row 8.



G.R.S. Representative R. G. RICHARDS,
1st Lieut. Q.M.C.

To be prepared in triplicate.

DATE Sept. 20th, 1921

REPORT OF DISINTERMENT, PREPARATION, SHIPMENT AND REBURIAL OF BODY

DISINTERMENT

COMPARATIVE REPORT

Records of G.R.S. Headquarters.

Discrepancy found upon exhumation of body

1. Name BERNSEN, William A.
 2. No. 2830233
 3. Rank Pvt.
 4. Org. Co. L., 16th Inf.
 5. D.D. 11-30
 6. C.D. DN

10. Name _____
 11. No. _____
 12. Rank _____
 13. Org. _____
 14. (a) D.D. _____
 (b) D.B. _____

Discrepancy found upon disinterment

7. Grave No. 171 Sec. _____
 8. Plot _____ Row _____
 9. _____

15. Grave No. _____ Sec. _____
 16. Plot _____ Row _____
 17. No discrep.

18. Cemetery American Cemetery
 20. Dept. or County Gironde
 22. G.R.S. Hdqrs. Code No. 27

19. Commune or town MERIGNAC
 21. Country France.

23. Disinterred (Date) Sept. 20th, 1921

By Ben A. Bradford

24. Inscription on grave marker:

Name William A. BERNSEN
 Rank Pvt.

Serial No. _____
 Organization Co. L. 16th Inf.

25. Was identification disc found on grave marker? Yes On body? Yes

E. S. Parker
 Signature Junior Technical Assistant

PREPARATION

26. What other means of identification were on body? (If no disc or other means of identification on body, give description of body in detail).

Disc only

27. Condition of body Badly decomposed, features not recognizable.

28. Nature of burial Pine box and uniform.

29. Any discrepancy noted upon examination of body, as compared with G.R.S. records quoted above? No discrep.

30. Body prepared and placed in casket: Date Sept. 20th, 1921 By Ben A. Bradford

31. Casket sealed by Ben A. Bradford

Signature of Embalmer, (Supervisor)

Ben A Bradford

COMPILATION OF DISPOSITION OF REMAINS DATA

1. LOCATION INDEX CARD:

File #59673

(a) Name BERNDSEN, William A. Ser. No. 2830233) TYP. SH
(b) Rank Pvt. Organization Co.L, 16th Inf.) CKR
(c) Date of death 11-30-18 of death DWRIA)

11. Registration Card:- (Check Reg. Card Inf. against Loc. Ind. Inf.)

(a) Grave No. 171 Row Plot Sect.) TYP. HDP
(b) Emerg. Address Mr. P.H. Berndsen, (Father) Route #7, Box 65, Merrill, Wis.

111. Files of soldiers dying from contagious diseases; No Card) CKR

IV. A.G.O. DISPOSITION CARD:

Date of receipt none

(a) Name Ewald W. Berndsen (b) Relationship Brother
(c) Address Route # 7, Merrill, Wisconsin
(d) Remains to be brought to U. S.? no
(e) To be interred in National Cemetery in U. S. at no

(f) Shipping instructions upon arrival of body in U.S.

SEE SUSPENSION REMAINS

(g) Disposition instructions if not brought to U.S.

Examiner's Initials JB Date 4-30-1920

V. A.G.O. CORRESPONDENCE shows communication from

confirmed request in Par. IV. item , dated , above, or requesting that

No Correspondence

Examiner's Initials gwb Date 5/1/1920

VI. G.R.S. Files - Correspondence - shows as follows:

No request for disposition.

(a) Cancellation memos referred to? Yes - aa

Examiner's Initials aa Date 5-1-1920

COUNTRY France

CEMETERY NO. 27

SHEET NO. 24

G.R.S. Form #115

Amended April 6, 1920.

Make Form #114

Rechecked by gmm 11/6/20

10-20-21 returned for concentration 11-1-21

Wad

VII. G. R. S. FORM No. 114 made _____, 1920

Typed by _____, Checked by _____, 1920

VIII. FINAL ACTION:

Following advice forwarded to Europe by- (cable on _____, 1920
(letter on MAY 1920, 1920
May 10th

Par. 2. Not to be returned, ms 11-8-20

IX. CORRECTIONS

CHANGE OF ADVICE	ACTION TAKEN
Desires body be	
Body to be shipped to	

XI. SUSPENSION REMARKS:

*Telegram - 6-14-20, from Peter Henry
Bernsdon, father & nearest of kin
confirms - 6-15-20 J.*

6-16-20

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVED AT COMMERCIAL NAT'L BANK BLDG., 14th & G STS., N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. ALWAYS OPEN

1920 JUN 14 PM 1 46

B163B 30 COLLECT GOVT

MERRILL WIS 11A 14

1246

ROGERS QM GENERAL

AN ANSWER WASHINGTON DC (RTE BSN)

TELEGRAM RECEIVED DO NOT SHIP BODY OF PRIVATE WILLIAM A BERNDSEN

HERE WE DESIRE HIM TO REMAIN IN FRANCE

PETER HENRY BERNDSEN.

Noted on Form No. 115
6-15-20

Date _____

CHARGE TO
GOVERNMENT RATE

WAR DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1920.

Peter Henry Berndsen,.....

Merrill, Miss.

.....

Necessary that you as.....father.....of late Private William A. Berndsen.....state whether you desire body returned to United States and buried National Cemetery, shipped to you or remain in Europe. In this case no other than.....your.....wish is desired. Telegram signed by you necessary. Wire immediately, Government expense. **A-505-0**

ROGERS
Quartermaster General

NIGHT

OFFICIAL:

CHARLES C. PIERCE,
Colonel, U.S. Army,
Chief, Cemeterial Division.

BY:
C. D. ANNIS,
1st Lieut. Q.M. Corps,
Chief, Overseas Project Sub-Section.

OSP:SS
Compl. Dept.
FILE NO: 293.3-Reg.Sec.Cem.Div. (Berndsen, William A.)

Gold

✓

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY
GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON

MAY 8 1920

FROM: Chief, Graves Registration Service, Q.M.C.
TO: Mr. Ewald W. Berndsen, Route #7, Merrill, Wisconsin.
SUBJECT: Remains of Pvt. William A. Berndsen

Rush Answer

*Telegram 6/14/20
Father conference*

The records of this office show that you have requested that his
body be Not returned to the U.S.

no change

If these are not the correct instructions, please change them. Make changes on reverse side of this sheet.

The nearest living relative may choose between, (1) return of the body to any address in the United States; (2) interment in Arlington, Va., National Cemetery; or (3) remain in France.

By authority of the Quartermaster General:

Noted on Form No. 115

Date

CHARLES C. PIERCE,
Colonel, U.S. Army.

6-15-20

NAME OF	NO. & STREET	TOWN	STATE
→ Soldier's Widow	<i>Not married</i>		
→ Soldier's Children (Name oldest first)	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____
✓ Father	<i>Peter Henry Berndsen Merrill Wis</i>		
Mother	<i>Died 30th May 1913.</i>		
Brothers (Name oldest first)	1. <i>Clous Berndsen Lake Park Iowa</i> 2. <i>E. W. Berndsen Merrill Wis</i>		
Sisters	<i>Agnes Buck, 366 Front St, Saint Paul, Minn</i>		
Date	<i>May 11 1920</i>		
Address	<i>R. F. D. 7 Box 65 Wis.</i>		
Relationship	<i>Brother</i>		
Signature	<i>Ewald W. Berndsen</i>		

The transfer of bodies will be made entirely at government expense.

Note: - Instructions on the reverse side of this sheet should be carefully read before filling out this paper.

693

Quartermaster General.

Sir my Father has decided to let
our Brother and Son remain in France.
Thanking you for your interest in this matter

We are your Sincere Friend.

R H Bernelsen.



59673

GRAVE LOCATION BLANK

LOCATION OF THE GRAVE OF

Berndsen 2830233 William A.

(Surname). (Number). (First Name and Initials).

Private Co. L 16th Inf.

(Rank). (Organization).

PLACE OF DEATH: Base Hospital #114

CAUSE OF DEATH: Gun Shot Wound.

DATE OF BURIAL: December 3 1918.

PLACE OF BURIAL: A. E. F. Cemetery #27

(Give Cemetery, Town and Department). Map references must specify clearly what map is used.

Merignac Gironde.

GRAVE NUMBER: 171

HOW MARKED: Name Peg? Cross? Yes.

Headboard? Bottle?
IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

Was one buried with body? Yes.

Was one fastened to name peg or stake used as a grave marker? Yes.

If name unknown and tags missing, description and marks should be given here?

NEAREST RELATIVE: Mr. P. H. Berndsen

ADDRESS: Route 7 Box 65 Merrell Wis.

RELATIONSHIP: Father

REPORTED BY:

Clarence C. Hightower Chaplain
(Signature and Rank of Reporting Officer)

This portion to be sent to Chief of Graves Registration Service.

CODE SLIP

HEADING	SUB HEADING	NO. OF COLS	CODE	
NAME	Berndsen, Norma	Ber	3	258
	CEMETERY	34	1	6
BURIED	GRAVE	28	2	28
	ROW	8	2	08
	BLOCK	a	1	1
STATE	Wisc		2	58
RANK	Priv		1	2
DIVISION	1		2	01
ORGANIZATION	16		3	016
ARM	Inf		1	1
MARITAL	(Father) No		1	2
NAME	Berndsen, Peter		3	
	Henry			
RESIDENCE	RFD 7-Box 65		2	
	Merrill, Wisc.		2	
			3	
RELATION	Mother		1	1
OTHER	No		1	
ELIGIBILITY	Head		1	6
NATIVITY			1	
RACE			1	
ENGLISH			1	
ATTENDANT			1	
HEALTH			1	
NO. OF SONS			1	
DATE OF TRIP	MO.		1	
	YR.		1	
ACCEPTANCE			1	

AUDITED

SEP 22 1932

RS

A

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C

Berndsen, William A 34 F

July 7, 1930

Mr. Peter Henry Berndsen
R. F. D. #7, Box 65
Merril Lincoln County, Wisconsin

Dear Sir:

Your attention is invited to the enclosed copy of an Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, together with an amendment thereto, approved May 15, 1930.

This office has no record of any person entitled under the Act mentioned to make a pilgrimage to the cemeteries in Europe as the mother or widow of the above named deceased service man. To complete the list of eligibles and to assure that, if the above named man is survived by a mother or widow entitled to make a pilgrimage she receive an invitation to do so, it is requested you answer the following questions in the space provided on this letter and return to this office in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

1. Is the deceased survived by a mother?

If so, give her name and address:

No.

2. Is the deceased survived by a widow who has not remarried?

If so, give her name and address:

No.

3. Is the deceased survived by any woman who stood in loco parentis to him according to the terms of Section 4 (a) of the enclosed Act as amended?

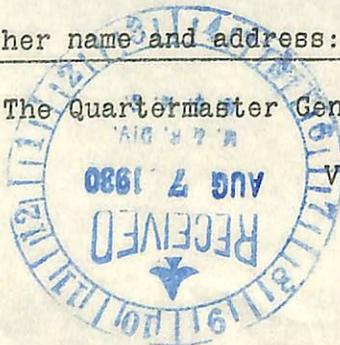
If so, give her name and address:

No.

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

Enclosures:
Envelope
Act
Amendment



A. D. Hughes
A. D. HUGHES,
Captain, Q. M. Corps,
Assistant.

QM 298 A-C
Berndsen, William A.

October 24, 1929.

Mr. P. H. Berndsen,
Route #7, Box 65,
Merril, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 8, 1929, relative to the pilgrimage authorized by Congress in the Act of March 2, 1929. The delay in reply is due to the great number of inquiries received in this office in connection with the pilgrimage.

The above Act provides that invitations for a pilgrimage shall be extended the mothers and widows of the members of the military and naval forces of the United States who are interred in the cemeteries in Europe. It does not contain any provision which will permit anyone else to make the trip. It is, therefore, regretted to have to advise that you are not entitled under the above Act to make this pilgrimage at Government expense.

I am sorry that your request cannot be granted, but the War Department has no alternative other than to carry out the law as passed by Congress.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

A. D. HUGHES,
Captain, Q. M. Corps,
Assistant.

P

Merrill Wis.
May 8 - 1929.

#34

The Quartermaster General
Washington, D. C.

Refuted 2. M. 293-A-C.

Berndsen, William A.

Sir: -
Replying to your letter of May 4 - '29, calling attention to an Act of Congress, entitling the widows of deceased soldiers now interred in the Cemeteries of France to make a pilgrimage over there, I wish to state that William A. Berndsen, who is not survived by another or widow. He died about sixteen years ago, and was a single man and had never been married. I am the father of said William Berndsen, and am receiving his insurance pension.

I wish to avail myself of the privilege of receiving your invitation to make a pilgrimage to visit the grave of my father, as provided for in your act.

Yours truly,

Peter Henry Berndsen

Peter Henry Berndsen

RFD # 7, Box # 65

Merrill, Wis.



293 Berndsen Wm A

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C
Berndsen, William A.

May 4, 1929.

Mr. P. H. Berndsen,
Route # 7, Box 65,
Merrel, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:

Your attention is invited to the enclosed copy of an Act of Congress approved March 2, 1929, entitled an Act "To enable the mothers and widows of the deceased soldiers, sailors and marines of the American forces now interred in the cemeteries of Europe to make a pilgrimage to these cemeteries".

The records of this office show that you are the father of the late Private William A. Berndsen, Company L, 16th Infantry, whose remains are now interred in the Suresnes American Cemetery, Suresnes, Seine, France.

Will you please advise this office whether or not he is survived by a mother or widow who is entitled under the provisions of the above quoted Act, to make the pilgrimage, and if so, will you please furnish the full names and addresses of the mother and widow in order that action may be taken to extend invitations to them to make the pilgrimage. Both mothers and widows are entitled to make the pilgrimage.

Your attention is particularly invited to Section 4 of the enclosed Act, which defines the terms "mother" and "widow". If the relative is a stepmother, mother through adoption, or any woman who stood in loco parentis to the decedent, a statement as to her relationship is requested. If he was survived by a widow who has since remarried it is also requested that a statement to that effect be made.

For your reply, you may use the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

5/18

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

LPH

JOHN T. HARRIS,
Major, Q. M. Corps,
Assistant.

2 incls.
Act of Congress.
Envelope.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 293 A-C
Berndsen, William A 34 F

July 7, 1930

Mr. Peter Henry Berndsen
R. F. D. #7, Box 65
Merril Lincoln County, Wisconsin

Dear Sir:

Your attention is invited to the enclosed copy of an Act of Congress of March 2, 1929, together with an amendment thereto, approved May 15, 1930.

This office has no record of any person entitled under the Act mentioned to make a pilgrimage to the cemeteries in Europe as the mother or widow of the above named deceased service man. To complete the list of eligibles and to assure that, if the above named man is survived by a mother or widow entitled to make a pilgrimage she receive an invitation to do so, it is requested you answer the following questions in the space provided on this letter and return to this office in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

1. Is the deceased survived by a mother?

If so, give her name and address:

2. Is the deceased survived by a widow who has not remarried?

If so, give her name and address:

3. Is the deceased survived by any woman who stood in loco parentis to him according to the terms of Section 4 (a) of the enclosed Act as amended?

If so, give her name and address:

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

Enclosures:
Envelope
Act
Amendment

A. D. HUGHES,
Captain, Q. M. Corps,
Assistant.

QM 293 A-C
Berndsen, William A.

October 24, 1929.

Mr. P. H. Berndsen,
Route #7, Box 65,
Merrill, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 8, 1929, relative to the pilgrimage authorized by Congress in the Act of March 2, 1929. The delay in reply is due to the great number of inquiries received in this office in connection with the pilgrimage.

The above Act provides that invitations for a pilgrimage shall be extended the mothers and widows of the members of the military and naval forces of the United States who are interred in the cemeteries in Europe. It does not contain any provision which will permit anyone else to make the trip. It is, therefore, regretted to have to advise that you are not entitled under the above Act to make this pilgrimage at Government expense.

I am sorry that your request cannot be granted, but the War Department has no alternative other than to carry out the law as passed by Congress.

For The Quartermaster General.

Very truly yours,

A. D. HUGHES,
Captain, Q. M. Corps,
Assistant.

Q. M. G. W. DIV.
1929 OCT 26 AM 11

DISP.

In Conn. with



WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO
QM 293 A-C
Berndsen, William A.

May 4, 1929.

Mr. P. H. Berndsen,
Route # 7, Box 65,
Merrel, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:

Your attention is invited to the enclosed copy of an Act of Congress approved March 2, 1929, entitled an Act "To enable the mothers and widows of the deceased soldiers, sailors and marines of the American forces now interred in the cemeteries of Europe to make a pilgrimage to these cemeteries".

The records of this office show that you are the father of the late Private William A. Berndsen, Company L, 16th Infantry, whose remains are now interred in the Suresnes American Cemetery, Suresnes, Seine, France.

Will you please advise this office whether or not he is survived by a mother or widow who is entitled under the provisions of the above quoted Act, to make the pilgrimage, and if so, will you please furnish the full names and addresses of the mother and widow in order that action may be taken to extend invitations to them to make the pilgrimage. Both mothers and widows are entitled to make the pilgrimage.

Your attention is particularly invited to Section 4 of the enclosed Act, which defines the terms "mother" and "widow". If the relative is a stepmother, mother through adoption, or any woman who stood in loco parentis to the decedent, a statement as to her relationship is requested. If he was survived by a widow who has since remarried it is also requested that a statement to that effect be made.

For your reply, you may use the enclosed envelope which requires no postage.

5/18

For The Quartermaster General,

Very truly yours,

JOHN T. HARRIS,
Major, Q. M. Corps,
Assistant.

2 incls.
Act of Congress.
Envelope.

LTH