

To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler

W87567-1

FOLDER-37

RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6004

01156159

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EO12958



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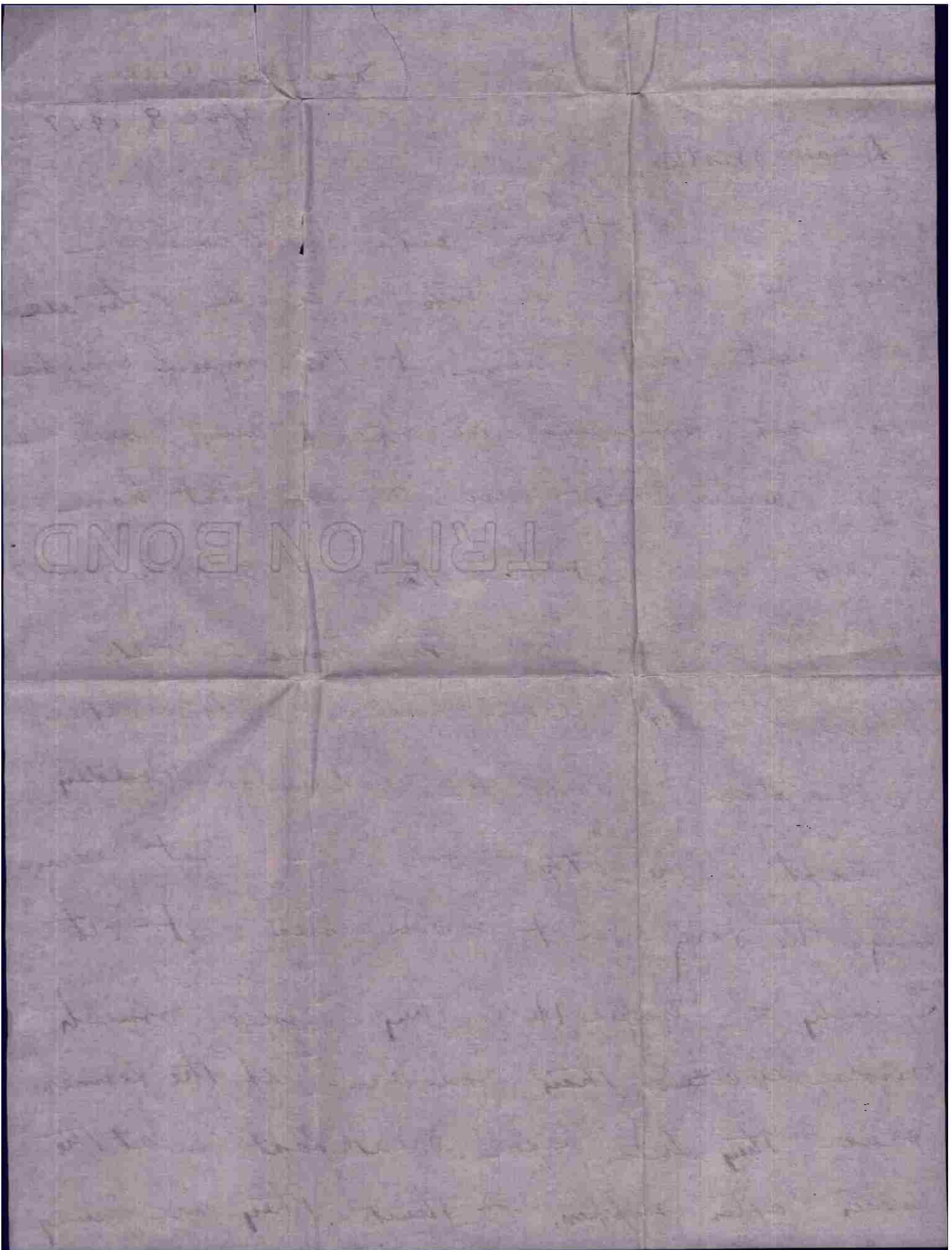
**THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED
IAW EO12958**

Davidson College.
April 8, 1917.

Dear Mother,

It sure looks as if we are
going to get a free trip to Europe after all.
I just can't realize it tho myself. Therefore
I'm not worrying about it any - and I
hope you are not any. If we just have
to go we just have to go - so why worry?
We are drilling here three times a week -

There are two companies. Bob Walter
is captain of one Co. & Dunlap Rosdoy
is capt. of the other. We are just learn-
ing the very first principles of it. At
Trinity & Chapel Hill they seemed much
more excited than we are. At the former
place they drill before breakfast & at the
latter after supper. I think they are gaining



to get an army officer at Trinity, and probably one here.

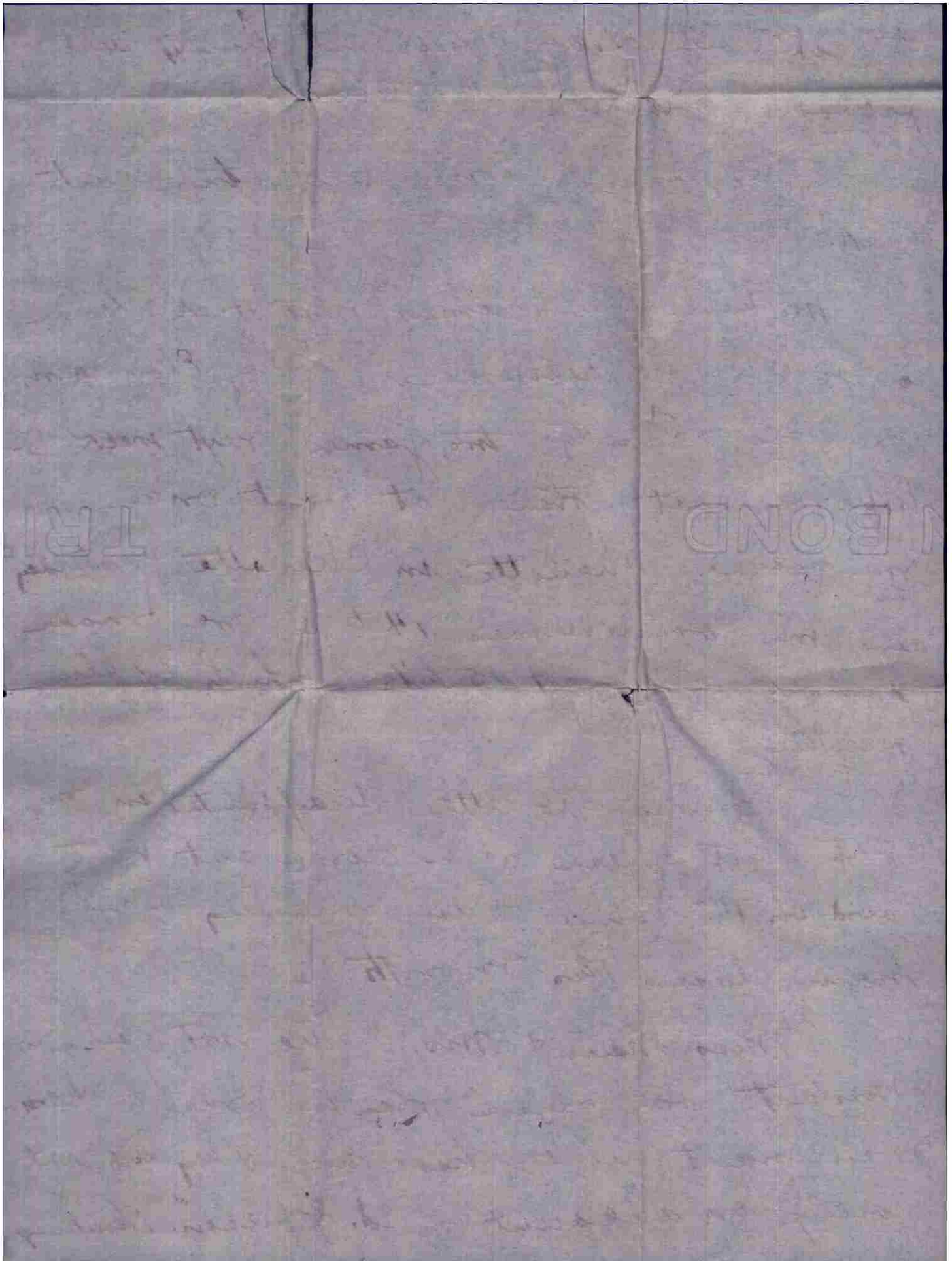
I enjoyed my little trip last week.

We have five games next week. Leave to-morrow for Greensboro - & play Elon again. We play Trinity two games next week. I hope we beat them at least once.

We played Charlotte in Charlotte yesterday and we overwhelmed 14 to 3. We made errors & they got 15 hits - which explains everything.

I was a little disappointed in my report - but guess I'll come out pretty good in the end. I am missing a good many classes this month.

Miss Maule & Mrs. V. are not going to Montreat so please plan to come to Commencement if we have any. They are not going on account of Ed. Johnson thinking



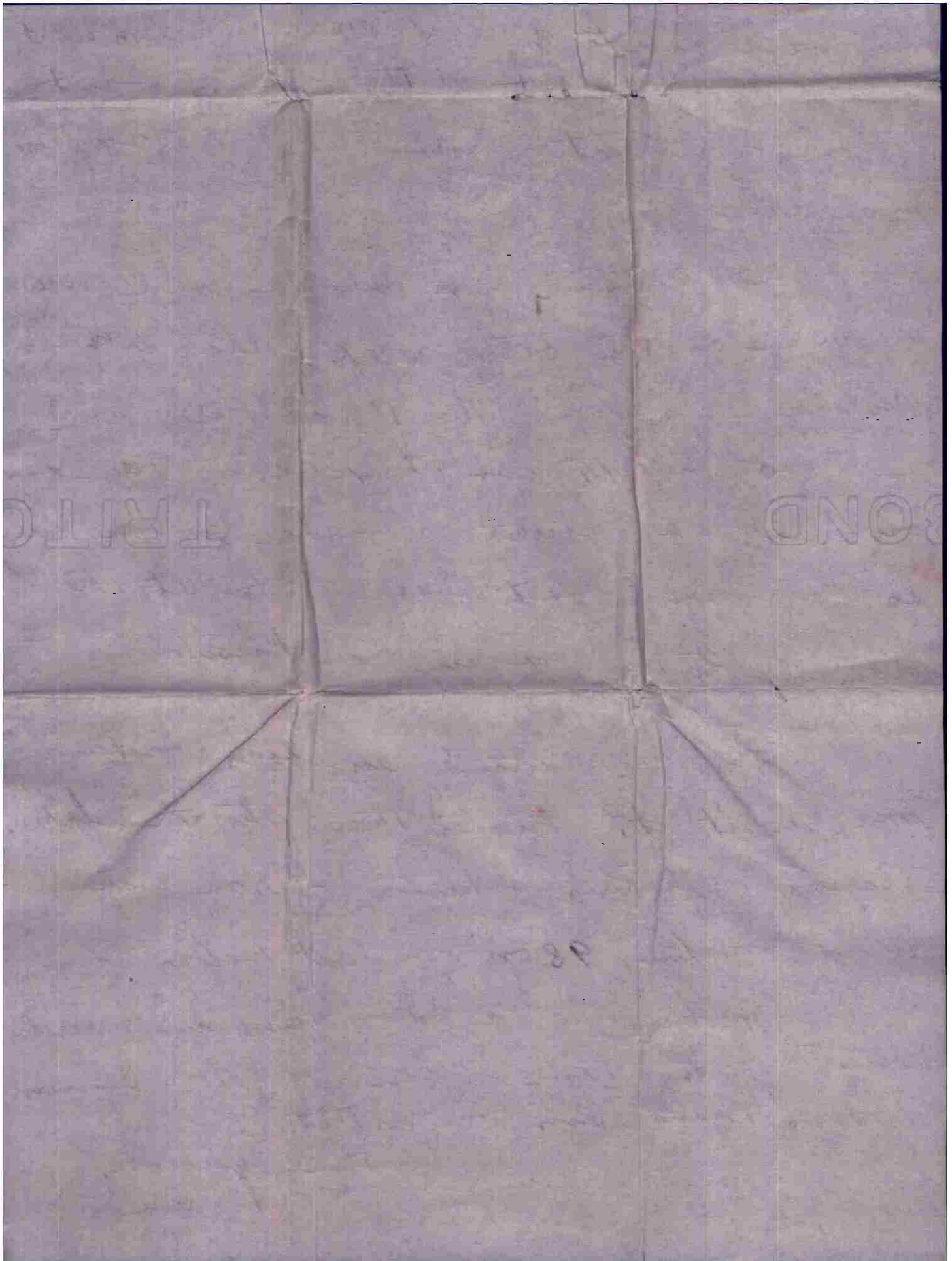
he will have to go - & Mrs. Johnson won't go if he goes - & The Visions won't go to Montreal - unless they go, so there you are.

I certainly hope you are well now as well as the other sick folks. Wm + I as well as all of the Woodhays are in good health. I'm thankful to say I'm on just as strict a pledge for bare ball as I was for fast ball. I'm at the training table again you know.

This is certainly an epoch making time, isn't it? Greater than the French Rev. Period. Speaking of history I was gratified upon making 98 on my last history Review.

We have had a very rainy and miserable Easter. Lots of love to you all. Mrs. Visions & Miss Maud join me in this.

Devotedly, your son,
Sam



168.7567-1
FOLOEN-32

Postmarked Apr 9, 1917
Davidson N.C.
To:
Mrs S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Miss

Davidson College
April 8, 1917

Dear Mother,

It sure looks as if we are going to get a free trip to Europe after all. I just can't realize it tho myself. Therefore I'm not worrying about it any - and I hope you are not any. If we just have to go we just have to go - s why worry?

We are drilling here three times a week - there are two companies. Bob Walker is captain of one co. & Dunlap Roddy is capt. of the other. We are just learning the very first principles of it. At Trinity & Chapel Hill they seemed much more excited than we are - at the former place they drill before breakfast & at the latter after supper. They are going to get an Army officer at Trinity and probably one here.

I enjoyed my little trip last week.

We have five games next week - leave to-morrow for Greensboro - & play Elon again. We play Trinity two games next week. I hope we beat them at least once. We played Charlotte in Charlotte yesterday and we overwhelmed 14 to 3. We made 9 errors & they got 15 hits - which explains everything.

I was a little disappointed in my report - but guess I'll come out pretty good in the end. I am missing a good many classes this month.

Miss Maud and Mrs. V. are not going to Montreat so please plan to come to commencement if we have any. They are not going on account of Ed. Johnson, thinking he will have to go - & Mrs. Johnson won't go if he go en lists - & the Vinsons wont' go to Montreat - unless they go, so there you are.

I certainly hope you are well now as well as the other sick folks. Wm & I as well as all of the G'wood (sic) boys are in good health, I'm thankful to say. I'm on just as strict a pledge for base ball as I was for foot ball. I'm at the training table again you know.

This is certainly an epoch making time, isn't it? Greater than the French Rev. Period. Speaking of history I was gratified upon making 98 on my last history review.

We have had a very rainy and miserable Easter. Lots of love to you all. Mrs. Vinson & Miss Maud join me in this.

Devotedly, your son,
Sam

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FOLIO - 33
RETURN TO ATTN: CHCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6424

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RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

▲ ▲ ▲

COMPANY No. 17 TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

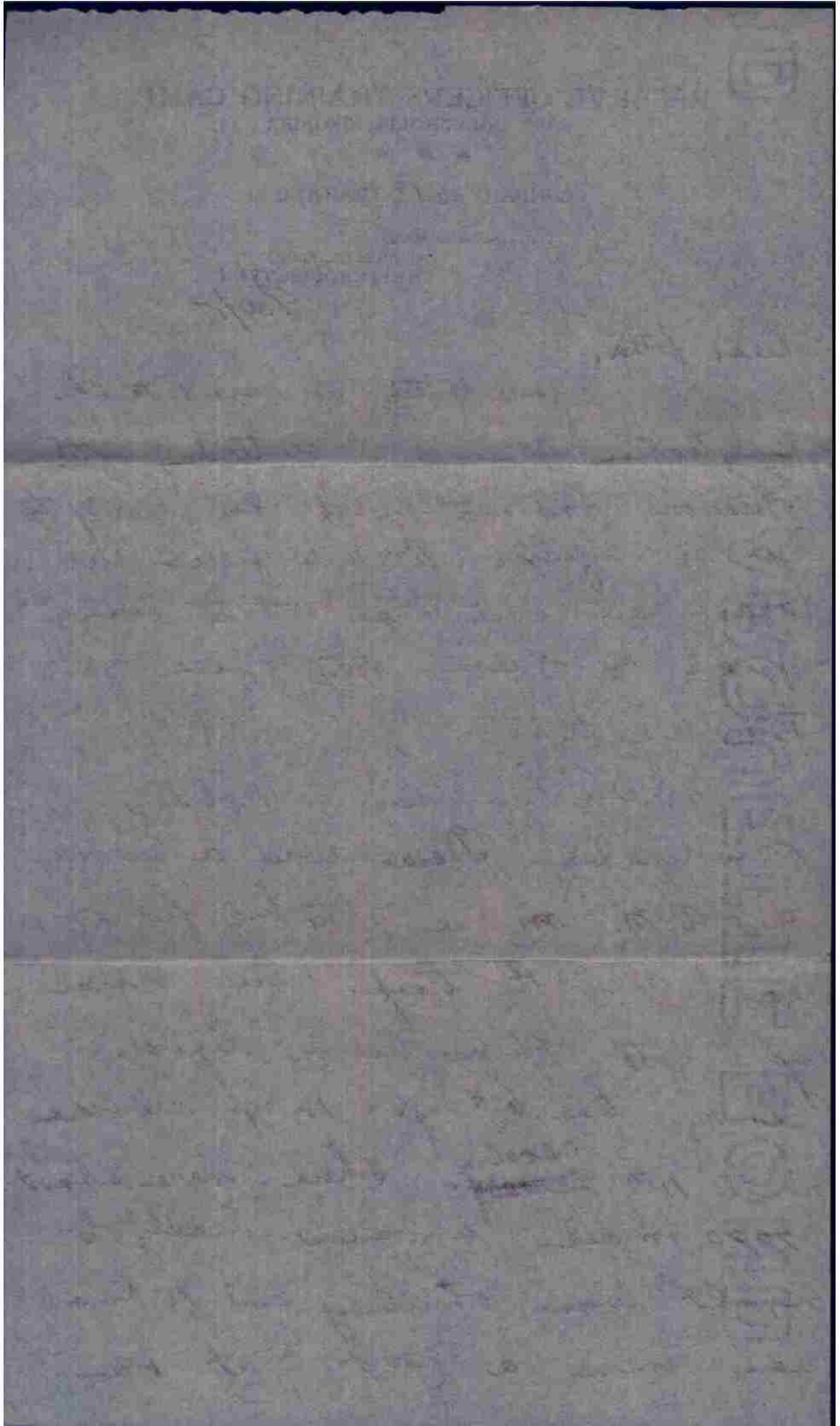
5/30/17

168,7567-1
FOLOON-35

Dear father,

your letter in regard to the Registration received. yesterday afternoon was set apart for all of the Co's. to register. Wm + I filled our cards and sent them to the County clerk - I guess they will get there all O.K.

To-day has been a Holiday - Memorial Day - There was a service this A.M. on one of the big fields near here - all of the troops were drawn up - both Officers Reserve, Regulars + Cavalry. The 6th Inf. + 12 Inf. are here and 11th ~~Infantry~~ ^{Cavalry}. There were about 7000 in all. 4 Bands. Really the sight was thrilling and to know you were a part of it was



RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

▲ ✂ ▲

COMPANY No. 12 TRAINING

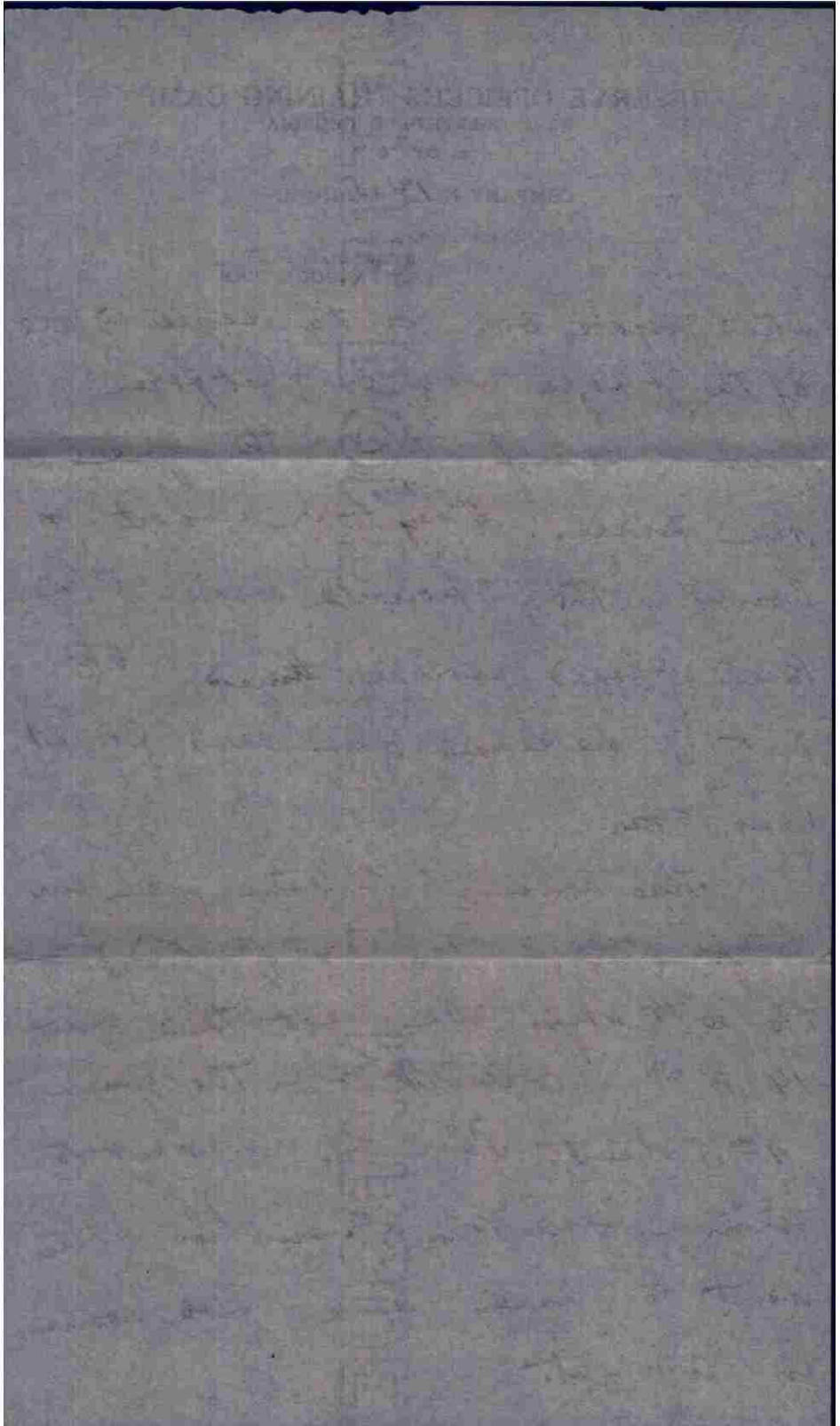
ADDRESS MAIL:

MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

still more so. In the center of all of the troops was a platform from which all of the speeches were made. They were short - in honor of the "honored dead". The Band played several times. The list of deceases was read for last year. Etc.

This evening a team from our troops played a team picked from the 6th Inf. We beat them about 14 to 5. I didn't see the game.

Wm., Stuart, Thomson, & I went to town - saw Mrs. Chamberliss - then went to ball game. Soc. comes in tonight.



RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

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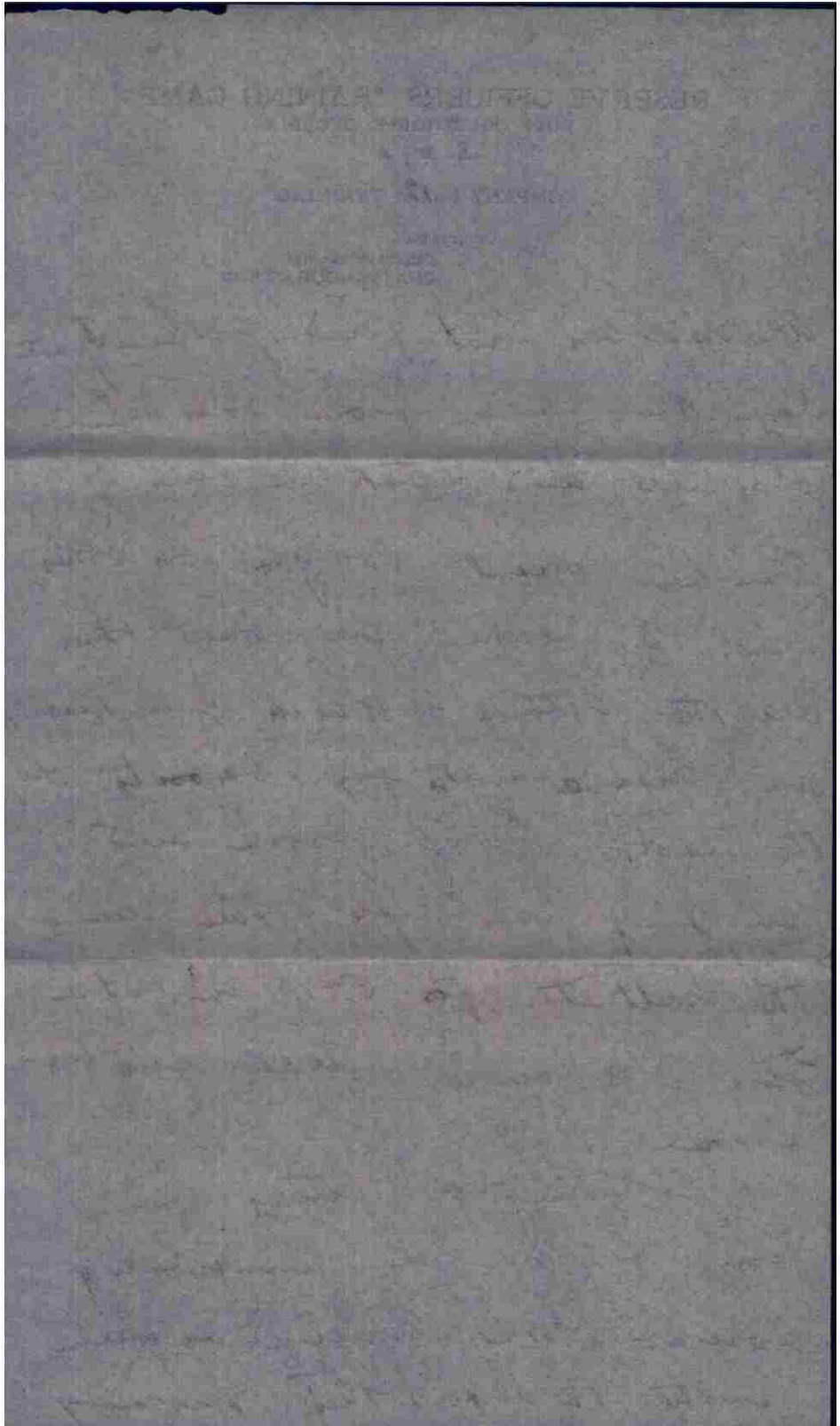
COMPANY No 12 TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

We had our first field problem yesterday. We came from over behind one hill and took a line of trenches about 800 yds. on other side. Of course we went through all the details - which you know. we charged with fixed bayonets at the last. Lying prone and snapping your rifle - then seeing the halt etc. for 5+10 min. at a time - or longer - sure gets tiresome.

Everything is getting along fine & we are improving some - we drilled as well as the 12 inf. This morning



RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

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COMPANY No 2 TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

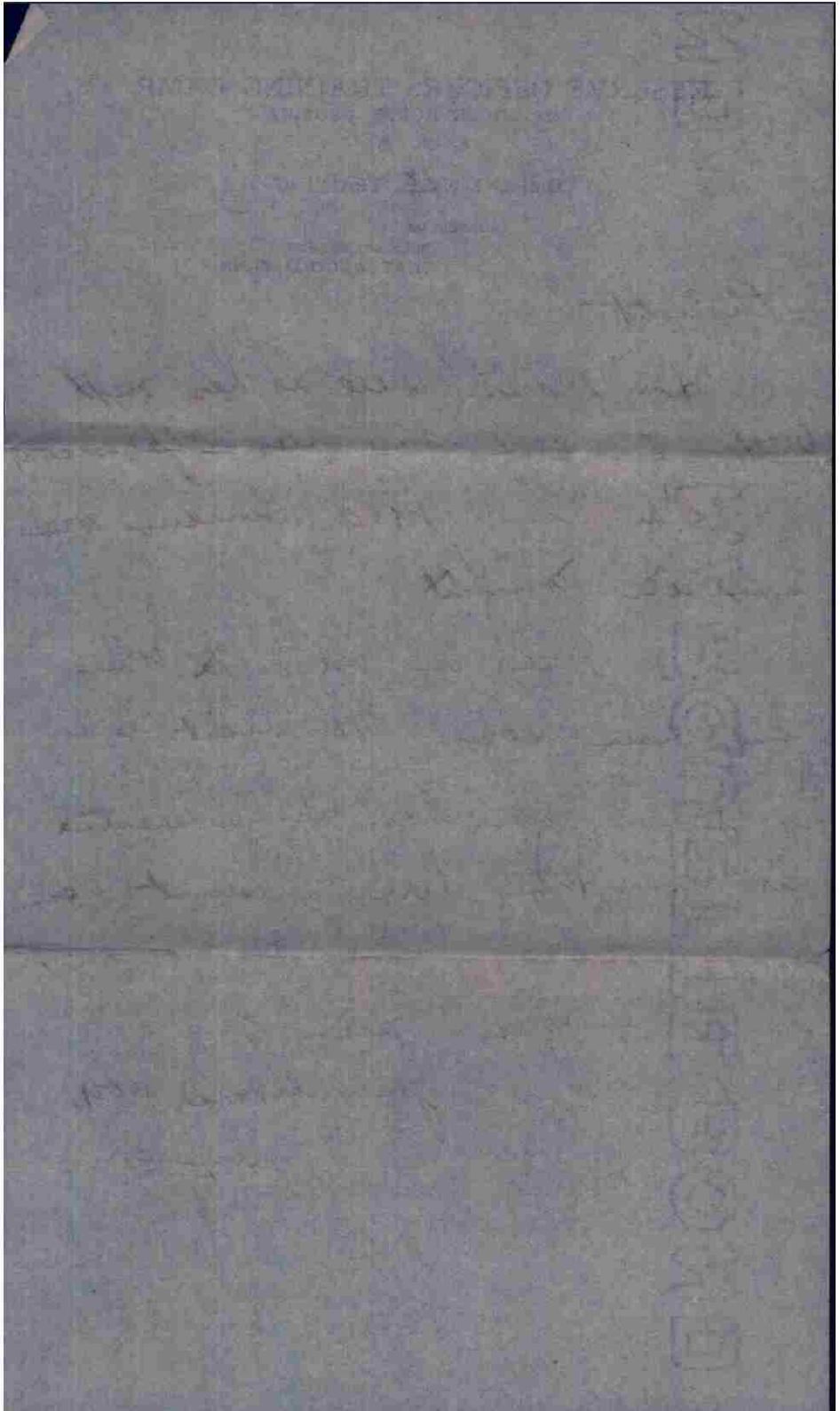
MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

I thought..

*Dr. Martin will be here next
week to give us our diplomas.
The new Y.M.C.A. Building was
dedicated tonight.*

*I will be glad to when
you can come to visit us
& I know you'll be interested
in everything here. Must close
& go to bed - we are well,
Love to you all -
your devoted son,*

Sam J.



To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler
From: William Keesler (slight ref to Sam)
Postmarked May 4, 1917

168-7567-1
Folder - 34
RETURN TO: AIR FORCE Hutchell Research Agency M... .., AL 36113-6013

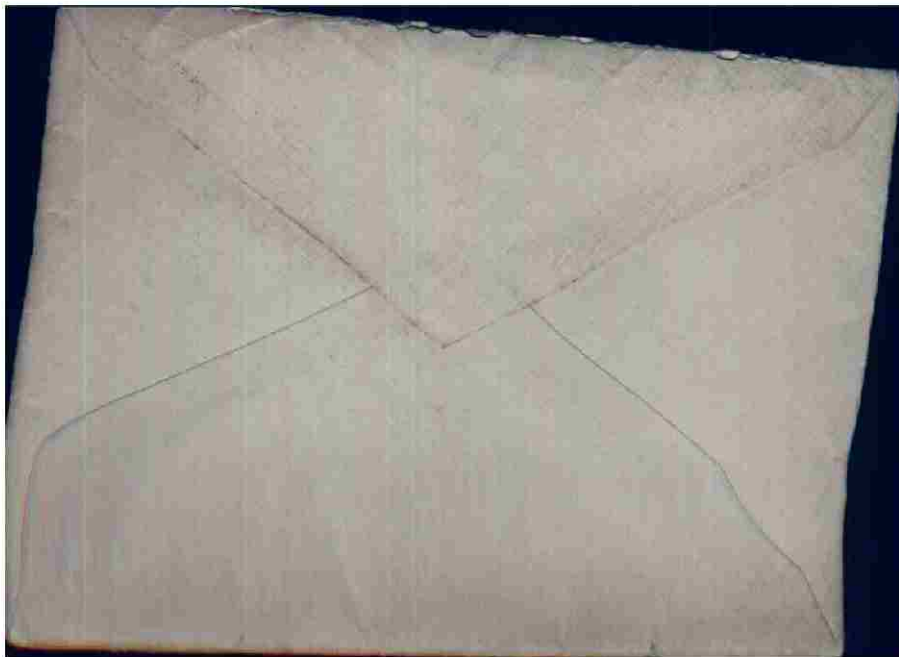
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not have gone into the
 Camp if you & father had
 not advised against it. We
 are in young to do my
 very best to be one out of
 the one who got a commission
 in Sept. But even while in
 working I shall be praying
 that peace come and end
 it all.

Ever since the war
 started I've been trying to find
 out if there was any pos-
 sible chance to sent my

168.7567-1
 Folder-34

Dearest Mamma,

DE, Thursday

This day has
 made me happier than
 any since the war started.
 We learned positively that we
 could come home and get
 our diploma. I just hated the
 thought of not being able to be
 with you. It made me
 nervous and worried for I
 knew you were thinking and
 longing for us as we were
 for you. Now and I would

Country in another way than a
 a addition that I could not find any
 I asked Dr Seattle what he would
 advise me, he said the Kung'ung
 Dr Lushko said wait a while. Dr M
 Y.H. Dr Cornell say go. The whole
 faculty is divided. Dr Martin can
 hardly sleep for worrying over
 the question.
 tonight I went over to see Mr
 Rincon and Miss Ghand. They both
 would kindly take of the war. Mr
 Rincon doesn't want any /u &
 go. It will be my hand for no other
 he goes every day the boys who go
 over there except one is going. The
 just keep me to wait regularly and
 says a letter will never be needed by
 her. The poor Seniors who have been
 "her boy" for so long are going in
 together and get a living cup with

he was called home by his people it certainly hurt him. I never saw a boy who was so worked up. The last night he was here he was so nervous that he could not sit still and talk. I hope for his sake he is not taken or is conscripted.

Sam and I are planning to leave here Sat. and spend Sunday with the people in Charlotte. Just since has already asked us when

an appropriate message I can leave on it and give it to her. It will be hard to leave another Union & Miss Maud. We can never remove just how much there have meant to us so we have never been away from there since.

She has truly been "mother" to us here. "Soe" Chaublin has been called home to go to the court. She is a boy who does not believe in doing a thing unless he believes in it. Well she is a peace believer and when

Then we leave there Monday getting
 home Tuesday night. That is the
 way we have thing figured now.
 We could leave sooner but it would
 not save as had that I don't if
 he could get ready. I expect I need do
 this afternoon, tomorrow I expect the
 tomorrow then that night get up
 all back work which I have now
 little I am passing as my work
 but I might a while statement
 assuming this from are the purpose
 that will work my diploma.
 There will be at Camp about
 twenty five a thirty log from London
 besides the old man. Stuart Tishman,
 Roy Baron, Joe Roddy, Chet Miller &
 several others have enlisted. There are
 seven from the Chapin here going.
 This all makes it very nice for
 us. It will be like morning part
 of P.E. there. That is the meaning

We will miss seeing them here. When will they people go north. He hasn't said. We do not get to see very much. They as he boards away from the westward sea Maynard regularly as he visits me and

him. Today they had the funeral of Col Seafeld, the old friend of the student who has had a store on "Kits Corner" for 40 years. The students sent a formal offering and a good number went. He was the friend of us all and we will miss the "old Col" when

he returns to my mind. Dr McBurnell said he meets and a better set of men for officers as was going to Leghthorpe. He stated he said was for above the arrange in the army notes. We asked us to stand up and fight to keep it such and we will. He gave some of a lot of helpful advice in the matter.

I hear from Maynard that the frontiers are in N.Y.

Use come to get up heads or to play
 checkers.
 Saw in working hard right now
 trying to get things in shape to leave.
 He has to leave the Student Body elections
 before he goes. The Student
 Council in good hands. He sure has
 worked hard this week but things
 are coming round.
 Good night now as the lights
 have flicked. I am longing to be with
 you all and that thought has done
 much to make me restless but
 I'll see you soon. Love to all
 your loving son
 William

168.7567-1
FOLDER-34

Postmarked May 4, 1917
Davidson N.C.
To:
Mrs S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Miss

D.C. Thursday

Dearest Mamma,

This day has made me happier than any since the war was started. We learned positively that we could come home and get our diplomas. I just hated the thought of not being able to be with you. It made me nervous and worried for I knew you were thinking of and longing for us as we were for you. Sam and I could not have gone into the Camp if you & father had not advised us but now we are in I'm going to do my very best to be one out of the one who get (sic) a commission in Sept. But even while I'm working I shall be praying that peace come and end it all.

Ever since the war started I've been trying to find out if there was any possible chance to serve my country in another way than as a soldier but I could not find any. I asked Dr Sentelle what he would advise me, he said the training camp. Dr Arbuckle said "wait a while." Dr JM & JW McConnell say go. The whole faculty is divided. Dr Martin can hardly sleep for worrying over the question.

Tonight I went over to see Mrs Vinson and Miss Maud. They both would hardly talk of the war. Mrs Vinson doesn't want any of us to go. It will be very hard for us after we go as every one of the boys who go over there except one is going. She just begs us to write regularly and says a letter will never be owed by her. The hour Seniors who have been "her boys" for so long are going in together and get a "loving cup" with an appropriate message of our love on it and give it to her. It will be hard to leave Mother Vinson & Miss Maud. We can never know just how much there (sic) have meant to us as we have never been away from there (sic) influence. She has truly been "Mother" to us here.

"Soc" Chambliss has been called home to go to the camp. He is a boy who does not believe in doing a thing unless he believes in it. Well he is a peace believer and when he was called home by his people it certainly hurt him. I never saw a boy who was so worked up. The last night he was here he was so nervous that he could not sit still and talk. I hope for his sake he is not taken or is conscripted.

Sam and I are planning to leave here Sat. and spend Sunday with the people in Charlotte. Aunt Janie has already asked us down. Then we leave there Monday getting home Tuesday night. That is the way we have thing figured now. We could leave sooner but it would rush Sam so bad that I doubt if he could get ready. I closed Fresh Sab this afternoon, tomorrow I correct the books and then that night get up all back work of which I have very little. I am passing all my work but I will get a written statement assuring this from all the professors. That will cinch my diploma.

There will be at Camp about twenty five or thirty boys from Davidson besides the old men. Stuart Gilchrist, Roy Baron, Joe Roddy, Chief Mullen & several others have enlisted. There are seven from the Chapter here going. This all makes it very nice for us. It will be like moving part of D.C. there. That is one redeeming feature to my mind. Dr McConnell said he never saw a better set of men for officers as was going to Oglethorpe. The standard he said was far above the average in the army now. He asked us to stand up and fight to keep it such and we will. He gave Sam & I lots of helpful advise in the matter.

I hear from Maynard that the Fountains are in N.Y. We will miss seeing them here. When will Guy's people go north. He hasn't said. We do not get to see very much of Guy as he boards away from the rest but I see Maynard regularly as he visits me and I him.

Today they had the funeral of Col Scofield, the old frield (sic) of the student who has had a stone on "Skits Corner" for 40 years. The students sent a floral offering and a good number went. He was the friend of us all and we will miss the "old Col" when we come to get up feeds or to play checkers.

Sam is working hard right now trying to get things in shape to leave. He has to have the Student Body elections before he goes, also put the Student Counsel in good hands. He sure has worked hard this week but things are coming around.

Good night now as the lights have blinked. I am longing to be with you all and that thought has done much to make me restless but I'll see you soon. Love to all

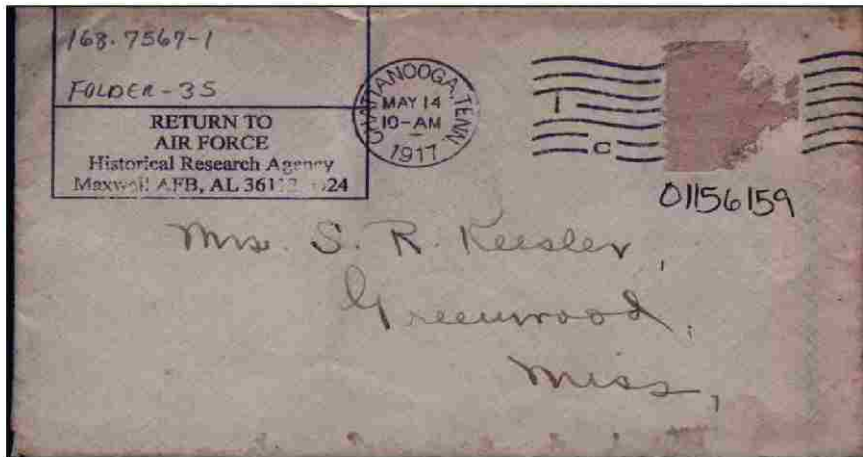
Your loving son
William

76-4055-15008-1
From 500 1000000
Date 13/1917

168.7567-1
FOLDER - 35
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical & Arch Agency Maxwell AFB AL 36107

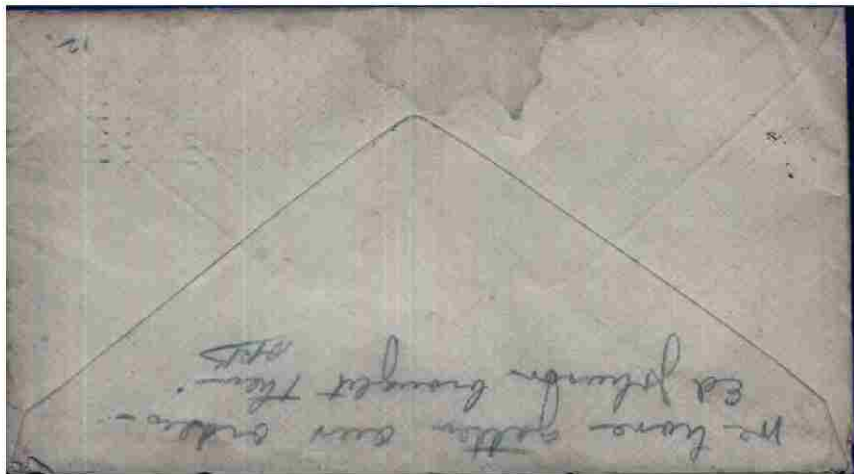
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and returning Campbell (I remember
only him at camp my first year)
as in my Co. also a fellow
from Quincy I know. There
are four Bushmills & not
two friends from Lawrence.
About 40 from that place.
Ray Barron, Joe R. & etc come
to-morrow. Stewart is almost
as here & Red Smith. There
were them yet. There were
meek Lang. & a bunch of others.
The first thing after
being assigned to us is

168-7569-1
FOI000-35

correct

address →

Company #12, Training
Military Prison
Chattanooga
Tenn.
May 13-1917

Dear Mother;

Here we are. Yet
in the morning on time. Come
out here about 8:30. There a
chance in getting in - and get
in - you in Co. 6 - I am in
Co #12. There were a lot of
men & know - from Randolph
- Charlotte & elsewhere. Ed Johnson

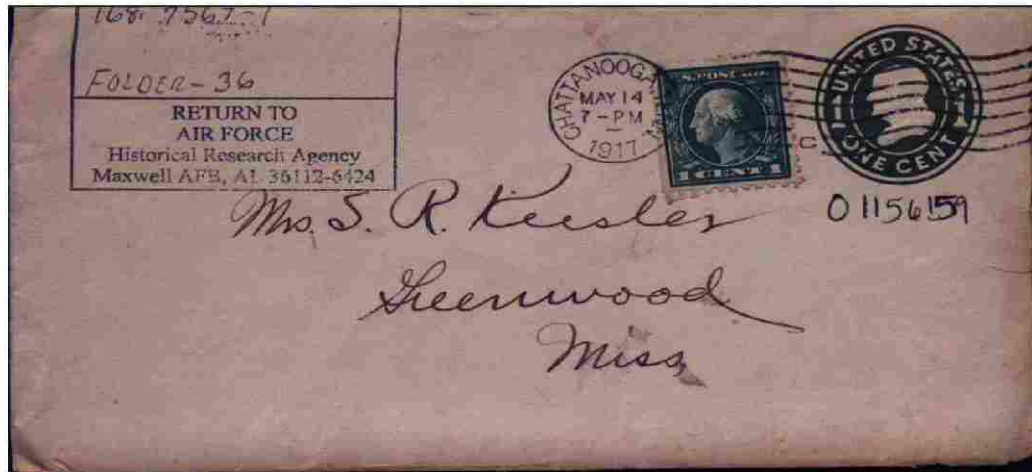
was assigned to be out & looking
 + looking it up - I understand me as
 get even uniform probably tomorrow -
 I think more to measure up 2 day
 I have on something except a hat
 - as I think I brought with me.
 The women in hotel.
 more @ 12 o'clock - very good
 food -
 Bought a book - "The Great
 price \$1.50. must get on the rest
 and I it as soon as possible
 Camp is very pretty - most flowers
 + flowers + others mean much
 to us in way of knowing - often get
 things straight.
 Saw several flowers in West
 Point.
 Got my letter home - they are in
 a box & I don't know how to
 take it to me - I don't know.

To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler
From: William Keesler (slight ref to Sam)
Postmarked May 14, 1917

168-7567-1
FOI 050 - 36
RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-5211

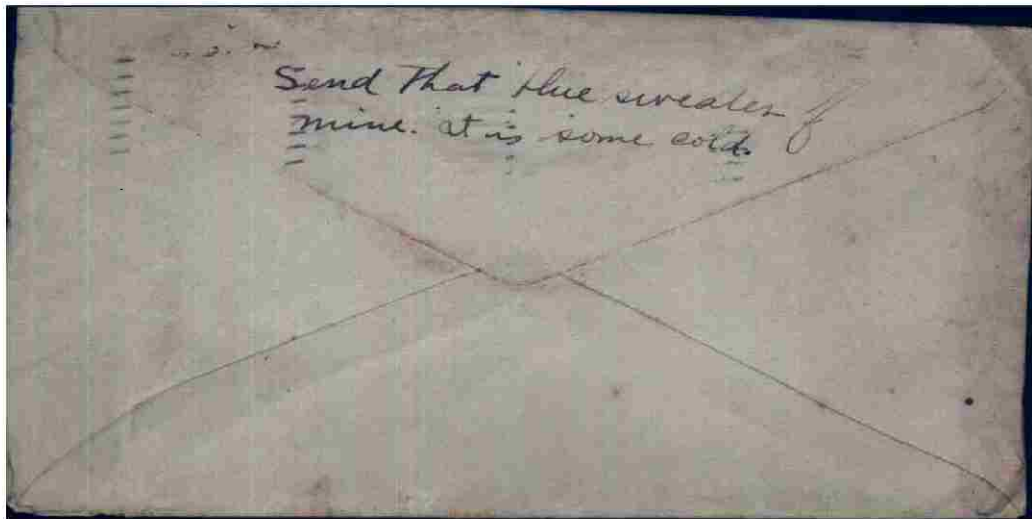
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the Savins there as several
 the boys and in #5, #5, 7 & 9
 are boys. We are not full as
 yet so am hoping to see some
 one I know before long. Saw
 B. in in #4 with six or seven
 Seavane boys.

We had no trouble getting
 in at all. All we did was to
 walk up and show our
 yellow strip and they assigned
 us to places. Saw #9 got
 separated by one person who
 went to #12 & let me six.

I never felt so lonely in
 all my life as I did for an

168-7569-1
 Folder-34

Near Mamma,

Fort Oglethorpe
 Co 6 Training Camp

We arrived here OK
 at 5 o'clock this morning and
 found that the M.C. boys were
 ready to go out to camp so
 out we went and were regis-
 tered & assigned to companies
 and barracks. Saw #9 were
 separated of course. He went
 to Co. 12 & #6. In going thru
 and change my company
 so I came out with some one
 I know. There is no one I
 know at this one at all.

here or so. That the same feeling
 that I had at college the first day
 there. But in being unable to learn
 the Kalamangpat so that feeling was
 less soon.
 We have been measured for
 uniforms & the and will get them
 this afternoon. A good deal sooner
 than I expected. Tomorrow we will
 be given our guns and real work
 begins then.
 The food is simple but nicely
 cooked and plenty of it. There are
 lemonade for dinner, no coffee or tea
 it sure did taste good so we had
 not had any thing since 6:30
 Breakfast & the rest are all out
 here. If you want to read any
 the given and to 7th Reg. there %
 0.6 Training Camp. This is also
 our Post Office address.
 There are coming fast now.
 They has minutes men come in
 each company has three barracks
 holding 60 men for two of them (each)

yesterday hasn't been out today & I never knew this was Sunday. I guess after things got more settled there will be service out here. I hope so. Please tell every one Good B or no. We left at sundown that I felt like I was in a dream. He just come back from getting my uniform. At his price. I feel like a real soldier now.

When you read that winter means, will you read also some tapes to make one with

On this first in Company office and rooms for office. Soviet had time to learn his name or the kid's yet.

The first thing they did to me was to put me in a Company I never leaving the atmosphere. We went just three this for three quarters of each hour three dis missed. Several of the other Company are drilling now and the whole place is full of waiters.

Work is being moved right on three today. It

Also that Hank left 1 left in the
hand, at under one of the seats.
Must stop now and go to
Snapper.
Don't see your long son
William

Postmarked May 14, 1917

Chatanooga, Tenn

To:

Mrs S.R. Keesler

Greenwood, Miss

Fort Oglethorpe
Co.6 Training Camp

Dear Mamma,

We arrived her O.K. at 5 oclock this morning and found that the N.C. boys were ready to go out to camp so out we went and were registered & assigned to companies and barracks. Sam & I were separated of course. He went to Co. 12 & I to #6. I'm going to try and change my company so I can get with someone I know. There is no one I know it (sic) this one at all.

In Sam's there is several D.C. boys and in #'s 4,5,7 & 9 are boys. We are not full as yet so I'm hoping to see some one I know before long. Sam B. is in #4 with six or seven Suwanee boys.

We had no trouble getting in at all. All we did was to walk up and shoe our yellow slips and they assigned us to places. Sam & I got separated by one person who went to #12 & let me six.

I never felt so lonely in all my life as I did for an hour or so. Had the same feeling that I had at college the first day there. But I'm being awful (?) to leave the fellows fast so that feeling will leave soon.

We have been measured for uniforms & etc and will get them this afternoon. A good deal sooner than I expected. Tomorrow we will be given our guns and real work begins then.

The food is simple but nicely cooked and plenty of it. Gave us lemonade for dinner, no coffee or tea. It sure did taste good as we had not had any thing since 6:30.

Bob Jones & the rest are all out here. If you want to send any telegrams send to "Fort Oglethorpe C/O Co. 6 Training Camp. This is also our Post Office address.

Men are coming fast now. Every few minutes men come in. Each company has three barracks. Holding 60 men for two & three (each). In this first is company office and rooms for officers. Haven't had time to learn his name or the Lieut's yet.

The first thing they did to me was to put me in a company of men learning the semaphore. We went (sic) put thru this for three quarters of an hour then dismissed. Several of the other companies are drilling now and the whole place is full of visitors.

Work is being rushed right on thru Sunday. If yesterday hadn't been Saturday I'd never know this was Sunday. I guess after things get more settled there will be services out here. I hope so.

Please tell every one Good By for us. We left so suddenly that I felt like I was in a dream.

I've just come back from getting my uniform. It fits fine. I feel like a real soldier now.

When you send that under-wear, will you send also some tapes to mark our stuff, also that flashlight I left in the ford, it (sic) under one of the seats.

Must stop now and go to supper.

Love to all Your loving son
William

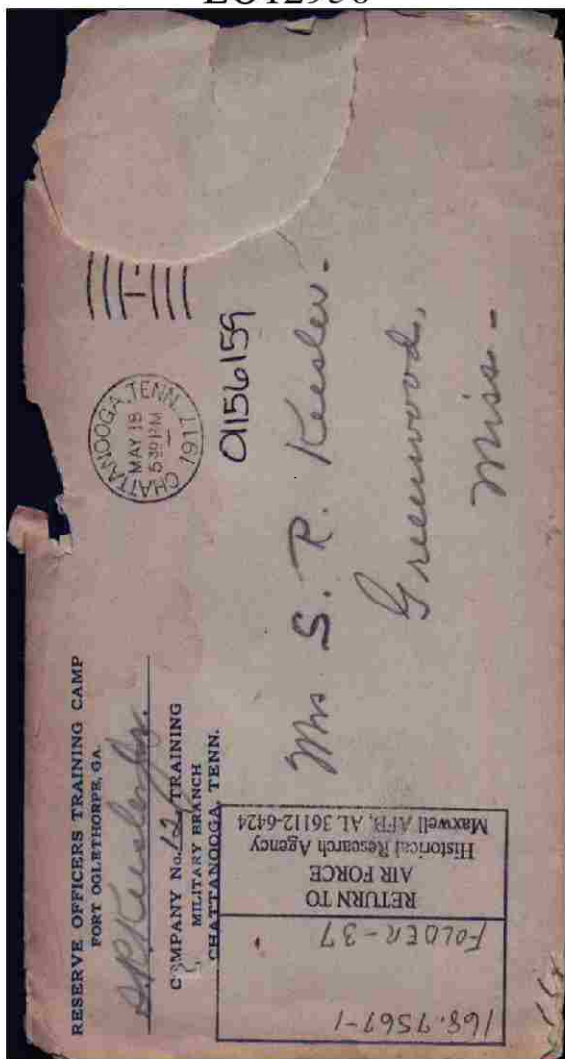
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
May 17, 1917

168. 7567-1

FOIA 37

RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-2424

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RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

▲ ✕ ▲

COMPANY No. 12 TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

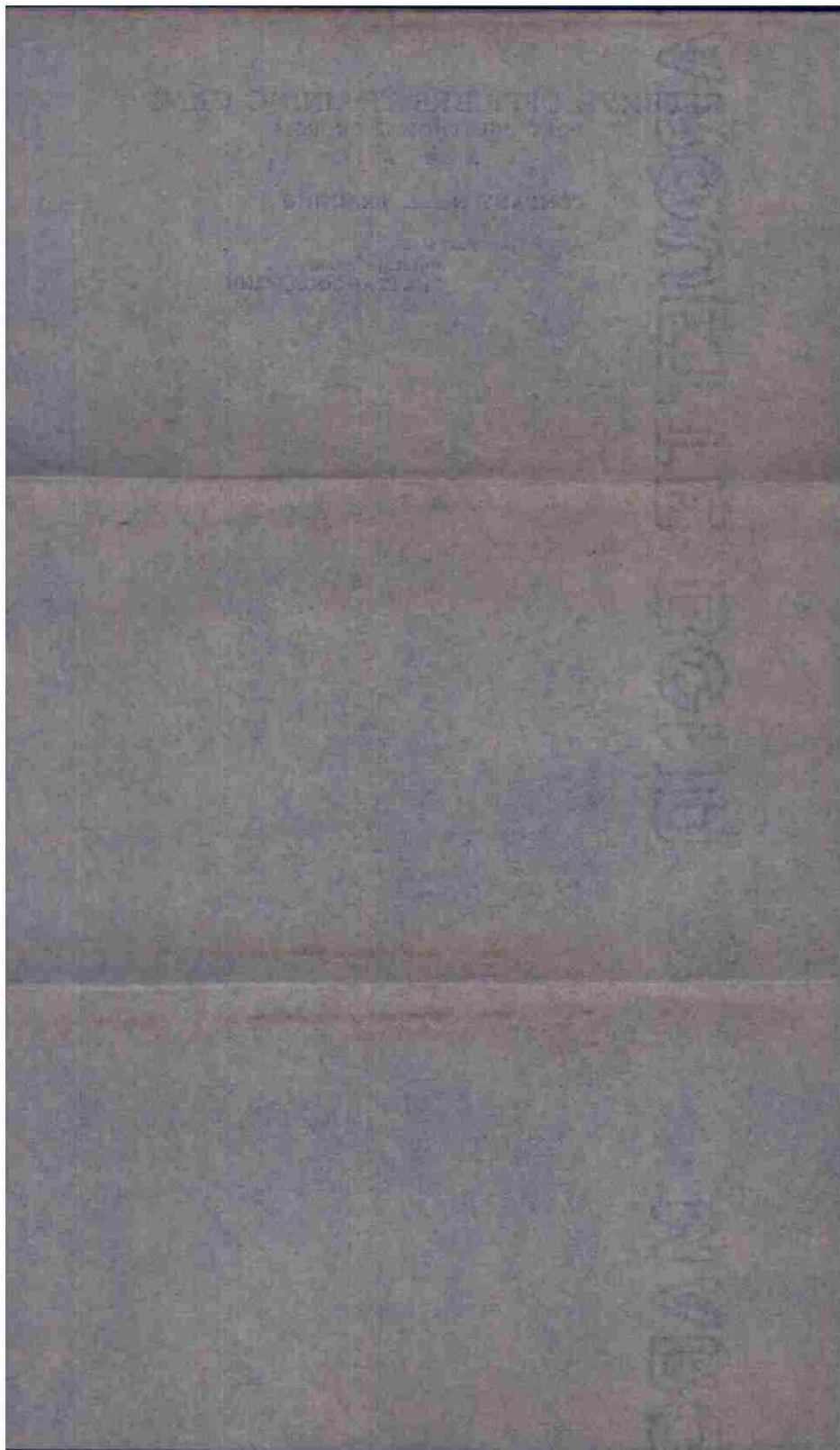
May 17, 1917

168.7567-1
FOI 000-37

Dear Mother -

I sure got a bunch of letters to-day - and they were gladly received - I got about 7. 4 of them two letters came. I will see Mr. McCallie Sunday, if I can about my position next year.

We were really worked to day - we get up now at 5:15 - to bed at 10:00 P.M. I get plenty of sleep - the food is good and beautiful - I am trying to get my habit regular - so I am in fine physical condition & enjoying it. I know good and well I am better or am going to be better - than a lot of these fellows here - so if I do my part - I ought



RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

▲ F ▲

COMPANY No. _____ TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

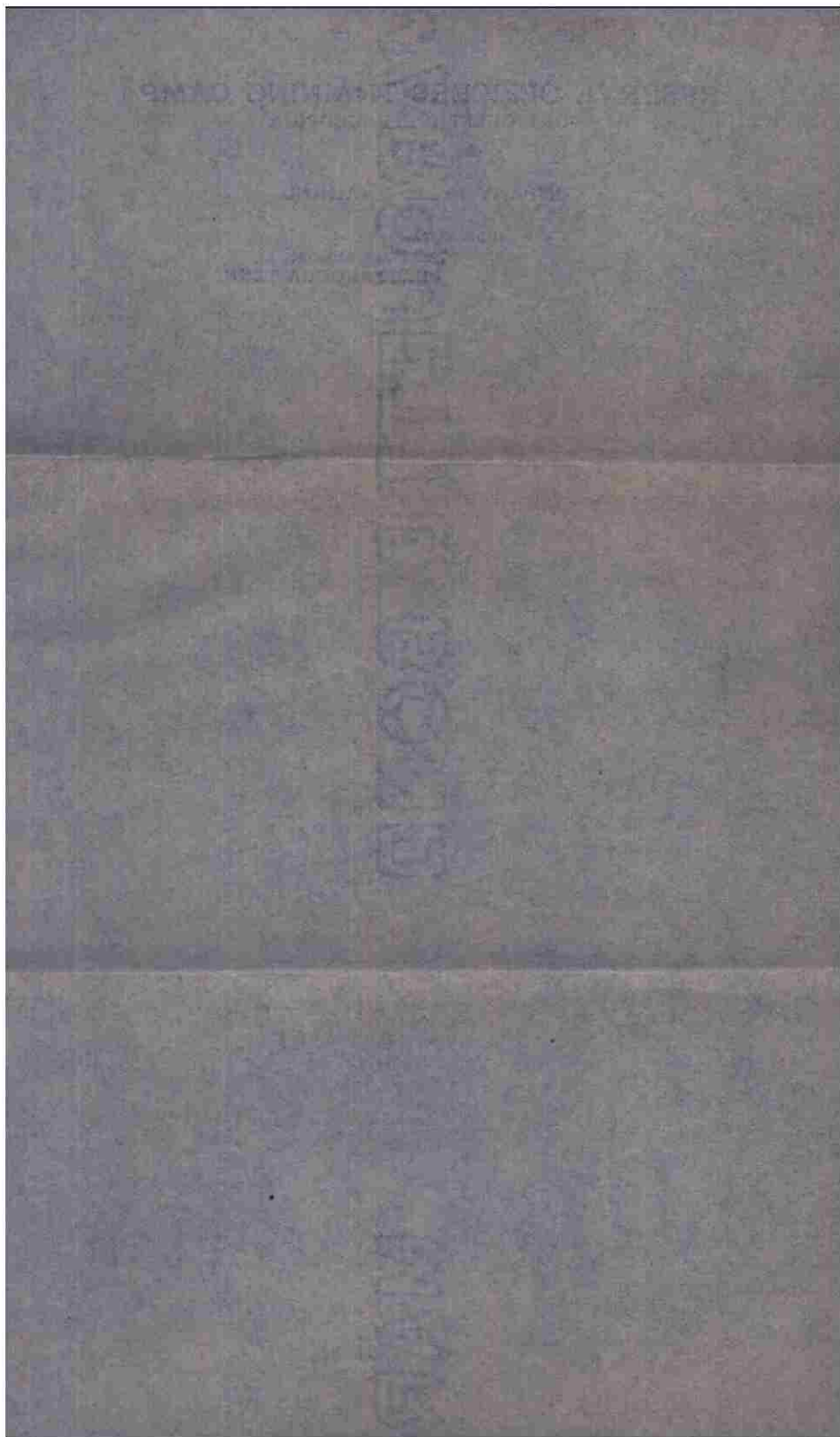
MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

to get something

To-day we drilled as usual
most of morning - both by in-
dividual squads - and by Co. Each
man in his squad - drilling it in
turn. After the drill - the Platoon
signaling drill - then drill in manual
of arms. This evening Co. conference by
Co. commander. Then "setting up" Exer-
cise -

after supper 2 lectures by different
officers to entire ~~the~~ camp on "Per-
sonal Hygiene" & "Organization of Army".

Yesterday - I was vaccinated &
also took Typhoid vaccine again -
I just took 3 doses about 3 months
ago @ Davidson - I don't think the
vaccination will last & the other has



RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

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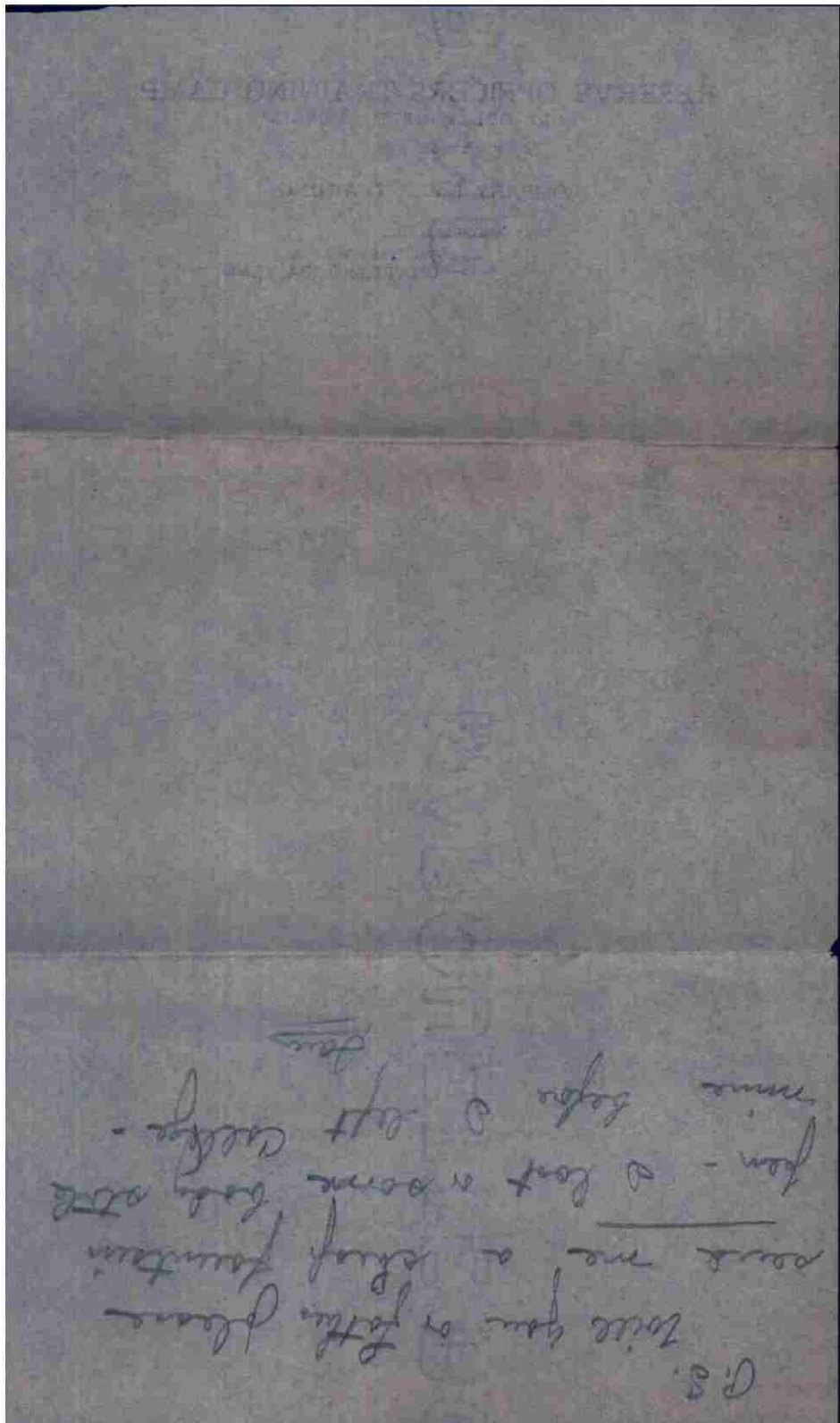
MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

given me no trouble so far.

I have learned that I ^{the} ~~am~~
committee of the Faculty has awarded
me the "Gryphon Medal" @ Davidson
for this year. This medal is given to
the man who has done more for
the college in his senior year - all
round. I will get it @ Com-
mencement with the other medals
which will be given - I under-
stand ones winning it.

must close and retire -
write to us when you have time
or get Charlotte or Isabelle to
mail very pleasant indeed -

your loving son,
Sam Jr



68-7567-1
Folder-37

Reserve Officers Training Camp
Fort Oglethorp, Georgia
Company No 12 Training
To:
Mrs S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Miss

May 17, 1917

Dear Mother –

I sure got a bunch of letters to-day – and they were gladly received. I got about 7 – Father's two letters came. I will see Mr. McCallie Sunday, if I can about my position next year.

We were really worked to-day – we get up now at 5:15 – to bed at 10⁰⁰ P.M. I get plenty of sleep – the food is good and bountiful – I am trying to get my habit regular – so I am in fine physical condition & enjoying it. I know good and well I am better or am going to be better than a lot of these fellows here – so if I do my part – I ought to get something.

To-day we drilled as usual most all morning – both by individual squads – and by Co. Each man in his squad – drilling it in turn – after this drill – the semaphore signaling drill – Then drill in manual of arms. This evening Co. conference by Co. commander. Then “setting up” Exercise.

After supper 2 lectures by different officers to entire camp on “Personal Hygiene & Organization of Army” –

Yesterday – I was vaccinated & also took typhoid vaccine again – I just took 3 doses about 3 months ago @ Davidson – I don't think the vaccination will take & the other had given me no trouble so far.

I have learned that the committee of the Faculty had awarded me the “Gryphon Medal” @ Davidson – for this year. This medal is given to the man who has done more for the college in his Senior year – all round. I will get it @ commencement with the other medal which will be given – I am delighted over winning it.

Must close and retire – write to us when you have time or get Charlotte or Isabelle to – Getting mail very pleasant indeed –

Your loving son,
Sam Jr

(over)

P.S. Will you or father please send me a cheap fountain pen – I lost or some body stole mine before I left College –

Sam

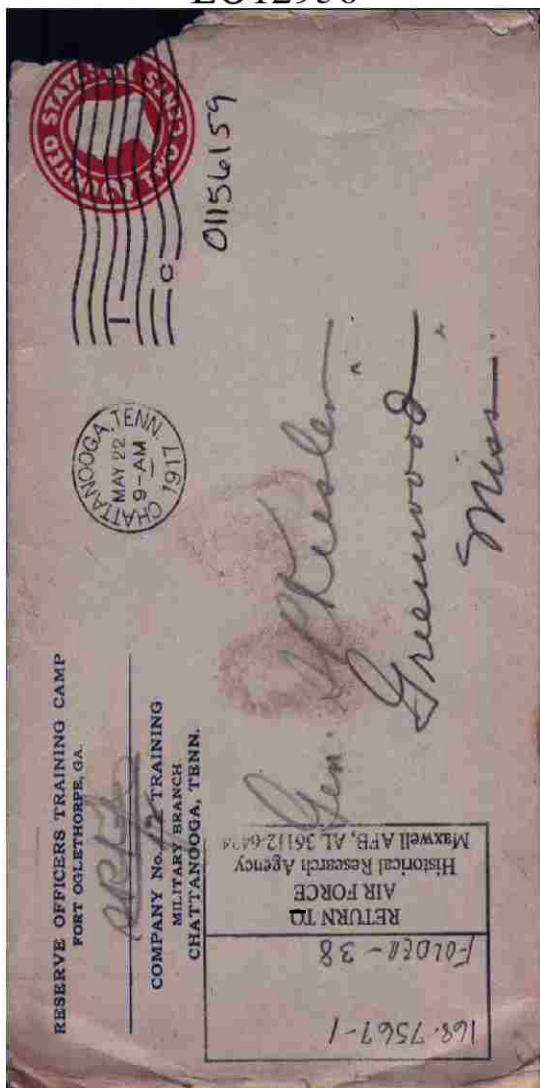
To: Gen S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
May 21, 1947

168-7567-1

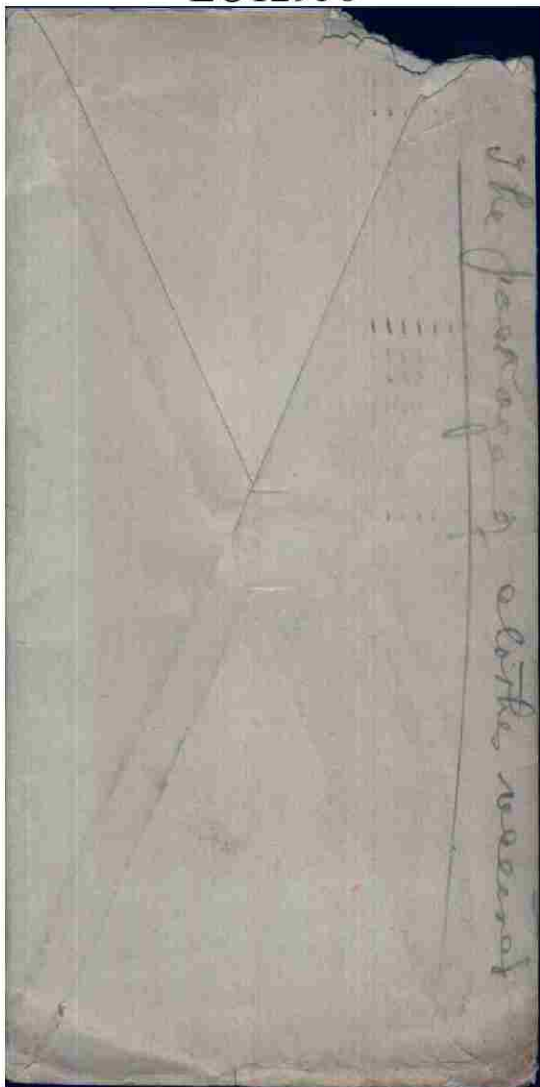
FOIA 38

RETURN TO:
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Huntington Research Agency
Maxwell 4115, AL 36112-704

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RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

▲ T ▲

COMPANY No 12 TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

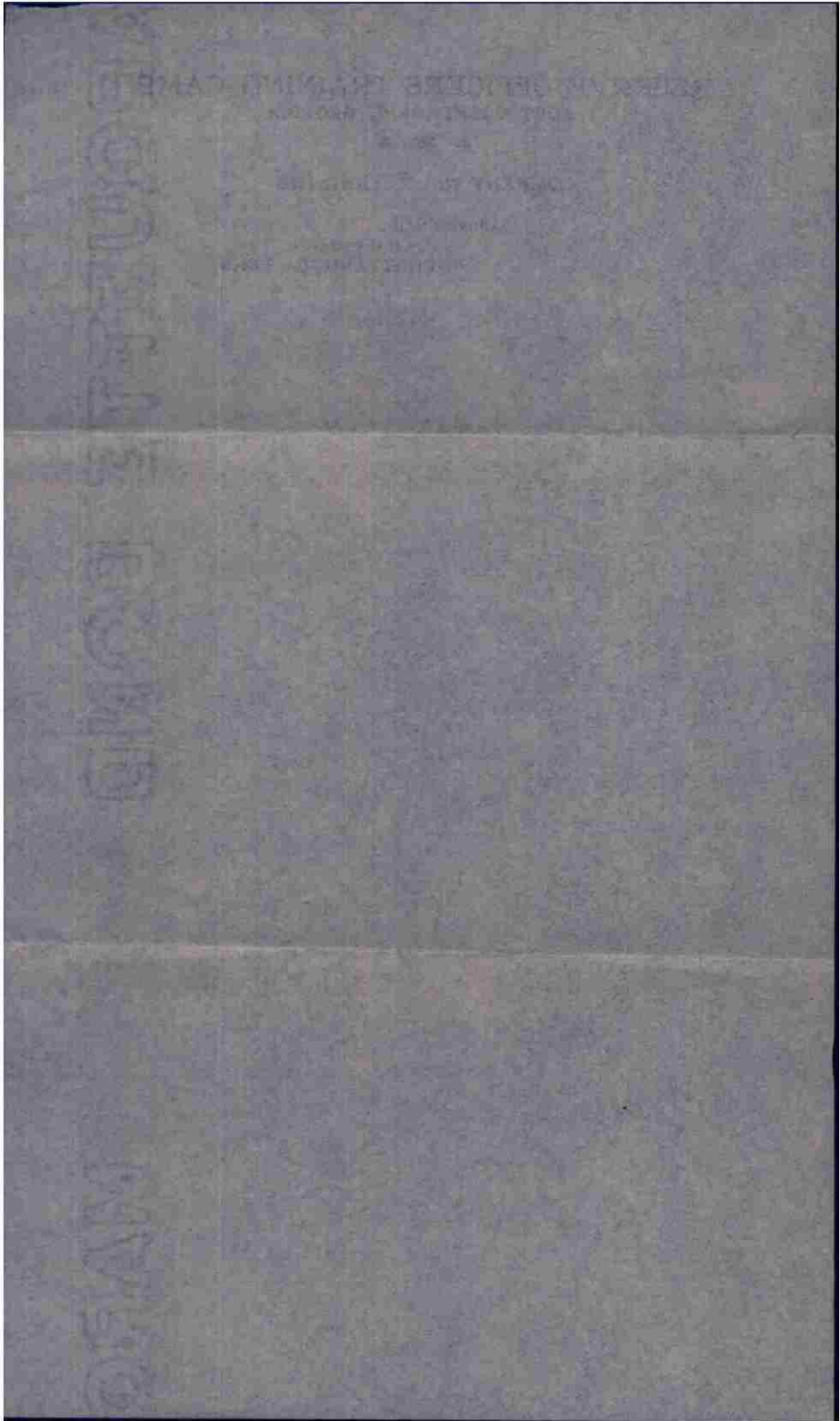
MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

168. 7567-1
FOLOGA-38

7/17

Dear father,

Have only time for a short
note. Wrote home Sunday
but went into the city - ~~and~~
& went to the second Pres. Church
up in town for 11 o'clock service
Took dinner up town & I went
out to see Prof. McCallie after
dinner. The school is mighty
pretty & looks mighty good to
me. Prof. McCallie will go ahead
and get some one else in my
place. If I don't get a commission
I can take up the question of
a position with & if there is a
vacancy I can have it.



RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

▲ T ▲

COMPANY No. 12 TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

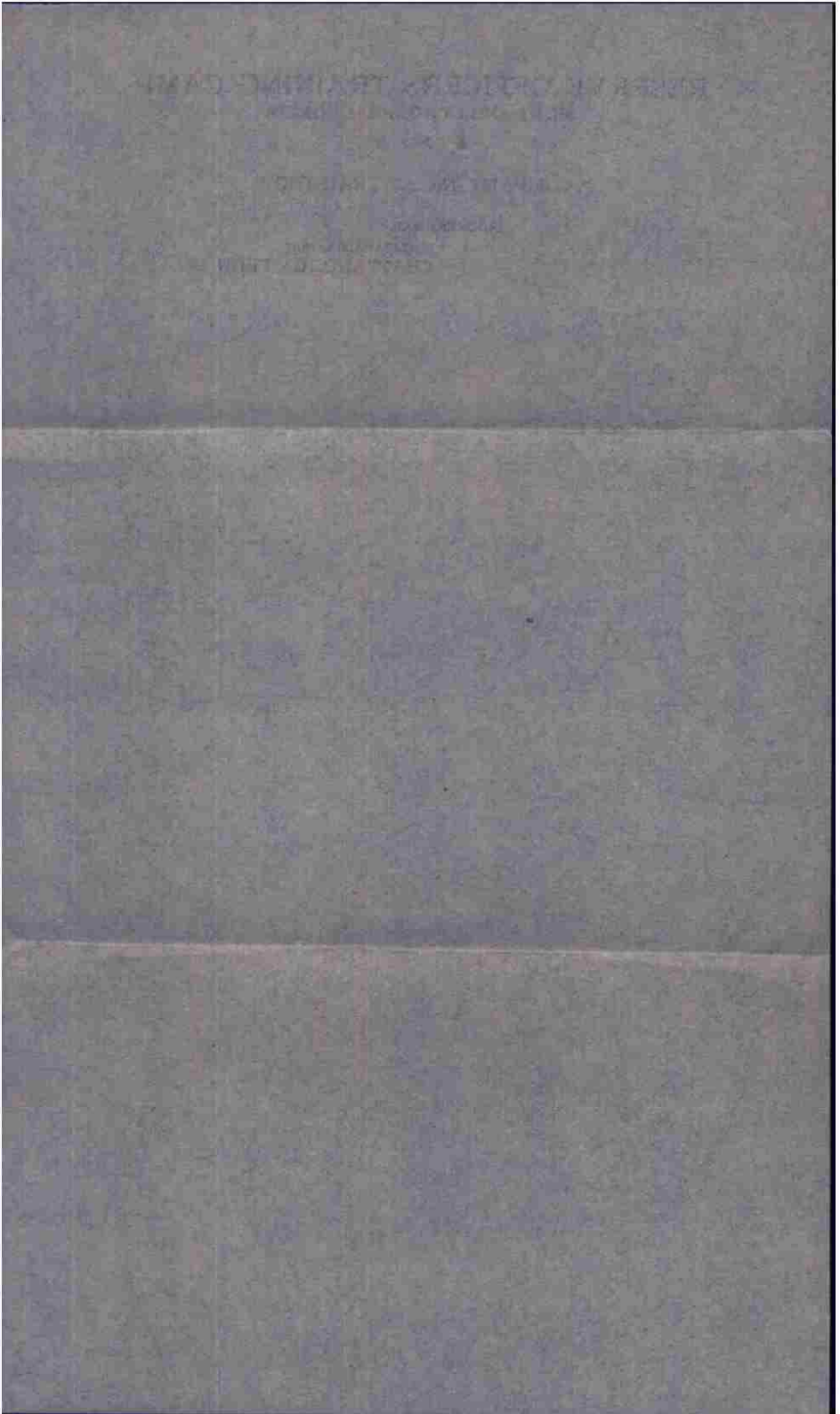
MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

after seeing the place I regret not
being able to go there - He will
have several of his teachers
next yr. on account of the war -
we have begun the meeting in
good shape - I believe the manual
work was a little slack to-
day compared to last week.

Gen. Wood is here, but I have
not seen him yet. will see him
soon I guess. for I presume he
will address us -

Last night we had service
at 7 PM. + the 11th. Inf. Band played
some music. wonderful singing

I am getting rather nervous
for I fear they are going to



RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

A T A

COMPANY No. _____ TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

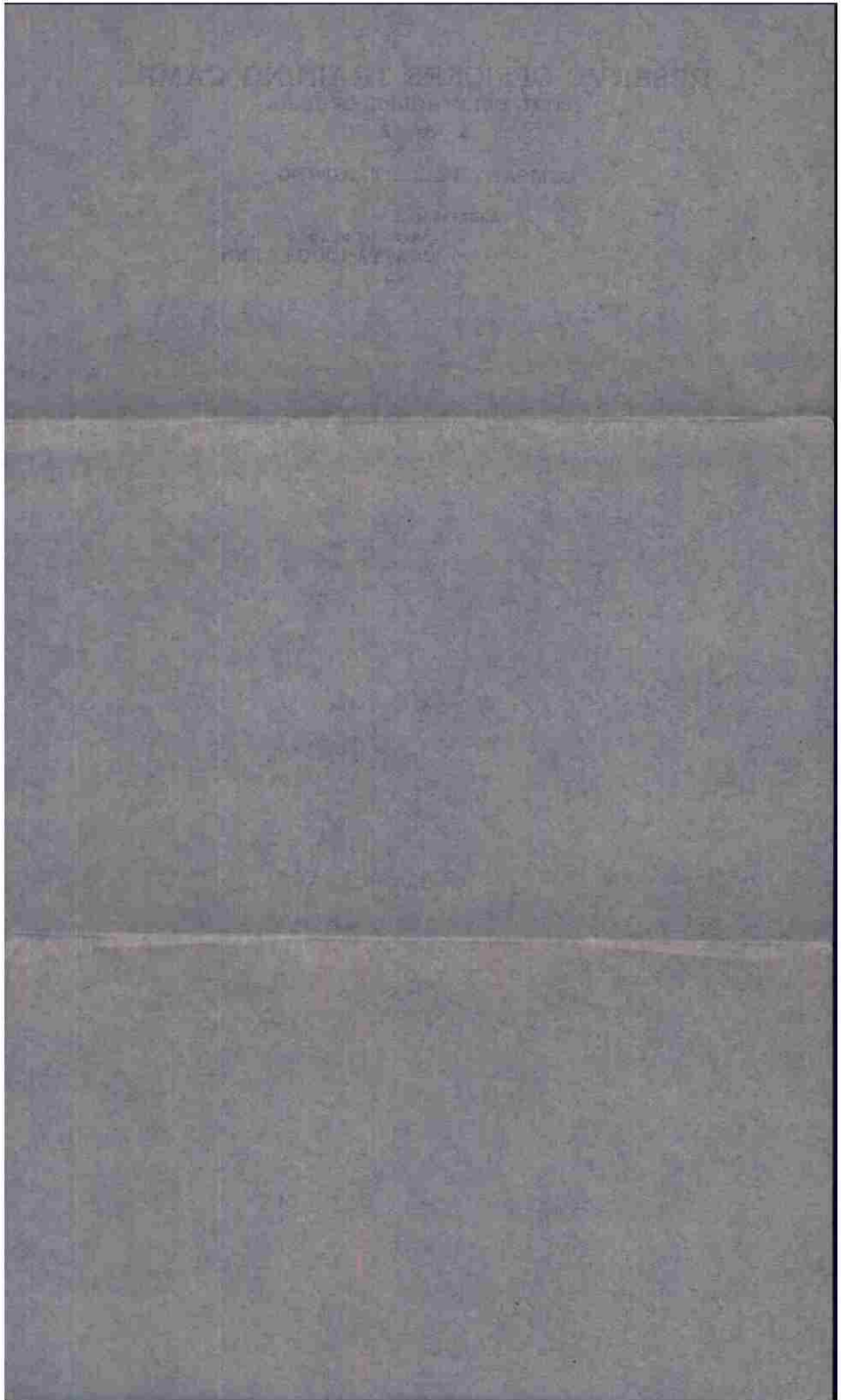
do some weeding out before long
especially of the younger men.
He is hoping to start -

Program for Tuesday

- | | |
|--|---|
| <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"> before dinner
after
after </div> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Salute & Co., Manner of bayonet signaling - 2. Position and aiming, deflection and elevation correction drills 3. General Conference I. D. R. Jan. 22-24 4. Setting up exercises - 5. Gen. Con. F. S. R. Jan. 9-36. 6. Blasting Manner Jan. 21-23 & 25-27 - |
|--|---|

etc.
We are both well - Will write again soon. Love to all -
your loving son,

Sam J.



168-7567-
FOLDER-38

Reserve Officers Training Camp
 Fort Oglethorp, Georgia
 Company No 12 Training
 To:
 Gen S.R. Keesler
 Greenwood, Miss

5/21/17

Dear Father,

Have only time for a short note – would have written Sunday but went into the city – Wm and I went to the Second Pres. Church up in town for 11 o'clock service. Took dinner up town & I went out to see Prof McCallie after dinner – The school is mighty pretty & looks mighty good to me. Prof. McCallie will go ahead and get someone else in my place. If I don't get a commission I can take up the question & a position with & if there is a vacancy I can have it. After seeing the place I regret not being able to go there – He will lose several of his teachers next yr. on account of the war –

We have begun the week in good shape – I believe the manual work was a little slack to-day compared to last week –

Gen. Wood is here, but I have not seen him yet. Will see him soon I guess, for I presume he will address us –

Last night we had service at 7 P.M. & the 11th Inf. Band played – fine music, wonderful singing.

I am getting rather nervous for I fear they are going to some weeding out before long – especially of the younger men. Here's hoping I stick –

Before dinner –

Program for Tuesday:

1. School of Co., Manual of bayonet – signaling –
2. Position and aiming, deflection and elevation correction drill.

After –

3. General conference I.D.R. pars. 221-249
4. Setting up exercise –
5. Gen. Con. F.S.R. pars. 9-36.

After supper –

6. Plattsburg Manual pars. 214-233 & 252-274 – etc

We are both well – will write again soon – Love to all –

Your loving son,
 Sam Jr

10: Gen S.K. Keesler
From: William Keesler (slight ref to Sam)
Postmarked May 21, 1917

166.7567-1
Folder-39
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-4724

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Sport Work. We start at 5:15 in morning, breakfast at 6:00 between this time there is a half hour of sitting up exercise. Then at 7:00 we begin prep work. We did then until 10:00 when we have half hour of manual training, then half hour of remembrance, dinner at 12:00. Bill woke & instruction starts again at 1:30 and from then until 5:00 we work. Supper at 5:30. Study hour for two hours at 7:30 to 9:30, sleep at 10.

The work has been so

168.7567-1
Folder 39

Dear Father

Please excuse

to 6 training Sunday.

this receipt as we only a little time to write in. When I wrote last week I thought we'd find time to write again maybe before breakfast. There was not any before breakfast except visible. They started in on Tuesday and gave me the full force of training. I never sawed what work was before now & know it's

far had as we have not quite
 gotten used to it for two days
 just thought if I could get a good
 bed & sleep for 12 hours straight then
 have a good meal I'd not count
 but now I feel better. In fact
 all are. The rest to-day has done
 a lot of good.
 Ben Company is divided into
 19 squads. In the 9th, #2 in rear
 ranks, the way the reconstruction
 does on each platoon has command
 of the squad for a few minutes each
 day or so asked certain questions
 about the commander, the sergeant &
 had me explaining the material &
 our squad. I got it going well. You are
 the Captain has quite a lot of knowledge
 such a company. But he does it
 well and we are doing better &
 better. He is a great point man for
 me & the Company. 1st Lt.
 is Cap. Moore U.S.A.

I went to sleep. After Church I
went out to Signal Mountain to
see west to see Dr McCallie.

Signal Mountain is certainly a
beautiful spot. They have a
beautiful hotel there, it overlooks
the Tennessee River, there is a

small lake up there and other
attractions but the scenery is
the chief feature. Next Sunday
in going to see Lookout Mt.

We did visit as far as we have
had a lecture on some subject
pertaining to war. The first was
George Hygien, discipline, etc.

Yesterday at 2 o'clock we
got off until 10 o'clock. We
all made a line outside for
town and a good supper and
then a movie. There was a
dance at the Palace for those
who wished to dance, also we
at Signal Mountain. Saw it
and two other DE. boys had
supper together & went to the
shows. This morning Sam & I
went to the 3rd Church and
I never had such a time
trying to keep awake in my
life! Every time I stay still now

Friday night the 11th - 12th. I the
 and when I cleaned the cattle here
 The was very old but a pretty good
 talker. I thought there was a hard
 cement with me all engaged.
 I tried to find a red head / Indian
 to read you but they are all spent.
 All read / one or more as possible.
 Tell me name & read that
 understand as soon as possible.
 Also two pair of white socks (right
 in color)

I must stop now. In working
 hard and can not see going to
 keep it up for long.
 Your affectionate son
 William

168.7567-1
FOLIO - 39

Postmarked Chattanooga, Tenn
May 21, 1917
To:
Gen S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Miss

Co 6 Training
Sunday

Dear Father

Please excuse this pencil as I've only a little time to write in. When I wrote last week I thought sure I'd find time to write again maybe before breakfast. There isn't any before breakfast except reveille. They started in on Tuesday and gave us the full force of training. I never knew what work was before now I know it's spelt WORK. We start as (sic) 5:15 in the morning, breakfast at 6:00 between this time there is a half hour of setting up exercise. Then at 7 work begins proper. We drill then until 10, when we have half hour of manual of arms, then half hour of semaphore. Dinner at 12:00. Drill work & instruction starts again at 1:30 and from then until 5:00 we work. Supper at 5:30. Study hour for two hours at 7:30 to 9:30. Taps at 10.

The work has been so far hard as we have not quite gotten used to it. For two days I just thought if I could get a good bed & sleep for 12 hours straight then have a good meal I'd rest content but now I feel better. I'm not at all sore. The to-day has done a lot of good.

Our Company is divided into 17 squads. I'm in the 9th, #2 in order of rank. The way they instructions does on each person has command of the squad for a few minutes each day or is asked certain questions about the commands. The captain had me explaining the manual to our squad. I got it very well. You see the captain has quite a job to handle such a company. But he does it well and we are drilling better & better. He is a West Point man by name of McCunniff, 1st Liut. is Cap Morre U.S.R.

Yesterday at 2 oclock we got off until 10 tonight. We all made a blue streak for town and a good supper and then a movie. There was a dance at the Patten for those who wished to dance, also one at Signal Mountain. Sam & I and two other D.C. boys had supper together & went to the show. This morning Sam & I went to the 2nd Church and I never had such a time trying to keep awake in my life. Every time I stay still now I want to sleep. After church I went out to Signal Mountain & Sam went to see Dr McCallie. Signal Mountain is certainly a beautiful spot. They have a beautiful hotel there, it overlooks the Tenn. River, there is a small lake up there and other attractions but the scenery is the chief factor. Next Sunday I'm going to see Lout Out Mt.

Each night so far we have had a lecture on some subject pertaining to war. The first was Camp Hygiene, discipline, & etc. Friday night Gen William U.S. of the Civil War described the battle here. He was very old but a pretty good talker. Tonight there was a band concert which we all enjoyed.

I tried to find a schedule of classes to send you but they are out of print. I'll send one as soon as possible.

Tell mamma to send that underwear as soon as possible. Also two pairs of woolen socks
(light in color)

Must stop now. I'm working hard as I can and am going to keep it up. Love to all.

Your affectionate son,
William

TO: MRS D.R. NEESLET
From: William Keesler (no ref to Sam)
Postcard May 25, 1917

168-7567-1
FOLDER 40
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6174

01156/59

168-7567-1

FOLDEN-40

RETURN TO
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Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

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10. NEH 3.1. ACCSIC
From: William Keesler (slight ref to Sam)
Postmarked May 28, 1917

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FOLDER 41
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

01156159

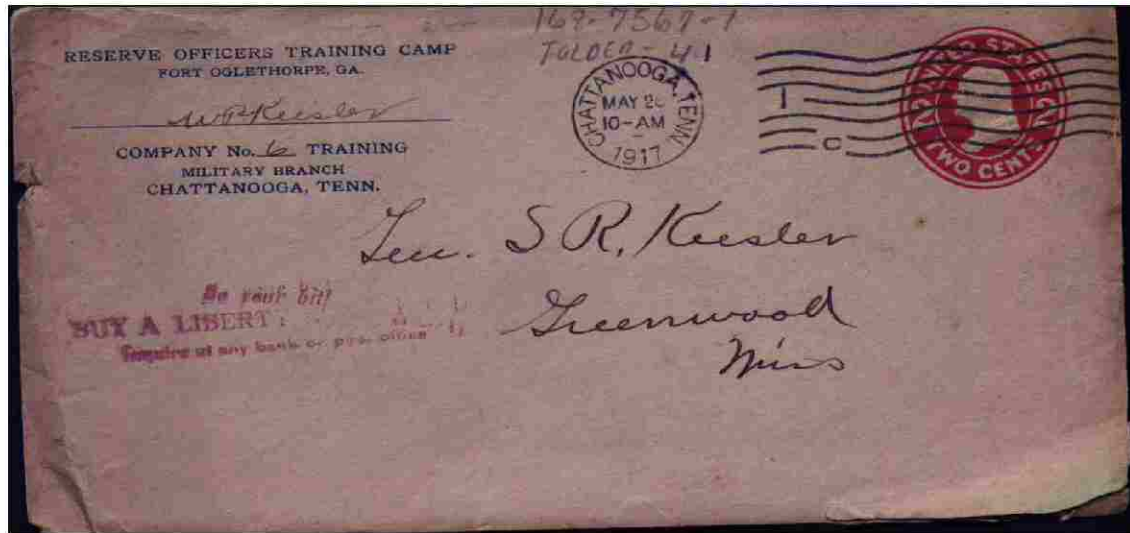
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FOUR-41

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RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA



COMPANY No. 6 TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

168-7567-1
FOLDER-41

0
Sunday

Dear Father,

your letter was received and enjoyed. Mail from home was never received before like mail is now. Here we are shut off from every thing for a week at the time with every minute filled full so it hard to find time to answer. I'll get some cards & write them on week days at meal time after this and a letter on Sat.

This week the work has been like last, only we are marching & drilling under arms now. This makes it easy to keep in step & makes things snapshier. On Thurs. we had a two hour practice hike with light kit. Our Co. went out & got lost and marched ten miles.

before we got back. you should
have over the big yellow towards
the East, they were gone sure. Sat.
we had breakfast - 1 pt.
butter & wine. that was for the
hundred things we got from. We
had to stand at attention for
half an hour. okay. One fellow
found. The rest of the days have
been filled with platoon, squad
& company drilling, bayonet ex-
ercises & marching in the
morning. In the afternoon
lecturing questions on the
interior of the planet & the
I.P.R. last Friday Capt. Stet
lectured on about nothing & directed
a fire. It was very interesting
and instructive. The night before
Capt. Richardson had given us a
lecture on Africa's lakes & the

RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

▲ 5 ▲

COMPANY No. 6 TRAINING

(2)

ADDRESS MAIL:

MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

bookings side of the Captain & Lieut.
John. The night before Gen. Wood
spoke to us on Preparedness &
the Selective Draft. It was very good.

Sat afternoon Same, Ed. Milet & I
went into town. We had supper &
saw a show got a few things & come
back. So day I went in to the 1st
Presby. Church where I met the
Magills & took dinner there. Mr & Mrs
R.L. Magill are here. We had quite
a Montreat party and had a very
enjoyable time. Mrs Magill wants to
know if mamma & Auntie & the
girls & you are coming to Montreat.
She says if you are not she is
not. She sends her love to mamma.
Said she was in Birmingham
and couldn't think of anything but

"Gunter" to call Gunter into his room. I told her Gunter was in the at the time so she left better. They leave tomorrow for home.

Set. They arranged us in squads & then the squads are Bonach. In in the 9 squad & a good one. All the fellows are from below

served from Charleston & the rest from me. There is a good friend of Frank Hall's name is named.

There have been several pictures taken of the Co. but none real good. We need some tomorrow the 12 lunch had a good picture taken of them. We said I hope. Some of them are going to get in pictures taken some more a soldier boys.

Forebare.

your affectionate son

William

168-7567-1
FOLDER-41

Postmarked May 28, 1917
Reserve Officers Training Camp
Fort Oglethorp, Ga.
Company No 6 Training
To:
Gen S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Miss

Sunday

Dear Father,

Your letter was received and enjoyed. Mail from home was never received before like mail is now. Here we are shut off from every thing for a week at the time with every minute filled full so it (sic) hard to find time to answer. I'll get some cards & write them on week days at meal time after this and a letter on Sat.

This week the work has been like east, only we are marching & drilling under arms now. This makes it easy to keep in step & makes things snappier. On Thurs. we had a two hour practice hike with light kit. Our Co. went out & got lost and marched ten miles before we got back. You should have seen the big fellow towards the last, they were gone sure. Sat. we had inspection of kits, bunks & arms. That was one of the hardest things I've gone thru. We had to stand at attention for half an hour straight. One fellow fainted. The rest of the days have been filled with platoon, squad & company drilling, bayonnette exercises & signaling in the morning. In the afternoon lecturing & questions on the Interior Guard Manual & the I.D.R. Last Friday Capt Short lectured on sight setting & direction of fire. It was very interesting and instructive. The night before Capt Richardson had given us a lecture on Official Letters & the bookkeeping side of the Captain & Lieut. Job. The night before Gen. Wood spoke to us on Preparedness & the Selective Draft. It was very good.

Sat afternoon Sam, Ed Nisbet & I went into town. We had supper & saw a show, got a few things & came back. To-day I went into the 1st Presby. Church where I met the Magills & took dinner there. Mr & Mrs R.L. Magill are here. We had quite a Montreat party and had a very enjoyable time. Mrs Magill wants to know if mamma & Auntie & the girls & you are coming to Montreat. She says if you are not she is not. She sends her love to mamma. Said she was in Birmingham and couldn't thing of anything but "Auntie" to call Auntie by. I told her Auntie was in Fla at the time, so she felt better. They leave tomorrow for home.

Sat. they arranged us in squads & then the squads in Barracks. I'm in the 9 squad & a good one. All the fellows are fine fellows. Several from Charleston & the rest from N.C. One is a good friend of Frank Halls, Sam's roommate.

There have been several pictures taken of the Co. but none real good. I'll send some tomorrow. The DC bunch had a good picture taken of them. I'll send (sic) of these. Sam & I are going to get our pictures taken some time as a soldier boy.

Love to all

Your affectionate son
William

TO: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: William Keesler (no ref to Sam)
Postcard, May 31, 1917

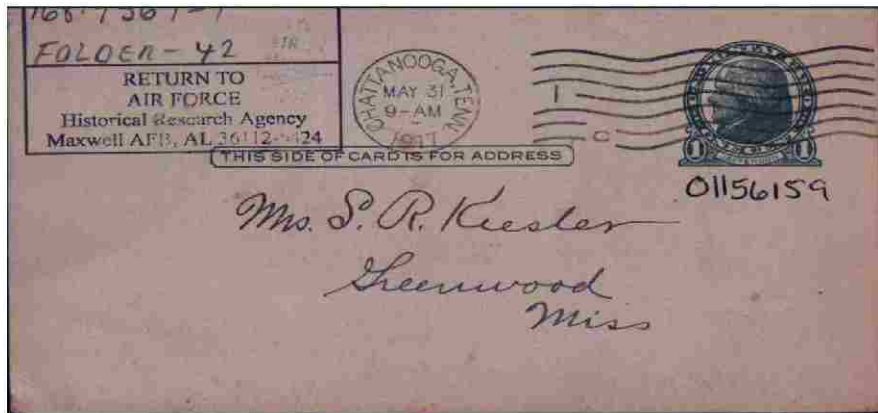
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FOLDER 42

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Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-4101

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Dear Mr. Martin,
This week we have
• been worked harder than
ever. Yesterday we worked 12
hours. Three of which were in
a lecture on Patels. Today
we have a holiday and are
going on to St. Augustine
to some sort of exercise
there. H.C. has closed. The
Chattanooga boys are coming
in. Saw one yesterday.
Dr. Martin will be here
next week to give us our
lecture. The college has
told him to come so we will
get our diploma at last.
We are very well and
will stay so under this
fine & lovely. Love to all
your son William

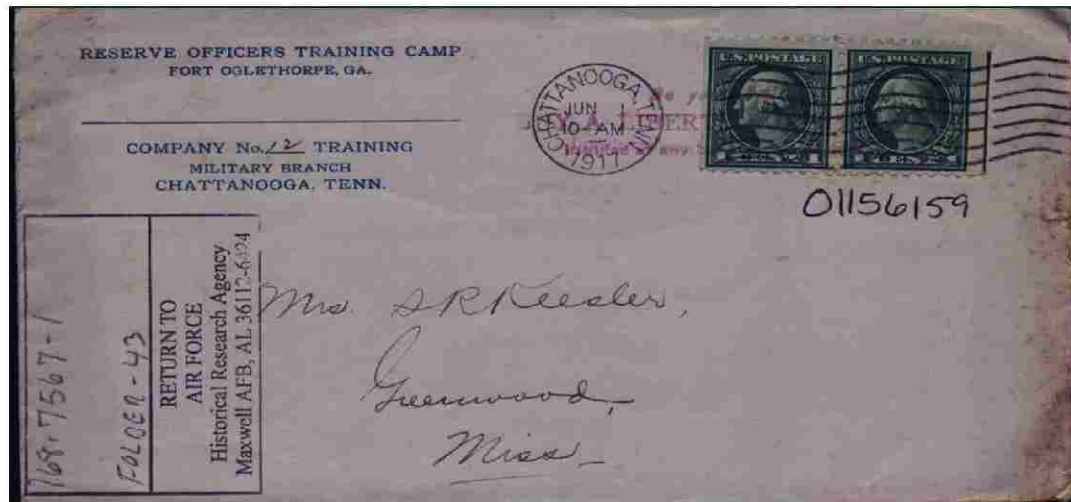
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To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
May 31, 1917

168-7567-1
FOLNER 43
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-51

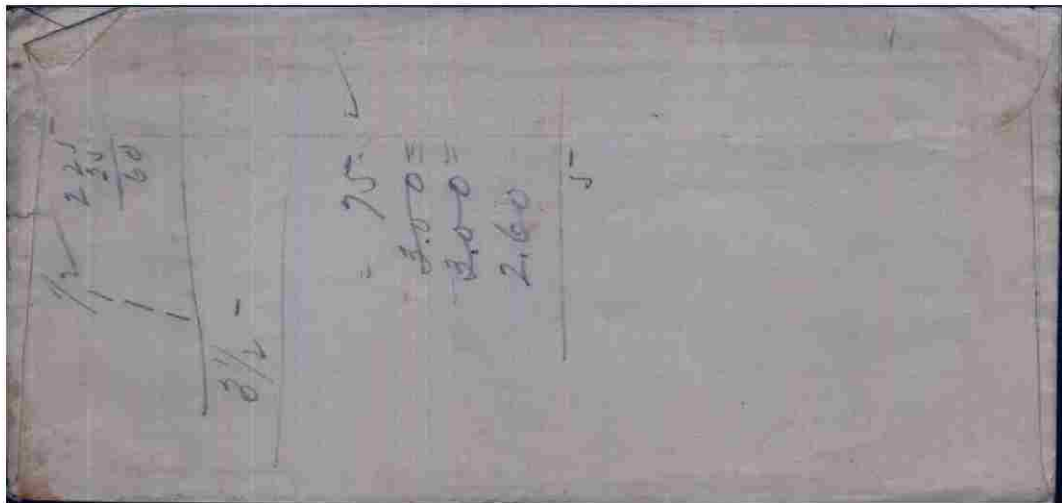
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RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

▲ ★ ▲

COMPANY No. 12 TRAINING

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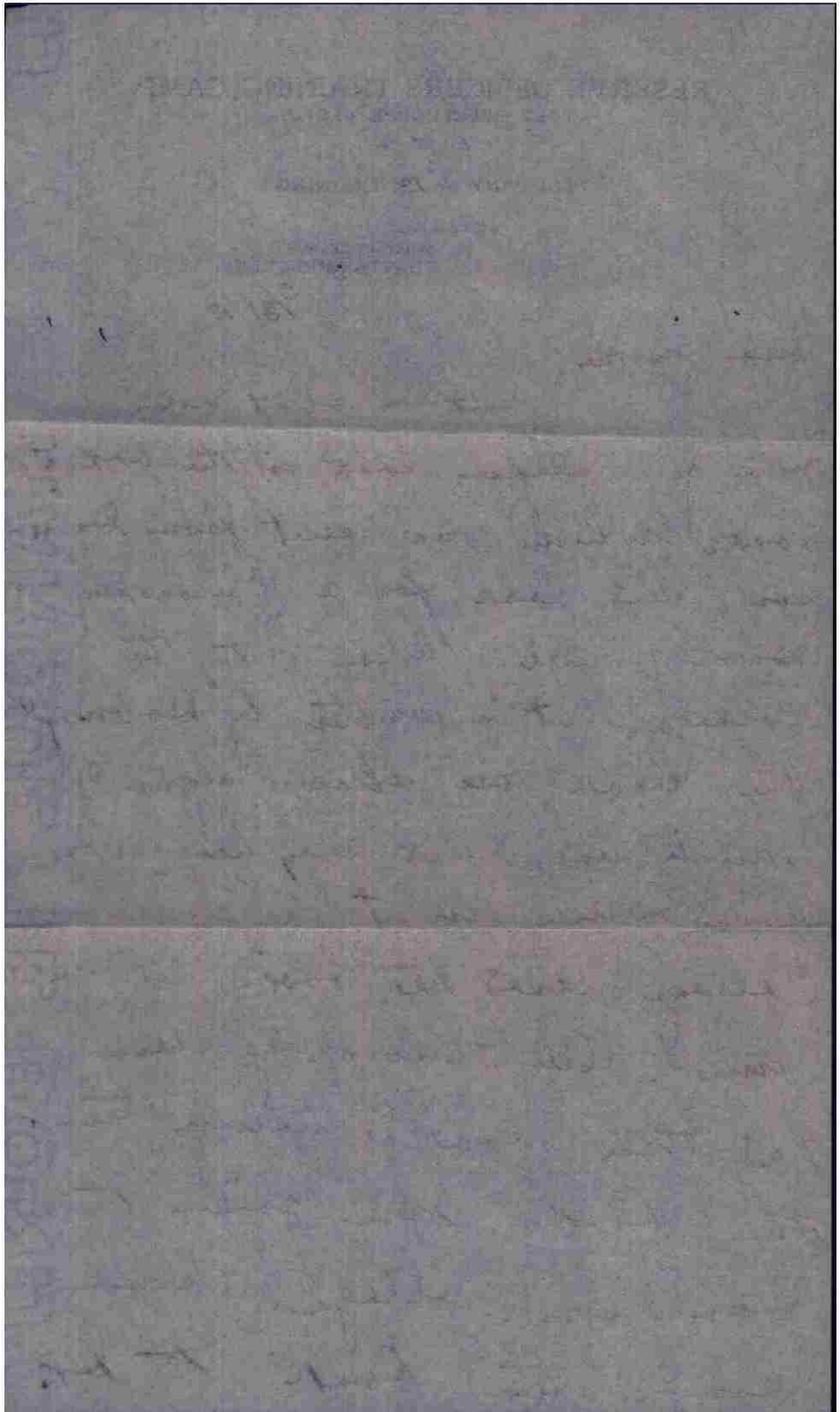
MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

5/31/17

Dear Mother,

Just a short note.

Now you please look in the box of books which was sent from Davidson and look for a Philosophy book which belongs to the college. It is written by "Dabney". The book ~~is~~ shows signs of much use and may have some girls' names in it, for Queens College used the books at one time. Our Philosophy class had these books using them. The books were given to Davidson College. Please send them back to Dr.



RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

▲ T ▲

COMPANY No. 12 TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

M.E. Scutelle, Davidson, N.C.

If you can't find the book please
let me know, or if you don't recognize
it. Frank Hall packed my books up
and put it in with the others by mis-
take.

at present it is raining - and
has been for some time - very hard.

Consequently we may get out of
drill.

The letter I wrote father yesterday
tells most of the news - so will close
- Love to you all - your devoted son,
Scutelle



168,7567-1
FOLDER - 43

Reserve Officers Training Camp
Fort Oglethorp, Georgia
Company No 12 Training
To:
Mrs S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Miss

5/31/17

Dear Mother,

Just a short note. Will you please look in the box of books which was sent from Davidson and look for a Philosophy Book which belongs to the college. It is written by "Dabney" The book shows signs of much use and may have some girls' names in it, for Greens College used the books at one time. Our Philosophy class has these books using them. The books were given to Davidson College. Please send this book to Dr. M.E. Sautelle, Davidson, N.C. If you can't find the book please let me know, or if you don't recognize it. Frank Hall packed my books up and put it in with the others by mistake.

At present it is raining - and has been for some time - very hard. Consequently we may get out of drill.

The letter I wrote father yesterday tells most of the news - so will close - Love to you all - your devoted son,

Sam Jr.

TO: Gen S.K. Keesler
From: William Keesler (slight ref to Sam)
Postmarked Jun 4, 1917

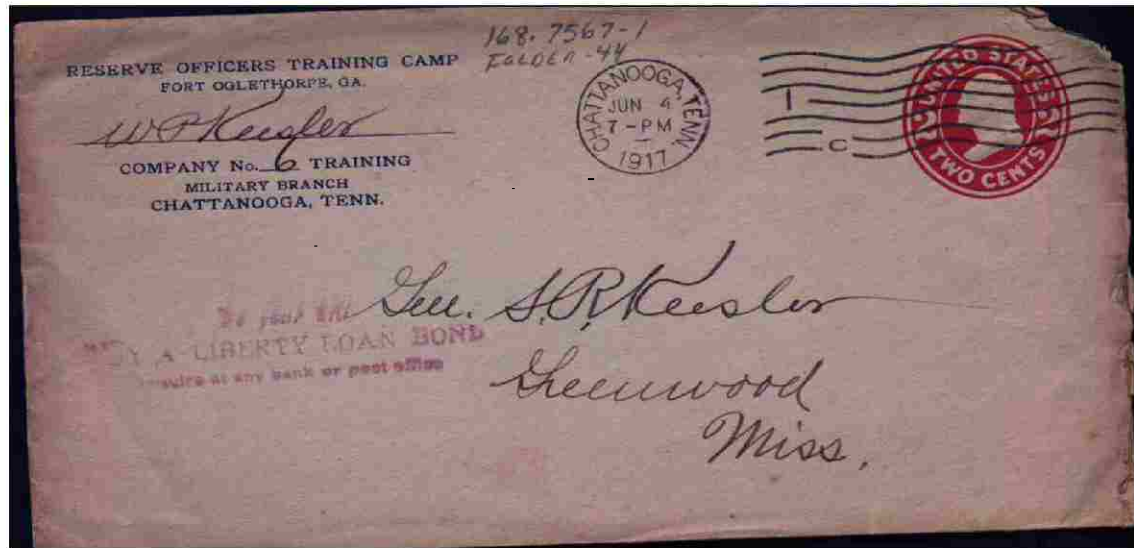
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RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

COMPANY No. 6 TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

68-7567-1
FOLDEN-44

Dear Father,

Sunday

To-day begins our forth week and it seems like we had been here as many months. The work is becoming more intensive but no harder. Last week was the same was last week work only more advanced. We are using all the formations of the School of the Company now in drill. We before long will take up the Battalion. The bayonette & signaling exercises are the same only given faster. At night we study the formations of Out Post, Advance Guards, Patrols & etc in The Field Regulations. The different

leaders giving no lecture at
 night. Friday we had a two
 hour practice march. I went with
 about a hundred. They were
 all heavy and before we were
 back we were working wet.
 They had gone no further
 Campbell's hill. This was very
 nice. until the rain stopped
 it all the communicators exposed
 great admiration at the way
 we did. Some of it was real
 fine. One company was doing
 entirely by arm signals and a
 word spoken. The machine from
 Springfield five we very pretty
 well executed. To-morrow we
 are going to have a formal drill
 amount. That is one thing I don't
 see there yet. Why do we not
 call that formal drill.

RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMP
FORT OGLETHORPE, GEORGIA

▲ 5 ▲

COMPANY No. 6 TRAINING

ADDRESS MAIL:

MILITARY BRANCH
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

Sat. Saw, Stuart, Wardlaw & I were met by Soc in his car & were taken over the city by him. We enjoyed it very much. Then we went to "Soc's" for supper which we enjoyed. They then took us up to Signal Mountain for a dance. Rather to the dance as Stuart was the only one who danced. We went up in their car, a 1913 Lozier and one of the best cars we ever ridden in. Going up we raced a car and I never saw such running in 2nd year. We went from 30 to 45 miles an hour in it. Just ran off from everything on the road. After the dance we came back and all stayed at "Soc's" for the night. I

have seldom enjoyed a day better.
 at certainly do regret one to spend
 a day like that after all the exer-
 cise we've got.
 To-day he spent mostly in rest
 and walking over the park. The
 his energy, he was ready for
 the recumbent horse long enough
 held in the park with a fine
 we've a child grand.
 late morning to send me
 those old parts of ground need
 for hunting also the cost. I can
 use them for every day here and
 keep a pair of my third one for
 me. I'm to see.
 Your affectionate son
 William

Postmarked June 4, 1917
Reserve Officers Training Camp
Fort Oglethorp, Georgia
Company No 6 Training
To:
Gen S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Miss

168-7567-1
FOLOTC-44

Sunday

Dear Father,

To-day begins our forth (sic) week and it seems like we had been here as many months. The work is becoming more intensive but no harder. Last week was the same was (sic) last week work only more advanced. We are using all the formations of the School of the Company now in drill and before long will take up the battalion. The bayonette & signaling exercises are the same only given faster. At night we study the formations of Out Post, Advance Guards, Patrols & etc in The Field Regulations. The different leaders giving us lectures at night. Friday we had a two hour practice march of eight miles about under full kit. They sure are heavy and before we were back we were soaking wet. They then gave us our first competitive drill. This was going nicely until the rain stopped it. All the commanders expressed great admiration at the way we drilled. Some of it was real fine. Our company was drilled entirely by arm signals, not a word spoken. The rushes from skirmish line we (sic) very pretty and well executed. To-morrow we are going to have a formal Guard Mount. That is one thing I can't see thru yet. Why do we need all that formal stuff.

Sat, Sam, Stuart, Wardlaw & I were met by "Soc" in his car & were taken over the city by him. We enjoyed it very much. Then we went to "Socs" for supper which we enjoyed. They then took us up to Signal Mountain for a dance. Rather, to a dance as Stuart was the only who danced. We went up in their car, a 1913 Lozier and one of the best cars I've ever ridden in. Going up we raced a car and I never saw such running in 2nd gear. We went from 30 to 45 miles an hour in it. Just ran off from everything on the road. After the dance we came back and all stayed at "Socs" for the night. I have seldom enjoyed a day better. It certainly do relieve one to spend a day like that after all the exercise & work we get.

To-day I've spent mostly in rest and walking over the park. The big camps are nearly ready for the recruits and before long every field in the park will be in use as a drill ground.

Ask mamma to send me those old pants of yours I used for hunting also the coat. I can use them for every day here and keep a pair of my new ones for nice.

Love to all.

Your affectionate son
William