

IRIS Record

Key Information

Main: KEESLER SAMUEL R., JR

Document Type: **Papers**
 Call Number: **168.7567 Box 2**
 IRIS Number: **01156160**
 Accessions Notes: Ref 01156159
 Old Accession Nbr:

Rcvd:	2006/08/14	Rel
Indexer ID: 89	Entered Date:	2007/05/10
QC ID:	QC'd Date::	
Scanner ID:	Scanned Date:	
Acc ID 29	Acc Date:	20070502

Title:
 Beginning Date: **1918/01/01**
 End Date: **1918/12/31**
 Publication Date:
 Classification: **Unclassif**

Media Roll #: First Frame: Last Frame: Linear Feet: **0.41**
 Old MFlm Roll # Audio Rec:

NUMPAGE

Title Extensions: **Box 2 of 4**

Abstract Contains information on assignment to aerial observation training, orders for service in France, departure for France, combat experience, last letter to Mrs. S. R. Keesler (mother), and reports of missing in action.

Descriptive Notes: In personal collection of 2Lt Samuel R. Keesler, Jr. Total of seventy-two (72) each folders. DOCUMENT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM VIA UNCLASSIFIED NETWORK.

Title Added Entries Correspondence, Samuel R. Keesler to Mrs. S. R. Keesler (Mother), Folder 48, 25 Sep 1918

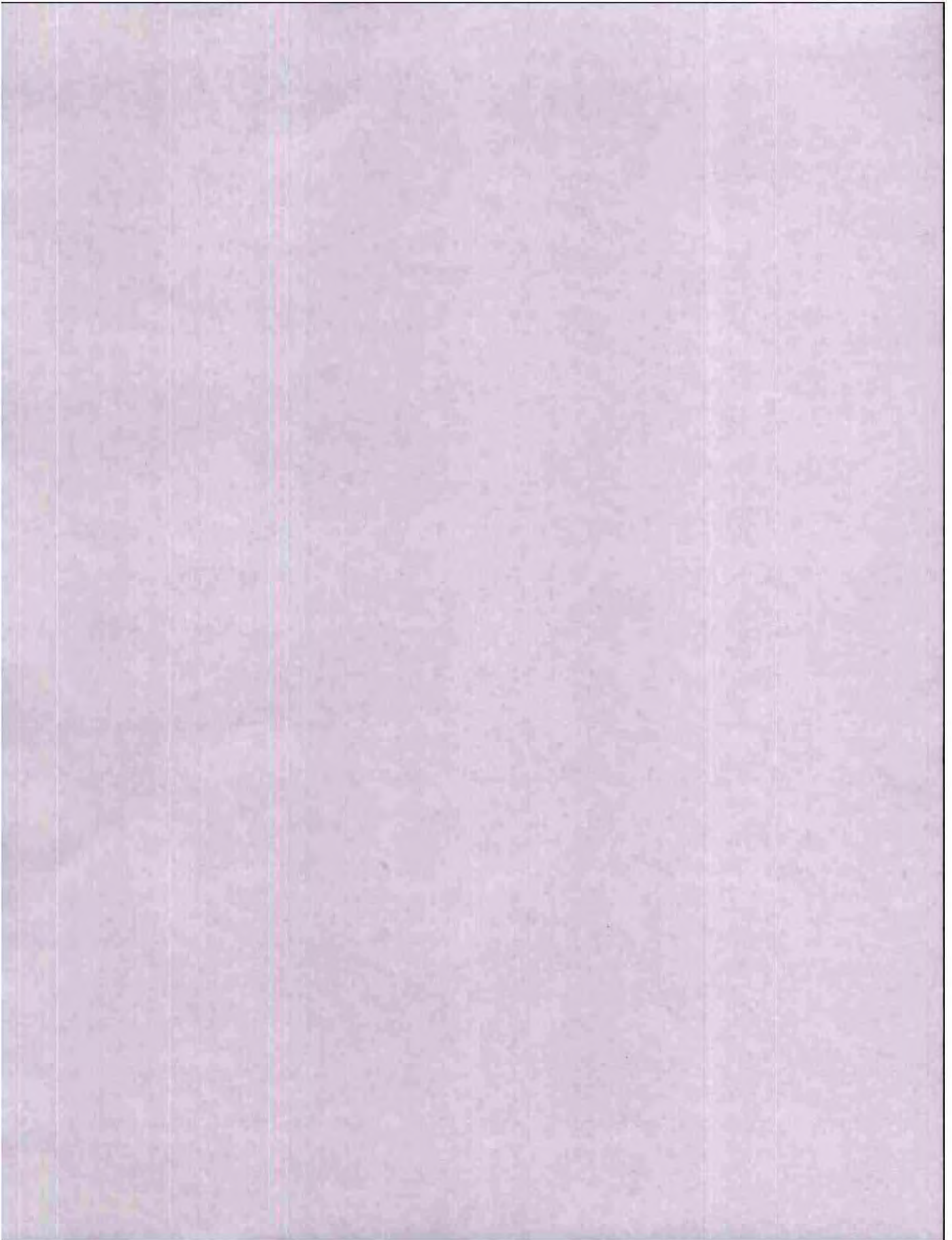
Major Command:

Doc Link [https://hraiis2/g\\$/AFHRA/Personal Papers/Keesler Samuel R Jr/7567 Box 2.pdf](https://hraiis2/g$/AFHRA/Personal Papers/Keesler Samuel R Jr/7567 Box 2.pdf)

Administrative Markings

No Administrative Markings Listed

Security Review Information:

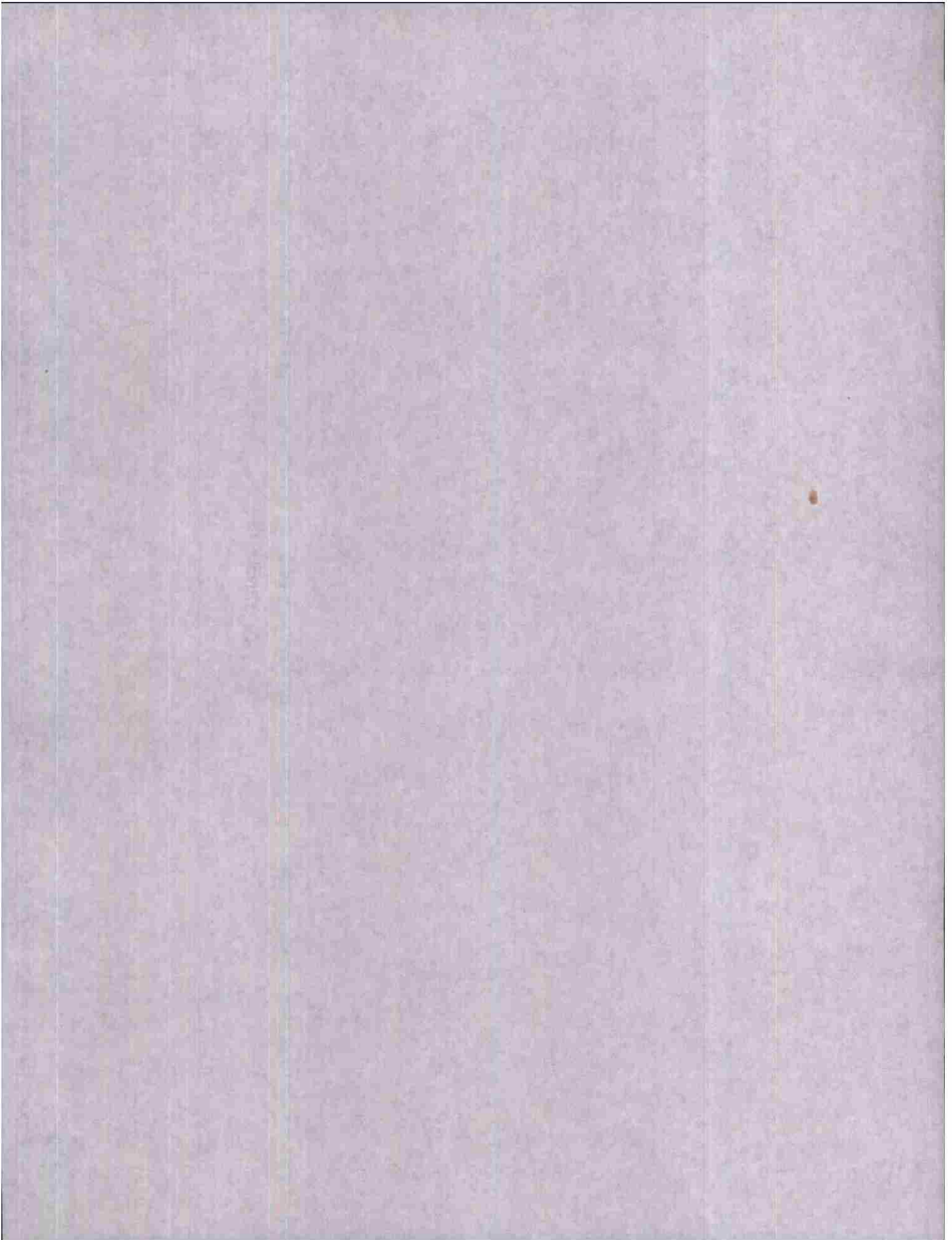


to Gen. S. H. ...
1918

168.7567 Box 2
FOLDER - 1
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Branch Maxwell AFB, AL

0156160

SCANNED BY AC
2007

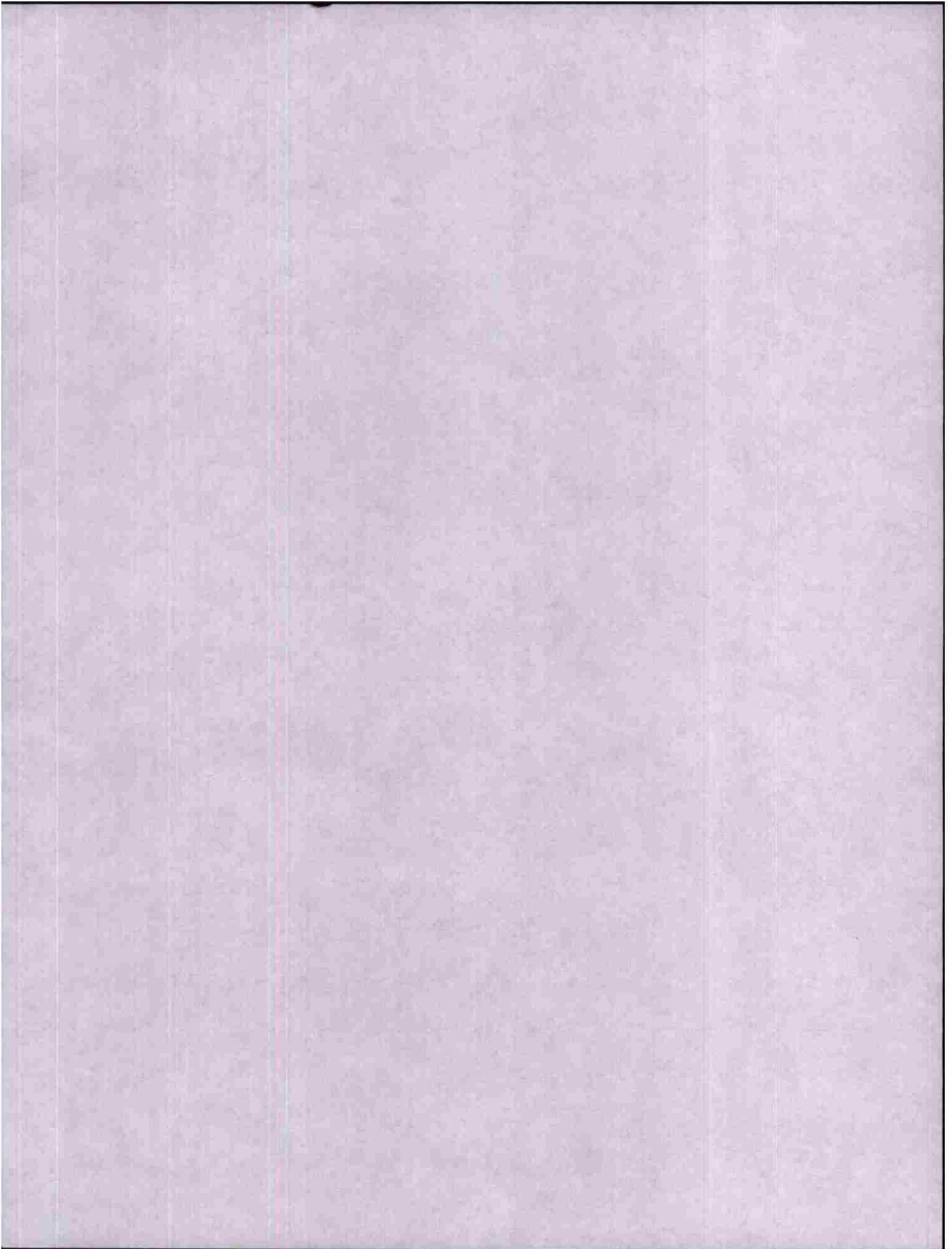


168.7567-Box 2

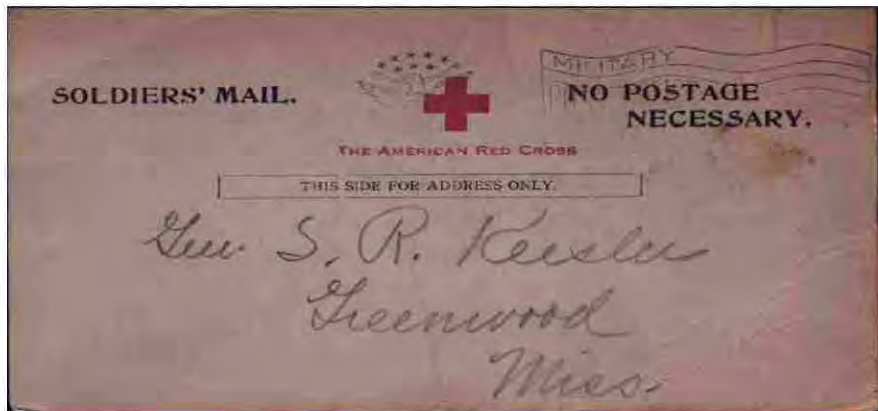
FOL Dev - 1

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

01156159



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THE SHIP ON WHICH I SAILED HAS ARRIVED
SAFELY OVERSEAS.

Name

H. Wilbur P. ...

Organization

Hq. Co. 316th F.A.

American Expeditionary Forces.

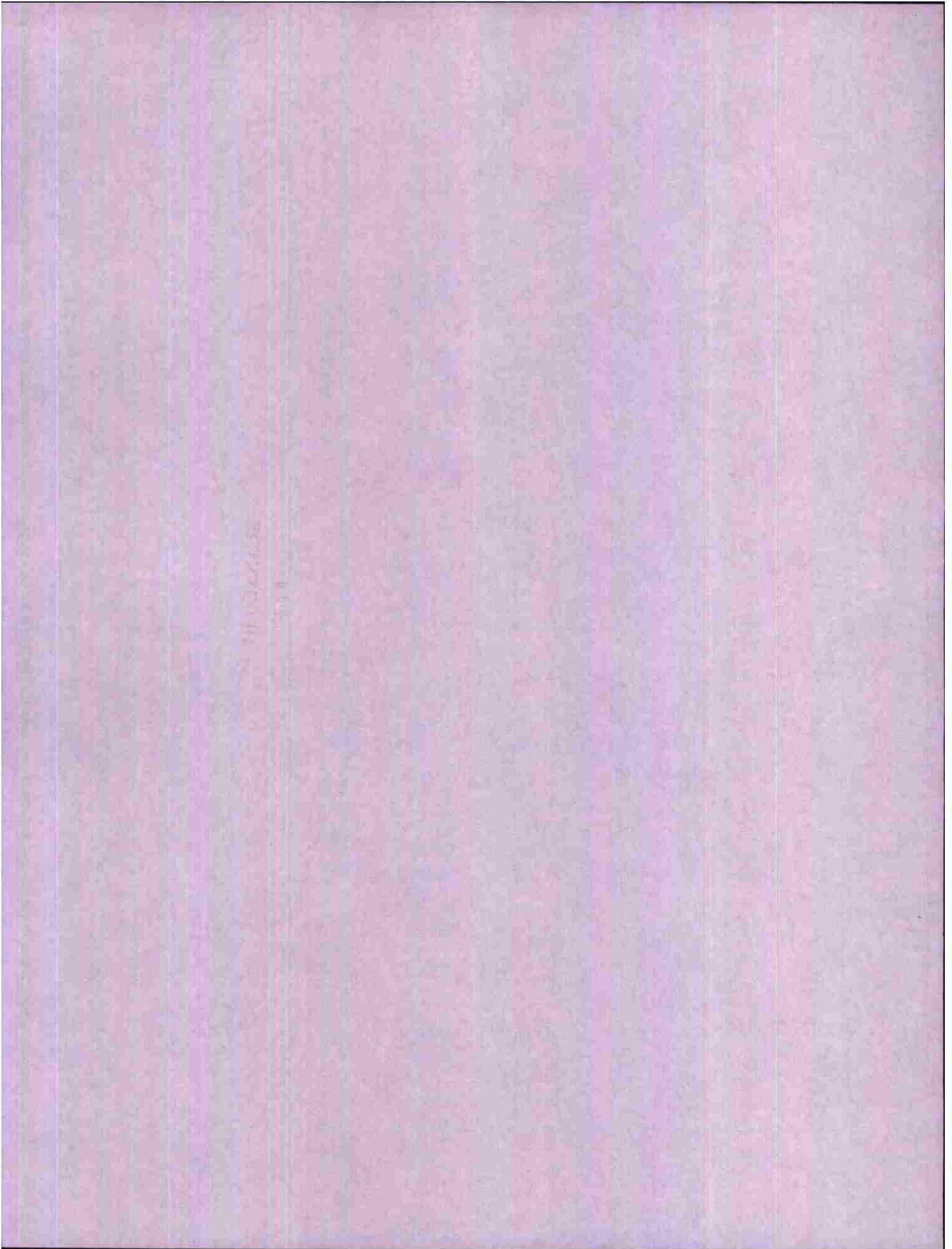
THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

6. 601 S. H. 1-00120
From 5000 1-00120
1918

168-7567-Box 2
FOLDER - 2
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Hill Research Agency Hill AFB, UT

01156160

SCANNED BY AC
2007



The only information we can get
about a raise in rent & salary, is to
be negative. No raise in either - no
it looks as if we have played in
and look for fair. I look for a
readjustment of the whole auction
section before long - they will pro-
bably make the auction a distinct
branch of the service. I hope they do.
I think I'll send you a
pair of these auction gloves - they
will keep your fingers warm, & their
and are very good gloves.
A friend's letter is making
lectures to us at night on different



Thursday morning.

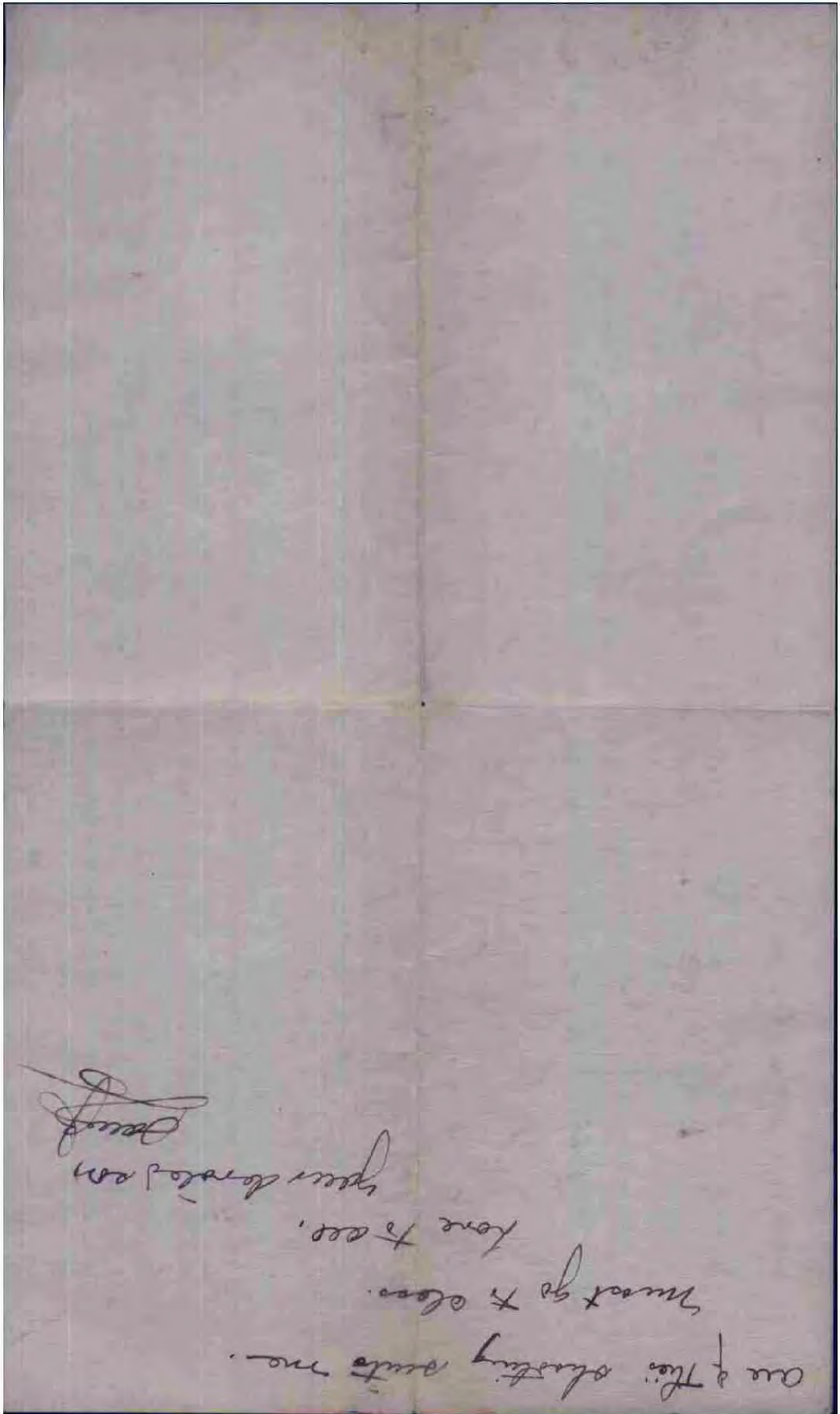
Dear father,
your letter came yesterday
and I was glad to hear from you
since it certainly something to look
forward to out here - our greatest pleasure

When we go up we have
our sets of clothes to wear if we
must - then, there are sheep skin lined
boots, trousers, leather coats, leather face
guards - & helmets with fur lining goggles,
and mittens. I assume you think on
armies and military under this - do
if you put on one that you have
access to - you stay warm. The
hottest helmets are very useful to.

The thing's must be all right if done.
 It is extremely odd today. We may
 of the morning and Radio are leaving.
 We have some ~~Reconnaissance~~ Reconnaissance. The rest
 waiting to go in the front in that case.
 we don't see all of the hour so far
 half and from 9:10 we have ~~colours~~ colours.
 when we go on the range - so that in
 just a minute ago. Out morning - except
 from ~~colours~~ colours are right. I have a lot
 as to my machine. I think I can
 + action - in shooting a little -
 learn to use French of the Service - Artillery
 the Artillery Service. So I am trying to
 as that we can work in harmony with
 we must know all about Artillery ourselves.
 The Artillery range and streamers the firing.
 yesterday morning we went over to
 most interesting and instructive
 wounded over the ~~French~~ French lines - and so
 has been a streamer killed - in fact was
 of the French & English in Service. No

now are going to shoot the
Belmont and imitation the another
resembles from another machine -
also no are going to fight with
Cannon gun - everything you pass
your trigger you take a picture -
then the pictures are developed you
can see how you were aiming -
we have already been on the
right range and are to go on
along again range sometime with
what gun. When teacher is to do
pencil in getting on the target etc.

cut your ears & face.
I hope to use the machine gun
soon soon. we will have to learn
are about them - how to put them
together - how to fix joints etc.
On the range they are hard to
load on the horse I shot when you
are shooting a burst of 10 or more.
We were across rights well are
harder to right with them the
ground rights. They are shaped
like this:  
I remember I thought you put
the face of front right in on the face of N. 549



(No envelope)

Thursday Morning

Dear Father,

Your letter came yesterday and I was glad to hear from you. Mail is certainly something to look forward to out here – our greatest pleasure.

When we go up we have all sorts of clothes to wear, if we want them. There are sheep skin lined boots, trousers, leather coats, leather face guards & helmets with fur lining, goggles and mittens. Of course you have on sweaters and mufflers under this – So if you put on all that you have access to, you stay warm. The knitted helmets are very useful too.

The only information we can get about a raise in rank & salary is to the negative. No raise in either – so it looks as if we have played in hard luck for fair. I look for a readjustment of the whole aviation section before long – They will probably make the aviation a distinct branch of the service. I hope they do.

I think I'll send you a pair of these aviation gloves – they will keep your fingers warm, I think, and are very good gloves.

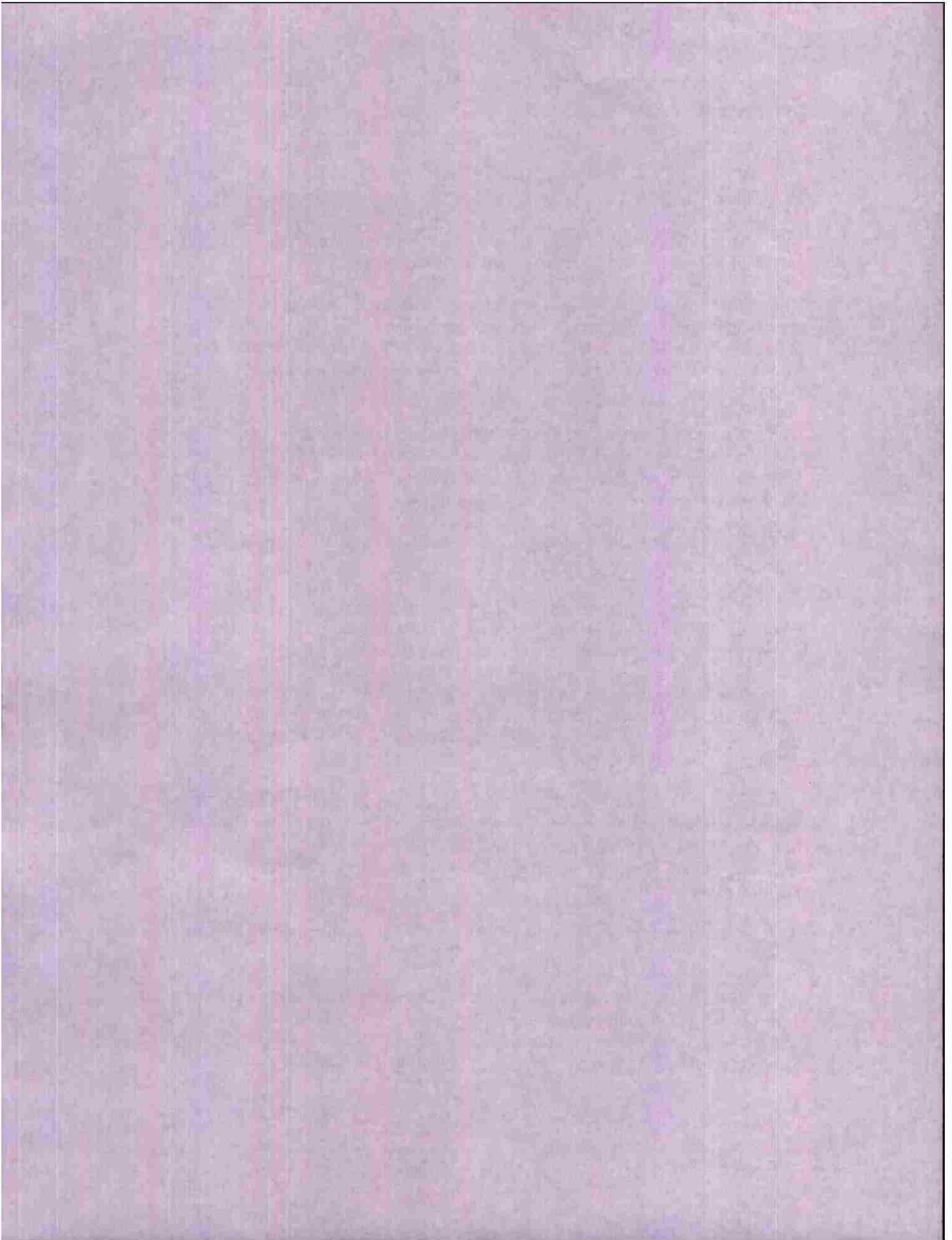
A French Captain is making lectures to us at night on different phases of the French & English Air Service. He has been an observer himself – in fact was wounded over the German lines – and is most interesting and instructive.

Yesterday morning we went over to the artillery range and observed the firing. We must know all about artillery ourselves so that we can work in harmony with the artillery officers. So I am trying to learn a new Branch of the Service – artillery & aviation – I'm absorbing a little.

As to my wireless – I think I can prove satisfactory all right. I passed a test just a minute ago. Our morning – except when we go on the ranges – is broken in half and from 9 to 10 we have calisthenics – we don't use all of the hour, so I'm writing to you in the period we didn't use. We have Aerial Reconnaissance the rest of the morning and Radio all evening.

It is extremely cold today – we mind the wind most of all for it does cut your ears & face.

I hope to use the machine gun soon soon (sic). We will have to learn all about them – how to put them to-gether – how to fix jams etc. On the range they are hard to hold on the same spot when you are shooting a burst of 10 or more. We use aerial sights wich (sic) are harder to sight with than the ground sights. They are shaped like this:



(drawing of rear sight) (drawing of front sight) you put the base of the front sight in small hole of r. sight.

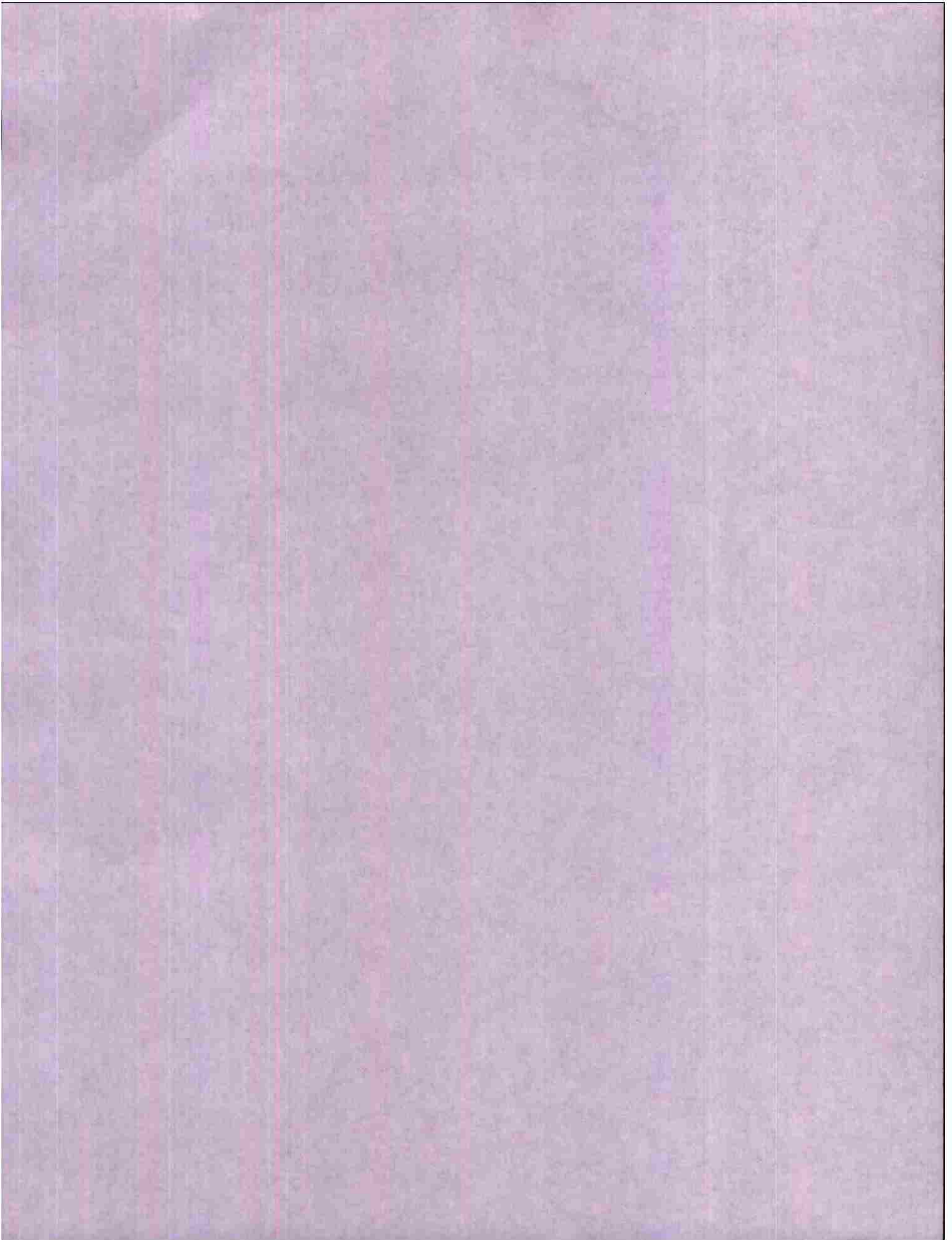
We are going to shoot toy balloons and imitation aeroplanes suspended from another machine – also (2 planes) we are going to fight with camera guns – every time you pull your trigger you take a picture – when the pictures are developed you can tell how you were aiming.

We have already been on the rifle range and are to go on clay pigeon range sometime with shot guns. This teaches us to be quick in getting on the target etc. All of this shooting suits me.

Must go to class.

Love to all,

Your devoted son,
Sam Jr.

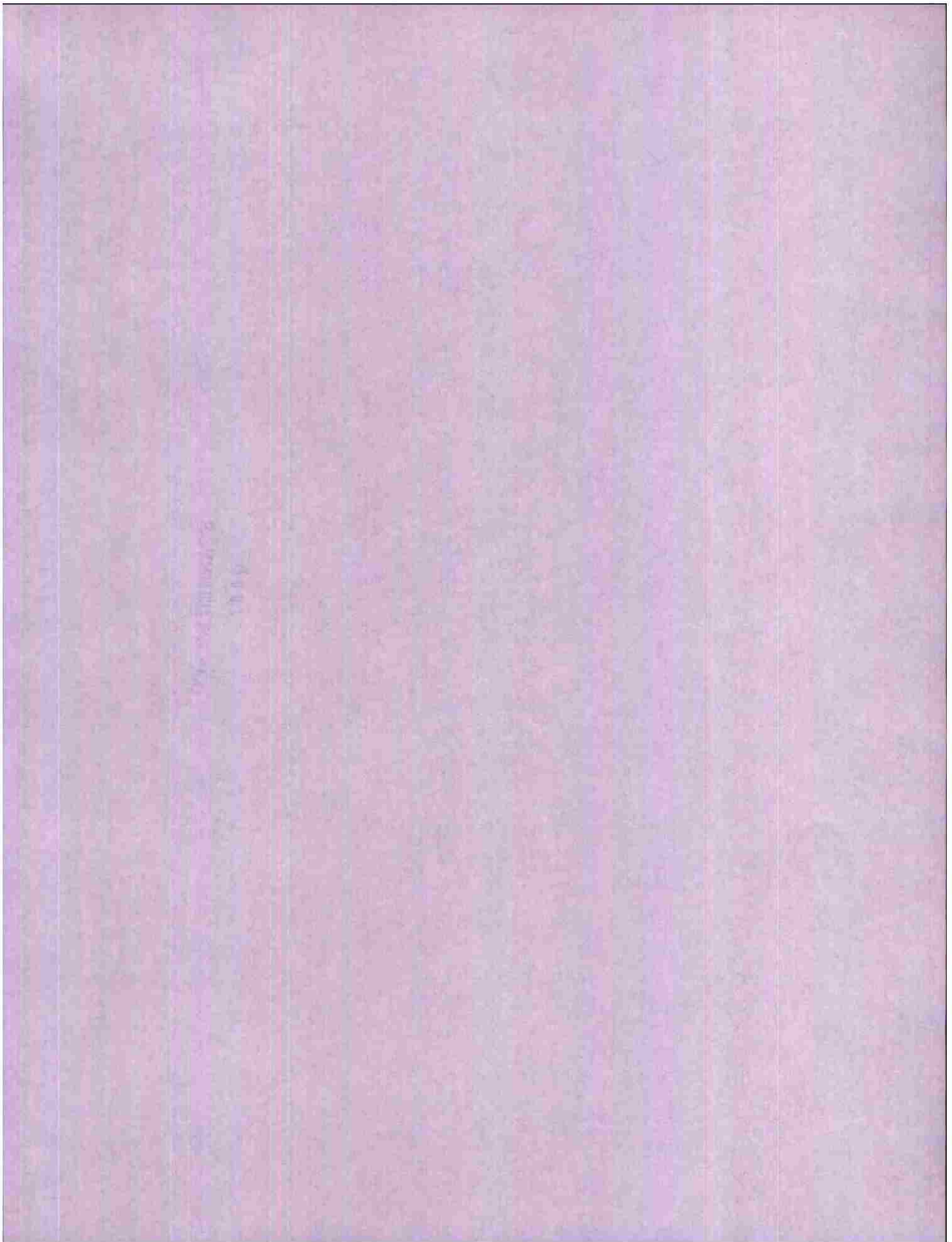


70-01055-10-1000000
1000000-1000000
1918

169-7567-00x2	
FOLDER 3	
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Mesa, AZ 85204	

SCANNED BY ACD
2007

01156160



1687567-1
F02002.3

Sunday -

Dearest Mother,

Another week has passed and part of it has been extremely cold! In fact, we are recovering from the worst blizzard they have had around here in several years. Someone said it was as cold as "below at one time." I started Friday morning - and it sleeted, then snowed - and the wind was terrible - I guess it filled the snow in drifts which are still with us. While the wind was blowing so fiercely - I was wondering how the tents over at Camp Danifham were faring. Fortunately only a few blew down. No flying was done Friday or Sat. So

as they men afraid to get water in the Radiators - for fear they would freeze. We go on with our flying tomorrow, as usual tho. I am going to shoot another "buff target" in the morning.

I am glad to say that your son continues making good marks - of he is not just talk usually secured. This may sound conceited but it's straight goods. I made the highest mark on the Contact Patrol Problem in the section - 2.8. I hope I don't go and fall down in my grade now since I've been tested my turn so readily. I knew you would like to know, I suppose.

Father's letter yesterday - am so glad things is a peaceful way

look much better. As soon as I draw flying pay I'll be making \$177.08 per month. When I get a cross I'll draw 10% extra - for foreign service - which makes it \$191.26. And if by some chance I should get a 1st Lieutenantcy (which is doubtful now) I would be getting \$225.00 per month. I ought to save something everyone - and a while oughtn't I?

Another bunch of officers are coming in today - see this certainly means that someone must have to leave soon, as I'll not be surprised to see the most advanced section leave either this or next week.

Short has about 2 more weeks and I have about 3 more. It looks as if we want get a leave before going to Hoboken. However, I am going to come via home - unless they tie me on the train.

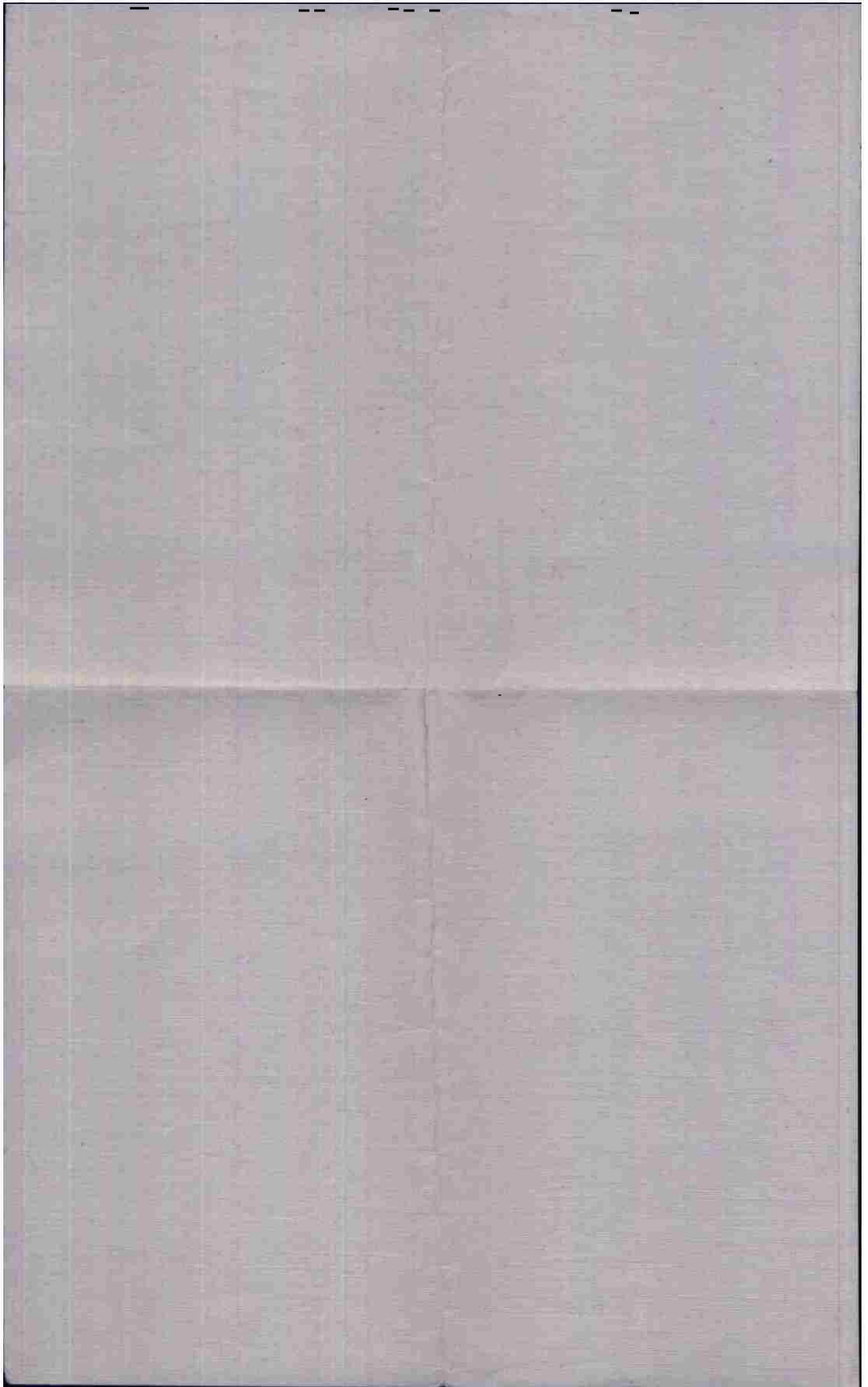
Walter Dumas, one of my college mates - met me in on me yesterday. Sam was glad to see him. He is a 1st Lt. in the Regular Army now and has been stationed on the California Coast. He is taking the Legion Course over at the School of Arms.

I am quite a beginner, for I have not been to church in several months. I am thinking of going tonight. There is a nice, little little Presbyterian church in Lexington.

I intended to write some more - but several officers for Camp Jackson came in for a few minutes. To visit - and I went to help them. I have new officers all over at the school of fire.

I hope you are all well. I love you & you are - your devoted son,

Samuel
1,



169-7567-Box 2
FOLIO 11-3

(no envelope)

Sunday -

Dearest Mother,

Another week had passed and part of it has been extremely cold. In fact, we are recovering from the worst blizzard they have had around here in several years. Someone said it was as cold as 11 below at one time. It started Friday morning - and it sleeted, then snowed - and the wind was terrible - of course it piled the snow in drifts which are still with us. While the wind was blowing as fiercely - I was wondering how the tents over at Camp Daniphan were faring. Fortunately only a few blew down. No flying was done Friday or Sat. So cold they were afraid to put water in the Radiators - for fear they would freeze. We go on with our flying tomorrow, as usual tho. I am going to shoot another "puff target" in the morning.

I am glad to say that your son continues making good marks - If he is not first he's usually second - This may sound conceited but its straight goods. I made the highest mark on the contact Patrol Problem in the section - 2.8. I hope I don't go and fall down in my grades now since I've tooted my horn so loudly. I know you would like to know, however.

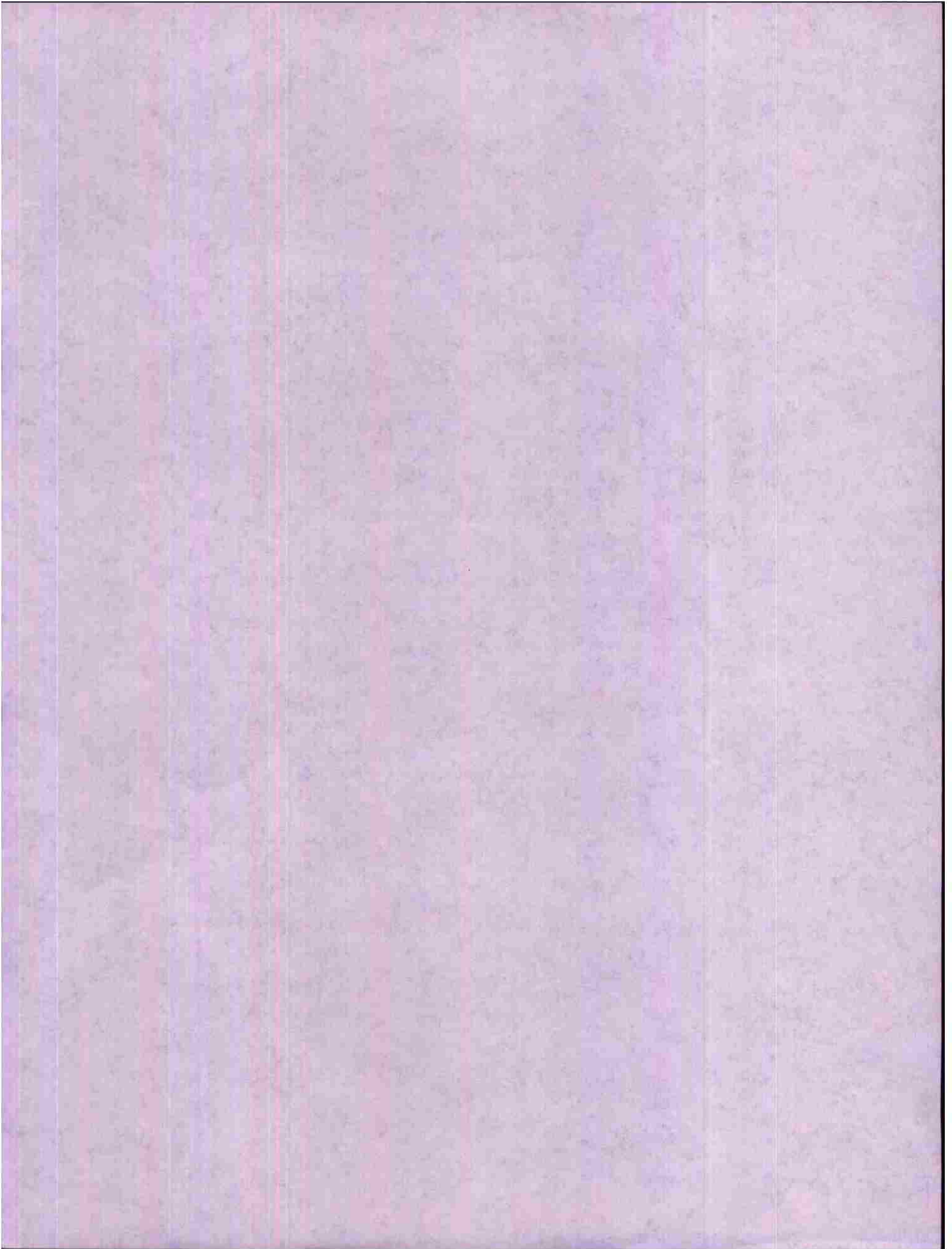
Father's letter yesterday - am so glad things in a financial way look much better. As soon as I draw flying pay I'll be making \$177.08 per month. When I get a cross I'll draw 10% extra - for foreign service- which makes it \$191.26 and if by some chance I should get a 1st Lieutenancy (which is doubtful now) I would be getting \$225⁰⁰ per month. I ought to save something every once and awhile oughtn't I?

Another bunch of officers are coming in to day - all this certainly means that someone will have to leave soon, so I'll not be surprised to see the most advanced section leave either this or next week. Stuart had about 2 more weeks and I have about 3 more. It looks as if we won't get a leave before going to Hoboken. However, I am going to come via home - unless they tie me on the train.

Walter Dumas, one of my college mates - walked in on me yesterday. Sure was glad to see him. He is a 2nd Lt. in the Regular Army now and has been stationed on the California Coast. He is taking the Liaison Course - over at the school of Arms

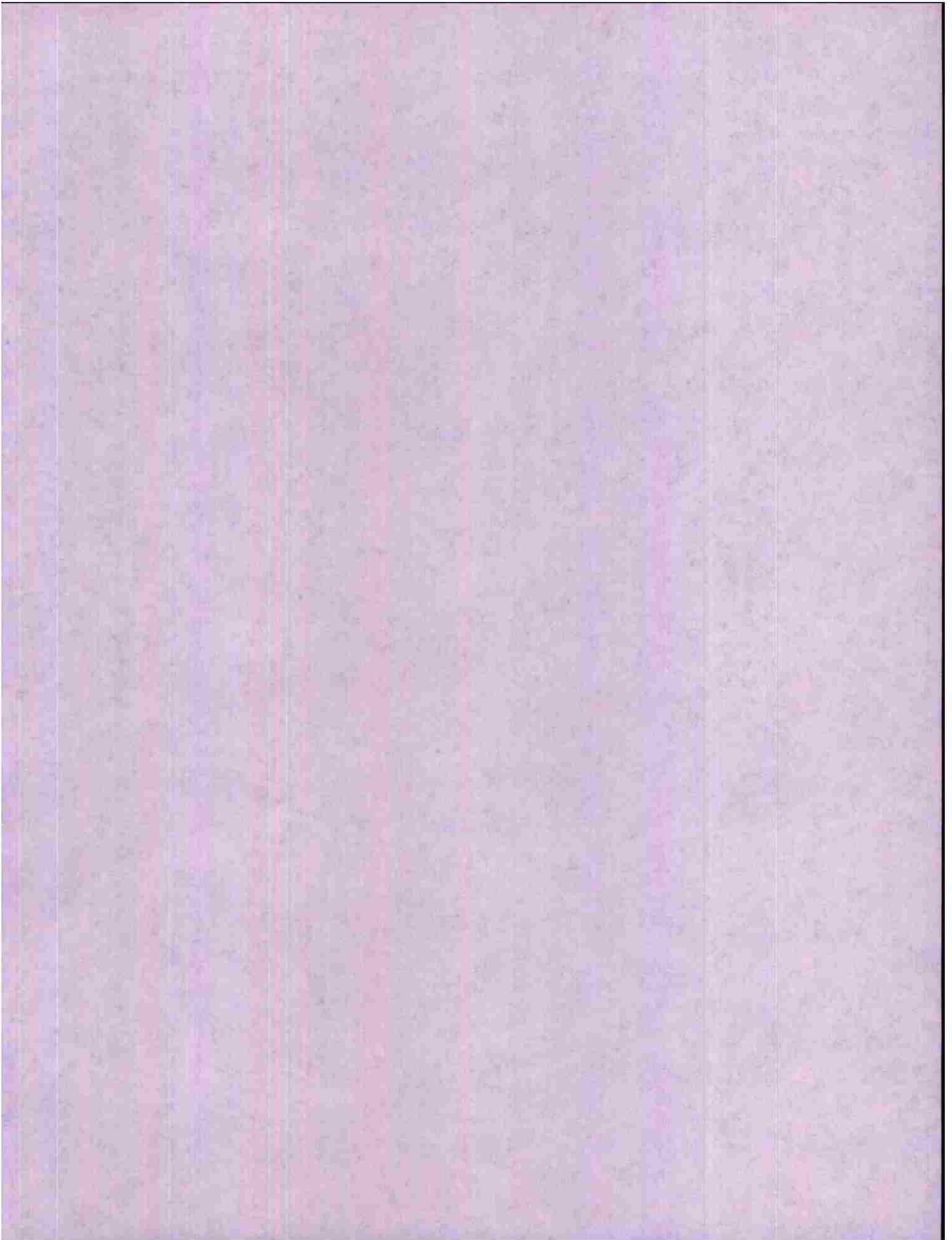
I am quite a heathen, for I've not been to church in several months. I am thinking of going tonight. There is a nice looking little Presbyterian church in Lawton.

I intended to write some more - but several officers from Camp Jackson came in a few minutes ago to visit - and I went to talk to them. These new officers are over at the school of Fire.



I hope you are all well. With love to you all –

Your devoted son,
Sam Jr.



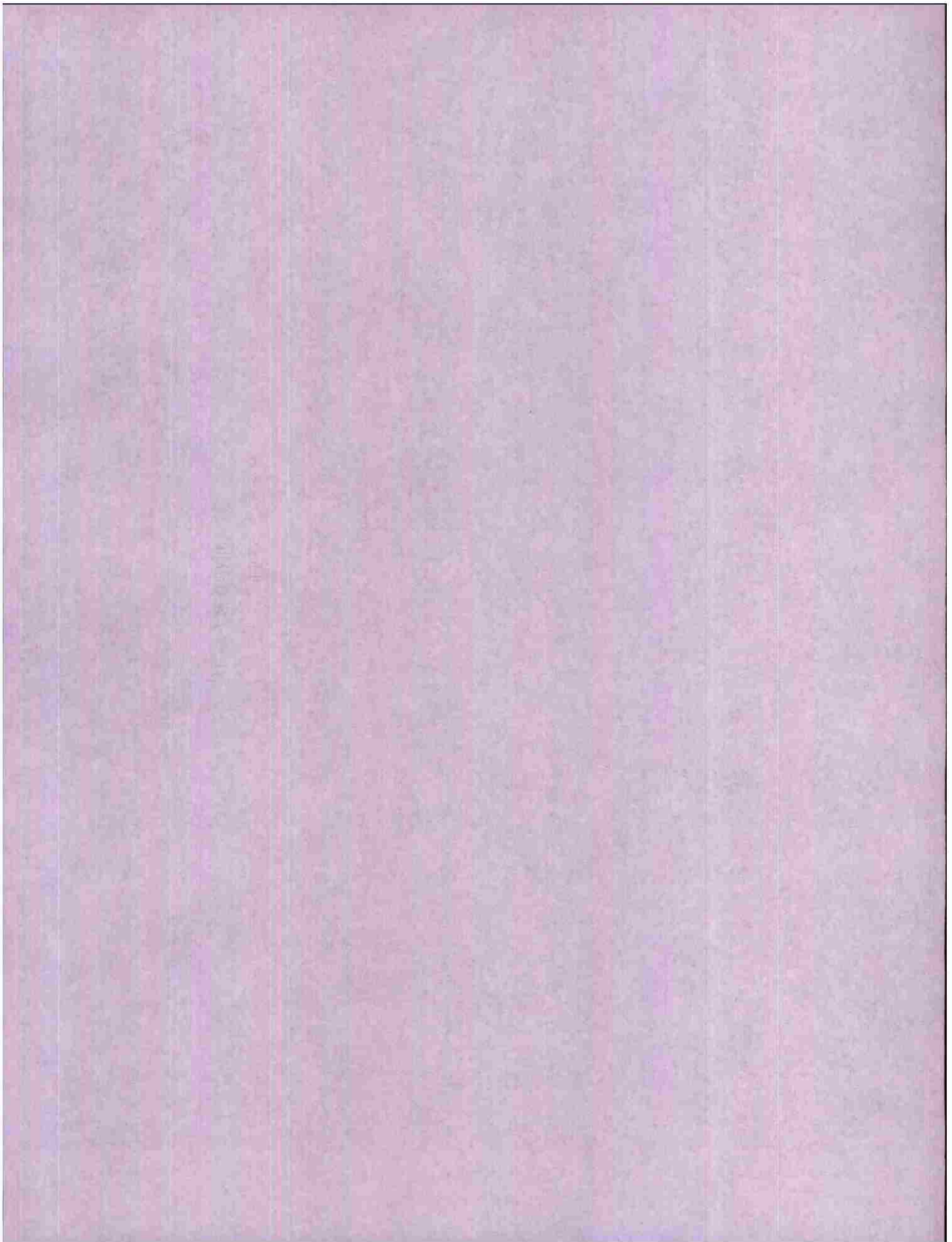
To: Gen S.R. Keesler
From: William Keesler (no ref to Sam)
January 5, 1917 *(see date 1918)*

168 7567-0012
FALDEC-4
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research A Maxwell AFB, AL

SCANNED BY ACD

2007

011561100



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958

needs the most adjusting but every-
 thing comes in. Where they come
 out of the room they are so stiff
 that heads are not needed to stop
 just take out the chest. But after
 twenty miles that all comes out. We
 wear all the high spots off of
 the heads lining by putting the
 heads on and running a couple
 of miles. The things that are done
 to a truck would ruin a touring
 car and they only loose up the
 trucks. Storing one of these big
 props in a different pit from
 any thing he tackled yet. All four

168.7567-B212
 Folder - 4

THE PENNOYER SANITARIUM
 KENOSHA WISCONSIN

Sunday Jan 5 1917

Dear Father

I have here done some
 work this week. I started in on road
 work Monday & stayed on it four
 days then went to engine & frames.
 Friday I drove one truck about eighteen
 miles on the testing tracks. The road
 test is simply taking the trucks as
 they come from the assembly
 room and putting them thru twenty
 to thirty miles to find out they up &
 make the work spots show up.
 Where they first come out every-
 thing needs adjusting. The construction

wheel there making it very
 difficult. But as all four wheels have
 power they can pull out of whatever
 of places that is another thing that
 is as different the differentials and
 the locking type, that is we can take
 a driving shaft out and come in on
 three wheel, or take out three & come in
 on one. All sort of questions are asked
 us about what we would do under
 certain circumstances. One person is
 what if you got jammed also to a
 curb how would you get away? Why do
 connect the rear wheel from
 the steering wheel & also from the
 front. The truck had a lot of power
 on it and was awfully rough. I
 can feel the jar & jolt of the truck
 now. Next week I go on the engine,
 it will be in close as that in fact.
 But I was lucky as we had no
 real close weather while on the road
 test. It stayed around 28 to 30. I just
 now it is 24 & raining like crazy
 thing. I sat. I about nearly all my time
 going around with the for. Later the

hundred than even now. there are some trees about two hundred yards from the house which can only be seen between the front of wind. The road is sandy & is almost so hard that it is cut with one face like glass. Old Kate to go away where to day. Every thing is going inside as the building is stone windowed. I guess there is fifteen windows forward. All traffic is stopped. no getting in street cars running. We are hoping it will stop before morning, if it don't we will be around found sure.

THE PENNOYER SANITARIUM
KENOSHA WISCONSIN

may be treated that trucks was a shame. if it would pull he rained the front of it into a concrete wall & put her in high. Anyway I certainly found a truck & wife could drive. I learned a lot of little points from him. I met a "North" but might a "regular" "North" but no. Snow & wind. We had left one of our windows open & this morning the floor had two inches of snow on it. All my clothes were covered & the room was like ice & ice. It started about one a.m. and is going

Beside the work in the shop
we have lecture every Monday, Tuesday, Friday night and have to write a
report on it. The one we had Friday
was two hours long and as I had
spent the day making a truck going
further make for them over a night
back I got only half of it. I was just
all in, I could not think
I got Uncle Bob's five present
Thursday. It was wonderful. The first
thing I did was to get an overcoat. I got
a fine one for \$42.00. (It is a beauty)
and is very warm. Beats the
short coat all to pieces. In going
down to Chicago next Sat. I didn't
come forward my picture taken.
I had almost decided to go this
week end. In fact I didn't. I almost
think I'd not get any look as we will
not be married and it was look
going to make a motorcycle with
them on a ride a car with look +
spurs. But in going to look there
ever. Will you tell me just what things
I should have gotten. Know. I know
there are some things missing &
don't know what I'm missing

about some twice this week.
 The Nash people use a Buick
 motor. Some motor too. A lot
 of the Ordinance Officers say it
 is the best thing in the trucks.
 We ain't stuck in the trucks a
 whole. Pacts are strong & pacts very
 week. The Ordinance Officers are
 about thirty days old and know
 every thing. One of them told a couple
 of the military officers that they
 always told the men "no you won't"
 when they came to attention when
 you entered a room. He they
 say they are stuck up to

THE PENNOYER SANITARIUM
 KENOSHA WISCONSIN

to make a list. I tried back to
 every Jackson for them & send it
 on but don't know if they did. I
 wish they would send my pay
 check too.

Mamma letter come this
 morning. I enjoyed it. Tell her
 not to worry yet about us
 going over yet. I sure will get
 good all know the prison-
 mums & get. But I don't think
 there is a chance before May.
 We are not ready as we have
 not got all our men yet.

We are going to the engine

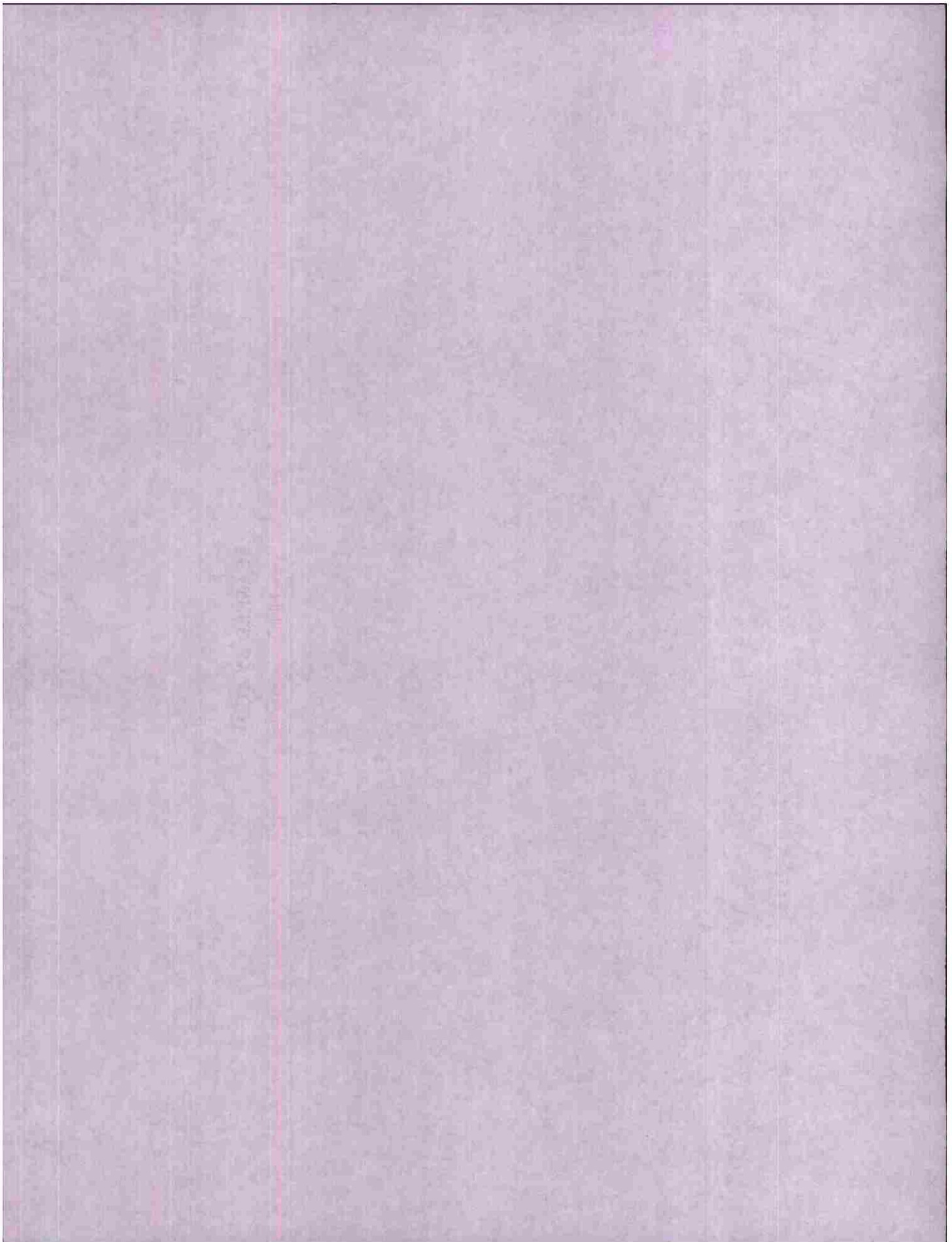
hence, not all of them but a good
many. They have made most of
by their taking.
Must stop now and get to work
on that report
for to see
your affectionate son
William

70. Hunt 1, 1907
1000. 5000. 10000
3000. 1918

169. 7567-Box 2
Foloca - 5
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell, AL

01156160

SCANNED BY ACD
2007



16F. 7567-BOX 2

FOLDER-5

Chase for Miss Observer
 Ft. Lee, Va.
 Jan. 6th 1915.

Dear Aunt Ethel,

I certainly appreciated the handkerchiefs and kit (I guess that name will suit it) which you sent me for Christmas. Iie already put the handkerchiefs into use. This article always gets away from me somehow and I never have to many.

I missed coming home Xmas this year and seeing you all, but I was thankful I was in America and not in the trenches.

I guess there is always something to be thankful for.

You never saw a place where orders and instruction change as much as here - It keeps us guessing all the time. We were using the English method for spotting shots for the artillery and now we have switched over to the French method. Fortunately for us the two methods are similar in some respects - We have been

guessing for sometime as to when we leave here - and whether we go to France, desert or not. Rumors come out every day and change what "dope" we had the day before, but I think I can say for a fact that we'll go to France when we get thru here - we'll probably get a 10 day leave before then. I think we will get away from here inside of a month.

a number of the Officers are being rejected on account of their eyes - They are becoming very strict at Washington about this point. $2\frac{2}{3}\%$ in either eye will disqualify now - you must be $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of normal or better. I am normal.

Robert + John want enjoy spending a day with me in sure - for the aeroplanes sail around the sky all day long and also a kite balloon, and you can hear the artillery booming too.

So far I'm well + getting along o.k. - I'm glad to say - Guess Wm. is too - I haven't heard from him since he went to Wisconsin. The very best wishes for you all for a happy and Prosperous 1918 - with love, Ray K.

School for Aerial Observers
Ft. Sill, Okla.
Jan. 6th

Dear Aunt Ethel,

I certainly appreciated the handkerchiefs and kit (I guess that name will suit it) which you sent me for Christmas. I've already put the handkerchiefs into use. This article always gets away from me somehow and I never have too many.

I missed coming home Xmas this year and seeing you all, but I was thankful I was in America and not in the trenches. I guess there is always something to be thankful for.

You never saw a place where orders and instruction change as much as here – It keeps us guessing all the time. We were using the English method for “spotting shots for the artillery” and now we have switched over to the French method. Fortunately for us the two methods are similar in some respects – we have been guessing for sometime as to when we leave here – and whether we go to France direct or not. Rumors come out every day and change what “dope” we had the day before, but I think I can say for a fact that we'll go to France when we get thru here – we'll probably get 10 day leave before tho. I think we will get away from here inside of a month.

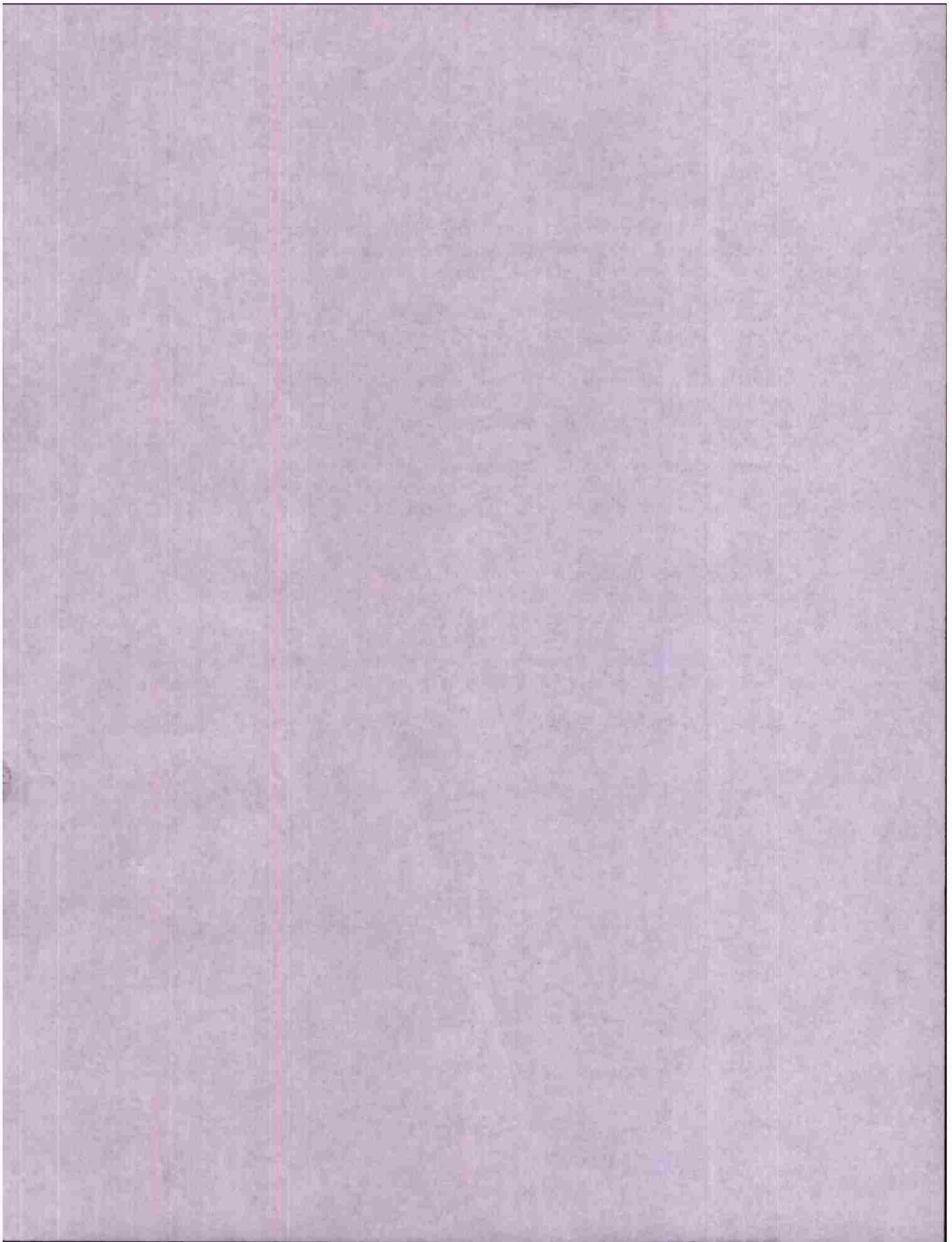
A number of the officers are being rejected on account of their eyes – They are becoming nery strict at Washington about this point. 20/30 in either eye will disqualify now – you must be 20/20 (normal) or better. I am normal.

Robert & John would enjoy spending a day with me I'm sure – for the aero-planes sail around the sky all day long and also a kite balloon, and you can hear the artillery booming too.

So far I'm well & getting along O.K. – I'm glad to say – Guess Wm is too – I haven't heard from him since he went to Wisconsin.

The very best wishes for you all for a Happy and Prosperous 1918 – with love,

Sam K.



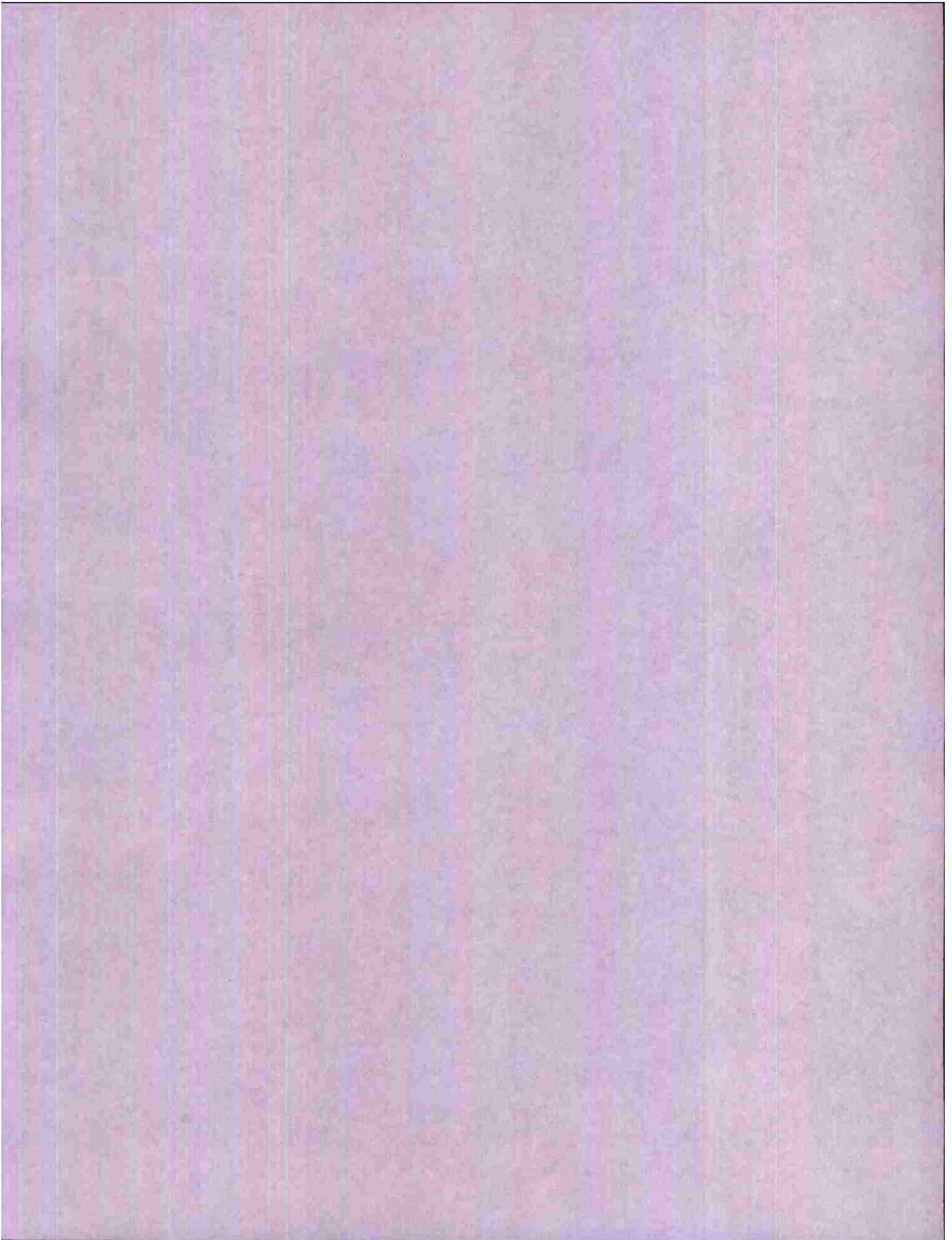
To: Gen S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
Postmarked January 7, 1918

168 7567-1
Box 2
FOLIO 6A - 6
RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36117-1724

SCANNED BY ACD

2007

01156160



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

168.7561-1
Box 2
Folder - 40

Sunday Evening?

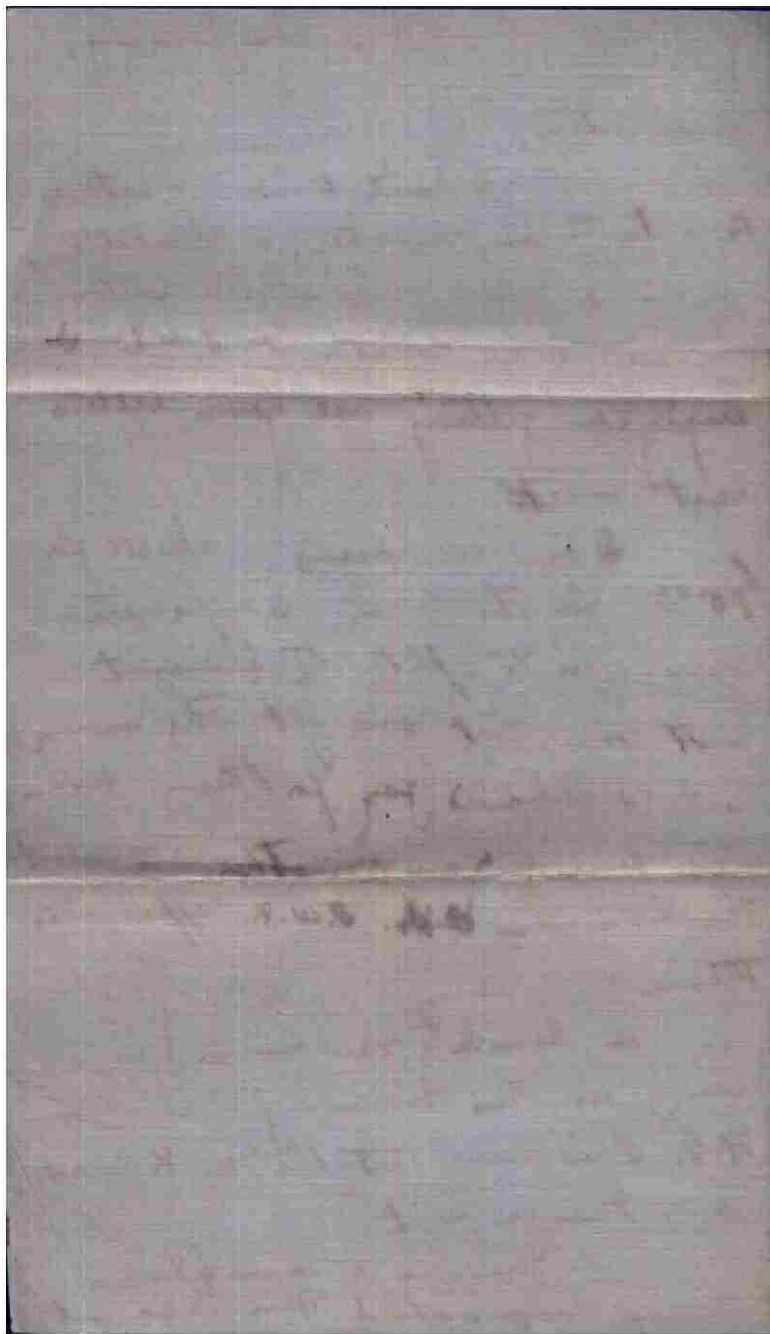
Dear father,

I don't know whether to write to you, mother, or Charlotte, since I have you all a letter, however, I'll make it 3 in 1. I enjoyed getting all your letters last week.

I am enclosing a check for \$75.00 for the furs. I appreciate your offer to split the amount with me, but she got the money and I should pay for them. Such was fine of you & mother to select the ones you did. F.W.R. appreciates them.

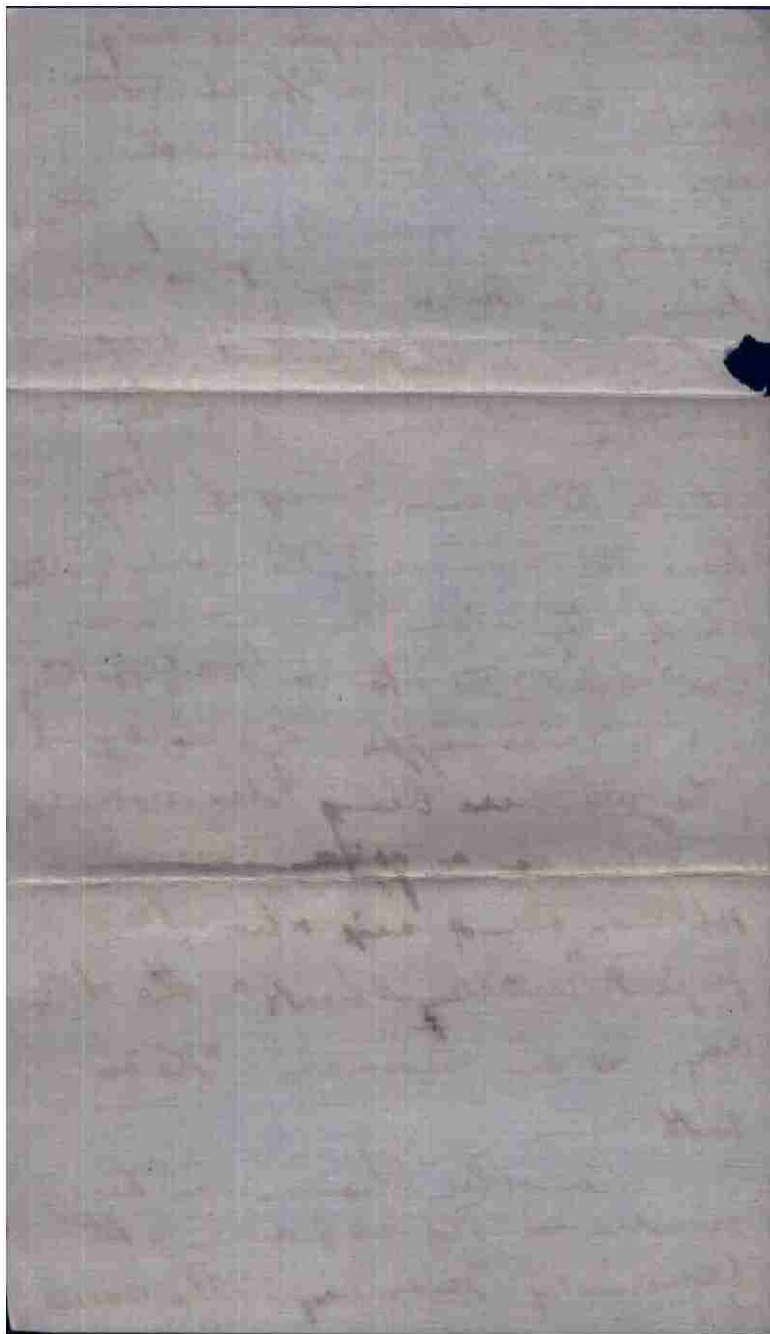
a bunch of new men have come in this morning - see from N.Y. This proves that the N.Y. will go to France first.

a number of men have been disqualified on account

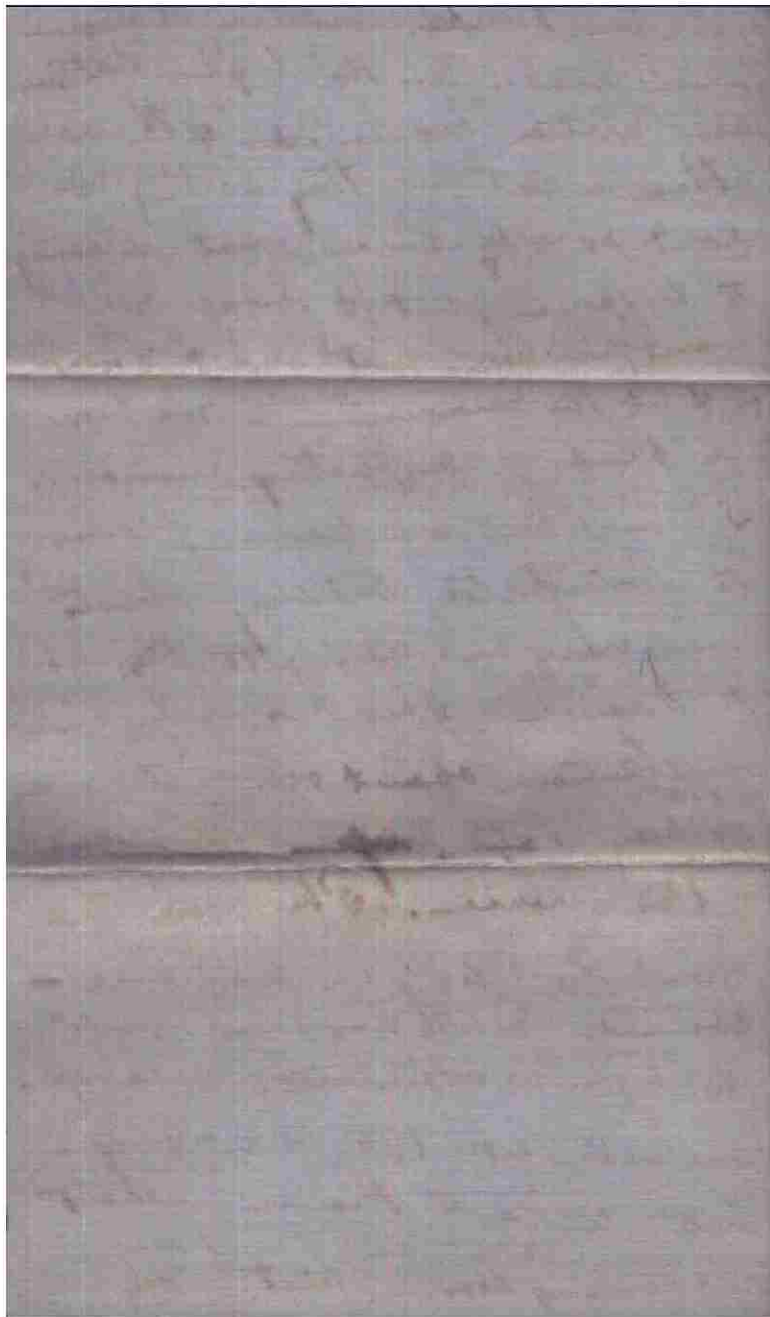


of their eyes - Washington is very
 strict about "eyes" - $\frac{2}{30}$ in either
 eye disqualifies, & tho some
 mighty good men are being turned
 down. The major says it is a
 shame but that doesn't help
 matters. They are going to try to
 get by the exam - even if they
 have to memorize the card of letters
 which they will have to read.
 "Coe" one of the Pts. in Wm.'s Battery
 and a Mississippi boy - is one
 of the men being disqualified
 and he is a good observer -
 He was one of six who flew
 perfect "Artillery shoots" the other
 day. I am normal - $\frac{2}{30}$ in
 both eyes.

Another change has been
 made in the schedule - ~~the~~
 beginning Monday the course

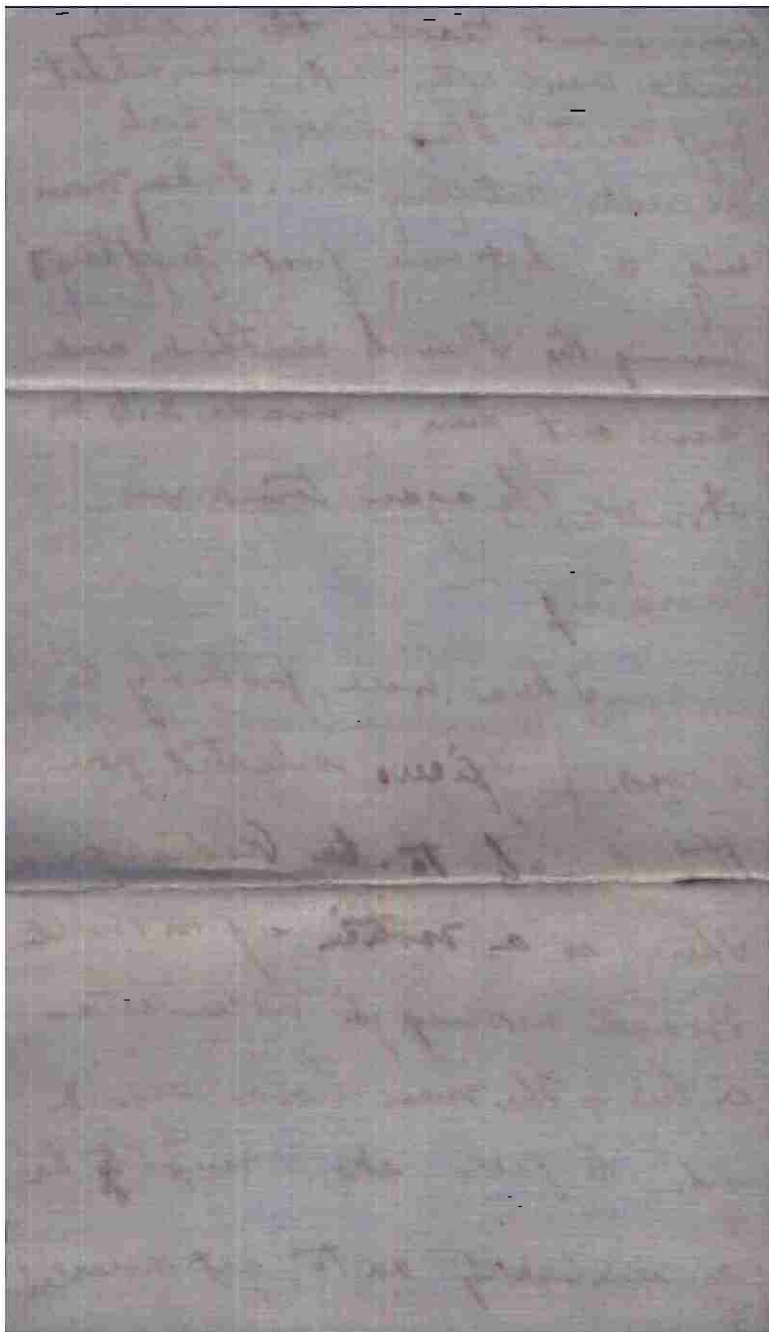


will be 1 week. Several changes
 were made in the higher sections.
 Our section remains 4th - all
 others remain as they were. I
 don't exactly know what is going
 to happen, but I judge we
 won't be here but about 3 weeks
 or 4 at the maximum - we hear
 all kind of conflicting rumors.
 I hear when we have flown
 to "Satisfactory Artillery shoots"
 we will be ready to fly go
 to France - There is some
 supposition about our getting a
 10 day leave upon completion
 of this course. The major told
 one of the officers he would re-
 commend a ten day leave to
 the higher authorities. I do hope
 we will get it, for I would
 hate to go to France without
 coming home first. My sec-



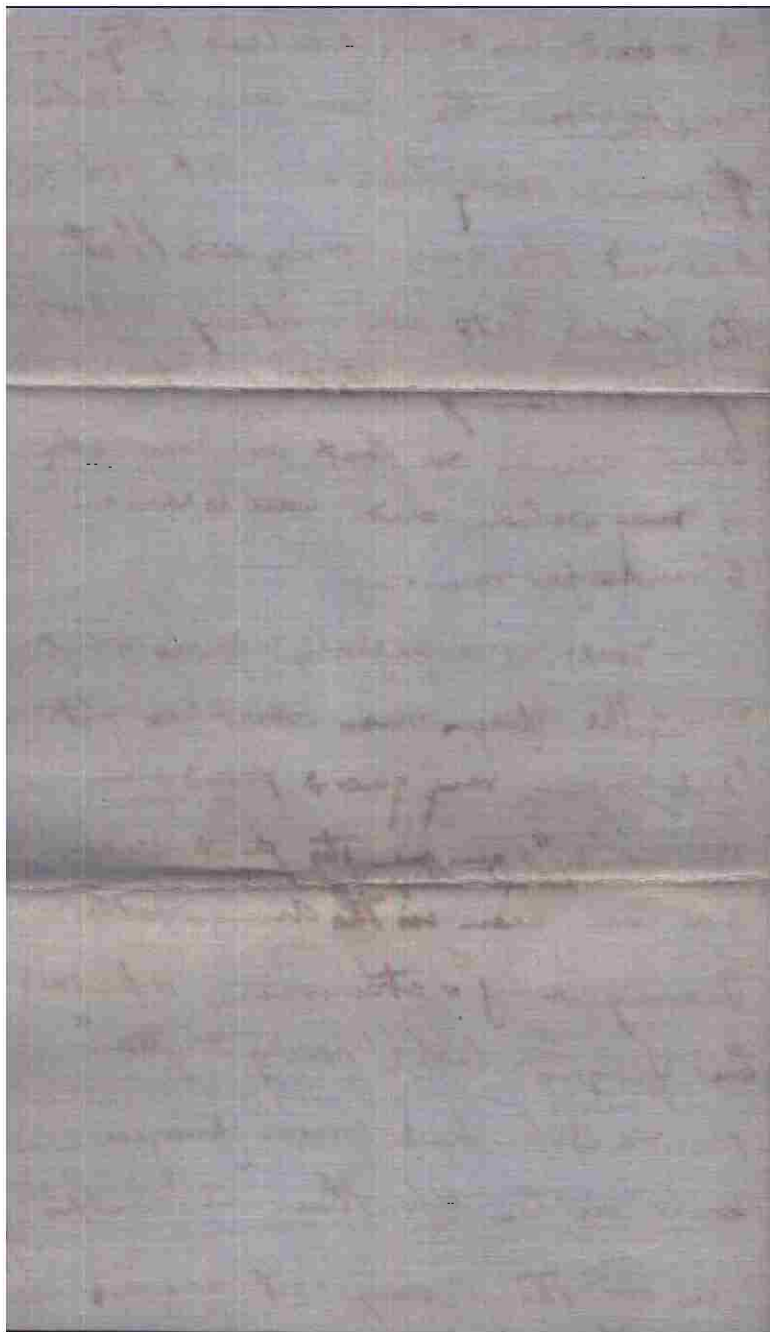
don't want to be the only
 one in the mess after next. We shot
 "juff targets" this week - which
 simulate artillery fire. Friday morn-
 ing I shot my first "juff target"
 using the French method and
 came out fine - made 2.6 on
 it. We fly again tomorrow
 morning.

There will probably be
 a no. of officers selected from
 this bunch to be Radio Officers.
 There is a notice up on Bulletin
 Board asking for volunteers -
 a few of the men have signed
 up. I feel sure I might be
 as unlucky as to get selected.



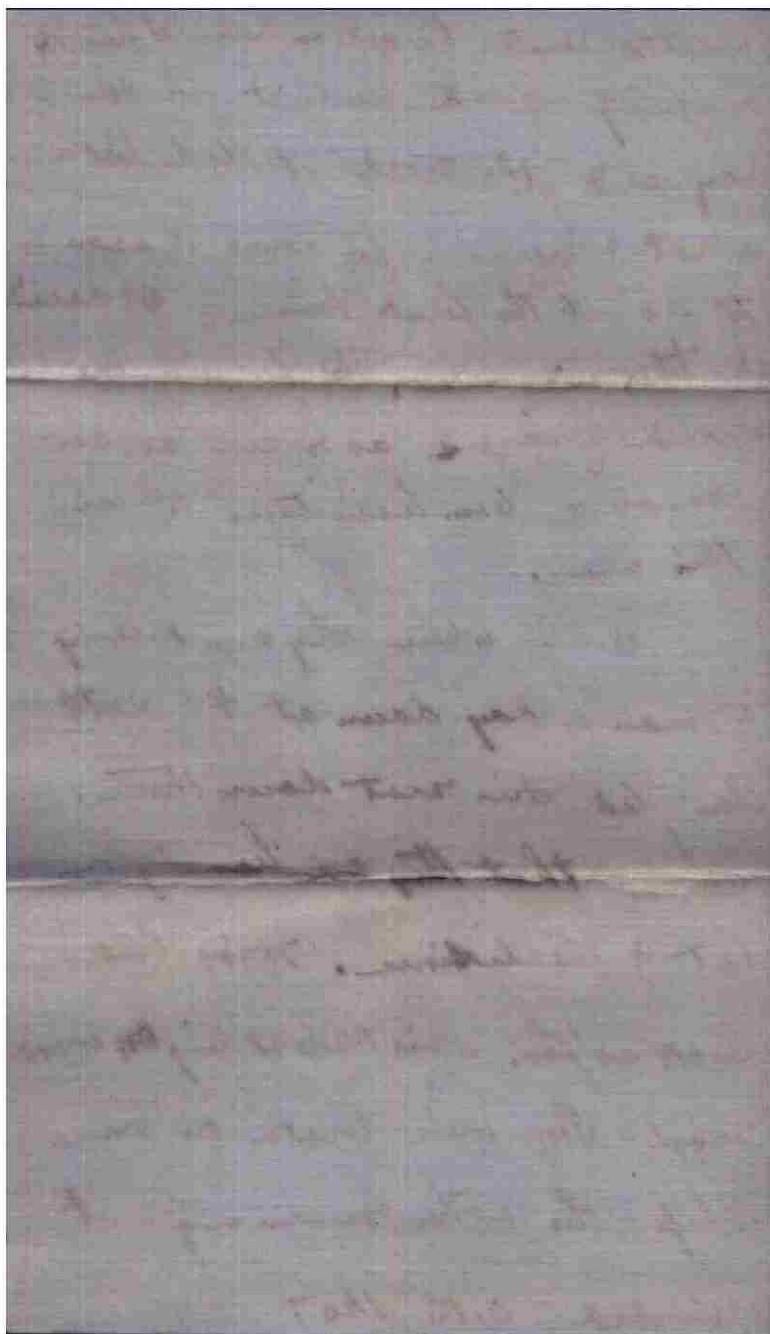
I must be one unless they
 make me tho. you see a Radio
 officer - really has a soft job -
 doesn't fly any - only see that
 the Radio sets are working - look
 after Receiving Stations etc. I
 can send as fast as anybody
 in my section and can receive
 6 words per min.

well, I'll declare! Guess what
 one of the officers near me has just
 told me - very good friend of mine -
 He said "you are the first person
 I've ever seen in the Army - either
 Training Camp or otherwise - who said
 his prayers before going to bed."
 He said he had never prayed
~~anymore~~ in his life than since he's
 been in the Army but always



wanted until he got in a...
 a pretty good subject for Sun-
 day isn't it? Well, it did take
 a lot of nerve - for some reason -
 to do it the first time - It doesn't
 bother me now, I figure we'll
 need prayers as well as air-
 planes & bin. howitzers to win
 this war.

I see where they are - killing
 a man a day down at Ft. Worth.
 Am glad Jim isn't down there.
 Seems that they are having a
 lot of collisions. We've had
 luck so far. Jim is working on a
 row. Two were broke on one
 ship the other morning - it
 landed O.K. Tho:

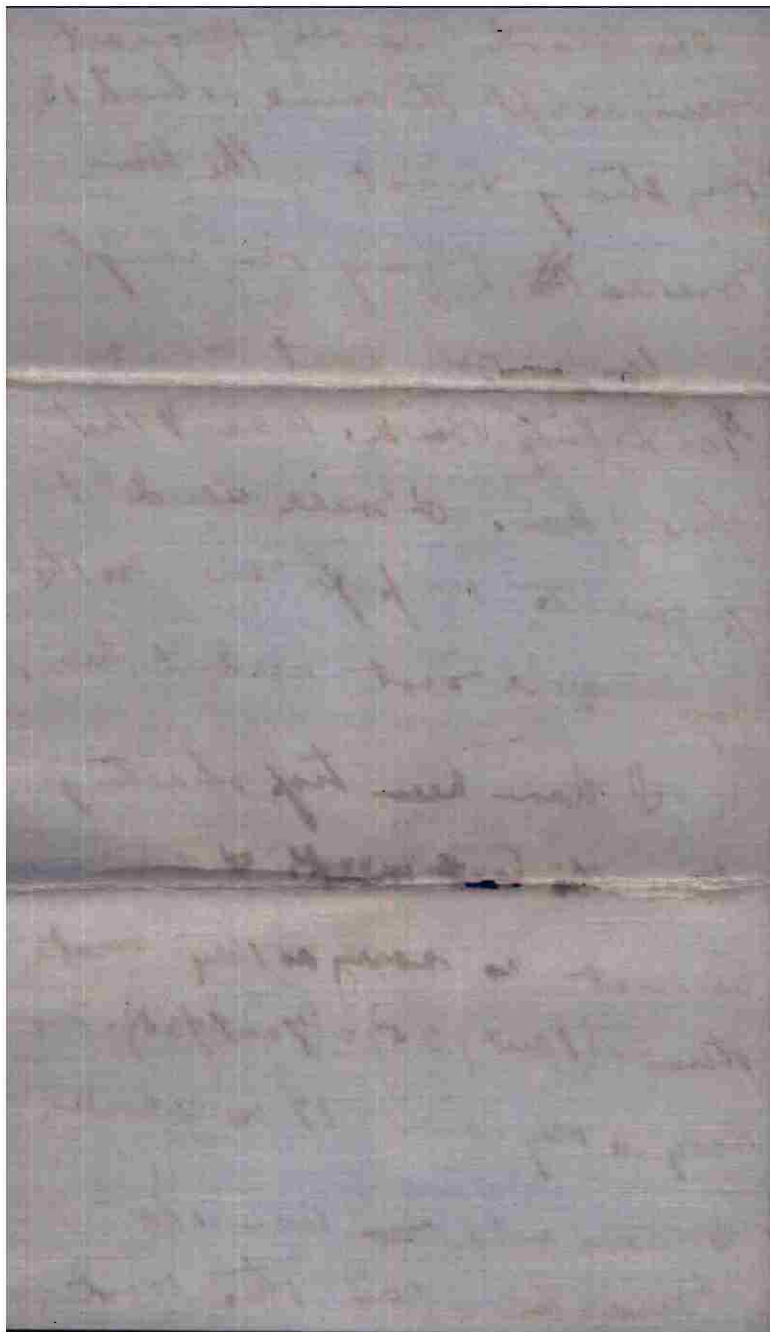


The weather is very pleasant again, except the wind which is very strong most of the time. makes ~~the~~ flying very rough.

Uncle Bob sent me a \$100 Liberty Bond. Warent that fine of him. I will send it to you to keep for me in the safe - I will not need it here.

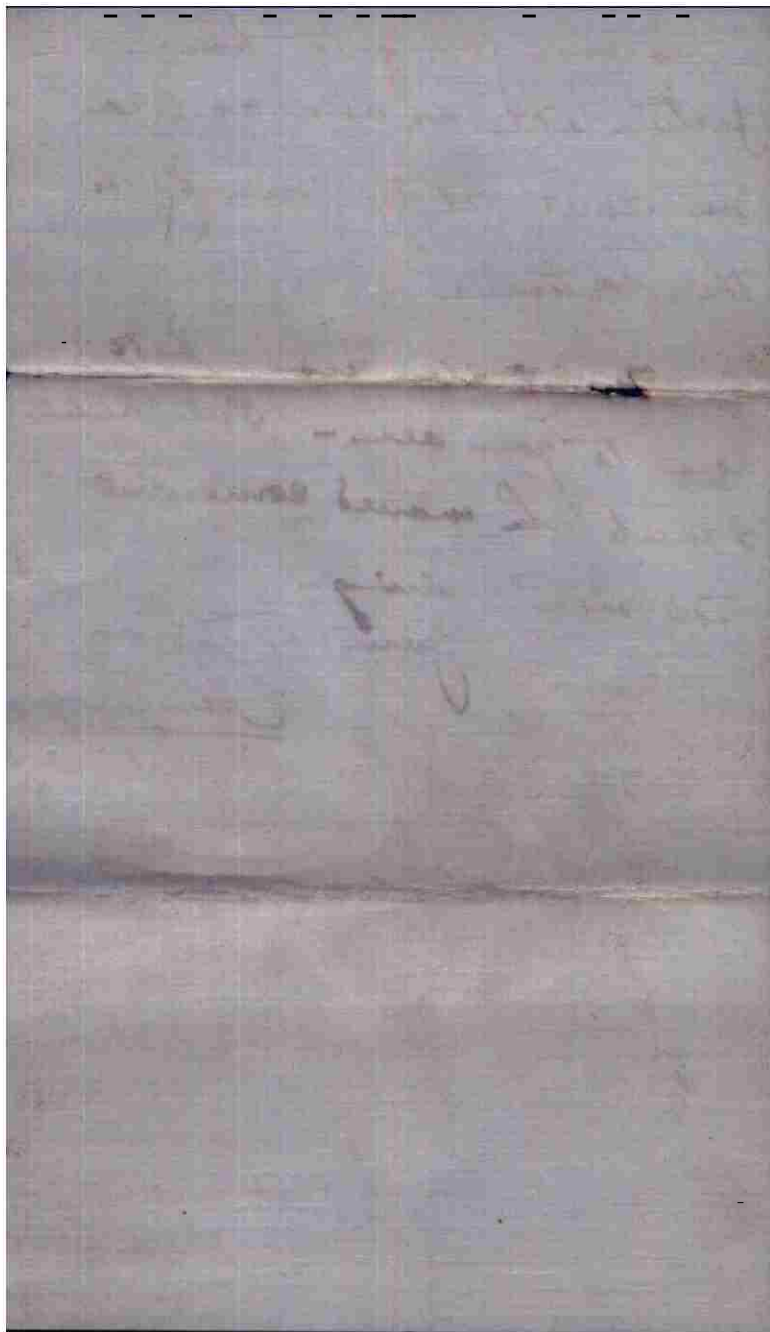
I have been trap shooting twice this ~~last~~ week. I am almost as sorry as they make them. (1 out of 25) + (7 out of 25). No body is very good - 17 is record.

I guess will ~~not~~ use the machine gun this week.



I am going to have a
 picture taken as soon as I can -
 we don't get off much in
 the daytime.

Must close now - Lots of
 love to you all - Free Charlotte
 I wish she would come and
 take me riding -
 your devoted son,
Sam Jo



Postmarked Jan 7, 1918
Lawton, Okla
Ft Sill Branch
To: Gen S.R. Keesler
Greenwood Miss

168.7569-BOX 2
FOLDER-4

Sunday Evening,

Dear Father,

I don't know whether to write to you, Mother, or Charlotte, since I owe you all a letter, however, I'll make it 3 in 1. I enjoyed getting all your letters last week.

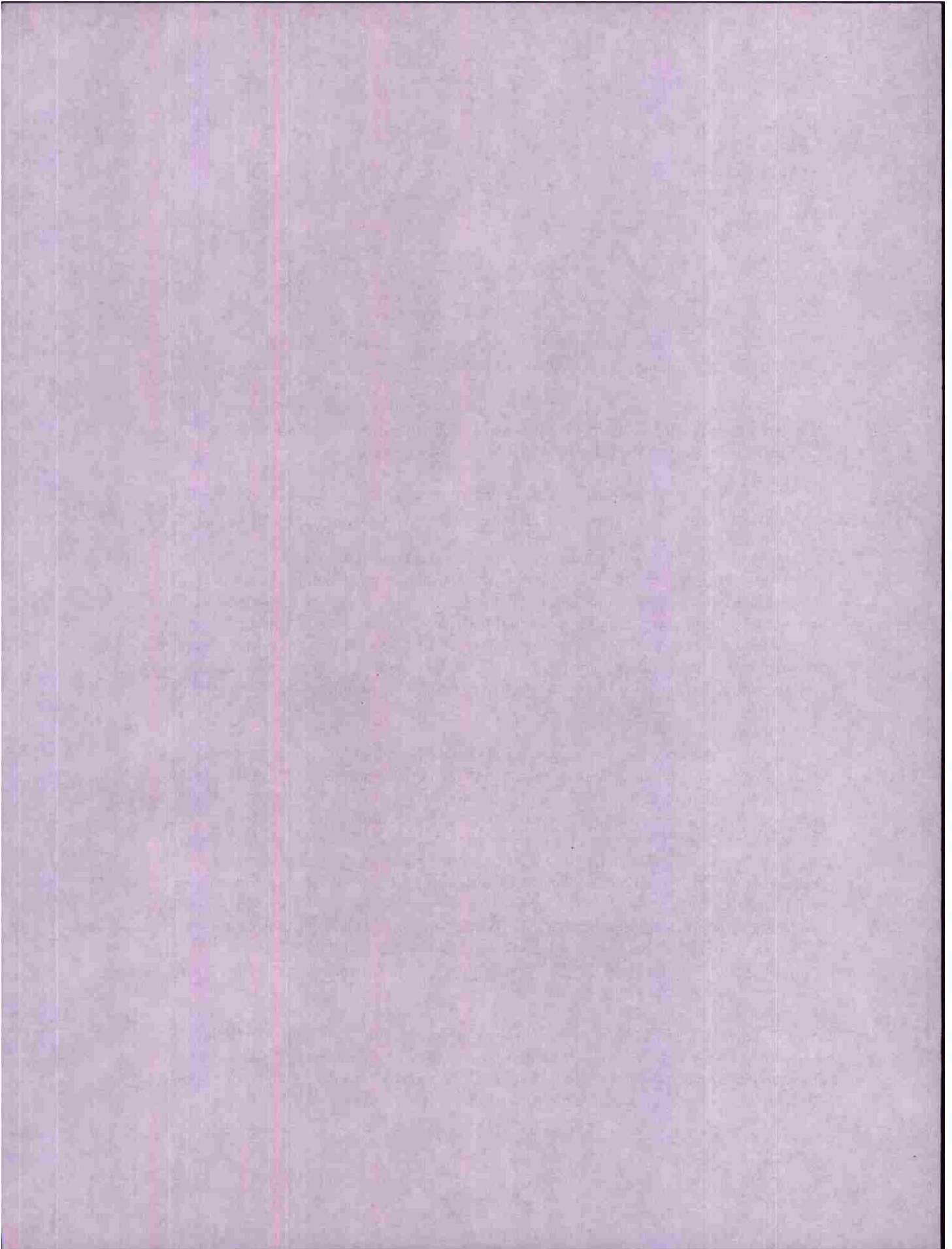
I am enclosing a check for \$75⁰⁰ for the furs. I appreciate your offer to split the amount with me, but I've got the money- and I should pay for them. Sure was fine of you & Mother to select the ones you did. F.W.R appreciates them.

A bunch of new men have come in this morning- all from N.G. This proves that the N.G. will go to France first.

A number of men have been disqualified on account of their eyes - Washington is very strict about "eyes"- 20/30 in either eye disqualifies, altho some mighty good men are being turned down. The Major says it is a "shame" but that doesn't help matters. They are going to try to get by the exam - even if they have to memorize the card of letters which they will have to read. "Coe" one of the Lts. In W^m's Battery and a Mississippi boy- is one of the members being disqualified and he is a good observer- He was one of the six who flew perfect "artillery shoots" the other day. I am normal - 20/20 in both eyes.

Another change has been made in the schedule - beginning Monday the course will be 7 weeks. Several changes were made in the higher sections. Our section remains 4th- all others remain as they were. I don't exactly know what is going to happen, but I judge we won't be here but about 3 weeks or 4 at the maximum - we hear all kinds of conflicting rumors. I hear when we have flown to "satisfactory artillery shoots" we will be ready to go to France - There is some supposition about our getting a 10 day leave upon completion of this course. The major told one of the officers he would reccomend (sic) a ten day leave to the higher authorities. I do hope we will get it, for I would hate to go to France without coming home first. My section wont tackle the artillery until week after next. We shoot "puff targets" this week - which simulate artillery fire. Friday morning I shot my first "puff target" using the French method and came out fine - made 2.6 on it. We fly again tomorrow morning.

There will probably be a no. of officers selected from this bunch to be Radio officers. There is a notice up on Bulletin Board asking for volunteers - a few of the men have signed up. I feel like I might be as unlucky as to get selected. I wont be one unless they make me tho. You see a Radio officer - really has a soft job - doesn't fly any - only



see that the Radio sets are working – look after receiving stations etc. I can send as fast as anybody in my section and can receive 6 words per min.

Well, I'll declare! Guess what one of the officers near me has just told me – very good friend of mine- He said “you are the first person I've ever seen in the army- either Training camp or otherwise who said his prayers before going to bed.” He said he had never prayed more in his life than since he's been in the army but always waited until he got in bed. This is a pretty good subject for Sunday isn't it? Well, it did take a lot of nerve – for some reason – to do it the first time – It doesn't bother me now, I figure we'll need prayers as well as airplanes & 6 in. howitzers to win this war.

I see where they are killing a man a day down at Ft. Worth. Am glad I'm not down there. Seems that they are having a lot of collisions. We've had luck so far. I'm knocking on wood now. Fin wire broke on one ship the other morning- it landed O.K. tho.

The weather is very pleasant again, except the wind which is very strong most of the time. Makes flying very rough.

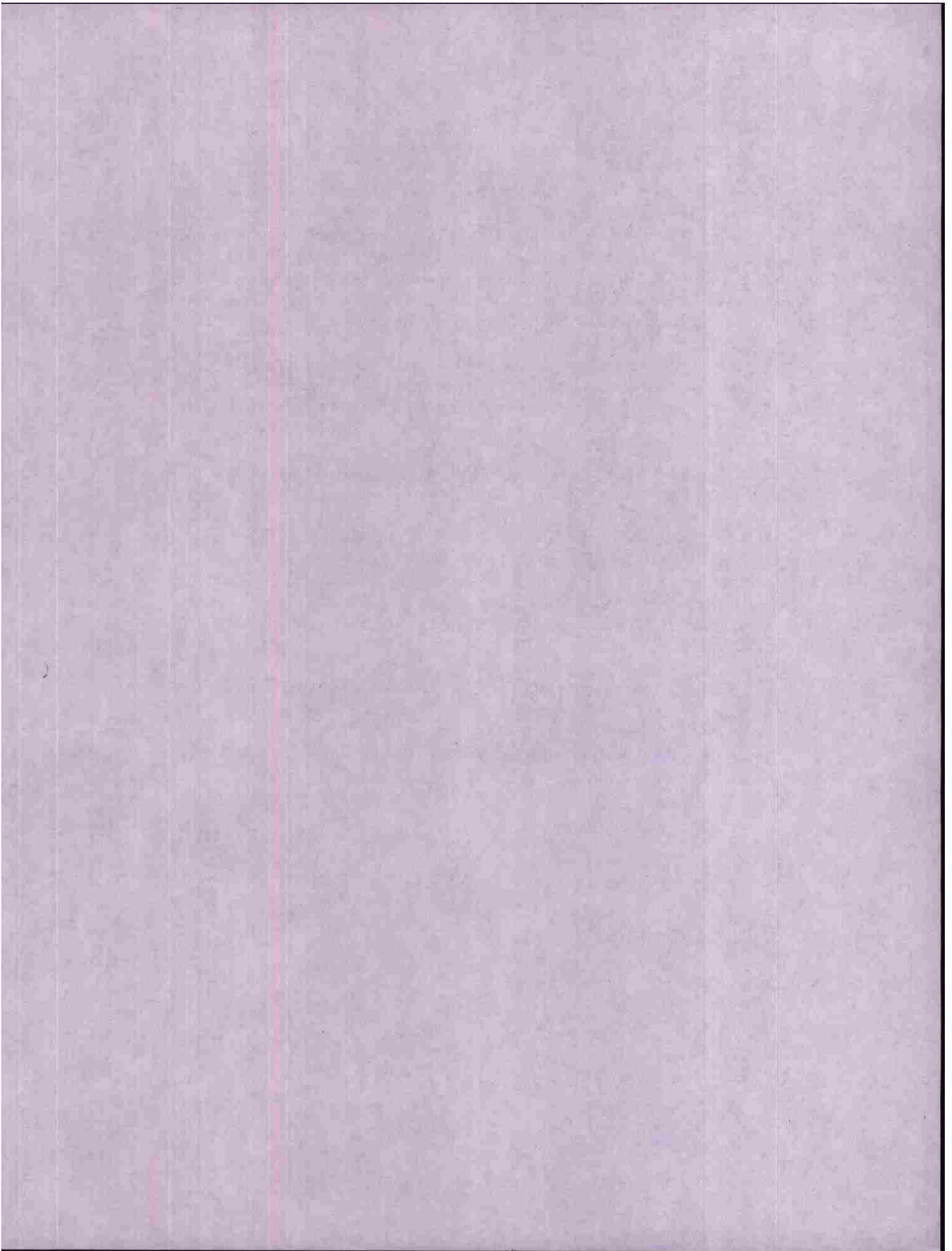
Uncle Bob sent me a \$100 Liberty Bond. Wasn't that fine of him. I will send it to you to keep for me in the safe – I'll not need it here.

I have been trap shooting twice this last week. I am almost as sorry as they make them. (1 out of 25) and (7 out of 25)- nobody is very good- 17 is record. I guess we'll use the machine gun this week.

I am going to have a picture taken as soon as I can- We dont get off much in the daytime.

Must close now – lots of love to you all – tell Charlotte I wish she would come and take me riding-

Your devoted son,
Sam Jr



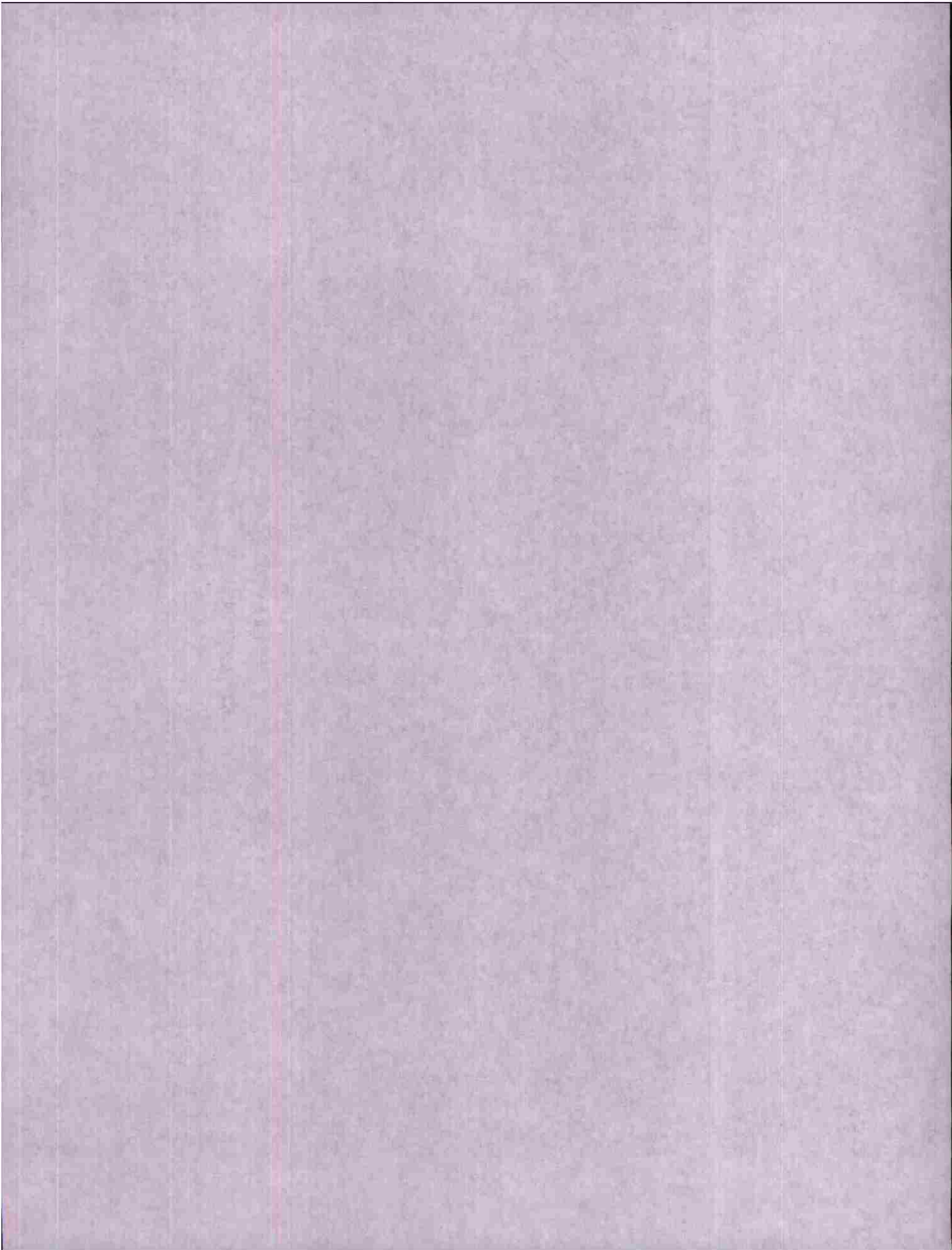
To: Aunt
From: William Keesler (no ref to Sam)
January 12, 1918

168-7567-1 Box 2 Folder - 7	RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-4325
-----------------------------------	--

SCANNED BY ACD

2007

01156160



by his colonel for a 1st lieutenant. I think the his changing branches of service ruined that and his age too. It would be nice to be a 1st now but excuse me from a Capt.

This "Pennoyer San." is a pretty place. It is on the outskirts of Kenosha & faces Lake Michigan. The lake makes it very cold now tho. The wind coming from over it is damp & sultry cold. Last Monday we were snowed out and I went down to the lake shore to try to get some pictures. The water was so cold that the only thing that kept it from freezing was the motion.

freeze. If it wasn't for the nice warm socks & sweaters, grand-mother & Charlotte have sent me I would be cold. But with these and by keeping moving fast I keep real warm.

So Sam says Capt. Feeny spoke well of me. I'm glad for it makes one feel good to know some body thinks some thing of you. I'll have to get this truck & "clown" part for him & the colonel. Sam you know was very highly recommended.

of the waves. These would freeze solid almost as soon as they broke.

The ice piled up in beautiful forms as high as twenty feet. It made beautiful towers, arches, & also sorts of mounds. I walked out on it quite a distance and it was frozen solid to the bottom. My hat it was cold. I tried to take some pictures but don't think I succeed.

This afternoon I'm going down and have my pictures taken. I had had all my plans made to give them as a present but the quarantining of the camp & my sudden move smashed all that. Yours is going to be a big one just like you wanted.

Must stop

Lots of love

your nephew

William L.

168.7567-BOX 2
FOLDER 7

THE PENNOYER SANITARIUM
KENOSHA WISCONSIN

Sat Jan 12, 1918

Dear Auntie,

I'm a plum right about writing but ever since I've been here I've been unable to do nothing but write up lecture and work in the shops. The order which sent me here put me out of all my I was and missed all the places I had. But that is all past history now.

We are here to learn the Nash Diesel Truck. It is to head to carry our ammunition.

and supplies and etc. We are to have twelve of the battery. Goodness knows what we are going to do with them all I don't. Anyway we were ordered here on 5 minute notice. I'm glad to be chosen but I'd rather be with the battery. We are to be here 30 days and in that time are to go thru all the departments and really made a truck. We already helped put one together, I've put two transmissions together, and have driven a truck about 18 miles on the road test. I'm working to the

rules, knuckles + differentials now. We
are really spending twice the amount
of time needed tho. If a man can't
learn this Quad in 10 or 15 days then
he should now be in this school.

We work eight hours a day and
have two two hour lectures each
week. We are working a little as
we have to make a written re-
port on each lecture. I like it
if the weather wasn't so cold. It
is awful.

You can't tell how
nice ~~there~~ and warm it is
down there since this morn-
ing. Well it is 2 below now +
it is predicted to go to 10 below be-
fore long. We already have 18
inches of snow on the ground
and six inches fell last night.
The side walk are little white
walled alleys now where there are
any. I had to walk out from
town last night because the
cars had stopped running and
I went with drifts up to my hips
in places. Cold gee but it was
my ears, nose + fingers hurt

168-7567-Box 2
FBI 06-7

The Pennoyer Sanitarium
Kenosha Wisconsin

Sat Jan 12, 1918

Dear Auntie,

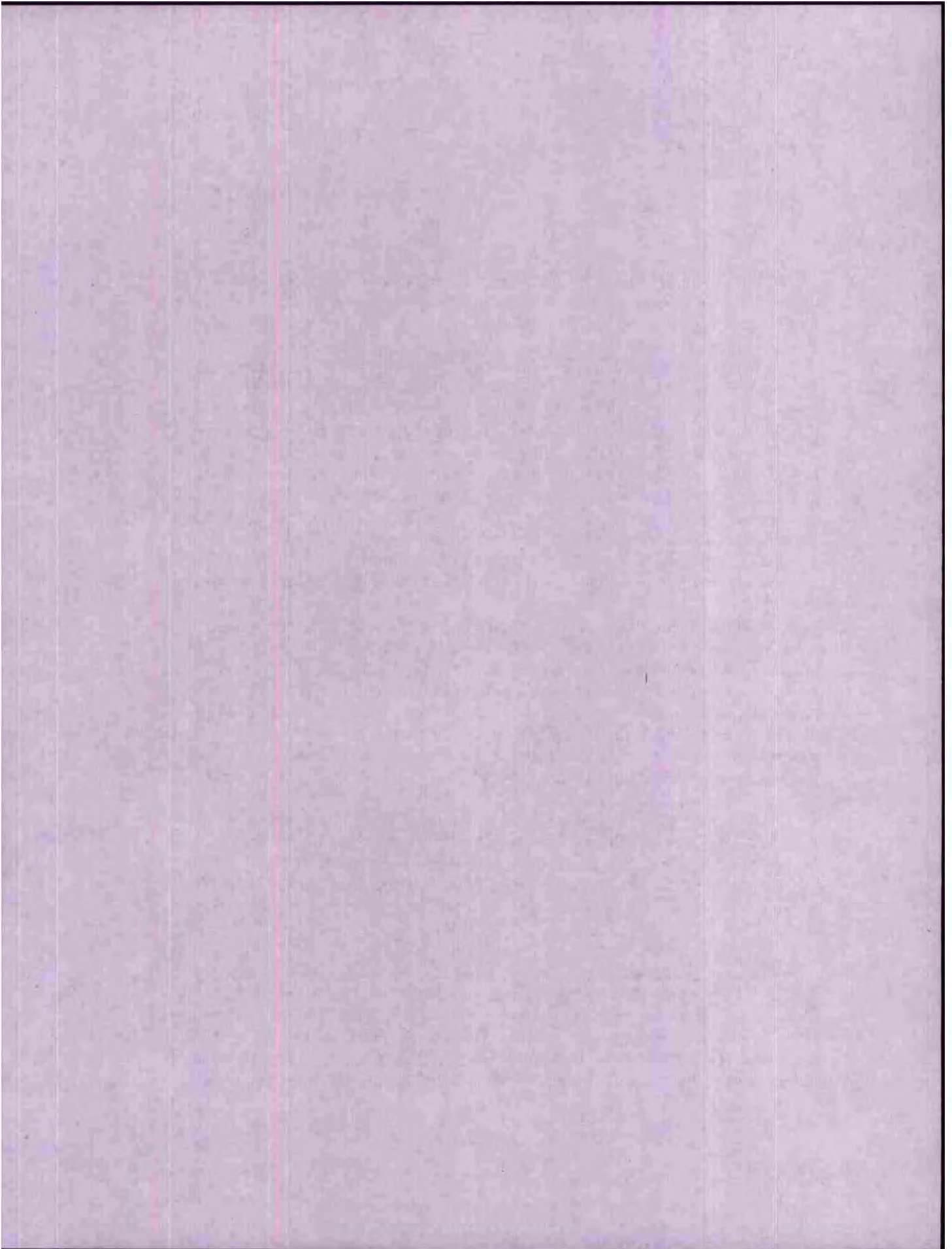
I'm a plum sight about writing but ever since I've been here I've been unable to do nothing but write up lecture and work in The Shops. The order which suit me here put me out of all my Xmas and ruined all the plans I had. But that is all past history now.

We are here to learn the Nash Quad Truck. It is and used to carry our ammunition and supplies, and etc. We are to have twelve to the battery. Goodness knows what we are going to do with them all I don't. Anyway we were ordered here on 5 minutes notice. I'm glad to be chosen but I'd rather be with the battery. We are to be (here) 30 days and in that time are to go thru all the departments and really made (sic) a truck. I've already helped put one together, I've put two transmissions together, and have driven a truck about 18 miles on the road test. I'm working to the axles, knuckles, & differentials now. We are really speeding twice the amount of time needed tho. If a man can't learn this Quad in 10 or 15 day then he should now (sic) be in this school. We work eight hours a day and have two two hour lectures each week. We are working a little as we have to make a written report on each lecture. I like it if the weather wasn't so cold. It is awful.

Your card telling how nice and warm it is down there came this morning. Well it is 2 below now and it is predicted to go to 20 below before long. We already have 13 inches of snow on the ground and six inches fell last night. The sidewalks are little white walled alleys now where there are any. I had to walk out from town last night because the cars had stopped running and I went with drifts up to my hips in places. Cold gee but it was. My ears, nose, & fingers [redacted] freeze. If it wasn't for the nice warm socks & sweaters, grandmother & Charlotte have sent me I would be cold. But with them and by keeping moving fast I keep real warm.

So Sam says Captain Feeney spoke well of me. I'm glad for it makes one feel good to know somebody thinks something of you. I'll have to get this truck down "pat" for him and the colonel. Sam you know was very highly recommended by his colonel for a 1st Lieut. I think tho his changing branches of the service ruined that and his age too. It would be nice to be a 1st now but excuse me from a Capt.

This "Pennoyer San." is a pretty place. It is on the out skirts of Kenosha & faces Lake Michigan. The lake makes it very cold now tho. The wind coming in from over it is damp & truly cold. Last Monday we were snow bound and I went down to the lake shore to try to to get some pictures. The water was so cold that the only thing that kept it from freezing was the motion of the waves. These would freeze solid almost as soon as they broke. The ice piled up in beautiful forms as high as twenty feet. It made beautiful towers, arches, & all sorts of mounds. I walked out on it quite a distance and it was



frozen solid to the bottom. My but it was cold. I tried to get some pictures but don't think I succeeded.

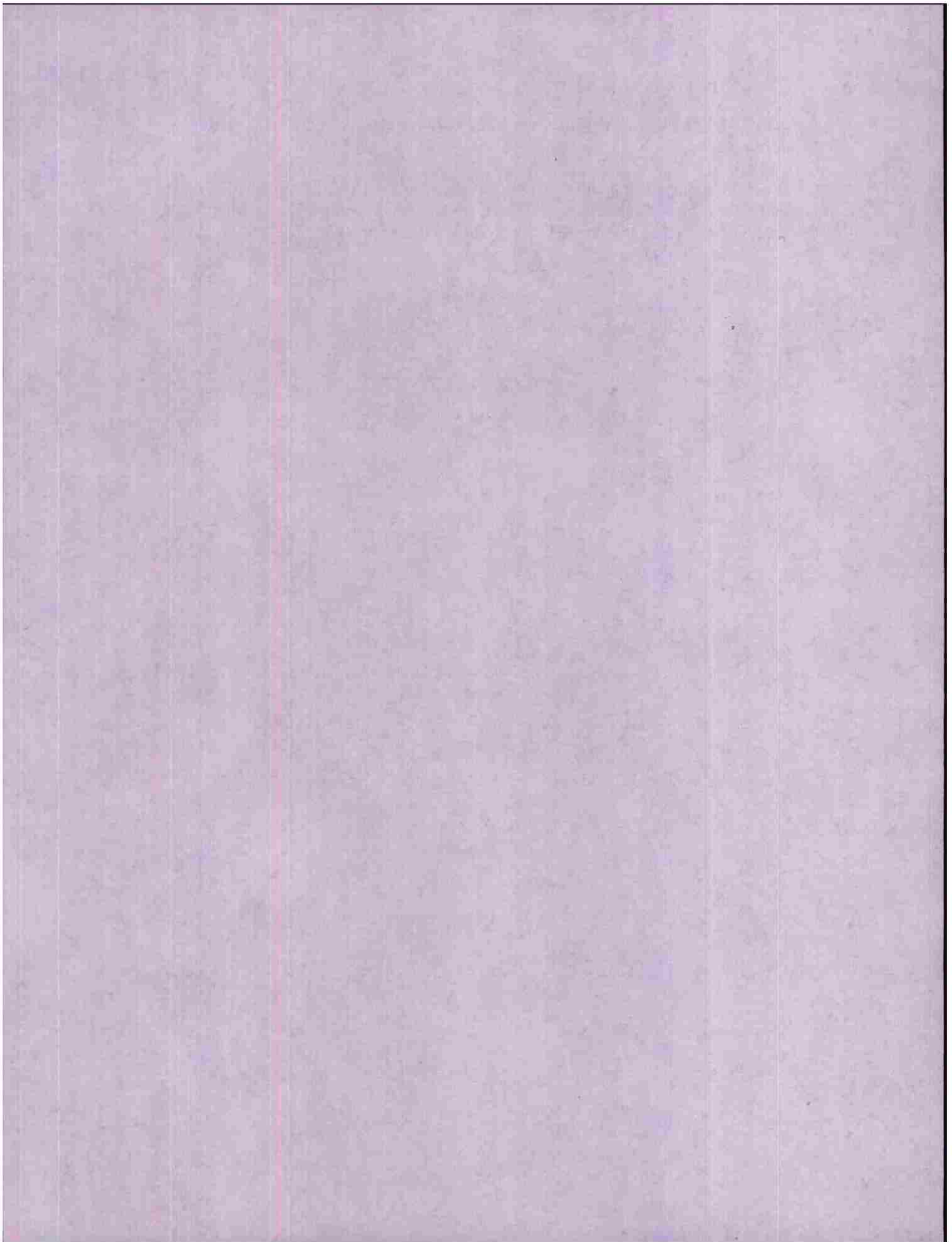
This afternoon I'm going down and have my picture taken. I had had all my plans made to give them as Xmas presents but the quarantine of the camp and my sudden move smashed all that. Yours is going to be a big one just like you wanted.

Must stop.

Lots of love

Your nephew

William K.



70-10078
Form 1-50-1005-01
76-161-018

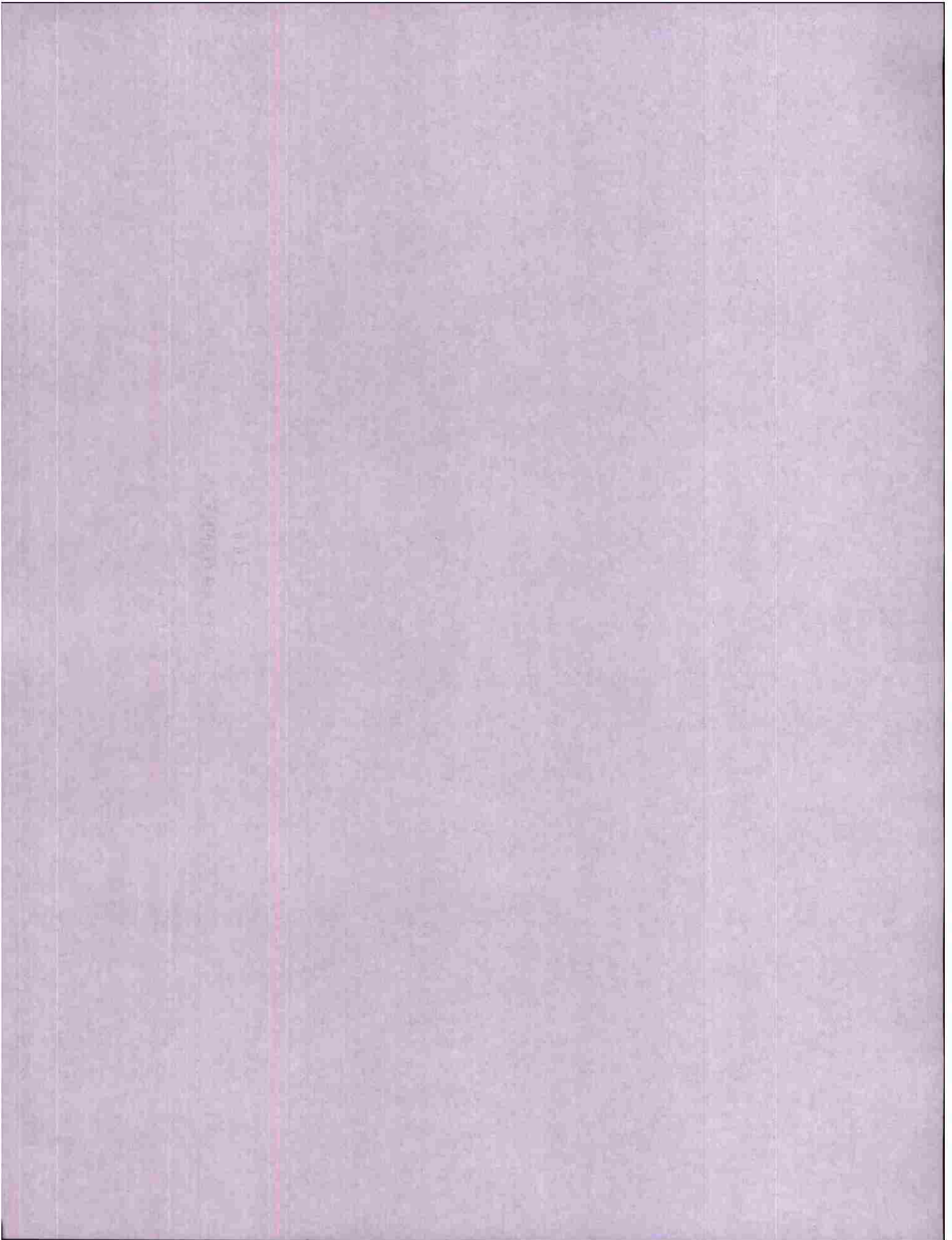
168-7567-00X2

Folder 8
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency P.O. Box 117, AF 16117-0117

SCANNED BY ACD

2007

011561160



168.7567-BOX 2 FOLDER 8	RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112	Student Officer, Panama Port Field 74. Dec. 04 01156160 Sunday, 10
----------------------------	---	---

Dear Dwyer, I come back from the "School of Fire" about noon this morning and found your letter and the helmet. I sure thank you for both - for they are certainly appreciated by this "young soldier boy." I shall wear the helmet tomorrow evening when I go up. I've been up four times already and go up four times this week. You have no idea how

something across the face keeps when you are in the air. You know the air rushes by your head at a great rate, although there is an arrangement to keep the direct wind of the propeller off of your head. If you want to do something else for this same "dumie" - put me a pair of heavy socks - I can wear them when I wear high top shoes. I saw Capt. Nulen this A.M. over at the School of Fire and has a nice shot with him. Major Metts has gone, as you say.

I will certainly introduce myself to Mr. Frank Wright the next time I go to Oklahoma City. I have stopped at The Lee Hotel three times. Come to think of it I'm sure I've spoken to Mr. Frank Wright. He asked me to eat Thanksgiving dinner at the hotel - but I declined thinking some soldier less able than I could eat there in my place. You see every soldier there on Thanksgiving Day was invited to dinner by some one.

I would certainly love to be with you all for Xmas - Gee! I would love it - I will be thinking about you two and I'm sure the "inner man" will be happy to get anything to eat which you will send. He speaks for experience.

It was a shame to tell me of so many ducks being killed. I never ~~heard~~ heard of hunting being excellent being good except when you and I are away. I see prospects tho. for wonderful

4 or 5 or more thousands ft. in the sky. There isn't much danger in these ships after you get up - for they are as big and if turned over would right themselves - what I fear is fire in the air. You see we use Radio sets in spotting the shots for the artillery - and if you ever have a gasoline leak - and they are not uncommon - there

hunting in France - it may be "Hunt" and it may be a soft spot to fall on. I hope the former, naturally.

It seems quite the thing now to see the very few of aeroplanes and a balloon. when I first came I stopped and watched them for some time, but now I go along like I was used to it. But the "ships" (I mean the "ship") are so pretty sailing around

is a chance - for fire - you see the
observer sits over a 100 gal. tank and
there are two more in front of you
holding 25 gal. each. I intend to be very
careful tho. If I smell gas - down we
come - right away -

We have a fine set of "fellows" here
taking the course. Most of them are
near my age - but several much older.

I have finished my physical exam -
which was delayed - and am normal.
I know if Doc has examined me
he has so already. There's one consola-
tion tho - if there was anything wrong
the doctor should have found it by
now.

Supper is nearly ready and I must be
there on time - so good by for this time. Remember
me to Mr. Wright and Charles.
With love,

Samuel

P.S.

Write W^{right} and even him out.

149. 7567-130X2
FOI00008

(no envelope)

Student Officer's Barracks
Post Field,
Ft. Sill, Okla.
Sunday 16

Dear Dayer,

I came back from the "School of Fire" about noon this morning and found your letter and the helmet. I sure thank you for both – for they are certainly appreciated by the "poor soldier boy." I shall wear the helmet tomorrow evening when I go up. I've been up four times already and go up four times this week. You have no idea how something across the face helps when you are in the air. You know the air rushes by your head at a great rate, although there is an arrangement to keep the direct wind of the propeller off of our head. If you want to do something else for this same "Sammie" – knit me a pair of heavy socks – I can use them when I wear high top shoes.

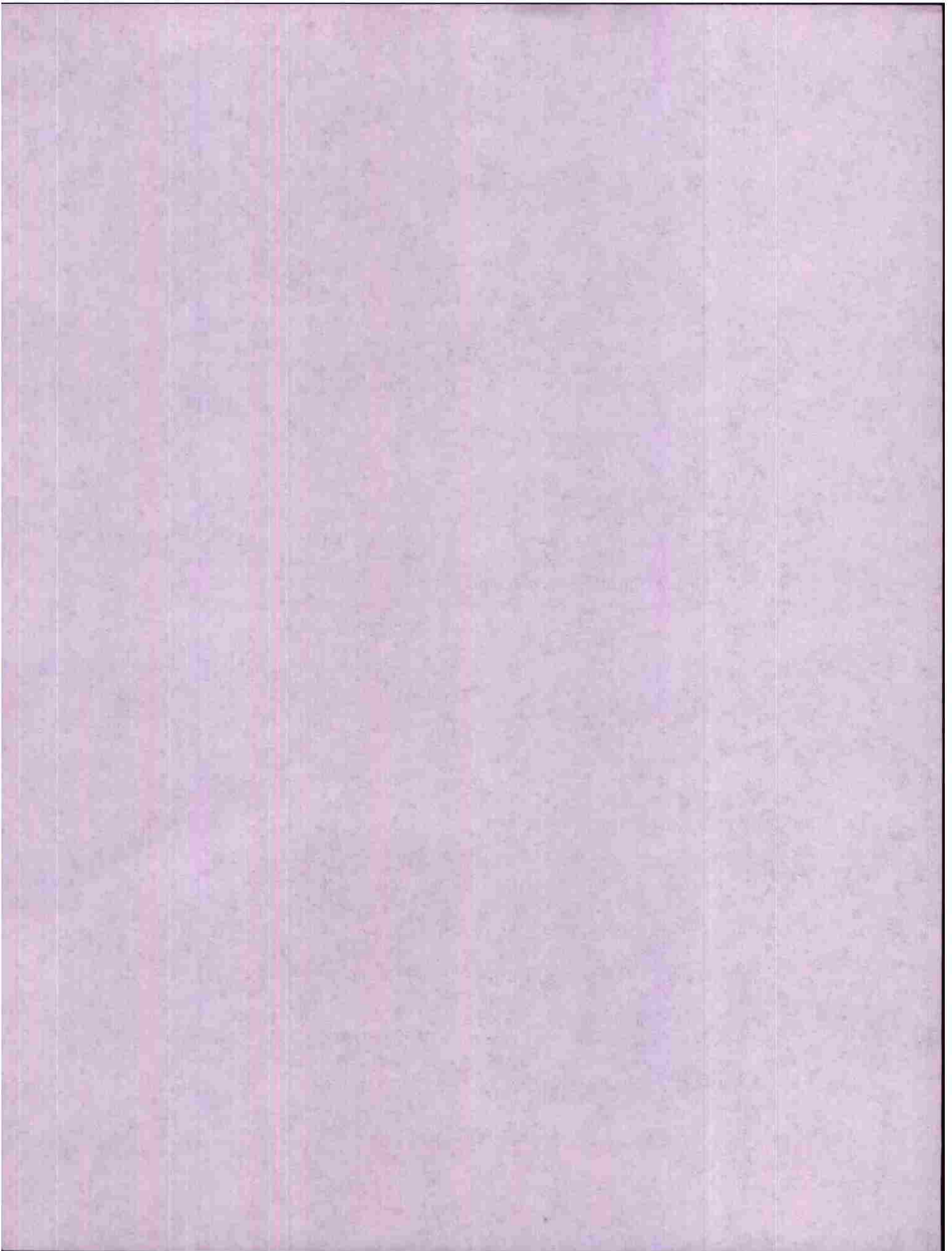
I saw Capt. Hulen this A.M. over at the School of Fire and had a nice chat with him. Major Metts has gone, as you say, I will certainly introduce myself to Mr Frank Wright the next time I go to Oklahoma City. I have stopped at the Lee Huckins twice. Come to think of it, I'm sure I've spoken to Mr. Frank Wright – He asked me to eat Thanksgiving Dinner at the Hotel – but I declines thinking some soldier less able than I could eat there in my place – you see every soldier on Thanksgiving Day was invited to dinner by someone.

I would certainly love to be with you all for Xmas – Gee! I would love it – I will be thinking about you tho and I'm sure the "inner man" will be happy to get anything to eat which you will send. He speaks from experience.

It was a shame to tell me of so many ducks being killed. I never heard of hunting being excellent being good except when W^m and I are away. I see prospects, tho, for wonderful hunting in France – it may only be "Huns" and it may be a soft spot to fall on. I hope the former, naturally.

It seems quite the thing now to see the sky full of aeroplanes and a balloon. When I first came I stopped and watched them for some time, but now I go along like I was used to it. But the "ships" (we call them "ships") are so pretty sailing around 4 or 5 or more thousand ft. in the sky.

There isn't much danger in these shops after you get up – for they are so big and if turned over would right themselves – what I fear is fire in the air. You see we use radio sets in spotting the shots for the artillery – and if you ever have a gasoline leak – and they are not uncommon – there is a chance for fire – you see the observer sits over a 100 gal. tank and there are two more in front of you holding 25 gals. Each. I intend to be very careful tho. If I smell gas – down we come – right away.



We have a fine set of "fellows" here taking the course. Most of them are near my age – yet several much older.

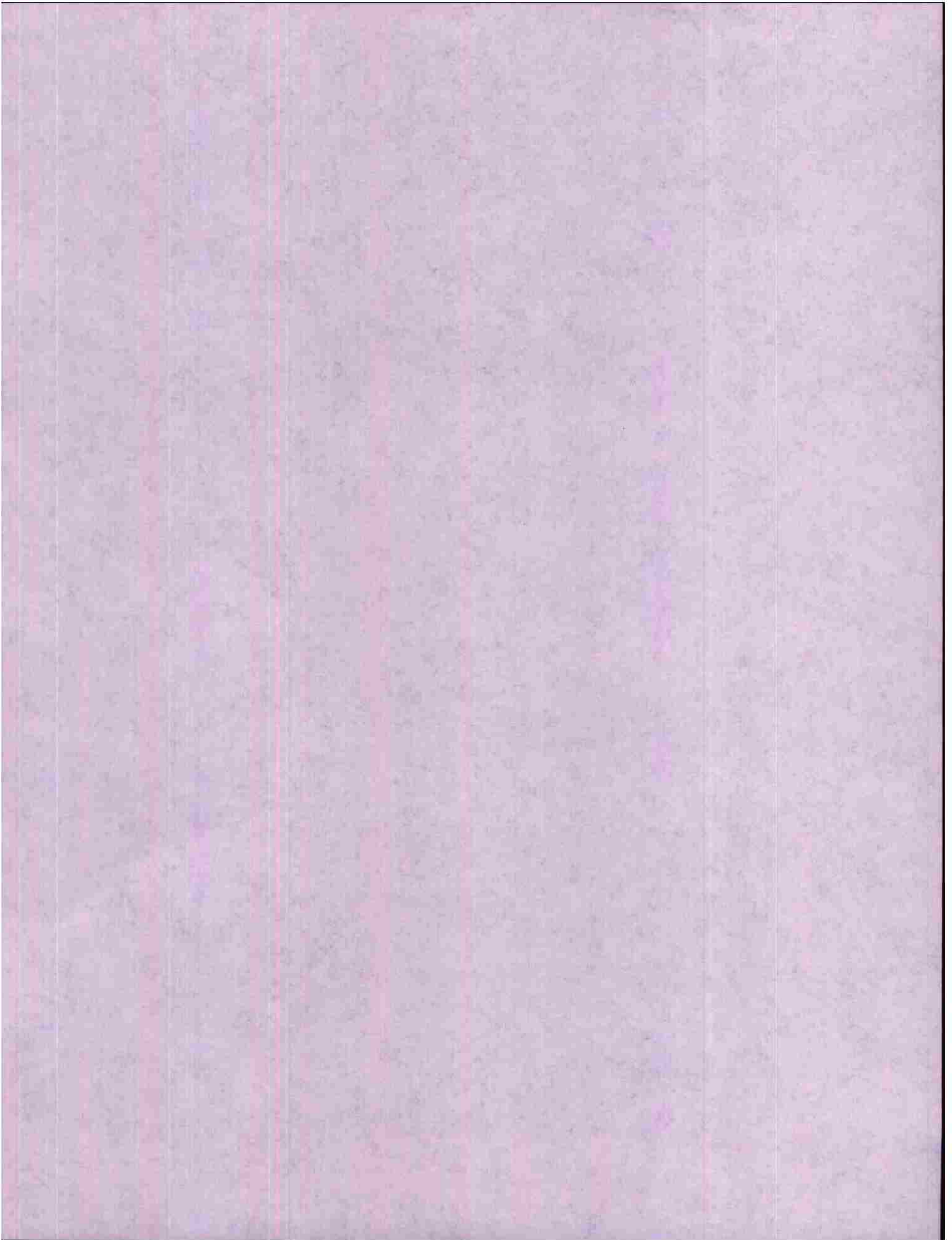
I have finished my physical exam – which was delayed – and am normal. I know if I've been examined once I've had 10 already. There's one consolation tho – if there was anything wrong the doctors should have found it by now.

Supper is nearly ready and I must be there on time – so good by for this time. Remember me to Mr. Wright and Charles.

With love,

Sam, Jr.

P.S. Write W^m and cuss him out.



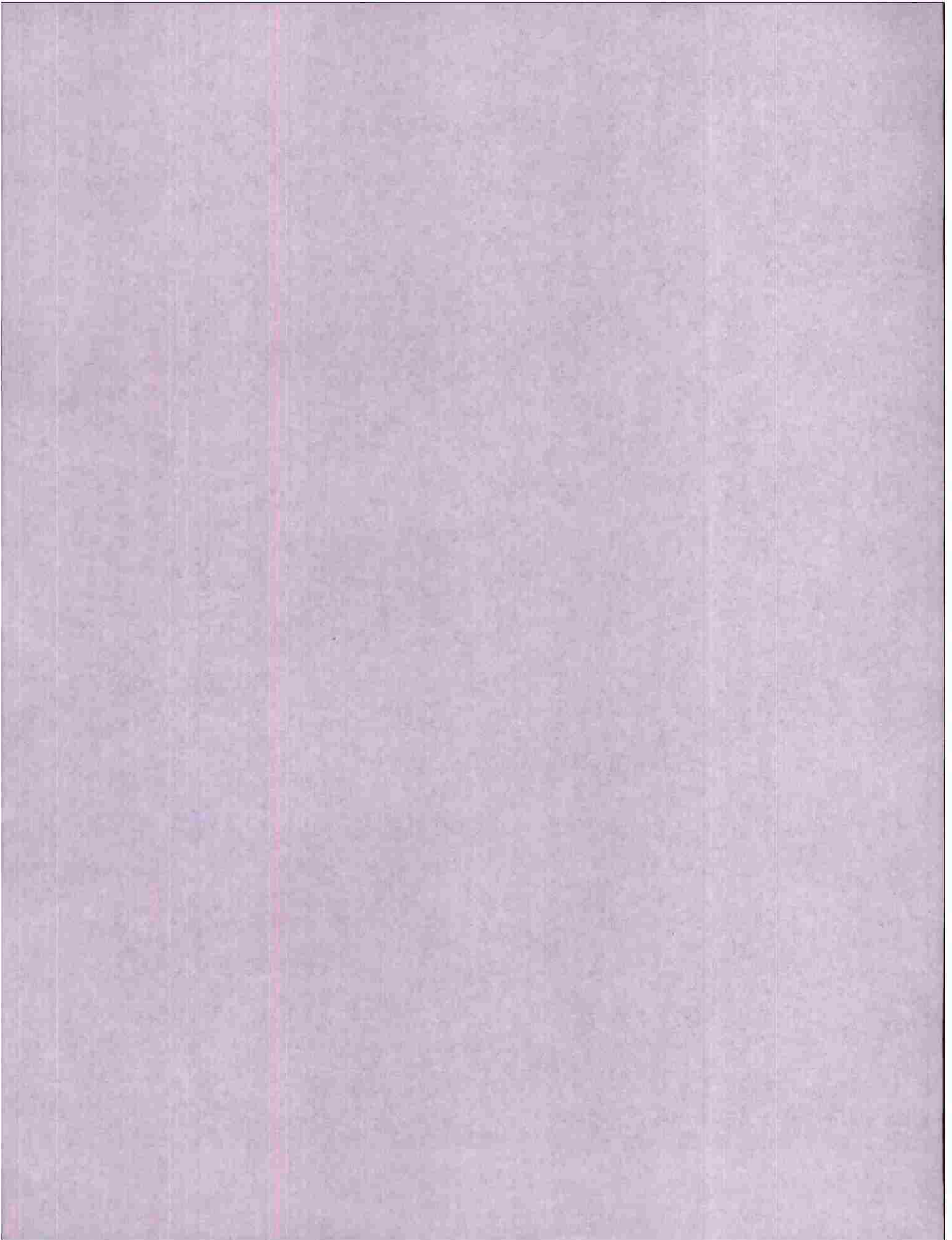
To: William Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
January 8, 1957/1718

168-7568-8012
FOUR 9
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6024

SCANNED BY ACP

2007

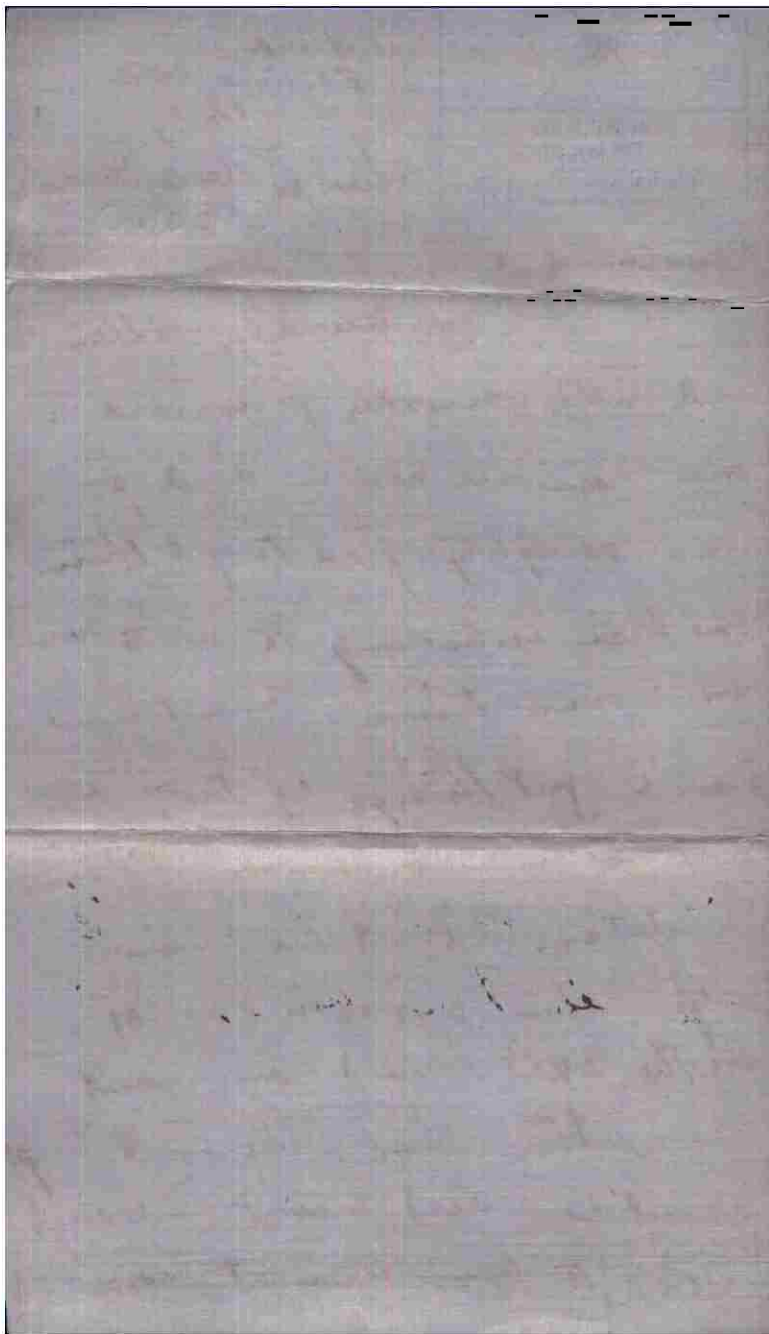
01156160



100-1501-0000	Post Field, Ft. Sill, Okla.
FOLDER - 9	1/8/17
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424	School for Airline Reserves 01156160

Dear William,

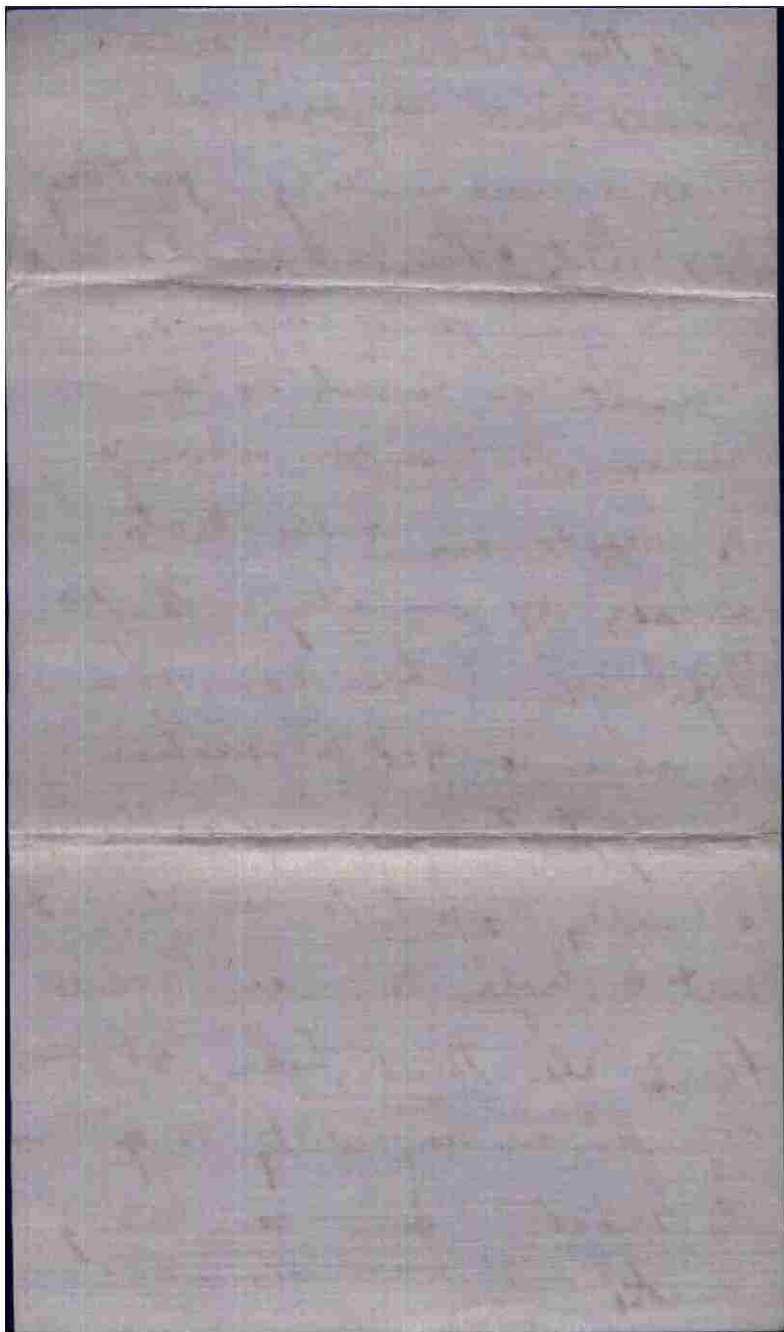
your telegram, letter
 and letter ~~mother~~ forwarded to
 me have all come and I
 was mighty glad to get them.
 I've been intending to write you
 for some time - you know
 how I put things off tho. I
 wanted to send you a telegram
 Christmas but let the chance
 slip when I was in Lawton
 on the 24th - and you can't
 send them from there. I thought
 about you and how we would
 like to have been at home



with the flocks - and how we
 would have enjoyed going
 duck + quail hunting - for they
 had lots of them I understand.

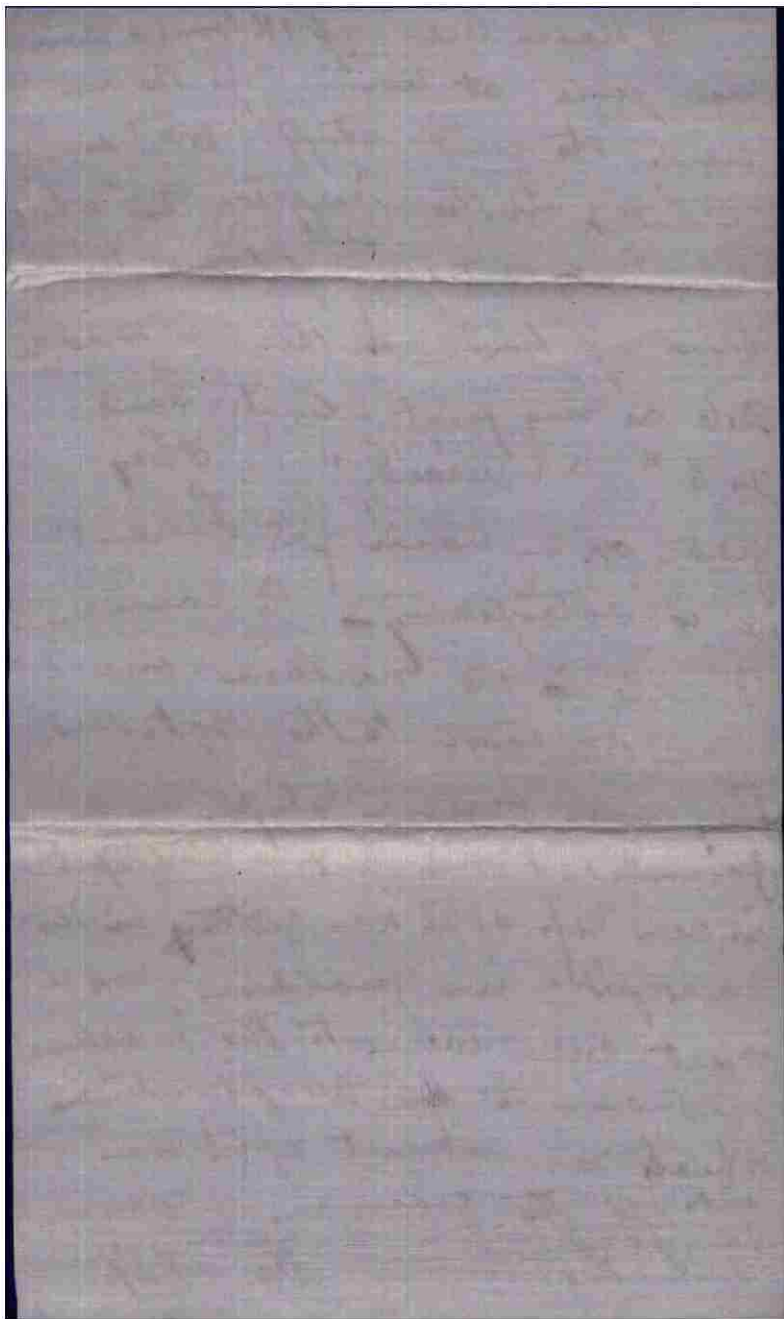
I was quite surprised -
 almost as much as you I
 guess, to hear you were going
 to Wisconsin to the Motor
 School. If you stay with the
 "dope" you learn you should
 be able to get a position
~~along that line~~ after the War.
 I hardly expect to survive it
 but I hope to - and while
 there's life there's hope. It all
 depends on my ability to ^{use} ~~to~~
 the machine gun - and having
 luck.

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

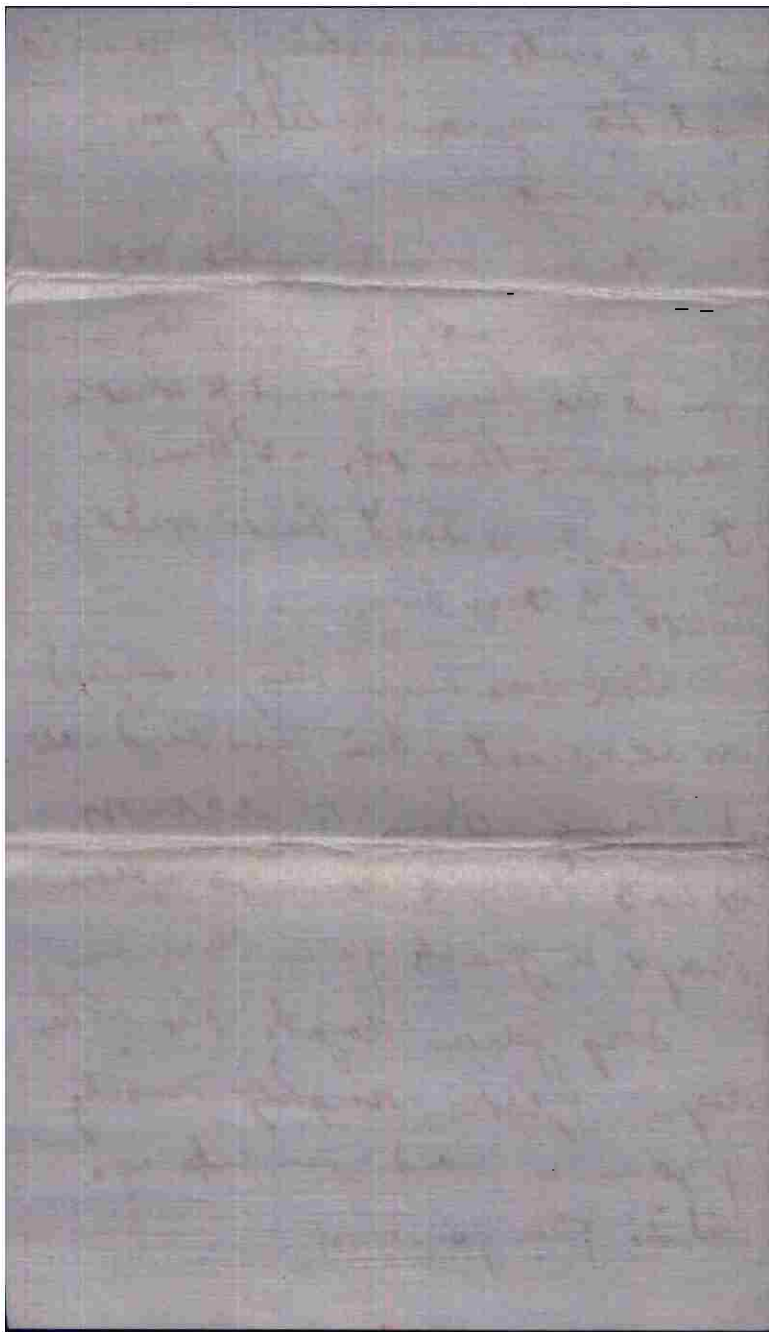
I have been up 14 times and
 am quite at home in the air
 now. Its great stuff. We have
 started on the "buff targets" which
 simulate Artillery fire. I have
 been up twice in them - made
 2.6 on my first shot - and
 2.3 " " second " - They
 grade on a basis of 3 there -
 2 is satisfactory - of course
 Radio is the method we
 use to talk to the Boat, and
 they use ground strips and
 jennels - We put a Radioset
 in our lap after we get in the
 cockpit of our machine - con-
 nect one wire to the machine
 and one to a 200 ft. antenna
 which we let out after we
 get off the ground. of course
 all the wires of the ship



It is quite fascinating - I will
get the regular Artillery in a
week or so.

From now until we
graduate we fly every day -
we'll be here about 4 weeks
longer I think. - Then to
France - I don't think we'll go
back to our Regs.

Coe has been disqualified
on account of his eyes and will
probably return to Jackson.
I hate to see him go - Fine
Boy & a jack you observer.
Say your capt. The other
day - spoke mighty nicely
of you - said you always
did things well



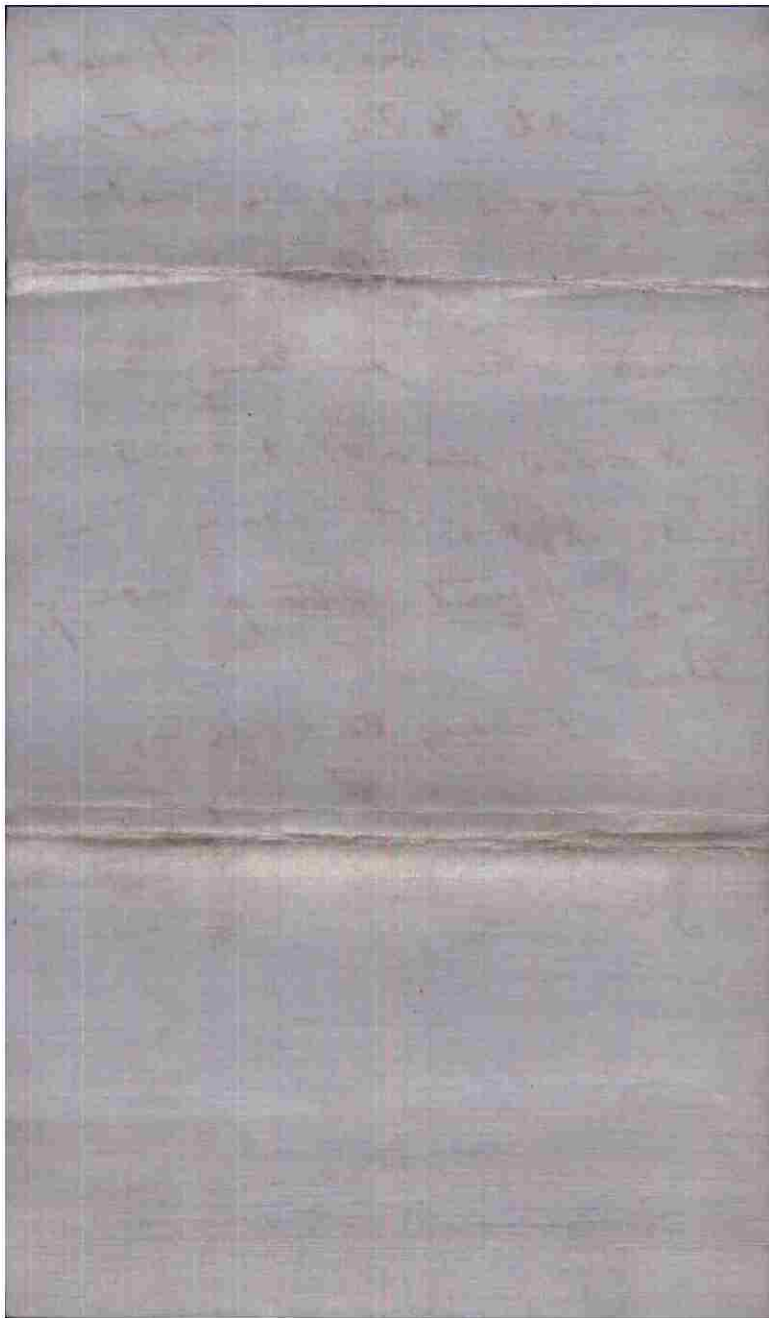
I must close for the present
and write to the sweetest girl
in the world and its not
Richmond - either. Drop me
a line when you can -

I miss you a great deal. Hope
we'll get together some of these
days. Stuart getting along
fine -

Hastily En - Kai -

-- Dan

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Post Field,
Ft. Sill, Okla
1/8/17
School for aerial observation

168-7567-Box 2
Folger - 9

Dear William,

Your telegram, letter and letter mother forwarded to me have all come and I was might glad to get them. I've been intending to write you for some time - you know how I put things off tho (sic). I wanted to send you a telegram Christmas but let the chance slip when I was in Lawton on the 24th - and you can't send them from here. I thought about you and how we would like to have been at home with the folks - and how we would have enjoyed going duck & quail hunting - for they had lots of them I understand.

I was quite surprised - almost as much as you I guess, to hear you were going to Wisconsin to the Motor School. If you stay with the "dope" you learn you should be ale to get a position along that line after the war. I hardly expect to survive it but I hope to - and while there's life there's hope. It all depends on my ability to use the machine gun - and having luck.

I have been up 14 times and am quite at home in the air now. It's great stuff. We have started on the "puff targets" which simulate artillery fire. I have been up twice on them - made 2.6 on my first shoot - and 2.3 " " (sic) second " - they grade on a basis of 3 here - 2 is satisfactory - of course Radio is the method we use to talk to the Bat. And they use ground strips and pommels - we put a Radio Set in our lap after me getting in the cockpit of our machine - connect one wire to the machine and one to a 200 ft. antenna which we let out after we get off the ground. Of course all the wires of the ship it is quite fasinating (sic) - I will get to the regular artillery in a week or so.

From now until we graduate we fly every day - we'll be here about 4 weeks longer I think. - Then to France - I don't think we'll go back to our Reg.

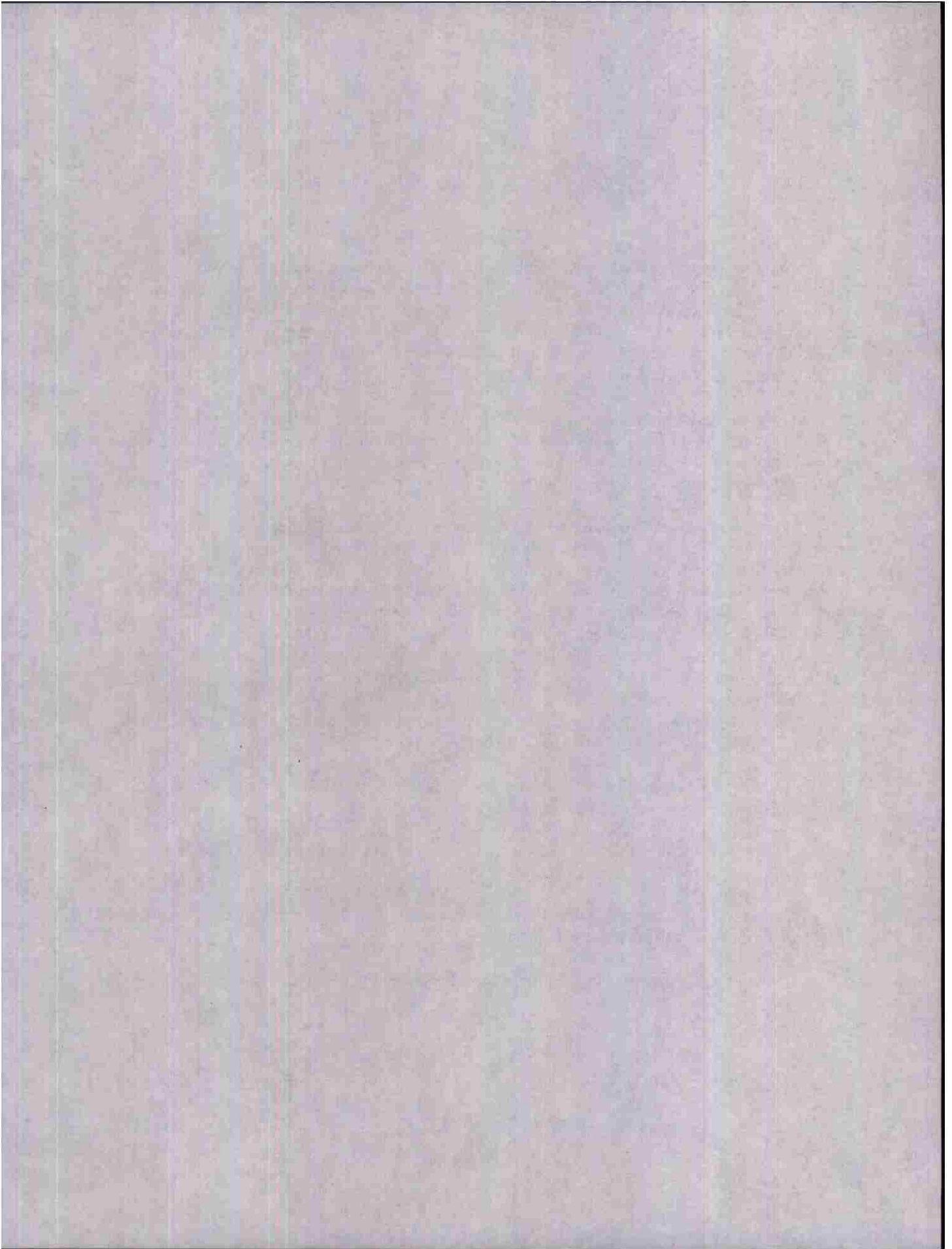
Cal has been disqualified on account of his eyes and will probably return to Jackson. I hate to see him go - fine boy & a peach of an observer.

Saw your Capt. the other day - spoke might nicely of you - said you always did things well.

I must close for the present and write to the sweetest girl in the world and its not Richmond - either. Drop me a line when you can.

I miss you a great deal. Hope we'll get together some of these days. Stuart getting along fine.

Hastily En - Kai -,
Sam



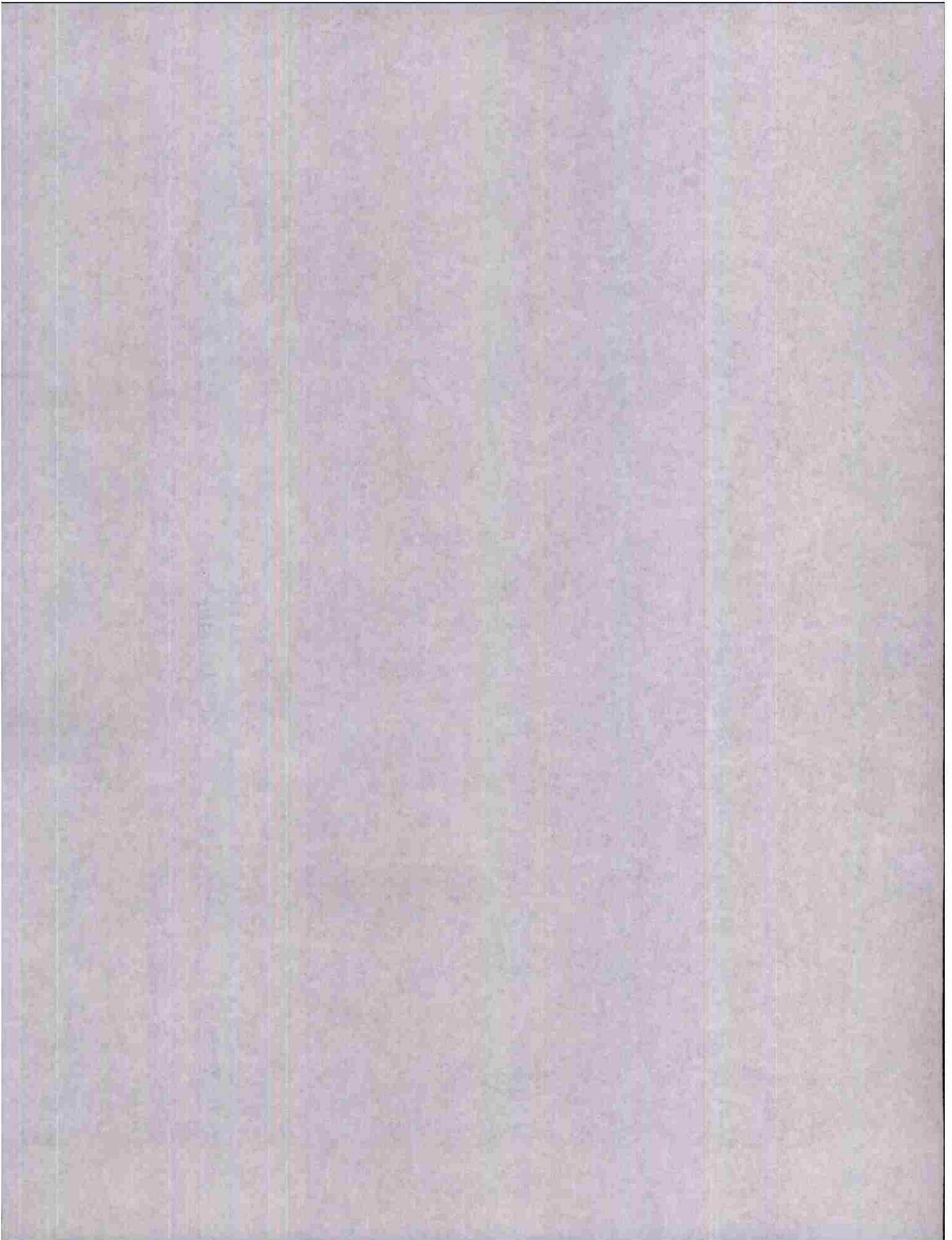
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
Postmarked January 21, 1918

168-7567-Box 2
RECEIVED 10
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency McWells Ave, AL 36112-6434

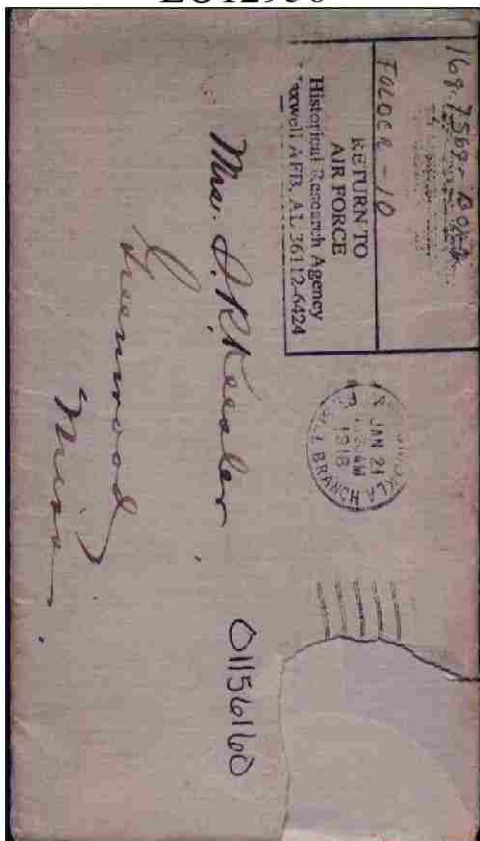
SCANNED BY ACD

2111

01156160



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958

a pair of more glasses - and a
 nice good clean - nice be-
 coming to you - & believe - get
 late for you to wear them.
 opening of eyes - they are
 getting quite strict - the least
 excuse. a number
 can be regarded - & out of
 my section were notified to
 say. I am "normal" as far as
 them.
 I am practically graduated.
 I have been laid off of flying
 the "buff targets" - see but a
 pair of the 3 highest releases

168.7567-BOX 2
 FOI 004-10

Sunday night.

Dearest Mother,

Station's letter of the
 eleventh was certainly enjoyable.
 I do hope the cotton business
 will turn out good this
 season - and more things
 lower for future as well as
 are concerned.

I am very sorry to know
 your eyes are giving you
 trouble. Don't strain them please.
 It will seem so soon to
 have you wearing glasses - but

are then with them - we are waiting
 now to work with the artillery - of the
 "make a success of what we are
 them. While we are awaiting our turn
 to shoot it at I guess we will
 practice with our "best friend" the Lewis
 Machine Gun.
 So I guess we will learn the
 more after next session. However,
 nothing definite. I don't know whether
 we get a room for the night or not.
 I think not tho. I may get one of the
 get to Garden City. near the lake - your
 room will come by know if this is a
 possible chance -
 they have some rooms of the men
 to the instruction here - I don't think they
 accept tho. now what would you say you
 me I and they asked me to look at
 in some hands - they might ask me - I
 want to go to France - and then for a
 by the way, I might be at night too

I've probably read it in the Sunday paper.

Seems so strange to talk about "good weather at Guernsey, Guise, & I know you have not enjoyed it much - especially, these winter ones. The weather here is also very bad - the enchanting wind is

the worst part of it.

Yesterday we had a "Contact Patrol Problem" with the Infantry. Instead of reading our message down to Division 14th. My wisdom

to stay here. I guess I'll go on over and do my bit on the front & would be doing the same thing if I stood here as an instructor; wouldn't I?

Of course, I'm going on a "new" proportion - for I know's been around - and probably had other ideas to leave your house - and father's too.

Strout got a telegram from his mother today congratulating him on receiving a posthumous award for having heard nothing of it - I hope its true.

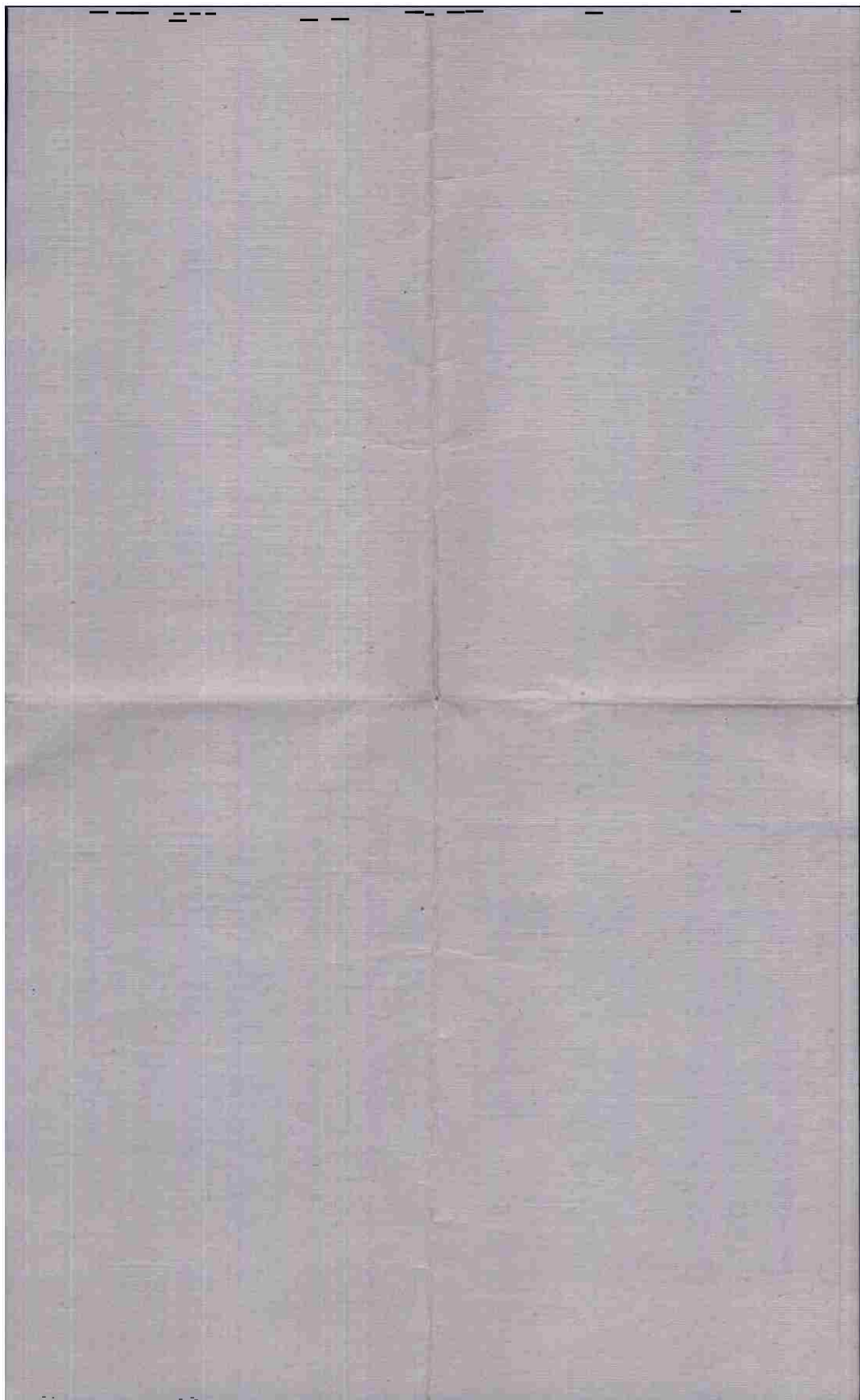
we made a bright door for the
 along the river. we put the message
 in the door and when over the 14th. we
 dropped it to the - ground it's along
 and was thrown. we had to take for the
 drift. from the time I left the ground
 into I hit it again. was only 14 mi.
 I flew about 10 miles. knew my drift &
 made a - pointed the - road a
 message for a house at Dist. 144.
 came by a drifts my message and
 looked - knew that rather than work
 sent it's message. with me my spot &
 for I located the drifting wrong - I
 took the wrong road in the way to go.
 But this kind of work shows to show
 copy. I made 2,185 in Radio last
 week. "was the action" - shows my other
 subject but didn't look in the
 Record with for the 1st, last Jan. &
 can for 21. Record - with almost all

Dan sent me a pair of socks
too. He got Mrs. Ellington to
knit them for me.

I enjoy reading the train
news in the Commonwealth
which comes very regularly. It
doesn't contain much news
but I enjoy looking at Horsey
column etc.

Congratulation on being
elected "Representative." His wife said
you were elected President.

I must close now. I am trying
to see you before long. Got card
from Helen. Love most
kindly love from Dan & Mrs. Ellington.



168-7567-Box 2
Fall 1918 - 10

Postmarked Jan 21, 1918
Lawton, Okla
Ft Sill Branch
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
Greenwood Miss

Sunday Night.

Dearest Mother,

Father's letter of the eleventh was certainly enjoyed. I do hope the cotton business will turn out good this season and make things easier for father as well as all concerned.

I am very sorry to know your eyes are giving you trouble. Don't strain them please. It will seem so queer to have you wearing glasses- but a pair of nose glasses- with a little gold chain- will be becoming to you - I believe- yet I hate for you to wear them.

Speaking of eyes- they are getting quite strict here about physical exams. A number have been rejected - 4 out of my section were notified today. I am "normal" so far as I know.

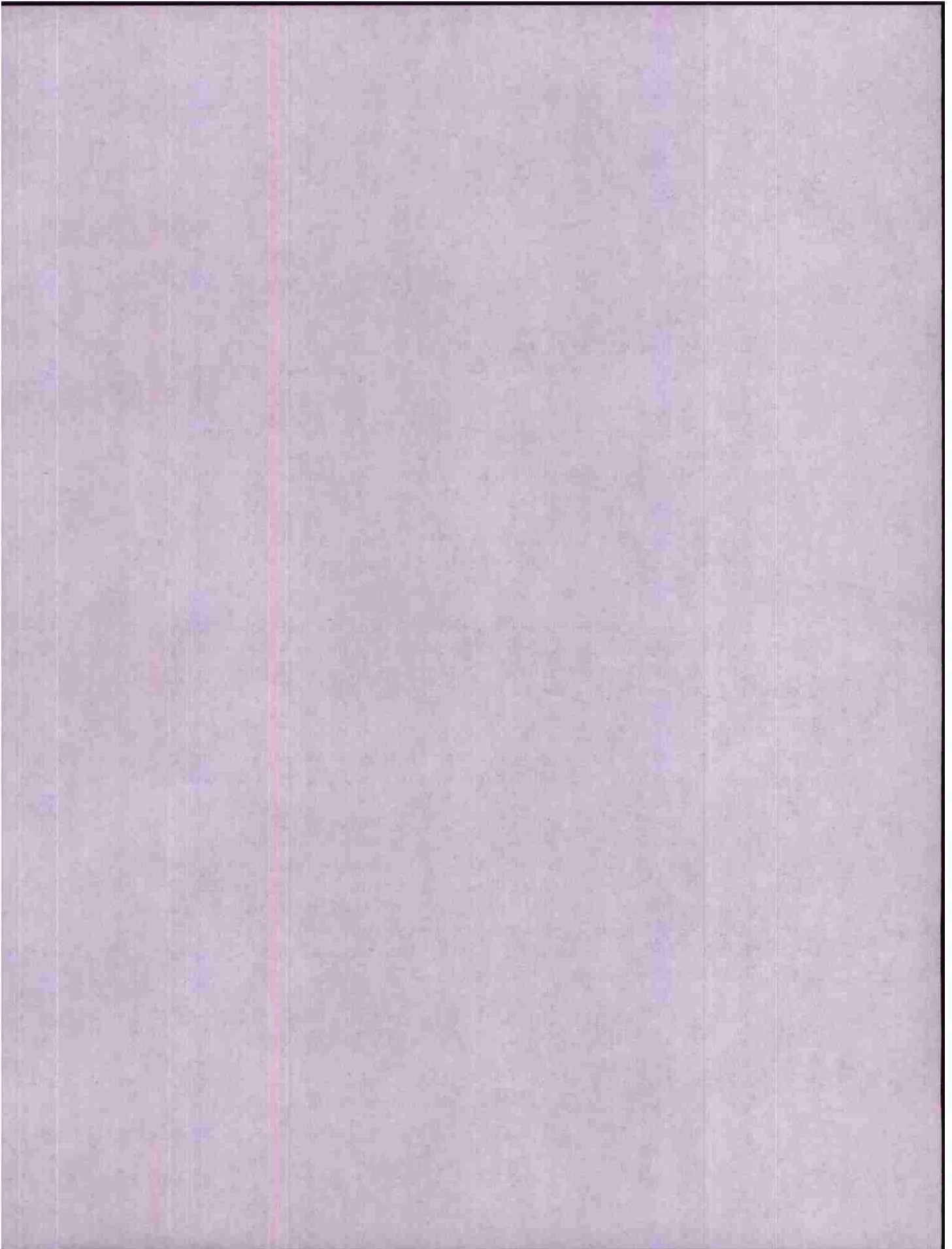
I am practically graduated. I have been laid off of flying the "puff targets" - all but a few of the 3 highest sections are thru with them- we are waiting now to work with the artillery- If we make 2 successful shoots we are thru. While we are awaiting our turn to shoot the art, I guess we will practice with our "best friend" the "Lewis Machine Gun."

So I guess we will leave here week after next sometime. However, nothing definite. I don't know whether I'll get a leave from here or not- I think not tho- I may get one after I get to Garden City. Nevertheless- your son will come by home if there's a possible chance.

They have asked several of the men to be Instructors here - I don't think they'll accept tho. Now what would you do if you were I and they asked me to Instruct in some branch- they might ask me- I want to go to France- and then from a extremely selfish standpoint I might like to stay here. I guess I'll go on over and do my bit over there- but I would be doing the same thing if I staid (sic) here as an Instructor- wouldn't I? Of course, I'm going on a mere supposition- for I haven't been asked and probably wont - still I'll like to have your views- and father's too.

Stuart got a telegram from his mother today congratulating him on receiving a 1st Lieutenancy - and he has heard nothing of it. I hope its true. They probably saw it in the sunday paper.

Seems so strange to talk about zero weather at Greenwood, Miss. I know you



have not enjoyed it much- especially those without coal. The weather here is still very cold- the everlasting wind is the worst part of it.

Yesterday we had a "Contact Patrol Problem" with the infantry. Instead of sending our message down to Division Hdq. by wireless we used a weighted sack fastened to along red streamer. We put the message in the sack and when over the Hgq. we dropped it to them- of course if a strong wind was blowing we had to allow for the drift. From the time I left the ground until I hit it again was only 14 min. I flew about 4 miles located my Infantry & Bat. Hdq., pinpointed them- read a message from a pannel at Bat. Hdq., came by & dropped my message and landed- now that's rather rapid work isn't it? However with all my speed I fear I located the Infantry wrong- I took the wrong road on the map to go by. But this kind of work should be done rapidly. I made 2.85 in Radio last week - "Lead the section"- passed my other subjects but didn't lead in them.

Received letter from Auntie, Aunt Janie & card from Ed. Keesler- written aboard ship-

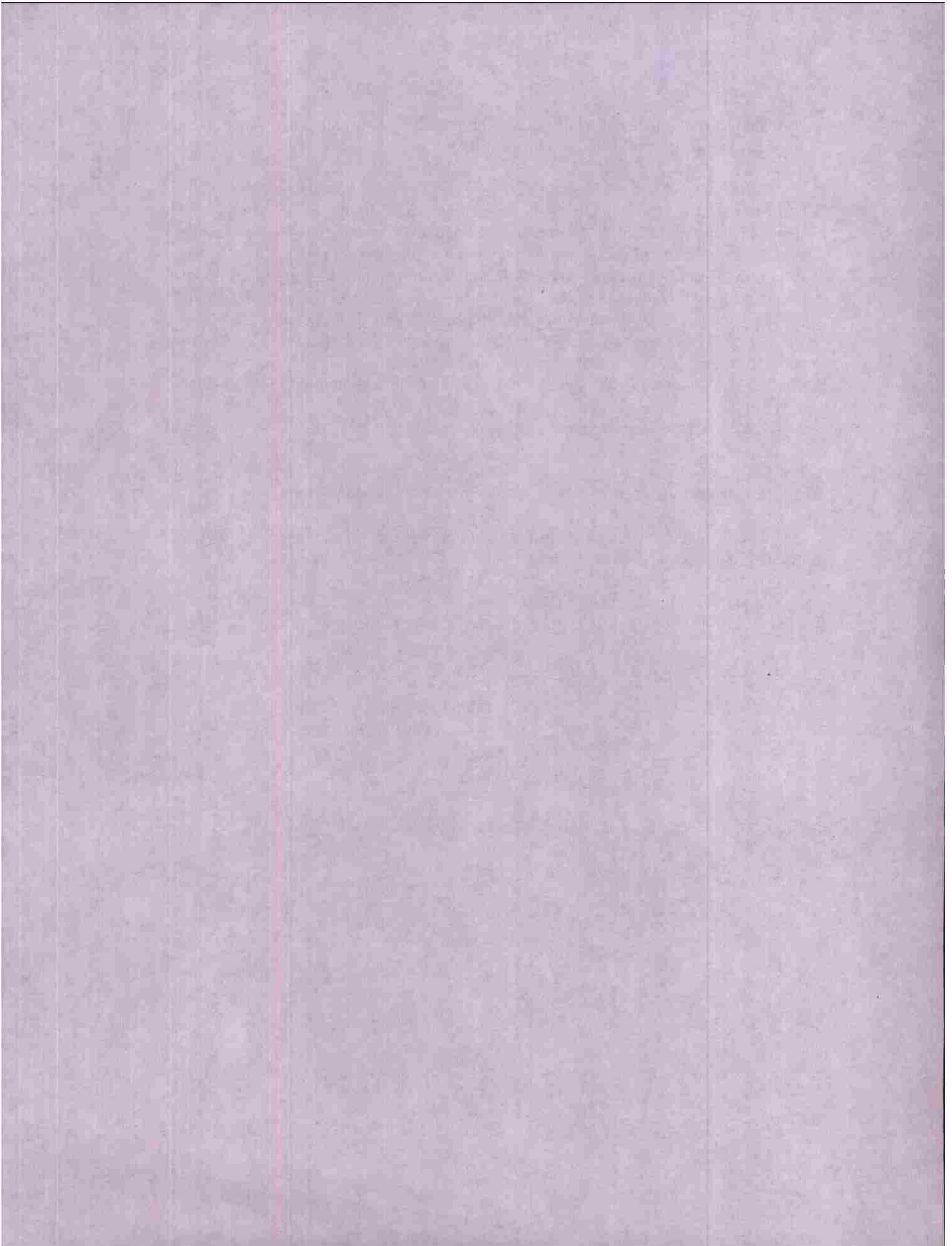
Dayer sent me a pair of socks too. She got Mrs. Ellington to knit them for me.

I enjoy reading the town news in the Commonwealth which comes very regularly. It doesn't contain much news but I enjoy looking at Society columns etc.

Congratulations on being elected "Registrar." I'm surprised you weren't elected President.

I must close now. I am hoping to see you before long. Got card from W^m this week.

With lots of love
Your devoted son,
Sam Jr.



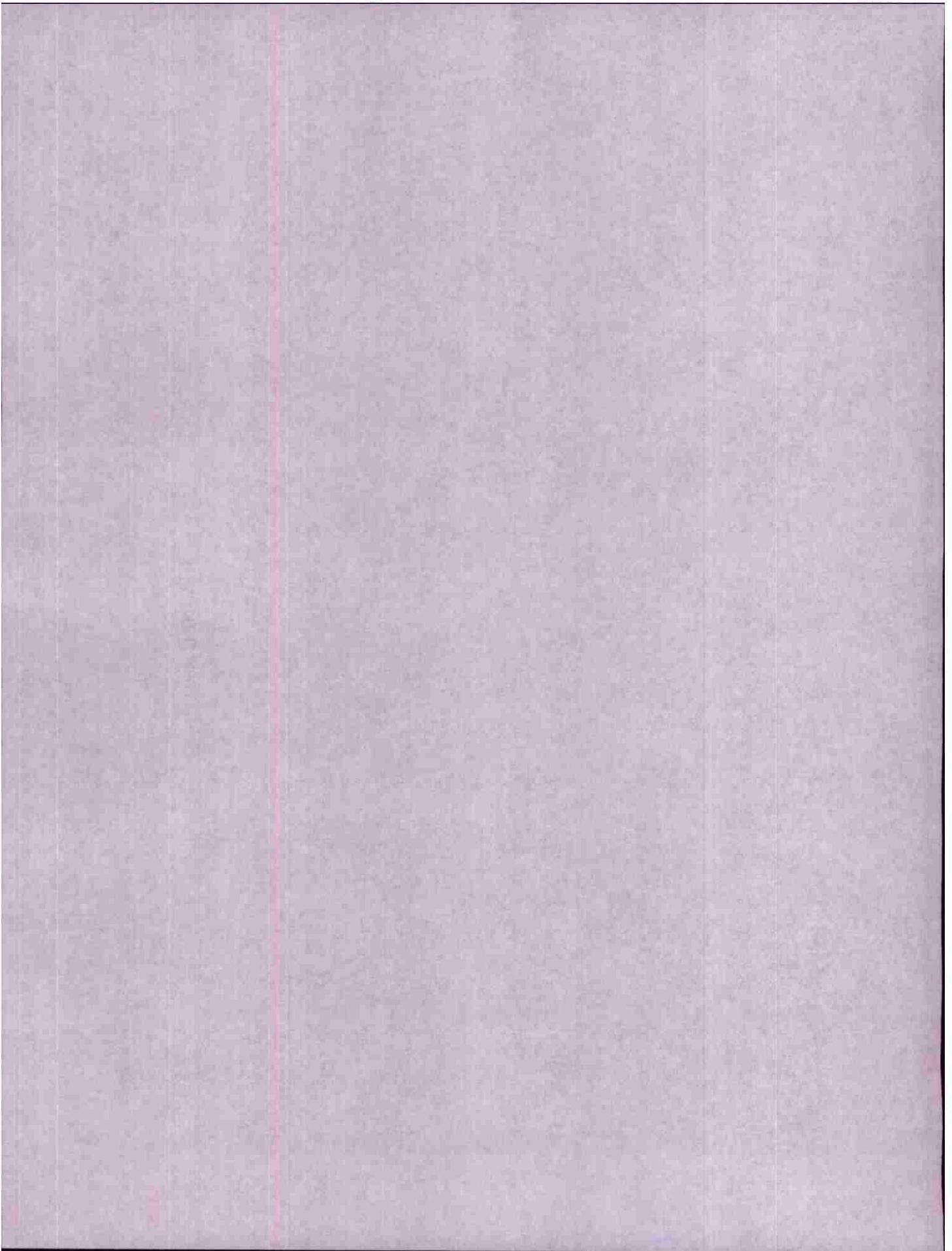
To: Gen S.R. Keesler
From: William Keesler (slight ref to Sam)
Postmarked January 21, 1918

169.7567-6042
Folien 11
RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 3

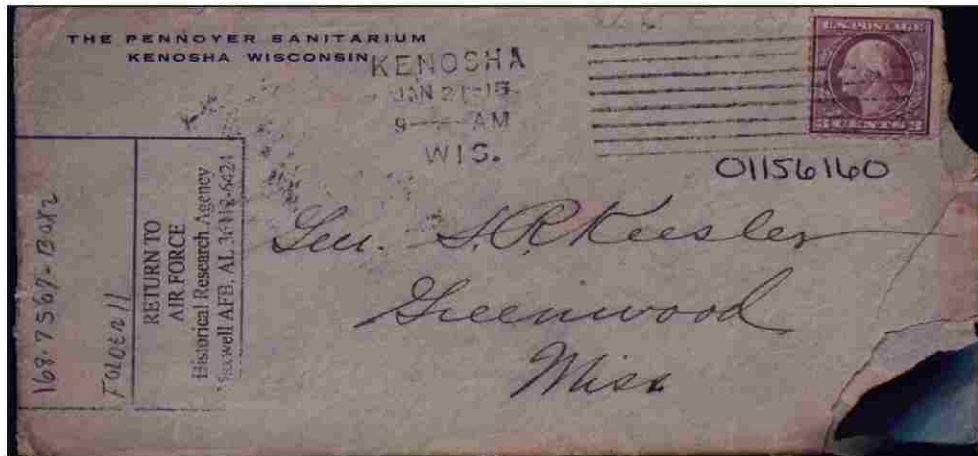
SCANNED BY ACD

2017

01156160



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

Please tell for the studying of
 the tractor being built here.
 I know they have a real
 nice enough course there,
 with teachers, set hours & etc.
 We shall certainly get more
 out of the course. We shall be
 there under the 17th of Feb. here
 on my birthday. We have gotten
 a lot of good of the course here
 that there in that we don't
 know how to get at. We are
 told to report here at 8 P.M. &
 are turned home in the factory
 to work we have no set

168-7567-00X
 Folder - 11

THE PENNOYER SANITARIUM
 KENOSHA WISCONSIN

Dear Father

Sincerely

We have been shut
 down since Friday night for
 lack of coal or rather because
 everyone else lacks coal. But our
 boiler cause them from looking
 on this morning authorizing
 the continuing of work on this block.
 Our little band of officers
 had been since leave of absence
 until yesterday morning so
 we really have a couple
 of days. We have gotten are
 order reaching us to

ruled what to do. Just don't
 get it out in public in the
 workshop don't know much
 more than how to put the part
 they handle on. But each day
 we have a question, class, at
 which we get together & ask each
 other questions that is where
 the real stuff comes out. These
 trucks are very good. They are the
 form wheel drive type and what
 they can do is wonderful. They
 have more horsepower than the
 rest. They do very well, as well
 as any. They are no class
 made. The fact was that a
 car on a track made 1000
 entered with mine, packed so
 hard that it is in. The track is
 packed too. We slide all over
 it. We even a truck slide
 completely around with right
 chair of each wheel. But
 put these "quads" in mind,
 and only a fraction of it
 can stop them. They have
 a lot. You see the rear wheel

twelve chains on each wheel. Then giving a opportunity to keep time we better observe by giving a new surface to chains each time. The engine put on highest, the clutch & fly wheel encased, the transmission in high, and the axle became as straight. All this built & permit the crossing of ditches & water. Water up, & the house can be covered. All this makes the body high and we all believe the worst turn men

THE PENNOYER SANITARIUM
KENOSHA WISCONSIN

drive the front one with the side of the ditch so they get 50% more traction. If edwards they pull up, then the front pull the rear wheel up against side and out corner the truck. We seen them do it. We went up the side of ditch the same way. The rear wheels driving the front with the wall & the front one doing the lifting & climbing like this. Q! We can put

early. I don't think that he is
 properly lead. The chief objection
 in my mind is the driving
 seat being open to the weather. Why
 the driver has no covering at all.
 It is useful to drive in good weather.
 We have gone over the truck
 from A to Z. I think I can recog-
 nize every screw and nut in it
 now. Next week I think he can
 disassemble it. We are to
 really build a truck and test
 it out. He already does this
 once or twice. When we get back
 to camp we shall have to tell
 all about the guard & the more
 into the hole. It's getting the
 cushions & magnets down pat.
 At least I can see how
 they work. It takes a lot of
 practice to tell what is wrong
 with one on a truck in the
 field. Also we get the
 electric generator down pat.
 It is very simple however.

brushes two or three times a week,
you certainly must have
had some cold weather. We
have had it 15 below overnight.
The lake keeps it from getting
much lower but that same
lake makes it snow here.

That Wed. there was a
dance given for us here. I
did not go but the men said
they had a good time. It gave
us a chance to meet the
men. People of the town.
I had started to believe that
all they had here were
working men. The people

THE PENNOYER SANITARIUM
KENOSHA WISCONSIN

Nothing is to be closed up
here tomorrow and for quite
a while afterwards. The coal
proposition is had here. I want
out to see how much the
Nash people had & it is more
much. How ever U.S. will
see that they get some so
they need the trucks. All the
hotels, swimming places, show, bar
& etc are getting cold. I hope
the people here have enough.
We just finished reading
the town papers & get them in

one seen in the street are very
 rough & he heard some thing
 said about women passing that
 made me feel. My but the people
 are rough.
 your letter & mother came this
 morning. I enjoyed both very much.
 I got me from 3 o'clock during the
 week. That fit was pertaining to the
 method used in the correction of
 my fire. He read part of it home.
 I have to wish you would be
 made mother & have her picture
 taken. Mine will be ready
 tomorrow or Tuesday. He read
 them right away.
 Most close. Will love mother
 tomorrow. For to all. Love so
 well that it is hard to believe
 that sickness exists.
 Your affectionate son
 William

168-7567-Box 2
FOIA b7 - 11

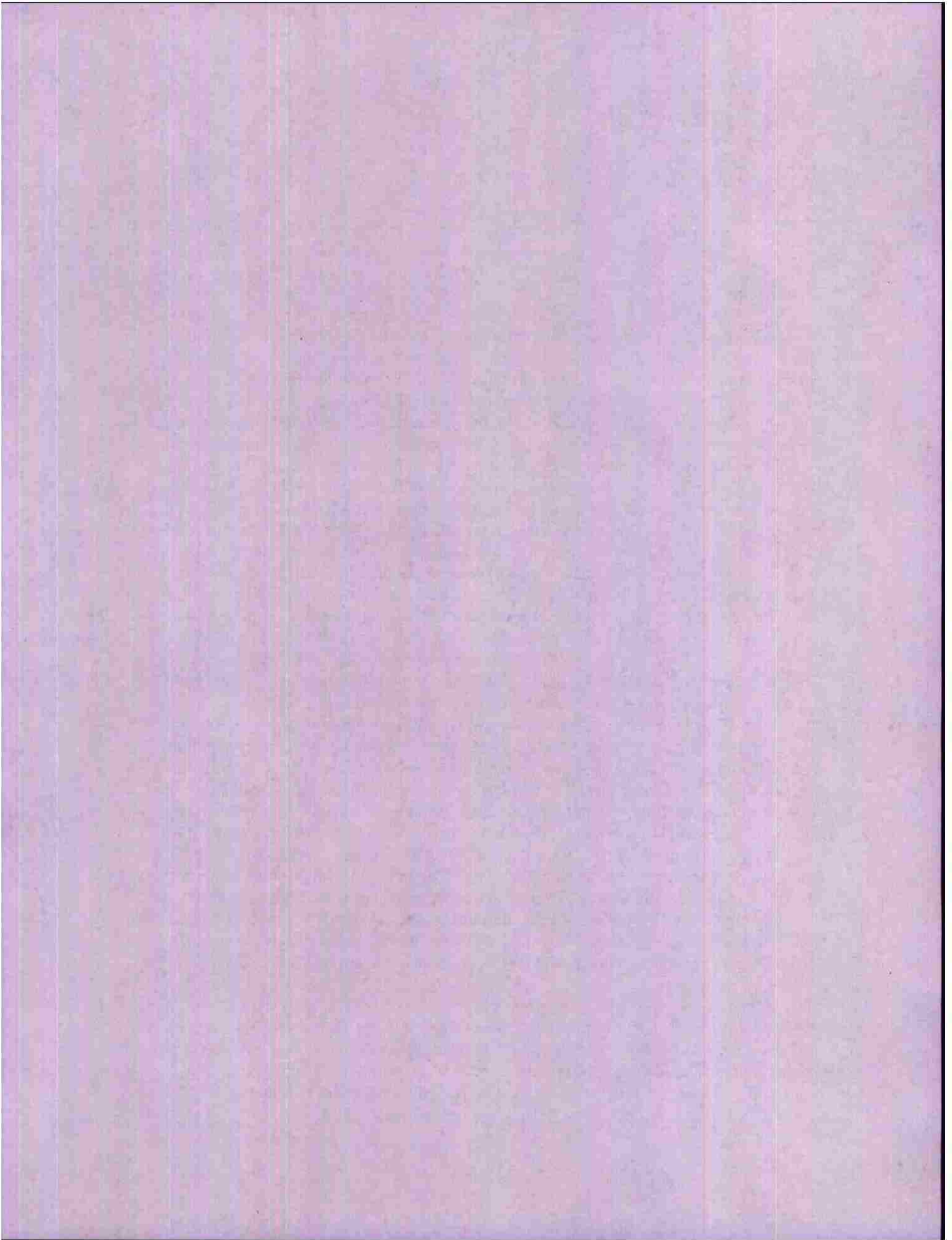
Postmarked January 21, 1918
The Pennoyer Sanitarium
Kenosha Wisconsin
To: Gen S. R. Keesler
Greenwood Miss

Sunday

Dear Father,

We have been shut down since Friday night for lack of coal or rather because every one else lacks coal. But an order came thru from Washington this morning authorizing the continuing of work on the Quads. Our little band of officers had been given leave of absence until Tuesday morning so we really lose a couple of days. We have gotten an order sending us to Peoria Ill for the studying of the tractors being built there. I hear they have a real sure enough course there, with teachers, set hours & etc. We shall certainly get more out of the course. We shall be there until the 17th of Feb. Leave on my birthday. We have gotten a lot of good of the course here but there is lots we don't know how to get at. We are told to report here at 8 A.M. and are turned loose in the factory to work. We have no set rules of what to do. Just have to get it out our selves as the workmen don't know much more than how to put the part they handle on. But each day we have a question class, at which we get together & ask each other questions. That is where the real stuff comes out. These trucks are very good. They are of the four wheel drive type and what they can do is wonderful. This big snow has put them to the test. They do very well, as well as any. They (sic) is no chain made tho that will keep a car on a track made of concrete covered with snow, packed so hard that it is ice. The track is packed too. We slide all over it. I've seen a truck slide completely around with light chains on each wheel. But put these "quads" in mud, and only a bottomless pit can stop them. They love ditches. You the see rear wheels drive the front ones into the side of the ditch so they get 50% more traction. Of course they pull up, then the front pull the rear wheel up against side and out comes the truck. I've seen them do it. One went up the side of a wall the same way. The rear wheels driving the front into the wall & the front one doing the lifting & climbing like this (illustration drawn). We can put twelve chains on each wheel thus giving a opportunity to keep tires in better shape by giving a new surface to chain each time. The engine is put on highest, the clutch & fly wheel enclosed, the transmission in high and the axles as straight. All this built to permit the crossing of ditches & water. Water up to the frame can be crossed. All this makes the body high and we all believe she will turn over easily. I doubt it tho if she is properly load (sic). The chief objection in my mind is the driving seat being open to the weather. Why the driver has no covering at all. It is awful to drive in zero weather.

We have gone over the truck from A to Z. I think I can recognize every screw & nut on it now. Next week I'm to be on General assembly. We are to really build a truck and test it out. I've already done this once so I believe I'll just make notes. When we get back to camp we shall have to tell all about the quad & the more notes the better. I've gotten the carburetor & magneto "down pat." At least I can explain how they work. It



takes a lot of practice to tell what is wrong with one on a truck in the field. Also I've gotten the electric generator "down pat." It is very simple however.

Everything is to be closed up here tomorrow and for quite a while afterwards. The coal proposition is bad here. I went out see how much the Nash people had & it is now (sic) much. However the U.S. will see that they get some as they need the trucks. All the hotels, evening picture shows, bars, & etc are getting cold. I hope the people here have enough.

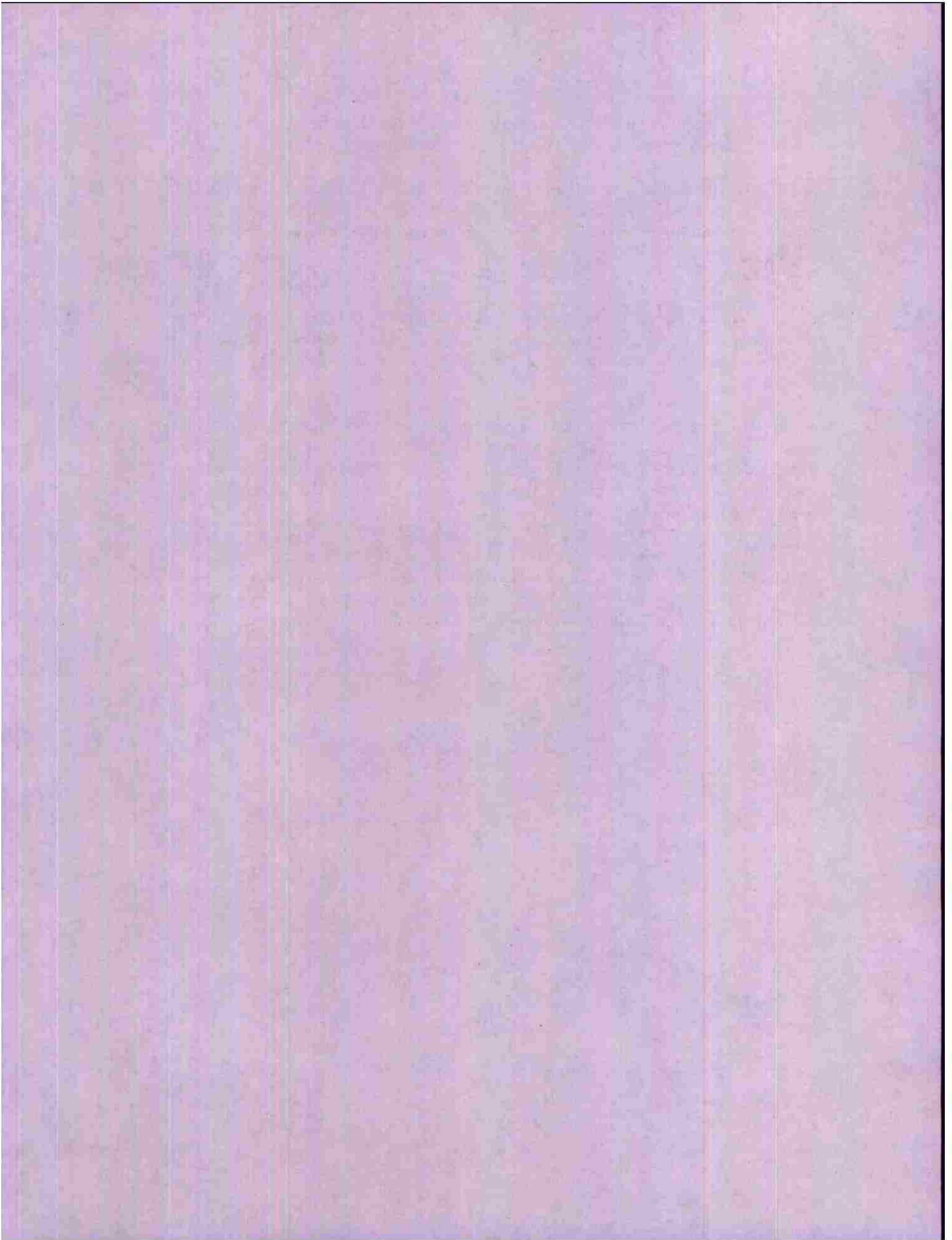
I've just finished reading the town papers. I get them in bunches two or three times a week. You certainly must have had some cold weather. We have had it 15 below one night. The lake keeps it from going much lower but that same lake makes it damp here.

Last Wed. there was a dance given for us here. I did not go but the men said they had a good time. It gave us a chance to (meet) the nicer people of the town. I had started to believe that all they had here were working men. The people one sees on the street are very rough and I've heard something said about women passing that made me boil. My but the people are rough.

Your letter & mothers came this morning. I enjoyed both very much. I got one from Sam during the week. Most of it was pertaining to the methods used in the correction of Artillery fire. I'll send part of it home. I sure do wish you would persuade mother to have her picture taken. Mine will be ready tomorrow or Tuesday. I'll send them right away.

Must close. Will write mother tomorrow. Love to all. Am so well that it is hard to believe that sickness exists.

Your affectionate son,
William



To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: William Keesler
Postmarked January 26, 1918

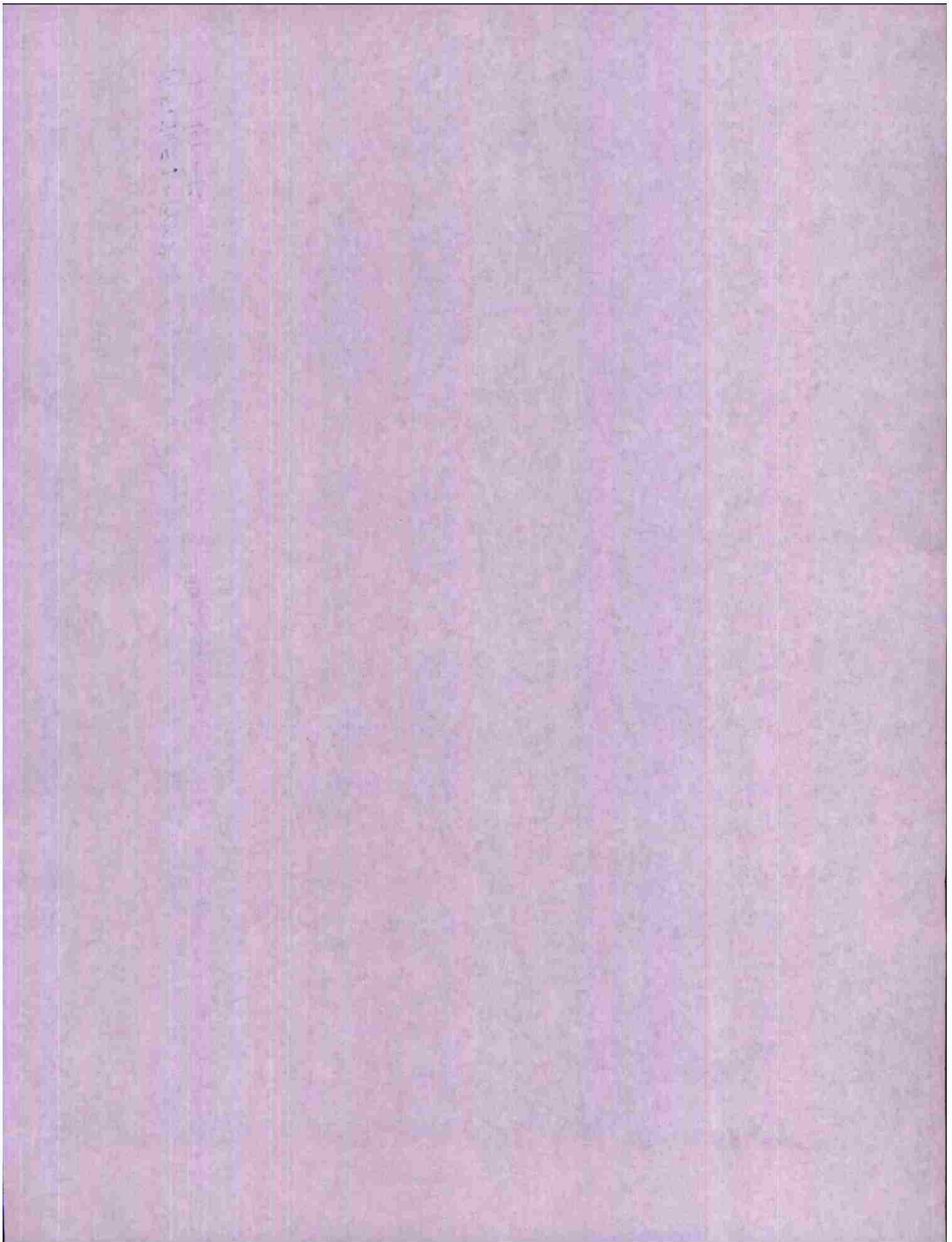
148-7457-Box 2
Folder-12

RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-4400

SCANNED BY ACD

2002

0156160



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW EO12958



Morrison Hotel and Terrace Garden

OPERATED BY
MOIR HOTEL COMPANY
HARRY C. MOIR
PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER

TELEPHONE
CENTRAL 3880

CLARK AND MADISON STREETS

CHICAGO, ILL.

1068 7567-BOX 2
Folder - 12

Dear Mother,

Saturday

Thursday we had our exam and yesterday we left and today I'm spending here, seeing the sights & shopping. Our exam wasn't hard but awfully long. 50 questions in all and most of them were subdivided. I came out all O.K. The large number of questions giving a good chance to make a good mark. I was kind of sorry to leave Kenosha & yet glad. The people at the Sanatorium had treated us very nice altho I paid them \$80.00 for the months board. Also other people we met there treated us well.

But taking it as a whole I
 was glad to go. Deoria Ill. is a
 fine town so are the Ordinance
 Officers we met the staff in
 a large place there Kuska
 and we ought to have a good time.
 We won't have to stay at a
 hotel or restaurant either as
 they have public quarters.
 Just might visit to see
 "Old Boy". It was fine and I
 enjoyed it a good deal. To-day
 we are going around to the
 out show at Han to Deoria
 have visiting some two
 letters. One arriving in a few
 days the picture. I hope you
 will like them.
 Love to all!
 Your loving son
 William

Postmarked January 26, 1918
Chicago Ill
Morrison Hotel and Terrace Garden
Clark and Madison Streets
Chicago, Ill.

Saturday

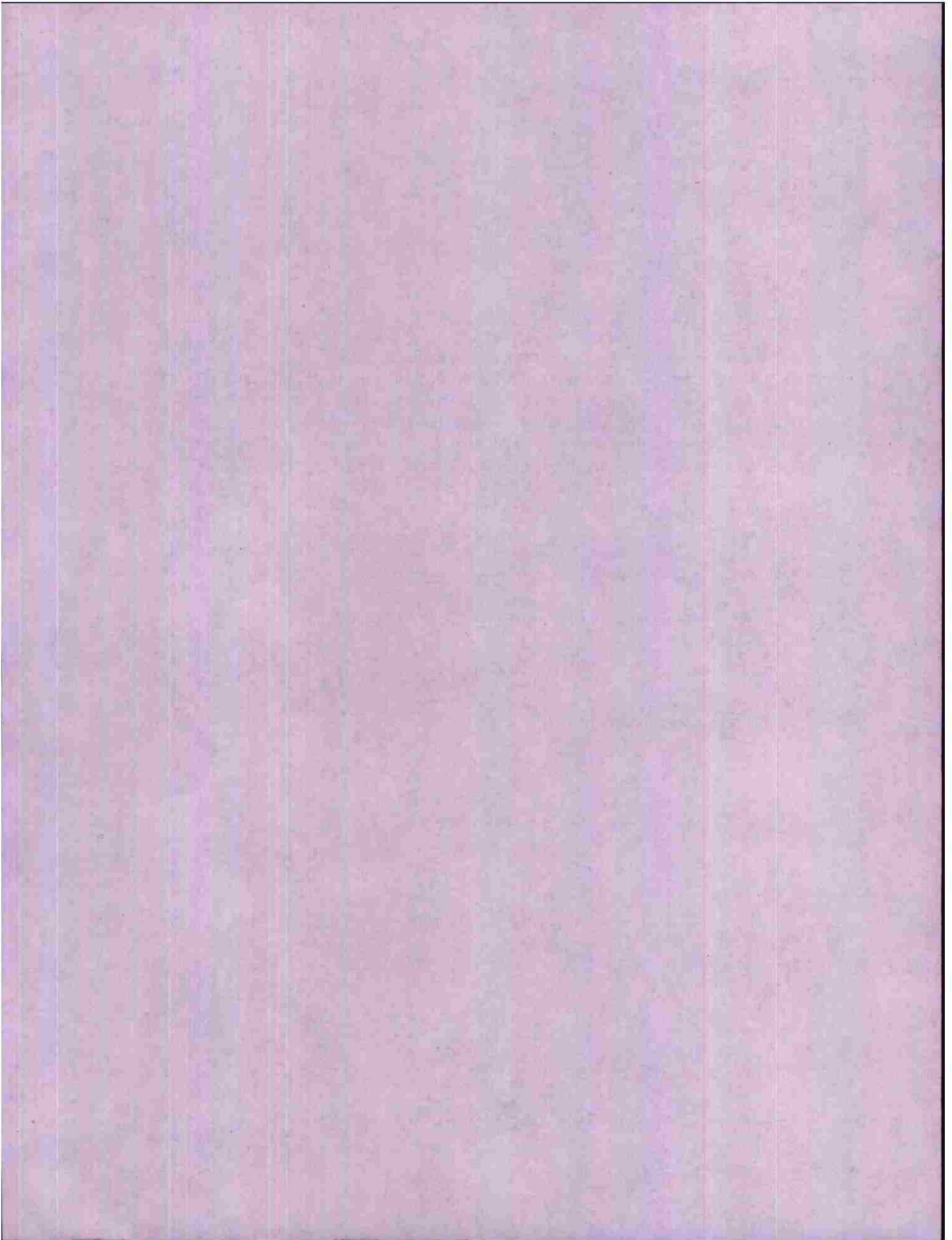
Dear Mother,

Thursday we had our exam and yesterday we left and today I'm spending here, seeing the sights & shopping. Our exam wasn't hard but awfully long. 50 questions in all and most of them were subdivided. I came out all O.K. The large number of questions giving a good chance to make a good mark. I was kind of sorry to leave Kenosha & yet glad. The people at the sanitarium had treated us very nice altho I paid them \$80⁰⁰ for the months board. Also other people we met here treated us well. But taking it as a whole I was ready to go. Peoria, Ill. is a fine town so all the Ordinance Officers we met tell us. It is a large place than Kenosha and we ought to have a good time. We won't have to stay at a hotel or sanitarium either- as they have public quarters.

Last night I went to see "Oh Boy". It was filled and I enjoyed it a good deal. Today we are going around to the auto show & Thurs to Peoria.

I am sending Sams two letters. Am sending in a few days the pictures. I hope you will like them.

Love to all
Your loving son
William

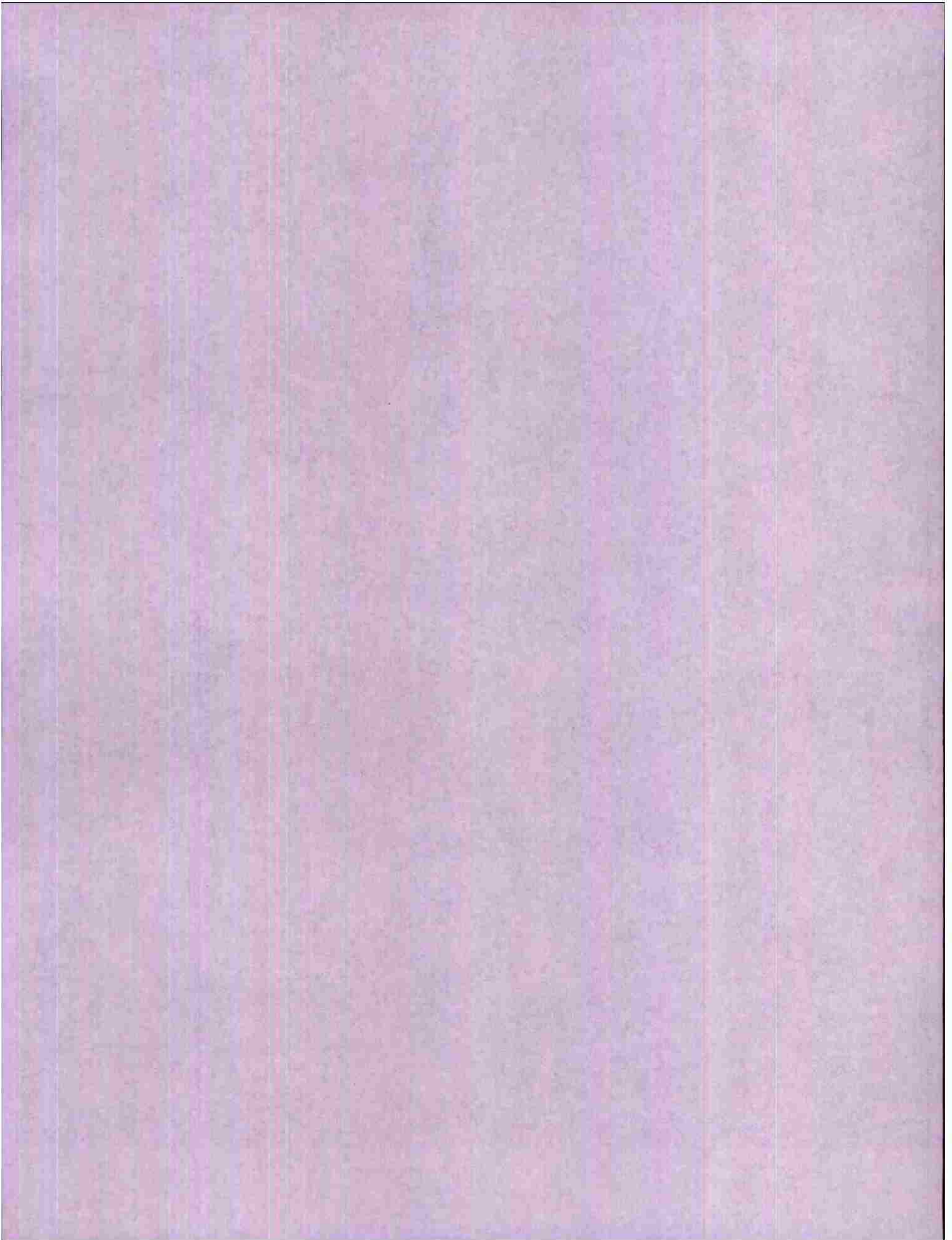


To: Gen S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
Postmarked January 28, 1918

106-1567-BOX 2
FOIA b 1, 3
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB AL 36112-55

SCANNED BY ACD
7007

01156160



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958

**THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958**



**THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958**

my Battalion. That got the
 Charles Brown from home
 and showed me the list &
 see "Lundgren" was promoted
 to a first Lt. You remember he
 used to play basketball in D.C.
 with a Bata.

The music changed from
 the South to the North yesterday
 and it is extremely good. and
 the ground is covered with dirt.
 I guess it will be very
 uncomfortable flying tomorrow.
 I plan yesterday for the

168-9568-Box 2
 FOI 00013

Dear Father,

Sunday evening.

It is a little disappointing
 my not to be answering the first
 lieutenant who was recently pro-
 moted. but I guess I'll get
 it some of these days. I know
 is no use worrying anyway.
 The music probably go up upon
 completion of the winter course
 and I make do the same.
 thing - but I doubt it. No one
 out of my company was pro-
 moted but several out

sent from the mission a briefing
 Mission Problem - they set me off
 a flying "buff" to get me off
 this week, probably starting Sunday.
 when we finish our reconnaissance at
 about. I think we're the best of before
 a leave and if we want then we
 probably to next home to avoid
 order. I got this info from about
 who was talking to about about
 it (there the head office train
 (sup) about experts to leave
 in a day or so. Don't know all
 the time you out right and let
 me come home to write. I
 think there is an idea for working
 for here - waiting 751 someone -
 more there is not that many
 in it. It's the action - no one
 looking they're there no out

accident was due to forced
 landing" - one machine. but a
 hole was pole and was never
 another but a repairing Hudson
 & covered the top of it -
 and then was marked itself.
 the steamer was scratched
 a little. One of the machine
 then ships didn't leave off
 soon enough in landing and
 consequently buried its nose
 in the ground. You ought
 to have seen it a complete
 wreck. The pilot got his nose

as rapidly as possible and
 let me go home and await
 orders - as under the 50th is
 brought up to piece strength.
 This is all green work
 on my part tho, I hope
 you can get home when
 do. We spoke of trying to
 come home during week.
 We have had "wind ups"
 galore. This week 6 in 48 hrs.
 no one seriously hurt. Oh
 thank you to say "best of the

that a while and the thinner seemed
 cut on the face and a cut on the
 thigh - a part of the way come thru
 was there then. You cut had to be
 raised up - He is in the Post Hosp.
 since probably he then a week. When
 we had a few the first of the week.
 and ~~one~~ a ship caught fire in the
 Hangar and burned nearly up - The
 are about 23 ships in the Repair shop
 now. Looks like we want have
 any thing to make in getting back on
 the ~~last~~ ^{the last} up.
 I guess everything the more and
 lose the action again in Radio - Not things
 rather steady on the finger but making
 3 in reading + 2.9 in meaning - are 2.95 -
 I must I could make that grade in
 Machine Gunny - I can't let much
 with it. We shot 100 rounds of the

in France. "Preacher" Morrison, "Mel" Long & himself are together. "Preacher" is already on active flying - the other two haven't been up yet.

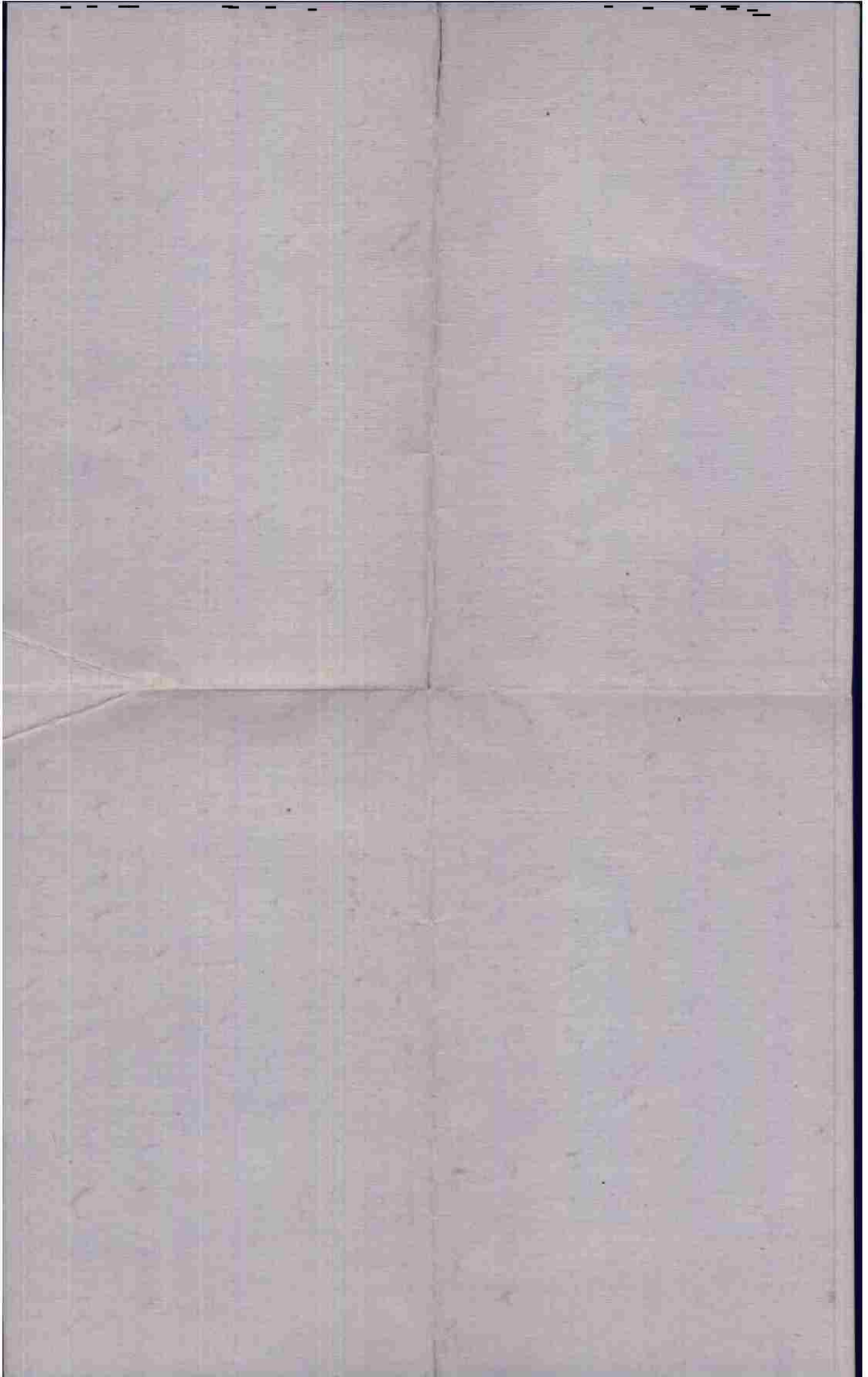
Must see & read this.

Letter to Tom: Hope you are all well & warm - & hope to come home some time soon. With love & your devoted son,
Sam Jr.

Just met on the 400 yd. range. Great sport - they shoot pretty rapidly you know - at the rate of 600 shots per minute. I saw they don't shoot 600 shots per minute.

I went to town yesterday on a run and took in the morning lectures - & don't know what we would do without them - the only division I have practically.

I need a letter from you. Mrs. Schubert. He is



168.9567-0082
Folder-13

Postmarked January 28, 1918
Lawton, Okla
To: Gen S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Miss

Sunday Evening,

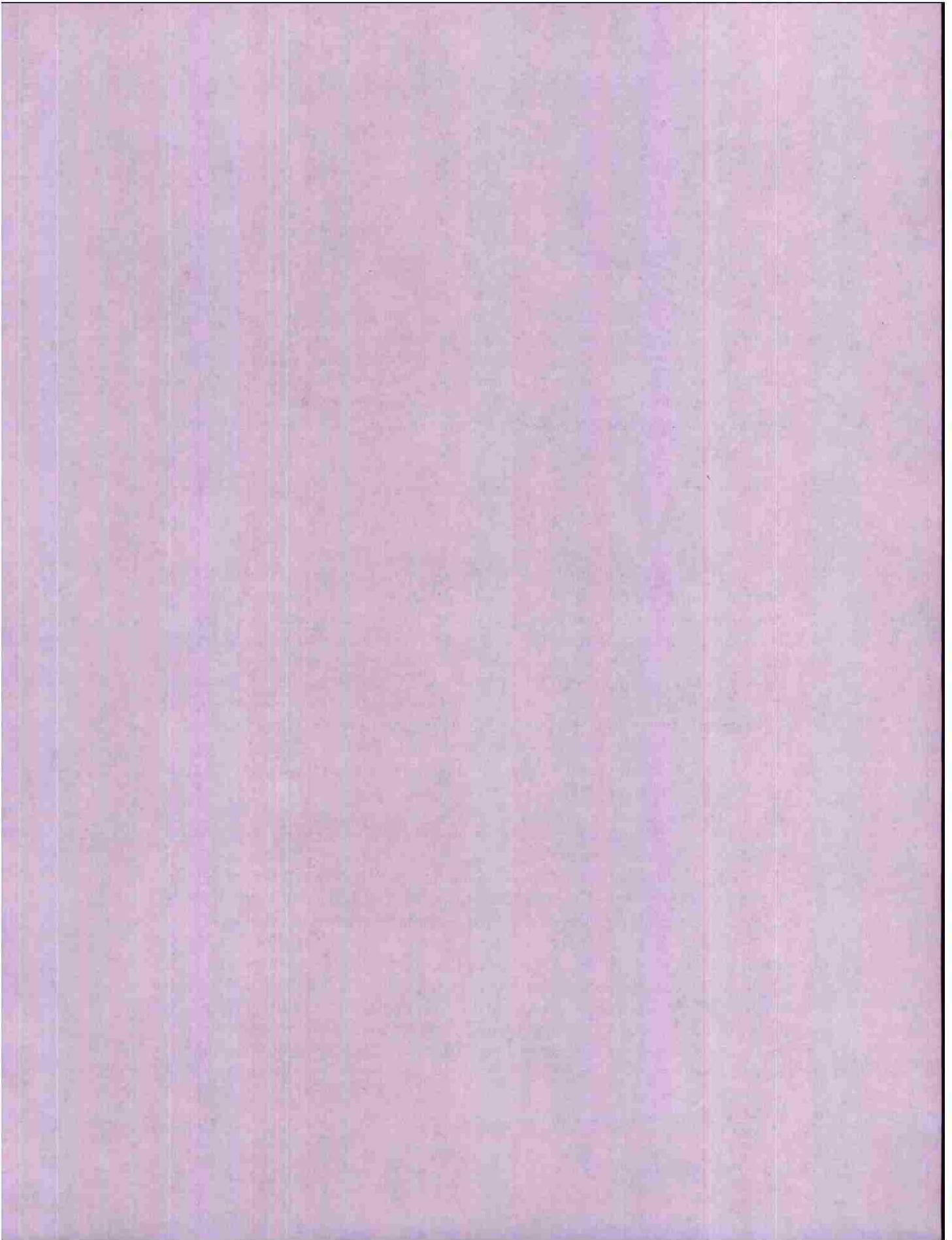
Dear Father,

It is a little disappointing not to be among the first Lieutenants who were recently made- but I guess I'll get it some of these days. There is no use worrying anyway. W^m. will probably go up upon completion of his motor course and I make (sic) do the same thing- but I doubt it. No one out of my company was promoted but several out of my Battalion. Stuart got the Charlotte Observer from home and showed me the list. I see Louis Anderson was promoted to a first Lt. You remember he used to play tackle on D.C. & is a Beta.

The wind changed from the south to the north yesterday so it is extremely cold- and the ground is covered with sleet. I guess it will be very disagreeable flying tomorrow.

I flew yesterday for the first time this week, on a Infantry Liaison Problem- They let me off of flying "puff targets". We fly artillery this week, probably starting Tuesday. When we finish one successful art. shoot. I think we'll be sent up before a board and if we suit them will probably be sent home to await orders. I got this dope from Stuart who was talking to Lt. Yost about it. (He is the head of Aerial Liaison Dep.) Stuart expects to leave in a day or so. I am hoping all this will pan out right and let me come home for awhile. I think there is an order from Washington here- wanting 75 observers- well there is not that many in the 1st three sections- so I'm hoping they'll turn us out as rapidly as possible and let us go home and await orders- or until the 75 is brought up to full strength. This is all guesswork on my part tho. I hope W^m. can get home when I do. He spoke of trying to come home during Feb.

We have had "smash ups" galore this week- 6 in 48 hrs. No one seriously hurt- I'm thankful to say. Most of the accident were due to "forced landing"- one machine hit a trolley wire pole and was wrecked- another hit a super six Herdson & knocked the top off of it- and then was wrecked itself. The observer was scratched a little. One of the machine gun ships didn't level off soon enough in landing and consequently buried its nose in the ground. You ought to have seen it- a complete wreck. The pilot got his nose hurt a little and the observer received cut on his face and a cut on the thigh. A part of the wing came thru and struck him. The cut had to be sewed up- He is in the Post Hosp. Will probably be there a week. Then we had a fire the first of the week.- and a ship caught fire in the hanger and burned nearly up- There are about 23 ships in the Repair shop now- looks like we won't have any thing to ride in if they keep on breaking the boats up.



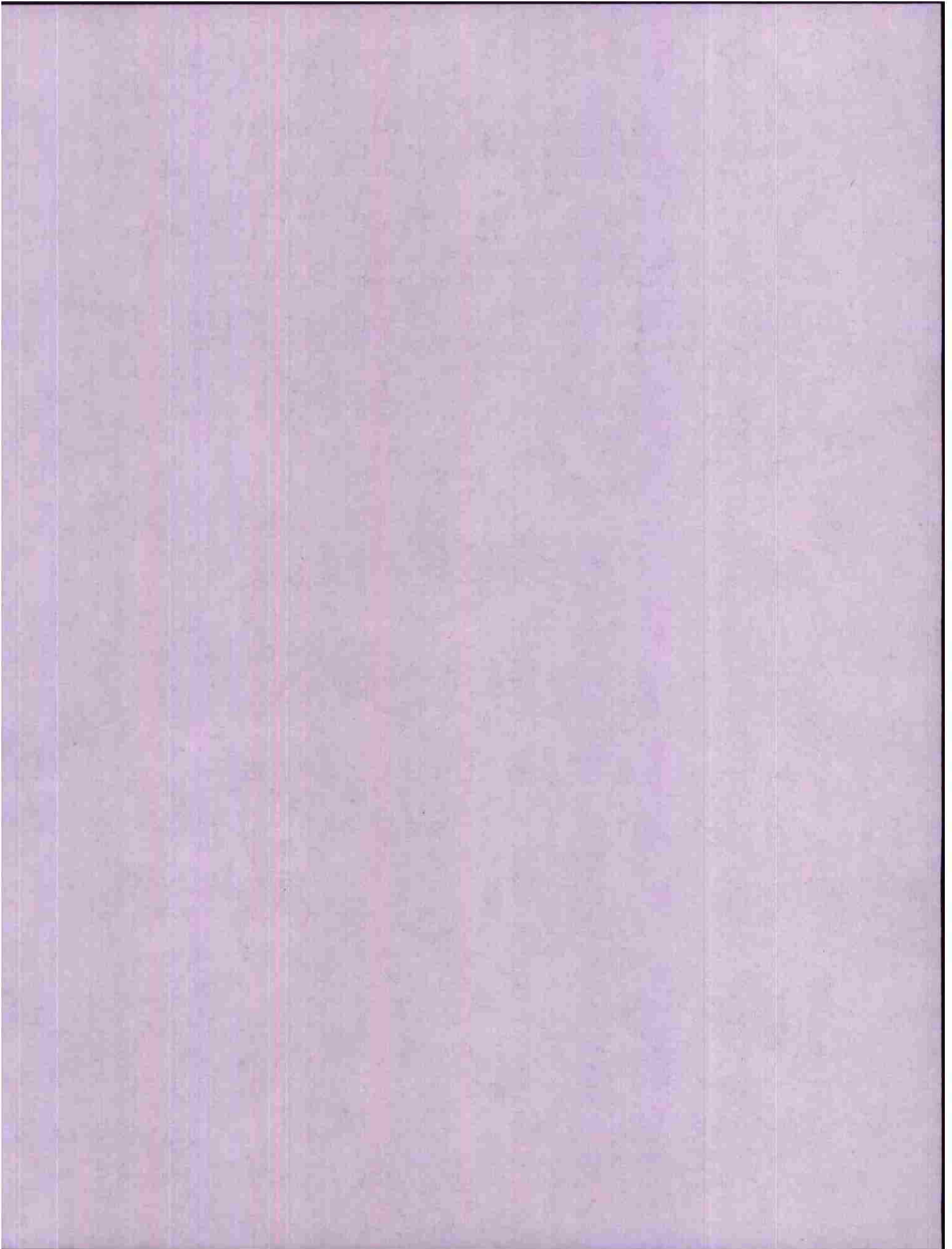
I passed everything this week and lead the section again in Radio- Hit things rather speedy on the final test- making 3 in sending and 2.9 in receiving- one 2.9- I wish I could make that grade in Machine Gunnery - I cant hit much with it. We shot 100 rounds apiece last week on the 200 yd.range. Great sport- They shoot pretty rapidly you know- at the rate of 600 shots per. minute. Of course they don't shoot 600 shots per minute.

I went to town yesterday as usual and took in the moving pictures- I don't know what we would do without them- The only diversion I have practically.

I read a letter Mullen wrote Mrs. Gilchrist. He is in France of course. "Preacher" Morrison, "Meb" Long and himself are together. "Preacher" is already on active flying- the other two haven't been up yet.

Must close & send this letter to town. Hope you are all well & warm - I hope to come home sometime soon. With love

Your devoted son,
Sam Jr.



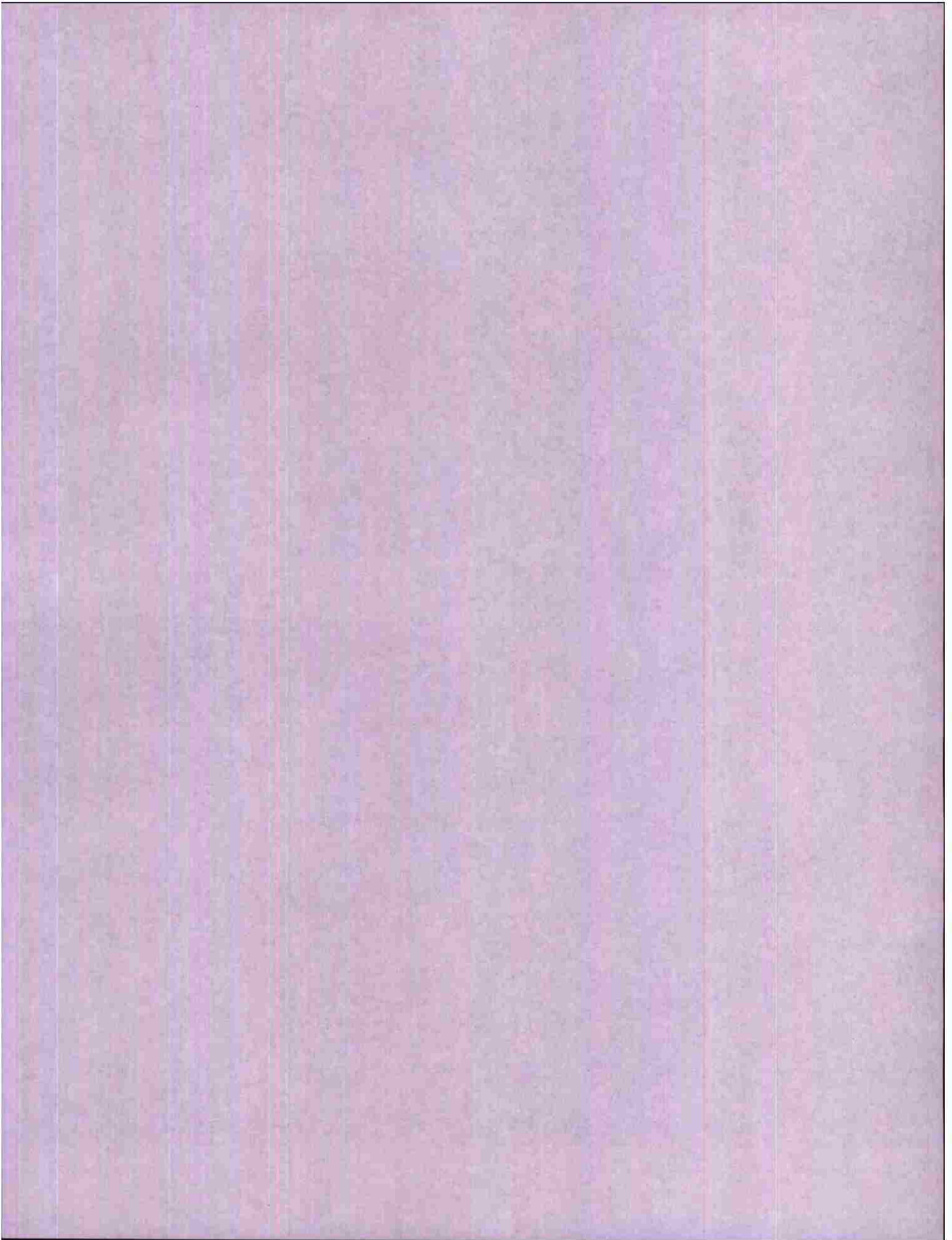
To: Gen S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
Postmarked January 30, 1918

1687567-Box 2
Foroc 14
RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
Historical Research
Maxwell AFB AL 36

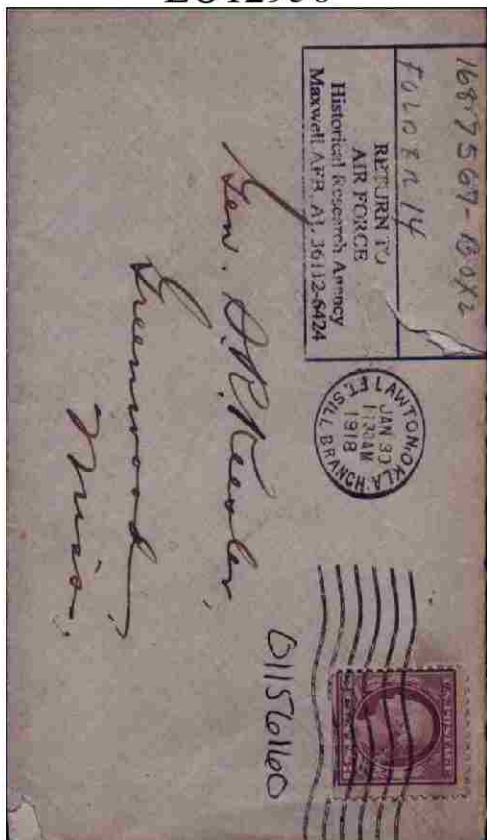
SCANNED BY ACD

7007

01156460

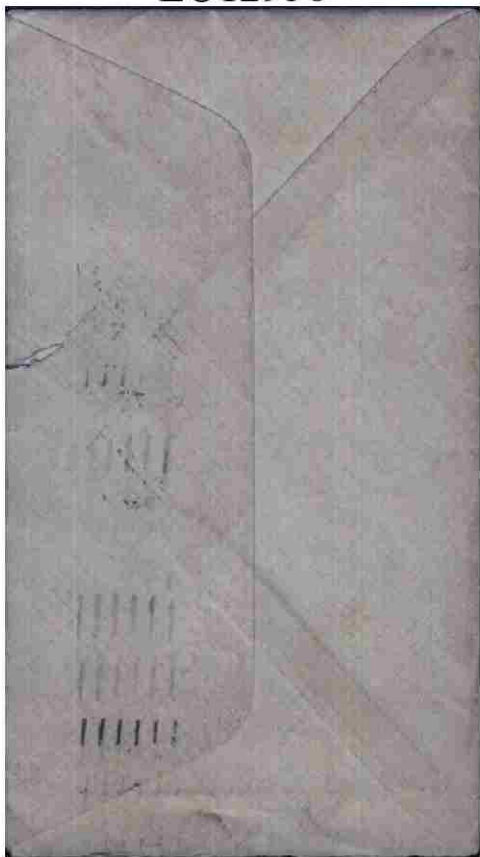


THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958

**THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958**



**THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958**

evening. I don't have to complete but one Art. about to graduate now. & go up in the morning on artillery R. - tomorrow - practically same as artillery shooting. I don't fire battery - I am going to go thru motion as if I were in an artillery shoot - simply for practice you see. After the battery conference since there is data by my reports.

What "leave" I've" from plane yesterday and today. Can't stay all my work space with it. got. Indeed the great

168, 7567-BOX-2
FOR OCT 14

Sunday night.

Dear father +
just arrived before. And
time.

Almost left tonight at 6:30 for home. on a 10 day leave. We will wait for the order at home. I'll leave before. He will come - he will come for an ex tentain and must likely get it because they don't want him to come back here. I am going to try to do this as good as I can. My section started shooting artillery this evening which would have. I will probably get a try at it tomorrow

I don't think I've ever seen
 nearly freeze off - but it's going for
 me to get my teeth and in
 order - I'd of course - you see taking the
 down it's going off in the air & freezing
 hydrogen down off in the air & freezing
 me face & joints - when your fingers are
 stiff with cold - is rather painful
 no white frost at times - for a
 change. But the space is terrible
 the machine then will go to bed
 15 - and make a forced landing -
 one of the operators says -
 Now you notice the frost -
 being much in Camp Douglas - by the
 way. Due to the treatment of some
 work parties - not what finally did it
 the machine. It's quite inefficient
 in my opinion - & this may be a threat
 statement - but it's got lots of truth in
 it. I hope you are certain there
 isn't anything more - your devoted son,
 Charlie

169-7567-Box 2
FOIA 14

Postmarked January 30, 1918
Lawton, Okla
Ft. Sill Branch
To: Gen S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Miss

Tuesday Night.

Dear Father,

Just a word before bedtime.

Stuart left tonight at 6:30 for home on a 10 day leave. He will wait for his orders at home. If his leave expires before his orders come- he will wire for an extension and most likely get it because they don't want him to come back here. I am going to try to do this as soon as I can. My section started shooting artillery this evening which sounds good. I will probably get a try at it tomorrow evening. We don't have to complete but one artillery shoot to graduate now. I go up in the morning on artillery reconnaissance- practically same as the artillery shooting- except I don't fire battery- I simply go thru motions as if I were in artillery shoot- simply for practice you see. Altho the battery commander will check his data by my reports.

Shot "Lewis Gun" from plane yesterday and today. Can't say I'm very accurate with it yet. Would be great fun if my hands didn't get so cold- nearly freeze off- Gee- but its agony for a while- Had to grit my teeth and endure it of course- you see taking the magazine Paris off in the air & fixing misfires & jams- when your fingers are stiff with cold- is rather painful.

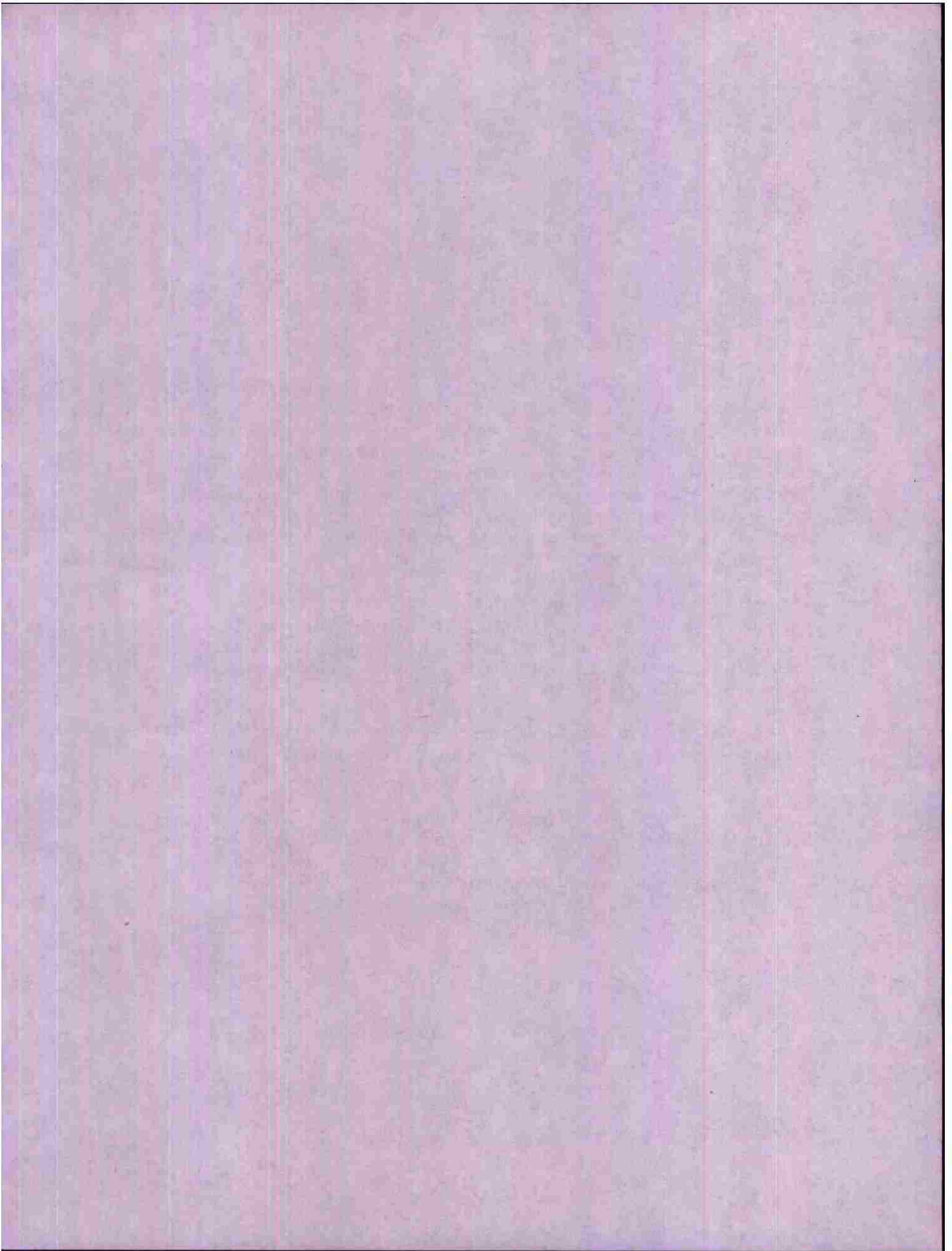
No ships broken up today- for a change. Broke the spell for a while. The Machine Gun ship did go bad too- and make a forced landing. One of the cylinders froze.

Have you noticed the probe being made in Camp Dophon by the War Dept. due to the treatment of some sick soldiers - which finally died etc. The Medical Corps is quite inefficient in my opinion- This may be a broad statement but its got lots of truth in it.

Hope you all continue well- With Lots of Love-

Your Devoted Son,

Sam Jr.



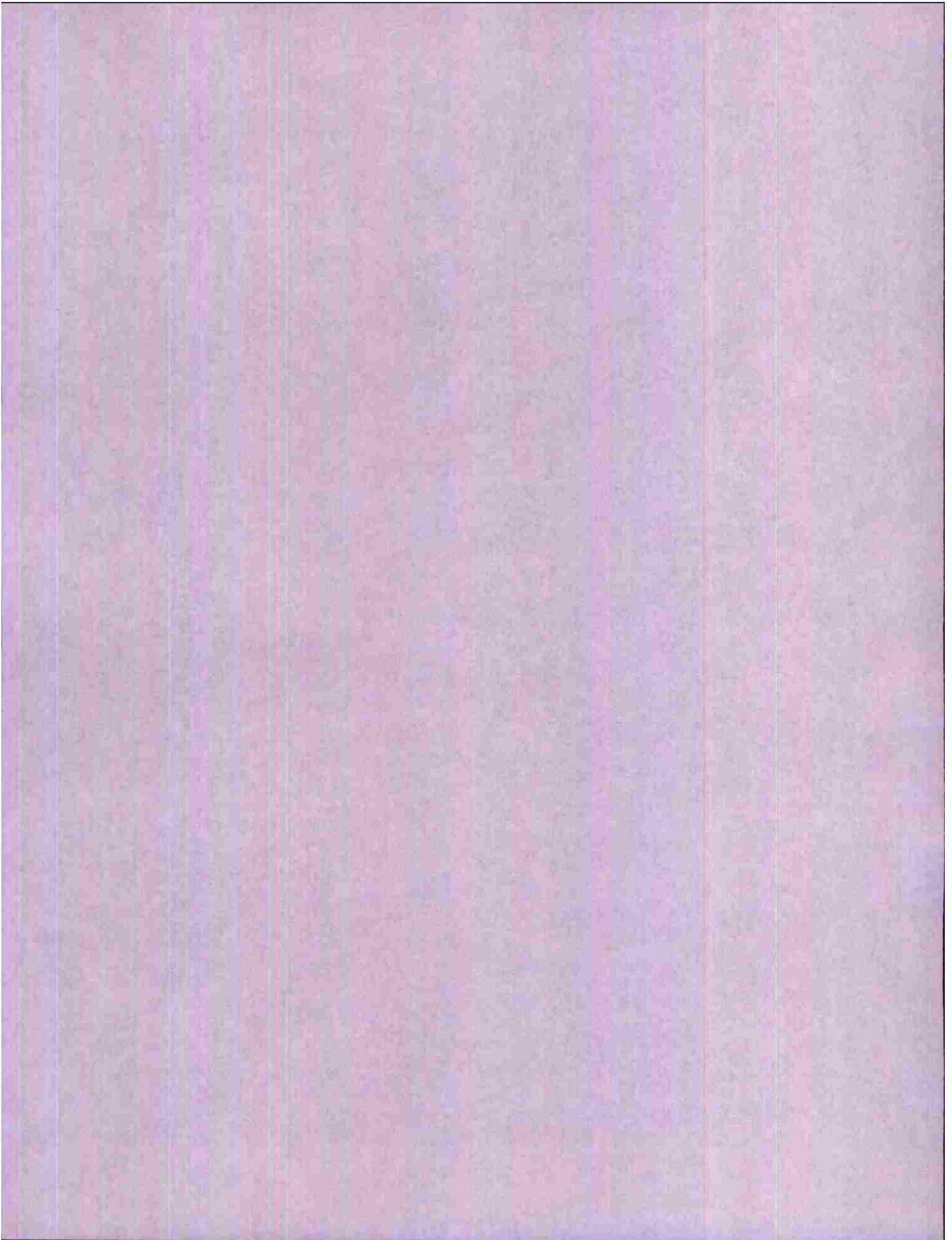
To: Mrs S. R. Keesler
From: William Keesler (slight ref to Sam)
Postmarked February 3, 1918

168-7561-150X2
FOLOGER 15
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6124

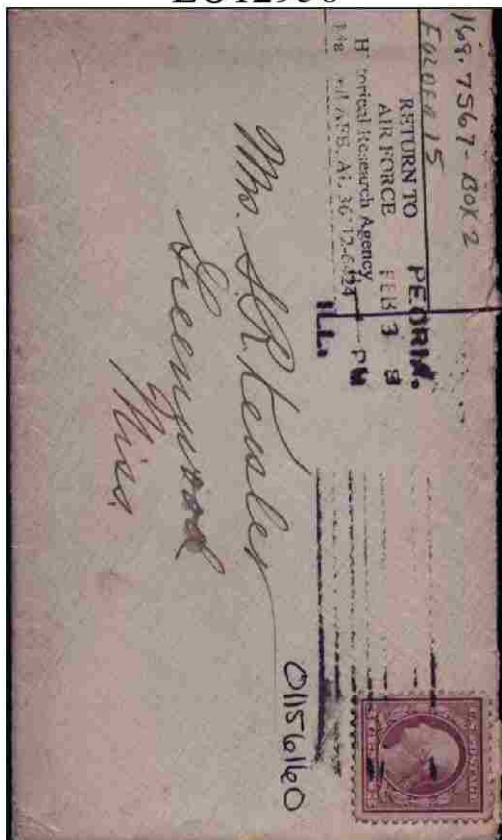
SCANNED BY ACD

2407

01151660



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958



THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958

**THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958**



**THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958**

J. W. R., are telling me how
glad they were going to be.
They were made me home
sure for in the the awful
place here. It is all O.K. at
night but in the day one
can't work in the cold +
we cannot an awful cold
trying it. We haven't had
the more weeks before we
leave tho. We were he glad
to get back to my regiment.
It was just like home. But
just to get south of the Mason-
Dixon line was the right
move. In time of the North.
We are doing as they

168.7567-30x2
TOL0215

West Mt. Co. Deoria, Ill.,
Sunday

Dear Mother,

I ought to address this
letter to the whole family
except myself as I am I guess
in with you now. Now I
long to be there too. I had
looked forward to the day
when we could see he
together at home. At many
come yet tho if I ever stay
home long enough or doesn't
finish his course as early
as he expects.

This week I received letters
from father, mother, Sam +

interesting and practical work here
 The. These factors are wonderful. Why
 I couldn't believe my eyes yesterday
 when I saw a little "45" pull 57 tons
 of pig iron around like it wasn't
 any thing. Why the reason the road
 & the muddier the more the load.
 These factors would be wonderful in
 the engineering getting out trucks. I
 believe I like this work better than
 the trucks. There is more chance
 to do some thing nice here. yesterday
 I took several pictures of the tractor
 doing things. I hope they will turn
 out O.K. I've used you some
 this week and I have about
 here. There is a right large town
 but there is nothing doing. It is
 most manufacturing town. We
 came back to camp last night
 at 10:30 because every thing was
 closing up. I got a letter from Mr.
 Wright telling of his friends wife
 someone said that he couldn't
 come over. Was my sorry to have
 at the

2nd That do. It got an idea he can
 do a good deal & let me his going
 to try it. Some one will have to write
 out a draft registration & somebody
 will have ideas to be changed. We
 are many he those some bodies.
 This week we are to have a Review
 Count Mental. The officer tried his about
 as good a case against the C.D.
 as the C.D. has against him. I
 hope I won't have to sit on it
 the.

Must close now. Love & every
 one of you. Tell Sam we write him
 a note this afternoon or Monday.
 The picture should arrive this week.
 Your loving son
 Al Wilson

out still 7 miles. I hope we
can keep it up as it
will mean much when
we go back to the Division.

I guess I'll get some sort of
position in charge of the
trucks & trucks of our regiment.
The captain over me is a
fine man & we should do

a fine lot of work. The expecta-
tion will be wonderful. I
think the slightest idea the
how we are to go about
it. The whole thing is so
new to everyone. Why when
thousands of soldiers go up in
the air over it what can a

We heard it away from
our excess at Kuroda.

No one has received there
paper as yet but the class
message was 9.57 that is
wonderfully fine I think. I
hope my paper is up to
the mark. The other artillery
class which has earned its
own trouble here got on 78.7
You should have heard
the excess they made.
You glad we did so well as
it give us a better standing
with the CO. Why we can
see it already. They can't