

168.7567-Box 2
Folder 15

Postmarked February 3, 1918
Peoria Ill
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
Greenwood Miss.

Holt Mfg Co. Peoria Ill.,
Sunday

Dear Mother,

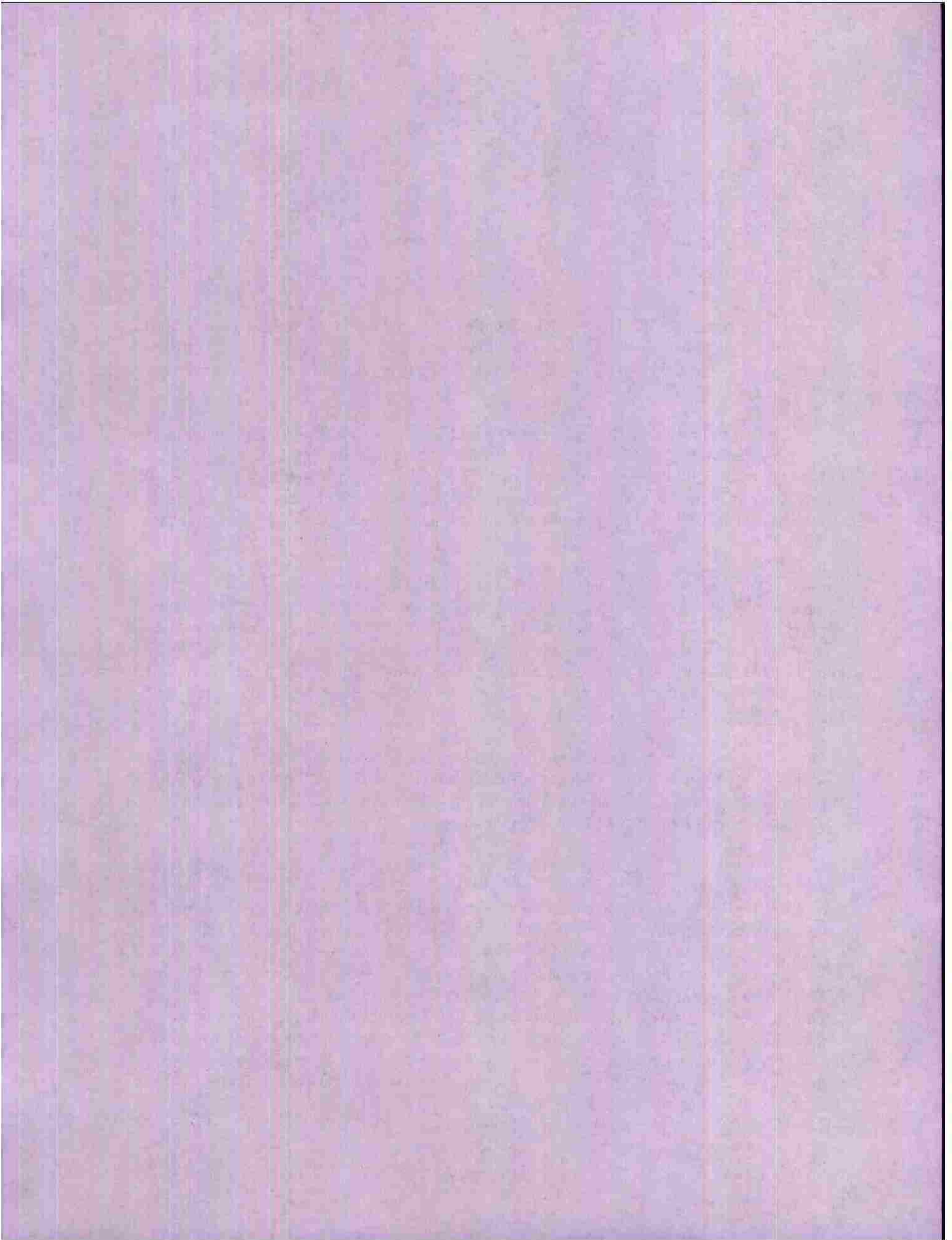
I aught to address this letter to the whole family except myself as Sam I guess is with you now. How I long to be there too. I had looked forward to the day when we could all be together at home. It may come yet tho if Sam stay home long enough or doesn't finish his course as early as he expects.

This week I received letters from Father, mother, Sam & F.W.R. all telling me know glad they were going to be. They sure made me homesick for I'm in an awful place here. It is all O.K. at night but in the day one can't work in the cold & I've caught an awful cold trying it. We haven't but two more weeks before we leave tho. I'll sure be glad to get back to my regiment. It will feel like home. But just to get south of the Mason-Dixon line will do right now. I'm tired of the North.

We are doing some very interesting and practical work here tho. These tractors 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 rougher the road & the muddier the more the load. These tractors would be wonder in the swamps getting out timber. I believe I like this work better than the trucks. There is more chance to do something new here. Yesterday I took several pictures of the tractors doing things. I hope they will turn out O.K. If so I'll send you some.

This week end I have spent here. Peoria is a right large town but there is nothing doing. It is most a manufacturing town. We came back to camp last night at 10³⁰ because every thing was closing up. I got a letter from Mr. Wright telling of his friends wife sickness and that he couldn't come over. Was very sorry to here (sic) it too.

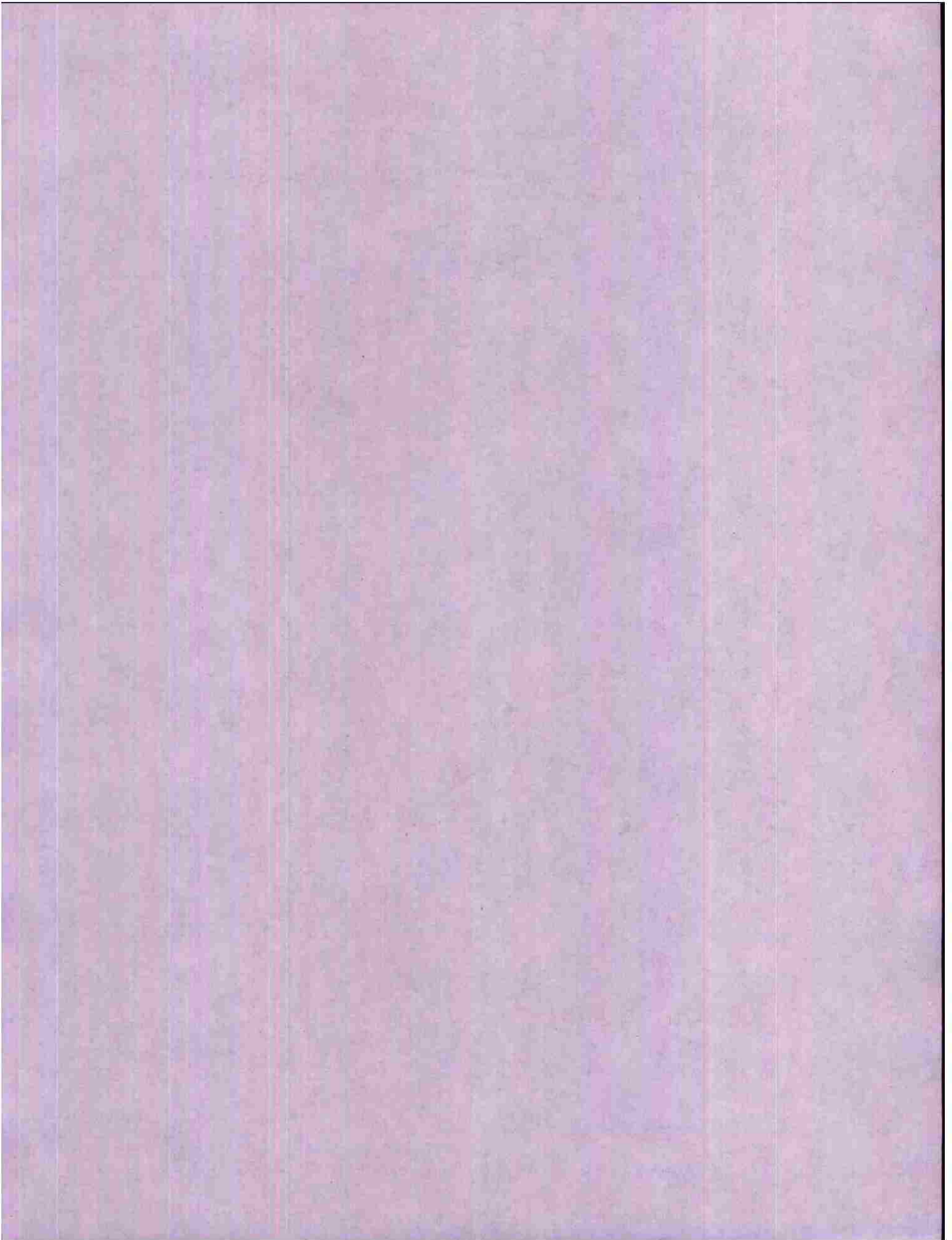
We heard in away from our exams at Kenosha. No one has received there (sic) papers as yet but the class average as 95+. That is wonderfully fine I think. I hope my paper is up the the average. The other artillery class which has caused us our trouble here got an 78+. You should have heard the excuses they made. I'm glad we did so well as it give us a better standing with the C.O. Why you can see it already. They cut out drill Friday. 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 tractors & trucks of our regiment. The captain over me is a fine man & we should do a fine lot of work. The experience will be wonderful. I haven't the slightest idea tho how we are to go about it. The whole thing is so new to everyone. Why when Generals & Colonels go up in the air over it what can a 2nd Lieut do. I've got an idea he can do a good deal & believe me I'm going to try it. Some one will have to work out a drill regulation & somebody will have ideas to be changes. We all may be those some bodies.



This week we are to have a General Court Martial. The officer tried has about as good a case against the C.O. as the C.O. has against him. I hope I won't have to sit on it tho.

Must close now. Love to every one of you. Tell Sam I'll write him a note this afternoon or Monday. The picture should arrive this week.

Your loving son
William



To 60152 1805 on
100-100-10000
100-100-10000

168-7567-BOX 2

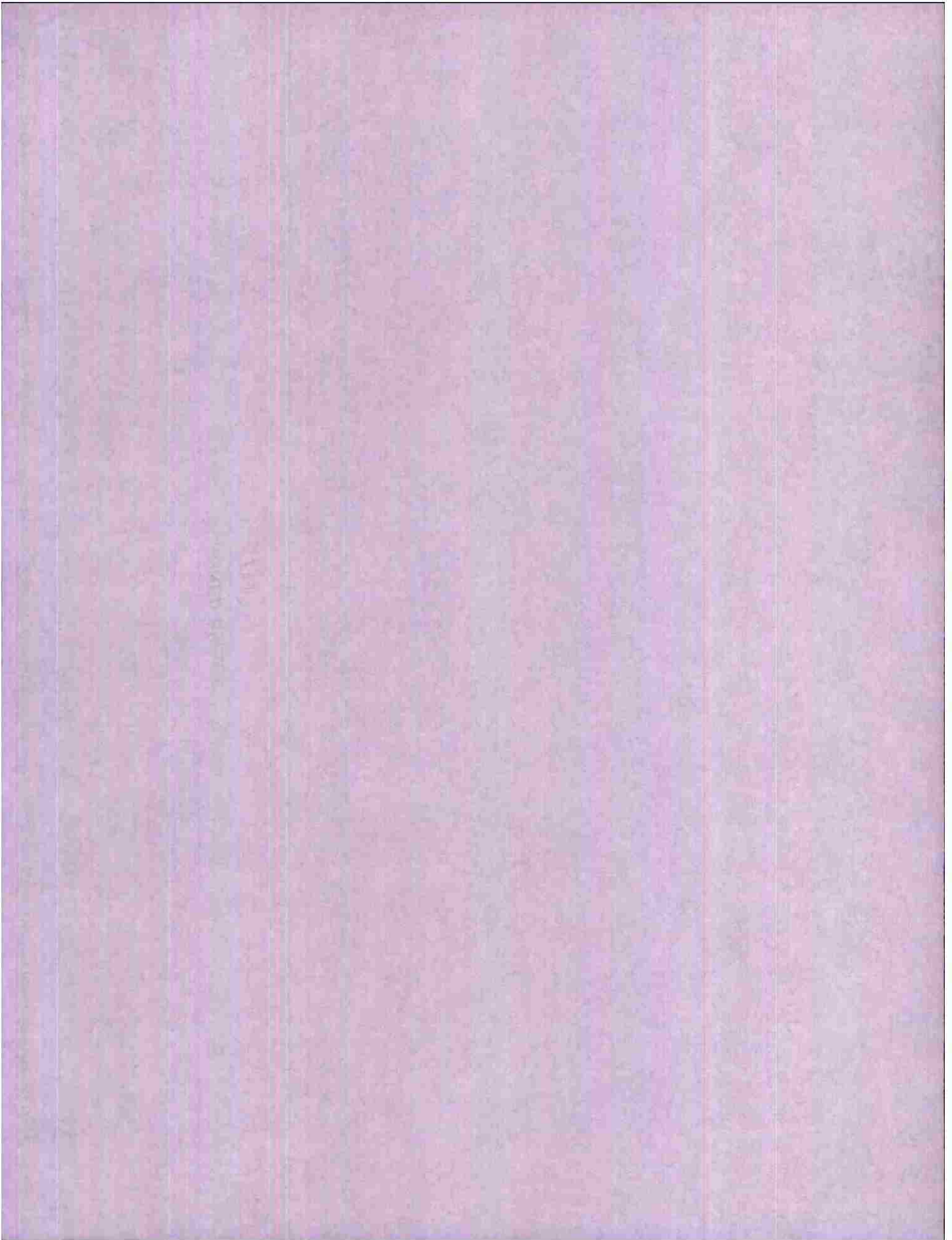
FOLDER - 16

Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-0424

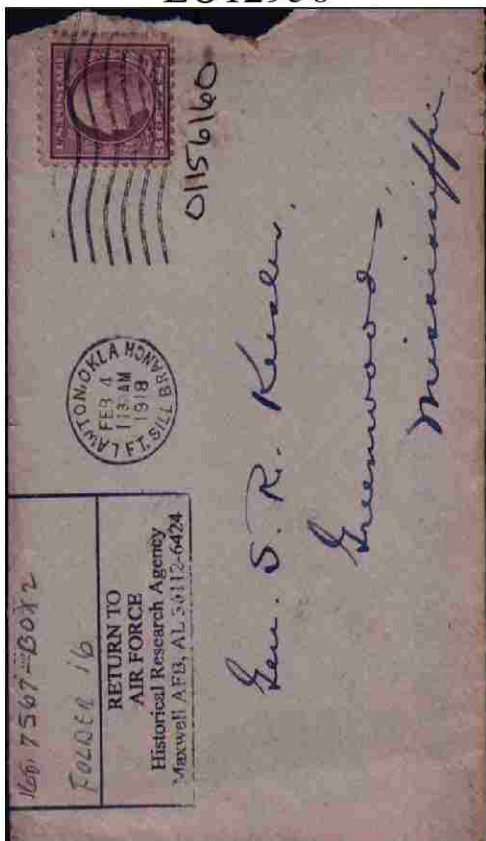
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2007



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Army Company Supply Corps. with
some more and ordered to
Harden City. I am looking for
our section to get the same a-
head soon.

about how you know -
also must get the right sections
understand that has been
more an intention and will
probably go to San Diego Cal, a
number of sections are going to
be opened all over the country
and they were much disappointed.

168-7567-Box 2
Folger 16

Monday Morning -

Dear Father -

Excuse the penmanship please.

I hope to be home sometime
the latter part of the week. I will
write you about when I hope to
get home. I have finished every-
thing except the art about and
will probably get them with
that this evening. You see I
always speak with "probably" be-
cause I never know for sure.
The 168 & 169 & 170 sections were
recommended in Agnes

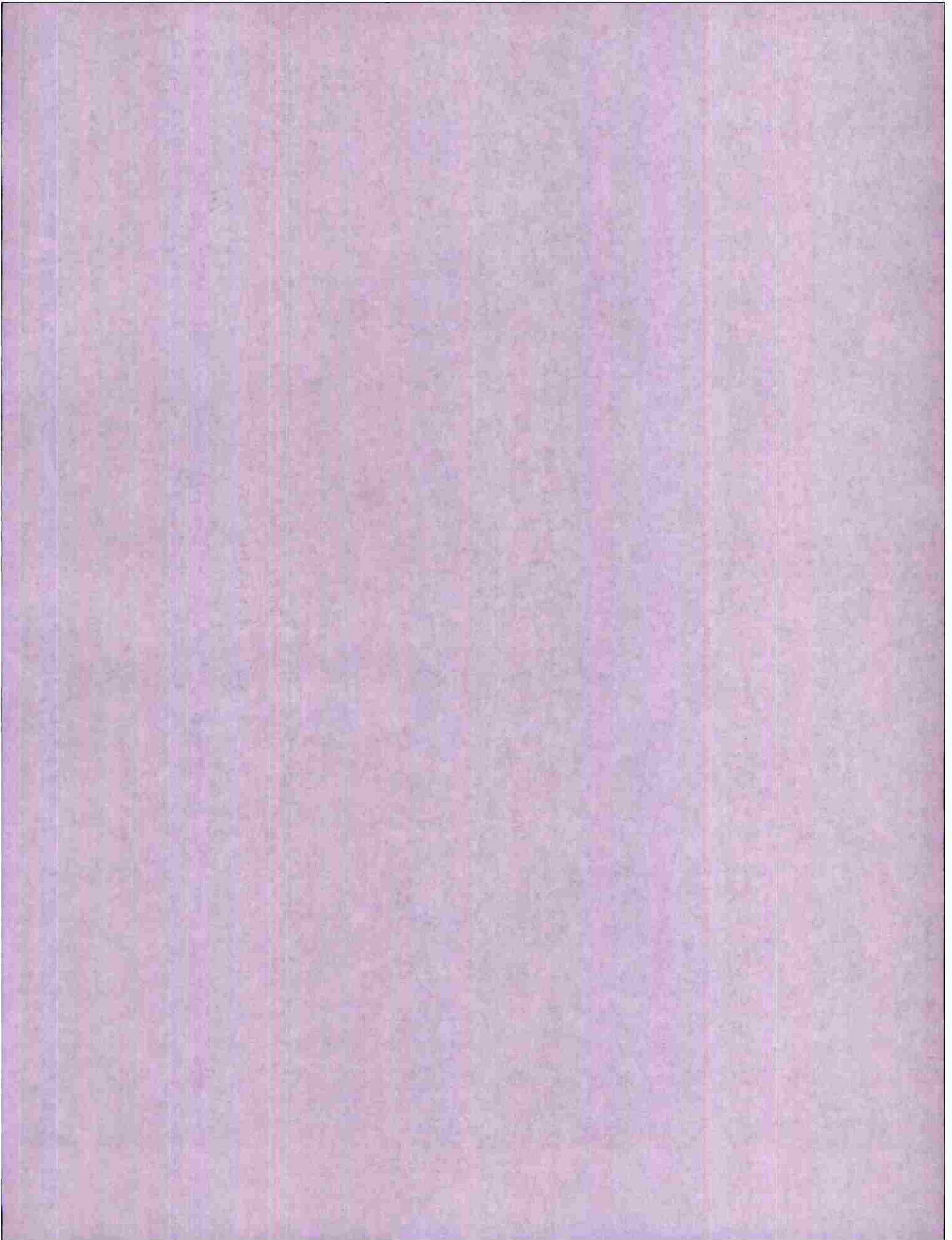
I think my chance for such a job as
 their work
 The photo has been from Wichita
 taken in a small student machine
 there is an American count there they
 out all kinds of other up in the air
 hope, dimensions lower, also etc. Contact
 to the big American plane we have the
 otherwise - our best's funny.
 I have four times before - as a
 almost never's happy - they think I am
 had many times in several years in one
 evening of late after I about mid
 at the because it was never
 I have an idea we are in
 working Army of me as something to Roger
 Army. and keep him in the Springfield
 of me by one
 I am anxious to get home now -
 getting this job done - and my friends leaving
 for you are -
 your friends and I hope

To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
Postmarked March 2, 1918

168 7567-000
FILED 17
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112

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168-7567-BOX 2

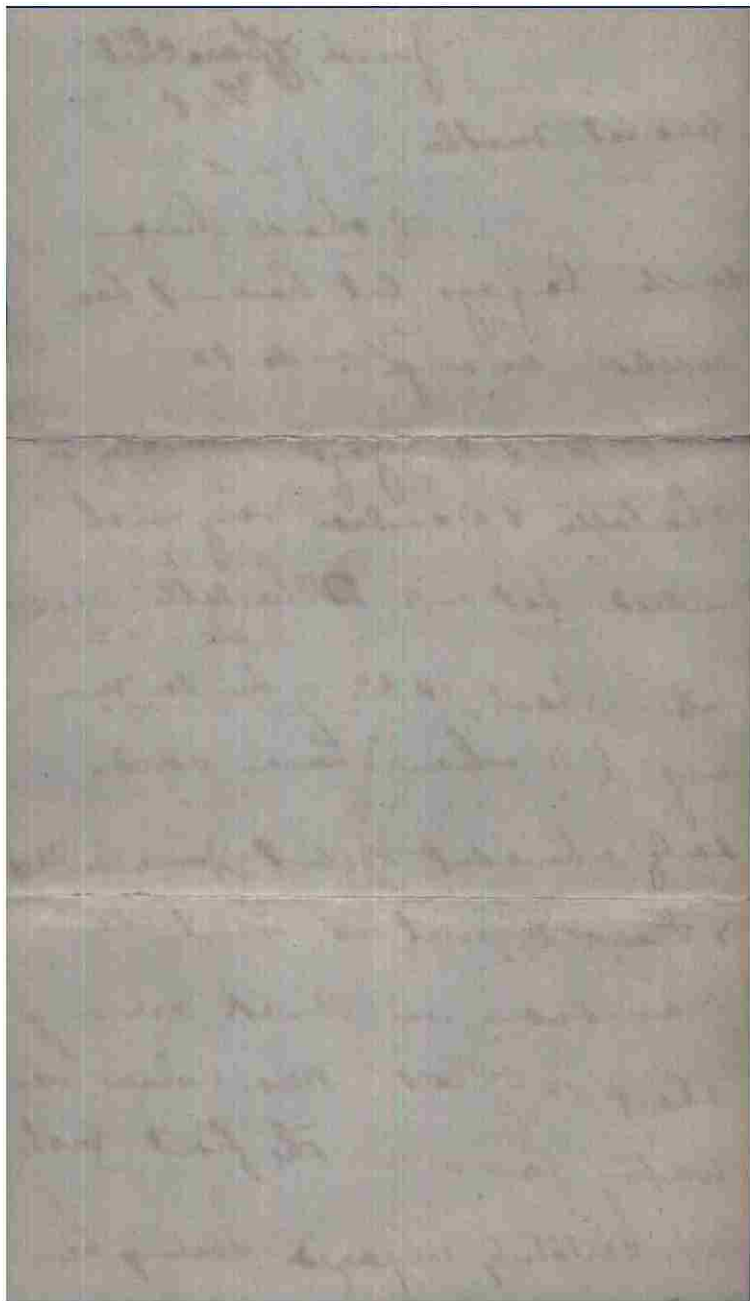
FOLOE-17

Junior Officers Club
3/1/8.

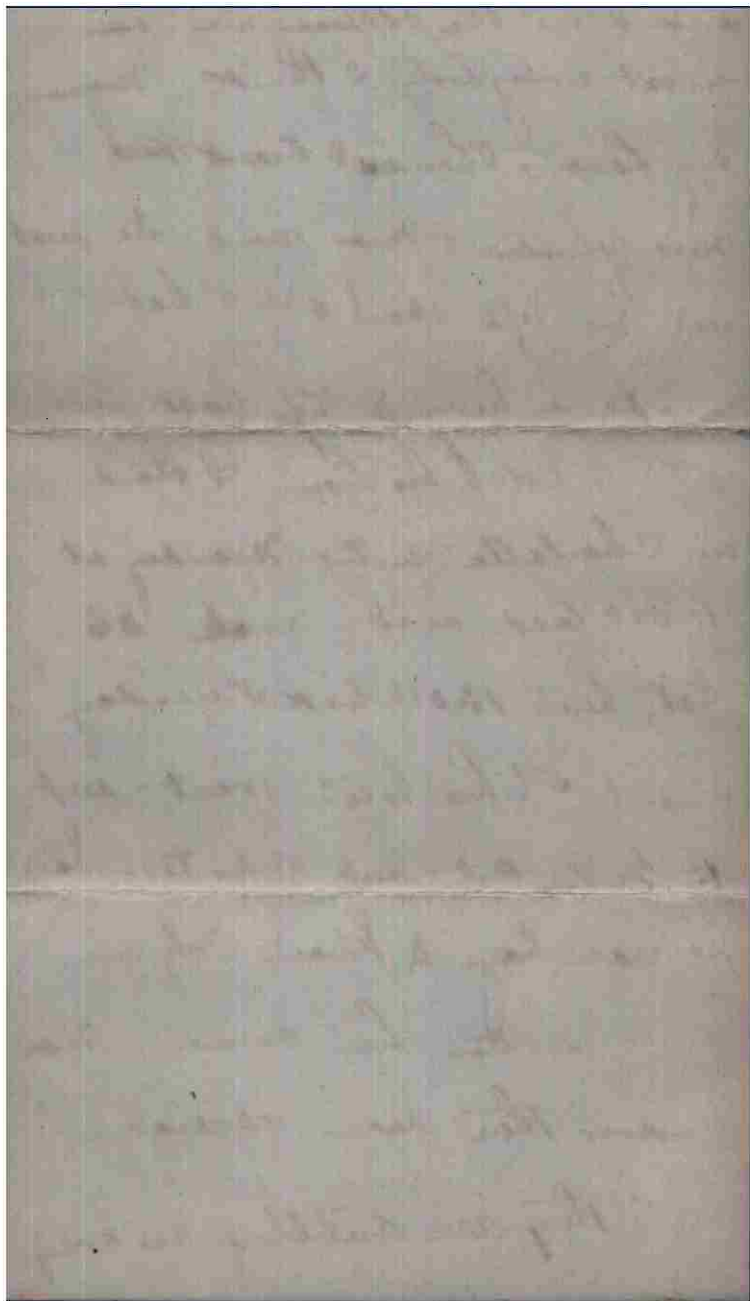
Dearest Mother,

I should have written long ago, but have not been settled enough to do so.

Wm & I enjoyed our stay in Charlotte & Davidson very much indeed. Got into ~~D~~Charlotte real late. about 12 ³⁰ P.M. Sunday morning. (I should have said early shouldnt I.) Aunt Jennie, Mr. Meek & Frank D. met us. went to Davidson in Buick arriving about 12 o'clock. Mrs. Vuxion was waiting for us on the front porch. we certainly enjoyed seeing her



and all the others we saw
 most everybody. I think 'Magnus',
 Guy, Lorenz Thomas & Frank Hall,
 Mrs. Johnston, & Miss Maud etc with
 us. We left about 3:30 & had to
 make a hurried trip back for
 Wm. to catch his train. I staid
 in Charlotte until Monday at
 11 o'clock and rode 36.
 Got here 12 o'clock Tuesday
 about 5 1/2 hrs. later. Went out
 to Garden City and reported. Saw
 several boys I knew. Only one
 of my section had come - now
 however there are several
 and they are dribbling in every



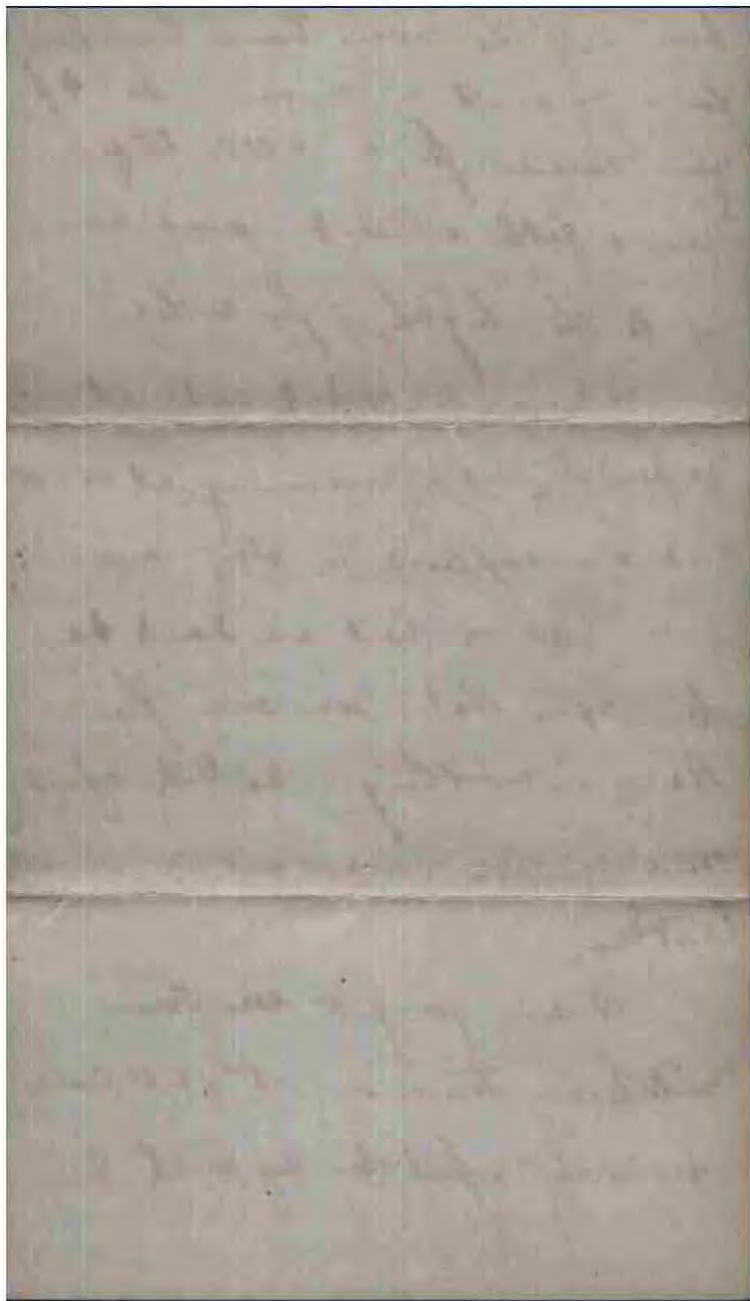
day. Mrs. Kilchrist, & Peter, Paw are
 here with Stuart. I took
 supper with them right before
 last. We are going to a
 show tonight together. I
 spent my first night at the Beta
 Theta Pi Club - 2nd night with
 Stuart at the Beta Theta Pi House
 (Columbia Chapter) 3rd at the B.O.P.
 Club. and tonight I'll stay
 here. This is a ~~new~~ home owned
 by Col. Lemont (dead now) and
 his daughter is running this
 Junior Officers Club - cheapest
 place in the city. 45¢ a day
 over!

and 25¢ for meals - Breakfast
 and supper are served free.
 a beautiful house made -
 good room, bath etc.
 I have purchased a cat
 but there are. more get my
 apartment when I get my order
 to go to Montreal - I don't
 know when you get one there.
 I imagine I see the line a
 meter or more before getting
 order to go to Montreal and
 then a week at least before
 I can go - then. That
 commission is rolled up
 some way - and I wish to
 know from "how" it comes

Some of the men have been here
for a month or more. So if
you care for a little trip -
you & father & Ella G. could come
up to the big city - for awhile.

I have to report out at
Garden City every morning at 10 AM
and am supposed to stay around
until 3 P. M. but we don't do
it. After that we are free.
Hence nothing to do but spend
money and wear out shoe
leather.

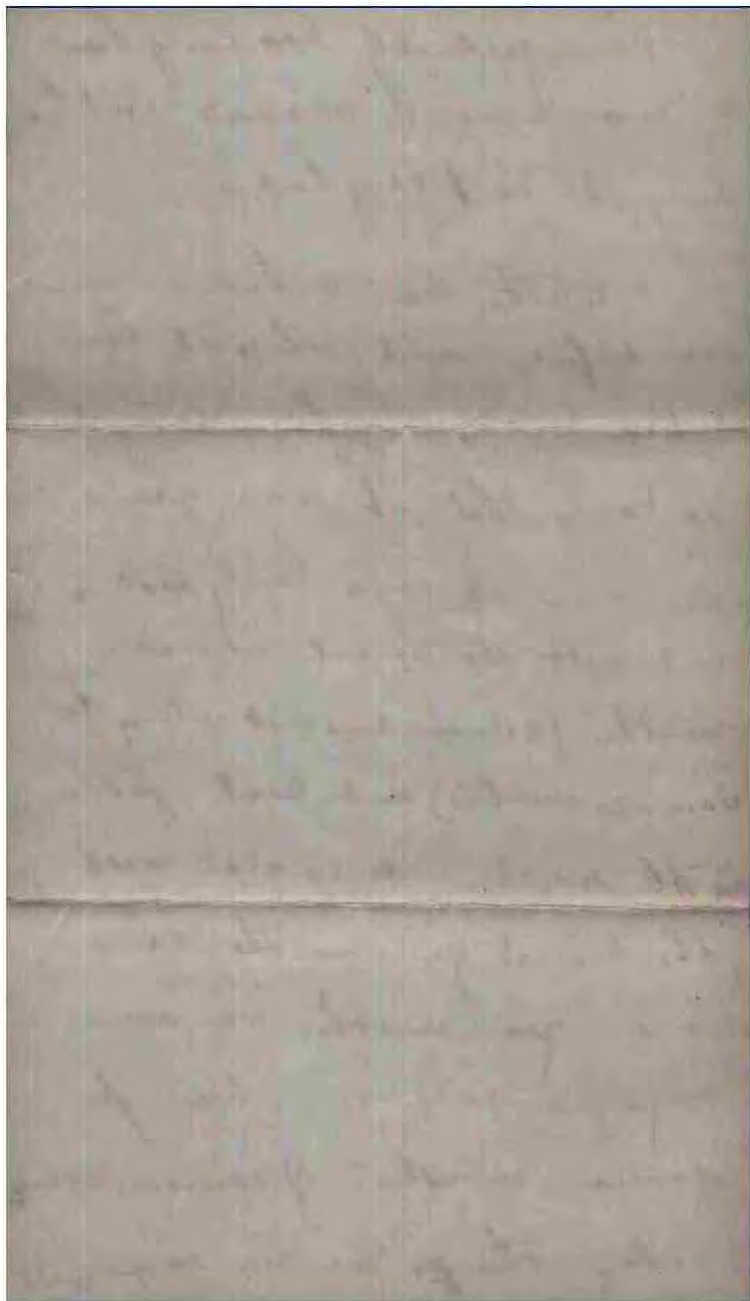
I am going to see Tom
Mitchell tomorrow at 12³⁰ noon
probably spend Sunday with him.



I am gradually learning how to maneuver(?) around in this burg. It isn't very hard.

Mother dear, I had a most wonderful visit while at home. I had been away from civilization so long that it was grand to be among such lovely people and with the most adorable mother (I know I'm not writing to Fannie Walton) and best father in the world. - and also with

the dearest girl in the same world - yes - mother we are engaged and have been for several months. Of course every body thinks we are engaged



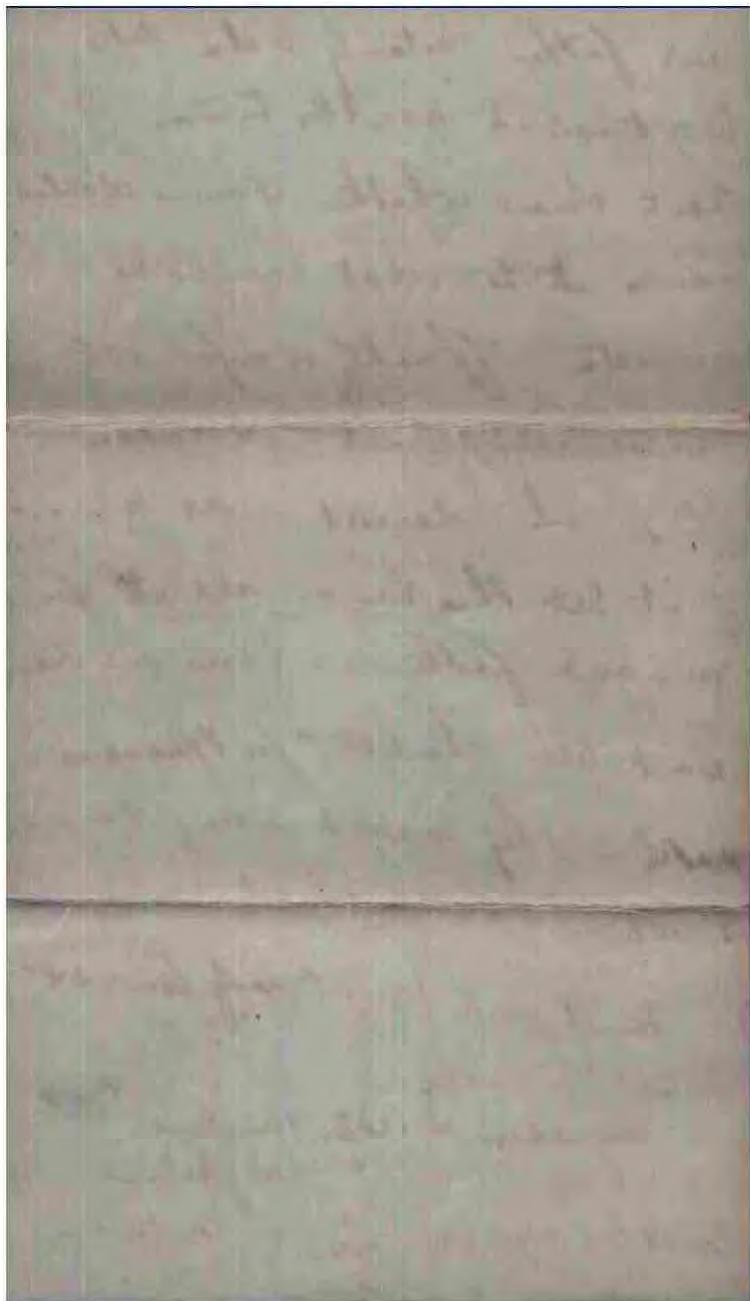
and father certainly acts like
 he knew it all the time. I
 don't know whether Fannie Walton
 wants ~~it~~ to what everybody
 suspects officially or informally
 announced or not - I rather
 think she doesn't - so please
 just let this be a secret for
 you and father and no one else.
 Don't tell Charlotte for Thomas's
 sake - They would worry Fannie
 Walton's death at school

Must quite get ready for a 20th
 meal.

my address Field 2, Hempstead,

Long Island

with love - your most devoted son,
 Sam



168-9567-Box 2
Folder 17

Postmarked Mar 2, 1918
New York, N.Y.
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Mississippi

Junior Officer's Club
3/1/18

Dearest Mother,

I should have written long ago, but haven't been settled enough to do so.

W^m & I enjoyed our stay in Charlotte and Davidson very much indeed. Got into Charlotte real late – about 12³⁰ A.M. Sunday morning. (I should have said early shouldn't I?) Aunt Janie, Uncle Mell & Frank D. met us. Went to Davidson in Buick arriving about 12 o'clock. Mrs. Vinson was waiting for us on the front porch. We certainly enjoyed seeing her and all the others. We saw most everybody, I think. Maynard, Guy, Laveres Thomas, Frank Hall, Mrs. Johnston, & Miss Maud at with us. We left about 3³⁰ & had to make a hurried trip back for W^m to catch his train. I staid (sic) in Charlotte until Monday at 11 o'clock and rode 36- Got here 12 o'clock Tuesday about 5 ½ hrs. late. Went out to Garden City and reported – Saw several boys I knew. Only one of my section had come – now however there are several and they are dribbling in every day. Mrs. Gilchrist & Peter Paw are here with Stuart. I took supper with them night before last. We are going to a show tonight together. I spent my first night at the Beta Theta Pi club – 2nd night with Stuart at the Beta Theta Pi House (Columbia Chapter) 3rd at the Beta Theta Pi Club and tonight I'll stay here. This is a home owned by Col. Lamont (dead now) and his daughter is running this Junior Officer's Club – cheapest place in the city – 45 cents a day and 25 cents for meals – Breakfast and supper are served here. A Beautiful house inside, good rooms, baths, etc.

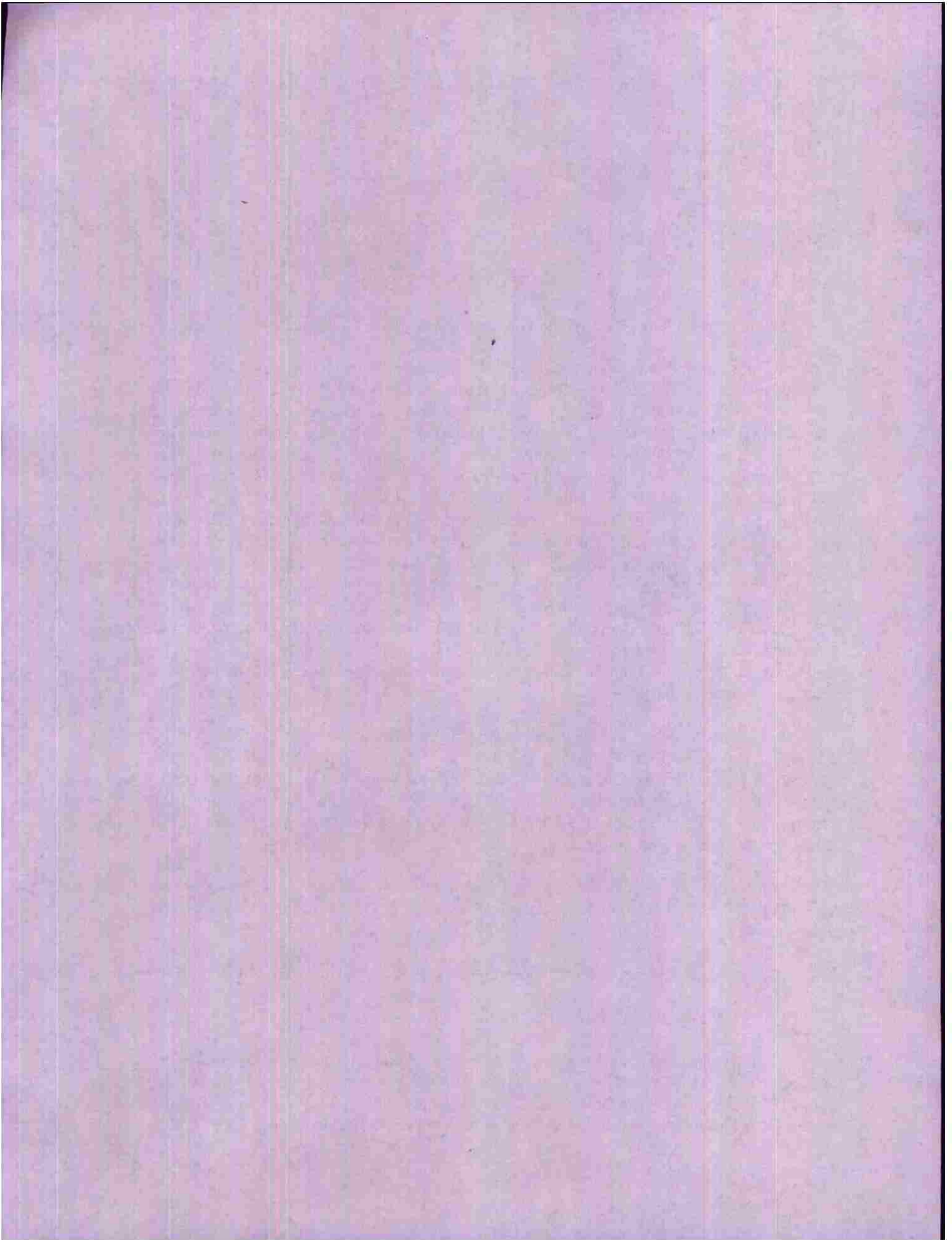
I have purchased a cot but that's all. Will get my equipment when I get my orders to go to Hoboken – Plenty of time when you get over there. I imagine I'll be here a week or more before getting orders to go to Hoboken and then a week at least before I sail from there. Stuart's commission is balled up some way – and he will be here from "now on" it seems. Some of the men have been here for a month or more. So if you cared for a little trip – you & father & Ella F. could come up to the big city – for awhile.

I have to report out at Garden City every morning at 10 A.M. and am supposed to stay around until 3 P.M. but we don't do it. After that we are free. Hence nothing to do but spend money and wear out shoe leather.

I am going to see Tom Mitchell tomorrow at 12³⁰. Will probably spend Sunday with him.

I am gradually learning how to maneuver (?) around in this burg. It isn't very hard.

Mother dear, I had a most wonderful visit while at home. I had been away from civilization so long that it was grand to be among such lovely sisters and with the most adorable mother (I know I'm not writing to Fannie Walton) and best father in the world. – and also with the dearest girl in the same world – yes – mother we are engaged and have been for several

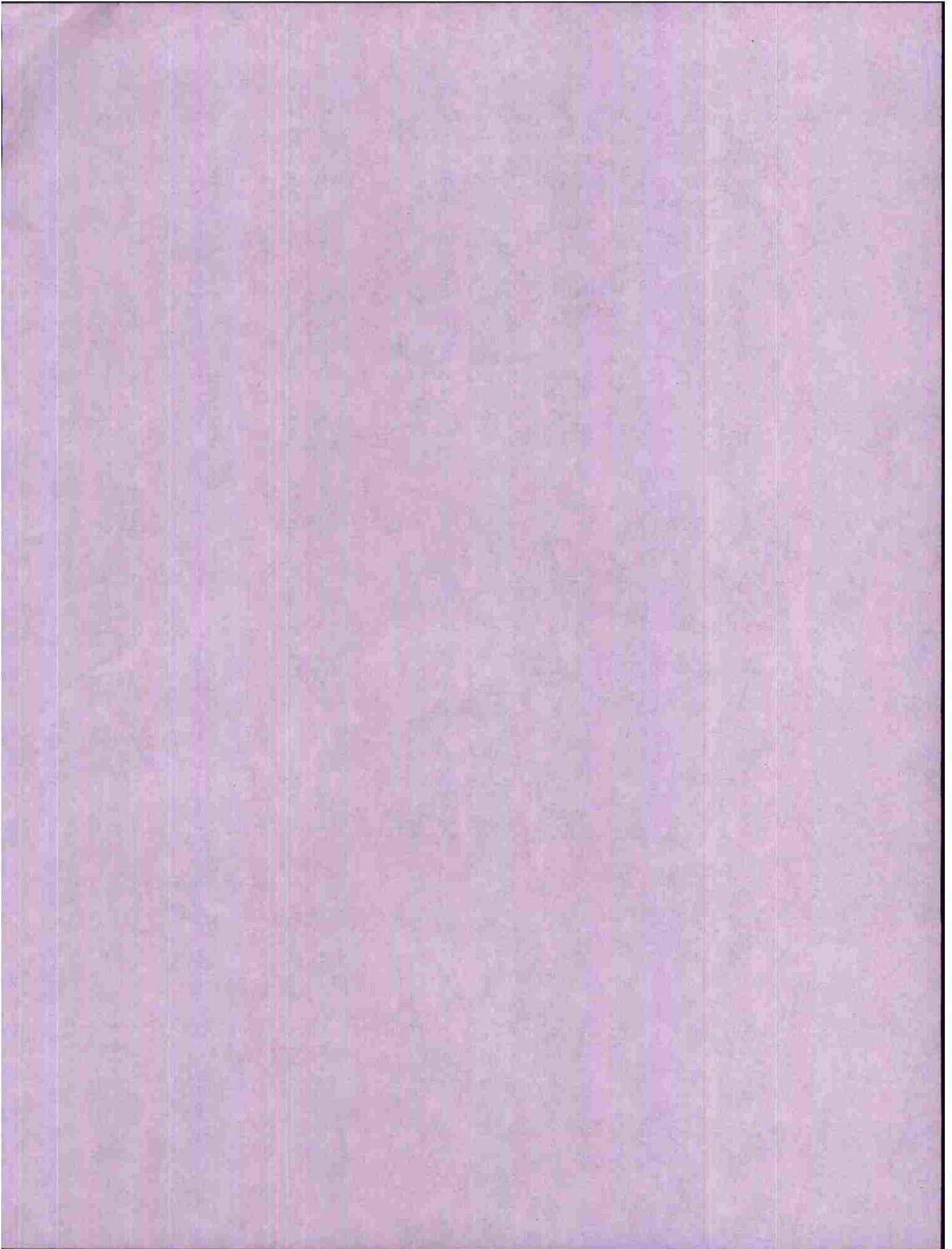


months. Of course every body thinks we are engaged and father certainly acts like he knew it all the time. I don't know whether Fannie Walton wants what every body suspects officially or informally announced or not – I rather think she doesn't – so please just let this ~~be a secret~~ for you and father and ~~no one else~~. Don't tell Charlotte for Heaven's sake – they would worry Fannie Walton to death at school.

Must quit and get ready for a 25 cent meal.

My address – Field 2 Hemstead,
Long Island
N.Y.

With love – your most devoted son,
Sam



To: Mr. S.R. Keesler
From: Maud
March 11, 1918

165-7567-Box 2

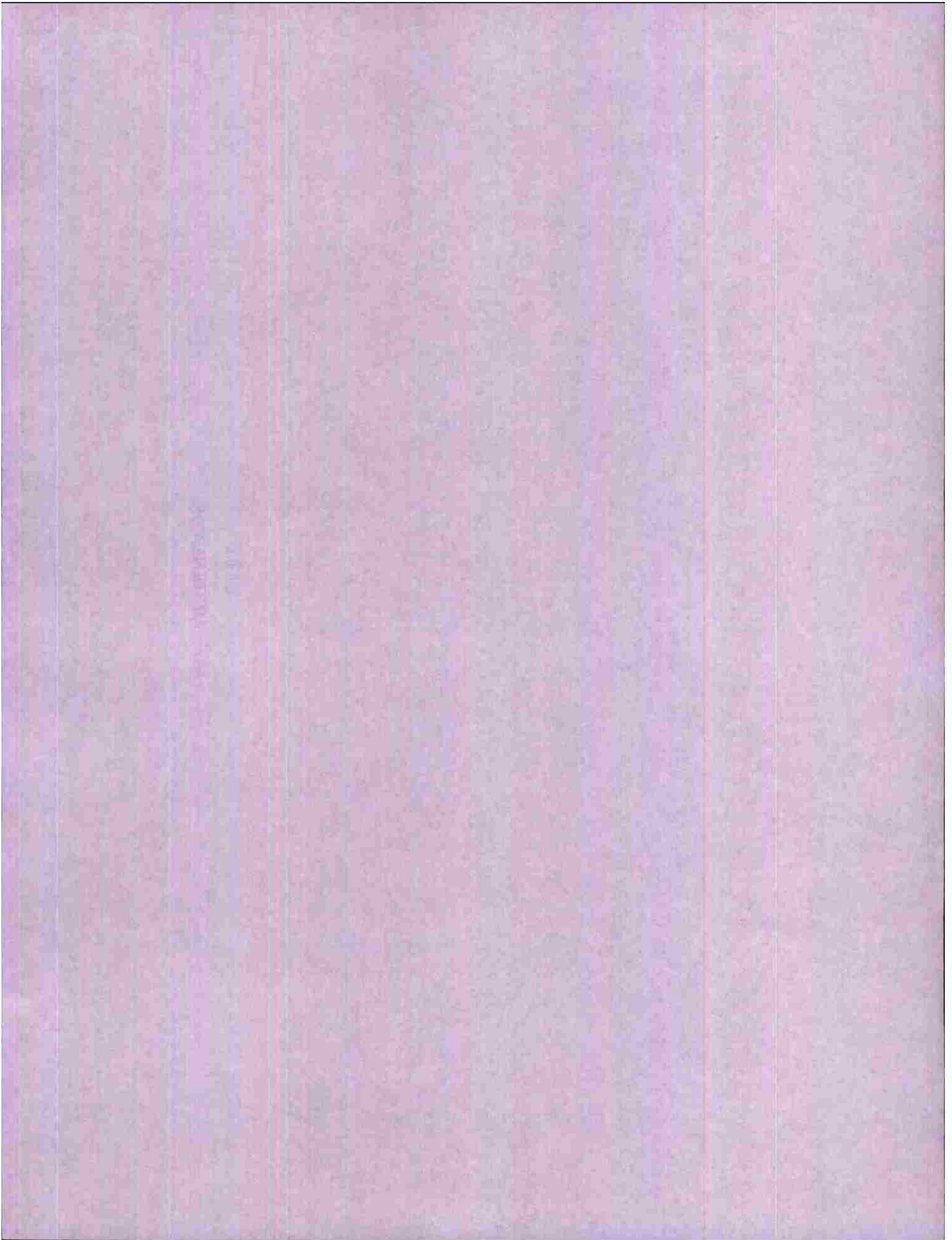
Folder 18

RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6224

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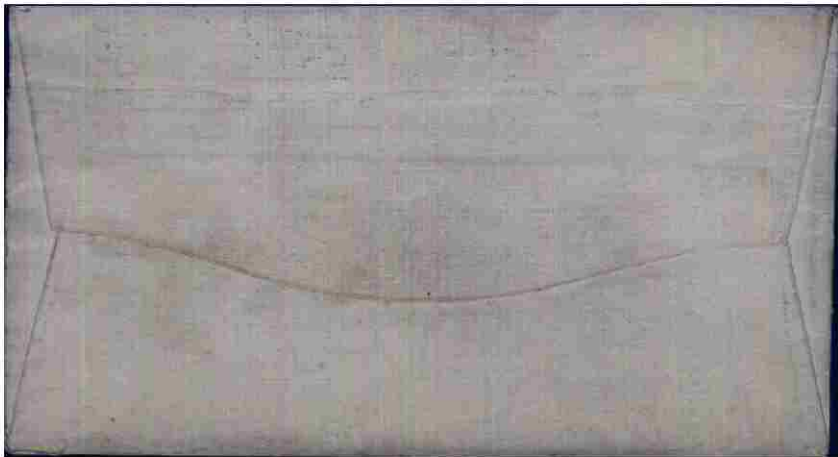


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Well, Edward is "out there" in some kind of school, about 50 miles from Davis. He seems to be doing a fine time, gave me to Davis for the week-end. Bro. Ed is very bright - about him.

John Durham, is with the Benjamin Christ-C. (Medical) He was landed also "in time". Dr. Hayes, Hunter, and Billy Burns are also with that crew. Grand Bill called for James March & the joined the mission. Grand Durham is still out

168-7567-Box
Folder 18

Charlotte, N. C.,
March 11, 1918.

My dear Bro. Dan,

We were so delighted to see the boys, William and Sam recently, when they came through Charlotte. They were looking just fine.

They came in (Sat. night) - late, Mel and Frank, met them. Sunday morning they drove Janie's car to Sanders, and left dinner there. They saw many of their old friends. William had to leave Sun. afternoon of -

5 o'clock for Columbia.
 Sam could get no resurre-
 ction Sunday night, so he
 stayed over until Monday
 morning. I never saw two
 finer boys. I do pray that
 God will keep them safe.

Do you think of going South,
 you and Sister Lattie, before
 Sam sails? If so do bring
 Sister Lattie try to see us,
 we will be so glad to have
 you both come. Will expect
 you soon.

The boys told me about all
 the children, how pretty and
 well Charlotte looked, and
 dear little Ella Fountain,
 she is lovely. The boys are
 crazy about her, thought she
 was so pretty. She is grace-
 itself. I would love to
 have Charlotte or any of the
 others come to see us, if
 you will bring them
 along. The boys were so
 pained, that their mother
 was so brave when they left,
 I think it helped keep up
 their spirits.

Please send me one of
the best photos the boys
had taken. I am so any-
thing for them. I have an
excellent one of Edward.

William gave me one, that
is not good I think at all.
He is the much handsomer
that it is. I want one of
the last one, to please.
Also one to Sister Ethel,
Charlotte, and also the
little one. With much love
for you. Off Maud.

of the army. This last time
he was thrown out on ac-
count of his heart. He only
weighed 104.

Dr. Alfred Durham is in
Washington at the barracks.

He is Capt. in the Medical
Reserve. He is very anxious
to go over, but they are wait-
ing for more men first.

It was a terrible blow to
Mamie when Edward left.
Bro. Ed does not look well,
he has broken so much. I
think he works too hard. He
has not been very well.

We all went over and spent the day with Papa last Sunday. Mel drove us over and we had a pleasant day. They were very nice. Frank is with the Buick Motor Co. and likes his position very much.

Edwin is still fat as a pig, and at school. Ed is about as normal, he is with Mr. Withers, building supplies. Poor Bro. Gus, is about to lose his eyesight. We are so disappointed over it. He has the handwriting of the embezzler.

The doctors in New York and Washington, give him no encouragement. He has some kidney trouble too. The trouble must have been coming on for some time but he did not realize it. He is up and about, goes to his office as usual, but can't see well. Lilly went to Va. and stayed near Frank for some time. She has gone home now. Frank Belle looked fine in his uniform. He is very patriotic.

Mr. S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Mississippi

Charlotte, N.C.,
March 11, 1918

My dear Bro. Sam, -

We were so delighted to see the boys, William and Sam recently, when they came through Charlotte. They were looking just fine.

They came in Sat. night - Tali, Mel and Frank met them. Sunday morning they drove Jamie's car to Davidson and took dinner there. They saw many of their old friends. William had to leave Sun. afternoon at 5 o'clock for Columbia.

Sam could get no reservation Sunday night, - so he stayed over until Monday morning. I never say two finer boys. I do pray that God will keep them safe. Do you think of going North, you and Sister Lottie, before Sam sails? If so do bring Sister Lottie by to see us, we will be so glad to have you both come. Will expect you sure.

The boys told me about all the children, how pretty and well Charlotte looked, and dear little Ella Fountain, She is lovely. The boys are crazy about her, though, - she was so pretty. She is grace itself. I would love to have Charlotte or any of the others come to see us, if you will bring them along. The boys were so proud, that their mother was so brave when they left, I think it helped keep up their spirits.

Well, Edward is "over there" in some kind of school, about 50 miles from Paris. He seems to be having a fine time, goes over to Paris for the week-end. Bro. Ed is very bright about him.

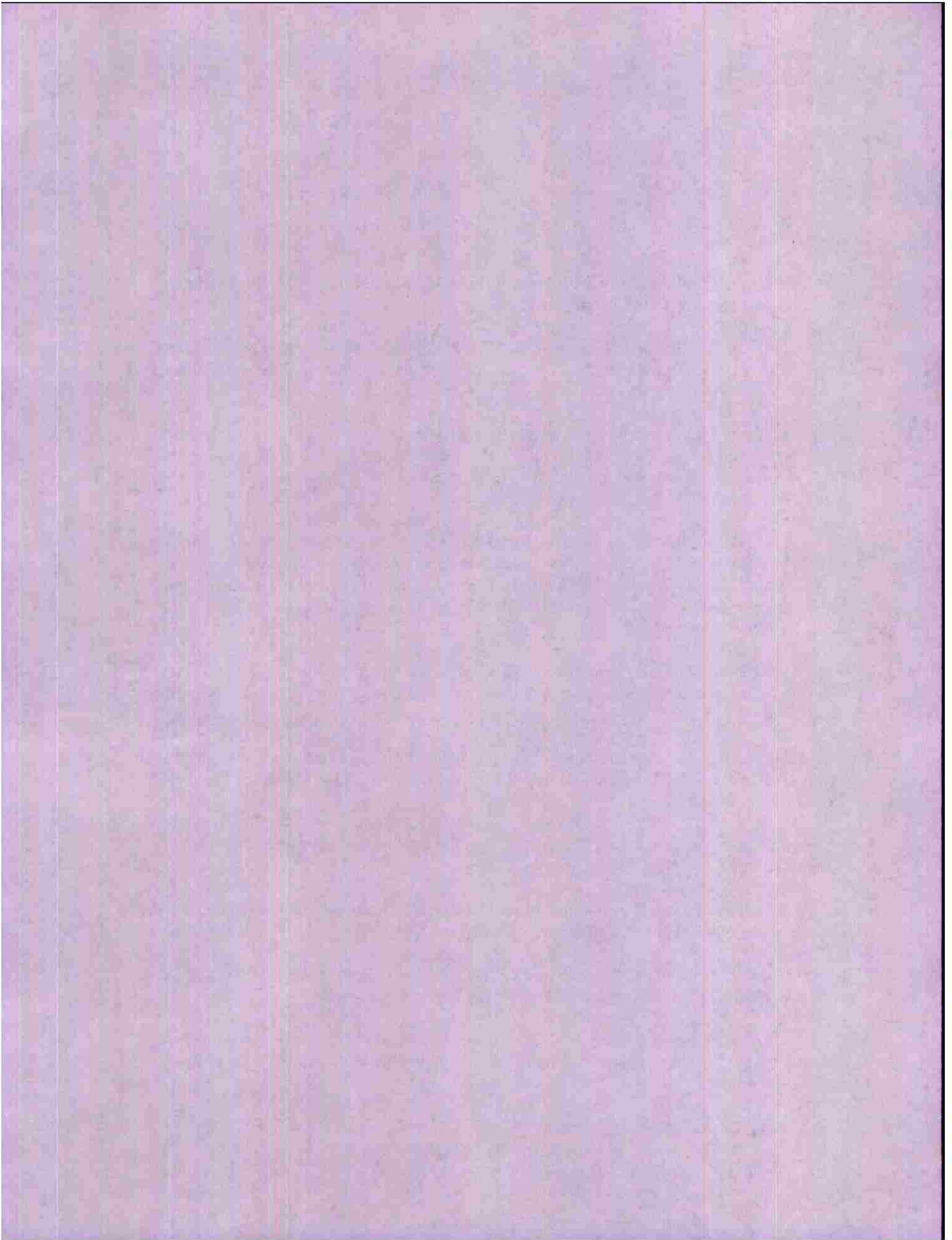
John Durham is with the Brenizer Unit Q (Medical) He has landed also "over there". Dr. Myers Hunter, and Bill Brown are also with that unit. Frank Bell sailed for France March 4th. He joined the aviation.

Frank Durham is still out of the Army. This last time he was thrown out on account of his heart. He only weighed 104.

Dr. Albert Durham is in Washington at the barracks. He is Capt. in the medical reserve. He is very anxious to go over, but they are sending younger men first.

It was a terrible blow to Mamie when Edward left. Bro. Ed does not look well, he has broken so much. I think he works too hard. He has not been very well.

We all went over and spent the day with Sada last Sunday. Mel drove us over and we had a pleasant day. They were very well. Frank is with the Buick Motor Co. and likes his position very much.



Edwin is still fat as a pig, and at school. Ed is about as usual, he is with Mr. Withers, building supplies.

Poor Bro. Gus, is about to lose his eye sight. We are so distressed over it. He has the hardening of the muscles. The doctors in New York and Washington give him so encouragement. He has some kidney trouble too. The trouble must have been coming on for some time but he did not realize it. He is up and about, goes to his office as usual, but can't see well.

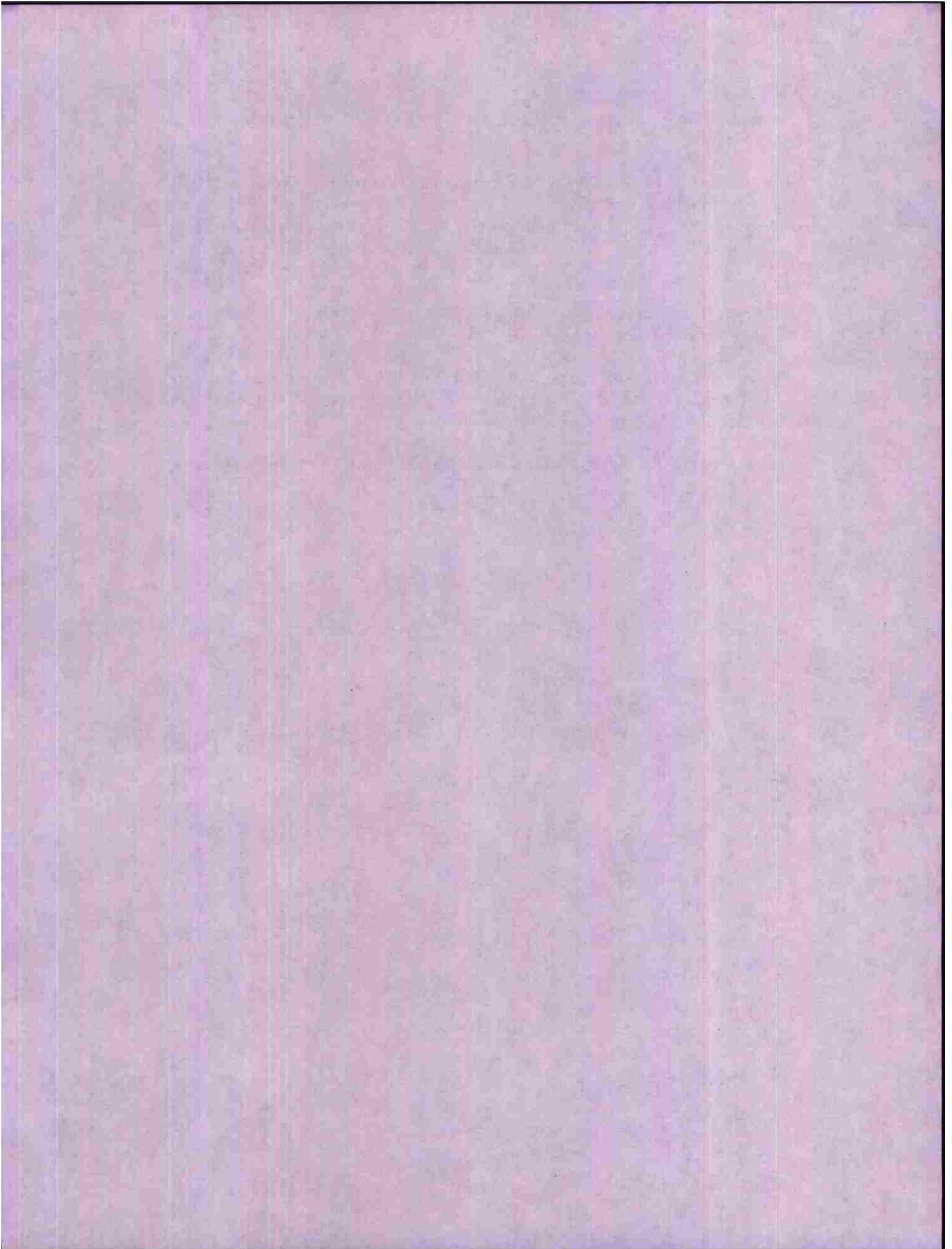
Lilly went to Va. And stayed near Frank for some time. She has gone home now. Frank Bell looked fine in his uniform. He is very patriotic.

Please send me one of the last photo's the boy had taken. I an so anxious for them. I have an excellent one of Edward. William gave me one, that is not good of him at all. He is too much handsomer that (sic) it is. I want one of the last ones, to frame.

Lots of love to Sister Lottie, Charlotte, and all the little ones. With much love for you.

Aff.

Maud.



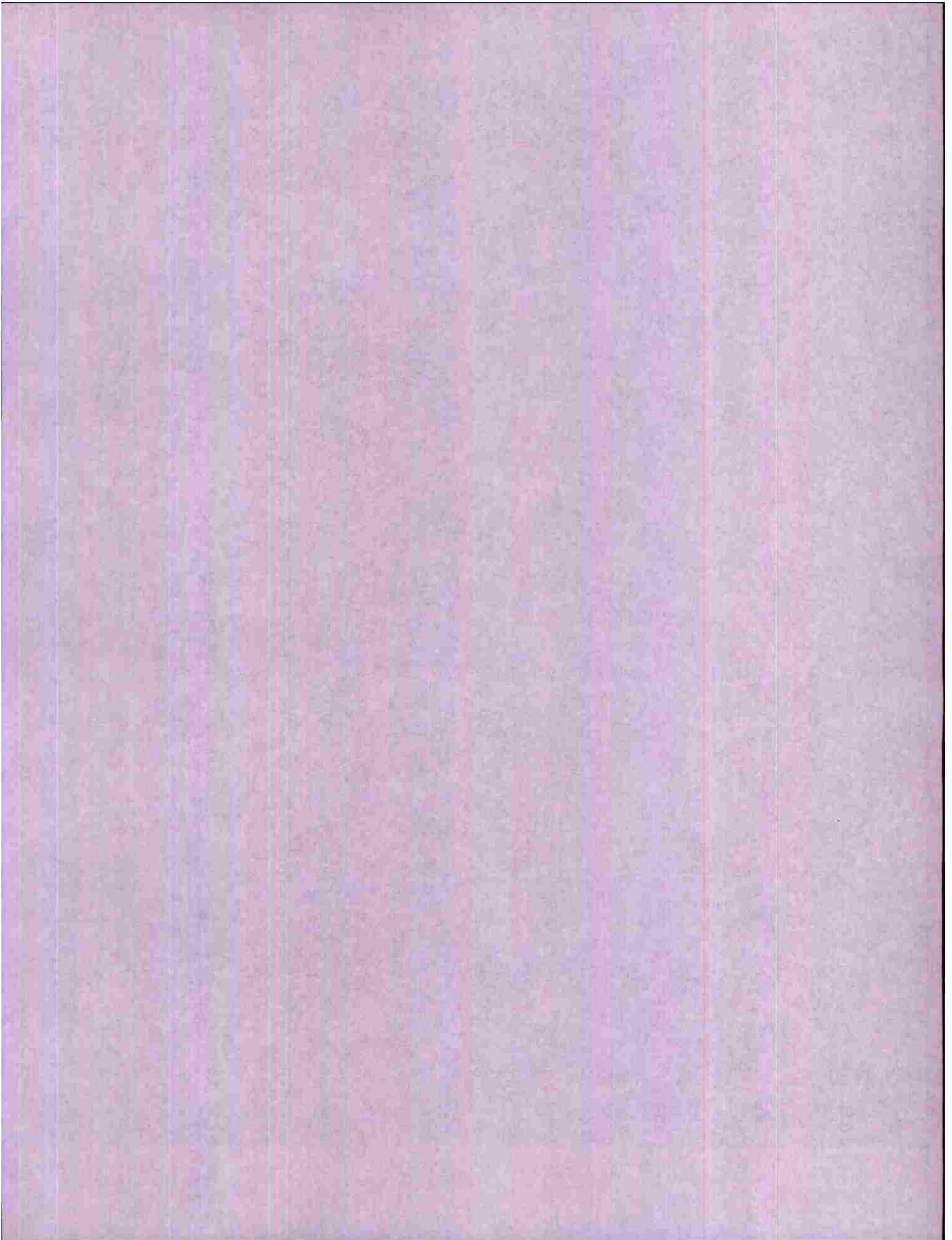
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
Postmarked March 13, 1918

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RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36110

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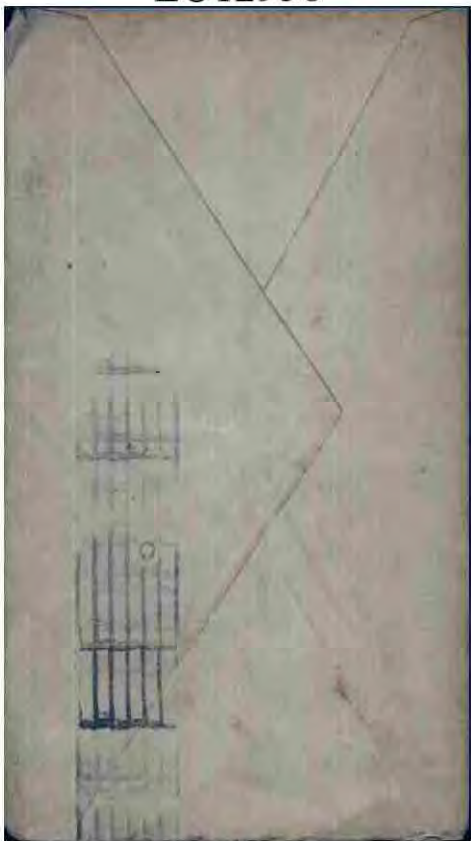


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FOLDER 19

I went 5-8th street.

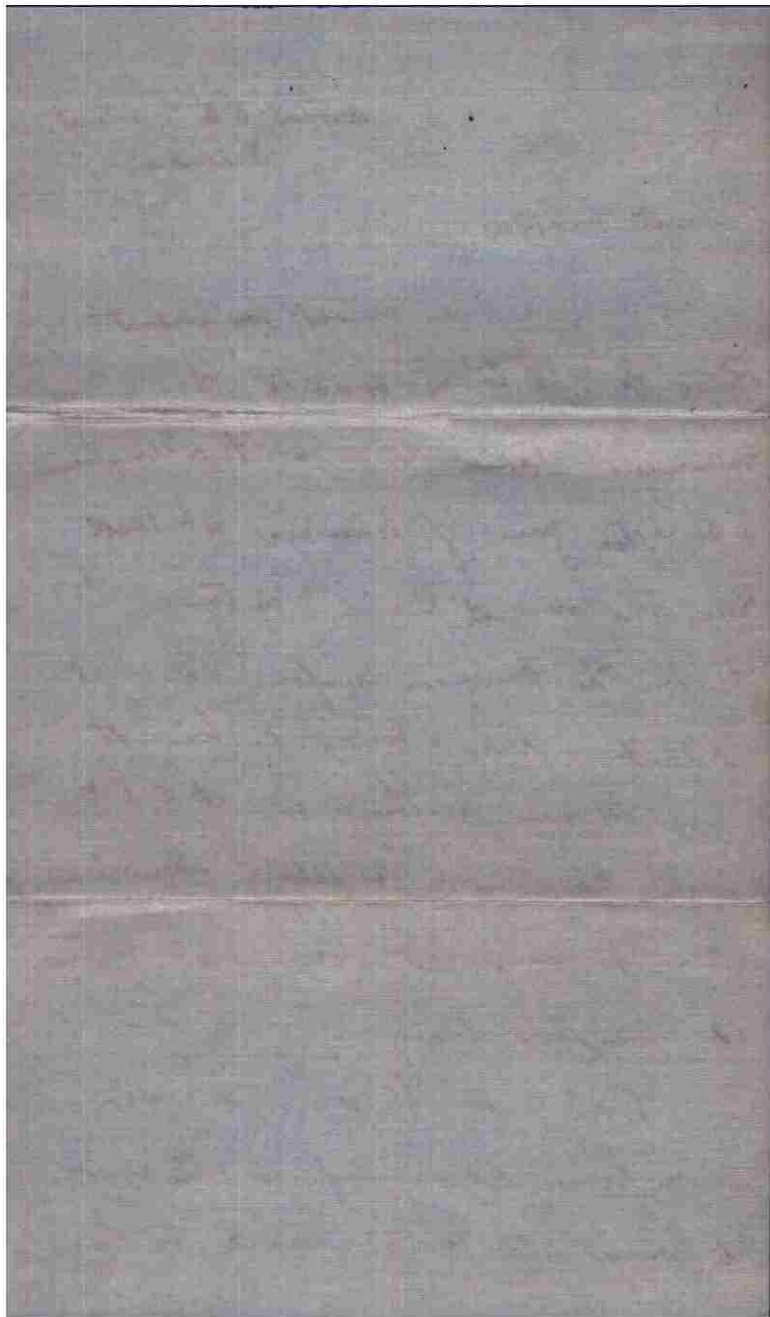
Tuesday -

Dearest Mother,

The most important thing I did today was to have my measure taken for a suit or uniform & 2 extra pair of trousers. It took me the longest time of a time to find the American Uniform Co. but at last I did. They are to have the suit for me for tomorrow at 5 P.M. I also laid in a supply of chemicals etc. - no drug - just chemicals - iodine, adhesive tape etc.

How I wish you and father could have come up for this week at least. I would love to have

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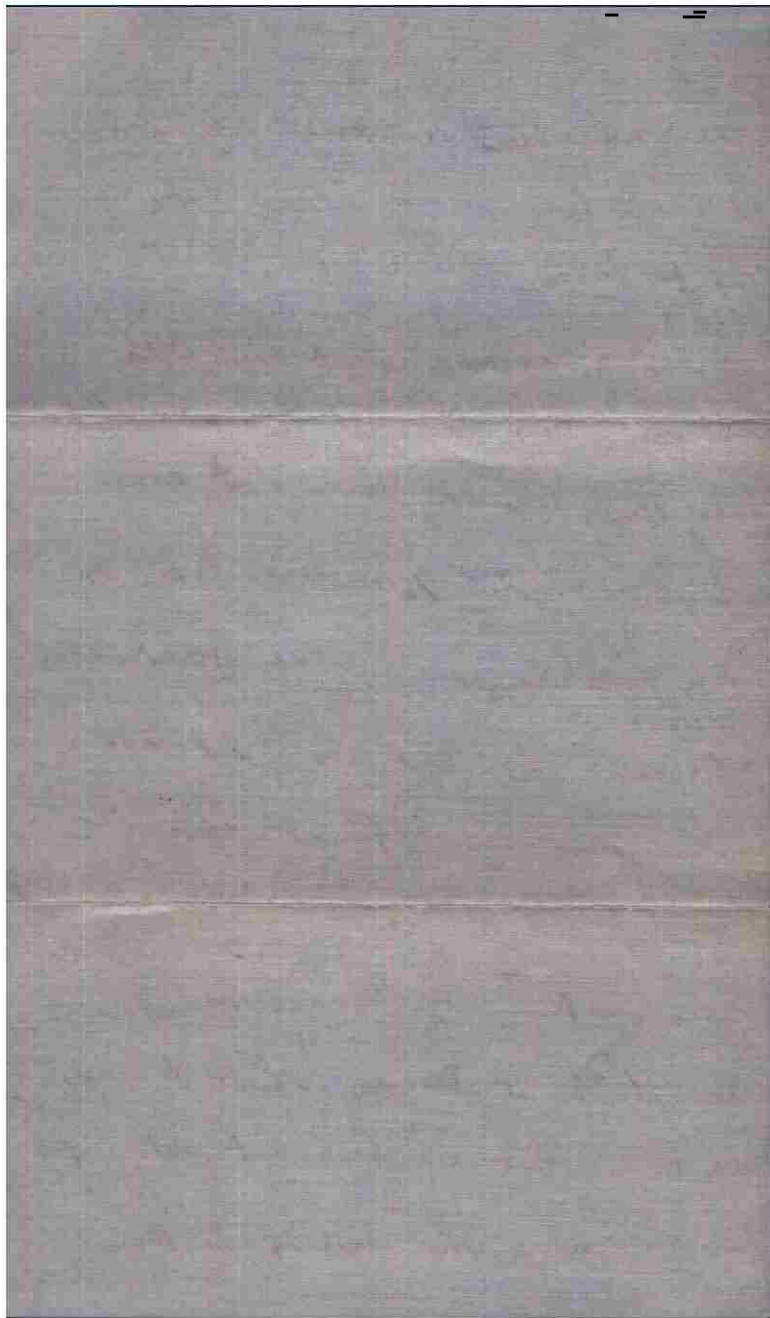


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had my sisters too and brother -
I can't have everything like I
want it tho.

My baggage went over today. I
am going over tomorrow to see that
everything is ok. and put some
strap on my trunk and another on
my bedding roll. also pack some
articles. Gee! but its just to feel
like you are almost into the
"fray". Probably this "war" is my
life's work - I've always wondered
and tried to decide what it was -
so I'll just see I've got into it
and leave the results to Him.

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I hear that the officers are to
be made 1st Lieutenants on April
first. That is fine something to
hear, isn't it? I hope it is true.

Must stop now. I'm going to
another show. -- a comedy --

"Polly with a Past" How do you like
the title?

Lots of love to you all --
your devoted son,
Duffy

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Postmarked March 13, 1918
New York, N.Y.
To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Miss

2 West 53rd Street
Tuesday

Dearest Mother,

The most important thing I did today was to have my measure taken for a suit or uniform & 2 extra pair of trousers. It took me the longest kind of time to find the American Uniform Co – but at last I did. They are to have the suit for me for tomorrow at 5 P.M. I also laid in a supply of chemicals etc – no drugs – not chemicals – iodine, adhesive tape etc.

How I wish you and father could have come up for this week at least. I would have loved to have had my sisters too and brother – I can't have everything like I want it tho.

My baggage went over today. I am going over tomorrow to see that everything is O.K. and put some straps on my trunks and another on my bedding role – also pack some articles. Gee! But its great to feel like you are almost into the “fray.” Probably this “war” is my life's work – I've always wondered and tried to decide what it was – so I'll put all I've got into it and leave the results to Him.

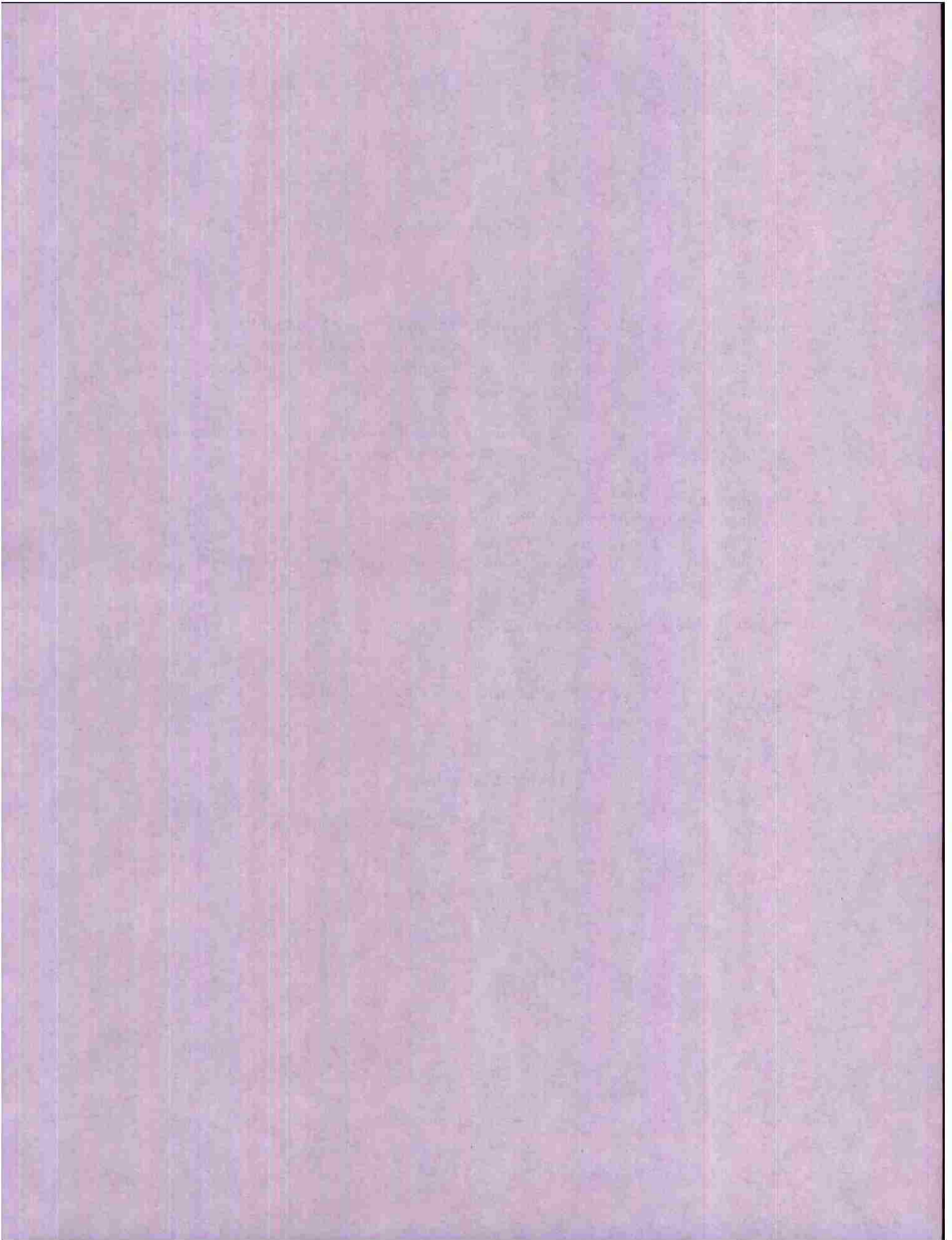
I hear that the observers are to be made 1st Lieutenants on April first. That's a fine something to hear, isn't it? I hope it is true.

Must stop now – I'm going to another show – a comedy – “Polly with a Past” – How do you like the title?

Lots of love to you all –

Your devoted son,
Sam Jr.

168 7567 - Box 2
FALCON 19

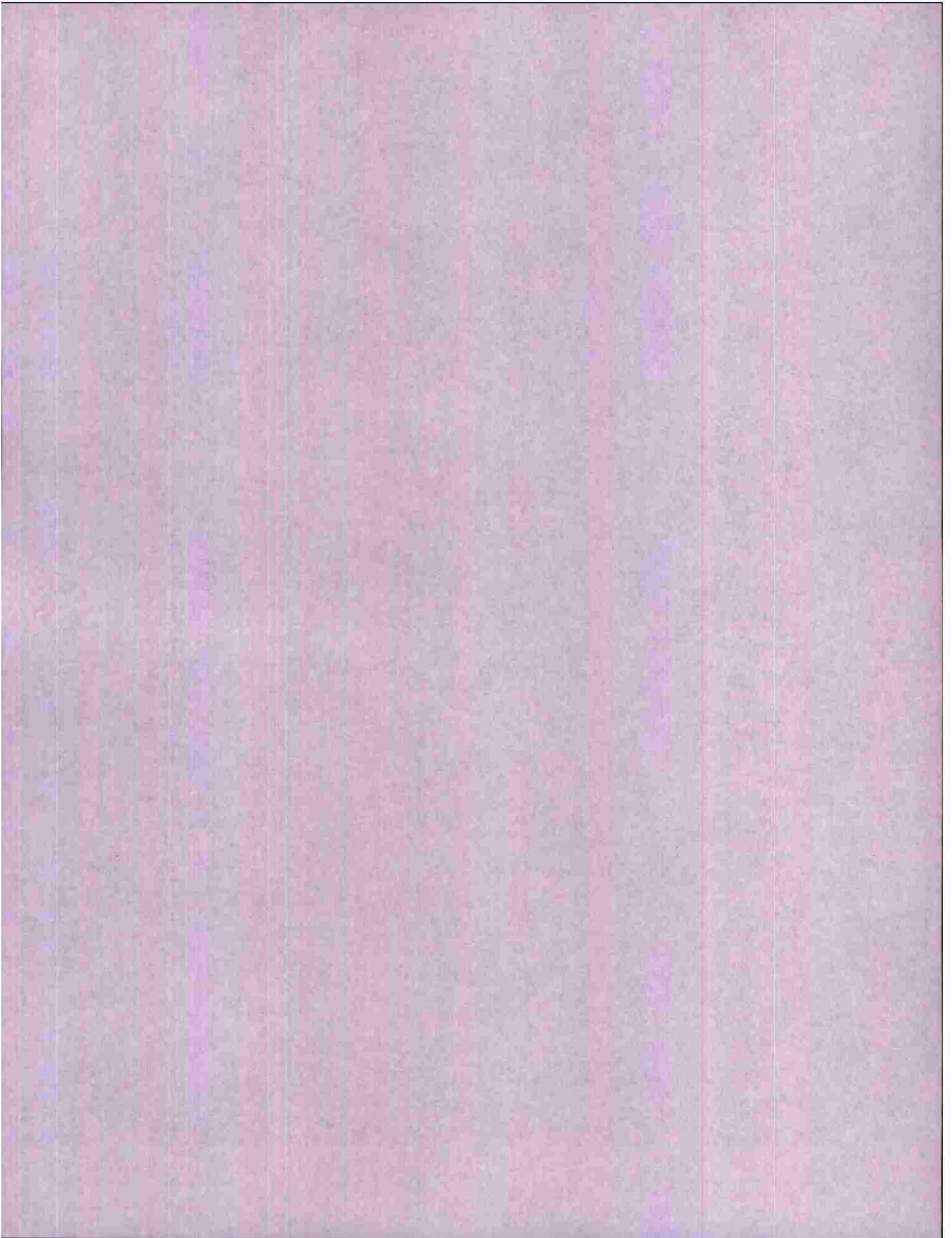


To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler (enroute to France)
March 25, 1918

168 7567-Box 2
FILED 213
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell, TN, AL 36112-6024

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2007

0156160



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EO12958



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101-1561-0012
FOLDER 20

very close to somewhere
at sea

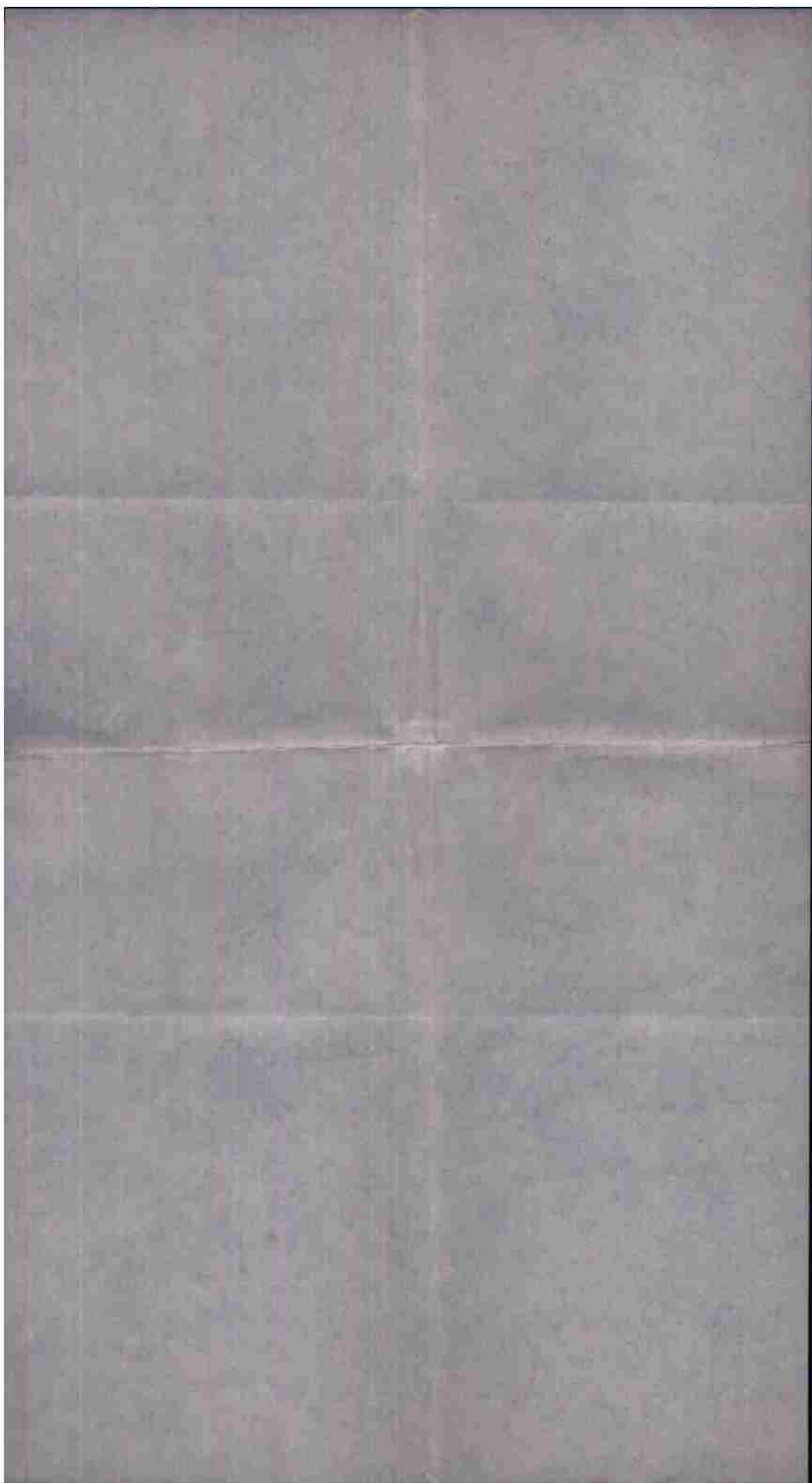
March 25th 1918.

dearest mother,

Today is our eleventh day at sea and I must say I am getting tired of it. We hope to land tomorrow the and then I hope to be able to say that "all is well" so far.

The night out of New York I felt fine and the next morning I didn't feel badly but about 11:00 A.M. I didn't have to ask anybody what to do. Since then I have never been in better health - outwardly my "inside" was good too. I have had a very enjoyable voyage considering.

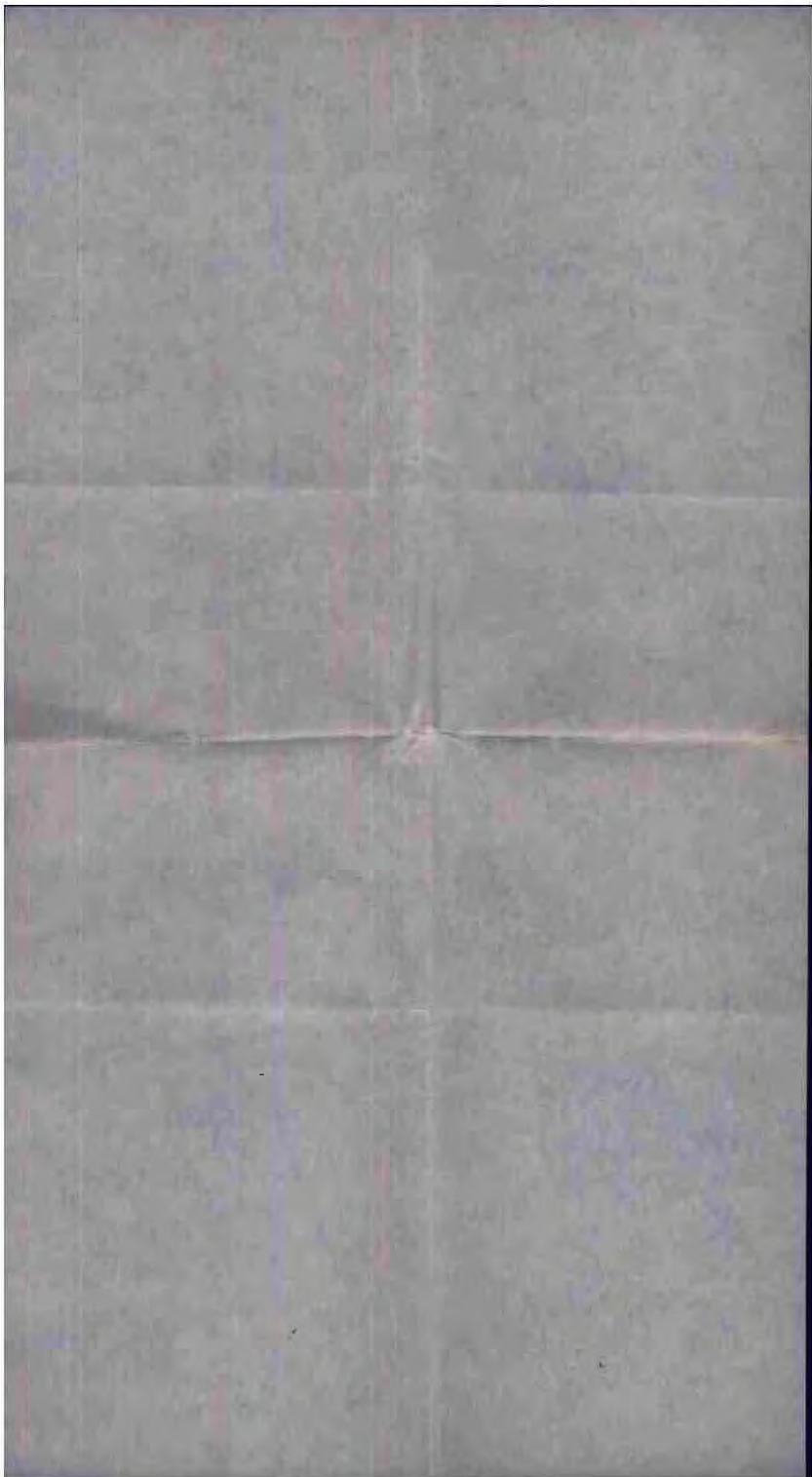
The ~~first~~ day out ten Lieutenants were selected a "lookouts" from the "Crows" "Crows' nests" - also a detail of men ^{was} ~~was~~ made up to be used for the same purpose. 2 men and 1 Lt. went up at a time. 3 men in the "Goatop" and three in the "Main top." I was assigned to the former. It required a little nerve



to climb up the first time - for the Crew's
 'meat' is about 60 or 90 ft. from the
 deck and when the wind is
 blowing hard - the meat swings back
 and forth - causing rather a nervous
 feeling. All of the "Observers" on board
 had this job assigned to them. There
 are about 8 men on board and
 1 pilot.

The men are mostly "casuals".
 men who were in quarantine when
 their units went over. Consequently
 it is more of a mob than anything
 else. The average intelligence of the
 bunch is none too high. Consequently, I
 think the officer in charge deserves
 a lot of credit for the success of things
 so far.

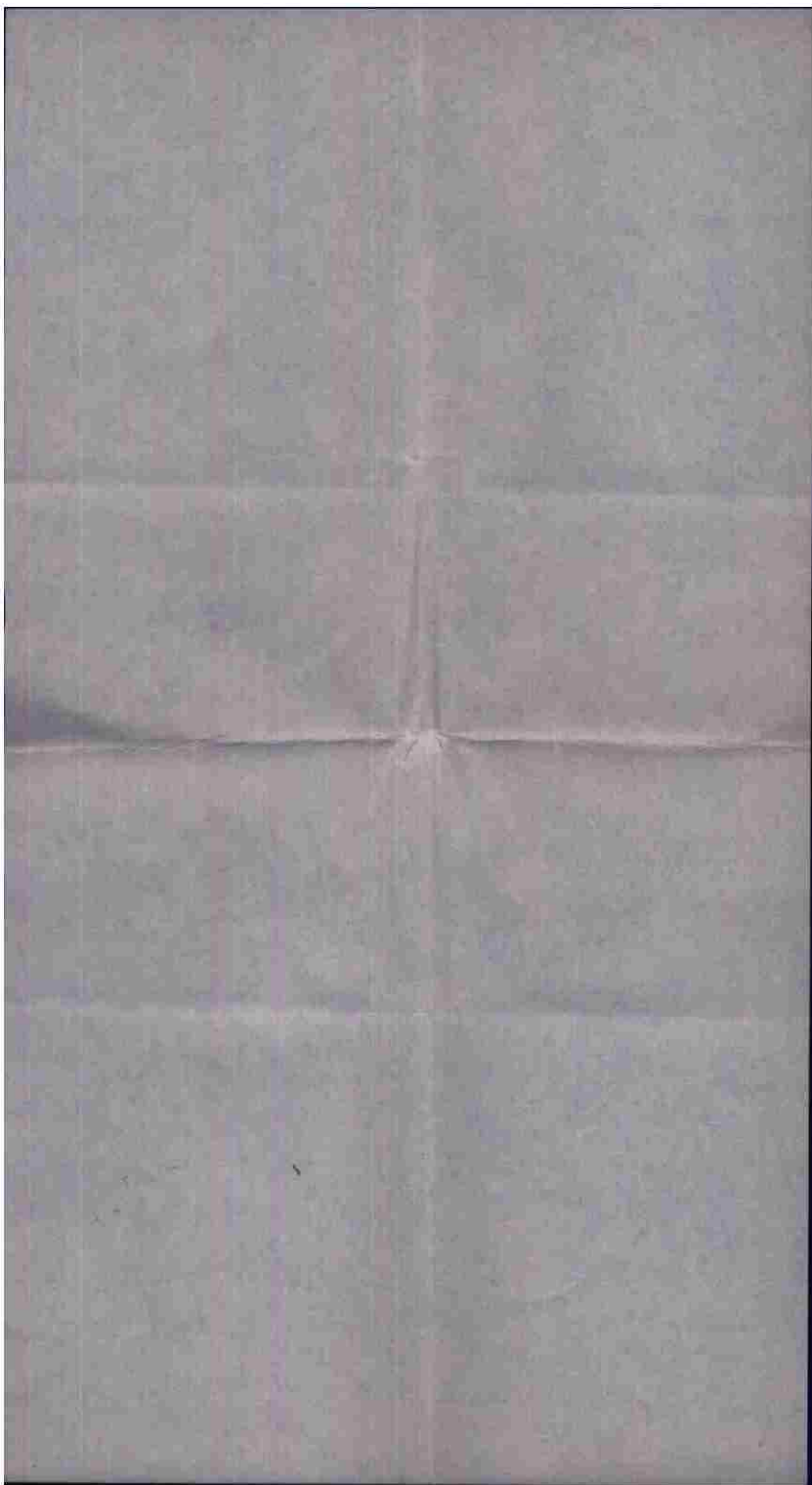
Our death record and sick list have
 both ~~never~~ been used, but nothing startling.



a few cases of diphtheria have sprung up which may mean that we will be quarantined for several days upon reaching Jath.

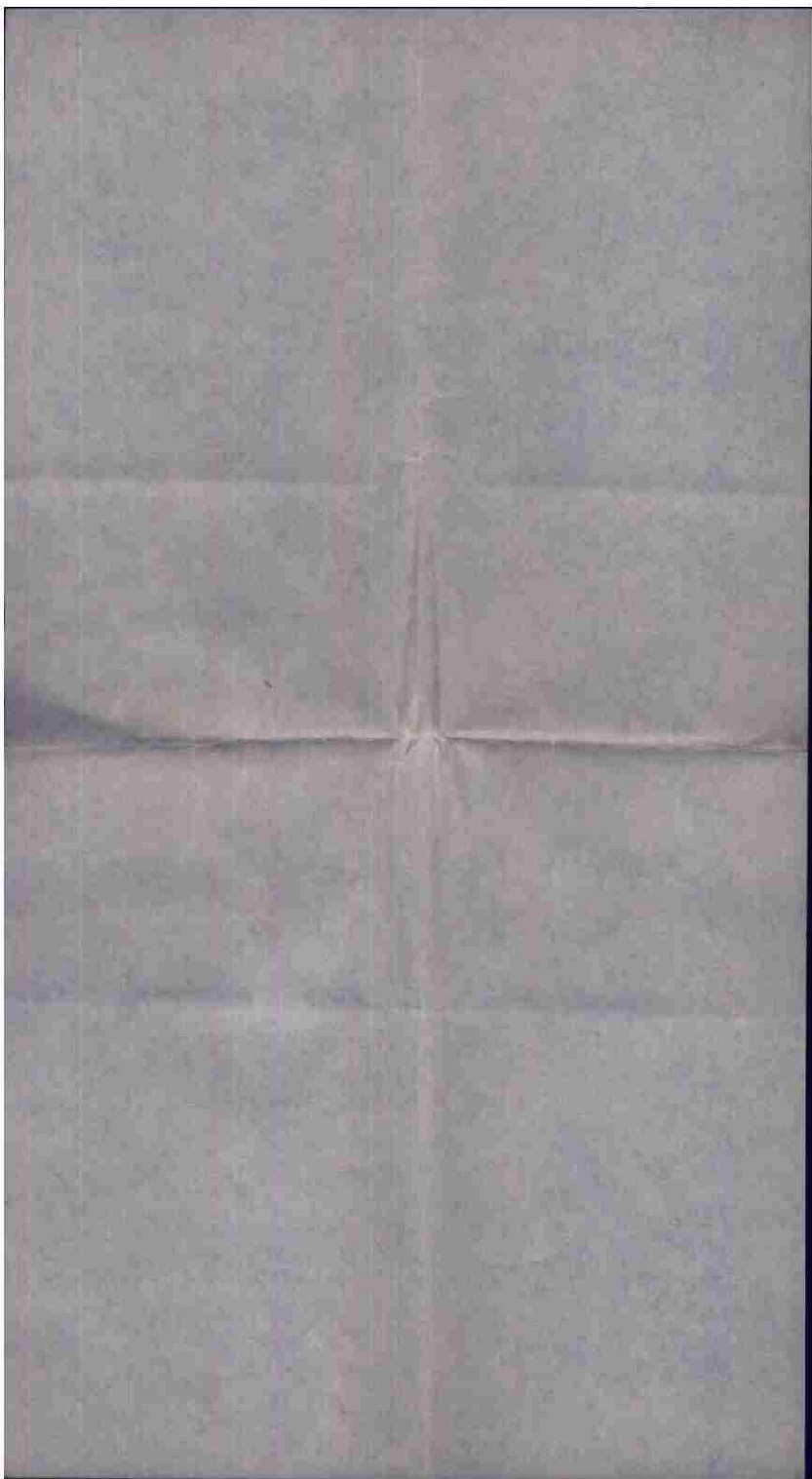
I have enjoyed watching the ships use their different methods of signaling. They use flags, "wigwag" and "blinkers" one or the other continuously.

The convey which we have been looking for joined us yesterday morning. A whole fleet of destroyers. Our other convey after turning over her charge left us and was out of sight in a half hour. ~~She~~ I hated to see her go for she has been so faithful on this voyage and taken such good care of us.



These little destroyers are certainly
 diligent - for they are zigzagging
 all about us all the time. It
 doesn't seem feasible for a "le Boat"
 to get away - altho he might
 get a shot in some way or other.
 This morning I was on watch from
 6 to 8. About 7 or 8 o'clock I saw
 something the size of a periscope, about
 100 yds off to the starboard. It was
 black and round and stuck about
 three inches out of the water. I felt
 sure. It was a New Boat. I called
 the Control and reported - "a piece of wood
 or periscope 90° to starboard". I was
 a little nervous I'll admit. It
 went by tho, and nothing happened.
 However the ship following us

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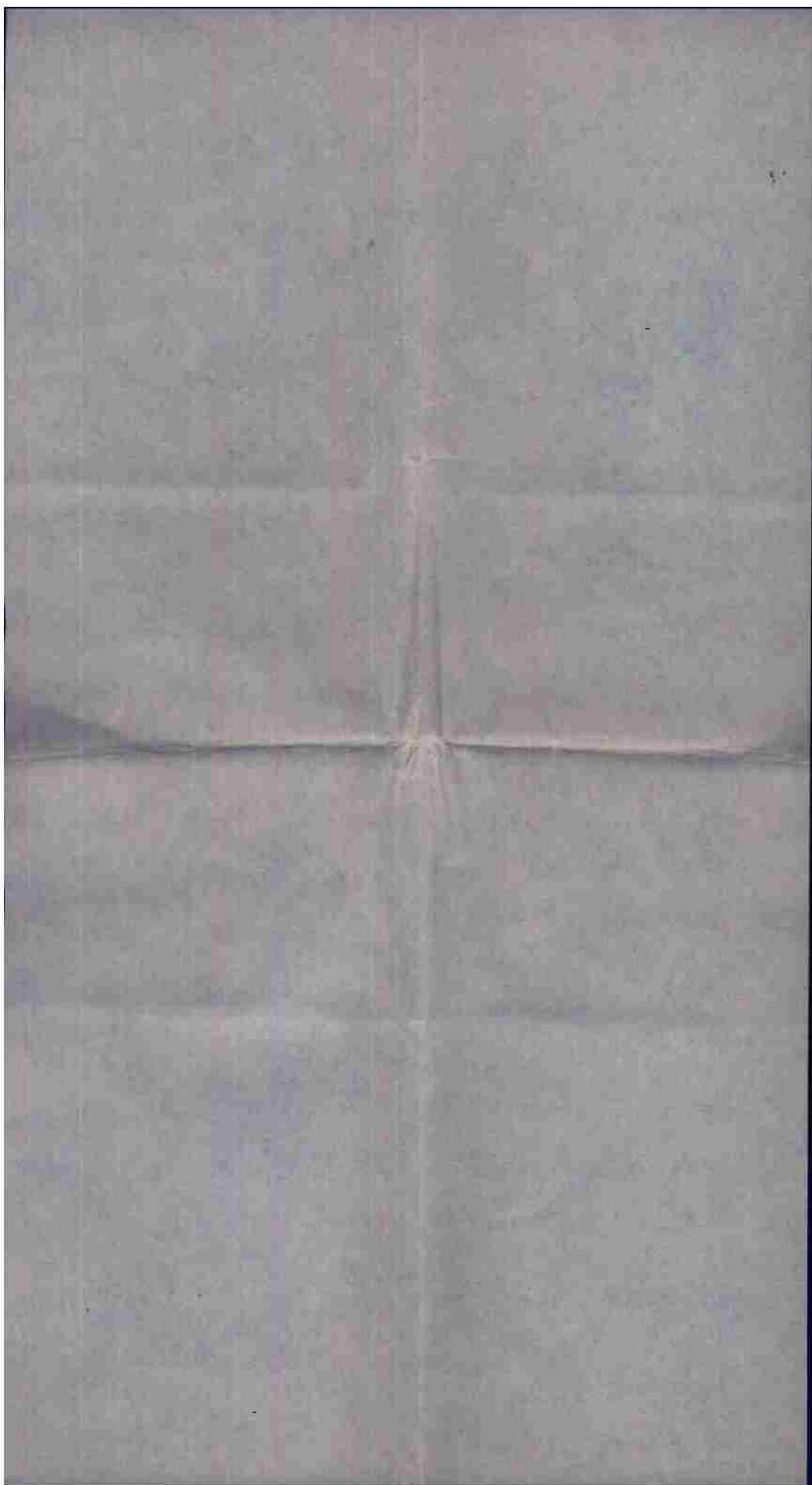
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saw it and fired - as far as I could
 see a very good shot too. Our gun
 crew was ordered to fire I understand
 but did not. Consequently some body
 got "crossed" out, I judge. Some say
 it was a can, others a fish - and
 still others a bird - I think it was
 the former now. All of this was
 "much ado about nothing" but it says
 to be on the job.

For the last day or so the sea
~~has been real smooth. Hardly~~
 any waves. It looks like we were
 in some kind of a Bay - we surely
 are surrounded by land some-
 where.

I have thought about you all
 a lot and what a good time I had
 at home not long ago. I'll have
 lots of things to tell you when I
 get back - and if I don't - write &

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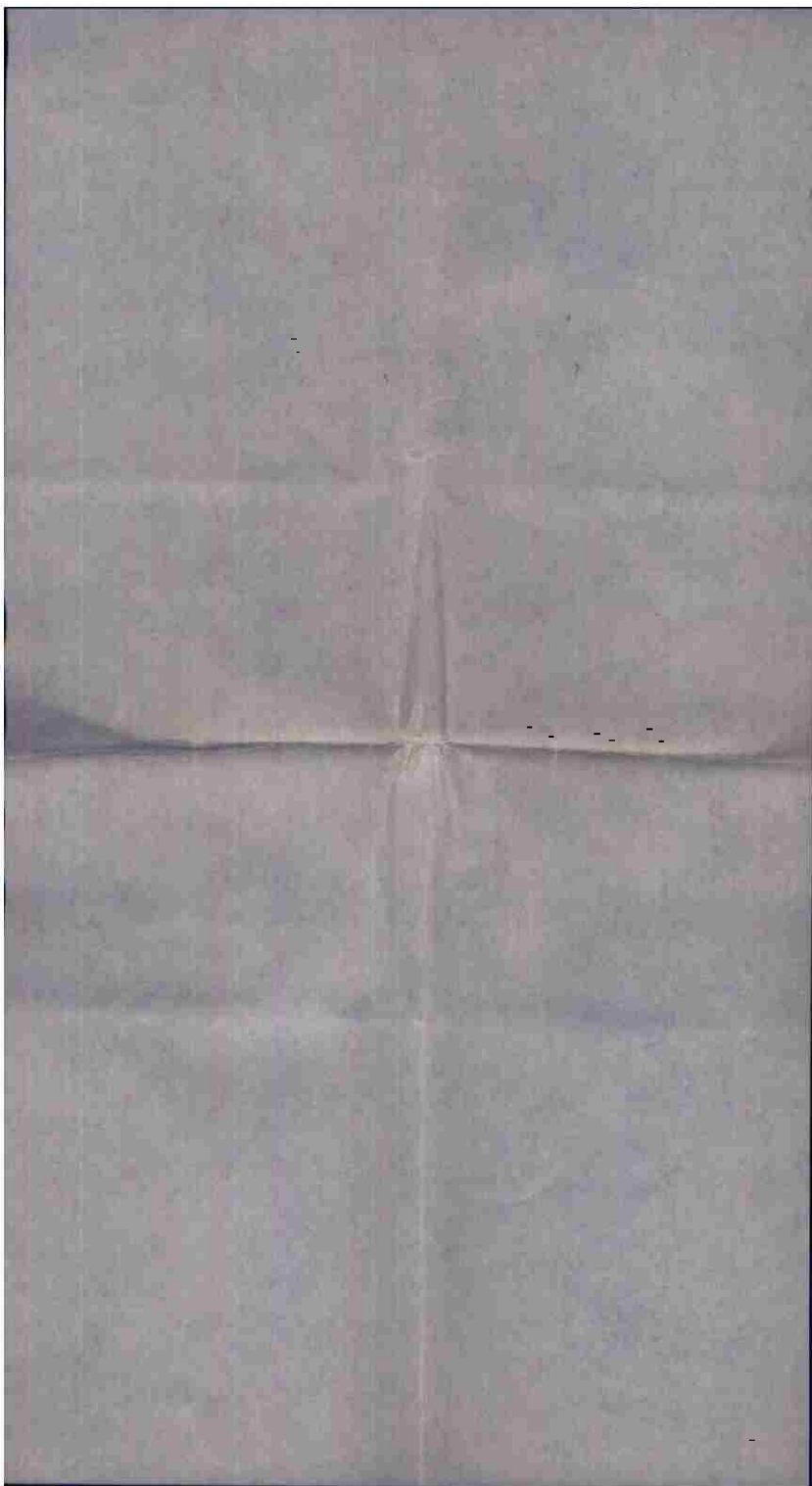
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never say what Rupert Brooke said not so long ago in a war poem - "If I die, ~~then~~ ~~remember~~ only this of me, there is some corner of a foreign land that is forever (England) "The United States."

I have wandered many times on this trip whether or not a voyage at sea would make you sick - that's a funny thing to be wondering, isn't it? you always do on the train and I guess this would be worse - as far as I was concerned it was when we landed I guess it will take a day or so to get our "land legs" back.

~~the~~ Stuart and I didn't get in the same stateroom, but we sit next to each other at the table and see each a good deal - naturally - Stuart has been in -

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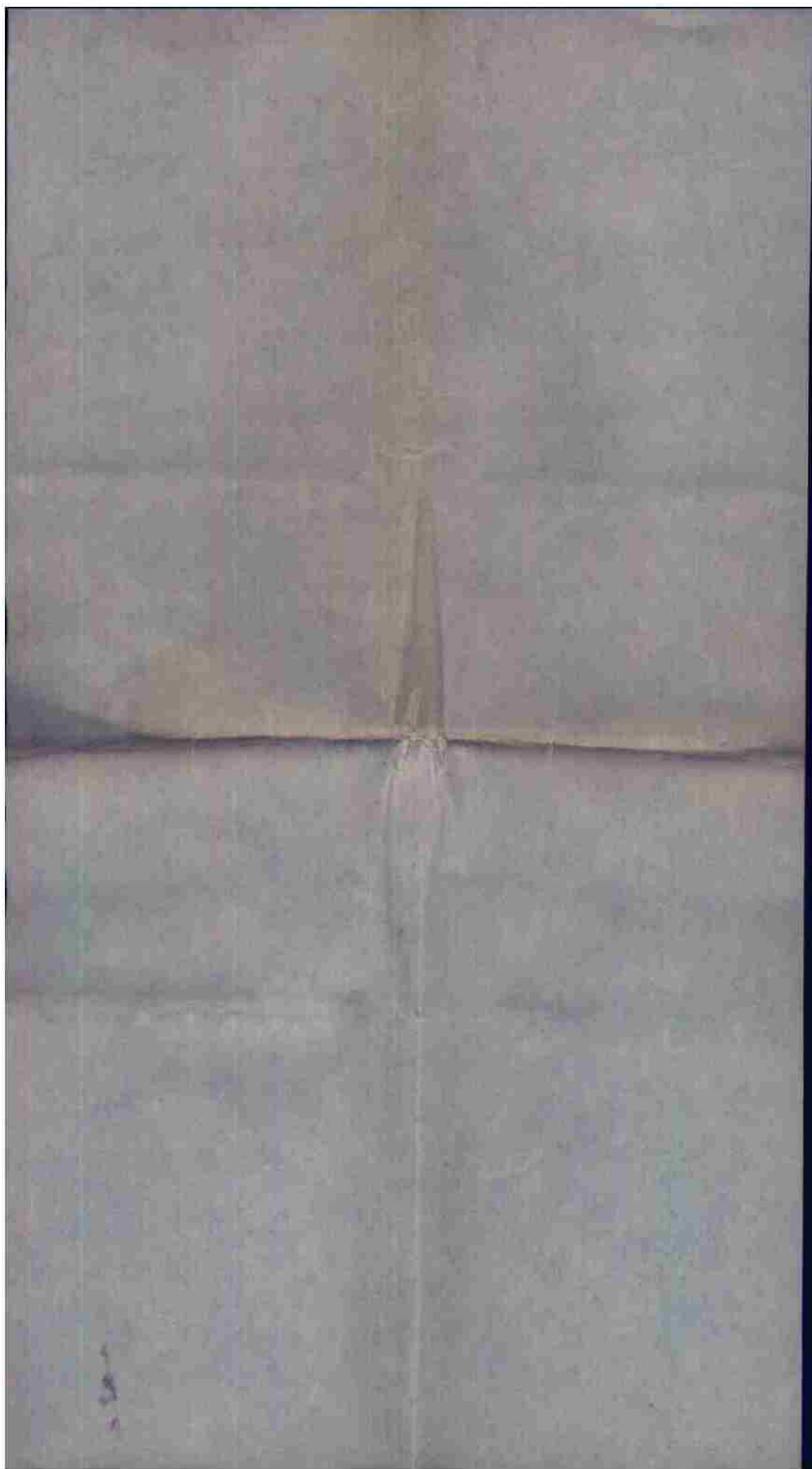
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the weather slightly - not sea sickness - a
slight attack of #lagynffo - He is all right now
we hope to send to the same place
when we get our orders upon landing.

Be sure and have some body write
at least once a week and send me
all the readable stuff of interest. Must
stop and go to the Loutop again - 4 to 6
PM. I am going to write as often as
I can. Lots of love to you and all
the others.

your devoted son,
Samuel

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168-7567-Box 2
Folder 20

Postmarked March 27, 1918
U.S. Army Postal Service
To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler
401 Waltham St.
Greenwood, Miss, U.S.A.

Very close to "Somewhere"
at Sea
March 25th, 1918

Dearest Mother,

Today is our eleventh day at sea and I must say I am getting tired of it. We hope to land tomorrow tho and then I hope to be able to say that "all is well" so far.

The night out of New York I felt fine and the next morning I didn't feel badly but about 11:00 A.M. I didn't have to ask anybody what to do. Since then I have never been in better health - outwardly my "morale" was good too. I have had a very enjoyable voyage considering.

The first day out ten Lieutenants were selected a "lookouts" from the "crow's nest" - also a detail of men was made up to be used for the same purpose. 2 men and 1 Lt. Went up at a time. 3 men in the "Foretop" and three in the "main top." I was assigned to the former. It required a little nerve to climb up the first time - for the "crow's nest" is about 60 or 70 ft. from the deck and when the wind is blowing hard - the mast sways back and forth - causing rather a nervous feeling. All of the "observers" on board has this job assigned to them. There are about 8 of us on board - and 1 pilot.

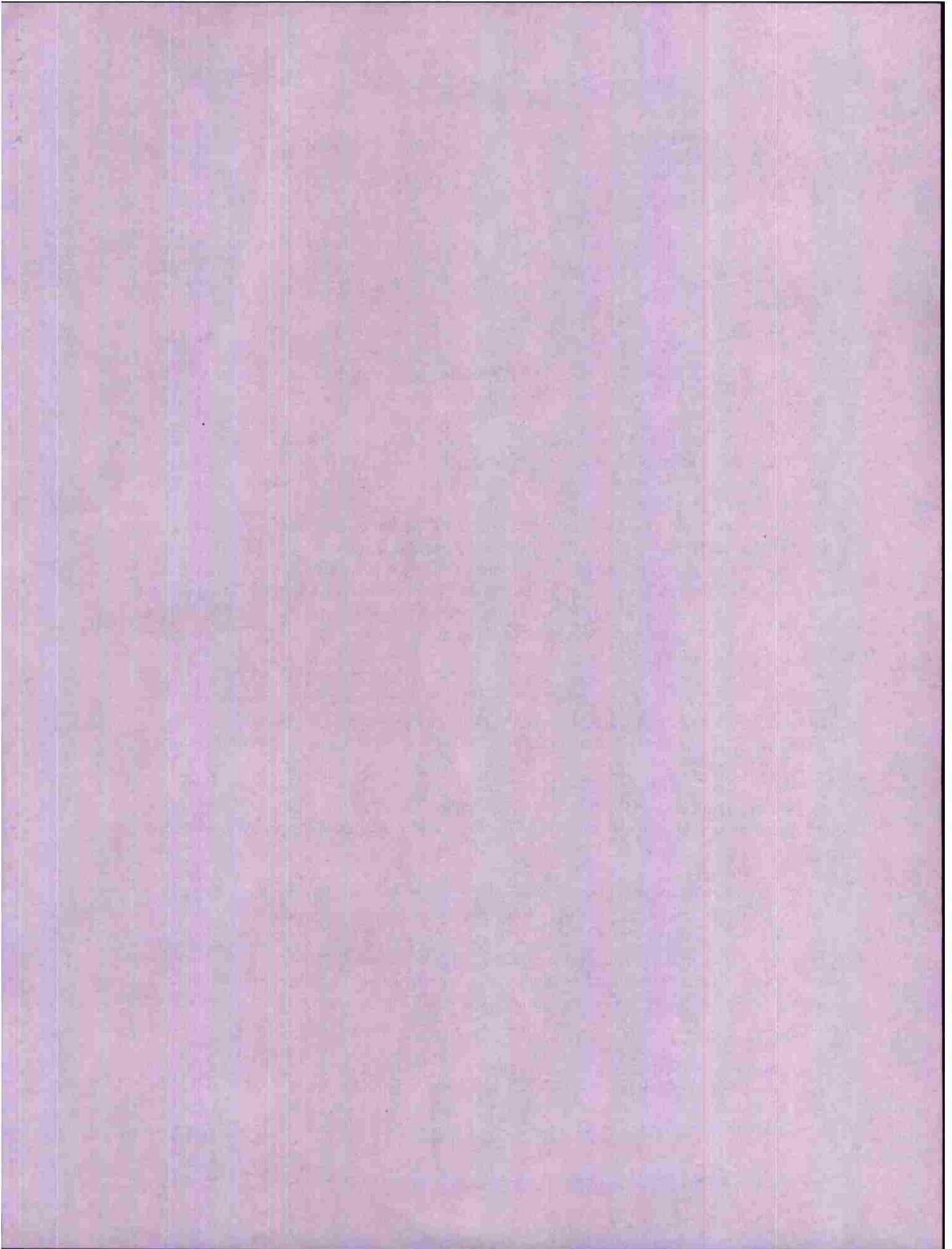
The men are mostly "casuals." Men who were in quarantine when their units went over. Consequently it is more of a mob than anything else. The average intelligence of the bunch is none too high - consequently, I think the officer in charge deserve a lot of credit for the success of things so far.

Our death record and sick list have both been used, but nothing startling. A few cases of diphtheria have sprung up which may mean that we will be quarantined for several days upon reaching port.

I have enjoyed watching the ships use their different methods of signaling. They use flags, "wigwag" and "blinkers" one or the other continuously.

The convoy which we have been looking for joined us yesterday morning. A whole fleet of Destroyers. Our other convoy after turning over her charge left us and was out of sight in a half hour. I hated to see her go for she has been so faithful on this voyage and taken such good care of us.

These little Destroyers are certainly diligent - for they are zigzagging all about us all the time. It doesn't seem possible for a "U Boat" to get away - although he might get a shot in some way or other.



168. 7567-18012
FOLIOEN 20

This morning I was on watch from 6 to 8. About 7 o'clock I saw something the size of a periscope, about 100 yds off to the starboard. It was black and round and stuck about three inches out of the water. I felt sure it was a Hun boat. I called the control and reported - "a piece of wood or periscope 90° to the starboard." I was a little nervous - I'll admit. It went by tho, and nothing happened. However the ship following us saw it and fired - as far as I could see a very good shot too. Our gun crew was ordered to fire I understand but did not. Consequently some body got "cussed" out, I judge. Some say it was a can, others a fish - and still others a bird - I think it was the former now. All of this was "much ado about nothing" but it pays to be on the job.

For the past day or so the sea has been real smooth. Hardly any waves. It looks like we were in some kind of a Bay - we surely are surrounded by land somewhere.

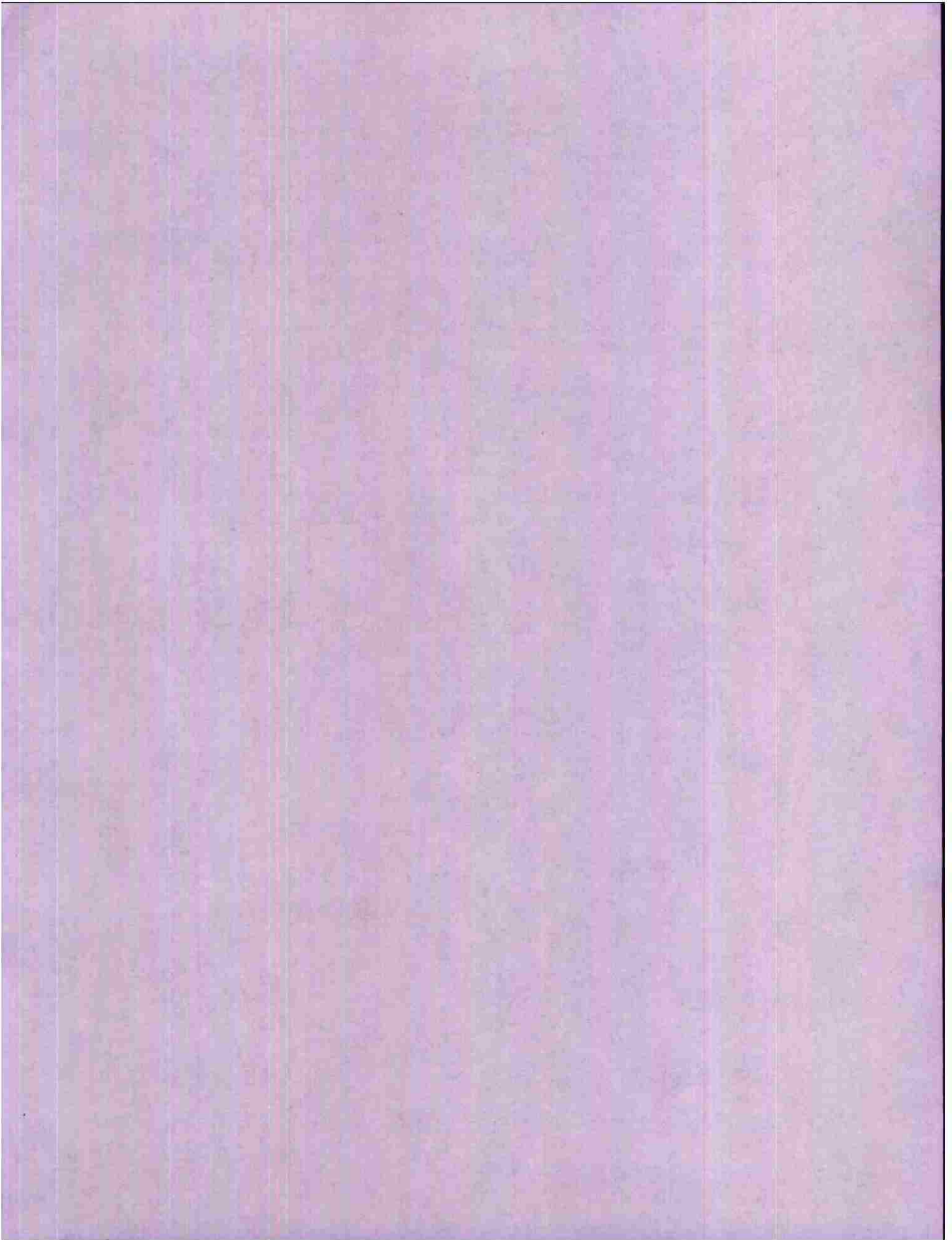
I have thought about you all a lot and what a good time I had at home not long ago. I'll have lots of things to tell you when I get back - and if I don't - well I will say what Rupert Brooks said not so long ago in a war poem - "If I die, remember only this of me, there is some corner of a foreign land that is forever (England) "The United States."

I have wondered many times on this trip whether or not a voyage at sea would make you sick - That's a funny thing to be wondering, isn't it. You always do on the train and I guess this would be more - so far as I was concerned it was. When we land I guess it will take a day or so to get our "land legs" back.

Stuart and I didn't get in the same stateroom, but we sit next to each other at the table and see each a good deal. Naturally, Stuart has been under the weather slightly - not seasickness - a slight attack of lagrippe - He is all right now. We hope to (be) sent to the same place when we get out orders upon landing.

Be sure and have some body write at least once a week and send me all the readable stuff of interest. Must stop and go to the Foretop again - 4 to 6 P.M. I am going to write as often as I can. Lots of love to you and all the others.

Your devoted son,
Sam Jr.



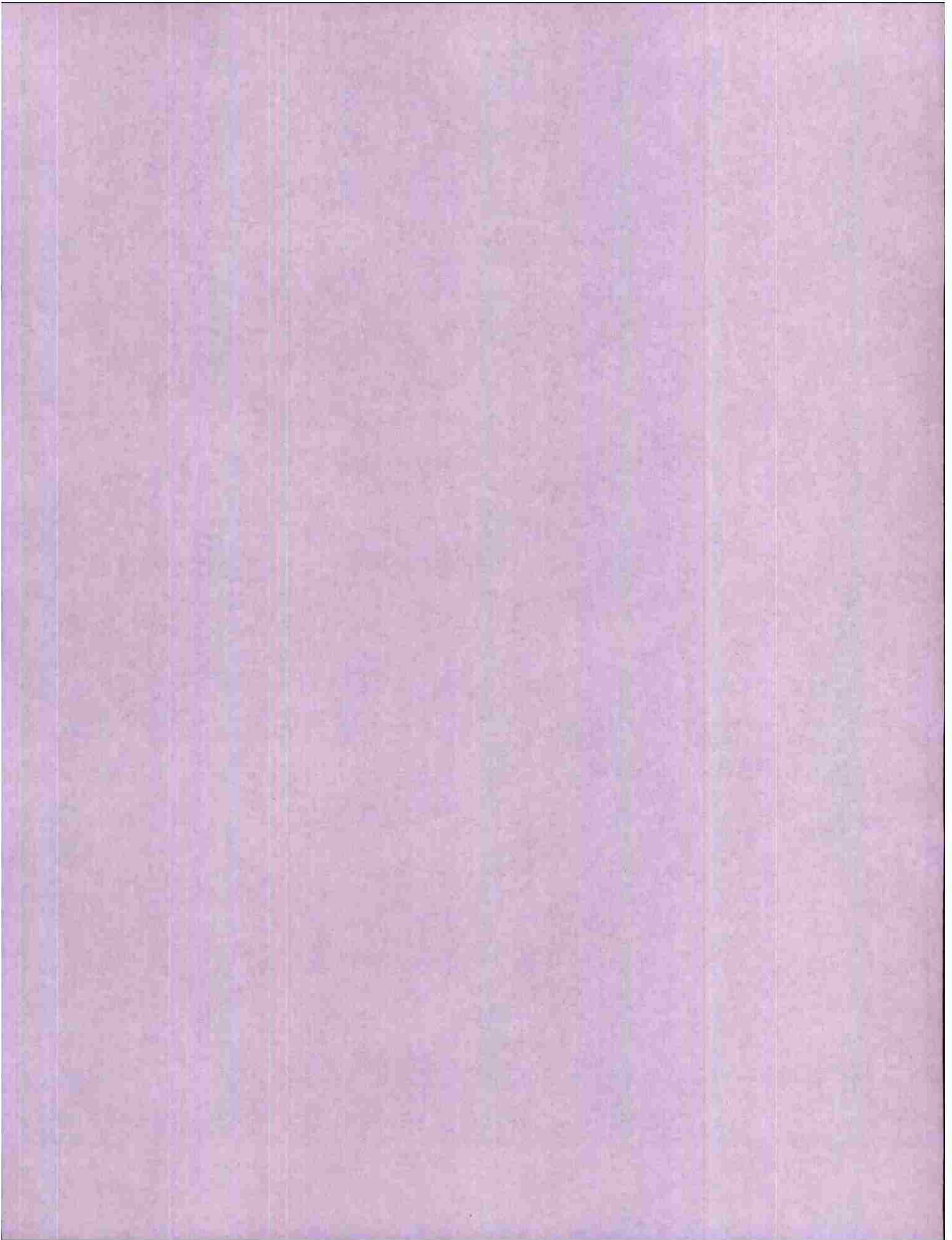
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
March 26, 1918

164-7567-Box 2
Encl. 21
RETURN
AIR FORCE
Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

SCANNED BY ACP

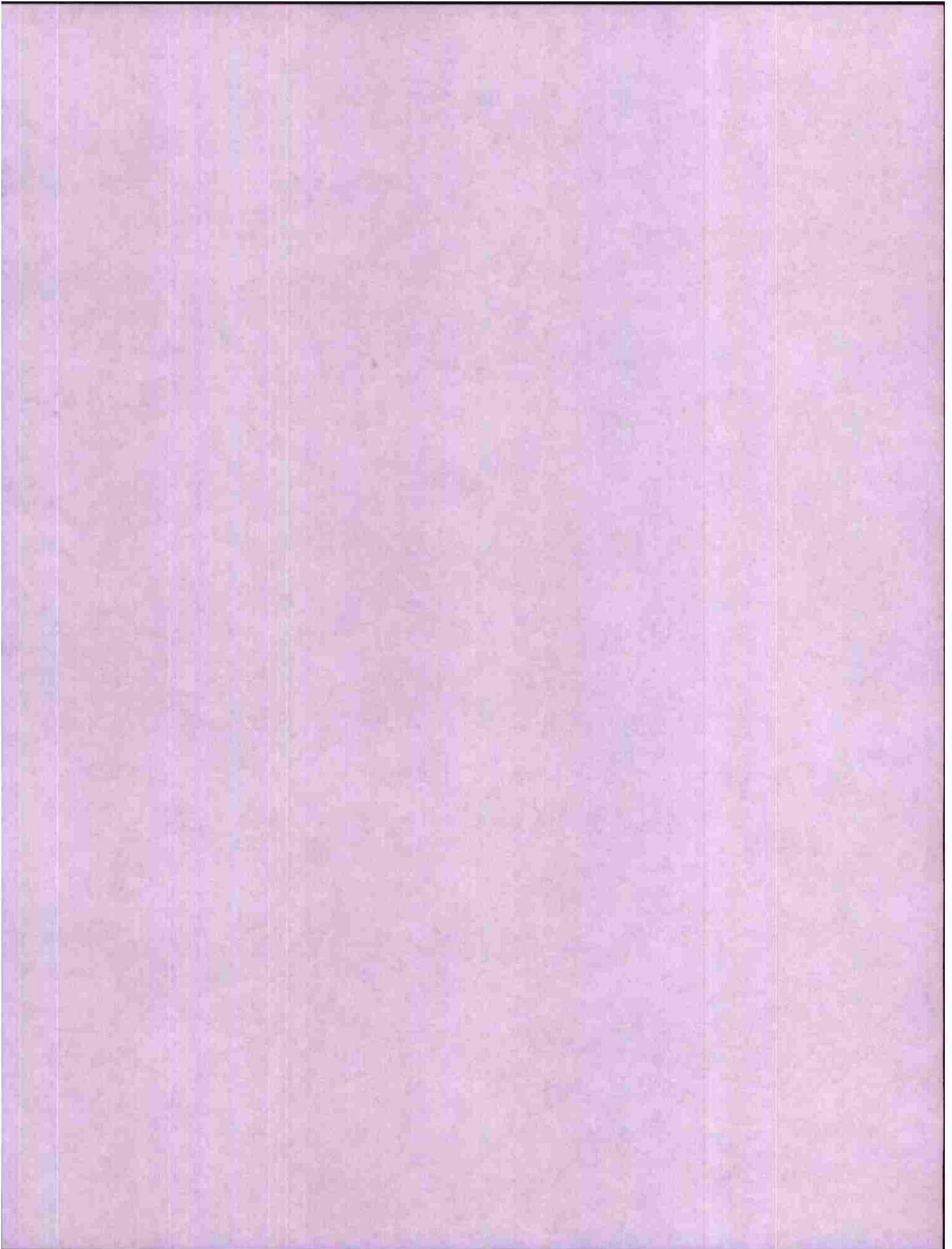
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	RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424
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01156160



164. 7501-1500
FOLDER 21

France 5/26/18.

Dearest Mother,

Here I am in France—
altho I am still on the ship— I am in
France just the same. The "K. Brate"
didn't get us after all— I feel a
little disappointed in not having a
scraper with me— and I did have
so head for one— The best I
could do was make a tin can—
but it furnished some excitement.

We will probably go ashore
tomorrow. Nothing doing today. The
officers from shore come aboard and
cheer everybody up etc this morn-
ing. They are unloading the rescue
knew— mail, salt, trucks etc.

I understand that we may
not be able to cable so in all
probability my letter will be the
first news. I'm sorry and will
try to get a cable to them.

France is quite beautiful
so far. Miss till you more later
goodnight— Devotedly your son,



(No envelope)

France 3/26/18

Dearest Mother,

Here I am in France – although I am still on the ship – I am in France just the same. The “U-Boats” didn’t get us after all – I feel a little disappointed in not having a scrape with one – and I did look so hard for one – The best I could do was merely a tri-can – but it furnished some excitement.

We will probably go ashore tomorrow. Nothing doing to-day. The officers from shore came aboard and checked everybody ref etc this morning. They are unloading the vessel now – mail, salt, trunks, etc.

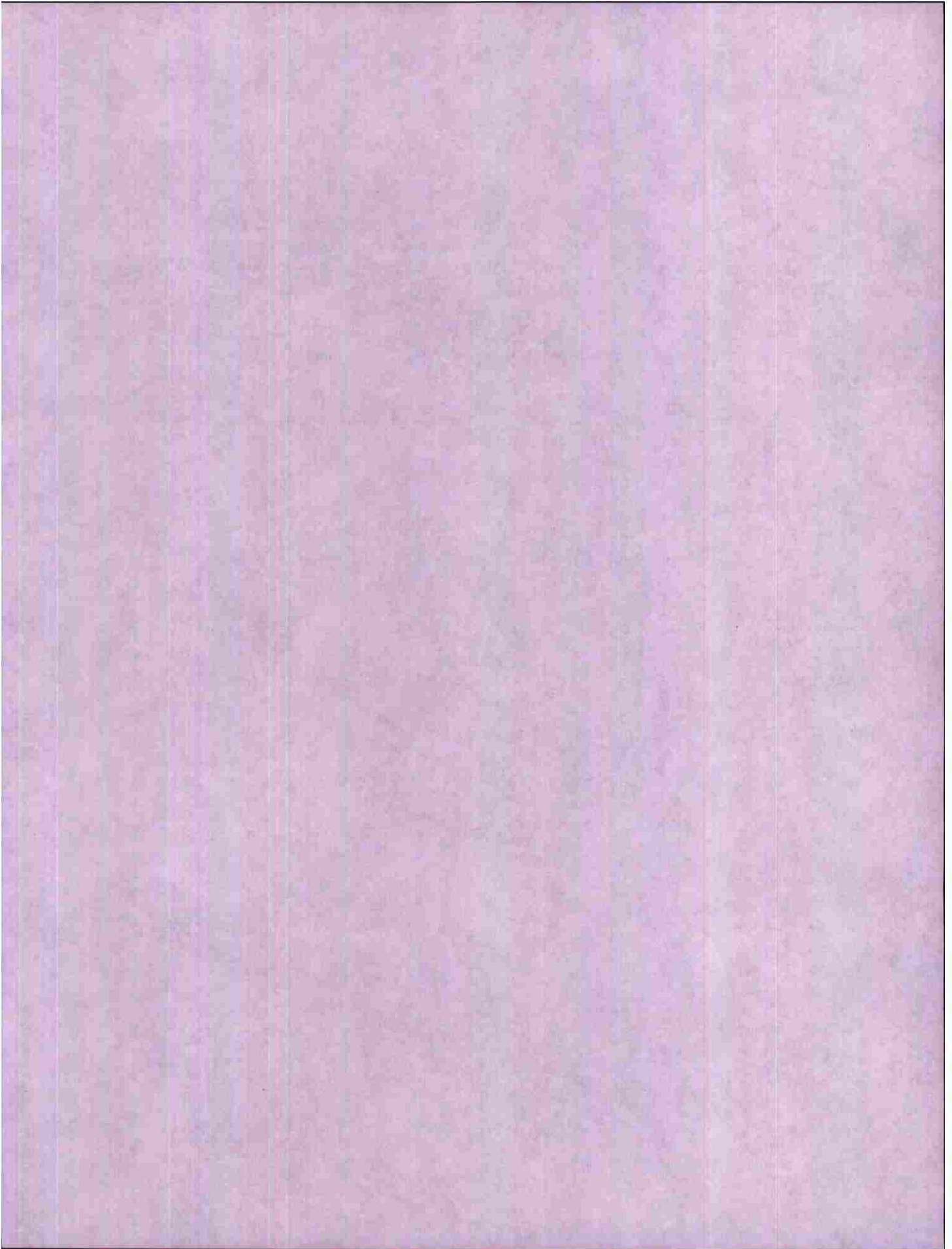
I understand that we may not be able to cable so in all probability my letters will be the first news. I’m sorry and will try to get a cable thru.

France is quite beautiful so far. Will tell you more later – goodnight –

Devotedly your son,

Sam

169.7567-0822
FOI000 21



To: William Kessler
From: Susan L. Griffin
March 5th, 1979

169-7567-Box 2

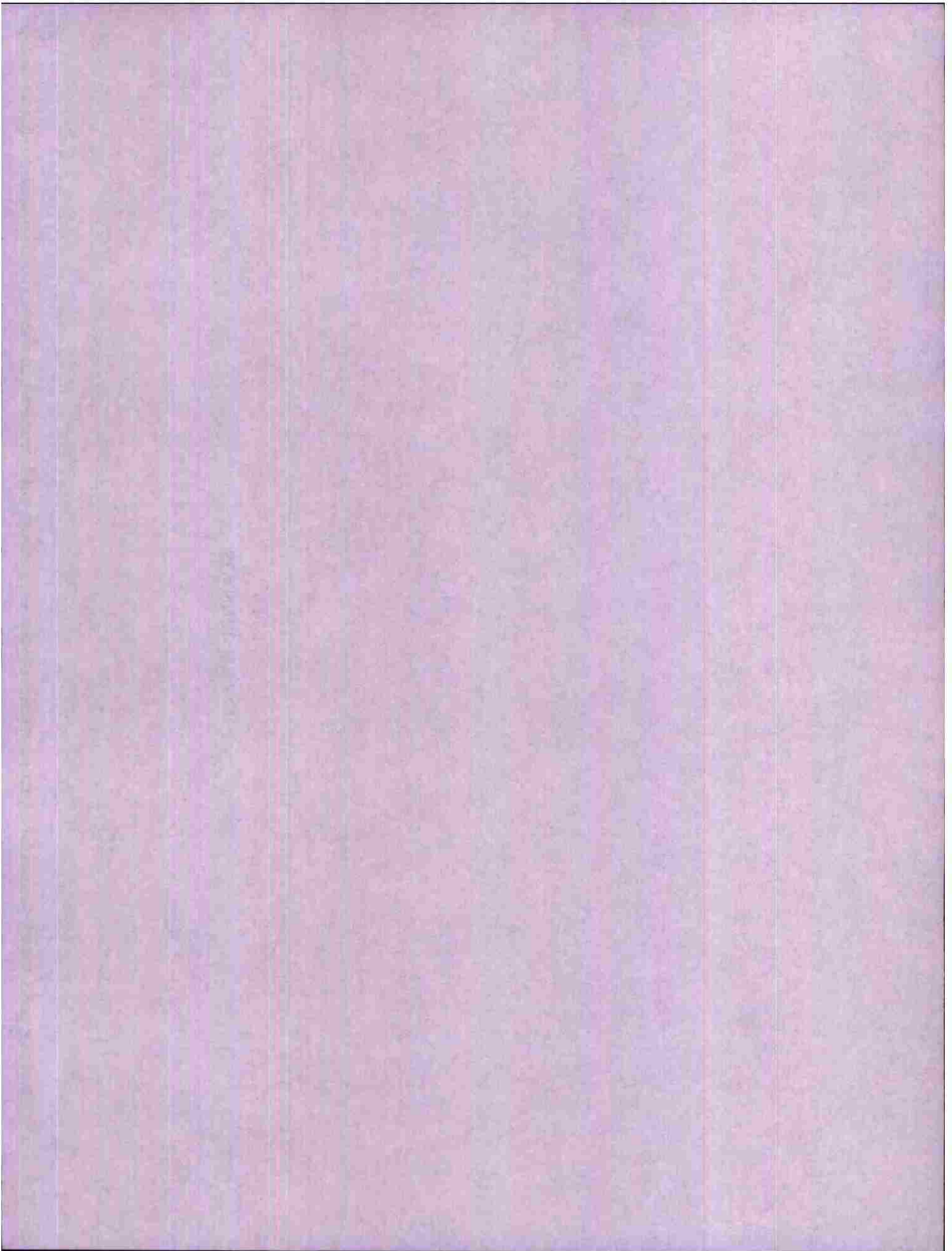
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HISTORICAL Research Agency
McClure AFB, AL 36112-6424

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2007

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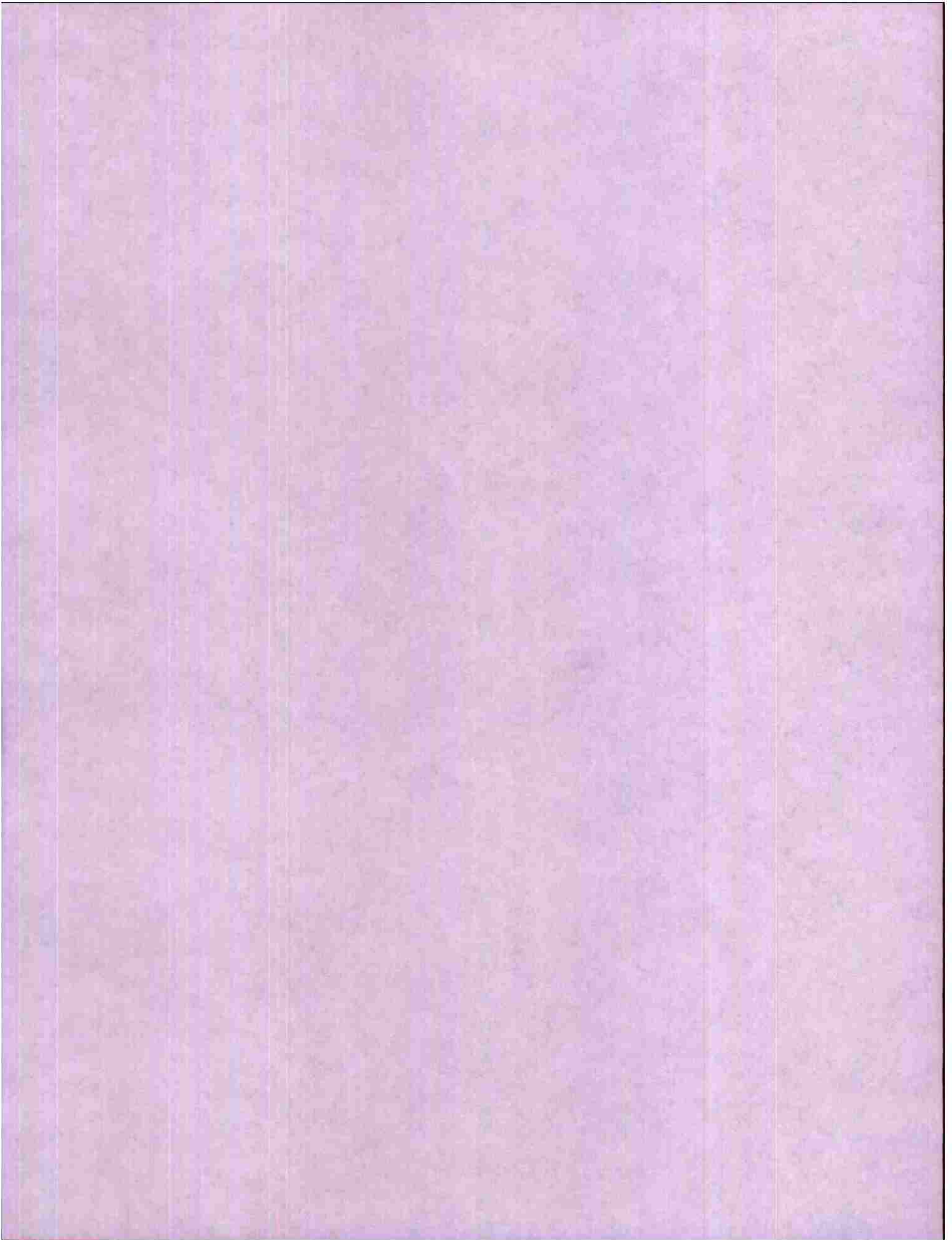


108 7567-8012

FOLIO 22

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

01156160



30

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL



YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

OF THE UNITED STATES

"WITH THE COLORS"

168.7567-Box 2
Folder 12Somewhere in France 7/30/18

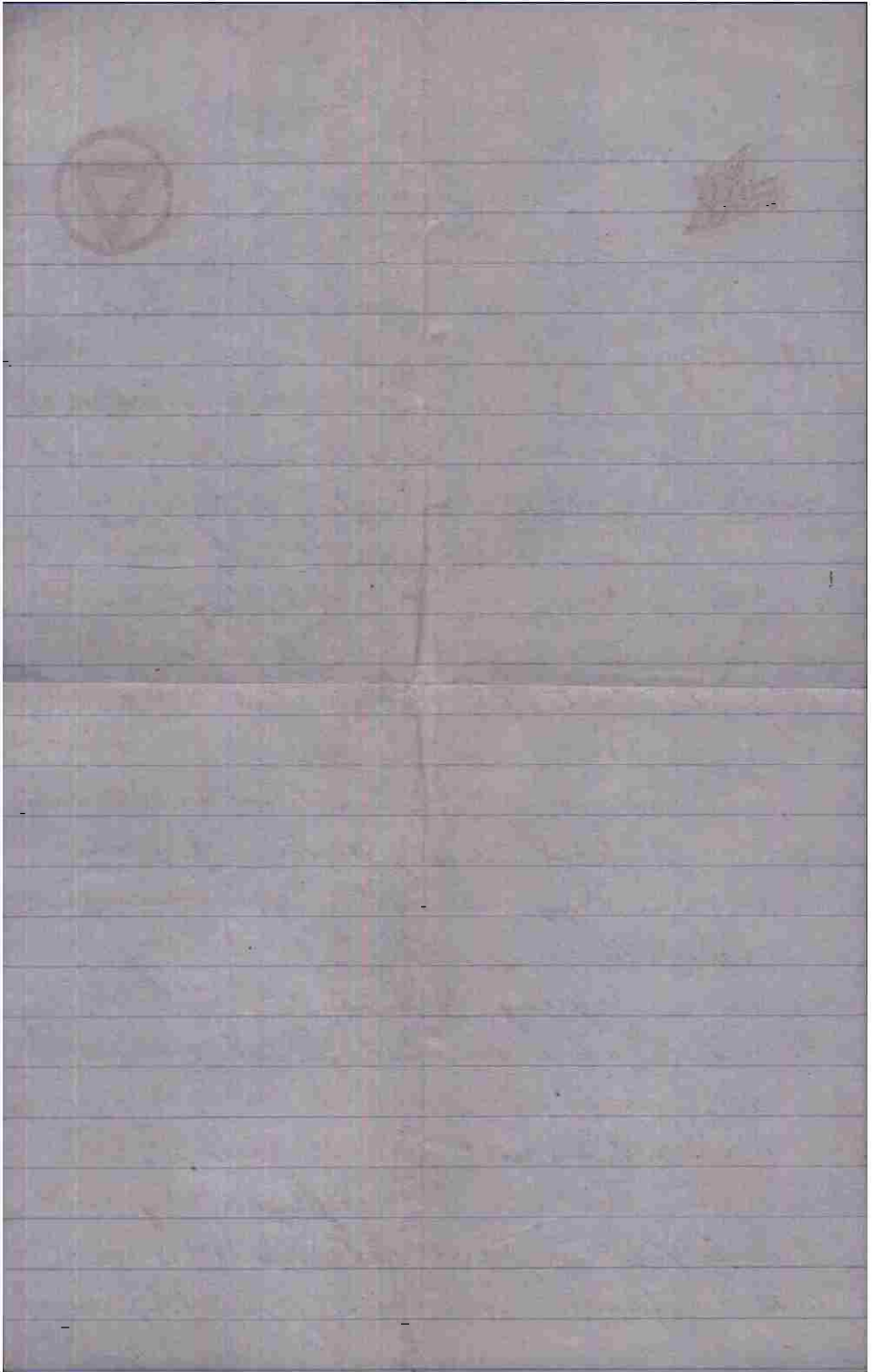
Dear William:

The sick didn't get us as you see. That's some consolation anyway. We had a very pleasant trip over, on the whole. Took us almost 2 weeks to make it tho. I got sick the second day out and hung over the side of the ship for about a minute, but after that I had no trouble at all.

I was very much interested in watching everything pertaining to the ship etc. of course. They use three ways of signaling among the convoys & transports - flags, bladders, & wigwag. I tried to read them sometimes but was not much good.

All of the boats were armed of course. We carried 4 six inch guns - and they could knock a sub skyhigh.

The first day out all the observers with a detail of men were given the job





NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

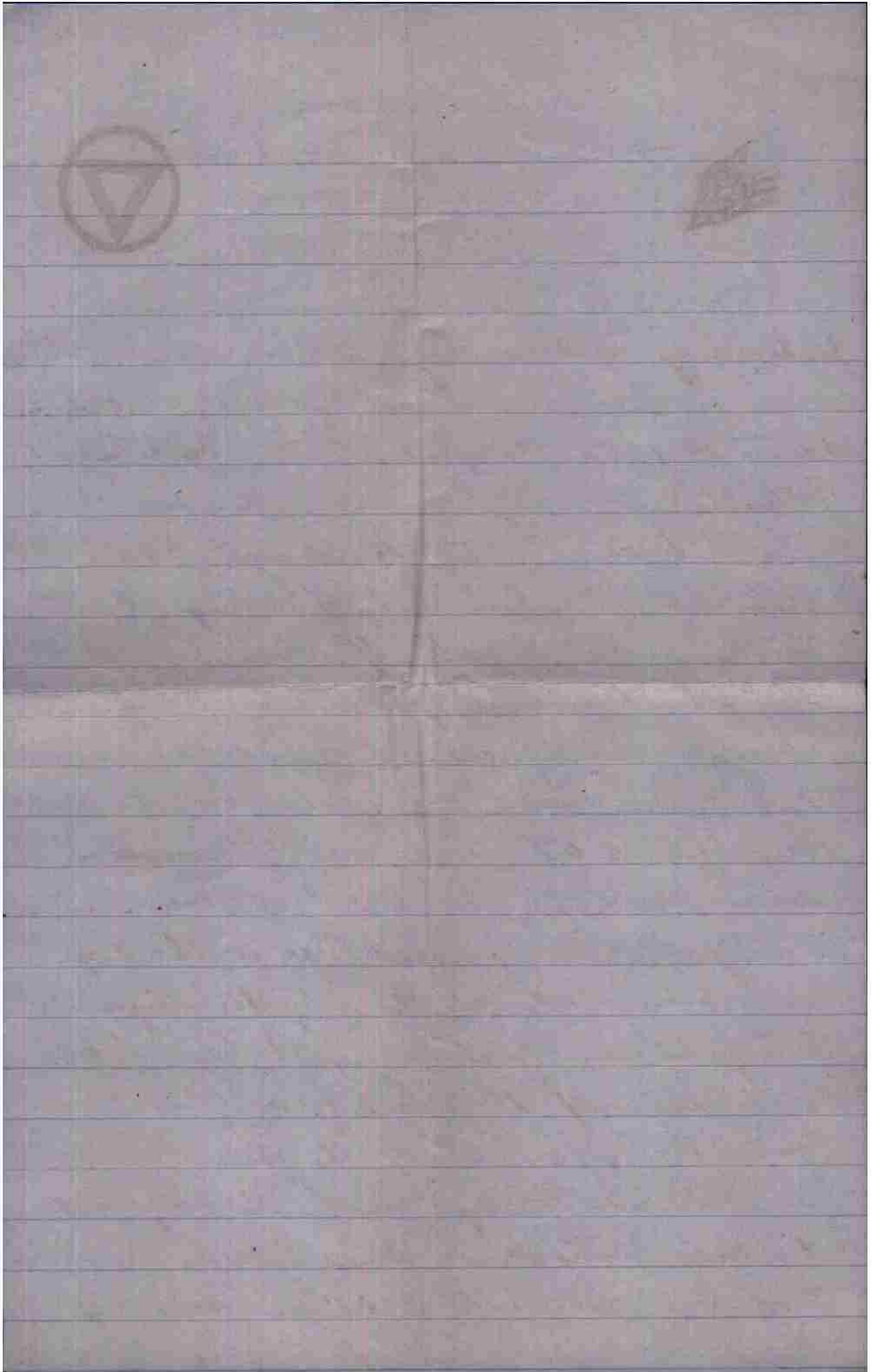
OF THE UNITED STATES

"WITH THE COLORS"



of looking for subs from to Crows nests. There are 2 - Foretop & main top. we worked in shifts of 1 Lt & 2 men at a time - on 2 hrs at a time. we sighted all kinds of things from boats to tin cans but no subs. I saw something floating off the starboard one morning which looked very much like a periscope - I reported it as a piece of wood or a periscope - our war guns were given the order to fire but they didn't do it and of course some crew Capt. caught hell. Whenever the ship following us let go at it and came very close to hitting it. I think it was a tin can - some say it was a fish - etc - anyway it wasn't a U Boat.

This is quite a pretty place from a distance - picturesque I should say. But it doesn't compare to Sidon in an up to date way. you see lots of women wearing





NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

OF THE UNITED STATES

"WITH THE COLORS"



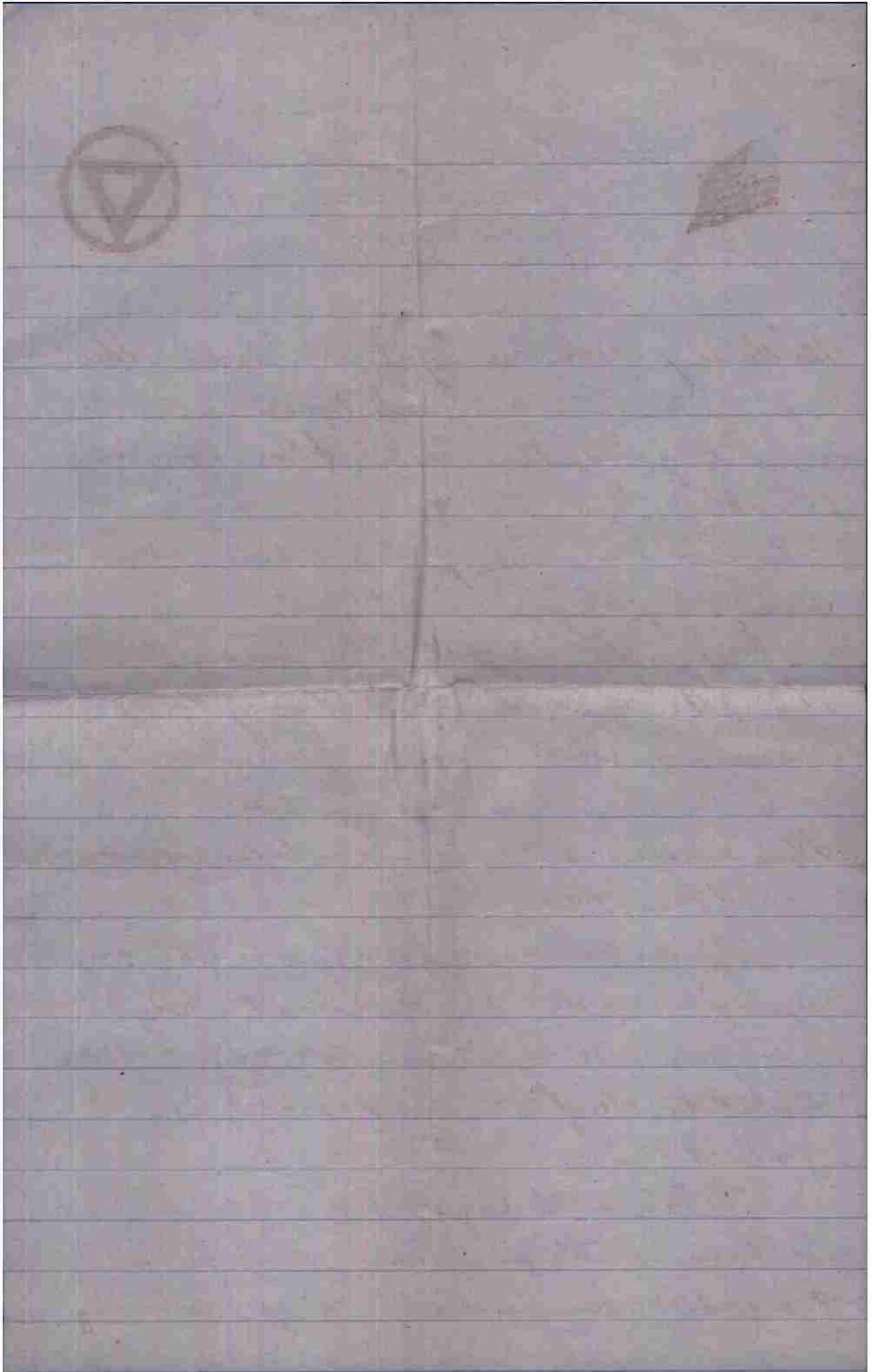
morning and many cypresses - I saw
some wounded coming in the other
day. "very good" (an old lady told me in
French).

I am trying to absorb some
of this language - but not doing as
well - I have gotten the money about
straight. I advise you to try and
learn a little French before coming
over. I'll send you a list of
things you can try here before you
come across.

you should see me with my
Sam Brown belt on. As Stuart says -

The girls wouldn't have let him leave
the station if they had seen him in
his belt.

I leave today for a new station
and nearer the fireworks. I hope to go
to school for a while then me and



NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL



YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

OF THE UNITED STATES

"WITH THE COLORS"

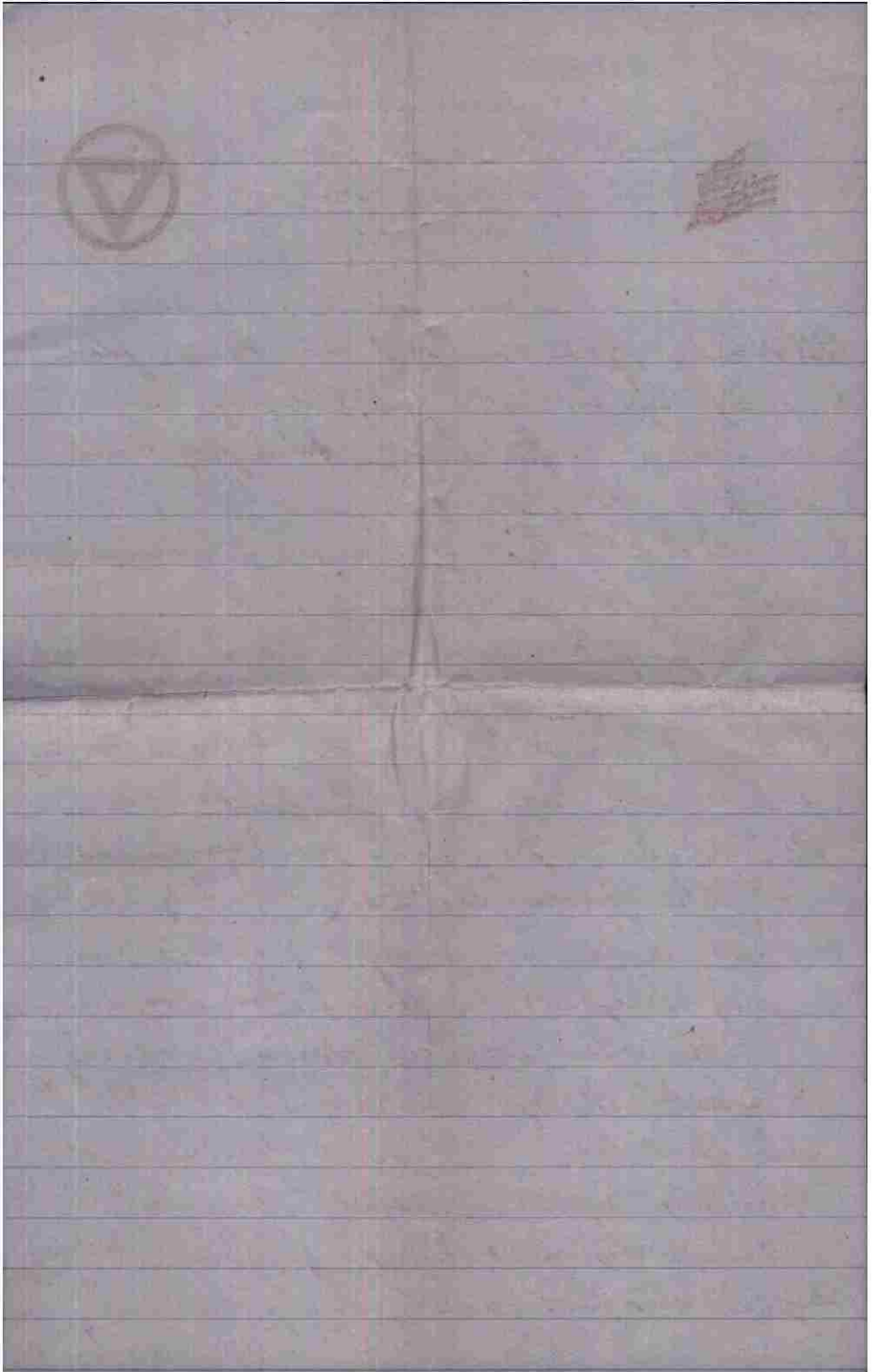


The "Kens" will mix it up some. He's hoping I don't get shot too soon anyway. By the way there are a bunch of German prisoners here. I am glad they are prisoners too. Some pretty big bags among them.

Another Lt. & I went down to where they were unloading our ship yesterday morning and saw a crate of toilet paper broken open - so we took some. This article is very scarce here, also soap.

The Ymca store is a big help to a fellow in every way - we get our money changed here - and buy most everything we need at the canteen with the way of tobacco - chocolate etc. The chocolate is just as good as actual this.

The "Y" runs two coper which come in handy. I haven't drunk any wine yet. I guess we have another wing growing





NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL
 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
 OF THE UNITED STATES
 "WITH THE COLORS"

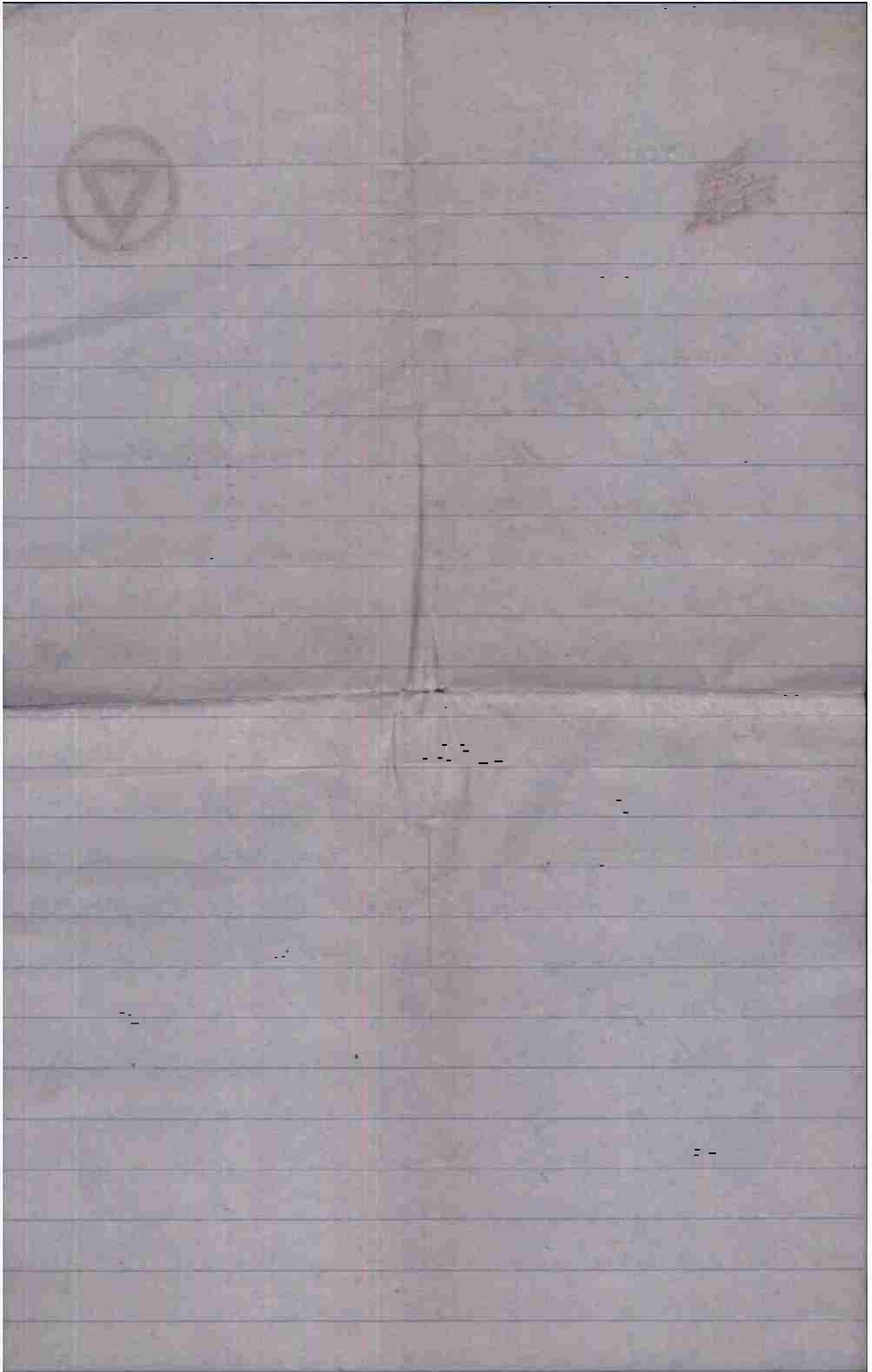


before long, you can get anything you
 are looking for here. I might say you
 can catch anything too - so "Safety First"
 for me - Let it alone.

I hope to run into Mullin some of these
 days so we'll see each other, I know.

I haven't put in my pay voucher yet
 for this month so I don't know whether
 I'll get any "cash" or not. I don't need
 it now tho. we get 10% for foreign
 service during the war we leave our
 part of Embarkation. 35% I'll get you see.
 I hope to have a receiver & some leather
 clothes mailed to me some of these days.

How would you like to be at home
 for another 3 days? I sure would. If
 you don't leave before next summer, you
 can run up to Montreal every now and
 then. Father said something about taking
 F.W. up there. I wonder if she will go.



NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL



YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
OF THE UNITED STATES

"WITH THE COLORS"



*F.W. and Elizabeth should get acquainted
don't you think?*

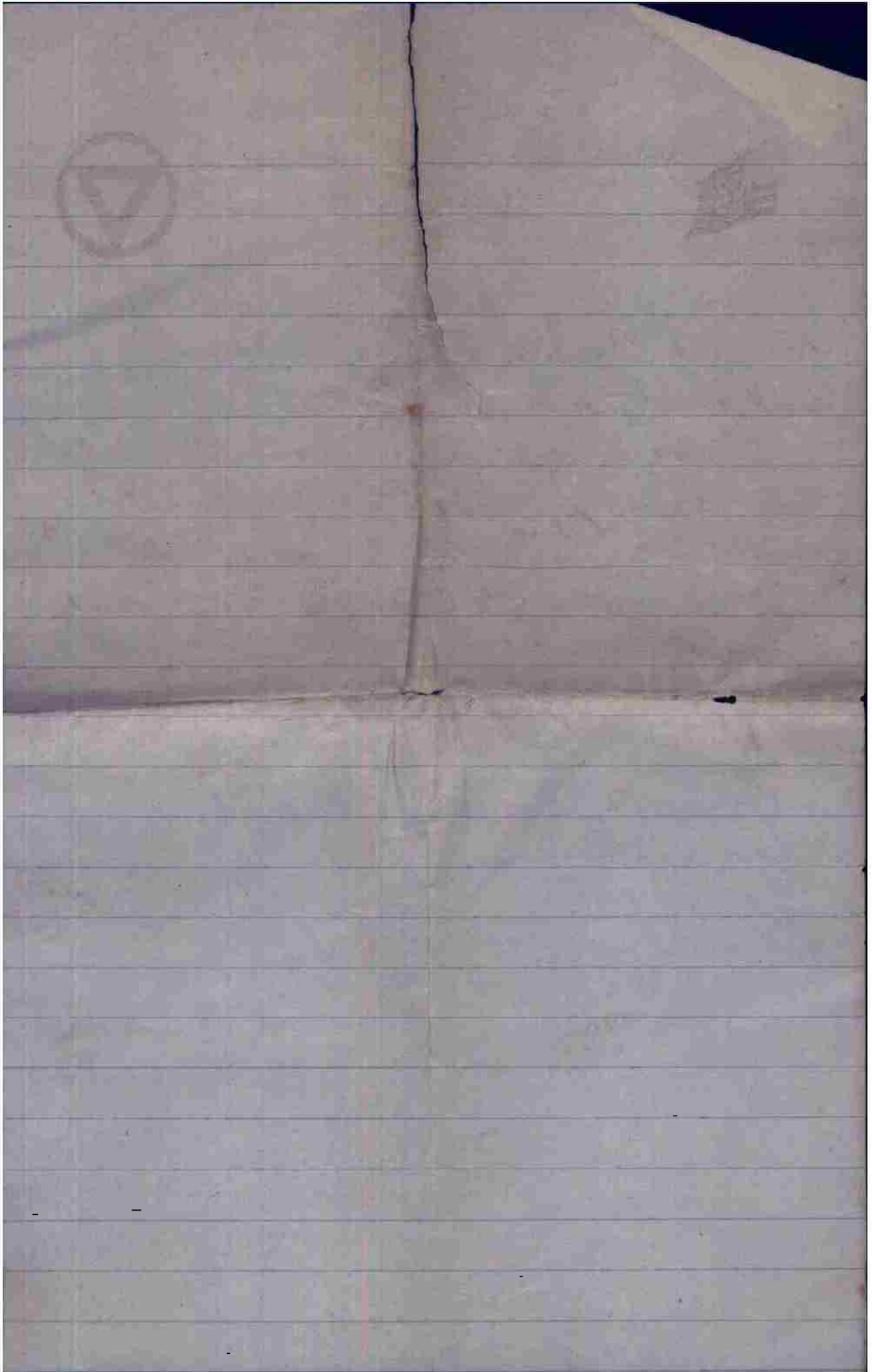
*Will write to me sometime - if
there are any questions you want to
ask - Let's have them and I'll see
what I can do to answer them. Best
regards to all the men of Kusu.*

Yours in Kai -

Shun

*American Expeditionary Force -
Kawes.*

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76-2043 S-11, 1450374
From SS in Keesler
Apr 4, 1979

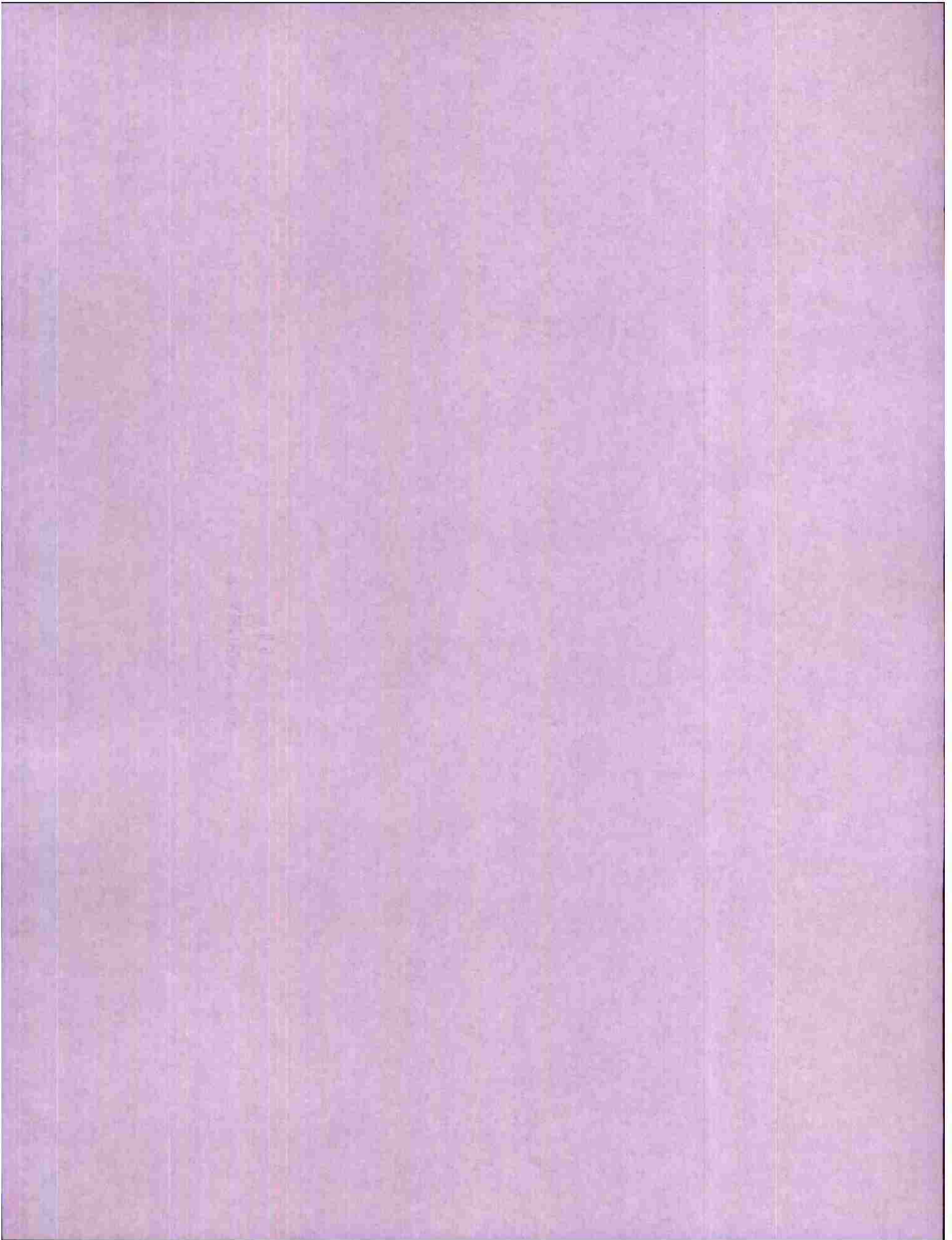
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FOLDER 23

RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36111

01156160

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2007

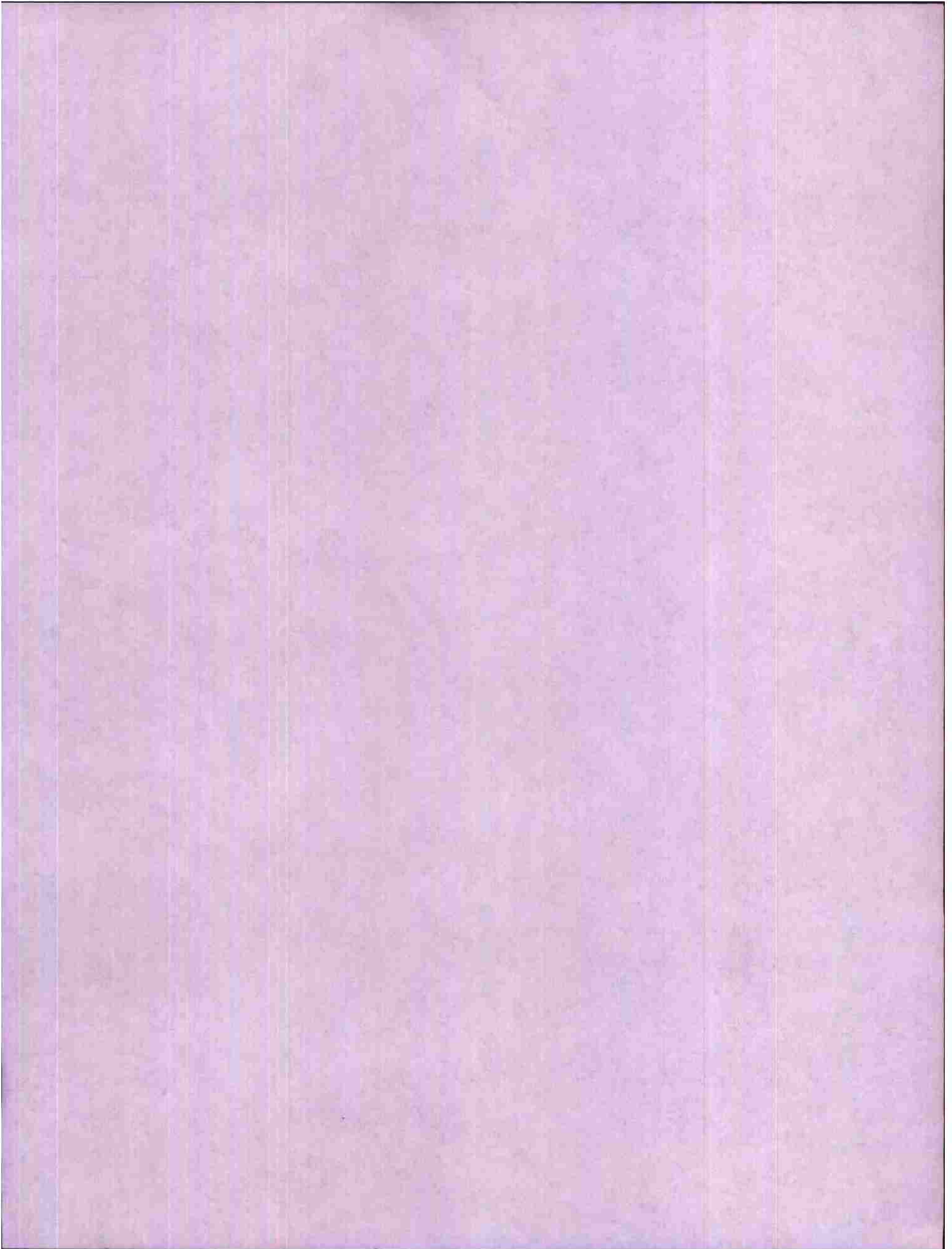


168.7567-Box 2

Folder 22

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

01156160



show some wonderful paintings, tapestry, and tapestry etc. and the room was
 dead in, and the place where the
 record the book of the Bible & the Gospels
 (I have forgotten his name).

I am hoping to see it some more
 somewhere some of these days. But I
 am just collecting some more here
 and it is very probably seems to
 answer you.

My first idea as a Frenchman
 was quite interesting. The side shows
 in some of the same quite more
 some of them begins make me laugh
 and I laughed again when the white
 and - surrounded like the white in
 of them stands at the corner.

We are very much afraid that we
 will be occupied to hope and not to

AMERICAN
 YMCA

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
 WITH THE
 AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

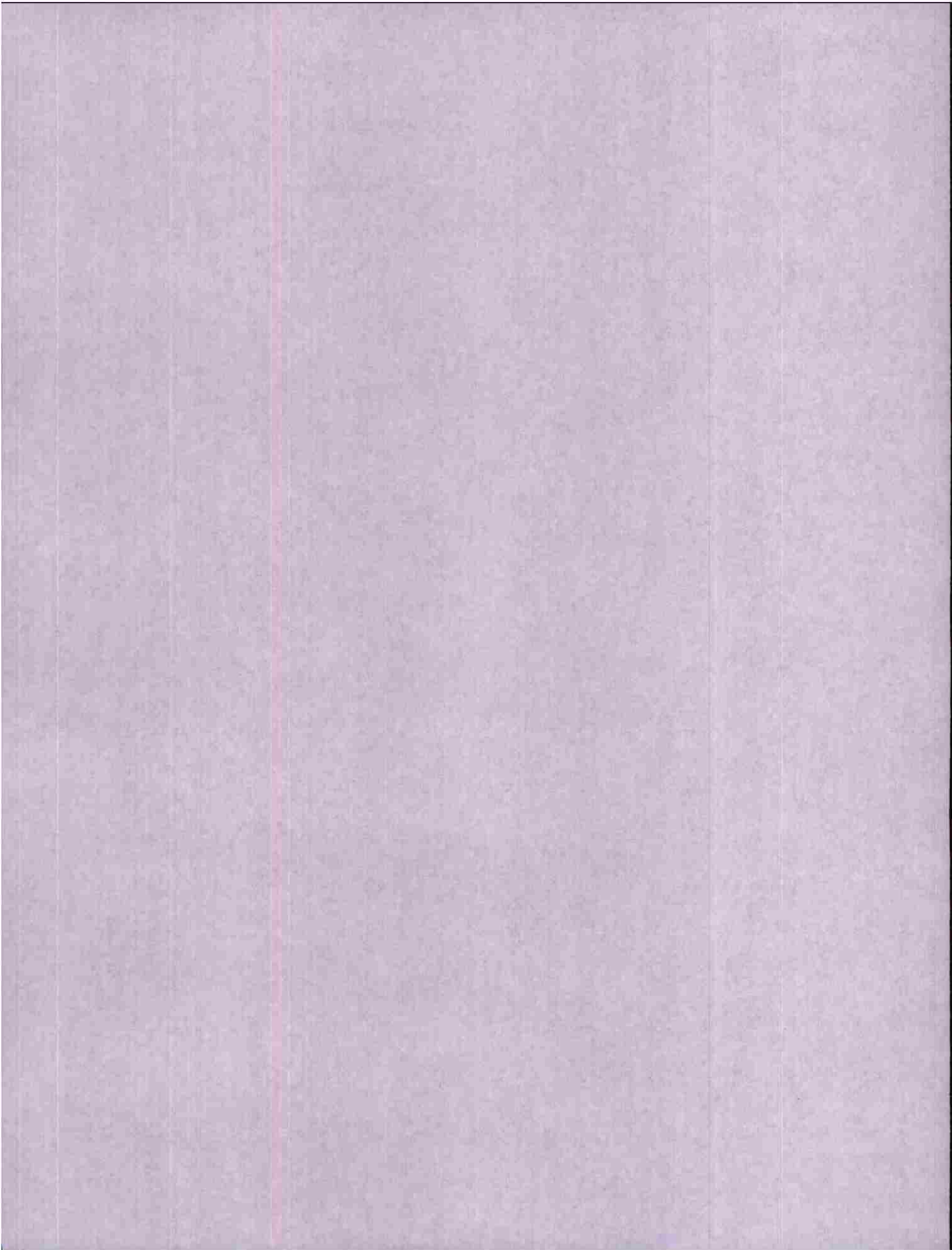
191

Simply marvelous
 I can truthfully say that I am
 getting as good good if not better than
 most of the people here. I am
 getting gradually what the men are, so
 you see we are not staying by
 any means - I understand the men at
 the first we were in the
 at the office, then when I am
 eating, we pay of course for more -
 about 40¢.

We can get the "Bible" here
 and then good they for - we get
 them for 40¢.

I am adding a word or two
 every now and then to my words
 turned vocabulary - I will sign
 most of the time.

That, it will be a great the
 Chatham of Catharine & Marie yesterday.



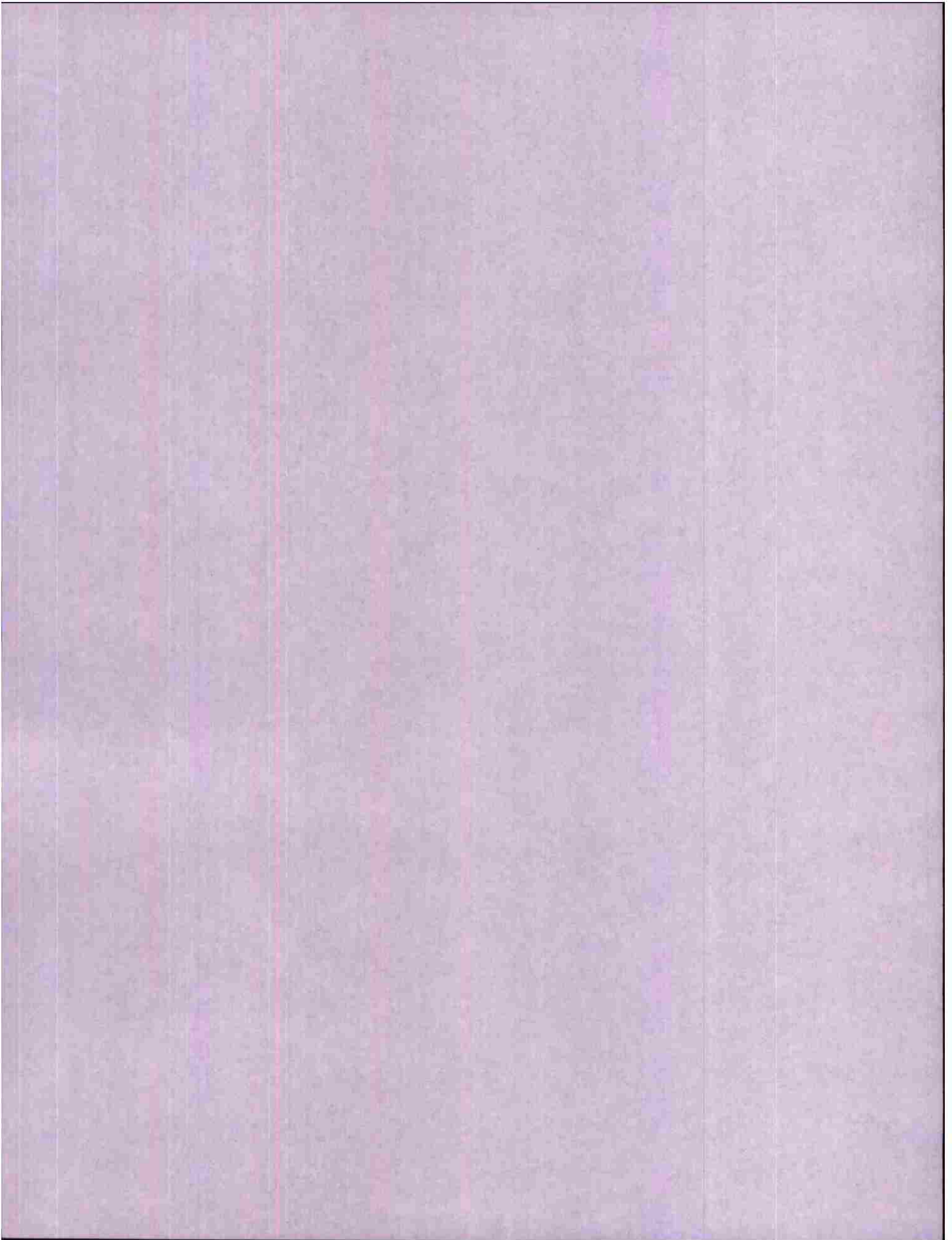
used as "Shirazi" - some have been
but in charge of some Canal
Commissioner here. Only temporary tho.

There is a new brand of H.B. m.
left. which has as its job the removing
of the American dead into American
countries over there - and finally to
America - they are that each man
has a military funeral, that his grave
is marked, that his possessions are
taken care of and that a letter is
sent to his family giving them the
information necessary of his death &
how he is buried. In some cases they
send a picture of the grave yard, etc.
So more the taken care of dead or
alive.

"Must close and go to my 'business'"
I wish you were with me or I were
with you (when) - but I have to go
now. I am sure you will
all - I am sure you will.

your devoted son

Harry





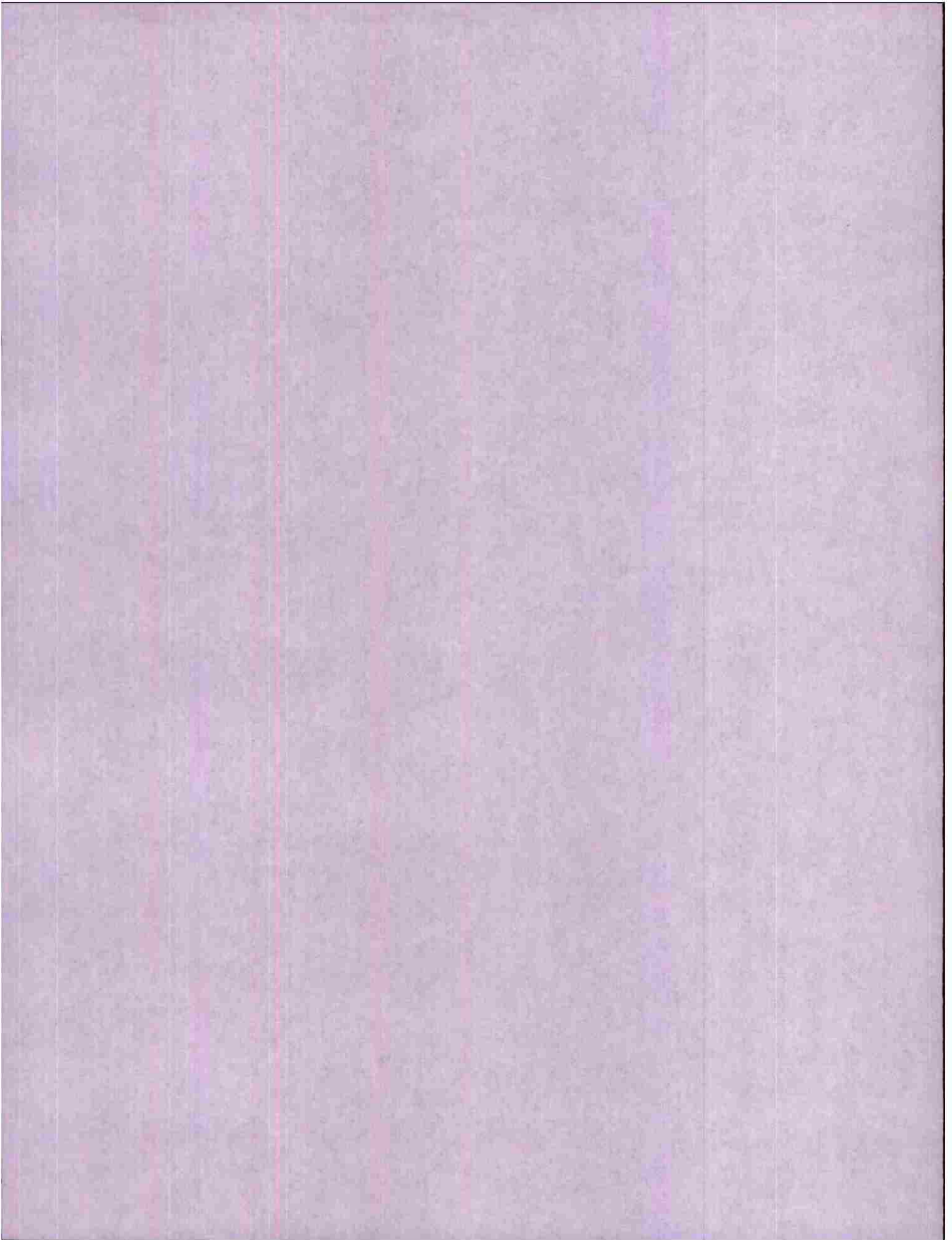
ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
April 4, 1918

about as killed out in town. I am in almost nothing,

The tourist when everything goes on. The
barns and to be used by the French as for a few weeks
more. But wonderfully exacting buildings. and don't know exactly how long I
when we first arrived here the
weather was beautiful. I must say when
the sun is shining and the sky is blue
things around here are beautiful. The
grass is green and the trees are beginning
to bud. To-day, however, was a dark damp
dreary day - the clouds have been very
annoying but we sleep right along
regardless of weather conditions.

Yesterday I was in a very pretty
city. It was the first I have seen
on this side. I understand, the, that they
are just common flying over
a number of landmarks are here
who were in the most transportation

Now I am in another town
my French and thinking about you as
just left. I have been here several days
and don't know exactly how long I
will remain. I am hoping to leave
soon. This is a kind of disturbing fact
where Canal officers and some troops are
sent here to keep everyone to order
strategies. We are in actual agreement, if I
may call it such - the day before I went
to the keep me from getting back, as the
of war - and also to increase our knowledge
(for it is much, of course) in military affairs
etc. I got up at 6 P.M. now on day is
kind of up in the air for drill, lecture
and lecture - also physical exercises. I have
had no little of the latter for some time
that my marches were a little more
the day after I started.



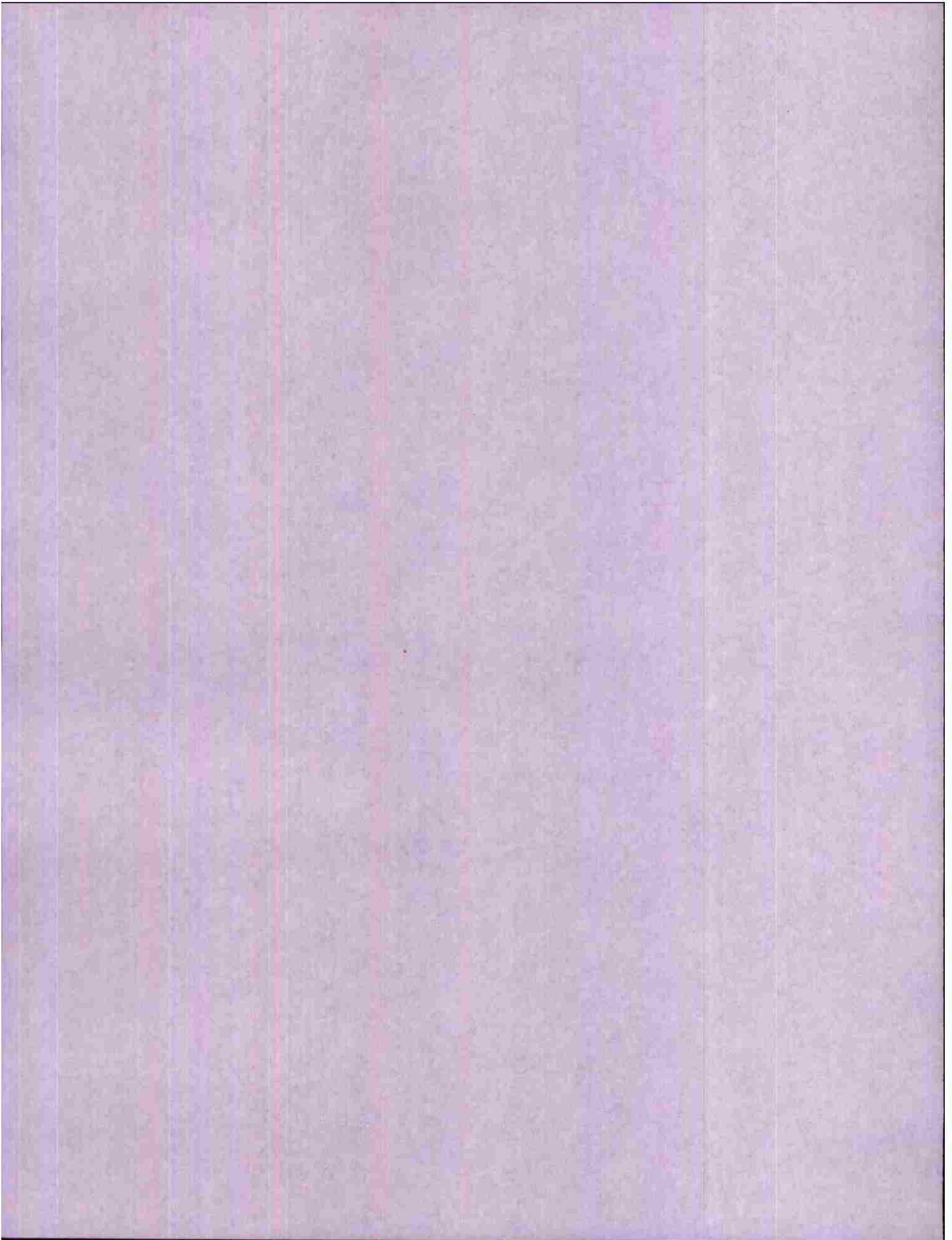
most at the front for the last few months. They say things are very interesting up there and very hazardous.

I guess the rate as my master "Boris" is a master. Along with it saying one character is described that is not true. I have tried some of the lights since as they are not what I would call very good. Not smart enough for me.

Anyway, that the use of spending money this way. So you may have no "fun" just have some more become a "bitch" (whatever that is) right here. I might say that we meet officials every day on these way back home - for changes of efficiency, discipline etc. They don't stand for anything but that at all. We are here for business and we are eating the spirit from the other right along. The men are quite military in everything - the learning, saluting etc. is the regular stuff. I am seeing my eyes and ears and everything else. I'd just be trying to learn things I don't know

and "bunking up" as the things I do or do know - "Military Country" (as the Redfish say time and time again) so an awful important thing over here - both among the American officers and men, and between the French and Americans. So far what I hear and see it is up to the American officer to be extreme cautious to the stars and to take the lead in it.

The paying right of the G.M. time is now done. We got our pay within 10 hours, after putting in our pay vouchers. This is wonderful. I think for now here. The officer in charge has always no more to accumulate, and discipline, and I have stated the secret of him. All the money I need I want. I am thinking of sending some money back in my next. The G.M. also they for the men - encourages them to start a "meeting" last time. One of them, because is "in time of war prepare for peace". What the "peace" is doing is



To: Gen. S.R. Keesler
From: William Keesler
Postmarked April 8, 1918

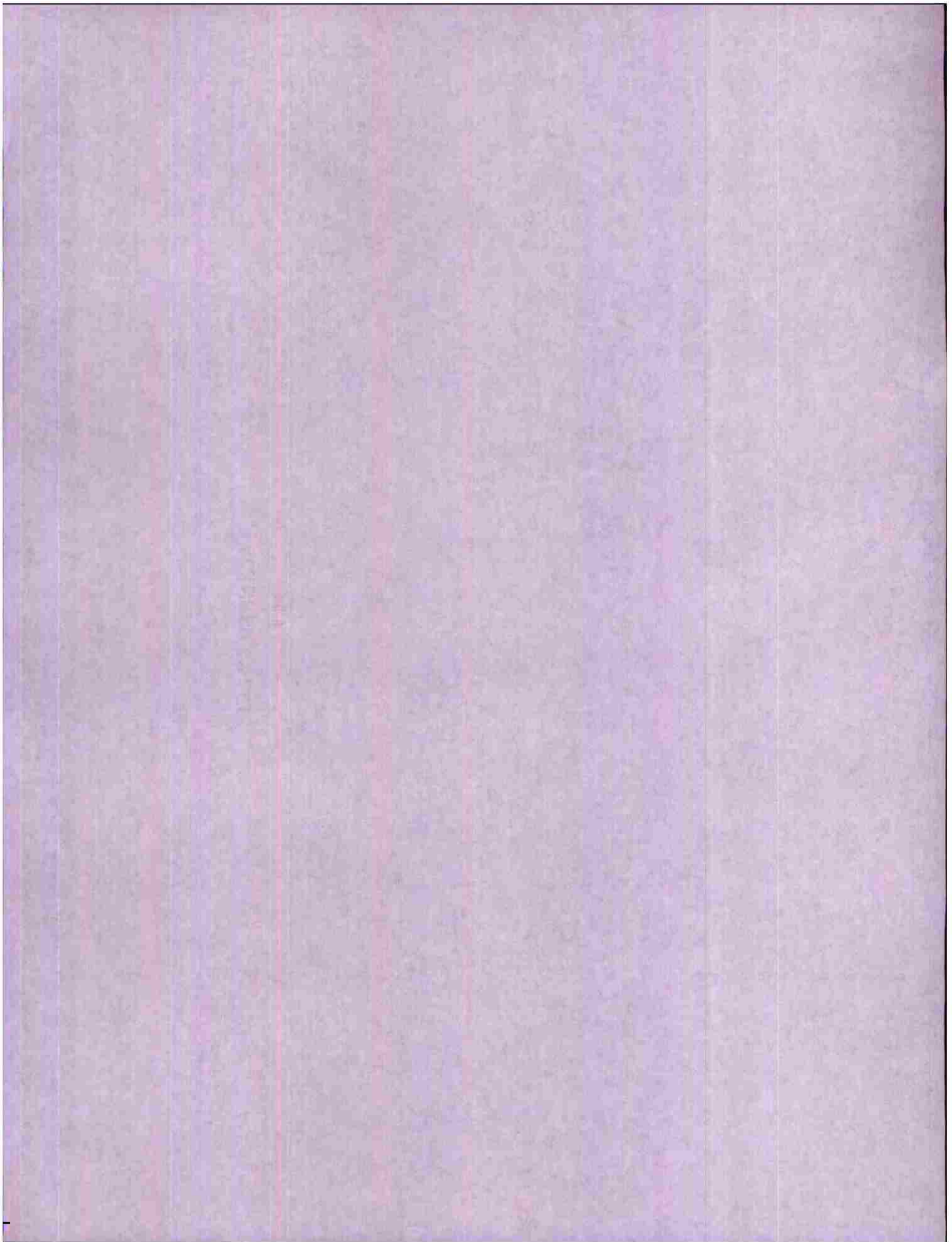
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168-7567-3612
FOIA-24

3/6th 7A
Camp Jackson S.C.

Dear Father,

Your letter came this morning, enjoyed it very much. I rented the bedding roll & kit and rain coat as I thought I wrote you. The tools sure did come in handy the other day when one of the Scouts our scout had and our school fix-ed it up for him. The school is not doing all the garage work in the region. We have fixed up four cars all ready. Did

good work too. We have several more jobs to do. The men are very interested in the work yesterday we put ten hours on a Chalmers, got it in good running shape too.

My wife about the glasses was convinced by an order the Colonel got out. It was to the effect that anyone who could get glasses of any sort to do, at once, even if they were just opera glasses. We are fixing on the range again and as we had borrowed

glasses from the 371st Inf. which is leaving we had to return them. It is very hard to tell what is happening at a target 3500 yds off. That is about two miles. We are surprising all our instructors with the accuracy of our shooting. The men from 7th Sill say they never saw such close shooting at 7th Sill as they have seen here. We are hoping to be real good when the Inspector comes along as on our work depends where we go over. And we are all determined to good. We know nothing besides rumors but we think a lot. The getting of all that shipping from Japan, Holland & etc. can mean we are going soon. The whole Division is being filled up fast now. We get new men

Father too I no officers
 are thinking of getting a car.
 a Ford or some thing. I thought
 I'd see what you say. I don't
 think much of it but thought
 maybe you would tell me
 if some car around home,
 I guess the worst thing
 would be to stay off and I
 think I will, a 2nd district has
 no business with a car,
 this morning I went
 out riding (horse-back) with
 a friend. I got a punk horse,
 one which hadn't been
 ridden in about three weeks

every day now, just as
 soon as they are thru the
 quarantine period, they are
 put into the regiment.

Last Friday the Boston
 Braves & the N.Y. Yankees
 played here. It was wonder-
 ful the way those men
 handled a baseball. "Home-
 Run" was playing for the
 Yankees. He did some good
 hitting. I did not get to see
 either of the Klondike games,
 but we lost one & won one.
 Neither team are any good
 tho. The team we lost to

Well that horse and I were did
 here a time. He was determined
 to run off with me and just as
 head back was trying to make
 him walk. Well the combination
 made him do nothing but "pig."
 He wouldn't trot, walk, or gallop but
 pigging all morning. He as soon as
 a half from riding him.
 As I said we know nothing
 except what is rumored and
 my few of them. I tried to get that
 paper sent regularly but it
 doesn't get out regularly so that can't
 be done.

Must close, Love to all you,
 your affectionate son

William

168. 7567- 80X2
FOLOEN 24

Postmarked April 8, 1918
Columbia, S.C.
To: Gen S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Miss

316th F.A.
Camp Jackson S.C.

Dear Father,

Your letter came this morning, enjoyed it very much. I received the bedding roll & kit and rain coat as I thought I wrote you. The tools sure did come in handy the other day when one of the Lieuts car went bad and our school fixed it up for him. The school is not doing all the garage work in the regiment. We have fixed up four cars all ready. Did good work too. We have several more jobs to do. The men are very interested in the work. Yesterday we put ten hours on a Chalmers, got it in good running shape too.

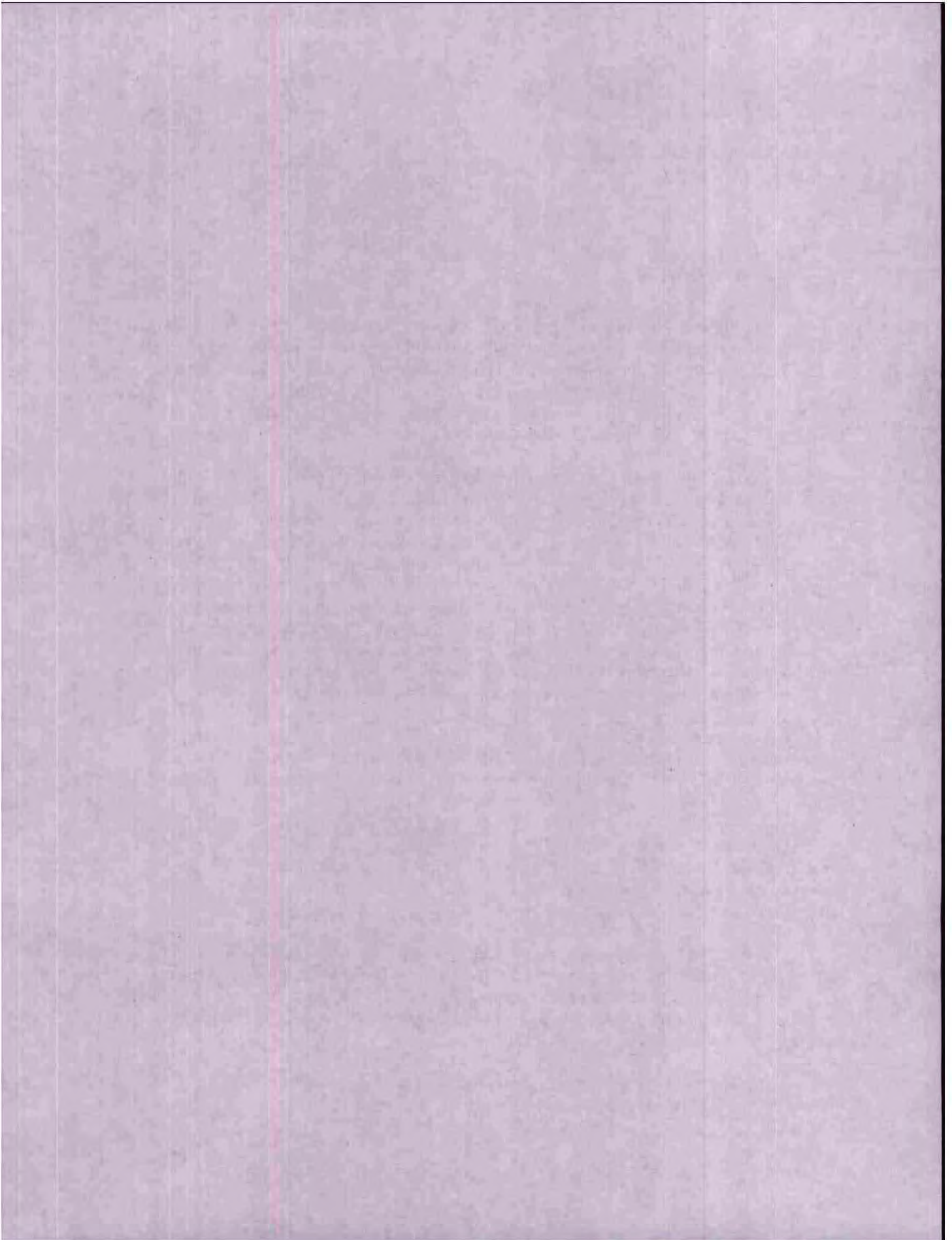
My wire about the glasses was caused by an order the colonel got out. It was to the effect that anyone who could get glasses of any sort to do, at once, even if they were just opera glasses. We are firing on the range again and as we had borrowed glasses from the 371th Inf. which is leaving we had to return them. It is very hard to tell what is happening at a target 3500 yds off. That is about two miles. We are surprising all our instructors with the accuracy of our shooting. The men from Ft Sill say they never saw such close shooting at Ft Sill as they have seen here. We are hoping to be real good when the Inspector comes along as on our work depends where we go over. And we are all determined to good. We know nothing besides rumors but we think a lot. The getting of all that shipping from Japan, Holland & etc. can mean we are going soon. The whole Division is being filled up fast now. We get new men every day now. Just as soon as they are thru the quarantine period, they are put with the regiments.

Last Friday the Boston Braves & the N.Y. Yankees played here. It was wonderful the way those men handled a base ball. Hornbaker was playing for the Yankees. He did some good hitting, I did not get to see either of the Davidson games, but we lost one & won one. Neither team are any good tho. D.C. team looks scrubs

Father two of us officers are thinking of getting a car, a Ford or something. I thought I'd see what you say. I don't think much of it but thought maybe you could tell me of some car around home. I guess the wisest thing would be to stay off and I think I will. A 2nd Lieut has no business with a car.

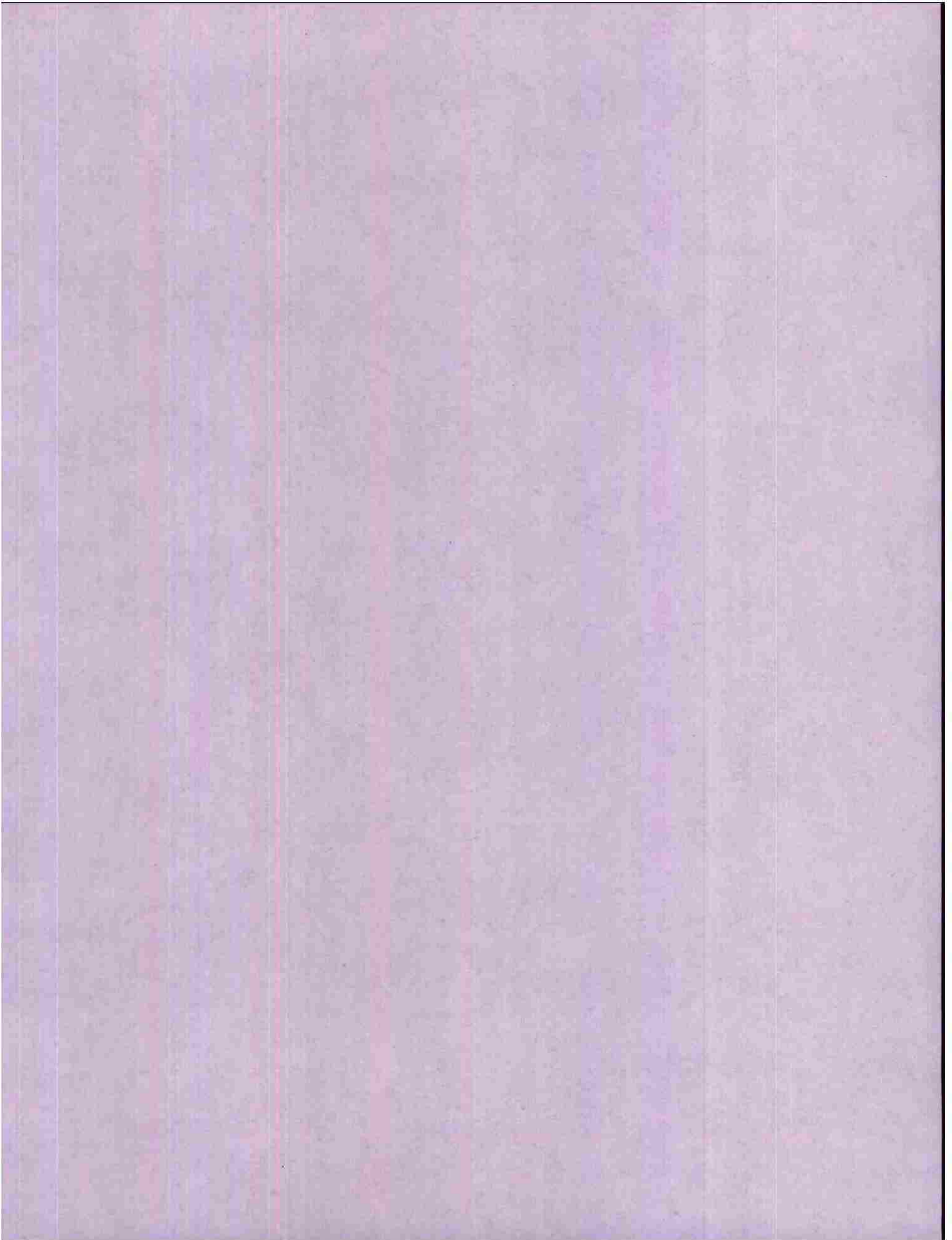
This morning I went out riding (horse-back) with a friend. I got a punk horse. One which hadn't been ridden in about three weeks. Well that horse and I sure did have a time. He was determined to run off with me and just as hard head was trying to make him walk. Well the combination made him do nothing but "jig." He wouldn't trot, walk, or gallop but jiggling all morning. I'm as sore as a boil from riding him.

As I said we know nothing except what is rumored and very few of them. I tried to get that paper sent regularly but it doesn't get out regularly so that can't be done.



Must close, Love to all of you.

Your affectionate Son,
William



To: Mrs S.M. K...
From: Sam K...
Date: 10/14/81

KR 7567-Box 2

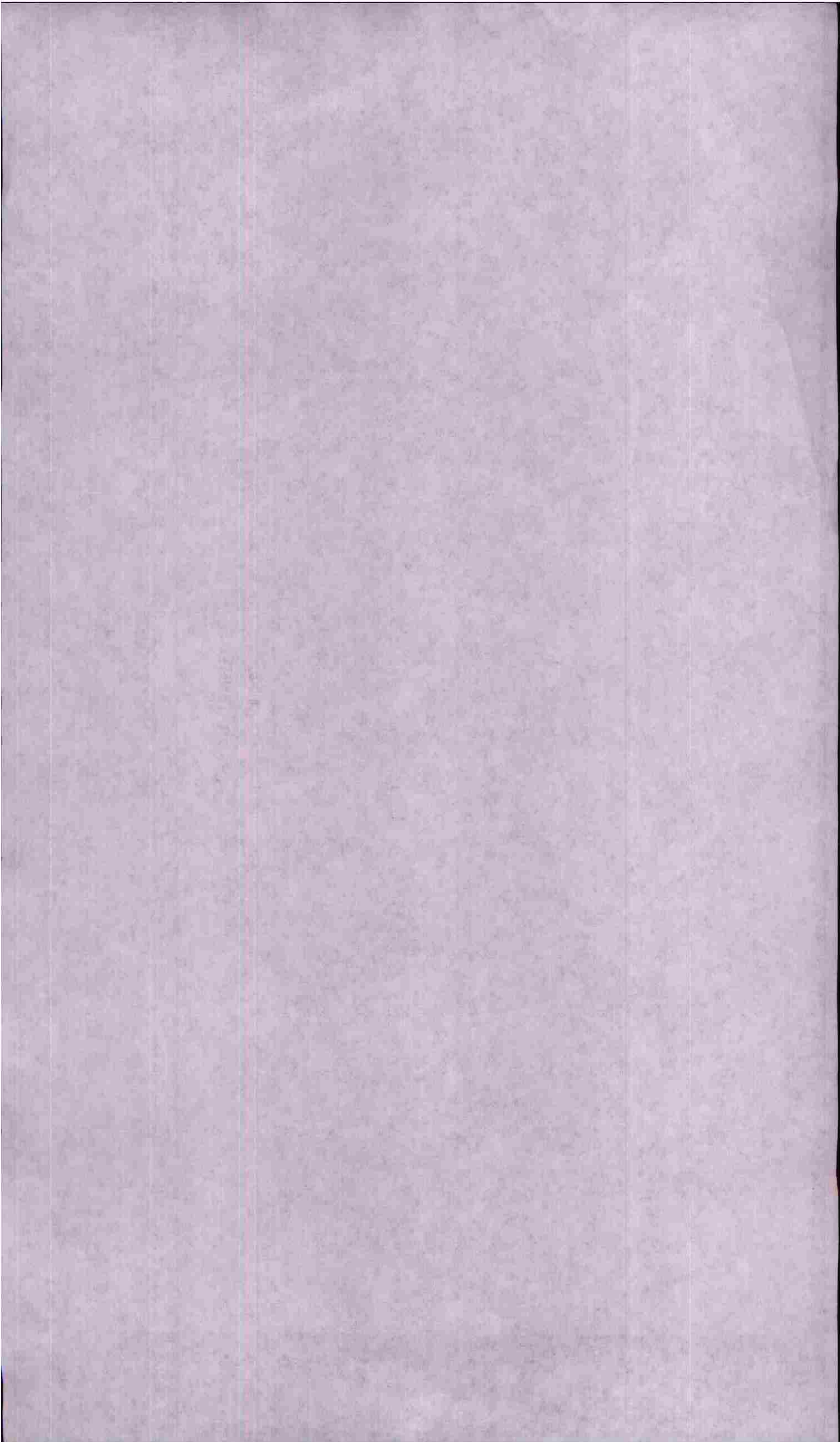
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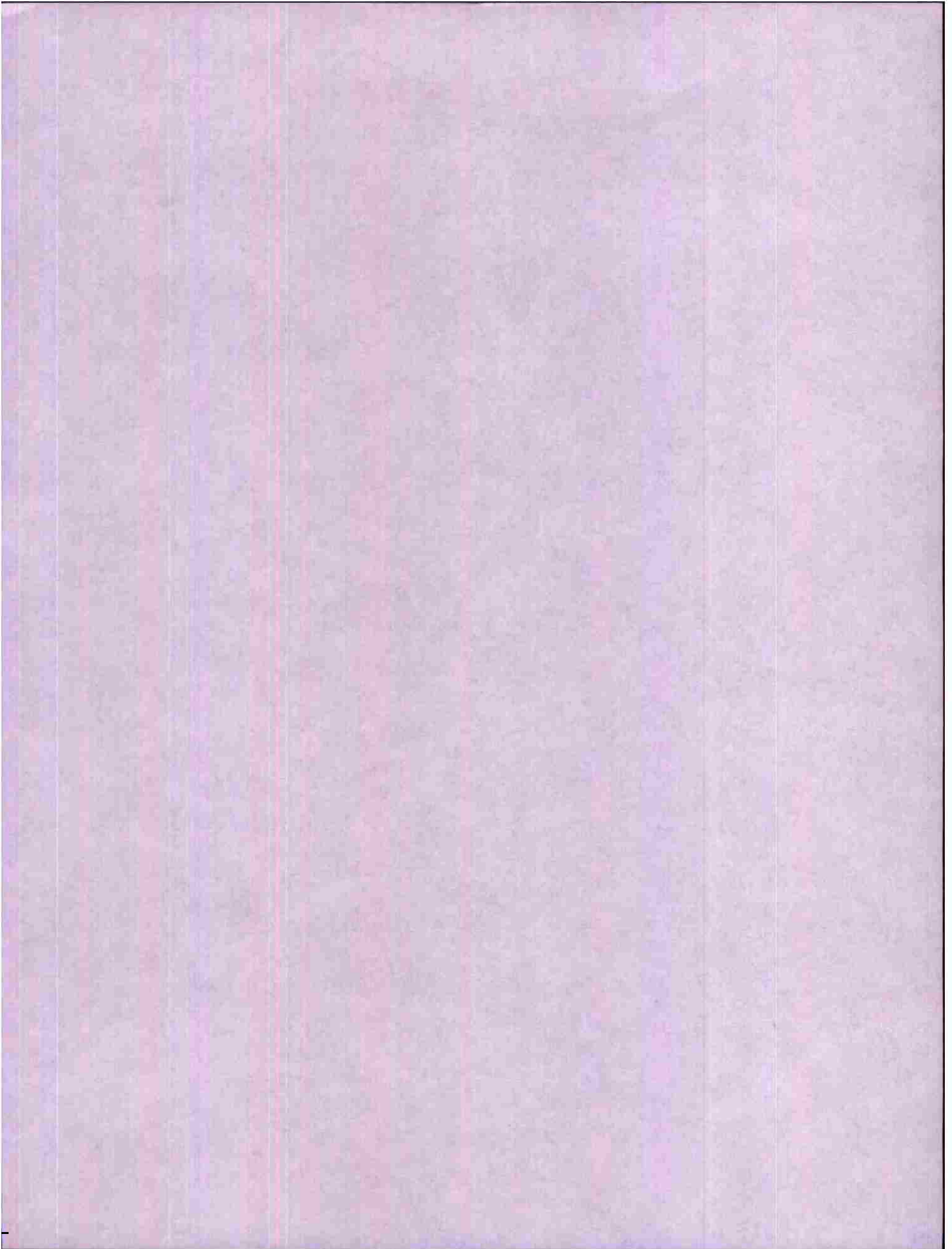


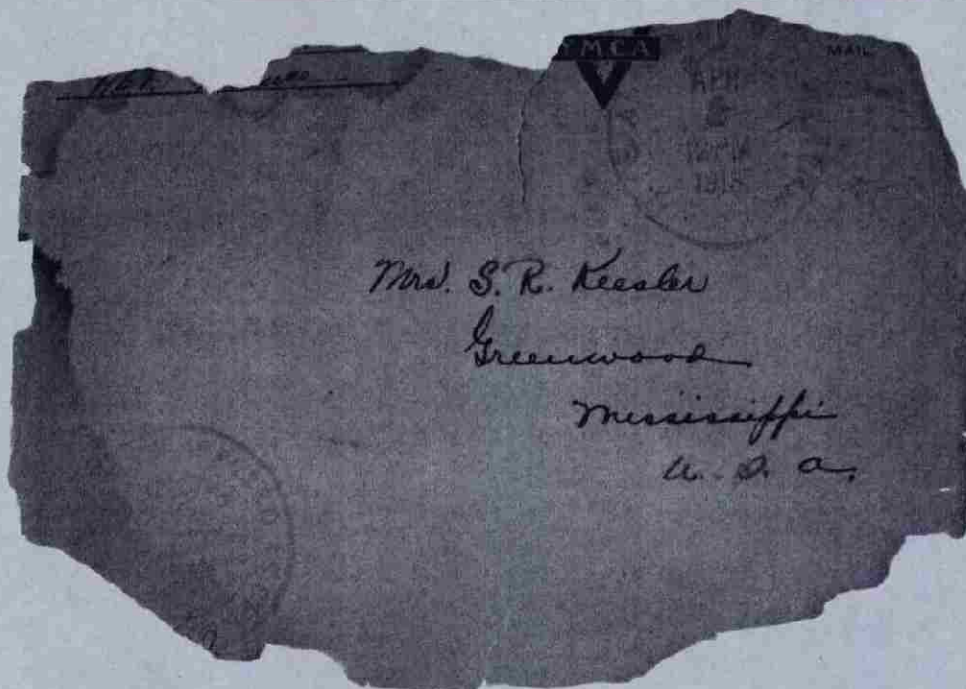
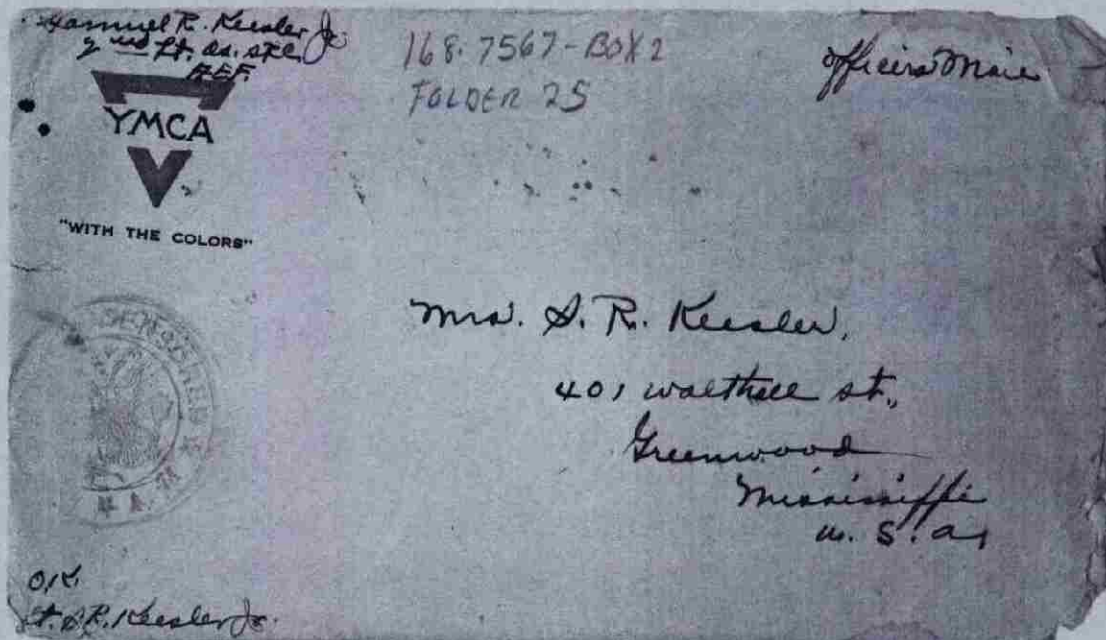
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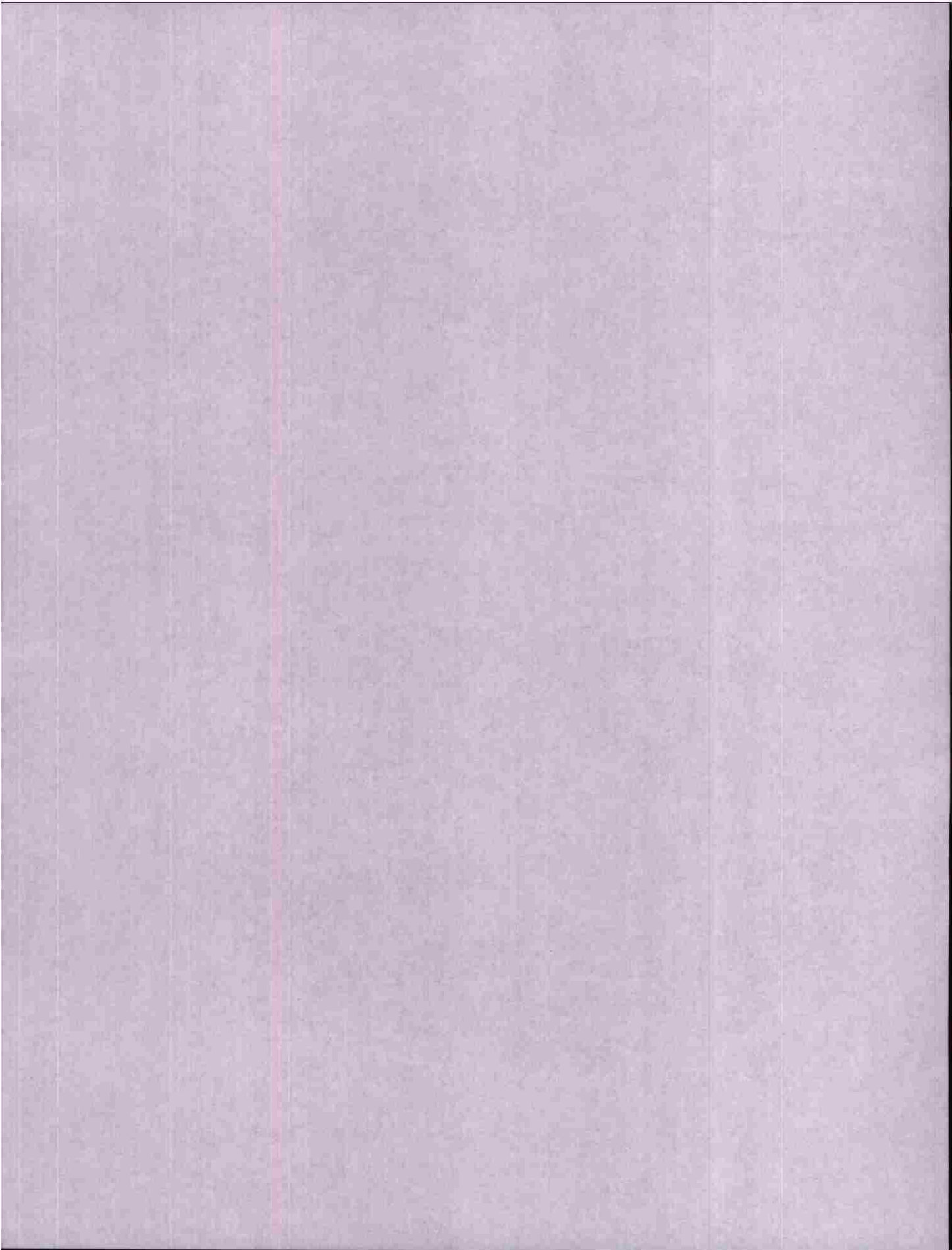
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"WITH THE COLORS"



April "11" 1918

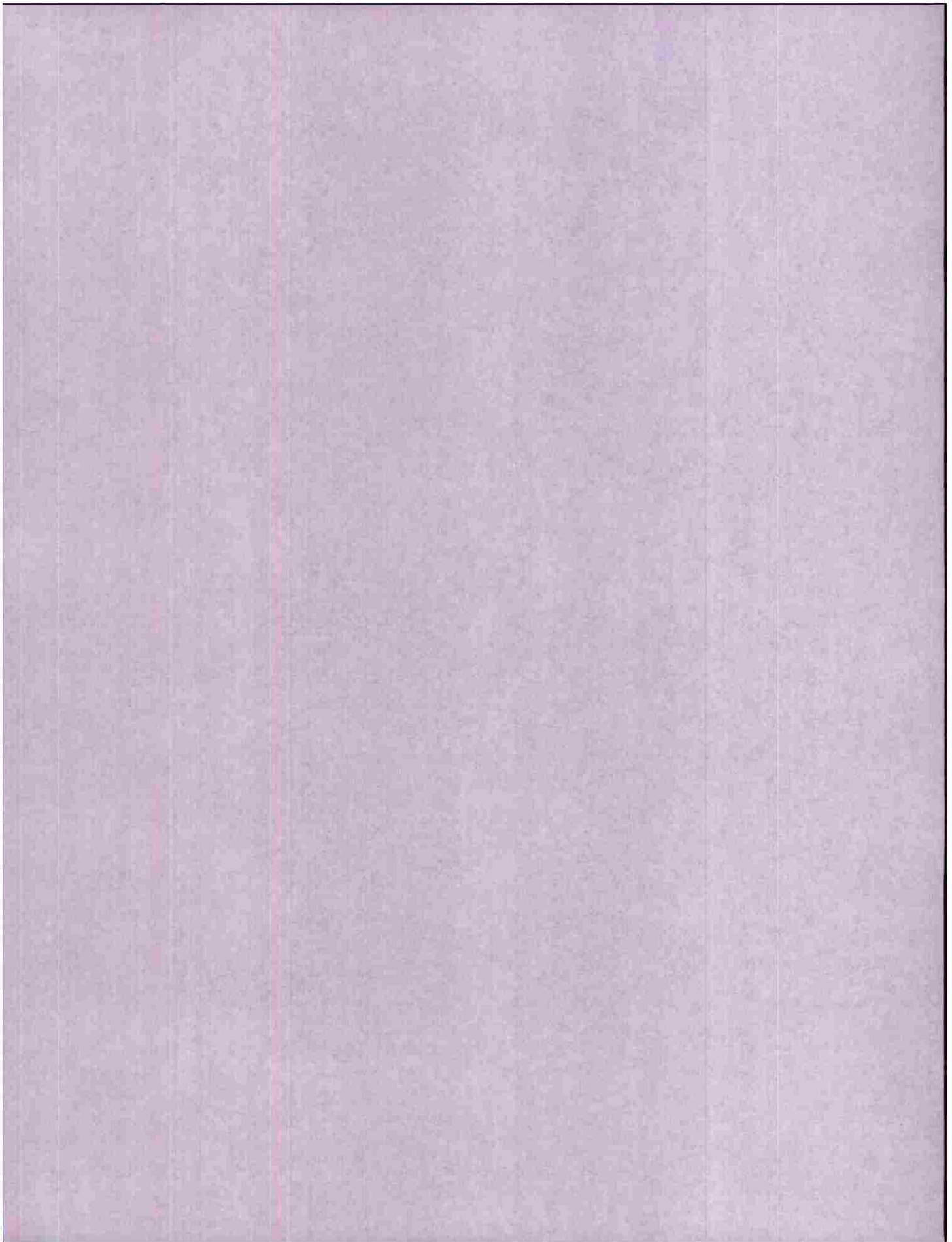
Dearest mother,

I just remembered the fact a few minutes ago that to-day is my birthday. I'm - two years ago I would worry about any war. I'll bet. Well, I can't say that I'm worrying at present either.

No news as yet, but we are expecting some soon. Two of our members have already left separately - I hope the rest of us stick together. We may probably become ground officers - taking charge of operations but I hope not. There is no telling what will happen over here tho.

Elaine's was here Monday night. She made her appearance in the gymnasium. I went about an hour and a half ahead of time - in order to get a good seat - and did, of course. The house was simply jammed. Men were standing outside trying to look thru the windows. There were a few Red Cross nurses there too. I never had so much fun in a long time - for Elaine is

HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SAVING. WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER



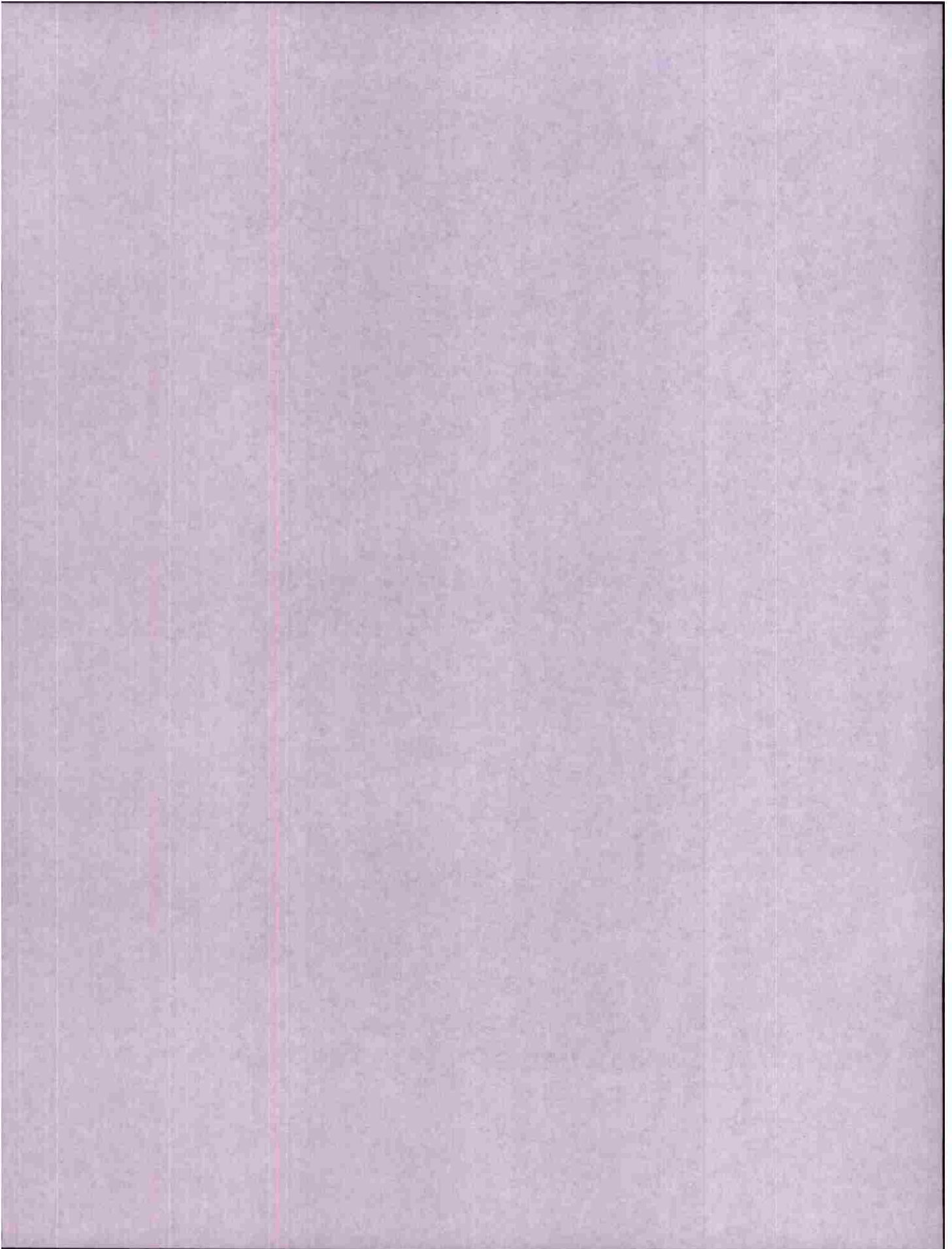


I wish I could tell you more
news that you would like to know, but
we censor our own letters, as the cen-
sor follows.

Will write again real soon - Lots
of love to you all
your devoted son,

your devoted son,
Samuel

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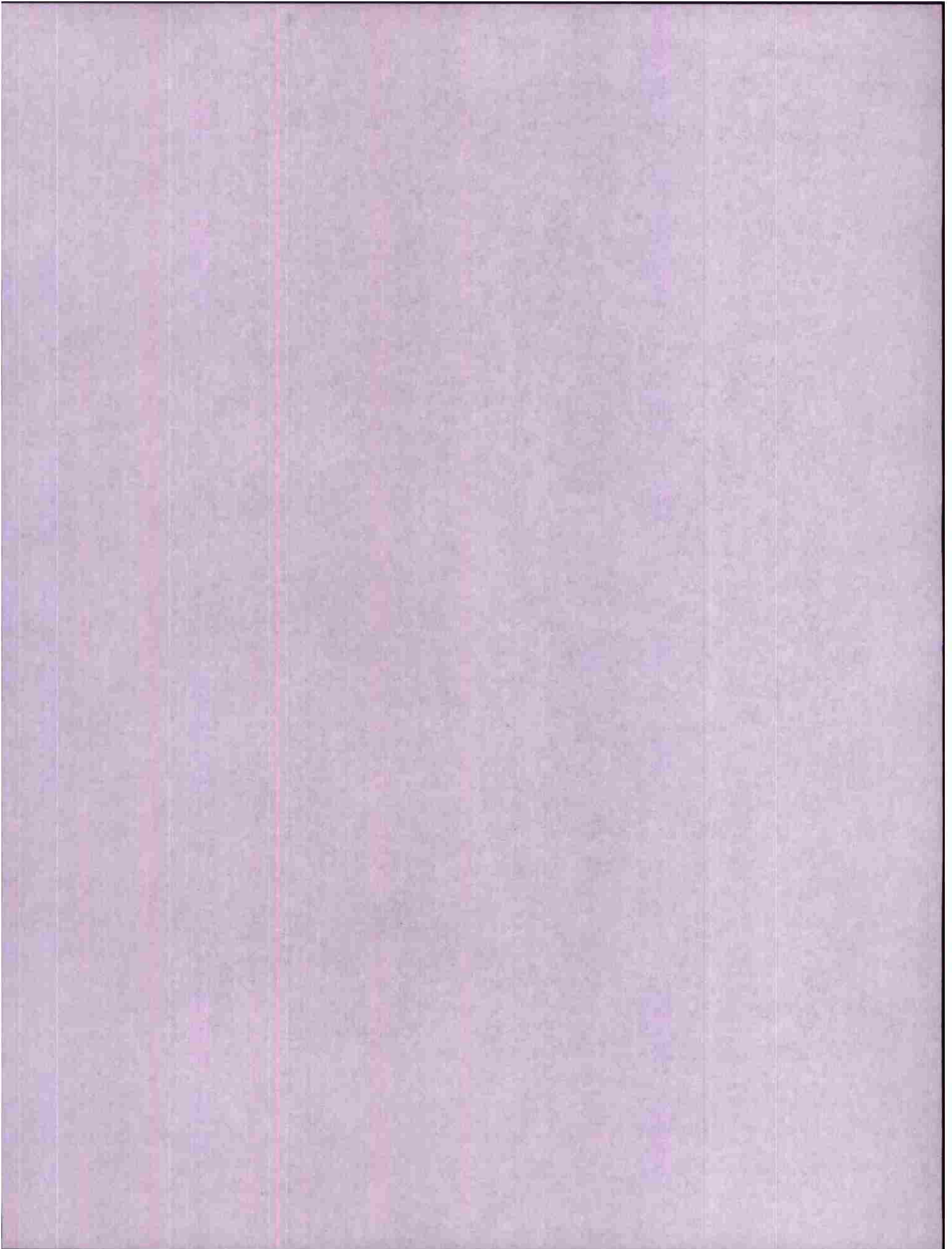


Stewart has moved up to where
was killed - you know he was out in
town. He had been put in charge of a
cannon platoon - so has his hands
full all day - drilling them etc. yes -
Friday and today about 30 of them have been
clarifying names of their
company. We have a card to fill
out for each man giving all sorts of
information about him etc.

we are still having circles & lectures
etc. Our move is still as good as ever. We
really have excellent food here. I hope it
be as good where we go from here.

I am learning a mod or two of French

HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SAVING. WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER.



70 Hqs. S. A. 1000-00
1000-1000-00
April 1912

168-7567-Box 2

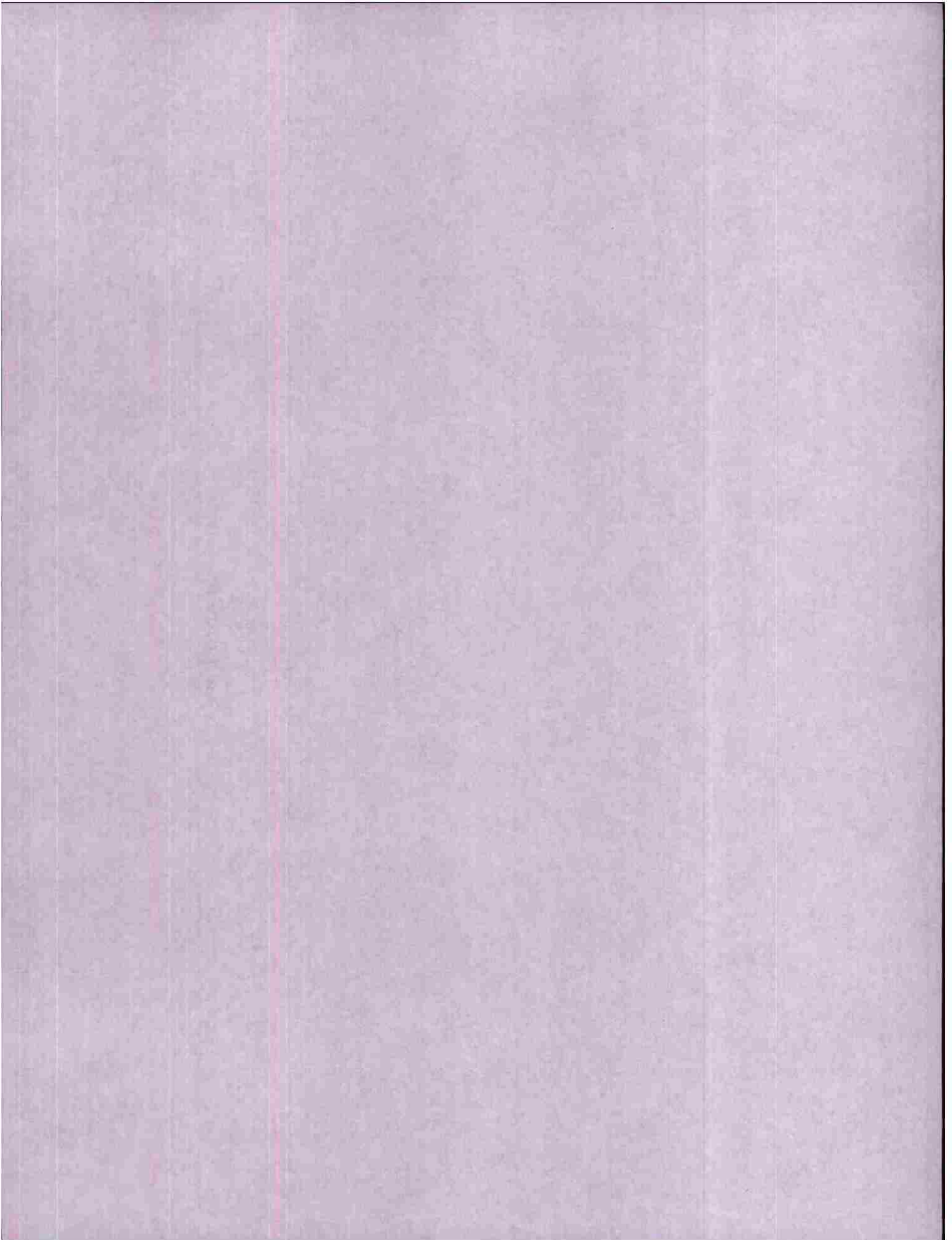
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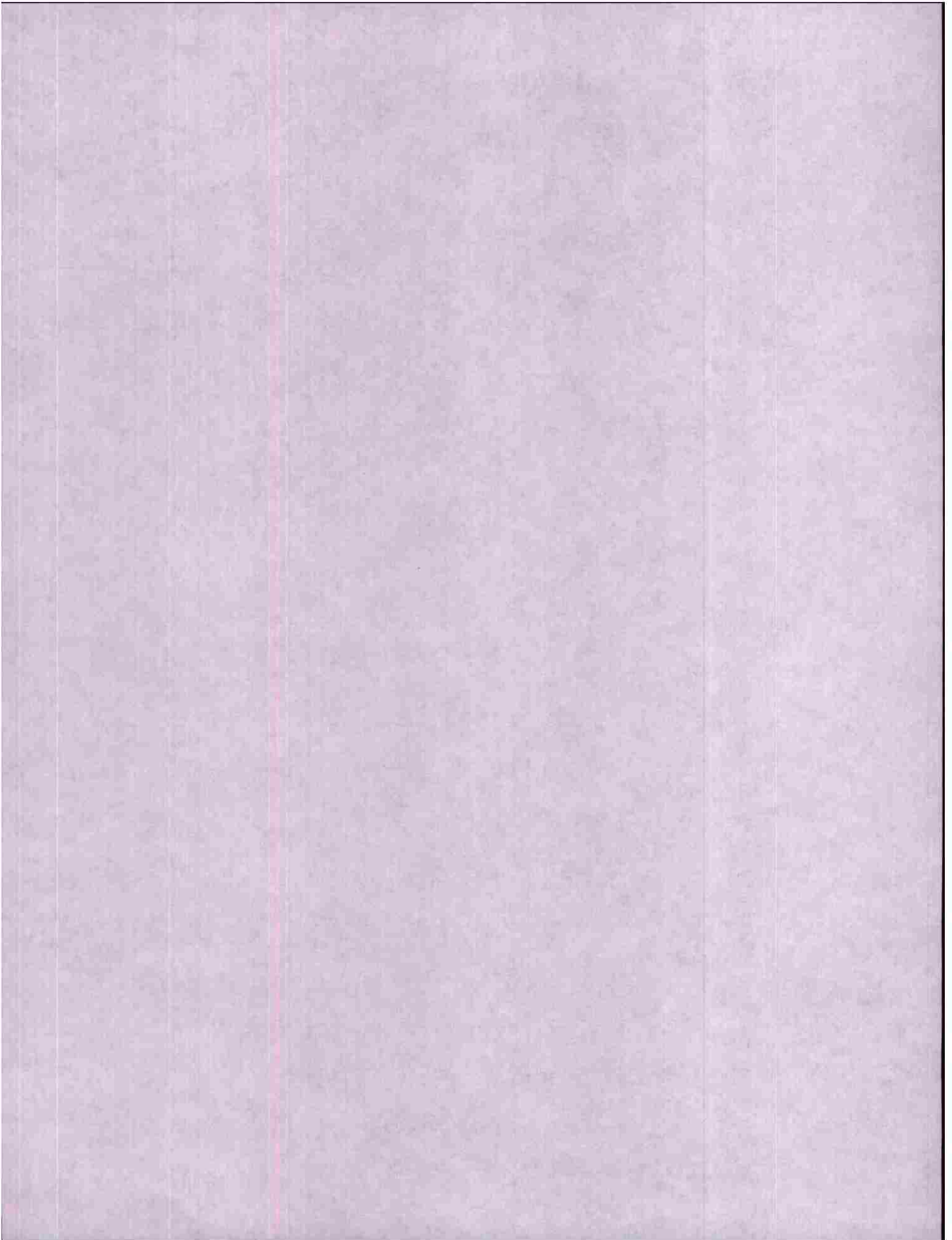


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2nd Artillery Alvin Obarnet^{scholar}
 F. P. O. 705. H.E.F.

April 17, 1918.

Dearest Mother,

I feel like I haven't written to you in a month. So many things have happened since I wrote last accounts for my feeling this way, I guess. The psychology would say so anyway.

I left my last station in the rain and mud and after a six hour ride got off again at a city and spent Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night. Then reported out here Monday. We came out by truck.

When we got on the train it was free, so we had to stand up for awhile, but soon got seats here and there in the coaches. The compartment in which I got a

seat was occupied by several French officers + ladies and one American lady who was going home. She lived in Boston and had been in the Y.M.C.A. work with her husband. I enjoyed talking to her very much for she had lots of interesting things to tell - she had been over in this country 6 yrs. She spoke French very well.

The first day we got here we reported to the Adjutant of the Artillery School - then came over to the Aviation school which is about 7 miles distant from the former school. We met the Captain in charge, ate dinner + then got our baggage. We are quartered here at the Aviation school, but at first we thought we would stay at the Artillery school, since they are staying in rooms there. However we have doubled up and

are quartered very comfortably. We have a very good mess there too. The food is good, ~~and~~ prepared by a French cook.

This is a very small school and we should get a whole lot of practical experience from it in several lines - but especially in adjustment of artillery fire - both 75's + the big 155 long gun. They have some Artillery school here - almost as large as Camp Jackson. Well, going back to the school - we have one instructor - a French Lieutenant who has participated in about 22 battles etc. He wears several of medals etc. His knowledge of the English language is not perfect but we can understand him & he certainly seems to know his business - I think he said we will be here about 3 weeks - or four - we go - as I understand.

it, to some machine gun school
 then work with the French squadrons
 awhile and then to the front.
 So we should be ready for
 the front about the latter part
 of July or first of August I judge.
 I don't judge or figure any
 farther than the front.

yesterday morning there was
 no flying - so we had adjust-
 ment of fire indoors - with
 lights on a big map - just like at
 Ft. Lee. yesterday evening all of us
 but 6 ~~of us~~ went out and
 watched the receiving station. ~~to~~
 while a plane adjusted fire for
 some 15-20. We were on the right
 track out at Ft. Lee - we see
 a few things different tho. There
 are only a few planes here so
 every one can't fly at the same

times but we have to take times.
 we took our first ride in an
 aeroplane in France this evening
 and France from the air is a
 perfect net work of roads - I never
 saw the like - Every thing is
 very beautiful, naturally. We
 stayed up 30 minutes this evening
 on a problem of locating 3 Hostile
 Batteries & pin pointing them. The Batter-
 ies were represented by flares -
 I could see only one of them
 but I'll do better next time
 I'm sure.

One of the pilots here is from
 Hazelhurst, Miss. I can't think of
 his name at present.

Stuart is here with me - we
 are keeping together so far. I got a
 letter from Mullen and thought
 I was going to be sent to
 the same school where he is

but was disappointed.

We are hoping and praying to get some mail before long. Gee! but letters from home will look good over here..

We (the new observers) went over and met the Commanding General yesterday evening. Quite a formal procedure, but the Gen. was very nice and looks quite capable. His name is M^r Langhland, a Brigadier Gen.

This is most of the news up to date so I can say "To Be Continued" - I sure would like to tell you where I am etc. but of course I can't. I am thinking about you all all the time - Lots of love for each of you -
your devoted son,

Sam

70-10015 R. Koster
From: Sam Houston
Apr 29 1978

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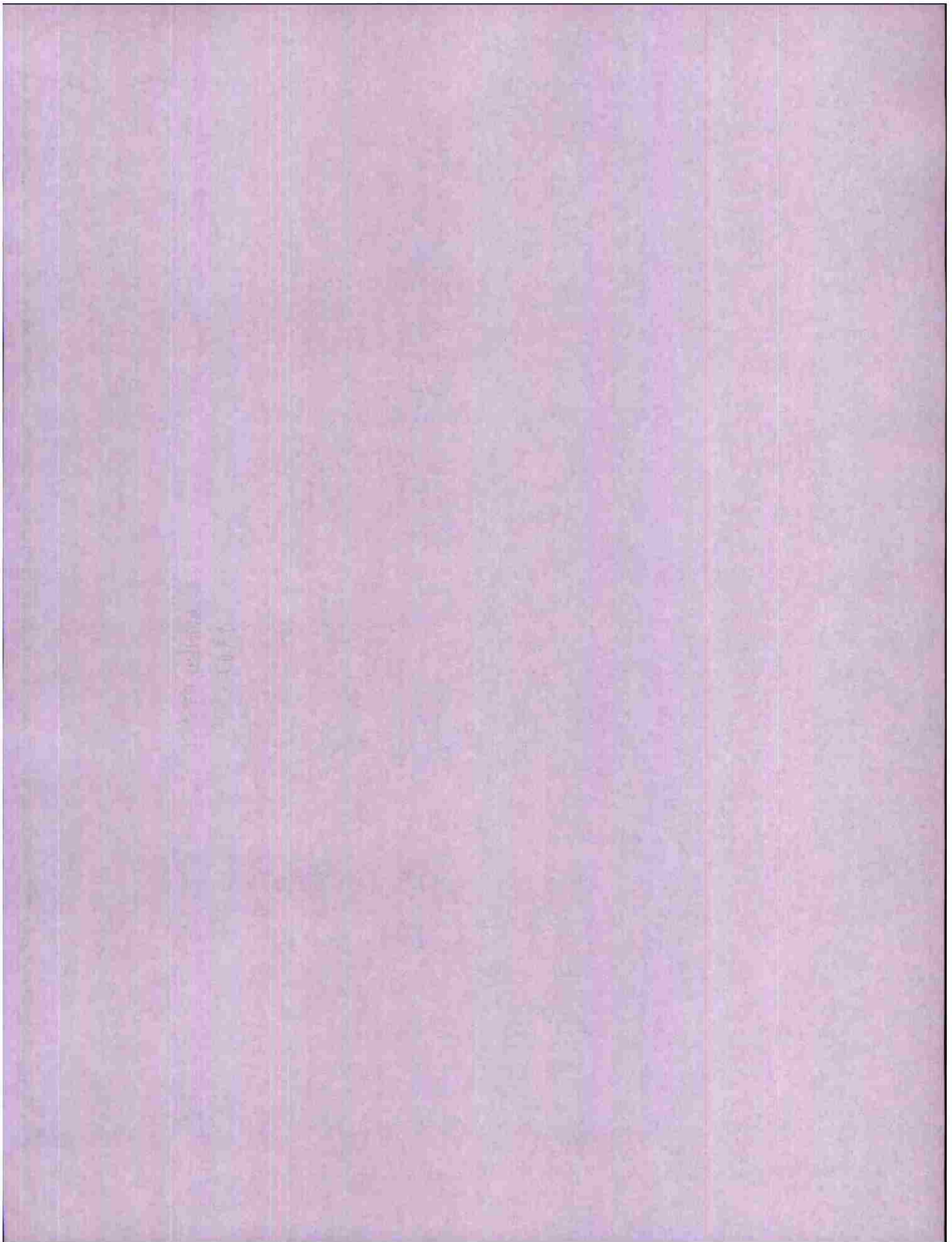
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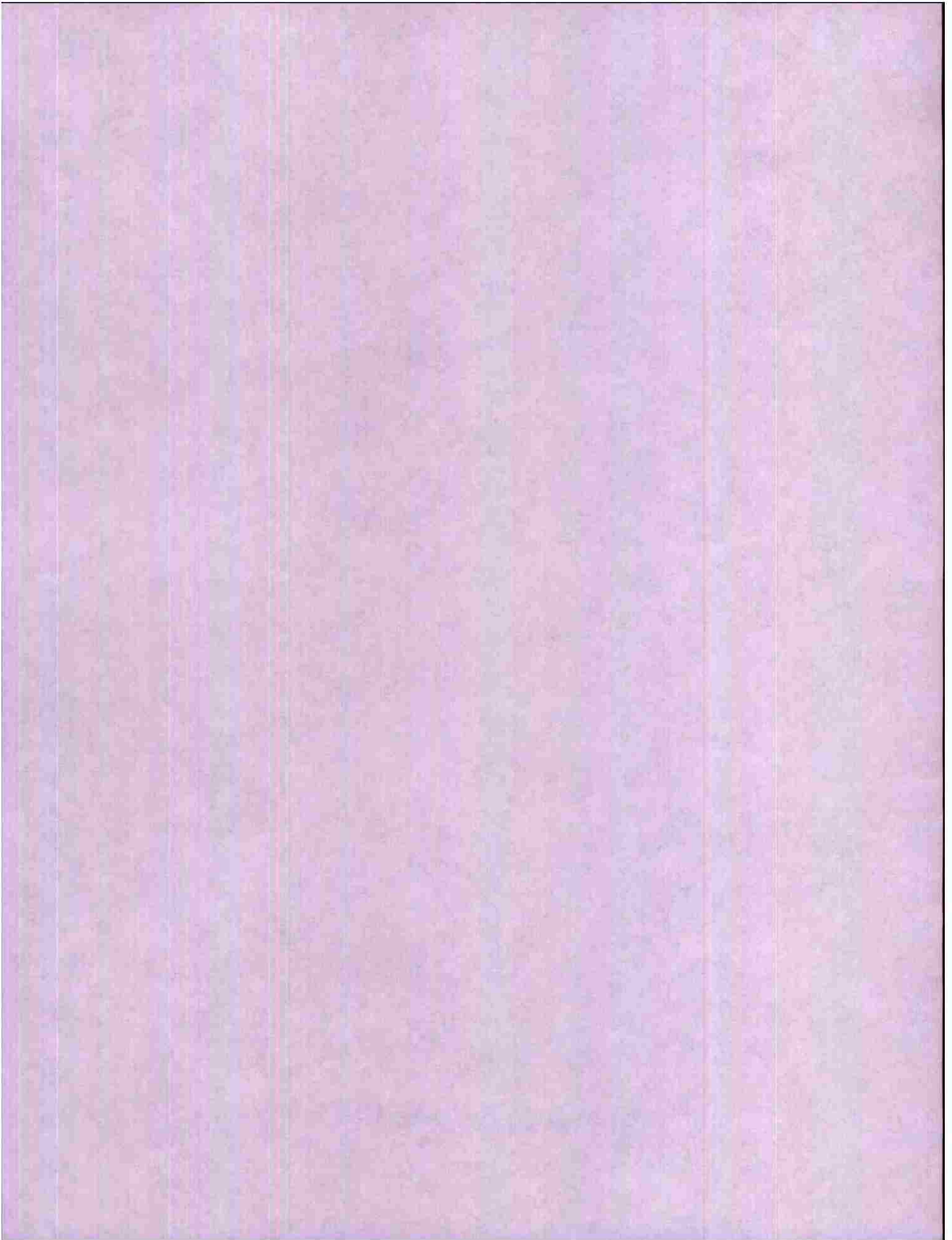


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It keeps a lot to know that
there are land ones back home
thinking about me etc. Makes a
fellow feel like doing his best
to make good in everything - then
the folks back home will be
proud of him.

One of Sam's old friends lettered me
to Elio R. by mistake so he wrote
to me and sent the letter and
a return where he is now. He
is only about 26 miles from here.
Hope to see him some time.

I have been up 4 times now.
Have my last trip day before yesterday.

165-7567
FOIPA 27

2nd letter, Renee Stevenson
APO 700, France
April 28, 1978.

Dearest Mother,

So day has been a very im-
portant day for several reasons. First
I received a letter - just thought
I should - we had a machine

crashed up but no one was hurt
fortunately. Two of the letters were
from you - written on March 18th
and 20th respectively - one of them were
from W.R. and one from Elio R. Kudos
I sure was glad to hear from you
and of course the others also -

I spotted him on two targets for a killing
 of 75. We got there with the first problem
 in 40 min. which is running things pretty nice.
 the access problem for a little longer.
 we were up 2 hrs 120 min in all. When
 you stay in the air the long, you are a
 little tired when you come down & we
 require a rest after with my first Antelope
 about one hr.
 For the first few days, one observer has
 been going over to - and going up
 in one of the balloons. I don't know why
 they are sitting up in them. I
 haven't been up yet but I've set you
 know how the pole of & do get a
 chance.
 We have been having nice weather
 lately - nice spring weather - not too
 cold nor hot.
 I have received the letter from
 you which was sent to me at Long Beach.

of a captain and a "fence" of a man.
 I couldn't wait a better. When
 we are not working, we have
 a very enjoyable time & pass the
 time here in the fine grove.

Mullew wrote me again last
 week and sent me a copy of
 the paper the American Society got
 out each week. "Pioneer" mentioned
 us at the same place here - also
 several other "London" men.

The Charlotte "Pioneer" sent us
 over here. Stuart was some of the
 men in the city yesterday. He

They were written on March 1872 26th.

I wonder if you have heard
 from me yet. I do trust so. You
 surely know by this time that
 I am just as well as I can.
 We are an engaging life here in
 this camp industriously. As I have

said before this is a most artistic
 camp - located about 6 miles from
 a large artillery camp - in fact it is a
 part of the art. camp. We have
 about 30 students - one French
 architect - one West American architect.
 The captain of the art. camp is a capt.
 in the artillery. Regular thing - and
 our commander. He is a "pioneer"

I went out to see them today
 I went to the city yesterday myself
 we are going to them in Baltimore and take
 a look - over a house and making get
 I got my watch fixed and did some
 other necessary work - saw a movie
 all after - saw a show and came
 home. A three hour show at 11:30 PM.
 I have sent \$50.00 home via American
 Express - this year. I sent it to father
 the car just in the evening. Dad or
 in part of anyway he ~~sent~~ wants to
 I shall send money home from time
 to time - I'll send it late more after
 the war - maybe.

We have a French woman here who cleans
 our rooms etc. She is just as nice as the
 car. She does our washing and does it
 often. To - she cleans my socks which
 needed it.

I have done up a few French phrases
 but that's about all. I haven't written

they are while - then to look into
my own theory - the - however - all
realize the fact that some of us
are the wounded and some
probably ~~more~~ than wounded - and
it gives me a very peculiar
feeling to be in such a position
one year about it the and
don't give it much thought -
and it's a pleasant thing that
we do - a lot of men are being
killed at present in this
conflict during Germany - but we

much.
I will not be in account of
the preparation being made to
raise the Service flag if the school
also of the school. I am charitable in
other the "signature of my brother
you" - the name of my brother
we were as my sister - and mother
and father, especially.

I think we have been about a
year or longer. Then go to a machine
gun school and learn how to use
that weapon while in the air -
after that we go into a tank
school and the front probably - and

can't stop to think about that - the
 nearest I must do is make a time - in
 by stopping and evening the time back
 into the very hole - it's take a year
 or two more to do it the it seems
 to me. I hope you will never worry
 about me because I'll be all right
 no matter what happens - just when
 you can - so much a. lot of love
 to each one of you - see all my friends
 love you -

Most sincerely your son
 Dwight

P.S. I must take a bank yesterday to get a 500. note
 changed. The man gave me 100 change - and
 gave me a 50. note to get some "bits"
 money" or small change. He thought I was
 trying to tip him and said - no - no - no
 He must have thought I was a
 "businessman".

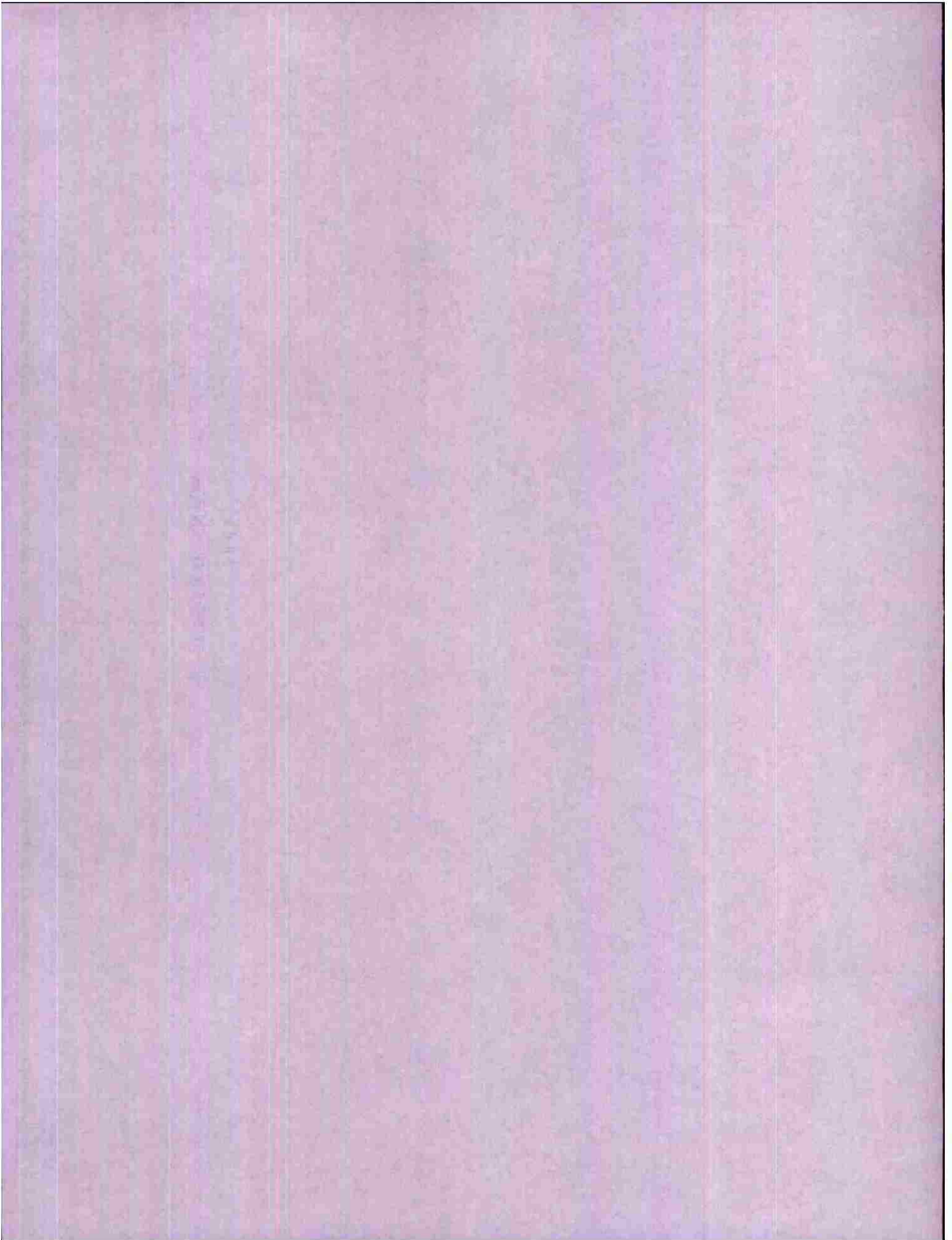
To: W. J. 04
From: S. M. K. 0510
APR 29, 1978

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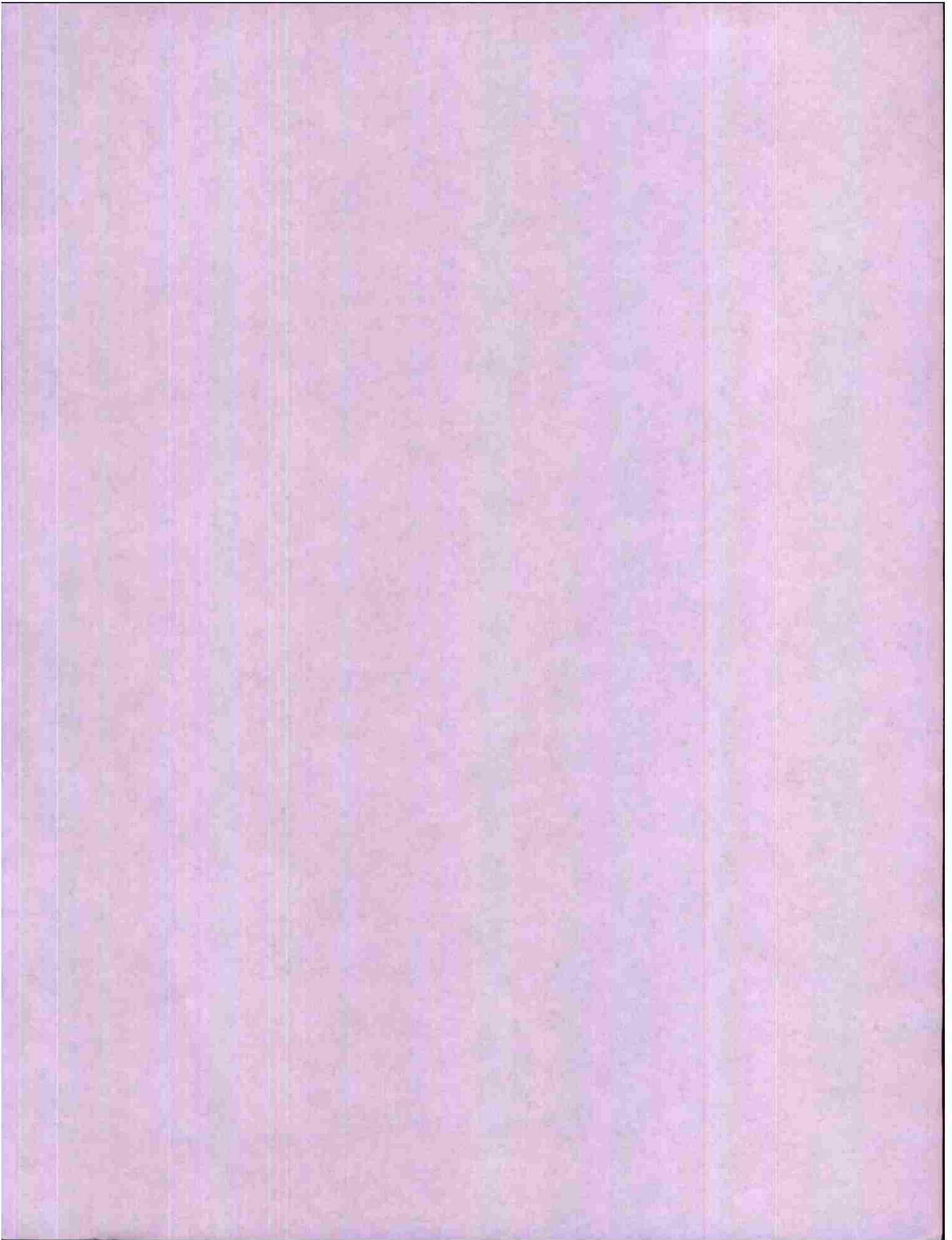


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of these 70's long after. Reclaiming
 They are the guns we are mak-
 ing with them too. also some
 70's. the only reason they use
 70's is because they can get
 ammunition for them easier.
 the 70's are driven by big trucks
 - turned waste - they are 7.62's and
 a very good tracer. they ~~are~~ ^{are}
 up a lot of ground when
 they shoot too.
 I have been up only 4 times
 so far - the last time I spotted
 five for a battery of 70's - one

34

2nd Military Service Museum volume

A.P.O. 7007 P.S.F.

April 29, 1948.

dear you:

I have gotten two letters
 from you. which were written to
 me at Newcastle and have for-
 gotten me across the fence.
 One was written on March 18 & one
 on March 18th. I was mighty
 glad to hear from you - and quite
 interested in the fact that you
 have your gun and have
 actually started firing them.
 you ought to throw your 47's
 away tho and get some

the target. Got by with it very nice.
 we shot up 2 in 120 mm. The largest die cross
 here in the air at one time. Almost adjacent
 five thousand.
 I have received 6 letters from the
 and the first another one of the 1st letters
 sent by mistake to the 1st. Keller. 1st unit
 was a note and forwarded the letter - so
 I know where he is now. He is only
 about 26 miles from me. Also the
 Charles's office unit is near me -
 about went out to see the unit
 saw John Barker, Tom Sullivan and thinking
 to a bunch of others. I am going out to
 see them some of these days.
 "Mule, mule, mule, mule, and mule"
 other the legs are at. I have
 have for Chief "Mule". I thought
 I was going to be located where he
 is at that - but was disappointed.

you should be able to
 get off and go to Montreal this
 summer very well & then we
 see Elizabeth & the girls - I think
 may go up.
 I will stay here in this
 school until about May the
 latter part of May - then go to
 a machine gun school and
 then into a French operation
 & then with my own army. And
 then if I am lucky I may
 assist him on the books for a
 while.

much change for the modern
 picture - I was very glad to
 get them. And everyone of
 interest.
 Give my regards to Elizabeth
 & Janet and tell them they
 might drop me a line - if
 they want to do a favor to
 me - I would stand waiting in
 France - and I'll answer all
 their letters - now I'm sure
 they will write. We were to see
 them - Remind me to Jack and
 see to other please.

We had a round up yesterday. Everything
 please but no one but you even
 can take some time from very now
 and then - and get away with only a notation.
 This is a temporary situation field here -
 it is about 7 the large artillery school -
 There are about 40 there. 1 French Battalion
 + 1000 (American) - so we are now
 or less - a big family. Over 1000. a captain
 is waiting - so a school. It's the best &
 even good - can't wait a better. So I am
 having you to an enjoyable time here -
 we go to town on Sat. evening in a truck
 + can stay until Sun. night at 11:30 PM.
 if we want to. We usually take a bath
 every that our shower - aren't making yet
 the enjoy looking at the pale flowers. &
 see the sunset give in France. Nothing
 as I think. You should see the mud brown
 movement at night. It was interesting.
 I have had to the service no no. It's
 their with again soon - because -
 (your brother 14 - 15)

Here is a brochure. Don't
think F.W.C. gave me - I
have no use for it. See
if you can use it.

