Postmarked May 9, 1919 U.S. Army M.R.E.S. Lt WPKeesler 316 F.A. A.E.F Mrs S.R. Keesler Greenwood Miss U.S.A.

> 316th F.A. A.E.F. May 7 1919

Dearest Mother,

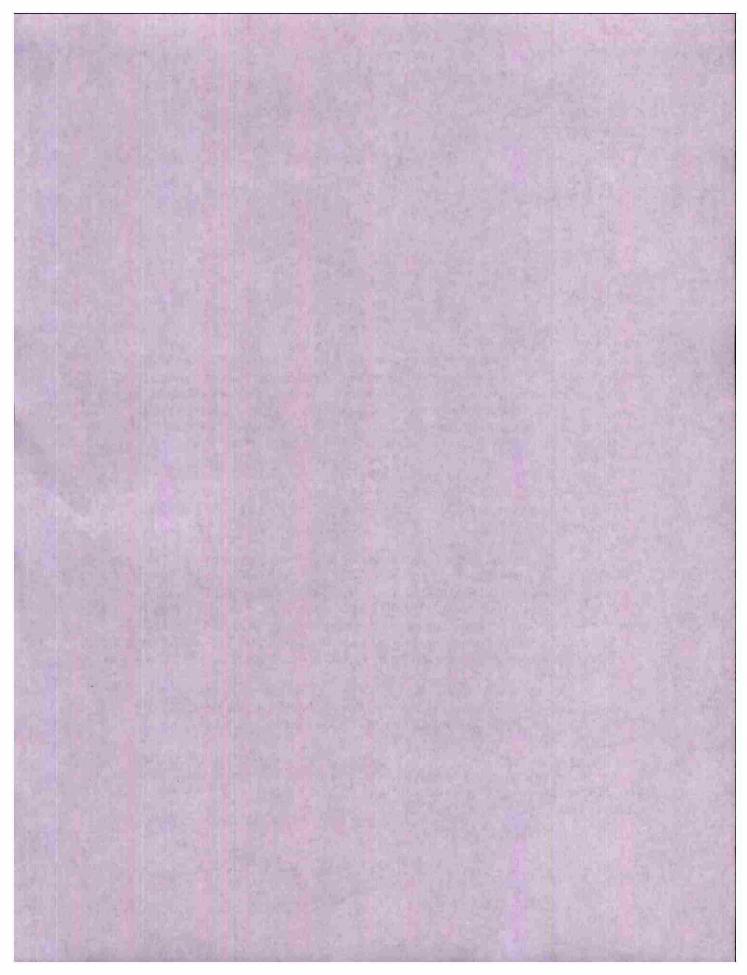
We are all excited over turning over our material & etc, turning it back to the O.M.C., Ord, Sig Corp, & Engineers. We have been packaging, making inventories & etc all this week. You should see the amount of stuff a regiment can get together in six to eight months. I don't know where it all came from. We don't care very much where it goes to, after out receipts are signed. Capt. Glentworth is handling all of that, leaving me the motors to keep going. Tomorrow I've got to make a trip to Bourg to get some parts replaced. We turned in a lot of our spare parts and now all the trucks are taking a notion to break down. It seems like they should be good now we are so near the end.

Honest we are as excited as if we were to sail next week, we have only just gone into the hands of the S.O.S. We may not sail for a month yet. But the strain of not knowing whether we are going home or to Germany is relieved and we don't care about but one thing. HOME.

We spend most of the time when not on the Road Detail, playing baseball. That is the Batteries do. I myself being on Special Duty don't get much ball playing to do. Even for all that I'm playing left field on the officer's team (Regimental) and am hitting the ball hard. Last game I got three hits including a triple. The Road Detail is the men who are detailed daily to go out under the supervision of an Engineer Lieut. To fix up the Roads around Chateauvillain. We have about ten miles of roads to fix up. The American truck and auto mobile while fine to ride in are the ruin of the French rock roads.

The weather is wonderful now. Such a change from the snow and rain of last week. The sun shines, the trees are getting green fast, the birds are singing and everything is wonderful. One can almost forget the bad weather when we have such weather as this.

Last night our band gave us a concert. They have been away on a trip to Nice and we have been suffering from the lack of music. We sure did enjoy the concert. The trip seems to have improved them.



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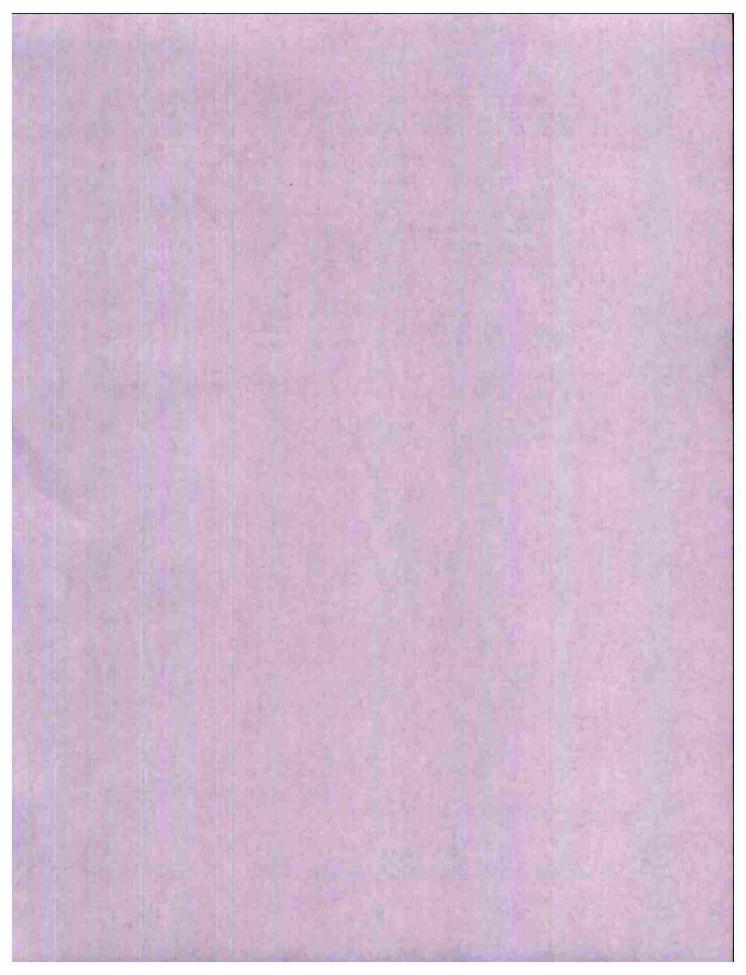
From the papers it seems that we are going to have Peace before long. I'll be glad. We of the A.E.F. won't ever under stand just how much history we have had a hand in making. History & Geography will be hard subject now. Question on Exam in History. 1. Give the causes of the Great War. 2. Why did not Poland get Dantig while Japan got that China place? I sure do want to see the final draft of the Peace Treaty. The Treaty will have no effect of our coming home tho. We are on the way now.

Chaplin (sic) Arnie had to leave to go up to the Army of Occupation. He was selected out of a number of Chaplins who had volunteered. He is going up into Germany to one of the regiments in the Regular Army. He hated to go but felt like if they needed him, it was his duty to go. We hated to see Charlie go too. He is a fine man as fine as any I ever knew.

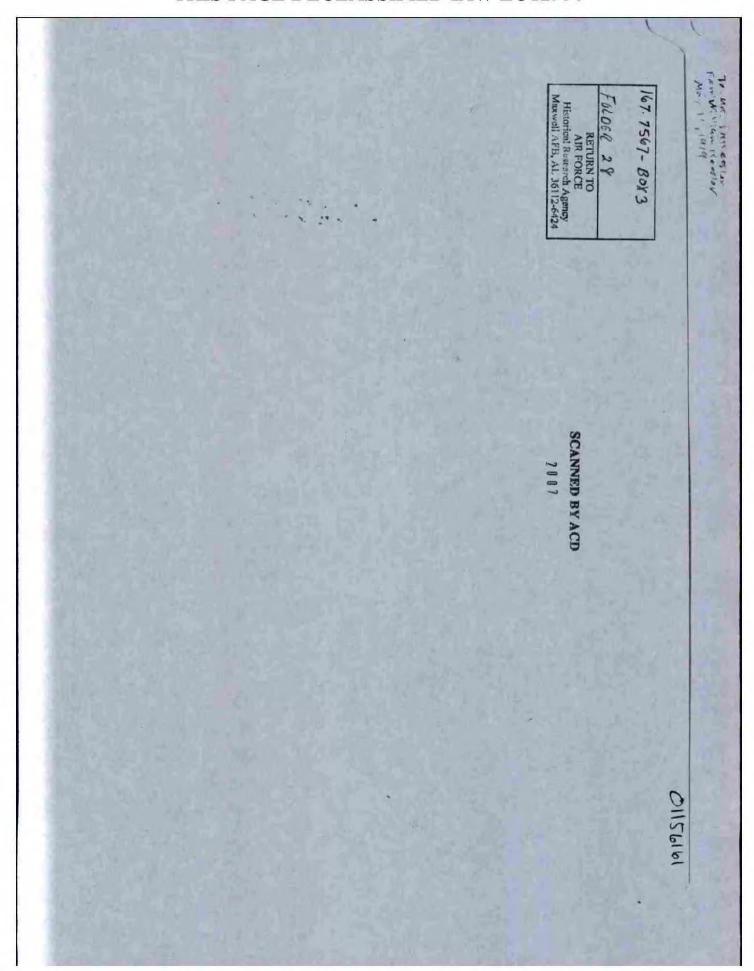
I'be just had to go out and fix up a F man who had a broken down machine (motorcycle). I heard too that some Ord. Men had just come to take over our guns & tractors. I'm sure glad believe me. We start loading them tomorrow. Must stop & go se them.

Best of love to very one of you & lots for yourself. I'm very happy now.

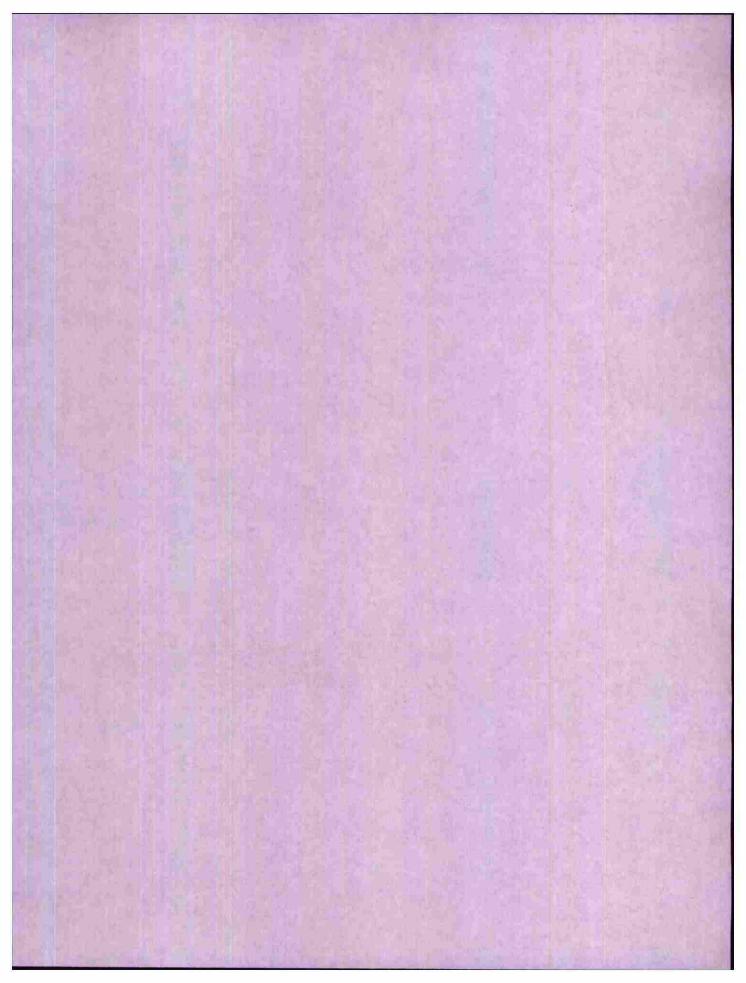
Your devoted son William



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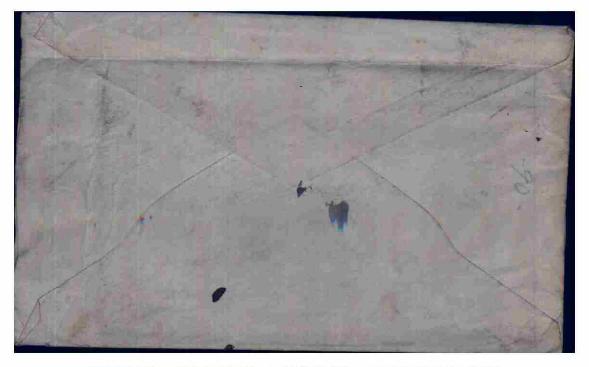
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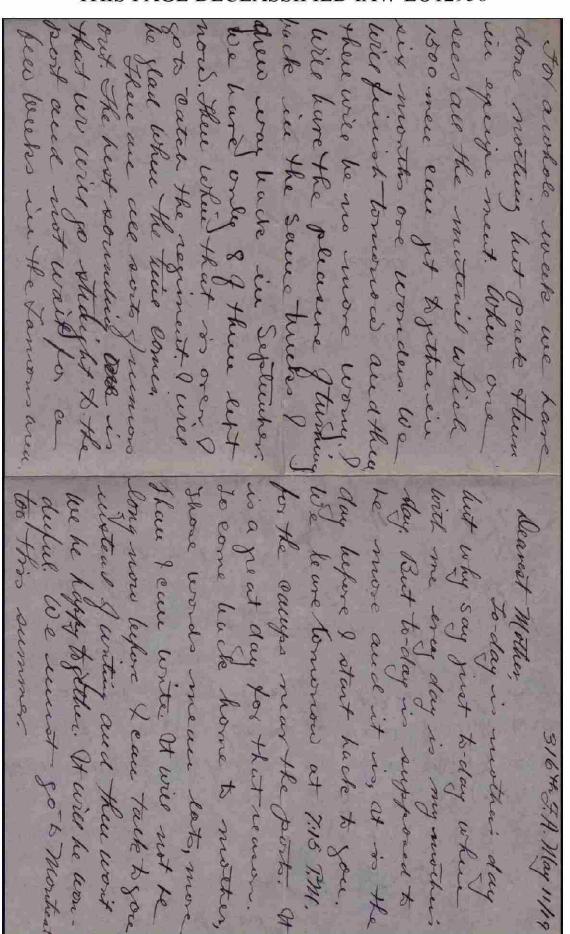
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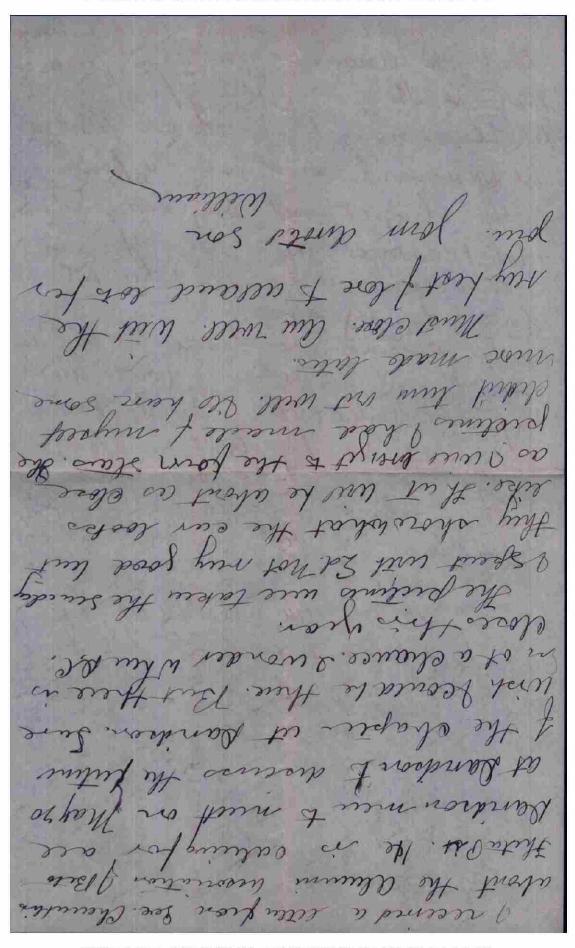
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Officers Mail From Lt WPKeesler 316th F.A. A.E.F. Mrs S.R. Keesler Greenwood Miss U.S.A.

316th F.A. May 11/19

Dearest Mother,

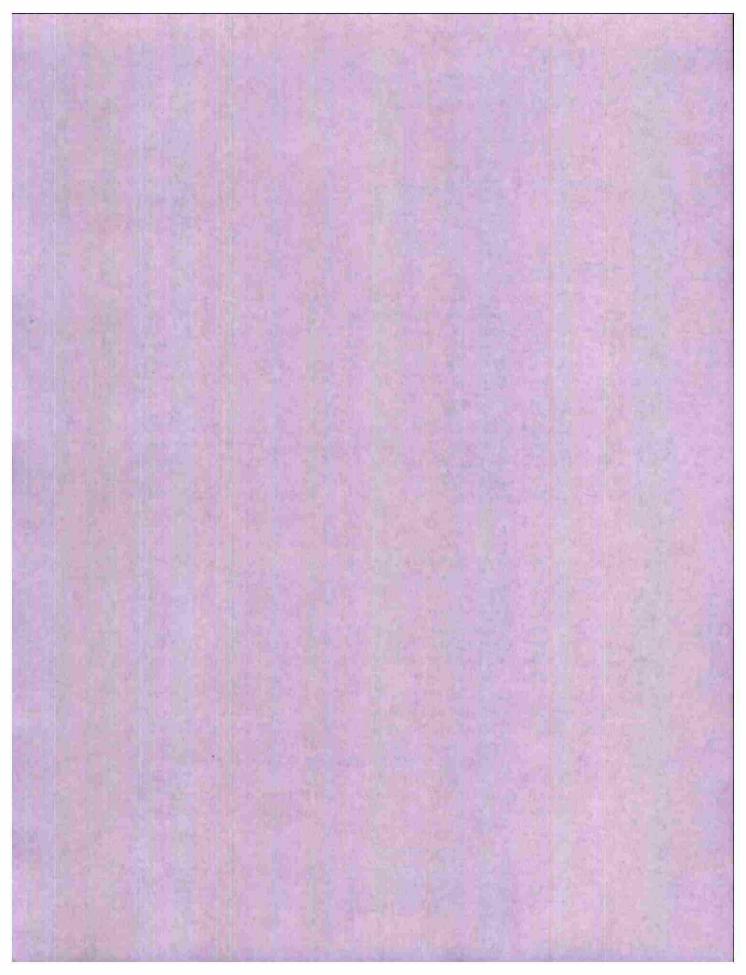
To-day is mother's day but why say just to-day when with me every day is my mother's day. But to-day is supposed to be more and it is. It is the day before I start back to you. We leave tomorrow at 7:15 P.M. for the camps near the ports. It is a great day for that reason. To come back home to mother, those words mean lots, more than I can write. It will not be long now before I can talk to you instead of writing and then won't we be happy together. It will be wonderful. We must go to Montreat too this summer.

For a whole week we have done nothing but pack & turn in equipment. When one sees all the material which 1500 men can get together in six months one wonders. We will finish tomorrow and then there will be no more worry. I will have the pleasure of turning back in the same trucks I drew way back in September. We have only 8 of them left now. Then when that is over, I go to catch the regiment. I will be glad when the time comes.

There are all sorts of rumors out. The best sounding one is that we will go straight to the port and not wait for a few weeks in the Lamons area. That certainly won't make me mad at all.

This after noon I went down to Chaumont to tell Ed goodby. I spent a couple of hours with him. He gave the pictures I'm enclosing. He came up to-night too. We had quite a little chat together. He doesn't know what will become of himself. There is a rumor out that GHQ will be moved to Paris. But he hopes to be home in a couple of months. He asked me to tell the U.S. hello and give his love to every one of you. He left here about an hour and a half ago to go to Chatillon S/S to see if he could find a friend of his who had some pictures Sam took while he was at school at Chatillon. I sure hope be gets them. He will come back by here in an hour or so.

To-day I got your two letters written just after you had received my letter from Chateauvillain. I thank you for the papers & letters too. I sure do enjoy them. Charlotte is getting along fine. Too bad about her eyes but that will come out O.K. Aunties letters were very interesting too. She sure does keep her self busy helping others. But that is Auntie.



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Saturday we had our last review. The colonel reviewed us and afterward presented Bty C. with a banner for being the champion batter of the Regiment. I missed this as I had to make a trip to Laugres for some white wheel bearing. It seems like I never am lucky enough to be here when we do anything big. After the review our officers team played the 318th officers team. We got beat 4 to 3. It must have been a good game. I hated to miss it as I had made the team and was going to play left field. Maybe we will get a chance to play again later. I hope so.

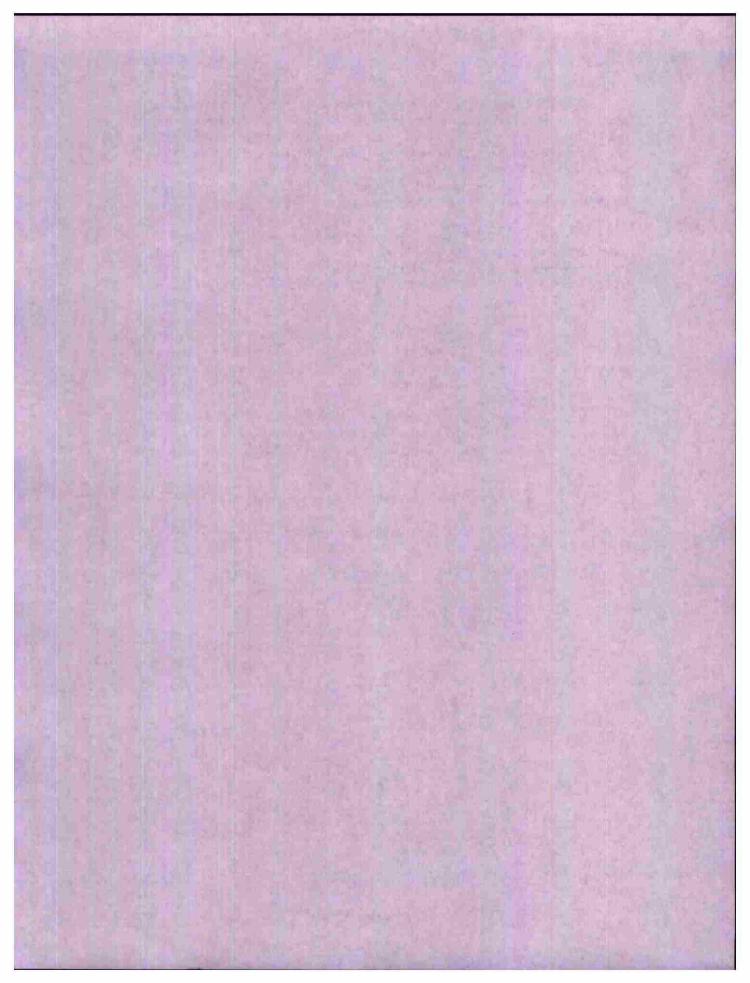
I hope when we get to LeMons that we won't have to stay there any length of time. But that we can get right out for home. The sooner, the better for me. I should think we should be going by the middle of June. I hope so. It is certain that after we get home we certainly don't stay in camp long. Forty eight hours is the limit. I guess we can stand that.

I received a letter from Lou Chambliss about the Alumni Association of Beta Theta Pi. He is calling for all Davidson men to meet on May 20 at Davidson to discuss the future of the chapter at Davidson. Sure wish I could be there. But there is not a chance. I wonder when D.C. closes this year.

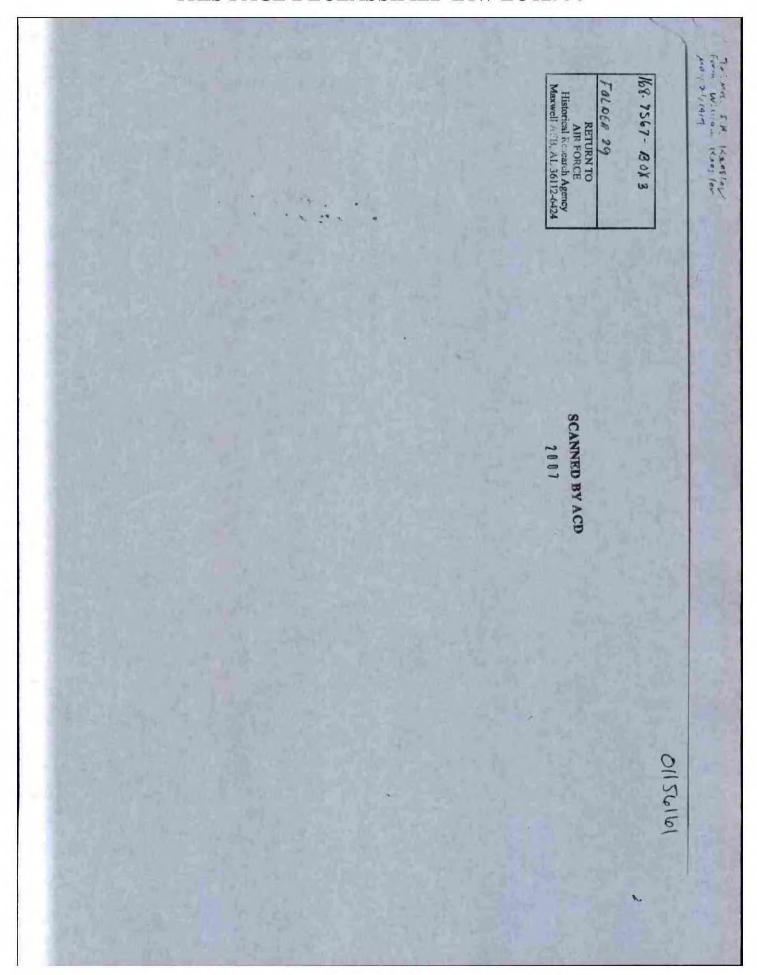
The pictures were taken the Sunday I spent with Ed. Not very good but they show what the car looks like. That will be about as close as I will ever get to the four stars. The pictures I had made of myself didn't turn out well. I'll have some more made later.

Must close. Am well. With the very best of love to all and lots for you.

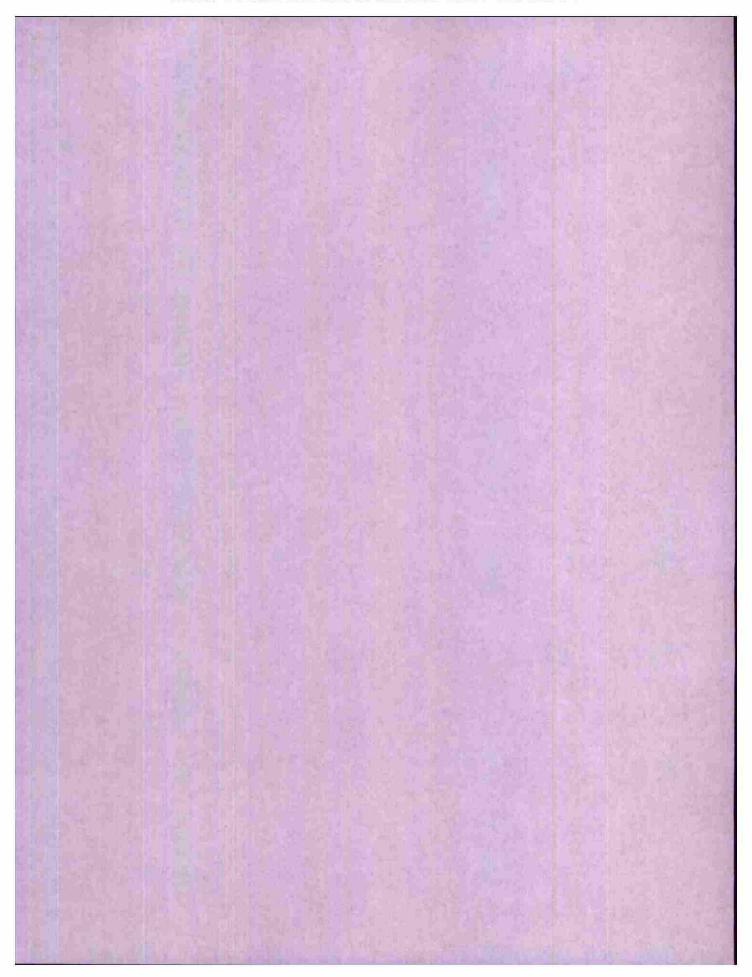
Your devoted son William



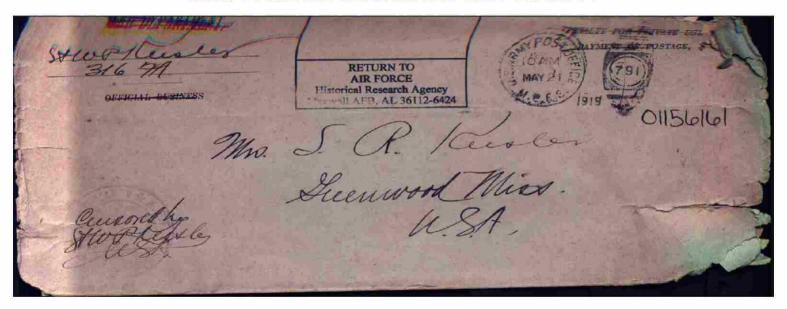
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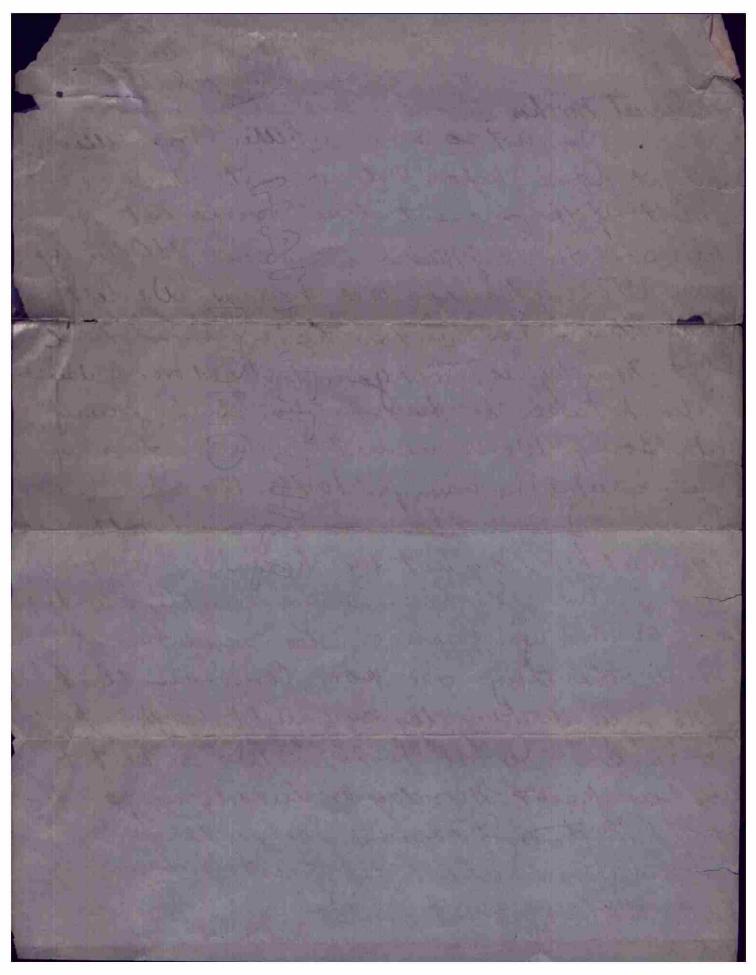
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Oisseau Le Vetele nau 3/6th TA auer. Ex. Force May 18 1919, Deaust Mother I'm not so sure whether this letter Willest home before I do or not. It may & it wight. If the present dope" works out we will sail the 23. I May pulling me HOME by June 15. Cicul happy well I guess. We left Enderillain Treesday 13. The regiment had left monday as I told you. I stayed over a day later to take the haus portation to the Dung at Bourg. We turned in 33 relicles Juesday and careful the hair for Tours, lle then got here a day later than the regiment after a very hard hip. My but we have been working Since we got here. Setting excepting turned ice, checked up, passenger lists made ta dozen or so other things. The poor Company Cleck has been working day and night and by pects to continue so till the 23? We expect to he weskeet Monday or Lucudulud to with port. Brest or St. Nagaine. Jailing Thursday, Letting home about the first of but that in good. but it. Must close. Best lon.

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Postmarked May 21, 1919 U.S. Army M.R.E.S. Lt WPKeesler 316 F.A. Mrs S.R. Keesler Greenwood Miss U.S.A.

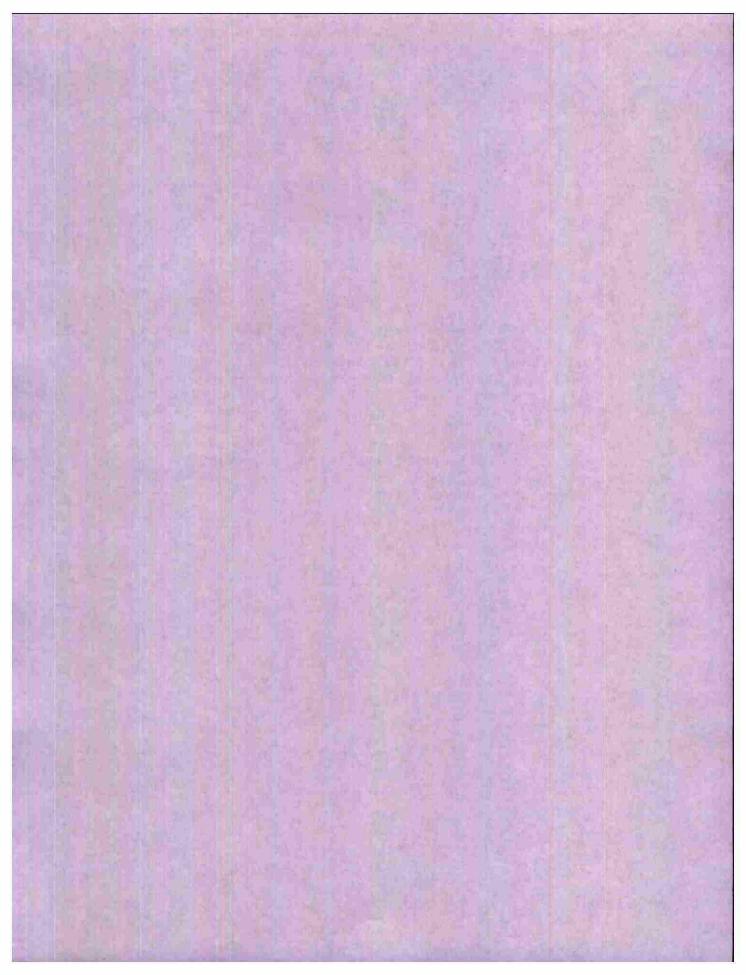
> Oisseau Le Petite France 316th F.A Amer. Ex. Force May 18, 1919

Dearest Mother,

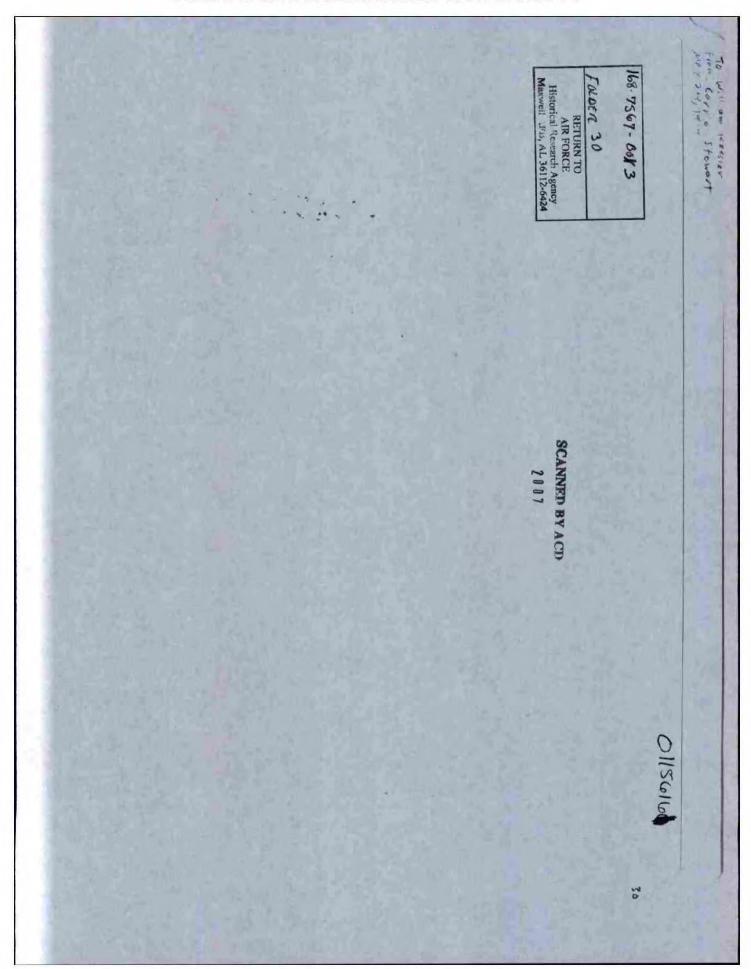
I'm not so sure whether this letter will get home before I do or not. It may & it might. If the present "dope" works out we will sail the 23 of May putting me HOME by June 1st. Am I happy well I guess. We left Chateauvillain Tuesday 13. The regiment lad left Monday as I told you. I stayed over a day later to take the transportation to the Dump at Bourg. We turned in 33 vehicles Tuesday and caught the train for Tours. We then got here a day later than the regiment after a very hard trip. My but we have been working since we got here. Getting everything turned in, checked up, passenger lists made & a dozen or so other things. The poor company clerk has been working day and night and expects to continue so till the 23rd. We expect to be inspected Monday or Tuesday and go to the post. Brest or St. Nazaire. Sailing Thursday. Getting home about the first of June. Oh but that is good, isn't it.

Must close. Best love,

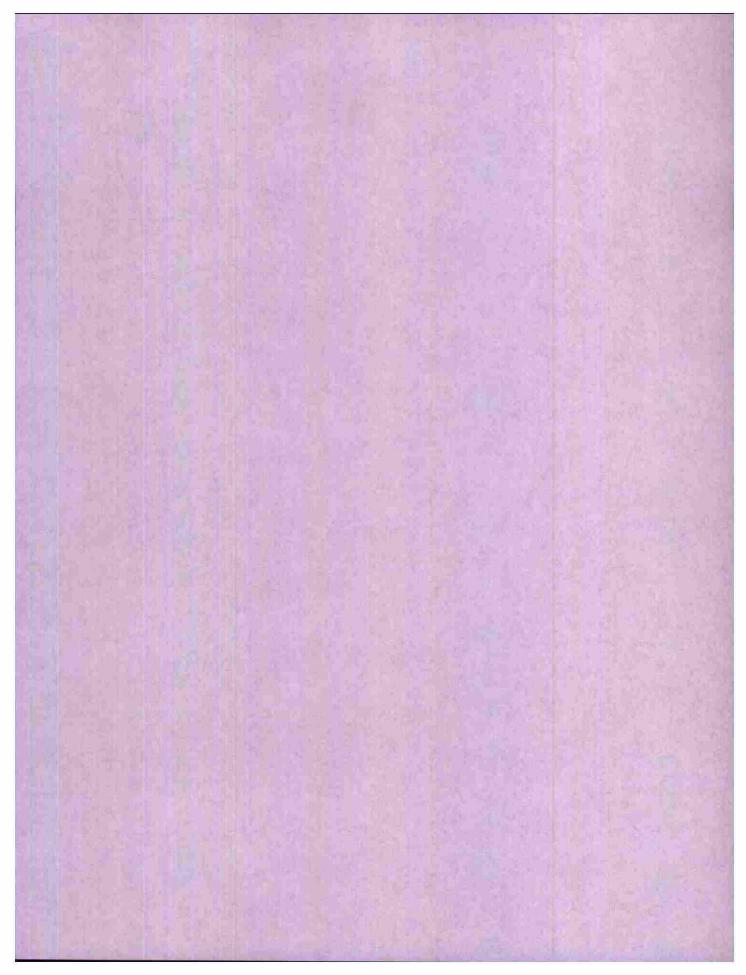
William



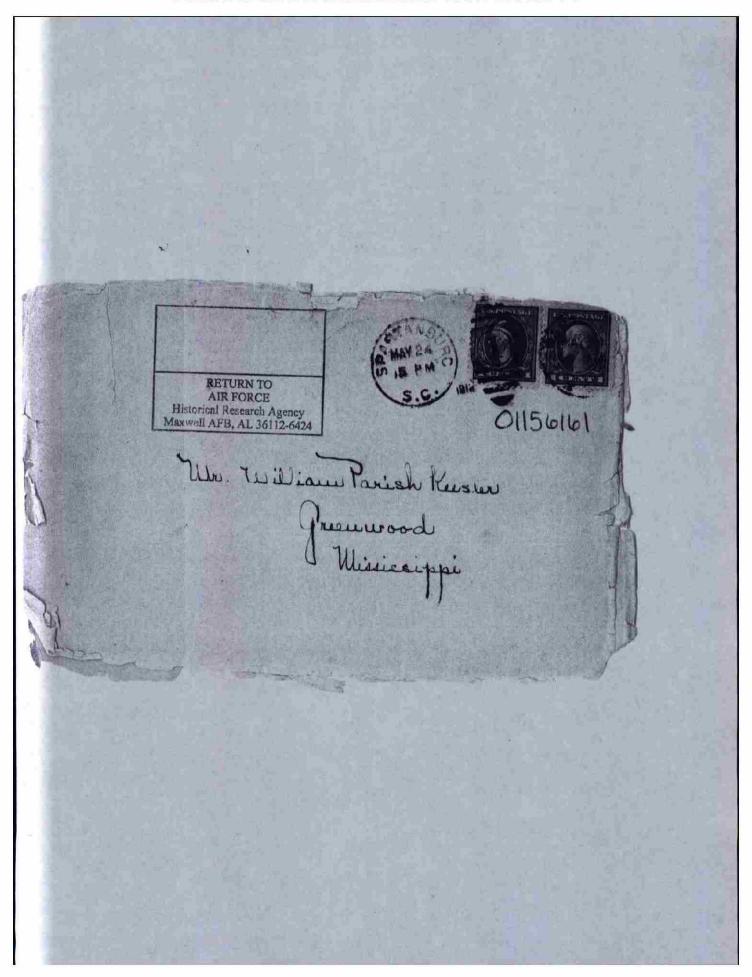
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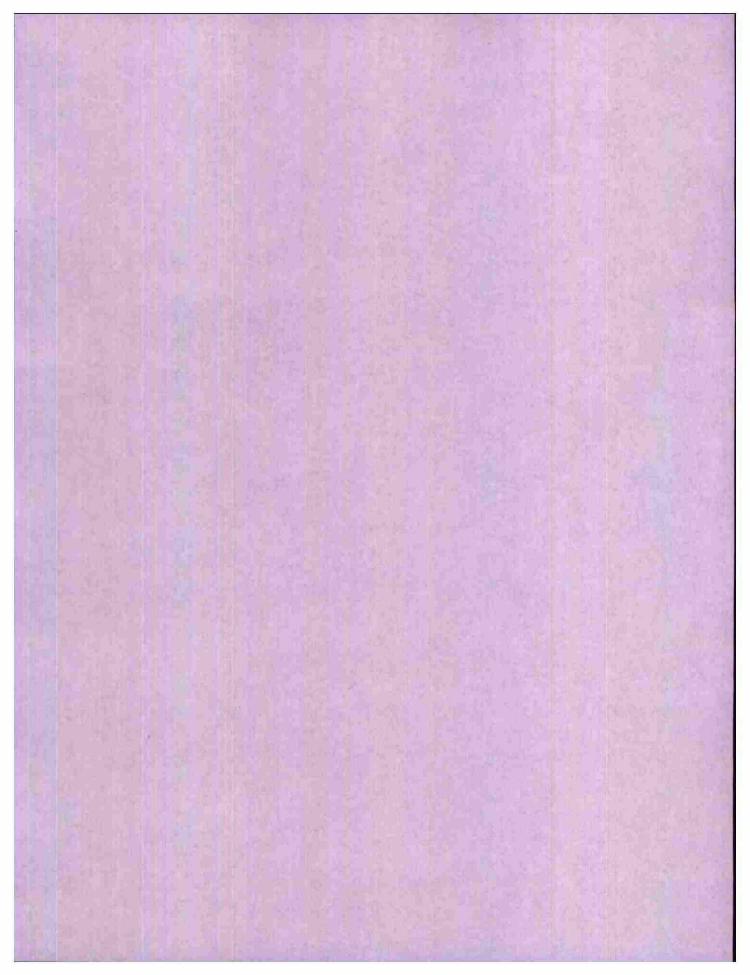
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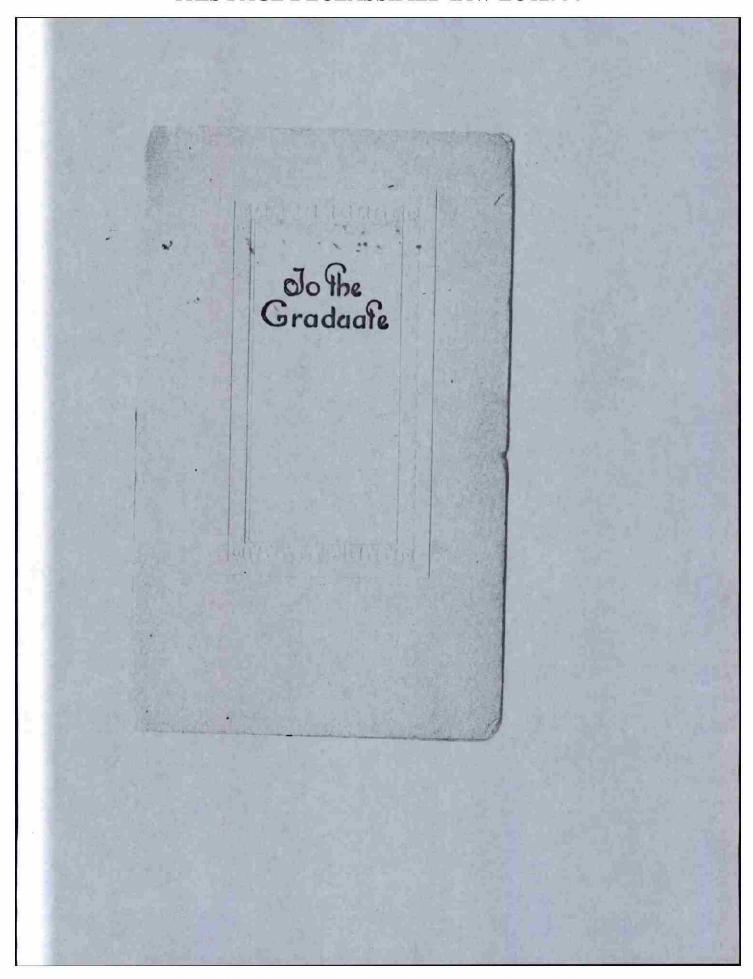
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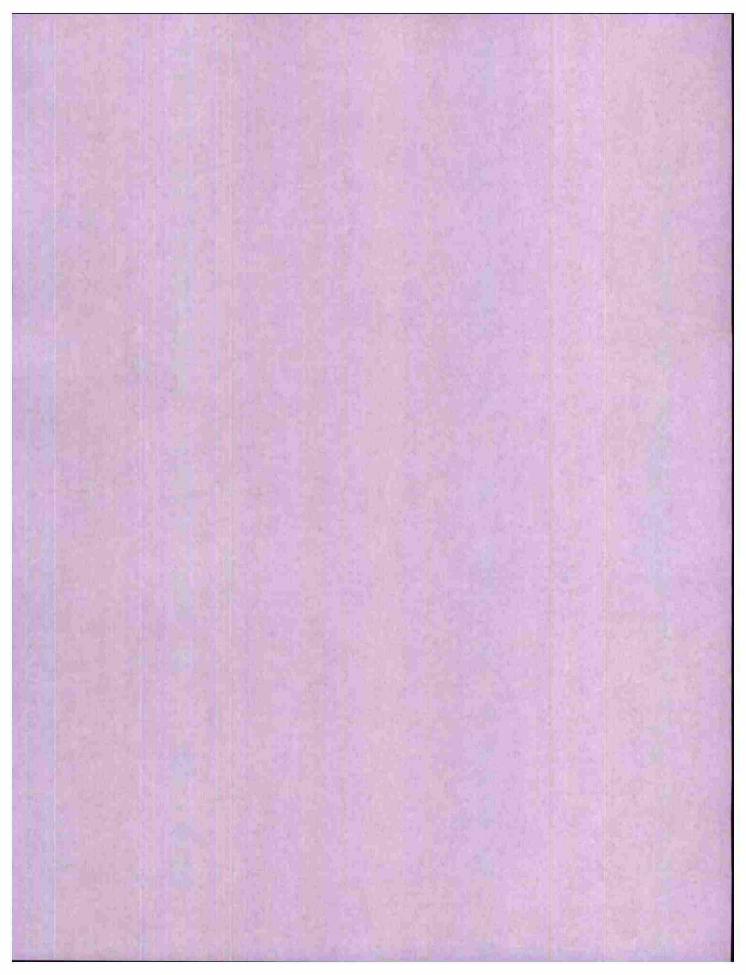
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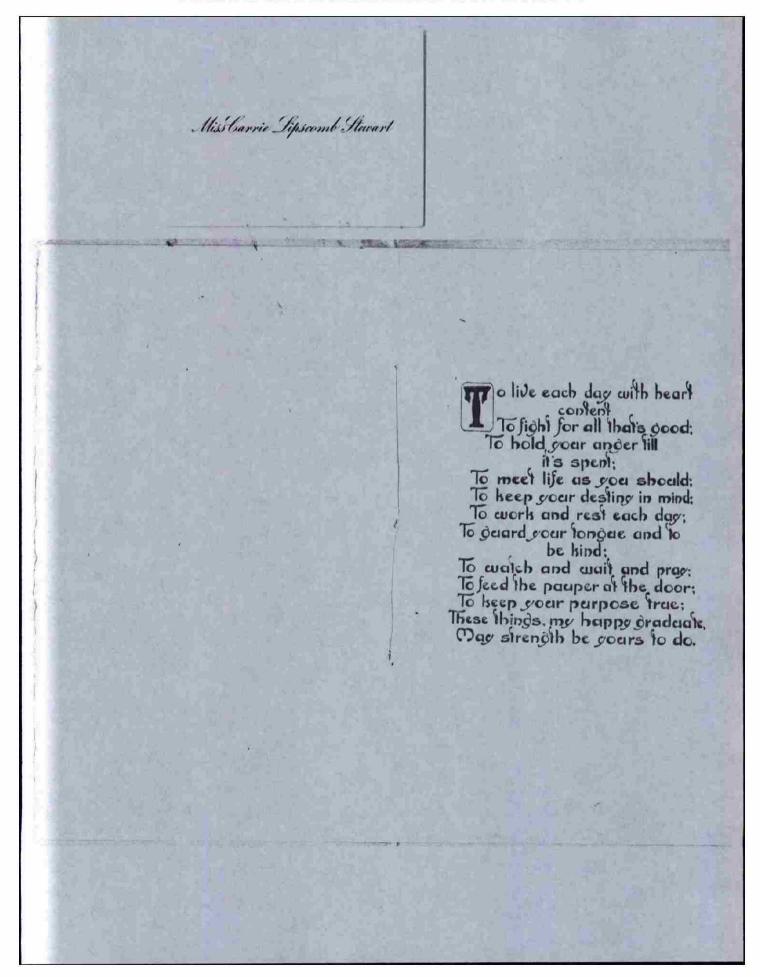
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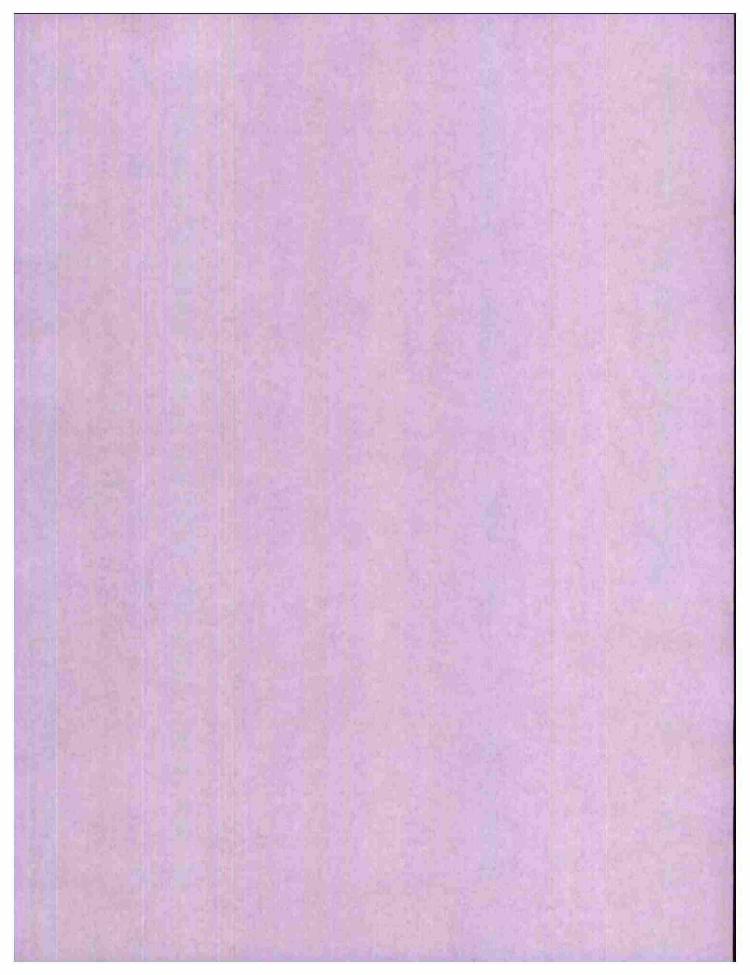
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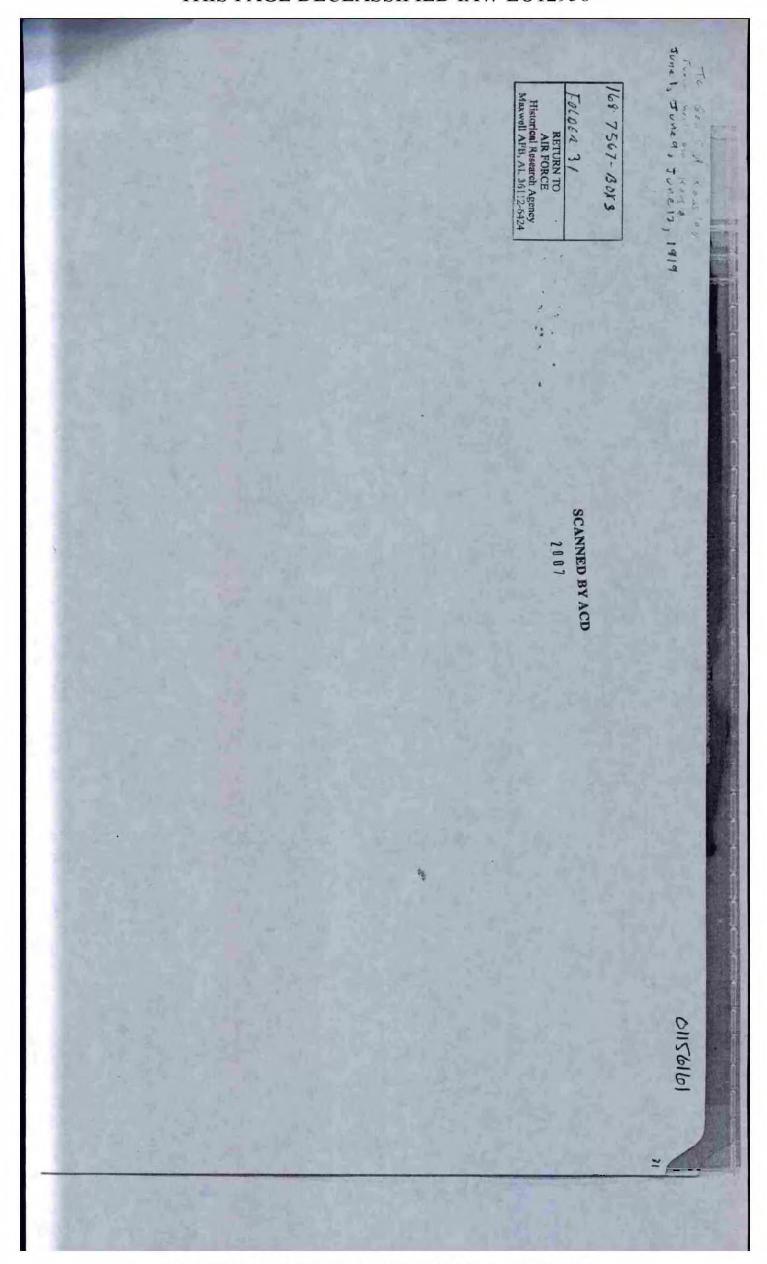
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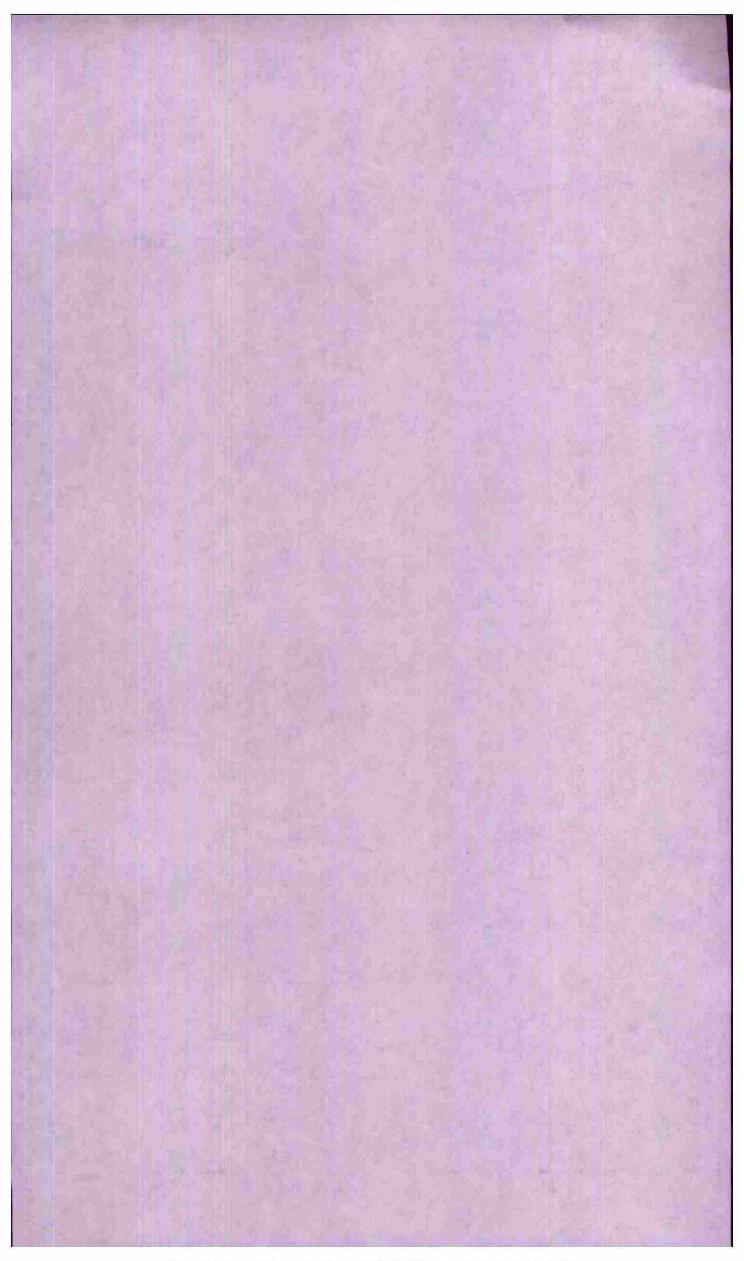
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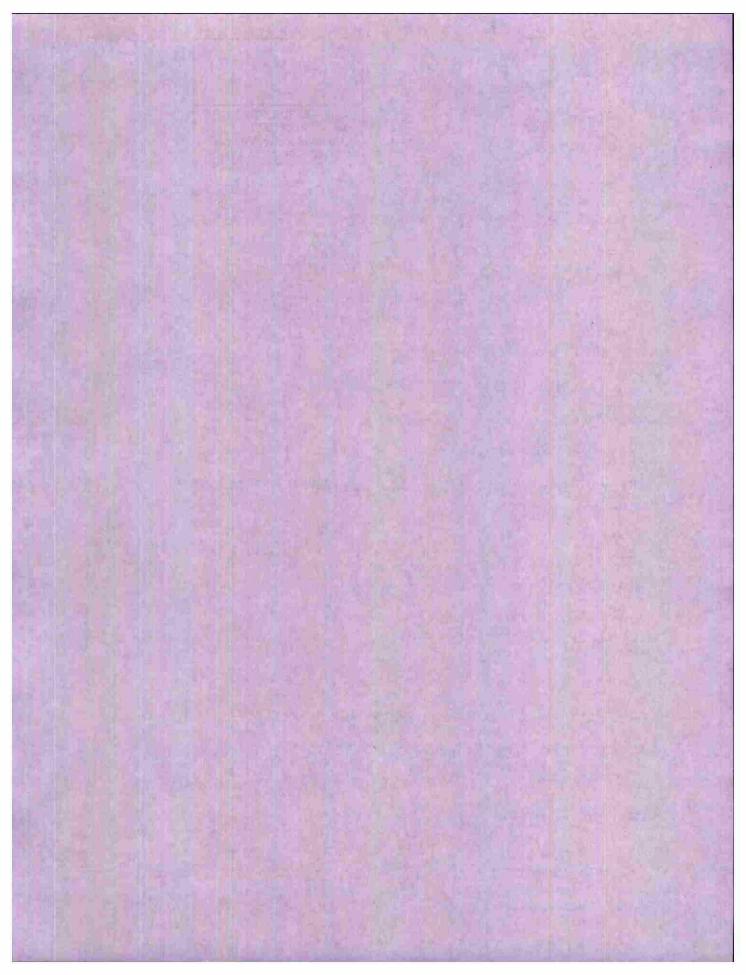


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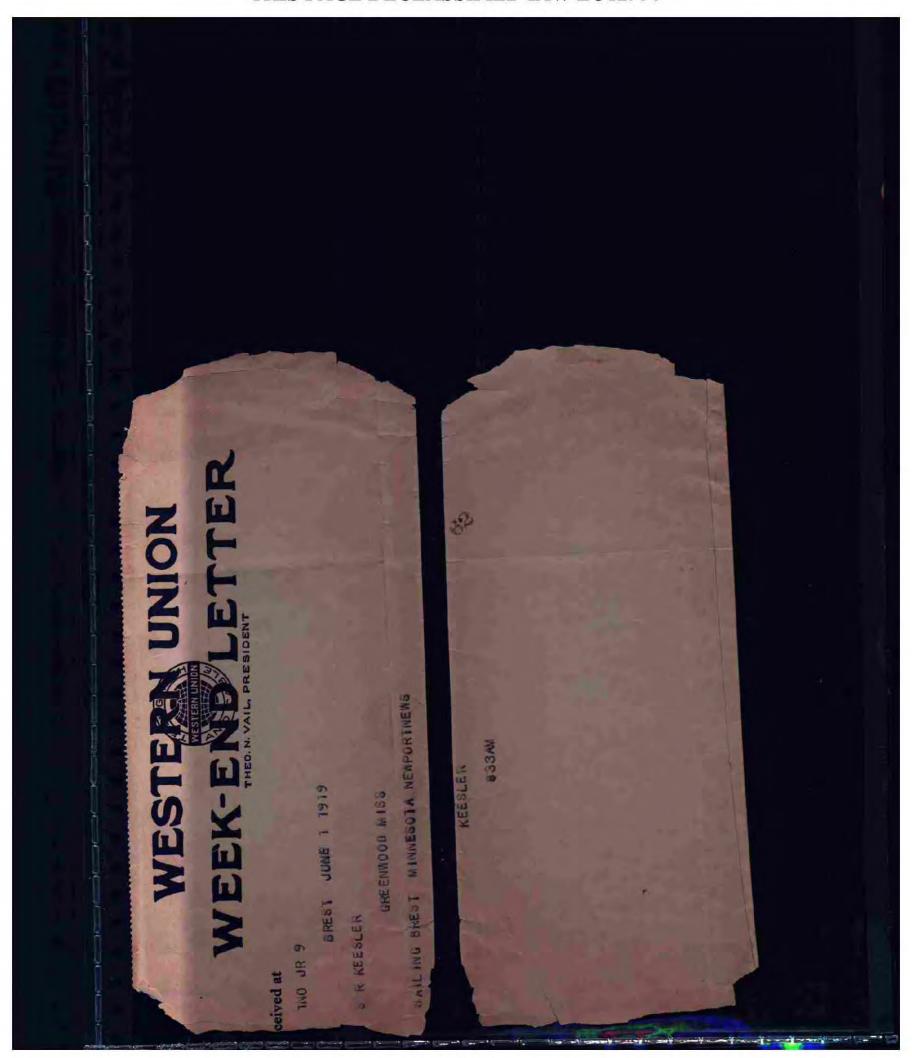


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01156161 WESTERN UNION WEEK-END LETTER RETURN TO **BREST JUNE 1 1919** AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency S R KEESLER Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424 **GREENWOOD MISS** SAILING BREST MINNESOTA NEWPORTNEWS KEESLER 833AM WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM CAMPHILL VA 158PM JUNE 9 1919 S R KEESLER **GREENWOOD MISS** ARRIVED TODAY SAFE AND WELL ADDRESS CAMPSTUART VA WILLIAM WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM **CAMP STUART VA JUNE 12 1919** S R KEESLER **GREENWOOD MISS** ORDERED TO CAMPSHELBY HATTIESBURG FOR DEMOBILIZATION WILL (missing) TUESDAY HOPE TO BE AT HOME BY JUNE 25 WILL WIRE WHEN I LEAVE AND ENROUTE HOPE TO GET TO RICHMOND SUNDAY AM IN CHARGE OF SMALL DETACHMENT OF MEN WILLIAM



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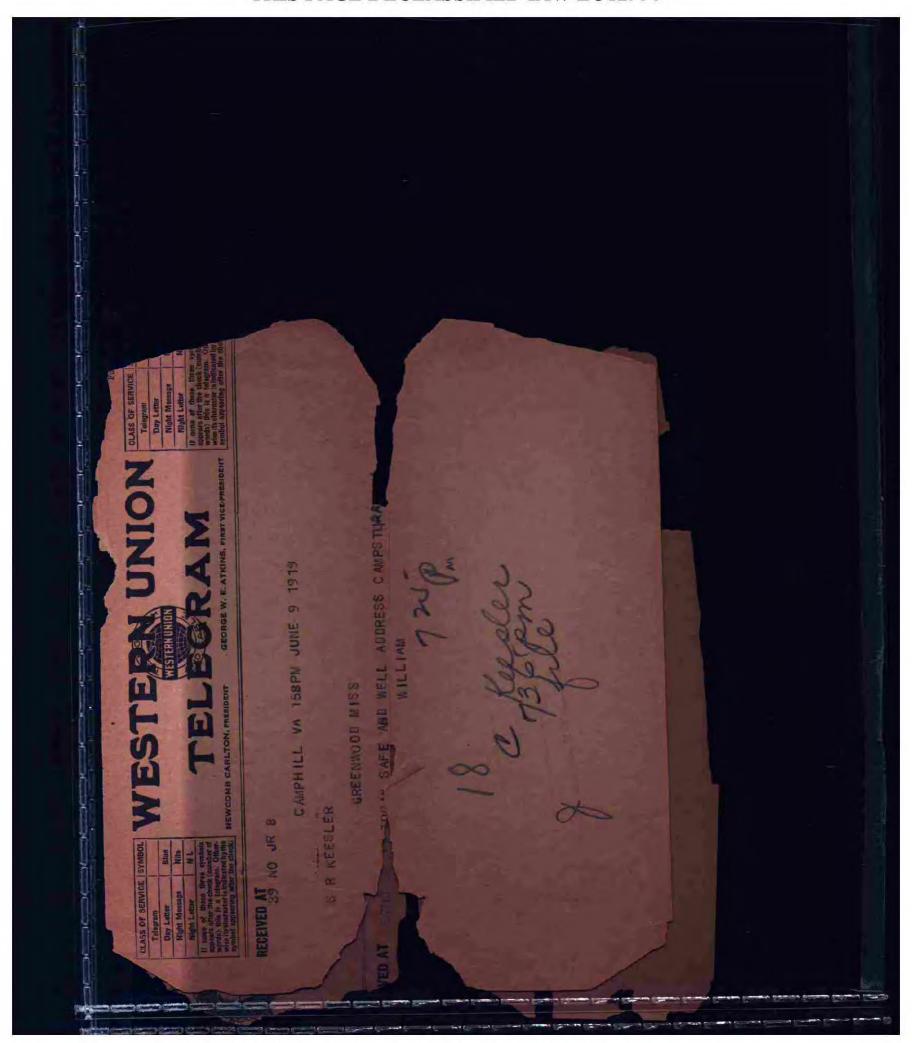
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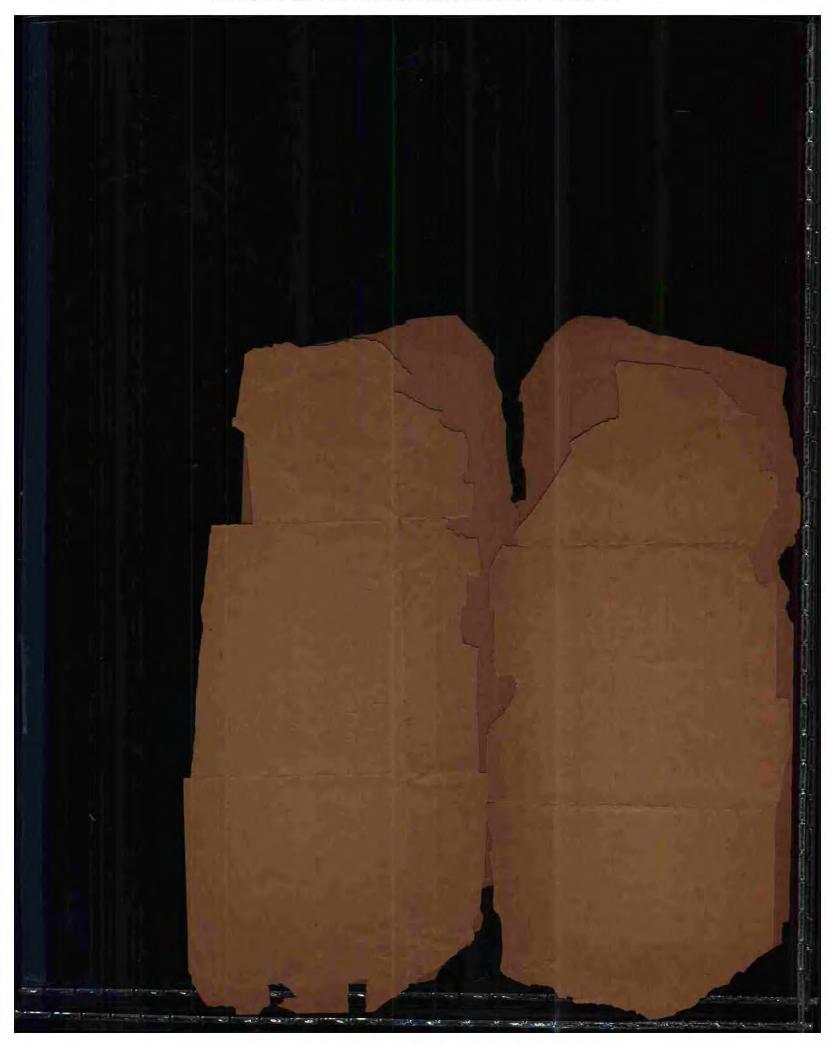


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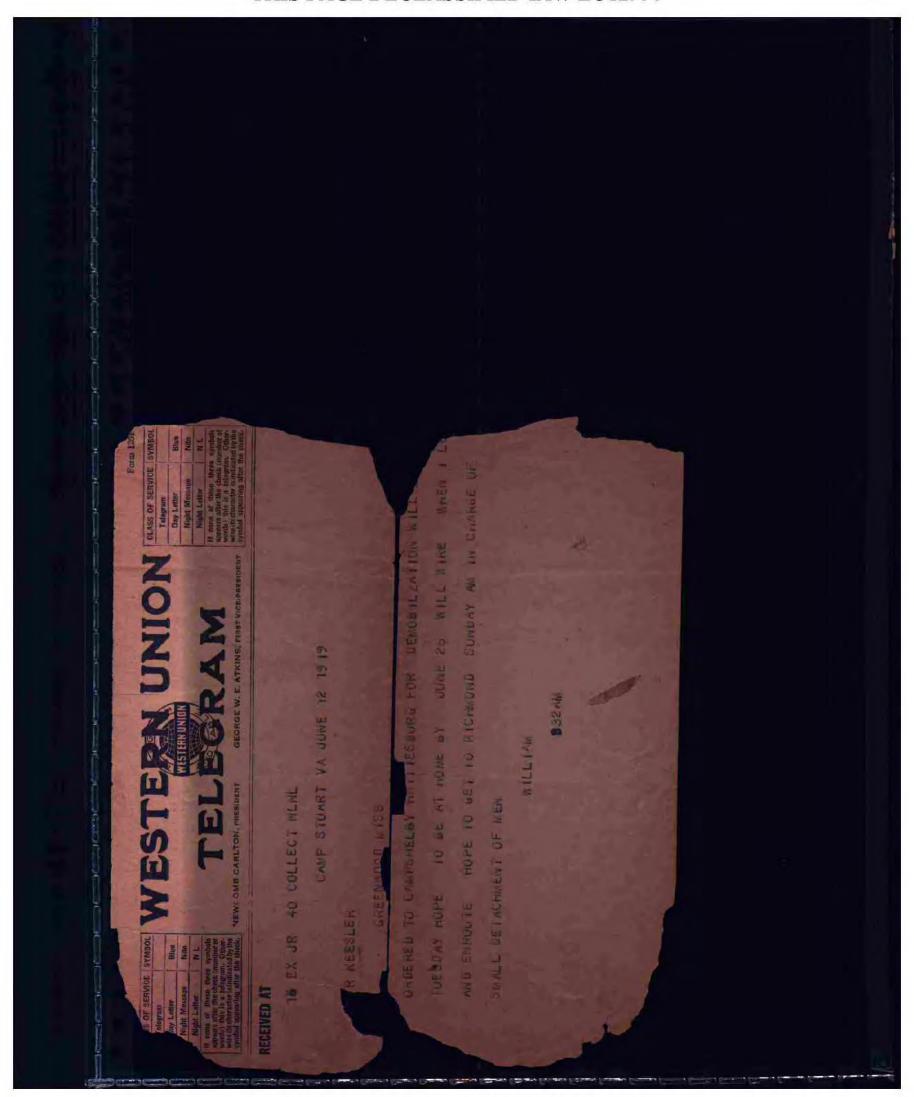
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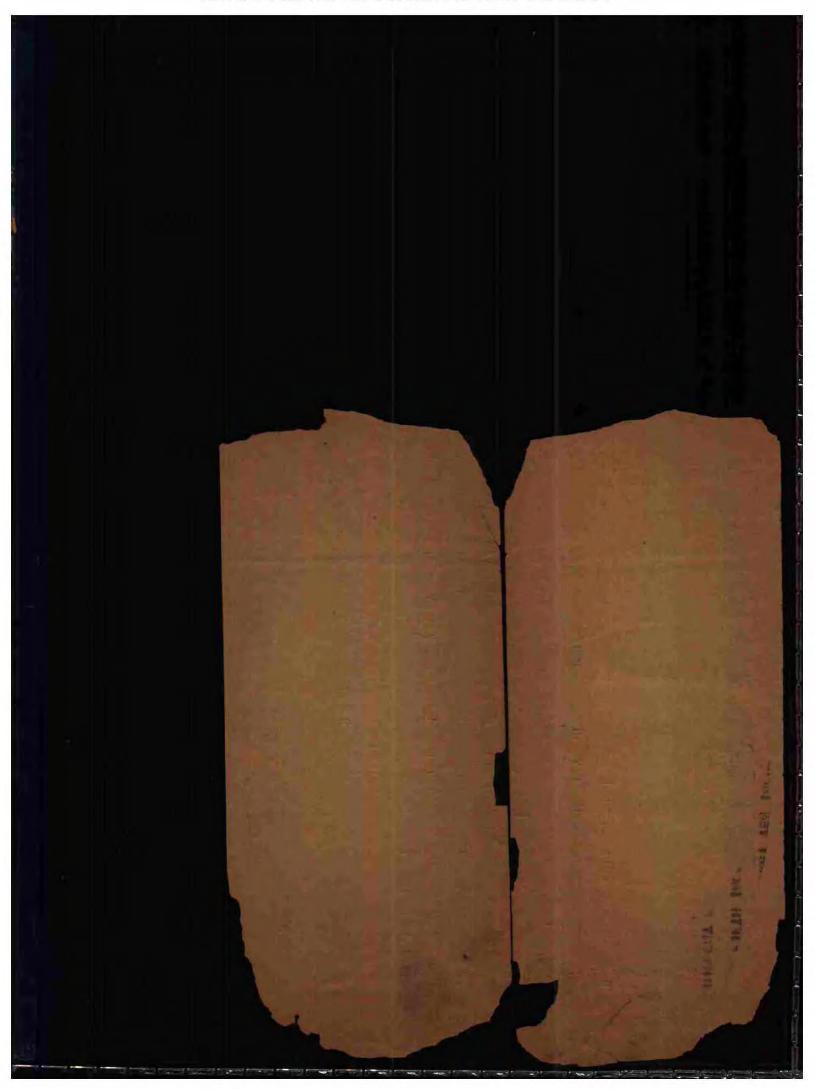
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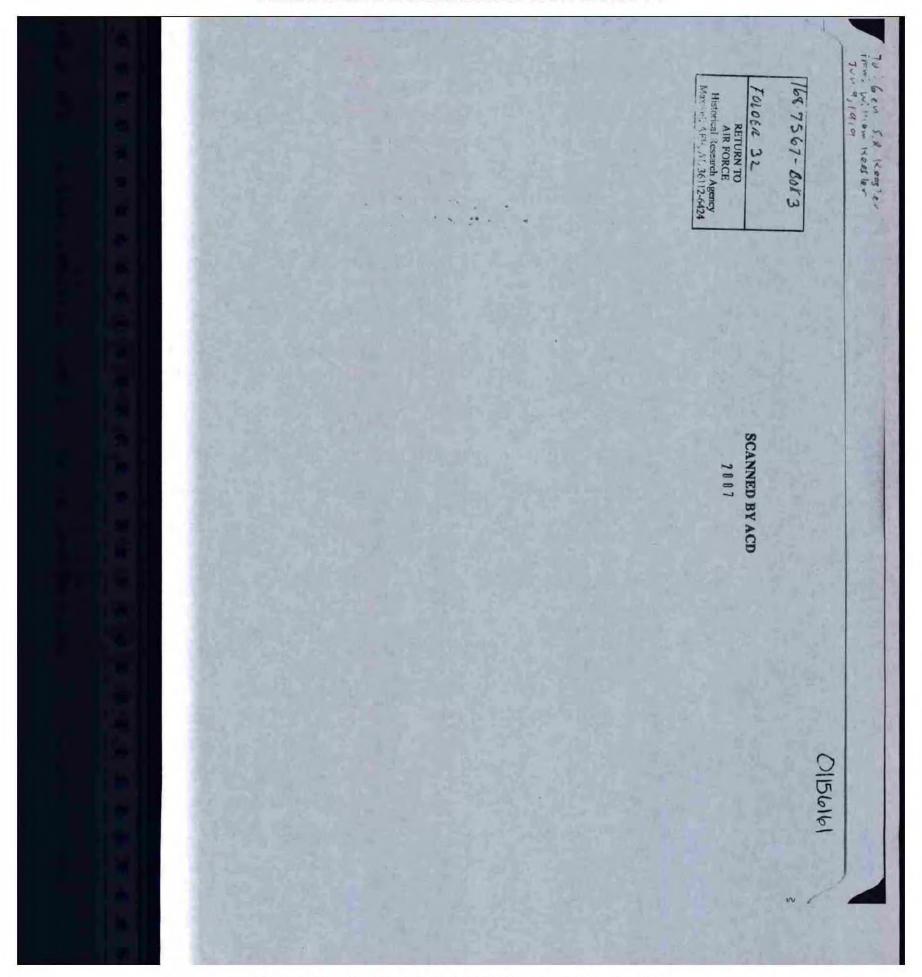
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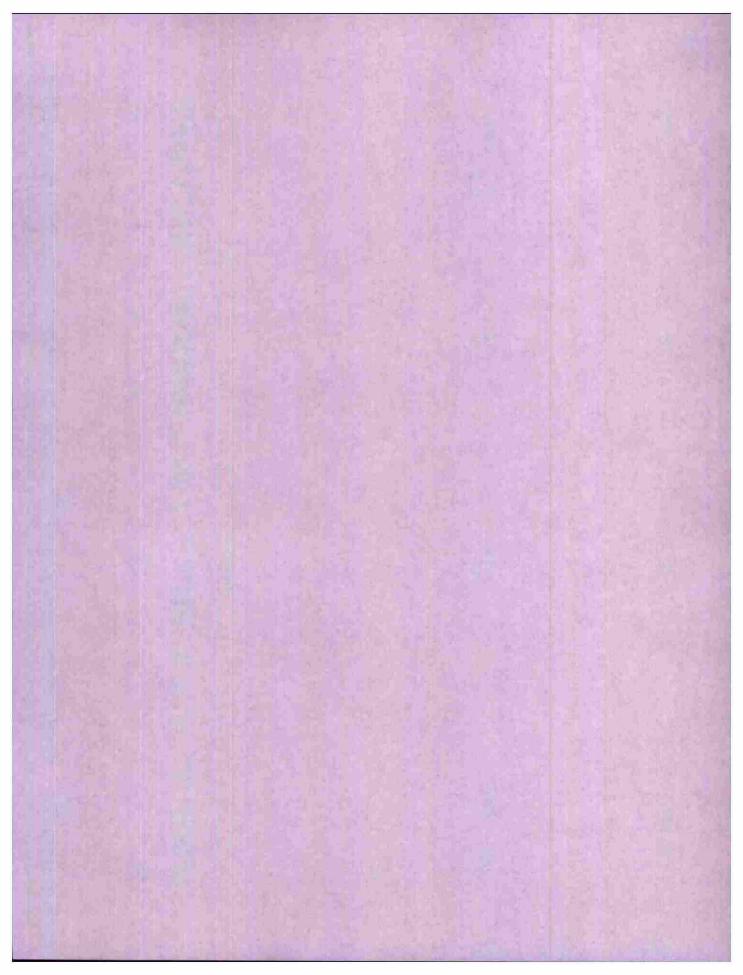
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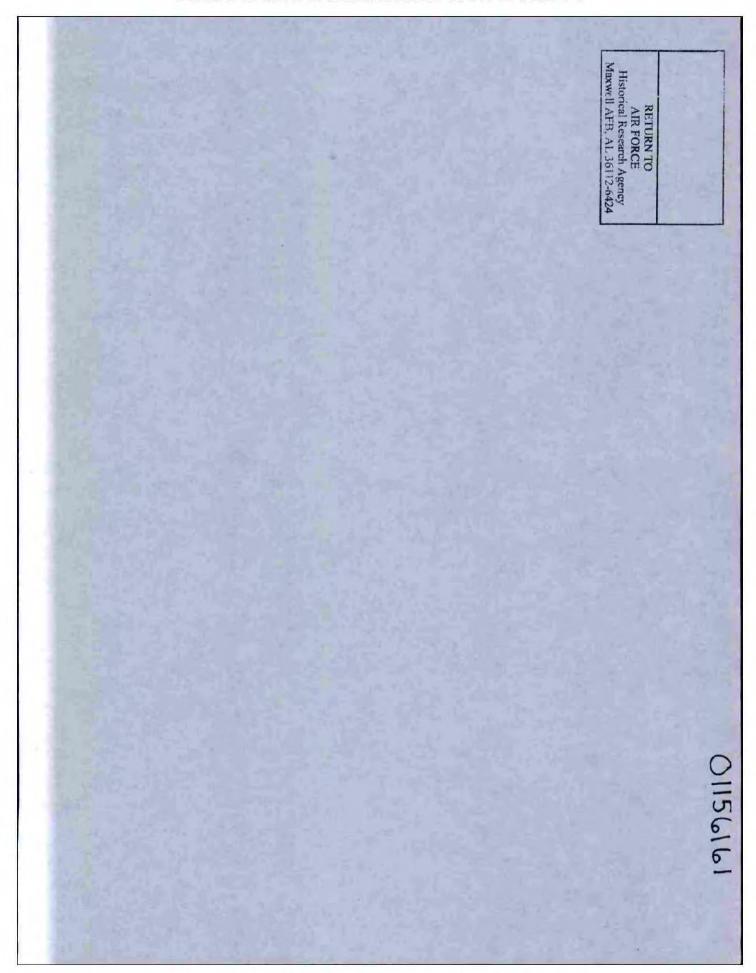
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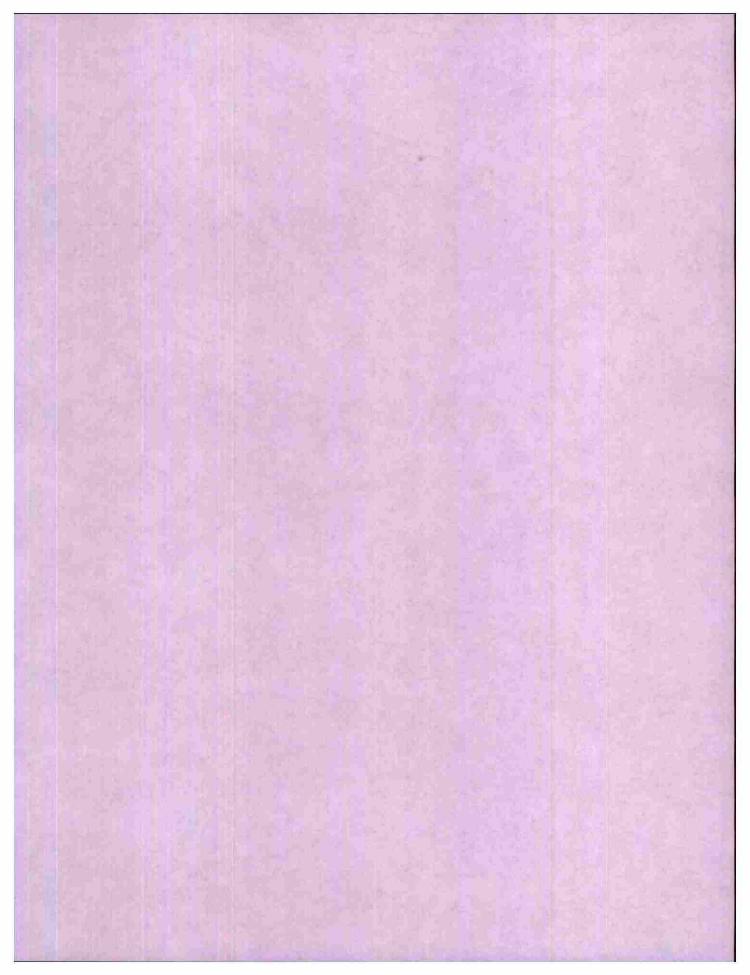
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The United States War Risk Insurance is the best in the world. KEEP IT UP!

Newport News, Va. 1010 AMERICAN RED CROSS INFORMATION SERVICE

TELEPHONE 1789

Have just arrived at this port safely and am feeling well. My stay here will be too short (probably two or three days) for you to try to see me. Our program is to go quickly to camps near home for discharge. If, however, anything develops that necessitates your communicating with me, telegraph or telephone the Information Service of the American Red Cross at this port, giving number of my regiment. They will do their best to locate me or forward a message to the demobilization camp. Love.

W11111 am

N. B. This information obtained from the U. S. Army.

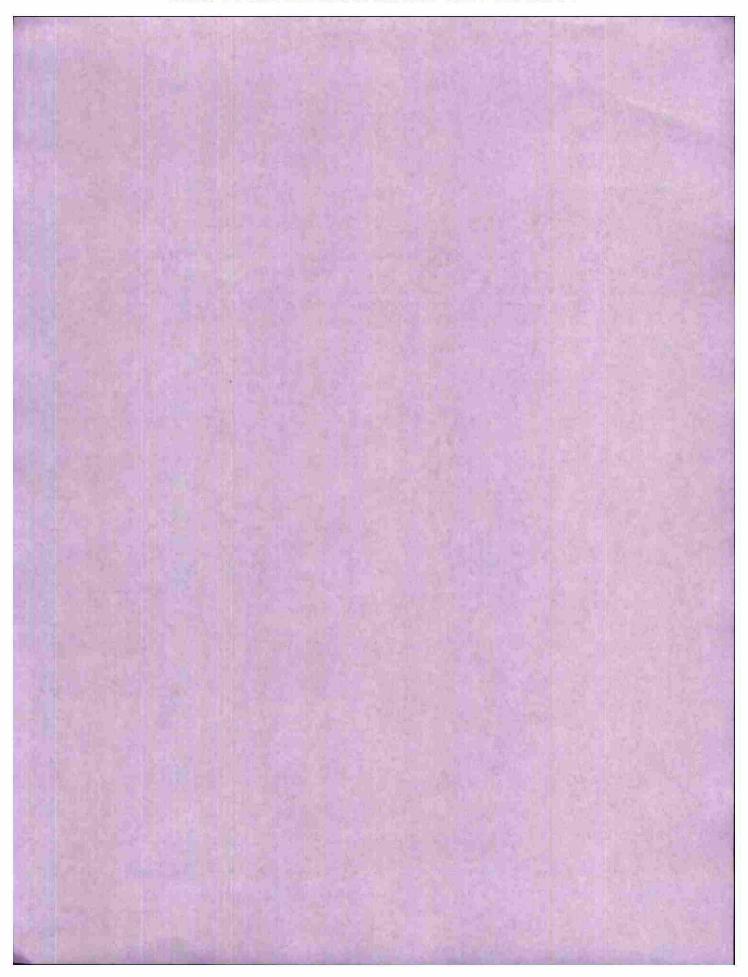
Post Card Jun 1919 The American Red Cross Information Service Newport News VA Mr. S.R. Keesler Greenwood, Miss.

Newport News, VA

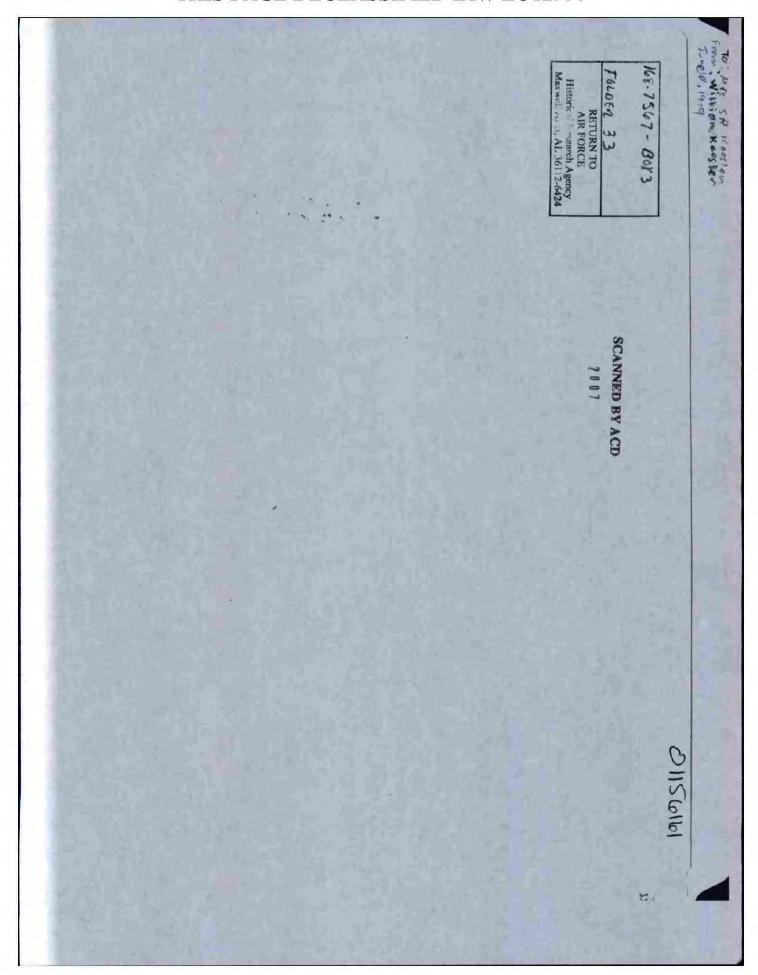
Jun 9, 1919

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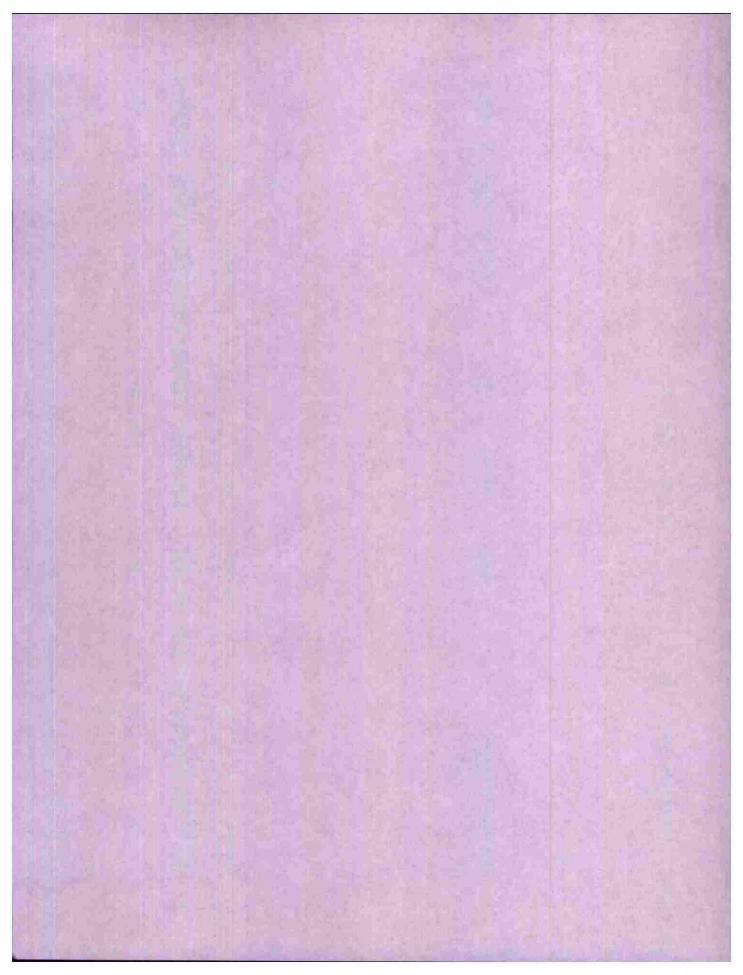
William



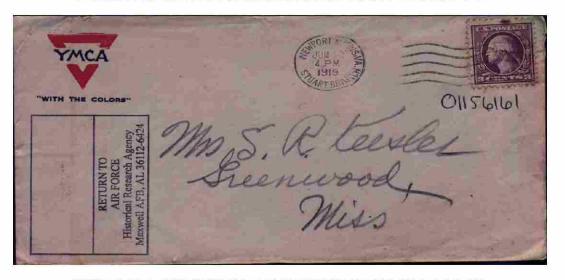
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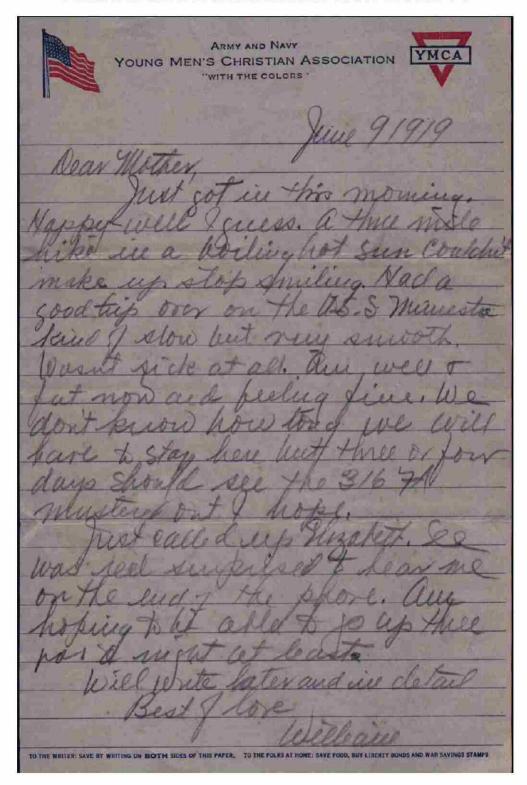
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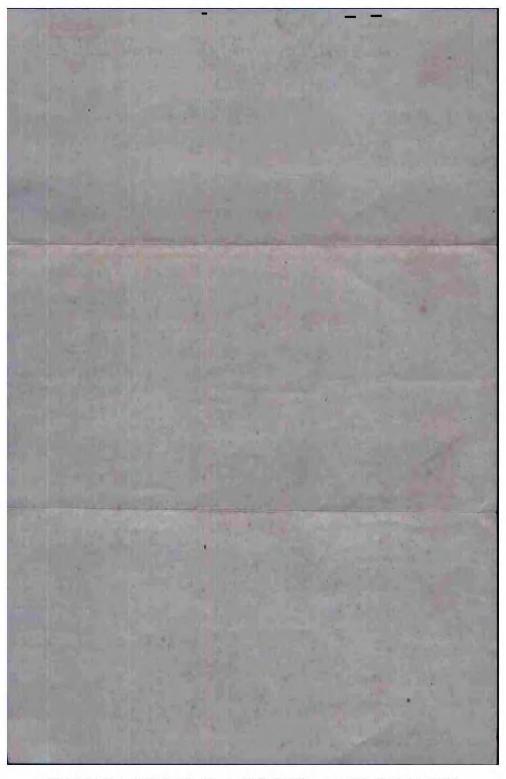


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Postmarked Jun 10, 1919 Stuart Branch, Newport News VA YMCA "WITH THE COLORS" To: Mrs S.R. Keesler Greenwood, Miss.

June 9, 1919

Dear Mother,

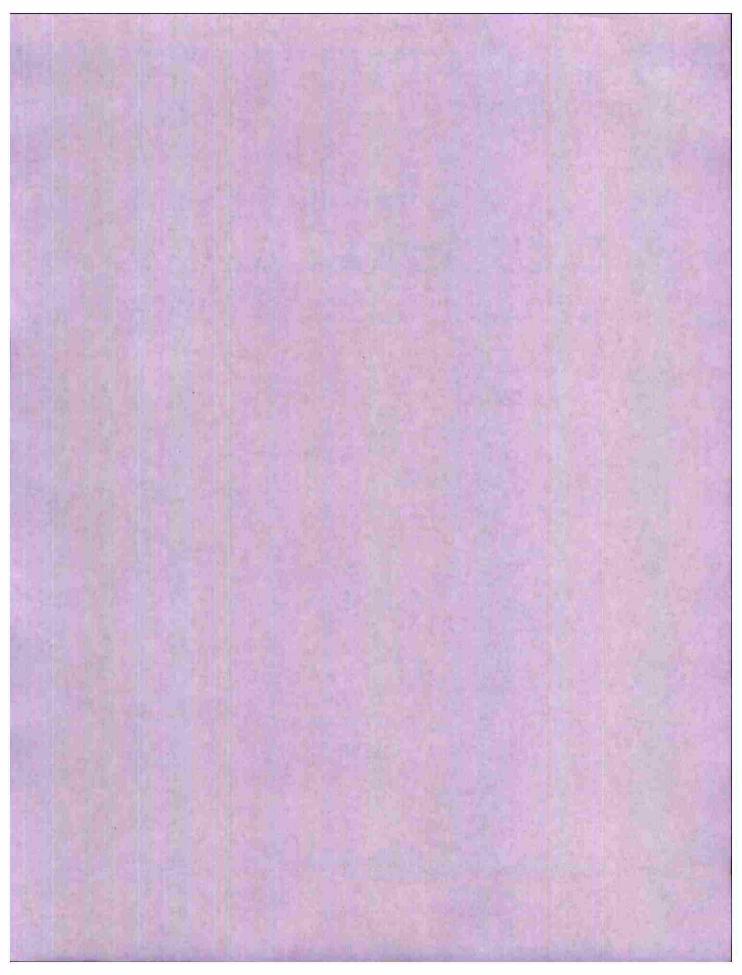
Just got in this morning. Happy - well I guess. A three mile hike in a boiling hot sun couldn't make us stop smiling. Had a good trip over on the U.S.S. Minnesota, kind of slow but very smooth. Wasn't sick at all. Am well & fat now and feeling fine. We don't know how long we will have to stay here but three or four days should see the 316th mustered out I hope.

Just called up Elizabeth. She was real surprised to hear me on the end of the phone. Am hoping to be able to go up there for a night at least.

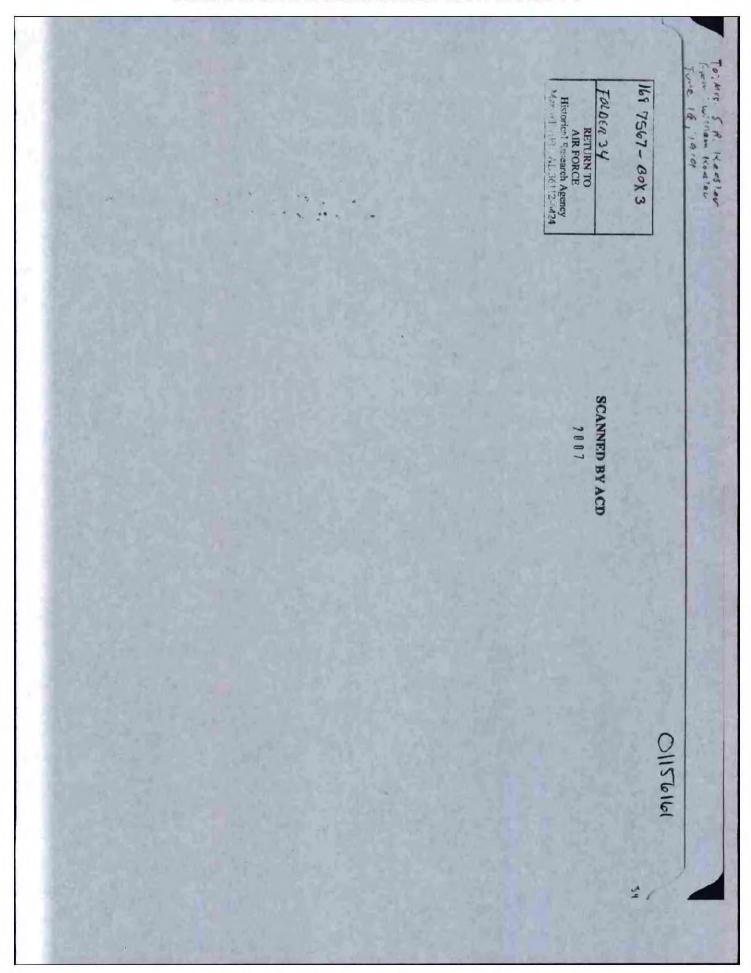
Will write later and in detail.

Best of love.

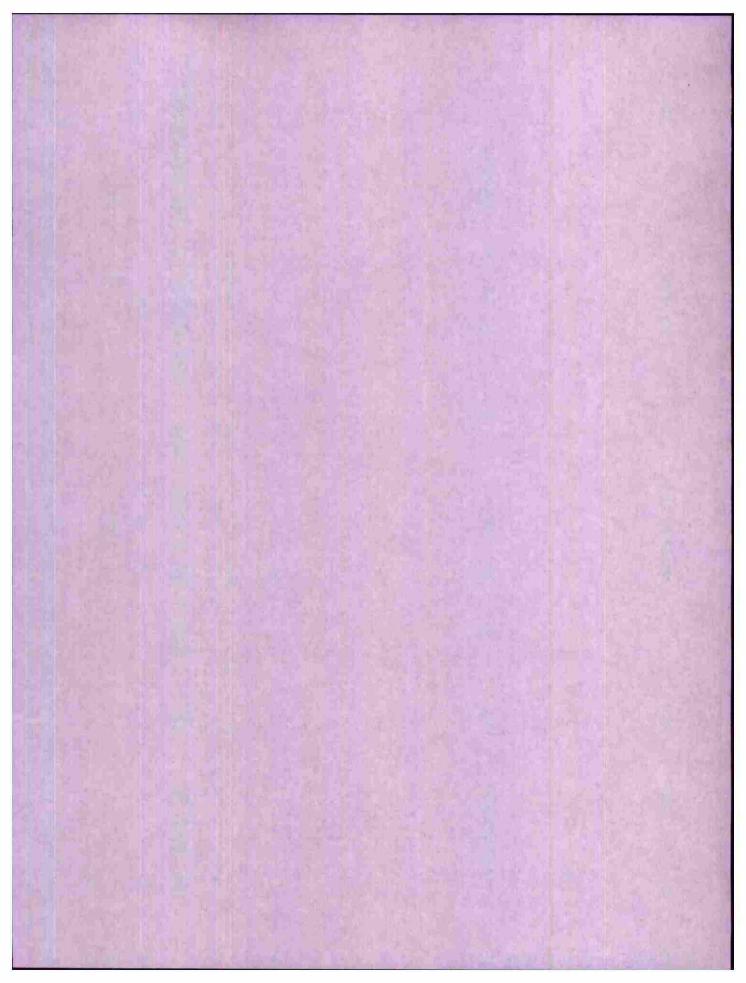
William



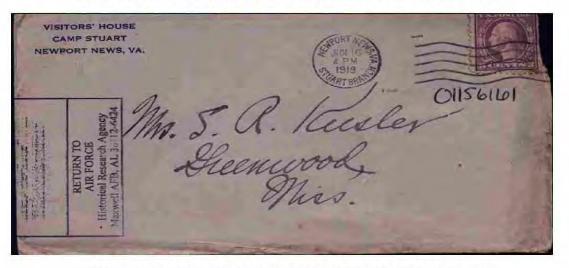
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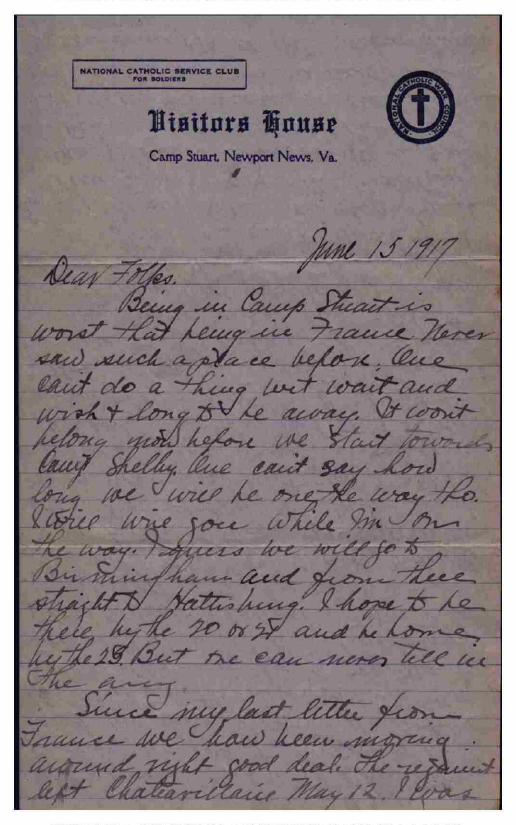
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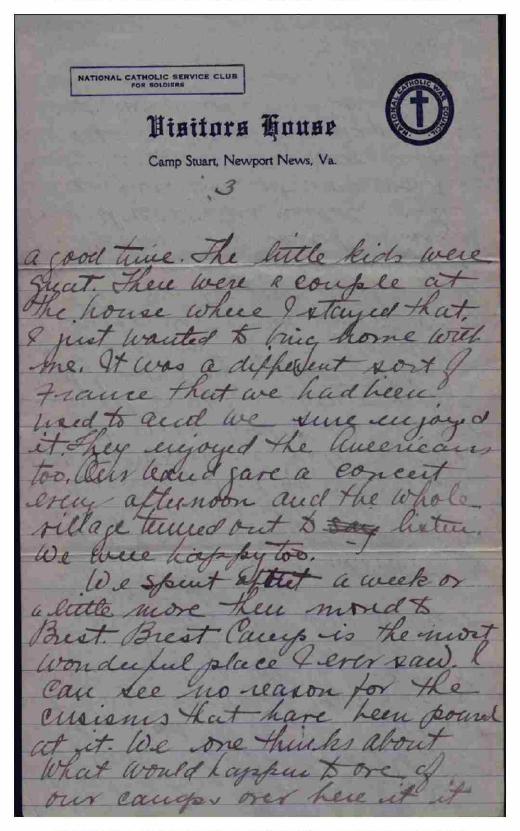


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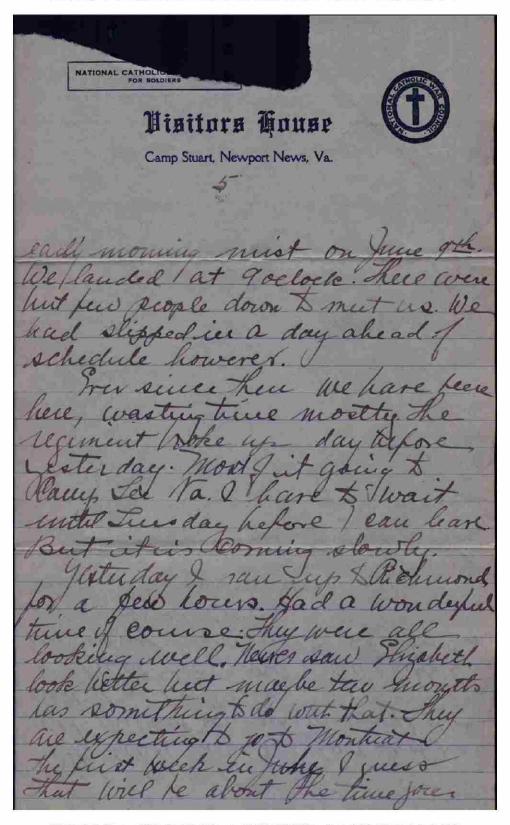
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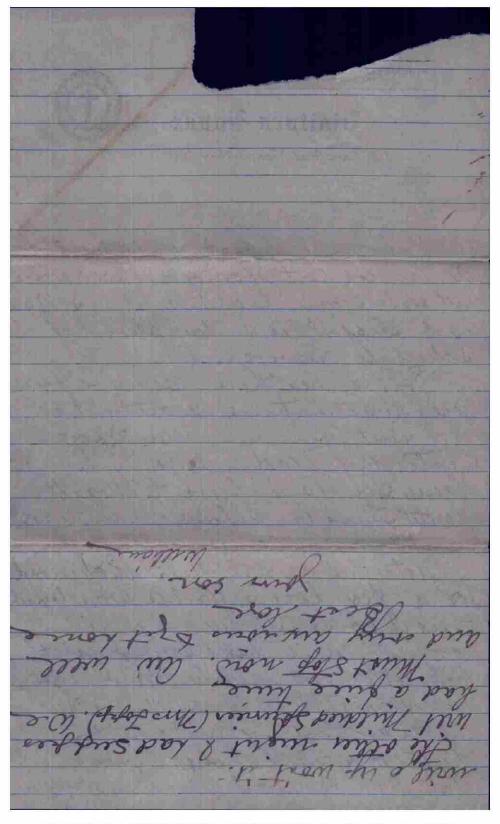


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Postmarked Jun 16, 1919 Stuart Branch, Newport News VA Visitors House Camp Stuart Newport News, Va.

June 15, 1919

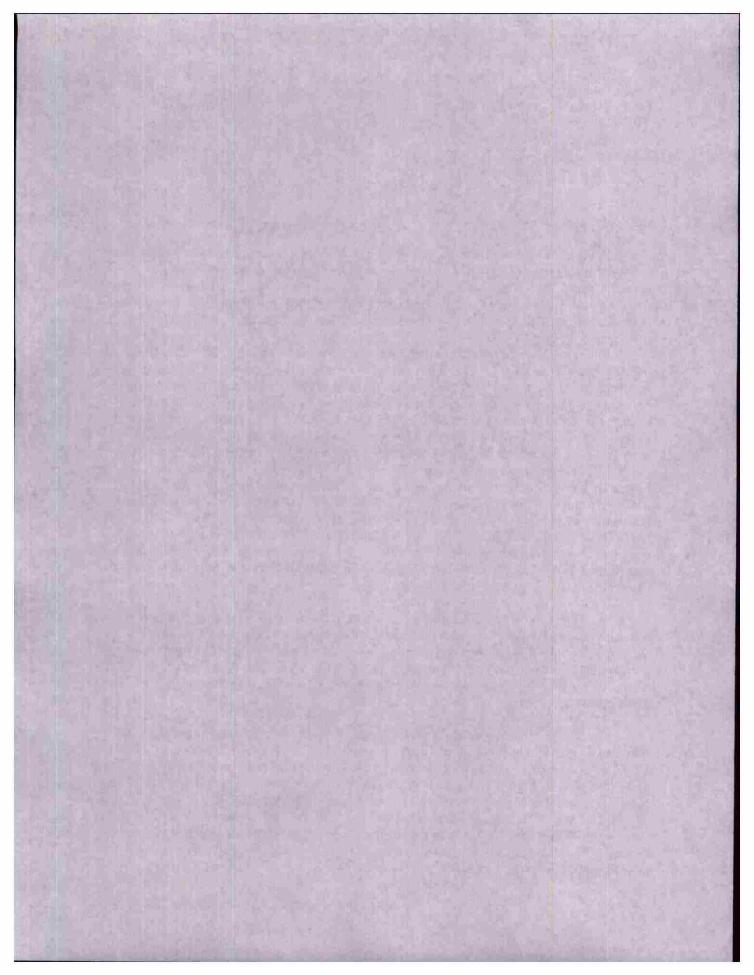
Dear Folks,

Being in Camp Stuart is worst than being in France. Never saw such a place before. One can't do a thing but wait and wish & long to be away. It won't be long now before we start towards Camp Shelby. One can't say how long we will be on the way tho. I will wire you while I'm on the way. I guess we will go to Birmingham and from there straight to Hattiesburg. I hope to be there by the 20 or 21 and be home by the 25. But one can never telling the Army.

Since my last letter from France we have been moving around right good deal. The regiment left Chateavillain May 12. I was left behind with a detachment to turn in what motor equipment we had left. I next left the 13, turned in the motors & etc the same day and caught the train to Lours that night. Arrived in Lours the 14 and caught a train to La Mans getting there at night. Spent the night there and was ordered to La Hutte where the Regiment was. We got there the morning of the 15 very tired but glad to be back. Everyone was surprised to see us so soon, but they did not understand the way we felt about getting left by the regiment. La Hutte is in the center of Normandy. I can now appreciate that song Where its Apple Blossom Time in Normandy for when we were there it was that time. Never saw such a beautiful country in my life. Everything was flowers, lilacs, wisteria, fruit blossoms & all kinds of wild flowers. The people were different too. They took us in and were determined that we should have a good time. The little kids were great. There were a couple at the house where I stayed that I just wanted to bring home with me. It was a different sort of France that we had been used to and we sure enjoyed it. They enjoyed the Americans too. Our band gave a concert every afternoon and the whole village turned out to listen. We were happy too.

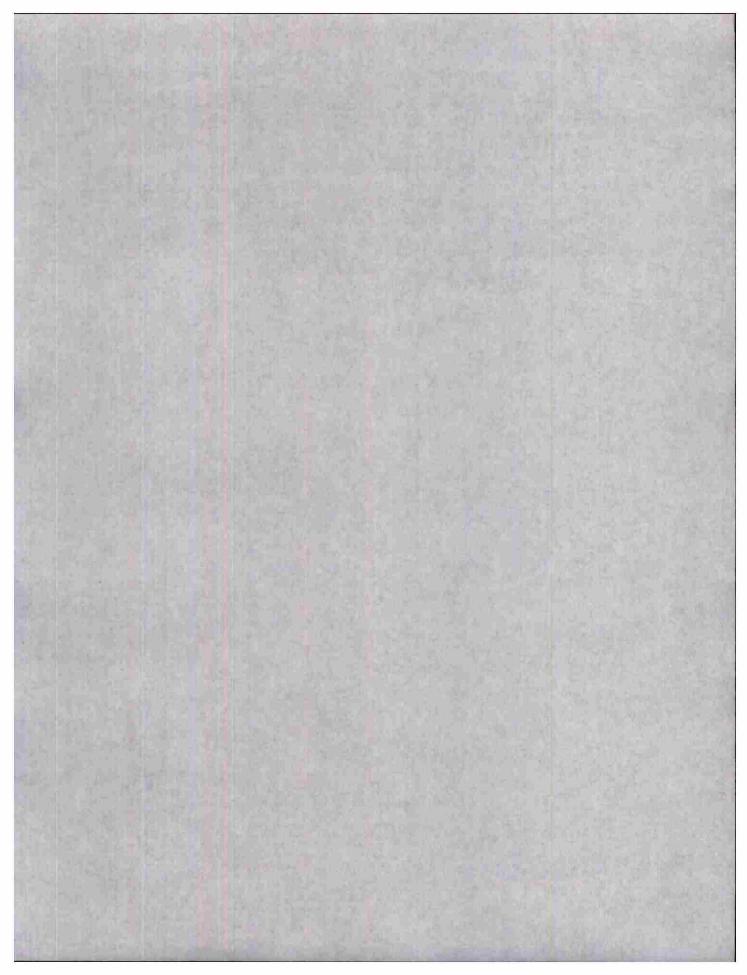
We spent about a week or a little more then moved to Brest. Brest Camp is the most wonderful place I ever saw. I can see no reason for the criticisms that have been poured at it. We (sic) one thinks about what would happen to one of our camps over here if it rained some 250 days out of the year. Why it couldn't help the mud. But even at that it has everything beat I ever saw. The (sic) delouse, equipe and examine about 1700 men in 20 or 30 minutes. Our stay in Brest was about five days.

On 28 we marched down to the boat, happy and content. Our boat the Minnesota left at 3 P.M. that evening and by 5 France was gone from sight and those ten months went in the past to exist only as a memory. We had fairly good quarters on board the boat. It was crowded of course but as we took the southern route by the Azores the men stayed on deck most of the time. For 12 days we sailed the seas over almost the same route Columbus took. It was wonderful. The sea was very smooth except on two or three days. They (sic) last two days it looked like a lake instead of an ocean. But we were mighty glad to see Cape Henry coming up out of the early morning mist on June 9th. We landed at 9 o'clock. There were but few people down to meet us. We had slipped in a day ahead of schedule however.

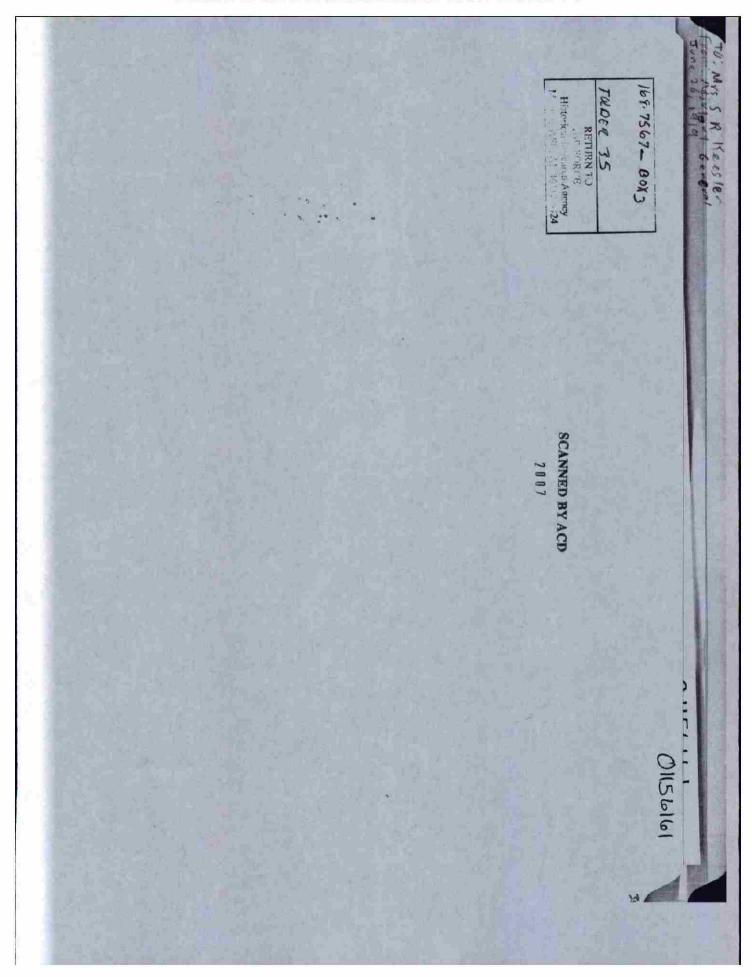


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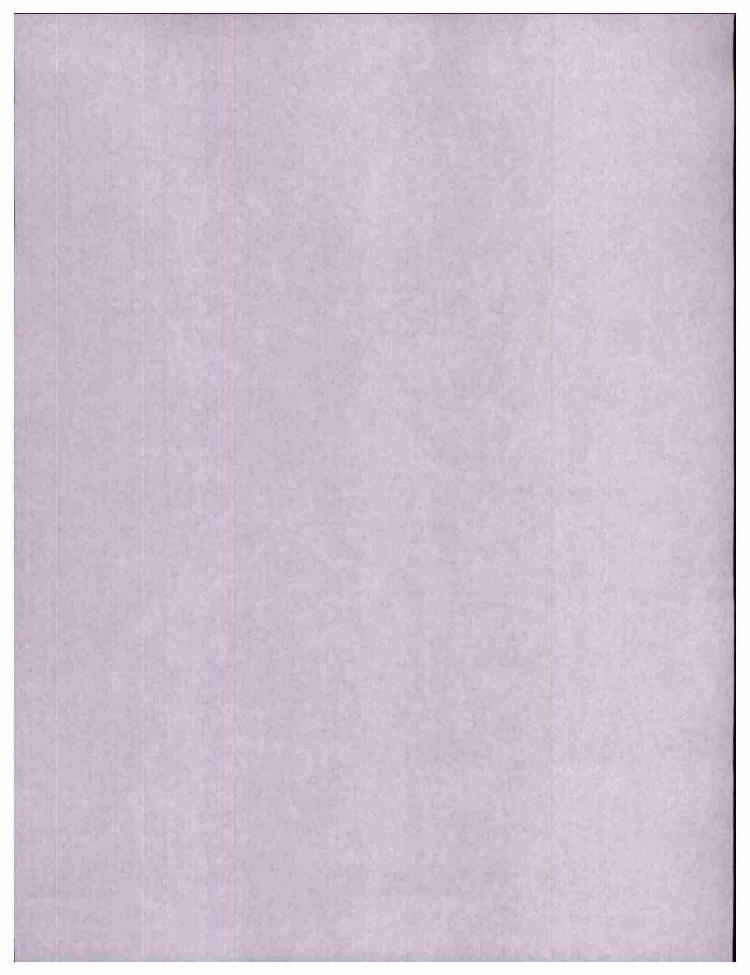
Ever since then we have been here, wasting time mostly. The regiment broke up day before yesterday. Most of it going to Camp Lee, Va. I have to wait until Tuesday before I can leave. But it is coming slowly. Yesterday I was up to Richmond for a few hours. Had a wonderful time of course. They were all looking well. Never saw Elizabeth look better but maybe ten months has something to do with that. They are expecting to go to Montreat the first week in July. I guess that will be about the time you will go up won't it. The other night I had supper with Mildred Spunier (Mrs Topp). We had a fine time. Must stop now. Am well and very anxious to get home. Best love. Your son, William



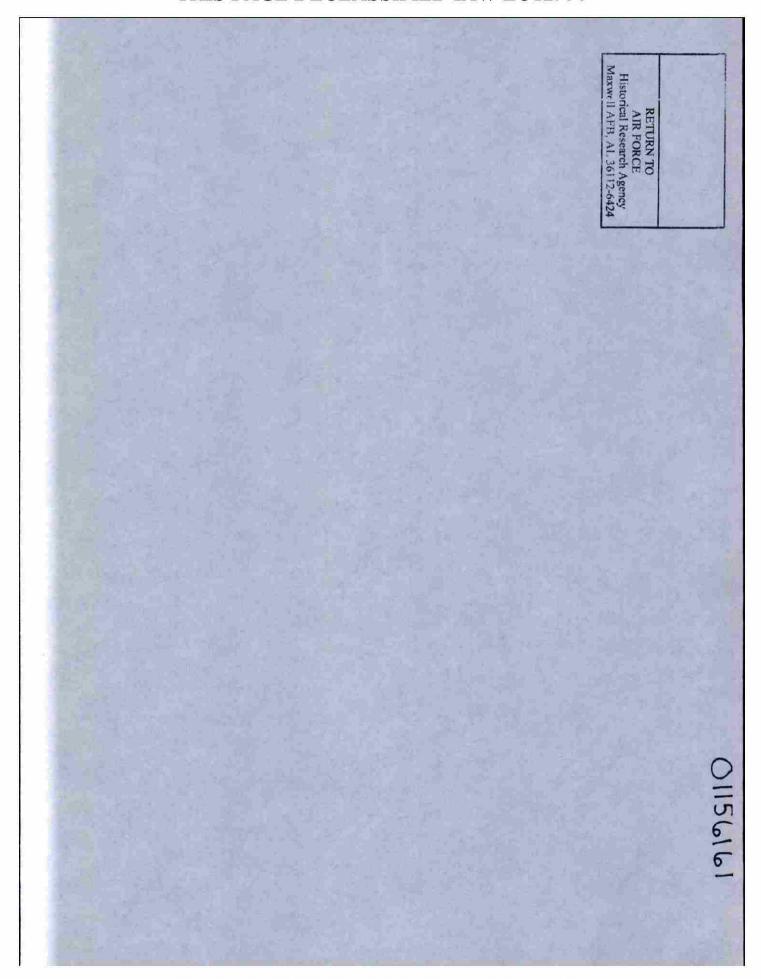
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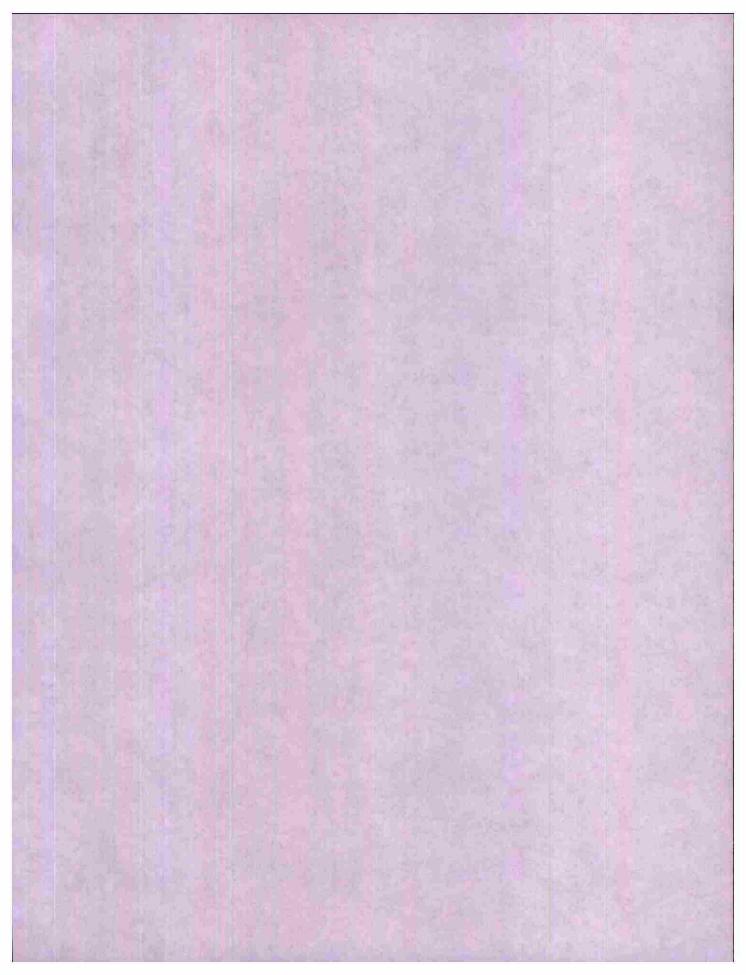
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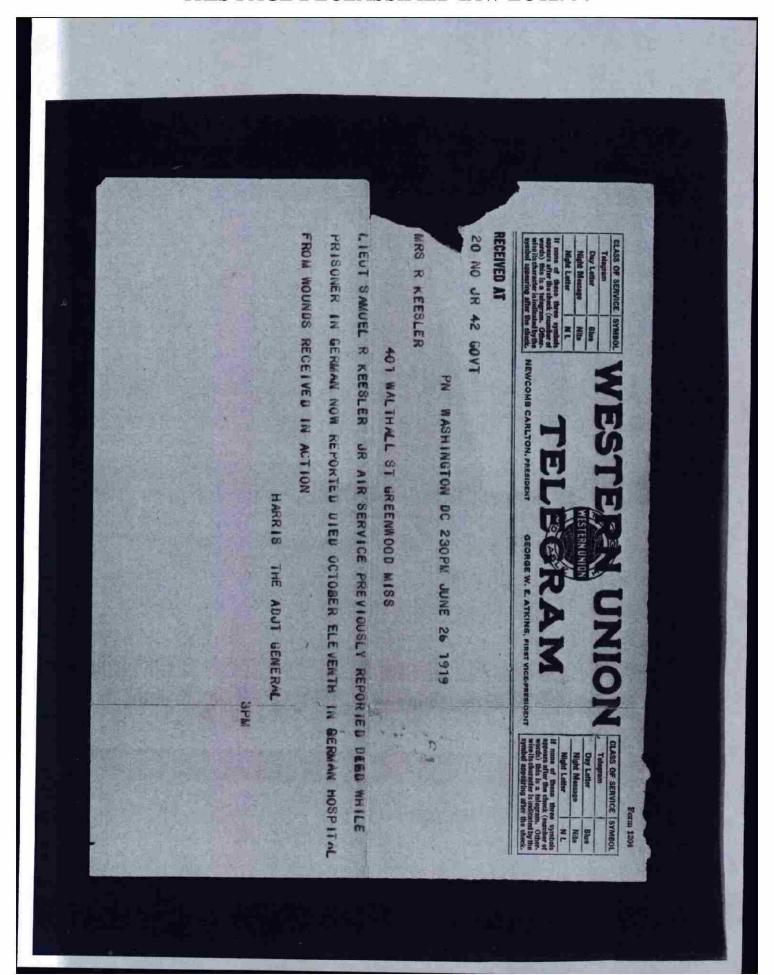
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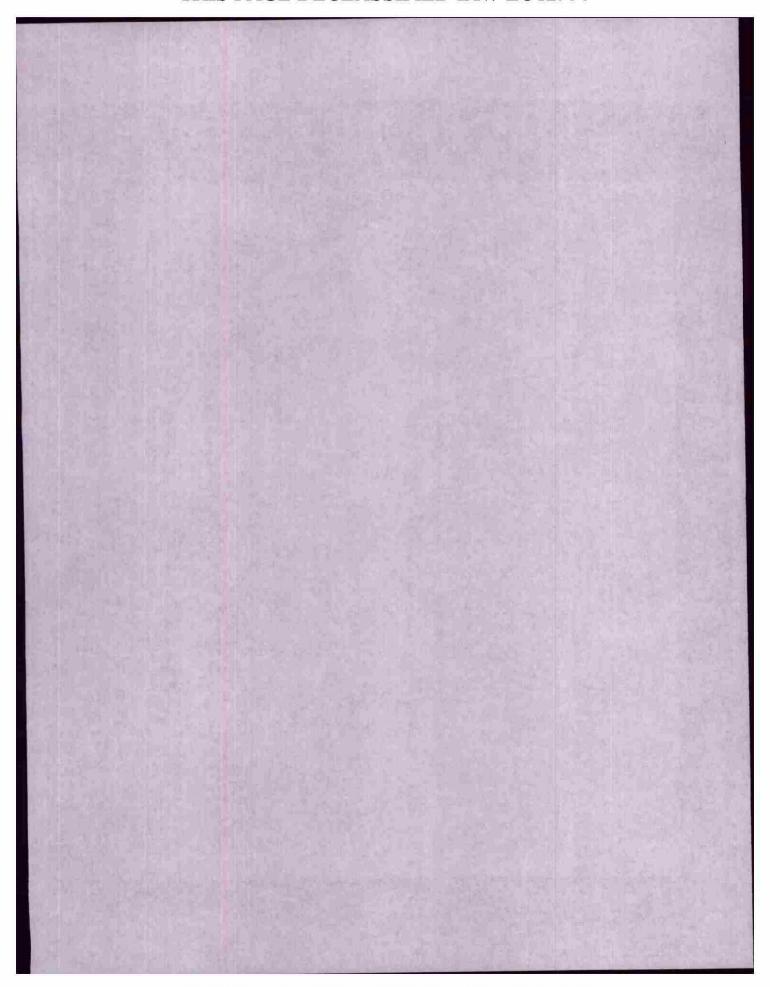
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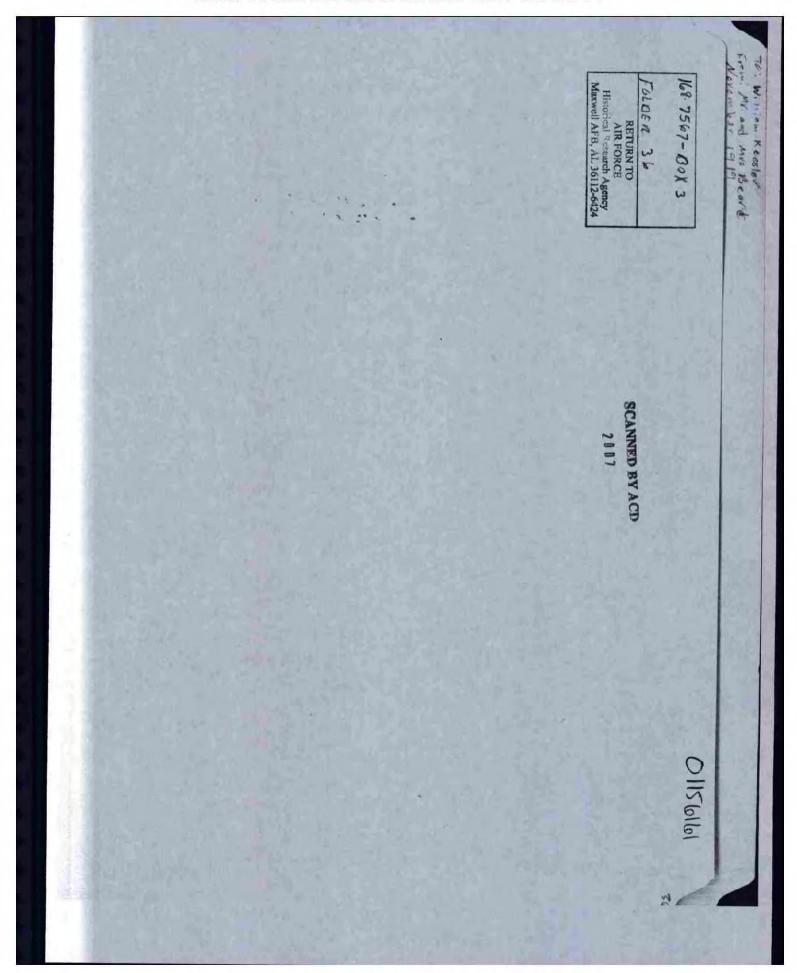
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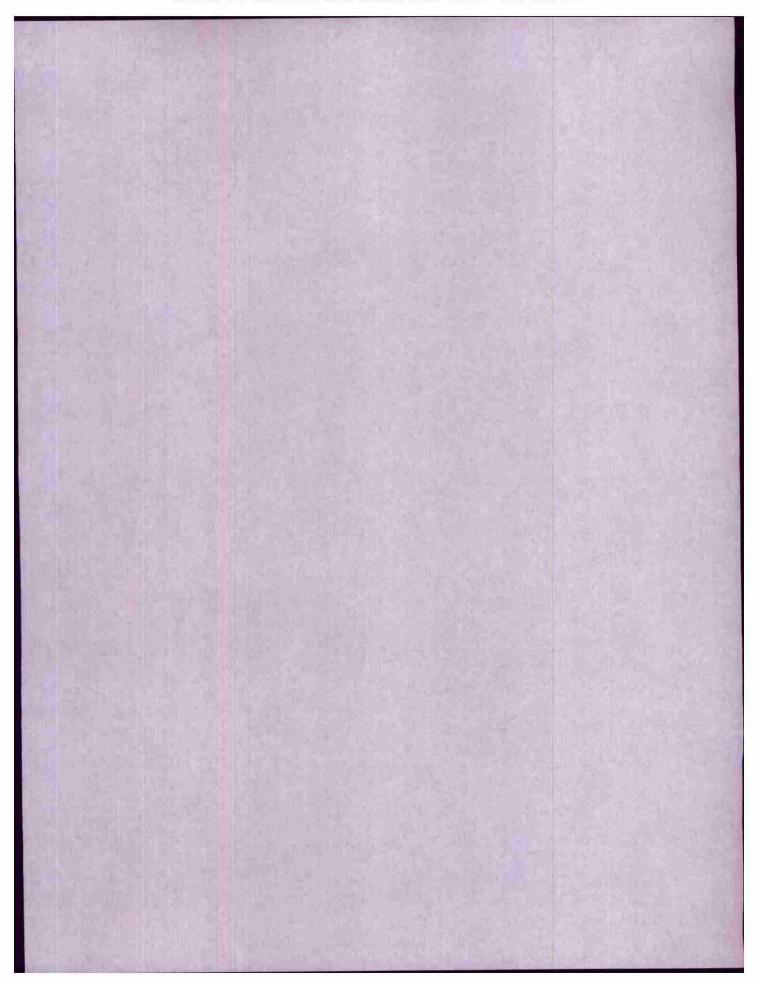
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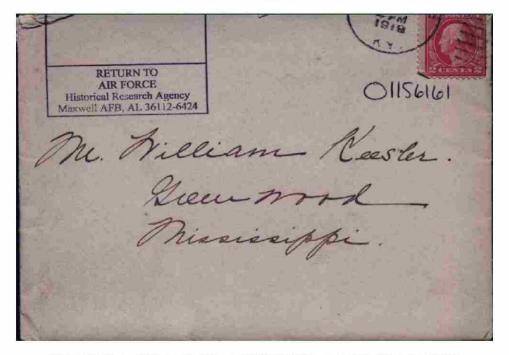
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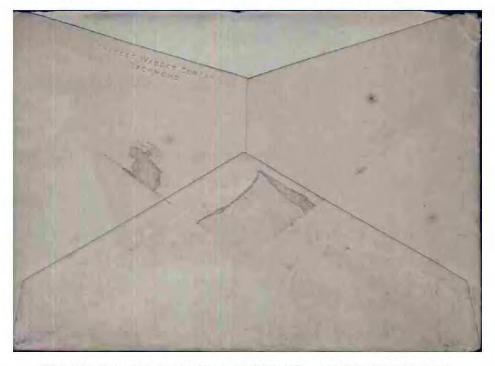
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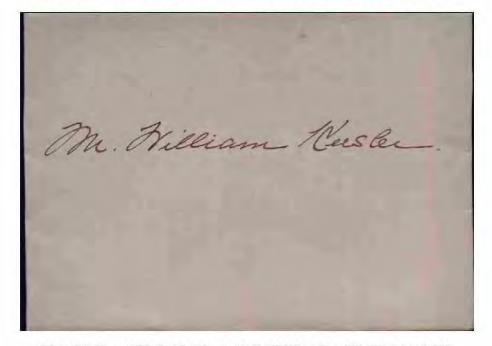
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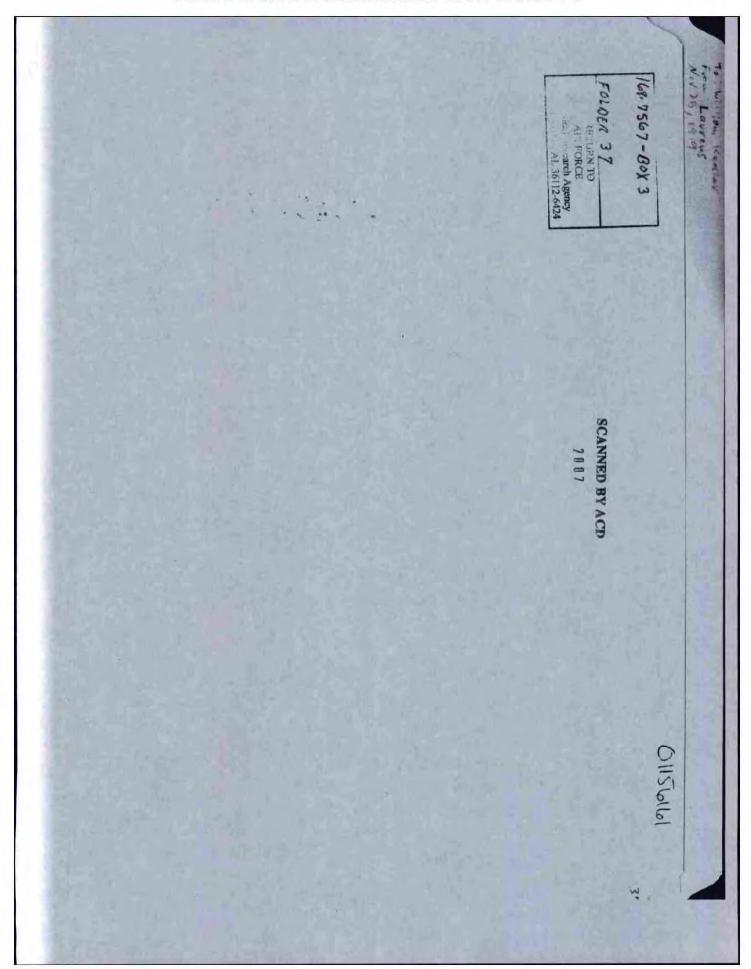
Mr. and Mrs. Herry Morton Beard request the honour of your presence at the marriage of their daughter Mary Franklin Mr. Andrew Raymond Reches on Tuesday, the seventh of October at three n'clock in the afternoon Methodist Episcopal Church South Mardinsburg, Rentucky

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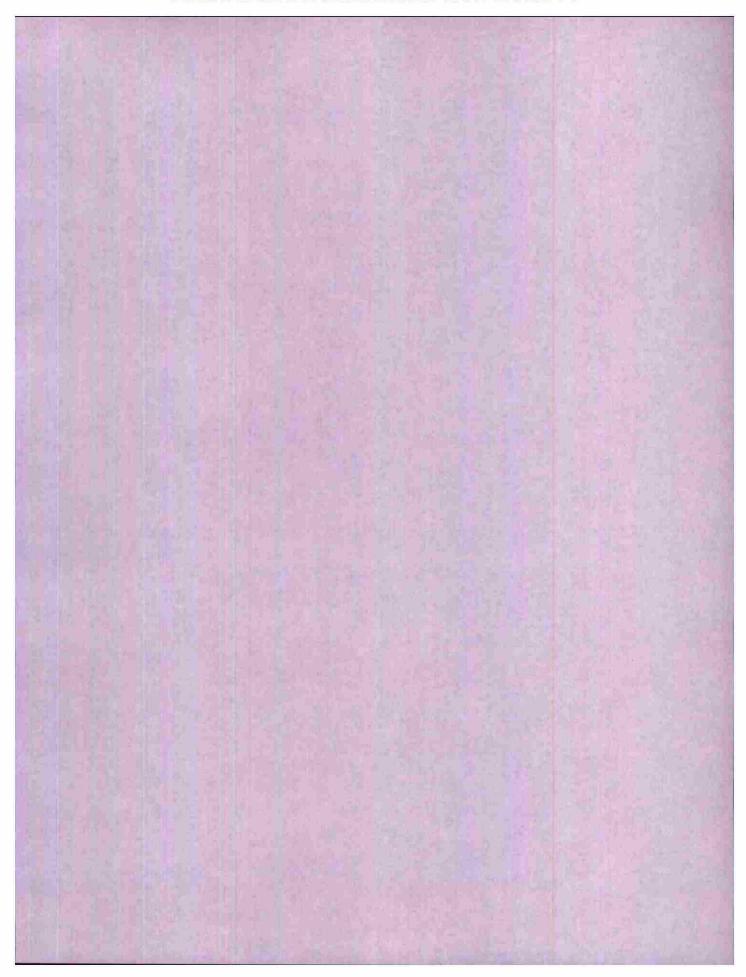
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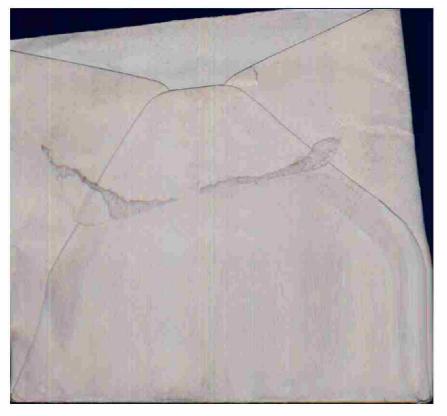
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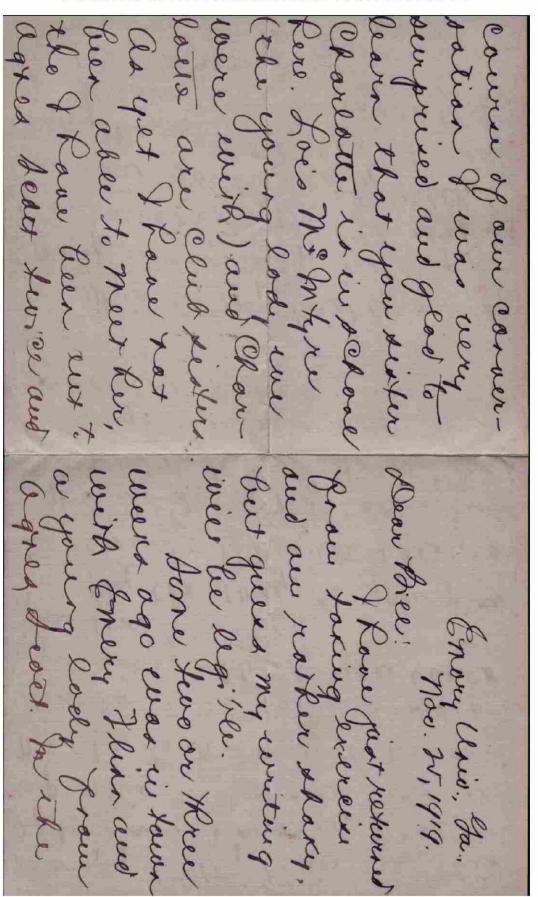
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bx-m. city writelm. som som som mes tues essenthing fris, the it rosaly ming a thus year theologene course. fortunately 9 like Egnory University, net lugar the resp tend put es with arrange such a trip for traw we could have agout your way to dandison? Fry to eigher to see Charlasse area to come to atlanta this year, the way, do you plan appearage. Und you could Charlatte in Houn tomorrow bus next that teen at then up fore and moder arrange. appearan, Koumery, Jesels mauly to try to see how. This

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From Box 126 Emory Univ., GA To Mr. W. P. Keesler Greenwood, Miss

> Emory Univ., Ga. Nov 25, 1919

Dear Bill:

I have just returned form taking exercise and am rather shaky, but guess my writing will be legible.

Some two or three weeks ago was in town with Emery Flinn and a young lady from Agnes Scott. In the course of our conversation I was very surprised and glad to learn that your sister Charlotte is in school here. Lois McIntyre (the young lady we were with) and Charlotte are club sisters. As yet I have not been able to meet her, tho I have been out to Agnes Scott twice and mainly to try to see her. This afternoon, however, I called up Lois and made arrangements to meet both her and Charlotte in town tomorrow afternoon. Wish you could join us.

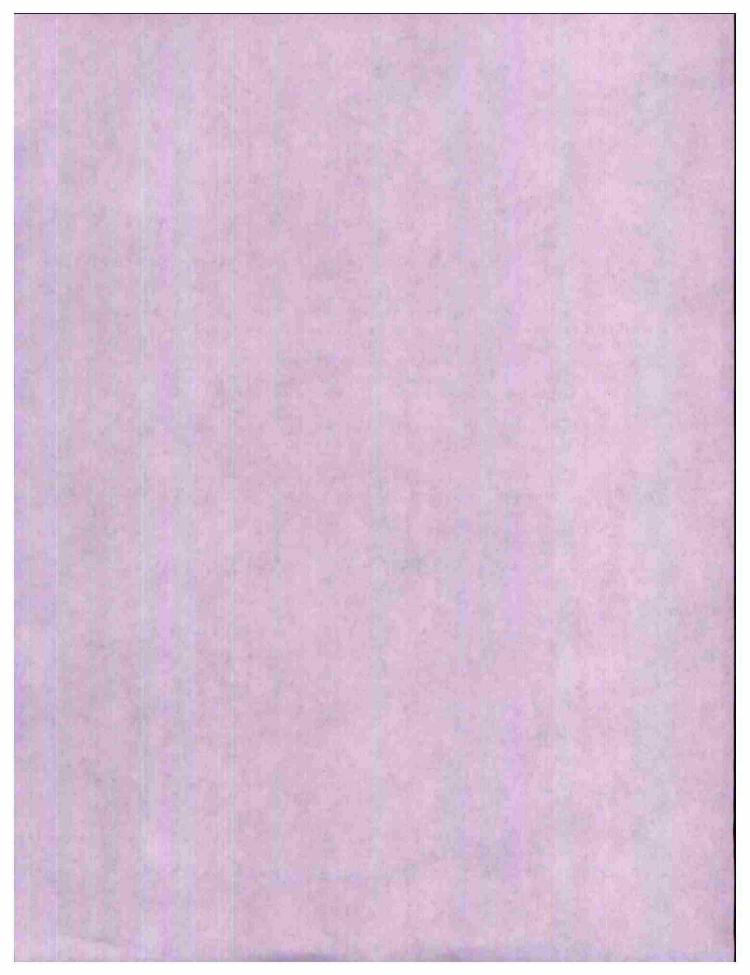
By the way, do you plan to come to Atlanta this year, either to see Charlotte or on your way to Davidson? Try to arrange such a trip for I know we could have a good time.

This is my first year at Emory University, just beginning a three year theological course. Fortunately I like everything fine, tho it really can't compare with old D.C.

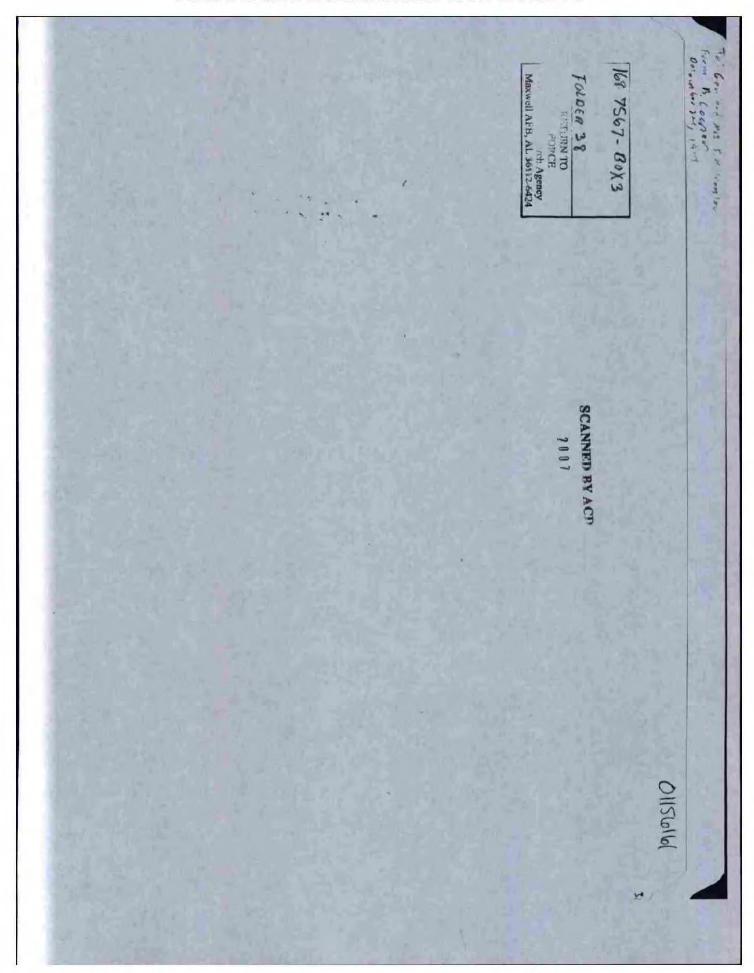
Write me. (My regards to Maynard, Guy, etc.)

Yours in KJ

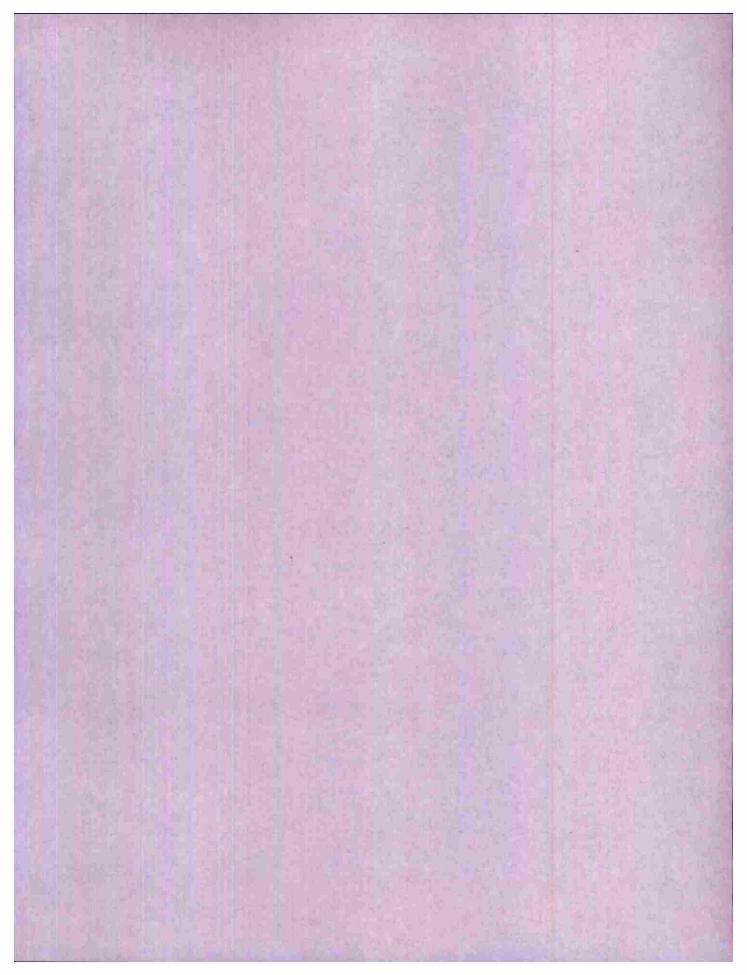
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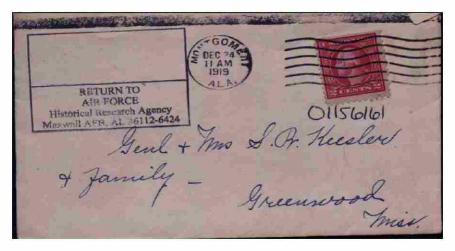
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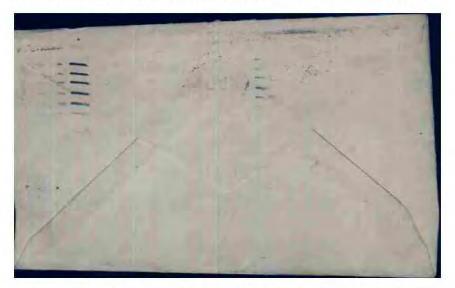
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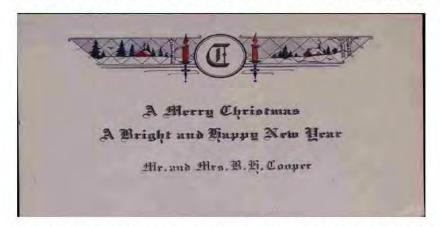
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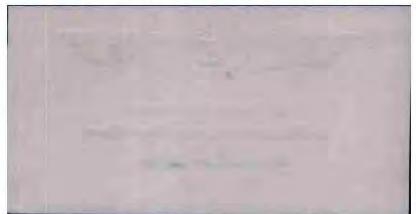
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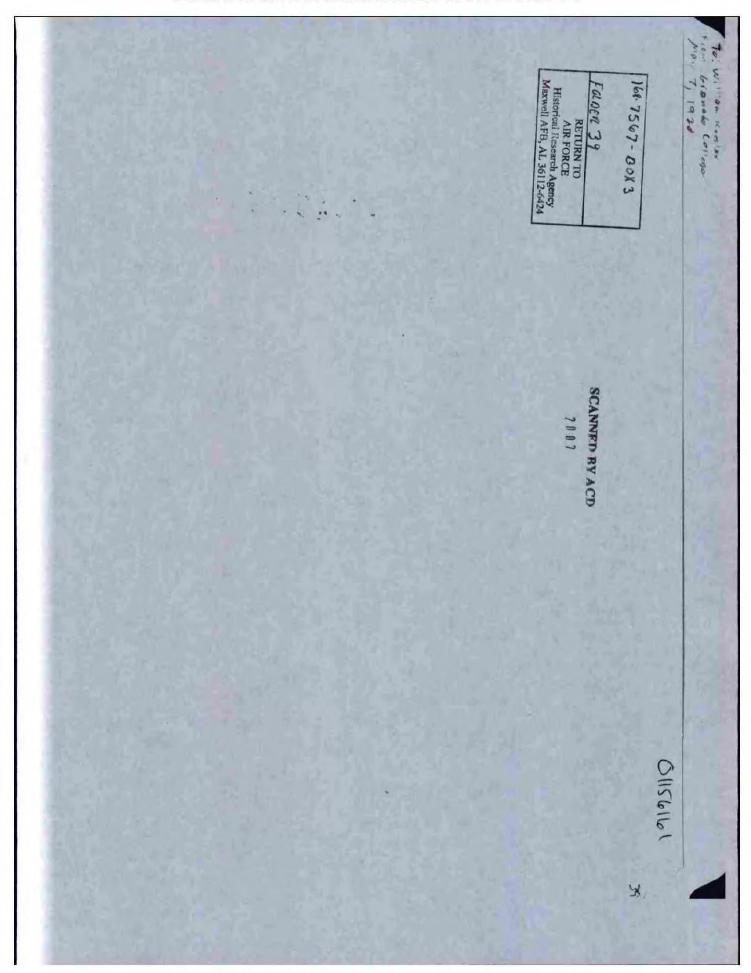
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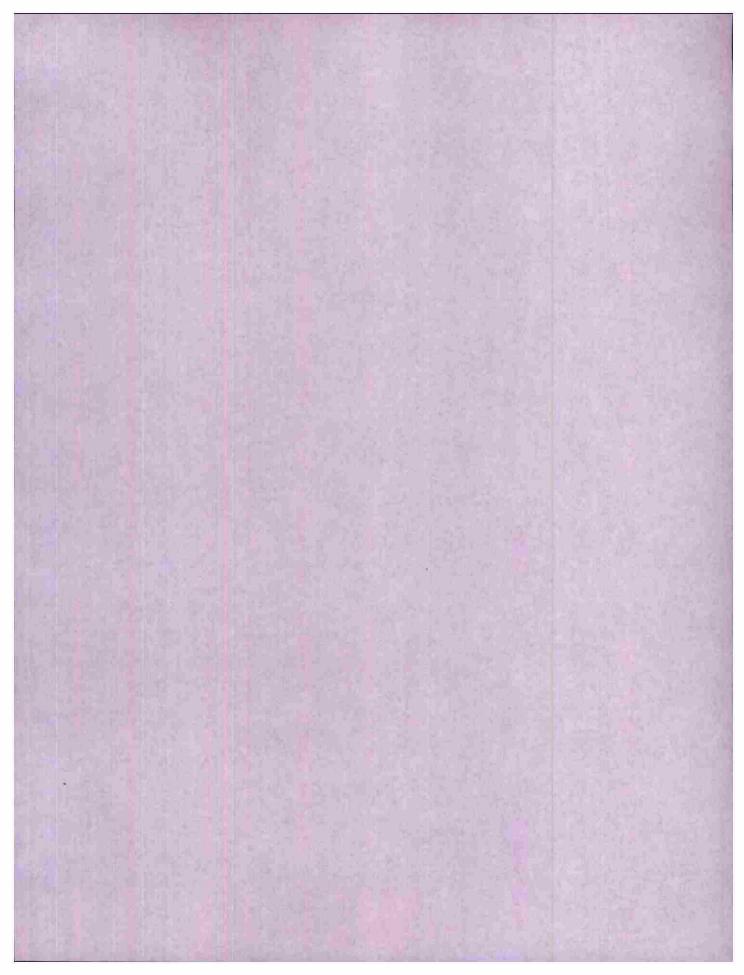
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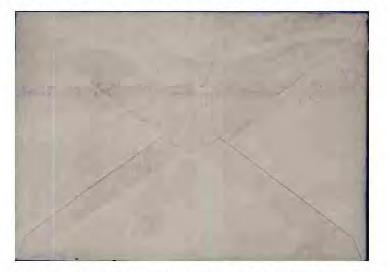


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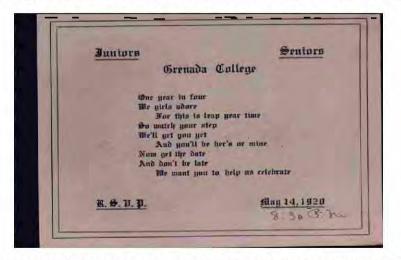


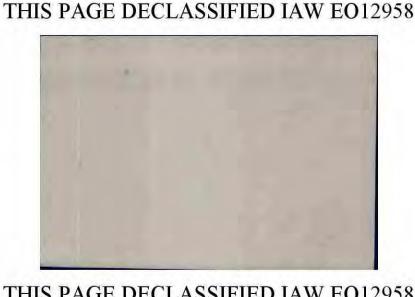
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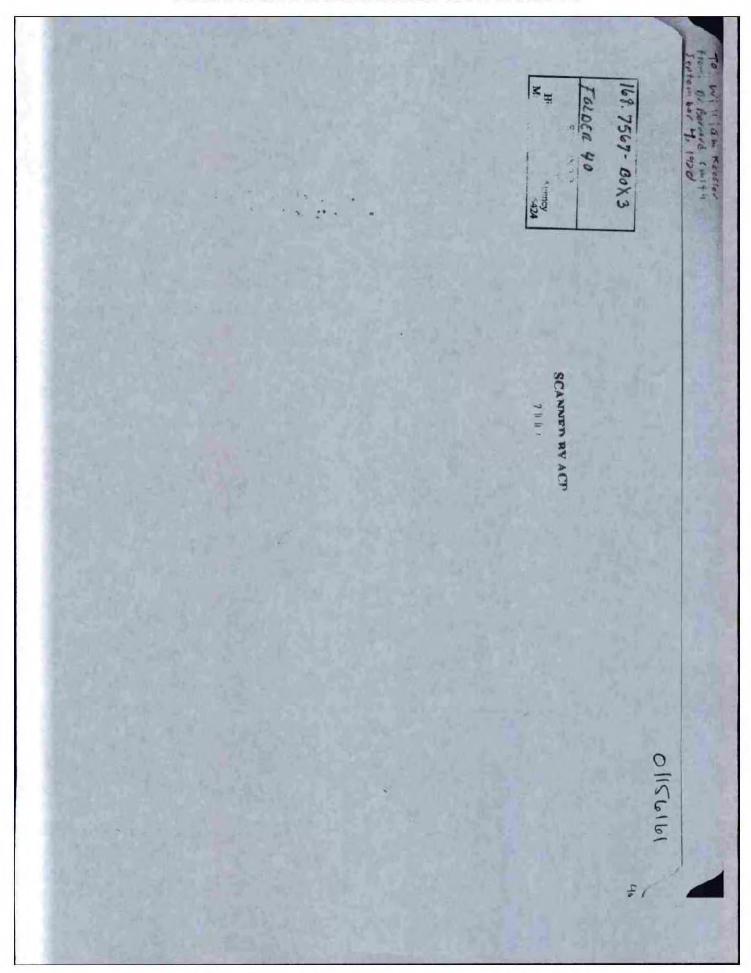




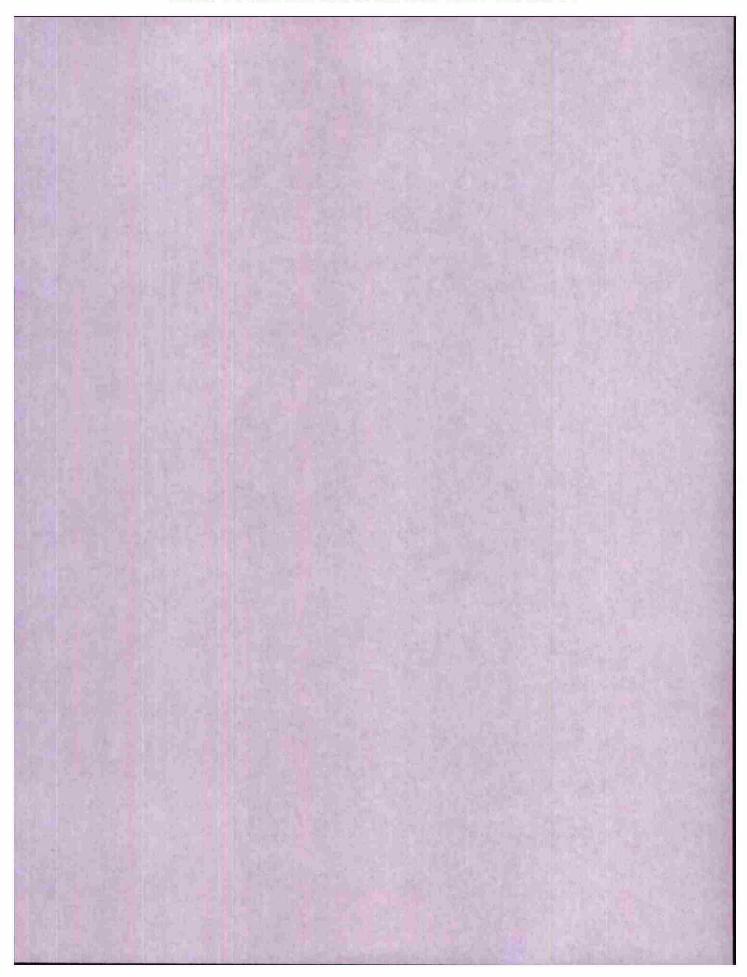
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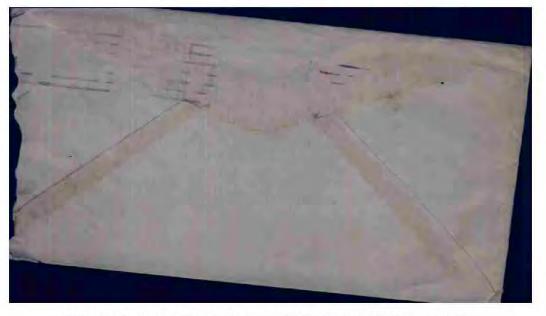
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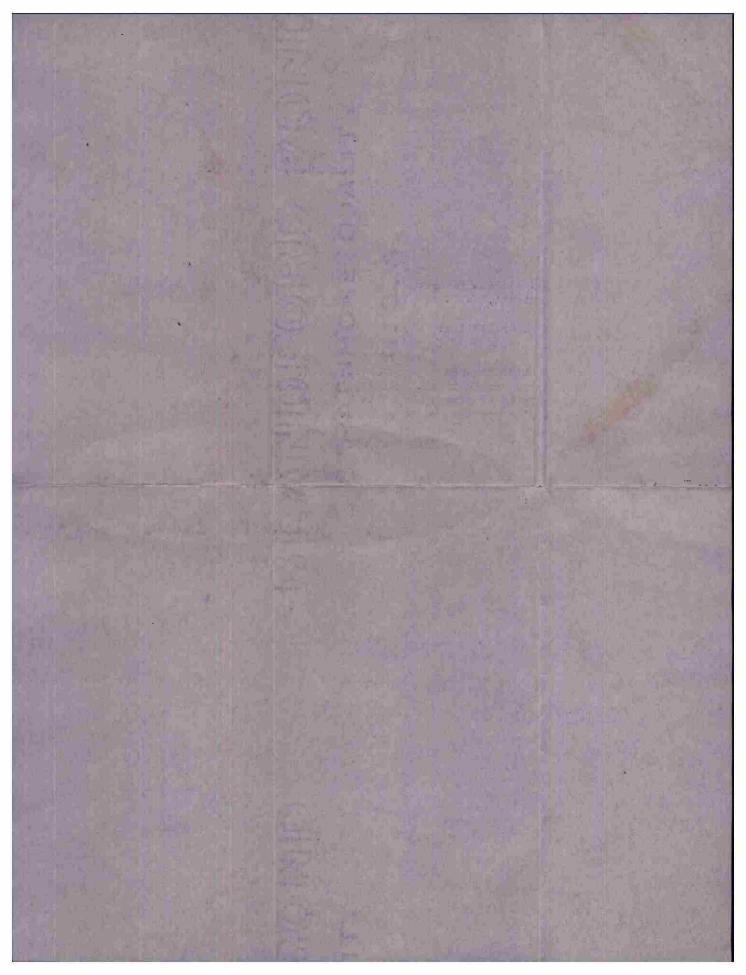
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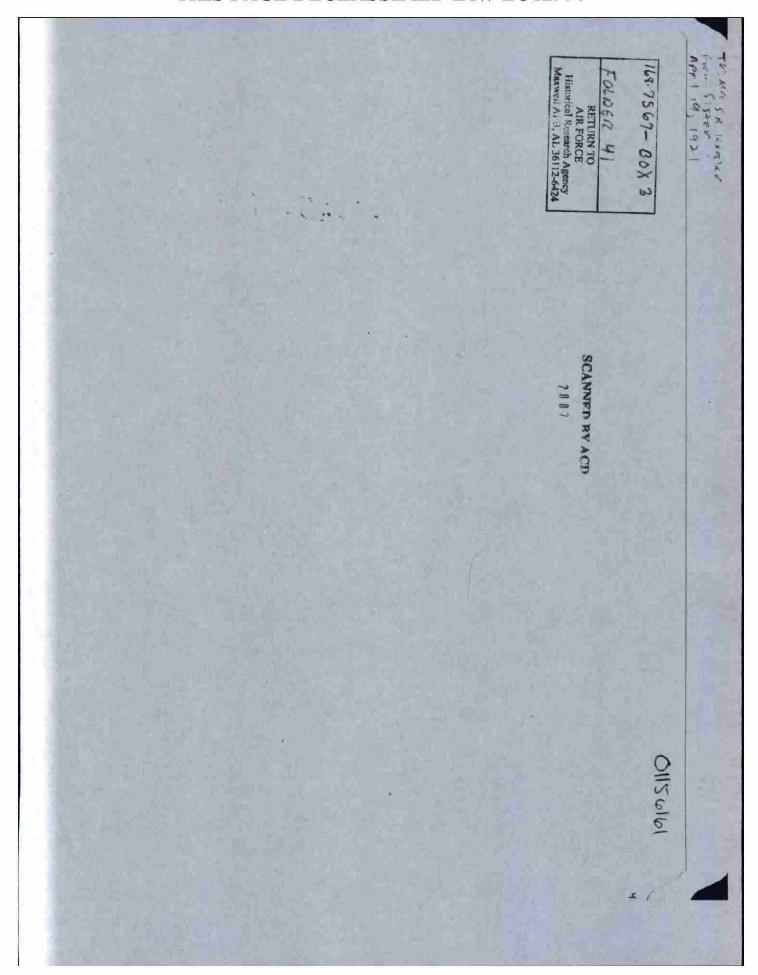
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Asheville, N.C. September, 4th, 1920. Mr. William Keesler, Montreat, N. C. My dear William: I am glad to report to you that no trouble whatsoever was found in the blood examinations. Most likely your tooth is helping to give you some trouble and I strongly advise you to have it removed. With best wishes, I am, Sincerely yours, BRS : B Bours R. Smith -

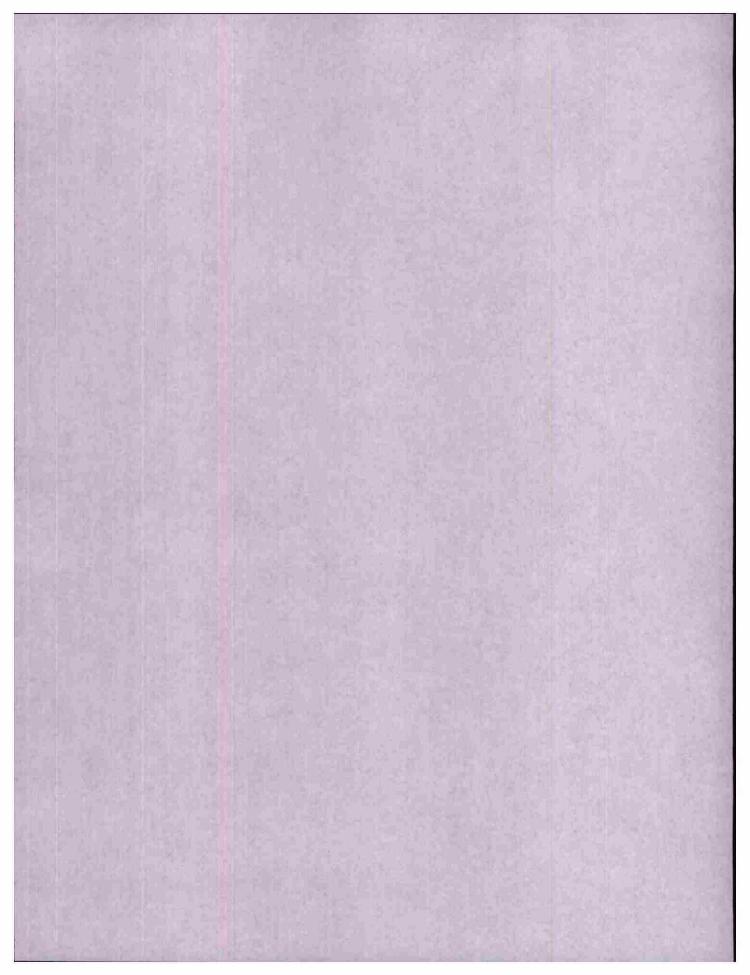
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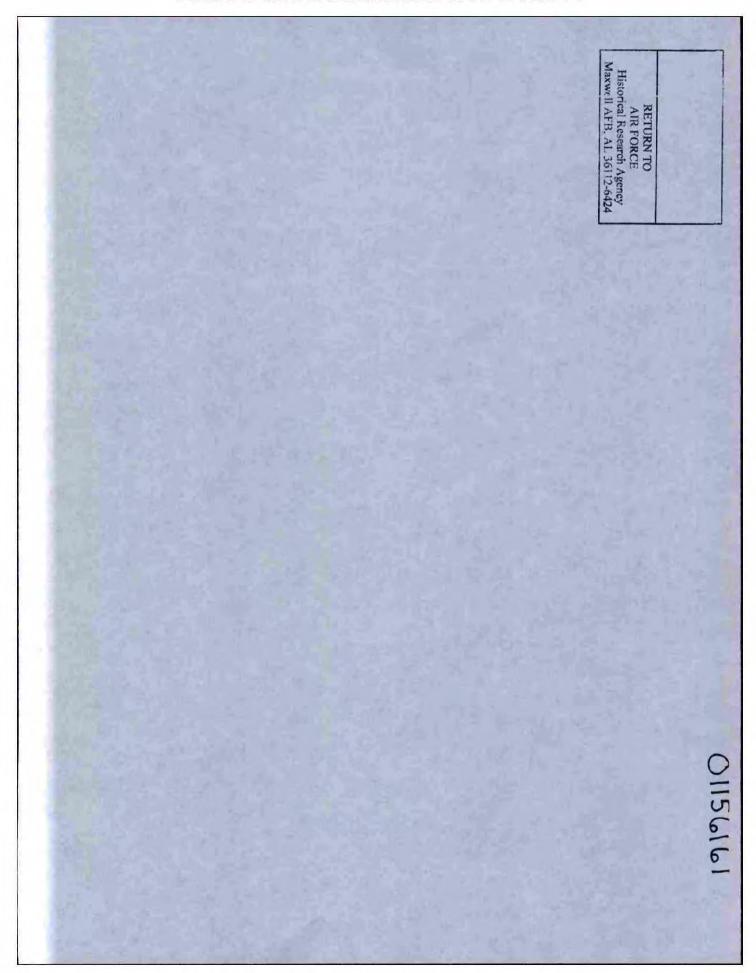
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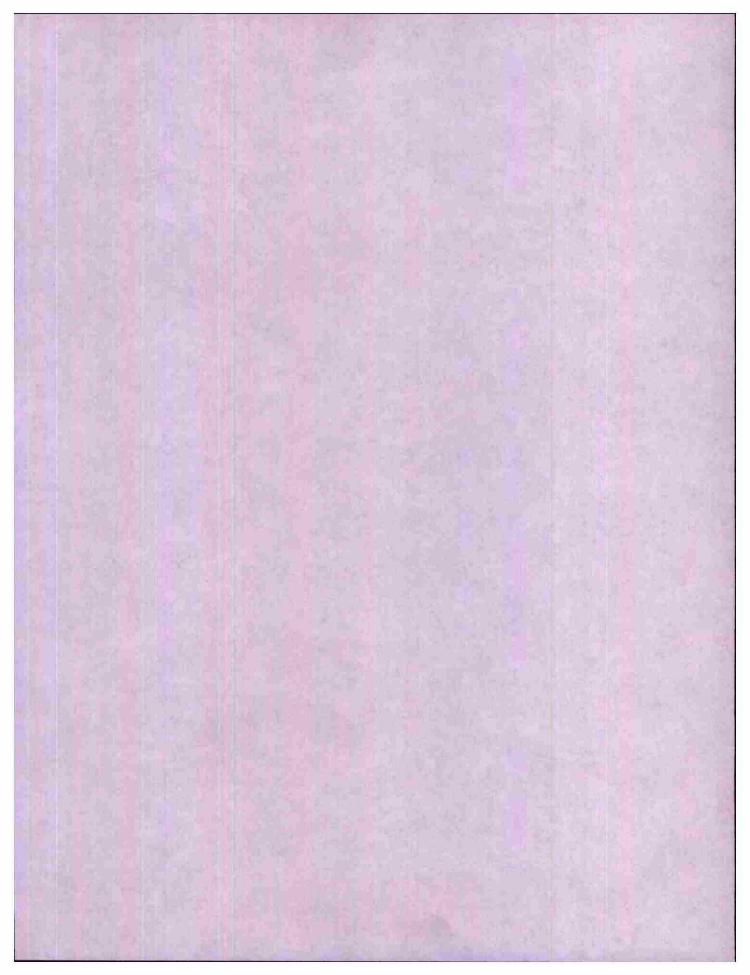
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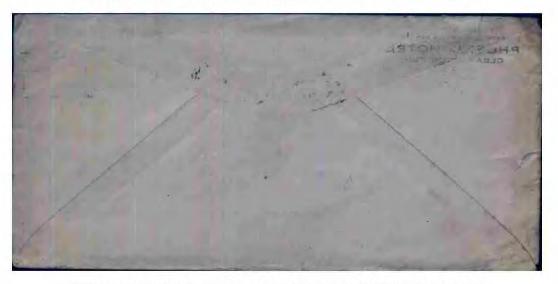
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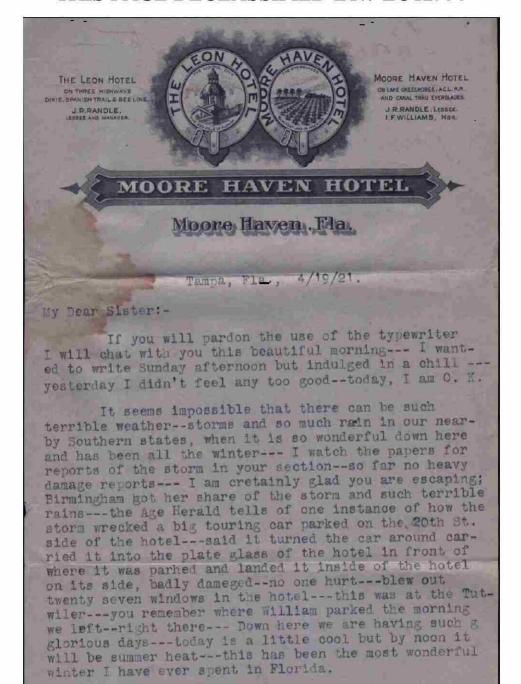
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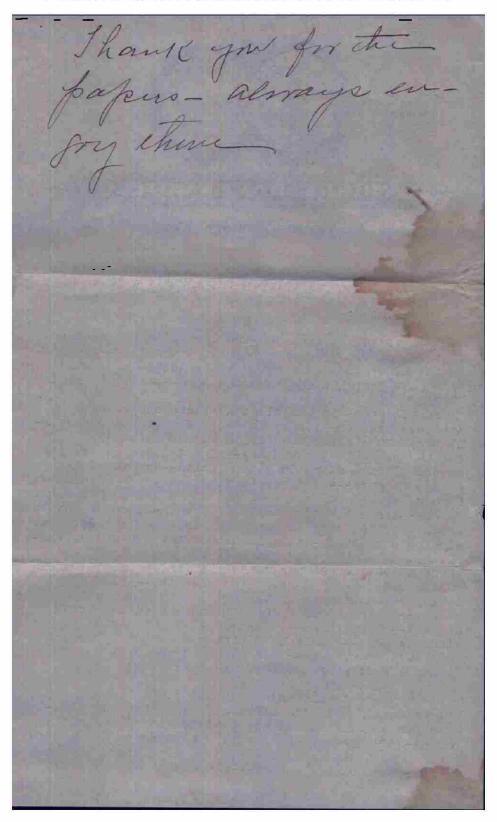
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I certainly enjoyed Charlotte's letter, she writes so fluently and correctly, and then too I admire her ambition to go on up higher in the educational world--and hope she can do all she wants to do, so few girls want to keep their education after they have put a four-year college course---she always aims high in



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anything she is doing -- which I think shows ambition.

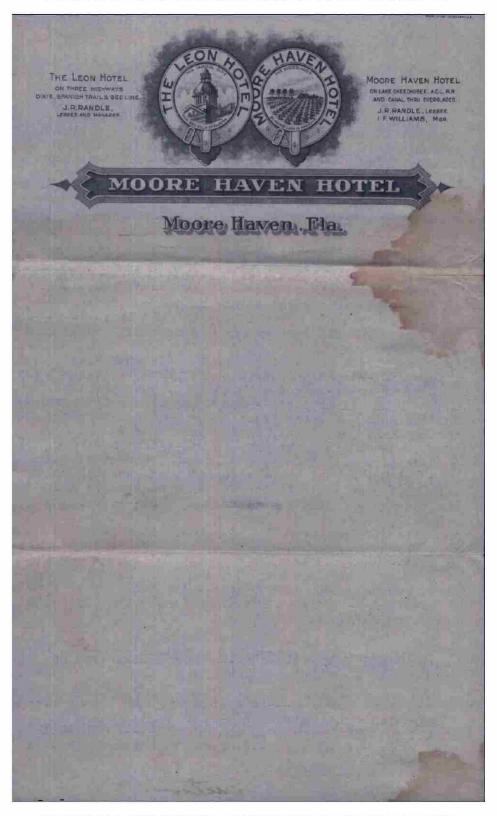
Tell Isabelle she has "my vote and influence" as the politicians say in her race to be May Queen --she's right young starting out to be an elected Queen although in the hearts of those who love her she is already a queen --- for I think she is one of the sweetest, loveliest girls I know -- and I am proud of her as my name sake, somehow she gets the real genuine admiration and love of people ---- As to my coming to her graduating night --- I am going to try--it depends on the date --- I cannot leave here until until about the 12th of June --- for business reasons --- and I fear that's too late for me to get there in time, anyway -- I am going to try to: What are your plans for the summer' It's a little early to know -- I guess --- but I was wondering if you were going at all or had other plans ---perhaps you haven't given it any thought as yet ----or perhaps you and Prother are waiting until later on.

Yes, Dear -- I did think of you on the eleventh -- yesterday a week ago --- It doesn't seem twenty five years ago since that never-to-be-forgotten night when your precious boy came for us all to love --- and think I was with upou and Janie too, how the years go by but we wouldn't notice these past twenty five years if he was with us-but the sweet memory we have of him --- the knowledge that he lived all those years in such perfect harmony with the higher things of life, and then gave his young life that others might live on makes us realize that his coming and going was planned by God --- I think of him daily --- never look up at his picture but so many thoughts of him come to me --- on his birthday I put some beautiful pink oleanders by his picture in memory of him --- the oleanders are so beautiful now --- - wish I could send you some but they would not keep intransit. Sorry Fannie Walton is not well--give her my love when you see her --- I often think of her --- she and Sam would h ave been so happy.

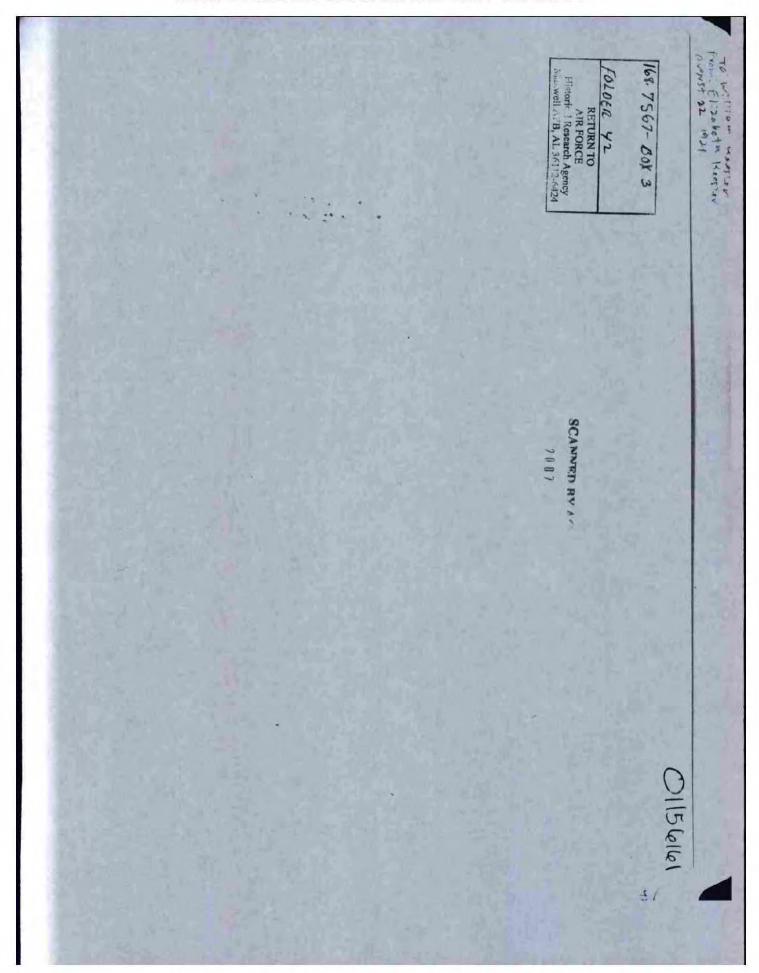
quite a change in greenwood -- a near little city now compared to when she was there last.

Must stop now---it's time to go to breakfast-I have a full day before me--- I am so tired at night
that I just can't write so got up early--- you will
have to excuse mistakes---my eyes are hardly open good
yet. Love to each and lots and lots for yourse.

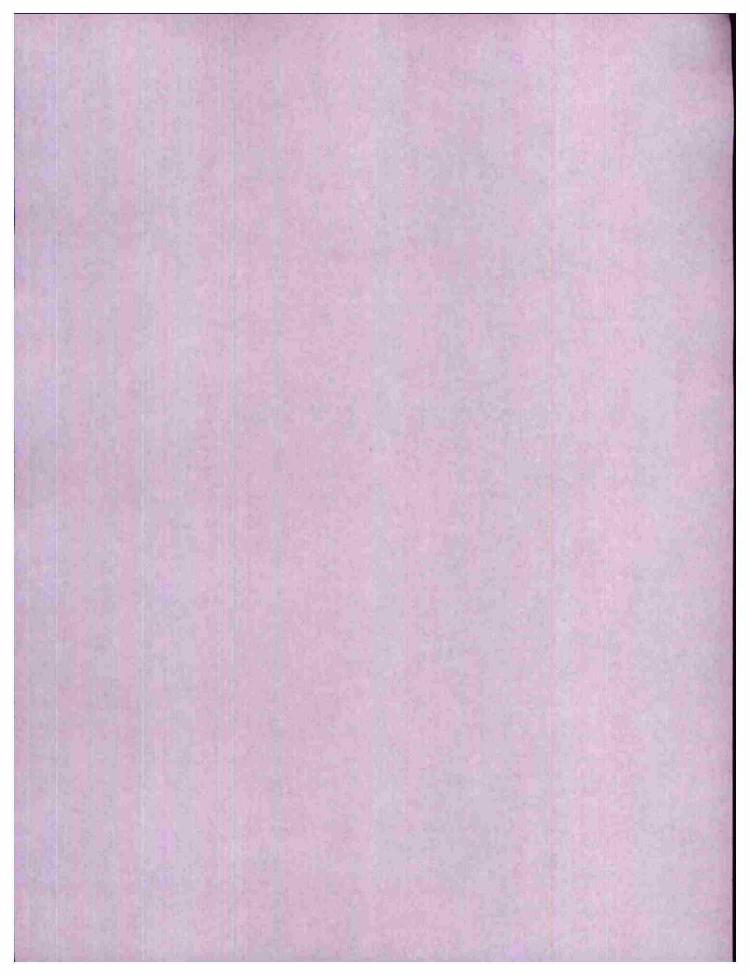
Love to each and lots and lots for yourself



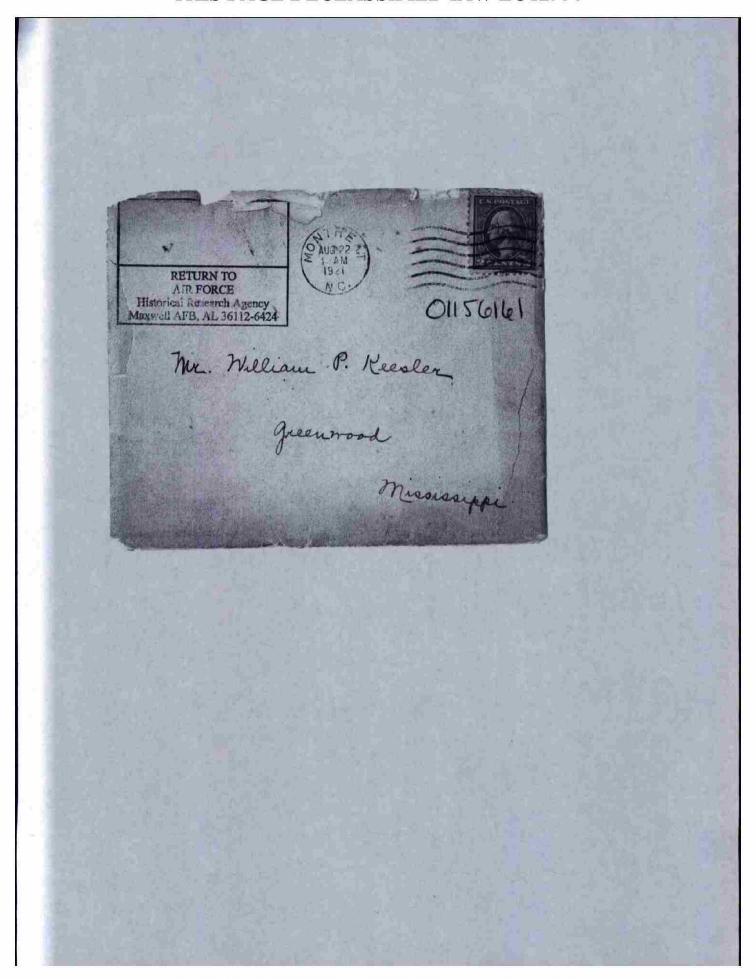
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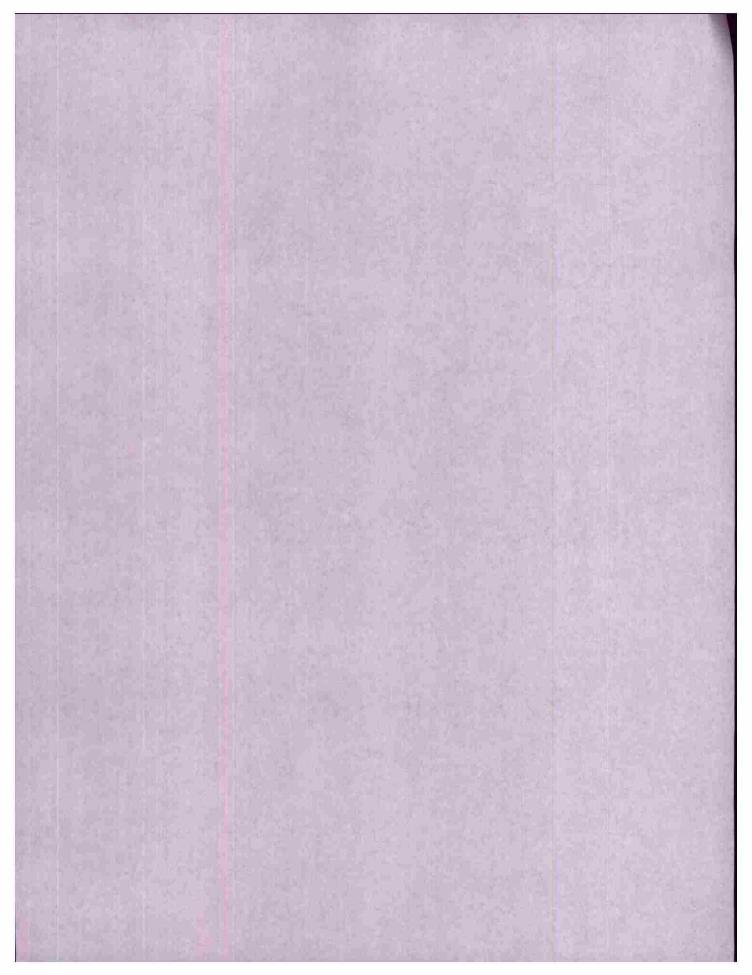
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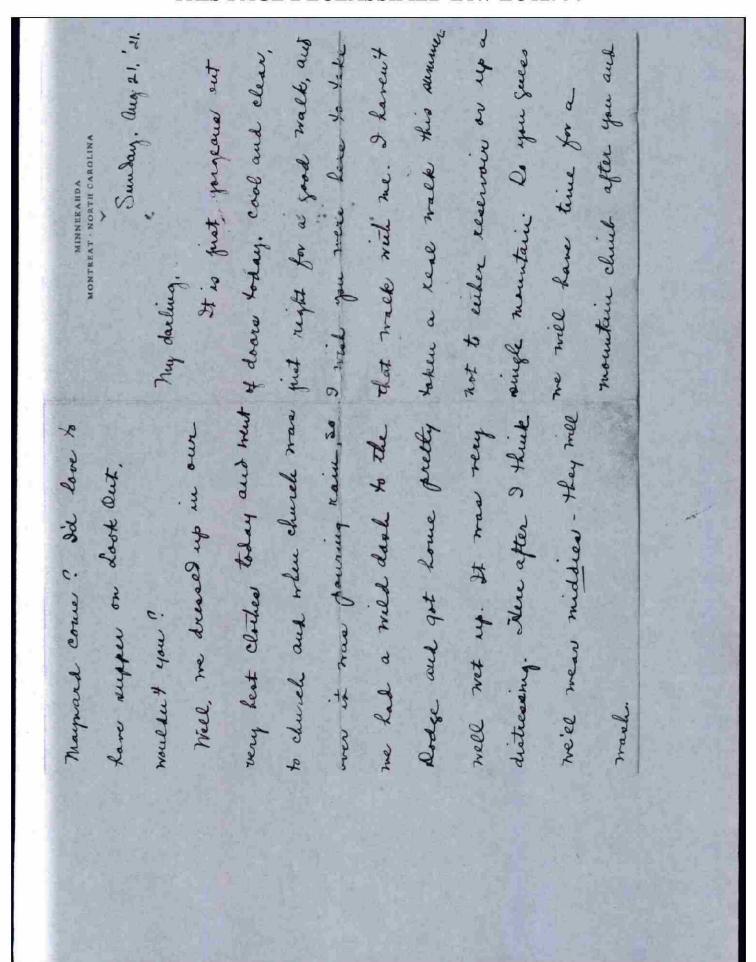
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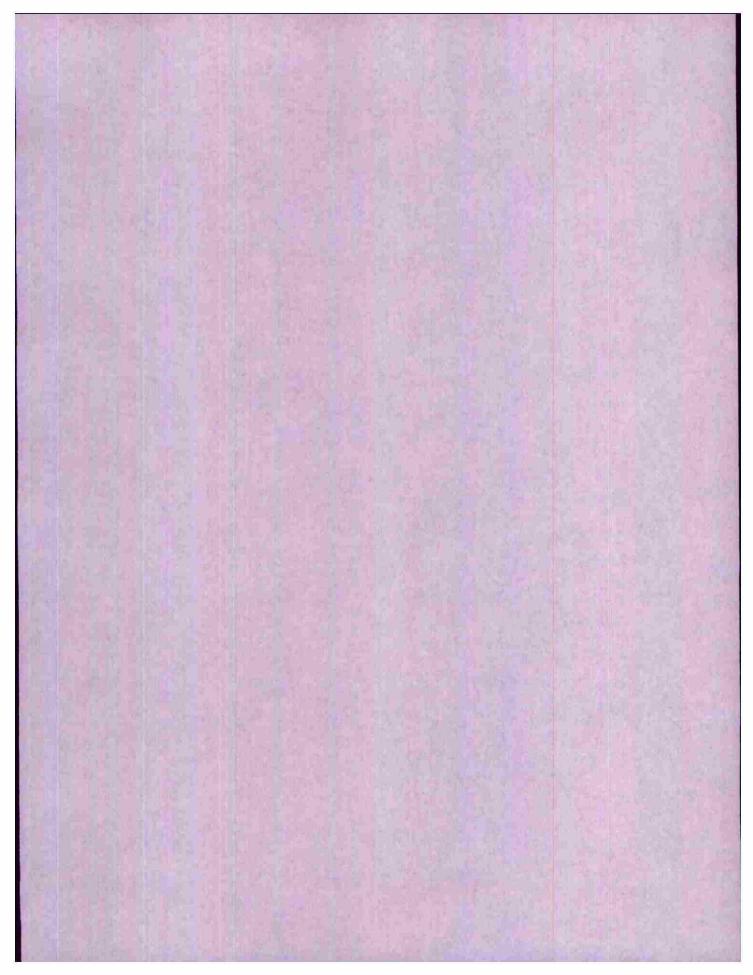


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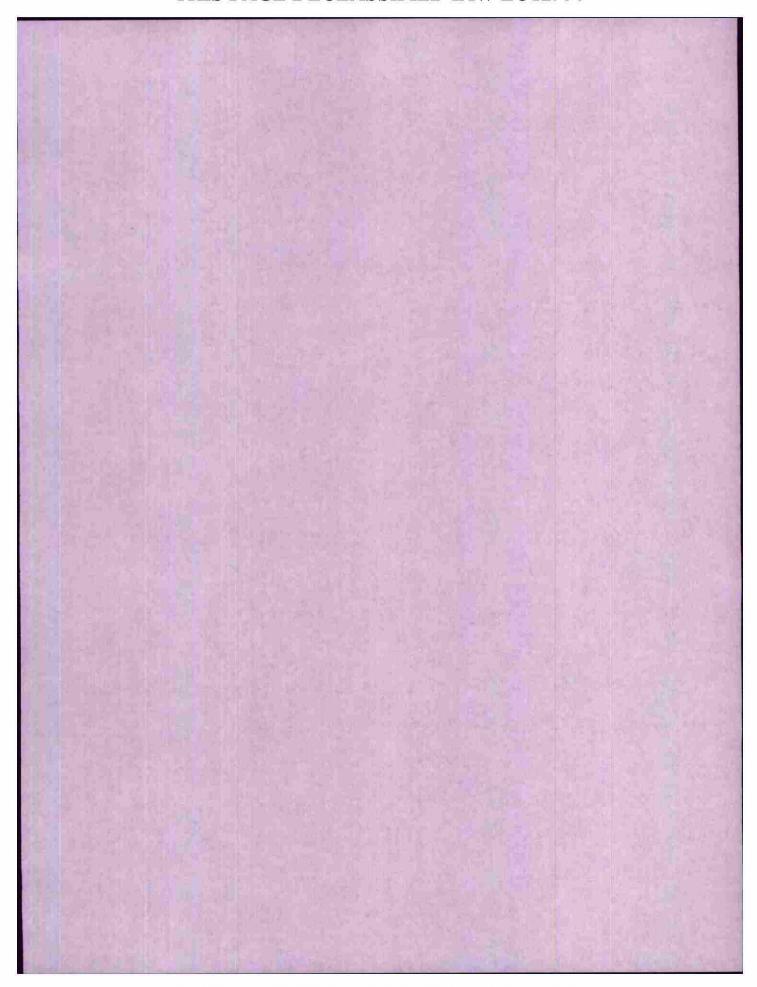
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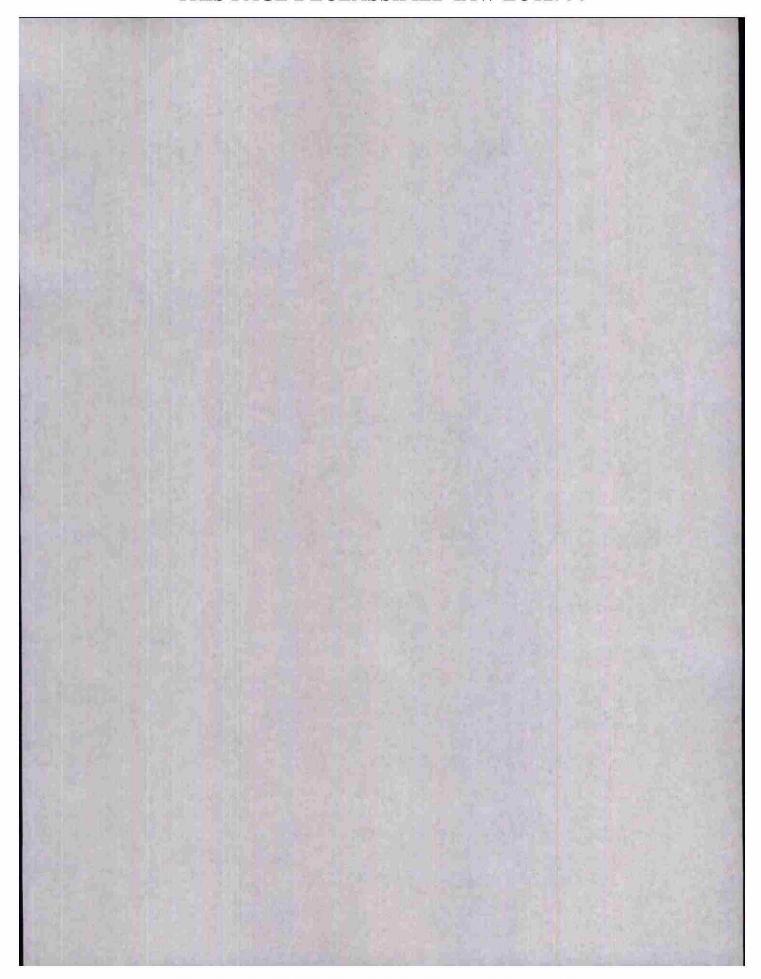
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Sast night was gol's Stunt night so of course me all went down. It was very attractive but rather too long as usual. They had six separate little stanto and took a long time to get ready between acts. Isabelle was quite a star and certainly did look gretly. Charlotte has Elizabeth Malloy visiting her now. She seems to be a very sweet god and wen't she truy! I wish I were but hot not quite that little. Well, tomorrow is the day for Jeanette archeris party for Helen Dait. It is to be a shower so I think sile just take some of my pretty handterchiefs to her as I have lots and had rather do that than huy something. Honey, what will we do



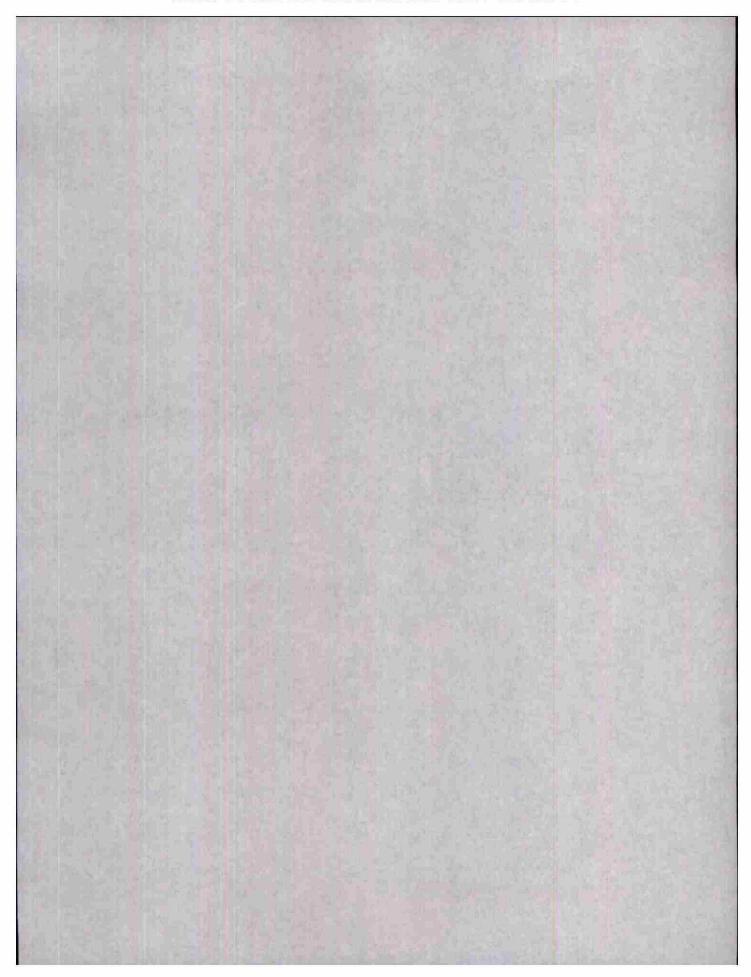
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about our flowers. I hear from	hear.
me note find arrangements	do what I can and let you
" whenever he the morning early	only the effect is noticed. See
0 , 0 7	really work matter much the is
Barling, I think I've try to go	40. 30 mm
to so thank sell sent her one.	tave no actored in achterios. 27
and was the same and the	have to use sladinkas as they
need of the true to best	
a depleate that he mouther!	protably tealer. I guess ne el
In hy then we might sent her	probably be siger and the flowers
that of ourse should begun to come	I think size do it as it would that if ours should begin to come
will just each sent her one	come to any agreement in definite
of course we can out protobly	a brides bouguet; but if I sean
very good quees on astro and for a medding present for Welen:	nery good priese on askro and
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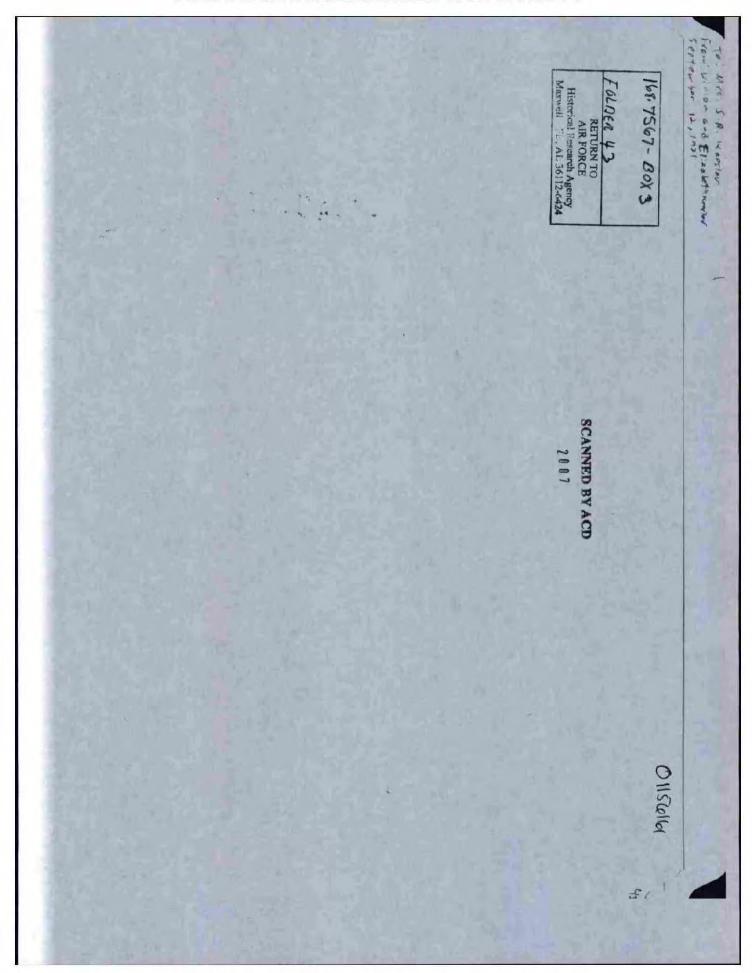


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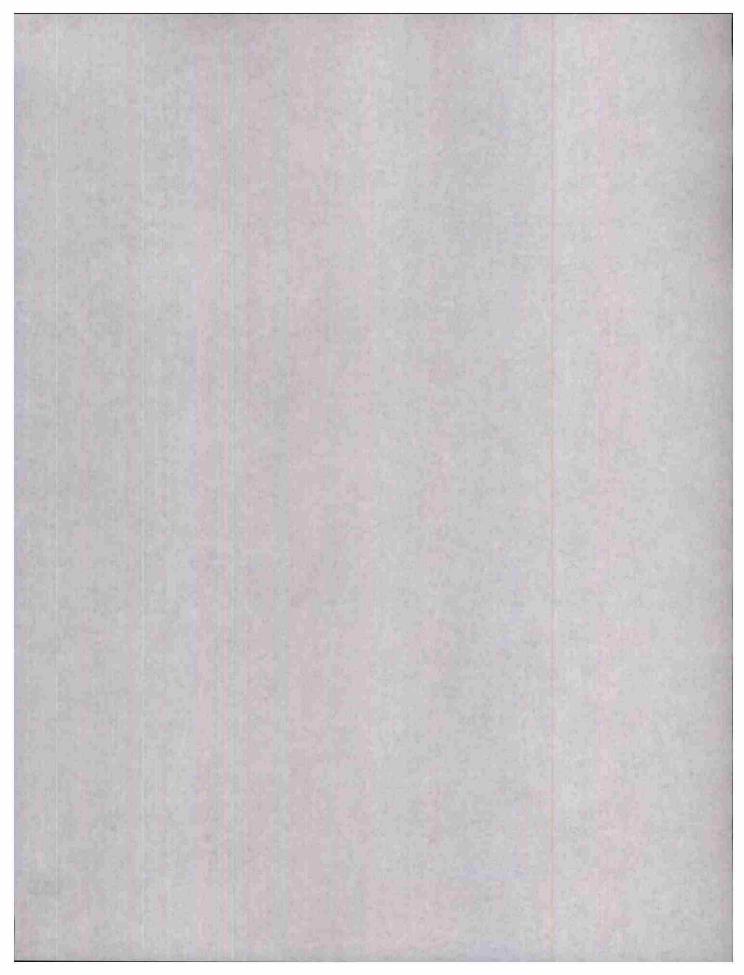
I haven't heard from doming recently, but her aunt in Scottsville was sick and Irmmy had some to look after her when Junet left RA. I do hope that she can come the Sadie magice will have to leave about Sept. 1st as her school starts then, so she can't be here for the medding. Smeetheart, I really court believe that our time is drawing so near it just doesn't seem possible Del be so happy when you get here and two weeks from Johan you'll be here. Oh joyful thought! I must write a note to miss Shields now and Hank her for the candle stick and tea pot - just take care of yourself and Love Elizabeth



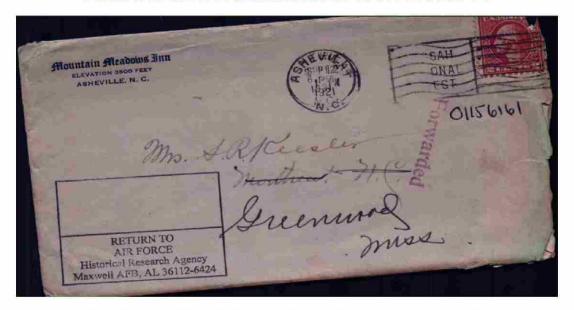
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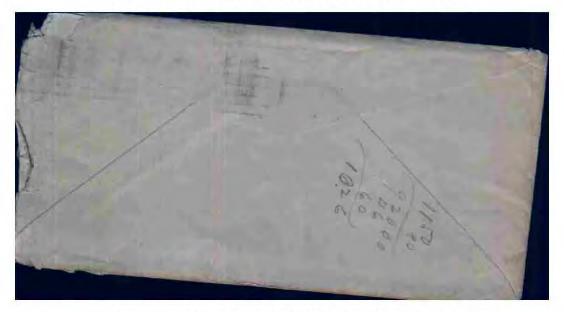
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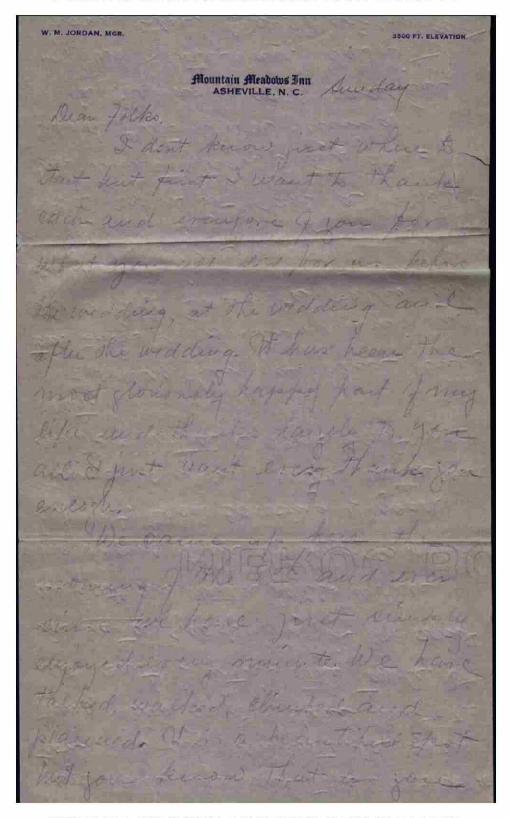
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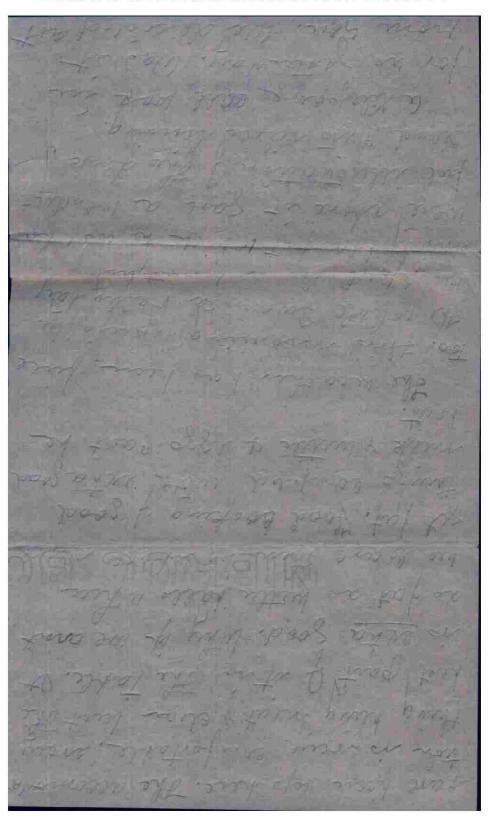


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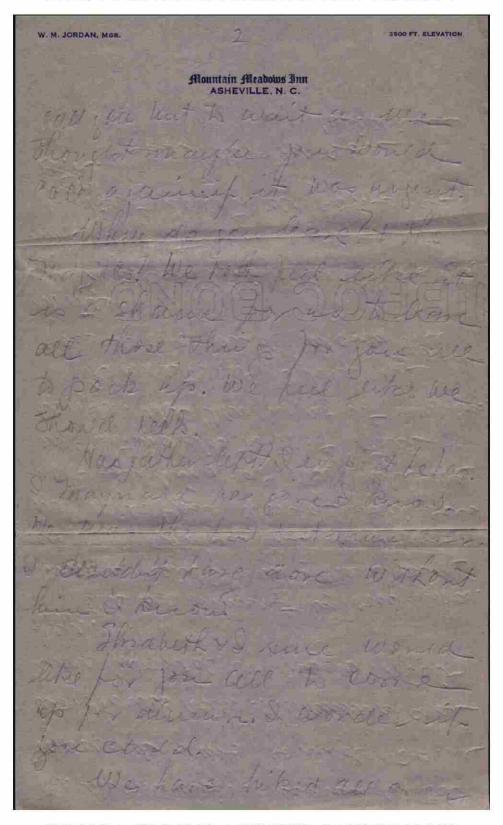


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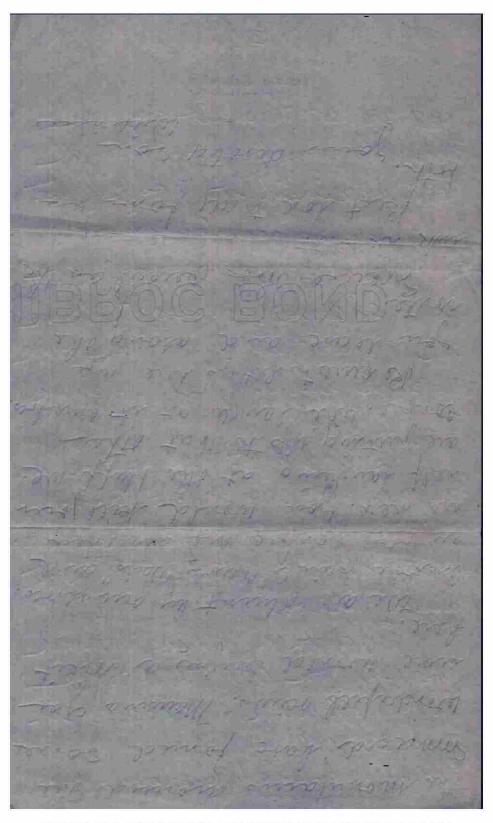


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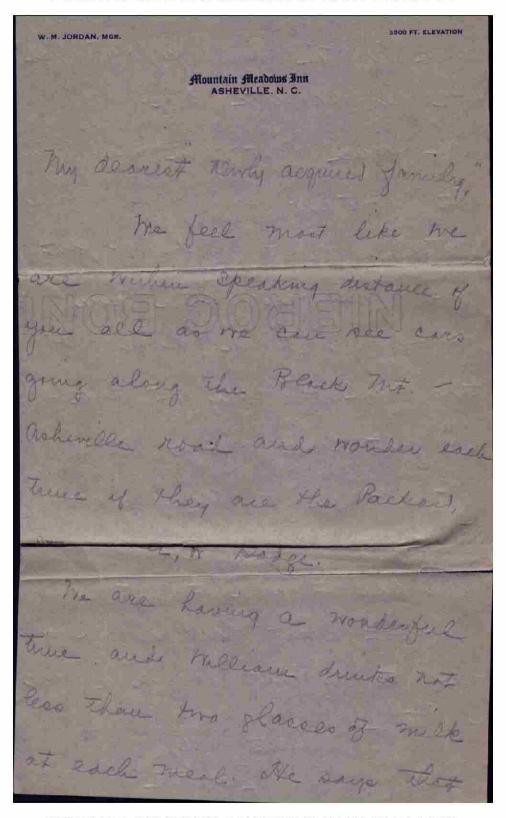


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ever autic would be satisfied with his appointe here. The figure that you way his left montreat and were phoning genterray to let us know, but will army the hours of the state of the second anymay, for it you have this will probably get love for I pust count thank all of you amough for house as worker a had to head you. I want start Hanking you for the gifts as that decerves a took to itself. Best love,

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