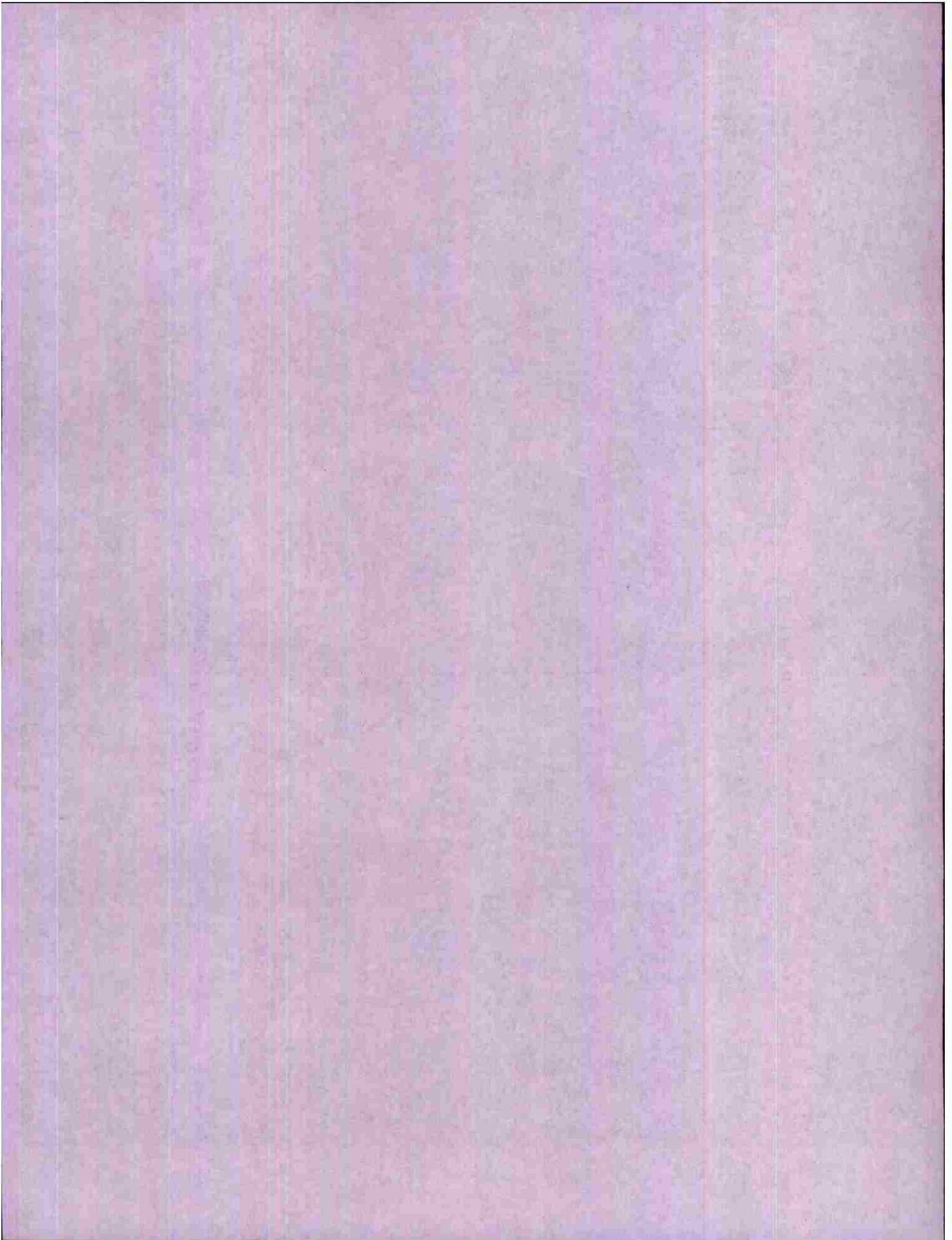


To: Gen. S.R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler  
Postmarked May 2, 1918

168-7567-Box 2  
Folien 29  
RETURN TO  
AIR FORCE  
Historical Research Div  
Hall AFB, AL 36

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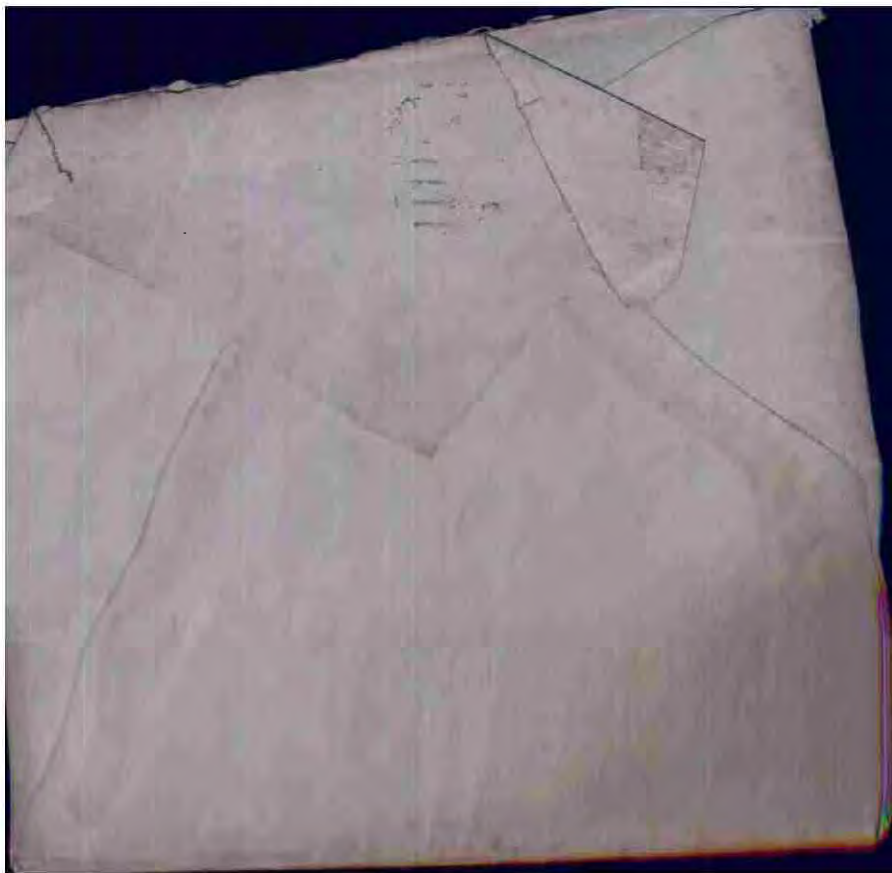


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We are in the middle of moving  
 most of our things. We hardly  
 know what to believe. You can  
 get most of it from the papers. From  
 all I can hear, this camp is to be  
 made an ordinary camp but I don't  
 know whether that means we are  
 going over or not. Some believe it  
 also as a few organizations have  
 gotten their orders to equip them  
 selves for overseas service. We  
 have received no such orders.  
 But don't be surprised to receive  
 a telegram from me at any time  
 now telling you that the order  
 has come. I hope I can see you  
 all before I go. Good night or night

Dear Father,

316th FA,  
 Sunday

Yesterday I got a big letter from  
 Elizabeth telling me of your letter to her.  
 She sure did appreciate it father, so she  
 to take a few lines from you in  
 letter writing from what she said about  
 it. I believe she had been a little afraid  
 of you before now she isn't. Any way  
 she sure did write me a wonderful  
 letter. You sure much have met  
 her. She wrote me saying from  
 the number of pictures she said she  
 had. I hope she likes them all.  
 She says you read me a couple of  
 Sam's picture is now right on the  
 wall over my bunk. It was one of  
 two of them away. Thanks you for them.

always get. I know for sure I'd get  
 for a few days here.  
 To-day a regiment "155th Motor" came  
 with camp a day from Camp Haverdick. They  
 came from the country in Green Trucks. A  
 complete regiment 2000 strong in a large number  
 of trucks. When we saw so many trucks  
 getting here. Deeped fire at night when we  
 the search light were turned on. They are  
 a national guard unit. More got the "pop"  
 tho. They may be the first winner of the  
 medals of this camp with no reward  
 of side I hope so.  
 This motor regiment however is sure  
 putting me behind a lot now. In the  
 only one who has passed everyone and  
 I have to do all the motor work while  
 the other study. I should worry only if I  
 were so far behind. We are coming right  
 along with the rest. Last day a new  
 set of men go thru the course and each  
 day new men tackle the mystery of the  
 calculator + magnets and they are learning  
 it too. That part is the pleasant. We  
 have an old saying which we are putting  
 back to get. The men have made holes  
 part and put it in good shape. We  
 hoping to run it soon.



a position to correspond to a position in the Retail. It was very interesting and in hoping we are to get more of it. I had thought that we were to give to-day but we didn't.

We have been getting more news in steady more since the 16th. See "Chautauks" from Chatta nooga came in the other day. In going to look him up to-morrow. See "is me" the young look who thought this was was a joke or some thing. He says it is against his religion to fight. I sure think he has a funny religion that all. The negroes have been coming in by the hundreds to-day. The morning

to-day we had another service, that is one reason why I think that we may be getting ready to go on. This makes the third service in two weeks. Our whole artillery brigade was before our camp & Gen. Bailey. We made a good impression too. I was put in charge of the motor section again. We came thru all OK. This time tho. Nothing got stuck and we had a good time. In fact we were made a good impression. Yesterday we went on a tactical run as they say. Gen. May's took the 2nd & 3rd Battalion officers out and we selected gun position & etc. Each man being assigned

When we kept away from morning  
 the night crew. Some times way into the  
 night, new things in different from that it  
 was at first. We don't get absolutely green  
 men now. Most of them here had some  
 experience in the Night Brigade, it is  
 a wonderful right to be here quickly  
 they whip the men men in shape. The  
 biggest job to give them small pay &  
 typical treatment.

Most clear now. Don't tell  
 your affectionate son  
 William



Postmarked May 2, 1918  
Columbia, S.C.  
To: Gen S.R. Keesler  
Greenwood, Miss

316th F.A.  
Tuesday

Dear Father,

Yesterday I got a big letter from Elizabeth telling me of your letter to her. She sure did appreciate it father. I'd like to take a few lessons from you in letter writing from what she said about it. I believe she had been a little afraid of you before now she isn't. Any way she sure did write me a wonderful letter. You sure much (sic) have sent her the whole rogue gallery from the number of pictures she said she had. I hope she likes them all.

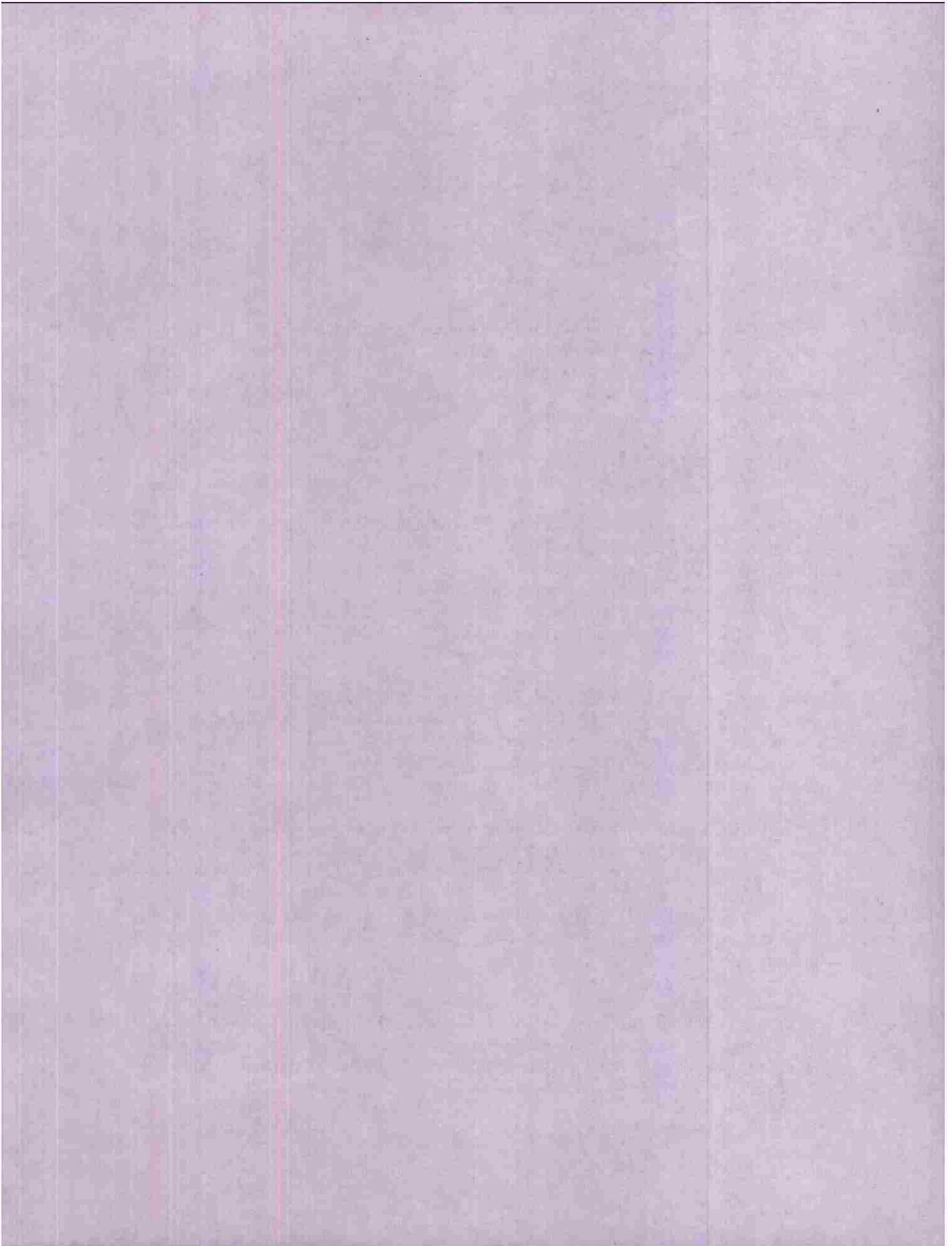
The ones you send me came O.K. Sams picture is now right on the wall over my bunk. I've sent one or two of them away. Thank you for them.

We are in the midst of rumors, rumors & rumors. One hardly knows what to believe. You can get most of it from the papers. From all I can hear, the camp is to be made an artillery camp but I don't know whether that means we are going over or not. Some believe it does as a few organizations have gotten their orders to equipe themselves for oversea service. We have received no such orders. But don't be surprised to receive a telegram from me at any time now telling you that the orders have come. I hope I can see you all before I go over but one can't always tell. If I knew for sure I'd ask for a few days leave.

To-day a regiment of "155mm Hows" came into camp a day from Camp Hancock. They came thru the country in Quads Trucks. A complete regiment 2000 strong in a large number of trucks. I never saw so many Quads together before. Looked fine at night when all the search lights were turned on. They are a national guard outfit. Have got the "pep" tho. They may be the forerunner of the making of this camp into a second Ft Sill. I hope so.

This motor school business is sure putting me behind alot now. I'm the only one who has passed every work and I have to do all the motor work while the others study. I should worry only it puts me so far behind. We are coming right along with the school. Each day a new lot of men go thru the courses and each day new men tackle the mysteries of the carburetor & magneto and they are learning it too. That part is the pleasing part. We have an old engine which we are putting back together. The men have made broken parts and put it in good shape. We hoping to run it soon.

To-day we had another review. That is one reason why I think that we may be getting ready to go over. This makes the third review in two weeks. Our whole artillery brigade was before our colonel & Gen. Bailey. We made a good impression too. I was put in charge of the motor section again. We came thru all O.K. this time tho. Nothing got stuck and we had a good time. I'm pretty sure we made a good impression.



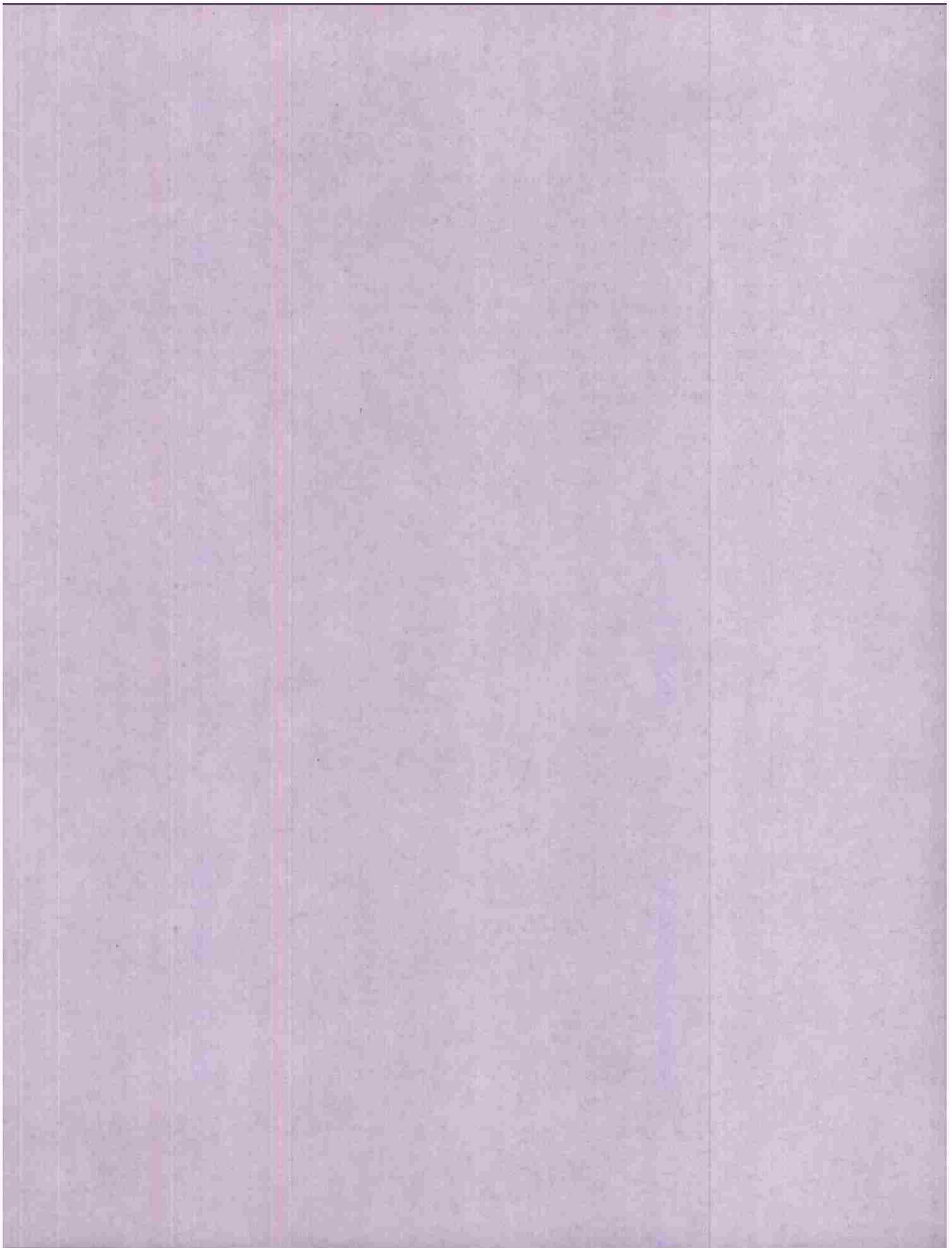
Yesterday we went on a tactical ride as they say. Our Major took the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion officers out and we selected gun positions & etc. Each man being assigned a position & correspond to a position in the Detail. It was very interesting and I'm hoping we are to get more of it. I had thought that we were to fire to-day but we didn't.

We have been getting new men in steadily now since the 26th. "Joe Chambliss" from Chattanooga came in the other day. I'm going to look him up tomorrow. "Joe" is one of the young fools who thought this war was a joke or something. He says it is against his religion to fight. I sure think he had a funny religion that all. The negroes have been coming in by the hundreds to-day. The mustering officers are kept busy from morning till night now. Sometimes way into the night. Everything is different from what it was at first. We don't get absolutely green men now. Most of them have had some experience in the Depot Brigade. It is a wonderful sight to see how quickly they whip the new men in shape. The biggest job is to give them small-pox & typhoid treatment.

Must close now. Love to all.

Your affectionate son  
William





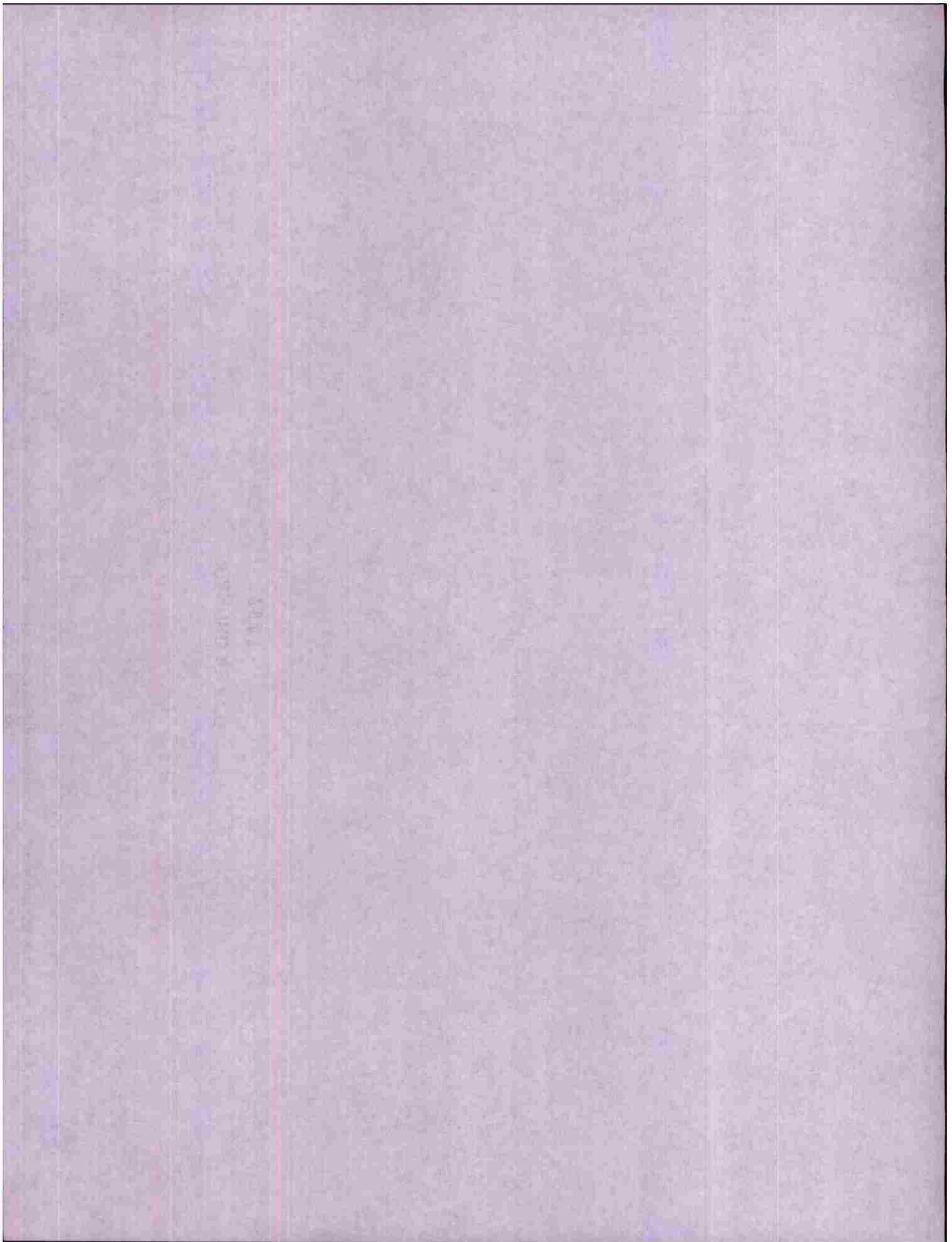


To: Mr. T.  
From: Sam Keiser  
Date: 30 10 18

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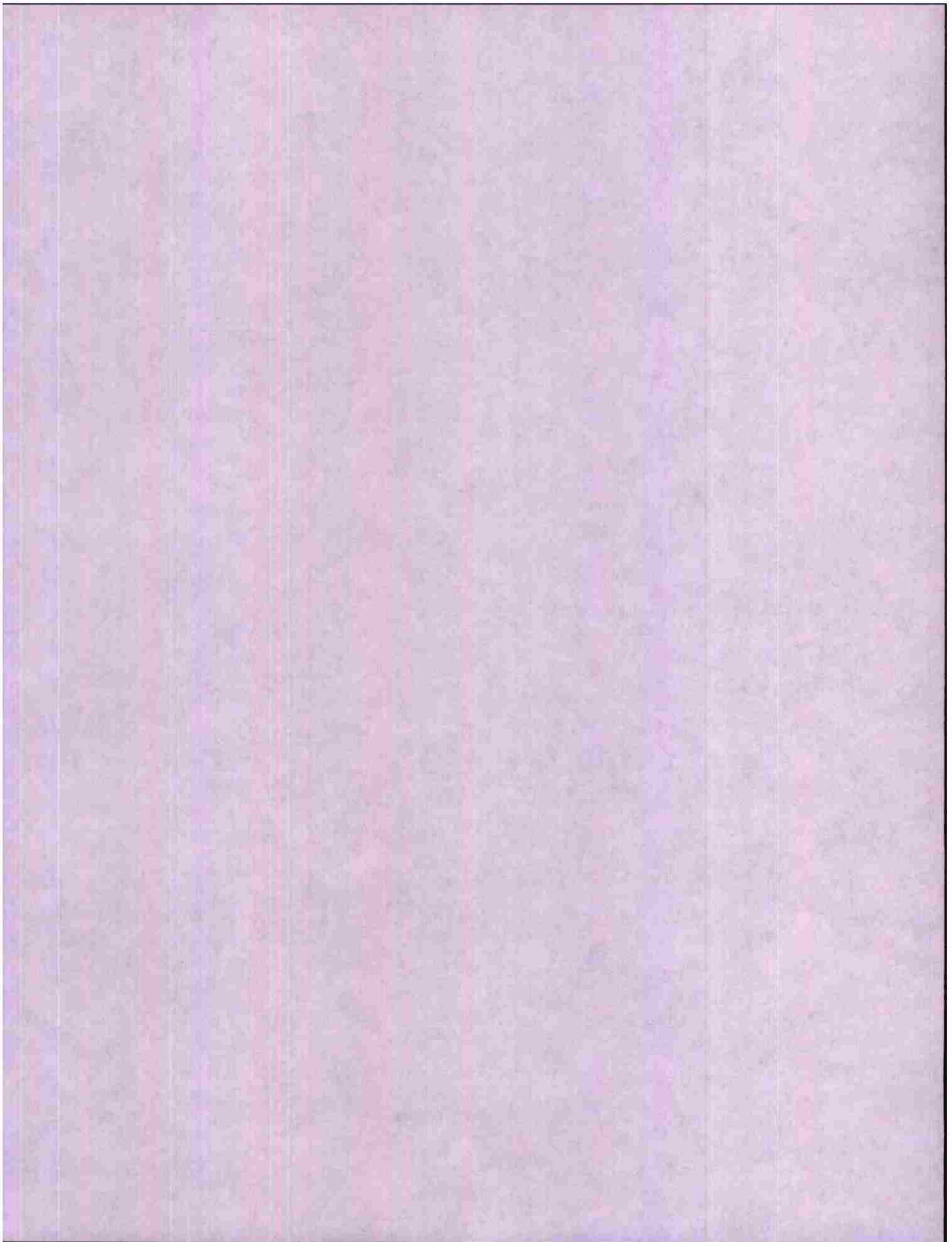
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Don't it wonderful to have such  
wonderful free? William has written  
 letters and written enclosed one of  
 his with yours in his last letter. "There  
 has written once - also I have received  
 a dearly Communist which leaves  
 my homels letter much out of  
 place over here. "The Communist is  
 at the University of Chicago. I have  
 gotten some letters from "Chief" Mullen  
 and receive from Edw. Keeler. Both  
 are over here. The former is waiting for  
 his Commission as a Justice in the Union  
 and the latter is a Justice in the United States.

Dear Auntie,

2<sup>nd</sup> Utility Ave. Observation Station

A.P.O. 705-17, E.F. France

May 3, 1918

It's about time I write you  
 and it's also I wrote the last letter  
 you have answered it according  
 to your letter to written which she  
 sent me. You wrote me at N.Y.  
 so I presume the letter is show-  
 ing me around France now. I re-  
 ceive it before long. I have  
 I receive the letter from mother  
 already and I from Francis also.

I know where they are of course as we  
 as a number of other friends. Street lighting  
 is here with me. I shall see Ed. Kline  
 in town ( ? ) Saturday.  
 From your letter to mother you must  
 be extremely busy with the law books etc.  
 you are right about being busier when  
 you are busy. I have always found it  
 so -  
 This is a more active camp near  
 a large military school - in fact we are  
 a part of the latter. The principal part  
 of our training is learning how to be  
 just for the artillery and of course  
 we work with them. I have acquired  
 five for a battery of 75. and got them with  
 it very much. I am in the air for 2 hrs 20  
 minutes - the longest I've ever been in the  
 air at one time. There are only 16 students  
 here now - a number of them. Capt. Smith &  
 these other officers - as we have a number



We leave this school the  
 latter part of May and go to a  
 machine gun school then towards  
 the front. We be there about  
 the latter part of July I presume.

I saw the troops marching  
 away after a decoration. which  
 was held in the city last  
 Saturday. Some American troops  
 took part in the ceremony and  
 one of our tanks helped things  
 along. I didn't know in time

there were. We have a new friend front.  
 for our destruction. our old destruction  
 is coming to the state, so our destruction

this part of France is very beautiful  
 now. all the trees & grass etc are green.  
 flowers are in bloom and the sun  
 shines. when I first got over here  
 the sun didn't shine much.  
 but now it does.

The food over to here is very  
 good. We gettin better food  
 over here than in the states during  
 it all together. but I presume  
 I miss the home cooking."

To me the entire situation  
 I wonder why they gave me such a lot  
 of articles to bring over here with me - for  
 the always found that anything we made  
 caused the Japanese - about some time  
 as at home - means the first things  
 very difficult.  
 One of the great things - just returned from  
 town with the little things. They are  
 all over here and to our happiness  
 are over. On the evening after supper we  
 usually they have been or take a walk - it is  
 quite pleasant walking in the late evening  
 over here - all of the roads are pretty, when  
 we are over the four houses are  
 very neat & picturesque.  
 I hope you will get to meet  
 the summer with mother & the children  
 late of home - your off. mother.

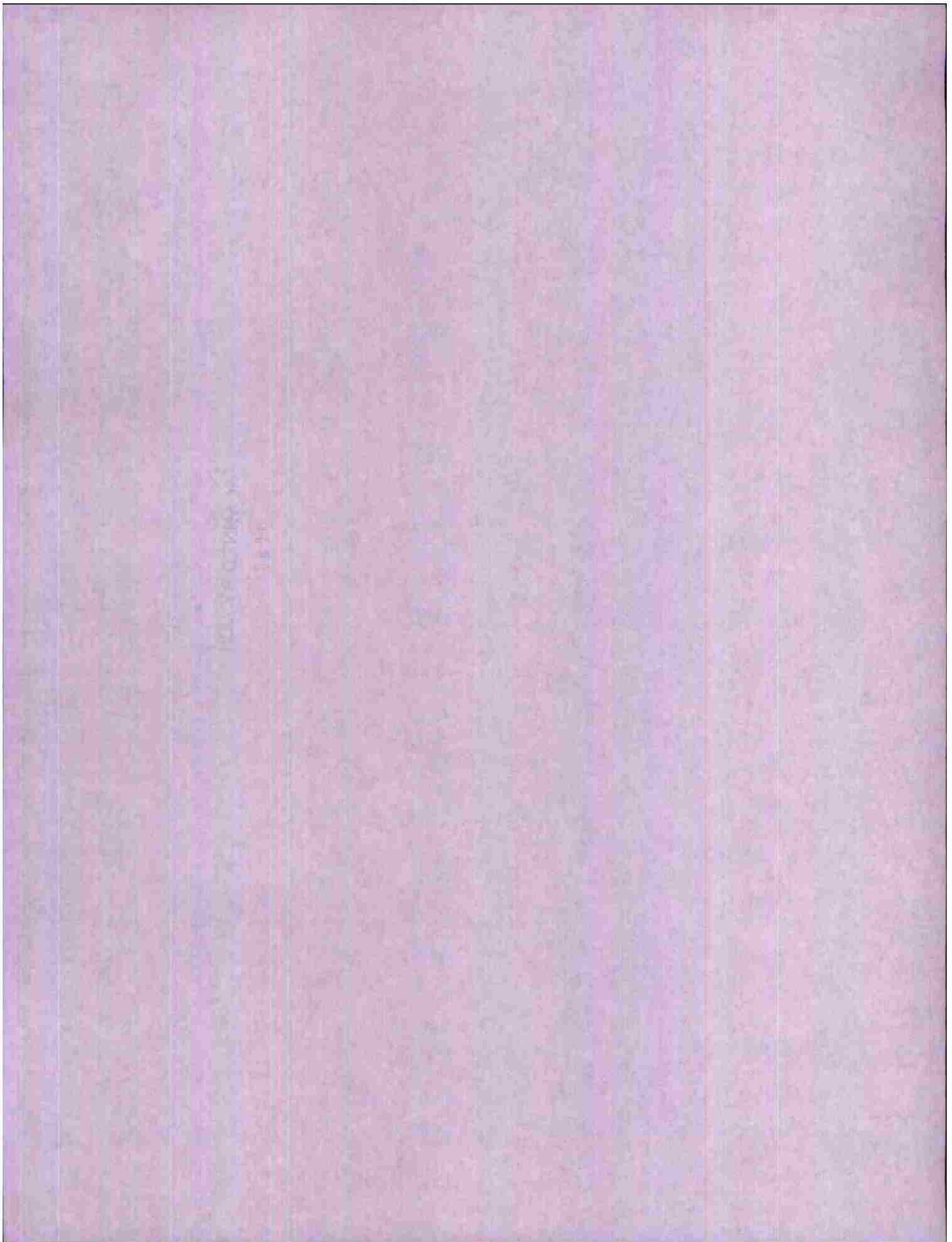
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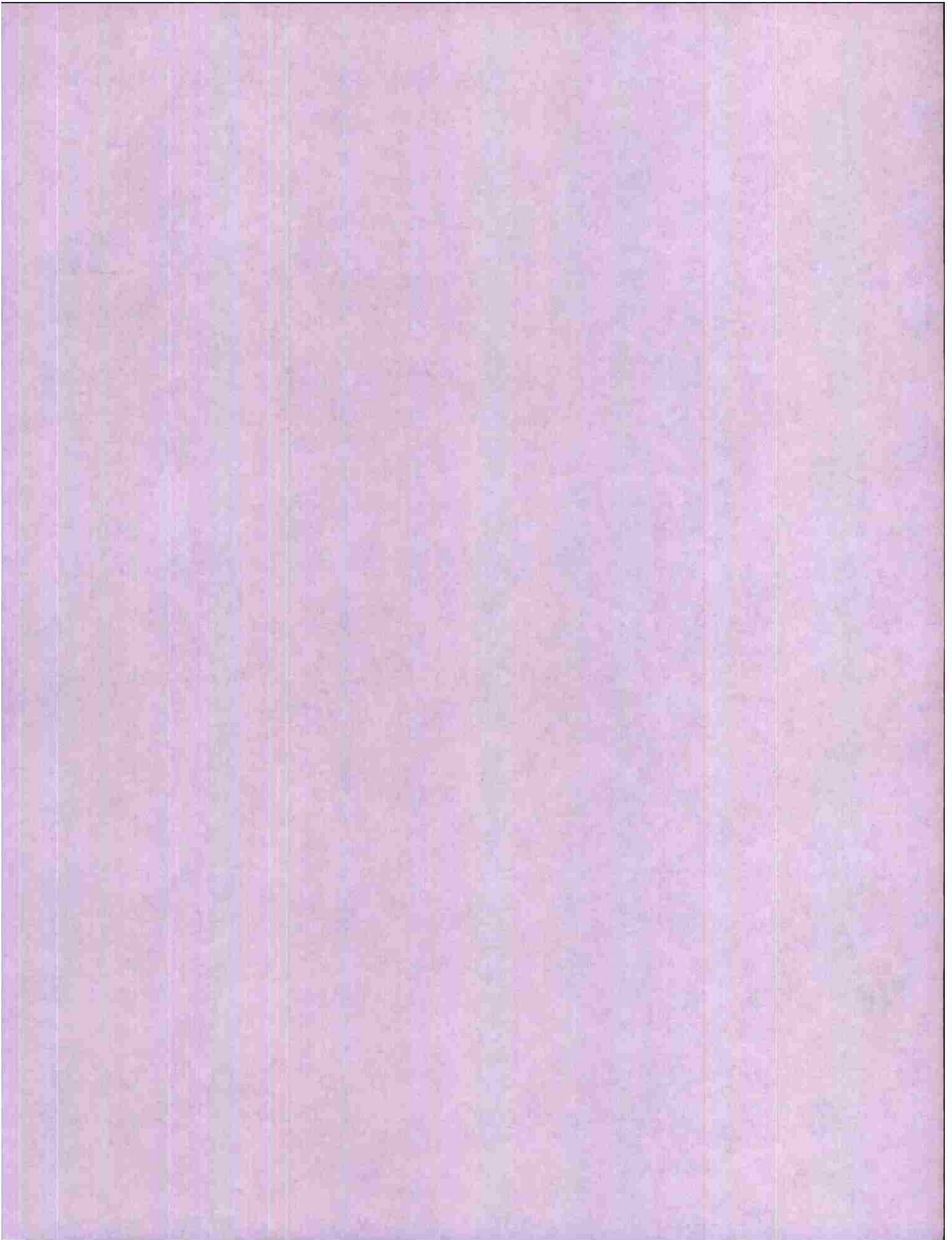


168-7567 Box 2

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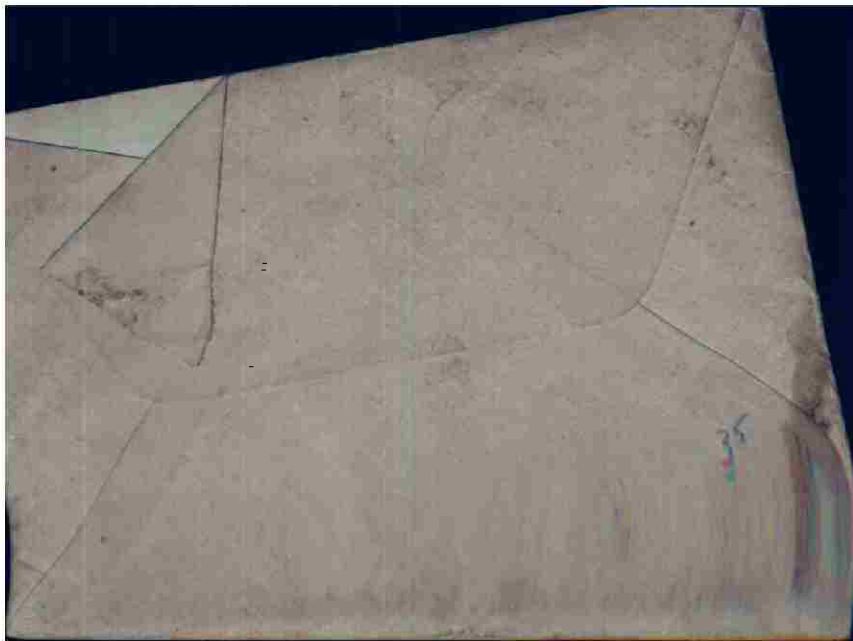


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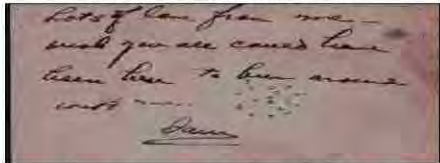
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2nd Artillery Berial Observation School,  
 APO 705, AEF FRANCE,  
 May 6th, 1918.

Dearest Mother,

I wanted have written you yesterday but was in the city - started & I went in Saturday evening as usual with the other officers after seeing about our pay checks - a very important matter - we went up to our "agreed" apartment and met Edward Kessler. He is stationed very close to us in this city - so we ~~met~~ arranged a meeting after getting something to drink - I am going to the days fact init - we worked around and looked at the state windows etc. I was trying to find

nothing to say for Charles' handwriting present. But I don't know what to get. I guess when I do say something and she gets it - she will have been glad. I'm sure it will make no difference to her. We're going back to Edw. - he is looking splendid. I never saw him look any better. I sure was glad to see him. He is an instructor in an Artillery School near here - but there is no one to instruct just at present as he has been having a fair time - we ate supper together. Then went to see Elsie Jones at the YMCA and



she was just as clever as a mouse. There was a large audience to see her. Edw. had to go back to camp after the show, but Stuart and I spent the night in town.

Sunday - yesterday Stuart & I went out to Base Hospital No. 6 and saw the Charlotte Unit. I saw about 20 boys - friends of mine - either Davidson, Carolina or Charlotte boys. also saw some Trained Nurses from C. & some Dr. I was sure was fine to see them - I wanted name them over but you wouldn't know them - you do know "Kit" Young and you have heard of John Dunham (Frank's cousin) I saw them. We went out to the Hospital on a street car and got a ride back in a Ford with some sailors.

To-day has been cloudy and a little chilly. we did no flying - all our work was indoors. we are learning a little each day. we had some work with photographs last week. that is drawing a picture of them at a smaller scale & interpreting them etc.

I have received two letters from you last week & one from Charlotte. William's letter & Auntie's were enjoyed. Also another "Daily Commonwealth" has showed up - lending much comfort to this Soldier.

we have to have these tickets now  
at some of the restaurants in  
the law went into effect it not long  
ago.

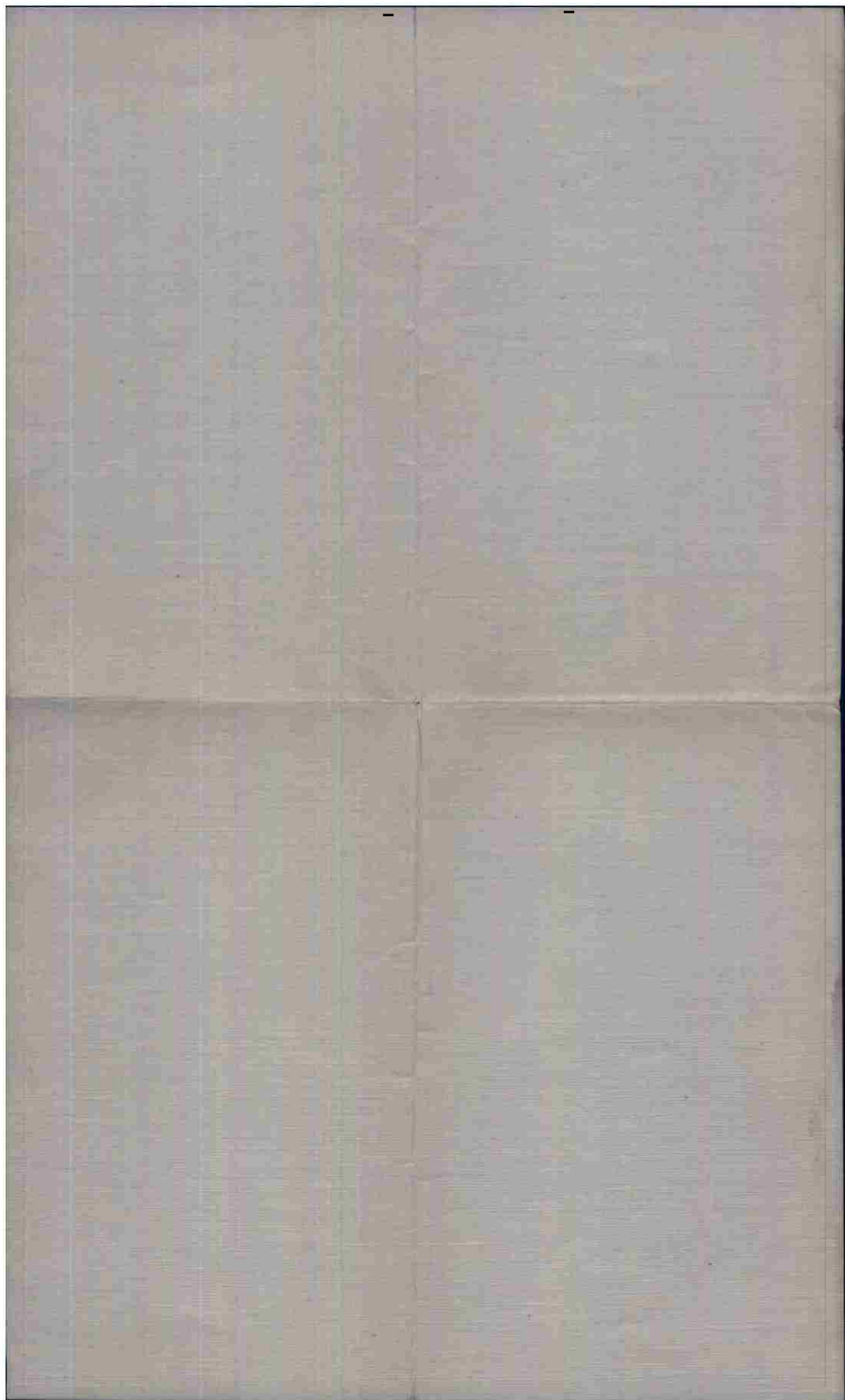
If you want any lunch here  
let me know & I'll buy you some -  
also ask Charlotte what she wants  
to have.

I am just well, as usual -  
I am very glad to say and am  
glad as any in the class - if I may  
say so - which is some encourage-  
ment.

The lights go out in a few minutes  
as goodnight. Love to you all -  
sincerely your son,  
George

was glad to get the Kasak pictures for  
Charlotte. Do send over any Kasak  
pictures of any of you too - for I do enjoy  
getting them. Also your night and  
me a picture. I want one of myself if  
you have any to spare - just for fun -  
when are you & father going to have  
your picture taken? "Do it now"  
and send me some. I think this is  
just to me all right. I see have my  
pictures there over here and send  
to you. you must see my "Dear Brown  
Dad".

The Belgian Police puppis which we  
have are growing rapidly and are  
furnishing much amusement - I am  
going to buy one when I get located  
somewhere permanently.





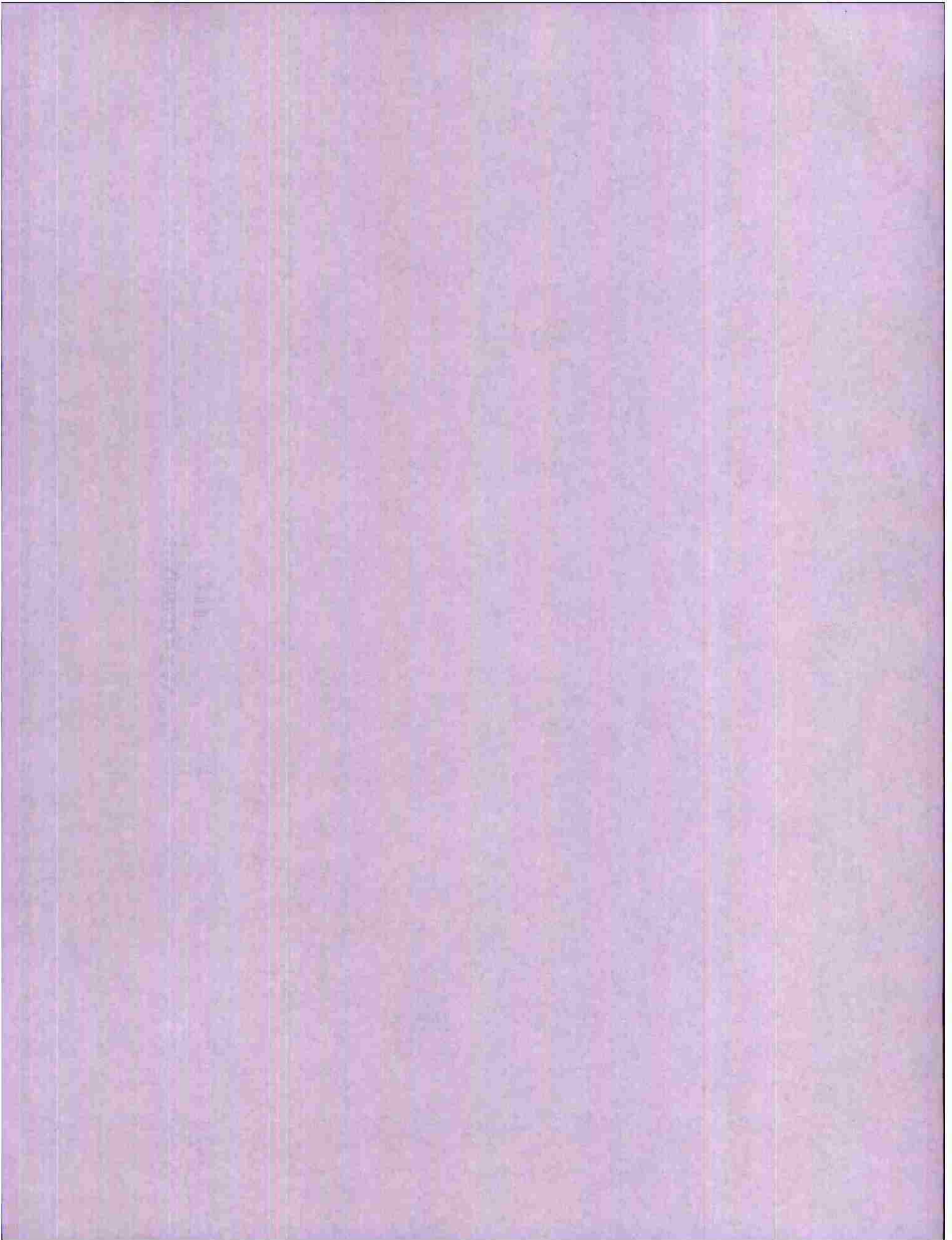
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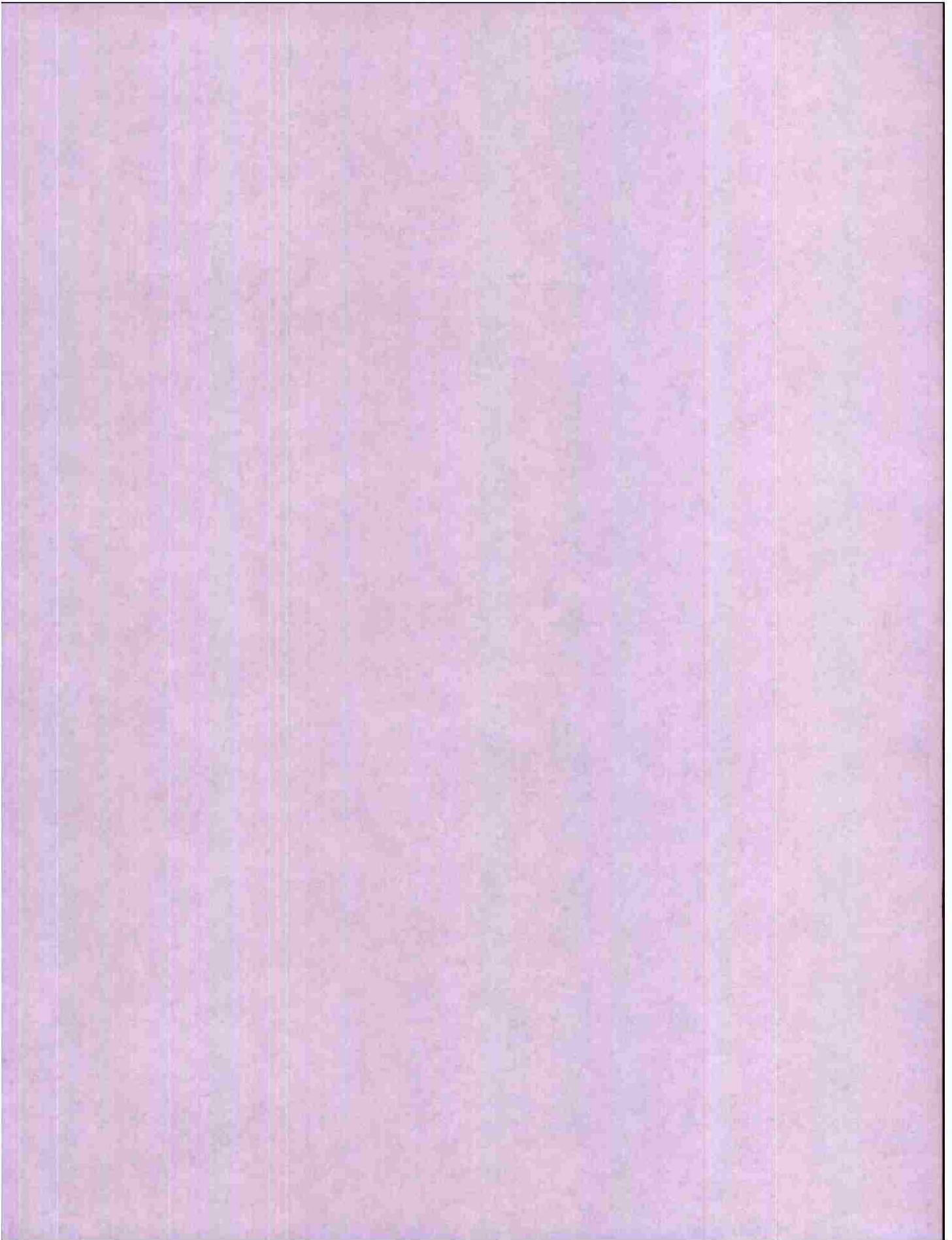


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a "Daily Commonwealth" or have no France, but is terribly fine. See the same - (as our French instructor would say). I have received two before so far. The infantry journal came some days ago too.

You asked me how I liked my place of abode. Frankly, it's a "joke". I am enjoying very much it. If you see, this is a much better place (I think it's before in one of my former letters) in connection with an interesting school. I say much more and that is one reason why I like it so much - we are off here by another

dear Charlotte,

2nd Artillery Service Observation School  
17.30. 1705. 1745 France -  
May 8, 1918.

Your "letter in French" was enjoyed very much indeed - and I hope you will write me quite often. I was glad to get the 1500 pictures also - so that again too. Really you have no idea what a blessing "mail" is - unless you are so terribly far from home etc. You will know something about it when you go off to camp next fall. Spending of mail etc. it was some very funny to see

at West, with me one to tell me - Over  
 Captain is #1 in every respect - we are  
 like a big family - that is the officer - Our  
 new French Lieutenant Ductinche is very good  
 and we are learning something interesting  
 over the way when we have to learn  
 live in a way. We have good food and  
 a good time - enough make but not too  
 much - we are near a large city and  
 can go in town every Saturday - and we  
 get plenty of sleep - so you are the  
 fine - in every way it but in getting  
 for anything  
 for the first 3 days we have had  
 with pleasure - there no flying  
 as soon as we can fly we go high  
 to take some pictures & haven't time  
 that yet. we discuss the situation of  
 the state comes today - quite simple  
 anything can take pictures as the Frenchman  
 says after 30 minutes machine  
 brought - must go to bed.



You should see those the girls  
 near on their shore. They are  
 near wide - it seems to be  
 into the sky. I have heard  
 that many women who exist  
 find very near that etc. to visit  
 them since go over to the museum -  
 my counter and buy a hat  
 and see - I don't doubt this  
 at all. Some of the women  
 last night pretty in morning  
 we have been given some  
 were most to do next - Reducing a  
 photo to make some and showing

morning of 9/15.  
 It is cloudy this morning so I guess  
 the men are no flying - we can't see  
 the ground when it is cloudy that is  
 when we fly at a high altitude - and  
 there we see learning how - as to fly  
 low - because you don't fly as low  
 as the front - except in working with  
 infantry in attack.  
 If you were over here I believe  
 you would have a flying tank - for  
 the majority of the girls are Communist  
 and not are of them. We have some  
 very pretty girls too - and I was over  
 here two weeks before I was away.

it's a paper - also taking a picture of the place  
 and exchanging it on report in the future.  
 I met a man a doctorman then I moved  
 I got my day about as right in my last  
 letter home I mentioned the fact that another  
 at the gate it is by mistake.  
 I guess you've got this letter about  
 the time you're graduate - I wish you were the  
 best teacher, composition etc. - I'm yours  
 ago I was doing the same thing - why did  
 getting away. I want to send you a  
 present but haven't found anything I  
 want to get - when I do I'll send it  
 so you have something to live for. I'll  
 send you a French cap to wear around - it  
 will look nice with that on one side of your  
 head - the yellow hair with "ingraying" of it  
 won't so hard to get things home I guess  
 since you are some economists etc -  
 I'm got to go to work - as the good and  
 write to me now often - the ~~the~~ other matter  
 to do the same. I'll let you see  
 your off. brother  
 [Signature]

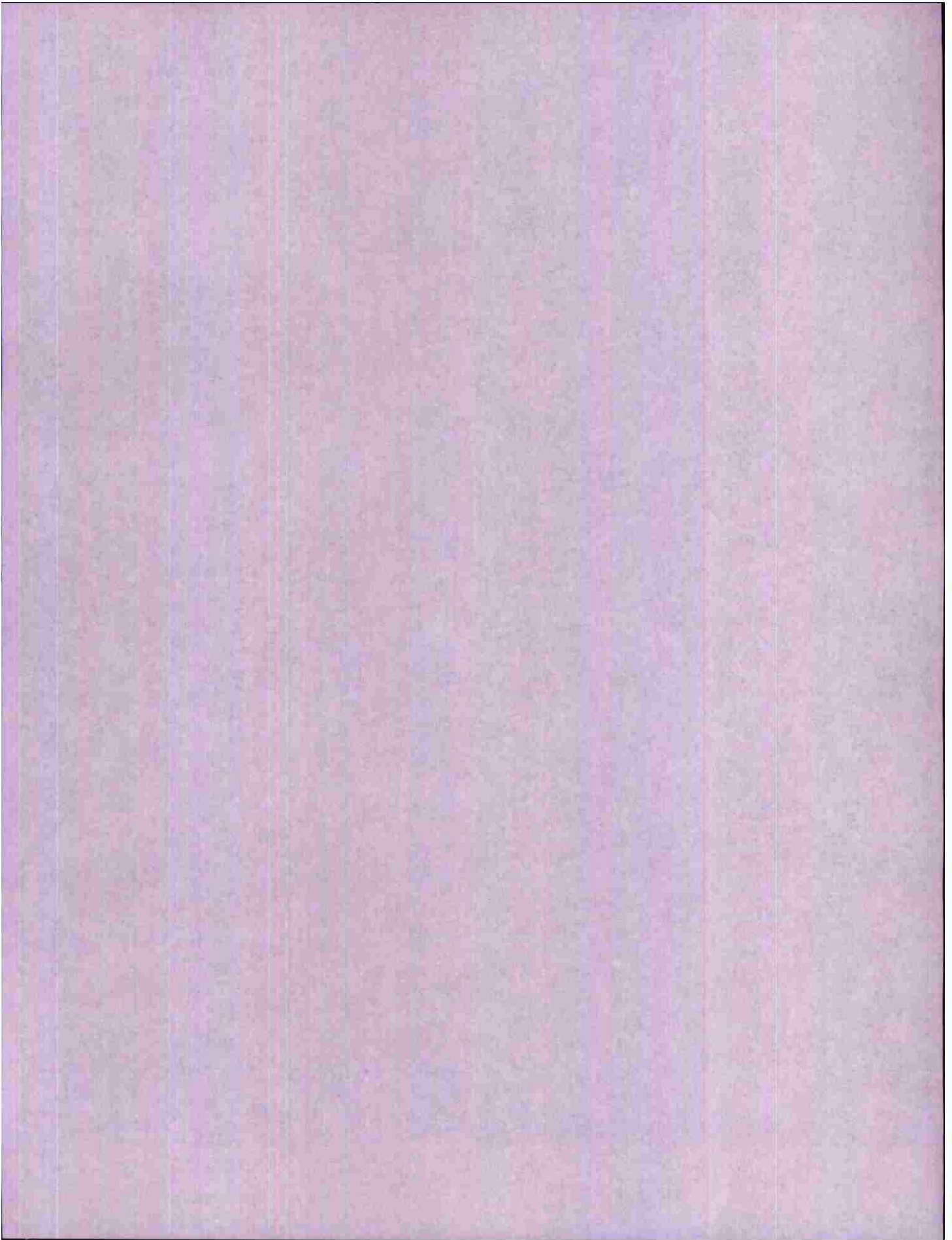
To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler  
From: Samuel Keesler  
Postmarked May 14, 1918

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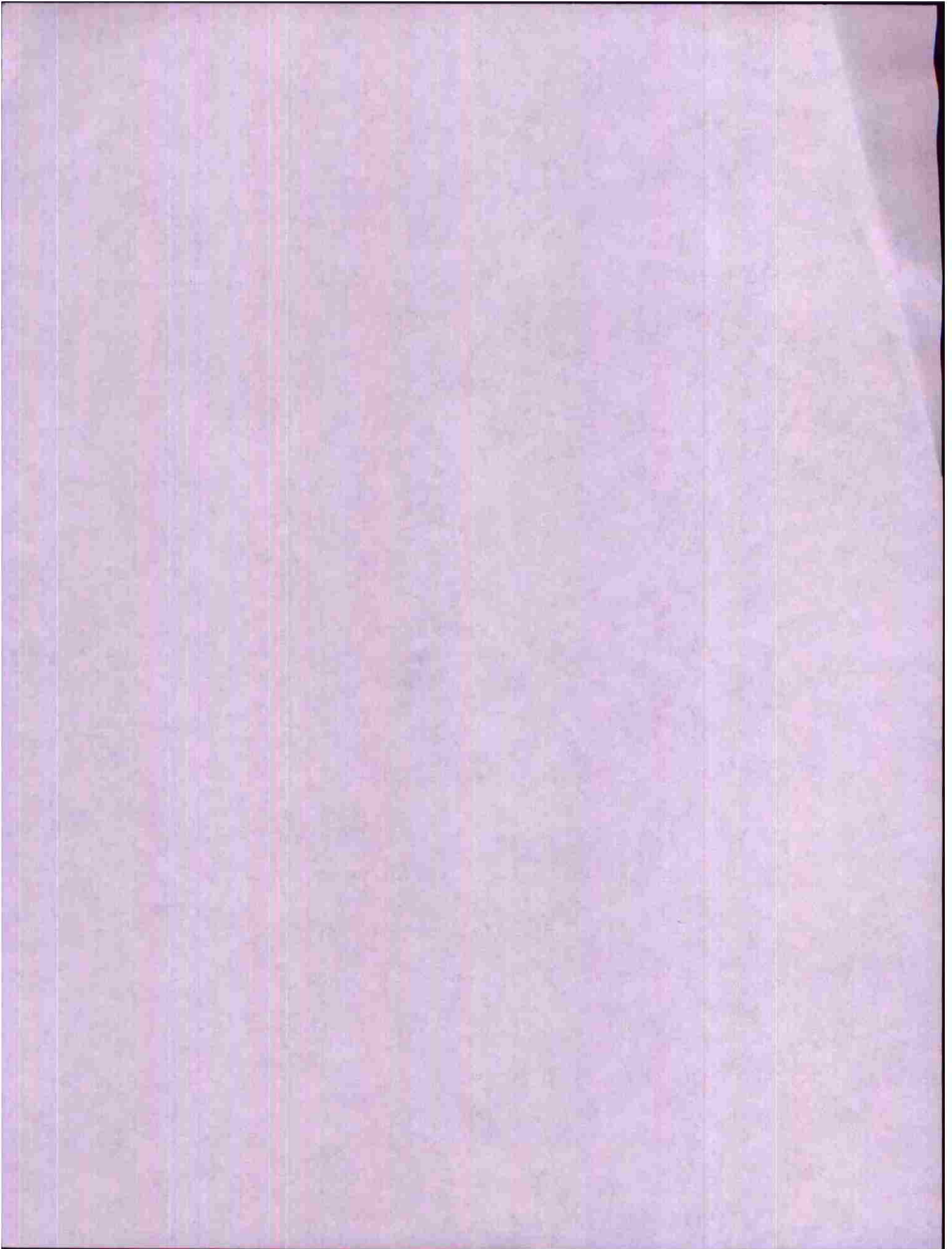


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every - all more more "mother" etc.  
in Texas as a good letter - I saw  
you know this too.

Practically today with Sunday but Sat.  
but I am doing it the 13th. and writing  
it now to put it in the post office on  
the 12th.

all that we have to receive  
the same quality and quantity. how-  
ever we have proposed considerably  
in our instruction - that is in our  
work - especially artistic adjustment - our  
own instruction is very good indeed.  
we have been practicing singing and  
reciting the new song and are  
getting pretty good - I personally had

2<sup>nd</sup> valley down observation above  
12:30 P.M. 7:45 Sunday 12:45 -  
"another valley"

Beant mættin,

I am thinking about you  
especially today - with I think about how  
often at other times the Best I know today  
is a year round. I never would have  
it as home for a visit just today  
if no more. I am thinking left

might as I lay on my cot, what a wonderful  
mother - our father to - I had and I thought  
God for them - or for joining me to them - with  
me too. On God now I cannot leave  
a better mother a father - want you  
please I think so -  
the piece is meeting a big day  
out & mother's day - as near as the

EXAMINED  
by  
No. 14

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 14th

very dear mother

you are - and most sincerely to

thank you for the time with love to

and the children -

must go to dinner - so this letter

we are leaving a few more this way.

the good - the good - the good -

of love to go on and try to look to those

as ago and get things fixed up - at the

for supper tomorrow - we must see a day

your letter, we are going on to a little village

and going to stay in camp tomorrow. We

come sleeping - it is some back at 11:30 PM.

Can you to turn the dinner and do

more as sending also - that is something.

got to the first we are receiving also.

Postmarked May 14, 1918  
U.S. Army Postal Service  
From: Sam'l R. Keesler  
2nd Lt A.S.S.R.C.  
A.P.O. 705 A.E.F.  
"Mother's letter"  
To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler  
401 Waltham St.  
Greenwood, Mississippi, U.S.A.

2nd Artillery Aerial Observation School  
A.P.O. 705 A.E.F. Sunday 12th  
"Mother's Day"

Dearest Mother,

I am thinking about you especially today – although I think about you real often at other times too. But of course to-day is all your own. I sure would love to be home for a visit just to-day if no more. I was thinking last night as I lay on my cot, what a wonderful mother – and father too – I had and I thanked God for them – or for giving me to them – either will do. I'm quite sure I couldn't have a better mother or father – aren't you glad I think so?

The Y.M.C.A. is making a big day out of mother's day – as well as the army – all mail marked "mother's letters" is treated as a special letter – of course you know this tho.

Really to-day isn't Sunday but Sat. but I am dating it the 12th and writing it now to get it in the post office on the 12th.

All week we have had rain and clouds consequently no flying, however we have progressed considerably in our instruction – that is [redacted] work – especially artillery adjustment – our new instructor is very good indeed. We have been practicing buzzing and receiving this week some and are getting pretty good – I personally had gotten rusty in receiving. You know when we get to the front we use receiving sets as well as sending sets – that is sometimes.

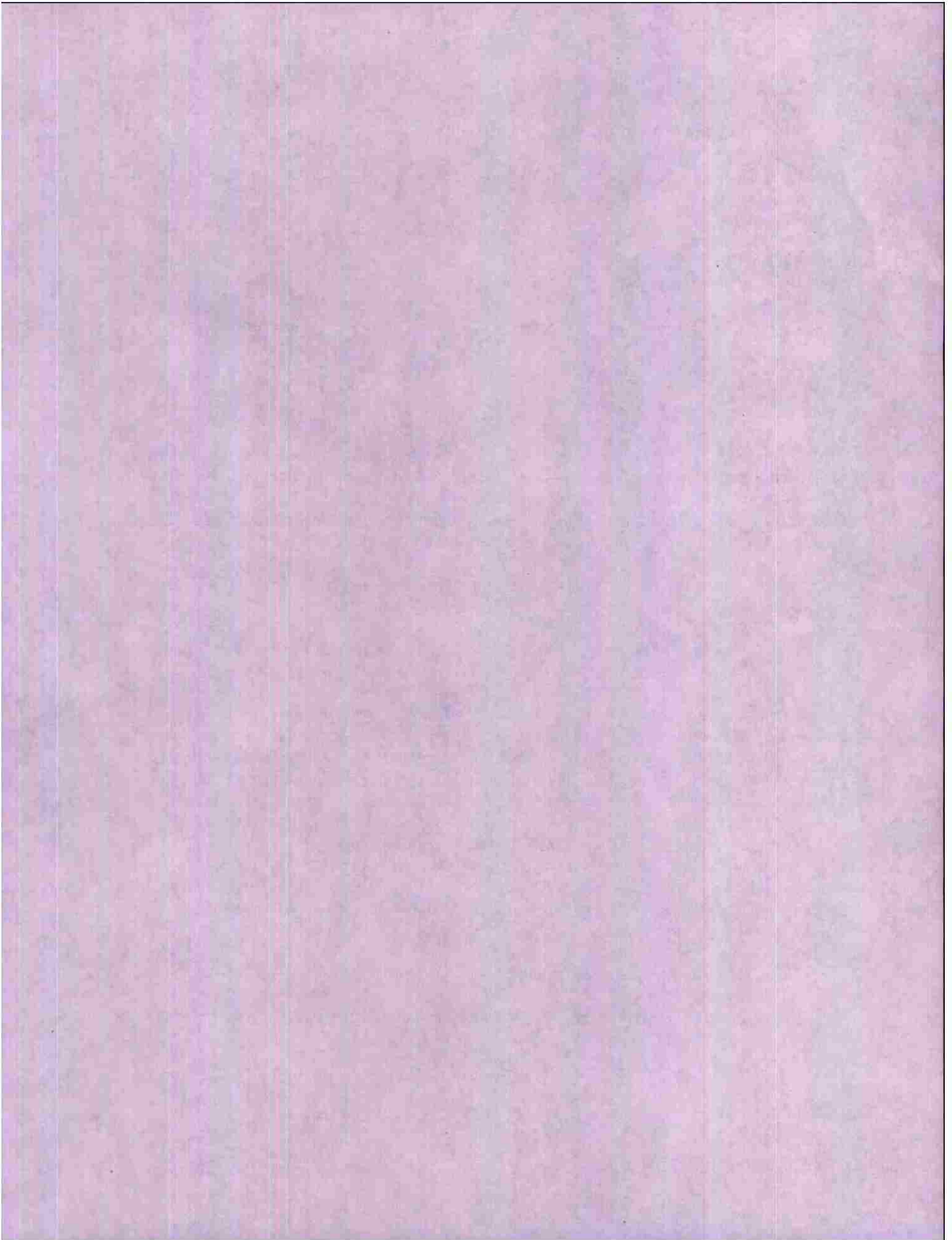
I am going to tour after dinner and do some shopping etc and come back at 1130 P.M. I am going to stay in camp tomorrow – four of us, however, are going over to a little village for supper tomorrow. We went over a day or so ago and got things fixed up – It's lots of fun to go over and try to talk to these villagers – Its good practice however and we are learning a few words that way.

Must go to dinner – so this letter will be continued tomorrow –

Good by this time with lots of love to you all – and most especially to my dear mother –

Your devoted son,  
Sam Jr.





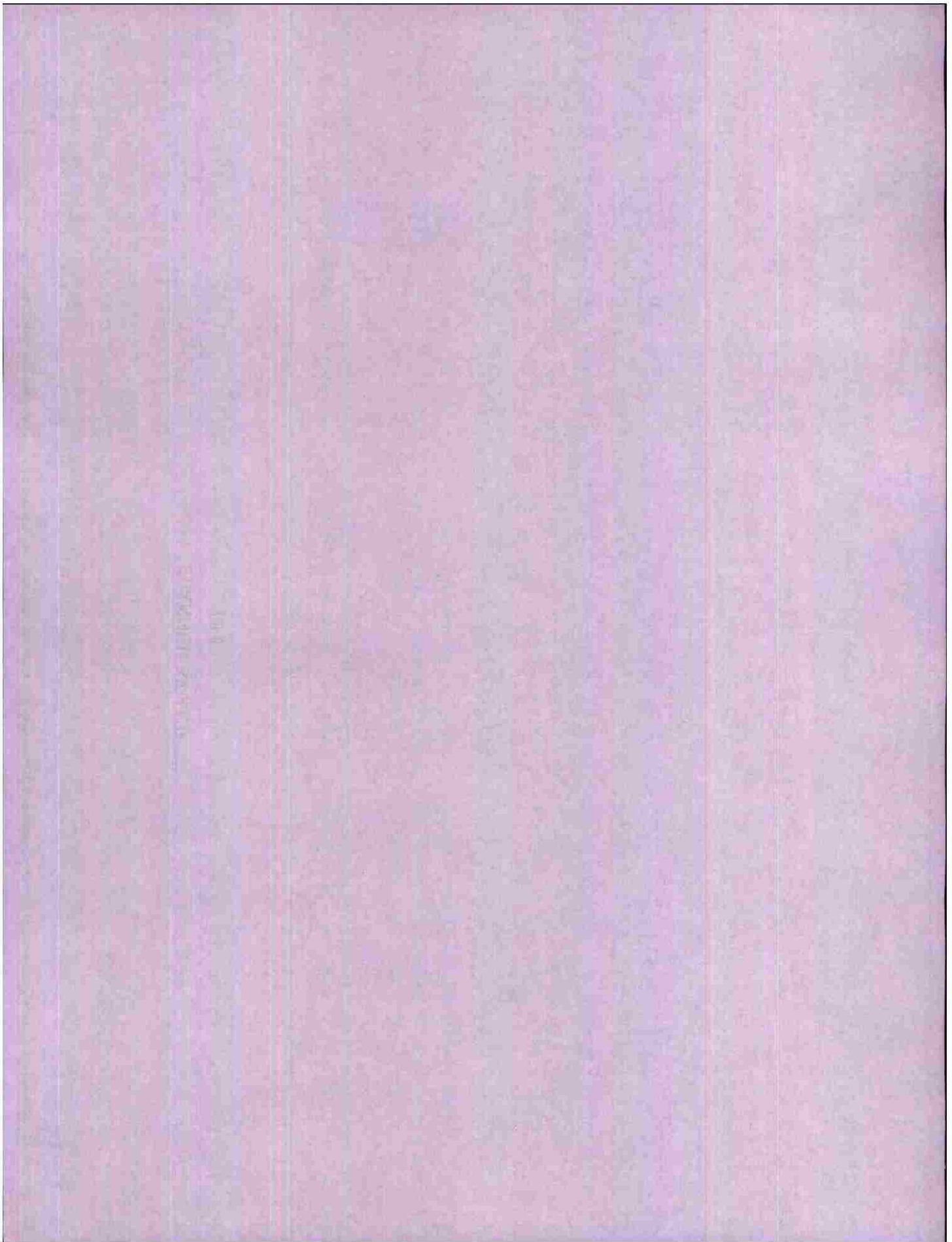


To: Gen S.R. Keesler  
From: SA [unclear]  
Date: 2/1/98

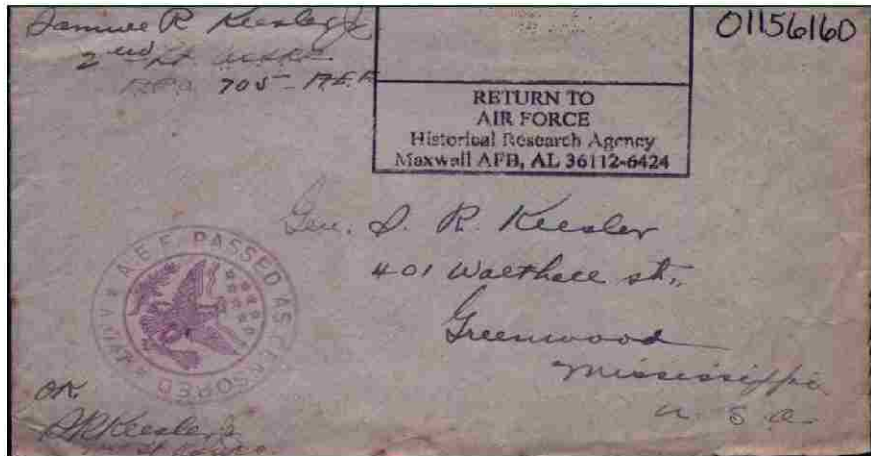
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FOLDER 34
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-4424

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2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Aerie Observation School,  
 P.O. 705 - A.E.F. France.  
 May 21<sup>st</sup> 1918.

Dear father

Your letter written April 9<sup>th</sup> came last week and was much enjoyed indeed - my first from you. I can imagine how you must feel about wanting to come over and get into the fight. I know I would feel the same way if I were in your place. Somebody "must" keep the home fires burning" tho' mustnt they? It sure is fine that Lehigh County did so well in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Liberty Loan Drive. We can feel the spirit even over here - which is taking hold of our Country and we feel that everybody is getting into the game in earnest.

Last Saturday all the officers went to town as usual in the Fiat truck. My two room mates --- I did see shopping the first thing after getting to town while the others were open of course. We went to the G.M. and bought a supply of candy soap etc. They got very good stick candy. We went to the City Hall (Water & Ice) and got some bread tickets. We have to have them at most every Restaurant - altho there is one where we dont. At 6:30 P.M. Lt. Demaris went with to the Hospital and got three of the nurses (3 of the Charlotte unit) and we met them at the Restaurant (Chops Fin) and had a very enjoyable meal. The French serve so slowly that a dinner is about all that can be put into one

evening - so as soon as we had finished - we  
took the girls home. we are going to see them  
again tomorrow night. It is fine to be able to talk  
to Real American girls again - we met these nurses  
and a whole lot more at a dance which the  
nurses gave last week. They invited all of our  
officers and 14 of us went over - we had a very nice  
time too.

I staid in camp Sunday and intended writing all  
my letters but somehow I didn't get to it - hence I'm writing  
home on Tuesday. I hope you are getting my letters by now.  
I am receiving the mail from home all right and papers.  
etc. Sure enjoy getting them too.

As ~~Fannie~~ Walter's last letter she said you had  
taken her home from church, auto riding etc. and how  
much she enjoyed it at all - much oblige!

as I have said in previous letters I have seen Ed.  
H. and all the boys I know in Charlotte Hosp. Unit - also I know  
where most of my other friends are located. I certainly enjoyed  
seeing Edward - He is looking very well indeed.

I fear our course here is nearing an end and will  
be going on pretty soon. Will learn how to shoot next.  
I imagine I'll enjoy that part of my training.

May 22nd

I went up this am. and took some photos. I didn't come out so much - broke some of the plates. This was my first trip on photography and my first trip this month. Our May pay vouchers have gone in and I haven't touched the money I have in the American Express Co. yet so I'm still in a good financial fix.

I am having a new uniform made - out of very pretty goods (whip cloth). It may be a little heavy for summer - if it is I'll buy a lighter one. It will cost 385 \$'s or about 75<sup>00</sup>. I believe in looking neat over here.

The weather is getting very warm now - but I am glad it is. It's much better than cold weather - as far as I am concerned.

Stuart ran in a race against some French runners at the Athlete Club Sunday - Entered the 100 meter race (100 yds) and won it - time 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub> sec. He is a member of the Club now and will run next Sunday. His roommate Lt. Balfour (a pilot) will run also - I am going out to see them - but not run.

Stuart was fine riding (flying) this morning. We were up at 2600 meters - 8500 ft. & saw all 40 miles.



To: Gen. S.R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler  
Postmarked May 24, 1918

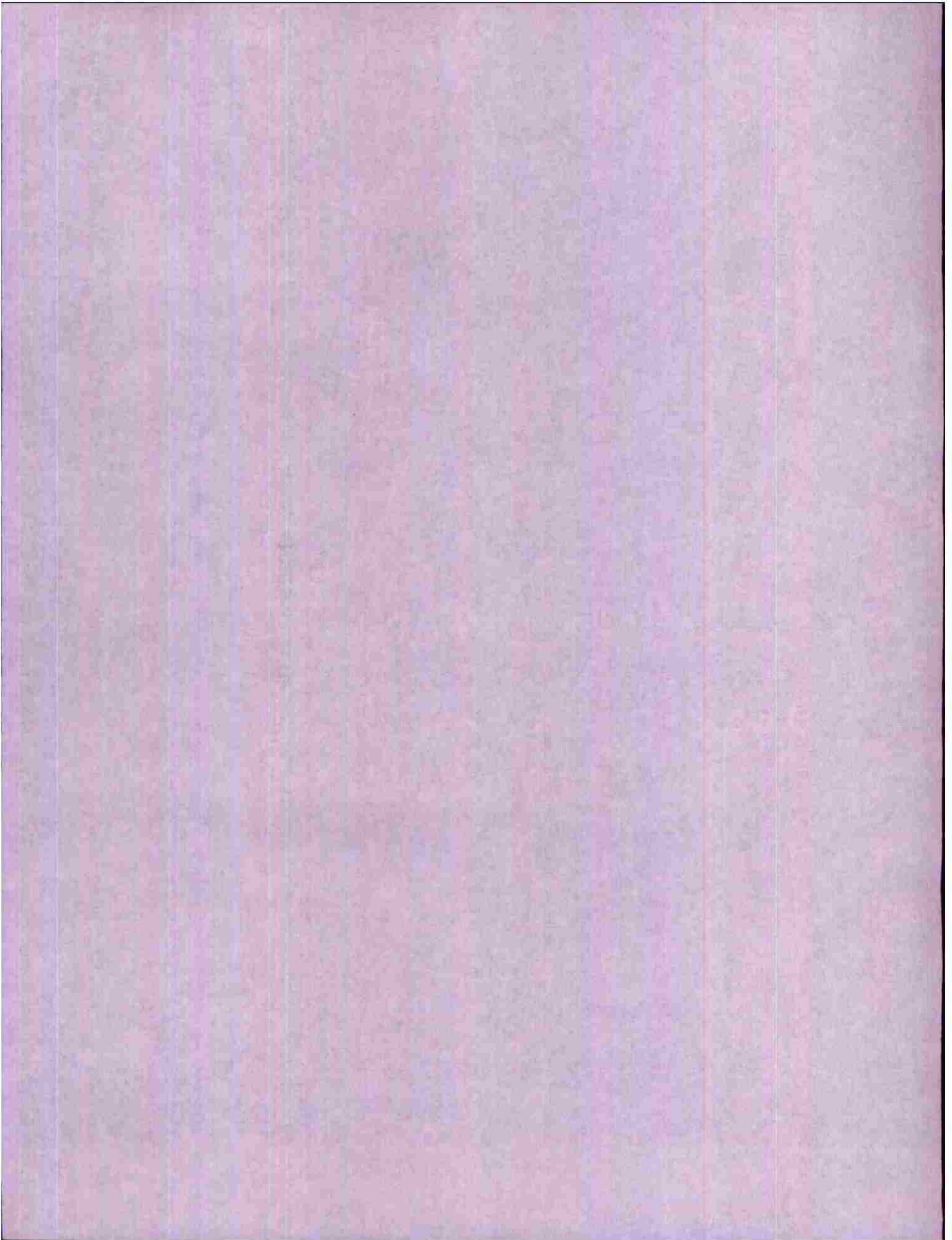
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Historical Research Agency  
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6124

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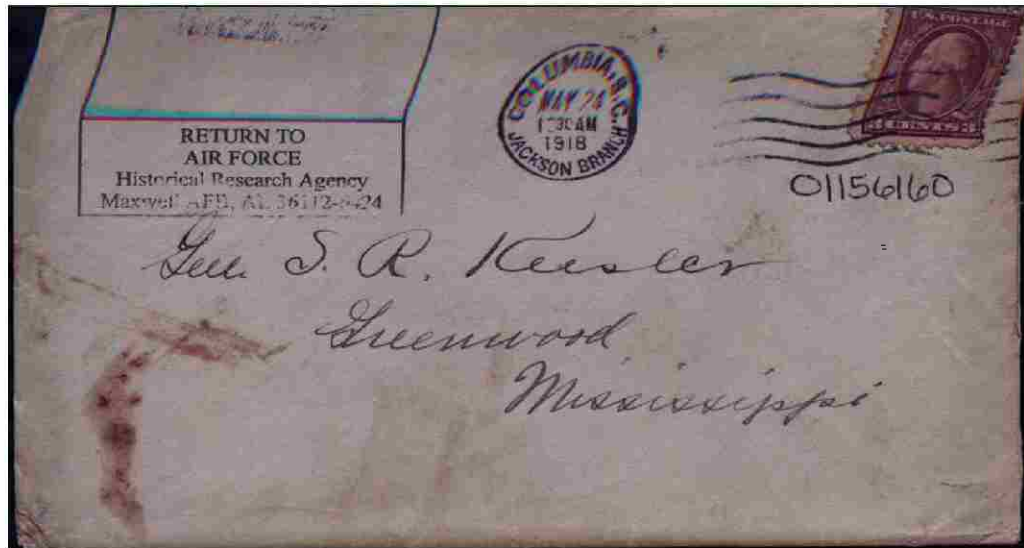
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and not to the French school,  
I hope so. Very thing is better  
here now. Only a few of the  
"Kassabays" are left. A big crowd  
left this morning on a bike  
thru to Greenville. It was the  
suggestion of a Secretary the chairman  
of one of the committees. It looked  
fine as it was on the  
road. We are expecting to get our  
new men soon but we are  
not sure just when.

Proctor School is progressing.  
We got one of the cars moving  
yesterday and I presented it to  
the school. He decided he wanted

Dear Father,

31<sup>st</sup> Oct, 4.  
Thursday,

Things have been moving  
this week. The Publishing center has  
been it a little while. For the  
first three days we had an  
assembly in the morning or rather  
evening to find out what we  
knew as the instruction center  
over the right hand. Now we  
are ready to begin our twelve week  
course. I heard that our friends  
would be the first one to be  
really successful. They  
say that when we go that we  
will go straight to the front



to take a ride we a ride we took.  
 We took mine in it. It was a Hoger  
 the + pulled right along with the  
 tire went down. At last I put it to 30  
 curb when I took the wheel that the  
 side back must be by that car +  
 not by Hoger. But it went all my  
 half and could say that he eat  
 the crowd. But all that is fixed now  
 and he can ride so much and  
 please. We shall have several others  
 morning soon. The freemasons are  
 about ready to move the subject to  
 make significant "giving" out of them.  
 are going to make one of these the  
 other about covered was it for nothing  
 the. This must be the spring to go  
 up to 100. for Commerce next Sunday  
 I wanted to get two days but couldn't  
 in account of exams + etc. But I can  
 get the week end. When you Charlotte  
 Graduate? With I could be there  
 we her get her dip. At me know  
 when it is to be.

the barrel house.  
 Tommorrow we are to have  
 an exam on the French 75<sup>m</sup>  
 Cannon. We 6" How. & 9 inchest have  
 to learn them all, American 3"  
 French 75, 4.7" How, 6" How, & 155<sup>m</sup> How.  
 There are a few sea coast guns  
 we havin't learned some thing  
 about yet, 12" & 14" mortars god  
 knows. I can't get all of it in  
 my head yet. I got 3<sup>d</sup> mixed  
 with 4.7" & 155<sup>m</sup> with 75<sup>m</sup>. But  
 most of my presence has  
 been with them in books not  
 actual experience.  
 Oh my but it was hot to day.  
 The heat was piece. Some of our  
 work in the sun baked

I got a letter from Sam Tuesday.  
 You will find it enclosed. He  
 is having an interesting time  
 now. It'd sure like to be with  
 him. Just last night I was  
 thinking of how many of my  
 friends were already "over there"  
 & I was here. But well with all get  
 our chance at the time for it.  
 Please please that with help  
 as as to come by here. That  
 would be very easy and not  
 say you put it your way. The  
 road from Atlanta to Okmuhia is  
 fairly good and the road from  
 here to Asherville can be done

to-day I got it. We had a nice tree  
 ending the + extra things off.  
 There are the eggs they gave. How is  
 Price stuff? I wish I could be there to help  
 with it. I believe that after this war is  
 settled I will be a farmer & raise at  
 an 1/2 m would fit in a short while and  
 I can leave just enough money I wish I  
 could be there now. The cotton & corn  
 around here are in fine shape. The  
 corn looks great. A little more rain  
 and one could almost watch it  
 come up.

I love close with love to all  
 your affectionate son  
 William



Postmarked May 24, 1918  
 Columbia, S.C.  
 Jackson Branch  
 To: Gen S.R. Keesler  
 Greenwood, Miss

316th F.A.  
 Thursday

Dear Father,

Things have been moving this week. The Artillery center has begun it active work. For the first three days we had an exam in artillery or rather gunnery to find out what we knew so the instructor would cover the right ground. Now we are ready to begin our twelve week course. I heard that our Brigade would be the first one to be really American trained. They say that when we go that we will go straight to the front and not to the French schools. I hope so. Everything is artillery here now. Only a few of the "Dough Boys" are left. A big crowd left this morning on a hike thru to Greenville. It was the supply Co, & Sanitary Detachment of one of the regiments. It looked fine as it swung down the road. We are expecting to get our new men soon but no one knows just when.

Motor School is progressing. We got one of the cars moving yesterday and I presented it to the colonel. He decided he wanted to take a ride so a ride we took. We took nine in it. It was a Zoziar tho & pulled right along until the tire went down. Oh but I felt like 30 cents when I took the colonel that the ride back must be by street car & not by Zoziar. But it wasn't all my fault as I could suggest that we cut the crowd. But all that is fixed now and he can ride as much as he pleases. We shall have several others running soon. Two Lueomobiles are about ready to run and we expect to make regimental "gitneys" out of them. I am going to make one of them the Motor School car and use it for nothing else.

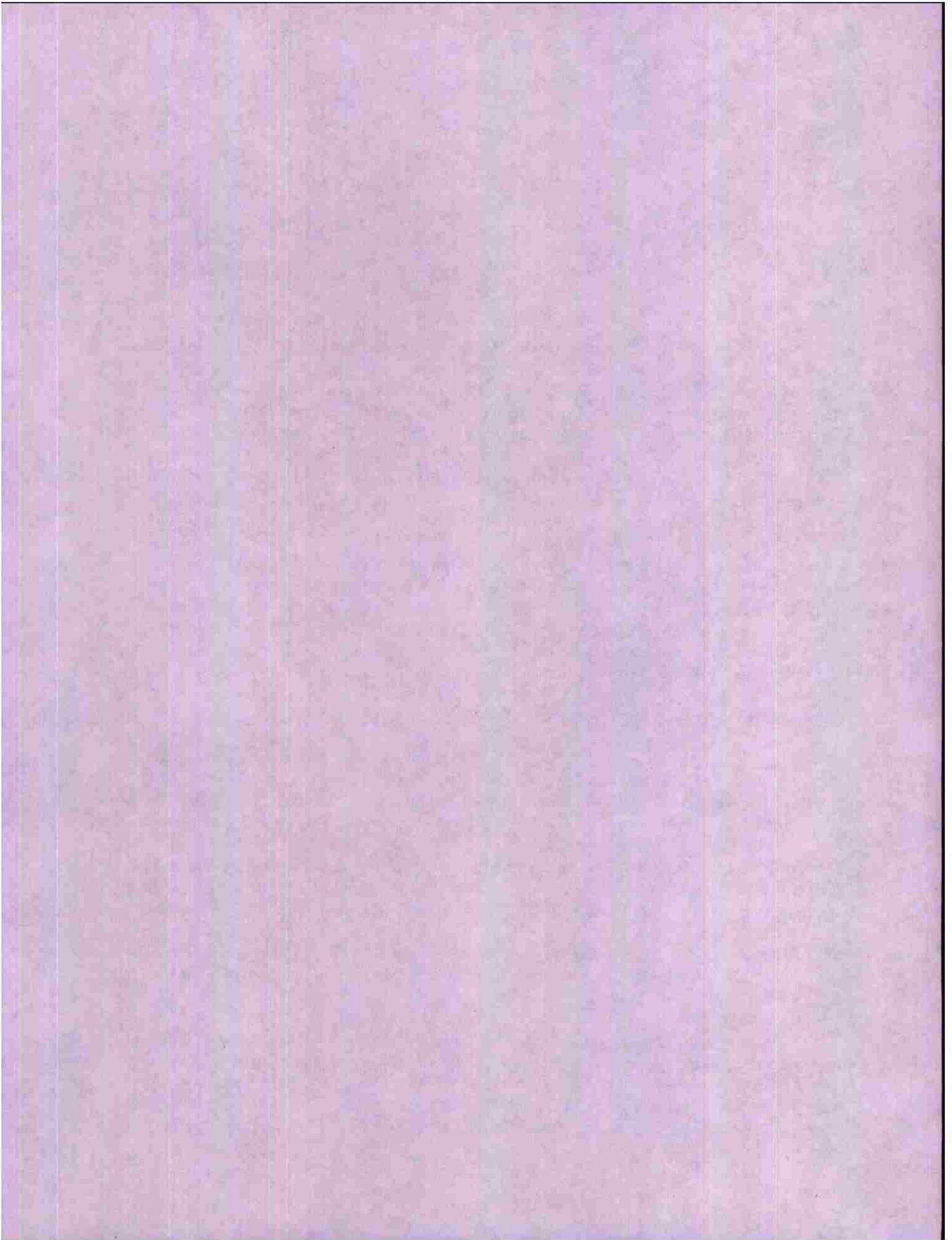
This week end I'm going to go up to D.C. for commencement Sunday. I wanted to get two days but couldn't on account of excuses & etc. But I can get the week end. When does Charlotte graduate? I wish I could be there to see her ger her "dip." Let me know when it is to be.

I got a letter from Sam Tuesday. You will find it enclosed. He is having an interesting time now. I'd sure like to be with him. Just last night I was thinking of how many of my friends were already "over there" & I still here. But we will all get our chance at the time for it.

Please plan that auto trip so as to come by here. That would be very easy and not very far out of your way. The road from Atlanta to Columbia is fairly good and the road from here to Ashville can be driven in twelve hours.

Tomorrow we are to have an exam on the French 75 mm cannon. We 6" How. Regiment have to learn them all, American 3" French "75," 4.7 "How, 6" How, & 155" How. There are a few sea coast guns we haven't learned some thing about yet, 12" & 14" motors you know. I can't get all of it in my head yet. I get 3" mixed with 4.7" & 155 mm with 75 mm. But most of my experience has been with them in books not actual experience.



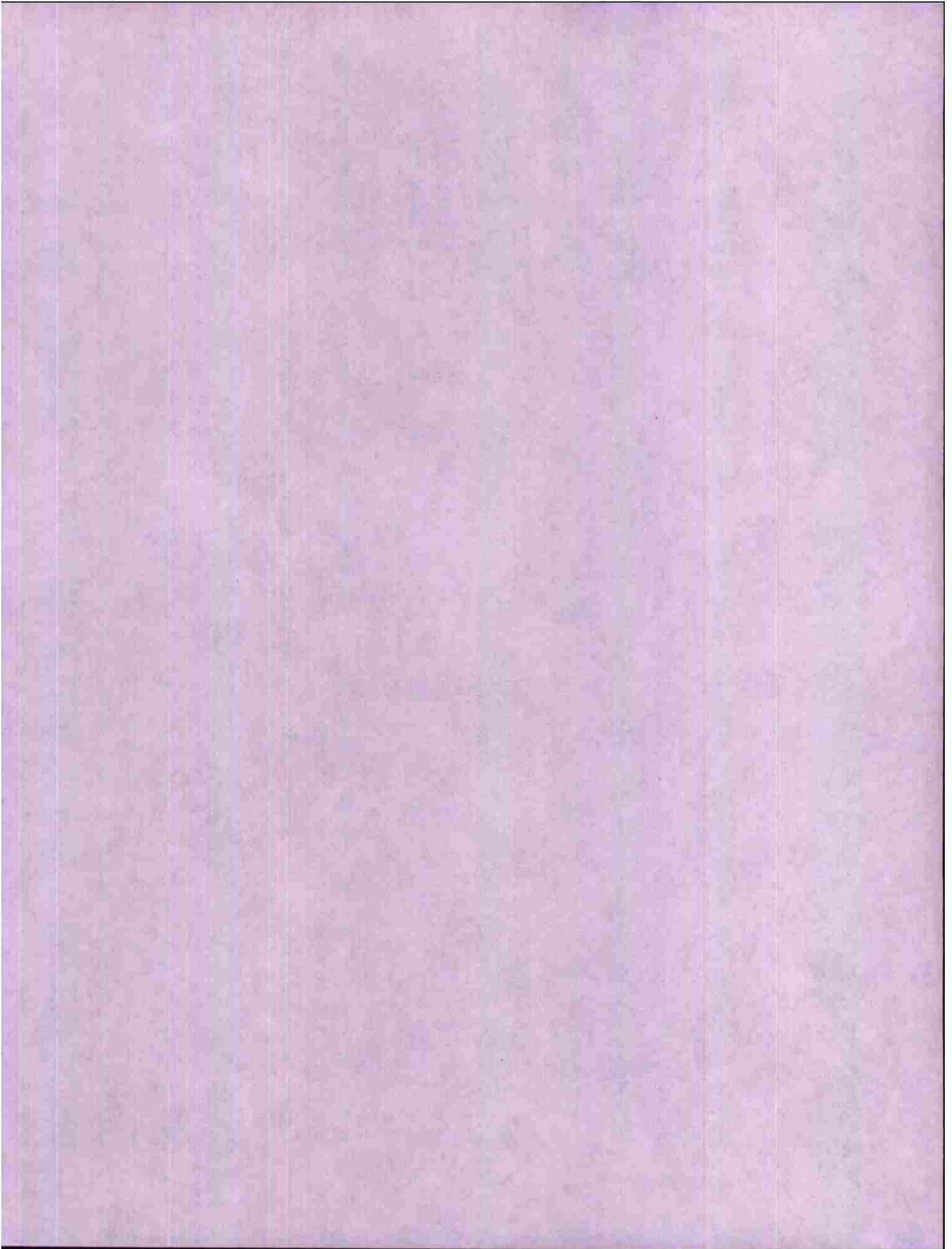


My but it was hot to-day. The heat was fierce. Some of our work is in the sun too and to-day I got it. We had a rain this evening tho & cooled things off.

How are the crops this year? How is Pine Bluff? I wish I could be there to help with it. I believe that after this was is settled I will be a farmer. A course at an A&M would fit in a short while and I can learn fast enough. Anyway I wish I could be there now. The cotton & corn around here are in fine shape. The corn looks great. A little more rain and one could almost watch it come up.

Must close. With love to all.

Your affectionate son,  
William.



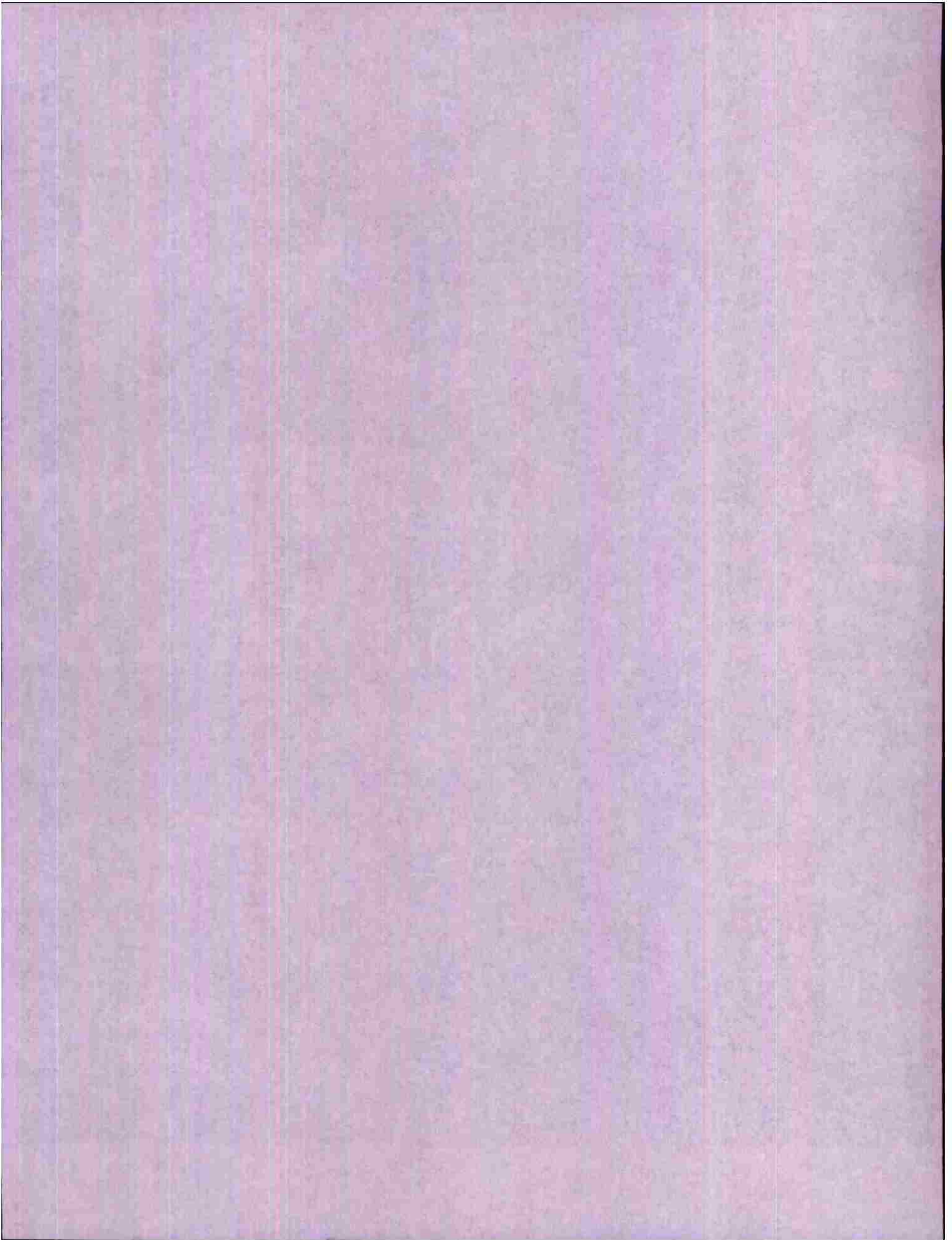


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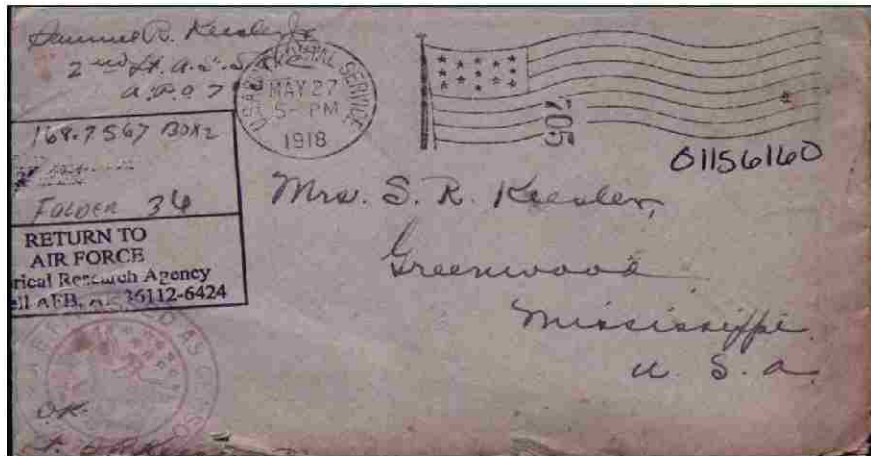
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guess when I said - "Pig" service!  
 I was passing a cop and some  
 one called me by my first name.  
 I looked around and to my  
 surprise said "Pig". He is looking  
 right at me, I think. He said he  
 is stationed at the Naval Training  
 station for bombers which is not  
 far from here - I don't think  
 enough about the way to tell  
 you what his name is but I  
 think he is a pretty officer of some rank.  
 He then just fly - with he has

2nd Ant. House the school.  
 APO 705- 57418.

Dearest Mother,

Another week has come  
 and gone and my stay here is  
 nearing its end. We are to have  
 some examinations next week, which  
 our French instructor is away. I'll  
 get by them all right.  
 I received a letter from  
 father yesterday written May 7/45.  
 It came over right rapidly - don't  
 you think? 18 days.  
 Yesterday while in the city



first very hard to get them to give him  
 flying lessons. I was mighty glad to  
 see him. He told me he had met Wade  
 Revere on the street about a month ago.  
 Now what do you know about that? Why  
 in the name of goodness couldn't I have  
 seen with him. I missed him again  
 a while but to have seen him. I  
 know the name of his ship now and  
 make try to keep track of him. Now  
 your folks get together and you can  
 figure out where I am - I cannot  
 make with him.  
 I know where William Revere is  
 now also. He is in the same school  
 with "Chief" + "Percy" Morrison and  
 the others.  
 We were very sorry to have to  
 part with our R.O. - Capt. Smith - but  
 next. He has gone to take charge

the generation is run by a nurse  
professor - St Paul - raised his  
hands to point out something on  
the grounds to the speaker and the  
nurse then his hand with the  
speaker and out it very badly.  
the speaker the machine over  
night however & then heard  
of the same thing happening before.  
So tomorrow is the last day of  
the Rice Crane Clinic and I do  
hope the consultant will reach  
\$20,000 as further hopes to raise.

Of another school - we have a  
post for a Commanding Officer  
now. He's all right so far.  
I think my new uniform  
on yesterday and it fits  
splendidly - with a few minor  
alterations it will make  
a very nice looking uniform.  
One of our pilots got his hands  
cut yesterday while flying. You  
know our machine is run by a  
nurse generation which is located  
right behind the pilot's seat.

you are now here a great time  
 going to Montreal from the country, if  
 you go slowly and don't get lost  
 by the train - with the same body the same  
 here to take it easy. I don't keep but  
 say that I work hard & am going  
 to be along but miss here to wait  
 until "the la guerre" - wait me?  
 for a wonder I don't see yesterday  
 at nearly nine every yesterday - the  
 clearly now the - so we may have  
 a shower today.  
 I can't change yesterday - can  
 "the la guerre" & hope & guess the time  
 correctly. Also about & call myself, say,  
 former & Richardson etc.  
 action with nothing, neither, for  
 of love to you are - & hope you are  
 more - I am sure your dream now,  
 done



Samuel R. Keesler  
2nd Lt A.S.S.R.C.  
A.P.O. 705 A.E.F.  
Postmarked May 27, 1918  
U.S. Army Postal Service  
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler  
Greenwood, Mississippi, U.S.A.

2nd Art. Aerial Obs. School  
A.P.O. 705- 5/26/18

Dearest Mother,

Another week has come and gone and my stay here is nearing its end. We are to have some examinations next week while our French Instructor is away. I'll get by them all right.

I received a letter from father yesterday written May 7th. It came over right rapidly – don't you think? 18 days.

Yesterday while in the city guess whom I saw? "Pug" Lenoir. I was passing a café and some one called me by my first name. I looked around and to my surprise saw "Pug." He is looking mighty well, I think. He said he is stationed at the Naval Training school for bombers which is not far from here. I don't know enough about the Navy to tell you what his rank is but I think he's a petty officer of some kind. He does not fly – although he has tried very hard to them to give him flying lessons. I was mighty glad to see him. He told me he had met Wade Reeves on the street about a month ago. Now what do you know about that! Why in the name of goodness couldn't I have run into him. I would have given a whole lot to have seen him. I know the name of his ship now and will try to keep track of him. Now you folks get together and you can figure out where I am – of course Wade writes home.

I know where Wilmer Bacon is now also. He is in the same school with "Chief" and Preacher Morrison and the others.

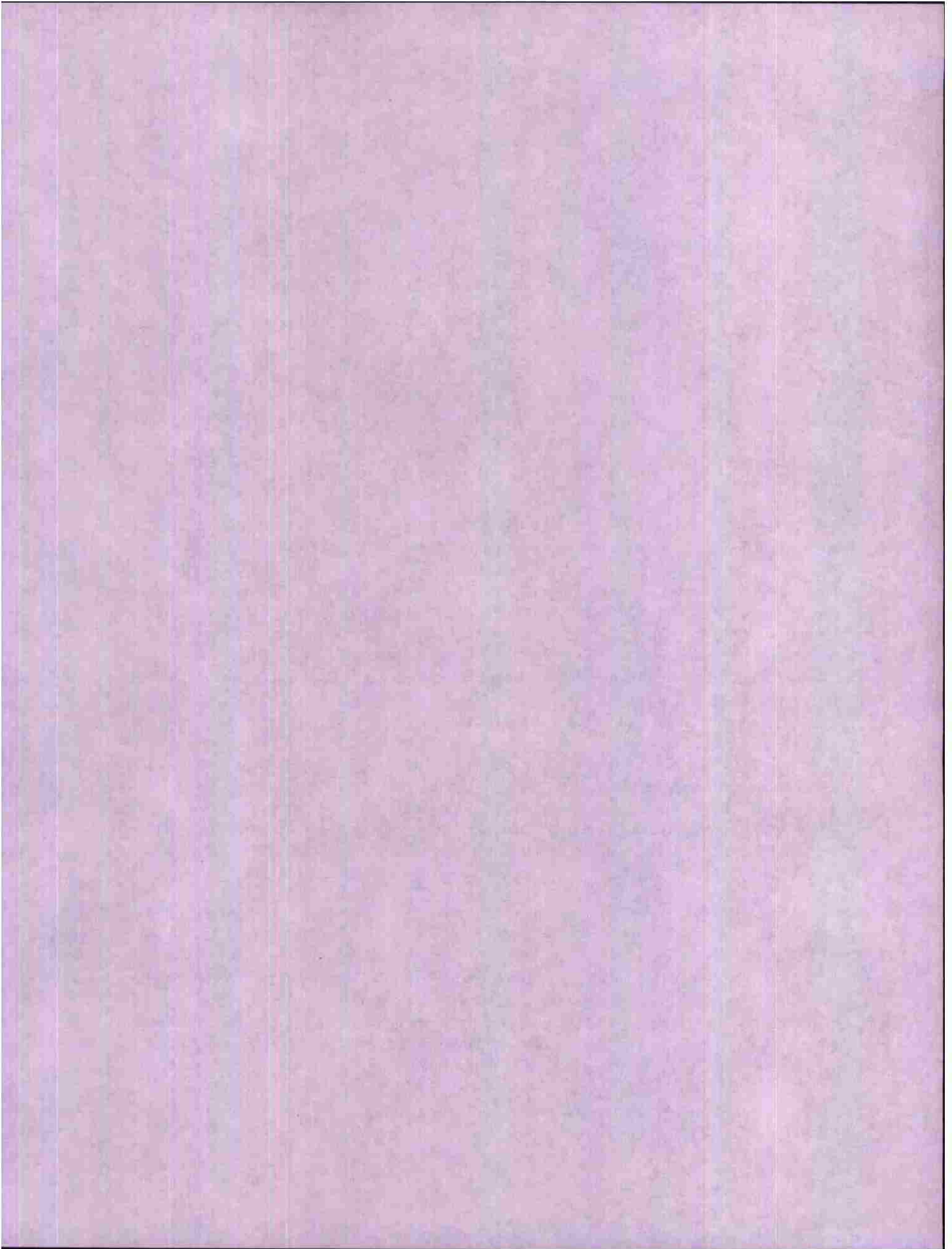
We were very sorry to have to part with our K.O. – Capt Gruhn – last week. He has gone to take charge of another school – we have a 1st Lt. for a commanding officer now. He's all right so far.

I tried my new uniform on yesterday and it fits splendidly – with a few minor alterations it will make a very nice looking uniform.

One of our pilots got his hand cut yesterday while flying. You know our wireless is run by a small generator which is located right behind the pilot's seat. The generator is run by a small propeller – Lt Balfour raised his hand to point out something on the ground to the observer and the wind blew his hand into the propeller and cut it vary badly. He landed the machine all right however. I have heard of the same thing happening before.

To-morrow is the last day of the Red Cross Drive and I do hope the amount will reach \$25000 as father hoped to raise.





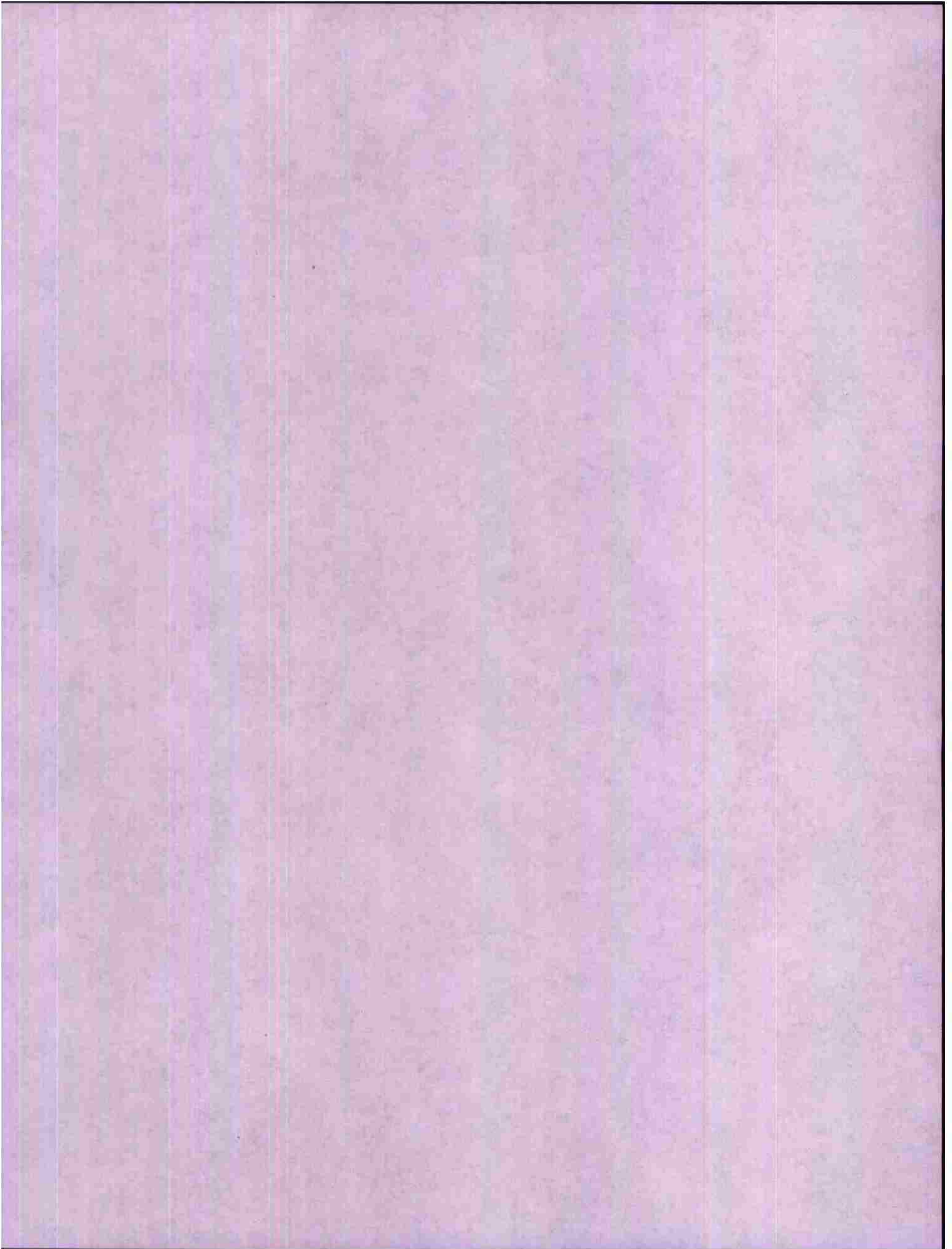
You all will have a grand time going to Montreat thru the country, if you go slowly and don't get blistered by the sun – with the small baby tho – you'll have to take it easy. I can't help but say that I wish W<sup>m</sup> & I were going to be along but will have to wait until "apre la guerre" – won't we?

For a wonder it didn't rain yesterday. It usually rains every Saturday. It's cloudy now tho – so we may have a shower to-day.

I cabled Charlotte yesterday – "congratulations" I hope I guessed the time correctly – also Stuart & cabled Margaret, Guy, Lavern & Richardson etc.

Adieu until next time, mother. Lot of love to you all – I hope you are well – I am well.

Your devoted son,  
Sam





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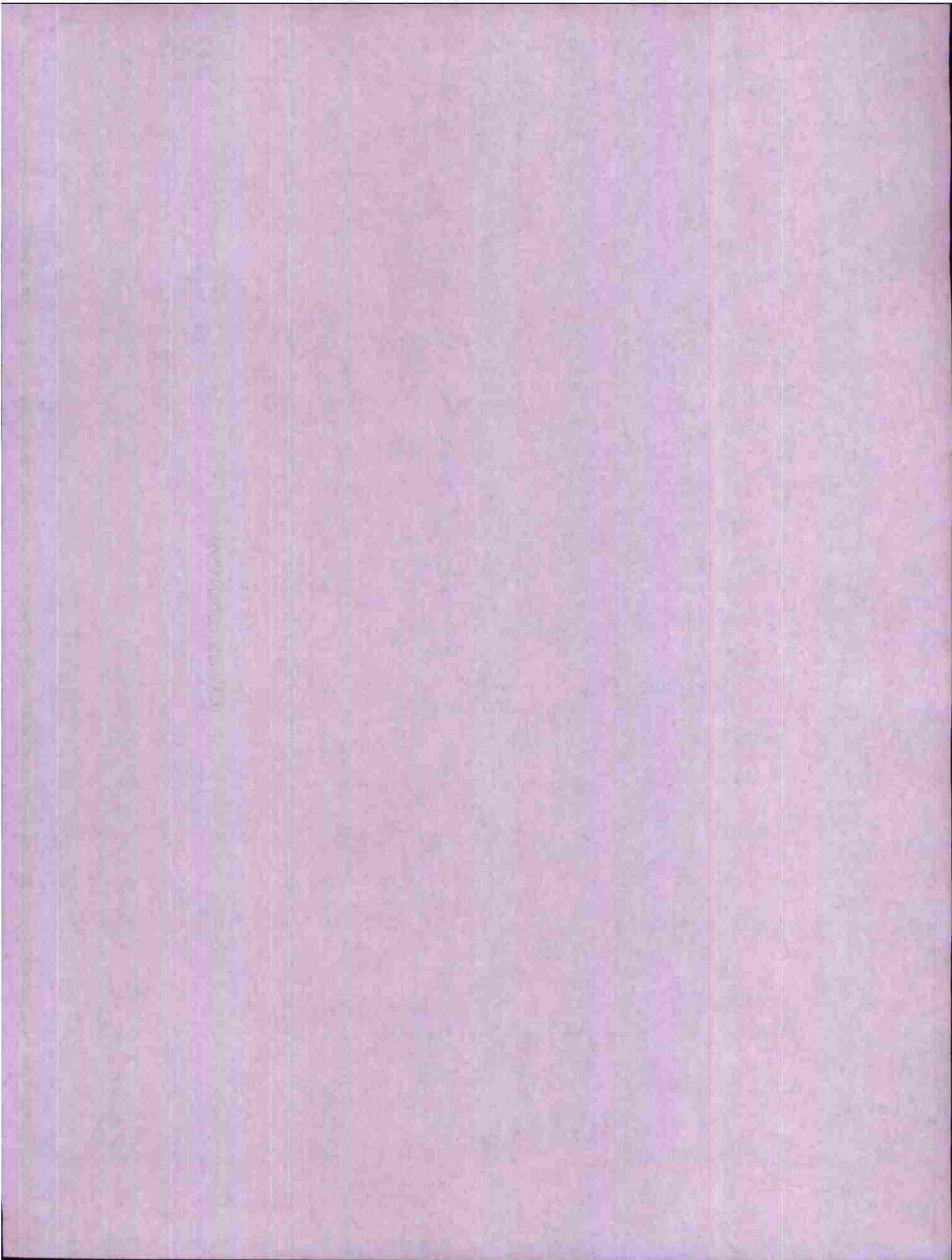
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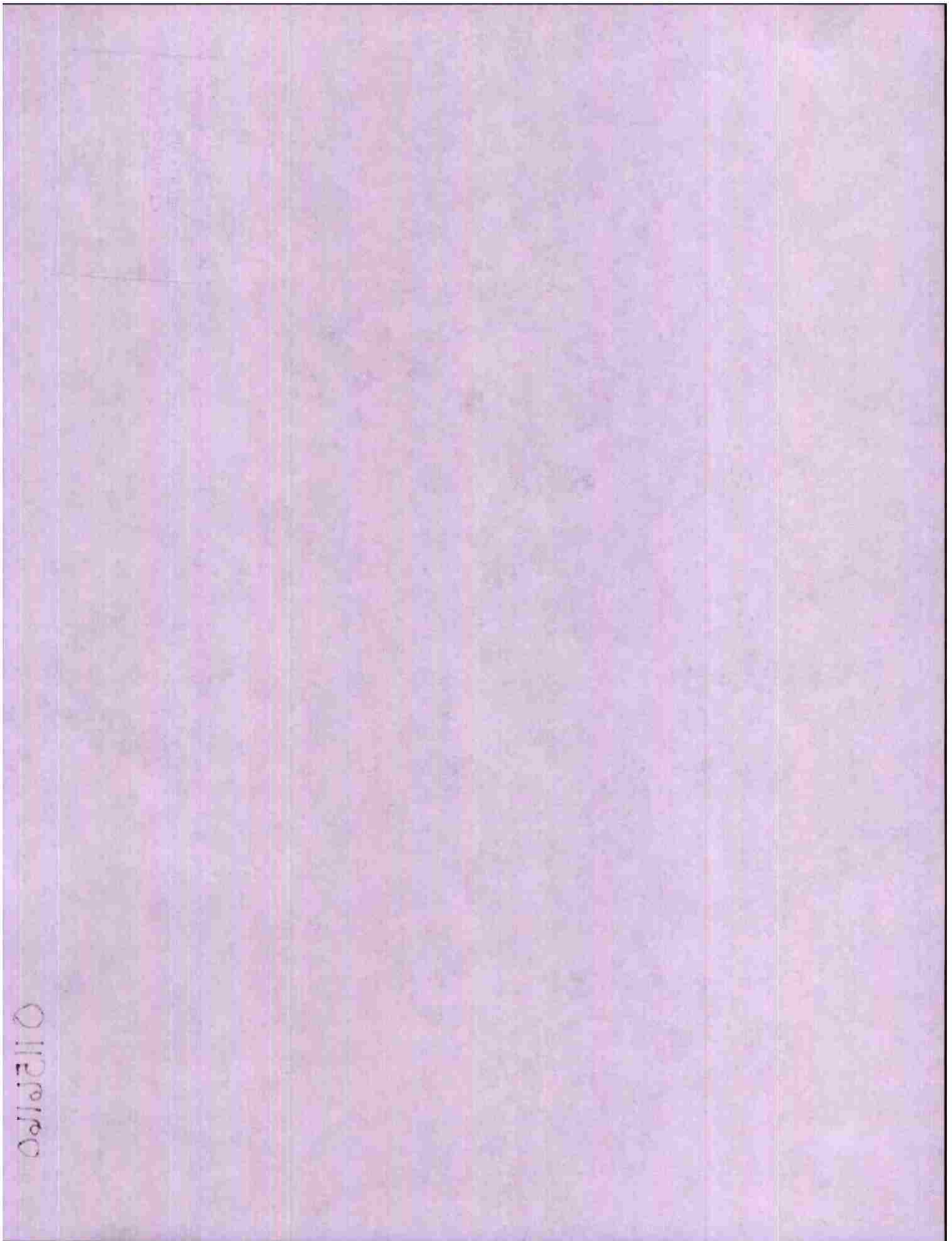
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RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

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2nd Artillery Service Squadron  
A.P.O. 705-  
May 28<sup>th</sup>

Dear Wm.:

Charles said start under  
20 m. so I have a little time  
right after dinner - in which to write  
etc. consequently here comes a  
little note.

The mail is finding its way  
to me very regularly - yesterday I  
received 5 letters and a ~~common~~  
I have enjoyed them. Day before yes-  
terday - I got 4 from Jack. I don't  
have to say I enjoyed them.

yesterday had exam on Regulus etc.  
to-day one on Photography & photo in-  
terpretation. Tomorrow one in calculus  
you see. This is our last week here  
before - the exams. I see Jack there &  
think all right.

Our French instructor is away for  
some days. While he's gone they  
are keeping us busy with exams.  
Saw "Big" Dennis on the street  
in Saturday. Big as ever and  
so full of "bice" - He's located at  
the French School for Bombers near here.  
He is somewhat of a dirty officer.



He told me he saw Wade Bevers on the street about a month ago - what do you know about that! Here I am so close ~~to~~ and didn't get to see him.

When are you coming over - if you could only get to the artillery school near here - it would be fine. You are likely to come here too - but I'll be gone then I guess. Anyway you'll enjoy it.

Sunday a French pilot landed on our field and got his engine fixed. He was driving a 15-meter monoplane and believed they can get off the ground in a hurry. When he left he looped the loop for us after he had gotten high enough.

I guess you are still "chief" motor mechanic, aren't you? Well, teach it to them the right way.

I am having a new uniform made. Whip cord - fits very well. I'll get it Wednesday.

It will cost 300 frs. I give it out  
and see how much I'm paying. \$1.00 =  
5.71 frs. about. You see things are  
expensive over here too.

Mother sent me a lot of  
letters from different persons - among  
them was one from Elizabeth T. for  
I enjoyed reading it very much.

When ever you see a "jeer"  
from Brown Belt go ahead and  
buy it. It will save you the  
trouble after you get here and

I have seen no real good ones  
for sale. Get some sure enough.  
Thank Mother when you buy.

Are you studying French as I  
suggested? I must do so by all  
means. It will come in handy.  
I have picked up some

expressions and learned some  
words - but if I had studied the  
verbs etc. a little I would be in  
a better fix now. If you ever  
get captured you'll have a chance

to see how little you can Tommy tried  
to teach you.

We are having very nice weather  
now. Its warm and the sun shines  
which makes things look so pretty - naturally.

Stuart is here with me, you know. He's  
getting along fine. Welmer Bacon is over  
at the same place where "Chief" Preacher,  
Nat Armstrong, Latta Law & others are located.  
I hope to see them some of these days.

I understand one of my letters was  
published in The Commonwealth - isn't  
that a shame? I haven't seen it yet.

Remember me to all the fellows - I hear  
Camp J. is to become an Artillery camp - is  
that right?

Write when you can

your brother is - Kai -

Aviation Section

American Expeditionary Forces

1/2 Postmaster

No

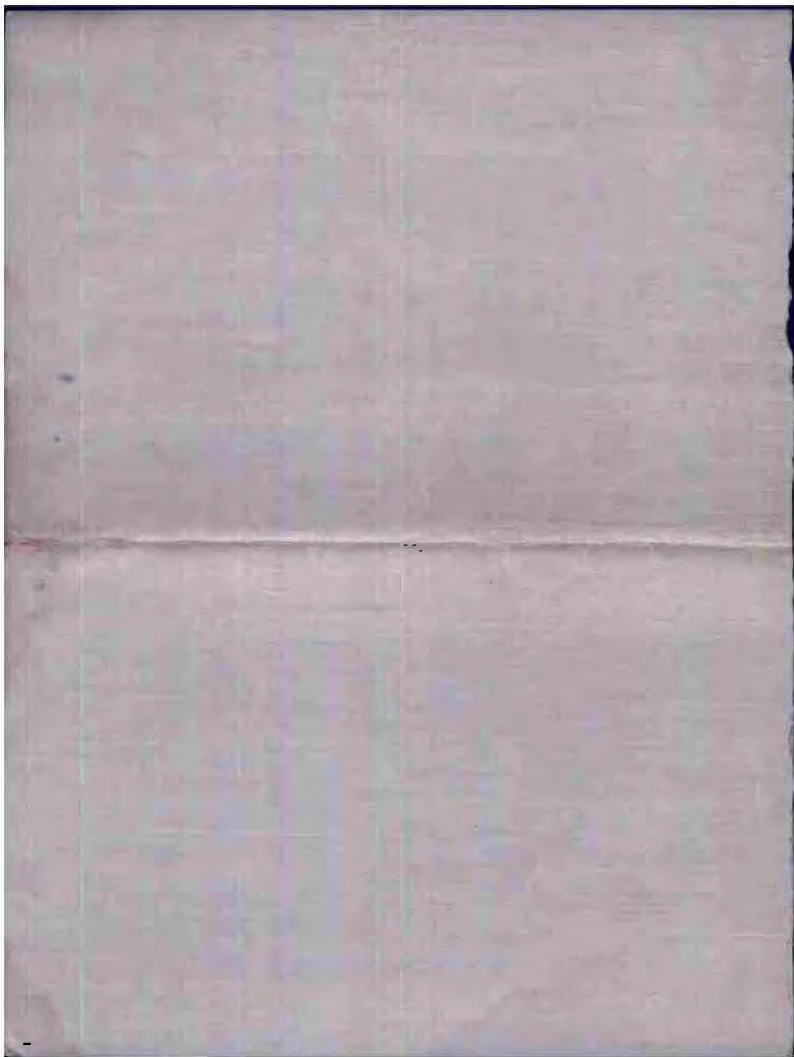
P.S.

I forgot to ask how Elizabeth  
is getting along. Does she love you  
as much as ever, but why ask  
foolish questions? Fannie Weston  
sure is good about writing me  
so of course she hasn't forgotten me.  
Mae is writing to me as usual  
every once and awhile.

I started a diary - but got dis-  
gusted and quit - I'll keep an  
account of anything very important  
that happens - e.g. bringing down a  
Book or getting brought down (if in  
the)



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(no envelope)

2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Aerial Observation School  
A.P.O. 705  
May 28<sup>th</sup>

Dear W<sup>m</sup>:

Classes don't start until 2 P.M. so I have a little time right after dinner – in which to write etc. consequently here comes a little note.

The mail is finding its way to me very regularly – yesterday I received 5 letters and a commonwealth. I sure enjoyed them. Day before yesterday – I got 4 from F.W.R. I don't have to day I enjoyed them.

Yesterday had exam on Signals etc – to-day one on Photography & Photo Interpretation. Tomorrow one in wireless you see this is our last week here hence – the exams. I'll pass them I think all right.

Our French Instructor is away for several days. While he's gone they are keeping us busy with exams.

Saw "Pug" Lemain on the street in \_\_\_\_ Saturday. Big as ever and as full of "bull" – He's located at the Naval School for Bombers near here. He is some kind of a petty officer. He told me he saw Wade Reeves on the street about a month ago – what do you know about that! Here I am so close and didn't get to see him.

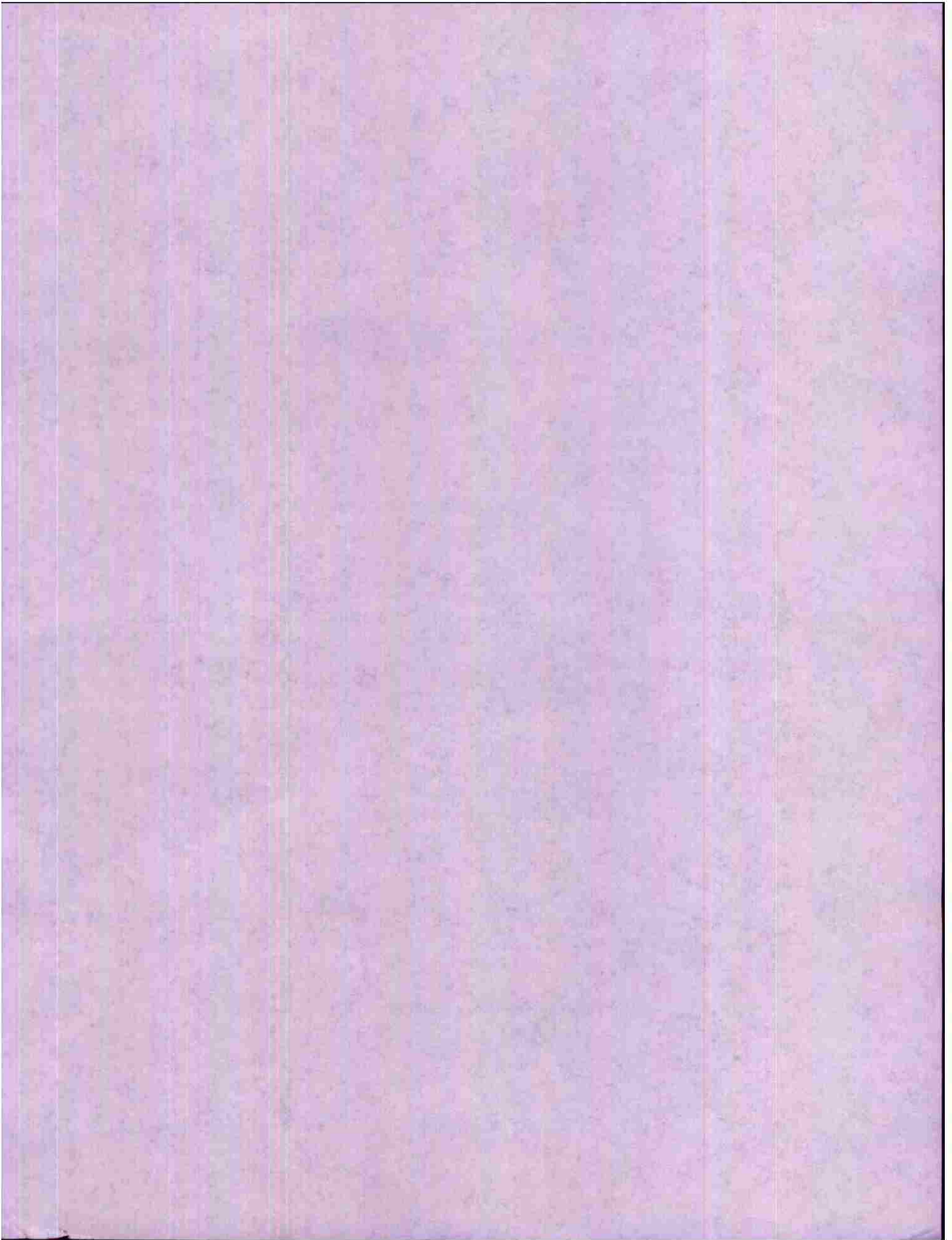
When are you coming over – if you could only get to the artillery school near here – it would be fine. You are likely to come here too – but I'll be gone then I guess. Anyway you'll enjoy it.

Sunday a French pilot landed on our field and got his engine fixed. He was driving a 15 meter Newport and believe they can get off the ground in a hurry. When he left he looped the loop for us after he had gotten high enough.

I guess you are still "chief" motor mechanic, aren't you? Well, teach it to them the right way.

I am having a new uniform made. Whip cord – fits very nice – I'll get it Wednesday. It will cost 385 frs. Figure it out and see how much I'm paying - \$100 = 5.71 frs. about. You see things are expensive over here too.

Mother sent me a lot of letters from different persons – among them was one from Elizabeth to father. I enjoyed reading it very much.





When ever you see a "good" Sam Brown Belt go ahead and buy it. It will save you the trouble after you get here and I have seen no real good ones for sale. Get some sure enough thick leather when you buy.

Are you studying French as I suggested? If not – do so by all means. It will come in handy. Of course I've picked up some expressions and learned some words – but if I had studied the verbs etc. a little I would be in a better fix now. If you ever get captured you'll have a chance to see how little German Tommy tried to teach you.

We are having very nice weather now. Its warm and the sun shines – which makes things look so pretty – naturally.

Stuart is here with me, you know. He's getting along fine. Wilmer Bacon is over at the same place where "Chief" "preacher" Nat Armstead, Latter Law & others are located. I hope to see them some of these days.

I understand one of my letters was published in the Commonwealth – isn't that a shame? I haven't seen it yet.

Remember me to all the fellows – I hear Camp J. is to become an artillery camp – Is that right?

Write when you can –

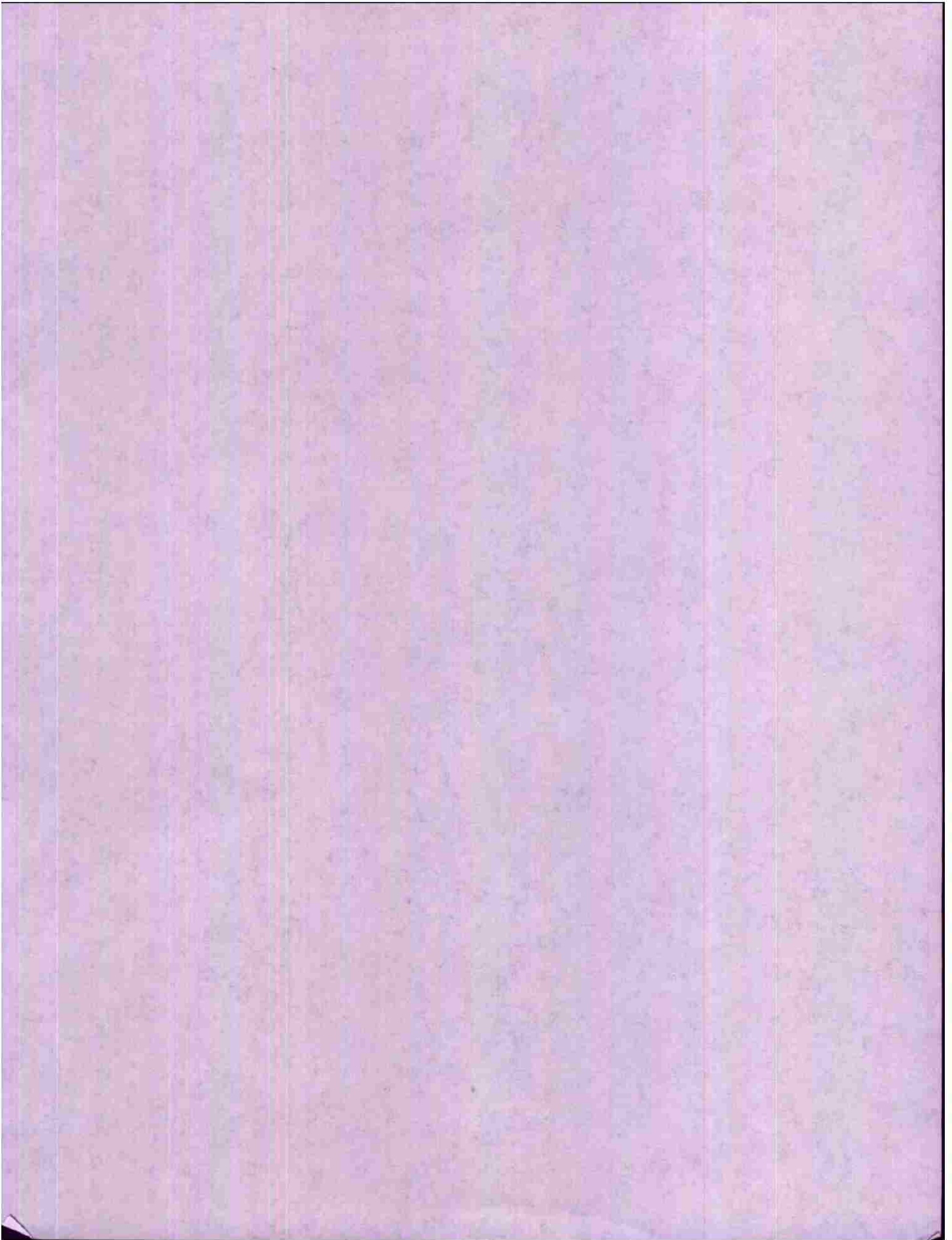
Your brother in \_Kai\_,  
Sam

Aviation Section  
American Expeditionary Forces  
C/O Postmaster  
New York

P.S. I forgot to ask how Elizabeth is getting along. Does she love you as much as ever, but why ask foolish questions? Fannie Watton sure is good about writing me so of course she hasn't forgotten me. Nell is writing to me as usual every once and awhile.

I started a diary – but got disgusted and quit – I'll keep an account of anything very important that happens – e.g. bringing down a Boobe or getting brought down (if I'm able)





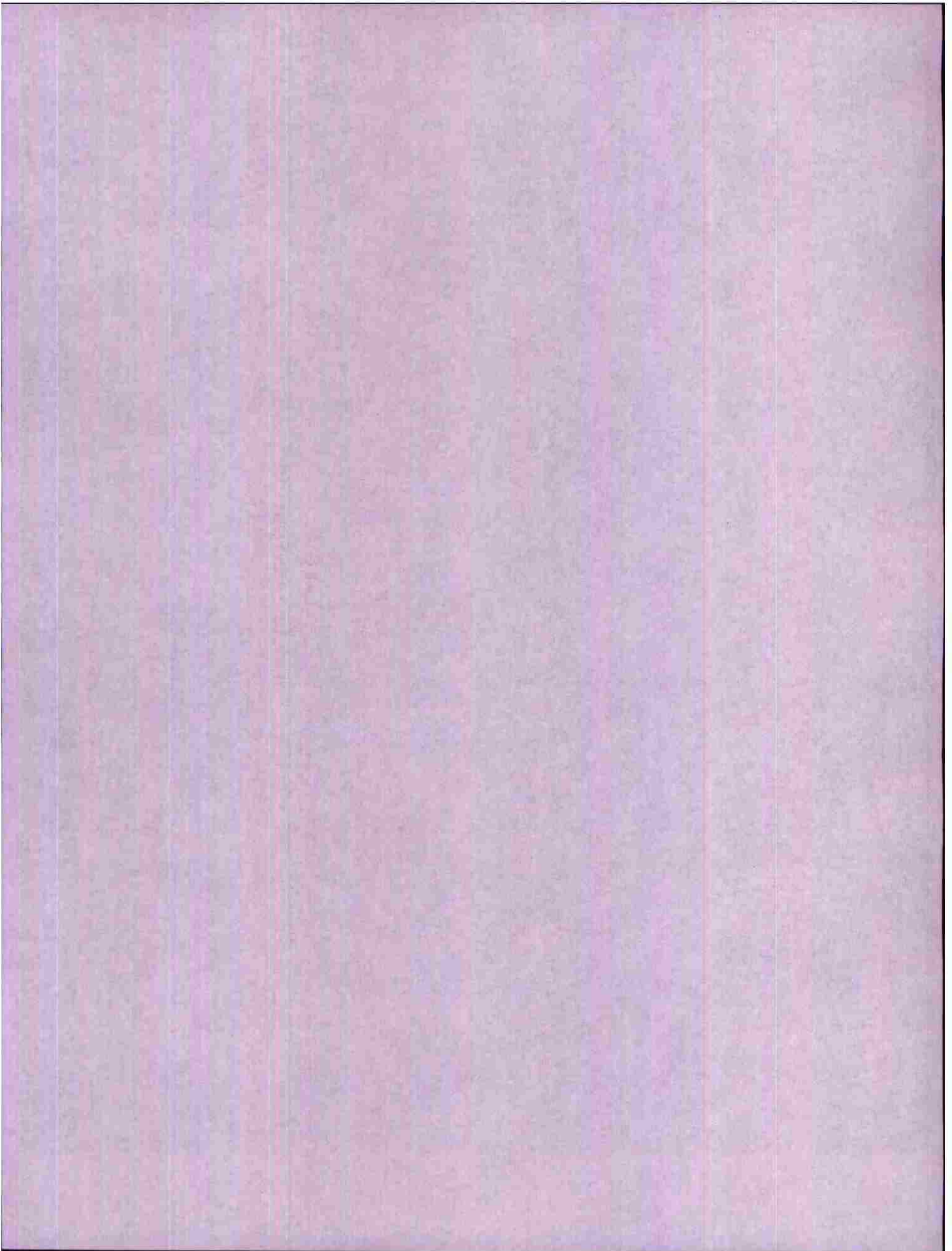
To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler  
From: Samuel Keesler  
Postmarked Jun 12, 1918

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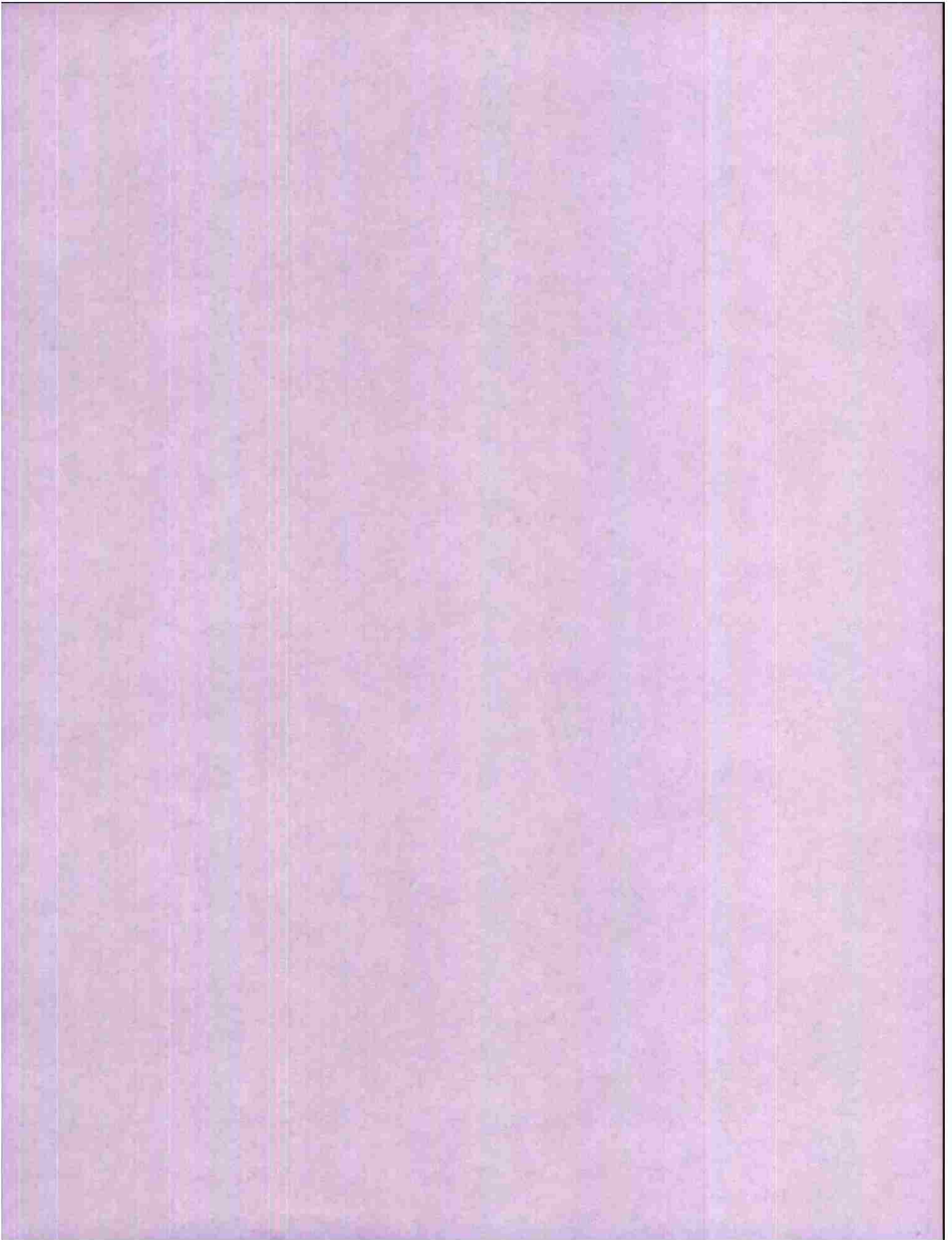
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mistake about his case I think  
 anyway we miss them very  
 much. Also the two pilots, who  
 left, took them along with them  
 and we miss them very much  
 too. Pilot: the jumpy wheel, is  
 left - certainly misses his brother  
 and mother.  
 your letter written May 1945 -  
 came last week. I have now  
 glad to get it. In delight to  
 know that the telegram reached

I the Postscripting News Co. Phila  
 June 10, 1948.  
 dearest mother,  
 we have had some  
 changes lately - and the women  
 state of our life here has been  
 interfered with. Two of our best  
 have been ordered away - up to  
 the front - and then of our old  
 ones have been sent back  
 to — I fear they are dis-  
 posed. One of them was one of  
 my roommates. There is some



you on "Mother Day" I intended it to  
 be so.  
 "Mr. Cress death was very poor. I believe  
 but it's a blessing off her. Save you  
 think so? Roger must have had a happy  
 time.  
 "We were to have on Sunday as  
 usual. It's getting tiresome to go  
 to Sunday so much. We can look  
 to camp Sat. night Sunday morning  
 we need to with the ones who were  
 leaving and over from off. How  
 dinner with St. Lucy (I wish instructor) & others  
 at the Chaplain Camp. When I speak of this  
 I mean my other men made it - (St. Lucy's)  
 we had a very nice meal. ~~That~~ after  
 dinner we (four) went out to the Catholic  
 club.

we have just come from Glen  
and as I sat here - feeling well  
to write - I read a paper on my  
table and finishing it up - I read  
it was a formation - no - not  
for me - but for my room-mate  
at Bureau. The formation was  
to a shattering and he showed  
them how one long ago. Such  
surprises are made a feature  
for good. I certainly enjoyed  
congratulating him. Some day may be  
I'll have the same experience,  
the morning myself with 30th  
the next one to me in the

we met Mrs. Bryant's daughter  
who love to watch athletic sports.  
They are friends of Harold's & St. Stephen  
& St. Leger's. The daughter is a very  
attractive and very well educated.  
She speaks English some I heard  
I enjoyed talking to her. That  
has to run thru races - see  
I than the 100 meter race. The  
won two of them and tied the other.  
Just Sunday the championship Boer  
of this district will be run that  
I should win in my opinion.

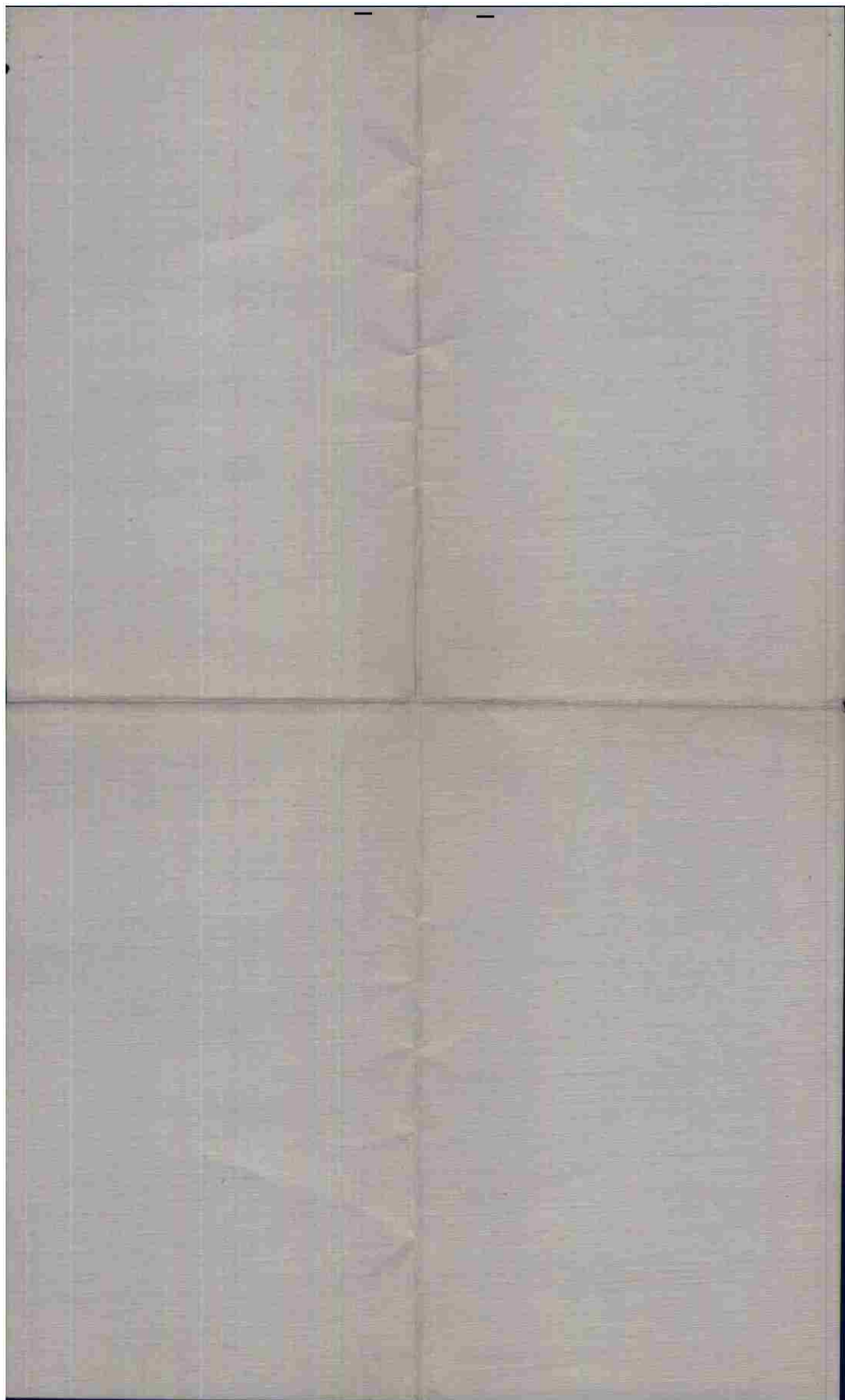
Because unfortunately, I was the only  
 one who didn't get up - since I was  
 last. However, I expect to get up to  
 normal and see how it feels.  
 So he probably fears I am getting back  
 of so much advice want it with it so on  
 every life so far. I am ready to go to the  
 machine, you advice and then to the  
 front of it with a pleasant thought  
 I think of flying the winter - but I  
 that we'll be meeting here  
 everyone that there.  
 about that there.  
 I know you people must have  
 been excited when you heard of the sub  
 Dive off the west jersey coast and also  
 you must be rejoicing over the way  
 our actions are fighting. It means  
 we doing wonderfully, aren't they?  
 most likely you are in "Machinist"  
 and are enjoying yourselves & I dare  
 we have just to think about the  
 wonderful days we spent up among  
 these other Ridge Mountains and I



the balloon all night & it was  
 up about 30 minutes. In starting  
 we went to it & I like the in-  
 flation much better. Just before  
 the first trip the morning the  
 wind came to the ground was  
 quite strong consequently the  
 balloon took about at a  
 great rate. I thought it was going  
 to die into the ground over,  
 yesterday was Stuart's birthday - He  
 was 24 yrs. old.  
 Remember me to my friends in  
 Montana - Love to you all -  
 your devoted son,  
 Charles

am glad you are there. I trust  
 William will be able to come  
 up to see you - and Eliza with  
 Pythian. I received a long  
 letter from him last week, which  
 was extremely interesting - &  
 wish you was here at the ant.  
 camp. Then I called on him  
 often.  
 I have been raining some  
 today - and is much worse than  
 usual. A fine warm free  
 good tonight.  
 morning of the 11th -  
 we have just come from Camp  
 - & got my ride in





Samuel R. Keesler  
 2nd Lt A.S.S.R.C.  
 A.P.O. 705 A.E.F.  
 Postmarked Jun 12, 1918  
 U.S. Army Postal Service  
 To: Mrs S.R. Keesler  
 Montreat, N. Carolina, U.S.A.

2nd Art. Aerial Obs. School  
 June 10, 1918

Dearest Mother,

We have had several changes lately – and the normal state of our life here has been interfered with. Two of our pilots have been ordered away – up to the front – and three of our observers have been sent back to \_\_\_\_\_. I fear they are dropped. One of them was one of roommates. There is some mistake about his case I think. Anyway we miss them very much. Also the two pilots, who left, took their dogs with them and we miss them very much also. “Pilot” – the puppy which is left – certainly missed his brother and sister.

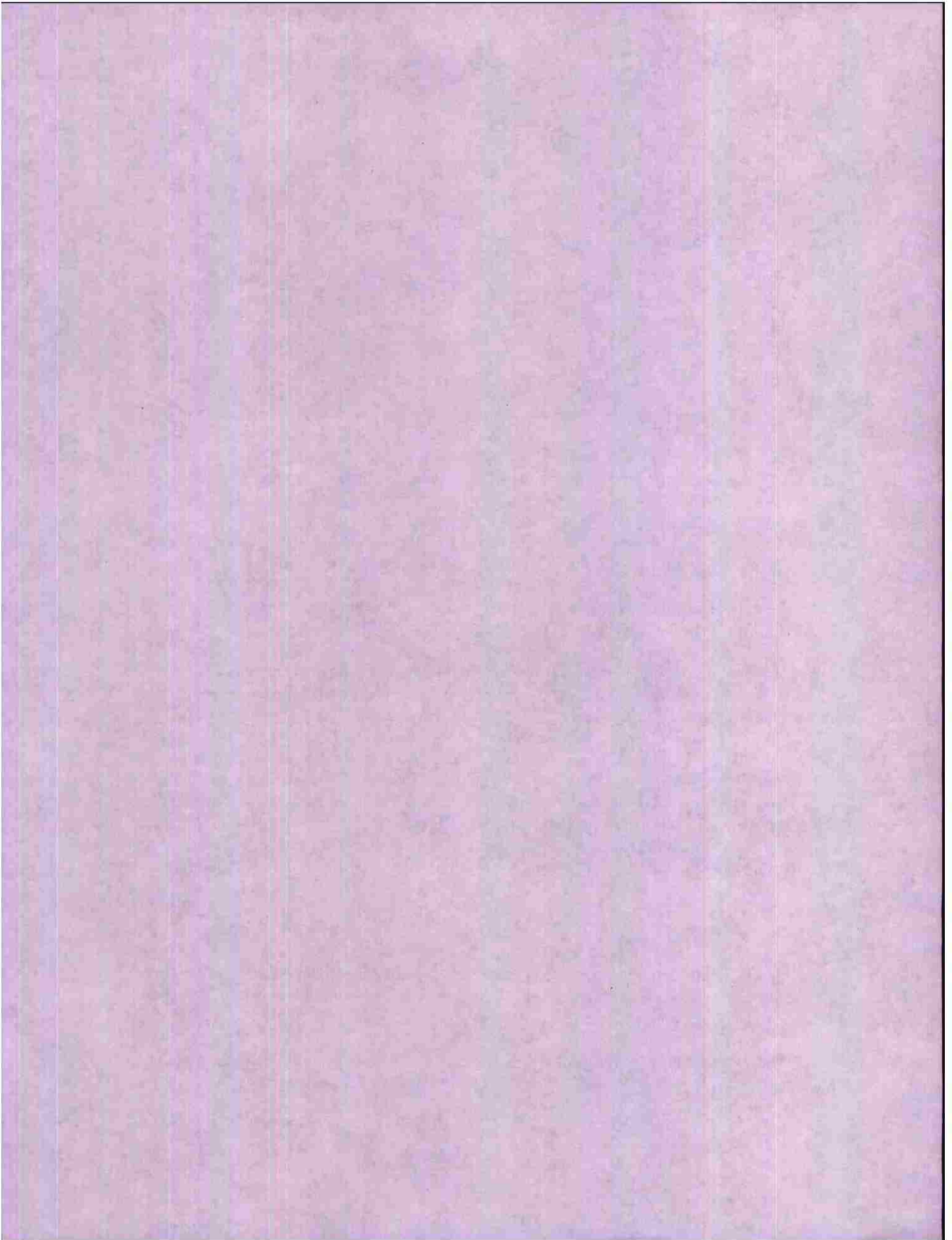
Your letter written May 13th came last week. I sure was glad to get it. I’m delighted to know that the cablegram reached you on “Mother’s Day” – I intended it to do so.

Mrs. Price’s death was very sad of course, but it’s a blessing after all. Don’t you think so? Doyer must have had a trying time.

We went to tour on Saturday as usual. Its getting tiresome to go to Bordeaux so much. We came back to camp Sat. night. Sunday morning we road in with the ones who were leaving and saw them off. Had dinner with Lt. Ledy (French Instructor) & Stuart at the “Chapeau Rouge.” When I speak of “we” I mean my other room-mate and I – (Lt. Durand). We had a very nice meal. After dinner we (four) went out to the Athletic Field where Stuart was to run. He has joined the Bordeaux Athletic Club. We met Mrs. Briquet & her daughters who love to watch Athletic Sports. They are friends of Stuart’s & Lt. Balfour’s & Lt. Ledy’s. The daughter is very attractive and very well educated. She speaks English some. I know I enjoyed talking to her. Stuart had to run three races – all of them the 100 meter race. He won two of them and tied the other – next Sunday the Championship Races of this district will be run. Stuart should win in my opinion.

We have just come from class and as I sat here getting ready to write – I saw a paper on my table and picking it up – I saw it was a promotion – no – not for me – but for my room-mate – Lt. Durand. The promotion was to a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenantcy – and he should have been one long ago. Such surprises sure make a fellow feel good. I certainly enjoyed congratulating him. Some Day may be, I’ll have the same experience.

This morning myself with 3 other Lts. Went over to ride in the balloons. Unfortunately, I was the only one who didn’t get up – since I was last. However I expect to get up to-morrow and see how it feels.



To be perfectly frank I am getting tired of so much school work etc – altho it is an easy life so far. I am ready to go to a machine gun school and then to the front. It isn't a pleasant thought to think of flying this winter – but I imagine that we'll be working hard about that time.

I know you people must have been excited when you learn of the sub-Raid off the New Jersey coast – and also you must be rejoicing over the way our soldiers are fighting – The Marines are doing wonderfully, aren't they?

Most likely you are in Montreat now and enjoying yourselves. It does me good just to think about the wonderful days I've spent up among those Blue Ridge Mountains and I am glad you are there. I trust William will be able to go up to see you – and Elizabeth.

By the way I received a long letter from W<sup>m</sup>. Last week, which was extremely interesting. I wish W<sup>m</sup>. was here at the Art. Camp – then I could see him often.

It has been raining some today – and is much cooler than usual. A fire would feel good tonight.

Morning of the 11th

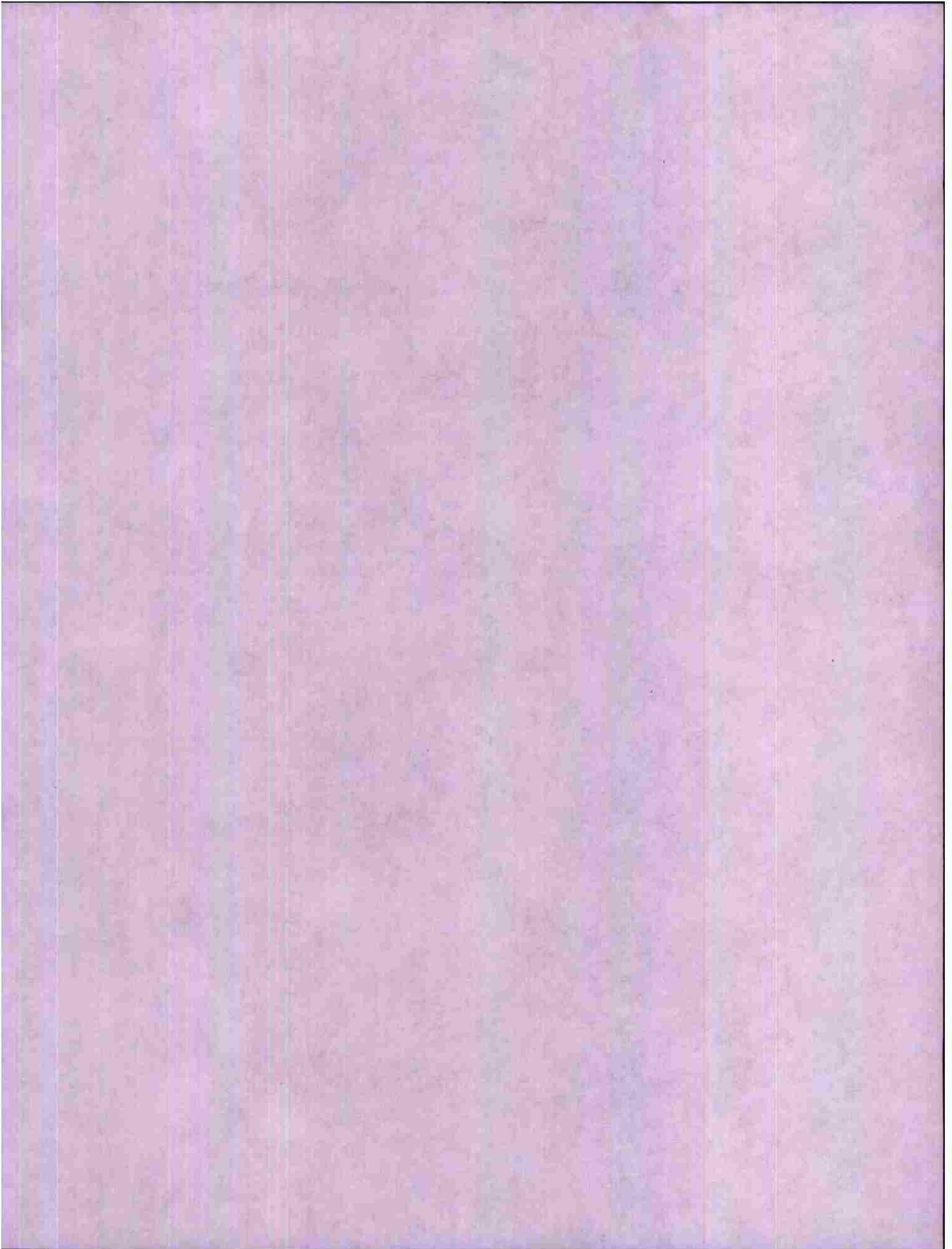
We have just come from Camp \_\_\_\_\_. I got my ride in the balloon all right – I staid (sic) up about 20 minutes. No startling sensations to it. I like the air-planes much better. Just before the first trip this morning – The wind close to the ground was quite strong – consequently the balloons tossed about at a great rate. I thought it was going to dive into the ground once.

Yesterday was Stuart's Birthday – He was 24 yrs. old.

Remember me to my friends in Montreat – Love to you all –

Your devoted son,  
Sam Jr.





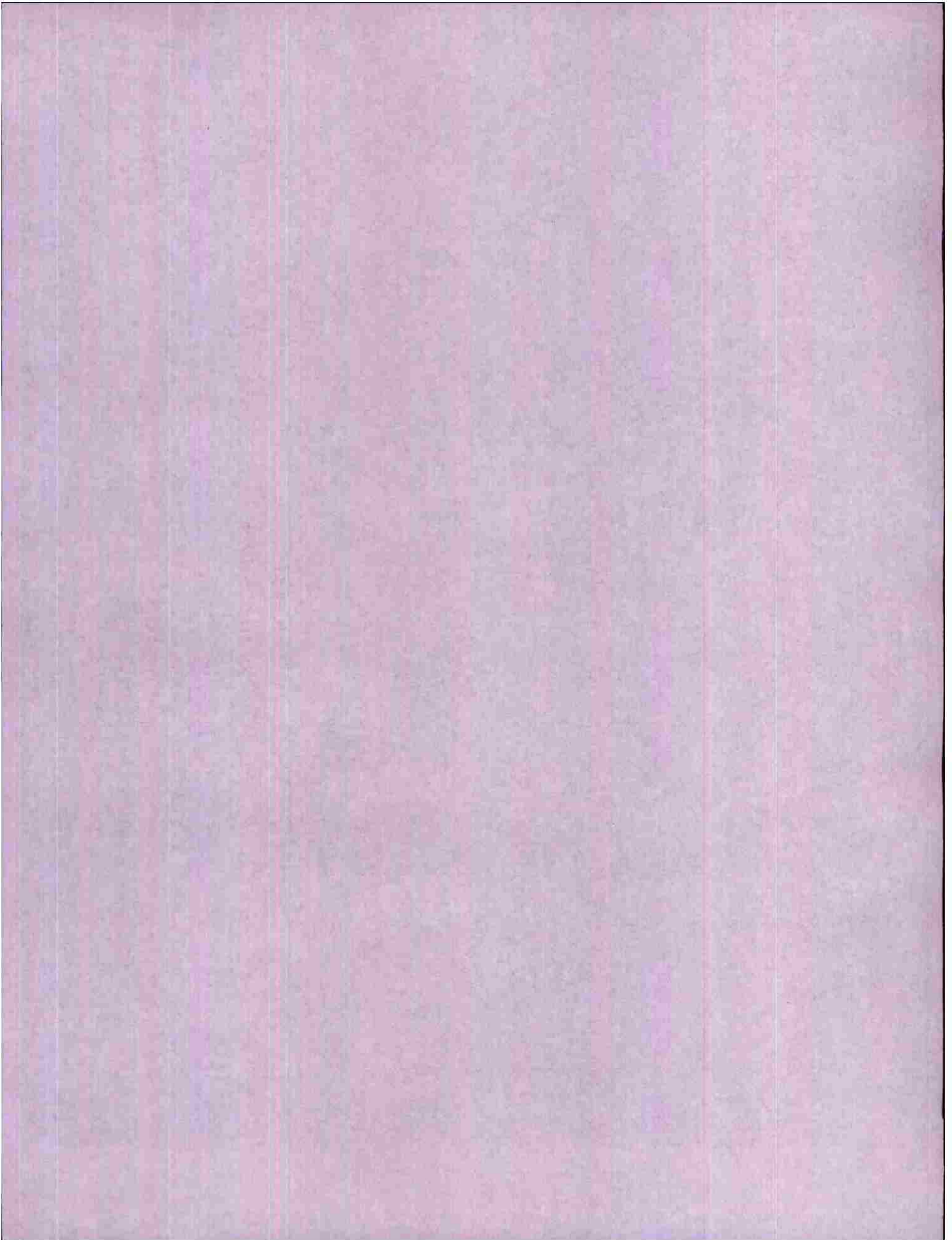
To: Gen. S.R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler  
Postmarked Jun 12, 1918

168-7567-Box 2
Folder 34
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Huntington Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36105-624

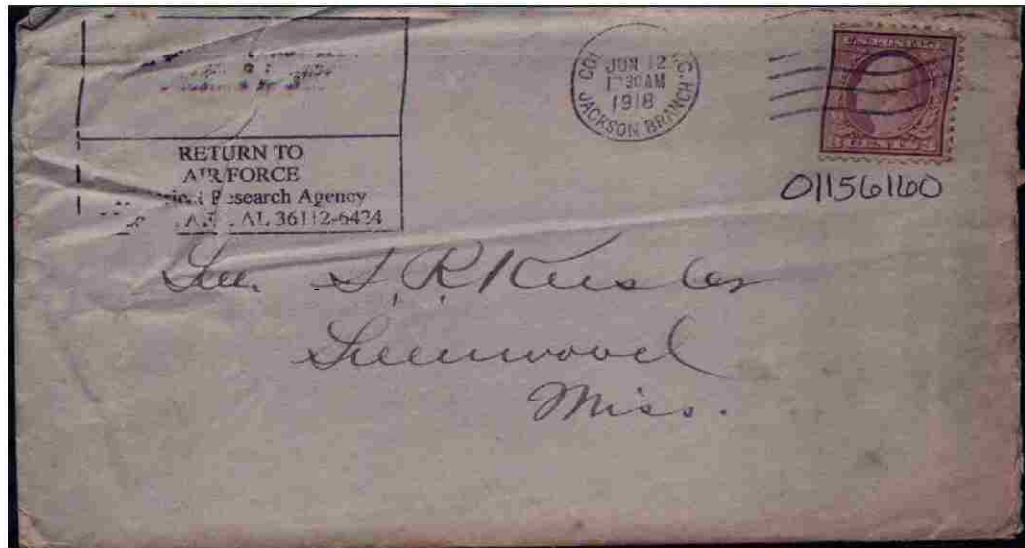
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getting back home again. I  
 spent the evening with him.  
 He is in camp but I haven't  
 been able to locate him yet. There  
 has been very heavy with the motor  
 school & Mr. Co. wrote.

This week and I spent  
 with Bob McElanahan & two other  
 AE, friends who had come  
 down to visit. They could  
 do nothing however as they  
 hadn't their visas yet. They  
 seemed to think that the  
 war would be over before

5/16th PA,  
 Tuesday

Dear Father,

The paper and your  
 letter came today. The Am-  
 movement exercises, I have  
 have enjoyed them. Am carefully  
 proud of my oldest sister. She  
 has made a splendid  
 record. She will keep it up at  
 college too, I know.  
 I am with Mr. Spencard  
 on the street set. There was  
 so glad to see everyone in  
 my life. It was almost like

I want to see every one of you very  
 anxious for you are to come up.  
 about Monday yet. Am getting very  
 so you haven't made any plans  
 know she will enjoy it.  
 show her the whole event and  
 kind her to be sure to do so. We try to  
 come down to Jackson to ~~know~~  
 to-day saying that she expected to  
 get a letter from Clair Blaine

let.

we are had a regular B.C. talk  
 see "Chambers" Ward Thompson and  
 we were glad to see them. We read  
 the next thing hearing Camp. I  
 they wouldn't have much chance for  
 would be the best thing for them as  
 in argument but I don't think it  
 Black this to get them to resist in  
 it upon them that it would. Jack  
 they get in it. I tried to express



and took up position and  
 got ready to fire on the evening  
 that night. Oh it was awful.

Rain pouring down, lightning &  
 thundering. The mud & sand  
 deep and with green horses &  
 green thorns we had no  
 acupal trace. We left the them  
 packed at 9 P.M. & finished my  
 work at 5:45 A.M. I got one  
 horn & sleep in twenty four  
 and the next forty eight got  
 six. Before me I was all in.  
 We said telephone twice thru  
 woods at night for a chance

had. In hoping you bring  
 mother & Charlotte by her. But  
 if you go to Newark just three  
 miles down that will be fine  
 as Elizabeth must come too.

One person has already planned  
 & have her visit her. Maybe  
 she can come. I hope so.

Coming to Newark with you.  
 You can see from same  
 letter what he thinks of that idea.

Last week I was out in  
 the danger for two whole nights  
 we went out Thursday night



I have a long time had  
 we got them thru. The next day we  
 had and did push over the gun work  
 line and so did our men. Also they  
 had to cut these three lines. I got in  
 Friday night at 12:15 after working  
 getting up those lines. We are now  
 waiting the new thing are here now.  
 We wrote out every thing on paper  
 then put them out in the field. They  
 my interesting work. I got now the  
 we are under the machine for  
 away our gas makes every other  
 we go and they are replacing gas  
 still around us all the time.  
 Must clear for to use  
 your affectionate son  
 William

Postmarked June 12, 1918  
 Columbia, S.C.  
 Jackson Branch  
 To: Gen S.R. Keesler  
 Greenwood, Miss

316th F.A.  
 Tuesday

Dear Father,

The paper and your letter came telling of the Commencement exercises. I sure have enjoyed them. I'm awfully proud of my oldest sister. She sure has made a splendid record. She will keep it up at college too, I know.

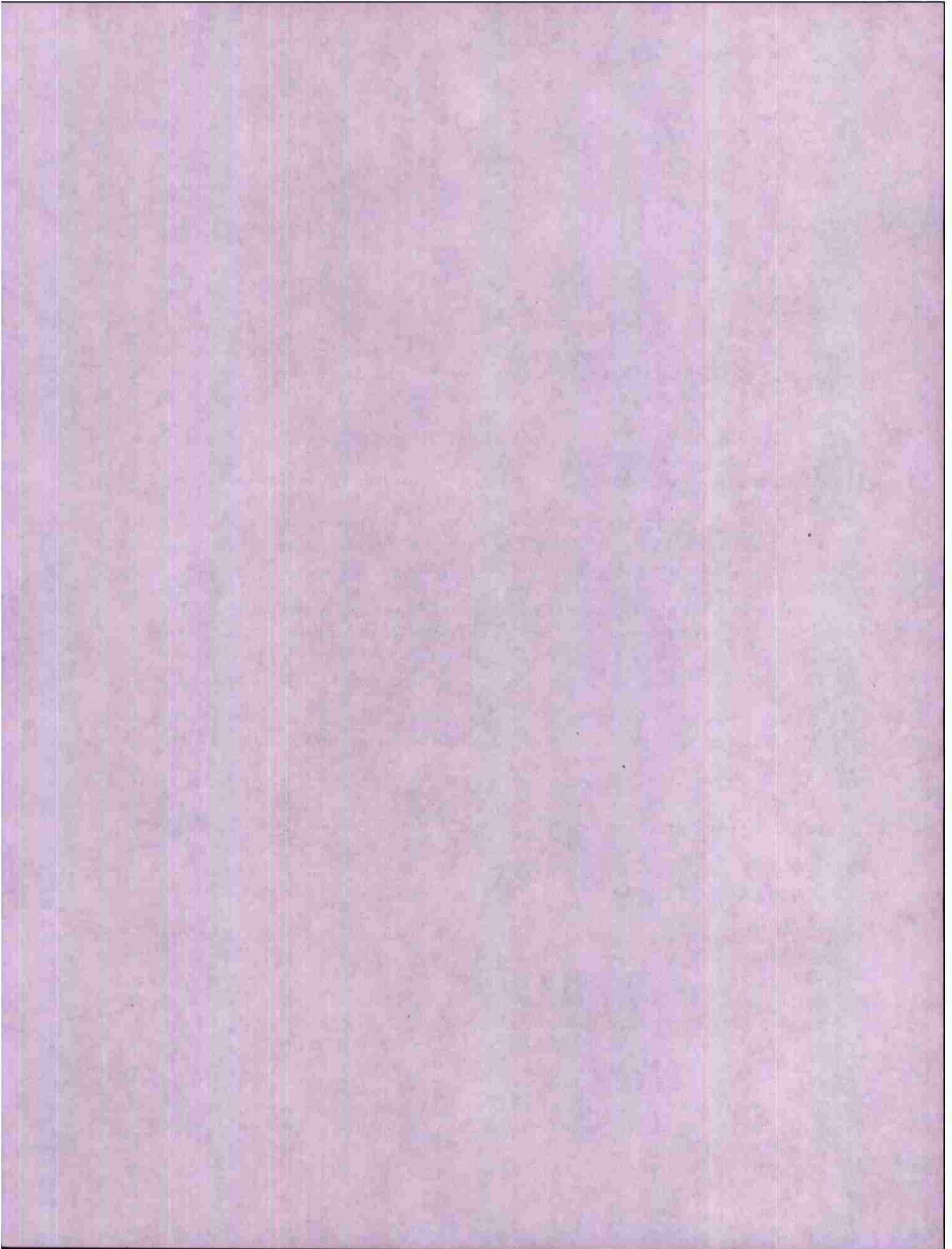
I ran into Mr Lipscomb on the streets sat. Never was so glad to see anyone in my life. It was almost like getting back home again. I spent the evening with him. He is in camp but I haven't been able to locate him yet. Have been very busy with the motor school & Hdqr Co work.

This week-end I spent with Bob Richardson & two other D.C. friends who had come down to enlist. They could do nothing however as they hadn't their serial #. They seemed to think that the war would be over before they got in it. I tried to impress it upon them that it wouldn't. Jack Black tried to get them to enlist in our regiment but I don't think it would be the best thing for them as they wouldn't have much chance for the next officers Training Camp. I sure was glad to see them. We found "Joe" Chambliss & Ward Thompson and we six had a regular D.C. talk fest.

Got a letter from Olive Rhause to-day saying that she expected to come down to Jackson to-morrow. I wired her to be sure to do so. I'll try to show her the whole camp and I know she will enjoy it.

So you haven't made any plans about Montreat yet. I'm getting very anxious for you all to come up. I want to see everyone of you very bad. I'm hoping you bring mother & Charlotte by ere. But if you go to Montreat first then motor down that will be fine as Elizabeth must come too. Mrs Lipscomb has already planned to have her visit her. I hope she can come. Is F.W.R. coming to Montreat with you. You can see from Sam's letter what he thinks of that idea.

Last week I was out on the Range for two whole nights. We went out Thursday night and took up position and got ready to fire on the enemy that night. Oh it was awful. Rain pouring down, lightning & thundering. The mud & sand deep and with green horses & greener drivers we had an awful time. We left the Gun park at 9 P.M. & I finished my work at 5:45 A.M. I got one hour of sleep in twenty four and the next forty eight I got six. Believe me I was all in. We laid telephone wires thru woods at night for a distance of three miles. It took a long time but we got them thru. The next day we fired and did fairly well. The guns worked fine and so did our wired although they tried to cut thru three times. I got in Friday night at 12:15 after working getting up those wires. We are sure relating the real thing over here now. We work out everything on paper then put them out in the field. Very very interesting work. Right now we



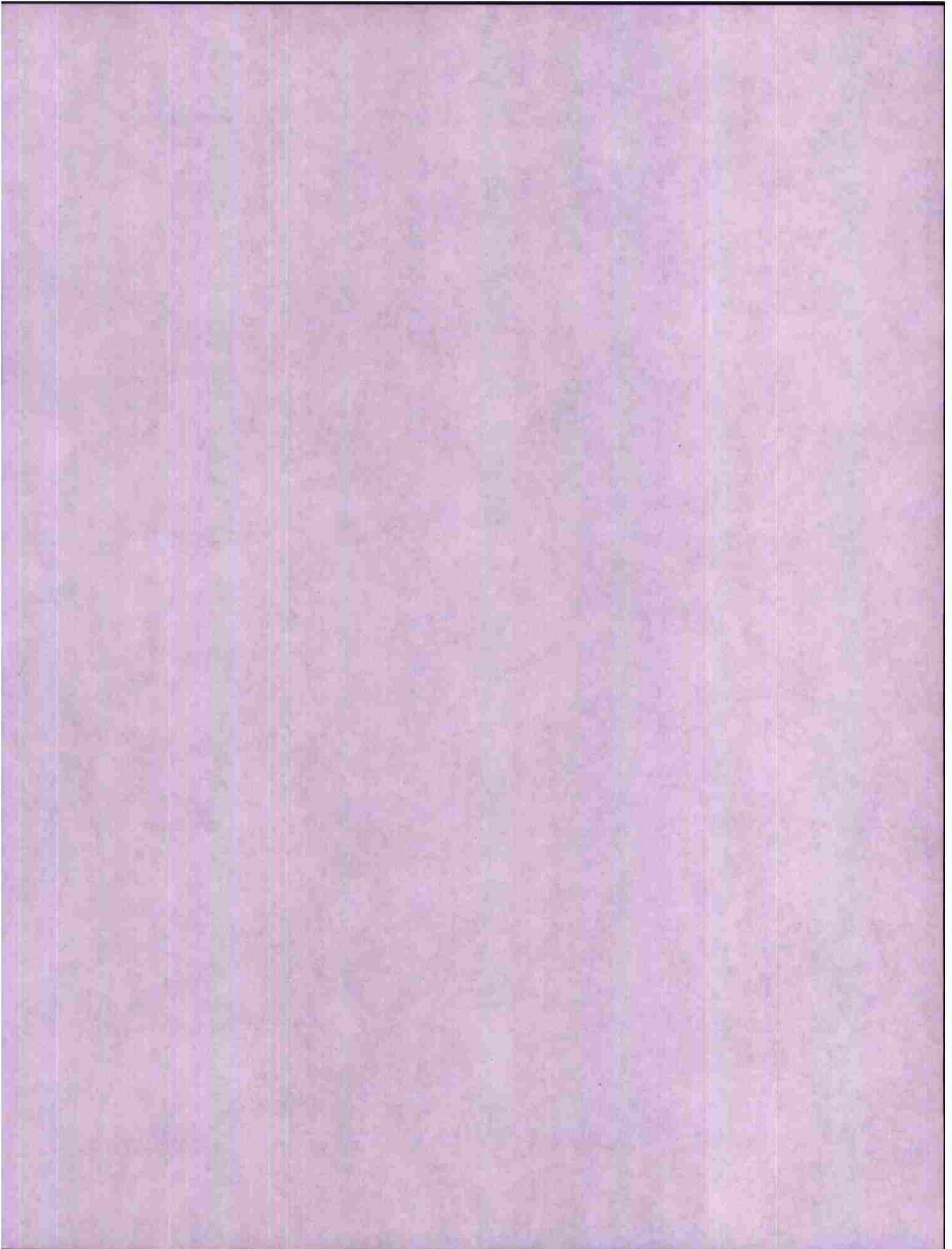


are under gas instruction. We carry our gas masks every where we go and they are exploding gas shells around us all the time.

Must close. Love to all.

Your affectionate son,  
William





To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler  
From: Samuel Keesler  
June 16, 1918

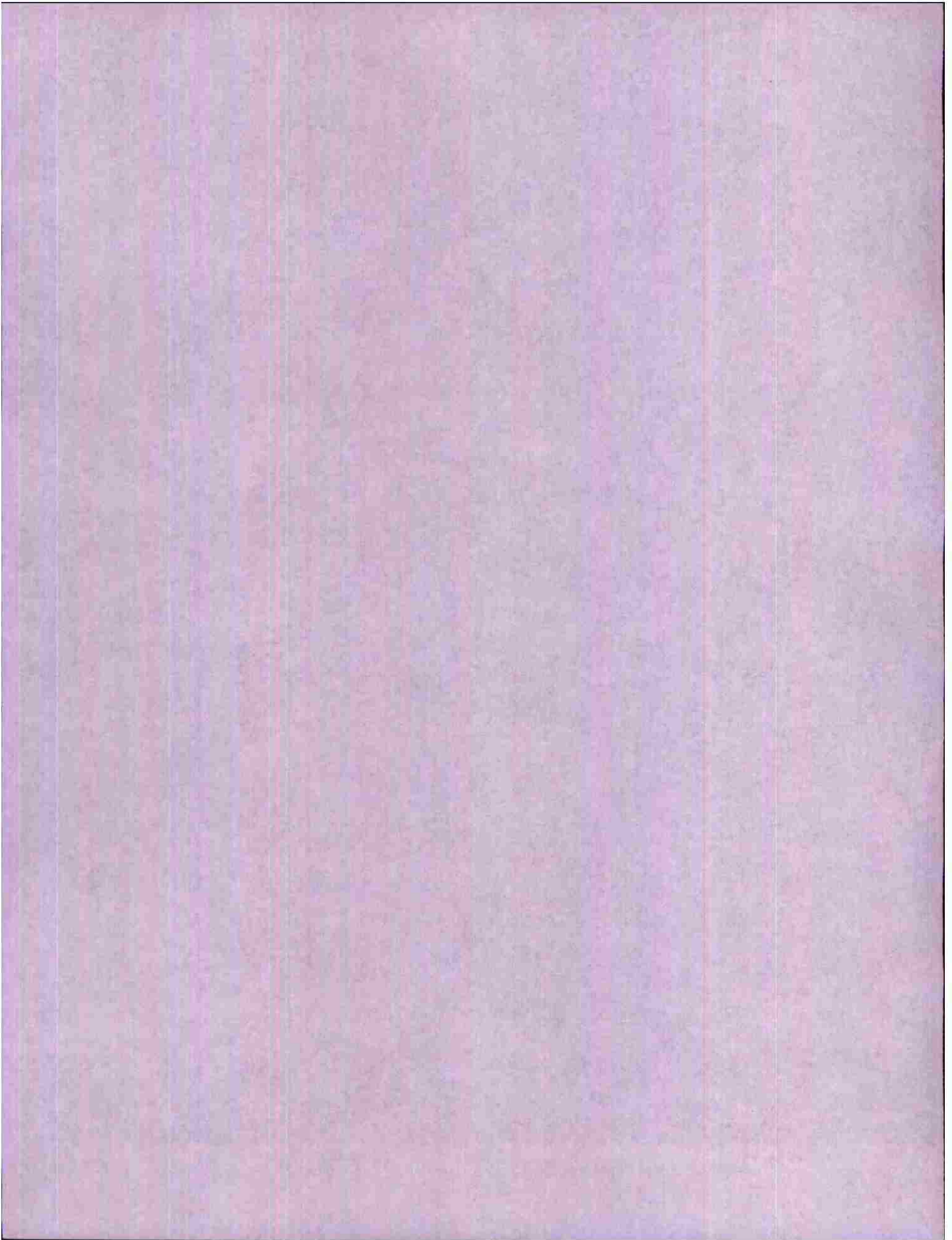
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Memphis, Tenn.

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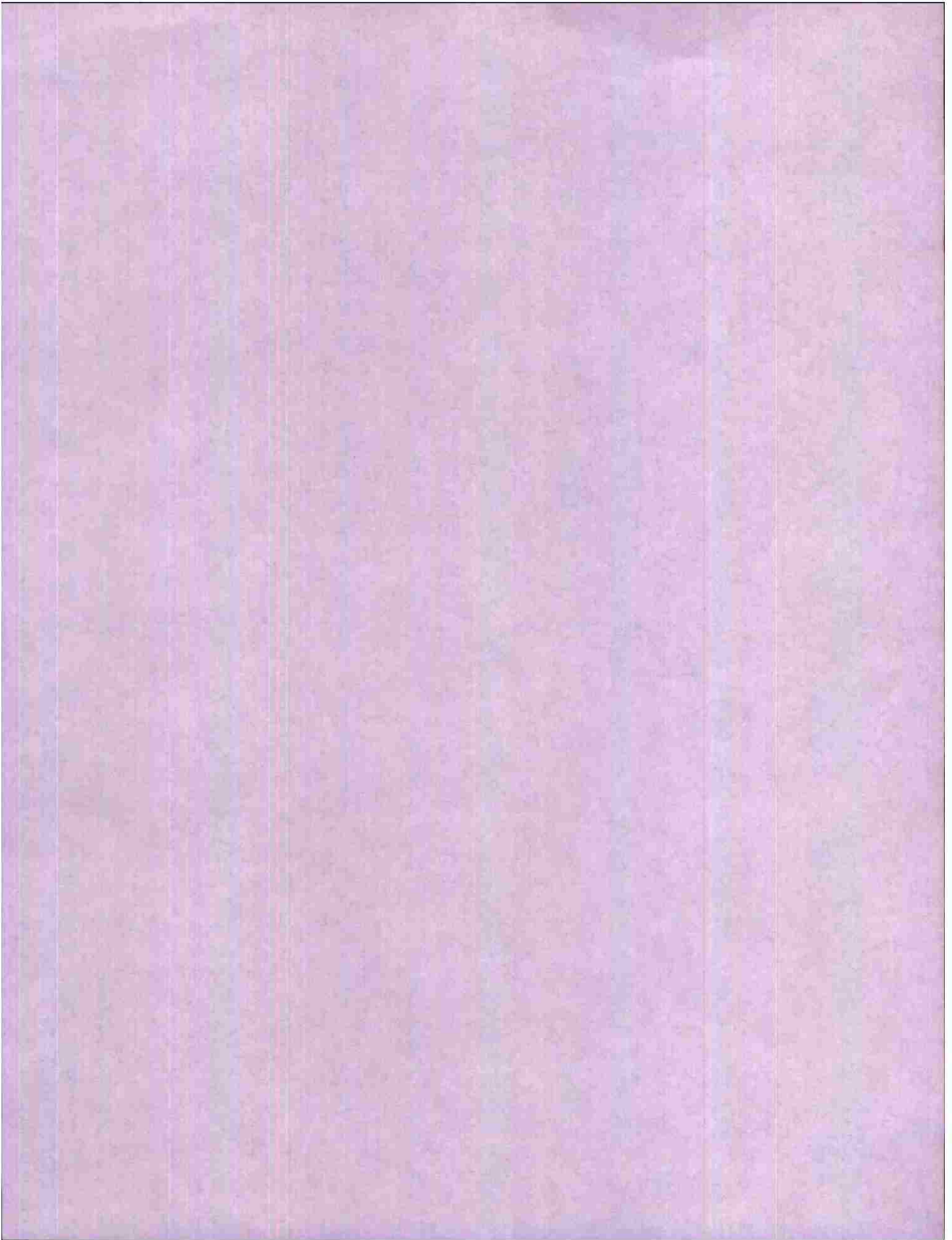
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Historical Research Agency  
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

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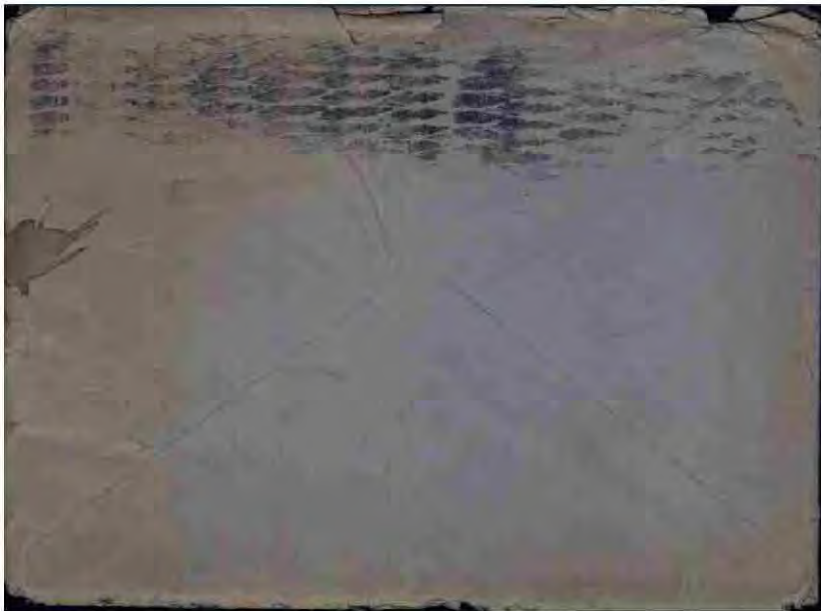


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2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Aerial Observation School,  
A.P.O. 703 - A.E.F. France.

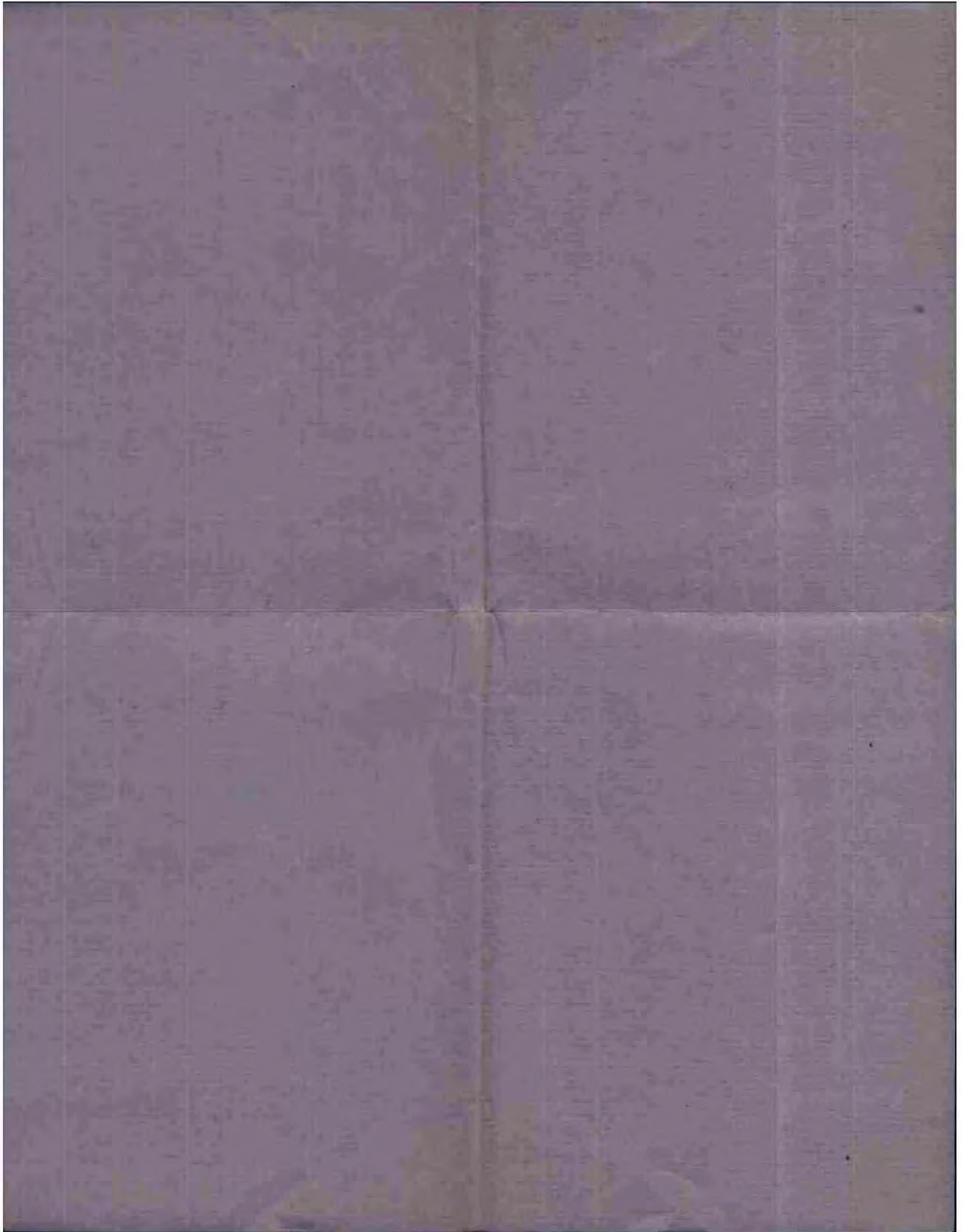
June 16, 1918.

Dearest Mother,

well I'm still here as you see by the above, I judge we will be here ~~two~~ week longer at least. you see the artillery <sup>you can choose</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>is</sup> just ready to try firing with aerial observation - and since some of the class haven't spotted for artillery we are staying on to get some practice. We are hoping, however, to get to a machine gun school before long.

Edward dropped me a note last week, saying he would meet me in Brédoux Sat. I was expecting him at 3 P.M. but he didn't get in until 6 P.M. Stuart, Ed., Lt. Renaud & I took supper together. We had quite a pleasant time indeed. Edward is looking just as well as ever. He has charge of the instruction of 550 men over at





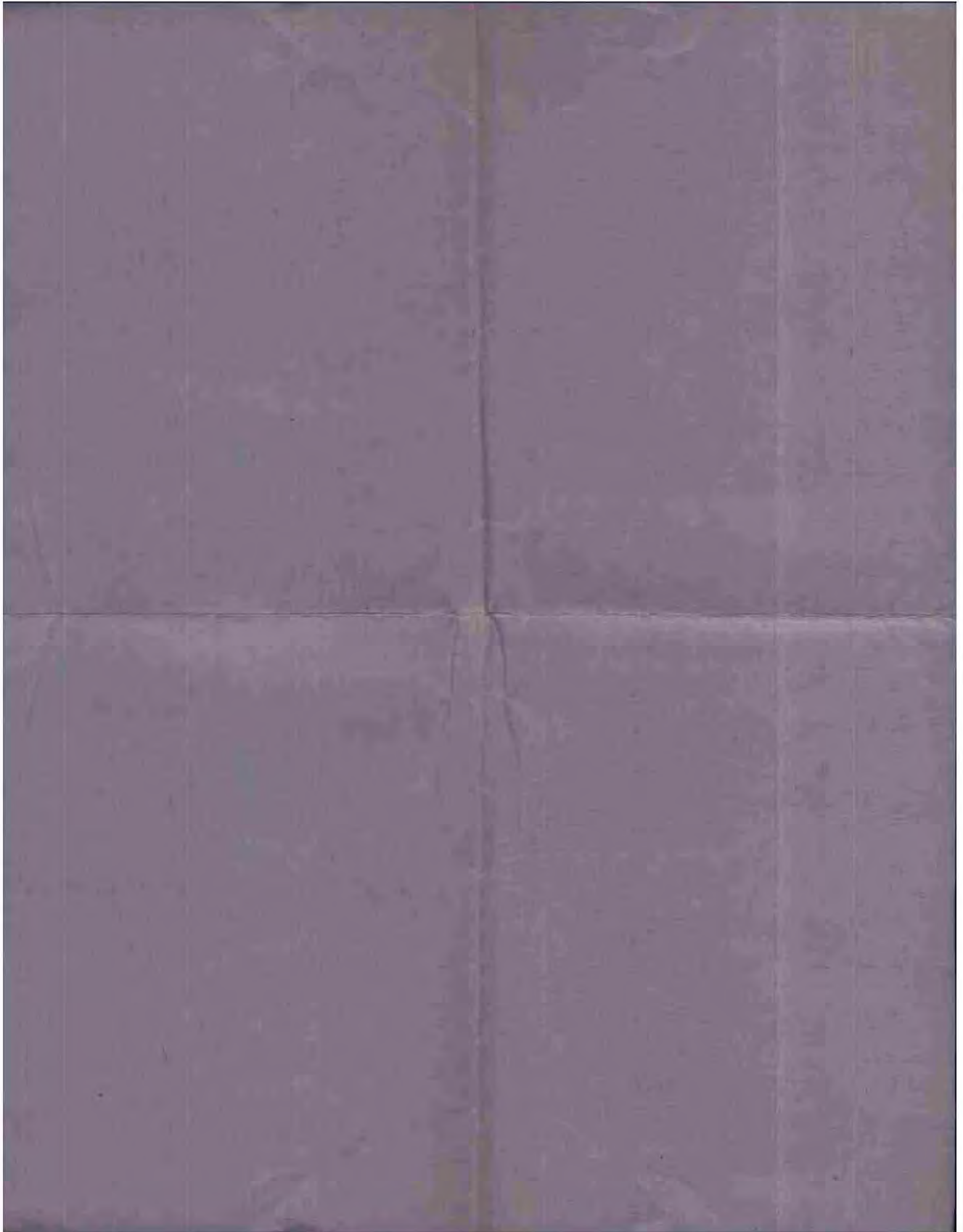
Libaume, teaching them how to drive Grad trucks etc.

I didn't stay in town very long last night. Bernard & I came back at 9 o'clock. I ought to go in today and see Stuart run - but can not. He is running in the Championships Meet of this District - (South Western). He should win his race.

New orders have come out regarding men in town - very good in away. No colored man allowed on streets after nine o'clock without special pass. Y.M.C.A. closes at 9 P.M. etc. No wines, beer, or liquors after 8:30 P.M.

I received a letter from Dayer yesterday written from Memphis and was mighty glad to hear from her. I'll answer it right away. Also a letter from you & one from F.W.B. Both written in April - finally reached me. altho they were very old & enjoyed them nevertheless. Mail is slow over here -



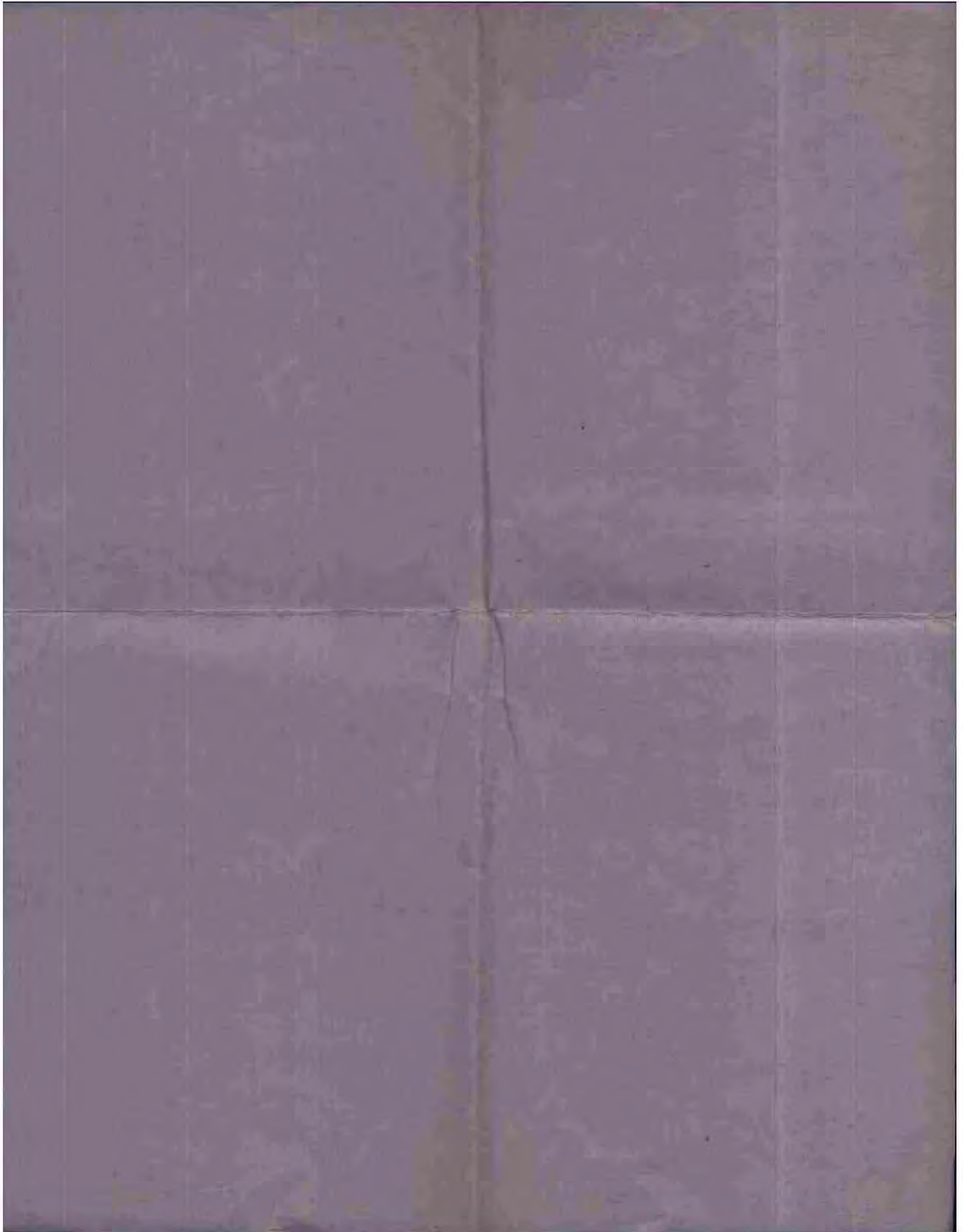


I must say that I don't feel like the color of this paper - blue. so don't think so. I just bought it to be buying something a pretty madame ~~made~~ sold it to me, you see. anyway you'll know my letter before you see the hand writing.

I am assuming you are in Montreal. I hope I am correct in my assumption. I hope Dayer is there, too, with Charlie Wright and Charles Edwards. Did you go thru the country and was it a good trip? etc.

I can picture you are now, in my mind, eagerly waiting for someone to bring the mail up the hill and especially the daily paper - we do the same thing here. Events are happening so rapidly now that we can't get news fast enough. anyway - we feel confident our "boys" at the Point are going to hold - and they have so far and even more than that. Some of these days will be there, too.





Do you want some lace? There is plenty  
of it here - if I knew anything about it I  
would buy some for you.

The weather is much cooler now than  
it has been - also has been cloudy for last  
three days - interfering, by the way, with our aerial  
work. I am hoping tomorrow will be  
clear - for we work with the artillery in the  
morning.

I bought some French hair tonic not  
long ago for dandruff - I am praying that it  
won't make my hair fall out. How do you  
reckon I would look bald? Awful - of course  
I don't want to do that tho - I was joking.

I watched the 100's howitzers fire last week  
- and also saw where the trench mortars were  
firing - you can watch the projectile all  
almost all the way thru its trajectory. Just  
interesting to watch them fire - Both guns are  
very important articles up at the front.

Nothing has happened during the week of  
opposite without a number of conversations  
not much more than talking the most  
often me to tell with it more  
be a "blue" one, too.  
Lots of love to you - each one - and  
sincerely my dear mother -  
Dorothy



Samuel R. Keesler  
2nd Lt A.S.S.R.C.  
A.P.O. 705 A.E.F.  
Postmarked Jun 17, 1918  
U.S. Army Postal Service  
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler  
Montreat, North Carolina, U.S.A.

2nd Artillery Aerial Observation School,  
A.P.O. 705 – A.E.F. France  
June 16, 1918

Dearest Mother,

Well I'm still here as you see by the above, I judge we will be here two weeks longer at least. You see the artillery {are/is} (you can choose) just ready to try firing with aerial observation – and since some of the class haven't spotted for artillery we are staying on to get some practice. We are hoping, however, to get to a machine gun school before long.

Edward dropped me a note last week, saying he would meet me in Bordeaux Sat. I was expecting him at 3 P.M. but he didn't get in until 6 P.M. Stuart, Ed, Lt. Durand & I took supper together. We had quite a pleasant time indeed. Edward is looking just as well as ever. He had charge of the Instruction of 350 men over at Libourne, teaching them how to drive quad trucks etc.

I didn't stay in town very long last night. Durand & I came back at 9 o'clock. I aught to go in to-day and see Stuart run – but am not. He is running in the Championship Meet of the District (South Western). He should win his race.

New orders have come out regarding men in town – very good in away. No enlisted man allowed on streets after nine o'clock without special pass. Y.M.C.A. classes at 9 P.M. etc. No wines, beers, or liquors after 8<sup>30</sup> P.M.

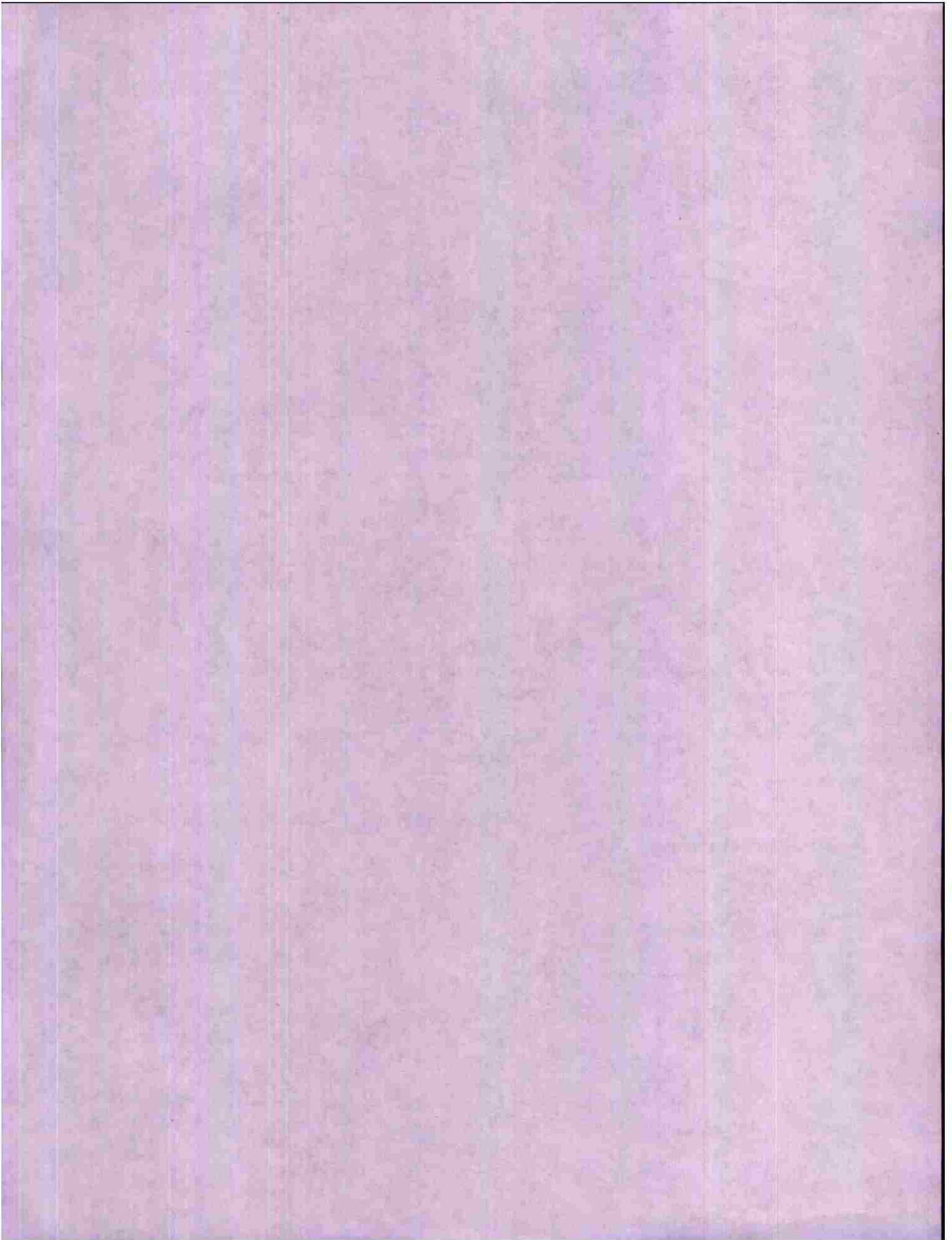
I received a letter from Dayer yesterday written from Memphis and was might glad to hear from her. I'll answer it right away. Also a letter from W<sup>m</sup> & one from F.W.R. both written in April – finally reached me. Altho they were very old I enjoyed them never-the-less – Mail is mail over here –

I must say that I don't feel like the color of this paper – blue – so don't think so. I just bought it to be buying something a pretty mademoiselle sold it to me, you see. Any way you'll know my letters before you see the hand writing.

I am assuming you are in Montreat. I hope I am correct in my assumption. I hope Dayer is there, too, with Charlie Wright and Charles Edward Jr. Did you go thru the country and was it a good trip? Etc.

I can picture you all now, in my mind, eagerly waiting for someone to bring the mare up the hill and especially the daily paper- We do the same thing here. Events are happening so





rapidly now that we can't get news fast enough – anyway – we feel confident our “boys” at the front are going to hold – and they have so far and even more than that. Some of these days we'll be there too.

Do you want some lace? There is plenty of it here – if I knew anything about it, I would buy some for you.

The weather is much cooler now than it has been – also has been cloudy for last three days – interfering, by the way, with our aerial work. I am hoping tomorrow will be clear – for me work with the artillery in the morning.

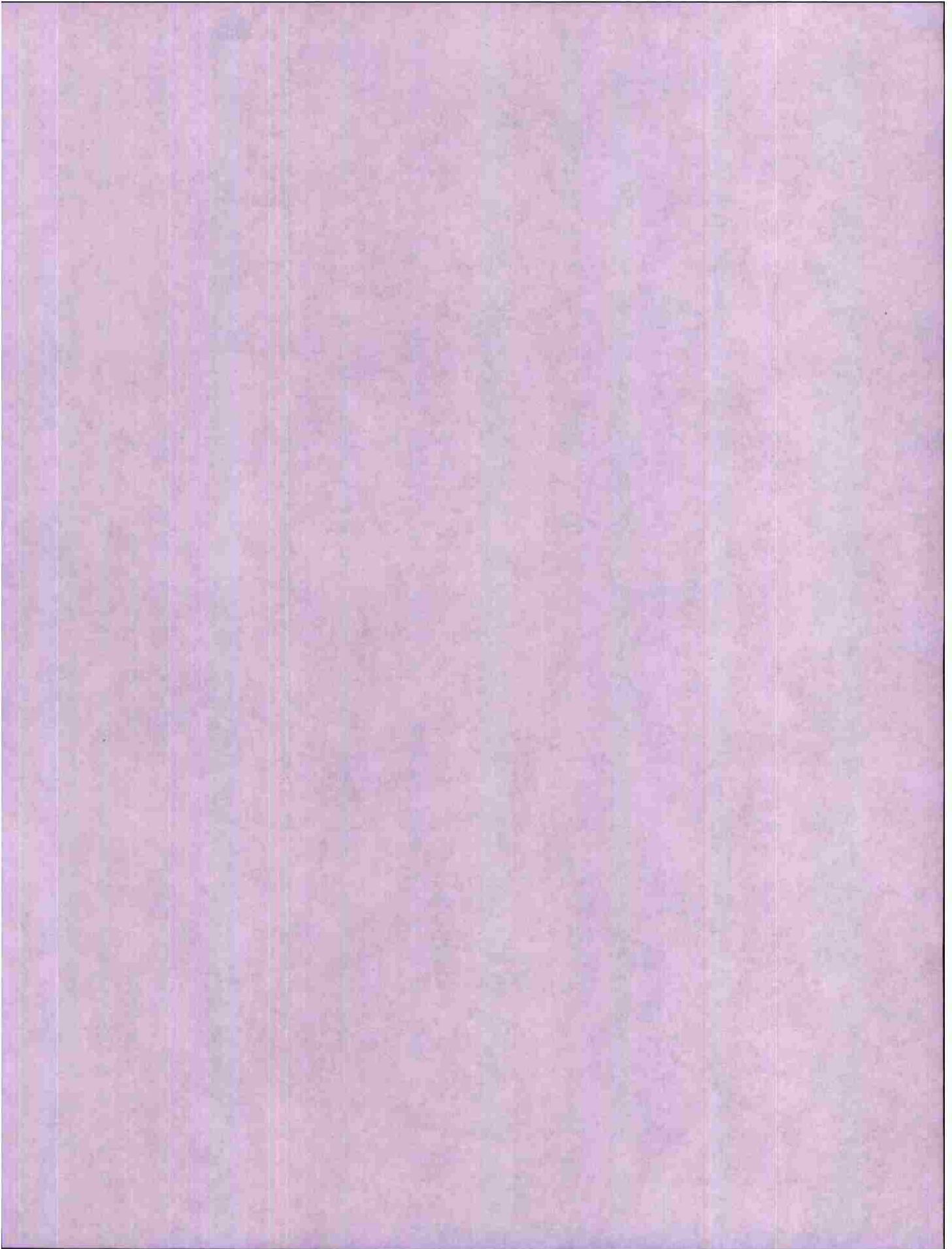
I bought some French hair tonic not long ago for dandruff – I am praying that it won't make my hair fall out. How do you reckon I would look bald? Awful – of course. I won't do that tho – I was joking.

I watched the 155 Howitzers fire last week – and also saw where the trench mortars were firing – you can watch the projectile almost all the way thru its trajectory- quite interesting to watch them fire. Both guns are very important articles up at the front.

Nothing has happened during the week of special interest around here – consequently not much news – Here's hoping the next letter will be better – although it will be a “blue” one, too.

Lots of love to you – each one – and especially my dear mother –

Devotedly your Son,  
Sam Jr.



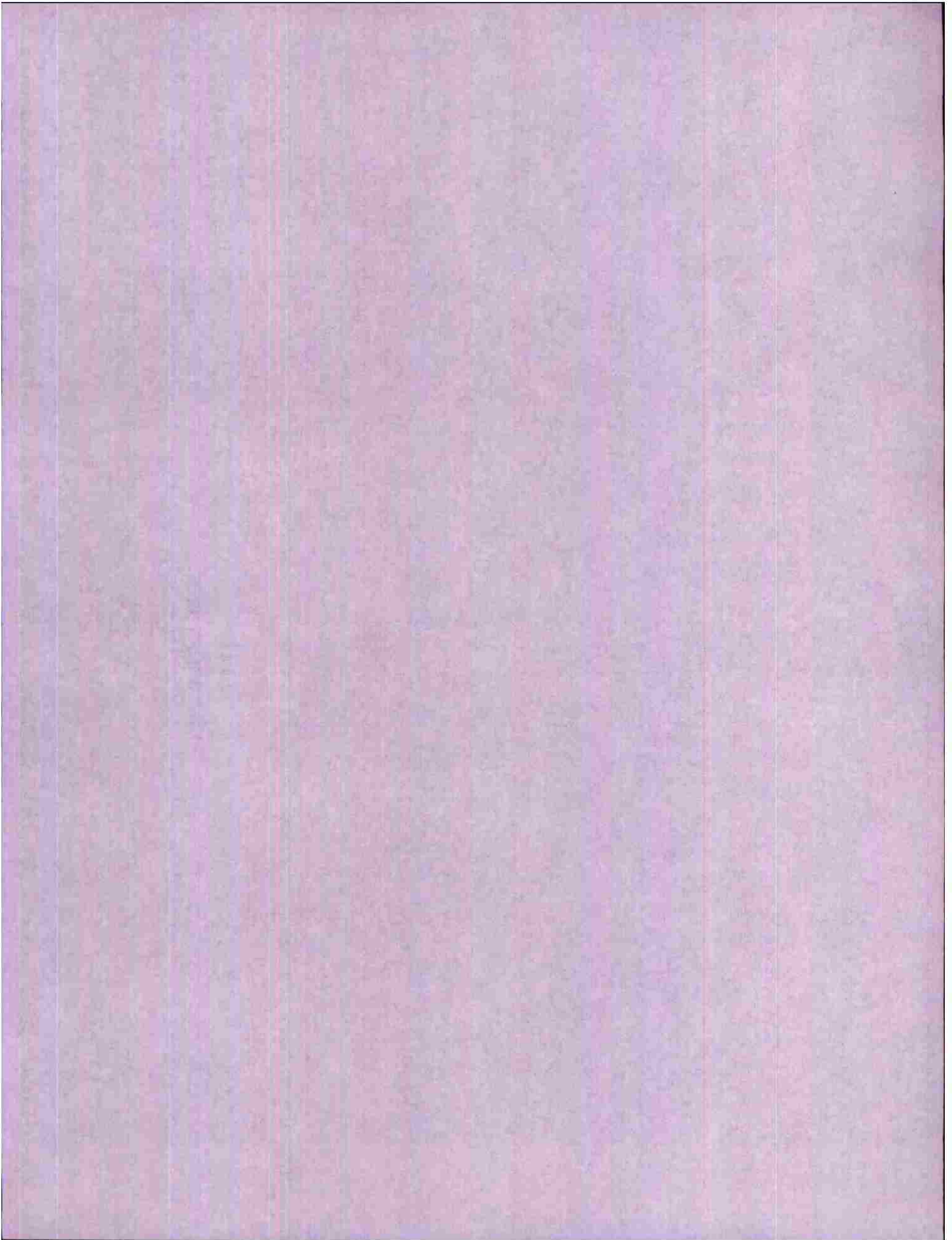
To: Gen. S.R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler  
Aug 15, 1918

165-7567 Box 2
FOIA b 71
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6634

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2007

01156160





0156160

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

Somewhere in England  
8/15/48 Thursday

Dear Father

This being the first time since I left  
Camp Meek to write even a line to anyone  
excepting the canteen & the wire. Our trip over  
was great. I made a few notes, kind of a  
diary which I'll write up later. I have a  
few minutes now before we leave to  
write no wire only write a note.

When Mr. J. dropped out of sight I had  
no sensation at all of leaving my native  
land. I guess the excitement & work of  
embarkation over came that. What I  
did enjoy was the way the big boats were  
hauled by the tugs and also the boats which  
we passed. Several of them looked the Rising  
Sun of Japan in their camouflage  
paint. The whole sight was very interesting  
and exciting. One of the aeroplanes from  
Minerola flew over us as we dropped  
out of sight and flew a circle around  
us waving us a Good By. That made me  
feel like I was leaving. From then on we saw  
nothing except our Conroy, altho they say we  
passed a vessel in the night. No "subs"

were sighted that was "Good". I had a feeling tho before we started of wanting a truck with them but after we got on the Atlantic believe me that feeling was left for behind. I never saw so much water in my life. But sure could get lost easily out there so one of the men said, each wave looked like the next one. Oh the water was beautiful for two days. Then it was so ugly that every body excepting a very few hated it. That old boat did every thing but stand on its head & it tried to do that several times. Sick. you bet I was sick for about four hours. I didn't know that a man could be so miserable before. And the worst part was that we had to stay down in the hole with these men. At least we had to stay there for two hours straight and then four hours off. The men were in an awful fix and that made us sicker. But in a few hours all was beautiful again and before long no one cared whether the ship rolled, pitched or did a flip for we



had our sea legs then. From there on  
 we had a wonderful time. These men  
 even enjoyed it. The infantry with us  
 put on a very good entertainment for  
 the Benefit of Wounded Seamen. Each  
 night and morning we had a band  
 concert. We had wonderful weather  
 and the only thing to keep us from  
 having a big time was "Boat Drill." That  
 would break up things every now  
 and then. One morning about 7 A.M.  
 a "Hello Lil" up on deck sounding on the  
 whistle cord giving the signal that  
 we were in danger. See but we  
 tumbled out in a hurry. I was on duty  
 as a "Traffic Cop" at one of the stair  
 way and the men came up in  
 good shape. After about seven days on  
 the ocean we came in sight of land.  
 See I had a few sensations then. It  
 is hard to describe just the satisfaction  
 seeing land again. But I haven't felt  
 yet that we are in a foreign land except  
 the money. I have mastered that now.  
 Altho I can't always figure it out as

quicker as some else. We landed  
on the west side of England and marched  
five miles to camp. These next day  
we rested and left for here the next  
day Aug 14. We are in a rest camp  
now expecting to leave soon.

Before leaving Camp Miller  
wrote you a letter which I gave to a  
friend to mail. He said he had  
no chance to mail it but threw  
it to some people out of the window  
of the train. Let me know if you  
received it. My address right now  
is: St. William P. Keeler

Hdqr Co. 316th F.A.

American Expeditionary Forces  
France

Via N.Y.

Do not put A.R. F. on the envelope.

Will write again soon. Give my well.

Best of love to you & all

Your devoted son

William P. Keeler



(No envelope)

Somewhere in England  
Aug 15, 1918

Dear Father,

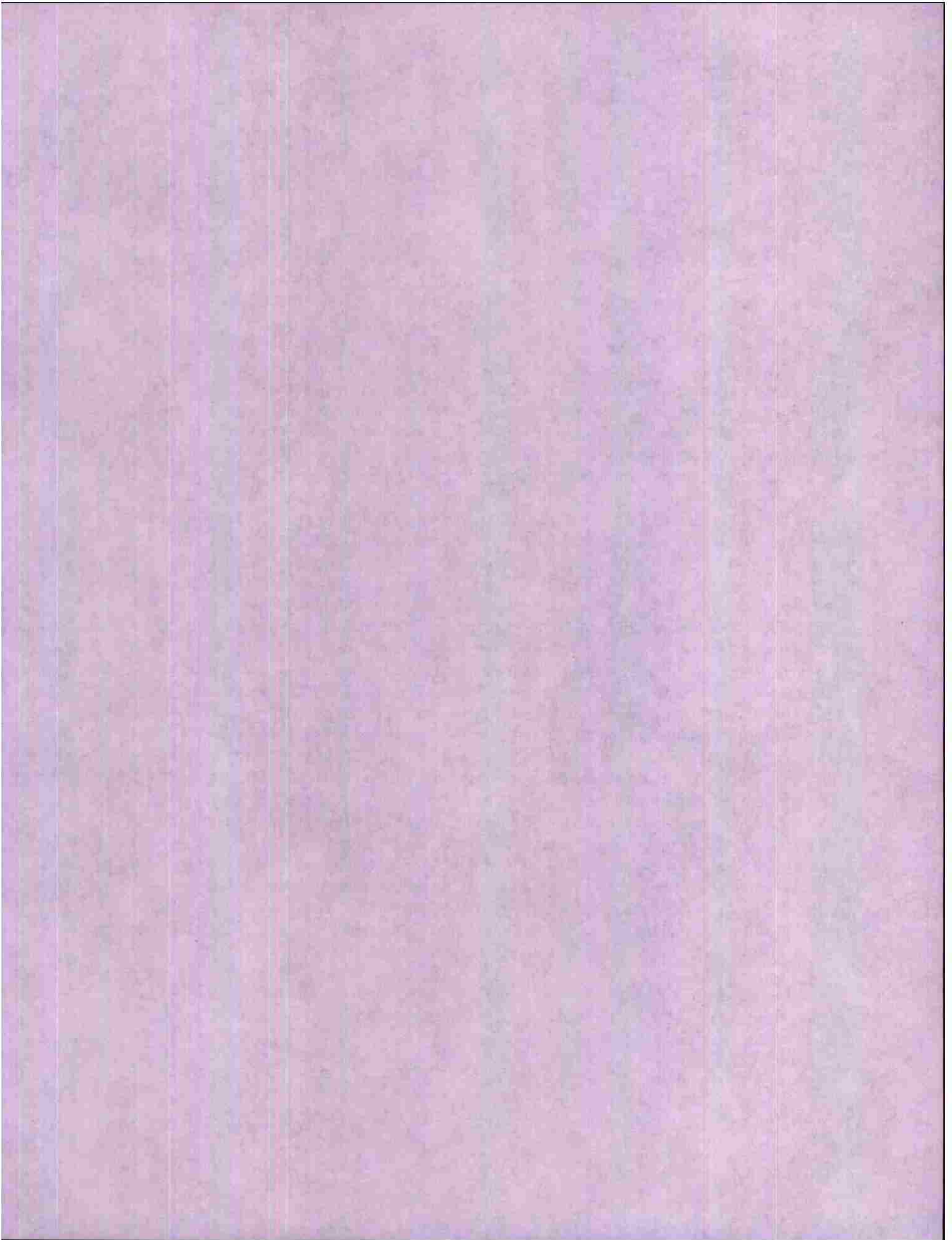
This being the first time sine I left Camp Mills to write even a line to everyone excepting the cards & the wire. Our trip over was great. I made a few note, kind of a diary which I'll write up later. I have a few minutes now before we leave to write so will only write a note.

When N.Y. dropped out of sight, I had no sensation at all of leaving my native land. I guess the excitement & work of embarkation over came that. What I did enjoy was the way the big boats were handled by the tugs and also the boats which we passed. Several of them looked the Rising Sun of Japan in their camouflage paint. The whole sight was very interesting and exciting. One of the aeroplanes from Mincola flew over us as we dropped out of sight and flew a circle around us waving us a Good By. That made me feel like I was leaving. From then on we saw nothing except our convoy, although they say we passed a vessel in the night. No "subs" were sight that was "Good." I had a feeling tho before we started of wanting a brush with them but after we got on the Atlantic believe me that feeling was left far behind. I never saw so much water in my life. One sure could get lost easily, out there so one of the men said, each wave looked like the next one. Oh the water was beautiful for two days. Then it was so ugly that every body excepting a very few hated it. That old boat did every thing but stand on its head & it tried to do that several times. Sick. You bet I was sick for about four hours. I didn't know that a man could be so miserable before. And the worst part was that we had to stay down in the hole with the men. At least we had to stay there for two hours straight and then four hours off. The men were in an awful fix and that made us sicker. But in a few hours all was beautiful again, and before long no one cared whether the ship rolled, pitched or did a flip for we had our sea legs then. From then on we had a wonderful time. Then men even enjoyed it. The infantry with us put on a very entertainment for the Benefit of Wounded Seamen. Each night and morning we had a band concert. We had wonderful weather and the only thing to keep us from having a big time was "Boat Drill." That would break up things every now and then. One morning about 7 A.M. a "Hello Girl" up on deck swung on the whistle cord giving the signal that we were in danger. Gee but we tumbled out in a hurry. I was on duty as a "traffic cop" at one of the stair was and the men came up in Good Shape. After about seven days on the ocean we came in sight of land. Gee I had a few sensations then. It is hard to describe just the satisfaction seeing land gave me. But I haven't felt yet that we are in a foreign land excepting the money. I have mastered that now. Altho I can't always figure it out as quick as some can. We landed on the west side of England and marched five miles to camp. Then next day we rested and left for here the next day Aug 14. We are in a rest camp now expecting to leave soon.

Before leaving Camp Mills I wrote you a letter which I gave to a friend to mail. He said he had no chance to mail it but threw it to some people out of the window of the train. Let me know if you received it. My address right now is.

Lt William P. Keesler  
Hdqr Co. 316th F.A.  
American Expeditionary Forces  
France



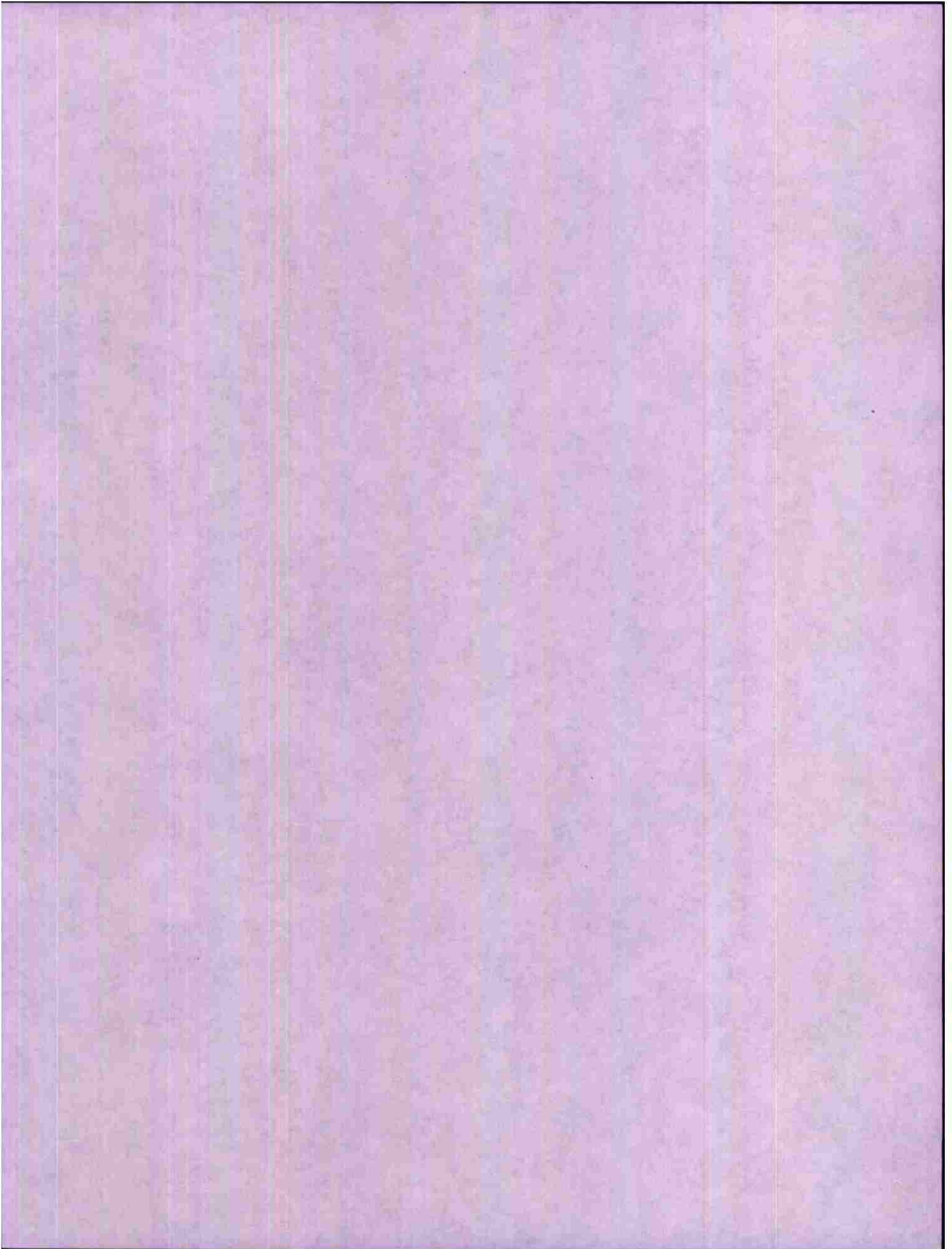


Via N.Y.  
Do not put A.E.F. on the envelope.

Will write again soon. Am very well.

Best of love to you & all.

Your devoted son,  
William P Keesler





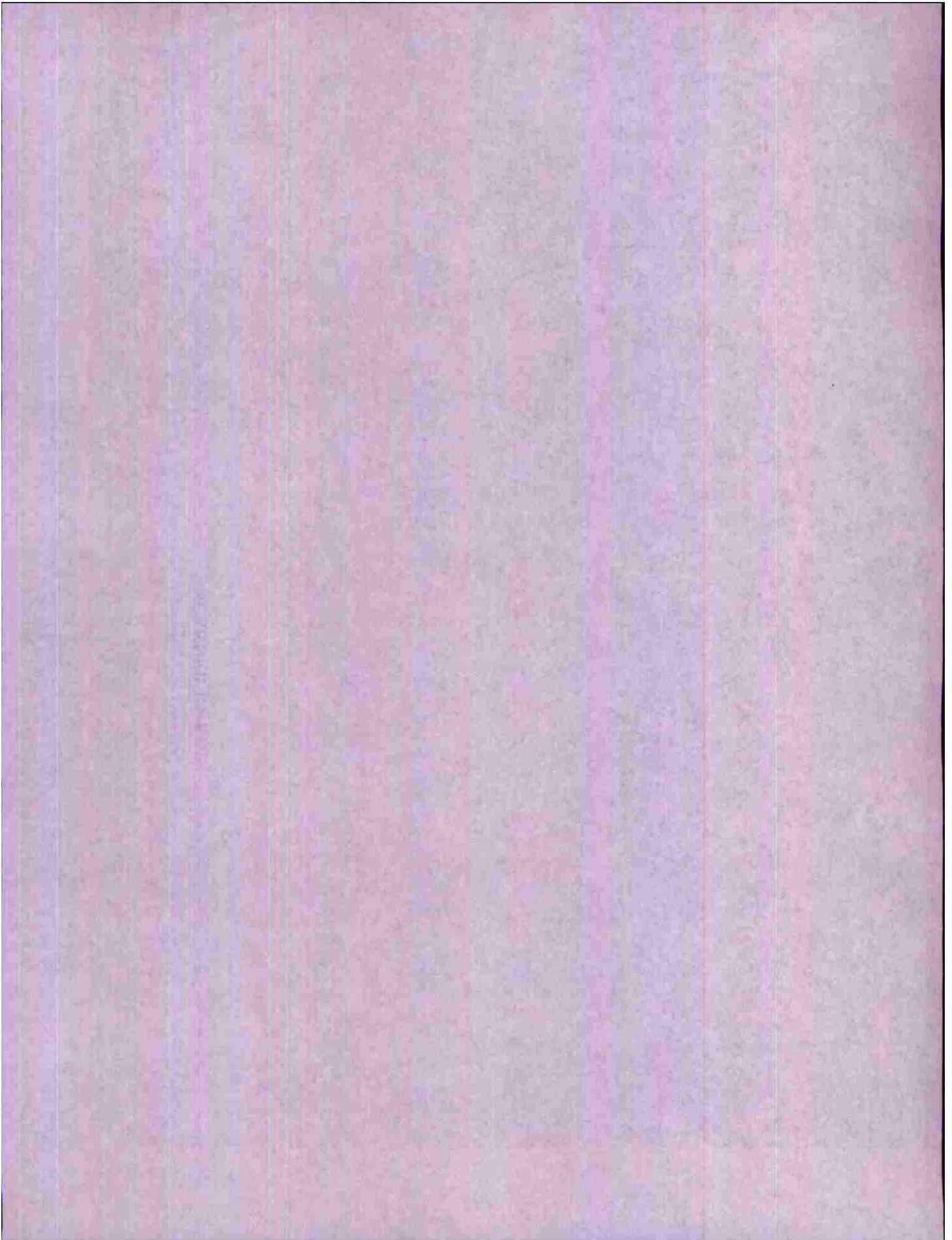
To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler  
Aug 15, 1918

Ms. 7567-Box 1  
Folder 12  
RETURN TO  
AIR FORCE  
Historical Research Agency  
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

SCANNED BY ACO

2007

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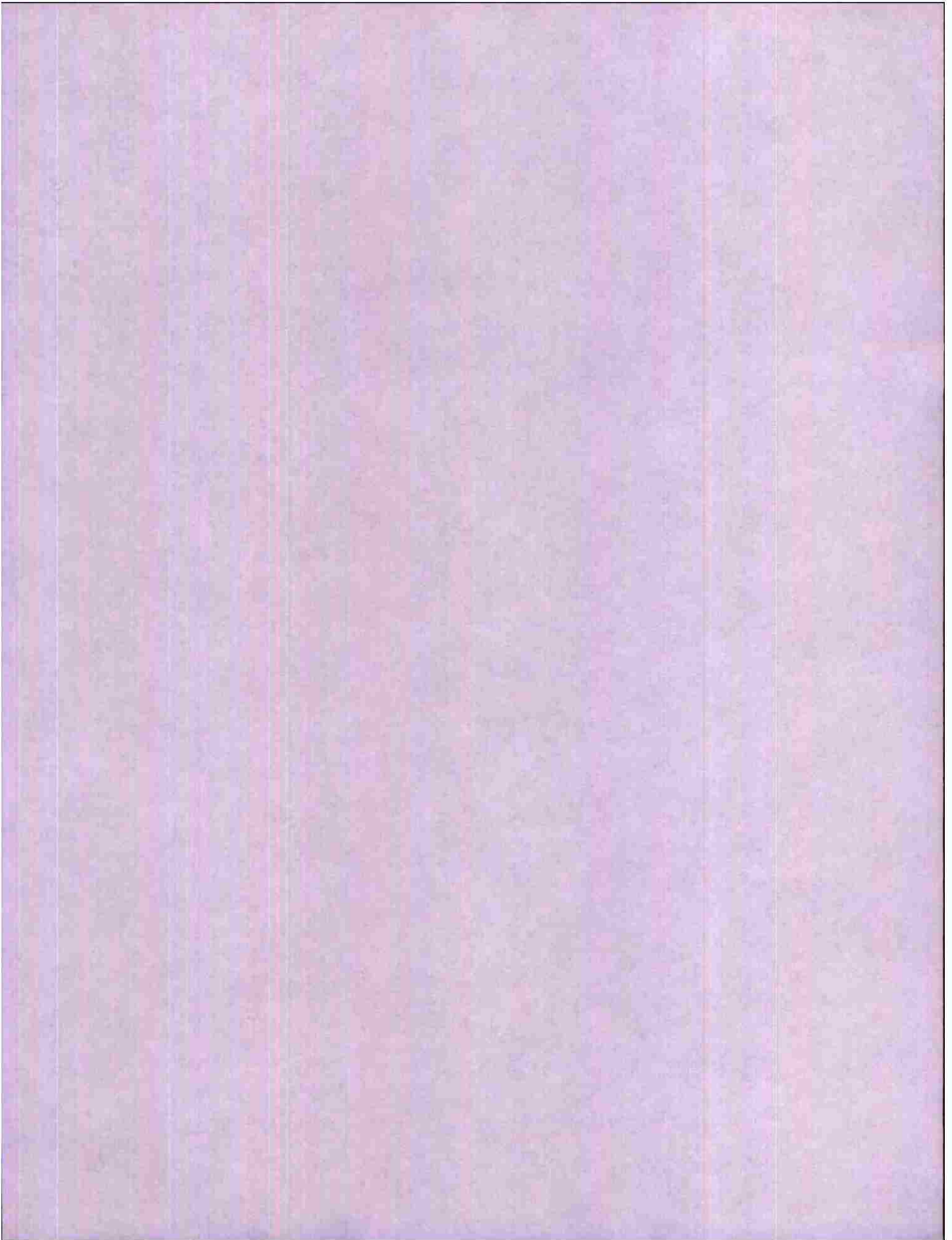
168-7567 Box 2

FOLDER 42

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

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Somewhere in England  
Aug 15 1918.

Dearest Momma,

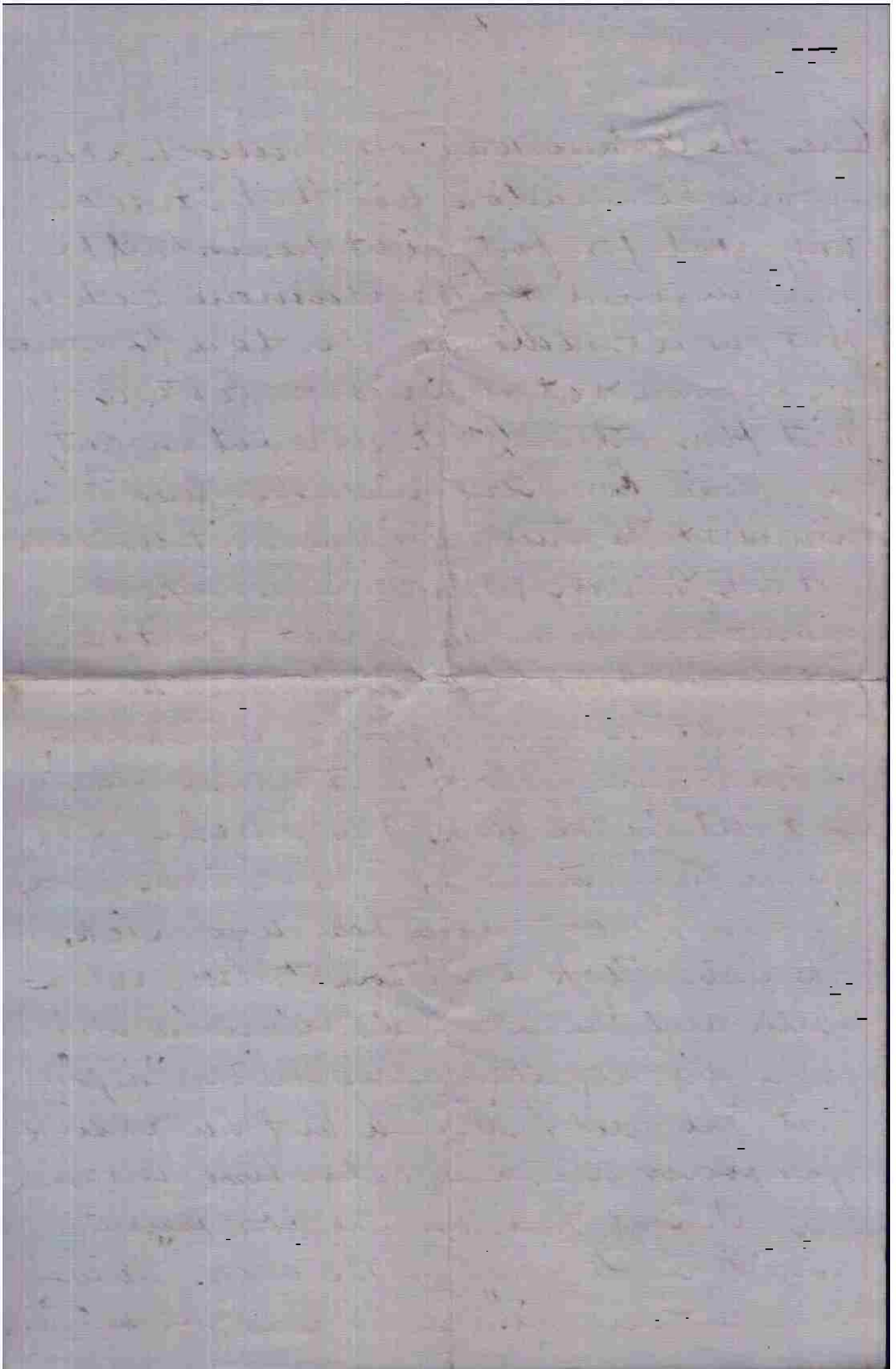
I'm over here now but still have  
have to go over there. We landed at a  
port on the Western Coast of England and came  
here on the East Coast day before yesterday. Our  
trip across the ocean was great. When  
the American Shore dropped from sight  
I did not have the feeling of loss, of some  
similar feeling but felt rather like I  
was going out on some pleasure party.  
But that feeling soon left me when  
I looked down upon the gun deck and  
saw the business-like appearance of our  
guns. They were manned and ready. Just  
then an aeroplane from one of the fields  
on h.T. flew over us waving us a good bye.  
Then I began to feel like I was really  
leaving. That first night at supper we  
all appeared without life preservers  
on and were at once ran out and back  
to our staterooms for them. From then  
until we landed they were our bosom  
friends. I felt like a feather bed in mine.

Handwritten text, likely a letter or document, written in cursive. The text is mirrored across the page, suggesting it is bleed-through from the reverse side. The handwriting is somewhat faded and difficult to decipher, but appears to be a formal or semi-formal communication. The text is organized into several paragraphs, with some lines indented. The overall appearance is that of an old, possibly carbon copy or a document from the mid-20th century.

2

One of the Captains was very much scared when he read on his that it was only good for forty eight hours. But he was assured by the seamen on duty that he would die in less than 12 hours of exposure. That satisfied the Captain. I with four others 2nd Lt. were put on duty as Police for Boat Drill. We had to stand at the stair ways and wait until all got out then we would come up. We had the horror places but I felt funny standing there thinking as the men filed by. The men have to catch hold of the other fellow's belt so he can't get lost in the dark. It works fine except when the boat rocks, then nothing works. Second Day out every body was sick. The wind took a notion to blow up a little and the wave did likewise and we did something else with "up" at the end of it. Oh but I was sick for four hours. I would have welcomed a U. Boat then. As one poor fellow said as he rolled on the deck "So wavy and let me die." I never was so miserable.





3

in all my life. But at last after several visits to the rail, all things cleared up and the sky became bright and beautiful, after that, that old ship could have stood on its head and we would have stayed with her. The next two days were nothing but plain sailing over a wonderful sea, the waves had quieted down and there was only a slight roll to the ship. The sun got up beautiful and went down beautiful and we sailed on. No U-Boats made its appearance to mar the beauty at all. After seven days we landed and oh it was great to set foot on land again. The only accident we had on the trip happened while we were at anchor waiting for the tide to rise. A soldier was standing at the rail, when his foot slipped and he dove head first into the sea. Before he rose there were six or seven ropes around him. So he only got a bath & a scare. We landed and unloaded.

Our regiment was then formed

*[The text in this block is extremely faint and illegible, appearing as a series of horizontal lines across the page.]*



X

and we marched from the dock to the camp some five miles. We had our band playing and we made quite a hit I think. We certainly must have looked fine for I heard one English woman say, "Well if this crew don't finish them, it will never end." We were greeted with cheers & cheers along the streets. It made one feel mighty good. The little kids were among us continually asking to carry this or that or for a someone a penny, a nickel, & etc. We got to camp and bed about 8:30 P.M. Still day didn't stop. The next day Aug 13, we rested and I got put on duty cleaning the mess mail and got no chance to write. The next day we left for here and after riding for eight hours on these funny rail roads we arrived and marched out to camp. And here we have ever since. Yesterday I went to town and looked around. Very interesting all of it is. The money is a mess tho. If I had a shilling changed they gave me a pound of copper for it. I realize have &



5

Why the English say a pound it feels like a ton.

Well Mother that was only a brief account of my trip. I'm going to write a better one. Please let Elizabeth read this I've written her but the time was so short I could hardly say hello. I wrote just before I left Camp Mills but could not mail them at a P.O. so threw them out of the car window. Don't know whether you received them or not. Let me know. I hope my card + wire came O.K. I'm well + very safe now and am enjoying the trip.

Must stop. With the best of love to you + everyone one of the family. Be good to Elizabeth for me.

Your loving son  
William

My address is. With out in full  
St. William P. Keesler  
Hdqs Co. 316<sup>th</sup> F. A.  
American Expeditionary Forces  
France

Via N. Y.



