

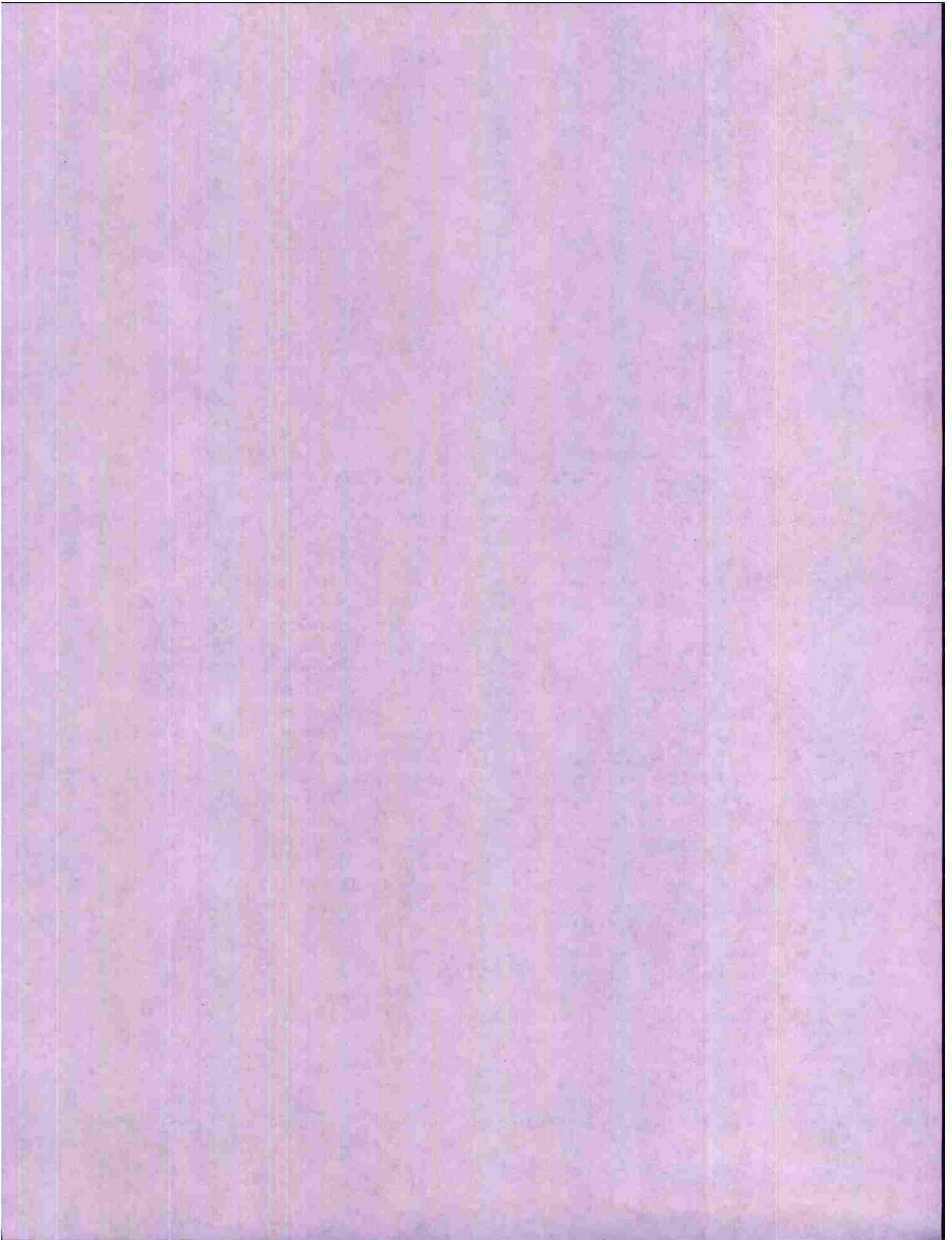
Lt William P. Keesler
 Hdqr Co. 316th F.A.
 American Expeditionary Forces
 Officer Mail
 O.A.S.
 Postmarked Southampton
 Aug 16, 18
 To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
 Montreat N.C.
 U.S.A.

Somewhere in England
 Aug 15, 1918

Dearest Momma,

I'm over here now but still 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, 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 filed on L.I. 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. One of the Captains was abey much scared when he read on his that it was only good for forty eight hours. But he was assured by the seaman 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 to honor 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 rolls, then nothing works. Second Day out every body was sick. The wind took a notion to blow up a little and the waves 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. "Go way and let me die." I never was so miserable in all my life. But at last after several visits to the rail, all things cleared up and the sky became light 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 slight roll to the ship, the sun got up beautiful and went down beautiful and we sailed on. No U-Boats made it appearance to mar the beauty at all. After several 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 reloaded.

Our regiment was then formed 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



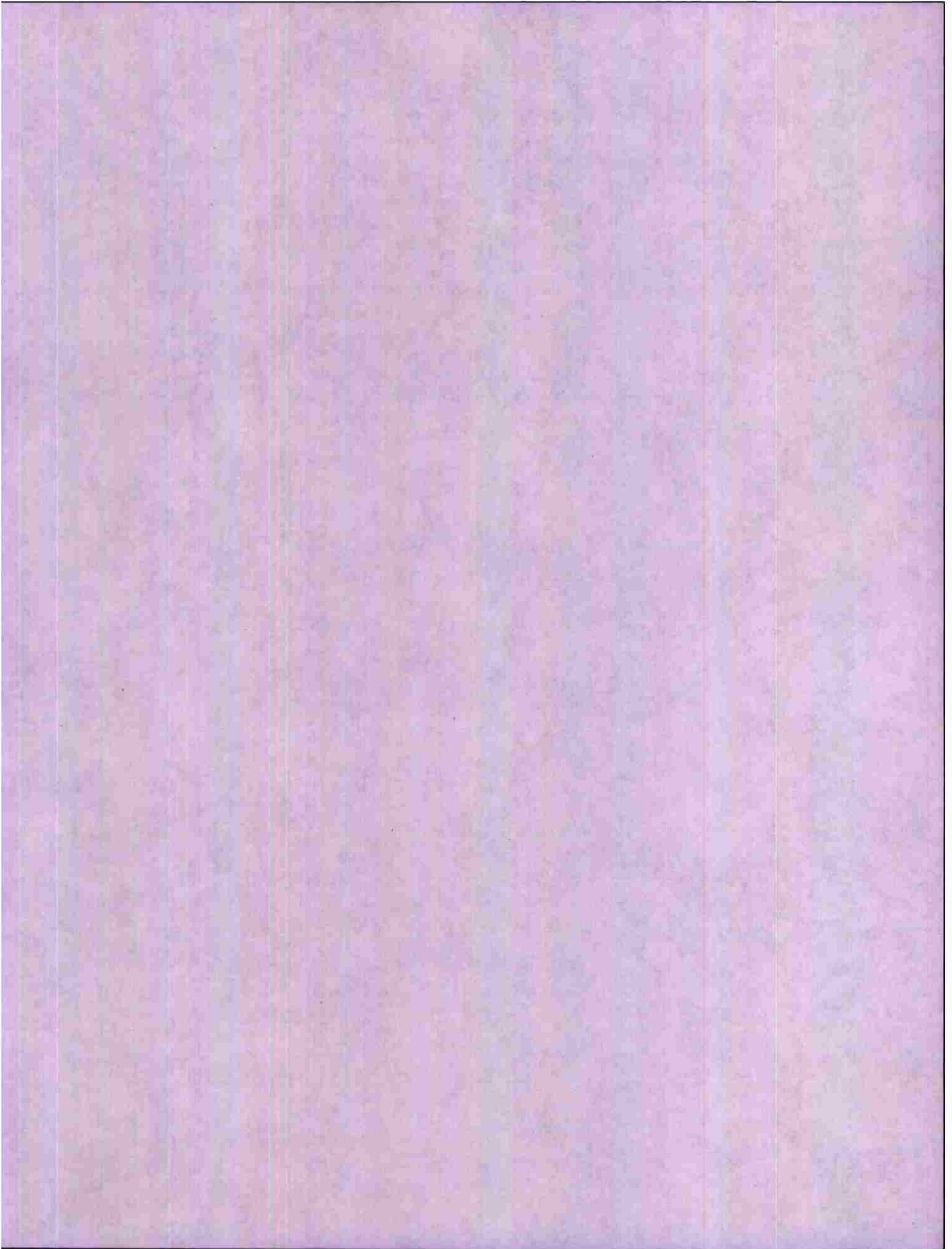
fierce for I heard one English woman say, "Well if this crew don't finish them, it will never end." We were greeted with cheers & cheers along the streets. It made one feel mighty good. The little kids were among us continually asking to carry this or that or for a souvenir, a penny, a nickel, & etc. We got to camp and bed about 8:30 P.M. Still day light tho. The next day Aug 13, we rested and I got put on duty censoring the mens mail and got no chance to write. The next day we left for here and after riding for eight hours on these funny railroad we arrived and marched out to camp. And here I've been 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 charged they gave me a pound of copper for it. I realize how & 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 to 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 oar window. Don't know whether you received them or not. Let me know. I hope my care & wire came O.K. I'm well & very safe now and am enjoying the trip.

Must stop. With the heat of love to you & every one of the family. Be good to Elizabeth for me.

Your loving son,
William

My address is. Write out in full
Lt William P. Keesler
Hdqr Co. 316th F.A.
American Expeditionary Forces
France
Via N.Y.



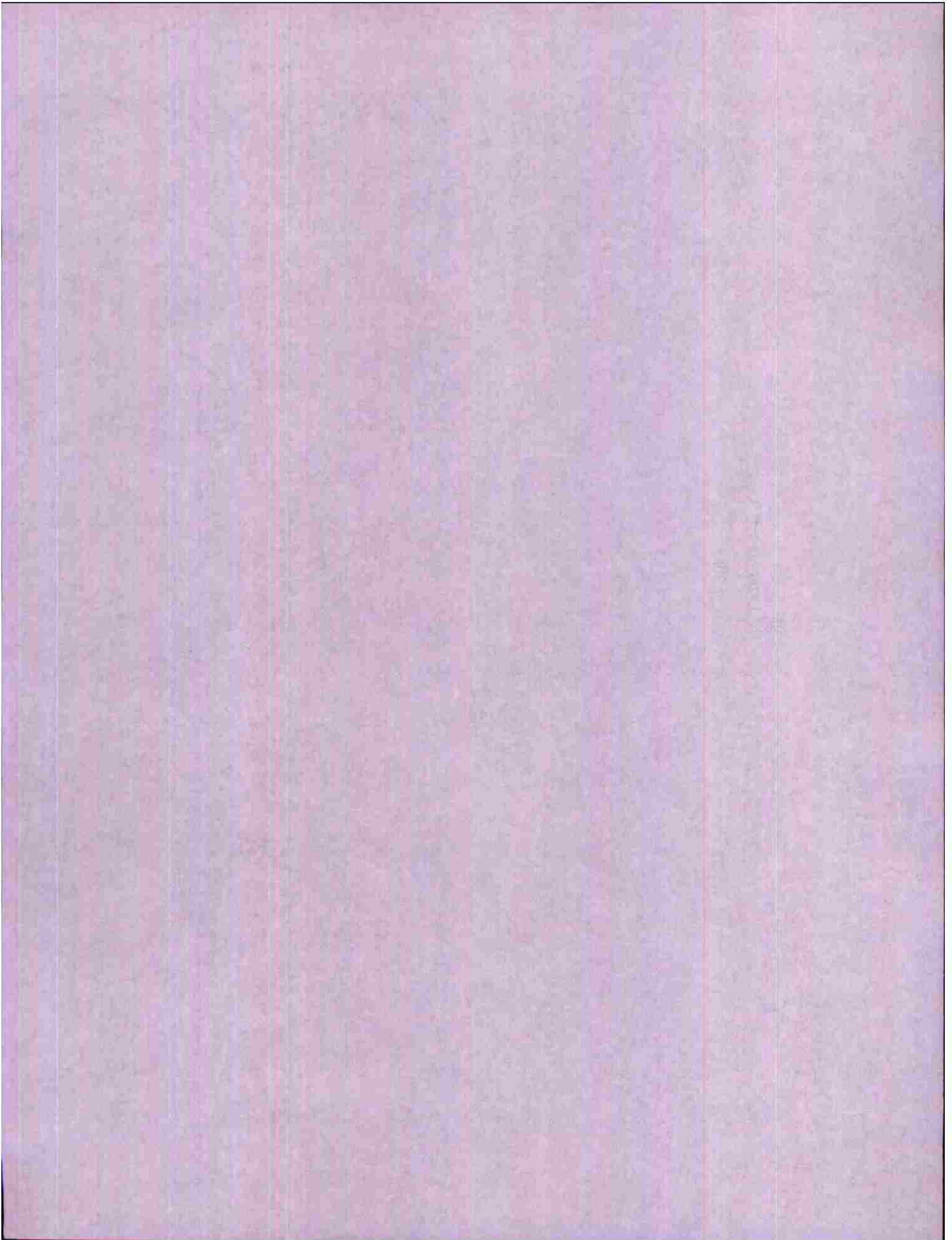
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: William Keesler (slight ref to Sam)
September 8, 1918

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Folder 43
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Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6424

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Somewhere in France

Sept 8, 1918.

Sunday.

Dear Mamma,

Since writing last so many things have happened to me that I have to make notes to write this letter. When you hear all you will understand why I haven't written. I'm sorry and have tried to write several times but I couldn't. There ~~are~~ are ~~lots~~ of things I can't tell you but want I can will help.

If I were able to write all I'd head my letter, "A Trip thru France" with a little more added. The trip came from an order sending Jack Black & I to a certain place to bring back some motor equipment thru the country. So really what I have been doing is towing France on an F.W.D. truck. Can you imagine anything more wonderful than that. Black and I were the envy of the whole Brigade. I haven't finished telling about it yet. We had just arrived in our billet and gotten settled when the order came we had only been in France some three days or maybe four. But we

started right out. We got three U.R. & fixed up our engine. Taking three & a half days to get ready. Then we started back and after nearly ten days we got back. It was a wonderful trip. We came thru the most beautiful part of France. We hear of seeing France but one has to see to believe just how beautiful France is. We would ride for hours on roads as smooth as this paper and as straight as an engineer's transit could make them, between two rows of poplars, now sometimes oaks or elms. Up and down hills. When you reach the top of a rise and the whole country lay out before you realize why Frenchmen love sight so for there France as far as the eye can see would be nothing but grapes, with villages ~~there~~ and there, then later it would be grain, oats, wheat, rye, then it would be both with some pastures on which the finest cattle grazed I ever saw. Why I could have ridden in one of

3

rally for ever. We have nothing to compare to it. The Sevannaro Nally as seen from Sheyheard looks like it to a certain extent. The men learned more of why we are in the war on that trip than if they had heard forty lectures or readings.

When night came we were so tired that anything felt good. We slept on rocks, in market places, on the road side, anywhere and never slept better in my life. And eat, we ate like we slept and what was fine we had plenty to eat. "Com Willie" (corn, beef Beans, Tomatoes, Coffee, Bread (white) and all the grapes, melons, fruits we could buy or was given to us. The Cantaloupe over here here runs heat all to pieces for flavor. And grapes well that is what France is famous for. The hardest thing to get was water, drinking or other wise. There is plenty of wine of any known variety and it is lot more plentiful than water. We had to drink it at one place. The water was impossible.

Our trip was filled with every
 accident that a motor Convoy could
 have. Smash ups, fire, engine trouble,
 getting stuck, &c. We hadn't yet
 started good before we had ran
 in a Frenchman's wagon. Why
 it wasn't worth 50 cents but if you
 could have heard him you have
 thought it was \$50. We had very little
 trouble with our trucks, only one
 had any trouble. In one good size
 place as we passed thru the square
 one of the drivers yelled "Lieut # —
 is on fire." Well, when I looked around
 I thought the town was on fire.
 The 1/4 in gas line had broken short
 off and a backfire had set it
 going. And it was sure going. The
 flames went 25 feet into the air.
 Luckily there was only about 5 gal.
 of gas in her so it didn't last
 long. The heat ruined the carburetor
 however so we greased up and
 put her in tow of another truck
 and proceeded. We had no more
 trouble until we got with in four

miles of camp where a motorcycle race
 into our 2nd truck in line and
 smashed the driver & occupant of side
 car. Neither were hurt very badly but
 both were sure shaken up. It was a
 wonder both were not killed as they
 were making about 35 miles per hour.

When we got back we found
 school had started and we were far
 behind. We have caught up yet but
 soon will. Here is how a days work
 looks.

Breakfast 7 AM

Classes 8 to 11 "

Physical Exercises 11 to 11:30 "

Dinner 12 N

Classes 1:30 to 4:30

Company duty thru until Supper 6:45

Study 7 to Taps. Study too. Worse
 than any school yet. All excess some
 time takes two hours to work. Well with
 back work that explains why I haven't
 written to you.

I sure did wish for you all
 during that trip. You would have
 enjoyed it so much. Just think of taking

the car on a trip thru France.

I guess Charlotte goes to Agnes Scott soon. Tell her to work hard and be careful of her first friends. The friends of your Fresh year means much later on. I know she will enjoy it and make good. Tell her that work is first but don't put every thing in it. Be popular, have friends don't just go out for 95 & etc. A good 90 with popularity, & etc means more later on. I know we seen it work out. But if 95 can be made & the other too so much the better. I believe she can do both. Tell her for goodness sake for get she has got any medals or made good marks if she doesn't she sure has a hard path to walk. Best of luck & love to her us a Fresh.

Tell father I'm sending him \$50.00 thru Cox & Co London. The letter goes off tonight. I'll get something like that home real often. At least I hope to. Did you receive notice from N.Y. Federal Reserve about my Liberty Bonds

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I wrote them to send them to father. I don't know yet whether they did so. You have my insurance paper O.K. but I'm not sure about the Bonds. Alice doesn't need much money over here. There is no way to spend it. The system we got is to deposit my money direct from the A.M. in Capt Co. London then draw as I need it. Capt Co is the Quartermaster of the English Army so I guess I'm safe. Alice can save that way easily enough too. And remittance home can be made very easily by letter.

Water is scarce as hell teeth around here now. No baths since Aug 30 and I haven't had one since. I've been in France. I can't understand these people. The best hotel in one of the largest cities in France had no baths. Can you beat it. These towns are dirty but the cities are clean. I can't see why they are so healthy.

Now are the people taking the

18 to 45 draft. I'll bet there are lots of
 men looking for jobs as officers
 about 40 years old now. That ruling
 on boys of 18 will make lots more
 go to college than ever before. I
 believe that this is the start of
 Compulsory Training and I'm glad. We
 need it.

We keep right up with the
 news here getting the Continental
 New York & Chicago papers. Real nice
 to read English for breakfast.

Have heard from Sam yet. Saw
 where he was in P. Tho at the
 Continental Hotel was surprised.

With the best of love to all
 of you at home and hoping that
 no one is sick. Just stay as
 well as I who they say are getting
 fat. I weigh 160 now.

Your loving son
 William

OK.

St W. H. Keeler

316 H. 7. H.

American E. F.

Lt. W.P. Keesler
Hdqr Co 316th F.A.
American E.F.
Officers Mail
O.A.S.
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
Greenwood Miss.
U.S.A.

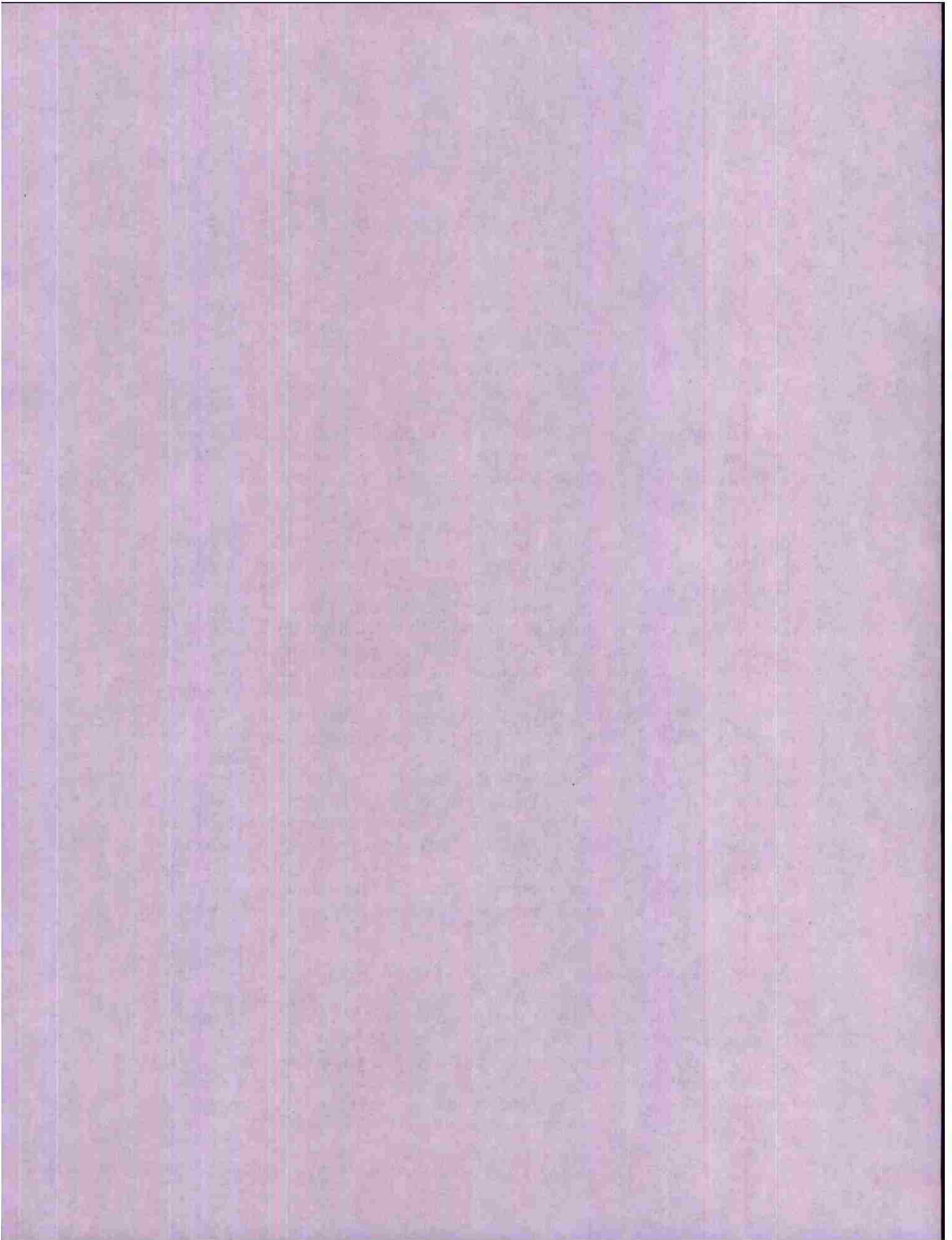
Somewhere in France
Sept 8, 1918
Sunday

Dear Mamma,

Since writing last so many things have happened to me that I have to make notes to write this letter. When you hear it all you will understand why I haven't written. I'm sorry and have tried to write several times but I couldn't. There are lots of things I can't tell you but want (sic) I can will help.

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When night came we were so tired that anything felt good. Why (sic) slept on rocks, in market places, on the road side, anywhere and never slept better in my life. And eat, we ate like we slept and what was fine we had plenty to eat. "Corn Willie" (corn beef) Beans, Tomatoes, Coffee, Bread (white) and all the grapes, melons, fruits we could buy or was given to us. The cantaloupe over here have ours beat all to pieces for flavor. And grapes well that is what France is famous for. The hardest thing to get was water, drinking or other wise. There is plenty of wine of every known variety and it is lots more plentiful than water. The water was impossible.



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Classes 8 to 11 AM

Physical Exercises 11 to 11:30

Drivers 12 N

Classes 1:30 to 4:30

Company duty then until Supper 6:45

Study 7 to taps. Study too.

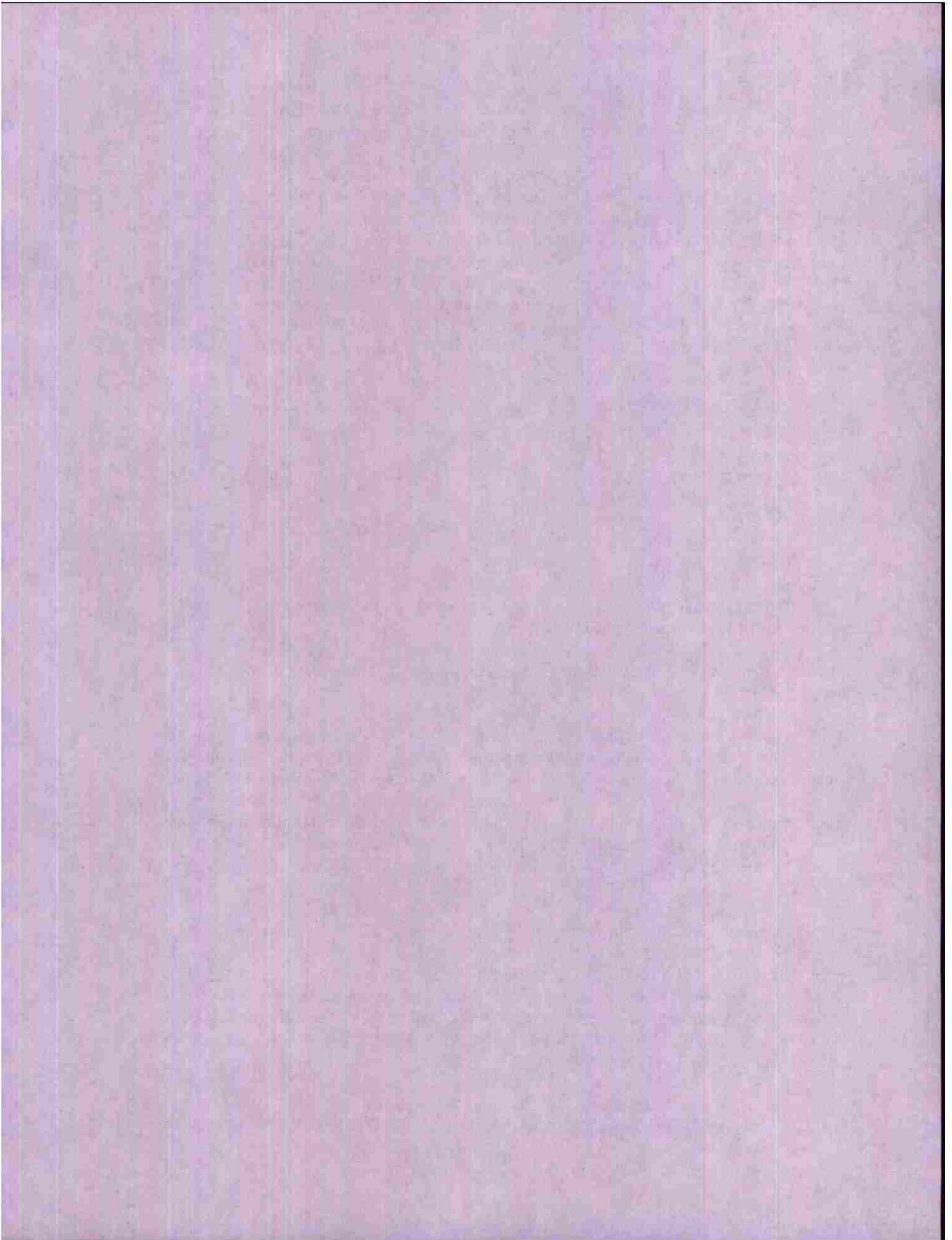
Worse than any school yet. Our exams sometime takes two hours to work. Well with back work that explains why I haven't written to you.

I sure did wish for you all during that trip. You would have enjoyed it so much. Just think of taking the car on a trip through France.

I guess Charlotte goes to Agnes Scott soon. Tell her to work hard and be careful of her first friends. The friends of your Fresh year means much later on. I know she will enjoy it and make good. Tell her that work is first but don't put every thing in it. Be popular, have friends, don't just go out for 95 & etc. A good 90 with popularity, etc means more later on. I know I've seen it work out. But if 95 can be made & the other too so much the better. I believe she can do both. Tell her for goodness sake forget she has got any medals or made good marks if she doesn't she sure has a hard path to walk. Best of luck & love to her as a Fresh.

Tell father I'm sending him \$50.⁰⁰ thru Cox & Co. London. The letter goes off tonight. I'll get something like that home real often. At least I hope to. Did you receive notice from N.Y. Federal Reserve about my Liberty Loans. I wrote to them to send them to father. I don't know yet whether they did so. You have my Insurance papers O.K. but I'm not sure about the Bonds. One doesn't need much money over here. There is no way to spend it. The system I've got is to deposit my money direct from the Q.M. in Cox & Co. London then draw as I need it. Cox & Co. is the Quartermaster of the English Army so I guess I'm safe. Am able (to) save that way easily enough too. And remittance home can be made very easily by letter.

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largest cities in France had no baths. Can you beat it. These towns are dirty but the cities are clean. I can't see why they are so healthy.

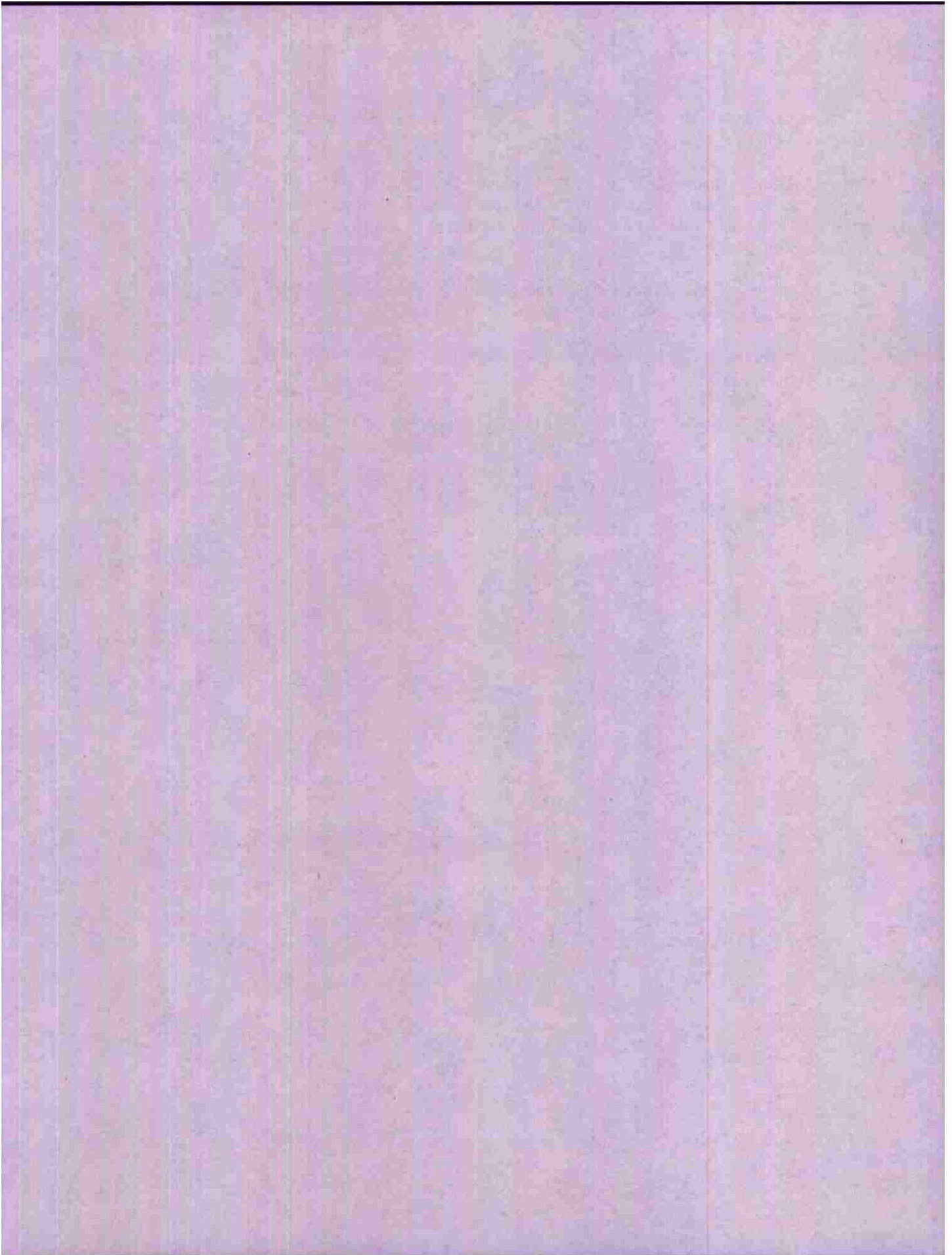
How are the people taking the 18 to 45 draft. I'll bet there are lots of men looking for jobs as officers about 40 years old now. That ruling on boys of 18 will make lots more go to college than ever before. I believe that this is the start of Compulsory Training and I'm glad. We need it.

We keep right up with the news here getting the Continental New York & Chicago papers. Real nice to read English for breakfast.

Have (not) heard from Sam yet. Saw where he was in P --- tho at the Continental Hotel. Was surprised.

With the best of love to all of you at home and hoping that no one is sick. Just stay as well as I who they say are getting fat. I wg 160 now.

Your loving son
William



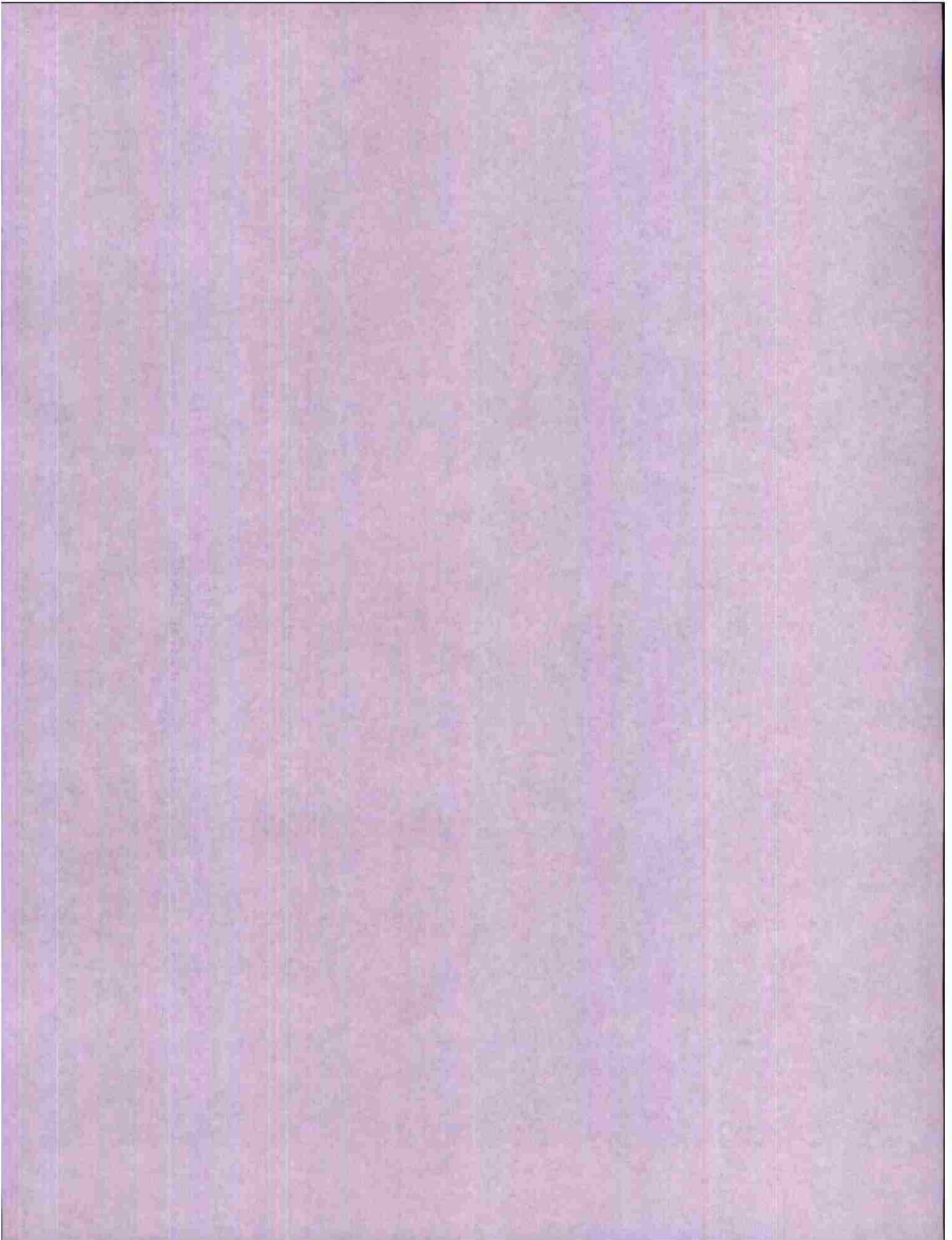
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler
September 11, 1918

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Colleen M.
RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6434

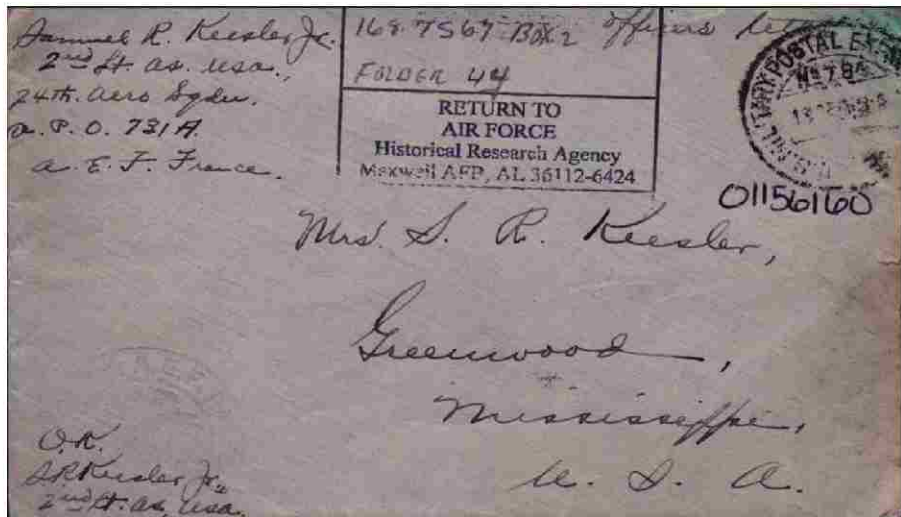
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getting a place to put things - and
so I have said before. I have
wondered if you're with me.

For the past three days a blue
"bugle" has been getting everything
saturated. It seems as if it won't
ever stop. The ground is becom-
ing very sloppy - and "lip boots" are
becoming quite sticky. In place
of them a pair of canvas we
have had no flying since the
rain set in except once during
a short clear spell. Well, but it
rains, I can stand it.
I don't keep but think of a

24th. Clear sky.
A.C.O. 7317.
Sept 11, 1918.

Dearest Mother,

I'm sitting here in my
camp chair - and I'm very right to miss
that old folding chair which I bought
in Columbus. I've certainly been a
great comfort - the bugle it was.
where she has - I'm in a mess
now just next to my old one. We
have no place yet - but the roof
doesn't leak, so not many. I've
been ^(often) before long. I wonder if we
are as far back now. I had
the carpenter fix some shelves
for me this morning so as

certain we are going tonight which we are to
 afford to me - and I hope my dear old friend
 and Johnstone - feeling - (what are they and I do
 say I have in mind to "just before the
 battle, mother" and with the Army in also
 thinking about you, dear, and all the rest
 of my dear family.
 "fortunate" has become known as a "war
 give" this past week - for the past several
 months - too of the 1st. we left at the 1st day
 before - to the 1st. several and I have
 been together ever since we were at
 your city. Mr. Deane was Secretary. He was here
 a fine set of officers together in the 1st. and
 and we just "staying" to make the record
 safe for Democracy "just record well!"
 you - your husband - in love - mother's name -
 where - he went in - what with both me
 definite answer - like to hear from him soon -
 in 3 more days I will have been 6 more.
 in George's service -
 must be - you - good night - now and get
 a good night sleep - (that's all)
 with your own, dear.

Samuel R. Keesler Jr
2nd Lt. As. USA
24th Aero Sqdn
APO 731A
AEF France

Mrs S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Mississippi
U.S.A.

24th Aero Sqdn.
A.P.O. 731A
Sept 11, 1918

Dearest Mother,

I'm sitting here in my camp chair – and I'll say right now that this folding chair which I bought in Columbia, has certainly been a great comfort. I've lugged it every where I've been – I'm in a new home just next to my old one. We have no floor yet, but the roof doesn't leak, so why worry. We'll have one (a floor) before long. Lumber is as scarce as hen's teeth now. I had the carpenter fix some shelves for me this morning so am getting a place to put things – and as I have said before I have worlds of junk with me.

For the past three days a slow drizzle has been getting everything saturated. Seems as if it won't ever stop. The ground is becoming very sloppy – and “hip boots” are becoming quite stylish. I'm glad I have a pair. Of course we have had no flying since the rain set in except once during a short clear spell. Well, let it rain, I can stand it.

I can't help but think of a certain old song tonight which used to appeal to me and touch my chords of sentiment and patriotism & feeling (what ever they are) The song I have in mind is “Just Before the Bottle, Mother.” And with the song I'm also thinking about you, dear, and all the rest of my dear family.

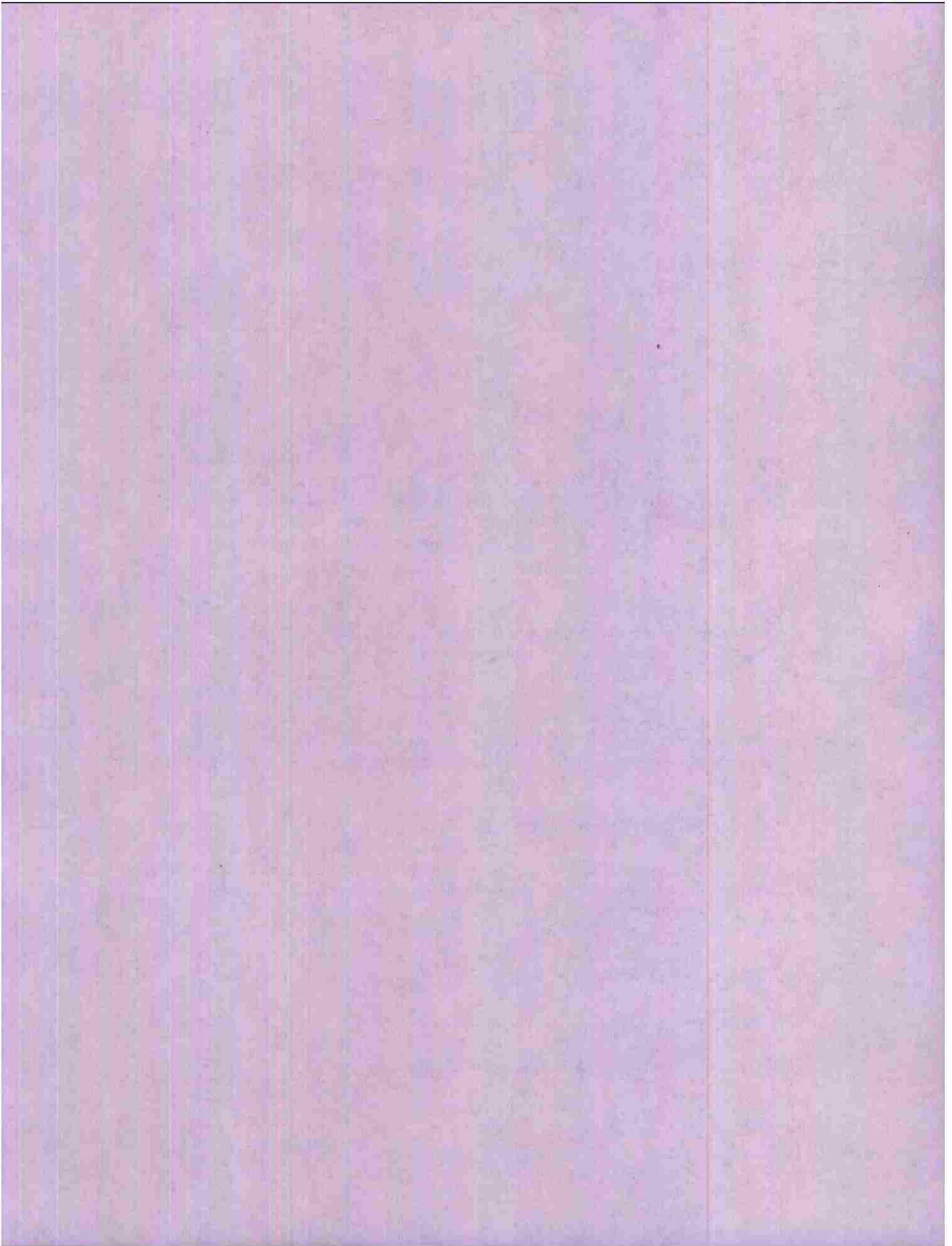
“Fortunate” has proven herself a “nice girl” this past week – for she sent Durand & Mayforth – two of the Lts. We left at the 2nd corps school – to this Sqdn. Durand and I have been together ever since we were at 2nd Arty. Obs. School near Bordeaux. So we have a fine set of officers together in the sqdn. Now and are just “itching” to make “the world safe for Democracy.” Just watch us!!

W^m – thank goodness! – is here – over here some where – he sent me a short note with no definite address. Hope to hear from him soon.

In 3 more days I will have been 6 mos. In foreign Service.

Must tell you good night now and get a good night sleep – Lots of love,

Devotedly your son,
Sam



TO: Gen S. H. Keesler
From: Sam Houston
September 16, 1948

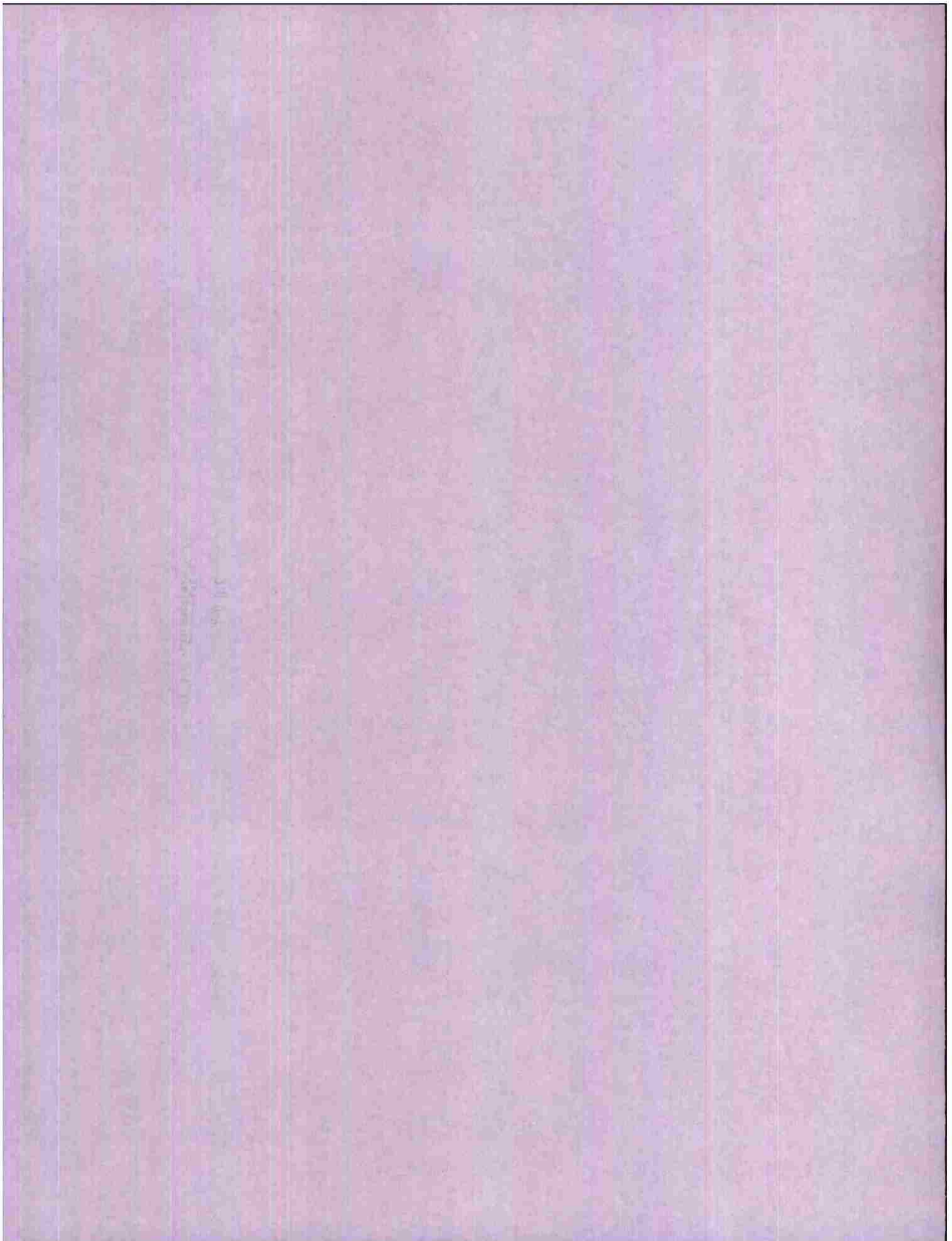
169-7567 Box 2
FOLDER 45
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6624

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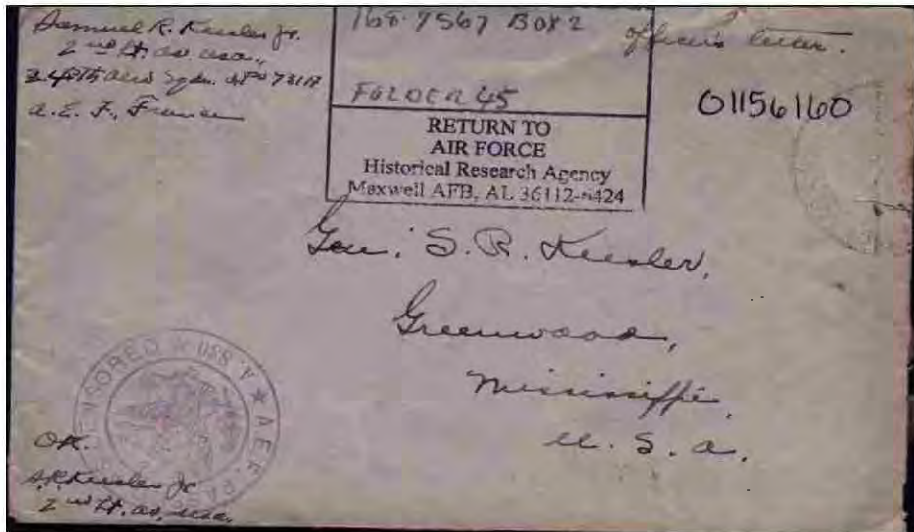
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from the time I left New York
^{a number} ~~number~~ I've met over
 together on a photographic mission
 I was one of the protecting forces -
 I must admit I admit I'm much
 than to the ground but divided
 it to the sky and clouds above - however
 I read no "bookie" with me & the other
 pleasure and I. I say want to ask, the
 means they have the apparatus in some
 way. I'm only a student in the world.
 The airlines - and believe me, they are
 mightily overrated too. They were hunting
 me around me. The first I
 knew of it was a "smoke" on one side
 the plane. Then I saw a large black
 smoke - then they began hunting
 me around me. And right night on.
 I saw, smiling over a number
 other accounts as well as around an

Dear father,

I haven't written you
 since you have arrived to the open.
 I'm 21 years, it's not from thoughtless-
 ness because I think about you
 often, I know a letter to mother is
 just the same as to you and vice
 versa - hence my not writing -
 It is now 9:45 P.M. - a beautiful moon
 lit night - and a bonfire's delight. While
 in writing I can hear some Stanley
 Popea singing away overhead - starting
 for the evening's security. I say vice
 versa later on.

Well, father, you have seen me
 many for the first time. I met over
 on the 14th. - just 6 months to today

24th Nov 1947, A.P.O. 7317.
 Sept. 16th. 1948.

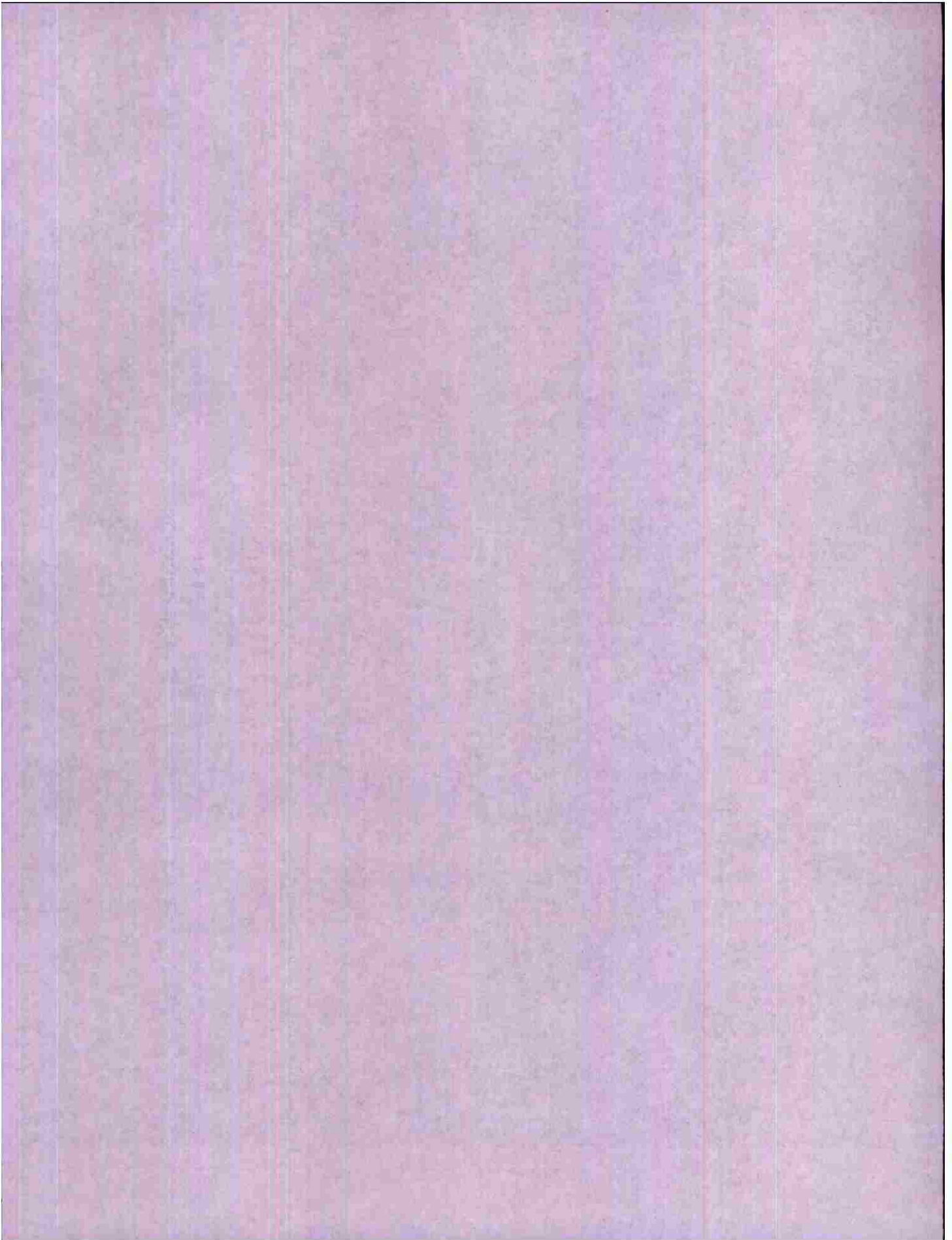
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To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: William Keesler (slight ref to Sam)
September 16, 1918

163 7507 B&L
EQUITY 46
RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
HONORABLE MEMBER, SENATE
REMOVED APR 13, 1911

REMOVED BY AGO
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Somehow in France
Sept 15 1918
Monday

Dear Mamma

Yesterday afternoon just as I was sitting down to write, Cap. Willis came in with a big bunch of mail. The first real mail from the U.S. I got eight letters and three from you or Auntie which is all the same now as they were from Montreat. Happy and excited well I was so much so I couldn't sit down hardly to read them. We then had a news swapping talk. Jack Black and I had a big time. I had two letters from Sam three from Elizabeth & he had quite a few from people I knew. Then after yesterday's mail I got three more letters to day. I am very happy. Ah mother you can never know how happy I feel when I get your letter. It means so much to hear from home.

Since I wrote last we sure have been working. I feel just like I was back at college. If it wasn't for the firing on the range during the day it would feel just like college. The way we act is similar too. They are talking about reviews, exams

Spot questions & etc. Our work has been continuous and hard but this week we let up a little, more time being given for observation & field work. Very interesting too. I enjoy going out into the woods & fields, just like our mountains of N.C. Similar woods & fields. The only difference is there is more land in cultivation. It is wonderful how the American soldier can adapt himself to conditions. You see them every where & everyone is at home in all of the shops, cafe, & etc. Always teasing & petting the boys & girls. Talking to the older people. And everyone happy. It is fine to watch. I feel at home here. Almost. As long as the work keeps me busy in A.K. and I expect to stay busy.

Elizabeth said you did not get but one letter from Camp Mills. That was funny for I wrote four or five. Some I mailed in N.Y. & some at Camp

3

I imagine those I wrote at camp are the one you did not get.

A nice letter came from Sam. He is in a squadron now. It was peculiar that he was on leave in Paris at the same time I was in Marseille. Pity I wasn't sent to Paris. We will try to frame up a meeting place very soon if we can. No one can tell how it will work out.

Yesterday we had some real stuff we saw some Boche planes being shelled. It looked beautiful from a distance. But believe me I don't care for the air service. I came very near going into it the last week. They called for volunteers & I came very near going. I wouldn't mind being a pilot at all.

Guess by now you are at home & Charlotte is at Agnes Scott. Know she will enjoy her stay there. College life is sure fine. I know now how much it was for him out. When does D.C. open, or do you know? Wish I

Could get hold of a Davidsonian
every now and then.

Last Saturday our 1st Bn team
beat a regimental team here. Score
12 to 2. You should see the "jerp"
our boys have now. Everyone of them
are soldiers & good ones. We are
talked about all round as a crack
organization. Sure does make
one feel good too. The "old cats" are
going to claw some too when
they get a chance.

During War work week at
Montreat did you meet a Mrs
Black, ~~at Montreat~~ She is Jack Black
mother. I wish I had know she
was to be in Montreat as I know
you would have liked to have
met her. She is my best friend's
mother. Hope you met her.

How is The new chapt coming?
Who is in it at home? We are
very much interested here. We
are going to have an army

5

That will make Germany shake all over at the thought of it.

Must stop for a few minutes. Had to go out on the range to watch our guns fire. They are the sweetest shooting guns I ever saw. Our old guns back home look like babies compared to these. They are the one Sam used to talk about when he was at Fort Sill. Wish we could have had a chance to drop a few of the shells in the dregs. We are all itching to go to the front.

We are in the country that Caesar conquered. There is an old fort near here which he built & several arches & aqueducts very interesting. I haven't seen them but am going to try to go over this week end.

Our H₂O famine is over. We can now take a bath without some body telling you to stop wasting water. It was a great luxury I can tell you. It made Jack Black sick. He said

it took off to much of his clothes.
 He & I were in the same fix. I also
 got my clothes washed. Very good.
 I was afraid they wouldn't be clean
 but was mistaken. I guess the
 women must have laughed at
 my wash. I did not look at what
 was in the bag and there I found
 to be a pack carrier in it. She
 washed it beautifully

Give my love to everybody. Am
 very well & happy. Lots of love
 your loving son
 William

From W.P. Keesler
Lt. U.S. Army
Officer Mail
O.A.S.
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
Greenwood Miss
U.S.A.

Somewhere in France
Sept 16, 1918
Monday

Dear Mamma,

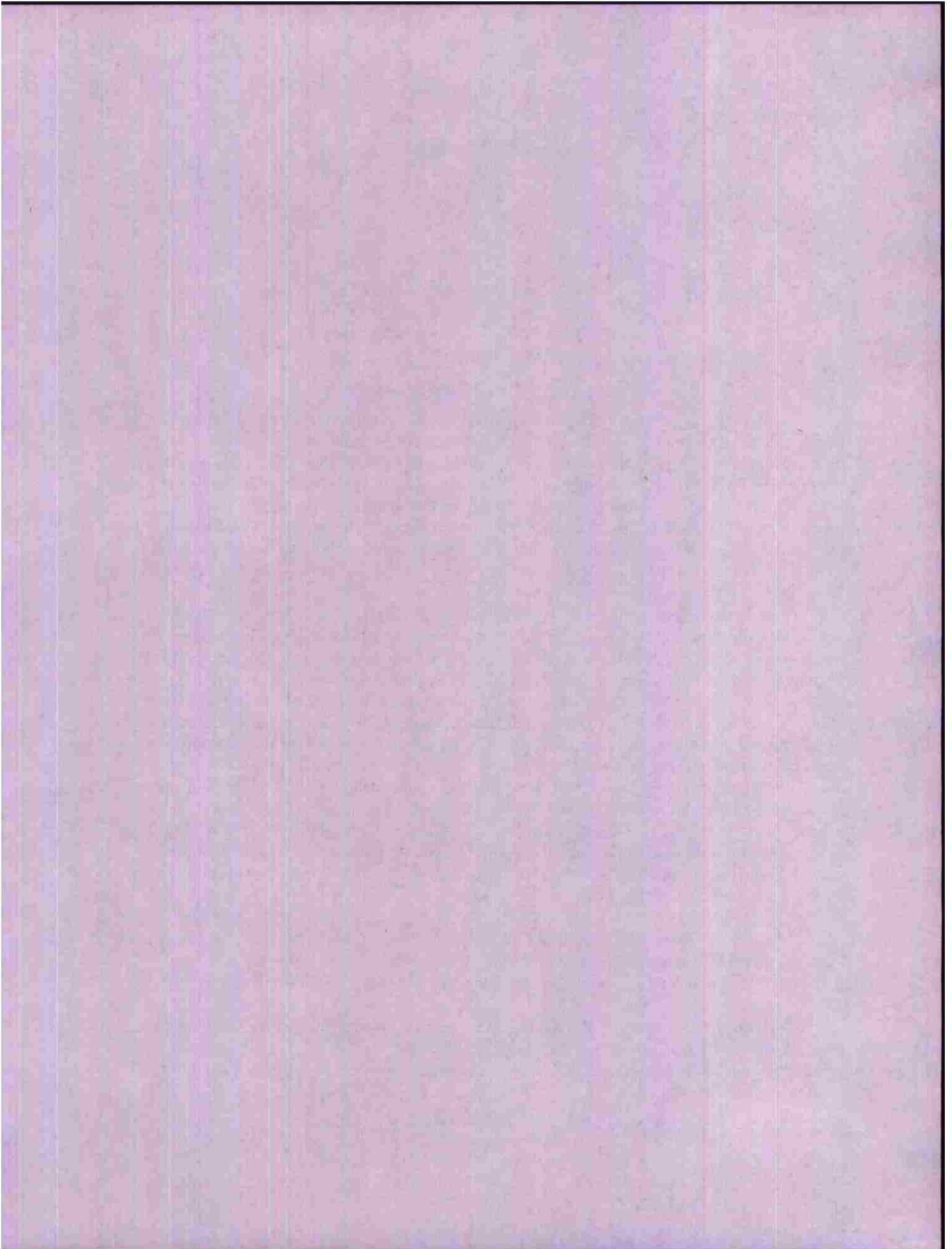
Yesterday afternoon just as I was sitting down to write, Cap. Willis came in with a big bunch of mail. The first real mail from the U.S. I got eight letters and three from you or Auntie which is all the same now as they were from Montreat. Happy and excited will I was so much so I couldn't sit down hardly to read them. We then had a news swapping talk. Jack Black and I had a big time. I had two letters from Sam, three from Elizabeth & he had quite a few from people I knew. Then after yesterdays mail I got three more letters today. Again very happy. Ah mother you can never know how happy I felt when I got your letter. It means so much to hear from home.

Since I wrote last we sure have been working. I feel just like I was back at college. If it wasn't for the firing on the range during the day it would feel just like college. The way we act is similar too. Everyone talking about reviews, exams, spot questions & etc. Our work has been continuous and hard but this week we let up a little more time being for observation & field work. Very interesting too. I enjoy going out into the woods & fields. Just like our mountains of N.C. Similar woods & fields. The only difference is there is more land in cultivation. It is wonderful how the American soldier can adapt himself to conditions you see there every where & everyone is at home in all of the shops, café, & etc. Always teasing & petting the boys & girls. Talking to the older people. And everyone happy, it is fine to watch. I feel at home here. Almost. As long as the work keeps me busy I'm O.K. and I expect to stay busy.

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Guess by now you all at home & Charlotte is at Agnes Scott. Know she will enjoy her stay there. College life is sure fine. I know now how much it was for I'm out. When does D.C> open or do you know? Wish I could get hold of a Davidsonian every now and then.

Last Saturday our 1st Bn team beat a regimental team here. Score 12 to 2. You should see the "pep" our boys have now. Everyone of them are soldiers & good ones. We are talked about all round as a crack organization. Sure does make one feel good too. The "old cats" are going to claw some too when they get a chance.

During war work week at Montreat did you meet a Mrs Black. She is Jack Black mother. I wish I had known she was to be in Montreat as I know you would have liked to have met her. She is my best friend's mother. Hope you met her.

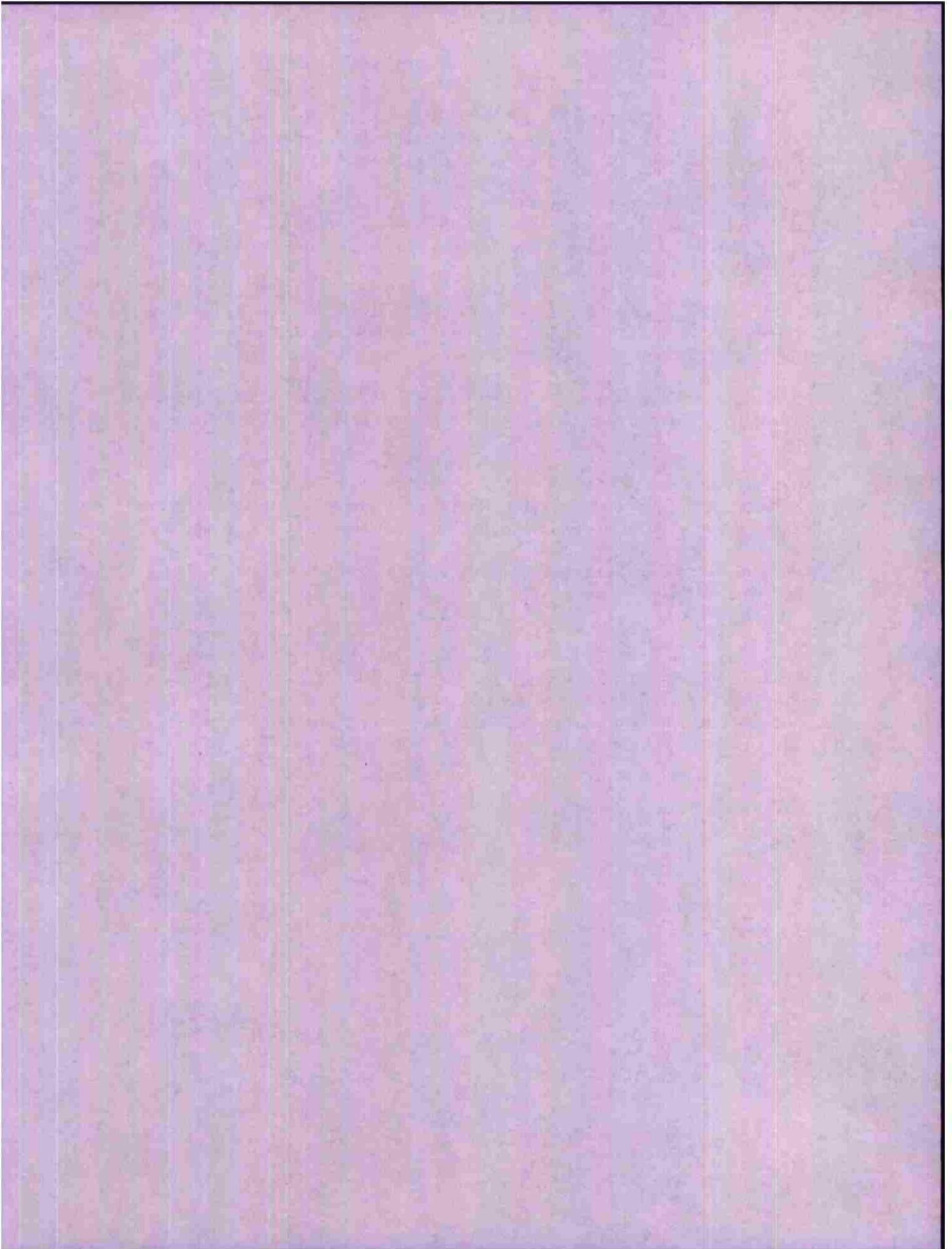
How is the new chapt coming? Who is in it at home? We are very much interested here. We sure are going to have an Army that will make Germany shake all over at the thought of it.

Must stop for a few minutes. Had to go out on the range to watch our guns fire. They are the sweetest shooting guns I ever saw. Our old guns back home look like babies compared to these. They are the one Sam used to talk about when he was at Fort Sill. Wish we could have had a chance to drop a few of the shell in the drive. We are all itching to go to the front.

We are in the country that Caesar conquered. There is an old fort near hear (sic) which he built & several arches & aqueducts. Very interesting. I haven't seen them but am going to try to go over this weekend.

Our H2O famine is over. We can now take a bath without somebody telling you to stop wasting water. It was a great luxury I can tell you. It made Jack Black sick. He said it took off to much of his clothes. He & I were in the same fix. I also got my clothes washed. Very good. I was afraid they wouldn't be clean but was mistaken. I guess the women must have laughed at my wash. I did not look at what was in the bag and there happened to be a pack carrier in it. She washed it beautifully.

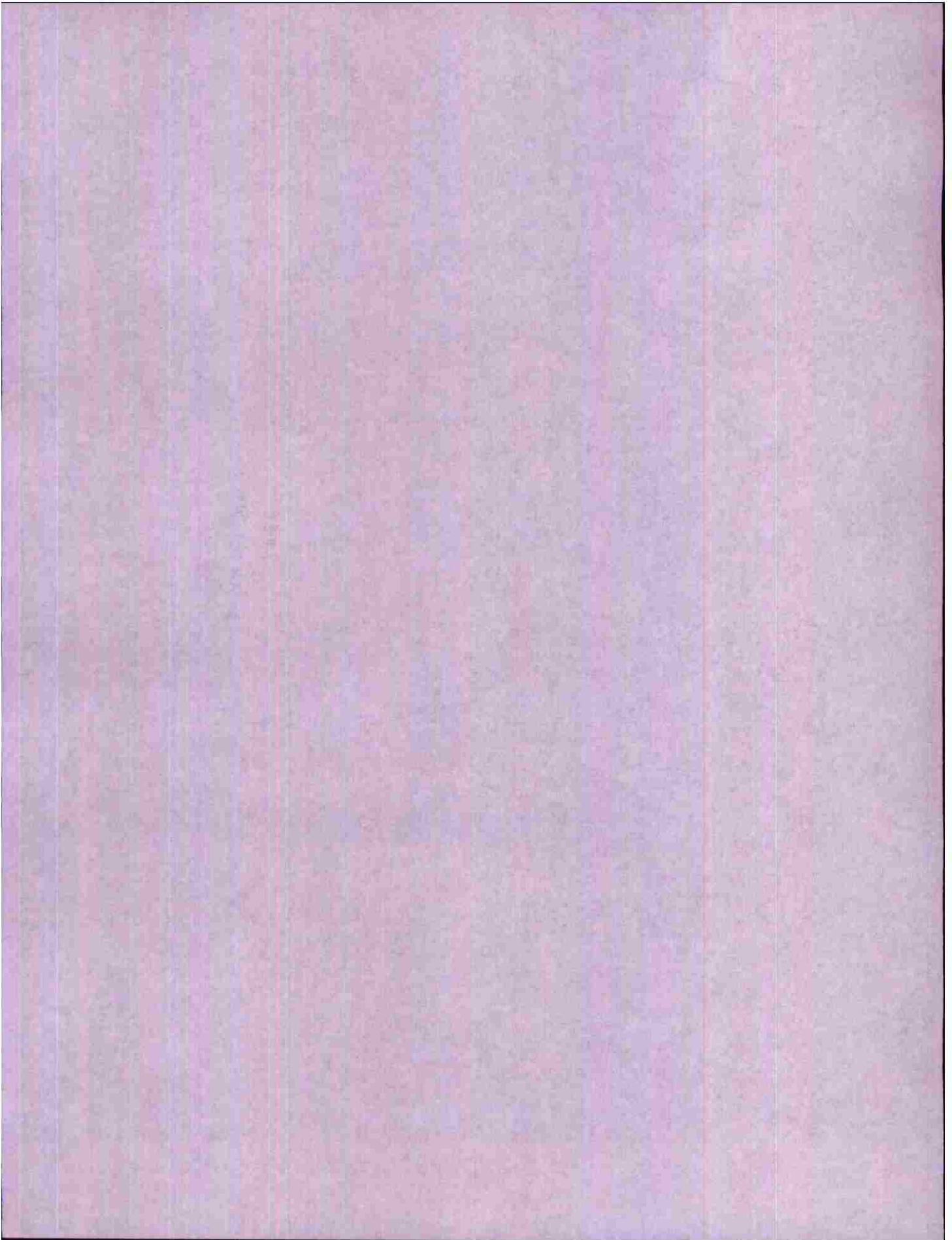
Give my love to every body. Am very well & happy. Lots of love
Your loving son
William



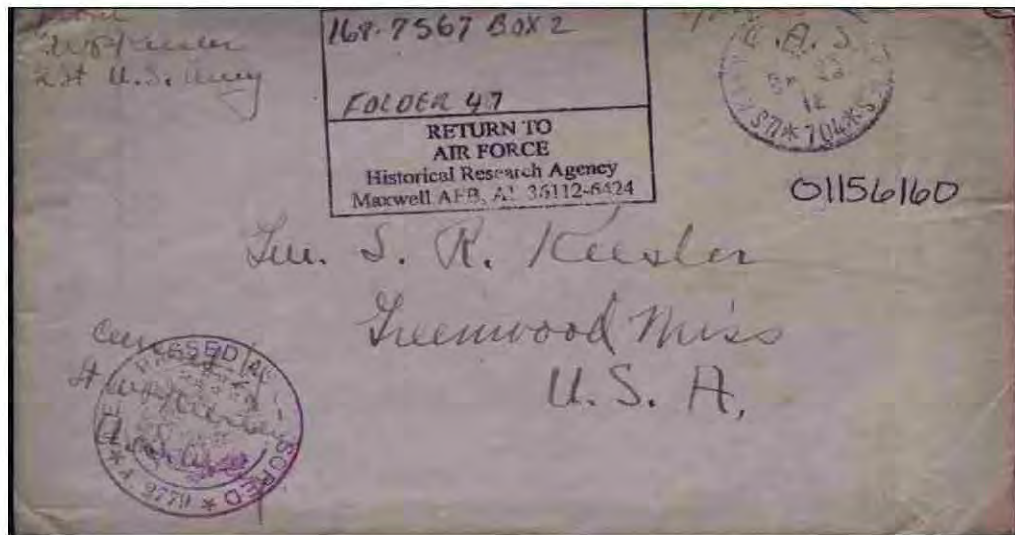
To: Gen S.R. Keesler
From: William Keesler (slight ref to Sam)
September 23, 1918

As 9567 Box 2
INDEXED TO ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION RECEIVED SEP 24 1918

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know getting the schedule in
home. I made did appreciate that
wonderful French bed when I
got in late last night.

Just a word on the town &
my home now. I just thing I
has missed all this living here
guaranteed in blankets at school.

We sure missed a lot of fun
& great experiences too. The town
is a large village of 500 people I
should guess & about twice as many
houses there are stay in the same
houses. Today yesterday I heard a lot
of conversation in side of the house
across the yard and watching Sam
a cow come out of the front door

Severance instance
Monday Sept 23, 1918.

Dear Father

I'm now sitting in front of one
of those old old porcelain stores in
a French house in my town. Out
side the road is cutting up real
badly and the rain is pouring down
fast and hard. I got back here late
Saturday night having finished the
first three weeks of school all O.K. It
took me quite a while to get located,
settled down & take over command of
the headquarters detail with the
Battalion. I spent several good
hours last night with the major
talking over a course of study
for the detail. Then a couple of

just as if she owned the house. The
 whole place live by farming & the cows.
 We having a delightful? other factors
 in the middle of town. Very good
 choice too. Best I ever ate. My home has
 its own up stairs & we also sleep
 down stairs. The house is remarkably
 built of stone, having great thick walls,
 tile floor etc. The "madam" of the house
 is a fine old lady who does all the
 work, helped by several girls. The father
 is no less a man as you ever
 saw. Looks like he never knew what
 all health was. Well, the boys gave him
 a cigar Sunday, then he looked like
 a king. Her son such a happy
 of position on any man's face. They
 think in the world you want they love
 part you. My really generally makes
 up my room but I know the Madam
 comes along & over all things too. She
 comes in continually looking at the fire
 & etc. I feel like a Prince surrounded
 give anything to tell her how good
 she is to us. I gave one of the little

all in-door work and that
is hard work when chided
up so.

Jim also Police Officer. That
is I see that the street are
kept clean all the time & etc.
are earned off. See that all Janitor
Prisoners are kept busy & etc.
Jim also & is Chief. I think the
only job I haven't got is News Officer.
But I should worry. The major
spent an hour the other night
trying to tell me how to clean
the streets. Well the rain has
sure done that every thing is
gone. the town is spotless

tot. The family a little as in
this evening. He had a big
time sure enough.

I punched the wheel OK. I
believe. I know I passed everything
OK. I got my back work made
up in time too so won't have to
go back anywhere until we start
paving. Jim now is Command &
Ady. Detail. Some job. I have Radio
men, Telephone men, signal men,
instrument men & etc. I can't back
them all but these I can see
are getting some teaching. I
only hope the weather per-
mits our going with the
field tomorrow. To-day it was

The night are the nearest
 over now. We are up in the mountain
 and at night the wind will blow
 like a fire and have everything around
 light about the house there is an
 evidence of his fire. When the
 wind blows then there, it sounds very
 much like the night or not that is
 generally have a number of spots
 to work up for the day coming and
 just sitting here waiting to make
 the kitchen tomorrow.
 We have had no more for
 over a week now. Sunday I lost
 for another day that last week
 when I got no money. Since did enjoy
 your too. Make me feel so good
 to have a letter and mother like
 me got. In thinking of you all the
 time.

I have had no more newspaper
 saw. In going to try and find up a
 meeting with him somewhere the first
 heart I got. I don't know how much
 he like. We will try the

is hard to get over there.

Have you received my remittance of \$50.00, it should be reaching you by now, I had paid my Bonds & am having that fixed up. We have to get in some sort of form there the A. M. Paper again for me. We send you the money and let you buy them but we order afterwards there the A. M. They made a big mess of it. And sending 50.00 or \$50.00 to you next month. Love doesn't stand much here.

At Xmas I was just

A funny thing happened today. We Officer got a Xmas present, it was sent to get the him last Xmas and he got it in the morning last. That was in a store as Xmas, lot of people are there there today but all of them from camp mail. There is an order put by which we can send a certain a package. I don't know about it yet tho. I think one has to get permission from J. H. Q before the case here package. I sure would like some chocolate sent me. Of

St. Wilfrid
316 4th St.
Wichita, Kan.

My dear son,
We are all well. I hope you are
also. We will be home soon.
I hope you will get to go out
and make a lot of money.
We are all well. I hope you are
also. We will be home soon.
I hope you will get to go out
and make a lot of money.

From WP Keesler
 2Lt U.S. Army
 To: Gen S.R. Keesler
 Greenwood Miss
 U.S.A.

Somewhere in France
 Monday Sept 23, 1918

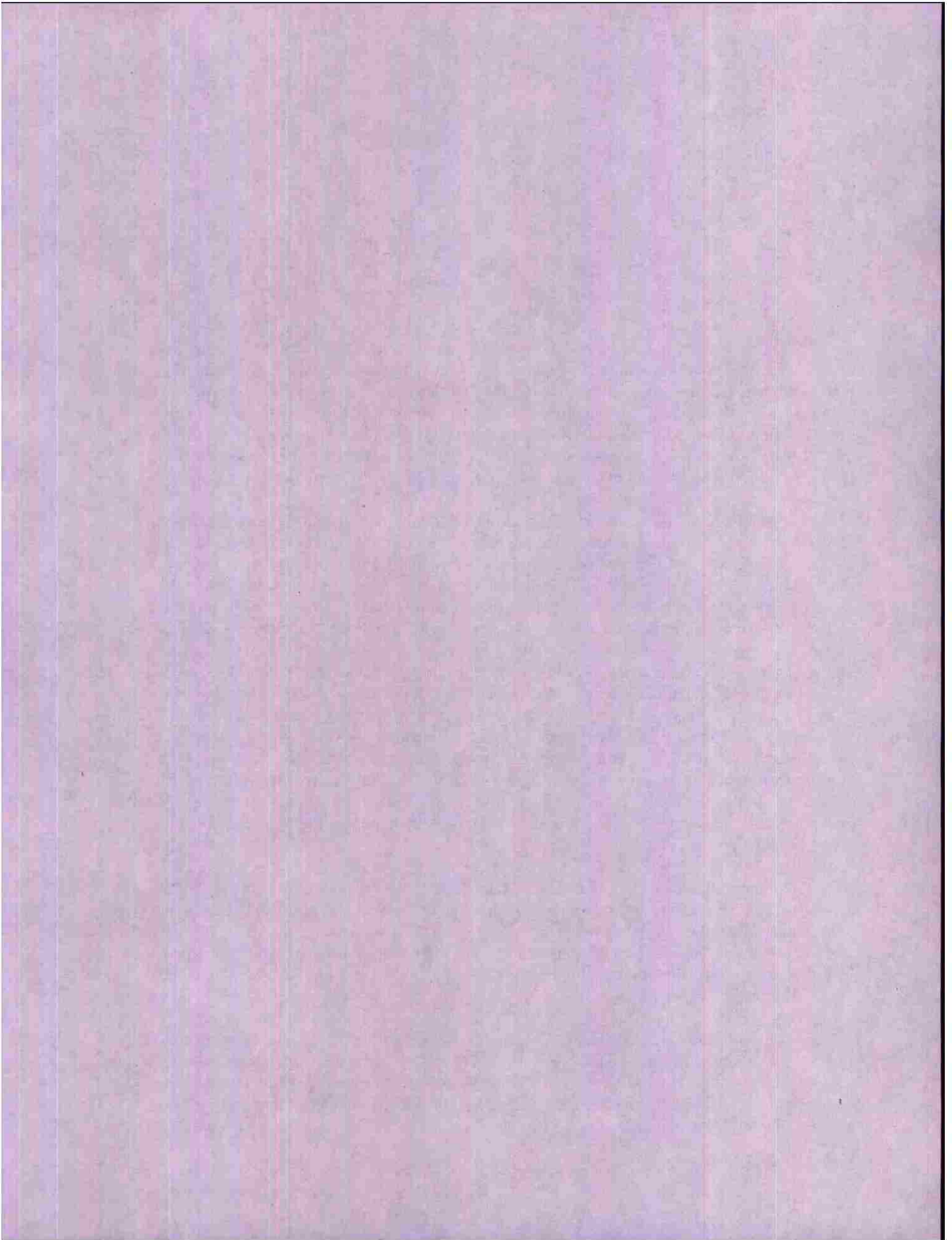
Dear Father,

I'm now sitting in front of one of those old old porcelain stoves in a French house in my town. Out side the wind is cutting up real badly and the rain is coming down fast and hard. I got back here late Saturday night having finished the first three weeks of school all O.K. It took me quite a while to get located. Settled down & take over command of the headquarters detail with the Battalion. I spent several good hours last night with the major talking over a course of study for the detail. Then a couple of hours getting the schedule in form. I sure did appreciate that wonderful French bed when I got in late last night.

Just a word on the town & my house now. First thing Sam has missed all this having been quartered in barracks at school. He sure missed a lot of fun & great experiences too. The town is a large village of 300 people I should guess & about twice as many cows. These all stay in the same houses. Why yesterday I heard a lot of commotion inside of the house across the yard and watching saw a cow come out of the front door just as if she owned the house. The whole place lives by farming & the cows. We have a delightful ? cheese factory in the middle of town. Very good cheese too. Best I ever ate. My home has its barn upstairs & we all sleep down stairs. The house is massively built of stone, having great thick walls, tile floors, & etc. The "madame" of the house is a fine old lady who does all the work, helped by several girls. The father is as fine a man as you ever saw. Looks like he never knew what ill health was. One of the boys gave him a cigar Sunday, then he looked like a king. Never saw such a happy expression on any mans face. Any thing in the world you want they will give you. My orderly generally makes up my room but I know the Madame comes along & over see things too. She comes in continually looking at the fire & etc. I feel like a Prince and would give anything to tell her how good she is to us. I gave one of the little tots of the family a little sugar this evening. He had a big time sure enough.

I finished the school O.K. I believe. I know I passed everything O.K. I got my back work made up in tome too so won't have to go back anymore until we start firing. I'm now in command of Hdqs Detail. Some job. I have Radio men, telephone men, signal men, instrument men & etc. I can't teach them all but those I can sure are getting some teaching. I only hope the weather permits our going into the field some more. To-day it was all in-door work and that is hard work when divided up so.

I'm also Police Officer. That is I see that the streets are kept clean all tin cans & etc are carried off. See that all garrison prisoners are kept busy & etc. I'm also Fire Chief. I think the only job I haven't got is Mess Officer. But I should worry. The major spent an hour the other night trying to tell mw how to clean the streets. Well the rain has sure done that every thing is gone. The town is spotless.



The nights are the meanest I ever saw. We are up in the mountains and at night the wind sails down like sixty and blows everything around. Right above the house there is an immense grove of big fir tree. When the wind blows thru these, it sounds very much like the night on Mt Mitchell. I generally have a number of reports to work up for the day coming and just sitting here listening to it makes me kinder (sic) homesick.

We have had no news for over a week now. Everyday I look for another day like last week when I got so many. Sure did enjoy yours too. Makes one feel so good to have a father and mother like I've got. I'm thinking of you all all the time.

I have had no news from Sam. I'm going to try and frame up a meeting with him somewhere the first leave I get. I don't know how successful I'll be. We will try tho.

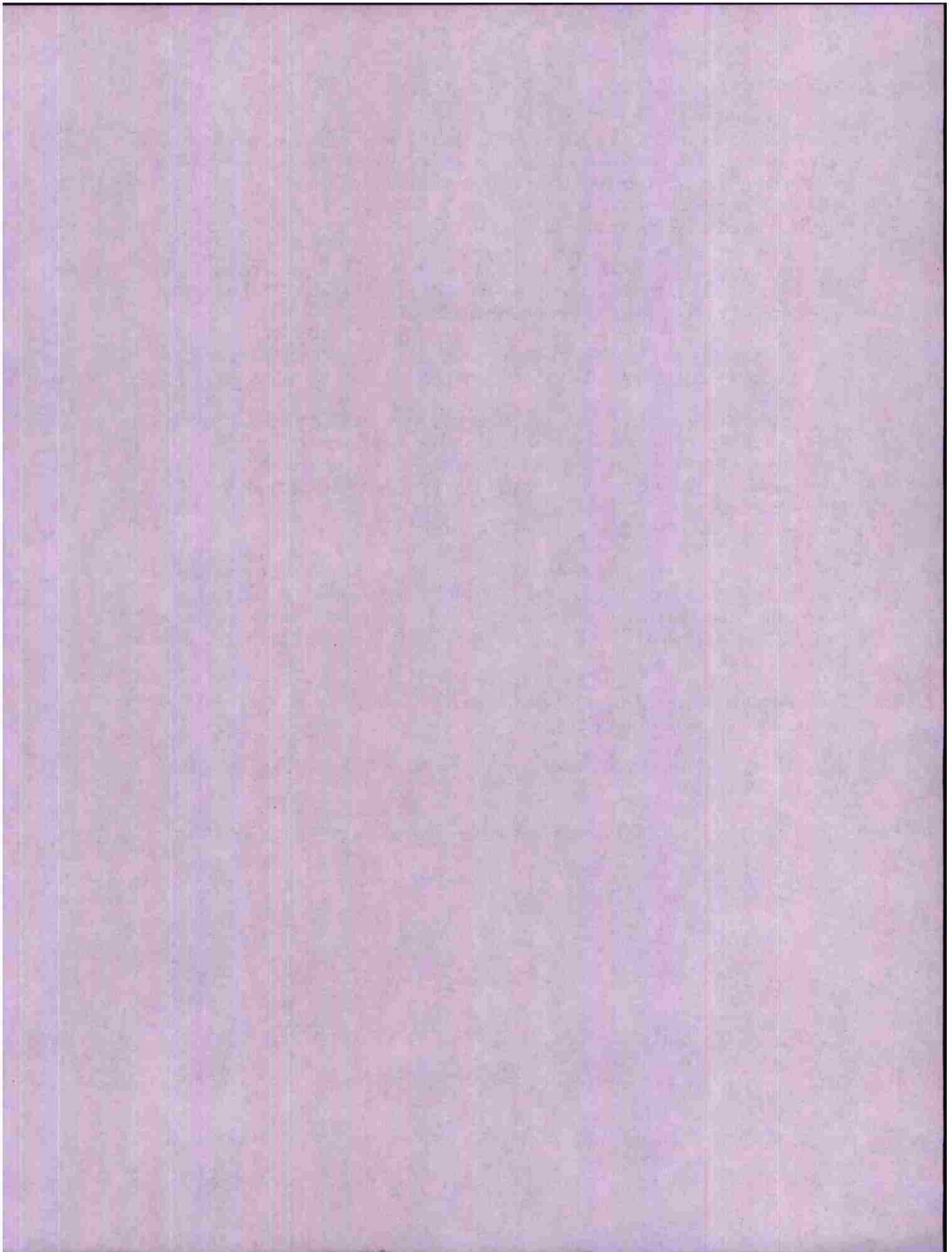
A funny thing happened to-day. An officer got a Xmas present. It was sent to get to him last Xmas and he got it nine months late. That sure is as slow as Xmas. Lots of package came thru to-day, but all of them from Camp Mills. There is an order out by which no one can send a soldier a package. I don't know about it yet tho. I think one has to get permission from G.H.Q. before he can have a package. I sure would like some chocolate sent me. It is hard to get over here.

Have you received my remittance of \$50⁰⁰. It should be reaching you by now. I heard from my Bonds & am having that fixed up. We'll have to put in some sort of form thru the Q.M. Never again for me. I'll send you the money and let you buy them but no more allotments thru the Q.M. They make a big mess of it. Am sending 50⁰⁰ or 75⁰⁰ to you next month. We doesn't spend much here.

At Xmas I was going to send Elizabeth a set of furs for me. I'll be sending small sums each month from now on so just use the sauce.

Have got to go out & make 9 oclock check. Am well & hearty. Hope you are all well. Best of love to you all.

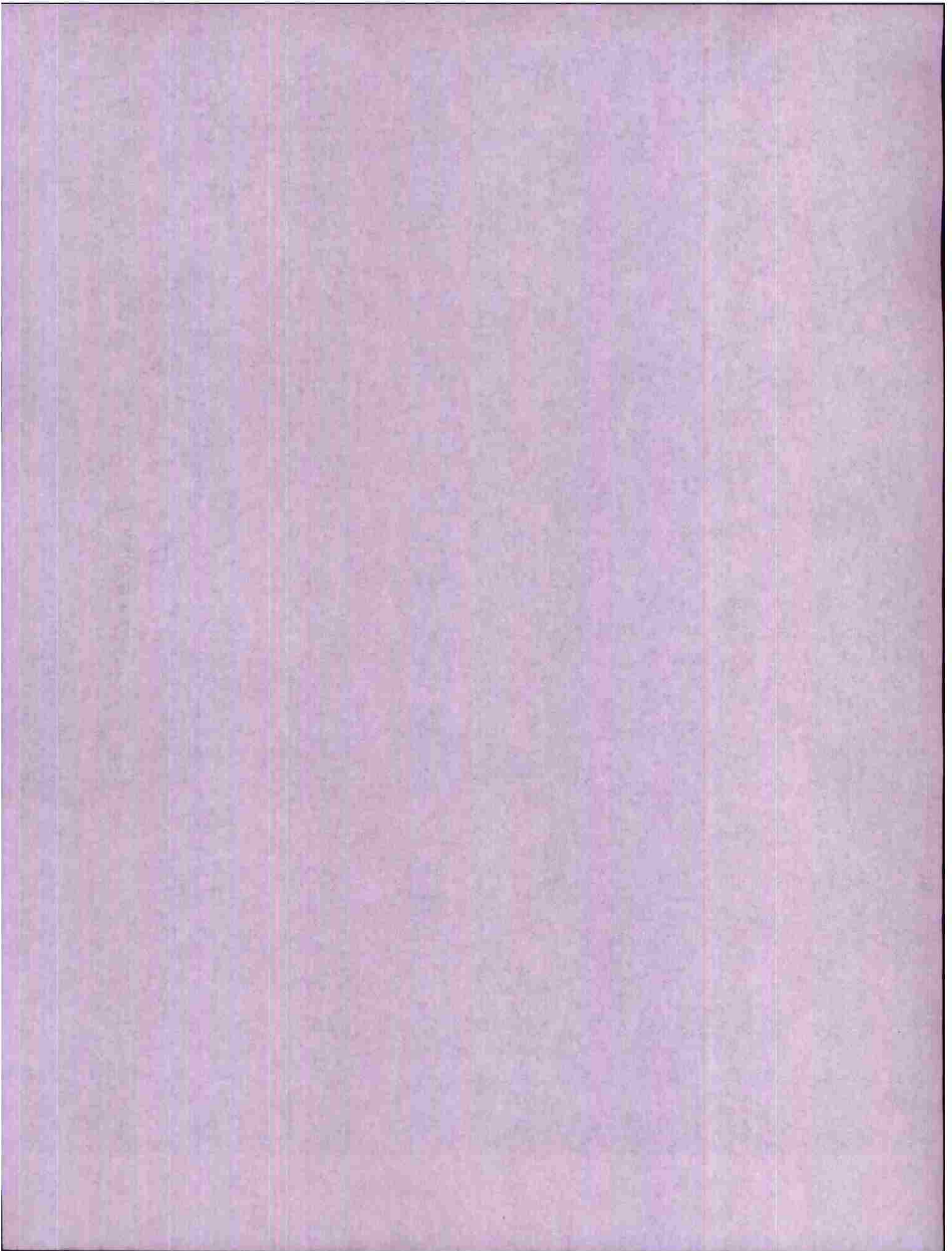
Your devoted son,
William



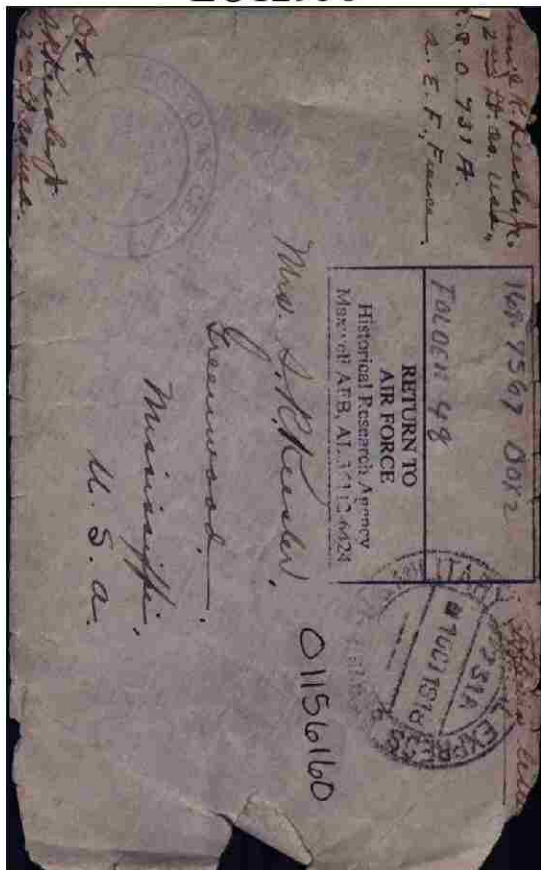
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler
From: Samuel Keesler (final letter)
September 25, 1918

RECEIVED
SEP 26 1918
AIR FORCE
RECEIVED
SEP 26 1918
AIR FORCE
RECEIVED
SEP 26 1918
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**THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958**



**THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW
EO12958**

You have written me a recent letter but
 gave me no advice this time either. I wonder
 what the "Lifer" experience is a great teacher. I hope
 you can't imagine my parents surprise
 when I was in the one of Bill's letters are about
 "the Ring". He was thinking me for it and telling
 me "what a beauty it was and how much
 she loves it". Now it is my turn to do some
 thinking - and I am writing father in a few
 days - but if you have anything to do with it
 mother dear - a thousand thanks and this some-
 you can never know how I love you for being
 so good and sweet to me already. I'll love
 you every day - and father too.
 How your letter "gave" at present. I don't
 it; we may have a decision next year
 get - now if I put on this from getting
 "knocked off" make that time - I am so happy -
 so many of the boys are getting it - Ho.
 I must study my map some more. But
 always remember of an "thinking" about you and
 are the dear ones - constantly -
 Lots of love from
 Dan Jr.
 your devoted son

of I have to give it
 there are numbers of things I
 might tell you which you would
 like to hear. But just at present
 I see nothing about them.
 Now about your photographs and en-
 ivers - It is the best!

You should see my mistake.
 Some time! I have not yet
 for about 2 weeks and its looking to
 look with a mistake - still my trouble
 must it is that it is so redish
 fine - but the color of my hair at
 all. Mistakes are frequent in these
 things.
 We have some new shavers in
 our shop. I don't know their names yet

Sept. 25-26 1918.

Dearest Mother,

I received several letters
 from you a few days ago - so much as
 one from father, one from Roger, William,
 and several from Mrs. B. & C.
 seems to come at once. I receive
 1, 3 letters in two days. Such days are
 always looked forward to with
 "heavenly pleasure" needless to say I
 enjoyed them with all my might.
 I fly in the morning at 10 a.m.
 I have been over the land only twice
 so far. Now hoping I get about 6
 back and that they don't get me.
 I trust my machine doesn't get

Samuel R. Keesler Jr
2nd Lt. As. USA
24th Aero Sqdn
APO 731A
AEF France

Mrs S.R. Keesler
Greenwood, Mississippi
U.S.A.

Sept. 25th 1918

Dearest Mother,

I received several letters from you a few days ago – as well as one from father, one from Dayer, William, and several from F.W.R. They all seemed to come at once. I received 13 letters in two days. Such days are always looked forward to with “beaucoup plaisir” needless to say I enjoyed them with all my might.

I fly in the morning at 10 a.m. I have been over the levies only twice so far. Here’s hoping I get about 6 Bosche and that they don’t get me! I trust my machine guns don’t jam if I have to use it.

There are numbers of things I might tell you which you would like to hear – but just at present I’ll say nothing about them. Now aren’t you provoked and curious – It is the war!

You should see my mustache. Some class! I have let it grow for about 2 weeks and its getting to look like a mustache – the only trouble with it is that it is of a reddish hue – isn’t the color of my air at all. Mustaches are popular in France anyway.

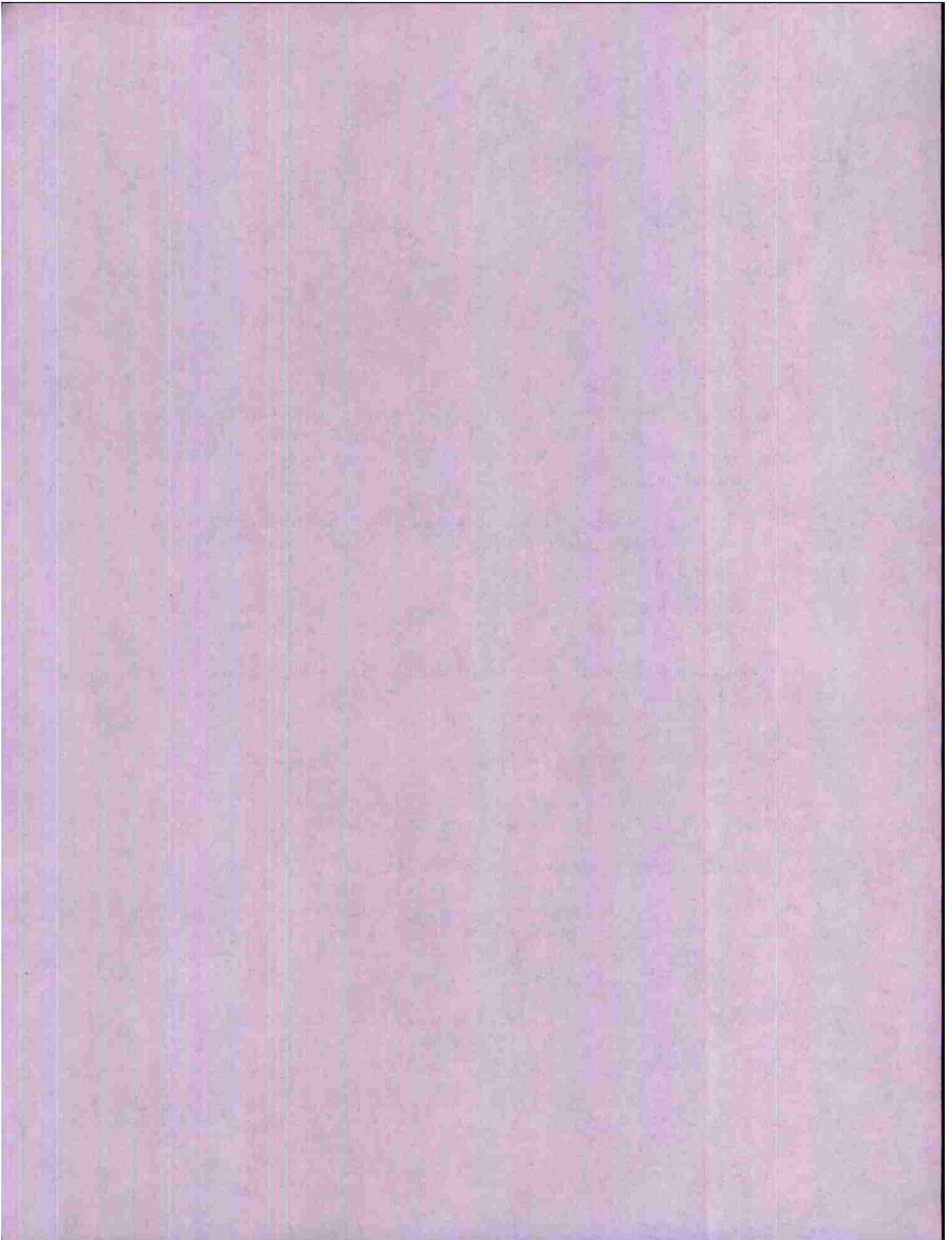
We have some new observers in our Sqdn. I don’t know their names yet.

W^m has written me a second letter but gave me no address this time either. I wonder what he “hopes” – experience is a great teacher – He’ll learn things in time.

You can’t imagine my joyous surprise when I read in one of F.W.’s letters all about “the Ring.” She was thanking me for it and telling me what a beauty it was and how much she “loved” it – now its my turn to do some thanking – and I’ll write father in a few days – but if you had anything to do with it mother dear – a thousand thanks and then some – you can never know how I love you for being so good and sweet to “Beta” already. She loves you dearly – and father too.

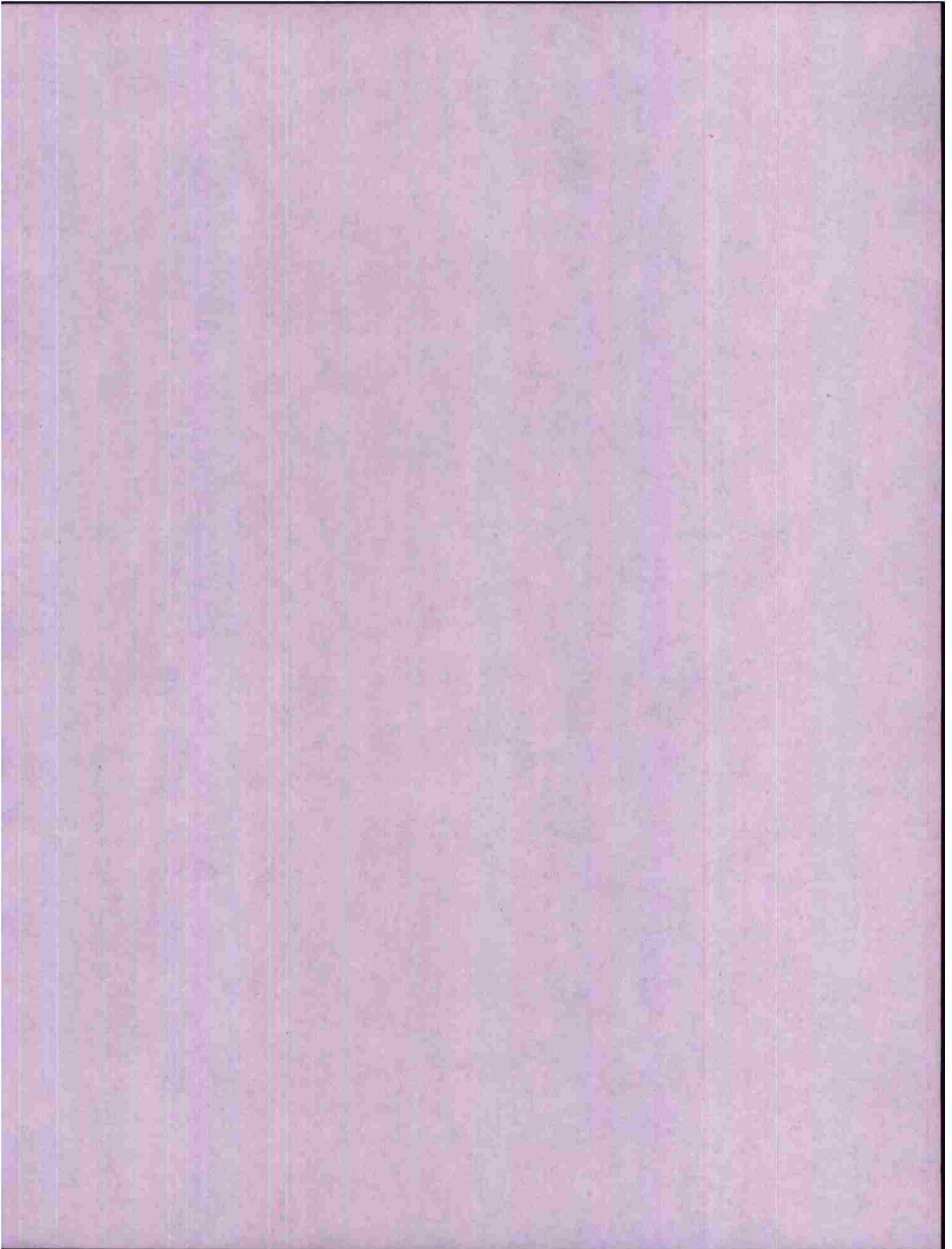
War news looks “good” at present, doesn’t it? We may have a decision next year yet – now if I just can keep from getting “bumped off” until that time – I’ll be happy – So many of the boys are “getting it” – tho.

I must study my map some now – but always remember I am thinking about you – and all the dear ones constantly –



Lots of love from

Your devoted son,
Sam Jr.

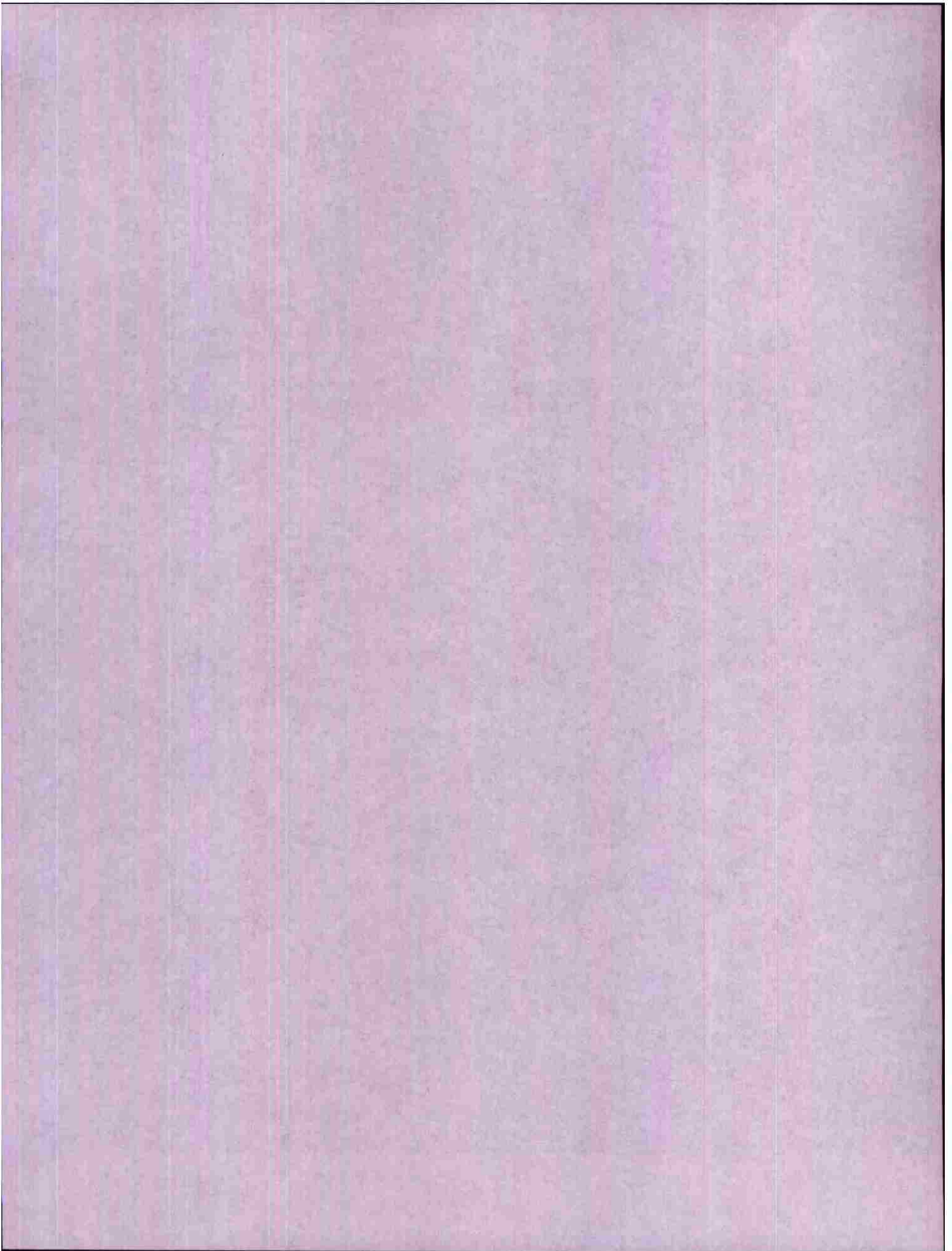


To: Mrs. S.R. Kesler
From: William Kesler
Sept 28, 1918

165 1512 OK
RECEIVED AT FORD HOSPITAL 1000 1000

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AT
FORD
HOSPITAL
1000
1000

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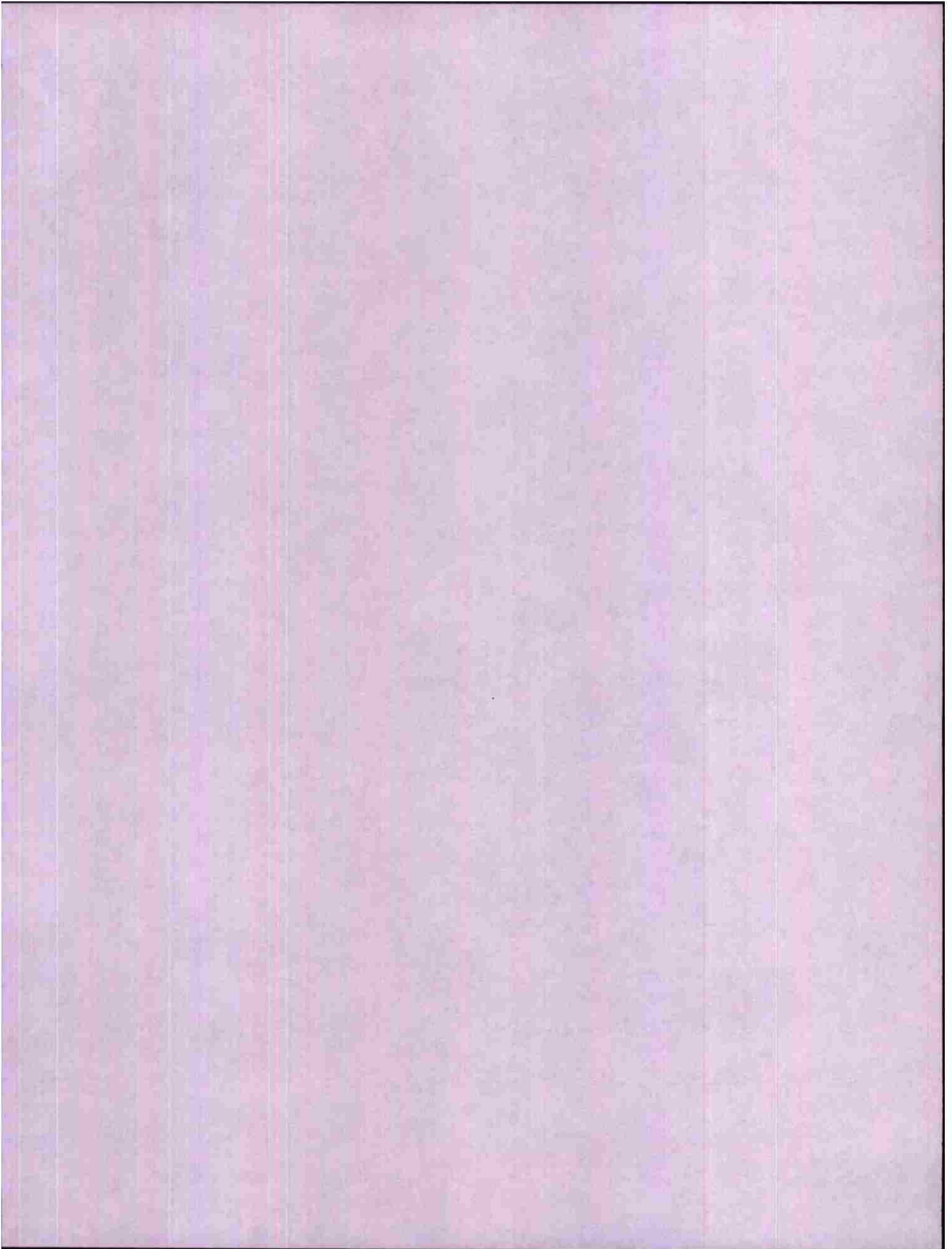


169-7567 - Box 2

Folder 49

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

O 1156160



hills and the whole country is nothing but rock. The ground is generally about 75 to 100 inches deep. Of course some places in rolling it is deep. But for all that Sheldon said there is not a bone sport anything is used. We have it out and he planned it out for further work + cattle one every other. One cheese factory does all "powerful" business. Works night and day.

I finished school at 12. Last Saturday came back to the Bastards on Sunday and have been at work ever since. The major one keeps me busy. I have 39 men to take

Somewhere in France
Friday Sept 28 1918

Dear Maxim

It is 6:15 A.M. which is about 11:00 PM with you. The French farmer with whom I'm believed has been at work quite a while now since about five o'clock. The Frenchman saw how to get all these in out for day or not of any thing. Dear man are mostly farmers to and they are picking up points for further use. The hand served day "well" there a good idea in going to see some day. I had never realized how much could be done with land with hands the fire + so on for some time here. We are in the

some as security, some as transportation
 as radio, as signal, as diversion & cell
 first to know about, map needed &
 at. My hands are sure pull from 7:30 PM
 to 9 at night. The men are communicating
 daily with the. Some also to help the
 return back. The way of the motor section
 is hard for them to learn but with
 they with the idea they go walking.
 And men are poorly educated as a whole.
 And the 7 men in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~section~~ ^{section} can't make
 stand it. I try to keep the men from
 being discouraged when the machine
 goes so fast. They just fly by.
 can't keep up some times.
 Can even maintain who a has
 Mr. That you pull into & data
 to work out. and then another exam
 in top of that. I made a 100 on one
 of 65 on the other. I made one
 mistake early in my 65 paper +
 it ruined the whole. But I averaged
 well on all so we went full me

as near the — monument as
don't doubt.

Harriet heard from Sam Potts
about her letter. Since he
was mixed up with the big drive,
we are obliged to be. In hoping
we can finish our training in
not very long. We have a bright
future. Two nights ago as I was
writing in the next room. The
whole family came with
me to train me. We had
quite a training. They had
a dictionary of English & French
words & kept it going. They

down.

Thir climate we are in is
very peculiar. One day is as warm as
a sunset & cold, that night it will
have a set warm. This morning
the clouds are right down and
the hills behind the village.
Today it was clear & cold. If it
does give me the grips, I'm
not fit. The people here in
the village don't mind it at
all. Work right straight on
the rain or dry. They tell us
that they have lots of snow, I
hope not for that means,
mean work. But we are

The situation had worse. The girls in
 the village are very good looking
 and the men have a big time
 trying to take them. They generally
 get along too. We had our headquarters
 for awhile in the school building for
 awhile and after the school teacher came
 speak a little English. She made
 it real nice.
 Our doctor can help many of the
 people. Some of them have had a
 doctor for several years. He has
 saved one man's life already and
 helped dozens of others. They depend
 it so too.
 Jim well & contented. Their names
 Jim with my detail. None to all.
 your loving son
 William

Mr.
 William
 5-14-50

(No envelope)

Somewhere in France
Friday, Sept 28, 1918

Dear Mamma,

It is 615 A.M. which is about 115 A.M. with you. The French farmer with whom I'm billeted has been at work quite a while ever since about five o'clock. The Frenchmen sure know how to get all there is out of a day or out of any thing. Our men are mostly farmers too and they are picking up point for future use. I've heard several say "well there's a good idea I'm going to use some day." I had never realized how much could be done with land until I saw the five & 10 acres farms around here. We are in the hills and the whole country is nothing but rock. The ground is generally about 7 to 10 inches deep. Of course some places in valley it is deep. But for all that shallow land there is not a bare spot everything is used. The land that can't be farmed is used for pastures. Cows & cattle are every where. Our cheese factory does a "powerful" business. Works night and day.

I finished school all O.K. last Saturday came back to the Battalion on Sunday and have been at work ever since. The major sure keeps me busy. I have 37 men to train, some as scouts, some as telephonists, as radio, as signal, as drivers & all have to know sketching, map reading & etc. My hands are sure full from 730 A.M. to 9 at night. The men are coming along fairly well tho. Some slow to hold the others back. The use of the metric system is hard for them to learn but when they catch the idea they go sailing. Our men are poorly educated as a whole and the French instructors can't understand it. I try to keep the men from being discouraged when the instructors goes so fast. They just fly too. I can't keep up some times.

Our exam Saturday was a hard one. Had four full sets of data to work out, and there's another exam on top of that. I made a 100 on one & 65 on the other. I made one mistake early in my 65 paper & it ruined the whole. But I averaged well on all so one won't pull me down.

This climate we are in is very peculiar. One day is as clear as a crystal & cold, that night it will rain & get warm. The morning the clouds are right down on the hills behind the village. Yesterday it was clear & cold. If it doesn't give me the grippe I'm satisfied. The people here in the village don't mind it at all. Work right straight on thru rain or dry. They tell us that they have lots of snow. I hope not for that means more work. But we are so near the _____ mountains! Don't doubt.

Haven't heard from Sam lately sent him you letters. Guess he was mixed up with the big drive. We all wished to be. I'm hoping we can finish our training before very long. We have a big job tho.

Two nights ago as I was writing in the next room, the whole family came in to entertain me. We had quite an evening. They had a dictionary of English & French words & I kept it going. Very interesting but hard work. The girls in the village are very good looking and the men have a big time trying to talk to them. They generally get along too. We had our

...the fact that the ...
...the fact that the ...

...the fact that the ...
...the fact that the ...

...the fact that the ...

...the fact that the ...
...the fact that the ...

To: Mr. J. R. Kessler
From: Sam Hester
September 29, 1918

168-7567-Box 2

Folder 50

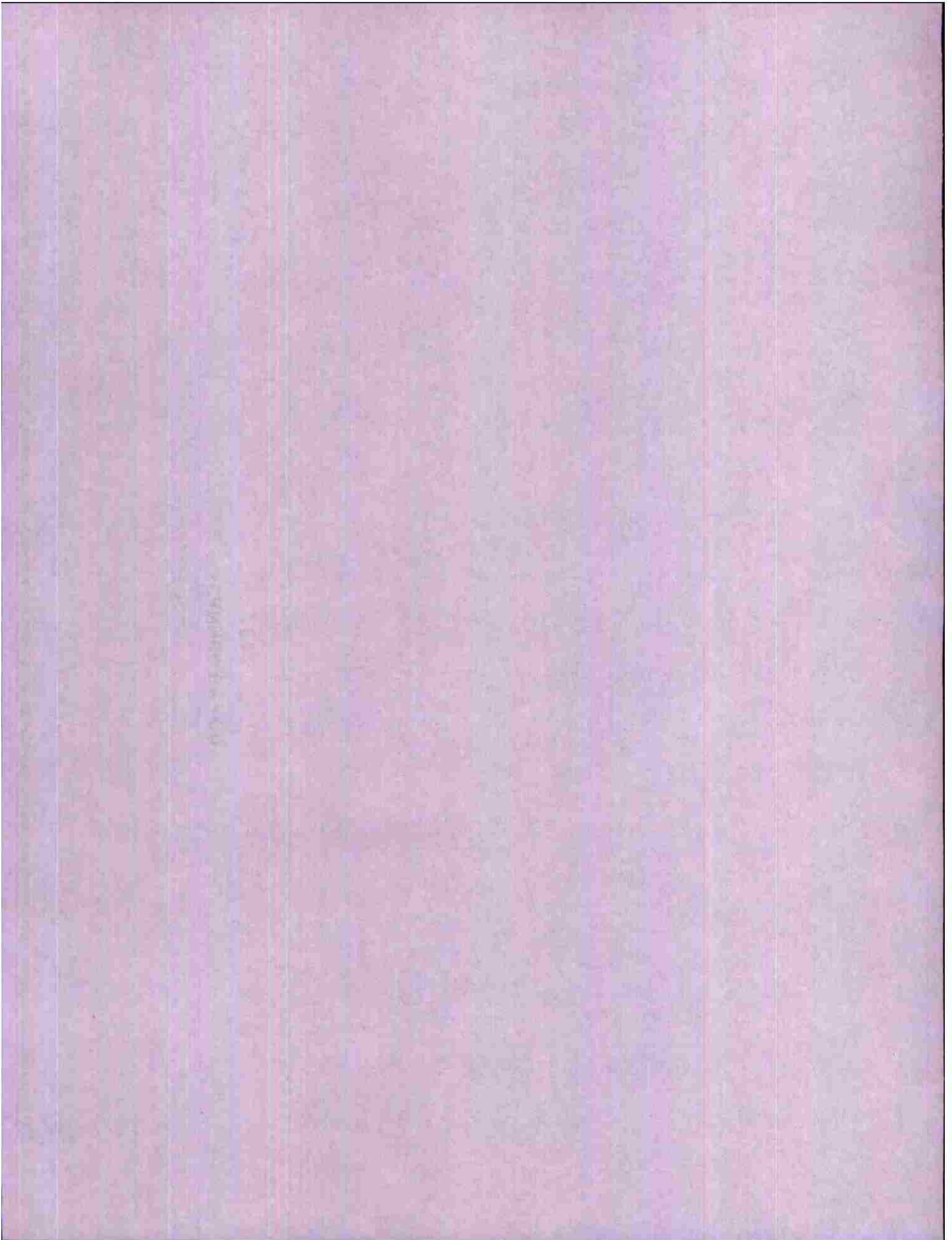
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Historical Research Agency
Macomb AFB, MI 48112-6424

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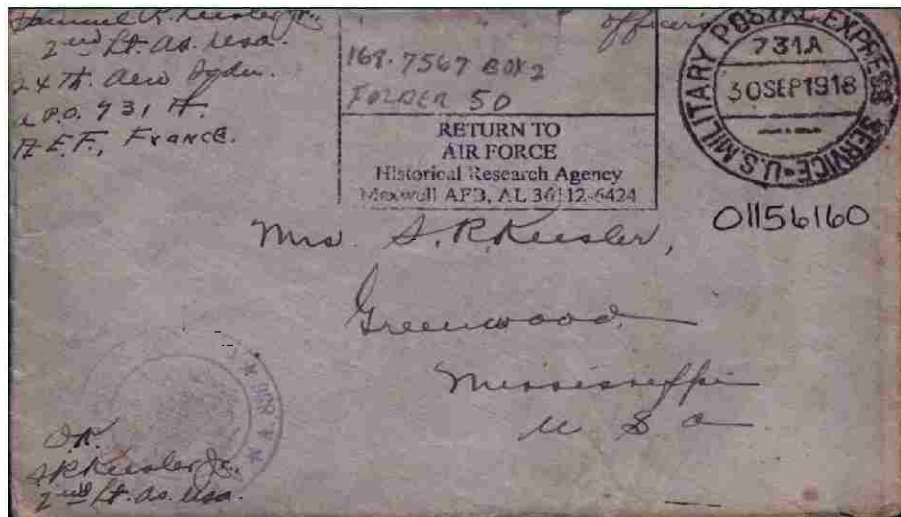
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51



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Sept. 29th. 1918.

My dearest mother,

I received your letter written on July 24th - a few days ago, also one from Claude written Aug. 5th. and one from "Beta" written on Aug. 17th. I was very glad to get them all. Your news rather surprised me - is a free-press article here as everywhere and yet has no effect on it - unless it tends to make it worse. I have been enclosed from H.R. was engaged, I assure you find me writing in a much more in a thoroughness which is my belief - do not expect that,

Sept. 29th. 1918.

My dearest Mother,

Received from

written on July 24th - a few days ago, also
one from "Betta" written Aug. 5th and
one from "Betta" written on Aug 17th. We
were glad to get them at the same
time rather ancient. "Mail" is a fine
series article here as everywhere
and age has no effect on it - unless
it tends to make it sweet. The
letter you enclosed from Mr. R. was
enjoyed, I assure.
You find me writing in a
room in a third home which
is my delight - tho' not elegant but

The new man does look good and if it were
 certain - we may have "Bee" some of these
 days yet, for meeting it. I know you people
 are overjoyed with the turn of things at
 present -
 yesterday there was cloudy - but we had
 path regarded and took a voyage into Germany
 the largest one ever taken - a very strong
 rain was blowing which drifted in thickly and
 and some important places however the hole
 in the clouds - One I saw 5 German planes
 under me - gaining altitude - but we had them
 "we must" as the report would say and what
 on our way rejoicing - were hardly that late young
 as the my first was arriving around noon and then
 some people here to being when the first three
 high in the air - I guess they try to "look good"
 into the way "at Kerner's gas range - anyway
 the new man efforts that way, more - return -
 ing to our trip - the "Bee" about got us - when
 they reached our altitude we were miles
 away in time - They were one hour above
 us but he said better we "a bit to the
 man is sufficient - and one Beech is no fun."

has for me traveled this morning
just for curiosity - 117 miles in all -
51 miles of it in Germany. I was told
to when I came back. Let me
tell you again. For my photo, he kept
so much of my time that it was very
hardly - a very strong wind - here
the reason for our getting lost.

I fly again in the morning.

I have been over 4 times now and
the flights get - I wonder what does
it see here tomorrow?

Charlotte is at every now
and then - and having an exciting
time, ~~in every~~ - share we. It's hard
to realize that Charlotte is so young
to be going to college - she also has

me to see the facts - we came
out over our line a good piece from
our camp - in fact we were off my
map. However we finally reached
a place I recognized and headed
for home - but instead of following
my directions and heading west - we
went to the south - so finally we
had to land on a trench shield and
find out where we were and get
a little gas - for we had been flying
for 3 hours and 10 minutes. Can you
imagine it? We were only a
short distance from our place we
found it - so came right over in
10 minutes more - I figured approximately

to seeing that you live some are at war - that
 the whole world is at war. I look upon my
 part of the war as a great game - the always
 change - game - chessman game - as this is
 just a continuation -
 I am now as always - and getting along
 just fine. I get plenty of sleep - thanks to a
 rest got good food. No rest worry about me here
 what would you say to my mistake.
 a wonder! I guess I look more like father
 now - only my mistake is small - and father
 is dead.
 a life to get to have some time in the
 future and perhaps a few Christmas presents -
 of a last rest then soon the - they rest
 got home in time -
 die got to get rid of me & my friends -
 too much for me - and a guess \$0
 can get along without it.
 To do - is what he - you - no good
 night to you, dear mother -
 lots of love to you all,
 your little son,
 George

To W. W. 150510
From: 150510
DETACH 1, 101st
COX and Co.

168-7567-Box 2

Folder 51

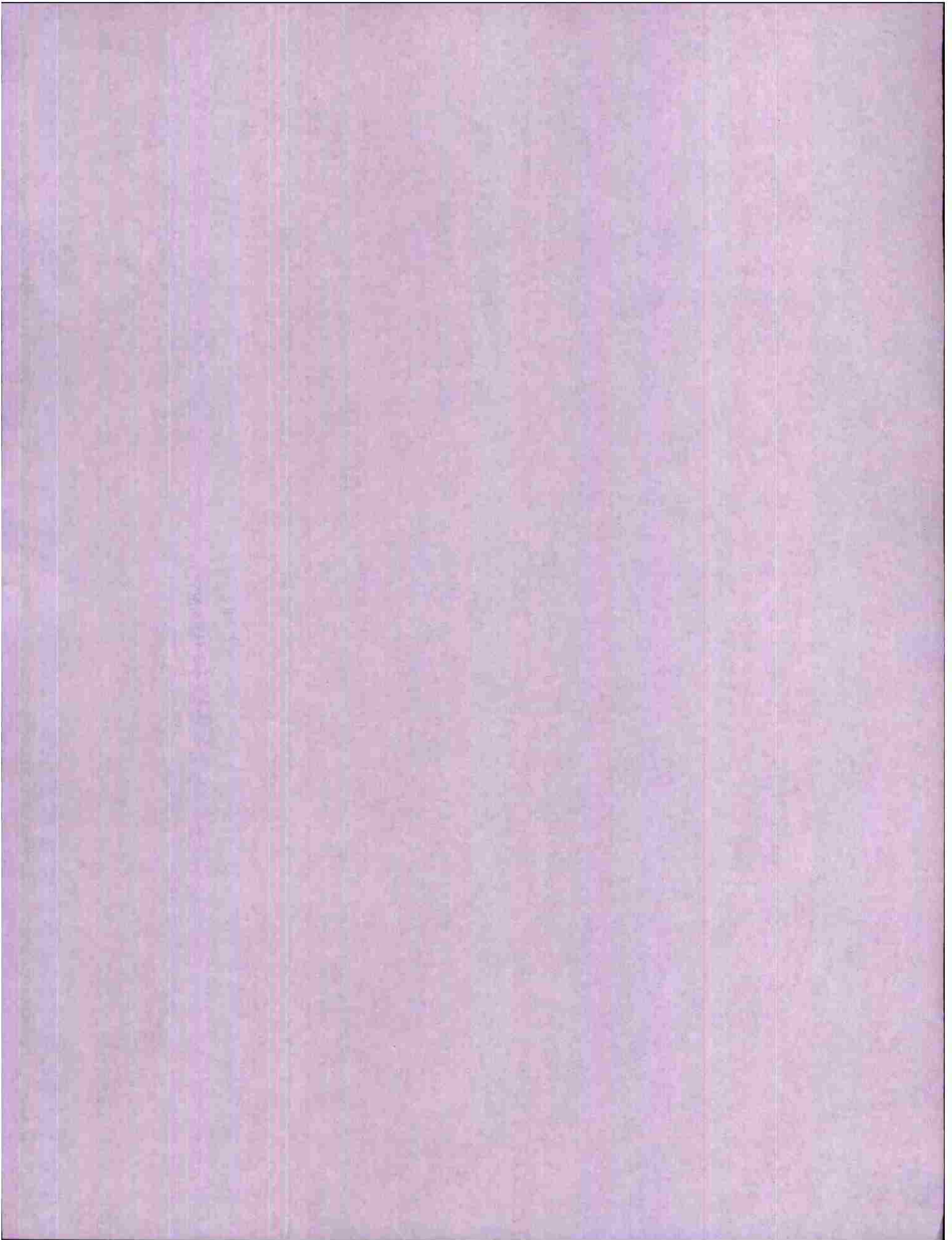
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52



U.S. ARMY BRANCH.

MEMORANDUM.

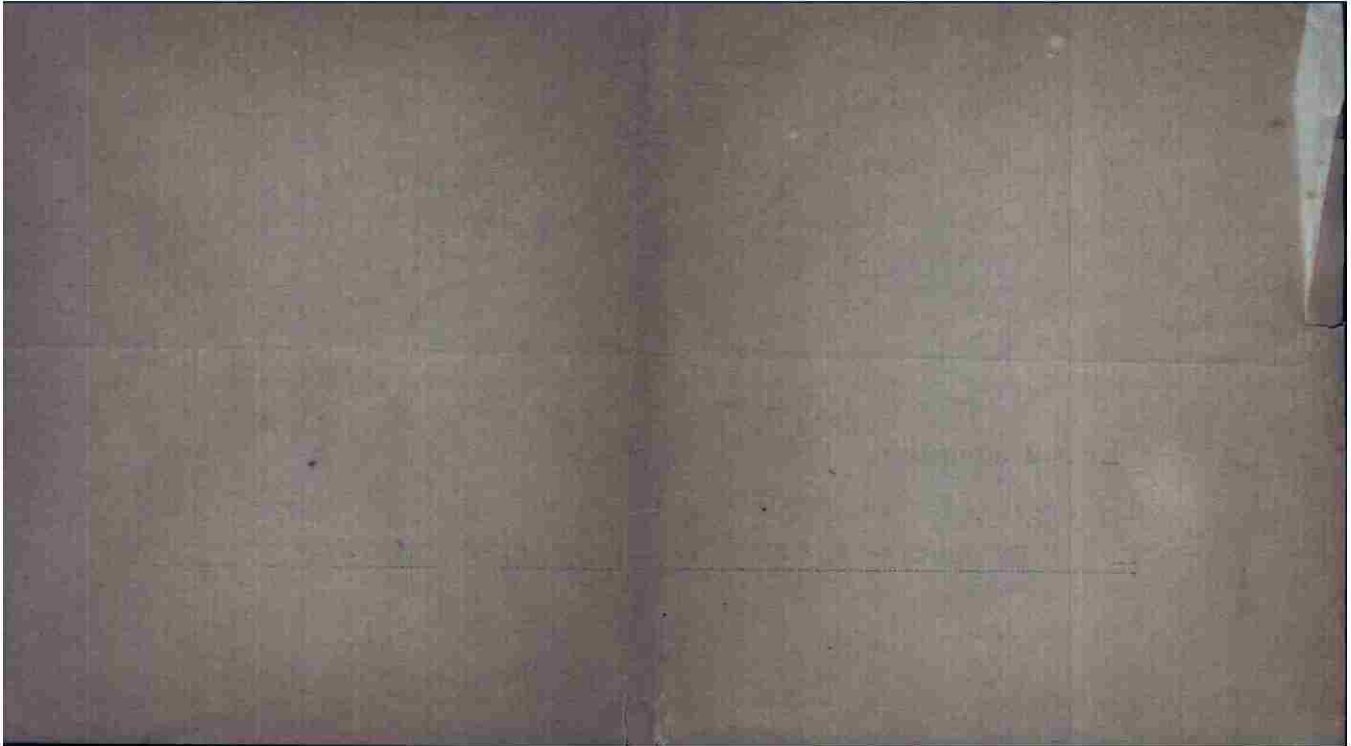
From Messrs. COX & CO.,
28, Charles Street,
St. James's Square,
LONDON. S.W.1.

To

London. 1st Oct 1918
Lieut. W.P. Keesler,
U.S.A.,

Messrs. COX & CO. present their compliments to
Lt. W.P. Keesler, and in accordance with his instructions
have forwarded to Sam R. Keesler, Esq, their demand draft
on Interstate Nat. Bank, Kansas City, for \$50.00

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7-10-60
H. L. Hester
October 4, 1918

165-7567-8082

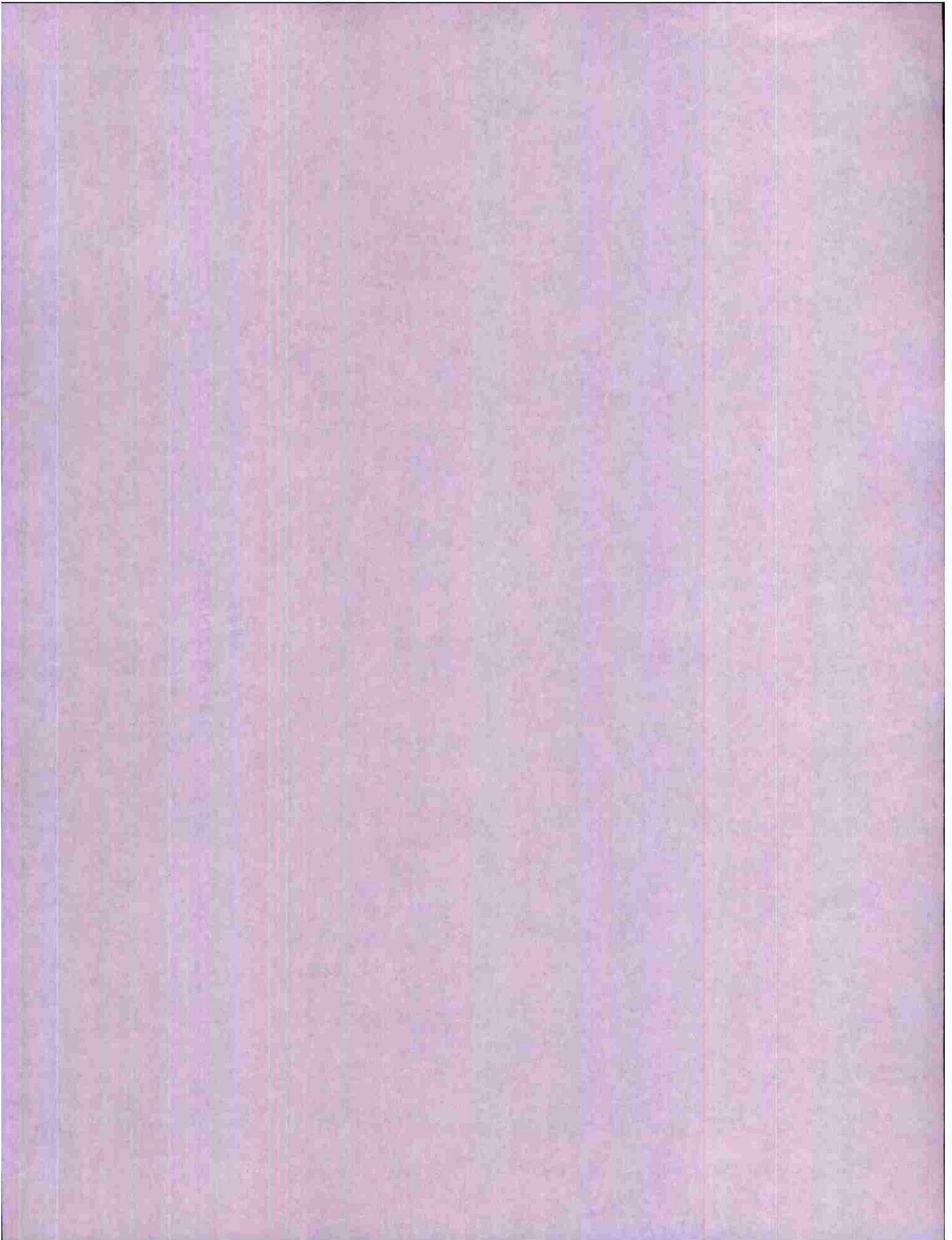
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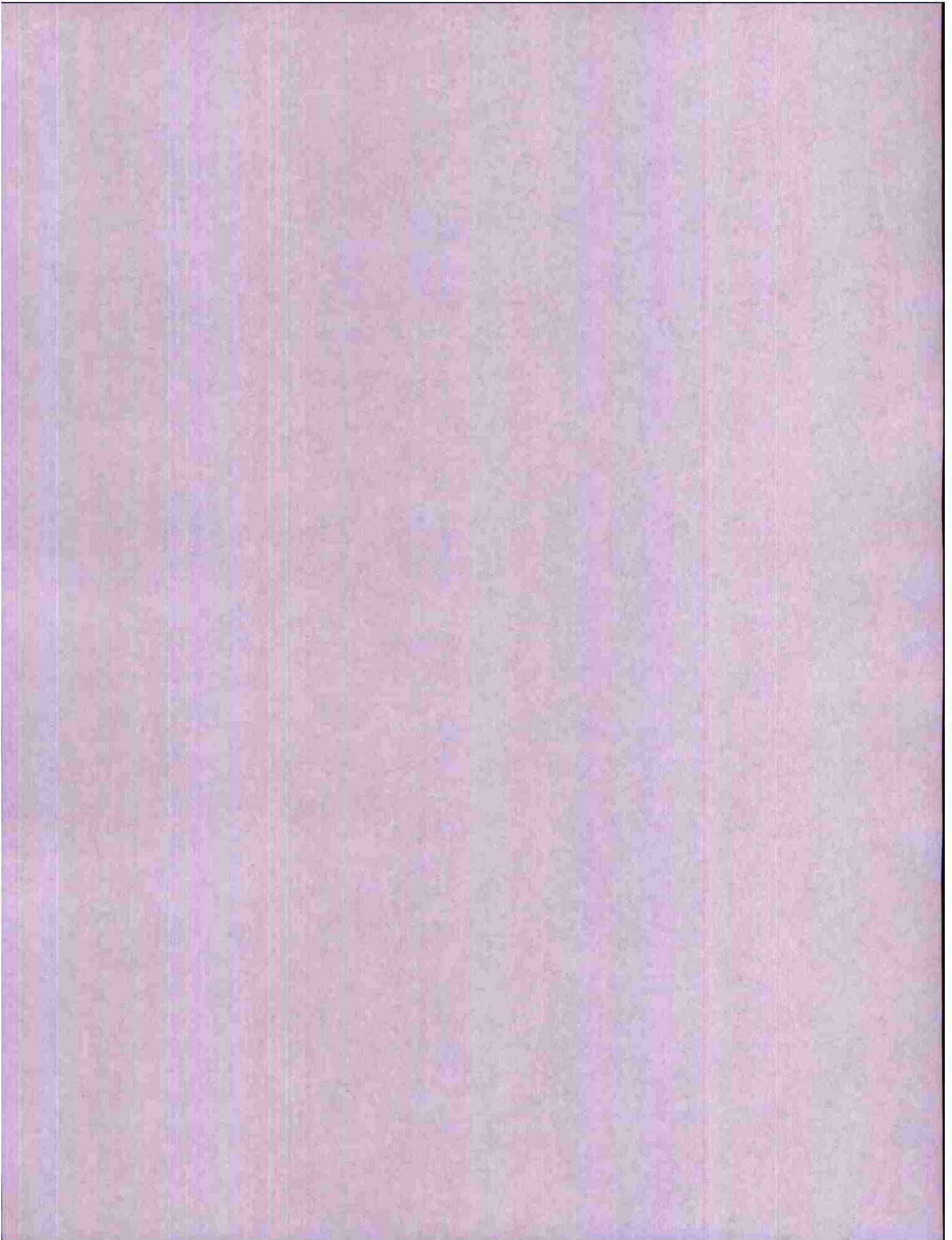
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near plenty of Basco places but haven't
given out any more yet. It will come
the. My best friend in my opinion
got it the first trip over - haven't heard
from him since Sept. 14th. Another it
when I was coming with her got
a machine gun bullet in her left arm.
Come very near getting him. A bunch
of my friends have "got it". I can be-
lieve it to think that this is a "bee"
I as well as others. That is in the
104th. I haven't heard from her
lately. He has definitely been close
to do which is very dangerous. I don't
have that to do with him in an Army
operation - which he is in an American
operation.

24th. and Graham,
Oct. 4th. 1918.

Dear Mr. Lippard, I mean] But,
She been you were
me from Columbia arrived about
two weeks ago and I am very glad
to hear from you. That is a good while
to read me but that's a sense
matter so long as ~~we~~ got it.
I have been on the front over a
month now and since have my first
fight to encounter - at the I have
planned I have and 30 min. in Germany
and 200 kilometers - this is some time.
I cannot see Lippard I am sure
on this side too - but go to make out
the "man of the hour" etc. I have been
a "good friend" with Germany too. There

I know you enjoyed your work at Camp
 Jackson - and they were lucky in getting you
 out here! I meant it. But I had about the draft
 on you underweight? I know you were in
 my opinion as pretty officer that was handsome
 in your line and it was right.
 Got a letter from me. a week or two ago.
 We're going to make something. I don't know
 just when. We should be on the front before
 long however. I want to see him.
 Yesterday I thought I was going to
 get involved up but didn't. my feet are
 a lot to learn. The formation which has
 started for the line, on account of water tank.
 coming back over water got to moving
 pretty good no before coming in me thought
 we moved by our machine gun out on
 the top of a hill which had some trouble
 and looked like and I shot my gun and
 he was preparing to shoot his when our water

prices - we don't mind throwing
 please the - we long as we have
 is true. This is a "great" life - but
 as they say - a short one.

I know you people have a
 prominent part in the Liberty Loan
 drive and hopes made it a
 success. I sure do think about
 you a lot and wish the
 day was over and I could come
 back to "God's Country" once more,
 but we've got our responsibilities
 over here at present - haven't we?

The "Boys" are sure finding the
 line dead in just shape. They
 are good - everyone of them. At times

most bad - we had lost our
 attitude so had to land on top of
 the line - I thought we would
 turn over now - but in some way
 we jumped the track - missed
 the wire and stopped - damn! but
 we were lucky. We broke an
 axle, knocked a wheel off - and a
 few other minor injuries to the
 plane - my first meet out to-day
 with some mechanics - fixed it
 and flew back home. I had another
 around the other day - we landed
 on a rough field and bounced
 so hard that our landing gear fell
 west and she came on all of
 going over - broke the propeller and to -

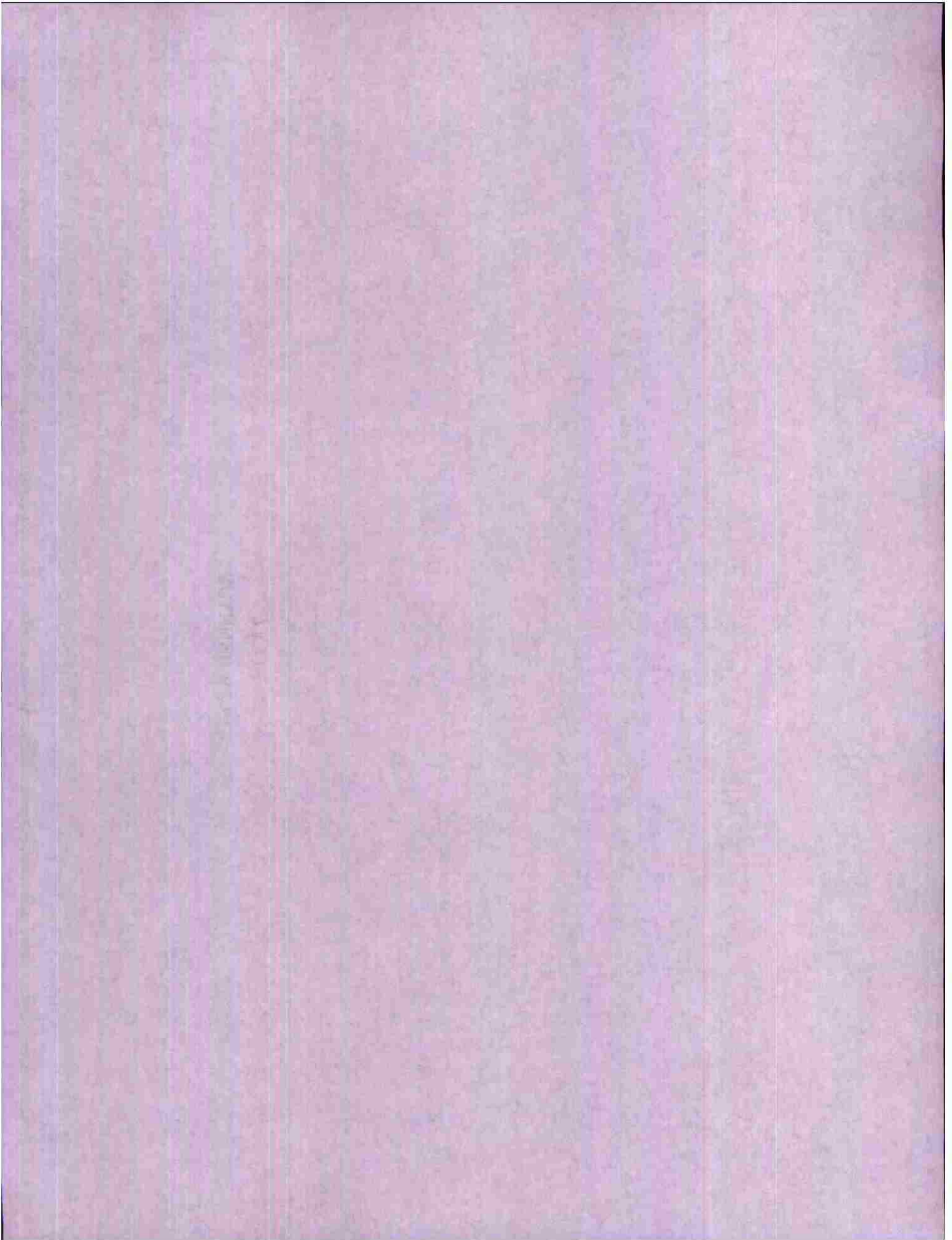
I wish I were with you out fit to guess
 in the dirt with them - To show their defects and
 virtues - I don't think they have many defects
 The
 Perfection is my game - as best for and
 feel - do you get something about them - I guess
 are so many fighting as a "phenomenon".
 I fly tomorrow at 12 o'clock. Who does
 something worth reporting and if we have
 a soap - long enough a hand - I have often
 long to it - why can't I? I hate the
 question.
 Reminds me to every body please
 and must love for you and "Alice" I am
 always your "young" man
 Love

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Folder 53
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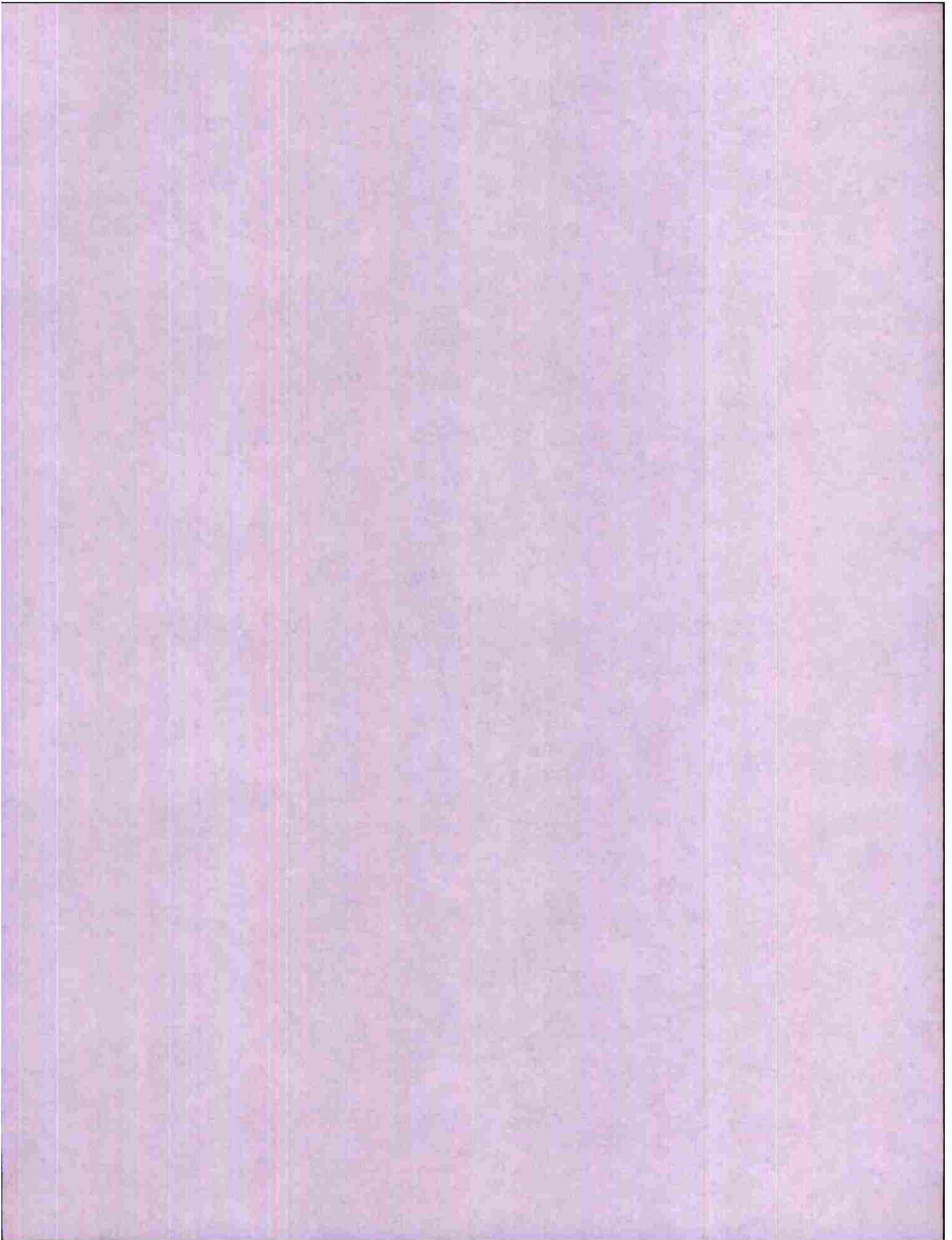


168-7567-Box 2

FOLIO 53

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not go swimming in the Rhine but
we can in June we are there
your kind.

I'm just my regular pleasure - and the
the boys - I've given the situation as
the "ice" I can and then some. I feel
it. I think that St. Nazaire got wounded
in Sept 26 - that is the one - but not
it remains the. Speaking of wounds etc -
our operation has lost 4 men & 1 wounded -
as the other side. "Lancet". They have been
in the front longer than we have the. We
main work is long distance Recon-
naissance and I suppose we get into
a great number of fights, as the I haven't
lost any yet and we have seen a
lot of times - Aug. 30 min. flying across
and 286 Kil. I have seen the Rhine but

2475. New Operation.
Oct. 474-1918.

Dear Sir,

Excuse me for not writing

sooner but such things as "Operation" have
been occupying our minds lately. I have

asked if you are in it too by the time

I got your letter about two weeks ago
and enjoyed it - but why didn't you

give me an A.P.O. address - I imagine
you are "at the station" after some thought -
are you? I guess you are there by now
that is on the front some where.

If you ever have an aviation friend
and find that the training operation
though is there - be sure to stop
and see me, even for a short while -
I would want to see you - we may

never mixed up get the present page. have been
 knocking them down right and left lately and
 we got one every now and then. the longest
 tip he has. take me 51 miles on Kennedy air.
 I guess I don't go straight in that far.
 I keep pushing to clear back good at present.
 don't they? if we can just break this and give
 them a knockout blow - and we will.
 I have made up over and over
 a force landing yesterday on top of a hill with
 trucks and loaded with it. in some way
 we jumped a truck and 5 rifles. broke an
 axle. forced a wheel off and a few other things. why
 we didn't break up a tank or - a house &
 we released a house or a night air.
 I am better now with a truck family. the
 machine is clean up my room etc. &
 want to go back to our last and the & let
 it much better than this one.
 I have a house & a machine. you ought
 to see it. some clear! not.
 I was glad to get the other one and if
 you want the one I got one and then
 to you - but give into some address
 of course - will write you again soon.
 Best love - your brother in law.
 Dave.

To: Mrs. S. K. Hester
From: SA - 1545120
Oct 7, 1978

169 7567

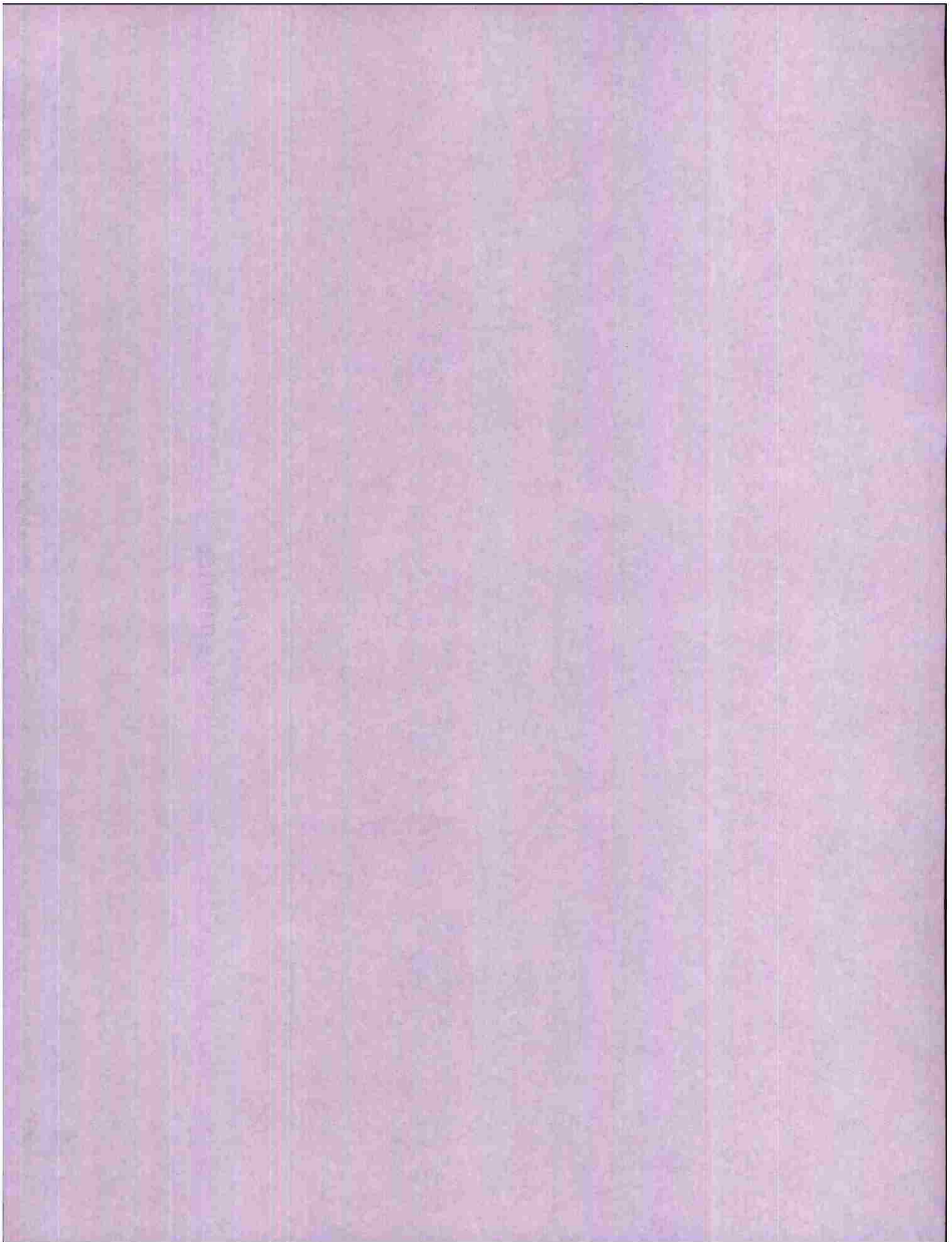
FALCON 54

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Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

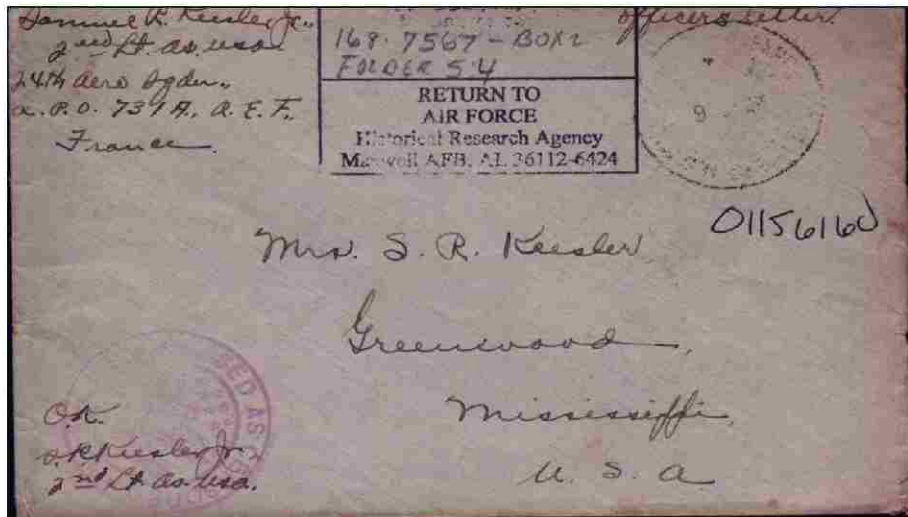
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4:20 Then started over - after the ground was observed entirely. Now we were hoping to run into some holes over in Germany. Then which we might see something - we made a note & I finally got a glimpse of a town but I didn't know the name of it - we made further and no more holes so we decided that "Home Jones" were the proper command to back we came - headed for "Home" - that is in the direction we thought that island place was - we had to see our companions & the run entirely

24th. and 25th.
Oct. 7, 1918.

Dearest Mother,

See, heavy clouds have veiled the sky all day, consequently very little flying was done by anybody (Beebe included) the next day (25th) at 2 o'clock but had to break up our formation on account of the clouds. I was with the "Flight Leader" so we kept on awhile and finally saw a hole and blue sky above so we went up. ~~There~~ We left the clouds at about 2:00 noon and climbed to about

Young, I don't see how to make a head count
 which made the going rather slow - well we
 rode for quite awhile then decided to go down
 and see where we were - so we got out
 some on "friendly" but "rather in "friendly" air" and
 looked directly for home - somebody didn't come
 good good work is that "old house" was
 there with us, one - I don't make any difference
 we got back home at 4 go out again at
 5 o'clock in the evening - to see what's going
 on at that time of day - I think it will be
 morning - you know we arrived - instead of
 "friendly" to do right to go out, they first to rain
 mother, dear, we just arrived as if you
 were here to take and give - and my mother
 is good - so, "dear", "so good", your sister which
 came yesterday and the one of father's children
 were - enjoyed - immensely - my mother - home is
 one of my greatest was you are here. I hope you
 are that more and don't worry about "well" -
 of me that's about the "near" there more "peace"
 and about it all - "Yes, I hope he does - your young
 they would like to stay a while"

man - but I left the "straight boys"
 and I think I left my "capt" with
 them - I chose to ride on the
 train - the morning - rather
 than come in the mud & the
 weather - and while I see the
 planes and fighters & the war
 now & it is reflected in me as for
 as "house" goes - but as I've said before
 it doesn't worry me "one little".
 There even this war is
 pretty much - and after all "I'm in
 here" - the boys are eating it up
 on the front - the first plane is
 one more & machine gun and

My roommate, who received a hit
 & machine bullet in his left arm,
 is getting along very nicely - says it
 pains him now some - but he's
 hoping to be back "at home" before
 long and ~~trusts~~ that he can do his
 best stuff.
 Capt. Ed. Tucker - helped me a
 while the other day. He's been up
 on the front with the English - but is
 now in the S.O.S. - listening to
 orders on radios - (trucks) - Edward
 was in a scout day and will
 go up early - I need to leave
 & leaving "capt" stuck to my

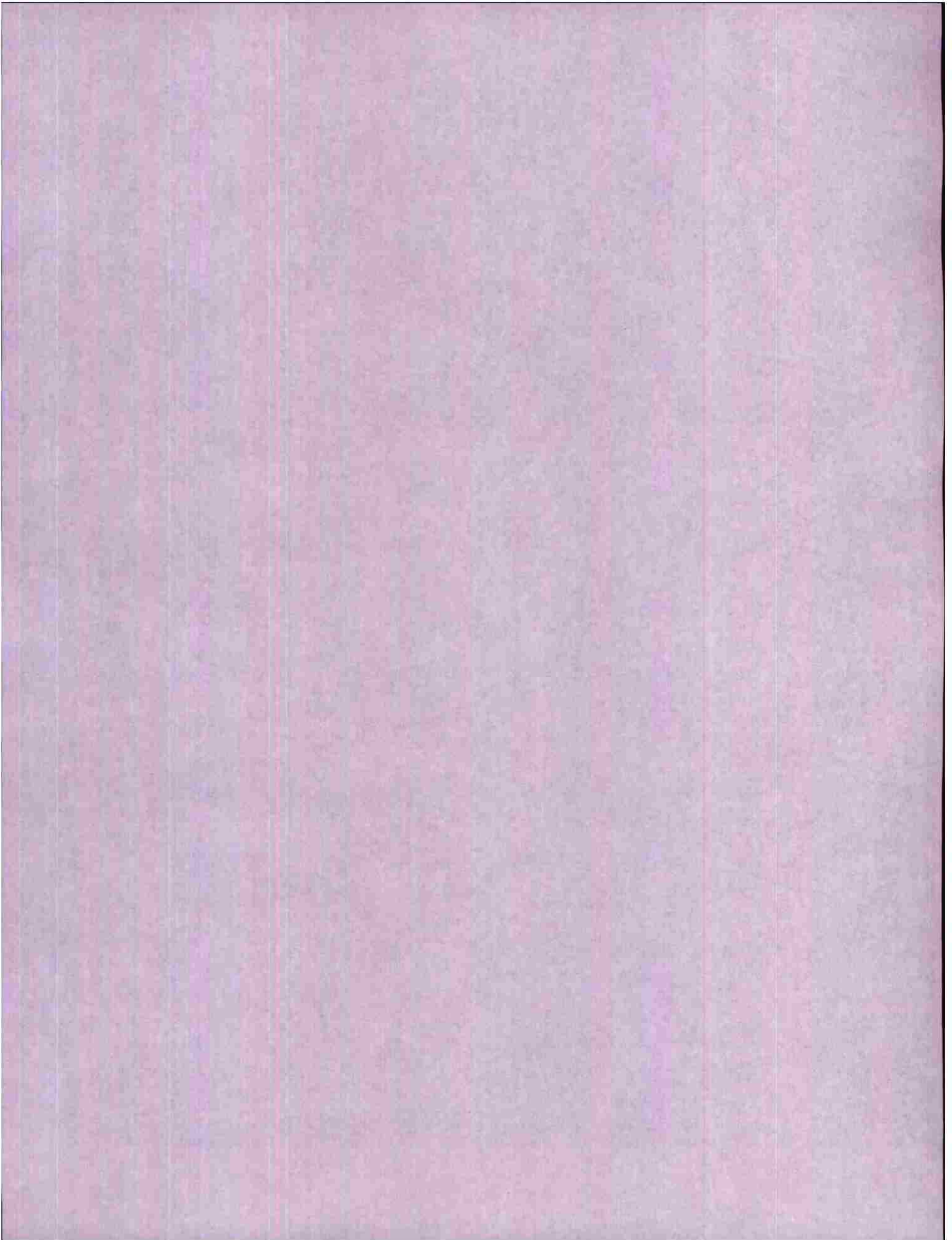
The roads must be muddy - But ^{there} are enough
 to stop most anything - But ^{you} are ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{time}
 and they have the "Foot de Angora"
 "gone" ^{enough}
 I would write anti a ^{refugee}
 But want it to ^{be} ^{enough} if you just read
 this one over to her, this time - ^{will} ^{write}
 a little later -
 It's ^{like} ^{the} ^{many} ^{back} ^{but}
 put on me to ^{be} ^{enough} - and that "Pace"
^{will} ^{be} ^{clear} ^{than} ^{we} ^{that} - but
 you don't want "Pace", do you, unless it
 means that ^{isolation}, ^{isolation} and
 as those "times" are to the ^{former} ^{abolished}
 from the world.
 Dayer sent me a picture of Charles Edwards
 the other day, the ^{modernistic} ^{take} ^{have} ^{been}
 in the house when his ^{little} ^{daughter} ^{to} ^{know}
 if he were mine - I said "Yes, no" - but also
 about ^{understand} the first part of it - ^{that} ^{was} ^{my} -
 lovely in me - but no ^{have} ^{was} ^{done} - ^{Charles}
 is a fine looking boy, isn't he?
 Lots of love to you, love - ^{especially} ^{for} ^{you}, ^{mother} -
 Love you

From: William Keesler (Signed to Sam)
Oct 7, 1918

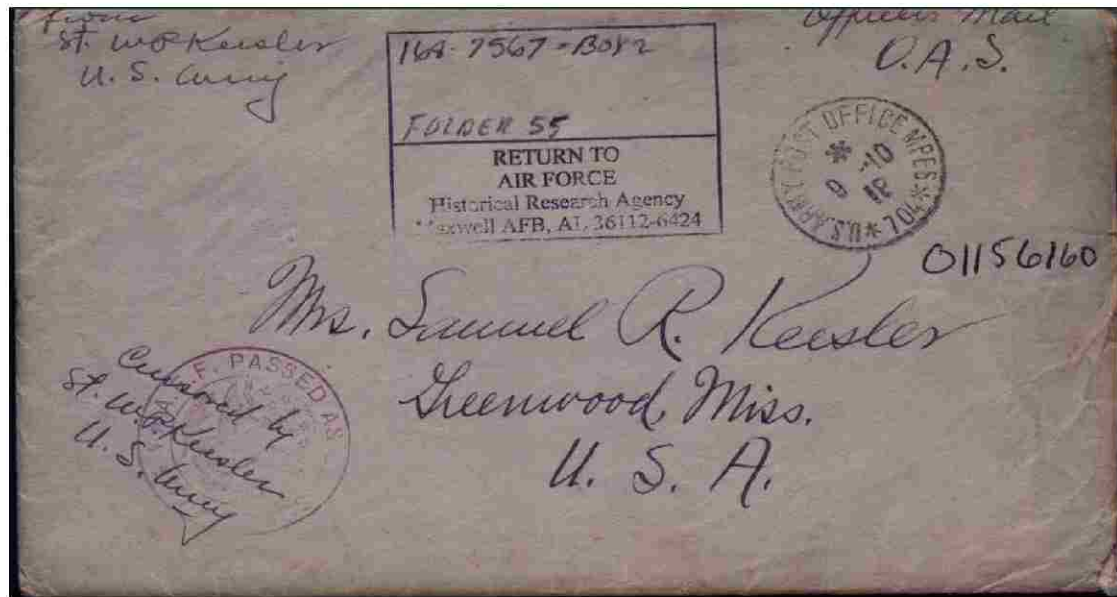
16.7547-60X2	
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I started sending them there about Sept 1st. Auntie told me about the way you all read the letters, well I'd try to make mine more interesting. But where it rains, rains & rains and we can't stick our noses out side of the door hardly. Well there isn't much to talk about unless I tell you how many times the fire goes out or about the cows in the next room. The men say that when they first came that they did not like sleeping next to a cow but now they can sleep anywhere. I know I can.

The brown paper come thru in bunches but bigger the bunches

/

Somewhere in France
Oct 7th 1918

Dear Mamma,

A letter from you and one from Auntie came yesterday and how I enjoyed them. Just ate them up almost. They were both written after you had received my letters from France. You should have received two letters from England as I wrote two from there. From now on I'm going to number my letters so we can kinder keep a check on them. Well to them that you had heard from me made me feel like I was really closer to you all than I am. You were still in Montreat at that time. I wonder if I started writing to you too early

the better I enjoy them. Get Isabelle to cut out interesting thing from the different paper & send them to me. Anything will do. We just furnish for news from home. The men are always asking how about news from. I try to get the paper to them as much as I can. We all read everything six times for fear of missing anything. I'm writing on a Saturday evening post of Aug 17, which is worn out. And Kodak pictures we just adore. Elizabeth has sent me several, taken in and around Monticello. If you happen to have any thing that you think is interesting send it along. I'll transfer to Sam & he to me.

My detail keeps me busy as the said Lee. 545 is when I start & 9 PM is the "finish" as the French say for end. My French is worse than Bill's in Deer Mahel. One interesting thing I have to do every night is censor letters. It is like reading "Deer Mahel" all over again. The remarks about the cows making fine hunkies & etc. are great. One fellow had a scrap with the

it is the biggest room in the house. It sure was lonesome for awhile before I got a room mate. I got lost walking across it the other night. - And the bed, I just can describe how it sleeps, if you had to wake me you could see tho. where I wake up in the morning I wonder whether in at home or not. Wish it was that easy. I'm always dreaming of home but I'm not homesick and don't want to come back until there ain't no Him" as the men say. That don't mean tho that I don't miss home & you all but you know that.

family eat the other night. you should have heard him yell. The people of the village come in too for their share of the fun. My ball game or boxing match always causes a large crowd to gather. They are getting to like the ways of the American soldier. Right now they will give us most anything. The "Madame" here has offered to wash my cloth, new on buttons & etc. She wants to take care of us as sons and does do it too. We changed my room from the one with the tile floor to one up stairs with a store in it.

Guess Charlotte is in college now & is some fresh Freshman. Well we all had to be fresh once. I know she is going to enjoy it.

Enclosed you will find a 50 centime note. Don't get scared it is only worth 8 cents. Take a big bunch of them to buy you a piece of candy over here. We use lots of this paper. The silver coin is very pretty but as I need all my Francs I won't send one. One feels like a millionaire when he receives around 900 francs a month but really that isn't so much after all. We have a good mess which to be good costs "beaucoup francs" but we should worry that is about all we get to do with our money. Did you receive that \$50.00 I sent. When you do receive and let me know, I'm going to send 50.00 more just as soon as I hear from the bank. I don't like the way they treated me on one deal. And have my liberty Bonds been received. Guess we have to write the D. Q. M. over here and get them to straighten it out for me. The Federal Reserve Bank is too slow to suit me. I believe we take out some of this Fourth Liberty Loan if you all

you send me one, just drops
a big peccee in one corner. I'd
give a dollar apiece for a real
peccee more. Funny thing about
Xmas boxes, is that it takes six
months to reach here some time
so the old saying as "slow as Xmas"
is some time there.

Jack Black is to be promoted.
I'm glad to be deserves it. Doing
fine work. Nothing doing for me
or any of the 2nd Lt in Hdqrs Co.
They are not supposed to be
Promoted I believe. Well we should
stay as long as we stay in the
regiment, that is worth the promotion.
Really tho I should like to wear

don't take it all at home. I never
heard of such a drive. It is
wonderful and makes one feel
good too. Believe me we are doing
our part. I had a man to do
his best, last week, ~~the~~ died of sickness
but he is just as much a hero
I think. It was the first death
Hdqr Co has had.

Do you get the "Stars & Stripes".
It is the news paper of the U.S.F.
Gives lots of doing of us over here.
We seem it in the States and
was wondering whether you ever
saw it. Sorry I can't send it
to you. It hasn't this week a
discussion of Xmas boxes, etc.

some thing else besides gold pins.

Remember me to all my friends. Wish
I could write every one of them but can't.

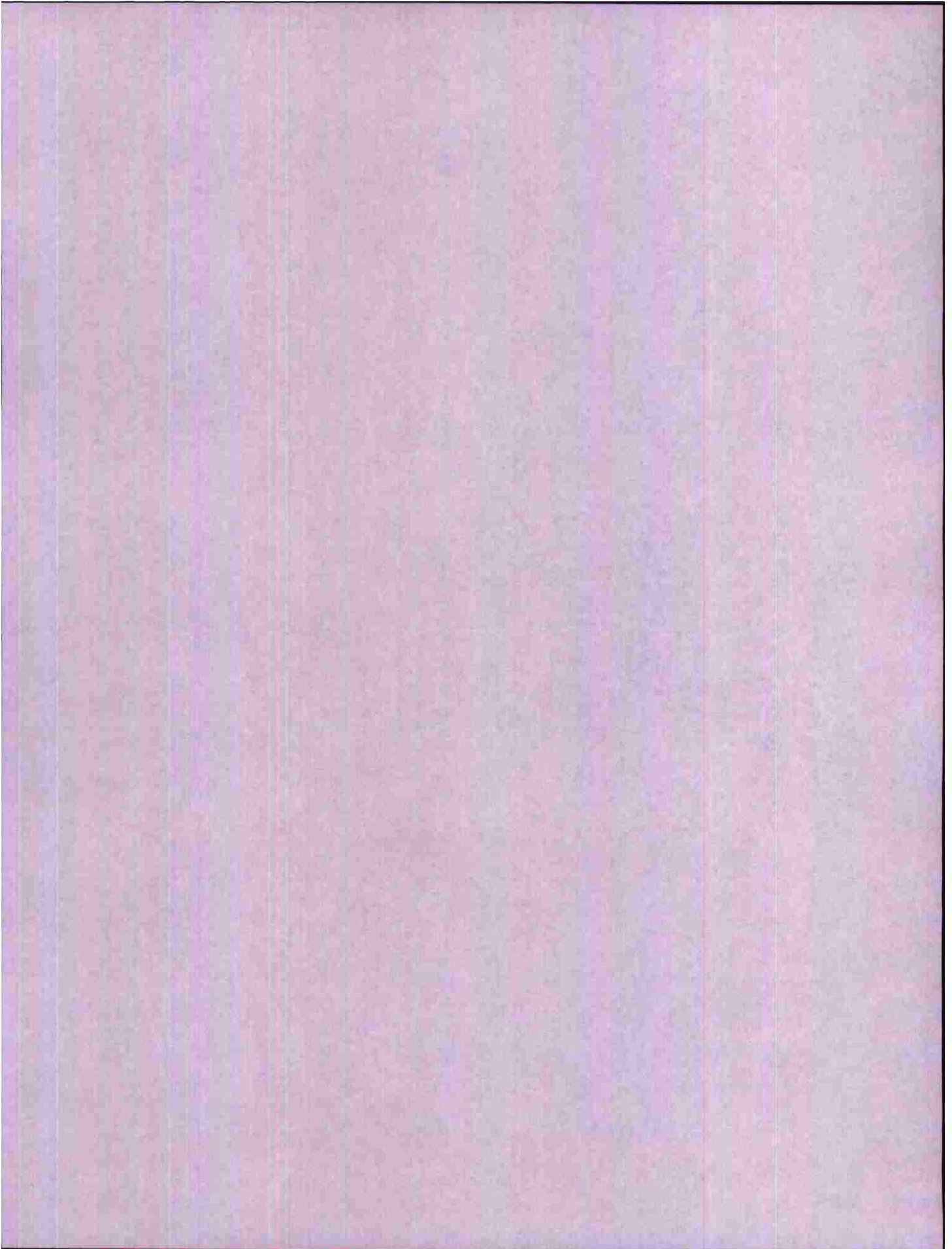
Am well & happy. Best of love to all

your loving son

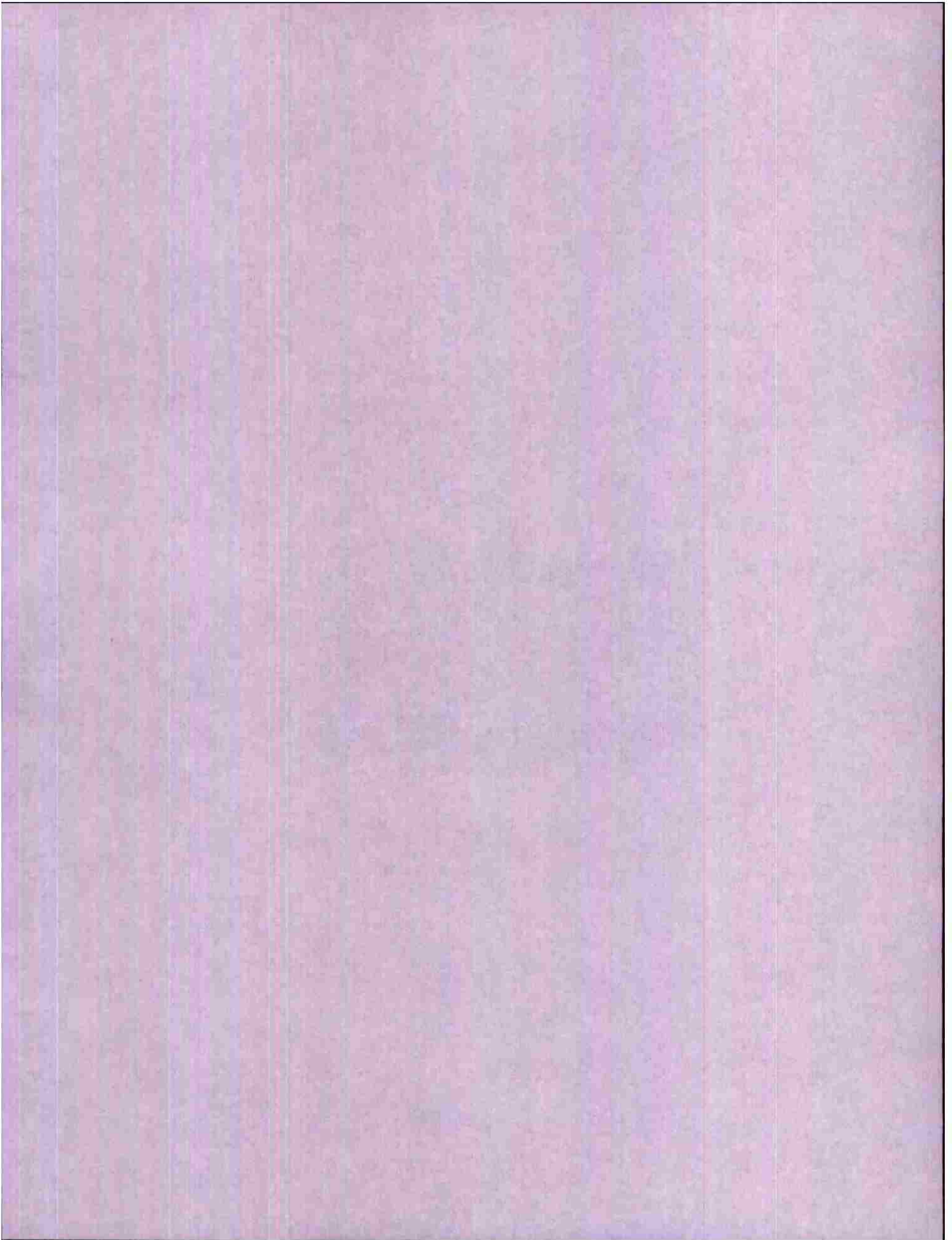
William

OK
St. William P. Heesles
316 H 7 A.









Postmarked 9 Oct, 1918
 US Army Post Office MPES
 From Lt WP Keesler
 U.S. Army
 Officers Mail
 O.A.S.
 To: Mrs Samuel R. Keesler
 Greenwood, Miss
 U.S.A.

#1

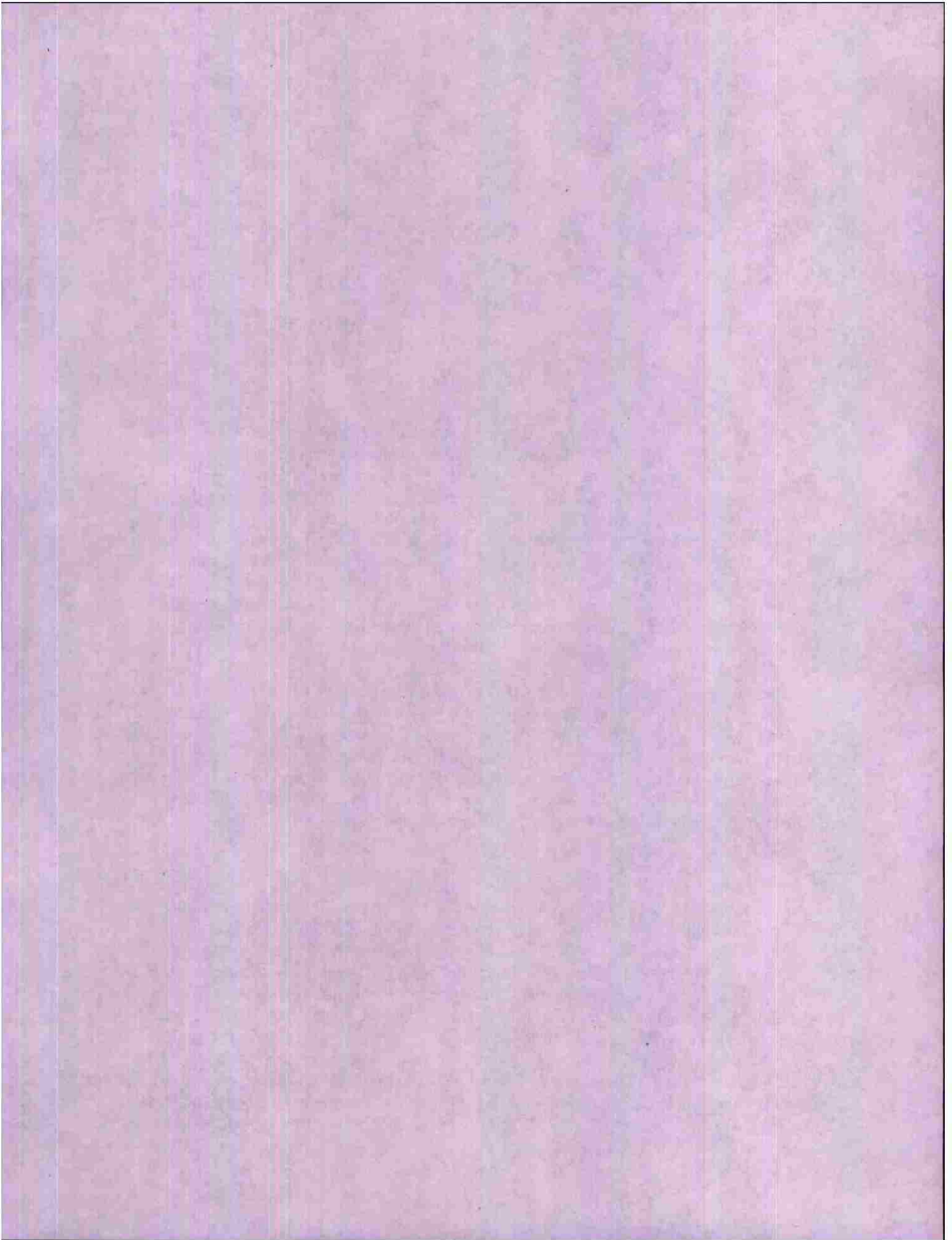
Somewhere in France
 Oct 7th 1918

Dear Mamma,

A letter from you and one from Auntie came yesterday and how I enjoyed them. Just ate them up almost. They were both written after you had received my letters from France. You should have received two letters from England as I wrote two from there. From now on I'm going to number my letters so we can kinder keep a check on them. Well to hear that you had heard from me made me feel like I was really closer to you all than I am. You were still in Montreat at that time. I wonder if I started writing to G-wood too early. I started sending them there about Sept 1st. Auntie told me about the way you all read the letters, well I'll try to make mine more interesting. But when it rains, rains & rains and we can't stick our noses outside of the door hardly. Well there isn't much to talk about unless I tell you how many times the fire goes out or about the cows in the next room. The men say that when they first came that they did not like sleeping next to a cow but now they can sleep anywhere. I know I can.

The town paper came thru in bunches but bigger the bunches the better I enjoy them. Get Isabelle to cut out interesting things from the different papers & send them to me. Anything will do. We just famish for news from home. The men are always asking how about news Lieut. I try to get the paper to them as much as I can. We all ready everything six times for fear of missing anything. I'm writing on a Saturday evening post of Aug 17, which I've worn out. And Kodak pictures we just adore. Elizabeth has sent me several, taken in and around Montreat. If you happen to have any thing that you think is interesting send it along. I'll transfer to Sam & he to me.

My detail keeps me busy as the said bee. 5⁴⁵ is when I start & 9 P.M. is the "finish" as the French say for end. My French is worse than Bill's in Due Mahel. One interesting thing I have to do every night is censor letters. It is like Reading "Due Mahel" all over again. The remarks about the cows making fine bunkies & etc. are great. One fellow had a scrap with the family cat the other night. You should have heard him yell. The people of the village come in too for their share of the fun. Every ball game or boxing match always causes a large crowd to gather. They are getting to like the ways of the American soldier. Right now they will give us most anything. The "Madam" here has offered to wash my cloth, new on buttons, & etc. She wants to take care of us as sons and does do it too. I've changed my room from the one with the tile floor to one up stairs with a stove in it. It is the biggest room in the house. It sure was lonesome for awhile before I got a room mate. I got lost walking across it the other night. And the bed, I just can describe how it sleeps. If you had to wake me you could see tho. When I



wake up in the morning I wonder whether I'm at home or not. Wish it was that easy. I'm always dreaming of home but I'm not homesick and don't want to come back until there "ain't NO Hun" as the men say. That don't mean tho that I don't miss home & you all but you know that.

Guess Charlotte is in college now & is some fresh freshman. Well we all had to be fresh once. I know she is going to enjoy it.

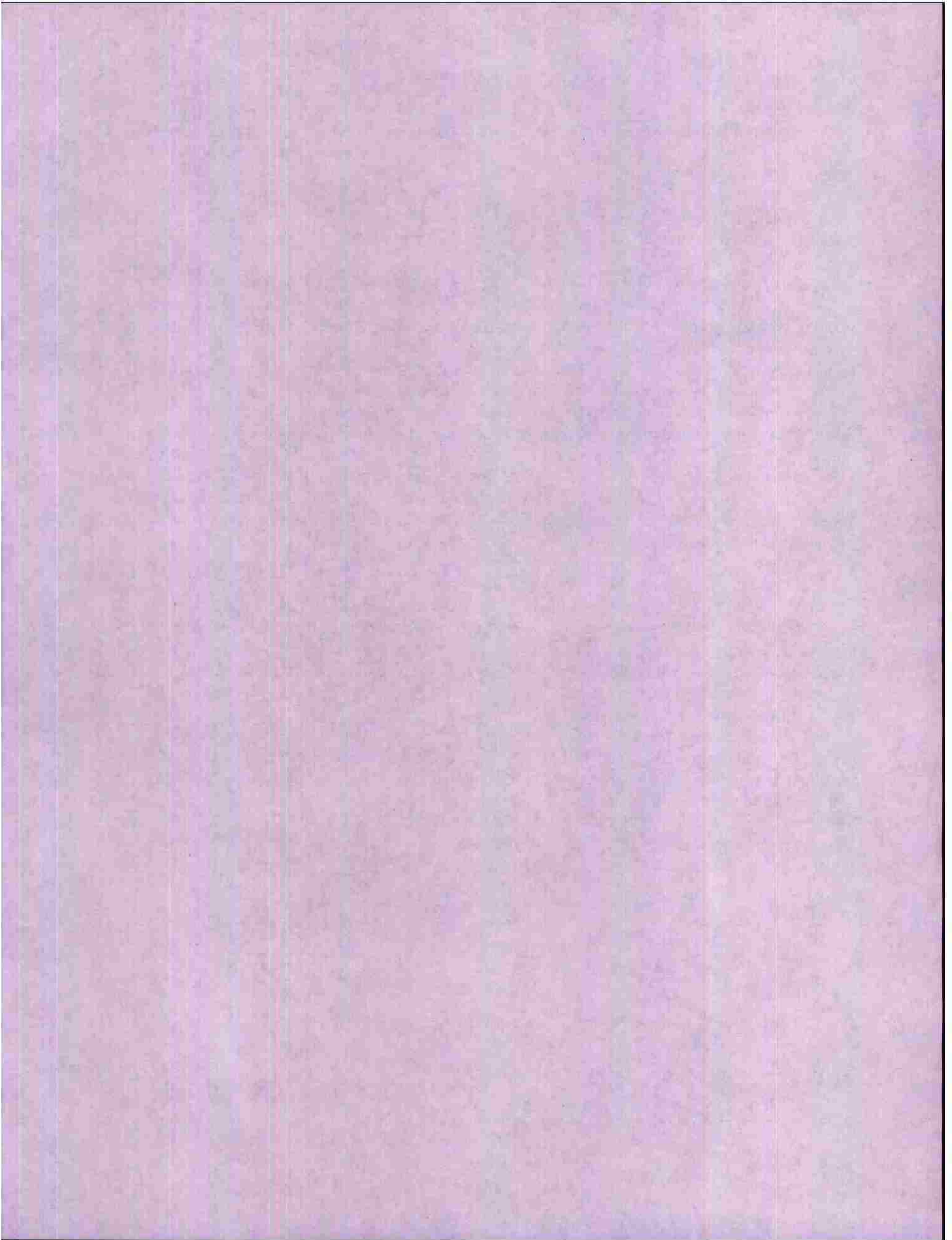
Enclosed you will find a 50 centime note. Don't get scared it is only worth 8 cents. Take a big bunch of them to buy you a piece of candy over here. We use lots of this paper. The silver coin is very pretty but as I need all my Francs I won't send one. One feels like a millionaire when he receives around 900 francs a month but really that isn't so much after all. We have a good mess which to be good costs "beaucoup Francs" but we should worry that is about all we get to do with our money. Did you receive that \$50⁰⁰ I sent. When you do be sure and let me know. I'm going to send 50⁰⁰ more just as soon as I hear from the bank. I don't like the way they treated me on one deal. And have my liberty Bonds been received. Guess I'll have to write the D.Q.M. over here and get them to straighten it out for me. The Federal Reserve Bank is too slow to suit me. I believe I'll take out some of this Fourth Liberty Loan if you all don't take it at home. I never heard of such a drive. It is wonderful and makes one feel good too. Believe me we are doing our part. I had a man to do his best, last week, he died of sickness but he is just as much a hero I think. It was the first death Hdqr Co has had.

Do you get the "Stars & Stripes." It is the news paper of the A.E.F. Gives lots of doing of us over here. I've seen it in the States and was wondering whether you ever saw it. Sorry I can't send it to you. It has in it this week a discussion of Xmas boxes. If you send me one, just drop a big pecan in one corner. I'd give a dollar apiece for a real pecan right now. Funny thing about Xmas boxes, is that it take six months to reach here some time, so the old saying as "slow as Xmas" is sure true then.

Jack Black is to be promoted. I'm glad too he deserves it. Doing fine work. Nothing doing for me or any of the 2nd Lts in Hdqr Co. They are not supposed to be Promoted I believe. Well we should worry as long as we stay in the regiment, that is worth a promotion. Really tho I should like to wear something else besides gold pins.

Remember me to all my friends. Wish I could write every one of them but can't. Am well & happy. Best of love to all.

Your loving son
William



To: Sam Meigs Jr.
From: Gen S. H. Keeler
October 11, 1918

164-7567-8012

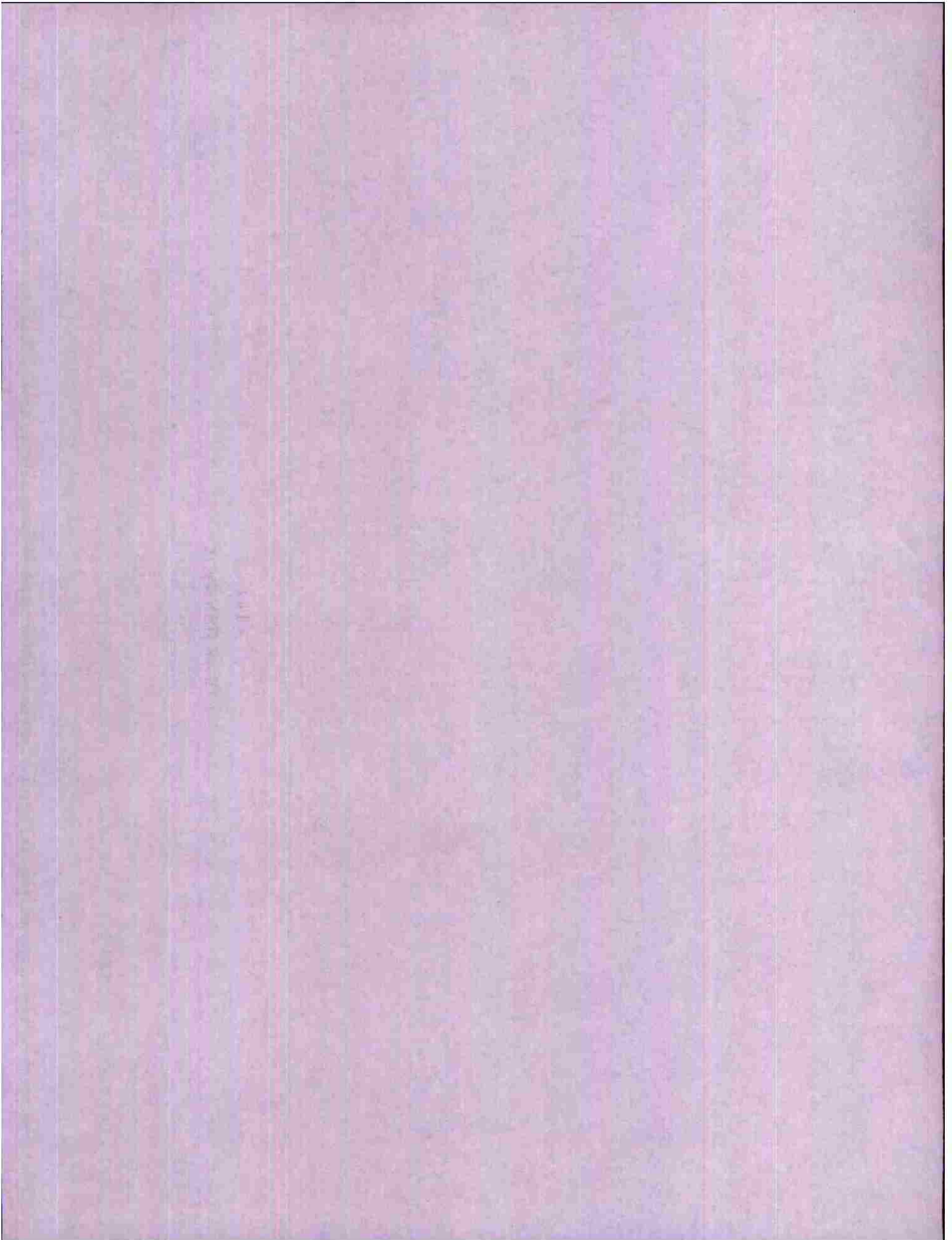
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Historical Research Agency
2330 Hill AFB, AL 36115-6034

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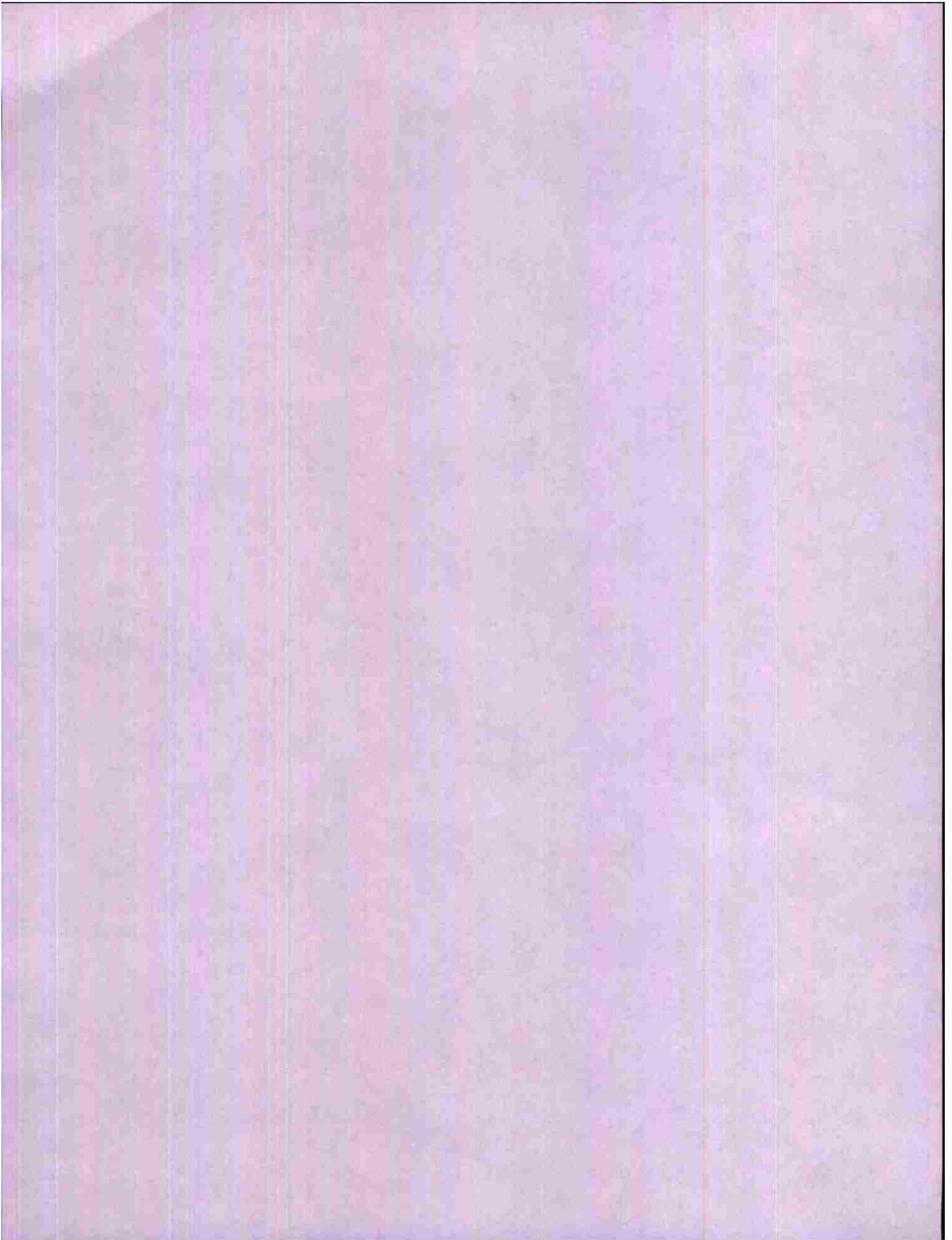
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Folder 56
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EO12958

P. A. MALONE

S. R. KEESLER

MALONE & KEESLER

COTTON

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

Oct. 11/18.

My Dear Son,

It has been raining like
 smoke for the last two hours - the ~~st~~ real rain
 we have had this fall - I am glad to see it -
 we have had a wonderful fall for gathering our crops
 and while, usually we would have just about begun
 on it is, we are $\frac{1}{2}$ through. I have already ginned
 more cotton, than I made last year - will get
 50 bales more. I have just come from the funeral
 of Chas. Faulkner, he died with this "flu" way
 up in N.Y. - part outsize - I think, well - Ode,
 W. may now & says should be in Atlanta
 today - the girls - Oroslett & Susan are
 looking forward to a big time with them.
 Your letter to your mother dated Sept 11th
 came by before yesterday - J.W.'s dated 16th - Can
 some day, to my boy has been over the lines -
 doubtless many times by now - we may that you
 may - get back safely anytime. But I would
 I do hope he was not killed - it gave us

P.A. MALONE 2 S.R. KEESLER
MALONE & KEESLER
COTTON
GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

quite a shock. Your friend and acquaintance
ask about you constantly. We are following
all that happens with much interest - I
buy all the papers published & get some real
good reading out of the N.Y. Times. Mrs. William
is over - I do hope you will get to see him.
He seems to be doing fine. We are having
lots of this Spanish Influenza - some deaths -
no public gathering allowed - no school - theater -
church, etc. - Geo. R. still looking well - and
a wonderful little darling - she is. - Your
mother keeps well and as brave as a lion -
a most wonderful woman - the children
are well & happy - all doing well at school.
Charlotte is keeping up her part well
as Agnes Hall - she is fine & just as
handsome as can be - Your Aunt is
not well - her new address 1006 Eild St.
B'ham - Will you write me all the little details
you can - The most trivial things are interesting
to us, - God bless my boy & send love to us -
all are love
Yr. truly J. H. K.

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

168 7567-Box 2

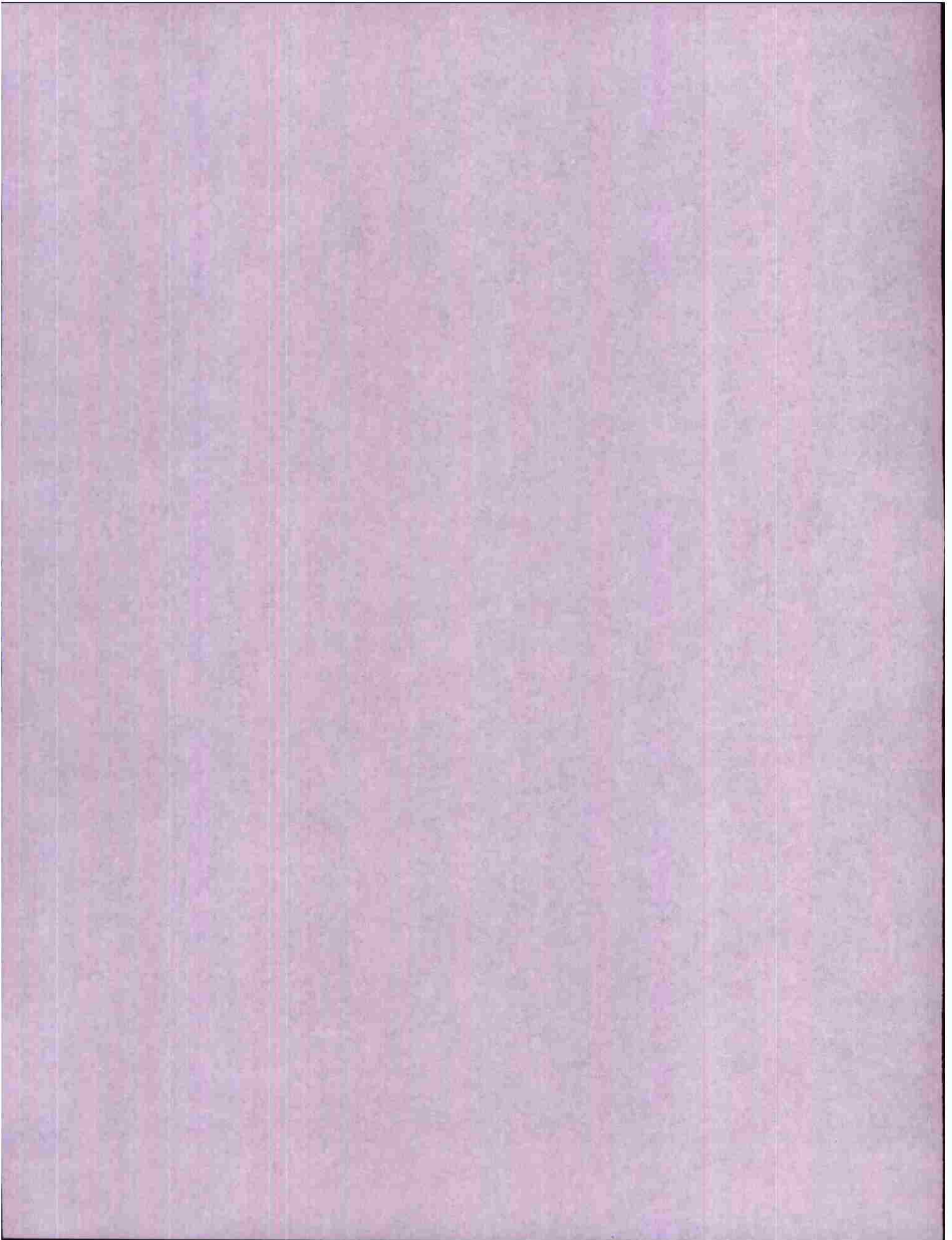
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Historical Research Agency
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2007

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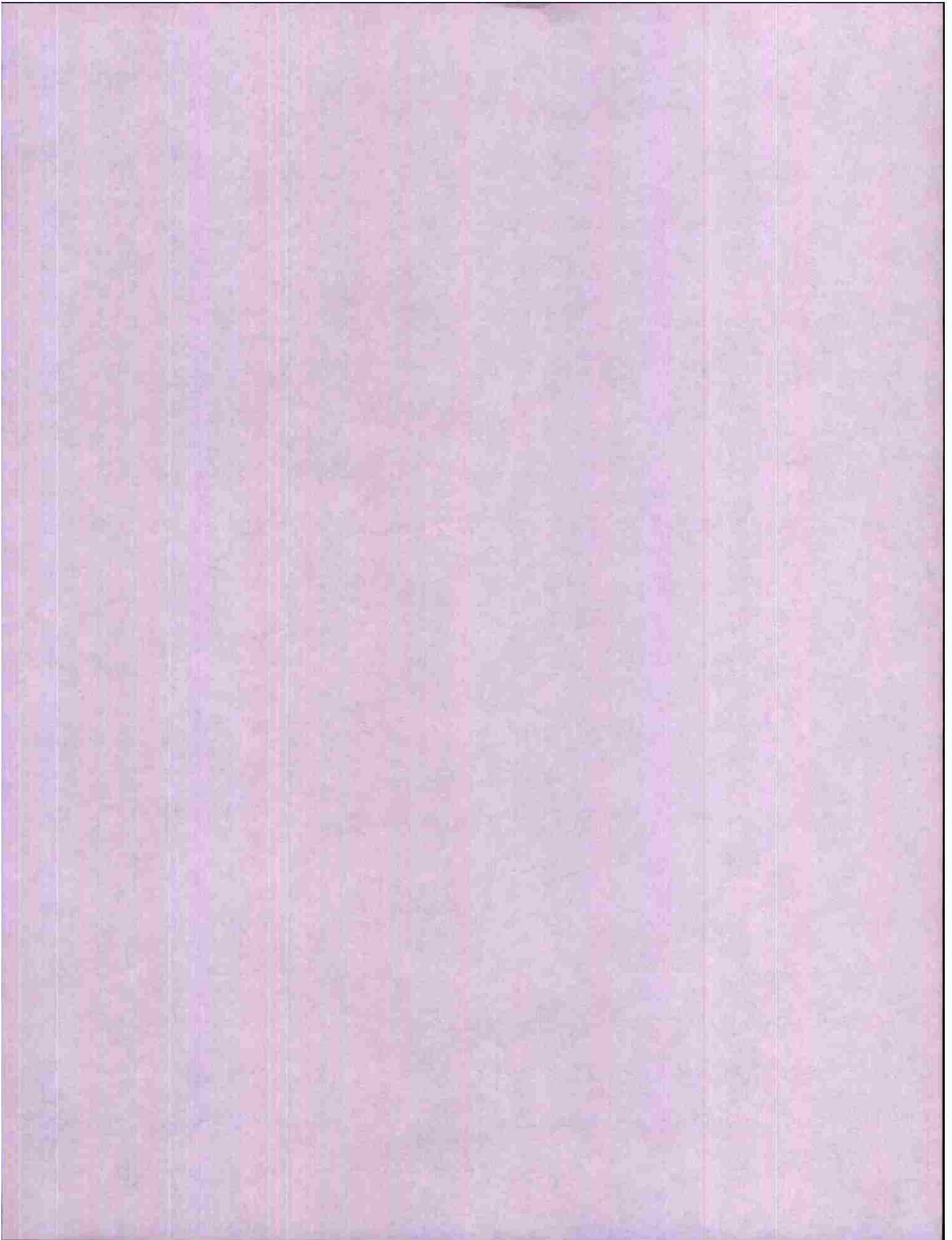


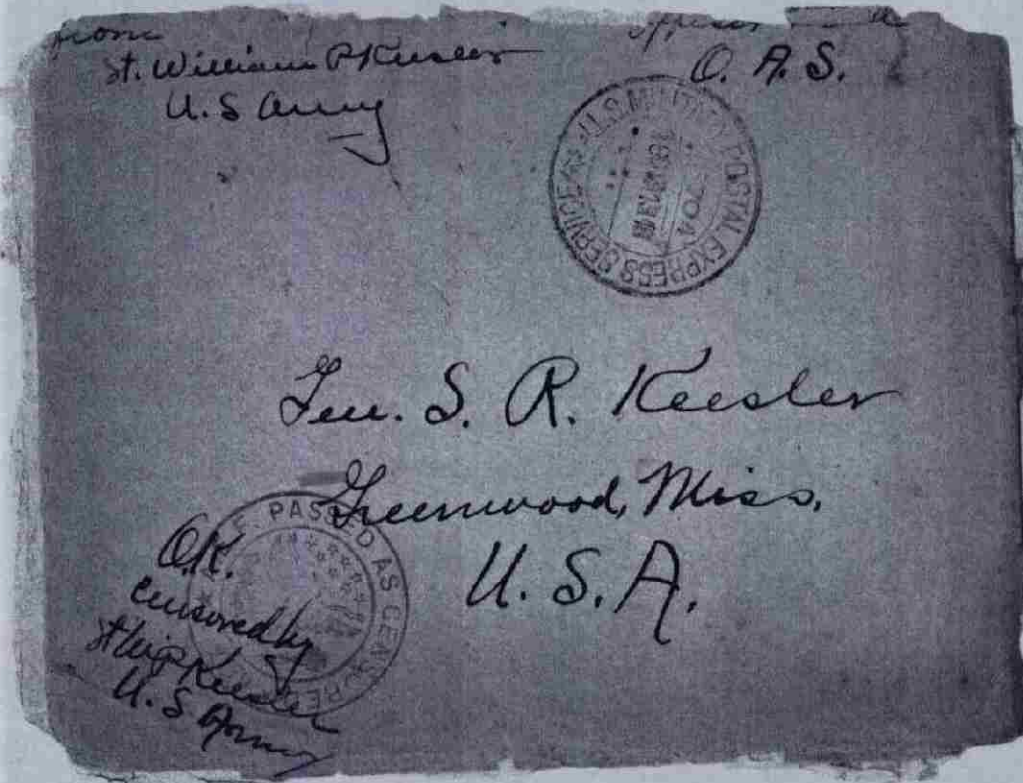
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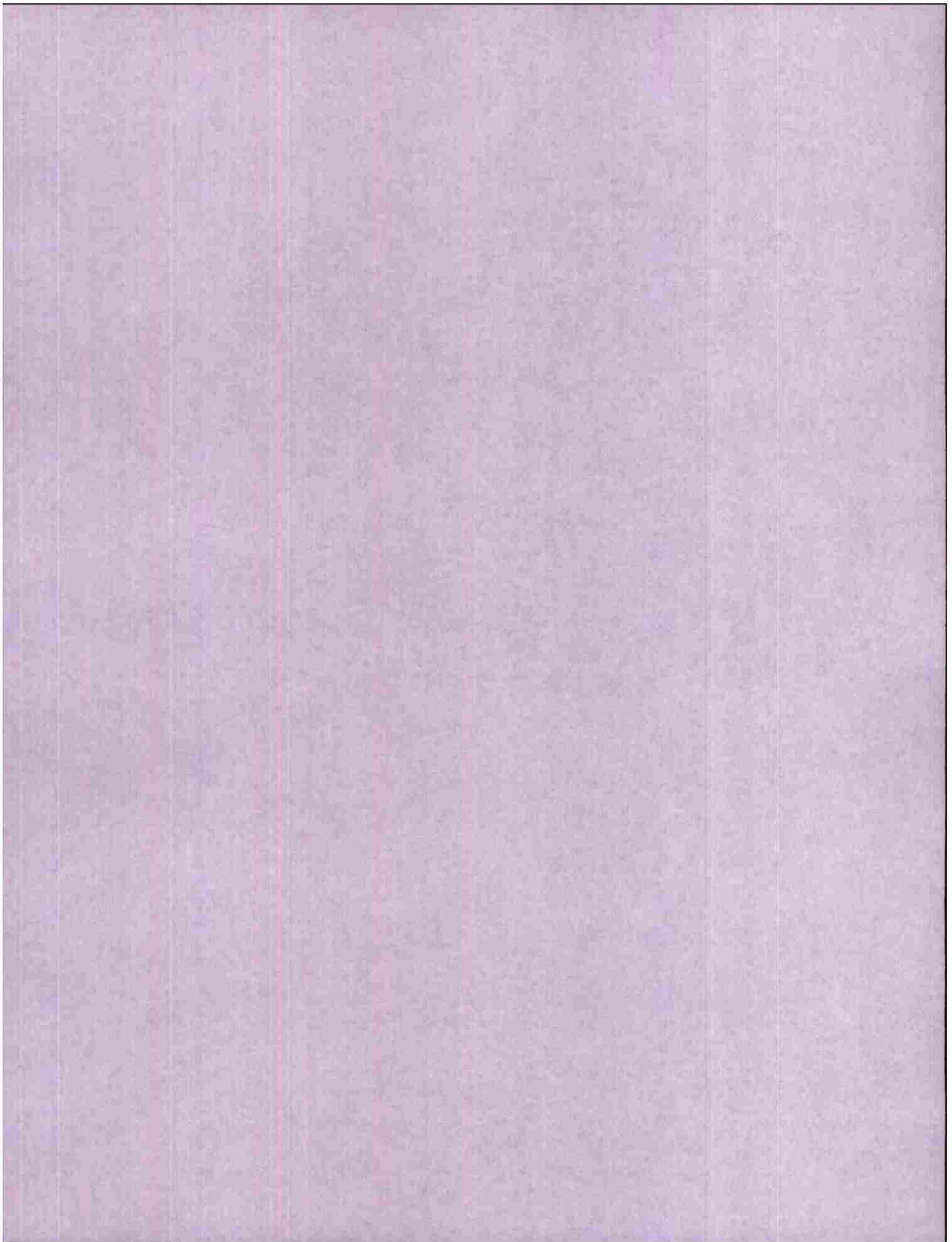
FOLDER 57

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Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

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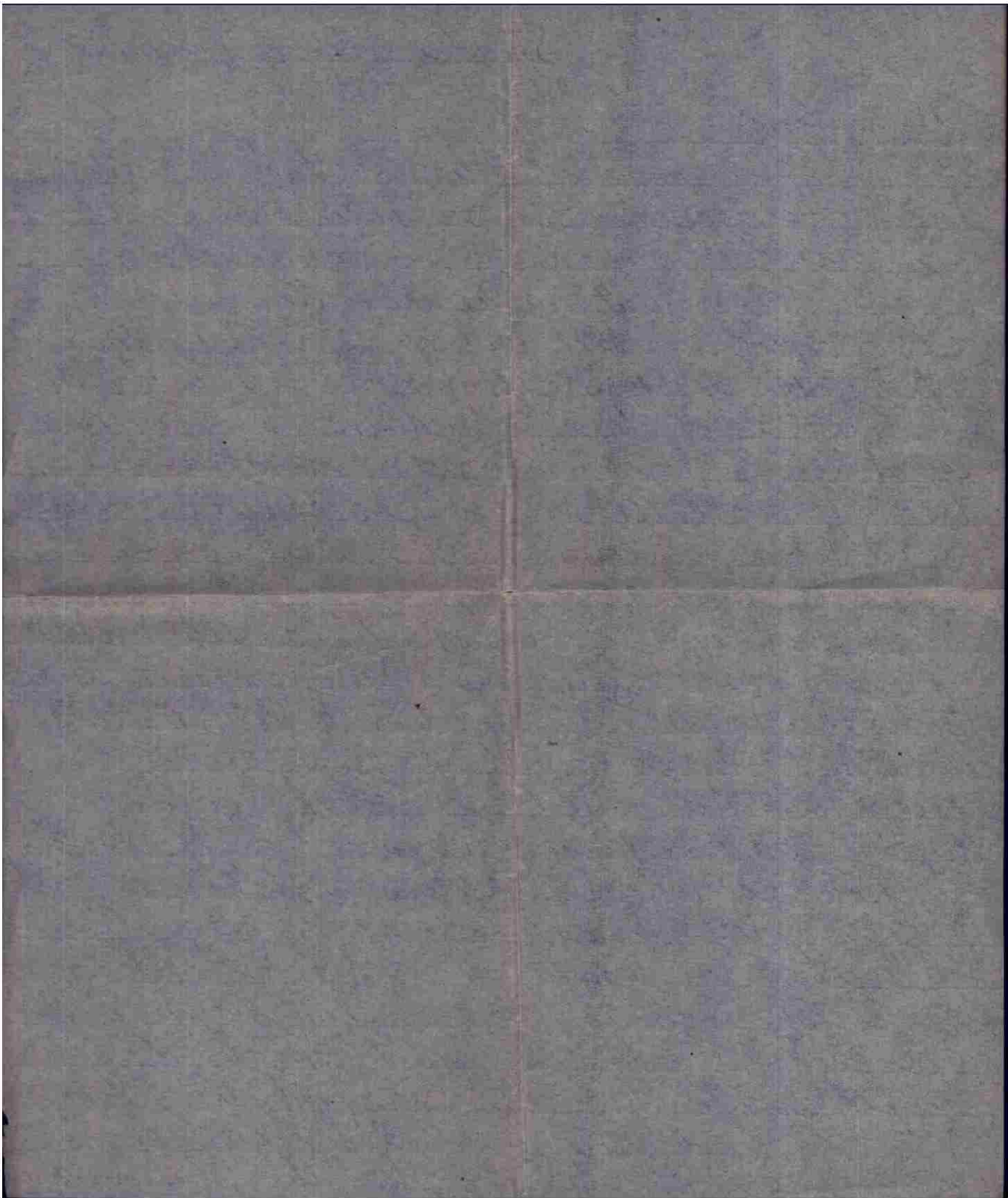


Somewhere in France Oct 5/1918
#2

Dear Father,

Since my last letter we have moved closer to the school and to a better town. That last one was the worse one I ever saw. Dirt every where. We couldn't make them clean up at all. We did our best to keep the place clean but it was impossible. This place seems fairly clean but as it has rained ever since we came I can't tell as there is mud everywhere. The tales we were told tho won't be believed when we get home unless one has seen for him self.

I was left in charge of loading all the baggage when we left. They sent two trucks to carry what six had to do in the end. That made us have to stay in the town another night. The cook wagon of course was the first wagon to leave and they took all their supplies with them that left us with no food except one bag of bread and what we could get out of the village. My orderly scouted round and found us six eggs which we had an old lady pay for us. My but they were good. The nurse I found had any number of friends in the village with whom they had supper



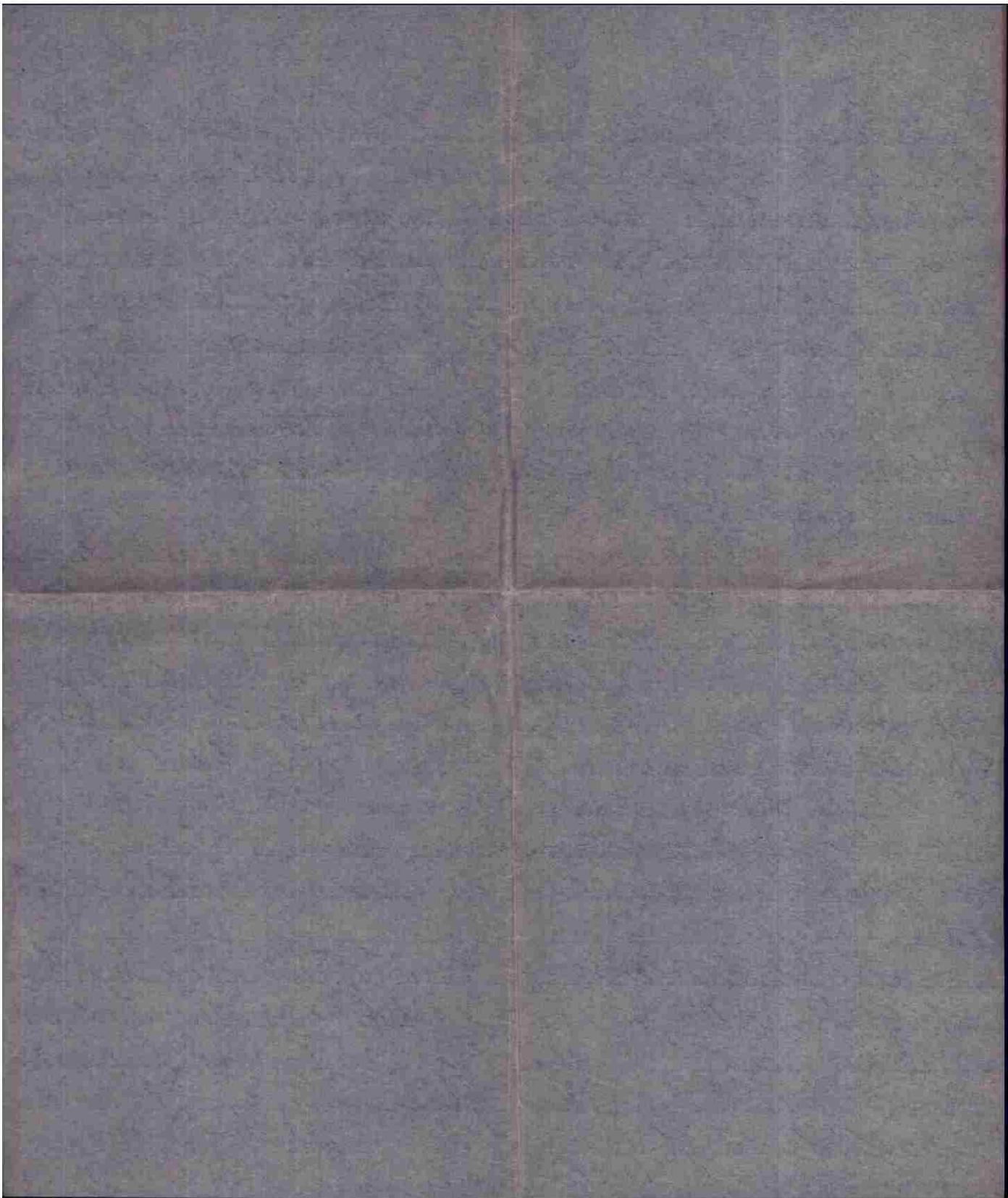
(2)

19

The French people did real well. They made us comfortable that night and fix'd our breakfast this next morning. The next day tho all the people in town came round with bills for damage done by the boys. We paid some but most of them were not paid as we had done no such damage. Think of paying £26 for some broken stones and one broken window. They sure do think we are made of money.

Our new home is in an old building once owned by a lawyer. There are books & papers all over the place. One is very much tempted to use them for fuel on cold days. My room is a big one with an open fire place. I call it mine but I own only third part as there are two more Sts in it with me. I found the room however and I claim it. The open fire makes my room the Club of the Battalion.

The Y. Canteen is downtown and is the life of the village for the soldiers. The ladies make fudge every day and also chocolate & sandwiches. The men enjoy it a good deal. The ladies makes it place seem like a little American town. The



3

19

town papers have just come in and
I sure have enjoyed them. Feels like home
almost to sit before a stove and read where
Mrs Jones has visited so and so for a week
& etc. One of the papers was the Sunday
edition and it had a funny paper in it.
Capt Slick our adj is now looking at
it and signing. I know what he is thinking
about. I'll turn the papers over to the men
after I read them. They enjoy a little.

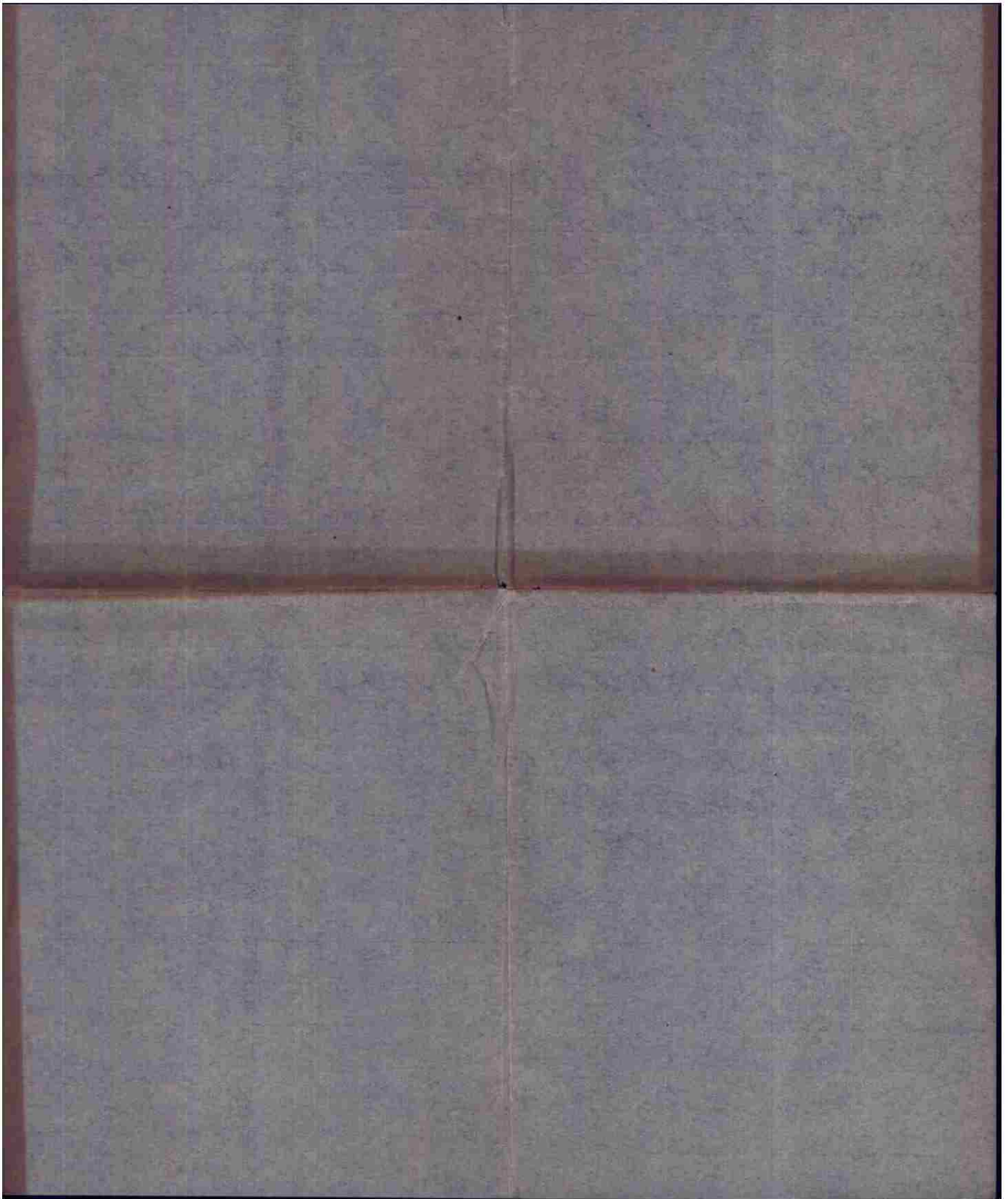
You will find enclosed a note from
Capt Slick stating the receipt or rather the sending
of a draft to you. I hope you got it O.K.
I'm sending another soon. Let me know
if you have received the \$50.

No letter this week. Am well fine.
Best love to all

Your devoted son
William

O.K.

Answered by
W.P. Fowler
2nd Lt 316th



Postmarked 16 Oct, 1918
 US Military Postal Express Service
 From Lt WP Keesler
 U.S. Army
 Officer Mail
 O.A.S.
 To: Gen S.R. Keesler
 Greenwood, Miss
 U.S.A.

#2

Somewhere in France
 Oct 15, 1918

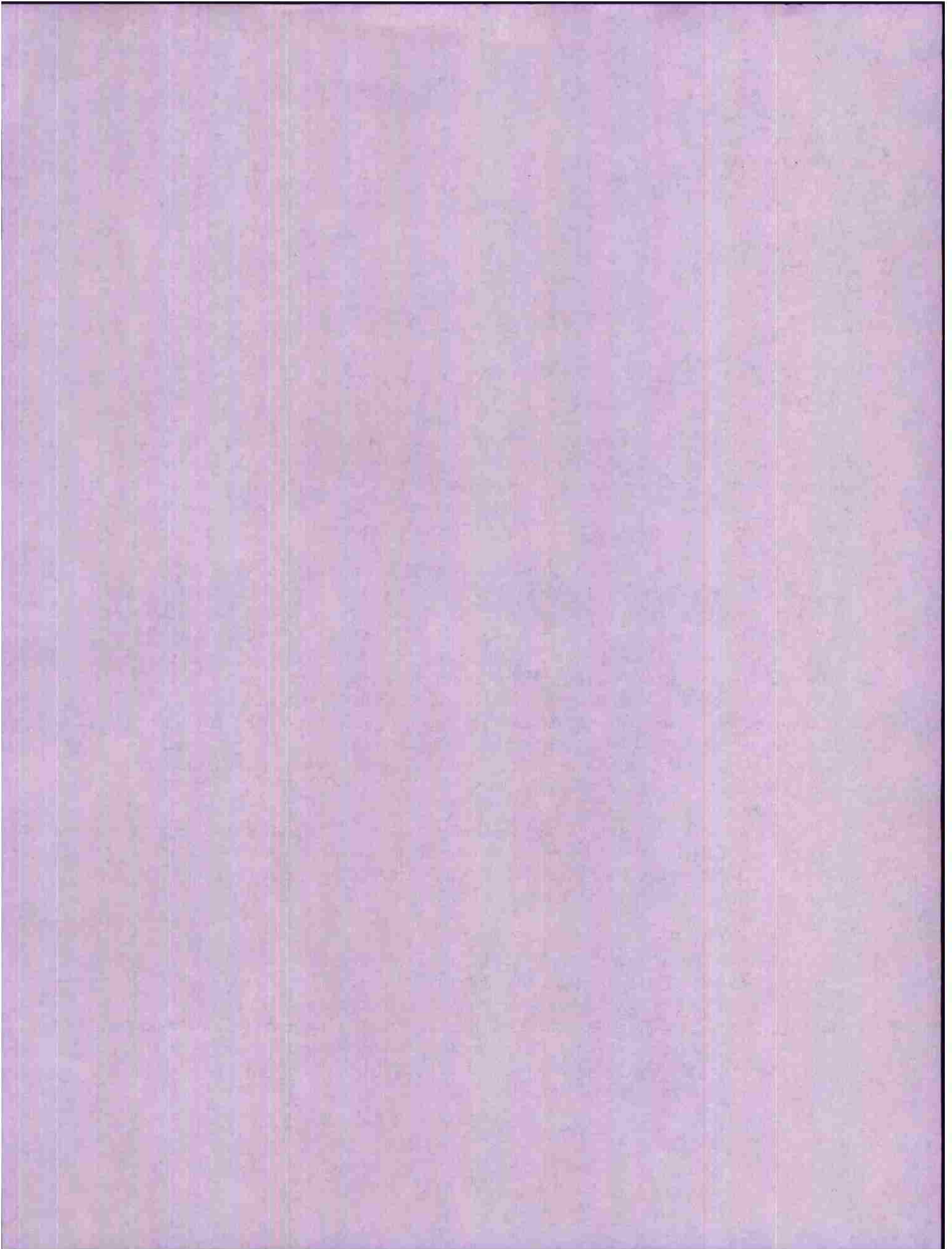
Dear Father,

Since my last letter we have moved closer to the school and to a better town. That last one was the worse one I ever saw. Dirt every where, we couldn't make them clean up at all. We did our best to keep the place clean but it was impossible. This place seems fairly clean but as it has rained ever since we came I can't tell as there is mud everywhere. The tales we will tell tho won't be believed when we get home unless one has seen for him self.

I was left in charge of loading all the baggage when we left. They sent two trucks to carry what six had to do in the end. That made us have to stay in the town another night. The cook wagon of course was the first wagon to leave and they tool all their supplies with them that left us with no food except one bag of bread and what we could get out of the village. My orderly scouted round and found us six eggs which we had an old lady fry for us. My but they were good. The men I found had any number of friends in the village with whom they had supper. The French people did real well. They made us comfortable that night and fixed our breakfast the next morning. The next day tho all the people in town came round with bills for damage done by the boys. We paid some but most of them were not paid as we had done no such damage. Think of paying F26 for some broken stones and one broken window. They sure do think we are made of money.

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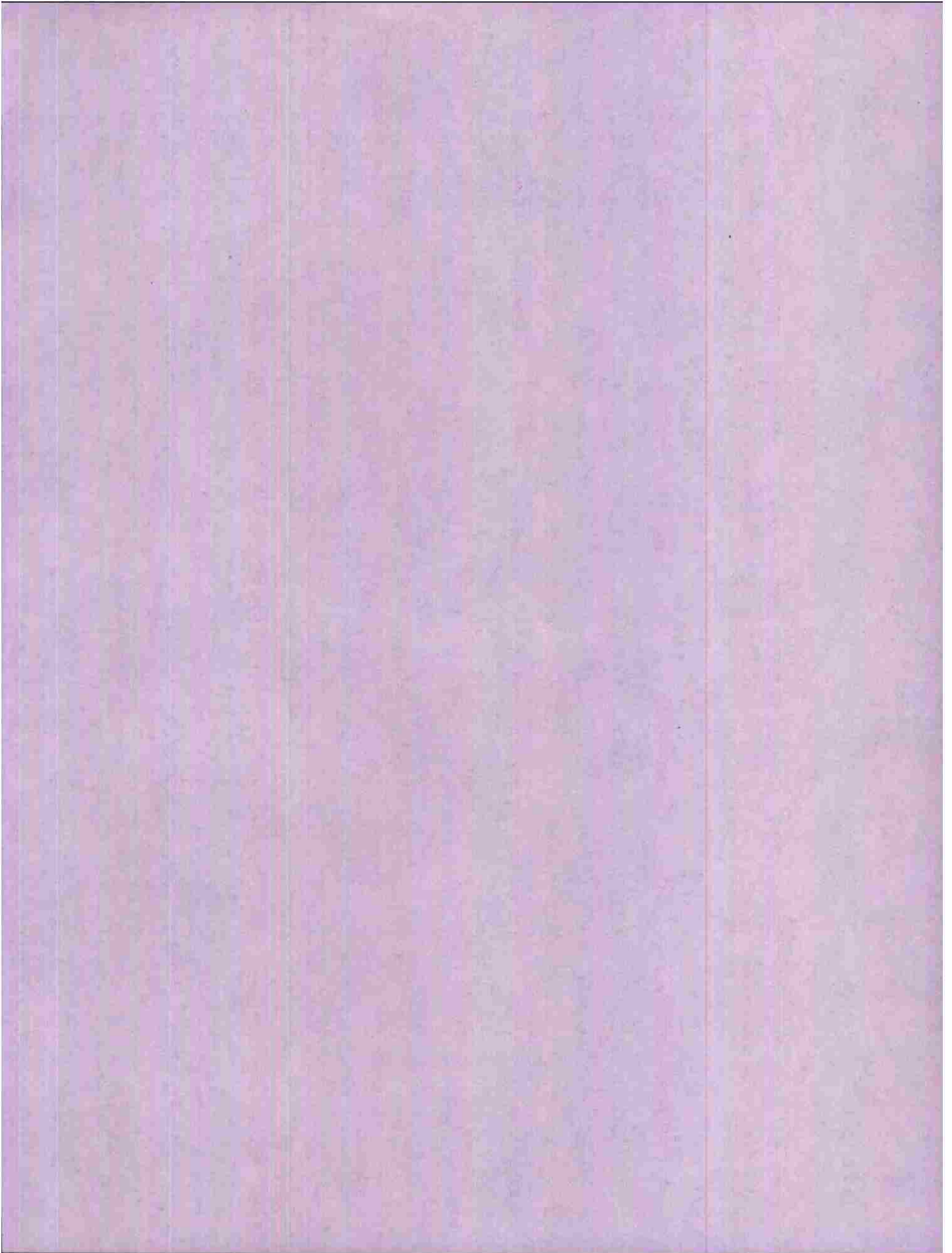
The Y. Canteen is downstairs and is the life of the village for the soldiers. The ladies make fudge every day and also chocolate and sandwiches. The men enjoy it a good deal. The ladies makes it place seem like a little American town. The town papers have just come in and I sure have enjoyed them. Feels like home almost to sit before a stove and read where Mrs Jones had visited so and so for a week & etc. One of the papers was the Sunday edition and it had a funny paper in it. Capt Sligh our adj is now looking at it and sighing. I know what he is thinking about. I'll turn the papers over to the men after I read them. They enjoy a little.



You will find enclosed a note from Cox & Co stating the receipt or rather the sending of a draft to you. I hope you got it O.K. I'm sending another soon. Let me know if you have received the \$50.

No letter I'm well. Am feel fine. Best of love to all.

Your devoted son,
William



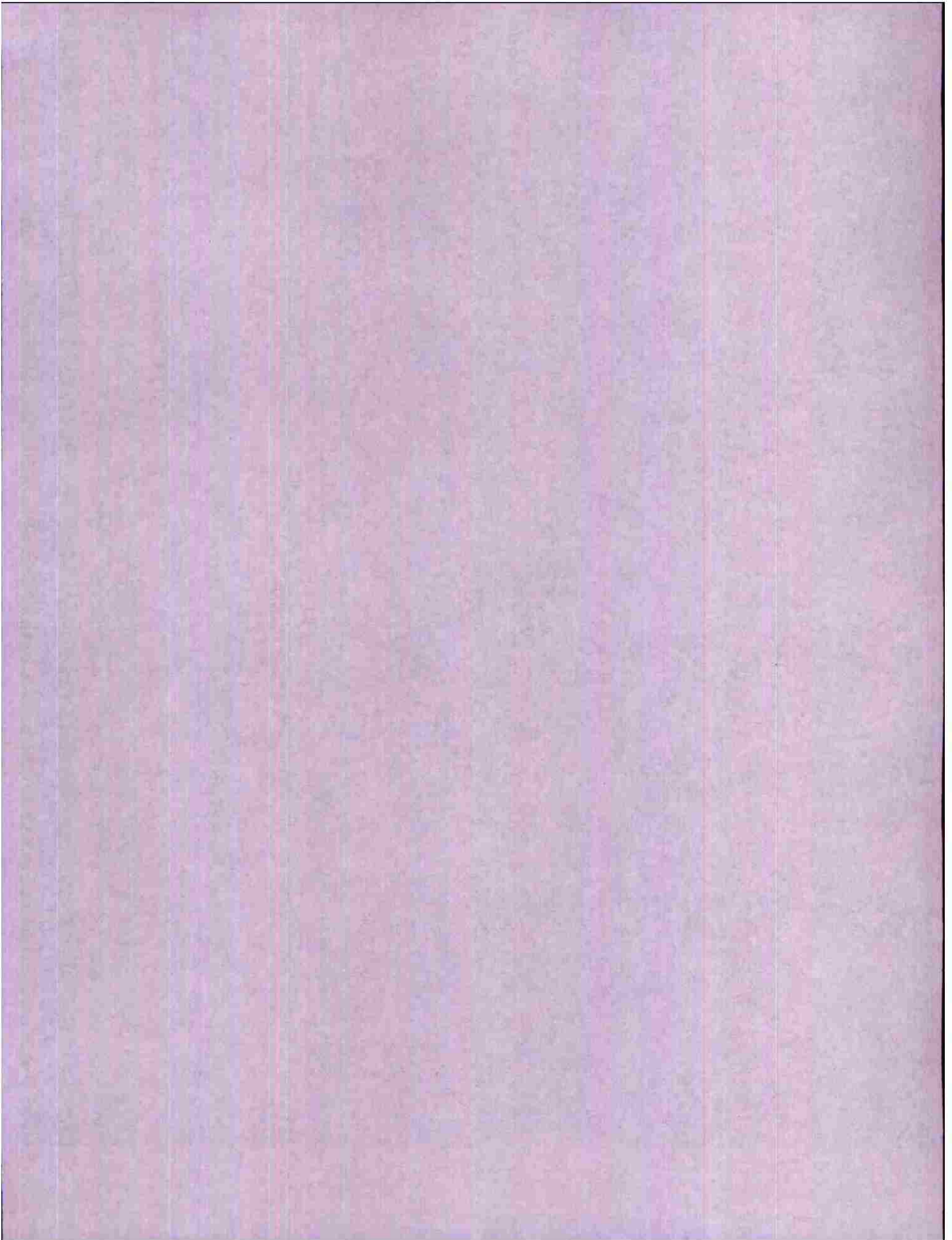
To: Mrs. Samuel R. Keesler
From: William Keesler
Oct 22, 1918

168 7567-0012
FALCON 58
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Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6824

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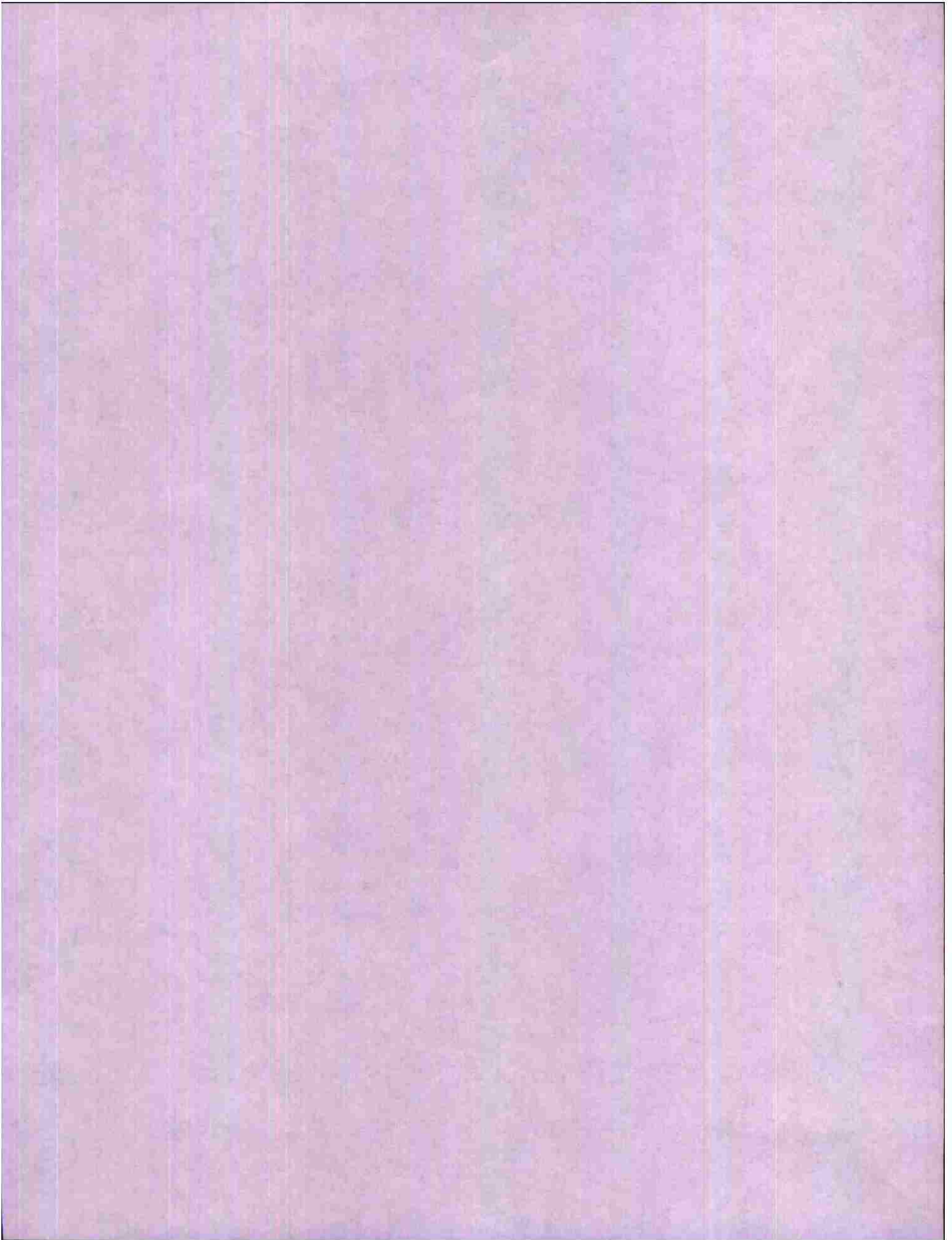


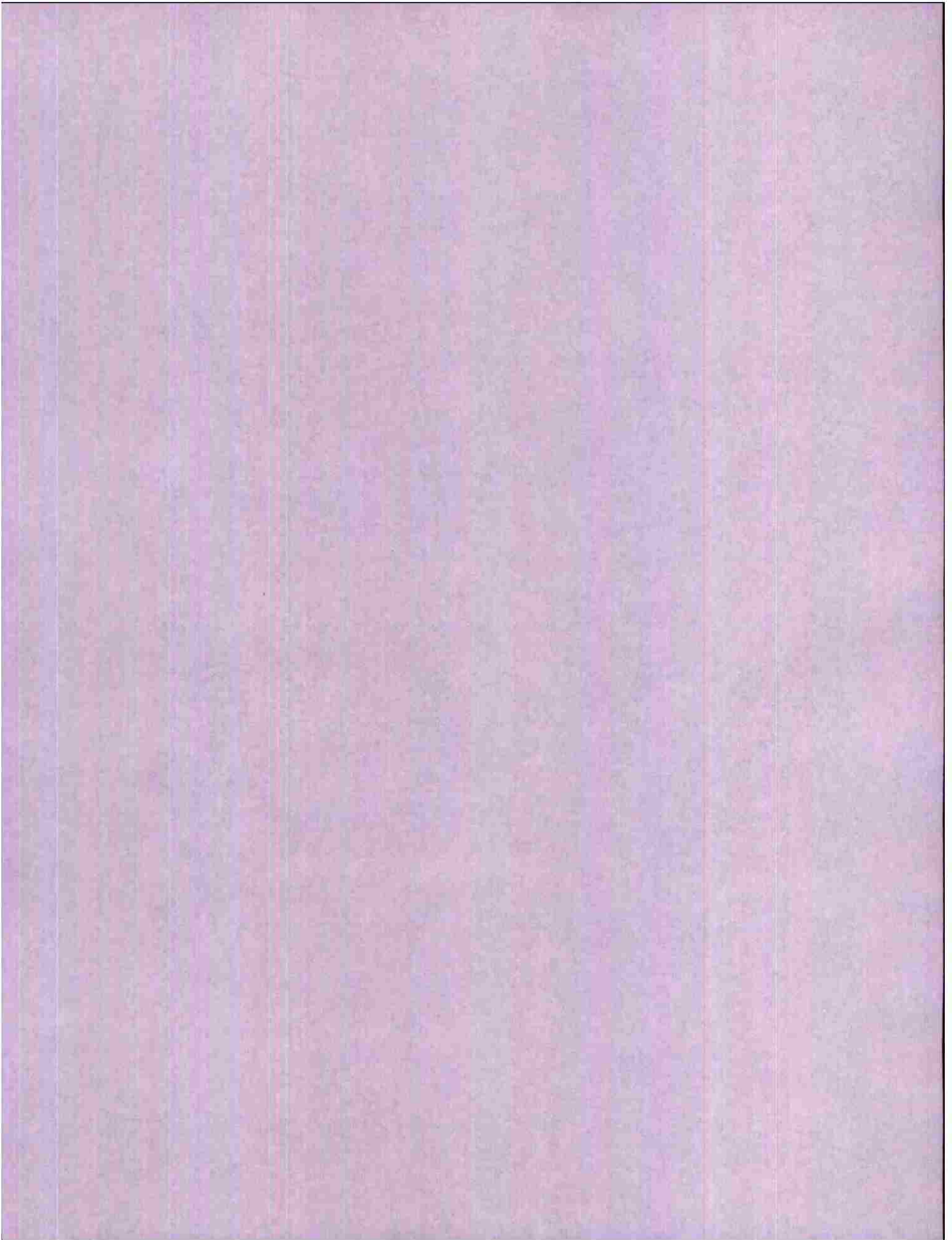
168. 7567- Box 2

FOUO 58

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

01156160





who were in various sleeping
compartments to the coars & etc. But
right now I in a nice room
with a nice stove, a bed
with a quilt pit, having only
a couple of inches of clearance
between my head and the back
head. And even I've got a
hectic quilt which is about
a foot deep. I'm in nice
to end up under the skin
the mean French man in
padding the people of the house
we showed to death with the found
no sleeping with the windows
open. The report trying to tell
me about how old we would
be. But after finding that that
had no mail the stopped.
Now we have them sleeping
with their open. Good
magnificent and all.

I'm sure you'd hear
about all the ships in the
Pacific. But don't worry about



(3)
ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Oct 22 1918

Dear Mr. Mearns,

I've better from you
made me very happy yesterday.
The priest I've had in with a cabin
too. Both are from Montreal. These
you are at home now. I've
would like to have a nice
talk with you when you visit
in your letter.

Since my last I've moved
again. In a good deal means
better now. Only a kilometer
away and the village is
much nicer & cleaner. The
more so the best of the service
I've made. There are no more
experiences to come to us in
the fighting line now. We
have been in fighting where
now we have like Palo Alto &

me for the officers who see me every day tell me I'm getting fat. I weigh over 160 now. I'm really taking exercise to reduce. Don't do much good however. We are well taken care of over here. Uncle Sam which is all of you sure takes care of his soldiers. We work hard and are very willing to fight harder.

Please get and send to me in the "mass box" if you get this in time. I - "Ein Mauerheim Shilo Rule" made by the Eugene Dietzgen Co. who have a ranch house at 615 Common Street - New Orleans. If this doesn't reach you in time don't worry. You seem to be getting more and more hard to get over here. The slide rule I will make a lot of multiplying unnecessary if I get it.

I spent Sunday up at the Third Battalion. Had quite an evening with evening too. Capt. Feeny my old Capt. has been promoted to Major. Capt. East heart who father knows is now in the 306th Train. We have a new major in our Battalion, our old major went up some where. While I was up there the Y. G. I. got in some chocolate, you should have seen us buying it. It was sure good. First I had in Santa a while. Most of the candy goes to the hospitals for the wounded. They need it.

was that he was flying
for some big game, & as
he was above near service
in these last wires.

We have been watching
the Liberty Barge drive with
a great deal of interest. The
Service and his done his
best to stop it. But it
was like trying to wet a duck.
Or trying to stop the wind
from blowing. & as the Service
was ^{so} short of ^{the time} ^{of} the time
now. We are hoping to make
him see a few others too.

Sunday my two companions
went out down to a town
near here. It is in the
mountains and the scenery
they said was beautiful. I
am planning to go just
around it I leave. I have
built the roads and walls
to it they say. Victor Hugo
was born there. There were



ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Oct 22 1918

It has started raining again.
I'm sorry for we have to skate
over to school to - just for
a lecture. But well put on
our skates and hot mail
shoes & tell the rain to rain
and go right ahead. The rain
is so funny here. It just
drops down with out any
notice at all. But it sure is
a wet kind. The French people
never mind it at all. More
my relation see all the water
only are old caps to keep the
water off.

So they are all accepting
to adjust live. I wish some
could have been flying over
us. Don't heard us at all
while from him. That's that

some very interesting sights. There is a valley too near here which is very famous for its beauty, may take that in too.

We send you our newspaper the Star & Stripes. You will enjoy reading it as it has the latest news on the U.S.T. that you will get it about 20 days late.

Now you received my Liberty Bonds, I received notice of their shipment and also the \$50 I sent back, are reading another fifty pretty soon.

Must close now. Am well & getting fat. Will write on the first of each month after this.

Yours loving son

William

CC
 Approved by
 STEPHEN
 H. S. Harvey