

## IRIS Record

### Key Information

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NUMPAGE

Title Extensions: **Box 3 of 4**

**Abstract** Contains information confirming 2Lt Keesler's death, attempts to locate burial site in France, letters of condolence, and newspapers articles.

**Descriptive Notes:** In personal collection of 2Lt Samuel R. Keesler, Jr. Some documents fragile. Oversized document removed and stored in separate stacks area. Total of sixty-one (61) each folders. DOCUMENT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM VIA UNCLASSIFIED NETWORK.

**Title Added Entries** Correspondence, Adjutant General to Mrs. S. R. Keesler (Mother), Folder 35, 26 Jun 1919

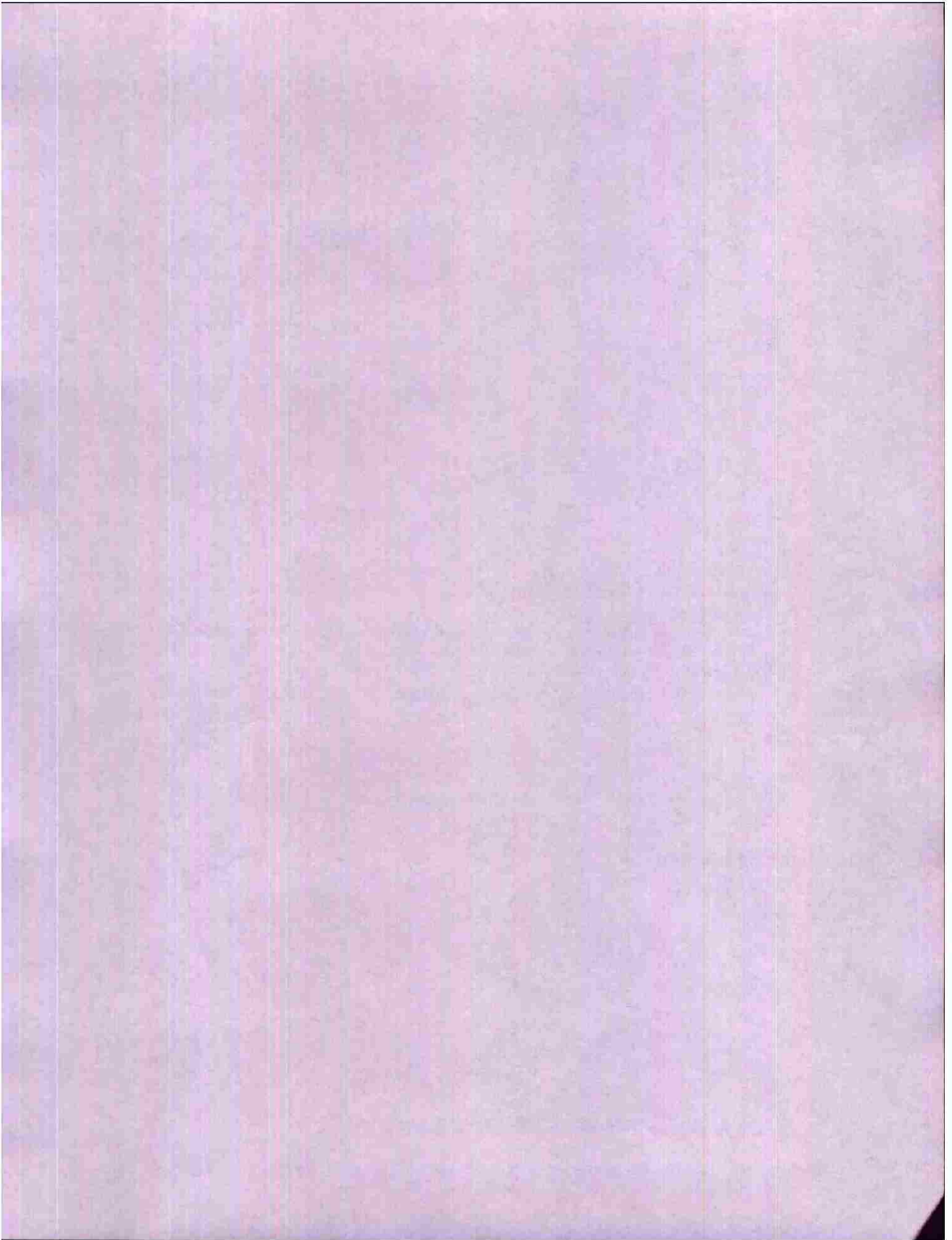
Major Command:

Doc Link [https://hralris2/g\\$/AFHRA/Personal Papers/Keesler Samuel R Jr/7567 Box 3.pdf](https://hralris2/g$/AFHRA/Personal Papers/Keesler Samuel R Jr/7567 Box 3.pdf)

### Administrative Markings

No Administrative Markings Listed

Security Review Information:

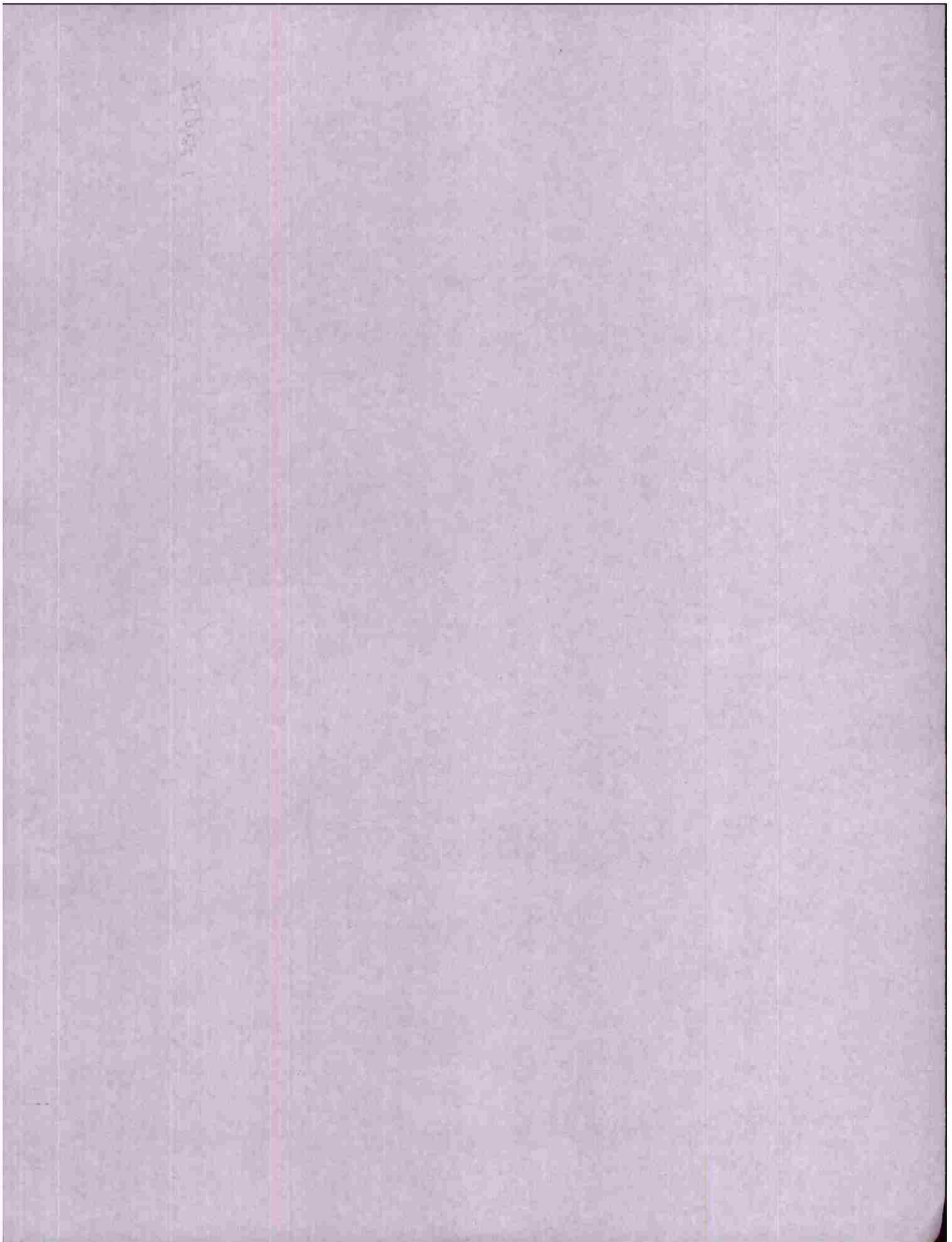




168,7567-6383
<b>FOLDER 1</b>
RETURN TO AIR FORCE The State of New Jersey Attn: J. Edgar Hoover Washington, D.C. 20535

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2007

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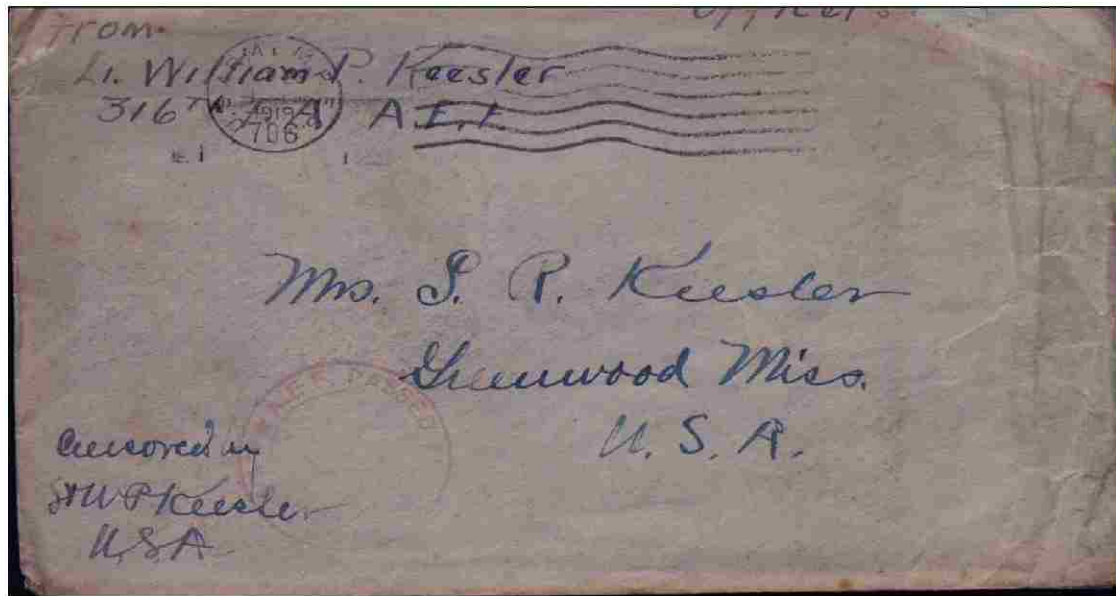
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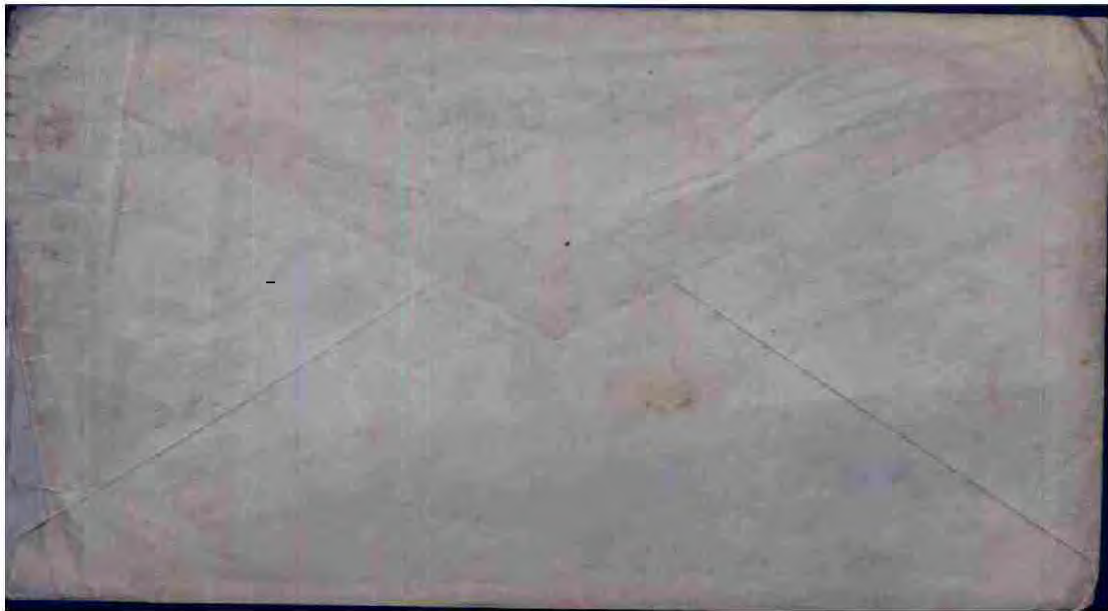
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Squadron was still moving  
 about and I can't catch up  
 even only he gave for about  
 twenty four hours away from  
 the aircraft. But all this  
 and friends can do everything  
 it will be done. Another letter  
 and that my letters written  
 of the 7 or 12 have not been  
 received, I don't know why.  
 I heard that about 2000 days  
 of music had been destroyed  
 by fire, many have had some  
 about it.  
 I don't know if my chief  
 has been away lately, I can't  
 see with the whole job.

St. Paul, Minn. ca  
 June 3 1917.

Dearest Mother and family,

A big letter came yesterday  
 from Anita, telling of the 7th  
 and of your sickness. I don't know  
 how you are all up, but  
 the 7th has been away. I hope  
 the little boy, Charlotte, my work.  
 She seems to be very interested  
 and doing fine, try her to keep it  
 up. Since my first letter, I  
 have gotten no more news  
 about Seamus, I can not locate  
 the pilot at all. I don't believe  
 he is in Paris now at least  
 he is very hard to find, the

again, simply and, as far as  
 of the whole movement, not really  
 the paper were at all. To be  
 made two whole days ahead  
 of the reports now. But he  
 and he has to see and the  
 more time. I come in at night  
 down and now. Just that and the  
 and don't want to be like this  
 morning I don't get the whole  
 matter. I don't know of the right  
 great. At that all morning, being  
 thing was in good shape.  
 last Thursday we had a no  
 mile like at full speed. Some  
 like like me. The factor he  
 found like ~~nothing~~ and average  
 about four miles to form and a  
 half an hour. It was an eye  
 of view for me. There will  
 give me some thing along.  
 the other was very close. I  
 could not help comparing  
 the way we moved to ~~the~~ there  
 down. But we passed. I'm



like that our wife, then  
the first for the factory  
is really needed and that  
of the police may have <sup>all</sup> more  
the monitors everywhere.

[illegible]

Said on 3-15-61 our request was  
 he transferred and out into family  
 household and hope with.  
 the way because no eating  
 up give me a lot of money  
 three people. I think this was  
 and now it is over this same  
 I want to start it again, they  
 around one of a small child  
 nothing but be saved of eating  
 will do them any good.  
 in as well as you can be  
 and he is himself. How I  
 want to be with you all together  
 avoid give anything to be at  
 home. But the house is coming.  
 Must stay now and start to get  
 up at 4:15 P.M. to-morrow/stop  
 away are no more news. But I  
 hope to arrange if you and all  
 my friends.  
 Love always son  
 William

Officer Mail  
 O.A.S.  
 Postmarked 5 Jan 1919  
 Postal Express Service  
 From William P Keesler  
 316th FA  
 To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler  
 Greenwood Miss.  
 U.S.A.

St. Blin, France  
 Jan 3 1919

Dearest Mother and family,

A big letter came yesterday from Auntie, telling of the flu and of your sickness. I know by now you are all up and the flu has flown away. Enjoyed the letters from Charlotte very much. She seems to be very interested and doing fine, tell her to keep it up.

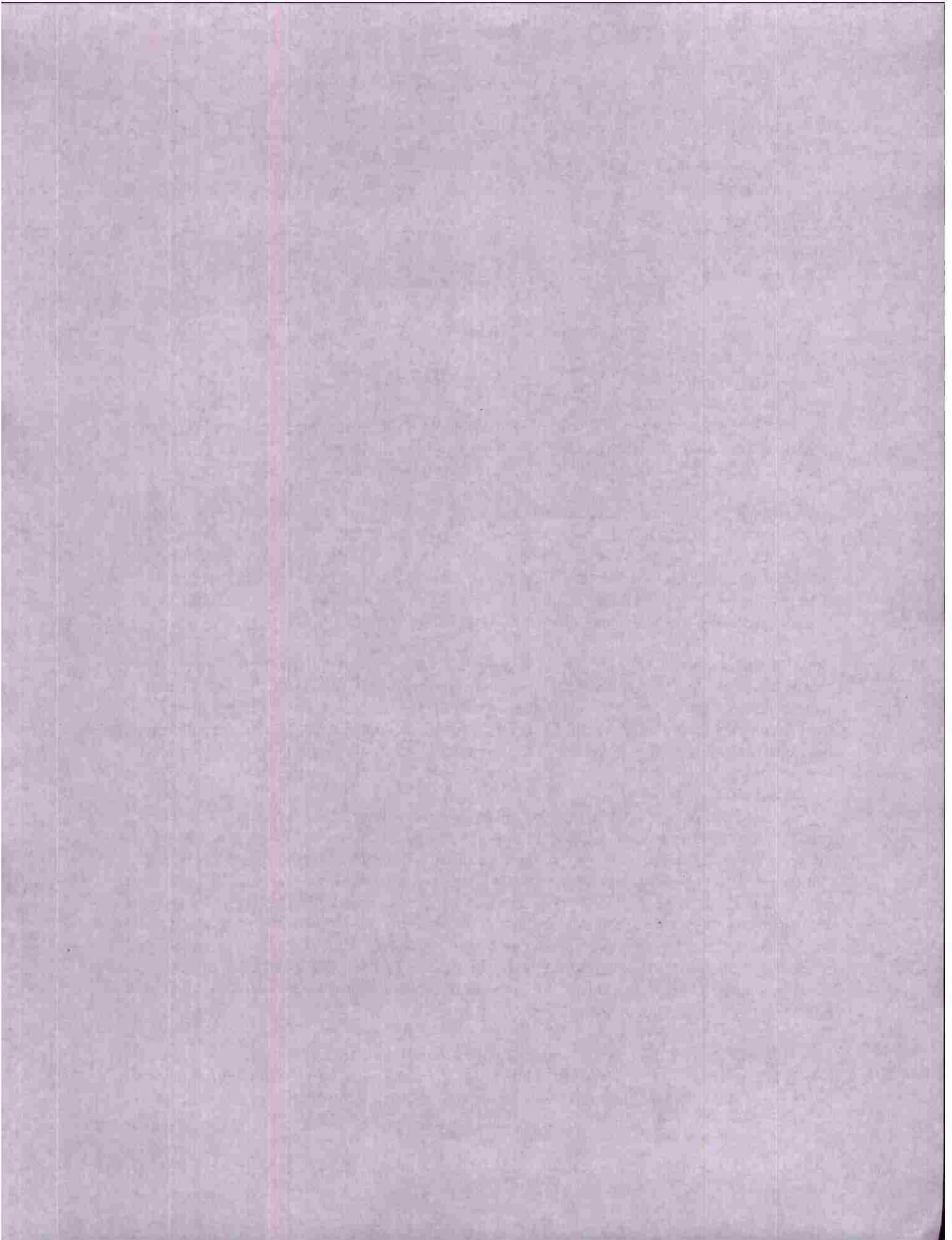
Since my last letter I have gotten no more news about Sam. I can not locate the pilot at all. I don't believe he is in Paris now, at least he is very hard to find. The squadron is still moving about and I can't catch up. Can only be gone for about twenty-four hours away from the regiment. But if letters and friends can do anything it will be done. Auntie's letter said that my letters written after Nov 12 have not been received. I don't know why. Heard that about 2000 bags of mail had been destroyed by fire, may have had some in it.

Capt Glentworth my chief has been away lately, leaving me with the whole job of repair, supply and inspection of the whole regiment, not counting the paper work at all. Takes nearly two whole days a week to get the reports ready. But he will be back soon and I'll get more time. I come in at night worn out now. Just flop into bed and don't move till Reveille. This morning I inspected the whole motor equipment of the regiment. It took all morning. Everything was in good shape.

Last Tuesday we had a 20 mile hike at full speed. Some hike believe me. The tractors behaved like veterans and averaged about four miles to four and a half an hour. It was an eye-opener for me. Those old guns were sure rolling along. The colonel was very well pleased. I could not help comparing the way we moved to a horse-drawn outfit we passed. They were grooming and what a job it was. Mud everywhere and a mean rain falling. Our grooming takes about thirty minutes, when we gas up and put in oil, then off again. Then when we came in, all we did was to throw a panlin over the engine and go to dinner. While if we had been horse drawn we should have had to groom a couple of hours. Then the speed we made. No horse could pull the guns like that and live. Then the feed for the tractor is easily hauled and that of the horse very hard. Give me the motors every time.

Rumors are running wild about our going home. No one really knows when our time will come. I don't believe we will leave St. Blin until Feb. or March myself. Not until after the peace conference. But we are all hoping to be home by spring. Gen. Bailly gave out last week at a



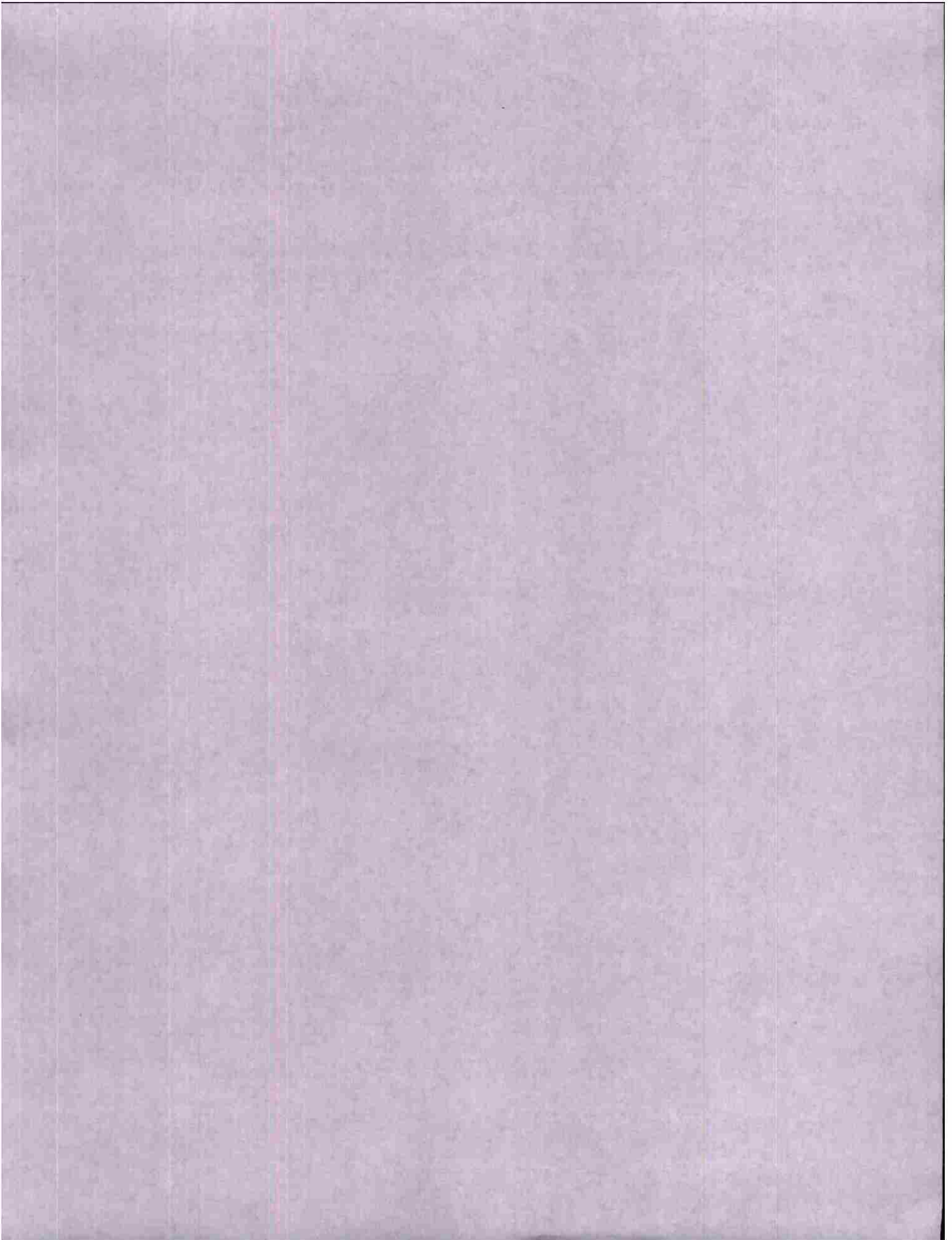


dinner that we would sail in Feb. Our regiment may be transferred and sent into Germany however. I sure hope not.

The way Russia is cutting up gives me a lot of uneasiness. Those people started this war and now it is over they seem to want to start it again. They remind one of a spoiled child, nothing but a sound spanking will do them any good.

I'm as well as you can be and be so homesick. How I want to be with you all tonight. Would give anything to be at home. But the time is coming. Must stop now as I have to get up at 4:15 A.M. tomorrow. Hope everyone is well now. Best of love to everyone of you and all my friends.

Your loving son,  
William





To Gene S. Keesler  
From Albert Mary  
January 11, 1919

148-7541 Box 3

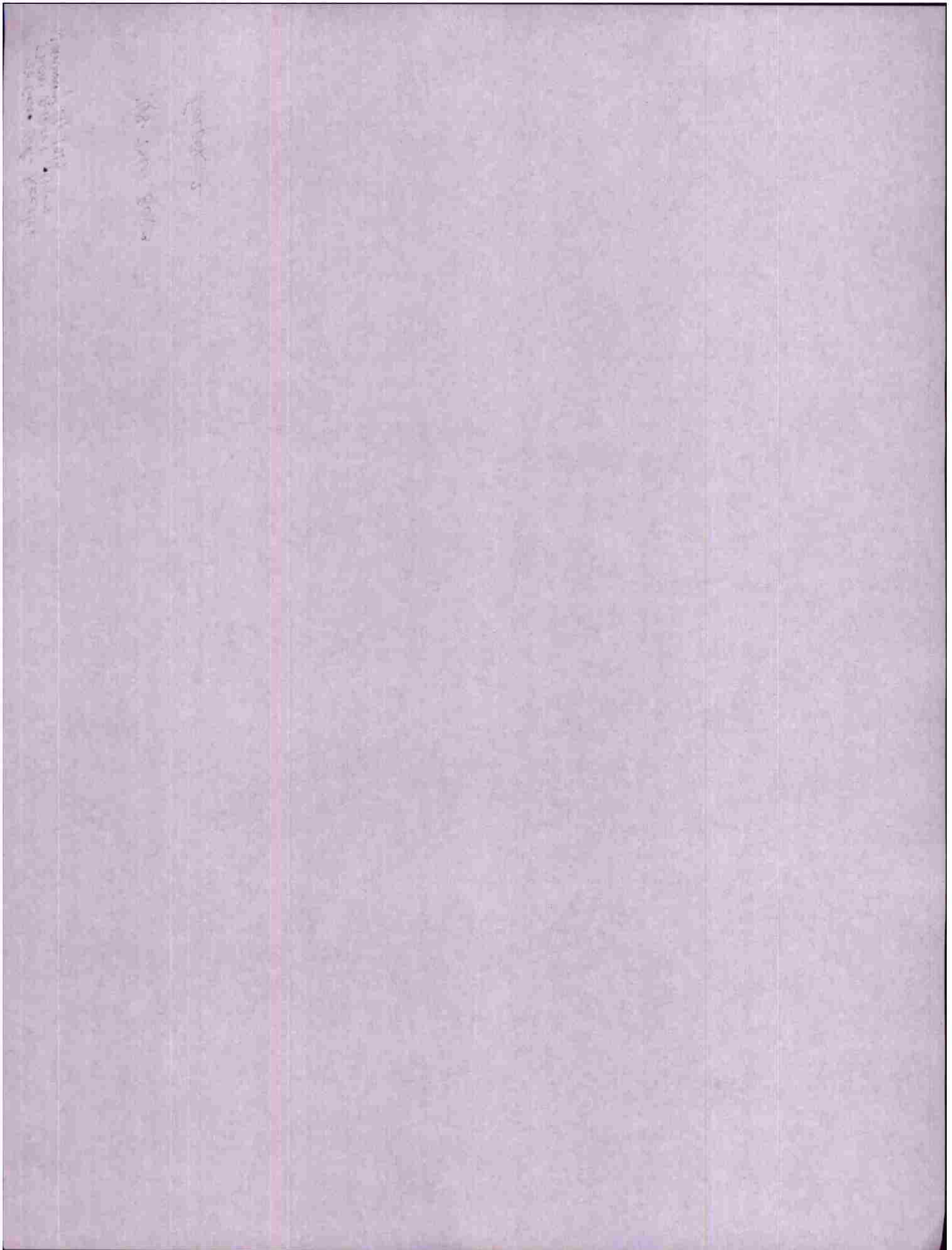
FOLDER 2

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Theoretical Research Agency  
c/o AFR, AL 16112 6424

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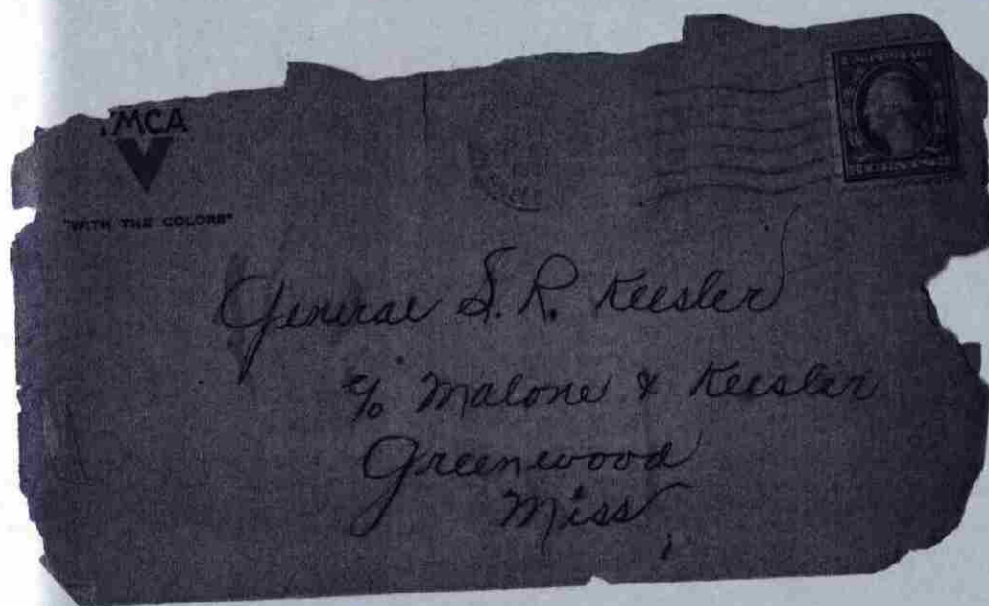


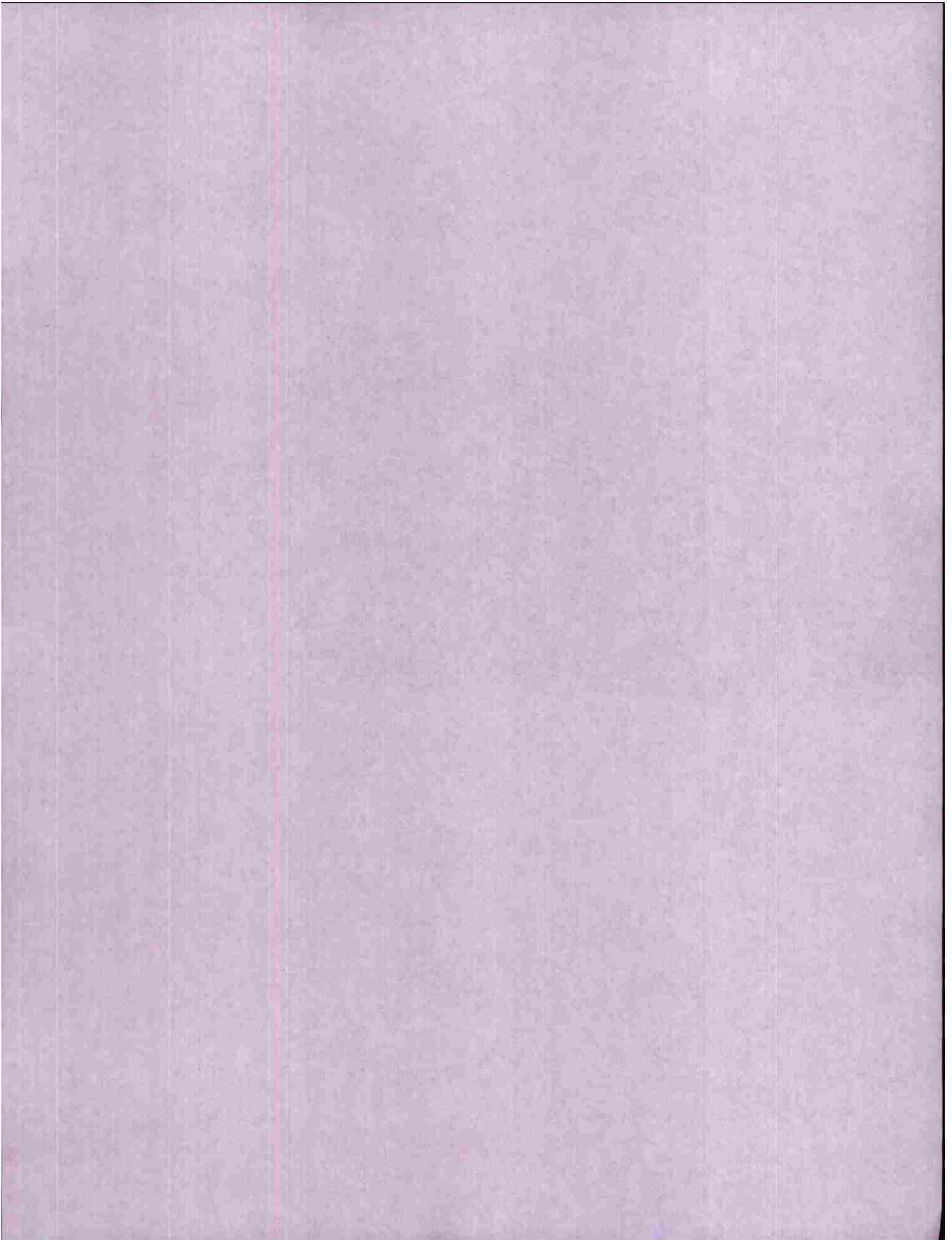
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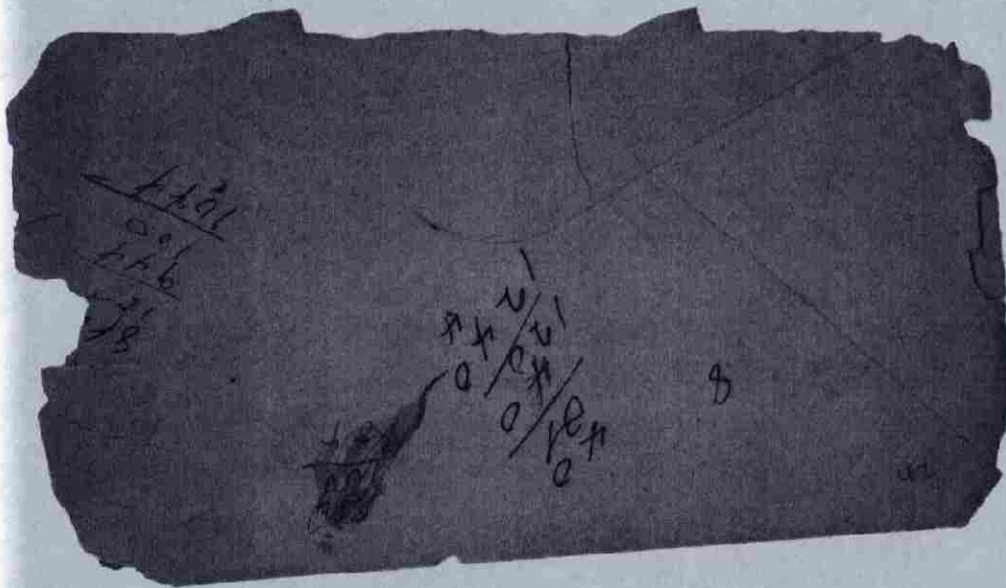
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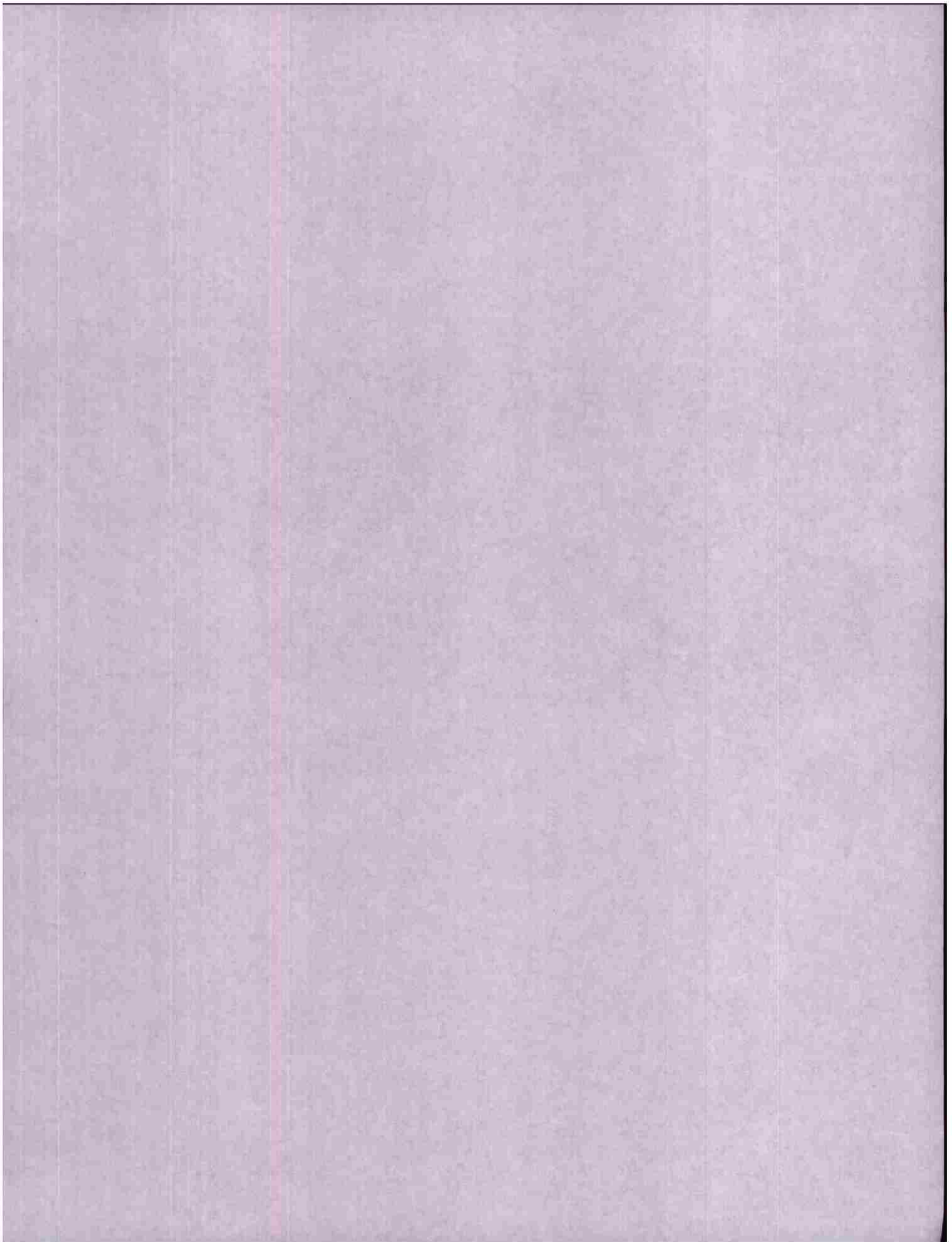
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Major Gen S. R. Keesler  
Greenwood, Miss

Camp Shelby Miss  
Jan'y 11/1919

My dear General;

I arrived here today with a troop movement from Dix New Jersey & will await my discharge here.

The sad news of my dear friend Sam's death was learned here thru one of the home boys.

It was certainly a shock to me & it will grieve me very deeply. I assure you, for a long, long time.

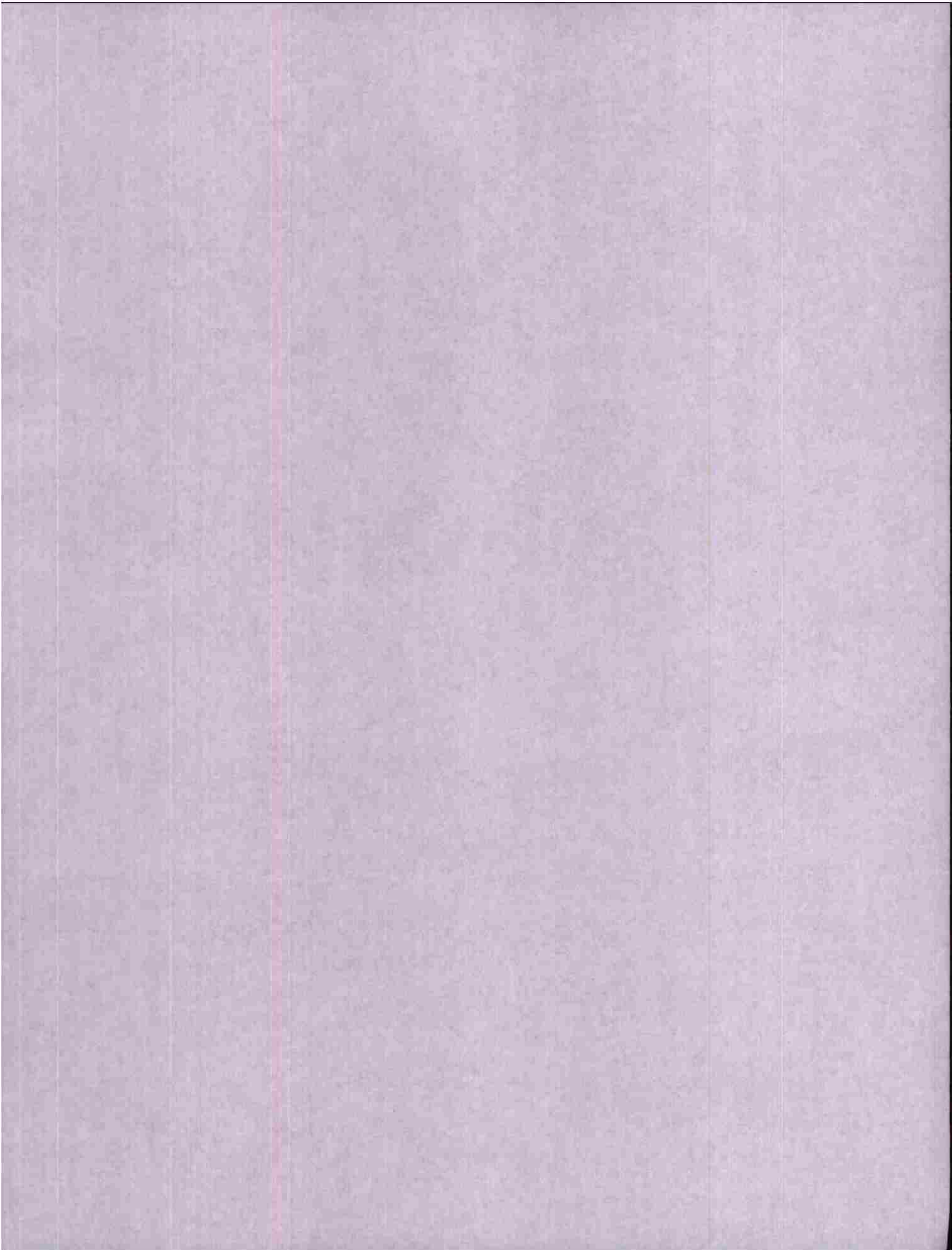
Of course there is nothing I can say that can be of any consolation - but I know I have lost a dear friend - a man thru & thru - & a soldier of the type that is honored by everyone.

Please express my deepest sympathy to Mrs Keesler - and your family - This news just seemed to take every bit of happiness out of me - I can't express my sorrow somehow!

Sincerely

Albert Marx

Sergeant "Tank" U. S. Army



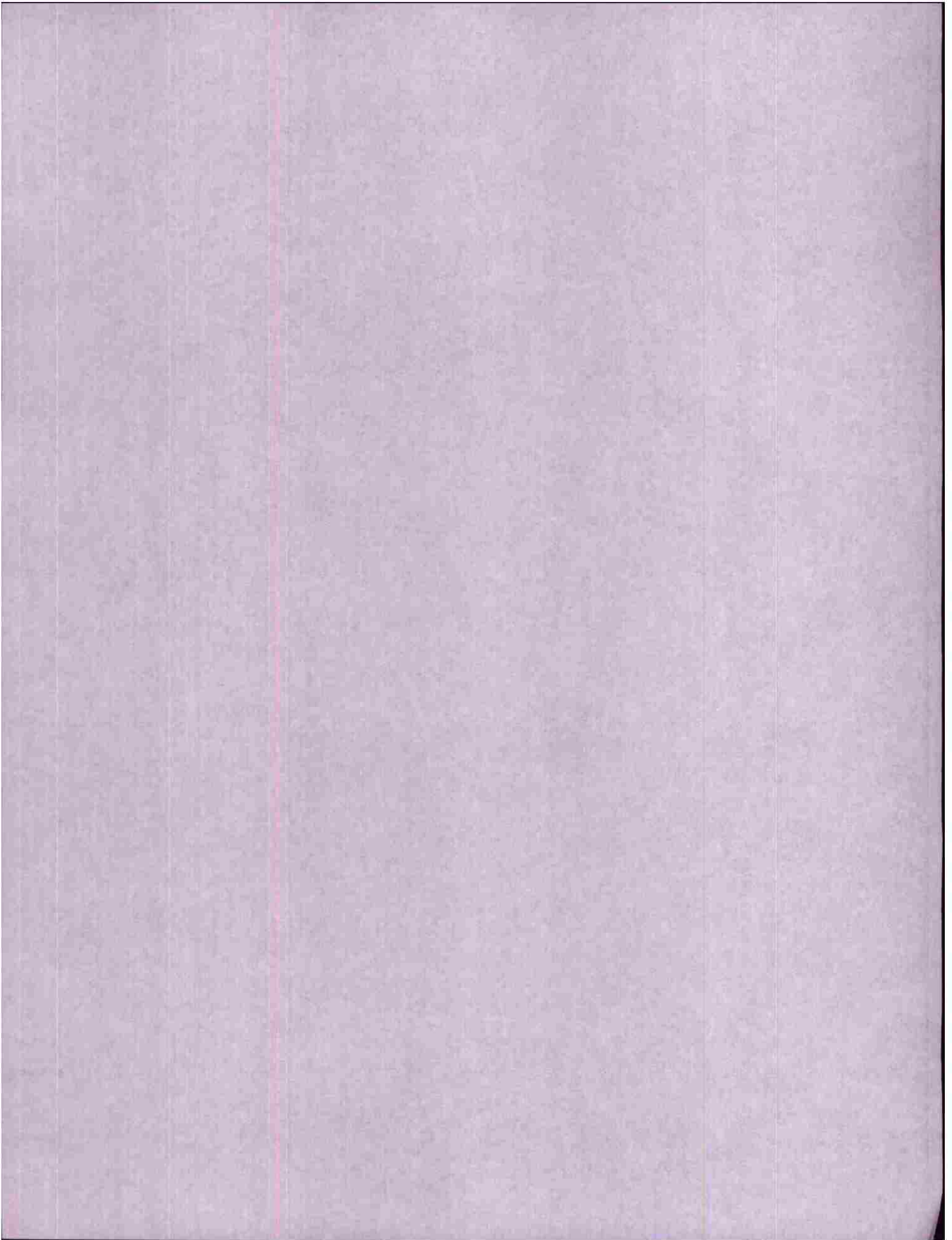
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler (no ref to Sam)  
January 12, 1919

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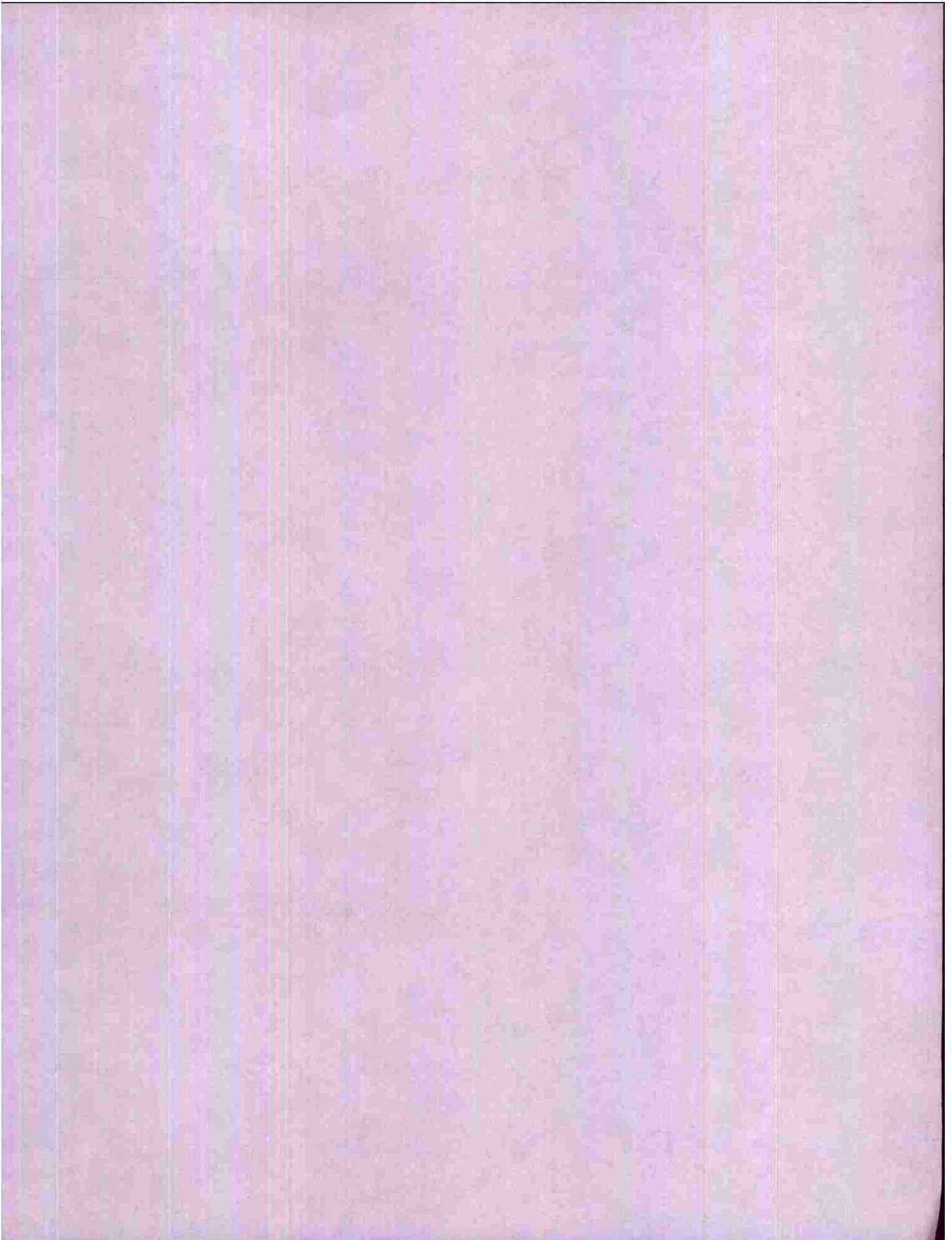






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father and when as I have  
 been the last few days. Come  
 in late at night from duty  
 and see as kind my thinking  
 and agreeing for you.  
 no letter home been received  
 by the regiment during the  
 last week. Daily papers. The  
 one you sent came. They  
 said some very fine things  
 about our service but they  
 did not know all the  
 things would have said  
 and more.  
 In the regiment we are  
 getting a little restless. As  
 soon as we leave and  
 across the men take an

St. Louis, France  
 June 12, 1919

My dearest Mother  
 I am in slowly &  
 get swiftly improving and all  
 the time we are coming  
 nearer and nearer home.  
 Home, I mean home before  
 what it meant I never so  
 want to be with you all  
 there as I have since the  
 first of December. He writes  
 but what are words when  
 one heart wants to be with  
 you all. That is all I  
 think of now. During the  
 day I never to wish, to  
 stop thinking of you and

month summer has the ever I  
 then of course and a feeling I must  
 be here. The weather looks like  
 may had later. So day it seemed  
 and arrived all day, the moon  
 is single tonight. The stars are  
 visible deep. I wear my hat  
 all the time. The only way one can  
 keep his feet always clear. If it  
 were not for that we are  
 would he be in another day.  
 know that with me has  
 arrived in time. One for me  
 mile, and all day affair. I had  
 go as general officer. The  
 motor equipment. I will have  
 new little to do. not at all  
 every thing was running all. What  
 mean we need 7 more horses  
 at station 3 more. We now  
 have 7000 horses and they are  
 are satisfactory. Hardly but not  
 any and standing about five feet



We wouldn't need any more mules or horses. The only 4 pocket in 100. Every time they see us break it up <sup>308</sup>, they can pull ten tons or more short fire is six miles and how.

In winter by candle light now but soon hope to be able to reach up and snap on the electric lights again. Uncle Sam is wonder how in the way he equips his soldiers. We have sent down to for our file for

they can pull most of our mules. While we were getting them unloaded we had to shift the air so we used one. There are a variety engine. We found most of our trouble was in putting a chain it. Considered heavy. Once with engine was a 5 ton and can pull over 150 m. How often in and out of places where horses can not force through. I wish I could get the for them for the speculation.

a generator, as one thing, like that  
 one we have at Monks, only run  
 by gasoline, instead of water. So  
 we will have a few camp electric lights,  
 at which he such a help. It is hard  
 enough to go to bed in a cold tent  
 but the dark makes it worse. But  
 there we have to eat by candle  
 light and they are not plentiful  
 at all. The French people will give  
 you most anything you want  
 for candles, sugar and soap.  
 So you remember the first soap  
 you gave me at Monks. Well the  
 made the lot of French several  
 times by giving half a cake of it  
 away. He got about six bars left  
 now. My order was it to work  
 my clothes too.  
 Friday on the coming week  
 Mr. Borgeade Commander and  
 General Bailey will make an  
 inspection of the camp.



must somewhere to a  
gun position. I hope I  
can get to go along. We  
the men are up from  
their toes to pull off  
something good. It will be  
our first time to really  
show what we can do.

Here hoping for a day  
with a little less rain.

Rain is a wonderful  
thing over here. I was  
always taught we ought  
that rain fell, then went  
and returned to the ocean  
there back to the clouds in

expect to make a hit  
for we have a big "up" to  
live up to we are to go  
on a road march and  
take up position somewhere  
on the road. I wonder  
what they will think when  
they see some "big" with  
us in our army! I  
have no more to say  
the actors begin  
putting on the "garage"  
looked like the scene as  
Chasing on our side, then  
as those little actors  
waste enough off the hand  
road and go off in the

again, there was again, making  
 a complete circle. But this found  
 in the "Chicago" all that  
 it is only a "one-way" road around  
 here. One of the men in venturing  
 home said that over here, they  
 have two narrow the wet & the dry  
 and that in the day it rains and  
 dry weeks and in the wet night  
 we are in the wet now.  
 must stop for a while now.  
 Hope my letter was getting the  
 OK. I feel like this one now. He  
 that I had given you were ready  
 a month old. You well. Hope to  
 from that all at home are, for  
 I like to see and not for  
 your self. Your devoted son  
 William

3167A  
 Strong



Postmarked Jan 20, 1919  
US Army Post Office  
Paris  
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler  
Greenwood Miss  
U.S.A.

St. Blin, France  
Jan 12, 1919

My dearest Mother,

Life is slowly & yet swiftly moving and all the time we are coming nearer and nearer home. Home, I never knew before what it meant, I never so wanted to be with you all there as I have since the first of December. I've written but what are words where one's heart wants to be with you all. That is all I think of now. During the day I'm never too busy, to stop thinking of you and Father and when, as I have been the last few days, come in late at night from duty and am so tired I'm thinking and praying for you.

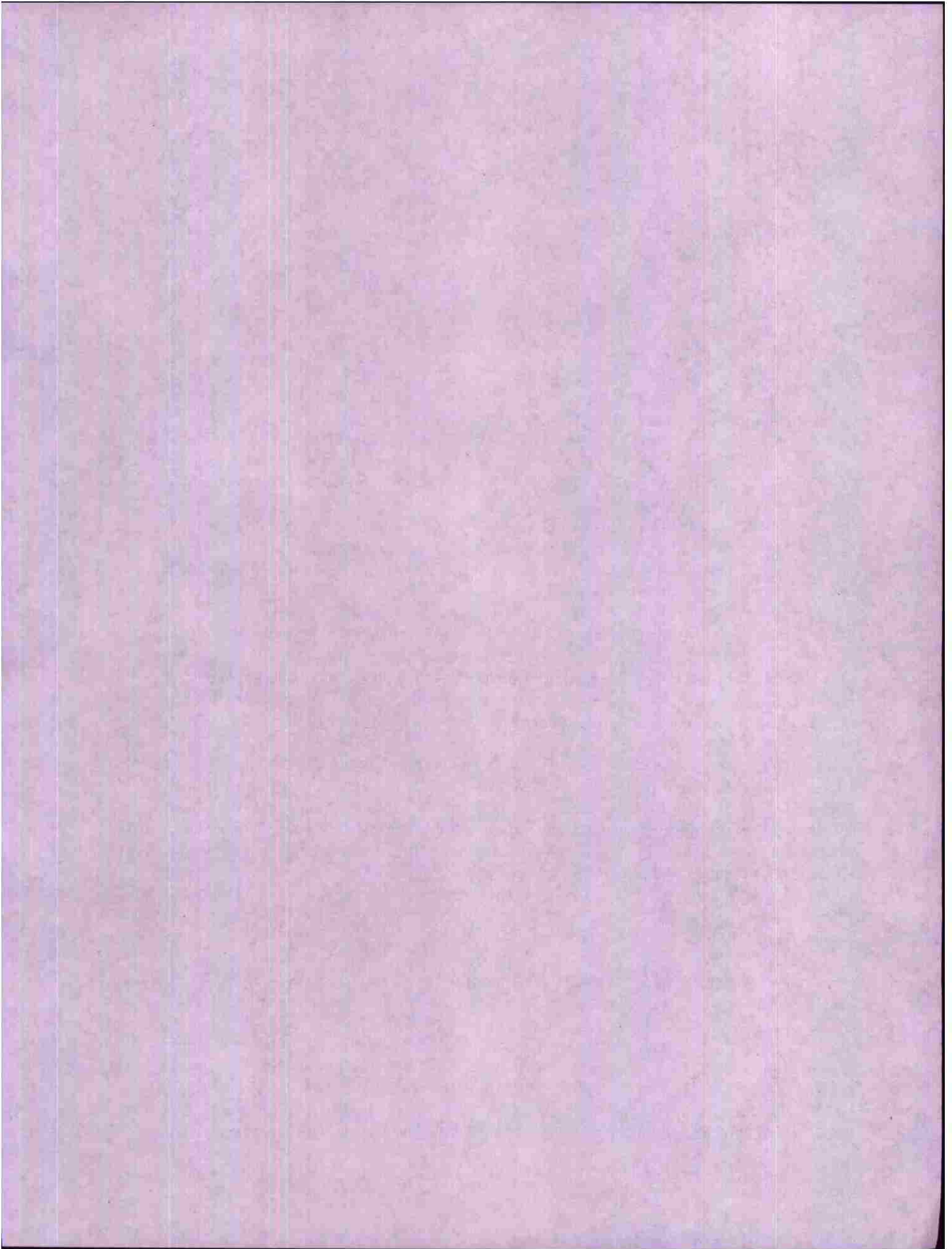
No letters have been received by the regiment during the last week. Only papers. The one you sent came. They said some very nice things about our Sam but they did not know all or else they would have said even more.

In the regiment we are getting a little restless. As spring gets closer and closer the men who are mostly farmers feel the call of their farms and a feeling of unrest is here. The weather too has been very bad lately. To-day it rained and snowed all day, the mud is simple (sic) terrible. The sheets are inches deep. I wear hip boots all the time, the only way one can keep his feet anyway clean. If it were not for rubber we sure would be in an awful fix.

During last week we had several big hikes. One for twenty miles, an all day affair. I had to go as a general overseer of the motor equipment. I really had very little to do. Just see that everything was running O.K. Wednesday we received 7 more tractors and yesterday 3 more. We now have thirty four tractors and they are sure little wonders. Hardly ten feet long and standing about five high, they can pull almost anything. While we are getting them unloaded we had to shift the car so we used one of them as a switch engine. We found most of our trouble was in finding a chain it couldn't break. These little engines weigh 5 ton and can pull our "155mm Howitzer" in and out of places where horses can now (sic) even think of going. Wish I could get two of them for the plantation.

We wouldn't need very more mules or horses. The only expense is gas. Every time they suck in breath it is 20 cents. They can pull ten tons or more about five or six miles and hour.

I'm writing by candle light now but soon hope to be able to reach up and snap on the electric lights again. Uncle Sam is wonderful in the way he equips his soldiers. We have sent down to In sur Tille for a generator something like that one we have at Montreat, only ran by gasoline instead of water. Soon we will have beaucoup electric lights. It will be such a help. It is bad enough to go to bed in a cold billet but the dark makes it worse. And then we have to eat





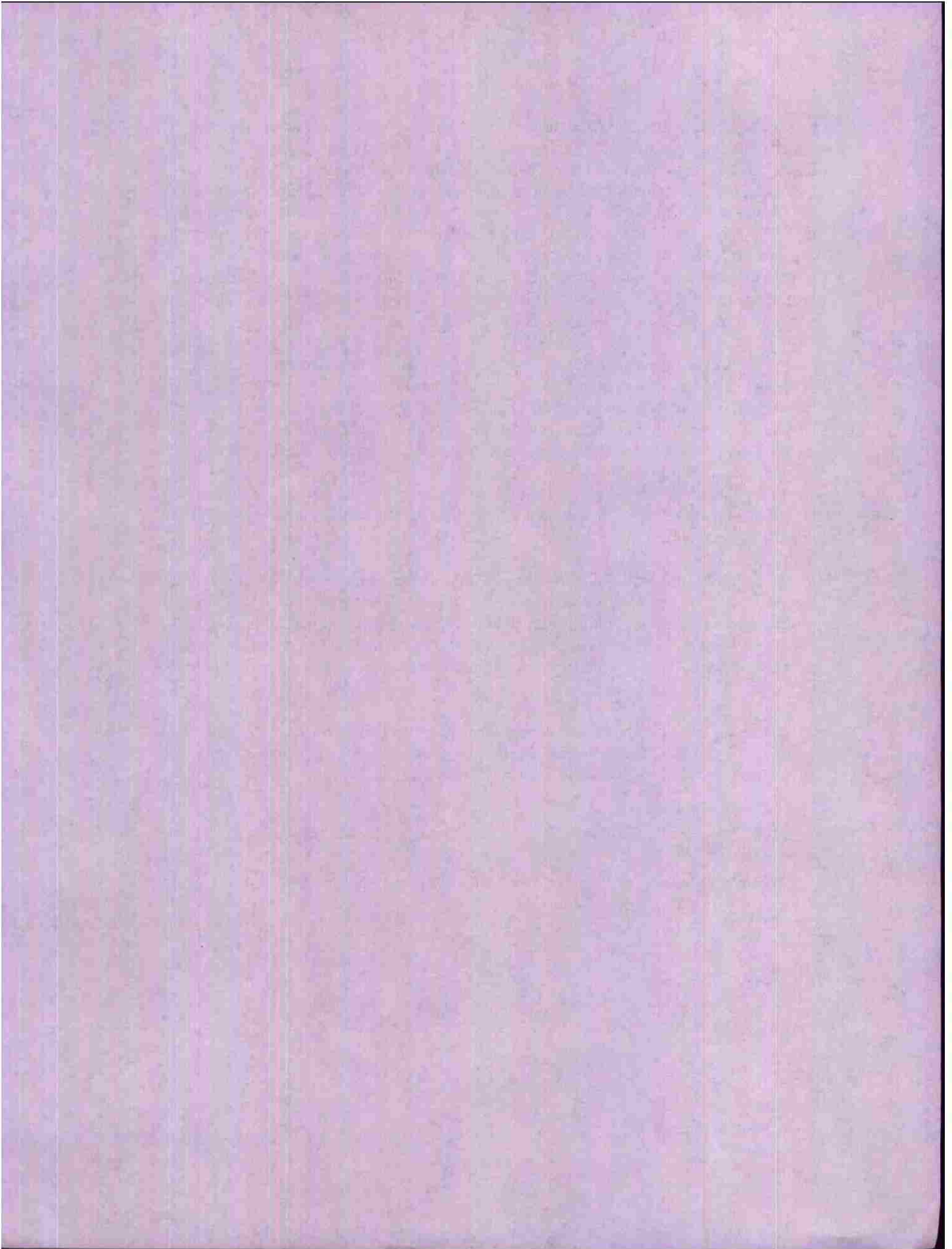
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Friday on this coming week our Brigade Commander and General Bailey are to make an inspection of our regiment. We expect to make a hit for we have a big "rep" to live up too. We are to go on a road march and take up position somewhere on the road. I wonder what they will think when they see some "lieut" wildly wave in arms and all the tractor divers begin putting on the "grougles" which are the same as "chains on an auto" They'll see those little tractors walk coolly off the hard road and go off in the mud somewhere to gun position. I hope I can get to go along. All the men are up on their toes to pull off something good. It will be our first time to really show what we can do. Here hoping for a day with a little less rain.

Rain is a wonderful thing over here. I was always taught at school that rain fell, then went into streams to the ocean then back to the clouds in vapor, then rain again, making a complete cycle. But this French rain sure disapproves all that. It is only a "one-way" road around here. All of the men in writing home said that over here, they have two seasons, the wet & the dry and that in the dry it rains six days a week and in the wet eight. We are in the wet now.

Must stop for a while now. Hope my letters are getting thro OK. I feel like they are not. The last I had from you were nearly a month old. I'm well. Hope and pray that all at home are. Lots of love to all and lots for yourself.

Your devoted son  
William



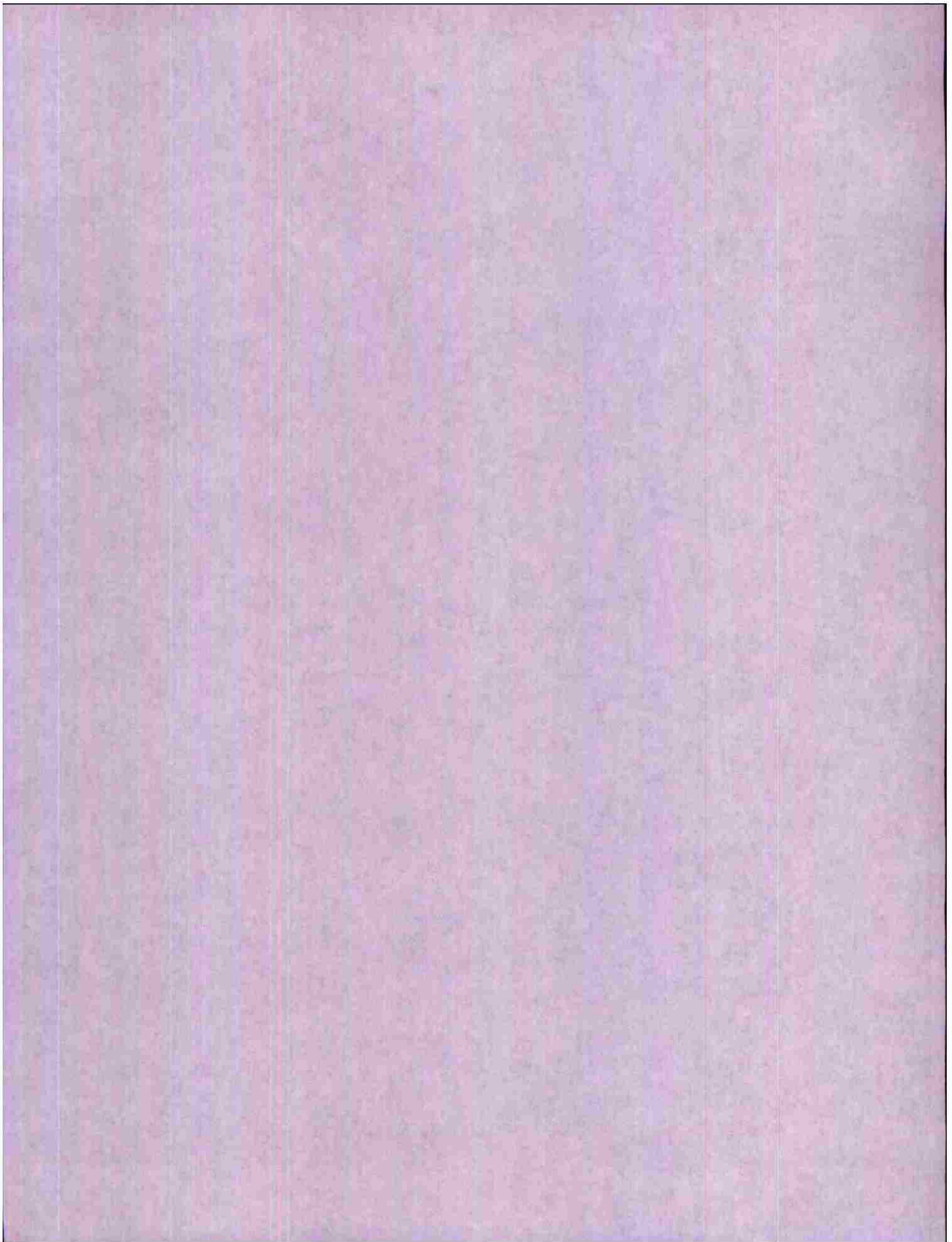


To: Gen S.R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler (ref to Sam's death)  
January 14, 1919

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FOLDER 4
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-1224

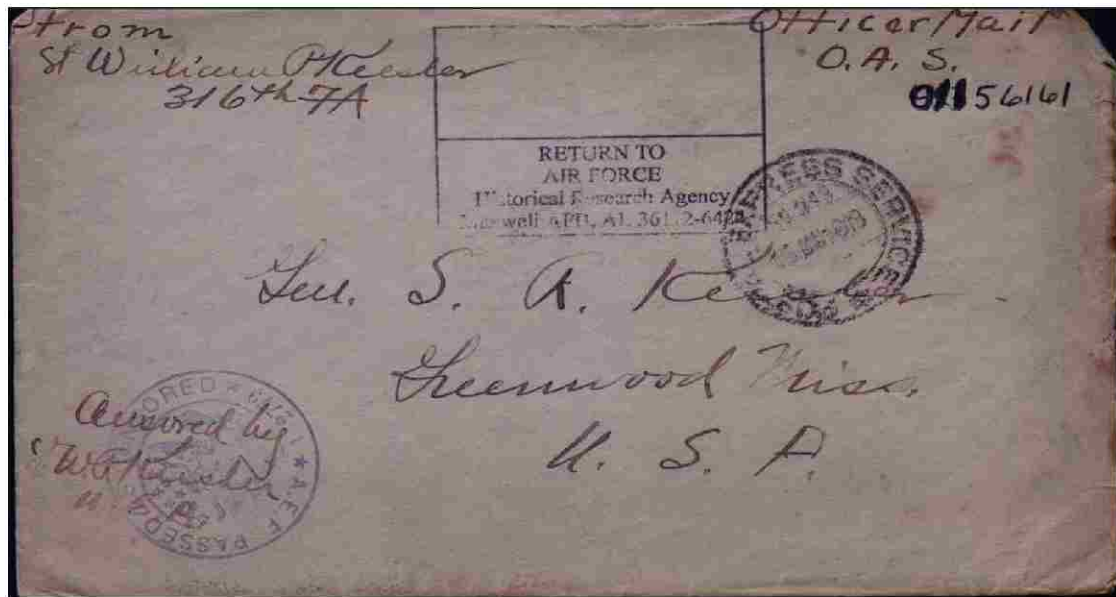
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begin to try. I've sought every map  
I could and searched them. I'm  
going down again to try at S.H.Q.  
soon. The Sgt in charge took the  
name and said he'd start some-  
thing. The Red Cross is helping won-  
derfully, it is true here I expect  
the most help. I had a pass all  
written out early and is still ready,  
so just as soon as I find out I'm  
going there. St. Riley has disappeared  
in short, I can't get a letter to him  
or at least I've received no answer,  
so yet. I believe he is on his  
way home now. If you wire  
while I'm home address, which  
you will have to get from  
Washington, it may help. He

St. Blin, France  
Jan 14, 1919

Dear Father,

Your note telling the news  
which I already heard came yester-  
day. Dear Father, words can't help a  
know as deep as yours and you  
know that I'm growing as much  
as you.

With your note came word  
from the Central Records Office, sending  
me a copy of the telegram to you, also  
a letter from the Red Cross, Hdqrs, to whom  
I had written. They gave me more  
information. According to them, Sam's  
working place is British Cemetery,  
La Mairie. This afternoon I spent  
three hours at the statistical Dept of  
S.H.Q. trying to locate the town. I  
failed but at only made me



is the one who knows what  
we want too.

There is one thing which the returning  
officers from Germany said that I  
rejoice in. It is this that all American  
officer prisoners were treated far better  
than all others. That rejoices me.

Father I thank you for sending the  
penn. I know that they were fine, for  
anything you get or have ~~anything~~ to  
do with is that. I hope YMCA. has gotten  
the money I sent to you by now. Let  
me know if not. Also about the  
balance Cox & Co was to send. They wrote  
that they had sent it. Then this month  
will end my last ~~Victory Loan~~ ~~attribution~~  
\$100. in bonds should be coming to  
you.

I must stop now. Lots of love to all.  
I will

Your devoted son  
William

OK  
Received by  
Sheep  
U.S.A.



Officer Mail  
O.A.S.  
Lt William P Keesler  
316th FA  
To: Gen S.R. Keesler  
Greenwood Miss.  
U.S.A.

St. Blin, France  
Jan 14, 1919

Dear Father,

Your note telling the news which I already knew came yesterday. Dear father, words can't help a sorrow as deep as yours but you know that I'm grieving as much as you.

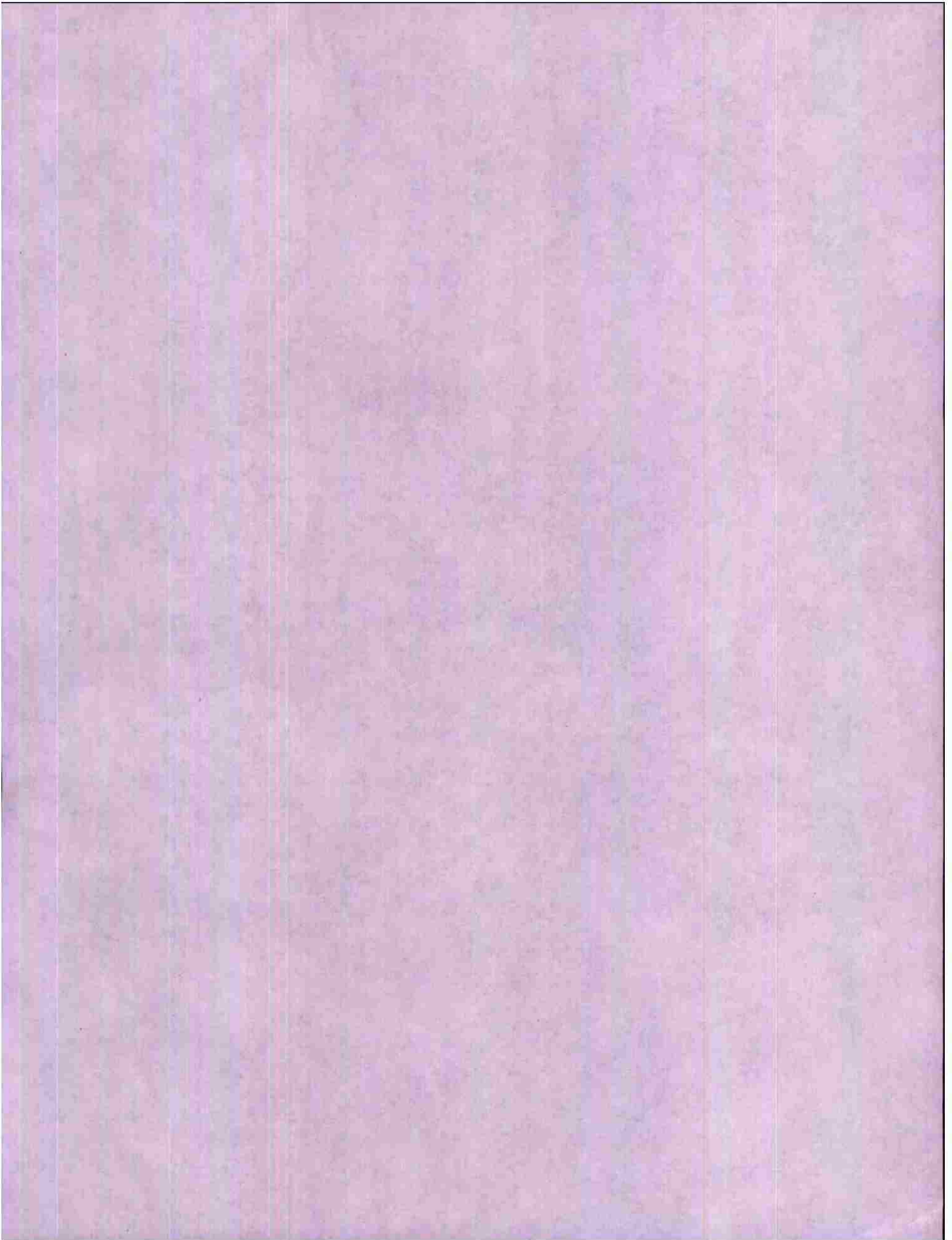
With your note came word from the Central Records office, sending me a copy of the telegram to you, also a letter from the Red Cross, Hdqrs, to whom I had written. They gave me more information. According to them, Sam's resting place is Parish Cemetery, La Mausieue. This afternoon I spend three hours at the statistical Dept of G.H.Q. trying to locate the town. I failed but that only made me begin to try. I've bought every map I could and searched them. I'm going down again to try at G.H.Q. soon. The Sgt in charge took the name and said he'd start something. The Red Cross is helping wonderfully. It is thru them I expect the most help. I had a pass all written out ready and is still ready, so just as soon as I find out I'm going there. Lt. Riley has disappeared almost. I can't get a letter to him or at least I've received no answer as yet. I believe he is on his way home now. If you will write his home address, which you will have to get from Washington, it may help. He is the one who knows what we want too.

There is one thing which the returning officers from Germany said that helps me. It is this that all American officer prisoners were treated far better than all others. That helps me.

Father I thank you for sending the furs. I know that they were fine, for anything you get or have everything to do with is that. I hope Y.M.C.A. has gotten the money I sent to you by now. Let me know if not. Also about the balance Cox & Co was to send. They wrote that they had sent it. Then this month will end my last Liberty Loan allotment. \$100 in bonds should be coming to you.

I must stop now. Lots of love to all. I'm well.

Your devoted son,  
William



To: Chief of Air Service, AAF  
From: Lt Riley  
January 19, 1919

168.7567-Box 3

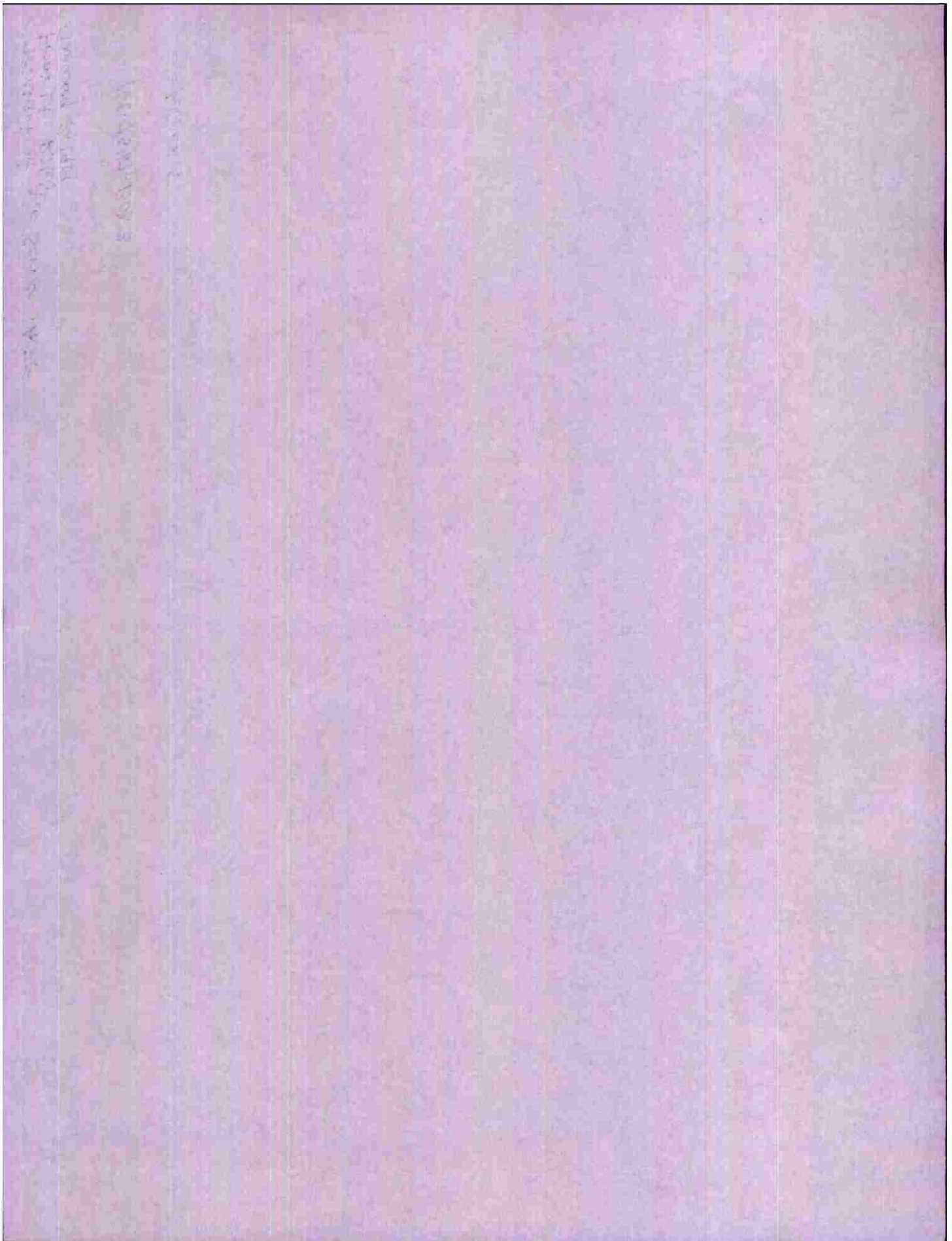
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AIR FORCE  
Historical Branch Agency  
New York 104

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AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES  
U.S. AIR SERVICE, PARISRETURN  
AIR  
Historical R  
Maxwell AFB

France, January 16th. 1919.

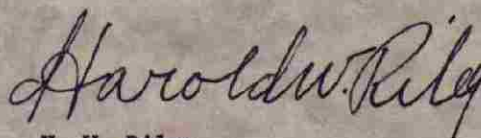
From: 1st. Lieut H. W. Riley, 24th Aero Squadron

To: Chief of Air Service, American E. F., (Thru channels)

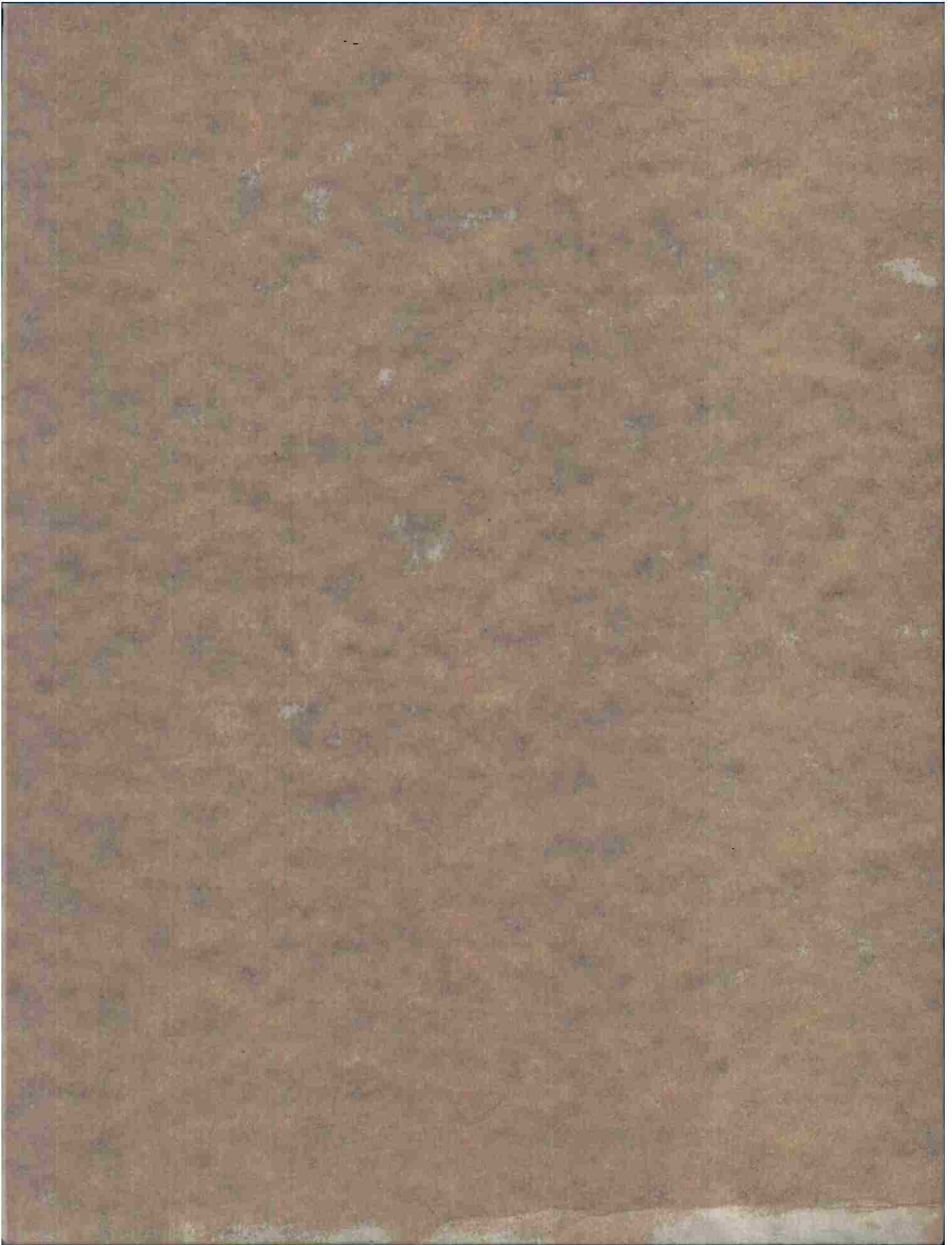
Subject: Distinguished conduct of 2nd. Lieut Samuel R. Keesler,  
observer, 24th. Aero Squadron.

1. In the late afternoon of the 8th. of October, 1918, Lieut. Keesler and myself were on a mission east of Verdun. Shortly after we crossed the lines and just before we had covered the assigned territory, four Fokkers came from the French side of the line and attacked us. I am certain Lieut. Keesler shot down the leader as he attacked first, and I saw him go down in a steep nose dive. The other three E. A. opened fire immediately and crippled one aileron, shot away my rudder controls and part of my elevators. Lieut. Keesler fired all the way down and after we crashed, although he had been shot three times thru the chest and three times in the abdomen. The three Huns hung over us at a low altitude and kept firing after we were clear of the wreck. Lieut. Keesler was hit in the hip before we could get under cover. From 5:15 until 12:00 that night, when we reached a dressing station, Lieut. Keesler received no medical attention and although he must have suffered terribly, he showed wonderful self-control and won the admiration of all the German soldiers who came to look at him. Lieut. Keesler died the following noon.

2. Lieut. Keesler's conduct was a grand demonstration of the morale of our Air Service and I hope it will not go unrecognized.



H. W. Riley,  
1st Lieut., A. S., U.S.A.  
Pilot, 24th Aero Squadron.



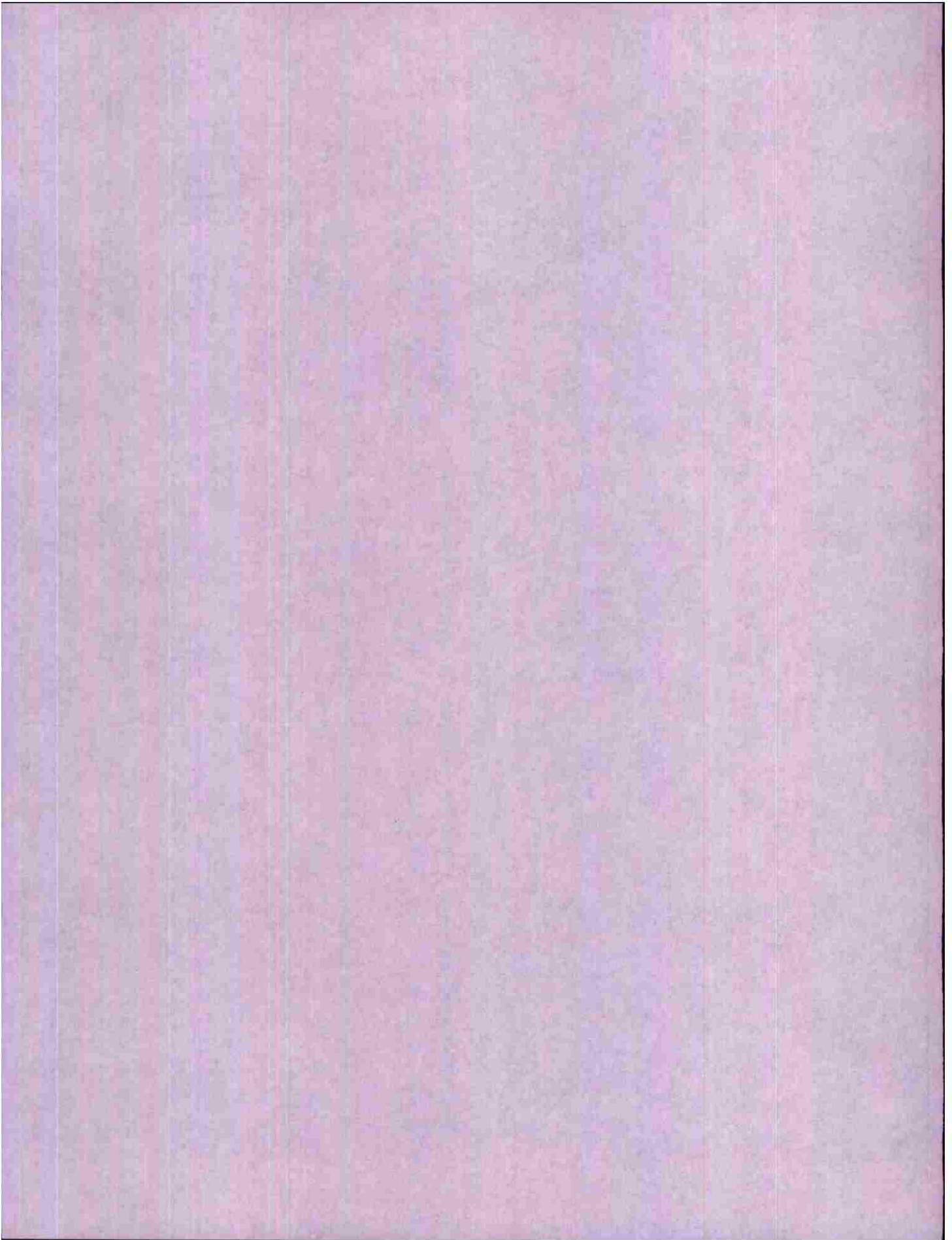


10. THIS S.A. RECEIVED  
From: William Keester (ref to Sam's death)  
January 18, 1919

100-7567-Box 2  
T.M.D.C. 4  
RETURN TO  
AIR FORCE  
Historical Research A  
Maxwell AFB, AL 361

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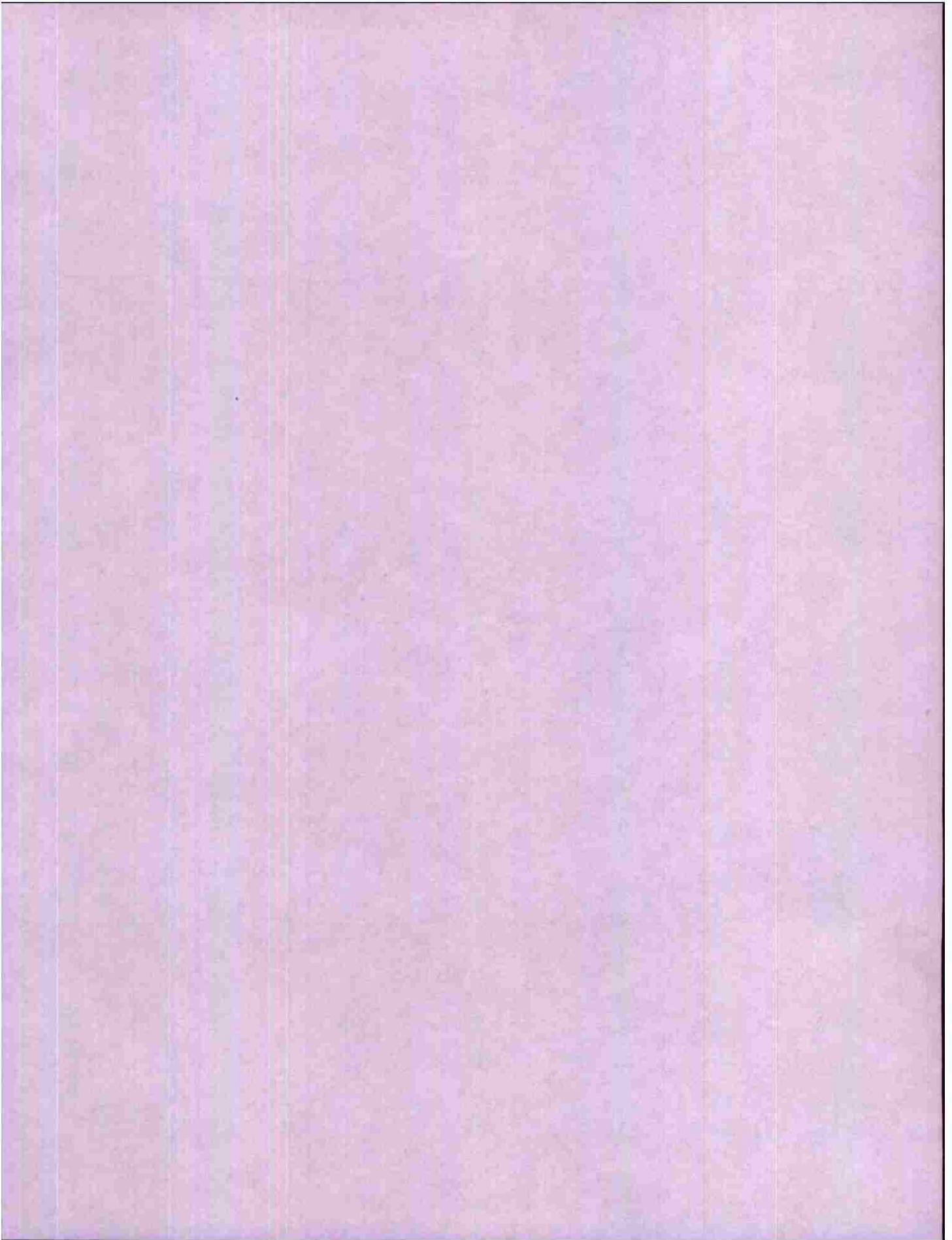
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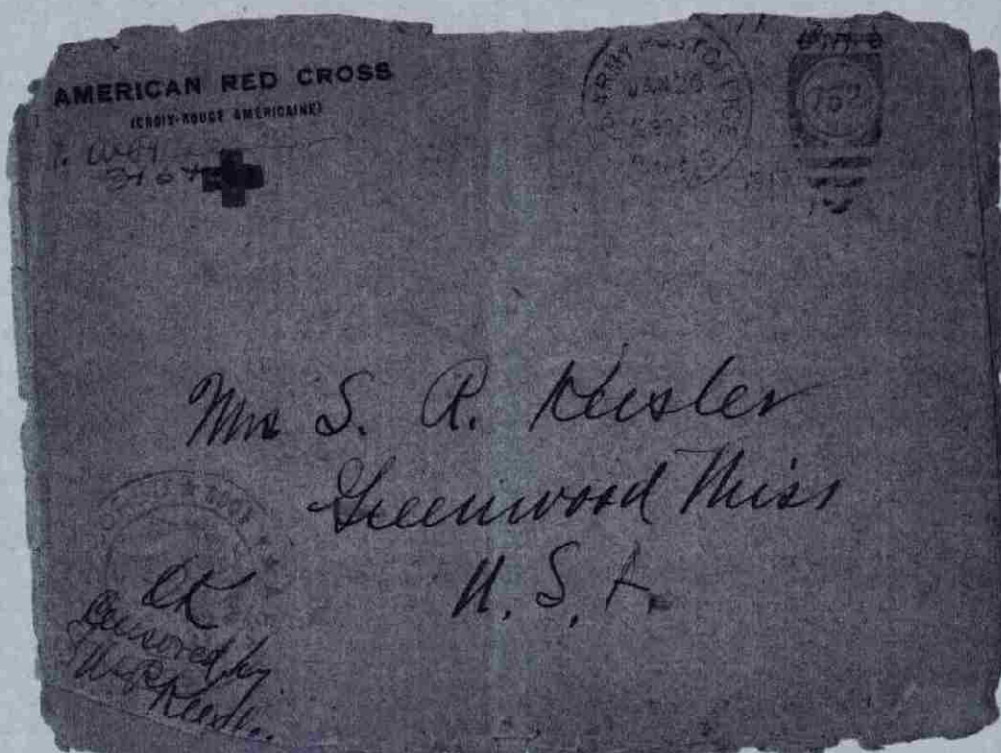




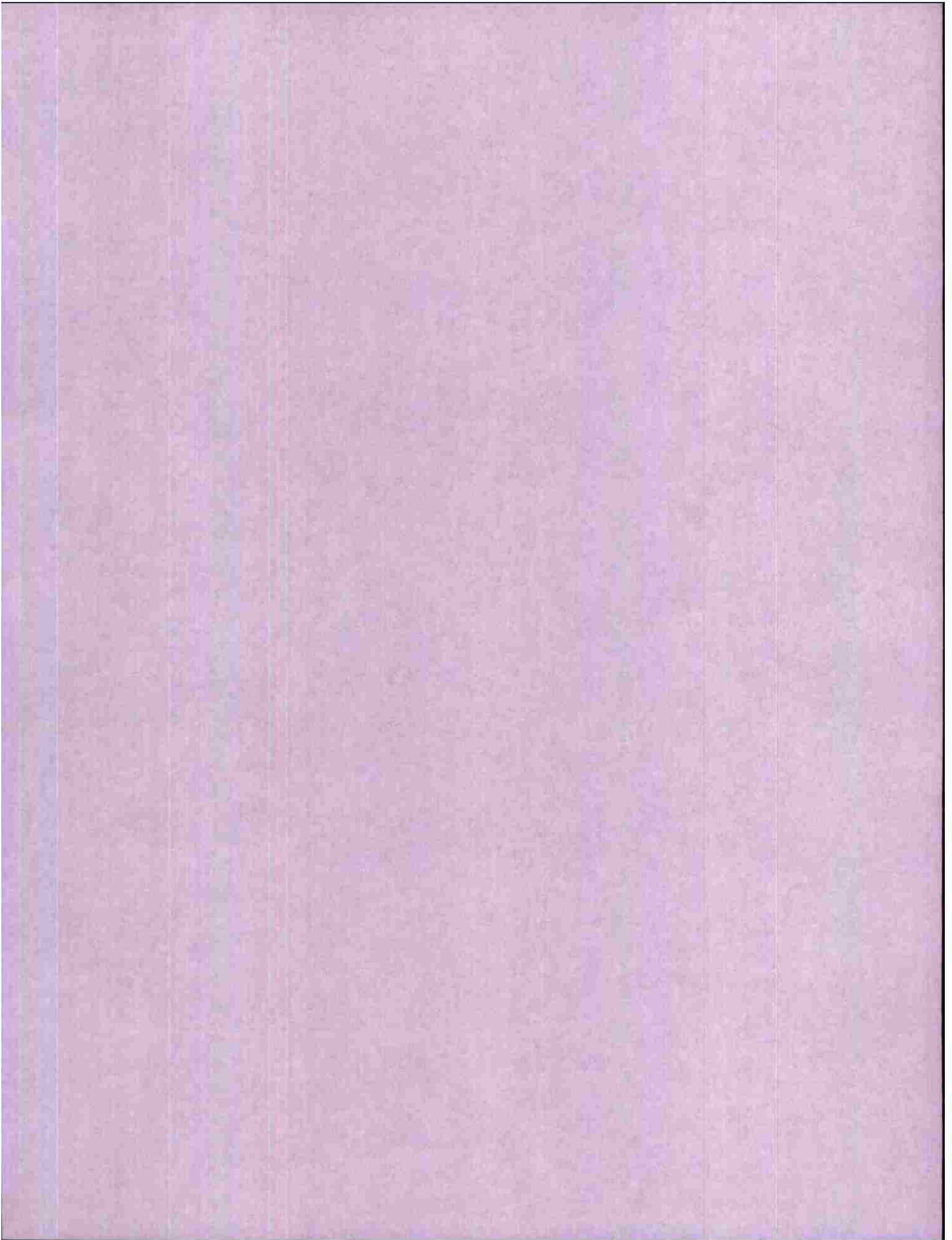
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Historical Research Agency  
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

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at 12:30 AM that the Red Cross was full & that the Y MC A was "quite" so we just piled up on the floor and benches of the Y. I couldn't sleep at all and so in writing, we leave at 7:28 this morning.

Yesterday, the Thoms came over & the air big Mike and did not get to go along but from what I heard the bike was a success. It is a fine night to watch from one hill top and see the whole regiment "charging" along. It is so different from any other activity. I need to think of activities with leadership and all that sort of thing. Now I think of it



ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
WITH THE  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

June 18 1919

Byron France

Dearest Mother

Just wrote where I am now. In Berlin and it is 4:30 PM and I've been up all night. The reason for such a sudden

change was a telegram received yesterday noon which said to send someone to Marseille, for some trucks, so in now handling again the road which I handled in Sept with a Company of trucks. I hope it will be my last too. I don't like this work when it is raining & doing other mean things. I have eight men with me. We found that when we got here



in turn of gasoline, our greatest oil.  
 To see these little factors coming  
 down the road in rather spectacular  
 tho, at night they are real weird, the  
 exhaust gas brought up into the air  
 will most of the time there is a  
 dusted flame flying out of the exhaust  
 making the whole factor look  
 like some thing covered.  
 You little thing of our grip &  
 trouble came just as I was leaving.  
 Further down your are so wonderfully  
 fine and everything else that is good.  
 We do everything that can be done on  
 here. It has been very interesting and  
 discovering the way my little wife has  
 been related. Most of the news I have come  
 from you at home. I told you in my  
 last letter about the name of the  
 town where I am now. It wasn't even  
 right for I couldn't find it on any  
 map. But I will now tell the  
 correct name.



it was my other coat when  
& changed. She is certainly  
pleased and your note  
mother she said was

better than the fur. I thank  
you all. Sybil said she  
felt bad about taking me  
away from you. I just  
wrote her she was wrong  
way much so as she was  
the one being taken. You  
need another change to do it  
you.

My mice are arriving  
as if the land floor &  
bushes were leather beds.  
I hope their nest beds  
will be. I hate to have them  
put up with this sort of  
thing. This time if couldn't  
be helped. Tomorrow night



ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
WITH THE  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

191

2  
Mother when I first received  
the news about Sam, some  
thing told me seemed to  
stop working things and not  
seem the same to me. I  
and Sam but your letter  
unpacked the load which  
brought them. Altho with all  
our added trouble I give  
and water. It seems like  
almost too much to bear, yet  
with God's help we can and  
will.

I got a letter from Sybil  
too, she had just received  
the fur. If I had it with  
me I'd send it to you. But  
much to my sorrow I lost

OK  
 5/6  
 5/6  
 5/6

we will spend on the train and  
 that is had enough. then we get  
 to Mobile. I hope we won't have  
 to wait long for a want to buy  
 week for many reasons.  
 That close. We write all along  
 the route. We will. But here to all  
 and let for yourself for when in  
 making your death son. William



Dijon France  
Jan 18, 1919

Dearest Mother

Just look where I am now. In Dijon and it is 4:30 a.m. and I've been up all night. The reason for such a sudden change was a telegram received yesterday noon, which said to send personnel to Marseille, for some trucks, so I'm now traveling again the road which I traveled in Sept with a Convoy of trucks. I hope it will be my last too. I don't like this work when it is raining & doing other mean things. I have eight men with me. We found that when we got here at 12:30 A.M. that the Red Cross was full & that the YMCA Inn was "ditto" so we just piled up on the floor and benches of the Y. I couldn't sleep at all and so I'm writing. We leave at 7:28 this morning.

Yesterday, Gen Moses came over to see our big hike. I did not get to go along but from what I heard the hike was a success. It is a fine sight to watch from one hilltop and see the whole regiment "chugging" along. It is so different from any other artillery. I used to think of artillery with beautiful houses and all that sort of thing. Now I think of it in terms of gasoline, cup grease & oil. To see those little tractors coming down the road is rather spectacular tho, at night they are real weird. The exhaust goes straight up into the air and most of the time there is a blue & red flame flying out of the exhaust making the whole tractors look like something possessed.

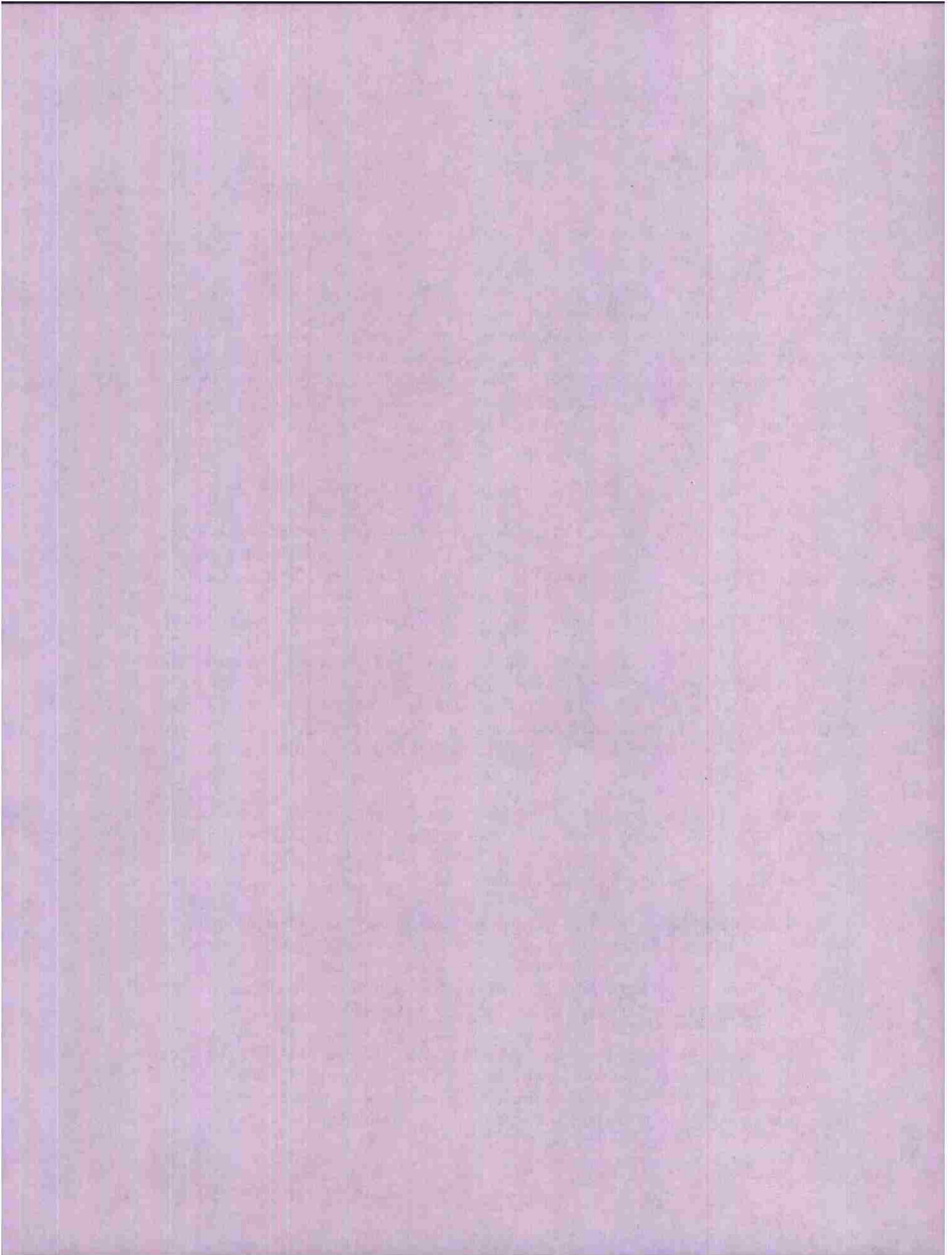
Your letter telling of our griefs & troubles came just as I was leaving. Mother dear you are so wonderfully brave and everything else that is good. I'll do everything that can be done over here. It has been very disheartening (sic) and distressing the way my letters & wires have been treated. Most of the news I have came from you at home. I told you in my last letter about the name of the town where Sam rests. It wasn't even right for I couldn't find it on my map. But I will now with the correct name.

Mother when I first received the news about Sam, something within me seemed to stop working. Things did not seem the same to my eyes and ears but your letter snapped the cord which bound them. Altho with all our added trouble of fire and water, it seems like almost too much to bear, yet with Gods help we can and will.

I got a letter from Elizabeth too, she had just received the furs. If I had it with me I'd send it to you. But much to my sorrow I left it in my other coat where I changed. She is certainly pleased and your note Mother she said was better than the furs. I thank you all. Elizabeth said she felt bad about taking me away from you. I just wrote her she was wrong very much so as she was the one being taken. You need another daughter don't you.

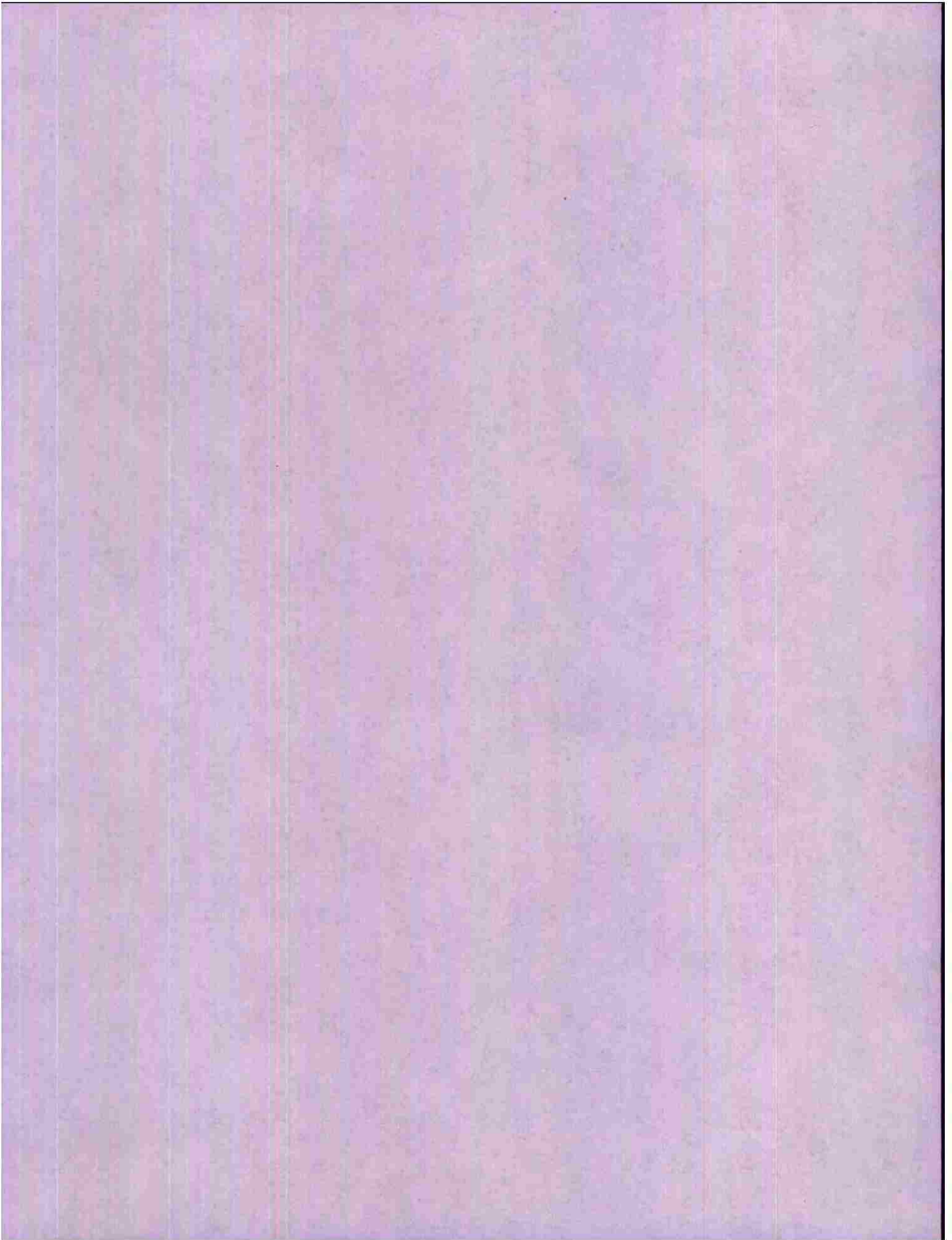
My men are snoring as if the hard floor & benches were feather beds. I hope their next beds will be. I hate to have them put up with this sort of thing. This time it couldn't be helped. Tomorrow night we will spend on the train and that is bad enough. Then we get to Marseille. I hope we won't have to wait long for I want to hurry back for many reasons.





Must close. Will write all along the route. Am well. Best love to all and lots for yourself, for whom I'm praying.

Your devoted son,  
William



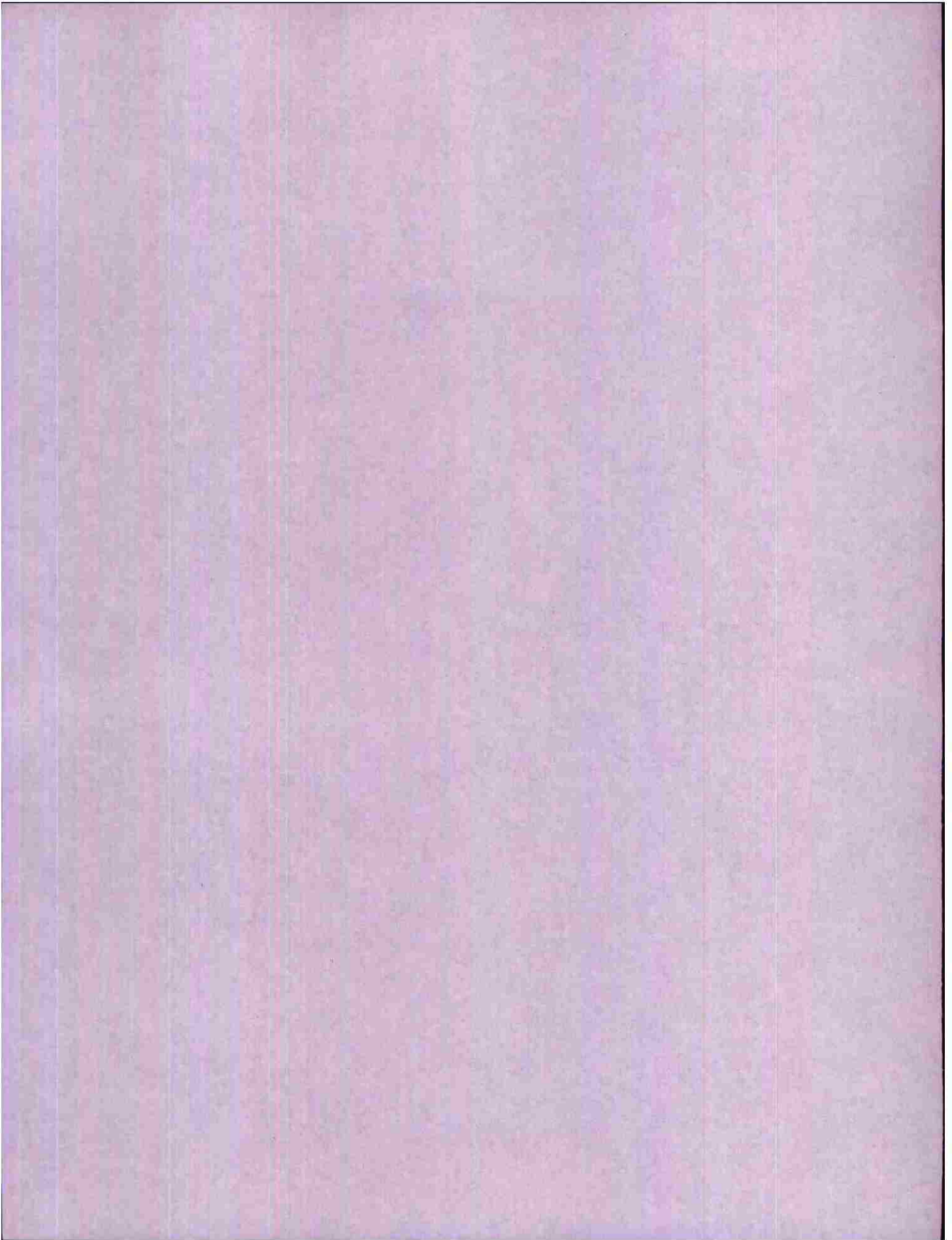


To: Mrs S.R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler (no ref to Sam)  
January 19, 1919

168-7561-Box 2
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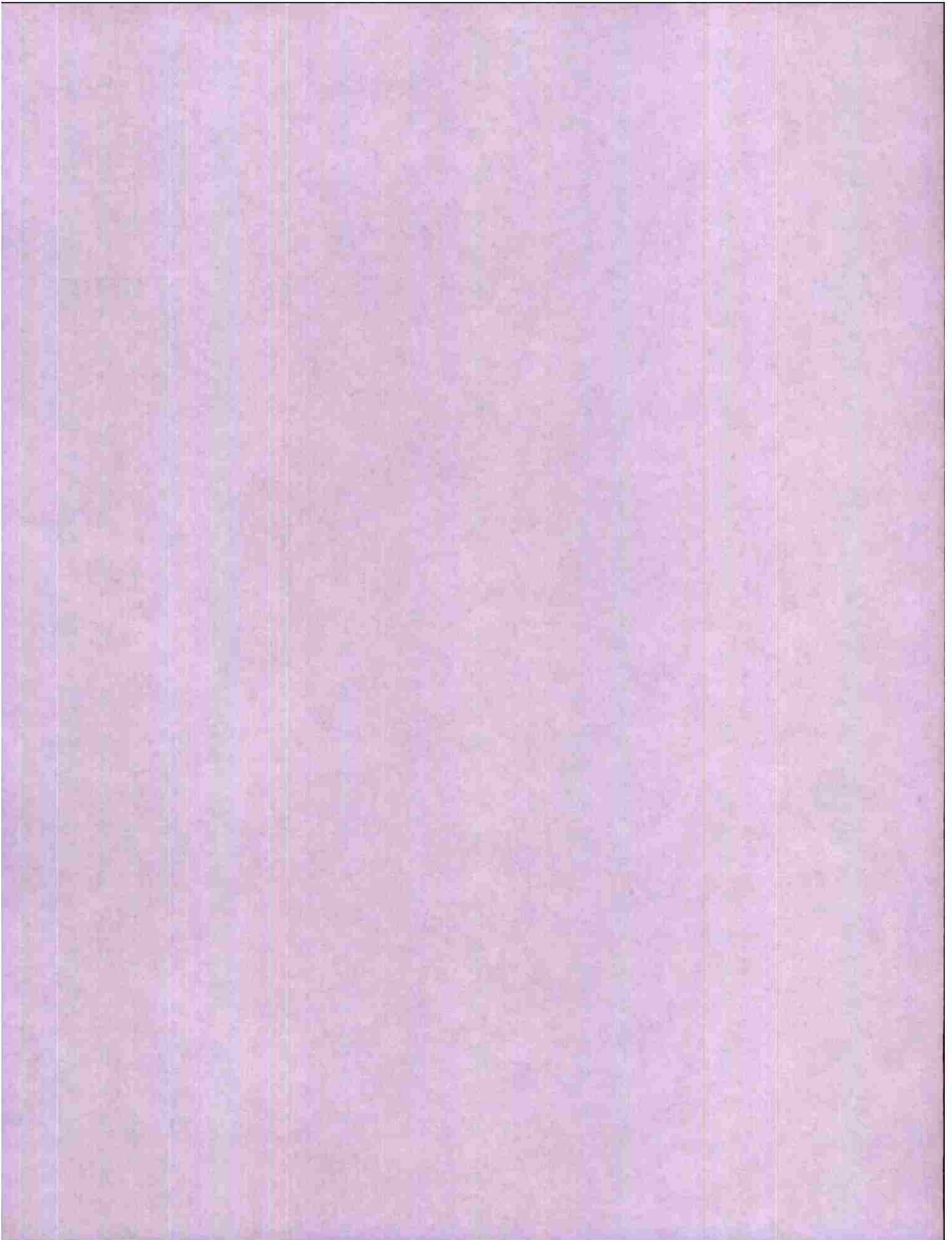


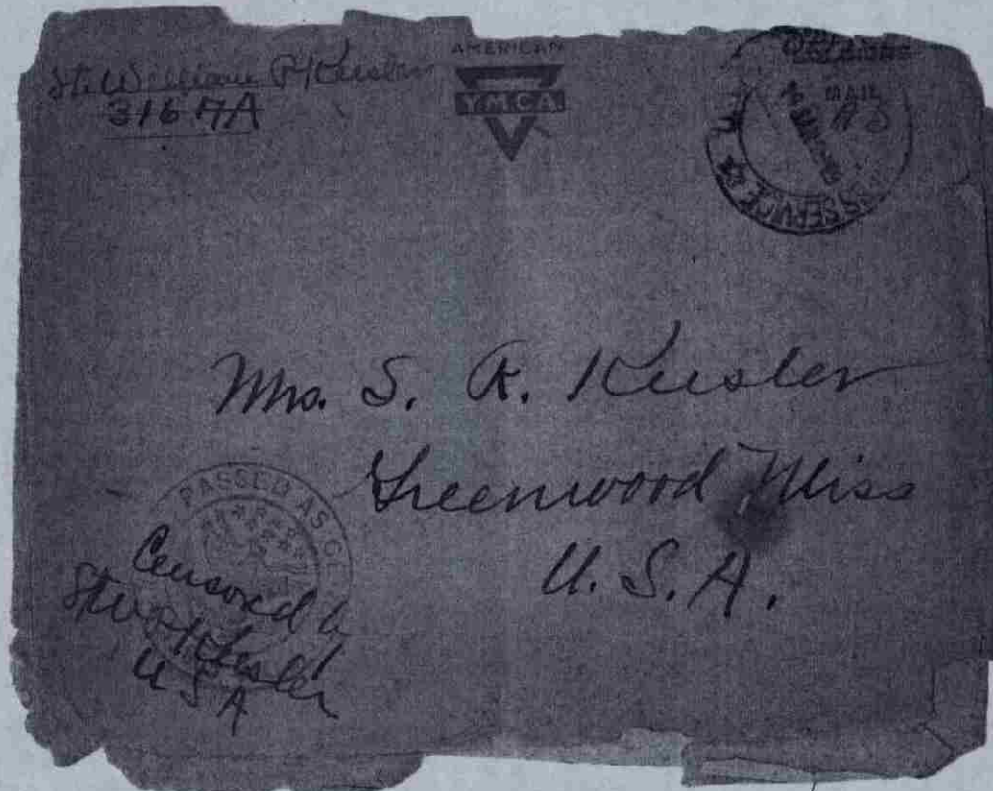


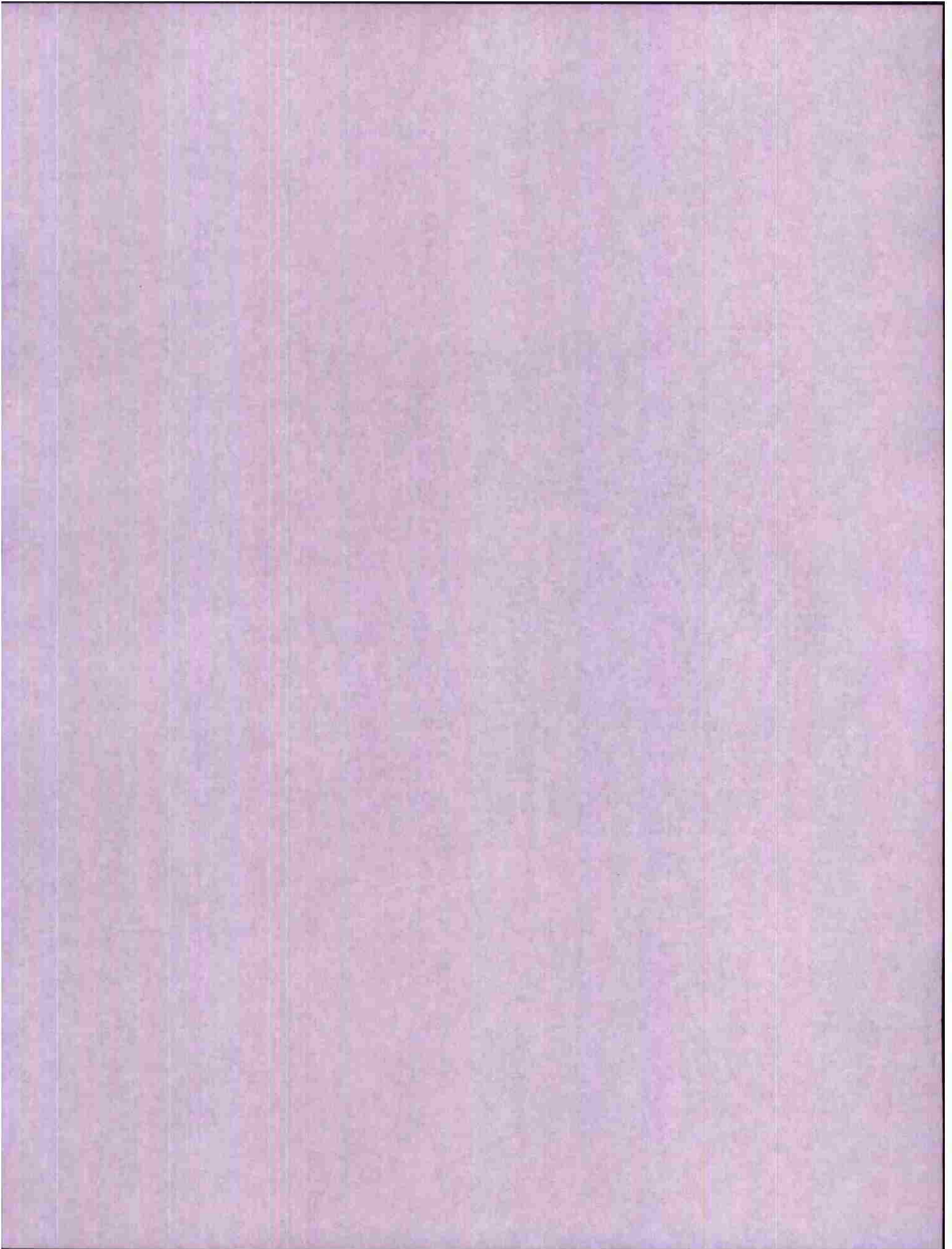
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ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
WITH THE  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME *Wm. Keesler*  
*Marseille*  
*France*



*Jan 19* 1919

Dearest Mother

It seems like a couple  
of years ago from that letter  
I wrote in Dijon and now  
but really it has been but  
little over twenty four hours. We  
been up all the time that is  
what makes it so long. It  
was a hard trip. We had  
but about three hours sleep  
in the last twenty four. The  
men were worse off than I  
as they had to ride III Class  
and I had I. But at that I  
believe I was beat as I had  
to stand up a long while

We got in at 3:30 P.M. just  
 two hours late that's all. If  
 I had not have known  
 the ropes & means around  
 Nashville we certainly would  
 have been in a fix. It was  
 bad enough as it was. As I  
 had to pile up on the  
 floor again. I took the money  
 the package but there was  
 no room so we hit the  
 couch. I did come up to  
 and try for a room at the  
 Red Oak but I came out of  
 the "fringe" so "stop" I went  
 on the floor sitting in a  
 couple of hours sleep. At  
 11:00 not so bad after all.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
WITH THE  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(2)



ID \_\_\_\_\_

After breakfast I reported and got the new barracks & mess and passes. They wanted the latter the most strange to say. This afternoon I'm going on an auto ride around the city. When I was here before I did not see very much of the city. It is a pretty place to look at but dirty in all respects. I believe this town has more restricted areas than any other in the world.

I'm looking forward to the trip back thru that beautiful country. I saw it in the early



fall before so now it is  
 mid winter I want to see the  
 Charge. Im hoping to get back  
 inside a week. Im getting thir  
 time my old friend the "Ash  
 Quad". The Ash Can for fair.  
 But we will get back.

Best love to all and lots  
 for your self. Im well  
 your devoted son  
 William

OK  
 Canned by  
 St. W. K. K. K.  
 U.S.A.

Lt William P Keesler  
316 FA  
To: Mrs S.R. Keesler  
Greenwood Miss  
U.S.A.

Marseille  
France  
Jan 19, 1919

Dearest Mother,

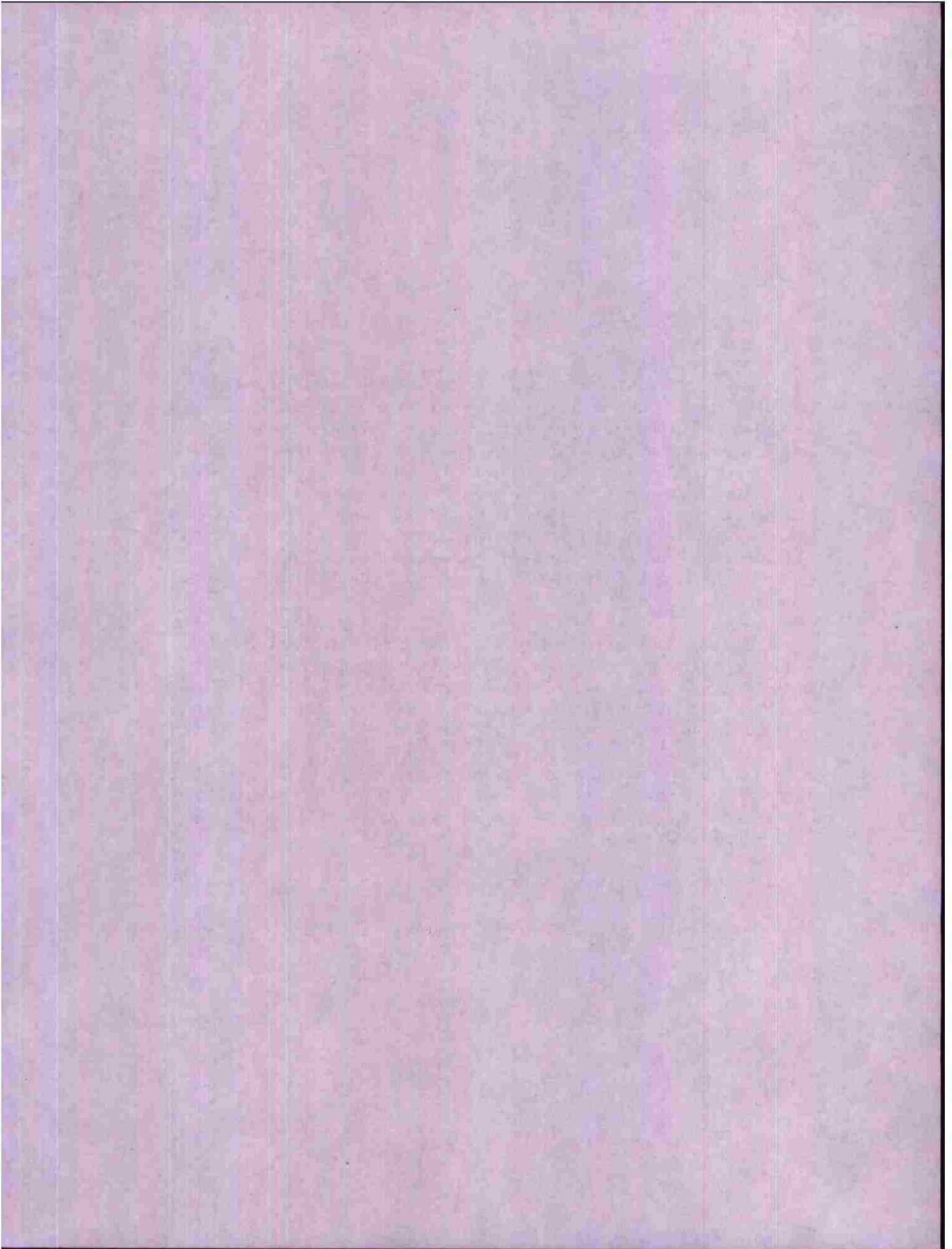
It seems like a couple of years ago from that letter I wrote in Dijon and now but really it has been but little over twenty-four hours. I've been up all the time that is what makes it so long. It was a hard trip. I've had but about three hours sleep in the last twenty hours. The men were worse off than I as they had to ride III class and I had I. But at that I believe I was beat as I had to stand up a long while. We got in at 3:30 A.M. Just two hours late that's all. If I had not have known the ropes & means around Marseille we certainly would have been in a fix. It was bad enough as it was. All of us had to pile up on the floor again. I took the men to the barracks but there was no room so we hit the boards. I did come up town and try for a room at the Red Cross Rest Rooms but it was "Finis" so "flop" I went on the floor getting a couple of hours sleep. It was not so bad after all.

After breakfast I reported and got the men barracks & mess and passes. They wanted the latter the most strange to say. This afternoon I'm going on an auto ride around the city. When I was here before I did not see very much of the city. It is a pretty place to look at but dirty in all respects. I believe this town has more restricted areas than any other in the world.

I'm looking forward to the trip back thru that beautiful country. I saw it in the early fall before so now it is mid winter. I want to see the change. I'm hoping to get back inside a week. I'm getting this time my old friend the "Nash Quad". The Ash Can forfair. But we will get back.

Best love to all and lots for yourself. I'm well.

Your devoted son  
William



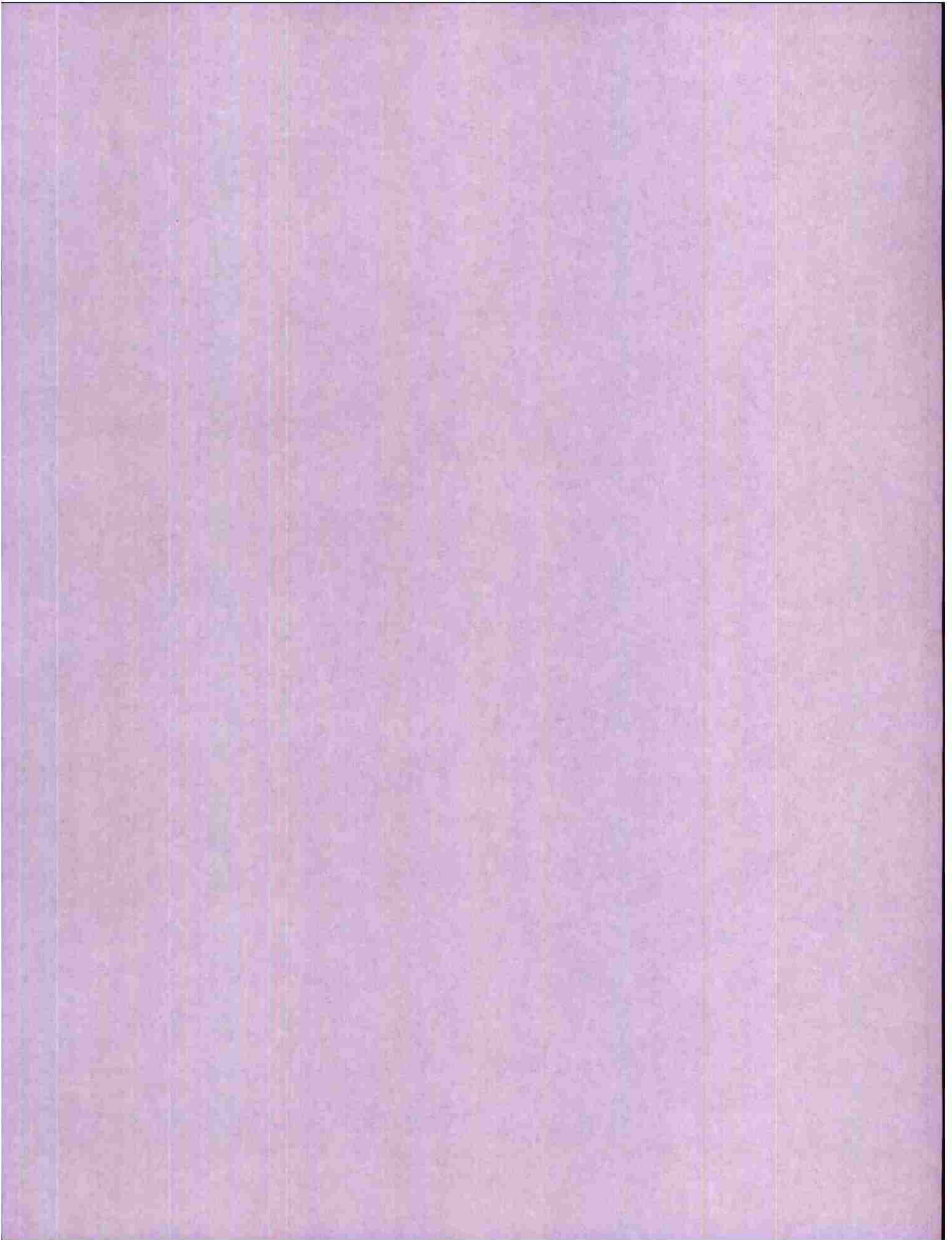


To: Mrs S.R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler (slight ref to Sam)  
January 28, 1919

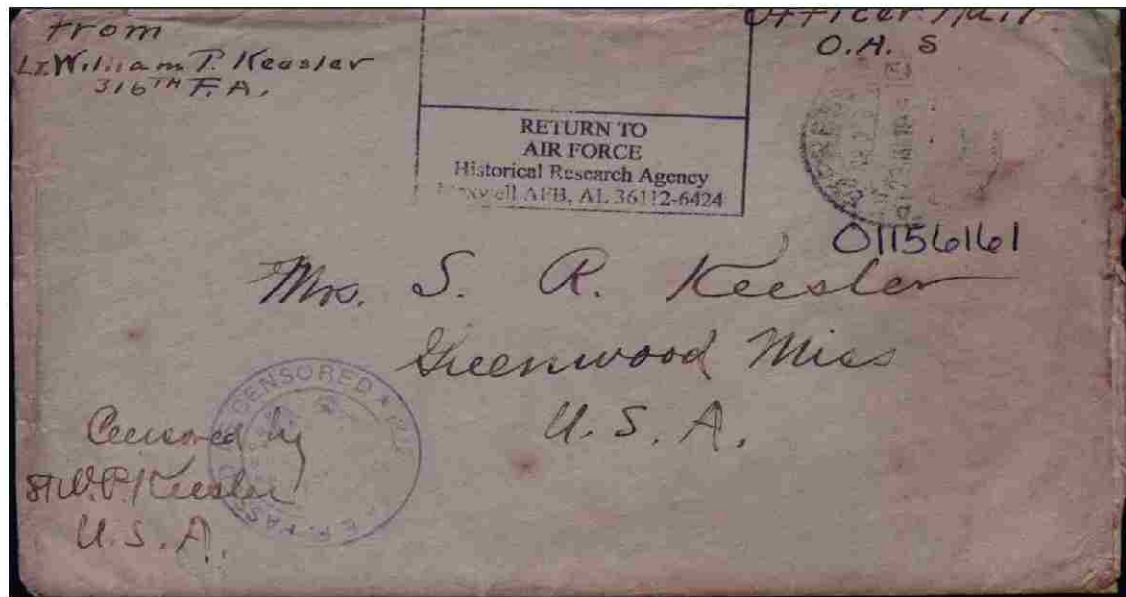
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by running into it. Besides that we got caught in a big snow storm and the trucks decided that it was there day off and just wouldn't start when we wanted to. They were worse than the "old mule." It took us over four hours to get four machines started. It was a new cold morning but we sure got warmed up & eating & etc. After so long a time we got started and got going. And the road was so pretty and smooth and we were just making such good time when I look behind & I saw the rear truck do a double turn in the middle of the road & behold another noise steering away. There was nothing to do but put

St. Blaine, France  
Jan 28, 1919

dear Mother,

Back again at last after a very hard trip. We left Lyon in good shape but hadn't gone very far before trouble came and plenty of it. We broke six steering arms before we got back. Now that sounds real bad but knowing that we could not get back without making quite a few of them, I had laid in a supply and we just put in new ones and came ahead. The Nash Quad there is a great car for making things. It can break anything, from your back by cranking, to a side of house



in another which we did need it wouldn't  
 fit, then after two hours we got one that  
 would and away we went. This time we  
 made no stop till we landed here. You  
 should have seen us coming in. One afraid  
 you would not have recognized me at  
 all. I had on a long ranch coat, hip boots,  
 a helmet and the grease & dirt of the road. I  
 was a mess but I sure was glad to get  
 back to wear the "Red Wild Cat" make  
 its hair and put my feet before my  
 own fire and have a real cup of  
 coffee with a whiskey. (I had almost forgotten  
 how to spell it) The trip except for the  
 trouble and cold was fine. If I had had  
 a cold or anything like that I would  
 have had a much worse time so I'm  
 satisfied. And how I did sleep last night  
 oh it was so good to be on your own  
 blankets and etc again.

The night before I left Marseille  
 as I was sitting in the Red Cross Hotel a  
 Major came in and it was Dr McConnell  
 from D.C. Never was so glad to see any  
 one in my life. We had a nice long  
 talk. He told me of writing you and  
 also about the races he had put in  
 about Sam and lots of small things about  
 other boys I knew. He could not add  
 anything to my knowledge, he having



had the same experience with the different Records Offices that I had had. I enjoyed seeing and talking to him very much.

Well I got in I had lots & lots of mail, a big pile of papers & etc. But your one letter & one from father and Elizabeth were best of all. I searched for yours first, for I knew it was there. Before I thought I wanted to hear but I did not know what real wanting was, now I do. Every thing that you want now will be done if I can do it. Now I want to be with you all now. Everything is "done over here" and I want to come home, to help, to be with you all. I have never felt so before but now I feel like my place is a home. But there was

be a time coming soon when I  
can be there.

Ed Keebler is in Chaumont, just  
31 KM (20 miles) from here. He has an  
M.T.C. company down there. I'm  
going down just as soon as I can,  
which I hope will be tomorrow.

Must stop now. All well. Best  
love to all. Your loving son  
William

Officer Mail  
 O.A.S.  
 Lt William P. Keesler  
 316th F.A.  
 To: Mrs S.R. Keesler  
 Greenwood Miss  
 U.S.A.

St. Blin, France  
 Jan 28, 1919

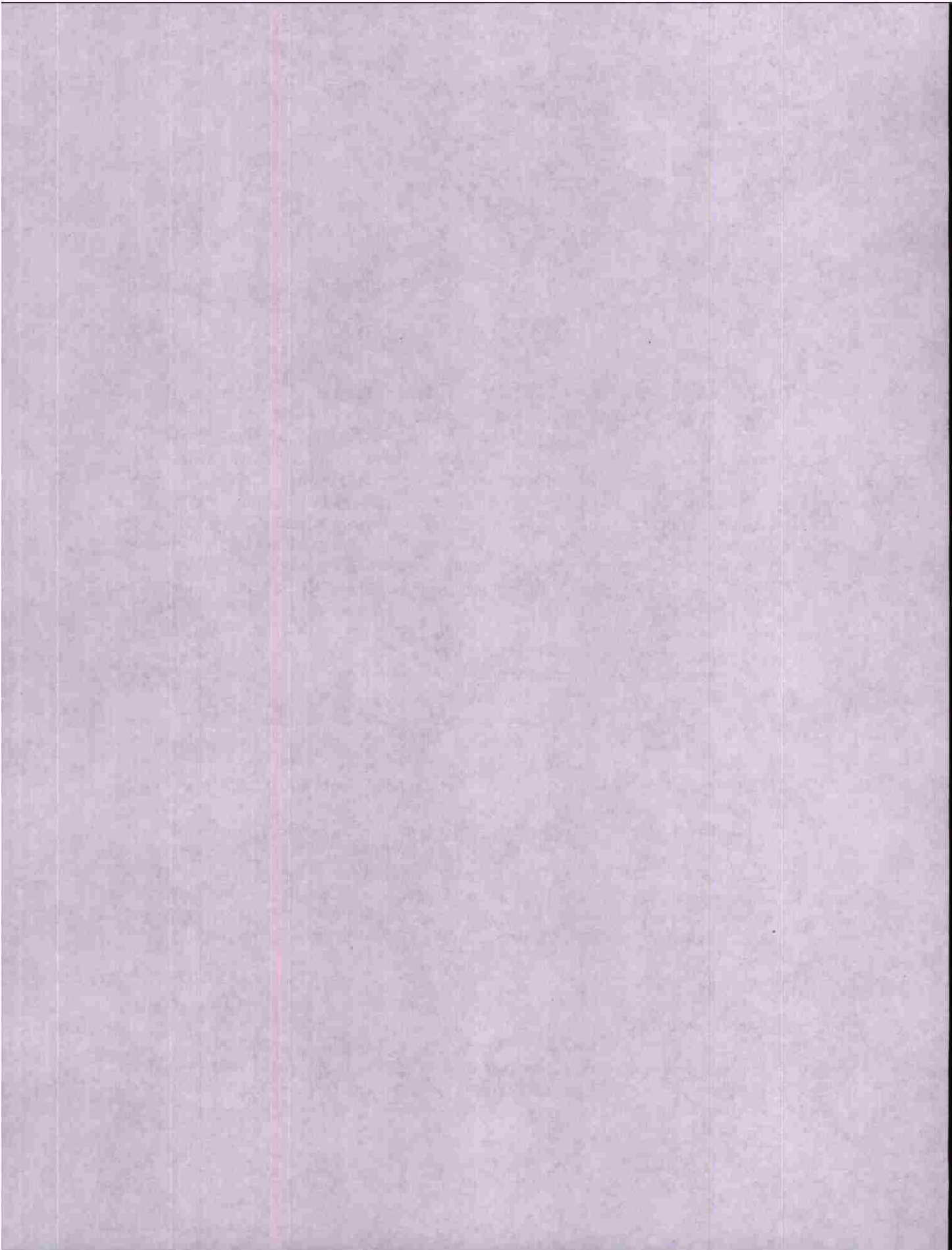
Dear Mother,

Back again at last after a very hard trip. We left Lyon in good shape but hadn't gone very far before trouble came and plenty of it. We broke six steering arms before we got back. Now that sounds real bad but knowing that we could not get back with out breaking quite a few of them, I had laid in a supply and we just put in new ones and came ahead. The Nash Quad truck is a great case for breaking things. It can break anything from your back by cranking, to a side of a house by running into it. Besides that we got caught in a big snow storm and the trucks decided that it was there (sic) day off and just wouldn't start when we wanted too (sic). They were worse than the "old mule." It took us over four hours to get four machines started. It was a very cold morning but we sure got warmed up cranking & etc. After so long a time we got started and got going. And the road was so pretty and smooth and we were just making such good time when I look behind and saw the rear truck do a double S turn in the middle of the road & behold another broken steering arm. There was nothing to do but put in another which we did and it wouldn't fit, then after two more we got one that would and away we went. This time we made no stop till we landed here. You should have seen us coming in. Am afraid you would not have recognized me at all. I had on a long trench coat, hip boots, a helmet and the grease & dirt of the road. I was a mess but I sure was glad to get back to wear (sic) the "Red Wild Cat" makes its lair and put my feet before my own fire and have a real cup of coffee with a biscuit. (I had almost forgotten how to spell it) The trip except for the trouble and cold was fine. If I had had a cold or anything like that I would have had a much worse time so I'm satisfied. And how I did sleep last night oh it was so good to be in your own blankets and etc again.

The night before I left Marseille as I was sitting in the Red Cross Hotel a Major came in and it was Dr. McConnell from D.C. Never was so glad to see anyone in my life. We had a nice long talk. He told me of writing you and also about the tracers he had put in about Sam and lots of small things about other boys I know. He could not add anything to my knowledge, he having had the same experience with the Different Records offices that I had had. I enjoyed seeing and talking to him very much.

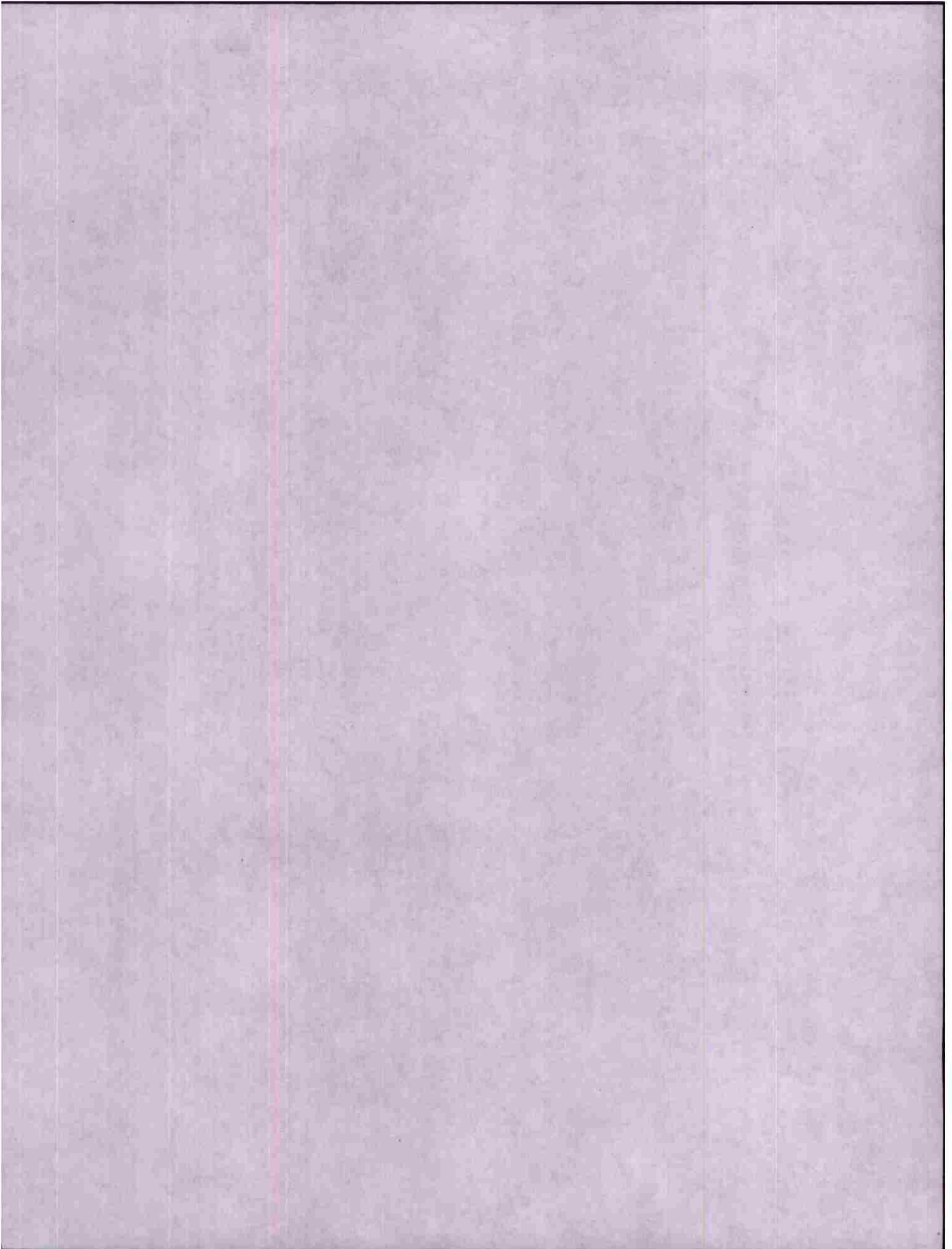
We got in I had lots & lots of mail, a big pile of papers & etc. But your one letter & one from father and Elizabeth were best of all. I searched for yours first, for I knew it was there. Before I thought I wanted to have but I did not know what real wanting was, now I do. Everything that you want mother will be done if I can do it. Now I want to be with you all now. Everything is "done over here" and I want to come home, to help, to be with you all. I have never felt so before but now I feel like my place is home. But there will be a time coming soon when I can be there.





Ed Keesler is in Chaumont, 31km (20 miles) from here. He has an M.T.C. company down here. I'm going down just as soon as I can which I hope will be tomorrow.

Must stop now. I'm well. Best love to all. Your loving son  
William



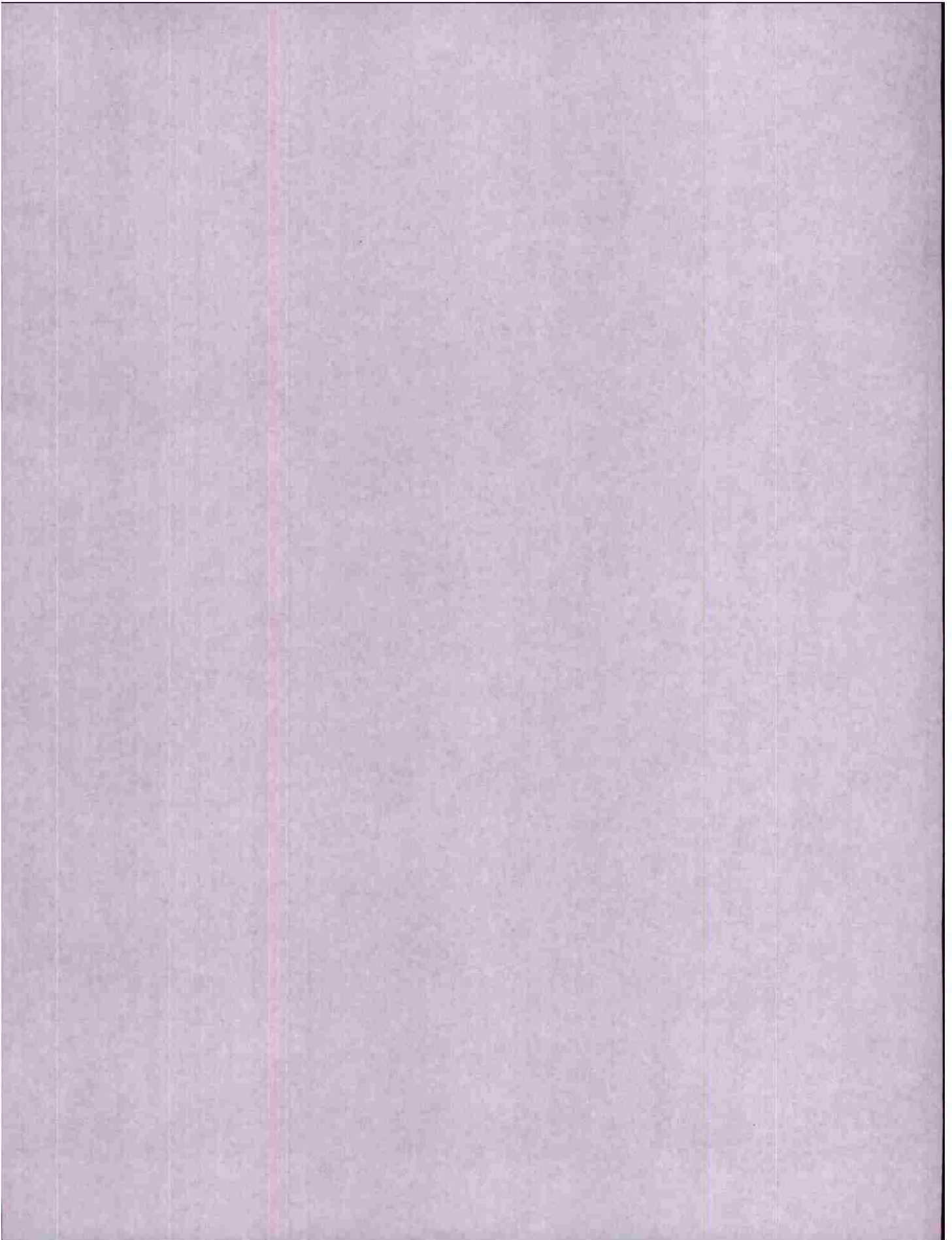


To: Gen. S.R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler (w/sig ref to Sam)  
Feb 3, 1919

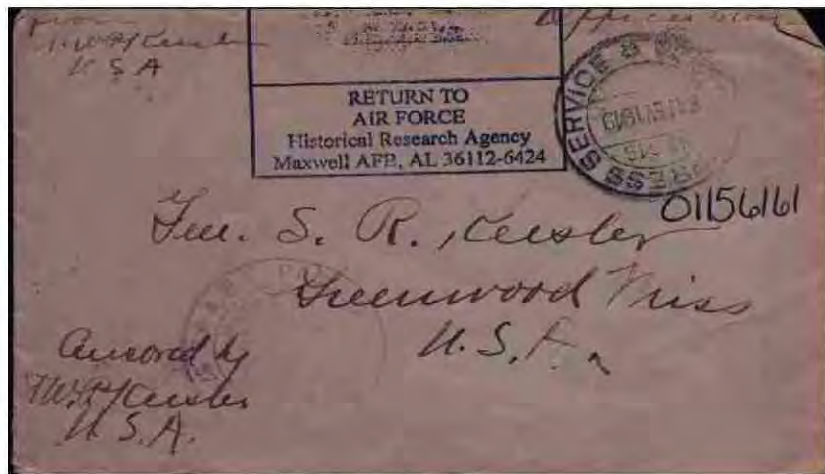
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to know anything. He talked to one man who was in Sam's class, he gave me several addresses which he used. He appeared to the Red Cross & they have helped in writing the American Express to about Sam's pay & the ~~U.S.~~ about it also.

So sorry to hear about the lion death, I hope the "steps" are this time. Our troubles here have been enough already. I begons you & mother need a rest & help. I want to come home to be the help - my kids too.

The last two months that Subject has been without is

Dear Father

Your letter of the 1/19 came today. I understand about the meal now days. At Paris very little time as compared to what it did get in sure lots of letters got lost. We write several letters which you, mother & Ilyabek never mentioned as having received little can be done too that is the hard part of it.

You know by now about the amount of information I get about Sam. The Center Records Office & S.H.Q. are I am assistance. He takes the 24<sup>th</sup> but they don't seem

ST. B. L. France  
Feb. 3 1919,

my mind. I want to take things  
 over with you first. I have thought  
 of three things: the auto business, my old  
 love chemistry, and the dance, and the  
 office with you. I know some thing of  
 the first two, mostly the first, I know  
 some little else while I've been in the  
 Army. Ed Reeler is in the same work,  
 you going down to see him and  
 take over the thing with him. What do  
 you think of the last business, more  
 or less of it. You more interested  
 in the main question, not than the  
 other, and however, while I am a  
 big fellow they would be money.  
 From all I can hear something  
 to do more in what you want to do  
 too bad for all the A.S.F. is sure  
 waiting to come home. I know one  
 thing that I've sure got to forget  
 what a second it shows where I had  
 in the U.S. in your to keep on thinking  
 and gathering all the knowledge I've  
 in the shop, have the business



company belonging to the 8<sup>th</sup>.  
 Some of the 100. then went in  
 got to get all the old people  
 I have to gether to 500  
 them. Thursday, Friday &  
 Sat I spent at Springfield  
 for sunrise & Orion. I'm  
 hoping to get out of the water  
 in a few.

Was sorry to hear  
 about the pers being shot.  
 Father, in my happy  
 time, and can't thank you  
 enough for helping them.  
 You are benevolent one.  
 I'm very glad for you and  
 I do thank you for it.

and will need everything  
 now which all the time.  
 That I had before me  
 the church, math, & mechanical  
 drawing. I go in it, &  
 Central was going to take  
 a night course like the  
 I had mentioned & above.

Up at now in the charge  
 the Capt. of Advance having  
 gone on leave. I'm sure  
 not to be too. To day I worked  
 all morning & on odd jobs, this  
 after noon I had to go to  
 Newkirk's for some  
 parts, tomorrow we got  
 to take back & all business

I give 2 cigarettes to you & the  
 Major, minor & the minor  
 that is a wonderful trip. What  
 he could have & cigarette along. But  
 that is sufficient.  
 you have more money & currency  
 \$100.00 from the G. I. A. & the other  
 come. I put it before X mas. in  
 making a \$500.00 allowance, stating  
 the gift much, maybe more.  
 must stop now. In well. Hope  
 everyone at home is  
 get home & you will  
 your sweet son  
 William

ETC  
 Account by  
 J. W. Smith  
 316 VA



Officer Mail  
 Postmarked 4 Feb 1919  
 Lt William P. Keesler  
 USA  
 To: Gen S.R. Keesler  
 Greenwood Miss  
 U.S.A.

St. Blin, France  
 Feb.3, 1919

Dear Father,

Your letter of the 1/19 came to-day. Can't understand about the mail now days. It takes very little time as compared to what it did yet I'm sure lots of letters get lost. I've written several letters which you, mother & Elizabeth never mentioned as having received. Little can be done too that is the hard part of it.

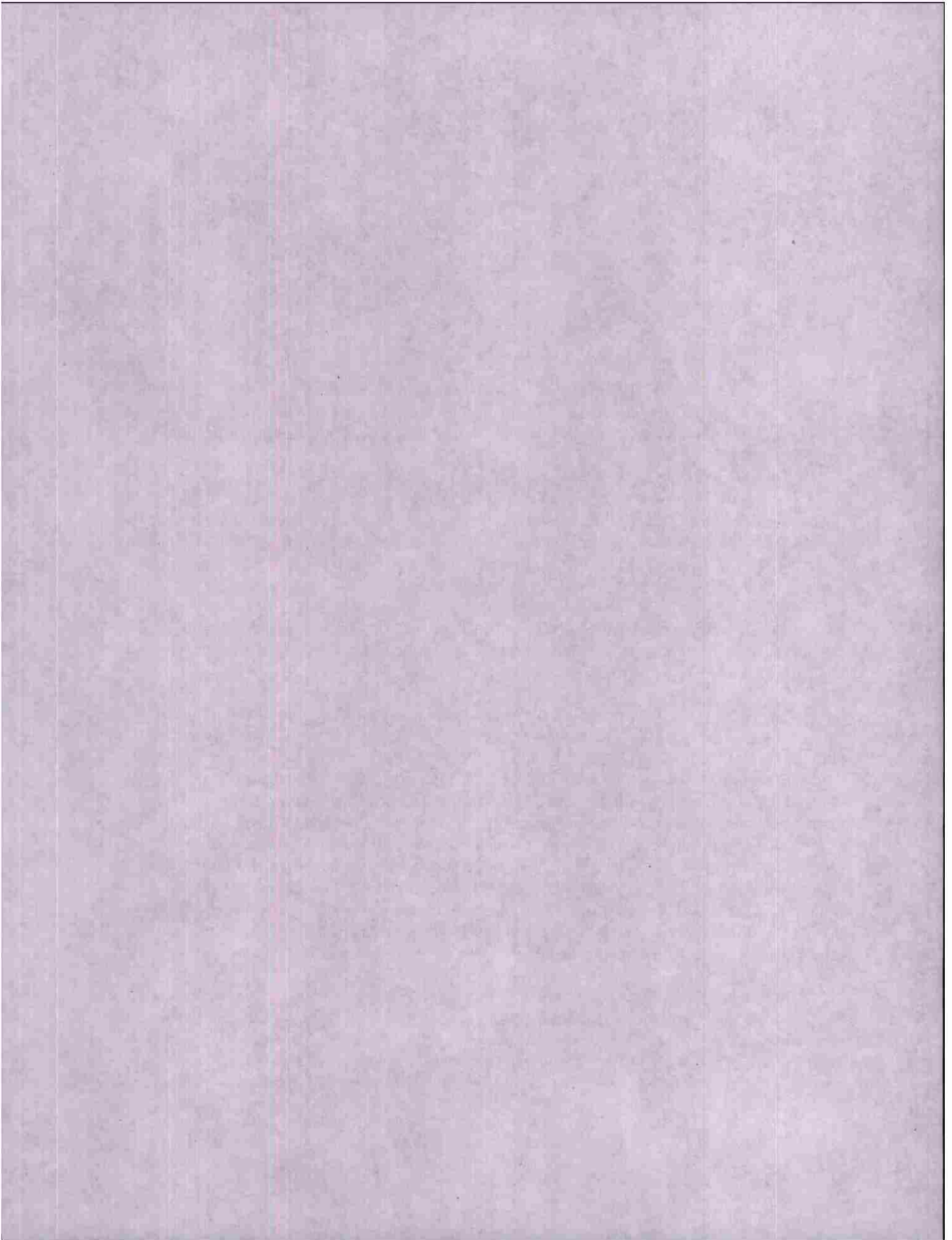
You know by now about the amount of information I get about Sam. The Central Records Office & H.G.Q. are of no assistance. I've located the 24th but they don't seem to know anything. I've talked to one aviator who was in Sam's class, he gave me several addresses which I've used. I've appealed to the Red Cross & they have helped. I'm writing the American Express Co. about Sam's pay & also G.H.Q. about it also.

So sorry to hear about Mrs Acon's death. I hope the "flu" skips us this time. Our troubles have been enough already. I know you & mother need a rest & help. I want to come home to be the help very bad too.

The last two months that subject has been utmost in my mind. I want to talk things over with you first. I have thought of three things, the auto business, my old love chemistry and the farm, and the office with you. I know some thing of the first two, mostly the first, having done little else while I've been in the army. Ed Keesler is in the same work, I'm going down to see him and talk over the thing with him. What do you think of the auto business, now and of its future. I'm more interested in the manufacturing end than the selling end however. Altho to run a big repair shop would be my joy. From all I can hear something to do now is hard to get. That is too bad for all the A.E.F. is sure wanting to come home. I know one thing that I've sure got to forget what a Second Lt draws when I land in the U.S. I'm going to keep on thinking and gathering all the knowledge I can in the shop here. Am learning something new every day now. Wish all the time that I had taken more mechanics, math, & mechanical drawing. If I go into it, I certainly am going to take a night course in the three mentioned above.

Right now I'm in charge, the Capt of Ordnance having gone on leave. I've sure lots to do too. To-day I worked all morning on odd jobs, this after noon I had to go to Neufchateau for some parts, tomorrow I've got to take stock of all Ordnance Property belonging to the Reg. Some job too. Then Wed I've got to get all the old parts I have to-gether to salvage. Then Thursday, Friday, & Sat I spent at Laugres sur Lille & Dijon. Im hoping to get out of the latter if I can.





Was sorry to hear about the furs being stolen. Father, I'm very happy over them, and can't thank you enough for sending them. You sure have taken care of my girl for me and I do thank you for it.

I guess Elizabeth told you of Mr Magill's mission to Asia-Minor. That is a wonderful trip. Wish he could bring Elizabeth along. But that is impossible.

You have never mentioned receiving \$100.00 from the Y.M.C.A. Has it ever come. I sent it before Xmas. I'm making a \$50.00 allotment, starting the first of March, maybe more.

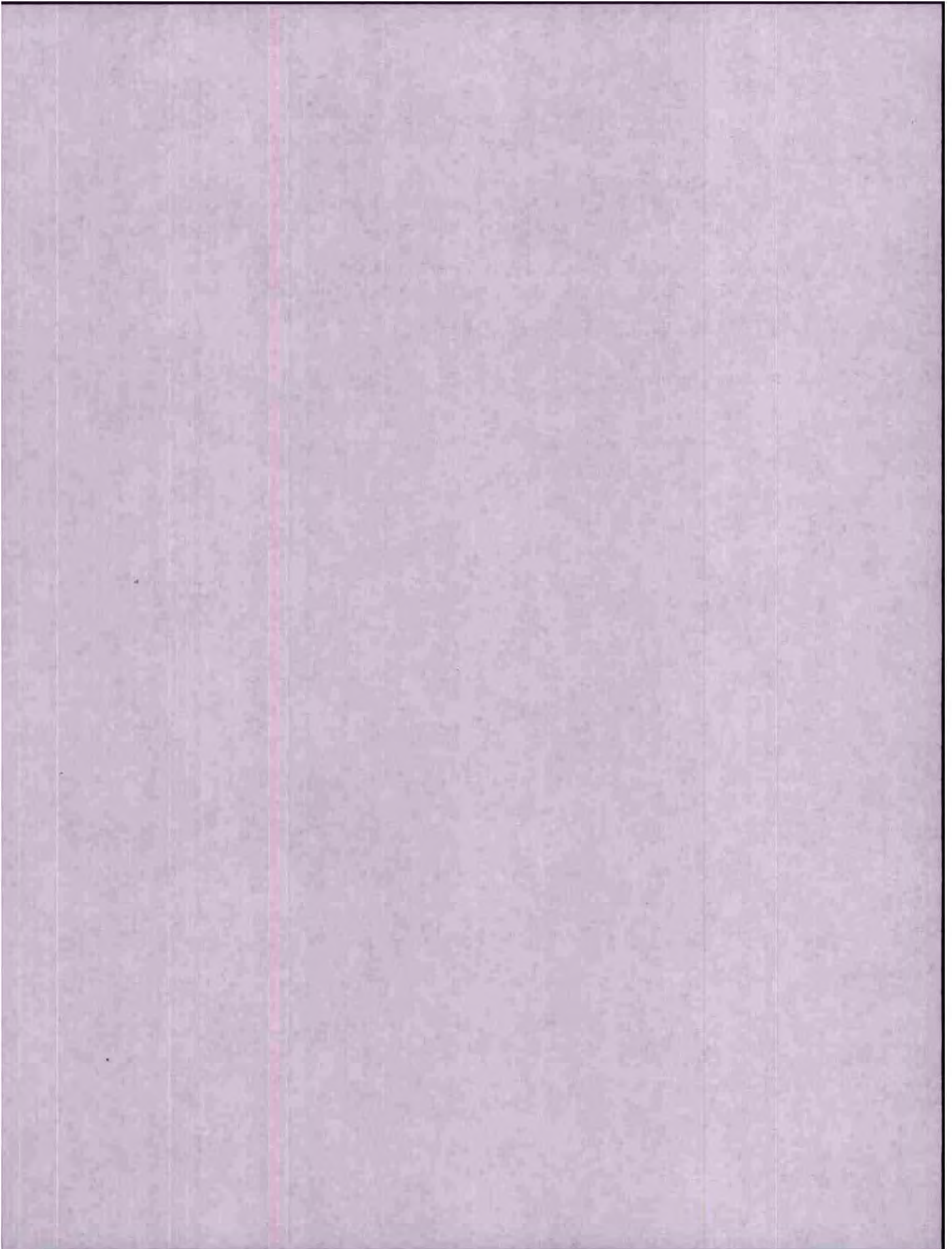
Must stop now. I'm well. Hope everyone at home is.

Lots of love to you all.

Your devoted son  
William

OK  
Censored by  
Lt WPKesler  
316 FA





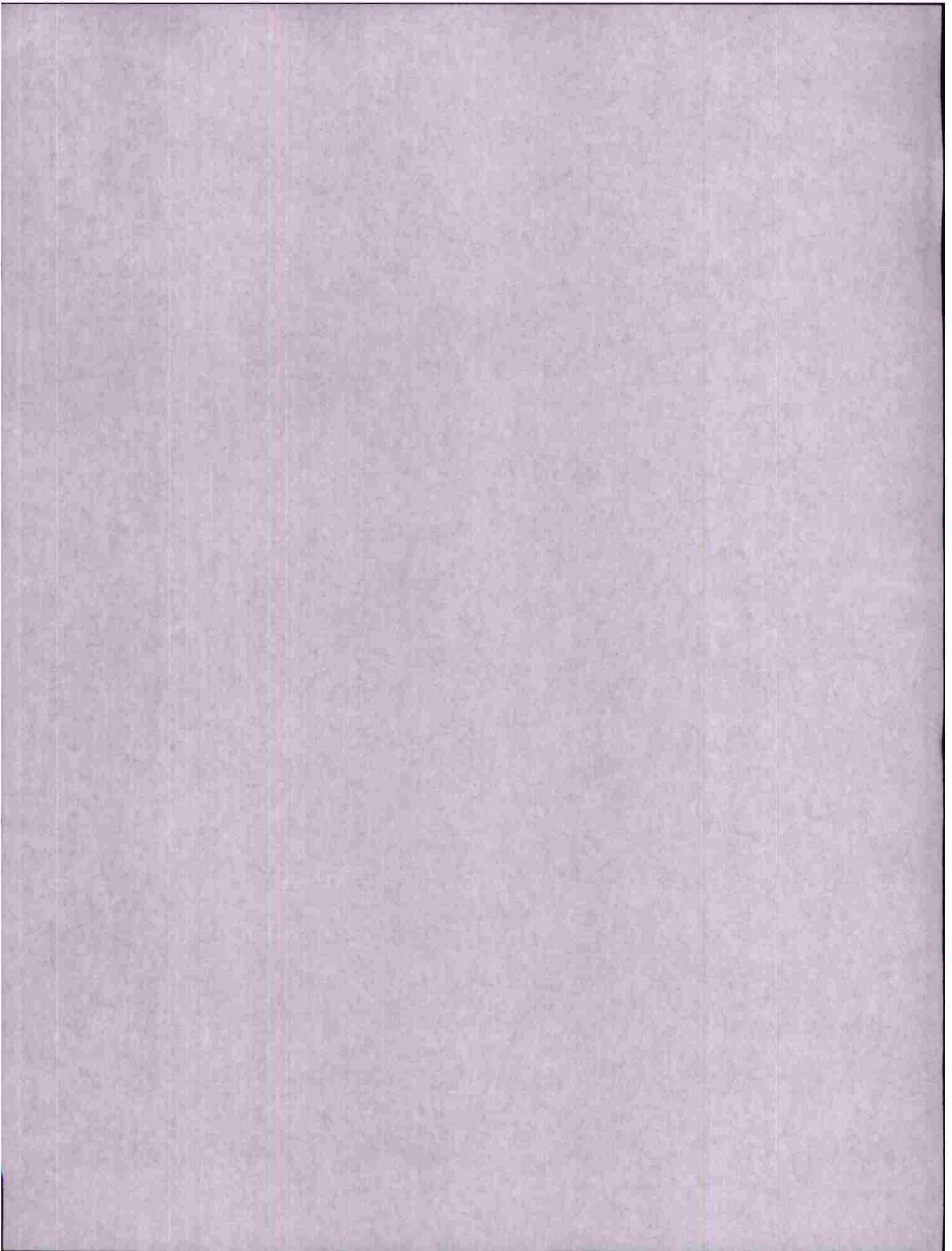


To: Gen S.R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler  
Post Card Feb 5, 1919

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FEB 10  
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Maxwell AFB, AL 36

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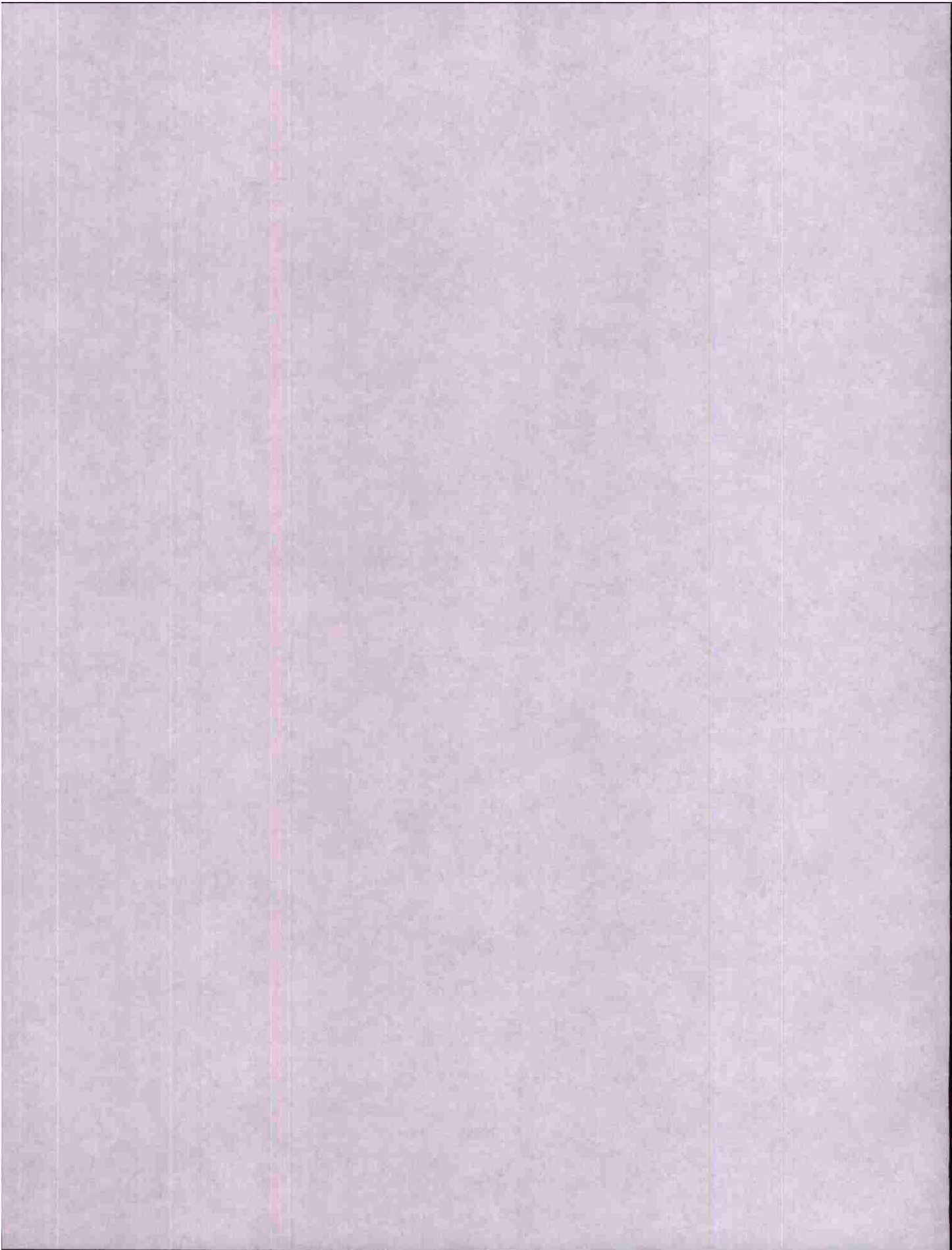
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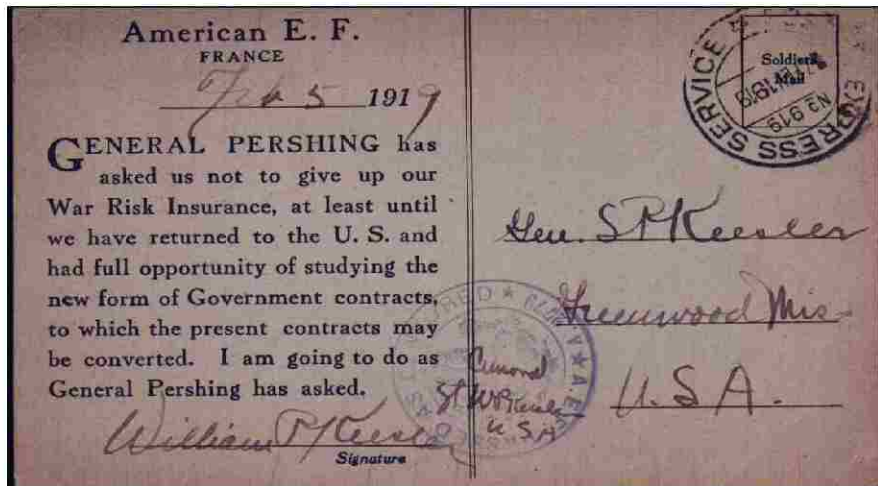
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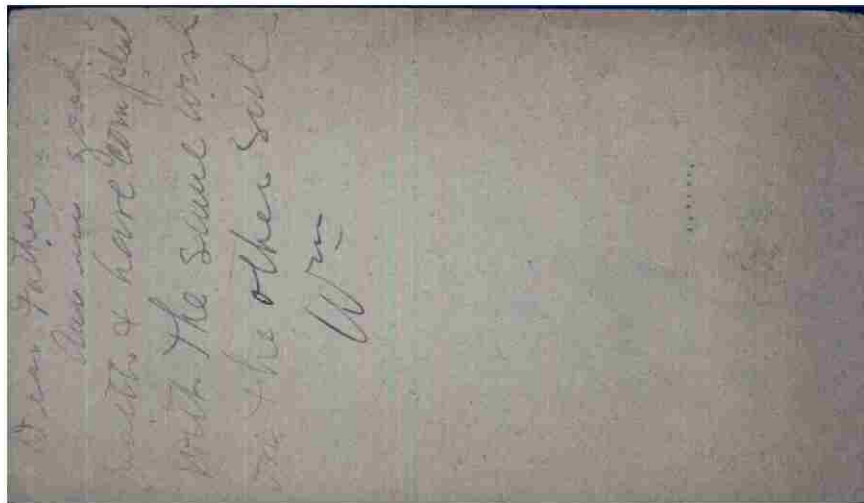


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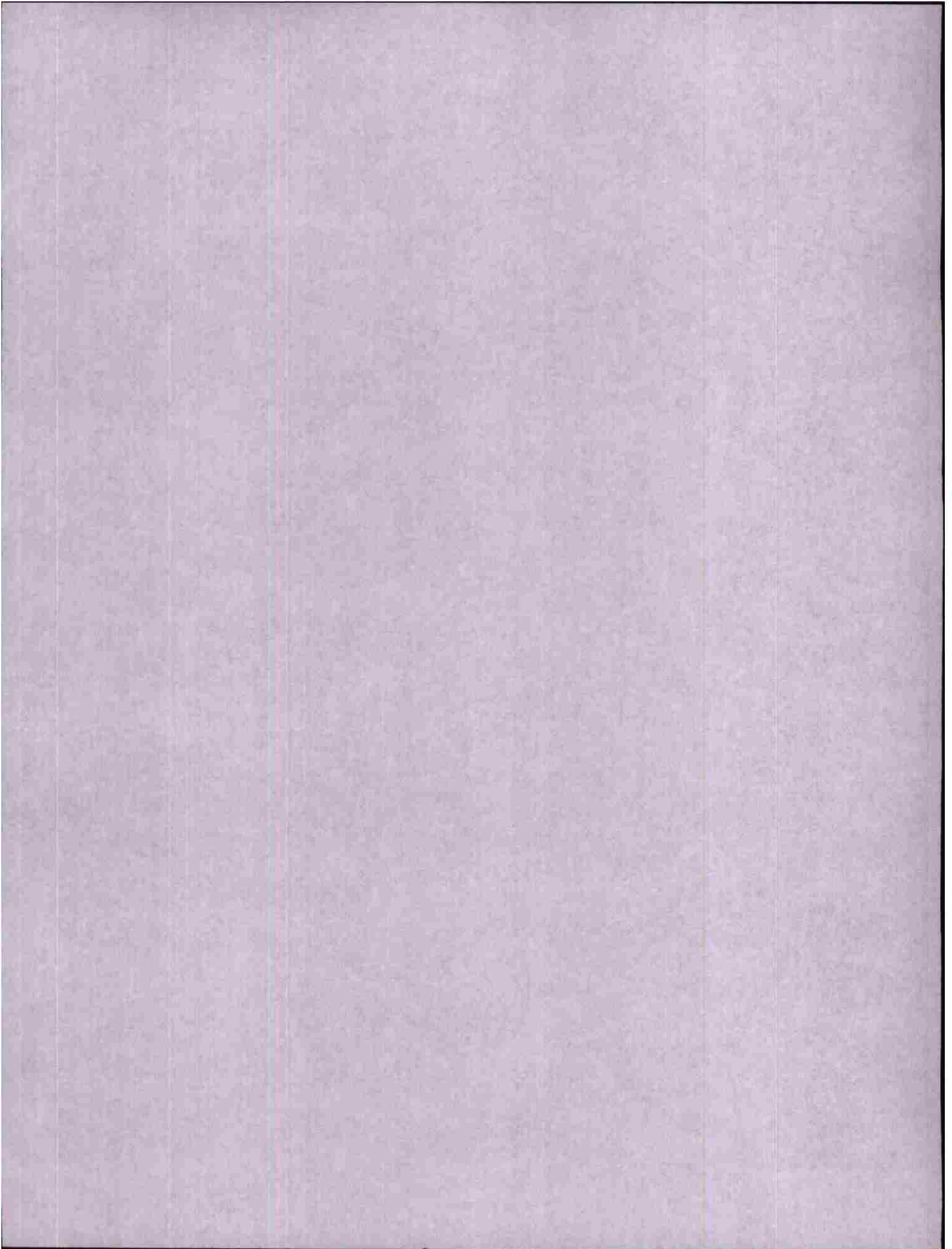


Feb 8, 1919

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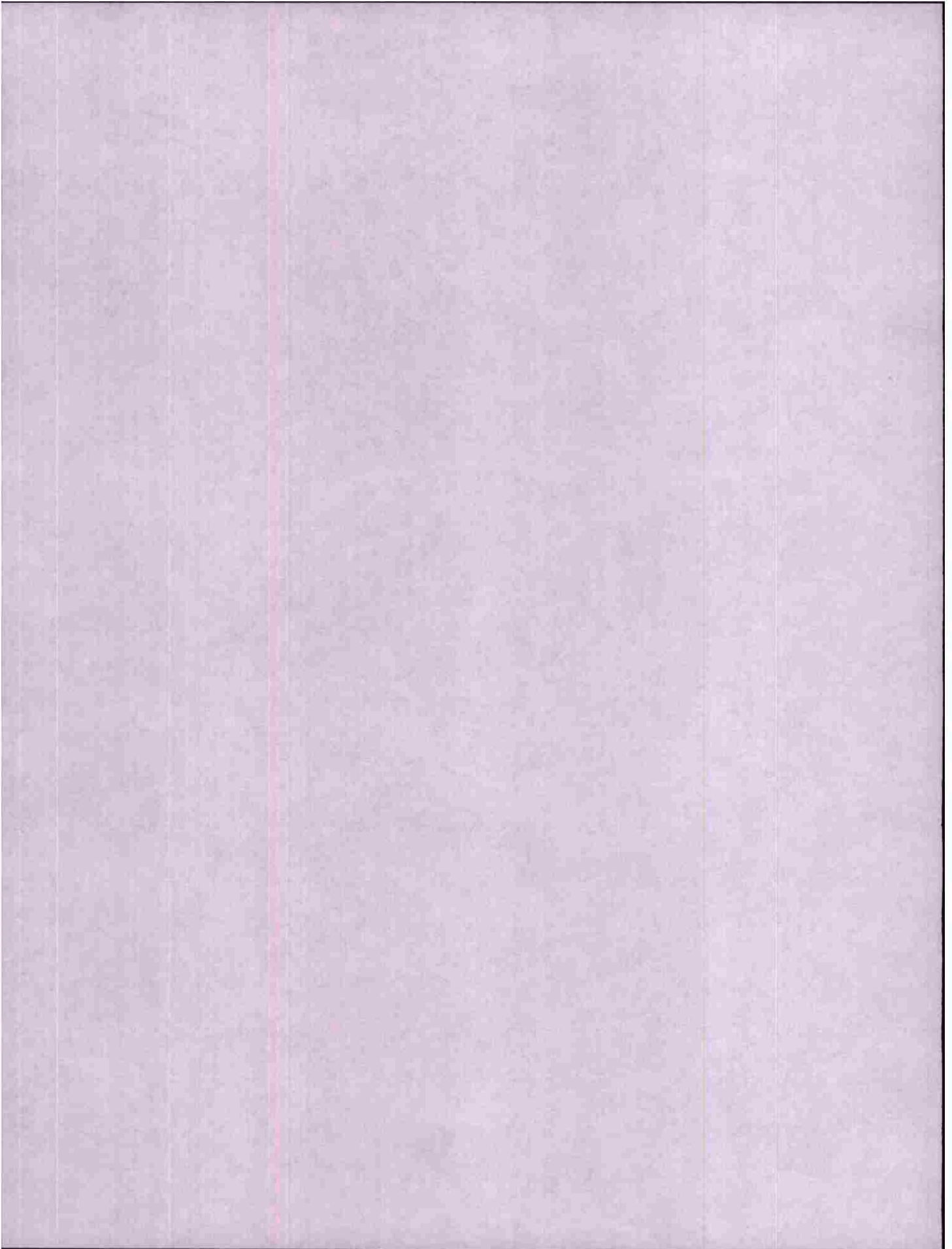
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To-day as I was writing up a few things to be done next week, Ed Keeler called in on me. My hut I was glad to see him. He spent the afternoon with me, talking over many things. He is in charge of the S.H. & Storage at Chaurmont. He says that it is some 10th regarding the records our young and I guess it is. We each have made agreements about visiting, so we expect to see each other a good deal. We compared all our information about Sam, he could add nothing to any I had. He had found the same records I had, had that the same awful feeling of not getting what was right.

St. Blin, France  
Feb. 8 1919.

Dear Mother,

This time six months ago I was in mid ocean. I wish now I could send word by wireless that I was again in mid ocean. There I had sensations which some only those who leave all they love behind and go out to do these best for those they are leaving. Now I want to get back, back to you, father and my girl and see the those who I love. We hear nothing but wild rumors of missing. Nothing that one can put faith in. I don't expect that we will more before the Peace Bureau are settled & signed so you heard we are waiting.

give me any thing I should  
 in case he ever help me find  
 things are no longer stored, I want  
 to see officer just where who does  
 matters but investigate records for  
 help. He found nothing more than  
 and but he stated there should be a  
 letter to the Surgeon Gen. for information.  
 We should receive an answer soon.  
 With it to help our cause and  
 all the people started after.  
 Finally we have had awful  
 weather. Snow, a thaw, a big back  
 snow and a freeze. Everything is  
 covered with snow or ice. At  
 no cold that the snow all the  
 it has been on the ground for  
 days now. Snow with some  
 getting stuck in drifts and there were  
 been several accidents. I had a  
 got to face and fracture in ankle  
 I believe. The Dr. was not sure yet just  
 it looks might lead to me. The man  
 was his hands in his pockets and  
 could not save himself. My room  
 was then no cold that I could do  
 no work then. Almost 3 cold today.  
 wrote up the other night pending  
 my car so cold that they were  
 taking me. The man no get now  
 and in hoping for warmer weather



soon. If we dont hurry, we  
 get in a bad fix. All the  
 radiators on the cars are  
 freezing while the engines  
 are running, causing me lots  
 of trouble and worry.

I thank you for the Papers.  
 I read them all. Please send some  
 more of the Davidsonians. The town  
 paper is a great help. I'm keeping  
 up with it. The Lewards were saying  
 when I got there I gave them to the  
 men and they enjoyed them too.

This coming week we got  
 five trips to make. All is  
 nearly to Louis too. I don't like  
 the idea of riding around in  
 such weather, but the parts



are needed and must be  
got this so the tips must be taken  
must close. Hope the "flu"  
is over, Am real well, getting  
fat. Ed sends love to all. Best  
love to all  
Your loving son,  
William

Officer Mail  
 O.A.S.  
 Postmarked 10 Feb 1919  
 Lt William P. Keesler  
 316th F.A.  
 To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler  
 Greenwood Miss  
 U.S.A.

St. Blin, France  
 Feb.8, 1919

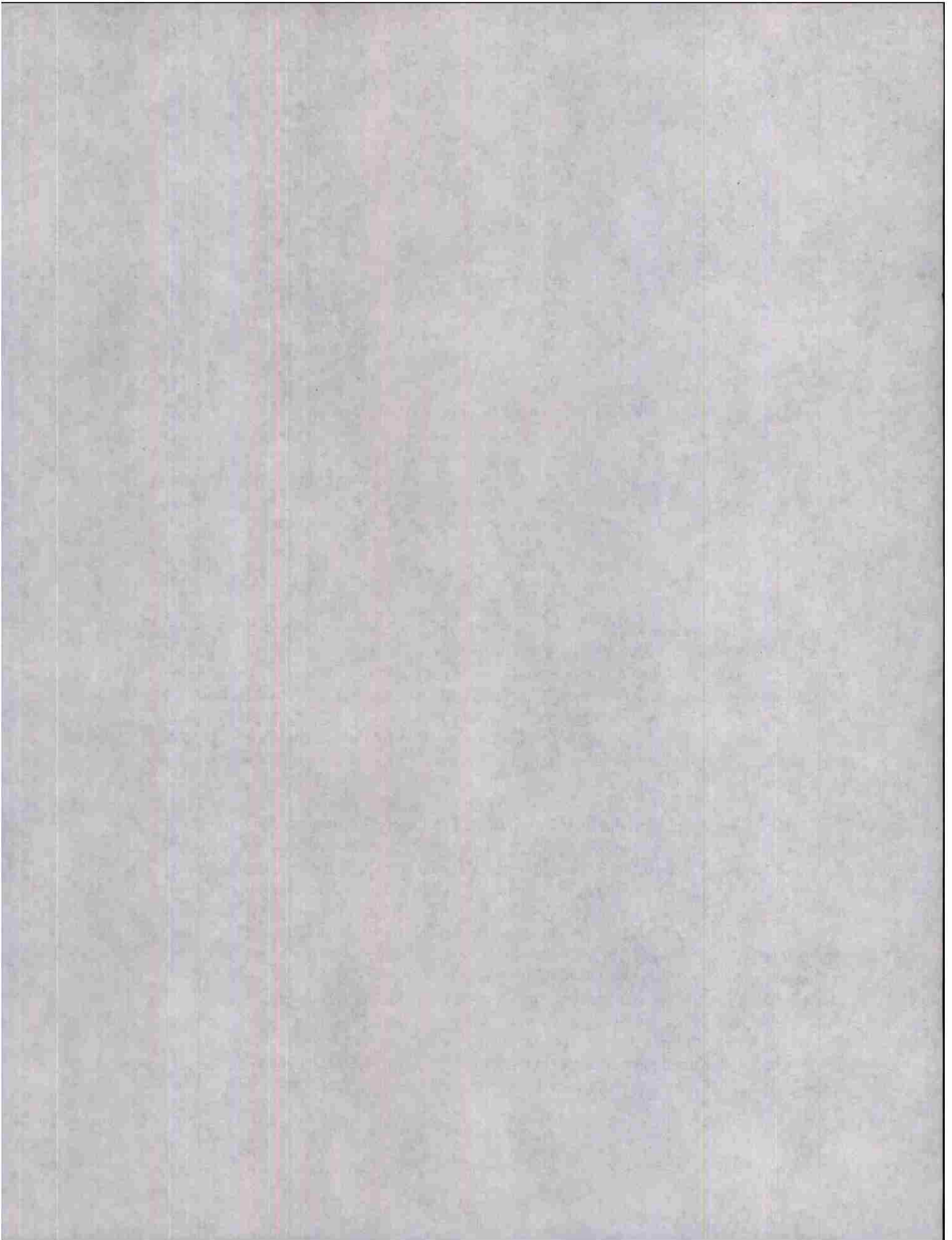
Dear Mother,

This time six months ago I was in mid ocean. I wish now I could send word by wireless that I was again in mid ocean. Then I had sensations which came only to those who leave all they love behind and go out to do their best for those they are leaving. Now I want to get back, back to you, father and my girl and all those who I love. We hear nothing but wild rumors of moving. Nothing that one can put faith in. I don't except (sic) that we will move before the Peace Terms are settled & signed. So you know we are watching Paris.

To-day as I was writing up a few things to be done next week, Ed Keesler walking in on me. My but I was glad to see him. He spent the afternoon with me, talking over many things. He is in charge of the G.H.Q. Garage at Chaumont. He says that it is some job keeping the General's cars going and I guess it is. He and I have made agreements about visiting so we expect to see each other a good deal. We compare our information about Sam, he could add nothing to any I had. He had found the same records I had, had had the same awful feeling of not getting what was right. I gave him every thing I had and he says he will help me prod. Things are so terribly slow. I went to an officer last week who does nothing but investigate records for help. He found nothing more than I did but he started thru channels a letter to the Surgeon Gen. for information. We should receive an answer soon. With Ed to help our Sam's grave and all else will be looked after.

Lately we have had awful weather. Snow, a thaw, a big 6 inch snow and a freeze. Everything is covered either with snow or ice. It is so cold that the snow although it has been on the ground two days still drifts. Several autos have gotten stuck in drifts and there have been several accidents. I had a Cpt to fall and fracture his skull I believe. The Dr arenot sure yet but it looks mighty bad to me. The man had his hands in his pockets and could not save himself. My room had been so cold that I could do no work there. Almost too cold to sleep. I woke up the other night finding my ears so cold that they were hurting me. The sun is out now and I'm hoping for warmer weather soon. If we don't things will get in a bad fix. All the radiators on the cars are freezing while the engines are running, causing me lots of trouble and worry.

I thank you for the Papers. I read them all. Please send some more & lots of Davidsonians. The town paper is a great help. I'm keeping up with it. The Onwards were enjoyed when I got them I gave them to the men and they enjoyed them too.

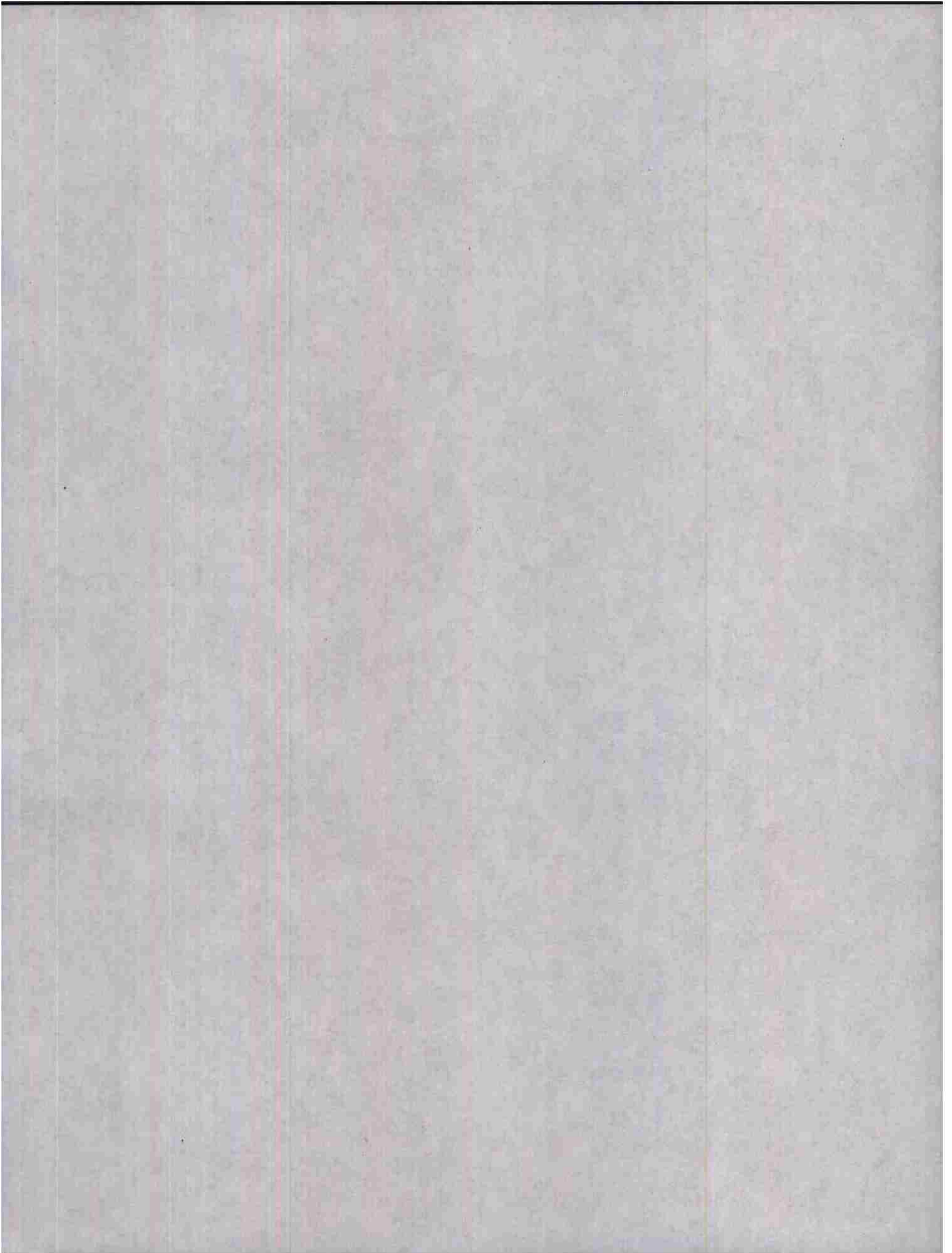




This coming week I've got five trips to make. One is nearly to Tours too. I don't like the idea of riding around in such weather, but the parts are needed and must be gotten, so the trips must be taken.

Must close. Hope the "flu" is over. Am real well, getting fat. Ed sends love to all. Best love to all.

Your loving son,  
William





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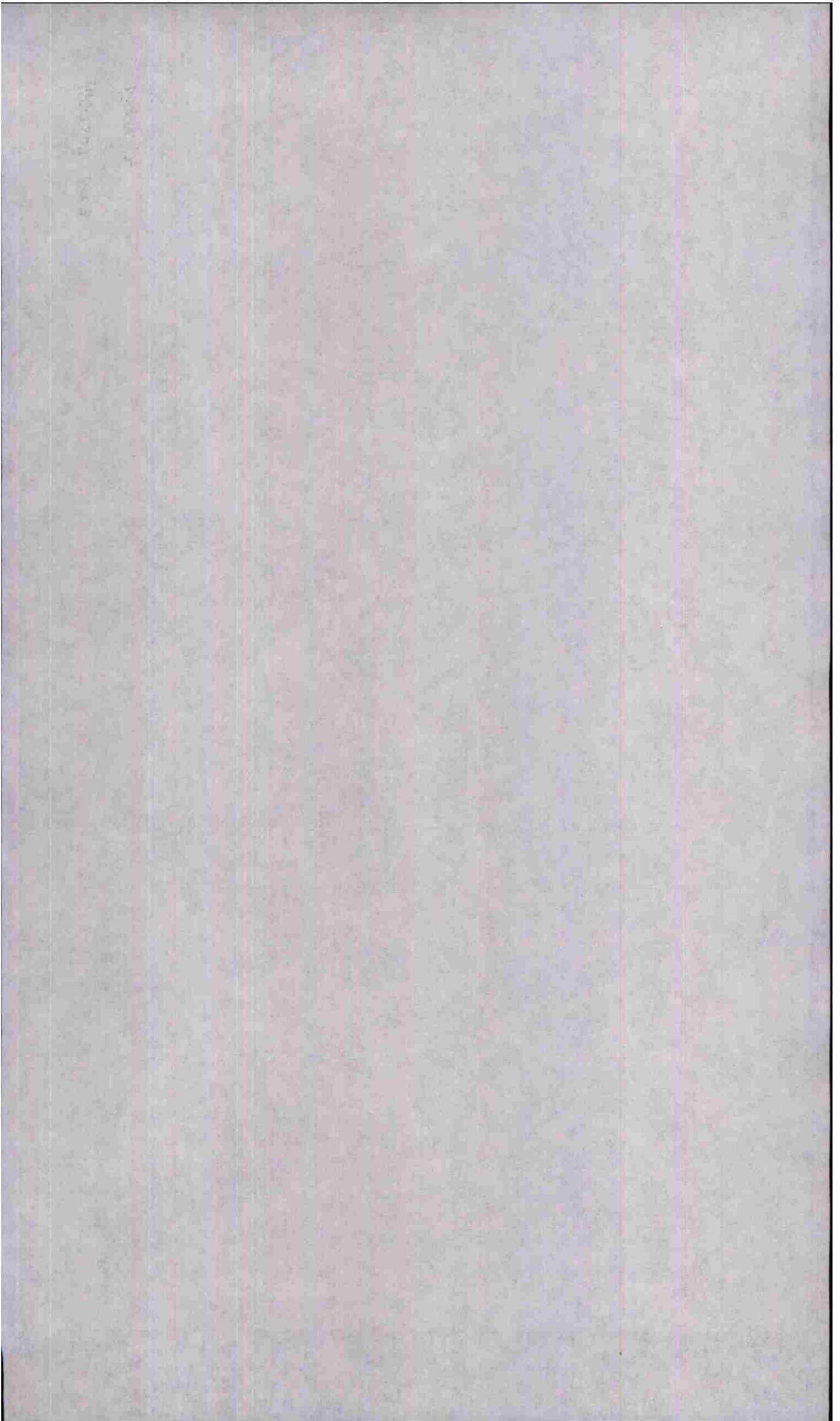
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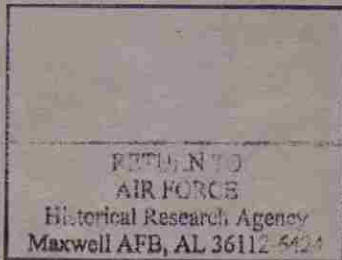
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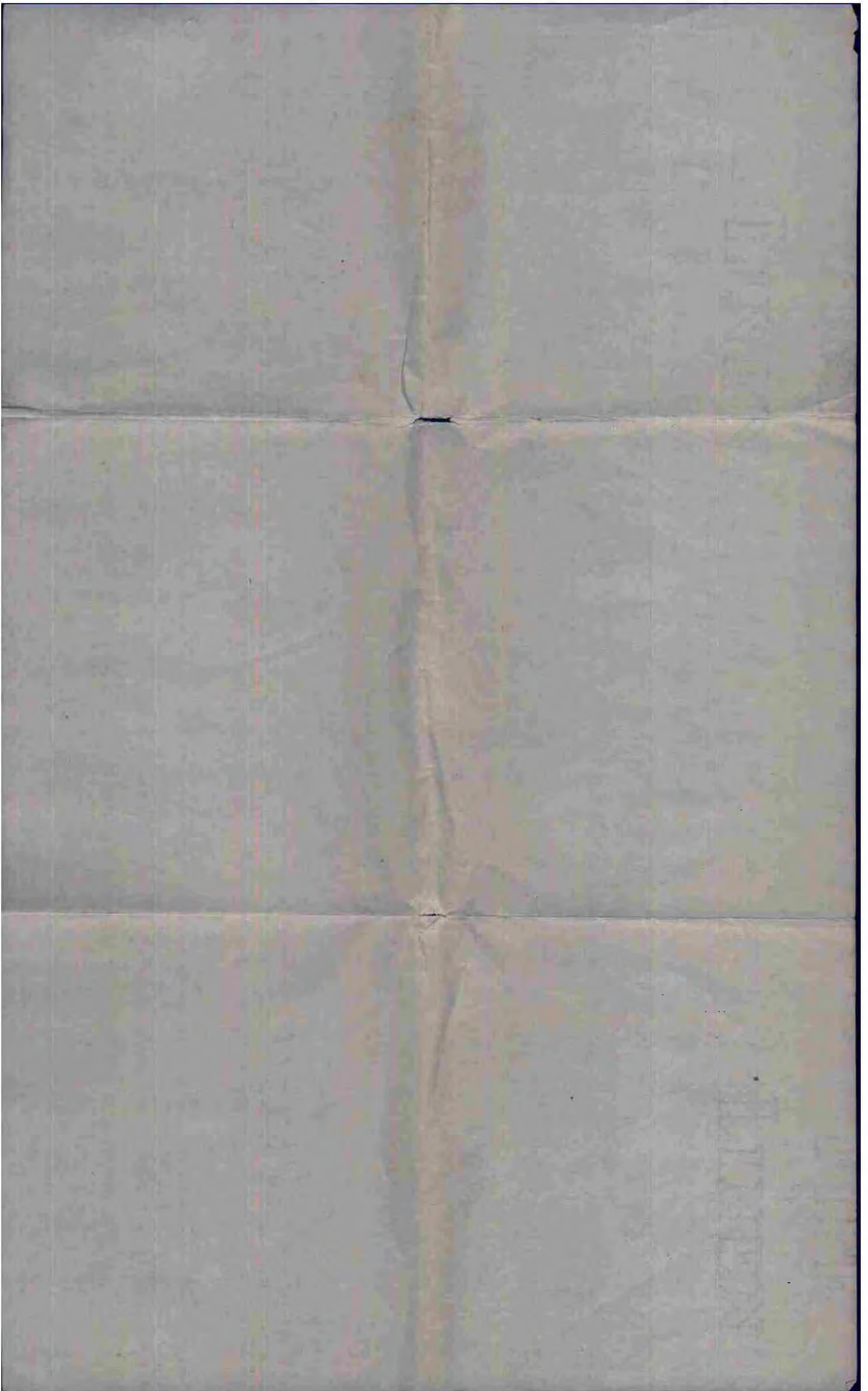
Go Guaranty Trust Co.  
Paris

Chaumont, Feb. 16, 1919

My dear Uncle Sam & Aunt Lottie, My heart goes out to you in your great sorrow and I feel a deep loss when I realize that I can never see Sam again. In December I returned from convoy duty to my old station to find cables awaiting me from Father. These told me the sad news that Sam was missing. I was able to get through only one telegram, that to the Central Records Office. At the same time I wrote Stuart Gilchrist and the Commanding Officer of the 24th Squadron. The answer from Stuart, giving me the same information which you have, reached me only a short time ago after wandering around France. I have never had an answer from the aero squadron. I held hopes that Sam would turn up as a prisoner of war in Germany. These were blasted when I received an answer from the Records office.

As nearly as I have been able to learn, Sam and his pilot were out alone when four Boches suddenly appeared. Our boys



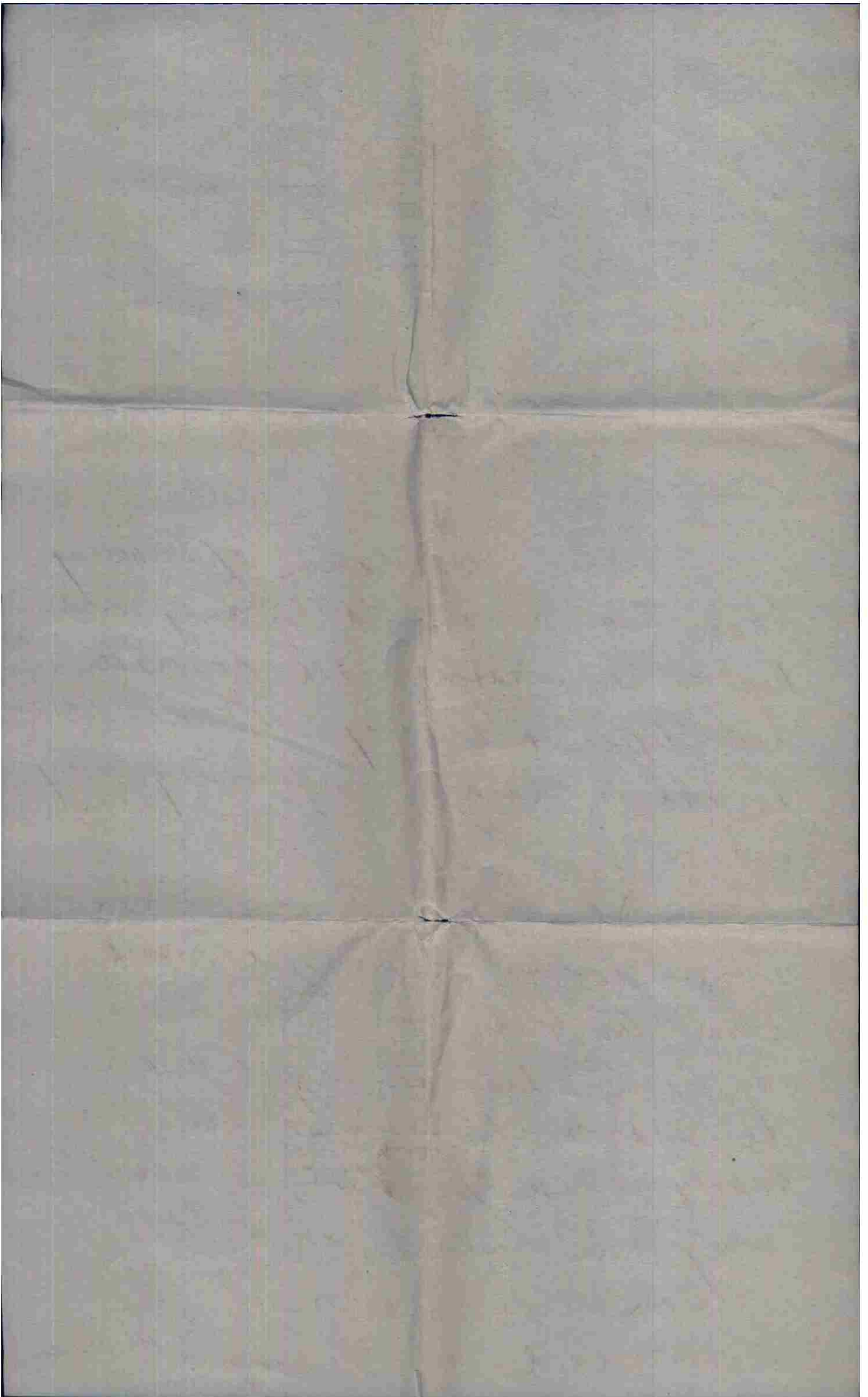




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went for them and put up a great fight, but the odds were too much. Surely one could not have a more glorious ending — serving his country to the last. I have met several fellows of the Air Service who knew Sam. They spoke of his sterling character and of his ability in the air. You have the consolation of knowing that Sam always did his duty and kept on the straight path no matter how difficult the way. I know that he had a character exceptionally strong and upright.

I have been here in Chaumont now for almost a month. About two weeks ago I ran into a boy whom I knew at Chapel Hill. He told me his regiment was at a nearby village of St. Blin, about twenty miles distant and that William Keesler was in it. Well, I succeeded in talking to William

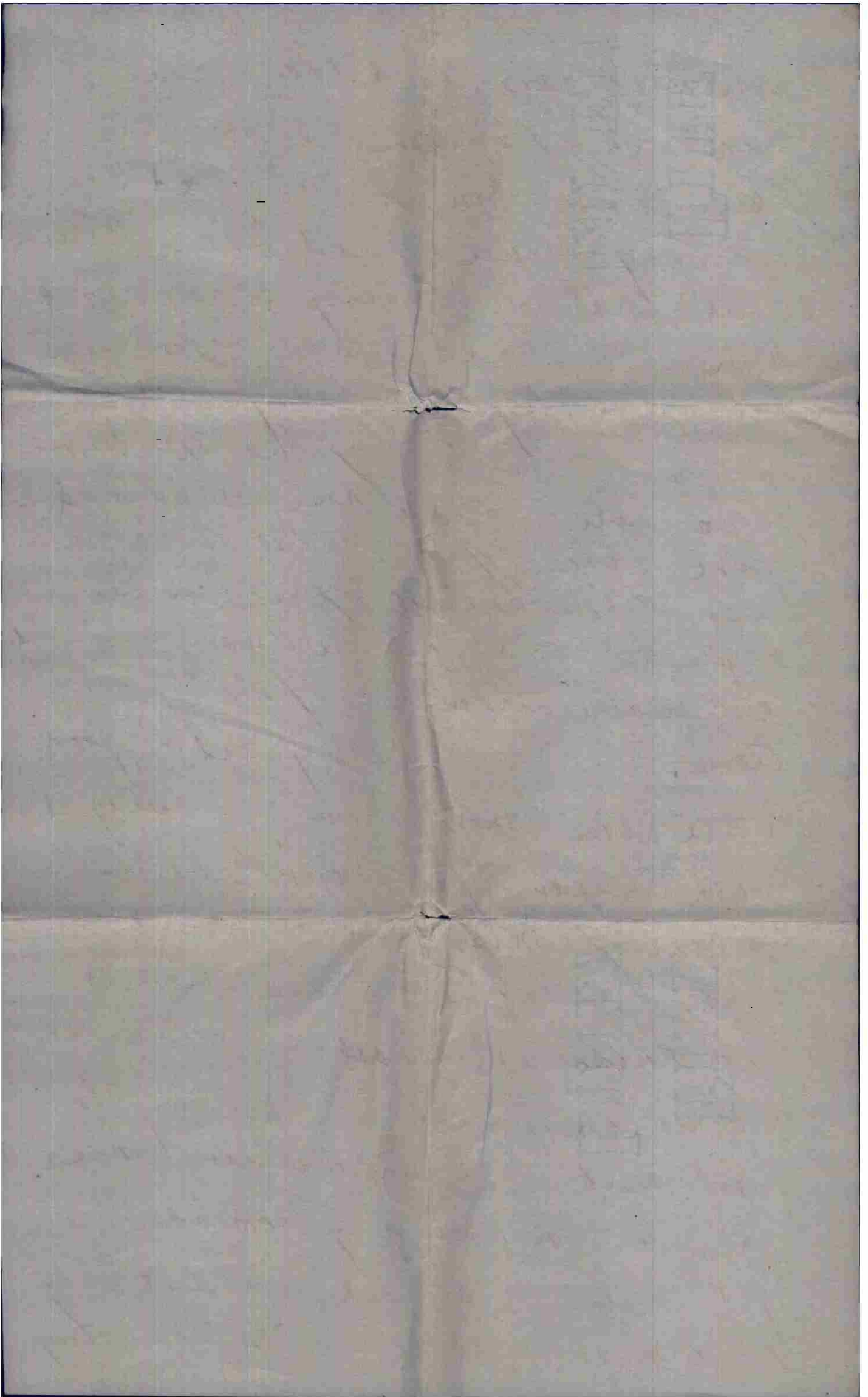




-3-

over the phone and then last Sunday afternoon I got out there to see him. It had been so long since I had seen William last that I scarcely recognized him. I had never before seen him looking so strong and well. He was in the best of health. Before I was able to locate him I learned from other officers that Bill Keesler was the mechanical officer for the regiment and that he was considered a valuable member of the organization. It certainly did me good to see him once more. I stayed with William for dinner at his battalion mess and found almost a dozen officers whom I had known at school. It was like a reunion for me. During the past week I saw William once. He was on his way somewhere to get auto parts and couldn't stay for a meal with me. I'm expecting





him again in a day or two.

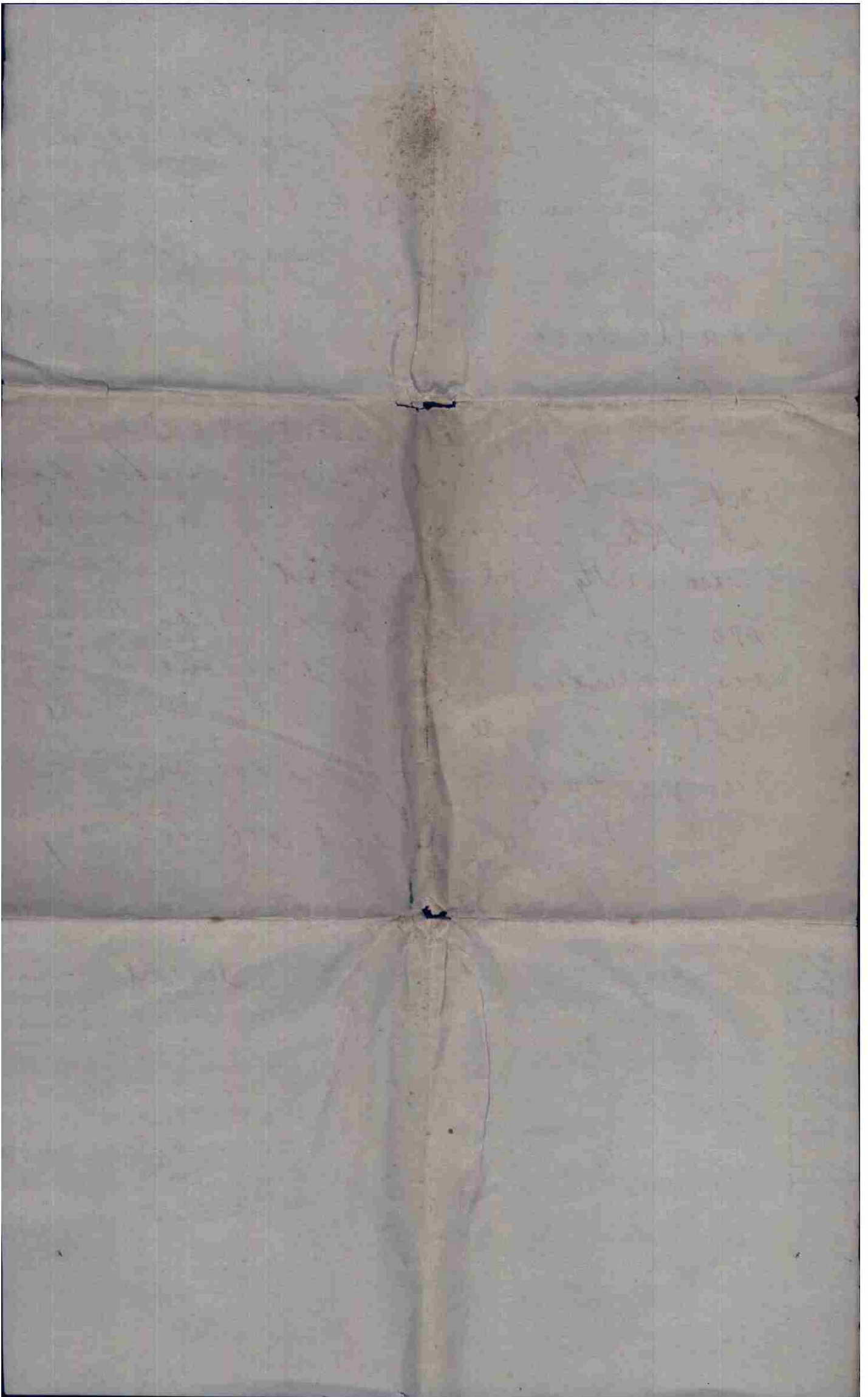
We have the people here in G.H.Q. trying to find out just where Sam's grave is. I believe we shall know soon, and then William will be able to ~~get~~ to that place.

My job at present is C.O. of Co. B, Hdq. Bn. and Motor Transport Office at G.H.Q. There is plenty to do and I am pretty well satisfied. We have 170 cars including Fords, Dodges, Nationals, Cadillacs, Wintons, and Locomobiles, as well as 40 side cars. They don't all run at once by any means, however.

Love to you and all the family.

Yours affectionately,

Edward.





To: Mrs. Sam R. Keesler  
From: William Keesler (w/sig ref to Sam)  
Feb 18, 1919.

1607561 - Box 3

Encl 13

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