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316th F. A.
American Exp. Forces,
Feb 18, 1919

Dear Mother

To-day your letter containing Charlottes and Mr Magills came bringing joy and bright news to me as mail from home always does. How I did enjoy your letter, I had been pretty blue for the last few days, as I want to come home so bad but your letter chased all the gloom away and made this awful French weather brighter.

I'm now wearing the gold stripe on my left arm for six months overseas service. It means much too. We had quite a celebration when we put them on. A big dinner, holiday and dance for those who dance. Now over six months is over there is not one of us who

does not want to go home. But from all we can learn it may be some time yet before we can. Of course it is hard but we must wait our time. I'm really glad we are doing our waiting in St. Bliss as we are nicely located and fixed up while if we were in several other places I know of where we might be, well we would be having a very miserable time. As yet I can get no word of the time we are to move towards the coast but also we get no news of having to go into Germany so we just sit still & wait. If we just needed it would help. If we are to stay any longer I must hope we stay here but even if that we don't know. In fact it is

very little we do know.

Last Monday the letter I enclose came. I got it thru Capt Wood, Sam's C.O. It is all he knew of Sam's last flight. You may have it by now. From all I can learn Sam's last mission was one of great danger which he knew of before he left. He knew it and I know he was glad to go. I can see him now as he used to do when going into a hard foot-ball game, having everything just right and everything working as perfectly as possible, then he would go ahead scared of nothing, doing his best and more ~~fine~~ until the whistle blew. Oh I'm proud so proud of him.

The village must be as you said a small one. G.H.Q. is working to find it and I too. We scoured maps. I bought the largest I can get of the sector around Verdun and that sector. I believe we have the name mis-spelled, as I have it spelled four different ways. We located several towns of similar names but they are far away from the battle line in France. But I am still working and will know all yet. The Surgeon General's office is at work too. Ed K is at work. We shall find out yet.

Yes the town papers come thru G.H.Q. and I scan each one. It makes me feel like I'm nearer

interesting to me. Elizabeth had told me of the invitation and I had understood he was coming. That would be a wonderful trip. I hope if he does come over I'll be able to see him if he comes thru France. He would certainly come thru Chamont to see the Muesiac front.

Charlotte & I know made good marks on her first terms. I'm so glad she likes the school. I thought she would. She will be a real sure enough young lady when I see her next.

This last week, rather Monday and Tuesday we have had a Capt Peterson here in speaking on tractors. Capt Peterson was the Chief Instructor at Peoria Ill.

home. Things must be waking up for spring now. The land is being broken & etc. Ready for the cotton to come. Now I would like to get out in a real delta field and stretch knowing I had room to do so. I feel to crowded over here. The fields are crowded here now and one is moved out of sight for a time. The winter is still with us. Last week I told you I'm big now. Well it is gone now, looking mud & water everywhere. It is raining again too. I never said he like for mud in this so called Sunny France. And how that mud sticks and gets all over me.

Mr Mayes letter was very

where I was at school there. I enjoyed seeing him again. He sure gave us a ~~the~~ real inspection. He knows a tractor from truck shoe to radiator cap and not a single thing escaped him. I'm thankful to say he only found a few things wrong. One was a fault he knew he would find & one we knew nothing of as it developed with this tractor and was the main reason for his inspection as he wanted to check the fault & give instructions as to means of remedy. He said we had a nice clean, well known bunch of tractors.

Ed Keesler is coming up Sunday again. I don't get down to Champaign as often as I used to in song to say.

Hope the Flu has been stopped at home now. Please get some body to help you, don't do the cooking anymore. I'm well as ever and as fat. Really too well.

Best love to all at home and
with love to you
your loving son
William

OK
received
by J. Keesler
8/1/58

Officer Mail
 O.A.S.
 Postmarked 20 Feb 1919
 Lt William P. Keesler
 316th F.A.
 To: Mrs. Sam R. Keesler
 Greenwood Miss
 U.S.A.

316th F.A.
 American Exp. Forces
 Feb. 18, 1919

Dear Mother,

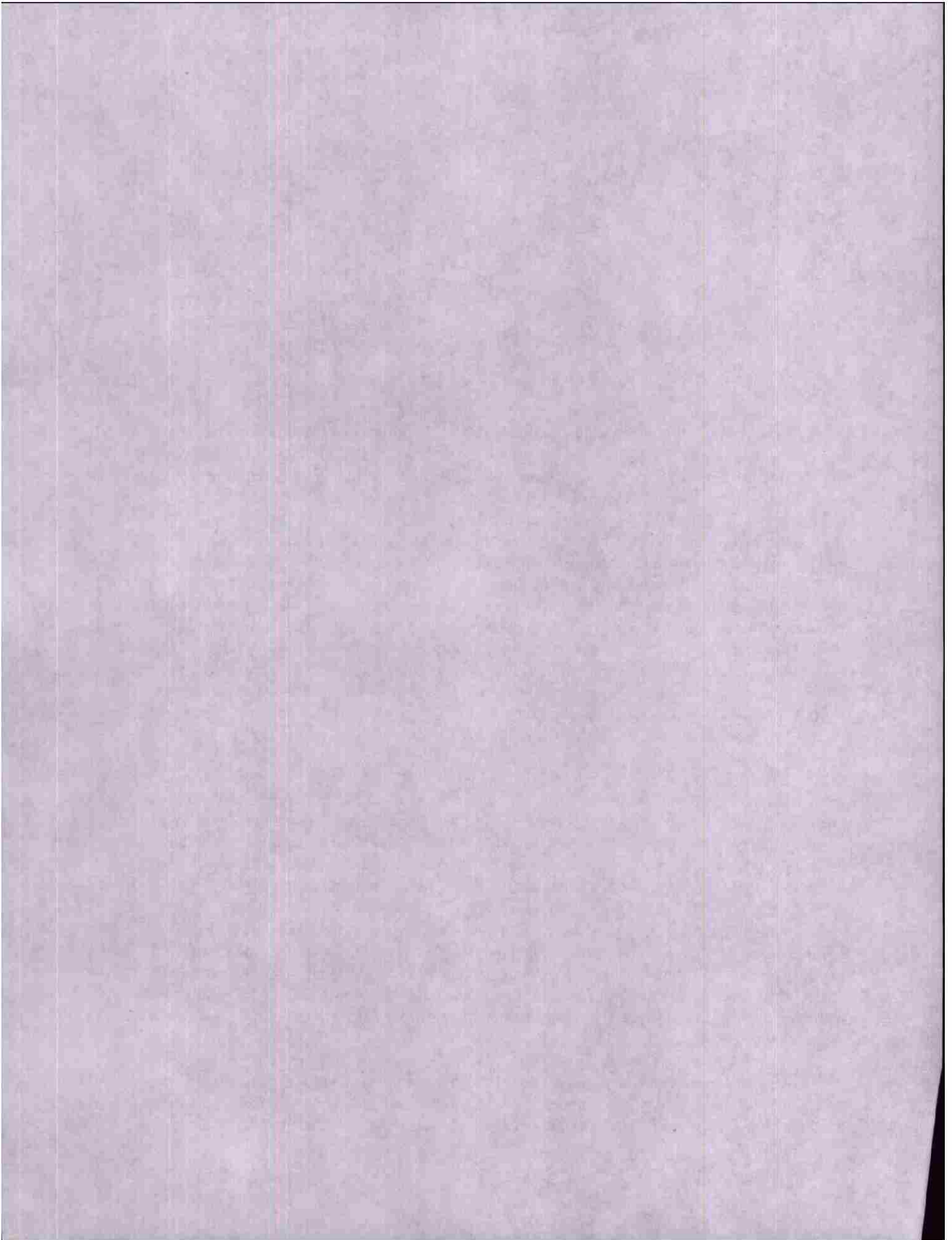
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Yes the town papers come thru O.K. and I scour each one. It makes me feel like I'm nearer home. Things must be waking up for spring now. The land is being broken & etc ready for the cotton & corn. How I would like to get out in a real delta field and stretch knowing I had



room to do so. I feel to crowded (sic) over here even and one is never out of sight of a town. The winter is still with us. Last week I told you of our big snow. Well it is gone now, leaving mud & water everywhere. It is raining again too. I never saw the like for mud in this so called sunny France. And how that mud sticks and gets all over one.

Mr Magill latter was very interesting to me. Elizabeth had told me of the invitation and I had understood he was coming. That would be a wonderful trip. I hope if he does come over to be able to see him if he comes thru France. He would certainly come thru Chaumont to see the American front.

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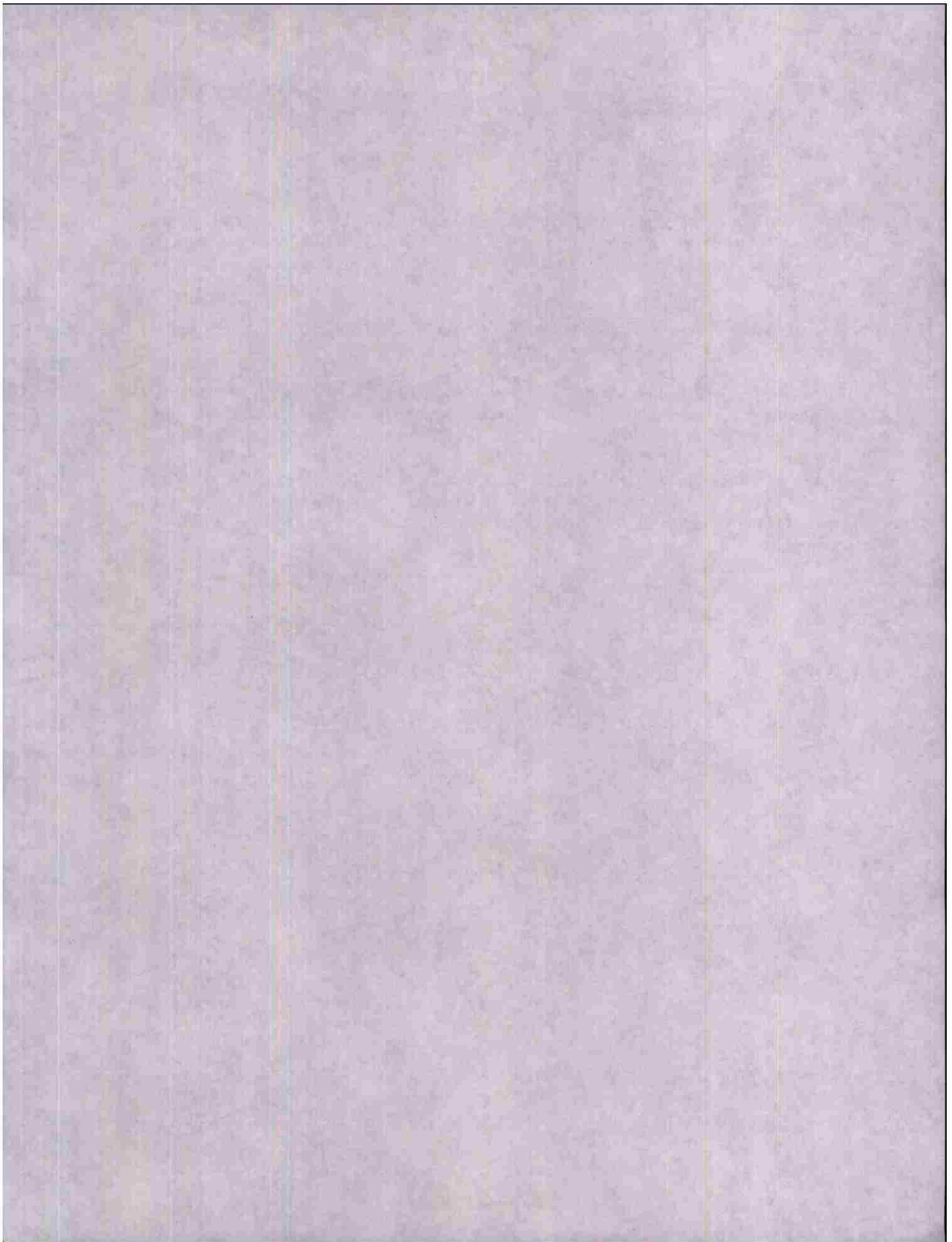
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Hope the fly has been stopped at home now. Please get somebody to help you, don't do the cooking anymore. I'm well as ever and as fat. Really too well.

Best love to all at home and lots to you.

Your loving son
William



To Gen S.R. Keesler
From Joe Rodney Jr
February 28, 1919

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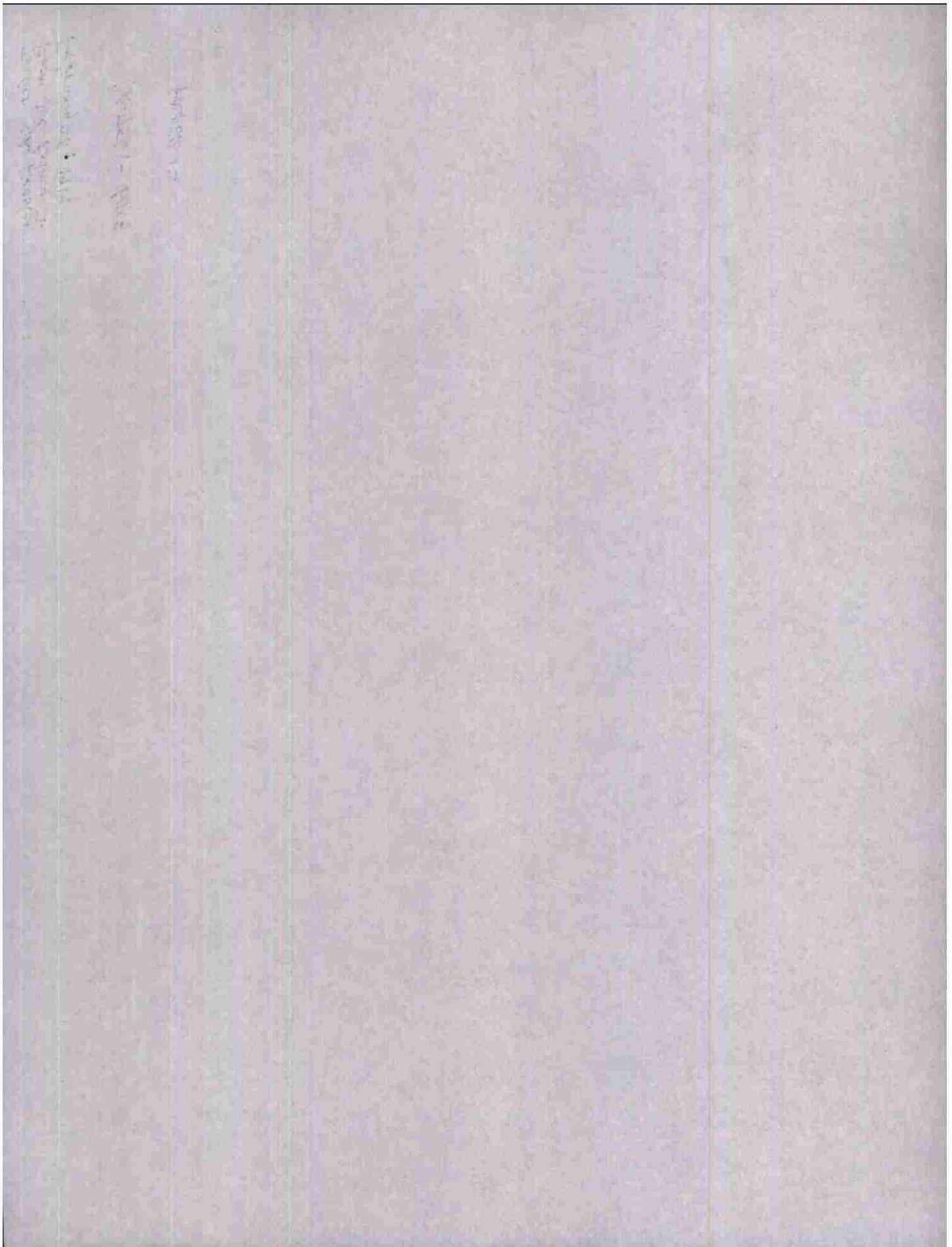
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Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AL 36112

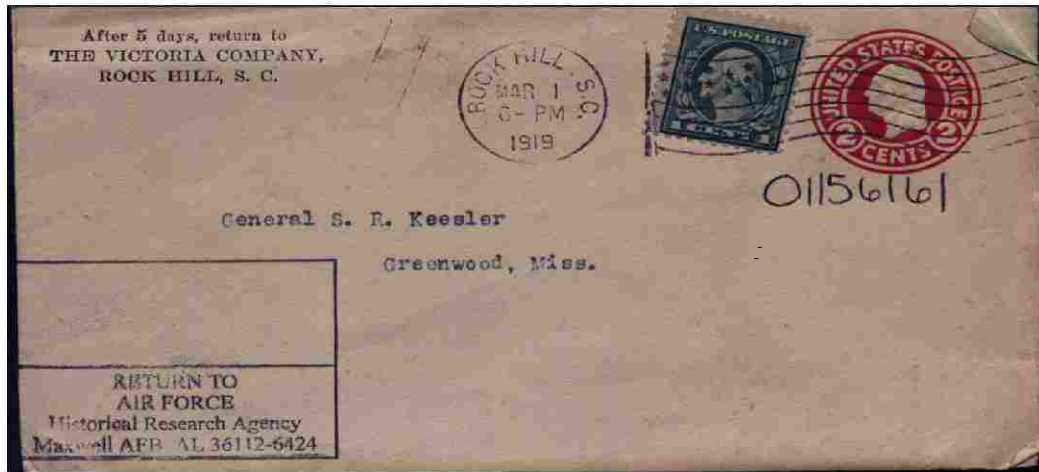
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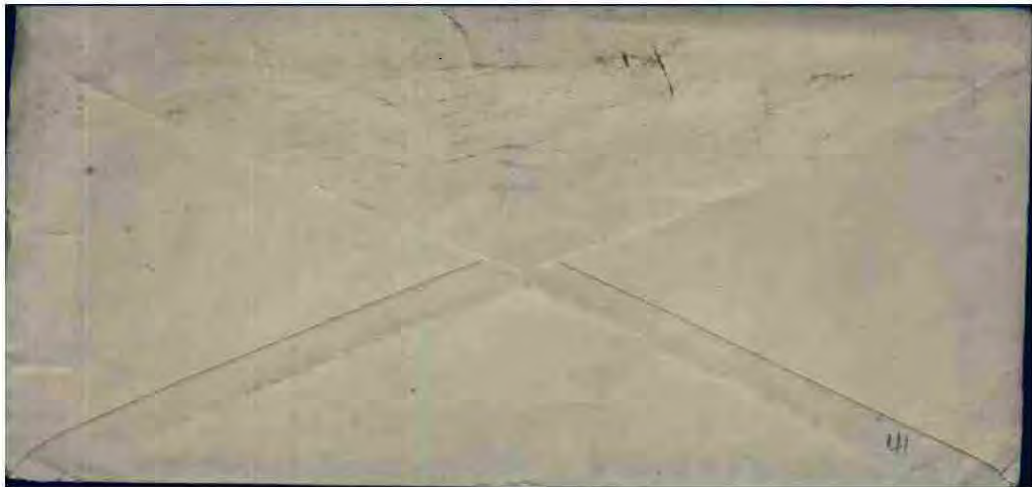


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THE VICTORIA COMPANY

W. J. RODDEY,
PRESIDENT

W. J. RODDEY, JR.
SECY-TREAS.

Rock Hill, S.C. Feb'7 28th, 1919

Dear General:

I arrived home a few days ago on leave and learned of Sam. The news fills me with mingled feelings of grief, devotion and admiration. Grief, in that he has gone away and will no longer participate with us in our work and our play. To me he seemed a brother and was a fond companion during many happy days. Dear to me not only as a friend and helpmate, but even more so for what he was. His it was to give even more than we can think; a life free from taint or tarnish; living, doing GOOD; overflowing with Love unstinted. He has reached the goal, the pinnacle, for which we must strive. He has finished his course; he has fought the good fight, and left to us the cherished memory of a life really worth while.

With deepest sympathy for his parents and family to whom he meant so much, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

W. J. Roddey Jr. Joe

To: Mrs SR Keester
From: William Keester
March 10, 1919

168.7567-Box 3

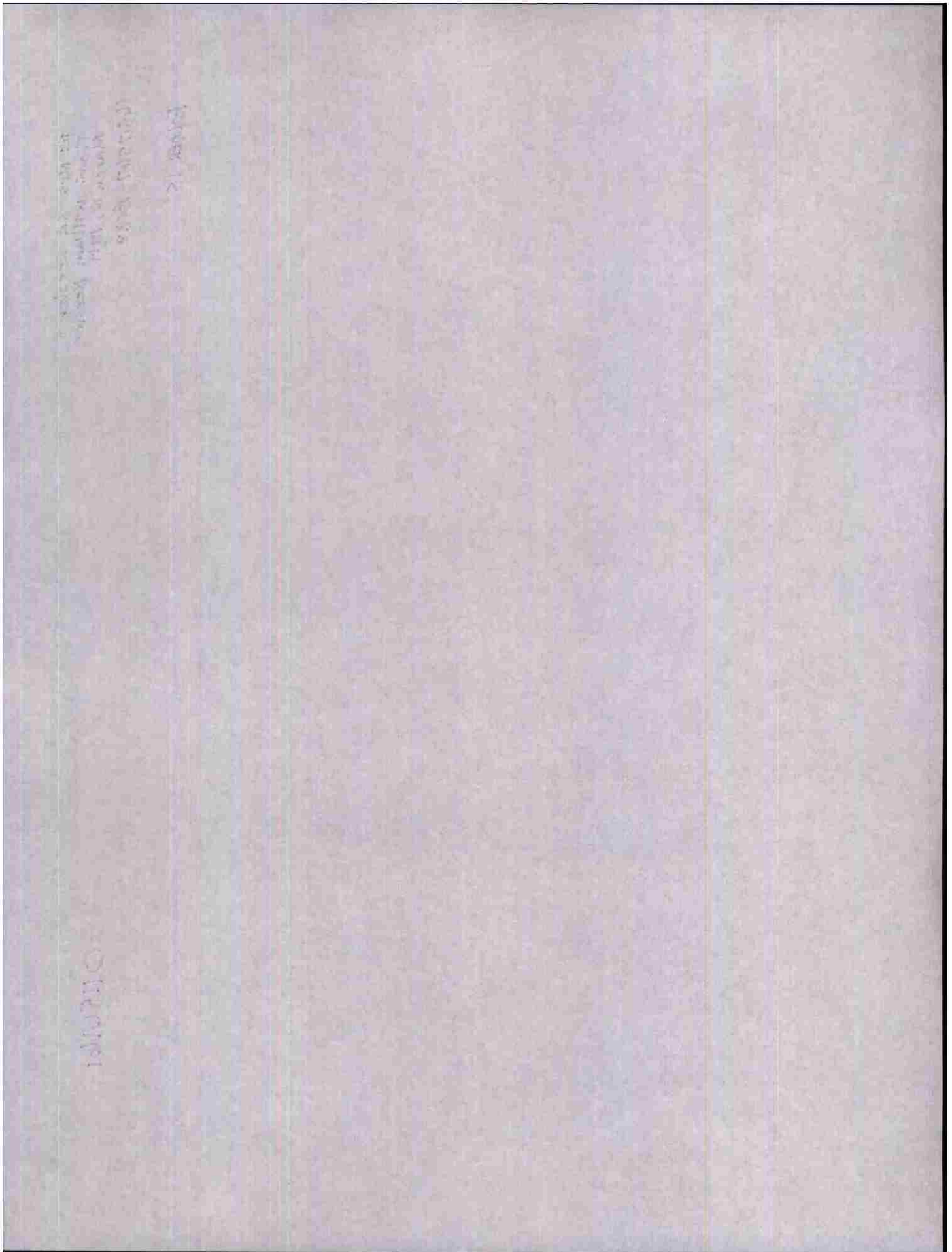
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Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6154

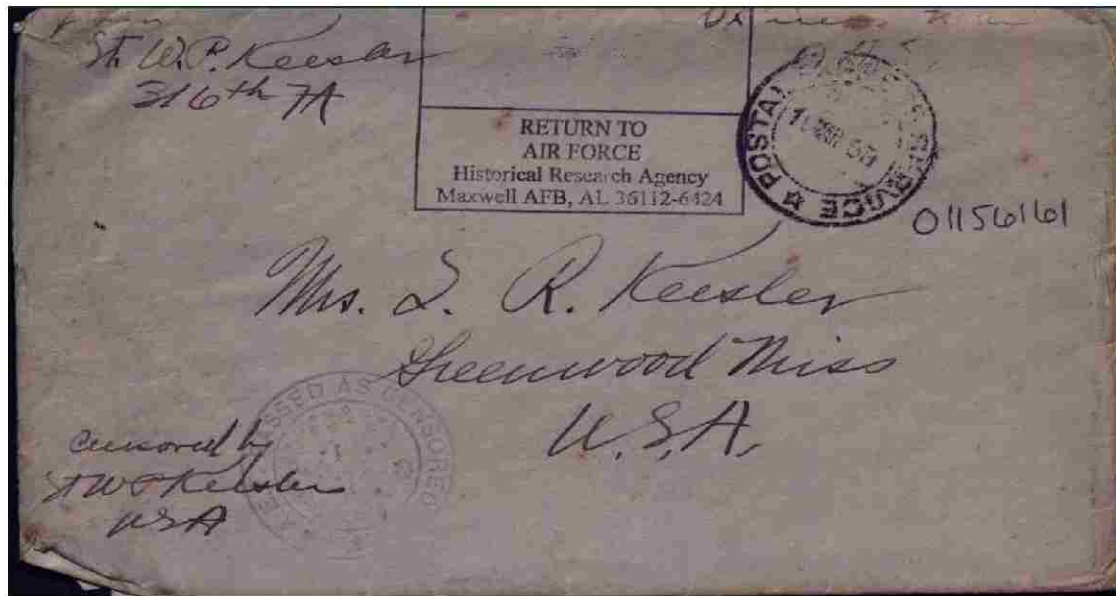
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had broken a steering arm. It was about five miles out. Then Tuesday my duties as A.O. kept me doing way after dark, Wednesday the same. Thursday I lay awake until nearly two trying to figure out how a man who was guilty could be proved not guilty. Right then & there I swore I'd prefer be a lawyer, I sure did not help that man much.

For the last week we have been getting ready for spring. We have gotten all our Base - Ball Equip-ment ready and waiting. But the weather has continued raining. Simply awful. Never saw so much mud in all my life. My Boots are our only salvation. I hope when spring comes

St. Blin,
March 7 1919

Dearest Mamma,

Your letter with Charlotte's two and Auntie's came to-day. I thank you all. Some times the mail comes so quickly then again it comes slowly. I received a letter from Elizabeth the other day which came over in thirteen days, quite a record. Hope I get home that quick when I start.

This last week has been a hummer for work. We done everything from being acting Archangel officer, to the counsel for the defense on a Court-martial. Monday night I had to go out to bring in a Nash Quad which

it will stop for a little while. When I get home you sure will be shocked to see me walk out into the rain and stay out in it as if I were a duck. We like in our slickers now.

Last Tuesday night "The Wild Cat Follies" was given by our players here. The Follies are the 316 F.A. show. And it is splendid too. You know I wrote you about it before. Well this time it was much better than at first. The men had no stage fright at all. The acts would have done justice to any high class vaudeville at home. One act in which the travels of the regiment was told was very good.

Monday in Bar sur Aube the 1st Army Horse + Motor Show took place. The week before at Chatterlon the 8th Corps had had one. We had entered a complete section, White Staff + Recon. Car. Our staff car won first + the rest second place. The staff car was then sent to Bar sur Aube to represent the 8th Corps. It took first honors so I can very truthfully say it is the best car in the Army. My but it was dilled up. Every speck of brass or copper shone like gold. Every spring, bushing, lock, door, everything was in first class shape. It was as near perfect as we could put it. What

and useful.

Hope by now Mary is back and you are out of the kitchen, I wish you would not go into the kitchen to cook. It makes me so uneasy another. Couldn't you get some one to help.

I told you about my last visit to Ed. He in Ch. comment. Well my letter to Riley have come so fast I see yet. One letter was returned. In hoping one of the others will catch him, I'm to see 2d again soon. We will have some thing to report I'm sure. We have the Map Sept working to find that town in and will find it. I have received no answer yet from letters written about Sam belonging but the

won for us. was the fact that everything that moved had been taken off & piled, so that there was not the slightest squeak or rattle. It was a wonder. Our Corps the 8th won the Motor Show.

So Wade & Nathan are back. How did Wade get out so quick. I know they have some wonderful stories to tell. Wish I could be with them. But not yet. We are expecting to go into Germany before long. That is just rumors of course. Really I want to. If we have to stay until August. We might as well be in Germany as here. It would be much more interesting.

answer should come soon.

Lately the whole regiment has been turned bottoming up words and a little more. Nearly all the officers have gone to schools + a few on leave. We who are left here are kept busy. My newest charge is keeping 14 motorcycles going. Not so easy as it sounds but not so very hard. I'll have to make several long trips next week for spare parts in snow. We have ammunition ice and must get the parts. I hate to ride over the same old roads. But it has to be done.

Must close now. Best of love to every one of you. I think of you every minute of the day and each day makes me want to come home more + more. Am well + real fat.

Your devoted son,
William

Excuse the pencil. My pen is out of ink and the closest was in the orderly room.
Woyt

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

St. Blin
 March 7, 1919

Dearest Mamma,

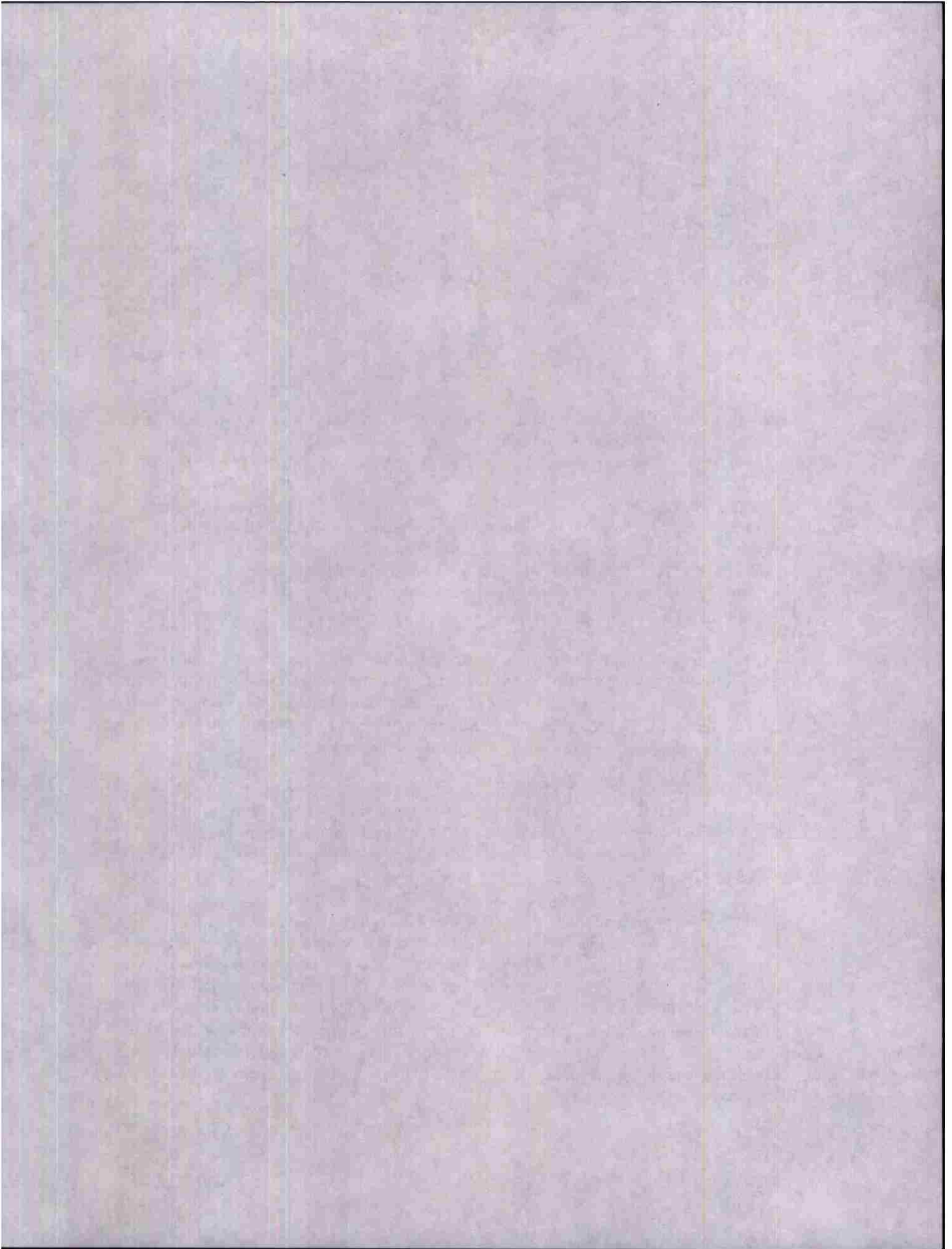
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For the last week we have been getting ready for spring. We have gotten all our Baseball equipment ready and waiting. But the weather has continued raining. Simply awful. Never saw so much mud in all my life. Hip Boots are out only salvation. I hope when spring comes it will stop for a little while. When I get home you sure will be shocked to see me walk out into the rain and stay out in it as if I were a duck. We live in our slickers now.

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Monday in Bas sur Auhe the 1st Army Horse & Motor Show took place. The week before at Chattillon the 8th Corp had had one. We had entered a complete section, White Staff & Recon Car. Our staff car won first & the rest second place. The staff car was then sent to Bas sur Auhe to represent the 8th Corps. It took first honors so I can very truthfully say it is the best car in the Army. My but it was dolled up. Every speck of brass or copper shone like gold. Every springs, bushing, lock, door, everything was in first class shape. It was as near perfect as we could put it. What won for us was the fact that everything that moved had been taken off & oiled, so that there was not the slightest squeak or rattle. It was a wonder. Our corps the 8th won the Motor Show.



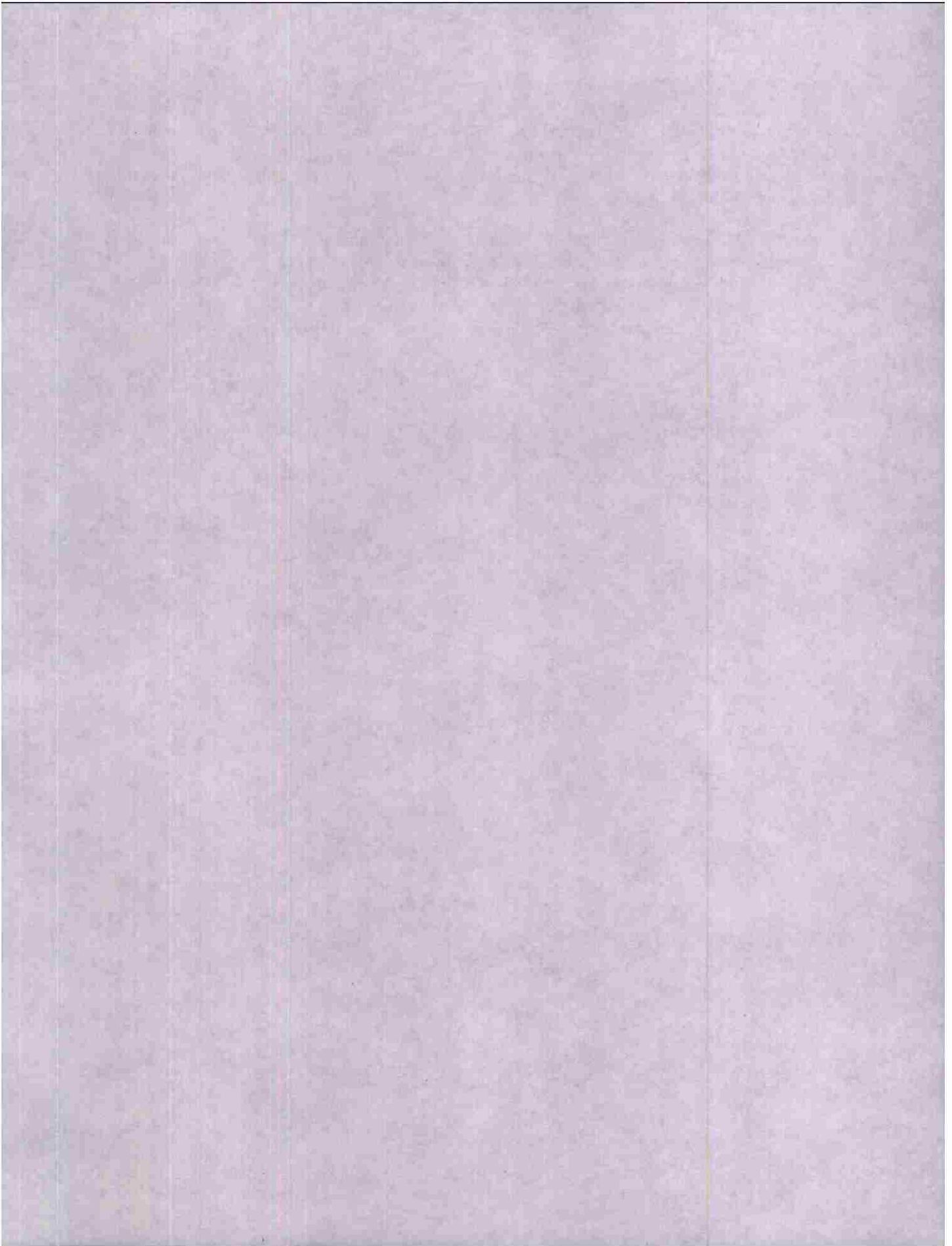
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Must close now. Best of love to every one of you. I think of you every minute of the day and each day makes me want to come home more & more. Am well & real fat.

Your devoted son,
William

Excuse the pencil. My pen is out of ink and the closest was in the orderly room.
WPK



To: Gen SR Keesler
From: William Keesler
March 21, 1919

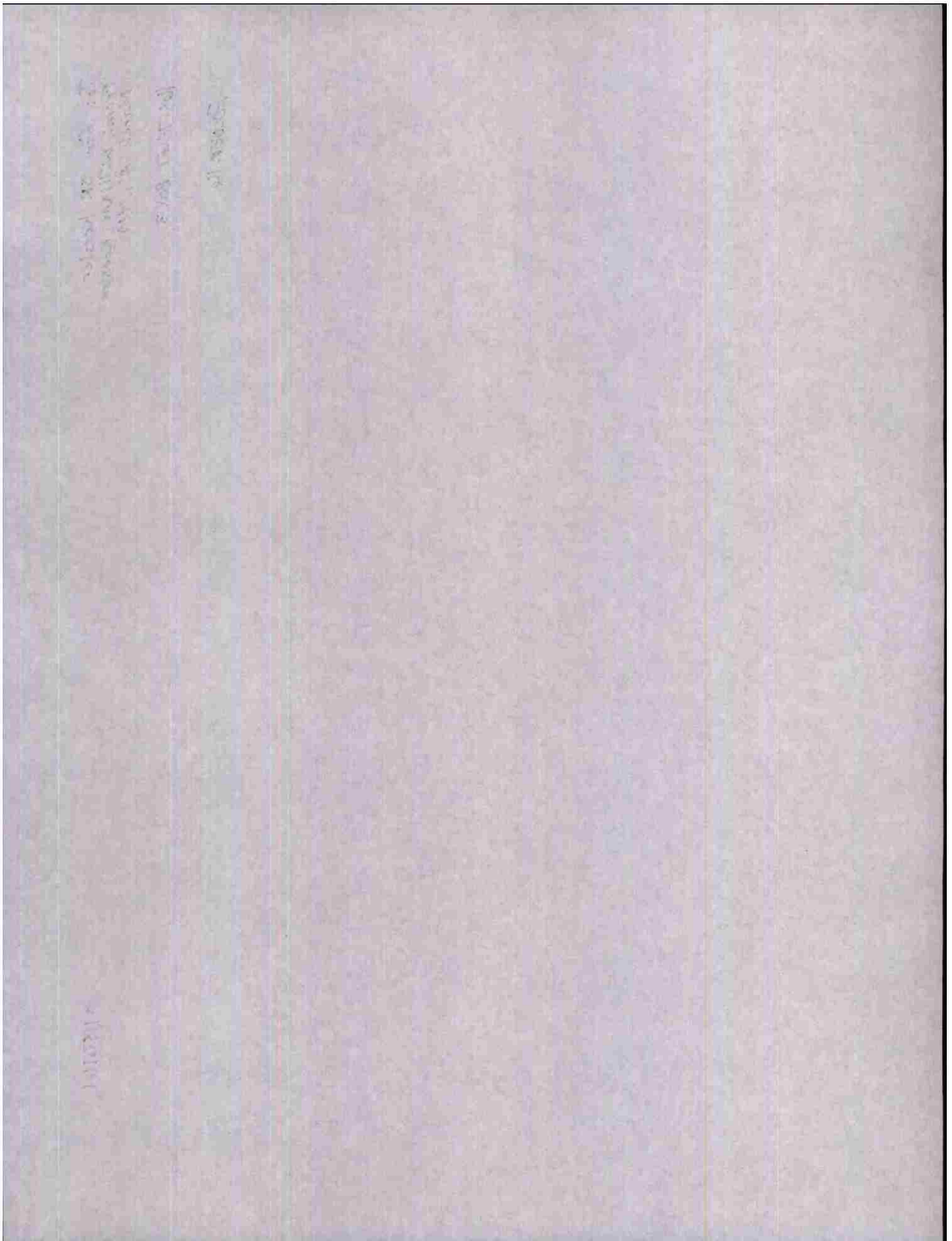
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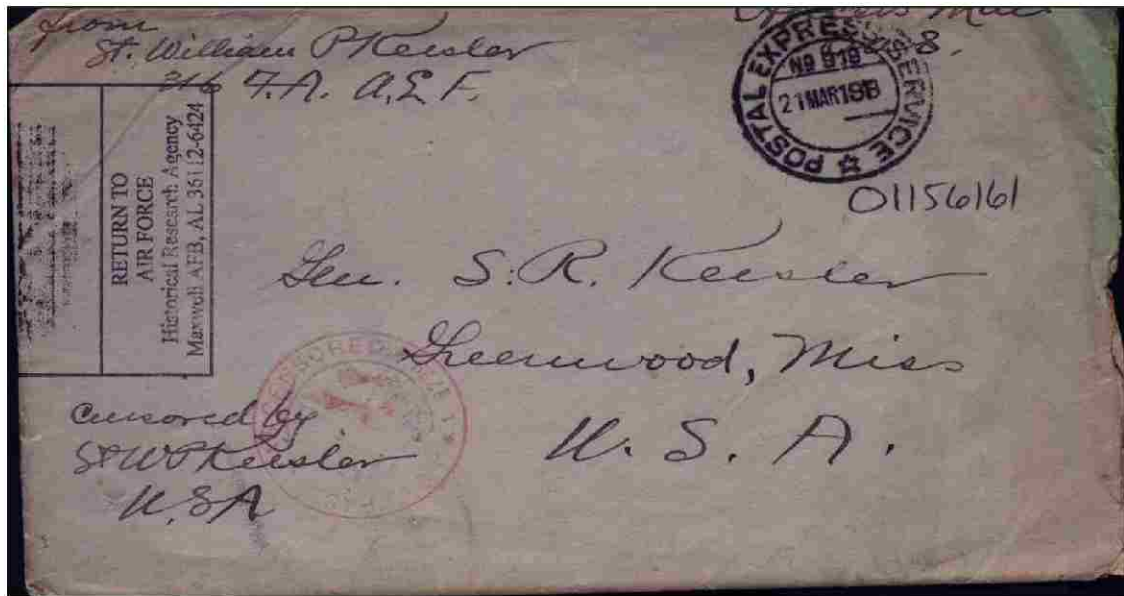
Historical Research Agency
4000 North 16th St.
St. Petersburg, FL 33712-3341

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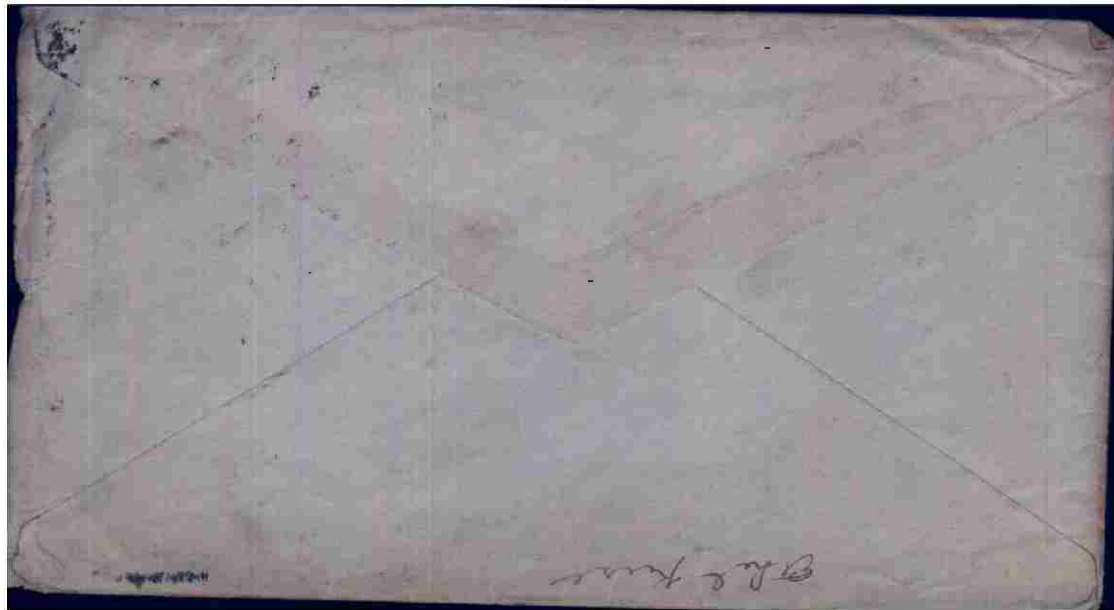


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316 HA St. Blin
March 20 1919,

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To-day was a big one at Chatillon where the "Wild Cat" were received by the King & Queen of Belgium & Lee Pershing. We were out of luck of course and could not be in the review being so far away.

But the P.C. and nearly all the officers were allowed to go. I was unlucky and did not get to go. I must have seen a big affair. The King & Queen arrived in Chaumont this morning, coming by aeroplane. They seem to do most of their traveling that way. The American Expedition at Chaumont gave them quite a welcome, going.

out to expect them in. Would have liked to have seen that. Tomorrow they go over to Don-Sur-Aube to the foot ball game between the first and second armies. I have to go to Chatillon tomorrow and will try to go back by bus and Aube so may see the same.

The first army were over there here today. I was very much surprised and pleased to see Wm B. Saunders & Stone Walker with them. Wm B. is a "Share List" and stole a Capt. Had a little chat with both. They both wanted to know the "Dope" meaning what is the news about going home. I asked on to

Wm B. all the Greenwood boys & knew and he did the same. He was looking fine & healthy. A good deal heavier & seemed even taller. Asked to be remembered to you & mother. Please tell Mom & Mrs C.E. I saw him. Jack Black was away so he missed Steele.

Last week seemed to be one of a great number a visits. Saw Ed K. again and the day after Mel Long flew over and got him and brought him over to us. Ed K. said it was quite thrilling, only he did not care to much for the fancy stuff. Mel came back over to see us the next day and did some stunts for us. Tail-spins, loop the loops, wing over & etc. He is said to be one of the best flyer. His best stunt was the one he did when he got left at night after the exercises, and rather than ride back home on a truck rode behind the pilot on a single seater, holding on to the braces. He said that towards the end, he did not care much whether he got home or not.

Ed K. and I both questioned Mel as to where La Mouine is. He said he did not know but would look it

up on these maps. The Red Cross, the S. A. S., the Independent Air Service are still looking. I go over and keep them going over or twice a week. Have you ever received Sam's account from the American Express Paris. I wrote them giving them the required data. In a letter from Elizabeth she said that you had received a letter from an officer in the 24 who had been to La Mouriere, who was at his address. They won't give me any information at N.Y. City. When I get back home, it will be a great chance to me, but I like the idea of a new home for mother. I know she will like it. In just

aching to be back home where I can sleep too, to make her & go happy. But the day is coming. So you like the marmos. It is a good car too. Right now I'd make an expert driver for one. About all I can do. I'm an expert or trucker tho. Can listen to one & tell you how the inside go round, but on any thing in the turning car is a bit like a Dodge & Cadillac. I'm not expert on the inside. Now is the material they are putting in car is the latest now. Most cars that we see over here have very poor steel in them. We thought that in a year or so after the war the quality will come back but it may come sooner. That little car

Called "Dodge" is a wonder. We have two in the regiment. Both average 17 miles per gal & give no trouble at all. One has seen 11000 & the other 6000 miles. In for the Dodge. They beat anything I ever saw, even the Ford. And motorcycles, my but they are a little concentrated much slower just like a mules. Nothing can beat them when they feel good & little when they feel bad. Right now we have three laid up. It took my gal & myself three days to make one over back fire. But that was not ours or the machine fault as the driver had timed it wrong & told us he had never touched the gear.

To-day was a wonder for climate changes. It was snowing this morning, then sleet, then rain, then all ideal spring sun came out, now it is blowing from the north & is very cold. But then it all is mud, mud, mud.

Must stop. Love to all. Am well & healthy.

Joe's devoted son

William

Officer Mail
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 Postmarked 21 Mar 1919
 From Lt William P. Keesler
 316 F.A. A.E.F.
 To: Gen S.R. Keesler
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316 F.A. St. Blin
 March 20 1919

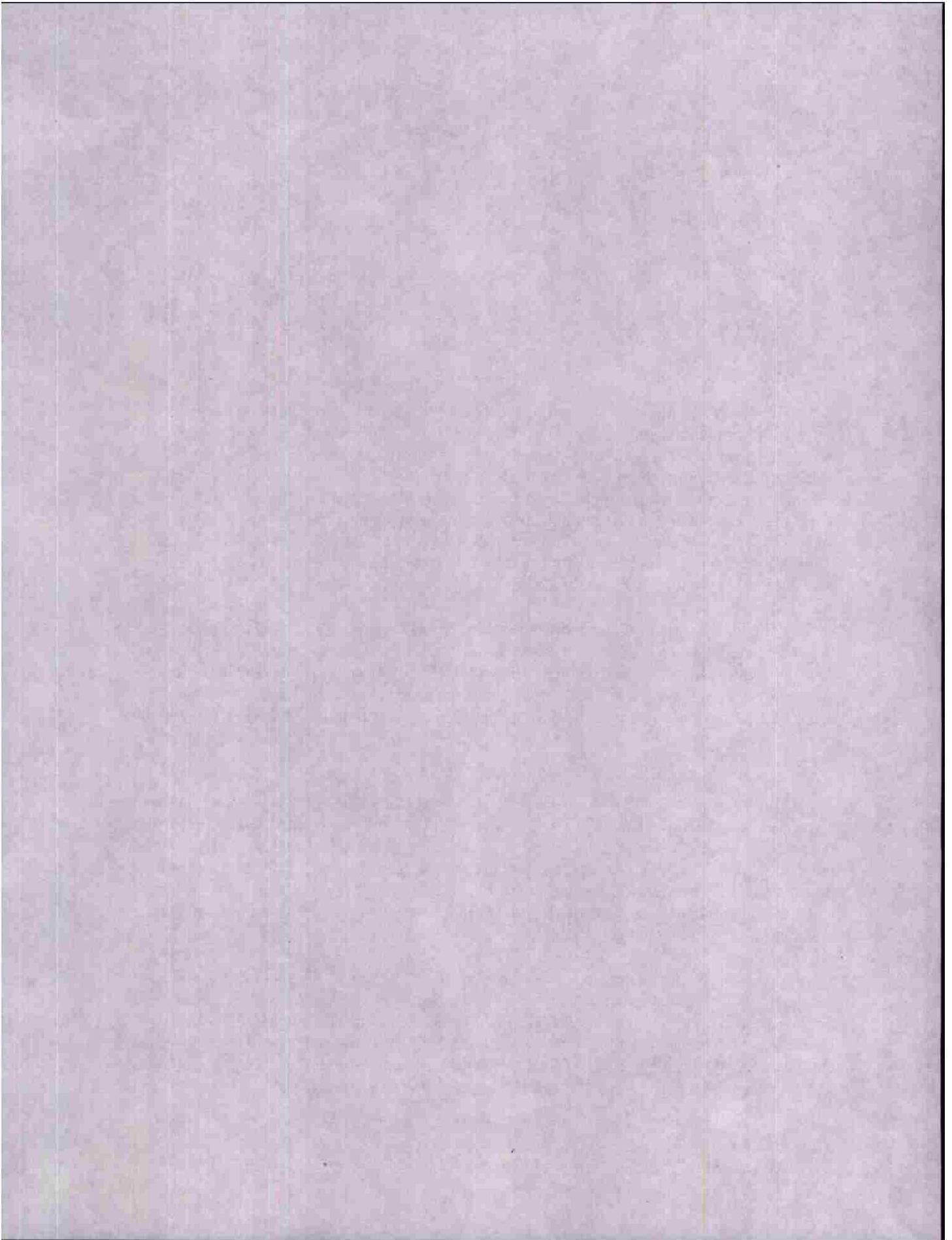
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Ed K and I both questioned Meb as to where La Mouriere is. He said he did not know but would look it up on there (sic) maps. The Red Cross, the G.A.S., the Independent Air Service are still looking. I go over and keep them going once or twice a week. Have you ever received Sam's account from the American Express Paris. I wrote them giving them the required data. In a letter from Elizabeth she said that you have received a letter from an officer in the 24 who had been to La Mouriere. Who was he and his address. They won't give any information at Hdqr Air Groups.

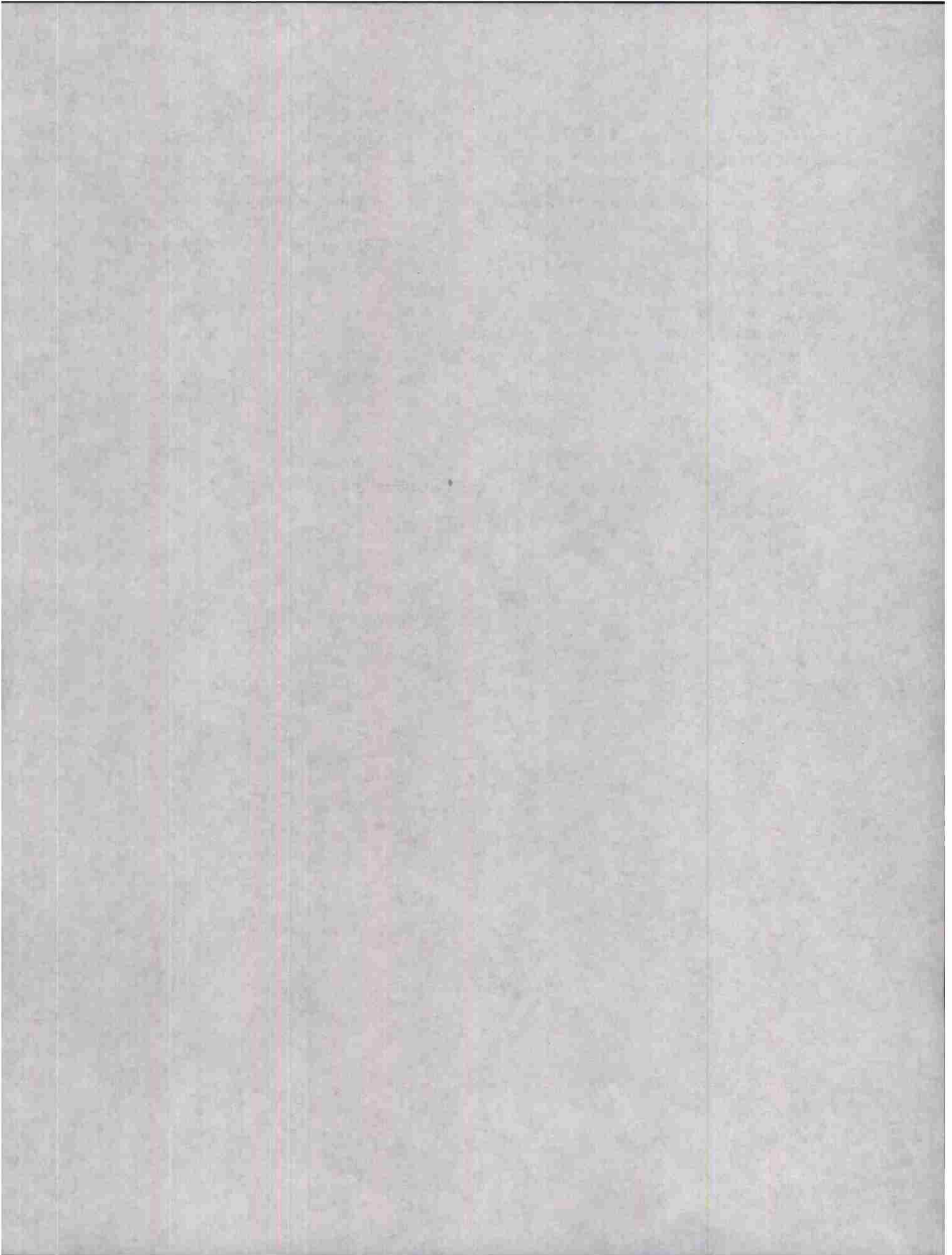


When I get back home, it will be great change to me. But I like the idea of a new home for mother. I know she will like it. I'm just aching to be back home where I can help too, to make her & you happy. But the day is coming. So you like the Marmon. It is a good car too. Right now I'd made an expert dinner for one. About all I can do. I'm an expert on trucks tho. Can listen to one & tell you how the insides go round, but on anything in the touring car line besides a Dodge & Cadillac I'm nil expert on Principals. How is the materiel they are putting in car in the States now. Most cars that we see over here have very poor steel in them. I've thought that in a year or so after the war the quality will come back but it may come sooner. That little car called "Dodge" is a wonder. We have two in the regiment. Bothe (sic) average 17 miles per gal & give no trouble at all. Ours has seen 11000 & the other 6000 miles. I'm for the Dodge. They beat anything I ever saw, even the Ford. And motorcycles, my but they are a little concentrated bunch of trouble. Just like a mule. Nothing can beat them when they feel good & little ditto when they feel bad. Right now we have three laid up. It took my Cpl & myself three days to make one even back fire. But that was not ours or the machines fault as the driver had tuned it wrong & told us he had never touched the gears.

To-day was a wonder for climatic changes. It was snowing this morning, then sleet, then rain, then an ideal Spring sun came out, now it is blowing from the north & is very cold. But thru it all is mud, mud, mud.

Must stop. Love to all. Am well & healthy.

Your devoted son,
William



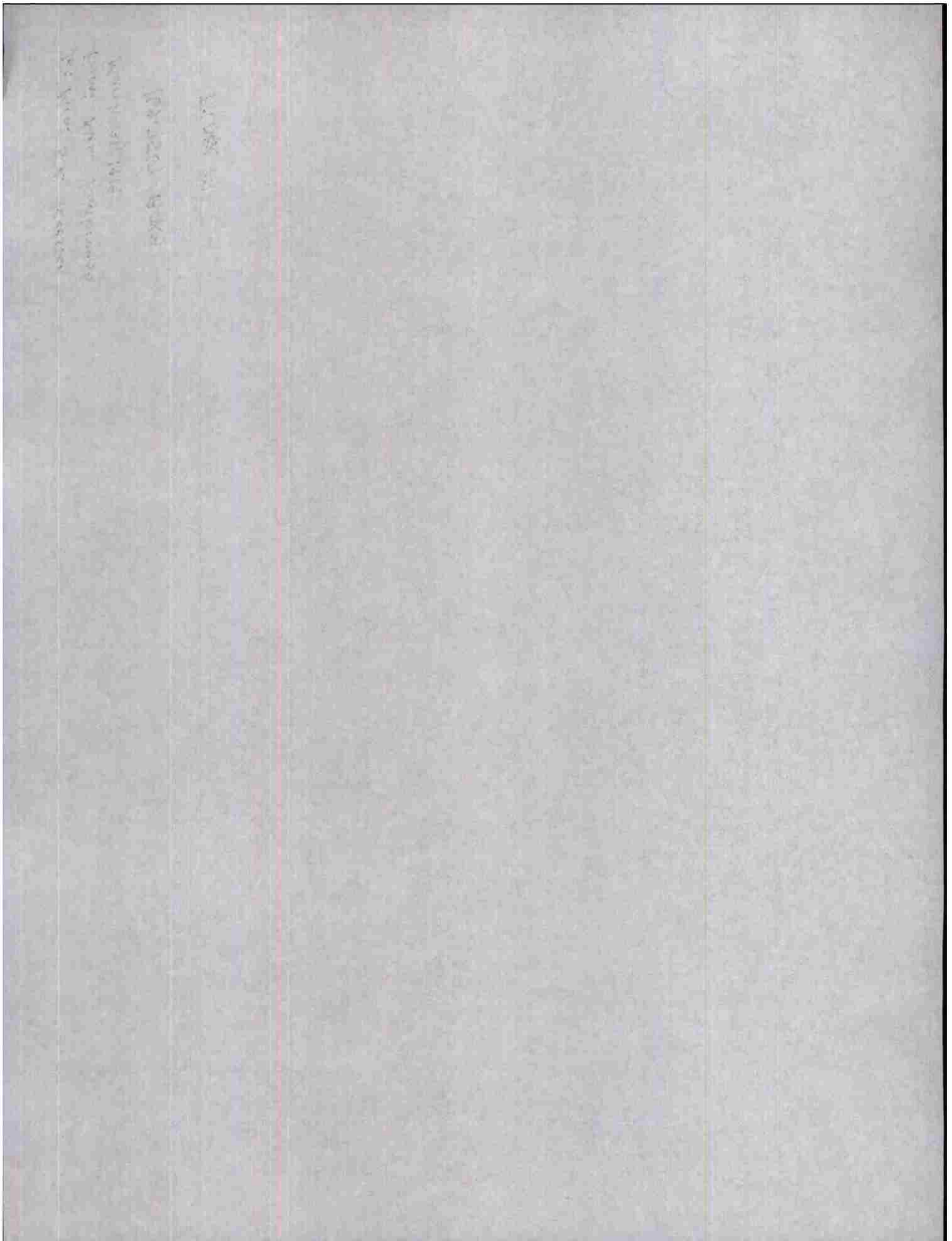
To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler
From: Mrs. Kimbrough
March 31, 1919

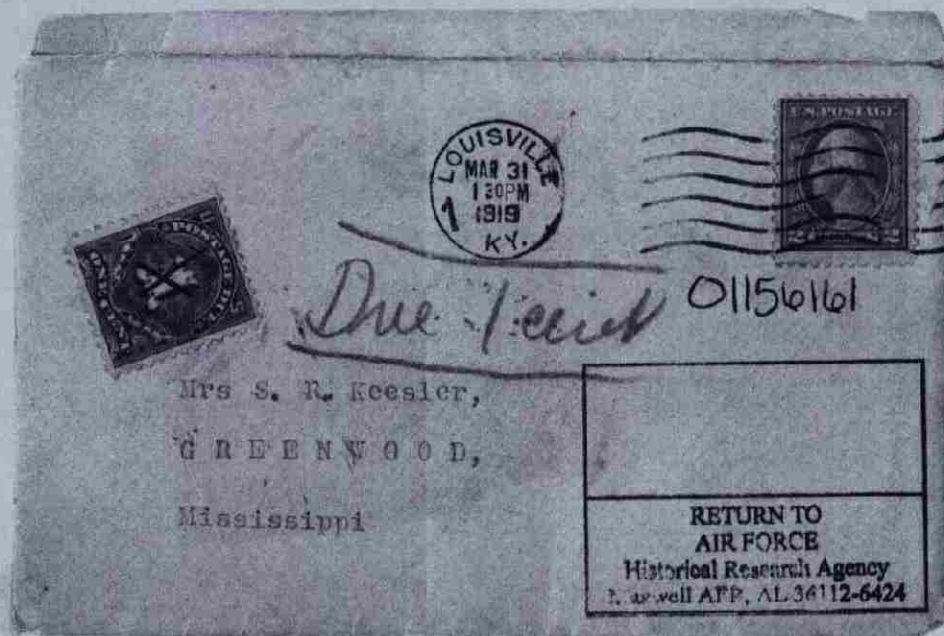
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Folder 17
RETURN TO ADDRESS 100 North 10th Avenue Tulsa, Okla. AL 451 2-6-24

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2007

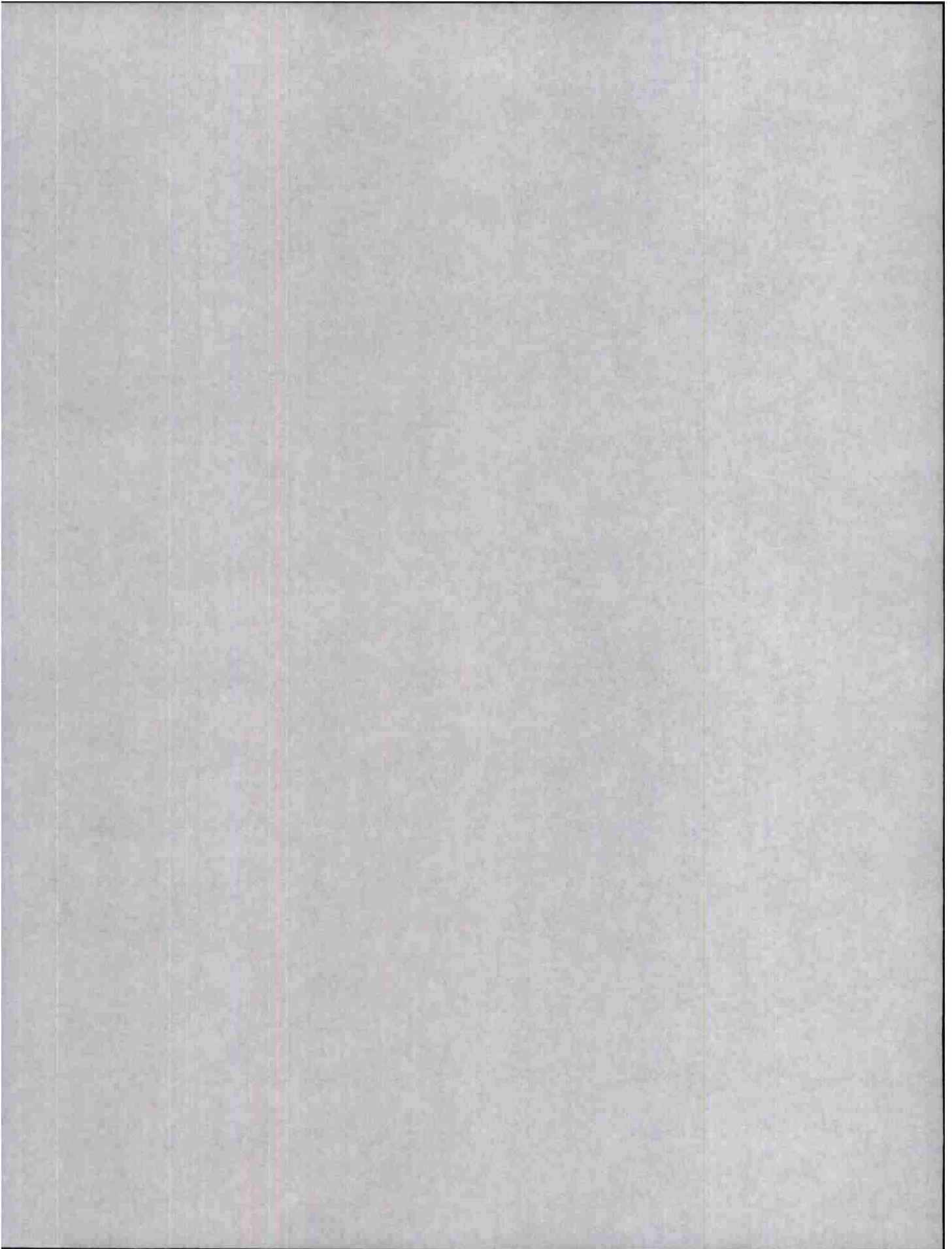
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17





Colonel Stanley Ford of the Regular United States army is in Macomb today for a few hours visit at the home of his wife and son Hamer, and her parents Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Pace. Colonel Ford has been for some months stationed at a cantonment near Louisville, Kentucky. He received orders to report at Washington, and had time enough before reporting to make a twelve hour stay here. He leaves for Washington tonight.



#3-----

Trusting that the little poem
may bring you some small measure of
comfort, I am,

A deeply sympathetic friend,

Mary H. H. H.
Dictated-----

Greenwood, Miss.,
March,
Twenty-eighth,
1919

Dear Mrs. Keesler:-

I saw in the paper that the
pilot of the airplane in which your
dear boy went down is to visit you; I
know it will be comforting to you to
have with you one who was with Sam in
his last hours.

I am sending you a copy of a
poem which I have desired to send you
ever since we learned of his sad fate,
and which to me was a great solace
during those days when there was a
cloud over the American homes, and
despondency reigned in our hearts,

I look forward to the day of universal peace, and your boy's strong spirit has been a factor toward such a happy culmination. I pray fervently for the time to come when "we shall dwell together in unity and peace", and shall have no further fear of losing from our hearth our brightest and best.

"Firm be thy soul - serene in power,
When adverse fortunes cloud the sky,
Undazzled by the triumph hour,
On his bright memory,
Love may still repose
With an immortal trust."

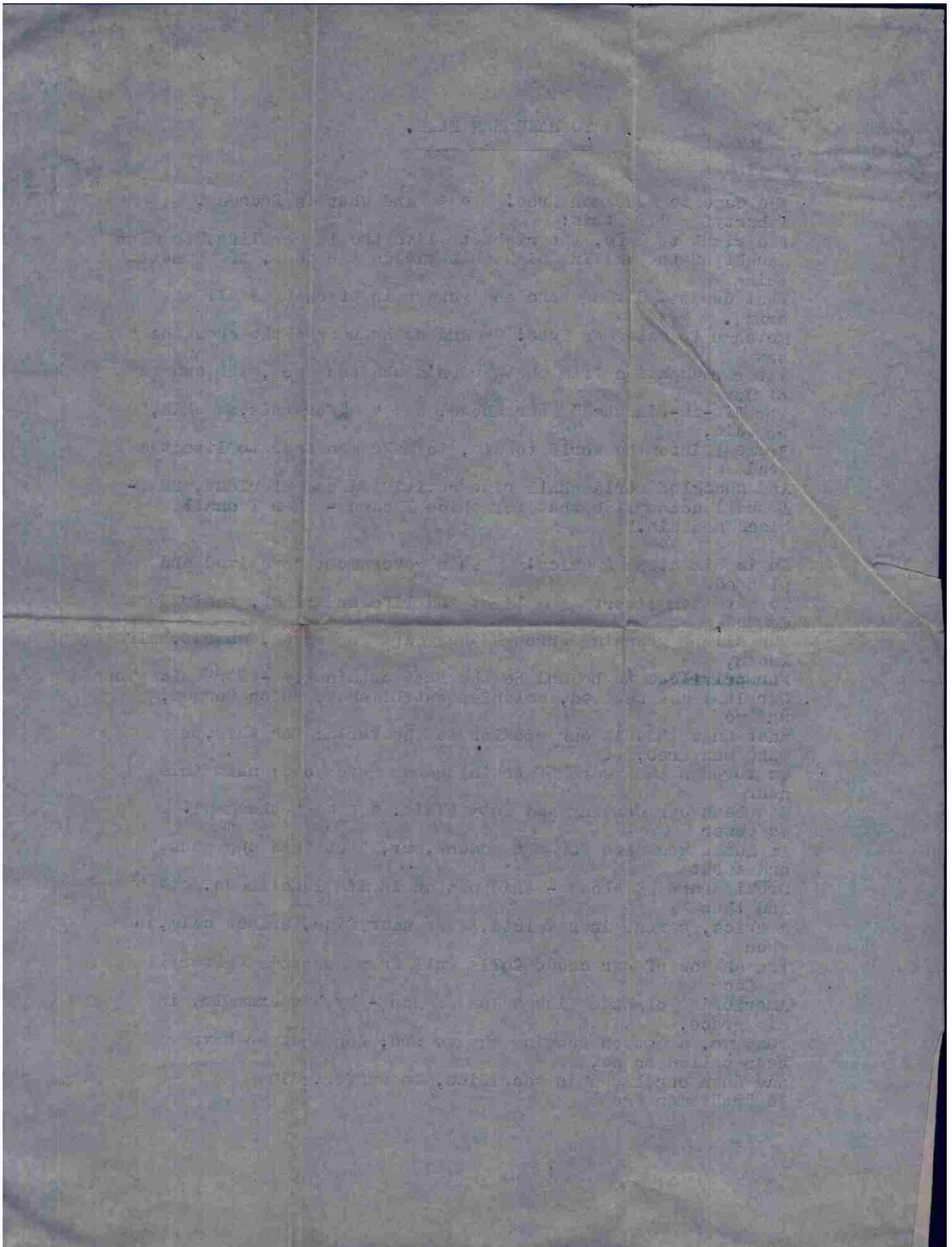
omnipotent will.
But we must all bow in resignation to a divine,
taken, with life's first laurels in his hands;
out to meet thy pain". Now sad that he should be
gentle and high-minded son. "All my soul goes
depths of my heart in the loss of your chivalrous,
I sympathize with you from the innermost
crucifixion of the Son of Man.
poem compares our suffering as a nation to the
For the cause of democracy and right. This little
those valiant American boys "over there", fighting
in far-away France, whom we might never see again -
whenever our thoughts reverted to the brave boys

-----#2

TO MAKE MEN FREE.

He came to make men free! * * * And what is freedom,
 liberty? 'Tis this:
 The right to life, the right to live the larger life, to miss
 Naught of the calling high that yields the best, the finest
 thing
 That deepest living here and yonder in eternity shall
 bring. * * *
 He came to make men free! And as he neared the cross he
 saw
 The consummation from the garden's shadows deep, the end
 of law,
 The "it-is-finished" hour ahead. * * * "For this, to this,"
 he said,
 "came I into the world to die, to make men free to live; the
 dead
 And shackled world shall rise revivified and glorious, and I -
 I shall accomplish that for which I came - when I shall
 bleed and die."

So in his steps America! This government conceived and
 planned
 To give men liberty and light and life and right, their just
 demand,
 The silent yearning through the years for truth, unwrit, half
 known,
 For privilege to be and be the best attainable - for this alone
 Our land was settled, colonies established, union formed,
 and we
 Must know this is our mission to the world; for this, to
 make men free,
 We through the years of training now have come; unto this
 hour
 Has been our destiny and duty plain. * * * Gethsemane!
 We cower
 In human weakness for the moment, cry, "Let this cup pass,"
 and sweat
 Great drops of blood - this nation in its loneliness. * * *
 And then
 America, serene in resolute, fine sacrifice, arises calm, and
 when
 The shadow of our cross falls full from Europe's Calvary,
 we face
 America's Golgotha like a Son of Man - by his example, in
 his grace,
 That we, a nation knowing why we are, for what we have
 been called to be,
 Lay down our lives in sacrifice, to suffer, die,
 To "make men free"



To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler
From: William Keesler
March 31, 1919

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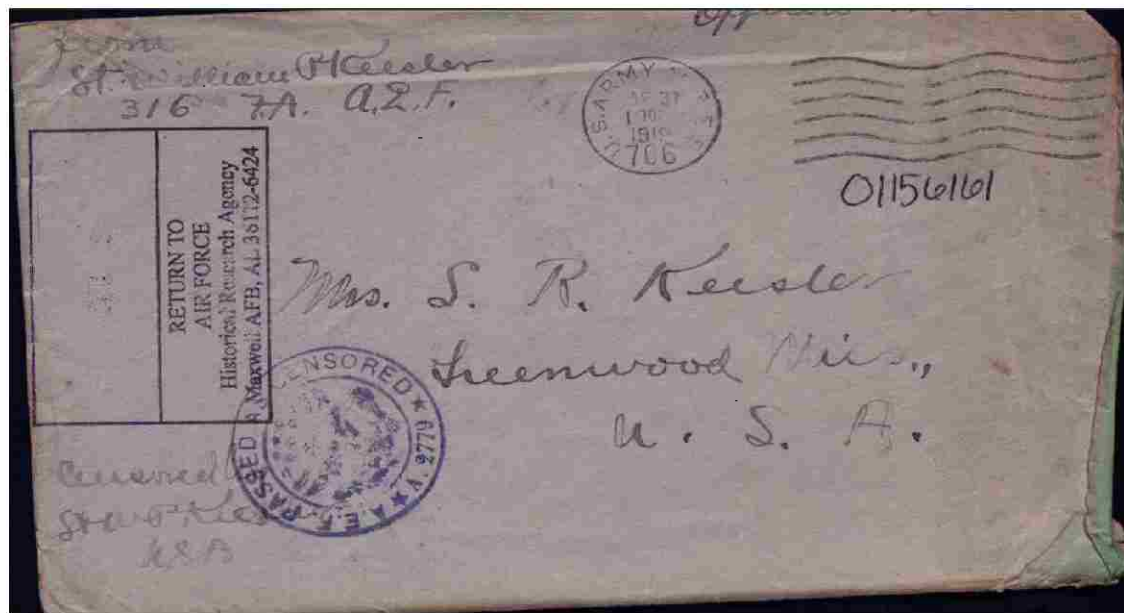
FOLDER 17

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

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day of horses & mules. It was
really wonderful the way
we got over the ground. We
have 81 motor driven vehicles
in the regiment and horses
40 more for mule the 316
was fully motorized. We
made quite a show coming
down the road. Our outfit
consisted I guess was a mile
long. That is if we had
mored at one time, the
march or hike was not with
two sections. The first had
fourteen tractors and fifty
two trucks. The second had
twenty tractors & the same

3167A FFA, A.E.F.
March 28 1919

Rearest Mother,

I now have a new outfit
The 316 has changed it home
again. We got orders last Sunday
to move and by Thursday we
were all here some 34 miles
away from St. Albans. We are
in Chateaufort, a good way
from south of Chateaufort.
about 14 miles. We started moving
Wednesday morning at 6 AM
and at 2 PM Thursday every man
gun, and bag & so on had been
mored. That is quite a record
for moving. I suppose in the

number 1 truck.
 The town we are in now
 was founded many years ago. I
 haven't found out just what but
 it was quite a while. The street
 walls have been torn down in
 nearly every case save a few
 old houses. I am going to try to
 get in side one of those to see
 how the roof. There are some
 later fortifications standing and
 still some later. All very interesting
 the church is a beautiful
 structure both on the outside &
 inside. The whole town is interesting
 and is clearer than St. Pierre.
 While on thinking about it
 my address is just.
 316th Field Artillery
 American Exp. Force
 France.
 Please don't put this in the
 in the envelope as it may get
 into post.

and he only told me what
I already knew. I have
also learned that Sevier
personnel who were shipped
to Brest or there on or about
Oct 26. See tracing there.
I sure did enjoy your
last letter. Got it the day
before I left St. Pierre.

We are having wild
winters every day now. One
day some one had no seeing
to Luxembourg. next day P. St.
next home & no frost. I
want just two things, I want
to go home & I would like I

Fathers cable came today
you getting home. Going to
Luxembourg to inform you about
Sanderson a map. Also to see
Sevier officers in the
France Reorganization Service. I
know now I will soon be
at Sevier Grant. I am
putting in for a promotion
day before, asking for
promotion to brigadier that
part of the front. Last Sunday
I was at the 24th Squadron
I found out nothing. There
was only one officer there
who knew Sam or Riley

want to stay to go to Germany. I
 would like to see them and if I
 have to stay over here the only way
 doesn't end to stay too long with one
 spot. I know you are going to enjoy
 our new home. What a great
 help more in that would be
 lot of him.
 Of no this good here. But it
 has raised, although it is not unusual
 But we did have two days of pretty
 weather. Today's evening has come
 now for good. In kind of mood.
 Saw well. White tomorrow night
 But here to all.
 Your loving son
 William

Officer Mail
 Postmarked Mar 31 1919
 From Lt William P. Keesler
 316th F.A. A.E.F.
 To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler
 Greenwood Miss
 U.S.A.

316th F.A., A.E.F.
 March 28, 1919

Dearest Mother,

I now have a new billet. The 316 has changed it home again. We got orders last Sunday to move and by Thursday we were all here some 34 miles away from St. Blin. We are in Chateavillain, a good size town southwest of Chaumont about 14 miles. We started moving Wednesday morning at 6 AM and at 215 Thursday every man gun, and baggage had been moved. That is quite a record for moving. Impossible in the day of horses & mules. It was really wonderful the way we got over the ground. We have 81 motor driven vehicles in the regiment and borrowed 40 more, so for once the 316 was fully motorized. We made quite a show coming down the road. Our entire column I guess was a mile long. That is if we had moved at one time. The march or hike was cut into two sections. The first had fourteen tractors and fifty two trucks. The second had twenty tractors & the same number of trucks.

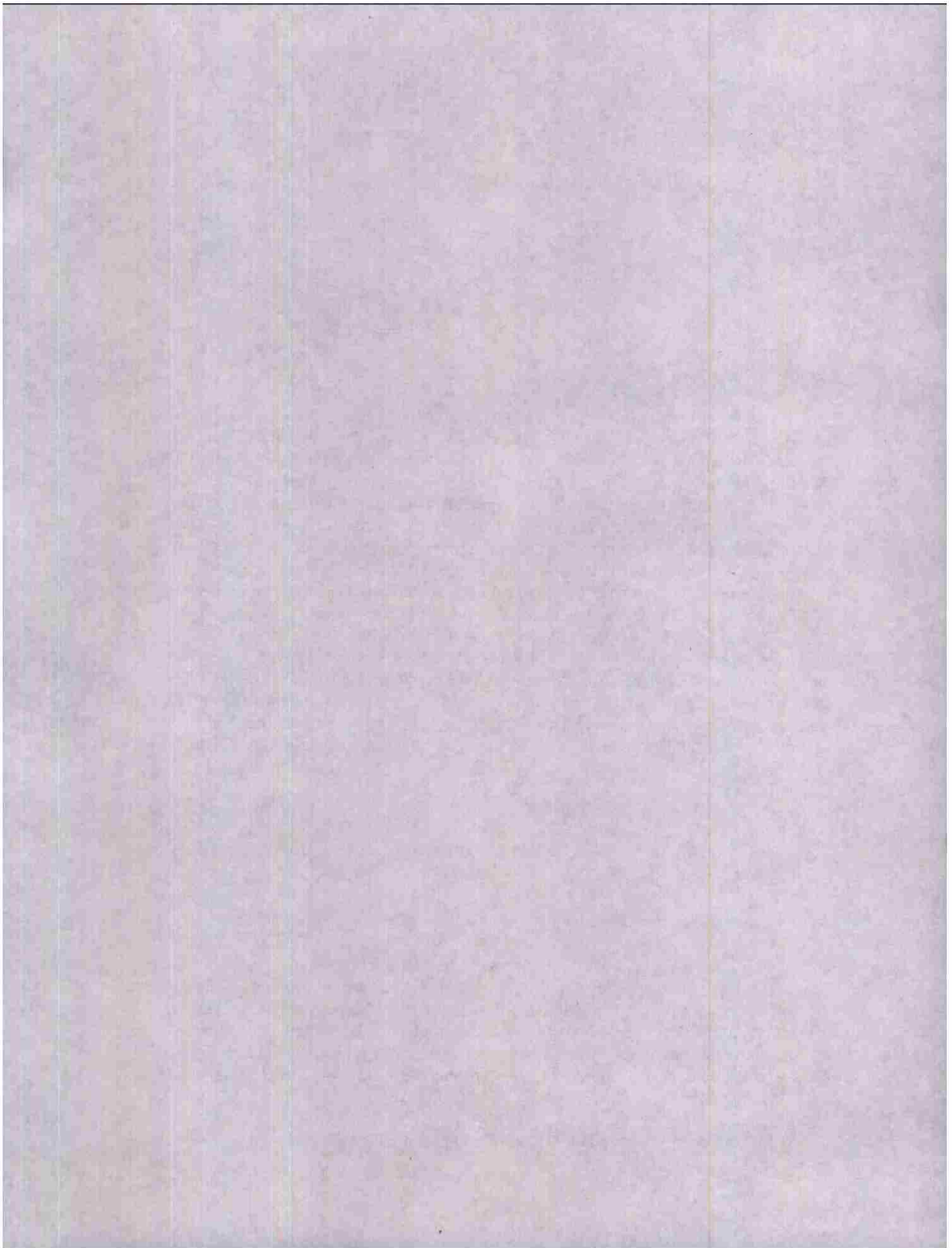
The town we are in in (sic) now was founded many years ago. I haven't found out just when but it was quite a while. The oldest walls have been torn down in nearly every case save a few old towers. I am going to try to get in side one of these to see how the (sic) look. There are some later fortifications standing and still some later. All very interesting. The church is a beautiful structure both on the outside & inside. The whole town is interesting and is cleaner than (sic) St. Blin.

While I'm thinking about it my address is just
 316th Field Artillery
 American Exp. Forces
 France

Please don't put Chateavillain on the envelope as it may get miss sent.

Father's cable same to-day. I am getting busy. Going to Chaumont to-morrow to locate Laudes on a map. Also to see several officers in the Grave Registration service. I know now I will soon be at Sam's grave. I am putting in for a fourteen day leave, asking for permission to visit that part of the front. Last Sunday I was at the 24th Squadron. I found out nothing. There was only one officer there who knew Sam or Riley and he only told me what I already knew. I have also learned that Sam's personal effects were shipped to Brest or Gievres on or about Oct 26. Am tracing them.

I sure did enjoy your last letter. Got it the day before I left St. Blin.



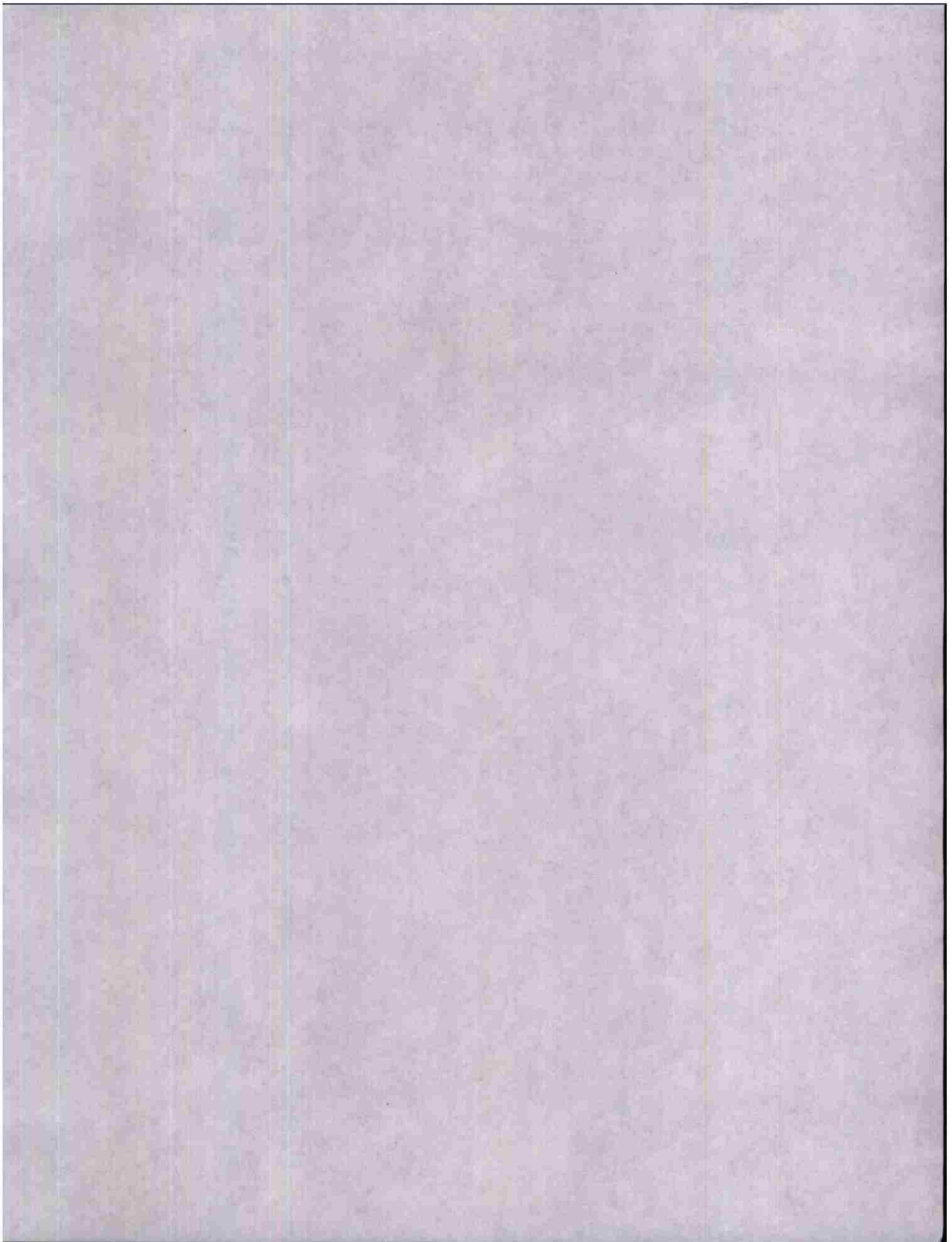
We are hearing wild rumors every day now. One day some one has us going to Germany, next day Poland, next home & so forth. I want just two things. First to go home & second if I have to stay to go to Germany. I would like to see Germany if I have to stay over here till July. One doesn't come to stay too long in one spot.

I know you are going to enjoy our new home. Wish I could help move in. That would be lots of fun.

It is still cold here. Lately it has rained, although that is not unusual. But we did have two days of pretty weather. Hope Spring has come now for good. I'm tired of mud.

Am well. Write tomorrow night. Best love to all.

Your loving son
William

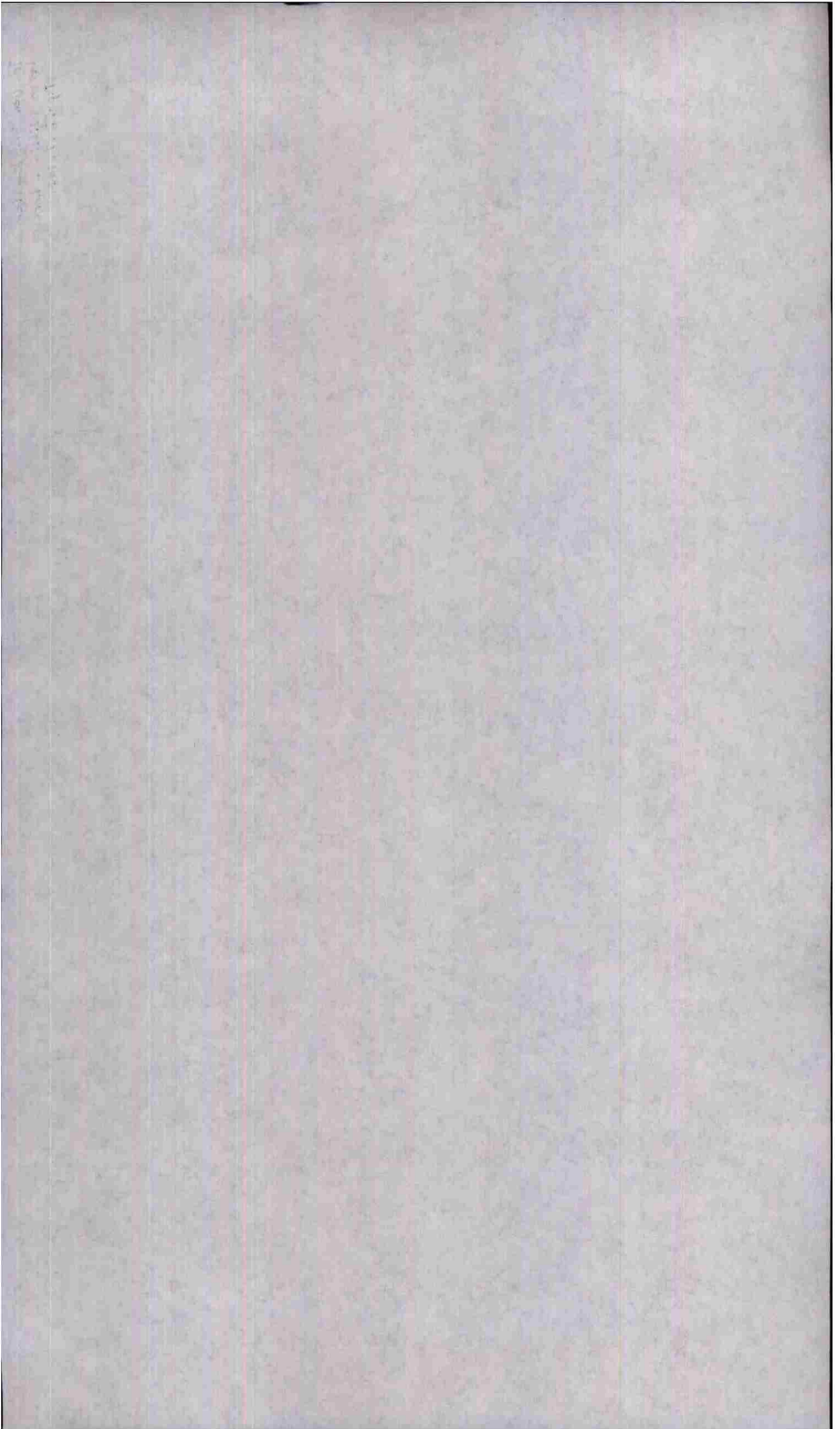


To Gen. S. Kessler
From William Kessler
April 17, 1919

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FOI 19
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Branch Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6024

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2007

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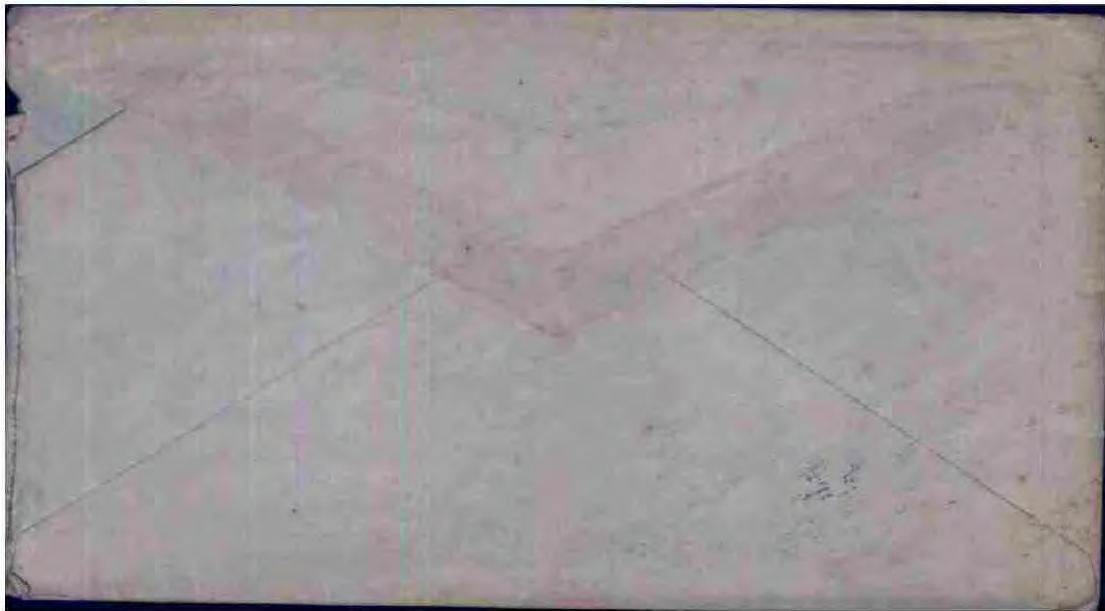


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Matten for the record and
 also that the commanding officer
 was not present & give me the
 permission & asked for. Her
 since she been getting ready, we
 made four men post with about
 chains between and a metal (con-
 tracter. Everything is ready and
 expect to go Saturday noon. The
 reason I am with us because
 except we finding the location
 before and why the car was & the
 in service and we are there.
 spelling & standards. Her your
 because was wrong. It had
 LA NDES. We had La Mouine felt
 a half dozen ways.
 I know this seems you &
 matter. It looks a great number from

Dear Father

216th T.H. April 9,

This is just a note.
 The day after I wrote you last
 went to Laumont to see the
 map section. I was very successful
 at last found on a map
 traces of the mouine. It had found
 them a day ahead of me but could
 not communicate with me. Just
 as soon as I can get one in riding
 you the map with both places I
 reached. Just as soon as I found
 them I tried to get drivers to go there,
 but when I got back from Laumont
 found that the in (reaching we
 going to receive the 81st Thursday
 and that all transportation would
 be used taking the regiment to

me too. And when I return with the
 knowledge that some waiting place is
 marked so that you, mother, there +
 all these others can come straight to it
 when the time comes, that awaits everyone
 of great heart straight and without delay.
 The spot is being reserved for me
 by the C. I. C. It is a big day for us all.
 I am dressed now for the day with
 at home, to take care of the shop + etc.
 But I think tomorrow I'll report with
 my wife and child and see
 the result. We are here here busy
 getting ready for it since we heard
 made a very early trip to see
 if I could get in on point. Some
 were flying around in great shape. The
 weather looks good enough. At
 is running again for a couple of
 days of clear weather. The old man
 and I don't know how well about staying
 must close. I don't care to see.
 your mother son
 William

Officer Mail
Postmarker Apr 7, 1919
U.S. Army M.P.E.S.
From Lt William P. Keesler
316th FA. A.E.F
To: Gen. S.R. Keesler
Greenwood Miss.,
U.S.A.

316th F.A. April9,

Dear Father,

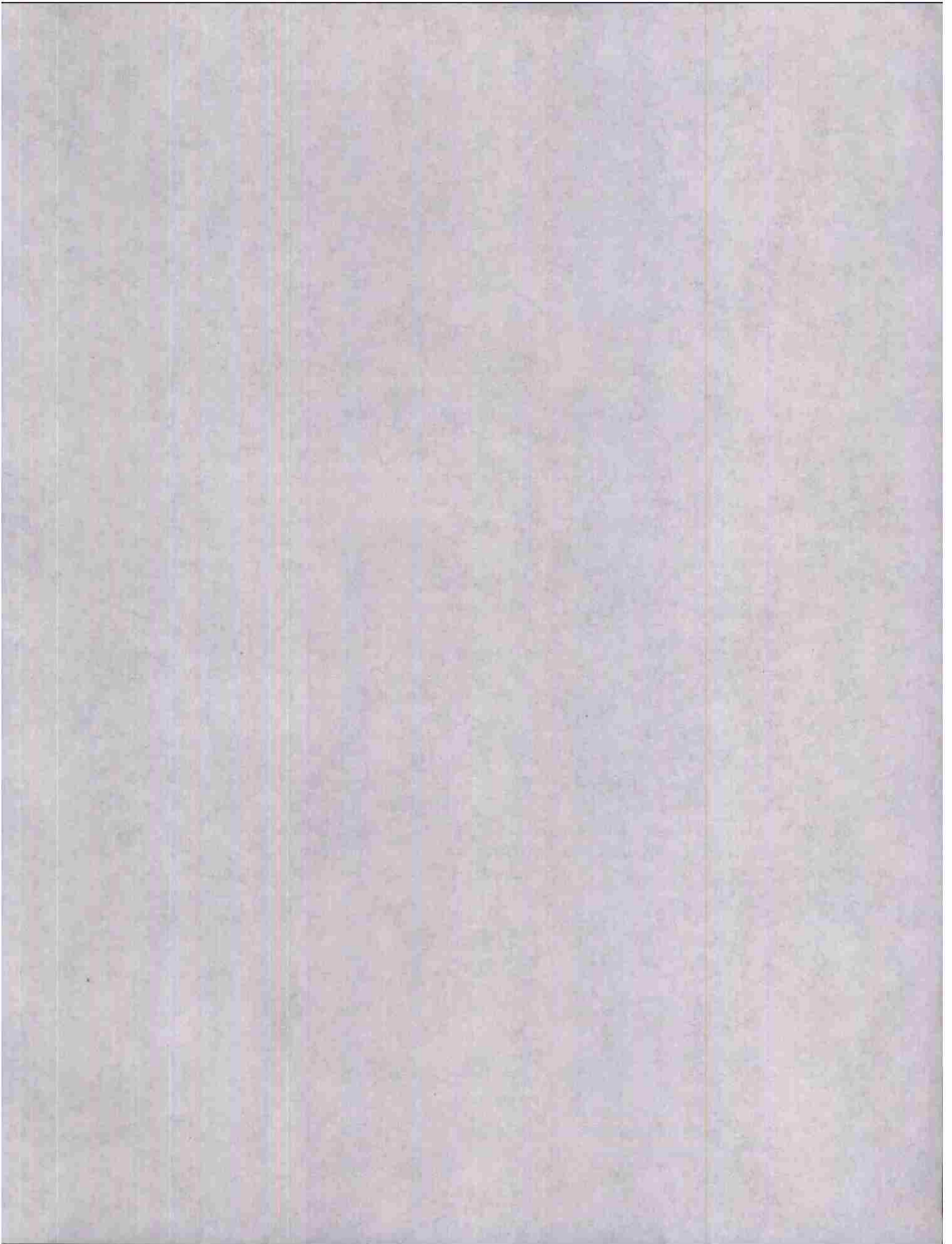
This is just a note. The day after I wrote you last I went to Chaumont to see the Map Section. I was very successful. I've at last found on a map Laudres & La Mouriere. Ed had found them a day ahead of me but could not communicate with me. Just as soon as I can get one I'm sending you the map with both places marked. Just as soon as I found them I tried to get orders to go there, but when I got back from Chaumont I found that the C in C/Perishing was going to review the 81st Thursday and that all transportations would be used taking the regiment to Chatillon s/s for the review and also that the Commanding Officer was not present to give me the permission I asked for. Ever since I've been getting ready. I've made four iron posts with stout chains between and a metal (copper) marker. Everything is ready and I expect to go Saturday noon. The reason I have been so unsuccessful in finding the location before and why the Red Cross & the Air Service failed is in the spelling of Laudres. Even your telegram was wrong. It had LANDES. We had La Mouriere spelt a half dozen ways.

I know this relieves you & mother. It lifts a great burden from me too, and when I return with the knowledge that Sam's resting place is marked so that you, mother, F.W.R. & all the sisters can come straight to it when the time comes, that awful suspense of just hear say & etc will vanish too.

The 81st is being reviewed tomorrow by the C in C. It is a big day for us all. I am doomed however to stay idly at home, to take care of the shop & etc. But I think tomorrow I'll _____ with my motorcycle and ride over to see the review. We sure have been busy getting ready for it since we heard. I made a fifty or sixty mile trip to see if I could get some paint. Sure was flying around in great shape. The weather looks bad now for it. It is raining again after a couple of days of clear weather. The old sunshine doesn't hurt himself about shining.

Must close. Best of love to all.

Your devoted son,
William

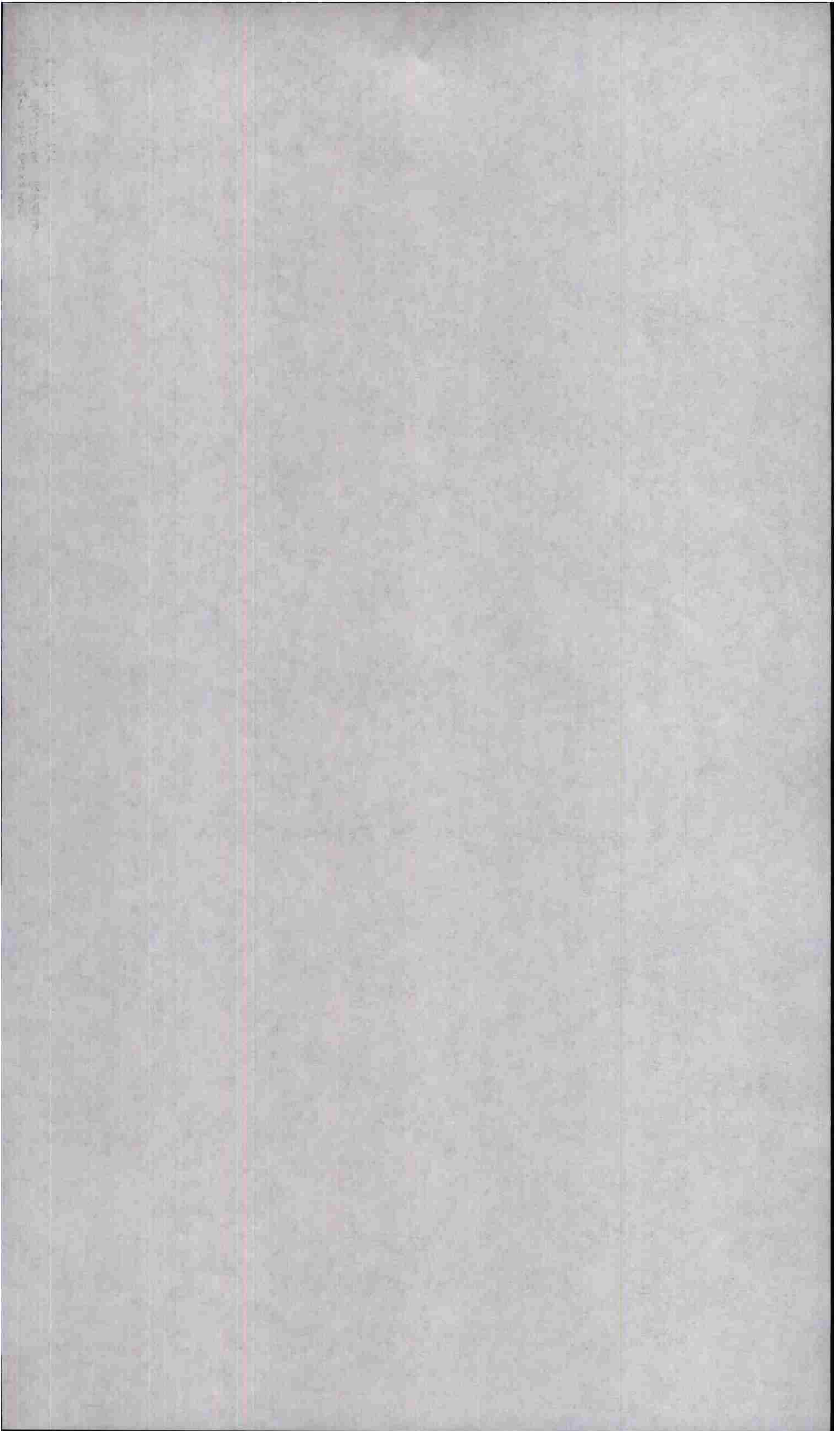


To Gen S.R. Keesler
From William Keesler
April 11, 1919

166-7567-8083
Page 20
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency McGraw-Hill Building Washington, D.C. 20540

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of all the years of our father's
 service. He is making arrangements
 around London now. When I
 return from Channon I'm going to
 make the Colonel for permission to
 use a side car & go to the town
 he vacated. I've great hopes that
 it is the right one. We're going
 to handle.

For the last week has been a
 hell one. A physical emergency
 had to be made of all our
 advance equipment. Some
 jobs. We had to visit every of our
 post, extra post, two & etc. It
 took a couple of days. I had to
 make a couple of trips. Get

Dear Father

Your letter & we came

this last week and after I
 immediately went to Channon I've
 nothing to report yet. I did not get
 down Saturday or Sunday and we
 a little needed the weather but
 tomorrow I'm going down again
 I called Sid up twice but couldn't
 get him. He came thru here to-
 night but missed seeing us
 by a couple of hours in way
 down my room. Was particularly
 sorry too. I received your wire and
 a letter from the 1st in Report.
 Capt Kim has charge of the day

816 74 7A. (Channon) 1919

Chatterbox's and are to pay for cars
 & parts. We have received two more
 White. We need one and one about
 700 miles old. Both in good shape.
 The others' condition cause lack of
 a tip in Germany with a brother
 Spring and cut up too. I had to
 double to pay for a couple of new
 spring & some tires. Coming back I
 got to cold and it laid me up a
 day but am O.K. now. Never felt
 better. Double trying up a lot
 of minor parts & repairs
 we doing nothing now. I have
 a tip up to Newchakan waiting
 me soon however.
 Thank you for the other Rose - it
 you are waiting. They are not
 come to me yet. But I'm sure
 they will come soon. Thank
 you all for the papers too. I
 am engaged there. There sure
 had a big time waiting with it. If
 you could send me a couple
 of the best Motor Magazines, a
 catalogue of the Chicago & St. Louis
 Motor Show, a hard look on the
 magazine, any thing along that

From the Stars & Stripes it sure
 looks like we will want to be
 in the A.P.C. and go up into
 Germany. None of us are fond
 of the idea either. But one case
 never tells, & the case turns
 out signed by the rest of us, & I
 can't see why we can't go home
 by July 31 if they keep up the
 present troop moving records.
 My own good that sounds.
 Maybe we can make it. But
 there is one thing I don't like. It
 the way things are going in Germany
 they don't seem like they are
 whipped enough yet. If we can
 do this now over a pair we

we sure will enjoy them. It
 sure sounds like it could
 get a list of American cars
 & trucks going their specific
 & piece of like to have it.
 I see that altho I know
 I can make a good job of it
 or Ford go I don't know so much
 about the price or what is
 going on in the commercial
 car now. I know that the
 Maxson is a good car.
 The Maxson is out for the
 right things and they are new
 ideas & etc. Generally good ones
 too. We hope that whatever we
 will be undertaking & can tell you

1950 say, it was he author. a letter
 in time was mine and a good
 looking man many saw in later
 seemed a wife from Mr. Major
 Thursday late saying he was in
 Marseille. I am would have
 asked to have seen him. There a
 few things to talk to him.
 I wish he could have come with
 the best of France in early the
 east. But I was get to see
 him later. I hope.
 you said something about a
 few someone from the little town.
 I got a few and will collect more.
 They are hard to shift around the.
 But in reading a Korean letter
 some by mail. Let me know
 when it comes.
 Must close now. You will not
 know it was just too much for
 that. Love to all
 your devoted son
 William

Officer's Mail
 Postmarked Apr 10 1919
 U.S. Army M.P.E.S.
 Lt William P. Keesler
 316th FA, A.E.F.
 To: Gen S.R. Keesler
 Greenwood Miss.
 U.S.A

316th F.A. (Chateauvillain)
 April 6, 1919

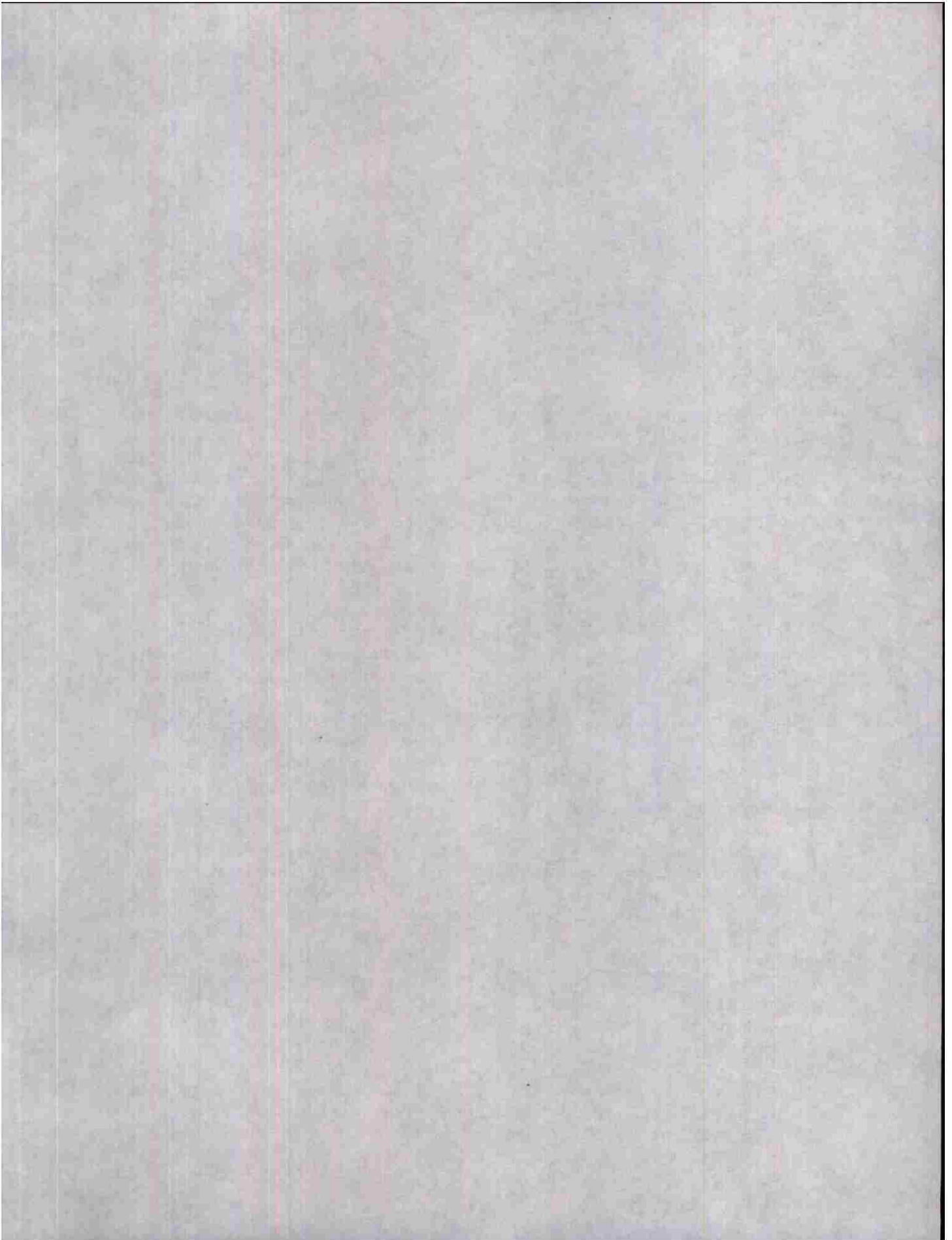
Dear Father,

Your letter & wire came this last week and altho I immediately went to Chaumont, I've nothing to report yet. I did not get down Saturday or today as I was a little under the weather but tomorrow I'm going down again. I called Ed up twice but couldn't get him. He came thru here tonight but I missed seeing him by a couple of hours being away from my room. Was particularly sorry too. Enclosed you will find a letter from the 1st Air Depot. Capt Linn has charge of watering of all the graves of our fallen aviators. He is making investigation around Verdun now. When I return from Chaumont I'm going to ask the colonel for permission to use a side car & go to the town he named. I've great hopes that it is the right one. Also I'm going to Laudes.

This last week has been a full one. A physical inventory had to be made of all our Ordnance equipment. Some job. We had to list every spare part, extra parts, tires & etc. It took a couple of days. I had to make a couple of trips. One to Chatillon s/s and one to Laujres for cars and parts. We have received two more Whites. One new one and one about 2000 miles old. Both in good shape. The colonel's Cadillac came back from a trip in Germany with a broken spring and cut up tires. I had to hustle to Laujres for a couple of new springs & some tires. Coming back I got too cold and it laid me up a day but am O.K. now. Never felt better. Besides fixing up a lot of minor parts & repairs we are doing nothing now. I have a trip up to Neufchateau waiting for me soon however.

I thank you for the slide rule & etc you are sending. They have not come to me yet. But I'm sure they will arrive soon. I thank you all for the papers too. I sure enjoyed them. Have sure had a big time reading lately. If you could send me a couple of the best Motor Magazines, a catalogue of the Chicago or St Louis Motor Show, a hand book on the Marmon, anything along that line I sure will enjoy them. If you know where I could get a list of America's cars & trucks giving their specifications & price I'd like to have it. You see that altho I know what makes a FWD or White or Ford go I don't know so much about the price or what is going on in the commercial cars now. I know that the Marmon is a good car. The Marmon go out for the right things and they try new ideas & etc. Generally good ones too. Any dope that pertains to cars will be interesting I can tell you.

From the Stars & Stripes it sure looks like we will have to be in the A.S.O. and go up into Germany. None of us are fond of the idea either. But one can never tell. If the Peace terms are signed by the last of April, I can't see why we can't be home by July 31 if they keep up the



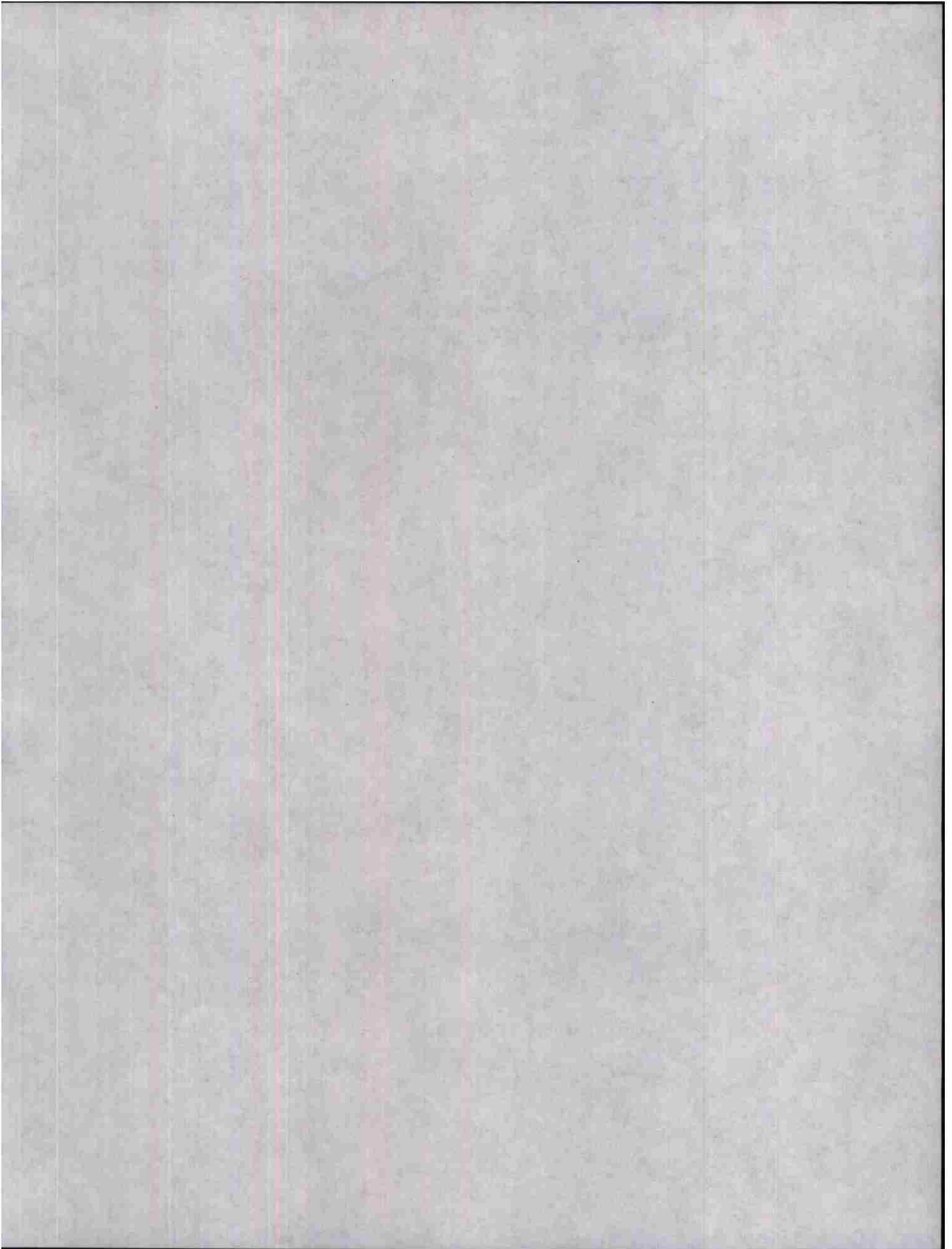
present troop moving records. My how good that sounds. Hope we can make it. But there is one thing I don't like. It's the way things are going in Germany. They don't seem like they are whipped enough yet. If we have to do this war over again in 1950 say, it will be awful. A stitch in time saves nine and a good beating now may save us later.

I received a wire from Mr Magill Thursday late saying he was in Marseille. I sure would have liked to have seen him. Have a few things to talk over with him. We he could have come into the heart of France instead of the coast. But I will get to see him later I hope.

You said something about a few souvenirs from the battle front. I've got a few and will collect more. They are hard to ship around tho. But I'm sending a German helmet home by mail. Let me know when it arrives.

Must close now. Am well now. Guess it was just too much cold. Best of love to all.

Your devoted son,
William

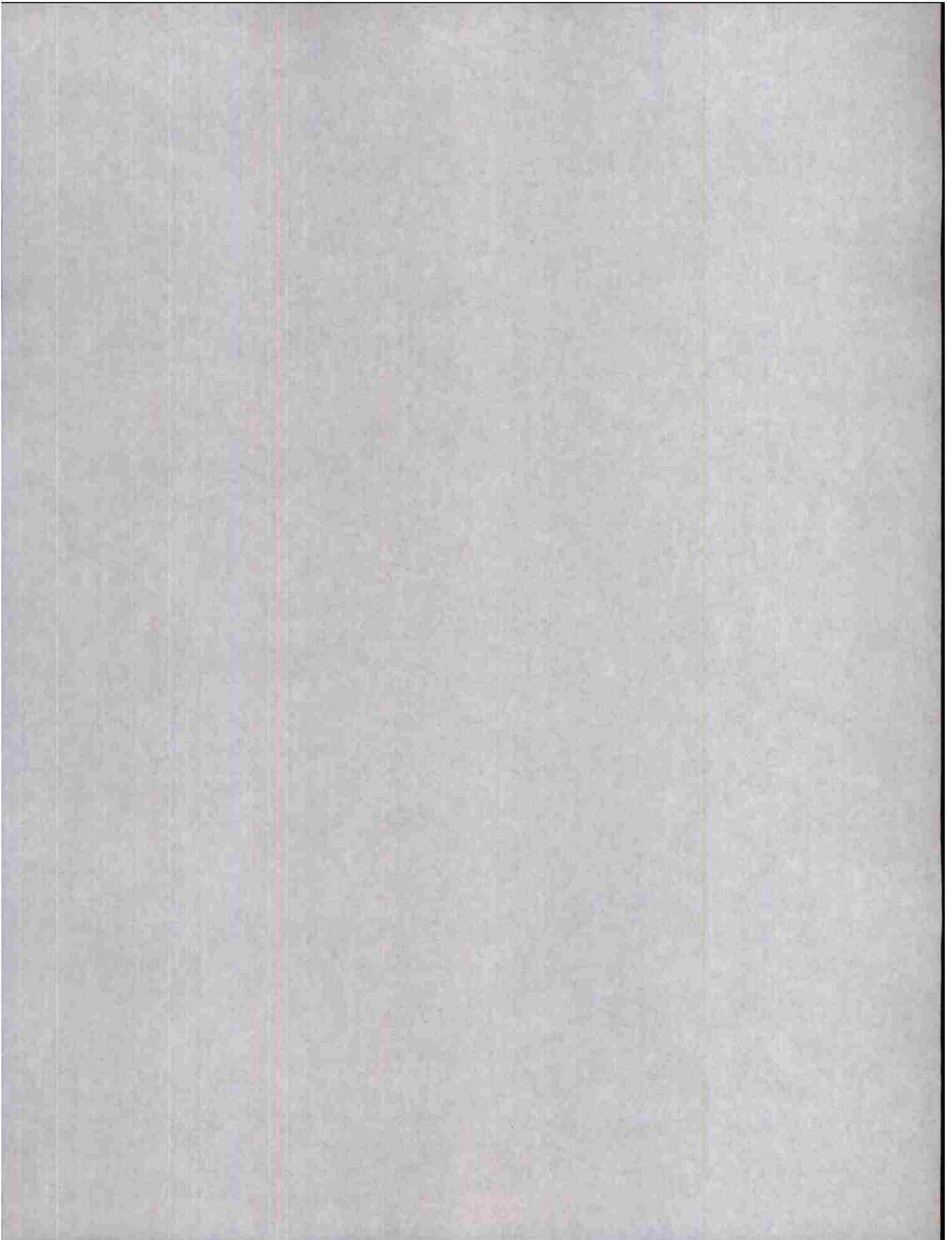


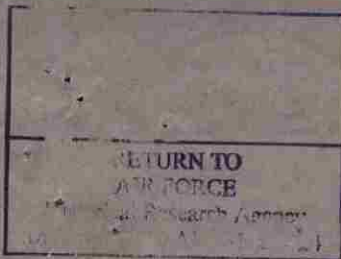
70. CO. 316th Field Artillery
From W. P. Keesler
APR 10 1919

168-7567-Box 3
FOLIO 21
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2007

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01156161

Supply Co., 316th Field Arty.,
American Expeditionary Forces,
April 11th, 1919.

From: 2nd Lieut. William P. Keesler, 316th F.A. and
2nd Lieut. Samuel L. Latimer Jr., 316th F.A.

To: The Commanding Officer, 316th Field Artillery.
(Through Channels)

Subject: Transportation.

1. We jointly request permission to proceed to the vicinity of Verdun, Meuse, France and to use Regimental transportation for the trip, for the purpose of locating and permanently marking the graves of 1st Lieut. John S. Reynolds and 2nd Lieut. Samuel R. Keesler.

2. Lieut. Samuel R. Keesler was a brother of Lieut. William P. Keesler and is buried near Landres, France, it is understood. Lieut. William P. Keesler desires to definitely locate the grave and mark it.

3. Lieut. Reynolds was a close personal friend and co-worker of Lieut. Latimer and is buried at Fleury-sur Aire.

4. Both missions can be covered on one trip.

William P. Keesler
William P. Keesler
2nd Lieut 316th F.A.
Samuel L. Latimer Jr.
Samuel L. Latimer Jr.
2nd Lieut 316th F.A.

1st Ind.

C.O., Supply Co., 316th F.A., A.P.O. 706, A.E.F., April 11th, 1919.
To: The Commanding Officer, 316th Field Artillery.

1. Forwarded, recommending approval.

Leland S. Harris
Leland S. Harris,
1st Lieut 316th F.A.
Comdg. Supply Co.

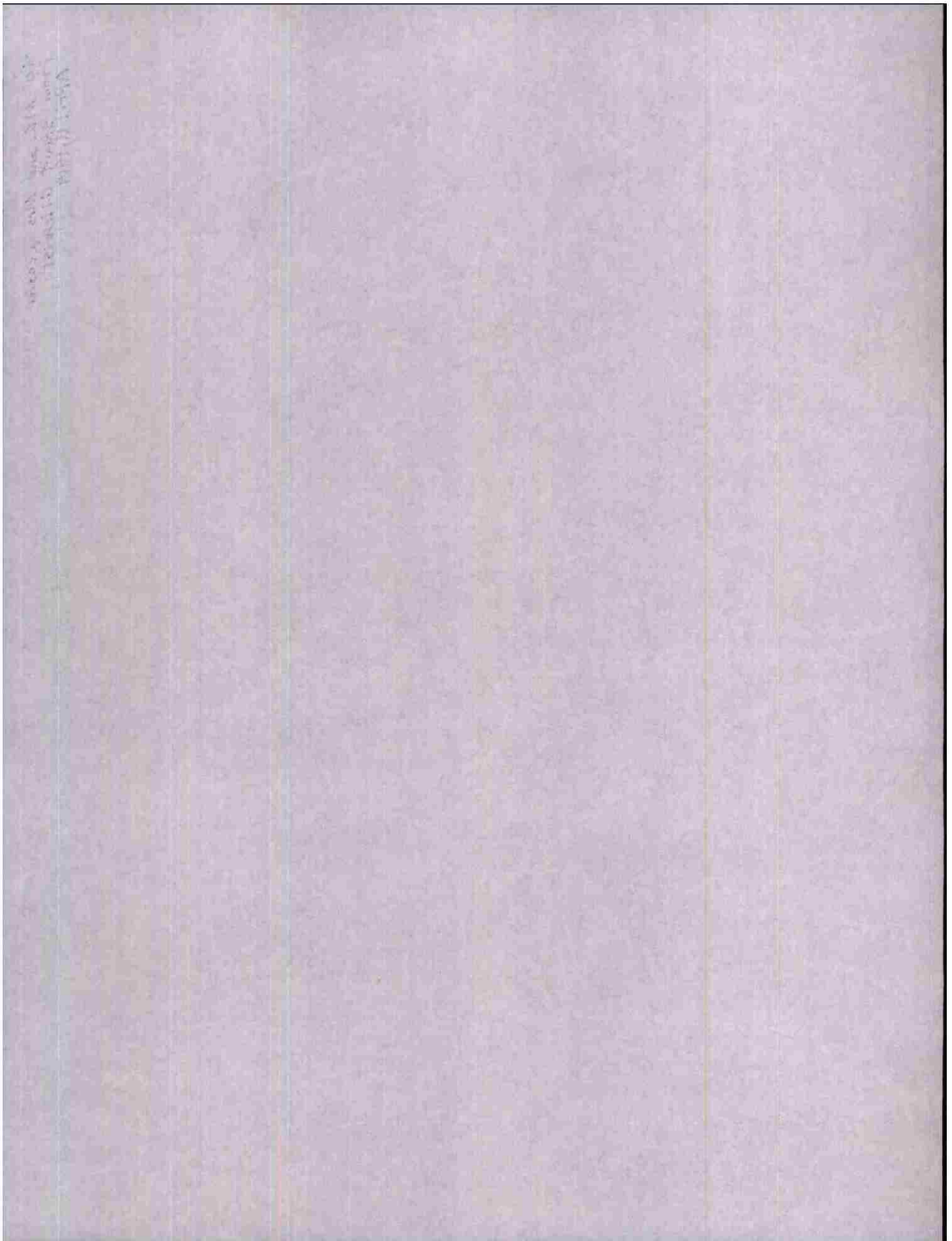
To Mr. and Mrs. Keester
From Stuart Gilchrist
April 11, 1919

168-7567-Box 3
FOLDER 21
RETURN TO AIR FORCE Historical Research Agency Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6022

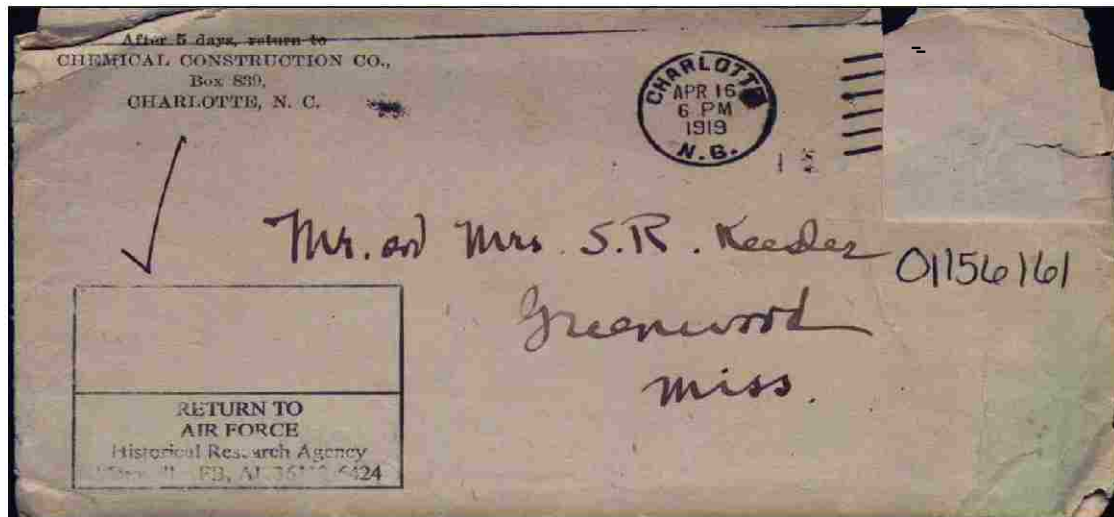
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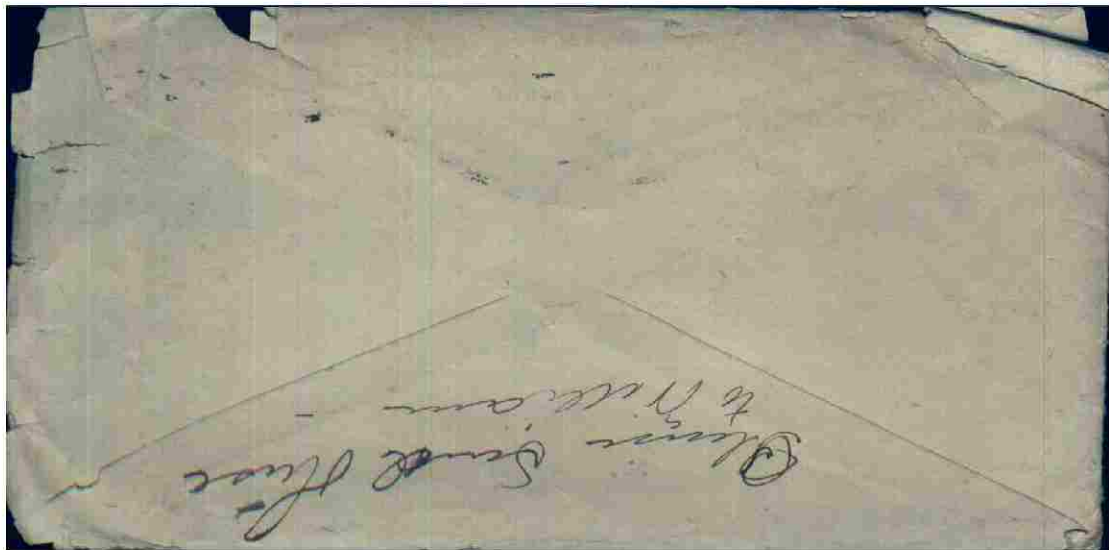


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FORM NO. 382

NATIONAL OFFICERS

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WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT
CHAIRMAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE
ELIOT WADSWORTH, VICE-CHAIRMAN
GEORGE E. SCOTT, GENERAL MANAGER



THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RED CROSS WAR COUNCIL
BY APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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GEORGE B. CASE
GEORGE E. SCOTT
JESSE H. JONES

EX OFFICIO
WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT
ELIOT WADSWORTH

Lieut John W S Gilchrist
310 Park Ave
Charlotte N C

S R Keesler
24th Aero Squadron
Amer M F

April 9 1919

My dear Mr Gilchrist

We have received a report from our Paris office in which they state you are making inquiry regarding the death of S. R. Keesler, 24th Aero Squadron. We are in receipt of the following report regarding Lieut. Keesler:

"2nd Lieut. S. R. Keesler died October 10, Field La Valette, La Mouriere from wounds received during an aerial combat. Buried in the cemetery of La Mouriere, Grave #1143."

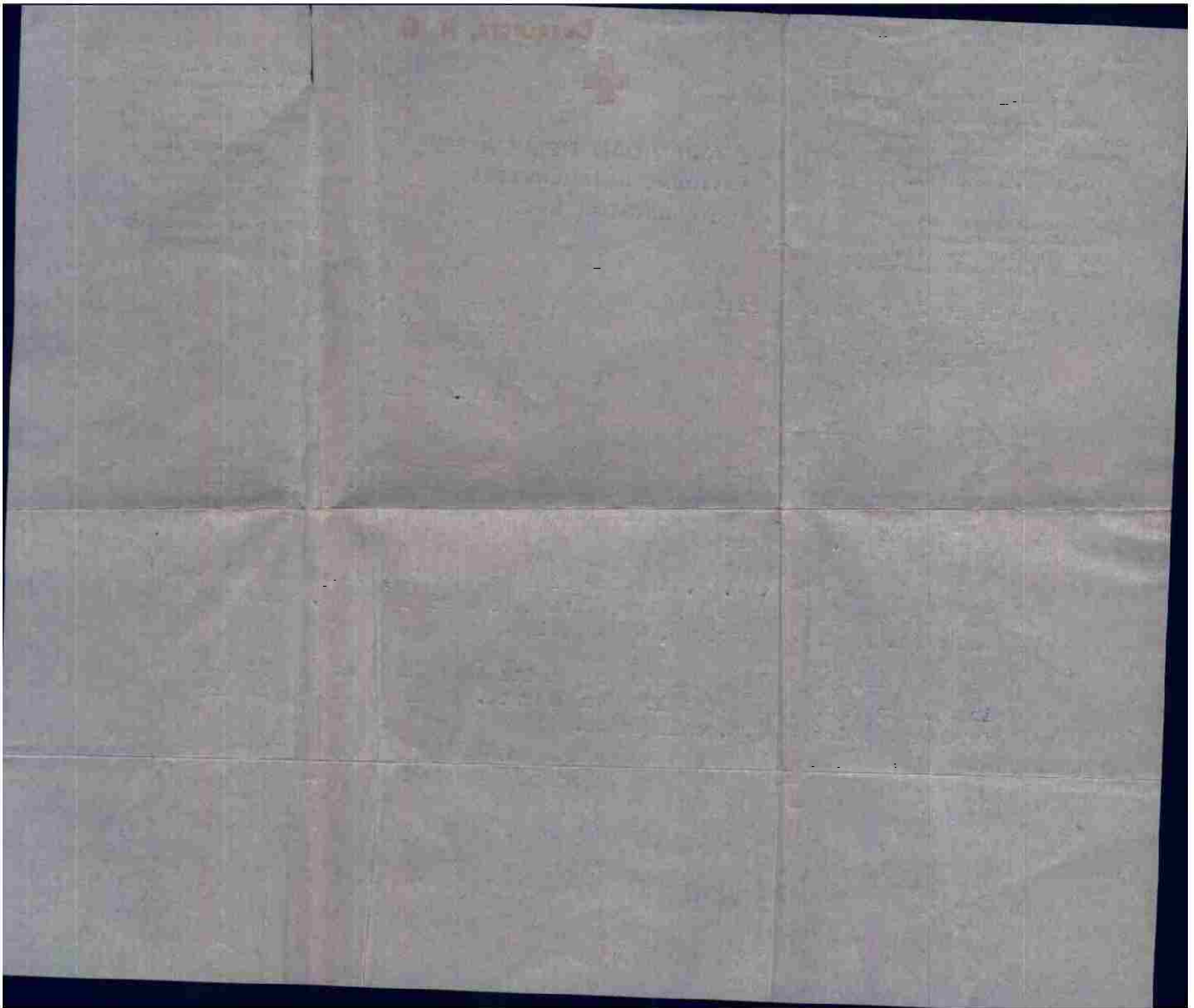
The Red Cross extends to you its deep and sincere sympathy in this time of your great loss and sorrow. If we can be of any further service to you, call on us.

Sincerely yours

BMS/SC

H. Q. Castle Jr.
S

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CONCENTRATING PLANTS

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

April 11, 1919

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Keeler,

I received your letter a couple of weeks ago just as I was leaving town and have had no opportunity to write to you before now.

I am enclosing a letter from the Red Cross which came yesterday. I'm afraid it doesn't give you any additional information but might possibly be of some service to William.

Thank you very much for your kind letter to me. It was appreciated by all of us. Although I was one of the first to come home the time of waiting seemed far too long.

It's hard to say just what coming home was like. It seemed to good

CHEMICAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

SHEET NO. 2

to be true, almost unreal in fact, and I knew I thought, very often, of the trip to France and wondered whether I was really coming back. When I reached New York and met Dad, Edith and Peter I began to realize that the war was really over. I didn't have much time getting my discharge and was home four days after I landed. Mother met me at the depot, and then I knew the war was over.

After ^{I had} ~~coming~~ for about six weeks, the Chemical Construction Co. offered me a job opening a brick department. The company is associated in business with the B. Miffin Hark Brick Co. of Atlanta. Mr. Hark wants to get his brick into the Carolinas, so I am manager and sales agent of this department. I hope I can make it so because it will

CHEMICAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Sheet No. 3

mean being here at home.

I heard yesterday that Lt. Riley had paid you a visit. I am certainly glad that you could have had him and it must be a comfort to know the boy who was with Sam at the last and to know for certain just what happened. My letter was very inaccurate in the details, I'm afraid, but it was all the information I could get at the time.

Joe and Dunny are home now. Joe is to be married this summer. His wounds are almost healed and he does not limp any more.

I met several old Davidson men today who asked me about Sam. They were ME Fridge - '14 I think - who was in the Marines and Alex Ober '12, a captain, who used to play guard on the football team.



CHEMICAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

SHEET NO. 4

I haven't been to Dandson for almost a month but got the Dandson news from Cecil. He says that the Betas are going to ~~put~~ a brass slab in the hall in memory of Sam. Has the chapter got Sam's picture? I saw several snapshots of him in different photograph albums but no picture in the hall.

The Vinsons are well. Mrs. Vinson is very anxious for a lot of the old crowd to come back together so that she can have them around her table again.

Please remember me to everybody. I am

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Gilchrist

The family sends love. I don't know just when mother is going to Montreal.

Chemical Construction Co.
Box 839
Charlotte, N.C.
To: Mr. and Mrs. S.R. Keesler
Greenwood Miss.

April 11, 1919

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Keesler,

I received your letter a couple of weeks ago just as I was leaving town and have had no opportunity to writ to you before now.

I am enclosing a letter from the Red Cross which came yesterday. I'm afraid it doesn't give you any additional information but might possibly be of some service to William.

Thank you very much for your kind letter to me. It was appreciated by all of us. Although I was one of the first to come home, the time of waiting seemed far too long.

It's hard to say just what coming home was like. It seemed too good to be true, almost unreal in fact, and I know I thought, very often, of the trip to France and wondered whether I was really coming back. When I reached New York and met Dad, Edith and Peter I began to realize that the war was really over. I didn't lose much time getting my discharge and was home four days after I landed. Mother met me at the depot and then I knew the war was over.

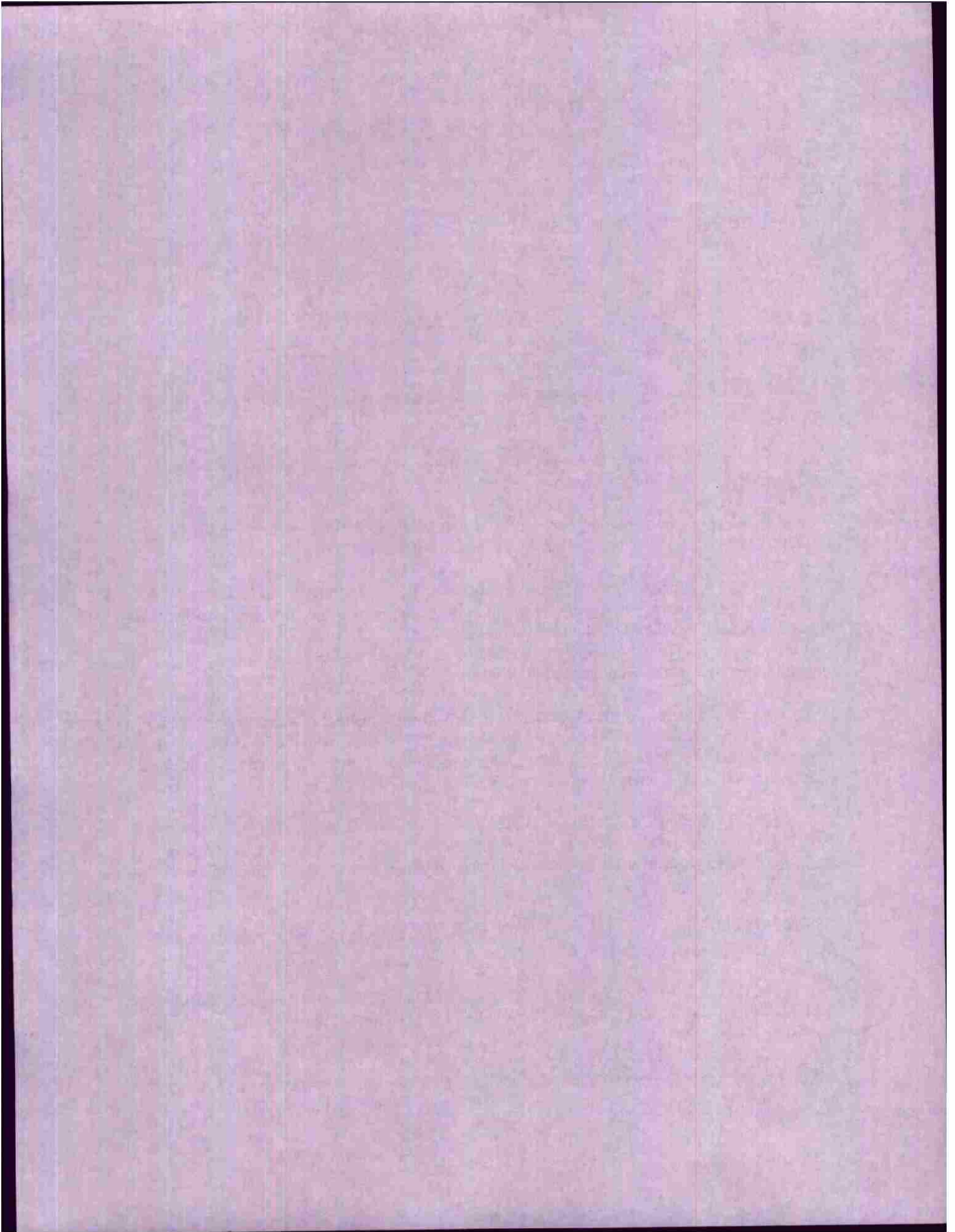
After I had loafed for about six weeks, the Chemical Construction Co. offered me a job opening a brick department. The company is associated in business with the B. Mifflin Brick Company of Atlanta. Mr. Hook wants to get his brick into the Carolinas, so I am manager and sales agent of this department. I hope I can make it go because it will mean being here at home.

I heard yesterday that Lt. Riley had paid you a visit. I am certainly glad that you could have had him and it must be a comfort to know the boy who was with Sam at the last and to know for certain just what happened. My letter was very inaccurate in the details, I'm afraid, but it was all the information I could get at the time.

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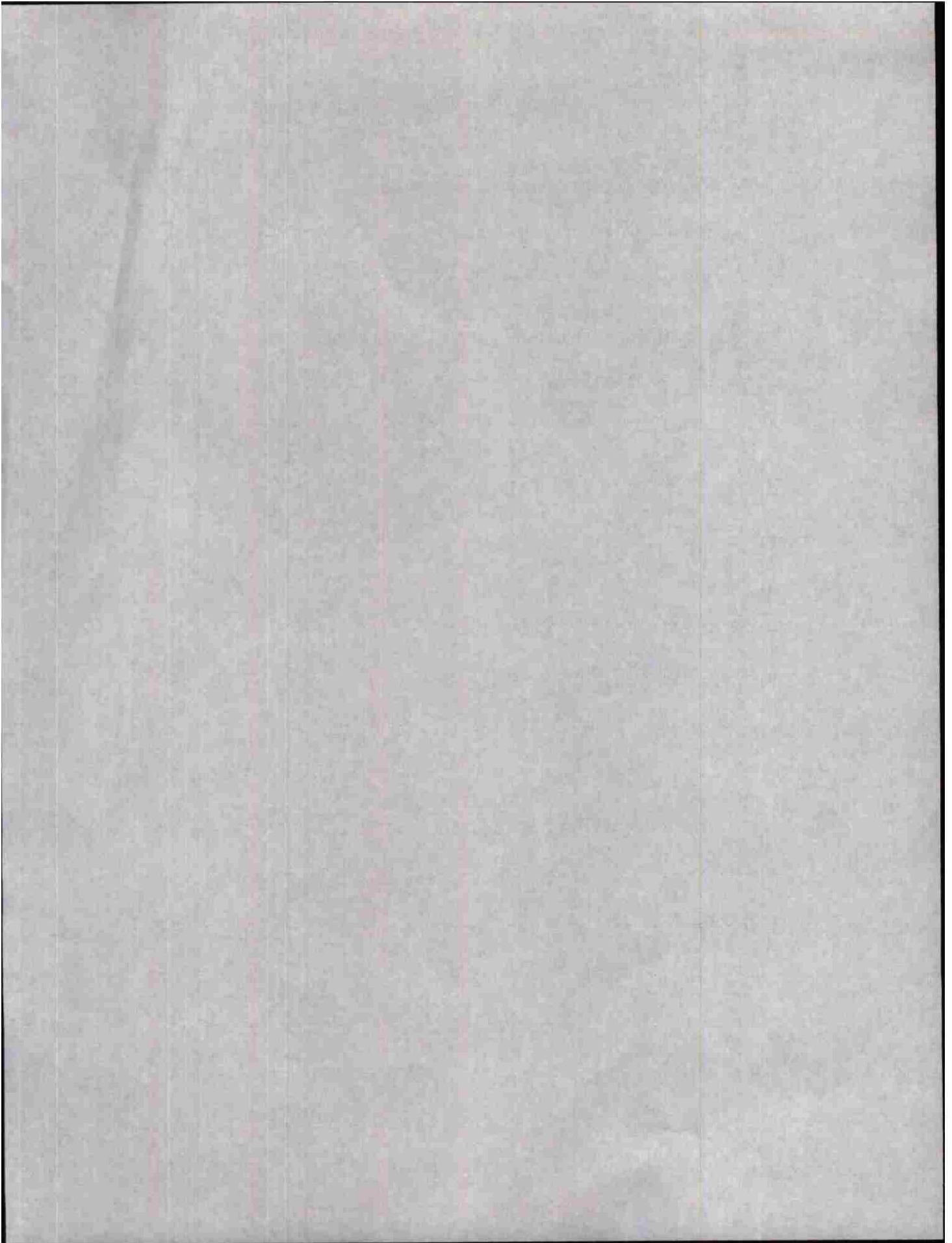
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Please remember me to everybody. I am

Yours sincerely,
Stuart Gilchrist

The family sends love. I don't know just when mother is going to Montreat.



TO 316-10 Field Artillery
From 81st Division Headquarters
April 2, 1919

168 7567-Box 3

FOLDER 23

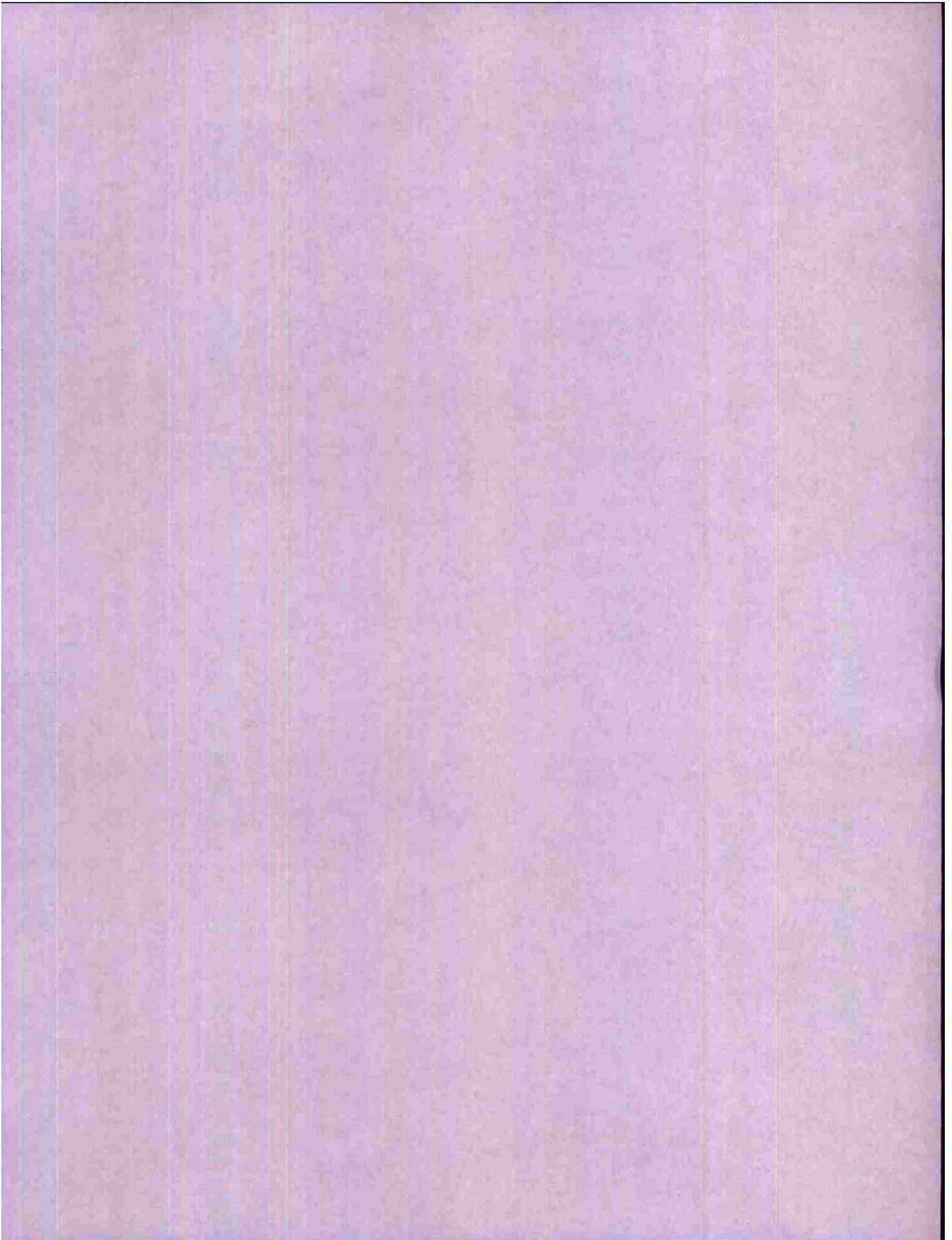
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(Keesler & Latimer) Hq. 81st Division A1 2nd Ind.

Hq. 316th F. A., A. E. F., Apr. 13/19. To Commanding General, 81st Division, A. E. F., Forwarded, recommending approval.

P.M. APR 14 1919

M.H. Valven, Jr.
M.H. Valven, Jr.,
Lieut. Colonel, 316th F.A.,
Commanding.

RETURN
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Historical Research
Well AF

220.7-(Misc) Leaves (Special)

3rd Ind

LH/RRG

Hq. 81st Division, American E. F. France, 15 April 1919 - To C. O. 316th F. A.

1. Regimental Commander may grant 3 day Class "E" leave of absence to Lieut. Keesler, with permission to visit Landres and to Lieut. Latimer, with permission to visit Fleury-sur Aire.

2. Use of Regimental transportation disapproved.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL McFARLAND:

RECEIVED
GAN

APR 16 1919

HDQRS. 316 F. A.

Lamar Hill
LAMAR HILL,
Major, Adjutant General,
Division Adjutant.

Forward to Lt Keesler

To: Mr. S.M. (Kane) [unclear]
From: [unclear]
Date: 10/1/1919

168-7567-00X 3

FOLDER 24

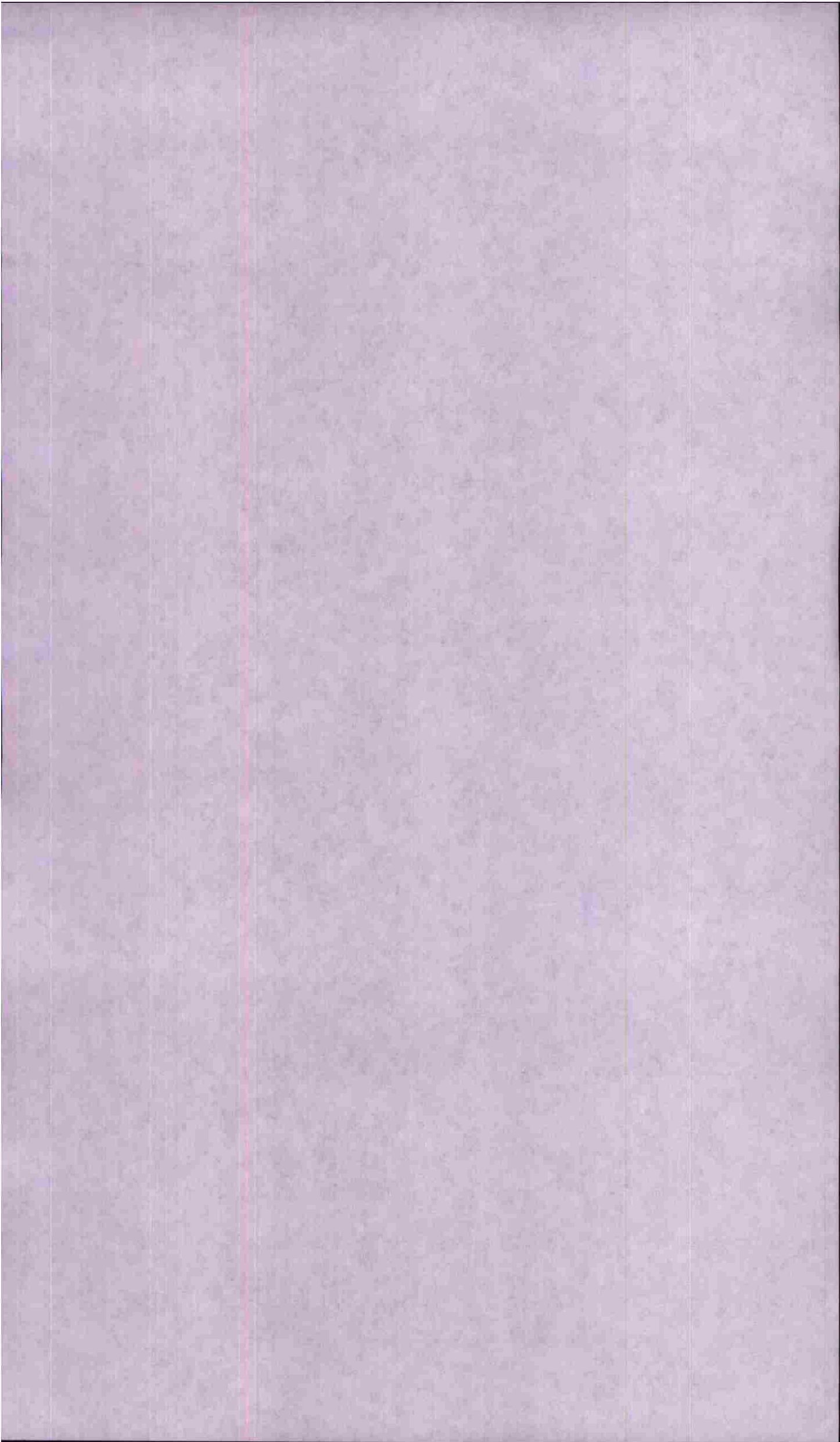
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Aeronautical Research Agency
P. O. Box 112-6424

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days while we are it is only
a matter of a day and a half.
I can't say much but I'm sure
thinking. Tomorrow I'll call up
Ed Walsh and ask him to
I that suits in going through
to the Moore. I'll write my
request and in pretty sure he
will let it. I can't say much
because of the cover but my
way is coming some day. I had
everything ready to leave too. Had
made a brass marker and
iron fence and several other things.
But I can't give up hope yet. It
isn't a home to work.
Your letter, particularly the paper
case. Sure enjoyed them all the

Dear Maurice,

In your part and mad.

that in a bad combination visit
it. I'd like to get one in trouble only
it won't. The whole thing caused
about like this. I told you all
about putting in for the leave
and transportation to go to Stauchers.
Well my letter came back this
morning with the permission to take
a three day leave. Who was supposed
the matter just put this up and
down never taking the trouble to
go with the matter if he had.
He would have been at once
that it is impossible to get to
Sandus in a hour and in three

31674-7A.
April 14, 1919

Americans were fine men who had got
 them. Had you sent the paper with St. Riley
 letter to father in at as I had not received
 that paper in my letter to him. I had
 asked him to come to Missouri. I hope
 the story in the letter was true
 We are in great joy now. I told you of
 the Publishing Statement about our returning
 home soon. Since then there has been
 a dozen or more circulation about getting
 ready to leave. We go under the S.C.S.
 under the money. I told our headquarters
 thinks we are the home by July 1 and
 so we have just accepted in my life
 over in this, some, some, some, some, some
 and everything. We are what it means
 now after being so long away. Let us
 what to leave home again. There is a man
 thing. The S.C.S. in one 40000 men
 ahead, release and we will be taken
 up of them. There we are not going
 with the life we are thought for about.
 Can they get out of existence the so of this
 Oh we are sure happy and excited.
 so-day I had to make a long trip
 in an open truck up to Mountain Crest
 for some tractor parts. I got up there
 and found that they were ready to
 more out. We got in there and got my

have a lot of interesting pictures in it. I'm going to have my pocket book some time. Don't get much time off. & I'm waiting on my new uniform too. We had a couple of visitors this last week end. A Mr & Mrs Manning, & was around at the 3rd Jan for supper one night and to hear them talk about the U.S. It was like a clear day after a storm. They went up to the front May Manning taking them up. She's in the red on left & constant see how my report was received. They left Monday for USA. Yesterday we paid our last shot. Balthus is now the

stuff. Every body's doing all collecting in the building you never separate even a book of A.R. I caution also a map with sketches located out it. It is surrounded by a O & there are several pictures towards it from the side. In starting seen a box of documents or rather a helmet & then, hope they get them OK. So big for me to carry. It is pretty hard & getting thing without it by to add a little and there. Also you have found in this the pictures of the record. Those get that they might be interested in. Also they were not my good. They were the 3rd's picture will be published and I will send a copy of will

Chairman City of the Regiment. The last
 three days of living was in the form of a
 symmetrical contest. I put people around
 that the group had won so that it
 really was hollow. They had a photograph
 of these and he took some pictures.
 I hope one which shows me from
 your sitting at once in good. We
 need some. We are glad that there is
 gone the. The reason we turn in our
 your the better water I am.
 tomorrow we got a breeze. The
 meeting of a contest that we are
 our children. I got it to day. We see
 about a dozen other small got. I hope
 it clear up the so I sure would
 like a little more to warm things up.
 Must stop. Live well. And I love
 to all + lot for yourself
 your devoted son
 William

Officer's Mail
 Postmarked Apr 18, 1919
 U.S. Army M.R.E.S.
 From Lt. William P. Keesler
 316th FA A.E.F.
 To: Mrs. S.R. Keesler
 Greenwood Miss.
 U.S.A.

316th F.A.
 April 14, 1919

Dear Mamma,

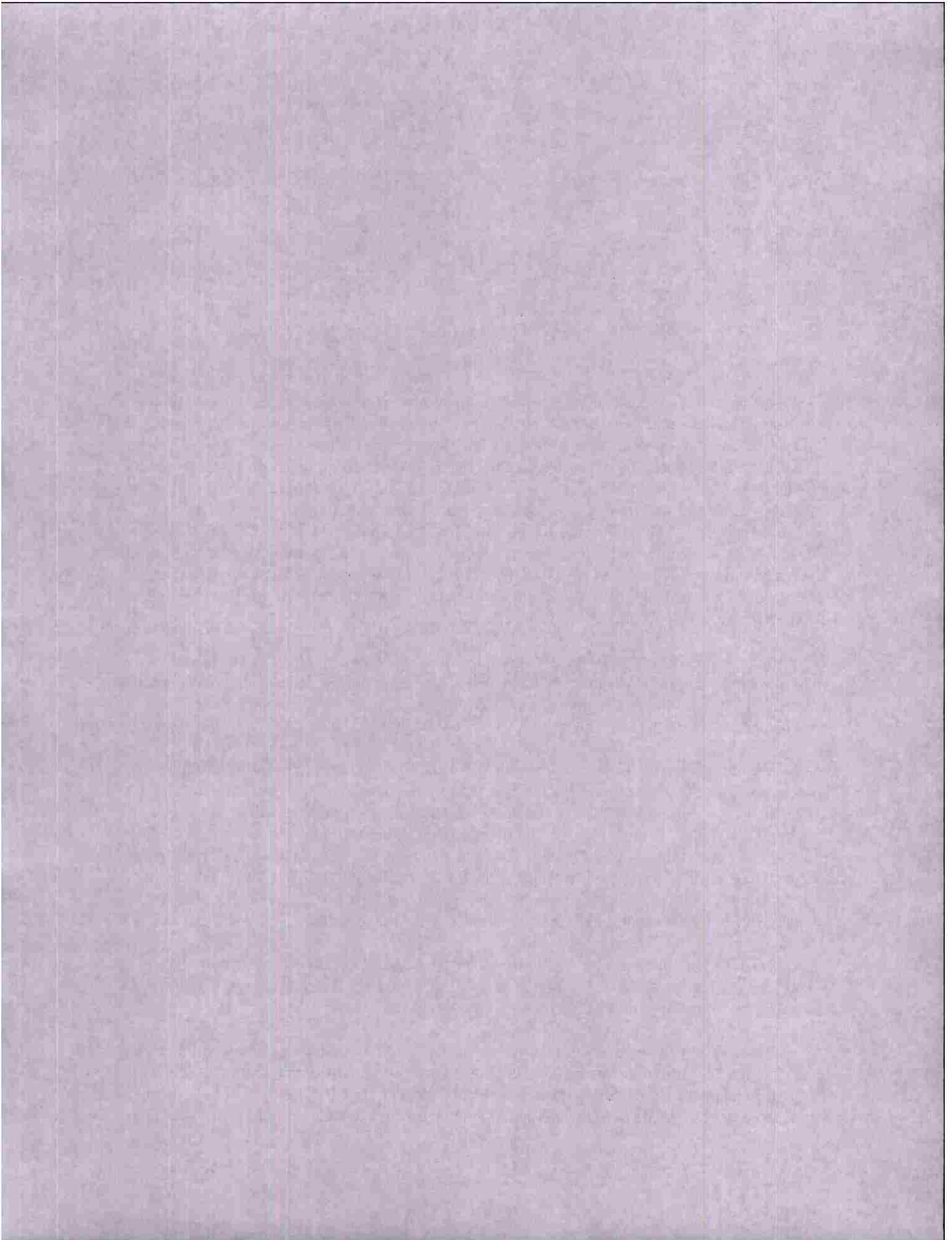
I'm worn out and mad. That is a bad combination isn't it. Likely to get one in trouble only it won't. The whole thing came about like this. I told you all about putting in for the leave and transportation to go to Laudres. Well, my letter came back disapproved with the permission to take a three day leave. Who ever handled the matter just put disapproved down never taking the trouble to go into the matter. If he had he would have seen at once that it is impossible to get to Laudres on a train and in three days while in a car it is only a matter of a day and a half. I can't say much but I'm sure thinking. Tomorrow I'll call up Ed K and see what he can do. If that fails I'm going straight to Gen. Moses himself with my request and I'm pretty sure he will OK it. I can't say much because of the censor but my day is coming some day. I had everything ready to leave too. Had made a brass marker and iron fence and several other things. But I haven't given up hope yet. I'll go if I have to walk.

Your letter, father's & all the papers came. Sure enjoyed them all. The Davidsonians were fine, sure was glad to get them. Glad you sent the paper with St. Riley's letter to father in it as I had not received that paper. In my letters to him I had asked him to come to Greenwood. I hope he does it. His letter was fine.

We are in great joy now. I told you of Gen Pershing's statement about our returning home soon. Since then there has been a dozen or more circulars about getting ready to leave. We go under the S.O.S. order this month. 8:st Div headquarters thinks we will be home by July 1 and I do too. Never felt any better in my life over everything. Home, you, father, family, Elizabeth and everything I love. Oh what it means now after being so long away. I'll never want to leave home again. Here is another thing. The S.O.S. is some 40,000 men ahead of schedule and we will be taken up by thank. Then we are not going into the A of O as we thought for awhile. Our Army goes out of existence the 20 of April. Oh we are sure happy and excited.

To-day I had to make a long trip in an open truck up to Doulain court for some tractor parts. I got up there and found that they were ready to move out. Was just in time to get my stuff. Everybody's doing it including us.

I'm sending you under separate cover a book of A.E.F. cartoons also a map with Laudres located on it. It is surrounded by a O & there are arrows pointing towards it from the side. I'm starting soon a box of souvenirs or rather a helmet of them. I hope they get thru O.K. Too big for me to carry. It is pretty hard to get anything now but I'll try to add a little here and there.



Also you have found in this the pictures of the review. I thought that they might be interesting although they were not very good. Very soon the 316th's history will be published and I will send a copy. It will have a lot of interesting pictures in it. I'm going to have myself took some time. Don't get much time off & I'm waiting on my new uniform too.

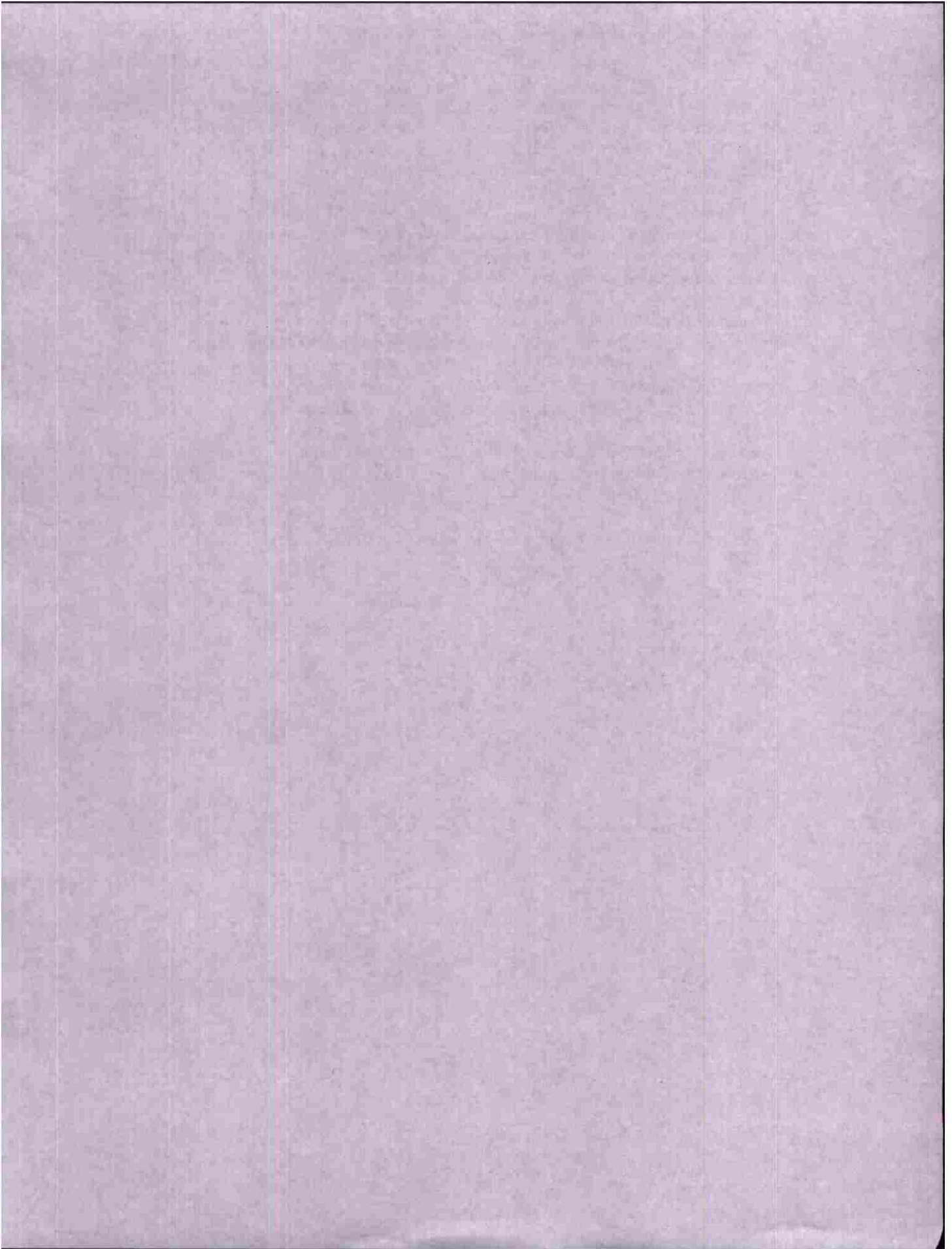
We had a couple of visitors this last weekend. Ex. Gov & Mrs Manning. I was around at the 3rd Bn for supper one night and to hear them talk about the U.S.A. was like a clear day after a storm. They went up to the front, Maj Manning taking them up. That is one reason why I couldn't see how my request was refused. They left Tuesday for U.S.A.

Yesterday we fired our last shot. Battery C is now the Champion Btry of the Regiment. The last three days of firing was in the form of a Regimental contest. I felt kinder proud that the 2nd Bn had won as that is really my battalion. They had a photographer out there and he took some pictures. I hope one which shows all four guns firing at once is good. I'll send some. We are glad that all is gone tho. The sooner we turn in our guns the better suited I am.

Tomorrow I've got to oversee the resetting of a crank shaft in one of our tractors. I got it to-day. Also see about a dozen other small jobs. I hope it clears up tho as I sure would like a little sun to warm things up.

Must stop. Am well. Best of love to all & lots for yourself.

Your devoted son,
William



To: W. William Isenger
From: 156th F.A. Brigade
Apr. 22, 1919

168. 7567-80X3

FOLIO 25

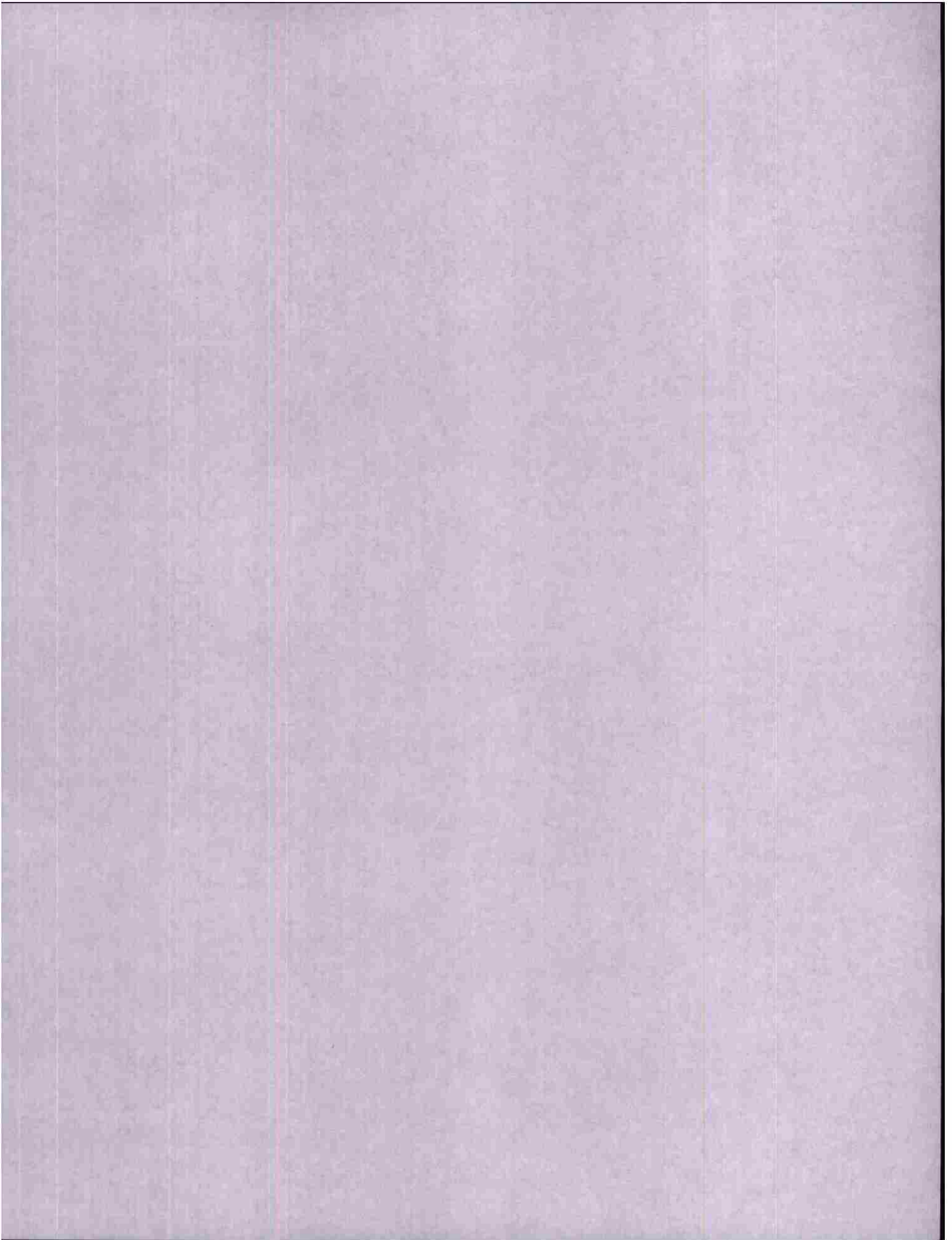
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HEADQUARTERS
156th Field Artillery Brigade
American Expeditionary Forces
France

April 22, 1919.

Dear Bill:

I am returning your application which you handed me yesterday and suggest that you return it through channels, requesting reconsideration of paragraph 2 of the 3rd Indorsement, giving as your reasons for this the fact that Landres is so situated that it is inaccessible by rail and a trip there would require at least several days, whereas you could easily go and come by automobile in two days. It may also be well to state that you have hitherto been unable to make a trip in search of your brother's grave because you were unable to obtain no definite information as to its location. I would show that for a considerable period your brother was listed as missing in action, which would indicate that even the War Department records did not then have information as to his loss and the place of his burial. Latimer could make a corresponding indorsement if consistent, and if the application for reconsideration is then sent through, I will do my utmost personally to have it recommended for favorable consideration.

To: 2nd Lt. W. P. Keesler
316th Field Artillery.

H. A. M.

10-10-50
FROM: 10-11-50
10-11-50
10-11-50

168 7567-8083

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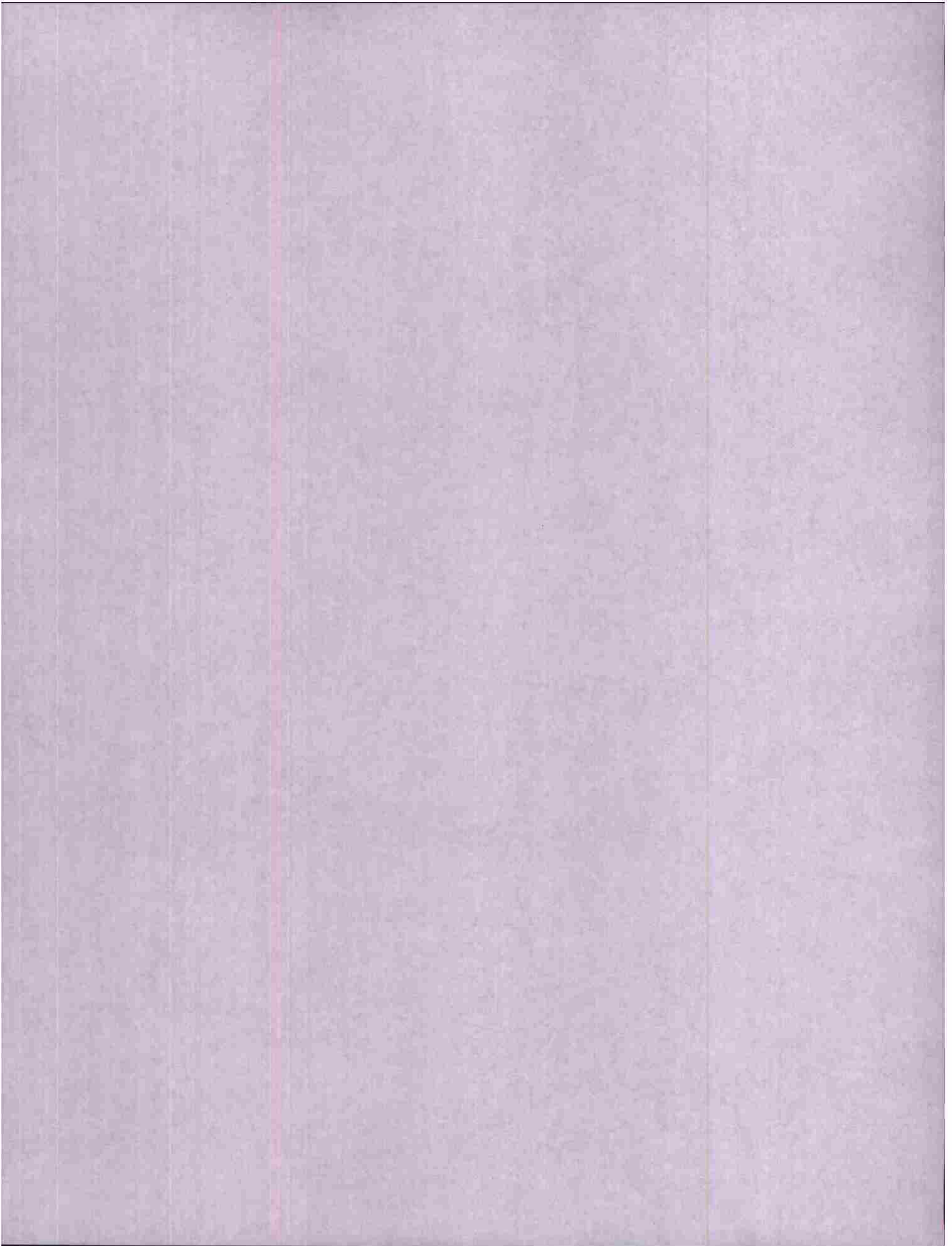
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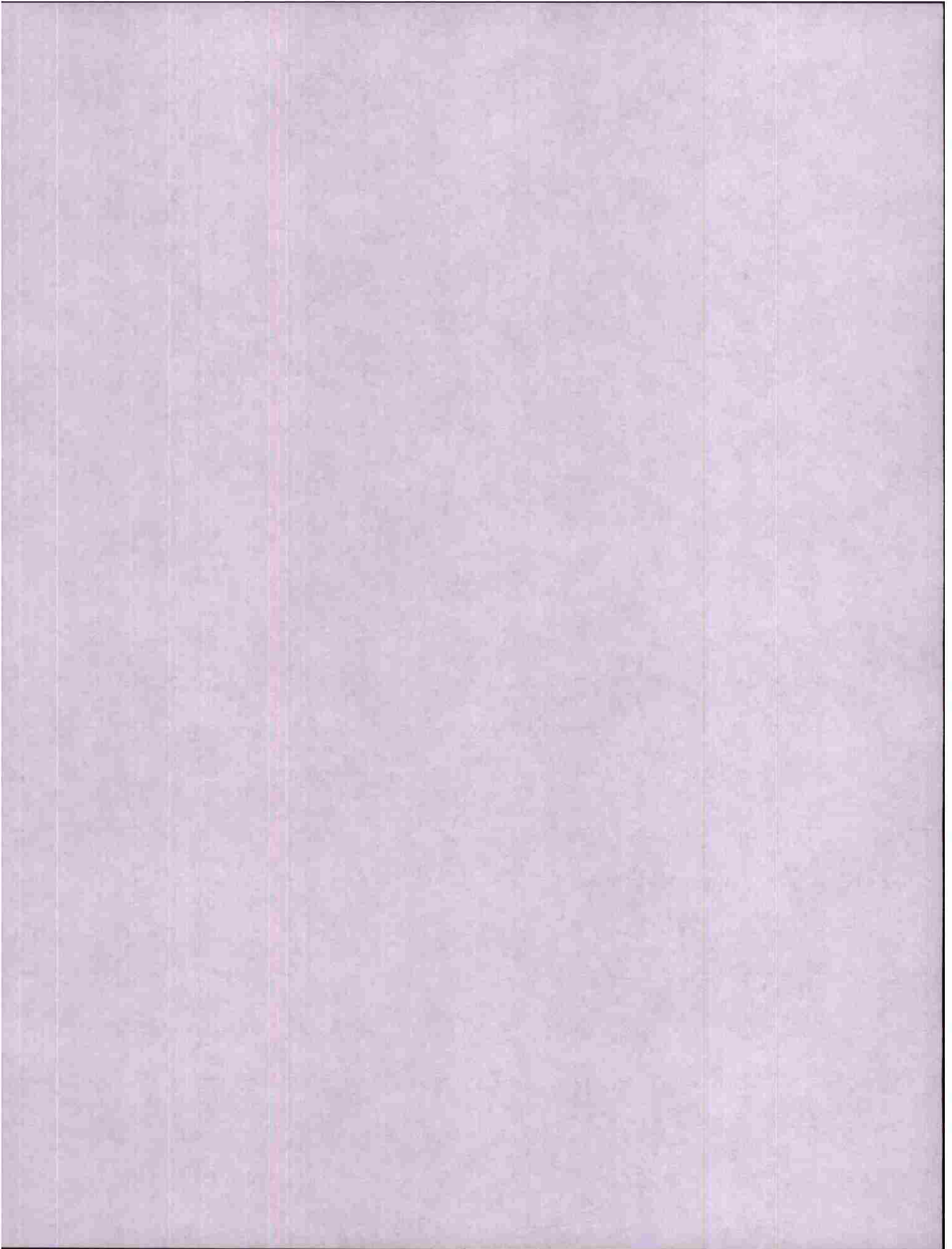
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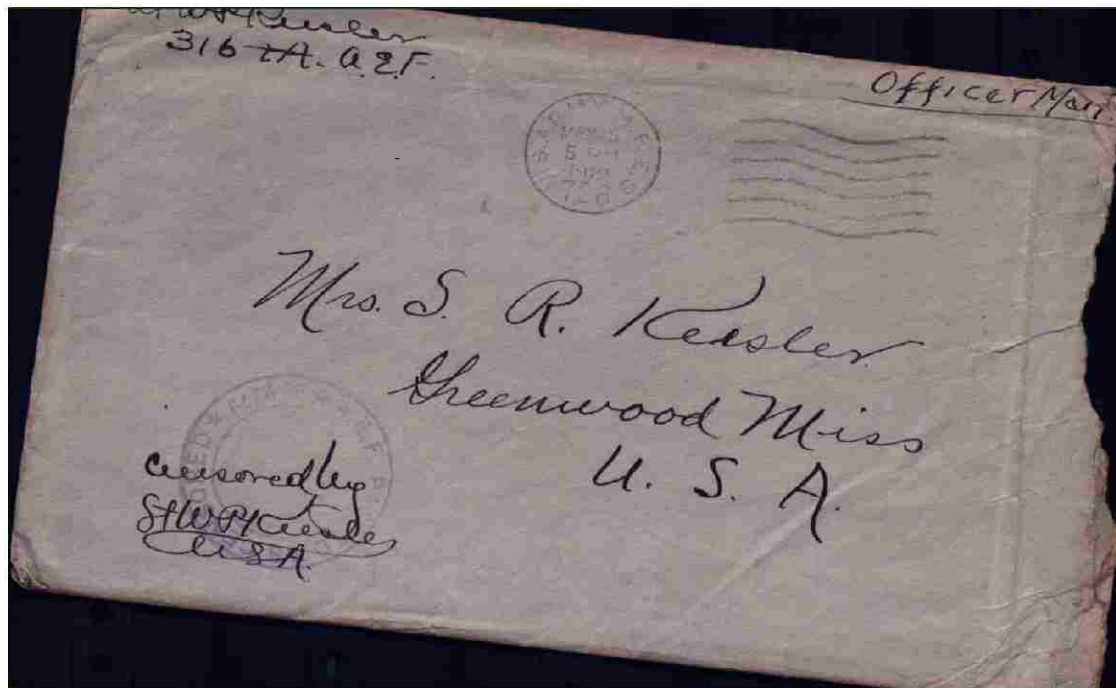


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316th H. A.S.F.
May 4th 1919

Dearest Mother

Last Sunday I spent with Ed K in Chaumont making my final arrangements about going to Landres. I left Tuesday at 8³⁰ and at 3 I was in Landres. I found La Mouiniere was just 3 1/2 km from there and a French Lieut took me over in his car. In ten minutes I was standing beside Sam's resting place. As I stood there I lived over our lives which had been together till Feb 24, 1918 when we said Good Bye in Chartot and there was nothing in which he had been a star in. And the words of Stuart's letter came to me "He gave his best and his best was all. Why because he loved us with his best and all. The cemetery is located in a pretty spot on the edge of some woods, just south of La Mouiniere. It was built by the Germans and is laid out in neat array. There was no disorder at all. Each grave had its cross or marker. I had a French carpenter make a cross of heavy oak and on it paint the following

And between the U.S.A. & name placed
 a brass plate on which was stamped
 some name, rank, organization, home
 address & date of death. I know now that
 the grave is marked so that I can
 go to it quickly when I return to my
 own home. I placed notes on it and
 a French girl promised me that she
 would watch after it for me. I took
 several pictures as I'm almost sure to
 get one good one, with the weather
 was very bad, it snowing everywhere
 I was there. I stayed over a whole day
 to get a good picture but the snow
 continued and continued till the next day.
 My return trip took me three days to
 make. I'm sure in a small
 museum town just south of Rome
 (Grenad) which you will find just
 south of London, in your map. I saw
 no one the first night the whole
 country here was held by the Germans
 during the war. Many villages & cities
 a few of the museum one were burned.
 The whole country was devastated &

U.S.A.
 Samuel R. Pearson
 Unit 24 Aero Squad
 10-10-18

barren looking. The only people I saw were French soldiers, a few villagers & German prisoners. The French are using the Germans to reconstruct the country. I stayed with a French family in Landches. They were very kind to me taking me right into the family. I enjoyed my one evening with them very much. They had been in the town during the German occupation and how they hated them.

When I returned to duty, I found that the greatest news of all had just been received. That we had been placed under the C.-F. S.O.S. meaning that we have started the first move towards HOME. Those five letters are really great ones, they mean every thing to us. They mean Commanding General Service of Supply. We start turning in our material this next week. The guns, tractors & everything excepting a few necessary vehicles. We expect to move about May 12

We are all happy very happy
 that means that we get home in June
 instead of July.
 Yesterday Chapin came but not
 go into Germany to be Chapin for
 some outfit up there. He had called
 for volunteers among the regiment
 returning home & he volunteered
 He did not want to go but felt that
 he was needed and that it was his
 duty. I am hated to see him go. He
 took one of my best friends.
 I thank you for all the letters
 and papers I am all enjoy
 them. In seeing all those I saw
 and was bringing them back with me.
 To-day I took several pictures of
 myself and bought several more of
 the regiment. You will find there
 I bought several in hoping to get a
 good one to send you.
 With all love to you all.
 Your loving son
 William

SIGN
HERE

Postmarked May 5, 1919
 U.S. Army M.R.E.S.
 Lt WPKeesler
 316 F.A. A.E.F
 Mrs S.R. Keesler
 Greenwood Miss
 U.S.A.

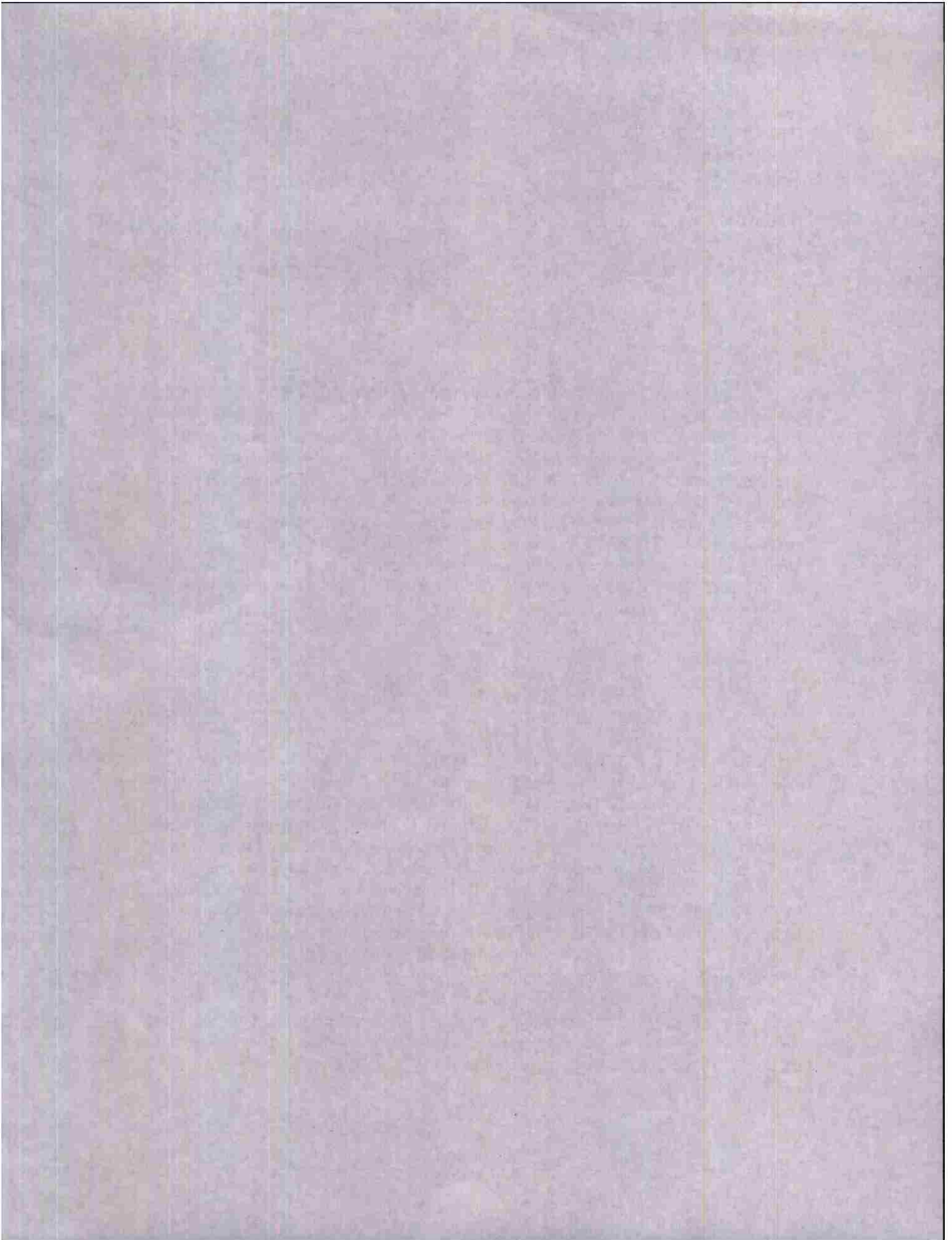
316th F.A. A.E.F.
 May 4th 1919

Dearest Mother,

Last Sunday I spent with Ed K in Chaumont making my final arrangements about going to Laudres. I left Tuesday at 8³⁰ and at 3 I was in Laudres. I found La Mouriere was just 3 ½ km from there and a French Lieut. Took me over in his car. In ten minutes I was standing beside Sam's resting place. As I stood there I lived over our lives which had been together till Feb 24, 1918, when we said Good Bye in Charlotte and there was nothing I which he had been a star in and the words of Stuart's letter came to me "He gave his best and his best was all." Why because he loved us with his best and all. The cemetery is located in a pretty spot on the edge of some woods, just south of La Mouriere. It was built by the Germans and is laid out in neat array. There was no disorder at all. Each grave had its cross or marker. I had a French carpenter make a cross of heavy oak and on it paint the following:

U.S.A.
 Samuel R. Keesler
 Lieut Obs 24 Aero Squad
 10-10-18

and between the U.S.A. & name I placed a brass plate on which was stamped address & date of death. I know now that the grave is marked so that I can go to it quickly when I return to bring Sam home. I planted violets on it and a French girl promised me that she would watch after it for me. I took eight pictures so I'm almost sure to get one good one, although the weather was very bad, it snowing every minute I was there. I stayed over a whole day to get a good picture but the snow continued and continued till the next day. My return trip took me three days to make. La Mouriere is a small mining town just south of Pienne (PIENNE) which you will find just south of Laudres on you map. Laudres is on the Railroad. The whole country here was held by the Germans during the war. Every village excepting a few of the mining ones were burned. The whole country was desolate & barren looking. The only people I was were French soldiers, a few villagers & German prisoners. The French are using the Germans to reconstruct the country. I stayed with a French family in Laudres. They were very kind to me taking me right into the family. I enjoyed my one evening with them very much. They had been in the town during the German occupation and how they hated them.



When I returned to duty, I found that the greatest news of all had just been received. That we had been placed under the C.-G. S.O.S. meaning that we have started the first move towards HOME. Those five letters are really great ones, they mean every thing to us. They mean Commanding General Service of Supply. We start to turning in our material this next week. The guns, tractors & every thing excepting a few necessary (sic) vehicles. We expect to move about May 12.

We are all happy very happy. That means that we get home in June instead of July.

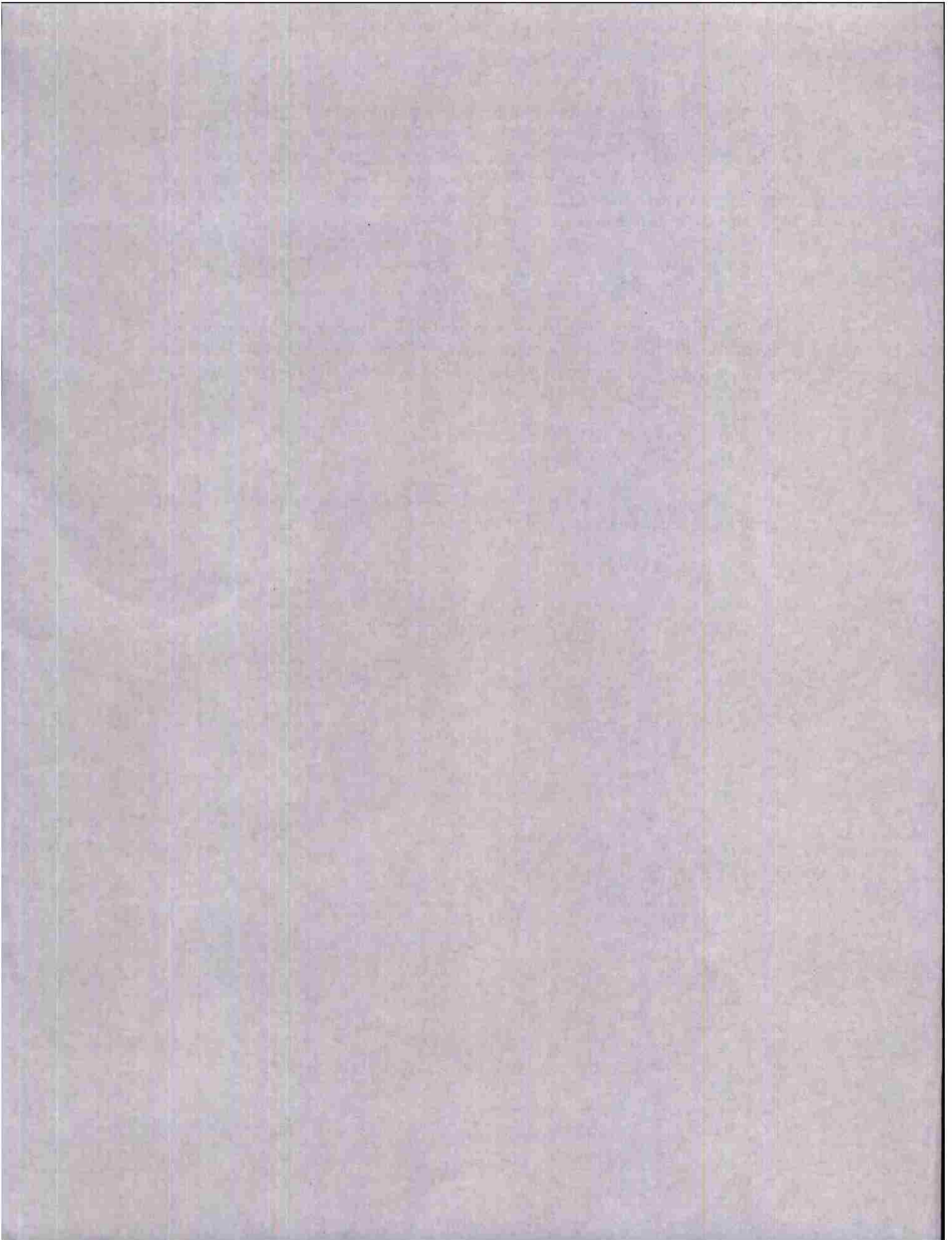
Yesterday Chaplin Arnie left us to go into Germany to be Chaplin for some outfit up there. The (sic) had called for volunteers among the regiments returning home & he volunteered. He did not want to go but felt that he was needed and that it was his duty. I sure hated to see him go. He was one of my best friends.

I thank you for all the letters and papers I sure did enjoy them. I'm saving all thos of Sam's and will bring them back with me.

To-day I took several pictures of myself and bought several more of the regiment. You will find those I bought enclosed. I'm hoping I get a good one to send you.

With all love to you all.

Your loving son,
William



10-10-55, 10-11-55, 10-12-55
10-13-55, 10-14-55, 10-15-55
10-16-55, 10-17-55, 10-18-55

168,7567-Box 3

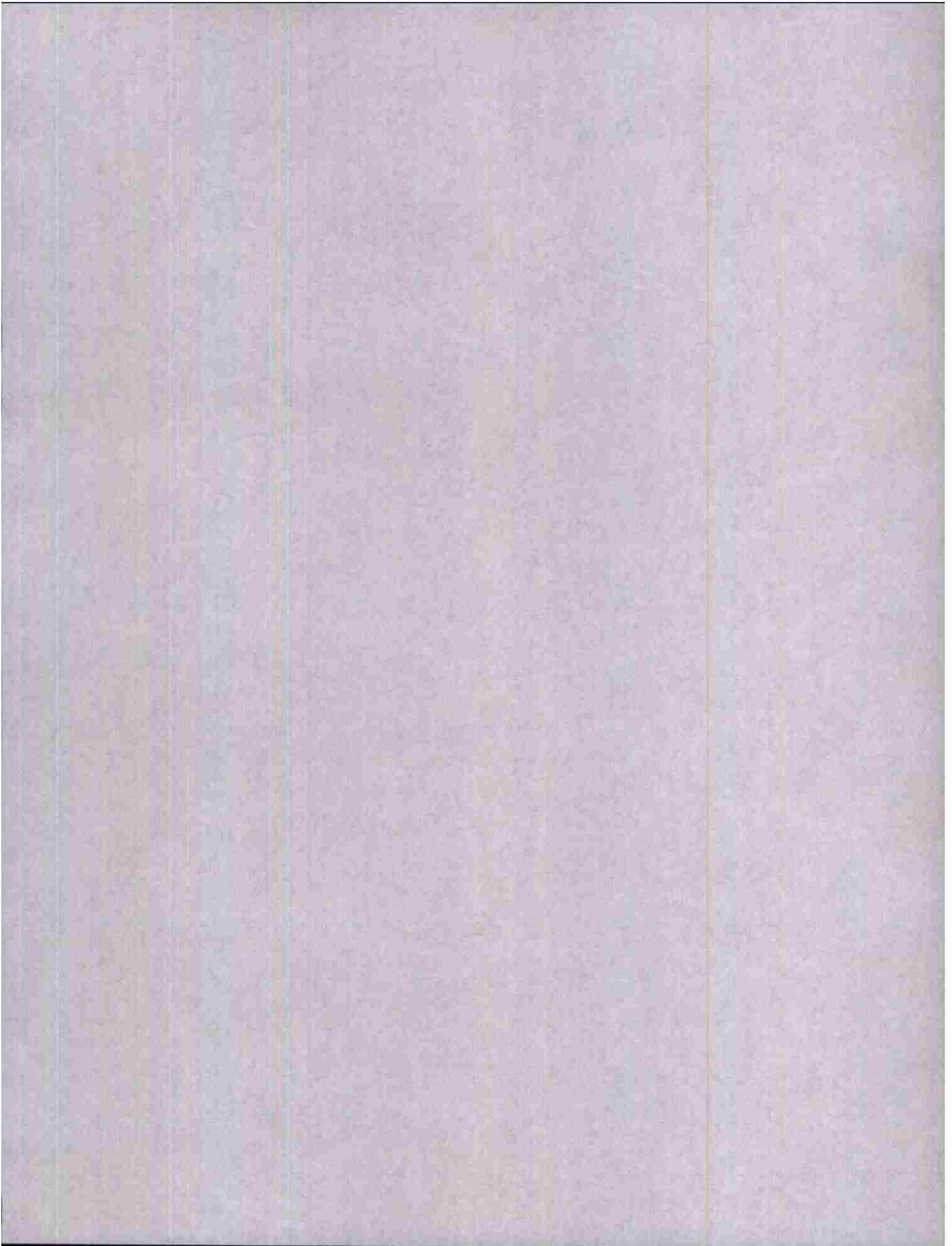
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RETURN TO
AIR FORCE
Historical Research Agency
168-11 AFH, AL 361, 36474

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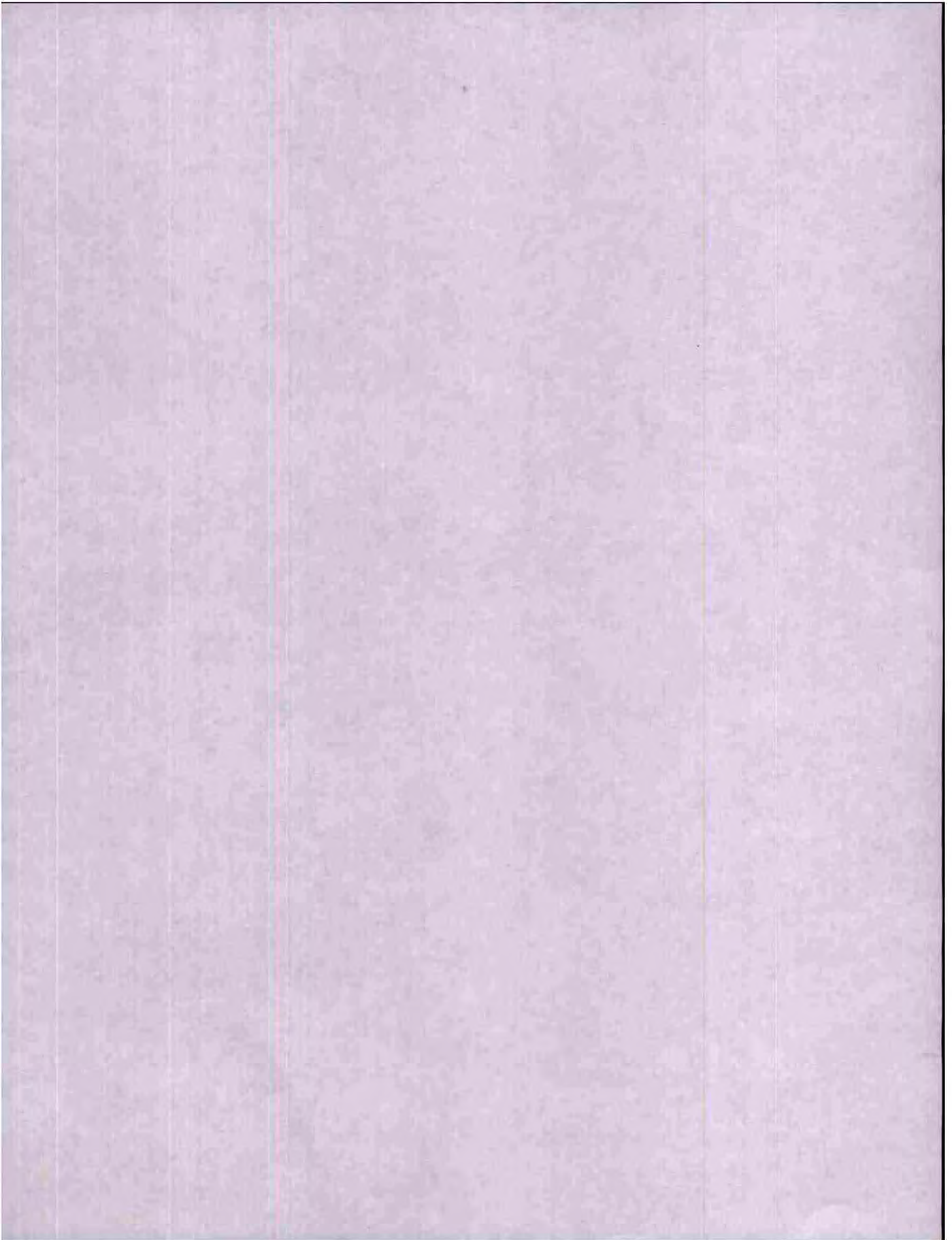
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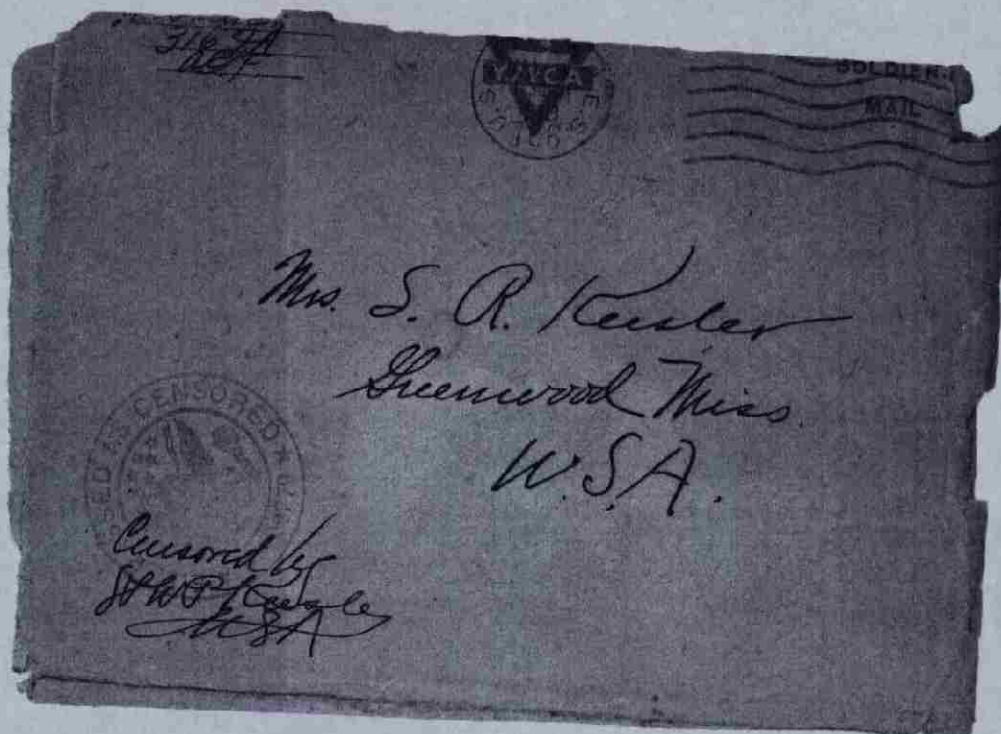
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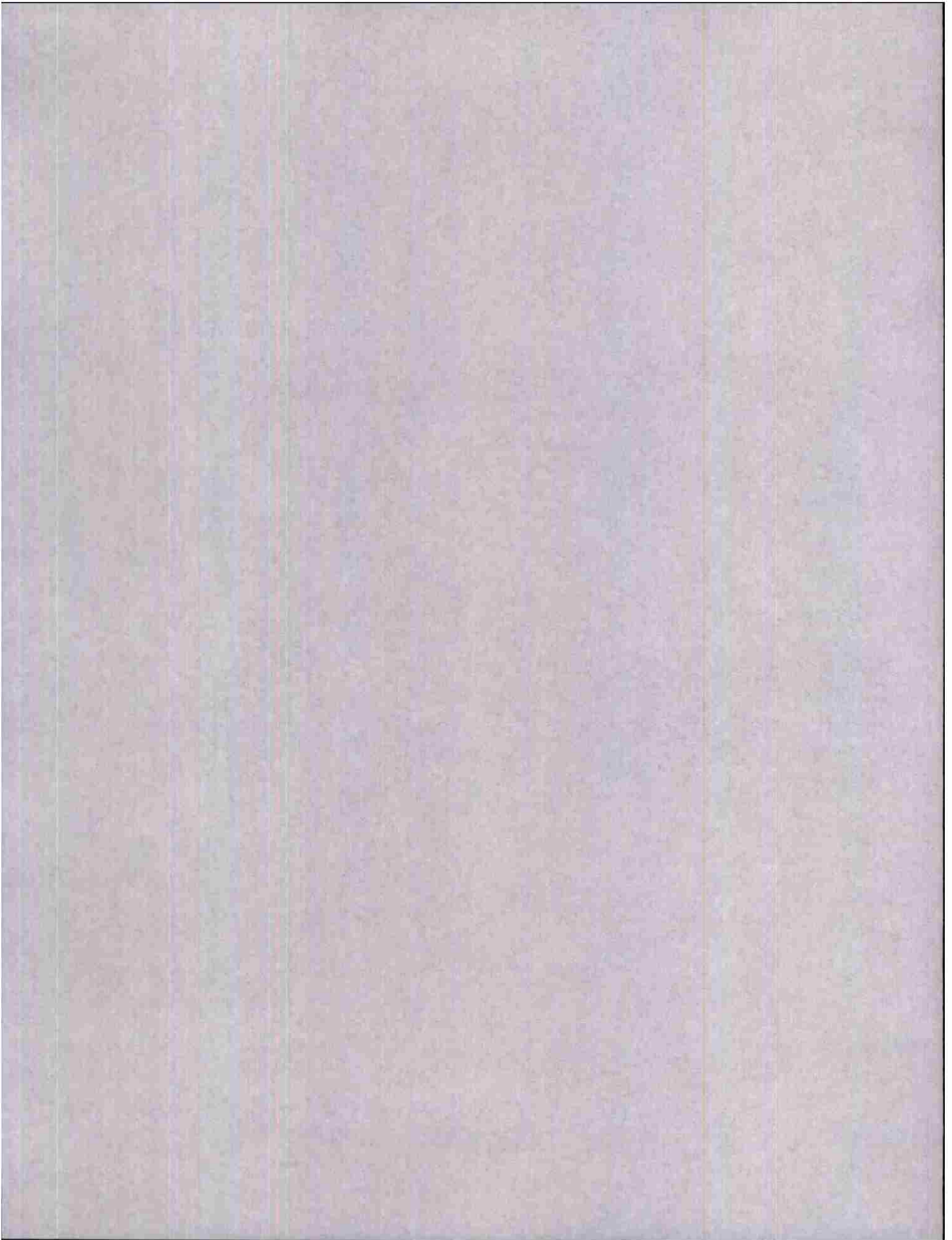


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Historical Research Agency
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

01156161







316th FA. A.S.T.

May 7 1919

Dearest Mother

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

Honest we are as excited as if we were to sail next week, when, we have only just gone into the hands of the

SOS. We may not sail for a month
 yet. But the chance I am not leaving
 whether we are going home or to Shanghai
 is ^{just} as good and we don't care
 about one thing. Home.
 We spend most of the time when
 not on the Road when playing baseball.
 That is the reason we are myself being
 on Special Duty don't get much back
 playing to do. After for all that in playing
 get paid on the Special Team (Assignment)
 and are getting the base hard. Don't want
 I get three but including a triple. The
 Road Detail is the man who are details
 daily to go out under the supervision
 of the Engineer. I go up the
 Road around Chatham. We have
 about two miles of roads to fix up the
 American truck and auto mobile
 while due to use we are the man
 of the French work roads.
 The weather is wonderful now
 such a change from the winter
 and rain of last week. The sun shines

3.
The trees are getting green fast, the birds are singing and everything is wonderful. One can almost forget the bad weather when we have such weather as this.

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

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

now, Charlie Currie had to leave to go
 up to the Army / Occupation. He was
 selected out of a number of Chaplains
 who had volunteered. He is going up with
 Stearns to one of the regiments in the Regular
 Army. He had to go but felt like if they
 needed him, it was his duty to go. He hated
 to see Charlie go too. He is a fine man
 as fine as any I ever knew.
 He just had to go out and fix up
 a Y. man who had a broken down machine
 (motorcycle). I heard too that some kid. man
 had just come to take over our gun &
 tractor. In there had believe me. We
 start loading them tomorrow. Must stop &
 go see them ~~there~~
 Best place to say no you & lot
 for good. Am very happy now.
 Your devoted son
 William

3/11/41
 William