Cleo D. Castor, World War I soldier

Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

Around 1919, the Kansas State Historical Society and the American Legion solicited biographical information from returning veterans (primarily members of the 35th and 89th infantry divisions) and the families of those who died in service, notably from the Gold Star Mothers. Each veteran or family member was asked to provide letters, photographs, a biography, and military records. This file contains information on Cleo D. Castor, Corporal Company C, 356th Infantry, 89th Division. He was stationed at Camp Funston for a time. He grew up near Weatherby, Missouri.

Creator: Castor, Cleo D.

Date: 1917-1919

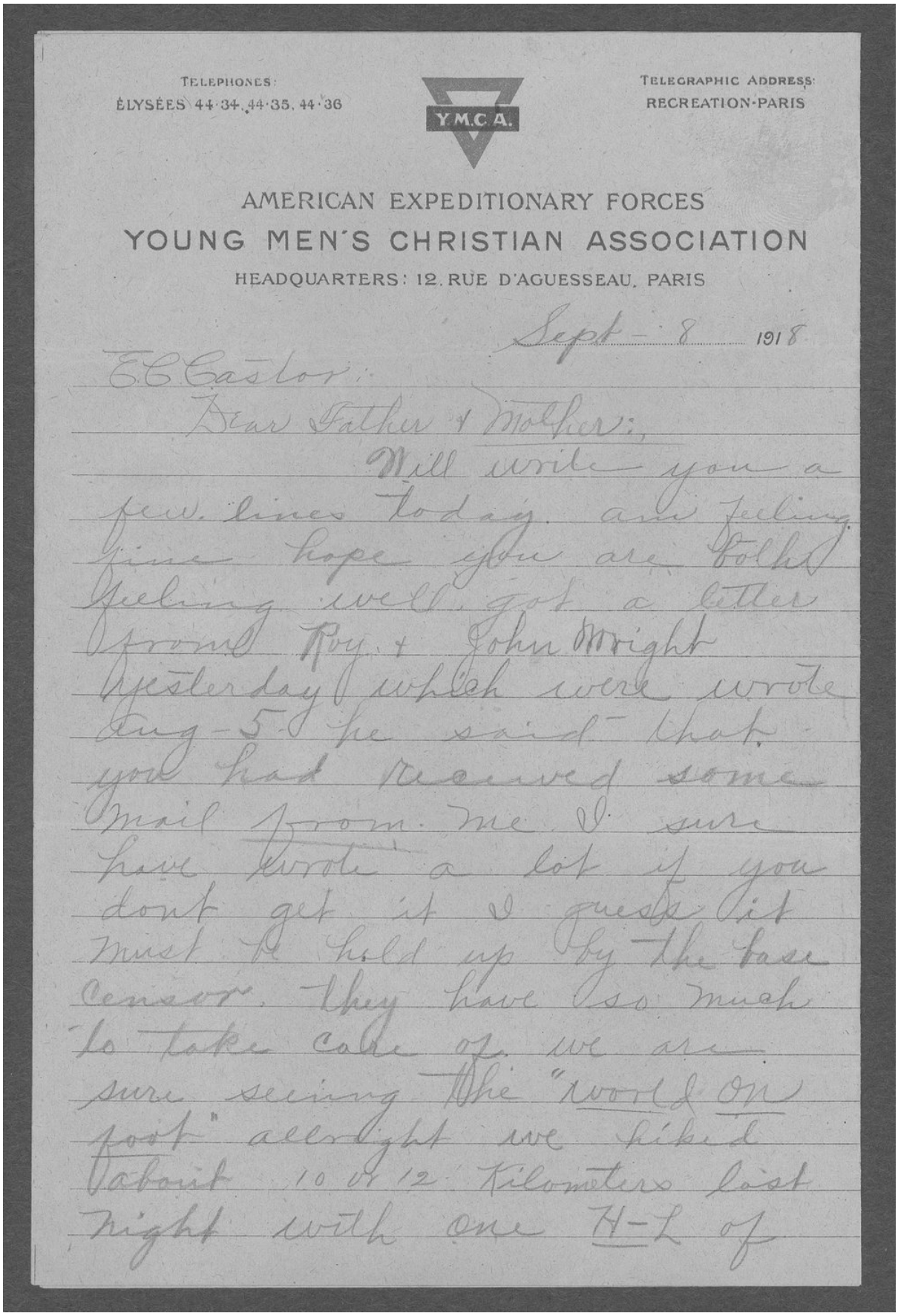
Callnumber: World War I Coll. #49, Box 8 Kansas Soldiers

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 224179

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Cleo D. Castor, World War I soldier



TELEPHONES:
ÉLYSÉES 44·34, 44·35, 44·36

Y.M.C.A.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
RECREATION-PARIS

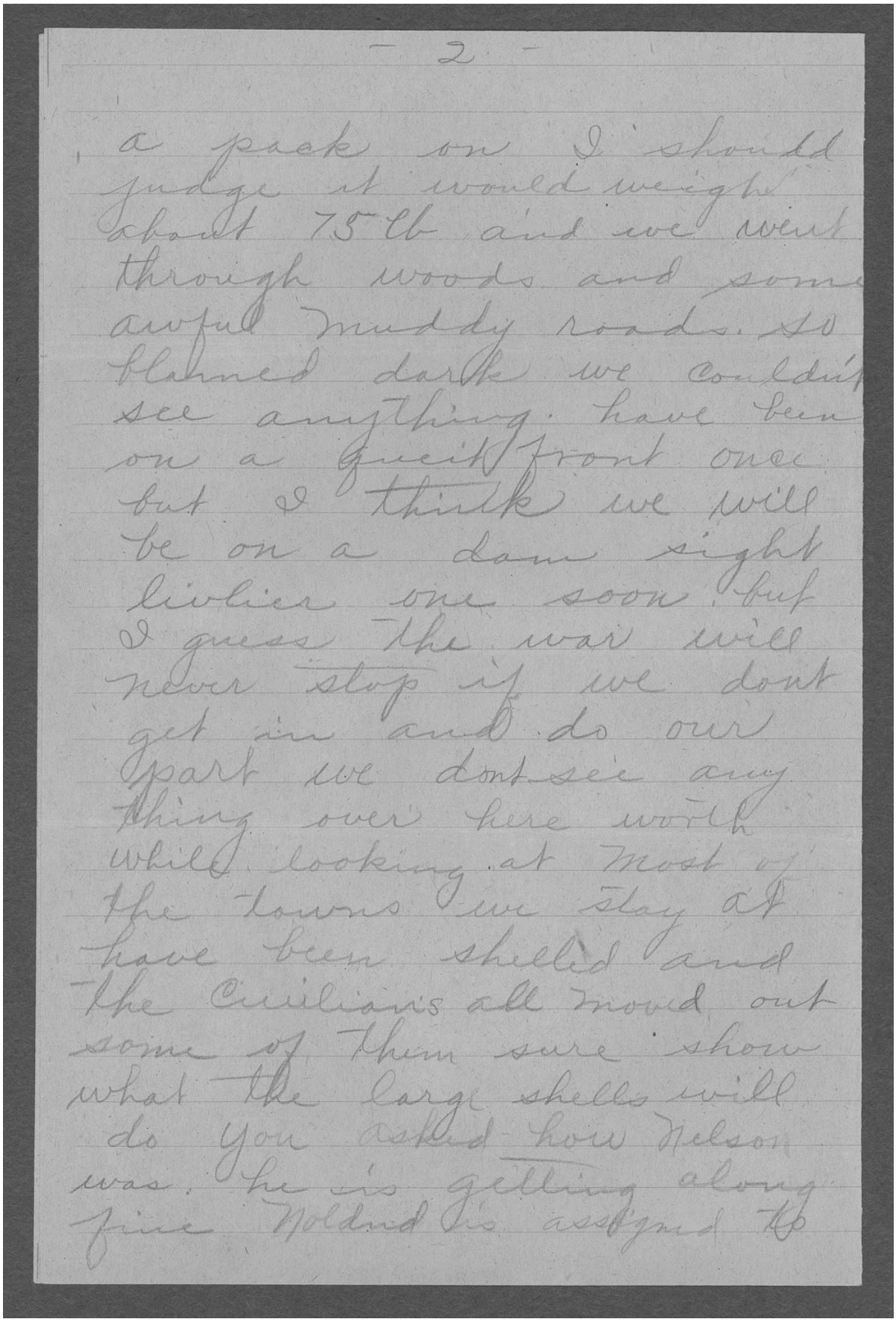
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
HEADQUARTERS: 12, RUE D'AGUESSEAU, PARIS

Sept - 8 1918

E C Castor:

Dear Father & Mother:

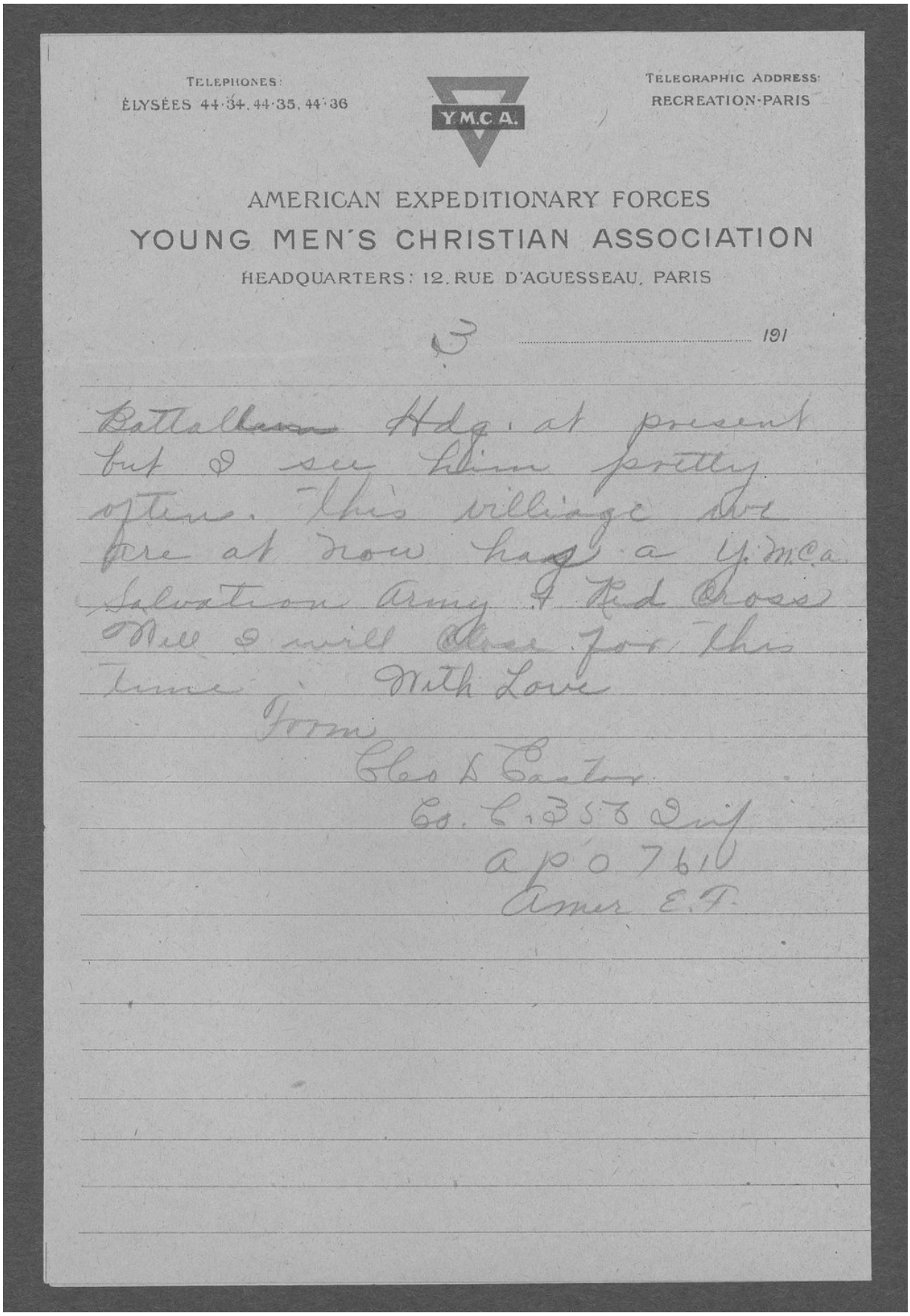
Will write you a few lines today. am feeling fine hope you are Folks feeling well. got a letter from Roy & John Wright yesterday which were wrote Aug - 5. he said that you had received some mail from me I sure have wrote a lot if you dont get it I guess it must A held up by the base censor. they have so much to take care of we are sure seeing the "world on foot" alright we hiked about 10 or 12 Kilometers last night with one H-L of



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a pack on I should judge it would weight about 75 lb and we went through woods and some awful muddy roads. So blamed dark we couldn't see anything. have been on a Guard front once but I think we will be on a damn sight livlier one soon. but I guess the war will never stop if we dont get in and do our part we dont see any thing over here worth while looking at Most of the towns we stay at have been shelled and the Civilians all moved out some of them sure show what the large shells will do You asked how Nelson was. he is getting along fine Noland is assigned to

Cleo D. Castor, World War I soldier



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ÉLYSÉES 44·34, 44·35, 44·36

Y.M.C.A.

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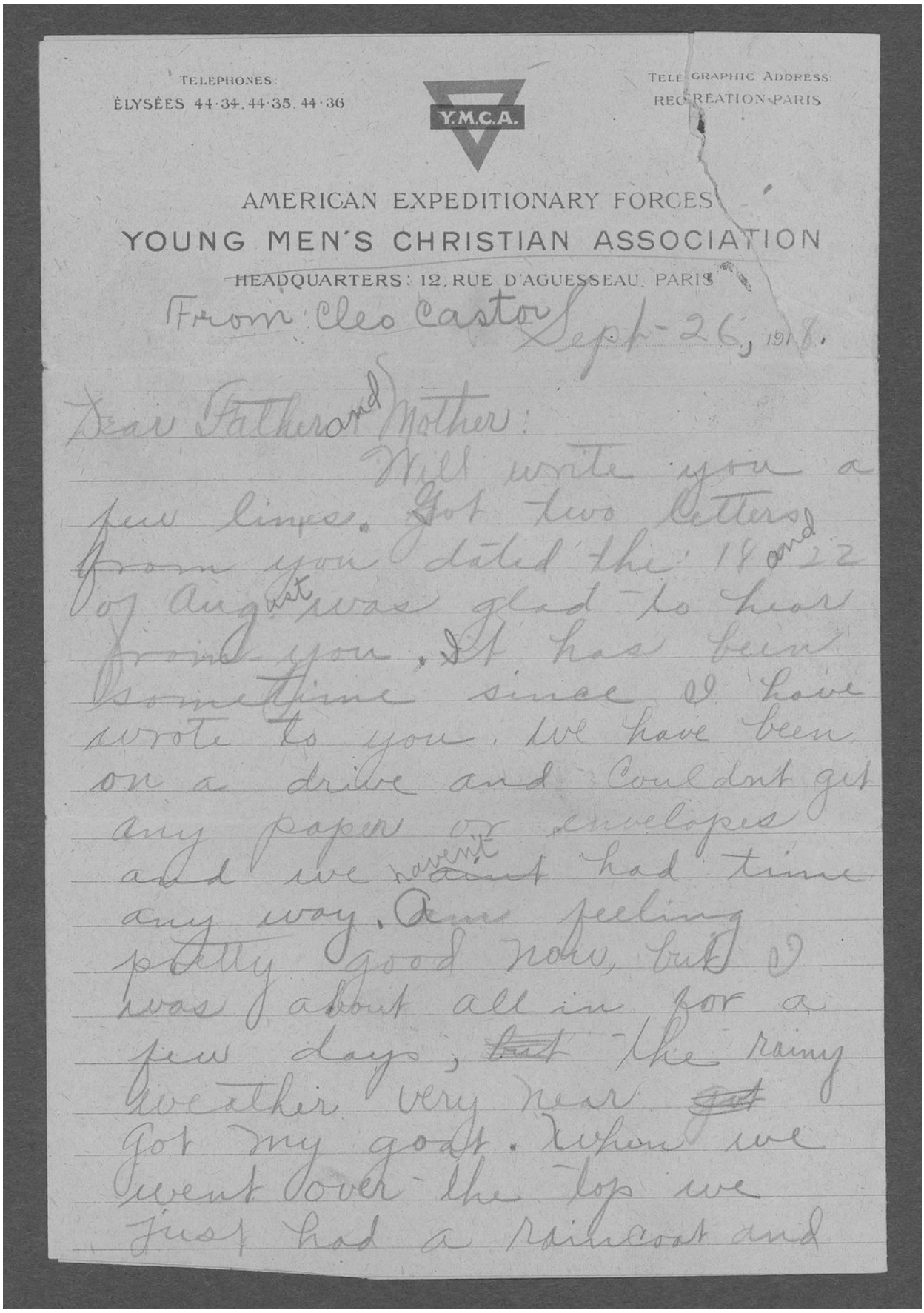
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
HEADQUARTERS: 12, RUE D'AGUESSEAU, PARIS

3 191

Battalion Hdq. at present but I see Elmer pretty often. This village does not at now have a Y.M.C.A. Salvation Army & Red Cross But I will close for this time. With Love

From
Cleo D Castor
Co. L. 358 Inf
A P O 761
Amer E.F.

Cleo D. Castor, World War I soldier



TELEPHONES
ÉLYSÉES 44·34. 44·35. 44·36

Y.M.C.A.

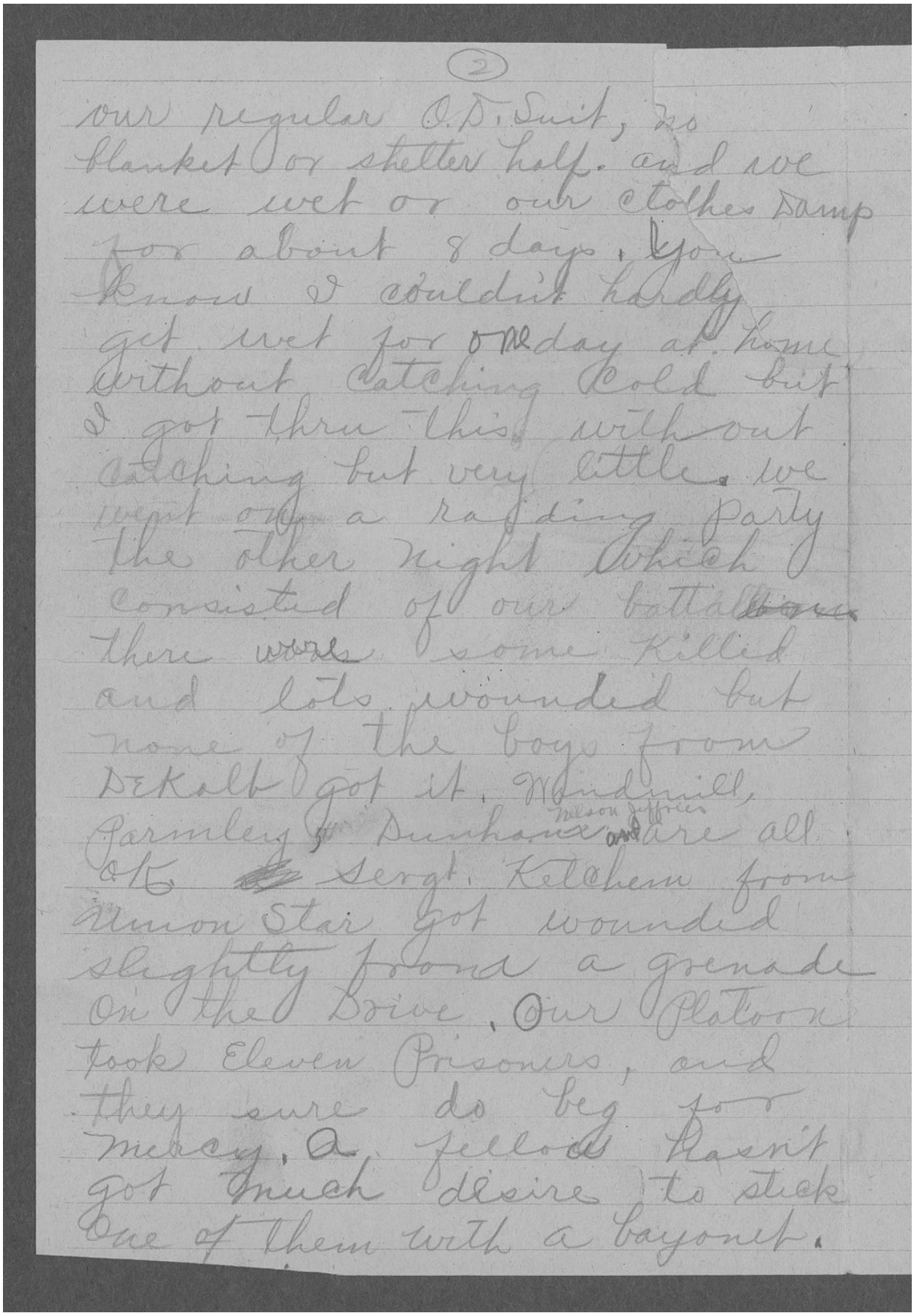
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RECREATION-PARIS

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
HEADQUARTERS: 12, RUE D'AGUESSEAU, PARIS

From Cleo Castor Sept-26, 1918.

Dear Father and Mother:

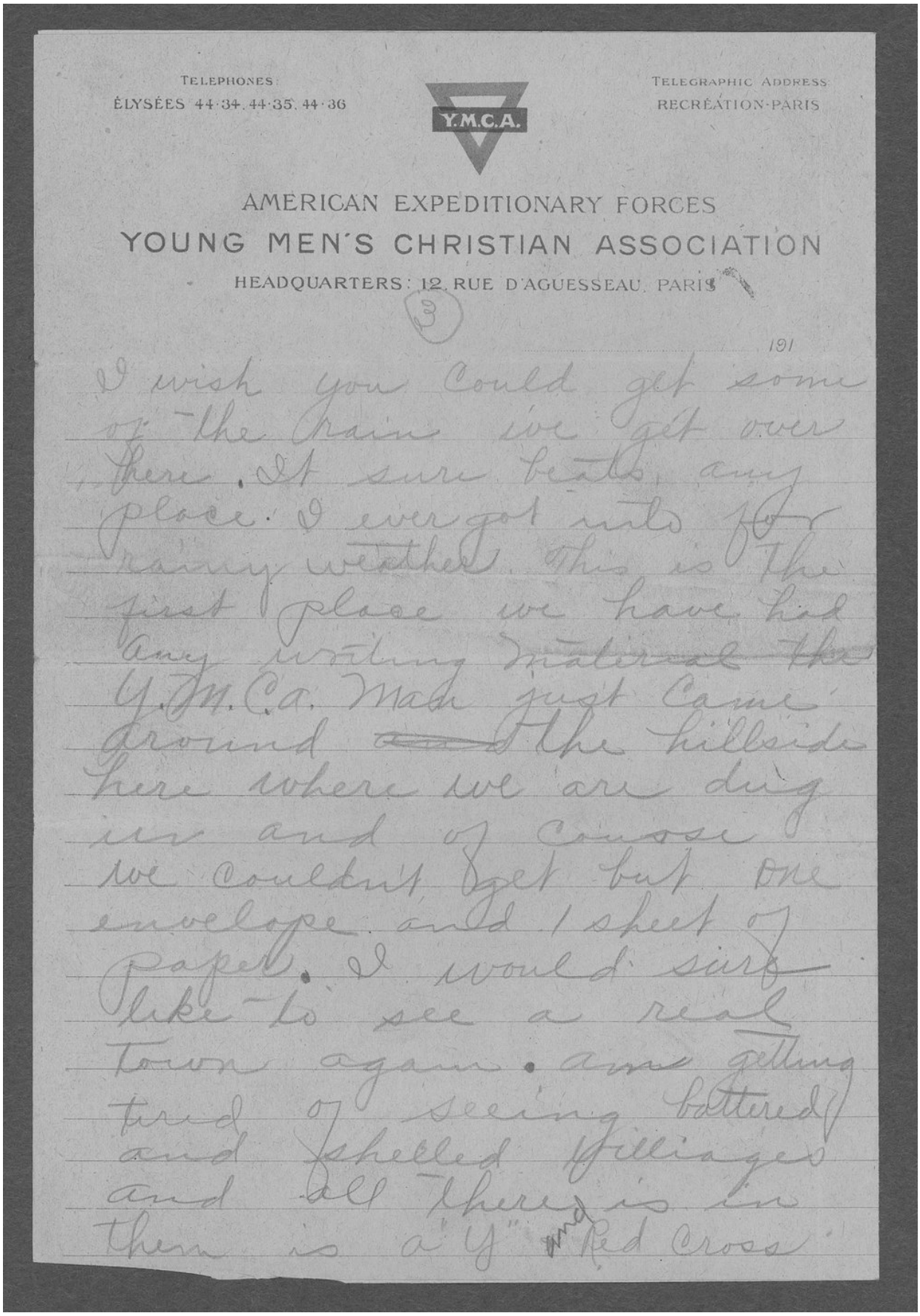
Will write you a few lines. Got two letters from you dated the 14 and 22 of August was glad to hear from you. It has been sometime since I have wrote to you. We have been on a drive and couldnt get any paper or envelopes and we haven't had time any way. Am feeling pretty good now, but I was about all in for a few days; the rainy weather very near ~~got~~ got my goat. When we went over the top we just had a raincoat and



(2)

our regular O.D. Suit, no blanket or shelter half. and we were wet or our clothes damp for about 8 days. You know I couldn't hardly get wet for one day at home without catching cold but I got thru this without catching but very little. we went on a raiding party the other night which consisted of our battalion there were some killed and lots wounded but none of the boys from DeKalb got it. Windmill, Parmley, Nelson Sullivan Dunham and are all O.K. Sergt. Kelchem from Union Star got wounded slightly found a grenade on the Boche. Our Platoon took Eleven Prisoners, and they sure do beg for mercy. a fellow hasn't got much desire to stick one of them with a bayonet.

Cleo D. Castor, World War I soldier



TELEPHONES
ÉLYSÉES 44·34. 44·35. 44·36

Y.M.C.A.

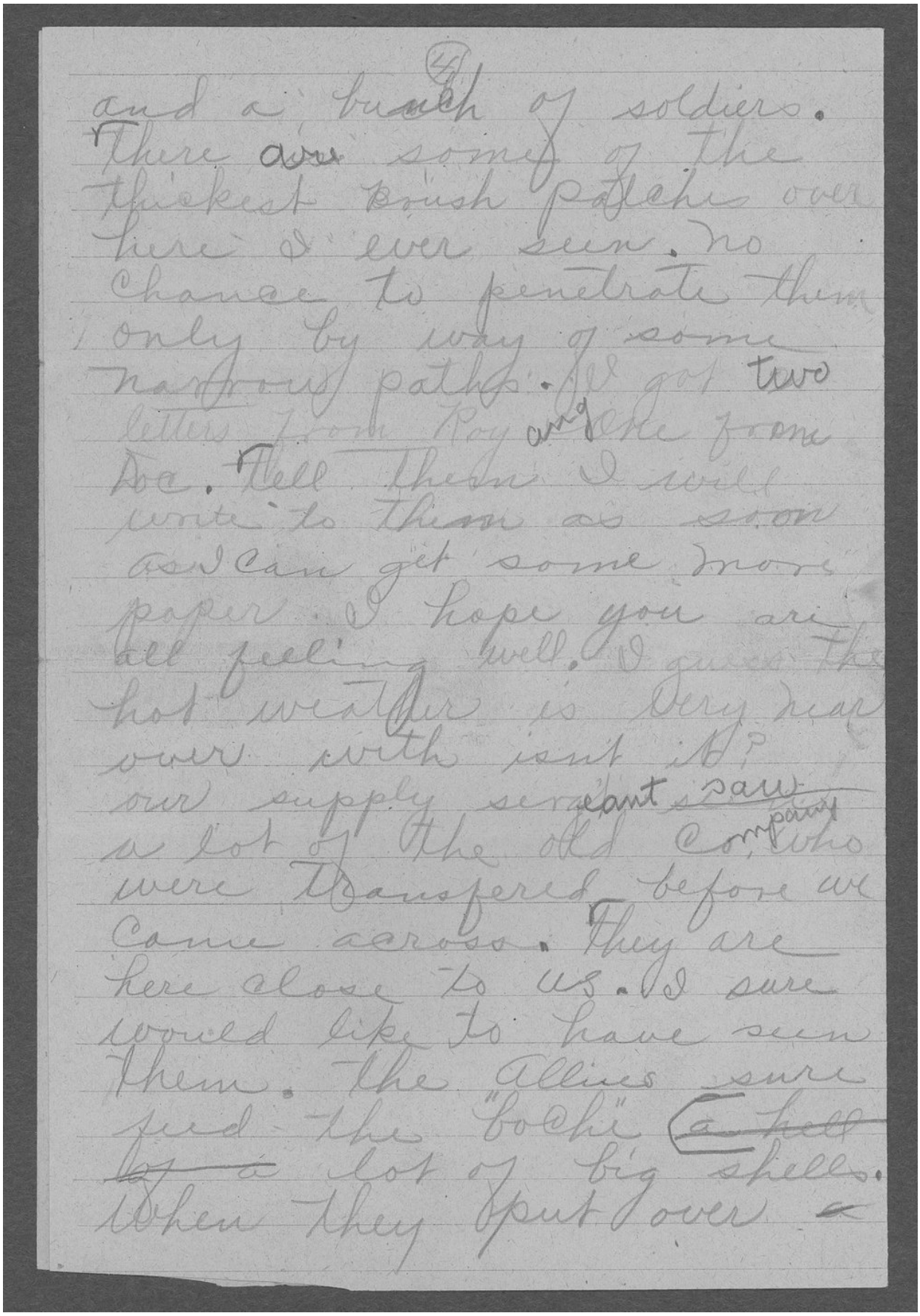
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AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
HEADQUARTERS: 12, RUE D'AGUESSEAU, PARIS

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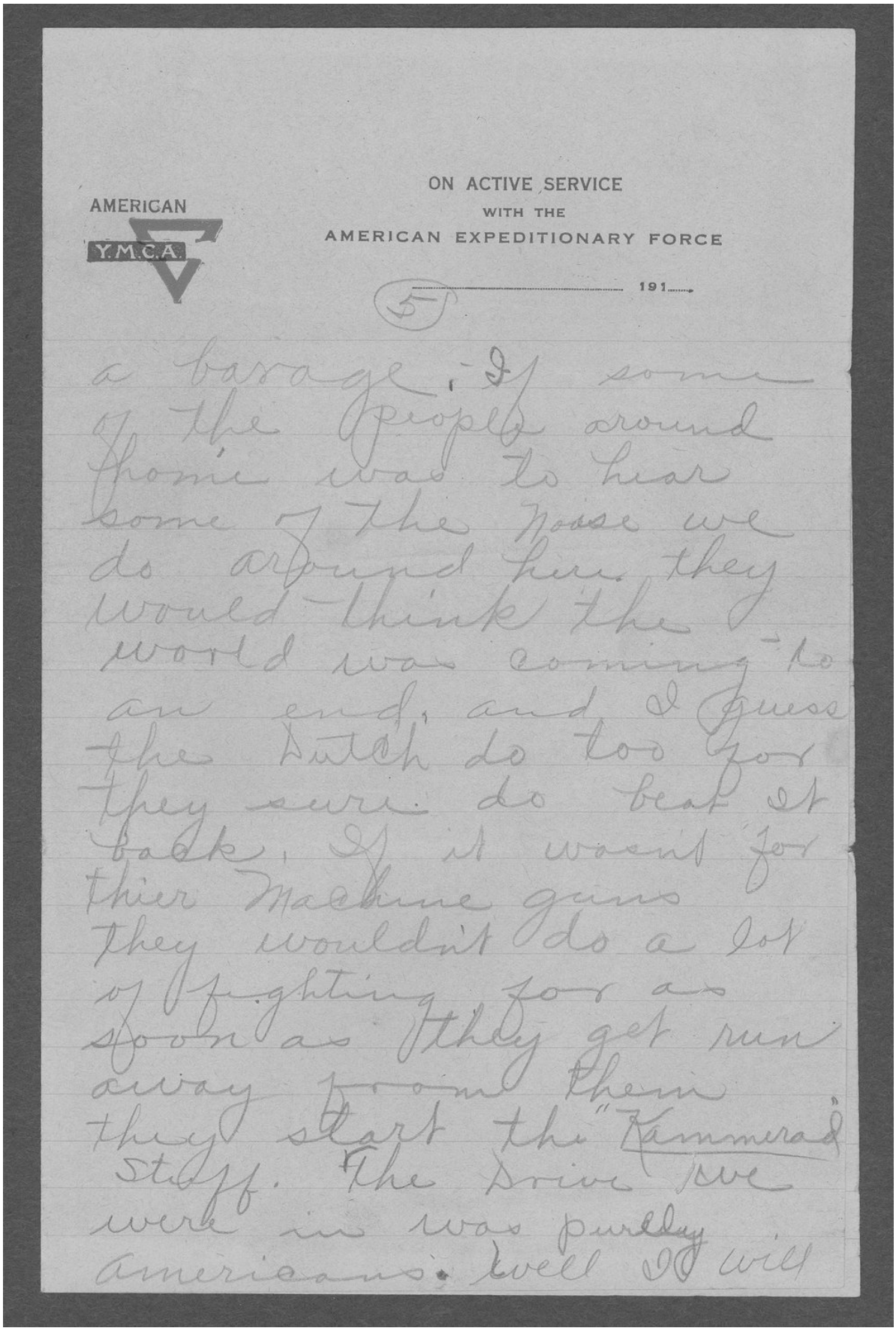
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I wish you could get some of the rain we get over here. It sure beats any place I ever got into for rainy weather. This is the first place we have had any writing material the Y.M.C.A. Mail just came around the hillside here where we are dug in and of course we couldn't get but one envelope and 1 sheet of paper. I would sure like to see a real town again. am getting tired of seeing battered and shelled villages and all there is in them is a "Y" and Red Cross



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and a bunch of soldiers. There are some of the thickest brush patches over here I ever seen. no chance to penetrate them only by way of some narrow paths. I got two letters from Roy and one from Doc. Tell them I will write to them as soon as I can get some more paper. I hope you are all feeling well. I guess the hot weather is very near over with isn't it? our supply sergeant saw a lot of the old company who were transfered before we came across. They are here close to us. I sure would like to have seen them. The Allies sure fed the "boche" a lot of big shells. when they put over a



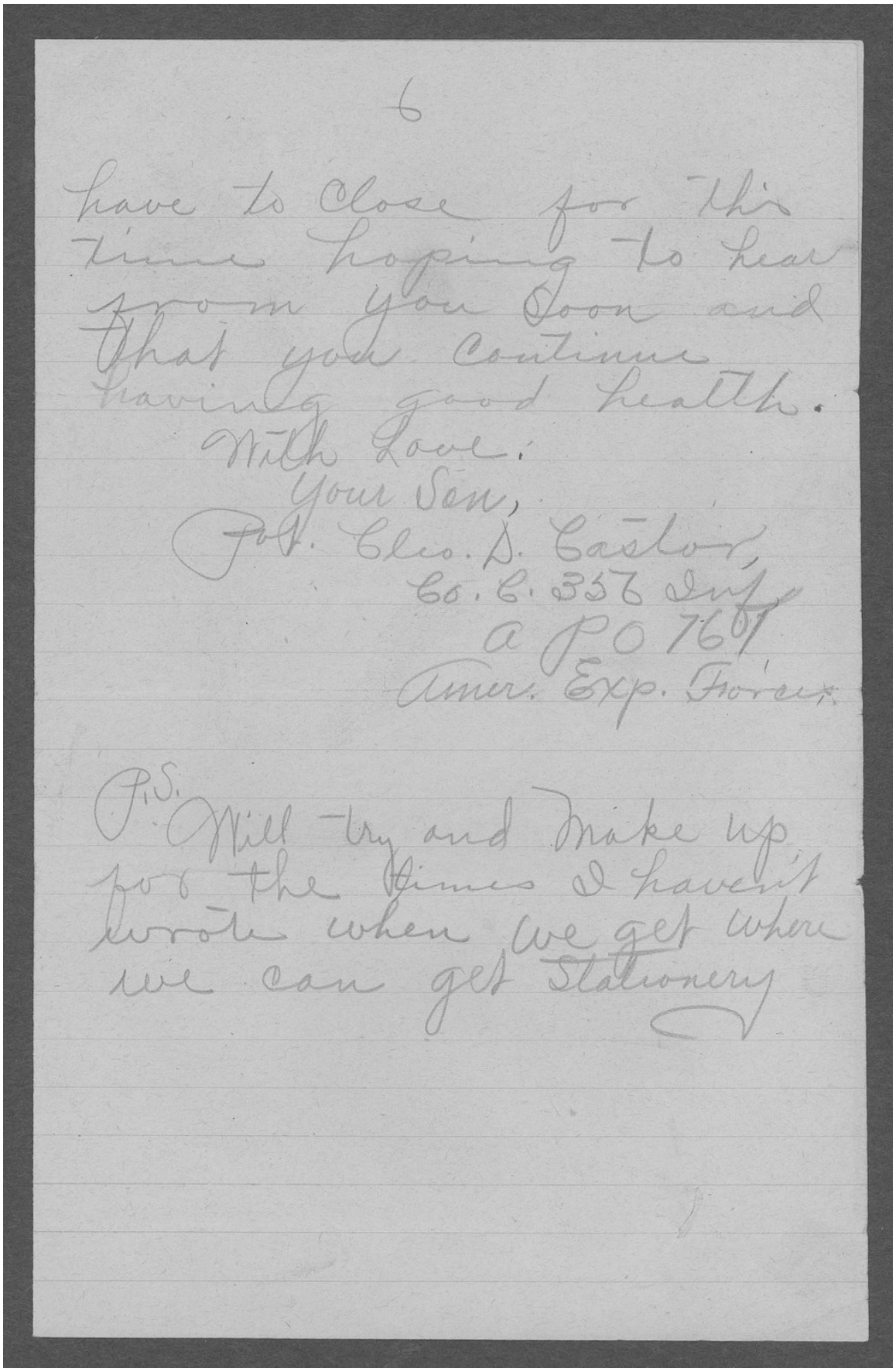
AMERICAN Y.M.C.A.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

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a barage. If some of the people around home was to hear some of the noise we do around here they would think the world was coming to an end, and I guess the Dutch do too for they sure do beat it back. If it wasnt for their Machine guns they wouldnt do a lot of fighting for as soon as they get run away from them they start the "Kamerad" stuff. The drive we were in was purdy americans. well I will



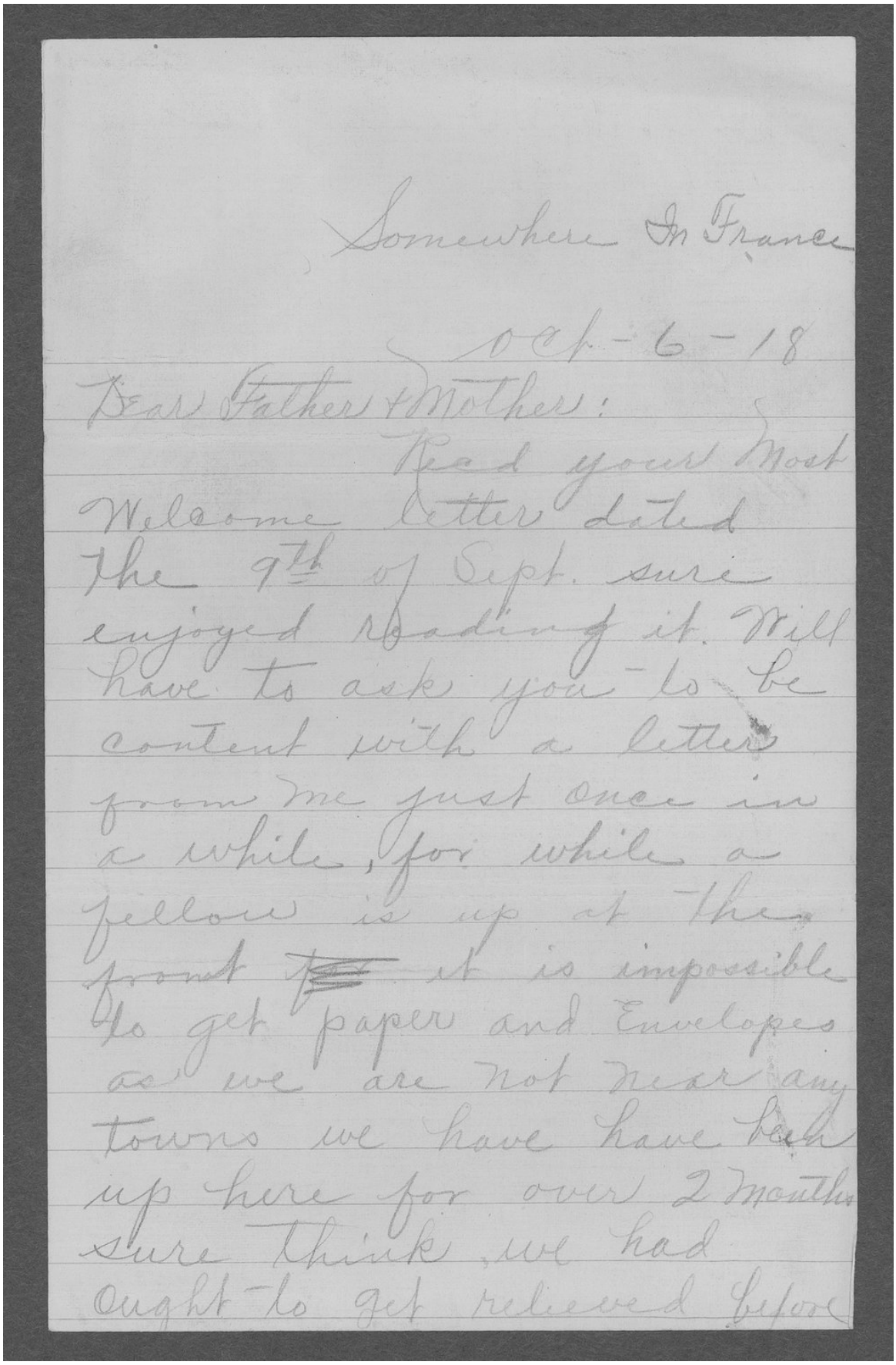
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have to close for this time hoping to hear from you soon and that you continue having good health.

With Love.
Your Son,
Pvt. Cleo. D. Castor,
Co. C. 356 Inf.
A P O 767
Amer. Exp. Forces

P.S.
Will try and make up for the times I haven't wrote when we get where we can get Stationery

Cleo D. Castor, World War I soldier

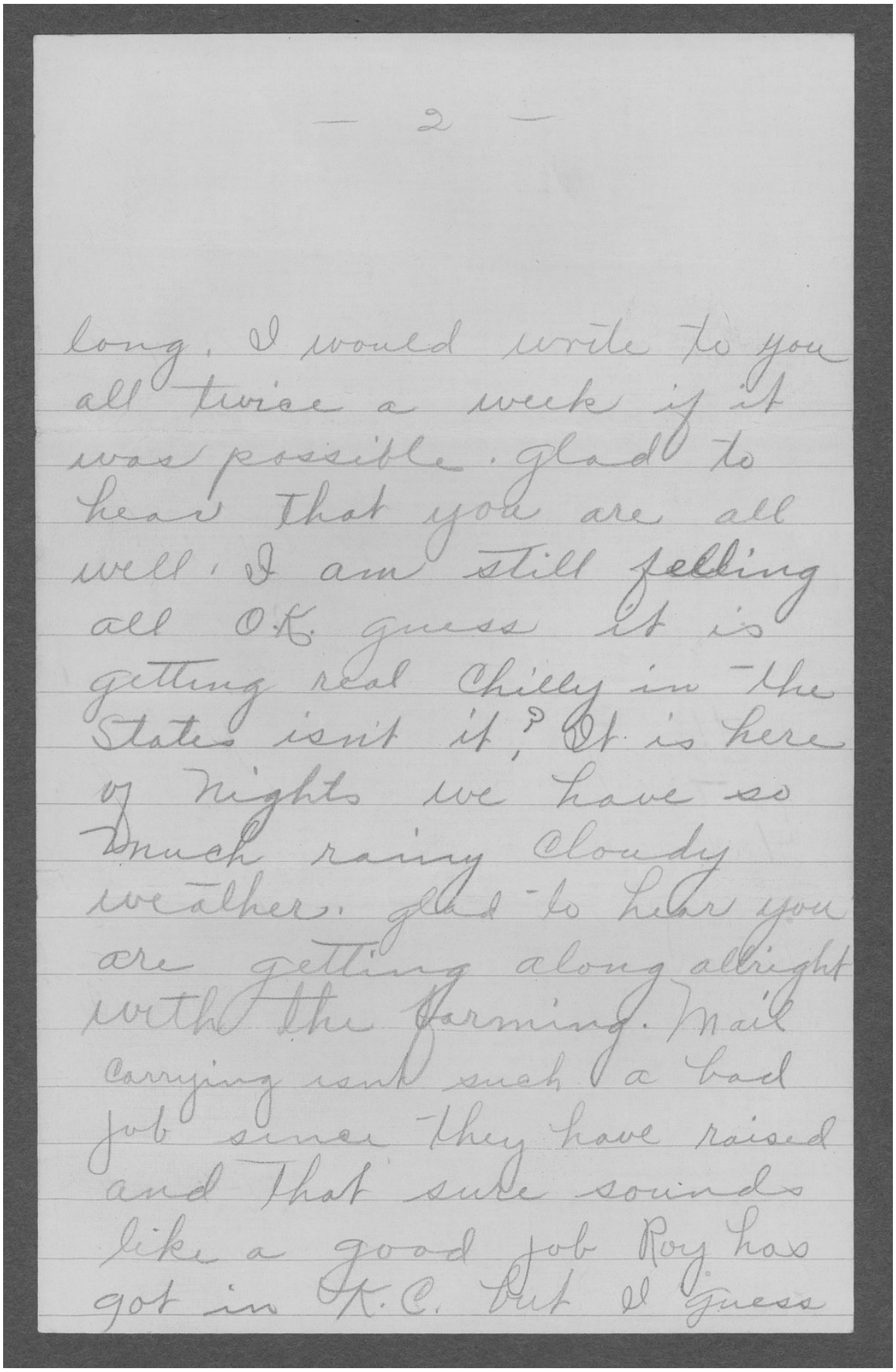


Somewhere In France

Oct - 6 - 18

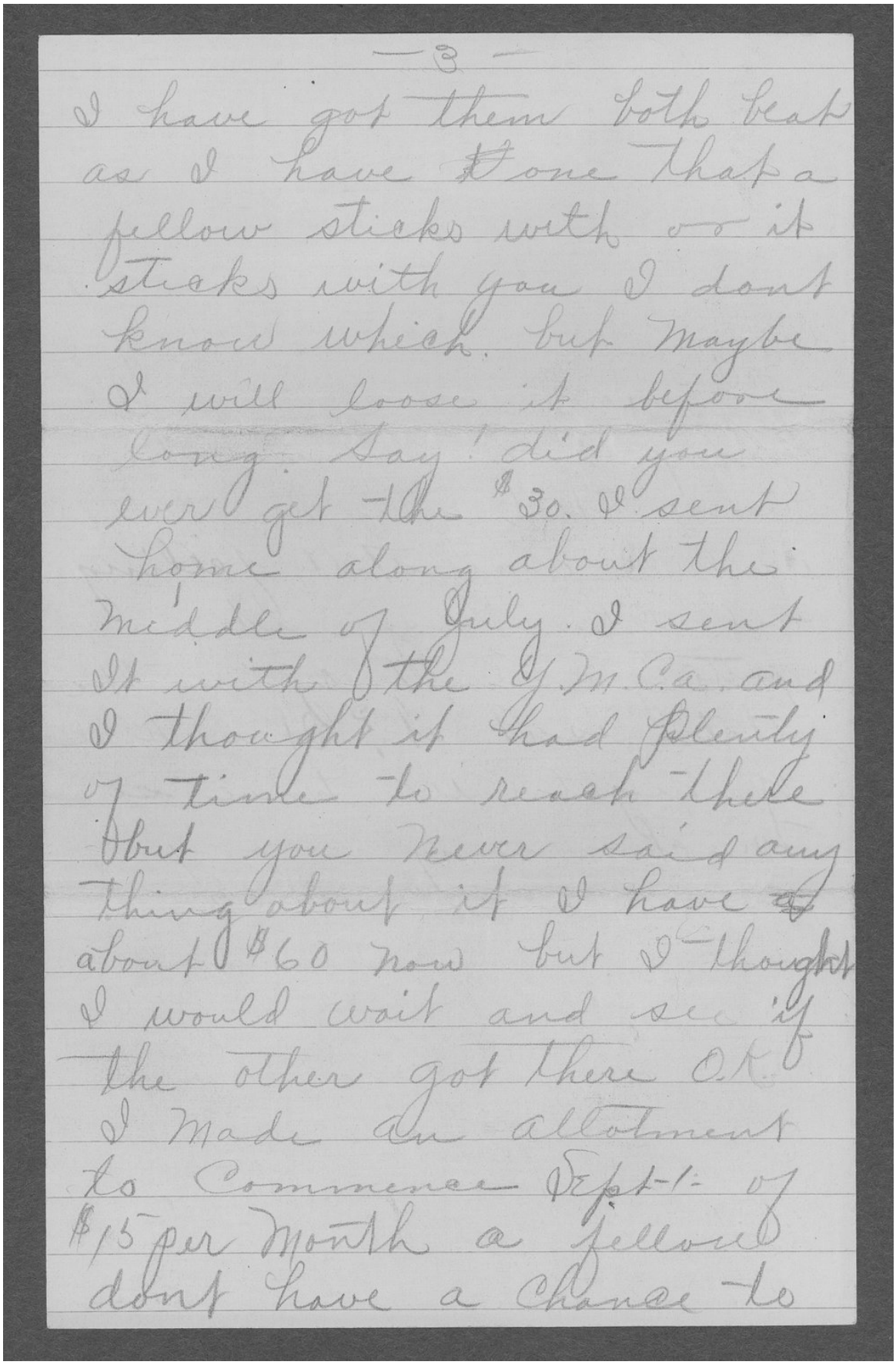
Dear Father & Mother:

Rec'd your Most Welcome letter dated the 9th of Sept. sure enjoyed reading it. Will have to ask you to be content with a letter from me just once in a while, for while a fellow is up at the front it is impossible to get paper and Envelopes as we are not near any towns we have have been up here for over 2 months sure think we had ought to get relieved before



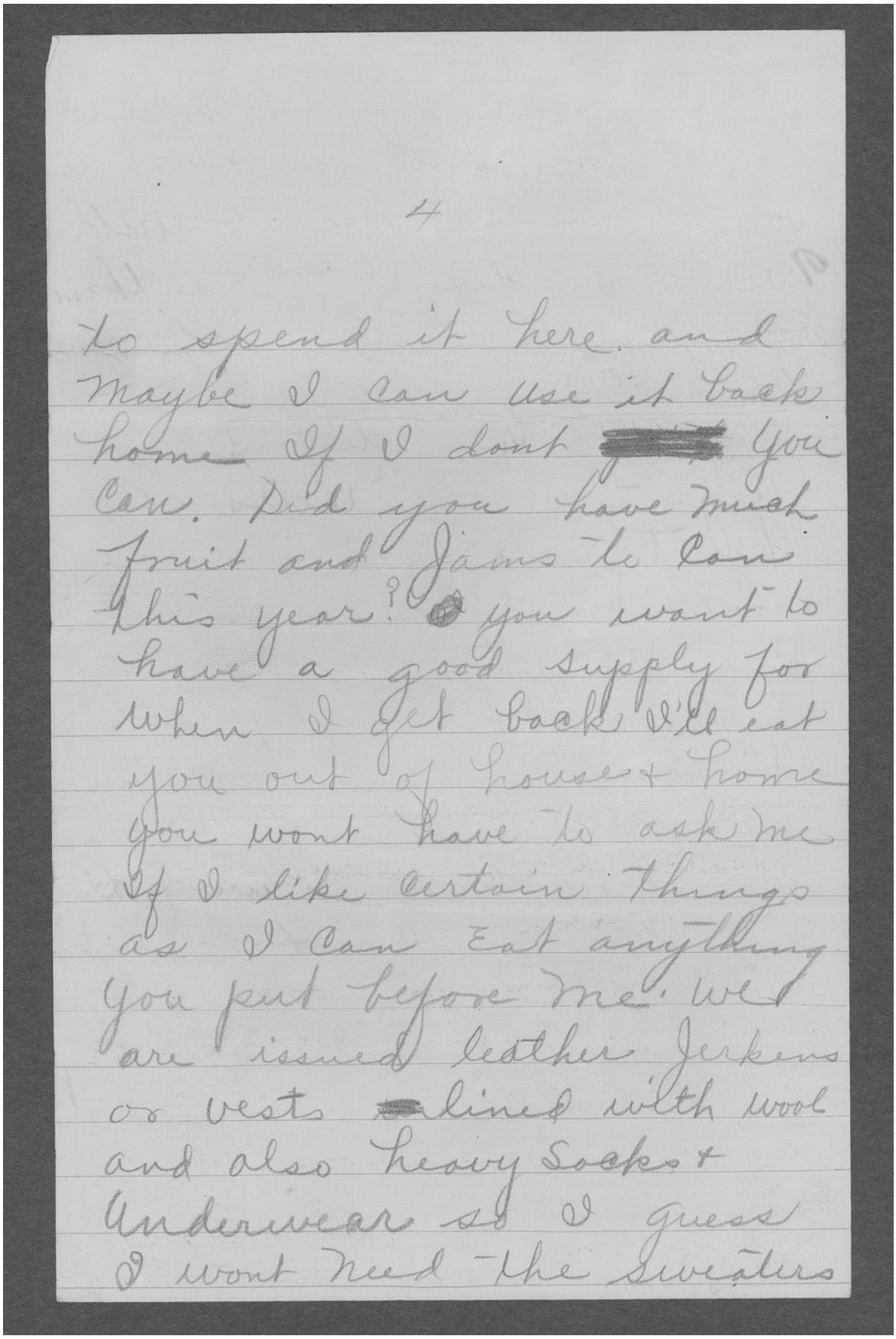
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long. I would write to you all twice a week if it was possible. glad to hear that you are all well. I am still feeling all O.K. guess it is getting real Chilly in the States isn't it? It is here of nights we have so much rainy Cloudy weather. glad to hear you are getting along allright with the farming. Mail carrying isn't such a bad job since they have raised and that sure sounds like a good job Roy has got in K.C. but I Guess



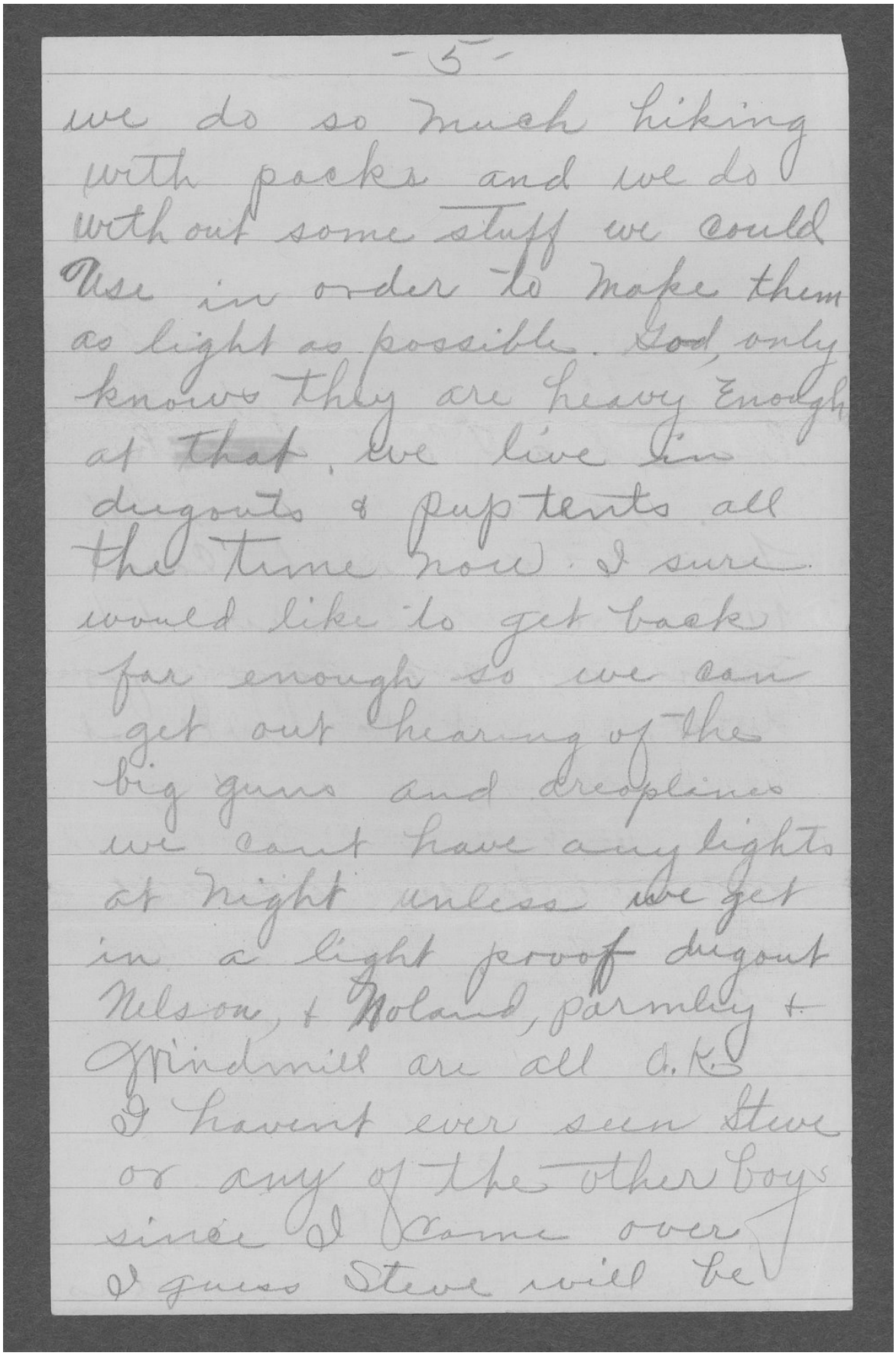
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I have got them both beat as I have done that a fellow sticks with or it sticks with you I dont know which but maybe I will loose it before long. Say! did you ever get the $30. I sent home along about the middle of July. I sent it with the Y.M.C.A. and I thought it had plenty of time to reach there but you never said any thing about it I have about $60 now but I thought I would wait and see if the other got there OK. I Made an allotment to Commence Sept-1- of $15 per Month a fellow dont have a chance to



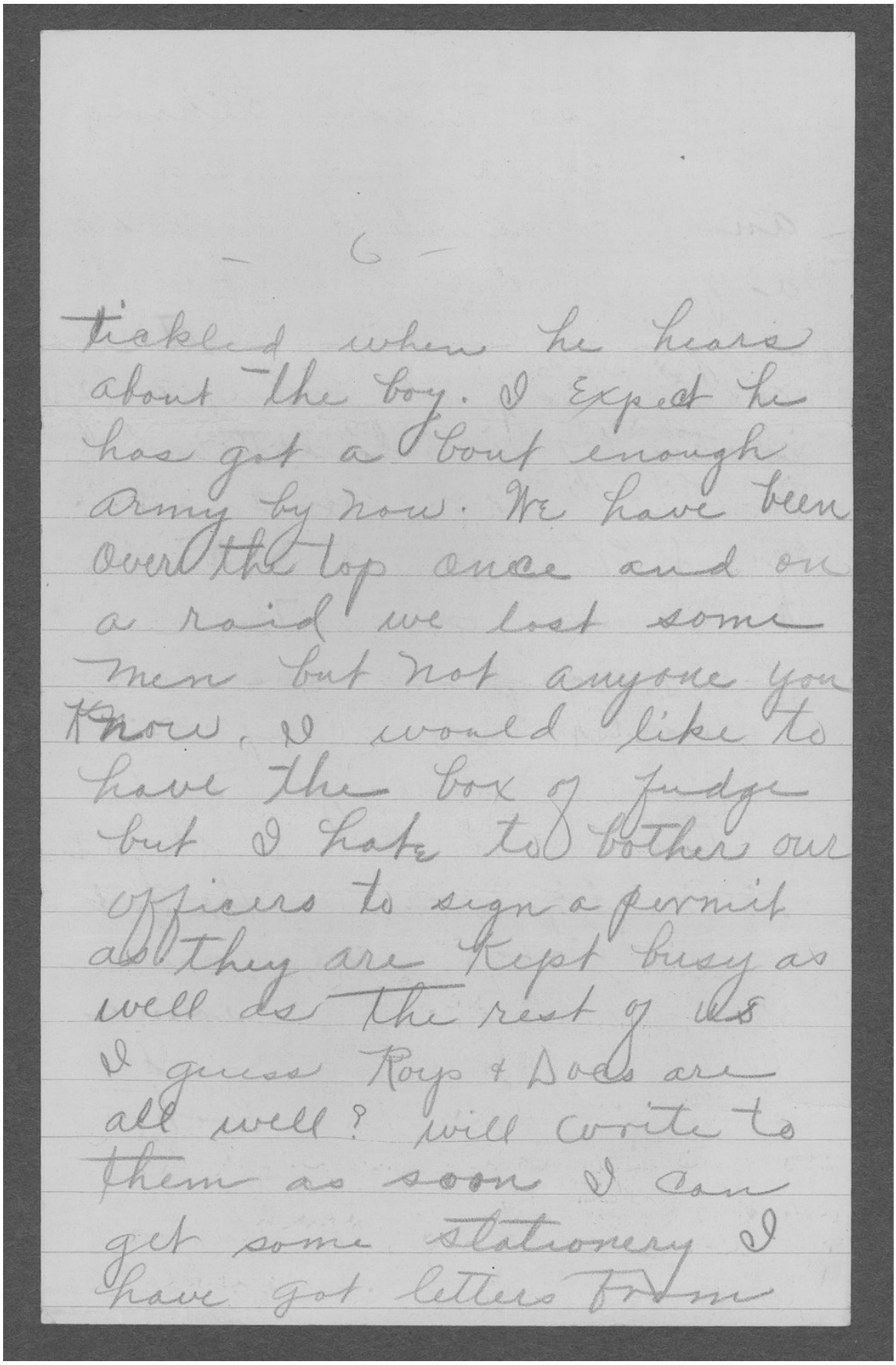
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to spend it here and
Maybe I can use it back
home If I dont [redacted] You
Can. Did you have much
fruit and Jams to Can
this year? you want to
have a good supply for
when I get back, I'll eat
you out of house & home
You wont have to ask me
if I like certain things
as I can Eat anything
you put before me. We
are issued leather Jerkens
or vests [redacted] lined with wool
and also heavy Socks &
Underwear so I guess
I wont need the Sweaters



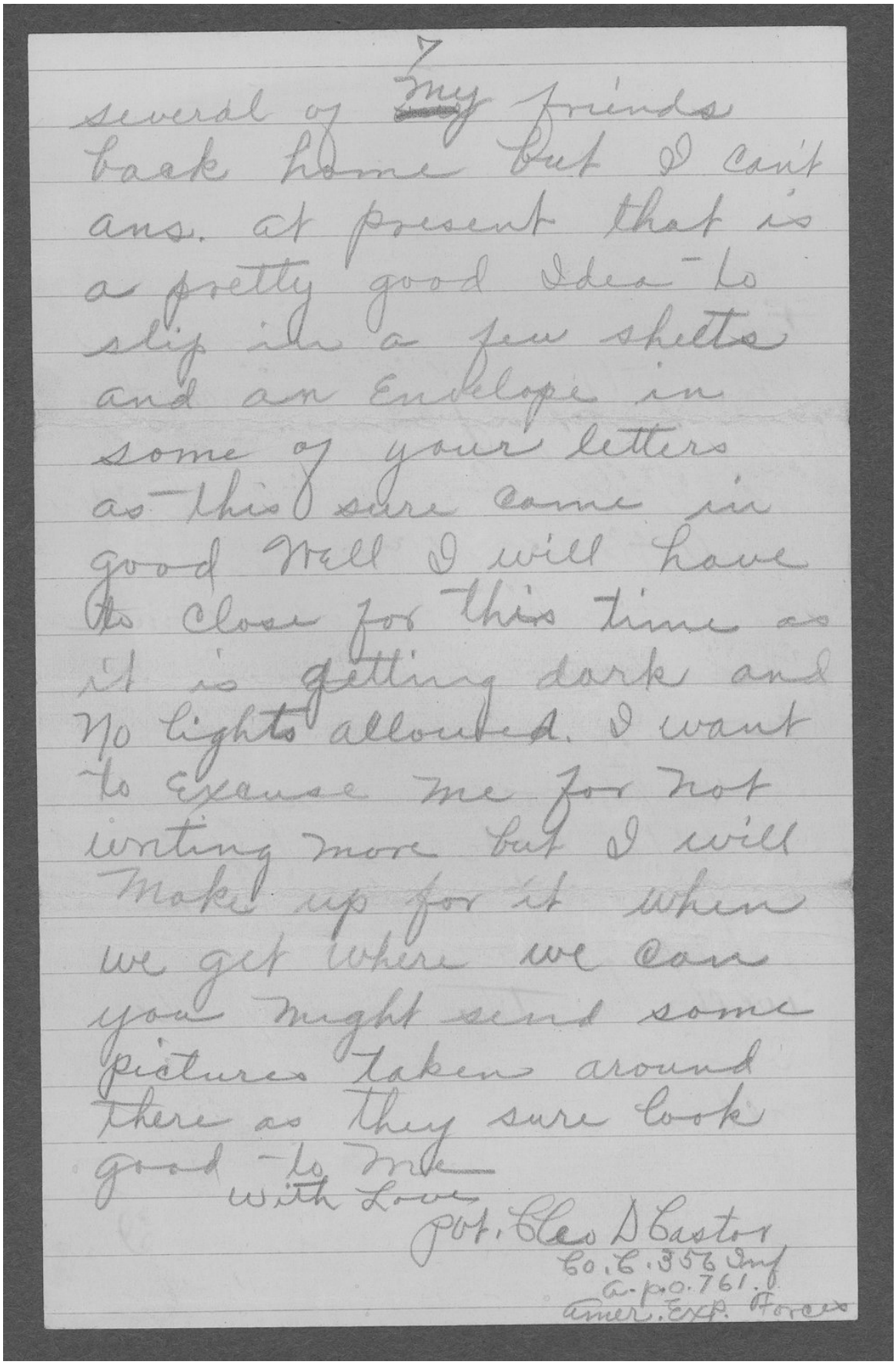
-5-

we do so much hiking with packs and we do without some stuff we could use in order to make them as light as possible. God only knows they are heavy Enough at that. We live in dugouts & pup tents all the time now. I sure would like to get back far enough so we can get out hearing of the big guns and aeroplanes we cant have any lights at night unless we get in a light proof dugout Nelson + Roland, Parmley + Windmill are all O.K.
I haven't ever seen Steve or any of the other boys since I came over I guess Steve will be



– 6 –

tickled when he hears about the boy. I Expect he has got a bout enough army by now. We have been over the top once and on a raid we lost some men but not anyone you know. I would like to have the box of fudge but I hate to bother our officers to sign a permit as they are kept busy as well as the rest of us I guess Roys & Dads are all well? will write to them as soon I can get some stationery I have got letters from me



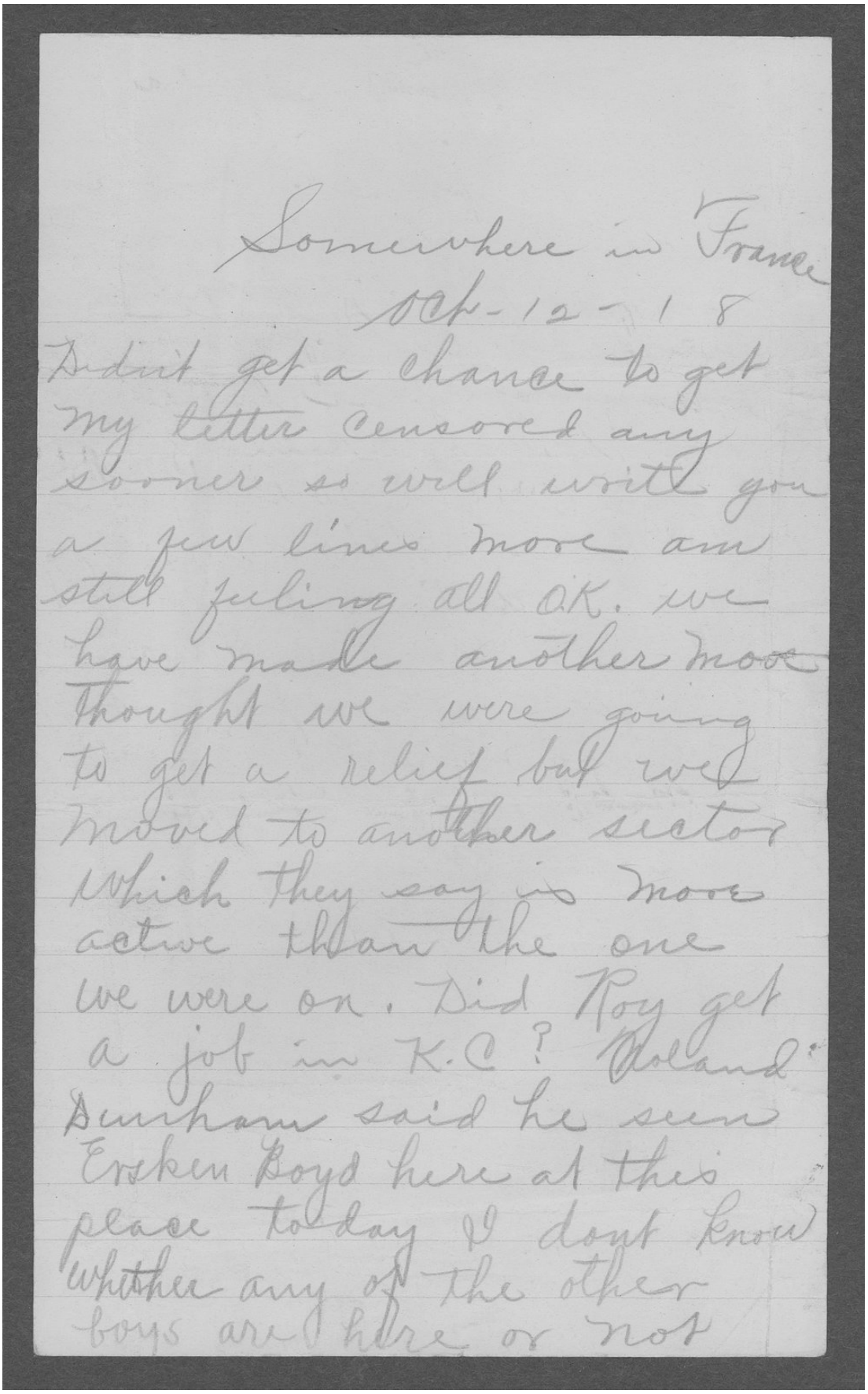
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several of my friends back home but I can't ans. at present that is a pretty good idea - to slip in a few sheets and an Endelope in some of your letters as this sure come in good Well I will have to close for this time as it is getting dark and No lights allouted. I want to Excuse me for not writing more but I will Make up for it when we get where we can you might send some pictures taken around there as they sure look good - to Me

With Love

Pvt. Cleo D Castor
Co. E. 356 Inf
A.P.O. 761.
Amer. Exp. Forces

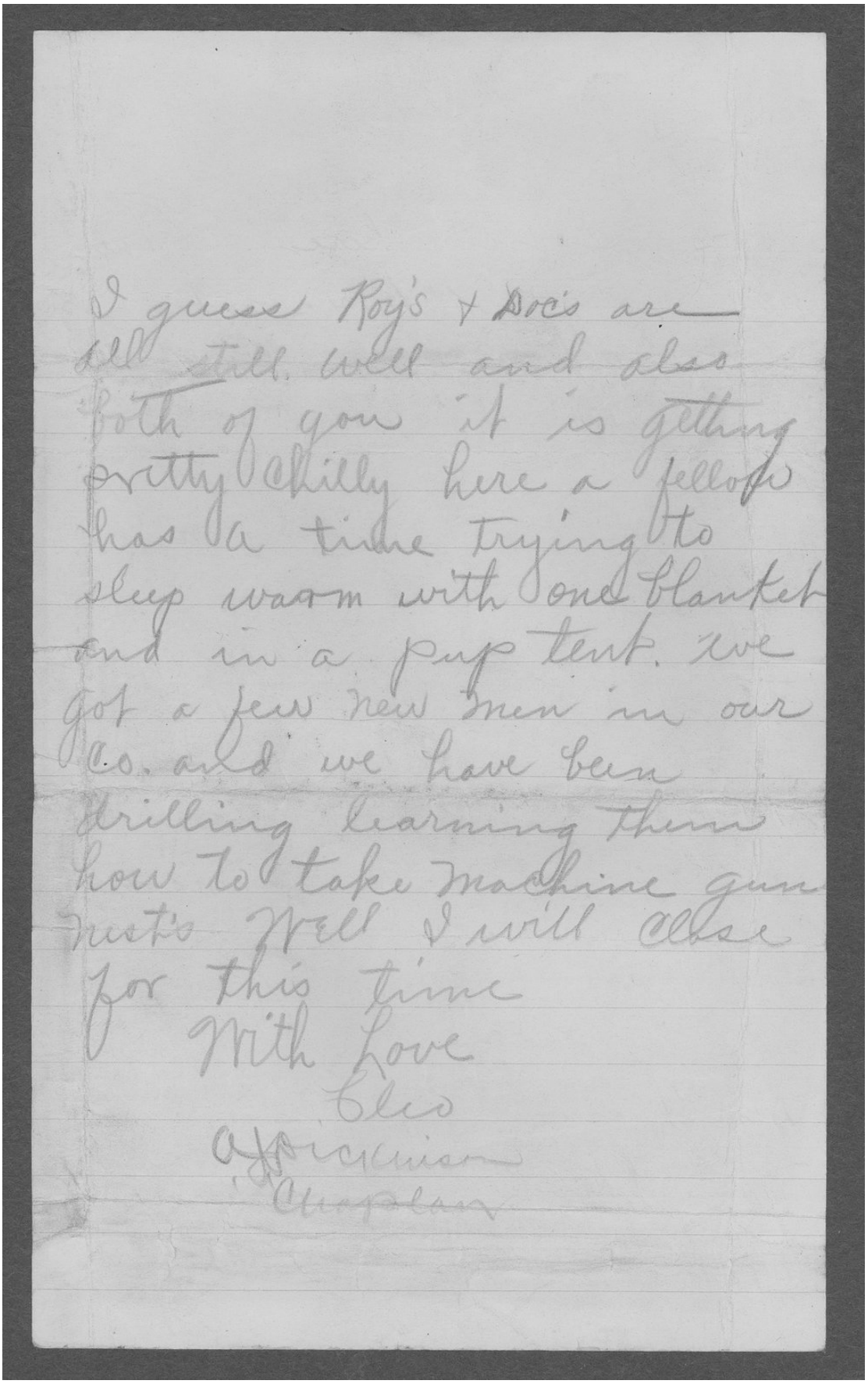
Cleo D. Castor, World War I soldier



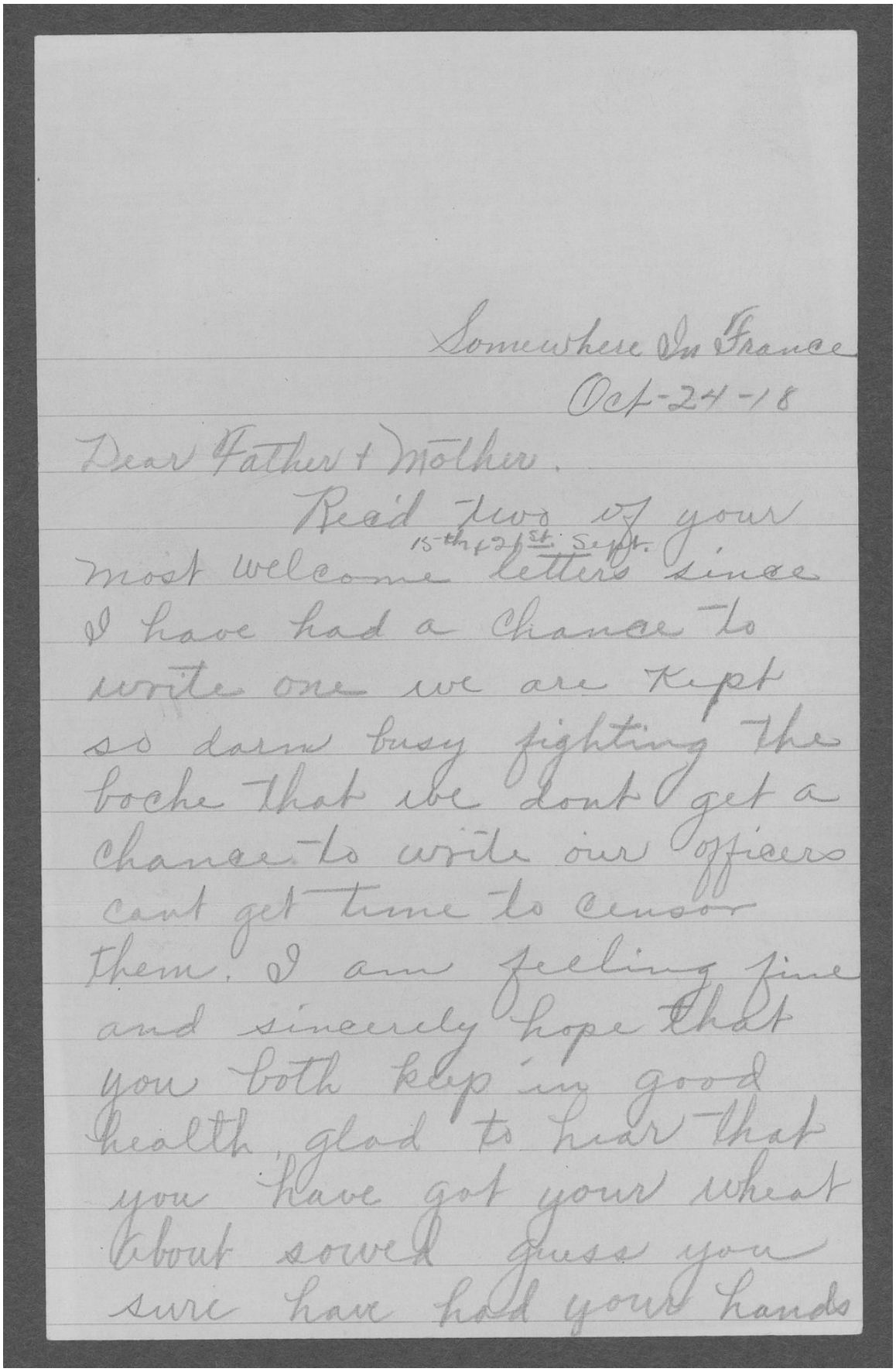
Somewhere in France
Oct-12-18

Didnt get a chance to get my letter censored any sooner so will write you a few lines more am still feeling all OK. we have made another move thought we were going to get a relief but we moved to another sector which they say is more active than the one we were on. Did Roy get a job in K.C? Roland Dunham said he seen Erskin Boyd here at this place today I dont know whether any of the other boys are here or not

Cleo D. Castor, World War I soldier



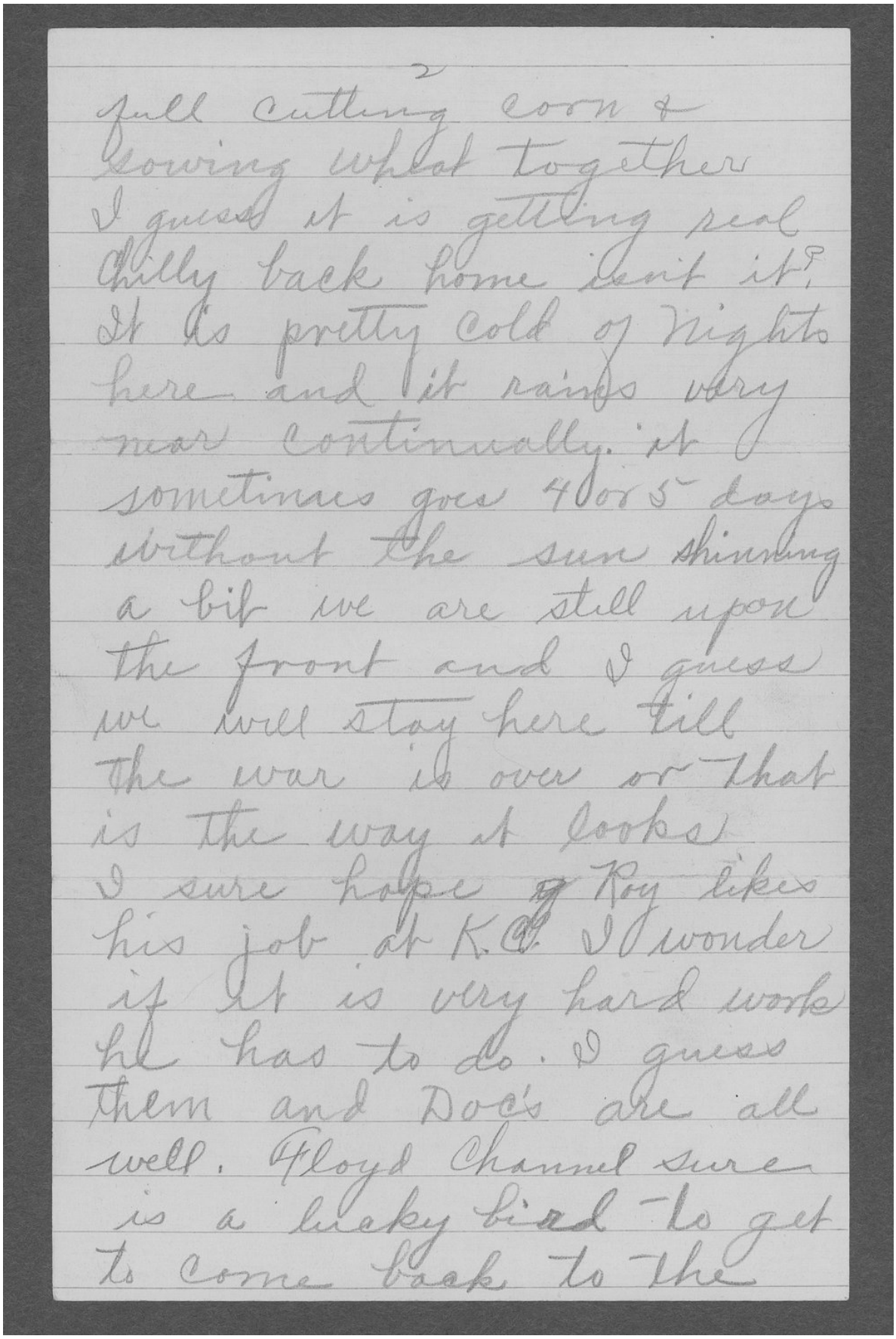
I guess Roy's & Doc's are
all still well and also
both of you it is getting
pretty chilly here a fellow
has a time trying to
sleep warm with one blanket
and in a pup tent. We
got a few new men in our
co. and we have been
drilling learning them
how to take machine gun
nests Well I will close
for this time
With Love
Cleo
Appreciation
Chaplain



Somewhere In France
Oct-24-18

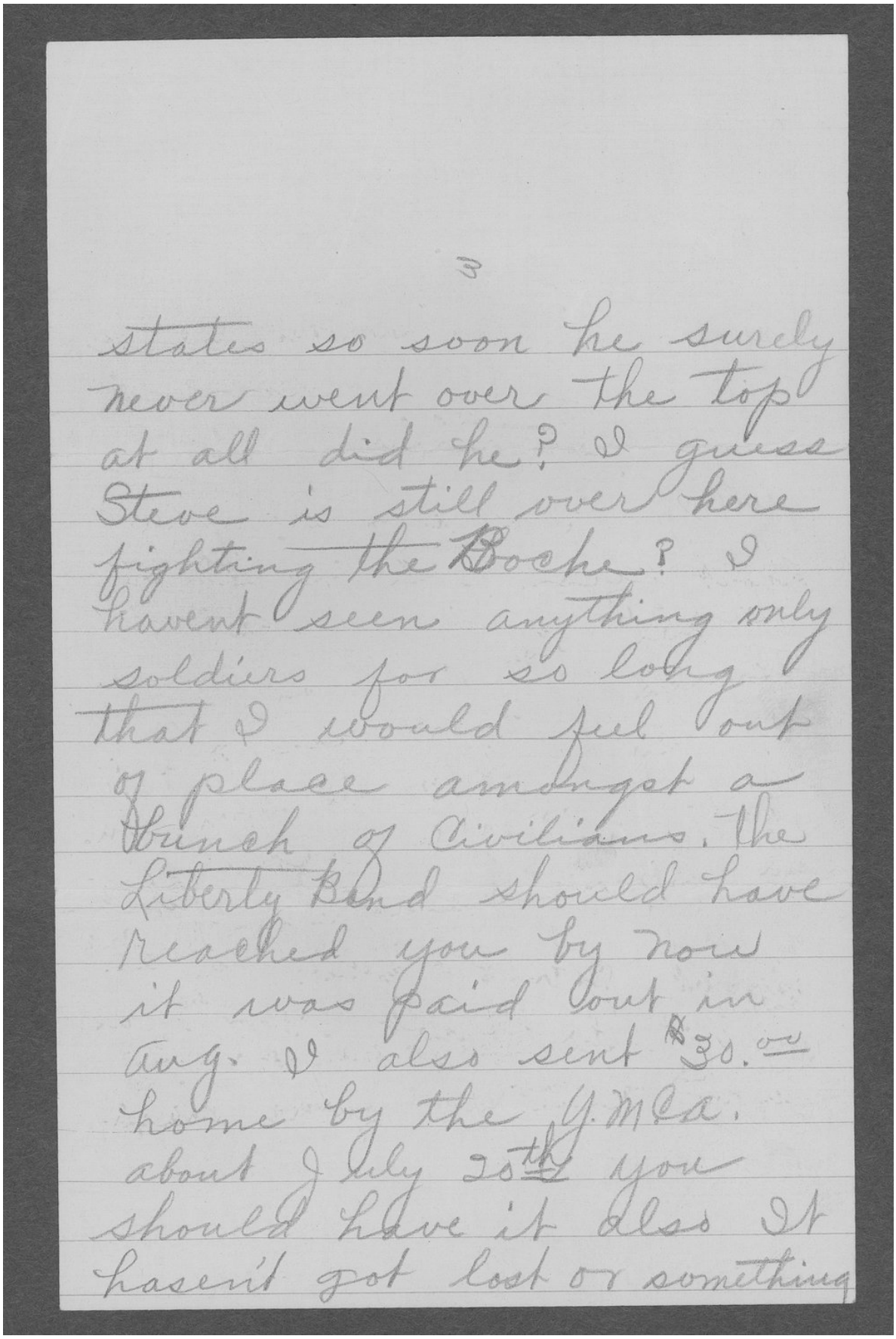
Dear Father & Mother.

Read Two of your 15th & 21st Sept. most welcome letters since I have had a chance to write one we are kept so darn busy fighting the boche that we dont get a chance to write our officers cant get time to censor them. I am feeling fine and sincerely hope that you both kep in good health glad to hear that you have got your wheat about sowed guess you sure have had your hands



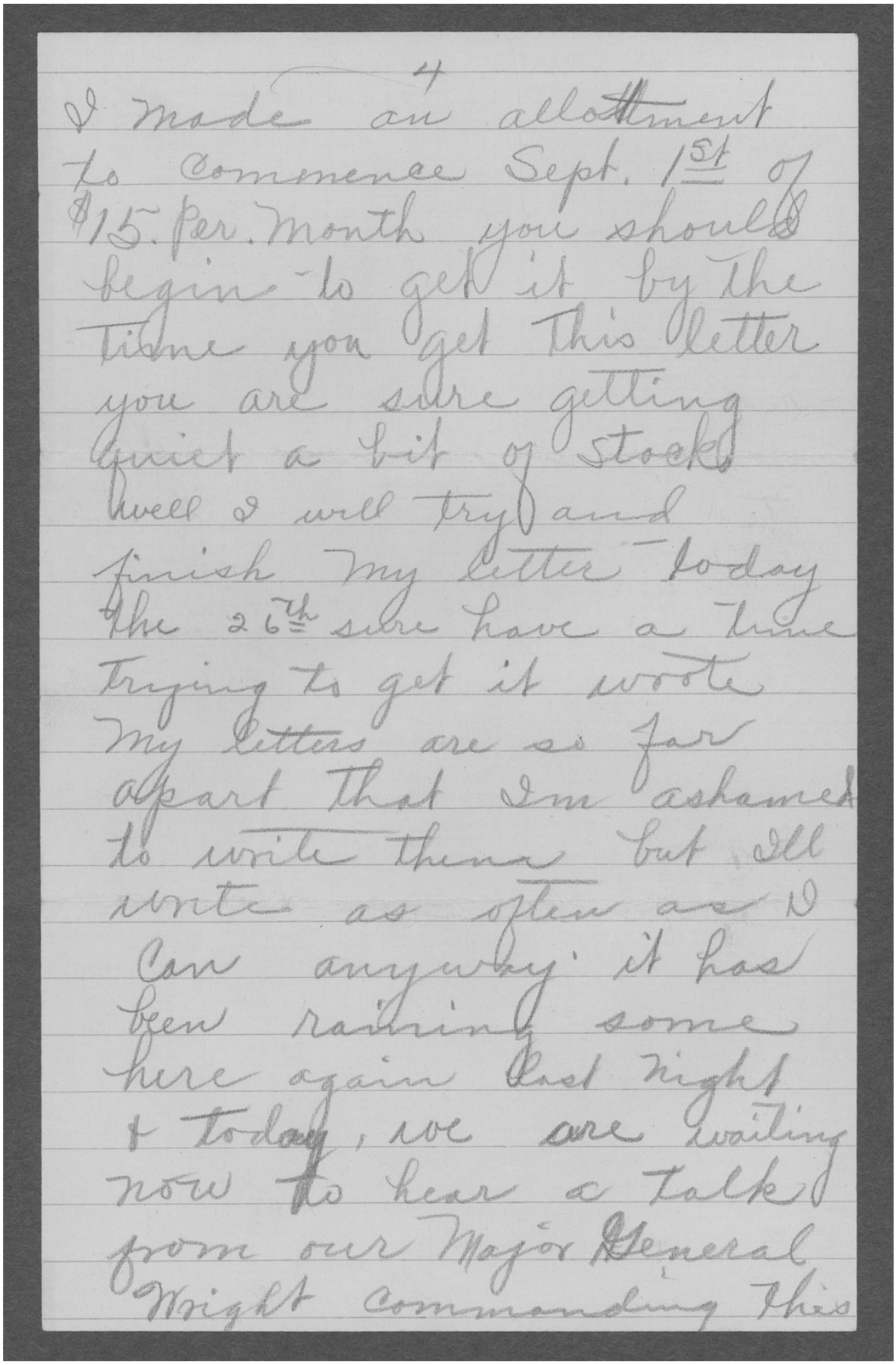
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full cutting corn &
sowing wheat together
I guess it is getting real
chilly back home isn't it?
It is pretty cold of nights
here and it rains very
near continually. it
sometimes goes 4 or 5 days
without the sun shining
a bit we are still upon
the front and I guess
we will stay here till
the war is over or that
is the way it looks
I sure hope Roy likes
his job at K.C. I wonder
if it is very hard work
he has to do. I guess
them and Doc's are all
well. Floyd Channel sure
is a lucky bird to get
to come back to the



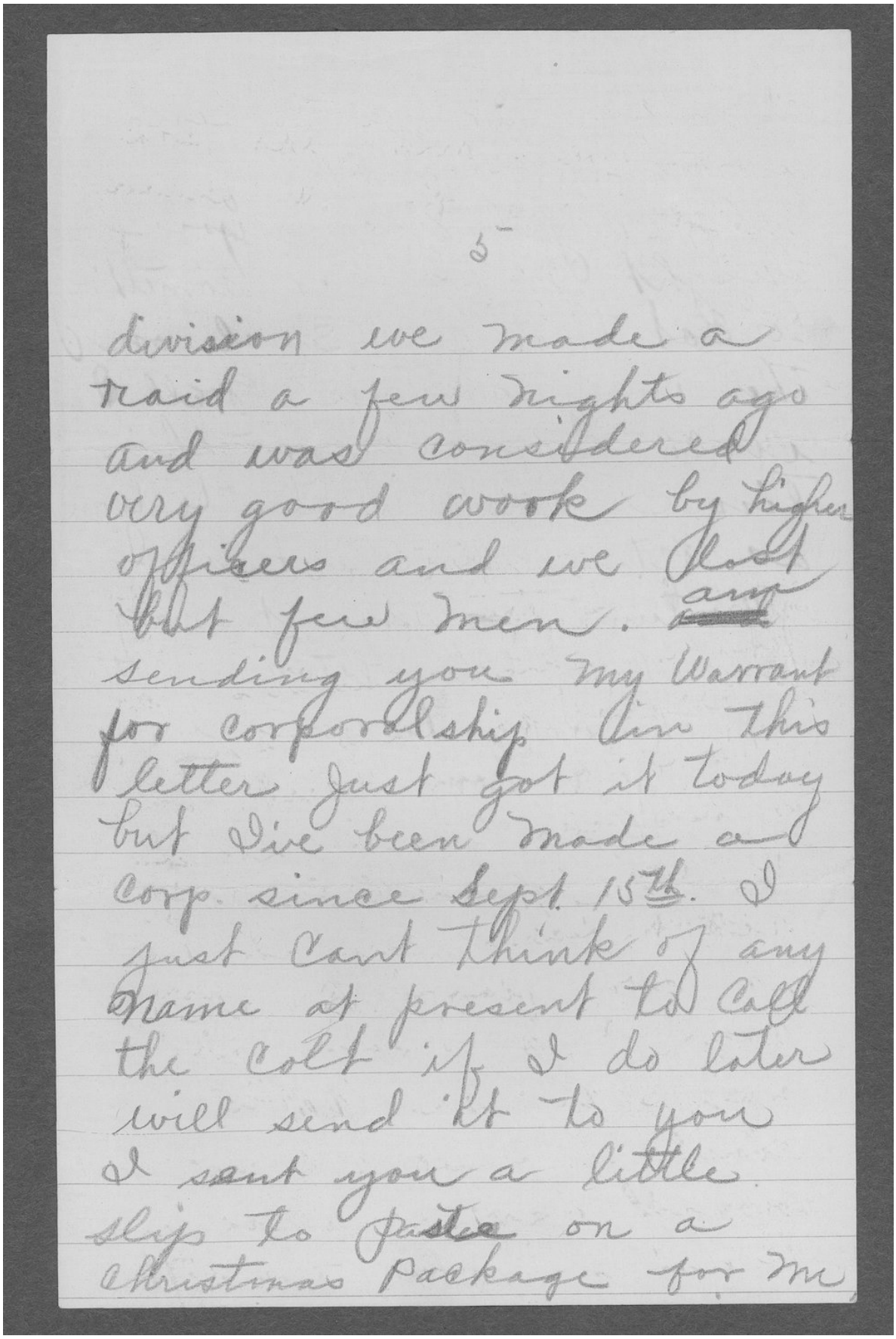
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states so soon he surely never went over the top at all did he? I guess Steve is still over here fighting the Boche? I havent seen anything only soldiers for so long that I would feel out of place amongst a bunch of Civilians. The Liberty Bond should have reached you by now it was paid out in Aug. I also sent $30.00 home by the Y.M.C.A. about 1 July 20th you should have it also If hasent got lost or something



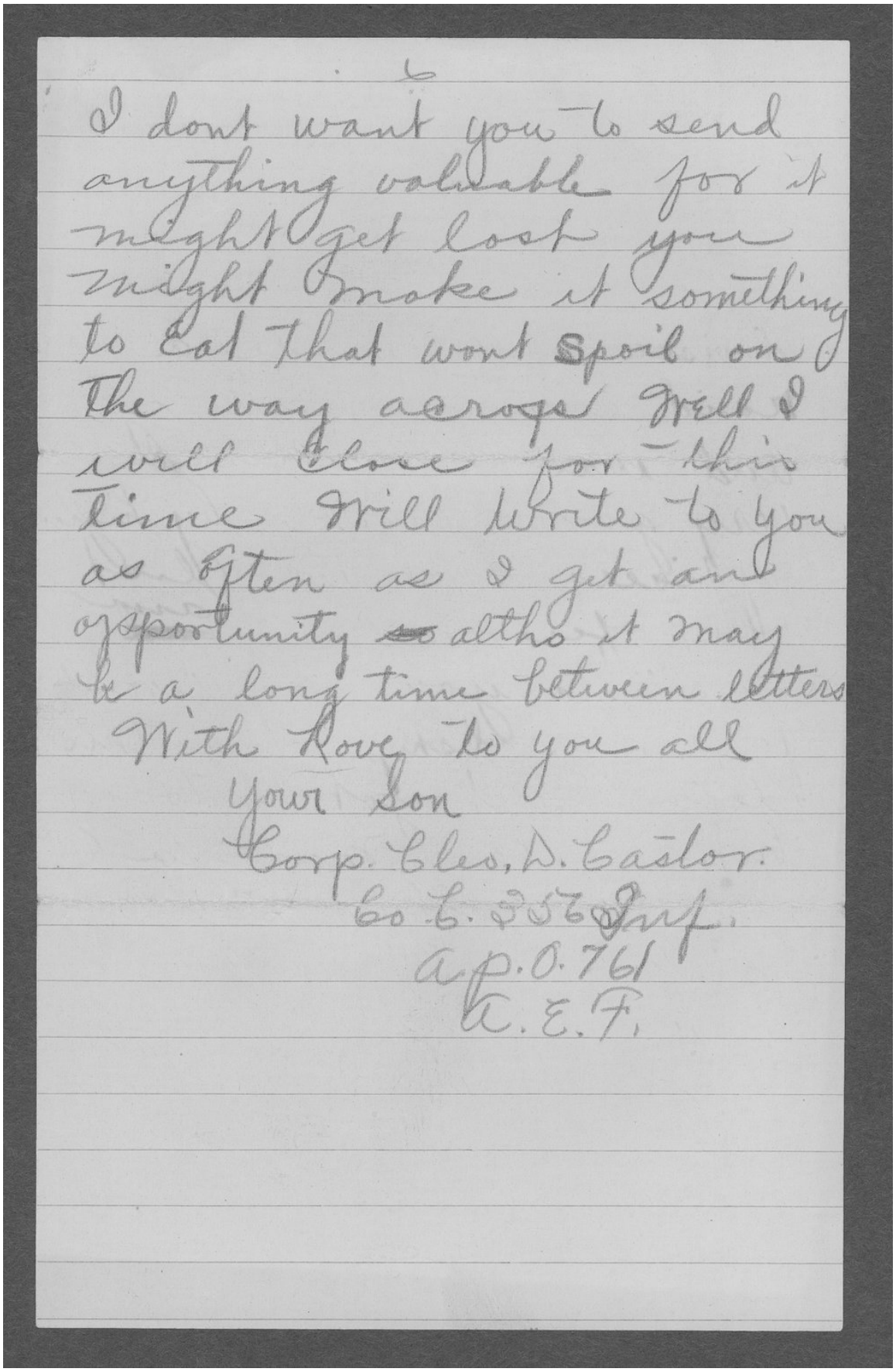
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I made an allottment to commence Sept. 1st of $15. per. Month you should begin to get it by the time you get this letter you are sure getting quiet a bit of stock I well I will try and finish my letter today the 26th sure have a time trying to get it wrote My letters are so far apart that Im ashamed to write them but, Ill write as often as I Can anyway it has been raining some here again last night & today, we are waiting now to hear a talk from our Major General Wright Commanding this



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division we made a raid a few nights ago and was considered very good work by higher officers and we lost but few men. ~~am~~ sending you my Warrant for corporalship in this letter just got it today but I've been made a corp. since Sept. 15th. I just cant think of any name at present to call the colt if I do later will send it to you I sent you a little slip to paste on a Christmas Package for me



6

I dont want you to send anything valuable for it might get lost you might make it something to Eat That wont Spoil on The way across Well I will Close for this time Will Write to you as often as I get an opportunity altho it may be a long time between letters

With Love to you all

Your Son

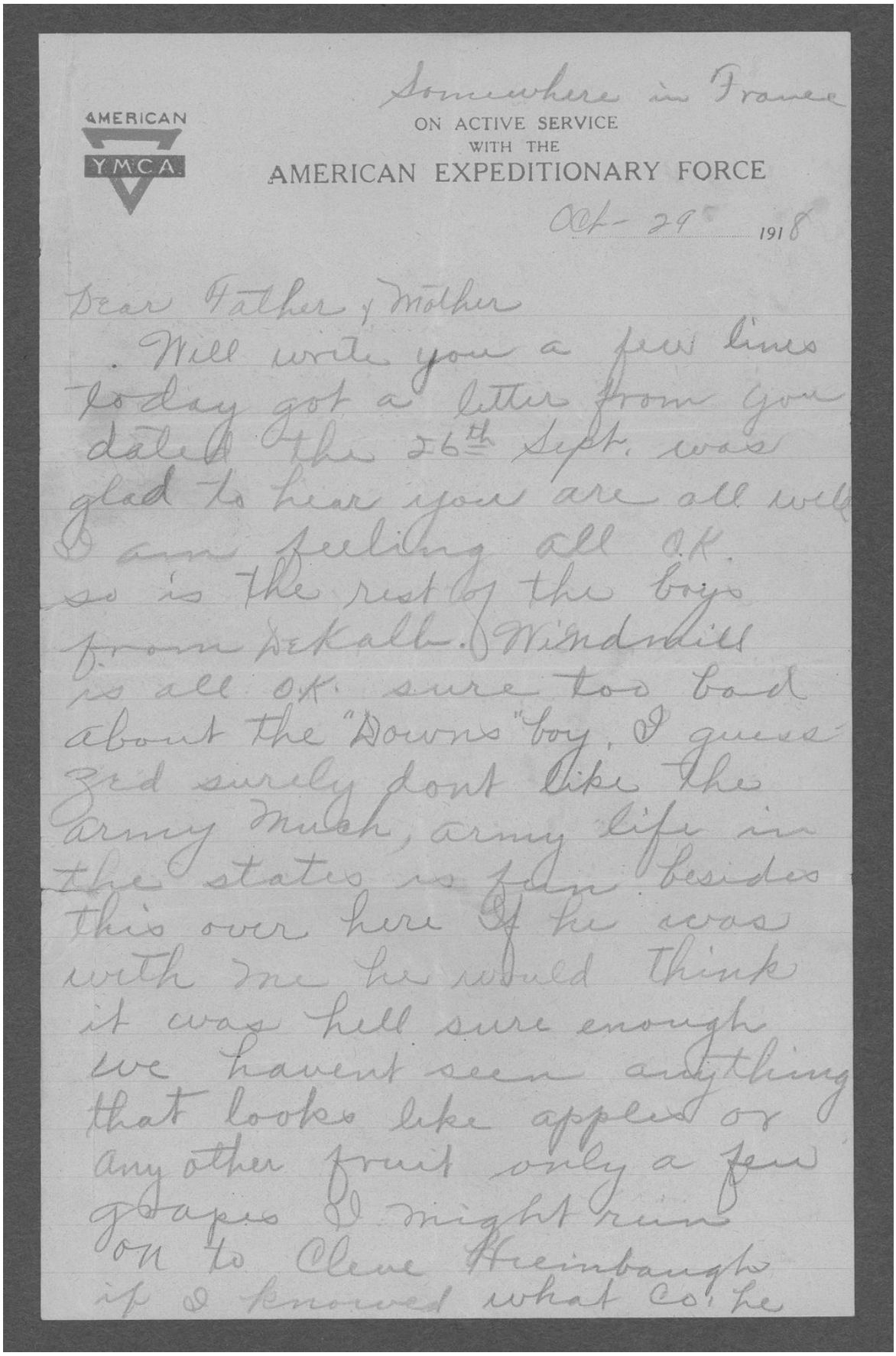
Corp. Cleo. D. Castor.

Co. L. 356 Inf.

A.P.O. 761

A. E. F.

Cleo D. Castor, World War I soldier



Somewhere in France

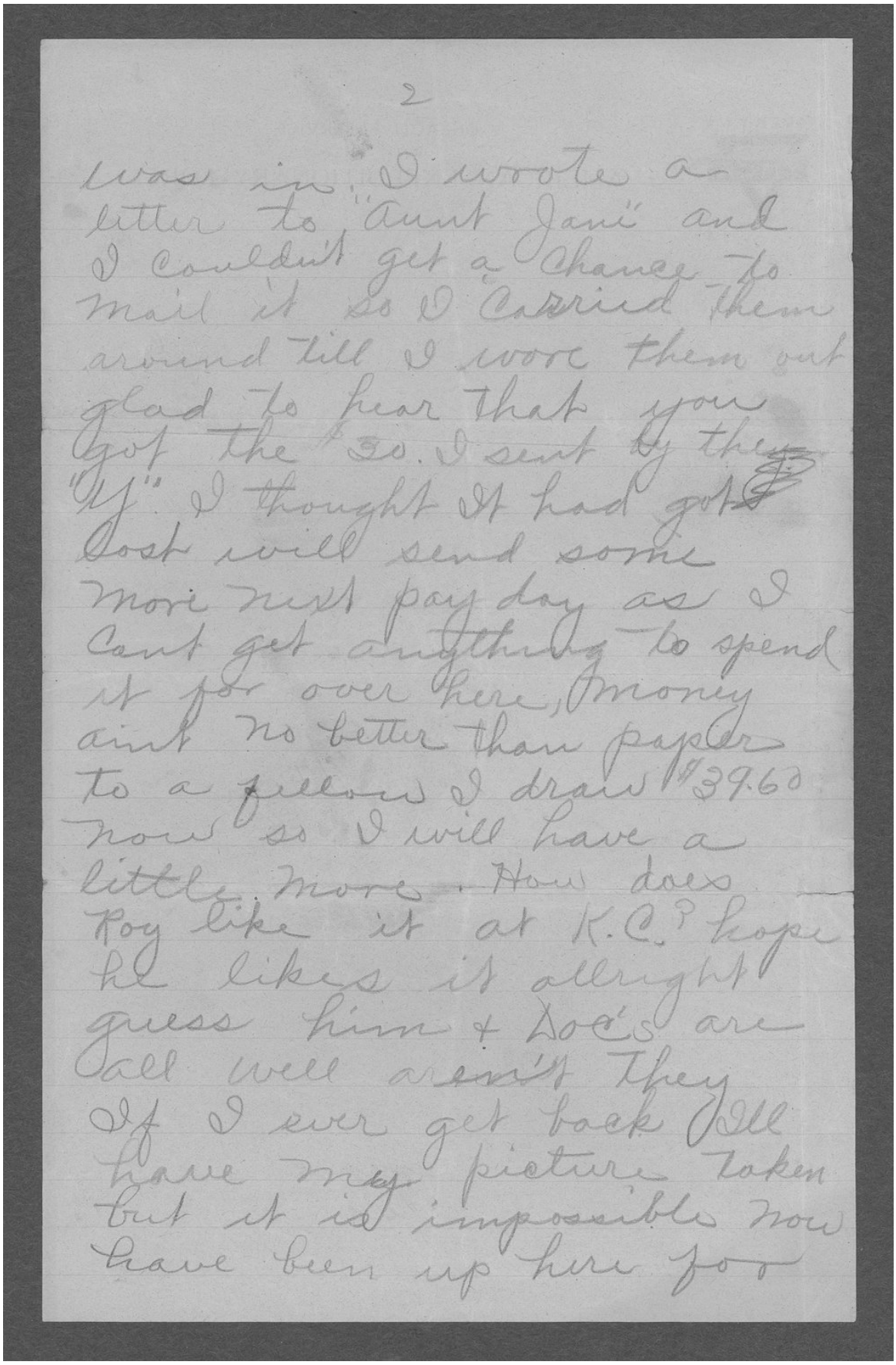
AMERICAN YMCA

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Oct- 29th 1918

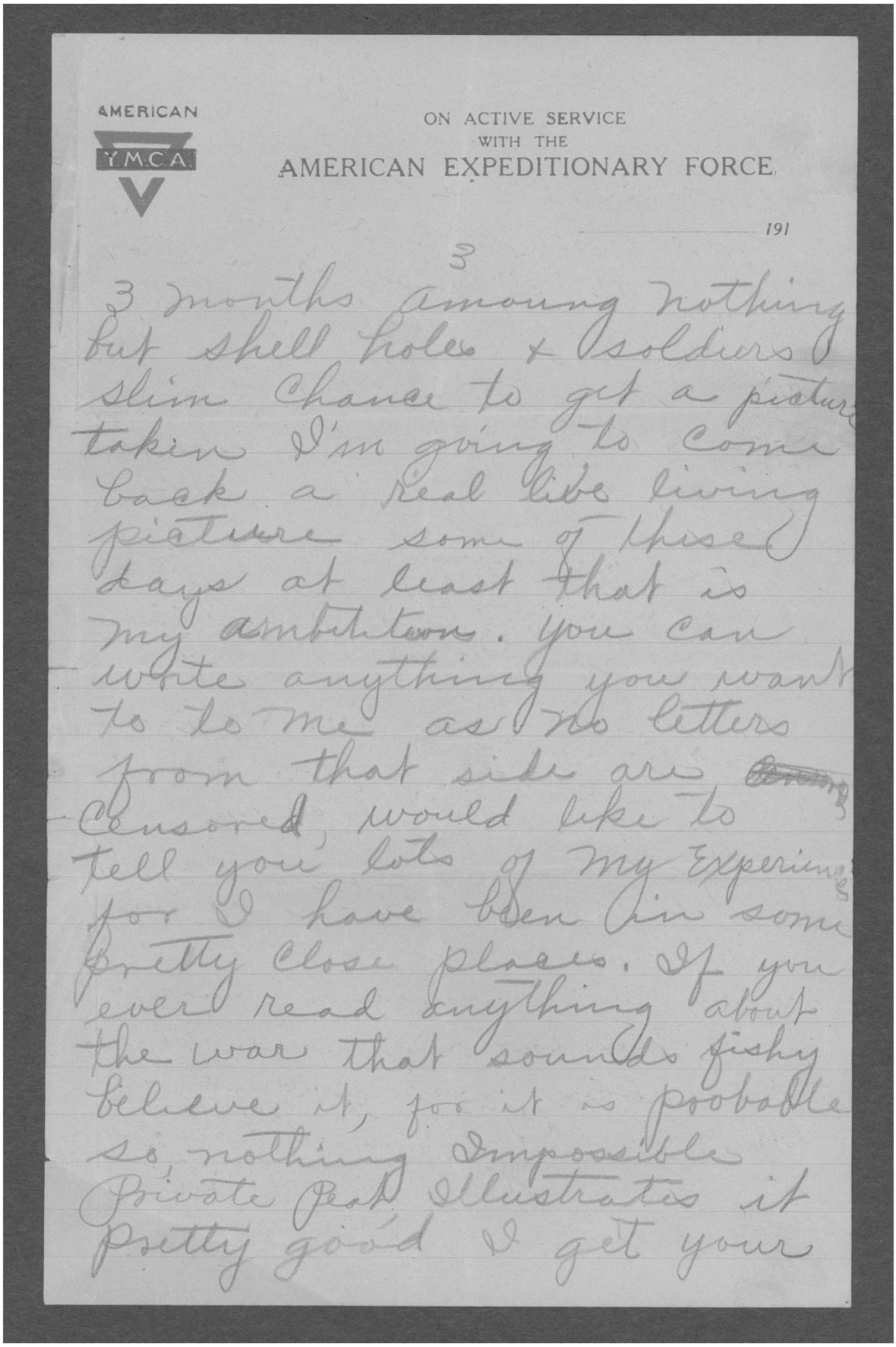
Dear Father & Mother

Will write you a few lines today got a letter from you dated the 26th Sept. was glad to hear you are all well I am feeling all O.K. so is the rest of the boys from DeKalb. Windmill is all O.K. sure too bad about the "Downs" boy. I guess Zed surely dont like the army much, army life in the states is fun besides this over here If he was with me he would think it was hell sure enough we havent seen anything that looks like apples or any other fruit only a few grapes I might run on to Clem Heimbaugh if I knowed what Co. he



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was in. I wrote a letter to "Aunt Jane" and I couldn't get a chance to mail it so I carried them around till I wore them out glad to hear that you got the $30. I sent by the "Y". I thought it had got lost will send some more next pay day as I cant get anything to spend it for over here, money aint no better than paper to a fellow I draw $39.60 now so I will have a little more. How does Roy like it at K.C.? hope he likes it allright guess him & Doc's are all well aren't they If I ever get back I'll have my picture taken but it is impossible now have been up here for



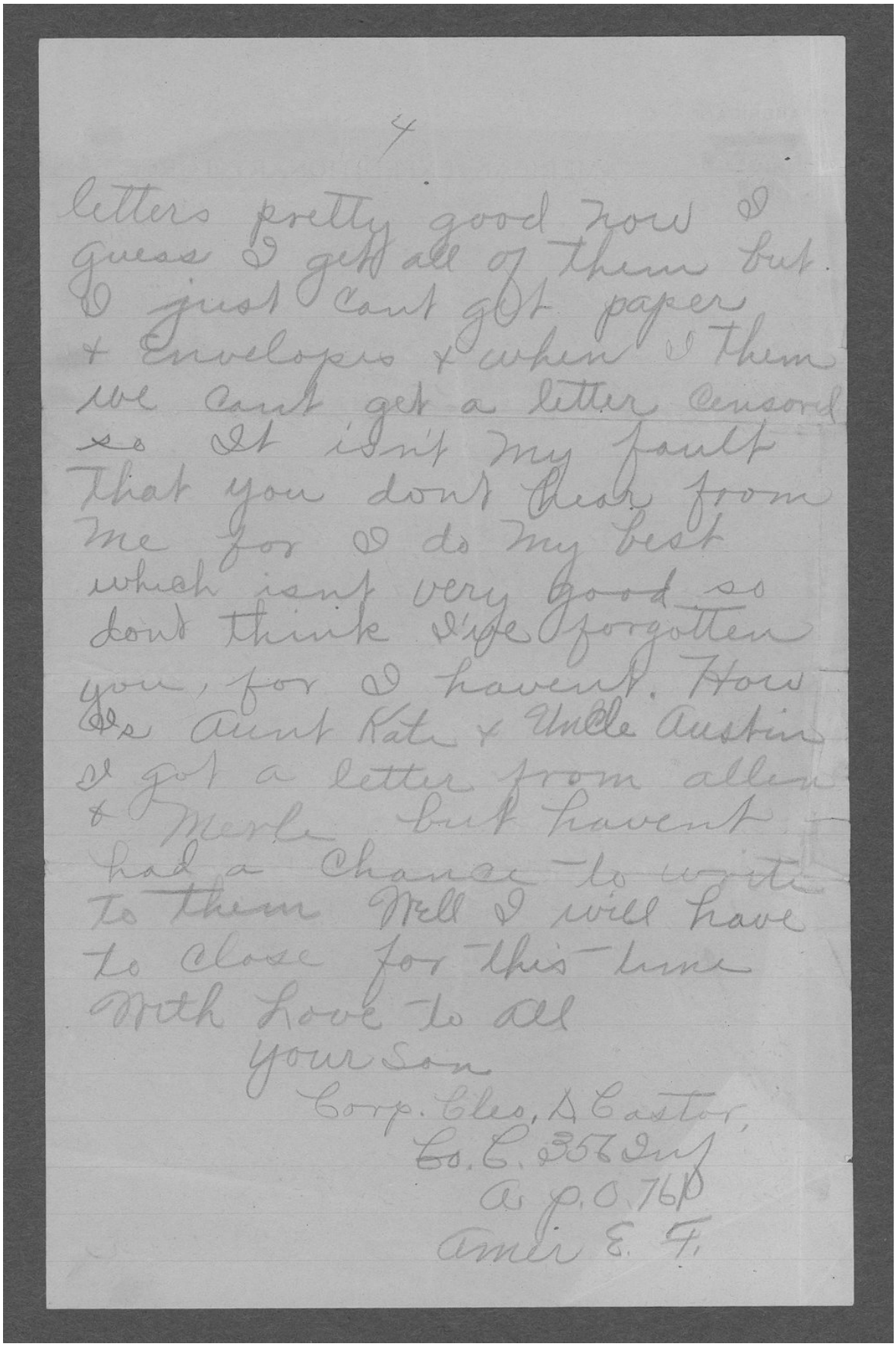
AMERICAN Y.M.C.A.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

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3

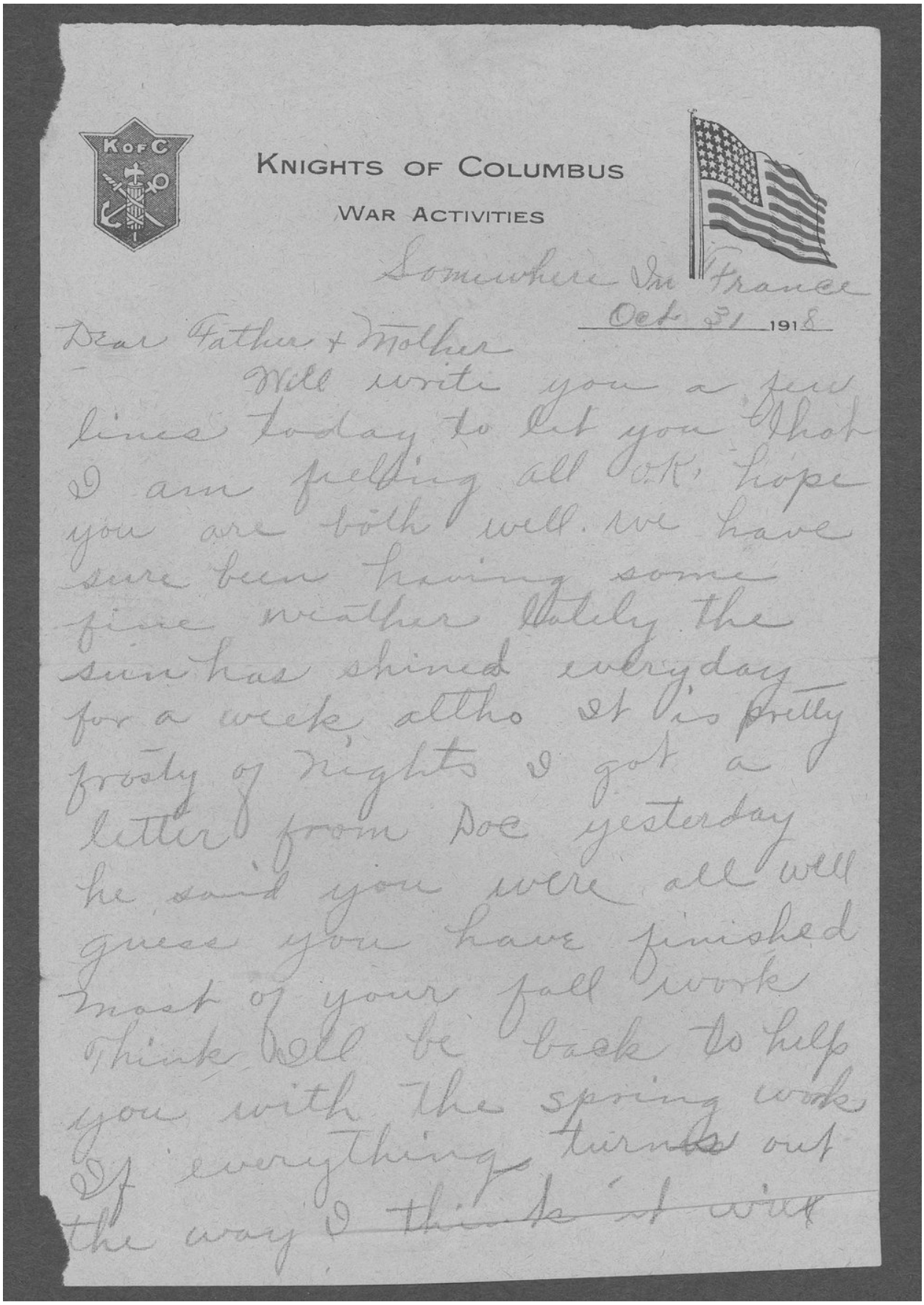
3 months amoung nothing but shell holes & soldiers & slim Chance to get a picture taken I'm going to come back a real like living picture some of those days at least that is my ambition. you can write anything you want to to me as no letters from that side are ~~Censored~~ Censored, would like to tell you lots of my Experience for I have been in some pretty close places. If you ever read anything about the war that sounds fishy believe it, for it is poobable so, nothing Impossible Private Peat Illustrates it pretty good I get your



4

letters pretty good now I
guess I get all of them but.
I just cant get paper
& Envelopes & when I them
we cant get a letter censord
so it isn't my fault
That you dont hear from
me for I do my best
which isnt very good so
dont think I've forgotten
you, for I havent. How
is Aunt Kate & Uncle Austin
I got a letter from allen
& Merle but havent
had a chance to write
to them Well I will have
to close for this time
With Love to all
Your Son
Corp. Cleo, A Castor,
Co. C. 356 Inf
A. P. O. 764
Amer E. F.

Cleo D. Castor, World War I soldier



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

WAR ACTIVITIES

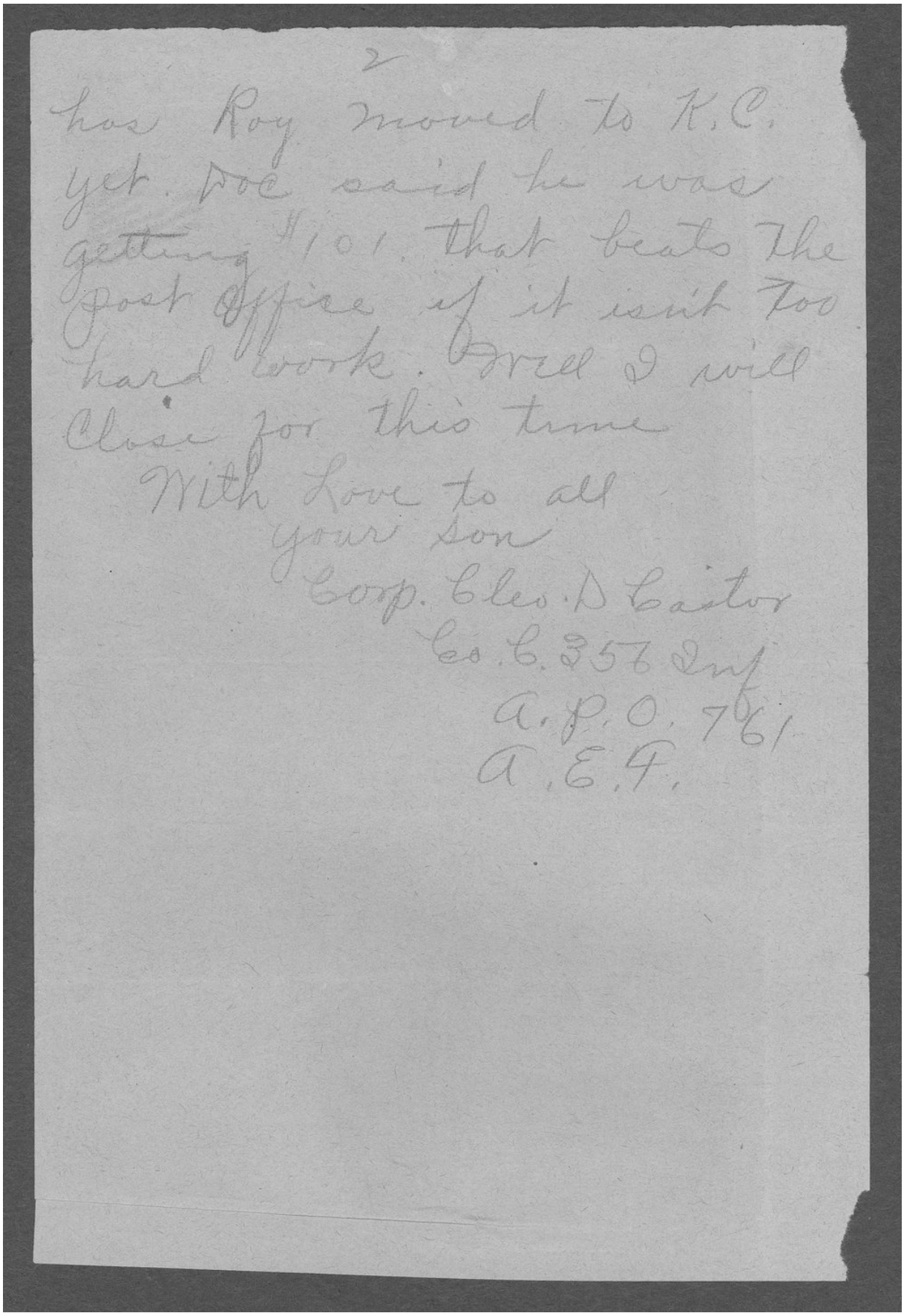
Somewhere In France

Oct 31 1918

Dear Father + Mother

Will write you a few lines today to let you know I am feeling all O.K. Hope you are both well. We have sure been having some fine weather lately the sun has shined everyday for a week altho it is pretty frosty of nights I got a letter from Doc yesterday he said you were all well guess you have finished most of your fall work Think I'll be back to help you with the spring work If everything turns out the way I think it will

Cleo D. Castor, World War I soldier



2

has Roy moved to K.C. yet. Doc said he was getting $101. that beats The post office if it isn't too hard work. Well I will close for this time

With Love to all
your Son
Corp. Cleo. D Castor
Co. C. 356 Inf
A. P. O. 761
A. E. F.