Walter Fredericksen's WWII correspondence and notes

Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

The Walter Fredericksen WWII correspondence collection contains letters and notes from Walter's military service.

Date: 1943-1946

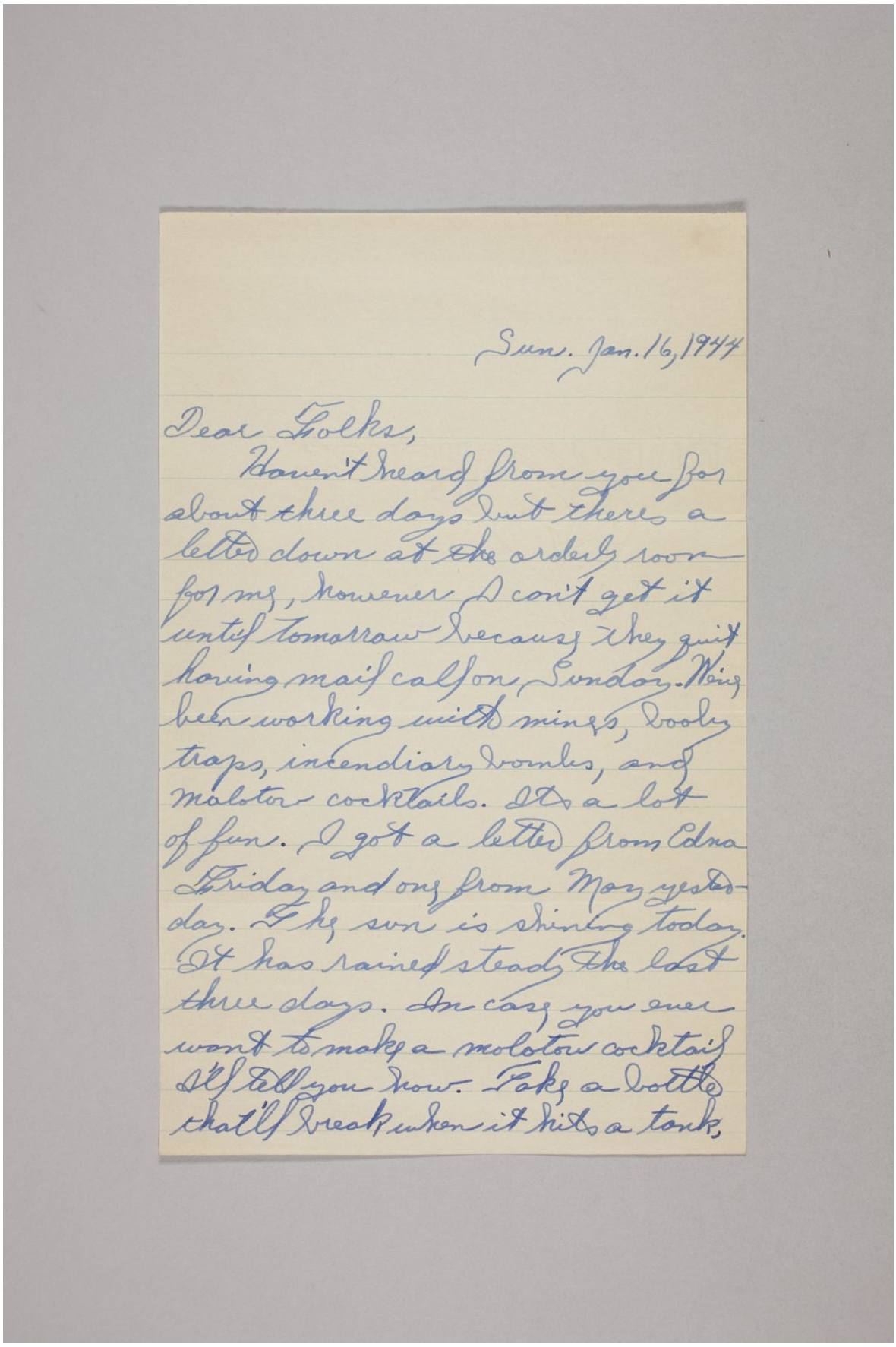
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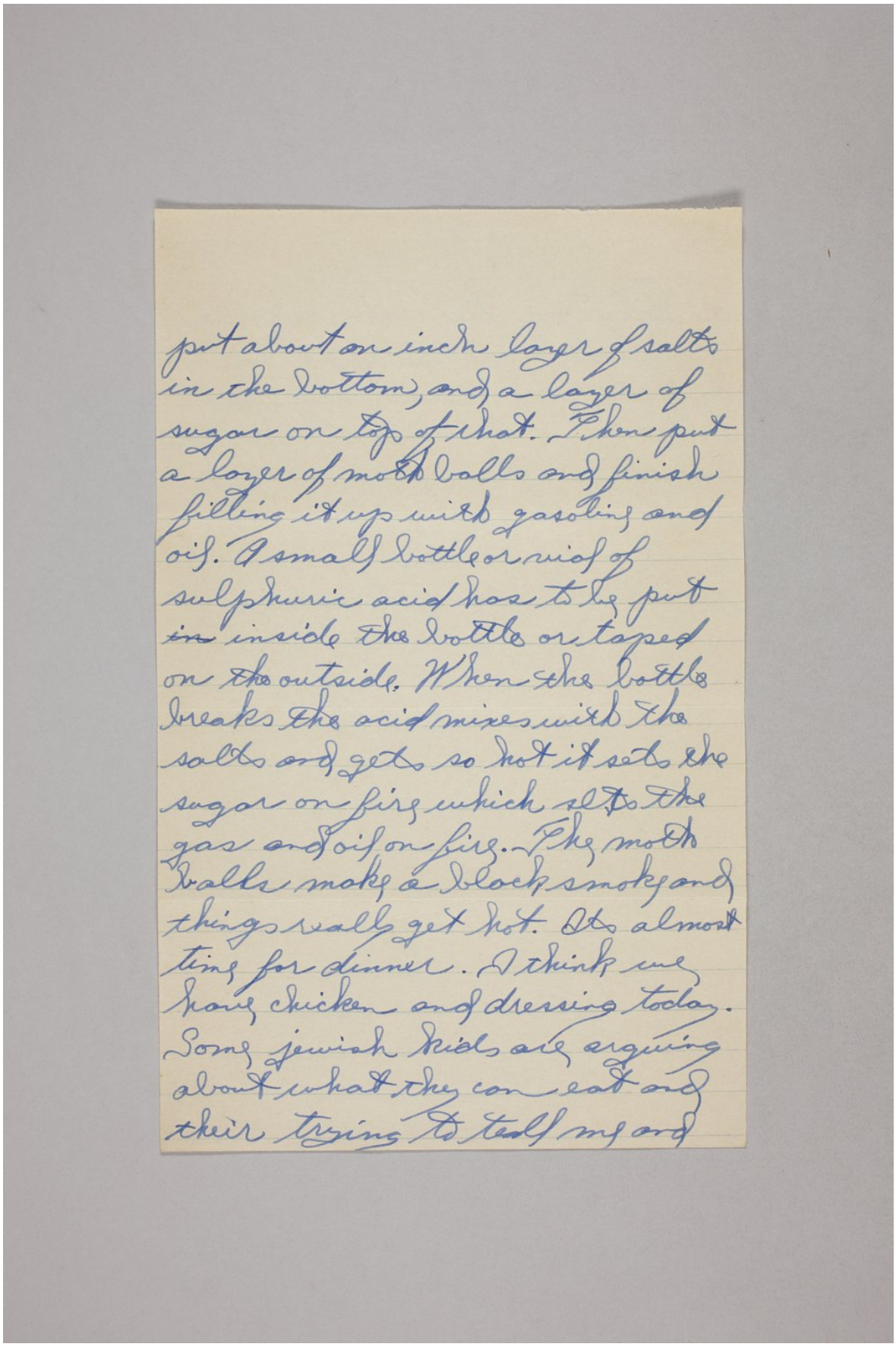
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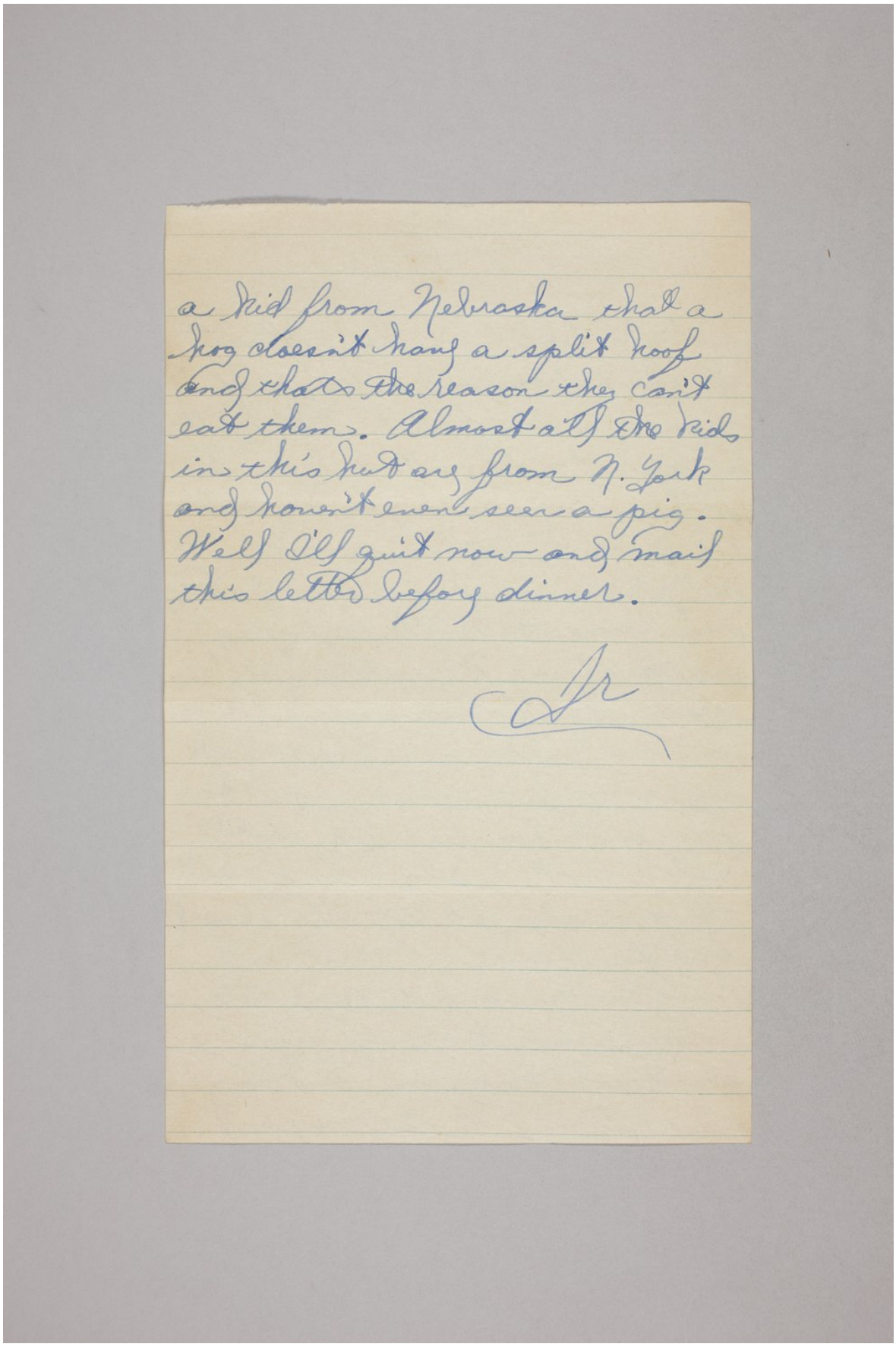
Sun. Jan. 16, 1944

Dear Folks,

Haven't heard from you for about three days but there's a letter down at the orderly room for me, however I can't get it until tomorrow because they quit having mail call on Sunday. We've been working with mines, booby traps, incendiary bombs, and molotov cocktails. It's a lot of fun. I got a letter from Edna Friday and one from Mary yesterday. Ky son is shining today. It has rained steady the last three days. In case you ever want to make a molotov cocktail I'll tell you how. Take a bottle that'll break when it hits a tank,



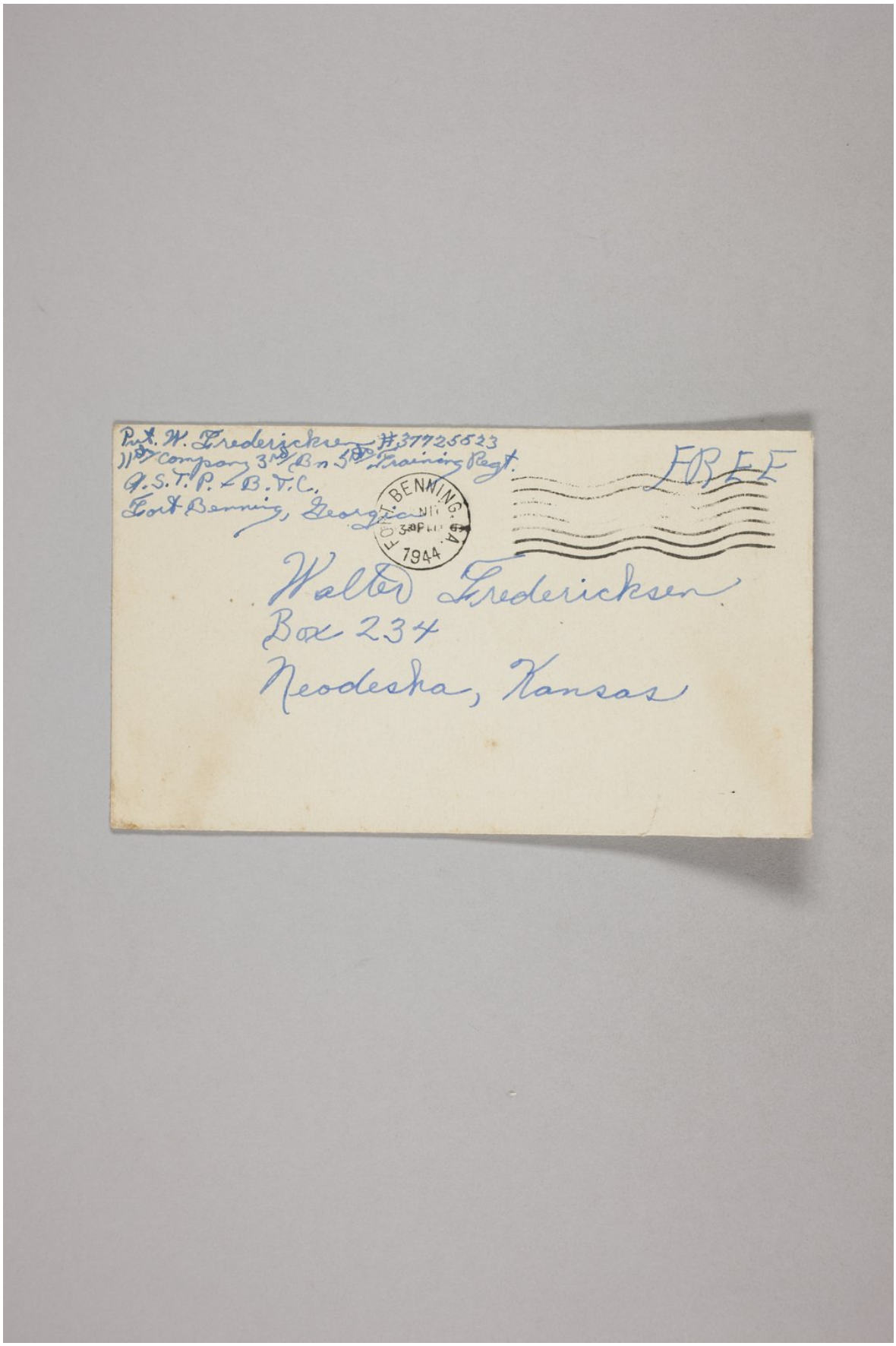
put about an inch layer of salts in the bottom, and a layer of sugar on top of that. Then put a layer of moth balls and finish filling it up with gasoline and oil. A small bottle or vial of sulphuric acid has to be put ~~in~~ inside the bottle or taped on the outside. When the bottle breaks the acid mixes with the salts and gets so hot it sets the sugar on fire which sets the gas and oil on fire. The moth balls make a black smoke and things really get hot. Its almost time for dinner. I think we have chicken and dressing today. Some jewish kids are arguing about what they can eat and their trying to tell me and

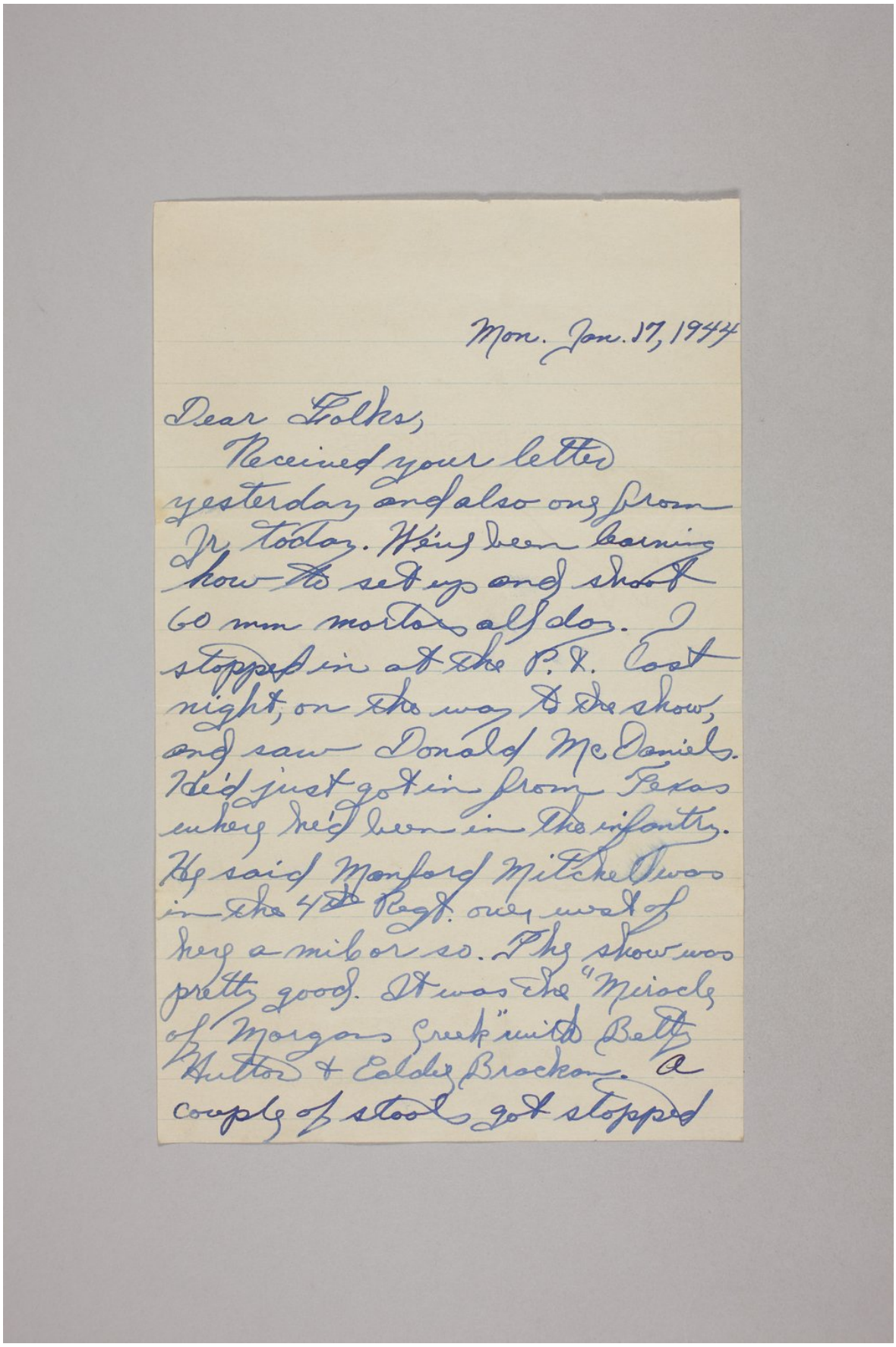


a kid from Nebraska that a hog doesn't have a split hoof and that's the reason they can't eat them. Almost all the kids in this hut are from N. York and haven't even seen a pig. Well I'll quit now and mail this letter before dinner.

Jr

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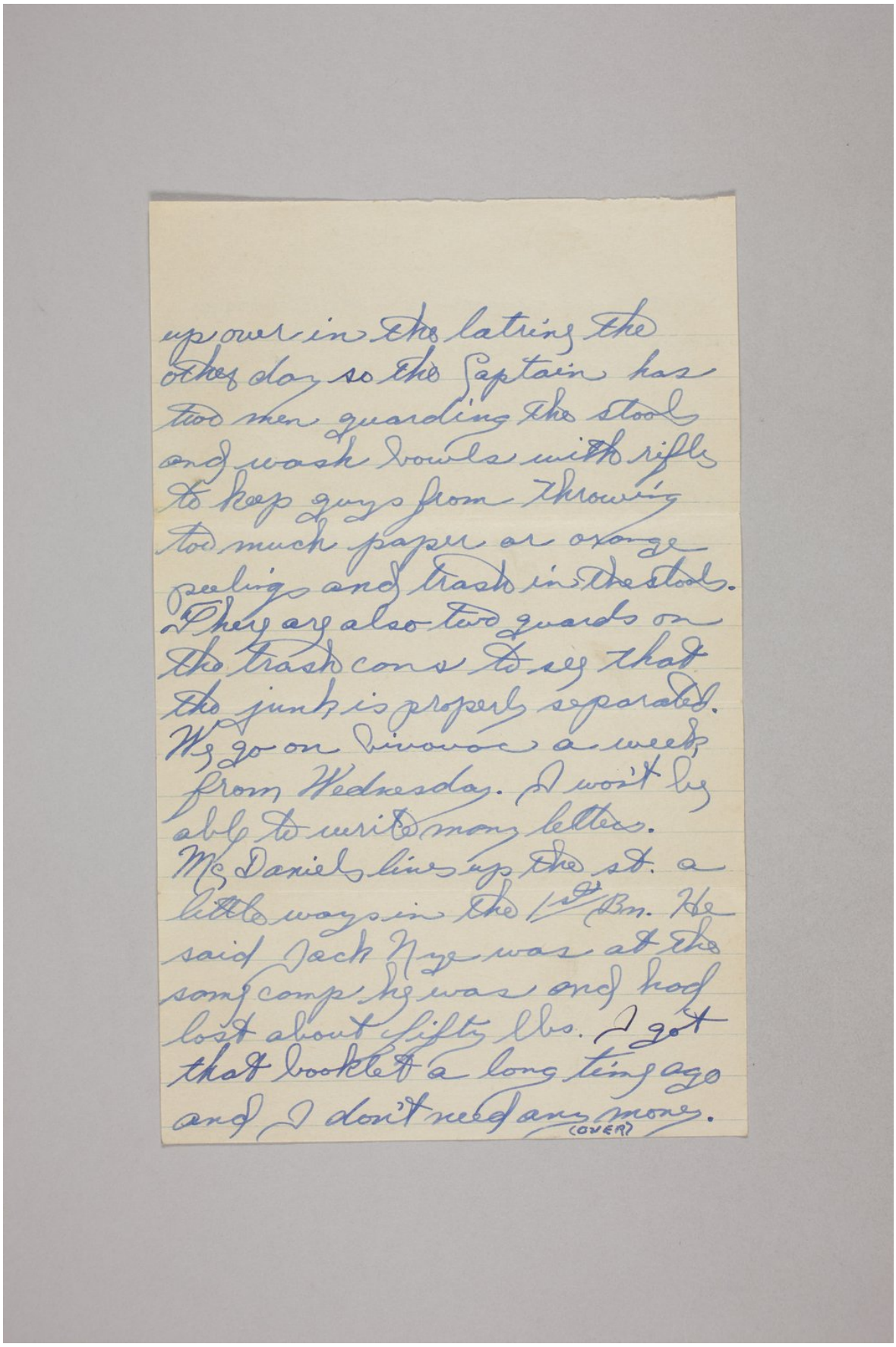




Mon. Jan. 17, 1944

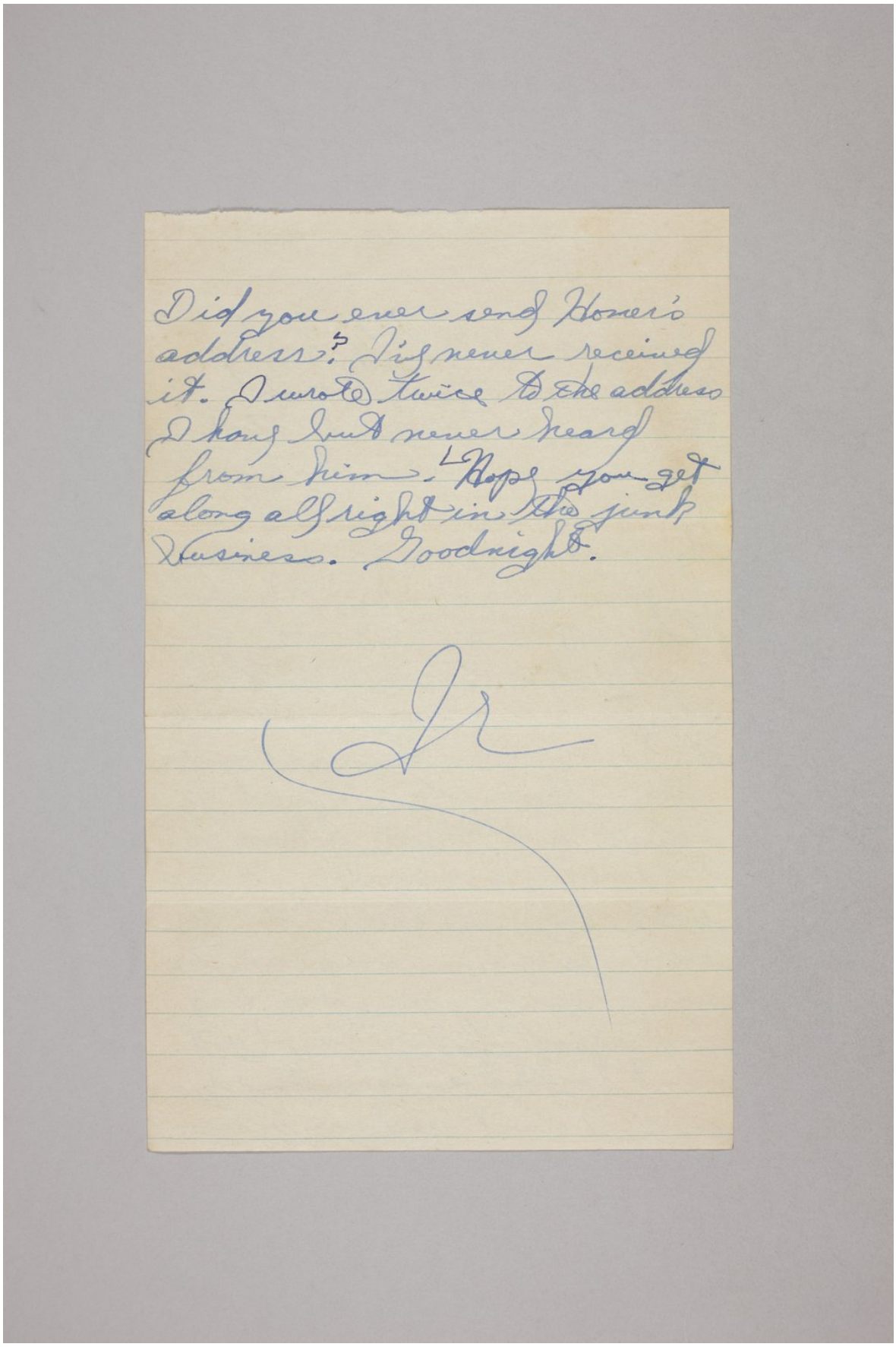
Dear Folks,

Received your letter yesterday and also one from Jr today. We've been learning how to set up and shoot 60 mm mortars all day. I stopped in at the P. X. last night, on the way to the show, and saw Donald McDaniels. He'd just got in from Texas where he'd been in the infantry. He said Manford Mitchel was in the 4th Regt. over west of here a mile or so. The show was pretty good. It was the "Miracle of Morgans Creek" with Betty Hutton & Eddie Bracken. A couple of stool got stopped



up over in the latrine the other day so the Captain has two men guarding the stools and wash bowls with rifles to keep guys from throwing too much paper or orange peelings and trash in the stools. They are also two guards on the trash cans to see that the junk is properly separated. We go on bivouac a week from Wednesday. I won't be able to write many letters. Mc Daniels lives up the st. a little ways in the 1st Bn. He said Jack Nye was at the camp he was and had lost about fifty lbs. I got that booklet a long time ago and I don't need any more. (OVER)

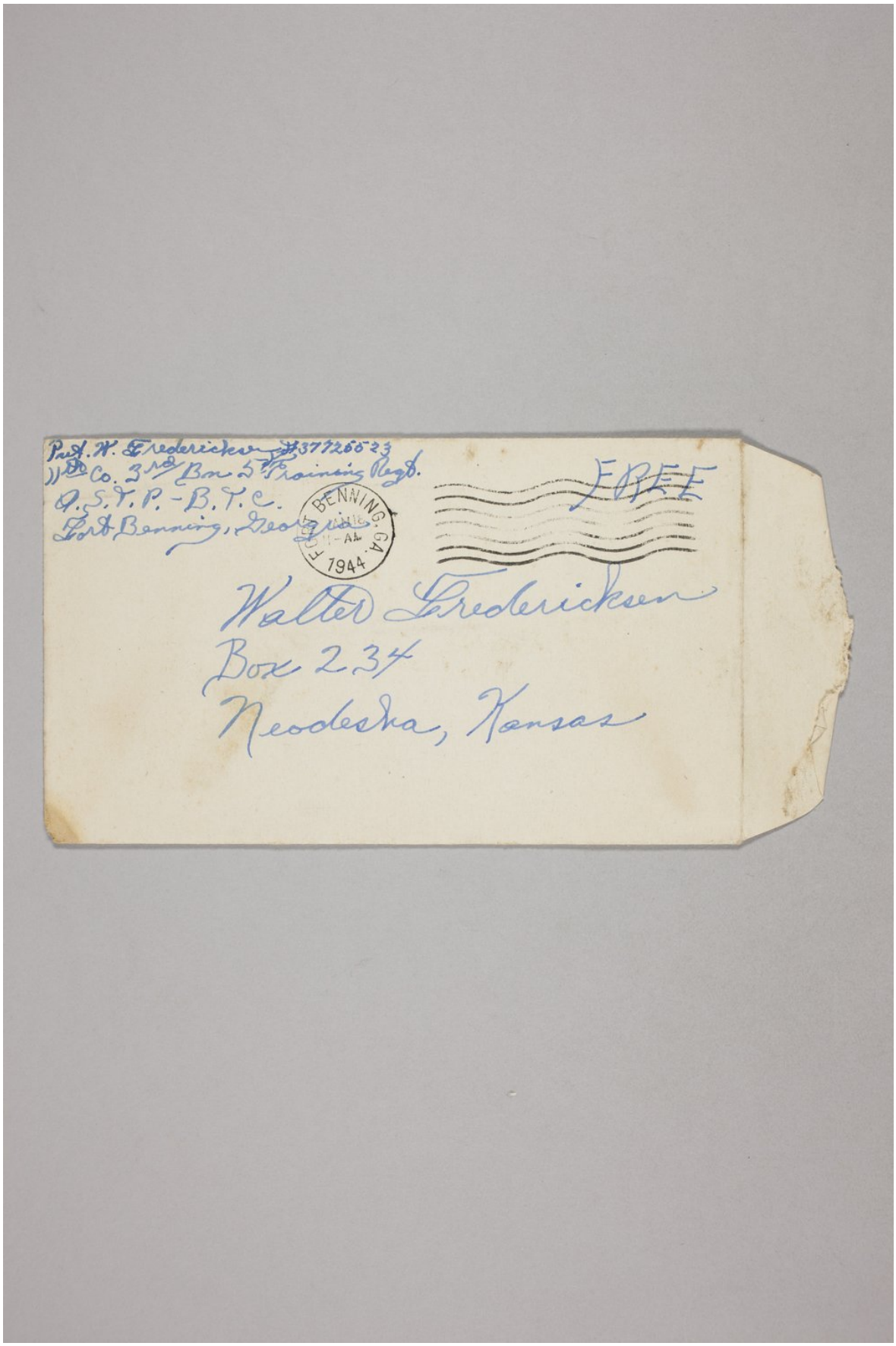
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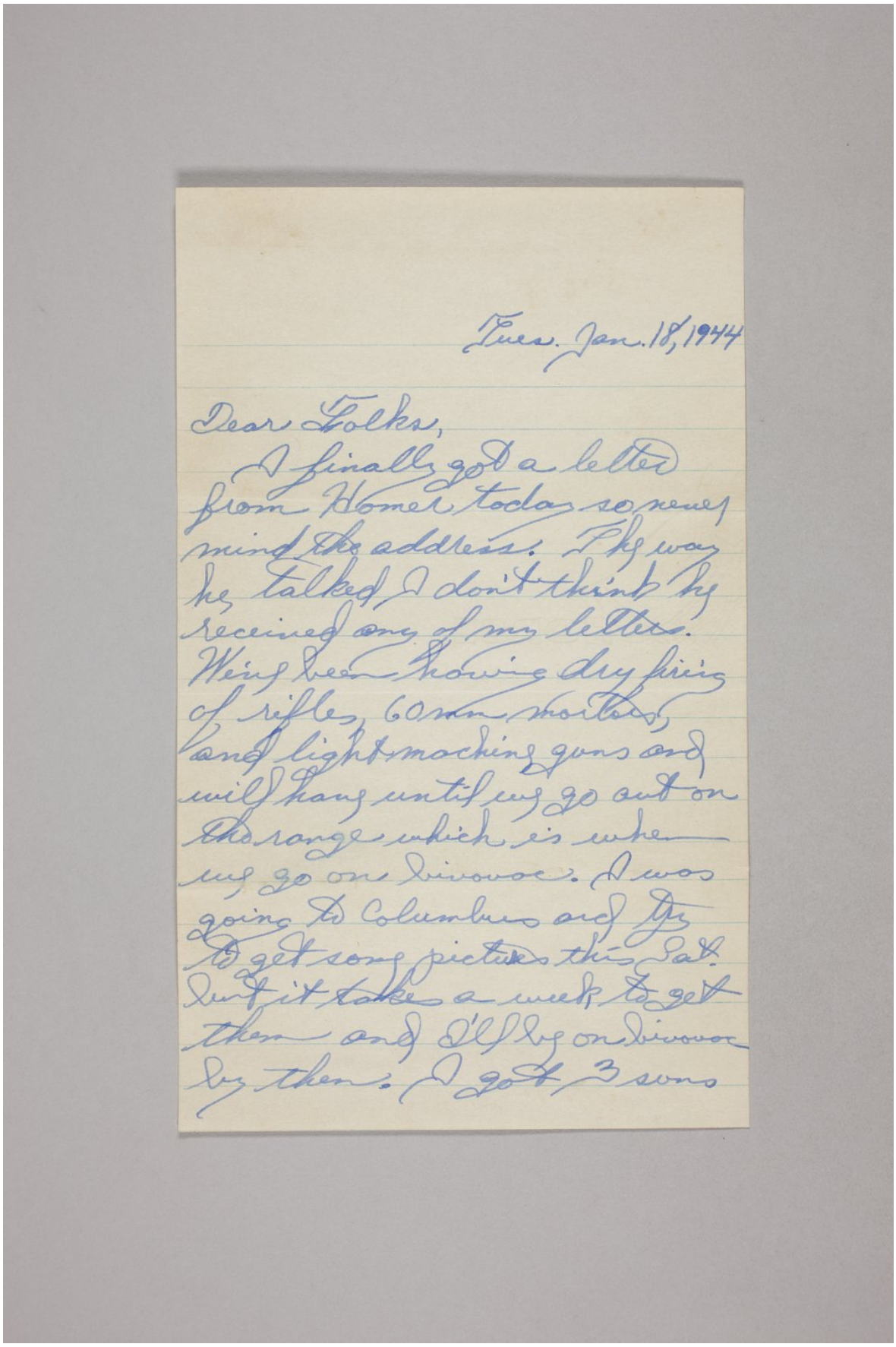
Did you ever send Homer's address? I never received it. I wrote twice to the address I had but never heard from him. Hope you get along all right in the junk business. Goodnight.

Jr

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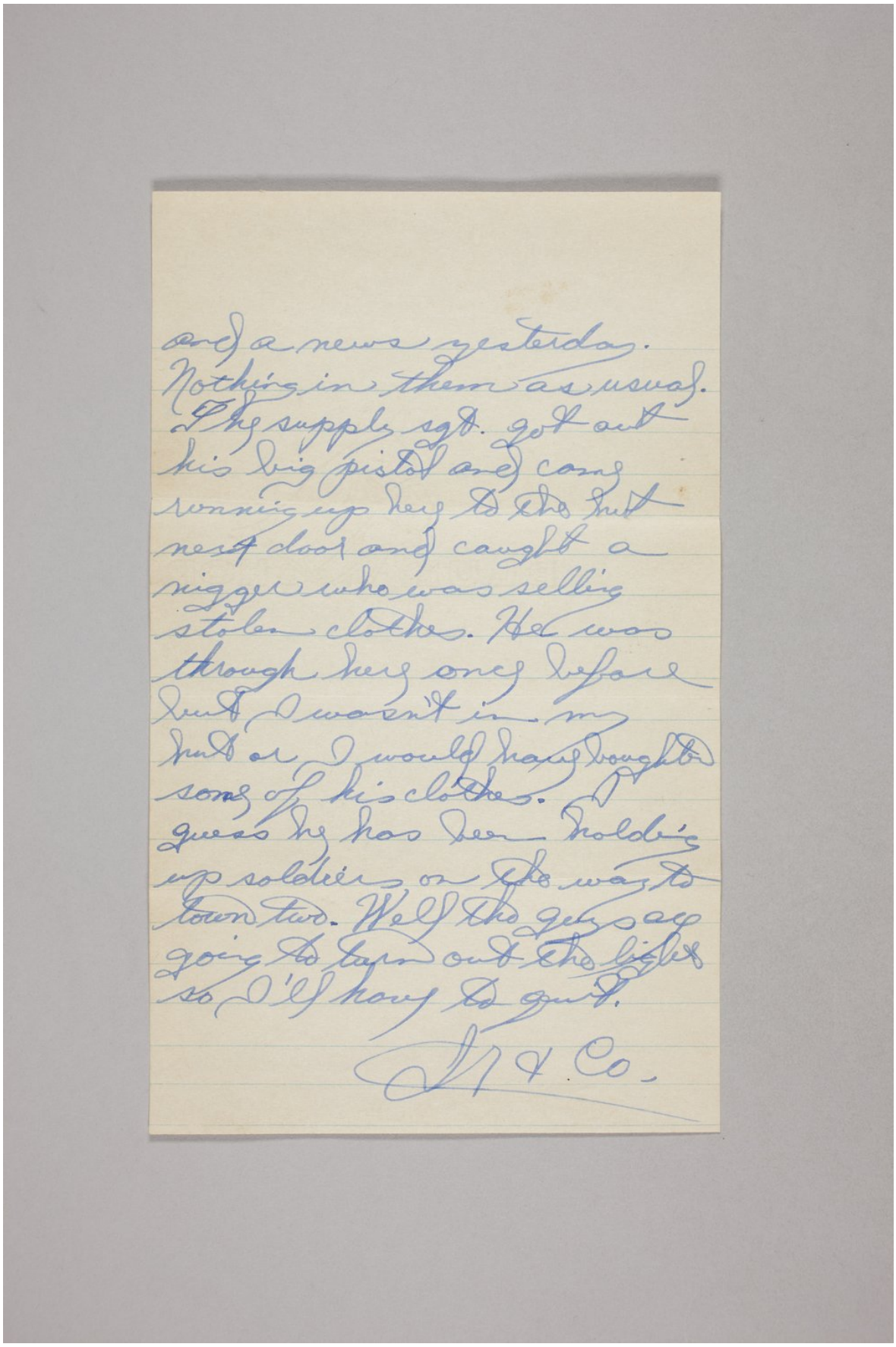
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Tues. Jan. 18, 1944

Dear Folks,

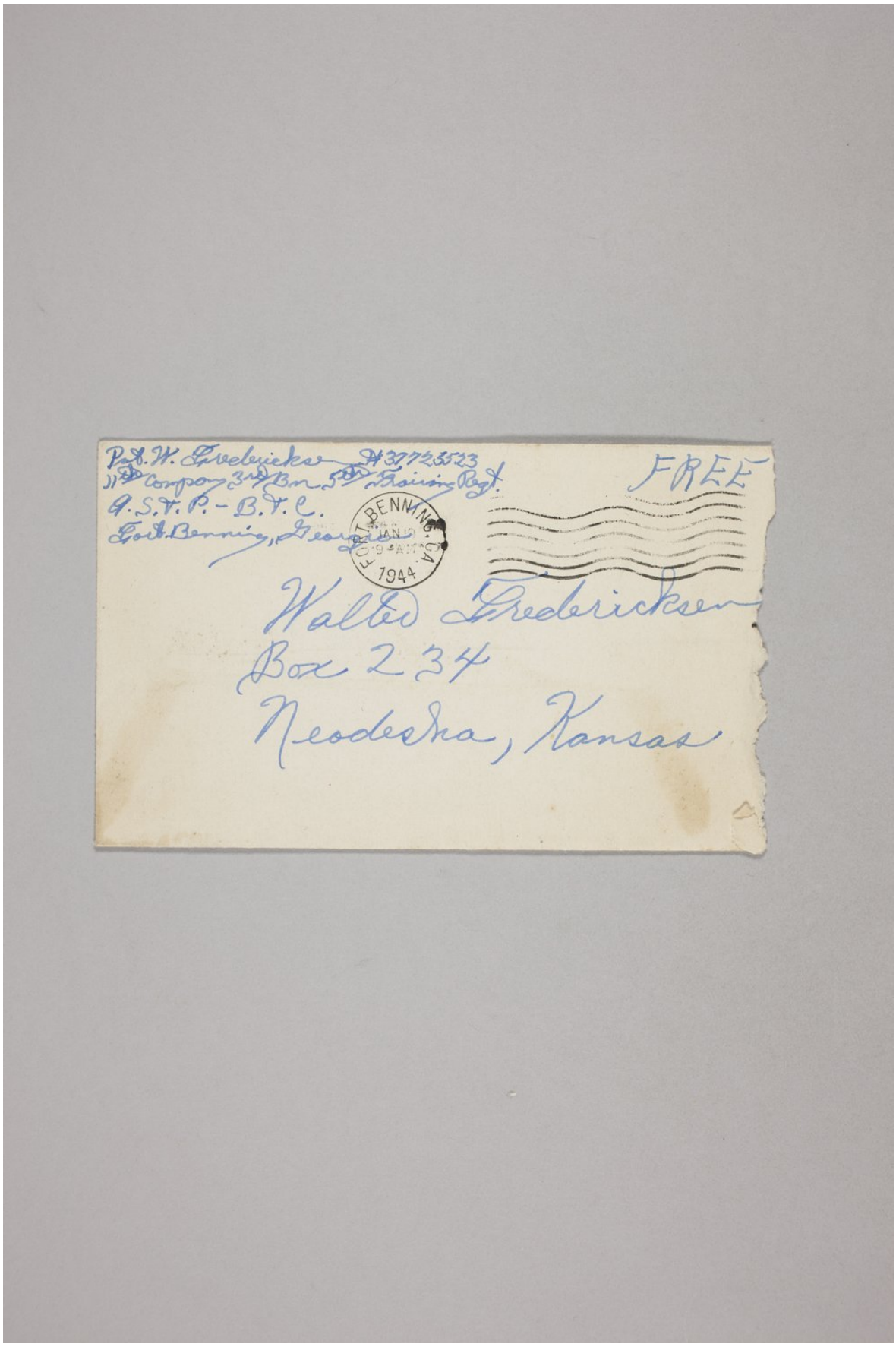
I finally got a letter from Homer today so never mind the address. By the way he talked I don't think he received any of my letters. We've been having dry firing of rifles, 60 mm mortars, and light machine guns and will have until we go out on the range which is when we go on bivouac. I was going to Columbus and get to get some pictures this Sat. but it takes a week to get them and I'll be on bivouac by then. I got 3 sons



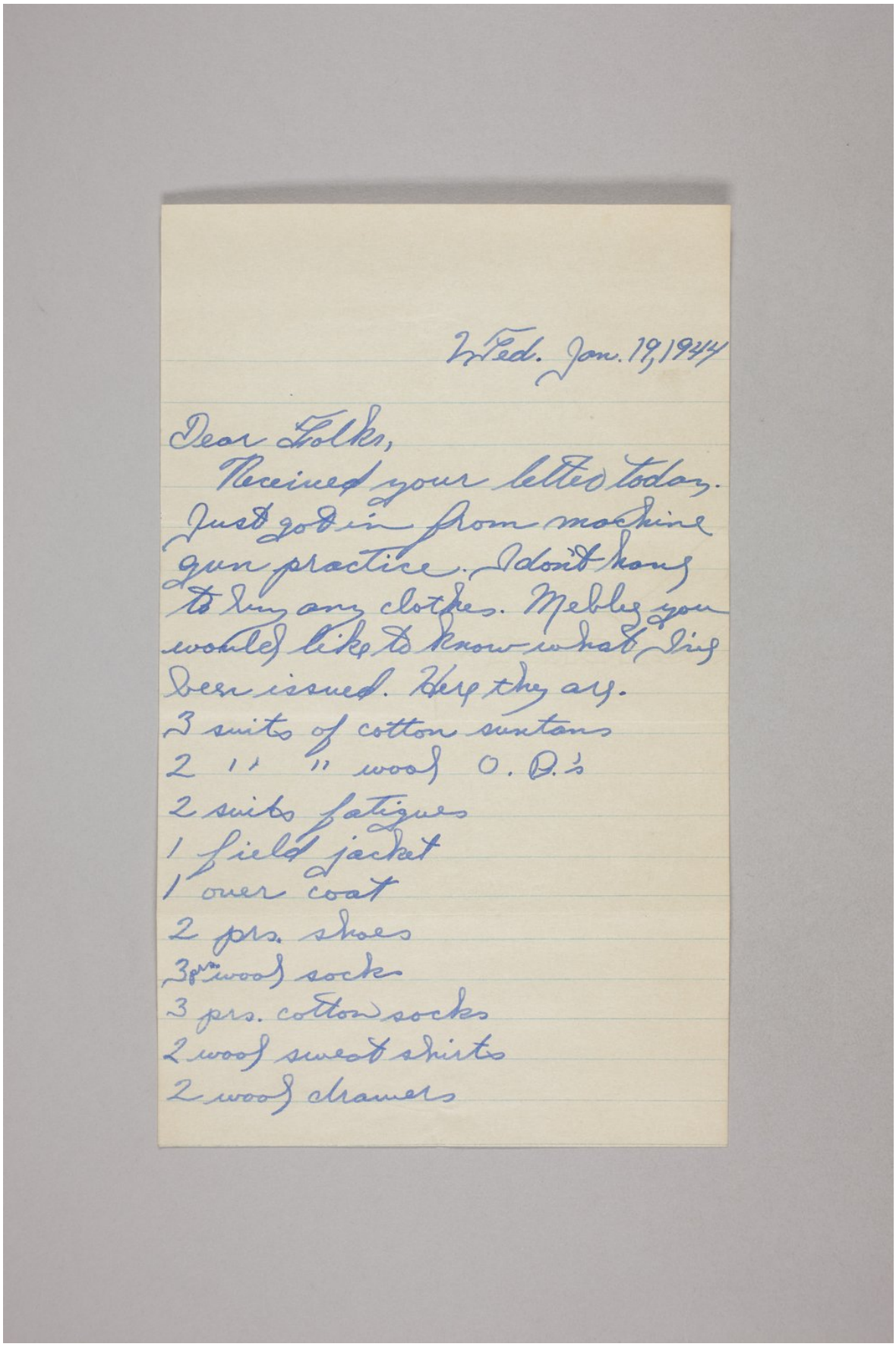
and a news yesterday. Nothing in them as usual. The supply sgt. got out his big pistol and came running up here to the hut next door and caught a nigger who was selling stolen clothes. He was through here once before but I wasn't in my hut or I would have bought some of his clothes. I guess he has been holding up soldiers on the way to town two. Well the generator is going to run out the lights so I'll have to quit.

M & Co.

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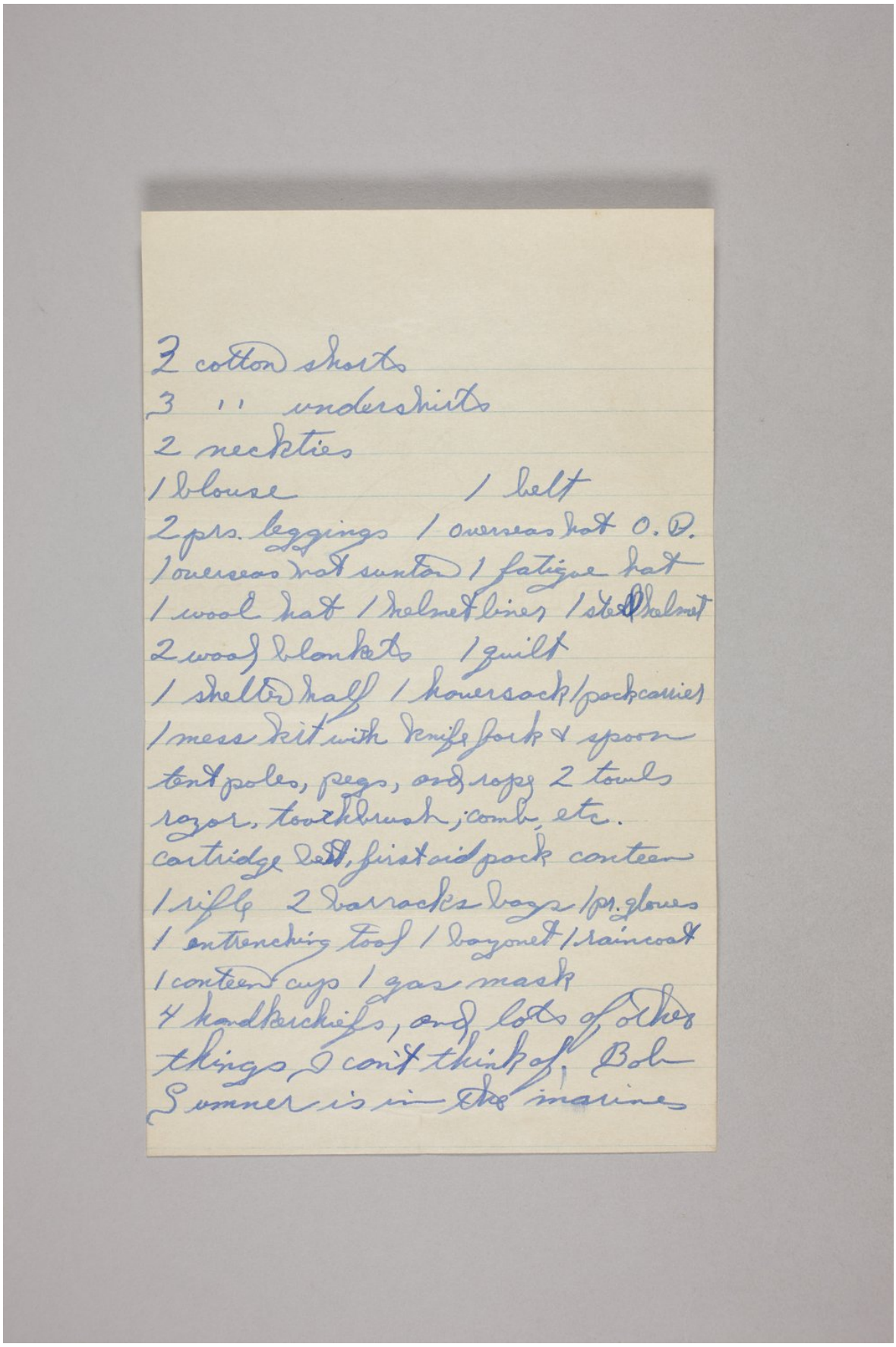
Wed. Jan. 19, 1944

Dear Folks,

Received your letter today. Just got in from machine gun practice. I don't know to buy any clothes. Maybe you would like to know what I've been issued. Here they are.

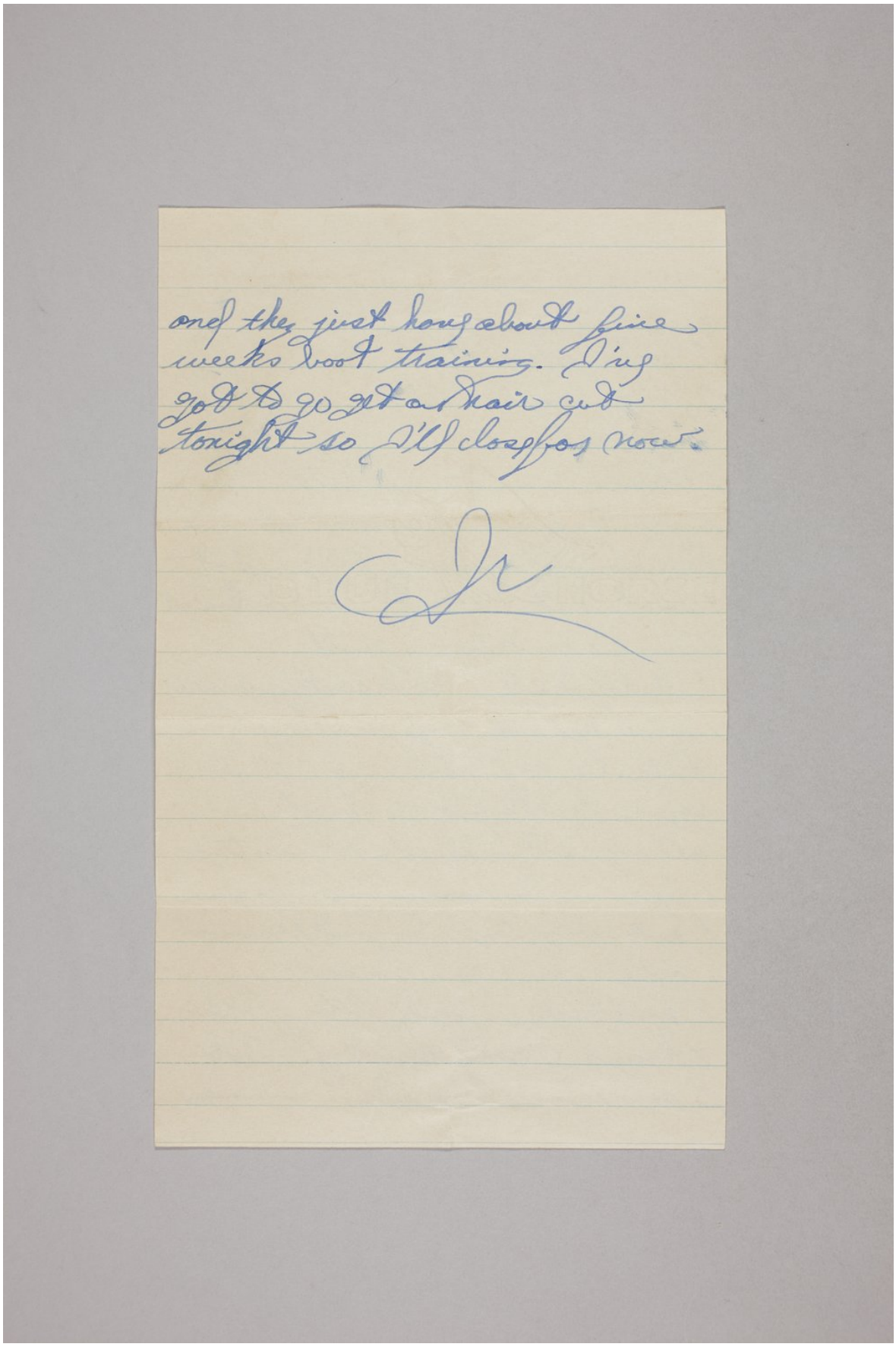
3 suits of cotton suntans
2 " " wool O. D.'s
2 suits fatigues
1 field jacket
1 over coat
2 prs. shoes
3 prs. wool socks
3 prs. cotton socks
2 wool sweat shirts
2 wool drawers

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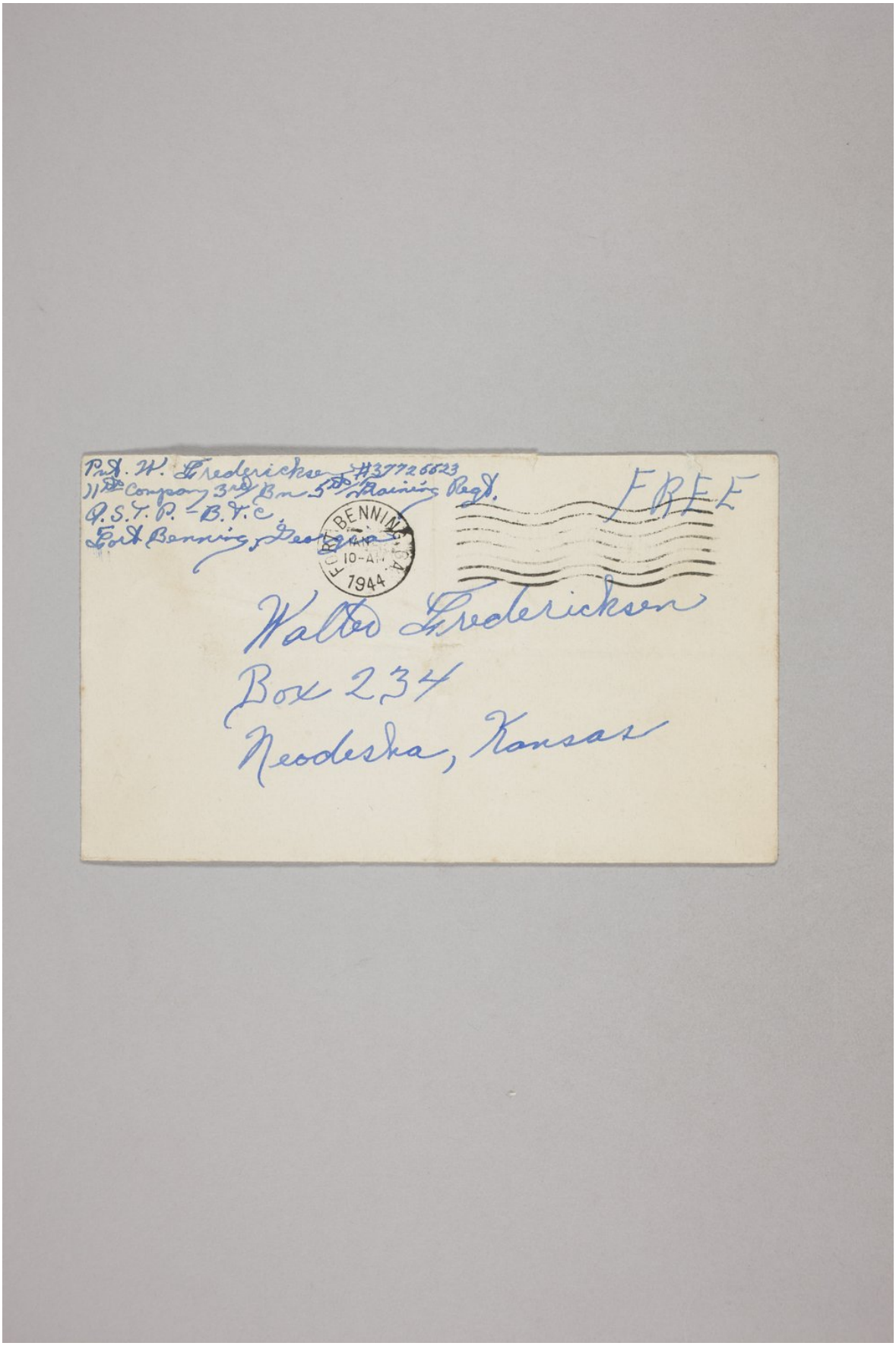
2 cotton shorts
3 " undershirts
2 neckties
1 blouse 1 belt
2 prs. leggings 1 overseas hat O.D.
1 overseas hat suntan 1 fatigue hat
1 wool hat 1 helmet liner 1 steel helmet
2 wool blankets 1 quilt
1 shelter half 1 haversack/packcarrier
1 mess kit with knife fork & spoon
tent poles, pegs, and rope 2 towels
razor, toothbrush, comb, etc.
cartridge belt, first aid pack canteen
1 rifle 2 barracks bags 1 pr. gloves
1 entrenching tool 1 bayonet 1 raincoat
1 canteen cup 1 gas mask
4 handkerchiefs, and lots of other
things I can't think of. Bob
Sumner is in the marines

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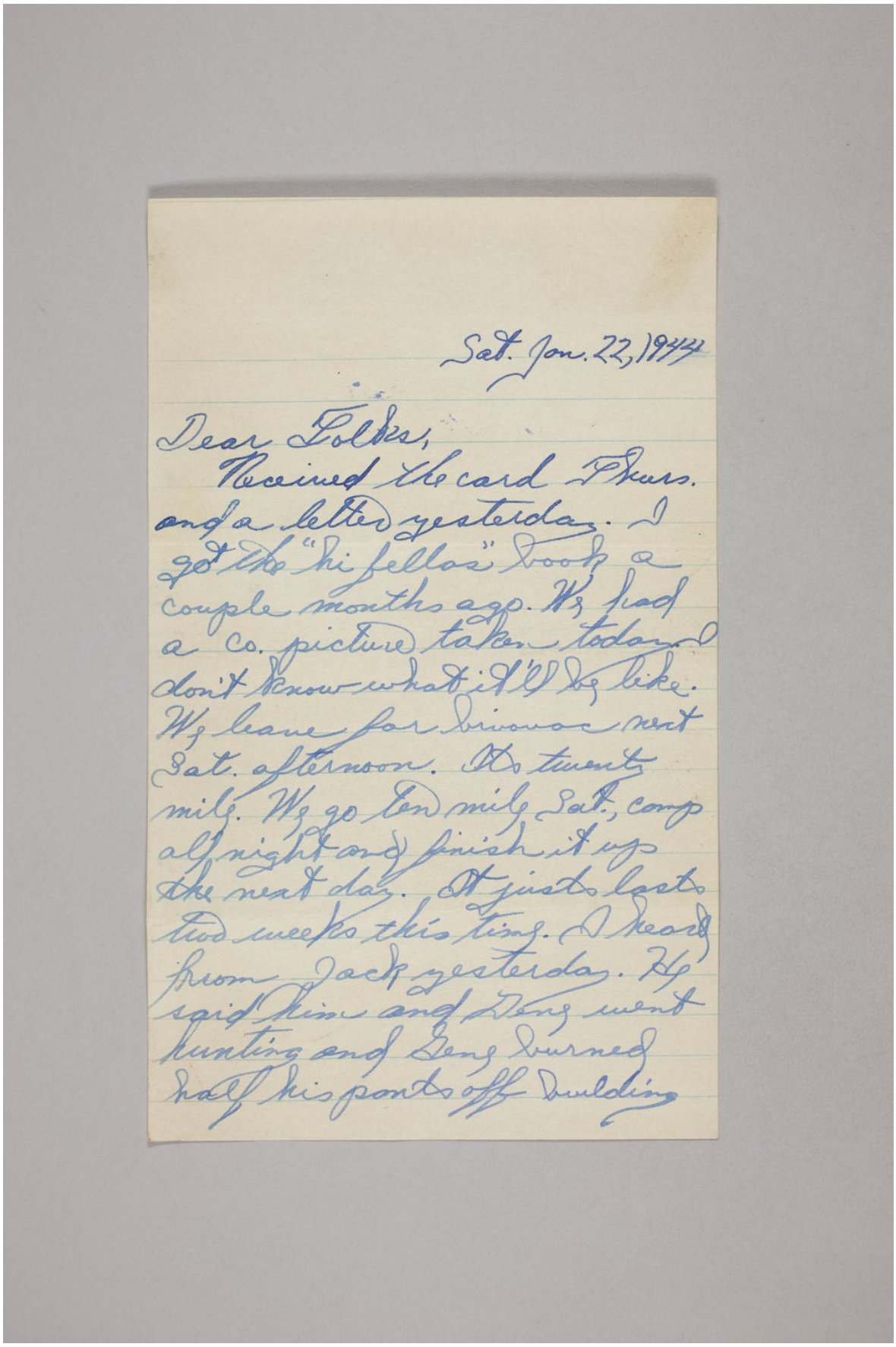


and they just keep about five weeks boot training. I've got to go get an hair cut tonight so I'll close for now.

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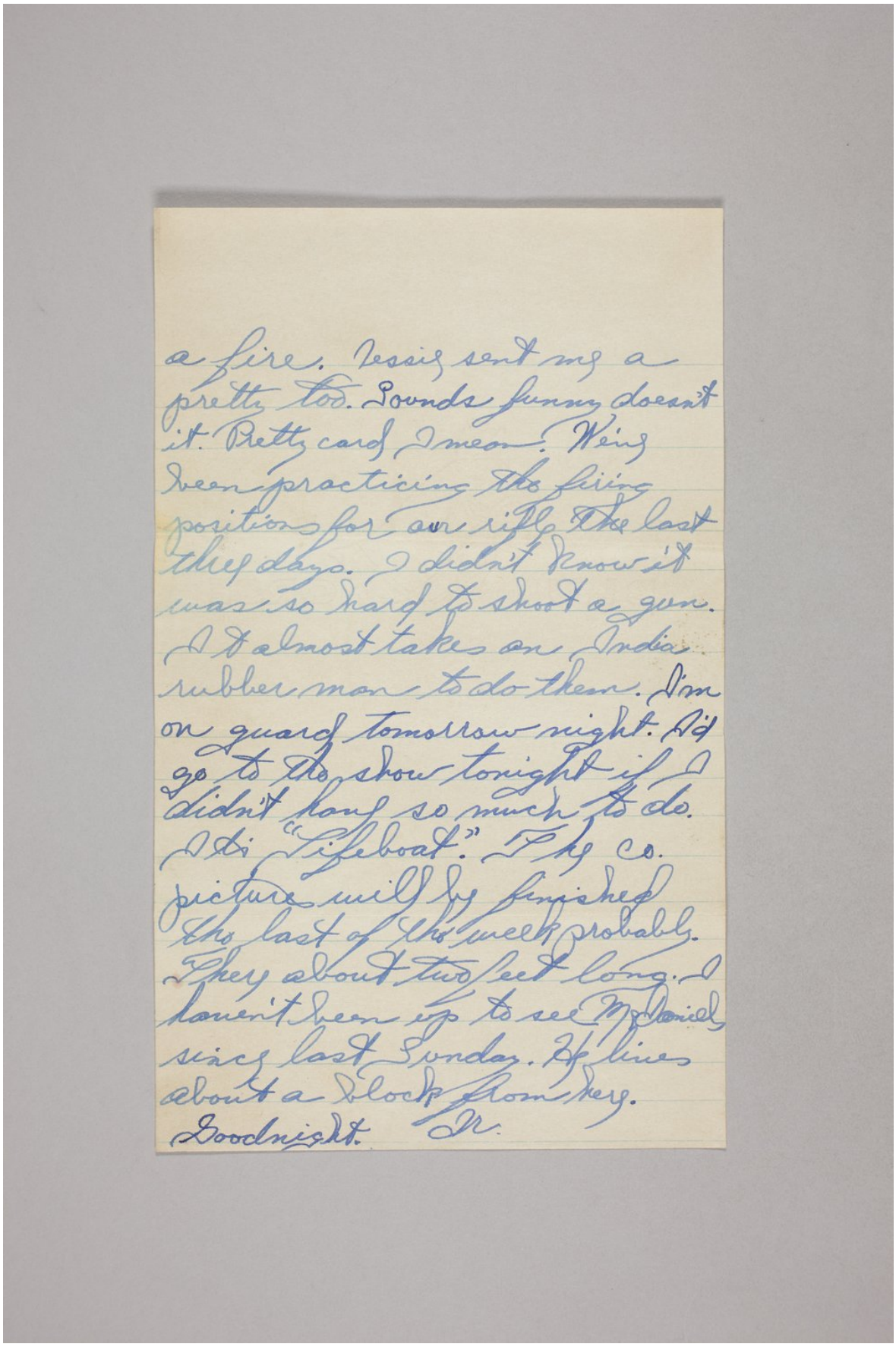
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Sat. Jan. 22, 1944

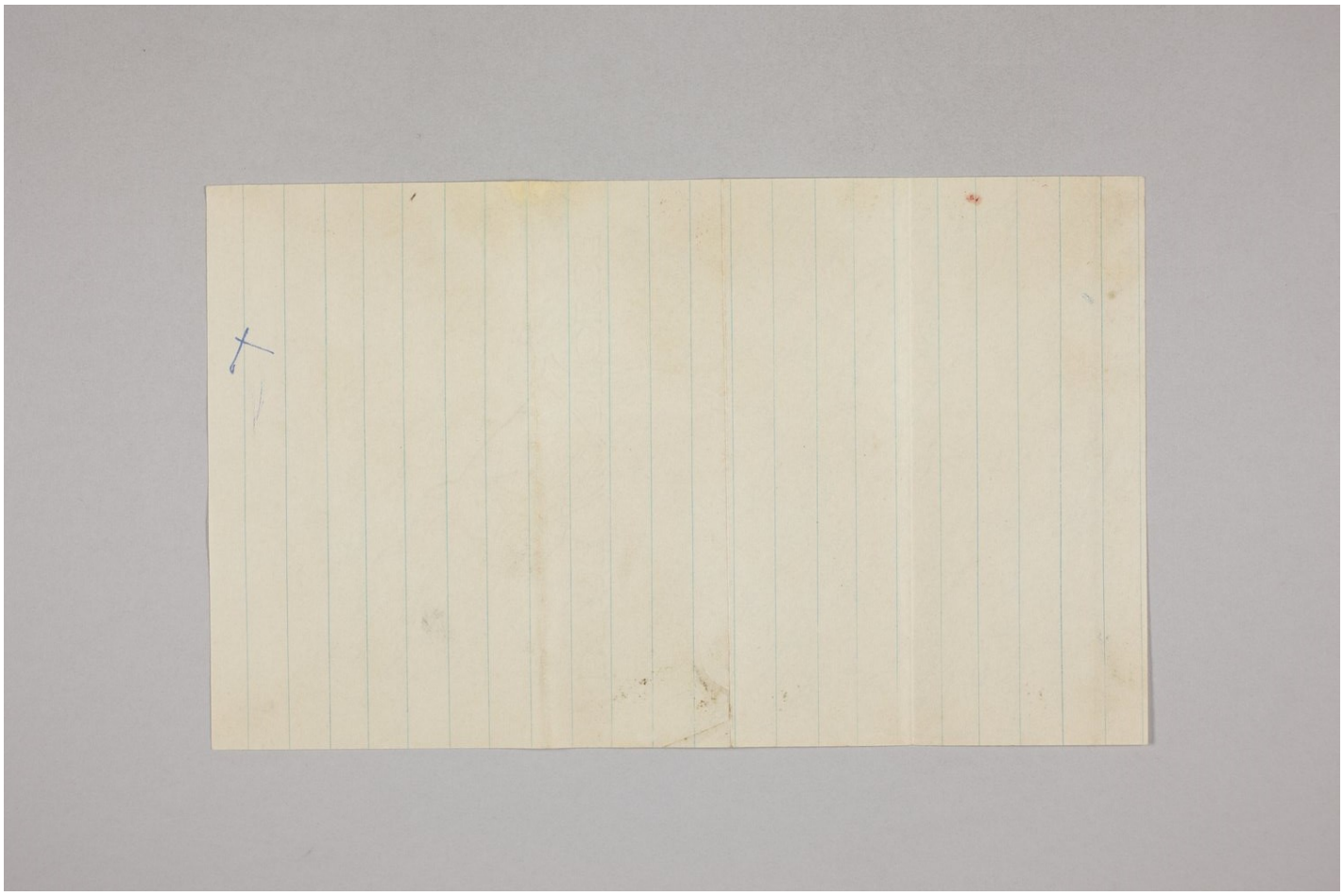
Dear Folks,

Received the card Thurs. and a letter yesterday. I got the "hi fellas" today a couple months ago. We had a Co. picture taken today I don't know what it'll be like. We leave for bivouac next Sat. afternoon. Do twenty mile. We go ten mile Sat., camp all night and finish it up the next day. It just lasts two weeks this time. I heard from Jack yesterday. He said Kim and Deng went hunting and Deng burned half his pants off building

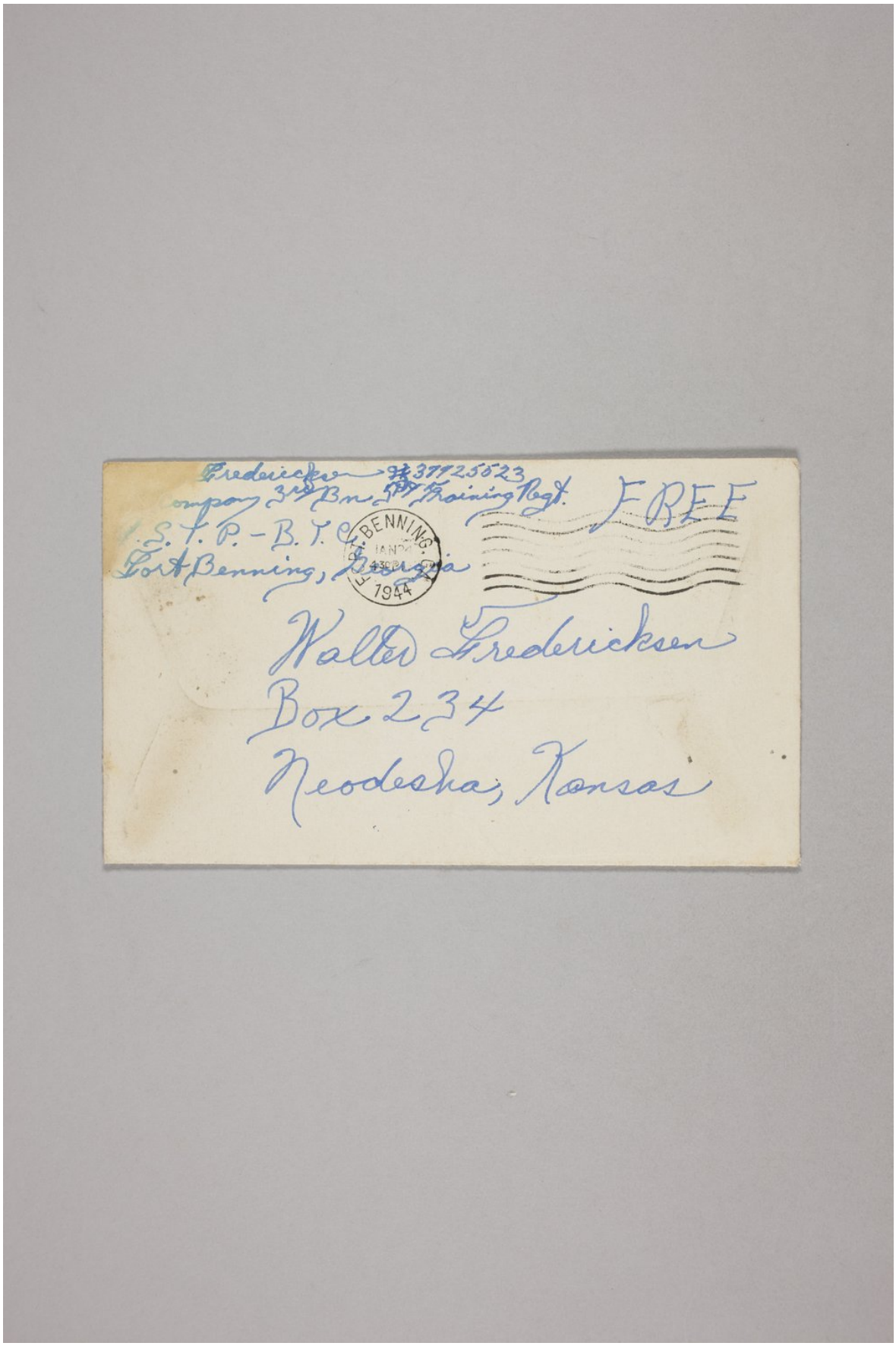


a fire. Jessie sent me a
pretty too. Sounds funny doesn't
it. Pretty card I mean. Been
been practicing the firing
position for our rifle the last
three days. I didn't know it
was so hard to shoot a gun.
It almost takes an India
rubber man to do them. I'm
on guard tomorrow night. I'd
go to the show tonight if I
didn't have so much to do.
It is "Lifeboat." The co.
picture will be finished
the last of the week probably.
They about two feet long. I
haven't been up to see McDaniel
since last Sunday. He lives
about a block from here.
Goodnight. W.

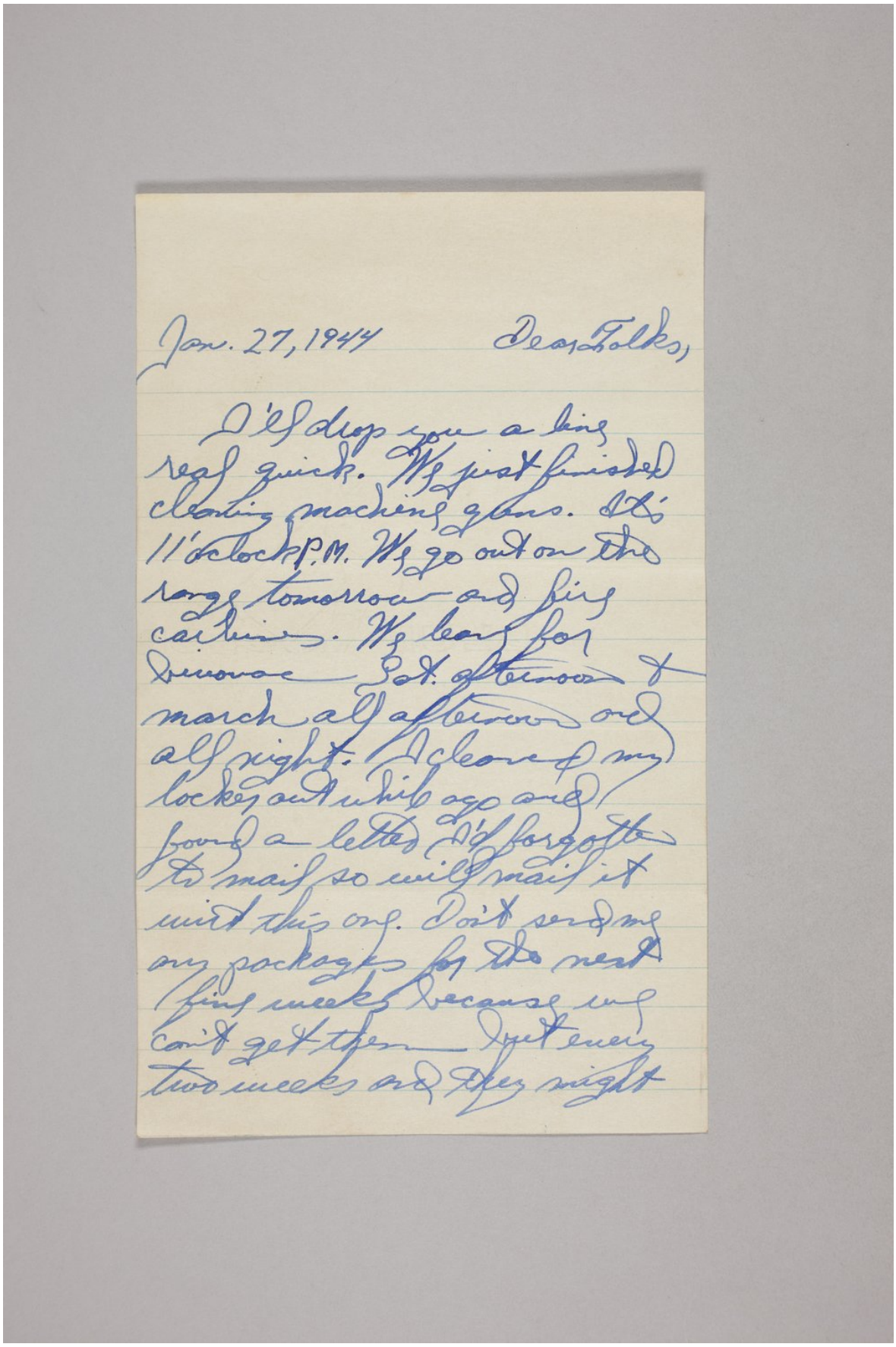
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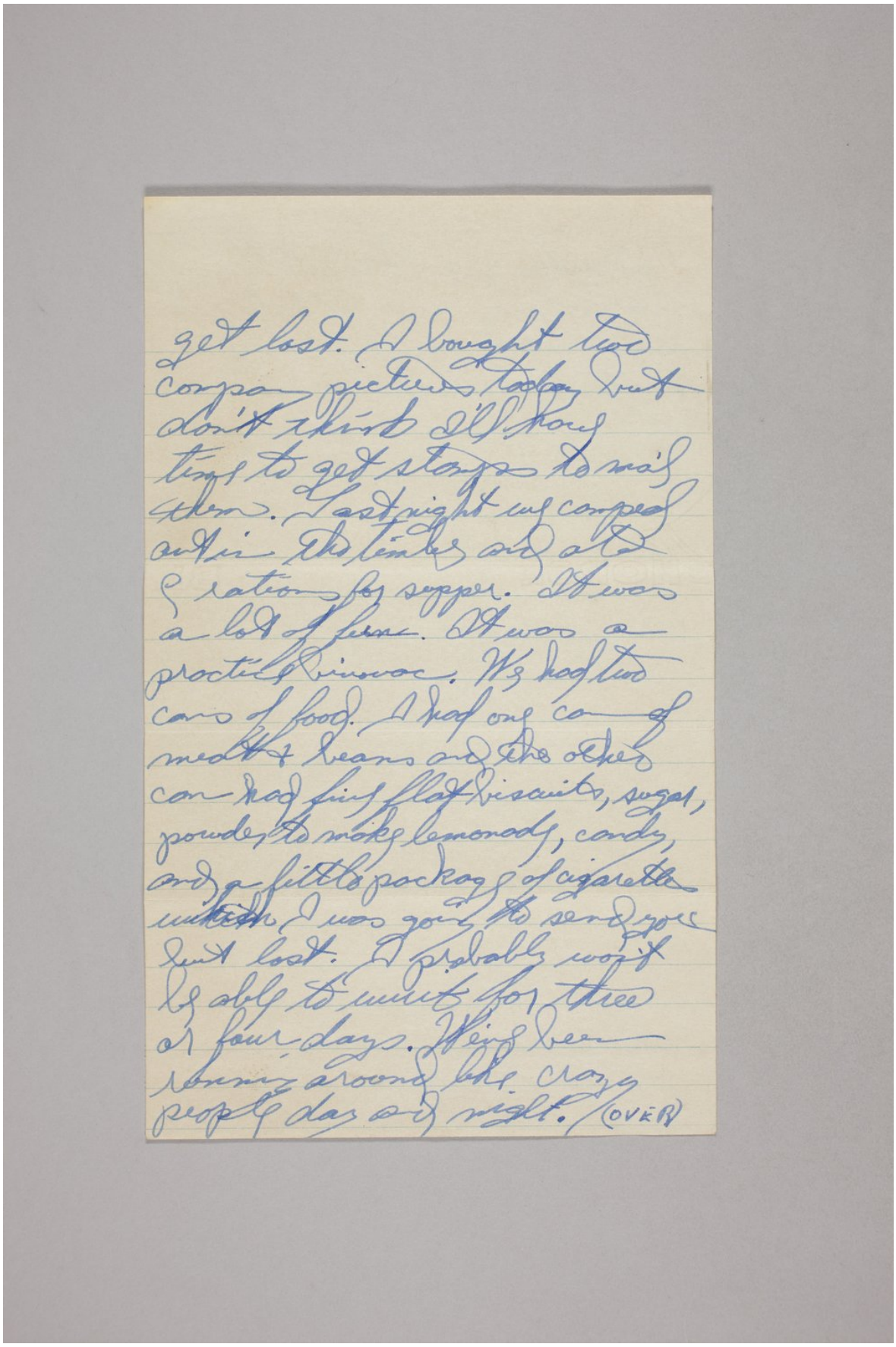


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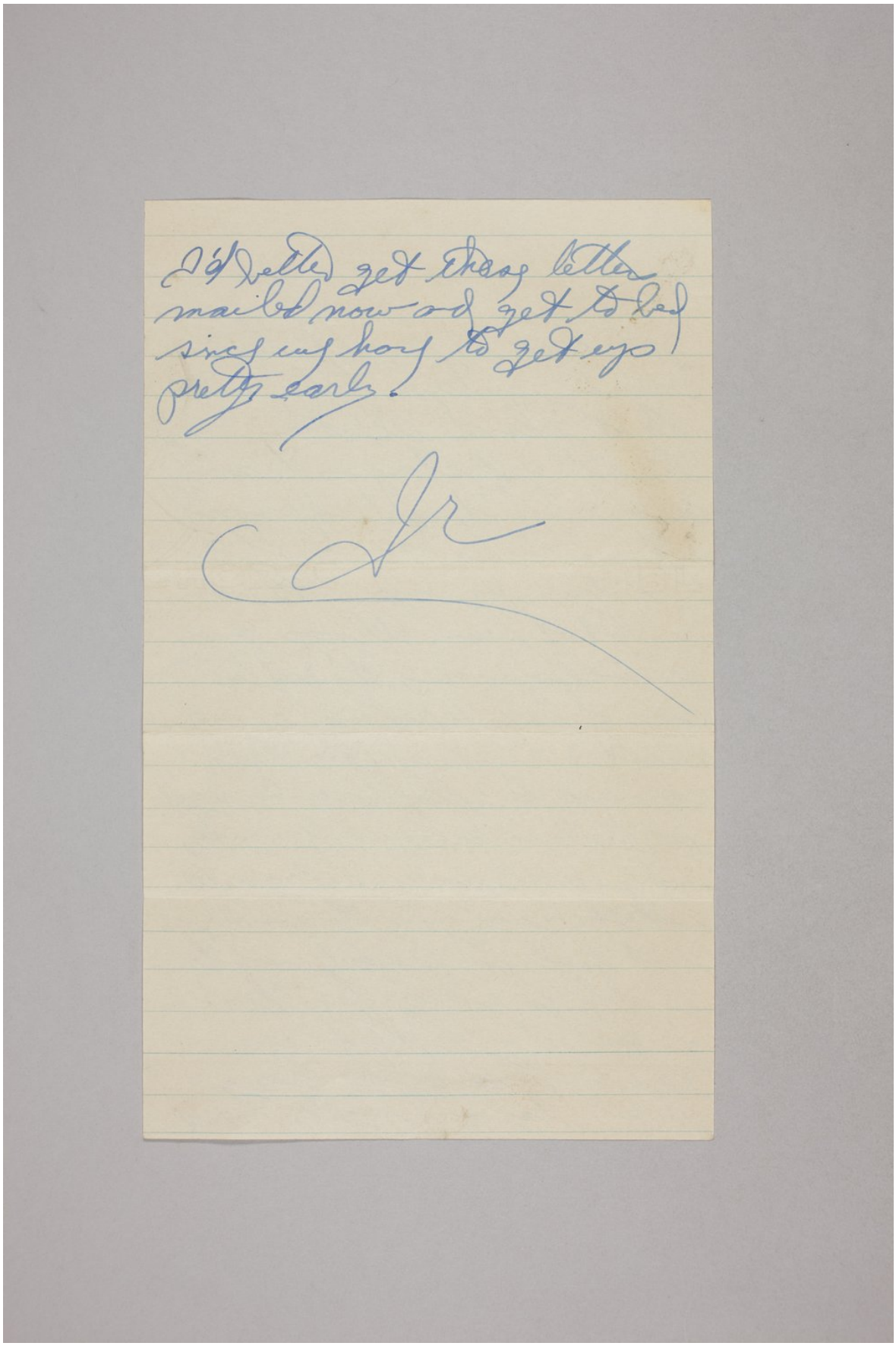
Jan. 27, 1944 Dear Folks,

I'll drop you a line real quick. We just finished cleaning machine guns. It's 11 o'clock P.M. We go out on the range tomorrow and fire carbines. We leave for bivouac 2 P.M. afternoon & march all afternoon and all night. I cleaned my locker out a while ago and found a letter I'd forgotten to mail so will mail it with this one. Don't send me any packages for the next few weeks because we can't get them. Just every two weeks and they might



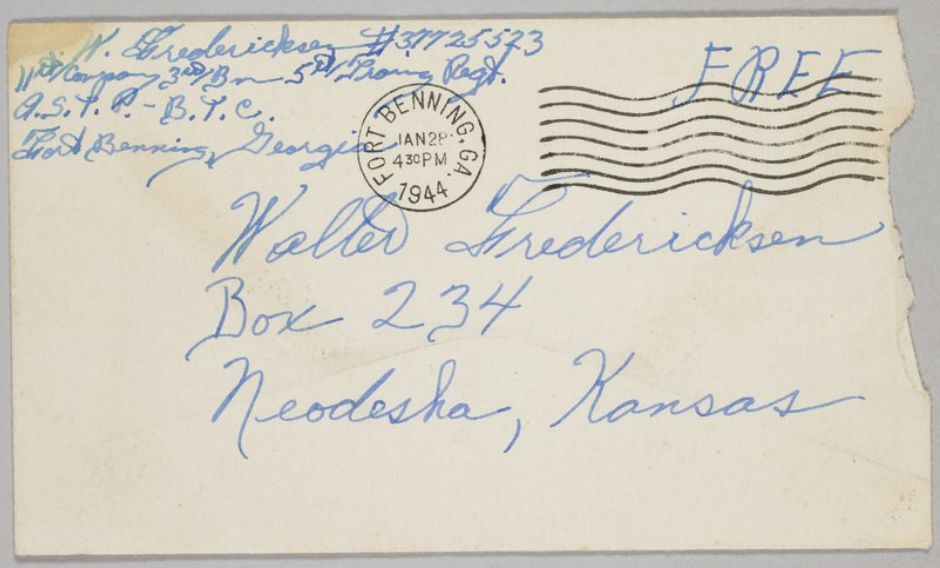
get lost. I bought two
corpsa pictures taken but
don't think I'll have
time to get them to mail
them. Last night we camped
out in the timber and ate
C rations for supper. It was
a lot of fun. It was a
practice bivouac. We had two
cans of food. I had one can of
meat & beans and the other
can had five flat biscuits, sugar,
powder to make lemonade, candy,
and a little package of cigarettes
in it. I was going to send you
but lost. I probably won't
be able to write for three
or four days. We've been
running around like crazy
people day and night. (OVER)

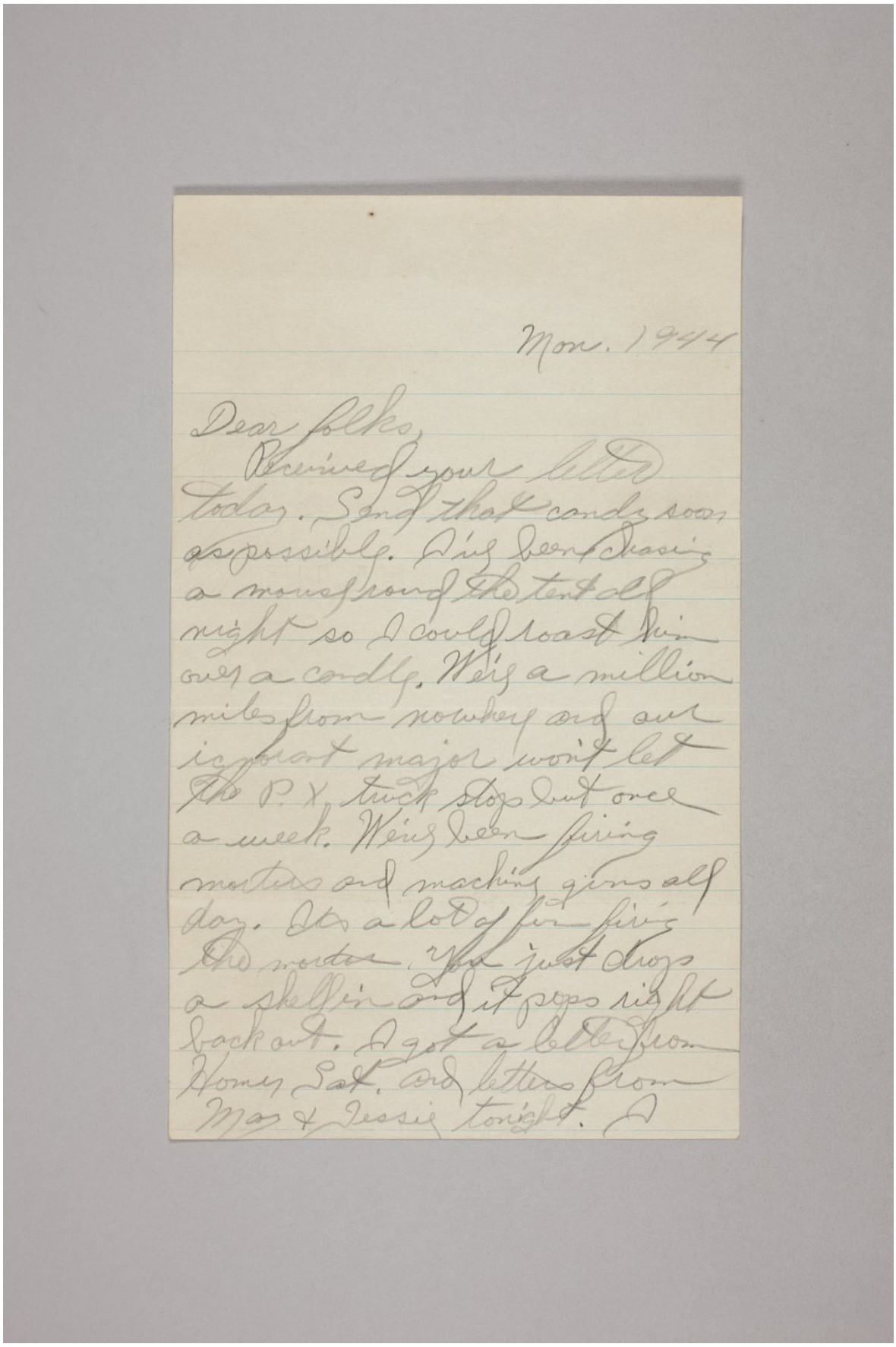
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I'll write get this letter mailed now and get to bed since we have to get up pretty early.

Jr

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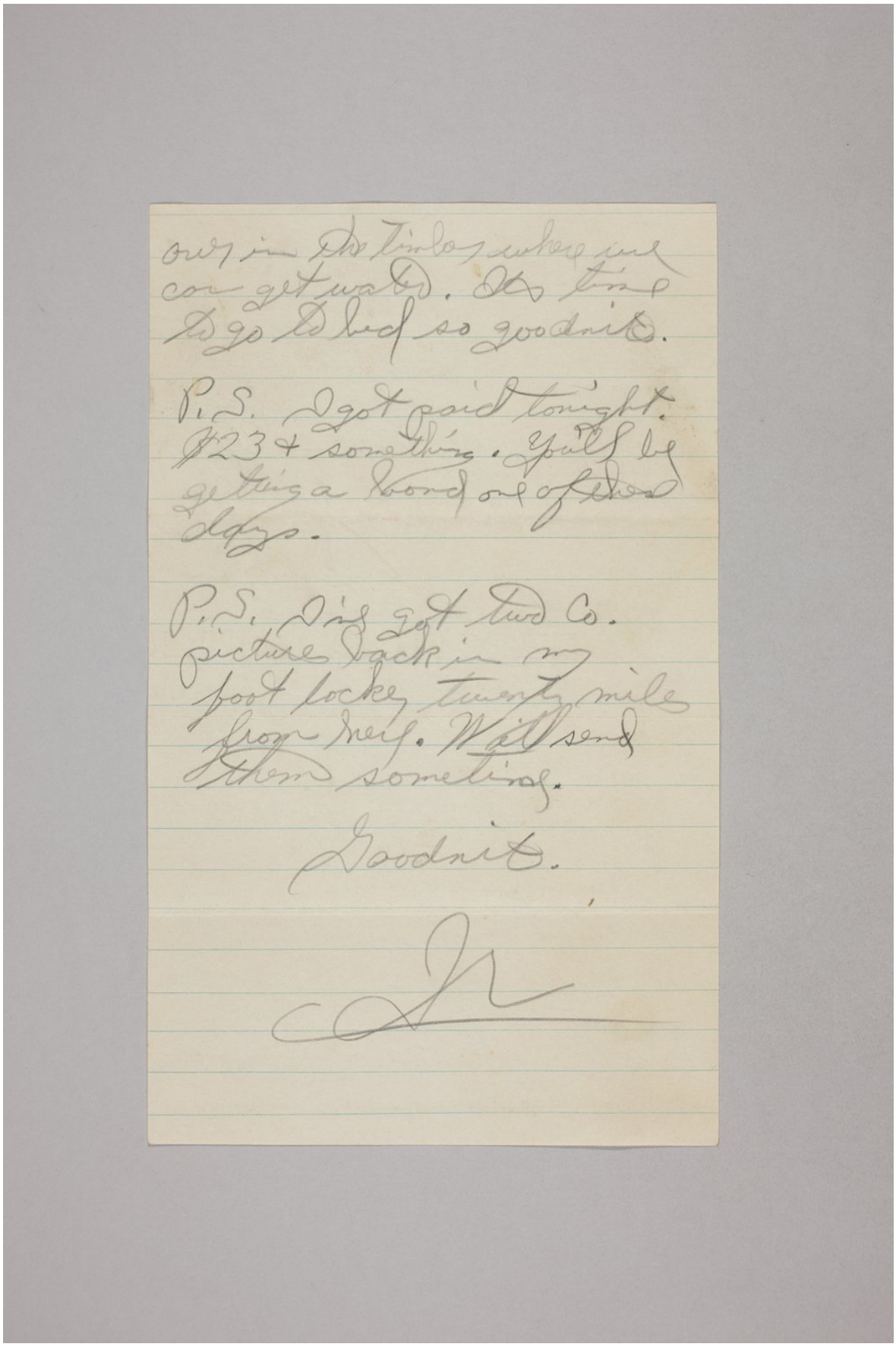


Nov. 1944

Dear folks,

Received your letter today. Send that candy soon as possible. Dig been doing a mouse hound the tent all night so I could roast him over a candle. We're a million miles from nowhere and our ice cream major won't let the P.X. truck stop but once a week. We've been firing mortars and machine guns all day. It's a lot of fun firing the mortar. You just drop a shell in and it pops right back out. I got a letter from Homer Sat. and letters from Mac & Jessie tonight. I

went back to the Repl. area yesterday on a truck and saw Donald Lyle Wilson. He lived right by me all the time and I didn't even see him. We camped out on a river about 14 miles from here Sat. night and a bunch of tanks almost took the place before the guards got them stopped. You can go ahead and send packages. I'll probably get them and they'll send them back or else keep them in our permanent camp if I don't. We get back to camp in two weeks. We get about half a steel helmet of water a day to wash in, but there a little creek



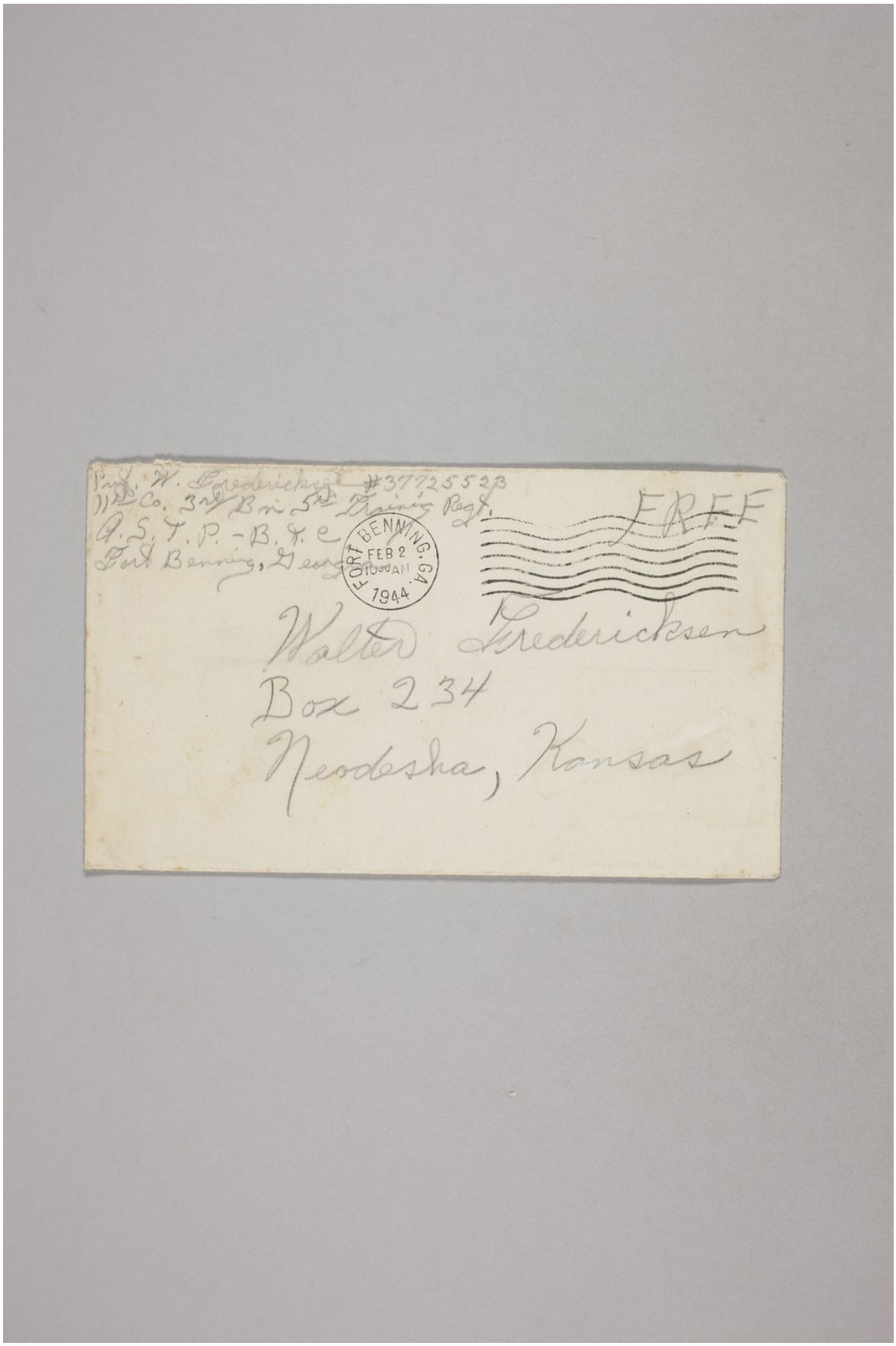
over in the line where we can get water. Its time I go to bed so goodnite.

P.S. I got paid tonight. $23 + something. You'll be getting a bond or so these days.

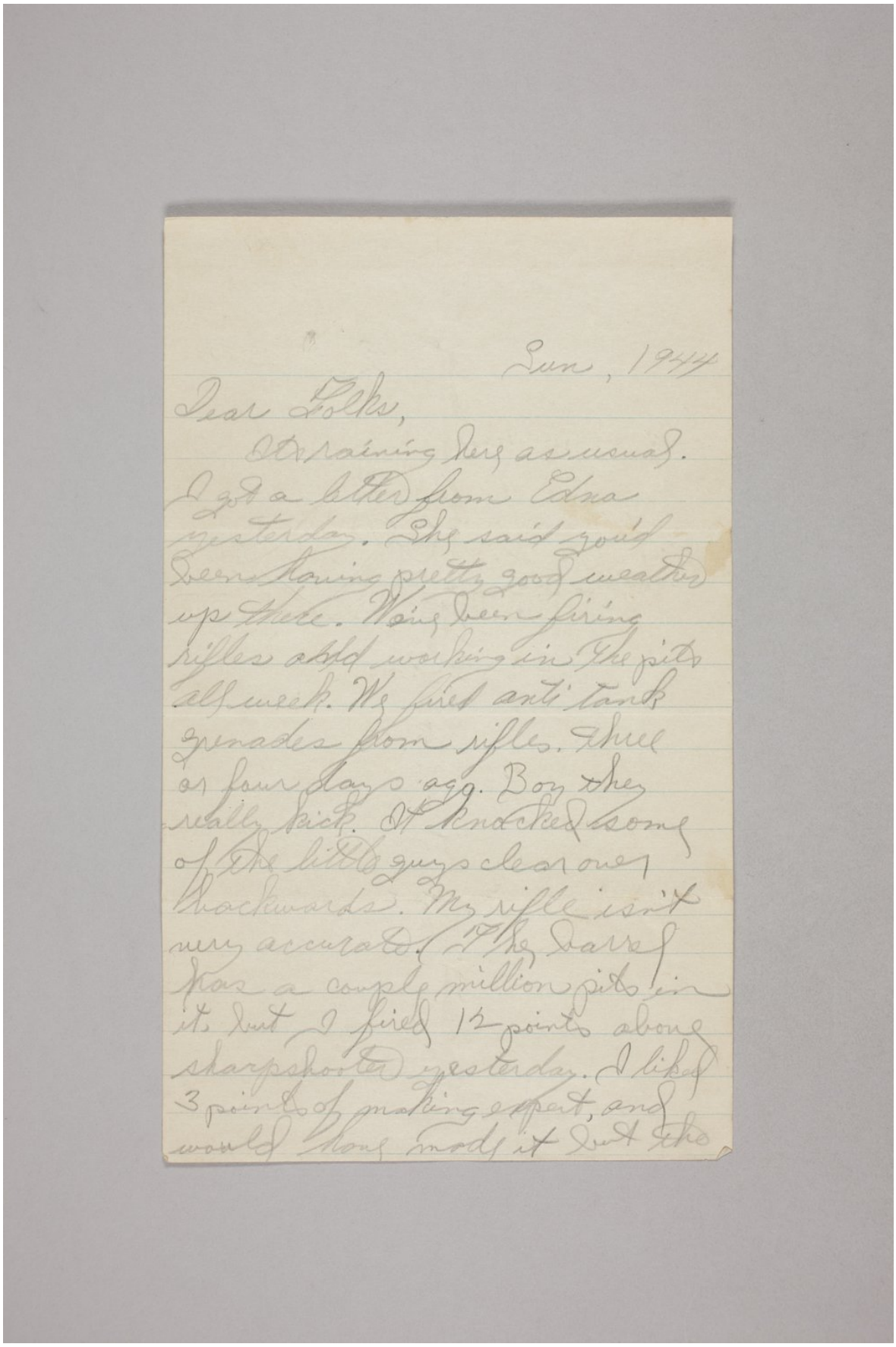
P.S. Dig got two Co. pictures back in my foot locker twenty miles from here. Will send them sometime.

Goodnite.

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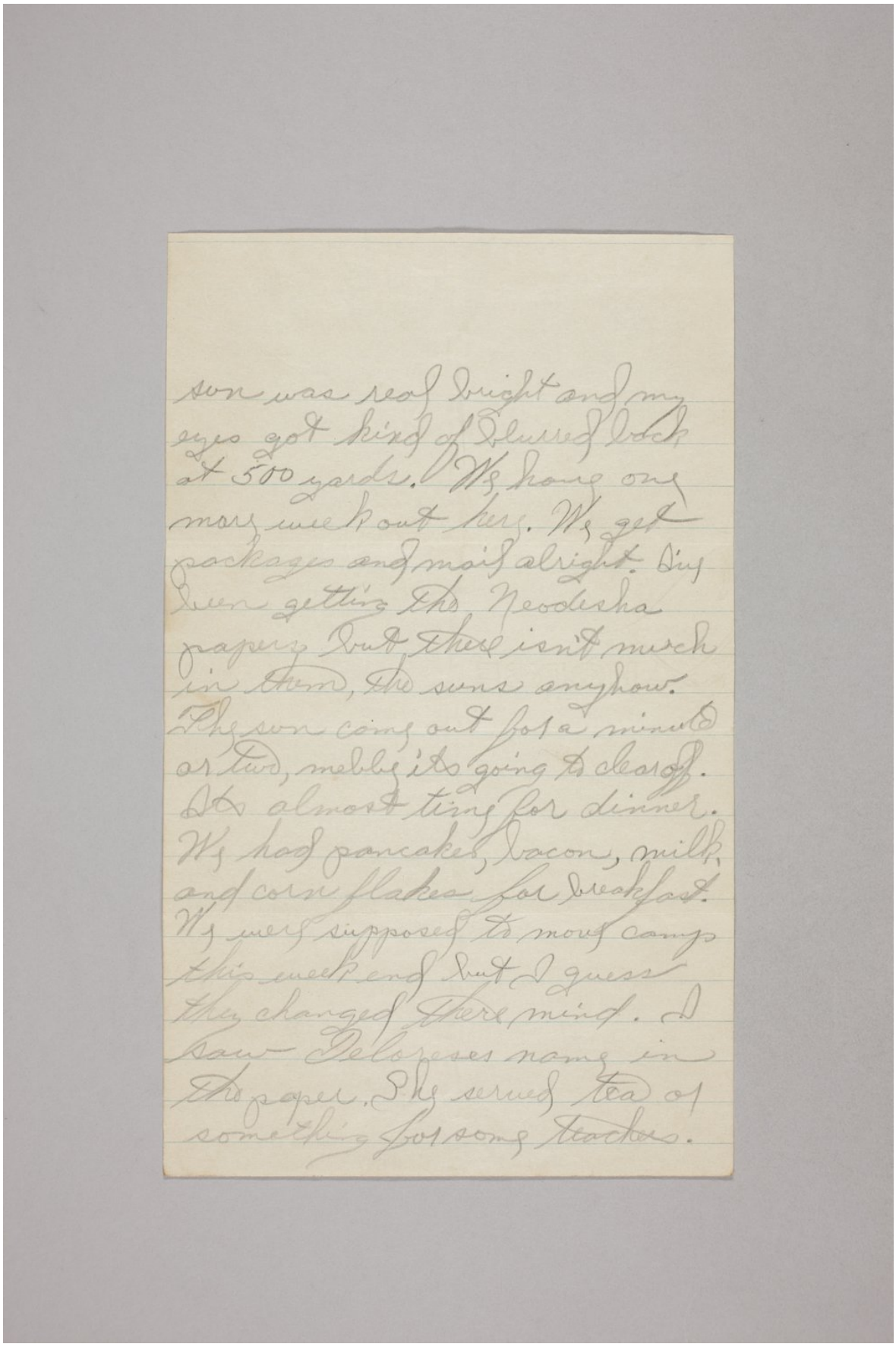
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Sun, 1944

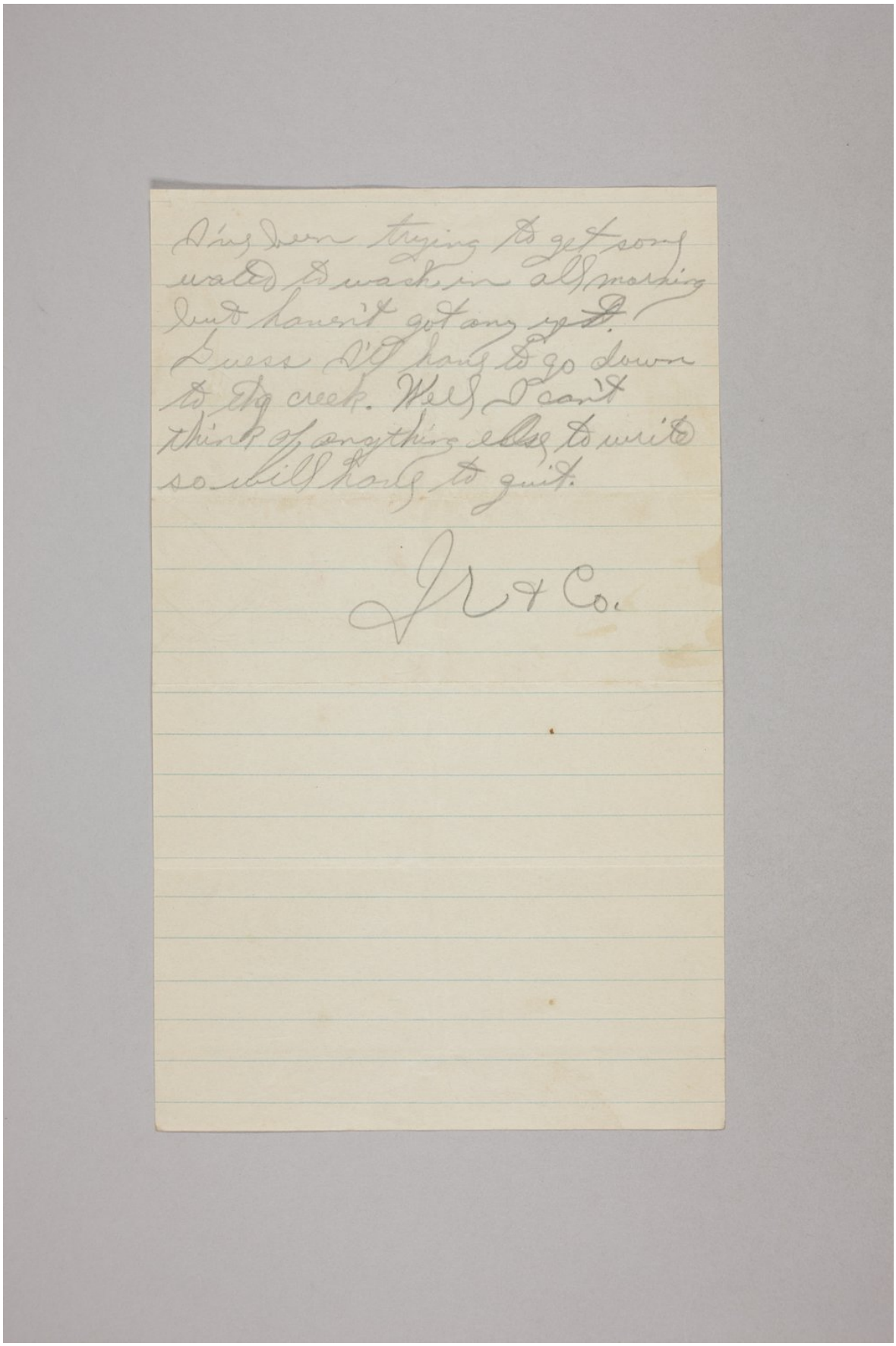
Dear Folks,

Training hers as usual. I got a letter from Edna yesterday. She said you'd been having pretty good weather up there. We've been firing rifles and working in the pits all week. We fired anti tank grenades from rifles. Shot a few days ago. Boy they really kick. It knocked some of the little guys clear over backwards. My rifle isn't very accurate. The barrel has a couple million pits in it but I fired 12 points above sharpshooter yesterday. I like 3 points of making expert, and would have made it but the



son was real bright and my eyes got kind of blurred look at 500 yards. We have one more week out here. We get packages and mail alright. Guy been getting the Pendleton papers but there isn't much in them, the suns anyhow. The sun come out for a minute or two, maybe it's going to clear off. It's almost time for dinner. We had pancakes, bacon, milk, and corn flakes for breakfast. We were supposed to move camp this week end but I guess they changed there mind. I saw Deloreses name in the paper. She served tea of something for some teachers.

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Dinz been trying to get some water to wash in all morning but haven't got any yet.
Guess I'll have to go down to the creek. Well I can't think of anything else to write so will have to quit.

JR & Co.