

Army of Occupation.

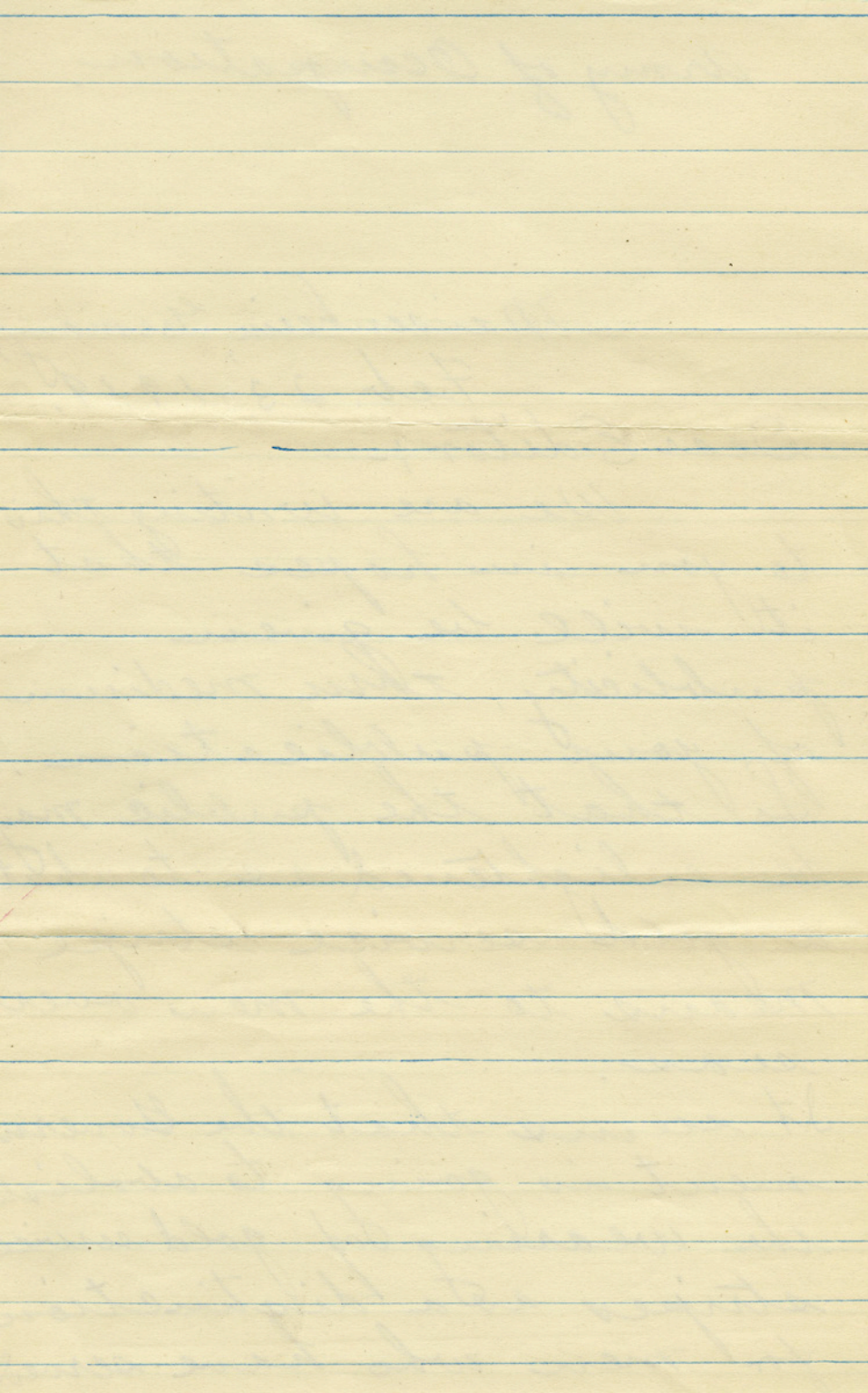
Meisenheim Germany,

Feb. 23, 1919.

Dear Editor:-

We are writing this to you in hopes that it will be given publicity, thru medium of your publication. So that the public may be enlightened as to what a gold service stripe means to the men over seas.

It seems that the Government is going to abolish the wearing of gold service stripes as a distinction for men who have served

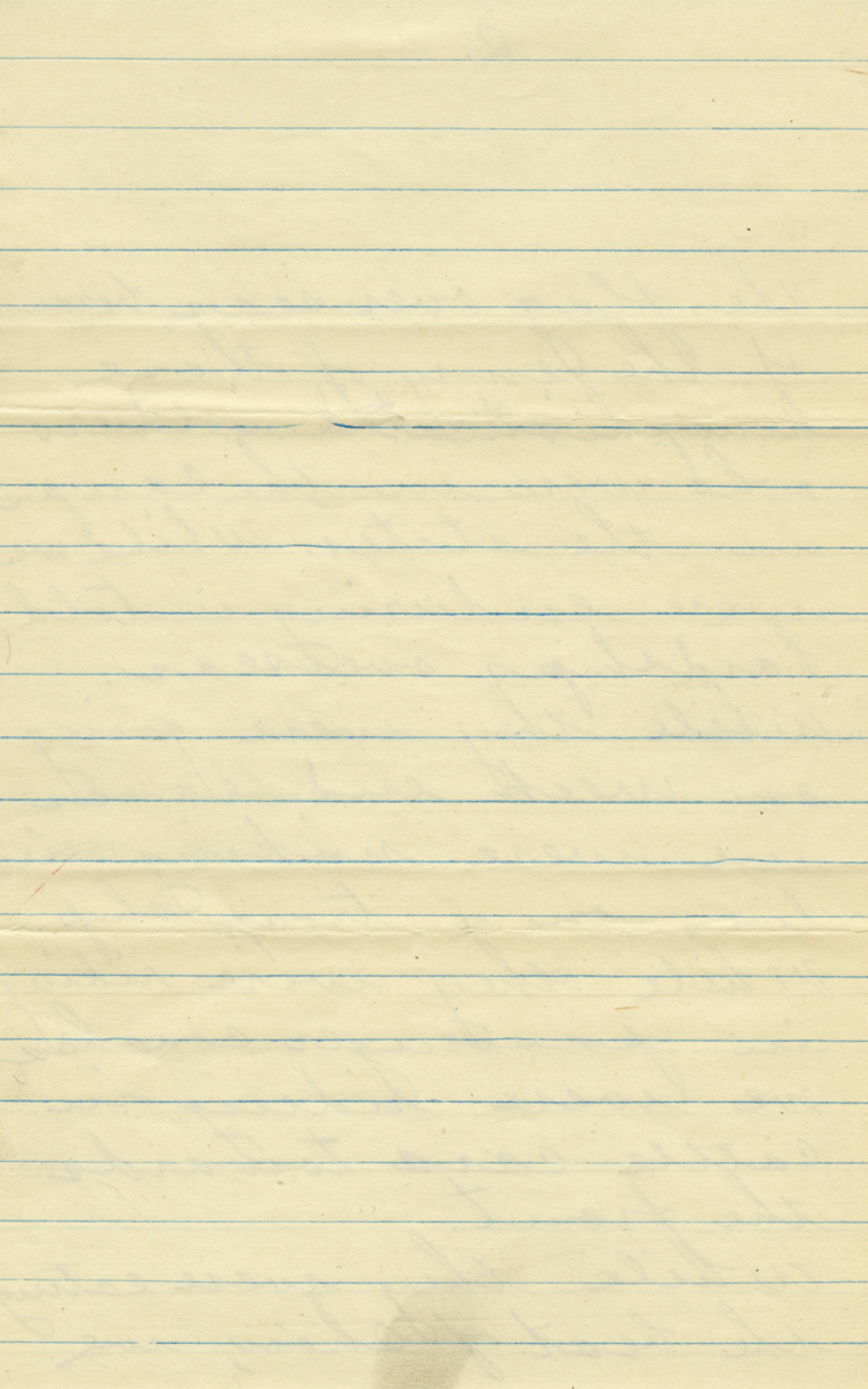


the flag overseas, because of the envy of those unoppressed soldiers who were in the camps in the states. While we were enduring untold hardships overseas.

While they were going on week end leaves we were risking our lives on a troop ship.

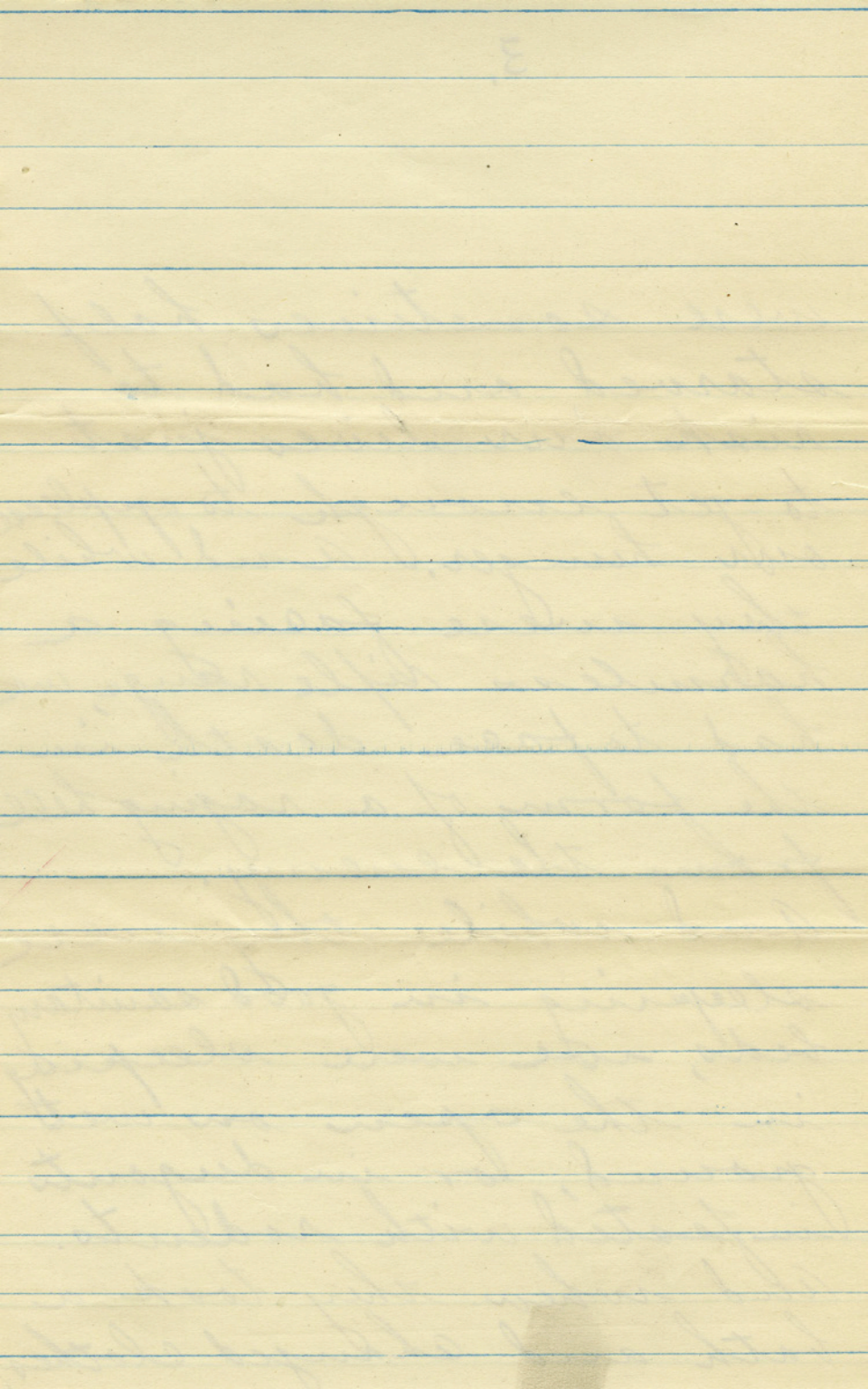
While they were riding in passenger coaches we were riding in cattle cars towards the front.

While they were eating the best of food, we



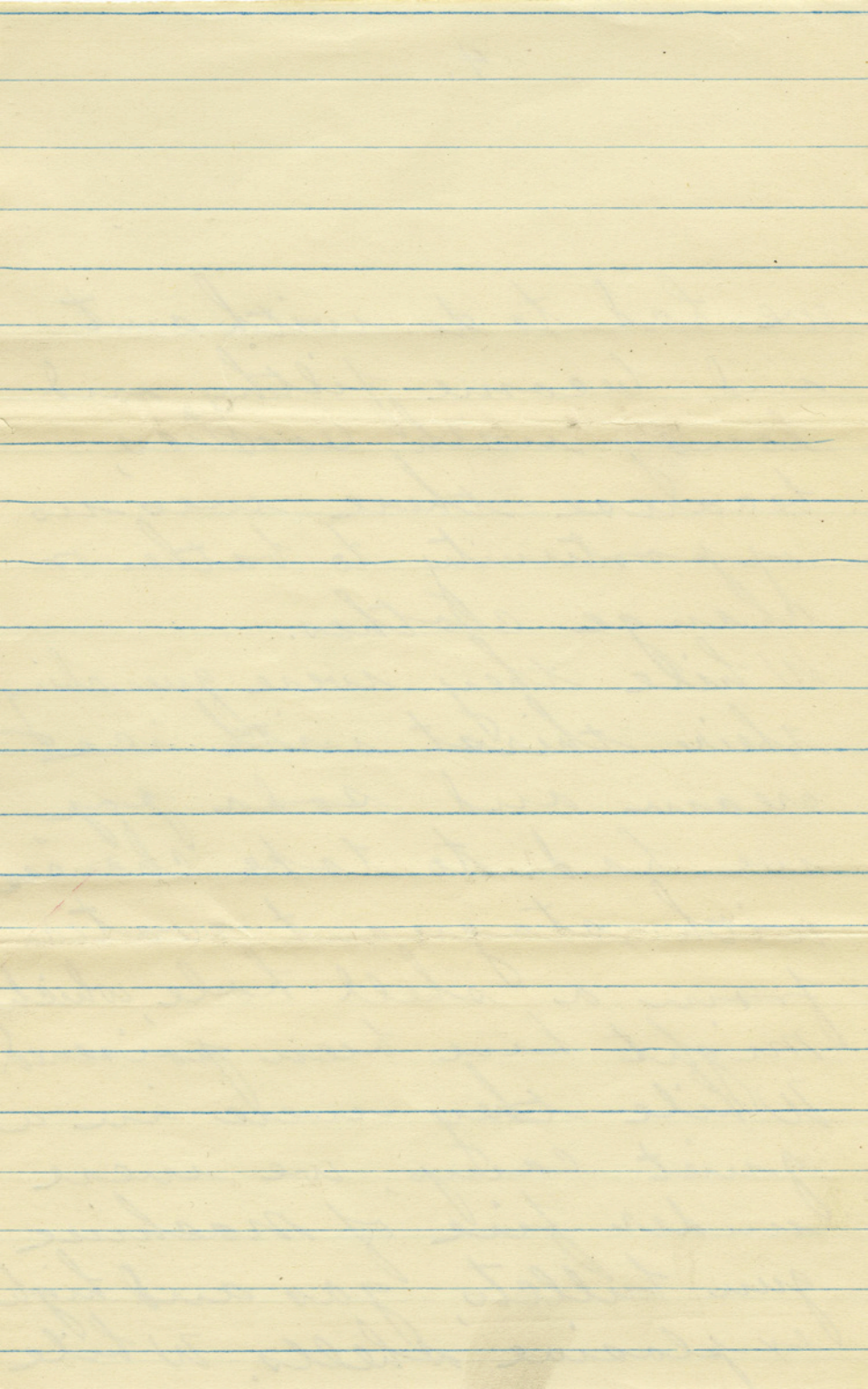
were sometimes half starved and had to risk our lives just to get enough to appease our hunger. And while they were facing a harmless rifle range we had to face death in the form of a raging hell from the enemy.

And while they were sleeping in good sanitary beds, we were sleeping in the open on wet ground, or in dugouts infested with rodents. And when they took a bath and changed clothes,



we had to do without
and become filthy and
lousy with cooties,
because there was no
opportunity to bathe or
change clothes.

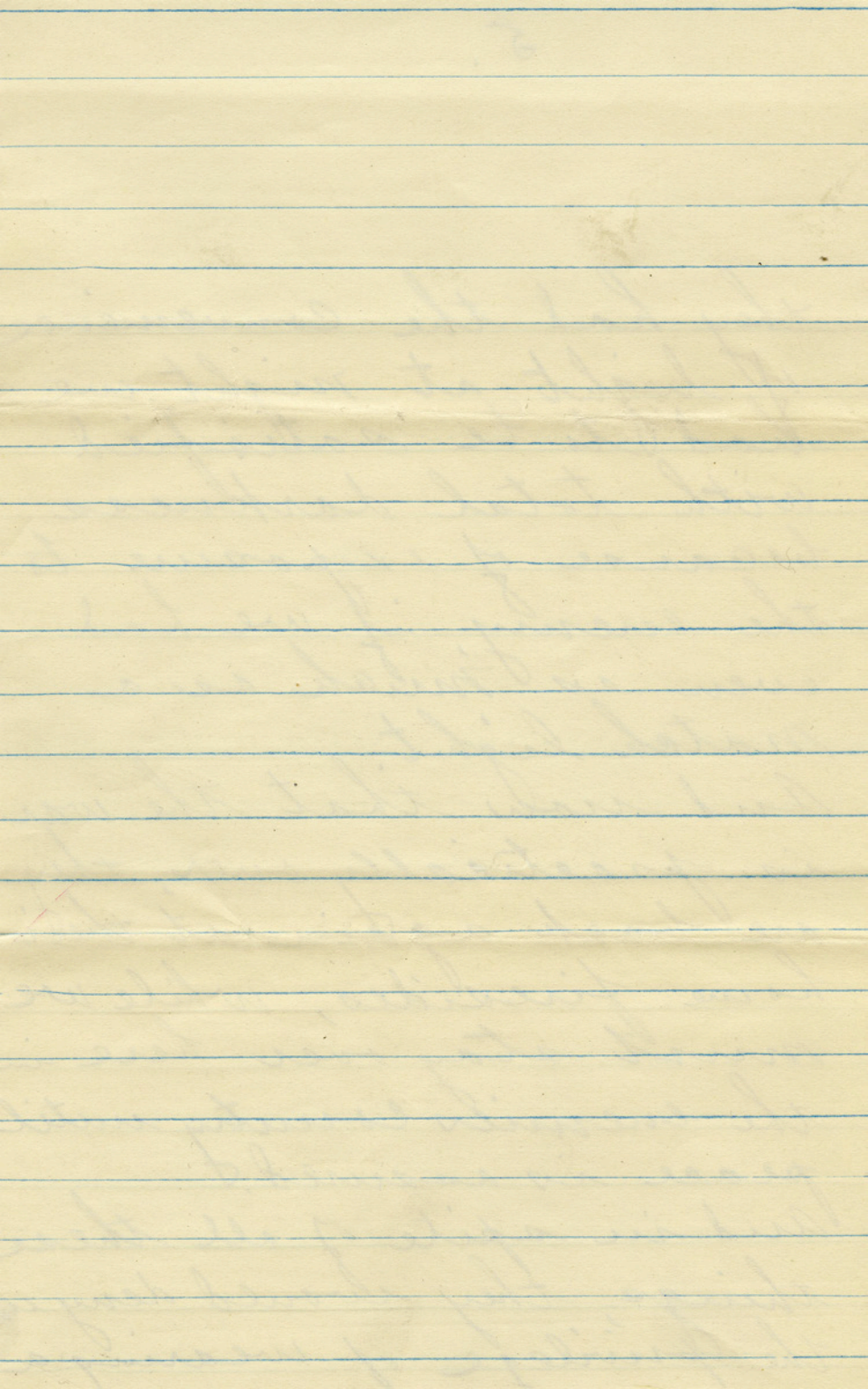
While they were quenching
their thirst with ice
cream and soda pop,
we had to take chances
with stagnant water
from a shell hole, which
might have been poisoned.
While they were in a
quiet camp, we were
under fire of machine
gun bullets, gas and high
explosive shells. While



they had the convenience of light at night we had to be satisfied with total darkness because of exposure to the enemy if we had even as much as a match light.

And now that the war is practically over, they are back again at their home firesides, while we must stay over here in the enemies country until peace is assured.

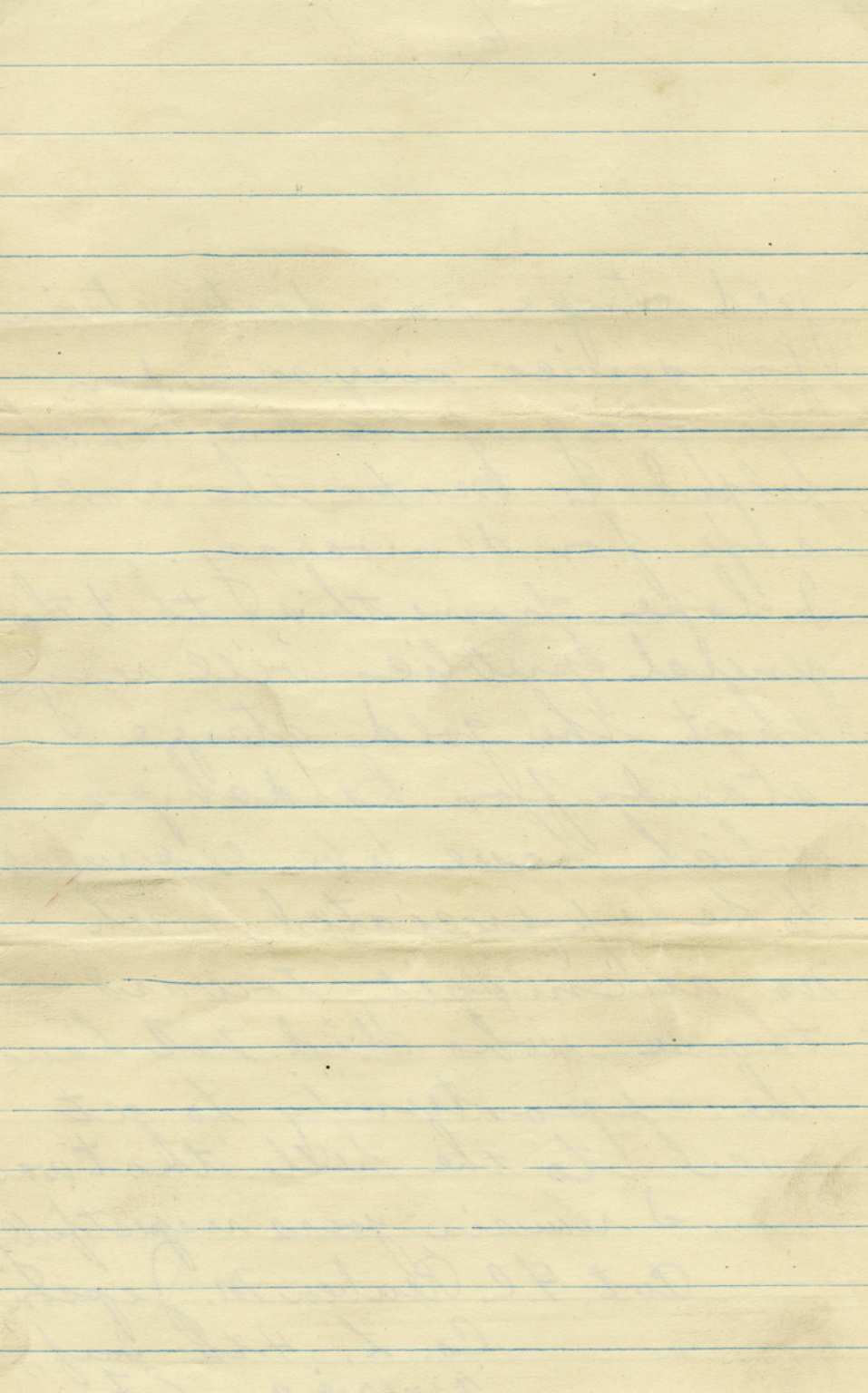
And in spite of all these things they would deny us the privilege of wearing a



gold stripe as a distinction
for service overseas for
the flag of the U.S. which
helped to make the world
safe for democracy.

I hope from this that the
general public will realize
that the gold stripe
stands for hardships
which have to be experienced
to be appreciated, with
no animosity toward
those who did not have
the opportunity to get
over to the hell that was
was. I remain yours respectfully,

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Pot. F.C. Reuben M. Jepson
Co. L. 4th Inf.,
American E.F.



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R. #1. Mo. '

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