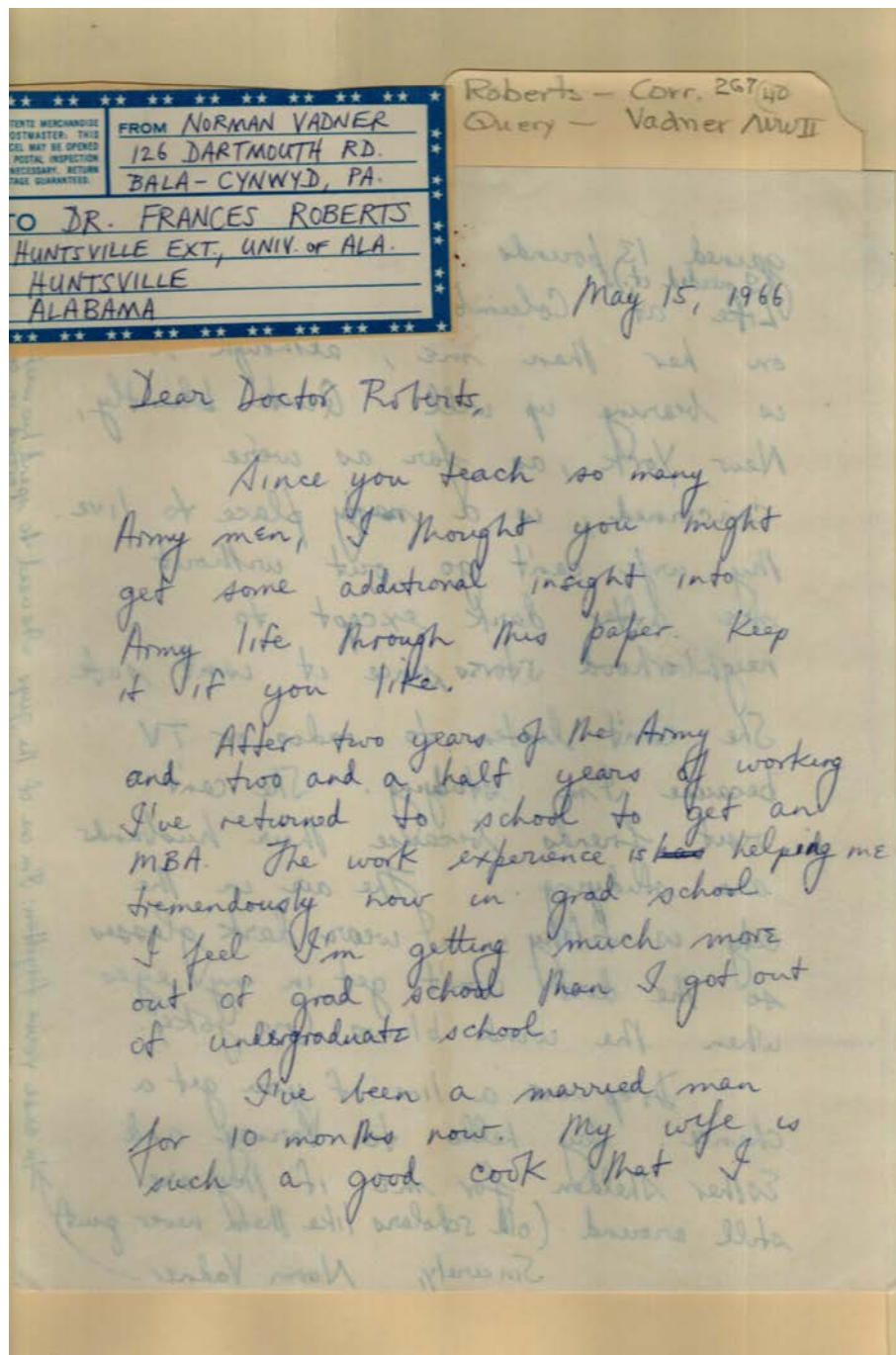


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 2, Subseries G, Box 7, Folder 40  
Letter Concerning Vadner/WWII, to Roberts, Frances C., 1966

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**Names:**

Roberts, Frances, Dr.

Vadner, Norman

**Places:**

Bala-Cynwyd, PA

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

letter

**Dates:**

May 15, 1966

Roberts - Corr. 267/40  
Query - Vadner WWII

gained 13 pounds in the first 8 months  
(I needed it.)  
Life at Columbia U. seems harder  
on her than me, although she  
is bearing up well. Quite bleakly,  
New York, as far as we're  
concerned, is a nasty place to live.  
My wife can't go out without  
me after dark except to  
neighborhood stores since it isn't safe.  
She can't listen to radios or TV  
because I'm studying. She can't  
visit friends because their husbands  
are studying. The air in the  
city is filthy. I wear dark glasses  
so the dirt won't get in my eyes  
when the wind blows (no joke).  
Drop me a line if you get a  
chance. Say hello to Varney and  
Esther Sheldon for me if they are  
still around (old scholars like them never quit).  
Sincerely, Norm Vadner

In case you've forgotten: I'm one of the guys who used to spend two weekends parking

**Names:**

Sheldon, Varney &  
Esther

Vadner, Norman

**Places:**

Bala-Cynwyd, PA

**Types:**

letter

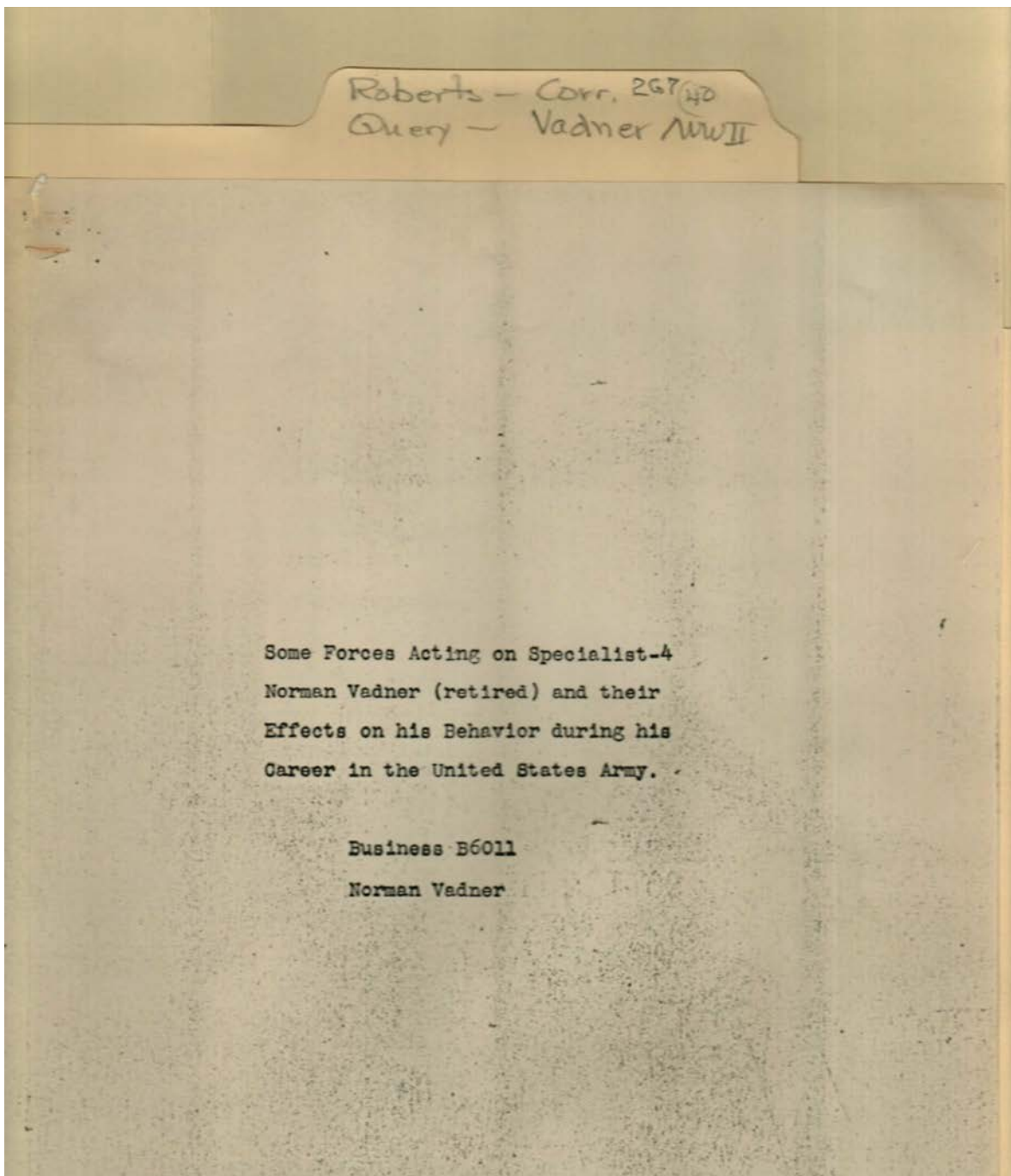
**Dates:**

May 15, 1966

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 2, Subseries G, Box 7, Folder 40

Letter Concerning Vadner/WWII, to Roberts, Frances C., 1966

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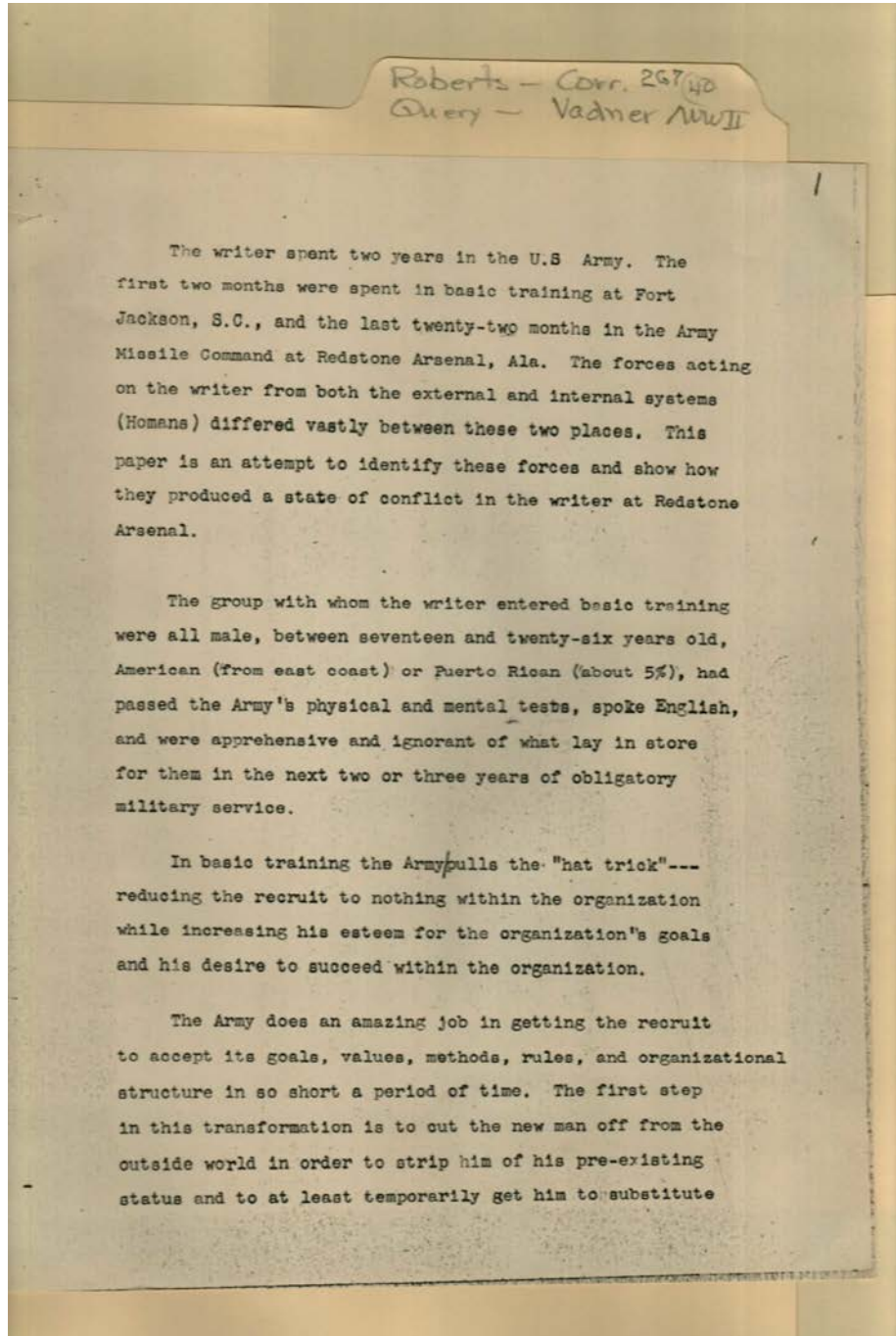


**Names:**

Vadner, Norman

**Types:**

essay



**Names:**

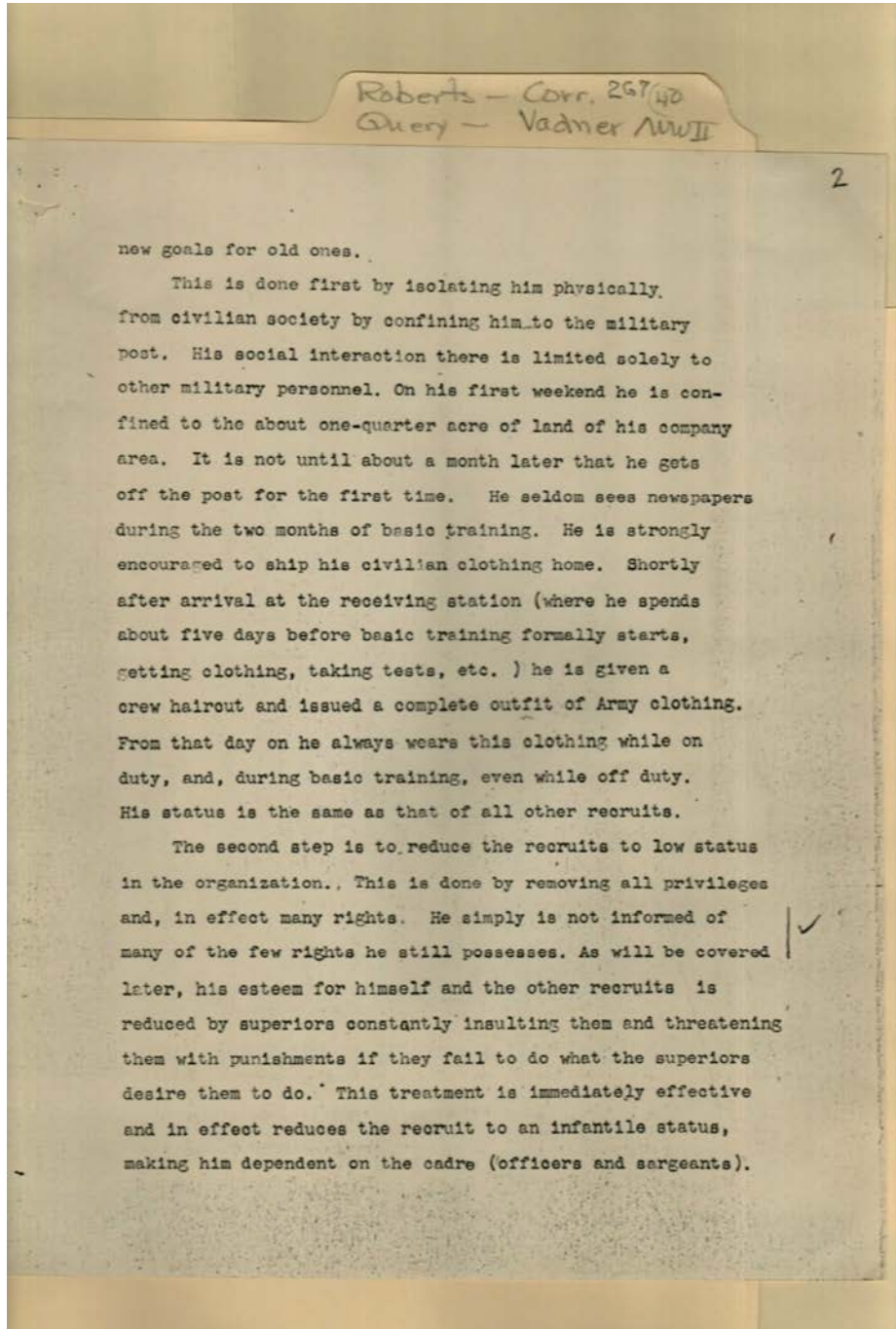
Basic Military  
Training

**Places:**

Ft. Jackson, SC

**Types:**

essay



**Names:**

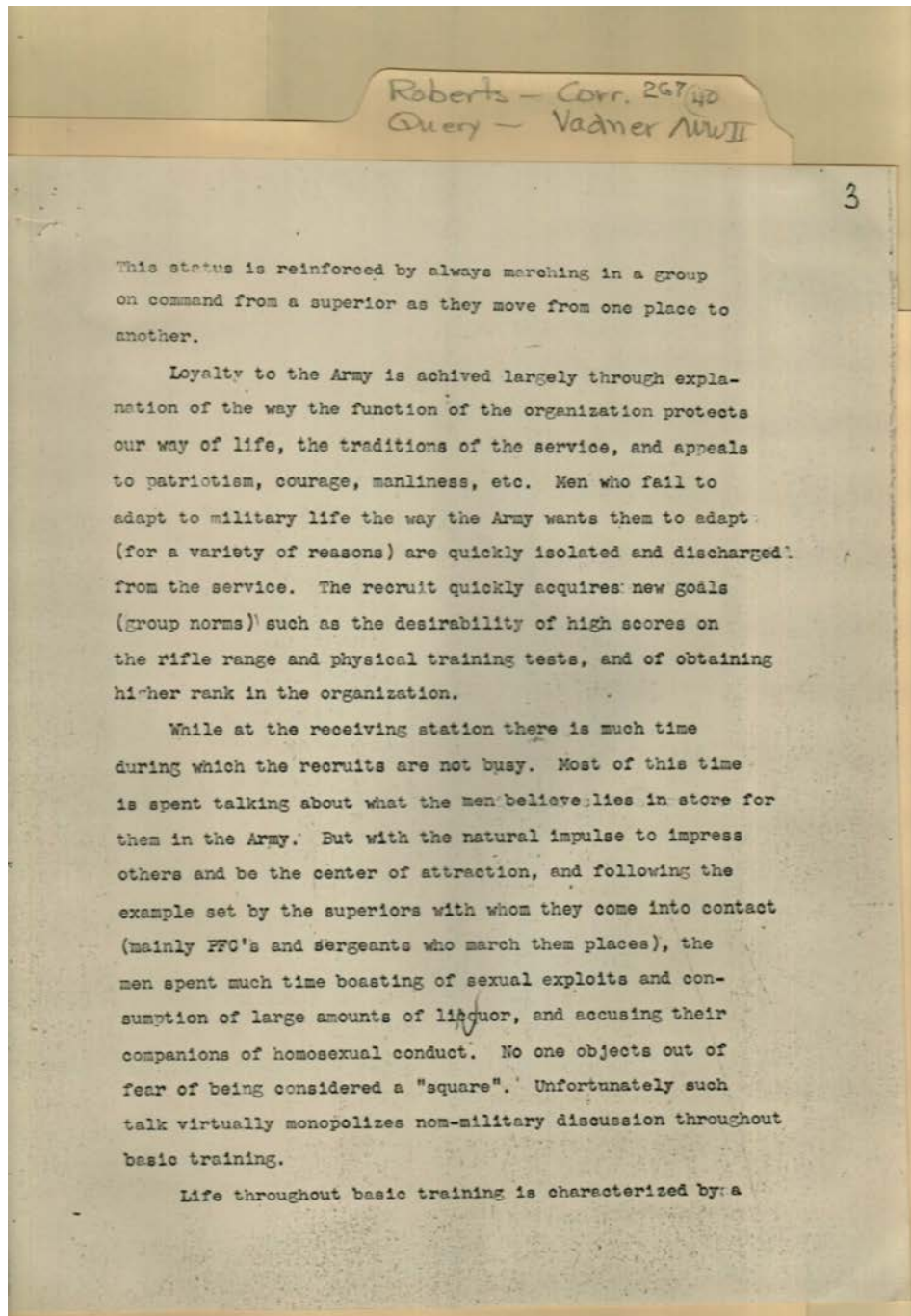
Basic Military  
Training

**Places:**

Ft. Jackson, SC

**Types:**

essay



**Names:**

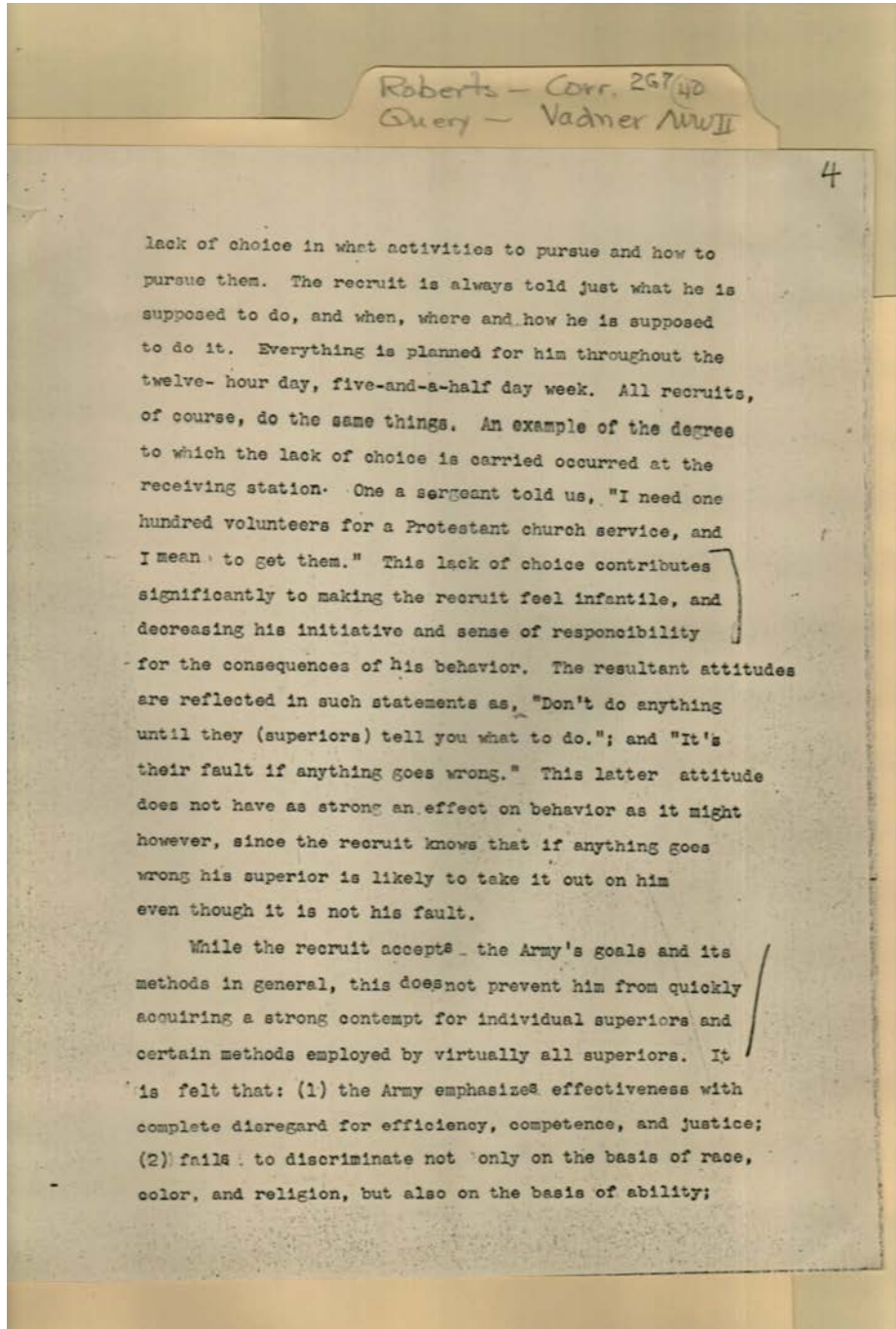
Basic Military  
Training

**Places:**

Ft. Jackson, SC

**Types:**

essay



**Names:**

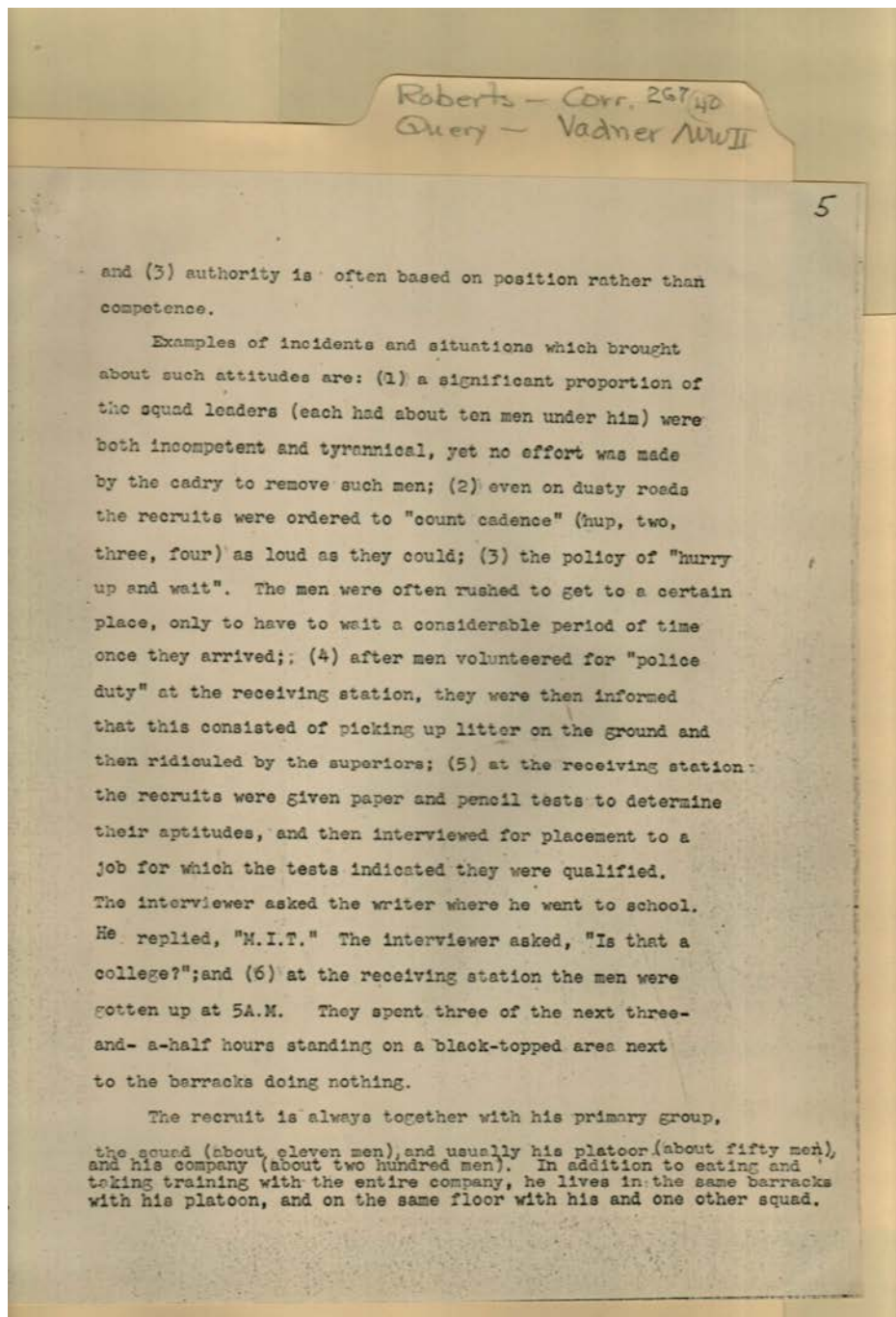
Basic Military  
Training

**Places:**

Ft. Jackson, SC

**Types:**

essay



**Names:**

Basic Military  
Training

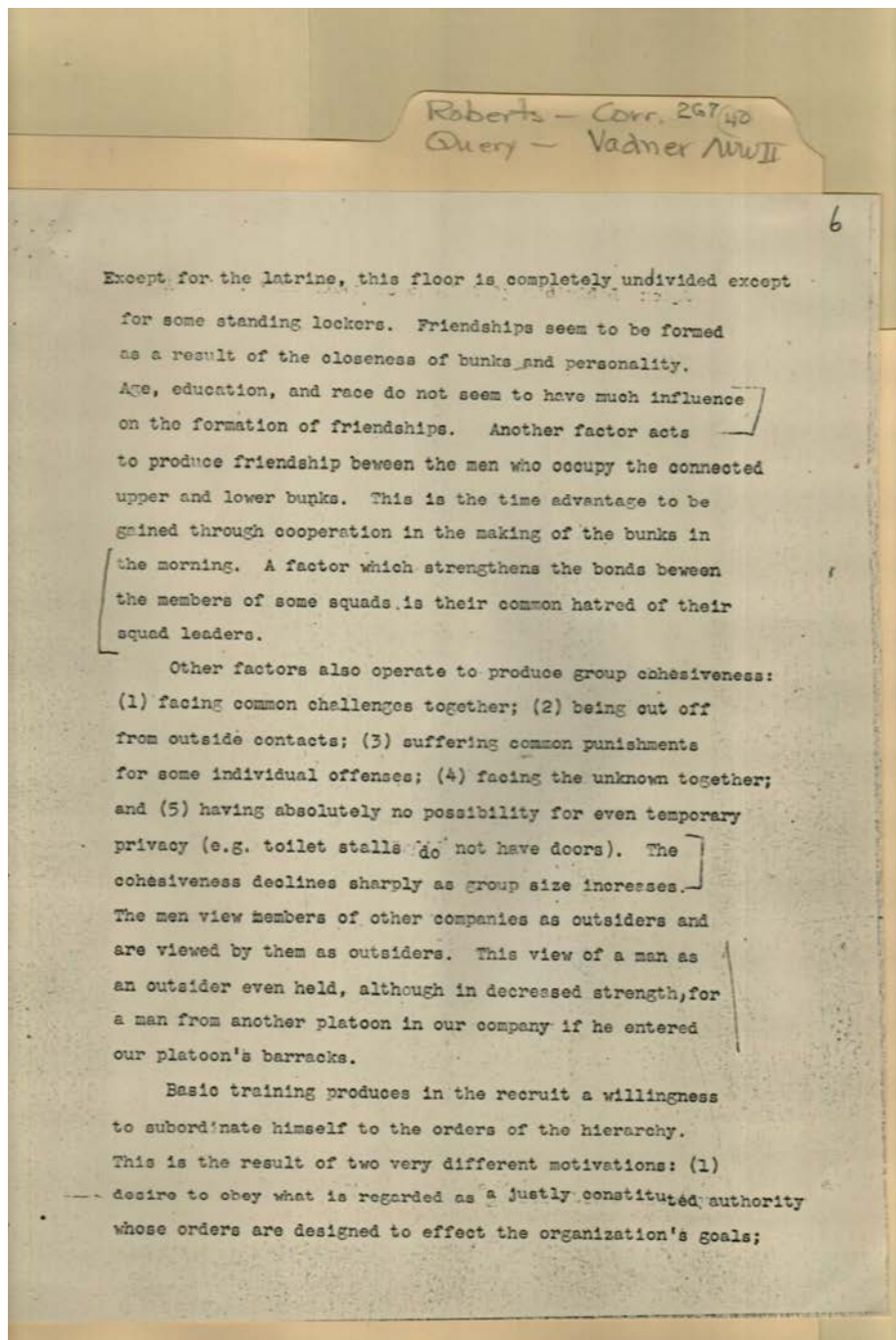
**Places:**

Ft. Jackson, SC

**Types:**

essay





**Names:**

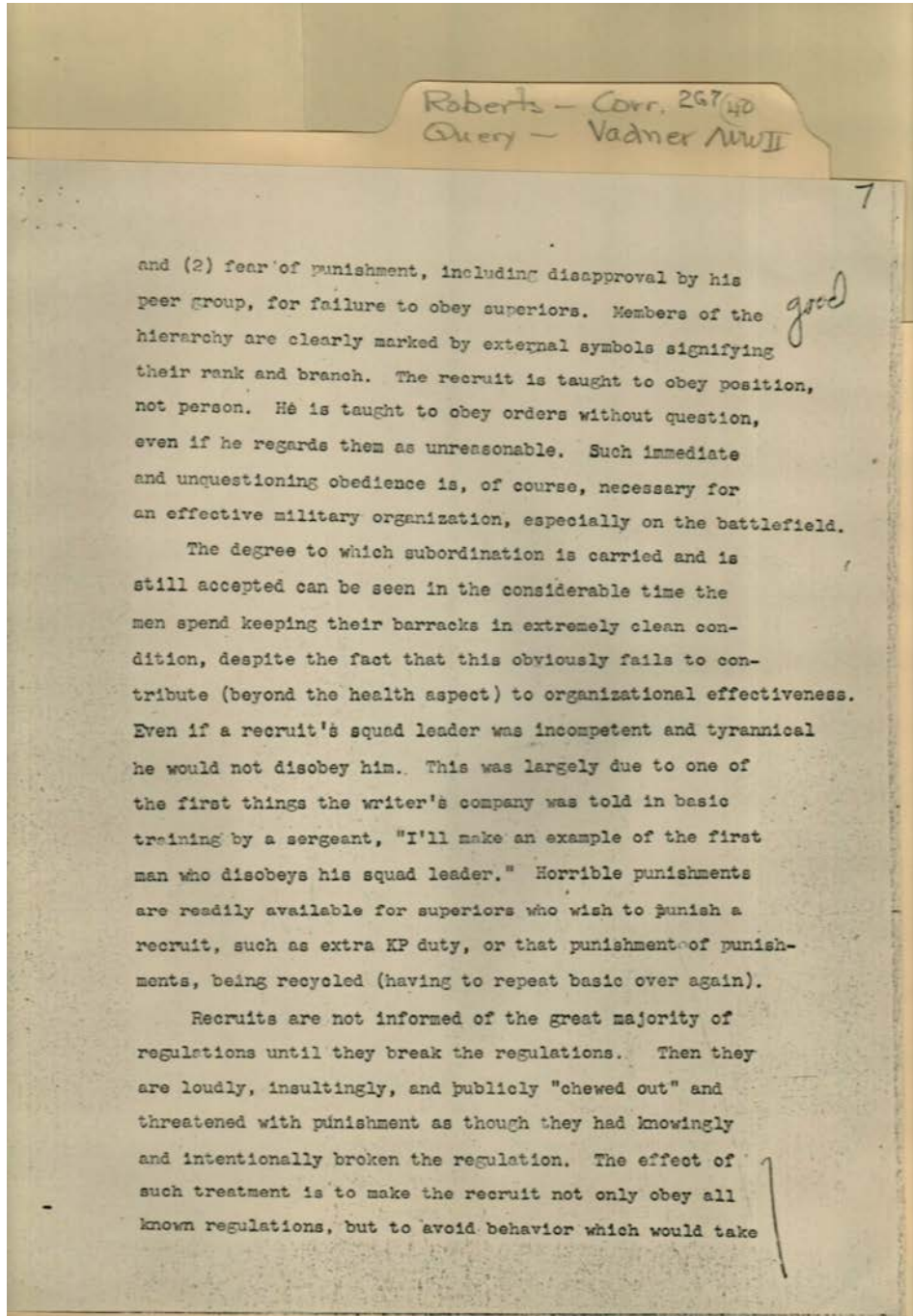
Basic Military  
Training

**Places:**

Ft. Jackson, SC

**Types:**

essay



**Names:**

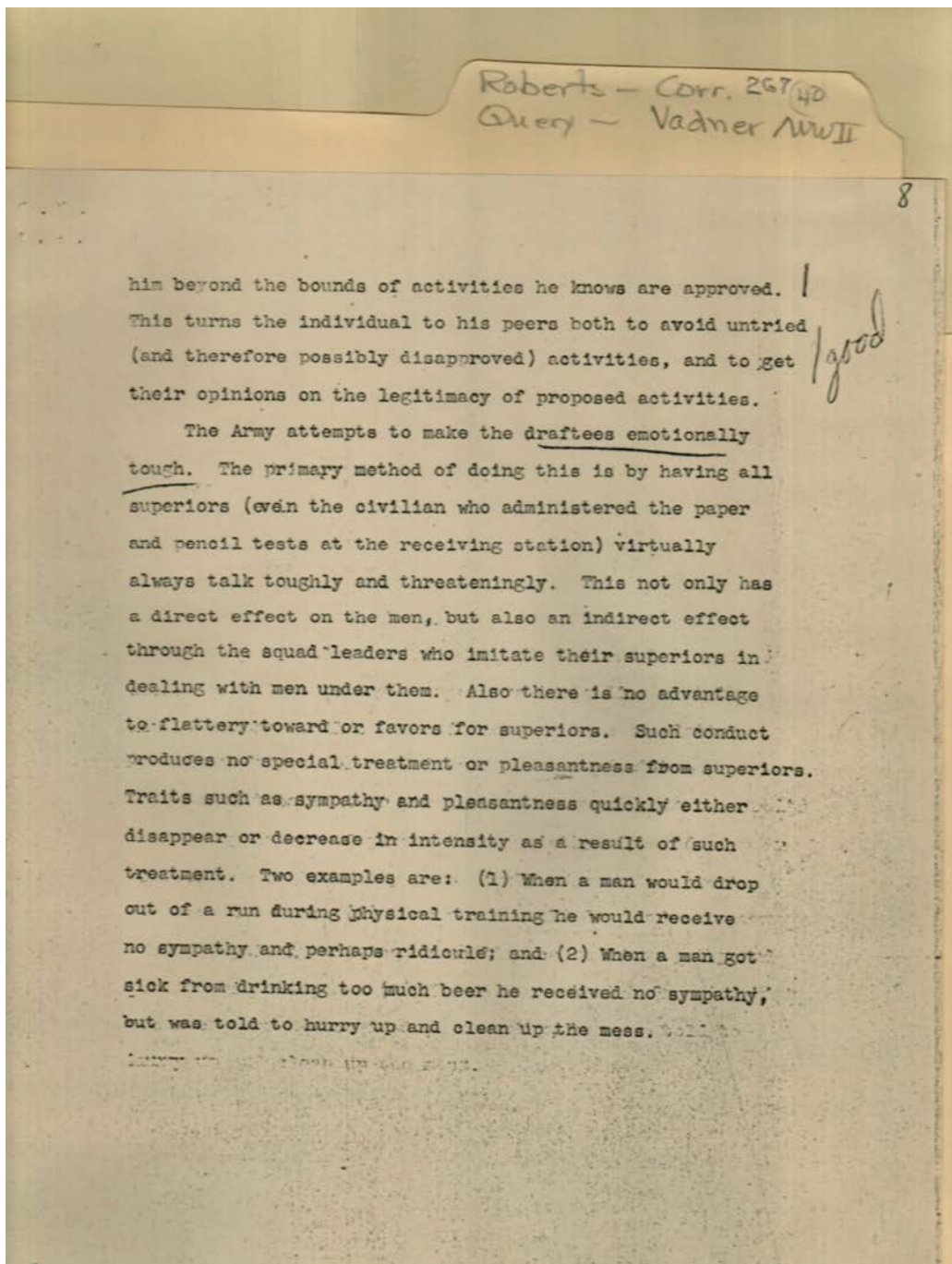
Basic Military  
Training

**Places:**

Ft. Jackson, SC

**Types:**

essay



**Names:**

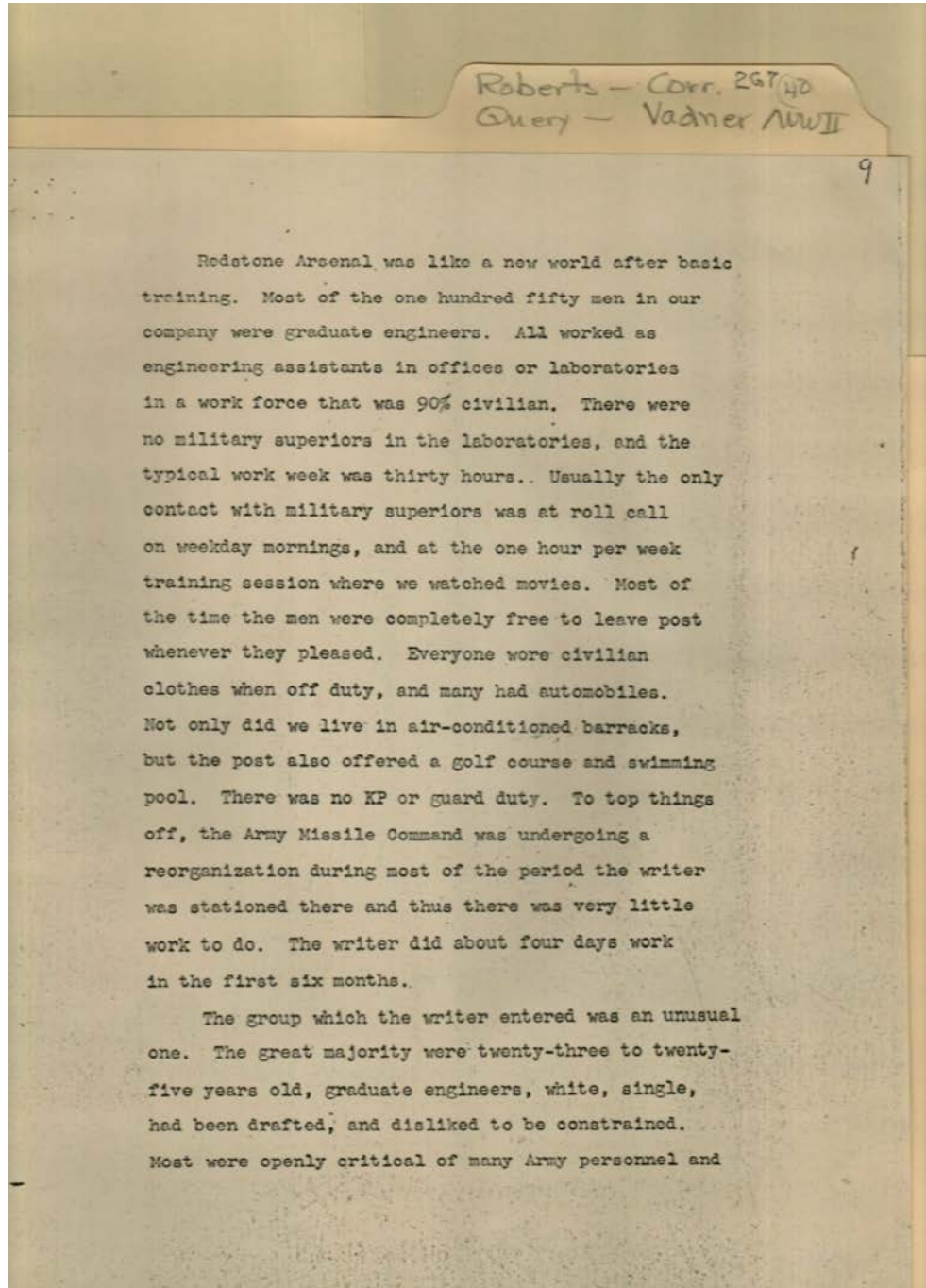
Basic Military  
Training

**Places:**

Ft. Jackson, SC

**Types:**

essay



**Names:**

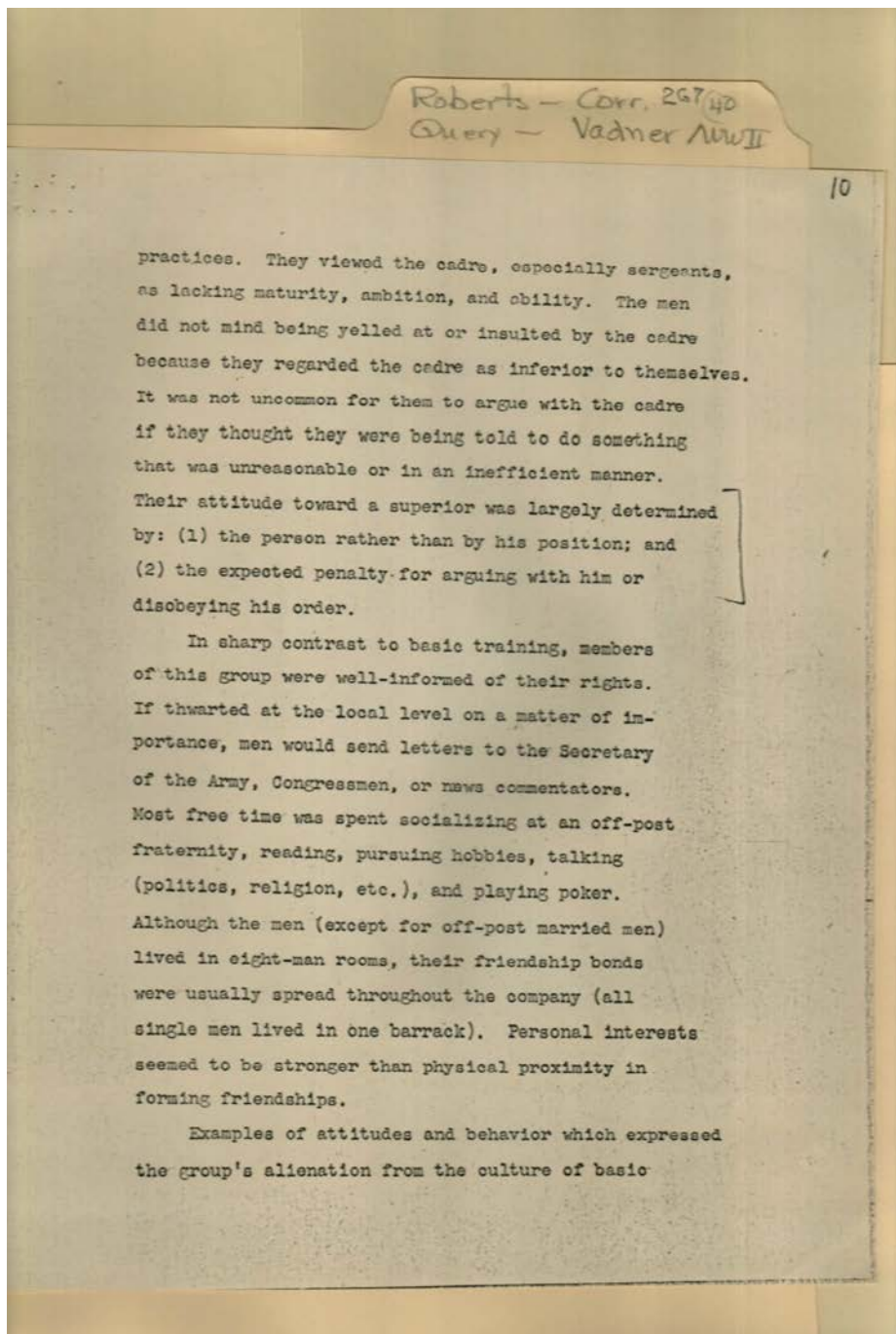
Army Missile  
Command

**Places:**

Redstone Arsenal,  
AL

**Types:**

essay



**Names:**

Army Missile  
Command

**Places:**

Redstone Arsenal,  
AL

**Types:**

essay

Roberts - Corr. 26740  
Query - Vadner WWII

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training are: (1) marching out of step on their way to and from weekly training sessions; (2) films seen in training sessions were often regarded as propaganda; (3) those who retained their basic training orientation were regarded as "squares;" (4) physical training and rifle tests were regarded as annoyances rather than as chances to excel; and (5) some men played a game where each was permitted only three salutes per month. When a general rode by one day while a group of such men were walking outside the barracks, they turned and raced into the barracks.

When the writer started his tour of duty at Redstone Arsenal he was in a state of conflict. In addition to observing the vast changes in the external and internal systems, he was urged by his new peer group to deviate from regulations and orders (group norms). The writer had been thoroughly conditioned in basic training to "go by the book" and obey orders without question. He knew that quick and harsh punishment was certain to follow any deviation from orders or regulations that came to the cadre's attention in basic training.

The writer wanted to obtain peer group approval and to avoid punishment from superiors. These two goals appeared to him to be mutually inconsistent, giving rise to a state of conflict within him. At first the goal of avoiding punishment was more important to him and it guided his behavior. With more experience and observation.

**Names:**

Army Missile  
Command

**Places:**

Redstone Arsenal,  
AL

**Types:**

essay

12

Roberts - Corr. 267/40  
Query - Vadner WWII

to him and it guided his behavior. With more experience and observations in the new environment he came to realize those behaviors which fell into the category of "deviations" were much more restricted here than it had been in basic training. With this growing realization, his behavior became more and more modified until, several months later, his military attitudes and behavior were indistinguishable from those of other members of the group. He had internalized the group norms. I.R. Society again. But this time the process was different.

Even then though, the conflict did not cease completely. Rather, it lay "in the back of his mind" in diminished strength. There were three reasons for this: (1) at times the situation would "heat up" (for example, just before inspections when the barracks had to be put in good condition; and, for months at a time after we had gotten a new, tough, first sergeant or commanding officer); (2) basic training produces deep emotional changes in the recruit. The countervailing forces at Redstone Arsenal were of a much lower intensity; and (3) variable enforcement of the rules. For example, three pairs of men committed the same offense (falling asleep on guard duty during the Cuban crisis) in a two week period of time. One pair was court martialed; the others received no punishment. One man in the court martialed

which were?

**Names:**

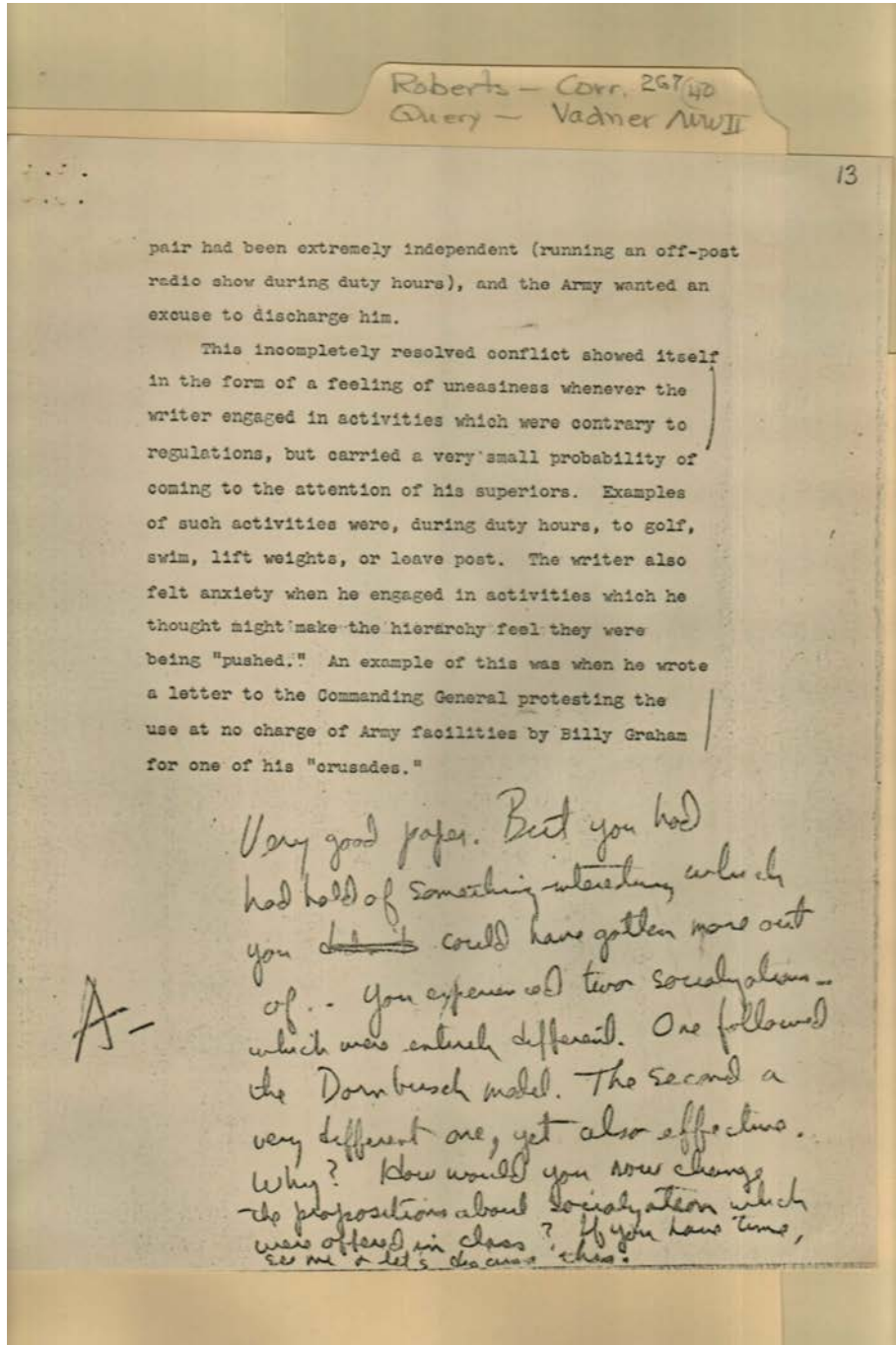
Army Missile  
Command

**Places:**

Redstone Arsenal,  
AL

**Types:**

essay



**Names:**

Army Missile  
Command

Graham, Billy

**Places:**

Redstone Arsenal,  
AL

**Types:**

essay



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# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

**Preferred Citation:** Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

**Collection Scope and Content:** The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

**Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions:** None

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**Provenance:** Gift of Johanna Shields on October 28, 2006.



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