29 July 1918.

Sweet heart:-

My letter today will not be very long as I am overwhelmed with duty today and haven't very much time to write. No news has developed since my letter yesterday except that I received no mail from you this morning. That, I don't call good news so I won't dwell on it. It is noon now and nearly mess time. Rosy and I just finished our dressings and rounds of which we have enough to occupy the entire morning.

Rosy and I are going to do some target shooting from now on and see if we can't perfect ourselves a little in the use of our 45's, although we are both fair shots now. We use bottles for targets and don't waste many bullets. It is good sport too. The news from the Front is better than ever today. The Germans are in full retreat and more advance has been made by the Allies than at any time since the Counter offensive started, all of which makes us very very happy. I hope they aren't given time to stop running until they are out of France and if they don't slow

up pretty quick they will be out of France before they know it. God grant it may be so.

It has finally stopped raining and is now a very nice day. It is still cool but if the sun remains out long it will get warm. After all I believe I like warm weather better because I like to sit in front of my tent in my shirtsleeves and take a good sun bath. My eyes are all cured now and I am going to keep them so. I never read a thing without using my glasses, and believe me dear I am glad to have them. That was the best thing you ever did for me and I surely appreciate it.

I presume the garden is fast becoming a thing of the past now. Was it a success this year? Reports we get over here indicate that crops in the States are unusually good this year and I hope the good luck has extended to your little garden. There is no doubt that it is a great help in saving expense during the entire year besides being a great pleasure in the summer.

I surely do miss the fresh vegetables we have always had and many other things as well. But then you know dear, I have always been a great eater, and it is a surprise to me that I am as contented with army fare as I am. It must be because of my healthy outdoor life, for I am most certainly healthy. In all my life I never have had such a heavy tan as I have now. I am brown as an Indian and as hard as a rock. I manage to get plenty of exercise to keep in good condition and only hope that after I get home the reaction will not make me too lazy to keep it up. I'd hate to get as fat as I was when I went into the Army. I will have to have all of my clothes cut down, especially my cut-away coat as that was too big for me before I left home.

What will I do for clothes for our

trip. I won't be able to go until we have them fixed will I?

Well my Darling Girl I am going to close. It is mess time and I don't want to be late. I will write again tomorrow. I hope to get some mail from you this afternoon and will be very much happier if I do. God bless you dear and my dear babies and sister. I love you all with all my heart and soul and Oh! how I long to be with you. Love me dearest as I love you and pray often, that the war may end and we may soon be together again. Goodbye sweetheart. I love you.

P.D.

1st Lt. Arvel B. Smith U.S.R.C.