

(8/20/17)

Marie Darling:

It is now 6:30 A. M., Monday morning. I slept like a top last night, and never turned over until this A. M. at 5:30 when reveille almost pulled me out on my ear. It seemed a great deal like the middle of the night, but up I got, dressed and shaved and had a wonderful breakfast at mess. Then I returned at once to the tent as I wanted to get a letter off to you this morning. We are going to have a busy day to-day and this may be my only opportunity.

It feels as if it is going to be a mighty hot day. One consolation is the splendid shower baths we have here, and which rest us after the day's work so much. I telegraphed Jack last night and will either see him or hear from him to-day. He wired me from Washington, and I guess he is on his way to Junction City, Kansas. Is his office closed up dear or has he still got it open?

I should like to have him come now as I want him to meet the five men who are here. After we all get home I want to have them all come up to Michigan and Eugene Smith and his wife and you & I will give them a party, for they have certainly been mighty nice to me.

I wish you could see Suell. He is about the handsomest man I ever have seen in my life. I know you would be crazy about him. I put in my second pay voucher yesterday and

the check on it will be coming on the 1st of the month. I put my Grand Rapids address on it so that on that date you will receive my full check for August. Also I will send you some from my July check and my mileage when it comes.

Officers all tell me that the Department red tape with the first check is almost impossible to break through but that with the second one everything is easy. I guess I told you in yesterday's letter that we have received our orders to proceed to Fort Benjamin Harrison just as soon as we have finished here. That will be about the end of this week the way we are going now, and it will have been a lot of valuable experience for me, tempered only by the lonesomeness of separation from you.

You have no idea what it means to me dear, to be away from you so long. It is only by loving your picture here, that I can console my self. I am certainly proud of those pictures and everyone has seen them.

Babies are well I suppose, because you have told me nothing to the contrary, recently and no news is good news. My God, how I would like to see the darlings. I'll bet Protter

is a comical little rascal by this time. He has always been so funny and as he gets older he gets funnier. Kiss him and my little sweet heart Marie, and tell them Daddy's loving them and thinking of them every moment of the day.

You should see me with my swagger stick dearest. One of these officers, George Stewart of St. Louis, gave it to me yesterday and I am a regular dude now. My overcoat hasn't caught me yet. I am tracking it and should get it right soon. I could use about 2 more suits of underwear and a couple of sheets (cheap and narrow) maybe 4 of them. Also a suit of pajamas. The light wright striped bath robe too. These things will not be necessary until I get to Fort Harrison and then I will write you again about them.

It seems rather good to get into a tent again. You know it has been years since I have done any camping and I used to enjoy it so. However, permit me to say that I will sure appreciate my own little bed and dinner table when

I get home. There is no place like home darling, and the truth of that old old saying has never existed in quite so much before as it has now.

Remember Honey, in all the hardship and trials you are going through now, your faith in God and your church. Pray to Him for strength and wisdom and courage to be brave until your dear Daddy gets back. I do every day, and ask Him to keep you all safely from harm and trouble.

Darling I must close now. Kiss my sweet babies for me. Love them for me and tell them how much Daddy loves them.

Worlds of love and kisses dearest.
If I can I will write again today.

Love, love, love.

"A.B."