



HOTEL DOWNEY  
LANSING, MICH.

POST MARK  
8/6(?) / 17

Mother Dear:-

Before I talked with you on the Phone tonight I had written you a letter and after our conversation, I felt so rather depressed that I simply had to write another. It wasn't a very cheerful conversation was it dearest girl? I could just see how lonesome and downcast you were and it naturally made me feel the same way.

Now Darling I am going over this whole thing with you again. Major Keene who is in command of this detachment I am with, is a member of the National Medical Advisory Board, which is a Board organized for the purpose of advising the War Department on things Medical. He tells me that the Board already has power conferred by the President, and legalized by act of Congress, to draft into service "Any individual whose services can be of special value to the Government." And that on that basis the Board has completed and formulated



plans which provide for the conscription of "All Doctors of Medicine and Surgery between the ages of 30 and 50". Also that the Government does not consider the families of commissioned officers as dependents on themselves. Therefore, I did all I could do - either enter the service as I did, as a commissioned officer with a salary of \$166.00 per mo. or be drafted later as a first class private on a contract price of \$75.00 per month.

There is absolutely no way in which I could have escaped the service. That is positively a fact. So I am in a much better condition than I would have been had I waited to be drafted.

All the above is absolutely positive fact, and on record in the War Dept.

Now - since I am in it, I have got to stay in it. It is not possible to get out except by desertion and that is punishable by two things, life imprisonment or execution. On those accounts, I do not consider it.

It is hard Sweetheart, for us to be apart. It does seem strange that I should be ordered into service so





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much before others, but it will only serve to secure my promotions that much earlier. I am sure that in two or three months I will have a captaincy and then I can send you more money.

Now about money. Money and extravagance have always been our greatest besetting sins and temptations. We have always had all we need. We have never wanted for a thing. Now there has arisen an emergency and it must be treated as an emergency.

Let's go over the whole matter again. We owe the bank \$40,000. Interest on that amounts to \$600.00 per year. We have \$40,000 at least per year from Wallace Furn. Co. We have \$60.00 from Globe and \$60.00 from Holland St. Louis. Now you have on your W. S. L. 8% of \$29,500 or \$2360 per year. You have \$500.00 from Parker Bros. note. You should have \$50.00 per mo. or \$600.00 per year from Tred. You will





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used which will cut that down still more. So I haven't spent so much after all considering our Statter bills etc.

Wife dearest, I admit I am extravagant, and I also admit that you are.

$\$176 + \$60.00 = \$336.00$ .  $\$1,000 - \$336.00 =$   
 $\$664.00$  which has been used up in two weeks except for the balance you have on hand which is about  $\$200.00$ .  
Now I will get along on what I have with me. I have  $\$45.00$  and must pay my bill here, my fare to Indiana, and my living while there out of that. My first pay check will be about  $\$85.00$  and my mileage should bring that to about  $\$115.00$ . I may have to keep  $\$10.00$  or maybe  $\$5.00$  of that, but I will send you every cent of it if possible. I won't need any money at Fort Harrison. My living now is not costing me over  $\$4.00$  per month, and I am living well. Your dividend check will be on hand in two or



three weeks and if you are careful what you have on hand now will easily last until then. I am in favor of selling the car but not hastily. You may find that after things strike their level you can easily afford to run it. Use your own judgment about that.

Don't forget to call on the Wallacis or Dave at any time for advice and help.

Honey Dear, please look at this thing as I do. It is the greatest sacrifice I ever have made or ever will make. It is a great trial to have to leave home and family and give up a good business, for duty's sake. It is fully as hard for me as for you, but I realize that it was not only necessary but inevitable. Therefore dear girl I try to make the best of it and be brave. Be a good girl and help me to bear it by also being brave, and by saying to yourself that any sacrifice one can make for his





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country's sake, is not too great.  
Pray to God for strength for both  
of us, so that each may cheer the  
other with fortitude.

Don't worry about money. Figures  
don't lie and the true figures are  
on this paper. Just be careful  
and judicious - ask for help and  
advice from our good friends  
whenever it is necessary, put  
your trust in the Lord, and keep  
a stiff upper lip. If matters are  
not so it is wise for us to be to-  
gether in Indiana we must "grin  
and bear it". We can do it. And  
my Darling Girl, just love me  
all the time and remember that  
not a moment passes but your  
own sweet self is ~~in~~ in my  
thoughts and that I love you  
with all the love that God has  
made me capable of. And believe



me dearest, that is a great love.  
My daughter just broke my heart  
tonight. Her voice was so sweet.  
I'd love to see you all but of course  
it can't be done. Brother will be  
all right, but you must call a  
doctor every time anything were  
disturb you. I'd call Brotherhood  
I believe.

Please take good care of your-  
self dear. I leave at 2:30 tomorrow  
for Indianapolis and as I told  
you in my other letter, my address  
will be % State Mustering Officer  
U. S. Army, Indianapolis, Indiana.  
I will write to you every day and  
when I am ready for my things  
I will tell you in a letter.

Sweet heart, I have gone over  
things as thoroughly as possible.  
It doesn't seem to me that you  
should worry now. Don't forget  
that no bill needs to be paid  
untill 6 months after my re-  
turn. And you have every





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moral and legal right to take  
advantage of this moratorium.  
Goodnight Love dear. Love me  
always. Give my love to Ted  
and my dear dear kiddies. Remem-  
ber that I can't be brave unless you  
are. Write me every day.

Dearest Love, Sweet heart.

W.B.





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