

August 17-1918.

My Dearest Marie:-

It has been two days since I have written to you and while I am ashamed of myself, as I very rightfully should be, I have a good excuse for my negligence and am going to use it. I have been laid up for three days with a most active attack of the old Fort Harrison trouble and was really very sick. I have felt like doing nothing at all, and have therefore most conscientiously done nothing at all. I am fine now - and even feeling better than I was before, so the attack proved beneficial in the long run, but believe me, most uncomfortable and enervating while it lasted. I had plenty of company in my misery too. Several others were

sick at the same time and this has been anything but a happy camp for the past few days.

Other things have been happening - in fact events have been occurring with such kaleidoscopic activity and variety that our heads have been in a whirl. I wrote you the other day that Major Morrow was C.O. and that we were all very much pleased for we like him. Well - he was relieved and a Major Collins sent to command but something was wrong with his orders so Major Morrow retained command. Then Collins got his orders straightened out and took the command and immediately started to raise H - . H₂ had Villars and me both

listed for transfer to Dijon²
and we were to leave in a very
few days, when someone dis-
covered that he was outranked
by Major Morrow, and wrote
to Headquarters and last night
a wire came relieving Collins
and reinstating Morrow. Great
rejoicing in the camp. We are
all thrilled to death because it
means that for a while more
at least this outfit will
remain intact. It's a great
life, this Army life is. I am
willing to live it for the sake
of the cause but how any
one could be so wild as to
select it for a vacation is
more than I can understand.
Moonlight nights still

continue, with however, a
growing and increasing threat
of rain, so we may not be
worried by a full moon after
all. I have surely got some
funny things to tell you when
I get back. We are not very
busy now. I finished all my
work at 9:15 and didn't start
untill 8:30 so you can judge
that it is rather quiet. I go
on duty at 1:00 o'clock and
may get some new work in
this afternoon.

It has now been very
nearly a month since I have
received mail from you. I got
a long letter from Ruth yes-
terday but would like to get
some mail from home. It

is hard to go so long without a
letter but I think that from
now on I will have no trouble.
Arrangements have been made
such that our visit will not
be interfered with by each Division
al change here, and that will
be a great help. We will get
our mail regularly each day
now, if the new plan works
out as promised. I hope it
does. I am tired of these long
mailless intervals and will
be glad to have them stopped.

Some of the men got back
from leave yesterday and they
brought back some souvenirs
to some of the officers. I got
a very cute little manikin
which I am going to send home

to brother when I have ac-
cumulated enough to make it
worth while to send you a
box. I am gradually picking
up little things and am
going to send you another
box soon. As the number of
American troops increases over
here, a larger and increasing
number of lace makers appear,
and the streets are full of girls
and women making these
lace collars etc. Do you want
more of them and the lace
handkerchiefs? I can get them
very easily if you like them.

I am trying hard to get some
of the linen lace edging such
as you want, and believe I
have some cornered. I will

get you all ⁴ I can of it and
hope you will like it.

Well my sweetheart, I
must close now. Give my
love to my dear babies and
to my dear sister. Kiss them
for me and tell them to love
me. I will write you more
tomorrow and from now
on nothing will interfere
with my daily letter, but I
am sure you will forgive
me for letting the two
days go by, as I really did
have a good excuse, don't you
think so? I love you dear,
with all my heart soul and
might, I love you. I think of
you every minute of my life

and long, Oh! so much, for
the time when I will be with
you again. I love you darling
girl. I love you. Loads of
love and millions of kisses
from Daddy

1st St Ansel B. Smith U.K.C.