

France, October 29th, 1918

My Darling Wife:-

I am again using the typewriter but this time it is for a very good reason. The supply of ink around here is so well depleted that it is advisable to use it only for signing and addressing letters, and although there may be plenty tomorrow, I am constrained to be economical with it today. It is at all times very difficult to get good fountain pen ink, and to use ordinary ink in a fountain pen is to ruin your pen.

The news this morning was the best we have yet had for it was regarding the capitulation of Austria, and there is no doubt of its official character. This means only one thing and that is that the end of the war is very much closer. Germany is now practically alone, for Turkey is only nominally an ally of hers now, and is of no possible military value to her as an ally. The strain on Germany from now on will greatly hasten the breaking point, and it is not going to be very long before the whole thing will be too much for her, and the war will end. The day that war does definitely end will be the most wonderful day in the world's history, and the day you and I meet for the first time, will be the most wonderful day in our history. Can you imagine that day Dearest? Won't it be wonderful?.

Niether of us can realize the extent of the joy we will experience when we first meet after the only separation we have ever known, and also the last. Nothing will ever happen again to take us from each other. Our lives are going to be so wonderful after this war, that it will make up for all the suffering we have undergone during the war.

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Rosy told me that he wrote a letter to you yesterday and told you of my promotion. He also told me that he said my promotion was the first he has heard of in the A.E.F. from Lieut to Capt, and he is right. It is the first I have heard of although I know that fifty were to be made. Promotions over here are a much different thing than they are in the States. I am not at all elated over mine, for I have felt as though I should have had it along time ago, but there are many others here who should have theirs, so no complaint should be made by me.

The weather has cleared up beautifully now and it is as if the good Lord, taking cognizance of the fact that we need good weather to lick the Germans, has arranged that it shall be good until the job is done. There is nothing but victory in the air. The French around here are as happy as if it were Christmas time, and are already celebrating the defeat of the Germans. It is in the air. These are great days we are living through now.

I have attempted to make some arrangement to increase my allotment to you dearest, but there is some doubt that it will go through all right, and I don't intend to risk it. Some of our officers have had a lot of trouble with changes in their allotments and they have terminated with the Government owing them a lot of money, and as the collection of money from the Government is always a painful affair, I will take no chances, but will send the money to you by postal money order. Then I will be certain of its safety and its chances of reaching you are as good as can be expected.

Well Dear I will close for today. I will write again tomorrow. Give my dearest love and loads of kisses to the babies, and with lots to you dear girl, I am your loving husband,

Alfred M. Smith
Captain M.C. USA.

A.B.