

France, November 9th, 1918.

My Dearest Wife:-

It is now a little after eleven o'clock, and while waiting for the mail to bring me a letter from you, I am going to write mine to you. I am using the typewriter purely for purposes of amusement today. I hope that you will consider the excuse sufficient, and will not be disgusted with me for using it. Yesterday I spent all the afternoon in the Dentist chair, and I never have suffered so much in all my life with my teeth as I did then. He prepared two cavities for inlays, and has one more to get ready, on which he is going to work next Monday. I am glad that he was able to get a little gold for the inlays, although I guess he has only enough for the two, and I will have to have the other filled with amalgam or cement. I can then have it drilled out and filled by Ray Sexton when I get home.

I got a letter from Mrs. Harter yesterday, enclosing a picture of her which she says represents "after", meaning I suppose, a representation of her improvement after the treatment I gave her. I must say, that although she has unquestionably gained weight, it has not added to her good looks at all, and in fact I think it has detracted therefrom if possible. I am not going to reply to her letter, as I have enough correspondence outside of my own family now.

I would give a whole lot dear to see your face as you read the papers each day now. Isn't the news wonderful? It really looks as if the end of the war is now only a matter of days, and that the Germans are on the verge of complete and unconditional surrender. I can hardly realize that the end has come so quickly and so completely, for it is something we none of us expected to come for a year or two more. It is too good to be true. The papers this morning bring the news that while we are waiting for the armistice to be signed, the entire German fleet



is in revolt, and Bavaria, one of Germany's chief mainstays, has declared itself an independent Government. Such news must gladden the hearts of countless thousands in the States, who have sons, husbands and fathers over here, and believe me, it is fully as gladdening to all of us over here, who are so anxious to finish the job and get back to God's own Country again. Although we will still be separated for some time after Peace is declared, there will no longer be the same worry to you, and we will both know that we will be united as soon as the transportation problem will permit of my transportation. Just how long that will take nobody knows. All we do know is that the army was brought over in a hurry and it should go back much faster, for the convoy system of transit will be done away with.

I will have a big job on my hands keeping the personnel of the Detachment in control during the days we are waiting for orders to move, but I have already made plans, which I am sure will solve that situation. There will be lots of drilling and hiking- things which have been done away with since we began to functionate as a hospital. I have not heard from Jack for months. Have you heard from him, or anything about him? I have written him several letters, and can not understand why he does not reply. I hope he is well, and that this epidemic of Grippe and pneumonia has not hit him.

Well Dear, I will close now, and write more tomorrow. I am immensely relieved to hear that you have recieved the box. I was sure that you would not be as well pleased with the net lace centerpiece as with the other, but sent it so that you could see what the women here do for a living. I saw it made. The monogrammed piece is much better. I am glad that you liked the bed spread and other things, and I am sure that you will like the things that I am sending to you today. This box contains the following things:-

(see next page)



"3.

- 1 embroidered chemise.
- 1 doz. Mirecourt lace doilies.
- 1 piece Malines lace insertion.
- 22 pieces Mirecourt lace edging.
- 1 heavily embroidered table piece.
- 3 embroidered handkerchiefs.

As far as I can remember that is all, and you can make any disposition of them you see fit. I have ordered a buffet cover of the dimensions you sent to me, of embroidery and Mirecourt lace. I am sure that it will be a very pretty piece. I am going to get some more chemise for you, and will let that end my purchases. I know how you like the things, and it gives me infinitely more pleasure to get them for you than it does to take trips. I have no desire to go on a trip. Goodbye for today Dear. Give my dearest love and millions of kisses to Glad the babies and to your own sweet self. I love you dear, with all my love. I love you.

*A.B.*

*Ansel B. Smith*

Ansel B. Smith Capt M.C.

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Amer E.F. France.