

26 Febraary 1919.

My Dearest Wife:-

I have been so busy for the past two days that writing has been out of the question, but I have a little time now, and am going to take advantage of it. We have been hurrying under pressure to get ready to leave, and there are so many things to do, and so many of them that depend on me that I have had no time at all to devote to anything except the work on hand. I have been in the same fix before however, so that I am sure that you will overlook the fact that I have not written for a couple of days. We care little for anything except that we are going home and as you can imagine, all the men are imbued with a spirit that they have never had before. It will not be more than a day or two now before we will be on the way, but even that long to wait seems a long time, when one has been waiting so patiently for a year.

The men are having nothing much to do except a little drill, and an occasional hike, but they do not mind that at all, and there is so much work in the office that I am unable to go with them. Therefore I am having Dempsey and Nuts relieve me of a good deal of the military work that I would have to do ordinarily. The weather has cleared up nicely, and it looks as if we would have nice weather to leave Germany. There is so much disturbance in this Country now That I will be glad when we see the last of it, for I will not be sure until then that we will be sent home. I am scared to death that with our usual luck, we will be sent to Russia or some other heathen country, but of course there is really very little danger of that.

It has been several days now since I have had word from you in the mail. I had a very nice letter from Ed Mayne yesterday, and was glad to hear from him. He apparently has been very successful, but that means very little to me now, as anyone who stayed at home during this thing had an opportunity to get rich that will never present itself again. I have little sympathy for them, and to say the least I do not envy them at all. However I am sure that Ed is a good friend of ours, and will always be nice to him, little as I care for his wife. I am in a nasty frame

of mind today, as you can probably judge from the tone of this letter in spots. It has been a great strain on me, all this preparation, and I am beginning to feel it as well as show it. I will be glad when we are on the way and I can relax a little.

I am glad that Mr; Coleman shows a good spirit, for that is one place where I will have to expect a hearty spirit of cooperation when I return, and it is more or less comforting to know that it is being shown so that I will have less to worry about when I get back. I wish to state however, that I am not worrying about a thing except getting back. I am sure that everything will take care of itself after we get there.

Is Jack home yet? I have heard from him also recently, but it was a letter written ^{before} ~~after~~ he had orders to go home, so that I know nothing about him for some time. Let me know how he is, and how everything is going there, regarding our offices. I want to have offices near him if it is possible. Tell him to bear it in mind when he picks out a location.

I must close now Dearest. It is time for me to get out and get busy again, and I have a lot to do. I am sorry that I am unable to write longer, but it is so, and I am sure that my letters will be more or less spasmodic from now till I get home, but never mind, I am on the way. I love you Dearest. I love you. Give my love to the babies and to Glad. I will be with you soon. I love you so much. Goodbye untill my next, Dear,

Daddy.

Ansel B. Smith

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