

EVACUATION HOSPITAL "2 USA  
PORTILLON , FRANCE. NANTES DISTRICT. AMER EF FRANCE.  
"1TH MARCH 1919.

(29)

My Dearest Girl:-

It is now 1:30 P.M. and I have just finished dinner. This morning I took the company for a long hike, in which we covered about seven miles, and as the day was very beautiful we all enjoyed it very much indeed. I had them all in a good sweat before we got back, and Nuts asked me whether we intended to walk to St. Nazaire. I love these long walks after all, and the exercise is splendid for me, as it is keeping me in better condition than I have ever been in all my life.

This after noon at two thirty o'clock there is a Summary court trial of one of the men who was drunk and disorderly the other day. There is very little of it in this command, and I am glad as it is a hard matter to control the men in an area like this, where there is so little for them to do. However some of it must be expected, and when it occurs it is very rigidly treated. They get no consideration from me, as the maintenance of discipline is too important a matter at the present time to the whole organization.

This is the first day in about two weeks that the sun has done any great amount of shining, and it has really been a beautiful bright day, but a little cold. I am more firmly convinced than I ever have been that The United States is the only country on earth that is fit to live in, and I will never have any desire to revisit this country at any time. You will get no requests from me to travel abroad Dear, so you will never have to worry about the trip on the ocean. I want just one more of them, and then I am through.

The time seems to pass rather quickly even if there is so little to do around here. The mornings are so nearly all taken up with the hikes, and the afternoons are not so long that they are unendurable. I go to town only on business, and never stay any longer than I have to, for I would rather be at the camp so that the men can find me when they want me. I am more or less of a Daddy to the whole lot of them, and that is one thing that makes the work that I have to do so interesting. It carries a lot of responsibility also, and I have many worries about the men, together with the worries that come from other matters. But I like it and will always look



on it as the best part of my entire army experience. I wish I had had nothing else to do since I joined the army. I have recieved no word as yet from the recommendation that was sent in for my Majority, but as I don't expect to I am not disappointed. I may get it on the day I get my discharge, and if I do it will give me a lot of pleasure to refuse it and tell them what I think of it. However if it comes in reasonably soon, I will accept it with thanks, for I really feel that it is a rather nice thing that I have even had the recommendation.

The river valley which we are situated in now, is not the Loire river valley but is the Sevre. It is at present in a state of very high flood, and the fields that we would otherwise use for the men to play base ball and football, are entirely under water. That makes it doubly hard to entertain them and keep them out of mischief. I have procured from the old lady at the billet where I am living, a lace Breton head cap, which is one of the characteristic head pieces that are seen here, and which are very picturesque. I got a small one for little Marie. I hope that she will like it, and I know that it will look very cute on her. I have looked and looked for something to bring little Brother but as yet have had no luck. There are no toys in the whole country I guess, and I have so far found nothing that he would care a cent about. However I will keep looking and I may have some luck finally.

Well Darling Girl I must close for today. I will write again tomorrow. I love you Dearest. Give my dearest love to the babies and Glad, and lots of kisses too. With all the love in the world and a million kisses to you Dear, I am your loving husband,

"A.B."

Ansel B. Smith Captain MC USA

Evacuation Hospital "2

Amer EF France. Portillon, Nantes District.