

Evacuation Hospital "2
Portillon, France.

April 3rd, 1919.

My Dearest Wife:-

I went to town yesterday with Rosy and Colonel Schleiter, for two reasons-- one, to get my pay check, and the other to have a farewell dinner with the Colonel. We had a most delightful dinner at the Cafe of Maurice, and I most thoroughly enjoyed it. I have been a very well behaved man since I have been over here, and I did not depart from the usual good behavior that I practice, yesterday. I will be at least one returning American soldier, who will have a clear conscience, and it is a source of great comfort to say the least, but Oh! what stories I will have to tell you about the wickedness of this country.

I drew my money yesterday, but am going to keep it, as I want to have enough to get home with, and there is a possibility that I will need quite a lot. The rumors are not only persisting regarding our departure, but they are getting thicker all the time. There is every reason to believe that we will be on the way to the ship in a very few days, maybe by the end of this week. That seems almost too good to be true, but it looks that way, and it may be so. Won't it be a grand and glorious feeling that I will have when we are really on the way home?

I went to the Palace de Beaux Arts in Nantes yesterday, and saw a most wonderful collection of old masters, and some beautiful sculpture, and bronzes. Day before yesterday I went to the Cathedral, and Sweetheart, I never have seen such a wonderful thing. I also visited the Chateau and palace of Queen Anne of Brittany, which was also a very interesting thing to see. Both of these structures were built in the 12th century. They are about the first things of great historical interest that I have been able to see, for I have been so busy ever since I have been in the Army. It has been no sight seeing expedition for me, I assure you.

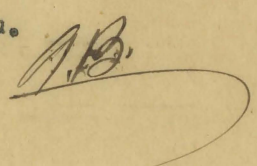
The weather is a great deal better now than it has been for a long time. The river does not go down very much, but it is sunny and ever so much more pleasant than when it is raining. I am very glad that I have had an opportunity to see this country, as it is without doubt the most beautiful part of France that I

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have had a chance to see. I am particularly glad that such is the case, as I had a very poor opinion of the Country before arriving here. I can't rave about it too much now.

I have had no answer as yet to the cable that I sent to you. I have no idea what the reason can be. It may be that it never reached you, but it hardly seems probable that three cablegrams would go astray and if this has it will make the third. You will not wonder that I have little faith in Cabling to you. I have had no mail for nearly a week but I expect that some will arrive for me in this morning's mail. I hope so Dear, for it is hard to be without mail for so long. I know that you feel that way when you get no mail from me, but I think that it must be a stronger feeling in my case, as I have had so much to worry about lately regarding Brother's health, and the state of finances at home. I have no worries at all, if you have enough to last until I get home, for the amount of stock you have to sell will amount to very little after all, and it will make no difference when I get home.

Well Dear I must close. I have to go for a hike with the company and if I delay any longer it will be too late. I will write again tomorrow. Give my dearest love to the babies and Glad. With all the love in the world, and a million kisses to you Dear, I love you.



Ansel B. Smith Captain MC USA

Evacuation Hospital "2 USA

Amer E F France,