Evacuation Hospital "2. USA,
Portillon, France, 7th April 1919.

My Darling:–

Well I had a great relief yesterday, when the mail man returned from Nantes, and brought with him the reply to the cablegram that I sent to you about a week ago. I was greatly relieved to learn that the illness of Brother and my dear daughter had amounted to nothing serious after all, for I was greatly worried about it for a time. It is hard to get news of that sort when so far from home, and there is no expeditious manner of determining whether there is any really serious trouble at home. So now I feel very much better than I did at first, and will feel better still when I get later mail from you. I hope that you have not followed your first inclination to stop writing to me, for I will be able to get two or three more deliveries before I leave here.

The reports still all point to our very early departure from this place for the port, and when we arrive there we will go on the ship in a day or two at the latest. There are several other organizations here who are also waiting as we are but who have been here a much longer time than we have, and I really don't understand why it is that there is not better arrangement made for the transportation of these units that have been at the front ever since they have been in France. The units that have been in the rear all the time over here seem to have the preference over we who have been at the front and that is a matter hard for me to understand. It hardly seems right.

Rosy and I are going downtown this P.M. to take a bath. There is a bathhouse there that has very nice rooms, and excellent tubs, and it is a pleasure to go there and get a good tub bath with plenty of hot water and soap. It costs us as a rule about two francs for a bath, and is well worth it. I will be glad when I can have my bath every morning as I do when I am at home, but I will have to be patient for that as I do for every other thing that I want. It is hard to wait and be patient about it. I have learned that art at least in the army, and I guess that it will never be regreted by me.

The weather still remains beautiful. In fact it is improving each and every day, and is now really wonderful Spring weather. The sun shines all day, and the
river is very rapidly drying up. I will be glad when it is entirely dry so that I will be able to take the company out for a little drill every day. That will be good for them and for me too. It is hard to keep them busy and amused. However we went past this last pay day with little or no trouble, and I look for no more now. There were only two cases of drunkenness and they were not at all bad. I feel rather satisfied that the men are behaving as well as they are, although it is not hard to understand as they are all so anxious to get home.

We are having very excellent food at this place. The French woman who cooks for us at the hotel where we eat is an excellent cook, and we are having the best food that we have had at our mess since we have been in Europe. It is worth something to have a change from the old army diet that we have had to eat so long, and takes a great deal of the curse off the place. I am afraid however that I will be getting fat again if we are here much longer, for it is so good that I am eating more than I should, as I always do when there are good things to eat. However as you seem anxious to have me come home as fat as when I left, I guess you will not be disappointed when you see me.

Well Dearest I will close now, and will write more tomorrow. I love you Dear, with all my heart and soul. I love you. Give my love to the dear babies and Glad. Tell them that I will be home soon. With all the love in the world to you Dear, and millions of kisses,

Ansel B. Smith, Captain MC USA.
Evacuation Hospital "2 USA
Amer E F France.