

Saturday – Dec. 29, 1917.

My Darling Marie:-

I was unusually blessed today. I had two of your wonderful letters and I simply can't tell you how much I enjoyed them and how much I love you for them. They are just as brave as ever dear, and I think it is wonderful that you are so cheerful under the circumstances.

I have had a terribly hard day today and am very tired tonight. I went into town early this morning and worked like a dog until 1:30 this P.M. Caught the 1:30 car back to the fort and have been on the run ever since until I am really just about all in. I am closing the exchange tomorrow evening and the Mess the next day. We may leave about then. Nothing definite as yet – all up in the air. It is rather interesting, all this excitement.

The men are infected by it and there are all sorts of rumors traveling around.

The helmets are issued to the men. They are crazy about them. Most of them are wearing them as stocking caps. I have asked several of them how they like them and they can't say enough. Rosy said they were mighty glad to get them.

Yesterday we gave them the peanuts and rest of the cookies and they were sure ticked with them. It was perfectly wonderful of you all to send that box and I tell you it was appreciated by the men. Don't send us a New Year's box dearest for it will never catch us. I have not recieved my cigarettes from Detroit yet but I know

that they will reach me all right because I left my mailing address with the Claypool Hotel and they will be forwarded to me as soon as they come.

I thank you a million times for them darling and for everything else you sent me.

I think you are the most wonderful woman on earth, as well as the sweetest and most beautiful. I did dream about you last night and I hope you will dream about me once in awhile.

I got a note from Mrs. Degen today saying my sox are on the way. I will write to her very soon. You can tell her

that my next mailing address will be Evac. Hosp. #2. American Expeditionary forces, France. She is making me another pair.

The white ones I was wearing that you gave me on Christmas, wore through the toe in three days. I wondered if the yarn is durable enough for that purpose. They are wonderful and soft on my feet, but I thought I'd tell you about it.

Rosenthal has gone "away." I know where he is but I can't tell you. He went this morning. I paid Fisher's and my mess bill today, (\$20.15 + \$11.50) and lent Villars \$10.00 and paid my Canteen bill \$5.60 so you can see that check came in mighty handy after all. Let me know

just when you get your check from the Government dearest. I want to know also when you get the \$10,000 insurance policy. I am sure they will come through on time because they say the Government is very prompt in setting the allotments. Major Lyle has made no remarks about the way I have handled the mess but I know by that that he is pleased for he always says something when he is displeased. I know I have worked hard enough and tried to overcome all the mistakes and shortcomings of my predecessors.

He does give me credit for the Christmas dinner. I'll tell you what he said about it

Out of a clear sky while we were all sitting here, he turned to me and said “The Christmas dinner was well conducted, Smith,” and that closed the matter entirely. But I understand that was a great deal for him. He is a very reticent man and has very little to say.

It has turned awfully cold here the last two days – in fact the temperature has been down to 60 below zero and we have had roaring fires out here. The bed I have now is perfect and I never have the least bit of trouble in keeping warm. The cotton sheets are really wonderful, I don't even need

to use a hot water bottle. It is late now and I am going to take a bath and go to bed. I am tired. I love you darling wife. You and my dear babies are all the world to me. I love you all, with all the love in my heart, and send you a million kisses dearest. I'll write again tomorrow Honey. Love me. Give Tud my love. Give the babies my love and kiss them for me. I love you my dearest girl. I love you.

Daddy.