

My Darling Marie:-

Up to date letters have from necessity been few and far between. We have been moving almost constantly and there has not been the least of opportunity to write but as soon as we reach our final destination I will have more chance. It is almost impossible to write now as the jerky old train we are on throws me around so that I can hardly hold my pen on the paper. You notice that I am using a pen now. I borrowed some ink from Capt. Vanderveer, for I haven't even seen my trunk yet and all my ink is in my trunk. You will see we are now in France. The trip has been wonderful and full of excitement. Lots of

things I can't tell you. We were in the midst of an exciting air raid last night and 4 bombs dropped within half a mile of us. Near enough too, let me tell you. Four of the Enemy planes were brought down by the French. It was quite exciting. Lots of my experiences I will have to save till I get home as censorship will not permit their relation. We have seen some beautiful and historic country and it has been a very interesting as well as educational trip. You should hear me talk French. I really get along fairly well and

succeed in making myself understood, which is all that is really necessary after all. The little book you gave me is a great help and I surely am grateful to you for sending it. I love to open it too dear for on the front page you have written "I love you Daddy dear." I have great hopes of getting a letter from you soon now. It has been so long since I have heard from you. I am sure that everything has been fine since I left though, and have not worried at all. I have been perfectly well and I know you are glad now that the

dangerous part of my trip
is all over. It is also a
great comfort to me, my
dear.

All the men in the com-
pany are fine. We are all
tired for our trip has been
a long one and also a hard
one, but will soon be “There”
and then we will all feel better.
I am closing for a few min-
utes. There is no use trying
to write – the train is so
rough.

It is now three days Lover dear, since
I started this letter and while I am not on
a jolting train still my hands are so cold
that I am not at all sure my writing
will be any plainer than in the first part
of it. We are in camp – I can’t tell you
where – but I can tell you that we still

have further to go. I expect we will be where we are at present for 2 or 3 weeks. We are working very hard. It is very hard to move troops and keep everything in good shape and of course I have had to find them all the way. So I have idled away mighty little time. We are in a beautiful country – hard to believe there is a war in it – but the weather is quite cold and our barracks are unheated. I keep very comfortable all the time though – due to my darling wife’s most thoughtful provisions for my comfort.

I don’t know what I would do dear if it were not for you. So many of the things you got for me are keeping me fine and comfortable now.

Before I forget – put on the outside of all packages you send me – the contents of the package. That is apparently a strict regulation over here. There will probably be mail for us in a few days now. I am so anxious to hear from you. It has been a

full month since I have and that is a long time. You have recieved a cable from me since I left and I have written several letters so you should have heard from me three or four times at least by now.

I am going to stop writing now for my hands are so cold I can hardly hold the pen but I am going to write more often in the future – at least untill we move again. Kiss my darlings for me and tell them Daddy loves them. Give Tud my love. And Sweetheart, with all the love God has made me capable of, and asking His blessing on my Darling Wife, - with loads of kisses and love, I love you.

“A.B.”

From

Lt. Ansel B Smith.

Evac. Hosp. #2. U.S. Army

A.E.F. France.