

February 6th 18.

My Dearest Darling Wife:-

Well I am happy again. Some mail came yesterday and I got fourteen letters from you in it. I never was so glad to get anything in all my life as I was those letters. There was all sorts of news in them – good and not so good – but to hear from home. Ah! if you could only realize how happy it made me and what a relief it was, to know that you and my dear babies are well and everything else is O.K. Poor little brother. It made a lump come in my throat dear, when I read of his operation and realized all the Hell of anxiety you were compelled to go through with alone. It seems too much for you to bear, but you are so brave, and one thought is consoling. That is that this war will shortly be over and then we will be reunited. That, together

with the knowledge that your dear country's battles are not being fought without your help, will make it all much easier to bear. It is the only thing that makes it bearable for me. The cause we are fighting for is the greatest ever at issue in a war. It is a privilege beyond description, to be able to give our best effort to function our country's cause. It will never be anything but a source of pride to us both in future years, that we both have done out [illegible] duty and my Darling you sacrifice and your performance of duty are infinitely greater than mine. It is wonderful to me that you are so brave. You are simply proving what your Father always said – that

you are the bravest little woman on the face of the Earth. I am glad, now that it is [allover], that Brother has had his ear fixed up. He will have no more trouble in all probability, and except for the worry and anxiety you have suffered, no one will be the worse for it.

I got no mail from anyone but you. I wanted none from anyone but you, and I want all I can get from you dear. I simply can't write every day but am writing just as often as I can possibly do it. I am not worried about your financial matters for I feel that the friends we have there will prove most dependable in case of emergency and I don't want you to hesitate to call on them

at any time. That is what I
have friends for and I know
that they feel the same way for
they are real friends. Sweetheart
I didn't let you know where I
was going, after leaving Camp
Merritt because it was strictly
against orders. I sailed from
Portland Maine, and Halifax, the
place of the great explosion disaster,
and believe me it was some disaster.
We had a good crossing. It was
really very warm at sea and
the weather was not very rough.
I was not at all sick all the
way over. Our convoy was attacked
by Submarines three different
times but we landed in England
without mishap which was

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fully in answer to your prayers dearest. We stayed in England a week and sailed across the channel, landing at a French Port next morning. Since then we have by gradual stages, reached our present point, which is in the valley of the Meuse, but is not our final station. We are here to get our equipment. After that is accomplished we will go on, "Somewhere", but it will not be for two or three weeks at least.

I am in splendid health and am glad of it, for I sure do have lots of work to do and if I felt poorly it would be a mighty hard matter. I must stop a moment now to fill my

pen.

Now I am all set to continue. It is beautiful weather. Just like Springtime at home and probably not half as severe as the weather you are having there. It is cold only at night and we have heat in the barracks now so we don't suffer at all. I am going to take a bath this morning in a wash tub. It is hard to get a bath now but it is worth the effort.

All the company is fine. The officers all send their very kindest regards to you and Tud. Tell Tud to be careful and to be good – not to stay up late nights and to remember that her Brother loves her. Give my love to Dave – Jeannette – Park

and Hazel. Tell them I think of them constantly. It is the most wonderful thing in the world – next to having a dear wife and family – to have a group of friends you love. I am glad you are still interested in the Red Cross work dear. I think you could do nothing better, to occupy your mind than that sort of work. I was glad to get the picture of you and Mrs. Keeler, not especially because her face was on it but because it was a mighty good picture of you.

I have not recieved one box or package yet since the New Year's box. That, as you know

by now, arrived on the day we left Fort Harrison. It was lucky you sent the money you did for I really did need it. I am glad you get your checks all right. I will send you some more money soon, also dearest – as soon as I get paid over here.

Now don't worry about me. I am warm and as comfortable as one can be in the army. I am perfectly well and if I could only have you, would be perfectly happy.

Every moment of my life I love you. Nothing ever seemed sweeter than to read the words of love in your letters to me. They

were wonderful letters. I adore my
dear wife with all my love and
long to see you with all my heart.
Give my love to all. Kiss my
dear babies. With millions of kisses
and oceans of love to you dear,
I am your

Loving

Daddy,

From 1st Lt. Ansel B Smith M.R.C.

Evac. Hosp #2 U.S.A.

A.E.F. France.