

February 15<sup>th</sup> 1918.

My Sweetheart:-

I wrote you a long letter yesterday and will start one at least, today. Whether or not I will be able to finish it, I do not know for I may have to leave here at any moment. I went to bed last night at 10:00 o'clock and slept fine all night, but it turned cold in the night and I sure did hate to get up this morning. After breakfast I took command of a detail of men to unload lumber at the railroad near here. We finished at noon and I have nothing else to do today unless some more lumber comes in. I most whole heartedly hope it does not come for I have done all the work I feel is necessary to earn my day's "wages". An officer is supposed to dignify his income by calling it "salary" but I really am not humorous enough for

that. I am content to call it plain  
“wages”. Well, it was cold all the  
morning and my overcoat and heavy  
gloves were very comfortable. But the  
sun came out about ten o’clock,  
and it is very pleasant out now.

There have been a lot of aeroplanes  
around today but inasmuch as they  
are all “Allied” planes they have  
not driven us to cover. I doubt if  
they would anyway, we are all  
so curious and inquisitive, and  
anxious to see an aerial battle.

Believe me they are spectacular.

After the war, such little things  
as train and automobile wrecks,  
fires and collapsed buildings etc.  
are going to seem very prosaic  
to me. It will require something  
very much out of the ordinary  
to disturb my equanimity I

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think. I dreamed of you and the babies last night Darling. I thought I was home and I just lived all through several days of our ordinary routine life with you all. I can appreciate so much now, how comfortably we lived and what luxuries we had. I believe this experience will be more valuable in that way than in any other, that it will make me better satisfied with the things we have. As far as that is concerned no one could have more than we do could they? We certainly live a comfortably easy life. How is the Hospital getting along? Has the Government taken it

over as yet? I remember that  
there was some talk of it  
when I was in Indianapolis,  
but I have heard nothing about  
it since. Give my regards to  
Miss Barrett, Miss McMahan,  
Miss Welsh, Miss Myers, and all  
my other good friends out there.  
I hope they are all on the same  
job when I return for I surely  
owe a lot of my success there to  
their friendship. I notice that  
the Grand Rapids paper is to be  
mailed to me regularly. I think  
that is fine Honey Dear, and  
again want to thank you for  
your thoughtfulness. It does  
seem that you never over

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look a thing that might make me comfortable or make life pleasant for me. I am so fortunate that I have a wife who loves me. A lot of the men over here haven't and I feel sorry for them. They don't realize how much of life that is good, they have missed.

God was good to me when he gave you to me. I love you so much my darling wife. I have never realized in all my life, that it was possible to love, the way I love you, and I know you love me. And our love has certainly been blessed dear, for we have two of the dearest

children in the world, and all the material comforts of life we can have. I love you. My love for you and yours for me, keeps me happy dear, and makes this life and our separation so much easier for me to bear. It will be wonderful to be with you all again. The most wonderful days of our lives will be those that reunite us dearest, and that we spend in doing nothing but having a good time. Where will we go on our second honeymoon dear? Have you made up your mind yet? I am going to leave it all to you dearest so that when

I return we can leave without making  
any plans and just have a wonder-  
fully good time. Well Lover, I  
will close now. It is getting a  
trifle dark and I must either  
close or light a lantern and we  
are all out of oil. Give my love  
to all. With Oceans of love  
and millions of kisses to you  
dear.

Daddy.

From

Lt. Ansel B. Smith

Evac Hosp. #2. U.S.A.

A.E.F.