

NATIONAL WAR WORK COUNCIL OF
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
OF THE UNITED STATES

"WITH COLORS"

_____ April 13 _____ 1918

My Dearest Marie:-

It seems like an age since I have been able to find time to write to you, but I know that you realize the fact that it has been impossible, or I would have done it. In fact, the very busiest three days of my life had just been passed, and a short breathing space has now come and my first possible opportunity for writing a letter. Our trip from where we were, to where we are (do you know where we are now?) was one of the most interesting I ever have had and was very beautiful. It took us through wonderful country, past some of the most beautiful scenery, and into the advanced zone of military activity to our permanent station. Unless the

Boches come along with a lot more pep than they have showed so far in this sector, we will probably remain here untill the whole thing is over.

We are not far from the front.

The guns sound as if they were in the “back yard” and at night, from a nearby hill the flashes can easily be seen. Streams of troops are in constant motion. French – American – Italian and Moroccan. Aeroplanes are in the air constantly and the air battles afford a great deal of entertainment. All of these things I have been able to observe so far in the course of my work, which has had to do with getting the train unloaded and the supplies transferred to our hospital. And we are to have some hospital. The buildings (six of them) are very

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large two storied buildings of brick and cement with a capacity of 1000 beds. The operating rooms are excellent and so are the shower baths. It is lighted with electricity and before next winter will have a good heating system installed. I believe we are going to be very comfortable here and hope nothing will happen to cause our removal because I like the place and the town as well as any I have seen in France, and as long as we have to be in France we might as well be here.

I have had no mail from you for an awfully long time and on account of

our morning it will probably
be a long time more before
any reaches us but there
is nothing to do but be patient.
It is always so much easier
when I hear from you dear.
It is hard not to get mail
but I guess under the present
circumstances we can consider
ourselves fortunate if we ever
get mail.

I am anxious to hear
from you to know how
you are and also how the
babies are. I am sure you
are all well. I know you
are careful of your own
health and of theirs and so
I never worry, but it is
reassuring to receive word
that all is well with my
dearly beloved wife and babies.
I have thought of you Lover,
every minute since we left

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our former station and have
bolstered myself up, when dead
for sleep and rest, and still work
ahead all day and all night
and all day again, by the
thought that it was all for
you dear ones. I love you
so much my darling. I know
you love me but I am
impatient to get a letter
and have you tell me so.

Well I must close. I am
Officer of the Day and must leave
to make my rounds. Kiss my dear
babies and Tud. With all my love
dearest Girl, I am your

Loving Husband.

Lt. Ansel B. Smith M.R.C.

E.H. #2. U.S.A.

A.E.F.