

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

"WITH COLORS"

April 14th 1918

My Darling Wife:-

Today is Sunday and a perfectly beautiful day. It is hot in the sun and I have one of the best sun burns I ever have acquired. All the others are going out for walks this afternoon, in different directions, but I can't go as my tour as Officer of the Day does not stop until six this evening.

At two o'clock today I have to go over for a bath and after that make my rounds again, so I decided to write you a letter now while I have some time.

I saw one of the most interesting things yesterday I have seen as yet. It was a battle between some Boche observation planes and some Allied planes. It happened at mid day and could be observed

very clearly. The final outcome was not very clear because they were some distance off at that time, but it was exciting and interesting, and not at all dangerous except to the participants.

Early this morning, unusually heavy firing woke us all up. A barrage was in progress at the front, which is not as far away from us as it was once. In fact the distance is about three times that from our home to my old office. It is hard for me to realize that I once had an office. How is all my beautiful furniture? I will be so glad to get it into some nice rooms again and start things going right.

It will no doubt be several more days before we are able to operate as a hospital inasmuch as there

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still seems to be an interminable amount of work with getting settled. Still it is a great deal of comfort to know that we are Here and have no more moving to do, at least until the Boche makes us (which won't happen) or until we leave for home. Home — God! how I wish we were headed for home. But there is lots to do before we come, and I believe there is not a man in the A.E.F. who cares to go home until it is all done. We all love our homes too well to leave anything undone which will make them safer for all time to come.

My eyes are feeling a lot better now than they did at

one time. I have done no reading at all, and the rest has done them a world of good. Still I will be very glad when my glasses come for then I can read again. There is a piano here in the Y.M.C.A. Building and this morning I enjoyed playing it a bit. I have to play the same old pieces because I have heard nothing new, but I still remember them. My fingers were very stiff, not having used them for so long.

Tonight Rosie, Villars, "Nuts" and I are going for a long walk up towards the lines and hear the artillery. I presume this all sounds very dangerous to you dear. Now I am going to tell the truth. It is not a bit more dangerous here than it is at

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home. We are absolutely safe,
so you must never worry
about my physical well being.
I promise you to take good
care of myself and I also
promise you that when we
are in a dangerous location
I will let you know. One of
the men said this morning
that this was little more
than a Sunday school picnic.

Well I must close for today.
Give my love to all. Kiss and love
my babies for me. With loads
of love and kisses to you dear.

A.B.

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

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

A.E.F.