

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

"WITH COLORS"

April 16th 1918

My Dearest Girl:-

According to present indications I am going to have a few minutes to write to you, and I sincerely hope so for the letters I have written since we arrived here have certainly been short and unsatisfactory. I have really been ashamed of some of them but I have known that you would rather receive them than none.

I got some mail last night, much to my surprise as we have expected none for some time to come. But when the orderly came in with a large handful of mail – in fact nearly an armful – I was happy because I knew I would have some in it.

No mail ever arrives at this camp but what I receive some. In fact all the others have reached the point that they are jealous of me – even Capt. [Emmons].

Well, I received nine of the sweetest letters you ever wrote and two from Dave. Did I say nine? I believe I should qualify that and say eight, because in one of the letters you certainly did give me the devil. Still I was glad to get it because I needed it. It was the one regarding Eugene Smith's money. I am too easy on people who owe me money, I know, but I guess it is because I am too kind hearted. At least I am all over it now. I think the army life has finally made me a little more

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practical in my ideas at least.

By this time you must have received the \$150.00 I sent you so this whole matter can be forgotten. In a way it did hurt me to have you jump on me so about it, but I know I deserved it and I am sorry.

I am sorry to hear that you have been having so much financial difficulty at home. I am sure dear, that it will straighten out all right and will not worry because in your subsequent letters you tell me not to. It must be very interesting to talk with "Private Pat" regarding con-

ditions over here. As a result of your conversations I am sure that you know now, that I have told you the truth when I have said I am in no danger. Also, you know that it was my duty to come over here and do my bit. Honey – no amount of argument could convince me otherwise. A man who has a family or a man who has no family, it makes no difference, his duty is to be here, and to be doing what he can do to drive the militarism out of the world. In no other way can the world be safe for people to live in.

I know dearest, that you realize this, for you are the dearest bravest little

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wife in the world and I
know that while I am needed
you wouldn't have me any-
where but where I am.

It is no pleasure over
here permit me to assure
you. We all long for home -
for God's country. I wouldn't
trade my own back yard for
the whole country of France,
but it must be saved, and
therefore thousands upon
thousands of men must
give up their lives, and
others their temporary
happiness, in the cause. And
how we do look for mail
from home. The camp has
been in deep gloom until
the mail came last night

but now every body is happy
and it is an entirely different
place. I know darling, that
there are some days you can't
write to me just as there are
some when I can't write to
you. And really dear, when
I get up at 6:00 A.M, work
straight through 'till 5:00 P.M.;
do all my cleaning up, shaving
etc; and then go to work
again untill twelve at night,
I really find it very hard
to write a letter. (The above
sentence is gentle sarcasm,
directed towards the calling
down you gave me because
I miss a day once in awhile).
I make every effort to
write each day darling, because
there is nothing I would
rather do than write to you,
except to receive your letters.
It is the only substitute I

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have sweetheart for talking to
you, and Oh! God! how I
long to see you and hold you
in my arms, and love you
and talk, talk, talk about
everything that has happened
since we parted, but chiefly
about how glad we are
to be together again.

Nobody knows how long
it will be. Over here, nothing
is heard about that. All you
hear is – "They've got to be
licked first." And there are
varying opinions as to how
long that will take. Personally
I don't think the Germans
can last much longer. I
believe the war's end is nearer
in sight now than it has

ever been. The Germans have made advances this summer, after terrific effort, and with tremendous sacrifice. But strategically they have gained nothing and I don't believe they will. And I believe further that they must do whatever they ever can hope to do, this summer. But it can't last forever. We will be together again sooner than we think and then we will certainly make up for lost time.

I know what a terrible trial it has been for you dear, and how you have suffered and my heart bleeds for you dearest. But you are so brave and so dear, and I am proud of you – more proud than of any other thing in the world.

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I think there is no person on
earth to compare with you,
and I love you, I adore
you, and worship you,
God bless you little girl.
It is women like you
that will win this war
for our country, and who
deserve all the credit for
it.

The pictures you send
of the babies are beautiful.
I have so far only received
the proofs. They are certainly
beautiful babies and they do
say cute things, don't they,
dearest? I can hardly wait
for the finished pictures
to come. I understand there
are new regulations about

sending packages over here by Parcels Post but not being sure what they are, I am not going to quote them for I am sure you must have heard them over there is they do exist.

Last night I went to the movies. Doesn't that sound funny? Well, there is a movie theatre here which has a show every night and it is a good one. It was packed to the doors last night too. We saw a "Fatty Arbuckle" picture and a picture of the story of "Samson and Delilah." On the way home we stopped at the Officer's club, which is a fairly good place, and played a game of billiards.

I have met no officers from Michigan since we

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have been here, but did meet two from Indianapolis who knew Harry Moore very well.

I developed a beautiful sty on my eye yesterday. I believe I told you about it in yesterday's letter, but it is much bigger today. That is one reason I will be glad to get my glasses. I am in excellent health – never better in my life. I have a corking sun burn which this little over seas cap has contributed to. We call those caps our "Monkey" caps. I will have my picture taken in it and in my steel helmet so you can see what a fine, looking bird you husband is. I will have them taken

just as soon as I can dear.

We are permitted to send photographs which have no scenic background of terrain, so I will have them taken soon and send them to you. Any of us who have cameras are more or less out of luck. We can take all the pictures we wish as long as there is nothing on the films, so I am not spending much time on amateur photography.

It is still raining hard. The mud is getting deeper all the time but it isn't quite as cohesive as the mud we have had past experience with so we don't mind it so much.

Well Lover dear I am going to close now and get to work. I think this letter is a little more

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satisfactory as least insofar
as length is concerned. Give
all my friends my best and
tell Dave I will write as soon
as possible but that he must
write again. Don't send me
candles in the packages as we
have electric lights here. Kiss
my dear little kiddies, God
bless them. Tell them their Dad
is loving them every minute
and thinks of them all the
time. Give Tud my love and
a kiss. Oh! I forgot. When
you write to Hap be sure
to send him my congratulations.
I am glad they were satisfied
with Dr. Fitzpatrick but
I was sure they would be
as he is as good as the

best in that line and has had wonderful experience: I also want you to specially thank Mrs. Dexter and Mrs. Nona Good for all their kind contribution to my happiness and comfort. I most certainly appreciate it and I want them to know it. And Mary and Margaret also come in for a big slice of my gratitude. I think it is wonderful the way those girls have worked and stood by you, and you tell them, dearest that they never will regret it. Tell them how grateful I am to them and how much I thank them.

Well Lover, goodbye.

I have written quite a long letter haven't I? I will try to write more like it although

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it is really hard to write much
because of the strict censor
ship.

I love you darling. With
all my heart and soul, I love
you. I think of you all my
time, with love in my heart
for you, you are so dear and
brave. God bless you and
keep you well and safe for
my return. Goodby till
tomorrow

Daddy.

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

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

A.E.F.