

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

"WITH COLORS"

April 20th 191

My Dear Dear Wife:-

Yesterday I wrote you a three page letter and intended to write another last night but when we got started at work there was no let up for me. In the afternoon I had to leave town and testify at a court martial in another town. It was a nice trip and intensely interesting. I returned to our camp at about 5:30 in the afternoon, just in time for mess. After dinner I was just getting settled and comfortable to write to you again when I was called to the hospital and worked steadily until 1:30 this morning. It was a bit hard to get up at reveille this morning but "I'm in the army now" so had to do it. The one bright spot in my whole day yesterday was a

wonderful letter from you dear.
It was waiting for me here at
camp when I returned from my
trip. It was the one you wrote
on Holy Thursday, and Oh my
Darling it was sweet. But it made
me awfully homesick for you. You
told me so many times how
you love me, and that made
me so happy. Yes dearest, I agree
that even with all the trial of
our separation we are still the
happiest couple on earth. Our
knowledge of each other's undying
and eternal love is what makes
us happy and is the only thing
that makes this possible to bear.
And don't you worry darling there
is not the slightest chance that
I won't come back to you. There
is no danger here than there is
right in my own home, and
believe me I am careful with a
capital C. And the good Lord
will not permit such happiness

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as ours to be destroyed. So my
Dearest put such thoughts out
of your mind, and just think of
how happy we will be we
will be when we are together
again. Yes darling, every minute
of our time will be spent together.
I haven't a desire in the world
except to be with you; to spend
all my time with you; to love you
and love you and love you.

I know how hard it is for
you dearest, to keep up the fight
you are having there at home. It
is a terrific struggle and you
are equal to it. I know you
are, you have done so wonderfully
and Sweetheart I can't tell you
how I love you for it. Don't
think dearest that is isn't hard
for me too. I am a man and

therefore my feelings are not supposed to be as sensitive as a woman's, but I will make a confession dear. Many and many a tear I have shed since I have been over here. Many and many a time my heart has ached and bled with the trial of our separation. Many a time. I have felt like doing almost anything just to get back to see you and my dear babies for only a minute.

~~If it wasn't~~ for the fact that whatever sacrifice we are making and suffering we are bearing is for the greatest and most wonderful country on God's green earth; that every man woman and child living in it and under the protection of its glorious flag owes every ounce of effort and every breath of life to perpetuate its safety: and

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that our own home, our babies lives, your life and our happiness must be made safe is what makes me feel that instead of a trial, we really should count it a high privelege to do our little bit in this great business. For we are not alone: there are thousands upon thousands of others going through what we are, for the same purpose. So dearest, let's just be brave and patient and it will soon be over. God bless you darling and give you strength to be brave, as you have been, and keep you in strong health, and our babies. Cheer up – there is nothing so bad, but it might be worse.

I think it is wonderfully nice of Mrs. Dexter to do so much for you and I'd like her to know how much I appreciate it. It makes it very much easier and more pleasant to have so many good friends doesn't it dearest? I think Marcia is very wise to sell her car. It seems to me it is an unnecessary war time luxury and I am sure if she does sell it she never will regret it.

Wasn't it nice of Fisher to send an Easter box to the babies? I think it was mighty thoughtful of him. I am glad you got my check dearest. You have said nothing so far about receiving two cablegrams I sent you, one of which was of congratulations to Brother. Also you have not mentioned receiving your cablegrams

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and I am inclined to believe
that it is due to the fact that
they were not sent, after all.

There is a positive order against
sending them now, or you would
recieve one occasionally.

Let me know dearest if you
have recieved them. I am
not surprised to hear that Dr.
Smith's units has not sailed
yet, but it will very soon,
no doubt. Yes, their coming
will help to end the war.

Every man that comes will
help. Every thing you women
do at home helps. Every
bit of coal, food, fuel, gasoline
saved, helps to win the war.

Every prayer helps, and believe
me dearest millions of prayers
go up to heaven every day

asking for the end of this
horrible war. Each day of
my life I pray for its end
and I pray for my dearest wife
and babies. Tell Tud, I cheat
a little once in awhile and
throw in a good word for her.
You know dear, there is
something about this war
game which puts men at
times in a praying mood.
I presume there are thousands
of men in all these armies
who pray often now, and who
never knew what prayer was
before joining the army. It
isn't fear of death for I have
yet to see one of these men
who is afraid to die. They
risk their lives every day
a hundred times without a
thought. They don't know
what fear is. But it is
the tremendous bigness of
the whole thing, and the

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realization of some great underlying force or Power directing things in their proper way: the knowledge that thousands of men are departing this life for somewhere. It is hard to explain but there is something.

There is something sublime about the love for country which has brought all these fine boys over here, isn't there dear? One cannot help but love them all, and when they come in wounded it is a wonderful satisfaction to help to relieve their suffering. Their grit and gratitude are also wonderful.

We have just set up our phonograph and it is fun

to play it. We all take an immense amount of comfort in it and I am sure glad we brought it over. I have an appointment with the dentist at 10:30 this A.M., to have a tooth filled. I will have to have it filled with amalgam and then when I return to the States, have that drilled out and an inlay put in. We have a mighty good Dentist with our outfit and it is mighty fortunate we have for otherwise our teeth might get pretty bad before we get back.

Well Darling I will close now. It is nearly time for my appointment and I must go. I have written a good long letter this time haven't I dearest? It will make up for the short letter I wrote

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yesterday. Kiss the kiddies and
Tud for me and give them my
dearest love. With worlds of
love and kisses to you dear,

Daddy,

1st Lt. Ansel B. Smith

EH2 A.E.F.