

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

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"WITH COLORS"

April 22th 1918

My Sweetheart:-

Well at last I realize just what I joined the army for. I have been working. You have often heard me describe my work in the past, as more or less arduous, but believe me dear, I have revised all of my ideas of work, and what I have been doing is nothing to what I will have to do before long. I was in the operating room from 8:30 yesterday morning untill 3:30 this morning, even having some of my meals brought to me. Needless to say I was somewhat tired before I quit and I didn't get an opportunity to write a letter either, which disappointed me very much, for Honey, I'd rather write you letters than do anything else other than recieve

letters from you. However I imagine there will be many days in which I will find it practically impossible to write to you.

Yesterday I had my orderly pitch a tent for me, and move my things into it. It is a mighty cozy little place too, the way it is fixed up. In spite of the rain and cold it is a lot more pleasant than the dirty old barracks I moved out of, and I am certainly satisfied with it. I recieved three wonderful letters from you this morning. One of them was written on Good Friday and the feelings you expressed in it were perfectly reflected by my own feelings on that day dearest. I was sure homesick for you then and, for that matter have been every day since I left you. But there are some days when recollections are more vivid and

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when it is not possible to keep the “Blues” away. Oh! how I wish this terrible war would end. I am so anxious to see you dearest, and just love you to death. You say Mr. Jardin says the war is sure to last two years more. Well, he may be right. It may last two years or it may last five, but I think it is in its decisive stages right now and that is the Germans are stopped (which they will be you may be sure) the end of the war is more nearly in sight than it has ever appeared to be. There is little doubt in my mind that they must do all they hope to do, this summer. Our army is going to make a much greater difference than the “clackers”

at home seem to think. These boys that are coming over here are soldiers, and the finest in the world, and once they get started we shall see. It take time to raise a great army and train it. It is nothing short of miraculous what the U.S. Army has accomplished over here. People at home don't begin to appreciate the enormity of the task and what had been accomplished already, and they never can know 'till the war is won and won by this same little old army.

Why Honey, it is the actual truth that these men can hardly be stopped when they go into a fight. They want to go straight on to Berlin and case after case is on record where officers have had great difficulty in keeping the men not from retreating but from advancing

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too far. One company rushed into "No man's land against orders, and mixed with a German raiding party with their bare fists almost, and they licked hell out of them too. Pardon my slang, but I just tingle all over when I think of some of the things these soldiers of our "Citizen's army" do, and the wonderful spirit and morale which causes them to do it.

Well Lover I must close and go to work. It is a terribly busy time and we haven't much a change to sit down, but I just had to write. I will write again tomorrow Honey Dear. I love you so much, I can't tell you how I love

you, but I do, with all my  
heart and soul, and Lover  
dear I am so lonesome for  
you. Be brave little girl and  
all will come out right  
soon. Kiss my dear babies.  
God bless you all. I love  
you.

Daddy.

Lt. Ansel B Smith M.R.C.

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