

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

"WITH COLORS"

_____ MAY 1st _____ 1918

My Darling, Darling Wife:-

Your birthday and we are so far apart. I am really homesick today dearest, but there is no help for it. I am sending you my dearest love, all of it; my sincerest congratulations and wishes for many many happy returns of this day. God bless you my Darling, and protect you, so that you may enjoy the most wonderful health, and all the good things of life with your husband when he comes back. Oh! my Darling how I love you and how I miss you. With all my heart and soul, strength and might Dear, I love you, love you.

There is a Regimental band playing ragtime out in front of the hospital; lots of pieces we have danced to many times

and that only makes memories more vivid and me so much more homesick. I was on duty this morning from 8:00 a.m. 'till 1:00 P.M. and go on at 8:00 P.M., 'till 8:00 a.m. Then I have all day tomorrow off in the operating room, but that doesn't mean we will have nothing to do.

The sun is shining!!! What do you think of that. It is the first time in a week we have seen anything like the sun and it does seem good but I am not too encouraged for it will very likely be behind a cloud in ten minutes more. It will need to shine day and night for a week to dry up the mud. I never have seen anything like it. I had four letters from Jack today and Honey what do you think – Jack and I were within a very few miles of each other and had no way

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of finding it out on account of
censorship rules, so we missed
each other. It just made me
sick when I found that out. Poor
Jack is sure blue. He is so anxious
for a transfer and I am raising
Heaven and Earth to get him
with us. I'll have to admit that
it doesn't seem very hopeful at
present. But I am going to keep
on trying. I'd give anything
to have Jack with me and I know
he would too.

The big guns are banging
away this afternoon at a merry
rate. If the noise is any indication
we should have a busy night
tonight. I will be so glad when
the Germans are licked and this
is all over. It is hard to be away
from all your loved ones and

to have to face it for so long.
But it would be harder dear
to have my loved ones go through
all the suffering the women
and children of France have. It
is on that account I am here
and want to stay here until there
is no danger of that.

I got your letter written on
Easter Sunday, this morning
and it was such a sweet letter.
You are the bravest little woman
in the world Lover dear, and I
am just boiling over with pride
for you. I love you dear. You
spoke about seeing Mr. Ed
Wallace. Haven't they received
any of my letters? I have
written several to them and
can't understand why they
shouldn't have received some
of them. I have received to date,
two packages of cigarettes
from them and I certainly
think it is wonderful of

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them to keep sending them.

Do you remember what we did on your birthday a year ago? I never will forget the nice little party just we two had and how much fun it was. How is the old Morton Grille anyway? Wouldn't it be fun to go down there and tell Frank to serve us the best meal he could. Can you hear him saying “The baby lobster is very good this evenin' sah”? Many and many a time have I thought about the “snow bird” and other good things we had to eat in Indianapolis. Capt. [Vandever] and Howard often speak of the Christmas supper they had with us. I gave every body your message of Easter

Greetings, and they all sent back their love. I tell you dear, the officers and men in this outfit owe a lot to you and Tud. You are two wonderful girls.

I think your Red Cross work is noble. You mentioned the immense amount of dressings your chapter produced in March and it is almost unbelievable. It is a wonderful work, and you deserve worlds of credit for it, for without such help the army could never win the war. We are going to win dear and believe me it isn't going to take as long as many people think. Men, money and morale, behind the cause of right, will win this war and we have them all. The morale of our troops is perfectly wonderful. All these boys can think of is to fight and they're not happy unless they

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are fighting. They possess a spirit which can't help defeat the Germans. But we all want to get it done and get back home.

Home. What a wonderful word and what a blessed thing. It means wife, babies, and all my life associations which are dear, to me. When I get home, I never will want to leave again. Oh! how I love you dear.

The "big boys" are still at it making a fearful racket. There must really be something doing at the Front today. This is the heaviest artillery fire I have heard her during the day time. I hope each shell gets 10 Germans. If it does they can't have much of an army left by now. We are fast getting

settled here so that operation as a hospital is becoming a lot easier. It has been a tremendous task and is still hard, but at last begins to assume a more settled aspect. I am sure seeing all the surgery I want to and my ideas of the treatment of this class of cases, are undergoing very radical changes. However I am learning nothing of great value to me in my own particular branch of surgery. That doesn't matter to me. What I know I won't forget and I am learning all the time about other things.

However I didn't come into the service to learn surgery. I'm willing to do anything I can, I don't care what it is. Well my darling wife I have to close. Again I congratulate you and wish you many happy return and send you all the love

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dearest of which I am capable. I do
love you so much. I think of you
and my babies all the time, and
love you with all my heart and
soul, dear girl. Give my regards
to all, kiss my babies and with
all my dearest love to you on
this day of all days I want to come
for you for years and years, I
will say goodbye, till tomorrow.
I love you dear. I love you.
I love you.

A.B.

Lt. A.B. Smith M.R.C.