

May 10th 1918.

My Dearest Marie:-

Well Honey, today I sent your Christmas box. We are in a part of France where some of these laces are made and as I saw them being made I thought you might like to have them. I will give you a list of what I sent so you can check it off and will know for whom each article is.

1 large lace collar for little Marie

1 small lace collar for brother. These I thought you could use on their little coats this summer.

1 embroidered kerchief for Mary

1 “ “ for Margaret. I

couldn't forget the two most faithful girls in the world.

1 Boudoir cap for Tud. I could think of nothing she would like better and I hope she likes it. I know it is all hand work for I saw it being done.

1 lace handkerchief

1 chemise and 1 waist for you

mother dear, and I do hope you will like them and not think I spent my money foolishly. You can know though that even if the things are not in good taste and I am no good as a shopper for women's "lingerie", all the love in my heart comes to you with them and maybe you can use them for dust cloths or something of that sort.

Really dear, they are very cheap over here and if you do like them let me know and I will get more things. There are some very beautiful lace lunch sets and embroidered lunch cloths, and lace dresses for children and lots of things I am going to go on picking up these things from time to time and if you don't like them send me word at once to stop. That waist I am sending you is hand work too – "soutache" braid I think they call it – but it is clever to see them sew it on. There is so very little over here that one can buy now, except in Paris and I don't know when I will get there, so I can just get what there is to get and I do so hope you

will like it and not have a great big laugh at my expense when you get it.

The last boxes I got from you are certainly wonderful dear. Nothing has tasted so wonderful since I have been in France as that nut nougat loaf, and the salted nuts and peanut candy and all. It was all so fresh. I am going to send a little list of things I really need. The list needs only to be signed by a commissioned officer so Major Lyle's signature will not be necessary.

It has cleared up today and is wonderfully warm and summer like today. I am not wearing BVD's yet because I have only one pair but when others come through I am going to begin wearing them as it is certainly warm enough now. I got your letter enclosing the one from Mac regarding stocks and read it very carefully. There is no doubt that the Americans St + Traction is a good stock and it will

always be a good stock. I believe that an investment in 100 shares of it would be a wise thing for you to do for it would not take all of your capital and would still leave a good sum in W.S.L. I have never believed in having all your eggs in one basket. It doesn't pay. It is not a good time to sell your W.S.L. The price is always down at this time of year. When the season is on it will strengthen and probably you will be able to get more than par for it. It is not as safe a stock as the Am. St. + Tr. in my opinion although an excellent stock. I don't like the management and would like to see you switch all the remainder of your holdings in it to Globe Knitting or some other such stock. That sugar stock is a wonderfully good buy at the present price too. Talk with Dave and E.A. Wallace before you do anything, but I am in favor of you splitting up your holdings into different things.

So take this up with Mr. Wallace

and Dave and read them this letter to let them know what I think of it.

Things are still quiet around here.

It is going to be beautiful when it clears up and summer comes, but God knows how I wish this summer could be spent at home with you dearest.

I am going to be the happiest man in the world some day but it seems that that day is a long time coming. I

haven't heard from Jack for a long time but have been seeing things all right. I wish mail would come from him more regularly and then

I wouldn't worry about him so

much. Our mail comes quite

regularly now but I am not

getting very much for some

unknown reason. It is probably

held up somewhere and I will

get it all in a bunch.

I have met some officers

from Flint Michigan who used to
know Blanche Miller.

Well, Darling I am going to close
today. I will write more tomorrow. My
parcel has already gone and with it
love to you all. Kiss my darling babies
and Tud and tell them all how much
I love them. With dearest love to you,
God bless you little girl, I am your
loving

“A.B.”

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