

May 23d 1918.

My Dearest Wife:-

I received four wonderful letters from you this noon, written on Apr. 30, May 1st and 2nd. All the news they contained was good, and very satisfying, except that you are worrying because we are so near the Front. Now dear, I want that to stop because there is absolutely no need of it. It is true that I am nearer to the Front than I was at Fort Harrison, but I am not in any more danger. We are stationed where we can secure the wounded cases within the shortest possible time and so necessarily must be within a comparatively short distance as far as time is concerned, but don't forget

that transportation is very rapid now, and an ambulance can cover a lot of ground in a short time. And the guns – I don't care how many I hear, as long as they are pointed the other way. The Germans have absolutely no chance of shelling us on account of our sheltered position and the fact that we are all good runners. No dear, let me joke about it a little if I want to. I don't like to feel always that I am so safe and protected from harm, while so many brave men are in constant danger. If I didn't know I am doing a necessary

task I would feel worse about it. I constantly keep in mind the fact that I have a dear wife and two beautiful children to love and care for, and so am heartily satisfied to be where I am, and where I am, I assure you dearest, is fully as safe as my own front yard at home. Don't worry, I am perfectly well, as brown as an Indian and in better health than I ever have enjoyed before and am in no danger at all. So write to me dearest and tell me that you are now reassured and are worrying no more about danger that doesn't exist.

I read Adele's letter with interest and am glad to hear that they look for improvement in Puss' condition. It would surely be terrible if her trouble should become permanent and I am sure that it won't. Isn't it too bad Mel acts the way he does about the money. He must know how much more in need of it you are than himself. If I were you I'd write to Edna about it. I believe he lies to her and that if she knew about it she would make him pay.

He certainly has lost all claim
on your love and confidence
and I would never blame you
if you have nothing more to do
with him.

I had a very nice letter
from Dad in which he said
he wished he was young enough
to join the army. If he lived in
Germany he would be young
enough I guess, as they are
beginning to put in the grand-
fathers and great grand children
over there. Cheer up dear, they
will be on the run before
long. There is an army over here

now that can whip any other
on the face of the earth, and
Germany's hour has come. There
is no note but of absolute
confidence in their defeat,
over here and I think results
will soon begin to justify it.

Another perfect day – perfectly
beautiful. It is very warm
but a nice breeze makes it
possible to keep very comfort-
able and cool, and it is a Godsend
to have such weather after the
weeks and weeks of rain and
mud. The warm weather is
bringing out the bumblebees
and for some reason or other

they seem particularly fond of my tent. I think every time I see one, of how very pleased you would be to have him so near. I am not on duty tonight – in fact, haven't been all day – but have been very busy in spite of the fact. I am going to bed at about 8:30 as per my usual custom. Tomorrow night Dempsey and I are going down to the hotel for dinner and to the club after dinner for a game or two of billiards. That constitutes my sole diversion and dissipation as well.

I am going to close now darling. It is nearly mess time and I have to do a little cleaning up first. Remember Lover – don't worry about me. Just love me, and always think that I am loving you and taking good care of myself for your sake. Give my love and kisses all my darling babies and Tud. With all my dearest love to you my sweet girl, I love you.

“A.B.”

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