

June 10, 1918

My Dearest Wife:-

I received three wonderful letters from you yesterday and was sure glad to get them for it had been some time since the last came. There is no doubt, an unavoidable delay in the mails now for I am sure there are a lot of letters on the way to me that I should have received but never have. I also got a letter from Joe Ware yesterday and it was full of news of the sort he generally dispenses. He is in Washington and working hard, and claims he is not physically fit for service over here. I hope it is so, because I have no use for any man who

isn't here or at least on his way here, if he is physically fit. I am not going to be in any big hurry to reply to Joe's letter.

Yesterday was about the hottest day we have had, and "Nuts" and I chose it to move our tent back into the pine woods above where we were. We found a beautiful little place – leveled it off and laid in a floor of drain tile we had here. Then we put the tent up very carefully and now have the cutest and most comfortable tent I have ever seen. I enjoy it so much – this living in the open – and it is wonderfully good for us.

All the officers who have been living inside are now thinking of moving out into tents because they see that we

enjoy it so much and are so much healthier for it. It really is the nicest way to live in good weather.

It is raining today for the first time in weeks, but we needed it so mustn't complain. It is funny though, how cold it gets at once, when it starts raining. You will remember I said yesterday was a very hot day. Last evening Capt. Chaney and I walked down to the Officer's Club to play some billiards and I beat him two games. I am improving in my games and am glad because billiards in one game I have always wanted to play but have always wanted to play but have never known

how.

I am all caught up with my correspondence now, except for a letter to Joe Ware, and I am not going to let that bother me at all. I even wrote another letter to Ruth, which in all makes three I have written to her thanking her for my sox. I sincerely hope she gets this one as I don't like to have her think that I haven't had the decency to write thanking her for them.

The news over here is continually better. The Allies are holding all along the line and in many places are driving back. Of course the summer is young yet and a lot can happen before Fall, but there is a great feeling of confidence that the Germans will get no further. If they don't it

will not be the strangest thing in the world if we see Peace this year. Oh! how I hope so. It is impossible for people at home to concieve of how terrible war is. But they must be whipped first, and it may take longer than we think to do that. It is going to be done, though, just at sure as Fate. It is only a matter of time, and waiting for the dominating effect of the great numbers of American soldiers who will soon be in the fight. They are certainly being felt now, all along the Front, and it must be wonderful news to the people at home to read how wonderfully our

boys are covering themselves with glory, every where they are fighting. I know that now the people at home are beginning to feel more than ever at war, since the German subs have gone to work on our coast. It is a good thing in a way, to wake them up, and to show just what would have taken place only in a greater degree, if God Almighty hadn't put France, Belgium and England between Germany and our Country. It shows all the more markedly, that the German has to be punished and whipped into complete submission and there isn't a real American on Earth that wants to see the war end in any other way.

So dearheart, you and I

must smother our personal desires and do all we can to see that this is accomplished.

To me, it is wonderful, that you and Glad are doing all you are. You are doing the woman's best work to keep this along, and that is one reason why I should so hate to see Tud come over here. She is really very much more useful at home, engaged in the work she has been doing. If she was a trained nurse it would be different, entirely, but inasmuch as she is not, I am looking forward to receiving a letter saying she has given up the idea and is going to

be content to stay in God's own country and do her biggest bit right there.

You asked me dear if I have been receiving the Press. Yes, I get it right along, and it is a very acceptable contribution. I even read all the advertisements in it, in order to recall every thing familiar about the old town. I wonder if people who live in Grand Rapids feel as I do, that there is no town on earth like it, or is it only because I am away from it? I have never appreciated its beauties and other good qualities as I do now, and right now I most assuredly feel that there is no place on earth quite like it. God grant I may see it again soon.

I most thoroughly approve



of your plans for our honeymoon, it will be wonderful and we will enjoy it to the utmost. I can hardly wait – it seems to me too dearest, that I can't stand the separation longer, but then, we will enjoy the reunion just that much more, when it comes, I don't care where you plan to go. Anywhere, so long as it's with you. And we will stay just as long as we want to, won't we darling?

I am not in the least worried about getting my business back again. I know I will get it – and more than I ever had, but now I want to tell you, that as long as

I live business is never going to interfere with our pleasure. We are going to enjoy life from now on, to the complete exclusion of everything else. I want you to be selfish with me dearest? I tell you there are lots of things I have wanted to do in the past, that I won't ever care to do again, and we will spend more of our time together than we ever have before.

I have written quite a long letter haven't I darling? It is now very nearly mess time so I guess I will close. I hope I will get mail this noon but can hardly expect to in view of what I recieved yesterday. However I won't give up hope untill after the mail man says "No."

Give my love to the darling babies  
and to Tud. Kiss them for me  
and tell them how much I love  
them and long to see them. I  
love you my Darling, with  
all my heart and soul, and  
pray each day that we may  
soon be together again. I love  
you and love you dearest.  
Goodbye untill tomorrow.

Daddy.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. A.B. Smith M.R.C.

Evac. Hosp. #2 U.S.A.

American E.F.