

August 2nd 1918.

My Darling Wife:-

Well dear, I finally got some good rest. After finishing my letter to you yesterday I went to mess and came back to the tent, read a story and an article in the "Post" and went to bed. I didn't wake up until 7:00 this morning and today I feel as fit as can be. I think I should, after eleven hours uninterrupted sleep – don't you dear? I have finished all of my dressings and rounds, and have nothing to do now until eight tonight, when I go on duty for the night. Then tomorrow I have all day off so I will nicely catch up with my sleep.

It is raining hard today and is a bit cool so I will have the charcoal brazier going all day. I am sending you \$100⁰⁰ today dear, through the Y.M.C.A. money draft service. It should reach you about the time this letter does. I have a plenty of money – more than I need – so when I have saved enough to make it worth while I can always send it home. I think I will be able to send some next month too, but may not after that for two or three months.

One thing is certain, you are entitled to it and you will get it when I can possibly send it. It may come mighty handy this winter even though you do think you won't need it. Are you able to get along on your income and my allotment or have you had to sell stock? Let me know please dear? I shall feel badly if you have had to sell any stock and I will be very happy if you have been able to get along without it.

News from the Front still continues to be good. The Germans are not returning so rapidly now but they are still retreating and that is lots better than having them come this way. They have discovered, much to their surprise, that the much despised American army is a thing to be seriously reckoned with and before they have done, they will find out a lot more things about it. It is wonderful the way our boys fight and the spirit in which they do it. From now on Germany hasn't a chance, we are all convinced of that.

In just a short time now – twenty eight days – it will be just one year since I began my course of training at Fort Harrison. Just think of it dear! It surely doesn't seem that long to me. A year ago one month from yesterday (can you figure that out?) is the day you came out to camp and met me, after my trip to Missouri. Do you remember the wonderful time we had dear during the three days you were there? I never will forget it. Well, times like that are coming to us again – coming fast too, because the pressure is beginning to tell on the Germans now, and a lot can and will happen before next summer.

I have just recovered from another mild attack of my old Fort Harrison complaint but it is the lightest one I have ever had and I don't doubt that I will soon be rid of it entirely. I never have been in as good health as now and my outdoor living is improving it all the time. I really don't believe I will ever be able to sleep in a regular bed again – I have grown so accustomed to my cot and blankets. However – you can be

sure, I will make the attempt and maybe I can become converted to mattresses and springs again.

It is not raining now and is perfectly beautiful out, but such are the vagaries of French weather, that I expect it to begin at any time again. I am going to close my letter now dear, after telling you with how much love I love you. With all my heart and soul, strength and might, life and love – with all the love in this big universe, sweetheart – I love you, I love you. God bless you, my dear kiddies and Glad, and keep you well and safe from all harm for your

Daddy.

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

P.S. I just got 14 letters from you. Not so bad. eh! I love you dear.