

August 25, 1918

My Darling Wife:-

I can write only a short letter today because I have many things to do and I got up very late this morning. It was raining last night so I went to bed early and went to sleep almost instantly. I didn't even turn over in bed until I waked at 8:15 this morning. That is disgracefully late to get up in the Army, but I guess it was due to loss of sleep for many nights past, and therefore I don't feel as guilty about it as I might. Luckily I was able to get some breakfast, but getting such a late start has made my work last longer into the day.

I went down town with Rosy yesterday and again we visited the lace place. The table cover and bed spread are all finished except for the monograms and I found a beautiful chemise I am sure you will like. As soon as

I get all the things finished and together I will send them to you. I am very well pleased with them and hope that you will like them too.

It has cleared off beautifully today, I am sorry to say, because I don't think the moon is a dead one yet. So I will live in hopes that it will cloud up again before night. The papers today are full of the best imaginable news. More towns captured and thousands of prisoners taken, and the whole German line in the North, getting into a dangerous position – dangerous for them. It certainly is exhilarating news. May it continue.

I didn't get a letter from you yesterday and was dis-

appointed for I thoroughly expected to get one. However I am sure that I will get one today, and it is now very nearly time for the mail to arrive, so I will soon know.

How are things going at home now? Has Mel sent you the remainder of the money he owes you? I hardly feel like trusting myself to write to him as I would be absolutely unable to write him in terms mild enough to avoid a serious rupture with him. You seem to wish to avoid that. If I were in your place I would put the whole matter in an Attorney's hands for collection and waste no more time in letter writing and trips to Detroit to see him. There is absolutely no excuse for

the delay and there is no reason now why he should be showed the slightest consideration in the matter. He has lied to you, and has persistently denied to both of you that which is rightfully yours and is using it himself in extravagant living, while you are at home without a husband and with no support except the paltry \$110.00 allotment and your income. It is not right and you should not tolerate it any longer. Bring Mel to his senses sharply, by a legal threat and you will get your money soon enough. What do you care if you do lose his good will? It is of no value to you.

Regarding the American Lt.

and Traction Stock – I have thought it all over and feel that an investment in a certain amount – say 50 shares – would be very wise. However I would wait until after the White Star Dividend. However dearest, use your own judgement regarding these matters for you know best. I am a long ways away and can not be familiar with conditions at home as I should be to advise you. The amount of the White Star dividend should have a lot to do with the decision also for if it is holding up well under present conditions it speaks highly for the true worth of the stock.

You told me in one of your recent letters dear, to always wear the medal you sent

to me. I do wear it darling, all the time. The leather covering is wearing through in several places. Does that make any difference. Don't worry dearest, I shall wear it every day because I know you want me to, and I would do anything in the world for you.

Well I must close. Kiss my dear babies. Tell them Daddy loves them dearly with all his heart. Give Glad my love and a kiss. With dearest love to you dear, and a million kisses, I love you, I love you. I will write more tomorrow. I love you my dearest wife,

Daddy.

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