

September 23rd 1918

My Dearest Marie:-

Well Honey – today is the day I pass the 34th mile stone (or better mill stone) of my career. It is a fine dark, gloomy, rainy, day, just the sort I usually expect to have as the anniversary of my advent into this world. Oh Well! it was not ever thus! I remember one bright sunny birthday I had, and many have been very happy too. This is the least pleasurable of any I have had and still I am glad it is here, for it is -like all other days – just one day nearer to the end of the war. That—after all—is the only thing we are all living for now—a safe, honorable, Allied Peace, and it is coming fast. And when it comes just

think of all the Joy and wonderful happiness that will descend on this old world – every nook and corner of it.

As I predicted, I had a very wonderful sleep last night. It rained all night long, so we were not troubled by “Jerry” in his “chariot,” and the air was simply fine for sleeping. It was cool and fresh all night, and early this morning the orderly came in and built a fire so that the room was nice and warm when we got up. We are going to be very comfortable here this winter—at least as far as physical comfort is concerned. I have never been in better health my weight is down to 168 lbs. and seems to stay at that point, and I will be very

well satisfied if it never gets above that. It is a good weight for me. I am afraid though that I will get heavier again after the war is over. I will leave it to you to see that I get exercise enough to remain in fairly good condition dear. We will take good long walks together. That is something we have never done. The cars have always been too convenient and too much of a temptation to us. Well, I have been accustomed for some time, to doing without a car and I won't find it a hardship when I get home, if I have to do a lot of walking. One thing the war has done, is to completely make over a lot of American physical wrecks and I am one that

has profited thereby.

Rosy just came over and soaked my head with perfumed hair tonic. You know how much I care for those things I don't know whether I will be able to stand myself or not but I can't help myself. Rosy has to use it I guess, because he has a lot of dandruff but fortunately I am not troubled that way.

News from the front is at present, more or less quiet. We know something is going on but as yet we don't know what it is going to develop into. However we are all fully expecting some most interesting news in the next few days and it is expectations that keep us all in a cheerful frame of

mind. It is wonderful how cheerful we all keep too. The knowledge of the inevitability of a German defeat and that most influentially contributed to by our troops, is no doubt the chief reason for it. We know what is coming and that it can't keep but come. Therefore we are cheerful. Anyway, why be other than cheerful! Life is too short to spend it all in worry. I am so proud of you dearest, that you do not worry. I am so proud of you dearest, that you do not worry about things, but I attribute it in your case, more to the wonderful faith and confidence you have in your religion than in anything else. That is the reason I

medals you have sent me.

I know that as long as I wear them you will feel that I am protected and more safe than I would be without them. Is that not so?

Another thing that helps me cheerful and happy dear, is my knowledge of your wonderful love for me. It has always been a wonderful love dear, that we have for each other, as is evidenced by the great happiness we have enjoyed in life. I thank God every day of my life that you are my wife and that He has blest me with your love. It means every thing in the world to me. And you know dearest, that

great as your love is for me,
it is no greater than mine
for you, for nothing in this
life could be greater than
our mutual love. And how
our love has been rewarded!
Think what wonderful children
we have, and how much life
has in store for us with our
dear family! Is it strange
therefore, that I should be
happy even in such sur-
roundings as I find myself
at present? I don't think
so. I know that I love you
and the dear babies more
than man ever has loved
before—more than all the
world—more than life itself
or I would not be here.

But we must cultivate the

virtue of Patience, and derive courage from the certain knowledge that we will be reunited soon. God bless you all, dear ones. I love you.

Give my dearest love to the babies and Glad and many kisses.

With all my dearest love to you dear girl, I am your loving, and today, your lonesome husband,

A.B.

1st Lt. A.B. Smith M.C.