

October 7, 1918.

My Dearest Marie:-

I will have time for only a short letter today for I am rushed with work, but I know that you will forgive me, and be glad that I was able to write, if only a note.

The news of the last two days is causing the greatest rejoicing in France. There is no thought that the Allied Governments will grant an armistice to the Central Powers (?) but their apparent willingness to accept all the conditions enumerated by President Wilson in his January and August speeches, and particularly his September speech, is most significant especially when it is considered that this is the first peace proposal they have made while being licked. I

have always claimed that they were “yellow” and now it is beginning to show. Do you remember what I have said all along? That Peace would be more in the air than ever before, this Fall and Winter. And it has only begun. While it may be too much to hope for an unconditional surrender of the Central Powers for some time to come, the proposition already made is a precursor of that and shows a growing inclination on their part to accept any terms which the Allies may propose. In other words, they admit defeat and the inevitability of national disaster, which is the one thing I think they will eventually go to any necessary limits to

prevent. Be that as it may, it is most certainly grateful news and good food for thought.

Yesterday was Sunday and was a day of rest with me. I went to the club with Chancy in the afternoon and played four games of billiards, winning two of them. I spent the rest of the afternoon and evening resting and studying French, and I will admit that I did very little of the latter. Today is a beautiful, clear, sunshiny day although it is a little cool to be comfortable inside without a fire. I am quite happy this morning because I have been able to buy some Camel cigarettes and some American candy. They

are hard to get. I am fairly well fixed for cigarettes now, having succeeded in picking up a carton here and there, so that now I have about 900. That's not so bad is it dear?

I didn't get mail from you yesterday but can't complain as the past few days have been very generous in that respect. However I do hope to get some this morning. It will make the week a success all through if I am not disappointed.

Well dearest, I must close. I have to go to work at once. I'll write more tomorrow. Love and kisses to all dear. I love you.

A.B.

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