

December 4th 1918.

My Dearest Marie:-

I have finally done what you have asked me to do so often in your past letters – I have taken a vacation. I will tell you about it. Matters have not been so I have been able to be away for any great length of time, such as a week or ten days, for it is not possible to handle, work of the sort I have been handling without being constantly on the job. Also, as I have said before, I much more enjoy buying the things I have bought and sent to you than I do anything else. I will enjoy those things as much as you will and it is therefore a good investment to make. But to return to the vacation – yesterday Rosy, Mets, Dempsey and I took the 9:45 train to Nancy and arrived there at 12:45. Three hours ride to go 50 miles. Where we arrived there, we had our passes

[vised] at the Provosts, and went at once to Walter's Café for a meal. I might add that the meal was the real object of our trip.

It is monotonous to live on corn beef and beans for two years. Well dear – such a meal! I have had nothing like it since leaving Indianapolis and so you can appreciate just how much I enjoyed it. With an appetite whetted by one year's abstinence from any but army food, I started in on a meal fit for a king and four such gourmands you never have seen before.

we started in with oysters on the half shell – 1 dozen apiece. They were fresh and cold and Oh! so good. First I've had in a year. Then a thin soup and it was delicious.

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That was followed by a perfectly wonderful omelet with chopped herbs – [muh]!!! Words can't describe it but I'll say that the French can make omelets.

Now what do you think – we had each, one of the most wonderful giant lobsters – with mayonnaise – fresh, sweet, tender, delicious beyond description and it tasted better than anything I ever ate in my life. Thinking it a sacrilege to eat the next dish without due ceremony, I took the liberty of just cracking – not really breaking – one of my promises to you, and drank one glass of Cliquot 1823 Champagne. We only had one bottle and I had only one glass and I sipped it and

enjoyed it for it was the best glass of wine I ever drank. (And I'll say again it ought to have been). I am sure you will pardon my one violation of the armistice my dear. How about it? I assure you I was very temperate. Well, to continue – the purpose for which we bought the will was to wash down the most wonderful roast chicken I ever ate – potatoes, spinach, Brussel sprouts and then a marvelous salad. By that time we were all comatose and had to stop although we didn't want to. And now to prove that our vacation was a good one and that we enjoyed it, I will confess the cost of our feed. It was just the equivalent of \$50.00 in American money

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for the four of us, and while it seems a crime to spend so much, we all were satisfied for it was our only meal and our only splurge in a year and personally I couldn't have spent my share of it more satisfactorily. The others agree with me on that point.

After dinner we did one or two errands for the others and then took the train again, arriving at Camp at 8:30. I found four letters from you – wonderful letters – and they made a perfect end to a perfect day. I will digress long enough to say that I never read a finer line of stuff than is in Bill Hyland's letter, and

I wonder how he expects anyone to believe it. There are others over here, he must not forget. I am glad [Dimi] has his captaincy. He deserves it, but he can thank his luck that he got it before he arrived in France for he never would have gotten it here.

We are still up in the air regarding what we are going to do. We expect news every day but it doesn't come. It is a nerve wearing situation but one we are not able to help. I will be very glad to be ordered to move anywhere from here for I am "fed up" with this place. It has

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become monotonous.

Well I must close now.

I must get at my work. Give
my dear babies and Glad
my love and a kiss. With
dearest love to you sweetheart,
and millions of kisses. I
love you.

Daddy.

Ansel B. Smith Capt. M.C.

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

Amer E.F. France