

December 6 -18

My Dearest Wife:-

It is just 8:20 in the morning and I have shaved, had breakfast and put in my morning reports already, so you can judge that I have been quite industrious this morning. It is a dark – dismal, foggy morning, but not very cold. I will take the men out for the usual hike this afternoon. These daily hikes are doing me a lot of good. I am making them from ten to twelve miles at the least now. That distance, at quick time without a halt, is a stiff hike and we all are glad to get a good shower and rest up where we get back.

The men are behaving remarkably well considering the fact that they have so little to do now. We officers all expected that, as usual when they are idle,

they would begin to raise the  
dickens, but so far they are  
agreeably disappointed. It is a  
great source of satisfaction to  
me to see that they do act  
so well, as it shows I have  
good discipline.

The time is drawing near to  
Christmas. Do you remember  
the wonderful visits we were  
having a year ago at Fort  
Harrison? Of course you do  
though, as well as I do. Nearly  
a year now, we said goodbye  
to each other and the bottom  
seemed to fall out of the  
world. It has been a long  
year and a hard one for us  
both but our separation  
is nearing its end, as all  
things must, and soon we  
will be happy again in the  
enjoyment of each others  
love.

Can you picture the pleasures  
life will hold for us dear?

Won't it be wonderful? It is  
coming now, just as sure as  
the world, and it will be  
so wonderful when it finally  
ends for us and you and I  
with our dear children and  
sister are together again  
never to be separated. I am  
decided now that I never  
want [Tud] to leave us. She  
is one of my family and  
I never want her to leave  
home. Tell her she is a  
dear, sweet girl and that  
her "Doc" brotherinlaw loves  
her. I don't believe there  
is a man in the world  
good enough for her anyway.

I am glad she is writing  
to me again for I will en-  
joy hearing from her, but

I have had all the vacation  
I am going to take now and  
I will not permit myself to  
be persuaded that I need  
more as I know best.

I have tried to get some  
embroidered napkins for the  
table dear, and think I  
will be able to tomorrow. She  
has some beauties, but only  
eight of them and is going  
to try to get four more today.  
I know that you don't want  
less than a doz. All my  
efforts to get the small  
doilies for glasses are in  
vain, but maybe you can  
get some linen and use some  
of the lace edging I have  
sent you & make some.  
I got some [insertion] yester-  
day that I think you  
will like. I also got a

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large, round, embroidered linen table piece that is made for the largest size table and is perfectly wonderful embroidery. I know you will love it. My buffet spread will also be beautiful when it is finished. I also have two more perfectly beautiful [chemises] and in all I think you will be rather well pleased with what I bring home. It is hard to find things over here, but all of this beautiful handmade work is the sort of stuff you like and I am not afraid to buy it. As for a watch, I have not yet been able to find one that you

would care for. I will keep looking however, whenever I have the opportunity.

I must thank you once more for the wonderful double sweater you sent to me dear. It is the warmest one I have ever seen and has the great advantage of being so light that I hardly know I have it on. It must have taken a long time and a lot of work to make it dear, and I certainly am grateful to you, my dear wife, for your goodness to your undeserving husband. It came in handy. I have a confession to make now. When the British prisoners

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started coming back from Germany, they were so pitifully clad, or rather “un-clad,” that I gave away about everything I possessed. I gave away sox and sweaters and shoes, gloves and underwear and even pyjamas for underwear, so I did appreciate your addition to my dwindled stock of woolen goods.

I am sure that you will not censure me for what I did, for the poor fellows were suffering miserably and I don't believe better use could have been made of the things. And don't get the idea that I haven't a plenty left dear, for I have. I had a great big supply

of such things. You can  
tell all the people who  
sent me things, where  
they went, if you wish.

Well Honey, I must close  
now. Goodbye till tomorrow.  
Give my love and kisses to the  
babies and Glad and take  
a lion's share for yourself.  
I love you all dear, so  
much. Goodbye dear, untill  
tomorrow.

Daddy.

Ansel B. Smith. Capt. M.C.  
Evac. Hosp. #2. U.S.A.  
Amer. E.F. France.