

December 17th 18

Coblenz, Germany

My Dearest Wife:-

It has been a week since I have written to you – maybe a little longer than that, but we have moved, as you can see by the heading of this, and are now on the Rhine. I have exceeded all my previous records for work and bet that I have lost twenty pounds in weight. We are still terribly busy and will be for many days to come, as we are setting up a large hospital in some German buildings here. It will be a beautiful place when we are finished but it is sure hard work and we are all nearly tired out. The

men have simply been wonderful and I am more proud of them than ever, if that is possible.

Our trip – made in box cars – was beautiful and I can say nothing except good of the country we have come through even if it is Germany. It is beautiful we came down the valley of the Moselle all the way from Metz to Coblenz and I never want to see prettier country nor more picturesque scenery. We have been treated well by the Germans, but – censorship regulations forbid my telling you what I think.

Such vineyards I have never seen before. Such

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beautiful hills and valleys, and picturesque villages! It really was a beautiful trip and an interesting experience.

It has been most thoroughly enjoyed by us all in spite of physical hardships and discomforts and hard work.

We are [on the] Rhine – the place I wanted to see before getting back. We see no soldiers but Americans and a great lot they are, too.

We are with the Army of Occupation and will be here as long as they are.

When we will go home nobody knows but I don't think it will be long. I am looking for no mail for

many days to come – perhaps
many weeks. I am going
to write you my daily
letter now but it has been
impossible for the past
week and I know you will
understand why.

I have as yet had no
opportunity to go downtown
and so can tell you nothing
about it, but I do know
it is one of Germany's
most important Rhine
cities. The strongest forts
on the Rhine are here. It
may interest you to know
that Evac. Hosp #2 was
the first American outfit
at the Rhine. It was by
mistake of course, but our

trains entered this city ahead
of the Army and were at once
pulled back out to wait the
proper time for us to enter.

I will tell you all about
the town when I can see
it.

How are all my dear
ones? It seems as if I
had been entirely out of
touch with you all, it has
been so long since I have
written to you. God knows
I have been thinking of
you all, my dear family,
and loving you with all
my heart and soul. I am
so anxious to come home,
but it can't be helped.

I must close until to

morrow as I have an
endless amount of work
to do and must get at
it. God bless you all. Kiss
Glad and my babies. With
millions of love and kisses
to you, my sweetheart, and
my dear kiddies and Glad,
I am your

Daddy

Ansel B. Smith

Capt M.C.

Evac. Hosp. 2. Amer E.F.