

December 19 – 1918.

My Darling Wife:-

It seems finally as if we are getting settled. Our first patients were admitted yesterday and we are now again functioning as a hospital. There is still a tremendous amount of work to be done around the place before it is properly and sufficiently cleaned up, but the men are going at it with such good spirit that it won't be long before it is finished.

Our private quarters are very comfortable at present. The orderlies worked in there yesterday and got us mighty well fixed up. I can safely say that they are by far the most comfortable quarters I have been in since I have been in the Army. I have had several

wonderful night's sleep too, that have made me feel more comfortable and natural. Last night I had a wonderful hot bath and it did seem good to get clean pyjamas on and climb-in between clean sheets. I slept like a top all night, from seven thirty to seven, and feel wonderfully well today.

It is now just nine thirty and I have all of my morning reports in. I have not been able to get downtown yet but am going to try today, as I have not seen a bit of the town and would like to have some sort of an idea what sort of a place it is.

I saw a "Stars and Stripes"

of December 13<sup>th</sup>, yesterday, and it seemed mighty good for it is the first paper I have seen for two weeks. It told about the American troops entering the City of Coblenz and although I was there to see it, it was very interesting to read of it. Rosy and I are going to try to get down town for a short time some time today and see the sights.

I don't think it will be very long now until we are permitted to use cameras. Hitherto it has been forbidden and I have not even had mine unpacked but I am going to get some pictures as soon as possible. It will be no trouble at all to have them developed as it can be

done by the X-ray department.

It looks a little as if it might clear up today. We are becoming accustomed to rain again. It is almost a daily occurrence in the Winter over here. We have had no snow at all and it doesn't seem very much like winter I must admit. It is the middle of December now and the weather is very comparable to the October weather we have at home. I have not worn any overcoat but very little, I hope we come home soon, I prefer the worst blizzards of Michigan to the mildest weather of France and Germany. It may not be very long now and God knows I hope so, for

I sure do want to see my dear family.

Well Honey dear I must

close. I will write again to-

morrow. I love you my sweet

heart, with all my heart and

soul. I love you. Give my

love and kisses to Glad and

my dear babies. With lots of

love and kisses to you,

"A.B."

Ansel B Smith

Capt. M.C.

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

Amer E.F. France.