

December 28 – 1918

My Darling Wife:-

I know of no day since I have been in the Army, that I have been happier than I am today. I wrote you a long letter today, telling you how I longed for mail, and my longings have been gratified. The mail man brought mail this evening and I got fifteen wonderful letters from you, dating from October 29th to November 25th and contain big news that I have waited for more anxiously than I can ever tell you.

In the first place you will never realize my relief to learn that all of my family are well and to date have escaped the terrible epidemic of "Flu"

which has been raging all over
this country. I was so worried
about it – in fact Dear, I may
as well admit, that like you
I will not cease to worry till
we are reunited again.

It was also a wonderful
relief to learn that the White
Star Line has declared a dividend
small though it was, for I
know how much it will help
you. The additional money I
will send you each month
now, will also help to make
matters better for you I am
sure. I will not worry about
financial matters now for as
you say, for year and
a half you have managed

and while it is hard, I know you
can do it some more.

It was so wonderful to
read of the reception of the
Peace news at home. It must
have been wonderful to be there
and see it, and it must have been
an occasion for rejoicing and
Thanks to God for you and the
millions of wives who have
husbands "Over Here," you may
rest assured Dearest One, it
was a time of Thanksgiving here,
and the celebrations are still
going on daily. If it meant so
much to our Country, think
what it meant to France – for
over four years burdened with
war in its most horrible

form. All else should be forgotten except rejoicing and thanksgiving that the World is at last free from this terrible curse.

Of course we want to come home. My God! how we want to come home! But the need for us is not over, and we are still rendering our Country necessary service.

After all dearest, isn't that what counts? Is there anything in life bigger and more satisfying than to be able to feel that you have given to your Country. All She demanded from you without a complaint? I don't think so.

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And I do feel that when they need me no more I will be sent home. For these reasons I will be as contented as is possible, with the longing to see you and my darlings tearing my very heart out.

It is hard for you dear, but

Oh! it is hard for me. I want to come HOME. But it is not the manly nor the fair thing to do, to take advantage of any influence to obtain consideration before others. Is it? So let's be brave, patient and content, and trust that God in His kind Providence and judgement, may see fit to join us again in the near future.

I am glad to hear that Mike will get his majority. The Army has been most kind to its officers at home, but I am telling the truth; I have not yet met another captain in the Medical Corps who was not promoted before he left the States. I am more proud of my Captaincy gained here, than I would be of a majority gained there. It means more, there is no doubt of it. However, that is not what I joined the Army for, and I mean it also, when I say I'd rather be a buck private than not to

have done my bit. Bless me—
the buck private has won
this war, and in my mind
ranks above the highest ranking
officer. I'd go straight through
Hell with these men, and love
them all the time, and that's
more than I can say about lots
of officers. Well -- -- what's
the difference? I love you, and
war or no war – major or
nor major – nothing on earth
can change that. I love you
with all the deep, lasting,
Eternal, pure love God ever
granted any man the power
to feel and possess, and I
never have and never will

cease to thank Him that He
gave me You, my Darling,
to love and cherish for all
my life, I love you. How
wonderful our love has been
and what a difference it has
made in life to us both?
There is nothing on Earth nor
in the Heavens like our love
Dear, and it has never changed
except to grow more beautiful
and more powerful each
day of our lives. Think of
our two beautiful little kiddies.
Aren't we blessed beyond
human comprehension in
the possession of such
treasures? Oh! my Darling,

we are fortunate and life has been good to us. When I think of the wonderful family I have to return to, I realize most fully, that I have not yet lived and that the greatest day and greatest experience of my life still lies in the Future. I cannot conceive by any flight of imagination the joy that I will feel, when I first see you and my babies after our long separation, but I can realize that for us both it will be the Supreme moment of our lives, and that then we will, more

fully than ever before, fully
comprehend in its complete
significance the meaning
of Love.

These days we must pass
through now, Dear Heart, will
be the hardest of all. The
knowledge that the war is
over and the difficulty of under-
standing the necessity for my
further detention in the Service
and most particularly Foreign
Service, is going to make it
hard for both of us to be
patient and cheerful while
waiting for the time to come,
but that we must be, and
we may as well make the best

of it. Some fine day I will get
my orders – when whatever
General is running the thing finds
out that a wife and two babies
are awaiting my return – and
then I'll come. Oh! how I'll
come, and all the separation
will vanish with all its trials
and hardships, like a dream,
in the joy of our reunion.

I must close my dearest,
for tonight. We will visit
again tomorrow. Kiss my babies
and Glad. I love them so. Be
brave and pray for strength
and patience (and incidentally
for my orders) and I'll be
home almost before you know

it. God bless you dearest, I
love you. Good night and
sweet dreams to all, from

Daddy.

Ansel B Smith Capt. M.C.

Evac Hosp #2. U.S.A.

Amer E. F. France.