

January 4th 1919.

Marie Darling:-

I must tell you dear, in spite of my chagrin, that I am either the lousiest man in France, or have the worst fleas, and I am inclined to believe it is the latter, because I [never] can find the little devils. At any rate I am well cared for by my unwelcome "pets" and am covered from head to foot with bites that very nearly drive me wild with itching. And I am taking from one to three hot bathes each day so it is not uncleanliness, that I know. It is more or less reassuring that all the officers have the same trouble and the men too, so I am not alone in my sufferings.

We got thirty five more men last night from another hospital

here, and it has again increased the work of the office as we will have a lot of trouble catching up. One of our old officers, Capt. Des Jardins, whom you will remember I wrote of often from Bacarrat rejoined us last night from Dijon. He says that it is probable that we may get away from here sometime in April or May, and if that proves true we will not suffer at all. I will be satisfied if we can start home then Dear, for that is not so very long to wait. It won't seem long in comparison to the time I have been waiting already. It will certainly be a lot sooner than I had any hopes

of returning and so I can't complain.

However I won't believe I'm going home, until I get there.

It is not wise to be sure of anything in the Army.

It is still very wild and beautiful weather. It seems so strange for the winter months to be so warm. Not a sign of winters exists anywhere, and it looks as if there would be no winter.

I have not yet had a chance to go downtown and see very much of the town. It is all I can do to keep things going around here but sooner or later I will explore. I am going across the Rhine at

the first opportunity to see
Fort Ehrenbreitstein and
the city from the hills
over there. The Rhine and
Moselle valleys at this point
are very beautiful. I am col-
lecting picture postcards
of the region and they will
take place of camera pictures
which are still forbidden.

I will probably get an op-
portunity to use my camera
only when we are on the
way home, and by that time
my films will probably be
spoiled.

I got two letters from
you yesterday dear, of old
date but Believe Me I
was glad to get them. Letters

3.

from you are my best Christmas present, no matter when they were written. One of them shocked me terribly with the news of Mrs. Von Platin's death. It was a terrible thing and I am so sorry for Mr. Von Platin and the poor children.

I also received a will letter from Dad. He has had influenza and has been quite such, but is all well again. I have indeed been most fortunate that none of my family have had serious trouble since I left home and from the very bottom of my heart I thank God for His goodness. It is

a wonderful blessing to have
good health, isn't it dearest?

Well I must close now. I will
write again tomorrow. I love
you dearest with all my heart
and soul. I love you. With
loads of love and kisses to you
my dear wife, and my darling
babies and Glad,

Daddy

Ansel B Smith Capt. M.C.

Evac Hosp #2. U.S.A.

Amer. E.F. Germany

P.S. It looks good for our Sugar
stock doesn't it dear?