

January 11th 1919.

My Dearest Marie:-

It is now eleven thirty and I am just able to sit down to write to you. I have been feeling rather blue all the morning for I have been making arrangements for the funeral of Private Peter [Tessman] who died yesterday evening, and who is the first man of our original organization to die. He was a fine soldier and much liked by all of us, and we feel his loss very keenly. So dear girl you can see that our duties today are not as pleasant, but are tinged with sorrow. His funeral is to be tomorrow and I am going to take the whole Company out to do him honor. God bless his poor mother and sister.

Last night I went down

to the club again with Rosy
and found that there was a
distinguished visitor in the Prince
of Wales. He didn't worry us
much however as we got
interested in a billiard game
and played untill ten o'clock.
It was beautiful moonlight
when we came home and I
couldn't help but think of the
moonlight nights in August
September and October, when
"Jerry" used to come over and
bomb us every night. I didn't
think quite as much of the
moon then, as my letters
of that period will prove.

It is different now. The
moon is once more apprec-
iated as a thing of beauty
instead of a thing to be feared.

2.

There are lots of planes over head all the time but they are all allied planes and it is a much more comfortable feeling to know that to be true. I never tire of watching them. They do all sorts of exciting stunts and keep one's heart in one's mouth all the time while watching them.

I recieved packages #2 and #3 of knitted goods yesterday afternoon, and the things are certainly wonderful dear. I can't thank you and Glad enough for the sox and sweaters. I am keeping for myself the sweater you knit and the sox you described as having been knit by you and Glad, and the others have gone to men in the

Detachment who needed them
and who thank you most
gratefully for them. I have
everything I will need for
a year in the line of socks
and sweaters. I love you dear.

There are lots of rumors
around that we are going to
be relieved to go home in the
near future. Of course there
are only rumors and I have
no confidence whatever in
them. I imagine we will
be here as long as there is
an Army of Occupation but
we may be relieved before
that. I am not going to believe
we are going home until I
am on the way and under
orders for I don't want to

3.

be disappointed about a matter

which means so much to me.

It is the hardest thing I ever

have had to do to keep cheerful

and in a pleasant frame of

mind while waiting for orders.

I am so anxious to go home.

But there are thousands of others

here who are just as anxious

so I try to console myself

with the knowledge that

I'm not the only one.

I am surprised dearest, that

you are having so many falls.

Are you drinking again?

That's an absurd question to

ask anyone who is living in

Michigan isn't it? You must

be careful dearest for you will

injure yourself severely some

time and that is something I
don't want to have happen. If
I take care of myself, you must
do the same till I am back,
and then we will take care
of each other.

Well I will close till to –
morrow darling. I love you
dear with all my heart and
soul, with love and kisses by
the ton to see of all of you at home,
I am your loving

Daddy

Ansel B Smith Capt. M.C.

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

Amer. E.F. Germany.