

January 29th 1919.

Mother Dear:-

I am worried now. I got a letter from you yesterday that informed me you were coming down with the Grippe and that is a thing I am afraid of. I am worried and will be untill I get mail from you written on or about the 15th of January. I think it is so fortunate you have been well up to now and even now I would feel better if I felt sure you had called Dr Ruffe, but you have been calling so many different doctors since I left that I haven't the slightest idea who is your doctor now. Do be careful Lover Dear, and never take a chance of any kind. It is so hard to be so far away from you and know that you are having trouble.

It is still very wintry weather – that is to say, we have snow – but it is not at all cold. Rosy and I went downtown last evening to hear the orchestra and to play billiards and we had a very pleasant evening. I played a better game than I usually do and won two out of five

games. It was quite a surprise to Rosy too. The music was wonderful. The orchestra got to playing a lot of old ballads and everyone sang and I tell you there were some fine voices (including mine.) It was a lot of fun though and we both enjoyed it a lot. In fact anything that will pass the time and help to keep our minds occupied with something beside ourselves and our troubles, is heartily welcomed by all of us. We all have one great consolation however, and that is there are about two million others in the same fix we are, and therefore we get little sympathy. I don't believe there are more than fifty thousand of that number though, who have been here as long as we have. We see many with no service stripes at all and by far the majority of the remainder are wearing only one. Occasionally we see a man with three but not very many of them. I hope not but I imagine I will be wearing three before I am sent home.

It is nearly the first of February now.

With all its slowness, time does pass quickly. February is a short month and in March the winter is ended. It is our firm hope and belief as well that we will be ordered home sometime in February or March. Let us hope so.

Well Darling, I must close. Please be very careful Dear and keep yourself in good health. You are so precious to me, that I don't want anything to happen to you. Be careful. Love me dearest. I love you with all my love, heart and soul. I love you. Give my dear love to Glad and my dear babies. I love you all so much.

Daddy.

Ansel B. Smith Capt. M.C.

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

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