

February 15 – 1919.

My Dearest wife: -

Here we still sit, awaiting our final orders, and waiting them most impatiently too, but not hopelessly, for yesterday telegraphic orders arrived that we were to be prepared to leave at once. It is in the air, and there is not the slightest doubt that in the very near future we will be on the way to Rotterdam and from there to the States.

I wrote my "Valentine" letter to you yesterday, and in return received your anniversary letter dear, which was so sweet and brave that it made me happy and want to cry both at once. The news that the Wallace furniture Co has declared another dividend was good news I assure you, because it convinced me that your financial worries are taken care of for a while more, and I hope to be home with you before any more develop.

I am so crazy to get home. You have no idea how "fed up" a man can become in this Army life. Now that the thing

is all over and the Germans licked, it is hard to stay here and wait and wait and wait. Knowing all the time just how much you are needed at home makes it no easier, but it is true now that we are on the home stretch and that in a while we will be reunited never to separate again. That makes it a little easier to bear. We will never in future years, regret the Part we have had in this war, nor be Ashamed of our participation. It is hard for us to bear, but then dear girl, Duty is often hard and unpleasant, but none the less necessary. You have been brave and done nobly. God knows what anyone else has done seems paltry compared to what you have done, and I am so proud of you I can't express my pride. It doesn't increase my love for you,, for nothing could make that greater that it is now, but it does ass to it a feeling of reverence that makes it indescribably more powerful.

We have lived in the house five years haven't we? That is quite a while. I can see as easily as you, that we will need a larger house soon, and when we get it it will be a good one. It will be an easy matter to sell that house at a good profit because it certainly was a bargain to us and is worth much more than we paid for it. I love it though, and can hardly wait to get back into my wonderful chair in our beautiful living room and love you. And incidently I might add, I am looking forward to my first meal in our dining room. I am going to enjoy that. It will be great to get white man's food cooked and served in a white man's way again.

I was shocked terribly to read of the Remmington Delaney accident and also the death of Lois Closterhouse. It is most sad and is another reminder that others beside

us have trouble. Give my deepest and most heartfelt sympathy to Joe, Ethel and Leon. I am certainly sorry for them. I most sincerely thank God that He has granted good health to my dear ones during my absence. It is the greatest cause for thankfulness that I have. You must be careful with your diet dear heart, and not let indiscretion be responsible for your becoming ill again. I want you to be the healthiest woman in the world when I get back so that we can enjoy life to the utmost.

Won't it seem strange to me to see my babies so grown up? I cannot visualize them as they may be for they will have changed a great deal I know. I am so homesick to see the darlings that I don't know what to do. I am sure that they won't have forgotten me. It isn't worrying me at all.

I am glad that Jack has been fortunate enough to get home. He is lucky, but of course he was over here long before I was and so deserves to be back sooner. Tell him not to think of locating in any other city and tell him also in picking out his office to keep me in mind so we can be together.

Well Dearest I must close now. It is time for me to get at my inspections I will write again tomorrow. I love you my darling, with all the love of which I am capable. I love you and my dear babies and Glad. I will be with you soon. Be brave dear girl, and love your

Daddy

Ansel B Smith, Capt. M.C.

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