

February 16 –1919

Mother Dear: -

The time is getting closer and it is now practically a certainty that we will be on our way in a very few days. The organization that is to relieve us is expected to arrive tomorrow and it will be [illegible] a day or two after their arrival that we will leave. It is difficult for any of us to realize that our great day is so near, and we are all so excited about it we don't know how to act.

Last night I went for a long walk with Rosy and we returned to Quarters at 8:30. We spent the remainder of the evening until 10:00 playing Napoleon. Exciting pastime! I had a wonderful night's sleep and am feeling like a top today. Our preparations for departure are keeping me very busy and it is the most agreeable work that I have ever done in all my life. It seems too

good to be true.

I received no mail from you yesterday so I feel that some should be forthcoming today. I am living in hopes and I feel convinced that you will write me good news. I hope no more of my friends die before I return. It seems so terrible to have so many young people taken out of a community. Still I have more or less become accustomed to the idea since I have been in the army.

There is a great deal to be said about the army, in the future. I see that there is a lot of it being said already in the home papers. I never am going to kick, myself, but many will and I frankly acknowledge that almost anyone has sufficient grounds on which to base a complaint. I will be sufficiently satisfied to get out of the service and back in Civil

life again. I want to be with you  
my darling. We have a good many  
lost months to make up for.

There is some probability of our being  
mustered out of service at Camp Merritt  
in New Jersey. I won't know, of course,  
until we get there, but if we are, you  
will be able to meet me so we can  
return home together. I simply can't  
make any plans for I don't know  
what we are going to do, but we  
will find each other in some way,  
never fear.

I must close now darling. I will  
write you tomorrow. I love you dear. I  
love you. Give my love to all the dear  
one and many kisses. I live you all so  
much.

A.B.

Ansel B Smith Capt M.C.

E.H. #2 U.S.A.

Amer. E.F. Germany