

Feb. 17, 1919

Mother Dear: -

It is Monday, and we all feel that it is the beginning of our last week in Germany. I fully expect that we will leave here Friday or Saturday although it may be a few days later. I have just had my last haircut in Germany – that I am sure of. I am indeed glad that we are so near the end of this A. E. F. business. It has been a long year and we have all had enough.

The organization which is to relieve us is due here today or tomorrow, and as soon as we have effected the transfer of property and personnel we will leave at once. There are a few of the men who won't go with us as they are sick in the hospital but most of them will go. It will be too bad to have to leave any of them here. I know how I would feel if I had to be left behind.

We are all ready to turn everything over. My good Sergeant has done fine work and has everything right up to date and ready to go. He is a fine

chap and I certainly hope you will be able to meet him sometime.

We didn't get mail yesterday after all, so I am looking forward to the mail man's return today with hopeful anticipation. It has been four days now since I have had a letter. I am very anxious to hear from you and learn that the long interval that you have been without mail is finally broken. It is strange that mail should be so tied up in the States as it is said to be in New York. However it must be straightened out by this time and you have received a lot of letters from me.

It turned very warm during the night last night, and started to rain. It is not raining now but is as nice and warm as a late spring day. It seems so strange to me to have winter weather of this sort as we are so accustomed to cold at home. I went

to bed early last night and never woke once until seven this morning. It was the best night's sleep I have had since we have been here and I feel fine today. I am going to spend some time today weeding out of my trunk things that I don't want to carry back with me, and getting ready to do my final packing in a hurry. I tell you Dearest, it seems wonderful to be so near to the "going home" time, and it is hard to realize it. I can hardly wait to get there and I hope we get the fastest steamer on the Atlantic.

To see you and my babies is going to be the most wonderful thing that has ever entered my life. It seems like ages since I said goodbye to you dear in the sleeper at Indianapolis, and as long as I live I will never forget it. Little Marie and you, had me just about unstrung and I couldn't stand it another minute, But now dear

the whole things is behind us and I
am coming home to you, and never,
so long as we live, shall we be sep-
arated again. Oh! it will be so wonder-
ful to be back. I love you so much my
sweetheart.

I must close now. I have a lot
of work to do. All the love in my
heart is in this letter for you dearest,
and for my two darling kiddies. I
love you so much. Goodbye till
tomorrow.

A.B.

Ansel B Smith Capt M.C.

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

Amer. E. F. Germany