

March 21, 1919

My Darling:-

I didn't write yesterday nor the day before for the reason that we were having our inspections on those two days and they were days of great strain and excitement for me as I was the only officer in the entire outfit involved. First the inspector looked over the men in full uniform with packs, helmets and gas masks, and then asked me to give him some exhibition drill, which I did. The men performed beautifully and made a wonderful appearance. The drill was held in a beautiful big meadow right on the banks of the Loire river and it was a pretty sight. After drill was finished I had them remove their packs & overcoats and he inspected their identification tags and uniforms after which he told me he would proceed no further as he found everything in such splendid shape. He had not been

able to make a critique of any sort. After we went back to town I had a talk with him and he complimented me very highly on the drill discipline, military bearing and appearance of the men and told me it was not only the best medical corps outfit he had ever inspected but was the best he had ever seen, so I really felt well repaid for all the hard work I have done with the men. The remainder of the day and all day yesterday was spent in inspection of our paperwork, all of which was found to be without a fault. So we passed a fine inspection and are now cleared for the ship, and I tell you I feel a great load and responsibility released from myself.

I went in to Nantes last evening for a few minutes and saw Gene Smith of Detroit there. His outfit

leaves for the States sometime this week. He has had serious trouble with his wife who has heard in some way or other of his escapades over here, and I understand that a divorce is imminent. I am so sorry for her, but he is really quite a worthless fellow. Any man who could do the things he has over over here here could really never have loved his wife at all.

I have again been recommended for promotion to major, which doesn't mean much now and which probably will not come through but it shows that I have at least earned the right to it and that is some satisfaction. I have no ambitions for promotion but I know I would have had my majority long ago except for one person. If it will make you feel any better I hope I get it before I come

home. It makes no difference to me at all. Please pardon the transition from YMCA to Red Cross.

It has rained all day today but in spite of that fact I took the company out for an eight mile hike. This is beautiful country and I hope that it will clear up soon if we have to stay here long. This next week all the officers except three of us – Rosy, Moody & myself are to be detached & sent home on casuals, I have to stay with the men as I am the only man who thoroughly Understands handling the Detachment. (I don't think much of

myself do I dear.) However the chances are that we will beat the others home and it is a certainty that we will sail about the middle of April.

Well Honey Dear I must close now. I will write again tomorrow. Give my love and millions of kisses to Glad and the dear kiddies. Tell them Daddy is "on the way". I love you dearest. I love you with all my heart and soul and love. I love you,

Daddy.

Ansel B Smith Capt M.C.

Portillon, France. Nantes District

Dept. Loire Inferieure

Amer. E. F.