

March 26, 1919

Dear Darling:-

I have not written for two days for I have been more than ordinarily busy with a lot of things that have been coming up. I have had no mail at all until this morning, from you, and I recieved six today which were sweet beyond words, but also have caused me a lot of worry. I am much disturbed over financial matters on your account, and I am also worried greatly about your health and dear little Brother's. He has had a lot of sickness hasn't he dear? I am at a loss as to what I can do. You know what my ideas have always been regarding using influence to get out of the service. It is the hardest thing in the world to get of the A E F and I have no idea that anything I can do nor even In Truth will hurry it up one bit. It always seems

to act the other way around and result in keeping a man over here longer than ever.

However dearest I am now determined that no stone will be left unturned by me to get home as soon as I can, for I am convinced of the immediate necessity. Of course our outfit is here awaiting embarkation and there is no knowing how soon nor how long it will be until we leave. We may be sent in a week and it may be six weeks. It is impossible to be sure about that but chances are that it won't be very long now. In spite of these facts I will try to get away at once and come home as a casual for that may mean I will be able to return a little earlier. I am ever so worried – in fact I feel actually sick I am so

3.

worried, but the only thing we can either of us do is to be patient and brave. I know how hard it is for you dear heart and my heart aches for you. It is also hard for me but in a different way. The separation from you and my dear children has become almost unbearable and now in view of your financial need and the sickness of the babies and your shortness of help, it is a lot worse. I shall certainly always feel that our sacrifice for our country has been a great one and that you, my dear, sweet wife, have borne the brunt of it.

What can be done? I'm in the army – an army that sees fit to send unmarried youngsters with no responsibilities home, and keep married men with children

over here. "C'est le Guerre". It is my last war – I'm sure of that, but I know we will neither of us regret the part we have had no matter what the cost we have paid. The greater the cost the greater will be our pride.

I am going to Nantes this P.M. to see if I can cable to you, and I want you to know that I have finally cast all scruples aside and am going to try my best to get home at once. I feel now that I am perfectly justified in doing so.

Give my love to my dear kiddies and kiss them for me. Tell them their Daddy is heartbroken today because he isn't with them. Oh! Sweetheart, I am so homesick for you today and so worried about your trouble. I ask God to bless you and keep you

from all harm, and sickness
and want and distress, and
that I may be home with you
soon to relieve your dear
shoulders of the burden you
have borne so long and so
bravely. Goodbye dearest girl.
I love you. I will write again
tomorrow. I love you all – so
much.

Daddy.

Ansel B Smith, Capt M.C.

Evac Hosp. #2

Nantes District. Portillon France

Amer. E. F.