Mother Dear:

Before I talked with you on the phone tonight I had written you a letter and after our conversation I felt so rather depressed that I simply had to write another. It wasn't a very cheerful conversation was it dearest girl? I could just see how lovely and downcast you were and it naturally made me feel the same way.

Mother Darling I am going over this whole thing with you again. Major There who is in command of this detachment I am with is a member of the National Medical Advisory Board which is a Board organized for the purpose of advising the War Department on things Medical. He tells me that the Board already has power conferred by the President, and legalized by act of Congress, to draft into service "any individual whose services can be of special value to the Government." And that on that basis the Board has completed and formulated
plans which provide for the conscript-
ion of "all doctors of medicine and
surgery between the ages of 30 and 50."
Also that the government does not consider
the families of commissioned officers as
dependents on themselves. Therefore, I
did all I could do—either enter the
service as I did, as a commissioned
officer with a salary of $66.00 per mo.
or be drafted later as a first class
private on a contract price of $75.00 per
month.

There is absolutely no way in which
I would have escaped the service. That is
positively a fact. So I am in a worse
condition than I would have been
had I waited to be drafted.
All the above is absolutely positive
fact, and on record in the War Dept.

Now—since I am in it, I have
got to stay in it. It is not possible to
get out except by desertion and what
is punishable by two things, life
imprisonment or execution. On
these accounts, I do not consider it.
It is hard, sweet heart, for me to be
apart. It does seem strange that
I should be ordered into service so
much before others, but it will only serve to secure my promotions that much earlier. I am sure that in two or three months I will have a captaincy and then I can send you more money.

Now about money. Money and extravagance have always been our greatest blessing sins and temptations. We have always had all we need. We have never wanted for a thing. Now there has arisen an emergency and it must be treated as an emergency.

Let's go over the whole matter again. We owed the bank $4,000. Interest on that amounts to $600 per year. We have $4,000 at least per year from Wallace Farm Co. We have $6,000 from Globe and $600 from Holland & St. Louis. Now you have on your W.S. L. $700 of $2,500 or $290 per year. You have $3,000 from Parlin Bros. note. You should have $500 per mo. or $6,000 per year from Ted. You will
need which will cut that down still more. So I haven't spent so much after all considering our Status bills etc. Mind dearest I admit I am extravagant and I also admit that you are.

\[ \$176 + \$60.00 = \$336.00. \$1,000 - \$336.00 = \$664.00 \]

which has been used up in two weeks except for the balance you have on hand which is about \$200.00.

Now I will get along on what I have with me. I have \$46.00 and must pay my bill here, my fare to Indiana and my living while there out of that. My first pay check will be about \$85.00 and my mileage should bring that to about \$115.00. I may have to keep \$100.00 or maybe \$5.00 of that but I will send you every cent of it if possible. I won't need any money at Fort Harrison. My living now is not costing me over \$6.00 per month and I am living well. Your dividend check will be in two or
three weeks and if you are careful what you have on hand now will easily last until then. I am in favor of selling the car but not hastily. You may find that after things strike their level you can easily afford to run it. Use your own judgment about that.

Don't forget to call on the Wallaces or Dave at any time for advice and help.

Honey, dear, please look at this thing as I do. It is the greatest sacrifice I ever have made or ever will make. It is a great trial to have to leave home and family and give up a good business for duty's sake. It is very hard for me as for you, but realize that it was not only necessary but inevitable. Therefore, dear girl, try to make the best of it and be brave. Be a good girl and help me to bear it by also being brave and by saying to yourself that any sacrifice one can make for his
country's sake, is not too great. Pray to God for strength for both of us, so that each may cheer the other with fortitude.

Don't worry about money; figures don't lie and the true figures are on this paper. Just be careful and judicious - ask for help and advice from our good friends. Whenever it is necessary, put your trust in the Lord, and keep a stiff upper lip. If matters are not so it is wise for us to be together. In Indiana we must "grit and bear it." We can do it. And my Darling Girl, just love me all the time, and remember that not a moment passes but your own sweet self is instill in my thoughts and what I love you with all the love that God has made me capable of. And believe...
me dearest, that is a great love. My daughter just broke my heart tonight. Her voice was so sweet. I'd love to see you all but of course it can't be done. Brother will be all right, but you must call a doctor every time anything new disturbs you. I call Brotherhood I believe.

Please take good care of yourself dear. I leave at 2:30 tomorrow for Indianapolis and as I told you in my other letter, my address will be % State Warrant Office, U.S. Army, Indianapolis, Indiana. I will write to you every day and when I am ready for my things I will tell you in a letter.

Sweet heart, I have gone over things as thoroughly as possible. It doesn't seem to me that you should worry now. Don't forget that no bill needs to be paid until 6 months after my return. And you have every
Moral and legal right to take advantage of this moratorium.

Goodnight Love dear. Love me always. Give my love to Tru and my dear dear kiddies. Remember that I can't be brave unless you are. Write me every day.

Dearest love, Sweetheart.

A.B.