February 20th 18

My Darling, Darling Wife:

I am so happy tonight that I can hardly contain myself for I have had fairly recent news from you and it was not bad news either. I received your letter written between January 16th and 28th today and they were all wonderful letters. I want to tell you now:

Dear that I surely appreciate the way you are standing all your hardships, and that I think you are one of the most wonderful and brave women in the world.

You don't say a thing in any of your letters that might worry me and I won't permit myself to read between the lines as I might, because I am also six from what you tell me that our friends there are proving their.
worth, and showing you that they are friends indeed. I wish I could write you the long newsy letters you write, but postal regulations over here are so strict that our stock of conversation which is not "defence" is very limited. We cannot mention the names of places in which we are or have been—we cannot write about military matters—and even the above restrictions are so comprehensive that you can see it leaves very little to write about. But I don't fast, and I know that you are glad to get my letters no matter how little they say: Your letter, written on
our wedding anniversary, brought tears to my eyes, a lump in my throat and sweet memories of the wonderful times we have had on that day each year since we have been married, especially the last. Did you have a good time didn't we dear? I remember every detail of the party as clearly as if it were yesterday. And so much relieved to learn that Brother's ear is better. Poor dear little chap, he has sure had a hard time with it and I have been very worried about him. The things that they say are cute. I would give any thing in the world to see the two dear kiddies. Send me a picture of them as soon as you have
one made dear. I don't know what I'd do if I didn't have these pictures I have. I have a large shelf over my bunk and my family pictures are there. They
I can see them and have my little visits and talks with them. They are wonderful pictures too.

I am so glad you got my cable and that it made you feel sounder and better. I sent it at the earliest possible moment and will send another when I can get the C.O.'s permission. As I told you in one of my previous letters, he is opposed to our using the cables at all and
forbid it except in cases of dire necessity. Poor old Fisher. I am so sorry for the lad. He must be more seriously ill than any of us realized. If he is losing flesh so rapidly, I hope sincerely that by this time he is away from the hospital and out of the army, for he should be in a place where he could regain his health and strength. If it is possible. I am so sorry dearest that you have been having more sick headaches and more trouble with your skin, but glad to hear that your stomach trouble is better.
I know that you are in good hands and am sure that if you will be faithful, Dr. Brotherhood will fix you up all right.

The coal shortage there must be a fright. The news clippings you sent me indicate as much. However I am again confident that Mrs. Wallace will take care of you and so don't worry. Not one of the packages you sent me has reached me yet except one box of American chocolate, and believe me that was welcome. The others are no doubt safe and will reach me in due course of time. As far as the typewriter is concerned, I will let it go.
It might get lost on the way over and after all, I can get along without it very nicely. I am much obliged for looking the matter up, anyway dears.

In one of your packages to me I will be glad to have you put some of my B.V.D. underwear suits. I will need them this summer. Don't send more than four suits.

So the ships sailed. Well I hope Dr. Smith finds him self as well prepared for his work as he will need to be, for it is entirely out of his line. I hope I meet them
over here somewhere and it is not at all improbable that I will. I am mighty glad to be with this unit even if I have only a lieutenant's commission. I have no military ambitions and only joined the army because it was my duty for advancement to me is a purely secondary consideration. I know I will get it if I deserve it and I am going to try to deserve it. Dr. Smith could never offer me as much as I can get with this outfit for I know that it is one of the best Medical units in our Army and I'm mighty glad to be on the staff.
But not half so glad duties as I will be to get off from it. I don't want to, and wouldn't leave until I feel that my "bit" has been done and the thing is all over, but when I can't leave and return to my dear wife and children, II'll be the happiest man in the world. It will be like starting life all over again; won't it, dear? Oh! Honey, I love you so much; you are so sweet and good, and so brave. You are the most wonderful little woman in all the world and I know you are loving me every minute. Well, I want you to know my dear
that "Somewhere in France" your husband is loving you and the babies with all his love, every minute of his life. So let's try to be contented with conditions which can't be helped. You can realize now more than you ever have, how necessary it was for me to volunteer. I do, every day of my life. And you and I must continue to do our bit until the war is over and the right side has won. God grant it may be soon. Your prayers have always been answered darling, and you must keep on pray ing that the war will end soon and that we may all
be reunited in good health. Well, it is now 9:00 O’clock and I must retire for I had a hard day today and another coming tomorrow. We expect a visit from the Commander-in-Chief tomorrow and are going to show him our outfit officered by Reserve officers that is a real outfit.

Give my regards to all my dear friends: Mrs. my ladies and Fred (God bless them) and tell Fred I’m glad she’s such a good girl. And Oh! Honey Dear! with all the love you and I have ever been able to imagine or conceive, with worlds of it, and millions of
Kisses, I wish you goodnight and pleasant dreams and may the good Lord watch over you all and keep you for your Daddy.

From H.B. Smith W.D.C. Evac. Hoop #2 U.S.A.
A.E.T.