March 8, 1918

My dearest wife:

Today is Easter Sunday, and it is raining a veritable deluge. So in spite of the fact that I know it is my duty to go, still I am going to stay at home, and write a long letter to my wife. The only ones going to church are those who have no wishes to write to and feel sorry for them. If I didn't have my dear sweet little wife I wouldn't have anything to live for, and not a day passes that I don't thank God for his goodness in giving me you and two beautiful children. I am indeed fortunate—more so than words can express, and my Darling, don't think that I ever fail to appreciate
That fact.

I send you and the babies and Ted, my dearest love and the cheeryest of Easter greetings. And they are cheery and rightly so, because our armies are beating the Germans to a standstill. And if they are beaten, they are through. And when they are through we are through. Oh! I tell you dear, in spite of the rain, this is a brighter world to-day than it has been for some time.

I can just see the kiddies today. God bless them—running all over the house, looking for the chicks and egg that Mr. Easter Bunny has left
for them. I remember last Easter and the wonderful time we had at home, and this year it is so different. Well, it is so well, and so it must be, but I have no feelings but those of self-satisfaction that I am here where I should be and where every American man who is fit should also be. This war is fought with a wonderful end in view. The world will be better for us all. I have been so inspired by the news this morning that I am way up in the clouds.
Although you may have read about these, I am going to quote the words of General Pershing, to General Foch, and then you will understand why we are all in a fever, here.

"I have come to say to you that the American people would hold it as a great honor if our troops were engaged in the present battle. I ask it of you in my name and in that of the American people. There is at this moment no other question than that of fighting. Our infantry, artillery,
Aviation and all that we have are yours. Dispose of them as you will. Others are coming, as numerous as may be necessary.

I have come to say to you that the American people would be proud to be engaged in the greatest battle of history.

Now doesn't that sound "American"? I tell you, it is a spirit that can't be beaten and the words of our General reflect the sentiments of every man in this.
army. There is no doubt but that we will win and that God will bless the right.

I got no mail from you yesterday, but I don't feel exactly like complaining in view of the fact that I really made a mistake the day before yesterday. It is wonderful to get your letters and hear all that is going on at home, but still more wonderful to hear that you and my babies, all my dear beloved family, are well and happy. It is so amusing to read all the cute
things that the babies say
and I am sure glad that
Brother has not forgotten
me. I know that Sister
won't but Brother is so
young that really nothing
else could be expected.

For hours, French
troops—cavalry, infantry
and artillery—have been
passing here on the way to
the front. May they all
have good luck. I still
hope it is inspiring and
still it brings tears to my
eyes and a big lump in
my throat when I think.
they are all going to their death—glorious death though it is. It all seems so wrong—so unnecessary.

I don't want you to worry about me a bit dear. I am just as safe as if I were at home with you. There is no danger at all from air raids. They are only day raids in the cities, where the Boches still continue to murder women and babies. They are becoming less and less frequent also, which confirms the constant report that
The Allied air men have an immense superiority over them.

Last night I had a dream about Jack Cowell. I dreamed that the war was over and that he and I were on our way home together. It was a wonderful dream and it was a great disappointment to wake up. I'd like to continue a dream like that ad infinitum.

Tomorrow is pay day and I still have 200 francs left from last pay day.
that isn't so bad, do you think so? I have my February and March bills to pay so I may not have so much left after all when that is done. However I just offer that information to prove to you that I am not suffering for want of money and that I really have all I need.

Well love dear I must close. I have written quite a long letter don't you think so? I love to write to you for it is almost like talking
with you and it is a most enjoyable way of passing the time. But I must not forget that you have to read all I write and today I have written so much that any more must needs be repetition. I want to be remembered individually to worry one of my friends. Well dear by all means to write because I will love to hear from him. Continue sending letters from our friends as I do find
them most interesting.
Hazel and Kathleen wrote
good letters. I am glad
Elise has a baby and
when you write to her
be sure to send my con-
gratulations to both of
them.
It was nice of you to write to you making
inquiry about me. I hope
you will answer the
letter. I know you
must be very busy
writing letters however
as I give you lots of
it to do. Kiss the babies
for me and tell them...
Daddy sends them his dearest love. Kiss Ted and tell her I love her. As for you my dear, I adore you. I worship you. I love you. I can't think of words to express my love for you. You are the dearest and sweetest of all women, and with all my love and all my heart I love you.

Daddy.

H. A. Smith, M.B.C.O.
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