My dear dear wife:

Yesterday I wrote you a three-page letter and intended to write another last night but when we got started at work there was no let up for me. Until afternoon I had to leave town and testify at a court martial in another town. It was a nice trip and intensely interesting. I returned to our camp at about 5:30 in the afternoon, just in time for meals. After dinner, I was just getting settled and comfortable to write to you again when I was called to the hospital and worked steadily until 1:30 this morning. It was a bit hard to get up at reveille this morning but "It's in the army now" so had to do it. The one bright spot in my whole day yesterday was a
wonderful letters from you dear. It was waiting for me here at camp when I returned from my trip. It was the one you wrote on Holy Thursday, and Oh my darling it was sweet. But trouble me awfully homesick for you. You told me so many times how you love me. And that made me so happy. Yes, dearest. I agree that we will all the trial of our separation we are still the happiest couple on earth. Our knowledge of each other's enduring and eternal love is what makes us happy and is the only thing that makes this possible to bear. And don't you worry darling there is not the slightest chance that I won't come back to you. There is no danger here there is right in my own home, and I believe me I am careful with a capital C. And the good Lord will not permit such happiness
as ours to be destroyed. So my dearest put such thoughts out of your mind and just think of how happy we will be when we are together again. Yes darling, every minute of our time will be spent together. I haven't a desire in the world except to be with you; to spend all my time with you; to love you and love you and love you.

I know how hard it is for you dearest to keep up the fight you are having there at home. It is a terrible struggle and you are equal to it. I know you are. You have done so wonderfully and sweetheart I can't tell you how I love you for it. Don't think dearest that it isn't hard for me too. I am a man and
Therefore my feelings are not supposed to be as sensitive as a woman's, but I will make a confession dear. Many and many a time I have shed tears I have been over here. Many and many a time my heart has ached and bled with the trial of our separation. Many a time I have felt that doing almost anything just to get back to see you and my dear babies for only a few weeks is well worthwhile for the fact that whatever sacrifice we are making and suffering we are bearing is for the greatest and most wonderful country on God's green earth. That every man, woman and child living in it and under the protection of its glorious flag owes every ounce of effort and every breath of life to perpetuate its safety and
That our own home, our babies, lives, your life and our happiness must be made safe is what makes me feel that instead of a trial we really should count it a high privilege to do our little bit in this great business. For we are not alone; there are thousands upon thousands of others going through what we are for the same purpose. So dearest, let's just be brave and patient and it will soon be over. God bless you darling and give you strength to be brave as you have been, and keep you in strong health, and order babies. Cheer up—there is nothing so bad it might be worse.
I think it is wonderfully wise of Mrs. Coates to do so much for you and I do like her to know how much I appreciate it. It makes it very much easier and more pleasant to have so many good friends. I think Marcia is very wise to sell her car. It seems to me it is an unnecessary wartime luxury and I am sure if she does it she never will regret it.

Wasn't it wise of Fisher to send an Easter box to the babies? I think it was mighty thoughtful of him. I am glad you got my check, dearest. You have said nothing so far about receiving two telegrams I sent you one of which was of congratulations to Brother. Also you have not mentioned receiving your cablegrams.
and I am inclined to believe that it is due to the fact that they were not sent off, after all. There is a positive order against sending them now, or you would receive one occasionally. Let me know dearest if you have received this. I am not surprised to hear that Dr. Smith's unit has not sailed yet, but it will very soon, no doubt. Yes, their coming will help to end the war. Every man that comes will help. Every thing you women do at home helps. Every bit of coal, food, fuel, gasoline saved helps to win the war. Every prayer helps, and believe me dearest, millions of prayers go up to heaven every day.
asking for the end of this horrible war. Each day of my life I pray for its end and I pray for my dearest wife and babies. Ted Ted Ted I cheat a little once in awhile and throw in a good word for you. You know dear, there is something about this war game which puts one at times in a praying mood. I presume there are thousands of men in all these armies who pray often now, and who never knew what prayer was before joining the army. It isn't fear of death for I have yet to see one of these men who is afraid to die. They risk their lives every day a hundred times without a thought. They don't know what fear is. But it is the tremendous beguise of the whole thing, add the
realization of some great underlying force or power directing things in their proper way; the knowledge that thousands of men are departing this life for somewhere. It is hard to explain but there is something further. There is something sublime about the love for country which has brought all these fine boys over here, isn't there, dear? One cannot help but love them all, and when they come in wounded it is a wonderful satisfaction to help to relieve their suffering. Their grit and grateful are also wonderful. We have just set up our phonograph and it is fun.
to play it. We all take an
immense amount of comfort
in it and I am sure glad
we brought it over. I have
an appointment with the
dentist at 10:30 this A.M.
to have a tooth filled. I will
have to have it filled with
amalgam and then when I
return to the States, have
that drilled out and an inlay
put in. We have a mighty
good Dentist with our out
fit and it is mighty fortunate
we have, for otherwise our
tooth might get pretty bad
before we get back.

Well Darling I will
close now. It is nearly
time for my appoint-
ment and I did not go,
I have written a good long
letter this time besides. If
dearest I will make up
for the short letter I wrote.
yesterday. Kiss the kiddies and
and for me and give them my
darkest love. With worlds of
love and kisses to you dear,

Daddy,

St. Helens, Wash.

Aug. 17. A. E. T.