October 23, 1916.

My Dearest Girl:

Another month is gone and the time is slipping on. It will soon be a year since we parted dear, but a year to look back on and not forward to. What a great difference it makes. It is not going to be another year, or I miss my guess. The condition of things at present is so satisfactory that many of the very sanguine over here are predicting peace by winter. Hardly believe that is possible, but I do believe that it will come by spring.

It looks now as if Bulgaria will be out of it very soon. That will without a bit of doubt, put Turkey out in a very short time as her chief Communi-
tion with Germany will be cut by Bulgaria's default. With Bulgaria and Turkey eliminated, all the Allied armies of Palestine and Macedonia—practically all in the East—will be freed to attack Austria on the East, with the help of a reinvolved Rumania, for it will be in adversity that Rumania will recapture the war in event of the above happenings. Austria is in no condition to maintain an footing as well as Eastern frontiers, and with England, France, U.S.A., all closing in on Germany in the West, you have the whole thing in a nutshell. C'est finit! It is only a question as to how
much devastation, the Germans will permit of their own land, and how yellow they really are at heart.

It is all settled, you see, dear, by my strategy. Sounds good doesn't it? I hope that it works out as well as it sounds for if it does I should be with you all next summer. So Sweetheart

pray harder than you have ever prayed for anything, for the success of the Allied Armies and the defeat of their Enemies. For if I ever wanted anything in all my life dear, it is to see you. I never want to leave my mother again. God bless you dearest, how I love
you and my dear babies!

I have spent my time in the past thirty-four hours, working some studying and practicing French, and working on the map. I went down town with Captain DeJardin this morning to get the latest news, and after getting it, we bought some cigarettes (real ones too!) and then went to the club, where I succeeded in winning two out of three games of billiards from him. When I returned to camp, I found one very nice letter from you and a nice letter from Cora. I am glad that things seem to be going all right in spite of the U.S. failure to pay a dividend this
month. I am sure that things will work out all right and am worrying less since receiving your last letter.

I think it is wonderful that Oliver can swim now. It will be wonderful exercise for him. Nothing is more beneficial to the slowly rejuvenating muscle of a case of aneurism than swimming and I hope his parents will encourage him in it a great deal. While sending him to the Y.W.C.A. in winter time it will be of inestimable value to him.

Well dear, after having been urged by you I have decided to take a short leave—about a week. Rosy and I may go...
Paris, Nice, Monte Carlo, and Versailles. Those four places are the only ones I care to visit and one visit will be enough. It will do me good for I have had no relief from this monotonous grind for a year. I will let you know when we leave.

I will close now dearest. Give my love and kisses to Ted and my babies. With all my dearest love to you sweet heart, I am your homesick

[Signature]

Pfc. E. F. Smith
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