October 31, 1916.

Marie Darling:  

The last day of October, appropriately enough, a crisp, cold, clear day—beautiful autumn weather. The ground was covered with frost this morning as a gentle but firm reminder that winter is near. I can tell you I appreciate the many warm things my dear little wife has provided us with and thank you so much dear for all your thoughtful care. I am enclosing a request for some boy and sweater and underwear for I really need the underwear. What I have now is beginning to show wear. I have you in plenty but will be glad to have you send what you have there as I often find boys over here who are very much in need of warmer things and have given away a large amount of what I brought with me. I am careful to keep the things...
you make for me dear, for they are the best I have.

The news as you know, is so wonderful that it is extremely difficult to realize the full import of it. Austria and Hungary are at least out of consideration now as combatants and from all reports and telegrams from neutral Germany, she will not stand it much longer. It is a wonderful beginning of the end of a terrible war, and no disaster can be too great to be freely incurred by the Central Powers.

We are very busy here. If I didn’t write to you so early in the morning I would have a great deal of trouble in arranging to do it at all for all day I am on the run. It is now eight thirty and I have
just completed my office routine work.

Tomorrow is the first of the year, month of November—nearly a year since I sailed from God's country. Thanksgiving is going to be a happy day this year after all for if it is going to have to offer as much for the world to be thankful for as any day we have ever known. Therefore even if we are separated dear, we must rejoice and be thankful in the consummation of things infinity greater than our own personal happiness or that of any individual on earth. We will never forget these days of separation and of sacrifice and we will never cease to be thankful that
God made it possible for us
back to materially make a
sacrifice for our country.
If you were over here, if
you could realize as we all
realize, what a wonderful
wonderful country ours is,
you would be even more
proud, and would glory even
more than you do, in the great
privilege you and I have had
to participate in her greatness.
It is the most wonderful
opportunity for duty either of
us has ever had dear girl.

I received a letter from you
yesterday, written from Detroit.
It indicated that matters were
fairly well settled with him, and
I am sure I heartily approve of
the manner in which you brought
him to time. A lawyer was your
only recourse, and certainly you
owed him no further consideration
nor could he expect it. My pri-
ivate opinion of him is that he
is a scoundrel and I have no
further use for him. I hope
also that you and Ted will
have nothing further to do
with him. He doesn't deserve
that you should.

It is now about time
for me to start on my round,
dear, and my respect, so
I must bring this letter to
a close. I can write no
more news nor a thing of
interest to you except of my
love for you. You know all about that. You know that I love you more than I do my own life. Give my love to Had and my dear babies. With lots of kisses to you all.

Daddy.

Aunt B Smith Capt m e.
Eve troop #2 USA.
Aven E T France.