December 28-1918

My darling wife:-

I know of no day since I have been in the army, that I have been happier than I am today. I wrote you a long letter today, telling you how I longed for mail, and my longings have been gratified. The mail man brought mail this morning, and I got fifteen wonderful letters from you, dating from October 29th to November 25th, and containing news that I have waited for more anxiously than I can ever tell you.

In the first place you will never realize my relief to hear that all of my family are well and to date have escaped the terrible epidemic of "flu."
Which has been raging all over the country. I was so worried about it in fact. Dear May as well admit that like you I will not cease to worry till we are reunited again.

It was also a wonderful relief to learn that the White Star Line has declared a dividend small enough it was for I know how much it will help you. The additional money I will send you each month now, will also help towards matters better for you I am sure. I will not worry about financial matters now for as you say, for a year and a half you have managed
and while it is hard, I know you can do it some more.

It was so wonderful to read of the reception of the Peace news at home. It must have been wonderful to believe and see it, and it must have been an occasion for rejoicing and thanks to God for you and the millions of women who have husbands "Over Here," you may rest assured Dearest One, it was a time of Thanksgiving here, and the celebrations are still going on daily. If it means so much to our Country, think what it meant to France for her four years burdened with war in its most horrible
form. All else should be forgotten except rejoicing and thanksgiving that the world is at last free from this terrible curse.

Of course we want to come home. My God! how we want to come home! But the need for us is not over and we are still rendering our Country necessary service.

After all earnest, what that what Counts? Is there anything in life bigger and more satisfying than to be able to feel that you have given to your Country. All she demanded from you without a complaint? I don't think so.
And I do feel that when they need me no more I will be sent home. For these reasons I will be as contented as is possible, with the longing to see you and my darlings tearing my very heart out.

It is hard for you dear, but Oh! it is hard for me. I want to come HOME. But it is not the merely nor the fair thing to do, to take advantage of any influence to obtain consideration before others. Is it? To let be brave, patient and content, and trust that God in His kind Providence and judgment may see fit to join us again in the near future.
I am glad to hear that Mike will get his majority. The Army has been most kind to its officers at home, but I am telling the truth. I have not yet met another Captain in the Medical Corps who was not promoted before he left the States. I am more proud of my Captaincy gained here, than I would be of a Majority gained there. It would more truly be no doubt of it. However, that is not what I joined the Army for, and I mean it. When I say I'd rather be a buck private than not to
have done my bit. Bless me-
the buck private has won
this war, and in my mind
raise above the highest ranking
officer. I go straight through.
Hell with these men, and let
them all the time, and that
more than I can say about lots
of officers. Well — what
the difference? I love you and
war or no war — major or
no major — nothing on earth
can change that. I love you
with all the deep, lasting,
Eternal, pure love. God ever
granted such rare the power
to feel and possess, and I
never have and never will.
cease to thank Him that He gave me you, my darling, to love and cherish for all my life. I love you. How wonderful our love has been and what a difference it has made in life to us both? There is nothing on earth nor in the Heavens like our love. Dear, and it has never changed except to grow more beautiful and more powerful each day of our lives. Think of our two beautiful little kiddies, aren’t we blessed beyond human comprehension in the possession of such treasures? Oh! my Darling,
We are fortunate and life has been good to us. When I think of the wonderful family I have to return to, I realize most fully, that I have not yet lived and that the greatest day and greatest experience of my life still lies in the future. I cannot conceive, by any flight of imagination, the joy that I will feel, when I first see you and my babies after our long separation, but I can realize that for us both it will be the supreme moment of our lives, and that then we will, more
fully than ever before, I have comprehended in its complete significance—the meaning of love.

These days we must pass through now, dear heart, will be the hardest of all. The knowledge that the war is over and the difficulty of understanding the necessity for my further detention in the service and most particularly foreign service, is going to make it hard for both of us to be patient and cheerful while waiting for the time to come. But that we must be, and we may as well make the best...
of it. Some fine day I will get my orders — when whatever General is running the thing finds out that a wife and two babies are waiting my return — and then I'll come. Oh! how I do come, and all the separation will vanish with all its trials and hardships, like a dream, in the joy of our reunion.

I must close, my dearest, for tonight. We will visit again tomorrow. Kiss my babies and glad. I love them so. Be brave and pray for strength and patience (and incidentally for my orders) and she be bound almost before you know.
it. God bless you dearest, I love you. Goodnight and sweet dreams to all, from

Daddy.

Arvil / Smith / Capt. M.D.

Evac Hosp #2 / U.S.A.

Ann C.E.F. France.