My Dearest Wife:-

It is the last day of February and we are still here, waiting for the news that our transportation has arrived. It is impossible to say when it will be here but the concensus of opinion is that it will not be very long, as the Third Army is the source, and they should be able to arrange it in a very short time. Therefore we have every reason to believe that we will be away from here in a day or two at the most. It will be a great relief to know that we are on the way at last, and it will mean the end of a period of unrest for the men, who although they have been going pretty straight, are naturally getting restless. It is no simple matter of discipline to keep two hundred men in line, when there is absolutely nothing for them to do except drill. They get very tired of that. I have arranged a baseball game for them this afternoon, and they all seem to be entering into the spirit of that in a great manner. It will give them good exercise, as well as something to keep their minds off their inactivity.

This morning we had an hour of drill, and it was most satisfactory drill. The men are getting in shape fast in spite of the fact that it has been over a year since they have done a bit of drilling. The last they had was at Bazzoilles-Sur-Meuse in France, and it is natural that they should be a little rusty, but it is coming back to them fast, and this morning they made an excellent showing on the drill field. I was proud of them. It is going to be a great pleasure to bring them home, although it will mean a lot of work.

I have not seen the mail man yet today, but have reason to believe that he has some mail for me, for Rosy got some, and he has never been known to get mail unless I get some at the same time. I got one letter yesterday, and it was so sweet. I am getting more homesick every minute for you all, but there is nothing to do but be patient, and it will be all over soon. It will be the most wonderful day of my whole life when I get off the ship, and start on the last lap of the journey to you. I am of the opinion that it will be poor judgement for you to make the attempt to meet me at the port Dear. I will be in Command of the Company, and of course will have to be with them all the time. Therefore it would be impossible for me to leave them to be
with you, and knowing that you were near and that I could not be with you would be cruel torture. Therefore wait till you get a telegram from me after our return. That will tell you exactly where I am going and when it will be feasible for you to come to me. I will write you the first moment that I know myself.

Today it has been raining a little, and is a little more disagreeable than it has been for the past two or three days, but then what can one expect in March? We certainly cannot complain regarding the weather for it has been of an excellent character, and I have most thoroughly enjoyed it. I understand however that the winter at home has been very mild, and I think that it is a Godsend, for the shortage of fuel at home would have made a serious situation if the weather had not been mild enough to counteract it to a degree. It seems as the good Lord was helping in every way possible to prevent the terrible suffering that could have occurred this winter under some circumstances.

This is a short letter Dear. I realize that. But I have to be out with the men in about two minutes, and so will have to close this now. I will write again tomorrow, if nothing happens to prevent, and I don't believe that it will. I am planning to go to the club with Rosy for dinner and a game of billiards this evening and that will probably be the last trip that I will make there, as my membership runs out today, and I am not going to renew it. In fact I have already resigned.

Give my love to Glad. Kiss the dear babies and tell them how much their daddy loves them and longs to see them. I love you Dearest. I love you with all my heart and soul. I love you. God bless you, and keep you in good health and strength until I get home. I love you.

Ansel B. Smith
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