My Dearest:–

I have a short time that I can use for writing now, and will use it for it may not be warm enough in the billet this evening to write. The room is hard to heat and we have only a small grate in the room to heat it, and as the supply of wood is very limited, we sometimes have very little heat at night. There has been very little to do today, except that I took the men on a good hike this morning, and gave them some stiff setting up exercises after we came back. We got back just in time for mess, and had a fine meal this noon too. We have a French cook here, at the hotel cafe. She is a wonder. We are having the best things to eat that we have had since we have been in France, and are enjoying it ever so much. The fact that we are able to have eggs is enough almost to compensate for the wait we are having in this area; for eggs have been like pure gold ever since we have been here and we have not had them at all.

This cook can make the most delicious omelets, and cook the best of soups and consommes so we really have very little complaint to make as far as our menus are concerned at present. I am planning to go to town with Rosy again in a day or two and have another dinner at Prevot’s cafe, where the food is delicious. We are near enough to the sea so that the sea foods are fresh, and of a different type than I have ever had before, so that as a result I am in a position to enjoy myself eating such things every time that I go to the city. You know how fond I am of sea foods. It seems that this letter is mainly relating to things to eat so I will digress for a while.

Fortunately it has cleared up. The rains of the past three or four days have flooded the valley so that the fields are all under water, and it is impossible for the men to play baseball and football as I had planned to have them do during afternoons, and it was also most disagreeable while it was raining so much but it is wonderful how just a little sunshine changes the whole appearance of this country and makes it look like a garden. It is really a beautiful country, and I am very glad indeed that I had an opportunity to see it before leaving France.
If my films are any good I will have some pictures after all when I return, for I am going to use them up or partly so at this place. I have not taken a picture as yet for I have had no opportunity to take anything of interest since we have had permission to use our cameras. However my memory will be good enough to relate all the things that I have seen vividly enough so that a snap shot of it would be superfluous in any event.

I am afraid that you will be filled so full by Jack before I get home that you will not want to hear much from me, but you will have to listen to a certain amount at any rate, as we all have to get it off our minds. I am not going to talk about my experiences to anyone except my family, as it is easy to see that the habit of exaggeration is going to be a common one, and I don't want to become a member of the great society of war liars which is going to flourish in our country for years to come. It is disgusting to me that men will write and tell such things as some of them have, and I can't see how people will believe them.

Alex Campbell and our friend Bill Hyland are among the best that I have in mind. Some of the things that they have written are simply impossible and will not bear repeating in front of anyone who has been over here and really been through the things that they say they have. They will not talk in front of me the way they have for the papers or they will get an ear full that will surprise them. Are they still advertising as much as ever?

I am really very desirous of getting office room in the Metz Bldg, and will be glad if you are able to make arrangements to that effect. However if you are not any rooms will do until there are some vacated in the Metz. I don't believe that it will be very satisfactory to have rooms with Jack and Dr. Maurits according to the plan that you stated in your last letter, but if I can do nothing else that will have to be the arrangement. It is very nice of Jack to offer it at any rate, and I want you to thank him very much for me. If I were in your place I would not reserve rooms at the Metz unless it is absolutely necessary for it may be some little time yet before I am able to go into practice. I wonder how my practice will come back to me? I have very little fear of it. I have an idea that it will come
back rapidly, and I don't worry at all, but I guess that I will have to get at it at once after my return. I will feel like a little rest, but will be able to get that later. I am really in much better shape than I was before I left for the service. I couldn't be in better health then I am now. These walks and the setting up exercises that I am getting every day now are putting me back in the pink of condition again, and I am as hard as a bullet.

Well Dearest I must close now. It is time for me to do a little round of inspection and I must get started. I will write again tomorrow. I love you Dear with all my heart and soul. I love you. Give my love and lots of kisses to the dear babies and Glad, and tell them that I can hardly wait until I get home to see them. I love you all so much. With all my love sweetheart, and a million kisses to you, I am ever your loving husband

Ansel E. Smith

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