My Dearest Wife:

I went to town yesterday afternoon to cable to you and after a little trouble I was able to do it. The messages have to be sent over the French wires and it is not the simplest thing in the world to get the proper authority to do so, but after I had explained my reasons they let it go through without question. I have been very worried and anxious since receiving the mail that I had yesterday, and will not feel relieved until I get more that has a different tone than that had. I went to Headquarters yesterday to find out the quickest possible way of getting out of the service, and found them in a very good humor, and very willing to do anything to help me. The Major told me however that it would be the quickest way home for me to remain with the organization, and I believe he is right. He said he would do all that he could to help me to get a discharge here so that I could take civilian passage home, but he explained that it would take at least three weeks to get the pass through and that I would have to wait and take my chances on getting passage after that. The ships in passenger service are few and far between now, and I might have to wait for two or three additional weeks. He also said that he would make an effort to have me sent home as a casual but that even that would take a matter of three weeks to arrange, and that he was convinced that our organization would be on the way to the ship from here inside of two weeks more. There is so much uncertainty about the whole matter that I have decided that the best thing I can do is to wait and go with the unit as I had originally planned. I am sure that I will get home that way at least as soon as I will any other way, and I am SURE that the organisation is all ready to go to the States, and is simply awaiting its turn at transportation.

I have come to the conclusion that it is needless to do anything to hurry up this army when you are so far from home. It would be so much different were I in the States, where the travel home would be comparatively short in any event, but here I am weeks from home at the best, and it is a much different matter. The only thing we can do is to hope and pray that the time will not be
long deferred for our departure, and I am sure that it will not be long. It is hard for us to bear Dearest, but I guess that there is no other way out of it, and we have waited for a year, a matter of a month more will not look so big after all. So be brave, and pray every day that I may be returned early, and it will soon be a matter of ancient history that we have been separated at all. That much is certain— that after we are together again the separation that we have had will seem more like a dream than anything else, and we will never have the same thing to look forward to again. That will be one certainty and one satisfaction Dearest, that this is the one and only separation that we will ever have in our lives, and won't it be wonderful to realize that after we are together again?

I hope that you did not engage my office as you said you were going to on the first of April, for it looks as if it would be nearer to the first of May before I get home, and the rooms would then be a considerable expense for a month at least. I feel that under the circumstances the only thing I can do when I get home is to start practice at once, and I will be willing to do it. The relief from the army and return to you my Darling, will be all the rest and change that I will need or want, and it will be necessary at once to start the accumulation of a means of livelihood again. For some reason or other I have very little fear that it will be difficult for me to pick up my practice again. I think that it will come back quickly, and while I don't expect that it will be anything like it was before I left for some time, still I am convinced that it will be sufficient to enable us to get along in splendid shape if we are careful. And we will be careful. I intend that you shall have a nurse for the babies until they are old enough to be ever so much less of a care than they are now, for I do not believe that you are able to take care of them alone. I am sorry that you had the trouble with Margaret but under the circumstances there was nothing else that you could do, for the babies cannot be taken care of by a person who will lie.

I wonder if you realize how much I miss my home and family? I am sure you do, and still sometimes it seems to me that it must be a little difficult for you or anyone else to realize what a yearning there is all the time for the
loved ones and home that I have been away from so long. I have never had in all my life, an experience that has been as hard to bear, and believe me I never will again. It is something that I will always remember as the greatest sacrifice I could make, and still the degree of sacrifice that I have made is small in comparison with that you have made. The reward that we will have is greater than the sacrifice that either of us has made. Dear, and as we get older we will realize that fact even if we do not now. It will never be regretted by either of us, and I feel sure that we both feel the same about the matter.

Well I must close now as it is time to take the Company out for the morning hike. The walks we have around here would be very much nicer if it would only stop raining for a day or two, but it seems that it has to rain every day for a certain length of time. However it uses up time and gives the men some exercise that they need, and for that reason we have a hike whether we have to take it in the rain or not. Give my love and lots of kisses to my dear babies and Glad. With loads of love to you Sweetheart, I am your lonesome and homesick husband.

Ansel B. Smith, Captain MC USA
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