

France, November 22 nd, 1918

My Darling Marie:-

Well Dear, I am of the opinion that Christmas is here at last, for the mail brought me a lot of nice things yesterday. First of all I had a nice letter from my darling wife in which was enclosed a postal money order for my Christmas dinner. I can't tell you dear how much I thank you for it, and how much I would enjoy spending it if I only had the opportunity, but that I am afraid I will not have. I am planning on sending you money instead of having you send it to me, and as I have already told you, I will send you about 100.00 or \$150. 00 this month as soon as I have had my pay, and can find an opportunity to send it. I will however enjoy the money you sent to me to the utmost and want to thank you a thousand times dearest, for your thoughtfulness towards me.

You tell me not to worry about your financial condition, and I assure you Dear, I am not. I am convinced that you can get along all right at least until I get home, and so will not worry a bit. As to my vacation, I have explained to you before how I feel about that. I am over here in real earnest. I am not here for pleasure. I never have been able to take any pleasure in anything, since I have been married, unless it has been with you. I am in the same position now. I cannot conceive of anything more idle, than taking a trip around this God forsaken country for mere pleasure, when there is work that needs to be done, and which I can do. I assure you dear, that if I felt that I could enjoy a vacation I would take one, but I do not. It gives me a great deal more real pleasure to spend the money I have to spare on the pretty things I know you like. I only hope that I will have opportunity to get more before I leave this country. I can not now get the small doilies for the glasses, as they would have to be made, and I will not be able to be here to get them when they are finished. So I will have to watch my chance



to get them at some other place.

I also got in the mail yesterday, a package from Harrod's which I am convinced was my birthday package, and which was most welcome. All of us have enjoyed it and are enjoying it very much indeed, and I have again to thank my dear wife for her thoughtfulness for her husband. A large envelope with a beautiful picture of Glad, and two, one of each of the babies, also came yesterday, so you can not be surprised dear, that I thought it was Christmas. I was so glad to get the pictures. Thank Glad for me, and tell her that I think she is a Sweetheart to send it to me.

I am wondering how you will feel over the fact that we are going into Germany with the Third Army. It is really a great honor, and one that every organization over here covets, and I am glad that it fell to us, for I really think that it will be the shortest way home for us. We will probably leave here in a day or two now. The packing is all finished, and we are ready to begin loading as soon as the train comes. I am a little anxious to say that I got to Germany while I was over here and I really feel that it is a great honor. I am not bothering with German helmets and other souvenirs, for they are as common as dirt, and they are hard things to transport. I don't think you will mind if we don't have such things around the house so I am making no effort to get such things. Rosy has a trunk nearly full of such junk, and I wouldn't have it around.

The weather has again cleared up beautifully, and is as clear and fine Fall weather as I have ever seen. We are surely lucky in this respect, as it would be bad to have to move in poor weather. We have always been rather lucky in such matters however, and I think our good luck is going to stick to us. It is a surprise to me to find the climate over here so agreeable for the greater part of the Fall. I have always



been under the impression that the weather in France at this time of the year was most disagreeable, and rainy practically all the time. But it seems that this is the best season that they have had over here for many years, and again we profit by our luck.

All your descriptions of the babies party make me more regretful that such an occasion should have been celebrated while I was away, and I have made up my mind that we will have to give the kiddies another party as soon as I get back so that I can have the fun too. It surely must have been cute, and I envy you all the fun you must have had. Give the Darlings my love and a lot of kisses, and tell them Daddy will be back soon. I love them so much and am so lonesome for them.

Well Dearest, I must close. I have to go to work. I have more men working this morning than I have had any morning yet, and must get out to see that they are all on the job. They are good boys, and I have little or no trouble with them, but it is necessary to let them know that I haven't forgotten that they are around, so I get out and make rounds at more or less regular intervals. I let my non-coms do more work than they have ever done before however. Give my love and a kiss to Glad. With loads of love, and millions of kisses to you Dearest, I am your loving husband

*A.B.*

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