To the dearest of Mathews. When this reaches you, if you will know that I have passed over, Mathew, I know how truly upset you will be over this, and that the scar will always remain but you must get over your loss. Remember there are the other children and little Reg my pal, you will know he will never have to fight in this great struggle, and if he did he is a lucky beggar and would come out on top. You must console yourself with the thought that I am happy wherever I am and I lived — who knows. You know what Father used to say: “Dole on man happy until he is dead.” So Mathews, I want you to know now while I am alive, how I have appreciated your self service.
feeling love and great devotion
and for that reason I have had
a happy time all my life. My
my college days due to you
were days of joy never have I
forgotten them—death will have delivered me from
experiencing unhappy ones.

What a little difference
the disappearance of a man
makes in this world. a moment's
regret—perhaps a few tears
a moment for respectation
and another man takes his place
and everything goes on the same
with scarce a check.

The death of a leader is only a
seven days' wonder. To a
very small creature is it gone
to live in history. But for
This war and all the others
waved have passed into oblivion
like the countless myreads
before us.
We should have gone about
our small business eating drinking
sleeping hoping and finally
dying with no more achieved
than when we were born—
with the wored no different for our
lives. But we shall live forever
in the results of our efforts.
I did not make much use of my
life before the war—but I believe
I have done so many of thin and
hears. "Poor fellow Cut off so
young without—ever having
a chance to knowing and,
enjoying life. But for myself thanks
for all that you have done for
me. I have crowded into twenty
one years enough pleasures
and experiences for a lifetime, and that is why it is no hardship for me to leave this world so young.
Eleanor asked me several times to transfer elsewhere into another branch of the army as my hearing had become defective from exposure and bombardment. I could not do as she asked me, my duty was where the battle was the thickest, and then I was needed. At any rate I have been transferred from machine gun, scout to the trenches, and to when the call comes I am ready. My life for my country and old glory we shall live as those who by their great sacrifices won the great war and we shall live forever in the results.
of our efforts. What a grand position we must hold in the future.

Well I have talked a lot of pratle which must have given you great pain to read and not much comfort. I that to comfort you that is not possible, I have just drifted on. To me has been given the easiest task to you as given the more difficult that of living in sorrow.

What overwhelming grief you will have and I not here to comfort you. Courage my wonderful mother until we meet across the great divide.

Eleanor Mercedes & Poretta were often near us.
The long attacks but I never did get to see them.

Embrace them all for me and little Reginald and his family affair.

Your son,

Russell