

To the dearest of Mothers when this
reaches you you will know that
I have passed over, Mother I
know how terribly 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 your selves
with the fact that I am happy
whereas had I lived - who knows
you know what Father used to say
"Call no man happy until he is dead,"
so Mother I want you to know
now while I am alive, how I
have appreciated your self sacrifice

being 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 and 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 repentance
and another man takes his place
and every thing goes on the same
with scarce a check.

The death of a leader is only a
seven days wander, To a
very small number is it given
to live in history. But for

this war I and all the others
 would have passed into oblivion
 like the countless myriads
 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 world 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 near often our
 hearts, "Poor fellow cut off so
 young without ever having
 a chance of knowing and
 enjoying life. But for myself thanks

for all that you have done for
 me I have craved into twenty
 one years enough pleasures

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and experiences for a life time,
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 there I
was needed, at any rate I
have been transferred from
machine gun Scout to the
trenches, and ~~the~~ 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 proud position America will hold in the future.

Well I have talked a lot of prattle which must have given you great pain to read and not much comfort. I thought to comfort you that is not possible, I have just drifted on. To me has been given the easiest task, to you is 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 & Prettie were often near us in

b. The big attacks but - I never
did get to see them.

Embrace them all for
me and little Reginald
and the family
affection
your son
Russell