

COPY

44 Springside Avenue
Pittsfield, Mass.
August 14, 1919

My dear Mrs. Votrie,

I am very glad to have been able to locate you. I feel very sorry for you in the death of your son but proud to have had such a comrade. Charlie and I met at Camp Greene and were always great friends from our first meeting. We took long walks to-gether and often talked for hours of the future. I shall try to give you the account of his death.

We opened the drive last July on the 18th. and started to push the Germans back. During this time I saw nothing of Charlie as I was in the intelligence service and duty called me to all parts of the sector that we were on. On the 23rd. and 24th. we were relieved and got new men as our losses were exceedingly heavy. Charlie obtained a pass and went to Paris during this time but I was kept busy on maps for our next start. *Adj' Comp # 3260160 - 44 Springside Ave, Pittsfield, Mass.*

1925 -
On his return I saw him and talked to him a great deal. On the 29th. we again took the front and fought in one of the most bloody battles of the war which was called the Vesle. On the night of the 8th. I had been on observation post watching German tactics and at 10; 30 was relieved and I prepared to get some sleep. We had taken everything before us in the face of stiff opposition and were dug in on the railroad that runs between ~~Sassions~~ Sassions and Rheims. That night late hot coffee and food was to be brought to us from Mt. St. Martin. I told my relief to wake me upon its arrival but this he failed to do. The food had just come up and 18 or 20 of the boys had gathered around it. This was about 25 or 30 feet from where I was sleeping. They were just beginning to serve it when a shell came over and landed in their midst. Your Son was hit and died as did two others. There were also 7 or 8 wounded. The explosion of the shell wakened me immediately but I was stunned for a minute by its concussion. I ran to where the boys lay and found Charlie the third one I came to. Of course, I didn't know him until I asked who it was as it was dark. When I spoke he knew me immediately and told me where he was hit. I dressed his wounds as best I could and made him comfortable with blankets. I then helped some of the other wounded for a few minutes and then returned to him. By this time, the Germans having heard the commotion, it was hard to move without being seen as they shot flares and lights into our lines and their snipers started after us. I had quite a talk with Charlie before he died but didn't let him talk much as it seemed to weaken him. He spoke of home and I told him I would fix that alright. I gave him water and fixed him comfortable and then had to go on duty again. This time I was only a few feet from him and I watched him closely until he died. He passed out very quietly and seemed to have no pain. If I have caused you pain in telling you this, please forgive me as I felt you should no the truth and nothing but the truth.

I am proud to become acquainted with the mother of so fine a comrade and I wish to express my deepest sympathy in his death and my congratulations on having such a fine Son to give. Charlie was killed north of the town of Ville-Savoie and on the railroad that runs between Rheims and Sassions. I may be able to see you sometime as I go your way quite often.

Very sincerely yours

(Earl H. F. Farnsworth)
201