

Letter written by sergeant Henri Gavard, 21st mounted chasseurs, fallen on the field of honor

Source: **La dernière lettre écrite par des soldats français tombés au champ d'honneur 1914-1918**

My very dearest mom,

Be courageous and don't be stricken by the sad news of my death that I am letting you know about myself.

Yes, my poor mother, like so many others, I have paid with my blood my tribute to our great country. It is always terrible to lose one's children but think of how much you will be proud in knowing that your two sons have died in defending the honor and glory of our France. We have been trouble; by you who will survive us and who will live to see victory. That will be, and be sure of it, my dearest mama, our greatest consolation.

I have asked my officer, Mr. Carf, 21st mounted chasseurs, 128th division, S.P. 48, by my letter written at the same time as this one, to take care of all of my affairs and to bury me, if it is possible, in a cemetery. You will be able to correspond with him about this.

It is useless to announce my death publicly, simply, just simply to my friends.

Be strong, do not be discouraged by my disappearance and live for the memory of your two sons.

However, if life allows it, we will meet again one day. While waiting, I give you, for the last time down here, my most tender, my most emotional, my most touching kisses.

Goodbye to you.
Your Henri