

Letter written by Albert Julhien, 6th battalion of alpine chasseurs, fallen in the Bois de Berthonval, 20 December 1914

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

My dear aunts,

If you receive this letter, my dear aunts, it's because, according to my presentment, the attack that is being prepared will be fatal to me. If I confide in you the sad task of warning my dear papa and mama, it's because I know that, in religious matters, you will know how to find the words of consolation, that are so necessary in such moments of sadness and that your great affection will serve you to take precautions to limit the sadness that this news will certainly cause them.

For me, I have the certainty of having done my duty for France right to the end and it is without bitterness that I make the sacrifice of my life for our beautiful life.

Our cause is just and it will certainly triumph. Happy are those who will see the triumph, but it is not necessary to mourn those who remain here and contribute to it, so that we do not diminish the joy of the triumph.

Why have I taken these precautions on this day? Probably because God wanted to give me a last chance to send you all a last goodbye.

Goodbye my dear aunts, I am putting in my caresses all my tenderness, and one last time I recommend to you my dear family. Tell them well that my last thought has been for them, and that if I have preceded them up above, it is to prepare the place where we will all soon be reunited.

To you with all of my heart,
Bebert