

Letter of captain, Imhaus de Mahy, retired officer, who volunteered to resume service at age sixty, killed heroically at Verdun, age 62, 30 March 1916

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

28 March 1916

To his wife.

Terrible bombardment. From time to time, I learn that someone or some of my beloved soldiers, sons of French wives and grieving mothers, are killed or wounded. The assault may come in a moment or two. I selected my command post in the trench at the center of the attack, there my last redoubt, where surrounded by my last defenders, I will fight to the death. Your husband, my dear wife, will be worthy of our children, those de Mahy and de la Serve. If I fall, it will be facing the enemy, it will be the best of deaths. You who I leave, I pity. As for me, my exit will be worthy of envy. Those who die will live again. Long live France. For you, my whole heart. I am convinced that I will find again those who I adore.

To his two young sons after the death of his oldest son.

You will be worthy of your predecessors who faced death, their blood has reddened the ground of France. Our beloved have entered immortality. Like them, you will fight strong and you will fall, if necessary, without fear, without reproach, facing the sky that awaits you. The cause of France is that of the universe. Glory to our immortal France.

Our moral force comes from the fact that we are defending not only our soil and our liberties, but the unwritten laws of humanity against the most odious machinations that will be reversed. But that result demands a bloody holocaust.

Extracts from letters written by sergeant Andre Imhaus de Mahy, 5th regiment colonial infantry, volunteer, disappeared 29 September 1915 at Souain (Champagne)

It is impossible for me to express to you my great satisfaction in serving the country. I am happy to do my duty.

My dear parents, I will show that I have a country for which we should do our duty, that I have the quality to be French, that I have a name. I will show myself dignified of you, of my brothers, and I will not forget that I have to avenge one. I will never commit a cruelty.

Fragments of a letter written by sergeant Emile Imhaus de Mahy, volunteer, disappeared 29 September 1915 at Souain (Champagne)

We are ready for the last sacrifice. Everyone does his duty without flinching and with honor.

Extract from a letter written by Francois Imhaus de Mahy, corporal in the 2nd colonial infantry regiment, volunteer, mortally wounded, 27 August 1914 at Senay

I am happy to die doing my duty.

Francois Imhaus de Mahy

Fragment of a letter from captain Georges Imhaus de Mahy, 33rd colonial infantry regiment, fallen on the field of honor, 29 July 1918, at Romigny (Marne), after his father, his older brother, and the disappearance of his two younger brothers.

"We have all made the sacrifice of our life."  
Georges Imhaus de Mahy