

Letter of Monnier, Charles, 217th infantry regiment, 4th machine gun company, killed at Locre (in front of Mount Kemmel), 31 May 1918

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

Dear parents, sister and brother,  
When you receive this letter, I will be no longer.

Do not be too sad, dear parents; God called me; the country demanded my blood; which I voluntarily gave, after so many others.

Isn't it better to die young, in the course of a battle that could perhaps decide the future of the world, the great death of a soldier and not face all the sorrows, all the pains of which life is full?

I have done my duty courageously, you can be proud of me, I have not failed at my task of being a good soldier. That was easy enough for me: All that I had to do was put into practice the pride and the patriotic duties that you instilled in me.

I have not always been a good and obedient son. Forget that, because I was young.

Before leaving you, I desire you, adored parents, a tranquil old age. After such a hard life of work, like yours, you have the right to rest.

And you, little sister, I hope that God grants your wishes and that you will love happy with the one your heart loves.

Little brother, be obedient, work hard and become a son doing honor to his parents.

A thought for all of our parents.

And to all of you, my family, a last time, goodbye.

Charles