

France,

Sept. 22nd. 1918.

Dear Mrs. McCarthy,

I am writing to express my deepest sympathy, and that of the Officers and men of my Company, to you and your children in the terrible loss you have sustained, by the death in action of your husband and our comrade on Sept. 6th.

I was close to him when he was killed. We were making an advance and on coming over the crest of a hill, were seen by the enemy, who fired on us, with artillery and machine guns. One of the shells burst close to your husband and killed him on the spot. He had no pain and died immediately. We buried him nearby, at the end of a small wood, and have since erected a Cross over his grave, which has been visited and blessed by the Priest. You will be officially notified of the exact position of his grave. All I can tell you is that he is buried, in a very pretty spot on the fall of a hill and within short distance of several, small picturesque villages which he assisted to capture from the enemy.

Mc. as he was known to us, was a very lovable character, a firm favourite with officers and men, and a splendid soldier who knew his duty and did it nobly and well. He and I being of the same faith were fast friends and I mourn the loss of a very dear comrade.

As his Commanding Officer considered him an example of all that a man should be and he always had, by his good life and clean speech, a splendid influence on the men of the Company.

He often spoke to me of you and of his kiddies. My heart goes out to you, in your bereavement, and I pray that God will comfort you, and give you strength to recover your grief.

Your good husband died as he lived. Good, clean and true and you may rest assured that he is in Heaven: With deepest sympathy,

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

T. D. Tierney Lt.

P.S. Kindly let me know if you received this.

T.D.T.

PTE JOHN MCCARTHY

42 ND BATT A.I.F