

France June 27 '18

Dearest Mother—

I am wondering this evening how just what your thoughts are, but I am not worrying for I know you will come through this severest trial just as you have all others, with a smile on your dear face. How proud you are to know our laughing, ever joyful Artie was willing to lay down his life in order to help his comrades. I know God will comfort you as he has me. I know also that as you are the brave mother that you are, you won't be cast down by overbearing grief, but will go your way unbroken in spirit.

I love to imagine Artie and little John together, enjoying themselves far more than any earthly mortals. He is not gone from us for his memory is always with us it is only a separation of a few years of his physical presence. I am conscious of his influence every minute. I act just as if he were with me and I know he approves.

Perhaps you will imagine that I am lonesome and that I am having a terrible hard time, but it is not true. Everybody has been as kind and considerate as I could wish. I went to the front where Artie met his death.

I am going to visit next week, I shall see you, but more frequent.

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Freeport Historical Society

Date: June 27, 1918

Description: Letter from son Raymond Wheeler Stowell to his mother regarding his brother, John Arthur Stowell's recent death and courage.

which shows I am not a coward does't it. My Lieut. very thoughtfully sent me out early with a billeting party to secure barracks for our bunch. We are out now and there is no doubt that we will enjoy a long rest. While out on the billeting job I spent two fine days in the city at the Y.M. hotel. What a good time I had! Real hotel beds and fare and a nice bunch of fellows to associate with.

From the way the Italians are driving those Austrians and from the conditions on the Western front we think those Boche will be more than willing to call quits by Sept. The Americans are no small factor as we learn every day. So here is hoping some by Thanksgiving.

I sure hope Dace will be able to fix up things with the school board. One of my greatest desires is to have that Supt. by the throat. I am thinking I'll greet him rather heartily when I pass his house boat on the river.

To morrow or the next day I am going to visit Artie's grave again and take some pictures which I will send as soon as circumstances permit.

Now I believe that you and dad and Mildred are just O.K. so please don't dissapointme by being otherwise

Your affectionate son  
Ray

RWStowell  
103 U.S. Inf.  
Med. Dept  
A.E.F.

D.P. Smith  
1st Lt. M.C.

1942.21.1

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I am going to write short letters now but more frequent