

Torwood
Peebles

April 20th 1914

My dear Marion

My children have answered most of the many kind letters for me, but a few I like to write myself, and yours is one of them. Many people loved him, but you and John loved him well, and you were both dear to him. The shock has been so sudden, and the blow so heavy we all feel stunned by it. No dear, all was over before we knew, he was dead and in his coffin and sent over to this Country by the French doctor. Poor Philip had to go and identify the poor dear body, it was terribly hard for the lad. We have not got full particulars yet, we know it was sudden and unexpected, and thank God, we know it was very peaceful. My poor husband can have had no idea of it himself, for we had three letters the week before, all brave and bright, asking for books he wanted. We did not send out any invitations to the funeral as all was so complicated with the foreign customs, even the day before we were not sure if we could arrange all in time.

The children are very brave and I am trying to be, but it is hard hard, the more so as we knew so little about what was coming. He had suffered a good deal especially from weakness and he could not have borne to live and not be able to work, so there must be mercy in this although to us all is dark at present. The love and the prayers of many who like you cared for us both makes life possible. Thank you my dear Marion for your letter

Ever your loving friend

Ruth