

16 / 10 / 16
Wilkinson

Lt Andrew

2nd Company
La Valee de Somme
Anzac
France

Dear Mrs Waterhouse,

It is with great sadness and much sorrow that I must write to you to let you know that your dear son has been killed. I will let you know as much as possible how he was killed.

On the 12th of this month our battalion made an attack, but your dear son did not go in, as he was left out of this attack to reorganise the battalion when they came out. Well, on the 18th, the battalion came out and he was sent on a mission to deliver a message to the brigade Head Quarters, on the way back he happened to take the wrong track. He reached a wood which the Germans shell every minute of every day. This is where he was hit with a piece of shell and died. I can tell you that he did not feel any pain, none at all, as he died instantly. I can also tell you that he had demonstrated great bravery in undertaking this mission, as he had to pass through many areas of great danger and he did so without a word of complaining or worry. It is a testament to his heroism that he completed the mission and it was whilst attempting to return that he met his demise. I hope that you are proud of your dear son and know that his efforts may have helped us win the war sooner than we would have done without him. His message may have saved many lives.

I am pleased to let you know that he was that he had a good name in the battalion. The lads of his platoon were very sorry to hear of his death and I must say that we will miss him very much, as he was such a lively lad and a good pal. He helped raise the spirits of the entire platoon with his singing and jokes even in our darkest hour. His humour kept us going through some dreadful nights on the front line, explosions lighting up the sky. Your dear son reminded us all of friends and neighbours from home whom we all miss terribly, as we will now miss him. We will all join in offering you our sincere sympathy for your great loss.

Yours, with great sorrow,

Lt. Andrew Wilkinson

Word meaning

1. What does the word 'sorrow' tell you about the authors feelings whilst writing this letter?
2. Which words give you the most information about the personality of the dear son?
3. Find and copy the sentence that tells you that the dear son's death did not hurt.
4. Find and copy one word in the text that means great bravery.
5. Find and copy a phrase that suggests that the dear son was a nice man.
6. What does "met his demise" mean?

Inference

1. Find and copy a group of words that show that the author of this letter is sad.
2. What impression of the dear son do you get from the final paragraph?
3. What did the author of the letter think of dear son? How do you know?
4. What might dear son have been thinking before he entered the much shelled Forrest?