

Somewhere in France

AMERICAN



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WITH THE

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Sept 4th 1918

Miss Grace Shogren

"Bon apres-midi"

As I was sitting here in our billets my thoughts ran back to David, and to you, and a thought came to me that it is my duty to write a line or two in sympathy in your sorrow over his death, you have my fullest sympathy in this sorrow of ours. He told me that you and him were engaged, and I sure was glad to hear it.

He was very dear to me as a brother I loved him as a brother should. He was a true pal to me. I received the news of his death and the greetings from the Ladies Aid the same night. I read the greeting first, and it cheered me up to highest pitch. I then read father's letter, and when head

of his death. I was so shocked I could
not finish reading the letter. ~~It~~ ~~just~~
simply broke me down. I ~~was~~ ~~gav~~
ing for the trenches that night, &
it was all I could do to get there. I
have not been myself since then.
I had figured on meeting him over
here, but now too late, but I'll meet
him in heaven by and by. He was first
to enlist and first to go to his reward.
I only wish it would of been me. He
was by far the better man, and as he
was Mother's favorite, it worry me
about her. I only wish I were home
to cheer her up. I know she takes it
awful hard, but I know she re-
joices that he is safely harbored
and that he done his full duty to
God and his country.

Temptations befell him as they do
me, and he often in his letters told
me if it were not for you, he would
be out of luck, Lucky is the man

who has such a girl for his sweet-
heart. When he told me you's was en-
gaged I felt very happy, for I would
be more than pleased to have you
for a sister-in-law. He had plan-
ned on our reunion after our return
and no doubt you also did but now
there will be one vacant chair, I
promised that night I got the news
I would get revenge and I will for
his and your sake, I'd do any
thing for you Grace, I'd even go
thru hell and fire to get revenge. He
is gone from this earth but not
forgotten. As soon as the war is
over I go to seek his grave. I know
where he fell that is what sector &
I'll look hard for it and then pay
my last compliments to him. He lies
in a sector, which will be famous in
future history. I can't tell her the
name, but when I get back, you will
all know. I am sorry I could not of

present at the memorial service that
was held for him and Gunnar. It
sure was a pretty program, but I
suppose very solemn.

Well I think I've said enough for
this time. Again I send you my
most sincere sympathy.

yours as ever

Pvt. Elmer Thor

Co H, 355th Inf.

Am. Exp. Forces

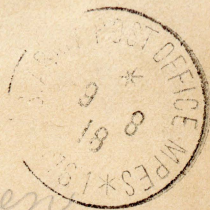
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"WITH THE COLORS"



Miss Grace Shogren

1000 N. Lockwood Ave.,

Chicago,

Ill

Y. G. Junell
1000 N. Lockwood Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

