

July 28, 1944

Dear Mrs. Holland:

I received your very sweet letter today, and realizing the shock that you are undergoing, made me appreciate it more than words can express. I have delayed in paying my respects through a letter, simply because I didn't want to take the liberty of informing you of your lost (loss) before the government had officially done so.

Mrs. Holland, I looked on "Joe" as one of my best friends – although we hadn't been too well acquainted before entering the service – his character was one that just grew on me in a way that I considered him far beyond the term "just a friend". We were together less than a half an hour before the end, discussing whether or not to let our parents know we were in France, because we wanted to reduce their worries as much as possible. He wasn't at all worried over the fact of being in France, he was in good humor and I took things as a course knowing "Joe" as I believe I did. I'm confident that he wouldn't want you to grieve over him, but to look proudly up and say, "My son died so that others might live."

With all my sympathy
I remain, as ever,
a friend,
David