

Deceased: Hitchens, Earnest

Not much is known of Earnest's early years; only that he lived in Chicago and had a loving family. When the Great War began in Europe he was appalled by America's neutral stance and, being an idealistic youth, rushed off to become a pilot in the Allied Forces. After training, he departed for France and there flew French made aeroplanes on a number of successful missions. Shot down over enemy territory during a mission, it appears he survived the crash and was quickly captured as a war prisoner. Details remain uncertain about where he was sent or what abuses he endured. However he began writing a few, heavily concerned letters back home upon arriving at his final destination, a concentration camp he referred to as the "Citadel". The Germans reported that he had died on June 27th, 1917. The cause, they claimed, was that he contracted influenza and refused all aid because of his suspicion of "Hunnish" medical treatment. However, his last few letters stated that he was in perfect health so his family was also suspicious and turned these over to the U.S. authorities for examination. Expert cryptographers have confirmed that a hidden message within them reveals he was actually planning to break out of camp, apparently by means of tunneling. Thus it is more likely that he was shot during the escape which, as the secret message in the letters state, was planned for the exact same date the Germans said he died from influenza. Whatever the case, his family mourns the loss of a son, and indeed the country regrets the loss of a citizen, a soldier, and a hero.

By: AG (a close friend)