

Van Gorder, Eva (Boone, Iowa) to "Dear Sister and family" [Agnes Bethany Pike, sister-in-law], Letter, 17 April 1919, Pike Family Collection, 1877-present, privately held by Karen Pike Zimmerman, Indianapolis, Indiana.

1919
Boone Iowa April 17.
Dear Sister and family, we held
our memorial the 6. one week ago
last Sunday. my it seems months
since I see that terrible message
and it's only been a little over one
month. I have had four letters
from Gerance from Pop's friends
all saying about the same a
letter yesterday from the chaplain
The clipping I am sending is
correct and will tell you better
than I can write, wish you could
have been here for the memorial
it was all I could have asked for
the church was beautiful, oh
I can't understand why Pop had
to be taken from me, with such
a bright future and such a good

boy, loved by every one who knew
him, it just don't seem right -
and just as he was ready to leave
for home, I am nearly worn
out I have stood up the strain
better than I thought I could
last Tuesday, Wed and Thursday
I was simply all in, but am
better now, and will try and be
as I know Pop would want me
to do, oh Adell we were such
chums, he and I, know no one
knows how this hurts, I am
not going to have the body brought
home, I could never be sure I
had the right one, and Pop didn't
believe in those things, I had a
letter from the French family
he lived with, I will send you
a copy of that. I am just beginning

this week to answer the letters²
and messages that have been
sent to me. I have 71 from his
friends alone, not counting the
family. I have had cards printed
which I will send to part of them
and do the rest with the pen.
what do you hear from Van. I hope
he is home by this time you know
Ray was at Mineola two weeks
before he sailed Van and I went
in to the city and stayed a week
with him before he left. I have
had six pictures sent me from
there two of the wrecked planes
one of the caskets covered with
flowers on the way to the cemetery
one of the graver with the casket
by the side of of the grave and
one of the procession, one of the

squad firing the salute. The
Photographer at Pops camp took
them and sent them to the University
of Ill and they sent them to me.
I have some of the most beautiful
letters you ever read from old and
young. had a letter from Pa today
he is very bad I don't believe he
will last much longer. he surely
suffers, and Pops death has told
on him terribly. He thought so much
of him, and Pops has written him
often from France, am sorry Grace
has had trouble, it seems as though
sorrow has come to lay one in some
way or other don't it. so glad you
wrote me, and hope to hear from you
again. Love to all your sister
Eva.

604 Lima St

Ray had sent me two pictures ^{of}
of him self in each of the three
last letters he had written. The last
two came a week after I got the
message. These were all taken in
Jan. I am going to have some
copied from them and when
they are finished I will send
you one. They are all such
good ones and look exactly
like him. He never failed to
write me always once a week
since he left me the 27 of Oct
1917 and often he would write
twice a week. I have rec. very
little but one that got lost

Pope's commission as Captain
came the day after he was
killed. It was signed the 7 of
Nov before armistice and had
been held up in Washington
for some unaccountable reason
all the letters I get from these
addresses him as Captain. The
papers have not been sent to
me yet.

