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Letter from Ernst Hieber, Student of Theology, Tübingen

April 14, 1915

From *German Students' War Letters*. A.F. Wedd, trans. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002

ERNST HIEBER, Student of Theology, Tübingen

Born June 24th, 1892, at Struttgart

Killed April 19, 1915, south of Binarville

April 14th, 1915.

I have now been back at the Front for three months – a quarter of a year – every day watching the fire of rifles and guns and seeing many men killed, and this soon makes one feel rather lonely. It sometimes seems to me as if the dead were reproaching me: 'Why should I have been killed and not you? Why I, who had just ordered my life so nicely, and not you, who have perhaps something beautiful to look back on, but nothing definite to look forward to?' I think anybody who has been out here a long time has such feelings.

Where we are it is very quiet just for the moment and we are settling down as if we meant to stop here till peace is declared. Peace! All the longing felt by one who has been so long separated from his dear ones; all the wishes he cherishes for himself; all the dreams of the future he has in his dug-out; all are comprised in that one lovely word – Peace.