

Soldier Foretells Meeting Death in Letter to Mother

Special Dispatch to the Globe

TEWKSBURY, June 29—How a
Tewksbury High School graduate
and former athlete prepared for
death and met it on a South Pacific
battlefield with his "mission ful-
filled" is revealed in a letter for-
warded by his superior officers and
received here by his mother. He was
Sgt Paul Houlihan, son of Mr. and
Mrs. Jeremiah Houlihan, Texas
road, South Tewksbury.

"Dearest Mother," Sgt Houlihan
wrote, "though I feel no premoni-
tions at all, events are moving rap-
idly and I have instructed that this

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Letter

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letter be forwarded to you, should I fail to return from one of the raids which we shall shortly be called to undertake. You must hope on for a month but at the end of that time you must accept the fact that I have sacrificed myself for what we know is right, as so many splendid fellows have done.

"No Man Can Do More"

"Though it will be difficult for you, you will disappoint me if you do not at least try to accept this fact, for I shall have done my duty to the utmost of my ability. No man can do more and no one calling himself a man could do less."

"I have always admired your courage in the face of continued setbacks. In the way you have given me a good education and background as anyone in this country. My death would not mean that your struggle has been in vain. Far from it. It means that your sacrifice is as great as mine.

"Today we are faced with the greatest challenge to christianity and civilization that the world has ever seen and I count myself honored to be the right age and fully trained to throw my full weight into the battle. For this I have to thank you. There is more work for you to do. The home front will still have to stand united for years after the war is won.

"You must not grieve for me. I have no fear of death. I would have it no other way. We are sent to this world to acquire a personality and a character to take with us that can never be taken from us.

"I consider my character fully developed. Thus at my early age my earthly mission is already fulfilled, and I am prepared to die with just one regret, and only one. That is that I could not devote myself to making your declining years more happy by being with you, but you will live in peace and freedom and I shall have directly contributed to that, so here again my life will not have been in vain."

The letter was signed, "Your loving and devoted son, Paul."