



Alan Seeger

(1888-1916)

from "Ode in Memory of the American Volunteers for France" (1916)

...Yet sought they neither recompense nor praise,
Nor to be mentioned in another breath
Than their blue coated comrades whose great days
It was their pride to share--aye, share even to the death!
Nay, rather, France, to you they rendered thanks
(Seeing they came for honor, not for gain),
Who, opening to them your glorious ranks,
Gave them the grand occasion to excel,
That chance to live the life most free from slain
And that rare privilege of dying well....