Marcel’s jealousy persists long after Albertine’s death. This behavior is typical of Proust’s own after the death of Alfred Agostinelli in May 1914. Here is an excerpt from my biography. World War I began in August 1914, only a few months after Agostinelli’s death.

Proust heard several times from Alfred Agostinelli’s younger brother Émile, whom he had assisted after Agostinelli’s death. On Proust’s recommendation, the Rostands had hired Émile as a driver. Proust had also given the threadbare youth what was left of Dr. Proust’s clothes to wear. Recently, Émile, who had a wife and children to support, contacted his benefactor because he feared losing his job if the Rostands left Paris for a safer region. Although Proust rarely saw Émile, he intended to maintain contact with him in order to learn more about Agostinelli’s life between the time he fled Proust’s apartment and his death. He reminded Maurice Rostand that he had never answered his questions about whether or not he had learned anything of interest from Émile regarding Agostinelli or the pilots he had known at Antibes. In case Maurice suspected his motives, Proust explained that such matters intrigued him as a “Balzacian reconstitution.” (Correspondance 14: 201) Sometime after Agostinelli’s death, Proust had visited Buc airfield to question, as he had Louis Gautier-Vignal, aviators who had learned to fly in Nice. Proust’s persistent questioning of those who knew Agostinelli is similar to Marcel’s endless investigations into Albertine’s activities after her death: “My jealous curiosity as to what Albertine might have done was unbounded.” —The Fugitive 5: 689