

L. W. Redington
 2. M. Corps. U. S. Army.
 Washington D. C.

Re: 2. M. 293 a. c.
 (Votrie, Charles)

Your letter of February 25, regarding the above, has been forwarded to me and I am giving below all the information as I remember concerning the deaths and burials of the men mentioned in your letter.

Chas Votrie was killed by being shot thru the neck by a machine gun bullet, during an attack on the enemy by Co. B. 57th Infantry. Due to the fact that his body lay in a spot that was exposed to enemy rifle and machine gun fire it was not buried by our men and laid in that same spot when our company was relieved. Our position at that time was in a railroad just across the Vesle river, just below the Reims, Soissons road. All of the bodies of the men

293 Votrie, Charles

lost in this engagement were later buried by a burial party from the 4th Division at a place called as I remember it Laferte Farm. This farm was quite a distance back from the Vesle River.

While the company was resting up and waiting for the burial party to finish its work a rumor was brought back to the Company by this burial party that the men that relieved our company had been forced out of this railroad cut that we had occupied and were driven back across the river by the enemy. This might account for the fact that Charles Potrie's body was not buried in the burial plot on LaFerte Farm, and I can not say what disposition was made of any bodies by this company that relieved us in case the rumor mentioned above was false. I am attaching a rough sketch of this position and will mark all places mentioned.

Domenica Catarina, I recall very

distinctly of reporting this man as lost in action. He was reported as missing during the time the ^{Co.} occupied this same position on this railroad and one of our company runners that had been sent over to the outfit on our right brought back Caterina's gas mask saying he had found it way over to the right of our position and it was generally believed that he ^{had} ^{been} ^{entering} become lost at night and wandered into the enemy's line and was captured.

Cpl Frank Kowalkowski, Pvt Hubert C Leslie
Pvt Robert A. Campbell.

While our company held this position on this railroad we had three men killed by a shell explosion in their midst while they were crowded around some food that had been brought up during the night. Cpl Frank Kowalkowski was one of these men and two private I can not say that Campbell & Leslie

were the two or not but the bodies of the three that were killed were buried temporarily and their rifles stacked over their graves in this same railroad cut about 100 yards from a stone bridge over a small stream. and if their bodies were ever reburied I can not say but it is my opinion that the bodies of all of these men that I have mentioned with the exception of Caterina's were buried in this burial plot on La. Ferté Farm.

I have given you all the information I can recall and trust it will be of some assistance to you in locating the bodies of these men. If I can be of any more assistance to you in any way please advise.

Yours Respectfully,
John W. Gaffner

March 17, 1926.

1249 Pennsylvania Ave
Stuebenville
Ohio.

* Swiss

* Rheims

SECTOR HELD BY
A+B Co 5th INF

N

OPEN
FIELD

WOODS

WOODS

RAILROAD CUT THRU HILL

P.D.

STONE
BRIDGE

CATERINA'S GASMASK
FOUND OVER HERE.

E

* 100 YD.
* 3 MEN BURIED
HERE.
* VOTRIE FELL
HERE

OPEN
FIELD

WOODS

W.

WESLE RIVER

WOODS.

RUINED
VILLAGE

WOODS.

OPEN FIELD

VILLAGE
ROAD

BURIAL PLOT

LA FERTE
FARM.

S