

Refer to:-
 your no. D.M. 939-C.
 Votrie, Charles.

65 Or 'ard St.,
 Pittsfield, Mass.,
 April 16, 1930

A. D. Hughes, Capt. D.M.C.
 Office of Quartermaster General,
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of April 11th relative to the location of the grave of Charles Votrie. I shall try to give you the details I have.

Votrie was killed on or about the 8th of August 1918. We were dug in on the north bank of the railroad which runs thru Frimette to Bazoches. Votrie's company was on the extreme right of the line on the railroad & a little west & south of the Chateau du Diable. During the day we could see Germans crossing the tracks on our right and in front of the 112th Inf.

During the night that Votrie was killed, a detail had brought up a can of coffee and some other rations. Several men were grouped around this can when a shell of small calibre struck close by in the roadbed. I was asleep about 40 ft. from here & of course the shell & commotion woke me.

Several men had been hit and were screaming. This noise led the Germans to shoot up very lights and the work of taking care of the wounded was made harder as the men became afraid of moving with

the right flank so open.

I found Votrie lying in the ditch by the side of the tracks, his head partly in a puddle of water. As we had been closely associated together in camp and had many things in common, I naturally extended myself to help him.

He seemed to be badly smashed about the chest and one leg and his arms were useless. I lifted his head and gave him a drink from my canteen and I am sure his face or head was not touched although his neck was bloody and I opened his collar. He may have been hit in the neck, but at the time as he bled freely from the mouth, I could not tell. I am sure that there were no wounds from machine guns on any of the men hit at this time.

I should say that the trap rock from the roadbed did more damage than the shell fragments that night. Votrie lived some time after being hit & suffered terribly. He recognized me but could not talk due to the blood coming from his mouth. This blood probably came from a lung wound. On the night of Aug. 9th 10th Votrie's Battalion was relieved by the 2nd Battalion. The morning after he was killed he was laid with two other dead on the tracks &

covered with a blanket. I knew of a Campbell in Co. B, 59th Inf. but never heard of a Robert Campbell. (3)

I never saw Uotric wear or heard him speak of a medal ribbon such as you describe. I do not know who the other two dead men were. I never saw any other soldier wear a ribbon such as you describe.

I notice that Uotric was buried at Chateau Diable on Sept. 13, 1918. This Chateau du Diable was never in our full possession as the surrounding woods were a hot-bed of trouble. From about Aug. 7th to Sept. 13th is a long time for a corpse to be exposed and I know that these bodies were in bad shape when I saw them last.

Any further information I may be able to give or if a sketch of our position will help, please let me know. I should be glad to hear how this case comes out.

Sincerely yours,
Carl P. Hoffman.

