

Copy for Sgt. Dave's
Shurewa

November 24, 1991

John M. Adams, Jr.
112 Oak St.
London, Kentucky

Dear Marvin and John:

It is a privilege to have this opportunity to write to two men for which I have a deep respect. I hope you do not mind if I correspond with both of you at the same time. Marvin, I will attempt to answer your questions first. I do remember all of the men you mentioned, however, I do not know of their whereabouts. As to how did John find me, it is my understanding John knew one of the men in my platoon named Potta, who at the present lives in Pikeville, Ky. Potta drove a bus to MTSU (Murfreesboro, TN) to a ballgame. MTSU is about 15 miles from my house. Potta must have seen someone who knew me.

Marvin, you are correct, it was the next day at Vire Canal that I stepped on the mine. When I got wounded, I lay in that position for about 4 hours. One of our medics had put a tourniquet on my leg and gave me a hypo. After about 4 hours, a jeep was sent to evacuate me. Lt. Nash came to talk with me and said "Sgt. Helton, you will be going home now, your army career is over now. You will be supplied with an artificial leg." I was carried to a field hospital where I stayed a couple of nights. Then, by plane and train I was carried to Birmingham, England. They kept me there about a month. I was flown from England to Manchester, N.H., then eventually to Atlanta, Ga. We had some problems during the trip which I will not go into at this time. They kept me at Atlanta for about 10 months. I was then discharged from Lawson General. While at the hospital, I came across Pvt. Pope from our company. He had both legs and one arm off. I have not heard from him since. I also met P.G. Coop from 119th Infantry. John, I don't know of any mistake you made in your statement of the events that took place during the day I was wounded. You have a very good memory.

As to what has happened to me since my military discharge, I will summarize as follows:

The Bedford County Board of Education hired me in 1946 to drive a school bus. I am enclosing a copy of State of Tennessee award sent to me for my service. During my bus driving career, I also worked with my brother operating Helton's Garage in Deason, TN. We closed the garage and retired on August 12, 1991. I live in a house I had built in 1957. The house is located about 12 miles North of Shelbyville, TN.

John, Marvin, you may not have realized it at the time, that Sgt. Hilliard Harris was my brother-in-law. After the war he, also, was employed as a mechanic at Cannon Chevrolet in Shelbyville, TN. until his retirement. Both he and my sister are deceased. They have one surviving son, Dennis Harris. Dennis lives in Nashville, TN and is employed by Genesco Shoe Co.

As to anyone from K Co., I don't know if the following is still correct, but

James Haggard Helton