

26 May 1945

Dear Sis:

Will write you a few lines tonight as I have two letters from you which I have not answered. This one leaves me fine and C.O. tonight. I have the letters you wrote me on May 11th and May 9th. The one written on VE Day sure had some funny sounding stuff in it, especially in regard to the furlough stuff. You sounded as if you were actually expecting me home almost any day--well it is far from that. I sure will telegram you the day I hit the states, but don't expect that for at least a year. It sure has been a long time since you left me sitting at the counter in Homers Restruant and I doubt if it could seem as long to you as it does to me. Mabey you didn't know that that would be the last time you saw me until after the war, but I knew it, or at least I had a good idea, for we had been alerted every since we left the maneuver area in Louisiana.

Well sis, they have lifted the censor regulations on us so here is a little of the stuff that I have had to hold out on you for so long. (Don't mind the breaks, this portable takes spells sticking and then it skips). We boarded the Queen Mary in New York Harbor on the night of December 2 1942, and sailed the next day around 10 A.M. We were sure lucky on that trip for we drew state rooms on main deck. I was in a state room with two of the other men of the outfit, and we had our own bath and shower. Food wasn't so good and we only had two meals per day--breakfast at nine; supper and dinner at 4:30, but that made it nice for sleeping and I really did put in some hours at it too. We sailed south toward the Brumuda Islands and then headed North across the North Atlantic. On the third day out we hit rough water and snow and the Queen rocked like a cradle. ~~XXX~~ Some of the men were sea-sick but it never bothered me. On the morning of the 9th we docked in Gurock Scotland, which is just out of Glasgow. A barge took us ashore around 4 in the afternoon and we caught a train for Berry Whales. We arrived at Berry on the evening of the 10th and learned that our orders had been changed to Sudbury England so the next day we had to make about half the trip over again. We stayed at Sudbury until June 12th when we headed for the marshaling area in Southern England. At the Marshaling area we waterproofed all our vehicles--that was a tough job. I layed on my back under a truck until I could hardly straighten up, then after we got the job completed we received orders to take all of the waterproofing off--we did and the next day we got orders to put it back on again--luckily there were no Chaplains around at that time. We left the marshaling area on June 27th for South Hampton or I should say a staging area in that vicinity where we received our orders and had a day to check our vehicles for the beach landing. We boarded the Liberty Ship Clinton Kelly on the morning of the 29th and headed for Utah beach in a convoy of about 400 ships. We arrived at Utah beach about dark and layed in the harbor over night. During the night a Jerry came over and lit the harbor up with parachute flares but no raid followed. There was a solid wall of ack-ack fire going up and the sky was red all over. I don't think anything could have gotten through that wall of fire. I stayed out on deck most of the night listening to the rumble of the artillery up ahead. I didn't know th en that I would be hearing it behind me for a few weeks. On the morning of the 30th they put us on an LST and headed us for the beach. Orders were not to drop any vehicles in over 4 1/2 feet of water.

The skipper grounded the LST six times in an effort to let us land and each time he dropped the stick in read 5 feet. They finally radioed from the beach to take us to a makeshift pier which was under 2 1/2 feet of water and drop us. We got ashore about 10 and drove up to the de-waterproofing area and continued from there to St Mere Eglise where we spent the night in an old German Hospital. The next day we moved up to Chefe-du-Pont which was about a mile and a half from the front. The ditches along the road were full of dead Germans with just enough dirt over them to keep down the smell. In places they were taking them up and moving them to a cemetery.

We stayed at Chefe-du-Pont until after the break at St Lo which was really something. For 72 hours there was better than 2 dozen Field Artillery Battalions pouring shell upon shell in on that city and on the third day they hit ~~xxxx~~ her with 3000 heavy bombers. When we passed through St Lo there was only three buildings standing that had a roof on them. We made three move in ~~xxx~~ 5 days after leaving Chefe-du-Pont up to Mortain where we were give the job of patrolling the Red Ball Highway and repaining of the Red Ball vehicles. The Red Ball consisted of two "one way" highways leading from the beaches to the front with Q.M. trucking companies deployed along it. The trucks would leave the beaches loaded with supplies and the driver would take them so far where he would be relieved by another ~~xxxx~~ man who would continue on over the route. Those truck drivers really had a rough life. We have pulled in many a wreck where a man had gone to sleep at the wheel - some of them never woke up. From Mortain we moved to Fountainbleau which is just west of Paris, or southwest. We were still assigned the job of servicing the "Red Ball". We only stayed at Fountainbleau about two weeks and moved to Verdun on the 27th of September where we took over a Third Army collecting Point with about 700 wrecks in it. We wintered at Verdun and left there for Trier Germany on the 2d of April. We only stayed at Trier a few days and moved up to the Rhein. I made my first crossing of the Rhein on a pontoon bridge; it was also my first pontoon crossing. We moved out from the Rhein to our present location in the latter part of April so that brings us up to the end of the war in Europe.

You asked me if I had seen the show we were supposed to see - I did but it didn't tell me anything I didn't already know. It takes a minimum of 85 points to get a discharge; I only have 63 mabe 68 if I get credit for the last campaign, which I think I will - If you don't have 85 points you either stay here or go to the Pacific and you have no choice in the matter.

Well Sis, I guess this is about all for this time, so I will close.

Love

Vick.

Family Group Sheet

2

Husband's Full Name HEADRICK VICTOR DELANA **Chart No.** _____

Husband's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth	23 Dec '21	FORKTON	MONROE COUNTY	KENTUCKY	8th Child
Chr'nd					
Marr.	15 Oct '49	AT GLASGOW, KY.			
Death					
Burial					

Places of Residence TOMPKINSVILLE KENTUCKY 706 IDRU STREET
 Occupation RETIRED POSTMASTER Church Affiliation baptist Military Rec. SGT. WWII

Other wives, if any No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each marr.
 His Father ALTER THOMAS (AT) HEADRICK Mother's Maiden Name MAGGIE FLEMING

Wife's Full Maiden Name MARCELLA DOUGLAS PICKEREILL

Wife's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	13 7 1925	ROCKBRIDGE	MONROE COUNTY	KENTUCKY	9th Child
Chr'nd					
Death					
Burial					

Places of Residence 706 IDRU STREET... TOMPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY MONROE CO.
 Occupation TEACHER Church Affiliation BAPTIST Military Rec. _____

Other husbands, if any No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each marr.
 Her Father Cary W. Pickerel Mother's Maiden Name Ammie D. Hagan

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. info. on Children
	1 Stephen Delana	Birth	13 Sept 62	Tompkinsville, Ky. Monroe Co.			
	Full Name of Spouse <u>Divorced</u>	Marr.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	2 Mary Ann Headrick	Birth	8 3 1965	Tompkinsville, Ky.			
	Full Name of Spouse <u>Scott McMillen</u>	Marr.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	3	Birth					
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	4	Birth					
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	5	Birth					
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	6	Birth					
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	7	Birth					
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	8	Birth					
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.					
		Death					
		Burial					

Compiler Marcella Headrick Notes: Was drafted into Army October 9, 1945. Was in Headquarters 78 Btn. attached to various armies. Section of communications. Was living at home.
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Date _____

PARENTS HOME