

# Calendar No. 1051

69TH CONGRESS }  
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
No. 1034

PIRTLE HANDLEY

JUNE 9, 1926.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BAYARD, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1565]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1565) for the relief of Pirtle Handley, having considered the same report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 866, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

[House Report No. 866, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1565) for the relief of Pirtle Handley, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

In line 5, after the word "appropriated," add "and in full settlement against the Government." Strike out the figures "\$20,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$5,000."

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

Pirtle Handley, the beneficiary named in this measure, attended at Elizabethtown, Ky., on April 16, 1918, during the progress of the World War, a general meeting called at the instance of United States officials in behalf of the third Liberty loan campaign. A tremendous drive was then being conducted in Kentucky in the interest of this Liberty loan. A big demonstration had been arranged for at Elizabethtown on this date, and as one of the feature for attracting people of the city and the surrounding section, officers of the United States Army were sent from Camp Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Ky., some 50 miles away, together with a number of machine guns in charge of United States Army officers. The meeting was held in the public square and an immense crowd gathered there. There assembled there several thousand people, Pirtle Handley among them. Services of a patriotic nature were conducted, and everything possible was done by those in charge of the meeting to enlist interest on the part of the gathered multitude in the purchase of Liberty bonds. The machine guns were under immediate charge of Capt. John Griffith and Lieut.

Fulton Mandeville, of the Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, of Camp Taylor. These guns were then and there under exhibition by the officers and soldiers in charge of them. Handley was standing about 8 or 10 feet from one of the machine guns which was being exhibited by one of the officers just mentioned. The officer was explaining the operation of the gun and its workings to some ladies, and also for the general benefit of the assembled crowd. At that time Handley was a handsome and stalwart youth about 15 years old. The muzzle of the gun was pointing directly toward a section of the crowd where Handley was standing. Seeing the gun manipulated, Handley felt a little uneasy about his position and undertook to move to one side out of the range of the gun. The officer placed a belt of shells in the gun and then took the belt out and threw it into a box. Several shells seemed to have been kicked out of the belt and these the officer picked up and also threw into the box. The officer then turned the gun from side to side, at the same time operating the crank in order to demonstrate how the gun was handled. Suddenly, and while the gun was turned in the direction where Handley had moved, a shot was fired from the gun which struck and penetrated Handley's left kneecap. His leg was fearfully mangled. He was rushed to the base hospital at Camp Taylor, and three days later—that is to say, on April 9, 1918—the surgeons found that it was necessary to amputate his leg in order to save his life. Thereupon such amputation followed. In addition, from time to time, there were four other operations, with the result that all of the left leg was removed except about 4 inches below the hip joint. The patient had a desperate struggle for his life and remained in the base hospital until October, 1919, or a period of about 18 months.

After leaving the base hospital in October, 1919, Handley returned to the home of his parents in Louisville, his health completely shattered and himself a nervous and physical wreck. The exposed part of what was left of his amputated leg has continued to be sore, and has caused him the greatest pain ever since its amputation. The result has been that he has been, and is unable to use any kind of artificial leg, and in order to move about he is compelled to use two crutches and to proceed with difficulty. Through the kindness of the Louisville branch of the American Red Cross, an artificial limb was purchased for him, but he has never been able to use it on account of the condition of his leg stump, and this condition appears to be chronic, and an artificial limb, in all probability, can never be used.

Handley continually suffers great pain by reason of these conditions. Since the accident he has grown in height and is now over 6 feet tall, but weighs less than 135 pounds. Since the accident his mother has died and he lives with his father, who is an ordinary laborer, with other children to support beside this beneficiary. The father has no income whatsoever except the scant wages which he can earn as a laborer. Because of his physical and nervous condition, the beneficiary is wholly unable to fit himself for any kind of employment adapted to his crippled condition. He has never received any benefit allowance or assistance of any kind from the United States Government, and there is no method of granting relief to him except by congressional action. His situation is, therefore, a most difficult one and his case is altogether pathetic. Except for this unfortunate

accident, he would to-day be a young man of splendid physical proportions, competent to meet the obligations of life. As it is he seems doomed to be a nervous and physical wreck so long as he may live.

The accident occurred through the gross carelessness and negligence of the officer referred to and through no fault, directly or indirectly, of Handley himself. He was present at the Liberty loan drive for patriotic reasons, and it was most unfortunate that an officer of the United States Army, through his carelessness, should have inflicted upon him an injury of such a character.

Because of these considerations it is believed that his case is one which is meritorious, and that the relief provided for in this bill as amended, should be granted by Congress.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, January 26, 1926.

HON. CHARLES L. UNDERHILL,  
*Chairman Committee on Claims,  
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. UNDERHILL: Reference is made to your letter of January 19, 1926, inclosing copy of H. R. 1565 for the relief of Pirtle Handley, in which you request all papers, or copies of same, on file in this department relative to this claim, together with an expression of opinion as to its merits.

The records of this department show that under dates of July 21, 1921, and April 11, 1924, reports were made to the chairman Committee on Claims, House of Representatives, with reference to H. R. 3429, Sixty-seventh Congress, first session, and H. R. 6618, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session, which bills covered relief of this man. With the letter of July 21, 1921, there were inclosed photostatic copies of all papers in the case including the proceedings of a board of officers which was appointed to investigate the accident.

It is assumed that the letters and records noted above are available for use by your committee in connection with the present proposed legislation.

In this connection it may be stated that it is well established that the Government is not liable in a case such as this, where the unauthorized act of a soldier has resulted in the injury of an innocent person. Redress covering claims of this character can only be obtained from the Government through congressional action. Such action on the part of Congress is an act of grace and not the recognition of a legal obligation. Accordingly, the War Department refrains, under the Supreme Court view expressed in the Bigby case (188 U. S. 404) from any expression of opinion on the quantum of relief, if any, in the instant case, which is exclusively within the discretion of Congress.

Sincerely yours,

DWIGHT F. DAVIS, *Secretary of War.*

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AMERICAN RED CROSS, LOUISVILLE CHAPTER,  
Louisville, Ky., March 16, 1920.

Re: Pirtle Handley, No. 428 Hiawatha Street, Louisville, Ky.  
ADJUTANT GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY,  
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: The above-named boy was injured during a Liberty loan demonstration in Elizabethtown, Ky., April 6, 1918. We have communicated with Lieut. Fulton Mandeville, who was a member of the detachment who advised us to write you for the desired information. We are therefore asking for a report of the findings of the investigation by the board of inquiries, ordered by General Harry C. Hale, commander of the Eighty-fourth Division.

Very truly yours,

LUCY SHORT WARREN,  
*Secretary Home Service Section, American Red Cross.*

MARCH 22, 1920.

Miss LUCY S. WARREN,  
*Secretary Home Service Section,  
 American Red Cross, Louisville, Ky.*

DEAR MADAM: This office is in receipt of your letter of March 16, 1920 (Miss Marshall), relative to the case of Pirtle Handley, No. 428 Hiawatha Street, Louisville, Ky., in which you request report of the findings of the investigation by the board of inquiries, ordered by Gen. Harry C. Hale, commander of the Eighty-fourth Division.

Inclosed herewith you will find extract of so much of the proceedings of the said board of inquiries as relates to the findings in the case. These proceedings were approved on April 11, 1918, by Maj. Gen. Harry C. Hale.

Very respectfully,

P. C. HARRIS, *The Adjutant General.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, D. C., May 25, 1921.*

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,  
*Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR: On the 6th day of April, 1918, at a Liberty loan rally at Elizabethtown, Ky., Pirtle Handley was injured by the accidental discharge of a machine gun which was in the charge of officers of the Army.

A local board conducted an investigation into the occurrence and submitted a report, as I am advised.

Having introduced a bill to compensate Handley for the injuries sustained it is important that I should obtain a copy of the record and report, and would kindly ask to be furnished with same.

Yours very truly,

CHAS. F. OGDEN.

JUNE 4, 1921.

HON. CHARLES F. OGDEN,  
*House of Representatives.*

DEAR SIR: With further reference to your letter dated May 25, 1921, in regard to the claim of Mr. Pirtle Handley for injuries received as a result of an accidental discharge of a machine gun at Elizabethtown, Ky., on April 6, 1918, I have the honor to inform you that it is the well-established practice of the War Department to decline to furnish information which can be made the basis of a claim against the Government, save upon a call from Congress or one of its committees, or upon the order of a court of the United States or a request from some other branch of the executive for its official use.

In view of the above-stated policy, it is regretted that the information called for in your letter can not be furnished you. However, the correspondence in this case now on file in this office may be examined either by you or your secretary at any time that would be most convenient for you.

Very truly yours,

P. C. HARRIS, *The Adjutant General.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
 HEADQUARTERS EIGHTY-FOURTH DIVISION,  
*Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., April 11, 1918.*

From: Commanding general.

To: The Adjutant General of the Army.

Subject: Accidental discharge machine gun at Elizabethtown, Ky.

1. Inclosed herewith approved proceedings of a board of officers which convened at Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., April 7, 1918, pursuant to verbal order commanding general Eighty-fourth Division, Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., April 7, 1918, to ascertain and report the facts attending the accidental discharge of a machine gun at Elizabethtown, Ky., April 6, 1918, and copy of letter of reprimand to the commanding officer Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion.

HARRY M. HILL,  
*Major General, N. A., Commanding.*

PROCEEDINGS OF A BOARD OF INQUIRY WHICH CONVENED AT CAMP ZACHARY TAYLOR, KY., APRIL 7, 1918, PURSUANT TO VERBAL ORDER COMMANDING GENERAL, EIGHTY-FOURTH DIVISION, CAMP ZACHARY TAYLOR, KY., APRIL 7, 1918, TO ASCERTAIN AND REPORT THE FACTS ATTENDING THE ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF A MACHINE GUN AT ELIZABETHTOWN, KY., APRIL 6, 1918.

CAMP ZACHARY TAYLOR, KY., *April 9, 1918.*

The board met pursuant to the foregoing order at 11.30 o'clock a. m., April 7, 1918.

Present: Capt. Thomas A. Harris, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, First Lieut. Lester Null, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, Second Lieut. William MacArthur, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion.

Absent: None.

First Lieut. Lester Null, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, appointed recorder, who administered the oath to Capt. Thomas A. Harris and Second Lieut. William MacArthur, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion. The oath for the recorder was then administered by Capt. Thomas A. Harris, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, to First Lieut. Lester Null, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion.

The reporter, Sergt. Robert J. Molony, Company B, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, was duly sworn to take down in shorthand all the evidence taken in this case and transcribe the same into longhand in a true and correct form.

The board convened at Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., at 11.30 o'clock a. m. April 7, 1918, and immediately began the investigation. It decided that in order to collect the facts it would be necessary to proceed to Elizabethtown, Ky.

After the examination of the witnesses, the board finds the facts are as follows:

That Colt Machine Gun No. 2591 and a box of service ammunition, belonging to Company C, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, was transported from Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., on April 6, 1918, to Elizabethtown, Ky., and placed in the public square on the west side of the courthouse at Elizabethtown, Ky.;

That a demonstration showing the workings of the gun and the drill incident thereto were held in the public square at Elizabethtown, Ky., and that no ammunition was used during this demonstration or drill;

That the gun crew was called from the gun to attend a physical drill given in the street on the west side of the courthouse at Elizabethtown, Ky., at about 11.50 o'clock a. m., April 6, 1918, and that Colt machine gun No. 2591 and a box of ammunition were left in charge of a commissioned officer, Lieut. Fulton Mandeville.

That at about 12 o'clock, noon, April 6, 1918, Capt. John Griffith, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Pauline A. Griffith, and Mrs. Carrie R. Starke, approached Colt machine gun No. 2591 for the purpose of examining its workings and were met there by Lieut. Fulton Mandeville.

That Capt. John Griffith and Lieut. Fulton Mandeville decided to use service ammunition in this demonstration.

That Lieut. Fulton Mandeville, assisted by Capt. John Griffith, actually placed five cartridges in the gun and that after a short demonstration of the workings of the gun, Lieut. Fulton Mandeville, assisted by Capt. John Griffith, actually ejected four cartridges from the gun and Capt. John Griffith then proceeded to explain the elevation and depression of the muzzle and the traversing of the barrel.

That after explaining these parts of the tripod, Capt. John Griffith automatically tripped, or attempted to trip, the gun. He then pulled the trigger to bring the gun back to normal position and the explosion followed, causing the injury of Pirtle Handley, C. B. Smith, and Mrs. M. F. Osborne.

That Pirtle Handley, the injured boy, was the only actual witness of the explosion we found at Elizabethtown, Ky.

That upon examination of Pirtle Handley's wound we decided to recommend his transfer to the base hospital at Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., and upon our return to Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., we placed this recommendation before the division adjutant and the division surgeon, and Pirtle Handley is now in the base hospital at Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., under the care of the division surgeon.

That Dr. J. C. Mobley, attending Mrs. M. F. Osborne, and Dr. F. P. Strickler, attending C. B. Smith, each stated that the condition of his patient was satisfactory and we therefore have not up to this time brought the attention of the camp hospital authorities to these two wounded persons.

T. A. HARRIS,  
Captain, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion,  
President of Board.

LESTER NULL,  
First Lieutenant, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion,  
Recorder for the Board.

#### AFFIDAVIT OF DR. J. C. MOBLEY

STATE OF KENTUCKY,  
County of Hardin:

Dr. J. C. Mobley, being duly sworn, upon his oath, deposes and says in answer to questions by Captain Harris.

Q. How many years have you had in medical and surgery practice?—A. Twenty years.

Q. In Elizabethtown, Ky.?—A. All my life.

Q. You are familiar with surgical work of all kinds?—A. For general practice.

Q. You attended Mrs. M. F. Osborne, who was shot in the leg by a machine gun bullet on the 6th day of April, 1918, at Elizabethtown, Ky.?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. State, Doctor, in full, and describe the wound?—A. A wound midway between the knee and ankle of left leg; flesh shot away about 4 by 4 inches and say 1½ inches deep.

Q. You do not think the bone was injured to any extent?—A. No, sir.

Q. In your opinion, what would be the length of time before the wound is healed?—A. Four or six weeks, with favorable conditions.

Q. I wish you would state, Doctor, about the size of Mrs. Osborne and her age?—A. I would say she weighed 200 pounds, fleshy, and I presume 30 years old.

Q. Will this be a permanent injury to Mrs. Osborne?—A. In a degree.

Q. Will it incapacitate her from performing her daily household duties.—A. I think she will always slightly limp.

Q. State approximately, Doctor, about what your fee would ordinarily be in a case of this kind.—A. Well, she lives 5 miles out in the country; do you mean for attention hereafter and until the wound is healed?

Q. Yes.—A. About \$25, taking into consideration the number of trips I will have to make and, if the wound is infected, I will, of course, have to make more trips.

Q. The wound was a clean one, was it not?—A. Just what do you mean by that?

Q. Well, that there were no ligaments torn, etc.—A. There were no ligaments torn, but there could be an infection without the ligaments being torn.

Questions by Lieutenant NULL:

Q. How was the muscle affected?—A. Just torn and shot away.

J. C. MOBLEY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of April, 1918.

T. A. HARRIS,  
Captain Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion,  
President of Board.

#### AFFIDAVIT OF DR. JOHN MORRIS ENGLISH

STATE OF KENTUCKY,  
County of Hardin:

Dr. John Morris English, being duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and says, in answer to questions by Captain Harris.

Q. State your full name.—A. John Morris English.

Q. How long have you been in the practice of medicine and surgery?—A. Sixteen years the 1st of this coming July.

Q. Surgery most of the time?—A. Well, just emergency surgery that comes in a country doctor's line.

Q. State the name of the man you attended on the 6th day of April, 1918, at Elizabethtown, Ky., who was wounded by a shot from a machine gun.—A. Pirtle Handley.

Q. Do you know his age, Doctor?—A. Fourteen, I think he will be 15 in about a month.

Q. And about his weight?—A. I would judge he weighs about 135 pounds.

Q. Doctor, state the extent of his wounds.—A. Well, he has a wound about three-eighths inch below the lower part of his kneecap and about one-fourth inch to the inside; that is the entrance, and the exit is about 1½ inches below the entrance and about one-half inch to the inside of the leg, going directly through and just below the epiphyseal end of the tibia.

Q. Had the wound developed a hemorrhage?—A. So far as I was able to ascertain, there was no arterial hemorrhage.

Q. Did the leg have a tourniquet on it when you took charge of it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know who put that on, Doctor?—A. Some officer, I don't know his name, that is, I suppose he did, he had hold of it when I got there.

Q. What will be the extent of this injury do you think, will it incapacitate the man to such an extent as to prevent him from performing his usual duties?—A. Yes, sir; for some time.

Q. How is the bone affected?—A. There is a hole right through the bone.

Q. Was the bone splintered?—A. It was a clean-cut hole.

Q. You say he is about 15?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long will it take the wound to heal, do you think?—A. If there is no infection, this wound would heal in about 30 days, under favorable conditions.

Q. Doctor, approximate what your fee would be for this case?—A. Well, I could only conjecture, as I have had no experience in a case of this kind, about the only thing we see is the regular lead bullet wounds.

Q. Well, say it would heal in about 30 days and there would be no infection, then about what would be your fee?—A. I could only guess at it, I could not say definitely.

Q. Approximate it, something near?—A. Well, I would judge that, possibly, if he gets along well, a fee of \$25 would be near it, but if it is infected I would have to see him oftener and take more care of it.

Q. He lives here in town?—A. Yes, sir; well, he does not live here, but at Highland Park.

Q. He will more than likely live here while being treated?—A. He has a job here, and I suppose he will live here indefinitely until he gets well.

JOHN MORRIS ENGLISH.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of April, 1918.

T. A. HARRIS,

*Captain Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion,  
President of Board.*

# AFFIDAVIT OF DR. F. P. STRICKLER

STATE OF KENTUCKY,

*County of Hardin:*

Dr. F. P. Strickler, being duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and says, in answer to questions by Captain Harris:

Q. Please state your name.—A. F. P. Strickler.

Q. What is your age, Doctor?—A. Sixty-two.

Q. How long have you been practicing medicines and surgery?—A. Forty years this March.

Q. Will you state the name of the man you attended on the 6th day of April, 1918, who was wounded by a shot from a machine gun at Elizabethtown, Ky.?—A. C. B. Smith, age 48 years.

Q. About what did he weigh, Doctor?—A. About 160 pounds.

Q. Just state, in your own language, Doctor, describing the wound and the extent of the injury.—A. A punctured wound in the left foot, producing a compound fracture of the tarsal bones of the left foot.

Q. Were the bones splintered?—A. Yes; just drove right through.

Q. You are treating him now, are you?—A. Yes, sir; I mopped out the wound thoroughly with iodine, and gave him an injection of serum. I have not opened the wound since I succeeded in stopping the hemorrhage.

Q. In your opinion, Doctor, how long will it take the wound to heal?—A. About three or four months, if no infection develops.

Q. Will there be any stiffness in the foot?—A. Yes, sir; although that is simply a conjecture.

Q. What is his occupation?—A. Farmer.

Q. How long will it incapacitate him from performing his usual duties?—A. About three or four months.

Q. If no complications arise, you think it would still require about three months for it to completely heal?—A. Yes, sir; I think so.

Q. About what would your fee be, Doctor?—A. I could not say, the first attention to it would be about twenty or twenty-five dollars.

Q. In the event no complications arise, what would it be?—A. I really could not say; if it really became necessary, I am patriotic enough to donate it to the cause, it being purely an accident.

Questions by Lieutenant MACARTHUR:

Q. Will the wound develop a permanent limp?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think it will be very slight?—A. I think it will be very severe, although I have seen wounds of that kind heal in 24 hours, but you never can tell.

F. P. STRICKLER, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of April, 1918.

T. A. HARRIS,

*Captain Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion,  
President of Board.*

#### AFFIDAVIT OF PIRTLE HANDLEY

STATE OF KENTUCKY.

*County of Hardin:*

Pirtle Handley, being duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and says, in answer to questions by Captain Harris:

Q. What is your name?—A. Pirtle Handley.

Q. How old are you?—A. Fifteen; will be 16 next birthday.

Q. Do you live here in Elizabethtown?—A. Yes, sir; but my father lives in Louisville. I have been boarding here with my sister.

Q. How much do you weigh?—A. About 130 pounds.

Q. State, in your own language, where you were on the 6th day of April and what happened.—A. Went up to the courthouse and was looking around at the machine gun and watching the fellows exercise. One of the guns had a big barrel on it and some man was running some cartridges through it, showing two ladies how it worked, pointing it up in the air and then he turned it down toward the ground, then raised it up again and it went off.

Q. Do you know an officer when you see one?—A. The man was a soldier and had on a cap.

Q. Was there anyone else around the gun?—A. I did not see anyone.

Q. Did you see anyone else there before the gun went off?—A. I saw a man there with a helmet on.

Q. You say he was showing the gun to two ladies; did you know them?—A. No, sir.

Q. How far were you in front of the gun when it went off?—A. About 5 feet from the muzzle of the gun.

Q. Was the gun pointing toward the ground?—A. No; he raised it up from the ground, but not completely level.

Q. Who came to you when you were shot?—A. Some officer, I think.

Q. What did he do?—A. He got a rope, or something, and put it around my leg and twisted it.

Q. Was it the same officer who was working with the gun?—A. Some one said so.

Q. Do you remember whether or not he put a handkerchief around your leg before he put the rope there?—A. No, sir.

Q. What did you do after you were shot?—A. They got an automobile and brought me over here.

Q. Who was it brought you here?—A. Some soldier.

Questions by Lieutenant MACARTHUR:

Q. Was the man who fired the gun an officer, a big, heavy man?—A. I do not remember.

Q. Who ran the belt through the gun?—A. I do not know.

Q. Was there a man with a tin hat on around there?—A. Yes.  
 Q. What did he do?—A. He took the ammunition out of the box and gave it to the officer.

Q. Was he there when the gun went off?—A. I do not know.

Q. How many men were there around with tin hats on?—A. One.

Questions by Captain HARRIS:

Q. How much do you earn per week?—A. I was going to work for the ice plant for \$8.75 a week when this came up.

Q. Have you been working regularly?—A. Yes, sir; every week.

Q. How much board do you pay?—A. \$3.50 per week.

Q. Do you board with some relative?—A. Yes, sir; my sister.

PIRTLE HANDLEY,

T. A. HARRIS,

*Captain Three Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Machine Gun Battalion,  
 President of Board.*

#### AFFIDAVIT OF MRS. CARRIE R. STARKE

STATE OF KENTUCKY,  
 County of Jefferson:

Mrs. Carrie R. Starke, being duly sworn, upon oath deposes and says, in answer to questions by Captain Harris:

Q. State your full name.—A. Carrie R. Starke.

Q. You are the wife of Maj. Belton J. Starke?—A. Yes.

Q. Of the Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion?—A. Yes.

Q. Mrs. Starke, were you at Elizabethtown, Ky., on the 6th day of April, 1918?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you see a demonstration given by some officers of the Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion?—A. Yes.

Q. Who were the officers?—A. Captain Griffith and Lieutenant Mandiville.

Q. While you were there was the gun discharged?—A. Yes.

Q. Mrs. Starke, go ahead and state in your own language all that happened that you saw.—A. We went there, and Captain Griffith went to show us how this thing worked; whether there were bullets in it I could not say; in the meantime, Lieutenant Mandiville came up and shelled out four cartridges that came out on the side, and then the gun was turned. I asked if it could be lowered, and he lowered it. That is all I asked and thought the demonstration was over. The next thing I heard was a shot. I saw the boy staggering, and Captain Griffith jumped and caught him, took the boy's handkerchief and put a tourniquet around his leg. I asked if there was a doctor in the crowd, and no one answered. I asked where I could get one, and they told me at the drug store, and I inquired there, and they told me that some one had sent the doctor. I went back to the scene and found that there had been two more shot, but did not see them.

Q. How long do you suppose it was after you left the gun position until you returned from the drug store?—A. That I could not say; I guess it was about four or five minutes, probably not that long.

Q. The boy had been taken away when you returned?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know who moved him?—A. No.

Q. Mrs. Starke, did Captain Griffith take you and Mrs. Griffith, his wife, over to the gun to show it to you?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there anyone else with you besides his wife?—A. No.

Q. The crowd gathered around when he was showing you and his wife the gun?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You say Lieutenant Mandiville came up while you were looking at the gun?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was the belt that contained the cartridges in the gun at the time?—A. It seemed to me that they opened the box and put them in.

Q. Who put the belt in the gun?—A. Both of them.

Q. Then who took the belt out of the gun?—A. I don't know.

Q. Who took the cartridges out, which officer?—A. Lieutenant Mandiville.

Q. You say he counted them?—A. When he picked them up he said "four."

Q. You did not see which of the officers it was who pulled the trigger on the gun.—A. No; I did not see it.

Q. You do not know, within your own mind, whether it was Captain Griffith or Lieutenant Mandiville who fired the shot.—A. No.

Q. But they were both working with the gun?—A. Yes; they were both working with the gun.

Q. Both were working with the gun when it was fired?—A. That I could not say.

Q. But you do say that they were both working with the gun when the cartridges were put in the gun?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know, Mrs. Starke, what the gas lever is on the Colts gun?—A. No; I do not know what a gas lever is.

Q. Did you see either of the officers take hold of a lever in front or on the underneath side of the gun and pull it down?—A. No.

Mrs. CARRIE R. STARKE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of April, 1918.

T. A. HARRIS,

*Captain, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion,  
President of Board*

#### ADDITIONAL PROCEEDINGS

Paragraph 1: As per first indorsement, the board reconvened at 1 p. m., April 10, 1918. All members of the board were present.

Paragraph 2: That the board decided, inasmuch as First Lieut. Fulton Mandeville, of the Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, thought that he had entirely unloaded the gun, and, inasmuch as Capt. John Griffith, of the Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, tripped or attempted to trip the gun to make certain that it was entirely unloaded, we do not consider the accident as due to gross carelessness, but rather to a lack of the proper precautions required by the unusual circumstances.

Paragraph 3: We find the responsibility for the accident should rest equally between Capt. John Griffith, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, and First Lieut. Fulton Mandeville, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion.

THOMAS A. HARRIS,

*Captain Three hundred and twenty-seventh  
Machine Gun Battalion,  
President of the Board.*

LESTER NULL,

*First Lieutenant Three hundred and twenty-seventh  
Machine Gun Battalion,  
Recorder of the Board.*

#### STATEMENT OF MRS. PAULINE A. GRIFFITH

STATE OF KENTUCKY,  
County of Jefferson:

Mrs. Pauline A. Griffith being duly sworn, upon oath, deposes and says, in answer to questions by Captain Harris:

Q. State your full name, Mrs. Griffith.—A. Pauline A. Griffith.

Q. You are the wife of Capt. John Griffith, of the Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion?—A. I am.

Q. Were you at Elizabethtown, Ky., on the 6th day of April, 1918?—A. I was.

Q. Just state, in your own language, Mrs. Griffith, what happened at Elizabethtown, Ky., at the time of the discharge of a machine gun.—A. We were over watching the physical exercises and I asked the captain to show me his gun, and he took us over to where the guns were and on the way we met Lieutenant Mandiville. The captain bent down and said, "I don't like to explain these guns to you; I won't show you much about it; there are too many around," and he started to show me how it was loaded and remarked that he would not load it, and Lieutenant Mandiville then said, "Load it, Captain." Jack said "No."

Q. Who do you mean by "Jack"?—A. Captain Griffith.

Q. You call your husband, Captain Griffith, "Jack"?—A. Yes. He did start to load it and it caught and Lieutenant Mandiville came up and started to help the captain to load it. They discharged the shells and they fell out on the ground.

## PIRTLE HANDLEY

Lieutenant Mandiville pushed something and they came out. Mrs. Starke then made some inquiry about the sights and about firing it and the captain showed us how to depress and elevate it and then I walked around to the front of the gun and heard him say, "This is what we call a swinging traverse," and I came back aside of him to see what it was. Somebody in the crowd made an inquiry as to whether it was a gas or water cooled machine, and Lieutenant Mandiville answered him, and the captain remarked to me about something in front of the gun, "This works so fast you can hardly see it." He was standing up and bending over and said something about tripping it. I do not know what that means, and the next thing I saw was the flame from the mouth of the gun and I knew it had been loaded and had gone off. I turned my head for a minute and thought I was going to see everybody killed in front of me and heard the captain say to Lieutenant Mandiville, "Good God, Mandiville, you left that gun loaded." I looked around and saw the captain jump over the gun and went to the boy, who was standing with his leg up in the air, hollering. The captain laid him on the ground and tied a handkerchief around his leg and made a tourniquet with a stick that was there. The next thing I realized I was standing quite some feet away with some officers, who were urging me to go over to the hotel. I told them I wanted to stay with Jack. Then a doctor came through the crowd and the captain, with some civilians, lifted the boy up. Then some one touched the captain and said, "Let me take your place, captain," I think is what he said. Then for the next second or two I do not remember. Lieutenant Gordon was with me and was very kind and solicitous and urged me to go away. I told him that I wanted to speak to the captain and he went to get him for me. When Jack came up he said, "There goes 20 years of efficiency to hell." He asked me if I had seen the commanding officer; he wanted to report to him. I told him I understood they had sent for Major Starke, who was at lunch. The captain saw the major in the crowd then and left me.

Q. He did, Mrs. Griffith, report to the major at once?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, Mrs. Griffith, to refresh your memory, was there anyone around the gun besides Captain Griffith, Lieutenant Mandiville, Mrs. Starke, and yourself at the time of the demonstration of the gun?—A. No; we four, to the best of my knowledge, were the only ones right there near the gun, but when we first came up to the gun the captain had pushed some boys aside.

Q. Do you remember whether or not there were any of the enlisted men around the gun?—A. I could not say.

Q. What kind of a headpiece did Lieutenant Mandiville have on at the time; could you say whether it was a cap or a hat?—A. I think he had on one of those soft felt hats.

Q. What kind of a hat did Captain Griffith have on?—A. A regular officer's cap.

Q. How far in front of the gun was the boy who was shot at the time the gun was fired?—A. I am not a very good judge of distance; I should think he was from 6 to 10 feet away.

Q. Mrs. Griffith, who put the belt in the gun, if you know?—A. The captain and the lieutenant did it together; it caught and the lieutenant came up to help him.

Q. After they put the belt in the gun, who took the belt out of the gun?—A. Lieutenant Mandiville did; he pressed something to show me how the cartridge came out.

Q. Do you remember, Mrs. Griffith, whether or not he took hold of a lever?—A. Well, it was something underneath the gun.

Q. Then he pulled the belt out?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether or not he counted the shells?—A. He picked them up, one at a time, and threw the belt and cartridges into a box and the captain pushed the cover over it.

Q. Did you know at the time how many cartridges he picked up off of the ground?—A. No.

Q. Then, after the cartridges were removed; that is, all you saw removed from the gun, what happened?—A. That was when Mrs. Starke inquired about the sights.

Q. Do you know, Mrs. Griffith, who pulled the trigger?—A. I did not see.

Questions by Lieutenant NULL:

Q. After Lieutenant Mandiville unloaded the gun, did the captain trip the gas lever back himself?—A. I could not say, except that when he showed it to me he held his hand down there and said, "This thing works so fast you can hardly see it."

PIRTLE HANDLEY

Q. You did not see him pull that back?—A. No; I do not think he did.

Questions by Lieutenant MACARTHUR:

Q. Did Captain Griffith help Lieutenant Mandeville put the cartridges and belt back in the box?—A. I think they were both there.

Q. How much time elapsed between the time the ammunition and belt were put back in the box and the explosion of the gun?—A. I don't know exactly, but it was long enough for the captain to explain how to elevate and depress the gun and about the swinging traverse.

PAULINE A. GRIFFITH.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of April, 1918.

T. A. HARRIS,

*Captain, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion,  
President of Board.*

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AFFIDAVIT OF CAPT. JOHN GRIFFITH

STATE OF KENTUCKY,  
*County of Jefferson.*

Capt. John Griffith, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, being duly sworn upon his oath, deposes and says that he is 39 years of age, that he has served in the Army of the United States since June, 1898; that in explanation of the accident which occurred at Elizabethtown, Ky., on the 6th day of April, 1918, he wishes to make the following statement:

"After the physical drill was over, my wife was anxious to see the workings of the Colt machine gun. One gun was left mounted on the tripod after the elementary drill. I took her and Mrs. Starke, accompanied by Lieutenant Mandeville, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, over to the gun to explain it to them. During the explanation I showed them the slot where the belt was inserted. Lieutenant Mandeville suggested loading it. I said "No," and then we decided to load it. Lieutenant Mandeville and I inserted the belt, Lieutenant Mandeville tripping the gun. He ejected one shell that I saw, and I told my wife about the fourth trip ejecting it. My attention was then diverted, and Lieutenant Mandeville continued the unloading process. A few seconds, or perhaps a minute later, some one asked about the gas lever. I tripped the gun once, but I never saw a cartridge drop out. I bent over and pulled the trigger and a cartridge exploded.

"From the foregoing I do not want to infer that any one was to blame for the accident but myself. I never should have allowed the gun to be loaded, and the trigger should not have been released until I was certain the gun was empty. The entire blame for the accident rests on my shoulders.

"The boy who was wounded was the only one I saw. He was shot in the leg and bled profusely, he having been directly in front of the gun, and when I saw the blood spurting from the wound, I immediately laid him on the ground and put a tourniquet on his leg, succeeding in stopping the flow of the blood. The doctor arrived and he was carried to his office. I then inspected the gun and found it empty, dismounted it, and reported the accident to Major Starke, stating as far as I knew, at that time, only one was injured."

JOHN GRIFFITH,

*Captain, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion.*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of April, 1918.

T. A. HARRIS,

*Captain, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion,  
President of the Board.*

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AFFIDAVIT OF LIEUT. FULTON MANDEVILLE

STATE OF KENTUCKY,  
*County of Jefferson:*

Lieut. Fulton Mandeville, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, being duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and says that he is 39 years of age; that in explanation of the accident which occurred at Elizabethtown, Ky., on the 6th day of April, 1918, he wishes to make the following statement:

PIRTLE HANDLEY

"Immediately after the physical drill Captain Griffith, Mrs. Griffith, Mr. Starke, and myself went over to the point where one Colt machine gun had been left mounted, the elementary gun drill having been finished. Mrs. Griffith was anxious to see the operation of this gun. I suggested loading it, which we finally decided to do.

"Captain Griffith inserted the belt, the tag end going under the feed wheel. I helped take it out, and it was then properly inserted. The cartridges were spaced in groups of five. I operated gas lever ejecting all the cartridges to the best of my knowledge. At that moment some one in the crowd asked me a question concerning the gun, and I stood up and turned to answer them and the gun was discharged.

"As soon as I saw Captain Griffith holding the boy who was injured I ran to drug store on opposite corner of the street, asking to be directed to a doctor's office, which I learned was about a half block down the street. Went as directed, not finding the doctor in, came back up the street, and was told by some one that a doctor had been gotten for the boy."

FULTON MANDEVILLE,  
*First Lieutenant, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion.*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of April, 1918.

T. A. HAINS,  
*Captain, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion,  
President of Board.*

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STATEMENT OF CORPL. WILLIAM MCCARTHY

Q. State your name in full.—A. Corpl. William McCarthy.

Q. What company and organization?—A. Company C, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion.

Q. Did you go to Elizabethtown, Ky., on the 6th day of April, 1918?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You were with the detail under Lieutenant Mandeville with the Colt machine guns?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Corporal, do you know the number of the gun that was accidentally discharged?—A. No. 2591, sir.

Q. State whether or not this gun (the gun used as an exhibit before the board) here is the same gun that was on exhibition at Elizabethtown, Ky., and which was accidentally discharged, causing the injury of some people at that place.—A. It is, sir.

Q. About what time did you leave the gun?—A. At about 12 o'clock noon.

Q. What position did you leave the gun it?—A. I left the gun mounted on the tripod.

Q. You received an order from one of the officers to "Fall in"?—A. I received an order from Lieutenant Mandeville to "Fall in."

Q. What position was the gun pointing in when you left it?—A. It was pointing out from the courthouse.

Q. There were no shells in the gun?—A. No, sir.

Q. What time did you return?—A. I guess it was around a quarter of 1.

Q. What position did you find the gun in when you returned?—A. It was dismounted and laying with the rest of the guns.

Q. Where was the ammunition?—A. Packed up and laying aside.

Q. You have fired the gun before April 6, 1918?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you have any malfunctions, jams, or any other trouble with the gun at that time?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know of anyone else having had any trouble with the mechanism of the gun?—A. No, sir.

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STATEMENT OF CAPT. HUGH H. LOVE

Q. State your name, rank, and organization.—A. Hugh H. Love, captain, Infantry, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion.

Q. You are the division instructor for the heavy machine guns at the Infantry School of Arms, Eighty-fourth Division, are you not?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you familiar with the mechanical parts of the Colt machine gun?—A. Yes.

PIRTLE HANDLEY

Q. You have examined the gun before the court here, have you not?—A. Yes.  
Q. Did you find any of the mechanical parts of the gun that are not in perfect working condition?—A. No.

Q. Did you find any dirt or anything under the extractors on the bolt that could have possibly caused or kept the bolt from extracting the cartridge?—A. There was some dirt, but, in my opinion, not enough to prevent the extractor from performing a function.

Q. Would it be possible for the shell not to be extracted if the gas lever were pulled completely back?—A. If the shell extractor was in good condition, no.

Q. You say that the shell extractor was in good condition, except that there was some dirt found in it when you examined the gun?—A. Yes.

Q. Are there any other means of firing the gun, or that a man could be deceived after throwing the gas lever back that the gun would not extract the shell?—A. Failure to pull the gas lever completely to the rear; in that case the gun would not properly function.

Q. Would it be possible for a man who understood the action of the Colt gun to operate the gas lever in what he considers the proper manner and yet not extract the cartridge?—A. It is possible.

Q. Do you know whether or not Captain Griffith and Lieutenant Mandeville have completed a course in the Colt's machine gun class at the Infantry School of Arms, Eighty-fourth Division?—A. Yes.

Q. They are both familiar with the mechanism and working parts of the Colt machine gun?—A. Yes.

Approved.

HARRY M. HILL,

*Major General, National Army, Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTY-FOURTH DIVISION,

*Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., April 11, 1918.*

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTY-FOURTH DIVISION,

*Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., April 11, 1918.*

From: Division Adjutant.

To: Commanding officer Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion.

Subject: Accidental discharge machine gun at Elizabethtown, Ky.

1. It appears from the proceedings of the board of officers convened for the purpose of inquiring into the accidental discharge of a Colt machine gun, at Elizabethtown, Ky., resulting in the wounding of three civilians, one of them so badly as to cause amputation of the leg, that the gun was carelessly handled by two officers of your battalion, to wit, Capt. John Griffith and Lieut. Fulton Mandeville, both of the Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion.

2. The Government has a right to expect that when a man accepts a commission as an officer in the United States Army he will at all times exercise good care and judgment, in all his operations as such. In the case at hand it does not appear that good care or judgment was shown by either of these officers, but on the other hand gross carelessness and neglect to take proper precautions to protect persons from harm when in the presence of a dangerous weapon can be attributed to both. Both these officers have had some experience with machine guns, and the impropriety of loading a gun in the presence of onlookers should not have been considered by either for an instant. In fact it appears that this idea occurred to Captain Griffith, but although this officer was the senior on the spot, he withdrew his objection and not only agreed to the loading of the gun but was actually the one to discharge the piece, in spite of his realization that the loading thereof was dangerous. Such conduct on the part of any officer of the length of service which Captain Griffith has is hard to understand.

3. The division commander desires to point out that the wrongfulness of the act of the two officers concerned is accentuated by the fact that the accident occurred, not in a demonstration for the benefit of the public, but in an attempt to show the workings of the gun to wives of officers of the party who went to Elizabethtown, Ky., to take part in the Liberty-loan demonstration. The carelessness of the two officers concerned has resulted in the amputation of the injured boy's leg, and seriously endangers his life. The fact that he will remain a cripple throughout his days should be a lesson to Captain Griffith and Lieutenant

Mandeville that should never be forgotten. The division commander expects that that fact, together with this reprimand, will be a sufficient lesson to cause these officers to exercise the necessary care and judgment in the future that is always expected of officers.

4. This reprimand will be attached to the proceedings of the board, and will be read by the commanding officer of the Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion to the two officers concerned, and the fact thereof noted on their records.

By command of Major General Hale:

J. GARDNER GREEVES,  
Major, A. G., R. C., Acting Division Adjutant.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, March 22, 1920.

P. C. HARRIS,  
The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I inclose herewith letter from Mr. Pirtle Handley, Berea College, box 775, Berea, Ky., in which he states that he had his left leg shot off by machine gun by an officer. I would like to be advised if there is any relief can be had for this boy. Please advise me and return letter. I understand that this was an officer of the United States Army.

Respectfully,

J. M. ROBSON.

BEREA, KY., March 19, 1920.

Mr. J. M. ROBSON,  
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I wish you would look up some business for me if you will. On April 6, 1918, at Elizabethtown, Ky., I had my left leg shot off by a machine gun. I was civilian at the time of the accident.

The Red Cross has been writing for me but have never heard any from the Government. I am in school now by borrowing money from the Red Cross. I have the names of six people who were eyewitnesses to the accident. It was an officer who had hold of the gun at the time it went off. I wish you would look this up for me at once, for I am in great need of money.

I have never received a cent from them yet, and my people are not able to keep me or to put me in school.

I am only 18 years old. Let me know what can be done for me at once.

Yours truly,

PIRTLE HANDLEY,  
Berea College, Box 775, Berea, Ky.

MARCH 31, 1920.

Hon. J. M. ROBSON,  
House of Representatives.

DEAR SIR: Referring further to your letter of March 22, 1920, inclosing correspondence from Mr. Pirtle Handley, Berea, Ky., with reference to alleged injury received by him, as a result of a machine-gun accident, at Elizabethtown, Ky., on April 6, 1918, I beg leave to inform you that a board of officers found that two officers, Capt. John Griffith and Lieut. Fulton Mandeville, were responsible for this accident. A copy of the approved findings of this board was furnished Mr. Handley a few days ago.

It is regretted that the War Department can furnish no relief for this man. Such relief will have to be provided by Congress or obtained from the officers responsible. These officers have been discharged.

Very respectfully,

P. C. HARRIS,  
The Adjutant General.

BASE HOSPITAL,  
Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., April 4, 1919.

From: Commanding officer.

To: The commanding general, Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky.

Subject: Civilian, Pirtle Handley.

1. This civilian, a boy of 15 years, was injured April 6, 1918, at Elizabethtown, Ky., by accidental discharge of a Government machine gun. He was admitted to this hospital two days later and it was found that an amputation of the leg was necessary to save life. He has been under our care since that time and will soon be ready for discharge from the hospital. This case was reported to your office and has been investigated by the camp inspector and the camp judge advocate. This boy should be fitted with an artificial limb, which can not be done at this hospital. From what we know about this case unofficially, there appears to be some basis for claim against the Government.

Request investigation and instructions as to desirability of applying for authority to transfer him to a general hospital for fitting of an artificial leg at Government expense.

W. L. PYLES,  
Colonel, Medical Corps, United States Army.

[First indorsement]

HEADQUARTERS CAMP ZACHARY TAYLOR, KY.,  
April 9, 1919.

To THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, D. C.:

1. Recommending that the boy referred to in above communication be transferred to a general hospital for fitting of an artificial leg at Government expense.

2. Proceedings of board of officers was forwarded to The Adjutant General of the Army from the headquarters, Eighty-fourth Division, on April 12, 1918. This information was obtained from the officer in charge of the records of the Eighty-fourth Division.

DANIEL W. KETCHAM,  
Brigadier General, United States Army, Commanding.

[Second indorsement]

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
April 16, 1919.

To the SURGEON GENERAL:

Synopsis made.

JOS. P. TRACY.

[Third indorsement]

WAR DEPARTMENT, SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
April 22, 1919.

To the COMMANDING OFFICER, Base Hospital,  
(Through the camp surgeon) Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky.

1. No authority exists for the transfer of the civilian, Pirtle Handley, to a general hospital.

2. Arrangements will be made to supply a provisional leg, which will meet the needs of the case until the stump has attained its final size and shape. This can be fitted by the orthopaedic surgeon on your staff.

3. In order to secure a proper provisional leg, you are directed to forward the following data and measurements:

Site of amputation; whether right or left; height of patient; length of sound leg—(a) from groin to sole, (b) from knee-joint to sole; tracing of stump, noting the circumference at 1-inch levels.

By direction of the Surgeon General:

WILLIAM H. MONCRIEF,  
Colonel, Medical Corps, Chief, Division of Surgery.  
By E. G. BRACKETT,  
Colonel, Medical Corps, Chief, Section of Orthopaedic Surgery.

[Fourth indorsement]

C. O. BASE HOSPITAL,  
Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., April 29, 1919.  
To the SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY,  
Washington, D. C.

(Attention division of surgery, through camp surgeon):

Returned. Paragraph 3, third indorsement hereon complied with. Tracing of stump with measurements attached.

[Fifth indorsement]

HEADQUARTERS CAMP ZACHARY TAYLOR, KY.,  
OFFICE OF CAMP SURGEON,  
April 29, 1919.  
To the SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY,  
Washington, D. C.

1. Forwarded.

HENRY F. PIPES,  
Colonel, Medical Corps, United States Army.

[Sixth indorsement]

WAR DEPARTMENT, SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
ORTHOPAEDIC SECTION,  
May 6, 1919.  
To CAMP SURGEON,  
Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky.:

1. Returned with advice that arrangements have been made to ship the Pilling (Philadelphia) temporary artificial legs from Walter Reed Hospital. If there is any difficulty in fitting this limb, it is requested that this office be informed of the difficulty.

By direction of the Surgeon General.

WM. H. MONCRIEF,  
Colonel, Medical Corps, Chief, Division of Surgery.  
By E. G. BRACKETT,  
Colonel, Medical Corps, Chief, Orthopaedic Section.

[Eighth indorsement]

C. O. BASE HOSPITAL,  
Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., July 1, 1919.  
To the SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY,  
Washington, D. C.  
(Attention Orthopedic Division.)

Returned as requested in sixth indorsement.

The artificial leg received from Walter Reed Hospital is unsatisfactory; it does not fit, and although numerous alterations have been made in our shop the limb is still unsatisfactory. This is due to the fact that the shaft of the femur is very short and that the greater part of the stump is soft tissue, allowing the artificial limb to ride upon the perineum, causing pressure and also instability.

It is advised that if patient can not be transferred to Government hospital for the construction of a limb that the latter be purchased in Louisville, Ky. (Blevens Artificial Limb Co.).

This firm is reliable and offer leg of English red willow and pelvic band, etc., for \$125, with fit guaranteed.

[9th indorsement]

WAR DEPARTMENT, SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
July 16, 1919.

To the ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

1. Inviting attention to previous indorsements hereon in which it is apparent that every possible effort has been made to supply this patient with an artificial leg from the stock on hand in the Medical Department.

2. This office knows of no authority by which the purchase of an artificial leg from public funds for the benefit of civilians in the public service could be authorized. Further, there is no authority for the transfer of this patient to another Army hospital.

3. It is recommended that these papers be referred to the Judge Advocate General for a decision as to whether any further action looking to the procurement of an artificial leg can be taken in this case.

For the Surgeon General:

S. J. MORRIS,  
*Colonel Medical Corps.*

[Eleventh indorsement]

WAR DEPARTMENT, JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S OFFICE,

July 28, 1919.

TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY

(Reference A. G. 095, Misc. Div., July 21, 1919):

1. It appears from the papers in reference that Pertle Handley, a civilian 15 years of age, was injured April 6, 1918, at Elizabethtown, Ky., by the accidental discharge of a Government machine gun, and because of such injury it became necessary to amputate his leg. He was admitted to the base hospital at Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky., and a provisional limb was supplied by the Surgeon General, to be fitted by the surgeon at Camp Zachary Taylor. The artificial limb furnished is unsatisfactory and can not be made to fit. The commanding officer of the base hospital at Camp Zachary Taylor has requested authority to purchase a limb from the Blevens Artificial Limb Co., Louisville, Ky., for the use of this civilian. The opinion of this office is requested as to whether or not any further action looking to the procurement of an artificial limb can be taken in this case.

2. Assuming that this civilian was not an employee of the United States Government, there is no authority under which an artificial limb can be purchased for him. Congress alone can grant relief to him. (Ops. JAG 152, Sept. 16, 1918, and 242.2, Aug. 22, 1918.) If this boy was an employee of the United States he should apply to the United States Employees' Compensation Commission, which is under the Department of Labor, for information pertaining to the general provisions and operations under the United States employees' compensation act of September 7, 1917 (39 Stats. 742).

E. A. KREGER,  
*Acting Judge Advocate General.*

AUGUST 12, 1919.

From: Commanding Officer.

To: The Adjutant General of the Army, Washington, D. C.

Subject: Civilian, Pirtle Handley.

1. The above civilian, a boy 15 years of age, was injured on April 6, 1918, by the accidental discharge of a Government machine gun at Elizabethtown, Ky. He was admitted to the base hospital of this camp two days later and it was found that an amputation of the leg was necessary to save his life.

2. The officer formerly in charge of the records of the Eighty-fourth Division reports that the case was investigated by a board of officers and the proceedings of the board were forwarded to The Adjutant General of the Army by the commanding general Eighty-fourth Division on April 12, 1918.

3. This man is still in the camp hospital and inquiries are being received as to what disposition of his case may be expected and in view of the fact that there is no copy of the proceedings of the board of officers on file at these headquarters information is requested as to what action should be taken in the matter.

H. L. JACKSON,  
*Colonel, Fifth Infantry, Commanding.*

[Second indorsement]

WAR DEPARTMENT, S. G. O.,

August 26, 1919.

TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY:

Returned.

1. The papers returned by your office with twelfth indorsement, dated August 9, 1919, were returned to camp surgeon, Camp Taylor, Ky., with indorsement that this office knows of no further action which can be taken in this case relative to procuring an artificial leg for this boy.

For the Surgeon General:

S. J. MORRIS,  
*Colonel, Medical Corps.*

HIGHLAND PARK, Ky., August 20, 1920.

Mr. WOODROW WILSON,  
President United States of America.

I was in an accident in Elizabethtown, Ky., on April 6, 1918, when an Army officer fired a machine gun into the people and it shot my left limb off at the hip. I am only 17 years old. My father is very poor and he is 61 years, and he can not do much. Congress is trying to allow me \$10,000. But it will be a year or so before I get it, if they grant it to me.

My father depends a good deal on me.

And want to go to school this fall and haven't got the money. Is there any way the Government can send me to school? If so, let me know at once.

Could I be put on this F. B. training?

Yours truly,

PIRTLE HANDLEY.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1920.

AMERICAN RED CROSS,  
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: There is inclosed herewith for your consideration copy of a letter dated August 20, 1920, received from Mr. Pirtle Handley, 17 years of age, who received a gunshot wound in his limb through the accidental discharge of a machine gun at Elizabethtown, Ky., on April 6, 1918. Briefly summarized, the circumstances connected with the accident were as follows:

A demonstration, showing the workings of a Colt machine gun No. 2591, and a drill incident thereto, were held in the public square at Elizabethtown, Ky., on the date mentioned, during which no ammunition was used. This gun was transported from Camp Taylor, Ky. After the public demonstration Capt. John Griffith, who was in charge, gave a private exhibition, showing the mechanism of the gun and its working in the presence of his wife and some others, including the claimant. At this exhibition loaded cartridges were used and Captain Griffith, after an attempt to trip the gun, pulled the trigger to bring same back to its normal position. This maneuver was followed by an explosion, which caused the injury to young Mr. Handley.

Unfortunately, there is no provision whereby the War Department can render assistance to the claimant, as asked for, and the case is therefore referred to you for information as to whether there is any way by which your society can render aid in the matter.

Very respectfully,

\_\_\_\_\_, The Adjutant General.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS,  
Washington, D. C., September 10, 1920.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY,  
War Department, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of September 2 inclosing an appeal for assistance from Pirtle Handley, of Elizabethtown, Ky., recently injured by an accidental explosion of a machine gun in an exhibition drill.

This correspondence is being transmitted to the division director of civilian relief of the lake division, having jurisdiction over Kentucky, in the hope that the home service section within whose territory this man resides may have extended its program to peace-time social service, and thus be in a position to assist him and his father.

Yours respectfully,

LEWIS E. STEIN,  
Assistant Director General, Department of Civilian Relief.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS,  
Washington, D. C., December 15, 1924.

HON. CHARLES L. UNDERHILL,  
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. UNDERHILL: In looking over the members of the Committee on Claims of the House I think you are the only one I have had the pleasure of having met personally.

I am therefore writing you concerning a matter which is self-explained in the inclosed correspondence.

I have also written to Senator Capper concerning this matter.

I hope greatly that something can be done for this boy, as it certainly seems only just that there should be.

The Red Cross has expended over \$500 for his education and relief, but it is not a fair charge against this organization.

With cordial regards, yours sincerely,

MABEL T. BOARDMAN, *Secretary.*

LOUISVILLE, KY., November 28, 1924.

Re Pirtle Handley

Miss MABEL T. BOARDMAN,

*Secretary American National Red Cross, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MISS BOARDMAN: You will probably recall my conversation with you regarding Pirtle Handley's case when I was attending the National Conference of the American National Red Cross.

I am inclosing an affidavit made by Pirtle in April, 1924, which contains the pertinent facts of the case, together with a brief résumé.

Pirtle Handley was wounded in the left knee by the accidental discharge of a machine gun in charge of two Army officers who were demonstrating the operation of the machine gun before a crowd of probably 3,000 assembled in Elizabethtown, Ky., in the interest of the third Liberty loan campaign April 16, 1918.

Gangrene developed in 12 hours, which necessitated amputation of the limb above the knee. Pirtle was sent to a hospital at Camp Taylor for this operation. And while there he underwent four others and there finally remained only 4 inches of the leg from the hip. He remained in the hospital at Camp Taylor from April 8, 1918, until October, 1919. After leaving the hospital the American Red Cross purchased an artificial limb for him and he struggled for several months in an effort to wear this limb, but, due to the very small part of his limb left and to the new little bones growing out from this stump, he found it impossible to wear it with any comfort and discarded it, and has had to use crutches ever since. He said there is a continuous irritation which causes him to be very nervous and that he is told by a physician that it will be necessary to have another operation in the future.

Congressman Thatcher, as I explained to you, has a great deal of evidence on the case and presented a bill in behalf of Pirtle at the last session of Congress, which was not passed upon.

I believe this to be a very meritorious case and will appreciate anything that you may be able to do, and I also wish this opportunity to thank you in behalf of Pirtle Handley for your efforts.

Yours very respectfully,

(Mrs.) FLORA J. BARRETT,  
*Secretary Home Service Section, American Red Cross.*

#### STATEMENT OF PIRTLE HANDLEY

I, Pirtle Handley, being first duly sworn, on oath depose and say that I reside at 4711 Louisville Avenue, Louisville, Ky. I was born July 15, 1903, and am now 20 years of age, and am 6 feet and one-half inches tall and weigh 135 pounds.

On April 6, 1918, I was visiting my sister, Mrs. Elmore Slack, at Elizabethtown, Ky. At that time I was 15 years of age, and attending school at Louisville, Ky., living with my parents.

At the time referred to a tremendous drive was being made throughout Kentucky in the interest of the Liberty loan. A big demonstration had been arranged for Elizabethtown on April 6, 1918, and as a means of attracting people of the city and adjoining county, officers of the United States Army were in Elizabethtown and had brought with them several machine guns which they placed at the principal business point in the city.

These machine guns were in charge of Capt. John Griffith and Lieut. Fulton Mandeville, of the Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion of Camp Taylor. An immense crowd gathered as a result of the various efforts to attract people. There were probably three or four thousand assembled in the

main square. I was among them. I happened to be standing about 8 or 10 feet from one of the machine guns, which was being exhibited by one of the officers above mentioned, either Captain Griffith or Lieutenant Mandeville, to a couple of ladies, and the working of the gun explained to them. The muzzle of the gun was pointing directly toward the crowd that had assembled, and I was directly in the line of the muzzle of the gun. Seeing the gun being manipulated by the officers, I felt a bit uneasy about the position I was in, and moved to one side about 6 or 8 feet.

The officer placed a belt of shells in the gun and then took the belt out and threw it into a box. Several shells seemed to have been kicked out of the belt and fell to the ground and these the officer picked up and also threw into the box. The officer turned the gun from side to side at the same time operating the crank as showing how the gun was handled. Suddenly, and while the gun was turned in the direction where I had moved, an explosion occurred and a shot from the gun penetrated my left kneecap.

I was immediately attended by Dr. J. M. English, of Elizabethtown, Ky., and on Sunday, the 7th of April, 1918, two medical officers from Camp Taylor, Ky., came to see me, and I was removed Monday, April 8, 1918, to the base hospital, Camp Taylor, Ky., where my leg was amputated Tuesday evening, April 9, 1918. After this date, while still in the base hospital at Camp Taylor, Ky., I underwent four other operations, and all of the leg was removed but about 4 inches from the hip joint. I remained in the base hospital at Camp Taylor, Ky., until October, 1919.

I do not know the names or present location of any of the doctors who attended me at the Camp Taylor hospital. They appeared to be the regular surgeons at the base hospital at Camp Taylor.

After leaving the Camp Taylor hospital in October, 1919, where I had been for 18 months, I went back to my parents' home in Louisville. My health was completely shattered. I had undergone five operations, and I was very much a wreck. The exposed part of what was left of my leg was still sore, and it has remained so up to the present time to such an extent that I am unable to use any kind of artificial leg and am forced to use two crutches in getting about. Through the kindness of the Louisville, Ky., branch of the American Red Cross an artificial limb was purchased for me at an expense of \$125, but, as stated, I have never been able to use it on account of the condition of the stump of my leg. The Red Cross was also helpful to me in enabling me to attend Berea College, at Berea, Ky., for 10 months, arranging for my tuition and also furnishing me with clothes and money. The Red Cross has also given me money from time to time in order to provide for my urgent wants while I was attempting such recovery as would enable me to work at some line of business and become self-supporting.

I have never entirely recovered my health. This is indicated by the fact that I am over 6 feet in height and weigh only 135 pounds. My leg continues to pain me almost constantly, and my entire nervous system seems to be in bad shape.

Since the accident my mother has died, and I now live with my father, who is an ordinary laborer, earning barely enough to sustain himself and the remaining family. My father is entirely dependent upon his wages for the support of himself and my sister.

Aside from the treatment that I received at the base hospital at Camp Taylor, during the 18 months that I was confined there, I have received no benefit allowance or assistance of any kind from the Government.

I have been assisted in the preparation of this affidavit by the Louisville branch of the Red Cross, having become acquainted with the officers at the branch.

PIRTLE HANDLEY,  
4711 Louisville Avenue, Louisville, Ky.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of April, 1924.

[SEAL.]

ADELINE S. LEONHARDT,  
Notary Public.

My commission expires July 24, 1924.

MARCH 22, 1920.

Miss LUCY S. WARREN,  
Secretary Home Service Section American Red Cross,  
Louisville, Ky.

DEAR MADAM: This office is in receipt of your letter of March 16, 1920 (Miss Marshall), relative to the case of Pirtle Handley, No. 428 Hiawatha Street,

Louisville, Ky., in which you request report of the findings of the investigation by the board of inquiries ordered by Gen. Harry C. Hale, commander of the Eighty-fourth Division.

Inclosed herewith you will find extract of so much of the proceedings of the said board of inquiries as relates to the findings in the case. These proceedings were approved on April 11, 1918, by Maj. Gen. Harry C. Hale.

Very respectfully,

P. C. HARRIS, *The Adjutant General.*

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PROCEEDINGS

That the board decided, inasmuch as First Lieut. Fulton Mandeville, of the Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, thought that he had entirely unloaded the gun, and inasmuch as Capt. John Griffith, of the Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, tripped or attempted to trip the gun to make certain that it was entirely unloaded, we do not consider the action as due to gross carelessness, but rather to a lack of the proper precautions required by the unusual circumstances.

We find the responsibility for the accident should rest equally between Capt. John Griffith, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion, and First Lieut. Fulton Mandeville, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion.

THOMAS A. HARRIS,  
*Captain, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion,*  
*President of the Board.*

LESTER NULL,  
*First Lieutenant, Three hundred and twenty-seventh Machine Gun Battalion,*  
*Recorder of the Board.*

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AFFIDAVIT OF DAVID MARSHALL HANDLEY

STATE OF KENTUCKY,

*County of Jefferson, ss:*

I, David Marshall Handley, father of Pirtle Handley, being first duly sworn, on oath depose and say that I am 64 years of age and that I reside at 4711 Louisville Avenue, Louisville, Ky.

On April 6, 1918, while my son Pirtle was on a visit to his sister at Elizabethtown, Ky., and during a demonstration for Liberty loan drive he met with an accident from a machine gun from which he received a bullet wound. This wound caused an amputation of his left leg after he was taken to Camp Taylor at the base hospital.

He remained there from April 8, 1918, until October, 1919, about 18 months during this time he had undergone five operations and consequently was very much of a wreck and unable to be employed for his own livelihood. Due to the sore condition of his remaining part of the leg, he is unable to use an artificial limb and therefore he is forced to use two crutches in getting about.

My wife was at Elizabethtown, Ky., at the time of the accident but has since passed away.

Except for the short times he has been able to work at intervals, Pirtle has been dependent upon my support, and is a member of my household.

Aside from the treatment that Pirtle received while at the hospital at Camp Taylor, Ky., he has received no benefits or assistance of any kind from the Government.

Because of the nature of the accident and that my son is almost totally incapacitated by reason of the accident caused by officers of the United States Government, I believe that he should be compensated for the loss of his limb and his otherwise nervous physical condition.

DAVID MARSHALL (his x mark) HANDLEY.

Witnesses to his mark:

Mrs. ELIZABETH MURPHY,  
*American Red Cross, Louisville, Ky.*

Mrs. FLORA J. BARRETT,  
*American Red Cross, Louisville, Ky.*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of April, 1924.

[SEAL.]

ADELINE S. LEONHARDT,  
*Notary Public.*

My commission expires July 24, 1924.

AFFIDAVIT OF J. R. LAYMAN

The affiant, J. R. Layman, states that he is a resident of Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Ky., and circuit judge of the ninth judicial district of Kentucky; that he was a resident of Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Ky., in April, 1918, and was near the place where the accident occurred in said city on the — day of April, 1918, when Pirtle Handley received a gunshot wound which resulted in the amputation of his left leg. He says that he heard the shots and immediately went to the place where the shooting occurred and that he then received information that Capt. John Griffith was exhibiting the machine gun to the crowd when, by accident, the shot was fired. This occurred at the third Liberty loan rally.

On Sunday following the accident this information was confirmed by a statement to this affiant by the major who was in charge of the company which had visited Elizabethtown on the day of the unfortunate accident. Mr. Handley's condition then appeared very serious and at my request and the request of his attending physician the military authorities consented that he might be sent to Camp Taylor and receive treatment there at the base hospital.

His circumstances and that of his parents was such that they were not able to defray any bills and a few of us citizens paid the expense of his transportation to the base hospital where he received treatment, and I am informed he underwent five operations before he finally recovered. He was merely a bystander in the crowd when the shot was accidentally discharged and it was no fault of his that the injuries resulted, but was wholly that of the captain who was demonstrating the machine gun, and in my judgment his claim is as meritorious against the Government as it is possible for a claim to be.

The company to which the officer was attached was here by direction of the commanding officer of Camp Taylor in order to give inspiration to the crowd assembled and the movement of the Liberty loan drive, and it was by their direction that the machine gun and other military equipment was brought here.

I am acquainted with Pirtle Handley's family and know that they are people without means and must depend on their daily labor for support and are unable to provide anything for him or to see that he obtains an education or any other advantages.

J. R. LAYMAN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me by J. R. Layman this April 4, 1924.

[SEAL.]

ELLEN KAYE, Notary Public.

My commission expires October 4, 1926.

AFFIDAVIT OF H. T. SHERRARD

The affiant, H. T. Sherrard, states that I reside in Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Ky., and that I was present on the grounds when Pirtle Handley was shot by a machine gun being demonstrated by an Army officer. This was on April 6, 1918, during the third Liberty loan drive, and they had several different kinds of firearms on the grounds. When said Handley was shot there was an Army officer showing the use and demonstrating the operation of the gun to the crowd assembled, and to two ladies in particular who were near who seemed to be acquaintances of the said officer. The officer took a belt of shells and placed them in the gun and the gun kicked some of the shells from the belt, and then he took the belt from the gun and threw it back into the boxes. There were some shells lying on the ground which the gun had kicked from the belt; he then threw these in the box on top of the belt and went on showing the operation of the gun. The gun appeared to be working on a tripod, as it swung from side to side as the officer demonstrated its operation. Pirtle Handley was standing near me when the gun was discharged and he was struck by a bullet in the left leg. I judge we were 8 or 10 feet from the gun at that time. There were about three thousand people on the grounds at the time. The bullet which hit the said Handley also struck a lady and an old gentleman who were in the crowd assembled near the gun.

H. T. SHERRARD.

Subscribed and sworn to by H. T. Sherrard this April 5, 1924.

[SEAL.]

ELLEN KAYE, Notary Public.

My commission expires October 4, 1926.

AFFIDAVIT OF J. Q. A. LUSBY

I, J. Q. A. Lusby, state that I am a resident of Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Ky., and hold the position of chief of police in Elizabethtown; that I was a resident of this place on April 6, 1918, and was at that time holding the position of night policeman in said town; that I am acquainted with Pirtle Handley and have known him since he was a small child.

On April 6, 1918, at the time of the third Liberty loan rally in Elizabethtown, Ky., I was on duty as policeman in the city of Elizabethtown, Ky., and was present at the demonstration of machine guns and other military equipment held during said rally when the said Pirtle Handley was wounded.

A company of officers and privates was in Elizabethtown on the day of said rally with military equipment and there was assembled near the equipment a crowd of perhaps 3,000 people. I noticed a crowd of people around and near the machine gun which was discharged and went up closer to see what was being done and saw that the muzzle of the gun was pointed into the crowd assembled around it, and I warned the people standing in front of the muzzle of the gun that there might be an accident and it would be best to move out of range. The crowd directly in front of the gun moved away and Pirtle Handley walked to one side about 6 feet. At that time the officer who was demonstrating the gun and who seemed to be particularly interested in showing it to two ladies near him, began to move or swing the machine gun from side to side, and almost immediately the gun was discharged while in the hands of the officer, and the said Pirtle Handley was wounded in the left leg by the discharge of the gun. He was at that time merely a bystander, and it was by no fault of his that he was injured.

J. Q. A. LUSBY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me by J. Q. A. Lusby, this April 5, 1924.

[SEAL.]

ELLEN KAYE.

*To whom it may concern:*

This is to certify that I treated Pirtle Handley for a gunshot wound made by a machine gun, the property of the United States Government. The accident occurred on April 6, 1918; he was shot through the kneecap and exit was the middle of popliteal space; gas gangrene developed in 12 hours, which necessitated amputation above knee. I sent him to the Army hospital at Camp Zachary Taylor, where this was done to save his life.

J. M. ENGLISH, M. D.

Subscribed and sworn to before me by J. M. English this April 4, 1924.

[SEAL.]

STARLING WELLS,  
Notary Public, Hardin County.

My commission expires March 4, 1926.

STATE OF KENTUCKY,

*County of Hardin, ss:*

We, the undersigned professional and business men of Elizabethtown, Ky., know that Pirtle Handley was an innocent spectator at a Liberty loan demonstration given here April 6, 1918, by officers and privates from Camp Taylor, and lost his leg by the accidental firing of a machine gun in charge of these officers. We further believe that Pirtle Handley has received no benefits from the Government for the loss of his leg, although the accident was caused by Government employees and he should be compensated therefor.

Neff Jenkins, mayor; McFarland Bros., clothing merchants; Hagan, Clark & Yate, groceries; E. J. Table, merchant farmers stores; J. L. Irwin, county judge, Hardin County; Richard W. Wilson, deputy sheriff, Hardin County; R. N. Sprigg, county clerk; Hugh Showers, druggist; H. L. James, attorney; S. Golderamer & Son, general merchants; W. C. Montgomery, president First Hardin National Bank; F. W. Joplin, president Joplin & Lang Co.; D. L. Settle, merchant; A. S. Thiarneltt, Elizabethtown News; T. L. Mobley, garage proprietor; R. M. Dyer, house furnishings; H. H. Douglas, auto dealer; Geo. W. Rihu, clothing merchant; J. T. Cresap, grocery; M. A. Faught, Faught Music Co.; J. A. Gardner, assistant cashier Union Bank and Trust Co.; D. W. Watson, furniture dealer; S. P. Adams, auto supplies; J. W. English, express agent; Oscar Miller, dry goods store; R. W. Cates, grocer; C. Harrison, clothing merchant; R. E. Settle, president Overall Co.; E. J. Richerson, credit manager Overall Co.; Louis Gert, meats; and R. M. Phillips, jeweler.