

Joseph M. Lydon
Oct. 1, 1935
by Hawk

On this 1st day of October, 1935, at Columbia, Richland County, State of South Carolina, before me, O. E. Hawk, a Field Examiner of the Veterans' Administration, personally appeared JOSEPH M. LYDON, who having been first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

- Q. State your full name and address.
A. Joseph M. Lydon, #4 Hampshire Road, Framingham, Massachusetts.
- Q. Are you a veteran?
A. Yes, sir.
- Q. What is your age?
A. Forty-two.
- Q. Name your nearest relative.
A. Mrs. C. J. Hixon, sister, same address.
- Q. Were you employed at the Veterans' Camp on the Keys?
A. Yes, Camp Number One.
- Q. Were you at camp during the hurricane?
A. Yes.
- Q. Were you injured?
A. Yes.
- Q. Describe your injuries.
A. Laceration of head, right wrist, right arm, supposed fracture of wrist, sprained left ankle, dislocated ribs, multiple bruises, stiffness of right elbow.
- Q. When were you rescued?
A. The 3rd, about midnight.
- Q. By whom?
A. Two civilians in a boat.
- Q. Did any one prohibit or discourage you from leaving camp before the storm?
A. No.
- Q. Did any one attempt to prevent you from making a statement about the storm?
A. No.
- Q. Did you identify any of the dead bodies?
A. No, I didn't see any.

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- Q. Do you know the name of any veteran who left the camp before the storm and did not return prior to or during the storm?
- A. Keith, newspaper man at camp and a man named Brady, tinsmith. I saw both of these men at Homestead after the storm.
- Q. What was your occupation at camp?
- A. I was a laborer.
- Q. Have you any knowledge as to when the storm warnings were received at camp?
- A. My first knowledge was when they called us in the mess hall. I would judge about 2:00 p.m. Monday afternoon.
- Q. What instructions did you receive there?
- A. To pack up and stand by for a train to take us off.
- Q. Is there any other statement you would like to make regarding any facts you haven't given us or any criticisms you wish to make?
- A. A civilian by the name of Crowe who was employed at Craig's Store at Craig on the Keys was in the Victorian Hospital at Miami after the storm. This man stated that he kept his ear to the telephone at intervals on Sunday and Monday, September 1 and 2. He stated that he overheard a conversation between Mr. Sheldon and some one in the railroad office of the F.E.C. Railroad. This conversation took place some time on Sunday and at that time Mr. Sheldon was making inquiry about a relief train but stated that he did not have the authority to order a train himself.
- H. LeClair had gone off on furlough on the pay day a month before the storm and had not returned to camp at the time of the storm. He was boss of the sawyers in the quarry.
- I have read the above and my statements have been correctly recorded. I make these statements of my own free will.

Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 1st day of October, 1935, and I certify that the contents were read by the affiant before signing.

O. E. HAWK, Field Examiner,
Veterans' Administration,
Authority: V. A. Form 4505.

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