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Jacob Sacks (#3)

STATEMENT BY JACOB SACKS TO MRS. LAMAR HOWEAR.

Q. Please state your name and camp number.

A. Jacob Sacks camp three.

Q. The thing we are particularly interested in this afternoon is a statement from you concerning things that led up to the storm that is on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday?

A. I was there from when the storm started and I will give it to you of course I don't know all this but I heard it, the men said it about Ghent and Shelton. We were expecting a storm in all the camps but we were expecting to be taken out of there. It was raining practically every day and rained on Sunday and the report was out that we were going out on the train on Monday that it would be there ready to take us out. It started raining about twelve o'clock and there was a lot of us, I for one and about twenty others were figuring on getting out but as I told you we were expecting this hurricane but there was a man came down from camp five, Joe Galloway he was killed, I went to him and I says lets get out but we decided to wait for the train.

Q. What time was that?

A. A little after dinner it was only raining and cloudy but the rumor came around that there was to be a train to take us out of there and we kept waiting for the train and that is the reason that none of us went out of camp the best way we could but the storm increased and the wind increased and along about

1941

three o'clock four of us was in the shack and it was raining pretty hard and very windy in fact the wind was blowing about seventy miles an hour, we couldn't get outside the screens were falling off and Mr. Fugh and the supply sergeant told us to get every personal belonging because there would be a train to take us out but that kept us there you see and we packed all our personal belongings and waited and the storm increased and the rain increased and we seen we couldn't get out and we went down to eat and we could hardly get the mess hall. Then most of the boys congregated in the mess hall and along about 5:30 when the train was due the mess hall caved in and there wasn't a chance in the world and the barometer was getting lower and lower, I went to another shack and that shack blew down and I was in five feet of water and after the Gulf storm and during the lull between the storm of the Gulf and the Tidal Wave from the Atlantic and we were all in accord as to who was responsible of this matter and that was Mr. Ghent but we found out afterwards that he was in Miami for three days. There was two truck drivers that went out with a load of can goods that Mr. Robinson told them to load up and these two truck drivers heard Mr. Ghent make a remark that very night, this was Monday night, about twelve o'clock that the outside world didn't know what was happening.

Q. Did you yourself hear Mr. Ghent say that?

A. No but these two truck drivers did and they said they wished they would be called that they wanted to testify to the remark that Mr. Ghent said, the train will be all right, the boys are

*"We're running this outfit"*  
all right. These truck drivers heard Mr. Cuttler ask Mr. Ghent over the telephone that it was blowing bad and he told him over the wire we are running this outfit.

Q. You mean these truck drivers say this?

A. They heard Mr. Gent answer this.

Q. What did you hear?

A. I didn't hear any of it but if Ghent had been there when we got out he would have been jumped.

Q. Did you hear any of the officials discussing weather reports or plans for getting you men out over the week-end?

A. Captain Davis wanted to get us out in the worst way but he couldn't go over orders.

Q. Did you hear him say that?

A. I didn't hear him say it but we knew he did want to get us out. The top Sergeant wanted to get us out too.

Q. Was that top Sergeant Pugh?

A. Yes, he told us the train was coming but he only knew orders if they hadn't believed in that information they would have gone out but they didn't know any more than we did he was on the tank with us all during the storm and so was Captain Robinson but I want it to go down on record that "I Jacob Sacks, want to go down on record that there is nobody else responsible for that cold blooded murder but Ghent of this Jacksonville office, he is the sole man responsible for the loss of lives and that sure it was an act of God, Aubrey Williams gave out in a statement to the press that it was an act of God, yes I agree with him on that as far as the property and the hurricane are

concerned but the loss of lives I accuse Mr. Ghent and nobody else is responsible because he wanted to get a feather in his hat and he thought by putting off the train the hurricane might blow over and he would get a feather in his hat with the officials of the FEHA by saving the price of the train and he endangered the lives of about one thousand with three or four hundred dollars.

Q. Did you hear Mr. Outtler or Mr. Sheeron talking over the phone?

A. Mr. Sheeron was right with us, any of the officers connected with camp number three are absolutely free from any blame as far as loss of life is concerned, as a matter of fact Mr. Sheeron tried to get a train in a hurry.

Q. But you didn't hear him ask?

A. No, I just heard the rumor. Mr. Ghent wasn't there but all the other officials were there.

Q. Were there any trucks there that you could have gotten out in?

A. There were four or five trucks there but Captain Davis couldn't put us on the trucks when he already had orders that we were going out on the train and then he stood with us all during the storm.

Q. Could the men have left the camp anytime on Sunday or Monday that they wanted to?

A. Yes, we could have left Sunday but we were expecting the train Monday morning, even Sunday we were talking about the train coming Monday and that it would take us out and that was what kept us there and if it hadn't been for that we could have got out and there wasn't any necessity for anyone losing

their life.

Q. Did you identify any of the bodies after the storm?

A. Yes, I saw them but I didn't know all the names, Rodenber was the only one by name that I knew.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to say?

A. Yes, if Ghent had showed up after the storm while the men were together they would have torn him to pieces.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the statement made by the above named Veteran.

Doris M. E. Donald  
Stenographer.