

On this the 21st day of September, 1935, at the Veterans' Administration Hospital, DeKalb County, Atlanta, State of Georgia, before me, O. E. Hawk, personally appeared Carl H. Kordell, who having been first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

Q. State your full name and address.

A. Carl H. Kordell. I make my home in Oklahoma City but I stay at the Bailey Hotel when there.

Q. Have you any near relatives?

A. My father, George H. Kordell, at Angola, New York.

Q. Are you a veteran?

A. Yes.

Q. What is your age?

A. Thirty-seven.

Q. Were you employed at the veterans' camps on the Keys?

A. I was at Number Five.

Q. Were you at camp during the hurricane?

A. Not at Number Five. I left there Monday afternoon between two and three o'clock. I went to Camp Number Three.

Q. How long did you stay there?

A. Throughout the storm and until Wednesday afternoon when the yacht, Baronic, belonging to Colonel Miller of New York City, and that was chartered by the Miami Daily News, came down there.

Q. Did you receive any injury during the storm?

A. I did. I was struck on the forehead and had injuries and bruises to my left leg. My forehead was badly infected the next morning. That was the worst part of it. My entire head and my forehead down to my eyes was filled with pus. When I got to Jackson Memorial Hospital. I had an injury to my right wrist and an injury to my left foot. I received a bruise on my left shin. That's all except my nerves.

Q. Did any one attempt to discourage you or prevent you from leaving camp before the storm?

A. No, because at the time I left camp Five, the information was that we were not going to have any bad storm at all. At the time I left camp between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. Roberson, the superintendent, and Back were all there and there was no talk about it at all.

- Q. When you arrived at Camp Three, had they received any storm warnings?
- A. As far as I could ascertain, they had not received any storm warnings except Captain Sheram. He had been trying to get Captain Shelton to get the men out of there. I don't know the first time he went to Captain Sheram but I know, accompanied by Paul Pugh, he made two or three trips to see Shelton at Headquarters at the Mabacombe Hotel and Shelton told them there was no immediate danger but that the train had been ordered to take the men out. As a matter of fact, we found out later on that the train had not been ordered.
- Q. Shelton made the statement that the train had been ordered before it actually had been?
- A. He made the statement that a train was ordered, that all preparations were made at all times in case a storm did strike down there, they could have a train there on short notice.
- Q. Mr. Shelton was at Headquarters until how long Monday?
- A. I really couldn't tell you.
- Q. Do you know whether or not he was on the Keys during the storm?
- A. I don't know whether he was or not.
- Q. Did you see Mr. Ghent on the Keys during the storm or before?
- A. I didn't.
- Q. Did you identify any of the dead bodies?
- A. Mr. Pugh, myself, and Captain Davis identified thirty-nine bodies at Camp Number Three.
- Q. The list of those identifications are in the hands of Captain Davis?
- A. Yes. As they brought the bodies in, they were identified.
- Q. Do you remember the names of any of these men?
- A. Yes, some of them. I remember Lewis Delamater, a boy we called Cherry. He worked at Camp Three. I believe his name was Cherry. A man by the name of Jakeman. I can't recall the others now.
- Q. Do you know the name of any veteran who left either camp prior to the storm and did not return?
- A. Paul Russell went to Camp Three with me. Whether he returned or not, I don't know. He was later identified as dead.
- Q. Did any of the men from your camp go away on leave that you know of?

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A. Yes, some of them were at Key West. Hogan was one and Quinton Africa. There were some men on leave in Miami. ~~Feltner was~~ *Juddnick* one, we called him Scotty, who was on leave in Miami. He worked most of the time in the kitchen but just prior to the storm he was taken out of the kitchen and worked at Camp Three cutting brush. We were putting in a spur track on the railroad.

Q. Is there any statement that you would like to make, Mr. Kordell, regarding any facts we have not covered or opinions that you might have?

A. Well, I might get in jail for expressing my opinion. My opinion was that it was just wholesale murder down there. They could have gotten these men out at least twenty-four to thirty-six hours ahead of that storm. They had definite warnings of storms in that area for a week prior to that time. The information that was given to us a day or two before was that the storm would not strike that locality at all, that it was 250 miles west of Cuba, passing out to sea and would pass around Key West and that the proportions of the gale were probably about 40 miles an hour.

Q. Do you think any one at the camps was responsible for not taking the men out by truck?

A. I most certainly do. I think Shelton was responsible primarily.

Q. Was he in charge of the camps?

A. He was in charge of all the camps at that time. He was Mr. Ghent's assistant, and he specifically gave orders to Mr. King concerning the transportation, that there would be no trucks moved.

Q. When did he give these orders?

A. He gave them on Monday. I didn't overhear them but he gave them in the presence of Mr. Pugh, I believe.

Q. Is Pugh living?

A. Yes and if I remember correctly, King made that statement himself, that he did receive these orders. I do know this, however, that most of the officials took their families out and that our first sergeant, Buck, got out with his family all right.

Q. How did Buck leave camp?

A. I don't know but I think he left on the truck, on which they put the canteen supplies, the only truck in camp at that time. All the supplies we had in the kitchen and several men left on that truck. I don't know who.

Q. Was that Number A-4, pick-up Chevy let.