

Joseph F. McGeedy (#3)
No date
Kennamer

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Statement of MR. JOSEPH F. McGEADY,

of 3722 North Carlisle Street, Philadelphia, Pa., who first being duly sworn by Mr. D. W. Kennamer, Central Office Investigator, made the following responses to questions propounded by Miss Pierce, in the case under investigation, relative to Florida Storm, Sept. 2, 1935:

THE WITNESS: I been in Miami; I am about half-crooked. You can put that in the testimony.

BY MISS PIERCE: Q Your home address?

A Philadelphia.

Q What street address? A 3722 North Carlisle St.

Q You are a veteran? A Well, I guess so.

Q How old are you? A 35; youngest vet in the camp.

Q What relatives have you? A I got a father, sister, brother -- two brothers.

Q Their names and addresses? A Mr. John McGeedy is my father; Mr. Gerald McGeedy, my brother; Mr. John McGeedy, the other brother; Miss Agnes McGeedy, sister.

Q Are they all at this address that you gave us?

A 3722 Carlisle.

Q You were employed at the veterans' camp? A Yes.

Q In what capacity? A I was chief storekeeper.

Q You were there during the hurricane?

A I hope so.

Q What injuries did you have? A It hit me on the head.

Q Scalp wound? A Here was my official -- you see this letter, watersoaked.

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Q Will you describe any other injuries that you had?

A If it hit me anywhere else I would have been killed, I guess. It hit on the head so it didn't hurt me.

Q At what time were you rescued, Mr. McGeedy?

A I went to the ocean and swam back in.

Q What time did you leave camp? A I didn't leave camp until I got some of them bodies out of there. I worked all day Tuesday, to get them out of the mangroves.

Q You identified some of the dead, did you?

A Yes, I identified 32 of the bodies.

Q Do we have that list? A I don't know whether you have that list or not.

Q Is that the list that Capt. Davis has?

A Captain Davis was right there.

Q Do you know any of the veterans that left camp before the hurricane hit, that might have been reported missing?

A Well, I don't know.

Q Do you know of any order that was given to prohibit the men leaving the camp before the hurricane?

A No, sir, there was no orders prohibiting any man leaving the camp.

Q Why didn't they leave? A Well to tell you the real story, I am chief storekeeper; we locked up the storeroom; put the iron rations - that was baked beans and salmon and all these iron rations, in a bread box; that was quarter of five. The rain started coming down then, and Capt. Davis was right

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there in the mess hall with us.

Q What time was that? A That was about a quarter after five; and Blackie Pugh, the first sergeant, was with us; we were all there in the mess hall, and the cook went off the mess hall; and we had the iron rations, waiting for the train, and it was raining, see Christmas, it was raining; I didn't think we would make it, but we were waiting for the train; and the mess hall went down.

Q Who told you the train would be there? A Sheldon.

Q Where was he? A Up at headquarters. I was up with Blackie Pugh in the pickup truck when Blackie Pugh went up there.

Q And he told you the train would be in?

A Yes, he said he would be in there at 2:30.

Q And it didn't come? A Evidently it didn't come.

Q What about it; was there any other way the men might have gotten out? A Truck out.

Q How many trucks were there? A There was about six trucks there.

Q They had drivers for them? A Certainly they had drivers there.

Q Where were the keys? A The keys was in charge of one man.

Q Who? A I don't know.

Q You don't know who had the keys? A No.

Q Do you know of any one that knows who had the keys?

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A No.

Q Do you know of any other orders that came through there?

A I was personally with Blackie Pugh when he went up there to Sheldon, see, and he told him, he says **If any of these vets leave these keys, he says, I will put a guard around them.**

Q What time was that? A That was in the afternoon.

Q That was Monday afternoon? A Yes. I went up to Miami Friday night, when I got paid off; it was about -- we get paid off about 4 or 5 o'clock Friday afternoon. I went to Miami, and I come back on the 10 o'clock train -- when the train gets down there. Blackie called me over and he says Come here, Joe; I want you to ride up with me; something is going to happen here; he says, **The barometer is down.**

The fisherman told him that. He says, Come on up with me. So I personally went up with Blackie Pugh, and Sheldon says Don't worry about it. The pickup -- you know what a pickup is? --

Q Were they getting their warnings all along?

A Why certainly. You see that is pretty well water-soaked. (Referring to card)

Q Do you know of any attempt that was made to prevent any of the men in camp from telling any facts that they knew?

A Listen; if anybody says a man couldn't go out of camp, it is a lie; because I was up there at headquarters with Blackie Pugh.

Q Were any of the men told not to tell anything that they

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knew, about what happened? A I don't know that.
I am only telling what I know.

Q Is there anything else that you know that might be
pertinent and that you would like to tell us?

A Well I might say this; Capt. Davis, our skipper, was right
with us; he was up at Miami; at 2: o'clock that afternoon he come
back to the keys and he stuck with us all through it; and there
is a white man.

Q That is all you want to tell us?

A I got a bump in the head; if it hit me anywhere else
I guess I would have some sense. That's a true story. Of
course I ain't telling you -- I went out in the ocean, see.

NOTATION by Mr. Kennamer: The witness showed evidence
of a superficial scalp wound on the crown of the head.