

E 1918

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF MINNESOTA )  
 ) SS  
 COUNTY OF HENNEPIN )

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority for administering oaths in cases of this character, JOHN H. ALLEN, 1st Lt, ADC, O-890115, formerly of Provisional Tank Group, Hq, USFIP, who having been read AW 24 and his rights thereunder explained to him and being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

I am now a patient at Schick General Hospital at Clinton, Iowa, presently home on convalescent leave at 1640 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota recovering from amoebic dysentery incurred in Bataan prior to capitulation. After completing the march from Bataan to Camp O'Donnell, commonly known as the "death march", I was shuttled along with other prisoners to various Japanese prison camps and ultimately arrived at Camp No. 17, Amuta Kyushu, Japan.

At all the times hereinafter mentioned, I was a 2nd Lieutenant with the Provisional Tank Group, Hq, USFIP. My promotion to 1st Lieutenant came in August 1945.

While at Camp No. 17, Amuta Kyushu, in August of 1943, I became acquainted with Private Noah C. Heard. At the time of my first association with Pvt Heard, he complained to me of dizzy spells. He told me his head hurt and he would wake up at night and find himself walking around toward the gate and he didn't know how he had gotten there. He told me he was afraid he would get in trouble with the guards. He also complained of being very despondent and at times I have seen him cry like a baby. I tried to help him by talking to him and by being friendly with him.

In about April 1944, Pvt Heard was put in the Japanese Guardhouse, Camp 17, accused of theft. I would say he was in the guardhouse for about seven to ten days and then released. He, with others, was brought before the personnel of the camp, both Americans and Japanese; and at that time, he and the others were knocked down by the Japanese. The following American officers witnessed Pvt Heard's being knocked down on this occasion: Major John R. Marrou, Captain Achilles C. Tisdell, Navy Lt. Edward N. Little, 2nd Lt Owen W. Romaine, 2nd Lt Paul T. Christie and 2nd Lt Robert M. Perkins. The following Japanese were present: Camp Commander, 2nd Lt Ken Yuri; Interpreter, Oyi; Sgt Major Morataki, non-commissioned officer named Fukuda; Japanese Doctor Murao; a mine interpreter who said he was formerly of Riverside, California, whose name was Yamochi; a medical corpsman named Tsuji or Chugi. There were other

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Japanese guards present whose names I do not know. Lt Ken Yuri ordered the medical corpsman named Tsuji or Chugi to knock the Americans down and the corpsman named Tsuji or Chugi proceeded to knock them down with his fists as they stood at attention. I recall that one of the others, besides Pvt. Heard, who was knocked down on that occasion was Private Lonnie Patman. I also recall seeing Lt Ken Yuri himself personally strike another one of our prisoners whose name I do not know.

Afterwards, Oyi, the Japanese interpreter, made a statement to these men, which, as I remember it, was "Will you now promise not to break any more of the camp regulations?" The men then all agreed not to; whereupon, they were released to return to their camp duties.

About 31 May 1944, Heard was again placed in the guardhouse and accused of breaking into the canteen which was set up for the Americans at one end of the barracks building. On or about the night of 31 May 1944, I was awakened as were the following officers in Barracks #1, in which we were housed: Major John R. Mamrous, Captain Achilles C. Tisdell, Navy Lt Edward N. Little, 2nd Lt Owen W. Romaine, 2nd Lt Paul T. Christie and 2nd Lt Robert M. Perkins. We were escorted enmasse by the Japanese to a place in front of the camp guardhouse. Shortly afterwards, Captain Thomas Hewlitt and a 1st Lt Proff, American camp doctors, who had been at the hospital in camp, joined us. I would say it was about 11:00 P.M.

Pvt Noah C. Heard was sitting in the doorway of the guardhouse, surrounded by Japanese including 2nd Lt Ken Yuri, Camp Commander; Interpreter, Oyi; and a Japanese non-commissioned officer by the name of Fukuda. Fukuda apparently was in charge of the guards on duty at that time.

About twenty minutes later, the Japanese doctor Murao arrived with other Japanese personnel of the camp whose names I do not know. At this time, another Japanese Sergeant, whose name I do not know, but who was not Fukuda, was consulting a book which had been brought over by Sergeant Major Morataki from Japanese Headquarters, and this Sergeant was pointing out to the Camp Commander, Lt Yuri, certain passages or pages in the book, the contents of which I do not know.

Pvt Noah C. Heard was dressed only in a dirty tee shirt and a pair of shorts. He was barefoot.

After a short conference among themselves, the Japanese interpreter, Oyi, separated himself from the rest of the group conferring, and announced to we officers the following, in effect, "Pvt Heard was in the guardhouse for stealing. He broke out of the guardhouse and now has broken into the Japanese warehouse and also into the Japanese kitchen and stolen these articles you see before you." I saw assorted Red Cross food articles, a Japanese soldier's cap, a pair of glasses and a wrist watch. The interpreter, Oyi, went on saying, "This man had already promised before all of you and the staff of the camp that he would not break any more regulations."

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He has broken out of the prison guardhouse. He has not only stolen from us, but also has stolen the food from your personal packages that you had stored in the canteen. He is no good. We have found this box of food outside the gate, under which gate he could have crawled. The fact that he was in possession of these Japanese articles (cap, glasses, and wrist watch), at the time of his capture in the latrine of one of your barracks, makes it obvious that he had intended to escape, having first pushed the food from under the gate; then apparently becoming frightened, he had returned to the barracks to hide and later accomplish his escape." During this time, Pvt Noah C. Heard never once spoke a word but looked about himself in a dazed bewildered fashion. His body showed signs of having been beaten. He was bruised and swollen about his face.

Then the Camp Commander, Lt Ken Yuri, removed his saber from his scabbard and ran his thumb along the sharp edge as he scrutinized Pvt Heard who appeared to be oblivious to the surroundings. Lt Yuri then returned the saber to the scabbard. Lt Yuri then pushed Pvt Heard's head back with the tip of the scabbard pressing against Heard's forehead apparently in an effort to make Heard look at him; but Heard did not seem to know what was going on around him. Lt Yuri then said something in Japanese and as a result, one of the guards removed a stick of gum from a Red Cross package, removed the wrapping and stuck it in Pvt Heard's mouth. When the gum was thrust in his mouth, Pvt Heard just mechanically chewed on it.

Lt Ken Yuri, Sgt Major Morataki and Interpreter Oyi and the other non-commissioned officers once more conferred for a short period and then Interpreter Oyi told us that we would have to witness the execution and told us to proceed behind the guardhouse where it would be conducted. At this time a guard assisted Pvt Noah C. Heard to his feet and proceeded to lead him, accompanied by other Japanese, to the rear of the guardhouse. I was able to observe that Pvt Heard staggered as a dazed man would. Upon arriving behind the guardhouse, the guard lead him and through gestures, tried to make Heard kneel. Pvt Heard resisted these attempts and this became obvious to the Camp Commander, Lt Yuri, who then said something in Japanese and the guard allowed Pvt Noah Heard to sit on the ground instead. At that time, Pvt Heard brushed away cinders from in front of him and a Japanese guard seeing him do this, jammed his heel on the back of Heard's hand with such force that I could hear a crunch.

At this time, the Japanese Interpreter Oyi came to where we officers were lined up and said words to this effect, "We've changed our minds. You must go back to your barracks--go now-hurry up". We all started back toward our barracks; but 2nd Lt Paul T. Christie, 2nd Lt Owen W. Romaine and I separated ourselves from the remainder of the

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group and slipped into an empty building from which we could see, through a window, the scene which we had just left. I would say we viewed the scene from a distance not greater than twenty-five feet. There were lights on the fence which very clearly illuminated the scene. The lights were very bright and we could see everything very clearly. I could also hear very clearly what was said even though I could not always understand it.

From the window, I saw that a semi-circle of guards had formed behind Pvt Heard. At a command from Lt Ken Yuri, one of the guards came forward and bayoneted Heard in approximately the middle of his back. I do not know this guard's name. Pvt Heard grunted and fell forward from the impact of the onrushing guard and began to retch and twitch, making gesticulations similar to those of a brute that has been mortally wounded. These gesticulations caused him to roll on his back with his right side exposed to the semi-circle of guards. Upon the return of the first guard to the semi-circle, on the command of Lt Ken Yuri, a second guard went forward and plunged his bayonet into the exposed right side of Heard's abdomen. I do not know the name of this guard either. The guard withdrew and the Japanese doctor Murao, Lt Ken Yuri, Sgt Major Morataki, Interpreter Oyi and some of the guards went up to examine Heard's body. By this time, Heard's actions were no longer violent; however, a slight spasmodic twitch could be noticed in his hands and feet. A third guard whose name I do not know then turned his rifle butt up and thrust the bayonet vertically into Heard's throat. The guards then proceeded to rake across Heard's abdomen, cutting it to bloody ribbons. These were the same guards who were present throughout the entire proceedings, but their individual names I do not know.

At this point, the Japanese doctor Murao came forward and gave Pvt Heard a final examination and then Heard was covered with straw rice sacks and a Japanese guard was posted over his body and the rest of the Japanese retired.

From the building where we had been hiding while we watched the Japanese putting Pvt Heard to death, we went directly to our barracks. The next morning, all Americans were forbidden to leave their quarters or to look out in the direction of the previous night's execution. I managed to observe activity through a knot hole in the door of our barracks. I observed Japanese medical corpsmen looking around the rice sacks that had covered Heard's body. The body was no longer there. The Japanese were kicking dirt over the spot where the body had been. After they had completed this action, we were allowed to come out of the buildings.

After waiting a considerable time for roll call that morning, so that we could eat our breakfast and go about our duties, I went into the guardhouse to inquire when we could have roll call and was driven out by the

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Japanese guards who were drinking out of a bottle and appeared to me to be drunk. I was told we should go about our work; that there would be no morning roll call.

From then on, officially nothing was ever said about the death of Pvt Noah C. Heard although one guard, whose name I do not know, but whom I would recognize on sight, boasted to me that he was the one that first stuck Pvt Heard with a bayonet on the night in question.

Further deponent sayeth not:

/s/ John H. Allen 1st. Lt. A.D.C.  
JOHN H. ALLEN, 1st, Lt. ADC  
O-890115

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of December 1945  
at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

/s/ Ronald N. Davies  
RONALD N. DAVIES  
Major, Inf. 0226763  
Post Judge Advocate

A true copy:

/s/ Lindsay Williamson  
Lindsay Williamson, Capt., JAGD

C E R T I F I C A T E

May 14 , 1946

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached document is  
a true copy of an affidavit purporting to be sworn and  
subscribed to by John H. Allen, 1st Lt, ADC, O-890115

at St. Paul, Minn.

on the 30th day of December , 1945 .

I FURTHER CERTIFY that it was copied from an  
original in my custody as Chief, Criminal Registry Divi-  
sion, Legal Section, GHQ, SCAP, Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ Charles A. Reinhard  
CHARLES A. REINHARD  
Lt. Col., F. A.  
Chief of Criminal Registry  
Division, Legal Section