

TC: Yes, sir.

WITNESS: We went on a march.

Q Where did you go on this march?

A Behind the butts, sir.

Q Will you start at the time you left wherever the march started and tell in detail to the gentlemen of the court what took place?

A Sergeant McKeon came in and said "Fall outside in platoon formation." The platoon fell out in platoon formation behind the barracks, sir, and we were facing the barracks. He gave a right face and we marched down the road a ways and then we come in between either Able or Baker targets, I can't remember which, and then he give column right and we marched across the field and got behind the butts and did another column right, and then we marched out into the water, sir.

Q When you marched out into the water off of the bank how far did you go out?

A I would say approximately maybe ten or fifteen feet, sir.

Q Approximately ten or fifteen feet?

A Yes, sir.

Q And then what did you do?

A We made more or less a column right and went up the stream a ways and then did another column left and more or less another column left and started back down the stream.

Q When you first got in the water how deep was the water on you, when you first went out from the bank?

A I will say it was about up to my hips, sir, I would imagine.

Q How deep was the water when you made this first column left?

A It was gradually getting deeper; I would say about up to my chest, I guess, sir.

Q Now what was the deepest that the water ever got on you, Nehrenz?

A As we were going down it gradually got over my head. I swam a little ways until I could touch and then I started back.

Q It gradually got over your head?

A Yes, sir.

Q What squad were you in?

A Third squad, first man, sir.

Q In the third squad, first man?

A Yes, sir.

Q What kind of formation were you in?

A Well, it was more or less platoon formation, sir.

Q Were you following or not following the people in front of you?

A I was following the people in front of me, sir.

Q You were following the people in front of you?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you hear any cries for help?

A Not at the time we were marching. When I heard the cries for help was just when I started swimming, had to swim, and everything happened all at once, and I heard screaming, sir.

Q In other words, you went over your head and at about the same time you heard cries for help?

A Yes, sir.

Q Is that your answer?

A Well, it was about the same time when I had to swim, sir.

Q What was the consistency of the bottom of this river, Nehrenz?

A You mean what was it like on the bottom, sir?

Q That's right. What was on the bottom?

A It seemed to me like it was a little bit muddy on the bottom, sir.

Q When you made the second column left which way were you going then, back the way you came from or in the other direction?

A Yes, sir, back the way we came from.

Q Back the way you came?

A Yes, sir.

Q And when you started back the way you came which direction were you going in, toward the bank where you came in or toward the center of the stream?

A Well, I would say -- I can't say. I mean it was more or less parallel, I guess. I don't know, sir.

Q Now, do you know Private Leake?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you have occasion to see Leake on this night?

A Yes, sir, I did.

Q And did you have occasion to see the accused in connection with Leake that night?

A Yes, sir. Sergeant McKeon asked Leake if he was all right.

Q And what did Private Leake say?

A Leake said he was scared.

Q Did you hear any more conversation?

A Not that I recall, sir.

Q In relation to that, I mean.

A Not that I can recall, sir. I can't remember, if there was.

Q Now relate to the court what you saw after these cries for help took place.

A It was just mass confusion. Everybody was trying to figure out what to do and there were yells for help and part of the platoon formed a human chain and was trying to pull the guys out. The other guys that wasn't on the human chain was swimming out there to the other guys who were drowning, trying to save them, sir.

Q Did you see any of the people that drowned that night in the water?

A Not that I can recall, sir. It's been a long time, sir.

Q That's all right, if you can't remember. All we want is what you can remember.

How were you dressed, Nehrenz?

A I had a utility cap on, utilities and boondocks.

Q Was it or was it not difficult to move around in the water dressed as you were?

A It was difficult, sir, with boots on and water in your boots.

Q Did you have occasion to see the accused after you left the body of water?

A After I come out of the water, sir?

Q Yes.

A Yes, sir, when we fell in back of the butts. Sergeant McKeon was there.

Q Did you hear the accused make any statement at that time?

A Not that I recall, sir. All I can remember is we fell in in platoon formation and had roll call.

Q Can you tell the court a little bit about the weather conditions that night?

A It was cold that night.

Q What did you think of the lighting conditions; in other words, was there a moon, any moon, any stars, or what?

A It was bright out there that night; it was either stars or moon one shining on the water.

TC: All right; your witness, sir.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

Questions by defense counsel:

Q Private Nehrenz, relax a little bit, will you? Just take it easy. If you don't understand any question that is being asked