

OF :- Private William M. King.

CASE :- Accidental deaths. Suspicious Forest Fire.

VICTIMS :- Basil Bogush, John Boring, Andrew Stephanic, Howard May, Gilbert Mohney, Stephen Jaconski, Ross Hollobaugh, George Vogel.

ACCUSED :-

SUSPECTS :-

PLACE :- Grove township, Cameron County, Pennsylvania.

DATE :- October 19, 1938.

Having been ordered by the Commanding Officer, Troop "D", Squadron 2, Pennsylvania Motor Police, Captain C.J. McRae, to continue the investigation in the above case, I proceeded as ordered, via troop car 024-3-127, in civilian clothes, leaving the Emporium Sub-station at 8:00 A.M. this date.

Investigating officer proceeded to Penfield, Elk County, Pennsylvania, where Mr. Earl S. Getz, Superintendent of Camp 132, C.C.C. Cameron, Penna., was again sub-poenaed for his appearance before the Inquest conducted into the deaths of eight members of Camp 132.

Upon returning to Emporium, Penna., Investigator appeared before the Inquest for the purpose of identifying pictures, maps and sketches of the fire scene at the conclusion of which the Inquest ceased the taking of testimony and conferred preparatory to rendering a verdict.

At 5:00 P.M. this date the Coroner's Inquest adjourned until Monday, November 14, 1938 without returning a verdict.

Investigator then conferred with District Attorney Tompkins and discussed the future investigation to be conducted in this case. The District Attorney stated that any future investigation will depend upon the verdict to be rendered by the Inquest. He also stated that the Federal authorities are planning an investigation by a Congressional Committee. In the opinion of the District Attorney, in which this Investigator concurs, the Inquest, or rather the Coroner's Jury, will return a verdict naming the members of the Executive personnel of both the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Pennsylvania Forestry Department whom they believe to be responsible for the alleged failure of the leadership which caused the death of the eight men. If this verdict is returned, it will be a matter for further investigation and possible prosecution, although the latter is doubtful.

Investigator returned to the Emporium Sub-station at 5:00 P.M.

A copy of the testimony and the Jury's verdict will be furnished upon completion. The testimony will fill an estimated 600 pages of paper.

Respectfully Submitted,

*William M. King*  
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Private, Troop "D" S-2, P.M.P.

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