

AFFIDAVIT OF VAN ODELL

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF Ft Bend §

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Van Odell, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to this instrument, who, after first being duly sworn by me, upon oath stated:

1. My name is Van Odell. I am over the age of twenty-one years, and I am fully competent and able to make this affidavit. I am able to swear, as I do hereby swear, that all facts and statements contained in this affidavit are true and correct and within my personal knowledge.

2. I am a former Navy enlisted man now living in Katy, Texas. On March 13, 1969, I was the gunner atop Lieutenant jg. Jack Chencoweth's boat during the Bay Hop River mining of PCF 3, which John F. Kerry ("Kerry") used to claim a third Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. Kerry directly and through his advertisements has lied about this matter. What actually occurred was that PCF 3 in front of us was mined and its sailors thrown in the river or knocked unconscious. Kerry fled the scene while other boats and we stayed to recover the wounded, save the PCF 3 boat, and fight. There was no return fire.

3. Kerry's boat returned after no return fire occurred and recovered Jim Rassman, who had fallen into the water and who we also were within a few yards of. There was no fire. Kerry's Bronze Star citation and report of that day are false in many respects. Kerry reported 5,000 meters (i.e., 3.2 miles of fire). I did not hear any shots, nor did any hostile fire hit any boats other than PCF 3. Kerry's citation reported recovering Rassman with a bleeding arm under heavy fire. Kerry's boat did pick up Rassman a few yards from us. The remainder of Kerry's account is false.



Kerry lied to get his Bronze Star. I know this since I was present during the March 13, 1969 activities.

Further affiant saith not.

Van Odell

Van Odell

2004.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of JULY.

Jang-Kil Chun

Notary Public

My commission expires:

5/24/05

