

ROSS. Dr. Stone, for the record would you state your full name, rank and current billet, please.

STONE. Commander Walter Stone. My billet is internal medicine specialist, Guantanamo Bay Naval Hospital.

ROSS. Have a seat. How long have you been attached to the hospital at GITMO?

STONE. From October 1 of last year, to the present.

ROSS. And on 7 July of this year did you have occasion to treat Private First-Class William Santiago?

STONE. I did.

ROSS. Would you describe that treatment.

STONE. PFC Santiago was brought into the Emergency Room on the morning of the seventh at oh-oh-ten. He was coughing up blood and suffering from a lack of oxygen. He lost consciousness at oh-oh-thirty-five.

ROSS. And what were your observations upon examination?

STONE. The most obvious things were the rope marks around his wrists and that his head was partially shaved. X-rays and lab work revealed that his lungs were filled with fluid bilaterally due to profound acidosis. That is to say a build-up of acid in the lungs.

ROSS. What causes acid to build up in a person's lungs?

STONE. If the muscles and other cells of the body begin burning sugar instead of oxygen, lactic acid is produced.

ROSS. And from the moment the cells begin burning sugar to the moment that the lungs are filled with fluid, how long does that take?

STONE. Ordinarily, about an hour.

ROSS. Doctor, you say "ordinarily," was this an unusual case?

STONE. Yes.

ROSS. How so?

STONE. In Santiago's case, the chemical reaction took less than 15 minutes.

ROSS. Why was the reaction sped up in Santiago's case?

STONE. He had to have ingested a poison of some kind.

ROSS. Dr. Stone, did Willy Santiago die of poisoning?

STONE. Absolutely.

ROSS. Are you aware that the lab report and the coroner's report showed no traces of poison?

STONE. Yes, I am.

ROSS. Then how do you justify -

STONE. There are literally dozens of toxins which are virtually undetectable under certain circumstances. The nature of the acidosis is the compelling factor in this issue.

ROSS. Thank you, sir.