COPY

Cavendish Vt June 12" 1915

Mr Finis L Bates

I am sending you enclosed some pictures of myself, one in uniform, was taken at 18 years old. The photo was taken when about 40 years old. Cannot you take the Double one and cut it in halves. Enclosed you will find my statement of the night of April 14 1865 as well as I remember it. Do you want me to send the book back.

Sincerely yours

F A Demond

Box 141

COPY

About the First of April 1865 my Co. C.3rd Hvy. Arty. Mass. Voll. was stationed at Fort Mahan D C.About the Second or Third day of said month I was ordered to report to Lieut D D Dana at Fort Baker for Provost Guard duty. I did so and was employed in Guarding Prisoners who was sawing wood and also going down to Union Town looking for soldiers without passes. In fact doing police duty. After a few days I was sent down to Guard the end of the Bridge, Coming from Washington D C and crossing the East Potomac River to Union Town Md. The names of the other men on this same duty at the Union Town end of Bridge was Corporal Sullivan in charge of the Guard and Privates Drake and Johnson. I cannot remember the given names of them at this late day. At the Washington end of Bridge was a detail of men under Sergt Scott. I do not know the names of the rest of his detail.

On the morning of the 14" of April we received orders not to pass any one into Washington unless it was for life or death. We had no orders to stop any one coming from Washington as the guard at that end of Bridge was supposed to know who they passed. Now to explain about this Bridge, it was quite a long wooden one, not in very good order. The gate was at the Union Town end of Bridge and was not shut, only after 9 oclock at night, then opened at 7 oclock in the morning. This gate shut up against a post set in the ground and was built of very heavy timber to withstand a siege. When shut it closed up against a Block House that was built to protect the Guard in case of a raid. On the morning of the 14" of April as Drake and myself was sitting down on a log by the side of the road, two men came along. They started to go by when I asked them where to were going. They said "Only looking around." "Well" I said, "you cannot go across the bridge, it is against orders to allow any one to cross that looks to us as suspicious persons." I asked them for their names but they would not tell me. "Well if you won't we shall hold you until we get orders to let you go as the officer in command here is over to the city, but I think that you," pointing to Booth, "are the actor that I have seen your photo of." He then said that I was right and that his companion was Herold. While talking with them, a soldier came along on horse back. I had seen him before when he rode by one time with General Augur. He was one of his aides, a capt. but I do not know his name. He wanted to know what the trouble was. Booth took him aside and they talked for some time. Then the capt says that they are alright. I spoke to Drake about it and he said we do not take any orders from him, only from Dana. Well he rode off. Before

going he made some remark to Booth which I did not year. About 2 or 3 oclock a orderly from Headquarters came across the bridge and gave Corporal Sullivan a order to let the men go. We did so. We thought that was kind of funny, but we had to obey orders. At 9 oclock that night we shut the gate and Drake went on Guard. He was to be relieved by myself at 11. Then Johnson was to receive me at 1 oclock as Johnson was on a pass and would not get back until midnight. Just as we were getting ready for guard duty, Danna, came and told us not to let anyone through without the pass word, T. B. countersign, T. B. road. We thought that strange for it was the first time that we ever had a pass word to use since we were at the Bridge. Well about half past ten oclock I was lying down in the block house with the door open, When I heard a horse coming across the bridge on a gallop. Just then Drake, who was on post, sang out "Walk that horse" as it was against orders to trot across as the bridge was old and shaky. He did not stop, so Drake sang out again "Dam you, walk that horse or I will fire at you." By that time tha corporal and myself sprang up and taken my gun in my hand I stepped into the door way. Just then the man rode up I saw that it was one of the men that we let go in the afternoon. Drake says"where are you going." He said "Out into the country". "What country",he replied T B. Drake said T.B. what. He said "T B Road." He then wanted to know if there had been any one through before he came. We told him no. He said"he is a dam pretty fellow. Well I cannot wait." So Corporal Sullivan said "Domond, help open the gate". I did so and he put spurs to his horse and rode away. In a few minutes after we heard again another horse trotting across the bridge. Drake made him walk his horse. When he came up he wanted to know if a person had gone through. We told him yes. He said that he was a pretty fellow as he promised to meet me here. Well he was asked where are you going. He said "T B, up the T B road". We let him through and Drake said it is funny what is going on tonight. About 1/2 to one hour, we heard a great noise across the bridge. Soon a squad of mounted soldiers came trotting across. We then learned for the first time of the assassination of the President, too late to stop them. Oh, if I only knew of it before we opened the gate, They never would have got by for I would have shot them as quick as I would a mad dog. A great deal has been said about the guard stopping the only honest man when he tried to pass. In the first place he did not have the countersign, and the next place was, he was at the other end of the bridge and the guards at that end stopped him. In regards to the report of Dana that he had

removed the guards, it is all wrong. We were there that night and was not relieved until the 16" when I got orders to return to my Co. No guards was on the bridge after we left as the war was ended..

If I have ommitted anything, you will find it in my letter to Danna. I saw him talking with an officer on the bridge, but do not know who it was. At this late day it is very hard for me to remember so far back as I am 69 years old. Was 18 when this happened on the night of 14" April 1865.

Sgd. Frederick A Demond

Late Private Co C. 3rd Hvy. Arty. Mass. Volls.

This is to certify that I have compared this document with the original and find the same a true copy of said original.

Emmet Hall

Notary Public Wayne County Michigan
My commission expires Sept 29th 1924

Dearborn Michigan
October 29th 1920.