

DUTTON AFFIDAVIT

AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING CERTAIN STATEMENTS MADE BY DR. SAM'L A. MUDD, SINCE HIS TRIAL.

CAMP FRY, WASHINGTON D.C.
August 22, 1865.

BRIG.-GEN. JOSEPH HOLT,
Judge Advocate General, U. S. A.:

SIR--I am in receipt of your communication of this date, in which you request information as regards the truthfulness of certain statements and confessions reported to have been made by Dr. Mudd while under my charge, *en route* to the Dry Tortugas.

In reply, I have the honor to state that my duties required me to be constantly with the prisoners, and during a conversation with Dr. Mudd, on the 22d of July, he confessed that he knew Booth when he came to his house with Herold, on the morning after the assassination of the President; that he had known Booth for some time, but was afraid to tell of his having been at his home on the 15th of April, fearing that his own and the lives of his family would be endangered thereby. He also confessed that he was with Booth at the National Hotel on the evening referred to by Weichmann in his testimony; that he came to Washington on that occasion to meet Booth by appointment, who wished to be introduced to John Surratt; that when he and Booth were going to Mrs. Surratt's house to see John Surratt, they met, on Seventh street, John Surratt, who was introduced to Booth, and they had a conversation of a private nature. I will here add that Dr. Mudd had with him a printed copy of the testimony pertaining to his trial, and I had, upon a number of occasions, referred to the same. I will also state that this confession was voluntary, and made without solicitation, threat or promise, and was made after the destination of the prisoners was communicated to them, which communication affected Dr. Mudd more than the rest; and he frequently exclaimed, "Oh, there is now no hope for me." "O, I can not live in such a place."

Please acknowledge the receipt of this letter.

I am, General, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
GEORGE W. DUTTON,
Capt. Co. C. 10th Reg't V. R. C. com'dg Guard.

Sworn and acknowledged at Washington, D. C., this 23d August, 1865, before me.
G.C. THOMAS,
Notary Public.