

General Maximilian Veers Witness Statement

My name is Maximilian Veers. I was born on the planet Denon, but I have spent most of my life in the service of the Army. I joined the Galactic Republic Navy as a cadet when I was 11. I was trained in the arts of warfare and rose through the ranks. My most recent rank was General in the Army of the Galactic Empire. I was in service during the transition between the corruption of the Republic and the order that the Empire attempted to bring. I have served with distinction during my career and I am proud of my service. It has allowed me to care for my family and to make the galaxy a safer place.

During what they are now calling the Galactic Civil War I fought in over a dozen battles with the Empire against the rebellion. I was recognized numerous times for my courage and strategy. I rose through the ranks of the Navy and was promoted to general.

My service records includes:

Zaloriss – Zalorians rose against the Empire in 3 ABY. I was deployed along with a contingent of Imperial troops to quell the insurgency. We engaged the opposition and put down the insurgency before it could threaten Zaloriss' place in the Empire. Had the insurgents succeeded it would have resulted in far greater casualties for the Zalorians and likely a far greater Imperial Military presence on their planet.

Culroon III – Stopped the Culroonians uprising against the Empire in 3 ABY. This was a protracted conflict lasting over 20 years, but my strategies finally brought an end to the fighting and restored order to Culroon III.

Salline - The government of the city of Salline on the planet Chandrila was treasonous. They were harboring terrorist members of the Rebellion who occupied the city. I was tasked with putting an end to the open rebellion in the city and was successful. I employed a surgical strike on the rebel headquarters in the government center. I hoped the rebels would surrender when their stronghold was destroyed, however they instead fled in boats which were destroyed by Tie Fighters.

I was assigned to Death Star I, but avoided the fate of Grand Moff Tarkin and the 1.5 million Imperials killed during the Rebel attack on the station. I knew many of the officers aboard that station.

Every battle I fought in my career was fought with honor against legitimate military targets. I have never fired on civilians, nor have given orders to fire on civilian targets. I have never executed or mistreated prisoners of war. I have never enslaved a defeated enemy. I am a General in the armed forces of the legitimate galactic government and have served my Empire with honor, just as I served the Galactic Republic before that.

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The late Admiral Kendal Ozzel thought of the Rebellion as vermin. I knew better. The Rebels were weeds that threatened to overrun the garden of the galaxy unless they were properly tended to. The Imperial forces were the storm. It is easy for weeds to weather a storm. The Rebels would keep slipping through our fingers without a change in strategy.

Darth Vader was a strategic visionary and that vision empowered us to locate the Rebel base on Hoth. The late Dark Lord developed Project Swarm, under which thousands of Viper Probe Droids were dispatched across the galaxy in an effort to discover the location of the new Rebel base.

It worked.

The Viper droids detected signs of an occupied settlement on the sixth planet of Hoth, a system located in the Anoat sector of the galactic Outer Rim. Onboard the Super Star Destroyer Executor, I joined the panel of officers who reviewed the droid's data, along with Vader, Ozzel and his subordinate, Captain Firmus Piett. While Vader immediately identified the data as proof of the Rebellion, Ozzel was more skeptical. Vader ultimately ordered the fleet to investigate the Hoth system, and I began to prepare for the assault.

The late Admiral Ozzel made a critical error in bringing the Imperial fleet out of lightspeed too close to the Hoth system. This enabled the Rebels to enact a defense plan and ultimately evacuate the planet. Lord Vader killed the Admiral for his mistake. Vader appeared to choke Ozzel through the viewscreen. I have never seen this kind of magic before. Of all the battles I have led and fought, this was perhaps the most terrifying sight I have ever seen.

The Rebel base was protected by a planetary shield and an Ion cannon. This made an orbital bombardment grossly ineffective at best and dangerous to the fleet at worst. Lord Vader ordered me to prepare my troops for a ground assault. I led the assault personally with a squadron of AT-AT's and Snow Troopers. We were deployed beyond the border of the energy shield, and our primary objective was to destroy the shield and allow for more Imperial landing parties to enter and take the rebel's base. I led the walkers through heavy fire from Rebel ground and air attack. We suffered considerable losses before we successfully completed our primary objective and destroyed the Rebel shield generator, thus allowing Lord Vader and ground forces to take the Rebel base.

Unfortunately, I was critically injured when a T-47s rammed the cockpit of my walker. I was lucky to survive. Not all my crew were so fortunate.

The enemy on Hoth were all Rebel troopers, engaged in active insurgency against the Empire, the legitimate government at the time. Every Rebel killed in the Battle of Hoth

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was armed and still in the fight when they were struck down in combat. No Rebels surrendered to us on Hoth.

I am a professional soldier and have served with distinction since I was a child. I have done my duty to the Empire and to the Galactic Republic before it. I have helped to maintain peace in the galaxy. I had no involvement in the events on Alderaan, Ghorman, Operation Cider, or any of the war crimes you accuse me of today. Emperor Palpatine is dead, Darth Vader is dead, Grand Moff Tarkin is dead, the command structure of the Imperial Army and Navy command structures are in disarray. The "New Republic" is left with middle men to prosecute in their pursuit of victor's justice against anyone who held a command rank in the Imperial Navy or Army.

The New Republic best look in the mirror on the crimes of their founding members like Saw Gerrera before they try convicting a professional soldier for their actions in a war taken according to the rules of war.