

13 Stories III
Story Options 2022

Option #7: Clyde Raymond Near

Clyde Raymond Near grew up in Indiana and claimed his father's rough treatment of him drove him to enlist in the United States Army when he turned eighteen. During his enlistment he received five charges for going AWOL (absent without leave), breaking restriction, and wrongfully using a government vehicle. His conduct led to an eventual dishonorable discharge. Prior to his incarceration at the Idaho State Penitentiary he had five children with two different women. In January 1955, he robbed a Caldwell taxi driver at gunpoint, stealing his cab and his wallet containing \$15 cash. Oregon State Police apprehended him in Arlington, Oregon. In November 1958, after his release from the I.S.P., he beat a man to death with a shotgun in Virginia. In 1959 he was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. At a 1963 retrial his sentence was commuted to life in prison. He died at the Botetourt Correctional Center in Troutville, VA in April 1987 at age 63.

