

VOL.

135-A-26579

FILE
NUMBER

Canadian Forces Headquarters
, Ontario.
8 March, 1965.

Department of Veterans Affairs,
Veterans' Bureau,
Ottawa, Ontario.

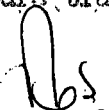
Attention: Mr. J.A.L. Robichaud

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter 1387-J dated 3 February, 1965, concerning [REDACTED] of the late Leading Seaman John Wilson O'Gorman. You have asked for our opinion based on the proceedings of the Board of Inquiry which investigated the circumstances of this Seaman's death, whether he was on duty when his injuries were sustained, and if his death is directly connected with or arose out of his service in peacetime.

The evidence in the Board indicates that Leading Seaman O'Gorman suffered a fall on the night of 11 February, 1964 while returning to his ship and was rendered unconscious for a brief period. He reported to Sick Bay in the morning of 12 February. His temperature was normal and he carried on to his normal duties. Later in the morning he returned to his bunk and slept. He later either fell out of his bunk or fell shortly after getting out of his bunk. CFHQ considers that Leading Seaman O'Gorman was on duty while on board HMCS St. Laurent at the time of his fall on the afternoon of 12 February. The Medical Officer, Surgeon Lieutenant McCue was of the opinion that the initial fall resulted in some brain damage which caused him to fall on the latter occasion which led to further brain damage. The evidence disclosed that he was required to perform manual duties through the morning of 12 February. It would appear that he was not under close supervision during this time and consequently the possibility that he suffered some injury during this period cannot be ruled out. Although no evidence was obtained on the point, it would seem quite conceivable that his exertions in the performance of his duties aggravated the injury he was known to have suffered during the previous night.

Yours truly,


(A.O. Solomon)
Captain, RCN

for Chief of the Defence Staff


S/L CA DINGWALL/CMc
2-5544



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES
AFFAIRES DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS
Veterans' Bureau

PLEASE QUOTE NO.
CITER LE NUMÉRO
.....1387-J.....

(3) *File pl.*
for 3 Feb

Ottawa, February 3, 1965.

Referred to	<i>NPR</i>
FEB 8 1965	
File No.	<i>N-26579</i>
Chg'd. to	<i>WBR</i>

Chief of Defence Staff,
National Defence Headquarters,
Ottawa, Ontario.

1
Re: 26579-E - R-20243 - O'GORMAN, John Wilson (Dec'd):

Dear Sir:

This former member of the Regular Force died on February 14, 1964, while serving in Malaya.

On August 19, 1964, the Canadian Pension Commission ruled at first hearing that his death due to sub dural haematoma and cerebral laceration is not pensionable under Section 13(2) of the Pension Act.

It would be appreciated if you could provide us with an opinion, based on the findings of the Board of Inquiry held on board H.M.C.S. St. Laurent on February 18, 1964, to conduct an investigation into the circumstances attending the injuries which resulted in Mr. O'Gorman's death, as to whether he was on duty when the injuries were sustained and if his death is directly connected with and arose out of his service in peacetime.

Yours sincerely,

11
File Reg
28 Feb 65
gr.

DPLS

Attention: Captain Macleary

Lu. Wilson
10.2.65

J.A.L. Robichaud
J.A.L. Robichaud,
Pensions Advocate.

CONFIDENTIAL

No. of enclosure in F. Med. 4

F. Med. 14

IN-PATIENT RECORD

1. Service No. 26579-B		2. Rank/Rate LSWE2		3. Surname O'GORMAN	
4. Christian or Fore Name(s) JOHN		5. Port Div/Regt. Corps/ RAF Command RCV		6. Ship/Unit/RAF Station ST. LAURENT	
7. Branch/Trade WS	8. Total full-time service 10 yrs. 0 mos.	9. Married/Single/ widow(er) X	10. Type of enlistment/condition REGULAR		11. Age 28
12. Theatre in which admitted Flot or Station (Navy) P.S.S.		13. Length of service in theatre or date of admission 12.2.64		14. Date of admission transfer 12.2.64	
14. Name of medical unit in which treated		Date of admission transfer IN	Date of discharge transfer OUT	No. of days	Serial No.
Direct admission to: RNH SINGAPORE.		12.2.64	12.2.64	2	
Arrived, as a transfer, from:					
Arrived, as a transfer, to:					
Arrived, as a transfer, in:					
Arrived, as a transfer, in:					
15. Final disposal (if died state cause of death and whether confirmed by P.M.)				Total No. of days under treatment 2	

DISCHARGED DEAD.

16. Firm diagnosis of principal disease or injury leading to admission (1) SUBDURAL HAEMATOMA (2) LACERATION BRAIN	
17. Principal complication or sequel of 16	18. Secondary disease(s) or injury(ies) aetologically unconnected with 16
19. Nature of any surgical operation	20. Special information in accordance with current instructions
INJURY AND WOUNDED CASES ONLY	
21. Enemy action or non-enemy action NON-ENEMY	22. Date of first certificate (Navy) A.F.M. 17 (Army) Form 601 (R.A.F.)
23. Nature of weapon or cause of injury	
24. Activity at time of injury	

UNRECORDED
JUN 6 1964
STATISTICS UNIT

HISTORY

Fell into a drain yesterday and lost consciousness. Continued to fall this morning. 1800 Severe hemiparesis over a period of 4 hours (from doctor's statement). No localising signs at 1830 hours. Observed to be moving (R) arm but not (L) 1 hour ago. Present conditions: Unconscious involuntary movement of all limbs - weak and infrequent (L) arm. Responds to light and painful stimuli. Moving violently at times. Pupils (R) constricted (L) normal neither reacting. Eyes fixed and central. Neck stiffness. Reflexes

	(R)	(L)
B	+	+
S	+	+
T	+	+
K	+++	+++
A	+++	+++
P	↓	↓

Muscle tone: legs normal. (L) arm flaccid. (R) good tone.

P = 58

BP = 125/7

T =

P = 48

2030

Abrasion (R) Post. Parietal area. The signs are indicative of a (R) Extradural hematoma - at least - For craniometry. (R) Anterior and Posterior Parietal Burr hole. Raised intracranial tension. Dura not pulsating. No evidence of Extra or Subdural clot. (L) Anterior Parietal Burr Hole. Subdural clot extending over area about 2" in diameter. Bleeding from surface brain vessel diathermised. Burr hole enlarged up and down for about 2" and dura opened over this area. Considerable brain oedema and some protrusion after opening dura. Some damaged brain seen. Clot evacuated as far as possible. Dural defect closed with fascia lata. Tube drain from lower end of wound. Condition at end of operation: Color good. Breathing regular. B.P. 120 systolic. Pulse 68/minute. Pupils R = 3 mm. L = 6 mm. Post op. Elevate head of bed. Penicillin 1 mega stat. 500,000 6 hourly. Streptomycin 0.5 gm. b.d.

cont....2

No. of enclosure in F. Med. 4.....

IN/OUT PATIENT RECORD (Continuation)

1. Service No.	2. Rank/Rating	3. Surname and Initials																								
26579-E	LSWS2	O'GORMAN JOHN																								
Date	CLINICAL NOTES																									
13.2.64. 0400	<p>Seems to be getting a bit lighter. Plantar reflexes equivocal now. <u>Pupils</u> - (R) partly dilated fixed. (L) constricted fixed.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Reflexes</u></td> <td>(R)</td> <td>(L)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abdo:</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K</td> <td>++</td> <td>+++</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>++</td> <td>+++</td> </tr> </table> <p>Dextrose 50% 50 mls given IVI. Pupils R = 7 mm) fixed. L = 7 mm) Plantar reflex R ↓ L ↓ Cough reflex present. Tracheotomy performed. Is having too much fluid. I.V. <u>Dextrose</u> 20 drops/min only.</p>		<u>Reflexes</u>	(R)	(L)	B	+	+	S	+	+	T	+	+	Abdo:	+	+		+	+	K	++	+++	A	++	+++
<u>Reflexes</u>	(R)	(L)																								
B	+	+																								
S	+	+																								
T	+	+																								
Abdo:	+	+																								
	+	+																								
K	++	+++																								
A	++	+++																								
14.2.64. 0045 hrs.	<p>State of unconsciousness is apparently deeper than last night. Does not react to painful stimuli. Still has cough reflex. <u>Pupils</u> fixed (R) slightly larger than (L). <u>Reflexes</u> cannot obtain any - may be a slight reaction at (R) biceps. Plantars nil. <u>Breathing</u> has periods of abnoea but not definite Colour good. <u>Chest</u> sounds clear. <u>Heart</u> Apex beat almost uncountable - c.180 Radial pulse 96.</p>																									
0105 hrs.	<p>As patient was being turned over on to (L) side he suddenly stopped breathing. Heart continued beating. Artificial respiration carried out. Coramine 2 ccs I.V. given. O₂ administered. Lt. Col. Parker called. Cuffed No. 7 tracheotomy tube inserted and patient put into positive pressure respiration (Radcliffe respiration).</p>																									
0200 hrs.	<p>Radial Pulse not palpable. Heart sounds faint. Respiration to be kept going until heart cannot be heard.</p>																									
0600 hrs.	<p>Heart now cannot be heard. Feels cold. Certified as dead. 1) Subdural haematoma 2) Laceration brain.</p>																									


M. BAYLIS (CAPTAIN RAMC.)

CONFIDENTIAL

F. Mod. 15

No. of enclosure in F. Mod. 4

IN/OUT PATIENT RECORD (Continuation)

1. Service No.	2. Rank/Rating	3. Surname and initials																					
26579-E	LSWS2	O'GORMAN JOHN																					
Date	CLINICAL NOTES																						
13.2.64. 0200	<p>Seems to be getting a bit lighter. Plantar reflexes equivocal now. Pupils - (R) partly dilated fixed. (L) constricted fixed.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Reflexes</u></td> <td>(R)</td> <td>(L)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abdo:</td> <td>+</td> <td>+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K</td> <td>++</td> <td>+++</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>++</td> <td>+++</td> </tr> </table> <p>Dextrose 50% 50 ml: given IV.</p> <p>Pupils R = 7 mm } fixed. L = 7 mm }</p> <p>Plantar reflex R ↓ L ↓</p> <p>Cough reflex present. Tracheotomy performed.</p> <p>Is having too much fluid. I.V. Dextrose 20 drops/min only.</p>		<u>Reflexes</u>	(R)	(L)	B	+	+	S	+	+	T	+	+	Abdo:	+	+	K	++	+++	A	++	+++
<u>Reflexes</u>	(R)	(L)																					
B	+	+																					
S	+	+																					
T	+	+																					
Abdo:	+	+																					
K	++	+++																					
A	++	+++																					
14.2.64. 0045 hrs.	<p>State of unconsciousness is apparently deeper than last night. Does not react to painful stimuli. Still has cough reflex. Pupils fixed (R) slightly larger than (L). Reflexes cannot obtain any - may be a slight reaction at (R) biceps. Plantars nil.</p> <p>Breathing has periods of apnoea but not definite</p> <p>Colour good. Chest sounds clear.</p> <p>Heart Apex beat almost uncountable - c.180 Radial pulse 96.</p>																						
0105 hrs.	<p>As patient was being turned over on to (L) side he suddenly stopped breathing. Heart continued beating. Artificial respiration carried out. Coramine 2 cc: I.V. given. O₂ administered. Lt. Col. Parker called.</p> <p>Cuffed No. 7 tracheotomy tube inserted and patient put into positive pressure respiration (Radcliffe respiration).</p>																						
0200 hrs.	<p>Radial Pulse not palpable. Heart sounds faint. Respiration to be kept going until heart cannot be heard.</p>																						
0600 hrs.	<p>Heart now cannot be heard. Feels cold. Certified as dead.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Subarachnoid haemorrhage 2) Laceration brain. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i> M. MAYNIE, SENIOR NURSE</p>																						

NS: 1155-N-26579

PERS (N) "N" 1A

- ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY -

4, Ontario.

MAR 19 1964

Dear Sir:

LEADING SEAMAN J.W. O'GORMAN, 26579-E
DECEASED 14 FEBRUARY, 1964

Reference is made to Naval Headquarters'
NS: N-26579 PERS (N) "N" 1A dated 27 February, 1964.

Attached copies of the Findings of the Board
of Inquiry and In-Patient's Record, Form F Med. 14, in
respect of the above-named are forwarded for information.

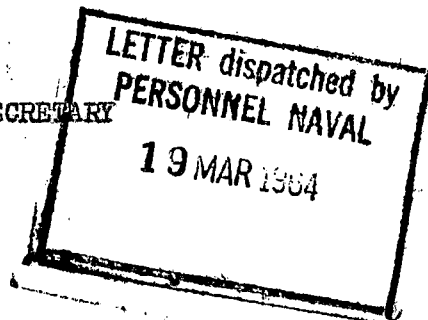
Naval Headquarters is of the opinion the deceased
was on duty when the fatal injuries were sustained (between
0900, 12 February, and time of death) and that death was
attributable to military service as such.

Yours truly,

JCK
NAVAL SECRETARY

The Secretary,
Canadian Pension Commission,
Room 4110,
Veterans' Memorial Building,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

MRS L. WILSON (2-6291)/CB



1. 8 APR. 1964
2. DISECT (PERS) 14.3.64
3. NAR. 1A. 27

17.3.64

NS: 1155-N-26579

PERS (N) "N" 1A

- ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY -

4, Ontario.

MAR 19 1964

Dear Sir:

LEADING SEAMAN J.W. O'GOIDMAN, 26579-E
DECEASED 14 FEBRUARY, 1964

The attached Form CNS 1121, in respect of the
above-named is forwarded for information and retention.

Yours truly,

He K

NAVAL SECRETARY

The Secretary,
Canadian Pension Commission,
Room 4110, Veterans' Memorial Building,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

The Dominion Statistician,
Tunney's Pasture,
Holland Avenue,
OTTAWA 3, Ontario.

Director of War Service Records,
Department of Veterans' Affairs,
325 Slater Street,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

MRS. L. WILSON (2-6291)/CB



St
17.3.64

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

MINUTE SHEET

Referred to

REMARKS

To be signed in full showing Appointment, Telephone Number & Date

ALCND (A)

Passed for info
and comment, please.

J.M. Thilman

+NPR- 6.3.64

NPR. -

In my opinion the
deceased was on duty
when the fatal injuries
were sustained (between
0900, 12 Feb. and time
of death) and that death
was attributable to
military service.

PRK
ALCND (A)
9/3



Department of National Defence

Royal Canadian Navy

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

NO. DST: C.1150-
DDE 205

Referred to <i>Pers (n)</i>
MAR 5 1964
File No. <i>1155-N-26579</i>
Chg'd to.....

HMCS ST LAURENT,
at Penang, Malaysia.

26 February, 1964

REGISTERED

THE LATE LSWS2 J.W. O'GORMAN, 26579-E


Reference: (a) General Order 24.01/2 (11)
(b) General Order 21.46/3 (18), (19) and (21).

(2) Enclosure: (A) Minutes and Findings of Board of Inquiry. *See 1A*
(Complete with all evidence recorded)
(B) Complete set of Service Documents.
(C) Complete Medical Documents.
(D) Dental History Sheet.
(E) Report of Death (Form CNS 1121) in sextuplicate.
(F) Copy of letter to next of kin - [redacted] A.L. O'GORMAN.

Submitted for the consideration of Naval Headquarters in accordance with reference (a) are the above noted enclosures.

2. The findings of the Board of Inquiry are concurred in. Within the limits of reference (b) it would appear that Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was in fact on duty at the time that his fatal injuries were received.

3. The esteem and high regard which the officers and men of the Second Canadian Escort Squadron (CANCORTDIV 21) held for Leading Seaman O'GORMAN is reflected in the very generous donations collected voluntarily for [redacted] namely [redacted]

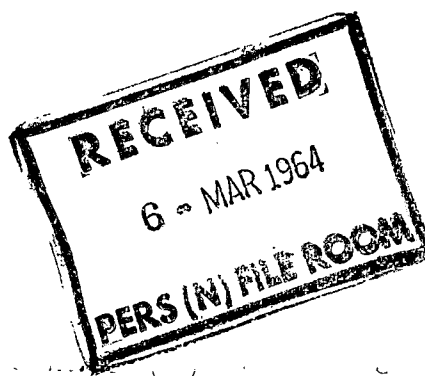

(D.D. LEE)
COMMANDER, RCN
COMMANDING OFFICER

The Naval Secretary,
Naval Headquarters.

Copy to: The Flag Officer Pacific Coast.

The Commander,
2nd Canadian Escort Squadron,
HMCS FRASER.

(Copies of enclosures (A) and (F) only)



[Faint, mostly illegible text covering the majority of the page, appearing to be a memorandum or report.]

HMCS ST. LAURENT,
At Sea.

FEB 21 1964

Sir,

We have the honour to submit, in accordance with your memorandum (CNS 1360), dated 14 February, 1964, the minutes and report of a Board of Inquiry convened on board HMCS ST. LAURENT on the 18th and 19th of February, 1964, to inquire into the circumstances concerning the injuries sustained by, and resulting in the death of, the late LSWS2 John Wilson O'GORMAN, 26579-E, of HMCS ST. LAURENT which occurred at 0600 local time at the British Military Hospital, Singapore, Malaysia, 14 February, 1964.

The evidence brought before this Board of Inquiry was taken on oath in accordance with QRCN 21.06.

The minutes and report, which are attached, consist of the following documents:

- (A) Original Copy of CNS 1360.
- (B) Original Copy of CNS 2557.
- (C) (i) Evidence of Surgeon Lieutenant Daniel McCUE, RCN, 0-48386, containing questions numbered 1 to 5, and 119 to 120.
(ii) Evidence of Lieutenant John B. MURRAY, RCN, 0-54456, containing questions numbered 6 to 14.
(iii) Evidence of PLMA4 Edward W. ACHTYMICHUK, 27403-E, containing questions numbered 15 to 22.
(iv) Evidence of P1LA4 Alan W. BATES, 9704-E, containing questions numbered 23 to 38.
(v) Evidence of LSSN2 Nestor ZBITNEW, 14944-E, containing questions numbered 39 to 63.
(vi) Evidence of LSRM2 Charles STORDEUR, 35045-E, containing questions numbered 64 to 78.
(vii) Evidence of OSWUS Robert B. FRIEDMAN, 49309-E, containing questions numbered 79 to 88.
(viii) Evidence of ABFC1 Hilton E. ZUTZ, 52603-E, containing questions numbered 89 to 96.
(ix) Evidence of ABFC2 Dallas A. GILL, 33475-E, containing questions numbered 97 to 105.

The Commanding Officer,
HMCS ST. LAURENT.

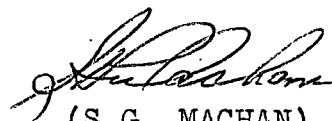
- 2 -

- (x) Evidence of LSWU2 Raymond H. KING, 14974-E,
containing questions numbered 106 to 108.
- (xi) Evidence of P2WS3 George E. SEARS, 16976-E,
containing questions numbered 109 to 118.
- (xii) Evidence of C2RP4 Richard S. CARTER, 5475-E,
containing questions numbered 121 to 124.
- (xiii) Evidence of P2NS3 David G. BRIDEAUX, 13275-E,
containing questions numbered 125 to 127.
- (ivx) Evidence of P2LT3 Bart T. BATCHELOR, 28595-E,
containing questions numbered 128 to 130.
- (C) Finding of the Board of Inquiry.
- (D) In-Patient's Record, Form F Med. 14.
- (E) Medical Record, Form F Med. 15.
- (F) Certificate of Death.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,



(S.G. MACHAN)
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER, RCN
President



(T.S. HAYWARD)
LIEUTENANT, RCN
Member



(P.W. DUMBRILLE)
SUB-LIEUTENANT, RCN
Member



Trues



Cameron
AG

Please Return to
J. Johnson
10.3.64

COPY

IN/OUT PATIENT RECORD

BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA

Service No.	Rank/Rating	Surname/Initials
26579-E	LSWS2	O'GORMAN JOHN

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinical Notes</u>
-------------	-----------------------

12-2-64 SUMMARY

2000 hours Fell into a drain yesterday and lost consciousness. Returned to work this morning. 1800 Became unconscious over a period of $\frac{1}{4}$ hour (own Doctor's statement) No localising signs at 1830 hours. Observed to be moving (R) arm but not (L) 1 hour ago. Present condition: Unconscious involuntary movement of all limbs - weak and infrequent (L) arm. Responds to light and painful stimuli. Moving violently at times. Pupils (R) constricted (L) normal neither reacting. Eyes fixed and central. Neck stiffness. Reflexes

	(R)	(L)
B	+	+
S	+	+
T	+	+
K	+++	+++
A		
P		

2030 Muscle tone: legs normal. (L) arm flaccid. (R) good tone.
P = 58 BP = 125/? T =
P = 48

Abrasion (R) Post. Parietal area. The signs are indicative of a (R) Extradural haematoma - at least - For craniometry. (R) Anterior and Posterior Parietal Burr hole. Raised intracranial tension. Dura not pulsating. No evidence of Extra or Subdural clot. (L) Anterior Parietal Burr Hole. Subdural clot extending over area about 2" in diameter. Bleeding from surface brain vessel diathermised. Burr hole enlarged up and down for about 2" and dura opened over this area. Considerable brain oedema and some protrusion after opening dura. Some damaged brain seen. Clot evacuated as far as possible. Dural defect closed with fascia lata. Tube drain from lower end of wound. Condition at end of operation:- Colour good. Breathing regular. B.P. 120 systolic. Pulse 68/minute. Pupils R = 3 min. L = 6 min. Post op. Elevate head of bed. Penicillin 1 mega stat. 500,000 6 hourly. Streptomycin 0.5 gm. b.d.

13-2-64 Seems to be getting a bit lighter. Planter reflexes equivocal now. Pupils - (R) partly dilated fixed. (L) constricted fixed.

0400 Reflexes

	(R)	(L)
B	+	+
S	+	+
T	+	+
Abdo:	+	+
	+	+
K	++	+++
A	++	++++

Dextrose 50% 50 mls given IVI.

Pupils R = 7 min) fixed
L = 7 min)

Planter reflex R L

Cough reflex present. Tracheotomy performed.
Is having too much fluid. I.V. Dextross 20 drops/min
only.

14-2-64

0045
hours

State of unconsciousness is apparently deeper than last night. Does not react to painful stimuli. Still has cough reflex. Pupils fixed (R) slightly larger than (L). Reflexes cannot obtain any - may be a slight reaction at (R) biceps. Plantars nil. Breathing has periods of apnoea but not definite. Colour good. Chest sounds clear. Heart Apex beat almost uncountable - c.180 Radial pulse 96.

0105
hours

As patient was being turned over on to (L) side he suddenly stopped breathing. Heart continued beating. Artificial respiration carried out. Coramine 2 ccs I.V. given. O₂ administered. Lt. Col. Parker called. Cuffed No. 7 tracheotomy tube inserted and patient put into positive pressure respiration (Radcliffe respiration)

0200
hours

Radial Pulse not palpable. Heart sounds faint. Respiration to be kept going until heart cannot be heard.

0600
hours

Heart now cannot be heard. Feels cold. Certified as dead. 1) Subdural Haematoma
2) Laceration brain.

M. BAYLIS (CAPTAIN RAMC.

QRCN 21.47 - FINDINGS ON INJURY OR DEATH

(A) THE CAUSE OF INJURY OR DEATH:

The cause of death was extensive brain damage caused by injuries to the head sustained in falls between 2230 11 February, 1964 and 1730, 12 February, 1964. The first fall occurred in a drainage ditch in H.M. Dockyard, Singapore, Malaysia, and this injury was aggravated and made to assume fatal proportions by a further injury sustained in a fall, or falls, in Number 9 Mess Deck in HMCS ST LAURENT about 1715 on 12 February, 1964 at Singapore, Malaysia. It is also considered that the fact that Leading Seaman O'GORMAN worked manually on the upper decks on the morning of 12 February, 1964 may have been a contributory factor to his death.

(B) WHETHER THE DECEASED OR INJURED OFFICER OR MAN WAS ON DUTY AT THE TIME OF THE INJURY OR DEATH:

In view of the evidence heard, it can not be stated by the Board that Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was on duty when the fatal injuries were sustained. However, in reference to paragraph (A) and (C) of the findings, it is noted that Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was required to carry out manual work on the Upper Deck during the forenoon of 12 February and, in all probability, this further aggravated the injuries received on the night of 11 February. In this respect, it is therefore requested that higher authority should make final decision as to whether Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was on duty or not.

(C) WHETHER THE DECEASED OR INJURED OFFICER OR MAN OR ANY OTHER PERSON WAS TO BLAME FOR THE INJURY OR DEATH:

Neither Leading Seaman O'GORMAN nor any other person is considered to blame for his death.

-2-

(D) WHETHER THE INJURY OR DEATH WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO MILITARY SERVICE AS SUCH:

As noted in paragraph (A), the fact that Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was required to do manual work on the Foc'sle during the forenoon of 12 February, 1964 this, in all probability, aggravated injuries received during the evening of 11 February. It is therefore considered that death was partly attributable to military service as such.

N° 210009

DUPLICATE (For Informant)

STATE OF SINGAPORE

REGISTRATION OF DEATH

Registration Area

SINGAPORE

Registration Sub-area

BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL SINGAPORE

S D 16 W 2094

Full Name of Deceased

JOHN O'GORMAN

(In Roman Block Characters including Surname, Sex or Father's Name)

Place of usual residence

H.M.C.S. ST. LAURENT

Period of residence in Registration Sub-area

3 DAYS

Place of last residence before arrival in Registration Sub-area

H.M.C.S. ST. LAURENT

Date and hour of death

14TH day of FEBRUARY, 1964

6 AM

A.M.

P.M.

Race

CAUCASIAN

Nationality

CANADIAN

Country of Birth

TORONTO ONTARIO

Sex

MALE

29 YEARS

Age

1935

MAY

17TH D

Place of Death (Town)

BRITISH MILITARY HOSPITAL

(Street)

ALEXANDRA ROAD, SINGAPORE

Occupation of Deceased

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

Cause of Death

(1)

SUB DURAL HAEMATOMA

(2)

CEREBRAL LACERATION

Duration of illness

Years

Months

Days

Hours

36

36

Name and Qualification of Person certifying Cause of Death

CAPT. M. BAYLIS, RMC, M.B., B.S., O.T.M.CH.

Medical Practitioner,
Coroner
or Other Person

Strike out whichever
is inapplicable

Fact of Death certified by

MAJOR J.F.S. BATSON, RMC

MEDICAL OFFICER

Date of Registration

15TH FEBRUARY, 1964.

Name and Address of Informant

S.B.C.P.O. A.T. WILLIAMS,

NAVAL WARDMASTER, B.M.H. SINGAPORE.

Signature of Deputy Registrar
and Date

Checked by Registrar
and Date

Signature of Informant
and Date

Six copies to be rendered to Naval Service Headquarters

REPORT OF THE DEATH OF AN OFFICER, MAN OR BOY

H.M.C.S. **ST LAURENT** at **Singapore, Malaya**

Name **John Wilson O'GORMAN**
(Christian names in full)

Rank or Rating **LSWS2** Official No. **26579-E**
(If unknown, date of first entry)

Place of Birth **Toronto, Ontario** Date of Birth **17 May, 1935**

Occupation in Civil Life **Labourer** Religion **Roman Catholic**

Number of years service in the Navy (Long Service R.C.N., or mobilized service in case of R.C.N.
(Temporary) or Reserve ratings) **10 years 292 days**

Date of Death **14 February, 1964** Place of Death **British Military Hospital, Singapore, Malaya**

Cause of Death **(1) Sub Dural Haematoma. (2) Cerebral Laceration.**
(If due to accident, violence, or enemy action, particulars to be stated briefly)

Nearest known relative or friend { Name **Anne Louise O'GORMAN** Relationship **Wife**
Address [REDACTED]

Date on which the above was informed by Ship **Informed by CANFLAGPAC 14 Feb '64.**

Date on which death was registered with local Officials **15 February, 1964 (Cert.No. 210009)**

In the case of Imperial Service men, whether Active Service, Pensioner or Reserve, date on which the prescribed return was rendered to the Registrar General in London, Edinburgh or Dublin, according to Nationality **Not applicable.**

Place of Burial **British Military Cemetery, Singapore, Malaya.** Date of Burial **15 February, 1964**
(if known) (if known)

* Also known as: **Christian Cemetery, BIDADARI.**
Location, Number, etc., of grave **FRC (2) Grave Number 15754.**
(if known)

Undertaker employed **Nil. Services rendered by British Military Hospital, Singapore, Malaya.**
(if any)

If borne for discipline only, date D.S.Q. or invalidated **Not applicable.**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

D. D. LEE

Commander, RCN,
Commanding Officer,

HMCS ST LAURENT

15 February, 1964 194

The NAVAL SECRETARY,
Department of National Defence,
Ottawa, Canada.

In all cases this Form is to be sent in addition to the Report by Telegraph required by the Regulations.

Distribution: File, Imp. W. G. Com., Dom. Stat., Register.

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15 February, 1964 x194

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C.N.S. 1360 (Revised April, 1951)

DST: C.1150-1

HMCS ST LAURENT,
at Singapore, Malaya.

14 February, 1964 ~~1963~~

MEMORANDUM

You are to assemble on board H.M.C.S. ST LAURENT
at 0900 on Tuesday, 18 February, 1964
as a board of inquiry whereof Lieutenant Commander S.G. MACHAN, 0-44273
of H.M.C.S. ST LAURENT
is to be the president and hold a full and careful investigation into the circumstances attending
THE INJURIES SUSTAINED BY, AND RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF THE
LATE LSWS2 JOHN WILSON O'GORMAN, 26579-E OF HMCS ST LAURENT
WHICH OCCURRED AT 0600 LOCAL TIME AT THE BRITISH MILITARY
HOSPITAL, SINGAPORE, MALAYA., 14 FEBRUARY, 1964.

calling before you such witnesses as are necessary to enable you to form a correct conclusion.

2. The inquiry is to be conducted in accordance with the directions contained in Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Royal Canadian Navy, Chapter 21.

3. The report of the board is to be accompanied by the minutes of evidence taken, and is to contain an expression of opinion on the merits of the case as disclosed by the evidence, including a statement of the causes of the occurrence.

4. The questions in the minutes are to be numbered consecutively, and the name and rank of each witness are to appear at the head of each page of his evidence.

5. The report and minutes are each to be signed by the members of the board, and are to be in ~~triplicate~~ **six copies.**

To the
President
only

6. The original report is sent herewith for the purpose of the inquiry and is to be returned with the report of the board, together with this memorandum.

7. The Commanding Officer, H.M.C.S. N.A. has been informed and directed to afford the board all the necessary facilities.

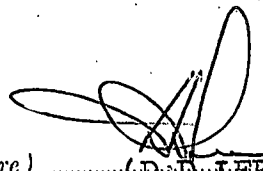
8. Unless the president has something to communicate, he is to send the reports when completed, not to *bring* them.

9. A shorthand writer has been detailed from N.A.

To: LCDR S.G. MACHAN, 0-44273 ←

LT T.S. HAYWARD, 0-31942

SLT P. ~~W.~~ DUMBRILLE, 0-210609

(Signature)  (D.D. LEE) CDR RCN
COMMANDING OFFICER,
HMCS ST LAURENT.



CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

CANADIAN FORCES

REPORT ON INJURIES OR IMMEDIATE DEATH THEREFROM

CNS 2557
CAFB 371 (Rev. 5/57)
RCAF R 78A (Rev. 5/57)
74

TO BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH (GO 24-01/5 RCN), (CAO 63-5 ARMY), (AFAO 24-01/02 RCAF)

1	O	G	O	H	M	A	N	J	O	H	N	W	I	L	S	O	N	26579-E	
SURNAME								GIVEN NAMES								NUMBER			
LSWS2								28		Weapons Surface								HMCS ST LAURENT	
RANK								AGE		TRADE								UNIT	
Approx. 1800 12 Feb '64										HMCS ST LAURENT									
DATE AND TIME OF ACCIDENT										PLACE OF ACCIDENT									

2

INJURED PERSON'S STATEMENT

(WHEN PRACTICABLE)

I HEREBY DECLARE THAT THE FOLLOWING IS A TRUE STATEMENT OF THE INJURIES SUSTAINED BY ME:

PATIENT UNCONSCIOUS.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY (Signature not obtained due to patients condition)
"A.E.Achtymichuk" PLMA4 13 Feb '64

WITNESS TO SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE OF INJURED PERSON

DATE

3

MEDICAL OFFICER'S STATEMENT

(a) DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES (IN DETAIL) Patient was unconscious when seen. He had a small laceration of his nose and bruising of his right cheek. Pulse was slow and weak when first checked. Pupils contracted. Slight spasticity of limbs - reflexes fairly brisk. No nuchal rigidity when first seen.

(b) ARE THE INJURIES LIKELY TO CAUSE A PERMANENT DISABILITY? STATE "YES OR "NO Not known.

(c) HOW LONG BEFORE INITIAL TREATMENT WAS GIVEN? 5 minutes.

(d) ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL OR SICK IN QUARTERS? Admitted to British Military Hospital, Singapore.
(NAME OF HOSPITAL)

13 February, 1964

DATE

HMCS ST LAURENT

UNIT

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
"D.M.McCue" Surg.Lt RCM

Squadron Medical Officer,
2nd Canadian Escort Squadron.

SIGNATURE OF MEDICAL OFFICER

COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT

4

(a) WAS THE INJURY SUSTAINED:

(I) IN THE PERFORMANCE OF MILITARY DUTY? Not known - being investigated by a Board of Inquiry.

(II) NATURE OF DUTY:

(III) WAS IT INCURRED IN A GAME OR OTHER FORM OF PHYSICAL RECREATION ORGANIZED BY OR IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY SERVICE ORDERS OR INSTRUCTIONS? No

(IV) IF ANSWER TO (III) IS "YES", IDENTIFY ORDER N.A.

(V) IF IT WAS INCURRED ON LEAVE, WAS SUCH LEAVE WITH OR WITHOUT PAY? N.A.

(VI) WAS ANY ONE TO BLAME? Not known - being investigated by Board of Inquiry.

(VII) WERE THERE ANY WITNESSES TO THE ACCIDENT? Yes IF "YES" THEIR STATEMENTS INCLUDING NAMES AND PARTICULARS SHALL BE ATTACHED.

(VIII) ANY FURTHER REMARKS HAVING A BEARING ON THE ACCIDENT.

Nil.

(b) IS THE ACCIDENT BEING INVESTIGATED BY?

☒ BOARD OF INQUIRY

(I)

☐ COMMANDING OFFICERS INVESTIGATION

(II)

☐ UNDERWRITERS. ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

(III)

14 February, 1964

DATE

HMCS ST LAURENT

UNIT

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
D. D. LEE CDR RCN
COMMANDING OFFICER

NDHQ STATEMENT

PROCEEDINGS MENTIONED IN PARA 4 (b)(i) OR (ii) ABOVE ARE FILED ON NDHQ FILE NUMBER _____

The Board having assembled pursuant to memorandum, DST: C-1150-1 dated 14 February 1964, proceeded to call witnesses.

1st Witness: Surgeon Lieutenant Daniel McCUE, RCN, O-48386, having been duly sworn, is examined by the Board.

Q 1 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A Surgeon Lieutenant Daniel McCUE, RCN, O-48386, Squadron Medical Officer, Second Canadian Escort Squadron.

Q 2 Did you see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN prior to his death?

A I did. I first saw him at approximately 1845, 12 February 1964, in the ambulance before he was taken to hospital in Singapore.

Q 3 What was his condition at this time?

A When I saw him, Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was unconscious and he had small lacerations over the nose and a bruise over the right cheek. I checked his breath. There was no smell of alcohol or acetone. When I saw him his pupils were equal, small and they reacted to light. His limbs were slightly spastic, but the arm, knee and planter reflexes appeared normal. His breathing was slightly laboured but regular, and he showed no sign of cyanosis. His pulse was slow and weak. He had no neck rigidity and no evidence of paralysis when first seen. I left him in care of the Medical Officer from the naval base hospital who was accompanying him to the British Military Hospital for further investigation.

Q 4 Do you have a report from that medical officer?

A. I have the report of subsequent findings of investigation and operation taken at British Military Hospital in Singapore. According to these reports, the patient's condition gradually deteriorated and the pupils became unequal. The reflexes became equivocal and the patient began to develop signs indicative of localized brain damage. The consulting neurosurgeon decided that the patient had intra-cranial bleeding and surgery was

Surgeon Lieutenant Daniel McCUE

required to relieve the pressure on the brain and to stop the bleeding. On operation, the patient was found to have a clot on the left side extending over an area of brain of two inches. Active bleeding was still present and the brain tissue under the clot was damaged. The subdural clot was removed, the bleeding stopped and the tissue effects closed. The patient's condition after the operation was fair but, by 1000 hours on 13 February, the patient was having breathing difficulty and a tracheotomy operation was performed. The patient did not recover consciousness. At 0045 on 14 February, his condition appeared worse and his state of unconsciousness became deeper. The patient stopped breathing at 0105 on 14 February, and artificial respiration was started and continued until the heart sounds were no longer perceptible at 0600, 14 February, when the patient was pronounced dead.

Q 5 From your examinations and subsequent consultations with medical authorities ashore, have you been able to establish a time at which these fatal injuries occurred?

A In my opinion, in view of the facts that there was brain damage and active bleeding was still present at time of operation, at 2030 on 12 February, the fatal injury occurred within an hour of the time before I initially saw the patient. It is very unlikely that the patient could have been conscious for more than a few minutes after sustaining an injury which would result in the damage found at operation. I have in my possession a photostat of the death certificate and copies of the hospital and operative notes which I am submitting to the Board.

WITNESS DISMISSED, but requested by the President to remain as adviser to the Board.



2nd Witness: Lieutenant John B. MURRAY, RCN, 0-54456, having been duly sworn, is examined by the Board.

Q 6 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A Lieutenant John Bruce MURRAY, RCN, 0-54456, Supply Officer, H.M.C.S. ST. LAURENT.

Q 7 Were you Officer of the Day, HMCS ST. LAURENT, on 12 February, 1964?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 8 During the course of that duty, did you have cause to see Leading Seaman John W. O'GORMAN?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 9 Would you describe the circumstances surrounding that?

A The first time I saw him was about 0900 when he came to my cabin to ask what time muster for general payment would be held.

Q 10 When you saw him at this time did you notice anything unusual about him?

A No, Sir.

Q 11 When did you next see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN, and under what circumstances?

A I next saw him at about 1120. He asked when he could get paid and I told him to go down to the Ship's Office to be paid at that time. He appeared normal to me; however, I saw him briefly at this time.

Q 12 When and under what circumstances did you next see him?

A At about 1725, the Duty Coxswain, Petty Officer BATES, came to my cabin and told me something was wrong with Leading Seaman O'GORMAN and he did not know what it was. I went immediately down to Number 9 Mess and saw Leading Seaman O'GORMAN lying on the deck. There were two or three other men with him--one was Leading Seaman N. ZBITNEW and another was Able Seaman B. MINCHIN. Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was unconscious and I noticed he had blood on his nose and a bruise on the right cheek. I told Petty Officer BATES to go over to HMCS MACKENZIE to get their Medical

Assistant. Meanwhile, I instructed several men who were in the mess to put Leading Seaman O'GORMAN on a settee. I examined him very briefly, and he appeared to be unconscious. He did not respond to any questions. About five minutes after I first entered the mess, PLMA4 TAYLOR from MACKENZIE arrived and he began to examine the man. Petty Officer TAYLOR, after five minutes of examination, told me the man was seriously ill and that I had better get him to the hospital. At that time I went to the telephone and had the operator get me an ambulance. The man at the other end of the phone told me it had to be a medical officer to authorize an ambulance. I then told him to contact the Duty Medical Officer on HMS ALERT, whom he connected me with immediately. I told him we had a sick man and that I had called an ambulance but needed his approval. He said he would send the ambulance and also that he would come over. About twenty minutes later, the Medical Officer from HMS ALERT arrived on foot. I took him down to see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN. Meanwhile, Petty Officer TAYLOR had put Leading Seaman O'GORMAN in a stretcher in preparation for taking him to the ambulance. At approximately 1800, Surgeon Lieutenant McCUE, the Squadron Medical Officer, arrived and he and the ALERT Medical Officer took over the case. The ambulance left at 1845.

Q 13 Within what degree of accuracy do you estimate the times given?

A The time that the ambulance left was noted by the Corporal of the Gangway in the Ship's Log as being 1845. The remainder of the times given by me are estimated to be correct within fifteen minutes.

Q 14 Subsequent to Leading Seaman O'GORMAN being removed, did you make any inquiries as to the ^{cause} ~~course~~ of his condition?

A As soon as I went down to the mess, Leading Seaman N. ZBITNEW informed me that Leading Seaman O'GORMAN had fallen into a drain ashore on the previous evening. He also stated that Leading Seaman O'GORMAN had gone to Sick Bay in the morning and had been seen

Lieutenant John B. MURRAY

by Petty Officer ACHTYMICHUK. He had worked all morning in the ship. After dinner, Leading Seaman O'GORMAN turned in and had got up again around 1630. He said he did not feel well. He got back into his bunk. At about 1830, the Shore Patrol mustered and Petty Officer KENYON and Leading Seaman CAILES also informed me that Leading Seaman O'GORMAN had fallen the previous night. Leading Seaman CAILES stated that he had brought him back to the ship. Able Seaman HICKS also said he saw him fall the previous evening. One unidentified man stated that, shortly before my arrival in the mess, Leading Seaman O'GORMAN had fallen out of his bunk and he was left on the deck so he would not fall again. Another unidentified man stated that Leading Seaman O'GORMAN climbed out of his bunk and then fell.

WITNESS DISMISSED.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. B. Murray", is written over a horizontal line.

3rd Witness: PlMA4 Edward W. ACHTYMICHUK, 27403-E, having been duly sworn, is examined by the Board.

Q 15 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A PlMA4 Edward William ACHTYMICHUK, 27403-E

Q 16 What is your employment?

A I am the Ship's Medical Assistant for HMCS ST LAURENT.

Q 17 On the morning of 12 February 1964, did Leading Seaman O'GORMAN report to Sick Bay?

A Yes, he did, Sir.

Q 18 For what reason did he come to see you and what were your findings?

A He came to see me, complaining he was "hung over". He stated he had been at a party the night before and had returned onboard by 2300. He also stated he felt he was running a temperature. I checked his temperature and found it to be 98.2 degrees Fahrenheit, which is normal. Due to his normal temperature and the nature of his complaint, I had no reason to believe it was anything more than a "hang over" from the previous night, and he carried on to duty.

Q 19 Did he report that he had fallen the previous night?

A Negative, Sir.

Q 20 Did you notice any bruises or marks on his face?

A Negative, Sir.

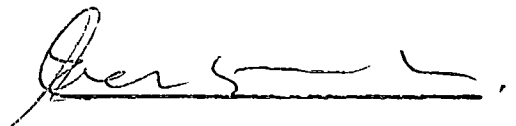
Q 21 Was he in anyway dazed or unstable on his feet?

A Negative, Sir.

Q 22 Did you see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN at any other time during that day?

A Negative, Sir.

WITNESS DISMISSED.



4th Witness: ~~PLLA~~ Alan W. BATES, 9704-E, having been duly sworn, is examined by the Board.

Q 23 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A . PLLA Alan William BATES, 9704-E.

Q24 Were you the Duty Coxswain on 12 February 1964?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 25 During your tour of duty, were you called to Number 9 Mess?

A Yes, Sir, I was called down to Number 9 Mess, the mess where Leading Seaman O'GORMAN lived in.

Q 26 Who called you there?

A Leading Seaman N. ZBITNEW, Sir.

Q 27 At what time was this call?

A At approximately 1715 or 1720, Sir.

Q 28 Did you proceed directly?

A Yes, Sir, I did.

Q 29 What did you find on arrival to this mess?

A At arrival down in the mess, I found quite a few men of the mess gathered around Leading Seaman O'GORMAN who was slumped on the settee, and being held by mess mates.

Q 30 At that time would you say Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was conscious or unconscious?

A In my opinion I would say he was conscious. His eyes were open and he was wiping his hand across his eyes or forehead.

Q 31 What action did you take then?

A I asked approximately two questions of his mess members: If he had been in this condition very long and if he had been drinking. I was told he had not been drinking and that he had been sleeping in his bunk all afternoon.

Q 32 What action did you take then?

A I reported to the Officer of the Day, Lieutenant MURRAY.

Q 33 Did you take any further actions?

A Very little. The Officer of the Day and I went back down to the mess that Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was in. The Officer of the Day

AS

PL1A1 Alan W. BATES

had a look at Leading Seaman O'GORMAN and immediately sent me to get the Medical Assistant, Petty Officer TAYLOR, who went back down to the mess with me.

Q 34 Did the condition of Leading Seaman O'GORMAN change?

A Yes, Sir, his condition did change.

Q 35 In what way?

A As I stated earlier, he was slumped or sitting on the settee and, on arrival of the Officer of the Day, he was now lying on the deck. I would say he was unconscious at this time.

Q 36 Do you know how he got from the settee to the deck?

A No, Sir, I do not.

Q 37 Is it correct to assume then that he got to the deck during the time that you were away getting the Officer of the Day?

A That is correct.

Q 38 What were the names of the men that were in the mess when you arrived, as far as you remember?

A Leading Seaman N. ZBITNEW, Able Seaman GILL and Able Seaman O'BRIEN. These three are the only ones that I can remember definately.

WITNESS DISMISSED.

Alan W Bates

5th Witness: LSSN2 Nestor ZBITNEW, 14944-E, having been duly sworn, is examined by the board.

Q 39 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A LSSN2 Nestor ZBITNEW, 14944-E

Q 40 Are you Senior Hand of Number 9 Mess?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 41 What bunk did Leading Seaman O'GORMAN occupy?

A Number 113, Sir.

Q 42 Is that an upper, lower or middle bunk?

A That is an upper bunk.

Q 43 When was the first time, on the 12th February, that you saw Leading Seaman O'GORMAN?

A About 0830 in the morning, Sir.

Q 44 At that time did you speak with him?

A No, Sir. He was looking "hung over".

Q 45 Did Leading Seaman O'GORMAN speak at this time?

A No, Sir. He held his head with his hands.

Q 46 What was the next occasion on 12 February that you saw Leading Seaman O'GORMAN?

A At about 1145 or 1150 when he went back to bed in his own bunk.

Q 47 Did you speak to him at this time?

A No, Sir.

Q 48 Did Leading Seaman O'GORMAN make any comment at this time?

A No, Sir.

Q 49 When was the next time you saw Leading Seaman O'GORMAN?

A At 1600. I came off watch and he was still in bed.

Q 50 Was he asleep?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 51 Were you in the mess from then on?

A At 1700 I went to supper. Leading Seaman STORDEUR shook him at about 1630 and Leading Seaman O'GORMAN said he was too sick to go ashore.

LSSN2 Nestor ZBITNEW

Q 52 What happened then?

A He went back to sleep and was asleep when I went to supper at 1700.

Q 53 During this hour of 1600 to 1700, did you notice anything unusual about Leading Seaman O'GORMAN?

A No, Sir.

Q 54 Would he appear to have been sleeping normally?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 55 What time did you return to your mess deck from supper?

A About 1745

Q 56 What did you find when you returned?

A He was sitting on the lower bunk and he had urinated on the deck. I told him to clean it up and he said, "O.K." I then left the mess.

Q 57 How did Leading Seaman O'GORMAN appear at this time?

A He still looked the same as he did in the morning--"hung over".

Q 58 What was your purpose in leaving the mess deck?

A I left the mess for the Upper Deck. I saw Leading Seaman KEITH and asked him if Leading Seaman O'GORMAN had stayed in his bunk all afternoon. He said, yes. Then I went down to the mess again and, just as I got to Leading Seaman O'GORMAN, he slipped off the bunk onto the deck. I sat him up on the settee and told Able Seaman GILL to hold him while I got Petty Officer BATES and the Officer of the Day. As soon as I got to the Upper Deck, Petty Officer BATES was at the hatch and it was here that he told me Leading Seaman O'GORMAN had not drawn his tot, and that is when I told him I thought Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was sick. I then returned to the mess with Petty Officer BATES. He had a look at Leading Seaman O'GORMAN and then went to get the Officer of the Day and the Medical Assistant.

Q 59 While Petty Officer BATES was away, what did you do?

A I was mopping up the mess on the deck. Able Seaman GILL was holding him at this time.

N. Zbw

LSSN2 Nestor ZBITNEW

Q 60 Can you tell us how Leading Seaman O'GORMAN got from the settee to the deck?

A No, Sir.

Q 61 Were you in your mess deck the evening of 11 February when Leading Seaman O'GORMAN returned?

A No, Sir. When I got to the mess deck he was already in the mess, sitting on the settee and taking his clothes off.

Q 62 What was his condition at this time?

A I assumed he had been drinking quite a lot.

Q 63 Did he appear at that time to be suffering from anything more than the effects of alcohol?

A No, Sir.

WITNESS DISMISSED

N. Z. Bitnew

6th Witness: LSRM2 Charles STORDEUR, 35045-E, having been duly sworn, is examined by the Board.

Q64 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board.

A LSRM2 Charles STORDEUR, 35045-E

Q 65 Were you ashore with Leading Seaman O'GORMAN on the evening of 11 February, 1964?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 66 Where did you go ashore?

A From the ship directly to the Fleet Canteen on the base.

Q 67 What time did you arrive there?

A Approximately 1900.

Q 68 What time did you leave there?

A Approximately 2230.

Q 69 Was Leading Seaman O'GORMAN drinking during this time?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 70 What was Leading Seaman O'GORMAN's condition when you left the club?

A We were both singing and happy.

Q 71 Did you return directly to the ship?

A No, Sir.

Q 72 Did you remain in Leading Seaman O'GORMAN's company?

A When we were told to leave the club, I was in the heads with Leading Seaman O'GORMAN and we left together with Leading Seaman ELLIS, from HMCS MACKENZIE, who was waiting outside. Coming out of the club, Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was on the right, Leading Seaman ELLIS was in the centre and I was on the left. The next thing I knew, two Australians approached us and told us one of our mates was in the ditch, It was Leading Seaman O'GORMAN. They went down and got him out and Leading Seaman ELLIS checked him for broken bones. He was unconscious. We revived him and went with him half way down the road, then ELLIS continued with him.

LSRM2 Charles STORDEUR

Q 73 How long was Leading Seaman O'GORMAN unconscious?

A I would say a short time, a few minutes at the most.

Q 74 When he regained consciousness, was his condition such that you considered it to be anything but alcohol?

A He appeared to be a bit groggy but I didn't think it to be very serious.

Q 75 On the day of the 12th February, when did you first see him?

A I saw him in the morning about 0900. I asked him, "How are you feeling?" He looked up at me and stared.

Q 76 Did you consider this to be unusual behavior?

A No, Sir.

Q 77 When did you next see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN?

A Late in the afternoon, around 1600. I jumped in his cart on him and asked him if he was ready to go ashore, He said, "No, I want to sleep." And that was it.

Q 78 When you shook him, was he difficult to arouse?

A No, Sir.

WITNESS DISMISSED

Charles Stordeur

7th Witness: OSWU Robert B. FRIEDMAN, 49309-E, having been duly sworn, is examined by the Board.

Q 79 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A OSWU Robert Brian FRIEDMAN, 49309-E.

Q 80 On the afternoon of 12 February, were you in Number 9 Mess?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 81 During the time you were in the mess did you see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 82 Where did you see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN?

A First of all, I shook him for supper at about 1715, and asked if he wanted supper. He said, "No." He went back to sleep. About ten or fifteen minutes later, he got up and walked over to Able Seaman LORD's bunk and took his pants down and sat down on the edge of the bunk, went to the bathroom on the deck. A few of us in the mess noticed the water and we notified the Leading Hand of the mess, Leading Seaman N. ZBITNEW, who was Corporal of the Gangway. He notified the Duty Petty Officer.

Q 83 Did you actually see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN get out of his bunk?

A No, Sir. I saw him walking around and he seemed to be staggering a bit.

Q 84 Did you hear anything prior to this that would indicate a man had fallen?

A No, Sir.

Q 85 Do you know of anyone that might have seen him get out of his bunk?

A No, Sir.

Q 86 Who else was in the mess at this time?

A Able Seaman MINCHIN, Able Seaman GILL and Able Seaman HOLDEN.

Q 87 Did you hear Leading Seaman O'GORMAN say anything to anyone?

A No, Sir.

Q 88 Did you see him fall off the bottom bunk at any time?

A No, Sir.

WITNESS DISMISSED.

Robert B. Friedman

8th Witness: ABFC1 Hilton ZUTZ, 52603-E, having been duly sworn,
is examined by the Board.

Q 89 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A ABFC1 Hilton Edward ZUTZ, 52603-E.

Q 90 Were you in Number 9 Mess the afternoon of 12 February?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 91 Approximately what time were you in the mess?

A From 1830 to 1930.

Q 92 Did you see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN while you were in the Mess?

A Yes, Sir, I did.

Q 93 Where was he when you saw him?

A He was sitting on Able Seaman LORD's bunk, Sir.

Q 94 Just before he was sitting on Able Seaman LORD's bed, we have
evidence that he got out of his own bunk, Did you see him?

A No, Sir.

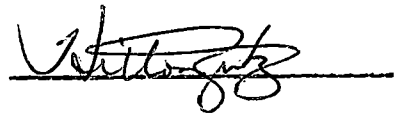
Q 95 Did you see him in his bunk?

A No, Sir. I don't recall.

Q 96 Did you hear or have any reason to suspect that Leading Seaman
O'GORMAN may have fallen out of his bunk?

A Negative, Sir.

WITNESS DISMISSED.



9th Witness: ABFC2 Dallas A. GILL, 33475-E, having been duly sworn, is examined by the Board.

Q 97 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A ABFC2 Dallas Arthur GILL, 33475-E.

Q 98 On the morning of 12 February, did you converse or see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN?

A Yes, I did, Sir.

Q 99 Did he act in anyway to make you suspicious of anything wrong with his health?

A He seemed to have a normal hang over, and he mentioned being ashore. He did not complain about anything unusual.

Q 100 When did you see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN again that day?

A The next time was about 1200, and he was in his bunk then.

Q 101 Did he draw his tot or have any lunch?

A No. When asked if he was going to draw his tot, he said, "No" and that he did not feel like drinking his tot. He wanted to sleep. He appeared quite normal when he said this.

Q 102 Did you, in the course of the afternoon or early evening, ever see Leading Seaman O'GORMAN get out of his proper bunk?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 103 Describe to us what you saw?

A As I was sitting on the settee, I saw Leading Seaman O'GORMAN get down from his bunk in a normal fashion, and proceed to the recreation area. A few seconds later, I heard an odd stumbling sound from the recreation area. I proceeded to investigate the matter and saw Leading Seaman O'GORMAN start to take off his trousers. He dropped his trousers to his ankles and then fell backwards, landing on his seat and hands. He then got up and sat on the edge of the lower bunk where he wet upon the deck. When asked to smarten up and clean up his mess, he replied, "Yah, OK! OK!" He then got up from the bunk and fell forward in a sort of rolling motion, and hit his nose upon a milk can (converted into a laundry bucket), and ended up in

ABFC2 Dallas A. GILL

a half-lying and half-sitting position against the settee on the deck. At this time, Leading Seaman N. ZBITNEW and myself picked him up from the deck and sat him on the settee. I held him on the settee while Leading Seaman ZBITNEW went to get Petty Officer BATES and Petty Officer BATCHELOR. They came down to the mess and saw Leading Seaman O'GORMAN, then they departed to get the Officer of the Day. Leading Seaman ZBITNEW and I lowered Leading Seaman O'GORMAN to the deck, propped him up against the settee and a chair until the arrival of the Officer of the Day. He looked at him and had Leading Seaman ZBITNEW and me carry him to the bunk-converted settee, then sent for Petty Officer TAYLOR. Petty Officer TAYLOR arrived and looked at Leading Seaman O'GORMAN. I stayed with him until Leading Seaman O'GORMAN was removed by stretcher.

Q 104 What time did these events occur?

A These events occurred between 1715 and 1730.

Q 105 What stage in the events that you have described did Leading Seaman O'GORMAN lose consciousness?

A Between the time we lowered him to the deck and the arrival of the Officer of the Day, a period of not more than five minutes.

WITNESS DISMISSED.

Dallas Gill

10th Witness: LSWU2 Raymond H. KING, 14974-E, having been duly sworn, is examined by the Board.

Q 106 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A LSWU2 Raymond Harold KING, 14974-E.

Q 107 Were you in Number 9 Mess on 12 February 1964 when Leading Seaman O'GORMAN got out of his bunk at about 1715?

A Yes, Sir, I was.

Q 108 Did you see anything unusual?

A His speech was heavily slurred. He staggered back and forth between the forward and after ends of the recreation area while attempting to put on his trousers. He fell against me a few times and then he fell to the deck. I helped him to his feet and he went and sat on Able Seaman LORD's bunk. I then left the area.

WITNESS DISMISSED.

Raymond H. King

11th Witness: P2WS 3 George E. SEARS, 16976-E, having been duly sworn, is examined by the Board.

Q 109 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A P2WS3 George Elms SEARS, 16976-E

Q 110 Are you the Foc'sle Part Ship Petty Officer?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 111 On the forenoon of 12 February, were you on the Foc'sle?

A I was, Sir.

Q 112 During this same forenoon, was Leading Seaman O'GORMAN out on the Foc'sle?

A He was, Sir.

Q 113 During this time did you notice anything about Leading Seaman O'GORMAN's condition?

A I would have to think he was hung over.

Q 114 Was this thought in retrospect, or did you think so at the time?

A I thought this at the time.

Q 115 What, about his actions, made you think this at the time?

A He performed his duties normally on the Foc'sle, except I had to go get him out of his mess.

Q 116 Did he work a full forenoon?

A He worked until approximately 1130.

Q 117 During this time did he complain in any way?

A He complained of being hung over and asked permission to go to Sick Bay.

Q 118 At any other time after turning to, did Leading Seaman O'GORMAN complain?

A No, Sir, he did not.

WITNESS DISMISSED.

G. E. Sears P2WS3

12th Witness: Surgeon Lieutenant Daniel McCUE, RCN, 0-48386, is re-called and examined by the Board.

Q 119 Would you tell the Board the cause of death to Leading Seaman O'GORMAN?

A The cause of death was a sub-dural hæmatoma with cerebral lacerations.

Q 120 Having heard the evidence given since your original statement, are there any additional comments that you can make at this time?

A From the evidence, in my opinion, it would appear that the patient's initial fall into the ditch on the evening of 11 February caused some brain damage which in turn affected Leading Seaman O'GORMAN, causing him to stagger and fall on the afternoon of 12 February. The head injuries sustained in the second fall compounded those sustained in the first, thus leading to further brain damage and increasing intra-cranial bleeding to account for the rapid deterioration in Leading Seaman O'GORMAN's condition and the subsequent fatal outcome.

WITNESS DISMISSED.



13th Witness: C2RP⁴ Richard S. CARTER, 5475-E, having been duly sworn, is examined by the Board.

Q 121 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A C2RP⁴ Richard Street CARTER, 5475-E, Coxswain, HMCS ST. LAURENT.

Q 122 What was the leave granted to the Ship's Company on 11 February and 12 February, 1964?

A Leave on 11 February was from 1600, Tuesday, to 0750, Wednesday, for men not required for duty; leave on 12 February was from 1200, Wednesday, to 0750, Thursday, for men not required for duty.

Q 123 Was Leading Seaman O'GORMAN required for duty on either of these days?

A No, he was not.

Q 124 What type of watches did Leading Seaman O'GORMAN stand?

A Leading Seaman O'GORMAN stood Corporal of the Gangway watches in rotation with the other Leading Seamen.

WITNESS DISMISSED.

Richard Street Carter

14th Witness: P2NS3 David G. BRIDEAUX, 13275-E, having been duly sworn, is examined by the Board.

Q 125 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A P2NS3 David G. BRIDEAUX, 13275-E.

Q 126 Were you the Petty Officer of the Day, HMCS ST. LAURENT, on 11 February 1964?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 127 During your period of duty, did you have cause to require a duty of Leading Seaman O'GORMAN?

A No, Sir.

WITNESS DISMISSED.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Brideaux", is written over a horizontal line.

15th Witness: P2LT3 Bart T. BATCHELOR, 28595-E, having been duly sworn,
is examined by the Board.

Q 128 Would you identify yourself fully to the Board?

A P2LT3 Bart Thomas BATCHELOR, 28595-E.

Q 129 Were you the Petty Officer of the Day on 12 February 1964?

A Yes, Sir.

Q 130 During your period of duty, did you have cause to require a
duty of Leading Seaman O'GORMAN?

A No, Sir, I did not.

WITNESS DISMISSED.

Bart T. Batchelor

DST

HMCS ST LAURENT,
at Penang, Malaysia.

26 February, 1964

Dear [REDACTED] O'Gorman,

It is with much regret that I have to write a letter such as this informing you of the details surrounding the death of your late husband. I apologize too for not writing to you prior to this but I was anxious to get the correct facts and these have now been ascertained as a result of a Board of Inquiry which has just completed its task. I am sure, as a result of the messages which I have sent to the Flag Officer Pacific Coast, that you have been kept informed and in fact advised of the cause of death and the attendant circumstances.

Events leading up to your late husband's death are as follows. He was ashore on short leave in H.M. Dockyard, Singapore the evening of 11 February with Leading Seaman STORDEUR of this ship whom, I understand, you know quite well. At about 11 o'clock in the evening he was returning to his ship with Leading Seaman STORDEUR, slipped and fell into a concrete monsoon drainage ditch.

He returned to his ship unaided and went to his bunk, apparently uninjured, since he did not report himself sick.

During the morning of Wednesday, 12 February, he turned to at the usual time after having breakfast, and worked until noon. The ship's company had the afternoon free for leave and your husband felt tired and decided to sleep which was quite in order as he was not required for duty. At about 2.30 pm in the afternoon he was called by Leading Seaman STORDEUR and asked if he wished to go ashore. He stated that he was too tired and went back to sleep.

At approximately 6.00 pm he fell from his bunk and was found unconscious by duty personnel on board. Two doctors and a medical assistant were summoned immediately and rendered aid to your husband within minutes. He was rushed to the British Military Hospital in Singapore and surgery was performed immediately. Prior to surgery the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church were administered.

The funeral service was held at 2.30 pm 15 February, 1964 in the Roman Catholic Chapel of the British Military Hospital, Singapore with the Squadron Chaplain (RC) officiating. Over two-hundred officers and men of the Second Canadian Escort Squadron attended. Interment was conducted with full military honours at the British Military Cemetery, Singapore.

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[REDACTED] A.L. O'Gorman.
[REDACTED]

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Following interment, wreaths were laid at the graveside on behalf of yourself, the Commanding Officer and Officers of HMCS ST LAURENT., the Ship's Company of HMCS ST LAURENT., The Commanding Officer, Officers and Ship's Company of HMCS MACKENZIE., the Commanding Officer, Officers and Ship's Company of HMCS FRASER., the Squadron Commander and staff of the Second Canadian Escort Squadron., the Flag Officer Pacific Coast and men of the Pacific Command., the Commanding Officer, Officers and men of HMS TERROR (Royal Navy Base, Singapore)., the Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Far Eastern Station.

I shall be sending to you under separate cover prints of the official photographs of the funeral service.

Your late husband was a very fine example of a Leading Seaman and his performance of duty indicated that he was progressing well in his chosen profession. He was popular on board, and respected by all. That this tragic event occurred has left us all in ST LAURENT deeply shocked.



Please do contact me directly, or through the Flag Officer Pacific Coast, if there is anything further that I may be able to do for you.

To you  may I once again extend the deepest sympathy of the officers and men of HMCS ST LAURENT in your sudden and tragic bereavement.

Yours very truly,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
D. D. LEE
(D.D. LEE)
COMMANDER, RCN
COMMANDING OFFICER