

STATEMENT

With the United States Armed Forces
on board USS KEARSARGE (CVS-33) in
The South China Sea

At approximately 0800G, 3 June 1969 following the collision of the USS FRANK E. EVANS and HMAS MELBOURNE, a body was brought to sick bay aboard the USS KEARSARGE. This body was identified by dog tags and by comparison of teeth with dental records as that of G_LINES, Kenneth ~~46~~, ^{QW} B64 83 82, SA, USN.

Examination of the body revealed soaking wet clothes which were removed. The only obvious external injuries were a large abrasion of the right anterior chest wall and an occipital skull injury. Palpation of the skull revealed a large hematoma over the occiput with laceration and bleeding. It felt as if a skull defect were present, but this was not ascertained by radiography and could have been only a laceration through the galea aponeurosis. The mouth was filled with a pink foamy material felt to be pulmonary edema.

A more detailed examination of the remains was not done because the body was to be flown to Tan San Nhut AFB, RVN, for autopsy.

The conclusion reached by me on the basis of wet clothes and pulmonary edema was that of death by salt water drowning. The role played by the head injury would be only speculative.

James Hall, III
JAMES HALL, III

I, Leonard M. Nearman, the undersigned officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of July 1969, by LT James H. Hall, III, MC, USNR, 669941, whose permanent home address is Decatur, Georgia, and who is known to me to be a commissioned officer of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty. And I do further certify that I am at the date of this certificate a commissioned officer of the grade, branch of service and organization stated below in the active service of the United States Armed Forces, that by statute no seal is required on this certificate, and same is executed in my capacity as Commanding Officer, USS KEARSARGE (CVS-33).

Leonard M. Nearman
Leonard M. Nearman
390697, CAPT, USN
USS KEARSARGE (CVS-33)
McLean, Virginia

RECORDED

STATEMENT

With the United States Armed Forces
on board USS KEARSARGE (CVS-33) in
The South China Sea

Approximately 0800 on the morning of 3 June 1969, a stretcher bearing
the body of one Kenneth W. GINES was brought to sick bay. I was told
this was the only fatal casualty recovered thus far from the collision
of the USS FRANK E. EVANS and HMAS MELBOURNE.

I did not personally examine the body, but did observe the following:

The victim's clothes were soaked with water. His hair was wet
and he had a pink-tinged foam in his mouth. When his shirt was removed,
the large bruise and abrasion on his left anterior chest appeared to be
washed clean.

Assuming that the patient had drowned, I returned to my work caring
for injured survivors and had no further contact with the body.

Lyall A. Bjornson

Lyall A. BJORNSON

I, Leonard M. NEARMAN, the undersigned officer, do hereby certify
that the foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn to before me
this 5th day of July 1969, by LT Lyall A. BJORNSON, MC, USNR, 715735,
whose permanent home address is Arvilla, North Dakota, and who is
known to me to be a commissioned officer of the U. S. Armed Forces on
active duty. And I do further certify that I am at the date of this
certificate a commissioned officer of the grade, branch of service and
organization stated below in the active service of the United States
Armed Forces, that by statute no seal is required on this certificate,
and same is executed in my capacity as Commanding Officer, USS KEARSARGE
(CVS-33).

Leonard M. Neaman
Leonard M. NEARMAN
390697, CAPT, USN
USS KEARSARGE (CVS-33)
McLean, Virginia

RECORDED