

- S/1c; USS ""

E.C.

Injured: 27 June 1943, by fall of 40 feet into ocean at Oran, Algeria.

Admission: 27 June 1943, direct from Naval Dispensary.

Died: 27 June 1943 from massive brain damage due to his injury.

This 18 year old sailor was admitted unconscious and in profound shock with a profusely bleeding depressed wound of the right temporoparietal region from which brain was extending. He was bleeding from the mouth, respirations were deep and stertorous, pulse rapid (100-110), blood pressure 180/80. The eyes were closed by periorbital hemorrhage, the head was held to the right, and legs rigidly extended, the arms flaccid. Except for the legs becoming flaccid and a momentary drop in blood pressure, little remarkable change occurred. The respirations gradually slowed and became more shallow, and pulse became less to rapid and weaker. He died in shock before any operative procedure could be attempted.

The salient features of the postmortem were:

The scalp is recently shaven, disclosing a terrific depressed fracture of the right fronto-parietal region. The overlying scalp is split open and there is massive suggestion of surrounding scalp tissues and of both eyes, which were swollen shut. Pieces of soft brain tissue ooze from the shattered calvarium. There is bleeding from the mouth, due to traumatic laceration of the tongue. There is none from the ears or nose.

There are bilateral excoriations of both knees. The dorsal body surfaces show no change.

The changes of interest are confined to the head. The calvarium has a traumatic loss of a portion of the right temporal and right parietal bones amounting to about 6 square centimeters. Radiating from this defect, are fissured lines which transverse the whole right side of the skull as far posteriorly as the occipital bone. The calvarium on the right side looks, in fact, like a shattered eggshell. There is terrific damage to the underlying brain. The whole right motor cortex has been chopped and comminuted until it resembles ground hamburger. There is massive hemorrhage throughout the entire brain, and all ventricles are stuffed with blood. There are no fractures of the base of the skull. Dissection of the cervical vertebrae reveals no fracture thereof, which is rather remarkable when one considers the force with which the patient landed on his head.

Clinical Diagnoses:

- (1) Depressed, comminuted fracture of the skull.
- (2) Herniation of the brain substances.
- (3) Hemorrhage.

Pathological Diagnoses:

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: Early bronchopneumonia, pulmonary edema.

SPLEEN & HEMATOPOIETIC TISSUES: Acute passive congestion of the spleen.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: Acute passive congestion of the kidneys.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM: Massive hemorrhage of the brain; comminution of brain substance (right parietal lobe).

BONES & JOINTS: Comminuted, depressed fracture of right temporal and parietal bones; traumatic loss of bony substance in right fronto-parietal region.

MISCELLANEOUS: Traumatic laceration of the tongue; laceration of both knees.