

██████████ - T/5, 34th Field Artillery Bn.

J.R.

Injured: 9 May 1943, seriously burned in a truck accident in Tunis.

Admission: 20 May 1943, from the 151st Station Hospital, from 15th Evac Hosp.,
from 38th Evac Hosp., from the 9th Medical Bn.,

Died: 9 September 1943, of burns, 2nd & 3rd degree, severe, due to gasoline fire
resulting from truck accident.

This 25 year old soldier, while drunk, took a truck against orders and had a collision in which he was severely burned. His burns were largely 3rd degree, of the entire right side of face and scalp, entire left upper extremities from upper thigh to shoe tops and both lower extremities, completely encircling on left side, encircling leg only on the right. At the 9th Medical Bn. the burns were debrided under pentothal, sulfadiazin and tannic applied to left arm; vaseline gauze to the remainder. 1000 cc. of plasma was given. Dressings were changed and 4000 cc. of plasma was given 3 days later at the 15th Evac Hosp., then sent to the 38th Evac Hosp where blood and plasma was administered and dressings changed because of maggots. He was receiving morphine freely.

On admission he was irrational and with temperature of 103.6F. Cleanly care and dressings were started and an effort made to control the sepsis and restore nitrogen balance.

The face on the left side was burned a 3rd degree from cheek to ear, including the eyelids, but sparing the cornea. This burn had almost healed and although an eyeshield was necessary to protect the eye because of an ectropion, no corneal ulcer developed.

The left arm and hand were severely burned, the hypothenar muscles sloughed and the fingers separated through the proximal phalanges. At time of death the whole upper extremities was healed except the fingers tip.

On the right lower extremity a third degree burn posteriorly, medially and anteriorly on the thigh, encircled the entire lower leg to the shoe top level. This burn was covered with grafts (29 July 1943) and was all healed but some scattered areas.

The left lower extremity completely encircled from buttock to shoe top level, was grafted on 20 August 1943 and all covered except an area over the antero-medial surface of the thigh.

Through the hospital stay the patient exhibited a septic course, temperature up to 103F daily until the last of July, after which it remained below 100 until a day before his death.

Blood studies on admission showed a total protein of 6.2 and a hemoglobin of 8. Three months later (20 August 1943) the total protein was 6.9 and the hemoglobin 13.5. Throughout his stay he received 16 or 17 whole blood transfusions and 5 glucose and saline transfusions. Culture of the granulating areas showed a hemolytic streptococci, but there was at no time any response to sulfanamide therapy.

He was making ~~steady~~ steady improvement until 7 September 1943, some three months after injury, when vomiting started. On 8 September 1943 jaundice appeared and on 9 September 1943 (day of death), following breakfast he complained of abdominal pains and retched. He became cyanotic and was given whole blood and oxygen without response.

Autopsy report is not available except for the one diagnoses: acute yellow atrophy of the liver.

Diagnoses: Burns, 2nd & 3rd degree, severe, of face, scalp, left upper, both lower extremities, due to gasoline fire resulting ~~in~~ from truck accident, Tunisia, 9 May 1943.

Operations: Skin grafting, 29 July 1943 & 20 August 1943. 12th General Hospital I.V. anesthesia.