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- (a) 7ND Card, Walter JOSEPH, 1-8-43.
- (b) 8ND Card, Fred G. HOWELL, 2-27-43.

CONFIDENTIAL IOF-661  
B-2 652 270  
8 July, 1942.

**MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL CHALKER:**

The attached file relates to the apparent neglect of duty on the part of Coast Guard and Naval personnel in connection with the death of an insane seaman aboard the SS AMERICAN FISHER anchored in Lynnhaven Roads, Virginia. The Captain of the Port at Norfolk and the District Coast Guard Officer, 5th Naval District, concur in the belief that Headquarters should conduct an investigation to determine responsibility in the matter.

From the attached report of the Captain of the Port it appears the AMERICAN FISHER was reported as anchoring in Lynnhaven Roads at 0855, 13 June, 1942. At 1017, 14 June, a report was received by the Captain of the Port that an insane man was aboard the AMERICAN FISHER and was to be taken off. This was reported to Lieut. Bush, USN, of the Navy Section Base, Little Creek, as the Navy Section Base was furnishing some boat service for removing sick or injured men from vessels lying in Lynnhaven Roads. It was ascertained that Lieut. Bush had learned of the case on Saturday afternoon and an officer of the Section Base had reported it was not necessary to move the man from the ship as it was a case of delirium tremens and the officer and the shipmaster felt the man would sober up. At 1240, 14 June, Lieut. Bush was consulted regarding another matter and stated he was sending a doctor out. Shortly after this, Ensign G. E. Jones, USNR, was sent by the Navy to look at the sick man and report to the Captain of the Port's office. At 1426, 14 June, Lieut. Bush reported that Ensign Jones stated the man was insane and a strait jacket would be needed to remove him. Lieut. Bush was told that the Captain of the Port's office would ask the Public Health Hospital to send a doctor to the ship. At 1600, 14 June, it was determined that a doctor was working through Lieut. Bush concerning the seaman. Subsequent information disclosed that the man died at 1500, 14 June.

Copies of affidavits of other seamen on the AMERICAN FISHER furnished to the Captain of the Port's office by the National Maritime Union are attached.

Do you wish Headquarters to conduct the investigation requested, refer the case back to the Fifth Naval District, or do you feel that Captain Shephard's Office should make the investigation?

LMD/ljw

F. E. POLLIO.