

# ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY

# Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner

1413 Research Blvd., Bldg. 102 Rockville, MD 20850 301-319-0000



### AUTOPSY EXAMINATION REPORT

Name: DHAHI, Al Amiri Hassan Husayn

ISN (b)(6)

Date of Birth: Unknown
Date of Death: (b)(6) 2007

Date/Time of Autopsy: 28 DEC 2007 @0900 hrs

Date of Report: 11 MAR 2008

Autopsy No. (b)(6)

AFIP No. (b)(6)

Rank: Civilian/Detainee Place of Death: Iraq

Place of Autopsy: Port Mortuary Dover AFB,

DE

Circumstances of Death: This Operation Iraqi Freedom detainee, as reported, was vomiting blood and was transported to the surgical operating room for an emergency laparotomy. During the procedure, the decedent had uncontrollable gastric bleeding near the gastro-esophageal junction. The patient died, despite all attempts to control his acute blood loss.

Authorization for Autopsy: Armed Forces Medical Examiner, per U.S. Code 10, Section 1471

Identification: Presumptive identification per CID investigation.

CAUSE OF DEATH: HEMORRHAGE DUE TO PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE

MANNER OF DEATH: NATURAL

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### EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is that of a well-developed, well-nourished male. The body weighs 144 pounds and is 67 ½ inches in length. The body is cold. Rigor is present to an equal degree in all extremities. Lividity is present and fixed on the posterior surface of the body, except in areas exposed to pressure.

The head is normocephalic, and the scalp hair is black. Facial hair consists of mustache and extends into a full black/gray beard. The irides are hazel. The corneae are cloudy. The conjunctivae and sclerae are unremarkable. The external auditory canals and oral cavity are free of foreign material and abnormal secretions. The naris has dried blood present. The nasal skeleton and maxilla are palpably intact. The lips are without evident injury. The teeth are natural and in good condition. Examination of the neck reveals no evidence of injury.

The chest is unremarkable. No evidence of injury of the ribs or the sternum is evident externally. The abdomen is flat. The external genitalia are those of a normal adult circumcised male. The anus is unremarkable.

The fingernails are intact. There are two well healed scars on the dorsal surface of the right foot measuring up to 1 inch in maximum dimension. There is one well healed scar on the dorsal surface of the left foot measuring up to 1 inch in maximum dimension. There are no tattoos noted on the body. There is a skin tag measuring ¼ inch in maximum dimension on the left back. The majority of the posterior torso has multiple vitiligo patches.

### CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

None identified.

### MEDICAL INTERVENTION

A six inch vertical, surgical staple line is above the umbilicus. There is a puncture mark on the left antecubital fossa.

### RADIOGRAPHS

A complete set of postmortem radiographs is obtained and demonstrates only a surgical staple line from T-11 to L3.

### EVIDENCE OF INJURY

None identified.

### INTERNAL EXAMINATION

#### BODY CAVITIES:

The ribs, sternum, and vertebral bodies are visibly and palpably intact. The peritoneal has 200 milliliters of bloody fluid. All body organs are present in normal anatomical position. The subcutaneous fat layer of the abdominal wall is ¾ inch thick.

### HEAD AND NECK:

The galeal and subgaleal soft tissues of the scalp are free of injury. There are no skull fractures. The dura mater and falx cerebri are intact. There is no epidural or subdural hemorrhage present. The leptomeninges are thin and delicate. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetrical. The structures at the base of the brain, including cranial nerves and blood vessels are intact.

The brain weighs 1270 grams, which has unremarkable gyri and sulci. Coronal sections through the cerebral hemispheres reveal no lesions. Transverse sections through the brain stem and cerebellum are unremarkable. The atlanto-occipital joint is stable.

The anterior strap muscles of the neck are homogenous and red-brown, without hemorrhage by layer-wise dissection. The thyroid cartilage and hyoid bone are intact. The larynx is lined by intact tan mucosa. The tongue is free of bite marks, hemorrhage, or other injuries.

#### CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:

The heart weighs 320 grams and surrounded by an intact pericardial sac. The epicardial surface is smooth, with minimal fat investment. The coronary arteries are present in a normal distribution, with a right-dominant pattern. Cross sections of the vessels show no significant atherosclerotic luminal stenosis present. The myocardium is homogenous, red-brown, and firm. The valve leaflets are thin and mobile. The walls of the left ventricle, interventricular septum, and right ventricle are 1.4, 1.4, and 0.3 centimeters thick, respectively. The endocardium is smooth and glistening.

The aorta gives rise to three intact and patent arch vessels. The renal and mesenteric vessels are unremarkable.

### RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:

The upper airway is clear of debris and foreign material: the mucosal surfaces are smooth, yellowtan and unremarkable. The right pleural surface has adhesions; but the left pleural surface has a smooth, glistening and unremarkable appearance. The pulmonary parenchyma is unremarkable, it exudes a slight amount of blood and frothy fluid; no focal lesions are noted.

The pulmonary arteries are normally developed, patent and without thrombus or embolus. The right lung weighs 360 grams; the left 330 grams.

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# HEPATOBILIARY SYSTEM:

The liver weighs 1050 grams has an intact smooth capsule covering moderately congested tanbrown parenchyma with no focal lesions noted.

The gallbladder contains 1 milliliter of green-brown, mucoid bile; the mucosa is velvety and unremarkable. The extrahepatic biliary tree is patent, without evidence of calculi.

### GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:

The esophagus is lined by gray-white, smooth mucosa. The gastric mucosa is arranged in the usual rugal folds and shows a 7 x 5 centimeter defect near the greater curvature. Located 1 centimeter from the gastric-esophageal junction are two gastric ulcers measuring 0.7 and 1.0 centimeters in maximum dimension. Both ulcers are surrounded by a 5.5 x 5 centimeter area of mucosal erythema. A black surgical suture is located between these two lesions.

The small and large bowels contain bloody semi-liquid and fecal matter, respectively. The pancreas is slightly decomposed with a tan lobulated appearance and the ducts are clear. The appendix is present.

#### GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:

The right kidney weighs 90 grams; the left kidney weighs 110 grams. The renal capsules are smooth and thin, semi-transparent and strip with ease from the underlying smooth, red-brown cortical surface. The cortices are sharply delineated from the medullary pyramids, which are red-purple to tan and unremarkable. The calyces, pelves and ureters are unremarkable.

Tan bladder mucosa overlies an intact bladder wall. The bladder contains no urine. The testes, prostate gland and seminal vesicles are unremarkable.

### LYMPHORETICULAR SYSTEM:

The spleen weighs 870 grams has a smooth, intact capsule covering red-purple, moderately firm parenchyma; the lymphoid follicles are unremarkable.

Lymph nodes in the hilar, periaortic and iliac regions are not enlarged.

#### ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:

The pituitary gland is left in situ and is unremarkable. The thyroid gland is symmetric and redbrown, without cystic or nodular change. The right and left adrenal glands are symmetric, with bright yellow cortices and red-brown medullae. No masses or areas of hemorrhage are identified.

# MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:

No non-traumatic abnormalities of muscle or bone are identified.

# MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Selected portions of organs are retained in formalin, with preparation of histology slides of the spleen pending.

# ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

- 1. Documentary photographs are taken by OAFME.
- 2. Personal effects are released to the appropriate mortuary operations representatives.
- Specimens retained for toxicology testing and/or DNA identification are: vitreous fluid, blood, bile, spleen, liver, lung, kidney, brain, myocardium, adipose tissue and skeletal muscle.
- 4. The dissected organs are forwarded with body.

# FINAL AUTOPSY DIAGNOSES

- I. Gastric Ulcers, Multiple, Near the Gastro-Esophageal Junction
- II. Natural diseases or pre-existing conditions:
  - A. Vitiligo of the posterior torso
  - B. Splenomegaly, 870 grams
- III. Evidence of Medical/Surgical Therapy:
  - A. A 7 x 5 centimeter defect near the greater curvature of the stomach
  - B. Black suture present near the site of gastric bleeding
  - C. A vertical surgical staple line above the umbilicus
  - D. Puncture mark on the left antecubital fossa
- IV. Post-Mortem Changes: Described above
- V. Identifying Body Marks: None identified
- VI. Toxicology (AFIP)
  - A. VOLATILES: No ethanol detected in the blood and vitreous fluid
  - B. DRUGS: Midazolam was detected in the blood
  - C. CYANIDE: There was no cyanide detected in the blood

# OPINION

The cause of death for this detained (b)(6) is due to acute blood loss from two bleeding gastric ulcers. The 7 x 5 centimeter defect near the greater curvature of the stomach was produced by the surgeon to find the site of bleeding during the emergency laparotomy. The toxicology screen was positive for midazolam, an intravenous general anesthetic used on surgery patients. The puncture mark on the left antecubital fossa was the likely site of administration for this anesthetic during the decedent's emergency operation. Vitiligo is a benign condition that results in depigmentation of the skin. The manner of death is natural.

Histology slides of the spleen are pending. If there is significant information identified from these slides an addendum report will be generated.

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