DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332-2400

IN REPLY REFER TO

5720 F98204/98118C
Ser 344F/0205

JUL 02 1998

Colonel Daniel Marvin
U.S. Army Special Forces (Ret.)
715 Hector Street
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal

Dear Colonel Marvin:

This responds to your letter of May 28, 1998, received in this office on June 1, 1998. That letter appeals the decision of Mr. M. D. Hannas, Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Claims, Investigations and Tort Litigation) (Acting), to deny, in part, your request for the Manual of the Judge Advocate General investigative report concerning the death of Lieutenant Commander William B. Pitzer, U.S. Navy, on October 29, 1966.

Your letter is considered a request for a final determination under the Freedom of Information Act. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(ii) (1994). After carefully reviewing both your letter of appeal and the requested documents, I must deny your request.

Mr. Hannas' response to your initial request denied disclosure of the following information: home addresses of individuals, other than the deceased; portions of finding of fact number 12; a portion of the list of enclosures; all of enclosures (4), (6), and (10); and portions of enclosures (9) and (11), as well as the names of the Naval Investigative Service agents. All of this information was withheld to prevent a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6).

Upon careful review, I find that the above records were properly withheld in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). Release of the information would result in an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of the surviving family members and disrupt their peace of minds. See Hale v. Dept. of Justice, 973 F.2d 894, 902 (10th Cir. 1992); New York Times v. NASA, 782 F. Supp. 628, 631-32 (D.D.C. 1991); Badhwar v. Dept. of the Air Force, 829 F. 2d 182, 186 (D.C. Cir. 1987); Marzan v. Department of Health and Human Services, 825 F. 2d 1148, 1154 (7th Cir. 1987). This information will only be released in response to the written authorization of the surviving family members or a subpoena or court order signed by a judge.

I have carefully considered and weighed the public interest in release of the information against the potential for invading the surviving family members' personal privacy. On balance, releasing this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the family's personal privacy and would jeopardize the Navy's interest in protecting the private lives of those persons about whom it maintains personal information.

With respect to the investigative report's Finding of Fact Number 12, however, I have determined that portions of the information withheld by the initial denial authority were segregable and releasable. Attached is a copy of Finding of Fact Number 12, with some information redacted to protect the family's personal privacy.

There are no additional reasonably segregable portions of the investigation that can be released. Accordingly, withholding this information is authorized by statute and regulation. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), 32 C.F.R. § 701.28(f) (1997).

This letter constitutes final denial of your request. As the Secretary of the Navy's designee for this purpose, I am the individual responsible for this action. 32 C.F.R. § 701.10(c)(1) (1997). You may seek judicial review of this decision.

Sincerely,

MARK M. HORGAN
Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy
Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General
(General Litigation)

Encl:
(1) Copy releasable information

THUNDERBOLT II

**Colonel Daniel Marvin**
U.S. Army Special Forces *(Retired)*
A Born-Again Christian

715 Hector Street
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

*By Appointment only*
Call (607) 272-0473

*Writer and Antique Restorer*

28 May 1998

N\FOI-WBP2.JAG[H]

Department of the Navy
Office of the Judge Advocate General (Code 34)
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22332-2400

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPEAL**

5830 354.1:20:6720011

Dear FOIA Appeal Designee,

Reference is made to attached letter from your office dated May 1, 1998 (File: 5830 - 354.1:20:6720011) which was in response to my FOIA request dated 3 March 1998, in which I requested a **Complete** copy of the Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAGMAN) Board of Investigation relating to the 29 October 1966 death of USN Lieutenant Commander William Bruce Pitzer, Service number: 416681/2301 MSC.

My FOIA request was supported by a letter dated 17 March 1998 (File: 5720 F98123/9811C Ser 344F/0066) from Captain Mark M. Horgan, U.S. Navy Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General in which Captain Horgan wrote me, "I assume you have a complete copy of that investigation [Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAGMAN) Board of Investigation into LCDR Pitzer's death]. If you do not have the **complete** [emphasis mine] JAGMAN investigation [into LCDR Pitzer's death] you may request a copy from the Claims, Investigation and Tort Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General."

So that I may have a complete copy of the investigation, I hereby and herewith appeal the withholding by the Department of the Navy of the following items from the undersigned, all of which were a part of the Manual of the Judge Advocate General final investigative report (hereinafter referred to as Final Report) concerning the death of Lieutenant Commander William Bruce Pitzer (hereinafter referred to as Pitzer), U.S.Navy for the reasons stated:

1. **The finding of fact 12**: It is understood that this finding relates to Pitzer's physical and emotional difficulties, marital difficulties, and an alleged affair. Inasmuch as no other person may be included by name in that finding, I do not understand how its release to the undersigned would constitute "a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The purpose of my requesting the **complete** Final Report, is to bring together what is needed to fully document the need for a new investigation into the death of Pitzer. I personally refused a request by a CIA agent in early August 1965 to "terminate" Pitzer, and I have more than enough evidence and corroborating testimony available to provide a motive for Pitzer's murder. There is no statute of limitations on murder and I have given my word to Pitzer's widow, his oldest son, one of his grandson's and a step-nephew that I would do all that I could to bring the truth to light and to prove that Pitzer did not commit suicide. I need the finding of fact 12.

2. **Enclosure (4) Photograph of remains; and Enclosure (6) Autopsy Protocol**: The release of this photograph or photographs taken at the scene of Pitzer's death and the complete autopsy protocol to the undersigned will permit a thorough comparison of Pitzer's physical appearance, coupled with the narrative description of the pathologist, with what his widow Joyce B. Pitzer

has provided as being the state of his appearance on that same day, as she saw him when he left the house. Mrs. Pitzer specifically told me of her distress that the Navy has refused all these years to give her Pitzer's wedding ring. Navy officers told Mrs. Pitzer that Pitzer's left hand was so mangled that they could not remove the ring. I spoke to William Bruce Pitzer II this year and he told me that the Navy still had the ring and refused to give it to his mother, Joyce B. Pitzer. The autopsy of Pitzer states specifically that there was no damage to any of Pitzer's extremities or, for that matter, any part of his body except his head. I spoke to the funeral director whose company prepared Pitzer for burial and was told that, if there had been any problem in getting his ring off, they would have cut the finger off, removed the ring, and put the finger back together for burial. "Simple," he said. The photograph(s) are all important to allow me to fully develop the evidence needed to support a request for a new Congressional investigation.

3. **Enclosure (9) Copy of Synopsis of Interview with Mrs. Gray**: This is a vital piece of evidence. The Navy bases its finding on the allegation that Pitzer was having an affair with Mrs. Gray. This document is important to allow me to fully develop the evidence needed to support a request for a new Congressional investigation. Inasmuch as the Final Report did not include a signed and attested [by investigating agent] interrogatory statement by Mrs. Gray, there is no legal basis for the Navy's finding that Pitzer was having an affair, other than pure speculation.

4. **Enclosure (10) Copy of Psychiatrist's Memorandum**: This is a vital piece of evidence. The Navy bases its finding on the allegation that Pitzer was "experiencing physical and emotional difficulties from overwork." His widow Joyce told me just the opposite, indicating that he enjoyed his work and was looking forward to doing the same type of work for an educational institution after retirement. In fact, the day that Pitzer was killed, according to Joyce . Pitzer, he was at his office preparing a speech to be given at the school where he would be employed post-retirement. This document is important to allow me to fully develop the evidence needed to support a request for a new Congressional investigation.

5. **Enclosure (11) Copy of Letter from LCDR Pitzer to Mrs. Gray**: Please note item 3 above. If, in fact Pitzer did write a letter to Mrs. Gray that would lead the Navy to believe he was about to commit suicide, then the letter itself, not a representation of that letter, is most vital as evidence. I find it difficult to understand why a photocopy of the originally written and signed letter was not made a part of the Final Report. That letter is very important, in fact crucial, to allow me to fully develop the evidence needed to support a request for a new Congressional investigation.

I anxiously await your approval of this appeal and the provision of the requested items which are vital if we are to see the truth come to light and justice served.

Sincerely,

Very truly yours,

1 enclosure: as stated

Copy furnished: Dr. Jerry D. Rose and Thunderbolt II

JOHN 8:32 AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332-2400

IN REPLY REFER TO

5830
354.1:20:6720011
May 1, 1998

MR DANIEL MARVIN
715 HECTOR STREET
ITHACA NY 14850-2031

Dear Mr. Marvin:

As requested in your letter of March 3, 1998, under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended), enclosed is a copy of the Manual of the Judge Advocate General final investigative report concerning the death of Lieutenant Commander William Bruce Pitzer, U.S. Navy.

The names of Naval Criminal Investigative Service agents, and FBI agents, along with the home addresses of other individuals have been withheld because the unauthorized release of this information would result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), as amended). In addition, portions of the list of enclosures, finding of fact 12, as well as all of enclosures (9), (10), and (11) have been withheld for the same reason.

Enclosure (4), a graphic photograph, and enclosure (6), the autopsy report have been withheld out of consideration for the sensitivities and right to privacy of the family concerned (5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6), as amended).

Because your request has been denied in part, you are entitled under the Freedom of Information Act to appeal this determination in writing to the designee of the Secretary of the Navy. Such an appeal, if any, should be addressed to:

Department of the Navy
Office of the Judge Advocate General (Code 34)
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22332-2400

To be considered, the appeal must be received within 60 days from the date of this letter. Please enclose a copy of this letter with your appeal. The envelope and letter should bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

I am the official responsible for the partial denial of your request.

I hope this information will assist you.

Sincerely,

M. D. HANNAS
Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Claims, Investigations and Tort Litigation)
Acting

Encl:
(1) Copy of final investigative report

**Colonel Daniel Marvin**
U.S. Army Special Forces *(Retired)*
A Born-Again Christian

715 Hector Street
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

*By Appointment only*
Call (607) 272-0473

*Writer and Antique Restorer*

3 March 1998

N\FOI-WBP.JAG[H]

Claims, Investigation, and Tort Division
Office of the Judge Advocate General
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22332-2400

Subject: FOIA Request for a **Complete** copy of the Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAGMAN) Board of Investigation relating to the 29 October 1966 death of USN Lieutenant Commander William Bruce Pitzer, Service number: 416681/2301 MSC

Dear Officer in Charge,

Reference is made to enclosed copy of a letter dated 17 March 1998 (File: 5720 F98123/9811C Ser 344F/0066) from Captain Mark M. Horgan, U.S. Navy Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General to the undersigned in which Captain Horgan writes me, "If you do not have the complete JAGMAN investigation [into LCDR Pitzer's death] you may request a copy from the Claims, Investigation and Tort Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General.

In accordance with reference letter and pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of the entirety of the Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAGMAN) Board of Investigation relating to the 29 October 1966 death of USN LCDR William Bruce Pitzer, Service number 416681/2301 MSC. LCDR Pitzer was born 13 April 1917 in Gerrardstown, West Virginia. His SSAN was 579-18-5871.

I agree to pay reasonable duplication fees for the processing of this request in an amount not to exceed $25.00. Please notify me prior to your incurring any expense in excess of that amount for this specific FOIA request.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information.

As I am making this request as an author and this information is of a timely value, I look forward to your reply with ten business days, as the statute requires.

Please call me at the above number if you have any questions regarding this request.

Thank you for your assistance,

Very truly yours,

1 enclosure: as stated

Copy furnished: Dr. Jerry D. Rose and Captain Mark M. Horgan & Thunderbolt II

JOHN 8:32 AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
200 STOVALL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332-2400

IN REPLY REFER TO

5720 F98123/98118C
Ser 344F/0066

MAR 17 1998

Colonel Daniel Marvin, USA, Retired
715 Hector Street
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal

Dear Colonel Marvin:

This responds to your letter of March 3, 1998, received in this office on March 9, 1998. That letter appeals the adequacy of the search by Ms. Jean S. Conover, Information and Privacy Coordinator, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), for information concerning the death of LCDR William Bruce Pitzer, MSC, USN, on October 29, 1966.

Your letter is considered a request for a final decision under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(ii) (1994). Your letter of appeal has been carefully reviewed; for the reasons stated herein your appeal is denied.

Personnel within NCIS made searches for the requested information, with negative results. As Ms. Conover advised you, all NCIS investigative files are retrieved through a computerized index known as the Defense Clearance and Investigations Index (DCII). The DCII identifies investigative records maintained by the Department of Defense components. Upon receipt of your appeal we again requested a search be conducted of the DCII for information about LCDR Pitzer. All attempts to locate documents responsive to your request, using his name and service number, were negative. The DCII is the only method for retrieving NCIS investigations.

These searches were made in good faith, using every effort and available method which could reasonably be expected to produce the requested information. These searches were reasonable and adequate. As Ms. Conover advised you, NCIS investigations are held for 25 years, after which time they are destroyed in accordance with current record disposal guidelines.

As you included a copy of the second endorsement on the Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAGMAN) Board of Investigation into LCDR Pitzer's death, I assume you have a complete copy of that investigation. If you do not have the complete JAGMAN investigation you may request a copy from the Claims, Investigation and Tort Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General.

This letter constitutes final denial of your appeal. As the Secretary of the Navy's designee for this purpose, I am the individual responsible for this denial. 32 C.F.R. § 701.10(c)(1) (1997). You may seek judicial review of this decision.

Sincerely,

MARK M. HORGAN
Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy
Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General
(General Litigation)

**Colonel Daniel Marvin**
U.S. Army Special Forces *(Retired)*
A Born-Again Christian

715 Hector Street
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

*By Appointment only*
Call (607) 272-0473

*Writer and Antique Restorer*

3 March 1998

N\FOI-WBP.NIS[H]

Judge Advocate General
Navy Department
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22332-2400

**Freedom of Information Act Appeal**

**NIS # 5720 F98-0085 SEROOJF/8UO232**

Subject: Inadequate Search in response to 22 January 1998 FOIA Request for Naval Investigative Service (NIS) parallel investigation relating to the 29 October 1966 death of USN Lieutenant Commander William Bruce Pitzer, Service number: 416681/2301 MSC

Dear Judge Advocate General,

Reference is made to letter dated 25 February 1998 (NIS reference above) from Jean S. Conover, Information and Privacy Coordinator, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Washington Navy Yard Bldg 111, 901 M Street S E, Washington, DC 20388-5380 to the undersigned, a copy of which is attached hereto.

For the following reasons I believe an adequate search for the records requested was not accomplished:

1. Jean S. Conover's letter, in the 1st paragraph, states that it is in response to my FOIA request pertaining to LCDR William **Bruce**, USN. The full name is LCDR William Bruce **Pitzer**. It is possible the search was made for a LCDR Bruce instead of a LTCDR Pitzer. Request that a search be made using the full name of LCDR William Bruce Pitzer.

2. There is no indication that a search was made by date of birth in this case. LCDR William Bruce Pitzer was born 13 April 1917 in Gerrardstown, West Virginia. Request a search be made using LCDR Pitzer's birth date.

3. There is no indication that a search was made by social security account number (SSAN). LCDR William Bruce Pitzer's SSAN is 579-18-5871. Request a search be made using LCDR Pitzer's SSAN.

4. There is no indication that a search was made using a Naval Investigative Service (NIS) File Reference or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) cross-reference. Within the 143 page FBI file relating to the death of LCDR Pitzer provided the undersigned through the FOIA act, there is a 1 Nov 1966 letter from CDR H.H. Rumble II, CDR, USN, on NIS letterhead addressed to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington D.C. with file reference **20-BE/DEA/js**. This letter covered the shipment of 18 numbered items for examination by the FBI lab. In the last sentence of this four page letter, CDR Rumble writes Mr. Hoover, "This evidence is submitted in connection with a criminal matter." Request a search be conducted using the fact that the NIS investigation was based on an alleged "criminal matter" as there is no statute of limitations on murder. Also request cross-reference be made to FBI parallel laboratory finding input files and a search conducted.

Sincerely,

Copy furnished: Dr. Jerry D. Rose and ADAK

**Colonel Daniel Marvin**
U.S. Army Special Forces *(Retired)*
A Born-Again Christian

715 Hector Street
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

*By Appointment only*
Call (607) 272-0473

*Writer and Antique Restorer*

22 January 1998

N\FOI-WBP.NIS[H]

Freedom of Information Office
Department of the Navy
Naval Personnel Command (NMPC-06P)
Washington, D.C. 20370-5006

Subject: FOIA Request for Naval Investigative Service (NIS) parallel investigation relating to the 29 October 1966 death of USN Lieutenant Commander William Bruce Pitzer, Service number: 416681/2301 MSC

Dear FOI Officer,

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of the entirety of the parallel investigation by the Naval Investigative Service (NIS) parallel investigation relating to the 29 October 1966 death of USN Lieutenant Commander William Bruce Pitzer, Service number: 416681/2301 MSC.

The specific NIS investigation was conducted parallel to the Informal Board of Investigation conducted at the request of the Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

I have attached hereto a copy of the "SECOND ENDORSEMENT on Board of Investigation investigative report dated 13 February 1967", from Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, 20014, to the Judge Advocate General of the United States Navy, subject: "Informal Board of Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of Lieutenant Commander William Bruce Pitzer, MSC, USN, 416681/2301 on 29 October 1966." In paragraph 3 therein, please note a reference to the findings of the "...parallel investigation conducted by the Naval Investigative Service..." The NIS report of Investigation referred to therein is the report I hereby and herewith request a copy of.

I agree to pay reasonable duplication fees for the processing of this request in an amount not to exceed $25.00. Please notify me prior to your incurring any expense in excess of that amount for this specific FOIA request.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information.

As I am making this request as an author and this information is of a timely value, I look forward to your reply with ten business days, as the statute requires.

Please call me at the above number if you have any questions regarding this request.

Thank you for your assistance,

Very truly yours,

1 attachment: as stated
Copy furnished: Dr. Jerry D. Rose ✓ ADAK

JOHN 8:32 AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE

**Colonel Daniel Marvin**
U.S. Army Special Forces *(Retired)*
A Born-Again Christian

715 Hector Street
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

*By Appointment only*
Call (607) 272-0473

*Writer and Antique Restorer*

5 February 1996

C\A\960205.MPR

National Personnel Record Center
Military Personnel Record Center
ATTN: NCPMA-O Mr. Chip Rootz
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5100

Request for copy of Autopsy:
LtCmdr William Bruce PITZER
Service # 416681

Dear Mr. Rootz,

Dr. John E. Smialek, Chief Medical Examiner of the State of Maryland, in his letter dated 11 August 1986, wrote: "If you would like to obtain a copy of the autopsy report [on William Bruce Pitzer], you should submit your request on letterhead addressed to [address shown above]." Dr. Smialek suggested that the handling of my request could be expedited by typing in a routing message that tells the mail clerk not to open this letter in the mailroom - as I did in this instance.

Please send me a copy of the complete autopsy performed on US Navy Lt. Cmdr. William Bruce Pitzer (Service file number 416681 and Designator # 2301) on 30 October 1966 at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

G. W Ingram, Bureau of Naval Personnel Freedom of Information/Privact Act Coordinator, in a letter to me dated 19 January 1996, advised that "Pitzer's U.S. Navy service record has been assigned registry number 3N0006099740." I do hope this helps to expedite this request.

I thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

I will be happy to pay copying and mailing costs.

Sincerely,

A

# NAVAL MESSAGE

**NAVY DEPARTMENT**

PRIORITY
P 300505Z OCT 66 30 0005H OCT 66
FM NAVMEDSCOL BETH

TO SECNAV

INFO BUPERS
BUMED
NAVFINCEN CLEVE
COMNDW
NAVFINCEN WASH

UNCLAS

PERSONNEL CASUALTY REPORT
A. BUPERS MAN ART. C-9801 LT CDR WILLIAM BRUCE PITZER MSC USN, 41 668 2301
ALFA. [redacted]
BRAVO. ACTIVE DUTY
CHARLIE. DEATH PRONOUNCED DEAD 29 2010R OCT 66
DELTA: 29 OCT 66, [redacted] MEDICAL OFFICER
ESTIMATES THAT DEATH OCCURED SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER. NAVMED-
SCOL BETH [redacted] CIRCUM-
STANCES: UNDETERMINED PENDING INVESTIGATION.
ECHO: NAVHOSP BETH ATTRIBUTED TO GUNSHOT WOUND - IN THE HEAD
FOXTROT. JOYCE B PITZER WIFE
GOLF. YES
HOTEL. UNDETERMINED, PENDING INVESTIGATION
INDIA. 7 OCT 65 VERIFIED 5 4 OCT 66
JULIETT. JOYCE B PITZER
NAVFINCEN WASH REQUESTED TO MAKE PAYMENT DEATH GRATUITY,
BENEFICIARY FOR UNPAID PAY AND ALLOWANCES JOYCE B PITZER
KILO. COMNDW
LIMA. CAUCASIAN, PROTESTANT
MIKE. SOUTHEASTERN LIFE INS. CO. GREENVILLE, S.C. #55551
NAVY MUTUAL AID #29634
KANSAS CITY LIFE INS. CO., KANSAS CITY, MO. #1477627
NOVEMBER. 0-4, $804.00, 28 YRS 05MO MO 02 DAYS PAY RECORD AT
NAVFINCEN WASH

MED(2)/PERS(1) ...ACT
098(1) 10(6) 007(6) FP(3) BFR(1) JAG(5) * 04822A

B

| CONTROL NO. | PAGE OF PAGE | TIME OF RECEIPT | DATE TIME GROUP |
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WASH. POST NOV 2. 66

# Cmdr. William B. Pitzer, Head of Navy TV Unit

Lt. Cmdr. William Bruce Pitzer, 49, assistant head of the Graphics Art Department and chief of the Educational Television Division of the Naval Medical School in Bethesda, died unexpectedly Saturday at the Naval Hospital at Bethesda.

Cmdr. Pitzer

Cmdr. Pitzer entered the Navy in 1934, was discharged in 1939 and worked as chief X-ray technician at the old Episcopal Ear, Eye and Nose Hospital here until 1942, when he re-enlisted.

He served during both World War II and the Korean War. Before entering the Navy, Cmdr. Pitzer attended the University of Maryland and Montgomery Junior College.

He was on the board of directors of Help for Retarded Children, Inc., of Washington, was treasurer of the P-TA of Takoma Park Junior High and was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 204 in Bethesda. He was also a consultant to the visual arts department of Montgomery Junior College.

Survivors are his wife, Joyce B., and two sons, William B. II and Robert Bruce, all of the home address, 603 Boston ave., Takoma Park; his mother, Margaret M. Pitzer, of 426 Buchanan st. nw.; a brother, Harry M. Pitzer Jr., 820 Nolte ave., Silver Spring, and a sister, Elizabeth Rhodes, 1003 Crestview la., Laurel, Md.

Oct 31, 66
WASHINGTON POST

## Deaths

PITZER, LT. CMDR. WILLIAM BRUCE, MSC, USN
Of 603 Boston ave., Takoma Park, Md., on October 29, 1966, husband of Joyce B. Pitzer; father of William B. II and Robert Bruce Pitzer; son of Margaret B. and the late Harry M. Pitzer. Remains at Chambers Funeral Home, 8633 Georgia ave., Silver Spring, Md. Notice of time later. Interment Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers family requests contributions to the District Mental Retardation School.

2 NOV 66

LT. CMDR. W. B. PITZER

## Lt. Cmdr. Pitzer, Navy Medical School Official

Lt. Cmdr. William B. Pitzer, 49, a Navy Medical School official, died Saturday at the Bethesda Naval Hospital after a brief illness. He lived at 603 Boston Ave., Takoma Park, Md.

A native of Gerardstown, W. Va., Cmdr. Pitzer attended Montgomery Junior College and the University of Maryland.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1934 and was assigned to the Hospital Corps School at Portsmouth, Va., the next year. He was trained as an X-ray technician at the old Naval Medical School here in 1936.

He was discharged in 1939, and for three years served as chief X-ray technician at the old Episcopal Ear, Nose and Eyes Hospital. He re-enlisted in 1942 and stayed in the Navy until his death.

Since 1965 he had been assistant head of the medical graphic arts department and chief of the television division, both of the Navy Medical School located at Bethesda.

Cmdr. Pitzer was a member of the board of directors of Help for Retarded Children, Inc., and was treasurer of the Takoma Park junior high school PTA. He was also a consultant on visual arts in the Montgomery Junior College education department.

He leaves his wife, Joyce; two sons, William B. II and Robert Bruce; his moother, Mrs. Margaret Pitzer; a brother, Harry M. Jr. of 8207 Nolte Ave., Silver Spring, and a sister, Mrs. Edgar Rhodes of 1500 C...

| LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME | GRADE | SERVICE NUMBER | NAME OF CEMETERY 6112 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PITZER, William Bruce | Lt Cdr. | 416681 | ARLINGTON NATIONAL |

| DATES OF SERVICE | | | SERVICE DATA (Company, Regiment, Division, or other organization and basic arm of service) | CHECK IF REMAINS CREMATED |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ENLISTMENT | SEPARATION | ☐ RETIRED ☒ DIED ON AD | USN | |

☐ WW I ☒ WW II ☒ KOREA ☐ OTHER (Specify) Per NOK

STATE: W. Va.

EMBLEM (Check one) ☐ HEBREW ☐ OTHER (Specify) ☒ CHRISTIAN ☐ NONE

| DATE OF BIRTH | | | DATE OF DEATH | | | DATE OF INTERMENT | | | GRAVE LOCATION | | DEPTH OF GRAVE | CASKET IN ☐ BOX M/C ☒ VAULT ☐ NONE | DB, RE, SR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MO | DAY | YEAR | MO | DAY | YEAR | MO | DAY | YEAR | SECTION | GRAVE NUMBER | | | ☒ VERIFIED NOK ☐ NOT VERIFIED |
| Apr | 13 | 1917 | Oct | 29 | 1966 | Nov | 3 | 1966 | 37 | 264 | 7' CL | | |

NAME AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE PERSON (Include zip code and relationship)
Joyce Bruce Pitzer (widow)

HEADSTONE OR MARKER ORDERED
Gren 17 MAR 67
1572910 Jan 67

REMARKS (Authority for interment, disinterment)
Auth: Cert fr C O dtd 31 Oct 1966. Widow to be interred in same grave at time of death.
DOB: 9 Jul 1914.

SHIPPING POINT FOR HEADSTONE (Nearest freight station)
GEORGETOWN, D. C.

PLACE OF DEATH (City and State)
Bethesda, Md.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION OF DECEDENT
Prot.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR
Chambers
Silver Spring, Md.

NAME OF CHAPLAIN OFFICIATING AT BURIAL SERVICE
Reeves

SIGNATURE OF SUPERINTENDENT

DA FORM 1 NOV 63 2122 — REPLACES DA FORM 2122, 1 OCT 61, SUPPLIES OF WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL 1 NOV 64 UNLESS SOONER EXHAUSTED.

RECORD OF INTERMENT (TM 10-287) 2

We are not permitted to release the address of next-of-kin. Perhaps the funeral home or the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Annapolis, Maryland can give you whatever other information you are seeking.

D

7 MAR 1967

Code: 24
295-INV
Ser:

6 MAR 1967

THIRD ENDORSEMENT on Board of Investigation investigative report dated 13 February 1967

From: Commandant, Naval District Washington, D. C.
To: The Judge Advocate General of the Navy

Subj: Informal Board of Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of Lieutenant Commander William Bruce PITZER, MSC, USN, 416681/2301 on 29 October 1966

1. Forwarded.

2. The investigation reveals that the remains of Lieutenant Commander Pitzer were discovered in the Television Studio, Naval Medical School, Building 144, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, at approximately 1950 on 29 October 1966. Death was caused by a gunshot wound of the brain inflicted earlier that afternoon. A .38 caliber revolver issued by the security office of the center on 12 October 1966, at the request of the deceased, was found near the body. The deceased had been faced with domestic troubles and had been having an affair with another woman. The death has been ruled a suicide.

3. The investigation does not contain a determination as to the duty status of the deceased as required by JAG Manual, sec. 0811a(5). However, it has been administratively ascertained that the deceased was on authorized liberty at the time of the incident.

4. The investigation appears to have been conducted in substantial compliance with the applicable provisions of the Manual of the Judge Advocate General.

5. The proceedings, findings of fact, and opinions of the board of investigation, as approved and commented upon by prior reviewing authorities, are approved.

H. K. BRAGG
Chief of Staff

Copy to:
CO NNMC BETH MD
CO NMS NNMC BETH MD

Veterans Administration
Records Development Section
034C1
Stop 73

Death 29 Oct 66
Gunshot
EB

E

7 Encl 1392-67

(1C)

NNMC-C-04-nhr
5330
21 FEB 1967

SECOND ENDORSEMENT on Board of Investigation investigative report dated 13 February 1967

From: Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, 20014
To: Judge Advocate General
Via: Commandant, Naval District Washington, D. C.

Subj: Informal Board of Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of Lieutenant Commander William Bruce PITZER, MSC, USN, 416681/2301 on 29 October 1966

1. Forwarded.

2. In accordance with the JAG Manual section 0211a(3), the action of the convening authority will be treated as the first endorsement to the report of subject investigation and this action will be the second endorsement thereto.

3. It is noted that the reason for the delay in submitting this report is set forth in the Board's preliminary statement. It is also noted from the report that the findings of the parallel investigation conducted by the Naval Investigative Service supports the findings of fact and opinions of the Board.

4. Subject to the foregoing, the proceedings, findings of fact and opinions of the Board of Investigation, as concurred in by the convening authority, are approved.

G. M. DAVIS

Copy to:
CO, NMS, Bethesda

F

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(11)

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL MEDICAL SCHOOL
NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

IN REPLY REFER TO
NC43-3-rcr
5830
17 FEB 1967

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Medical School, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland 20014
To: Judge Advocate General, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. 20350
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland 20014
(2) Commandant, Naval District Washington, D. C., Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D. C. 20390

Subj: Report of Informal Board of Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of Lieutenant Commander William Bruce PITZER, MSC, USN, 416681/2301 on 29 OCT 1966

Ref: JAG Manual

Encl: (1) Subject report

1. Readdressed and forwarded.

2. The Commanding Officer, Naval Medical School, concurs in the findings and opinions contained in Enclosure (1).

H. G. STOVER, JR.

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Obtained from Harrison Livingstone from Lee

(141)

U. S. NAVAL MEDICAL SCHOOL
NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

In reply refer to
NC43-34-MBD
5830
13 FEBRUARY 1967

FROM: BOARD OF INVESTIGATION
TO: COMMANDING OFFICER, NAVAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER, BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

SUBJ: INFORMAL BOARD OF INVESTIGATION TO INQUIRE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER WILLIAM BRUCE PITZER, MSC USN, 416681/2301 ON 29 OCTOBER 19-6

ENCL: (1) APPOINTING ORDER NC43-3-RCR 5830 SER: 445 DTD 3 NOV 1966
(2) COPY OF STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE DUTY OFFICER, NNMC
(3) COPY OF SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEW WITH MRS. JOYCE B. PITZER
(4) PHOTOGRAPH OF REMAINS
(5) STATEMENT OF R.L. BRAY, SUPERVISORY GUARD, NNMC
(6) AUTOPSY PROTOCOL (SF 503) OF 0800, 30 OCTOBER 1966; COPY OF
(7) COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF DEATH (NAVMED FORM N)
(8) COPY OF MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
(9) COPY OF SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEW WITH
(10) COPY OF PSYCHIATRIST'S MEMORANDUM
(11) COPY OF LETTER FROM LCDR PITZER TO

## PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS BOARD OF INVESTIGATION WAS APPOINTED, THE BOARD WAS ADVISED THAT ASSISTANCE BY THE NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE OFFICE HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER TO DETERMINE THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF LCDR PITZER. MR. PITZER HAD BEEN GRANTED A FINAL TOP SECRET CLEARANCE AND THE SERVICES OF NIS WERE INDICATED TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE EVENT THE INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED POSSIBLE COMPROMISE. THE BOARD WAS ADVISED ALSO THAT, THROUGH NIS, ASSISTANCE BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINGENCY OF HOMICIDE. IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTION CONTAINED IN SECTION 0213, MANUAL OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, THE BOARD CONTACTED THE LOCAL FIELD REPRESENTATIVE OF NIS. THE NIS REPRESENTATIVE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY WITHHOLD CONSENT FOR THE BOARD TO CONDUCT AN INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION, BUT REQUESTED THAT THE BOARD INTERVIEW NO WITNESSES UNTIL THE NIS INVESTIGATION WAS COMPLETE, AND STATED THAT ALL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE HAD BEEN COLLECTED

H [redacted]

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NC43-34-MBD
5830
13 FEBRUARY 1967

SUBJ: INFORMAL BOARD OF INVESTIGATION TO INQUIRE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER WILLIAM BRUCE PITZER, MSC USN, 416681/2301 ON 29 OCTOBER 1966

AND WAS RETAINED BY NIS. ON 15 NOVEMBER 1966, THIS BOARD OF INVESTIGATION SUBMITTED A PRELIMINARY REPORT SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVISING THE CONVENING AUTHORITY OF DELAY IN SUBMITTING ITS REPORT WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM AWAITING COMPLETION OF THE NIS INVESTIGATION. THROUGHOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE NIS INVESTIGATION THIS BOARD OF INVESTIGATION MAINTAINED FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE. INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY NIS WAS ORALLY REPORTED TO THIS BOARD, AND ON 9 JANUARY 1967, THIS BOARD OF INVESTIGATION OBTAINED A COPY OF THE PENDING REPORT SUBMITTED BY NIS. INVESTIGATION DATA CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DEVELOPED BY THE NIS AND HAS BEEN OBTAINED BY THIS BOARD OF INVESTIGATION THROUGH REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE NIS REPRESENTATIVES AND BY A REVIEW OF THE PENDING REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE NIS. ON 9 FEBRUARY 1967, NIS, WASHINGTON, D.C. AUTHORIZED THIS BOARD OF INVESTIGATION TO REPRODUCE CERTAIN ENCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT WHICH ARE INCLUDED HEREIN AS ENCLOSURES (2), (3), (9), (10), AND (11). NO INDEPENDENT DATA DEVELOPED BY THIS BOARD IS IN CONFLICT WITH THE FINDINGS REPORTED BY NIS.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 1950 ON 29 OCTOBER 1966, A BODY WAS DISCOVERED IN THE TELEVISION STUDIO, NAVAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, BUILDING 144, NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER, BETHESDA, MARYLAND, BY ENS J. M. QUARLES, MSC USNR, AND NNMC SECURITY PATROL OFFICER, THOMAS E. BLUE (ENCLOSURE (2)).

2. THAT SPECIAL AGENT , NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE, ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AT 2105, IN RESPONSE TO A TELEPHONE REQUEST FROM THE CHIEF OF THE DAY, NNMC, HMC J. E. OSTRANDER.

3. THAT THE BODY WAS TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AT THE SCENE BY CAPT J. H. STOVER, MC USN, AND CDR JAMES G. HARMELING, MC USN, AS BEING THE REMAINS OF LCDR WILLIAM B. PITZER, MSC USN, 416681/2301. THAT ON 2 NOVEMBER 1966, CDR J. W. GUINN, MSC USN, VIEWED THE REMAINS PRIOR TO INTERMENT. BASED ON YEARS OF ASSOCIATION HE IDENTIFIED THE REMAINS OF LCDR WILLIAM BRUCE PITZER, MSC USN.

4. THAT SHORTLY BEFORE THE BODY WAS FOUND, MRS. PITZER HAD CONTACTED THIS COMMAND, STATING THAT SHE WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE HER



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(17)

NC43-34-MBD
5830
13 FEBRUARY 1967

SUBJ: INFORMAL BOARD OF INVESTIGATION TO INQUIRE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER WILLIAM BRUCE PITZER, MSC USN, 416681/2301 ON 29 OCTOBER 1966

HUSBAND WAS OVERDUE AT HOME. SINCE HIS PERSONAL AUTOMOBILE WAS ON THE PARKING LOT, THE SECURITY PERSONNEL ON DUTY ENTERED THE TV STUDIO IN FURTHERANCE OF THEIR EFFORTS TO LOCATE LCDR PITZER (ENCLOSURE (3)).

5. THAT LCDR ROBERT W. STEYN, MC USN, EXAMINED THE REMAINS AT 2010, ONLY AS NECESSARY TO PRONOUNCE DEATH.

6. THAT A S & W .38 CALIBER REVOLVER CONTAINING ONE SPENT CARTRIDGE, ONE LIVE ROUND, AND ONE LIVE BLANK ROUND WAS FOUND ON THE FLOOR NEAR THE BODY.

7. THAT A PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN OF THE REMAINS AND THE SURROUNDING AREA AS THEY APPEARED SHORTLY AFTER THE NIS INVESTIGATION WAS INSTITUTED (ENCLOSURE (4)).

8. THAT THE REVOLVER HAD BEEN DRAWN FROM THE NNMC SECURITY OFFICER TO BE USED AS A TRAINING AID BY LCDR PITZER, BUT THAT ONLY BLANK AMMUNITION HAD BEEN SUPPLIED WITH IT (ENCLOSURE (5)).

9. THAT AN AUTOPSY WAS PERFORMED ON 30 OCTOBER 1966, AT THE NAVAL HOSPITAL, BETHESDA, MARYLAND, WHICH DISCLOSED THE CAUSE OF DEATH TO BE A GUNSHOT WOUND IN THE HEAD (ENCLOSURE (6) AND (7)).

10. THAT JOHN G. BALL, M.D., MONTGOMERY COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER, EXAMINED LCDR PITZER'S REMAINS AT ABOUT 2330, 29 OCTOBER 1966, AND THAT ON 2 NOVEMBER 1966, DOCTOR BALL ADVISED NIS AGENTS IT WAS HIS PROFESSIONAL OPINION THAT THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS SUICIDE BY GUNSHOT, THE BRAIN HAVING BEEN LACERATED BY A BULLET (ENCLOSURE (8)).

11. THAT ALTHOUGH A THOROUGH SEARCH OF LCDR PITZER'S PERSON, HIS OFFICE, INCLUDING A PERSONAL BRIEFCASE, AND HIS AUTOMOBILE FAILED TO REVEAL A SUICIDE NOTE, NEITHER WAS ANY EVIDENCE ADDUCED TO SUPPORT THE IDEA OF HOMICIDE.

12. THAT LCDR PITZER WAS EXPERIENCING PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL DIFFICULTIES FROM OVERWORK; THAT HE HAD BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS INVOLVING HIS YOUNGER SON; AND THAT HE WAS EXPERIENCING MARITAL DIFFICULTY AND WAS INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED WITH ANOTHER WOMAN (ENCLOSURE (9), (10), AND (11)).



J

NC43-34-MBD
5830
13 FEBRUARY 1967

SUBJ: INFORMAL BOARD OF INVESTIGATION TO INQUIRE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER WILLIAM BRUCE PITZER, MSC USN, 416681/2301 ON 29 OCTOBER 1966

## OPINIONS

1. INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT REVEALED NO DIRECT REASON FOR SUICIDE AND NO APPARENT TENDENCY TOWARD SUICIDE, BUT THE INFORMATION DEVELOPED DURING THE INQUIRY PERHAPS JUSTIFIES AN INFERENCE THAT THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING LCDR PITZER WERE MORE THAN HE WAS ABLE TO TOLERATE.

2. IT IS THE OPINION OF THIS BOARD OF INVESTIGATION THAT LCDR WILLIAM P. PITZER'S DEATH OCCURRED FROM A SELF-INFLICTED GUNSHOT WOUND IN HIS HEAD.

T. G. FERRIS
LCDR MSC USNR

J. W. GUINN
CDR MSC USN

U. S. NAVAL MEDICAL SCHOOL
NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

In reply refer to
NC43-3-rcr
5830
Ser: 445
3 NOV 1966

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Medical School, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland
To: Commander John W. GUINN, MSC, USN 555936/2300

Subj: Informal Board of Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of Lieutenant Commander William Bruce PITZER, MSC, USN 416681/2301 on 29 October 1966

Ref: (a) Manual of the Judge Advocate General
(b) CO, NAVMEDSCOL ltr NC43-3-rcr, 5830 of 2 NOV 1966

1. In accordance with Part I, Chapter VI of reference (a), an informal Board of Investigation is hereby appointed in inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of Lieutenant Commander William Bruce PITZER, MSC, USN 416681/2301 which occurred on 29 October 1966 in Building 144, National Naval Medical Center. In accordance with section 0213 of reference (a), the board will not proceed with this investigation until clearance has been obtained from the Naval Investigative Service.

2. The board will consist of yourself as senior member and Lieutenant Commander Thomas G. FERRIS, MSC, USNR 473054/2305 as a member.

3. The board is directed to inquire into all the facts and circumstances connected with the death and to perform the duties of an inquest. After deliberation, the board will submit findings of fact, opinions and recommendations. The board will not express its opinion as to the line of duty or misconduct status of the deceased; see section 0811b of reference (a).

4. The board will insure that its report includes those facts required by section 0811 of reference (a). Reference should also be made to the "Investigative Check List" which is set forth in section 1102 of reference (a).

5. If unusual delay is necessary in completing the investigation, a preliminary report concerning all available information relating to the subject death should be promptly submitted, pending submission of a final and complete report.

6. Reference (b) is cancelled by this appointing order.

J. H. STOVER, JR.

Copy to

ENCLOSURE (1)

LCDR FERRIS

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17

30 October 1966

From: Administrative Duty Officer, NNMC, Bethesda, Md.
To: Security Officer, NNMC, Bethesda, Md.
Subj: Pitzer Incident

1. At 1920, 29 Oct. 1966, a call was received in the NNMC security office from Mrs. William Pitzer stating that her husband, LCdR William B. Pitzer of NMS Command, was overdue at home.

2. The security office was asked to try to determine if LCdR Pitzer was aboard NNMC.

3. COD, NAC Bethesda found that the subjects automobile was parked in G lot, near LCdR Pitzer's office in the TV studio, Bldg 144.

4. The A-O and Civilian Guard Blue went to Bldg. 144, entered by unlocking the door facing G lot, and found the body of a white male, tentively identified as LCdR Pitzer, on the floor of the sound studio. Blood was noted on the floor around the head of the body and a revolver was noted near the body.

5. The body was found at 1950.

6. Proper authorities, including the NNMC Security Officer, Capt. Stover CO of NMS, Hospital COD and A-O, and NIS and FBI were notified.

7. NIS and FBI agents and conducted an examination of the remains and scene.

8. I remain available at any time to aid the investigation in any way possible.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Quarles, Jr. ENS, MSC, USNR

ENCLOSURE (2)

M

RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS WITH MRS. JOYCE P. PITZER AS RECORDED BY AGENTS OF NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE AND FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ON 30 OCTOBER 1966, SUBJECT'S WIFE, MRS. JOYCE B. PITZER, WAS INTERVIEWED AT THE FAMILY RESIDENCE, , BY AGENTS OF THE NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. MRS. PITZER APPEARED QUITE CALM AND COLLECTED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND WAS COOPERATIVE THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW. SHE EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT SHE COULD NOT COMPREHEND WHY SUBJECT WOULD CHOOSE TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE, EXPLAINING THAT SUCH AN ACT WAS COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO SUBJECT'S PHILOSOPHY; THAT HE HAD ALWAYS REGARDED SUICIDE AS A "COWARDS WAY OUT" AND WAS OPPOSED TO ANY DISFIGURING OF THE HUMAN BODY; THAT HE ALWAYS MAINTAINED THE ATTITUDE THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE PROBLEM, IT COULD BE WORKED OUT BY CALM AND RATIONAL EVALUATION AND THAT HE WAS NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON TO ACT HASTILY OR TO DO ANYTHING WHICH WOULD CAUSE HARDSHIP OR EMBARRASSMENT TO HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS OR ASSOCIATES. IN ADDITION, SHE REMARKED THAT EVEN IF SUBJECT CONSIDERED SUICIDE, SHE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD PERFORM SUCH AN ACT ON NAVY PROPERTY OR IN ANY MANNER WHICH WOULD CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE NAVY BECAUSE OF HIS DEEP AND SINCERE LOVE FOR AND LOYALTY TO THE U.S. NAVY. MRS. PITZER CONTINUED THAT SHE HAD NO SUSPICIONS THAT SUBJECT MIGHT BE CONSIDERING SUICIDE, STATING THAT THEIR TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE HAD BEEN GENERALLY HAPPY AND STABLE AND THAT SHE KNEW OF NO REASON TO BELIEVE SUBJECTWAS TROUBLED ABOUT ANYTHING OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE. IN RETROSPECT, SHE COMMENTED THAT SUBJECT HAD RECENTLY ATTENDED THE FUNERALS OF TWO CLOSE FRIENDS ON THE PRECEDING MONDAY AND FRIDAY AND AFTER THE SECOND, HE HAD SEEMED MILDLY DESPONDENT FOR A TIME. SHE RECALLED THAT SUBJECT MADE A REMARK SUCH AS "THAT'S TWO THIS WEEK. I WONDER WHO THE THIRD WILL BE", AND HAD SURPRISINGLY EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR A MILITARY FUNERAL. SHE FURTHER COMMENTED THAT THEY LIVED MODESTLY WITHIN SUBJECT'S INCOME, AND HAD NO LARGE OUTSTANDING DEBTS, HAD A SMALL SAVINGS ACCOUNT IN THE BANK OF BETHESDA AND ALTHOUGH SUBJECT HAD HANDLED ALL FINANCIAL MATTERS, SHE WAS CERTAIN THAT THERE WERE NO FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. SHE RESPONDED THAT SUBJECT HAD NO KNOWN ENEMIES, WAS NOT THE TYPE TO MAKE ENEMIES AND THAT THEIR FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES WERE LIMITED TO NAVY PEOPLE AND A FEW CLOSE MUTUAL PERSONAL FRIENDS. THEY DID NOT GO OUT VERY OFTEN, AND ALMOST ALWAYS TOGETHER, AND SUBJECT VERY SELDOM WENT OUT ALONE EXCEPT TO AN OCCASIONAL MASONIC LODGE MEETING OR TO MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS OF THE HEALTH FOR RETARDED CHILDREN ORGANIZATION OR TO THE LOCAL PTA FOR WHICH HE WAS TREASURER. SHE STATED THAT SHE FELT CERTAIN SUBJECT HAD MAINTAINED NO OTHER ACQUAINTANCES, ASSOCIATES, OR AFFILIATIONS, OUTSIDE OF HIS JOB, OF WHICH SHE WAS NOT AWARE. MRS. PITZER STATED THAT THEY HAVE TWO SONS, WILLIAM B. PITZER, II, AGE TWENTY-THREE, WHO IS MARRIED, LIVING IN WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND ATTENDING COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS, AND ROBERT B. PITZER, AGE FOURTEEN, WHO LIVES AT HOME. SHE STATED THAT SUBJECT HAD RECENTLY BEEN DISTURBED ABOUT ROBERT, INASMUCH AS ROBERT HAD BECOME A MILD DISCIPLINARY PROBLEM, BUT STATED THAT THESE PROBLEMS WERE NOTHING MORE THAN NORMAL TEENAGE PROBLEMS SUCH AS CUASING INCONVENIENCE TO THE FAMILY BY BEING LATE IN GETTING HOME WHEN EXPECTED EARLIER AND OTHER MINOR INCONSIDERATIONS. SHE ADDED THAT THEY HAD RECENTLY DISCOVERED ROBERT,

N

WHO IS TOO YOUNG TO DRIVE, HAD TAKEN THE FAMILY CAR WHILE THEY WERE AWAY FROM HOME AND THAT SUBJECT HAD HAD A SERIOUS TALK WITH ROBERT ABOUT THIS MATTER. SHE FURTHER DISCOUNTED THE PROBLEMS WITH ROBERT AS HAVING ANY BEARING ON SUBJECT'S DEATH.

MRS. PITZER CONTINUED THAT SUBJECT HAD BEEN WORKING HARD LATELY AND WITHIN THE PAST YEAR HAD BEEN DOING QUITE A BIT OF TRAVELING IN CONNECTION WITH HIS JOB, AND HAD JUST RETURNED ON MONDAY THE 24TH OF OCTOBER 1966, FROM A TRIP TO PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, AND NORFOLK, VIRGINIA. SHE RELATED THAT SUBJECT HAD FLOWN HOME FROM PENSACOLA ON SUNDAY THE 23RD OF OCTOBER, SPENT SUNDAY WITH THE FAMILY AND THEN FLOWN BACK TO NORFOLK MONDAY MORNING FOR THAT DAY. SHE REMARKED THAT ON HIS RETURN HE HAD APPEARED SOMEWHAT TIRED, BUT GENERALLY IN GOOD SPIRITS, HOWEVER, HE HAD COMPLAINED OF HIS BACK BOTHERING HIM AS A RESULT OF RECURRENT PROSTATE TROUBLE AND STATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO SEE DR. FRASER AT USNH AGAIN ABOUT THIS. SHE COMMENTED THAT SUBJECT HAD RECEIVED A RECENT NAVY PHYSICAL EXAMINATION INCIDENT TO BEING PROMOTED TO LCDR AND HAD APPARENTLY PASSED IT SATISFACTORILY, THEREFORE SHE KNEW OF NO REASON TO BELIEVE HE HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT HIS HEALTH. SHE RELATED THAT SUBJECT ENJOYED DRINKING BEER, DID NOT PARTICULARLY CARE FOR HARD LIQUOR AND DRANK ONLY IN MODERATION. HE SMOKED ONE TO TWO PACKS OF CIGARETTES (CAMELS) PER DAY. MRS. PITZER RELATED THAT SHE WAS A NON-SMOKER; WAS ACTIVE IN ANTI-SMOKING EDUCATION FIELD; WAS A FORMER REGISTERED NURSE AND THAT SHE HAD ATTEMPTED TO ENCOURAGE SUBJECT TO STOP SMOKING WITHOUT SUCCESS. MRS. PITZER STATED THAT SUBJECT WAS NOT ADDICTED TO ANY DRUGS AND WAS GENERALLY NEGLIGENT IN TAKING PRESCRIPTIVE MEDICINE. HE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO TAKING TITRALAC FOR INDIGESTION AND WAS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN ANY MEDICAL PRESCRIPTION SINCE DR. FRASER HAD PRESCRIBED ANTIBIOTICS AND HORMONES FOR SUBJECT'S PROSTATE TROUBLES.

MRS. PITZER RECOUNTED THE EVENTS OF FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 28 AND 29 OCTOBER 1966 AS FOLLOWS: FRIDAY EVENING, SUBJECT TOOK HER AND SON, ROBERT, OUT TO DINNER AND THEN, WITHOUT ROBERT, THEY VISITED AN ELDERLY FRIEND AND FORMER SECRETARY OF SUBJECT, A MRS. HAWKINS, BEFORE RETURNING HOME FOR THE EVENING. ON SATURDAY SHE AND SUBJECT AROSE EARLY IN ANTICIPATION OF MRS. PITZER'S MOTHER COMING TO VISIT THEM FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND SUBJECT HAD STATED HE HAD TAKEN ANNUAL LEAVE FOR THE FOLLOWING MONDAY AND TUESDAY (31 OCTOBER AND 1 NOVEMBER 1966). SUBJECT PREPARED BREAKFAST AFTER WHICH THEY BOTH WENT OUT TO RAKE LEAVES IN THE YARD. SOMETIME BEFORE NOON, A NEIGHBOR, MRS. ESTEL, CAME OVER TO ASK SON, ROBERT, TO TAKE HER TO NNMC, BETHESDA TO PLAY GOLF. SINCE ROBERT WAS WASHING THE FAMILY CAR, SUBJECT TOOK OVER THIS JOB AND ROBERT LEFT WITH MRS. ESTEL. SUBJECT FINISHED THE CAR, CHANGED FROM OLD WORK CLOTHES INTO CIVILIAN SHIRT AND SLACKS, LAID WORK CLOTHES ON THE BED, AS IF TO RETURN TO THEM AND DROVE HER TO HECHT'S DEPARTMENT STORE IN SILVER SPRING, WHERE SHE HAD A 1:00 P.M. APPOINTMENT AT THE BEAUTY SHOP. ON PARTING, SUBJECT STATED THAT HE HAD TO GO TO HIS OFFICE AND WAS GOING TO GET A HAIRCUT AT NNMC AND FOR HER TO TAKE THE BUS HOME SINCE HE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE BACK IN TIME TO PICK HER UP. SHE STATED THAT SHE REQUESTED SUBJECT TO FIND ROBERT ON THE NNMC GOLF COURSE AND REMIND HIM TO GET A HAIRCUT BEFORE HE CAME HOME. THIS WAS THE LAST TIME SHE SAW SUBJECT ALIVE.

MRS. PITZER STATED THAT SHE MISSED THE 3:07 P.M. BUS FOR HOME AND HAD TO WAIT FOR THE 4:07 P.M. BUS. ON ARRIVING HOME, SUBJECT WAS NOT THERE AND SHE THEN TRIED TO CALL HIS OFFICE SEVERAL TIMES BETWEEN ABOUT 4:15 P.M. AND 6:15 P.M. WHEN SHE RECEIVED NO ANSWER, SHE BECAME CONCERNED SINCE IT WAS UNLIKE SUBJECT NOT CALL OR LET HER KNOW OF ANY DELAYS. AT ABOUT 7:00 P.M., ROBERT RETURNED HOME WITH MRS. ESTEL AND STATED THAT SUBJECT HAD CONTACTED HIM AT THE SIXTH TEE OF THE NNMC GOLF COURSE ABOUT 2:45 P.M. AND TOLD HIM TO GET A HAIRCUT BEFORE COMING HOME. ACCORDING TO ROBERT, SUBJECT WAS IN THE FAMILY CAR AT THAT TIME. AT ABOUT 7:05 P.M., MRS. PITZER STARTED CALLING VARIOUS PLACES (CLUB, HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM, ETC.) AT THE NNMC AND EVENTUALLY CALLED THE SECURITY OFFICE RELATING HER CONCERN. SHE WAS NEXT INFORMED THAT SUBJECT WAS FOUND DEAD WHEN CAPT STOVER AND LCDR C. A. HOLSTON CAME TO HER HOME AND SO ADVISED HER.

MRS. PITZER REMARKED THAT SUBJECT WAS NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON TO BE INTERESTED IN FIREARMS; THAT HE WAS NOT A HUNTER AND KEPT NO FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION ABOUT THE HOUSE. SHE STATED THAT SHE FIRST BECAME AWARE THAT SUBJECT HAD A GUN WHEN HE RETURNED FROM THE RECENT PENSACOLA-NORFOLK TRIP, ON MONDAY THE 24TH OF OCTOBER AND TOOK A GUN FROM HIS BRIEF BAG AND SHOWED IT TO HER. SHE DESCRIBED THAT GUN AS "WHAT I WOULD CALL A REVOLVER, DARK COLORED, A DULL FINISH, WOODEN HANDLE." SHE STATED THAT SUBJECT ALSO SHOWED HER SEVERAL "GOLD COLORED BULLETS" WITH "HOLES IN THE FRONT", WHICH SUBJECT TOLD HER WERE BLANK CARTRIDGES. SUBJECT EXPLAINED TO HER THAT HE USED THE GUN AND BLANKS DURING LECTURES ON THE TRIP FOR WHAT EXACT PURPOSE SHE WAS UNCERTAIN. MRS. PITZER STATED SUBJECT PLACED THE GUN AND BLANKS IN HIS BRIEF BAG AND APPARENTLY, TOOK IT TO HIS OFFICE, SINCE SHE DID NOT SEE IT AGAIN.

MRS. PITZER COULD OFFER NO EXPLANATION AS TO WHY SUBJECT WOULD TAKE HIS OWN LIFE AND ALTHOUGH APPEARING SOMEWHAT RESIGNED TO THIS FACT, SHE STILL EXHIBITED DOUBT THAT SUICIDE WAS THE TRUE CAUSE OF DEATH.

P [redacted]

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To the best of my recollection at about 1400 on 12 Oct. 1966 I issued a S&W .38 Caliber revolver and six (6) rounds of blank ammunition to A.P. Ruble BM3. This weapon was issued after a telephone call from A/C W. B. Pitzer, stating that a gun (issued) he used for instruction purposes

Russell L. Gray
Supervisory guard

14

Q

ENCLOSURE (5)

15

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
NAVMED N (REV. 1-58) FRONT

(151)

PITZER

See NAVMED DEPT. for instructions regarding number of copies and submission.

FROM (Ship or Station)
NAVAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, NNMC, BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

IF UNIDENTIFIED INDICATE BY USING "X" AND CONSECUTIVE NUMBER HERE

1. NAME: PITZER, William Bruce

2. SEX: [X] MALE [ ] FEMALE

3. RACE: [X] CAUCASIAN [ ] NEGROID [ ] OTHER (Specify)

4. STATUS: [X] REGULAR ACTIVE [ ] RESERVE ACTIVE [ ] RETIRED [ ] DEPENDENT [ ] WAF [ ] OTHER (Specify)

5. LENGTH OF SERVICE (Years and months): 27 10

6. AVIATION: [ ] YES [X] NO

7. FILE OR SERVICE NO.: 416683/2301

8. RANK/RATE: CAPT

9. CORPS: MSC

10. BRANCH OF SERVICE: U.S. NAVY

11. PLACE OF BIRTH (City and State or Country): CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

12. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day and year): APRIL 23 1917

13. AGE (Years, months) (Days, if under 1 year): 60 06

14. RELIGION: PROT

15. COLOR OF EYES: BLUE

16. COLOR OF HAIR: GREY

17. COMPLEXION: FAIR

18. HEIGHT: 69"

19. WEIGHT: 150

20. MARKS AND SCARS (Noted in health record)

Anterior:
Male right upper calf
1/4" scar left side of scalp
4" operative scar ant. aspect, left knee
3" operative scar ant. aspect, left knee
Posterior:
1" scar left thumb

21. FINGERPRINT - STATE WHICH FINGER (Right index preferred)

RIGHT INDEX FINGER

22. NEXT OF KIN OR FRIEND (Relation, name and address)

Wife: Joyce B. PITZER

23. ADMITTED TO SICK LIST FROM (If on active duty, last duty station before current admission to sick list) (last duty station)

Naval Medical School, NNMC, Bethesda, Maryland

24. DATE ADMITTED TO SICK LIST (Month, day, year)

Not admitted to the sick l

25. PLACE OF DEATH

Naval Medical School
National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland

26. TIME OF DEATH (Month, day, year, hour)

About 1655 October 29 19

27. CAUSE OF DEATH

I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH. (This does not mean the mode of dying, e.g. heart failure, asthenia, etc. It means the disease, injury or complication which caused death.)

(a) POUND, SURGEON, USN,
PITZER 416683/2301

APPROXIMATE INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH

ANTECEDENT CAUSES. (Morbid conditions, if any giving rise to above cause (a), stating the underlying cause last)

DUE TO (b) NA — NA

DUE TO (c) NA — NA

II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS. (Conditions contributing to death but not related to the disease or condition causing death.) NA — NA

28. DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |
| | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 |
| | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 |

ENCLOSURE (1)

R

NAVMED N (Rev. 4-58) BACK

29. NAME

PITZER, William Bruce 416681/2301

30. SUMMARY OF FACTS RELATING TO DEATH:

The body of a middle aged man, later identified as LCDR William B. PITZER, MSC, USN was sighted on 29 October 1966, about 2010 in the television studio (Building #144, National Naval Medical Center) by the undersigned, Officer of the Day, who had been summoned by MRS OSTRANDER. The latter related the events leading to the discovery of the body.
The Caucasian, fully dressed body was prone with the left arm flexed and the right arm under the abdomen. A left temple wound was visible, the right side of the head being hidden, lying against the floor in a pool of congulated blood. The skin was mottled and livid and there was no respiration or other signs of life. A pistol, spent bullet, intact glasses, an ashtray with burnt out cigarette, a blank paper pad and blue crayon, liquid and congulated blood and presumably cerebrospinal fluid were noted around the body. The subject was pronounced dead and appropriate authorities, including LCDR J. C. HAMMELEF, MC, USN, Pathologist, were summoned.
Cause of death was deemed to be a bullet wound in the brain.

The remains of LCDR William B. PITZER, MSC, USN were identified by several staff members of the Naval Medical School.

Autopsy performed 30 October 1966 and complete findings (Autopsy Protocol Standard Form 503) accompany this NAVMED N as an attachment.

31. DISPOSITION OF REMAINS: Remains released to W. W. CRAWFORD Funeral Home, 8655 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland for preparation, embalment, and shipment to the Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia for interment.

32.

DATE SIGNED FEB 1 1967 SIGNATURE [signature] ROLF W. STEIN LCDR (MC) USN
(Medical Officer) (Rank)

33.

APPROVED: COURT OF INQUIRY OR BOARD OF INVESTIGATION [illegible] BE HELD.
(Not Applicable)

DATE SIGNED 1 FEB 1967 SIGNATURE [signature] W. STOVER, JR. CAPTAIN (MC) USN
(Commanding Officer) (Rank)

S [redacted] 23

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Division of VITAL RESEARCH AND RECORDS, 301 W. PRESTON ST., BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

12489

# MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

14438

1. PLACE OF DEATH
a. COUNTY: Montgomery — MARYLAND
b. CITY OR TOWN (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give nearest town): Bethesda (Rural)
c. LENGTH OF STAY IN 1b: 4yrs
Naval Medical School, NNMC, Bethesda, Md. Building #144

2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived, if institution, residence before admission)
a. STATE: Maryland
b. COUNTY: Montgomery
c. CITY OR TOWN (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give nearest town): Takoma Park 151
d. STREET ADDRESS: 603 Boston Avenue
e. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES ☐ NO ☒

3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print): First: William Middle: Bruce Last: PITZER
4. DATE OF DEATH: Month: October Day: 29 Year: 19 66
5. SEX: Male
6. COLOR OR RACE: Cauc.
7. MARRIED ☒ NEVER MARRIED ☐ WIDOWED ☐ DIVORCED ☐
8. DATE OF BIRTH: 13 April 1917
9. AGE (In years last birthday): 49 yrs.
If UNDER 1 YEAR: Months / Days / If UNDER 24 hrs.: Hours / Min
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired): U. S. Navy
10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY:
11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country): Gerrardstown, W. Virginia
12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? USA
13. FATHER'S NAME: Harry M. Pitzer, Sr. (DECEASED)
14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: Margaret M. Buchanan
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown): Yes (If yes give war or dates of service): WWII-Korea
16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.: 579-18-5871
17. INFORMANT: (Wife) 603 Boston Avenue Mrs. Joyce H. Pitzer Takoma Park, Maryland

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

18. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).)
PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY:
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a): Gun Shot Wound of Brain — INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH: Instant.
DUE TO (b):
DUE TO (c):
Conditions, if any, which gave rise to immediate cause (a), stating the underlying cause last: 9/11 X

PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I(a)

19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? YES ☒ NO ☐

20a. EXTERNAL CAUSE WAS PRIMARY ☐ OR CONTRIBUTING ☐ CAUSE OF DEATH.
20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of item 18): Shot-Self in head with 38 cal. Pistol.
20c. TIME OF INJURY Month, Day, Year: 4:25 p.m. 10 29 1966
20d. INJURY OCCURRED While at work ☐ Not While at work ☐
20e. PLACE OF INJURY (Home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)
20f. (City or Town) (County) (State)

21. I certify that I took charge of the remains described above, held an Autopsy ☒, Inspection ☒, Inquiry ☒, and in my opinion death resulted from: Natural causes ☐, Accident ☐, Suicide ☒, Homicide ☐, Undetermined manner ☐

ACTUAL SIGNATURE: John B. Ball M.D.
EXAMINER'S NAME (Type): John B. Ball
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER ☐
ASSISTANT MEDICAL EXAMINER ☐
DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER ☒
Address (Street, city, town, or county):
22. DATE SIGNED: 10/30/66

23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify): Burial
23b. DATE THEREOF: 11/3/1966
23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY: Arlington National Cemetery
23d. LOCATION (City or Town) (County) (State): Arlington, Virginia 24

24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR: W.W. Chambers Funeral Home 8655 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Md.
25a. REC'D BY REGISTRAR DATE: NOV 2 1966
25b. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE: Charles Judge

ENCLOSURE (8)

ON FILE IN THE DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS.
DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS
DATE ISSUED: JAN 30 1967
WARNING: It is illegal to duplicate this copy by photostat or photograph.
WITH IMPRESSED SEAL

RESULTS OF INTERVIEWS WITH AS RECORDED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

WAS INTERVIEWED AT HER RESIDENCE, FROM 1401 TO 1530 HOURS ON 3 NOVEMBER 1966, AND AT NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE OFFICE RESIDENT AGENCY, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, FROM 1150 TO 1324 HOURS ON 7 NOVEMBER 1966. ON BOTH OCCASIONS, PRIOR TO ANY PERTINENT QUESTIONS, WAS INFORMED THAT AN INVESTIGATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED INTO THE DEATH OF LCDR WILLIAM BRUCE PITZER, USN, AND IT WAS DESIRED TO QUESTION HER CONCERNING HER KNOWLEDGE OF LCDR PITZER AND HIS DEATH; THAT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE FIFTH AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES SHE HAD THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT AND DID NOT HAVE TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT AT ALL; THAT ANYTHING SHE SAID COULD BE HELD AGAINST HER IN A COURT OF LAW; THAT SHE HAD THE RIGHT TO CONSULT WITH A LAWYER IF SHE DESIRED AND TO HAVE A LAWYER PRESENT DURING THE INTERVIEW; THAT SHE WAS NOT IN CUSTODY AND COULD TERMINATE THE INTERVIEW AT ANY TIME.

DURING THESE INTERVIEWS, PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

SHE WAS IN PENSACOLA, FLORIDA ON 29 OCTOBER 1966 AND HAS NEVER BEEN IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND. SHE HAS KNOWN LCDR PITZER SINCE OCTOBER 1965. SHE DID NOT KNOW HE IS DEAD AND WAS VERY DISTRESSED TO LEARN IT. SHE FIRST MET HIM IN OCTOBER 1965 AT THE NAS-PENSACOLA CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS' CLUB, WHILE HE WAS IN PENSACOLA WITH A NAVAL MEDICAL TEAM FROM WASHINGTON, D. C. THEY HAD SEVERAL DATES OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT A WEEK AT THAT TIME. EXCEPT THAT HE WAS MARRIED, SHE LEARNED LITTLE ABOUT HIS FAMILY THEN; AND SHE AND SUBJECT WERE NOT SEXUALLY INTIMATE DURING THAT PERIOD. BEFORE HE LEFT, HE ASKED HER TO WRITE TO HIM. SHE TOLD HIM SHE DIDN'T WANT TO WRITE BECAUSE HE WAS MARRIED AND SHE DID NOT WANT TO CAUSE HIM ANY TROUBLE BY HIS WIFE'S POSSIBLY SEEING THE LETTERS. HE SAID TO LET HIM WORRY ABOUT THAT. SHE DID NOT WRITE TO HIM, HOWEVER, UNTIL SHE HAD A LETTER FROM HIM SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN. THEY THEN CORRESPONDED OCCASIONALLY. THEIR LETTERS WERE ESSENTIALLY CASUAL IN CONTEXT, AND SHE WROTE HIM AT HIS BUSINESS ADDRESS: LCDR WILLIAM B. PITZER, USN, MSC TV DIV NMS, BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014.

IN JANUARY 1966, LCDR PITZER TELEPHONED MRS. GRAY AND ASKED HER TO JOIN HIM. SHE FLEW TO ATLANTA AT HER OWN EXPENSE AND STAYED WITH HIM IN A HOTEL FOR SEVERAL DAYS. HE HAD THE ROOM WHEN SHE ARRIVED AND SHE DOES NOT KNOW HOW THEY WERE REGISTERED. THE HOTEL HAD "GEORGIA" OR "GEORGIAN" IN THE NAME TO THE BEST OF HER RECOLLECTION, BUT SHE CAN PROVIDE NO OTHER INFORMATION TO ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING IT. AN EASTERN AIRLINES TICKET STUB SHE PROVIDED INDICATES SHE DEPARTED PENSACOLA AT 10:25 A.M., 10 JANUARY 1966 AND DEPARTED ATLANTA AT 8:15 P.M., 12 JANUARY 1966. SHE AND SUBJECT ENGAGED IN SEXUAL INTERCOURSE DURING THIS PERIOD. HE PAID THEIR LIVING EXPENSES IN ATLANTA, AND HE OFFERED HER REIMBURSEMENT ON HER AIRLINE TICKET WHICH SHE DECLINED. DURING THIS TRIP, SUBJECT

U

DISCUSSED HIS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, BUT DID NOT SEEM SERIOUSLY PERTURBED BY THEM. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN MARRIED TO HIS WIFE FOR TWENTY-NINE YEARS AND INDICATED SHE NAGGED HIM ALL THE TIME ABOUT PETTY PROBLEMS OF THE HOUSEHOLD, THE CHILDREN, AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF HIS JOB. HE SAID HE HAD A GROWN, MARRIED SON WHO WAS NO PROBLEM, AND A TEENAGE SON WHO CAUSED HIM A LOT OF TROUBLE.

ABOUT THE SPRING OF 1966, LCDR PITZER TELEPHONED HER AT HER RESIDENCE FROM WASHINGTON, D. C., INDICATING HE JUST WANTED TO TALK WITH HER. AT THIS TIME, HE MENTIONED HIS TEENAGE SON HAD STOLEN SOMETHING--AN ARTICLE OF CLOTHING SHE THINKS--FROM A STORE, AND LCDR PITZER HAD DISCOVERED IT AND MADE HIM TAKE IT BACK. HE SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THE BOY TO STEAL AS HE HAD MONEY TO BUY WHAT HE NEEDED, AND LCDR PITZER COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE BOY DID THIS.

THEY CONTINUED TO CORRESPOND CASUALLY, AND LCDR PITZER CAME TO PENSACOLA ON ANOTHER OFFICIAL NAVY TRIP IN OCTOBER 1966. HE TELEPHONED HER WHEN HE ARRIVED AND SHE PICKED HIM UP IN HER CAR AND WENT WITH HIM TO THE RODEWAY INNS MOTEL IN PENSACOLA WHERE HE REGISTERED. THIS WAS ON THE NIGHT OF THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER; AND SHE STAYED THERE WITH HIM AT THE MOTEL UNTIL THEY CHECKED OUT ON THE MORNING OF SATURDAY, 15 OCTOBER. DURING THIS TIME THEY HAD SEXUAL INTERCOURSE. SHE DATED HIM REGULARLY THE REMAINDER OF THE TIME HE WAS IN PENSACOLA--UNTIL 21 OR 22 OCTOBER 1966, BUT THEY DID NOT SPEND ANY OTHER NIGHTS TOGETHER. SHE NEVER TOOK HIM IN HER HOME, THOUGH SHE DID DRIVE HIM BY TO SEE WHERE SHE LIVED AT HIS REQUEST. ON THEIR OTHER DATES, SHE WENT WITH HIM TO THE BOQ AT NAS, PENSACOLA FOR DRINKS, TO THE CPO CLUB AT NAS, PENSACOLA, TO LOCAL RESTAURANTS, AND TO THE DOG RACING TRACK. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS--AT THE CPO CLUB, AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT, AND IN THE HOME OF ANOTHER WOMAN WHO IS MARRIED BUT SEPARATED FROM HER HUSBAND--THEY WERE IN THE COMPANY OF A NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ON SUBJECT'S MEDICAL TEAM. DATED SEVERAL MARRIED ACQUAINTANCES OF AND AT TIMES WAS IN THE COMPANY OF AND LCDR PITZER WITH VARIOUS OF THESE WOMEN. SUBJECT INDICATED HE FELT ILL AT EASE IN THE CHIEF'S CLUB BECAUSE HE WAS AN OFFICER AND IT WAS NOT HIS CLUB.

BEFORE LEAVING PENSACOLA, LCDR PITZER ASKED TO WRITE TO HIM. SHE TOLD HIM SHE WOULD WAIT UNTIL SHE HEARD FROM HIM. HE TOLD HER NOT TO WAIT, BUT TO HAVE A LETTER WAITING FOR HIM WHEN HE GOT THERE. HE SAID HE WAS GOING FROM PENSACOLA TO NORFOLK BEFORE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON. HE SEEMED TO BE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE TRIP TO NORFOLK.

MAILED A ONE PAGE CASUAL NOTE TO HIM AT HIS BUSINESS ADDRESS WHEN HE LEFT PENSACOLA, AND SHE ESTIMATES IT SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED IN BETHESDA ABOUT 24 OR 25 OCTOBER 1966. SHE HEARD NOTHING FROM HIM AFTER HE LEFT PENSACOLA; AND ON 29 OCTOBER 1966, SHE BOUGHT A GREETING CARD AND WROTE HIM A NOTE ALONG WITH IT. SHE ESTIMATES THIS CORRESPONDENCE WOULD HAVE REACHED HIS OFFICE AT BETHESDA ON MONDAY, 31 OCTOBER 1966.

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(27)

ON MONDAY, 31 OCTOBER 1966, RECEIVED A LETTER FROM LCDR PITZER WHICH APPARENTLY CROSSED WITH HERS IN THE MAIL. AT FIRST SHE STATED SHE HAD DESTROYED THIS LETTER, BUT WOULD MAKE A CAREFUL SEARCH TO BE SURE. SUBSEQUENTLY, SHE VOLUNTARILY REPORTED THAT SHE HAD FOUND THE LETTER, AND SHE TURNED IT OVER TO INVESTIGATING AGENTS ON 7 NOVEMBER 1966.

DESCRIBED LCDR PITZER AS THE FINEST MAN SHE EVER MET--KIND, CLEAN, HEALTHY, COMPLETELY NORMAL IN EVERY RESPECT. HE DID NOT DRINK EXCESSIVELY, WAS PLEASANT TO EVERYONE AT ALL TIMES, DID NOT "FLASH MONEY AROUND," BUT HE WAS NOT "CHEAP." HE SEEMED TO LIKE HIS WORK AND ALWAYS PUT HIS DUTY AHEAD OF PERSONAL AFFAIRS. HE SPOKE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AWAITING HIM UPON RETIREMENT. IN DISCUSSING HIS FAMILY PROBLEMS, HE NEVER SEEMED MORBID OR UNDULY UPSET; ON THE CONTRARY HE WAS A CHEERFUL, MATURE INDIVIDUAL. HE DID NOT DISCUSS HIS WORK, AND SHE NEVER OBSERVED OR LEARNED ANYTHING HAVING SECURITY IMPLICATIONS. SHE LEARNED OF NO VICES ON HIS PART SUCH AS GAMBLING, INVOLVEMENT WITH NARCOTICS, BLACKMAIL, POSSIBILITIES, OR SIMILAR CONNECTIONS. SHE DID NOT KNOW HIM TO POSSESS A GUN. THERE WERE NO MONETARY CONSIDERATIONS ON THE PART OF EITHER IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP. THEY LIKED EACH OTHER'S COMPANY, SHE PROVIDED HIM TRANSPORTATION IN PENSACOLA AND HE PAID FOR THEIR MEALS AND SUNDRY EXPENSES. THEIR RELATIONSHIP WAS ONE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND DID NOT INVOLVE MATRIMONIAL, OR SERIOUS ROMANTIC IMPLICATIONS. EACH MUTUALLY RESPECTED THE OTHER, AND SOUGHT TO PROTECT THE OTHER'S REPUTATIONS AND PREVENT FRIENDS AND FAMILIES FROM DISCOVERING THE ASSOCIATION.

REGARDING LCDR PITZER'S STATED FAMILY DIFFICULTIES, HE RELATED HE HAD BEEN MARRIED TO HIS WIFE TWENTY-NINE YEARS. HE SAID HE WOULD NEVER REMARRY, KNOWING WHAT HE KNOWS NOW--EXPLAINING THAT WHEN A WOMAN GETS MARRIED SHE ALWAYS HAS SOMETHING FOR HER HUSBAND TO DO AROUND THE HOME AND LOOKS ON HIM ONLY AS A HANDYMAN. HE SAID HIS WIFE NEVER WELCOMED HIM HOME HAPPILY, BUT INVARIABLY GREETED HIM WITH PETTY PROBLEMS OF THE HOME. HE SAID HIS WIFE CALLED THE CHILDREN "CURTAIN CLIMBERS" AND SAID THEY DROVE HER CRAZY; AND SHE ALWAYS WANTED HIM TO DISCIPLINE THEM. HE SAID HIS WIFE NEVER WANTED TO GO ANYWHERE WITH HIM. HE INDICATED HIS WIFE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH HIM. DURING HIS LAST TRIP TO PENSACOLA, HE SAID HIS WIFE TELEPHONED HIM HERE TO COMPLAIN THAT THEIR BASEMENT WAS FULL OF WATER, AND SHE WANTED HIM TO COME RIGHT HOME. HE SAID HIS TEENAGE SON COULD BE A FINE BOY AT TIMES, BUT AT OTHER TIMES HAD TANTRUMS AND WENT ALL TO PIECES. SAID THAT LCDR PITZER DID NOT SEEM TO BROOD ABOUT THESE MATTERS, HOWEVER, AND DID NOT DWELL ON THEM--THAT HE PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION MORE OR LESS CASUALLY OVER THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF THEIR ACQUAINTANCESHIP, AND NOT ALL AT ONE TIME. SHE SAID HE SEEMED FOND OF HIS WIFE--ALWAYS HAD HER PICTURE ON HIS DRESSER WHEN IN PENSACOLA, WHICH SOURCE THOUGHT WAS UNUSUAL. HE ALSO INDICATED, IN A KIND WAY TOWARD SOURCE, THAT IF HIS WIFE WERE DIFFERENT IN HER ATTITUDE TOWARD HIM, HE WOULD NOT BE WITH SOURCE. AT ONE TIME,

HE DID STATE HE SOMETIMES THOUGHT HE MIGHT "JUST WALK OUT ON IT ALL"--BUT HE DID NOT APPEAR UPSET AND SOURCE DID NOT TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY.

EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT POSSIBLY LCDR PITZER'S FAMILY PROBLEMS JUST WEIGHED HIM DOWN; THAT HE WAS CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE WHEN HE WROTE THE FINAL LETTER SHE RECEIVED AND DID NOT WANT HER TO WRITE SO THAT NO LETTERS WOULD BE FOUND TO IMPLICATE HER. SHE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE REGRET THAT SHE WAS OUT AT THE TIME HIS LETTER INDICATED HE TRIED TO CALL, STATING THAT IF HE COMMITTED SUICIDE, JUST HAVING SOMEONE TO TALK TO MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED IT. HOWEVER, SHE SAID SHE HAD NEVER PREVIOUSLY SUSPECTED HE MIGHT COMMIT SUICIDE AND WOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF HIM AS THE LAST PERSON TO DO SO.

SHE STATED SHE PREFERRED NOT TO PROVIDE A WRITTEN STATEMENT AND REQUESTED THAT HER IDENTITY BE PROTECTED INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO SUBJECT'S FAMILY.

X



(29)

provided letter from Subject as follows:

"Saturday afternoon
[illegible]

My dear

Received your very welcome letter yesterday but have been just too busy to call or write you. Have just tried to call you at ~~0245~~ 2:45 but you were out. I did so want to talk to you and to hear your voice. Please do not write to me any more. You will hear from me but please do not write. I am in deep trouble at home so there's no good in hurting any other person at this time. I am sure you will understand and I long to be with you, if no sooner than in January. The trip is on for the week of 23 January. . will be coming back with me. It was such an enjoyable week for me and I wish for you the very best of everything. Until you hear from or of me, I am always,

Bill"

Envelope postmarked Washington, D.C. 38(?), PM 1966 (full date not clear on envelope)
Addressed to:

Y
AND LAST PAGE

30

30

Enclosure (30)

(30)

**Colonel Daniel Marvin**
U.S. Army Special Forces *(Retired)*
A Born-Again Christian

715 Hector Street
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

*By Appointment only*
Call (607) 272-0473

*Writer and Antique Restorer*

27 February 1997

A\MD-ATPSY.97A[H]

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
State of Maryland
111 Penn Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

**FOLLOW-UP**

Subject: Autopsy and Report of the Investigation of the 29 October 1966 death of Lieutenant Commander William Bruce Pitzer, Service #416681/2301 at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Dear Sir,

Reference is made to my 12 Jan 96 letter (FILE: C\A\MD-MED-E.XAM[A\H) to you, same subject as above (copy attached).

More than 13 months have passed without a reply from your office to my request (see attached letter) for "a copy of the 30 October 1966 Certificate of Death # 14438, a copy of the 30 October 1966 autopsy performed by John G. Ball on LCDR Pitzer, and a copy of State of Maryland Department of Post Mortem Examiners - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner - INVESTIGATION REPORT - COUNTY CASE number 63543 date-stamped "Nov 10 1114AM '66" and completed by the Montgomery County Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and signed by John G. Ball on 29 October 1966.

The lack of these documents constitutes a roadblock to my investigation that is focused on obtaining the truth about Pitzer's death so that his widow may know the truth before she dies and so that my investigative report can be completed and documented and put in book form as soon as possible. Time is of the essence if it is to inspire a national outcry for a new Congressional Investigation on the JFK Assassination, the death of William B. Pitzer, and the continuing cover-up of the conspiracy itself. It has to be soon - while witnesses are still alive and capable of testifying. Again, time is of the essence.

A 23 Apr 96 ruling by the Bureau of Navy Personnel (copy attached) provided for release of the entirety of Pitzer's service record. Legal Counsel advises that this rule applies in civilian jurisprudence as well.

Thus I ask again that you expedite the sending of the documents requested to the undersigned. I expect your response will explain the delay and provide the documents requested.

Very truly yours,

Copies: Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and Attorney General Janet Reno

I

Proverbs 3:27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when **it is within the power of thine hand to do it.**

**Colonel Daniel Marvin**
U.S. Army Special Forces *(Retired)*
A Born-Again Christian

715 Hector Street
Ithaca, NY 14850-2031

*By Appointment only*
Call (607) 272-0473

*Writer and Antique Restorer*

12 January 1996

C\A\MD-MED-E.XAM[A\H]

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
State of Maryland
111 Penn Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Subject: Autopsy and Report of the Investigation of the 29 October 1966 death of Lieutenant Commander William Bruce Pitzer, Service #416681/2301 at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Dear Chief Medical Examiner,

Reference is made to Medical Examiner's Certificate of Death number 14438 signed by Deputy Medical Examiner John G. Ball on 30 October 1966 and pertaining to William Bruce Pitzer who died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 29 October 1966 from a "gunshot wound of brain."

John G. Ball shows in item number 19 of the Certificate of Death that an autopsy was performed on William Bruce Pitzer and in number 21 of that same death certificate John G. Ball certifies that he personally held an autopsy on 30 October 1966 and he (John G. Ball) further certified that William Bruce Pitzer's death resulted from "suicide."

I hereby and herewith request a copy of the 30 October 1966 Certificate of Death # 14438, a copy of the 30 October 1966 autopsy performed by John G. Ball on LCDR Pitzer, and a copy of investigation report number 63543 date-stamped "Nov 10 1114AM '66" and completed by the Montgomery County Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

I am extremely interested in the condition of the body of William Bruce Pitzer when first seen by John G. Ball. William Bruce Pitzer's widow has told me of her being advised that she could not have her husband's wedding ring because "his left hand was damaged." This does not make sense to me.

As I am making this request as an author and this information is of a timely value, I look forward to your reply with a short time.

Please call me at the above number if you have any questions regarding this request. Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

II

J. JOSEPH CURRAN, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JUDSON P. GARRETT, JR.
DENNIS M. SWEENEY
DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL

OFFICES OF

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

PRINCIPAL COUNSEL
DANIEL J. O'BRIEN
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPUTY COUNSEL
CARL F. AMERINGER
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
300 WEST PRESTON STREET, SUITE 302
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201
AREA CODE 301 225-1846

June 8, 1990

Harrison E. Livingstone
3025 Abell Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Dear Mr. Livingstone:

The Attorney General has referred your letter of inquiry to me for investigation and a response. Your allegations of wrongdoing, i.e., "that certain crimes were committed" at Bethesda Naval Hospital with regard to the J.F.K. autopsy are, unfortunately, events over which the State of Maryland has no legal jurisdiction because Bethesda Naval Hospital is a Federal enclave. If, indeed, crimes did occur at that site, then the Navy or the Department of Justice would be the appropriate parties to investigate such matters.

The autopsy of Lt. Commander William Bruce Pitzer apparently was performed by the hospital officials at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Dr. John Ball, Deputy Medical Examiner for Montgomery County, was apparently notified of Mr. Pritzer's death on October 29, 1963, and completed a brief investigation report, a copy of which I am enclosing for you, as well as a death certificate. It is our understanding that the Hospital will not release the autopsy report and one is not contained within the official files of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

I hope I have been responsive to your inquiry. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Geoffrey J.C. Boyd/db

Geoffrey J.C. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General

GJCB:db
Enclosure

III

(5)

B/W 213 B7 R39 S12

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STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF POST MORTEM EXAMINERS
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
700 FLEET STREET BALTIMORE 2, MARYLAND

NOV 10 11 14 AM '66

# INVESTIGATION REPORT—COUNTY CASE

NAME OF DECEASED William Bruce Pitzer AGE 49yrs. SEX M RACE W. M.S.W.D. M

ADDRESS OF DECEASED 603 Boston Ave., Takoma Park, Md.

| | DATE | TIME | |
|---|---|---|---|
| INJURY | 10/29/66 | 4:15pm | PLACE: Bethesda Naval Medical School TV Div. Bldg. 144 |
| M. E. NOTIFIED | 10/29 | 8:50pm | BY WHOM: Bethesda Naval Hospt. |
| PRONOUNCED DEAD | 10/29 | 7:50pm | PLACE: Officer Quarles |
| BODY EXAMINED | 10/29 | 9:15pm | PLACE: TV Studio - Naval Medical School |
| AUTOPSY | 10/30 | | PERFORMED BY: Bethesda Naval Hospt. |

POLICE INVESTIGATION BY F.B.I.

MANNER
- ☐ NATURAL CAUSE
- ☐ ACCIDENT
- ☐ OTHER
- ☒ SUICIDE
- ☐ HOMICIDE
- ☐ UNDETERMINED

CAUSE OF DEATH Gunshot wound of brain

NAME AND ADDRESS OF ACCUSED (IF ANY)

SYNOPSIS OF HISTORY The deceased was found dead in the TV Studio of the Bethesda Naval Medical School, by a Security Officer Quarles. There was a revolver by his side and a gunshot wound in his head. He was lying face down in a pool of blood his head under a step ladder. His wife states she called the studio at 4:30 P.M., and got no answer. She called again at 7:30 P.M., and when again no answer called the O.D., who investigated. No notes were found or any apparent cause for his act.

IV

SPECIMEN SUBMITTED FOR LABORATORY EXAMINATION YES ☐ NO ☐ FOR:

DATE 29 October 1966 SIGNED John B. Ball, M.D.
DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

Montgomery COUNTY

FM 3 NOTE: NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF INFORMANTS MAY BE RECORDED ON REVERSE SIDE.

MD8 21980

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Division of STATISTICAL RESEARCH AND RECORDS, 301 W. PRESTON ST., BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

# MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

14439

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| | |
|---|---|
| 1a. PLACE OF DEATH — COUNTY: Montgomery — STATE: MARYLAND | 2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: Residence before admission) a. STATE: Maryland — b. COUNTY: Montgomery |
| 1b. CITY OR TOWN (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give nearest town): Bethesda (Rural) — 1c. LENGTH OF STAY IN 1b: 4 yrs | 2c. CITY OR TOWN (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give nearest town): Takoma Park 151 |
| 1d. If not in hospital or institution, give STREET ADDRESS: Naval Medical School, NNMC, Bethesda, Md. Building #144 | 2d. STREET ADDRESS: 603 Boston Avenue — 2e. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES ☐ NO ☒ |

| 3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) First | Middle | Last | 4. DATE OF DEATH Month | Day | Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| William | Bruce | PITZER | October | 29 | 19 66 |

| 5. SEX | 6. COLOR OR RACE | 7. MARRIED ☒ NEVER MARRIED ☐ WIDOWED ☐ DIVORCED ☐ | 8. DATE OF BIRTH | 9. AGE (in years last birthday) | IF UNDER 1 YEAR: Months / Days | IF UNDER 24 hrs.: Hours / Min |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | Cauc. | | 13 April 1917 | 49 yrs. | | |

| 10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) | 10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY | 11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) | 12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? |
|---|---|---|---|
| U. S. Navy | | Gerrardstown, W. Virginia | USA |

| 13. FATHER'S NAME | 14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME |
|---|---|
| Harry M. Pitzer, Sr. (DECEASED) | Margaret M. Buchanan |

| 15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes give war or dates of service) | 16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. | 17. INFORMANT (Wife) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes — Ltcdr-Reserve | 579-18-5871 | Mrs. Joyce H. Pitzer | 603 Boston Avenue Takoma Park, Maryland |

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

18. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).)

PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a): Gun Shot Wound of Brain — INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH: Seconds

9 M X

Conditions, if any, which gave rise to immediate cause (a), stating the underlying cause last.

DUE TO (b):

DUE TO (c):

PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I(a) — 19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? YES ☒ NO ☐

| 20a. EXTERNAL CAUSE WAS PRIMARY ☐ or CONTRIBUTING ☐ CAUSE OF DEATH | 20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of item 18.) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Shot - Self inflicted with 38 cal. Pistol. | | | | |
| 20c. TIME OF INJURY Month, Day, Year | 20d. INJURY OCCURRED While at work ☐ Not While at work ☐ | 20e. PLACE OF INJURY (Home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.) | 20f. (City or town) | (County) | (State) |
| 4:15 p.m. 10 29 1966 | | | | | |

21. I certify that I took charge of the remains described above, held an Autopsy ☒, Inspection ☒, Inquiry ☒, and in my opinion death resulted from: Natural causes ☐, Accident ☐, Suicide ☒, Homicide ☐, Undetermined manner ☐

ACTUAL SIGNATURE: John B. Ball M.D. — CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER ☐ — ASSISTANT MEDICAL EXAMINER ☐ — DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER ☒ — 22. DATE SIGNED: 10/30/66

EXAMINER'S NAME (Type): John B. Ball — Address (Street, city, town, or county):

| 23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) | 23b. DATE THEREOF | 23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY | 23d. LOCATION (City or Town) (County) (State) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Burial | 11/3/1966 | Arlington National Cemetery | Arlington, Virginia 24 |

| 24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR | | 25a. REC'D BY REGISTRAR | 25b. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE |
|---|---|---|---|
| W.W. Chambers Funeral Home | 8655 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Md. | DATE NOV 2 1966 | Charles Judge |

ENCLOSURE (8)

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE COPY OF THE RECORD ON FILE IN THE DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS.
DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS
DATE ISSUED: JAN 30 1967
VALID ONLY WITH IMPRESSED SEAL

V

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STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
111 PENN STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201
PHONE (301) 333-3250

JOHN E. SMIALEK, M.D.
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

POST MORTEM
EXAMINERS COMMISSION
BENJAMIN F. TRUMP, M.D.
CHAIRMAN
MAXIE COLLIER, M.D.
JOHN STAUBITZ
COL. ELMER TIPPETT
JOHN YARDLEY, M.D.

August 31, 1989

Harry E. Livingston
P. O. Box 7149
Baltimore, MD 21218

Dear Mr. Livingston:

In response to your letter of August 22, 1989, I am aware that my name was referred to in the book entitled "The Widows", which stated that I had provided the writers with access to the Medical Examiner's Report. The book identified me as Dr. Robert Smialek. I recall that in our brief conversation, I informed you that I had no personal knowledge of this case. This fact has not changed.

Regarding the report of the investigation of the death of William Bruce Pitzer, I am proceeding to have this report retrieved from the State Archives. When this report is available, I will be in touch with you.

Yours sincerely,

John E. Smialek, M. D.
Chief Medical Examiner
State of Maryland

JES/smf

Oct 30, 1989
Margaret Degnan 333-3230
Dr Smialek's asst.

VI
AND LAST PAGE

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