

COPY STATEMENT relating to the death of J. Shreeve, of the
S/S "AVONWOOD"
survivor ex Avonwood, picked up by S/S
"Ethylene" on which vessel he died (before
landing). Corpse conveyed to Royal Jubilee
Infirmary, North Shields where he was certified
dead.

I, Lawrence Bruce Anderson, (36yrs) Master S/S "Ethylene"
Braemore, Stockton Road, Seaham Co: Durham, do solemnly &
sincerely declare that at about 10-30 p.m. on Saturday, 12th
December, 1942, while proceeding in convoy with other ships,
the convoy having been attacked by E Boats & certain of the
ships sunk, my lifeboats, having been manned & taking part
in rescue work, were successful in rescuing 13 seamen, 6 of them
from a Norwegian vessel ("Marianne") and 7 from "Avonwood".
I made the rescued men as comfortable as possible and all
seemed to be going well with them when an A.B. ex "Avonwood"
named Shreeve suddenly collapsed and fell in the fore-castle
where he was preparing to go to bed. On being advised of
this happening I gave the Second Mate a bottle of rum &
asked that artificial respiration should be tried. This was
not successful as the man had passed away.
I can only assume that he collapsed & died from Heart
Failure due to shock & exposure while in the water after
his ship had been torpedoed.
Everything that could be done was done but without success.
he turned a bluey yellowish colour.

Sgd L.B. Anderson.
Declarant.

14/12/42.