

Thomas Duncan

(- 23 Jan 1882)

The Evening Star, January 23, 1882

Fatal Accident at the Navy Yard

About 8 o'clock this morning Seaman Thomas Duncan fell from the rigging of the steamer Portsmouth, and in the descent struck a portion of the sail and was precipitated overboard. He was rescued, but died within a few minutes, afterward. The coroner was called, and ascertained that his spine was fractured by the fall.

The Evening Star, January 27, 1882

Board to Investigate the Fatal Accident at The Navy Yard

Secretary Hunt has directed the following board to assemble at the navy yard, to make an investigation of the circumstances attending the death of Thomas Duncan, the carpenter and caulker of the Portsmouth, who was killed by falling from the rigging last Monday, while tricing up his bed clothes to air: Capt. James H. Gillis, Commander John A. Howell, Medical Inspector H.C. Nelson, Commander R.D. Evans and Lieut. Commander C.H. Stockton.

The Evening Star, February 2, 1882

The Fatal Accident at the Navy Yard

Secretary Hunt will approve the result of the board of inquiry which yesterday afternoon reported to him that Duncan, of the crew of the Portsmouth, came to his death by an accidental fall from the rigging, and for which no one was to blame. It is understood, however, that the Secretary will accompany his approval of the report with some distinct remarks in regard to confining men on bread and water.

(Note: Exhumed February 2, 1882 for autopsy by U.S. Navy)