

List of Exhibits

INTRODUCTION TO DEPOSITION

TOPICS

BACKGROUND

1. Background questions
 - bring documents to deposition
 - discussions about deposition
 - prior testimony under oath
 - identification of core exhibits
2. Previous restrictions on ability to talk about autopsy
3. Any restrictions on performing autopsy
 - Who was in charge of autopsy

AUTOPSY THROUGH TIME BODY LEAVES BETHESDA

4. Standard military medicolegal autopsy procedures circa 1963

- All regulations governing medicolegal autopsies
- Autopsy Manual* (1960)
- communication with doctor who signs death certificate
 - Burkely death certificate (T-3)
 - weighing organs
 - communications with clinician
 - communications with police
 - **telephone calls to Dallas**
 - examination of organs
 - witnesses at autopsy
 - etc.
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- Standard Bethesda procedures [Dennis]
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 - when was thorax to neck trajectory first hypothesized (follow up in topic 8)
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7. Comprehensive description of head wounds

- First observation
- Procedures
- Correlated photos to x-rays
- Conclusions
- Did opinion change over time'

7. Addendum: prior statements: scalp; skull;

entry wound; brain

8. Comprehensive description of thoracic-neck wounds

- First observations
 - Procedures
 - Details of thorax to neck hypothesis
 - Conclusions
 - Did opinion change over time
9. Identification of photos and x-rays
 - Sequence of exposures
 - Orientation
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CHRONOLOGY FROM BETHESDA DEPARTURE THROUGH SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

11. Chronology of events from Bethesda departure until completion of Supplementary Report
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 - all telephone calls
 - drafting protocol
 - burning of records
 - supplementary examination/report
12. Knowledge of disposition of any records or medical evidence

CHRONOLOGY AFTER COMPLETION OF SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

13. Through Warren Commission
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15. Miscellaneous/wrap-up.

Introduction

Location of dep. at NARA II

Swear the witness

Thank the witness

Appearing pursuant to subpoena as modified by agreement of the parties

Right to an attorney

Under oath

I will attempt to ask clear questions.

Do not hesitate to ask me to rephrase.

Take a break whenever you wish.

I am going to try to use lay terminology in my questioning whenever possible. You should of course use the precise medical terminology whenever it would affect the accuracy of your response.

I will ask you not to discuss this deposition with anyone for (x months)

Particularly anyone affiliated with the medical issues of this case.

You have testified x times before.

My goal is to fill in some of the gaps in the prior questioning--so I will not be repeating many of the questions you were asked previously--although some of my questions necessarily touch upon issues that were raised before.

Terminology:

"Thoracic-neck wounds" For the "second" wound there has been a controversy over whether it should be called a "back" or a "neck" wound. I will use the term "thoracic-neck wounds" to refer to these wounds.

Humes: "Situated on the **upper right posterior thorax** just above the upper border of the scapula there is a 7 x 4 millimeter oval wound. This wound is measured to be 14 cm. from the tip of the right acromion process and 14 cm. below the tip of the right mastoid process." Protocol 3.

"Autopsy procedures" includes incisions, cleaning, replacing fragments, etc.

[Delete?: My questions principally will be of x types: (1) records (including photographs); (2) clear and accurate description of the wounds on President Kennedy's body, and (3) most issues not related to the cause of death will not be included.]

01*. Background questions

Did you bring any records with you pursuant to the subpoena.

Please identify all records you have ever created that were related to, in the broadest sense, the autopsy of President Kennedy or the assassination of President Kennedy.

Draft notes during autopsy
Drafts of protocol
Notes of conversations with Arlen Specter
Notes of conversations with Rydberg.
Etc.

With whom have you discussed the deposition.

Dr. Boswell
Dr. Finck
Anyone from US government

Prior testimony under oath

Any corrections

Were you ever asked, directly or indirectly, to alter or change your prior testimony.

Were you asked by the WC, or any person, to present any testimony that differed from your own belief.

Please identify the following documents

Autopsy Protocol

Handwritten Protocol

whose handwriting

whose initials?

Supplementary Report

Face sheet

Humes WC testimony

Humes HSCA panel

Humes HSCA deposition

JAMA article

have you read

did you note any inaccuracies for quotations attributed to you.

02*. Previous restrictions on ability to talk about autopsy

Did you, at any time receive any orders instructing you not to talk about the autopsy.

By whom.

When.

Do you understand yourself to be under any order whatsoever that would limit your ability to tell the entire truth about the autopsy.

Finck: "After the completion of the post mortem examination, the Suregon General of the Navy told us not to discuss the autopsy with anyone, even among prosecutors or with the investigators involved." MD 22 at 23.

Did you ever make any promises, pledges, or agreements to anyone regarding your discussing the autopsy or assassination.

Would they limit your ability to answer questions fully and truthfully today.

Did you ever receive any threats related to statements about the autopsy.

Were you ever told, directly or indirectly, that the Kennedy requested that you not speak about the autopsy.

WRAP UP: is there anything whatsoever that will keep you from answering questions fully and to the best of your recollection?

03*. Any restrictions on performing autopsy

What was your role in the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Who was in charge of the autopsy of President Kennedy.

With respect to the autopsy, did you take orders, directly or indirectly, from any other person.

Identify.

Did you ever receive any orders, directly or indirectly, that affected the scope of autopsy
neck
adrenals
clothing
anything else

Please look at the Autopsy Protocol, MD 5, and tell me what the "x" under "full autopsy" signifies.

Was the autopsy of President Kennedy a full autopsy.

Between the time that you began the autopsy and you signed the Protocol, did anyone ever suggest to you that the autopsy was not a full autopsy or that the box should not be checked?

Did you ever receive any request, directly or indirectly, that affected the scope of the autopsy

Did you receive any communication suggesting that the autopsy be expedited.

Any other communications that suggested anything regarding scope of autopsy.

Were you ever informed of any preferences of Kennedy family regarding scope of autopsy.

If yes, did that request limit the scope of the autopsy?

If no:

Finck: "THE ORGANS OF THE NECK WERE NOT REMOVED : THE PRESIDENT's FAMILY INSISTED TO HAVE ONLY THE HEAD EXAMINED. Later, the permission was extended to the CHEST." NMD 22 at 6.

Finck: "The prosecutors complied with the autopsy permit and its restrictions. I was told that the Kennedy family first authorized the autopsy of the head only and then extended the permission to the chest. Organs of the neck were not removed, because of the same restrictions." MD 22 at 23.

Finck: "The President's family insisted to have only the head examined. Later, the permission was extended to the chest." 7 HSCA 101.

Finck testimony at Shaw trial **[anything else?]**

[anything?] Snyder of CBS report on Humes (get document.)

Was it ever communicated to you, directly or indirectly, that the adrenal glands should not be dissected or analyzed? That they should be treated any differently from standard procedure.

Finck: Shaw trial: pp. II:118-19.

Did anyone ever suggest to you, directly or indirectly, that the wounds should not be identified with reference to fixed body landmarks. [HSCA panel criticism at 7 HSCA 177]

Did anyone ever suggest to you, directly or indirectly, that you should not perform a sectioning of the brain.

Did anyone ever suggest to you, directly or indirectly, that you should perform less than a complete examination of the brain.

04*. Standard military medico-legal autopsy procedures

Autopsy standards in 1963.

Dr. Humes, as of 1963, had the military published any rules, regulations, or standards for the performance of military autopsies.

Identify rules with specificity.

Any handbooks.

Any manuals.

Any rules or regulations for the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda.

Are you acquainted with the term medicolegal autopsy.

What is it.

As of 1963, had the military issued any rules, publications, or standards governing medicolegal autopsies.

What were they?

Were you familiar with those rules and standards in 1963.

Did you consider the autopsy of President Kennedy to be a medicolegal autopsy?

Follow up.

Did the autopsy of President Kennedy conform to the governing standards for medicolegal autopsies.

Autopsy Manual (1960) - general

Do you recognize the document marked as MD 4, which on its face is entitled "Autopsy Manual" and was published by the Departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force in July, 1960.

Did you understand, as of 1963, the purpose, in part, of the Autopsy Manual as being one of insuring "uniformity in the selected techniques and objectives of an autopsy." (AM p. 2)

Was it your practice in the early 1960s to perform autopsies that satisfied the standards and requirements of the Autopsy Manual?

Were there any other manuals, publications, or standards that governed autopsies at Bethesda Naval Hospital in 1963.

Did the hospital, for example, promulgate regulations or rules on the conduct of autopsies.

Follow-up questions.

AM-Standards for Medicolegal autopsies

[Press (a) accuracy and (b) thoroughness]

Dr. Humes, were you familiar, in 1963, with the military's standards for medicolegal autopsies.

What is a medicolegal autopsy.

Where were the standards for medicolegal autopsies published.

Military regulations?

Directives

Statutes?

Rules of hospitals.

What rules governed military medicolegal autopsies in 1963.

As the person responsible for performing the autopsy on President Kennedy, was it your responsibility to be familiar with the procedures of a medicolegal autopsy?

“The prosector should be familiar with chapter 6 in the case of medicolegal autopsies and the Armed Forces Directives in appendix I.” AM at 4.

Do you agree with that statement.

]

Were you in fact familiar with Chapter 6 and the directives

“In the case of a medicolegal autopsy, the pathologist is responsible for determining the cause of death and uncovering evidence which may be of legal importance.” AM 44.

Do you agree with that statement.

During the course of President Kennedy's autopsy, did you in fact identify all evidence that reasonably may have been of legal importance.

Were you in fact familiar with the procedures of medicolegal autopsies at the time you performed the autopsy on President Kennedy.

“The medicolegal protocol must be correct in all dates, weights, measurements, and in spelling.” AM 56.

Does the Autopsy Protocol satisfy the requirement that weights and measurements are “correct.”

According to the Autopsy Manual, p. 56, **“A single error** lays the entire protocol open to the criticism of carelessness and may discredit the autopsy examination.”

Did you have that record-keeping standard in mind when you prepared the Autopsy Protocol.

Was it permissible for medicolegal autopsies to be partial autopsies.

“A medicolegal autopsy should never be a partial autopsy and should always include the brain, spinal cord, and organs of the neck.” AM 56.

Do you agree with that statement.

Later on page 56 it states: “The neck organs should always be examined” AM 56.

Do you agree with that statement.

Of the three items identified above -- the brain, spinal cord, and organs of the neck -- isn't it fair to say that each of three was specifically relevant to the death of President Kennedy.

By the above-standard, did President Kennedy receive a partial autopsy or a complete autopsy.

Is it your testimony that there was a complete medicolegal autopsy of the
brain
spinal cord
organs of the neck

What records can you identify that show that there was a complete

autopsy of the brain, spinal cord, and organs of the neck.

AM-Preparatory measures

--telephone calls with persons familiar with circumstances of death.

Was it standard procedure in 1963 for the prosector to confer with the treating physician before performing the autopsy.

“Before he performs the autopsy, the pathologist should familiarize himself with the clinical history, clinical diagnosis, and special points of interest to the clinician. Direct consultation with the responsible clinician is desirable.” AM at 4.

Was it standard procedure to record information learned from the treating physicians.

Was it standard practice for medicolegal autopsies to have the prosector communicate with the police or others who have information relating to the death.

“Before he performs the autopsy the pathologist should confer with the police, the investigating authorities, or others having information about the case, in order that he can recognize all available evidence.” AM 56.

Was it standard procedure to record information learned from the police or other authorities. [NB--there is such info in Protocol]

Was there a telephone available for your use at Bethesda.

Was there a telephone in the autopsy room.

Between the time of the arrival and departure of President Kennedy's body at Bethesda, are you aware of any person having called or attempted to call anyone in Dallas to learn anything about what the treating physicians witnessed.

Prior to the time that President Kennedy's body left Bethesda, did you make any attempt, directly or indirectly, to learn anything about the treatment of President Kennedy at Parkland Hospital.

Were any such calls made in the autopsy room.

While President Kennedy's body was at Bethesda, were you aware of any communications between Bethesda and Dallas regarding President Kennedy's injuries.

Who called.

Who was called.

What were you told.

I would like to show you some documents to see if they help refresh your recollection as to whether there were any communications between Bethesda

Stringer pp. 13, 17

Ebersole pp. 4 etc.

DOUG: others?

Do you understand the Autopsy Manual to imply that President Kennedy's autopsy pathologists should have contacted persons in Dallas prior to the completion of the autopsy.

AM-Preparatory measures

--written report on scene of the death

Was it standard practice in medicolegal autopsies for the prosector either to visit the scene of the death or to request a written report and photographs.

"In the event the pathologist cannot visit the scene he should request a written preliminary report on the circumstances surrounding death from the investigating authorities prior to performing the autopsy." AM 56.

Did you ever request a written report from the authorities in Dallas.

AM-Precision of measurements

--Fixed Landmarks

Are you acquainted with the expression: "identification by reference to fixed body landmarks."

"The size and relative position of each of the viscera should be observed in relation to fixed landmarks." **CITE to page #**

What does it mean.

Is it an important concept.

Why?

Is it standard in autopsies, when attempting to identify the location of a wound to do so by making reference to "fixed body landmarks."

Was the thoracic wound identified with respect to fixed body landmarks.

Does any standard medical text identify the mastoid process or the acromion as a "fixed body landmark"

--Weighing organs

Does standard autopsy protocol provide that principal body organs should be weighed and measured after removal.

"All viscera except the heart should be weighed and measured before they are sectioned." AM 8. "In general the weight, the greatest length, breadth and depth should be recorded." AM 8.

Were all of President Kennedy's organs weighed after being removed.
Reference to Boswell face sheet.

Were there any other written records of organ weight.

Was there a reason that they were not weighed.

Did anyone tell you not to weigh them.

Did you have any reason for not weighing them.

AM-Procedures: Gross Examination of Organs: Initial Procedures

During the course of a complete autopsy, should all of the organs in the body be examined.

"Initial procedure. Examine every organ in the body; collect representative sections of each for histologic studies and include skin, muscle, peripheral nerve, bone and marrow." AM-44

Was it standard procedure to record the results of the examination of the organs.

Was that done.

Why not.

Is it standard procedure in an autopsy to remove the organs of the neck and to examine

them.

AM-44.

Was it standard procedure to record the results of such an examination.

Was that done.

Why not.

Was it standard procedure in an autopsy to remove the adrenals and to examine them.

Was it standard procedure to record the results of such an examination.

Does a person who suffers a gunshot wound in greater risk if that person suffers from an adrenal deficiency, such as Addison's Disease.

[insert more on relationship of gunshot to adrenals.]

Did you record the results of an examination of the adrenals.

Why not.

Did anyone ask you not to.

Did anyone order you not to.

Did anyone communicate to you any preference that the adrenals not be examined.

Did you ever state or imply that you possess some secret with respect to President Kennedy's adrenals. [JAMA]

Brain

Was it standard autopsy procedure to weigh, measure, and examine the brain.

--[all viscera from quotation above]

--"Brain: Weight, convolutions and sulci; cerebral blood vessels; consistency; ventricles." AM 44

Did you or anyone else record the brain weight?

Procedure for fixing brain

How long should the brain be placed in fixative. (AM-22).

AM Procedures: Examination of clothing

"It should be a standing rule that neither the clothing nor the surface of the body be disturbed until examined by the pathologist." AM 56.

The pathologist should "prepare detailed descriptions...of the clothing...." AM 56.

Did you prepare, at any point, detailed descriptions of President Kennedy's clothing.

Why not.

Did you ask for the clothing.

Did Dr. Finck ask to examine the clothing.

Did Dr. Finck express any concern about conducting the autopsy without having the clothing.

Finck: "I was denied the opportunity to examine the clothing of Kennedy. One **officer who outranked me** told me that my request was only of academic interest. **The same officer did not agree to state in the autopsy report that the autopsy was incomplete**, as I had suggested to indicate." MD 22 at 23. [NB part of text handwritten over blacked out text.]

Do you know where the clothing was.

AM-Any pre-autopsy procedures on the body?

"It should be a standing rule that neither the clothing nor the surface of the body be disturbed until examined by the pathologist." AM 56.

Sibert & O'Neill

Ebersole suture of throat

AM-communication with doctor signing death certificate

Was it the responsibility of the prosecutor to inform the doctor signing the death certificate about the cause of death so that the doctor can record the cause of death on the death certificate. (AM at 2.)

Did you ever speak with Dr. Burkley and inform him of the cause of death.

Identify Burkley certificate.

Was Dr. Burkely present at the autopsy.

Did you ever discuss the President's wounds with Dr. Burkley.

Have you ever previously seen the death certificate signed by Dr. Burkely.

When.

Is it accurate.

I draw your attention to the location of the thoracic wound on the death certificate. T-3. Was the location identified by Dr. Burkely accurate?

Did you ever protest and say that it was inaccurate.

AM-Witnesses at autopsy

Earlier you stated that you were in charge of the autopsy, is that correct?

What was the standard procedure for permitting witnesses to attend a medicolegal autopsy.

"Restrict witnesses to the autopsy to those whose presence is required either by law or to assist the pathologist." AM 56.

Approximately how many persons were present at the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Did you make any attempt to limit the number of witnesses at the autopsy.

[additional questions on witnesses]

[Establish presence of Kellerman, Burkley, Sibert & O'Neill, other Dallas

persons. Establish his military superiors were present.]]

AM-Descriptions of wounds

What was the standard practice for recording information regarding wounds on the body.

“Prepare detailed descriptions, diagrams, and measurements of all wounds or recent disturbance of the clothing or to the surface of the body.” AM 56.

Did you prepare, at any point, detailed descriptions, diagrams, and measurements of all wounds.

[he will probably answer yes.]

AM-More than one assailant.

In medicolegal autopsies, is it important to consider whether more than one assailant may have been responsible for the victim's wounds.

“Is there evidence that more than one assailant participated in the attack, and if so, what injuries can be attributed to each.” AM 60.

During the course of the autopsy, what did you do to determine whether there was more than one assailant.

What did you do to satisfy yourself in this regard.

AM-Sections/samples and specimens

“Tissue for histopathological examination should be taken from the entrance wound.” AM 61.

“Label all specimens removed from the body for further examination. Do not permit any interruptions in the continuity of custody of the specimens.” AM 56.

Miscellaneous [move up as appropriate]

Uniformity requirement: The *Autopsy Manual* states: “This manual is intended . . . to insure uniformity in the selected techniques and objectives of an autopsy.”

Did the autopsy of President Kennedy satisfy, in your judgment, the requirement of “uniformity” as provided in the *Autopsy Manual*?

If no, explain.

Tape recordings at Bethesda

05*. Records created during and after autopsy

"Photographs of the scene where the body was found and the photographs made by the pathologist should be attached to the final autopsy report." AM 56.

For the autopsy of President Kennedy, were you ever asked or ordered to perform (or not to perform) any procedure that was inconsistent with the Autopsy Manual or any other rules governing medicolegal autopsies.

Types of records and documentation prepared in the ordinary course of a standard military medicolegal autopsy

Did the autopsy of President Kennedy satisfy the record-keeping requirements of medicolegal autopsies that were standard in 1963?

If no--which record keeping requirements were not satisfied by the autopsy of President Kennedy.

What records were usually generated during the course of an autopsy at Bethesda in the 1960s.

- Log for receipt of body
- Log for receipt of organs and tissues
- Log of photos taken
- Log of x-rays
- More from Dennis??
- Tissue sections
- Brain set in formalin
- Histology
- Serology
- Radiology
- Toxicology

Humes notes

Did you personally take any notes during the time that President Kennedy's body was at Bethesda.

Describe the notes as accurately as possible.

How many pages.

What was on them.

Organ weights.

Measurements.

Face sheet.

Short notes only? Any text.

Did you observe anyone else taking notes while President Kennedy's body was at Bethesda.

Boswell.

Describe as completely as possible.

Finck.

Ebersole

Dr. Burkely

FBI Agents Sibert and O'Neill

Stringer

Anyone else.

Did you ever read any notes of others that were drafted while President Kennedy's body was at Bethesda.

Whose.

Describe in detail.

You have previously acknowledged that you burned some records related to the autopsy at your fireplace at home. There has been some confusion about which records you destroyed. As best you recall, what exactly did you destroy.

["I sat down and word for word copied what I had on fresh paper. . . .
Destroyed the ones that were stained with the president's blood." 1
HSCA 330]

Notes from autopsy.

Face sheet from autopsy.

Draft protocol.

Why did you destroy the records.

Blood.

What did you copy.

Did the original notes (created before conversation with Dr. Perry), contain any information with respect to the angle of the penetration on the thoracic wound?

Did the original notes identify the location of the thoracic wound in reference to the vertebra?

06*. GENERAL CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Any communications with outside (prior to departure from Bethesda)

Livingston.

Preliminary view of body/casket/wrapping/unwrapping

While you were unwrapping the body, did a bullet or bullet-fragment fall out?

Did you subsequently recover any bullets during the course of the autopsy?

Sibert and O'Neill executed and signed a receipt for a missile received from CDR James J. Humes on 11/22/63, and both X-Ray technician Jerrol Custer and CAPT David P. Osborne claim to have seen a bullet fall from either the body or the clothing at autopsy.) **DOUG OBTAIN SPECIFIC CITES]**

Kellerman: "they were looking for pieces of fragmentation of this bullet. There was none; only one piece to my knowledge. That was removed inside above the eye, the right eye." 2 WC 94. "all through this series of X-rays this was the one that they found, through X-ray that was above the right eye, and they removed that." 2 WC 100.

When did autopsy begin. [8:00]

Sequence of photos/x-rays taken. [at beginning and throughout]

When were the first x-rays taken.

Were they taken at any other point.

Pre-Y incision.

Post-Y, but before organ removal.

Post organ removal.

Why?

When was the latest taken.

For late arriving fragments?

Some photos and x-rays made at beginning. Humes 2 WC 349.

Additional photos and x-rays made during the course of the autopsy. 2 WC 349.

Did you observe any developed photographs or x-rays during the time that the body was at Bethesda.

Humes: "the photographs and the X-rays were exposed in the morgue of the Naval Medical Center on this night, and **they were not developed, neither the X-rays or the photographs.**" 2 WC 351

Yet:

Humes: there was a "rather sizable [radio opaque] fragment visible by X-ray just above the right eye." 2 WC 353.

Humes: "we were not too surprised in not being able to find the tiny fragments depicted in the X-ray." 2 WC 353.

Humes: "we examined carefully the bony structures in this vicinity as well as the X-rays . . ." 2 WC 361.

Humes: "The X-rays were developed in our X-ray department on the spot that evening, because we had to see those right then as part of our

examination, but the photographs were made for the record and for other purposes.”

[Additional question: for **what** other purposes?]

When did Col. Finck arrive.

What had already been done at the time of his arrival.

Some photos/x-rays.

Finck: “X-ray films of the head and chest had been taken.” MD 22 at 4.

Y incision.

removal of brain, heart, lungs.

Finck: “The brain, the heart and the lungs had been removed before my arrival.” MD 22 at 4.

When was thoracic wound discovered.

Kellerman: Q: “When did they lift him up and first observe the hole in the shoulder? A: “They had been working on him for quite some time, Mr. Specter--through the photos and other things they do through an autopsy. And I believe it was this Colonel Finck who raised him and there was a clean hole.” 2 WC 103.

When did autopsy end. [11:00]?

When did fragments arrive.

Finck: Near midnight.

When did body depart Bethesda.

Finck: 0400 hours. MD 22 at 6.

Misc.

Photos/x-rays

brain removal

Y-incision

discovery of thoracic wound

probing thoracic wound (time spent on see Fienman letter to Congress)

first belief

Sequence

All communications from outside

Details on thoracic-neck wounds

Any calls to/from Dallas.

Any other calls that communicated information to you.

When was the brain removed

How difficult was the removal

When did Finck arrive

Any photos x-rays after his arrival?

When did skull fragments arrive

What metal fragments were removed

What metal fragments remained

Probe insert?

What other information was learned prior to the conclusion of the autopsy.

Bullet found.

Describe fragments received. Any occipital?

What time did the autopsy begin.

What time did it end.

When did President Kennedy's body leave Bethesda.

What time did the fragments arrive.

Finck: "close to midnight, portions of cranial vault are received from DALLAS, Texas." MD 22 at 5.

Photographs and x-rays

Telephone calls to/from Dallas

Throat wound Humes WC testimony

Humes: "Well, the first thing we did was make many photographs which we knew would obviously be required for a wide variety of purposes, took basically whole body X-rays and then proceeded with the examination of the two wounds that we very shortly detected were present, starting with the wound in the head and proceeding to the wound in the back of the neck, upper thorax." 1
HSCA 324

Arrival of objects during course of autopsy

How many skull fragments. Contrast with Sibert/O'Neill

Any bullets? FBI document on bullet being sent with body.

When/how did you remove scalp

Did it appear that any skull had been sawn or manipulated

Did you saw the skull

size/quantity of skull fragments that fell out during course of autopsy.

--Number?

*--Size?

Removal of brain

When was brain removed

what procedures were followed

who did the work

When was the thoracic wound first located. Cite

(If he says late in autopsy and if he said photos were taken at beginning, pursue discrepancy.)

Precise location of thoracic wound Ex: Burkley death certificate

Was any attempt made to trace the path of the bullet in the thoracic wound.

Obtain Exhibit: Kellerman: "A Colonel Finck--during the examination of the President, from the hole that was in his shoulder, and with a probe, and we were standing right alongside of him, he is probing inside the shoulder with this instrument . . . " 2 WC 93.

For any of the following on which there is a "hit," follow up later.

Pre-autopsy communications?

With whom?

Dr. Livingston?

Anyone in Dallas?

Secret Service or FBI?

confirm beginning time

prior to that time, any communications with Dallas

any communication with Dr. Livingston

any communication with anyone regarding the nature of President Kennedy's wounds or injuries

In addition to Drs. Perry, Boswell, and Finck, did you discuss any substantive issue relating to the autopsy with any other person prior to the time the Autopsy Protocol was completed.

Dr. Burkley

Robert McNamara

Other than with Drs. Boswell and Finck, did you discuss any substantive matters relating to the autopsy with anyone prior to the time the autopsy was completed.

E.g., Dr. Burkley, Dr. Stover, Surgeon General

Were you ever pressured, directly or indirectly, to change or alter anything related to the findings of the autopsy.

Did you speak with anyone who had been at Parkland Hospital with President Kennedy .

Did you ask them any questions at all about the thoracic wound, the throat wound.

Anything.

Agent Kellerman

Agent Greer

General Timing Parameters

[obtain EXS to document times]

When did witness first see body

Establish witness with body until departure from Bethesda

Time witness first sees body

Time of departure of body from Bethesda

[Autopsy began circa 8:00 p.m.

Concluded at 11:00 p.m. 1/26/67 Report]

Sequence of events through removal of brain

Did you ever see the casket in which President Kennedy was lying.

Did you see the body of President Kennedy before it was removed from the casket.

Who removed the body.

Where was the casket when the body was removed.

Any wrapping or covering

Who removed wrapping.

Were any bullets or fragments found in the wrapping?

Were any bullets or fragments found prior to the beginning of the autopsy.

Was the brain in the cranium when you first saw the body.

When were first photos taken.
Immediately?

When were first x-rays taken.
Immediately.

Which were taken first, the photos or the x-rays.

Were all photos taken at the same time or were they taken at different times during the autopsy.

In the next few questions I am going to use the word "procedure" to refer to any actions taken on the body of President Kennedy after his body was unwrapped. So I am using the term procedure to include any incision, cleaning the body, removal or replacement of a skull fragment, or removal of a bullet fragment. Procedure thus refers to any action taken that would alter the appearance of the body. Is the term "procedure" used in this way acceptable?

Were any procedures performed before the first photos were taken.

Were any procedures performed before the first x-ray.

Were any procedures undertaken between photos?

Which procedures?

Cleaning of body or head

Y-Incision

Any other incision

Removal of brain

Removal of fragment.

Were any photographs or x-rays taken after the brain was removed

[Unless witness says that all x-rays and photos were taken before procedures, state that we will attempt to ascertain the order of the photos/x-rays later. See topic 09.]

Were any photos available to you during the autopsy.

Were any x-rays available to you during the autopsy.

Did you use them.

How many.

Brief description of x-rays used.

What was the first procedure that was performed on the body after it was unwrapped.

[Go through each procedure in order until removal of brain.]

How soon after the beginning of the autopsy was the brain removed.

Best estimate of timing of removal of brain.

Within 30 minutes of beginning.

Was Dr. Finck present before the brain was removed

Briefly explain the procedure undertaken for removal of the brain.

Was it difficult.

Was corpus callosum cut

Were any photos or x-rays taken after brain removed?

Sequence of events after removal of brain

Approximately how long after removal of the brain was the Y-incision made.

Approximately when was the thoracic wound found.

Before/after removal of brain.

Before/after Y-incision.

Was Dr. Finck present when found.

Early/late in autopsy.

Early:

Humes to HSCA staff (p. 7)

Ebersole dep. p. 47

Finck p. 80

Lipsey p. 6

Late:

[MD 16: Kellerman tr. at 2 WC 103

Specter: When did they lift him up and first observe the hole in the shoulder? K: They had been working on him for quite some time . . ."]

[other EX: late in autopsy]

Were any attempts made to probe the path of the thoracic wound.

[follow up in Topic 10 missing photos]

07*. Comprehensive description of head wounds
See 07Addendum

EXS: plastic skull
Protocol

I would like to start first with the appearance of the wounds before any procedures (except cleaning) were performed.

Humes: "certain X-Rays and other examinations were made before the actual beginning of the routine type autopsy examination." 2 WC 349

Scalp missing

Was there any scalp missing at the time you began the autopsy.

Protocol: "[T]here is an actual absence of scalp and bone producing a defect which measures approximately 13 cm. in greatest diameter." MD 5 Protocol p. 3.

Protocol: "A portion of the projectile made its exit through the parietal bone on the right carrying with it portions of cerebrum, skull and scalp." (p. 6)

How much.

Where was it missing.

Were there any lacerations in the scalp.

Finck: "The scalp of the back of the head showed a small laceration, 15 x 6 mm. Corresponding to this lesion I found a through-and-through wound of the occipital bone, with a crater visible from the inside of the cranial cavity." MD 22 at 1 (cover memo)

Protocol p. 3. MD 5.

Scalp lacerations

Any lacerations on the left hemisphere.

Skull missing at beginning of autopsy
Protocol p. 4 para III-IV

How much of the skull was missing when you began the autopsy.

Size, shape of missing pieces

Where was it missing.

Any skull missing on left hemisphere

MD 6: face sheet. Is the face sheet accurate.

Skull arriving during course of autopsy (para VI)

how many fragments were received during autopsy

3? Protocol

1?

[Did any other specimens arrive separately from the body. Scalp? Brain tissue?]

Skull fractures

Describe location of fractures.

Any fractures on left hemisphere.

Fractures in frontal and facial bones.

Skull entry wound

In which skull bone.

Location specifically.

Have you ever changed your mind on the location of the entrance wound.

Do you agree with the HSCA's characterization of your testimony?

Do you agree with Finck?

Finck: "The scalp of the back of the head showed a small laceration, 15 x 6 mm. Corresponding to this lesion I found a through-and-through wound of the occipital bone, with a crater visible from the inside of the cranial cavity." MD 22 at 1 (cover memo)

Brain tissue -- Protocol p. 4 paras II and V

What is your best estimate of the amount of brain tissue that was missing at the time you began the autopsy.

"Proves to represent the major portion of the right cerebral hemisphere"
Was this evident before removal of the brain.

What significance, if any, do you attach to the disruption of the falx cerebri.

Did the injury extend into the left hemisphere.

How much did brain weigh when it was removed from skull

Head entrance wound Protocol p. 4 para I

Where was the entrance wound.
[collect different descriptions over time.]

Correlate x-rays and photos for entry wound.

Did you, at any time after the Autopsy Protocol was complete, change your opinion regarding the location of the entrance wound.

Was HSCA correct that you changed your opinion.

Was Gerald Posner correct that you changed your position.

07 Addendum

| Scalp | |
|------------|--|
| | |
| Protocol 6 | "...exit through the parietal bone on the right carrying with it portions of cerebrum, skull and scalp." |
| | |

| Skull | |
|-------|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

| Skull Entry-Exit Wound | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Protocol 6 | "The fatal missile entered the skull above and to the right of the external occipital protuberance." |
| Humes HSCA Panel 1 HSCA 327. | [while being shown F-48 Ida Dox drawing of back of head] "It is obvious to me as I sit here how with this his [sic] markedly enlarged drawing of the photograph that the upper defect to which you pointed or the upper object is clearly in the location of where we said approximately where it was, above the external occipital protuberance; therefore I believe that is the wound of entry." "[T]he object in the lower portion, which I apparently and I believe now erroneously previously identified before the most recent panel, is far below the external occipital protuberance and would not fit with the original autopsy findings." 1 HSCA 327. |
| Posner (p. 112-113). | Posner: Congressional testimony attached to Robertson testimony. "It was the work of [the HSCA] that had the two autopsy physicians change their mind, that they had been mistaken about the placement of the wound, here, and that it is in fact correctly placed 4 inches higher. I have spoken to them about this and they have confirmed their change of testimony that they gave before the house Select Committee on Assassinations." |
| Finck | "Another bullet struck Kennedy in the back of the head, at 25 mm to the right of the external occipital protuberance and slightly above. The bullet prod[uced] many fragments and an exit would of 130 mm in the right temporo-parieto- occipital bone. Many metallic fragments were seen on X ray films, but only two were recovered in the right frontal cerebral hemisphere, elong [sic?] and black, representing approximately one tenth of the bullet mass. These fragments measured 7X 2 and 3 X1 mm." MD 22 at 13. |
| | |
| | |

| Brain | |
|-------|--|
| | |

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

08*. Comprehensive description of thoracic-neck wounds

| Thoracic-neck Entry | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Burkley Death Certificate | T-3. |
| Protocol 3 | “Situating on the upper right posterior thorax just above the upper border of the scapula there is a 7 x 4 millimeter oval wound. This wound is measured to be 14 cm. from the tip of the right acromion process and 14 cm. below the tip of the right mastoid process.” |
| Protocol 4 | “The second wound presumably of entry is that described above in the upper right posterior thorax.” |
| Protocol 6 | “The other missile entered the right superior posterior thorax above the scapula and traversed the soft tissue of the supra-scapular and the supra-clavicular portions of the base of the right side of the neck. This missile produced contusions of the right apical parietal pleura and of the apical portion of the right upper lobe of the lung. The missile contused the strap muscles of the right side of the neck, damaged the trachea and made its exit through the anterior surface of the neck. As far as can be ascertained this missile struck no bony structures in its path through the body.” |
| HSCA argues Humes changed his mind | Hume's HSCA testimony: the HSCA panel believed that you changed your opinion regarding the head entrance wound. Is that correct. “[W]hile testifying before this committee, Dr. Humes, the chief autopsy pathologist, changed his earlier testimony and supported the panel's conclusion as to the location of the wound.” 7 HSCA 176 TJG reading of Hume's testimony: I don't read Hume's HSCA testimony as necessarily changing his opinion. I see him as solely clarifying that he had misidentified the location of the EOP vis a vis the photos. He decided that the tissue near the hairline was not near the EOP, whereas the upper entry point was near the EOP. Is this correct?] |
| | |
| HSCA Conclusion | “entering the upper right back” 7 HSCA 80; “the entrance proliferation is medial to the scapula and superior to the ribs” 7 HSCA 87; however, insufficient evidence “preclude[s] reconstruction of the exact entrance point.” 7 HSCA 87 |
| HSCA terms | HSCA: “upper-right mid back” 7 HSCA 175 HSCA: “back wound” 7 HSCA 176 HSCA: “bullet passing through the President's back and neck . . .” 7 HSCA 177 |
| Finck/Blumberg | “None of us noticed a bullet wound along its course. THE ORGANS OF THE NECK WERE NOT REMOVED : THE PRESIDENT's FAMILY INSISTED TO HAVE ONLY THE HEAD EXAMINED. Later, the permission was extended to the CHEST.” MD 22 at 6. |
| Finck/Blumberg | “the oval wound in the right posterior superior aspect of the chest of Kennedy was an ENTRY.” MD 22 at 14. |

| Thoracic-Neck Wound Transit | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Finck | “X ray films had ruled out bone injuries along the bullet path.” MD 22 at 13. |
| | “My attempt to probe the path of the bullet was unsuccessful. I examined |

| | |
|-------|--|
| Finck | the tracheotomy skin wound and the trachea and did not find evidence of a bullet wound. Having a wound of entrance in the back and no corresponding exit, I requested a whole body radiographic survey , the results of which were negative.” MD 22 at 22. |
| Finck | “did not strike bone” MD 22 at 25. |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

09*. Identification of photos and x-rays

Generally. AM 66

“Slender arrows cut from paper, or wooden applicator sticks judiciously used, aid in calling attention to a lesion. A ruler or scale should always be included. It is important to keep identifying number, ruler, and arrows out of contact with the specimen. They should be so placed that they can be blocked out if desired when a print is made.” AM 66.

What was the accepted procedure for taking photographs at autopsies.

“Have photographs made of all potentially important evidence that can be recorded photographically.” AM 56 (emphasis in original)

Were photographs taken of all potentially important evidence?

For photos taken after procedures had begun

Identify circumstances of each photo/x-ray that was taken after procedures had begun.

Any matter reinserted?

Photos

e.g., scalp pulled over wound?

e.g., hair cleaned, washed?

e.g., fragments of skull put back into place

e.g., pictures of skull after scalp reflected

e.g., fragments of skull arriving during course of autopsy

X-Rays

Skull

e.g., fragments put back in
which fragments?

X-rays to help trace trajectory of thoracic wound

Were any photos taken before any procedures performed. (including washing or cleaning).

Identify.

Identify each photo that was taken before any procedures were begun (if any)

review each photograph and determine when it was taken and the angle for cranial wound

--See 7 HSCA 51

Was skull pulled over wound at any time during photography?

--Why?

Was a photograph ever taken of the skull entry wound (with scalp reflected)?

X-rays

10*. MISSING PHOTOS/X-rays

Who took the photos and x-rays
Stringer
Riebe
Ebersole
Anyone else

After the autopsy was completed, did you ever have any discussions with any of these men regarding the autopsy photos and x-rays

Missing photos?

Were any photos taken of what you identified as the skull entrance wound.

Humes: "photographs illustrating this phenomenon from both the external surface of the skull and from the internal surface were prepared" 2 WC 352

Finck: "I help the Navy photographer to take photographs of the occipital wound (external **and internal** aspects) as well as of the wound in the back." MD 22 at 6. [N.B. these are after the Y incision.]

Were any photos taken of what you identified as the bruise of the visceral pleura?

Humes: "Kodachrome photographs were made of this area in the interior of the President's chest." 2 WC 363.

Karnei's probe inserted

EXs showing probe was used. [See Feinman letter to Congress]

Missing x-rays?

During the course of the autopsy, did you identify a bone from the skull that had the characteristics of an exit wound?

Humes: 2 WC 355

Did you have that fragment x-rayed?

"To confirm that this was a missile wound, X-rays were made of that fragment of bone, which showed radio-opaque material consistent and similar in character to the particles seen within the skull . . ." 2 WC 355

[Is this the x-ray showing the three fragments or is this another x-ray?]

X-rays of extremities/full body.

[Should this be shown to Humes before asking him about it?]

Humes: "Before the arrival of Colonel Finck we had made X-rays of the head, neck and torso of the President, and the upper portions of his major extremities, or both his upper and lower extremities. At Colonel Finck's suggestion, we then completed the X-ray examination by X-raying the President's body in toto, and those X-rays are available." 2 WC 364.

Finck: "I SUGGEST X RAY FILMS BE TAKEN, ANTEROPOSTERIOR AND LATERAL, OF THE ENTIRE BODY, BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER WITH THE AUTOPSY. This radiologic survey does not reveal any major missile in the President's cadaver." MD 22 at 6.

Finck: "Having a wound of entrance in the back and no corresponding exit, I **requested a whole body radiographic survey**, the results of which were negative." MD 22 at 22.

Clark panel list

LBJ Comment on Clark list

Missing photographs at time of Clark panel (Belcher/LBJ)

Misc

Any other photos you know were taken that are not present here?

What happened to other photos

see any at any other time

ever talk to photographers about photos

11*. Chronology of events from Bethesda departure until completion of Supplementary Report

All Conversations

All Telephone Calls

Drafting Protocol

When did the supplemental examination take place

November 29.

Finck; MD 122 at 7.

Finck: Brain weighed 1500 grams. "The CONVOLUTIONS of the brain are flat and the SULCI are narrow, but this is interpreted as a fixation artefact because the change was not observed at the time of autopsy." MD 22 at 8.

Drafting Protocol

Cover sheet.

Was it a complete autopsy?

Did Col. Finck dissent from this label?

Finck: "In my discussion with Cdr Humes, I stated that we should not check the block 'complete autopsy' in the Autopsy Report Form. In compliance with the wishes of the Kennedy family, the prosectors had confiend their examination to the head and chest." MD 22 at 7.

Finck: "I was denied the opportunity to examine the clothing of Kennedy. One **officer who outranked me** told me that my request was only of academic interest. **The same officer did not agree to state in the autopsy report that the autopsy was incomplete**, as I had suggesed to indicate." MD 22 at 23. [NB part of text handwritten over blacked out text.]

Chronology of draft Autopsy Protocol.

When did you first begin to draft the Autopsy Protocol.

When did you sign the final autopsy protocol.

What materials did you use to draft the protocol.

Your notes.

Boswell face sheet.

Notes of anyone else.

Anything else.

X-rays

photographs

Approximately how many drafts did you make.

Were the drafts handwritten.

Did you type any drafts.

Did you have anyone type any drafts for you.

Between the time that President Kennedy's body arrived at Bethesda and the time that you signed the final protocol, with whom did you discuss any substantive matters related to the autopsy or the injuries of President Kennedy.

Dr. Burkley

Dr. Boswell

Dr. Finck

Dr. Perry

When did you begin writing the protocol.

Humes: "I assumed the responsibility for writing the report, which I began about 11 o'clock in the evening of Saturday, November 23, having wrestled with it for 4 or 5, 6 hours in the afternoon, and worked on it until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning of Sunday, the 24th. 1 HSCA 330.

How many drafts were written.

Where did you write the different drafts.

Who typed the drafts.

Did you type either the draft or the original at home?

Did you keep a copy of any drafts.

What documents did you have with you while you prepared the report

"I had the draft notes which we had prepared in the autopsy room, which I copied." Humes 1 HSCA 330.

.To whom did you show the drafts

Captain Canada[check Stover memo on conversation with Canada.

With whom did you speak about drafts.

Name all persons

Burning of Records

Humes: "I...have destroyed by burning certain preliminary draft notes..." Certificates he signed on November 24, 1963

Humes: "Autopsy notes and the holographic draft of the final report were handed to Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Medical School..." Second certificate

Humes: March 16, 1964 sworn testimony in 2 WH, on pages 372-373: "In privacy of my own home, early in the morning of Sunday, November 24th, I made a draft of this report which I later revised, and of which this represents the revision. That draft I personally burned in the fireplace of my recreation room."

Humes: HSCA Forensic Pathology Panel on September 16, 1977: "...I want to comment about it--some comments that I destroyed some notes related to this, by burning in the fireplace of my home, and that is true..."; and after describing that his motive was to prevent inappropriate or sensational or profiteering use by unauthorized persons of documents with the President's blood on them, he continued: "...having transcribed those notes onto the pieces of paper that are before you, I destroyed those pieces of paper." In discussing the bloodstains on the autopsy face sheet (which was not destroyed and still exists), Humes said: "Now, I didn't redraw Jay's, and don't ask me why...I guess it was because I didn't have another piece of paper and I didn't want to sit down and reproduce a drawing."

Humes: September 7, 1978 before the full House Committee on Assassinations: "The original notes which were stained with the blood of our late President, I felt, were inappropriate to retain...I sat down and word for word copied what I had on fresh paper...destroyed the ones that were stained with the President's blood."

Call to Perry

Ascertain exact time of calls (evidence of calls during 11/22 evening/night

Why call Perry
Why not McClelland

Draft

show draft to Canada

Did you see replay of Dallas doctors press conference

Did anyone tell you what was said.

Did you ask anyone what was said.

discuss autopsy with anyone

did anyone express, directly or indirectly, any concerns about the autopsy findings?

Before you were finished.

After you were finished.

Preparation of protocol

Protocol prepared morning of 11/23 1/26/67 Report

Protocol delivered to Burkley at 6:30 p.m. on 11/24 1/26/67 Report

12*. Any knowledge about disposition of medical evidence

Disposition of Skull fragments after autopsy

How many of the skull fragments identified above remained with the body and how many were kept for further examination?

13* Chronology from Supplementary Report through Warren Commission

Rydberg

Arlen Specter

all other communications

Warren Commission preparation and testimony

Arlen Specter

When did you meet with him.

What did he say.

Rydberg drawings

Did Rydberg see the autopsy photographs

Did you ask to see the photographs

Whom did you ask and what were you told.

Accuracy of Rydberg drawings

testimony to HSCA

testimony to WC

comments in JAMA

Were you ever asked, in any way, to alter the location of wounds with respect to the Rydberg drawings?

Finck before the Warren Commission

March 16, 1964

Spent 7 hours with WC. MD 22 at 16.

Spent 30 minutes testifying MD 22 at 13.

March 23, 1964

In touch with FBI agent. MD 22 at 17.

April 14, 1964

five hours with WC, Specter, Rankin, Eisenberg, FBI and USSS, Humes and Boswell, Light and Olivier from Edgewood. Z film shown. MD 22 at 19.

14*. Chronology of events after Warren Commission to Present

Anything at time of Clay Shaw trial
taken to New Orleans?

HSCA

JAMA article

Ever contacted by any other representatives of US government.

FBI

Secret Service.

Military

Did anyone ever express any concerns to you regarding the autopsy findings.

Did you ever speak or communicate, directly or indirectly with any of the following regarding the autopsy:

--Robert McNamara

--Robert Kennedy

--Jacqueline Kennedy

--Admiral George Burkley

--President Lyndon Johnson

Edgewood arsenal Phil has cite

Specter

15*. MISC.and Wrap-up

Z film

How can autopsy be reconciled with Z-313 (scalp wound)

"Pristine bullet"

Finck: "we were told that a bullet had been found on Kennedy's stretcher whereas it was on Connally's..." MD 22 at 24.

Checklist

- x Comprehensive outline
- x Autopsy Protocol
- Supplementary Report
- x Autopsy Manual
- x Doug: Master List in alpha order
- Dennis: Exhibits
 - Photos
 - Documents
 - Skull
- Finck/Blumberg
- x Robertson Congressional
- x Roger Bruce Feinman letter 1
- x Roger Bruce Feinman letter 2
- x Standard autopsy protocol (7 HSCA 181-94)
- x X-Ray opinions (7 HSCA 217-39)
- T JAMA
- Aguilar questions
- Sibert & O'Neill
- Ebersole testimony
- Horne questions on computer
- T Humes Warren
- T Humes HSCA 1
- T Humes HSCA 2
- Aguilar on computer
- Cunningham on computer

Locate Exhibits

- critical:** Baltimore Sun, Nov. 25, 1966, A1, A8 [Boswell's version of events]
- Humes holograph
- CBS Memoranda (Feinman letter)
- any other military autopsy regulations
- critical:** Bethesda evidence
 - autopsies immediately before and after
 - baby
 - major
 - standard procedures
 - forms
 - other Humes autopsy protocols
- Photos

Queries

- Dennis: confirm Autopsy Manual was current in 1963.
- How much weight does formalin add to brain
 - get standard text on this topic
- Standard brain weights
- Did WC do any taping
- Did Manchester have an office at WC
- Humes's CBS neighbor evidence