

List of Exhibits

INTRODUCTION TO DEPOSITION

TOPICS

BACKGROUND

1. Background questions
 - bring documents to deposition
 - any corrections to previous testimony
 - 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
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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

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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
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supplementary examination and report

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CHRONOLOGY AFTER COMPLETION OF SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

- 13. Through Warren Commission
- 14. Later activities (Shaw trial; HSCA; JAMA article; Posner; other)
- 15. Miscellaneous/wrap-up.

Exhibit Numbers for Medical Documents

MD1 Dallas Death Certificate (Clark)
 MD2 White House Death Certificate
 MD3 Dallas Death Certificate (Ward)
 MD4 Autopsy Manual (1960)
 MD5 Autopsy protocol
 MD5 Face sheet [or MI?]
 MD6 Supplementary Report
 MD7 Handwritten protocol
 MD8 Finck notes (140 pages)
 MD9 Sibert and O'Neill Report
 MD10 Humes WC testimony
 MD11 Boswell WC testimony
 MD Kellerman WC (thoracic wound
 discovery, probe)
 MD12 Clark Panel Report
 MD13 HSCA Panel transcript
 MD14 Humes HSCA
 MD15 Humes-Purdy interview
 MD16 Humes-Purdy interview
 MD17 Humes-Rather interview
 MD18 "Blumberg Report"
 MD19 Finck Summary of autopsy
 MD20 Finck's Shaw Trial Transcript
 (excerpts)
 MD21 Ebersole HSCA
 MD22 CBS documents
 MD23 JAMA article I
 MD24 JAMA article II
 "Military Review" DOJ Memo
 1/26/67
 Medical chain of custody records?

Exhibit Numbers for Medical Illustrations

MI- Skull
 MI- Autopsy photos
 MI- Autopsy X-rays
 MI- Enhanced X-rays
 MI- Rydberg drawings
 MI- Ida Dox drawings
 HSCA skull
 MI- Zapruder frames

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.

With whom have you discussed the deposition.

- Dr. Boswell
- Dr. Finck
- Anyone from US government

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

02*. Previous restrictions on ability to talk about autopsy

orders
promises
threats
wishes of the Kennedy family
wrap-up: any limitation on full and truthful dep today

All prior testimony regarding the Kennedy autopsy.

Under oath

WC?

HSCA

Other

HSCA panel

Was your previous testimony truthful and accurate.

Did you make any statements you knew to be false.

Were you ever under orders not to discuss autopsy.

Are you constrained by any orders

Did you ever make a promise to anyone not to discuss autopsy.

Robert Kennedy

Robert McNamara

anyone else JAMA: adrenals

Were you ever pressured not to talk.

Give opportunity to witness to explain what he has not been able to explain before.

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

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

Who was in charge of the autopsy of President Kennedy.

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

Did anyone, at any point, attempt to give you an order regarding the scope of the autopsy

From Dr. Burkley.

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.

Finck testimony at Shaw trial

Snyder of CBS report on Humes (get document)

For example, 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.

REPEAT QUESTION REGARDING ANY LIMITATIONS ON DISCUSSION ABOUT AUTOPSY.

Interference with autopsy

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

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 autopsy procedures (esp. at Bethesda)

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 EX DM-, 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 prosecutor 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-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-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 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]

AM-telephone calls to Dallas

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

identify evidence of calls
Stringer pp. 13, 17
Ebersole pp. 4 etc.

Did anyone who was present at the autopsy, to the best of your knowledge, make any attempt to communicate with persons in Dallas regarding the treatment of President Kennedy before his death.

Do you understand the Autopsy Manual to imply that it would have been a recommended for one of the prosecutors to contact Dallas
Were there any standard procedures, e.g.
communication with treating physicians

Written report on scene of the death

Was it standard practice in medicolegal autopsies for the prosecutor 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-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.”

What does it mean.

Is it an important concept.

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

AM-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-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]

AM-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-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 discriptions...of the clothing...."
AM 56.

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

Why not.

Did you ask for the clothing.

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-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.]

AM-Photographs (probably move to Topic 9)

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?

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-Specimens

“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.

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.

AM-Photography

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.

Miscellaneous [move up as appropriate]

“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.

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.

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
- Photographs
- X-rays
- Any limitations on access to clothing

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

- Autopsy manual
- Relevant statute (state or federal)
- Standard procedure to label photographs; give id number
- shaving around wounds on skull
- blood samples
- urine samples
- photograph internal evidence of injury

What reports were standard for military autopsies in 1963

- Histology
- Serology
- Radiology
- Toxicology

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

05*. Records created during and after autopsy

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

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?

Photographs and x-rays

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?]

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:

[EX: 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 develop a comprehensive description of President Kennedy's head wounds.

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

Start with the scalp.

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

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

EX: "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.

Lacerations in the scalp.

EX: see Protocol p. 3.

Any lacerations on the left hemisphere.

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

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

EX: face sheet. Is the face sheet accurate.

skull fractures

Describe location of fractures.

Any fractures on left hemisphere.

Fractures in frontal and facial bones.

skull fragments received during 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?]**

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	

Entry 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."
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

Brain	

08*. Comprehensive description of body wounds

Thoracic-neck wound	
Burkley Death Certificate	T-3.
Protocol 3	“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 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

09*. Identification of photos and x-rays

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:

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.

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

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 Supplementary Examination and Report

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?

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)

Checklist

- x Comprehensive outline
- x Autopsy Protocol
Supplementary Report
- x Autopsy Manual
- x Doug: Master List in alpha order
Dennis: Exhibits
 - Photos
 - Documents
 - Skull
- 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

Fitzpatrick meeting

- transverse fracture of the right occipital bone
- possible entry point near EOP
- possible entry point near lambda
- pencil lines on lateral skull radiograph 32 degree angle
- black space on x-rays
- metallic fragment
 - size
 - location on lateral
- separation of sagittal suture
- "facial bone" disruption?
 - nasal septum
 - crushed vomer?
 - perpendicular plate of ethmoid
 - fractured frontal sinus?
- Zygomatic bone
 - supraorbital margin
- metallic fragment pattern