

Class Projects: H470

Military Control of Autopsy

1. Two basic questions: Was Bethesda Naval Hospital really equipped to handle the most important autopsy of 20th century America?

Sources: For the choice of Bethesda see Max Holland. "The Kennedy Assassination Tapes," read pages 28-32 will give you a little insight into how Bethesda was chosen. Was security an issue? (My copy)

Recommend: Go to Google or a search engine of your choice and call up the three doctors: Humes, Boswell, and Finck and see what their biographies tell you about whether they were equipped to do this autopsy.

How long did the autopsy take? I mean the actual examination to determine the cause of death and explain JFK's various wounds. Not the time that was taken after the autopsy to prepare the body for viewing. This was work done by Gawler's Funeral Home practitioners and Dr. Humes.

How long should it have taken. Source: Michael Baden, "Confessions of a Medical Examiner," pp. 5-22. (My copy)

Might want to make a comment about the state of the equipment at Bethesda used to conduct the autopsy. See some of this in BOT chapters assigned. Especially the X-ray equipment.

2. Need to be aware of the military's interference with the autopsy.
--Hints: Dr. Finck not being allowed to examine JFK's clothes. Source: BOT

Secondly, Finck's testimony at the Clay Shaw trial in New Orleans.

Transcript provided by McKnight. This deals with Bethesda drs failure to dissect the back wound. What conclusions do you draw from this?

Lastly, check the autopsy protocol in Warren Commission Report on p. 541 where the autopsy drs. The two wounds in JFK's back in the last two paragraphs. The report describes the wound of "exit" at the throat. Under

2. It describes the back wound of entrance. What is the language used?

Class Projects: H470

1. Two basic questions: Was Bethesda Naval Hospital really equipped to handle the most important autopsy of 20th century America?

Sources: For the choice of Bethesda see Max Holland. "The Kennedy Assassination Tapes," read pages 28-32 will give you a little insight into how Bethesda was chosen. Was security an issue? (My copy)

Recommend: Go to Google or a search engine of your choice and call up the three doctors: Humes, Boswell, and Finck and see what their biographies tell you about whether they were equipped to do this autopsy.

How long did the autopsy take? I mean the actual examination to determine the cause of death and explain JFK's various wounds. Not the time that was taken after the autopsy to prepare the body for viewing. This was work done by Gawler's Funeral Home practitioners and Dr. Humes.

How long should it have taken. Source: Michael Baden, "Confessions of a Medical Examiner," pp. 5-22. (My copy)

Might want to make a comment about the state of the equipment at Bethesda used to conduct the autopsy. See some of this in BOT chapters assigned. Especially the X-ray equipment.

2. Need to be aware of the military's interference with the autopsy.
--Hints: Dr. Finck not being allowed to examine JFK's clothes. Source: BOT

Secondly, Finck's testimony at the Clay Shaw trial in New Orleans. Transcript provided by McKnight. This deals with Bethesda drs failure to dissect the back wound. What conclusions do you draw from this? Lastly, check the autopsy protocol in Warren Commission Report on p. 541 where the autopsy drs. The two wounds in JFK's back in the last two paragraphs. The report describes the wound of "exit" at the throat. Under 2. It describes the back wound of entrance. What is the language used?