

#21-

file -
Burkley

99. At least one change was made that Dr. Burkley did not approve. Where Dr. Humes' holograph in its fourth paragraph states "Dr. Perry noted ... a second, puncture wound in the low anterior neck in approximately the midline," the version typed at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center the evening of the day it was written, Sunday, November 24, 1963, was altered to eliminate the words "puncture wound." They were replaced with "much smaller," which is not the same as or even "similar" to "puncture." (R539)

100. Examination of the holograph establishes that all the other uses of the word "puncture" were eliminated in the editing of the holograph, in each case substantially altering the meaning.

101. On page 7 of the holograph there is an important example of the many substantive changes made by Dr. Humes in consultation with his colleagues and military superior. It, too, is approved by Dr. Burkley. It describes and locates the fatal wound as "a puncture wound tangential to the surface of the scalp." This was altered to read only "a lacerated wound." (The "sanitized" typed version given to the Secret Service by the Navy appears in the Warren Report on pages 538-43.)

102. The originally secret report of the Department of Justice's panel of experts (p.11) states that the X-rays locate this wound about four inches higher than near the occiput, where the autopsy doctors told the Warren Commission. This higher location is "tangential to the surface of the scalp." This cannot be a description of a wound at the occiput, which is the protuberance at the bottom of the back of the head where it joins the neck. The panel measured upward from the occiput.

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103. When Dr. Humes turned his autopsy holograph in to Admiral C. B. Galloway, commander of the Bethesda Naval medical installations, Dr. Humes also prepared two certifications. One attests that "I have destroyed by burning certain preliminary draft notes relating to" the President's autopsy, identified by its number, A63-272. Under Dr. Humes' signature is written "Accepted and approved this date George G. Burkley, Rear Adm MCUSN Physician to the President." The President's own physician approved the destruction of this essential medical evidence of the crime.

104. Dr. Humes' second certification identifies the records he "handed to Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Medical School, at 1700" the same night. The itemization includes "Autopsy notes." Admiral Burkley "accepted and approved" in the same words. These two certifications are attached as Exhibit 8 as copied from POST MORTEM, in which I used the originals in facsimile.

Source: Hall's CA-75-
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