

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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OUTSIDE CONTACT REPORT

15013

DATE 4 25 78 TIME _____

I. Identifying Information:

Name Chester H. Boyers Telephone 804 357 5582Address Rt. 1, Box 447, Smithfield, Va. 23430Type of Contact: Telephone
 Person

II. Summary of Contact:

Mr. Boyers was contacted because of his presence at the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Boyers asked me if I was taping the conversation and I said no. I then asked this question of him and he replied negatively.

Boyers said that in November, 1963, he was stationed at Bethesda Naval Hospital and was the Chief Petty Officer in charge of the Pathology Department. He said he had been at Bethesda for 2 or 3 years, having arrived there in 1959 or 1960.

On November 22, 1963, Boyers said he happened to be on leave because his wife was in the hospital for surgery on her leg. Since he lived in the Washington area he was very close to Bethesda.

II. Recommended Follow-up (if any):

Signature: Mark Flanagan

Mark Flanagan

When Boyers heard that the President had been shot and that he was possibly coming to Bethesda, Boyers proceeded to the Pathology Department and the autopsy room, arriving at approximately 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. EST.

Boyers recalled numerous people being present at the autopsy, but can only vaguely recall the names. Some included himself, Rudnicki, Commander Humes, Dr. Boswell, Karnei, Commander Ewing, General Curtis, and the Chief of Neurosurgery.

Boyers said he was there to "keep things going" and to "get things done." He helped out with general procedures.

Boyers moved around in the room frequently. He recalls that several Marines were present.

In regard to the wounds Boyers recalls an entrance wound in the rear of the head to the right of the external occipital protuberance which exited along the top, right side of the head towards the rear and just above the right eyebrow. He also saw an entrance wound in the right shoulder blade, specifically just under the scapula and next to it. Boyers also noted a tracheotomy incision in the neck.

Boyers next said that the mortician arrived to

prepare the body at approximately 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning.

Boyers recalled many X-rays and photographs being taken. He said the doctors kept searching for the bullet which entered the right shoulder blade.

Boyers believes the pathologists used a metric ruler for any measurements. Boyers also believes that the pathologists performed a full autopsy.

Boyers said he typed out a receipt to give to the FBI present at the autopsy for the missile fragments recovered from the body during the autopsy. Boyers said he has a Xerox copy of this receipt. Boyers said several fragments were given to the FBI, with the largest being 2m.m. He said that even though the receipt states that a "missile" was recovered, this is in error; only fragments were recovered. Boyers never saw a fully intact missile.

Boyers said that from the path of the bullet that entered the upper back that it seemed to indicate that the bullet exited through the tracheotomy.

Boyers said very few people were coming in or going out. He didn't notice any family members being present or directing the autopsy in any manner. He said some phone calls were coming in but so far as he knows they were not from Parkland or from the family.