

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

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AGENCY INFORMATION

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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : HSCA  
FROM : STOVER, JOHN H.  
TO :

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DATE : 05/11/78  
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STOVER, JOHN  
EVIDENCE; MEDICAL  
KENNEDY, JOHN; AUTOPSY

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED  
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OUTSIDE CONTACT REPORT

A 0010

DATE 5/11/78 TIME 12:05P

## I. Identifying Information:

Name Captain John H. StoverTelephone 207 439 4076Address Kittery, MaineType of Contact:  Telephone  
 Person

## II. Summary of Contact:

1. I called Captain Stover because he was present at the  
autopsy of President Kennedy. Stover was the Commanding  
Officer of the National Naval Medical School. The Pathology  
Department was under the jurisdiction of the school.

2. Three doctors performed the autopsy along with several  
enlisted assistants. A photographer and X-ray personnel were  
called in; senior officers also observed the autopsy.

3. Stover observed the following defects on the body of  
the President. First, a wound on the top of the head,  
second, a wound in the upper back; and third, an incision  
in the neck.

4. Stover said the doctors were taking notes. Stover  
said the microscopic appearance is what told the doctors

## III. Recommended Follow-up (if any):

(Mark Flanagan)  
Signature:*Mark Flanagan*

whether a wound was an inshoot or outshoot wound.

5. Stover cannot recall ever seeing an intact missile in the autopsy room.
6. Stover said that from the missile track in the upper back that he had the impression that the bullet had passed through the neck area.
7. The brain had to sit in formaldehyde; the abdominal organs would have then been returned to the cadaver. The brain was placed in a stainless steel bucket and placed in the closet of Admiral Galloway. The smaller portions of organs were placed in individual jars and then probably placed in the Pathology Department safe. Stover said the excess tissue is normally incinerated and the slides retained.
8. Stover said that he and the doctors were acting under the orders of Admiral Burkley in regard to the disposition of the autopsy materials. Stover said that Berkley was "very particular about the materials."
9. Stover does not know exactly what materials were retained. He did say that a 7" x 8" cylinder seems like a rather small container for a brain.
10. Stover said specimens from an autopsy are normally retained in locked cabinets at Bethesda and occasionally sent to specialists at AFIP - Walter Reed.

11. Stover said he seems to remember Bobby Kennedy periodically visiting the autopsy room during the autopsy and certainly after the body was prepared.
12. Stover said the Medical School processed the X-rays but not the film.
13. No recollection of whether or not the pathologists examined the adrenal glands.