

APPENDIX G

FBI Report on Autopsy⁷

7. FBI Reports, November 26, 1963, Kennedy Assassination Series, Assassination Commission (correspondence) 1966, Richard B. Russell Collection, Richard B. Russell Memorial Library, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens.

Date 11/26/63

Division, The FBI

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At approximately 3 p.m. on November 22, 1963, following the President's announced assassination, it was ascertained that Air Force One, the President's jet, was returning from Love Field, Dallas, Texas, flying the body back to Andrews Air Force Base, Camp Springs, Maryland. SAs FRANCIS X. O'NEILL, JR. and JAMES W. SIBERT proceeded to Andrews Air Force Base to handle any matters which would fall within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, inasmuch as it was anticipated that a large group of both military and civilian personnel assigned to the Base would congregate at Base Operations to witness the landing of this flight.

Lt. Col. ROBERT T. BEST, Director of Law Enforcement and Security, advised the President's plane would arrive at 5:25 p.m. Subsequently, Col. BEST advised that the plane would arrive at 6:05 p.m.

At approximately 5:55 p.m. agents were advised through the Hyattsville Resident Agency that the Bureau had instructed that the agents accompany the body to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, to stay with the body and to obtain bullets reportedly in the President's body.

Immediately agents contacted Mr. JAMES ROWLEY, the Director of the U. S. Secret Service, identified themselves and made Mr. ROWLEY aware of our aforementioned instruction. Immediately following the plane's landing, Mr. ROWLEY arranged seating for Bureau agents in the third car of the White House motorcade which followed the ambulance containing the President's body to the Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

On arrival at the Medical Center, the ambulance stopped in front of the main entrance, at which time Mrs. JACQUELINE KENNEDY and Attorney General ROBERT KENNEDY embarked from the ambulance and entered the building. The ambulance was there after driven around to the rear entrance where the President's body was removed and taken into an autopsy room. Bureau agents assisted in the moving of the casket to the autopsy room. A tight security was immediately placed around the autopsy room by the Naval facility and the U. S. Secret Service. Bureau agents made contact with Mr. ROY KELLERMAN, the Assistant Secret Service Agent in Charge of the White House Detail, and advised him of the Bureau's interest in this matter.

11/22/63

Bethesda, Maryland

File #

89-30

SAs FRANCIS X. O'NEILL, JR.; JAMES W. SIBERT : dfl

Date dictated

11/26/63

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He advised that he had already received instructions from Director ROWLEY as to the presence of Bureau agents. It will be noted that aforementioned Bureau agents, Mr. ROY KELLERMAN, Mr. WILLIAM GREER and Mr. WILLIAM LEARY, Secret Service agents, were the only personnel other than medical personnel present during the autopsy.

The following individuals attended the autopsy:

Adm. C. HOLLOWAY, U. S. Navy, Commanding Officer of the U. S. Naval Medical Center, Bethesda;

Adm. BERKLEY, U. S. Navy, the President's personal physician;

Commander JAMES J. HUMES, Chief Pathologist, Bethesda Naval Hospital, who conducted autopsy;

Capt. JAMES H. STONER, JR., Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Medical School, Bethesda;

Mr. JOHN T. STRINGER, JR. Medical photographer;

JAMES H. TERSOLE;

LLOYD E. RAINE;

J. T. BOZWELL;

J. G. RUDNICKI;

PAUL K. CONNOR;

J. C. JENKINS;

JERROL F. CRESTER;

EDWARD F. REED;

JAMES METZLER.

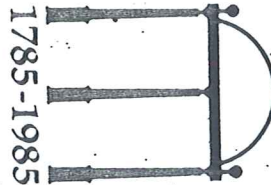
During the course of the autopsy, Lt. Col. P. WINCK, U. S. Army Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, arrived to assist Commander HUMES in the autopsy. In addition, Lt. Cmdr. GREGG CROSS and Captain DAVID OSBORNE, Chief of Surgery, entered the autopsy room.

Major General WEHLE, Commanding Officer of U. S. Military District, Washington, D.C., entered the autopsy room to ascertain from the Secret Service arrangements concerning the

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transportation of the President's body back to the White House. AMC CHESTER H. BOYERS, U. S. Navy, visited the autopsy room during the final stages of such to type receipts given by FBI and Secret Service for items obtained.

At the termination of the autopsy, the following personnel from Gawler's Funeral Home entered the autopsy room to prepare the President's body for burial:

- JOHN VAN HAESEN
- EDWIN STOBLE
- THOMAS ROBINSON
- Mr. HAGEN

Brigadier General GODFREY McHUGH, Air Force Military Aide to the President, was also present, as was Dr. GEORGE BAKEMAN, U. S. Navy.

Arrangements were made for the performance of the autopsy by the U. S. Navy and Secret Service.

The President's body was removed from the casket in which it had been transported and was placed on the autopsy table, at which time the complete body was wrapped in a sheet and the head area contained an additional wrapping which was saturated with blood. Following the removal of the wrapping, it was ascertained that the President's clothing had been removed and it was also apparent that a tracheotomy had been performed as well as surgery of the head area, namely, in the top of the skull. All personnel with the exception of medical officers needed in the taking of photographs and X-Rays were requested to leave the autopsy room and remain in an adjacent room.

Upon completion of X-Rays and photographs, the first incision was made at 8:15 p.m. X-Rays of the brain area which were developed and returned to the autopsy room disclosed a path of a missile which appeared to enter the back of the skull and the path of the disintegrated fragments could be observed along the right side of the skull. The largest section of this missile as portrayed by X-Ray appeared to be behind the right frontal sinus. The next largest fragment appeared to be at the rear of the skull at the juncture of the skull bone.

The Chief Pathologist advised approximately 40 particles of disintegrated bullet and smudges indicated that the projectile had fragmented while passing through the skull region.

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During the autopsy inspection of the area of the brain, two fragments of metal were removed by Dr. HUMES, namely, one fragment measuring 7 x 2 millimeters, which was removed from the right side of the brain. An additional fragment of metal measuring 1 x 3 millimeters was also removed from this area, both of which were placed in a glass jar containing a black metal top which were thereafter marked for identification and following the signing of proper receipts were transported by Bureau agents to the FBI Laboratory.

During the latter stages of this autopsy, Dr. HUMES located an opening which appeared to be a bullet hole which was below the shoulder and two inches to the right of the middle line of the spinal column.

This opening was probed by Dr. HUMES with the finger, at which time it was determined that the trajectory of the missile entering at this point had entered at a downward position of 45 to 60 degrees. Further probing determined that the distance travelled by this missile was a short distance inasmuch as the end of the opening could be felt with the finger.

Inasmuch as no complete bullet of any size could be located in the brain area and likewise no bullet could be located in the back or any other area of the body as determined by total body X-Rays and inspection revealing there was no point of exit, the individuals performing the autopsy were at a loss to explain why they could find no bullets.

A call was made by Bureau agents to the Firearms Section of the FBI Laboratory, at which time SA CHARLES S. KILLION advised that the Laboratory had received through Secret Service Agent RICHARD JOHNSON a bullet which had reportedly been found on a stretcher in the emergency room of Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas. This stretcher had also contained a stethoscope and pair of rubber gloves. Agent JOHNSON had advised the Laboratory that it had not been ascertained whether or not this was the stretcher which had been used to transport the body of President KENNEDY. Agent KILLION further described this bullet as pertaining to a 6.5 millimeter rifle which would be approximately a 25 caliber rifle and that this bullet consisted of copper alloy full jacket.

Immediately following receipt of this information, this was made available to Dr. HUMES who advised that in his opinion this accounted for no bullet being located which had entered

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Date 11/29/63

Mr. GERALD A. BEHN, Special Agent in Charge, White House Detail, United States Secret Service, was interviewed at his office and advised that during the President's visit to the State of Texas, then Vice president JOHNSON would always arrive at the next city to be visited ahead of the President and would join the party awaiting the President's arrival. This was accomplished by the use of two Jets; Air Force I, which carried the President; and Air Force II, carrying the Vice President. On departing from city, Air Force I would first take off followed by Air Force II which would thereafter pass Air Force I in flight, cruising at a faster speed, thus allowing the Vice President to arrive prior to the President and be with the greeting party.

Mr. BEHN was questioned concerning the section of the President's skull, which was brought to the National Navy Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland after the autopsy was in progress. He advised that this section, which was measured by the Doctor performing the autopsy as being 10 x 6.5 centimeters was found in the Presidential car on the floor between the front and rear seats. He further related that two fragments of bullet had also been found in this vehicle in the front of the car and that the windshield had been cracked by the impact of one of these fragments.

BEHN was likewise questioned concerning the location of a bullet which had been found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and which had been turned over by the Secret Service to an Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for delivery to the FBI Laboratory. He stated that on learning of such a bullet being found at the Dallas Hospital he inquired of a group of his Agents who had returned from the Dallas trip on the night of November 22, 1963, and Secret Service Agent RICHARD JOHNSON produced this bullet which had been handed to him by someone at the hospital who had stated that it was not known whether or not the President had been placed on the stretcher where the bullet was found.

11/27/63

at Washington, D.C.

File # BA 89-30

SAs JAMES W. YBERT & FRANCIS M. O'NEILL, JR.; jmk

Date dictated

11/27/63

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ANTHROPOMETRIC DESCRIPTIVE SHEET

NO. 1785-1985 DATE 1/21/63 STARTED 11:30 AM NO. COMPLETED 1

NAME _____ SEX M RACE W BIRTH DATE 1/21/63 BIRTH PLACE Atlanta, Ga.

DATE FOR EXPIRED: _____ WARD _____ DISEASES _____

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: RACE: _____ Obtain following on babies only:

Height 5-3-30 In. Weight 137.5 lb. Hair Blk Color Brn Eyes Brn Pupils Eq Lids Eq Crown-heel 17.4 Circumference 11 Lead 14 In. Chest 9 Abd. 26 In.

NEEDS (Gears, unless otherwise specified)

LUNG, RT. 33-30 KIDNEY, RT. 73-75 ADRENALS, RT. _____

LUNG, LT. 33-29 KIDNEY, LT. 29 ADRENALS, LT. _____

BRAIN _____ LIVER 160 PANCREAS _____

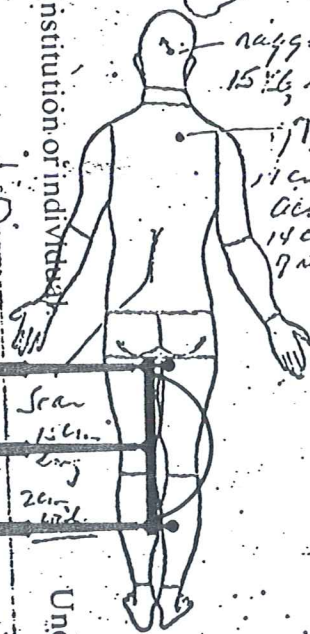
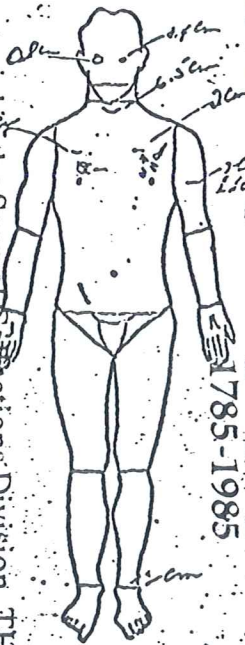
SPLEEN 90 HEART 50 THYROID _____

THYMUS _____ TESTES _____ OVARY _____

HEAD MEASUREMENTS: A 7.5 ca. P 9 ca. T 13 ca. M 16 ca.

LW 1.5 ca. RM 4 ca.

NOTES



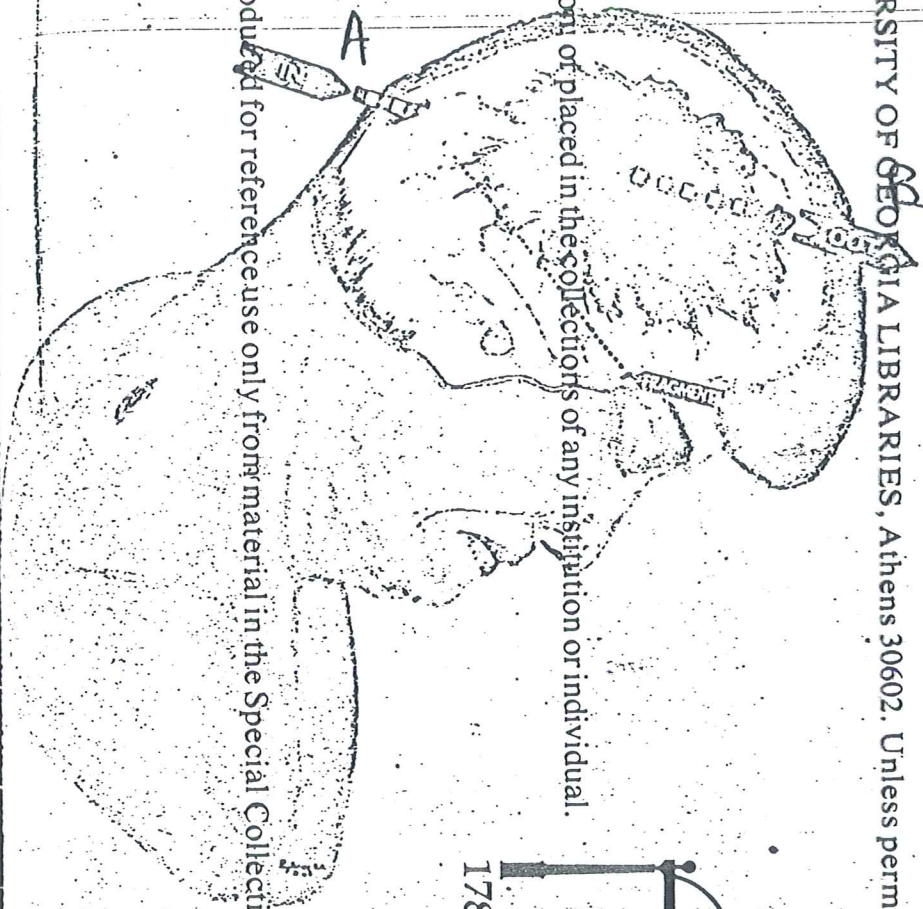
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