

MEMORANDUM
CONFIDENTIAL

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HYPOTHESIS: THAT JOHN KENNEDY'S HEAD WOUND WAS ALTERED AT SOME POINT IN TIME AFTER IT LEFT THE HOSPITAL IN DALLAS AND BEFORE THE AUTOPTSY BEGAN AT BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL.

DESCRIPTION OF HEAD WOUND FROM WITNESSES AT PARKLAND HOSPITAL.

1. DRIVER HERSHEL JACKS - the bullet had struck him above the right ear or near the temple. (18:801)
2. SETH KANTER NOTES - entered right temple. (20:353)
3. DR. ROBERT N. MCCLELLAND - right rear portion of skull blasted. (6:33) See drawing in Thompson's book, page 107.
4. NURSE PAT HUTTON - massive opening on the back of the head. (21:216)
5. NURSE BOWRON - I saw the condition of his head... the back of his head. I saw one large hole. (6:136)
6. DR. MALCOLM PERRY - the occipito parietal, which is part of the back of the head, had a huge flap. (Los Angeles Times 11/24/63:Sec. B)
7. DR. AKIN - the back of the right occipital parietal portion of his head was shattered with brain substance extruding. (6:65)
8. DR. PETERS - it seemed to me that in the right occipital - parietal area that there was a large defect. There appeared to be bone loss and brain loss in the area. (6:71)
9. DR. BAXTER - that is, in a word - literally the right side of his head had been blown off. (6:41)
10. DR. CLARK - I then examined the wound in the back of the President's head. This was a large, gaping wound in the right posterior part, with cerebral and cerebellar tissue being damaged and exposed. (6:20)

DESCRIPTION OF HEAD WOUND FROM WITNESSES AT BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL.

11. FBI AGENTS SIEBERT AND O'NEIL - 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. (GD7:3)

See diagram drawn by Comm. Boswell - a top view of the skull - here it is noted that an area 17 cm. by 10 cm. is missing. (Thompson's book, page 110)

12. Kellerman: Yes, sir: it was confirmed that the entry of the shell here went right through the top and removed that piece of skull.
 Specter: And who confirmed that?
 Kellerman: One of the three gentlemen; I don't recall.
 Specter: You don't recall which one but it was one of the three doctors doing the autopsy?
 Kellerman: That is right.
 Specter: So you are saying it confirmed that the hole was below the piece of skull that was removed, was the point of entry of the one bullet which then passed up through the head and took off the skull?
 Kellerman: Right sir. That is correct. (2:94)

13. What the Bethesda doctors found was an enormous wound in the President's head (Commander Boswell told me that the President's brain was quite easily removed without recourse to surgery.) (Thompson's book, page 109)

Note: This would indicate that, As Siebert and O'Neil report, the top of the skull was missing.

14. DR. HUMES - Huge defect over the right side of the skull...measured approximately 13 cent. in greatest ~~diameter~~ diameter. (2:351)
15. MR. GREER - (the) upper right side...the skull was completely - this part was completely gone. (indicating a circle of approximately 5 in.) (2:128)

HYPOTHESIS: STATEMENTS INDICATING THAT THE BODY WAS REMOVED FROM THE CASKET AND REPLACED IN DIFFERENT WRAPPINGS BEFORE IT ARRIVED IN THE BETHESDA AUTOPSY ROOM.

DESCRIPTION OF BODY IN CASKET AT PARKLAND HOSPITAL.

1. "Motioning to Orderly David Sanders, Oneal directed him to line the inside of the coffin with a sheet of plastic. Nurse Doris Nelson and Diana Bowron swooped around, wrapping the body in a second plastic sheet. Then the undertaker asked Doris to bring him a hugh rubber sheath and batch of rubber bags. Placing the sheath over the President's head in them one by one until he had made certain there would be seven protective layers of rubber and two of plastic between the damaged scalp and the green satin. All this took 20 minutes." (DOAP:294)
2. MRS. NELSON: "Yes, one of the nurses, Miss Hutton, came out and said that the President was having extensive bleeding from the head and they had wrapped four sheets around it but it was still oozing through, so I sent her to the seconf floor to obtain a mattress cover, a plastic mattress cover, to put in the casket prior to putting his body in the casket, so the mattress cover was placed in the casket and I did not see this happen, but this is how it was explained to me by the nurse, and the plastic was placed on the mattress cover and the cover was around the mattress.....There were approximately four sheets wrapped around him." (6:146)

DESCRIPTIONS OF BODY IN CASKET AT BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL.

1. COMMANDER HUMES: "The body was received in a closed casket, we opened the casket, Dr. Boswell and I, and the President's body was unclothed in the casket, was wrapped in a sheet labeled by the Parkland Hospital, but he was unclothed once the sheet was removed from his body so we do not have at that time any clothing." (2:349)
2. SEIBERT AND O'NEIL: 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... (CD7:3)

*If, as Manchester writes, Oneal had wrapped the President's head with seven layers of rubber and plastic, how could this material - plastic and rubber - be saturated with blood?

HYPOTHESIS: WAS THERE TIME TO REMOVE THE PRESIDENT'S BODY FROM THE CASKET, ALTER THE WOUNDS AND REPLACE IT IN THE CASKET WHILE IT WAS AT BETHESDA AND BEFORE THE AUTOPSY STARTED?

What time did the body arrive at Bethesda? The ambulance left Andrews AF Base before LBJ's television appearance at 6:15. (FTN Tape Library).

Bethesda is 5 to 7 miles away from Andrews. (Random House Map) Manchester describes the ride to Bethesda as frantic -- reaching speeds of over 90 mph on some streets. (Page 396) How long would the ride take?

4 minutes after the ambulance's departure from Andrews, LBJ descended the AF #1 ramp. (DOAP:401)

LBJ deplaned at 6:13 EST, LBJ spoke at 6:14 EST. (DOAP chronology, CBS and NBC tapes)

Therefore, the ambulance left for Bethesda approximately 6:09 EST and would arrive at Bethesda approximately 6:24 P.M. EST

Let's allow 15 minutes for this and say the body arrived at Bethesda before 6:30 P.M. EST. Commander Humes says the body was received at 7:35 P.M. and the autopsy began at 8 P.M. (2:349)

Kellerman contradicts this by testifying "Let's come back to the period of our arrival at Andrews Air Force Base, which was 5:58 P.M. at night. By the time it took us to take the body from the plane into the ambulance, and a couple of carloads of staff people who followed us, we may have spent 15 minutes there. And in driving from Andrews to the U.S. Naval Hospital, I would judge, a good 45 minutes. So there is 7 o'clock...so at the latest, 7:30, they began work on the autopsy." (2:102, 103)

FBI Agents Siebert and O'Neil also contradict Kellerman by stating that the autopsy starts at 8:15 P.M. EST after x-rays and photos were made. (GD7:3)

This unexplained hour and a half would allow enough time for altering of the wounds. I suspect the head wound was enlarged to obfuscate exit and entrance wounds. At this time it was known that photos of the shooting existed that would show that JFK did not turn around and face the TSB. So, as Dr. McClelland put it:

"The initial impression that we had was that perhaps the wound in the neck, the anterior part of the neck, was an entrance wound and that it had perhaps taken a trajectory off the anterior vertebral body and again into the skull itself, exiting out the back, to produce the massive injury in the head. However, this required some straining of the imagination to imagine that this would happen..." (6:35)

I also suspect that the back wound was inflicted at this point - a wound according to Siebert and O'Neil - that penetrated to a finger length and stopped. None of the doctors at Parkland mentioned this wound even tho one of them said he felt the entire back with his hand to see if it was damaged.

PIECES OF MISSING SKULL THAT ARRIVE AFTER THE AUTOPTSY BEGINS.

1. DR. HUMES: Some time later on that evening or very early the next morning while we were all still engaged in continuing our examination, I was presented with three portions of bone which had been brought to Washington from Dallas by the agents of the FBI...It would have been by Secret Service - these three pieces of bone accounted for approximately 1/4 of the missing skull. (2:354)
2. SIEBERT AND O'NEILL REPORT: A piece (one) of skull measuring 10x6.5 centimeters had been flown in to Bethesda from Dallas Hospital. (CD7:5, 11/22/63)
3. Upon his arrival at the White House shortly after 9 P.M. on November 22nd, SA KINNEY advised Assistant Special Agent in Charge FLOYD BORING that he noticed what appeared to be a piece of bone or tissue on the floor of the car near the "jump" seat. Adm. Burkley was summoned and they recovered a three inch triangular section of skull. (CD80:3, Thompson's book page 304)

NOTE: William Harper finds piece of bone at approximately 5:30 P.M. November 23 in Dealey Plaza. He then took this piece to his uncle Dr. Harper at Methodist Hospital for examination. Dr. Harper photographed bone and turned it over to the FBI. FBI in Washington examined bone on November 27th and then delivered it to the office of Adm. Burkley at the White House. (CD5:150, 151)

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CONCLUSION: One piece of bone found in limousine and given to Adm. Burkley. Was this the piece given to Dr. Humes as reported by Siebert and O'Neill, even though the descriptions do not match? Dr. Humes says he received three pieces of bone. Piece of bone found in Dallas cannot be included as bone was turned over to Adm. Burkley after JFK was buried. Where did the other two pieces come from? Do you suppose that these missing pieces came from a clandestine operation prior to the autopsy at Bethesda?

CASKET SWITCHING AT BETHESDA.

Adm. Burkley: The original casket, which had been used to transport the body from Dallas had been a mahogany colored and of metallic composition. This was replaced by a solid mahogany wooden casket (at Bethesda). Body was dressed in a blue suit, white shirt, tie, socks, shoes at Bethesda, then taken to the White House. (22:97, CE1126)

NOTE: Casket switching could later be used as cover for any discrepancies in reports on wrappings around President. Also, though a minor point, mahogany type caskets, when buried, will deteriorate much faster than the expensive bronze "Britannia" model supplied in Dallas.



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DR McCLELLAND'S
DESCRIPTION OF WOUND