

Excerpt from letter of August 5, 1966 from a forensic pathologist to S Heagher

Let me try and answer the questions that you raised in your letter of 9 July 1966:

1. As far as I can see, the sketch on page 46, Volume XVII (Commission Exhibit 397) does not show the small round entrance wound that was described by the pathologist in the right occipital area of the skull.

The two schematic drawings in CE 386 and CE 388 (Volume XVI, pages 977 and 984) are consistent with each other. The large exit wound involving much of the right side of the calvarium as shown in these two drawings would be consistent with the sketch on page 46 of Volume XVII.

Frankly, I find the sketch on page 46, Volume XVII, rather confusing and poorly done.

2. With regard to the rough rectangle marked "3 cms." in CE 397, in the approximate site of the left eye, I believe that this represents an area of fracture in the base of the skull above the left orbit. Let me call your attention to page 981, Volume XVI in the autopsy report shortly above the middle of the page. The pathologist wrote "The complexity of these fractures and the fragments thus produced tax satisfactory verbal description and are better appreciated in photographs and roentgenograms which are prepared." Thus, I believe that the sketch shows another area of fracture which was not specifically described in the autopsy report.

3. The words as you have interpreted them "vomer crushed" should be "vomer crushed." The vomer bone is located in the posterior portion of the nasal septum, and thus has some contiguity with the base of the skull in the midline toward the anterior portion.

4. With regard to Secret Agent Kellerman's testimony on page 81, Volume II, it was actually Arlin Specter who said "indicating the bottom of the hairline immediately to the right of the ear about the lower third of the ear?" Apparently he was attempting to put into words what Kellerman was attempting to say and show with his hands. In any event, I can understand your confusion, for obviously Specter and Kellerman were confused. I am inclined to believe that they meant to the left of the right ear. You are right in stating that an entrance wound to the right of the right ear would be in the sideburn or in the hairline about the right cheek. However, this area did not have an entrance wound. Thus, I am sure that Specter meant to say to the left or to the rear of the right ear and in the hairline.

I hope that these thoughts have helped to clarify the situation, although I can readily appreciate the fact that when I or anyone else begins to interpret what others were supposed to have stated with accuracy and complete truth under oath, then the question of conjecture, personal interpretation, etc. enters the picture. Thus, we have the great amount of confusion existing today regarding the Warren Commission Report.