

2/2/73

Miss Jane Smith, Director  
Civil Archives Division  
The National Archives  
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Miss Smith,

Thanks for your letter of the first and the enclosed copy of the medical report dated 11/1/66.

If you cannot provide a better copy -and with the original a clear one should present no problems - would you please be kind enough to inform me what the handwritten notations say? On my copy they are almost all undecipherable.

Having read this report, and with some familiarity with the regulations and the law, I can find no legitimate basis for this document ever having been classified and I do not believe the reasons given for withholding it from me are genuine. I therefore ask what led to its declassification, when it was declassified, at whose request or direction, and how the conditions that led to its being withheld from me in any way have changed.

This report does not seem to contain all that has been published about the actions of the Secret Service agent in confiscating and exposing the film. I therefore ask for all such reports and, if any are withheld, a list of them and the reasons for the withholding in each case. I mean by this all the reports about the filming and the incident itself, not just the confiscation.

With regard to the copy sent me, I believe it was made from a copy of unknown generation. Copying is clearly visible in the pages, as is the telltale signs of re-xeroxing, on every page. I would prefer a copy made from the original.

The report was not signed until 10 days after the examination referred to in it. It is also signed by two people who were not part of that examination. I therefore ask for all relevant documents, including covering letters, instructions and anything and everything else leading to this examination and this report or relevant to it and the examination, except for that which is among the papers generally known as the panel report (the Boswell letter and his and Humes 5-page report). If anything of this nature is denied me, I would appreciate a list so I may proceed further.

Declassification of this report bears upon other materials that have been denied me. I therefore ask for a review of the denial of that public information, and for copies if it is agreed that release of this report eliminates the basis given in the other cases.

Sincerely,

HR. I can see no legitimate reason for withholding this and a number of improper reasons. So, I am concerned about its declassification for no apparent reason, as I am concerned about its preparation for no apparent reason and the withholding of the significant information it holds from the Commission. I have more than one request that encompasses this report. The letter to me is general in its reference. The report is 11 pages long and is signed also by Ebersole and Stringer. I recall the alleged purpose. No reference whatsoever is made to it. All of this is another way of noting new and needles mysteries, unless there is a purpose in declassification that impels caution. I strongly recommend it and silence about this until we learn more.

Harold Weisberg

Harold

Report of Inspection by Naval Medical Staff  
on November 1, 1966 at National Archives  
of X-Rays and Photographs of Autopsy of  
President John F. Kennedy

Beginning at approximately 2:00 p.m. on November 1, 1966 in Room 200-A of the National Archives Building, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C., the undersigned individuals jointly examined the items of photographic material described below, which were represented to us by Dr. James B. Rhoads, Deputy Archivist of the United States, to be the material listed in Appendix B of a letter dated October 29, 1966 from Burke Marshall, representing the executors of the estate of John F. Kennedy, to the Honorable Lawson B. Knott, Jr., Administrator of General Services. Each of us had participated on the evening of November 22, 1963 in the autopsy upon the late President Kennedy at the Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland.

Upon inspection of this photographic material, we identified it to consist of X-ray and photographic pictures taken in the course of the autopsy on President Kennedy, and we marked and arranged the various items comprising such material as indicated in the following descriptive list:



Part I - X-RAY MATERIALS

8" x 10" Negatives

- (1) Anterior-posterior view of the skull on 8 x 10" film, slightly neat damaged, bearing the X-ray number 21296.
- (2) A right lateral view of the skull on 8 x 10" film with two angle lines overdrawn on the film, the film bearing the X-ray number 21296.
- (3) A lateral view of the skull on 8 x 10" film bearing the X-ray number 21296.
- (4) X-ray of three fragments of bone with the larger fragment containing metallic fragments on 8 x 10" film bearing no X-ray identification number on the film.
- (5) X-ray with three fragments of bone on 8 x 10" film, the larger particle containing metallic fragments *AK, 24E, 923, 9* bearing no X-ray identification number on the film.
- (6) X-ray of three bone fragments on 8 x 10" film, the larger fragment showing metallic particles *AK, 24E, 923, 9* bearing no X-ray identification number on the film.

14" x 17" Negatives

- (7) Anterior-posterior view of the abdomen on 14 x 17" film bearing the X-ray number 21296.
- (8) Anterior-posterior view of the right shoulder and right chest on 14 x 17" film bearing the X-ray number 21296.

- (9) Anterior-posterior film of the chest on 14 x 17" film bearing the X-ray number 21296.
- (10) Anterior-posterior view of the left shoulder and left chest on 14 x 17" film bearing the X-ray number 21296.
- (11) Anterior-posterior view of the abdomen and lower chest on 14 x 17" film bearing the X-ray number 21296.
- (12) Anterior-posterior view of both femurs including both knee joints on 14 x 17" film bearing the X-ray number 21296.
- (13) Anterior-posterior view of the pelvis. There is a small round density of myelogram media projected over the sacral canal. *See serialy X-ray number 21296, 114, 242, 278-9*
- (14) Anterior-posterior view of the lower pelvis, hips, and upper femurs. *Serialy X-ray number 21296, 114, 242, 278-9*

Prints from X-Ray Negatives

Also identified were two prints of each of the above 8 x 10" and 14 x 17" X-ray negatives and a third print of the X-ray numbered 8 above. During the course of our examination on November 1, 1966, the back side of each of these prints was numbered with the numbers assigned above in this report and each print was initialed by Captain Ebersole with the letters ~~THE~~ "THE." *114 242, 278-9*

Part II - PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

4" x 5" Black and White Negatives with Prints

- (1) 4 x 5" negative depicting the left side of the head and shoulders  
(Two contact prints and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (2) Similar view (Two contact prints and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (3) Similar view (Two contact prints and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (4) Similar view (Two contact prints and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (5) 4 x 5" negative depicting the right side of the head and right  
shoulder (Two contact prints and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (6) 4 x 5" negative similar to number 5 (above). (Two contact  
prints and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (7) 4 x 5" negative depicting superior view of head (Two contact  
prints and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (8) 4 x 5" negative similar to number 7 (above). (Two contact  
prints and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (9) 4 x 5" negative similar to number 7 (Two contact and two  
8 x 10" prints)
- (10) 4 x 5" negative similar to number 7 (Two contact and two  
8 x 10" prints)
- (11) 4 x 5" negative showing posterior view of wound of entrance of  
missile high in shoulder (Two contact and two 8 x 10" prints)

- (12) 4 x 5" negative similar to number 11 (Two contact and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (13) 4 x 5" negative showing anterior aspect of head and upper torso including tracheotomy wound. Also discernible are two superficial stab wounds on each side of the chest placed by the physicians in the emergency room at Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas (Two contact and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (14) 4 x 5" negative similar to number 13 (above) except somewhat closer view (Two contact prints and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (15) 4 x 5" negative depicting wound of entrance in right posterior occipital region (Two contact and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (16) 4 x 5" negative similar to number 15 (Two contact and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (17) 4 x 5" negative depicting missile wound of entrance in posterior skull, following reflection of the scalp (Two contact and two 8 x 10" prints)
- (18) 4 x 5" negative similar to number 17 (above) with three contact and two 8 x 10" prints

During the course of our examination on November 1, 1966, each of the manila jackets containing the above-described negatives, and the back of each of the above-described prints was initialed by



Dr. Boswell with the letters "JTB". Also, the backs of each of the above-described prints were numbered in the numerical sequence of (1) through (18) inclusive as assigned above in this report.

Black and White Negatives - No Prints Available

- (19) 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, of basilar view of the brain
- (20) 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, superior view of the brain
- (21) 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, basilar view of the brain
- (22) 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, direct basilar view of the brain
- (23) 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, superior view of brain clearly depicting the extensive damage to right cerebral hemisphere
- (24) 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, similar view to number 23 (above)
- (25) 4 x 5" black and white negative, no print available, similar view to number 23 (above)

During the course of our examination on November 1, 1966, the numerical sequence (19) through (25) inclusive as assigned above in this report was placed upon the manila folders covering each of

these negatives and each folder was initialed by Captain Humes with the letters "JJH". Also at that time Dr. Boswell initialed each of these negatives using India ink with the letters "JTB".

Color Transparencies, Color Negatives, and Color Prints

- (26) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints of the right side of the head
- (27) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints, similar view as number 26 (above)
- (28) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints, similar view as number 26 (above)
- (29) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints of the left side of the head
- (30) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints similar to number 29 (above)
- (31) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints similar to number 29 (above)
- (32) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 by 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints of superior view of head
- (33), (34), (35), (36) and (37) -- 4 x 5" color transparencies with each having a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints, all similar view as number 32 (above)



- (38) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints of the missile wound high in right superior, posterior shoulder
- (39) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints, same view as number 38 (above)
- (40) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints of the <sup>JAW, NECK, J. 3, J. 3</sup> anterior view of upper torso and head showing tracheotomy wound
- (41) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints, similar view to number 40 (above)
- (42) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and three 8 x 10" color prints of the missile wound in right occipital region
- (43) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints, similar to number 42 (above)
- (44) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints of the missile wound in posterior skull with scalp reflected
- (45) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints, similar view as number 44 (above)
- (46) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints of the basilar view of brain

- (47) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints, similar view as number 46 (above)
- (48) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints, similar view as number 46 (above).
- (49) No color transparency but one color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints similar to number 46 (above)
- (50) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints of the superior view of the brain
- (51) 4 x 5 color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints similar view to number 50 (above)
- (52) 4 x 5" color transparency with a 4 x 5" color negative and two 8 x 10" color prints similar view to number 50 (above)

During the course of our examination on November 1, 1966, numbers between (26) and (52) inclusive, as assigned above in this report, were placed upon manila folders each containing one color transparency and upon manila folders each containing one color negative and upon each of the above-described prints. Each of the manila folders and the back of each of the above-described prints was initialed by Dr. Boswell with the letters "JTB". There was no manila folder with transparency numbered 49. The negative numbered 47 and the negative numbered 49 were both processed from the transparency numbered 47. We assume the negative (numbered 47) was taken by

the developer for the purpose of having a negative (of the transparency numbered 47) which did not contain the brush hair shown in the negative numbered 49 and to obtain better color intensity than is shown in negative numbered 49.

Part III - MISCELLANEOUS *add. d'it. J's*

(1) Five 4 x 5" unexposed <sup>but developed</sup> black and white film negatives, (each contained in a manila folder). We recall that these negatives were not exposed because, during the course of the autopsy referred to at the outset of this report, they were loaded into a camera as a part of a film pack but were never used to depict an image. They were unloaded without being used so that the camera could be reloaded with color film. This item is numbered as item three in Appendix B to the letter dated October 29, 1966 referred to at the beginning of this report. The reference to this item in that Appendix contains an apparent error, in that it describes these negatives as "exposed."

(2) One unexposed and not developed 4 x 5" Ektachrome film. We recall that this film was never exposed and therefore never contained an image, but was loaded into a camera as a part of a film pack and was unloaded without being used to depict an image.

(3) One unexposed but developed 4 x 5" Ektachrome transparency. We believe that this resulted from the unsuccessful efforts of the developer to portray any image contained on the film.



(4) One roll of 120 film (processed but showing no recognizable image) which we recall was seized by Secret Service agents from a Navy medical corpsman whose name is not known to us during the autopsy and immediately exposed to the light. This item is numbered as item 4 in Appendix B to the letter dated October 29, 1966 referred to above.

Upon completion of our examination, identification, marking, arrangement and listing of all of these photographic materials as described above, we left these materials with Dr. Rhoads. The X-rays and photographs described and listed above include all the X-rays and photographs taken by us during the autopsy, and we have no reason to believe that any other photographs or X-rays were made during the autopsy.

James J. Humes  
James J. Humes  
Captain, M. C., USN

Nov. 10, 1966  
date

J. Thornton Boswell MD  
J. Thornton Boswell, M. D.  
Cdr. MC. USN (Ret.)

Nov 10, 1966  
date

John H. Ebersole  
John H. Ebersole  
Captain, M. C., USN

Nov. 10, 1966  
date

John T. Stringer  
John T. Stringer, Photographer  
Naval Medical Center  
Bethesda, Maryland

10 Nov 1966  
date