

Autopsy- Finck's testimony, S-I 2/25/69

Asked about wound "presumably of entry" in report whereas he testified it was definitely of entry, he responded, "Adm. Galloway told us to put in that word 'presumably'...." This means that all the doctors were present at the Navy Hospital the afternoon of 12/24/68, with Galloway, and that all of them went over the draft. It places Galloway in a position to be responsible for the elimination of the statement of front entry from Dallas. And it makes it difficult to believe that all of this could have been accomplished in the specified times, with Humes' receipt saying he turned in his notes at 5 p.m. and his statement to Clark that he delivered the autopsy report to Burkley (or Clark's statement that he did) at 6:30, even if Burkley had been at the hospital.

Despite the panel report finding that the President had been hit in the back of the head, Finck repeatedly refers to the hit in the back of the head.

He last par above, asked how much time he spent on the report he replied "I cannot give an exact figure. I was called in by Dr. Humes to Bethesda. I would say I spent several hours with Dr. Humes and Dr. Roswell before I signed it."

Bethesda

"When I arrived at the hospital, the X-rays had been taken of the head. After I found the wound at the back of the neck (emph added) and no corresponding exit, I requested X-rays. My purpose was to see if there was a bullet in the body. An X-ray will reveal a bullet." He then said the X-rays did show fragments in the cadaver, only fragments.

On the location of the wound of alleged entry in the head, he explained that X-rays are seldom "to scale". Thus, the head X-rays would have to be four-times life size to warrant the use of the measurement 100 mm by the panel.

"The second wound was at the back of the head and the exit of this wound, the right top side of the head..."

Asked if the X-rays were viewed he said, "The X-rays were made by a radiologist. He said there was no bullet left in the cadaver."

He acknowledged some of the X-rays did not come out but did not ask if they be duplicated. All the X-rays were developed immediately.

"Isn't it a fact that you were told not to go through the throat area?"  
"Yes, but I don't remember the details."

"Who told you not to go through the throat area?"

"I did not do it." (All of this passage, marked, should be quoted in the add to Post Mortem.)

Finck said he thought the orders, including not to dissect to trace the path of the bullet, were given by an Admiral Kinney. The Sibert-O'Neill reports identifies Admiral "Holloway" (Galloway) and "Burkley" (Burkley) as present, and Maj. Gen. Wehle, Commanding Officer of the Military District of Washington as present during the autopsy. There is casual mention, separately, of the presence of Brigadier General Godfrey McHugh, but not of any name, in any rank, like "Kinney" or of any other admiral.

At one point under cross examination, Finck was asked "Give us the name of the general who instructed Cmdr. Humes not to talk about the autopsy report". His response was, "This was not a general, this was an admiral. His was in the autopsy room." "Q. What is his name?" "A. There were several people in charge, as I recall. It was Admiral Kinney at that time, as I recall." Then asked,

"What was the name of the general in charge of the autopsy?", Finck responded, "There was no general in charge. Adm. Humes said, 'Who is in charge here?' and a general answered, 'I am'. That doesn't mean he was in charge of the autopsy. He was in charge of the general operation."

Among the questions this raises is why, at the relatively late time of Finck's arrival, there was any doubt in Humes' mind about who was in charge, or why the question should have come up in any way if this was a purely medico-legal determination, to be made by professionals only, and with no other interest than the determination of fact, the solution of a crime, the convicting of the guilty, then, presumably, under arrest and certainly still alive.

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