

5/29/68

Dear John,

Thanks for the Finck decoration.

I also regret that we had so little time together and that so much of it was an imposition on you in driving me around. Perhaps some day in the future we'll be together longer. I hope so. And I do, very much, appreciate your many kindnesses.

My baggage did catch up with me, but not before the agents got their revenge for the publicity I gave them in Minneapolis. I had last seen it on the Breniff chute. Three days later Breniff located it where my plane did not go, in Houston, with Delta. It was promptly returned, the bag ruined, and without any of the notes I had in it. They will do no one else any good, for they were a few brief notes of expenditures and messages to me in Minn.

My typewriter, practically new, was so badly damaged that I traded it in yesterday. The cost of repair exceeds its value. The dealer will junk it.

My tape recorder? That, too, was inoperative when I got the New Orleans. I had to borrow one there. It is now being repaired, too.

How helpful it was to see to it that when I began my work I could neither type nor tape interviews! I now have a better understanding of the need for ever-increasing taxes. These extra governmental services do cost money!

My trip was, I believe, fruitful. I am satisfied that I have now moved the case into several new areas and have developed additional information and viable leads on others where we had knowledge. With the freedom we so thoroughly enjoy in the mails, perhaps I'd best let it rest here until we meet again.

Again, many thanks.

Sincerely,



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER

RAINBOW BOULEVARD AT 39TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66103 • AREA CODE 913 • ADams 6-5252

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

May 20, 1968

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 7
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Harold:

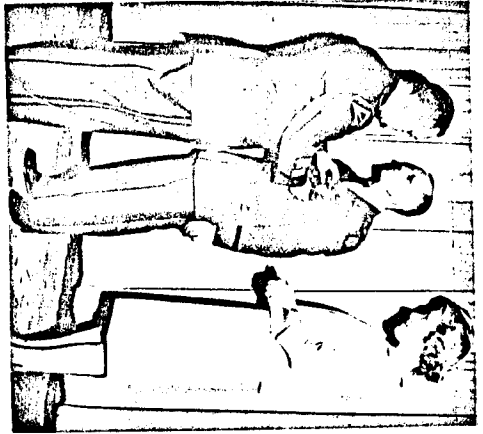
We all enjoyed your talk here last Thursday night. Am sorry your stay was so brief and that we did not have time to talk further. Presume that by now your baggage has caught up with you.

Enclosed is Xerox copy of Colonel Finck being decorated. I clipped this out of a bulletin of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and pasted it into my Warren Report. Will write soon as I have something new.

Sincerely,

Encl.
JN:mc

COLONEL FINCK RECEIVES LEGION OF MERIT



Lt. Col. Pierre A. Finck, MC, USA, receives Legion of Merit from AFIP Director, Brig. Gen. Joe M. Blumberg, MC, USA, while Mrs. Finck watches.

(Cont'd page 3)

Lt. Col. Pierre A. Finck, MC, USA, Chief of the AFIP's Military Environmental Pathology Division and Wound Ballistics Branch, received the Legion of Merit at a ceremony honoring him upon his departure from the Institute for reassignment. The citation accompanying the award pointed out his promotion of "international goodwill by his willingness to participate in educational programs of foreign governments." He was specifically commended for his services as a consultant to the International Jurists Commission at the time of the Panama incident in 1964. He was also cited for the assistance he provided the Warren Commission in compiling their report on the Kennedy assassination.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS

CAUSE OF DEATH: Gunshot wound, head.

PERSONAL DATA	
NAME	FINCK, PIERRE A.
AGE	46
SEX	MALE
RACE	CAUCASIAN
REGISTRATION NO.	163-272
LABORATORY NO.	
WARD NO.	
MILITARY ORGANIZATION (State required)	
PRESIDENT, UNITED STATES	
MILITARY IDENTIFICATION	
REGISTRATION NO.	
WARD NO.	
ANTHROPOMETRIC	
STANDARD FORM 887	

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 387

PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT

163-272

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CASE SUMMARY:
According to available information the deceased, President John F. Kennedy, was riding in an open car in a motorcade during an official visit to Dallas, Texas on 22 November 1963. The President was sitting in the right rear seat with Mrs. Kennedy seated on the same seat to his left. Sitting directly in front of the President was Governor John B. Connolly of Texas and directly in front of Mrs. Kennedy sat Mrs. Connolly. The vehicle was moving at a slow rate of speed down an incline into an underpass that leads to a freeway route to the Dallas Trade Mart where the President was to deliver an address.

Three shots were heard and the President fell forward bleeding from the head. (Governor Connolly was seriously wounded by the same gunfire.) According to newspaper reports ("Washington Post" November 23, 1963) the shots and saw a rifle barrel disappearing into a window on an upper floor of the nearby Texas School Book Depository Building.

Shortly following the wounding of the man the car was driven to Parkland Hospital in Dallas. In the emergency room of that hospital the President was attended by Dr. Malcolm Perry. Telephone communication with Dr. Perry on November 23, 1963 develops the following information relative to the observations made by Dr. Perry and procedures performed there prior to death.

Dr. Perry noted the massive wound of the head and a second much smaller wound of the low anterior neck in approximately the midline. A tracheostomy was performed by extending the latter wound. At this point bloody air was noted bubbling from the wound and an injury to the right lateral wall of the trachea was observed. Incisions were made in the upper anterior chest wall bilaterally to combat possible subcutaneous emphysema. Intravenous infusions of blood and saline were begun and oxygen was administered. Despite these measures cardiac arrest occurred and closed chest cardiac massage failed to re-establish cardiac action. The President was pronounced dead approximately thirty to forty minutes after receiving his wounds.

MSV 1407

Lieutenant Colonel Pierre A. Finck, MC, USA, Chief, Military Environmental Pathology Division, AFIP, has been awarded the first Oak Leaf Cluster to the Legion of Merit. LTC Finck was cited for his part in establishing the first pathology center for the Armed Forces in Vietnam while he was commanding officer of the Ninth Medical Laboratory.

The citation accompanying the award stated:
"Commanding the unit during its formative period, LTC Finck's skill and experience led to the establishment of the first pathology center for the military services in Vietnam."

"Despite pressing duties, he frequently gave time for consultation and expert testimony in official investigations. His precise, exacting and accurate characterizations of observations served as a model of scientific reporting to his staff..."



LTC PIERRE A. FINCK