

MEMORANDUM

January 18, 1996

To: David Marwell, Jeremy Gunn
cc - Tim Wray, Tom Samoluk

From: Joe Freeman

Subject Military District of Washington, U.S. Army photos of 1967 reinterment

Yesterday at NARA II, I came across documents which indicate that the Military District of Washington had two photographers present for the March 14, 1967 reinterment of President Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery, and that these photographers took 48 Polaroid prints on that occasion. According to the attached documents, these photos were delivered to Alfred B. Fitt, General Counsel for the Department of the Army, the next day, March 15th.

These photographs would appear to be an altogether different set from the ones that ARRB Board members and senior staff saw at the JFK Library in Boston. The latter photos were taken by Cecil Stoughton, White House photographer. The Duty Officer Log for the reinterment, compiled by Lt. Col. James R. Mason of MDW, indicates that Stoughton arrived at the cemetery at 6:26 PM, "at invitation of Senator Kennedy [and] took pictures for the Kennedy family." MDW's photographers, PFCs Garfield and White, were logged as having arrived earlier, at 5:06 PM.

The attached documents, summarized chronologically below, reconstruct the history of these photographs and may be of assistance in obtaining them for the JFK Collection:

March 2, 1967 Memorandum for Record, re: "Reinterment of President John F. Kennedy," authored by Lt. Col. James R. Mason, Acting Chief for Ceremonies and Special Events, page 4, item 4a: "It is recommended that official photographs be made of the reinterment. These photographs would provide a historical record that would be valuable to the national interest. The film should be classified with the utmost care."

March 7, 1967 Memorandum to Major General Frank Sackton, Secretary to the General Staff, from Alfred B. Fitt, General Counsel, Dept. of the Army, item 2: "An Army photographer should be present and active from 1700 until the event is complete. One set of prints only

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is to be made, and all prints and negatives should be delivered to me the following day in a sealed package, together with a statement signed by a general officer naming every person who has had access to same and conveying his personal assurance that no prints or negatives of the event, other than those in the sealed package, are in existence."

Undated List: "Military Personnel from the Military District of Washington that Will Be Present During the Reinterment of President John F. Kennedy". Under "Headquarters, Military District of Washington": item 11, "PFC Garfield - Photographer, Information Office, MDW", and item 12, "PFC White - Photographer, MDW Signal Section."

March 14-15, 1967 Eight pages, "Daily Staff Journal or Duty Officer's Log," compiled by Lt. Col. James R. Mason, MDW, for reinterment. Page 1, Item 9: "1706 Colonel Browning, LTC Wolaver, LTC Shahrabani, *PFC Garfield and PFC White* arrived gravesite [italics added]."

March 14, 1967 Certificate, signed by Major General Curtis J. Herrick, USA Commanding, referencing that "on the occasion of the reinterment at the Kennedy gravesite, forty-eight (48), Polaroid prints were made and the same number of negatives processed for permanent use."

March 15, 1967 Receipt, signed by Lt. Col. Maurice G. Shahrabani, MDW Deputy Information Officer, and Alfred B. Fitt, General Counsel, Dept. of the Army, referencing the turning over to Fitt of a sealed package containing forty-eight Polaroid prints and negatives of the reinterment.

It should be noted that I came across these MDW records in the NARA-FORD record series (Box 14). The Ford Library forwarded these records to Steve Tilley under the JFK Act; insofar as Steve is aware, they were never separately forwarded by DOD.

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Freeman e:\wp-docs\011896
File 4.0.2. JFK Medical