

Deposition of Floyd Riebe

May 7, 1997

[Draft May 6, 1997]

Introduction

Subject is the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy.

Under oath.

Let me know if any questions are unclear.

Do you have any reservations about answering questions fully and honestly.

Have you ever had your deposition taken under oath regarding the autopsy of President Kennedy.

Ever interviewed by U.S. Government before (who/when)?

By private researchers (who/when)?

Lifton

Livingstone

Others

Background pre-1963

What was your position in November 1963.

Why were you stationed at Bethesda.

What training had you had in photography prior to that time.

What training in medical photography

Any from Stringer?

Do you have any opinions regarding the technical competence of Stringer

What training in autopsy photography.

Any training in x-rays prior to 63?

Any subsequent training.

Prior to November 1963, at how many autopsies had you witnessed.

Any involving gunshot wounds.

What were standard procedures for taking photographs at autopsies at Bethesda in 1963.

How many photographers?

What cameras?

What lighting?

What film?

type

format

B&W or color

negative or positive transparencies

Identification numbers on photos.

ID cards.

Any motion pictures.

[Are you aware of any audio recordings.]

How many still photos.

Where was film developed.

Who developed film.

What happened to film after developing.

Background post-1963

Since November 1963, have you had any additional training in medical photography.

What work have you done in medical photography since that time.

Approximately how many autopsies have you witnessed.

Approximately how many involved gunshot wounds to the head.

November 22-23, 1963

Notice and preparation

When did you first hear of the assassination of President Kennedy. What were you doing.

When did you first hear that you might have some involvement with the autopsy.

Who told you.

Describe circumstances.

What did you do to prepare.
cameras, lights, tripods, film, etc.

Did anyone else assist you.

When did you first talk to Stringer.

What information had you been told by the time the autopsy had begun.

Knowledge of wounds.
Number of shots.
Any other info from Dallas.

Events witnessed

Did you ever see the President's casket.

When.

Describe circumstances.

Where were you.

Describe casket.

More than one casket?

Did you see body removed from casket?

Who removed body?

Who was present?

When did you first go into the morgue.

Approximately when did the autopsy begin.

Did you leave the morgue at any time prior to the completion of the autopsy?

Were you there during any post-autopsy reconstruction.

Did you leave the morgue at any point before the body left.

Did you see any photographs taken after the autopsy was completed.

General overview (we will return with details later)

Did you have the opportunity to view any of the wounds on President Kennedy's body.

From what distance.

How much time did you spend looking.

How confident are you of your memory of the events.

Describe the wounds you saw.

Photography at the autopsy:

Your role (in general)

Stringer's role (in general)

Who directed photography at the autopsy?

What photo and x-ray equipment was present in the morgue.

How many persons took photographs.

Were there autopsy identification cards visible at the time the pictures were taken.

What photographs did you take.

Types of cameras

Format

Are you acquainted with 120 film

What is it

Do you recall shooting any on
November 22

Number (rolls or shots)

Views

Previously you said that you have talked to others about your role in taking photographs.

What did you do with the film when you were finished.

What photographs did Stringer take.

What equipment did Stringer use

Cameras

Film

Tripod

Lights

Which views did you observe being taken by Stringer.

- full body view from ladder?
- Prior to removal of wrappings?
- Supine
- Lying face down on stomach?
- Sitting up?
- On left or right side?
- With probes inserted in body?
- Brain in cranium?
- Brain outside of cranium?
- Inside of chest cavity?
- Entry wound in skull
 - Inside
 - outside
- Scalp reflected or not reflected?

-- Entry wound in posterior thorax?)

What happened to the film after Stringer took pictures.

Was the film given to you.
To whom did you give it.
Was it given to anyone else.

Other, general

Timeline: what procedures were conducted at the autopsy prior to photography? After you completed photography? What time that evening did you leave the morgue? Did you witness embalming? Reconstruction of the President's head and closure of the thorax? Did you photograph the body during, or after reconstruction?

Did you witness the taking of x-rays? If so, who directed the taking of the x-rays? Which were taken first in the morgue: x-rays, or photographs? Who were the x-ray technicians? How many *series* of head x-rays were taken? How many total head x-rays were taken? Did you observe x-rays as they were read in the morgue? Is there anything in particular that you recall about any of the x-rays?

Non-photographic events at the autopsy:

Did you see the brain removed? Who removed the brain?

Did you see any bullets at the autopsy, or portions or fragments of bullets?

Who was in charge? Any conflicts over procedures or findings?

Atmosphere in room/how crowded/how noisy?

Do you remember any conclusions of autopsy pathologists arrived at the night of the autopsy?

Disposition of film

What did you do with the film you took.

What did Mr. Stringer do after he took pictures.

Receipt(s) for exposed film given to USSS by Navy:
do you recall signing?

When did you sign?

Do you recall any disagreements by anyone
over the numbers of film holders, or sheets of
film?

Letter from CAPT Stover about remaining silent about
the events of November 22-23: do you recall? Is this
your signature? What did you think about this at the
time?

Have you had any contact with John Stringer since
you completed his photography course at Bethesda?

Review Original autopsy photos

Are the films in the correct format?

Do they reasonably accurately convey what you saw
on November 22.