

NAME: Robert N. McClelland

ADDRESS/PHONE #: 3601 Potomac Ave., Dallas Texas 75205

Office phone: (214) 648-3540; Home phone:
(214) 528-6372

AFFILIATION/ROLE IN 1963: Joined the Parkland staff in 1957 as a general surgery resident, and upon completion of 4 years of general surgical training in June 1962, became a full-time instructor on the staff of the U. T. Southwestern Medical School at Parkland Hospital. In 1963, was an Associate Professor of Surgery.

- Attending Surgeon
- Prepared written report of his treatment of the President
- Was deposed by Specter

OBSERVATIONS/TESTIMONY ABOUT THE PRESIDENT:

(1) The following excerpts are from his written statement signed at 4:45 P.M. on November 22, 1963: "The President was...comatose from a massive gunshot wound of the head with a fragment wound of the trachea...Drs. Perry, Baxter and I then performed a tracheotomy for respiratory distress and tracheal injury...at 12:55 he was pronounced dead by Dr. Kemp Clark the neurosurgeon...who arrived immediately after I did...the cause of death was due to massive head and brain injury from a gunshot wound of the left temple."

(2) The following excerpts are from his March 21, 1964 sworn testimony before Arlen Specter:

(A) Throat Wound: "...as I took my post to help with the tracheotomy, I was standing at the end of the stretcher on which the President was lying, immediately at his head, for purposes of holding a tracheotom, or a retractory in the neck line...the neck wound, when I first arrived, was at this time converted into a tracheotomy incision. The skin incision had been made by Dr. Perry, and he told me--although I did not see that--that he had made the incision through a very small, perhaps less than a quarter inch diameter wound in the neck...the description that he gave was...that it was a very small injury, with clear cut, although somewhat irregular margins of less than a quarter inch in diameter..."

(B) Head Wound: "...I was in such a position that I could very closely examine the head wound, and I noted that the right posterior portion of the skull had been extremely blasted. It had been shattered, apparently, by the force of the shot so that the parietal bone was protruded up through the scalp and seemed to be fractured almost along its right posterior half, as well as some of the occipital bone being fractured in its lateral half, and this sprung open the bones that I mentioned in such a way that you could actually look down into the skull cavity itself and see that probably a third or so, at least, of the brain tissue, posterior cerebral tissue and some of the cerebellar tissue had been

blasted out.”

© More on the Throat Wound (interior damage): “That damage consisted mainly of a large amount of contusion and hematoma formation in the tissue lateral to the right side of the trachea and the swelling and bleeding around this site was to such extent that the trachea was somewhat deviated to the left side, not a great deal, but to a degree at least...there was a good deal of soft tissue damage and damage to the trachea itself where apparently the missile had gone between the trachea on the right side and the strap muscles which were applied closely to it.”

(D) Cause of Death: “The cause of death, I would say, would be massive head injuries with loss of large amounts of cerebral and cerebellar tissues and massive blood loss.”

(3) On the Inside Edition television show in 1989, Dr. McClelland said: “...the X-Rays do not show the same injuries to the President’s head that I saw in the emergency room.” (Source: Anthony Summers, page 485 of Conspiracy.)

(4) To Anthony Summers in 1989, McClelland reportedly said the “...great defect in the back” is visible on some photographs amongst the full set of some fifty pictures he saw at the National Archives--pictures in which the torn scalp has been allowed to fall back on the President’s neck. (Source: Conspiracy, page 485.)

(5) Dr. McClelland has appeared on many filmed interviews, including the KRON-T.V. program on medical evidence in 1988 (excerpted in Groden’s tape: The Case for Conspiracy), The Men Who Killed Kennedy, and the 1988 NOVA episode.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW:

-Would you please describe the wound to the President’s head?

-Would you please make a sketch of the President’s head wound, or confirm, or comment on the sketch previously made which has been attributed to you (see page 480 of Conspiracy, in book excerpt provided here in witness file)?

-Would you please examine these later generation versions of the President’s autopsy photos, and state whether they are accurate, and whether there is anything that is at variance with what you saw on November 22, 1963?