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**ROLE DURING PRESIDENT'S AUTOPSY:** HM2 Riebe (an E-5 Hospitalman and medical technician working with nephrologists on artificial kidney research) was on duty on November 22, 1963 as "duty photographer" by virtue of the fact that he was enrolled in the school of photography at the U.S. Naval Medical School. A student in Stringer's Navy course on medical photography, he had the duty on 11/22/63, and as duty medical photographer for the Medical School at Bethesda, he served as Navy civilian photographer John Stringer's assistant while Stringer took the official photographs of President Kennedy's body during the autopsy.

*Who Shot the 120 Film in the Autopsy Collection?*

Stringer told David Lifton circa 1972 that according to hearsay the night of the autopsy, it was Riebe who had some of his film seized by Secret Service Agents and exposed to light (although Stringer also told Lifton that he did not see this happen himself). That film (i.e., the film seized and exposed to light) is listed on the November 1966 autopsy film and x-ray inventory as 120 film. Stringer's recollection to Lifton was that Riebe had taken "scene" photographs which would have shown people in attendance inside the morgue; since those photos are not part of the official autopsy photo collection, many researchers assumed for years that it was this film which was exposed to light, and that the motivation for its destruction must have been because someone objected to such "scene" photographs being taken. However, ARRB staff has viewed the developed roll of 120 film in the National Archives, and it appears to have recorded on it three very dark (underexposed) positive images of closeups of the President's body, and does not appear to show any "background scenes" of autopsy witnesses or participants. It is unclear whether Riebe, or someone else, exposed the 120 film images. The widespread assumption that it was Riebe who shot the 120 film seems primarily based on a written explanation in the November 10, 1966 Film and X-Ray Inventory conducted at the National Archives (which attributed the taking of that film to a Navy Corpsman), and secondarily based on Stringer's interviews with JFK assassination researchers. In opposition to this line of evidence, Riebe never mentioned exposing 120 film in his 1978 HSCA interview, nor in his first interview with Lifton in 1979, and when specifically questioned on this matter by Lifton during a second interview in 1989, he actually denied exposing any 120 film. When asked to recall which film he exposed by the ARRB in 1996, he did not list 120 film in the items he independently recalled, but in contrast to his 1989 interview with Lifton, when directly asked by ARRB whether he exposed any 120 film, he said he "could have."

*Did Floyd Riebe Take Photographs at the Autopsy?*

Floyd Riebe has consistently claimed that he took many photographs at the autopsy on President Kennedy, and John Stringer has always insisted that Riebe did not, with the exception of the 120 film which Stringer was told Riebe had stripped from his camera and exposed to light. While Riebe has been consistent about claiming to have taken many photos at the autopsy, he has apparently been inconsistent about the type and quantity of photos taken. *See attached chart for more on this subject.*

## **INTERESTING LEADS/CONFLICTS WITH OFFICIAL RECORD:**

-THE 2-CASKET CONTROVERSY: Riebe reportedly told Lifton in 1979 that although he remembered a “bronze” casket somewhere that night, he thought JFK’s was not the kind that would be used by a funeral home for a fancy burial, and he further remembered that it had turnbuckles or thumbscrews on it, and that after they were removed, the entire lid came off. He reportedly told Livingstone in 1991 that he thought the casket the body came in was grey in color. (Point of interest: thus, Riebe seems to provide corroboration for Paul O’Connor’s claim that the President arrived in a cheap, grey metal box or “shipping casket”, vice the ornamental bronze casket in which it left Dallas.)

-THE BODY-WRAPPING CONTROVERSY: Riebe reportedly told Lifton in 1979 that he thought he remembered the President’s body being in a dark, rubberized body bag that opened with zippers. (Point of interest: this seems to be corroboration for O’Connor’s claim that JFK arrived inside a body bag which was zipped shut, rather than the sheet in which it was wrapped when it left Dallas.)

-TYPE/NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN: Riebe has apparently been inconsistent in regard to the quantity of film he claims to have exposed at the autopsy; it is unclear how much of this demonstrated inconsistency has been due to poor memory, and how much has been due to poor questioning by researchers. *See attached chart for a comparison of his reported statements regarding cameras used, and film exposed by him, at the autopsy.*

-AUTHENTICITY OF AUTOPSY PHOTOS: Riebe has addressed the issue of the authenticity of many of the autopsy photos in his interviews with KRON-T.V. in 1988, with David Lifton in 1989, and with researcher Livingstone in 1991. He has repeatedly stated that the photos showing the back of the head are either forgeries, or photographs of another person, because they do not show the true nature of the President’s massive posterior head wound. He has reportedly stated that the dark spot in the photos showing the President’s back is a spot or blood clot, and not the entrance wound, and that the deep depression in the back, seen farther down in the photo is really the entrance wound in the back. Riebe is also suspicious of the number of photos which show no background objects (but only blackness) beyond and around the body of the President--he reportedly suspects that the backgrounds of some of the photos have been “blackened out” or obliterated artificially; he also has been quoted as saying that he thinks many of the photos have been cropped and then enlarged (perhaps accounting for the orientation problems and focus problems noted by the HSCA and subsequent independent researchers). In one of the “Stare of Death” photographs in which part of the background can be seen, Riebe is quoted as being of the opinion that the floor tile in the photograph does not look the same as the floor tile in the morgue at Bethesda.

-MISSING AUTOPSY PHOTOGRAPHS: Riebe remembers photographing President Kennedy's body himself while the President was lying on his stomach, and also has stated that he remembers squatting on the floor so as to properly photograph the President's head wound while the head was propped up on a block. He has also stated that he remembers someone sitting the President up in a "sitting" position (by propping up his torso with human assistance), while he photographed the gaping wound in the back of the President's head. Finally, he has stated that he remembers photographing a bruise on the inside of the body cavity. *None of the photographs described above in this subparagraph are in the existing collection of autopsy photographs in the National Archives.*