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ROLE DURING PRESIDENT'S AUTOPSY: This civil-service employee was the lead photographer at President Kennedy's autopsy; he took photographs himself (apparently color only), and also directed the activities of his assistant that night, HM2 Floyd A. Riebe, who was a student in the Bethesda medical photography school.

On November 1, 1966 Stringer met with Drs. Humes, Boswell and Ebersole at the National Archives to jointly review with them the autopsy X-Ray and photographic materials; the above-named persons all signed the written report summarizing this study on November 10, 1966. (More on this below.)

See Master List for Summary of Interviews.

INTERESTING LEADS/CONFLICTS WITH OFFICIAL RECORD:

-LOCATION OF HEAD WOUND: In his two 1972 interviews with John Stringer, David Lifton has reported that Stringer said the main damage to the skull was in the back of the skull (vice the top), "...in the occipital, in the neck there, up above the neck," and confirmed that the main part of the head that was blasted away was occipital, where a person sitting in a bathtub would rest the back of his head on the edge of the bathtub if he leaned his head back as far as it would go against the back of the tub. In a subsequent interview with Lifton, Stringer confirmed that he had received medical photography training, and was familiar with the precise terminology in *Gray's Anatomy*. Stringer did state to Lifton that some of the top of the skull was gone, the very back part of the top of the skull--but that the front part of the top of the skull was intact. (Discrepancy: These descriptions by Stringer appear to be inconsistent with the existing collection of autopsy photos at the Archives, which show the back of the head intact and the top of the head gone--apparently all the way forward to the coronal suture, at least.) In subsequent interviews with researcher Harrison Livingstone in April and May of 1990, Stringer contradicted himself. In his first interview in April, 1990 he is reported to have told Livingstone the same thing he told Lifton in 1972, which was that President Kennedy had a large hole in the very back of the head; during the second interview with Livingstone in May, 1990 (after Livingstone had sent Stringer copies of the autopsy photographs showing the back of the head intact), Livingstone reports that Stringer exhibited great stress and reversed himself, agreeing that the photo showing the back of the head intact was accurate and true, thus reversing his position. In the first interview Stringer told Livingstone that there was not only a large hole in the back of the head, but that scalp was missing, that the scalp was "macerated." When Livingstone asked him whether the scalp could be used to cover the hole in the skull, Stringer reportedly replied: "I wouldn't think so." Livingstone also says that Stringer denied the top of the skull was missing (as a large part of it is in two of the autopsy photographs), saying: "The top of the head looked all right." and "The top of the head was not gone."

-AUTHENTICITY OF AUTOPSY PHOTOS: Regarding the pictures showing the intact back of the President's head, Stringer reportedly told Livingstone that he did not take that picture. (Discrepancy: this conflicts with the closing statement in the military inventory signed on November 10, 1966--see below.)

-MISSING PHOTOS OF THE TOP OF THE RIGHT LUNG: Stringer confirmed to Lifton in 1972 that he made photographs of the right lung, adding "we shot at least two of everything." Stringer told Livingstone that he took pictures of the interior of the chest, but that they were now missing. He also told Livingstone that it was discovered in the lab at the hospital that some of the film was missing from the holders; exactly what this means is unclear.

-INCOMPLETE COLLECTION: Stringer told the HSCA's Purdy that he was not sure everything they took was represented in the collection. (Comment: this is corroboration of what Stringer told Lifton in 1972 about having photographed the interior of the chest at least twice.) (Speculation: was this uncertainty about the completeness of what was in the collection at the archives expressed during or after the one-and-one-half hour review of those materials in 1966? Was this uncertainty the reason why the closing statement was added to the Military Inventory signed on November 10, 1966, namely: "The X-Rays and photographs described and listed above include all the X-Rays and photographs taken by us during the autopsy, and we have no reason to believe that any other photographs or X-Rays were made during the autopsy"? (Comment: The ARRB should determine who drafted the above statement and affixed it to the inventory, and why...the 4 reviewing autopsy participants, or Mr. Belcher of the Justice Department, who delivered the original and one copy of the document to those individuals for signature ten full days after they met to examine those materials, on November 10, 1966? That intriguing statement is completely absent from the first draft of the November 1, 1966 inventory which was never signed. What events, and who, prompted the change in the draft? Why was there a 10-day delay between the meeting to inventory the materials and the signing of the modified inventory list? Obviously, such a statement can and would be used by any government official to discredit any subsequent claims about missing photographs--and such claims have now been made by Humes, Stringer and Riebe. Furthermore, if those 3 individuals had doubts then--in November, 1966-- about the completeness of the inventory, why did they sign such a black-and-white statement? Were they pressured to do so in spite of their doubts about its completeness, or did they have no doubts whatsoever about its completeness then, and only develop such doubts later?)

CASKET ESCORT/ENTRY INTO MORGUE: Stringer told Lifton in 1972 that there were no military personnel whatsoever accompanying the casket into the morgue. (Point of interest: this appears to corroborate an earlier casket entry brought into the morgue by civilians, as noted by Dennis David.)