

OUTSIDE CONTACT REPORTDATE 6/20/78 TIME _____

I. Identifying Information:

Name Admiral David Osborne Telephone 814-887-9190Address RD #1, Smethport, Pennsylvania 16749Type of Contact: Telephone
 Person

II. Summary of Contact:

I contacted Admiral Osborne in regard to his presence at
the autopsy of President Kennedy.

In November, 1963, Admiral Osborne was a Captain in the
Navy and Chief of Surgery at Bethesda Naval Hospital. On the
evening of November 22, 1963, Captain Osborne had the Command
Watch and the Telephone Watch.

Upon learning that the autopsy would be performed at
Bethesda, Osborne went there to see if he could be of any assistance.

Osborne said the Kennedy family stayed on the seventeenth
floor of the Naval Center during the autopsy. Osborne recalls
going to his home on the Naval Base and acquiring some Scotch and
Canadian Club which he then sent up to the Kennedy family.

Osborne said that when he entered the autopsy room the

III. Recommended Follow-up (if any):

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President's body was in the passageway. He said that Dr. Humes called Dr. Pierre Finck to assist in the autopsy. Osborne said that at that point there was tremendous pressure to perform a "quick post" and to "get out of there." He feels that Dr. Humes was trying to resist this pressure and was successful in doing so. Osborne could not recall anyone issuing any orders limiting the scope of the autopsy. He does feel, however, that the word was passed to hurry the autopsy and that Dr. Humes kept resisting that pressure.

Osborne recalled that the Surgeon General and Admiral Galloway were present. Osborne also recalls Gregory Cross being present. Osborne said that X-rays and photographs were taken. He could not remember anyone taking any notes.

Osborne said that during the autopsy persons were telephoning into the room and that persons were constantly coming in and out.

Osborne said that various organs and the brain were removed during the autopsy and subsequently examined by Humes and Boswell. Osborne said that the prosectors could not find any adrenal glands because they had undergone atrophy. He further stated that Commander Humes could find no gross or microscopic evidence of the adrenal glands.

Osborne said that the President was fully dressed when the coffin was opened. Upon raising his shoulders to remove the coat, Osborne said that a slug rolled out of his clothing and onto the table. Osborne said that the slug was copper-clad and that the Secret Service or FBI took possession of this. Upon further inquiry, Osborne emphasized that the slug was a fully intact missile and not a fragment.

Osborne next said that a tracheostomy obscured the wound to the throat. He said, however, that once the doctors examined the wound closely they could determine that the bullet which entered the back passed through the throat. In regard to the head wound Osborne said that there was no question that the bullet entered the back of the head and blew off the top of the head.

Osborne said that to his knowledge the morticians did not come to Bethesda.

Osborne did not have any additional information. I informed him that I would most probably contact him again to review some of his recollections.