In The Matter Of:

Assassination Records Review Board
Re: President John F. Kennedy

Deposition of Floyd Albert Riebe
May 7, 1997

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Deposition of Floyd Albert Riebe
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[Page 1]

Q: And that you have a responsibility to make statements that you are about to make as accurately and honestly as you can?
A: Yes, I do.

Q: Mr. Riebe, is there anything that you can think of today that would keep you from answering any questions fully and honestly to the best of your ability?
A: No.

Q: I am going to be asking you a series of questions that relate principally to the autopsy of President Kennedy. I would like you to let me know if any of my questions are unclear and I will attempt to rephrase them or clarify them. You shouldn’t hesitate to ask me to rephrase the question or restate the question if there is any unclarity in your mind.
A: Mr. Riebe, have you ever previously had your deposition taken regarding the autopsy of President Kennedy?
A: No.

Q: Have you ever spoken with any Government officials who have had any role in investigating the assassination?
A: Yes.

Q: Did you ever subsequently speak to a person on the House Select Committee on Assassinations?
A: I don’t think so.

Q: Have you ever spoken with any private researcher subsequently about the assassination?
A: Yes, I have.

Q: Do you remember the names of any of those with whom you have spoken?
A: Mr. Lifton, and I can’t think of the other man’s name, but he lives up here in Baltimore.

[Page 2]

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[Page 3]

CONTENTS
WITNESS EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD
FLOYD ALBERT RIEBE
By Mr. Gunn 4

EXHIBITS REFERENCED AND ATTACHED PAGE
MD 78 47
MD 79 54
MD 138 55

[Page 4]

PROCEEDINGS
Whereupon,
FLOYD ALBERT RIEBE
was called for examination by counsel for the Assassination Records Review Board and, having been first duly sworn by the notary public, was examined and testified as follows:

BY MR. GUNN:

Q: Mr. Riebe, could you state your full name, please.
A: Floyd Albert Riebe.

Q: And how do you spell your last name?
A: R-I-E-B-E.

Q: The subject of this deposition today is the autopsy of President John F. Kennedy.
A: Mr. Riebe, were you present at the autopsy of President Kennedy?
A: Yes, I was.

Q: Before we went on the record, I explained to you that this deposition would be under oath. Do you understand that it is under oath?
A: Yes, I do.

[Page 5]

Q: I would like to go back to your career prior to November 22nd, 1963. Let me just start out by asking what position you had as of November 1963.
A: I was a hospital corpsman second class. I was a student at the medical photography school there in Bethesda.

Q: What experience had you had with photography prior to November 22nd, 1963?
A: Just what we had in class and freelancing.

Q: You know, just my own pictures from the time I was in the service.

Q: Who was your teacher or teachers in the photography class?
A: Oh, gosh. Rittenhauer was one and a man by the name of Pina. I can’t remember the rest of them.

Q: Did John Stringer teach any classes?
A: Yes, he did. Not that much though. It was mostly the school staff that did all the instructing.
[2] Q: Had you, yourself, been in any classes that
[3] Mr. Stringer taught?
[5] Q: What was Mr. Stringer’s reputation as a
[6] photographer as of November 1963 as best you recall?
[7] A: Well, it depended on - you know, I'd
[8] usually - when I'd go down, the couple times I went
[9] to assist in the identification of the person whose
[10] autopsy was being conducted?
[11] Q: Did you receive any training on the job or
[12] other than you used?
[14] Q: Had you completed your course work by
[15] November 22nd, 1963?
[17] Q: Approximately how much time had you spent in
[18] course work prior to the assassination?
[19] A: Class started in March, I believe it was.
[20] Q: That’s March of 1963?
[22] Q: So this would be six to ten months?
[23] A: Six, seven months in, yes.
[24] Q: How long did the course last after November
[25] of ’63?
[26] A: Till March the following year.
[27] Q: So one year?
[28] A: Yes, it was a one-year class.
[29] Q: During the course of your studying
[30] photography, did you take any courses on x-ray
[31] photography?
[32] A: No. No, I didn’t, But I had practical
[33] experience from different stations I was at as taking
[34] x-rays.
[35] Q: What was your practical experience in taking
[36] x-rays?
[37] A: Just some on-the-job training.
[38] Q: Had you actually taken x-rays then yourself?

[40] Q: Had you taken any x-rays during autopsies?
[41] A: No.
[42] Q: Did you receive any training on the job or
[43] otherwise regarding the interpretation of x-rays?
[45] Q: Do you consider yourself now competent to
[46] make interpretations of x-rays?
[48] Q: Prior to November 22nd, 1963, approximately
[49] how many autopsies had you witnessed?
[50] A: Three or four.
[51] Q: Had you witnessed by that time any autopsies
[52] of gunshot victims?
[53] A: No, I don’t think so.
[54] Q: Since or after November 22nd, 1963,
[55] approximately how many autopsies have you witnessed?
[56] A: One. And that was all.
[57] Q: So then your experience with autopsies would
[58] be in the area of five or so?
[59] A: Yes, about five or six. No more than six.
[60] Q: Was the autopsy of President Kennedy the only
[61] autopsy you witnessed where there had been a gunshot
[62] wound?
Q: In addition to the handwritten number and the other things that you said, was there any other information that was contained on these identification cards?

A: I don’t think so.

Q: I have been saying identification cards for it. Is there any other term you would use for it?

A: No. That sounds logical. I mean I didn’t know what they were – any technical name for them.

Q: While you were at Bethesda, did you ever see any motion pictures taken of any autopsy?

A: Some video, I have, yes, from the medical research center. People came over in the video school there.

Q: And approximately when did you see the videotape of an autopsy?

A: It was way before then. Way before November. But I don’t remember when.

Q: Is there or was there any standard procedure for the number of autopsy photos that would be taken?

A: No.

Q: How would it be determined in the ordinary course how many photos would be taken?

A: Well, I’d usually on my own take what I thought would be enough, and then I would ask the pathologist if there was anything in particular and I would stay until he was finished, photographing whatever. If he would find something screened in the cadaver, then we would take pictures of those. But, no, there was no set amount of photos to be taken.

Q: Now, in the ordinary course – and I am not speaking of President Kennedy’s autopsy – where was the film developed after the autopsy was completed?

A: In our photo lab there at Bethesda.

Q: Who was responsible for developing the photos?

A: Whoever took them.

Q: So in the other autopsies that you participated in, did you develop the film yourself?

A: Yes.

Q: After the film was developed in the ordinary course, what happened to those photographs?

A: Well, they were dried and given to Mr. Stringer and he would go over them for technical quality, and we would make our prints and then turn them into Mr. Stringer and he would send them out to the appropriate position.

Q: Do you know where the films ended up being filed or stored?

A: The films were filed, I believe, right there in Mr. Stringer’s office. He had a humongous file cabinet, many file cabinets.

Q: When you say that Mr. Stringer would review them for technical qualities, what are the kinds of things that he would review them for, to the extent you know?

A: Focus, color, and if prints were going to be made out of them, he’d crop it off on a piece of plastic so just that certain area you wanted blown up to whatever size it was.

Q: Was there a preference in terms of the type of camera that would be used? I’ll just speak in the very general terms of four by five versus 35 millimeter.

A: It used to be called the press camera because most of your newspaper photographers used that specific type of camera. That produced a film of four by five. I think it was, sheet film. You had to use holders, and then they came out with what they called the film pack which held 12. You just pulled the tab like you do on a Polaroid.

Q: Was the speed graphflex typically a tripod-mounted camera or a hand-held camera?

A: It could be done either way. It depended if you were using flash and you had a high enough shutter speed, then you didn’t have to use a tripod. But if you are going to do close-ups, then you would use a tripod, because your film, shutter speed was a lot slower and a better chance for movement.

Q: Other than the autopsy of President Kennedy, had you seen a four by five or large format camera used without a tripod?

A: Oh, yes. I have used them myself quite a bit.

Q: Also did all of the autopsies that you saw also use tripods?

A: No. Not all of them used a tripod.

Q: So some of them then would use four by five cameras without tripods, is that correct?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you complete the photography course in March 1964?

A: Yes.

Q: Since that time have you had any formal training in photography?

A: Yes. I was transferred down to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and I was there for a little bit more than a year; and about six months of that was our director there said would be more or less like an internship. I would be working with civilian staff and to have more training, which I enjoyed that and I thought it was appropriate.

Q: After AFIP, did you take any additional courses in photography?

A: No.

Q: What work in photography, if any, did you do after you completed your time at AFIP?

A: Yes. I was transferred down from AFIP down to the research medical, Field Medical Research in Jacksonville, North Carolina. And I was the medical photographer for that unit for about a year and a half.

Q: After your work in Jacksonville, did you have any other formal employment that involved photography?

A: No. Just the year book photographer aboard ship, but that was it.

Q: Did you take – did you ever serve in Vietnam?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you have any responsibility for photography in Vietnam?

A: No.
Q: And then you did hear something like official word within the next hour or so?
A: Yes.
Q: How did you get that information, do you recall?
A: From the chief of the day.
Q: What did he say to you?
A: He told us - well, he told me that they were bringing President Kennedy there to Bethesda for an autopsy.
Q: When you said that you needed to identify the director of the school, talking about, I will ask the question. Why was it that you needed to identify the director of the school?
A: Well, they wouldn't let anybody in the hospital at all.
Q: Who is 'they'?
A: I believe they were Secret Service. And he had to have - you know, you had to have a reason to be there.
Q: It was just that the security people were unfamiliar with Mr. Stringer, is that right?
A: Yes.
Q: Prior to the time that Mr. Stringer arrived, did you do anything to prepare for taking photographs of the autopsy?
A: Yes. I went down and made sure I had a lot of film cassette holders for the speed light. I grabbed one that evidently, which was Kodak because that's all we had there at the school.
Q: Do you recall what kind of film you got for the view camera?
A: No.
Q: Do you now recall what kind of film you got for the view camera?
A: Yes, it is not - the view camera is not a hand-held camera. It has to be on a tripod.
A: It was a Canon.
Q: You mentioned that the speed light was connected to one of the cameras.
A: Yes, it was more or less like an internet - a generic connector and I used that on my camera too.
Q: So it could have been connected to any of the three cameras, is that correct?
A: Yes.
Q: Do you recall which model Canon?
A: No, I don't. No.
Q: Prior to the time that you went into the morgue, had you been told anything about the nature of the injuries of President Kennedy?
A: No.
Q: Did you hear of anyone, again, prior to the assassination prior to the time that you went into the morgue room and the casket was brought in?
A: It went down the center, the front.
Q: Are you acquainted with the term "ceremonial casket"?
A: Yes.
Q: Do you have an opinion as to whether the casket that you first saw President Kennedy arrive in was in a shipping casket or ceremonial?
A: I think it was a sheet or several towels. Other than that, I'm not real positive on that.
Q: Can you describe what happened after the zipper was taken off, was there any other covering on the body?
A: Yes.
Q: Was the head wrapped. Other than that, no, that I can recall.
A: It was a rubberized-type body bag.
Q: After the zipper was taken off, was there any other covering on the body?
A: Yes.
Q: How were you dressed or wrapped?
A: He was in a rubberized-type body bag.
Q: How was President Kennedy dressed or wrapped?
A: Yes.
Q: How was President Kennedy dressed or wrapped?
A: Yes, it was a man by the name of O'Connor.
Q: After the zipper was taken off, was there any other covering on the body?
A: Yes.
Q: You would call this a body bag?
A: Yes.
Q: How arc body bags scaled, if at all?
A: Yes.
Q: How were you dressed or wrapped?
A: Yes.
Q: What was the head wrapped in?
A: A: I think the head was wrapped. Other than that, no, that I can recall.
Q: What was the head wrapped in?
A: It was in a rubberized-type body bag.
Q: How was President Kennedy dressed or wrapped?
A: Yes.
Q: How arc body bags scaled, if at all?
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Q: How was President Kennedy dressed or wrapped?
A: Yes.
doctors wanted.

Q: Did he make any suggestions to you about using one type of camera versus another type of camera?

A: Yes, he did. He said it would be better to use the big one.

Q: The big one rather than the 35 millimeter?

A: Yes. Yes.

Q: Did Mr. Stringer at any point say to you, don't take such and such a picture or do take such and such a picture or did he leave that up to you?

A: He more or less left that up to me, unless there was something he wanted done. Then he would ask me to come over and take a photo of this. But generally he said get the pictures of the room, you know, all the people in it. He said they probably will want that later on anyway. So we did.

Q: Now, when you referred a moment ago to the general body pictures that were taken before the x-rays, did those photographs include any people in the room?

A: It might have included a few hands, but I think that was about all.

Q: When did you take pictures that included people in the room?

A: It was after the autopsy started and the room got so doggone crowded. I didn't know how many more people were going to come in there, and I figured I would get that out of the way and then I would be free to do what the doctors wanted.

Q: With those pictures of people in the room, do you recall what camera those were taken with?

A: On the four by five. I do think so.

Q: Apart from Mr. Stringer, did anyone else in the room give you any directions or instructions regarding taking or not taking of photographs?

A: No.

Q: Was it your understanding during the autopsy that Mr. Stringer was the person principally responsible for taking the close-up photos?

A: Yes. Yes.

Q: Can you tell me how the procedure worked in terms of how Mr. Stringer took the photographs and any role that you played to assist him in taking those pictures.

A: I think one was taken that wound in the body after it was unwrapped. And another one is other views or postures was he put in?

A: I think one was taken that wound in the body after it was unwrapped. And another one is other views or postures was he put in?
Deposition of Floyd Albert Riebe
May 7, 1967

A: About eight or nine film packs. That would be what, 111, somewhere around there, between 99 and 111.
Q: Those were all just, as we said, black and white?
A: Yes.
Q: And approximately 100, so to speak?
A: Right around there, yes.
Q: Did you take any films from duplex film holders or was everything press pack for you?
A: I don't remember. I may have used one cassette. But I don't remember right now.
Q: What did you do with the four by five exposures after you had completed them?
A: After the pack was used, they were given to a security officer.
Q: Have you ever seen any of those films since?
A: No.
Q: Now, you mentioned earlier that some photographs or at least a photograph was taken after there had been an incision on the body, is that right?
A: Yes.

A: Yes.
A: You mean like from the ceiling?
A: Yes, I believe that was, yes.
Q: Do you recall whether any pictures were taken from angles very close to the inside of the cranium?
A: Yes, I think Mr. Stringer did that when the body was on its side.
Q: Were any pictures taken of President Kennedy from above?
A: You mean like from the ceiling?
Q: For example, with either you or Mr. Stringer climbing a ladder, for example, taking a picture down?
A: Not that I can recall, no.
Q: You don't recall any ladders in the room?
A: No.
Q: You said previously that you took 35 millimeter photos. Approximately how many rolls of film did you take?
A: Just part of one roll. I think it was only six or seven exposures.
Q: Was that film in black and white or color?
A: I don't remember.
Q: What was done with - when you had finished with that one roll of 35 millimeter film, what did you do with that?
A: I took it out of the camera and gave it to one of the secret agents there.
Q: Did you ever see that film subsequently?
A: No.
Q: Have you ever told any researchers that you took four or five rolls of film?
A: No.
Q: Approximately how many black and white four by five shots did you take?
A: I think I did some when they were putting it.
Q: When you say that there was not much left, what do you mean by that?

A: Well, it was less than half of a brain there.

Q: Did you notice whether the doctors weighed the brain?

A: I don't remember.

Q: Did you ever participate subsequently in any post autopsy examination of the brain?

A: No.

Q: Did you ever hear whether any other photographer participated in a post autopsy examination of the brain?

A: No.

Q: I would like you to describe as best you recall what or provide a description of the injuries to President Kennedy's head so we will say from above the throat. Not to the throat but above the throat. What did you observe on the body?

A: The right side in the back was gone (indicating). Just a big gaping hole with fragments of scalp and bone hanging in it.

Q: When you say, "overemphasized," you mean -

A: The occipital.

Q: The occipital area?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you see any other - in addition to that injury that you just described, did you see any other injuries to the head?

A: Yes, there was a flap of bone over on the side above the temporal area (indicating).

Q: I notice again your gesture is you are pointing above your right ear?

A: Yes.

Q: How close of an observation did you get to the wounds on President Kennedy's head?

A: About five, six feet, something like that.

Q: So the distance, I would estimate the distance you and you are sitting from each other is about five feet or so, and it would be about that distance?

A: Yes.

Q: And that was as close as you got to the head?

A: (Witness nodded head in the affirmative.)

Q: When you said that, you put your hand on the back of your head.

A: The occipital.

Q: The occipital area?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you see any other - in addition to that injury that you just described, did you see any other injuries to the head?

A: Yes, there was a flap of bone over on the side above the temporal area.

Q: I notice again your gesture is you are pointing above your right ear?

A: Yes.

Q: How close of an observation did you get to the wounds on President Kennedy's head?

A: About five, six feet, something like that.

Q: So the distance, I would estimate the distance you and you are sitting from each other is about five feet or so, and it would be about that distance?

A: Yes.

Q: And that was as close as you got to the head?

A: (Witness nodded head in the affirmative.)

Q: What was the position of the body when you made that observation about the nature of the wound?

A: He was on his side.

Q: Did you observe any injuries to the neck or throat?

A: Well, to me it looked like a trachostomy was done in the throat. Kind of overemphasized, but that's what it looked like.

Q: When you say, "overemphasized," you mean -

A: It was bigger than I have seen before. A larger incision.

Q: Did you observe any wounds on any other part of President's Kennedy's body?

A: Yes, in the back.

Q: What did you observe on the back?

A: Well, it looked like - it looked like a bullet hole. But when, I think it was, Colonel Finck tried holding that with his finger, it didn't go anywhere or so they said.

Q: So if I understand correctly, Colonel Finck put his finger into the wound to try to see how far...
Q: And a great deal of light would be necessary.
A: Yes.
Q: Is that the kind of film that would be used to expose that?
A: Yes.
Q: What is your understanding in regards to (b)?
A: No. There is 12 sheets in each holder.
Q: Do you understand the portrait pan film to be within the range of plausible numbers?
A: No, I don't.
Q: With regard to item (b), if that were read to imply that the six graphic film holders each contained two sheets of exposed film or a total of 12 sheets, would that statement be or would that reading be incorrect as far as your understanding?
A: It would be incorrect, yes.
Q: Do you recall when you signed your name to this statement?
A: No, I don't recall.
Q: At the time that you signed this statement, did anyone suggest to you that you should sign it over any objections that you might otherwise have had?
A: No. I was just told to read it and then sign it. And that was after we – I believe it was after we got that security oath. So I just went ahead and signed it.
Q: Do you now recall whether you had any concerns about the accuracy of this document at the time you signed it?
A: No, I don't recall.
Q: I would like to show you another document that is marked Exhibit No. 89 - excuse me - No. 79. I will state the document on its face appears to be a memo from Captain Stover to Roy Kellerman.
A: Yes.
Q: Do you recall any objections that you might otherwise have had?
A: Yes.
Q: Was Mr. Stover present in the autopsy room during the time the photographs were taken?
A: From time to time, yes. I don't think he
May 7, 1997

Re: President John F. Kennedy

Page 56

Q: Do you see the date that is written above your name several lines above?
A: 27 November.

Q: Is that in your handwriting?
A: Yes. Yes.

Q: Do you have any current recollection whether you signed this document on the 27th of November or any other day?
A: No. As far as I can remember, it was on the 27th. But it could have been earlier and just dated that day. I don't know. I don't think so.

Q: A few minutes ago you said, if I recall correctly, that you had thought that you signed the inventory receipt after receiving the order.
A: Well, it could have been different. But I don't remember for sure. But I thought it was the same day we got this.

Q: Do you have any reason to believe now that the dates on either Exhibit No. 138 or Exhibit No. 78 are inaccurate?
A: No. I really don't remember. I thought it was the 23rd, 24th that we were called up for that security thing. A week, looking at it, about a week seems an awful long time to wait.

Q: Do you recall whether you spoke to anyone about the events of the autopsy between the time of the autopsy and the time that you signed the statement that is now recorded in Exhibit 138?
A: I don't think so. I don't think I did.

Q: Do you recall whether you received any oral instructions not to discuss the events of November 22nd prior to the time that you received the document now marked 138?
A: Yes, we did. We got oral, verbal orders not to talk about this. I think that's what that was the next day, and then this came up a week later. But yes, we did. We got verbal orders from Captain Stover.

Q: Mr. Riebe, subsequent to the time that you were present in the autopsy room, have you ever seen any of the original autopsy photographs?
A: No. I have never seen the photographs taken.

Q: What would I like to do is have the original material brought in and have you take a look at that, and I will ask you some questions about that if we can do that.
A: Okay.

MR. GUNN: We will take a break while the material is being assembled.
(Recess.)

MR. GUNN: If we can go back on the record.

BY MR. GUNN:

Q: Mr. Riebe, what would we like to do is now show you what we understood to be the camera original photographic material that was exposed at Bethesda on November 22nd, 1963. We are going to be looking through them in an order that corresponds with the chart that I have given to you. We won't ask you to opine on the accuracy of this list, but we will just be referring to this or using this for reference purposes.

The first view that we will take a look at is what was described on that inventory as the 'left side of head and shoulders' and that corresponds to black and white numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 and color numbers 29, 30 and 31.

Steve, it might make sense just to use one or two examples of black and white and one or two examples of the color.

Mr. Riebe, can you see before you now the images that have been marked color numbers 29 and 30 and black and white numbers 1 and 2?
A: Yes.

Q: Do those resemble first in a general way the view that you saw at Bethesda on the night of November 22nd, 1963?
A: Yes.

Q: Is there anything that you see in either of those images, the color transparencies, color positive transparencies or the black and white reverse transparencies, that differ in any significant way from your observations?
A: I don't think so.

Q: Mr. Riebe, can you identify the type of film either in the color or the black and white as you stand here today?
A: The color was Kodak. Well, that's not saying much. You can identify the film by the notches in the top, but it has been so long since I have used this type of film that--
Q: That's fine.

A: Not without feeling them. Press pack is paper thin because they have to pack so many in there, but I don't think that is. Because that has got both of them have notches on the top and they appear to be too thick. The press pack is, like I said, paper thin because you have 12 sheets in a small area. It is like the old Polaroid. You can move it around.

Q: So based upon just your visual observations they would appear, the black and white images appear not to be from a press pack, but you are not certain.
A: I may have, but I don't remember.

Q: That's fine.

A: No, they are not from a film pack. They are notched on top and they are too thick.

Q: So you are reasonably confident they are not from a press pack?
A: Yes.

Q: Could you identify or can you see in the photographs what appears to be something like a stirrup on which President Kennedy's head is resting?
A: Yes. Yes, that's a stainless steel headrest.

Q: Do you recall seeing the stirrup on the night of November 22nd, one way or the other?
A: I can't recall it.

Q: President Kennedy's throat, does that correspond, at least generally, with what you observed on the night of the autopsy?
A: Roughly, yes. It was basically in that same area.

Q: Is there anything that seems to you to be unusual or not what you would expect with regard to what appears to be the white and blue towel under President Kennedy's head?
A: I really don't remember that towel or a towel. I mean there might have been one there, but I
Q: So your presumption is, at least, that the location where a tracheotomy would have been done.

A: Yes.

Q: Is there anything in the background of the room that seems unusual or different from your reollection, for example, the tiles on the walls or the telephone?

A: No. Not really.

Q: That's fine.

Q: Now, do you see any signify injuries to the left side of President Kennedy's head?

A: No.

Q: And does that correspond reasonably closely with your own recollection?

A: Yes.

Q: Could we then go to the second view which has been described as the "right side of head and right shoulder," black and white images numbers 5 and 6 and color numbers 26, 27 and 28.

A: Mr. Riebe, are you able to see those images that I just described reasonably closely now?

A: Yes.

Q: Do those images correspond, at least in a general way, with what you observed at the autopsy of President Kennedy on November 22nd?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there anything that appears to you to be brain tissue? For example, the tiles on the walls or the telephone?

A: No. Not really. It was about that general location where a tracheotomy would have been done.

Q: Is there anything that you see in those images that appears to be different from what you recall that night?

A: Well, the wound is placed different, but it could be just - the wound is more on the top side of the head, not in the back.

Q: When you say, "the wound," you are referring to the wound as it appears in the photograph -

A: Yes.

Q: - is in a location somewhat different from what you recalled from memory?

A: Well, it could be just - yes. I couldn't - my recollection could have been off too, whatever, that night. But that looks about right.

Q: Once again, there is not a very clear view, but somewhat of a view of the wound in the neck.

A: Yes. I understand that this is not a very good view of that. Is there anything that differs from what you recall from the night of November 22nd?

A: Not really. No. It was about that general view, for example, the tiles on the walls or the telephone.

Q: So your presumption is, at least, that the color photographs were taken by Mr. Stringer or yourself on the night of November 22nd?

A: I don't think so.

Q: That is, you presume that they were taken by Mr. Stringer or yourself on the night of November 22nd?

A: No. Not really.

Q: Are you able to say with any confidence whether they were taken by you or Mr. Stringer?

A: Yes.

Q: You might have been the one to take them, but you are not certain?

A: On the color, I don't think I was. In fact, I would almost swear to it. That was done with a view camera.

Q: How do you have any reason to believe that those photographs were taken by Mr. Stringer or yourself on the night of November 22nd?

A: Well, it could be just - yes. I couldn't -

Q: Do you have any reason to believe that those photographs were taken with a tripod or mounted on a tripod?

A: Yes.

Q: If the tripod were kept in the same position on the tripod holder, are you able to determine from visual observation whether they are from a press pack or from a film holder?

A: They are from the film holder.

Q: We can go to the next.

If I can try one more question, Mr. Kiebe, as you look into the top of the skull of President Kennedy, do you see what appears to you to be brain tissue? Or how would you describe the matter that appears to be extruding from the brain?

A: Lacerated brain tissue.

Q: Once again, that corresponds with what you observed on November 22nd.

A: From this view, yes, it does.

Q: Do you have any reason to believe that those photographs are inaccurate in any way?

A: No.
and a new cassette or new film holder were inserted.

could the pictures be reasonably close?

A: Yes, Yes.

Q: So when you have made your observation about

the closeness of the apparent images, that is without

having made a very technical observation of a possible

slight change?

A: Yes. The hands on the shoulders in the black

and white.

Q: So you do notice a difference between the

two, so they are not exactly identical?

A: They're not copies, no.

Q: Could you look at the back of President

Kennedy's head in the occipital region. You previously

used the term "occipital," is that right?

A: Yes. It is one piece.

Q: Does that correspond with what you observed

on the night of November 22nd?

A: Yes.

Q: So that where it appears, at least to me, as

if there is hair and scalp covering the occipital area,

that does not differ from what you saw on November

22nd?

A: I don't think so, no.

Q: So it seems to be a reasonably accurate

description?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay. Try the next view.

The next view is described as the view five

which is the "right anterior view of head and upper

torso, including tracheotomy wound" corresponding to

black and white numbers 13 and 14 and color numbers 40

and 41.

Mr. Riebe, do you see those images in front

of you now?

A: Yes, I do.

Q: Do those images correspond, at least in a
general way, to what you observed on November 22nd?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there any difference that you notice in

the size of the wound in the neck from what you

observed on that night?

A: No, I don't think so.

Q: In terms of the wound on the head, the

portion of the head above the ear, is there anything

that seems materially different from what you then

observed?

A: I don't think so, no.

Q: Can you identify from visual observation

whether the black and white images are from a press

pack?

A: No, they are not from a press pack. They are

from a supplementary brain examination.

Q: All right, next view.

These are the sixth view, "wound of entrance

in right posterior occipital region," corresponding to

black and white numbers 15 and 16, color numbers 42

and 43.

Mr. Riebe, do you see those images in front

of you now?

A: Yes, I do.

Q: Is there anything in those images that

appears to you to be materially different from what you

observed on the night of November 22nd?

A: No.

Q: I would like to specifically draw your

attention to the occipital area of the head and see

whether there is anything that appears to you to be

inaccurate in that area.

A: No, I don't think so.

Q: Do the black and white images appear to you

to be from press pack?

A: No. They are from a film pack, cassette.
[1] will just ask Mr. Riebe the question of whether he can
[2] tell whether the black and white image is from a press
[4] A: These are from a press pack. There is no
[5] markings on the edges and it is a very thin piece of
[8] Q: The last set of images are also reportedly
[9] from a supplementary exam, so I would just like to show
[10] you the last set of photos.
[11] Maybe you can just put out one or two just so
[12] we can see them and a black and white one to see if it
[14] A: I don't recall seeing these pictures at all.
[15] Q: And, once again, is the black and white image
[16] a press pack?
[18] Q: All right, we have one last piece of film
[19] that we would like to show to you and ask if you can
[21] Mr. Riebe, you are being shown a roll of
[22] film. I guess I should say a recalcitrant roll of film

[1] that wants to keep rolling up. That is identified as
[2] 120 film. Can you identify that as a 120 piece of
[3] film?
[5] Q: Let's cover up part of the light on the box
[6] to see if there are any images visible.
[7] Mr. Riebe, are you able to identify any
[8] perhaps latent images on the roll of 120 film?
[9] A: Yes. A couple down at this end, but I can't
[10] see anything up that way.
[11] Q: Are you able to tell with any degree of
[12] certainty what those images convey?
[13] A: All I can tell is they may be of President
[14] Kennedy. I really couldn't swear to it. I can't make
[15] it out that well.
[16] Q: Does selling this roll of 120 film help
[17] refresh your recollection as to whether there were
[18] any - whether you observed any medium format shots
[19] being taken of President Kennedy?
[21] MR. GUNN: Off the record a minute.
[22] (Discussion off the record.)

[2] BY MR. GUNN:
[3] Q: Mr. Riebe, earlier in the deposition you
[4] estimated that you had taken yourself somewhere in the
[6] Did you within those films that you saw this morning,
[7] this afternoon, identify any films that seemed to have
[8] been taken with a press pack of the autopsy?
[9] A: Just those last specimens. the gross specimen
[10] type. I don't remember taking anything like that.
[11] Q: So other than at the supplementary autopsy
[12] you did not see any press pack -
[15] Is the best of your understanding that you
[16] took those films, but they are not now included in the
[17] archives?
[19] Q: Previously in the deposition you described
[20] what I understood to be a large wound in the occipital
[21] portion of the brain. Yet when we were looking at the
[22] photographs you didn't notice that.
CERTIFICATE OF DEponent

I have read the foregoing 79 pages which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

FLOYD ALBERT RIEBE

Subscribed and sworn to before me this______ day of __________, 19__.

Notary Public in and for

My commission expires: ____________________

CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

I, Emma N. Lynn, the officer before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that said deposition is a true record of the testimony given by said witness; that I am neither counsel for, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

EMMA N. LYNN
Notary Public in and for the State of Maryland

My commission expires: October 1, 1997.
Re: President John F. Kennedy

Assassination Records Review Board

July 9, 1997

internet 26:4

Interpretation 10:4

interpretations 10:7

into 11:3; 12:9; 16:4;

25:3; 8; 12; 26:12, 22;

9:10; 45:22; 66:8

inventory 47:12; 56:17;

58:21; 65:9

investigating 5:22

involved 11:7; 19:14;

55:9

item 48:14; 49:8, 15; 50:8;

51:9; 16; 52:13; 53:18

Jacksonville 19:11, 13

job 10:3; 11:16

John 4:15; 7:20

K

keep 5:6; 35:17; 75:1

keeping 78:12

Kellerman 54:22

Kennedy 4:15, 17; 5:12;


18:3; 20:4; 21:9; 26:14;

29:9; 30:7; 22:39:18;

42:13; 16:43; 49:31;

66:9; 75:14, 19

Kennedy's 15:12; 43:13;

44:17; 45:15; 46:14; 61:5;

12; 60:2; 69:18

kept 35:20; 67:22

kind 11:16; 29:5; 53:3;

knobs 28:6

knowledge 52:13

known 52:6

Kodak 23:19; 60:1

lab 15:14; 42:22

Lacerated 46:22

ladder 39:12

laddere 40:2

lamp 12:7

large 18:4; 76:20

larger 46:12

last 4:12; 9; 24:14;

73:17; 17; 74:8, 10; 18;

76:9

latent 75:8

later 20:11; 33:16; 43:1;

2; 57:17

learn 11:16

least 41:20; 61:13; 62:21;

64:18; 68:20; 69:15; 77:2

leave 32:9; 33:10; 42:19;

47:4

left 33:11; 37:19; 38:3;

42:21; 43:2; 40:4; 44:2;

48:4; 58:21; 62:9

less 18:22; 26:4, 19;

33:11; 44:4

lifted 6:7; 28:18; 37:21

Lifton 6:21

light 12:2; 25:1; 5:26;

50:16; 75:5

lighting 11:22, 25:2

lights 12:3, 6; 24:22

liked 17:2, 4

likely 30:2

line 21:11; 50:7

lined 29:20

lines 56:5

lining 50:1

list 58:18

little 6:3; 10:5, 5; 13:11;

18:21; 26:6; 43:20

lives 6:22

Livingston 7:1, 2

loaded 13:2; 36:22

loading 27:17

location 63:12; 64:1

logical 14:9

long 9:7; 24:14; 27:3;

42:1; 57:5; 60:3

look 13:10; 29:21, 58:3;

20; 65:16; 66:8; 67:12;

68:13

looked 30:3; 46:7, 17, 17

looking 57:4; 58:15;

66:16; 72:15; 76:21

looks 63:16; 75:4

lot 18:1; 22:16; 51:4

Lower 48:4

lying 37:11, 14

M

main 21:15

Mamifex 52:4, 10

man 6:6; 7:16; 31:2

man's 6:22

many 10:10, 16; 12:9, 9;

13:17; 15:3; 16:10; 34:4;

35:21, 22; 36:1; 40:5, 21;

60:10

March 9:2, 3; 9:18

marked 13:22; 47:19;

54:17; 57:14; 59:7

markers 13:7

markings 74:5

material 58:3, 8, 14

materially 70:2, 19

matter 66:10

may 13:3; 41:11, 61:9;

64:21, 21; 75:11, 11; 75:15