

CONTACT PROFILE**Document's Author:** Douglas Horne/ARRB**Date Created:** 09/19/96**Contact Description**

Contact Name: Floyd Boring**Company:****Title:****Category:** Witnesses/Consultants**Street Address:****Phone Number:****FAX Number:****E-mail Address:**

HSCA Letter Sent:

Additional Information

Mr. Floyd Boring, who retired from the Secret Service in 1967, in 1963 was (along with Roy Kellerman) one of two ASAICs working for Gerald Behn, head of the White House detail of the Secret Service.

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MEETING REPORT



Document's Author: Douglas Home/ARRB

Date Created: 09/19/96

Meeting Logistics

Date: 09/18/96
Agecny Name: Witnesses/Consultants
Attendees: Dr. Joan Zimmerman, Doug Home, and Floyd Boring
Topic: Interview of Floyd Boring

Summary of the Meeting

Joan Zimmerman and I interviewed Mr. Floyd Boring in his home on Wednesday, September 18, 1996. He preferred this location to having to come into Washington D. C. to visit the Review Board.

The interview commenced shortly after 10:00 A. M., and was completed prior to 12:00 noon. With Mr. Boring's consent, the interview was taped. Since the interview tape is available for those who wish to apprise themselves of the tone and precise phraseology of each question and answer, this meeting report, for the most part, will record only a summary of basic lines of questioning and a summary of responses given; only remarks placed directly within quotation marks are verbatim--all other representations in this interview report are paraphrased summaries of responses given by Mr. Boring.

At the beginning of the interview, before the tape was started, Mr. Boring said he was glad to talk to us if we wanted him to, but that "I didn't have anything to do with it, and I don't know anything." Contrary to his disclaimer, the interview proved to be worthwhile and interesting in a number of respects.

Floyd Boring, after consenting to being taped, verified that he had never been interviewed by the Warren Commission, the House Select Committee on Assassinations, or any other government body in connection with the Kennedy assassination. In response to our question, he stated that he was perfectly free to talk about the assassination, and was not under any oral or written prohibition which would prevent him from speaking freely about the events of November, 1963.

Mr. Boring stated that he was at home, enjoying a day off on November 22, 1963, when he heard about the assassination on the radio. He initially said during the interview that his activities on 11/22/63 were limited to going directly from his home to Andrews AFB to meet the (new) President--and that he escorted President Johnson on his helicopter from Andrews to the White House, after which he went directly home. When asked who directed him to go to Andrews AFB, Mr. Boring said that nobody asked him to go there--that he just did it on his own.

Boring independently recalled that he was the person who assigned Winston Lawson as the S. S. advance agent for the Dallas leg of the Texas trip, but could not recall why or how "Win" Lawson was given that assignment.

Details of the Secret Service filing system were discussed by Mr. Boring and Dr. Zimmerman and are available on the cassette for review by interested parties. He did seem to recall the "CO-S" portion of the filing system (which Mr. Bouck did not seem to have a recollection of during his ARRB interview).

When shown the HSCA interview summary of its interview with Miami SAIC John Marshall (specifically, Marshall's twice expressed opinion that there may have been a Secret Service conspiracy), Mr. Boring expressed surprise at those sentiments and said he had never heard that opinion expressed by SAIC Marshall (a personal friend of his from their previous association as Pennsylvania State Troopers) before.

When shown the HSCA interview summary of its interview with Miami field office SA Ernest Aragon (specifically, Aragon's allegations of Secret Service security lapses), he said he would not agree with that statement, and expressed the opinion that SA Aragon may not have known what he was talking about.

When asked whether the White House detail was responsible for the protection of the President, Mr. Boring stated that that concept was incorrect, and that the entire Secret Service was responsible for the

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physical security of the President, including the White House detail, the various field offices, the PRS, etc.

When asked to explain communications between motorcades and the White House, Mr. Boring explained that there were two communications nets, the "Charlie" (C) net and the "Able" (A) net. Conversation then focused on the "Charlie" net. He said the "Charlie" net relayed motorcade car-to-car radio voice communications directly back to White House detail "headquarters" real-time, via the local Army Signal Corps local (traveling) White House switchboard, so that persons at White House "headquarters" (meaning White House detail people on duty) could listen in, real time, to motorcade radio transmissions. He stated that although the President, or a high official accompanying him in a motorcade, could have two way conversations from a moving automobile with anyone via the traveling Army Signal Corps switchboard, that the Secret Service agents in the cars would simply be talking to each other on their radios, or reporting status to the traveling switchboard, but would never have such two-way conversations themselves with the White House detail or anyone else back in Washington.

When asked whether Inspector Thomas Kelley ever interviewed or spoke with him connected with Kelly's Secret Service investigation of the assassination, Mr. Boring said no. He said that he had never spoken with anyone at all in the Secret Service about any aspect of the Kennedy assassination.

When asked whether the Secret Service had any standard procedures regarding size and placement of motorcycle escort for the President's limousine in motorcades, he said that there was no standard protocol for this, since local resources were different from site to site. He then stated that the Secret Service would place motorcycles wherever the local authorities would want them, and that the Secret Service would not try to tell local law enforcement authorities where to place motorcycles around the limousine--he said that if the Secret Service had tried to do such a thing, that the local authorities would not have listened anyway. He said that in regard to matters like this, local authorities wouldn't take orders from the Secret Service, but instead had to be coaxed. He also stated that placing motorcycles alongside the limousine would not have been a good idea, since they were so noisy that the President would not have been able to have a conversation with the car's occupants.

In about the middle of the interview, Mr. Boring remembered that he and Mr. Paterni had inspected the President's limousine and the Secret Service follow-up car, but was unsure whether they had inspected them the night President Johnson returned to Washington (11/22/63), or the next morning (11/23/63). After independently recalling that they had searched the cars, Mr. Boring said that he (Boring) had discovered a piece of skull bone with brain attached in the rear of the follow-up car (the black Cadillac convertible called the "Queen Mary"), in the footwell just in front of the back seat bench. He said during follow-up questioning that the dimensions of this skull bone-brain fragment were approximately 1" X 2". He said he never picked it up or touched it himself, but that he simply pointed it out to Mr. Paterni. (Mr. Paterni was Deputy Chief of the Secret Service.) He said he did not write a report about this, and he did not know whether Mr. Paterni had written a report or not. He said he did not know what the disposition was of this debris/medical evidence. Mr. Boring made very clear during the interview that this fragment was in the rear of the follow-up car, not in the rear seat of the Presidential limousine. Initially, ARRB staff members Zimmerman and Horne had misunderstood Mr. Boring to mean that the bone-brain fragment was in the rear seat of the President's limousine, and Mr. Boring took specific pains to correct our misunderstanding during follow-on discussion of this matter.

Following his independent and spontaneous recollection of the car searches and his discovery of a skull bone-brain fragment in the rear of the follow-up car, ARRB questions moved into various documents related to the examination of the automobiles in the White House garage. Mr. Boring was shown the HSCA interview of SA Hickey, and was asked to read the portion wherein Mr. Hickey stated that Mr. Boring came down to the garage and told him statements were being collected in the White House, and directed (or suggested) that he go and write down his written statement. His response to this was that he did not remember even seeing SA Hickey in the White House garage, nor did he remember seeing SA Kinney, or any other Secret Service agents, or FBI agents, during the automobile searches. He did have some vague recollection of White House police being in the area.

When asked who directed he and Paterni to search the automobiles, he said that no one had; he said he thought it might be a good idea and had suggested it himself to Paterni, and that they undertook this search as independent action on their own initiative.

Next, Mr. Boring was asked what he remembered about bullet fragments which had been found in the Presidential limousine, and he said he did not remember anything about any bullet fragments at all.

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Consequently, he was shown page 67 of FBI SA Frazier's Warren Commission testimony, in which Mr. Frazier testified that two bullet fragments (CE 567 and 569) retrieved from the front seat area of the President's limousine were turned over to him by Paterni and Boring at 11:50 P.M. on 11/22/63, and was asked if this refreshed his recollection at all, and he said no. Mr. Boring was then shown page 389 from HSCA volume 7 (which depicts photographs of CE 567 and CE 569, the two bullet fragments which Frazier testified Boring and Paterni turned over to him on 11/22/63), and he said this still did not refresh his recollection at all, and that he did not remember anything at all about finding any bullets in the President's limousine.

(NOTE: near the conclusion of the interview, just after the cassette tape was 100% used up and stopped advancing, Mr. Boring was asked follow-up questions about what he recalled about the condition of the windshield and chrome strip above the windshield in the President's limousine, and he stated that he could not remember anything one way or the other about either the windshield, or the chrome strip above the windshield. These were the only portions of the interview not recorded due to the tape's expiration.)

Mr. Boring on his own initiative brought up the subject of SA Hickey being accused by a conspiracy theorist of accidentally shooting the President with the AR-15 rifle from the follow-up car. He firmly stated his opinion that this theory was ridiculous and incorrect. He said he knows it was incorrect because he personally inspected "the weapons" (plural) during the automobile inspection to see whether they had been fired--by the weapons, he explained he meant both a shotgun, and the AR-15 in the Queen Mary. He said the inspection consisted of both opening each weapon and inspecting its barrel (for powder debris), as well as checking the shells in the magazine to see whether any were missing. Based on his examination of the AR-15 rifle, he stated that he concluded that it was not fired that day, since its barrel was clean, and the clip was not missing any shells.

Next, Mr. Boring was asked to read pages 136-137 of Clint Hill's Warren Commission testimony, in which Clint Hill recounted that Floyd Boring had told him just days prior to the assassination that during the President's Tampa trip on Monday, 11/18/63, JFK had requested that agents not ride on the rear steps of the limousine, and that Boring had also so informed other agents of the White House detail, and that as a result, agents in Dallas (except Clint Hill, on brief occasions) did not ride on the rear steps of the limousine. Mr. Boring affirmed that he did make these statements to Clint Hill, but stated that he was not relaying a policy change, but rather simply telling an anecdote about the President's kindness and consideration in Tampa in not wanting agents to have to ride on the rear of the Lincoln limousine when it was not necessary to do so because of a lack of crowds along the street. Warren Commission Chief Counsel J. Lee Rankin's curiosity regarding this matter (following Clint Hill's testimony), and the resulting written statements of agents regarding this matter (CE 1025) which were forwarded to Rankin by Chief Rowley, were discussed. Mr. Boring remembered preparing his written statement, and verified that the copy shown to him was indeed his statement.

Mr. Boring was shown Inspector Kelley's 2/14/64 memo to Chief Rowley re: HR 9958 (USSS document No. 154-10002-10332), and stated that he had never heard Inspector Kelley speak in that manner (as in the memo) of the inadvisability of allowing the FBI sole investigative jurisdiction over future assassination investigations; or of a "Seven Days in May" scenario; or of a possible venal Director of the FBI bringing about or allowing an assassination under these new investigative guidelines; etc. He seemed somewhat surprised and speechless by the contents of this memo.

Finally, Mr. Boring was asked whether he was acquainted with SA Elmer Moore, and he indicated that he knew him quite well, and said he was still living in Seattle. Mr. Boring was asked to read and comment on several pages of the HSCA 6/1/77 interview transcript (HSCA record No. 180-10109-10310) of its interview with former graduate student James Gochenaur, in which Gochenaur recounted a very long conversation he reportedly had with SA Elmer Moore in 1970. Mr. Boring examined the portions of the transcript in which Gochenaur quoted Moore as saying that Kennedy was a traitor for giving things away to the Russians; that it was a shame people had to die, but maybe it was a good thing; that the Secret Service personnel had to go along with the way the assassination was being investigated ("I did everything I was told, we all did everything we were told, or we'd get our heads cut off"); and that he felt remorse for the way he (Moore) had badgered Dr. Perry into changing his testimony to the effect that there was not, after all, an entrance wound in the front of the President's neck. Mr. Boring said that it would be just like SA Moore to give such a lengthy interview, but that he doubted very much whether

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agent Moore had really said those things, since he himself had never heard agent Moore say anything like that, nor had he heard any other Secret Service agents say anything like that.

Mr. Boring made clear during the interview that he felt Lee Harvey Oswald had shot President Kennedy acting alone, and that there was no shot from the grassy knoll.

Final comments: the interview remained very cordial at all times. Mr. Boring volunteered that he was the founder of the Retired Secret Service Agent's Association. He also informed us that he had been promoted to Inspector prior to his retirement in 1967. END

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CALL REPORT: PUBLIC



Document's Author: Douglas Home/ARRB

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The Players

Who called whom? Floyd Boring of Witnesses/Consultants called Douglas Horne

Description of the Call

Date: 09/19/96

Subject: Floyd Boring Called Doug Horne

Summary of the Call:

Mr. Boring called me at about 9:30 A. M. this date, and said he wished to make a correction of, and retract, something he said yesterday during his interview. He said that upon further consideration, it could simply "not be" that the skull bone-and-brain fragment he told us about had come from the back of the follow-up car, and that therefore it must have been seen in the back seat of the President's limousine, and not the follow-up car. He said that his stroke may perhaps have had something to do with his error. He then stated that he only checked one weapon--the AR 15--but reiterated that it had not been fired. I followed up by asking him whether weapons checks had been done on all of the agents in Dallas who had been in the motorcade, and he said he did not know. After I assured him I would place his retraction on record, he terminated the phone call. END

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