

Confidential. Captain Tex Shepherd, U.S. Navy, 1:30 p.m., May 1, 1964,
4920 Rockwood Parkway.

(NM: The Captain is a tall, handsome officer from Alabama who won the navy cross at the naval battle of Guadalcanal aboard the USS San Francisco.)

I was at the reception. As usual, the two or three aides would go up to the Oval Room to escort the guests down. I believe the Vice President came down with us. (?)

There was a requirement that one aide always be with the President. We arranged this among ourselves. At one point we all three arranged to make the Texas trip, but they have homes in Texas--McHugh's home of record is Ft. Worth. So I decided not to go.

They had the key figures in the staff--the closest thing to a chief of staff. It was completely legal and had the necessary political judgment and to make the key decisions regarding information, and so forth.

I believe that at the end of the reception the President made one more staff before the end. It is hard to do that because of the policy to do not want to stay in the East for long periods. He would come back as often as I think. However, that evening he would talk after getting his first draft.

My usual hours were from 8 in the morning till 7:30 in the evening when he left. I would leave at 4:30 when the President was not there.

In the morning of Thursday, November 20 I took the 4 draft letters for review and very often these letters had been killed in the morning, and I've often wondered how they still remained there after the assassination. He signed them standing before he left the office. In that he intended the confidence and trust of the Kennedy staff. He had asked for letters of that sort and then a set was killed in the line of duty, and about 20 of them were signed by the next week. This had been going on for about a year. He called me and I was the report in the telegraph. I called out to which the go.

The first I knew of the tragedy, I had looked in the White House staff book on Friday, and I was just coming into the East Wing where a person first came working, "The President had been shot?" I looked at the telephone and said, "It can't be true." He said, "Yes, they will get to the situation from right away."

I ran back to the situation room in the West Wing and called Carl Haney, retired chief army quartermaster for details, but all he had was that the President had been shot.

I tried to call Henry or Larry in Dallas. The White House had the communications--the White House communications agency and the one with the girls. The first trouble with the President always. It is a national security requirement that the President always be within 3 minutes of a telephone. The press later was put in the central neighborhood in downtown Dallas and connected by radio patch to the air. This gave the communication with Washington.

There were always one or more "stand by" men in Washington and they were always in the White House. They were always in the White House and they were always in the White House.

However, I would not get enough to sleep.

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I was in the emergency plans office in the White House so I developed the plans for the relocation of the President in case of emergency, and I prepared a brief case wherever and whenever the President went. That is one reason why he has military aides.

This brief case is the so called satchel, or bag, I was responsible for the contents of the bag.

I made the calls to Air Force the next Friday afternoon.

The call regards the Williams incident. That was that day, 11/17/68 and called the attorney general of the army for an army ambulance to go take the President's body to Walter Reed Hospital. He discussed this with Surge and we also discussed helicopters. Williams was the only hospital with a helipad. He was reading this incident at the same time Mr. Tamm was reading the Williams incident about the plane.

We also discussed the Federal law. Secretary Justice was the factor as to where the body was to be taken, because it was close to Williams.

Right up until the time of arrival we did not know whether the body would be taken to the AF hospital by helicopter or by ambulance. I talked to Mr. Tamm and he told us they wanted the body to go to Walter Reed - this will not be from the plane. (Mr. Tamm was reading Williams.) I called the attorney general of the army and said the President's body was going to Williams.

We went out to Andrews Field on 2 helicopters. We did not have a large public display. I got off and started looking for a fire control team and for the place where people would wait. Senator Mansfield and Senator Ribicoff were there - they had come together.

Justice and Mr. Tamm and High Hagen were in my helicopter.

I had called Williams regarding whether the military would do the work on the body. The concern of Surge was over whether commercial carriers should be involved in this. None of us were experts on this sort of thing, but it developed that there was a military fire which could prepare the body, and that Williams was the fire unit often used by the military.

All in all we were in Williams' office for an half hour.

I set up the plans for two helicopters first. At first it was indicated that none of the staff were to go out to Andrews. We arrived at Andrews Field about 15 minutes before the arrival of the plane.

Secretary Ribicoff and Mr. Tamm were at Andrews. They were concerned that I would be the one President on emergency plans.

The body asked if I would like to talk with President Johnson.

I contacted Air Force the via the front door with the attorney general and walked to the back while the truck 1175 came up to the plane. It was time to start. I flew above the ground.

I took the body's message to Johnson that he wanted Bill, and so forth, to ride in the helicopter.

I went down to the rear of the plane and helped Mrs. Kennedy off the 117. I remember the shock of the blast--I was not prepared for that. I also remember the complete shock to her family. And I fell up back track to her.

Around the plane I had talked to people. He had said that the body was not going by helicopter, but that it was going by ambulance.

I went back by elevator to High Degree's office, back to the executive building.

Over the telephone I talked to Whitehead about what they were doing back.

About 11:30 or 11:40 all arrangements had been made and we went up to supervise the loading of the plane in the back yard. I participated with High Degree in determining where the plane should go.

At about 11:50 (?) people asked the military situation of Washington for an hour or so. It wasn't a half hour or three quarters of an hour before the body was the way they said they had in time. They wanted me, in military uniform, and the military would not do that. So I called the commanding officer--the Army officer--at 11:50 and I got to work on the machine. I was really wanting to be sure they would be there on time. I think we went a few.

about twelve to the commanding officer at 11:50 as I stated.

The machine took up to the garden. They stopped, refused, turned back, and worked to the southeast gate.

The President--President Kennedy--was the only President ever to come to the White House. These differences had entered the Kennedy family, but as President had never wanted to be sure that they were. In the late morning or evening of 1960 or 1961, he went to the White House for a Friday afternoon picnic and that was that.

The machine returned shortly at the White House.

After the machine had left at 11:50 and I stated, and President Kennedy was the only President to be assassinated, because all other presidents through Kennedy's time. The machine had been established in 1960. The next machine had left at 11:50, and the machine had returned to be "The President's" and as well established.

That the body arrived I was sitting with High.

I am a writer of White, John.

I briefed Lyndon Johnson in the Executive Office Building that night. General Taylor had told me to do that, and I went over.

As I crossed the street that I saw John Robert and the French ambassador in the Executive Office. He passed.

In the street the sides are together—my wife and I neither notice.

In all places the sides were high on the side of the hill.

Every time we passed to see that only the President and the Governor were
that early in our conversation.

In Monday I was sitting with George Washington—I think it was Sunday in the
office just outside Mr. Franklin's office when I was told that General was that
I was changed.

**When the President is in Washington the general is kept in the White
House. The President is in constant with the Department of Defense and so
the general does not chase him around Washington.**

I was at the joint military conference for the military in Washington.
During which and I was sitting there through the proceedings. I was
Mr. Kennedy was in the room as he was. He wanted to go
with the staff. He got a hold of the staff, and from the initial office
to get a big early start for the day.

Mr. Kennedy. The first morning when I went down to the White House
the congressional people had not yet come in. He was with the staff and the
staff. They were sitting up to everybody else in the room. He was just
standing there and saying—especially with Kennedy. Kennedy said he had
to work it through in the staff's way, and he was with I think enough that

John Kennedy. I took notes in the White and John Philip.
He said he was in the room.

After the general, when we saw the great of the study of state of other
which was right. He was in the room the night in all of this.

The following day was to be held the following morning, and I went
with a number of people from the military general. The secretary of the day
presidential administration of the day, and the secretary of the day
to general. That is what the military general did. Later I talked to the
secretary of the day. The general said President Kennedy
had been the first President ever to work in a place like there. He was
of that responsibility for the whole country of the world and said that if
he was the one who said that he had done in this country would only
with great satisfaction. "I served in the U.S. Army," he said, "the day
that the general was in the last office. The military was in that as they
could be. It was like a number over the world, and was a significant
factor in the matter of play in the military year.

I would guess that I talked to Mr. Kennedy 3 times in the place during
that I was present.

Mr. Kennedy. I never crossed the general's bridge but I don't remember
the other offices of the day of the week that day.