

Massive Bleeding Leads to Death

By HARRY McCORMICK
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Assassin suspect Lee Harvey Oswald was pronounced dead at 1:07 p.m. Sunday—one hour and 35 minutes after he was taken to a room 10 feet from where President Kennedy died Friday.

The bullet that killed him struck him in the left side, hit vital organs, and lodged just beneath the skin under his right rib cage.

His death was caused by a cardiac arrest, set up by massive internal bleeding from the punctured organs, doctors at Parkland Hospital said.

Oswald died in Operating Room 2, down the hall from where Gov. Connally underwent an emergency operation Friday. When first taken to the already-alerted hospital he was rolled into Trauma Room 2—directly across a narrow hallway from Trauma Room 1, the emergency surgery room where the President was pronounced dead Friday. Oswald stayed in the emergency room area 10 minutes before he was taken to the second-floor operating room.

OSWALD WAS in deep shock when he entered the hospital. Any hope that he would utter some statement concerning the assassination began to fade when doctors first saw his "pale, ashen" face, they said. All hope on immediate speech was given up when Oswald underwent an immediate tracheotomy on his throat.

Dr. Tom Shires, chief of the surgery staff; Dr. Malcolm Perry and Dr. Ronald Jones, both of whom operated on the President, attempted to save Oswald's life. Dr. M. T. Jenkins, chief of anesthesia, also assisted, because of Oswald's deep shock, no anesthetic was used, Dr. Shires said.

"The bullet appeared to be a 38-caliber and entered Oswald's left lower lateral chest wall. We could feel the bullet under the skin on his right side just

over the right lower lateral chest cage," Dr. Shires said. "He had massive bleeding. We encountered several liters of blood the moment the incision was made."

DR. SHIRES said the aorta, main blood vessel from the heart, and the vena cava had been ruptured below the diaphragm. The slug also passed through the spleen, into pancreas, the aorta, vena cava, right kidney and the right lobe of the liver. The bullet stopped at the right chest wall.

"We had controlled the bleeding of the main blood vessels; in fact, internal bleeding," Dr. Shires said. "We were giving him constant transfusions. At this time there was low measurable blood pressure, which he had not had when he came to the emergency room. We had given the blood transfusions in multiple sites. It was at this time he sustained a cardiac arrest. His heart had stopped."

"The left chest was opened and the heart was found at a standstill. Heart massage was started. His heart was flabby and seemed almost bloodless."

AS THE NEWS of the cardiac massage was announced to the press at 1 p.m., assistant administrator Steve Landregan of Parkland said the man was still in "extremely critical" condition but that many Parkland patients had survived and made a normal recovery from this type of operation.

Later, a runner from the operating room said that a "Pacemaker" to electrically stimulate the heart had been applied. It was explained that this instrument is usually applied on patients after successful massage.

But at 1:23 p.m., Dr. Tom Shires came to the crowded press room one floor below Operating Room 2 and announced that Oswald was dead. The doctor's shoes, pant legs and midriff were stained with Oswald's blood.

Secret Service men, FBI agents and city policemen had swarmed the building since the shooting. No one was allowed to enter the building without proper identification.

ROBERT OSWALD was the first of the family to arrive. He came shortly after his brother was wheeled into surgery. He was immediately surrounded by Secret Service officers and taken to a secret waiting room.

Shortly before Oswald died, Irving police rushed into Parkland with his mother and Russian-born wife. The wife carried an infant child in her arms. They too were ushered into seclusion.

Landregan said during the hectic wait at the press room that he was advised before the shooting by Parkland Administrator C. J. Price to alert the emergency room.

"The administrator called me and advised me of the crowd of people downtown. On the basis of this knowledge, we alerted the emergency room in case of any incident.

"To my knowledge it was Mr. Price's intuition that had standing by," Landregan said.

OSWALD'S BODY was transferred to the autopsy room on the ground floor at the rear of Parkland. His mother, wife and child, it was learned, were under protection of officers and doors away.

Shotgun-armed city policemen continued their vigil over Oswald's death. Two were stationed in the hallway outside the autopsy room.

Dr. Shires said that Oswald's wound was "almost as dangerous as a brain shot." There was slim hope of saving him.

"We had much of the internal organs under control and could have lived, then the cardiac arrest," Dr. Shires said.