

# PHYSICIAN TELLS OF AIDING OSWALD

NY 11/28  
Says He Almost Survived But  
Kennedy Had No Chance

McALLEN, Tex., Nov. 27 (UPI) — Dr. Malcolm Perry, who operated on both President Kennedy and his accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, said today that there had never been a chance to save the President but that Oswald nearly survived.

Dr. Perry, 34 years old, vacationing in the Rio Grande Valley, said bleeding of Oswald had been controlled and blood pressure restored to normal when his heart suddenly stopped beating.

"Everything was under control when it happened," he said. "We were very close to saving him."

He said he opened Oswald's chest and massaged his heart for 20 minutes but was unable to restore breathing.

"From the time Oswald hit the emergency room, it took only 12 minutes to make the first incision," he said.

He said the bullet fired by Jack Ruby had entered Oswald's body on the left side and punctured his spleen, pancreas, stomach, aorta, vena cava (a large vein), liver and right kidney.

## Bullet Lodged Under Skin

The bullet lodged under the skin on Oswald's right side, Dr. Perry said.

"When we opened his abdomen we found three liters [more than three quarts] of blood," he said. "But we managed to control the bleeding, with some difficulty, after about 30 minutes."

He said that after Oswald's heart had stopped beating, "various drugs and an electric defibrillator were used, as well as the heart massage, in an attempt to restore the beat."

The defibrillator is a device that administers electric shock to the heart.

The entire operation, Dr. Perry said, took only 45 minutes.

He said he had been eating lunch in the hospital when he was called to the emergency room to treat the President.

He said his first thought when Mr. Kennedy was wheeled in was that the President was a larger man than he had imagined.

Dr. Perry performed a tracheotomy—he opened the throat and inserted a tube to prevent fluid from keeping air from the lungs. Another surgeon inserted a tube into the President's chest to keep the lung from collapsing.

## Massaged Chest

Dr. Perry massaged the President's chest in an attempt to restore the heartbeat.

He said a resident—a first-year doctor—had inserted a tube into the President's trachea, or windpipe, before Dr. Perry or other physicians arrived.

The resident also had given hydrocortisone because he remembered that the President had to take steroids for an adrenal deficiency.

"This showed amazing presence of mind, remembering the circumstances," Dr. Perry said.

"My initial impression was that he had a mortal wound," Dr. Perry said.

He said he believed the President had two wounds—a massive one in the back of the head and a small, circular wound in the neck.

Dr. Perry said he had left Dallas in an effort to rest. He said his 6-year-old daughter, Jolene, was ill.

He said his role was "just a small part of an awful tragedy."

"It could have been any one of 50 doctors doing it. It just happened to be me," he said.

"It is something we do every day. It is always a team effort. The enormity of it did not hit me until I was out of the operating room and sitting down resting."

"I realized then what had happened, and must have sat there quietly for 15 minutes."