

# Assassination:

## 2nd Shot Took Kennedy's Life

LA-HER-EX-12/18

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP) — President Kennedy might have survived the first bullet which struck him, a source familiar with autopsy findings reports. He says it was the second

This source said last night the first bullet fired by Kennedy's assassin struck the President in the back and did not damage any vital organs. He said it was not likely to have caused death.

This account of Kennedy's wounds differed sharply from earlier reports provided by physicians who ministered to the President shortly after he was shot Nov. 22.

Doctors who attended Kennedy in the emergency room at Parkland Hospital in Dallas found two wounds, one in the throat and one in the head. They expressed some uncertainty whether both were caused by the same bullet. But they said that if two bullets were involved, either wound could have been fatal.

Here is the new account of the wounds, as reported by a source fully acquainted with results of a post-mortem examination conducted at the Bethesda, Md., Naval Hospital:

The first shot struck Kennedy in the back, made what was described as a small, neat hole and penetrated two or three inches without damaging vital organs.

### INSTANT DEATH

The bullet may even have entered Kennedy's back after first glancing off some part of the presidential limousine, since its penetration was not deep when compared with the damage done by the other shots. This first bullet was said to have been the one that was recovered from the stretcher on which Kennedy was carried into the hospital.

The second bullet to strike Kennedy—the third bullet fired—left a large hole in the back of the President's head, destroyed considerable brain

Unquestionably, this wound was fatal. It caused instant death, although a faint spark of life may have remained for a few minutes in the heart and lungs.

This bullet, the source said, was recovered from the limousine.

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