

A skeptical comment on assassination shots

ROBERT C. RUARK, is perhaps not the most enlightened of the nation's syndicated writers, but he presumably does know guns. Writing from London for Scripps-Howard after his 20th safari in 14 years, the columnist said: "It is a rule of shooting thumb that a hard-nosed bullet goes all the way through. A soft-nosed bullet goes in little and comes out big. A dum dum, or doctored bullet, might conceivably break up on entry, but on anything as soft as a human skull its chances of breaking upon entry are very small indeed. What . . . I cannot understand, among other findings of the Warren Report, is how a bullet fired from behind could tear the back of President Kennedy's head off . . . Somebody in the Warren Report mentioned that 'the scope made fast shooting possible.' This is utter nonsense. Every time you fire a scoped rifle,

the blast knocks your eye out of the scope and you have to rediscover the target . . .

"According to reports, Mr. Kennedy was hit in the back, a heart shot, as well as being hit in the neck, the bullet passing through and coming out of the throat. Another bullet blew off the back of his head. As a rifleman I do not understand the combination of angles. A shot fired on high goes down. A shot fired on the level goes straight in. A shot fired from below travels up. Oswald, shooting from his lofty vantage, would have had to hit Kennedy high in the head to shove the bullet through his throat. To hit him in the back, at that range and elevation, is impossible. A bullet going in the back of the neck and coming out of the throat would almost have to be fired on dead level, or from a very slight slant."