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Dear Dave,

Re the draft sent me, on pg. 8 of sec. C, "Location of Back Wound", it says:

"One cannot claim that such a weaving trajectory is impossible; bullets do perform gymnastics inside bodies."

In bodies, yes. In mid air, no. The weaving trajectory involved a mid-air change, and therefore is impossible.

Re the section on "The Fatal Headshot -- Where Did it Come From?"; as you know, I have felt there were two head-shots at fr. 313-314, either of which could have been fatal. I realize it's probably too sticky a concept to get across in a magazine, but I feel it's inadequate and incorrect to deal with it as a single shot, ignoring the contrary evidence.

FACTS: 1. immediately after 313-314 JFK's head snapped back and to the left.

2. JFK had massive wound in right side of head (approx. 5" at maximum diameter), and it was incurred at 313-314 (no evidence of it in previous frames--see color fr 309, photo-panel JFK-1--but it appears immediately after 313--see color fr. 323, same panel).

DEDUCTIONS: from 1, he was struck from right front at 313-314.  
from 2, this massive wound was an exit.

CONCLUSION: a double-hit occurred during 313-314; first, from the rear, exiting right side of head; second, from the right front (probably exiting from the left or left rear of head) which knocked him over.

I have received expert opinions (including an L.A. county coroner's) that even a large-calibre (45) slow-moving soft-nosed bullet, upon striking the skull would make a small round entry hole, and would spread only after penetrating the head causing a massive wound inside (and upon exiting, if it did exit).

The coroner said this would be the case even with a dum-dum bullet -- unless it fragmented while still in flight and entered buck-shot fashion; hardly the type of bullet-stability one would choose for a sharp-shooting assassination attempt.

I believe, therefore, the nature of JFK's right-side head wound is decisive in identifying it as an exit; and so conclude that a double-hit occurred at 313-314; but following are additional factors.

1. spray coming from the right side of the head, and going forward, does not appear consistent with a right-front entry.
2. JFK's head moved forward from 312 to 313. This doesn't appear consistent with entry from right-front.
3. Bethesda surgeons' "small entry hole" in back of head would have to be a total fabrication if 313-314 depicts only a single shot from right front (it couldn't have been inflicted any time earlier -- he wouldn't have remained upright if it had; nor later -- he was down in the car).

While it's certainly possible that the back-of-the-head entry is a fabrication, for a number of reasons, I consider its presence more likely: While there is strong evidence they neglected to mention additional head wounds, and they raised the back wound a few inches; reporting an entry in the back of the head if none existed would be the only case where they actually invented a wound. (it seems to me entirely possible that the Parkland doctors could have missed a small entry wound in the back of the head, considering hair, blood, etc.) Such an entry would be consistent if two shots hit JFK at that time, as noted in my conclusion.

Other more technical factors supporting a double-hit involve the movement, ~~not~~ elevation, and attitude of his head as observed against the dark curb-line -- too detailed to write about now.

Cordially,

Ray Marcus

DALLAS REVISITED

Sas:

Your article, "The Case for Three Assassins" [RAMPARTS, January 1967], was very well done--solidly researched and clearly presented.

Dr. Riddle is correct, of course, in observing that the bullet which hurled President Kennedy's head backward and to the left had to come from a position forward and to the right of the President, i.e., the Grassy Knoll.

However, while he is also correct in stating "the initial motion of his head is downward in frames 312-313," this is not a complete description, for in these frames the President's head--has also moved forward, slightly but unmistakably (approximately one to two inches along the line of the car).

The downward motion which Dr. Riddle observes is easily discernible by noting that the President's head appears sharply lower in 313 than in 312, in relation to the dark horizontal line in the background.

By employing this line as a reference, the following additional observations are noted: 1) his head in 314 is level with the curb line, as it is in 313, and no further forward motion is discernible; 2) at 315 the upper portion of his head again goes above the line, as it begins to move sharply to the rear; 3) the rapid leftward and rearward motion continues until his head bounces against the seat back (and again goes below the line) less than one-half second later at 321.

From the above, it can be seen that President Kennedy's head does not describe a continuous motion, as we would expect to be the case if it was struck by a single bullet. Instead, it describes two separate motions between 312-315: the first in 312-313; forward, down, and towards the right; the second in 314-315, an arc--up and over to the left rear, and against the seat back. These two distinct motions strongly suggest they resulted, not from a single shot, but from the impact of two separate bullets.

Further corroboration for such a double head-hit has been noted by observers who have studied individual color frames at the National Archives. A large wound appears on the right side of President Kennedy's head--extending forward of the ear--in frames immediately following the graphic impact at 313. Such a large wound is consistent with an exit wound.

If this wound on the right side of the head is indeed an exit, then it obviously could not have resulted from a shot entering from the right front direction of the Grassy Knoll. Since it is also obvious (as Dr. Riddle emphasizes) that the bullet which immediately thereafter knocked President Kennedy backward and to the left could come only from the direction of the Knoll, the double head-hit emerges as the most logical explanation for all the observed phenomena.

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NOTE: Mr. Marcus, a RAMPARTS research consultant on the assassination, is the author of *The Bastard Bullet*, a monograph on Bullet 399.

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son, Jr. and Ray Marcus, independently.  
Thesis: The "third" shot, which caused Kennedy's fatal head wound, was actually two nearly simultaneous shots, one coming from the rear and another from the right front.

This theory takes Vincent Salandria's "Head Movement Theory" and Riddle's computations one step further. In a forthcoming book, Thompson uses precise scientific studies made of the Zapruder film frames and close analysis of the medical evidence to show that the damage was inflicted by two bullets, not one. Also, he cites car- and eyewitness reports which back up his claim that the third shot was really a third and a fourth.