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percent with their findings; to wit, that the bullet wound to the president's upper back and the bullet wound to the back of the president's head were both entry wounds and not exit wounds, and hence, the bullets were fired from the president's rear. Is that correct?"

Wecht: "Yes."<sup>110</sup>

After taking photographs of the wound to the president's back, Drs. Humes and Finck made attempts to probe the wound and determine its track through the body. Humes, using his little finger, was only able to penetrate the wound a short distance (less than an inch),<sup>111</sup> whereas Finck, using a flexible metal probe, was able to penetrate a distance described by observers as 2 to 4 inches.<sup>112</sup> In both cases, observers testified that the probing conducted by Drs. Humes and Finck indicated a downward trajectory. Humes testified that "attempts to probe in the vicinity of this wound were unsuccessful without fear of making a false passage . . . We were unable . . . to take probes and have them satisfactorily fall through any definite path."<sup>113</sup> Dr. Boswell told investigators in 1996, "We probed this hole which was in his neck with all sorts of probes and everything, and it was such a small hole, basically, and the muscles were so big and strong [they] had closed the hole and you couldn't get a finger or a probe through it."<sup>114</sup>

Next, Dr. Finck took a look at the tracheotomy incision performed by Dallas physician Malcolm Perry in the front of the throat, and examined the trachea in an attempt to locate an exit for the back entrance wound, but could not find "any evidence of a bullet wound."<sup>115</sup> (Of course, we know that the tracheotomy incision had almost completely obscured the exit wound in the throat.) In an effort to resolve where the bullet went, Dr. Finck asked to examine the president's clothing to correlate it with the wounds and found it "most unfortunate" that the clothing was not available.<sup>116</sup> It had been taken into custody at Parkland Hospital by the Secret Service.<sup>117</sup> Asked in 1996 if it would be standard practice to have the clothing available for inspection, Dr. Boswell stated, "Well, under normal circumstances, but these were not normal circumstances."<sup>118</sup>

Not seen by the three pathologists until they testified to the Warren Commission in 1964, the president's clothing\* would have confirmed that the bullet had exited at the throat. In a 1965 memorandum describing his examination of the clothing, Finck wrote that "immediately below the upper button of the front [of the president's shirt] is a bullet hole perforating both flaps of the shirt, right and left. There is dry blood on the margins of both holes. *The innermost hole reveals fibers directed outward, which indicates an exit perforation.* The outermost hole also shows this outward orientation of the bloody shirt

\*Though Ernest Hemingway once opined that the only difference between the rich and the poor is that the rich have more money, it has been said that *old* wealth comes through, regardless of the raiments worn by their possessors; that there is a well-scrubbed aspect to those born to the manor; and that the wealth is even heard in their voices. But President Kennedy, a Brahmin by birth and rearing, though dressing in an understated fashion—as is the usual custom of the privileged class—was clothed in the finest of garments and accessories on November 22, 1963. Though the FBI didn't note the make of Kennedy's gray suit, it was well known that he bought his suits at Brooks Brothers, the oldest haberdashers in America dating back to 1818, and in 1963 a more exclusive store than it is today. His black leather belt, size 34, was made by Farnsworth-Reed. The blue-and-white striped shirt he wore was custom made by Charles Dillon shirtmakers at 444 Park Avenue, New York. His white shorts were made for Brooks Brothers by D. & G. Anderson, Scotland. His size 10½ shoes were black moccasin, no make given. He had a white linen handkerchief, and a tortoiseshell comb by Kent of London. (HSCA Record 180-10087-10096, Report of FBI agent Robert L. Bouck, November 23, 1963) He was wearing a gold Cartier wristwatch with a black leather band (HSCA Record 180-10087-10095, December 2, 1963). His blue silk tie was labeled "Monsieur" Christian Dior.

fibers, but to a lesser extent."<sup>119</sup> In the FBI's laboratory examination of the hole in the shirt shortly after the assassination, investigators too found that the "fibers of the cloth" were "protruding outward," characteristic of an exit hole for a projectile, but did not find any bullet metal in the fabric surrounding the hole.<sup>120\*</sup>

Unfortunately, the autopsy pathologists wouldn't learn of all the facts about the clothing until after the autopsy had been completed. For the time being, they were perplexed. *What happened to the bullet that entered the president's upper right back?* Knowing that bullets can unexplainably end up in strange places, and thus far only X-ray films of the head having been taken, Dr. Finck requested a radiographic survey (X-rays) of the entire body before going further with the autopsy. After they waited more than an hour for the results, they proved to be negative.<sup>121</sup> There was no bullet in the president's body except for the metallic fragments seen earlier in the skull X-rays.<sup>122</sup>

The autopsy pathologists then subsequently learned that a bullet had been recovered from a stretcher at Parkland Hospital,<sup>123</sup> which caused Dr. Humes to theorize that the bullet that struck the president in the back, "in some rather inexplicable fashion, had been stopped in its path" and had fallen back out of his body onto the stretcher, perhaps during cardiac massage at Parkland Hospital.<sup>124</sup> FBI agent Francis O'Neill reported that Dr. Humes appeared "greatly relieved" and grew more and more confident that this is what happened. By the end of the autopsy, O'Neill reported, the three pathologists were convinced that the bullet that entered the president's back had worked its way out through the back wound and dropped on the Dallas stretcher.<sup>125</sup>

As previously indicated, the following morning Dr. Humes placed a telephone call to Parkland Hospital surgeon Malcolm O. Perry in which he expressed his inability to determine what happened to the bullet that caused the back wound. He and his fellow autopsy surgeons couldn't figure out where it went, Humes told Perry, surmising that perhaps it had fallen out during cardiac massage. "It seemed like a very unlikely event to me, to say the least," Perry recalled in 1978. "But at any rate, when I told him that there was a wound in the anterior [front] neck, lower third, he [Humes] said, 'That explains it.'"<sup>126†</sup> With the knowledge that the tracheotomy had obscured the bullet wound in the throat, Dr. Humes realized that the bullet had entered the back, slipped between the muscles of the

*Nice use of Perry*

*all wound*

\*Dr. Finck reported that the tie worn by Kennedy showed "a tear of the cloth to the left side of the knot and corresponding to the two anterior holes in the shirt. The tie knot was not perforated but glanced by the bullet, which is indicated by the fact that the white padding of the tie is visible and . . . the blue cloth on the internal aspect of the knot is intact, which indicates a tangential path of the left side in relation to the knot." (AFIP Record 205-10001-10002, Memorandum, Finck to Blumberg, p.7; also ARRB MD 28) The tear to the tie was described by the FBI laboratory as a "small elongated nick" on the "left side of the knot of the tie" (CD 205, p.154; 5 H 62, WCT Robert A. Frazier; 7 HSCA 89). An FBI examination found no metallic residue on this nick in the tie, and unlike the shirt, the FBI could not find any characteristic disturbance in the fabric around the tie hole "that would permit any conclusion" as to the direction of the missile (5 H 62, WCT Robert A. Frazier; 7 HSCA 89-90; FBI Record 124-10024-10173; Gallagher Exhibit No. 1, 20 H 2).

*note on this*

†Warren Commission critics have pointed out that Dr. Perry told Dr. Humes that the wound in the throat was "3 to 5 millimeters" in size (CE 397, 17 H 29), and a 6.5-millimeter bullet that did not fragment (as we know Commission Exhibit No. 399, as opposed to the later bullet that struck the president in the head, did not) could not exit through a 3- to 5-millimeter hole (Thompson, *Six Seconds in Dallas*, p.51). But clearly, Perry had to be wrong in his estimate of the size of the wound, since there is no evidence the bullet that entered the president's back exited anywhere else, and no bullet was found inside the president's body. Moreover, Perry, who later told the Warren Commission that the wound was "perhaps 5 millimeters in diameter," admitted that he "did not examine [the wound] minutely," giving it and the head exit wound a " cursory examination" (6 H 15, 3 H 368, 375). The critics never mention, naturally, that Dr. James Carrico, the first Parkland doctor to see the president, estimated the throat wound to be "5 to 8 millimeters in size" (3 H 361), which would be consistent with the exit wound of a 6.5-millimeter bullet.

*quote Carrico when he made his point.*