

Models of Head Used In Assassination Study

➤ TESTS WERE RUN on dummy skulls and necks resembling the wounded portions of President John F. Kennedy's body, the Warren Commission reported.

The main question behind this phase of the investigation was:

Could Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle, which shot the bullets found at the scene of the assassination, cause the wounds President Kennedy received?

To make the dummy heads, scientists at the Wound Ballistics Branch of the U.S. Army Chemical Research and Development Laboratories, Edgewood Arsenal, Md., filled empty skulls with a gelatin substance, coated the outside of the skull with this gelatin and then attached fake hair.

They then shot at the imitation heads at the same distance believed used in the assassination. When one skull was hit in the same way President Kennedy was, researchers found that the wounds were very similar to those the President received in the head.

Also, two fragments from the bullet which struck the dummy skull closely resembled those found in the President's limousine.

To make the dummy necks, ballistics scientists put together three blocks: one filled with the gelatin substance, and the other two made from different animal meats. Both sides of the blocks were covered with material, including clipped animal skin, to duplicate human skin.

From these tests, the commission concluded that the bullet fired by the assassin lost little velocity going through President Kennedy's neck, and could have caused serious injury to anyone else hit with it.

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