

Press stories on

JFK Wounds

Nov-Dec. 1963

Jan. 1964

UPI Washington, Nov. 23.—President K. actually was shot twice yesterday by an assassin.

An authoritative White House source said one bullet entered K's head and another penetrated the "neck and chest."

The source said White House officials did not know until this morning about the second wound.

Previously there had been some question whether K was hit once or twice. There was a wound in the back of his head and another in the throat.

Doctors who attended the late President in the hospital...at Dallas ...had said it was difficult to determine whether the two wounds had been caused by two bullets or one.

NY Post 11/24/63 (published 11/23/63) page 2 column 3

THE FIGHT THAT FAILED

To Dr. Kemp Clark, a brain specialist...it was immediately apparent that "the President had sustained a lethal wound. A missile had gone in and out of the back of his head, causing external lacerations and a loss of brain tissue."

This was one of two gaping wounds. The second was just below K's Adam's apple. The doctors did not know whether they had been caused by two bullets or by one entering his neck and traveling upward to emerge through the skull.

DOCTORS UNCERTAIN

OF NUMBER OF SHOTS

Dallas, Nov. 23--...Dr. Kemp Clark...said that the President definitely died of a "gunshot wound in the brain." He said that there were two wounds, a traumatic wound in the back of the head and a small entrance wound below the Adam's apple. He said that no bullet was found.

The head wound could have been caused by an emerging bullet, Dr. Clark said, or it could have been a tangential wound...

THE CASE AGAINST OSWALD—CLUE BY TORTUOUS CLUE

By Dom Bonafede and Stuart H. Loory

Washington

On the basis of accumulated data, investigators have concluded that the first shot, fired as the Presidential car was approaching, struck the President in the neck just above the knot of his necktie, then ranged downward into his body.

The second, it is believed, was fired as he turned toward Mrs. Kennedy. This was the one that struck in the back of his head, to the right, and it is believed to have been the fatal shot. The bullet found in the stretcher on which the President was borne to the hospital is believed to be the one that inflicted the head wound.

Pieces of a bullet found in the car, it has been concluded, were those of the one that wounded Gov. Connally.

It is not known whether the bullet that entered Mr. Kennedy's body was recovered. Ordinarily, this would have been removed in an autopsy, but it has been announced that none was performed. Officials at Bethesda Naval Hospital...declined to say yesterday whether there had been an autopsy.

The disclosures today appeared to dispose of an original belief that the neck and head wounds were caused by the entry and exit of a single bullet.

December 5, 1963

Secret Service takes album of photographs from sixth floor window (CE 875); CE 875 states that "the photographs in the album are to be viewed in their relationship with the attached survey report dated December 5, 1963;" but the "attached survey report" is suppressed and does not appear with the album or elsewhere in the Hearings and Exhibits.

December 6, 1963

New York Times, page 18, story by Joseph Loftus, states that federal investigators were still reconstructing the crime on film on December 5. "One question was how the President could have received a bullet in the front of the throat from the rifle in the... Depository Building after his car had passed the building, and was turning a gentle curve away from it." Story also reports that Dr. Humes said he had been forbidden to talk.

December 9, 1963

FBI submits to Warren Commission a "Summary Report" which states that the bullet in JFK's back did not exit from his body.

December 16, 1963 A WC source told NYTimes FBI Summary Report would not be published because it left too many questions unanswered.

December 17, 1963

New York Times published an apparently authoritative leak of the contents of the FBI Summary Report, according to which one bullet had entered "at the right side of the neck, where the right shoulder joins the neck;" a second bullet had "entered the right temple, and had gone out the back of the head."

December 18, 1963

Leak F.H.P.D. - Wash P
There was another apparently authoritative leak, this one from the report of the autopsy on the President's body, according to which one bullet had made "a small, neat wound in the back and penetrated two or three inches." Another bullet had struck the rear of the skull. "A source familiar with the (autopsy) results" gave those findings to AP.

December 19, 1963

In an effort to explain the conflict, there was a third leak to the New York Times stating (on page 31) that the FBI Summary Report of Dec. 9 did not include the autopsy results, which were still in the hands of the Secret Service, and would be included in a Treasury Department report to be submitted to the Warren Commission.

December 18, 1963

According to WR (page xii), on Dec. 18, the Secret Service submitted a detailed report on security precautions before Dallas trip and "a summary of the events of November 22, as witnessed by Secret Service agents." That Secret Service report is not found in the H & E.

December 17, 1963 (page 31 columns 7-8)

Special to NY Times

Washington, D.C., Dec. 16—The FBI Report (of Dec. 9) says that JFK was hit by two bullets; one bullet struck him where the right shoulder joins the neck; the other struck his right temple.

Ballistics tests:—FBI report "says flatly" that the two bullets that hit JFK came from Oswald's rifle. "The third bullet, which hit Governor John B. Connally of Texas, was said to have been too smashed for accurate ballistic appraisal."

On the same page there is a story stating that the John Birch Society "Issue containing criticism of Kennedy withdrawn." Two anti-Kennedy articles were to appear in the withdrawn issue; JBS said the articles were fair and well-founded but were withdrawn in the interests of "good taste." JBS published full page ads, one in NY Times for 12/16/63, blaming the assassination on "a Communist."

December 18, 1963 (page 27 columns 4-6)

Dateline Washington, Dec. 17 (AP)—FIRST SHOT HIT NO VITAL ORGANS, AUTOPSY SAID TO DISCLOSE. First shot hit JFK "in the back and did not hit any vital organs," according to a "reliable source familiar with the autopsy findings." After another bullet hit Governor Connally, the second bullet to hit Kennedy struck the back of his skull.

A source familiar with the results of the autopsy said that the first bullet made a small neat wound in the back and penetrated two to three inches. It was suggested that the bullet may have ricocheted off some part of the limousine before hitting JFK because it did not penetrate very deeply. The source said that the pathologists at Bethesda had concluded that the throat wound was caused by metal or bone fragment from fatal head shot.

December 19, 1963 (page 23 column 1)

OFFICIALS SILENT ON KENNEDY SHOTS

Washington, D.C. Dec. 18--Special to the NY Times.

Officials declined all comment on what pathologists had found in JFK autopsy. They were said to have found that the first bullet hit JFK in the back, lodged in the body. A second bullet hit the right rear of his head. According to reports, a fragment of the head bullet passed out the front of his throat. The autopsy report is now in the hands of the Secret Service.

December 18, 1963 Wash Post published report bullet hit in right shoulder - several inches below collar line and lodged in body; Wash Post said 5/29/66 that the 12/18/63 story was confirmed prior to publication by the FBI.

Dec. 18, 1963 St. Louis Post Dispatch (Ramparts p 92)

News

January 26, 1964

NY Times, first bullet hit JFK in the back of his right shoulder, several inches below the collar line, and lodged in his shoulder.