

H.W. Consider this in autopsy and photo analysis. C.D.

8/15/67

[13] Why did President Kennedy remain rigidly grasping his throat for the few seconds which followed the first shot? Was there something about where the first bullet struck (some nerve, perhaps) which caused him to lose the ability to move, which in effect paralyzed him?

The President is seen in all photographs of the assassination to be clutching his throat, indicating that he was wounded there first. He remained clutching his throat for the next few seconds, until he received his fatal head wound. It is not in character to think of him as being paralyzed with fear, when common sense would have caused him to crouch down in his seat, once he knew he was being fired at and hit. (Since no nerves were damaged by the neck wound, according to the autopsy surgeons, some other reason may account for the paralyzing effect of the first "bullet". Perhaps he was hit in the neck by a bullet made of ice. (See Question [10].))

(carrying a movie dog in suitcase, maybe!)

An "ice bullet" could have been fired from a compressed air gun or CO₂ pistol, perhaps camouflaged as a pistol-grip-type hand-held movie camera with an eye-level view finder. Do the photos of Dealey Plaza show any spectator near the curb or on the grassy slope facing the outside of the curve of Elm St., holding such a "camera" aimed at the President just before the President first clutched at his throat?

Ice bullets weigh one-tenth as much as lead bullets of the same caliber, and generally would not be fatal or dangerous in themselves, nor would they penetrate very far into the body because of their light weight. (This agrees with the autopsy description of the throat and back wounds.) Ice bullets would have melted to small slivers, or have melted completely, by the time the President reached the emergency room at Parkland Hospital. The water from the bullets would have mixed with body fluids and blood, and would be unobservable and undetectable.

SPECULATION.

The "firecracker pop" noise which is counted as the first shot (Questions [8] and [9].) would have been the "cover" to account for the first shot as a presumed rifle shot fired by Oswald, since the "camera-gun" would necessarily have to be silent so as not to be noticed by nearby spectators. The "firecracker" would have been tossed some distance away from the camera-gun, to divert attention and cause the onlookers to be drawn away from the actual assassin who fired the ice-bullet.

Since the fatal head wound was caused by a real bullet which mutilated itself beyond recognition, it could have been fired from an accurate rifle (not Oswald's) by a marksman who needed only to fire that one shot carefully aimed. The bullet could not be proved to come from another rifle. The non-fatal neck and back wounds were not essential to the murder, but only needed as part of the "cover story". It was important to have some wound in the President's body which could be linked to a planted bullet (No. 399) which unmistakably bore the marks of Oswald's rifle. If that neck or back wound had been made by a real bullet from an accurate rifle, there would be the problem of how to remove that actual bullet and replace it with No. 399.

By using self-removing ice bullets, which melted away in a few minutes, the stage would be set for "finding" bullet No. 399 in the hospital. The additional ice bullet wound in the back was possibly due to a plan to fire two ice bullets to make sure that at least one such wound would be created. This may have been fired from the Dal-Tex building or a nearby building.

(pipe in window?) (over)

Unasked Questions:

August 15, 1967

- [10] Could the two non-fatal wounds in President Kennedy's throat and back have been made by special non-permanent bullets of low density which melted away in a few minutes after penetrating his skin?

The "theory" that a single rifle bullet caused these injuries to the President and also caused Governor Connally's injuries has been amply attacked in the books mentioned in Question [9]. (See "Inquest", pp. 121-122.) Not as many bullets were accounted for as there were shots heard. Furthermore, no bullet from the rifle owned by Oswald was found in the bodies of either President Kennedy or Governor Connally. However, such a bullet was found under the mattress on a hospital cart, and after a dubious "chain of evidence" had been established, (24H412), became Exhibit 399.

The unexplainably intact appearance and weight of bullet 399 indicates that it could not have been the bullet which inflicted all the non-fatal wounds of the President and the Governor. The one unarguable fact about bullet 399 is that it was fired from that rifle owned by Oswald. (The source of this bullet is considered in Question [11].)

Governor Connally's wounds were definitely made by a real rifle bullet which broke a rib and ended up imbedded in his thigh. Particles of lead remained in his body and were visible in X-rays. Dr. Perry says that at Parkland Hospital "a bullet was not removed from Gov. Connally's leg." (3H389) However, something was removed from his leg about a month after the assassination, in a follow-up operation at St. David's Hospital in Austin on Dec. 10th, 1963. (A blood clot!?) Thus there is no doubt that a real bullet went through the Governor's chest, wrist, and into his leg, at the time of the second shot.

However, it is a very different story with the two non-fatal wounds of the President. (See Questions [8] and [9] for a discussion of the "firecracker" sound of that first shot, not like a rifle shot.) The bullet wound in his throat resembled an entrance wound, and the bullet wound in his back resembled an entrance wound also. Neither of these wounds penetrated more than an inch or so into his body. There was no bullet path tracable through his body between these two wounds. No bullets were found in his body, and no traces of metal from any bullets which might have caused these wounds. Bullet 399, which at first was claimed to have "fallen out" of his body onto his hospital cart, was soon claimed to have fallen out of Gov. Connally's leg onto his hospital cart.

Dr. Jones (6H55) and Dr. McClelland (6H38) indicate that the neck wound could not have been an exit wound of a high-velocity bullet which then went through Gov. Connally.

To add to the confusion about the first shot, there are discrepancies (discussed at length in the books mentioned in Question [9]) in the Zapruder film frame numbers at which the shot could or could not have been fired from Oswald's rifle, etc. All of the above points of confusion can be eliminated, and the failure of the autopsy surgeons to find any path of a bullet between the two wounds in the President's back and neck can be explained, if it is assumed that -----a bullet made of ice was fired into the President's throat at close range by a "spectator" along the curb, at the time of the first "firecracker" shot, -----and that a second ice bullet was then fired into his back at the time of the second shot, which was the real rifle shot which hit Gov. Connally. These ice bullets are discussed in Question [11].