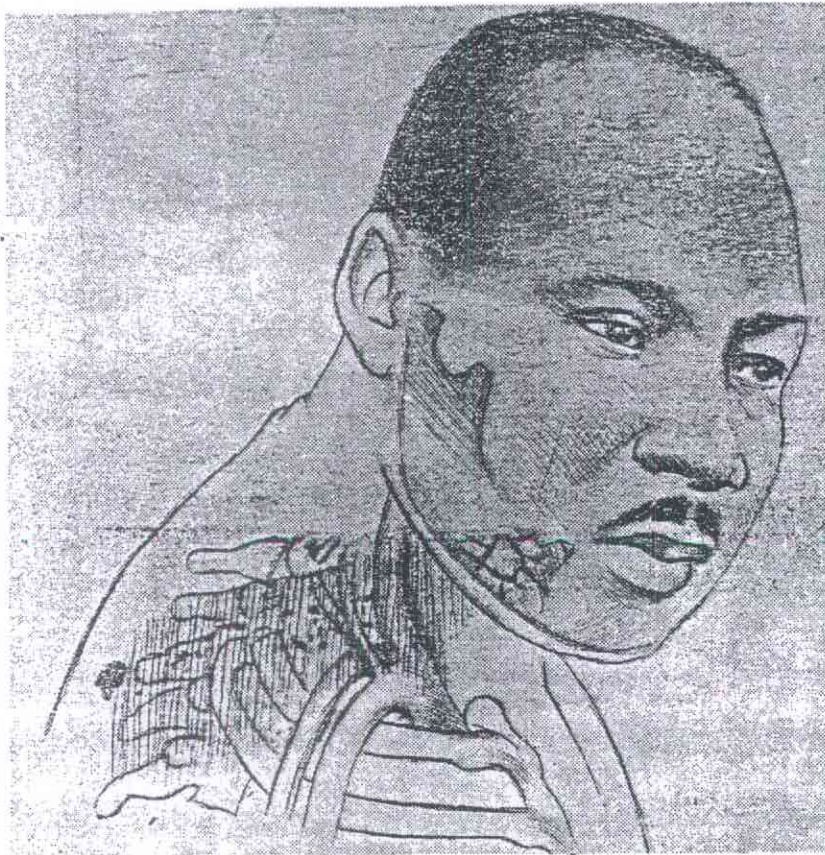


Washington ~~Post~~ American

AND THE WASHINGTON TRIBUNE

AR EDITION WASHINGTON, D.C., AUGUST 22, 1978 30 CENTS ONE YEAR \$17.00

King death photos bared



THE BULLET'S PATH — This drawing shows the tearing path of a bullet that smashed into Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The bullet struck his right jaw, severed the spine and ended up in the chest.

Exactly where did the assassin's death bullet strike Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

What was the path of the bullet — from its point of origin until it struck Dr. King?

After Dr. King was shot, was he so severely wounded that his life could not have been saved?

Did doctors in Memphis do all they could to

Additional coverage on Page 6

save the life of the human rights leader who was then the nation's No. 1 fighter against white racism?

Was the death bullet found?

Where?

Answers to these questions were given last week when photographs, drawings and other exhibits — almost all of them gruesome — were viewed by the House Assassinations Committee here last week.

The committee — headed by Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) — viewed photographs of Dr. King taken just after he was murdered and heard testimony from pathological experts on the April 4, 1968, shooting in Memphis, Tenn.

The committee, in its second day of public testimony on the death of the civil rights leader, sought to dispel questions about the trajectory of the fatal bullet.

The pictures were grim.

One was taken from behind Dr. King — revealing the back of his head and a conspicuous lump several inches below the left shoulder where the bullet was imbedded after entering his body through the lower right jaw.

Experts said the bullet apparently smashed through Dr. King's spinal column and, in the words of one witness, would have left him a "vegetable" had he lived.

Another picture showed Dr. King's neatly knotted tie, the neckband severed where the bullet had cut through.

The medical experts were assembled to determine if the preliminary medical treatment administered to Dr. King was adequate from the time he was taken by ambulance from the Lorraine

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

Motel to St. Joseph's hospital where he died about an hour after the shooting.

The experts were also asked to review the autopsy report and the exhibits and to determine if the trajectory of the bullet "indicates the point of origin of the shot."

Finally, they were asked if the damage to King's body and clothing was consistent with what could be expected from a projectile of the type recovered from the body.

A pathologist testified, after re-examination of the scene, that the autopsy report, x-rays, pictures and diagrams of the slaying of Nobel Peace prize winner turned up nothing inconsistent with conclusions drawn at the time of the murder.

Dr. Michael M. Baden, head of a panel of three medical examiners named by the assassinations committee to restudy the evidence, illustrated his testimony with photographs of the bullet wounds Dr. King sustained when he was murdered during the time he went to Memphis to aid striking garbage collectors.

The wound, Baden told the committee, was "entirely consistent" with the analysis that the

fatal bullet had been fired from a Memphis, Tenn., rooming house bathroom across the street from the Lorraine Motel's second floor balcony. Dr. King was slain as he and a group of associates stood on the balcony.

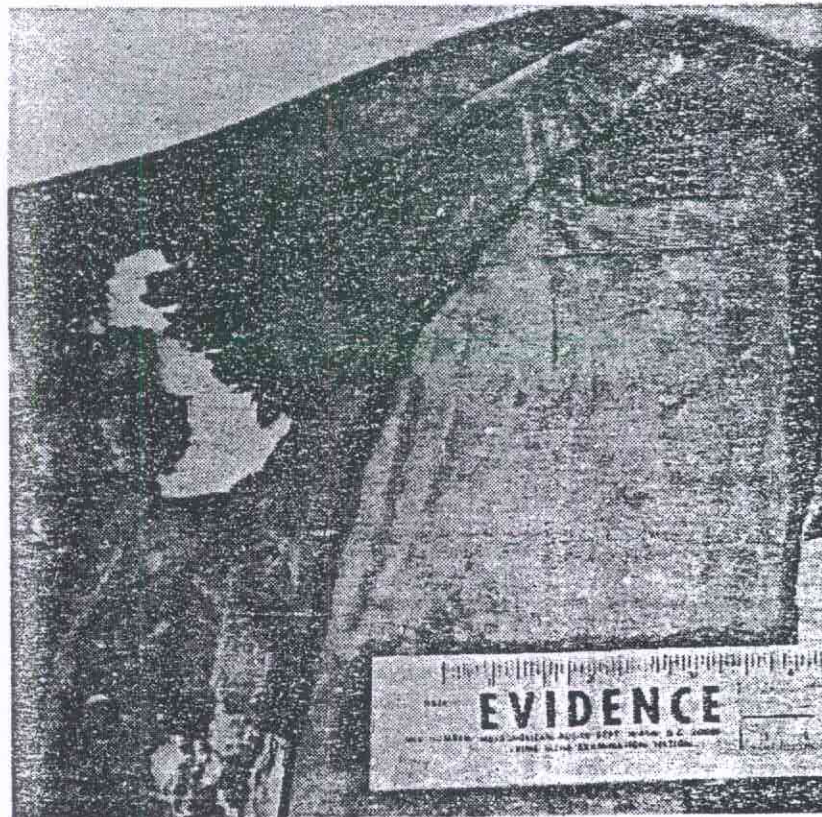
Baden testified that pathology is too inexact a science for him to be able to state conclusively whether the bullet, fired from a .30-06 rifle, came from the bathroom window or from a bushy area in the rooming house backyard.

But it came from one or the other, he said, and he could rule out a shot fired from close range. There was no trace of gunpowder on the body, he said.

Baden, chief medical examiner for New York City, said he was satisfied that Dr. King received "vigorous medical treatment."

When the wounded civil rights leader arrived at St. Joseph's Hospital, "the heart was still beating but the brain was irreparably damaged," he said.

The house committee is conducting the first public investigation of the slaying since James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the murder charge in 1969. The panel also is re-investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.



DR. KING'S JACKET — This photo shows the gaping bullet hole in the jacket Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wore when he was assassinated.

Ray back in prison after Stokes grilling

James Earl Ray was back behind bars this week and, barring a miracle when his congressional "trial" resumes in November, appears destined to serve his full 99-year sentence for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The House Assassinations Committee — headed by a black chairman — took Ray out of his Tennessee prison and gave him the

public forum he has sought for years to plead his innocence despite a formal confession of guilt. But it also revealed new evidence that Ray and his lawyer, Mark Lane, found "most damaging."

Two surprise developments last Friday dealt severe blows to Ray's claim — a retired British policeman's statement that Ray boasted of murdering Dr. King shortly after his arrest in London in 1968, and another witness

admission that his support of Ray's alibi was fabricated.

Lane responded angrily to the written statement from the policeman, saying he understood the officer had been charged with corruption and fired in disgrace. That forced an abrupt delay until November in further questioning of Ray.

Scotland Yard later said the officer — Alexander Anthony Fist,

(Continued from Page 1)

now a pub owner — was found innocent of corruption in a trial earlier this year.

The presentation of the "most damaging" evidence against the stony-faced Ray came the day after Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, committee chairman, charged that Ray stalked Dr. King across the country for 12 days preceding Dr. King's murder on April 4, 1968 in Memphis.

Ray instantly denied he tried to hunt down Dr. King — although evidence showed his movements followed Dr. King.

When Ray reappears before the committee in November, questioning is expected to focus on whether he was part of a conspiracy rather than a lone killer. The committee holds hearings in September on conspiracy theories about the killing of President John F. Kennedy.

Ray will have much to ponder after three days of hearings that produced:

- Testimony that he left Los Angeles in 1968 and paralleling Dr. King's movements, went to Selma, Ala., Atlanta, and finally to Memphis, Tenn., where the Nobel Peace prize winner was killed by a bullet from the rifle Ray admits he bought.

- Evidence that Ray was in Atlanta on April 1, 1968.

- In an outburst that made his lawyer wince, Ray told the committee,

- in what sounded like a sarcastic quip — if anyone could show he was in Atlanta April 1, "I'll just take responsibility for the King case right here on TV."

- The committee produced a woman, now 75, who said from a wheelchair that she had made out laundry and dry-



CONGRESSIONAL HUDDLE — Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, chairman of the House Assassinations Committee, considers an objection by James Earl Ray's attorney, Mark Lane. Behind Stokes is Del. Walter Fauntroy, D-D.C. and another member of the assassinations panel.

cleaning receipts to a man calling himself Eric Galt, an alias used by Ray, in Atlanta on that day.

The committee also put before Ray a big blowup of a photograph of a laundry slip placing him in Atlanta, headquarters of Dr. King's Southern Christian Leader Conference, just three days before the Memphis slaying.

A surprise admission of lying from the only living supporter of Ray's alibi that was at a Memphis service station when Dr. King was killed.

"This story is completely false," said Dean Cowden, who had first corroborated Ray's alibi. Cowden, a commodity dealer, said he was more than 400 miles away at his Port Neches, Texas, home at the time and had given false information to help a friend who was an investigator for one of Ray's earlier lawyers.

Fingerprints connecting Ray to a \$600 bank robbery in London June 4, 1968, shortly before his arrest and committee indications that there is evidence linking Ray to a still - unsolved \$27,000 bank robbery at Alton, Ill.

That would conflict with Ray's claim he was financed by a mysterious crony named "Raoul" and possible explained how he got the money to buy a car and travel extensively.

Agreement by Ray that he had been offered a deal for a lighter sentence by a member of the committee if he could name anyone involved in a conspiracy to kill Dr. King. No names came either from Ray or Rep.

Harold Sawyer, R-Mich., who said he made the offer.

Finally, Friday's blockbuster from Eist, a sergeant on the famed Flying Squad, who guarded Ray while the prisoner was awaiting extradition to the United States.

Rep. Samuel Devine, R-Ohio, read aloud the transcript of an interview with Eist that he said the committee obtained just two weeks ago.

Of Ray's role in the King killing, Eist said: "During the course of conversation, he definitely - he didn't actually come out with it - but it was there in the conversation that he done it. He was quite proud of it."

"If False," said Ray. Both he and Lane said the statement was the "most damaging" evidence yet presented.

Stokes presented his stalking accusation Thursday in making a summary of issues on which he had questioned Ray and chided Ray for providing so little help to locate the mysterious "Raoul."

As Stokes retraced Ray's movements in 1968, Ray's lawyer broke in: "No. I don't think that's what the record shows. I don't think that's what the record shows. That's what you tried to show."

Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., presiding over the committee during Stokes' questioning, intervened: "Let Mr. Stokes complete his question." To which Lane replied: "It's not a question. It's a summation of the

prosecution's case in this investigation." But Preyer prevailed.

"Then you rent a room in Atlanta," Stokes continued. "You buy a rifle in Birmingham. And then by every other piece of available evidence, other than parts of your story, you return to Atlanta, where you remain until at least April 1, by the documents we've produced here this afternoon."

"Following the announcement in Atlanta of Dr. King's return to Memphis, you drive to

that city and you rent a room from which Dr. King's movements can be easily watched."

Lane interjected again, angrily: "That is not true. You know you cannot see the movements from the room, Room 5. That's a false statement, Mr. Stokes."

Preyer ordered Lane to hold his objections and told Stokes to continue.

"Mr. Ray," Stokes asked, "Isn't it true that the time you left Los Angeles until the time you left Memphis (after Dr. King was killed) on April 4, 1968, that you were in the process of following the movements of Dr. King?"

Without hesitation, Ray replied: "No, that isn't correct."

"You have maintained all along you did not fire that shot, haven't you?" Stokes asked.

"Yes sir," Ray answered.