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who does not go to the park, fish, [Oswald] was a boy home, not do any-nt to play with any-few classes Oswald d been disruptive. rickman, his case- a damn" about him. almost as if there's which they cannot intact."⁶⁰ After the o the staff psychia- psychology and an years later when he togs gave seminars ed interesting and ne week, he chose Hartogs considered us on a charge of him, I found him to r words, this child saultive acting out who was sent to the r from school." Har- lity" but "intensely ear-old "showed a ut his situation" in it "difficult to pene- y hides."⁶³ He per- hyness, feelings of asons for his with- swald told him his togs noticed he had d the topics of om- ry with his mother g brought food for

supper, and confessed he occasionally hit her. He also told the psychiatrist, "I don't want a friend and I don't like to talk to people." When asked if he preferred the company of boys or girls, he responded, "I dislike everybody."

Hartogs's diagnosis was "personality pattern disturbance with schizoid features and passive-aggressive tendencies. Lee has to be seen as an emotionally, quite disturbed youngster who suffers under the impact of really existing emotional isolation and deprivation, lack of affection, absence of family life and rejection by a selfinvolved and conflicted mother."⁶⁵ Although Hartogs thought he "was quite clear" in emphasizing Oswald's potential for violence by "the diagnosis of passive-aggressive," he did not explicitly state it since that would have mandated institutionalization. Instead, he recommended that Oswald be placed on probation so long as he was under guidance, preferably from a psychiatrist.*

The New York Domestic Relations Court considered Hartogs's diagnosis serious enough that it assigned a probation officer to Oswald and tried for the next nine months to find appropriate treatment for the disturbed youngster. Meanwhile, Lee was at his ninth school, P.S. 44. On several occasions, Marguerite refused to bring him to court, claiming he had returned and adapted well to school. Instead, his grades were low, sometimes failing, and comments from his teachers noted he was "quick-tempered," "constantly losing control," and "getting into battles with others."⁶⁶ Oswald refused to do his homework or salute the

*Many of the critics ignore Hartogs's testimony. He is not even listed in books written by Mark Lane, Josiah Thompson, Jim Garrison, John Davis, Robert J. Groden and Harrison Livingstone, Robert Blakey, Henry Hurt, David Scheim, or David Lifton. Among the few who mention the tests, Jim Marrs disingenuously says: "The results were essentially inconclusive. They showed him to be a bright and inquisitive young man who was somewhat tense, withdrawn, and hesitant to talk about himself or his feelings."

Harold Weisberg tells of the tests but does not quote any of Hartogs's conclusions. Sylvia Meagher, in her acclaimed book *Accessories After the Fact*, writes, "There is, then, no basis in any of the available medical or psychiatric histories for allegations that Oswald was psychotic, aberrant, or mentally unsound in any degree." Meagher's conclusion is contradicted not only by Hartogs but also by two Soviet psychiatrists who evaluated Oswald after his failed suicide attempt in Moscow in 1959 (see page 51). *How many*

years later?

Neither Delgado nor
Thornley
is a very
dependable
source

!, *Mein Kampf*, and

better was Kerry
aster 1959, "he [Os-
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table" and "unpre-
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y telling him to write
later told Delgado he
Angeles, but Delgado
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ther occasion, Oswald
did not see the person
assumed it might be
ed Oswald. Although
only his hunch, some
intelligence connec-
ving had any contact

gripped about a march they were scheduled to be in. Thornley com-
mented, "Well, comes the revolution you will change all that."
Oswald's voice cracked as he screamed at Thornley. He put his
hands in his pockets, pulled his cap low over his eyes, and sat by
himself. He never spoke to Thornley after that. "Well, at the time
I just thought," recalled Thornley, "well, the man is a nut. . . . He
had a definite tendency toward irrationality at times, an emo-
tional instability." He also found Oswald "impulsive," burdened
by a "persecution complex," and said that he never showed any
affection to anyone, and nobody ever showed any in return.⁵⁶ By
the end of their relationship Thornley thought Oswald was "pa-
thetic."⁵⁷

There is, of course, the question of why the Marines tolerated
Oswald's flagrant study of Russian and subscription to Russian-
language newspapers as well as leftist publications like *The
Worker*. None of his fellow Marines reported that he proselytized
Communism during basic training or during his fourteen months
in Japan. He complained about the Marines, but that was not
thought to be unique. Oswald did study the Russian language,
but not in the conspicuous way that he did later at El Toro. Even
one of his commanding officers in Japan studied the language.
While he may have been considered a Russophile, he gave the
Marines no reason to believe he might be a security threat.

Only after arriving at El Toro, and following his two court-mar-

*Jim Garrison provides snippets of quotes from seven Marines saying
they never heard Oswald talk about Communism, the Soviet Union, or
Cuba. He concludes, "The statements of Oswald's other associates at the
Marine base were almost uniform in their agreement that he had no inclina-
tion in the direction of communism or anything leftwing" (*On the Trail of the
Assassins*, pp. 52-53). Garrison writes that Thornley "had not served with
Oswald as long as a number of others and had not even lived on the same
part of the base. . . . The other Marines' affidavits . . . overwhelmingly contra-
dicted Thornley's claims." But Thornley did live on the same part of the base
as Oswald, though they were in different Quonset huts (WC Vol. XI, p. 85).
The other Marines' affidavits did not contradict Thornley's testimony—they
only said Oswald did not talk to them about the same things he discussed
with Thornley. Thornley is not even listed in the indexes for books by Robert
Grodin and Harrison Livingstone, Henry Hurt, John Davis, David Scheim,
Mark Lane, and Josiah Thompson.

man who started taking pictures did not have a security clearance, and O'Neill confiscated his film and exposed it (the roll is still in the National Archives). There is an oft-repeated story of an FBI photographer, without any prior autopsy experience, who allegedly took the photographs. "Those reports are an incredible lie," said Humes. "The official photos taken by John Stringer [the medical school's chief of photography] were never touched, and no one from the FBI even had a camera, let alone the intention to take autopsy photos."⁶⁴

The autopsy photographs and X rays are critical because, despite criticism of the procedure, they provide proof positive of the President's wounds, and have served as the basis for subsequent forensics-panel studies. Because they support the conclusion that the President was shot by two bullets from the rear, there have been attempts to cast doubt on their authenticity. Robert Groden and Harrison Livingstone, in *High Treason*, conclude the X rays are fakes and raise doubts about some of the photos.⁶⁵ However, they ignore the extensive work of the House Select Committee in examining that very issue.

John Stringer, who took the photographs, viewed them at the National Archives on November 1, 1966, and verified that the pictures were the ones he had taken. Photo experts for the Select Committee concluded the photos were authentic, there was no evidence of fakery, and that alteration of such photos, often taken with two or three exposures from the same camera position, is "essentially impossible."⁶⁶ As for the X rays, the tests were also absolute. Human bone structure varies uniquely from one individual to another and can be as good a means of identification as fingerprints.⁶⁷ Twenty-two earlier X rays of John Kennedy were compared to those taken at Bethesda. The Committee's experts concluded they were not forgeries and "there was absolutely no question . . . [they were] of John F. Kennedy and no other person."⁶⁸ Because of certain peculiarities with JFK's bones and teeth, the experts concluded it was impossible to simulate the twenty-two base X rays used for comparison.^{69*}

*Groden has asserted as part of his ever-widening plot that the conspirators replaced all the earlier X ray films of John Kennedy taken over the

Once the autopsy began at Bethesda was a teaching theater filled with aim though they were dealing did not allow the crowd accompanied his body to the r disturbed and distressed fazed by the commotion wounds caused by high

There has been considerable examination they Allegheny, Pennsylvania "worst and most botched piece of crap."^{61*} Other but they do criticize the remained in the hospital when it would finish, their work.⁶² The Ker mine the cause of death autopsy. Dr. Michael the President "could only spent a few hours working with the funeral Mrs. Kennedy decided

years and maintained charges that the while conspirators forgot to are real. He claims the the right eye and forehead rays do not show any X rays," says Dr. Michael

The reason Groden the photographs, which "They did not dare de sional order asking to murder the President ity of a future congress

*The author, as performed by Dr. We

However, some of the Parkland doctors who treated the President described a gaping wound in the rear of JFK's head (the occipital region), not the right side (the parietal). If true, this not only contradicted the findings of the autopsy team but was evidence that the President was probably shot from the front, with a large exit hole in the rear of the head. Several Parkland doctors also thought they saw cerebellum, tissue from the base of the brain, on the stretcher or in the operating room. Yet, the autopsy photos of the brain show the cerebellum intact. If the Parkland descriptions of the cerebellum were true, this raised legitimate questions over the authenticity of the photographs of JFK's brain, which showed no such damage. Robert Groden and Harrison Livingstone, in their book *High Treason*, devote more than thirty pages to highlighting this conflict between the Parkland and Bethesda descriptions of the head wound.

However, it is questionable to rely on the Parkland doctors for any assertion about the head wound since, by their own admission, they did not examine it in detail. When Dr. Kemp Clark

National Archives in 1966, a metal box containing the President's brain was missing from the inventory, together with some tissue slides. Humes had given everything from the autopsy, including the brain, to JFK's personal physician, Admiral George Burkley. "He told me," said Humes, "that the [Kennedy] family wanted to inter the brain with the President's body" (*Journal of the American Medical Association*, May 27, 1992, Vol. 267, No. 20, p. 2803). The House Select Committee concluded that Robert Kennedy likely disposed of the material for fear it would become a lurid public exhibition (HSCA Vol. VII, pp. 367-68).

In the same vein, Humes, who had gotten the President's blood on his autopsy notes, copied them verbatim to clean paper and then burned the original, fearing that the bloodstained notes might become part of a future public display. That same concern prompted the physicians to wash the blood-soaked sheets in which the President's body arrived and to dispose of their own medical garb. But this concern created a situation that led to mistakes. Since Humes and Boswell were not able to use the photographs or X-rays when making their autopsy report, they misplaced the entry wound on the back by nearly two inches and the one in the head by four inches. These errors were discovered by the House Select Committee's medical panel. While it did not alter the conclusions about two shots from the rear, it did affect the Warren Commission ballistics tests, which were based on the misinformation about the entry points.

looked at the wound revived, it was the first read in later books, finding, but that is not save the President, As for the head wound was standing with I looked at my pants

"We never had the Humes told the author were trying to save Humes had no time to examine forensic pathologists good look at the head line it or really look he was dead," Dr. and examine the room. We all just were over with," I should get out of

Dr. Baden of the concerned with wounds. Some of gists. A third of missed by the deaths, it is common wounds and gun exit or entrance off—there is just about that wound they say they saw cerebellum was the rear of the head since there is no lick. The mistake we have autops

"One of the n

overlooked by the critics, are the frames immediately after the President was shot in the head. It's very clear on the enhanced frames that there is a wound over the right ear, but the back of the head is clean. That film is incontrovertible evidence that there was no defect on the rear of the head."⁸⁹

Yet mistaken descriptions of what the Parkland doctors did and saw continue to be published. *High Treason* asserts that some doctors examined the wound with a flashlight and that Dr. Jenkins picked the head up from the stretcher to show other doctors the extent of the rear wound.⁹⁰ The eight principal doctors who attended to JFK on that day all told the author that such reports were false. Moreover, Groden and Livingstone cite early interviews and some testimony before the Warren Commission to support their hypothesis that the Parkland doctors saw a different head wound than the one described at Bethesda.* Yet the Parkland physicians, in their discussions with the author, were almost unanimous in supporting the autopsy findings that the massive exit wound was on the right side (parietal) of the President's head, not the rear (occipital), and that there was no sign of damaged cerebellum tissue. They insisted that the explainable differences in the wound descriptions between them and the Bethesda doctors have been exploited by conspiracy writers, who created a controversy where none exists. Some admitted that their early statements about the wounds, which they now consider to be mistaken, may have contributed to the confusion.

Dr. Bill Midgett, who helped wheel the President from the lim-

*In 1988, four of the Parkland doctors—Pepper Jenkins, Richard Dulaney, Paul Peters, and Robert McClelland—went to the National Archives at the invitation of a PBS documentary show, *Nova*, about the assassination. They were the first Parkland physicians to see the autopsy photographs, and each confirmed the photos represented what they remembered seeing that day, including a picture of the rear of President Kennedy's head, which shows no defect. It has been suggested that the reason the photo shows the rear of the President's head as undamaged is because the doctor (whose fingers are present in the picture) is holding a large flap of skin to cover the rear defect. "False," says Dr. Michael Baden. "There is no flap of skin there. There is a bony protrusion from the right side of the head, but the rear is undamaged, except for the entry hole near the top of the skull" (Interview, January 23, 1992).

ousine into trauma thick hair, and the so shocked . . . and very closely to see ital—that much I look, but there wa

"We did say the Carrico. "We did cortex area, and I is that the Presic you could see the down his head, a head. We saw a I believe we saw a tal bone. And if v secke also admit described the wo I was wrong in n and in some of r that good of a lo with me trying t them. The truth tissue and blood not get accurate hole and look in did I see anyone

Dr. Peters ha the photograph *Nova* program, was not lacerat would be the de would say is th the head wound side than the re he did not want

Dr. Jenkins's "The descriptio I read my repo

lum. The autopsy photo, with the rear of the head intact and a protrusion in the parietal region, is the way I remember it. I never did say occipital."⁹³

"I did not really look at it that closely," says Dr. Perry. "But like everyone else, I saw it back there. It was in the occipital/parietal area. The occipital and parietal bone join each other, so we are only talking a centimeter or so in difference. And you must remember the President had a lot of hair, and it was bloody and matted, and it was difficult to tell where that wound started or finished. I did not see any cerebellum."⁹⁴ Dr. Baxter agrees that it was difficult to determine the precise location of the wound when treating the President: "He had such a bushy head of hair, and blood and all in it, you couldn't tell what was wound versus dried blood or dangling tissue. I have been misquoted enough on this, some saying I claimed the whole back of his head was blown away. That's just wrong. I never even saw the back of his head. The wound was on the right side, not the back."⁹⁵ Dr. Jones makes the same observation, saying he did not even know there was a head wound for several minutes, and then finally realized it was a "large side wound, with blood and tissue that extended toward the rear, from what you could tell of the mess that was there."⁹⁶ Dr. Giesecke agrees "that the occipital and parietal region are so close together it is possible to mistake one for the other."⁹⁷

The only Parkland doctors who still believe they saw a wound in the rear of the head, as well as seeing cerebellum, are Robert McClelland and Charles Crenshaw. "I saw a piece of cerebellum fall out on the stretcher," says McClelland, who claims he was in the best position of any of the doctors to view the head wound.⁹⁸ He drew a sketch in 1967 for Josiah Thompson's book *Six Seconds in Dallas*, which showed a gaping wound in the rear of the head.⁹⁹

"I am astonished that Bob would say that," says Dr. Malcolm Perry. "It shows such poor judgment, and usually he has such

**High Treason* asserts that Jenkins originally said JFK was shot in the chest. Jenkins laughed when the author read him the Groden and Livingstone charge. "I don't know where they get this stuff from. We put tubes into the President's chest, but there were no chest wounds caused by anything else."

good judgment."¹⁰⁰ place to see the head in position the way I remember it. As for Dr. N. At the table, I never was a surgeon," says Dr. Jones. "I am mistaken, but I am sure the National Archives was crenelated for me, but it was not because of people that saw the wound [co-author of *High Treason*]. He changed his attitude because he is a lousy pathologist. I saw that, and he is completely wrong about that."¹⁰³

Dr. Crenshaw examined the wound and that the cerebellum was resident at the table. He assisted for only a

*In his original report, one that does not mention another location, Jenkins explained intentionally overheard. He asked me, "Was the breathing bag working? I had no temporal pulse, I had no pulse to the left temple."

**Crenshaw also stated that he saw Kennedy's neck, implying that a wound was at Bethesda. "I saw the procedure. I saw the presence. Tissue came out like the opening

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wounds on the two
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sed it in a vise."⁷⁶

ls at which the bul-
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f's rifle at 2,000 feet
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gh flesh, the bullet
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the wrist at 900 feet
d is enough to shat-
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lf into his thigh.⁷⁷

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CE 399 emerged in
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nd the damage to the
cise in futility."⁷⁹

9 may be impossible,
e to the bullet can be

tested. For the Warren Commission, the Army conducted sepa-
rate experiments with 6.5mm bullets, one to determine the effect
on a bullet that passed through the President's neck and another
to test a bullet going through the Governor's rib. The one that
passed through the mock-up of the President's neck (goat skin
and meat) was not deformed.⁸⁰ The missile that hit the recon-
struction for the Governor's rib (an anesthetized goat) did not
have the benefit of first being slowed through the President's
neck. Yet, still, it only had a slight flattening, similar to CE 399.⁸¹
The remaining question about the condition of the bullet was
whether a bullet at a reduced velocity could strike the radius
bone in the wrist and emerge in good condition. In 1992 Dr.
Piziali, of Failure Analysis, and Dr. Fackler experimented with
powder charges. They lowered the velocity on a 6.5mm bullet to
1,100 feet per second and shot it through a cadaver's wrist. "The
bullet actually made a slightly greater hole than the one in Gov-
ernor Connally's wrist," said Dr. Fackler. "That's because the ex-
periment bullet was actually going a little faster than the 900 feet
that CE 399 was traveling. The test bullet was non-deformed. It
was not flattened in the least and had nowhere near the damage
of CE 399."⁸²

The final issue in the single-bullet theory involves bullet frag-
ments found in Governor Connally. The FBI randomly weighed
6.5mm Carcano bullets and determined the average weight was
161.2 grains.⁸³ The stretcher bullet weighed 158.6, meaning only
2.6 grains of its mass were lost.⁸⁴ No fragments were left in Presi-
dent Kennedy's neck wound. However, the Governor had three
removed from his wrist during surgery, and two small fragments
remained in his wrist and one was embedded in his thigh.* Ac-
cording to writers Robert Groden and Harrison Livingstone, in
High Treason, "There were more than three grains of metal in
Connally's wrist wounds alone . . ."⁸⁵ That is not true. Dr. Greg-
ory, who performed the surgery on the Governor's wrist, said the
fragments he removed "were varying from five-tenths of a milli-

*Although some interpreted X rays of the Governor's chest to indicate an-
other fragment was in the chest cavity, Dr. Baden says, "That's completely
wrong. It's a bone chip, not a metal flake."

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For some time, Blakey had had a suspicion about possible organized crime involvement, partly because of the mob's well-known hatred for attorney general Robert Kennedy, and partly because of the way Ruby had killed Oswald, which he says "had all the earmarks of a mob hit."¹³ Although it could never prove Oswald had personal contact with any mobster, the Select Committee nevertheless, under Blakey, concluded that while the "national syndicate of organized crime, as a group, were not involved in the assassination, it could not preclude the possibility that individual members may have been involved."¹⁴ Suspicion focused on Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa, Tampa godfather Santo Trafficante, and New Orleans boss Carlos Marcello. The committee's conclusion infused new life into the arguments for a conspiracy, which now had the imprimatur of a government investigation that had not only concluded there was a conspiracy, but even highlighted the suspects. To the buffs, Garrison's investigation was now only a distant, bad memory.

For many, the CIA remained a leading suspect,^{**} but now the mafia moved to the forefront as the most credible plot-master. The same year that the Select Committee completed its work, Seth Kantor's book, *Who Was Jack Ruby?*, concluded Ruby was a mafia hit man.¹⁵ In 1979, *The Washington Post* ran a long article headlined DID THE MOB KILL KENNEDY?¹⁶ And Blakey published his own best-seller, *The Plot to Kill the President*, in 1981.¹⁷ By the

*Though the mob hated Robert Kennedy because he was relentlessly pursuing them, the committee implied that individual mobsters may have assassinated JFK in the hope that by their removing him, Robert would lose his power to prosecute them.

**Books like *High Treason*, by Robert Groden and Harrison Livingstone, and *Conspiracy*, by Anthony Summers, charged that the CIA, or a rogue group of agents, was responsible for the assassination. In *First-Hand Knowledge* (1992), ex-CIA contract agent Robert Morrow weaves an intricate intelligence plot, of which he claims to have been a part. Oliver Stone, in his film *JFK*, regurgitated almost all of Garrison's original contentions against the intelligence community. Yet not only have the underlying facts to such accusations been disproved, but the CIA theories necessarily involve the greatest number of conspirators, sometimes numbering in the hundreds. As the House Select Committee concluded, "The more complicated a plot becomes, the less likely it will work" (HSCA Rpt., p. 179).

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*Mafia Kingfish*¹⁸

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