

Pool 10/11/31
**Jackson Shot
Almost Level,
Warden Says**

Los Angeles Times

SAN QUENTIN, Calif., Sept. 30 — A bullet fired in an "almost horizontal" trajectory killed convict George Jackson during an escape attempt Aug. 21, Warden Louis S. Nelson said Wednesday.

The warden also said the prison guard who shot the fatal bullet did not know at the time he was shooting at Jackson, an author and revolutionary figure known as one of the "Soledad Brothers."

Nelson made these and other disclosures of new details surrounding Jackson's death in an interview with The Los Angeles Times.

Prison authorities have compiled a 3-inch thick report on the August incident that took the lives of three guards and two other inmates, besides Jackson. The report will not be made public pending further investigation, the warden said.

During the interview, Nelson acknowledged the controversy over Jackson's death that was renewed last week with the release of a final autopsy report indicating that Jackson died from a bullet that entered the back, not the top of the head, as stated in a preliminary report.

The final report said a high-velocity bullet struck Jackson in the middle of the back, hit two ribs and traveled on through the top of the skull — the reverse direction the first report had indicated.

"People are asking how a shot fired almost directly downward could hit Jackson in the back and travel upward and out his head," Nelson said. "But that's a far cry from the way it happened. The shot was traveling on an almost horizontal line, almost parallel to

the ground."

The warden unrolled on his desk a scale drawing showing that the shot that killed Jackson traveled a distance of 271 feet, 6 inches on an only slightly downward angle.

The drawing, based on investigators' reports, showed a sketch of a guard firing a rifle from a prone position atop a wall 16 feet, 6 inches high toward a crouched figure of Jackson, headed in the opposite direction on the ground.

"Another factor to consider is that once a bullet struck the back, hitting two ribs, it could have deflected in almost any direction," Nelson added.