

4. Not used

a maximum of three, insisting, in the face of all the credible evidence, that the poor marksman Oswald could have outdone both Annie Oakley and William Tell, and performed better than the Commission's own best expert riflemen did in an easier re-enactment.

One bullet, the Commission states, missed the motorcade entirely. A second killed the President. The remaining bullet the Commission could permit itself had to have caused all seven non-fatal injuries, or certainly there was at least a second assassin; hence the need for Specter's theory, else the entire Report collapses.

Two related chapters, "The Number of Shots" and "The Doctors and The Autopsy", include analysis of this theory and disprove it, quoting the exact testimony misquoted by the Report to justify it. Contrary to recently published reports, the doctors said to have supported the theory in fact demolished it - the Texas doctors and the autopsy doctors, who include two highly qualified in forensic medicine, the only such experts called by the Commission.

WHITEWASH details the unbelievable story of the dubious Presidential autopsy with the evidence expunged from the Report. In its final form the autopsy report is an imprecise and evasive exercise in propaganda, not science, based on second-hand newspaper accounts and substitutions for evidence. The first draft was burned by the doctor in charge in the fireplace in his recreation room, without question by or concern to the Commission or Counsel Specter, as though such a shocking and permanent destruction of historic documentation and basic evidence were as normal as breathing - or as proper. The certification of the destruction of these papers appears on page 187 of WHITEWASH, but is unmentioned in the Report.

The oldest existing draft of the autopsy, excerpts from which

WHITEWASH reproduces on page 198, is in direct conflict with the sworn testimony of its author. It says Dr. Perry in Dallas did report the President was shot in the neck from the front, contrary to the doctor's testimony, and it says he so told Autopsy Pathologist Humes, who swore to the contrary. The reproduced excerpts show this and other substantive, not editorial, alterations in the autopsy, the existence of which is not acknowledged in the Report and likewise concerned neither the Commission nor Counsel Specter.

The numerous pictures and X-rays of the President's body, taken both before and during the examination, are not even exhibits before the Commission. This is simple suppression of what lawyers call "best evidence".

Instead, the Commission used "artist's representations" of the wounds, prepared not from the pictures, which the autopsy doctors delivered undeveloped to the Secret Service and never saw again, and not from the X-rays, which have a similar history, but from verbal descriptions after a lapse of several months. These are necessarily imprecise, and the chief autopsy doctor, while almost begging for the pictures during his testimony, so labeled them.

There is the most substantial reason for believing these artist's substitutions for evidence are grossly in error about the non-fatal shot, which is pivotal to the Commission's tenuous case. If it did not go through the President's neck and then inflict all the injuries on Governor Connally, remaining unutilized after smashing numerous bones, the Report is entirely wrong.

part of the autopsy but carefully omitted from the Report is the "Autopsy Descriptive Sheet" which includes the outlines of a man's body. A collar is drawn in. The Report says the non-fatal

bullet struck the President in the back of the neck. This chart shows no injury in the back of the neck, exactly what the FBI report says.

It does show a back wound - six inches below the neck.

The artist's representations and this medical diagram are reproduced on facing pages of WHITEWASH.

Unlike the claim of a neck wound, this location of the wound has ample credible substantiation, including the testimony of three Secret Service agents, all of whom say it; occasional references to it as a "back" wound by Commission counsel; the location of the bullet hole in the President's clothing; and even the repeated testimony of all three autopsy doctors that the bullet hole in the clothing "corresponds essentially with the point of entrance" of that missile. In fact, they agreed among themselves the day before their testimony that this would be the case.

The existence of this chart is totally ignored in the Report. It is as official and at least as credible as any other autopsy document. Unless it can be proved wrong - which would raise a long series of other questions - the entire Report is wrong.

For more than 15 months I have been seeking a full and public airing of what may be the most odious event in our history. As WHITEWASH is restricted entirely to the official fact developed and largely ignored by the Commission, so I hope such an airing will be restricted to fact. The assassination and its investigation are among the major events in our lifetime, if not, indeed, in our entire history. The assassination requires attention it has not gotten.

And the late beloved President is entitled to more than this dubious inquest.

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The description most often applied to WHITEWASH by members of the domestic and foreign press corps, including Washington Post staff members, is "fascinating". I hope readers agree and that they will join in the demand for a full and public investigation of the Report.