

Kennedy Autopsy Report

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PRESIDENT KENNEDY was shot twice, both times from the rear, and could readily have survived the first bullet which was found deep in his shoulder. The second bullet to hit the President, however, tore off the right rear portion of his head so destructively as to be "completely incompatible with life." A fragment was deflected and passed out the front of the throat, creating an erroneous belief he may have been shot from two angles.

These are the findings of the as yet unofficial report of pathologists who per-

formed the autopsy on the President's body the night of Nov. 22.

The findings clear up confusions over whether the President was shot once or twice, and particularly whether one shot hit him in the neck from the front.

Now it is known that both shots came from the back, the first hitting him high in the back shoulder. It caused a hematoma, a pooling of blood, inside the neck and shoulder muscles, but no critical harm.

THE SECOND, the lethal bullet, smashed off the lower right back side (occipito-parietal region) of the head. As far as public un-

derstanding of the subject is concerned, the wound was instantly fatal.

The President, however, still showed some physical movements of life on his arrival at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas and was not officially pronounced dead until 22 minutes later.

The disclosure that a bullet hit the President in the back shoulder, 5 to 7 inches below the collar line, came as a complete surprise to doctors at the Dallas hospital. The President, they said, was on his back from the moment he was brought into the hospital until the body was covered with a

sheet after he was pronounced dead.

Dr. James Carrico, the hospital's resident in surgery and first to examine the President, confirmed the fact that the shoulder wound was not observed.

AS to the President's condition on arrival, he said the victim showed "slow, agonal respiratory efforts," with occasional heart movement, discernible on auscultation (listening).

The President, however, showed no pulse or blood pressure, and was not bleeding as he would have been had his heart been pumping blood, Dr. Carrico said.

Dr. Carrico also added that from the moment the President was brought into the hospital until the body was covered the pupils of his eyes were dilated and fixed. This is sometimes called the stare of death.

The Dallas doctors admittedly were in disagreement. Some believed the President had been shot twice, the neck wound being from a glancing hit; one of the surgeons explained over television that he was shot only once, and that a fragment from the bullet that hit his head coursed downward and emerged through the front of the throat.

The so-small and clean wound in the front of the throat led to open speculation that the President may have been shot from two sides, which the autopsy showed to be false.

The shot that killed was the third one fired; the second struck Gov. John Connally, although it, too, may have been aimed at the President.