

11/23/69

To Harold and Dick:

This is in reference to the shirt slits. I have two things to add to our previous knowledge.

1) In looking at the pictures of the complete jacket and shirt, I was amazed to see just how much they were cut up. There is much unnecessary and obviously hasty cutting. Both sleeves of the jacket in front are cut up vertically and there appears to be a diagonal slice on the right front side of the jacket. The shirt is even worse for it appears to be almost cut in half in front. Notice that the right cuff has been partially ~~gorn~~ off. There seems to have been much irregular cutting of the left sleeve. This all bears importantly on the notion of the shirt slits being cut. Whoever was doing that cutting was obviously frantic and could easily in an effort to cut the tie have made those slits. I also notice, much to my surprise and much in support of this view, that the tie was in fact cut in this exact area--to the left and right next to the knot (see photo of tie, 17H27) Since the tie was actually severed at this point by a person in an obvious and understandable hurry, I think it is becoming obvious that this person did cut the slits inadvertently.

2) I just realized that it was not Carrico who cut off the clothing; it was nurses Henchcliff and Bowron. At 6H136 Bowron says this as well as at 21H203. In looking back I see no reference in which Carrico says he took part in removing the clothes. It was Perry who said this, I think, and he based this on the fact that Carrico was there before him and when he did arrive, the clothes were off. It's important that it was the nurses who cut the clothing because I'm sure they (especially in such an emotion situation) would be more prone to stick a scalpal into the shirt material there than Carrico. At any rate, I feel that the condition of the clothing speaks for itself as to the manner in which it was removed.

It is my opinion that the previous observations lend much credibility to the assumption that the shirt slits were cut and not caused by a bullet's passage.

Howard Roffman