

HW:

This moved on the California state wire, relayed by Los Angeles. Which means probably that it moved nationally only on the B wire, or circuit for secondary news. I had no chance to check at the time, and shall not, because by now the file will have been thrown away.

Sorry to be in such a hurry, and will forward anything further that turns up. As far as I've been able to tell, this was not used by the local papers.

jdw20aug72

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "J. D. W.", written below the typed name.

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JFK Autopsy, 450 Two takes,
530

DENVER AP - A leading medical expert says a four-inch mistake by a pathologist who examined the body of John F. Kennedy after he was shot to death in Dallas produced a series of false speculations about the assassination.

Dr. Russell H. Morgan said the bullet actually entered the president's skull some four inches higher than initially reported, but the Warren Commission's detailed report on the assassination failed to clarify that point.

Morgan, dean of the medical school at Johns Hopkins University, is the only radiologist to examine the X-ray photographs of the slain president's skull.

In an address to the 34th mid-summer conference of the Rocky Mountain Radiological Society here, he gave X-rays the credit for finally revealing the pathologist's error and disproving many of the more extreme speculations spawned by the mistake, which is included in the Warren Commission report.

Morgan's four-year investigation of the photographs and the Abraham Zapruder film of the assassination led him to several conclusions, he said.

The most important finding was that one of the pathologists who examined Kennedy's body in Washington the night of the assassination erred in saying the fatal bullet entered the "occipital protuberance," or the bulge at the lower section of the back of the skull.

This statement, which Morgan said later proved to be false, was included in the Warren report. Critics of the report immediately noted a major inconsistency between that alleged entry point and several features of the Zapruder film which showed a frame-by-frame sequence of the shooting. Critics said the film showed the president's head in a near vertical position when the bullet hit and also showed him lurching backward, leading to speculation the bullet came from the front.

The angle of the bullet became controversial. Some con-

ing backward, leading to specu-
lation the bullet came from the
front.

The angle of the bullet be-
came controversial. Some con-
tended it couldn't have been
fired from Lee Harvey Os-
wald's rifle in the sixth floor of
the Texas School Book Depos-
itory and entered the skull
where the pathologist said it
did.

Morgan said Friday the War-
ren Commission, which named
Oswald as the assassin, made
no effort to explain the con-
tradiction, allowing it to pro-
vide controversy for several
years.

When he was given two days
to examine the X-ray photo-
graphs, Morgan found them of
poor quality, severely over-ex-
posed. Of the 14, he said, only
three were of the head wound.
He said one had pencil marks
on the negative itself showing
"where somebody thought the
bullet had gone."

More

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two, gone."

The penciled line correspond-
ed to the mistaken pathologist's
conclusion that the bullet en-
tered the base of the skull and
exited at an upward angle out
of the right of the forehead.

But Morgan said he found the
actual entry wound was 120
millimeters away from the pen-
ciled line, more than four
inches higher on the back of
the head.

The lurching of the presi-
dent's body backward, he said,
was caused by body spasms
after the massive wound was
inflicted.

Morgan said the Zapruder
film, the ballistics tests, the
projected line of fire and the
angle of entry of the fatal bul-
let all were consistent with the
explanation that a single shot
fired from above and behind
killed the president.

"The Warren Commission's
diagnosis was correct," he
said, "even though the evidence
cited was inconsistent."

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