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Medicolegal Investigation of the President John F Kennedy Murder
by Charles G Wilber PhD
(Charles C Thomas Springfield Ill)

Normally investigation begets conclusion and Wilber lists some but the net impression is one of confusion. Table 5-1, a blow-by-blow description comparing the observations required by the Armed Forces' Autopsy Manual and those made by the Armed Forces at Bethesda, MD, is the highlight which illumines an otherwise murky disorder.

1. Back Wound: this remains about 6" below the shirt collar, about 2" to the right of midline and by and large one of entry
2. Throat Wound: an entry wound about 1/5" (.20") in diameter:
..... an extremely small hole compatible with the
entrance hole of a bullet (p 252)

With no estimate of calibre is a twenty-two possible?

3. Head Wounds:
 - a. the rear entrance wound appears to move about 4" up the back of the head between 1963 and 1968
 - b. a Wilber 'summation':
..... President Kennedy had a massive destruction of the right side of his head as a result of a gunshot wound. He probably died instantly as a result of that wound.....
(p 90)
 - c. a loose flap of skin on the left rear may indicate a wound of exit. (Dr Cyril Wecht's location: 1" left of midline and just above the hairline)
 - d. From Dr McClelland's statement, CE 392,
..... cause of death was due to a massive head and brain injury from a gunshot wound of the left temple(p 207)

Wilber parlays this into

.... an entrance wound in the left temple as Doctor
McClelland testified (p221)

.... a bullet hole to the left temple was seen by compet-
ent surgeons upon close examination of the moribund Pres-
ident (p 225)

which he then connects to

.... an exitlike flap ... in the occipital area(p 225)

which sets up an easy conclusion:

.... In sum, there is evidence of a shot to the head from
somewhere behind the President. There is also evidence of
a shot from at least one other direction into the head.
The end result is inevitable: More than one person fired
and hit the late President Kennedy in the head (p 225)

Some clarification of this befuddlement, reminiscent of the zig-
yaw-zag flight of CE 399, can be found in Harold Weisberg's inter-
view with Dr McClelland:

.... I asked him about his contemporaneous statement that
"the cause of death" was [due to a massive head and brain
injury] "a gunshot wound of the left temple". He does re-
member it and began an apology by saying "it was a total
mistake on my part." His explanation is that "Ginger", Dr
Marion T Jenkins, called the spot to his attention....
(Post Mortem, p 376)

Weisberg's omission, properly inserted here in parenthesis, is an
attempt to have the reader believe in a shot to the head from ahead
of the limousine, from the grassy knoll: more than one rifle shoot-
ing at the President means conspiracy. This tactic of omission ill-
benefits this senior, first-wave critic of the Warren Report.
McClelland always describes the head wound as "massive the result
of a gunshot" He never mentions entry or exit but with the wound
now shrunken to a spot the suggestion continues:

.... Had he, Jenkins or anyone else wiped this alleged spot to see if it was no more than a spot of blood or to see if it was a bullet hole.... His answer was simple, direct and unequivocal: "No." (Post Mortem, p 377)

Wilber's investigation almost discovered the simple, logical answer to McClelland's "total mistake":

.... there was a great laceration of the right side of the head (temporal and occipital) causing a great defect in the skull plate.... (Parkland Administrator C J Price, p 82)

.... there was a large wound beginning in the right occiput extending into the parietal region. Much of the skull appeared (gone?) at brief examination....
(Dr Kemp Clark, CE 392, Warren Report p 525)

.... On 21 March 1964 Specter took a deposition from another Parkland doctor, Kemp Clark, who admitted that he had not seen a wound in the left temple Father Oscar Huber who gave the Last Rites to President Kennedy observed a terrible wound over the left eye of the President....
(p 77)

.... In the turmoil of that day it could be that a qualified surgeon would get left confused with right (p 76)

Father Huber, also caught in the afternoon's commotion, could not be expected to think in other than familiar terms: as he looked at the President the wound over his eye was on Father Huber's left. Price, Clark and Huber locate a massive wound in the right front quadrant of the head; McClelland simply wrote "left" for "right".

Accompanying Figure 1 lends credence to this logical explanation.

There is no way a rifleman could inflict a wound of entry in the President's left temple except from grassy knoll south not north.

So there is no misunderstanding:

1. the fatal shot hit the head between Z-312 and Z-313
2. the flightpath from TSBD's sixth-floor window #14 is a conclusion of prior research available in monograph form

2. the head's inclination is slightly forward and downward; the 34-degree rotation left is seen in Z-312
4. both traverse-lines have question marks: Wilber's because it did not and could not occur; lacking the brain Dr Wecht will not draw the other
5. both leftside wounds also have question marks because there can be no "entry wound" as shown and the "exit wound" is associated with the blast effect of the bullet from TSED
6. The only explanation, which is no explanation, for a non-existent entrance wound in the left temple, is a hypothetical, non-flight-path of the bullet fired by no one somewhere on grassy knoll south. The dotted-line flightpath is the delineation of an event which never occurred in Dealey Plaza, Friday, 22 November 1963.

For those who know but one bullet struck the President's head Wilber does provide some pertinent observations:

.... (Kellerman's) description of the head x-rays suggests an almost explosive fragmentation of the bullet that struck the head. Such breakup of a bullet is characteristic of a soft-nosed hunting bullet; it is not characteristic of military bullets that have a lead core covered by a copper metal jacket.... Despite this peculiar behaviour of the bullet, government scientists assured Mr Specter ... that a military bullet could so perform. At high velocities, massive wounds and fragmentations of the skull can occur along suture lines. Such high-velocity bullets "may pulp brain substance" (Wilber 1974). Velocities which cause such explosive-type wounds with military-style bullets are usually 2000 feet per second or greater. At such velocities temporary pulsating cavities (often twenty-six times the volume of the permanent cavity produced by the tunneling of the bullet) are formed and the process results in destruction of bone and tissue far removed from the actual bullet tunnel (Wilber, 1974)
 p 164-5)

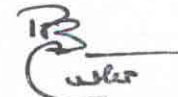
This explains the blasting away of not only the right front quadrant but also the pieces from the skull's occipital region, shown in Dr Boswell's sketch, CE 397. The resulting spraying of pieces of bone,

brain-matter and debris forward over the Connallys, backward across the tonneau as well as forward, and up and eventually down, splattering only the leftside of the left-flank motorcycle escorts, was possible because of the blasted orifices through which this matter exited. Following up this valuable conclusion, Wilber, lacking the courage of his own convictions, poses precisely the wrong question:

....The question arises whether the impact velocity of a Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5 bullet striking at the distance between shooter and Kennedy's head was 2000 feet per second or more....
(p 165)

To limit the weapon to that which the alleged assassin allegedly owned and fired is to abandon common sense. The blasted wounds of exit, when coupled with a single wound of entry, point directly to a high-powered rifle firing a military, jacketed bullet which entered the head in excess of 2000 feet per second. Weisberg's suggestion and Wilber's conclusion of evidence of a shot from another direction is unnecessary when the ^{Total} effect of the single, fatal shot to the head from above and behind the limousine is understood.

Unfortunately for the publisher judging this book by its cover is a massive disappointment.



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