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SCOTLAND  
11<sup>th</sup> August 1983

Dear Harold,

It's many years since I've written to you and I was wondering if you had published any more works since "Post-Mortem" — could you send me a complete list of all your available books, plus prices?

I look forward to hearing from you.

I'm a little out of touch with developments but I thought you might be interested in the enclosed articles which may or may not appear in "JFK Assassination Forum" published by Harry Irwin — perhaps

you could follow up the missing tissue  
piece for me - I've come to an impasse - or  
perhaps you could put me in touch with  
someone who could follow it up.

Kind Regards,

Chris Longbottom.

(CHRIS LONGBOTTOM)

The wound in Governor Connally's back/chest = horizontally or vertically elongated?

In his dissenting report (FHSCA 199-209) to the HSCA F.P.P. Report Dr. Cyril Wecht wrote of the configuration of the gunshot wound on JBC's back: "There is strong evidence to indicate that the elongation of the wound on JBC's back was in the horizontal plane, and not the vertical plane, which would be consistent with the shot having struck JBC on a tangential angle from the right rear." (P.199-200) Dr. Wecht understates the case, the evidence that the elongation of the wound was horizontal, not vertical, is compelling, if not conclusive.

Although Dr. Shaw in his operative notes writes "The round of entrance was approximately three cms. in its longest diameter," he testified before the Warren Commission "that there was a small wound of entrance, roughly elliptical in shape, and approximately a centimetre and a half in its longest diameter."

In his interviews with the HSCA on Nov. 9, 1977, Dr. Shaw specifically stated that "The rear entrance was not 3cm. as indicated in the operative notes. The wound was actually approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cm. The ragged edges of the wound were surgically cut away, effectively enlarging it to approximately 3 cm." Confirmation of this is found in the report by Dr. Baden (of the F.P.P.) of his examination of Gov. Connally on 6th September, 1978: "it was readily apparent that at the site of gunshot perforation of the upper right back there is now a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ " = 2.86 cms) long horizontal pale well healed scar that is up to  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch wide ( $\frac{3}{8}$ " = 0.95 cms) centrally, with a lateral border slightly lower than the medial border (5 degrees).

Dr. Gregory, (the wrist surgeon) testified before the Warren Commission that "I did see in the course of the operation the wound in his chest, the wound of entry, and its posterior surface, ... It appeared to me that the wound of entry was a sort of linear wound, perhaps three-quarters of an inch in length with a rounded central portion." This confirms both the ovoid nature of the wound and the dimensions of approximately 1.5 cms length ( $\frac{3}{4}$ " = 1.9 cms). It is of note that the scar on JBC's is only 5 degrees off the horizontal.

What of the holes in the clothing? JBC's coat and shirt were examined prior to examination, but in testimony before the Warren Commission Robert

Frazier stated "There was found in the coat by me when I first examined it, near the right sleeve 1 1/2 inches from where the sleeve attaches to the coat, ... a hole which is elongated in a horizontal direction to the length of approximately five-eighths of an inch (1.6 cms), and which had an approximate one-quarter inch height (= 0.6 cms)."

The FPR states of this hole in the coat "There is an irregularly shaped oval defect perforating all layers of the jacket on the right back, ... measuring 1.7 by 1.2 centimeters. The direction of the elongation is notable by its absence!"

Of the shirt Frazier testified that examination of the shirt revealed the rear hole was L-shaped. Though there was a horizontal tear five-eighths of an inch (1.6 cms) long it was half an inch vertically (1.3 cms) and had an additional small tear (i.e. the laundering process had probably torn the hole slightly).

The FPR says of the shirt hole, "A defect in the back measuring up to 0.8 centimeter in vertical diameter and 1.3 centimeters in transverse (horizontal) diameter is in a position corresponding to the defect in the jacket.."

Although Dr. Shaw noted in the HSCA committee interview that the entrance wound was longer along the vertical axis all the physical evidence — Governor Connally's scar, the hole in the shirt and the hole in the coat — show it to have been longer horizontally than vertically.

Thus the physical evidence indicates the dimensions of the wound in JRG's skin and the holes in shirt and coat were approximately 1.5-1.6 cms X 0.6-0.8 cms and that the elongation was basically horizontal with a slight declination, from medial to lateral.

MORE MISSING TISSUE - GOVERNOR CONNALLY'S CHEST WOUND

To add to JFK's missing brain and the tissues taken during the autopsy to make slides, study of the HSCA Appendix volumes reveals yet more tissue is missing. It is a crucial piece of tissue since examination of it would almost certainly confirm or refute the "single-bullet theory."

In his interview with Andy Purdy and Dr. Charles Petty on November 9th 1977 Dr. Shaw, the surgeon who operated on Governor Connally's chest, stated that the rear entrance wound to Governor Connally's back/chest was 1 1/2 cm. in length and that "the ragged edges of the wound were surgically cut away, effectively enlarging it to 3 cms." (HSCA 326). The excision of this tissue around the margin of this entry wound is noted in Dr. Shaw's original operative notes: "Attention was next turned to the wound of entrance. It was excised with an elliptical incision."

Yet according to Dr. Charles Petty's report on his examination of the tissues from Governor Connally's wounds the only tissues provided by Dr. V. Stenbridge were from the right wrist and left thigh - there is no mention of any tissue from the chest. "Panel member Dr. Petty obtained the paraffin blocks containing ~~the~~ tissue excised from the wrist and thigh of Governor Connally from Vernie A. Stenbridge M.D., the original examining surgical pathologist." (HSCA 162)

Dr. Petty had contacted Dr. Stenbridge, Petty wrote: "The surgical pathology report signed by Vernie A. Stenbridge, M.D. is numbered 563-6750. The description is of three specimens and the microscopic examination of the three slides made from these three specimens. Doctor Vernie A. Stenbridge was contacted by me and delivered to me not only the three microscopic slides prepared from the specimens removed from John B. Connally, but also the remaining tissue embedded in paraffin which had still been preserved."

Visual and microscopic examination of this excised chest entry wound tissue would allow a determination of whether the marginal abrasions caused by the entering bullet were uniform around the entire margin of the wound or whether the abrasion collar was asymmetrical. ~~A~~ A uniform abrasion collar would indicate a tumbling bullet (i.e. confirm the single-bullet theory) whereas an asymmetrical abrasion collar with undermining of the tissue at some point would indicate

~~the entry of a pristine non-tumbling bullet~~ (ie. refute the S.B.T.) (see 7KSCA 164-7 - MB. ~~figures 46 and 47 are transposed.~~)

Where is this tissue? Is there any mention of it in the report by Dr. Stenbridge? Has there been a mix-up in the identification of the existing excised tissues? Why did none of the Forensic Pathology Panel for the HSCA note the absence of this crucial piece of tissue?

I wrote to Dr. Petty regarding this missing tissue - his reply, dated Nov. 10, 1988, states: "I am not aware of any record of excised tissue from the wound of Governor Connally being examined."

I also wrote to Dr. Stenbridge but with no reply.  
Perhaps U.S. researchers might pursue this matter further since I am going no further.