

Doubts unexpressed

Oswald's mother wants exhumation

By EARL GOLZ

The mother of Lee Harvey Oswald wants the body of the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy exhumed, but she refused to say whether she doubts it is her son's body.

"I am not going to answer it for the simple reason that I don't even know if it would be printed," Mrs. Marguerite Oswald said from her home in Fort Worth.

"In other words, I can't be treated like an underdog and give information and never see it in print. I don't give information to a newspaperman, I give it to the public."

Mrs. Oswald had been told that a book by English author Michael Eddowes, to be published in January, asserts a Russian spy-assassin returned to this country in 1962 posing as Oswald.

Eddowes wrote that the real Oswald, who defected to Russia in 1959, was two inches taller than the assassin and bore the scar of a mastoid operation performed when he was six-years-old. An autopsy of the assassin's body showed him to be two inches shorter than Oswald and failed to detect a mastoidectomy scar.

EDDOWES SPECULATES that an exhumation would show whether the teeth are Oswald's and whether any mastoid bone had been removed.

Mrs. Oswald said she thinks Eddowes "is on the right track. And he didn't get it from me . . . He got that on his own."

She said she was quoted

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as calling for an exhumation in a newspaper article years ago, but not for the same reasons as Eddowes.

She did not mention the mastoidectomy or the height discrepancies, she said.

The mother said she doubted published versions of a pistol accident in which Oswald was supposed to have shot himself through the upper left arm while he was in the U.S. Marine Corps in the late 1950s.

"It seemed to me that if a boy was in the Marines and he was hospitalized and shot that the family would be notified," Mrs. Oswald said. "I was never notified of that. As a matter of fact, I didn't know about that until I read it in the 26 volumes (of the Warren Commission)."

"HE WAS supposed to have cut his wrists to commit suicide (shortly after he had arrived in Russia in 1959)," she said. "And I didn't see anything of that in the 26 volumes and in the autopsy—the scar on the wrist."

She asserted the body "can't be exhumed without my permission," but she didn't indicate she would try to block an attempt in Eddowes' behalf.

"I never did do anything about it because I never did have any money," Mrs. Oswald said. "I didn't have a lawyer, I just didn't have any help."

Oswald's brother, Robert, apparently believes the body buried in Rose Hill Burial Park in Fort Worth is that of Lee Harvey Oswald.

He said he "wouldn't care to really comment on the record on anything that you just told me what the man (Eddowes) claims."

"I think they speak for themselves and the mentality of the individual," Robert said from his home in Wichita Falls.

6 A The Dallas Morning News



Marguerite Oswald . . . Robert Oswald . . . apparently believes body is brother.
"I can't be treated like an underdog."

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Scar, height raise

By EARL GOLZ

Pathologists who performed the autopsy on Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963 told The News they didn't remember seeing evidence of a mastoidectomy on the body and would have noted it in their autopsy report if they had.

Oswald, according to U.S. Marine Corps records, had a 1-inch mastoidectomy scar behind the left ear and was 5-foot-11. Autopsy records showed no scar and indicated the body was measured to be only 5-foot-9.

Dr. Earl F. Rose, Dallas County medical examiner in 1963, said "it would seem to me that a man of his age (23) shouldn't have lost 2 inches. That's a little much."

Both Rose and his assistant at that time, Dr. Sidney Stewart, said they were not looking for a mastoidectomy or a height difference, because the Federal Bureau of Information had not told them of any possible discrepancies when the autopsy was performed at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

"I won't say that we couldn't have overlooked a mastoidectomy," Rose said. "That is a possibility and I certainly won't deny it. You know, it could have been in the hair."

STEWART, HOWEVER, recalled that "we went into very careful details to note as many of the abrasions or scars or any type of skin blemish to help in identification in case this question arose."

The pathologists as part of the autopsy did make in-

cisions in the mastoid area. Yet, no mention of a mastoidectomy scar or that a portion of the mastoid bone of the skull was missing was recorded in the detailed autopsy report.

Retired London lawyer Michael Eddowes has alleged that the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy was not Oswald but rather was a Russian spy-assassin who entered the United States posing as Oswald. Oswald defected to Russia in 1959 after he left the Marine Corps and supposedly returned to this country 18 months before the assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

EDDOWES HAS written a book in which he calls for exhumating the body of the man killed by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby to determine if it has evidence of a mastoidectomy and if the teeth match Oswald's dental records.

He says the teeth of Oswald had "peculiarities" which would be discernible in the corpse buried in Rose Hill Burial Park in Fort Worth.

The author also maintains the autopsy report showed discrepancies between scars on the left upper arm of the body and records of scars on the same arm of Oswald resulting from an accidental gunshot wound 5 years earlier during his Marine days. The post mortem report disclosed only 2 scars on the arm of the assassin, the Englishman says, whereas Marine records indicate Oswald had 3 scars there.

Stewart, however, said he is satisfied from a review

of the 1963 autopsy report that "our description of the wounds sustained from the old gunshot wound probably do represent pretty accurately what he had before."

ROSE AND STEWART suggest that X-rays of the skull, if they exist, would probably show whether any bone had been removed as a result of a mastoid operation when Oswald was 6 years old.

However, any X-rays that may have been made of Oswald at Parkland on Nov. 24, 1963, were probably destroyed in 1969 when the files were purged of records that were at least 5 years old and which were not needed in pending litigation, according to Dr. Charles S. Petty, the current county medical examiner.

A spokesman for the National Archives in Washington, D.C., said no Oswald skull X-rays were ever deposited there.

Oswald queries

Petty said it would not be surprising if a pathologist overlooked a mastoidectomy scar because some scars "simply don't show up very well, particularly when they are years and years old.

"I AM SURE that I have missed mastoidectomy scars, too," Petty said. "They frequently were put there (behind the hairline) for cosmetic reasons years ago, so that later the hair would tend to cover it."

Stewart, however, agreed with Rose that he "cannot explain the discrepancy in height. That's an enigma to my own mind."

Rose said that "unless there was an inaccuracy in the measurements somewhere along the line, either we or the Marine Corps had an inaccuracy." Eddowes has "quite a valid point unless somebody measured him with shoes on," he said.

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ATTY. Bill Alexander, who would have prosecuted the assassin had he lived, insisted Rose "would not have missed a mastoidectomy. Hell, you or I wouldn't have missed it. If you've ever seen one, then there's never any question in your mind about what it is."

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade shrugged off the possibility that someone other than Lee Harvey Oswald is buried in Fort Worth.

"There's all kinds of these (assassination) books," Wade said, "and they write them to sell."

"I GUESS he (Oswald) would still be in Russia then, if somebody else came back," Wade said. "Well, his mother and brother and all recognized him pretty well. And his brother, I consider, is a pretty reliable person. . . . And I don't think there's any question in his (brother's) mind that Os-

wald did it (assassinated Kennedy) himself, alone. I don't know whether he told him he did, but he knew him pretty well, he said."

The justice of the peace who issued the search warrant for Oswald's apartment after the assassination said he doubted Eddowes' contention that Russian agents were able to switch the FBI fingerprints of Oswald with those of an imposter.

"I'm not going to say that it couldn't be done," David L. Johnston said, "but I'm going to say that it would really take some smart, sharp people to do it. Because No. 1, you are not dealing with just one file, you are dealing with two cross references files which then go back to what they call the master file. Which means that an individual would have had to had access to change both the master file and the cross reference file."