

MEMO TO HAROLD AND DICK RE JBC THIGH WOUND

8/12/70 HR

I have long been puzzled over how JBC could have a 6 to 10 mm. hole on this left thigh, no missile in the wound, and a 1 x 3 mm. fragment embedded in the bone. The doctors said this fragment couldn't have caused the skin wound which demands another larger missile at some point. Contradictory accounts about another fragment removed from leg are not of much help.

The theory that a larger missile made a superficial wound and sent a fragment down through the fat and muscle into the femur is preposterous for something had to cause the fragment to dislodge, i.e., the bullet isn't going to stop in the skin and a fragment fall off with enough force to go through tissue, etc.

However, I recently had an idea which might explain the superficial wound with the small fragment in the femur.

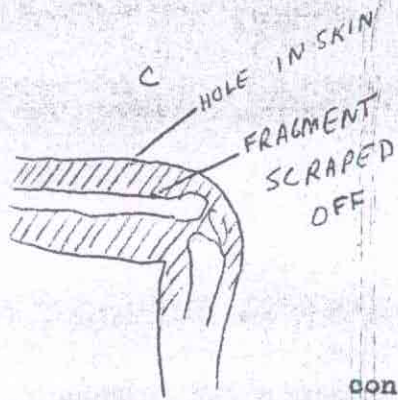
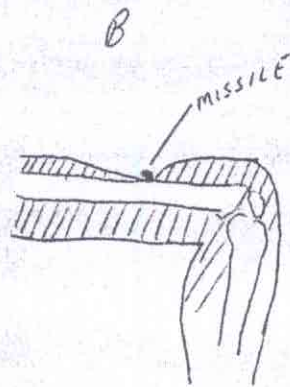
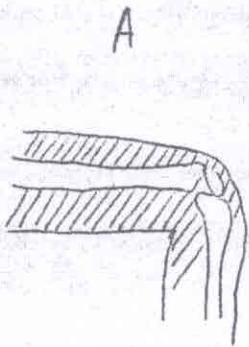
Sketch A represents a cross-section of JBC's left leg right before hit. The distance between the femur and the anterior surface is not great as you can feel yourself by sitting down and pressing in the skin until you meet the resistance of the bone.

Sketch B represents the same thing as the missile (I avoid saying whole bullet) struck the thigh. The nature of the resulting wound suggests a very low velocity. This means that the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ missile would have stretched the skin pretty far before it would have been able to penetrate. It is entirely possible that it indented the skin down to the femur before it bore its way through.

Sketch C is the end product. We have to imagine things happening really fast here. The bullet has the skin indented all the way down to the femur. At this point it penetrates only partially, possibly due to the pressure of the bullet pressing the skin against the bone. In this instant of partial penetration, the part of the missile which entered rubs againsts the thigh and viola, the fragment is left embedded. Collision with the bone could have stopped the missile. If it only underwent partial penetration, as ~~XXX~~ it finally became spent and the skin returned to its former position, it would have gotten pulled to the surface, and could have rested there, half in and half out of the leg, or possible fell out.

Other sketches show some variation of this, but the basic idea is similar.

Especially to Dick, does this make sense? Is it possible?



After embedding the fragment from its contact with the bone as the skin was indented, it would not really be necessary for the ~~MISSILE~~ missile to remain in the skin. After B it could just have fallen off, letting the skin return to its normal position, and releasing the other tissues which had been compressed under it.