

Guy Wright



Why Warren Report Is OK

Those who disbelieve the Warren Report feed their suspicions on loose ends. They find something dark and conspiratorial in the fact that the pieces of the puzzle don't all fit neatly together.

To my way of thinking, that is the best assurance the Warren Report represents an honest investigation.

If there were no loose ends, no missing pieces, no dangling questions, I would be suspicious indeed.

The tragic drama of President Kennedy's assassination stretched from a crowd-lined street to the suddenly hectic emergency room of the Dallas hospital and then on to Bethesda Naval Hospital in the capital, where the autopsy was performed.

The cast included milling onlookers, excited policemen, suspicious FBI agents, and stunned doctors, awed to find themselves working over a dying and dead president.

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EACH OF THESE PEOPLE contributed his own account of what happened as he saw it from a particular place at a particular moment, and all this testimony became the raw material upon which the Warren findings were based. Contradictory? Yes, the testimony is often contradictory, but isn't that inevitable under the circumstances?

These individual accounts are like individual frames of a movie film, none containing the whole story.

An autopsy surgeon, probing a bullet wound, was puzzled at first because he could find neither the bullet nor a hole where it had come out. An FBI agent made a note of his puzzlement, and the note became part of the Warren Report.

Another surgeon, marking the position of the wounds on a worksheet diagram of the human body, placed one bullet hole lower than it should have been if the Warren conclusions were correct. That worksheet also became part of the Warren Report, later providing grist for the doubters.

Texas Gov. John Connally said — and continues to say publicly and freely — that he doesn't believe, as the Warren Report concludes, that he was hit by the same bullet which passed through the President's neck. More grist for the disbelievers.

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MOST OF THESE discrepancies can be explained. The missing bullet hole was found; it had been obscured by a tracheotomy. That worksheet diagram wasn't intended to be precise; the doctor's handwritten notes placed the wound properly. Connally admits he heard only two shots, not a third as his theory would require; furthermore, he doesn't dispute the main findings of the report.

The reassuring thing isn't that most of the discrepancies can be explained; some haven't been and probably never will be.

The reassuring thing is that the Warren Commission made no attempt to suppress this evidence in conflict with its own findings. On the contrary, it is all included in the Warren Report, which can be purchased at any bookstore.

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IF THE REPORT were the product of a conspiracy, surely that faulty diagram would have been doctored or replaced. Surely the FBI agent's note would have been re-phrased or simply left out. Surely Gov. Connally would have been pressured to keep his opinion to himself.

It is ironic that the people who accuse the Warren Commission of hiding the truth draw most of their ammunition from evidence contained in the Warren Report itself — evidence the commission could easily have omitted and no one would have been the wiser.