

## Wounds, JFK

- 11/22/63** Dr. (Malcolm) Parry was working on Kennedy's neck wound when the chief executive died. He said a bullet tore through "at midline in the lower portion of his neck in front."
- Asked if that was just below the Adam's apple, he said, "yes."
- [Dr. Kemp] Clark said Kennedy also was wounded in the back of the head -- "a large gaping wound with considerable loss of tissue." He referred to brain tissue. *AP*, 4:09 p.m. CST., Dallas, 5<sup>th</sup> add 5<sup>th</sup> lead Kennedy
- 11/22/63** Dr. Malcolm Perry, attendant surgeon at Parkland Hospital who attended President Kennedy, said when he arrived at the emergency room "I noticed the President was in critical condition with a wound of the neck and head."
- When asked if possible the wounds could have been made by two bullets, he said he did not know.
- ... When asked to specify, Perry said the entrance wound was in the front of the head. *AP*, Nov. 22, 2:40 p.m. CST.
- 11/22/63** On tape, side I, 206 feet. Interview at 12.45 p.m., of motorcycle policeman J M. Chaney. "On the first shot we thought it was a motorcycle backfire. I looked to my left and so did President Kennedy, looking back over his left shoulder, and when the second shot struck him in the face then we knew someone was shooting at the President. ...
- "Q: When you saw the bullet hit him, what did he do?  
"A: He slumped forward in the car. He fell forward in the seat there." *KLIF* tape, *The Fateful Hours*
- 11/22/63** Dallas - At Parkland Hospital, Dr. Malcolm Perry said Mr. Kennedy suffered a neck wound - a bullet hole in the lower part of the neck - and a second wound in the forehead. *AP* and *UPI*
- 11/22/63** On tape at 250': Pierce Allman, Dallas television executive (*WFAA?*), who was standing at intersection of Elm and Houston, describes the assassination "a few hours later." Says JFK hit by first and third shots.
- Allman was not called to testify by Commission. BBC tape, *The Day the Wounds President Died*
- 11/22/63** Dallas - Mrs. John Connally ... told the story of what happened through an aide, Julian Reid.
- Mrs. Connally ... said the President ... and Mrs. Kennedy ... were chatting animatedly about the tremendous reception that the chief executive had received in downtown Dallas.

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Suddenly, she said, there was a shot ... and the President crumpled back in his seat. *AP*, 7:15 p.m. CST

**11/22/63** Washington - President Kennedy apparently underwent a small surgical slit in his neck in the futile attempt to save his life. A medical report from Dallas said a "tracheotomy" was performed on the President - while he still was in moribund condition but still alive - in order to assist his breathing.

A tracheotomy involves making a two-inch vertical cut through the neck tissue to lay open the trachea, or windpipe, in the event that air passage is wholly or partially blocked due to some obstruction in the larynx immediately above it. A wound of the larynx or nearby neck structures could cause such an obstruction. The open slit, into which a small tube is inserted allows air to reach the lungs from outside. The emergency measure, is-designed to prevent asphyxiation, or at least to help breathing if the trachea is only partly blocked.

As a life-saving measure, such an operation can be performed without anesthesia. A report from Dallas said the President was given an anesthetic. *AP*, 7:37 p.m. EST

**11/23/63** Dallas, Nov. 22 - Later in the afternoon, Dr. Malcolm Perry, an attending surgeon, and Dr. Kemp Clark, chief of neurosurgery at *Parkland Hospital*, gave more details.

Mr. Kennedy was hit by a bullet in the throat, just below the Adam's apple, they said. This wound had the appearance of a bullet's entry.

Mr. Kennedy also had a massive, gaping wound in the back and on the right side of the head. However, the doctors said it was impossible to determine immediately whether the wounds had been caused by one bullet or two. *New York Times*, Tom Wicker

**11/23/63** Dallas - Dr. Malcolm Perry said "there was an entrance wound below his Adam's apple. There was another wound in the back of his head."

Two of the ten physicians in attendance on the President said it was possible that one bullet entered the throat and went through the back of the President's head. It was possible, they said, that he was hit by two bullets, but they doubted it.

**11/23/63** Dallas [Washington?] The President actually was shot twice, it was learned today.

An authoritative White House source said one bullet entered Kennedy's head and another penetrated the "neck and chest."

The source said White House officials did not know until this morning about the second wound. [After autopsy?]

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Previously there had been some question. There was a wound in the back of his head and another in his throat.

**11/26/63** Washington - No bullets were removed at the Dallas hospital. *AP*, 1:54 pm CST, Frank Carey

**11/26/63** The following is a complete listing of photographs and X-rays taken by the medical authorities of the President's body. They were turned over to Mr. Roy Kellerman of the Secret Service. X-rays were developed by the hospital, however, the photographs were delivered to Secret Service undeveloped: 11 X-rays, 22 4 x 5 color photographs, 18 4 x 5 black and white photographs, 1 roll of 120 film containing five exposures. FBI report, Francis X.O'Neill, Jr. and James W. Sibert, given by *Inquest*, Epstein, Bantam edition, 9/21/1966, p. 170.

**11/27/63** Dallas -- In story on controversy whether one gunman could have fired three shots so quickly, various opinions are quoted and projected against a 15-second film strip which shows some of the action both before and after the series of shots. Paraphrase:

Dr. Kemp Clark, Parkland Hospital brain surgeon who worked on JFK, said the bullet hole in the right rear of the President's head had done such massive damage that physicians could not tell whether it had entered or come out of the head at that point.

Dr. Clark said again yesterday that he was unable to say whether the wound in the President's neck below the Adam's apple was due to the same bullet which had coursed through the President's brain. He said there could have been two bullets.

On Friday after the death, Secret Service operatives picked up a bullet from the President's stretcher. Dallas police officials said that it matched fragments in the Presidential car and constituted one of their firmest pieces of evidence that it had been fired by the rifle traced to Oswald by them. *San Francisco Chronicle*, *AP* and *UPI*

**11/27/63** Dallas, Nov. 26 - Dr. Kemp Clark ... said one struck him at about the necktie knot. "It ranged downward in his chest and did not exit," the surgeon said. The second he called a "tangential wound" caused by a bullet that struck the "right back of his head."

... Since one bullet did not exit it is presumed that the bullet that struck the President's head was the one recovered from the stretcher that bore the President into the hospital. A third bullet was found in fragments in the car and is presumed by official sources to be the one that coursed through the body of Gov. Connally.

... The known facts about the bullets, and the position of the assassin, suggested that he started shooting as the President's car was coming toward him, swung his rifle in an arc of almost 180 degrees and fired at least twice more. A strip of color movie film taken by a Dallas clothing manufacturer ... tends to support this sequence of events. The film covers about a 15-second period. As the President's car comes abreast of the photographer, the President was struck in the front of the neck. The President turned toward Mrs. Kennedy as she began to put her hands around his head.

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At the same time, Governor Connally, riding in front of the President, turned to see what had happened. Then the President was struck on the head. His head went forward, then snapped back, as he slumped in his seat. At that time, Governor Connally was wounded.

... A hospital spokesman said the medical record of President Kennedy's assassination, written in longhand by Dr. Clark, chief of neurosurgery at Parkland, had been given to the Secret Service and the hospital had no copy. The hospital expects the Secret Service to return it eventually. *New York Times*, John Herbers

**11/28/63** Direct quotes from Dr. Robert R. Shaw, for which no dates are given. Dr. Shaw was member of surgical team treating Mr. Connally, and not that attending JFK.

On tracheotomy: "They didn't have to widen the column much, they just followed the course of the bullet." ...

"The first bullet entered President Kennedy's trachea, in the front of his neck, coursing downward into his right lung. The bullet was removed at *Bethesda Naval Hospital* in Maryland." *St. Petersburg Times (New York Herald Tribune)* [Filed Medical]

**11/29/63** Mr. Gerald A. Behn, Special Agent in Charge, White House Detail, United States Secret Service, was interviewed at his office ... Mr. Behn was questioned concerning the section of the President's skull, which was brought to the National Navy Medical Center at Bethesda, MD after the autopsy was in progress. He advised that this section, which was measured by the Doctor performing the autopsy as being 10 x 6.5 centimeters, was found in the Presidential car on the floor between the front and rear seats. 29 Nov. 1963 - (date of report; dictated 11/27/63.) FBI report by JFK Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., and James W. Sibert, given by *Inquest*, Epstein, Bantam ed., 21 Sept. 1966, p. 171.

**11/30/63** Dallas - Perry decided further help in breathing was needed. The first bullet had opened the windpipe. Dr. Perry inserted a tube through the bullet hole. *UPI*, Bryce Miller

**12/63** Past the book warehouse the President turned to his right to wave to someone. Just as his car passed behind the road sign shown in the foreground the first bullet struck him in the neck. He clutched at his throat. ... With the first bullet still lodged in him, the President slumped forward in his seat and down toward his wife. At the same time the second shot struck Gov. Connally. ... Then the assassin fired a third time. Oswald's last bullet, fired at a range of more than 250 feet about two seconds after the shot which hit the governor, struck the President in the rear right part of his head. *Life*, Memorial Edition, Pictures attributed to Dallas clothing manufacturer

**12/1/63** ...But, as a surgeon said later, the fight was hopeless. "For all practical purposes he was dead when the bullets struck. Either wound was lethal."

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"We never had any hope of saving his life," said brain specialist Dr. Kemp Clark. The rifle bullet that struck the President's head destroyed most of the tissue in a large area.

One of the bullets struck President Kennedy in the throat at the approximate level of a necktie knot. It ranged downwards into his body and didn't emerge. The second smashed into the right rear of his head and was the more lethal of the two wounds, although either could have been fatal.

The bullet that struck the President's head apparently was recovered at the hospital. ... *Long Beach Independent-Press Telegram. Three Days in Dallas*, by Bill Hunter.

**12/2/63** ... The assassin killed President Kennedy with a single shot from a powerful .30 caliber rifle. The bullet struck in the neck and emerged from the back of the head. *U.S. News & World Report*, p. 32, *The Tragic End of John Kennedy*

**12/6/63** ... The description of the president's two wounds by a Dallas doctor who tried to save him have added to the rumors. The doctor said one bullet passed from back to front on the right side of the President's head. But the other, the doctor reported, entered the president's throat from the front and then lodged in his body.

Since by this time the limousine was 50 yards past Oswald and the President's back was turned almost completely to the sniper, it has been hard to understand how the bullet could enter the front of his throat. Hence the recurring guess that there was a second sniper somewhere else. But the 8mm film shows the President turning his body around to the right as he waves to someone in the crowd. His throat is exposed -- towards the sniper's neat -- just before he clutches it. ... *Life, End to Nagging Rumors*, by Paul Mandel.

**12/9/63** Article titled *Parkland Hospital; the medical story. Doctors describe their grim 50 hours. Medical Tribune and Medical News*

**12/9/63** Justice Department sends Warren Commission its report on the assassination and subsequent killing of Oswald. [See Warren Commission, 12/3/63 ff.]

**12/14/63** John Kennedy already had been stripped of his jacket, shirt and T-shirt, and a staff doctor was starting to place an endotracheal tube down the throat. Oxygen would be forced down the tube. Breathing was the first thing to attack. The President was not breathing.

The chest was not moving. And there was no apparent heartbeat inside it. The wound in the throat was small and neat. Blood was running out of it. It was running out too fast. The occipito-parietal, which is a part of the back of the head, had a huge flap. The damage a rifle bullet does as it comes out of a person's body is unbelievable. Bleeding from the head wound covered the

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floor.

There was a mediastinal wound in connection with the bullet hole in the throat. This means air and blood were being packed together in the chest. Perry called for a scalpel. He was going to start a tracheotomy, which is opening the throat and inserting a tube into the windpipe. The incision had to be made below the small bullet wound.

... While Perry worked on the throat, he said, quietly, "Will somebody put a right chest tube in, please."

The tube was to be inserted so it could suction out the blood and air packed in the chest and prevent the lung from collapsing. *Saturday Evening Post*, p. 30, *A Death in Emergency Room No. One*, Jimmy Breslin

**12/17/63** Dr. W. Kemp Clark, attending physician, is quoted in 12/9 issue of *American Medical Association News* (p. 8) as saying "There was a large wound on the right posterior cranium and evident underlying brain damage. There was also a smaller wound in the anterior midline of the lower neck." *AP* message, to Washington from Houston

**12/17/63** Washington, Dec. 16 - The (FBI) report takes a firm position against various reports that at least one of the bullets that hit Mr. Kennedy had come from in front of him.

Such a theory would conflict with the fact that Oswald was allegedly firing from a window above and behind the President.

The FBI report said the shots came from that window. It said Mr. Kennedy was hit by two bullets, one where the right shoulder joins the neck and the other in the right temple. *New York Times*

**12/17/63** Washington - The findings of pathologists who conducted a post mortem examination of Kennedy's body at the Bethesda, MD., Naval Hospital have not been made public. However, a source familiar with the results gave the following account: The first bullet made what was described as a small, neat wound in the back and penetrated two or three inches. The source said that this bullet struck no vital organs and was not likely to have inflicted a fatal wound. He raised the possibility that it might have ricocheted off some portion of the limousine before striking the President because it did not penetrate deeply. The second bullet to strike Kennedy, the source said, entered the back of the skull and tore open his forehead.

Doctors who tried to revive Kennedy at Parkland Hospital initially reported two wounds - one in the back of the head and a second in the throat. These physicians never saw the wound in the back, apparently because Kennedy was lying on his back on an emergency room table during the entire time they were ministering to him. Many observers were puzzled from the outset by the report of a throat wound, since it was well established that the assassin was firing from above and behind the President. The pathologists at Bethesda, the source said, concluded that the throat wound was caused by the emergence of a metal fragment or piece of bone stemming from the fatal shot in the head. *AP*, Frank Cormier, 12:13 a.m. EST

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**12/17/63** Washington - President Kennedy was shot twice, both times from the rear. He could readily have survived the first bullet, which was found deep in his shoulder. The second bullet to hit the President, however, tore off the right rear portion of his head so destructively as to be "completely incompatible with life." A fragment was deflected and passed out the front of the throat, creating an erroneous belief that he may have been shot from two angles.

These are the findings of the pathologists who performed the autopsy on the President's body the night of 11/22 at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Their report is still not official.

The first shot, hitting him high in the back shoulder, [CE 903] caused a hematoma (a pooling of blood) inside the neck and shoulder muscles, but no critical harm. The fatal bullet smashed off the lower right back side (occipito-parietal region) of the head.

The disclosure that a bullet hit the President in the back shoulder, five to seven inches below the collar line, came as a complete surprise to the doctors at the Dallas hospital. The President, they said, was on his back from the moment he was brought into the hospital until the body was covered with a sheet after the death pronouncement. Dr. James Carrico, the hospital's resident in surgery, and first to examine the President, confirmed the fact that the back wound was not observed.

The Dallas doctors admittedly were in disagreement. Some believed the President had been shot twice, the neck wound being from a glancing hit. But one of the surgeons explained over television that he was shot only once, and that a fragment from the bullet that hit his head coursed downward and emerged from the front of the throat. *Times-Post Service*

**12/19/63** Dr. Malcolm O. Perry ... said today that physicians ... noted that he had been wounded in the throat and head but did not seek to trace the course of the bullets.

He said the President was on his back from the time he arrived at the hospital until his body was removed. *New York Times*, p. 5

**12/19/63** Washington, Dec. 18 - Description of what pathologists were said to have found in an autopsy on President Kennedy's body (Bethesda): The account, printed in *The Washington Post*, gave detailed support to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's finding that two bullets had hit Mr. Kennedy from the rear. The FBI came to this conclusion in its report on the assassination.

The pathologists were said to have found that a first bullet hit the President in the back of the right shoulder, five to seven inches below the collar-line. [See CE 903] The bullet lodged in the body. ... it caused a hematoma, or a pooling of blood, inside the neck and shoulder muscles.

The second shot, it was said, hit the right rear of Mr. Kennedy's head and caused such destruction as to be "completely

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incompatible with life." A fragment of this bullet, according to the report, passed out the front of the throat. This presumably would account for various reports suggesting - on the basis of the hurried observations of doctors in Dallas after the shooting ... that there was an "entry wound" in the front of the throat. ... The FBI, in its report ... stated flatly that both bullets had come from the window where Oswald assertedly was. *New York Times*, p. 5

**12/20/63**

Washington - The bullet that killed President Kennedy may have ricocheted off the President's automobile before striking him on the back of the head, an expert on wound ballistics said yesterday. ... Or the assassin may have used soft-nosed, incompletely jacketed hunting-type bullets in an effort to produce maximum size wounds, Dr. James Beyer said.

Dr. Beyer, a pathologist at Arlington, VA, hospital who formerly was with the Army Surgeon General's office [wrote the section on wound ballistics in the Army's official medical history of World War II], is not connected in any way with the Kennedy case.

But he said that these possibilities concerning either the course or character of the fatal bullet appear to offer about the only satisfactory explanation for the extent of the President's lethal wound as described by Dallas doctors who attended him minutes after the shooting - and by a reliable source familiar with findings of a still-unannounced autopsy report.

... Dr. Beyer also had this to say: "I'm still surprised at the reported size of the head wound if a normal, completely jacketed, military type bullet was used - and if it did not strike some object, such as a portion of the President's limousine, before hitting the President's head."

Ordinarily, he said, a military-type bullet, if fired from a range of about 100 yards as the fatal bullet apparently was, would cause only a relatively small wound at the point of entry, and would not necessarily cause extensive damage inside the skull. In contrast, he said, a soft-nosed hunting-type bullet - whose soft nose tends to "mushroom out" after striking a target - would cause a head wound of the devastating type described even though the initial entrance wound was not large. Also, he said, if an ordinary military-type bullet was used and "just grazed" a portion of the limousine before striking the President - without losing much of its energy - the slight instability imparted to the missile by the ricochet could have resulted in the large wound described. *AP*

**12/21/63**

The central problem - the fact that the President was wounded in the front of the throat ... remains. *Life* and *Newsweek* place the President's car 170 and 150 feet past the turn at the time of the first shot: a shorter distance than our estimate, but much too distant from the window for a shot through the front of the neck. *Life* (12/6) recognizes this problem, but solves it by saying that the President was turning far to the right at the moment of impact [in spite of his brace]. This explanation appears to fail for two reasons. First, *Life's* own pictures of the event in the issue of 11/29 show the President looking straight ahead. Second, Elm Street curves left as it passes the warehouse building ... in such a way that when the first bullet struck, the President's back was to the window. In order for a bullet to have entered "the mid-section of the front part of his neck" the President would have had to turn completely around just before the shot was fired. *The New Republic*, *Seeds of Doubt*, last paragraph by Jack Minnis and Staughton Lynd



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- 12/21/63** ... The hospital authorities also stated, according to [John] Berbers [See Secret Service, 11/27] [*New York Times*] that "the medical report of President Kennedy's assassination, written in longhand by Dr. [Kemp] Clark, chief of neurosurgery at *Parkland*, had been given to the Secret Service and the hospital had no copy." ... *The New Republic, Seeds of Doubt*, by Jack Minnis and Staughton Lynd, p. 80-9 of typed copy.
- 12/21/63** Dr. Robert McClelland, one of the three doctors who worked on the throat wound, told me afterward that they still believed it to be an entry wound, even though the shots were said to have been fired from almost directly behind the President. *The New Republic*, Richard Dudman, Commentary of an Eyewitness
- 12/21/63** ...If the entry wound in the throat presents any problem to the FBI in analyzing the crime, the agency has not indicated this by its actions. Dr. McClendon said a few days ago (12/9) that no official investigators, from the FBI or anywhere else, had questioned the surgeons at *Parkland Hospital* about their observation of the throat wound.
- Conclusions reached in a post-mortem at Bethesda would have questionable validity. The doctors at Dallas had made their incision through the bullet hole in performing a tracheotomy in an effort to restore satisfactory breathing. the hole was slightly below the Adam's apple, at the precise point where a tracheotomy normally is performed. Changes in tissue in the several hours before the body reached Bethesda, moreover, would have increased difficulty of reconstructing the path of the bullet. *The New Republic*, Commentary of an Eyewitness, by Richard Dudman, last 2 paragraphs. *The New Republic, Commentary of an Eyewitness*, by Richard Dudman, last 2 paragraphs
- 12/23/63** The autopsy report on President Kennedy indicates that the assassin's first bullet struck just above the right scapula, emerged [fragment?] in the lower third of the anterior neck, and would not have caused a fatal wound, *Medical Tribune*] has learned.
- While results of the postmortem examination [at Bethesda] had not been released to the public, the contents of the report became known....
- ....The second bullet (third shot from the assassin rifle...) struck President Kennedy in the occipito-parietal region of the head. It was a tangential blow that avulsed the calvarium and shredded brain tissue as the bullet left the skull on a glancing course. *Medical Tribune and Medical News*, New York
- 12/28/63** Dallas physicians who treated President Kennedy's throat wound have reversed themselves, calling it an exit instead of an entry wound as they first had said.
- Their revised opinion brings them into line with the report of an autopsy made at the United States Naval Hospital at Bethesda, MD, and the FBI's report on the assassination, now in the hands of the special commission headed by Chief Justice Warren. Neither document has been made public, but both have been widely leaked to quell suspicions that Lee Harvey Oswald may not

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have been the only sniper who fired at the President.

Two Secret Service agents called on the Dallas surgeons and obtained the reversal. (No officials had questioned the doctors until that visit). They did so by showing the doctors a document described as the autopsy report. It told of another wound, where the right shoulder met the back of the neck, and said the bullet entered there and went out through the front of the throat.

Dr. Robert N. McClelland and Dr. Malcolm Perry, who had originally called the throat wound an entry wound, now agree that the shot came from behind, as did the second shot, which struck Gov. John Connally, and the third, which tore a gaping hole the back of the President's head. Dr. McClelland has explained the original estimate by pointing out that the doctors in Dallas had charge of the President only 22 minutes, that they were; concerned with trying to save his life rather than trace the courses of the bullets, and that they had no time for a complete examination and no knowledge of the circumstances of the shooting. *The New Republic, Where the Shots Came From*

**1/64** Description of emergency measures carried out. *Texas State Journal of Medicine*

**1/64** ... The third and last shot hit the back of the President's head about ear-level, as he was bowed forward.

"His head exploded in blood," said James Chaney, a motor-cycle patrolman who was six feet away. *The Torch is Passed*, p. 13

**1/64** [In Emergency Room One] the President lay ... on a wheeled aluminum litter. He was stripped to the waist, shoes off, the brace for his bad back still on. Surgeon James Carrico was already at work on him. . *The Torch is Passed*, p. 14

**1/3/64** As to the story ... that the wound in the throat was caused by the bullet's exit: "Dr. Perry recently said (this is unpublished) he knows more than he is now permitted to say; he understands that the bullet was fired from the rear and that this will tie up the whole FBI case, and his present position under these circumstances is that he is satisfied that it may have been an exit wound." [Verbatim, Mark Lane.] No attribution.

**1/4/64** *Washington News* column on autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Item titled *Kennedy shot twice in back*, says, "The first bullet did not go through his body and was recovered during the autopsy." *Journal of the A.M.A.*

**4/1/64** ... 12:45 p.m. Motorcycle Patrolman J. M. Chaney provides *KLIF* with the first eyewitness account.

"On the first shot we thought it was a motorcycle backfire. I looked to my left and saw President Kennedy looking back over his left shoulder. And when the second shot struck him in the face we knew someone was ... [hesitates] ... shooting at the President.

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"When you saw the bullet hit him, what did he do?"

"He slumped forward in the car. He fell forward into the seat there ..." From notes taken in 4/64 from *The Fateful Hours*, a Capitol Custom record (RB-2278) by *KLIF*, Dallas, issued earlier in the year. (taped copy in files).

**5/30/64**

Dallas, May 29 - Television station *KRLD* said today that the Warren Commission's report ... would show that the first bullet hit both the President and Gov. John B. Connally, Jr. and that the third shot went wild.

Previous thinking had been that the first bullet hit the President, the second hit the Governor and the third fatally wounded Mr. Kennedy.

In a copyrighted story, *KRLD* said it had also learned that the commission's report ... would show the following: The first bullet entered the President's body slightly above the right collar bone and exited just to the left [*UPI story (San Francisco Chronicle, 5/30)* says - attributing to *KRLD-TV* - that the first bullet exited from the President's neck just to the right of the tie knot.] of the tie knot, then entered the body of Governor Connally just above the fifth rib.

The second bullet struck the President in the back of the head.

The third bullet followed a much flatter trajectory than the first two, because the motorcade was moving down a sloping street, and it struck a manhole cover, then ricocheted off the curb and was never found.

Medical opinion in the commission's report will show that chances for the President's recovery from the first wound would have been excellent. Also, had the first hit been a fraction lower, the force of the bullet would probably have knocked the President to the floor of the car and removed him from the line of sight for the second - and fatal - shot. *New York Times, AP* [filed Warren Commission]

**6/64**

(Discussion of soft-jacketed and steel-jacketed bullets, and resulting wounds.) Wasky [Filed Rifle]

**6/6/64**

Story on "current version" of wounding of JFK and Connally, one bullet through both: The commission released the new version of the bullet episode in what has now become characteristic fashion: a news leak, given this time to Dallas television station *KRLD*. The station also received exclusive rights to a photograph of the FBI re-enactment of the assassination, with a broken line indicating how the bullet entered both men. Judging from the picture, it appears impossible for the fragment to have "exited just to the left of the tie knot."

.... The new version of the shooting ... can only have been divulged to the Dallas television station to prepare the American public

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as quietly as possible to accept what appears to be yet another rationalization before it is officially promulgated. *National Guardian* [Filed Guardian]

**6/8/64** Tokyo -- Glenn Troelstrup's interview with special security agent Atsuyuki Sassa.

...Said agent Sassa: "President Kennedy was hit by a steel-jacketed high-powered bullet. It hit the back of the skull, pushing ahead a skull fragment the size of a quarter through the side of his brain.

"A sliver off the bullet came out of the lower left of the neck, giving rise to early speculation that it was from a shot made from in front of the car."

Sassa continued: "President Kennedy was dead before he arrived at the hospital. If he had not been a President, no doctor would have tried an operation."

... "The bullet sliver wound on the President's neck left a scar so clean it was overlooked at first. Then it was thought it might be an entrance wound from a shot fired in front of the President's car. Later, however, the sliver was found on the car floor. Its route was traced in the autopsy. But even without that evidence, to make such a wound from the front the assassin would have had to lie on the pavement ahead of the car. Also his shot would have had to penetrate the front windshield."

No shot from a nearby bridge could have made such a hit." *U.S. News & world Report*, p. 38. *New Light on the Assassination: A Secret Agent's Story*.

**9/28/64** Description of JFK wounds, citing small wound in neck and one in back to the right of the spine (cites autopsy report) "the second primary wound was at the base of the back of the neck to the right of the spine, according to the autopsy report. *San Francisco Chronicle New York Times Service*

**9/28/64** Story on Warren Report account of Jacqueline Kennedy's reactions in car at time of shooting, including mention of two wounds and her attempt to climb out over back of car which was thwarted by Secret Service agent Clint Hill. *San Francisco Chronicle* Washington, Unattributed

**9/28/64** Detailed account of JFK wounds from Warren Report and supplements.

Says X-rays of the three skull fragments found on the street and in the car were listed as showing minute metallic fragments.

"According to its charter, the *Armed Forces Institute of Pathology* will be repository for these specimens, as well as the bullet recovered, although this is not mentioned in the *Warren Report*. The usual protocol is that they will be kept from public view for

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decades, usually until the President's close relatives have died." *Washington Star*, William Grigg

- 1-3/65** Pioneering, basic analysis of Warren Report and supplements evidentiary material on the shots, trajectories and wounds, time factors and testimony -- all leading to conclusions different from those of the Report. *Liberation*, 2 issues, *The Warren Report?* by Vincent J. Salandria.
- 10/3/64** One of the most remarkable aspects of this remarkable document is the admission that the doctors agreed initially that the President had been shot in the throat and that that wound was an entrance wound. The Commission then asserts, in referring to the autopsy, that "the doctors traced the course of the bullet through the body and, as information was received from Parkland Hospital, concluded that the bullet had emerged from the front portion of the President's neck that had been cut away by the tracheotomy at Parkland" (page 60). In other words, the doctors at Parkland thought the wound in the throat was an entrance wound, and as soon as information in their possession was presented to the doctors performing the autopsy, the latter concluded that the wound was an exit wound. *National Guardian*, Mark Lane
- 05/28/66**, et seq. Contradiction between Warren Republic and FBI on JFK's back wound, see book reviews of: *Inquest*, Edward Jay Epstein, *Whitewash*, Harold Weisberg [Beginning 6/26/68]
- 05/28/66** Contradiction between Warren Report and FBI reports of 12/9/63 and 1/13/64, on location of back wound. See 903, Hearings, XVIII, p. 96. *Times-Post Service*, Richard Harwood
- 05/30/66** If the FBI statements [in its reports of 12/9/63 and 1/13/64] are not errors, they could unhinge the central conclusion of the commission report: that Lee Harvey Oswald was probably the sole assassin. An FBI spokesman Sunday said, however, that the statements are in error. *Los Angeles Times*, Robert J. Donovan See Chronology, 7/28/66, Popkin.
- 6/13/66** ... Advance copies of the Epstein book were barely in circulation last week when commission staffers mounted a point-by-point defense. ... Actually, one top-ranking staffer said, the autopsy report and photos went to the Secret Service, not the FBI. The FBI version was not an autopsy report at all but hardly more than hearsay: it came from two agents who watched part of the autopsy, heard the doctors talk of their difficulty in tracing the bullet's path, and dashed out to phone in their incomplete report of a "back" wound. The doctors, meanwhile, continued probing, found evidence that the bullet had passed through the President's neck and said so in their official report. One staff higher-up who saw that report on 12/20 - months before the single-shot theory was even advanced - now says flatly: "It was identical with the one in the *Warren Report*." *Newsweek*
- 6/20/66** Discussion of anatomical facts and trajectory. *The Nation*, p. 740, 741, Fred J. Cook
- 7/11/66** ... There exists material evidence - the photographs and X rays taken at Bethesda - which could settle almost all the major

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differences of opinion concerning the wounds. The photographs would pinpoint the location of the back wound ... [They] could also show alleged wounds unaccounted for in the autopsy, such as the exit wound of a bullet entering the throat, and they would reveal details of the complex wound in Kennedy's temple. And the X rays would determine, once and forever, if any unaccounted for bullets or bullet fragments lodged in Kennedy's body. Bullets are as clear in an X ray as a spoon ... *The Nation*, p. 45, Jacob Cohen

**7/11/66** This much may be learned from the public record: In the half hour before the autopsy examination some "15-20 photographs both black and white and color" were taken, "depicting significant findings." Also, "10-12 X-rays" were made at this time, and "perhaps 15-20 more X-rays were made during the autopsy." I quote from the testimony (Hearing II, p. 348 et seq.) of Dr. J.J. Humes, ... who went on to say ... that these films were used "extensively" during the autopsy examination. Soon after the autopsy was concluded, all films were turned over to Agent Roy H. Kellerman of the Secret Service by Humes's superior, Captain J.H. Stover, Jr., and Kellerman then brought them to the White House where he turned them over to Special Agent Robert Bouck [reference given].

... On December 6, 1963, Captain (then Commander) Humes submitted a "Supplementary Autopsy Report" (Exhibit No. 391) Captain Stover containing the results of microscopic examination of Kennedy's brain, heart and sections of the abdominal organs. In this report Humes writes: During the course of this examination seven (7) black and white and six (6) color 4 x 5 negatives are /sic/ exposed but not developed (the cassettes containing these negatives have been delivered by hand to Rear Admiral George W. Burkley, MC, USN, White House Physician).

We are not told whether the thirteen photographs mentioned here were taken in the laboratory, or are the same ones which were taken and exposed in the morgue at Bethesda on the night of the assassination. If they were taken in the laboratory, there are twenty-eight to thirty-three photographs extant, and twenty-five to thirty-two X rays. If they were taken the night of the assassination, the missing photographs number from fifteen to twenty. *The Nation*, p. 45, Jacob Cohen

**7/11/66** ...Nor had the Commission's principal ballistics expert, FBI scientist Robert Frazier, seen the X rays or even the autopsy before testifying on 5/13/64 ... (Hearings V, p. 71).

... Epstein states categorically that the "autopsy report was forwarded to the FBI" before it submitted its report on December 9, 1963. He adds that the "FBI had color photographs of the autopsy." But his only citation for these statements is an interview with Francis W. H. Adams of the commission staff. When I called Mr. Adams to check, he told me that he did not remember talking to Epstein, did not have Epstein's name on his calendar for July 8, 1965, the date Epstein claims the interview took place and, most important, that he had no knowledge whatsoever of whether or not the FBI had seen the autopsy and photographs. *The Nation*, p. 46, Jacob Cohen

**8/10/66** Epstein: If this report was to be a report of all the facts, so there should be no more doubts whatsoever, and the whole truth about

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the Kennedy assassination, they should have said that there was a contradiction between the FBI and the final autopsy report, and that they had not seen the photographs to resolve it, and they could also have said that they believed the autopsy doctors. Interview of Epstein by Elsa Knight Thompson and Frank Killspaugh, *WBAI*, New York (no date), rebroadcast by *KPFA*, Berkeley. Partial transcript [Filed Warren Report, Comment.]

**8/11/66** ... I know that some lawyers on the Commission - one in particular was on the verge of tears when he found out that they wouldn't have the autopsy photographs to work from. And the reason I'm bringing this out is that this whole question of where the bullets struck the President ... could be settled in a matter of minutes, even today, by looking at the autopsy photographs. And the autopsy photographs are undeveloped, as far as I know, and they are in color, which means in about five years they will decompose and you won't be able to tell anything from them. Which means that three years have now passed, which means that in a few years, unless these photographs are developed, the mystery will remain a mystery forever, but today it's still in the realm of ascertainable knowledge exactly where the bullet hit the President. Tape not kept, excerpt of discussion, [Filed Warren Commission] Edward Jay Epstein, interview by Elsa Knight Thompson Frank Millspaugh, *WBAI*, NY; broadcast by *KPFA*, 8/10/66

**8/13/66** ... Nothing in the whole story of the Warren Commission seems in retrospect more remarkable than its failure to demand to see the photographic evidence which would have shown not only the full details of the wounds on the President's body, but also presumably the path of the crucial bullet. *San Francisco Chronicle*, from *London Observer*, Anthony Howard [Filed, Lane, Epstein]

**Fall 66** Portion of an exchange between Sylvia Meagher and Burt W. Griffin, assistant counsel, Warren Commission, on FBI report on autopsy:

Meagher: Mr. Griffin, were you suggesting a moment ago that the FBI report was mistaken?

Griffin: Certainly.

Meagher: [You are agreeing?] the FBI report was mistaken?

Griffin: Certainly. Certainly. ... That was our function, to find out whether they were mistaken, and we found so many mistakes in the FBI report that if we ever published a report on [that?] you people would really have a field day. ...

Meagher: Mr. Griffin, I was very curious to know whether the FBI report was mistaken, and so were some of my colleagues, and a letter was written to J. Edgar Hoover, specifically asking whether the FBI had ever retracted its report of the location of the wound and the nature of the wound in the back. His reply on 9/12 [no year mentioned] was that the FBI had never had any occasion to retract any [unintelligible because several panelists speaking at once] ... they are standing by that report. Panel discussion of

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Warren Report, *Theatre for Ideas*, New York. Following transcribed from tape, No. 51-52, at approx. 680' side I.

**10/6/66** Reveals text of report by two FBI agents, Francis X. O'Neill and James W. Sibert, who were present at autopsy of JFK, discovered in National Archives by Paul Hoch of Berkeley, CA. Dated 11/26/63

Their account describes the back wound below the shoulder blade, explored by Dr. Humes with his fingers downward 45 to 60 degrees, the end unfelt with the finger, no bullet present. Fragment of bullet found in brain. No mention of small entrance hole in back of head.

Thompson poses these questions: 1. How does a wound "below the shoulders and two inches to the right of the spinal column" become the nest wound pictured in CE385 and 386?

2. How does a wound whose terminus "could be felt with the finger" become a transit wound with its exit in the President's throat? Surely to "reconstruct" a wound in this fashion is to falsify it.

3. What happened to what O'Neill and Sibert described as "the next largest fragment" which they locate "at the rear of the skull at the juncture of the skull bone"? Nowhere in the autopsy report or in the testimony of any of the autopsy doctors do we find mention of this bullet fragment in the President's skull. This is a significant omission since the location of such a fragment might prove difficult to resolve with the official theory of a hit in the right occipital region exiting through the roof of the skull.

4. Why does O'Neill and Sibert's fully detailed report contain no mention of the small entry hole in the back of the President's head? .... *The New York Review of Books*, p. 29, letter to the editor, Josiah Thompson, Department of Philosophy, Haverford College, PA. [Reply bolstering letter from Popkin in 28 July Issue].

**10/6/66** When we pursue the matter of this head wound we find that O'Neill and Sibert were not alone in failing to notice it. For when we examine the testimony of the Dallas doctors and nurses together with that of the Secret Service and FBI agents who witnessed the autopsy, we find that [with the exception of an ambiguous answer from Roy Kellerman] no one except the three doctors who signed the autopsy report claim to have seen this entry hole in the President's head. Does it exist? I don't know. But there is a miraculously simple way to find out. The government need only produce the 11 X-rays, 22 color photos, and 18 black and white prints which O'Neill and Sibert report were taken during the autopsy. *The New York Review of Books*, p. 30, letter to the editor, Josiah Thompson, Department of Philosophy, Haverford College, PA

**10/6/66** Secret Service Agents Greer and Kellerman who were present at the autopsy described the wound as being in the shoulder [Hearings II, p. 81 and p. 27]. Kellerman further described the ... autopsy, when Colonel Finck was probing this shoulder wound, and Finck said, "There are no lanes for an outlet of this entry in this man's shoulder" [Hearings II, p. 93]. All of this definitely seems to confirm the FBI version of the autopsy. Further, at the conclusion of the autopsy, Secret Service Agent Hill was called in specifically to see where the wounds were, so that he could, if necessary, testify on this later on. Hill gave as his firsthand



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observation, "I saw an opening in the back about six inches below the neckline to the right-hand side of the spinal column" [Hearings II p. 143]. See CE 903. *New York Review of Books*, p. 32, Richard Popkin, in reply to letters to the editor.

- 10/6/66** ... there seems to be a further problem. Mr. Crawford mentions that in the "official" autopsy report, the doctors claim to have found bruises on the strap muscles and the lining of the chest cavity and a tear in the trachea. One wonders, in view of the Sibert-O'Neill data, and the testimony of Greer and Kellerman, when the doctors found those injuries. They are not mentioned in the Sibert-O'Neill report nor in the testimony of the Secret Service agents ... *New York Review of Books*, p. 32, Richard Popkin, in reply to letters to the editor.
- 10/6/66** Reveal text of report, dated 11/26/63, by two FBI agents, Francis K. O'Neill and James W. Sibert, who were present at Autopsy of JFK, discovered in National Archives by Paul Hoch of Berkeley, CA.
- Account describes the back wound below the shoulder blade, explored by Dr. Humes with his finger, downward 45 to 60 degrees, the end unfelt with the finger, no bullet present. Fragment of bullet found in brain. No mention of small entrance hole in back of head.
- Thompson poses these questions: 1, How does a wound "below the shoulders and two inches to the right of the spinal column" become the neck wound pictured in CE385 and 386?
2. How does a wound whose terminus "could be felt with the finger" become a transit wound with its exit in the President's throat? Surely to "reconstruct" a wound in this fashion is to falsify it.
3. What happened to what O'Neill and Sibert described as "the next largest fragment" which they locate at "the rear of the skull at the juncture of the skull bone"? Nowhere in the autopsy report or in the testimony of any of the autopsy doctors do we find mention of this bullet fragment in the President's skull. This is a significant omission since the location of such a fragment might prove difficult to resolve with the official theory of a hit in the right occipital region exiting through the roof of the skull.
4. Why does O'Neill and Sibert's fully detailed report contain no mention of the small entry hole in the back of the President's head ? ...  
*The New York Review of Books*, p. 29, letter to the editor, Josiah Thompson, Dept. of Philosophy, Haverford College, PA. (bolstering letter from Popkin in 7/28 Issue).
- 10/15/66** ... Lane /speaking at Stanford, 10/14 displayed a letter from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover confirming that two key frames in motion pictures of the assassination were transposed before publication by the Warren Commission.
- As published, these show Mr. Kennedy slumping forward, but the correct sequence as determined by photographic experts, Lane

## Wounds, JFK

said, shows the late President was pushed back by the impact of one bullet, which could only have been fired from in front of his limousine.

When we pursue the matter of this head wound we find that O'Neill and Sibert were not alone in failing to notice it. For when we examine the testimony of the Dallas doctors and nurses together with that of the Secret Service and FBI agents who witnessed the autopsy, we find that (with the exception of an ambiguous answer from Roy Kellerman) no one except the three doctors who signed the autopsy report claim to have seen this entry hole in the President's head. Does it exist? I don't know. But there is a miraculously simple way to find out. The government need only produce the 11 X-rays, 22 color photos, and 18 black and white prints which O'Neill and Sibert report were taken during the autopsy. *San Francisco Examiner*

**10/24/66** Argues that JFK wearing an extra stiff back brace which prevented his slumping when first hit and which made possible his being hit a second time.

See also *AP* and *Examiner* news accounts based on same article, under 10/25 date.

Author says JFK "apparently sustained his second and fatal wound in the back of the right side of his head, only because of a pair of unusual coincidences ... The first was the fact that the telescopic sight of Oswald's rifle was aimed defectively, so that the bullets struck approximately 4 inches to the right of the aiming point and a little high. Coincidentally, however, the presidential automobile was following a course which curved to the right just enough to compensate for this error in the telescope, making it possible for Oswald to hit the President with two bullets in the course of some eight seconds." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, John K. Lattimer, MD, *Factors in the Death of President Kennedy*.

**11/25/66** Dr. Boswell says he has seen the X-rays and photographs and they confirm the wound at the back of the base of the neck, but he agrees with Dr. Fumes that the pictures cannot prove the single bullet theory. Explains his sketch [CE 903] showing the back wound farther down was a diagram error in rough working notes he would have been more careful about had he known they were going to be published. Says his measurements on the sketch still correct. *New York Times*, Peter Kihss

**12/66** Discusses in detail the conflict between the FBI and Commission versions of the back wound.

See also chart on p. 207, *How the Leading Theorists Answer the Leading Questions*. *Esquire*, Edward Jay Epstein, *Who's Afraid of the Warren Report?*

**12/12/66** Re: allegations that autopsy report was altered: denial by Commander J. Thornton Boswell, and explanation of conflict in FBI report of autopsy by "official FBI spokesman"; also comment by Norman Redlich and Alen Specter. *Look Magazine*, Fletcher Knebel, p. 71

**12/25/66** Rebuttal by the protagonist of the one bullet theory. *Life's* account explains Arlen Specter's reasons for the one-bullet theory and

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matches them against the evidence of the wounds in both JFK and Connally. Concludes [after reviewing briefly the main books critical of the Report] that there is reasonable doubt and that a new investigative body should be set up. *Life*, 48B

**1/14/67**

Just recently Specter admitted in an interview that he saw a single autopsy photograph under curious circumstances. Over the weekend of 5/23-24/64, the commission staged, at his insistence, an elaborate reenactment of the assassination in Dallas. Specter's sole concern was to gain support for the single-bullet theory. While in Dallas, Secret Service Inspector Thomas J. Kelley, who knew about Specter's arguments within the commission and perhaps sensed concealed doubts, drew him aside and privately showed him a photograph. "I saw one picture taken at the autopsy, which was not technically authenticated," Specter now says. "It showed the back of a body with a bullet hole, apparently of entry, where the autopsy report said it was." In the absence of the other pictures and of the autopsy doctors testifying under oath, the picture Specter saw proved little of anything. (See entire article, for wounds, autopsy, X-rays.) *Saturday Evening Post*, Richard J. Whalen, p. 69

**3/2/67**

Mrs. Martin, in open letter to Father Oscar Huber (who administered last rites to JFK), reproaches him for having denied he told her he saw a bullet hole in left temple. Says she interviewed him 11/22/64, and "you described ... what you thought to have been a bullet wound over President Kennedy's left eye. 'I took the sheet down to his nose,' you said, 'and I saw what I immediately thought to be a bullet hole on his forehead, above his left eye. I told a number of people when I got back that this must have killed him, but that night I heard that the man was behind him in the building, so I knew what I had seen was a blood clot.'" Shirley Martin in *Midlothian Mirror* [Also in Penn Jones' *Forgive My Grief, II*, p. 185]

**4/10/67**

Notes by listener on telephone interview of a Dr. David Stuart, Gallatin, TN., by *Joe Dolan* 4/10/67, 8:30 a.m. [See also tape of *Dolan's* follow up call to Dr. Stuart. *KNEW*, Oakland].

Stuart said he was at Parkland, worked on Connally and Oswald but not on JFK. Said all the doctors said JFK had left frontal entry wound and massive left rear exit wound, which squares with grassy knoll theory and impossible for Oswald to have done alone. Thinks Communist had most to gain.

**4/20/67**

... Regarding the Warren Commission controversy, Bundy said a large part of the speculation regarding the number of bullets fired at President John F. Kennedy and the number of Kennedy assassins was "built upon the assumption that the back of the human neck and its front are at almost the same height."

After stating that "in fact a line from the shoulder blade to the necktie knot may be level or downward," Bundy asked: "Is it not remarkable that in all the reviews of all the magazines and papers no one considered the simple observation" until it was reported this spring in the magazine *American Scholar*?

[Story on McGeorge Bundy, President of the *Ford Foundation*, speaking at a meeting of *the American Society of Newspaper Editors*.] AP A66WX

## Wounds, JFK

**11/24/67**

Dr. J. Thornton Boswell said in an interview that his sketch showing JFK's wound in the back was made in error and the wound actually was at the base of the neck, as verified when he saw the photographs the first time 11/1/66.

Said the sketch was not intended to be exact and that the longhand notes jotted down on the side gave the exact location. Said autopsy report was correct.

"... If I had known at the time that the sketch would become public record I would have been more careful." He said the diagram "was strictly a worksheet - the same as rough working notes. You could see that by looking at it. It was very dirty."

As for the FBI reports that the wound was in the back, Boswell said they were simply wrong. He noted that the FBI agents at the autopsy were not trained in medicine.

The autopsy report concluded that a single bullet hit both Kennedy and Connally, and Boswell said in the interview "there is absolutely no doubt in our minds now."

Boswell said he and the chief autopsy pathologist, Capt. J. J. Humes, have concluded that the autopsy photographs cannot prove the single bullet theory. Humes declined to discuss the autopsy. AP 139 acs, Story datelined Washington [Filed Archives]

**1/24/68**

Thompson said he had interviewed Dr. McClelland who told him that earlier report of a wound in the left temple was a mistake - there was no wound in left temple. Josiah Thompson, Interviewed by Owen Spann, *KGO*, Tape No. 66, at 350 feet [Sony 104]

See Medical file, 4/10/67, 1/24/68 - Dr. McClelland, Dr. David Stewart, Father Oscar Huber.