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Kennedy Autopsy: The 2nd Bullet Was Fatal

Medical Tribune Staff Report

The autopsy report on President Kennedy indicates that the assassin's first bullet struck just above the right scapula, emerged 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—which was conducted at the Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Md.—had not been released to the public, the contents of the report became known as a special investigative panel began to review facts on the assassination.

The first bullet hit no vital organs, according to a reliable report of the autopsy findings. This information agreed with an earlier opinion of surgeons at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, who said they believed they could have saved the President if he had received only the throat injury.

The neck wound had looked like an entry wound.

No one at Dallas is known to have noticed the first bullet entry wound in Mr. Kennedy's back. The autopsy disclosed a considerable hematoma in the suprascapular entry region.

The second bullet (third shot from the assassin's rifle, the second having hit Texas Governor John Connally) struck President Kennedy in the occipitoparietal 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.