

# Medical Report on the Assassination

## New York

There was no chance of saving President Kennedy's life after the assassin's bullet passed from the back of his head through the right side of the brain, according to the Warren Commission report.

This point, confirming what had been widely believed, was a major conclusion of the three doctors who performed an autopsy on the President six hours after his death.

They also confirmed that there were two bullet wounds, from shots fired from above and behind.

Findings of the autopsy were made public for the first time as an appendix to the Warren Commission report. The examination was performed at the Naval Medical School, Bethesda, Md.

Eyewitness accounts of the assassination have indicated that President Kennedy was struck first at the base of the neck and that the second shot tore open his head.

The autopsy described the bullet entering the skull as "the fatal missile."

As a concluding statement the doctors said: "It is our opinion that the wound of the skull produced such extensive damage to the brain as to preclude the possibility of the deceased surviving this injury."

The bullet hit the upper right portion of the back of the President's skull, ripped through the brain leaving mi-

nute traces of metal in its path. Part of it emerged farther to the front, carrying with it pieces of brain tissue, scalp and skull.

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. This was presumably the point of entry of the other bullet, the report said.

The President had arrived at Parkland Memorial Hospital at 12:35 p.m., central standard time, according to other documents in the commission's report. He was first seen by Dr. Charles Carrico, a resident in general surgery.

Dr. Carrico described the President as "blue-white or ashen in color." His breathing was slow, spasmodic and without any co-ordination. His eyes were open; the pupils were dilated and did not react to light. He had no pulse. A few chest sounds, thought to be heart beats, could be heard.

On these observations Dr. Carrico decided the President was alive, if only barely so. Two wounds could be seen; a small one in the front lower neck and a large one in the head where a sizable portion of the skull was missing (measurement later showed this wound measured more than five inches in its largest dimension).

Dr. Malcolm O. Perry, Assistant Professor of Surgery, reached the emergency room and took over the direction of

the fight to save the President's life. Altogether 12 doctors were on the scene. The medical team tried all the measures that might conceivably have saved the President's life. None of these measures was of any avail.

Finally, since there were no nervous, muscular or heart responses, the doctors concluded the efforts were hopeless.

Dr. William Kemp Clark officially declared the President dead at 1 p.m.

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