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By Peggy Simpson

DALLAS, Tex., Feb. 3 (AP)- Jack Ruby had eight brain tumors, one as large as a thumbnail, doctors said today, but they said it was highly unlikely they were there when Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald.

Ruby died Jan. 3, his body riddled with cancer but killed by a massive blood clot that spiraled from his right leg to his lungs, ruled county medical examiner Earl Rose.

Rose said at a news conference Ruby's cancer originated in the lungs and spread from there to the brain and other places.

"The question is, 'was ~~there~~ this tumor in the brain there in 1963?'" Rose said, referring to when Ruby gunned down Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

"I can't give you an answer -- cancer varies in its growth with the individual, but Ruby's x-rays in 1964 did not show a tumor of the lung and thus it could not have spread into the brain," Rose said.

Rose also said doctors found no evidence of epilepsy or of other brain disorders.

Ruby's defense at his 1964 trial, in which he was convicted of shooting to death Oswald, the man the Warren Commission said assassinated President Kennedy, was that he suffered a brain disorder.

Ruby's chief lawyer, Melvin Belli, claimed Ruby suffered from psychomotor epilepsy and was not responsible for his actions that Sunday Nov. 24, 1964, when he darted between policemen to fire a pistol bullet into Oswald during a jail transfer.

The jury did not believe Belli's theory and sentenced Ruby to death.

Texas' Court of Criminal Appeals last fall overturned Ruby's conviction and ordered a new trial held outside Dallas. Kennedy was killed in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963, and two days later Oswald was slain.

Ruby remained in the Dallas County jail, a block from the assassination site, while preparations were made for a second trial.

He complained to relatives and Sheriff Bill Decker of a tight chest and a persistent cold and Dec. 9, barely two months after his conviction was overturned, entered Parkland Hospital. The initial diagnosis was pneumonia, but the next day doctors found evidence of cancer.

He died less than a month later.

One of his autopsy physicians said he was convinced "this brain tumor is ~~fairly~~ fairly recent and had nothing to do with any prior events in Ruby's life. It rose after the lung condition was reasonably advanced. My personal belief is the tumor had nothing to do with whatever Mr. Belli thought was wrong with Ruby."

The autopsy doctor said the brain tumors came as a surprise "because they had not caused any obvious clinical manifestations or any disfunctioning."

But he added that "statistically this was not unexpected because this is a common spread from lung tumors."

Cell-lining cancer was found in the lungs, brain, regional lymph nodes, liver, pancreas, ribs and vertebra and right pleura.

The autopsy report also had these clinical glimpses of Ruby: . He was 5 feet 8½ inches tall weighed between 145 and 150 pounds, his brunette hair was greying and thinning, and on the morning he died he had a stubble of beard.

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