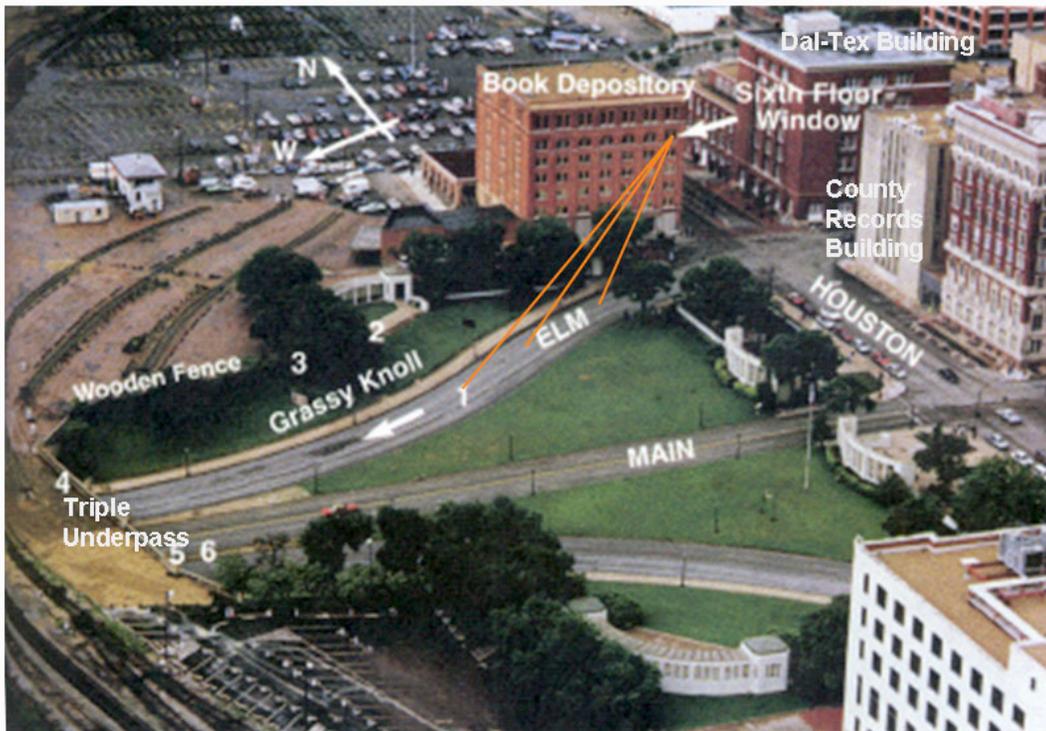


Chapter 30

Dealey Plaza Revisited: What Happened to JFK?

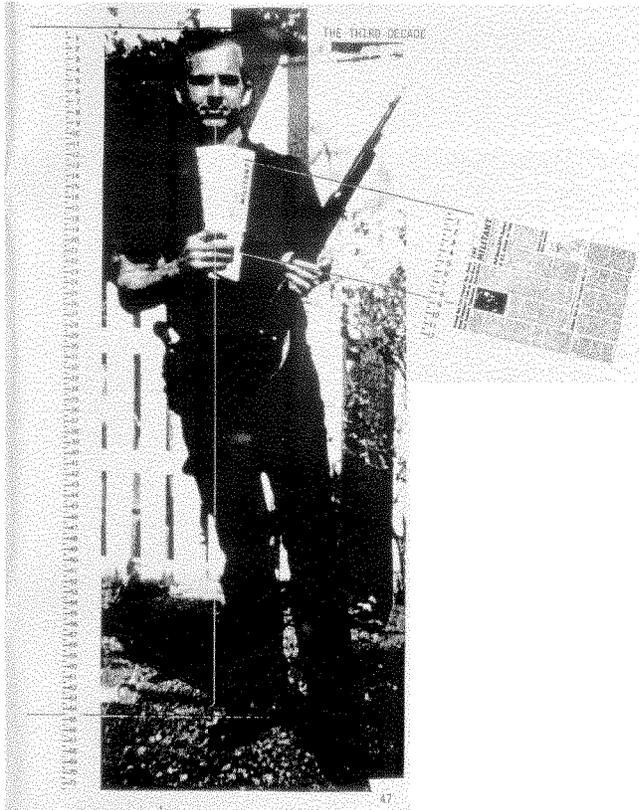
James H. Fetzer

The application of principles of scientific reasoning to the assassination of JFK can contribute to resolving any lingering questions over whether or not he was murdered as the result of a conspiracy. The likelihood L of an hypothesis h , if evidence e were true, is equal to the probability of e , if h were true. The hypotheses are viewed as possible causes of the evidence as effects. This assumes that evidence e includes all of the available relevant data, which may include findings that specific items of evidence have been planted, altered, or fabricated, discoveries that lend weight of their own. This chapter cannot exhaust the evidence in this case, but presents a sample sufficient to demonstrate that the conspiracy hypothesis has high likelihood and the lone assassin low. It should not have been necessary to frame a guilty man.



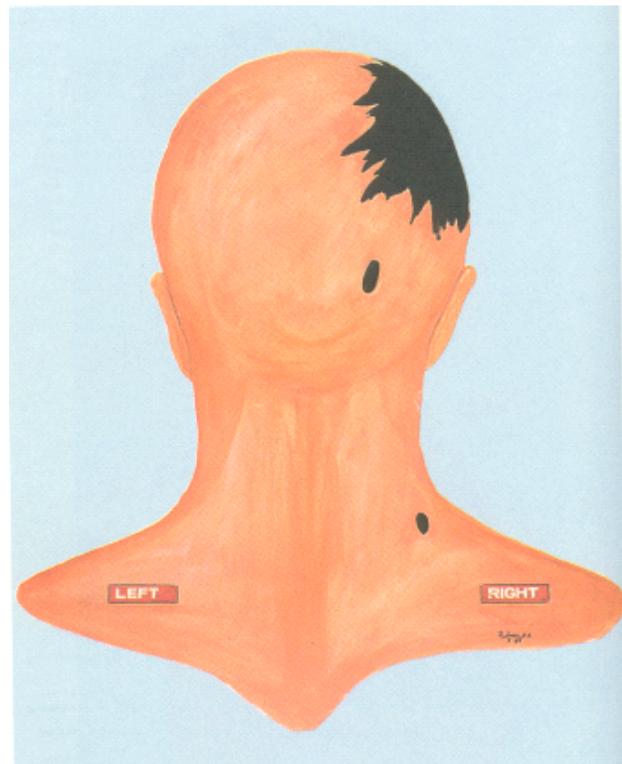
Stewart Galanor, *Cover-Up* (1968), Expanded

According to *The Warren Report* (1964), a lone gunman fired three shots from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building, scoring two hits and one miss, which injured a distant bystander, James Tague, who was observing from location #6. Prior to this discovery of a shot that had missed, even the commission supposed all three had hit--the first hit JFK in the back, the second hit Governor John Connally in the back, and the third hit JFK in the head, killing him.



The backyard photograph, which was published in *LIFE*, was a fake. His finger tips were cut off; the shadows from his nose and eyebrows were inconsistent with the shadow cast by his figure; the chin was not Oswald's pointed chin with a cleft but a block chin with an insert line. Jack White used the newspapers as an internal yardstick and discovered that either the person shown was only 5'6" tall--too short to be Oswald, who was 5'10"--or the image of the newspapers was too large.

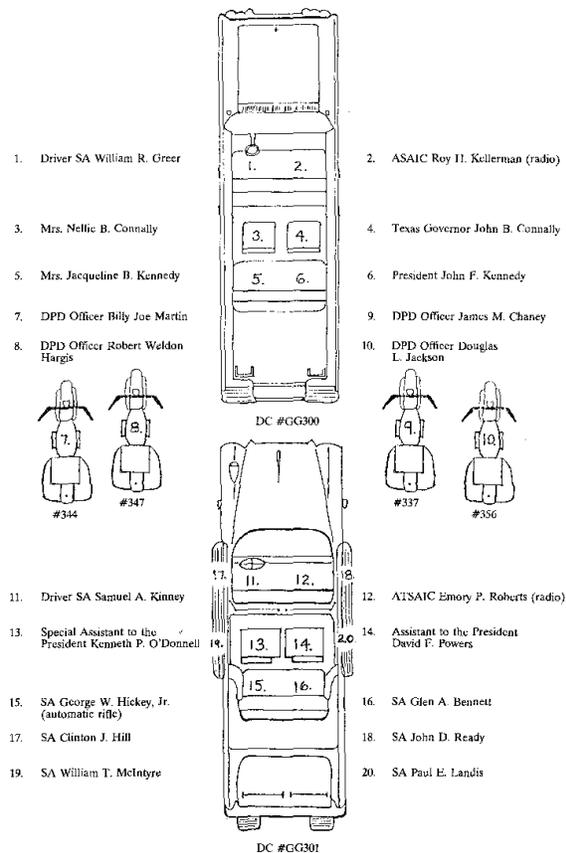
Two shots were widely reported on radio and television that day, one to the throat, the other to the right temple, which blew his brains out the back of his head. Nevertheless, when the Warren Commission would release its report nine months later, those trajectories had been reversed and JFK had only been hit at the base of the neck and the back of his head, thereby reducing as many as four or more hits to just these two.





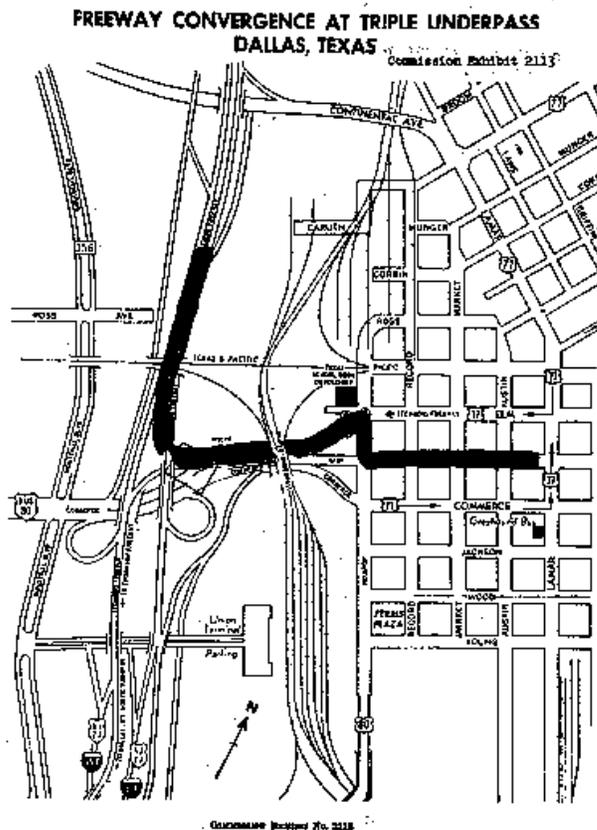
Two Secret Service agents, who would have accompanied the limousine, were left behind at Love Field by Emory Roberts, the Agent-in-Charge of the Presidential Protection Detail. Here one of them, Henry Rybka, expresses dismay at being called off.

The motorcycle escort was reduced to four, who were instructed not to ride forward of the rear wheels of the Presidential limousine. One of them observed that it was “the damnedest formation” he’d ever seen. JFK’s military aide, who normally sat between the driver and the agent-in-charge, was moved to the last vehicle along with the President’s personal physician.



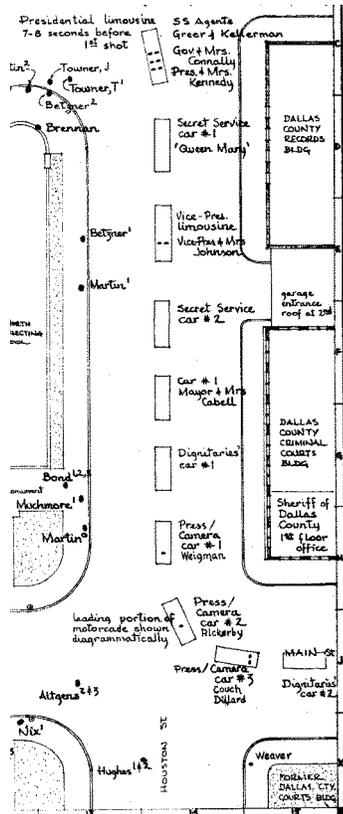
Richard Trask, *Pictures of the Pain* (1994)

There are more than fifteen indications of Secret Service complicity in setting JFK up for the hit. In addition to the agents being left behind at Love Field, the manhole covers were not welded, open windows were not covered, and the crowd was allowed to spill into the street.



Governor Connally was instrumental in making a change to the motorcade route on November 18, 1963, four days before the event.

Normally, a motorcade route, once fixed, is never changed, so the Secret Service can check every building and screen its occupants. This change brought the President past the Texas School Book Depository Building.



Most tellingly, the vehicles were in an improper sequence.

The Presidential limousine was placed first. Lower ranking dignitaries, such as the Mayor and the Vice

President, should have preceded him.

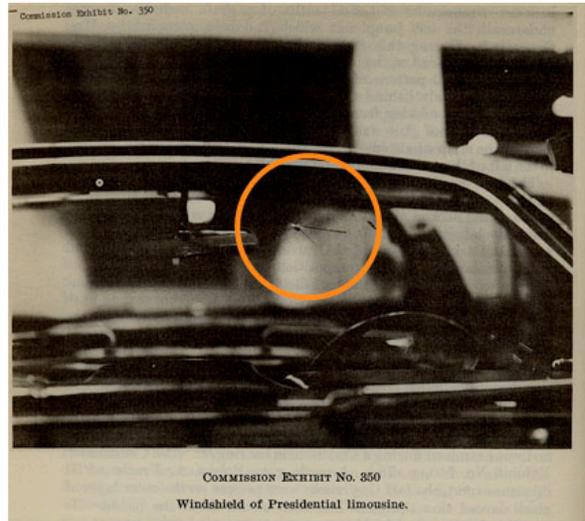
Reporters were moved to the rear and the President's personal physician to the last car, which put him in the worst location should his patient require emergency medical treatment.

Richard Sprague, *Computers and Automation* (May 1970)

At Parkland Hospital, where the moribund President was taken, a Secret Service agent took a bucket and sponge and began cleaning up the blood and brains from the limousine. When onlookers noticed a through-and-through hole in the windshield, the vehicle was moved.



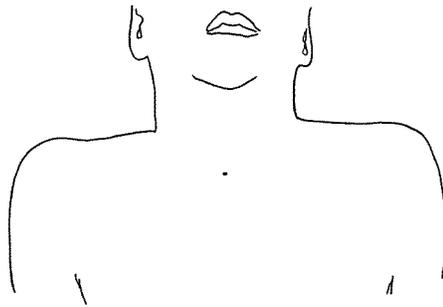
Richard Trask, *Pictures of the Pain* (1994)



By Monday, November 25, 1963, the day of the formal state funeral, the vehicle had been sent back to Ford to be completely stripped down to bare metal and rebuilt, including replacing the windshield, which had a bullet hole (the black spot at the center of the small, white spiral nebula) close to the right-center (facing the vehicle from the front). The Secret Service would produce yet a third, different windshield (with cracks) in its place to misrepresent the original damage.

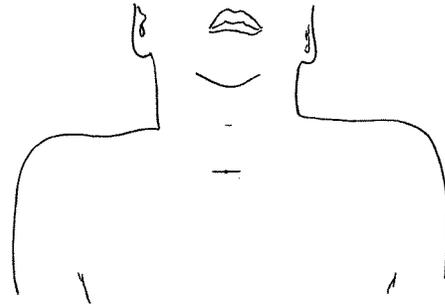


During a press conference at 3:15 PM, Malcolm Perry, M.D., who had performed a tracheotomy through a small wound in the President's throat, explained three times that the wound was a wound of entry. A transcript of this event would not be provided to the Warren Commission, but would be published in *Assassination Science* (1998).



ENTRANCE WOUND TO THROAT
 Anterior lower third of the neck (tracheal ring, 2") - Spherical in shape with sharp, smooth margins. (4-6mm in size, less than 1/4 inch)

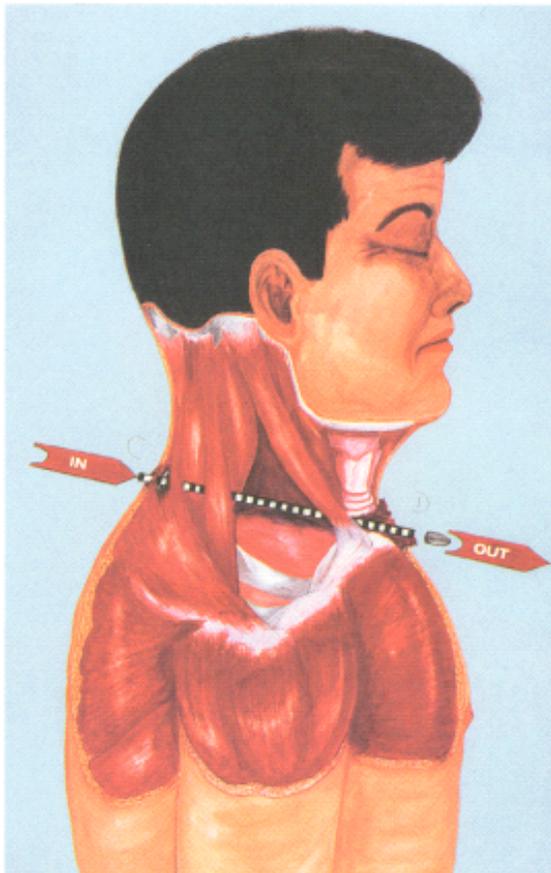
Charles A. Crenshaw
 10/6/63



ENTRANCE WOUND TO THROAT - POST TRACHEOSTOMY
 Post Tracheostomy - by Dr. Perry through the entrance wound. Incision was sharp, smooth, approximately 1 to 1 3/4 inches. (Incision edges were together.)

Charles A. Crenshaw
 10/6/63

Charles Crenshaw, M.D., who was present during the efforts to revive JFK at Parkland, drew these diagrams of the appearance of the throat wound before and after the tracheotomy incision, which are consistent with Dr. Perry's description of it as a wound of entry.



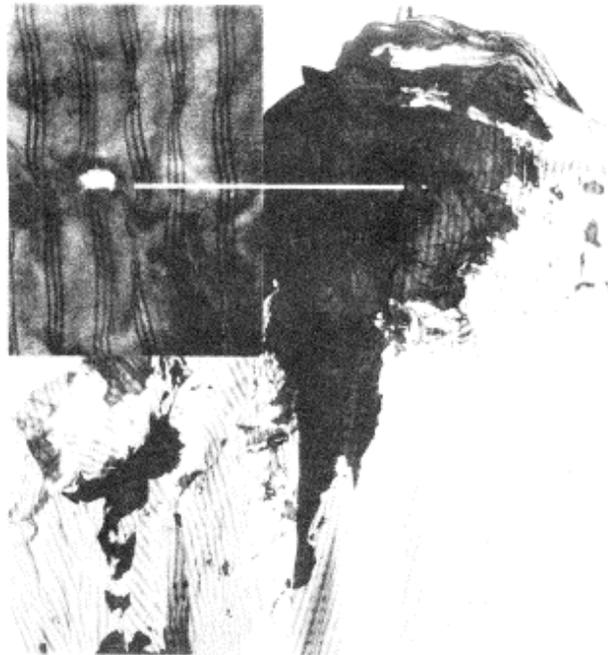
Officially, one shot hit the President in the back of his neck, passed through his neck without hitting any bony structures, and entered the back of Governor John Connally, inflicting multiple wounds. It shattered a rib, exited his chest, damaged his right wrist, and entered his left thigh. Since this trajectory is so implausible and the alleged missile virtually pristine, it has come to be known as "the magic bullet".



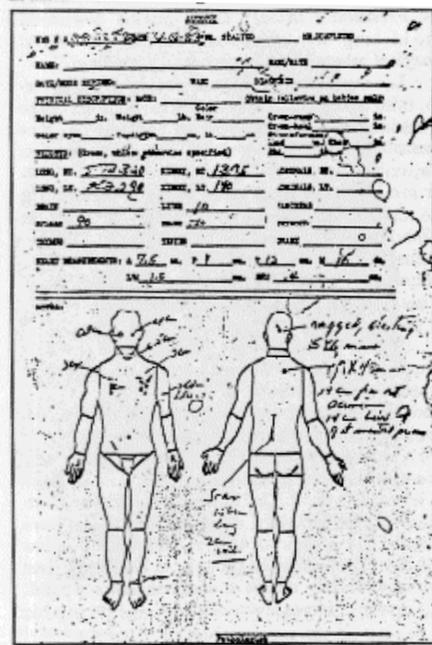
Warren Commission Document 107, Exhibit 59, National Archives.

The jacket JFK was wearing shows a hole about 5 1/2 inches below the collar, which contradicts the official location of the wound. If the bullet entered here, especially at a downward angle, it is difficult to imagine how it could have passed through his neck and exited at his throat.

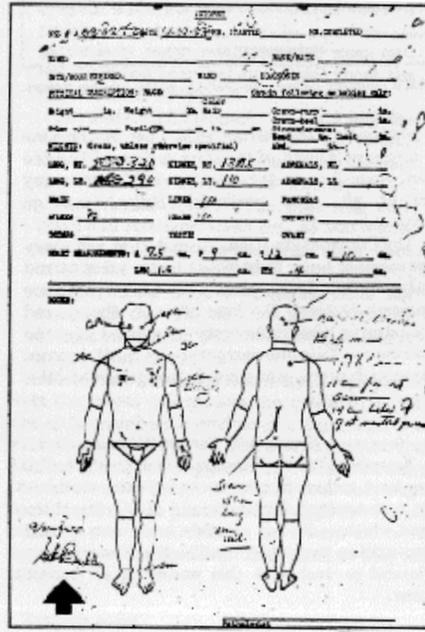
A bullet hole in the shirt turns out to be about 5 1/2 inches below the collar, too low to correspond to the official location at the base of the back of the neck. Neither the shirt nor the jacket were sent forward to Bethesda for the autopsy, a violation of autopsy protocol.



Warren Commission Document 107, Exhibit 60, National Archives.

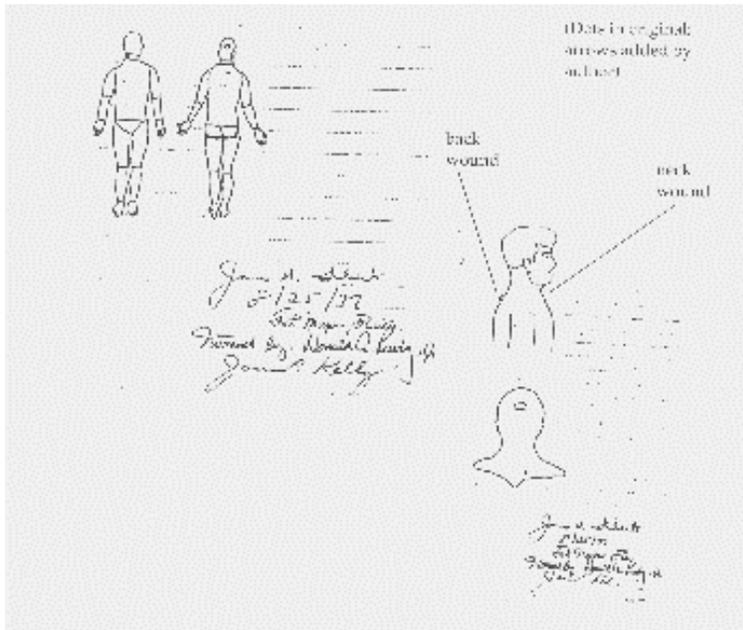


Autopsy face sheet given the Warren Commission; no signature appears on Commission copy.

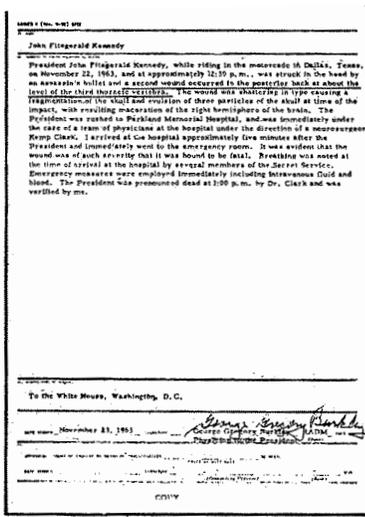
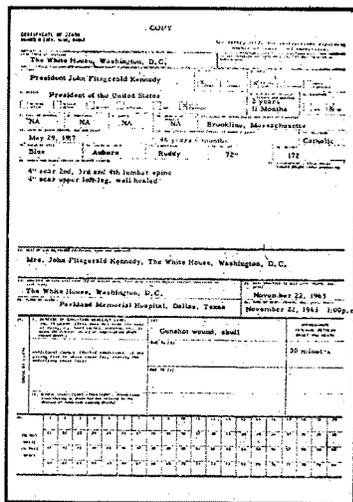


Sheet verifying location of wounds signed by Admiral George Burkley, JFK's personal physician.

The Bethesda autopsy was conducted by James Humes, who was assisted by J. Thornton Boswell. Neither of them had ever performed an autopsy on a gunshot victim before. Boswell's diagram of the wounds shows a wound to the back about 5 1/2 inches below the collar. It was verified by Admiral George Burkley, the President's personal physician.

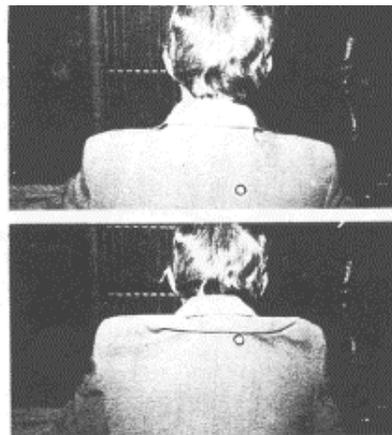
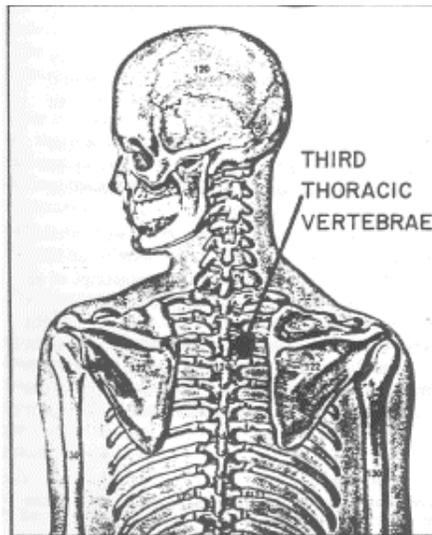


One of two FBI agents who witnessed the autopsy, James Sibert, drew a diagram showing the relative location of the wounds, where the back wound is lower than the throat wound, making it most unlikely that they were connected by a shot that had been fired from above and behind.



Admiral Burkley composed a death certificate on JFK, which said he had been “struck in the head” by one shot and that “a second wound occurred at the posterior back at about the level of the third thoracic vertebra.” He added that the head wound involved “evisceration of the right hemisphere of the brain.”

James H. Fetzer, ed., *Assassination Science* (1998)



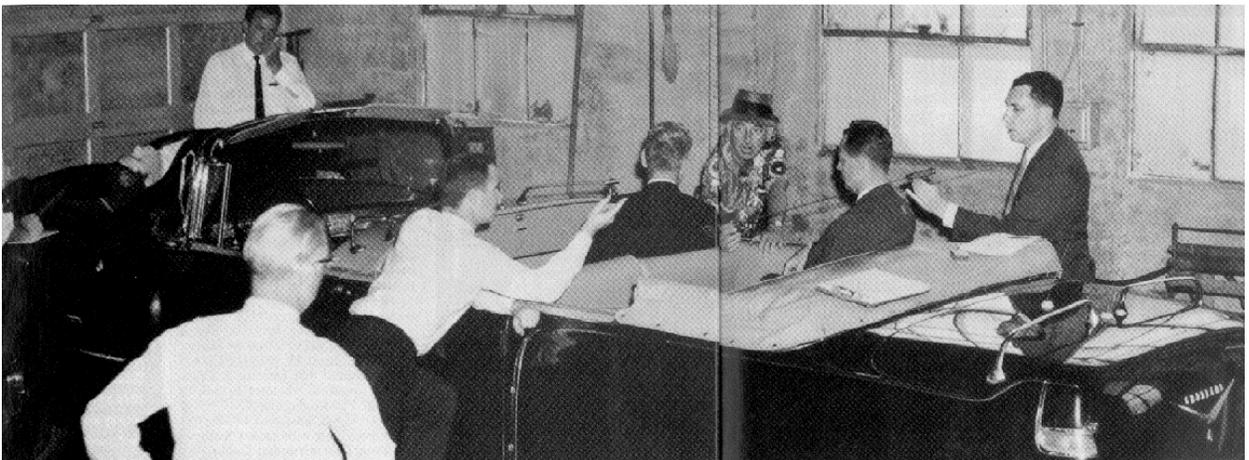
Defenders of the “Report” are resigned to creating outlandishly absurd explanations—like these—to explain why bullet holes in JFK’s shirt and coat are nearly six inches below the spot designated by the Commission as the point of entry for the missile.

Gary Shaw, *Cover-Up* (1976)

The third thoracic vertebra turns out to be approximately 5 1/2 inches below the collar to the right of the spinal column. Some apologists for the official account suggest that his jacket was “bunched up”, which made the hole lower than the wound. But that would not explain the diagrams of the wound showing it at the same location on the body itself.



Even the Warren Commission staff concluded that the back shot had been at that location, as this reenactment photograph displays. The larger circular patch on the back of the stand-in's jacket represents the back wound, the smaller above it the official entry wound to the head.



Newsweek (November 22, 1993)

Arlen Specter, then a junior counselor to the Warren Commission, uses a pointer here to exhibit the path the “magic bullet” would have had to have taken in order to account for all the wounds with only two shots. Since the larger circular patch visible below his left hand indicates the back shot, a photo intended to illustrate the theory actually refutes it.

Ford Made Key Change In Kennedy Death Report

WASHINGTON, July 2 (AP) — Thirty-three years ago, Gerald R. Ford changed — ever so slightly — the Warren Commission's main sentence on the place where a bullet entered President John F. Kennedy's body when he was killed in Dallas.

Mr. Ford's change strengthened the commission's conclusion that a single bullet passed through Kennedy and wounded Gov. John B. Connally, — a crucial element in the commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole gunman.

Mr. Ford, who was a member of the commission, wanted a change to show that the bullet entered Kennedy "at the back of his neck" rather than in his uppermost back, as the commission originally wrote.

Mr. Ford said today that the change was intended to clarify meaning, not alter history.

"My changes had nothing to do with a conspiracy theory," he said in a telephone interview.

But his editing was seized upon by conspiracy theorists who reject the commission's conclusion that Mr. Oswald had acted alone.

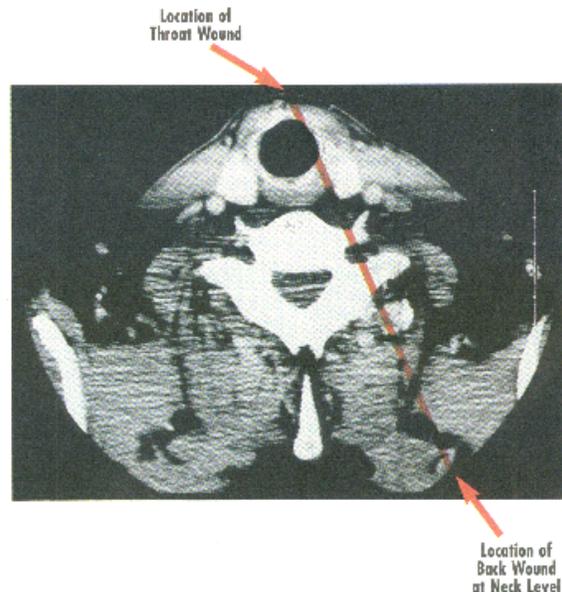
"This is the most significant lie in the whole Warren Commission report," said Robert D. Morningstar, a computer systems specialist in New York City who said he has studied the assassination and written an Internet book about it.

If the bullet had hit Kennedy in the back, it could not have struck the Governor in the way the commission said it had, Mr. Morningstar said.

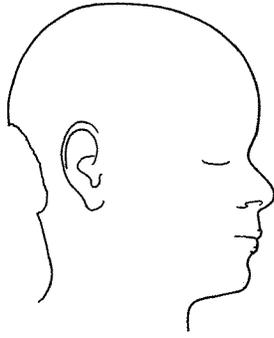
An early document released by the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) showed that Gerald Ford (R-MI), then a commission member, had had the back wound re-described from "his uppermost back," already an exaggeration, to "the base of the back of his neck" in an effort to make "the magic bullet" hypothesis appear more plausible.

The New York Times (July 3, 1997)

David W. Mantik, M.D., Ph.D., who is board certified in radiation oncology, took a CAT scan of a patient with chest and neck dimensions similar to those of JFK. When he plotted the official trajectory, it turned out to be anatomically impossible. Cervical vertebrae intervene.

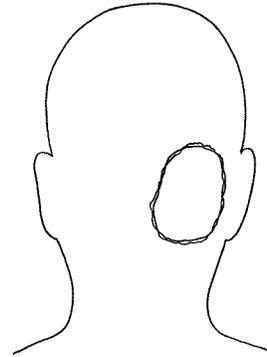


Stewart Galanor, *Cover-Up* (1998)



SIDE VIEW - RIGHT REAR OF HEAD
 Large avulsed area with loss of some parietal
 and most of occipital area of lesion.

Charles A. Crenshaw MD
 10/6/73



EXIT WOUND - RIGHT REAR OF HEAD (OCCIPITAL-PARIETAL AREA)
 2 3/4 inches to 2 1/2 inches (Size of baseball and size
 of fist - more or less circular - Bone and hair gone -
 cerebellum exposed)

Charles A. Crenshaw MD 10/6/73

Charles Crenshaw, *Assassination Science* (1998)

Dr. Crenshaw also drew the massive blow-out to the back of the head, which he described as the size of a baseball or of your fist when you double it up. During an interview broadcast on television, he also described an entry wound at the right temple, consistent with the mortician's description.



When the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) re-investigated the case in 1977-78, its medical panel concluded that the entry wound was actually four inches above the entry location previously specified. It was depicted in diagrams (right) but not visible in photographs (left).

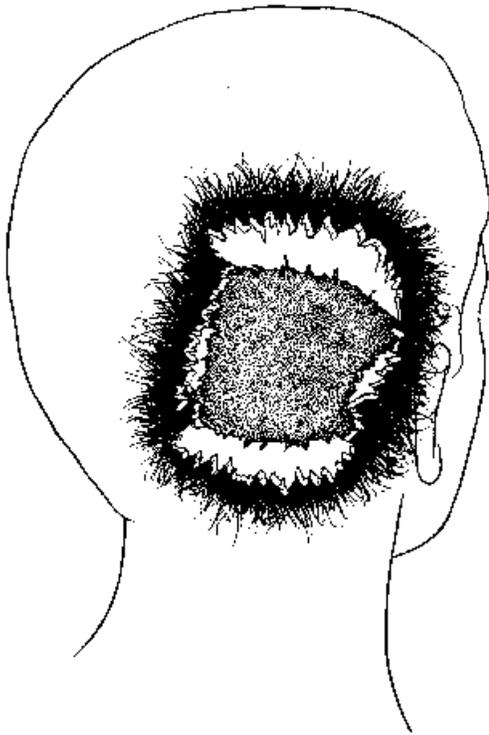


According to the autopsy report, the fatal head shot entered at the back of his head and blew out the top of his skull. The Navy artist who was instructed to prepare these sketches was not allowed to observe the body and drew what he was told to draw.

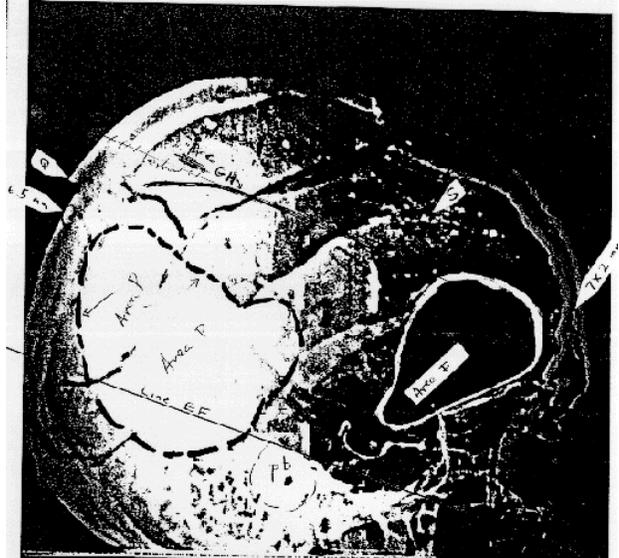
| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| <p>Beverly Oliver: "The whole back of his head went flying out the back of the car."</p> | <p>Phillip Willis: "It took the back of his head off."</p> | <p>Marilyn Willis: "A red 'halo' Matter [was] coming out the back of his head."</p> | <p>Ed Hoffman: "The rear of his head was gone, blasted outward."</p> | <p>Dr. Robert McClelland: "It was in the right back part of the head — very large ... a portion of the cerebellum fell out on the table as we were doing the resuscitation."</p> | <p>Dr. Paul Peters: "... right there, occipital parietal."</p> |
| | | | | | |
| <p>Dr. Kenneth Salyer: "This wound extended into the parietal area."</p> | <p>Dr. Charles Carrico: "There was a large — quite a large — defect about here [pointing] on his skull."</p> | <p>Dr. Richard Dulaney: "It was up in this area."</p> | <p>Dr. Charles Crenshaw: "The wound was the size of a baseball."</p> | <p>Dr. Ronald Jones: "My impression was there was a wound in this area of the head." When shown</p> | <p>Nurse Audrey Bell: "There was a massive wound at the back of his head."</p> |
| | | | | | |
| <p>Theran Ward "[It was] right back here."</p> | <p>Aubrey Rike "You could feel the sharp edges of the bone at the edge of the hole in the back of his head."</p> | <p>Frank O'Neill "... a massive wound in the right rear."</p> | <p>Jerrol Custer "From the top of the head, almost to the base of the skull, you could see where that part was gone."</p> | <p>Paul O'Connor "[There was] an open area all the way across into the rear of the brain."</p> | <p>Floyd Riebe "... a big gaping hole in the back of the head."</p> |

Robert Groden, *The Killing of a President* (1994), Expanded

Some forty witnesses from Dealey Plaza, from Parkland and from Bethesda--including bystanders, physicians, medical technicians, and agents of the FBI--reported that JFK had a massive blow-out to the back of the head, the location of which they demonstrated with their hands.



Another diagram of the head wound by Robert McClelland, M.D., who was also present at Parkland, depicts a massive blow-out that fits Dr. Crenshaw's description. It was a terrible wound.



David W. Mantik, *Assassination Science* (1998)

These reports were discounted on the grounds that the autopsy X-rays don't show it. Mantik, a Ph.D. in physics, used the simple technique of optical densitometry to prove that an area--identified here as "Area P"--had been "patched" using material far too dense to be human bone.

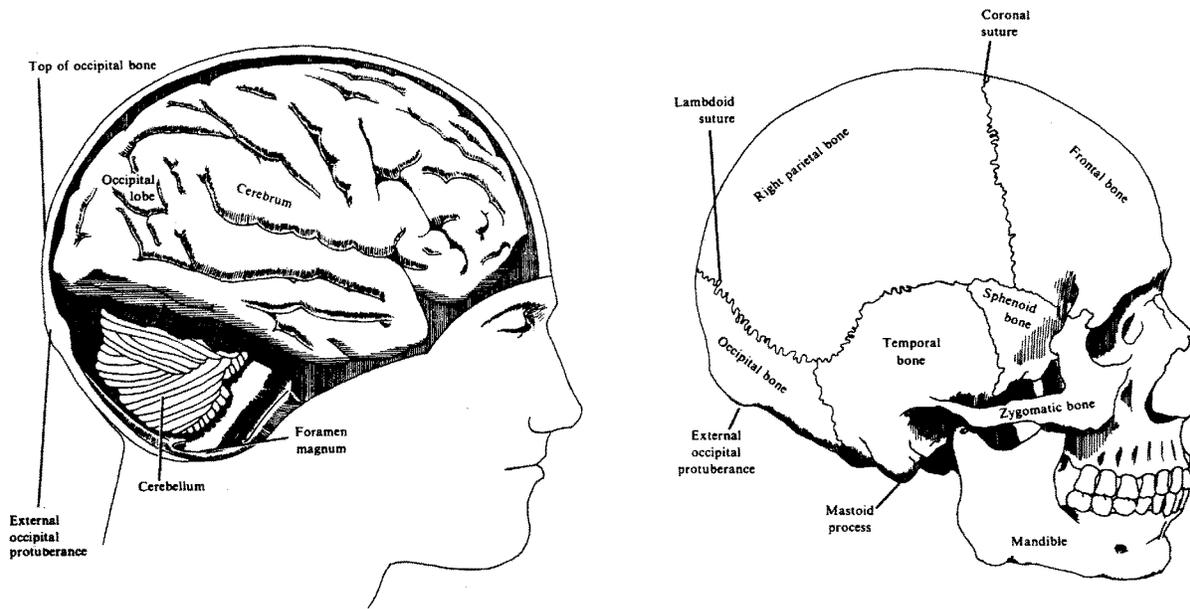


Zapruder Frame 374

It was my suspicion that those who were involved in reconstructing home movies of the assassination, including the Zapruder film, might have overlooked frames past 313-316 that display the wound to the back of the head. I found this image of the blow-out in frame 374.

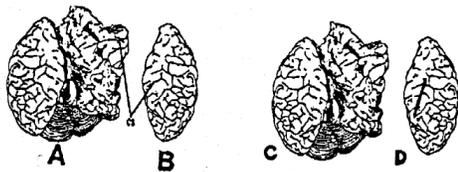
Multiple competent physicians who were experienced with gunshot wounds observed both cerebral and cerebellar tissue extruding from the massive blow-out to the back of the head. These observations were inconsistent with a blow-out to the top of the head that blew his brains to the right-front, which therefore also impeach the Zapruder film.

10. Damage to the cerebellum
 - A. According to the autopsy photographs there is no damage to the cerebellum.
 - B. According to Dr. Crenshaw
Dr. Crenshaw says the cerebellum was hanging out of the rear head wound, with strands of brain tissue extending into the brain itself.
 - C. According to the other Parkland doctors
 - * Dr. Marion Jenkins
 - CE 392--"herniation and laceration of great areas of of the brain, even to the extent that the cerebellum had protruded from the wound." (WR, p. 530)
 - WC testimony--"Part of the brain was herniated; I really think part of the cerebellum...was hanging out from the wound." (6 H 48)
 - HSCA deposition--"He [Jenkins] noted that a portion of the cerebellum was hanging out from a hole in the right-rear of the head." (HSCA, 7 H 287)
 - * Dr. Charles Carrico
 - WC testimony--"...skull was fragmented and bleeding cerebral and cerebellar tissue." (6 H 3)
 - HSCA deposition--"One could see blood and brains, both cerebrum and cerebellum fragments in that wound." (HSCA 7 H 268)
 - * Dr. Malcolm Perry
 - HSCA deposition--"There was visible brain tissue in the macard and some cerebellum was seen." (HSCA 7 H 302)
 - * Dr. Robert McClelland
 - WC testimony-- "...brain tissue, posterior cerebral tissue and some of the cerebellar tissue had been blasted out." (6 H 33)
 - * Dr. Charles Baxter
 - WC testimony-- "...the cerebellum was present--a large quantity of the brain was present on the cart." (6 H 41)
 - * Dr. Kemp Clark
 - WC testimony-- "...cerebral and cerebellar tissue being damaged and exposed." (6 H 20)
 - "...the loss of cerebellar tissue..." (6 H 26)
 - D. IT IS CLEAR THAT DR. CRENSHAW AND SEVERAL OTHER DALLAS DOCTORS SAW THE CEREBELLUM DAMAGED AND PROTRUDING FROM THE OCCIPITAL HEAD WOUND.
 - E. AGAIN, DR. CRENSHAW'S OBSERVATIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THOSE OF THE OTHERS IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM.
- ~~(A) PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BRAIN SHOW THE CEREBELLUM TO BE COMPLETELY INTACT. THIS IS IN FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENT WITH THE DALLAS DOCTORS, INCLUDING CRENSHAW.~~



David Lifton, *Best Evidence* (1980)

The cerebellum is situated at the base of the skull. The cerebrum is a larger mass that comprises the upper portions of the brain. Blown-out tissue of these kinds would look very different in their appearance. Even first year medical students would not confuse them.



- A. HSCA exhibit F-302. Drawing made from photograph of brain illustrating subcortical damage.
- B. Mirror image drawing of left hemisphere in Figure A. Distortion due to damage and/or post-fixation artifact is minimal.
- C. HSCA exhibit F-302 (again). Drawing made from photograph of brain to show subcortical damage.
- D. Mirror image drawing of left hemisphere in Figure A. Black line illustrates schematically the direct cortical damage predicted based upon skull X-rays, which Dr. Mantik has now demonstrated to be composites.

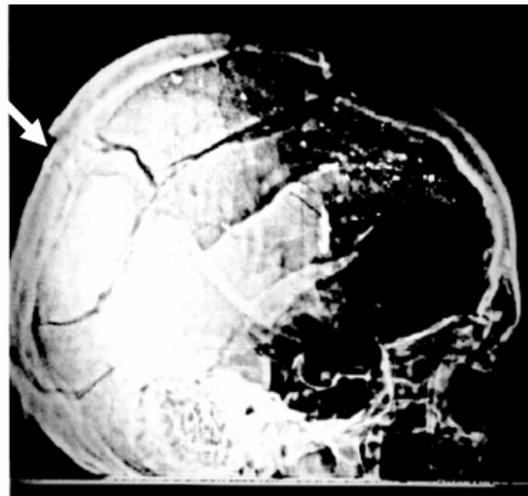
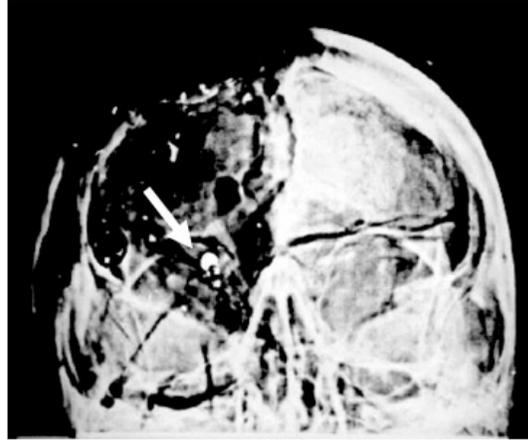
These figures are from Joseph N. Riley, Ph.D., "The Head Wounds of John Kennedy: 1. One Bullet cannot Account for the Injuries," in: *The Third Decade* (March, 1993), pp. 1-15. These particular drawings appear on page 5.

It simply cannot be true that the cerebellum could have been seen extruding from the occipito-parietal wound--by several experienced and thoroughly competent physicians--and for the same brain to be seen in superior and lateral photographs, and depicted in a drawing (superior view) showing the cerebellum as being apparently intact. A conclusion is obligatorily forced that the photographs and drawings of the brain in the National Archives are those of some brain other than that of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Robert B. Livingston, M.D., a world authority on the human brain and an expert on wound ballistics, studied reports of cerebral and cerebellar damage from Parkland. He concluded that the brain in diagrams and photographs at the National Archives cannot be that of JFK.

Robert B. Livingston, *Assassination Science* (1998)

Mantik also discovered that a 6.5mm metallic slice had been added to other cranial X-rays in an evident attempt to implicate the obscure Mannlicher-Carcano carbine Oswald is alleged to have used. But the weapon is not high-velocity and cannot have fired the bullets that killed JFK, which means that mistakes were made by using the wrong weapon to frame him.



David W. Mantik, *Assassination Science* (1998)



At 1 PM, November 22, 1963, Malcolm Kilduff, acting press secretary, announced that the President was dead, explaining it was a simple matter of a bullet through the head while pointing to his right temple, attributing that finding to his personal physician, Admiral George Burkley.

Thomas Evan Robinson

ADDRESS AND PHONE INFORMATION DELETED
FOR MR. ROBINSON'S PRIVACY

May 26, 1942 (phone)

Wounds:

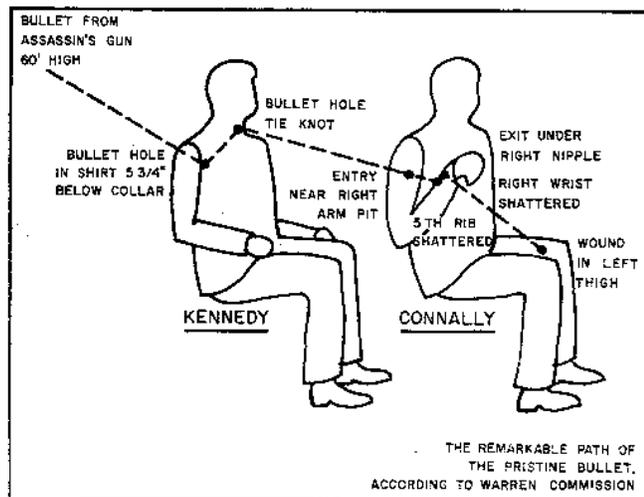
- large gaping hole in back of head, patched by pastretaking piece of rubber ... over it. Thinks skull full of plaster Paris
- smaller wound in right temple, crescent shape, flapped down (3")
- (approx 2) small shrapnel wounds in face, packed with wax.
- wound in back (5 to six inches) below shoulder, to the right of back bone.
- Adrenal gland and brain removed.
- other organs removed and then put back.
- no swelling or discoloration to face. (died instantly)

Dr. Berkley (Family Physician) came in an ask ...
"How much longer ???"
he was told (Funeral Director) "Take your time"

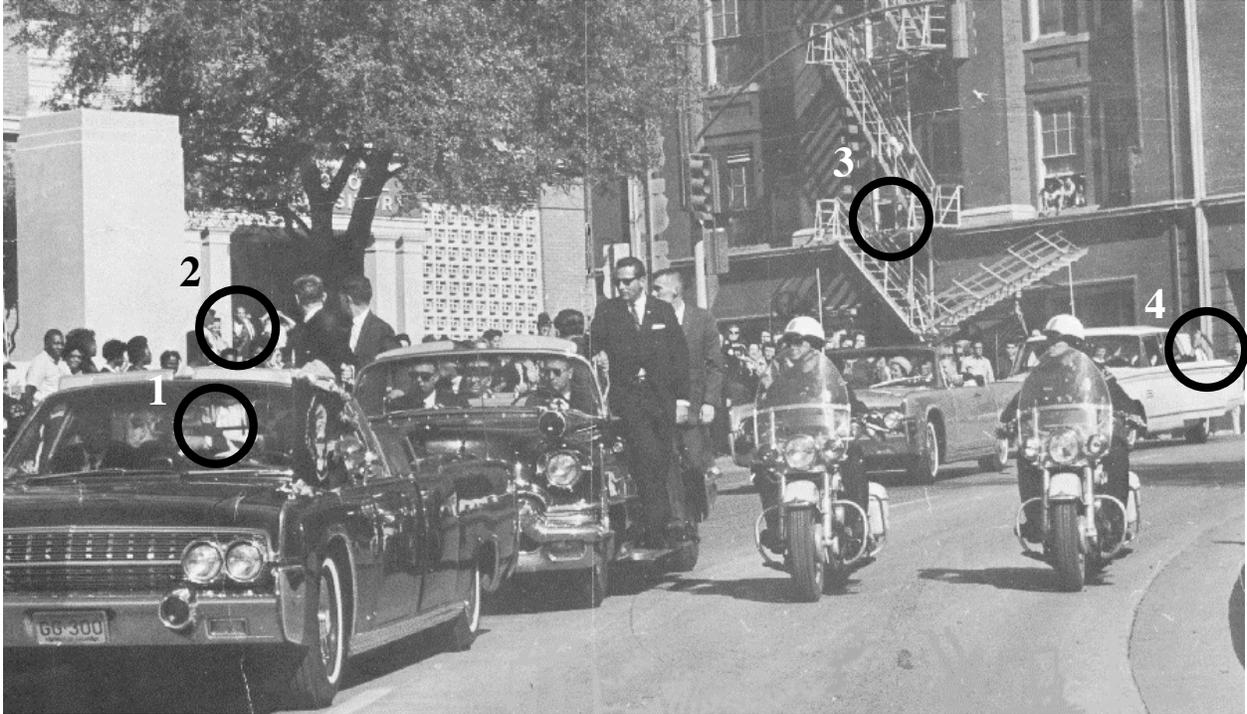
Is in favor of Examining Body ... to settle once and
... for all. "Good Pathologists would know exactly"

The mortician who prepared the body for burial told an investigator that, in addition to a large gaping hold in the back of the head, there was a small wound in the right temple, and a wound on the back, 5 to 6 inches below the shoulder to the right of the spinal column.

When the actual entry location is combined with the rest of the "magic" trajectory, the theory lends itself to ridicule as in Oliver's Stone's "JFK." The bullet alleged to have performed these feats was nevertheless virtually pristine with only slight longitudinal distortion.



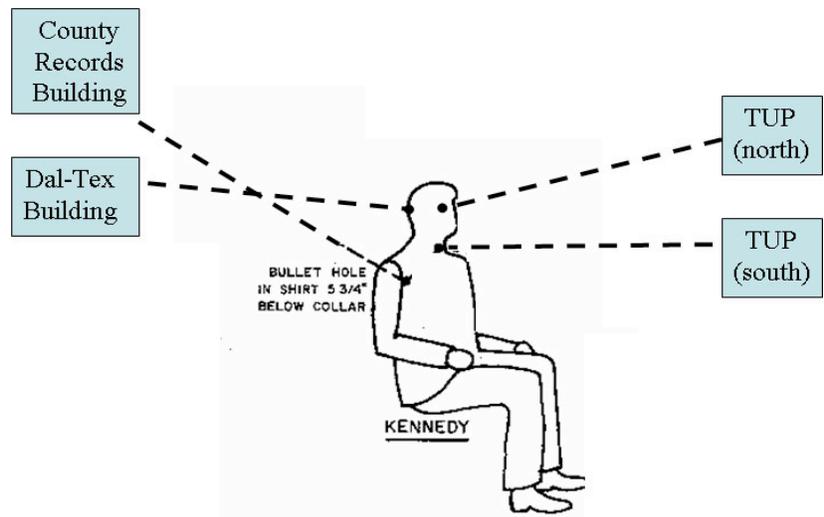
Gary Shaw, *Cover-Up* (1976)



James H. Fetzer, ed., *Murder in Dealey Plaza* (2000)

Taken by James Altgens, this famous photograph shows (1) the through-and-through hole in the windshield, (2) an Oswald look-alike--probably a co-worker named Billy Lovelady--in the doorway of the building; (3) the open window of a closet belonging to a uranium mining company that was a CIA asset, from which three shots appear to have been fired; and (4) the Secret Service assigned to Vice President Johnson responding, even while the Presidential detail still seems to be unaware what's going on.

JFK appears to have been hit four times: once in the throat (from in front); once in the back (from behind); and twice in the head (once from behind and once from in front). The shots to his throat and to his right temple appear to have been fired from above-ground-level sewer openings on the south and north sides of the Triple Underpass.





Color sequence shows how the President was killed

1. A moment before the first bullet was fired, the President and Mrs. Kennedy, Governor and Mrs. Connally, smiling and waving, were passing in front of the brick building where the assassin was taking aim.
2. President Kennedy clutched his hands to his throat. The commission determined that a bullet had entered the back of his neck and ripped through the lower front portion of his throat. They believe the wound would not necessarily have been lethal.
3. As Mrs. Kennedy reached to help her husband, Connally twisted around. He told the commission he heard a shot and turned to see if Kennedy was all right. It is still not absolutely clear which bullet hit the governor. Though he believes it was another bullet--the second fired by Oswald--the commission concluded that it probably was this same one that had passed through the President's throat.
4. Both Kennedy and Connally began to slump. A Secret Service agent sitting beside the driver turned to look back while onlookers, unaware that anything was amiss, applauded.
5. The President's head fell forward into Mrs. Kennedy's arms just before the assassin fired again.
6. The direction from which shots came was established by this picture taken at instant bullet struck the rear of the President's head and, passing through, caused the front part of his skull to explode forward.
7. As the President lay dying beside her, Mrs. Kennedy pulled herself out of the seat.
8. Crawling across the rear deck of the limousine, Mrs. Kennedy reached out to Secret Service man Clinton Hill.

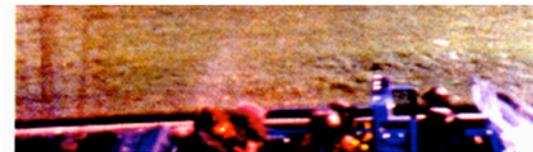
LIFE (October 2, 1964)

When the frames were published in the 26 volumes of supporting evidence, they were in the wrong sequence, greatly mitigating the back-and-to-the-left motion of JFK's head in the extant film. David S. Lifton had a friend write to J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI, and Hoover acknowledged they were in the wrong order. Michael Baden, M.D., head of the medical panel for the HSCA, has observed that, if the "magic bullet" theory is false, there had to have been at least six shots from three directions. That turns out to be correct.

The first frames from the Zapruder film to which the public had access were published in *LIFE*. Most were unremarkable, but this one--frame 313--posed special problems. The plate was broken twice to revise description (6), which appears to be unique in the history of publishing. There are many indications this and other films have been edited, including the all-but-motionless spectators, the driver's head turns (twice as fast as humanly possible), and the "blob" and blood spray, which appear to have been painted in. Blood and brains across the trunk and the driver's pulling to the left and bringing the vehicle to a halt had to be removed, because it was such an obvious indication of Secret Service complicity in setting up JFK for the hit.



Zapruder Frame 315



Zapruder Frame 315



Zapruder Frame 314



Zapruder Frame 316

SAM GIANCANA

A question that has been asked many times is: "If the killing of Kennedy was a conspiracy involving many people, how could it possibly have been kept secret all this time? Why hasn't somebody talked?" The answer to that question is simple. A lot of people have talked. The talking started before the assassination and has continued to this day. There are many examples: Carlos Marcello bragged in front of Ed Becker that Kennedy would be killed and described how it would be done; Santo Trafficante, Jr. bragged that Kennedy would be killed; Joseph Milteer, right-wing nut, bragged that Kennedy would be killed and how it would be done; Johnny Rosselli, Sam Giancana's right-hand man, told Jack Anderson (years later) that Ruby was "their man and was ordered to silence Oswald." David Atlee Phillips, suspected of being the mysterious Maurice Bishop and perpetrator of the multiple Oswalds, said before he died that fringe elements of U.S. intelligence may have been involved in the conspiracy. As earlier noted, Lyndon Johnson's mistress, Madeleine Brown, has said that Lyndon Johnson implied before Kennedy was killed that it was going to happen. Marita Lorez, CIA contract agent, stated in depositions for a courtroom trial that Frank Sturgis told her that he and a group of anti-Castro Cubans had been involved in the Kennedy assassination. And, finally, Sam Giancana's brother, Chuck Giancana, revealed in a recent book *Double Cross* that his brother Sam Giancana confessed to the entire crime in 1966 (in an hour-long discussion at Chuck Giancana's suburban home in Chicago), just before Sam Giancana was to move to Mexico City.

- Chauncey Holt
- Charles Harrelson
- Jim Hicks
- Jack Ruby
- ...
- Billy Sol Estes

Noel Twyman, *Bloody Treason* (1997)

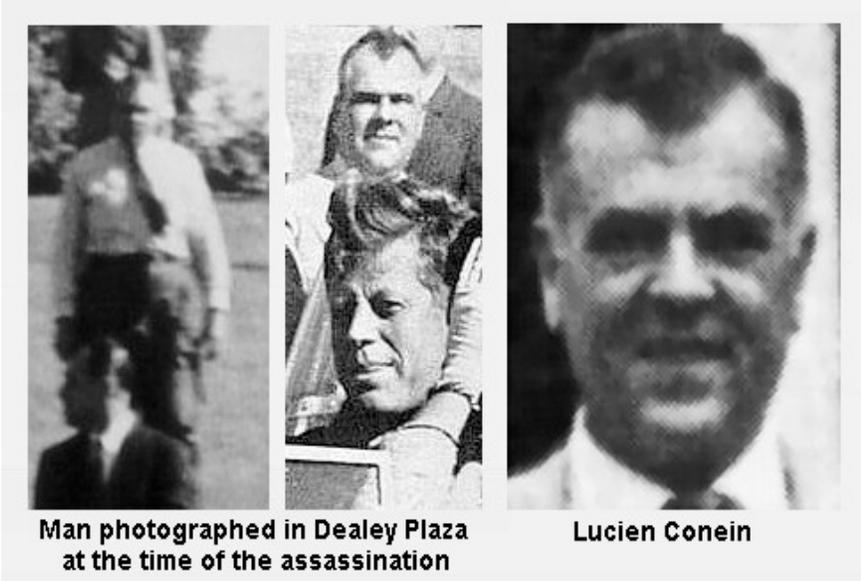
The claim has often been made that the strongest proof against any conspiracy is that no one has talked. That is false. As Noel Twyman, *Bloody Treason* (1997), observed, at least eight prominent figures talked about it before or after the event. Others include Chauncey Holt, Charles Harrelson, Jim Hicks, and Jack Ruby. Reinforcing the conclusions of Lyndon's mistress, Madeleine Duncan Brown, *Texas in the Morning* (1997), and of Barr McClelland, *Blood, Money & Power* (2003), Billy Sole Estes, *A Texas Legend* (2005), implicates LBJ in the assassination, as has E. Howard Hunt in his *Rolling Stone* "Confession" (2007).

The Mafia could not have extended its reach into Bethesda to alter X-rays under the control of medical officers of the US Navy, agents of the Secret Service, and the President's personal physician. Neither pro- nor anti-Castro Cubans could have substituted another brain for the original. Even if the KGB has the same abilities as the CIA to recreate films, it could not have gained access to the Zapruder. Nor could any of these things have been done by Oswald, who was incarcerated or already dead.

| THE CONSPIRACY THEORIES | | |
|--|--|---|
| The official version of the murder—lone nut #1 shoots JFK, gets shot by lone nut #2—seems improbable. Competing theories have problems, too. | | |
| THE SCENARIO | WHAT'S THE PLOT? | WHAT'S THE HITCH? |
| 1 The Ultimate "Black Op" (The CIA did it) | The CIA (or a few rogue agents) feared JFK would sell out to the Reds—and dismember the agency itself. And CIA types know how to do this sort of thing. Oswald, an ex-defector, would have been a CIA recruit. Or perhaps just a "patsy," maneuvered into place to cover for sharpshooters elsewhere in Dealey Plaza. | Oswald was no hit man, and making him a patsy would have taken great logistical legwork. How do you allow the real hit person? Hit him? |
| 2 The Ultimate Mob Hit (The Mafia did it) | What would happen to you if you hired the mob to do your murders, shipped a mob-connected gababout—and cracked down on organized crime? Oswald was a mob guy's nephew; Ruby had many mob acquaintances. Small-time, both, but some doo might have thought their obscurity meant deniability. | Would truly wiseguys take the suicidal risk of wackoing a president? How did they arm-twist Ruby into hitting Oswald? How did they know he wouldn't talk? |
| 3 Cuban Caper I (Anti-Castro exiles did it) | Anti-Castro exiles felt Kennedy hung them out to dry during the abortive CIA-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion. The supposedly pro-Castro Oswald used a New Orleans address occupied by anti-Castro activists; odd, yes? And Ruby had been in Cuba, visiting a mob boss who later became an anti-Cast. exile. | Would Cuban exiles have trusted the Anglo comrade Oswald? Or, if he was a patsy, could they have set up this more elaborate plot unhelped and undetected? |
| 4 Cuban Caper II (Castro did it) | Castro was well aware of American plots to assassinate him; so less a conspiracy theorist than Lyndon Johnson, he reported Castro had ordered Kennedy killed in retaliation. Oswald, a self-proclaimed Marxist and Castro supporter, had visited the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City two months before the assassination. | Castro has said ordering the hit would have been stupid. He would say that. But it would have been stupid—even if the foot-candleable Oswald had done it. |
| 5 Mission From Moscow (The KGB did it) | Oswald also visited the Soviet Embassy in Mexico, where he met with a KGB official who could be involved in "wet affairs"—i.e., sabotage and assassinations. After defecting to the Soviet Union in 1959, Oswald—no more largely, as Oswald himself—may have come back to the United States a programmed assassin. | Was Affairs Rule One: Don't meet programmed assassins in the embassy. And why risk nuclear war to replace a young hard-liner with an old one? |
| 6 Coup D'Etat (Lyndon Johnson, the Joint Chiefs, the intelligence community and the military industrial complex did it) | This is less a theory than filmmaker Oliver Stone's countermyth of recent American history: the establishment bad guys wanted JFK dead so the war machine could run riot in Vietnam and weapons makers could get rich. Well? It all happened, didn't it? | With so many people ready to help—from his squad to autopsy team to Warren Commission—why a Ruby-Coleberg scheme in view of a handful of witnesses? |
| 7 Honey, I Shot the President I (A Secret Service Agent did it by accident) | Many legal scholars expert Thomas Donahue argues that JFK was accidentally shot in the head by a Secret Service agent in the follow-up car; his AR-15 supposedly went off when he picked it up in response to Oswald's shot. In the echo-chamber of Dealey Plaza, the agent himself may not have known he'd fired. | None of the nice older passengers ever reported hearing a gun go off in the follow-up car. The agent in question, understandably, wouldn't talk to Donahue. |
| 8 Honey, I Shot the President II (Oswald did it, but he was shooting at the Kennedys) | Marina Oswald testified that she thought her husband may have been shooting at John Connally, not JFK. Why? Oswald felt Connally, former navy secretary, had brimmed off his attempts to upgrade his Marine Corps release. And a Dallas lawyer said he overheard Oswald plotting Kennedy's murder with Jack Ruby. | The assassin not shooting at the president, Oswald—or whoever—did a deadly efficient job. Supposedly he wasn't much of a marksman, but was he this bad? |

Newsweek (November 22, 1993)

Among the photographs of onlookers in Dealey Plaza discovered by James Richards and Allan Eaglesham, some include persons who appear to be high CIA officials, such as this one. Lucien Conein was among the most notorious of CIA assassins. His presence in Dealey Plaza thus lends further weight to the inference that the CIA played a leading role in the assassination.

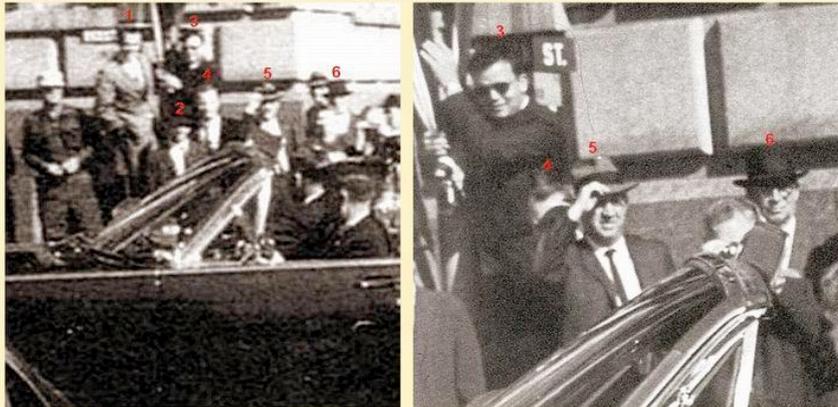


Man photographed in Dealey Plaza at the time of the assassination

Lucien Conein

Allan Eaglesham, “Familiar Faces in Dealey Plaza “

Suspicious gathering at the corner of Main and Houston



Speculating with identifications



1. Grayston Lynch 2. Eddie Bayo 3. David Morales 4. Ted Shackley 5. Rip Robertson 6. Tracy Barnes

James Richards, “Familiar Faces in Dealey Plaza II”

Officials of the CIA apparently gathered at Houston and Main to pay their “last respects” to JFK. The findings presented here would be highly probable on a conspiracy hypothesis and have a very low--even zero--probability on its lone-assassin alternative. The strength of the evidence of conspiracy is overwhelmingly greater than that of a lone-assassin.

For more on the principles of scientific reasoning, see James H. Fetzer, *Scientific Knowledge* (1981), *Philosophy of Science* (1993), and “Propensities and Frequencies: Inference to the Best Explanation”, *Synthese* 132/1-2 (July-August 2002). On the specifics of the assassination, see James H. Fetzer, ed., *Assassination Science* (1998), *Murder in Dealey Plaza* (2000), and *The Great Zapruder Film Hoax* (2003). Visit assassinationresearch.com, which I edit with John P. Costella.