

Analysis of Media Reports on President Kennedy's Wounds

Source and Date	Autopsy Mentioned?	Description of Throat Wound	Description of Head Wound	Remarks
11/22/63 NBC T.V.	No	No	No	Bethesda was mentioned as the body's destination by news people at both Andrews AFB, and at the broadcast studio in New York City, but no reason was given for sending the President's body to that location.
11/23/63 New York World-Telegram and Sun	No	This bullet "penetrated the neck and chest," according to an authoritative White House source	Vague: "there was a wound in the back of his head"	Dateline: Washington, Nov. 23. Two bullets (vice one) struck the President, based on an authoritative White House source, who said White House officials did not know about the second wound until Saturday morning.
11/23/63 Washington Star (Evening Star)	Unclear: " President Kennedy's body was examined and prepared for burial last night and early today	No	No	"Hospital spokesmen refused to discuss the examination of the body or the activities of Mrs. Kennedy during the interval."

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	at Bethesda Naval Hospital.”			
11/24/63 New York Post	No	No	No	Dateline: Washington, Nov. 23. “...she (JBK) rode in the hearse to the Bethesda, Md., Naval Hospital where the slain President was prepared for burial.”
11/27/63 New York Herald-Tribune	Speculative: “It has been announced that none was performed. Officials at Bethesda... declined to say yesterday whether there had been an autopsy.”	“The first shot, fired as the Presidential car was approaching, struck the President in the neck just above the knot of his necktie, then ranged downward into his body...it is not known whether the bullet that entered Mr. Kennedy’s body was recovered...”	“...struck in the back of his head, to the right... The bullet found in the stretcher on which the President was borne...is believed to be the one that inflicted the head wound.”	Dateline: Washington. The article implies the FBI was the source of its information. Bullet fragments found in the limousine are said to have been from the bullet which struck Governor Connally.
11/27/63 New York Times	Speculative:	“Physician reports one shot remained in President’s	“...it is presumed that the bullet that struck the	Dateline: Dallas, Nov. 26. “The known facts about the bullets, and

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	<p>“The bullet that did not exit from the President’s body may have since been recovered in an autopsy, but the Parkland Hospital said no autopsy was performed in Dallas.”</p>	<p>body after hitting him at level of his necktie knot.”</p> <p>“Dr. Kemp Clark, who pronounced Kennedy dead, said, ‘One struck him at about the necktie knot. It ranged downward in his chest and did not exit,’ the surgeon said.”</p> <p>“As the President’s car came abreast of the photographer, the President was struck in the front of the neck.”</p>	<p>President’s head was the one recovered from the stretcher that bore the President into the hospital.”</p>	<p>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 with an 8 mm camera tends to support this sequence of events.”</p> <p>“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 Governor John B. Connally, Jr.”</p>
<p>11/27/63 Washington Evening Star</p>	<p>Unclear: “The late President was prepared for burial by three men working under the</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	

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	supervision of Joseph Gawler of the Joseph Gawler's Sons funeral home here. This followed a medical examination conducted at the Bethesda Naval Hospital."			
11/29/63 LIFE magazine	No			
12/1/63 St. Louis Post-Dispatch	No	"Surgeons who attended him at Parkland Memorial Hospital described it as an entrance wound. They said it was in the center front, just below the Adam's apple, at about the necktie knot." "The first bullet is said by	One Dallas doctor described a small entry wound to the left temple, and another described damage to the forehead.	Dateline: Washington, Nov. 30 Reporter Richard Dudman and another man saw a small hole resembling a bullet hole in the limousine windshield. Stretcher bullet is believed to have possibly have come from the President's head wound.

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		the doctors in Dallas to have entered the throat, coursed downward and remained in the President's body."		
12/6/63 LIFE magazine	No	On page 52F, LIFE's Paul Mandel wrote: "But the other (bullet), the (Dallas) 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 directly to the sniper, it has been hard to understand how the bullet could enter the front of the throat...but the 8 mm film shows the President turning his body far around to the right as he	On page 52F, LIFE's Paul Mandel wrote: "The (Dallas) doctor said one bullet passed from back to front on the right side of the President's head."	On page 48, LIFE wrote: "...she (JBK) asked that a message be sent to Bethesda Naval Hospital asking that it be ready to prepare John Kennedy's body for burial," but never mentioned that an autopsy had taken place. On page 52F, LIFE's Paul Mandel wrote: "All three bullets have been recovered--one, deformed, from the floor of the limousine; one from the stretcher that carried the President; one that entered the President's body."

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		waves to someone in the crowd. His throat is exposed--to the sniper's nest--just before he clutches it."		
12/10/63 St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Yes: "...in a post-mortem examination at the United States Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md....the post mortem report has not been made public. It is expected to be incorporated in the report of the Presidential	The controversy over the origin of the wound in the President's anterior neck (throat), and the contemporaneous description of that wound by Dallas surgeons as an entry wound, are again discussed.	No	Dateline: Washington, Dec. 10 "...a check with the (Parkland) hospital last night disclosed that the surgeons have not been questioned by the FBI or any other investigative agency." The principal purpose of the article is to report that the FBI had sent its report on the assassination to the Warren Commission "yesterday," i.e., December 9, 1963, and that although the report itself was still not public, that it named Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin.

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	commission”			
12/12/63 Dallas Times-Herald	Yes: This Bill Burrus article quotes information from the Navy autopsy report.	Author Bill Burrus said the bullet transited the President’s neck, exiting at the front of the throat, and described the rear wound as being “above President Kennedy’s right scapula--commonly called the shoulder blade.”	Unknown--ARRB does not yet have article: all quotes in this section are from <i>Best Evidence</i> , by David Lifton. Title of Burrus article is said to be “Kennedy Shot Entered Back.”	Dateline: Bethesda, Md.
12/18/63 New York Times	Yes: Source of the article is reported as “...a reliable source familiar with the autopsy findings...” “The findings of pathologists who conducted an autopsy on	“The pathologists at Bethesda, the source said, concluded that the throat wound was caused by the emergence of a metal fragment or piece of one resulting from the fatal shot in the head.” Now, the non-fatal bullet which struck President Kennedy is characterized as a non-transiting back	“The second bullet to strike Mr. Kennedy, the source said, entered the back of the skull and tore open his forehead.”	Dateline: Washington, Dec 17 (AP) “...a source familiar with the results (of the Bethesda autopsy)” provided the account of wounds in this article. Back Wound: “The first bullet made what was described as a small, neat wound in the back and penetrated two or three inches. The source said this bullet had struck no vital organs and was not likely to have inflicted a fatal wound...it did not penetrate deeply.”

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	Mr. Kennedy's body at the Bethesda, Md. Naval Hospital have not been made public."	wound, instead of as a non-transiting bullet which entered the anterior neck (throat) and lodged in the chest. (See Remarks)		
12/18/63 Washington Post	Yes: "These are the findings of the as yet unofficial report of pathologists who performed the autopsy on the President's body the night of Nov. 22." (See Remarks)	"A fragment (from the head shot) was deflected and passed out the front of the throat, creating an erroneous belief he may have been shot from two angles." (See Remarks for description of back wound.)	"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'...the second, the lethal bullet, smashed off the lower right back side (occipito-parietal region) of the head."	More on the autopsy: "The findings clear up confusions over whether the President was shot once or twice, and particularly whether one shot hit him in the neck from the front." Comments about the back wound: "President Kennedy...could readily have survived the first bullet which was found deep in his shoulder...both shots came from the back, the first hitting him in the high back shoulder...a bullet hit the President in the back shoulder, 5 to 7 inches below the collar line...".
12/18/63 St. Louis Post-Dispatch	Yes: "Two Secret Service Agents	"They now believe that the bullet in the neck entered from the back, where the	"The second bullet to strike Mr. Kennedy, the third bullet fired, left a large hole in the	(continued) did so by showing the surgeons a document described as an autopsy report

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	called last week on Dallas surgeons who attended President John F. Kennedy and obtained a reversal of their original view that the bullet in his neck entered from the front. The investigators (continued... see Remarks)	right shoulder meets the neck, and passed out through the hole in front, about two inches below the Adam's apple."	back of the President's head, destroyed considerable brain tissue and severely damaged the forehead."	from the United States Naval Hospital at Bethesda."
12/19/63 New York Times	Yes: "Officials declined all comment today on reports of	"A fragment of this bullet (the fatal head shot), according to the reports, passed out the front of the throat."	Vague: second shot to hit the President hit right rear of head.	Dateline: Washington, Dec. 18 "Officials Silent on Kennedy Shots: Autopsy Said to Show Both Hit Him from Rear" (Article's Title)

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	<p>what pathologists found in an autopsy on President Kennedy's body."</p>	<p>(See Remarks for statements on back wound.)</p>		<p>"The FBI in its report to the special commission investigating the assassination, stated flatly that both bullets had come from the window Oswald assertedly was. But the report did not mention the autopsy. Pathologists performed the autopsy after Mr. Kennedy was brought to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md., the night of the assassination."</p> <p>Back Wound: "...a first bullet hit the President in the back. The bullet lodged in the body. It assertedly did not hit any vital organs."</p>

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