

Gerald Ford's Terrible Fiction

by George Michael Evica

♦ See the actual draft of the Warren Report with Gerald Ford's support of the single bullet theory in his own handwriting (on page 34)

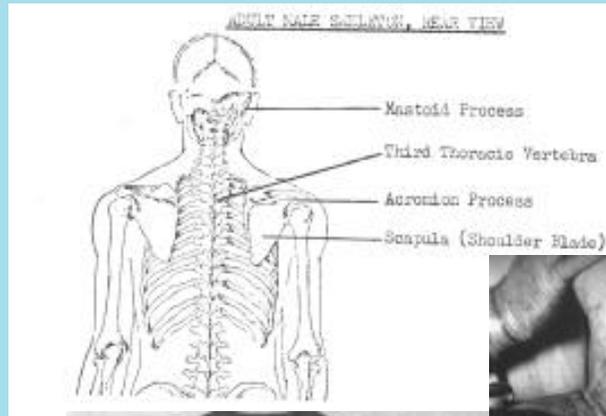
♦ See the Washington Post article on Ford promoting a change in the Warren Commission's findings "...of the bullet wound in Kennedy's back to place it higher up in his body." (on page 35)

♦ See Michael Dorman of Newsday on Warren Commissioner McCloy's doubt about the single-bullet theory. (on page 36)

♦ See the actual McCloy document, newly released. (on page 37)

JFK assassination eye-witnesses, including the observations of at least one Secret Service man in Dealey Plaza and several FBI agents present at the Bethesda autopsy, placed the president's back wound exactly where the mute testimony of the president's jacket and shirt indicated the wound was: six inches below the collar line. The signed Naval autopsy sheet, including the placement and description of the back wound, was verified by Admiral George Gregory Burkley, personal physician to the president who directed the autopsy at Bethesda. Burkley filled out and signed John F. Kennedy's official death certificate on November 23rd, 1963. He verified the location of the back wound and signed the Kennedy autopsy sheet at Bethesda on November 24th. That death certificate revealed the back wound to be, in the Admiral's own words, at the president's "third thoracic vertebra."

The neck has seven CERVICAL vertebrae, and this observed and verified wound was described as three THORACIC vertebrae lower than the neck itself (photo 1). A wound in the back, exactly where the official autopsy sheet and the coat



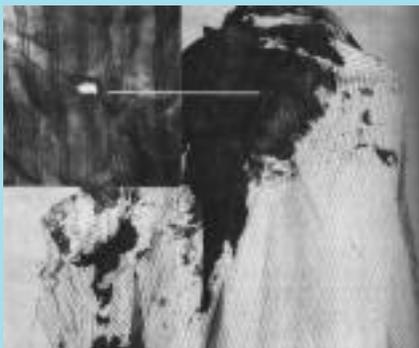
1. Position of back wound



2. Kennedy's back wound



3. Kennedy's suit coat



4. Kennedy's shirt

there as he passed the building. Dealey Plaza - a landscaped area marking the western end of downtown Dallas - stretched out to the President's left. A Secret Service agent in the lead car radioed the Trade Mart that the motorcade would arrive in five minutes.

Seconds later shots were heard in rapid succession. The President's hands moved to his neck and he stiffened in his seat. A bullet had entered ^{the} his back ^{of his neck} at a point slightly above the shoulder to the right of the spine. It traveled a downward path, and exited from the front of the neck, causing a nick in the left lower portion of the knot in the President's necktie. When the shooting started, Governor Connally, who had been facing toward the crowd on the right, started to turn toward the left, in order to see the President. Near the start of this turn the Governor suddenly felt a blow on his back. He had been hit by a bullet which entered at the extreme right side of his back at a point below his right armpit. The bullet traveled through his chest in a downward and forward direction, exited below his right nipple, passed through his right wrist which had been in his lap, and then caused a wound to his left thigh. The force of the bullet appeared to spin the Governor to his right and he then fell back into his wife's lap. President Kennedy was then hit by a second bullet which struck the right rear portion of his head and caused a massive and fatal wound. The President fell to the left into Mrs. Kennedy's lap.

On the lefthand side of the President's "follow-up" car, Special Agent Clinton J. Hill jumped off and raced for the President's car when he heard a noise like a firecracker and saw the President

(photo 3) and shirt photo 4) placed it. Warren Commissioner Gerald Ford was one of the key people responsible for misleading the U.S. public about the facts of the JFK assassination. **The single bullet theory and the lone assassin fantasy are only possible if we believe Gerald Ford's terrible fiction.**

Gerald Ford Changes Wound Description

WASHINGTON POST 7/3/97

As a member of the Warren Commission that investigated the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Gerald R. Ford suggested that the panel change its initial description of the bullet wound in Kennedy's back to place it higher up in his body.

This change may have been intended to support the controversial theory that a single bullet struck Kennedy from behind, exited his neck and then wounded Texas Gov. John Connally. The Warren Commission relied on it heavily in concluding that Lee Harvey Oswald was Kennedy's lone assassin, firing from the Texas School Book Depository, above and behind the president

Ford's handwritten editing, revealed in newly disclosed papers kept by the commission's general counsel, was accepted with a slight change.

The initial draft of the report stated: "A bullet had entered his (Kennedy's) back at a point slightly below the shoulder to the right of the spine." Ford wanted it to read: "A bullet had entered the back of his neck slightly to the right of the spine."

The final report said: "A bullet had entered the base of the back of his neck slightly to the right of his spine."

"A small change", said Ford on Wednesday, one intended to clarify meaning, not alter history. "My changes had nothing to do with a conspiracy theory," he said. "My changes were only an attempt to be more precise."

Harold Weisberg, a longtime critic of the Warren Commission's work, said: "What Ford is doing is trying to make the single bullet theory more tenable. The official story is that the bullet hit no bone, but it did. They are trying to make it seem that the bullet traveled downward, but it didn't." Weisberg and others have long held that the wound in the front of Kennedy's neck was an entry wound, not an exit wound.

A forensic pathology panel assembled by the House Assassinations Committee in the late 1970s concluded otherwise, holding by an 8 to 1 vote that Kennedy was struck by only two bullets, each of which entered from the rear. The panel found that one bullet "entered in the upper right of the back and exited from the front of the throat" and the second, fatal shot "entered in the right rear of the head."

The papers showing Ford's editing were made public by the Assassinations Records Review Board.

McCloy questioned Single Bullet Theory in newly released documents,

Comments by John Kelin from Fair Play issue #18, 1997

The document, a memorandum from McCloy to the Commission's chief counsel, J. Lee Rankin, contained a critique of a draft of the Commission's final report. "I think too much effort is expended on attempting to prove that the first bullet, which hit the president, was also responsible for all of Connally's wounds," McCloy wrote. "The evidence against this is not fully stated." He added that a section of the report dealing with the possibility of shots being fired at Kennedy's motorcade from an overpass was "not well done."

McCloy also questioned the Commission's account of a bullet found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital, where Kennedy and Connally were taken after being shot. "The statement concerning the bullet which was found on the stretcher is not particularly persuasive because there is no indication that the 'stretcher bullet' was in fact the bullet which caused the [Connally] wrist wound," he wrote.

This is the second time in as many months that revelations about the inner workings of the Warren Commission have worked against its official conclusions. The Dallas Morning News reported in July former President and last surviving Commission member Gerald Ford edited a key sentence about a bullet that entered JFK's body. That

August 12, 1997

Excerpted from an article in Newsday written by Michael Dorman

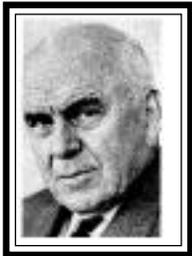
A Warren Commission member expressed serious reservations about one of the panel's more controversial conclusions, the theory that a single shot hit President Kennedy and Texas Gov. John Connally, a long-secret document was revealed. The "magic bullet" theory was essential to the commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was a lone assassin.

Marked "confidential," the released document was a memorandum sent by commission member John J. McCloy to the commission's chief counsel, J. Lee Rakin. It was dated June 24, 1964, seven months after Kennedy's assassination in Dallas, and conveyed McCloy's critique of a draft of the final Warren Commission Report.

Elsewhere, McCloy questions the commission's account that a bullet found on a stretcher at Dallas' Parkland Hospital where Kennedy and Connally were treated after being shot -- was the "magic bullet."

The document recently released by the U.S. Assassination Records Review Board -- which screens Kennedy assassination documents and releases those that will not endanger national security -- also contains many other suggestions by McCloy on revising the draft report. Some of those suggestions were adopted by the commission. But the commission did not revise the sections dealing with the "magic bullet" theory. Nor did it revise other sections criticized by McCloy, dealing with the Kennedy and Connally wounds. He asked at one point, for example: *"Why is there no citation of authority with regard to the wound in the president's back and its path through his body?"*

The document recently released by the U.S. Assassination Records Review Board also contains many other suggestions by McCloy on revising the draft report.



edit to the Warren Report, critics said, resulted in wording suggesting a bullet hit Kennedy higher than it really did.

The SBT is central to the Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald alone fired the shots that killed Kennedy and wounded Connally. The Commission declared there was time for Oswald to fire no more than three shots and that he did, in fact, fire three times. One shot was said to have missed the presidential limousine entirely. A second -- the fatal bullet -- was said to have struck Kennedy in the back of the head. That left just one more bullet, which spawned the hotly-disputed SBT. The Commission said this bullet hit Kennedy in the lower part of the back of his neck and went on to cause wounds to Connally's back, right wrist, and left thigh.

If the Commission had concluded separate bullets had struck Kennedy and Connally, it would have been forced to conclude there was a fourth bullet. And since there had not been time for more than three shots, it would have meant there was a second gunman.

The document was released recently by the Assassination Records Review Board and contains many other suggestions by McCloy on revising the draft report. Some of those suggestions were adopted by the Commission. But the Commission did not revise the sections dealing with the single, or "magic," bullet theory. According to one tally, McCloy attended just 16 of 51 Warren Commission sessions and heard only 35 of 94 witnesses. He died in 1989.

Fair Play:

<http://shell.rmi.net/~jkelin>

McCloy

"I think too much effort is expended on attempting to prove that the first bullet which hit the president was also responsible for all of Connally's wounds." McCloy wrote.

JOHN J. MCCLOY
ONE CHASE MANHATTAN PLAZA
NEW YORK 2, N. Y.

June 24, 1964

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Lee:

Herewith my notes on Chapters Two and Three. I think Chapter Two is better done than Chapter Three but Chapter Three is a more difficult chapter to write and a much more important one.

I think too much effort is expended on attempting to prove that the first bullet which hit the President was also responsible for all Connally's wounds. The evidence against this is not fully stated and the section on the possibility of shots from the overpass is not well done. In many respects, this chapter is the most important chapter in the Report and it should be the most convincing considering the evidence we have.

I am going over the other chapters as rapidly as possible.

Sincerely,



Enclosures

Honorable J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel
President's Commission on the Assassination
of President Kennedy
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D. C.