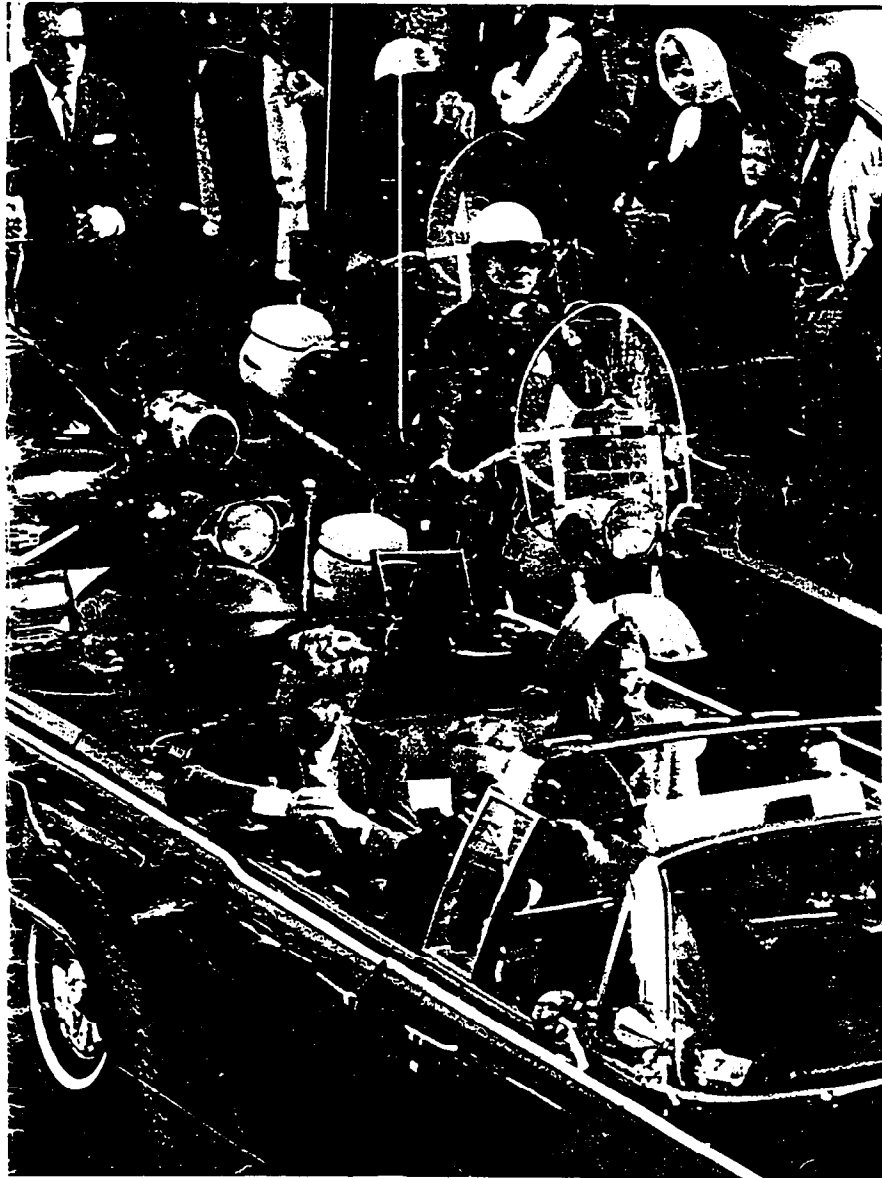


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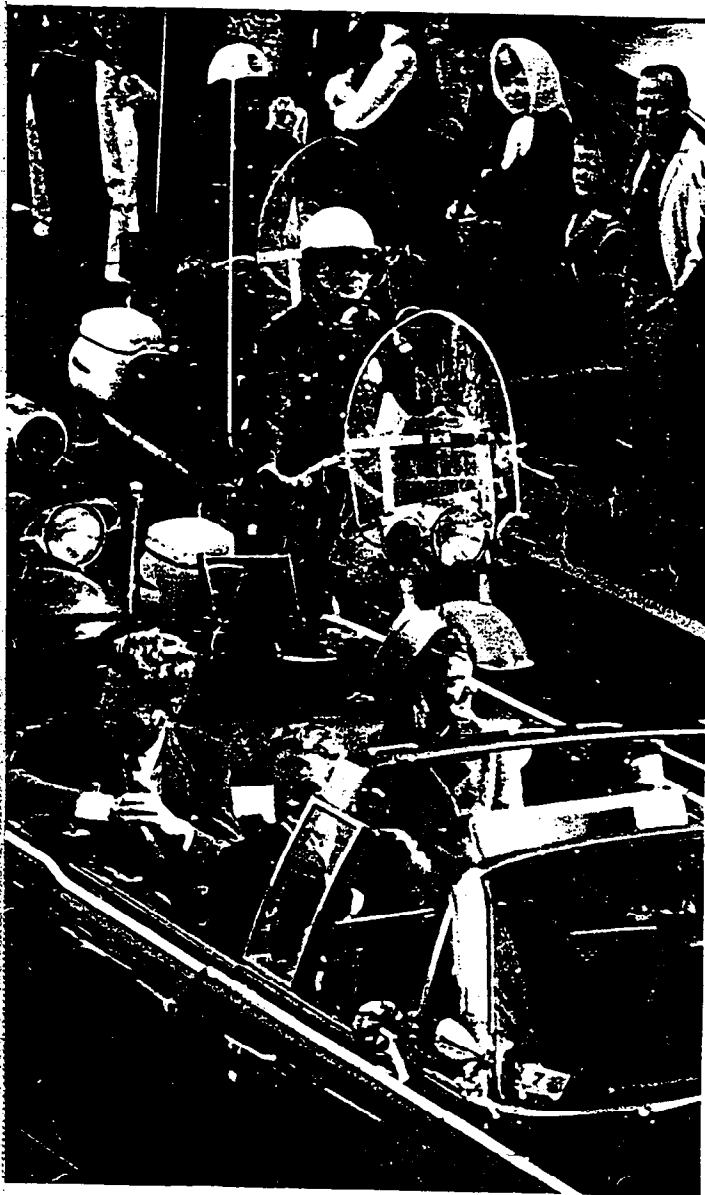
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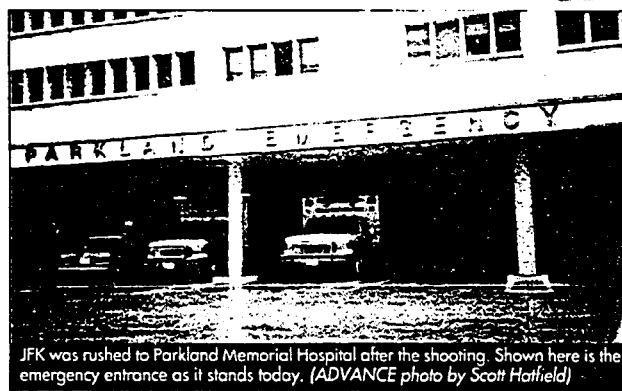
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001595

# RT Disputes X-Ray Photos in JFK Case



JFK was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital after the shooting. Shown here is the emergency entrance as it stands today. (ADVANCE photo by Scott Hatfield)

By Scott Hatfield  
Assistant Editor

Nearly 30 years after President John F. Kennedy was shot to death on Dealey Plaza in Dallas, a radiologic technologist has revealed what he maintains is evidence that the autopsy X-rays were fabricated.

The claims of Jerrold Custer, BS, RT(R), and other professionals present at the autopsy dispute a recent article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA). The JAMA piece underscores the Warren Commission's findings that Kennedy was struck from behind by one lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Warren Commission—convened shortly after the assassination on Nov. 23, 1963—arrived in 1964 that Oswald, acting alone, fired three shots from a sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository, a building that overlooked JFK's motorcade route.

According to the commission, one of the shots missed the presidential limousine; one struck the president in the upper back and then exited through his throat and hit Texas Gov. John Connally, who sat in the seat directly in front; and another hit Kennedy in the head and killed him.

RECENTLY, THE pathologists who did the four-hour autopsy on Kennedy at the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland (where he was transported after physicians at Parkland

Memorial Hospital in Dallas tried to save his life) discussed their findings with two JAMA editorial staffers. JAMA published an article based on the interview in its May 27 issue.

James Joseph Humes, MD, and "J" Thornton Boswell, MD, two former Navy pathologists, support the Warren Commission's conclusion that two bullets struck Kennedy. The bullets, the pathologists said, were fired from above and behind by a high-velocity weapon.

Custer, a former Navy radiologic technologist who claims he radiographed Kennedy's body, said only two photographs of the head films have survived; Custer claims he took between 14 and 20 radiographs, including additional views of the head. He emphasized the evidence cited in the House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations report (a committee launched by the House of Representatives to investigate Kennedy's death) consisted of photographs of the X-rays rather than the actual X-rays.

Moreover, Custer said, the X-ray photos do not resemble the radiographs he actually took.

"The right side of the skull on the X-rays that I took do not match the right side of the skull in the pictures," Custer said in an interview with ADVANCE. "Not only that, but I remember the skull not damaged in that area (contrary to the X-ray photos used by the select committee). It was all further back."

The "pictures" are autopsy photographs

that Floyd Riebe, a Navy photographer, has said he took.

CUSTER, SPEAKING at a news conference in New York City held shortly after the JAMA article appeared, said he was shown the X-ray photographs included in the select committee's report. Custer said those X-ray photos demonstrated that a bullet blew away Kennedy's right eye and surrounding bone. However, in Riebe's autopsy photographs, the face is intact.

"The X-rays are not the ones I took," Custer said, "simply for the reason that they don't match the photographs that were taken by Floyd Riebe."

Riebe, also speaking at the press conference, said he, too, believes that the autopsy photographs, showing the back of Kennedy's head to be intact, are fakes. He conceded, however, that they "resemble" his work.

Harrison Livingston, who has spent 25 years investigating the assassination and authored a book on the subject, said of the evidence, "The X-rays and photos make it look like there were only shots from behind, blowing out the president's face."

Riebe believes that other autopsy photographs, showing the back of JFK's head, were "retouched to conceal a large exit hole from the bullet entering from the front." Others familiar with the case agree.

IN ADDITION, Custer and Riebe say objects appeared in the autopsy photographs that were not present in the autopsy room the day they worked on JFK. One of the objects in question is a wooden table.

"We had no such structure," Riebe said. "The table we had was white tile and stainless steel."

Custer recalls lifting Kennedy's body to place films on the day of the shooting. "A

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001596

# It Disputes Ray Photos in JFK Case



led to Parkland Memorial Hospital after the shooting. Shown here is the entrance as it stands today. (ADVANCE photo by Scott Hatfield)

By Scott Hatfield  
Assistant Editor

years after President John F. Kennedy's death on Dallas' Plaza in 1963, a forensic logic technologist has revealed that the autopsy photographs are evidence that the autopsy was fabricated.

Jerrold Caster, BS, RT(R), a radiologist, was present at the autopsy. His article in the *Journal of the American Association of Radiologists* (JAAAR) underlines the Warren Commission's findings that Kennedy was killed by one lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Warren Commission—convened to investigate the assassination on Nov. 23, 1963—concluded in 1964 that Oswald, acting alone, shot Kennedy from a sixth-floor window of the Texas School Depository. Caster's article says that overlooked JFK's motor-

cade to the commission, one of the presidential limousines; one bullet hit Kennedy in the upper back and another hit his throat and his Texas School Depository, who sat in the seat directly behind Kennedy in the limousine.

Y. THE pathologist who did the autopsy on Kennedy at the Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas (where he was taken after physicians at Parkland

Memorial Hospital in Dallas tried to save his life) discussed their findings with two JAAAR editorial staffers. JAAAR published an article based on the interview in its May 27 issue.

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"We had no such structure," Riebe said. "All we had was white tile and stainless steel."

Caster recalls lifting Kennedy's body to place films on the day of the shooting. "A

bullet fell out of the upper torso of Kennedy," he said.

Caster said he always believed that the series of films he did on the day were recorded in the department's log. The log, however, never appeared, said Caster, now a radiologist at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas.

On the morning following the assassination, Caster said, he was made to sign a statement.

"We were told to say nothing about the assassination, and that if we mentioned anything, we'd end up in jail," Caster said.

Published reports have indicated that Ebersole, MD, then the chief radiologist at Bethesda, and Edward Reed, then a Navy student, took films of Kennedy's head that morning.

Dr. Ebersole, Caster said, involved only in film interpretation. As to individual, Caster said, Edward Reed, first-year student. There is no way he would get involved in an important situation like that. He was not involved.

Caster said that, on the day of the assassination, he was instructed to take X-ray films of Kennedy's head. "I was told by Dr. Ebersole that the best (of Kennedy's)," Caster continues, "was in the main department of the small rooms with a postcard."

Asked why, almost 20 years later, he came forward with his testimony, Caster said: "That (the gag order) kept me quiet for 20 years."

JFK RESEARCHER Livingstone (Cont'd on back page)



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001597

# RT Disputes X-Ray Photos in JFK Case

(Cont'd from page 7)

cluded Carter's account in the recently published book *High Treason*. Livingstone held the press conference in New York to present arguments to the JAMA article.

In an interview with *ADVANCE*, Livingstone said, "The X-rays are fake and were used to trick the chief justice of the United States. 'The X-rays (seen by Chief Justice Earl Warren) show that the president's face is blown out. There was no damage to his face.'"

In the JAMA article, Dr. Humes said, "In 1963, we probed at the autopsy table that President Kennedy was struck from above and behind by the fatal shot."

"If a bullet or a BB were fired through that window, it would leave a small hole where it entered and a beveled crater where it exited. That is exactly what 'J' and I found when we examined the president's skull. There was a small elliptical entrance wound on the back of the skull, where the bullet entered, and a beveled larger wound on the inside of the back of the skull, where the bullet tore through and exploded out the right side of the head."

In response, Livingstone said, "None of this precludes shots from in front."

The path of the other bullet was not so obvious, the pathologists said in the JAMA article.

"It was bothering me very greatly, like nothing you can imagine, that we could find neither the other bullet nor its exit track," Dr. Humes wrote. "In hindsight, we could have saved ourselves a lot of trouble if we had known that the doctors at Parkland performed a tracheotomy in an attempt to save the president's life and that this procedure obliterated the exit wound of the bullet that entered at the base of the neck (in the back)."

"The president was killed by a devastating gunshot wound to the head fired from above and behind by a high-velocity rifle. The other

bullet that struck him in the back of the neck was also fired from above and behind. That's it. Everything else is advertisements."

In Livingstone's opinion, Dr. Humes is sending a "convoluted message" to readers of the JAMA article. One point of contention, Livingstone said, is that Dr. Humes gave the position of the entry wound of the back of the head 1 1/2 inches from where it is in the allegedly fabricated photos and X-rays. Another, Livingstone said, is that Dr. Humes insists the president's face was intact—not what is shown by the allegedly phony X-rays.

In the government report, Dr. Humes and the other physicians involved in the autopsy are asked to locate the entrance of the bullet that struck Kennedy's head, basing their calculations on autopsy information, X-rays and photographs, Volume VII ("Medical and Firearms Evidence") of an appendix to the hearings before the Select Committee on Assassinations, printed in March 1979 (page 114), attempts to clarify the "disparity between the localization of the wound in the photographs and X-rays and in the autopsy report."

The government report says, "In each instance, they identified the approximate location of the entrance wound on a human skull and within the photographs as being in a position perceived by the panel to be below that described in the autopsy report."

Other disparities exist between the information in the JAMA article and the autopsy X-rays and photographs, according to Livingstone.

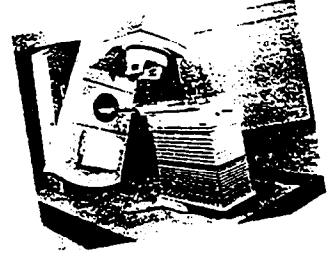
In the JAMA article, Dr. Humes is quoted as describing what he saw when the crasket was opened: "I [sic] identifying facial features were all intact and there he was, the president of the United States, now dead at age 46 with a terrible wound of the head."

Said Livingstone, "This indicates the X-rays and photos are indeed false."

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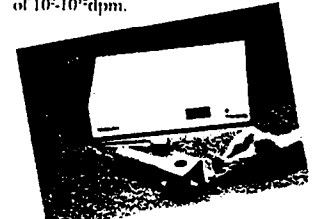
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