

# **The three bullets that hit President Kennedy from behind; in the back of his neck, in the back of his head, and high in his back**

by

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## **1. Introduction**

The revelation came to me early in June 2007 while watching the Zapruder film yet another time on my computer screen. I was not analyzing the film, just watching it, including the fatal head shot and President Kennedy's apparently violent movement backwards and to the left, which so many have interpreted as the result of a shot from the Grassy Knoll to the right front of him. Suddenly it dawned on me that this backward movement of President Kennedy's head might have been caused by a bullet striking him in his upper back almost simultaneously with the bullet that struck him in the head. The force of such a bullet striking him in the upper back, particularly if it hit the spine, would then push his upper body violently forward, so that his head, neck and shoulders would tilt backwards. This is the same type of movement so many have experienced when suddenly slipping and falling backwards, or when seated in a car, another car hits your car from behind, causing a backlash injury. And since President Kennedy, based on the Zapruder film, obviously had been hit in the neck region several seconds before he was hit in the head and the back, it meant that he had been hit by three bullets, one more than the official story would have it. With this new realization, within the next few days, different testimonies relating to President Kennedy's wounds, which I already were quite familiar with, took on a completely new meaning.

I had started studying the assassination of President Kennedy in earnest around November 22, 2003, when 40 years had passed since his killing. In the following 5 months I meticulously studied all the available medical evidence related to the autopsy, and late in April 2004, I released on the Internet an [article](#) entitled 'The Top Secret Second Autopsy of President Kennedy', in which I claimed that there had been a reexamination of President Kennedy's body at Bethesda Naval Hospital late Saturday night, November 23, i.e., about 24 hours after the semi-official first autopsy on the evening of the assassination. This second autopsy necessitated the stealing of President Kennedy's embalmed and fully dressed body from the casket in the East Room of the White House, and its transportation back to Bethesda, and most likely a return of the body to the casket after the doctors had finished with their reexamination of the body. Moreover, in my paper I claimed that all the extant autopsy photographs of President Kennedy's body had been taken by White House photographer Robert Knudsen during this re-examination, and that the majority of the x-rays of the head and body also had been taken at this second examination. I primarily based my conclusion about there having been a second autopsy on the astonishing interview of Richard A. Lipsey conducted by D. A. Purdy and T.M. Flanigan of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) on January 18, 1978, but there was also other evidence pointing in the same direction.

At the time of the assassination, Richard A. Lipsey was an aide to General Wehle, the commanding general of the Military District of Washington, which was the military command responsible for planning and carrying out President Kennedy's funeral, as well as taking care of all the ceremonial aspects associated with the handling of President Kennedy's casket (like providing honor guards and casket bearer teams) from the time it arrived from Dallas at Andrews Air Force Base up until and including the funeral itself. And General Wehle had ordered his aide, 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant Lipsey, to observe the autopsy and never leave the body out of sight. And according to Lipsey, he had witnessed the majority of the autopsy, as well as the ensuing preparation of President Kennedy's body for the funeral by the morticians. However, Lipsey's account of several aspects of the autopsy is substantially different from what all other autopsy witnesses have described. I soon became convinced that the

only reasonable explanation for this discrepancy was that Lipsey had been present at another examination of President Kennedy's body than what occurred at the semi-official autopsy on the evening of November 22, 1963.

Specifically, Lipsey recalled in great detail how the three autopsy doctors had discussed how President Kennedy had been hit by three separate bullets from behind causing *three* entrance wounds: one in the back of his head on the right side, one in the back of his upper neck, and one in the back of his lower neck/upper back. The bullet that had struck President Kennedy in the right rear of his head, had blown away a large piece of the skull, so that there were not separate entrance and exit holes, but just one large blown away part. The bullet that had hit him in the back of his upper neck, had exited in the front part of the neck (throat) at the site of the tracheotomy incision, whereas the bullet that had hit President Kennedy low in his neck or upper back, had traveled down into his chest cavity and had not exited. However, back in early 2004, I couldn't figure out how and when President Kennedy had been hit by three bullets from behind, based on the other medical evidence and the Zapruder film. I therefore dismissed some of Lipsey's claims and suggested in my paper that President Kennedy had been hit almost simultaneously in the front of his neck (throat) and in his upper back when behind the Stemmons Freeway Sign in the Zapruder film, and that about 5 seconds later he was hit in his left temple with a bullet that blew out the right rear portion of his head. Thus, I suggested that he had been hit once from behind by a bullet fired from the DalTex-building and twice from the left front by two bullets fired from the Southern Knoll in Dealey Plaza. But now I realized that I had been completely wrong about my proposed shooting scenario, and that Richard A. Lipsey had been completely right in his HSCA interview in 1978 about there having been three bullets that hit President Kennedy from behind. However, according to Lipsey, the three autopsy doctors seemed to have been convinced that all three bullets came from the same direction, and that they had been fired from the same gun.

But since two bullets had hit President Kennedy almost simultaneously in the back of his head and his upper back, respectively, it seemed more likely to me that they had been fired from different places. And since the bullet that struck him in the back, obviously had been fired from a point more or less directly behind President Kennedy, I assumed that the bullet that struck him in the rear of the head, had to have been fired from a point more to the left rear since the right rear portion of President Kennedy's head was blown out. This caused me to look more thoroughly into the wounding of Governor Connally, which I unfortunately hadn't studied well enough before writing my paper about the second autopsy in 2004. It turned out that I had correctly suggested that Governor Connally had been hit somewhere around frame 295 of the Zapruder film (Z295), but I had failed to take into account how Governor Connally was positioned in his seat at that point, and wrongly suggested that he had been hit by a bullet fired from directly behind the *limousine*, i.e., from the DalTex Building. By reviewing all testimonies related to the wounding of Governor Connally, as well as the Zapruder film, I realized that could not be the case, and that Governor Connally and his wife had been consistently lying about when the Governor was hit. At about Z295, Governor Connally had his back turned toward Houston Street, and at that time he had to have been hit by a bullet fired from the general direction of the Dallas County Criminal Courts Building. And a bullet fired from that direction was also fully consistent with the damage produced in the right rear of President Kennedy's head. Thus, the pieces of the puzzle concerning President Kennedy's assassination were finally falling into place.

### **The shooting sequence in Dealey Plaza**

The following is a brief summary of how the shooting most likely took place in Dealey Plaza on November 23, 1963, based on my interpretation of available evidence, particularly the medical evidence from President Kennedy and Governor Connally and what is depicted in the Zapruder film. Supporting evidence for each of these claims will be provided in the following sections.

The first shot was fired along Elm Street from the top floor/roof of the Dal-Tex building hitting President Kennedy in the back of his neck just within the hairline at approximately frame 220 of the Zapruder film (Z220), i.e., when President Kennedy is hidden from view by the Stemmons Freeway sign in this film. The bullet strikes the cervical spinal column and a (small) fragment of the bullet or a bone fragment tears through the right side of President Kennedy's trachea and exits in the front of his neck (throat). President Kennedy slumps to the left and grasps with both hands toward his throat.

Governor Connally, who is seated on the jump seat immediately in front of President Kennedy, reacts to the sound of the first shot by turning to his right and apparently tries to see the President in the back seat. About 4-5 seconds after the first shot, when Governor Connally is turned approximately 90 degrees to his right in the seat (at Z290-291), he is hit in his back close to his right armpit by a bullet fired from the top floor/roof of the

Criminal Courts Building to the left rear of the limousine. The (fragmented) bullet exits the front of his chest and a small portion of the bullet enters the Governor's left thigh. Governor Connally is pushed downward in his seat by the force of the bullet, i.e., toward the right rear door of the limousine, and falls backwards into the lap of his wife, who has also turned to her right by the sound of the first shot and is at this time looking at President Kennedy in the back seat.

Just a little more than a second later (at Z313), President Kennedy is struck in the back of his head by another shot fired from the top floor/roof of the Criminal Courts Building, i.e., to his left rear. The bullet strikes the right rear of President Kennedy's head tangentially, chipping off several skull fragments, including a large fragment that is flung forward along the right side of his head. Upon striking the skull, the bullet disintegrates, with some fragments being deflected forward into President Kennedy's skull cavity, whereas a large fragment of the bullet exits from the right side of President Kennedy's head behind his right ear and goes on to strike Governor Connally on the dorsal (upper) side of his right forearm close to the wrist, perforating and shattering the radius bone before exiting on the ventral (palmar) side of the forearm.

The impact of the bullet hitting President Kennedy's head causes his head to move to the right and slightly forward, but this movement is almost immediately stopped and reversed (at Z314-316) when another bullet, fired from the top floor/roof of the Dal-Tex building, strikes President Kennedy high in his back a fraction of a second later. The latter bullet strikes the vertebral column (spine) and does not exit. The force of the bullet colliding with the vertebrae causes President Kennedy's chest to be pushed violently downward and forward, which causes his head and shoulders to tilt violently backwards and his right arm to be thrown up into the air, as if he has been hit from the front.

In total, four shots were fired, but only three shots were heard. The second shot, which hit Governor Connally in his back, was fired with a silenced gun and was inaudible. The two last shots, hitting President Kennedy's in his head and his upper back, were fired almost simultaneously, or in 'rapid succession' as many witnesses later testified. Two shots, about 5 seconds apart (# 1 and #4), were fired from a gunman immediately to the rear, or slightly to the right rear of President Kennedy, i.e., most likely from the top of the DalTex Building, although TSBD is also a possibility, and two shots (#2 and #3), including the fatal headshot (#3) were fired by two gunmen to the left rear of President Kennedy, i.e., most likely from the top of the Criminal Courts Building.

## 2. The three bullets that hit President Kennedy

According to the official [autopsy](#) report signed by Drs. Humes, Boswell and Finck, President Kennedy was hit by two bullets fired from above and behind him, i.e., consistent with shots fired from the window in the southeastern corner on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Texas School Book Depository, where Lee Harvey Oswald was supposed to have been during the shooting. One bullet hit President Kennedy in the head and allegedly entered in the back of the head, producing a small puncture wound, and allegedly exited at the top of the head on the right side, making a large exit wound in both the skull and the scalp above and forward to the right ear.

**Situated in the posterior scalp approximately 2.5 cm. laterally to the right and slightly above the external occipital protuberance is a lacerated wound measuring 15 x 6 mm. In the underlying bone is a corresponding wound through the skull which exhibits beveling of the margins of the bone when viewed from the inner aspect of the skull.**

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**There is a large irregular defect of the scalp and skull on the right involving chiefly the parietal bone but extending somewhat into the temporal and occipital regions. In this region there is an actual absence of scalp and bone producing a defect which measures approximately 13 cm. in greatest diameter.**

Another bullet allegedly entered President Kennedy in the right shoulder/lower neck area, perforated the soft tissues on the right side of his neck, damaged the right side of his trachea and exited approximately in the midline on the front of the neck. This exit wound was obscured by the tracheotomy incision performed by Dr. Perry at Parkland Hospital in Dallas during the emergency treatment of President Kennedy.

Situated on the upper right posterior thorax just above the upper border of the scapula there is a 7 x 4 millimeter oval wound. This wound is measured to be 14 cm. from the tip of the right acromion process and 14 cm. below the tip of the right mastoid process.

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Situated in the low anterior neck at approximately the level of the third and fourth tracheal rings is a 6.5 cm. long transverse wound with widely gaping irregular edges.

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The second wound presumably of entry is that described above in the upper right posterior thorax. Beneath the skin there is ecchymosis of subcutaneous tissue and musculature. The missile path through the fascia and musculature cannot be easily proved. The wound presumably of exit was that described by Dr. Malcolm Perry of Dallas in the low anterior cervical region. When observed by Dr. Perry the wound measured "a few millimeters in diameter", however it was extended as a tracheostomy incision and thus its character is distorted at the time of autopsy. However there is considerable ecchymosis of the strap muscles of the right side of the neck and of the fascia about the trachea adjacent to the line of the tracheostomy wound. The third point of reference in connecting these two wounds is in the apex (supra-clavicular portion) of the right pleural cavity. In this region there is contusion of the parietal pleura and of the extreme apical portion of the right upper lobe of the lung. In both instances the diameter of contusion and ecchymosis at the point of maximal involvement measures 5 cm. Both the visceral and parietal pleura are intact overlying these areas of trauma.

These 'findings' led the pathologists to draw the following conclusions:

Based on the above observations it is our opinion that the deceased died as a result of two perforating gunshot wounds inflicted by high velocity projectiles fired by a person or persons unknown. The projectiles were fired from a point behind and somewhat above the level of the deceased. The observations and available information do not permit a satisfactory estimate as to the sequence of the two wounds.

The fatal missile entered the skull above and to the right of the external occipital protuberance. A portion of the projectile traversed the cranial cavity in a posterior-anterior direction (see lateral skull roentgenograms) depositing minute particles along its path. A portion of the projectile made its exit through the parietal bone on the right carrying with it portions of cerebrum, skull and scalp. The two wounds of the skull combined with the force of the missile produced extensive fragmentation of the skull, laceration of the superior sagittal sinus, and of the right cerebral hemisphere.

The other missile entered the right superior posterior thorax above the scapula and traversed the soft tissues of the supra-scapular and the supra-clavicular portions of the base of the right side of the neck. This missile produced contusions of the right apical parietal pleura and of the apical portion of the right upper lobe of the lung. The missile contused the strap muscles of the right side of the neck, damaged the trachea and made its exit through the anterior surface of the neck. As far as can be ascertained this missile struck no bony structures in its path through the body.

According to the 'single bullet theory' of the Warren Commission Report, the bullet that exited at the front of the neck of President Kennedy then went on to strike Governor Connally in the back close to his right armpit, exited on the front of his chest, perforated his right forearm including his radius bone and finally struck his left thigh without becoming embedded in the leg. Instead the near pristine bullet (CE 399) was allegedly recovered on Governor Connally's stretcher at Parkland Hospital.

Except for the exit wound at the tracheotomy incision site, which could not be moved around on the body, none of the wounds described in the official autopsy report ever existed on President Kennedy's body in the form and/or location that this report described them to have existed. The wound descriptions, and largely also the

corresponding autopsy photographs and x-rays, were tailor-made to fit the lone gunman scenario and implicate Lee Harvey Oswald as President Kennedy's assassin. There is ample evidence to prove this. The autopsy report is one of the most blatant cases of medical fraud ever perpetrated, and probably also the most important one ever. Without this fabricated medical evidence the grand conspiracy behind the assassination of President Kennedy would soon have been exposed and the coup d'état that killed him would have failed. Because we now know that President Kennedy was hit by three bullets, not by two. There were no separate entrance and exit holes in the skull and no large exit wound in the *top* of the head; one bullet blew away a large section in the right *rear* of the head, behind and slightly above his right ear. Not one, but two bullets hit President Kennedy below his head, one in the back of his neck close to the hairline, and one in his upper back. The bullet that hit his back did not exit; it was stopped by the thoracic vertebral column. A portion of the bullet that hit him in the back of the neck did exit at the front of the neck after damaging the trachea. The small exit wound of this fragment was obliterated by the tracheotomy incision. The autopsy doctors and their superiors, but very few others, knew about the entry wound in the back of the neck at the time of the autopsy, but they obviously largely succeeded in hiding and suppressing this information, or to fool those who did see that wound to believe it was the entry wound of the large (exit) wound immediately above it, i.e., in the *rear* of the head, an area which the autopsy doctors cunningly referred as the *top* of the head already during the autopsy. And only after the autopsy was finished did the autopsy doctors connect the known entry wound in the upper back, which had no exit, with the exit wound that once had been where the tracheotomy incision now was.

Before going into details about the location of the different wounds separately, I will look at the testimonies of three autopsy witnesses that have described or indicated the presence of all wounds on President Kennedy's body, namely Richard A. Lipsey, Robert L. Knudsen and Roy H. Kellerman.

### ***Richard A. Lipsey***

The most complete account of all three bullet wounds on President Kennedy is that given by Richard A. Lipsey in his HSCA interview in 1978. A transcript of the entire interview is therefore provided in Appendix 1 to this paper, but the most important statements are also cited below. Time after time in this interview, Mr. Lipsey describes the three wounds as he saw them and as he heard the three doctors discussing them during the autopsy that he witnessed. And that certainly couldn't have been the first autopsy on November 22, because there were no such discussions at that time (more about this later). And since nobody seems to have been able to imagine that there could have been a second autopsy with a re-examination of President Kennedy's body until I first released my paper on this topic in April, 2004, Mr. Lipsey's account (like my first paper) has been met with utter disbelief, and largely been rejected and/or regarded as pure fantasy. This also applies to the two HSCA staffers, Mr. Purdy and Mr. Flanagan, who interviewed Mr. Lipsey in 1978. If they only had realized what Mr. Lipsey really was telling them, then the Kennedy murder could have been solved 30 years ago. Because I do believe Mr. Lipsey in that interview is more honest and truthful about what he saw and heard during that autopsy than the great majority of other autopsy witnesses ever have been. And Mr. Lipsey seem to have been genuinely worried about disclosing some of the secrets from that autopsy, since he had signed an order not to disclose anything. So he starts the interview with the following question:

LIPSEY: Now let me ask you fellows a question. The only . . . before we start, and the only thing . . . that I . . . I question about . . . about this conversation is that . . . and I don't even remember, I don't have a copy of it, I can't tell you what it is. But why . . . as you know, I was the aide to General Wehle . . . and such rules . . . responsible for all the funeral proceedings, arranging it, we did everything from getting the Irish Guard there on time to the whole bit. And I did watch the autopsy, or the majority of it, I were not in there 100% of the time, but I watched most of it. Afterwards, about a week or so later, I can remember signing the document in our office that we . . . that came under some kind of federal secrets act, and that we should not discuss any information . . . [interrupted by intercom] . . . that we should not discuss anything of the secret nature, that we felt was the secret nature, particularly anything about the autopsy for a period of 15 years, I think it was. Now, do . . . are you excluded from this?

Q: Well, it's our understanding... that . . .

LIPSEY: Not that I know . . . not that I know anything that makes a hell of a lot of difference. We were just told not to discuss it for . . . and I don't remember if it is 15 years or 20 years. I definitely remember signing something of that nature.

And Mr. Lipsey ends the interview with reiterating his wish that what he has just told the two HSCA staffers not be made public. If he had wanted to hide something, he could just have lied about it or kept quiet about it.

LIPSEY: [ . . . ] Obviously, everything I've told you here . . . first of all, I've never discussed any part of the autopsy itself with anybody. You are the first who I have discussed it with . . . not even with my wife. Oh . . . and the thing . . . as far as relating back to the thing I signed, that had to do with the time . . . with National Security more . . . 'cause I was . . . I had a Top Secret rating because I was exposed to every Top Secret document in Washington. I briefed the President . . . or, with General Wehle, on things. And, of course, that's what . . . you know, had more to do with . . . you know, we signed those, that we wouldn't discuss . . . I feel like it was . . . we wouldn't discuss anything that we do that related to the President or his dealings . . . who . . . or at the time . . . what any of his plans were, or any of the people he had talked to . . . or confidentiality or anything that I had read going from our office to his office. Oh, but still . . . I felt that this was something **that if anybody should be told about, it should be told to authorized persons such as yourself.** And for that reason, and General and I . . . Wehle and I . . . kind of agreed we would never discuss it, you know, among ourselves. **And it's never been discussed with anybody. And I certainly would not want my comments made public, you know. I don't think they should be.**

And the thing that Mr. Lipsey was most worried about revealing, was the fact that President Kennedy had been hit by *three* bullets: (i) one bullet had hit the back of the head and blown away the right rear portion and side of Kennedy's head; (ii) one bullet had struck high in the back of the neck and exited at the front of the neck (throat); and (iii) one bullet, which Mr. Lipsey and the autopsy doctors always referred to as the 'third' bullet, had hit the President in his lower neck/upper back, had gone into his chest cavity and had not exited. This latter fact, he correctly pointed out, had never been written up anywhere.

Q: Getting back to the beginning stages of the autopsy, or even before the actual autopsy began, do you recall when the x-rays were taken, the x-rays and photos?

LIPSEY: Yeah, well as far as the exact x-ray was taken, no I don't recall. I do recall the comments from the doctors, you know, who started examining the body before they did anything, you know, looking at the body, looking at where the bullets had entered the back of the his head. **It was obvious that one bullet entered the back of his head and exited on the right side of his face and pretty well blew away the right side of his head. Oh . . . and then the other two bullets had entered the lower part of his neck . . . and to the best of my knowledge, or the best of my memory, one had exited. The other bullet had entered from behind and hit his chest cavity and the bullet went down into the body. And during the autopsy . . . this is the only part that I can imagine would be of any . . . really, what I've told you a little bit right there, of strictly confidential nature, that was never written up anywhere. And I presume, am I right, these . . . this tape and this conversation is strictly confidential? You know, it's not going to be published . . . I guess is what I'm getting at.**

Q: It's not going to be published during the term of this committee. During 1978.

LIPSEY: Okay, well, is that . . . as far as I can remember, and I'm pretty positive about it, they never found the third bullet. **It did not exit the body.** [ . . . ]

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LIPSEY: [ . . . ] But anyhow, like I say, I can remember lifting his chest cavity and then the top of his head off, and you know, all the internal organs out. **And I can remember them discussing the third . . . third bullet. First, second, third bullet. The third bullet, the one they hadn't found.** Their only logical explanation was that it hit him in the back of the head . . . **hit his chest cavity,** and then, like bullets will do . . . I am sure you are familiar with that one, you shoot somebody, no telling where the bullet is going to end up . . . probably hit his chest cavity and could have gone all the way down into his toe. You know, it could have just hit and gone right down into his leg or wherever. **But I don't think, to the best of my knowledge, they ever found the third bullet.** But I . . .

Q: Did they find any other bullets?

LIPSEY: This is what I'm getting back to. I don't know that they found bullets or whether they found just particles of bullets. I don't think they know . . . I don't think they found any whole bullets. But that is just strictly speculation on my part. You know . . . **I remember they were bound and determined to find that bullet because it didn't have an exit mark. But I don't think they ever found the bullet. The one that they . . . you know . . . hit his chest, the one that exited here, there was no . . . entered here; there was no exit hole. So the bullet was somewhere in his body, obviously.**

Q: When you said "entered here", . . . referring to . . .

LIPSEY: **To the back . . . lower back of the head.**

Q: Lower back.

LIPSEY: And from the angle they were talking about . . . **it had to come from quite a height** because they were looking and talking to each other . . . the angle . . . where they were pointing it went in . . . to where they figured it hit him . . . to where it exited . . . had to be a down angle. [ . . . ] And . . . I don't personally think, personal opinion, from listening to the doctors, watching the autopsy, there was any question in their minds that the bullets came from the same direction . . . entered . . . you know . . . **that all three bullets came from the same place at the same . . . you know . . . time. They didn't . . . they weren't different angles, they all had the . . . you know . . . a distinct pattern to it.**

Q: Getting back to the bullets themselves, not the bullets themselves, but the entrances, can you go over again the

entrances as you remember them?

LIPSEY: **As I remember them there was one bullet that went in the back of the head that exited and blew away part of his face. And that was sort of high up, not high up . . . but like this little crown on the back of your head right there, three or four inches above your neck.**

Q: Okey.

LIPSEY: **And then the other one entered at more or less the top of the neck, the other one entered more or less at the bottom of the neck.**

Q: Okay, so that would be up where the crown, as much of the crown . . .

LIPSEY: **Yeah, not the top of the head . . . the rear . . . the rear crown.**

Q: Where that point might be on the skull bone?

LIPSEY: Exactly, yeah exactly.

Q: **Then one approximately several inches lower?**

LIPSEY: **Well not several, but two or three inches lower.**

Q: **Still in the head? Or what we would call...**

LIPSEY: **Closer to the neck.**

Q: **Closer to the neck? And than one in the neck?**

LIPSEY: **In the lower neck region.**

Q: **In the back?**

LIPSEY: **Yeah, the very . . . right as the . . .**

Q: [ . . . ] Okay, and then according to the autopsy doctors they feel the one that entered in the skull, in the rear of the head, exited in the right side of the head?

LIPSEY: The right front, you know, the face. **Not the top, not the right top, the right front.** The facial part of your face. In other words . . .

Q: Did that destroy his face at all? When you saw Presidents Kennedy, was his face distorted?

LIPSEY: **Yeah, the right side.** If you looked at him straight. If you looked at him from the left you couldn't see anything. If you looked at him from the right side it was just physically part of it blown away.

Q: So that would be right here?

LIPSEY: Yeah, behind the eye and everything.

Q: Behind the eye? Was it all hair region or was it part of the actual face?

LIPSEY: To the best of my recollection it was part of the hair region and part of the face region.

Q: Just to follow up this point, after the embalming had been done and the morticians had finished preparing the body and you viewed President Kennedy at that time, after he was dressed, could you see any damage?

LIPSEY: They did a beautiful job. He looked great.

Q: So you really couldn't tell?

LIPSEY: Oh, you could tell, sure, if you got up close you could tell, yes.

Q: But he was presentable in the sense that you . . .

LIPSEY: He wasn't presentable in the sense that you would want to open the casket. But it was good . . . they did a super job.

Q: What I guess I'm getting at . . . is half his face so completely blown away? Could you recognize him?

LIPSEY: No, not at all. Oh no, he was 100% recognizable. I mean, particularly after they finished. No, it wasn't that much damage at all.

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Q: Getting back to the entrances . . . you just stated one exit you believed was on the right hand side of the head. Now what about the other entrances, what about the corresponding exits if there were any? Let's clarify that a little more. For starting, one...

LIPSEY: **The bullet that entered the lower part of the head or upper part of the neck . . . [long pause] . . . to the best of my knowledge, came out the front of the neck. But the one that I remember they spent so much time on, obviously, was the one that did not come out. There was a bullet . . . that's my vivid recollection . . . cause that's all they talked about. For about two hours, all they talked about was finding that bullet. And to the best of my recollection they found some particles, but they never found the bullet . . . you know . . . pieces of it, traces of it. But to the best of my knowledge . . . this is one thing I definitely remember they just never found the whole bullet.**

Q: What was it you observed that made you feel that it exited . . . the bullet that entered the rear portion of his head exited in the throat area?

LIPSEY: The throat area. Right. The lower throat area.

Q: What . . . were there markings there that indicated that the doctors came to that conclusion?

LIPSEY: I saw, you know, where they were working, and also listening to their conclusions.

Q: And it's your recollection at that time that the doctors definitely felt the bullets came from the . . . one area, same area, same time?

LIPSEY: Yes, they talked about that. It never seemed to be any doubt in their mind the bullets were coming from different directions at all.

Q: It's been a long time, but do you recall any reasons they gave?

LIPSEY: **Because of the angle.** I remember that's how they kept talking about the angles of the bullets, because . . . the angles that they entered the body. That's why they . . . I remember . . . measuring and doing all kinds of things. **They turned the body up at one point to determine where that bullet that entered back here, that didn't have an exit mark. Where was that bullet? And so when it got to . . . down to . . . you know, where they thought it hit his chest cavity, then they started . . . you know, they opened him up and started looking in here. That's why I remember one thing, they took, after they had taken all his organs out, during the autopsy they had them sitting up there: "Now let's see if we can find the bullet."** They cut all his organs apart. And they . . . I don't know what they did with them, but I remember them putting them in some kind of containers. I don't remember, but I remember them putting them in containers . . . and said we'll hold these and whatever.

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Q: To follow that up, the wounds that you did describe, was that based on hearing the doctors calling out that this is a wound, this is a wound? Or was that based on your visible sight when you saw the body?

LIPSEY: Both, because, I could see the body, I could see the rear. I could see the . . . obviously the side of the face, although when he . . . they . . . that's just when I walked in, they took him out the casket . . . I saw that, you know, the side wound, because when I went back and laid . . . sat down, they laid him down to the right. The way they laid him, I was looking at the left side of his body as opposed to the right side of his body. Oh, and I can remember seeing the blood at the throat area, and in the neck . . . neck area. As far as me getting down and looking at the exit hole in the front, all I could see was the blood. What I'm talking about, is what I heard in conversation from them from then on.

Q: To follow that up, as you should well know, because I take it you do hunt a lot, locating wounds in hair is very difficult. The sighting. Did you visibly see the wounds in the back of the head, what you feel were the entrance wounds? Was that based on what the doctors stated . . . that we know their opinions...

[Taking over each other]

LIPSEY: No, no . . ., that's . . . no. I hope I'm not contradicting myself. But at this point, there again, like I said, it's been a long time. **I feel that there was no really entrance wound . . . maybe I said that . . . in the rear of his head. There was a point where they determined the bullet entered the back of his head, but I believe all of that part of his head was gone. I mean, I think it just physically blew away that part of his head. You know, just like a strip right across there . . . or maybe just in that area . . . it just blew it out.**

Q: **So you say the damage caused by the entrance and the exit of the bullet to the head, caused one large hole?**

LIPSEY: **To the best of my recollection, yes it did. The one that went in the back . . . the other one that went in the back of the neck, like a say, I saw the blood spots and what have you, but they weren't tremendous, weren't a blow-a-way like this. But, of course, what little I know about it, which isn't a hell of a lot, your bone is right there, so when it hit it, the bullet probably expanded, hit something solid and ripped. But here, it went into tissue before it hit anything.**

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Q: Could you describe for us the nature of the damage on the front of the neck?

LIPSEY: Oh, no, I really couldn't. Because like I say, when we got it out, there was . . . blood was all over the body, it was just almost caked on. Like I remember them taking a scrub brush and a pail. One of his arms, and if I'm not mistaken, it was his left arm. You know, the way . . . I guess, after he died . . . finished the autopsy by the time . . . oh . . . rigor mortis had set in . . . one of his arms was slightly higher. If . . . you know, the guys wanna lay him down . . . one arm was up a little bit. So when they started the autopsy, I can remember one of the doctors, when he was starting to clean the body up, physically got up on the table and put his knee down on his arm to hold it down . . . so that he could scrub . . . to get it out of his way . . . so that he could scrub the rest of the body. So to say . . . to describe the hole to you, no, because it was so messy and so much blood that I didn't . . . I never got close enough to get down and look at the wound itself.

Q: Can you give us a rough estimate, compared for example to the wound in the head and the wound in the back of the neck?

LIPSEY: It was much smaller, oh, very much smaller.

Q: Than the head wound...

LIPSEY: Than the side head wound.

Q: How about compared to the wound in the lower back?

LIPSEY: There again, the wound in the back of the head, all I saw of that wound was when they turned him over on his side . . . and saw the blood when they were cleaning him off, when they started cutting, and doing the thing. I . . . I just couldn't possibly describe to you the relation to the size. I don't remember, and I doubt that I saw it close enough to remember . . . you know, to describe it to you.

Q: Do you remember the doctors describing the wound in the front of the neck as being caused by anything other than a bullet?

LIPSEY: No, not at all.

Q: Do you remember discussions on whether or not there had been a tracheotomy incision?

LIPSEY: [Long pause.] No, I guess anything . . . I do remember something about that, but I think that . . . if I



remember . . . I think that would have to come after reading things about what went on in Dallas. I . . . I . . . don't honestly remember them discussing that.

Q: What have you read about Dallas? About that front neck wound?

LIPSEY: It's been so long. Like I say, I'm glad I haven't, I'm glad I didn't go back over any articles and read, because I don't even remember.

Q: You don't recall whether or not there was a tracheotomy in the front of the neck?

LIPSEY: Absolutely not.

Q: Well, you say you didn't hear the doctors discuss that. Did you explicitly hear the doctors say that the wound in the front of the neck was caused by a bullet?

**LIPSEY: If you want to get down to specifics: no. The only thing I do remember was when they kept talking about the entrance in the back of the neck and looking at the hole in the front of the neck. To the best of my knowledge they were convinced that a bullet came out of the front of the neck. And that's how they were determining where to look for the other bullet . . . by the angle it went in at the back and came out at the front. Where to look at the other one.**

Q: Oh, the angle where it came in the head . . .

LIPSEY: Right.

Q: . . . looking out the front of the neck . . .

LIPSEY: Right.

Q: . . . using that angle . . .

LIPSEY: To . . . to determine where to look for the bullet . . . for the other one, because I presume they . . . from what they were looking at, both entrances looked to be the same. In other words, both entrances looked like . . . you know, the angles were the same on both entrances, or the size of the hole probably was the same . . . and in the front. I'm not going to stand here and make up a story, make it sound good, I . . . I just don't remember whether they discussed the size of a tracheotomy hole, or . . . it in relation to where a bullet might have exited.

Q: How much time did you say, relatively speaking, did the doctors spend on the three wounds you described? Did they spend more time on one or the other of the wounds?

**LIPSEY: They . . . they spent more time looking for that other bullet than they did on anything else.**

**Q: You're describing the bullet that went in...**

**LIPSEY: ...on the lower part of the neck. I remember them saying it must of hit the chest cavity and ricocheted down somewhere into the body.**

Q: Do you remember any discussion...

LIPSEY: And they spent a lot of time on that. Because I remember when they cut him open in the front, you know, they . . . I remember . . . "Let's look for this, let's look for this." They took all the organs out, they went through, they cut the organs up looking for bullets. And finally, to the best of my knowledge, and I . . . I . . . you know, I remember this, I don't remember how much more they did after this, but I remember them saying: "**That bullet could be anywhere. It could have gone right down to the . . . to his heel or his toe.**" **You know, it could have ricocheted and just traveled right on down through the bottom of his . . . you know, through his insides.**

**Q: Do you remember any discussion among the doctors as to whether the bullet that entered in the lower part of the neck . . . lower back . . . lower back part of the neck . . . exited in the front of the neck?**

**LIPSEY: Yeah. I remember they were firmly convinced that it did not.**

Q: Okay. So you're convinced...

**LIPSEY: That's why they spent so much time looking for it. They, they . . . they traced it through the back of his neck . . . through, you know . . . when they did the autopsy . . . through the inside of his body . . . and there was nowhere the bullet was then, where it should have exited, it was not. And at the angle it was traveling, and from . . . you know, the other things they saw visible in the chest area once they cut him open, you know, it had started down, but where was it?**

Q: When they opened up the body from the front, did . . . were they able to discern any part of the track of the bullet?

LIPSEY: I'm convinced they were in the upper part of his body, yes, because that's how they started following it. And then I think . . . that's when they started taking his organs out, you know, one at a time only. They took all of his insides out, I remember that. Oh, they had four or five piles of insides lying up on the table, you know, and they thoroughly examined each one of those. And . . . you know, they just had a big hollow chest and stomach cavity left . . . or particularly chest cavity, when they got through. And . . . oh . . . so I'm . . . I'm very convinced, in my own mind, that they were very convinced that bullet is . . . is somewhere in him.

Q: When they . . .

LIPSEY: Because, because, you know, from their conversation, they . . . they tracked the bullet as far as they could in a downward position before they couldn't tell where it went. That's when they started taking organs apart and looking wherever they could look without going ahead and just cutting him apart. And I think their decision finally was, we're just not going to cut him . . . you know . . . take every . . . you know . . . completely dissect him to find the bullet. To them, obviously, at that point it wasn't that important.

Q: When they opened up the chest, when you say they saw part of the track of the bullet, did they take a

photograph?

LIPSEY: Can't tell. I honestly do not know.

Q: Let me ask you this: Did they take all the photographs at the beginning, or did they take some during the course of the autopsy?

LIPSEY: [Long pause] Once again, I don't know. I just don't know.

Q: Do you remember . . . you expressed that . . . you said that the doctors considered the possibility that the bullet could be virtually anywhere in the body, including, I think the word you mentioned was "as far as the heel."

LIPSEY: Right.

Q: Do you remember whether or not the doctors x-rayed...

LIPSEY: I remember one of the doctors said I've seen a guy shot . . . something to the effect, you know, "I've seen bullet wounds where it hit bone and ricocheted all over the body." And he says, you know, he says, "We may never find this bullet unless we take the whole body apart."

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Q: Do you remember any discussion when they were trying to find out where the bullet went . . . of the possibility that the bullet had gone in the back and had fallen out of the body . . . no it had not exited, the bullet remained in the body.

LIPSEY: No, I remember . . . There was no possibility, there were no other holes it could have fallen out.

Q: That's what I mean, I mean . . . did they discuss...

LIPSEY: ...to the rear . . . you know . . . [talking over each other]

Q: Fell out of the entrance.

LIPSEY: No, no . . . **The bullet had penetrated, the bullet went into the skin, the bullet had penetrated . . . there was evidence of it inside of his body. So there was no way it could have fallen out.**

Q: Was there any discussion of the possibility that, because of external cardiac massage from the front when he was face up, it could have worked its way out?

LIPSEY: No. No discussion of that that I can remember, no.

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Q: Is there anything else about the autopsy or the evidence which came from the autopsy that you can recall, or about the people who were present?

LIPSEY: The only thing . . . and there once again, and I . . . I'm sorry, but the best I can tell you here . . . and my recollection after all these years . . . and obviously some speculation on my part. The only thing . . . and you . . . it's certainly not going to hold up under any court of law-type thing, but I can remember when the Warren Commission was formed, and everybody was writing books about it. And all the comments on how many times he was shot and how the angles . . . I remember Walter Cronkite doing a big CBS thing on who shot him . . . how many directions it came from. I can remember vividly in my mind on literally hundreds of occasions, saying, you know, these . . . these people are crazy. **I watched the autopsy and I know for a fact he was shot three times. You know, he was shot three times . . . and that the doctors were firmly convinced they all came out of the same gun because of the type of wounds or the entrances, whatever.** And I . . . I wish I could be more specific . . . going back to the autopsy . . . it's just been too long to remember things, but I can remember immediately after . . . the next week, the next month. I was out of the service within the three month period. But over the period of the next year or so, which was when I really remembered what went on in the room.

And I can remember in my own mind, saying, "Hey", you know, "these people are crazy. They're trying to read something into it that didn't happen." You know, some . . . you know, one report came out he was shot from three different angles, and another report came out he was only shot once, another report came out that he was shot seven times . . . and . . . another report . . . you know, all kinds of . . . Everybody had their own versions of what happened, and how many sounds they heard, and the angles of the fire they came from. But I . . . **I definitely remember the doctors commenting they were convinced that the shots came from the same direction and from the same type of weapon . . . and it was three shots.**

Q: Did they also feel . . . did the doctors state that three separate bullets had struck?

LIPSEY: This is one other thing, that to the best of my memory . . . today . . . and remembering what I thought about when all these reports came out, **absolutely, unequivocally yes, they were convinced that he had been shot three times.**

Q: It's unclear to me from the sketch that you did, where there are three bullets.

**LIPSEY: One on the right part of his head, one on the upper part of his neck, and one on the lower part of his neck.**

Q: Well, on your sketch, you labeled two points as points of entrance.

LIPSEY: Yeah, and one part was just blown away. This part was just blown away. I . . . I don't remember whether . . . I . . . I just cannot remember whether there was a point of entrance and then the blown away part, or, whether it . . . like . . . he must have been sitting like this and hit like this . . . and . . . went in and then blew that away, or it . . . or, whether it just ripped the whole section away.

Q: Well, either of those two possibilities means one bullet to the head, I think.

LIPSEY: **Right. One bullet to the head.**

Q: Okey.

LIPSEY: **And then one bullet to the lower head.**

Q: Oh. Where did that bullet exit?

LIPSEY: That's the bullet that exited right here.

Q: Throat.

LIPSEY: Throat. **Then the lower entrance that did not exit.** Oh, if it's confusing, ask me again and we'll go over it, I . . . I . . . you understand it? What I'm talking about so far?

Q: Yeah, yeah . . .

LIPSEY: One bullet, right on the . . . on his head. There was a bullet that was coming . . .

Q: The question is . . . the bullet wound that you're referring to . . . on the upper right hand side of his head . . .

LIPSEY: Right.

Q: Did that . . . did this wound, which you describe as a large blasting out, did that have a separate, corresponding entrance wound, or did the doctors believe that was all part of one wound?

LIPSEY: **That was all part of one wound.**

Q: Could it have been part of that lower wound on the head which you labeled?

LIPSEY: No, no. Absolutely not. Oh, no. Absolutely not.

Q: Because, earlier when I . . .

LIPSEY: Because that . . . that, okey . . .

Q: . . . earlier when I asked you about the blown away portion, I got the impression that when you were saying you weren't sure whether it entered, and then blew away a portion, or whether the entrance and the exit were all part of the same hole.

LIPSEY: Okey, you're right, I wasn't. But that . . . this was distinctly another wound beside . . . in . . . in relation to these two.

Q: Well then, I guess the question would be, did the doctors conclude that there was . . . [Lipsey interrupting] . . . there was a track between the two of them?

LIPSEY: **No, the doctors . . . the conclusion . . . the doctors . . . the conclusion from the doctors were that there were three separate wounds.**

Q: And three separate bullets.

LIPSEY: **And three separate bullets. No question in my mind about that.**

Q: Could you . . .

LIPSEY: Can I ask you a question at this point?

Q: You can ask us, but we may not be able to answer it for you.

LIPSEY: No, I think it just will be a very simple question . . . I . . . which I think you could answer. There's gotta be something to do with it. **Why don't they exhume the body and study the body?**

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Q: Now, let me ask you to clear up: I think we stated this explicitly before, but the point on the sketch labeled as entrance of bullet #2, did you in fact see that hole?

LIPSEY: All I saw was when they turned him over on his side, we took him out of the boxed coffin that they brought him from the hospital, he was laying on his back, they laid him on the table. When I saw him is when they turned him on his side and I saw it from a distance of 20 ft, 15 ft. I saw the big blood area. I did not get any closer look at the hole than that.

Q: So . . .

LIPSEY: But I did hear their comments that . . . okey, oh, "Here is where the bullet went in".

Q: So what you're basing that on, is the comments of the doctors?

LIPSEY: And what I could see . . . what I could see relatively from where I was sitting about the position of it, yes.

Q: So essentially, the doctors said there were two bullet wounds to the head. Is that correct?

LIPSEY: Not really, not considering whether you want to consider this a head or a neck wound. **I consider it more of a neck wound, and I believe in their discussions they discussed it more of a neck wound than a head wound. This was the . . . I consider my wound #1 as the head wound.**

Q: Okey . . .

LIPSEY: **I consider this wound #2 on a upper neck/lower part of your head.**

Q: Was it in the hair, in the hairline?

LIPSEY: **Yeah, it was in the hair, but the lower hairline.**

Q: It was in the hair?

LIPSEY: Oh, wait. I'm considering where my hairline is today. Like I say, it was just a blood smash area back there. It could have been in the part that you sort of shave right up there. **But, you know, lower head still, but upper neck.**

**And the third one was definitely in the lower neck part, upper vertebrae.**

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LIPSEY: [ . . . ] Obviously, everything I've told you here . . . first of all, I've never discussed any part of the autopsy itself with anybody. You are the first who I have discussed it with . . . not even with my wife. Oh . . . and the thing . . . as far as relating back to the thing I signed, that had to do with the time . . . with National Security more . . . 'cause

I was . . . I had a Top Secret rating because I was exposed to every Top Secret document in Washington. I briefed the President . . . or, with General Wehle, on things. And, of course, that's what . . . you know, had more to do with . . . you know, we signed those, that we wouldn't discuss . . . I feel like it was . . . we wouldn't discuss anything that we do that related to the President or his dealings . . . who . . . or at the time . . . what any of his plans were, or any of the people he had talked to . . . or confidentiality or anything that I had read going from our office to his office. Oh, but still . . . I felt that this was something that if anybody should be told about, it should be told to authorized persons such as yourself. And for that reason, and General and I . . . Wehle and I . . . kind of agreed we would never discuss it, you know, among ourselves. And it's never been discussed with anybody. **And I certainly would not want my comments made public, you know. I don't think they should be.**

And unfortunately, Mr. Purdy's and Mr. Flanagan's memo and summary of their interview with Mr. Lipsey and the taped interview itself were not released until 1993. And amazingly, the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) did not take Mr. Lipsey's deposition, nor did they, to my knowledge, conduct any interview with him during their work in the 1990's. Was it because he knew too much?

I believe Mr. Lipsey is fairly accurate in describing the general location of the different wounds, but since he is not a medical person he is not able to clearly distinguish between the anatomical regions head, neck and back, respectively. Thus, his 'back of the head' region also includes the upper neck, the area immediately below the occipital region in the rear of the skull. Likewise, his 'lower neck' region is actually the upper back (upper posterior thoracic region), although in the drawing he places the wound in the back quite high and close to the collar-area of the neck. However, since this bullet was supposed to have entered the chest cavity, that wound should have been placed lower in the back. From the drawing it is also clear that Mr. Lipsey placed both the wound in the neck and the wound in the neck in the midline of the neck/body.

#### **Robert L. Knudsen**

To my knowledge, the only other person in addition to Mr. Lipsey, who has described two separate bullet paths through the neck and chest, respectively, of President Kennedy, is White House photographer and Navy officer Robert L. Knudsen in his deposition in 1978 before the same HSCA staffers that interviewed Mr. Lipsey. Mr. Knudsen claimed that on the morning following the autopsy, Rear Admiral, Dr. Burkley, President Kennedy's personal physician, had given him film holders containing photographs exposed during the autopsy and asked him to go to the Naval Photographic Center (at Anacostia) together with Secret Service agent/photographer Jim Fox and have these films developed. According to Mr. Knudsen, he then developed the black and white films himself, whereas Lt. Vince Madonia (spelled Mendona in transcript) at the Photographic Center developed the color negative films, and Jim Fox took care of security. Moreover, Mr. Knudsen told the HSCA that a day later, he went back to the Photographic Center and made 7 sets of prints, but only from the processed color negatives, not from the black and white negatives.

Throughout his deposition, Mr. Knudsen tried to give the impression that his knowledge of President Kennedy's wounds merely stemmed from his brief examination of the black and white negatives and color prints for technical quality when he developed the films and made the prints, respectively. However, he knows far too many details for this to be true. Moreover, he told his wife and children that he had photographed President Kennedy's autopsy (ARRB MD 230). Since there is no doubt about the fact that John T. Stringer., assisted by Floyd A. Riebe, took the autopsy photographs on Friday, November 22, I have interpreted Mr. Knudsen's detailed recollections of probes through President Kennedy's body as evidence of a second autopsy in which he took the photographs, i.e., he knew the wounds and probes so well because he had observed them in the body when he took the photographs. It is also evident from Mr. Knudsen's testimony, like it was in Mr. Lipsey's interview, that the ultimate secrets were; first, that there ever was a reexamination of President Kennedy's body; second, that President Kennedy had been hit by three bullets, one of which had not exited; and third, there was an entry wound in the upper back of the neck connected with the exit wound in the front of the neck which had been obliterated by the tracheotomy incision at Parkland, whereas the entry wound in the upper back did not have a corresponding exit wound, since the bullet that caused that entry wound did not exit. And Mr. Knudsen is very reluctant to reveal any of these secrets.

Mr. Purdy. You stated earlier, at the Naval Photographic Center you had checked the **prints** for quality, but not for detail. Is that true?

Mr. Knudsen. Yes.

Mr. Purdy. Did you have a chance, subsequent to that examination, to look a little more closely at the **prints**?

Mr. Knudsen. I never saw the prints after we brought them back.

Mr. Purdy. Did you have a chance at any time to examine the **prints** closely enough that you now have a recollection of what they showed?

Mr. Knudsen. Oh, yes.

Mr. Purdy. When did you examine them that closely?

Mr. Knudsen. At the time that I was examining for technical quality, a lot of things were apparent.

Mr. Purdy. What things stick in your mind about those **prints**? What do you recall seeing?

Mr. Knudsen. Well, it was a close-up of a cavity in the head. Probes through the body --

Mr. Purdy. Where did the probes go through the body?

Mr. Knudsen. From the point where the projectile entered to the point where the projectile left.

Mr. Purdy. Where were those two points?

Mr. Knudsen. I did not say they were two points.

Mr. Purdy. You said the projectile.

Mr. Knudsen. From the entry to the exit.

Mr. Purdy. Where were the entry and exit points?

Mr. Knudsen. Here, again, I have a mental problem here that **we were sworn not to disclose this to anybody**. Being under oath, I cannot tell you I do not know, because I do know; but, at the same time, I do feel **I have been sworn not to disclose this information** and I would prefer very much that you get one of the sets of **prints** and view them. I am not trying to be hard to get along with. **I was told not to disclose the area of the body**, and I am at a loss right now as to whether -- which is right.

Mr. Purdy. Was it a Naval order that you were operating under that you would not disclose?

Mr. Knudsen. This was Secret Service. To the best of my knowledge, Dr. Burkley [misspelled Berkley throughout transcript] also emphasized that this not be discussed.

Mr. Purdy. Do you remember seeing rulers in the photographs or anything other than the body itself?

Mr. Knudsen. Yes.

Mr. Purdy. What other things besides the body did you see, other than the rulers?

Mr. Knudsen. What appeared to be **stainless steel probes**.

Mr. Purdy. About how long were they?

Mr. Knudsen. The probes?

Mr. Purdy. Yes.

Mr. Knudsen. I would estimate **about two foot**.

Mr. Purdy. Was there one probe that you saw through the body, or were there more than one?

Mr. Knudsen. More than one. Here again, we are getting into this grey area **of what I was instructed not to discuss**.

Mr. Purdy. I am sure you recognize that this is a duly-authorized Congressional investigation?

Mr. Knudsen. That is right, I do. That is why I say this is where I have a problem. I realize this is a duly-authorized investigation of the United States government. Personally, my preference would be that you get a set of the prints and view the **prints**, and then there would be no question. That would get me off the hook on the fact that **I am sworn not to discuss the subject matter**.

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Mr. Knudsen. I think this would clarify the whole situation. If the **prints** were examined, and then I would not be in the spot that I am, **that I am sworn not to disclose it. It would give a very definite answer to you as to the number of probes**.

Mr. Purdy. I should say that we have had access to the autopsy photographs and the questions that I am asking remain unanswered. So I would like to ask again, if either we could arrange, or you could arrange with the Secret Service to have this order lifted, if you then would be willing to cooperate with us?

Mr. Knudsen. I will cooperate as far as I can. As I say --

They then took a break in the deposition and tried to call Robert Goff, General Counsel for the Secret Service, to get his clearance for Mr. Knudsen to reveal more about what he had observed. They continued the deposition while an assistant to Mr. Goff tried to contact him.

Mr. Purdy. Are you confident that the metal probes were actually through the wounds when you saw them?

Mr. Knudsen. **Yes, I am certain of that, because it showed the point of entry and exit with the probe.**

Mr. Purdy. Were there ever photographs that you have seen, either before this incident or since that incident that you might be confusing with your recollection of these photographs?

Mr. Knudsen. To my knowledge, I have not seen anything regarding -- I have never seen any photographs of it other than the **ones** taken there.

Mr. Purdy. Have you seen photographs of any other autopsies?

Mr. Knudsen. No.

Mr. Purdy. Have you seen photographs of any other dead bodies that may have probes in them?

Mr. Knudsen. Yes, I have. **I am certain on the Kennedy there were the probes showing the point of entry and exit.**

Mr. Purdy. How many probes were there that you saw in a given picture? What is **the most probes** that you saw in a given picture at one time?

Mr. Knudsen. **I know there were two.**

Mr. Purdy. Two metal probes that were through wounds when you saw them?

Mr. Knudsen. Yes.

Then there was another break during which Mr. Knudsen spoke to Mr. Goff on the phone, and was advised that it would be appropriate to cooperate to the fullest and that he did not have any objection to his talking. After this conversation, Mr. Knudsen provided some further details, but he was still rather vague.

Mr. Purdy. Thank you. As I said previously, Mr. Goff is the General Counsel of the United States Secret Service. Now, before the break we were talking about the number of probes, and you had said the most you saw in any one picture was two. I believe that is what you stated, is that correct?

Mr. Knudsen. **I said the minimum was two.**

Mr. Purdy. What was the most?

Mr. Knudsen. Over this period of time, I am not certain. **It seems to me that there were three in one picture**, but this I will not state for sure.

Mr. Purdy. Of the probes that you recall, where did they enter and where did they exit?

Mr. Knudsen. **One was right near the neck and out the back.**

Mr. Purdy. The front of the neck and out the back of the neck?

Mr. Knudsen. The point of entry-exit.

Mr. Purdy. **The metal probe extended from the front of the neck to the back of the neck?**

Mr. Knudsen. **Right. One was through the chest cavity.**

Mr. Purdy. **Did it go all the way through?**

Mr. Knudsen. **Yes. It seems to me that the entry point was a little bit lower in the back than -- well, the point in the back was a little bit lower than the point in the front.** Put it that way. So the probe was going diagonally from top to bottom, front to back.

Mr. Purdy. Approximately, regarding both probes, how high -- you mentioned the one was from the front of the neck, the probe extended between points on the front of the neck and the back of the neck. How high on the back of the neck, and how high or low from the front of the neck would you say for that probe?

Mr. Knudsen. As I said, not studying them for technical purposes, it seemed to me that the point on the front was about this point, somewhere in this area here (Indicating).

Mr. Purdy. Could you articulate?

Mr. Knudsen. What bone is this?

Mr. Purdy. You are pointing to a point right around the top --

Mr. Knudsen. **Right about where the neck-tie is.** That would be somewhere in that vicinity.

Mr. Purdy. Approximately how much lower than that would you say the other probe, which went through the chest cavity?

Mr. Knudsen. **I would put it six, seven inches.**

Mr. Purdy. Was it [i.e., the chest cavity] opened or closed in the photograph?

Mr. Knudsen. It was a side view. I just glanced at it to make sure.

Mr. Purdy. **From the side view, you saw both probes?**

Mr. Knudsen. **Right.**

Mr. Purdy. Where would you place the points of the probes in the back? You say **one was in the neck, one was in the back.** Approximately how high up, or how low?

Mr. Knudsen. I would put in the back -- it would seem to me it is probably **around ten inches.** There, again, I do not recall the length of time. I cannot say.

Mr. Purdy. You were kind of pointing to the middle of your back, about midway down, you would say?

Mr. Knudsen. **Midway between the neck and the waist.**

Mr. Purdy. Where was the other probe?

Mr. Knudsen. This one --

Mr. Purdy. You just indicated where the probe came out, on the lower --

Mr. Knudsen. **Somewhere around the middle of the back. It seemed to me it was right around midchest.**

Mr. Purdy. The probe that you said you could see coming out of the neck, **the front of the neck, where was it out of the back of the neck?** How high up would you say that one was.

Mr. Knudsen. **About the base of the neck.**

Mr. PURDY. Was the body lying flat, or sitting up or lying on its front when you saw the probes through it?

Mr. Knudsen. **It would have to be erected to put the probes through, because on the back there was no way.**

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Mr. Purdy. Was there, in any of the photographs, a photograph showing a metal probe through the head?

Mr. Knudsen. No, not to my knowledge. To my knowledge, the only photograph of the head was **to show the wound in the right rear of the head there, a little right of center.**

Mr. Knudsen is then shown color prints of the autopsy photographs, but the photograph he has just described with two probes through the body is not among them.

Mr. Purdy. [. . .] So it is your testimony here today that these photographs are not inconsistent with the ones that you saw?

Mr. Knudsen. No, not at all.

Mr. Purdy. Is there anything that you saw that is not represented by these photographs?

Mr. Knudsen. **I feel certain that there was the one with the two probes.**

Mr. Knudsen then looks through the color prints once more, but can't find any prints with probes through the body. This apparently makes him a little worried, so whereas he initially was certain he had seen a color print with these probes in it, he suddenly denies this, and now claim that he only saw the probes when looking at the black and white negatives when he developed the film.

Mr. Knudsen. I do not see a photograph here that covers the chest area.

Mr. Purdy. It was your sense that it was from the side, though?

Mr. Knudsen. **A side view.**

Mr. Purdy. Referring to Photograph No. 40F, showing the front of the President, including the front neck region, do you see a point on the President which would correspond to one or more of the locations of the probe that you recall?

Mr. Knudsen. Right here (Indicating.)

Mr. Purdy. Could you articulate it?

Mr. Knudsen. Right here -- the neck -- **where the necktie would be tied.**

Mr. Purdy. Let the record show that the witness is **pointing to the tracheotomy incision at the front of the President's neck.** Is it your recollection, also, that there was a probe lower than that area? Is that correct?

Mr. Knudsen. **That is correct.**

Mr. Purdy. Looking at this photograph, approximately how much lower? Was it at a point that would not be visible in this photograph?

Mr. Knudsen. I am beginning to wonder now. I do not see anything here. But it is in the back of my mind **there was a probe through the body.**

Mr. Purdy. Is it your present recollection that the body was not opened up in the chest area, or could you not tell whether it was opened up, or was it definitely not open in the picture that you recall but do not see here?

Mr. Knudsen. There again, I was looking quickly for quality. I did not study it. **But I do not recall seeing any photograph of the chest being opened.**

Mr. Purdy. Do you think it is something you would remember, if the President's chest was cut and opened up?

Mr. Knudsen. Yes.

Mr. Purdy. Does this approximately respond to the number of color prints you recall?

Mr. Knudsen. That is correct.

Mr. Purdy. It is just your recollection that there was one more, or at least one more, than is present in these?

Mr. Knudsen. **It seems to me that the one I saw with the probes was strictly a negative. I do not remember seeing a print of it. The first day, when we processed the film, we were just checking the negatives. I believe it was a black and white. I do not know. I believe it was the negative of the probe.**

Mr. Purdy. You think it was black and white, or you think it might have been, or you are just not sure?

Mr. Knudsen. **It was a negative. I do not recall ever having seen a print, but it seems to me that there was a negative, in checking the negatives.**

Mr. Knudsen is then shown the black and white photographs, but still there are no pictures showing probes through President Kennedy's body.

Mr. Purdy. You are saying you do not see it?

Mr. Knudsen. I do not see it here, but in the back of my mind, it still seemed **that there was one photograph, the body erect with two probes through it.**

Mr. Purdy. Let me ask you --

Mr. Knudsen. **One negative.**

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Mr. Purdy. Was there anyone else that you know of that may have seen the negative that you are talking about

that showed the probes, anyone else that we might suggest that we might talk to about that?

Mr. Knudsen. No. It is just in the back of my mind **I am certain that there is the one shot of the body erect, two probes through it, and I processed the black and white.** I hung it up. I just quickly went down it to make sure I had everything there. I then closed the door. Jim and I stayed outside, had a cup of coffee or something while the film was drying. After it was dry, I put each negative in a four by five preserver, took it, took the color, which had also dried the same.

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Mr. Purdy. Have you had any discussion with any of the other people that you talked about today about what you saw in those photographs?

Mr. Knudsen. **No, never. I never discussed anything on these photographs until today in detail.**

Mr. Purdy. Have you had any previous experience seeing metal probes such as this so that you would know what it would look like on a negative?

Mr. Knudsen. The only reason I say I thought it was a metal probe, in my recollection, it was a rod. **Twenty-four inches long, probably; three-eighths of an inch diameter. It appeared to be aluminum, stainless steel.** There again, it was a negative this size, hanging like this to dry.

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Mr. Knudsen. [. . .] As to that, **I am certain the black and white negatives was one with the body sitting up with the probes through it.** I do not know. I honestly do not what to say now if that one is missing. It is in the back of my mind, in fact, even to the point **that it was the right profile. The body was sitting up, and looking at the right side profile.**

---

Mr. Knudsen. I do not know why that one sticks in my mind. **A right profile of the body.** It would seem to me that if it were, as I am sure that it was, that there would have been something in the autopsy report as to the probes, and I cannot conceive in my mind why I would feel that this negative did have it. Like I said a couple of times, I did not study these things over a viewing glass like this (Indicating). As you say, it was suspended from a clothespin on a wire, a hook on a wire, and I was just flipping them this way. I do not see any picture there that would confuse with the picture, **the waist-up picture.**

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Mr. Knudsen. [. . .] Why this sticks in my mind, **that there was one with these two probes through the body** that nobody else recalls, it puts a question in my mind, and yet -- but I could not imagine where I could get the idea from, **if I had not seen it.** And yet it is starting to bother me now that there is nothing in the autopsy about it. **Certainly that would be in the autopsy, if it were true.** At this point, I wish I had studied the **negatives** rather than glance at them. At this point, I am confused why it sticks in my mind so strongly that there was this photograph, yet nobody else recalls it, and it is apparently not in any report. If it is not in any report -- I cannot conceive why it would not be in the report. If it were there -- it is really bothering me as to why it does stick in my mind so much.

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Mr. Knudsen. That is okay. I am trying to rack my mind on why this should stick in my mind so strongly that there was this photograph, and yet no other signs of it. It bothers me, **but I cannot think of any reason that it would stick in my mind if I hadn't seen it.**

I guess the actual reason why this image of two metal probes through President Kennedy's body sticks so well in Mr. Knudsen's mind and memory, is that he actually *saw* these probes through the body itself when he took photographs of that view in the morgue on the night of November 23, when the second autopsy was performed. He contradicts himself by first stating that he had seen the probes in a color print, but when none of the extant color prints showed this particular view, he changed his recollections to having seen probes only in a negative of the black and white films. And by doing this he further contradicts himself, because earlier in his testimony he claimed that the black and whites were just back-ups of the color photographs, i.e., each view was recorded on both color and black and white film, which actually is true for the extant autopsy photographs. Note also that he uses 'we', when he mentions this:

Mr. Purdy. How many sets of the black and white did you print?

Mr. Knudsen. I do not recall print[ing] any. To the best of my knowledge, the black and whites were just a back-up in case there was anything wrong with the color. **We** had a back-up of the black and white.

In order to know that the black and whites were just back-ups of the color photographs, he would either have had to have taken the photographs himself and/or carefully studied and compared the views shown in both types of film. And when he claimed that the black and whites were just back-ups for the color, he mentioned no exceptions to this general rule. So there were probably both color and black and white photographs taken of probes through President Kennedy's body. Of course, these photographs were never meant to enter the 'official' record. That's why they disappeared and that's why Mr. Knudsen had been ordered not to disclose anything



about them by Dr. Burkely.

Mr. Knudsen is not very specific about the exact location of these probes, but the one through the neck extended from “the base of the neck” on the posterior (rear) side of the neck and emerged through the tracheotomy incision on the front of the neck. He indicated that the other probe went into the back about midway between the neck and the waist (mid-chest), but this would have been much lower than his stated distance of about 10 inches below the probe through the neck. The probe through the chest apparently emerged only 6-7 inches below the upper probe on the front of the chest, i.e., higher than the point of entry in the back (“It seems to me that the entry point was a little bit lower in the back than -- well, the point in the back was a little bit lower than the point in the front. Put it that way. So the probe was going diagonally from top to bottom, front to back.”). But we know from Lipsey’s testimony (and from President Kennedy’s shirt and coat) that the bullet that struck in the back did not exit, and that the bullets to the neck and back entered at approximately the same downward angle, so the direction of that probe in the photograph may not have any significance at all as regards the direction of the bullet. It does, however, show that the bullet that entered in the back would have had to travel upwards in order to exit the front of the neck at the tracheotomy incision (the alleged path in the autopsy protocol).

Interestingly, Mr. Knudsen *knew* President Kennedy’s body could not be lying flat on the table, but had to be sitting up to show the probes through the body: “It would have to be erected to put the probes through, because on the back there was no way.” Which again strongly suggests that he actually was in the morgue taking photographs of this view. And it shows that the wound in the back was so far down on the back that it was not visible when the body was lying flat on the table.

### **Roy H. Kellerman**

Mr. Lipsey’s account of four separate wounds on President Kennedy’s body is further corroborated by Mr. Kellerman’s testimony before the Warren Commission (WC). At the time of the assassination, Mr. Kellerman was assistant special agent in charge (ASAIC) of the White House Detail of the Secret Service, and the agent in charge of the detail on President Kennedy’s Texas trip on November 21-22, 1963. As such he rode in the right front seat of the Presidential limousine through Dealey Plaza at the time of the shooting. Thereafter he accompanied the dead or dying President into the emergency room at Parkland Hospital and was present in the morgue at Bethesda Naval Hospital throughout the entire autopsy Friday night and during the ensuing preparation of President Kennedy’s body for burial by the morticians.

When discussing the number of shots fired against President Kennedy, Mr. Kellerman argued that since President Kennedy had four wounds and Governor Connally had three wounds, there had to have been more than three shots fired (more about that later). Even though Mr. Kellerman forgot to take into account that bullets perforating body parts make at least two wounds (entry and exit), he gives a truthful and fairly accurate description of where the four wounds on President Kennedy’s body were located. But Mr. Specter tries as best he can to create doubt about Kellerman’s observations.

Mr. KELLERMAN. I am going to say that I have, from the firecracker report and the two other shots that I know, those were three shots. But, Mr. Specter, if President Kennedy had from all reports four wounds, Governor Connally three, there have got to be more than three shots, gentlemen.

Senator COOPER. What is that answer? What did he say?

Mr. SPECTER. Will you repeat that, Mr. Kellerman?

Mr. KELLERMAN. President Kennedy had four wounds, two in the head and shoulder and the neck. Governor Connally, from our reports, had three. There have got to be more than three shots.

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Mr. SPECTER. Now, you referred to four wounds, Mr. Kellerman, realizing, of course, **your characterization is only lay opinion.**

Mr. KELLERMAN. Very true.

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Mr. SPECTER. I would like to develop your understanding and your observations of the four wounds on President Kennedy.

Mr. KELLERMAN. OK. This all transpired in the morgue of the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, sir. He had a large wound this size.

Mr. SPECTER. Indicating **a circle with your finger of the diameter of 5 inches**; would that be approximately correct?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes, circular; yes, on this part of the head.

Mr. SPECTER. Indicating **the rear portion of the head**.

Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes.

Mr. SPECTER. **More to the right side of the head?**

Mr. KELLERMAN. Right. This was removed.

Mr. SPECTER. When you say, "This was removed," what do you mean by this?

Mr. KELLERMAN. **The skull part was removed.**

Mr. SPECTER. All right.

Representative FORD. Above the ear and back?

Mr. KELLERMAN. **To the left of the ear, sir, and a little high; yes.** About right in here.

Mr. SPECTER. When you say "removed," by that do you mean that it was absent when you saw him, or taken off by the doctor?

Mr. KELLERMAN. **It was absent when I saw him.**

Mr. SPECTER. Fine. Proceed.

**Mr. KELLERMAN. Entry into this man's head was right below that wound, right here.**

**Mr. SPECTER. Indicating the bottom of the hairline immediately to the right of the ear about the lower third of the ear?**

**Mr. KELLERMAN. Right. But it was in the hairline, sir.**

**Mr. SPECTER. In his hairline?**

**Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes, sir.**

**Mr. SPECTER. Near the end of his hairline?**

**Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes, sir.**

**Mr. SPECTER. What was the size of that aperture?**

**Mr. KELLERMAN. The little finger.**

**Mr. SPECTER. Indicating the diameter of the little finger.**

**Mr. KELLERMAN. Right.**

Mr. SPECTER. Now, what was the position of that opening with respect to the portion of the skull which you have described as being removed or absent?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Well, I am going to have to describe it similar to this. Let's say part of your skull is removed here; this is below.

**Mr. SPECTER. You have described a distance of approximately an inch and a half, 2 inches, below.**

**Mr. KELLERMAN. That is correct; about that, sir.**

Mr. SPECTER. All right. What other wounds, if any, did you notice on the President?

Mr. KELLERMAN. The other wound that I noticed was **on his shoulder**.

Mr. SPECTER. Which shoulder.

Mr. KELLERMAN. Right shoulder.

Mr. SPECTER. And was it--what was its general position with respect to the breadth of the back?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Right straight.

Mr. SPECTER. No. Upper shoulder, lower shoulder; how far below the lower neckline would you say?

Mr. KELLERMAN. The upper neckline, sir, **in that large muscle between the shoulder and the neck, just below it.**

Mr. SPECTER. What was the size of that opening?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Again about the size of a little finger.

Mr. SPECTER. Now, have you described three wounds which you have observed?

Mr. KELLERMAN. That is three. The fourth one I will have to collaborate with--the medical people in Dallas said **that he had entry in the throat or an exit.**

Mr. SPECTER. Now, you are indicating a part on the throat **right underneath your tie** as you sit there, the knot of your tie.

Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPECTER. Who told you that?

Mr. KELLERMAN. This comes from a report from Dr. Kemp Clark.

Mr. SPECTER. Did you talk to Dr. Clark personally?

Mr. KELLERMAN. I did not. This is a written report.

Mr. SPECTER. This is a written report which you have read?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes; that is right.

Mr. SPECTER. Do you have any knowledge of that wound on the front side aside from the written report of Dr. Kemp Clark?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Except that in the morgue it was very visible that they had incisioned him here to insert the tracheotomy that they performed on him.

Mr. SPECTER. So with the operative procedures to perform a tracheotomy, was there anything, in your view, left of the original entry?

Mr. KELLERMAN. No.

Mr. SPECTER. Entry or exit that you have described.

Mr. KELLERMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPECTER. All you could see at that point was the operative procedure, the cutting of the surgeon's blade in Dallas?

Mr. KELLERMAN. That is right.

Senator COOPER. You are saying this, then, that you did not see, yourself, at any time the mark of any wound in his neck front?

Mr. KELLERMAN. When we took him into the hospital in Dallas; that is right.

Senator COOPER. What?

Mr. KELLERMAN. That is right; when we took him in the hospital in Dallas, I did not.

Senator COOPER. Did you ever see it?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Only after he was opened up in the morgue; yes, sir.

Senator COOPER. You saw some indication or some mark of a wound in the front of his neck?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Senator, from the report of the doctor who worked on him in Dallas, that he enlarged the incision here in his throat to perform that tracheotomy, and I believe in his own statement that that wound was there prior to this incision.

Senator COOPER. I know, but I am asking--

Mr. KELLERMAN. I didn't see it, sir.

Senator COOPER. What you saw yourself?

Mr. KELLERMAN. No; I didn't.

Representative FORD. Was that because Hill had thrown his coat over the President, or just didn't see the skin or the body at the time?

Mr. KELLERMAN. No, sir. When I--that coat was thrown over, sir, to eliminate any gruesome pictures.

Representative FORD. How far over that body? Did it go over the head only or down the chest?

Mr. KELLERMAN. No; the whole coat went all the way down to the waistline, sir.

Mr. SPECTER. You saw the President's face, though, at a later time as you have described?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes, thank you. This I had lost track of, to help you out, Mr. Congressman. While he lay on the stretcher in that emergency room his collar and everything is up and **I saw nothing in his face to indicate an injury, whether the shot had come through or not. He was clear.**

Representative FORD. But while he was on the stretcher in the emergency room you saw his face?

Mr. KELLERMAN. That is right.

Representative FORD. But he had his tie and his collar still.--

Mr. KELLERMAN. Still on.

Representative FORD. Still on?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes, sir.

Representative FORD. You never saw his neck?

Mr. KELLERMAN. No, sir.

Representative FORD. At that time?

Mr. KELLERMAN. At that time, I did not observe him.

Representative FORD. The only time you saw him was later at the morgue?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Very much, sir.

Mr. SPECTER. Did you observe any blood on the portion of his body in the neck area or anyplace in the front of his body?

Mr. KELLERMAN. I don't recall any.

Mr. SPECTER. Did you observe any hole in the clothing of the President on the front part, in the shirt or tie area?

Mr. KELLERMAN. No, sir.

Mr. SPECTER. From your observation of the wound which you observed in the morgue which you have described as a tracheotomy, would that have been above or below the shirtline when the President was clothed?

Mr. KELLERMAN. It would have been below the shirtline, sir.

Mr. SPECTER. Now, have you described all of the wounds of the President to which you have referred?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes, sir.

### **The bullet through President Kennedy's neck**

#### *The entry wound in the back of the neck*

From Mr. Lipsey's testimony it is very clear that one bullet hit President Kennedy in the back of the neck and exited the front of the neck at the site of the tracheotomy incision. Similarly, Mr. Knudsen's recollections of a probe through the neck corroborate this, but he provided no details about where the bullet entered. Mr. Lipsey, on the other hand, placed the entry in the lower hairline of the neck, although he also referred to this area as the lower head. He did not give any verbal description of the location of the wound relative to the median plane of the body, but in his [drawing](#) he placed it exactly in the midline, which cannot be true since the bullet or

fragments of it, had to pass by the cervical spine in order to exit at the front of the neck.

LIPSEY: And then one bullet to the lower head.

Q: Oh. Where did that bullet exit?

LIPSEY: That's the bullet that exited right here.

Q: Throat.

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Q: So essentially, the doctors said there were two bullet wounds to the head. Is that correct?

LIPSEY: Not really, not considering whether you want to consider this a head or a neck wound. I consider it more of a neck wound, and I believe in their discussions they discussed it more of a neck wound than a head wound. This was the . . . I consider my wound #1 as the head wound.

Q: Okey . . .

LIPSEY: I consider this wound #2 on a upper neck/lower part of your head.

Q: Was it in the hair, in the hairline?

LIPSEY: Yeah, it was in the hair, but the lower hairline.

Q: It was in the hair?

LIPSEY: Oh, wait. I'm considering where my hairline is today. Like I say, it was just a blood smash area back there. It could have been in the part that you sort of shave right up there. But, you know, lower head still, but upper neck. And the third one was definitely in the lower neck part, upper vertebrae.

Mr. Kellerman also placed this wound in the neck close to the hairline, but he was fooled by the autopsy doctors to believe that this wound was the entry wound of the large wound immediately above it in the right rear of the head. Mr. Specter must have confused left with right when he relays that Mr. Kellerman is indicating 'to the right of the ear', because the wound was in the neck behind the right ear, which would be to the left of the ear when looking at the right profile of the head. Although not stated explicitly, we must assume that the wound in the neck was somewhat to the right of the midline, since Mr. Kellerman indicated it was 1½-2 inches below the large hole in the *right* rear of the head. Moreover, since the bullet, or a fragment thereof, damaged the right side of the trachea, it would have to have struck a little to the right of the midline of the neck.

Mr. KELLERMAN. **Entry into this man's head** was right below that wound, right here.

Mr. SPECTER. Indicating the bottom of the hairline immediately to the right of the ear about the lower third of the ear?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Right. But it was in the hairline, sir.

Mr. SPECTER. In his hairline?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPECTER. Near the end of his hairline?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. SPECTER. What was the size of that aperture?

Mr. KELLERMAN. **The little finger.**

Mr. SPECTER. Indicating the diameter of the little finger.

Mr. KELLERMAN. Right.

Mr. SPECTER. Now, what was the position of that opening with respect to the portion of the skull which you have described as being removed or absent?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Well, I am going to have to describe it similar to this. Let's say part of your skull is removed here; this is below.

Mr. SPECTER. You have described a distance of approximately an inch and a half, 2 inches, below.

Mr. KELLERMAN. That is correct; about that, sir.

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Mr. SPECTER. Was there any conversation of any sort between you and Colonel Finck which would be helpful to us here?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Well, from Humes, who was the other gentleman out there, from the entry of the skull, from this hole here.

Mr. SPECTER. You are now referring to the **hole which you describe being below the missing part of the skull?**

Mr. KELLERMAN. **Yes, sir; it was confirmed that the entry of the shell here went right through the top and removed that piece of the skull.**

Mr. SPECTER. And who confirmed that?

Mr. KELLERMAN. One of the three gentlemen; I don't recall.

Mr. SPECTER. You don't recall which one, but it was one of the three doctors doing the autopsy?

Mr. KELLERMAN. That is right.

Mr. SPECTER. So you are saying it confirmed that the hole that was below the piece of skull that was removed, was

the point of entry of the one bullet which then passed up through the head and took off the skull?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Right, sir. That is correct.

Mr. SPECTER. Then that was all done by one bullet, based on what you are telling us at this moment?

Mr. KELLERMAN. That is right.

Mr. SPECTER. From the confirmation that one of the three doctors made?

Mr. KELLERMAN. Yes, sir.

Still, Mr. Kellerman couldn't understand how a bullet allegedly fired from a point above President Kennedy could enter low in the neck and make a large exit hole high in the rear of the head. So on November 27, he went to the White House garage to examine the limousine to see whether the bullet might have hit the rear trunk and ricocheted upwards into President Kennedy's head:

Representative FORD. What prompted you to make that investigation on or about November 27?

Mr. KELLERMAN. First, Mr. Congressman, I wanted to look this car over for--let me go back a little bit. When this car was checked over that night for its return to Washington, I was informed the following day of the pieces of these missiles that were found in the front seat, and I believe aside from the skull, that was in the rear seat, I couldn't conceive even from elevation how this shot hit President Kennedy like it did. I wanted to view this vehicle, whether this was a slant blow off the car, whether it hit the car first and then hit him, or what other marks are on this vehicle, and that is what prompted me to go around and check it over myself.

When interviewed by HSCA staffers August 24-25, 1977, Kellerman did not [recall](#) more than one hole in the head of President Kennedy ("Kellerman . . . only recalls one large hole in the head and no small holes in the head."). However, in his [drawing](#) of the wounds, he drew one large hole in the *left* rear of the head and a small wound on the right side of the *neck* at the level of the lower edge of the ear, as well as a wound in the right shoulder. This suggests that Mr. Kellerman wanted to indicate that there was just one large hole in the rear of the head, but that he confused right with left, and then two separate wounds to the right of the midline in the back of the neck and in the back.

Autopsy photographer John T. Stringer also seemed to remember an entrance wound in the neck near the hairline when he examined four autopsy photographs (# 15, 16, 42, 43) showing the back of President Kennedy's head during his ARRB [deposition](#).

A [Stringer]: [. . .]. There's no hole in the back of the head there; is there?

Q [Gunn]: That's going to be my next question for you. Are you able to identify the hole that the doctors identified on the night of the autopsy as being the entrance wound in the skull?

A: I think this was a piece of bone, but it was down near there - right about in there.

Q: You're referring to what appears to be a piece of matter or something -

A: Yes.

Q: - that is near the hairline?

A: Mm-hmm. But it was near there.

Q: And you're certain that that's where the doctors identified the entrance wound as being; is that correct?

A: Yeah. Yeah, I would think so. That's what I remember.

Q: I'd like to point out the spot that appears somewhat red that is near the end of the ruler, and ask you whether that was an entrance wound, or whether the doctors during the night of the autopsy identified that as an entrance wound?

A: I don't think so, no.

Q: Do you know what that red spot is that appears to be, in layman's terms, near the cowlick?

A: It looks like blood. I would say it was. There was blood all over the place. But I don't think it was anything out of the ordinary. I don't think there was a hole there for the bullet wound. You would have seen the hole.

Q: Well, can you see the hole in any of the photographs that you're looking at?

A: I haven't so far, no. But it was down, right about in here.

The spot that Mr. Stringer was indicating was apparently also the place where the autopsy doctors placed the entrance wound in the skull in their testimonies before the HSCA and ARRB, i.e., the wound they claimed were situated "approximately 2.5 cm. laterally to the right and slightly above the external occipital protuberance" in their autopsy report. Thus, Mr. Stringer might have adapted his testimony to what he believed the doctors had described as the entrance wound in their testimonies, or he might have had a genuine recollection of a wound in that area, which is consistent with Mr. Lipsey's and Mr. Kellerman's statements. I believe it was the fact that Mr. Kellerman had detected and knew about the wound in the neck that forced the autopsy doctors to place the imaginary entrance wound in the back of the head as low on the skull as they finally did. During the second

autopsy they may have actually made a fake entrance wound in the scalp much higher in the skull/head, i.e., in the cowlick-area, which they made photographs of (the red spot near the end of the ruler and in the center of the photographs referred to my Mr. Gunn in his questioning of Mr. Stinger above) and x-rays of (the spot where the [Clark](#) panel decided the bullet had entered the skull); but then they abandoned this idea some hours later when they wrote the autopsy protocol and they realized/remembered that Mr. Kellerman knew about the wound in the back of the neck. This might also explain the autopsy doctors' confusion and contradictory statements over the years as to where that imaginary entrance wound in the skull was located.

Due to its close proximity to the large, gaping wound in the right rear of the head, a small wound within the hairline might easily have been overlooked by those not directly working on the body. Or as Dr. Clark told Mr. Specter when asked whether he had seen a wound in the right shoulder or not; "No, sir. Such a wound could have easily been overlooked in the presence of the much larger wound in the right occipital region of the President's skull, from which considerable blood loss had occurred which stained the back of his head, neck and upper shoulders." It is therefore maybe not surprising that none of the enlisted men who assisted the doctors during the autopsy seem to have seen or heard about the small wound in the back neck of the neck. Likewise, the two FBI agents who attended the autopsy, Francis X. O'Neill and James W. Sibert, had no recollections of such a wound when they testified before the ARRB, nor did they mention anything about such a wound in their [report](#) from the autopsy. Instead, they reported that Dr. Humes had stated "that the pattern was clear ..... and that a second high velocity bullet had entered the rear of the skull and had fragmentized prior to exit through the top of the skull." And Sibert and O'Neill carefully recorded in their notebooks everything Dr. Humes told them. Hence, the autopsy doctors seem to have deliberately kept quiet about the wound in the back of the neck during the first autopsy on Friday night, except to Mr. Kellerman, who might have asked them about it; which again shows that the discussions among the doctors about this wound that Mr. Lipsey overheard, must have occurred during the second autopsy.

It is also possible that Theran Ward, Justice of the Peace, Dallas County, referred to this entry wound in the back of the neck both in the '[Certificate](#) of Death' and the accompanying document 'Findings by the Justice' that he signed on December 6, 1963. Thus, in the former document he lists the immediate cause of President Kennedy's death as, "Multiple gunshot wounds of the head and **neck**", and in the latter document he states that, "I, Theran Ward, Justice of the Peace, Precinct No 3 Dallas County, Texas, after viewing the dead body of John Fitzgerald Kennedy and hearing the evidence, find that he came to his death as the result of Two gunshot wounds

- (1) Near the center of the body and just **above** the right shoulder.
- (2) One inch to the right center of the back of the head."

The first of these wounds has to be in the neck, since it is above the shoulder, and the death certificate places the wounds in either the neck or the head (not in the back). And since he refers to the right shoulder it has to be slightly to the right of the midline of the neck, which is fully consistent with Mr. Kellerman's placement of the wound. The second sentence should probably read, "One inch to the right [of] center of the back of the head." This places the head wound in the right rear of the head where the majority of the medical personnel at Parkland placed this wound. Obviously, Mr. Ward, like the doctors at Parkland, did not turn President Kennedy's body over to look at the back, since he reports no wounds there.

#### *The exit wound in the front of the neck*

From Mr. Lipsey's and Mr. Knudsen's testimonies it is evident that the bullet that entered in the back of the neck exited at the front of the neck at the site where the tracheotomy incision was made. Before [Dr. Perry](#) made that incision, he and

[Dr. Carrico](#) observed a rather small wound in the front of the neck:

Dr. CARRICO: [ . . . ] We opened his shirt and coat and tie and observed a small wound in the anterior lower third of the neck, [ . . . ]

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Mr. SPECTER: Dr. Carrico, with respect to this small wound in the anterior third of the neck which you have just described, could you be any more specific in defining the characteristics of that wound?

Dr. CARRICO: This was probably a 4-7 mm. wound, almost in the midline, maybe a little to the right of the midline, and below the thyroid cartilage. It was, as I recall, rather round and there were no jagged edges or stellate lacerations.

\*\*\*\*

Mr. SPECTER: What did you observe as to the President's condition at the time you first saw him?

Dr. PERRY: [ . . . ] There was a small wound in the lower anterior third in the midline of the neck, from which blood was exuding very slowly.

Mr. SPECTER: Will you describe that wound as precisely as you can, please?

Dr. PERRY: The wound was roughly spherical to oval in shape, not a punched-out wound, actually, nor was it particularly ragged. It was rather clean cut, but the blood obscured any detail about the edges of the wound exactly.

Mr. SPECTER: What was the condition of the edges of the wound, if you can recollect?

Dr. PERRY: I couldn't state with certainty, due to the fact that they were covered by blood. and I did not make a minute examination. I determined only the fact that there was a wound there, roughly 5 mm. in size or so.

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Mr. SPECTER - Will you describe it in detail, the procedures which were followed in the efforts to save the President's life?

Dr. PERRY - All right. Well, to regress, then, at the time I began the tracheotomy, I made an incision right through the wound which was present in the neck in order to gain complete control of any injury in the underlying trachea. I made a transverse incision right through this wound and carried it down to the superficial fascia, to expose the strap muscles overlying the thyroid and the trachea. There was an injury to the right lateral aspect of the trachea at the level of the external wound. The trachea was deviated slightly to the left and it was necessary to divide the strap muscles on the left side in order to gain access to the trachea.

The small size of the wound led these doctors to believe and suggest during a press conference later that day that it might have been an entrance wound, and that the bullet might have been deflected upwards through the base of the skull to exit from the rear of the skull. Mr. Specter of the Warren Commission subsequently made great efforts to debunk this notion of a shot from the front when he took the testimonies of the medical personnel at Parkland Hospital, and he more or less had the doctors agree with his proposal that it could have been caused by a whole bullet exiting, since he needed such a whole bullet to cause the wounds on Governor Connally for his single bullet theory to work. However, the projectile that exited from President Kennedy's throat did definitely not strike Connally, and therefore it couldn't have been a full bullet, since a full bullet would have struck within the limousine with great velocity and produced considerable damage, as stated by FBI firearms expert Robert A. [Frazier](#) before the Warren Commission:

Mr. SPECTER - Now, assume the same set of factors as to the exit velocity from the President's neck. What effect would that bullet have had on any other portion of the automobile which it might have struck in the continuation of its flight?

Mr. FRAZIER - In my opinion it would have penetrated any other metal surface and, of course, any upholstery surface depending on the nature of the material as to how deep it would penetrate or how many successive layers it may have penetrated.

Mr. SPECTER - Was there any evidence in any portion of the car that the automobile was struck by a bullet which exited from the President's neck under the circumstances which I have just asked you to assume?

Mr. FRAZIER - No, sir; there was not.

Mr. SPECTER - And had there been any such evidence would your examination of the automobile have uncovered such an indication or such evidence?

Mr. FRAZIER - Yes, sir; I feel that it would have.

Likewise, [Mr. Frazier](#) could not state with certainty that the slits in the front of President Kennedy's shirt was caused by a bullet, nor did he find any metallic residue at the edges of these slits.

Mr. FRAZIER. [...] Now, on the front of the shirt, I found what amounts to one hole. Actually, it is a hole through both the button line of the shirt and the buttonhole line which overlap down the front of the shirt when it is buttoned.

Mr. SPECTER. Proceed.

Mr. FRAZIER. This hole is located immediately below the button, being centered seven-eighths of an inch below the button on the shirt, and similarly seven-eighths of an inch below the buttonhole on the opposite side.

The CHAIRMAN. You are speaking of the collar button itself, aren't you?

Mr. FRAZIER. The collar button.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. FRAZIER. In each instance for these holes, the one through the button line and the one through the buttonhole line, the hole amounts to a ragged slit approximately one-half inch in height. It is oriented vertically, and the fibers of the cloth are protruding outward, that is, have been pushed from the inside out. I could not actually determine from the characteristics of the hole whether or not it was caused by a bullet. However, I can say that it was caused by a projectile of some type which exited from the shirt at that point and that is again assuming that when I first

examined the shirt it was--it had not been altered from the condition it was in at the time the hole was made.

Mr. SPECTER. What characteristics differ between the hole in the rear of the shirt and the holes in the front of the shirt which lead you to conclude that the hole in the rear of the shirt was caused by a bullet but which are absent as to the holes in the front of the shirt?

Mr. FRAZIER. The hole in the front of the shirt does not have the round characteristic shape caused by a round bullet entering cloth. It is an irregular slit. It could have been caused by a round bullet, however, since the cloth could have torn in a long slitlike way as the bullet passed through it. But that is not specifically characteristic of a bullethole to the extent that you could say it was to the exclusion of being a piece of bone or some other type of projectile.

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Mr. SPECTER. Is the nick [in the tie] consistent with a 6.5 millimeter bullet having caused the nick?

Mr. FRAZIER. Yes. Any projectile could have caused the nick. In this connection there was no metallic residue found on the tie, and for that matter there was no metallic residue found on the shirt at the holes in the front. However, there was in the back.

Mr. SPECTER. Did any of the other----

Mr. DULLES. Excuse me, on the back of the coat?

Mr. FRAZIER. The shirt.

Mr. DULLES. Back of the coat and on the shirt?

Mr. FRAZIER. Yes, sir.

I believe that the bullet that struck President Kennedy in the back of his neck most likely struck the right side of the cervical vertebral column, so that only a small fragment of the bullet, or a small bone fragment from one of the cervical vertebrae, tore through the right side of the trachea and exited through the skin and probably also through the shirt near the collar button. Thus, X-ray technician Jerrol F. Custer claimed in his [ARRB](#) deposition that he had taken an anterior-posterior (AP) view of the neck (upper cervical spine) which had shown the presence of numerous metallic fragments in the region of the third and fourth cervical vertebrae (C3, C4). This X-ray was probably taken during the second autopsy, but is now missing.

A [Custer]: [. . .] And the AP cervical spine showed metal fragments. And one of .....

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Q [Gunn]: Previously, you referred to there being metal fragments in the cervical area. Are you able to identify any metal fragments in this X-ray [X-ray No. 9: Anterior-posterior (AP) view of the chest]?

A: Not in this film.

Q: Does this film include a view or an exposure that would have included such metal fragments?

A: No, sir.

Q: Where would the metal fragments be located?

A: Further up in there. This region.

Q: Can you - And you're pointing to?

A: Up into the, I'd say, C3/C4 region.

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Q: Okay. That consists of all of the X-rays that are present in the Archives from the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> [sic]. Now, you had raised, previously in the deposition - have a chair if you wish - previously in the deposition, the possibility of metal fragments in the C3/C4 range.

A: I noticed I didn't see that.

Q: You didn't see any X-rays that would be in - that would include the C3/C4 area?

A: No, sir.

Q: Are you certain that you took X-rays that included the - included C3 and C4?

A: Yes, sir. Absolutely.

Q: How many X-rays did you take that would have included that?

A: Just one. And that was all that was necessary, because it showed - right there.

Q: And what, as best you recall, did it show?

A: A fragmentation of a shell in and around that circular exit - that area. Let me rephrase that. I don't want to say "exit", because I don't know whether it was exit or entrance. But all I can say, there was bullet fragmentations around that area - that opening [i.e., the tracheotomy incision].

Q: Around C3/C4?

A: Right.

Q: And do you recall how many fragments there were?

A: Not really. There was enough. It was very prevalent.

Q: Did anyone make any observations about metal fragments in the C3/C4 area?

A: I did. And I was told to mind my own business. That's where I was shut down again.

Q: You have, during the course of this deposition, identified three X-rays that you are quite certain that you took,



but don't appear in this collection. Are there any others that you can identify as not being included?

A: That's the only three that come to my mind right now; the two tangential views, and the AP cervical spine.

Q: Okay.

A: Can I add something to that?

Q: Sure.

A: In my own opinion, I do believe, basically, the reason why they are not here is because they showed massive amounts of bullet fragments.

Q: Did you ever hear of anyone connected with the autopsy making any attempts to remove, destroy any of the X-ray material?

A: Let me put it this way. Gossip is cheap. Everybody has some. I heard some. And sometimes you have to take it with a hill of beans - where it comes from. But I did hear that in a conversation.

Q: When did you hear it in a conversation?

A: The next day.

Q: What did you hear?

A: That certain pertinent things were taken care of.

Q: Who told you that?

A: I was afraid you were going to ask that. Nobody told me. I heard it between two officers. High-ranking officers.

Q: Who were the officers?

A: One was Ebersole [the radiologist responsible for interpreting the x-rays during the autopsy]. And one was another radiologist that - right now, his name just doesn't - can't come to my memory.

Q: To the best of your recollection, who was it who made the statement. Ebersole or the other doctor?

A: Ebersole.

In contrast to Mr. Custer, Edward E. Reed, the other X-ray technician involved in the autopsy of President Kennedy, did not mention any metal fragments in the neck area in his [ARRB](#) deposition. Moreover, he claimed that he took all the X-rays, while Mr. Custer, his supervisor, just supervised him. And I believe both are right: Mr. Reed, with Mr. Custer present, took the X-rays during the first autopsy, November 22, whereas Mr. Custer, without Mr. Reed present, took the X-rays during the second autopsy, November 23. Mr. Reed described the taking of a total of 15 X-rays before any incisions were made in the head or the chest, and he took no further X-rays later that night. He described the following sequence: (#1) lateral skull; (#2) AP skull; (#3) lateral cervical spine or neck; (#4) AP neck; (#5) AP chest; (#6) AP abdomen, (#7) [AP] pelvis; (#8-9) right arm/forearm; (#10-11) left arm/forearm; (#12-13) right thigh/leg; (#14-15) left thigh/leg. According to FBI agents Sibert's and O'Neill's report from the autopsy, only 11 X-rays were turned over to the Secret Service at the termination of the autopsy, so either is that number incorrect or Mr. Reed's recollections are incorrect, or some X-rays were withheld by the autopsy doctors. Anyway, all the X-rays that Mr. Reed took on Friday night, except one AP chest, one AP pelvis and possibly one of both thighs (Nos. 9, 12 and 13 in the 1966 [inventory](#)), were replaced by X-rays that Mr. Custer took the next night during the second autopsy. But it is interesting to note that both lateral and AP x-rays of the neck were initially taken. The fact that none of the extant autopsy x-rays show the C3/C4 area of the cervical spine, strongly suggests that there were indeed metal fragments of a bullet there, and that only a small fragment of the bullet that entered in the back of the neck exited at the front.

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(To be continued)

# Appendix 1

(1) Transcript of HSCA interview with Richard A. Lipsey, January 18, 1978

This transcript have been created by Bjørn K. Gjerde based on an incomplete [transcript](#) created by Debra Conway of JFK Lancer Productions and Publications.

The transcript have been made by listening to the tapes available at:

[http://www.history-matters.com/archive/jfk/hasca/med\\_testimony/audio/HSCA\\_Lipsey.htm](http://www.history-matters.com/archive/jfk/hasca/med_testimony/audio/HSCA_Lipsey.htm)

Reel 1, Side 1A 22:59

Reel 1, Side 1B 19:36

Reel 1, Side 2A 23:00

Reel 1, Side 2B 19:11

Reel 2 11:13

(2) Notes from HSCA interview with Richard A. Lipsey, January 18, 1978 made by Donald A. Purdy, Jr. and T. Mark Flanagan

(3) Memo/summary of HSCA interview with Richard A. Lipsey, January 18, 1978 , from Donald A. Purdy, Jr. and T. Mark Flanagan, Jr. The memo is also available in original form as ARRB medical document No. 87

[http://www.history-matters.com/archive/jfk/arrb/master\\_med\\_set/pdf/md87.pdf](http://www.history-matters.com/archive/jfk/arrb/master_med_set/pdf/md87.pdf)

## HSCA interview with RICHARD LIPSEY, January 18, 1978

{Reel 1, Side 1A 22:59}

Q: The tape is now beginning. We are interviewing Richard A. Lipsey. The day is January 18, 1978. The time is approximately 20 of 12:00. We are in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at Steinberg's Sporting Goods Store, the place of business for Richard Lipsey. Also present the staff members Andrew Purdy, Donald A. Purdy, jr., Mark Flanagan. Richard Lipsey, we... you are consenting to being taped this time?

LIPSEY: That is correct.

Q: Okey.

LIPSEY: Now let me ask you fellows a question. The only . . . before we start, and the only thing . . . that I . . . I question about . . . about this conversation is that . . . and I don't even remember, I don't have a copy of it, I can't tell you what it is. But why . . . as you know, I was the aide to General Wehle . . . and such rules . . . responsible for all the funeral proceedings, arranging it, we did everything from getting the Irish Guard there on time to the whole bit. And I did watch the autopsy, or the majority of it, I were not in there 100% of the time, but I watched most of it. Afterwards, about a week or so later, I can remember signing the document in our office that we . . . that came under some kind of federal secrets act, and that we should not discuss any information . . . [interrupted by intercom] . . . that we should not discuss anything of the secret nature, that we felt was the secret nature, particularly anything about the autopsy for a period of 15 years, I think it was. Now, do . . . are you excluded from this?

Q: Well, it's our understanding.... that . . .

LIPSEY: Not that I know . . . not that I know anything that makes a hell of a lot of difference. We were just told not to discuss it for . . . and I don't remember if it is 15 years or 20 years. I definitely remember signing something of that nature.

Q: Well, it's our position that we are pursuing this investigation pursuant to the mandate of Congress . . . and that we hope that you will wish to participate and give us the information in a voluntary manner.

LIPSEY: Fine. No question about it. As long as you feel that in your position with Congress, that all . . . anything I may have signed would be . . . null and voided . . . null and voided as far as you are concerned.

Q: We are not in a position to give you legal advice as to what you should or should not do. It is our position that there will not be any harm coming to you from cooperating in our investigation because of what you tell us.

LIPSEY: I don't think, well, I really don't think there is. I think the point of it was obviously to . . . until the investigation . . . this time, this was, you know, the investigation hadn't even started . . . was that, really, we didn't talk to reporters or anything until the investigation on the assassination of Kennedy was complete. I . . . I . . . you know, I personally feel that's what it was. With that understanding, you know . . .

Q: If at any point . . . if at any point, you feel that there is a particular item which is a question of National Security or something like that, please consult with an attorney.

LIPSEY: I will. But there's nothing . . . nothing that I can tell you, I tell you that right now, that would have anything to do with National Security.

Q: Just for the record to clarify what the orders may have been that you signed, [tape unclear] or were they orders to sign?

LIPSEY: I think it came through our Chief of Staff . . . in our office, you know, Military District of Washington. It came through our Chief of Staff, it was a Colonel Holden. You know, he got it from wherever. That's the best I can remember. Okay, no problem, let's go on from there, and I hope I can help you.

Q: Preliminary we'd like you to . . . we know your name already . . . state your date of birth, and then to also go back to 1963 and what your general duties were, not only in relations to that day, [unclear] but in general as an assistant to General Wehle.

LIPSEY: Born on October 7, 1939 in Selma, Alabama, and I reside here in Baton Rouge. I was at the time . . . I'd been in the service . . . I was stationed at Ft. Polk, Louisiana. And while I was there, several hundred lieutenants got interviewed for the job of, well didn't get interviewed, there were several hundred lieutenants there, I was one of several that was fortunate enough to get interviewed for the job of . . . of Aide de Camp to General Wehle, who was at Ft. Polk. And I was selected as his junior aide at the time, I was a 2nd lieutenant. Shortly thereafter, I don't think . . . this was somewhere like in June . . . shortly thereafter General Wehle was notified that he was being transferred to Washington as Commanding General of MBW.

And his senior aide . . . as most Generals do . . . want to take care of their aides, arranged for his senior aide to go to the Command and General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. And then he asked me if I'd like to accompany him to Washington, which I did. I was very grateful for it to get out of Ft. Polk. And, when I got to Washington. General Wehle was due . . . you know, two aides, a senior aide . . . In that position in Washington, his aide could have been a Colonel, and his junior aide could have been a . . . I think up to Captain. And General Wehle and I got along very well. I worked like heck for him, you know. I respected the man, he was just a super human being. And we worked so well together he just didn't get another aide, I was it. I took the place of both aides. And, so I was General Wehle's aide while he was the Commanding General of the Military District of Washington. And then also, for some special events, I served as a social aide at the White House, military aide at the White House at night on occasions. And then I helped . . . but the majority of my time was spent working day and night for General Wehle.

Our duties, if we're going into that, our duties basically, General Wehle's duties . . . he was . . . being the senior military service in Washington, General Wehle was the senior . . . even though maybe not in rank on some occasions . . . he was the senior commanding General in Washington of a unit. And as such, when all the services worked together, like the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, worked together on projects, on receptions, when dignitaries came to the United States on special events, on funerals, on parades, whatever, our service was the senior service and General Wehle was always in

command. That's how we happened to handle the funeral, obviously, when Kennedy got killed. All ceremonial aspects of military . . . anything the military has to do in Washington in regard to ceremonies, is governed by . . . oh, when all the services participate, it's run by the Army. And since General Wehle was commanding general and I was his aide, I was the detail man. You know, did a lot of his planning and helped him a lot.

The funeral was our . . . project from the time . . . we were in Washington and Kennedy was killed. I happened to be driving up to the General's house at one o'clock to pick him up to go back to the office, or, you know, thereabouts, a little bit before one, and had the radio on, and heard the news flash the same time as everybody else did in Washington. And . . . the General, who had his radio on in the house . . . and we met at the door. I was going in and he was coming out to tell him the news. He was, you know, he . . . we went immediately back to our office and got on the phone with the White House, got on the phone with the Pentagon, got on the phone with everybody else and immediately put what needed to be done into progress.

And . . . we met the body at Andrews Air Force Base. We had everything organized that afternoon. You know, we had Marines organized with their little Honor Guard. We had the men from Ft. Myer, the Third Old Guard, the guys like at Humphry's funeral, you know, the men that watched the casket. The ceremonial troop in Washington had been all arranged and met the body at Andrews, put it in a hearse. And . . . we had a decoy hearse, so . . . because we knew there was a mob waiting at the hospital . . . naval . . . the Bethesda Naval Hospital. So we got in a couple of these helicopters with our honor guard when they left, and flew over to the hospital to get there before they did. And when they came in, one of the hearses went right up to the front door, 'cause all of the crowd rushed over there. The one with the body in it, went around to the back to where the morgue was, and we unloaded it. We met them in the back and unloaded it right there to avoid, you know, the news media and the crowd and everything else.

Q: The body was brought in the rear?

LIPSEY: The body was brought in the back door, backed right up to the loading ramp right immediately next to the morgue. And we unloaded it there, and then Jackie Kennedy and her family and everybody that was, you know, flown to Washington and come back with the body, they . . . came in the hospital the front way and went upstairs to the Presidential Suite at the hospital. General Wehle went up to the suite to start to talk to Mrs. Kennedy to start making funeral arrangements with her . . . tentative funeral arrangements, mind you, because this was still very early, but seeing what they wanted done and getting some more wheels into motion, because, you know, we didn't know exactly what to do. And General Wehle told me, "Don't leave this body!" You know, "You don't . . . you don't leave it," and so I did not leave . . . I didn't leave it, except for a while when he came back down and went in and spelled me for a little while.

Q: I have a question. How did you go from where Air Force One landed? How did you go from Andrews to Bethesda itself?

LIPSEY: Oh, I accompanied General Wehle in a helicopter.

Q: In a helicopter. While the body was being driven?

LIPSEY: Right.

Q: And then you were there when . . .

LIPSEY: The body was in the possession . . . in the procession and going through Washington but there were two . . . oh . . . hearses, and then one pulled right up to the front door and one went around with the body, went around to the back of the hospital.

Q: Were you present when the body was taken out of [unclear] to the rear?

LIPSEY: I was standing there at the airplane when it was loaded into the hearse, and then I was standing right there, I helped them unload the casket myself when we got back to . . . when we were in the hospital. Right.

Q: And then you accompanied it from that point on?

LIPSEY: Then never left it.

Q: With the body?

LIPSEY: Right.

Q: Okay, I think we just can go on.

LIPSEY: It's up to you to start asking questions now, or . . .

Q: We want you to tell us more . . . you accompanied the body in . . . [unclear]

LIPSEY: Remembering, this is 14 years ago. But, I mean, it's so little.. little span of time and, you know, I've thought about it so often . . . recounted it to friends, all except for what I actually saw during the autopsy.

We took the body . . . got it into the morgue. The only other person that I can remember besides the doctors, and there were the team of doctors that actually worked on the body, the only other person besides myself that were inside of the room, watching the autopsy, was a lieutenant Sam Bird. And Sam was a 1st Lieutenant. I was a 1st Lieutenant by that time. And Sam was head of The Old Guard. I really can't remember the name what they called them, the guys, he had two or three teams of fellows that were always responsible for the casket in any ceremony . . . when a general died, or whoever did, three of them would march on each side of the casket, enlisted men, and then there is an officer in charge. He . . . at all the important funerals while I was there, Sam was always the officer in charge. So, he was the guy that had been standing there all night long ready to pick up the casket or do whatever is necessary and . . . you know, move it around. He was in charge of the detail, you know, that guarded the casket, a formality-type thing. But he was there in the room, in and out of the room, during the autopsy.

So, anyhow. They brought the body in, took it out. Laid it on the table. It was the first dead man I'd ever seen, and I'd never seen an autopsy, obviously, I'd never seen an autopsy. So it was a pretty traumatic experience. I wouldn't really, quite frankly, I didn't know what to . . . I couldn't tell the General, "No, I'm not going in the room." So I went. But I'd . . . I really . . . I never realized seeing a dead man with rigor mortis, you know, it just didn't seem like you were looking at a dead person, it was just entirely a different thing, it didn't bother me at all. I can remember that Sam went out during the ceremony and sent

one of his men to get us some hamburgers, because it was late at night, we hadn't eaten since that morning. And we sat in there watching part of the autopsy eating hamburgers. So obviously, I can remember the smell of formaldehyde in there. The only thing that bothered me, the smell bothered me worse than the sight.

So, we watched the autopsy. Once again, my hours are a little fuzzy. The autopsy lasted approximately, if I'm not mistaken, approximately 3 to 4 hours. After that we stayed in the room. When the men from the funeral home came in, 'cause General Wehle was . . . by this time, General Wehle had come back down, but he was in and out, you know, still making a lot of arrangements, but he would come in occasionally for a couple of minutes to let me go out and . . . you know, take a little break. Then the men from the funeral home came in, and we sat there while they more or less put him back together and made the cosmetic, made the different cosmetic changes that needed to be made on the body.

And by that time I had sent my car to the White House to get some clothes for Kennedy and they'd come back. They'd called the White House and told them.

Q: Who is "they?" The company that drove...?

LIPSEY: General Wehle got some of the Kennedy family to call the White House to tell them what clothes. We sent our driver, we . . . General Wehle . . . we had a permanent car and chauffeur. I sent my driver to the White House and he had gotten...

Q: Did he take anyone else with him, maybe a presidential aide? Agent? Anyone else?

LIPSEY: You mean to get the clothes?

Q: Yes.

LIPSEY: I honestly couldn't tell you. I have no earthly idea. All I know is that he was sent to the White House, got the clothes, brought them back, and then I helped the men from the funeral home, it was only . . . by that time, by then, I think there were only two of them in the room. I helped them dress him, pick up the body, helped them dress him. I helped them pick the body up and laid him in the casket. And as far as I know I was the last person to look at him, you know, standing there when they closed it. And then the story just goes on and on about the funeral. I don't know how relevant any of that can be. Just formal planning and carrying out the funeral.

Q: Getting back to the beginning stages of the autopsy, or even before the actual autopsy began, do you recall when the x-rays were taken, the x-rays and photos?

LIPSEY: Yeah, well as far as the exact x-ray was taken, no I don't recall. I do recall the comments from the doctors, you know, who started examining the body before they did anything, you know, looking at the body, looking at where the bullets had entered the back of the his head. It was obvious that one bullet entered the back of his head and exited on the right side of his face and pretty well blew away the right side of his head. Oh . . . and then the other two bullets had entered the lower part of his neck . . . and to the best of my knowledge, or the best of my memory, one had exited. The other bullet had entered from behind and hit his chest cavity and the bullet went down into the body. And during the autopsy . . . this is the only part that I can imagine would be of any . . . really, what I've told you a little bit right there, of strictly confidential nature, that was never written up anywhere. And I presume, am I right, these . . . this tape and this conversation is strictly confidential? You know, it's not going to be published . . . I guess is what I'm getting at.

Q: It's not going to be published during the term of this committee. During 1978.

LIPSEY: Okay, well, is that . . . as far as I can remember, and I'm pretty positive about it, they never found the third bullet. It did not exit the body. When they did the autopsy, I can remember first they cut the top of his head off and then they cut his chest open, you know, and they got all of his insides out, that was the only gory part, they took them out a piece at a time and laid them up on . . . I can remember . . . a beautiful clean stainless steel rack with water pouring over it all the time. I imagine to keep it fresh or whatever. They did the whole autopsy and then they came back and, you know, sliced up all the organs.

Q: For slides?

LIPSEY: I don't know what they were using them for. They were taking pictures of them . . . they, you know, and they were examining . . . examining them. I don't know what they were . . . whether they were taking them for records or not. I don't think the doctors, to be perfectly frank, I don't think the doctors . . . it ever entered the doctors' minds that they were taking pictures for a formal investigation. They were doing an autopsy, a complete autopsy, and whatever physical records that you maintain during an autopsy [was?] what they were doing. I know they did a very thorough job, because every time one of them would say something the other one would question it. I can remember they looked at one organ and they passed it around, and all three discussed it before they would go on to the next part. You know, it wasn't one guy doing his operating on the feet, one on the chest, and one on the head. They did everything together and re-examined everything together. I remember that distinctly. They looked like one of the most efficient teams I've . . . doing anything that I've ever seen. But anyhow, like I say, I can remember lifting his chest cavity and then the top of his head off, and you know, all the internal organs out. And I can remember them discussing the third . . . third bullet. First, second, third bullet. The third bullet, the one they hadn't found. Their only logical explanation was that it hit him in the back of the head . . . hit his chest cavity, and then, like bullets will do . . . I am sure you are familiar with that one, you shoot somebody, no telling where the bullet is going to end up . . . probably hit his chest cavity and could have gone all the way down into his toe. You know, it could have just hit and gone right down into his leg or wherever. But I don't think, to the best of my knowledge, they ever found the third bullet. But I . . .

Q: Did they find any other bullets?

LIPSEY: This is what I'm getting back to. I don't know that they found bullets or whether they found just particles of bullets. I don't think they know . . . I don't think they found any whole bullets. But that is just strictly speculation on my part. You know . . . I remember they were bound and determined to find that bullet because it didn't have an exit mark. But I don't think they ever found the bullet. **///{Reel 1, Side 1B 19:36}///** The one that they . . . you know . . . hit his chest, the one that exited here, there was no . . . entered here; there was no exit hole. So the bullet was somewhere in his body, obviously.

Q: When you said "entered here", . . . referring to . . .

LIPSEY: To the back . . . lower back of the head.

Q: Lower back.

LIPSEY: And from the angle they were talking about . . . it had to come from quite a height because they were looking and talking to each other . . . the angle . . . where they were pointing it went in . . . to where they figured it hit him . . . to where it exited . . . had to be a down angle. And also all of them . . . throughout their entire discussion . . . I never entered the discussion and neither did Sam Bird. We were just sitting there watching and listening. And we weren't asked for our opinions, for good obvious reasons. We wouldn't have known what we were talking about. So, we never entered any conversation with the doctors or . . . you know, were offered any information except we heard them talking.

And . . . I don't personally think, personal opinion, from listening to the doctors, watching the autopsy, there was any question in their minds that the bullets came from the same direction . . . entered . . . you know . . . that all three bullets came from the same place at the same . . . you know . . . time. They didn't . . . they weren't different angles, they all had the . . . you know . . . a distinct pattern to it.

Q: Getting back to the bullets themselves, not the bullets themselves, but the entrances, can you go over again the entrances as you remember them? [unclear; taking over each other]

LIPSEY: . . . As I remember them there was one bullet that went in the back of the head that exited and blew away part of his face. And that was sort of high up, not high up . . . but like this little crown on the back of your head right there, three or four inches above your neck.

Q: Okey.

LIPSEY: And then the other one entered at more or less the top of the neck, the other one entered more or less at the bottom of the neck.

Q: Okay, so that would be up where the crown, as much of the crown . . . [unclear; taking over each other]

LIPSEY: Yeah, not the top of the head . . . the rear . . . the rear crown.

Q: Where that point might be on the skull bone?

LIPSEY: Exactly, yeah exactly.

Q: Then one approximately several inches lower?

LIPSEY: Well not several, but two or three inches lower.

Q: Still in the head? Or what we would call...

LIPSEY: Closer to the neck.

Q: Closer to the neck? And than one in the neck?

LIPSEY: In the lower neck region.

Q: In the back?

LIPSEY: Yeah, the very . . . right as the . . .

Q: Let's go back over things. Sometimes visual aids you forget. Okay, and then according to the autopsy doctors they feel the one that entered in the skull, in the rear of the head, exited in the right side of the head?

LIPSEY: The right front, you know, the face. Not the top, not the right top, the right front. The facial part of your face. In other words . . .

Q: Did that destroy his face at all? When you saw Presidents Kennedy, was his face distorted?

LIPSEY: Yeah, the right side. If you looked at him straight. If you looked at him from the left you couldn't see anything. If you looked at him from the right side it was just physically part of it blown away.

Q: So that would be right here?

LIPSEY: Yeah, behind the eye and everything.

Q: Behind the eye? Was it all hair region or was it part of the actual face?

LIPSEY: To the best of my recollection it was part of the hair region and part of the face region.

Q: Just to follow up this point, after the embalming had been done and the morticians had finished preparing the body and you viewed President Kennedy at that time, after he was dressed, could you see any damage?

LIPSEY: They did a beautiful job. He looked great.

Q: So you really couldn't tell?

LIPSEY: Oh, you could tell, sure, if you got up close you could tell, yes.

Q: But he was presentable in the sense that you . . .

LIPSEY: He wasn't presentable in the sense that you would want to open the casket. But it was good . . . they did a super job.

Q: What I guess I'm getting at . . . is half his face so completely blown away? Could you recognize him?

LIPSEY: No, not at all. Oh no, he was 100% recognizable. I mean, particularly after they finished. No, it wasn't that much damage at all.

Q: Now getting back, we just went over the three entrances and what the doctor's stated were entrances. To refresh your memory, the first doctor was Dr. Humes . . . is the chief pathologist . . .

LIPSEY: [Talking over each other] I met the doctors when it first started . . . except when I read their names . . . I don't know them then; I don't know them now . . . on a personal basis. Nor I never talked to them before, during or afterwards.

Q: You do recollect Commander Humes?

LIPSEY: Yes. Okay, the only thing I remember there at times was another . . . it wasn't a doctor. It could have been a doctor. I know there was an assistant or an aide doing things for them during different periods.

Q: Getting back to the entrances . . . you just stated one exit you believed was on the right hand side of the head. Now what about the other entrances, what about the corresponding exits if there were any? Let's clarify that a little more. For starting, one . . .

LIPSEY: The bullet that entered the lower part of the head or upper part of the neck . . . [long pause] . . . to the best of my knowledge, came out the front of the neck. But the one that I remember they spent so much time on, obviously, was the one that did not come out. There was a bullet . . . that's my vivid recollection . . . cause that's all they talked about. For about two hours, all they talked about was finding that bullet. And to the best of my recollection they found some particles, but they never found the bullet . . . you know . . . pieces of it, traces of it. But to the best of my knowledge . . . this is one thing I definitely remember they just never found the whole bullet.

Q: What was it you observed that made you feel that it exited . . . the bullet that entered the rear portion of his head exited in the throat area?

LIPSEY: The throat area. Right. The lower throat area.

Q: What . . . were there markings there that indicated that the doctors came to that conclusion?

LIPSEY: I saw, you know, where they were working, and also listening to their conclusions.

Q: And it's your recollection at that time that the doctors definitely felt the bullets came from the . . . one area, same area, same time?

LIPSEY: Yes, they talked about that. It never seemed to be any doubt in their mind the bullets were coming from different directions at all.

Q: It's been a long time, but do you recall any reasons they gave?

LIPSEY: Because of the angle. I remember that's how they kept talking about the angles of the bullets, because . . . the angles that they entered the body. That's why they . . . I remember . . . measuring and doing all kinds of things. They turned the body up at one point to determine where that bullet that entered back here, that didn't have an exit mark. Where was that bullet? And so when it got to . . . down to . . . you know, where they thought it hit his chest cavity, then they started . . . you know, they opened him up and started looking in here. That's why I remember one thing, they took, after they had taken all his organs out, during the autopsy they had them sitting up there: "Now let's see if we can find the bullet." They cut all his organs apart. And they . . . I don't know what they did with them, but I remember them putting them in some kind of containers. I don't remember, but I remember them putting them in containers . . . and said we'll hold these and whatever.

Q: Okay, just a minute. One of the tapes . . . Mr. Lipsey is also taping this interview and his tape has stopped. Turn off the tape so that he can put it . . . What time is it? My watch stopped.

LIPSEY: Oh, 12:07.

Q: We didn't turn off the tape. We are starting again.

LIPSEY: Alright, 12:07, starting again.

Q: Getting back again to the beginning stages of the autopsy, I think we can follow through on . . . questions bullets . . . locations . . . [unclear]. Do you recall the photographs that was taken? The time?

LIPSEY: No, I remember them . . . and there again, that's very cloudy . . . I remember them taking photographs, but I don't remember at what time or what point during the autopsy. I have no idea.

Q: Do you know what they did with the photographs?

LIPSEY: Absolutely not. I wasn't concerned about them . . . didn't . . . never entered my mind to even ask. I might point out at this time that Sam Bird, the other lieutenant that I'm talking about. And I could kick myself three times for not doing it. We had a lot of documented records that had to do with the funeral itself. You know, planning it, The Old Guard, the presidents, and the kings and the queens, who all were there. Every step of the record. I've got a lot of those records at home, the newspapers with my picture on the front page all over the country, you know, during the funeral, and stuff like that.

But I do remember, right after this was all over . . . this started on Friday night and ended on . . . we buried him on Monday afternoon. And I remember like Tuesday night or Wednesday night, one night that week, sitting in Sam's apartment while Sam made a recording on everything he had seen and done from the start of the funeral . . . from the time Kennedy was assassinated till the time they buried him, you know, for his own personal record. And I could kick myself for not doing the same thing. But I remember him doing that.

Q: This was on the Tuesday or Wednesday night?

LIPSEY: Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday night after the autopsy. The autopsy was on Friday night. I can remember we left after the autopsy. Everybody left. I sat there with Sam. We were both in and out at that time while they did . . . the funeral people did . . . put Kennedy back together and got him dressed. That took almost as long as the autopsy. And it was sometimes in the very early hours of the morning. I've got that documented . . . I remember that, at home, it's really not that important I guess. It was sometime between 3 and 4 in the morning we finally finished and we put the body back into the hearse. And Mrs. Kennedy, Jackie, came down and got in the hearse with the body herself. Still had on the pink suit . . . hadn't changed clothes.

And we went from . . . we led it. Our car, General Wehle and myself and our driver were in the first car. And then, if I'm not mistaken, there was a police car in front of us. And then the hearse right behind us. And a family car behind that. One or two other cars in the procession. We went back to the White House. We drove up, went into the White House, parked. Because we had all this arranged, so it had to be very formalized now. Mrs. Kennedy and the hearse with the body stopped at the entrance of the White House. We called . . . I'll never forget this . . . we called the Marine barracks, which was across the river in Virginia, twenty minutes before we left the hospital. This is three o'clock in the morning. It might have been 15 minutes, but it was between 15 and 20 minutes before we left . . . Bethesda, we called them and told them we wanted an honor guard at the White House to lead the body . . . up the entrance . . . right up to the White House, and to make a cordon as they . . . as The Old Guard got the body out of the hearse and carried it into the White House.

They woke those boys up out of a dead sleep, the Marines, they dressed in a formal attire, got their guns, put them on a rifle . . . put them on a bus, and they were at the White House before we were. And they stopped out front . . . they had the Marines lined up on both sides of the driveway, and a group of them marching in front of the hearse. And they went very

slowly to the White House. We took the body out, took it in the White House, into the East Room, if I remember correctly. At that time they had a priest there. And it was Bobby Kennedy, Jackie, the White House servants, one or two other people and General Wehle and myself. And then they had a little private service, a little funeral service lasting 10 minutes, 15 minutes. That picture was in a double page spread, because it . . . it ended up . . . they had a photographer in there . . . and that picture ended up in a double page spread. There were no other news people allowed in there . . . [unclear] It must have been an official photograph. That ended up as a double page spread picture in a magazine. That doesn't have anything to do with what you're trying to find out I'm sure, but . . .

Q: Do you remember whether Sam Bird discussed the details of the autopsy on this tape?

LIPSEY: No, that's what I said . . . no, I don't. I do remember Sam making the tape. And I remember him asking me questions about people and who was there, you know, he was trying to authenticate it as best possible. And as far as I can remember, when I came into his room, you know, he had been making the tape. I was not present when he discussed the autopsy part of it on this tape. I'm not sure he put it on tape. But I know for a fact that he made a tape recording of everything he . . . his part in the whole thing. And to that point, if he did put it on tape, about the autopsy . . . 'cause we were in there, and basically we saw the exact same thing, that tape would be a hell of a lot more valuable to you than my testimony.

Q: Is Sam Bird . . . is he still alive today? Have you talked to him?

LIPSEY: I have no idea, I haven't talked to Sam since the day I left Washington. That was . . . I left Washington . . . I think around this time in 1974.

Q: Was he still stationed there?

LIPSEY: Yeah. He was still stationed there when I left. I imagine he stayed there for his tour of duty. Matter of fact, General Wehle asked Sam . . . you know Sam and I got to be very good friends, as we lived right across from each other at Fort Myers in the Officer's HQ, and Sam and I . . . Sam had been a general's aide at his previous station. When I left Washington, General Wehle got me to ask Sam if Sam would replace me as General Wehle's aide. Sam said he'd been a general's aide once, and he felt he needed a tour of duty on his records instead of another general's aide position just so he could seek rank faster. I don't know if he stayed in the Army or got out of the Army. He was a permanent type. To the best of my knowledge, Sam Bird's probably still in the Army, if he's alive. And I certainly hope he is. He was a fine person.

Q: In the early stages of the autopsy, before they formally began cutting, who was running things?

LIPSEY: I can't tell you. The doctors were in there, and one doctor was obviously directing the procedures, and I don't know which one it was.

Q: Was the doctor directing the procedures one of those participating in the autopsy?

LIPSEY: Yes.

Q: Did the autopsy surgeons discuss with anyone else what type of autopsy they were going to do?

LIPSEY: Not during the autopsy, no.

Q: Do you remember any discussions prior to the autopsy?

LIPSEY: I wasn't with them prior to the autopsy. They were there when we got there.

Q: From the time that you arrived, until they were into the autopsy, do you remember the autopsy surgeons discussing the nature of the autopsy with anyone?

LIPSEY: I'm sure they must have. No, I'm not sure they must have. I'm sure they must have discussed it among themselves. Whether they discussed it with anybody else, or the chief of surgery of the hospital, I'm sure they probably did. I don't know. I honestly don't know. I can't make any comment on that, because I don't know.

Q: Did they have any discussions with anyone else during the autopsy?

LIPSEY: No, not . . . not to my knowledge.

Q: Were you in a position to be able to hear any conversations among the doctors?

LIPSEY: Yeah, I was, but truthfully, I would . . . , you know, I paid attention to what I wanted to pay attention to. It was one of those deals where I was just curious how many times he'd been shot, or where he was shot. But the medical definitions of what type of wounds they were, and whatever, is . . . I tuned all that out probably . . . I just . . . I didn't know what they were talking about, and I probably could have . . . at the time . . . I just didn't really care. I should have cared more . . . I wish now I'd taped it, if possible. No. I really don't know. I heard their conversations. I was interested in the parts I guess I wanted to be interested in. It's been too long to recollect any details or other parts of their conversations.

Q: I'd like to stop the tape in order to change sides. The time is 12:17. [Pause]

**{Reel 1, Side 2A 23:00}**

Q: Time is 12:18 beginning the tape again.

Q: Getting back to the question that he just asked you. In terms of feet, how close were you to the table where the autopsy was being performed? Were you right behind?

LIPSEY: When you walked into the autopsy room from the back door, where they brought the body in, you turned left down a very little short hallway. Had the doors right there when you went in. When you walked in, there was almost like a little spectator's gallery. On the right there were several chairs . . . on the right . . . with a sort of a railing in front of them. And then the table was right out in front of that. I would say I was as far from here to that jacket, maybe, from the doctors, approximately 12 to 15 feet.

Remember . . . commenting when they laid him up on the table . . . has nothing to do with anything. He was a beautiful physical specimen. I mean you could . . . not an ounce of fat on his body anyhow . . . anywhere, very muscular. Oh, you know, great looking physical shape. And I also remember how . . . [unclear].. like a deceased person does, but he looked much smaller, laying there on the table than he ever did in person, and I saw him quite a bit. Oh . . . and . . . oh . . . he just looked smaller. But he was . . . his physical condition looked fantastic . . . you just couldn't see any fat or sloppiness or anything.



Q: When the autopsy doctors first walked up to the table, did they thoroughly look over the body or did they begin concentrating on one area and begin to work there.

LIPSEY: No, they . . . the first thing they did, was look over the body, I can remember that, you know, they looked over from head to toe, all side, just looked at the whole thing. And made . . . they discussed a lot of things. That's probably the part I tuned out. But, you know, I do remember looking it over thoroughly. I do remember the body still was covered with blood and . . . oh . . . I remember them cleaning it off, taking a big . . . I remember . . . a brush, like a scrub brush, you know, cleaning the body in certain areas before they started cutting. I remember . . . after they finished . . . scrubbing it down again, you know, getting all the mess away and everything, but I remember they had to scrub and clean it pretty good after they did all the preliminary looking they wanted to. Before, I guess, they physically touched the body and got to work on it, they had to clean the body quite a bit before they started.

Q: Did the doctors, in that preliminary examination, find all the wounds that you described?

LIPSEY: I'm sure they must have, yes, I mean, they were visible.

Q: To follow that up, the wounds that you did describe, was that based on hearing the doctors calling out that this is a wound, this is a wound? Or was that based on your visible sight when you saw the body?

LIPSEY: Both, because, I could see the body, I could see the rear. I could see the . . . obviously the side of the face, although when he . . . they . . . that's just when I walked in, they took him out the casket . . . I saw that, you know, the side wound, because when I went back and laid . . . sat down, they laid him down to the right. The way they laid him, I was looking at the left side of his body as opposed to the right side of his body. Oh, and I can remember seeing the blood at the throat area, and in the neck . . . neck area. As far as me getting down and looking at the exit hole in the front, all I could see was the blood. What I'm talking about, is what I heard in conversation from them from then on.

Q: To follow that up, as you should well know, because I take it you do hunt a lot, locating wounds in hair is very difficult. The sighting. Did you visibly see the wounds in the back of the head, what you feel were the entrance wounds? Was that based on what the doctors stated . . . that we know their opinions...

[Taking over each other]

LIPSEY: No, no . . . that's . . . no. I hope I'm not contradicting myself. But at this point, there again, like I said, it's been a long time. I feel that there was no really entrance wound . . . maybe I said that . . . in the rear of his head. There was a point where they determined the bullet entered the back of his head, but I believe all of that part of his head was gone. I mean, I think it just physically blew away that part of his head. You know, just like a strip right across there . . . or maybe just in that area . . . it just blew it out.

Q: So you say the damage caused by the entrance and the exit of the bullet to the head, caused one large hole?

LIPSEY: To the best of my recollection, yes it did. The one that went in the back . . . the other one that went in the back of the neck, like a say, I saw the blood spots and what have you, but they weren't tremendous, weren't a blow-a-way like this. But, of course, what little I know about it, which isn't a hell of a lot, your bone is right there, so when it hit it, the bullet probably expanded, hit something solid and ripped. But here, it went into tissue before it hit anything.

Q: Was there any discussion of the nature of the bullet which caused the head wound?

LIPSEY: No. To my recollection, no there wasn't.

Q: Was there any discussion that it would take a certain kind of bullet to cause that kind of damage?

LIPSEY: If it was done, it was probably . . . I . . . I'm thinking . . . it was probably done in the privacy of the doctors after the autopsy. I don't remember them . . . and I'm sure it must have been mentioned during the autopsy, but I . . . I'm not going to say yes or no, because I don't have any idea. I don't remember that at all.

Q: During the autopsy, did you discuss with anyone else in the room the nature of the head wounds? Or the causes of them?

LIPSEY: No. Not really. Sam and I... we just talked, you know, talked about different things. We talked about Kennedy, talked about . . . oh . . . how many times he had been shot. But I don't think we ever discussed anything in relation to what the doctors were saying about the wounds.

Q: Could you describe for us the nature of the damage on the front of the neck?

LIPSEY: Oh, no, I really couldn't. Because like I say, when we got it out, there was . . . blood was all over the body, it was just almost caked on. Like I remember them taking a scrub brush and a pail. One of his arms, and if I'm not mistaken, it was his left arm. You know, the way . . . I guess, after he died . . . finished the autopsy by the time . . . oh . . . rigor mortis had set in . . . one of his arms was slightly higher. If . . . you know, the guys wanna lay him down . . . one arm was up a little bit. So when they started the autopsy, I can remember one of the doctors, when he was starting to clean the body up, physically got up on the table and put his knee down on his arm to hold it down . . . so that he could scrub . . . to get it out of his way . . . so that he could scrub the rest of the body. So to say . . . to describe the hole to you, no, because it was so messy and so much blood that I didn't . . . I never got close enough to get down and look at the wound itself.

Q: Can you give us a rough estimate, compared for example to the wound in the head and the wound in the back of the neck?

LIPSEY: It was much smaller, oh, very much smaller.

Q: Than the head wound...

LIPSEY: Than the side head wound.

Q: How about compared to the wound in the lower back?

LIPSEY: There again, the wound in the back of the head, all I saw of that wound was when they turned him over on his side . . . and saw the blood when they were cleaning him off, when they started cutting, and doing the thing. I . . . I just couldn't possibly describe to you the relation to the size. I don't remember, and I doubt that I saw it close enough to remember . . . you know, to describe it to you.

Q: Do you remember the doctors describing the wound in the front of the neck as being caused by anything other than a bullet?

LIPSEY: No, not at all.

Q: Do you remember discussions on whether or not there had been a tracheotomy incision?

LIPSEY: [Long pause.] No, I guess anything . . . I do remember something about that, but I think that . . . if I remember . . . I think that would have to come after reading things about what went on in Dallas. I . . . I . . . don't honestly remember them discussing that.

Q: What have you read about Dallas? About that front neck wound?

LIPSEY: It's been so long. Like I say, I'm glad I haven't, I'm glad I didn't go back over any articles and read, because I don't even remember.

Q: You don't recall whether or not there was a tracheotomy in the front of the neck?

LIPSEY: Absolutely not.

Q: Well, you say you didn't hear the doctors discuss that. Did you explicitly hear the doctors say that the wound in the front of the neck was caused by a bullet?

LIPSEY: If you want to get down to specifics: no. The only thing I do remember was when they kept talking about the entrance in the back of the neck and looking at the hole in the front of the neck. To the best of my knowledge they were convinced that a bullet came out of the front of the neck. And that's how they were determining where to look for the other bullet . . . by the angle it went in at the back and came out at the front. Where to look at the other one.

Q: Oh, the angle where it came in the head . . .

LIPSEY: Right.

Q: . . . looking out the front of the neck . . .

LIPSEY: Right.

Q: . . . using that angle . . .

LIPSEY: To . . . to determine where to look for the bullet . . . for the other one, because I presume they . . . from what they were looking at, both entrances looked to be the same. In other words, both entrances looked like . . . you know, the angles were the same on both entrances, or the size of the hole probably was the same . . . and in the front. I'm not going to stand here and make up a story, make it sound good, I . . . I just don't remember whether they discussed the size of a tracheotomy hole. or . . . it in relation to where a bullet might have exited.

Q: How much time did you say, relatively speaking, did the doctors spend on the three wounds you described? Did they spend more time on one or the other of the wounds?

LIPSEY: They . . . they spent more time looking for that other bullet than they did on anything else.

Q: You're describing the bullet that went in...

LIPSEY: ...on the lower part of the neck. I remember them saying it must of hit the chest cavity and ricocheted down somewhere into the body.

Q: Do you remember any discussion...

LIPSEY: And they spent a lot of time on that. Because I remember when they cut him open in the front, you know, they . . . I remember . . . "Let's look for this, let's look for this." They took all the organs out, they went through, they cut the organs up looking for bullets. And finally, to the best of my knowledge, and I . . . I . . . you know, I remember this, I don't remember how much more they did after this, but I remember them saying: "That bullet could be anywhere. It could have gone right down to the . . . to his heel or his toe." You know, it could have ricocheted and just traveled right on down through the bottom of his . . . you know, through his insides.

Q: Do you remember any discussion among the doctors as to whether the bullet that entered in the lower part of the neck . . . lower back . . . lower back part of the neck . . . exited in the front of the neck?

LIPSEY: Yeah. I remember they were firmly convinced that it did not.

Q: Okay. So you're convinced...

LIPSEY: That's why they spent so much time looking for it. They, they . . . they traced it through the back of his neck . . . through, you know . . . when they did the autopsy . . . through the inside of his body . . . and there was nowhere the bullet was then, where it should have exited, it was not. And at the angle it was traveling, and from . . . you know, the other things they saw visible in the chest area once they cut him open, you know, it had started down, but where was it?

Q: When they opened up the body from the front, did . . . were they able to discern any part of the track of the bullet?

LIPSEY: I'm convinced they were in the upper part of his body, yes, because that's how they started following it. And then I think . . . that's when they started taking his organs out, you know, one at a time only. They took all of his insides out, I remember that. Oh, they had four or five piles of insides lying up on the table, you know, and they thoroughly examined each one of those. And . . . you know, they just had a big hollow chest and stomach cavity left . . . or particularly chest cavity, when they got through. And . . . oh . . . so I'm . . . I'm very convinced, in my own mind, that they were very convinced that bullet is . . . is somewhere in him.

Q: When they . . .

LIPSEY: Because, because, you know, from their conversation, they . . . they tracked the bullet as far as they could in a downward position before they couldn't tell where it went. That's when they started taking organs apart and looking wherever they could look without going ahead and just cutting him apart. And I think their decision finally was, we're just not going to cut him . . . you know . . . take every . . . you know . . . completely dissect him to find the bullet. To them, obviously, at that point it wasn't that important.

Q: When they opened up the chest, when you say they saw part of the track of the bullet, did they take a photograph?

LIPSEY: Can't tell. I honestly do not know.

Q: Let me ask you this: Did they take all the photographs at the beginning, or did they take some during the course of the autopsy?

LIPSEY: [Long pause] Once again, I don't know. I just don't know.

Q: Do you remember . . . you expressed that . . . you said that the doctors considered the possibility that the bullet could be virtually anywhere in the body, including, I think the word you mentioned was "as far as the heel."

LIPSEY: Right.

Q: Do you remember whether or not the doctors x-rayed...

LIPSEY: I remember one of the doctors said I've seen a guy shot . . . something to the effect, you know, "I've seen bullet wounds where it hit bone and ricocheted all over the body." And he says, you know, he says "We may never find this bullet unless we take the whole body apart."

Q: Do you remember whether they x-rayed the lower extremities?

LIPSEY: No, I don't.

Q: Do you recall if they were using the x-rays at the same time they were dissecting?

LIPSEY: No.

Q: Do you remember the doctors looking at the x-rays in the autopsy room?

LIPSEY: That I do. I remember them looking at them. That must have been... you're jogging my memory now, because I . . . I do remember them looking at x-rays at the beginning of the autopsy. So they must have taken some, you know, at the very beginning, because I remember them relating x-rays to things they were doing.

Q: Do you remember which portion of the X-rays...

LIPSEY: No, no, no, no. I plead dumbness on that, 'cause I just don't. But I . . . I remember now, remember them . . . you know . . . holding . . . you know . . . [unclear] . . . pinning them up on this long thing, in series, with lights, you know, with lights, and they would examine a part of an x-ray and go on from there. So, obviously, they must have taken x-rays right at the beginning, yeah. If they took any more during or after, I don't remember.

Q: Do you remember any of the autopsy doctors arriving at the autopsy later than the others?

LIPSEY: No, I don't.

Q: Do you remember any of the autopsy doctors probing any of the wounds?

LIPSEY: Not, no, I really can't say. They were doing everything, so I don't . . . I can say they must have, I'm not going to say they did, you know . . . I . . . I remember, you know . . . the wounds, and looking for the bullet, were their primary concern. [Interruption by intercom]

Q: Do you remember any discussion when they were trying to find out where the bullet went . . . of the possibility that the bullet had gone in the back and had fallen out of the body . . . no it had not exited, the bullet remained in the body.

LIPSEY: No, I remember . . . There was no possibility, there were no other holes it could have fallen out.

Q: That's what I mean, I mean . . . did they discuss...

LIPSEY: ...to the rear . . . you know . . . [talking over each other]

Q: Fell out of the entrance.

LIPSEY: No, no . . . The bullet had penetrated, the bullet went into the skin, the bullet had penetrated . . . there was evidence of it inside of his body. So there was no way it could have fallen out.

Q: Was there any discussion of the possibility that, because of external cardiac massage from the front when he was face up, it could have worked its way out?

LIPSEY: No. No discussion of that that I can remember, no.

Q: Do you remember any phone calls anyone in the autopsy room made during the autopsy?

LIPSEY: In the room you mean?

Q: Anyone in the room or anyone from the room leaving to make any calls?

LIPSEY: I made a call, I don't remember anybody else . . .

Q: From the room?

LIPSEY: No, not from the room. When the autopsy was over, before the men from the funeral home started their work, they took a break. General Wehle went into . . . came in and said, "You can go out for a while, I'll relieve you". General Wehle came in the room, and I went out of the room and took a . . . oh . . . 10 or 15 minutes. And called my parents, you know, and said, "Guess where I am, or what I just did?" You know, woke them up, it was then after 2:00 in the morning. And they said, "What?" "I said I just watched Kennedy's autopsy." And, you know, they got all excited, and said, "Yes, we saw you on television this afternoon at Andrews Air Force Base" and all that. I said, you know, "I'll participate to a much greater extent in the funeral, you know. Watch television . . . you'll see me." Typical, you know, I guess, 21 year old's reaction. And that was, you know, the sum total of my conversation with my parents. I didn't discuss anything about anything. All I just told them, I have just been in there watching the autopsy. If anybody else called... I don't know.

Q: Do you remember any messages being sent into the room by the Kennedy family or anybody with the Kennedy's?

LIPSEY: No, not at all.

Q: Do you remember Admiral Burkley being in present at the autopsy?

LIPSEY: Everybody, to my knowledge, in that room besides Sam Bird and myself had on a medical gown. And so, if he was . . .

Q: Just a minute. The time is now 12:38. Lipsey's tape ran out. [changing tape]

LIPSEY: If there was anybody . . . 20 minutes to 1:00, I'm starting again. If there was anybody else in the room, Admiral or who, he was dressed as a doctor and not as an officer, that I can recollect. I don't remember if he was in the room or not. No, I don't.

Q: Do you know who Admiral Burkley is or was at the time?

LIPSEY: I don't remember his name.

Q: Do you remember meeting the physician of the President?

LIPSEY: No. I don't think I ever did.

Q: Who else do you remember was in the room?

LIPSEY: I can remember . . . like I say . . . I don't know whether he was a doctor or orderly or whatever. There were at times other people there that . . . you know . . . helping them clean the body, move the body, do certain things like that. And . . . oh . . . occasionally somebody would just come in the room, turn around and walk out, one of the hospital staff-type people. But I don't remember who it was. I don't remember, by name, anybody else in the room.

Q: Do you recall anyone else who seemed to be filling the role you were, observer, but not actually involved in assisting the doctors in any capacity?

LIPSEY: You know that's hard, because I seem to recollect one other person in there on occasion, but I for the life of me, honestly, I just can't remember who it was. I really don't. Sam and I were sitting to try to be out of the doctor's way and everybody else's way. Immediately, you know, away from the table, but right there in the chairs as you walk in on the right. I just don't remember the other people who came in around at that time.

Q: Were you in charge of security arrangements for the autopsy room?

**{Reel 1, Side 2B 19:11}**

LIPSEY: Specifically, no. I was charged by General Wehle to make sure that nobody left . . . that that body didn't go anywhere without him or me. And as far as specific security of the room on the outside, I remember they had guards all up and down that place. And Army . . . Army people, you know, and all types of security people. And I . . . I don't know who physically was . . . was responsible for hospital security.

Q: Do you remember what orders, if any, were given regarding who could be admitted to the autopsy room?

LIPSEY: No. I probably wasn't around to be admitted. I . . . I had on my uniform with the General's recognition, and the General and I drove up and everybody realized he was in charge. He told me to stay with the body and from then on nobody ever asked me anything. So . . . but there was a guard right outside the door. A policeman, a New . . . a Washington policeman right outside the door.

Q: Do you remember anyone in effect taking attendance of who was present, circulating a list [unclear]?

LIPSEY: No, I don't . . . I do not. [Pause] Now, I'm not going to say they didn't, but I . . . I don't remember.

Q: Getting back to the organs, you say that they removed the organs from the body and placed them up on the table . . . a stainless steel table..

LIPSEY: It was right over the body . . .

Q: Shelving . . .

LIPSEY: Just shelving up over the body. And I remember they had water draining over it continuously.

Q: Now, you also mentioned that they examined these closely and also cut them up to some degree.

LIPSEY: Yeah . . . I just . . .

Q: Now, did they return some of these organs, or all the organs, to the body at the termination of the autopsy, or do you recollect...?

LIPSEY: To the best of my knowledge, they didn't return anything to the body. They . . . they had these organs in separate containers. After they examined them. What they did . . . I left for a while when General Wehle came in to spell me . . . and when I went back we started working on . . . not we . . . the funeral people started, you know, cleaning him up and . . . cosmetically fixing him up. I . . . I don't remember what happened to his organs.

Q: Specifically, do you recall the brain was one of these organs?

LIPSEY: Yes . . . I remember them cutting the top of his head off. I remember them taking . . . I could see 'em . . . taking everything out. That was the only point in the autopsy that I got a little queasy. I remember they made a little circular cut on the top of his head and lifted the scalp off, and started taking the things out from inside of his head.

Q: Do you remember what they put the brain in?

LIPSEY: No, I don't.

Q: Do you remember them taking any metal fragments out of the president's body?

LIPSEY: Specifically, no, I don't.

Q: Do you recall if they did take any metal fragments? Maybe you don't remember specifically where. Did they take any metal fragments at all?

LIPSEY: I would hope Sam could remember and put those down on his tape. I feel like they did, but I . . . I'm not going to sit here and say what part of the body they took them from, or what they were, but I . . . I feel like they had some . . . they did have some bullet fragments. I remember them very carefully examining the area, you know, around the part on the top of his head . . . side of his head . . . where it was kinda blown away. I remember them just very extremely carefully examining that part of his, you know, of his head, and looking for things. But no, I just . . . I . . . I'm not going to sit here and tell you that they took a big piece or little piece out. I'm . . . sorry, I just don't remember.

Q: Okay, I have a sketch here from the autopsy face sheet. We'd like you to place . . . you can do it first in pencil and then in pen if you like, or just in pen . . . place the location of any wounds that you recall.

LIPSEY: Okay.

Q: This sketch is a blank drawing of a body.

LIPSEY: Like I said, to the best of my knowledge somewhere in that area and then like in that area.

Q: Okay, could you label them as of whether they are points of entrance or of exit?

LIPSEY: Alright. Part blown away. Entrance and entrance. To the best of my... let's see . . . it would be the right side of his face. That area in there. Once again, that was kind of blown away.

Q: Is that area the same area?

LIPSEY: Same area. Same . . . blown away . . . Same area . . . And there was a hole . . . now . . . a tracheotomy or bullet . . . As far as I was concerned . . . from my recollection they talked about it as a bullet hole. Exit. Exit.

Q: Could you put the date and your signature?

Q: Do you recall anyone in the room taking notes?

LIPSEY: Not around us, no I don't. I . . . I do recall the doctors had like a chart sheet. I don't remember what was on it . . . I really didn't get that close and look at it . . . but, you know, like a . . . a clipboard with papers on it, and making notes as they went along.

Q: Do you remember the presence of any federal agents in the room?

LIPSEY: No, I don't.

Q: When did you finish your duties as . . . ?

LIPSEY: Excuse me, there . . . there was one other person. Like I say, I . . . I'm just trying to remember. To the best of my recollections everybody was dressed in a surgical gown . . . or whatever you call it . . . around the table, but there may have been one other person . . . whether it was the admiral, the chief surgeon, or a federal agent . . . and there was another person around the table at times that wasn't doing anything, was observing. And I, you know, he could have been one of the doctors, but I do remember another person. But I couldn't tell you any more about it.

Q: When did your service as General Wehle's aide end?

LIPSEY: When I got out of the service, which was . . . oh . . . January of '74.

Q: Did you help make the arrangements for the re-interment of the President?

LIPSEY: January? Excuse me, let me see. I'm trying to get my dates straight. Yeah. It must have been January of '74, right. I'm sorry, go ahead.

Q: Did you in a similar capacity participate in the re-interment of the president's body when they moved it?

LIPSEY: Yeah. I helped them pick up the President's body and laid it in the casket.

Q: No, I'm talking about . . . subsequent to the funeral in 1963. I'm talking about years later.

LIPSEY: Oh, I have . . . this is the first time I've discussed it . . . what I've been discussing with you, this is . . .

Q: No, you misunderstand my question. As you may recall, they hadn't finished the final resting place . . .

LIPSEY: Oh, I'm sorry . . .

Q: . . . at Arlington National Cemetery . . .

LIPSEY: At Arlington National Cemetery. When I left Washington he was still buried where the little gas light was on the side of the hill.

Q: So you do not recall him being moved into the permanent site, which was very close to the original site? Did you participate in that?

LIPSEY: No, I don't.

Q: Do you know if General Wehle did?

LIPSEY: Obviously, he must have. Yes, because General Wehle was, if it was within the length of span he was still in service, and he was still there for . . . I know for well over a year . . . about there . . . you know, after I left.

Q: Was he there in . . . oh, after...

LIPSEY: General Wehle was there anytime anyone did anything of a formal nature, and I'm sure that was a very formal thing. General Wehle was always there.

Q: But you don't specifically recall when it occurred?

LIPSEY: No, I really don't.

Q: Is there anything else about the autopsy or the evidence which came from the autopsy that you can recall, or about the people who were present?

LIPSEY: The only thing . . . and there once again, and I . . . I'm sorry, but the best I can tell you here . . . and my recollection after all these years . . . and obviously some speculation on my part. The only thing . . . and you . . . it's certainly not going to hold up under any court of law-type thing, but I can remember when the Warren Commission was formed, and everybody was writing books about it. And all the comments on how many times he was shot and how the angles . . . I remember Walter Cronkite doing a big CBS thing on who shot him . . . how many directions it came from. I can remember vividly in my mind on literally hundreds of occasions, saying, you know, these . . . these people are crazy. I watched the autopsy and I know for a fact he was shot three times. You know, he was shot three times . . . and that the doctors were firmly convinced they all came out of the same gun because of the type of wounds or the entrances, whatever. And I . . . I wish I could be more specific . . . going back to the autopsy . . . it's just been too long to remember things, but I can remember immediately after . . . the next week, the next month. I was out of the service within the three month period. But over the period of the next year or so, which was when I really remembered what went on in the room.

And I can remember in my own mind, saying, "Hey", you know, "these people are crazy. They're trying to read something into it that didn't happen." You know, some . . . you know, one report came out he was shot from three different angles, and another report came out he was only shot once, another report came out that he was shot seven times . . . and . . . another report . . . you know, all kinds of . . . Everybody had their own versions of what happened, and how many sounds they heard, and the angles of the fire they came from. But I . . . I definitely remember the doctors commenting they were convinced that the shots came from the same direction and from the same type of weapon . . . and it was three shots.

Q: Did they also feel . . . did the doctors state that three separate bullets had struck?

LIPSEY: This is one other thing, that to the best of my memory . . . today . . . and remembering what I thought about when all these reports came out, absolutely, unequivocally yes, they were convinced that he had been shot three times.

Q: It's unclear to me from the sketch that you did, where there are three bullets.

LIPSEY: One on the right part of his head, one on the upper part of his neck, and one on the lower part of his neck.

Q: Well, on your sketch, you labeled two points as points of entrance.

LIPSEY: Yeah, and one part was just blown away. This part was just blown away. I . . . I don't remember whether . . . I . . . I just cannot remember whether there was a point of entrance and then the blown away part, or, whether it . . . like . . . he must have been sitting like this and hit like this . . . and . . . went in and then blew that away, or it . . . or, whether it just ripped the whole section away.

Q: Well, either of those two possibilities means one bullet to the head, I think.

LIPSEY: Right. One bullet to the head.

Q: Okey.

LIPSEY: And then one bullet to the lower head.

Q: Oh. Where did that bullet exit?

LIPSEY: That's the bullet that exited right here.

Q: Throat.

LIPSEY: Throat. Then the lower entrance that did not exit. Oh, if it's confusing, ask me again and we'll go over it, I . . . I . . . you understand it? What I'm talking about so far?

Q: Yeah, yeah . . .

LIPSEY: One bullet, right on the . . . on his head. There was a bullet that was coming . . .

Q: The question is . . . the bullet wound that you're referring to . . . on the upper right hand side of his head . . .

LIPSEY: Right.

Q: Did that . . . did this wound, which you describe as a large blasting out, did that have a separate, corresponding entrance wound, or did the doctors believe that was all part of one wound?

LIPSEY: That was all part of one wound.

Q: Could it have been part of that lower wound on the head which you labeled?

LIPSEY: No, no. Absolutely not. Oh, no. Absolutely not.

Q: Because, earlier when I . . .

LIPSEY: Because that . . . that, okey . . .

Q: . . . earlier when I asked you about the blown away portion, I got the impression that when you were saying you weren't sure whether it entered, and then blew away a portion, or whether the entrance and the exit were all part of the same hole.

LIPSEY: Okey, you're right, I wasn't. But that . . . this was distinctly another wound beside . . . in . . . in relation to these two.

Q: Well then, I guess the question would be, did the doctors conclude that there was . . . [LipseY interrupting] . . . there was a track between the two of them?

LIPSEY: No, the doctors . . . the conclusion . . . the doctors . . . the conclusion from the doctors were that there were three separate wounds.

Q: And three separate bullets.

LIPSEY: And three separate bullets. No question in my mind about that.

Q: Could you . . .

LIPSEY: Can I ask you a question at this point?

Q: You can ask us, but we may not be able to answer it for you.

LIPSEY: No, I think it just will be a very simple question . . . I . . . which I think you could answer. There's gotta be something to do with it. Why don't they exhume the body and study the body?

Q: We'll that's a question we can't answer.

LIPSEY: You can't answer that?

Q: That's a policy judgement.

LIPSEY: Okay, that 's a policy judgement. But, I mean, it's gotta clear up a lot of things. I just can't imagine why they just don't go shriiiiittt [whistling sound]. I remember, you know, I remember the discussion when Lyndon Johnson said, "This body," you know, "none of the details of the Warren Report" and . . . "this body will not be touched for . . ." what was it? 15, 20 years? Whatever? I . . . I remember, you know, he came out in public, you know, and made that statement, but I don't remember. You know, I . . . I'm just curious why they don't dig him up if they're so vitally concerned about it . . . [unclear].. wasting you guy's time?

Q: On this sketch, could you add a further identification where you say "part blown away." That's my confusion.

LIPSEY: Wound #1. Okay. Entrance of bullet #2 and entrance of bullet #3.

Q: Okay, when you say "wound #1", why don't you say...

Q: [Talking over each other] That, to you, represents entrance of bullet #1.

LIPSEY: No, not in sequence. The bullet #1 may have been this bullet, and that may have been #2. I don't remember the sequence.

Q: Of course. But for the purpose of marking this paper, that could be the entrance and exit of . . .

LIPSEY: Yeah, wound number . . . entrance and exit . . .

Q: . . . of bullet labeled #1.

LIPSEY: Entrance and exit of bullet wound #1. This would be entrance of bullet #2. Entrance of bullet #3. Not in order.

Q: Just write "For identification."

LIPSEY: For identification. This same area blown away as...

Q: Wound #1.

LIPSEY: Wound #1. Exit point of wound #2.

Q: Now, let me ask you to clear up: I think we stated this explicitly before, but the point on the sketch labeled as entrance of bullet #2, did you in fact see that hole?

LIPSEY: All I saw was when they turned him over on his side, we took him out of the boxed coffin that they brought him from the hospital, he was laying on his back, they laid him on the table. When I saw him is when they turned him on his side and I saw it from a distance of 20 ft, 15 ft. I saw the big blood area. I did not get any closer look at the hole than that.

Q: So . . .

LIPSEY: But I did hear their comments that . . . okey, oh, "Here is where the bullet went in".

Q: So what you're basing that on, is the comments of the doctors?

LIPSEY: And what I could see . . . what I could see relatively from where I was sitting about the position of it, yes.

Q: So essentially, the doctors said there were two bullet wounds to the head. Is that correct?

LIPSEY: Not really, not considering whether you want to consider this a head or a neck wound. I consider it more of a neck wound, and I believe in their discussions they discussed it more of a neck wound than a head wound. This was the . . . I consider my wound #1 as the head wound.

Q: Okey . . .

LIPSEY: I consider this wound #2 on a upper neck/lower part of your head.

Q: Was it in the hair, in the hairline?

LIPSEY: Yeah, it was in the hair, but the lower hairline.

Q: It was in the hair?

LIPSEY: Oh, wait. I'm considering where my hairline is today. Like I say, it was just a blood smash area back there. It could have been in the part that you sort of shave right up there. But, you know, lower head still, but upper neck. And the third one was definitely in the lower neck part, upper vertebrae.

Q: Okey, at this time I'll have to stop the tape, reel 1 is out. The time is 1:00 and I'll insert another tape. [Pause]

**{Reel 2; 11:13}**

Q: The time is 1:03. We're starting this tape again.

LIPSEY: Are you all prepared to draw conclusions after you've done your thing for a couple of years? Or are you just . . . bound it up and keep it for future reference.

Q: . . . [unclear] the committee will make it public.

LIPSEY: I see . . . are you, so . . . if, I can ask you this, you . . . you're concerned more, obviously, with . . . than just talking with me and other people about the autopsy and whatever. Your investigation, I presume, covers the whole realm of the assassination . . .

Q: We're investigating the assassination generally.

LIPSEY: Generally . . . conspiracy, whatever, you . . . you . . . you're investigating the whole thing. Obviously, I know nothing about that. But . . . oh . . . I was just curious. I guess everybody in the world has been curious since Oswald was killed, and then Ruby was killed. There's something, you know, there's something . . . rotten in Denmark, obviously, somewhere. I don't know that we will ever find out.

Q to Q: We are proceeding away from the issue of the location of the wounds . . . do you have any further questions?

Q: Do you remember whether or not during the autopsy any skull fragments were brought into the room?

LIPSEY: No. I don't think they were. I think I might have remembered if they had brought any other parts of the body in there. I . . . I don't . . . oh, not at all.

Q: I have one question pertaining to . . . oh . . . pre-autopsy, how did you determine that the autopsy would be performed at Bethesda?

LIPSEY: We were told where to take the body to. We . . . we . . . we got back to our offices about 1:00 that afternoon. General Wehle immediately called the White House and spoke to our liaison officer or whoever it happened to be at that time. General Wehle spoke with them at length. Oh . . . then we worked out a full plan . . . when you start planning funerals . . . what needs to be done in Washington. And . . . oh . . . then it was communicated to us, our . . . oh . . . you know . . . there would be an autopsy performed. And that we first had word, I think, that . . . they said they would perform it in Dallas. And then somebody up in the chain of command, you know, at the White House, or on some higher level than us, said, "No, not in Dallas." Would do it in Washington . . . in Washington, and then where. And it was decided it was to be done at the Naval Station . . . Bethesda Naval Station.

I even remember this flight . . . I remember never being so frightened in my life. When we took off from Andrews Air Force base . . . it was in one of those . . . and I forget the number of it. You may or may not remember . . . old banana-shaped helicopters, oblong . . . they were shaped like a banana with a rotor on each end, huge things, held about 30 or 40 people. And they had the reputation of being not very safe. And I can remember we loaded that thing up, and it was pitch black dark, obviously, outside. I just happen to remember because I flew in and out of Washington a lot, all those planes that used to land . . . oh . . . at National. You know, every 30 seconds there's a plane landing. And I can remember taking off in that damn thing and frying . . . flying across Washington. Everything entered my mind imaginable. It was loaded. We had the Old . . . Honor Guard in the plane with us. All the seats were taken up. And we had two lieutenants flying the plane, who were younger than I was, and I was young. And I was scared to death. [Interrupted by intercom]

And . . . oh . . . I can remember being frightened flying across there. Just in that damn plane, pitch black outside, and wondering, you know, who's telling the other planes that there was a helicopter that's flying over Washington. Then we went to land at the hospital. They had a helipad, or, you know, a pad where the helicopters land. And . . . in numbers, I don't know, read it in the paper . . . but there looked to be like several thousand people on the ground, and we got right over them. And

there was no place to land. And I can remember looking out the window of this helicopter and seeing the police forcing the people back. This little helipad was lighted up. And they got the crowd back far enough so we could set that helicopter down. And if the wind had been blowing strongly one way or the other, or he had slipped one quarter of an inch, or that plane would have tilted an eighth of an inch one way or the other, exaggerating, of course, we'd cut off four thousand people's heads. I've never been so frightened . . . and we landed . . . that little kid landed . . . and he was a kid . . . landed that helicopter . . . right in the middle of this humongous crowd. And it . . . I . . . I know he had been scared to death, too. Because he had . . . there was no room for margin of error when he set that helicopter down. Because . . . three feet one way or the other, and he had been in the crowd. And I . . . I just remember . . . I've flown all my life, I've been in storms . . . I've been in a tornado in an airplane . . . and I have . . .

Q: [interrupting, referring to an item in Lipsey's office from Delta Airlines] Delta Airlines.

LIPSEY: Yeah, I fly so doggoned much. Oh, they gave it to me for flying their airlines so much. But I've . . . I've been scared in airplanes of course . . . I guess everybody has. But I've never been frightened like that in my life . . . I just had visions of landing that helicopter in those people. And I was frightened.

Q: I have one last question. After the autopsy . . . you mentioned some of the materials were retained from the body, physical evidence, and we also had photographs and x-rays. Did . . .

LIPSEY: I don't know where they . . . General Wehle never saw them . . . to my knowledge, and I never saw them.

Q: So, you had no further . . . oh . . .

LIPSEY: We had no . . .

Q: . . . responsibility for custody of those . . .

LIPSEY: No, none whatsoever. None whatsoever. Our obligation . . . as far as the autopsy, ended right there. And I'm not sure we had any obligation for the autopsy, except General Wehle was responsible for the funeral. And General Wehle and I just . . . he wanted somebody there to make sure that nobody carted that body off until he could get back there, and till everything was taken to the White House. You know, he said, "You stay here and watch it."

I'm sorry I couldn't be of any more help to you. It's been a long time. And like I said, I guess . . . oh . . . you know . . . the three entrance wounds . . . that's the only thing I really remember vividly . . . particularly because of the com- . . . my listening to comments. After . . . you know, immediately after the . . . oh . . . all these reports started coming out. And . . . oh . . . oh . . . obviously, I really wasn't interested in the autopsy. Quite frankly, I was more interested in looking at the features of the man and in . . . at the time . . . and really planning the funeral. I was more anxious at the time to be upstairs with General Wehle, seeing what was . . . the plans were, than I was sitting in that room. And . . . oh . . . that's the best I can tell you.

Obviously, everything I've told you here . . . first of all, I've never discussed any part of the autopsy itself with anybody. You are the first who I have discussed it with . . . not even with my wife. Oh . . . and the thing . . . as far as relating back to the thing I signed, that had to do with the time . . . with National Security more . . . 'cause I was . . . I had a Top Secret rating because I was exposed to every Top Secret document in Washington. I briefed the President . . . or, with General Wehle, on things. And, of course, that's what . . . you know, had more to do with . . . you know, we signed those, that we wouldn't discuss . . . I feel like it was . . . we wouldn't discuss anything that we do that related to the President or his dealings . . . who . . . or at the time . . . what any of his plans were, or any of the people he had talked to . . . or confidentiality or anything that I had read going from our office to his office. Oh, but still . . . I felt that this was something that if anybody should be told about, it should be told to authorized persons such as yourself. And for that reason, and General and I . . . Wehle and I . . . kind of agreed we would never discuss it, you know, among ourselves. And it's never been discussed with anybody. And I certainly would not want my comments made public, you know. I don't think they should be.

Q: Okay, you have the card that Andy gave you with the [unclear] Committee address and telephone number, so if you need to contact us you can call collect . . .

LIPSEY: I appreciate it. You know, if I think of anything else, I'd certainly be glad to tell you. But . . . oh . . . you know, that's why I never got real excited and called anybody to tell them anything to come to see me, because, I really . . . you know, the most exciting part of mine was dealing with . . . my part in it, was dealing with all the kings and queens and presidents that came, getting to meet them all. Because that's what we were doing all the time. I got to meet . . . I think . . . I've got them all written down . . . 62 kings and queens or presidents of foreign countries while I was . . . worked at the White House and General Wehle. And it was just a heck of an exciting experience while we were there. We were there . . . we were in charge of, if you remember, the March on Washington in August of that year. That was another really exciting . . . exciting time. And . . . oh . . . we got to do so many exciting things. But more hours with function type of exciting things. Of course, being the funeral, we . . . oh . . . started this thing on Friday at noon and didn't go to bed till Monday night. We went back to our rooms just to change clothes. Q: I'll terminate the tape at this time. It's now 1:13.



## NOTES FROM TAPED INTERVIEW

Name: Richard A. Lipsey

Date: January 18, 1978.....Began interview at 11:40 A.M.

Place: Steinberg's Sporting Goods Store, Baton Rouge, La  
(Richard A. Lipsey, President)

Staff Members Present: Donald A. Purdy, Jr. and T. Mark Flanagan, Jr.

This material is on tape; these are notes from the tape.

Side One

1. Aide to General Wehle - responsible for all funeral arrangements - saw the majority of the autopsy.

2. Signed a document in his office - about one week later - secrecy document pertaining to the autopsy - 15 year period - he wished to be excluded from this agreement if we had the power - we explained that we wished him to cooperate on a voluntary basis and that it was the Committee's opinion that no harm would come to him - these orders came through his office from a Colonel Holden.

3. Born on October 7, 1939 - Selma, Alabama. Selected as an aide to General Wehle who was Commanding Officer of the Military District of Washington. Activities included social activities at the White House. Wehle, as Senior Commanding General of Washington, would handle all ceremonial, and military functions in Washington.

Notes - Lipsey Interview

Page Two

4. Met the body of President Kennedy at Andrews Air Force Base and placed the body in a hearse - also had a decoy hearse - flew to Bethesda by helicopter - took JFK to the back.

5. Jackie and family - entered the front and went upstairs to the Presidential suite.

6. General Wehle told him not to "leave this body".

7. Said he often thought about the autopsy in subsequent years.

8. Besides the doctors, Lipsey could only remember one other person in the autopsy room - Lt. Sam Bird, First Lieutenant - head of the Old Guard, which was always responsible for the casket and body in any ceremony.

9. First autopsy he ever saw - didn't bother him at all, however. Believes the autopsy lasted approximately 3-4 hours. After that, the morticians entered - remained there while they prepared the body. Wehle would come in occasionally. Sent Wehle's car to collect some clothes at the White House for JFK.

10. Saw JFK after he was totally dressed. Did not recall when the x-rays were taken.

11. Obvious that one bullet "entered the back of the head and exited on the right side of the head." Two other bullets entered at the "lower part of his neck" and one exited and the other bullet hit his chest

Notes - Lipsey Interview

Page Three

cavity and travelled (sp) down into the body. He does not feel they ever found the third bullet - it did not exit the body.

12. States that the doctors removed all his intestines - said that the Doctors sliced these up and took pictures of these.

13. Remembers the doctors discussing the third bullet - went in the back of the head and was deflected down his chest cavity. Does not feel they found any "whole" bullets - but just speculation. Feels that there was no question that all the bullets came from the same place.

Summary of his recollections:

14. One bullet that went in the back of the head and exited and blew away part of the face. The other entered at the top of the neck. The other entered at the bottom of the neck or high back. If you looked at JFK from the left side you couldn't notice any damage; from the right side part of the head was blown away.

Notes - Lipsey Interview  
Page Four

The bullet that entered the lower head or upper neck came out of the front of the neck. One bullet did not come out; all they talked about for two hours was the one bullet.

15. He concluded that a bullet exited from the throat because he saw where the doctors were working and listened to their conclusions.

16. Cut all the organs apart in the chest region while looking for a missile.

17. Mentioned that Sam Bird, just after the assassination, on Tuesday or Wednesday night, made a tape recording of everything he had seen and done in relation to the death of President Kennedy. The morticians finished the body sometime around 3 or 4 in the morning. Took the body back to the White House - took the body to the East Room - had a private service for JFK.

18. Does not recall if Bird discussed the autopsy on the tape. Has not talked to Sam Bird since he left Washington - January, 1974. Lived across from each other at Fort Myer in the Officers BOQ - was a permanent type - if Bird is still alive, he is probably in the Army. Does not recall any discussion concerning the type

Notes - Lipsey Interview  
Page Five

of autopsy to be performed. Does not recall any discussions with anyone else during the autopsy either. Said he was in position to hear the conversation of the doctors but that he didn't always pay close attention - interested in the parts he wanted to be interested in.

Side Two

1. Lipsey stood approximately 12 to 15 feet from the autopsy table. The autopsy doctors first examined the entire body. Feel the doctors discovered all of the wounds during the preliminary examination. Based his recollection of the wounds on what he saw and what he heard. Remembers seeing the blood in the throat area - all he saw was the blood.

2. No real entrance in the rear of the head; feels one bullet blew away an entire portion (entrance and exit). Does not recall any discussion of the nature of the bullet that caused the head wound. Could not recall the nature of the wound to the trachea - never got close enough. All he saw of the wound to the back of the head was blood. Does not recall any discussion of the wound in the

Notes - Lipsey Interview  
Page Six

throat being caused by anything other than a bullet. Does not recall any discussion of a tracheostomy (sp) incision.

3. Cannot recall the doctors specifically saying that the wound in the throat was caused by a bullet - but he feels they were convinced that a bullet exited from the front of the neck. Were using an angle from the entrance in the rear of the head to the throat to look for the other bullet that entered high in the neck. Both entrances looked the same. Doctors spent more time looking for the bullet that entered the lower neck-high back than anything else. Recalls that they said that the bullet could have gone anywhere. Were firmly convinced that this bullet did not exit in the front of the neck. They probed for the path of the bullet for a short distance until they lost the track and then removed the organs in an attempt to find it.

4. Cannot recall if they photographed the interior chest. Does not recall when they took the photographs. Does not recall if they X-rayed the lower extremities. Recalls the doctors looking at the X-rays during the autopsy. Related X-rays to things they were doing.

Notes - Lipsey Interview  
Page Seven

5. Does not recall any discussion that the bullet fell out of the same pathway that it entered or any discussion of cardiac massage. Does not recall anyone making any calls from the autopsy room - he made a call from the other room - his parents - does not recall anyone else making a call from anywhere. Does not recall any messages coming in from the Kennedy family.

6. Not specifically in charge of security within the room - just had responsibility to watch the body. Does not recall any orders concerning admittance to the autopsy room. Does not recall anyone taking attendance.

7. Does not believe the doctors returned any of the organs to the body. The brain was one of the organs. Feels they did remove some metal fragments from his body but he has no idea when or how big they were. We had Lipsey diagram the wounds on a face sheet.

8. Does not recall anyone taking notes. Does not recall any Federal agents in the room. Does not recall anything about the reinterment of the body, or even when it occurred.

9. Feels he knows "for a fact" that JFK was shot three times and that the bullets came from behind.

Notes - Lipsey Interview  
Page Eight

Definitely remembers the doctors commenting that the bullets came from the same spot and direction and that there were three shots. Absolutely, unequivocally, they were convinced that he had been shot three times.

10. On the face sheet, the blown away portion of the top side of his head represented an entrance and exit. Another bullet entered the lower head and exited the throat. Another bullet entered the upper back and did not exit. The bullet entrance in the lower head was distinctly another bullet. No question in his mind that the doctors felt there were three separate wounds and three separate bullets. Identified the entrance in the lower head (upper neck) as just inside the hairline. Has not discussed the autopsy with anyone, not even his wife.

Ended interview at 1:15 P. M.

## HSCA Record Number 180-10105-10405 Agency File Number 014469

Originator-HSCA

From: Lipsey, Richard A.

To:

Date: 1/18/78

Pages: 12

Subjects: Lipsey, Richard A.

MDW

JFK autopsy

Bird, Samuel [Note: Misspelled as "Byrd" in this document]

medical evidence

Drawing of wounds

Release Date: 10/6/93

Contents: Memo from HSCA investigators Andy Purdy and Mark Flanagan on in person interview with former MDW Lt. Richard A. Lipsey.

Document in full follows.

NAME Richard A. Lipsey DATE 1/18/78 TIME 11:40 a.m.  
ADDRESS [blank] PLACE Steinberg's Sporting Goods  
Baton Rouge, La.

Interview:

The Select Committee on Assassinations interviewed Richard Lipsey because of his presence at the autopsy of John Kennedy. Since Mr. Lipsey chose to tape this interview; we also taped. This memorandum represents a summary of the tape recordings. No transcript has been made to date.

Lipsey stated that he was an aide to General Wehle who was the Commanding General of the Military District of Washington, U.S. Army. This office was responsible for all the funeral arrangements of JFK. Lipsey said that he witnessed the majority of the autopsy.

Lipsey began the interview by mentioning that he signed a document in his office about one week after the assassination which forbade him from revealing any information about the autopsy. He believes this had a 15-year limitation. After asking us about the validity of this agreement, we responded by saying that we wished he would respond on a voluntary basis and that it was the Committee's opinion that no harm would occur. Lipsey mentioned that these orders originated from a Colonel Holden. Lipsey agreed to coop-  
[end of page one]

Richard A. Lipsey Interview  
Page 2

erate and supply any information that he could.

Lipsey stated that he was born on October 7, 1939 in Selma, Alabama. He came to Washington, D.C. when he was selected as an aide to General Wehle. He said that Wehle's office would handle all ceremonial military functions in Washington.

After the assassination, Lipsey said that he and Wehle met the body at Andrews Air Force Base and placed in a hearse [sic] to be transported to Bethesda Naval Hospital. Lipsey mentioned that he and Wehle then flew by helicopter to Bethesda and took JFK into the back of Bethesda. A decoy hearse [sic] had been driven to the front. After bringing the body into Bethesda, Lipsey said that Jackie Kennedy and the family entered the front of Bethesda and travelled to the "Presidential suite."

Lipsey next stated that General Wehle ordered him not to leave the body for any reason.

After entering the morgue and the autopsy room, Lipsey could only recall one other person besides the doctors who was present in the autopsy room. This was Lt. Samuel Byrd, head of the Old Guard. Byrd was responsible for  
[end of page two]

Richard A. Lipsey Interview

Page 3

guarding the body in any military ceremony.

Lipsey next mentioned that this was the first autopsy he had ever seen and that despite the circumstance, he was able to witness the autopsy without feeling ill. He believes the autopsy lasted approximately 3-4 hours. After the autopsy, the morticians entered and Lipsey remained there while they prepared the body. During the autopsy, Lipsey said that General Wehle would occasionally enter. At one point after completion of the autopsy, Lipsey mentioned that he sent the driver of General Wehle's car to collect some clothes at the White House for JFK.

In answer to a question, Lipsey stated that he does not know when the autopsy x-rays [sic] were taken.

We next asked Mr. Lipsey to describe the wounds. Lipsey said that it was obvious that a bullet "entered the back of his head and exited on the right side of his head." The other bullets entered at the "lower part of his neck" in the rear; one then exited and one hit his chest cavity and travelled down into the body. Lipsey does not feel that the doctors ever located the third bullet; in other words, it did not exit the body.

Lipsey next stated that the doctors removed all of JFK's intestines and organs and sectioned these and photo-

[end of page three]

Richard A. Lipsey Interview

Page 4

graphed them.

Lipsey says that he recalls the doctors discussing the third bullet which he believes entered low in the neck and was deflected down into the chest cavity.

To the best of his recollection, Lipsey does not believe that the doctors found any "whole" bullets. He does feel that there was no question among the doctors that the bullets came from the same source.

We next asked Lipsey to recap his description [sic] of the wounds. He described these as follows:

- (1) one bullet entered the back of the head and exited resulting in part of the face and head being blown away;
- (2) another bullet entered at the top of the neck (rear) which exited in the front portion of the neck; and
- (3) another bullet entered at the bottom of the neck (rear) or high in the back which did not exit.

Lipsey added that if you viewed JFK from the left side you couldn't notice any damage; from the right side, however, part of his head was blown away. Lipsey said he

[end of page four]

Richard A. Lipsey Interview

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he concluded a bullet exited from the front of the neck because he saw where the doctors were working and listened to their conclusions. Lipsey also mentioned that the doctors dissected all of the organs in the chest region while looking for a missile [sic].

Lipsey next stated that Sam Byrd made a tape recording of all the funeral events surrounding the assassination in which he (Byrd) participated. Lipsey felt that this recording, taped on either Tuesday or Wednesday following the assassination, may have included a commentary of the autopsy.

Lipsey next said that after the morticians finished preparing the body around 3:00 or 4:00 a.m., JFK's body was taken back to the White House and laid to rest in the East Room.

In response to a question, Lipsey said that he had not spoken to Sam Byrd since approximately January, 1974, then He (Lipsey) left Washington. Lipsey mentioned that he lived across from Byrd at Ft. Myer in the Officers BOQ. Lipsey also commented that Byrd is a permanent military type and that if he is still alive he's probably in the Army.

Lipsey next stated that he doesn't recall the

[end of page five]

Richard A. Lipsey Interview

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doctors having discussions with anyone else during the autopsy or any discussion concerning the nature of the autopsy to be performed. He did acknowledge, however, that even though he was in a position to hear the doctor's conversations that he didn't always pay close attention. He was only interested in certain aspects. He added that he was 12 to 15 feet from the autopsy table.

Lipsey said that the doctors first examined the entire body and he believes that they discovered all of the wounds during this preliminary examination. He said that his recollection of the wounds are based on what he saw and what he heard. In reference to the front throat wound, all he saw was blood. He also added that no real entrance in the rear of the head existed; he feels that one bullet blasted away an entire portion (entrance and exit).

Since he never got close to the throat wound, he could not recall the nature of this wound. Further, Lipsey does not recall any discussion of a tracheotomy incision or of the wound in the trachea being caused by anything other than a bullet. Lipsey stated that he cannot recall the doctors specifically saying that the wound in the throat was caused by a bullet but he does feel the doctors were

[end of page six]

Richard A. Lipsey Interview

Page 7

convinced that a bullet exited from the front of the neck.

Lipsey also does not recall any discussion of the nature of the bullet that caused the head wound. Lipsey said that the doctors were using the angle from the entrance [sic] in the rear of the head to the throat to look for the other bullet that entered high in the back. He said that both entrances looked the same. Lipsey mentioned that the doctors spent more time looking for the bullet that entered high in the back anything else. He recalls that he said that the bullet could have gone anywhere. The doctors were also firmly [sic] convinced that this bullet did not exit in the front of the neck. Lipsey said the doctors followed the path of the bullet for a short distance until they lost the track at which point they removed the organs in an attempt to locate it. Lipsey cannot recall if the doctors photographed the interior chest. Lipsey also does not recall when the doctors took the photographs or if they x-rayed [sic] the lower extremities. Lipsey does not recall the doctors examining the x-rays [sic] during the autopsy.

Lipsey does not recall any messages coming from the Kennedy family, any calls being made from the autopsy room or elsewhere, any discussion of cardiac massage, or any discussion that the bullet in the upper back exited from the same pathway that it entered.

[end of page seven]

Richard A. Lipsey

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Lipsey said that he was not in charge of security within the room but just had responsibility to watch the body. Lipsey does not recall anyone taking attendance in the autopsy room or any orders concerning admittance to the room. Lipsey does not believe the doctors returned any of the organs to the body. He mentioned that the brain was one of these organs.

Lipsey feels that the doctors did remove some metal fragments from JFK's body but has no idea concerning where they removed them from or what their dimensions were.

At this point, we had Lipsey diagram the wounds on a face sheet (see attachment).

Lipsey does not recall anyone else taking notes or any other federal agents in the room. Nor does he recall anything about the reinterment of the body or even when it occurred.

Lipsey says he feels he knows "for a fact" that someone shot JFK three times and that these bullets came from behind. He states he definitely remembers the doctors commenting that the bullets came from the same spot and direction and that they were "absolutely, unequivocally" convinced that he had been shot three times [sic] In reference to the diagrams on the face sheet, Lipsey stated that the blown

[end of page eight]

Richard A. Lipsey Interview

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away portion represents an entrance [sic] and an exit. Lipsey also identified the entrance in the lower head as being just inside the hairline. Lipsey again reiterated that there is no question in his mind that the doctors feel there were three separate wounds and three separate bullets. Lipsey concluded by saying he has not discussed the autopsy with anyone, not even his wife.

We concluded this interview at 1:15 p.m.

[end of page nine]

[page 10 -- Lipsey]

THE FINAL PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS LIPSEY'S DRAWING OF THE PRESIDENT'S WOUNDS. A VERBAL DESCRIPTION OF HIS DRAWINGS FOLLOWS:

The drawings are made on a form similar to the bottom portion of the autopsy report face sheet in CE 397 and shows the anterior and posterior views of a male silhouette.

#### ANTERIOR VIEW

##### Head

Lipsey has drawn in a defect in the anatomic right temple area, extending from a point roughly the same as where the uppermost portion of the outer ear joins the head upward roughly one third of the way to the apex of the head. He has made a marginal notation which reads: "(same area) Blown away as wound #1."

##### Throat

Lipsey has drawn a dot in the mid-line of the throat at a point that should be approximately one inch above the notch in the top of the breast bone. He has made a marginal notation which reads: "EXIT point of wound #2" [Emphasis as in the original]

#### POSTERIOR VIEW

##### Head

Lipsey has drawn a defect on the anatomic right in the area commonly known as the temple. The lowest point of the defect is just slightly higher than the same wound as he's indicated on the anterior aspect of the body, but its uppermost edge is at the same height. This wound extends backward on the head roughly one third of the way to the mid-line of the occipital bone. He has made a marginal notation which reads: "Part blown away -- #1"

In the mid-line of the skull at a point which approximates the President's lower hairline, Lipsey has drawn a dot. The marginal notation for this wound reads: "entrance of bullet #2"

##### Upper Back/Lower Neck

In the mid-line of the body touching the lower line on the figure which indicates the collar area, Lipsey has drawn a dot. The marginal notation for this wound reads: "entrance -- of bullet #3" Below this notation, Lipsey has written: "(not in order)"

The bottom of the page bears the date "1/18/78" and printed and signed name "Richard A. Lipsey." Beneath Lipsey's signature is:

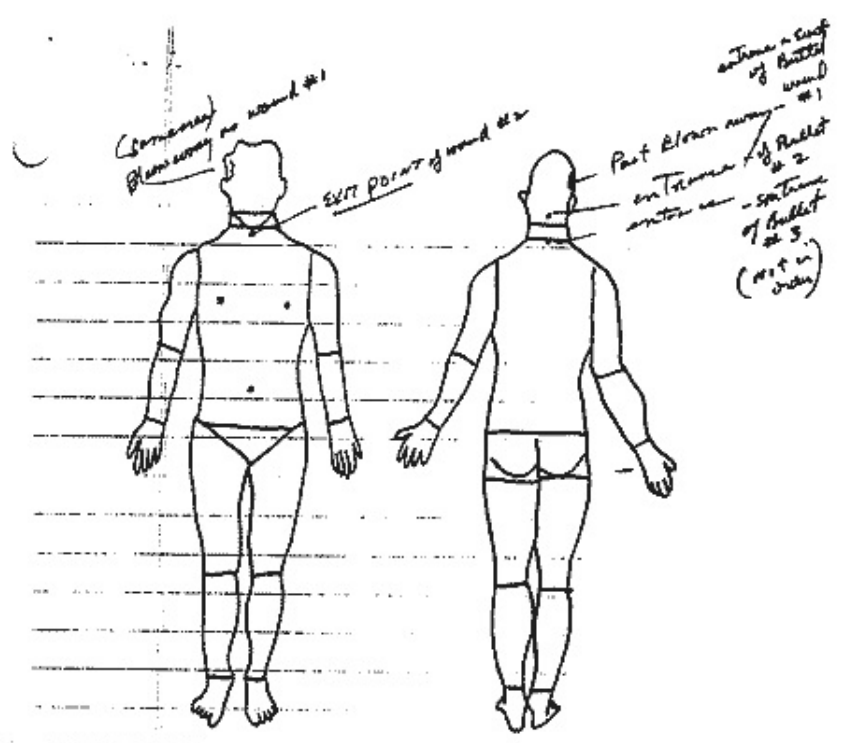
"Witnessed by: /s/ Donald A. Purdy, Jr.

Baton Rouge, La.

T. Mark Flanagan, Jr."

This is the end of the page and the document.

[Note: The HSCA's recording of this and an earlier interview on Lipsey exists, and can be obtained through the National Archives at College Park, Motion Pictures and Sound, and is audio recording 233JFK.013638. On standard audio cassettes the interview is three reels long and contains information not mentioned in this memorandum on Lipsey's interview.



1/18/78

Richard A. Lipsey RICHARD A. LIPSEY

Witness by: Donald A. Purdy, Jr.

Baton Rouge, La.

T. Mark Flanagan, Jr.

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