

Kennedy / Nozueke Autopsy Report

Robert F. Kennedy
68-5731

24

GUNSHOT WOUND NO. 3:

The wound of entry is centered 14 inches (35.6 cm) from the vertex and 8-1/2 inches (21.6 cm) to the right of midline, 2 inches (5 cm) from the back anterior to a plane passing through the skin surface overlying the scapula, and 1/2 inch (1.2 cm) posterior to the mid-axillary line. There is a nearly circular defect 3/16 inch by slightly more than 1/8 inch overall (0.5 x 0.4 cm). There is a thin marginal abrasion rim without evidence of charring or apparent residue in the adjacent skin or subjacent soft tissue. The subcutaneous fatty tissue is hemorrhagic.

The wound path is directed medially to the left, superiorly and posteriorly through soft tissue of the medial portion of the axilla and soft tissue of the upper back, terminating at a point at the level of the 6th (thoracic) vertebra as close as about 1/2 inch (1.2 cm) to the right of midline.

? CERVICAL? (R.H.)
L.C.

Bullet Recovery:

A deformed bullet (later identified as .22 caliber) is recovered at the terminus of the wound path just described at 8:40 A.M., June 6, 1968. There is a unilateral, transverse deformation, the contour of which is indicated on an accompanying diagram. The initials, TN, and the numbers 31 are placed on the base of the bullet for future identification. The usual evidence envelope is prepared. The bullet, so marked and so enclosed as evidence, is given to Sergeant W. Jordan, No. 7167, Rampart Detectives, Los Angeles Police Department, at 8:49 A.M. this date for further studies.

An irregularly bordered and somewhat elliptical zone of variably mottled recent ecchymosis is present in the superior-medial axillary skin on the right, in the zones of wounds of entry No. 2 and No. 3, especially the former. The ecchymosis measures 3-1/2 x 1-1/2 inches (9 x 3.8 cm) overall, with the right upper extremity extended completely upward (longitudinally).

Recovery:

Why no mention of Pcs 48 from Gun Shot wound #1? Who took charge of the fragments? What time??

VICTIM: KENNEDY, ROBERT

note test date 6-5-68

and different gun number

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPT.
CRIME LAB TEST SHOT

NAME DOE, JOHN DATE 6-5-68

ADDRESS

MAKE Zver CAL. 22 TYPE REV.

NO. H 53725 DR 68-521466

CRIME R.I.P.G. OFFICER MELENDEZ

DeWayne A Wolfe

this is a photo taken by me from a perf copy which I found in SCS I was unaware of the history of this envelope.

note lower right corner traces of "7" still visible

(Note partial bullet of "7" is visible)

68-5731

CASE

NAME Robert Kennedy

CONTENTS bullet

DATE JUL 6 - 1968 TIME 8:40/ams

SIGNED The bullet (22 CAL Bullet)

1-1 55 vovres

22 CAL

at

This Bullet is the original by Thomas H. Noguchi

note "C" photo taken by me from Harper's perf

see bullet description

This "A" "B" "C" series shows Wolfe's chronological order of testing:
"A" 6-5-68 H53725 H₂O recovery tank
"B" 6-6-68 H18602 H₂O recovery tank
"C" 6-6-68 De Noguchi's envelope containing H. neck bullet (Pee 47)
Therefore, "B" comes before "C" which indicates Wolfe prepared Pee 55 before he received Noguchi's bullet on the same day.

Copied from SLS microfilm

*Jun
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ITEM NO.	PAGE NO.	TYPE OF REPORT	PROPERTY NO.	EXAM. NO.	Q#
0114	2	15.7			68-521 46

Walter Log

June 6, 1968 - Thursday

- 7:00 a.m. - Examination of ceiling tile. X-Ray.
- 8:30 a.m. - Microscopic examination of Goldstein and Stroll bullets.
- 9:30 a.m. - Meeting with Rampart Detectives.
- 10:00 a.m. - Infrared studies of Kennedy's coat.
- 11:00 a.m. - Regular lab work.
- 3:15 p.m. - Received Kennedy bullet from Rampart Detectives.
- 4:00 p.m. - End of Watch. *note no ID recorded*
- 9:00 p.m. - Comparison of Kennedy and Goldstein bullets.
- 6-7-68 1:00 a.m. - End of Watch.

June 7, 1968 - Friday

- 7:00 a.m. - Laboratory Work.
- 8:00 a.m. - Reported to Grand Jury.
- 10:00 a.m. - Microscopic and chemical test on Kennedy's coat.
- 2:55 p.m. - Cascade Cartridge Company - Telephoned.
- 3:00 p.m. - Grand Jury.
- 5:00 p.m. - End of Watch.

June 8, 1968 - Saturday

- (X) 8:00 a.m. - Chronograph tests on mini-mag ammunition -
→ 2" Iver Johnson - California State College
at Long Beach. (*which Iver Johnson - ID #?*)

June 9, 1968 - Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. - Meeting, Room 618, Parker Center.
- 4:00 p.m. - End of watch.

(*) I should point out - I have seen references of H5E25 having a 2" barrel & was told this type of difference is

not critical due to the actual pt. of starting the measurement.

Harper interview 1974

1 disturbing on that particular point.

2 Q Would you articulate on those factors?
3 Would you like to?

4 → A Well, Exhibit 47 is an envelope prepared
5 by Dr. Noguchi at the time the bullet that's enclosed
6 therein at the time of the autopsy, and he has made certain
7 notations on that envelope and one of them is a notation
8 that there are five grooves on the bullet in that envelope.
9 But, as a matter of fact, this is not true. There are
10 six grooves on this bullet in Exhibit 47.

11 Now, this may not mean anything in
12 particular except maybe, I think Dr. Noguchi and Mr. John
13 Minor found these grooves on the bullet right following the
14 removal of the bullet from the Senator's body. Maybe they
15 didn't count right; I don't know. But at least the
16 envelope says there are five grooves and the report that's
17 in there now has six grooves, and this is a conflict that
18 I think deserves some explanation or investigation.
19 Because bullets don't grow grooves.

20 Q Did you examine the transcript in
21 the Sirhan case to see whether or not this particular
22 observation that you just made was the subject of concern
23 for the defense attorney in that particular case, or for
24 the prosecution?

25 A My recollection is it isn't even
26 mentioned. Exhibit 47 is mentioned but not that the exhibit

1 itself shows there are five grooves, whereas the -- to my
2 recollection, I don't think that lands and grooves are even
3 mentioned, that is, the number of them, in the entire
4 Wolfer transcript. I must admit, I haven't read the
5 transcript of the whole case. *Change of subject*

6 Q Did you examine Exhibit 51? I think
7 we refer to that as the Stroll bullet. I think it came
8 from one of the victims in that particular case.

9 A I examined all of those bullets, yes.

10 Q And insofar as Exhibit 51 is concerned,
11 do you recall it?

12 A Oh, vaguely. I think this is the one
13 that -- well, you see, there were quite a number of them.
14 I think the Stroll bullet -- well, I would have to have my
15 notes to be sure, but I think this is a deformed bullet that
16 probably had ricocheted from the floor.

17 Q Did you form the opinion it was a
18 twenty two caliber bullet?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Did you conduct any scientific tests
21 on that particular bullet, Exhibit 51?

22 A No, I didn't conduct any scientific
23 test. I took pictures of it.

24 Q Do you have any evidence that indicates
25 that that particular bullet, Exhibit 51, did not come from
26 Irwin Stroll's leg?

1 SUPERVISOR WARD: And the manner in which
2 that was done?

3 The bullet that you removed from the
4 neck of Senator Kennedy later was introduced to the Grand
5 Jury as evidence in the trial itself.

6 In the trial, was it known as Exhibit 47?

7 DR. NOGUCHI: Yes, sir.

8 SUPERVISOR WARD: Did you have occasion to
9 re-examine that bullet, Exhibit 47, a few weeks ago?

10 DR. NOGUCHI: Yes, On the April 19, 1974
11 I was invited to examine Exhibit 47 at the storage place
12 of the Criminal Court Building.

13 SUPERVISOR WARD: Let me explain, Doctor,
14 to the people here that on that date that you described in
15 April, I had arranged a court order for the photography by
16 the Balliscan camera from your department of many of the
17 evidence bullets in the Senator Kennedy case, and I wanted,
18 at that time, since this was their first reappearance, I
19 wanted at that time to ask you to be present, so you could re-
20 examine the bullet known as Exhibit No. 47.

21 Did you find a marking again on the
22 base of the bullet?

23 DR. NOGUCHI: Yes, I did.

24 SUPERVISOR WARD: And it was substantially
25 the marking that you had placed in June of 1968, in your
26 opinion?

27 DR. NOGUCHI: Yes, sir.

28 SUPERVISOR WARD: How many grooves did the
bullet have?

(The rest page is missing in SLS)

DPA
John Minor
and
Fukuto failed to get the muzzle distance
Noguchi to change.

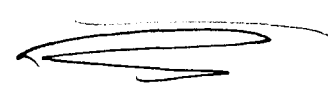
To the court the evidence seemed to be so overwhelming that the few riddles which appeared on the periphery did not seem worth the effort required to solve them. There was, for example, the testimony of witnesses who saw Sirhan with two "well-dressed middle-aged gentlemen" on the day of the assassination and even in the Hotel Ambassador. The "gentlemen" never appeared again, not even in the court records.

And then there was the autopsy report of Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the internationally-famous Los Angeles coroner. He performed the autopsy in the presence of government pathologists sent from Washington. He had determined that Kennedy was shot at a distance of between one-half inch and one-and-a-half inches (and including all possible mistakes, up to 3 inches). Accordingly, the killer must have held the murder weapon right up to Kennedy, at point blank range. This, however, was in direct contradiction to the testimony of all those witnesses who saw Sirhan fire. Not one of them saw Sirhan's pistol come closer than one-half yard to Kennedy's body. Most of them, in fact, testified to a distance of about one yard.

Had Dr. Noguchi perhaps made a mistake? Or had the witnesses, Dr. Noguchi stuck by the results of his autopsy -- even after a deputy district attorney asked him if he was completely sure about it, or another -- and he would like to take the opportunity to correct his testimony at this time. The prosecution finally concluded, it must have been the witnesses -- all of them -- who were mistaken.

Minor +
Fukuto

unbelievable



1. 646 E HOWARD ST PASADENA			1. SIRHAN, JIRMAN DSHAKA		UNN	UNN
RESIDENCE ADDRESS			ARRESTEE'S NAME		CHARGE	BAR. NO.
" " "			2. " " "		187 PC	495139
STEDENCE ADDRESS			VICTIM OR OWNER'S NAME		RES. PHONE	BAR. PHONE
3.			3. KENNEDY, ROBERT F		-	-
RESIDENCE ADDRESS			PERSON REPORTING TO POLICE DEPT. (Last, First, Middle)		RES. PHONE	BAR. PHONE
4.			4. REPORTING OFFICER		-	EXT 4076 MA95211
DATE & TIME THIS REPORT		PROP. BKD. AT	INV. DIV.	DATE & TIME PROPERTY TAKEN INTO POLICE CUSTODY - LOCATION - CITY OR REPORTING DEST.		
6-6-68 9:45 AM		RAMP	RAMP	6-6-68 8:40 AM GOOD SAMARITAN HOSP 249		
Evidence: BOOK TO ARRESTEE. IF NONE, BOOK TO VICTIM.				TYPE OF PREMISES		TYPE OF PROPERTY
Found Evidence: BOOK TO OFFICER IF NO ARRESTEE OR VICTIM.				HOSP MORQUE		BULLET - PAPER (NOTES) RAMP
Found Property: BOOK TO ACTUAL FINDER.				DIV. OR CITY & DATE CRIME OCCURRED		LIST ANY CONNECTING REPORTS BY TYPE & DR. ADV
Safekeeping: BOOK TO DEPOSITOR, OWNER OR PERSON IN LAWFUL POSSESSION.				RAMP 6-5-68		CRIMES ARREST DEATH DE#
(Separate reports are required for each different classification of property)				IS THIS STOLEN PROPERTY?		PROBABLE CRIME
				<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN		MURDER
				Prints - Photo - S.I.D. - Other		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

(1) IF STOLEN IN CITY OF LOS ANGELES EACH CASE MUST BE COVERED BY CRIME AND FOLLOW-UP REPORTS. (2) DESCRIBE CIRCUMSTANCES RESULTING IN BOOKING OF THIS PROPERTY. (3) GIVE ADDRESS, TIME AND/OR PHONE NUMBER WHERE CONCERNED PERSON(S) MAY BE CONTACTED BY DAY INVESTIGATORS IF NOT LISTED, OR OTHER THAN ABOVE. (4) ITEMIZE AND DESCRIBE ALL PROPERTY. GIVE ALL SERIAL NUMBERS AND OTHER MARKS OF IDENTIFICATION. LIST ONLY ONE ARTICLE ON A LINE.

5 SHOTS FIRED

ITEM NO.	QUANTITY	SERIAL NUMBER(S) AND ENGRAVING
Item # 52 TAKEN INTO POLICE CUSTODY ON 6-5-68 12:00 PM FROM THE DESK AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL BY LT. C HUGHES RAMP DETS. ITEM # 52 CONSIST OF A HAND WRITTEN LETTER TO THE DECEASED, FROM A WILLIAM F. CROSSON. THIS LETTER WAS LEFT AT THE HOTEL DESK ADDRESSED TO THE DECEASED. ITEM # 53 WAS REMOVED FROM THE 6TH CERVICAL VERTEBRAE (RT SIDE) OF THE DECEASED DURING THE AUTOPSY AT GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL MORQUE. ITEM # 53 WAS TAKEN INTO POLICE CUSTODY BY SGT. W.C. JORDAN # 7167, RAMP DETS WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE AUTOPSY. SGT. JORDAN TRANS ITEM # 53 TO RAMP DETS AT WHICH TIME IT WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY CROZCO # 11072, RAMP DETS & SKO AS ADV. ITEM # 54 WAS REMOVED FROM THE ARRESTEE'S VEH BY OFC KREMPLER # 12657 AT THE TIME VEH WAS IMP. BY VIETTEL'S ITEM # 53 BKO AT RAMP PROP. ITEMS # 52 + 54 BKO AT RAMP PROP. CRIME LAB NOTIFIED FOR COMPARISON OF ITEM # 53 WITH GUN OF ARRESTEE.		
52	7	LETTER & ENVELOP WHICH IS ADDRESSED SENATOR R. E. KENNEDY. ENVELOP MARKED CMO FOR ID
53	1	Slug .22cal 109, PACKAGE - CORONER'S CASE # 68-5731
54	1	CITATION # 39 43559

If additional space is required, use Continuation Sheet, Form 15.9.

SUPERVISOR APPROVING Sgt J.F. Malach 353	SERIAL NO.	REPORTING OFFICER(S) - SER. NO. - DIV. - DET.	PERSON REPORTING (Signature) X
DATE & TIME REPRODUCED - DIVISION - CLERK 6-6-68-1050A-2-RR		Lm Crozco 11072 Ramp Nat	INDEXED
			CHECKED

Crozco's LAPD Property Report

PROPERTY REPORT