

Written Interrogatories to Dr. James Joseph Humes Regarding the Location of the Entrance Wound in President Kennedy's Skull.

**Background for the Interrogatories**

In the Autopsy Protocol, the skull entry wound was described as follows:

“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.” Autopsy Protocol 4.

The Forensic Pathology Panel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations reported the following exchange from September 16, 1977 (Vol 7, page 267 of the House Select Committee on Assassinations Appendices to the Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy):

“Dr. Petty: I’m looking at No. 2, X-ray No. 2. Is this (fragment bilocation at the vertex of the skull) the point of entrance that I’m pointing to?”

Dr. Humes: No.

Dr. Petty: This is not?

Dr. Humes and Boswell: No.

Dr. Petty: Where is the point of entrance? That doesn’t show?

Dr. Humes: It doesn’t show. Below the external occipital protuberance.

Dr. Petty: It’s below it?

Dr. Humes: Right.

- - -

Dr. Petty: O.K. All right. Let me show you then color photograph No. 42, which then is the -

Dr. Humes: Precisely coincides with that wound on the scalp. . .

[i]t's just to the right and below by a centimeter and maybe a centimeter to the right and maybe 2 centimeters below the midpoint of the EOP. . .

- - -

Dr. Petty: Then this is the entrance wound? The one down by the margin of the hair in the back?

Dr. Humes: Yes, sir."

In addition, the following was transcribed:

"Dr. Baden: This is No. 42 (photograph of the back of President Kennedy's head)

Dr. Petty: We were wondering if that (the red spot near the end of the ruler) had been the inshoot.

Dr. Humes: No, no, that's no wound.

Dr. Davis: Because in No. 42 I interpreted that as a wound, and the other lower down in the neck, as just being a piece of contaminant, a piece of brain tissue.

Dr. Humes: No, that (the white object near the hairline) was a wound, and the wound on the skull precisely coincided with it." 7 HSCA 251.

The following was taken from Dr. Humes testimony before the House Select Committee on Assassination on September 7, 1978, while being shown the Ida Dox drawing (F-48). 1 HSCA 327.

"[I]t is obvious to me as I sit here how with this his [sic] markedly enlarged drawing of the photograph that the upper defect to which you pointed or the upper object is clearly in the location of where we said approximately where it was, above the external occipital protuberance; therefore I believe that is the wound of entry."

"[T]he object in the lower portion, which I apparently and I believe now erroneously previously identified before the most recent panel, is

far below the external occipital protuberance and would not fit with the original autopsy findings.”

The House Select Committee on Assassinations reported that you changed your opinion on the location of the entry wound.

“The panel concludes unanimously that the head entrance wound was located approximately 10 cm above the EOP and slightly to the right of the midline . . . [W]hile testifying before this committee, Dr. Humes, the chief autopsy pathologist, changed his earlier testimony and supported the panel's conclusion as to the location of the wound.”  
7 HSCA 176.

Mr. Gerald Posner, author of the book *Case Closed*, reported in Congressional testimony that you also told him that you changed your opinion on the location of the entry wound. Mr. Posner testified that:

“It was the work of [the HSCA] that had the two autopsy physicians change their mind, that they had been mistaken about the placement of the wound, here [slightly above the hairline], and that it is in fact correctly placed 4 inches higher [near the “cowlick” area]. I have spoken to them about this and they have confirmed their change of testimony that they gave before the house Select Committee on Assassinations.” Posner testimony, Hearing before the Legislation and National Security Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations, House of Representatives, dated November 17, 1993  
112-113.

## **Interrogatories**

Please answer, in writing, the following interrogatories under oath. Please feel free to attach additional pages to your answers.

**Interrogatory 1:** Did you believe, at the time you wrote and signed the Autopsy Protocol, that the location of the entrance wound in President Kennedy’s skull was 2.5 cm to the right and slightly above the external occipital protuberance, as is stated in the Autopsy Protocol?

**Interrogatory 1 answer:**

**Interrogatory 2:** During your communications with the House Select Committee on Assassinations, did you ever change your original opinion about the location of the skull entrance wound? If so, what did you conclude about the location of the entry wound?

**Interrogatory 2 answer:**

**Interrogatory 3:** Did you ever change your opinion about the location of the entrance wound in the skull?

**Interrogatory 3 answer:**

**Interrogatory 4:** What is your current belief as to the location of the entry wound in President Kennedy's skull?

**Interrogatory 4 answer:**