Oxford Professor’s Doubts
Dismissed in Capital

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 —
Doubts expressed about the
Warren Commission Report by
Hugh Trevor-Roper. The British
historian, are dismissed by in-
formed persons here as without
factual basis.

Mr. Trevor-Roper, professor
of history at Oxford, wrote in
the Sunday Times of London
this week that the commission
investigating President Ken-
nedy’s assassination had left
important matters unresolved.
He emphasized two.

First, he said, the suspected
assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald,
was questioned for 12 hours
after his arrest by the Federal
Bureau of Investigation and the
police. Oswald was warned that
any statement could be used
against him. Yet, supposedly, no
notes or tape recordings were
kept.

Validity Questioned
That could not be true, the
professor said, “How could any
statement made by Oswald be
used against him if his state-
ments were unrecorded?”

According to Warren Com-
mmission staff members and per-
sons familiar with the police
methods, this question by Pro-
fessor Trevor-Roper is simply
based on unfamiliarity with the
situation. The fact is that few
police forces tape or transcribe
interviews with suspects.

Characteristically, the sus-
pect is questioned at some
length. If he makes incriminat-
ing admissions, a stenographer
will be called in and a confes-
sion dictated and signed.

Indeed, some criminal law ex-
erts concerned about police in-
terrogation are now pressing
the suggestion that such inter-
views all be tape-recorded, so
that there will be a check on
the use of improper methods.
The police have not generally
been receptive to the idea.

The F.B.I. similarly avoids
tape recordings in interviews
but has two agents present at
all times if possible so that
their recollections can be con-

Doubts discounted over Warren Commission report were rebutted by capital authorities.

Doubts discounted:
Hugh Trevor-Roper, British historian. Doubts he raised over Warren Commission report were rebutted by capital authorities.

Mr. Trevor-Roper was called incorrect by commission aides in

suggesting that the F.B.I.
played a major part in the
questioning of Oswald. The Dal-
as police were in charge, and
Federal agents had only limited
access to the interrogation.

The second of Professor
Trevor-Roper’s major points
was phrased as follows: “Why
also, and on whose authority,
was the original medical report
on President Kennedy’s death
destroyed?”

According to those most fa-
miliar with the commission’s
work, this question is also
based on an inaccurate factual
assumption — namely, that an
“original” autopsy report was
destroyed. In fact, none was.

The doctors who examined
President Kennedy’s body at
Bethesda Naval Hospital did
make some brief, fragmentary
pencil notes that they threw
away when they prepared their
typewritten report. But in any
case they were all questioned at
length by the commission under
oath, and no doubts were raised
about their formal report.