

The tragic story of a metal detector

You've probably heard about Alexander Graham Bell. Yes, this is the Scottish scientist who (invent) the first practical telephone. However, his life was all about other inventions, among which one (develop) to save somebody else's life.

How and why did it happen? You're welcome to read the short story below.

On July 2, 1881, James Garfield, President of the United States, (shoot) right in his chest. He (survive) the attack, but doctors weren't able to locate the bullet that got stuck in his body. It is when Alexander Graham Bell appeared on the scene. Inspired by a French inventor, Gustav Trouvé and his invention, Bell quickly (develop) a similar device that could detect metal. It was supposed to help locate the bullet and take it out of the President's body.

Bell's invention (work) pretty well. However, the President's life (not save).

How could that happen? Why wasn't the bullet found and taken out?

When Bell (arrive) at the White House, he was full of hope and determined to save the President. Unluckily in that situation, Bell (not know) that the President was lying on a metal coil spring bed, which severely confused the detector. Consequently, wherever he put the sensor and scanned the body, he could hear the same sounds, so locating the bullet was impossible. What is more, the wounds (infect), and the body weakened. As a result, after a two-month battle, the 20th president of the United States (die).

Graham Bell was devastated. He also (think) that his reputation (damage). It took him some time to heal from the President's death and return to work on the device. Finally, he developed and mastered this perfect hand-held machine, known today as a metal detector. Nowadays, it is used successfully by hobbyists to find old coins, nails and other treasure hidden in the ground.