

New Book Attacking Warren Report Says 3 Gunmen Joined in Assassination of Kennedy

By SYLVAN FOX

A new attack on the findings of the Warren Commission purports to show that three gunmen participated in the assassination of President Kennedy and that Lee Harvey Oswald probably was not one of them.

The Warren Commission said in its report, issued on Sept. 24, 1964, that Oswald was the assassin of the President and that he acted alone and unaided.

The new challenge to the commission's conclusions is contained in "Six Seconds in Dallas" by Josiah Thompson, which appears in excerpted form in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post. It will be published in book form on Nov. 27 by Bernard Geis Associates.

In a brief statement explaining the Saturday Evening Post's decision to publish a major excerpt from the book, William A. Emerson Jr., the magazine's editor, said "there is no excuse for closing" the Kennedy assassination case "short of solution, and I am convinced that we do not have a solution."

"With painstaking care and formidable logic," Mr. Emerson goes on, "Thompson demolishes the Warren Report by building a case for three assassins and at least four bullets."

Although the Warren Report has been subjected to dozens of attacks in the last three years, Mr. Emerson's statement is the strongest thus far by the editor of a major American magazine. Life and The Saturday Evening Post a year ago found the Warren Report's critics convincing enough to suggest an official reopening of the investigation of the President's murder.

But until Mr. Emerson's published statement, no major American magazine had suggested that the Warren Report had been "demolished."

The magazine also carries an editorial entitled "The Kennedy Assassination: Something Rotten . . ." in which the Post says that by publishing a major excerpt of Mr. Thompson's

book, "we declare once again that we believe the Kennedy mystery had not been solved, that the case is not closed."

All 3 From One Point

In his book, Mr. Thompson, a 32-year-old philosophy teacher at Haverford College, argues that detailed analyses of still and motion pictures taken during the assassination, together with the testimony of certain witnesses, indicate that four shots were fired at Mr. Kennedy's car from three different locations.

The Warren Commission found that three shots were fired and that all originated from the southeast corner of the sixth floor of the Texas School Depository.

According to Mr. Thompson's

"reconstruction" of the assassination, one shot emanated from either the Dal-Tex Building or the Dallas County Records Building at the east end of Dealey Plaza. That shot, Mr. Thompson asserts, struck Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas, who was seated in front of Mr. Kennedy.

The Warren Commission found that Governor Connally had been hit by a bullet that had first passed through the President's upper back and came out through his throat.

Another bullet, Mr. Thompson says, originated from the depository and struck Mr. Kennedy in the back. Still another, also from the depository, struck him in the head, and a fourth shot—from behind a fence to the right and in front of the President—also hit him in the head, Mr. Thompson says.

3 Locations Named

"Three assassins fired four shots from three different locations," Mr. Thompson writes. "The first and third shots were fired from the depository—most likely from the sixth floor, southeast corner window later identified by the Warren Commission as the sniper's nest. The second shot, wounding the Governor, was fired from the east side of Dealey Plaza—most likely from a building rooftop. The fourth and final shot was fired from a point near the corner of the stockade fence to the north of Elm Street.

"Although the first and third shots came from a small (probably 6.5-millimeter) weapon, the second and fourth shots exhibit patterns of damage consistent with much more powerful weapons."

According to the Warren Commission, all the shots came from Oswald's 6.5-millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, which was found less than an hour after the assassination on the sixth floor of the depository. The commission also said, on the basis of examinations conducted by ballistic experts, that the nearly whole bullet, two bullet fragments and three cartridge cases recovered after the assassination all came from Oswald's rifle "to the exclusion of all others."

Mr. Thompson does not account in his work for the failure of any investigative agency to discover bullets originating from a gun other than Oswald's.

Studied Amateur Films

In a telephone interview, he conceded that this was "a problem," but said he thought the solution might lie in the unidentifiable bullet fragments found in the Kennedy car and in the minute particles of metal

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- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
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- Trotter
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discovered in the President's body and in Governor Connally. Mr. Thompson relies heavily in his "reconstruction" on a close study of photographs and movies taken by amateur photographers during the shooting in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

He contends that examination of frames 312 to 316 of the movie film made by Abraham Zapruder, one of these photographers, supports his contention that Mr. Kennedy was shot twice in the head, not once as the Warren Commission found.

Mr. Thompson says that frame 313, which is generally conceded to have been exposed at the moment the President was shot in the head, shows his head moving slightly forward, as it would under the impact of a bullet coming from the book depository behind him.

Between frames 313 and 316, Mr. Thompson says, "there appeared to be a tremendous snap of the head backward and to the left," suggesting another impact from a point in front and to the right of the President.

"What we see on the Zapruder film are the effects of a double transfer of momentum—one forward, the other backward," he says. "At Z313 we witness the effect of a virtually simultaneous double impact on the President's head. One shot

was fired from the rear, the other from the right front."

The Warren Commission concluded that Mr. Kennedy had been struck in the head at frame 313 of the Zapruder film, but found that the head wound was caused by a single bullet coming from above and behind him.

"There is no credible evidence," the commission said, "that the shots were fired from the triple underpass, ahead of the motorcade, or from any other location."

Mr. Thompson produces in his book a photograph taken by Mrs. Mary Moorman, a bystander at the assassination, of the stockade fence to the right and in front of the motorcade.

This picture, Mr. Thompson says, shows a gunman lurking behind the fence at precisely the point at which a bullet would have originated if the theory about two head wounds was correct.

The picture, upon which Mr. Thompson places great emphasis, shows a dark patch of indiscernible shape which he contends is a man's head.

Mr. Thompson also says that other pictures contained in the book show two men at windows on the sixth floor of the depository at the time of the assassination. He asserts that

these pictures, together with testimony about Oswald's whereabouts at the time of the shooting, suggest "that the question of Oswald's guilt must remain—nearly four years after the event—still unanswered."

Mr. Thompson, who was a candidate for a doctorate at Yale at the time of the assassination, became interested in the Warren Report and began collecting material on the assassination. He later became a special consultant on the assassination for Life magazine.

He told United Press International that when word of his book had got around, he had been visited by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"They informed me," he said, "that anything I said might be held against me, so I decided not to say anything. They went away, and I still don't know what they wanted to question me about."

United Press International

Dr. Josiah Thompson wrote new version of assassination of President Kennedy.



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