

The Three Shots: Incredible Feat

Herold-Exam - 11/26/63

Controversy ranged from Los Angeles to Dallas to Italy on whether or not the marksmanship displayed by the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy was "impossible." Here, sheriff's department and police department experts took directly opposing views. The sheriff's gun expert said flatly it was impossible. A police rifleman said it was

possible, and added that he made tests — "dry firing" (without cartridges), of course. Marine Corps experts from Camp Pendleton, where Lee Harvey Oswald got his rifle training, sided with the sheriff-expert — but reluctantly. The Dallas sheriff said it was possible. A gun expert in Milan, Italy, whence came the army surplus rifle pur-

portedly used by Oswald said no. Under the reported circumstances of range, target mobility and limitations of the weapon itself, the shooting was "asking too much of credibility," the sheriff's deputy asserted. The deputy, who asked that he not be quoted by name, said there were several fac-

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 1-3)

(Continued from Page 1)

tors attendant to the shooting which brought him to this conclusion.

He explained:

"The man was shooting at a reported range of about 100 yards, he was shooting 'downhill,' he was shooting through wind conditions for which he didn't have a chance to adjust, and at a moving target.

"He fired three shots in the space of a long breath and put them all home, assuming that he wanted to hit both victims—or two out of three if he aimed only for the President.

BOLT-ACTION

"He was firing a bolt-action rifle, which means he had to pull the bolt back to eject the empty cartridge and shove it forward to load a new one between each shot.

"He was using a telescopic sight, or at least there was one on the rifle, which means he would have to realign the crosshairs for each shot after working the bolt.

"That's asking too much, even for luck.

"I've been shooting bolt action rifles most of my life and I couldn't do it. I've watched the best marksmen in the nation work and I know not one of them would bet you a dollar against a hundred that he could do it.

"This guy just couldn't have been that good."

TELLS OF TEST

Officer Kaye R. Druley, of the police department, said he tried a similar gun out a window at a moving car. He was able to work the bolt and fire within the time required, he reported, and said:

"All three looked to me like they would have been good."

A Marine Corps rifle expert, who didn't want to be named, said it was good shooting at Dallas—too good.

As a Marine, Oswald scored 219 points on the rifle range, only one point below expert rifleman. A marksman scores from 190 to 210, a sharpshooter from 210 to 220.

"This is frankly not good enough for the kind of shooting under discussion," the Marine said. "In reality, the shooting as reported from Dallas was — well, — fantastic."

Dallas Sheriff Bill Decker said he worked the rifle and got off three shots in 20 seconds. He didn't say whether he hit anything or not.

The Milan newspaper Corriere Lombardo, quoting an Italian gun expert, said the rifle used by the supposed assassin couldn't be worked that fast with any expectancy of target effectiveness.