

FORGIVE MY GRIEF

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VOL. II

By **PENN JONES, JR and SHIRLEY MARTIN**

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It is a well established principle of military operations that maximum firepower must be brought to bear when an all out effort is made to destroy the enemy. We feel the assassination of President Kennedy was a plot by men well grounded in these military principles. These people

understood the importance of and would not have attempted the assassination without adequate firepower. In our opinion adequate meant not less than three primary rifles and at least that many backup rifles between the assassination site and the luncheon site.

Certainly the conspirators would want the subject in cross fire, and three rifles firing at the same target at the same time make chances of success just so much greater.

Persons who go out to kill a President must succeed, if any of the conspirators are to escape. David Ferrie knew the principles involved. Ferrie,

who is now dead, is reported to have said that more than one rifle would have to be used, and that at least one of the riflemen would have to be sacrificed.

For these reasons, we feel that a third rifle was in one of the two best possible buildings at the site. The Dallas County Records building, which is also the jail, is an excellent location for a third rifle. The Dal Tex Mart Building is another likely possibility for coordinated firepower.

Coordination seems to have been excellent that day. After the shots, Sheriff Bill Decker sent out a radio command for . . . get over to the area where shooting occurred and saturate the area of the

park, railroad and all buildings . . . (Vol. XIX P. 458)
Decker gave this in a deposition. He was not asked
- about this while testifying.

The Presidential motorcade raced away from the scene. By the time the lead car reached the area of the Trade Mart building, the Dallas Police Department radio was announcing that all shots came from the Texas School Book Depository Building, according to newsmen on the scene. This is very rapid work, especially since most of the witnesses at the scene seemed to think the shots came from the direction of the overpass.

Secret Service Agent Glen A. Bennett was one of many agents who were witness to the assassination but was not required to testify before the Warren Commission. All the agents were trained to protect the President, and they should have been excellent observers. Their every recollection should have been recorded from the witness stand.

In a deposition, Agent Bennett said . . . **and saw the shot hit the President about four inches down from the right shoulder . . .** There were others who heard the shots and saw the reactions of the President.

Acting Agent In Charge Roy Kellerman did testify that . . . **I heard a voice from the back seat, and I firmly believe it was the President's "My God, I am hit." And I turned around and he has got his hands up here like this . . .**

Kellerman had to tell Arlen Specter, Commission Attorney, why he thought it was the President who was hit first.

SPECTER. With relationship to that first noise that you have described, when did you hear the voice?

KELLERMAN. His voice? Y
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SPECTER. We will start with his voice.

KELLERMAN. OK. From the voice of which it.

was in the process of turning to determine where it was or what it was or what he heard on right then. Why I am so positive gentlemen that it was his voice -- there is only one man in that back seat that was from Boston and the accents carried very clearly.

SPECTER. What did you become familiar with the President's voice prior to that day?

KELLERMAN. I had been with him for 3 years.
SPECTER. And had you talked with him on a very frequent basis during the course of that association?

KELLERMAN. He was a very free man to talk to you. He knew most all the men, most everybody who worked in the White House as well as everywhere, and he would call you.

SPECTER. And from your experience would you say that you could recognize the voice.

KELLERMAN. Very much, and I would

We feel the sequence of shots was first in the back, second in the throat, and then the head shots.

It is the contention of this writer that Mr. Kellerman may not have heard the sound of the shot which hit President Kennedy in the back. The noise Kellerman heard may very well have been the pop of the rifle bullet whizzing by Kellerman on its way to the back of the President's head. When Kellerman completed his turn, the President was reaching for his throat. Surely after the throat wound, the President could make no sound without his vocal cords which were destroyed by the throat shot.

We feel the President was hit in the back by a rifle fired from either the Dallas County Records Building or from the Dal Tex Mart Building. Agent Bennett saw the bullet hit the President. Agent Kellerman heard the President say he had been hit.

Secret Service Agents Clint Hill, Sam Kinney, Emory Roberts, Paul Landis, and George W. Hickey all described by depositions the various ways they thought the President reacted after the first shot.

Landis said: . . . **I glanced towards the President and he still appeared to be fairly upright in his seat, leaning slightly towards Mrs. Kennedy with**

his head tilted slightly back . . .

Clint Hill saw the President: . . . hunch forward and then slump to his left . . .

Emory Roberts saw: . . . the President lean towards Mrs. Kennedy . . .

The third shot, we feel, probably came from the roof of the School Book Depository Building and may have hit Governor Connally in the wrist. The fourth shot probably hit Connally in the back. The fifth shot hit the President in the head from the rear and at the same instant the President was hit in the head from the right front. A sixth shot, probably from the Book Depository Building hit the curb near the underpass and did the scratch wound to James Tague's face.

All of the bullets, we feel, were of the hollow point type which split into small pieces upon contact. The shattering of the bullets may explain why it was so difficult to find the course of the bullets in the President's body. All the fragments were so small they were useless to the FBI for ballistics purposes, according to the ballistics expert testimony.

This sequence of shots is generally accepted by such critics as Harold Weisberg, Mark Lane, Raymond Marcus, Vincent Salandria, and Sylvia Meagher.

The Warren Commission's position is that only three shots were fired. The first, the Commission claims, hit President Kennedy in the back and went on through Governor Connally. The second shot

missed and injured Tague, while a third shot hit President Kennedy in the head.

An eye witness, Garland C. Slack, gave significant depositions concerning possible location of a third rifle. Slack, a big game hunter, heard all three shots, but was not questioned concerning the sound when he testified.

Slack's first deposition was given to Notary Public Rosemary Allen in Sheriff Decker's office on November 22, 1963. Vol. XIX Page 495 records Slack's reflections:

Today, I was standing on Houston Street, just below the window to Sheriff Bill Decker's office waiting for the parade. I was standing there when

the President's car passed and just after they rounded the corner from Houston on to Elm Street. I heard a report and I knew at once that it was a hi (sic) powered rifle and I knew when I heard the report (sic) that the shot had hit something. Within a few seconds I heard another report and knew it also had hit something and all I could see was the highly colored hat that Mrs. Kennedy had on. I couldn't see anything else. I was so sick that I went to my office but after thinking it over, I came back as a citizen to offer my statement if it could help in any way. During the time I was standing there I did look up into the building where the Texas Book Depository is and saw some people, maybe 12 or 14, hanging out of windows, but I didn't see anyone with a gun.

When the sound of this shot came, it sounded to me like this shot came from away back or from within a building. I have heard this same sort of sound when a shot has come from within a cave as I have been on many big game hunts.

The second statement given by Mr. Slack was to the FBI on December 2, 1936 and is found in Vol. XXVI, Page 364:

. . . on the morning of November 22, 1963 he had been downtown in the Dallas County Records Building, and shortly before the Presidential parade passed the corner of Houston and Elm he got a vantage point at the automobile entrance to the Dallas County Sheriff's office which is located on Houston Street near the Elm Street intersection. He said as the parade passed the crowds pushed him and he was unable to see the car bearing the President as it proceeded west in front of the book store building. However he said he had been a hunter and had been closely associated with firearms for many years and he heard two shots in rapid succession and realized from the sound that they must have been fired from the interior of the building. He said he did not realize which building because actually the sound as he first heard it seemed to come from the direction of the overpass but its particular characteristics made him feel it had to come from a building instead of from an open area. He said when he heard the third shot he believed it came from the Texas School Book Depository Building . . .

We feel the depositions of Mr. Slack are very

important. When Slack testified, however, attorney Wesley Liebler did not ask a single question about what he saw and heard during the time when the President was shot. Liebler asked questions only concerning the times Slack thought he saw Oswald at the target range in Dallas.

In view of Slack's hunting experience, we feel his testimony under proper cross examination might have been expanded into something very important. From his voluntary statements, Slack seemed to be hearing all three rifles being fired that day. He knew the third shot came from the Depository Building. One shot came from within a building, and one shot seemed to come from the railroad overpass area.

This writer has inspected the windows along the west edge of the Records building which as of this writing is still the Dallas County Jail. We have inspected the high louvered window which is in the stairway of the jail up about the ninth floor. We have not inspected the windows which face north making up the south edge of the drive-in area of the old jail and records building. We inspected this area because Slack was standing by this drive-in and he described one of the shots as sounding like a rifle fired from a cave. Slack was standing by a cave. The drive-in is a U shaped area about sixty feet deep and nine stories tall. A rifle fired ~~from that area might~~ sound like it was coming

from a cave.

The rifle may very well have been placed in the Dal Tex Mart Building as the next best location. Most of the Secret Service men said the first shot seemed to come from their right rear. This might explain why the door of the Secret Service car protecting the Vice President was open before any of the other agents had any reaction. The shots from the Tex Mart Building would have traveled over that car first on its way to the President's back.

There is however a live witness to the assassination in Dallas who had an excellent view of the President at the time of the first shot was fired. This witness who has never been questioned by

anyone except this writer, is positive that after the first shot, President Kennedy turned and looked back directly at the Dallas County Records Building, or Jail.

Secret Service Agent Paul Landis in his deposition had this to say: . . . **I saw him moving in a manner which I thought was to look in the direction of the sound . . .** Landis did not say which way the President was looking, but he had said the President leaned slightly towards Mrs. Kennedy. It is rather difficult to lean to the left and then look over the right shoulder.

The possibility of a rifle from either of these buildings makes the cleaning of Governor

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Connally's coat that much more suspect. Proper spectographic analysis might have permitted us to determine the general direction of the bullet . . . particularly whether or not the bullet came from the roof of the Book Depository or from a lower location in the jail area.

This is simply another of the probabilities we now have to live with due to the inexcusable actions of the Warren Commission.

Evidence of a backup rifle was first found by Shirley Martin in a photograph published in the Saturday Evening Post of December 14, 1963. The photo shows the President's car rushing past Corham Motors on Stemmons Expressway. On page 25, the photo shows what appears to be a man with a rifle on the roof of a building. The picture led many of us to assume the man had been notified that the job was accomplished, and he was not needed. The statements of Luis Castillo from the Philippine Islands tends to back this contention. Castillo insists that he was put into a trance and brought to Dallas and given a rifle with instructions to shoot a man in an open car. Castillo said there were many other such rifles posted along the Presidential route.

This possibility makes the red roses given to Mrs. Kennedy that much more sinister. According to the book "The Death Of A President," by William Manchester, the red roses were given to Mrs. Kennedy because the supply of yellow roses used both in San Antonio and Houston had been exhausted. We feel sure the owners of the thousands of acres of roses in the Tyler, Texas area must have laughed like hell at such a statement.

Tyler, one of the oil capitols of the world, is also the rose capitol of the United States.

Simple instructions would be needed for the backup riflemen. Nothing could have been simpler than: "Fire at the red roses."

We know this sounds very wild, but it also is wild to think that the State of Texas had no more yellow roses because of a Presidential parade in Houston and San Antonio. **END**