

27 November 1965

Paris - Match - (Buchanan)

11/27/65

HAVE YOU REALLY LOOKED CAREFULLY AT THE PHOTOGRAPH?

Ed. Comment

He came to see us. He had a photograph in his brief-case. He showed it to us; it showed the assassination site of President Kennedy. "Look at it carefully", he told us. A few days later, Thomas G. Buchanan brought us his article and his findings on the tragedy in Dallas. Buchanan, 46 years old, 6' tall, alumnus of Yale, former artillery captain, novelist ("The Unicorn"), is at present living and working in France. He is an electronics engineer. His book, "The Assassins of Kennedy" has been translated into 19 languages.

---

Two years after the murder of Kennedy nothing is very clear about the tragedy that upset the entire world. Thomas Buchanan, the man who has never believed in "Oswald, the Lone Assassin" theory, resumes the offensive.

DALLAS: "THERE WAS A SECOND GUN-MAN BEHIND THE WALL"

---

Two years ago the "Kennedy Case" opened with a series of shots. Less than two years later, it was officially closed by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry; there is no longer any mystery, said the Commission. But this was not the opinion of Thomas G. Buchanan. In April of 1964, he had published his own investigation, one which caused enormous reverberations in Europe, entitled "Kennedy's Assassins". The title is obvious: whereas the Warren Commission dealt with only one, probably unbalanced, criminal, (Lee Oswald) Buchanan was proclaiming a conspiracy aimed at upsetting the entire course of American politics of that time. Since then, Buchanan has delved into the 26 volumes of the Warren Commission's Hearings, Exhibits & Testimonies. This time he wanted to examine closely and to analyze the photographs (contained in the official exhibits) with a view to determining if these photographs could - and would - provide the answer to the agonizing question about which the world has been wondering since November 22, 1963: Just what did transpire that day in Dallas? With magnifying glass in hand, Thomas Buchanan saw a number of things! He now invites us to look for ourselves at what he believes to have uncovered.

---

The time has come to take a second look at that strange accident of history: the Incident at Dallas. And, in examining it more closely, we are able to discern things we did not see before---details so evident that, once they come to our attention, we may wonder why we did not notice them the first time. Do these details, gleaned from the 26 Volumes of Hearings, Exhibits & Testimonies published by the Warren Commission, tend to re-inforce the general conclusions of the Report - or do they refute them? This is what we must determine. Due to one of those fortuitous events which no murderer could have foreseen, the entire assassination scene was filmed by an amateur photographer, Abraham Zapruder. Thus, it is possible to reconstruct, with great precision, the exact route taken by the presidential automobile and to determine the precise moment when each of the occupants was struck - with the exception, unfortunately, of the first shot, which was fired while the President was concealed by a traffic sign.

The camera in question was turning at a speed of 18.3 frames per second, according to the Report. As estimated by these films, the elapsed time between the first and last shots was not greater than 5.6 seconds nor less than 4.8 seconds (this difference can be attributed to the fact that we don't know whether the first shot was fired after the instant that Kennedy's car began to be concealed by the highway sign, or ~~immediately~~ just before

it becomes visible again. The film shows that the President was hit, separately, twice, John B. Connally, the Governor of Texas, was hit once, and a bystander, standing almost under the railway overpass (the Triple Underpass)- some 100 yards further down the street - was wounded by a ricocheting bullet. The Report concedes that the bystander, James T. Tague, was not struck by a bullet that had previously wounded either of the two victims. Thus, it would seem that there were no less than four shots fired - - unless the Governor's wounds were inflicted by the same bullet which had first struck the President.

Why ~~ask~~<sup>is</sup> this question of such prime importance? It is of major significance with regard to the trust placed in the official version, because the evidence which was submitted to the Warren Commission demonstrates that no man on earth could fire four shots with the murder weapon in the maximum time conceded.

The Commission had requested that some of the nation's leading rifle experts--- 3 from the FBI, 3 from the Army and 3 from the National Rifle Association--be called upon to fire with the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle. Here are the results:

- A) The FBI experts each fired 3 shots at a distance of 15 yards (45') and at a stationary target; their times were 9, 7, & 6 seconds <sup>respectively</sup>. After having practiced with the weapon, the fastest of the three was able to reduce his speed to 4.6 seconds.
- B) The Army specialists, firing on three stationary silhouettes, fired 3 shots in 4.6, 5.15, 6.45, 6.75, 7, & 8.25 seconds. All of them missed <sup>at least one of</sup> the second target in their first rapid-fire attempts.
- C) The civilian experts of the National Rifle Association tried to reconstruct the actual conditions of the assassination. Their times varied from 8 to 11 seconds for the 3 shots.

The reader can now decide ~~upon~~ which factors he will need to take into consideration, in order to form his own opinion as to whether or not Oswald -- whose qualifications as a rifleman were categorized, at best, as "slightly above average", -- could have fired three shots at a MOVING TARGET with greater speed and with greater accuracy than the greatest experts in the United States, all of whom were firing at a stationary target.

If it would have been impossible for Oswald to fire three shots, it would have been all the more impossible for him to have fired four shots- - the evidence shows, however, that bystander Tague was wounded by a bullet which had been fired between the two which wounded Kennedy. Tague has testified that he heard rifle shots before and after the one which struck him. The Governor made the same statement and his wife, also, confirmed it.

It is the Governor's opinion that his wounds were not caused by the bullet which hit Kennedy; it is also the opinion of his wife and of the Secret Service agent who was riding in their car.

Connally: "I heard this noise which I immediately took to be a rifle shot. I instinctively turned to my right because the sound appeared to come from over my right shoulder, so I turned to look back over my right shoulder, and I saw nothing unusual except just people in the crowd, but I did not catch the President in the corner of my eye, and I was interested because once I heard the shot in my own mind I identified it as a rifle shot, and I immediately--the only thought that crossed my mind was that this is an assassination attempt..." "So I looked, failing to see him, I was turning to look back over my left shoulder into the back seat, but I never got that far in my turn. I got about in the position I'm in now, facing, looking a little bit to the left of center, and then I felt like someone had hit me in the back.

"...the thought immediately crossed my mind that two or three were involved in the shooting, or even more...because of the rapidity of those two shots." "...It is not conceivable to me that I could have been hit by the first bullet."

Roy Kellerman, Secret Service agent, had been chosen to take his place alongside of the chauffeur, in the front seat. He says: "There had to be more than three shots."

Was the Commission correct in not lending credence to these statements? There is photographic evidence which can help us settle the question.

- 1) A view of the two victims, both of whom were wounded by the same bullet, according to the presidential Commission. Kennedy, one can observe, is already beginning to collapse. Connally appears unscathed. The Report alleges: "It is permissible to believe that there was a slow reaction between the instant that the bullet struck him and the instant he realized that he had been hit." (Under these conditions, how can it be explained that the impact was not instantaneous?)
- 2) Did the bullet which caused the President's second wound come from behind? Here is the President's reaction to the fatal shot which opened his skull. If the bullet had come from behind, we should expect that the impact would have thrust him forward. But, instead, he is thrown backwards. This fact was confirmed by a neuro-surgeon, a member of the faculty of one of the most well-known schools of medicine in the United States, after he had examined the photographs.

Thus one can say, precisely, that only two shots were fired from the sixth-floor window of the School Book Depository. One of them appears to have struck the Governor of Texas and the other--a shot fired without accuracy--hit the

spectator, Tague, 100-odd yards further down <sup>towards</sup> <sup>end of the</sup> the street. Where, then, did the two bullets which struck Kennedy come from?

Twelve months later, the little handful of Americans who have read the 26 volumes of testimony, hearings and exhibits can attest to the accuracy of reporter, Harold Feldman, who has recorded the opinions of all the eye-witnesses as follows:

121 heard the shots; 38 said they weren't sure of the direction from which the shots came; 32 said they heard shots being fired from the Book Depository; 51, including the majority of the policemen who were interviewed, said they thought the shots came from the direction of the railroad bridge toward which Kennedy was headed. The majority of them were quite specific. They said that the sound did not come from the bridge, itself, but from a much closer spot-- from a cluster of trees between the extreme right of the bridge and the street on which Kennedy was travelling, Elm Street. All of these witnesses are correct, if the shots were fired from two directions. An attentive reader of the testimony can help in resolving a mysterious point: why did it take such a long time for the police to seal-off the exits of the Book Depository? Answer: almost all the policemen at the assassination site -- at least fifty of them -- had immediately rushed toward the railway depot behind the trees, from where they thought the shots had been fired, to search there for the assassin. Why did they run there? Here are some excerpts from their depositions. Paul Landis, United States Secret Service agent, who was riding in the first car behind the President: "My reaction at that moment was that shot came from somewhere towards the front of the right side of the road."

J.E. Decker, Sheriff of Dallas County, in the first car with Sorrels: "When I heard the shots, I noticed that the motor-cycle officers were stepping down (from their motor-cycles) in order to run toward the embankment."

D. Sheriff Weatherford: "I heard a loud report which I thought was a railroad torpedo, because the sound appeared to come from the railroad yard...I ran toward the railroad yard where the explosion seemed to be coming from."

Copy of the Police Radio call, immediately following the assassination: "All units & officers, vicinity of station, report to the railroad track area, just north of Elm--Report to the RR track area."

Seymour Weitzman, Deputy Constable of Dallas County, stationed at Main and Houston Streets: "I ran in a northwest direction and scaled a fence towards where we thought the shots came from..."

One curious item: it was this same Deputy Constable who later discovered the murder weapon and identified it as a Mauser. In his affidavit, sworn to on the following day, he declared that he had found it in <sup>the</sup> Book Depository, all the while continuing to identify it as a Mauser (while the Warren Report speaks only of a Mannlicher-Carcano).

William Newman: "I was standing on Elm Street, near the western-most end of the concrete structure...then we threw ourselves on the grass because we had the

impression that we were in the direct line of fire...I thought that the shot had come from the garden directly behind us." 5

Abraham Zapruder, who with his camera, was standing at the corner of the concrete structure, <sup>con</sup> confirms that statement, in so far as he, too, is concerned:

"I also believed that the shot had come from behind me...they claim it has proven it could be done by one man. You know there was indication there were two?"

At this point, and without answering his (Zapruder's) question, the lawyer for the President's Commission cut short the testimony of this witness with the following comment: "Your films have been extremely useful in the work of this Commission, Mr. Zapruder."

They can also be useful to us. The sequence of frames 207 to 212 is especially revealing, because it is precisely at this moment, according to the President's Commission, that the first shot was fired. One notices that the film is spliced at this point. The Report fails to explain this curious omission at the crucial moment. Why are four frames missing? This cannot be attributed to any technical defect in the missing frames, since frame #210 appears elsewhere in the exhibits. The reason that these missing frames are of such importance is that three lines suddenly appear in the frames which succeed them, which were not apparent in the preceding frames. These lines are on the highway-sign which conceals the President. An instant earlier (if the testimony of Zapruder and those of the surrounding witnesses is accurate), a shot had been fired behind him and a little to his right. If this shot hit the highway-sign, the frames could have revealed some information about its flight. And what makes the phenomenon of the streaked highway-sign even more interesting is that this very sign was ~~removed~~ quickly removed after the assassination.

Let us continue; if we admit that someone was firing from the trees, then the witnesses who were in Zapruder's vicinity had their backs turned to the assassin. But, you will say, eyewitnesses should have and could have been able to see him. Let us see what they say:

Deputy J.L.Oxford: "Everyone was looking towards the railroad yards. When we reached there, a man there told us that he had seen smoke up in the corner of the fence. We went on up to the corner of the fence to see what we could find." S.M.Holland, signal control operator of the RR:station, standing on the Triple Underpass bridge, directly in the center, facing the motorcade, testifies:

" There was a shot...and a puff of smoke appeared six or eight feet above the ground, directly below the trees...the report was not as loud as the preceding ones. It was perhaps the third or the fourth one but there were clearly four reports...I haven't a single doubt on this point, any more than I have about the fact that I saw a puff of smoke coming out from under those trees...I ran around the end of the Overpass, behind the fence, to see if I could see anyone up there behind the fence. By the time I got there, there were 12 or 15 policemen & plainclothesmen and we looked for empty shells around there for quite a while...there was a station-wagon backed up toward the fence...it looked to me like somebody had been standing there for a long time..." Question: "...this is an area in which cars are regularly parked?" Answer: "...it is an area for the Sheriff's department..."

Austin Miller, standing on the railroad bridge: "...I saw something which I thought was smoke or steam coming from a group of trees north of Elm, off the railroad tracks..."

Lee E. Bowers, Jr., watching from the control tower, declared that, in spite of the total cessation of traffic in the section included between his tower and the street (Elm St.) for 2½ hours before Kennedy's arrival, three automobiles had been allowed to enter there during the last twenty minutes. The third car entered the site " 7 or 9 minutes before the shots rang out." Bowers affirmed that he had never seen this car leave: "The last time that I saw him (driver of 3rd car), he was pausing just about in--just about above the assassination site." (the spot from which the shots were fired.) Bowers saw only one man in the car, but he had seen two men in the trees near the spot where the car had stopped: "At the time of the shooting, there seemed to be some commotion...A motorcycle policeman arrived at the vicinity of where I had seen the two men..." Question: "Where were the two men at this point?" Answer: "...the darker dressed man was too hard to distinguish from the trees...the one in the white shirt, yes I think he was (there)...something occurred in this particular spot which was out of the ordinary..which drew my eye..."

J.C.Price, witness, standing on the roof of the Terminal Annex, gave the following deposition: "I saw one man run towards the passenger cars on the railroad siding, after the volley of shots. This man had a white dress shirt...he had something in his hand..."

FBI Report of Dallas Police Radio Transmissions, Police Officer 61: "...there was a person jumping at the 9th box-car from the front engine....said he was hiding in a car...the agent has had the train stopped..he climbed over the top of the cars..said he's hovering down inside..."

Malcolm Summers, witness: "I was standing on the terrace of the small park on Elm Street..then all of the people started running up the terrace..everybody was just running towards the railroad tracks and I knew that they had somebody trapped up there."

H.Elkins; sheriff: "...a policeman came to our office with 3 prisoners who he had arrested on the railroad yards. I took these three to the city jail and turned them over to Capt. Fritz." <sup>at first</sup> <sup>from</sup>  
Did all the policemen, who had run to the wall, at the beginning, where, according to them, the shots had emanated, mistaken? And all these witnesses who saw the puff of smoke rising from behind the wall between the railroad yards and Elm Street--were they mistaken, too? It is important to keep this in mind: the witnesses not only saw the smoke, they also smelled it. Among them was Mrs. Earle Cabell, wife of the mayor of Dallas, who was riding in one of the cars of the presidential motorcade. Now it is difficult, at the least, to allow that the smoke produced by a rifle-shot could have descended so quickly from the six floor of the Book Depository ( where Oswald is supposed to have been) to the ~~point~~ point where it reached the nostrils of Mrs. Cabell. In addition, the

wind, on that day, came from the northwest, that is to say the section where the wall is located, and where she observed the smoke and the policemen running. Last question: the alleged murder weapon, was it capable of producing smoke that would be visible? The answer to this ~~question~~ doesn't come from just anyone: it comes from J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI: "You have inquired as to whether any flame was visible at the muzzle of the 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, Serial No. 52766 when this weapon was fired under daylight conditions.

The rifle was fired both in direct sunlight and in full shade and no flame was visible. A small amount of white smoke was visible."

If all of this is true, if the witnesses really saw smoke, can we still find it today? In this case, there should be in the background of the photographs taken that day by amateur photographers a few ~~details~~ hidden details which we have neglected. Let's examine them again and let us inspect, for the first time, the enlargements of the wall-section. Look and judge.

And if there is smoke there, you, too, have the right to ask the question: "Who is standing there behind the smoke? What is he doing?"

FMD

app. 3400 wds (excl. edit. intro.)  
200 - D (21/2/21)  
3400 / 200 = 17  
17 x 59 = 1003  
1003 x 6% = 60.18  
2260