

A Close Look at LIFE

ALTB'S ASSASSINATION TALE

Exclusive

Oct 7 '66



Confesses Charges

To Berkeley Student

One of America's biggest magazines found itself eating its own words four times - and BARB has found it/out.

Life's famous issue of October 2, 1964, reproducing frames from the movie of the Kennedy assassination, was altered and reprinted four times after it first went to press. In the fifth version, one movie frame was substituted for another, and eleven changes were

made in the alleged facts.

The result was a story which went along with the Warren commission's "one assassin" dictum. The picture and wording in the first version - when the magazine first went to press on September 28 - were contradictory to the Warren commission's conclusion. That busy press day was the same day that the Warren report was made public.

This information, revealed in the Greater Philadelphia Magazine of August 1, 1966, has been corroborated by evidence unearthed by BARB. A Berkeley UC student has a letter on Life stationery, signed Beverly Mitchell for the Editors, admitting one of the reprintings. He has additional evidence of the other four.

Gaeton Fonzi, senior editor of the Greater Philadelphia Magazine, told author its 20,000-word article on Life and the assassination, went to the National Archives in Wash-

ington to investigate the reason for Life's substitution of one movie frame for another. (The film, made by a Dallas resident named Zapruder, is now in the Archives.) He set up two slide projectors, one using the frame showing the instant of impact of the fatal shot. On the other projector, he set up three frames in order, superimposed over the first.

The conclusion was clear: to Fonzi that Kennedy's head flew back and to the left; his whole body was slammed against the back seat of the car.

This contradicts the Warren report and its upholding of the official theory that the bullet had hit the President from the rear, because there was only one assassin and he was shooting from the Texas Schoolbook Depository building, behind the Kennedy car.

One of Life's five versions used the picture showing the instant when the President's skull was being blown apart. The caption read: "The assassin's shot struck the right rear portion of the President's skull, causing a massive wound and snapping his head to one side."

In a letter, registered in the Warren Commission files, Fonzi was charged with "The assassination story

Schoolbook Depository Building
At least four other witnesses present at the assassination are mentioned
see page 2

BARB has uncovered evidence that Jack Ruby may have been present at the scene of the assassination of President Kennedy when the shots were fired.

LBJ Laughed

This evidence directly contradicts the Warren Commission's conclusion that Ruby was at another spot during those fatal moments.

An anecdote by Mark Lane on KNEW's Joe Dolan Show Wednesday night caused BARB's phone to buzz.

Photographs available to the commission may help refute its conclusions.

Lane said that he had been on a TV show (The David Frost Show) in London with Gore Vidal, who is closely related to Jackie Kennedy. During the show, Vidal had said that the reason Mrs. Kennedy won't have anything to do with the Johnsons is that on the plane, when she went in to be with the body, she surprised Johnson in the act of chuckling over her husband's corpse.

Ruby stated, and the Commission agreed, that at the time of the assassination he was not on the scene but some distance away at the Dallas Morning News placing ads for his two nightclubs.

Dolan asked Lane again, and Lane repeated it, saying that the London audience of 300 gasped collectively, but to his knowledge, none of the news services picked it up.

The photograph of a figure resembling Jack Ruby was taken by Phillip L. Willis, who was a witness to the assassination. He took twelve pictures at the time of the assassination and the Warren Commission published them in one of its volumes of exhibits (Vol. 21). They do not appear in the Warren Report, however.

I first heard this story in greatest detail two days ago from an investigator of the assassination who lives in Los Angeles who heard it from Lane. Lane felt it could properly be told because it had been made public on TV.

The photographic resemblance to Ruby was discovered in Willis' photo-slide number 8 which is reprinted in Volume 21 on page 771. Taken moments after the assassination, the picture shows with his back turned and looking in the general direction of the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building.

Lane told him Gore Vidal said he had seen the text of the forthcoming Manchester book on the assassination. (The book was commissioned by Jackie Kennedy.) Included in the text was a story that Jackie Kennedy, during the flight of her husband's body, had moved to the rear of the plane and saw Johnson leaning over the casket chuckling. She vowed that from that moment on she would never have anything to do with him.

Another photo (not by Willis), of a man which the Commission identified as Ruby shows him with his back similarly turned. He is placed then at the third floor of the Dallas Police Department about 11:30 p.m., November 22, 1963.

This story will not appear in the Manchester book, however, said the investigator, because it has been deleted from the text.

The two photos placed side by side are strikingly similar. Willis testified before the Commission and discussed the photos he had taken but was not questioned about Willis slide number eight.

INVESTIGATOR TALKS

This reporter spoke with an investigator who interviewed Willis about the photos he had taken. He said that Willis had a photo (slide #8) taken moments after the assassination.

When the FBI examined the photos they pointed to this one and said: "Say--what's Jack Ruby doing there?"

Willis also said that he pointed out a figure of a man resembling Jack Ruby to the Warren Commission but that they would not comment on it.

None of this appears in the Warren Report or in the Volumes of Exhibits and Hearings. At one point in the testimony of Willis there is a note that the "discussion" is "off the record."

Willis is not the only person to identify a figure resembling Jack Ruby in the vicinity of the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building.

EXCLUSIVE
PROOF: RUBY NEAR
WHEN JFK WAS SLAIN

10/19/66

Picture Inside

by Hal Verb

100
JFK

10/14/65

Proof: Ruby Near When JFK Was Slain



COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2423

from page 1

...oned in the volumes of testimony published by the Commission.

Victoria Adams was on the fourth floor of the Depository Building and she stated that after the last shot was fired she ran out of the building to the front. She reported that she saw someone "standing on the corner of Houston and Elm (site of the Depository Building) asking questions there" and that he "looked very similar" to Jack Ruby.

TESTIMONY

Mrs. Jean Hill testified: ". . . I am fully aware that his whereabouts have been known at all times, and that it seems that I am merely using a figure and converting it to my story, but the person that I saw looked a lot like - I would say the general build as I would think Jack Ruby would from that position. . ."

Mr. Specter: (Assistant Counsel, Warren Commission): "his height you said was about the height of Jack Ruby?"

Mrs. Hill: "That's right."

Mr. Specter: "How about his weight?"

Mrs. Hill: "That's the only thing - I would say - he certainly wasn't any bigger than Jack Ruby."

Malcolm Couch, a TV news cameraman for WFAA-TV in Dallas was in the sixth car of the Kennedy motorcade and testified in part:

Mr. Belin: "There is an FBI report that states that you had heard hearsay statements that someone had seen Jack Ruby emerge from the rear of the Texas

School Book Depository Building around that time. Did anyone ever tell you that?"

Mr. Couch: "Yes. Uh - where I first heard it, I could not now recall; but - uh - the story went that - uh - Wes Wise, who works for KRLD -"

Mr. Belin: "TV?"

Mr. Couch: Yes - saw him moments after the shooting - how many moments, I don't know - 5 minutes, 10 minutes - coming around the side of the building, coming around the east side going south, I presume."

COMMISSION MUM

The Commission never questioned Wes Wise about this rather significant "rumor".

Couch also took some "sweeping pictures" of the crowd standing near the Depository Building and suggested that if the frames were blown upon one might determine "if someone were standing there - identify someone". The Commission never took up his suggestion and did not publish the films he took.

At least five other photographers who took pictures of the front of the building at the time of the assassination have never had their films published or released by the Commission. They are: Mary Moorman, James Underwood, Mary Muchmore, Hugh Betzner, Jr. and Robert Hughes.

None of these persons were ever called to testify before the Warren Commission.

