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War II. At the end of the war the Italian Carcano rifle, and no telling how much of this type of ammunition, was sold to United States gun brokers and dealers and subsequently was distributed by direct sales to wholesalers, retailers and individual purchasers.⁸⁴

Thus, it seems clear that the ammunition was around twenty years old and not a current item in any gun dealer's inventory. Other FBI reports show that only two dealers in the entire Dallas-Fort Worth area even stocked the odd ammunition. Both dealers were certain they had never sold to Oswald.⁸⁵

Fourteen years after the assassination, new and peculiar information about the ammunition began to seep out of the FBI's store of secrets. One memorandum seized on by researchers concerned the manufacture, by Western Cartridge, of 6.5-caliber Mannlicher-Carcano ammunition for the Marine Corps in 1954. Dated December 2, 1963, the FBI memorandum points out that such ammunition "does not fit and cannot be fired in any of the [Marine Corps] weapons. This gives rise to the obvious speculation that it is a contract for ammunition placed by the CIA with Western under a [Marine Corps] cover for concealment purposes."⁸⁶

How this bears on the case is not clear. The possible CIA connection simply raises more questions than are answered. It is also interesting, as researcher Edgar F. Tatro discovered, that the Select Committee permitted two documents pertaining to the Western Cartridge Company to be locked away in the National Archives for a fifty-year period. There is no solid clue as to what those documents contain—or what they might mean to the case.⁸⁷

Crucial questions remain concerning the legitimacy of Oswald's print on the Mannlicher-Carcano. The Warren Report cited this palm print confidently as evidence linking Oswald to what it considered the assassination rifle. The curious history of this print is worth consideration.⁸⁸

Before removing the rifle from the Book Depository, Lieutenant Carl Day of the Dallas police crime laboratory dusted the rifle and tried to bring out some vague prints he perceived in the vicinity of the trigger housing. Nothing emerged that was clear enough to be of any forensic value. Lieutenant Day took the rifle to the laboratory to continue his efforts. Later, he told the Warren Commission of the results of his work on the trigger housing prints on the day of

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It was nearly midnight on November 22 when FBI Agent Vincent E. Drain picked up the Mannlicher-Carcano at the Dallas laboratory and carried it to Washington aboard an Air Force plane. In the early hours of November 23, the rifle was turned over to the FBI laboratory in Washington. Later that morning, Police Chief Jesse Curry told an NBC reporter that the partial fingerprints found on the rifle could not be identified as Oswald's.⁹⁰

In Washington, the FBI laboratory examined the rifle for prints and found nothing. The next day, November 24, an FBI agent returned the rifle to the Dallas police. On that same day, Lee Harvey Oswald was murdered by Jack Ruby. After an autopsy, Oswald's body was taken to Miller's Funeral Home in Fort Worth to be prepared for burial.⁹¹

At the funeral home, teams of dogs fortified the police who stood guard that night. But no one attempted to molest the body. The only visitors reported were a team of FBI agents, who spent more than an hour with Oswald's body.⁹²

The local paper reported the visit to the morgue by the FBI agents with a crime lab kit, stating that they "spent a long time in the morgue." Years later, Paul Groody, the funeral director, recalled the visit in an interview: "I was not in the room . . . but I had to clean up his fingers after they got through fingerprinting him. They put black gook on his fingers, and they can't get it off. . . . It was a complete mess of his entire hand, which would lead me to believe that they did take prints of his palms."⁹³

In 1983 FBI Agent Drain, who was closely involved in the investigation, stated in an interview that he could not think of any logical reason that the FBI would want further prints from Oswald, since they had already taken sufficient ones for the case. What was even more puzzling to Drain was the report that the agents went to the funeral home, when there had been ample earlier opportunities.⁹⁴

About thirty miles away in Dallas that same night (November 24), there was a startling revelation by District Attorney Henry Wade.

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Sniper's Perch

ew with Mary Ferrell; CD 5, p. 5-37.
obtained in 1980.

1 Ferrell; interview with Vincent

alty, p. 229.

op. 17-18; Meagher, *Accessories*,
pp. 24-25.

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uary 20, 1977.

gher, *Accessories*, p. 370.

0; WR, p. 81; Meagher, *Acces-*
g Bargains in Rifles," *Mechanix*
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R, p. 194; III WC, pp. 406-7;

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WC, p. 560; VII WC, p. 108;

Robert Sam Anson, "They've

n Oswald, November 25, 1963

Notes: The Puzzles of Dealey Plaza

78. Ibid., p. 118; WR, p. 555.
79. Meagher, *Accessories*, p. 120.
80. Ibid., pp. 112-16.
81. Ibid., p. 112; *The New York Times*, November 24, 1963.
82. Meagher, *Accessories*, pp. 113-14.
83. Ibid., pp. 112-13; WR, pp. 555, 646.
84. Meagher, *Accessories*, p. 113; XXVI WC, p. 62.
85. XXVI WC, pp. 62-63.
86. FBI memo, Jevons to Conrad, December 2, 1963 (unrecorded).
87. Edgar F. Tatro, "Where Have All the Bullets Gone?", *The Continuing Inquiry*, January 22, 1983.
88. WR, p. 124.
89. IV WC, pp. 258-61; WR, p. 123.
90. IV WC, p. 261; NBC News, *Seventy Hours and Thirty Minutes*, p. 58; interview with Drain, February 1983; David S. Lifton, *Best Evidence*, p. 356.
91. WR, pp. 123, 216; IV WC, p. 262; *Fort Worth Press*, November 25, 1963.
92. *Fort Worth Press*, November 25, 1963.
93. Ibid.; Lifton, *Best Evidence*, p. 356.
94. Interview with Drain, February 1983.
95. XXIV WC, p. 821.
96. Ibid.
97. WR, p. 123; Meagher, *Accessories*, p. 121; CD 7, pp. 378-79.
98. WR, pp. 122-24.
99. FBI memo, Rosen to Belmont, August 28, 1964 (FBI 105-82555-4814). Reference for information in footnote is XXVI WC, p. 829.
100. Interview with Drain, May 1984; interview with Day, April 1984.
101. XXVI WC, p. 455.

6: The Puzzles of Dealey Plaza

1. XXII WC, pp. 596, 600; VII WC, pp. 533, 535.
2. XXII WC, p. 600; VII WC, p. 535.
3. VII WC, p. 535; Anthony Summers, *Conspiracy*, p. 81; Sylvia Meagher, *Accessories After the Fact*, p. 26; *Dallas Morning News*, December 31, 1978, August 27, 1978.
4. *Dallas Morning News*, August 27, 1978; Meagher, *Accessories*, p. 26; VI WC, pp. 311-12.
5. VII WC, pp. 532, 535; VI WC, p. 308.
6. V HSCA, p. 589; WR, pp. 52, 446; *Dallas Morning News*, December 22, 31, 1978, August 27, 1978; Meagher, *Accessories*, p. 25.
7. Josiah Thompson, *Six Seconds in Dallas*, p. 25; Meagher, *Accessories*.