Altgens 10 — Wes Berg archive

MEMO ON ALTGENS PICTURE:

I have known of this ever since Six Seconds appeared but have continually neglected to mention it. I put it down now and ask for comment.

Thompson on p. 114 prints details of the windshield on the limousine in Altgens taken at 2:55 and the one [illegible], JFK on [illegible]. The latter definitely shows the cracks in the windshield but the former, according to Link, does not. I disagree. We must remember that the WC photo of the cracks was taken at a time when, according to Kellerman, they had a chance to "spider", or spread out. He said (and I forget the exact reference) that the cracks were constantly expanding as the car was driven (to airport, from airport). So, when the windshield was first struck, probably only the center of the cracks would have been there. We must also remember that the cracks will not appear in certain light.

However, if we compare the configuration and position of the cracks in CE 350 with the windshield in Altgens at 255, we can see that there does appear a similar mark at that precise location on the glass (to the right of and slightly above the mirror). Close examination shows that this mark possesses about 4 crosshatched lines emanating from the center. I have been able to associate [illegible] with noting in the background of the picture and am rather persuaded that it is in [illegible] the mark on the windshield. If this is so, it is conclusive proof that a bullet was fired into the car prior to 255 which did fragment.

I am especially interested in knowing whether anyone can discern if what I see on the [illegible] is actually part of a background figure, or is there [illegible] to my observations.

Altgens died in 1995 at age 76