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Doctor Fought Single-Bullet Murder Theory for Years

By ROBERT BURNS

MIAMI BEACH — After 14 years of tests and testimony, Dr. Joseph B. DeLoe says he's been proven right. The "pristine bullet" theory in John F. Kennedy's assassination is wrong.

DeLoe, a general surgeon and the chief consultant on wound ballistics for the Army, has argued one bullet could not pierce the neck of President Kennedy, go through the back and chest of former Texas Gov. John Connally, hit Connally's wrist and come out almost unscathed.

"If you want to say that up, you accept the one-bullet theory," DeLoe said.

Instead, DeLoe said a separate bullet fired by a second assassin hit Connally in the wrist. This was the fourth bullet described by Dr. James Barger in testimony before the House Assassinations Committee recently.

"I think it's cleared the whole picture," DeLoe said.

Barger, chief scientist for a Massachusetts ammunition firm, told the committee four shots were fired when the Kennedy motorcade was in the area of the Texas School Depository.

His tests on recorded police transmissions show four incidents of what could have been gunshots.

While Barger called the four bullet theory a "possible conclusion," DeLoe said it fit the facts he's described since he began work with the Warren Commission in 1964.

No bullet could go through the president's neck, the governor's chest, badly fracture the governor's wrist and exit with only one side slightly flattened, he said. In his own tests firing at skeletons with Lee Harvey Oswald's 8.5mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, DeLoe's results showed badly flattened bullets.

The Warren Commission, despite published findings in the Army's final report (declassified in 1971), stuck with the "pristine bullet."

"I quickly said this can't be it and they (the commission) didn't like that," DeLoe said. "They didn't even put it in the Warren Report. It isn't in the book because they didn't want my test."

The commission said the "pristine bullet" could break the governor's wrist and come out clean because it

compiled in flight. The investigation was closed, but DeLoe remained vocal.

He spoke to clubs and civic groups. He spoke out in newspaper stories. Finally, DeLoe was contacted by Gordon Fonnz, an investigator for the present committee.

"When Fonnz heard what I had to say, he jumped up and said, 'My God, this is important,'" DeLoe said.

Three days later Fonnz met in Manalapan with Oswald's confidant, Russian-born George de Mohrenschildt. That afternoon, de Mohrenschildt killed himself.

DeLoe hadn't heard if the committee had listened to his testimony, taped by Fonnz. But he believes the committee would do well to believe Barger's acoustic tests.

"I think this second investigation is the most important thing that has come out," DeLoe said.

"I think those who are disagreeing are doing so because they don't have much experience in high-velocity missiles."

Charles D. Givens

Charles D. Givens, 36 of 3911 Copeland Ave. died Tuesday at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in Mt. Rose Missionary Baptist Church, with burial at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery.

Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. Frankie Murkledove and Pauline Taylor; and a brother, Clay Givens, 30 of Dallas.

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BEST EVIDENCE

by David S. Litton

Epilogue

There has been no official reaction to BEST EVIDENCE. Perhaps that was to be expected. The House Assassinations Committee concluded there was a conspiracy, but the Justice Department has yet to reopen the case. It has merely asked the National Academy of Sciences to review the acoustic evidence that appears to indicate a shot from the front. The NAS panel has yet to issue its report.

But there have been a number of developments that bear directly on the thesis advanced in BEST EVIDENCE. For example, additional witnesses have come forward. Within a week of the publication of BEST EVIDENCE and a Time Magazine story about it, Donald Rebenstich of Copensville, Michigan, a navy officer stationed at Bethesda on November 22, 1963, told his local paper, the *Times Herald News*, that the two-ambulance story published in *Time* was not news to him—he had been riding his horse the same story for years. He stated that President Kennedy's body was not in the gray navy ambulance which carried Mrs. Kennedy and the ceremonial casket and which exited at the front of the hospital. Instead, the body had arrived at the back of the hospital in a black unmarked hearse. Grand Rapids Press reporter Terry Morlock told the *World Rebenstich* before his story ran on the wire services, and I was able to interview Rebenstich before he read BEST EVIDENCE. He provided corroboration for Dennis David's account of recalling that he had helped unload the first casket, an ordinary shipping casket, and

that it had arrived at the back before the gray navy ambulance arrived at the front. Rebenstich said that after unloading the first casket, he went upstairs to the lobby area of Bethesda where he saw Mrs. Kennedy, who had just arrived in the navy ambulance, waiting for the elevator.

Reporter Morlock found other witnesses who knew that two caskets had been used at Bethesda that night. "It was common knowledge," said one. Like the witnesses I had interviewed, these new witnesses told Morlock the two-casket scheme was used as a security measure.

Rebenstich's account ran on both wire services the weekend of January 23, 1981. Subsequently, in March 1981, the Canadian Broadcasting Company made arrangements for me to participate in a TV interview of Rebenstich at his home in Michigan for a program that was broadcast in Canada in mid-April. I thought him honest and straightforward, and he seemed concerned that events he had personally witnessed were not in the official story.

In the course of the CBC project, additional evidence was uncovered. This evidence related to the thesis that when Air Force One landed at Andrews Air Force Base, a helicopter on the starboard side—the side hidden from public view because the TV cameras were on the port side—played a crucial role in the transportation of the body from Andrews to some unknown location. The crucial question is whether a helicopter was really there on the starboard side. In Chapter 11, I set forth a pattern of evidence indicating it was, an audio tape which recorded the sound of a chopper taking off within 30 seconds of the arrival of Air Force One; an entry in an

FEEDBACK

Lee Harvey Oswald

In the eighteen years since I interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans—the only taped Oswald interview ever made public—we have not made one public comment about how other writers have referred to that episode. I've always felt that the public record on my contacts with Oswald—the fact that I taught him in New Orleans on August 17, 1963, in appearance on my WDSU (then an NBC affiliate) radio program, "Lamb Listening Post," in spite of criticism that I would be allowing a

"Communist" to "propagandize" the right-wing New Orleans public—was extensive enough to prevent distortion by other writers, historians, or special-interest groups.

That's why I almost burst my appendix laughing at your piece by Warren Hinkle and William W. Turner. The *Mystery of 544 Camp St.* (October 1981), as excerpted from their book *The K-10* is that published by Harper & Row. On your page 180, Hinkle and Turner write: "Marvin Gil set up the famous debate between Oswald and Carlos Bringer in which Oswald declared... I am a Marxist." Sorry, friends, but Oswald was my media discovery, and I arranged the WDSU debate after the station manager refused to run the full length of the thirty-seven minute August 17 tape (which had had to be broken down to fit my five-minute spot) and instead suggested I set up a debate with "Lino Casiro peddle" on the panel. It was in answer to my question on that debate: "Are you a Marxist?" that Oswald made his admission.

I hesitate to drag out the whole barrel of details leading up to my Oswald contacts, including the self-serving ones, but I will if this kind of trash history keeps piling up. For the record, the only "name" reporters ever to interview Oswald before the assassination were Patricia Johnson (then Patricia McKeffer), who talked to him for a *North American Newspaper* wirephoto story when he attempted to give up his American citizenship in Moscow in 1959, and, humbly myself, a *Lamb* political-science columnist in the early 1960s for the *New Orleans States-Item*, the only reporter ever to win two awards for public-affairs reporting from the American Political Science Association.

I have no theory on who killed JFK, since Mr. Oswald did not inform me of his future plans at the time of the interview and debate.—William K. Stuckey, Dallas, Tex.

NBC-TV log indicating that a helicopter could be seen hovering alongside Air Force One when it landed; and radio transmissions from officials aboard the plane en route to Washington arranging for a ramp to be put against the forward starboard side, at the galley door; and for helicopter transportation of the body from Andrews Air Force Base. It was my thesis that the President's remains, probably in a body bag, were secretly removed from the forward starboard area of the plane and put aboard the helicopter.

In the course of working on the Rebenstich story, CBC producer Brian McKenna located unedited film footage of the arrival of Air Force One at Andrews. The film was taken from the port side of the plane, and it contains a soundtrack. In viewing it, one can, as the noise from Air Force One's engines dies down, hear the whirring noise of a chopper. Just under the belly of the plane, on the starboard side, the chopper's blinking lights can be clearly seen where the forward galley door is located (and where the ramp had been pulled out). As the film winds on, the chopper's lights move away from the side of Air Force One, and the helicopter prepares to take off.

David Litton
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Future issue.
Review Hatis
Dolce filed

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