

THE JFK MAGIC BULLET HAS LOST ITS MAGIC!

When former Texas governor John B. Connally died, I warned the Department of Justice that the bullet fragments remaining in his body must be retrieved in the national interest, to avoid "very serious embarrassment to the government" and to avoid "a new flood of conspiracy theories about" the assassination of President Kennedy during which Connally suffered five wounds in three parts of his body, with fragments remaining in all three parts.

As I also said, if those fragments were not recovered, weighed, measured and tested by neutron activation analysis, these ugly rumors "wouldn't be unjustified."

I was not theorizing. None of my seven published books on our political assassinations of the 1960s theorizes any conspiracy. These books, which remain the basic works in the factual writing about those crimes, espouse no theories of any kind.

The proof of the correctness of my warning to the Department is largely new and entirely official. It is in my eighth book, NEVER AGAIN! The Government JFK Assassination Conspiracy, now being edited for publication (Richard Gallen/Carroll & Graf).

The proof includes but is in no way limited to an FBI photograph it withheld from the Warren Commission and some it provided so unclear and indistinct the colors and patterns in what JFK was wearing cannot be made out! I obtained most of this "new" information in a dozen lawsuits against the government under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In that litigation, some precedential and the one most relevant to the amending of the Act in 1974 to open FBI, CIA and similar files, I got about a third of a million once-secret official records.

One of these involved all bullets and fragments and evidence of shooting.

That lawsuit was for the results of the scientific testing of assassination evidence. (Civil Action 75-0226, federal district court for the District of Columbia)

In another of my FOIA lawsuit, for the suppressed assassination records of the FBI's Dallas and New Orleans offices (Civil Actions 78-0322/0420, combined), the Department itself stated my unique credential: that I know more about the assassination of President Kennedy than anyone employed by the FBI.

Central to the controversy over the Connally fragments as it is in the official theory of the assassination - and it should be understood that the conclusions of the Commission and of the FBI and the Secret Service, the two theories not being the same - is what came to be known as the "magic bullet" of the Commission's single-bullet theory. It is also know as CE 399, standing for Commission Exhibit 399.

With that, the FBI and the Secret Service knowing it was impossible, both disagreed - but in secret!

This theory of Arlen Specter's, the Commission lawyer in charge of that area of its work, says that one shot fired from that Mannlicher-Carcano rifle that was known as "Mussolini's contribution to humanitarian warfare," entered the back of the President 's neck near the right shoulder, transited his neck without striking bone, exiting through his shirt collar and tie, and then, at greater than the speed of sound, executed maneuvers like nothing in science or mythology, turning sharply downwards to the right to enter Connally's chest under his right armpit, smashing four inches of his fifth rib before exiting under his right nipple, from there dipping steeply downward again to smash the heavy bones in his right wrist, after

which, partially exhausted, it penetrated his left thigh just under the skin and after about three inches just stopped.

Specter, now a Senator from Pennsylvania and an experienced prosecutor as Philadelphia's district attorney, also developed and foisted off the theory that the bullet somehow lurked hidden in Connally's thigh until just the moment it could somehow sneak underneath the mattress of the gurney never connected to Connally so it could fall out when the gurney was pushed against a hospital corridor wall.

Some of the actual evidence is like in Poe's story, of The Purloined Letter, out in the open to be seen but never seen.

Knowing full well the truth he sought to keep out of the official record and from the members of the Commission - and this, too, I have thoroughly documented with the official evidence - Specter avoided asking the most important single question of the only doctor in the world who saw the President's body before his clothing was removed and before any medical efforts were made. He is Dr. Charles Carrico.

When Specter failed to ask Carrico to state where the bullet hole in the front of the President's neck was located, Commissioner and former CIA director, an experienced attorney and spook, Allen Dulles, did ask him. Twice.

Each time Carrico told him that wound was above the shirt collar. Dulles spoke these very words as a question, "Above the shirt collar," and Carrico agreed.

Don't look for this evidence in the Warren Report that part of which was Specter's responsibility. As he suppressed it from his questioning, he also suppressed it from the Report.

The Report is based on the untruth that the bullet went through both the collar and the knot of JFK's tie.

Somehow all other writers missed that. I didn't. I interviewed Carrico. He not only told me that the President's shirt and tie were cut off "in the usual emergency procedures," he demonstrated it using his own tie, pulling it away from his body with his left hand and slashing with an imaginary scalpel in his right hand.

Under his direction were two emergency room nurses, Diana Bowren and Margaret Hencheliffe. One cut off the tie, there not being time to undo it, and the other cut his shirt and jacket, with scalpels. There was no time to unbutton them.

Both being Warren Commission witnesses, Specter asked neither if that is what they did.

I knew they had from my examination of the extraordinarily poor photographs provided the Commission by the FBI. These did not include a picture, really an enlargement would have been better, of the front of the President's shirt collar.

The cuts by the scalpel were unclear but apparent in an exceptionally poor photograph of the tie. But a clear picture of the shirt collar was used as an exhibit in a composite photograph the FBI included as an exhibit in the five-volume report it prepared at President Lyndon B. Johnson's order to it the night of the assassination.

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I never did get a clear picture of the tie from the FBI under FOIA but I did get an excellent clear one, by accident, of that shirt collar.

Richard Kleindienst, later of Watergate fame and then deputy attorney general, was the official to whom FOIA requests were directed. He was reeling from the unusual summary judgment against his department I had gotten in federal district court for the District of Columbia in a different FOIA matter. He asked the FBI to show him what I was asking about. It sent him original file copies of some of them. Disgusted and angry over his defeat, Kleindienst merely put them in a manila envelope, without return address and without frank or postage, and mailed them to me. Surprisingly, without even postage due, I got them.

One, not necessary here, shows how the FBI phoned evidence about that single-bullet theory. It actually taped on, upside down, the caption of a picture of the back of the President's shirt to make the visible bullet hole appear to be more consistent with where it claimed the shot originated, in Lee Harvey Oswald's alleged sniper's nest.

The Commission misused that photograph and even published it that way. Nobody paid any attention to the fact that the caption was taped on upside down. It was only glaringly obvious from the collar's seam.

The clear shirt-collar photograph leaves it without question that in this most essential of the official allegations relating to that magical, single bullet it did not touch his shirt collar or tie at all!

That there is no bullet hole in the collar also is apparent, as it is that the slits are scalpel cuts.

These two cuts also do not coincide. They are not even the same length! This and more is visible in the accompanying picture.

If this hasn't yet stretched Specter's magic past that of the Grimm Brothers, there is more:

There is no bullet hole or anything that can be taken for one in the tie!

It is, of course, the knot of the tie that is of evidentiary value. The Specter magic pretended to be evidence requires that super-magical bullet to have passed through it smack dab in its middle. No hole there!

The only damage to the knot of the tie was in its extreme upper left as worn. It was nicked slightly by the scalpel in the nurse's right hand as she pushed it toward and into the shirt collar in cutting the tie off! And that nick does not coincide with either of the slits that do not coincide with each other!

The FBI's first law is cover its ass. Its survival-required second law is cover your own ass. There was separate proof that neither the shirt collar nor the tie was even touched by a bullet. The FBI's spectrographic examinations proved that. So, Frazier covered the FBI's and his own ass by telling this to the Commission and to Specter – no bullet traces were detected on them by spectrographic examination.

Specter covered his own and the Commission's asses by ignoring that proof, too.

Of course, there is more, much more. But these two photographs, of the shirt collar and the tie, enlargements of the FBI's, make it without question at all that this part of Specter's and the Commission's

substitute for evidence, their incredible and impossible concoction that is so essential to their "solution" to the crime, is false and was knowingly false.

They also leave it without any doubt that the fragments in Governor Connally's body, officially alleged by this hocus-pocus to have come from this one magical bullet only, had to be recovered and studied carefully and closely in the nation's interest.

Of the many and simply overwhelming proofs of this in Never Again I here cite only one other, in part because it also demolishes the integrity of the select committee on assassinations created in the late 1970s by the House of Representatives to study the JFK and the King assassinations.

Learning from my two earlier conferences with that committee, at its requests, that it did not intend any real investigation and that it began with the determination to do what could be done to affirm the official assassination mythologies, I had no more to do with it and thereafter referred to it as "the House assassins" committee.

It became known that the committee had engaged Dr. Vincent Guinn, an authentic expert on neutron activation analysis, the advanced technique for identifying specimens with each other or establishing no connection, to perform those tests for it. Because I know of some of the phonying I bring to light in my new book, I asked my friend of 25 years, George Lardner, Washington Post Pulitzer prize winning reporter, to ask Guinn if he had validated his specimens of bullet fragments said to have been removed from Connally's wrist and from JFK's head. (From the latter of which, it should be remembered, all fragments were not removed.)

Guinn testified on Friday, September 9, 1978. The essence of his sworn testimony is correctly encapsulated in the Post's headline on Lardner's next-day story: "New Tests Said to Match Fragments in Kennedy, Connally." This means they had common origin. They did not!

When Lardner had the chance to ask Guinn the question I asked him to ask when Guinn left the hearing room, the truth that is the exact opposite of what the government says emerged:

"Guinn's tests created a new mystery, however. The fragments the FBI tested in 1964, he told Fothian (a committee member) have all disappeared." (emphasis added)

And when in his Irvine, California, laboratory Guinn examined the fragments supposedly taken from Kennedy and Connally, he found that they "did not include any of the specific pieces the FBI analyzed. 'Where they are I have no idea,'" Guinn said.

Guinn also told Lardner that the weights of the official specimens and those he was given were different.

To cap this horror that has escaped all attention except mine in our history, Guinn said that he had been assured by the National Archives, official custodian of the evidence, that what it took to him is all there is that was recovered from Connally's wrist.

That there is a fragment in Connally's left thigh is admitted by the Commission, which also downplayed it. But when the Parkland Hospital doctor in charge of Connally's medical care, George T. Shires, was deposed by Specter in Dallas beginning at 4:35 p.m. on March 23, 1964, and Shires testified that there was a bullet fragment in Connally's chest: Specter did not trouble the Commission members by

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bringing Shires to Washington to testify before them. Nor did he encumber the Commission's Report with any knowledge of this additional fragment of bullet in Connally's body.

Now according to the FBI's expert witness in his Commission testimony in its career that is without any precedent in science or mythology, this magical bullet lost only about two and a half grains of its original weight. (Del. Sgarbi)

Also having to do with whether all the bullet fragments could have come from that single magical bullet and absolutely basic to the Commission's Report, the official solution to this terrible crime, is that it shed no other fragments anywhere.

Still another secret until I brought it to light, and it adds still another lie to the Commission and all involved in this area of its work and Report, is that this Magic Bullet did leave fragments in the President's neck area. This is confirmed by a special panel of the most outstanding experts in forensic medicine and radiology the Department of Justice convened - in secret - to study and report on the evidence held by the autopsy film, photographs and X-rays. And, aside from the fragments remaining in Connally's body after burial, that bullet left many fragments in his wrist. Some were washed away as it was cleansed for treatment and repair. 7 - Too many fragments

There is a major dispute between what the FBI's records reflect of the fragments that were recovered from Connally's wrist and turned over by the nurse in charge and what she has stoutly insisted from the very beginning, unintimidated by any pressures of any kind.

Audrey Bell- and don't look for her name in the Report; it is not there - insists today that she gathered, washed, packaged and turned over a larger collection of bullet fragments than the FBI admitted receiving. (Note: I expect to be able to quote her directly soon, when the transcript of her remarks reaches me.)

Frazier did not use everyday language in telling the Commission how much weight this super-magical bullet could have lost. He referred to "grains." He testified it lost about two and a half of them.

How much is a grain?

Well, it takes 480 of them to make a single ounce!

Postage-stamp weight!

Can this minuscule weight represent the not inconsiderable number of known and officially admitted fragments reported above? Those washed away in the emergency treatment of Connally's wrist? Those recovered from it by Bell and not accounted for in any official record?

So really tiny a fraction of a single ounce includes them all?

This is far from all the record of official hanky-panky with the most essential evidence when the government investigated that most subversive of crimes, the assassination of the President, that I bring to light in Never Again!

Small a portion of the relevant evidence as it is, with virtually all of this evidence, the suppressed and misrepresented official evidence, it is more than enough to validate my warning to the Department of Justice that it would serve an urgent national need to recover and study those fragments officially claimed

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to have come from this one magic bullet. It also justifies my warning that not doing it could be greatly embarrassing to the government.

And could, for once, justify the coming flood of ugly rumors.

Is it not apparent that the only rational reason for not collecting that essential evidence in "the crime of the century" was to avoid the official disproof of the official theory of that crime foisted off on the nation as its solution?

The government wanted those bullet fragments to rest in peace in Connally because the government will have no peace with them anywhere else. ✓

Weighed, measured and tested by neutron activation analysis, which does not destroy what is subjected to it, these fragments alone can prove that the government lied in its account of the assassination of the President.

Little as they may weigh, that weight alone will be enough to disprove with considerable drama the official "solution" to that awful crime. They cannot have come from that single bullet so indispensable to the single-bullet theory on which the entire "solution" rests.

Short as they may be, they may be too long to have come from the only possible part of that bullet, the lead core exposed at its base. My photographs of the base of that bullet show that all that can be accounted are missing from it was cut out for testing by FBI Laboratory agent John F. Gallagher – who did not so inform the Commission when he testified - without any need for his taking so relatively large a specimen. He needed only a tiny millimeter of metal for the scientific testing. He admitted this when I deposed him in Civil Action 75-226.

Because of what the official-witness/scientist Guinn stated, the original specimens - those admittedly recovered from Connally's wrist – no longer exist and haven't for many years, what neutron activation analysis can show can only be conjectured. There is no neutron activation analysis of them for matching with the fragments that should have been retrieved from Connally's body before interment.

But the other evidence cited herein - far from all the official evidence I rescued from official oblivion and include in NEVER AGAIN! – proves the buried fragments could not have come from the single most magical bullet in all of history.

These are the reasons the government wanted those tiny fragments buried with Connally.

They alone could prove that the government saw to it that "the crime of the century" would remain unsolved.

Thus my title, NEVER AGAIN!

Nothing like it should ever again happen in our history or in the history of any other country!

There are, unfortunately, many lingering mysteries about the JFK assassination.

These are not mysteries that need exist. Nor are there any that officialdom should have permitted to exist.

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To those not intimately familiar with the available official records or the factual research, as contrasted with the commercializations of those apprentice Keystone Kops, junior grade, and their unproven conspiracy theories a new flood of which impends for their disgusting marking of the thirtieth assassination anniversary this coming November, the answers to some of these perplexing mysteries may be at hand.

For one example, those bullet "fragments that the FBI tested in 1964" that Guinn stated "have all disappeared," Lardner's words, "Not one of those" delivered to him for testing for the Congress "matched the fragments recorded in the FBI data."

Guinn's testimony is that what the Archives delivered to him for testing "did not include any of the specific pieces the FBI analyzed." He added, "where they are, I have no idea."

He also did not have the slightest notion of the source of what was substituted for the original, retrieved fragments.

If there is any innocent explanation the FBI itself has withheld it.

Nonetheless, Guinn proceeded with the charade that he was scientifically testing the original and unaltered recovered fragments of bullet; and the Congressional committee treated his testimony as based on and only on the authentic specimens Guinn was so explicit in testifying they were not.

For all the world although this alone could not invalidate all it said and concluded!

One possible source is the excess of bullet core John F. Gallagher, FBI Laboratory Agent who performed the spectrographic analysis about which the FBI informed the Commission only partially. He also supervised the neutron activation analyses performed in secret at the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, government nuclear laboratories. The results of these nuclear activation tests were kept secret until I sued for them. Under the compulsion of that litigation, a mass of largely incomprehensible data was disclosed.

That lawsuit, Civil Action 75-226 in federal district court for the District of Columbia, was the first filed under FOIA after it was amended by the Congress in 1974.

Until that amending the FBI, the CIA and similar agencies had been virtually immune under FOIA because the government succeeded in rewriting the law before judges it could expect to tolerate any abuse from it.

In its original 1970 form that lawsuit was before the judge later of Watergate fame, "Maximum John" Sirica. The nickname came from the sentences he handed down.

He did, indeed, tolerate what should have been intolerable, including palpably false official swearing. FBI Lab Agent Marion Williams swore that disclosing the non-secret laboratory examination results on these bits of metal would lead to "unwarranted invasions of privacy," to the "exposure of confidential informants" of the FBI who might be hurt thereby, to "disclosure out of context of the names of innocent parties," even to "blackmail."

It was also, he stated under the penalties of the felony of perjury, "highly dangerous" were I to be given the results of the study of minute samples of metal when they were burned and the flame was analyzed. That is all that spectrographic analysis is.

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With no sources, informers, innocent parties or the remotest possibility of those innocent particles of bullet being "blackmailed."

On appeal we lost and the government prevailed. To the government it was still another proof that nothing is as effective as mendacity, its practice in all my FOIA law suits.

The litigation was, as usual, ignored by the press. But the Congress did learn about it.

Despite the proud American boast that in our representative society petitions are heard and heeded, not a single paper reported it when for once it happened. Or what the legislative history holds, the Senator who saw to it that the record would be clear on the reason for amending the investigatory files exemption of FOIA.

It was the President's surviving brother, Senator Edward M. Kennedy. And the lawsuit he cited is the "decisions in the court of appeals on the Weisberg against United States" case. (Congressional Record for May 30, 1974, page S 9336)

Because the original lawsuit in which the government had prevailed by corruption led to the amending that opened the FBI, CIA and similar records to access under FOIA, my lawyer, Jim Lesar, and I wanted it to be the first case filed under the amended Act. It was.

Despite the government's strong resistance to our deposing any of the Lab agents involved - it was more than two years more before we persuaded the courts to order that - on March 28, 1977, we took testimony from then former FBI Special Agent John F. Gallagher.

It is Gallagher who cut that relatively large chunk of core metal from the "magic bullet."
(Transcript, page 58)

Asked, "How big a sample would you need" for "spectrographic analysis," he said, "about the size of a common pinhead." He was more specific about the size when asked, saying "About a millimeter square would be adequate." (Transcript, page 32)

He gave the fragments to Frazier. (Transcript, page 28)

We had deposed Frazier a month earlier, on February 24.

Frazier had examined the Magic Bullet. (Transcript, page 22) He weighed it but once only, on his receipt of it. (pages 32-3) He even claimed that the weight of the bullet "when I received it" is "the only weight that is pertinent" and that the weight of the metal removed from it "is not relevant" in the investigation. (page 35)

He actually argued for several pages that the weight of the metal Gallagher cut out of the base of the bullet is not relevant in any investigation.

It obviously is more than relevant. It is essential to know whether or not the excess of core metal that Gallagher cut out that is never officially accounted for, the amount that so greatly exceeded a mere millimeter of it, could have been used for making the tiny fragments to replace the actual fragments Guinn testified no longer exist.

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With the President's collar and tie, they confirmed that the spectrographic analysis did not reflect any bullet metal on either (Frazier, page 56) although all the other places on the clothing struck by a bullet did bear traces of it that were detected by spectrographic examination.

Neither at any earlier time nor on deposition (pages 58ff) did Frazier say that the damage to the collar or tie were caused by a bullet, hardly what the government's report is based on. It states the exact opposite and without the official claim that the Magic Bullet went through the collar and the tie the entire official "solution" to the crime is demolished.

When we showed him the FBI Lab's own shirt-collar picture (pages 60ff), Frazier refused to state, for all his FBI experience, whether a bullet could cause slits that do not coincide or overlap in a buttoned shirt collar. But he did finally admit that because of the very question I'd raised, could that damage have possibly been caused by a bullet, as very obviously it could not have been, "I had it examined by another Examiner for that purpose." He identified the Lab's hair and fibers expert he asked to make that study as Paul Stombaugh (page 61).

Any such report is what I filed the suit to obtain. In this lawsuit it was promised to us. But it was never produced.

The reason is obvious: it makes official mythology of the official "solution."

The evidence I assembled was, I believe, definitive enough with regard to the magic of that Magic Bullet that, in the superpowers selectively bestowed upon it by the government, it failed to deposit any trace on the shirt only on its collar, and on the tie. The evidence is definitive with regard to the fact that those damages were from the nurse's scalpel, not from a bullet. But to perfect the record for our history, I resorted to an Archives regulation that denied access to the clothing itself but stated that for the usual prices photographs would be taken instead for and given to researchers. My request was denied by the National Archives, custodian of the clothing and other evidence. I filed suit for it. With the permeating mendacity the Archives merely substituted a new regulation it had promulgated to replace the one I had invoked and told that court that the new one was the only regulation.

That judge, however, ordered the Archives to make the photographs I had specified and to permit me to examine them.

Three weeks passed, I heard nothing from the Archives, I wrote the judge to inform him his order was being ignored, copy to the Archives.

Before the judge could act, the Archives phoned me to come in and examine the pictures they had taken for me.

When I got there I was met with an embarrassed apology. I was told what it said in a letter that had not yet reached me, with a copy for me to read then.

Oh! So sorry! the Archivist said. At some point of which he had no knowledge that the knot had been undone so they could not photograph it. (But it was reconstituted for the same deception practiced on the House assassins committee, as the chief of its forensic medicine panel, Dr. Michael Baden, admitted to me that he had suspected. His suspicion was not conveyed to that committee nor is it reflected in his report to it. His report treats the knot as though it had never ever been altered in any way.)

There is no substitution for the evidence of the knot of the tie. If there is no hole in the middle of it, and there wasn't, then the entire official "solution" to the assassination was - and was officially known to be - an unprecedented fraud.

The picture the Archives did take of the tie shows there is no hole through it anywhere.

When we deposed Gallagher, the Archives did bring those pictures it took for me to the deposition. Gallagher was questioned about those pictures. (pages 8ff)

Most of his responses were, throughout: "I do not recall at this time."

He did admit that there is no nick on the back of the tie. (page 10)

He refused to state whether the slits coincided. (page 11)

A child can determine that the slits, which are not the same length, do not coincide in any way, as the picture the FBI did not give the Commission leaves without any question at all.

Nonetheless, this experienced FBI agent did admit that there is no damage to the back of the tie that a bullet is supposed to have gone through. This alone means the official "solution" is and was knowingly false when issued.

Gallagher did testify before the Commission. He was its last witness. He was not asked a word about the amount of metal he personally removed from that Magic Bullet or what happened to it or what the evidence borne by the clothing is.

So, with this mere glimpse of part of the available and almost entirely unknown factual evidence of the crime, we can see that the fragments that were buried with Connally are not essential to prove that the official "solution" is not in any sense a solution.

There was a conspiracy to kill proven without those fragments buried in Connally.

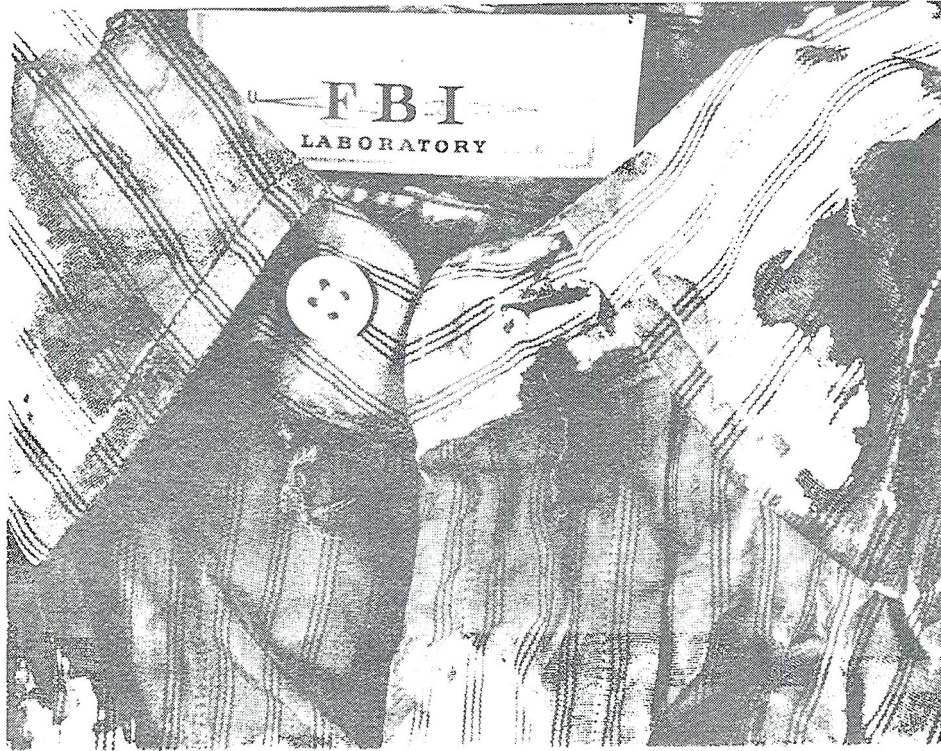
That they were not retrieved is now added to that national disgrace of the unsolved assassination that is unsolved because the government refused to investigate the crime itself - as NEVER AGAIN! documents with what had been secret official records that I got in those many FOIA lawsuits.

And, as NEVER AGAIN! also proves, as this article indicates, there were so many Americans in positions of trust who knew what I say in this article - and more - and either plotted that the crime would not be investigated and solved or knew and were silent.

That awful crime of silence when men must not be mute!

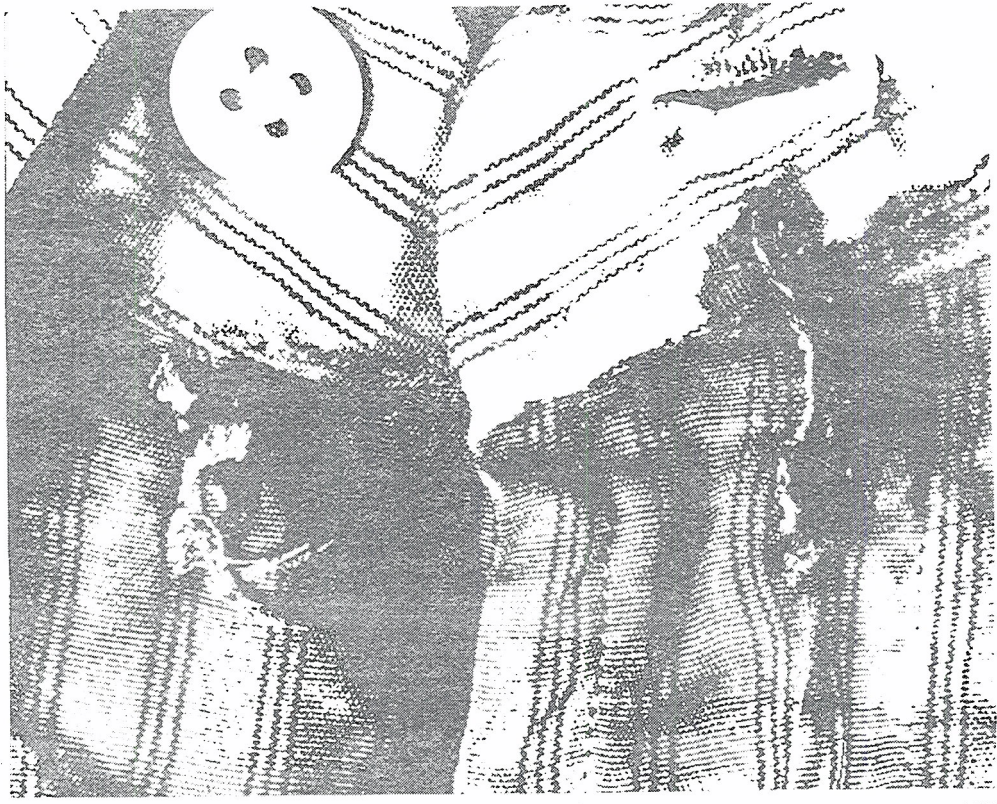
Not one of the photographs of the President's shirt provided to the Commission by the FBI reflects its pattern of three parallel stripes. On the Commission's pictures they appear to be a single broad stripe.

This photograph, which the FBI did not give to the Commission, reveals the slits made by the nurse's scalpel, not bullet holes. They do not coincide, as bullet holes would. They are not the same length. The slit on the left looking at the photograph does not extend up as far as the collar. The slit on the right extends well into the collar and seems also to extend lower than the slit on the other side.



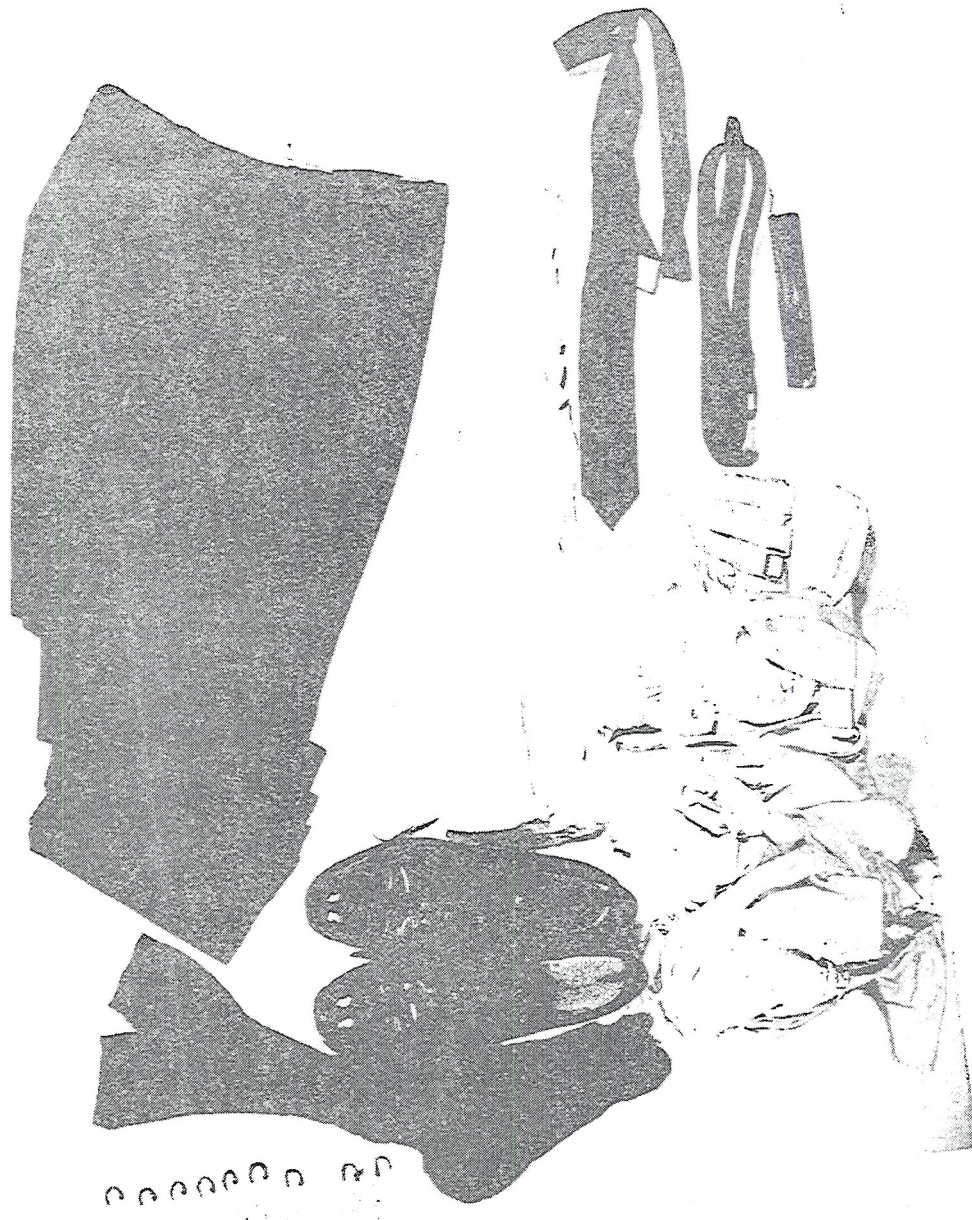
This is a Xerox of an enlargement of the shirt, collar FBI picture I got from Kleindienst. I've marked the extremities of the slits in red so you can see they not only do not coincide – the side toward the nurse is longer. The other one has a pronounced curve, not possibly from a bullet of only a tiny bit more than 1/4 inch in diameter. This enlargement eliminates the FBI identification in the middle above what is shown here.

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In this FBI photograph of the President's clothing the tie is posed to make it appear that there was a bullet hole in it, as there was not. One of the white spots is where the nick extended down only to the lining. The other is where material was cut off for spectrographic analysis. That analysis confirms that the tie was not struck by a bullet.

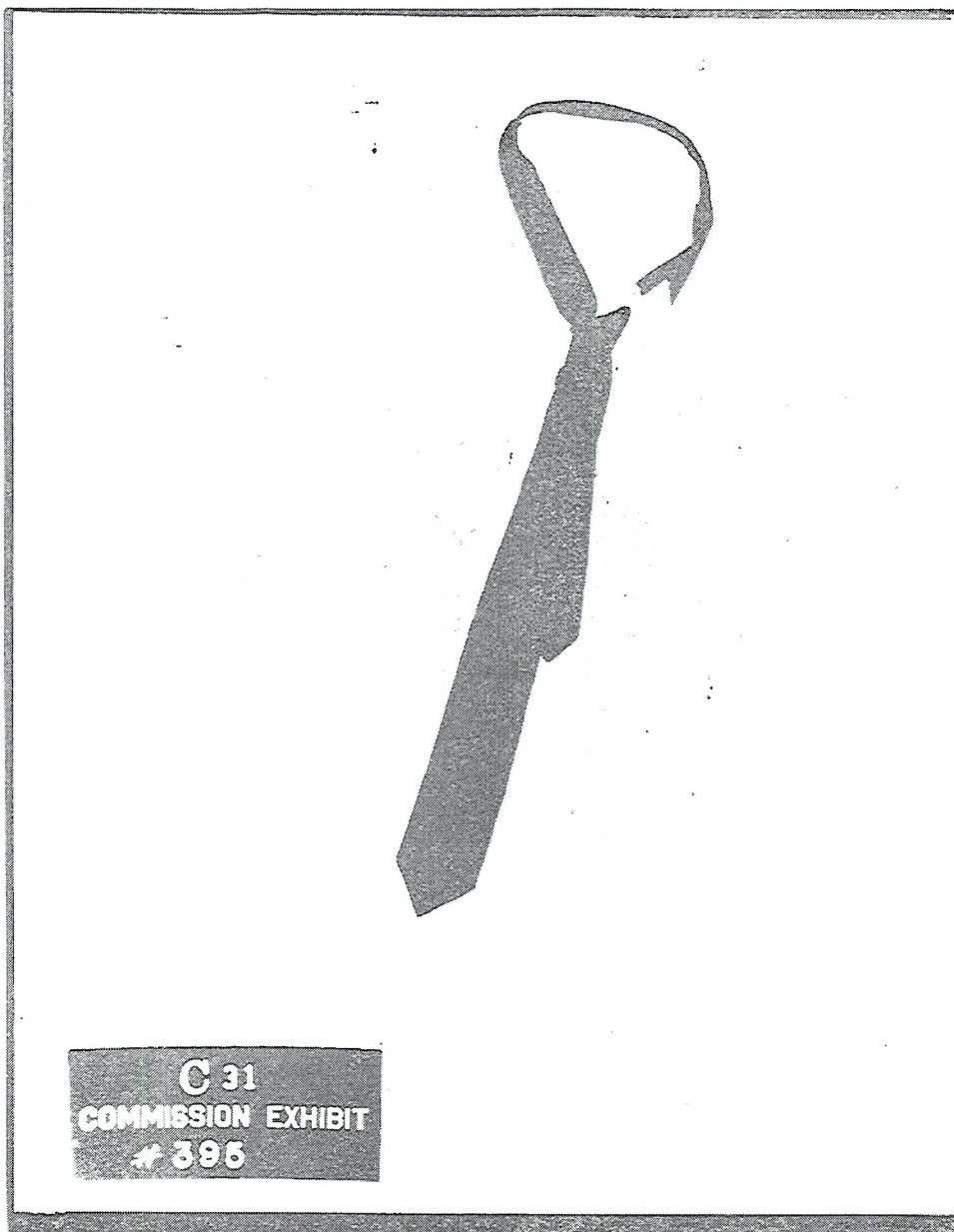
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That the FBI unknotted and then re-knotted the tie often is disclosed by the untidiness of its reconstitution made for the tie's use by the Commission. That the tie was cut off during the emergency procedure is clear. The cutting was so close to the knot the nurse could not avoid nicking it, at its upper

left extremity as worn. The small nick and the place from which a small specimen was removed for spectrographic testing are visible. The white they show is the tie's lining. It was not penetrated.



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To meet its own needs and serve its own purposes the FBI untied and retied the knot without once admitting to doing that officially.

In C31, the FBI Lab number, Commission Exhibit 395, it is more than obvious that the knot was retied for a special purpose. It was not done well. One intent was to make it appear that the nick from the scalpel was more toward the tie's center and more like a hole, which it wasn't. In the picture the FBI posed of the JFK clothing the unknotted tie is posed to make it appear that there is a hole in it.

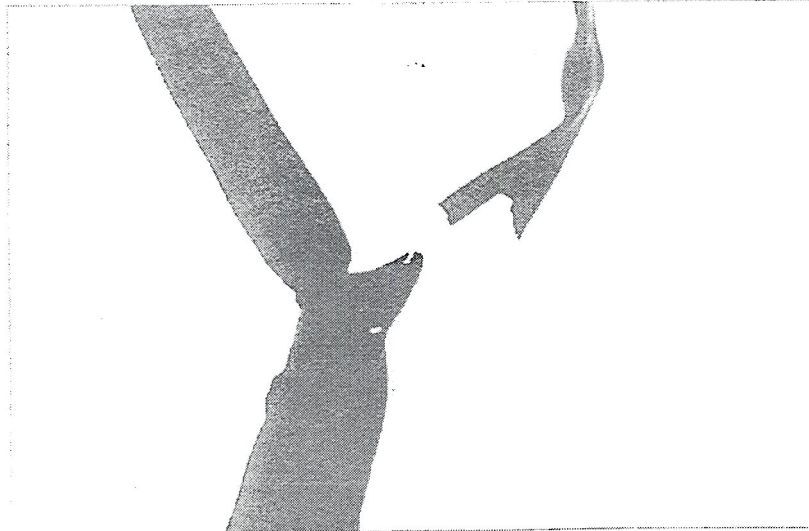
A friend of mine then of fairly high rank in the Pentagon, shocked by what this represents, had the C31 picture digitized for me on advance military equipment, as of that time advanced. This retied knot so poorly retied is enlarged twice with some of the original brown color brought back on the color Xerox from which these are Xeroxed black and white. The tie was cut at the knot is apparent. I see they were made from different government prints I have. Each shows the partial recovery for me of both pattern and color.

Of course the photographic prints are much sharper.

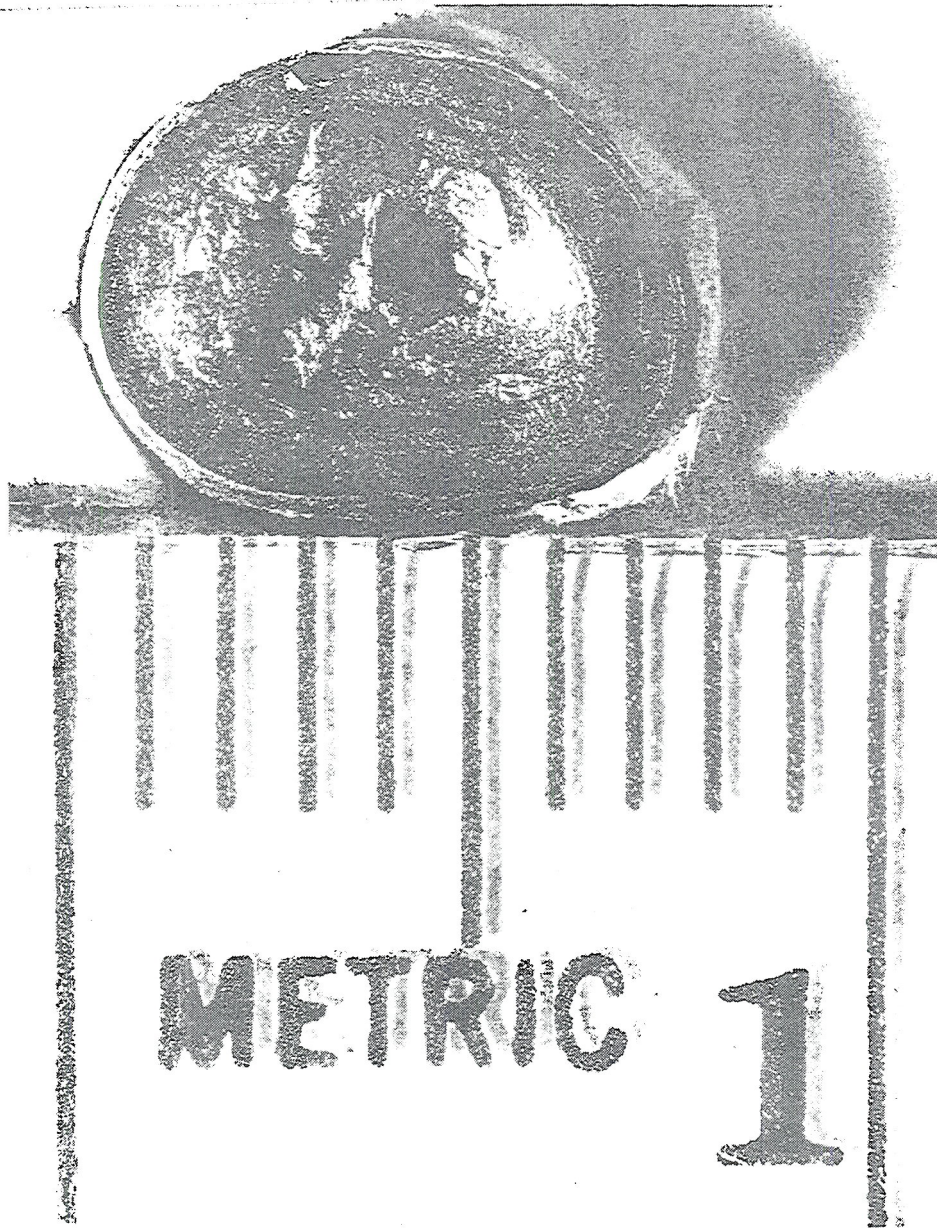
In the retied knots the nick has moved a bit from the visible cut.



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This is a view of the base of the Magic Bullet as it exists in the National Archives.

That the center of the core section was cut out is clear. All that was required for the FBI's testing is a millimeter. That much could have been flaked off with a fingernail. Indeed, while in storage in the Archives, protected by a proper container, pieces did flake off. None was near the place from which the FBI cut out the excessive core material.