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Chapter XXX

The Altgens Photograph and the 'Doorway Man' Mystery:

How Not To Carry Out an Investigation.

by

Hal Verb

"His (Altgens) photo is the most famous single picture of all and was the first on the wire."
--Harold Weisberg letter to Hal Verb, January 9, 1969.

On Friday, November 22, 1963, at approximately 12:30 p.m., Central Standard Time, President John F. Kennedy's presidential motorcade proceeded south on Elm Street in the Dealey Plaza Area of Dallas, Texas, passing the Texas School Book Depository on its right. An Associated Press photographer, James "Ike" Altgens, standing on the grass interior snapped a black and white photograph of the approaching limousine with the seven story building looming in the background. It turned out to be a very controversial photo for a figure in the doorway entrance to the depository resembled Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged "lone" assassin of President John F. Kennedy. If, indeed, the "doorway man" figure in the photo is Oswald it would disprove the Warren Commission's claim that at that time Oswald was presumed to be on the sixth floor firing shots at the President.

TSPD (will full name)

I can
prove that
Oswald was
not on 6th
Floor

Altgens used a Nikkorex-F 35mm camera with 105mm telephoto lens loaded with Eastman Kodak Tri-X pan film.¹ Born on April 28, 1919, Altgens was a native Dallas resident. The Associated Press, Dallas Bureau, had employed him for 26 ½ years as a wire photo operator, photographer, and news photo editor. On the 22nd the AP assigned him to take pictures of the President's motorcade. Scurrying around Dealey Plaza taking pictures he finally reached the curb area on the west side of Elm Street across from the Depository to catch the slowly passing motorcade where he clicked his famous shot of JFK's limousine with the building in the background. The FBI would later conclude it corresponded with frame 255 of the Zapruder film. ✓

*FBI
could locate
him -*

The black and white photograph shows the limousine as well as the trailing backup car with agents. Beyond the car is a clear sight path to the entrance way and surroundings of the building with many spectators lined up along the curb and standing in the entrance way. Trees abound. Up a small flight of steps is the doorway to the interior of the Depository. Standing in the far left of the doorway from the viewers' perspective is a figure that looks like Oswald. To the viewers' far right the photo shows the Dal-Tex building on the same side of Elm as the Depository with a fire escape wending its way down. Unlike so many photographs of the assassination events taken that day by often hurried and usually amateurs this picture is crystal clear.

¹. For information on the camera see, John Woods II, J.F.K. Assassination Photographs: A Comprehensive Listing of the Photographic Evidence (1993), page 7; and, Richard Trask, Pictures of the Pain (Danvers, MA: Yoeman Press, 1994), pages 308-309.

Immediately after the motorcade passed him, Altgens, performed an amazing feat in quickly processing and rapidly sending his photo to the world press where it received wide use often reprinted on front pages. To accomplish this, according to his June 4, 1964, statement to the FBI, he:

he:² *cite*

... ran to a nearby telephone and informed his office that the President had been shot and he had witnessed it. He then sprinted to his office in the Dallas News Building with the pictures he had taken. ... [they] 'moved' on the Associated Press Wirephoto Network at 12:57 p.m. ... *156 shot of shooting*

The United States government appointed an official federal body dedicated to the investigation of the assassination, the President's ~~Commission on the Assassination~~ known as the Warren Commission after its chairman Chief Justice of the United States Earl Warren. Unfortunately for history it took exactly eight months, July 22, 1964, before it permitted Altgens to testify and then only before one of its staff. That day during the noon hour Wesley J. Liebeler, assistant counsel of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Warren Commission, deposed him in the U. S. attorney's office complex in the Post Office Building in Dallas. Altgens told the attorney, who was oddly hostile to full disclosure of his information and whose questions contained key factual errors, where he had stood and what he had observed on that fateful day of November 22, 1963, with Liebeler failing or rather strangely refusing despite the photographer's request to locate him precisely on the plaza. A seasoned and

². Weisberg, Whitewash II (Hyattstown, MD: by the author, 1966), 152-153, quoting the FBI report.

highly professional photographer there can be little doubt that at such a late date in recalling events his memory would, at best, be less than if had testified much earlier.³

Three and one half months earlier, on April 7, the Commission had assigned two of its staff, assistant counsels Joe Ball and Sam Stern, to depose Billy Nolan Lovelady in the U. S. Attorney's offices in Dallas.⁴ Lovelady was a native Texan born in a small town in 1937. For two years he had worked in the Depository as a stockman for books and was a co-worker with Oswald. A critical figure in the controversy around the photo his testimony taken 100 days before Altgens' is chronologically disjointed with no explanation in the official record

Little did Altgens realize at the time he snapped his photograph that it would become the subject of controversy, so much so that the significance and contents of this single photo are still open to question and still seriously debated. Author, writer, and researcher, Harold Weisberg, generally known as "the dean" of assassination writers, devoted many pages of his books to a discussion of Altgens' photograph.⁵

So important did the Warren Commission consider Altgens' photo that in its one volume study of the assassination known generally as the "Warren Report" it strove valiantly to play down the controversy. As the Report states in its Appendix XII, ✓

³. For Altgens testimony see Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy (Washington: GPO, 1964), volume 7, pages 515-525. Hereafter referred to as 7H515-525.

⁴. 6H336-341.

⁵. See, Whitewash (Hyattstown, MD.: by the author, 1965), Whitewash II (ibid., 1966); and Post Mortem (Frederick, MD: by the author, 1975).

NOT
Altgens

Speculations and Rumors Section:⁶ “Speculation.—A picture published widely in newspapers and magazine after the assassination showed Lee Harvey Oswald standing on the front steps of the Texas School Book Depository building shortly before the President’s motorcade passed by.” [Author’s note: strictly speaking, the Altgens photo was not taken “before” the President’s motorcade passed by but after President Kennedy’s limousine had passed south along Elm Street almost two-thirds of the way heading toward an underpass where it would no longer be in view of spectators.]

Y The Warren Report continues: “Commission finding.—The man on the front steps of the building, thought or alleged by some to be Lee Harvey Oswald, is actually Billy Lovelady, an employee of the Texas School Book Depository, who somewhat resembles Oswald. Lovelady has identified himself in the picture, and other employees of the depository standing with him, as shown in the picture, have verified that he was the man in the picture and that Oswald was not there.”

Quite obviously, if indeed, as the Warren Commission concluded a sixth floor assassin, allegedly identified as Oswald, fired all the shots from a sixth floor window then if the man in the Altgens photo is Oswald they cannot possibly be one and the same individual.

In the late 1970s a second federal body, the House Select Committee on Assassinations, conducted another study of the Kennedy assassination. In its Final

⁶ Report of the President’s Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy (Washington: GPO, 1964), page 644. Hereinafter referred to as R644. The Warren Report.

Report of March 29, 1979, it also called attention to the Altgens photo.⁷ It said: “(1) Lovelady or Oswald?—It has been alleged that a photograph taken of the President’s limousine at the time of the first shot shows Oswald standing in the doorway of the Depository. Obviously, if Oswald was the man in the doorway, he could not have been on the sixth floor shooting at the President.” [Author’s note: actually the Altgens photo was taken after the second shot was fired and not the first shot. Evidence for this will be soon presented.]

The House Select Committee continues: “The Warren Commission determined that the man in the doorway was not Oswald, it was Billy Lovelady, another Depository employee. Critics have challenged that conclusion, charging that Commission members did not personally question Lovelady to determine if he was in fact the man in the photograph. In addition, they argue that no photograph of Lovelady was published in any of the volumes issued by the Warren Commission.”

Clearly, it would seem that after two official investigations the matter of the Altgens photo would certainly be seen as “case closed.” Or is it?

At this point it should be noted that besides none of the commissioners personally having questioned Lovelady; it is also a fact that Oswald himself while still alive and in the custody of the Dallas Police was not questioned about the photo either. If there is evidence officials questioned him about the Altgens photo it has not surfaced. It is the author’s opinion that Oswald was not shown the photograph. Why should they not have

⁷. Final Report (Washington: House Select Committee on Assassinations, 1979),

shown it to him—especially since he is at the center of the controversy? As a matter of fact the day after the assassination on Saturday night, November 23, 1963, federal authorities queried Billy Lovelady at his home. Two FBI agents showed him a blow-up of the Altgens photograph (30" x 40").⁸ It has been noted that FBI Director Hoover claimed he had difficulty in locating Altgens. Trouble locating Altgens may help explain why it took seven months to get him to testify. What about a simple phone call to the Associated Press or was it unheard of to contact a news agency by going all the way to the top?

use later

Hoover himself
use

When the FBI agents showed up at Lovelady's home on Saturday night, November 23, 1963, they did not leave until they took a photograph of Lovelady who was wearing a short sleeve, striped shirt. However, they did not take a photo showing him wearing the long-sleeved plaid shirt he actually wore on November 22. Why did not the FBI agents ask Lovelady to wear the shirt he wore on November 22? No one has successfully answered that question. For proof that Lovelady wore a different shirt other than the FBI photograph taken at his home there is a frame in the amateur photographer John Martin's home movie of the area around the Depository taken that day that shows him in a buffalo plaid red and black shirt.⁹

Photo taken by

⁸. 22H794.

⁹. See the color movie film of amateur film-maker, John Martin, who vividly captured Lovelady's shirt in full color. Martin took the film shortly after the shots were fired. He captured Lovelady in profile view in the front entrance way of the depository building. The film is available for inspection at the Dallas archives.

Do this copy & have?

check on Martin's film - photo taken by John Martin

For additional proof of the kind of shirt Lovelady wore on the 22nd there is another film taken of the Dallas Police Homicide Office which shows, strangely enough, both Oswald and Lovelady together in the same room. It was the only such film showing the two together. That film clearly shows the plaid block pattern shirt worn by Lovelady and it is exactly the same shirt worn by Lovelady in the John Martin film. Apparently the film was video film taken by WFAA-TV of Dallas, an ABC affiliate. An excerpt from the film (in black and white) can be seen in Robert Groden's book, The Killing of a President.¹⁰ There can be no doubt the shirt in the Martin film is the same as the WFAA-TV film.

The House Select Committee's Report then states: "The committee asked its photographic evidence panel to determine whether the man in the doorway was Oswald, Lovelady or someone else. Forensic anthropologists working with the panel compared the photograph with pictures of Oswald and Lovelady, and a photoanalyst [author's note: this was undoubtedly Robert Groden who was one of the twenty photoanalysts assigned to evaluate the photographic evidence] studied the pattern of the shirt worn by the man in the doorway and compared it to the shirts worn by the two men that day. Based on these analyses, the committee concluded that it was highly improbable that the man in doorway was Oswald and highly probable that he was Lovelady."

¹⁰. Robert J. Groden, The Killing of a President: the complete photographic record of the JFK Assassination, the conspiracy and the cover-up (New York: Viking Studio Books, 1993), 92.

most
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not

Note

7

no note

Finally the House Report concluded: “The Committee’s belief that the man in the doorway was Lovelady was also supported by an interview with Lovelady (5/9/78) in which he affirmed to committee investigators that he was the man in the photograph.”

As noted previously the Report stated:¹¹ “other employees of the depository standing with him (Lovelady) . . . have verified that he was the man in the picture and that Oswald was not there.” However, of a possible 13 or 14 individuals in the entrance way at the time the Altgens photo was taken only three were shown the photograph and all three did identify Lovelady as the “Doorway Man.”

Who were these “other employees”? A very careful study of the witnesses, their testimony, affidavits, FBI statements and other sources narrows the field down considerably to only three who “were standing with him (Lovelady).” Why query only three of a possible 13 or 14 individuals in the entrance way and none of the remaining ten or eleven? *not*

The three men “standing with Lovelady” and citations to their Warren Commission testimony are: (1) Buell Wesley Frazier, 2H210-245; (2) William H. Shelley, 6H327-334; and, (3) Billy Lovelady, 6H336-341. It will be instructive carefully to go over the testimony of those three individuals to see if any evidence shows that Lovelady actually sat on the right side of the front entrance. The “Doorway Man,” of course, stood on the left side.

Let us begin our examination of the Warren Commission witness testimony with that of Buell Wesley Frazier who also gave the FBI a statement. At 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 1964, in the Commission hearing room at 200 Maryland Avenue

¹¹. R644.

NE, Washington, D. C. before Chairman Earl Warren and commissioners Senator John Sherman Cooper and Representative Gerald R. Ford, six commission counsels, and two observers from the American Bar Association, Frazier testified.¹² The testimony of Oswald's young co-worker takes a formidable total of 36 pages of the printed record. Two-thirds of the way through assistant counsel Joseph Ball has the following exchange with the young man:¹³

Mr. Ball. You didn't see the President's car at the time you heard the sound?

Mr. Frazier. No, sir: I didn't.

Mr. Ball. But you stood right there, did you?

Mr. Frazier. Right. Stood right where I was.

Mr. Ball. And Mr. Shelley was still standing there?

Mr. Frazier. Right.

Mr. Ball. And also Billy Lovelady?

Mr. Frazier. Yes, sir.

[Author's note. This would strongly suggest that Lovelady is on the right side of the entrance way as viewed from the street and not on the left. Another point to raise is why Frazier "didn't see" the presidential car. This could possibly be explained by a concrete structure blocking his view. The structure (visible in Altgens) is just below the (across the front) entrance and to the left of a tree. That would also explain why the "Doorway Man" is straining himself to see what is happening.]

¹². 2H210-245.

¹³. 2H234.

Frazier's testimony continues:¹⁴

[Ball shows Frazier Commission Exhibit 369, a cropped version of the Altgens photo]

Mr. Ball. [Pointing to the photo] That is where you told us [see 2H234] you were standing a moment ago?

Mr. Frazier. Right.

Mr. Ball. In front of you to the right over to the wall?

Mr. Frazier: Yes.

[Author's note: So far the preponderance of Frazier's reply is that he is on the right side of the Altgens photo. This must mean he is also there with both Shelley and Lovelady.]

Frazier continues his testimony.¹⁵

Mr. Frazier. . . . I was standing . . . one step down from the top and Mr. Shelley was standing, you know, back from the top step and over toward the side of the wall there. See, he was standing right over there, and then Billy was a couple of steps down from me, over toward more in front of me... . . . [Lovelady] was a couple of steps down from me over toward the wall also.

[Author's note: Again observe the consistency in Frazier's testimony where Lovelady is clearly on the right side of the entrance way in the Altgens' photo.]

¹⁴. 2H242.

¹⁵. 2H242.

And, finally, but perhaps not the least of importance, there is the information Frazier gave in his March 18, 1964, statement to FBI Special Agents in Dallas, E. Robertson and Thomas Trettis, Jr.:¹⁶

At the time President Kennedy was shot I was standing on the front steps of the Texas School Book Depository Building. I was with William H. Shelley, 126 South Tatum, Dallas and Billy Lovelady, 7722 Hume Drive, Dallas when the President was shot.

[Author's note: Frazier made his statement 8 days after his Commission testimony. And, thus, Frazier reinforces in all his testimony and in his statement locates Lovelady as being on the right side of the entrance way and not the left side.]

In light of what Frazier stated can anyone really say that this is a "settled" matter that Lovelady is the "Doorway Man" figure on the extreme left of the doorway in the Altgens photo?

When we turn to William H. Shelley's account of where he was situated on the entrance way with respect to Lovelady's position his information adds further problems for the Commission's determination that Lovelady is the "Doorway Man." Shelley had worked for the Depository since 1945 and was a manager of the miscellaneous department immediately under the superintendent Roy S. Truly. Oswald worked under Shelley. At 4.10 p.m. on April 7, 1964, in the U. S. attorney of Dallas's office two assistant counsels of the Commission, Sam Stern, and Joe Ball, took Shelley's testimony in a little longer than 20 minutes.¹⁷ They did not dally over the details of the entrance

¹⁶. CE1381, 22H647.

¹⁷. 6H327-334.

way configuration. Fortunately, three weeks earlier, on March 18, he had given Dallas FBI agents E. J. Robertson and Alfred Neeley a statement recounting his memory of events:¹⁸

I recall that as the presidential motorcade passed I was standing just outside the glass doors of the entrance at the time President Kennedy was shot. Billy N. Lovelady who works under my supervision for the Texas School Book Depository was seated [emphasis added] on the entrance steps just in front of me.

[Author's note: Again, in Shelley's account, Lovelady is in "the same place" as Shelley. Moreover, Shelley claims Lovelady "was seated" at the time, a claim that Lovelady himself said was true, as we shall soon see.]

An interesting handwritten FBI comment to Shelley's FBI statement reveals the notation right next to Shelley's mention of "standing" that: "Lovelady story—He [Shelley] supports Lovelady." For this notation see FBI document DL-100-10461. In the same paragraph [fourth] of his "standing" comment Shelley states that "the Presidential motorcade passed" and "I was standing on the far right [my emphasis]." ✓

Serial No. 3

¹⁸. CE1381, 22H673.

Thus far both Frazier and Shelley have offered pretty convincing evidence that shows they were on the extreme right side of the Altgens photo with Lovelady sharing that location and neither Frazier nor Shelley offered into evidence that Lovelady is on the extreme left of the Altgens photo.

When it comes to Billy Lovelady's testimony before the Warren Commission and his FBI statement the case for him being the "Doorway Man" presents additional evidentiary problems that are hard to overcome.

[Author's note: For a full discussion on Lovelady see Harold Weisberg's Whitewash II. The FBI-Secret Service Cover-up, the chapter "The Lovelady caper," pages 185-194.]

*Compare this to
H's version
What has
H's version*

At 3:50 p.m. on April 7, 1964, in the office of the U. S. attorney of Dallas, two assistant counsels of the Warren Commission, Joe Ball and Sam Stern, with only a stenographer present, took Billy Nolan Lovelady's testimony.¹⁹ They consumed only twenty minutes. Early in his testimony Lovelady says, referring to his fellow workers who were outside on the steps: "... I said, 'well I'll go out there and talk with them, sit down and eat my lunch, set on the steps,' so I went out there."²⁰

Note

good / use

His testimony continues:

Mr. Ball. You ate lunch on the steps?

Mr. Lovelady. Yes.

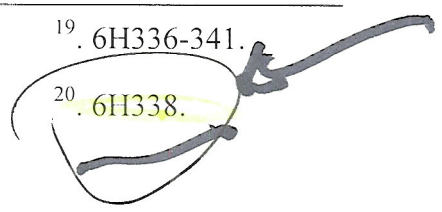
Mr. Ball. . . . did you stay on the steps?

Mr. Lovelady. Yes.

Mr. Ball. Were you there when the President's motorcade went by?

¹⁹. 6H336-341.

²⁰. 6H338.



Mr. Lovelady. Right.

[Author's note: The latter exchange between Ball and Lovelady is, perhaps, the most damning and devastating proof that he (Lovelady) is not the "doorway man" for throughout Lovelady maintains he was sitting eating lunch "when the President's motorcade went by." Consider also that Frazier in his Warren Commission testimony (2H242) had stated: "(Lovelady) was a couple of steps down from me over toward the wall, also."]

Lovelady also somewhat confuses the issue when he adds to his testimony: "I was standing as you are going down the steps; I was standing on the right . . ." The "standing" comment can possibly be explained as Lovelady's startled bodily reaction to the shooting sequence. Writer David Wrone points out in his The Zapruder Film. Reframing JFK's Assassination: "Since this image (from the John Martin color movie film taken seconds after the shooting shows Lovelady) was filmed after the murder, Lovelady could have arisen from the steps."²¹

The exchange between Joe Ball and Lovelady continues:²²

Mr. Ball. You were standing on which steps?

Mr. Lovelady. It would be your top level.

Mr. Ball. The top step you were standing there?

Mr. Lovelady. Right.

²¹. David R. Wrone, The Zapruder Film. Reframing the JFK Assassination (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2003), 178.

²². 6H338.

Key
Staff
Lovelady's
Self-
Refuting
Testimony

To this exchange must be added data from Lovelady's FBI statement given on March 19, 1964. Taken just one day after Shelley's FBI statement of the 18th he reinforces evidence in his own words that he was on "the far right" of the entrance way.

Lovelady stated:²³

At the time the Presidential motorcade passed the Depository Building heading West of Elm Street, I was standing on the top step to the far right (my emphasis) against the wall of the entrance way to the Texas School Book Depository Building.

Author's note: Again, even Lovelady himself provides contrary evidence to him being the "Doorway Man" as indicated by his noting that "the Presidential motorcade passed" and that he was on "the far right" (of the Altgens photo).]

In a hand written note attached to Lovelady's statement the FBI commented "conflicts w/Shelley." The "conflicts" wording is right next to Lovelady saying he was "standing" (in the fourth paragraph).²⁴

Our observations on Lovelady are further reinforced by Professor Gerald McKnight's conclusions from his study of the photograph. In an unpublished work he remarks on this problem, that it is "certain" that Lovelady was as Frazier testified: "standing a couple of steps down from me over toward the wall."²⁵

²³ Billy Nolan Lovelady's formal notarized statement, March 19, 1964, in FBI Report, Commission Exhibit 1381, 22H662.

²⁴ The hand written FBI statement is in FBI-DL-10010461.

²⁵ Gerald McKnight, "Study of Altgens Photo," ms. Copy at Hood College JFK archives.

*Lovelady
confirms
he was
on right hand
side of
the
stairs*

Thus the three principals (Frazier, Shelley, and Lovelady) locate themselves on the far right of the Altgens photo. It is a fact that not one offered an inkling of evidence that Lovelady is the "Doorway Man" who stands on the left. Their own testimony and FBI statements showed otherwise. Most importantly if Lovelady did move from the far right side to the left side, how did he accomplish this in time to witness the actual shooting of JFK? Two possible alternatives exist: (a) Lovelady raced from the right side to the left. He did so in front of the entrance way where spectators observed the scene. But this must be rejected as untenable for there is no record at all of neither Lovelady stating he did so nor the spectators saying he did this. (b) If he did race from the right side to left he therefore had to do so behind the spectators. That move would be a more difficult feat than (a) would have. Again, Lovelady did not state this nor did any of the spectators and it too must be discarded as not a valid conjecture.



Note to my

Key Question to us

One may ask also why did the Warren Commission, through the FBI, take about four months (to March, 1964) to re-interview the three principal spectators (Frazier, Shelley, and Lovelady)? Was there some lingering doubt that existed considering that all spectators shown the Altgens photo stated flatly that Lovelady was the "Doorway Man?"

For those keeping score of the individuals who were in the entrance way of the front door steps or the Texas School Book Depository Building at the time of the assassination the following list is definitive. After an exhausting search and study of the Warren Report, Warren Commission Hearings and Exhibits volumes, affidavits and FBI statements either 13 or 14 individuals were in the entrance way. The 13 attribution is based on the claim that Oswald is not the "Doorway Man" and the 14 attribution is based

on the claim that Oswald is the “Doorway Man.” Let us examine who these 13 or 14 persons are. We list them in alphabetical order:

1. Mrs. Avery Davis.
2. Mrs. Joseph Eddie Dean.
3. Buell Wesley Frazier.
4. Carl Edward Jones.
5. Roy Edward Lewis.
6. Billy Nolan Lovelady.
7. Judith L. McCulley.
- ⑧ Joe Molina. → *Did FBI question her?*
9. Lee Harvey Oswald.
10. Madie Bell Reese.
11. Mrs. Robert E. Sanders.
12. William H. Shelley.
13. Sarah D. Stanton.
14. Otis Neville Williams.

The total of 14 represent eight men and six women. See Diagram A below for the approximate locations in the Altgens photo. The circles refer to the numbered individuals above.

But the question remains: Why, out of 73 individuals who worked in the Depository on November 22, 1963, did officials ask only 7 to identify the "Doorway Man?" That is less than ten per cent of the 73 total. [Author's note: Warren Commission Chief Counsel, J. Lee Rankin, requested FBI Director Hoover to obtain statements from these 73. Hoover complied with Rankin's directive.²⁶]

Check on this in B or

It should also be noted that as the Diagram A indicates three of the entrance way figures who can clearly be seen in the left side of the Altgens photo were never shown the photo to help identify the "Doorway Man" figure. Yet these three were the closest to the "Doorway Man" figure. The three individuals just to the right of the "Doorway Man" are: (1) Joe R. Molina;²⁷ (2) Otis N. Williams;²⁸ and (3) Carl Edward Jones.²⁹

Key point here

Interestingly enough, although many books and articles on the assassination have appeared apparently none have zeroed in on Carl Edward Jones (with the exception of one writer and researcher, Harold Weisberg). Jones is the forgotten man in the Altgens episode. Based on his FBI statement Jones is the only one who stated he was seated on the steps of the entranceway other than Lovelady who also stated he sat on the steps eating his lunch.

use

²⁶. Rankin to Hoover, March 16, 1964, discussed in McKnight's Breach of Trust.

The statements are found in 22H632-686.

²⁷. 6H368-373.

²⁸. He gave only a FBI statement found in 22H683.

²⁹. He gave only a FBI statement found in 22H657.

note

FBI's approach was to smother any responses of any value

Might want to check for the source

Weisberg calls attention to Jones (without naming him) in the Whitewash series.³⁰

Weisberg writes: "Someone is clearly visible sitting exactly where Shelley said Lovelady was sitting. Who is this person? Shelley was not asked; Lovelady was not asked. No one was." Efforts by your author to reach Jones (assuming he is still living—he would be seventy years old in 2006—have been unsuccessful.

202

Once again, the question arises: why weren't any of these three witnesses (Molina, Williams, and Jones) shown the Altgens photo? After all these three were the closest to the "Doorway Man" figure. Is this really the way to carry out an investigation with witnesses virtually staring out at us and being totally ignored by investigators?

In order for the Warren Commission to maintain that the alleged assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, fired all the shots from a sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository Building it would follow that if contrary evidence to Oswald being on the sixth floor shows Oswald on the first floor the case for a single assassin would collapse.

Make this point
Note

Is there such evidence? Yes, there is in more than one account. For example, Secret Service Director Thomas Kelly in interrogating Oswald stated the following:³¹

by Kelly, check

✓ ³⁰. Harold Weisberg, Whitewash II (Hyattstown, MD: By the author, 1966), the chapter "The Lovelady Caper," p. 188.

³¹. Report, 629, being the interview of Sunday morning, November 24, 1963.

9-22 missing

Oswald
Kelley This is a
Kelley interview
with
Oswald

“... he (Oswald) said he was standing in front of the Textbook Building (my emphasis) and about to leave it. A young clean-cut man came up to him and said he was from the Secret Service, showed a book of identification and asked him where the phone was. Oswald said he pointed toward the pay phone in the building, and that he saw the man actually go to the phone before he left.”

In Kelley’s earlier interview of Oswald he states: “I asked him (Oswald) if he viewed the parade and he said he had not.”³²

But notice Kelley asked if he had viewed “the parade.” This could mean the entire procession and not just President Kennedy’s limousine. Oswald could have said—no—he didn’t watch the entire parade but had viewed only the Presidential motorcade itself. It depends on how Kelley worded the question and how Oswald directly answered. We have only Kelley’s say so as to what Oswald allegedly replied.

2000-
no

When one examines the Warren Report’s Appendix XI devoted solely to Oswald’s twelve hours of questioning it is to be noted that of the twelve various interviews conducted by officials-- the Dallas police (Captain Fritz), six by FBI agents, three by U. S. Inspector Thomas Kelley of the Secret Service, and a final interrogation by U. S. Postal Inspector H. D. Holmes (of Dallas)--all twelve are typed transcripts. If they are typed it would be assumed the typed versions were derived from hand-written notes, unless one takes the position that the typed copies were done completely from memory, which seems totally absurd considering that information about Oswald in the form of the contents of his wallet bore identification numbers are in the Reports.

Review

all notes

key

Use: with my work in
Oswald's frame — the use
of tape records by SS —
and possibly

³². November 23, 1963.

So far only two of the twelve interrogators have released some notes they took (Captain Fritz and FBI Agent Hosty). But where are the other notes they must assuredly have been taken? Fritz himself states that his typed report was "made from rough notes and memory."³³

Besides the twelve individuals mentioned above interrogating Oswald some seven other individuals at various times were present during certain interviews. These seven included two Secret Service Agents (Grant and Sorrels); four detectives from Dallas Captain Fritz's homicide office; and, a U. S. Marshall (Nash). So besides the twelve conducting the basic questioning several more were present to hear what Oswald replied to his interrogators. Thus, out of a total of nineteen only two individuals have offered their notes (Dallas Police Capt. Fritz and FBI Agent J. Hosty). Does this seem credible in light of one of history's most traumatic event, the assassination of a President?

Referring to Secret Service Inspector Kelley's statement above that a "young crew-cut man" has asked of Oswald for the location of a phone inside the Depository Building, there is outside evidence for Oswald's claim. It would appear that the unnamed "crew cut man" most probably was Robert MacNeil who, in 1963, was then a journalist working for NBC.³⁴ According to MacNeil's memoir he describes an encounter with a "young man in shirt sleeves who was coming out of the Depository Building." He writes: "I asked him where there was a phone. He pointed inside to an open space where another man was talking on a phone situated near a pillar and said,

³³. Report, Appendix XI, 611. — check Hosty's Book

³⁴. Robert MacNeil, The Right Place at the Right Time (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1982), 358-361, 368-369.

note

*Fritz
Hosty*

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this
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section of
NBC*

*But MacNeil
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crew
cut*

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note
to that*

‘Better ask him!’” In the immediate aftermath of the assassination MacNeil did not assume it was Oswald. In 1967 the author William Manchester writing a book on the assassination phoned him to say he had checked phone records and other sources “minutely second by second” and firmly believed the “crew cut man” was Oswald.³⁵ MacNeil still held doubts but the weight of the evidence bears against them.

No Oswald NOT crew cut

Although MacNeil does not state it the man on the phone was Pierce Allman, a program director of WFAA-TV in Dallas, such a conclusion conforms to what Allman related to the Secret Service. Shortly after the assassination two other individuals also apparently had an encounter with Oswald at the front entrance of the Depository Building. Pierce Allman and Terrence Ford, radio promotion director of WFAA They ran to the Depository entrance and, like MacNeil, requested the location of a phone. Again, the young man pointed to the area MacNeil would go to. The Secret Service confirmed they had asked Oswald.³⁶

Imagine that Oswald “the assassin,” took time out from his so-called “escape” plans to direct not one but three men to telephones! “Escape” is exactly the word chosen by the Warren Report.³⁷

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In an unpublished chapter by McKnight on the Altgens photo he writes: “Oswald stated to his FBI and Secret Service investigators that he was on the first floor watching the Presidential motorcade as it passed the School Book Depository. He stated to his FBI

³⁵. MSNBC, “Covering the JFK assassination,” Jan. 2, 2006; See the Secret Service note in Report, Appendix VI, 629.

³⁶. See Commission Document 354.

³⁷. R 252, “Oswald’s Escape.”

check this out

interrogators that after the shooting the left the building and went outside on Elm Street and 'stood around with Bill Shelley for five or ten minutes.'"³⁸

Forensic Anthropology and the Doorway Man

Even the public got into the act of calling into question the "Doorway Man."

After reading the December 14, 1963, issue of the Saturday Evening Post one such skeptical inquirer wrote to the FBI. An article in that issue featured the Altgens photograph. The reader, Mrs. Florence Andrews, was a member of the Anthropological Society of America. It was her opinion, she wrote, that "... if this photo were blown up, this man (in the doorway) could be identified by hairline and jaw line as Lee Harvey Oswald." This was pointed out by Harold Weisberg in one of his Whitewash series:³⁹

Include here Andrews see

There is no evidence that the Warren Commission utilized the forensic techniques advocated by reader Andrews. She would have to wait until the late 1970s for the House Select Committee on Assassinations to employ forensic anthropologists to determine who the "Doorway Man" was. Of course, they concluded exactly as the Warren Commission did—the "Doorway Man" is Lovelady. Case closed!

Neil

³⁸. McKnight, "Altgens." For proof, see Oswald's statement to the FBI- in the Gemberling Report," November 30, 1963, FBI HQ Oswald file, 105-82555-505, Section 21, 90, 97; Oswald's statement to Kelley in Oswald-post-Russian period, 2-3, FBI Fair Play for Cuba Committee, file 177, Harold Weisberg Archive, Hood College, Frederick, Maryland. Shelley's statement to the Commission in 6H328 with testimony found in 6H327-334.

³⁹. Weisberg, Whitewash II, 185-194.

Source

by research of the conditions under which the photo was taken and color standards available to use to impose the color on the image. Thus, a 'colorer' can make the shirt deep purple with yellow threads."

It would certainly appear from the aforementioned colorizing process that it is an arbitrary or subjective method. It is important to keep this in mind because the original Altgens photo was in black and white. Any effort by researchers to make a comparison of shirts worn by Oswald and Lovelady on November 22, 1963, would necessarily require knowledge of the actual colors of the shirts. Moreover, a comparison would also have to know the texture, fabric and pattern of the shirts before arriving at any final conclusions.

As the House Select Committee Report has previously notes "a photoanalyst" studied the pattern of the shirts worn by the man in the doorway and compared it to the shirts worn by the two men that day. Undoubtedly this photoanalyst was Robert Groden who was one of twenty photoanalysts employed by the House Select Committee to examine the photographic evidence. Groden utilized a technique he had himself invented which he called "vario-density cybernaxing."⁴¹ He analyzed the Altgens photo. In one instance he examined the front door entrance occupants and in another instance he examined what was contained in a nearby building on the far right side of the photo, the Dal-Tex Building.

However, for our purposes we are chiefly concerned with Groden's examination of the front door entrance and its occupants. There is no evidence that Groden's study was submitted to an outside peer review body to see if his arbitrary and subjective

⁴¹. HSCA, "Report of the Photographic Evidence Panel," vol. 6.

*Say it
was
Lovelady*

“colorizing” applied. Moreover, Groden had to work with a damaged or blurred negative of the Altgens photo. He does note though the following:⁴² “I applied a technique I had developed to the original Altgens negative. I was able to prove (my emphasis) that contrary to my own original opinion that the man was not Oswald but a remarkable look-alike, Billy Lovelady.” But absent from this is any mention of the damaged Altgens negative. One might also question Groden’s “analysis” of the number of shots fired during the assassination. His book offers “proof” that up to and as many as ten shots were fired in all! This claim when matched against the many, many witnesses to the assassination cannot be sustained. Not one of the witnesses can be found to have stated that she or he heard ten shots.

In the previously mentioned unpublished study by researcher McKnight he discusses the HSCA investigation of the Altgens photo. He writes: “In 1978 the House Select Committee on Assassinations engaged a panel of photographic experts to review hundreds of photographs that directly related to the Kennedy assassination. Applying new image enhancement technology that was not available in 1963-1964 the panel re-examined the Oswald-Lovelady dispute. Unfortunately, according to the photographic evidence panel, because Altgens’ negative was blurred to the resolution limitations of the camera system the panel decided the computer enhancement techniques would not aid in identifying the man in the doorway. The panel’s report concluded: ‘Thus, assuming it is either Oswald or Lovelady, and not a third party, it appears highly improbable that the spectator is Oswald and highly probable that he is Lovelady.’”

⁴². Groden, The Killing of a President, 186.

[Author's note: I think it highly unlikely to say the negative was blurred. I should think that the more appropriate wording should be a "blurred image" but I am not a photographic expert. But this does show the entire Altgens episode as highly problematic in forming a final conclusion.]

The shirts.

Once again we encounter another disturbing incident in the investigation of a significant aspect of the case. As we shall soon see, more questions will arise to further cloud the issue of the identity of the man in the doorway.

Let us now consider the question that emerges from examining the photo. That is the different shirts worn by Oswald and Lovelady on November 22, 1963. Clearly when one examines the shirts side by side they wore different shirts. The shirt Oswald wore, which was Commission Exhibit No. 150, can be examined fairly easily by obtaining a copy (in color) from the National Archives. CE150 was the shirt Oswald wore when he left the Depository Building shortly after the assassination and it is the same shirt he wore when he was apprehended and brought to the Dallas Police Homicide Office. The FBI went to considerable time and expense to prove the shirt sent by the Dallas Police to the FBI's Headquarters in Washington, D. C., was indeed, Oswald's shirt. Their study can be found in the Warren Commission Hearings and Exhibits volumes.⁴³ No one challenges the fact that the shirt in the archives is none other than Oswald's.

As a matter of fact in his typed report of Oswald's long twelve hour interrogation, FBI Special Agent Manning C. Clements he provides an accurate description of the color

⁴³. 15H695.

Check on this →

Note

of Oswald's shirt.⁴⁴ He describes it as "brown 'salt and pepper,' long sleeved shirt." The color is exactly as that seen in the National Archives color copy.

a. Witnesses confirmation of shirt color.

Virtually all the witnesses confirmed Oswald's shirt color. From the time he left the Depository Building until the time the Dallas Police apprehended him in the Texas Theater they concurred in the color description.

The first witness to see Oswald after the shooting was bus driver Cecil J. McWatters. He claimed Oswald boarded his bus.⁴⁵ However, the Warren Commission decided McWatters' recollection alone was too vague to be a basis for placing Oswald on the bus. The second witness, Mary Bledsoe, a former landlady of Oswald's, who rode as a passenger on McWatters' bus, the Commission believed to be more credible and believable. In her testimony she said she recognized Oswald. Of his shirt she said he wore was brown with "his sleeve was out here. His shirt was undone. . . . a hole in it." The Commission showed her CE150, Oswald's shirt. She pointed to it saying he had a hole in the right elbow.⁴⁶ Her description precisely corresponds to the shirt in the National Archives.

— Confirmation
— on
— shirt

We next encounter the third witness, William W. Whaley, a cab driver who in conflicting statements claimed he picked up Oswald in his cab.⁴⁷ Although, as the

⁴⁴. R615

⁴⁵. 2H262-283.

⁴⁶. 7H33-34.

⁴⁷. R161-163; 2H253-292.

Warren Report notes that Oswald wore a “brown shirt,”⁴⁸ he (Whaley) also said Oswald was dressed in a “faded blue color khaki work clothes” together with the “brown shirt.” He said Oswald had “some kind of work jacket that almost matched his pants.” When one reviews Whaley’s testimony after finding inconsistencies he again erred in saying Oswald was “wearing either (a) gray zippered jacket or (b) a heavy blue jacket the Warren Commission found him to be “in error” noting, however, that he did identify CE150 as the shirt Oswald wore to add to this identification. He also reported (correctly) that he saw a silver identification bracelet Oswald was wearing on his left wrist. What drew Whaley’s attention was his interest in various bracelets.

The fourth witness to meet up with Oswald was Mrs. Earlene Roberts, a housekeeper at Oswald’s rooming house in Dallas.⁴⁹ Around 1:00 p.m she saw Oswald enter the rooming house “in his shirt sleeves.” Although when a few minutes later he left the house she claimed “He was zipping up a jacket.” Her statement was: “(Oswald) got what she believed was a ‘coat’ . . . He was wearing a light colored shirt, either short-sleeved or without sleeves rolled up, dark pants and no jacket . . . could not recall what he was wearing when he left the house but recalls he was putting on a jacket and zipping it up the front as he left the house.”

There is no indication that she identified CE150 (Oswald’s shirt) but, if, as she insisted, Oswald left in a zipped-up jacket she obviously could not tell what was behind the jacket.

⁴⁸. Ibid., 162.

⁴⁹. Report, 163-165; 5H434-440; 7H439.

Another witness to Oswald's movements after the assassination and just prior to his arrest at the Texas Theatre was Johnny Calvin Brewer, the manager of a shoe store, a few doors east of the theatre.⁵⁰ Some minutes after 1:30, the time is approximate, Brewer saw a man, presumably Oswald, on the sidewalk before his store enter the Texas Theatre. Prior to this Brewer saw Oswald stand with his back to the street while a police car passed. He said the man: "wore a t-shirt beneath his outer shirt and he had no jacket."⁵¹ When on April 2, 1964, he testified before Commission counsel David Belin in Dallas there is no indication Belin showed him CE150 to identify what he described as a brown "outer shirt" whose top two buttons were not buttoned.⁵² Brewer had followed Oswald and watched him enter the Texas Theatre without, he said, purchasing a ticket. He told the ticket taker, Mrs. Julia Postal that "he had seen the man (Oswald) ducking into his place of business and that he followed him to the theatre." Postal then, as she testified before assistant counsel Joe Ball on April 2 in Dallas, sent Brewer into the theatre to spot the man and from her box office she subsequently called the Dallas Police.⁵³

Dallas Police involved in the apprehension and arrest of Oswald in the Texas Theatre when shown C150 (Oswald's shirt) provided convincing evidence Oswald had worn it when arrested. These were Patrolmen M. N. McDonald, Ray Hawkins, Thomas

) Note

⁵⁰. Ibid., 176-178.

⁵¹. 7H3

⁵². Report, 178.

⁵³. 7H11.

A. Hutson, and C. T. Walker, Detectives Paul C. Bentley and Bob K. Carroll.⁵⁴ For an illustrations of their affirmations: When Commission counsel showed Patrolman Hawkins the shirt he remarked Oswald “positively” had been wearing it at the time of arrest⁵⁵ while Detective Bentley similarly remarked, “positively” Oswald had worn the shirt when caught. Detective Carroll affirmed when shown CE150 that Oswald had worn the shirt when arrested.

Besides the above witnesses identifying CE150 as Oswald’s shirt there is also FBI Agent James N. Bookhout’s statement made in his report to the Dallas Field Office of the next day, the 23rd, that “(Oswald had) a reddish colored long sleeved shirt with a button down collar.”⁵⁶ Coupled with Bookhout’s statement is that of another FBI Agent, Bardwell D. Odum, present at Oswald’s arrest. He said Oswald wore a “white shirt, dark trousers and a reddish-brown jacket” (presumably Odum meant shirt and not jacket).

Note how Bookhout and Odum’s described the color in remarkably similar terms to what Agent Clements had previously reported. The phrases he used were “reddish color,” “brown,” and “reddish-brown.” Readers can judge for themselves which explanation best applies when they examine CE150, Oswald’s shirt, kept in the archives.

The above list of witnesses shown CE150 is not complete. But it would appear there can be little doubt: CE150 was the shirt Oswald wore on November 22, 1963. And, if it can be proven that, indeed, Oswald is the “Doorway Man” in the Altgens photo he had to be wearing CE150 to the exclusion of all other shirts.

⁵⁴. Report, 178.

⁵⁵. 7H91.

⁵⁶. Report, 622.

*Note
FBI
Agent
present
at Oswald's
arrest*

Physical characteristics of the shirt.

What further proof can be found to show that the “Doorway Man’s” shirt is actually the same shirt as CE150? Much remains. Some can be adduced by a description of the shirt’s physical characteristic, which will offer us stunning information. For assistance in this critical evidentiary area we can turn to the works of researchers. Perhaps the two best writers in this particular area are researcher and author Harold Weisberg and David Wrone whose Zapruder film book discusses the issue in one of his chapters.

a. Weisberg & the shirt’s characteristics.

In the second volume of his Whitewash series Weisberg calls his reader’s attention to physical characteristics of Oswald’s shirt.⁵⁷ He comments on its “certain defects and tears.” “Note,” he writes, “that the top buttons are missing . . . the similarity in the materials and unusual design are apparent.” He then goes on to report a New York Herald Tribune story of May 24, 1964, reprinted in the Commission’s Hearings and Exhibits volumes.⁵⁸ It quotes Lovelady as saying he wore “a red-and-white striped sport shirt buttoned near the neck.” As Weisberg points out: “The stripes are very broad and prominent.” A photo of Lovelady wearing this precise shirt can be seen in Robert Groden’s The Killing of the President. There can be no question that Lovelady’s Herald Tribune statement squares exactly with the Groden photo.

⁵⁷. Weisberg, Whitewash II, 185-194.

⁵⁸. 22H794.

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But wait a second! Clearly the “Doorway Man” in the Altgens photo is not wearing a “buttoned near the neck” shirt! Lovelady has explained that the FBI never asked him to wear the shirt he wore on November 22, 1963. Why not especially since the shirt he wore had to be identified by either buttoned to the neck or not. And, we’ve already shown previously that when two FBI agents came to Lovelady’s home on Saturday night, November 23, 1963, the day after the assassination, the agents came armed with a 30” by 40” blow-up of the Altgens photo. Surely it would be impossible to ignore the un-buttoned shirt of the doorway man. Not only that but before the two FBI agents left they took a photo of Lovelady in a short-sleeved (not long-sleeved) pin stripe shirt to make matters worse for both the FBI and Lovelady. Lovelady told the FBI agents he was aware of the photo as he had a newspaper copy showing the Altgens photo. Undoubtedly that was the Saturday November 23, 1963, edition of the Dallas Times-Herald newspaper (no longer in existence).

Weisberg pointed out the several irregularities of the Lovelady photos. First, he noted, that when the FBI agents photographed Lovelady they put him “against a light, not a dark background; not on the steps of the depository, but against the blank wall of a room; with artificial lighting rather than sunlight.” Any professional photographer will tell you there is a vast difference photographing an individual in sunlight as opposed to artificial lighting. This lighting switch inhibited the use of them to compare with the “Doorway Man” figure. In addition, Weisberg adds several other critical aspects of the FBI pictures that further confuse the efforts to employ them to contrast and compare. Lovelady’s shirt “is open, as was the shirt of the man in the picture, not ‘buttoned near the neck.’ The second and third buttons, which are highly reflective, are not fastened.

The shirt is laid open in a rough approximation of that of the handcuffed Oswald at the time of his arrest.⁵⁹ It is a long-sleeved shirt and the shirt in the Altgens picture is long and cuffed. The man in the Altgens photographed from the left. The FBI Lovelady photographs are full-face and right profile.”⁶⁰

Continuing his critical analysis of the FBI Lovelady photos Weisberg also calls the reader’s attention to the fact the federal agents photographed Lovelady with a “heavy growth of stubble.” The “Doorway Man” seems to also have a “dark-beard shadow.” Is it a coincidence, Weisberg muses, since it should be recalled that Oswald overslept in the morning of November 22 and did not shave (my emphasis). Coincidence or not, Weisberg claims that “the growth on Lovelady’s face is heavier than one would expect at noon the day he shaved, but less than one would expect, especially of a heavy bearded man, a day or a day and a half later, had he gone to work unshaven that morning.”

Question: when the HSCA’s forensic anthropologists were asked to examine “facial characteristics.” Were they apprised or aware that Oswald did not shave the morning of November 22? There is no hard evidence that in their deliberations this factor entered in.

Weisberg continues: “The shirt in which Oswald was arrested and that of the man in the doorway does bear a remarkable resemblance to each other. Both are dark with a light fleck through them. Both have an identically rumped right collar. Where the shirt Oswald was wearing when arrested was missing buttons and could not be fastened, the

⁵⁹. Shaneyfelt Exhibit, 24A.

⁶⁰. Weisberg, Whitewash II, 190.

shirt on the man in the picture is not buttoned. They most assuredly seem to be the same shirt.”

Weisberg also note other facial characteristics. Oswald’s chin is square (that can be especially seen in an enlargement of the Altgens photo). Lovelady’s chin is round even with the FBI’s techniques to show otherwise.

Finally, Weisberg notes that the man in the doorway seems to be wearing a V-necked T-shirt which is the kind of T-shirt Oswald wore. Bu Lovelady’s undershirt is round-necked.

b-Wrone and the shirt’s characteristics.

In his book on the Zapruder film David Wrone devotes a whole chapter on the Altgens photo.⁶¹ His analysis dovetails with Weisberg’s on many points. He points out that “in the publications of the Commission, no good, clear photo of Oswald’s shirt appears and certainly none of the doorway figure.” Wrone says that “only by visiting the national archives could one see the actual shirt worn by Oswald that day, examine its color, and understand its features. It is long-sleeved, has a grass leaf pattern, and is rust brown with gold flecks scattered through it.”

Wrone said that by using a “high-power magnifying class, the Altgens picture can be examined, first and most startling, the shirt’s color and pattern identify it as Oswald’s. Oswald’s shirt was expensive, but old. As noted earlier, it had a pattern like a grass leaf, essentially brown with gold flecks through it. But, as we have seen, Lovelady’s two-inch dark blue (almost black) and red squares or checks, separated by the white lines.”

⁶¹. Wrone, Zapruder Film, 167-180.

Need to review Dave's chpt.

Wrone continues: “Second, using a magnifying glass, certain defects in Oswald’s shirt can also be detected in the Altgens photo. For example, on the right edge of the open Oswald shirt is a small tear that is also present on the shirt of the figure in Altgens’ photo. Also, on Oswald’s shirt ~~the~~ top three button-holes are stretched, meaning the shirt could not be buttoned at the collar or for the next two buttons. In several photographs of Oswald in custody, his shirt displays the same open throat and neck as does the shirt on the man in the doorway and the shirt in the archives. By contrast, John Martin’s color film showing the Lovelady shirt is buttoned at the top as well as at the next two buttons, none of which Oswald could do.

“Third, the collars of the two shirts furl differently. In addition, the cuffs are of a different type in size and construction. Finally, Oswald’s shirt is loose and baggy, whereas Lovelady’s has a more tailored fit.”

By no means does this end the controversy about the Altgens photograph. For example, if Oswald is the “Doorway Man” being seen on the first floor is there any credible or reliable evidence to show he was on the first floor (and not the sixth floor) at the time of the assassination? There is and we shall designate it as “first floor evidence.”

focus on these arguments

First floor evidence.

If we examine the twelve hours of interrogation Oswald faced as mentioned in the Warren Report,⁶² it is to be noted that at no time did Oswald ever waver on claiming he was on the first floor shortly before, during the shooting and the immediate aftermath. Although questioned by U. S. government officials such as the FBI, Secret Service,

note

Perhaps I covered this up first in this chapter

⁶². R598-636.

Dallas police, Dallas detectives, and the U. S. Postal Inspector of Dallas not one challenged Oswald's claim of being on the first floor eating lunch "alone."

"Alone." That is precisely what he told FBI Agent James Bookhout when Oswald was interrogated on Saturday, November 23, Captain Fritz and other officials were present, as Bookhout reported: "He (Oswald) had eaten alone (my emphasis) in the lunch room." He also reported "(Oswald) recalled possibly two Negro employees walking through the room during this period." But by "room" Bookhout obviously meant "floor" since the two Negro employees had eaten their lunch earlier.⁶³ We have already introduced into evidence statements by Robert MacNeil, Pierce Allman, and Terence Ford encountering Oswald very shortly after the assassination all placing Oswald at the first floor front entrance of the Depository Building.

a. Witnesses to Oswald on the first floor.

Four more witnesses can be cited in support of seeing Oswald on the first floor. Consider for example, what Mrs. R. E. Carolyn Arnold told the FBI on November 26, 1963:⁶⁴ "... she left (her) office (on the second floor) between 12:00 and 12:15 p.m., to go down stairs and stand in front of the building to view the presidential motorcade. As she was standing in front of the building, she stated she thought she caught a fleeting glimpse of Lee Harvey Oswald standing in the hallway between the front door and the double doors leading to the warehouse, located on the first floor. She could not be sure that this was Oswald, but said she felt it was and believed the time to be a few minutes before 12:15 p.m."

⁶³. Ibid., 622.

⁶⁴. CD5.

→ Note
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collaborator

However, Mrs. Arnold gave a later statement to the FBI other than the November 26. She stated: "I left the Texas School Book Depository Building at about 12:25 p.m."⁶⁵ The Warren Commission did not call Mrs. Arnold as a witness.

Thus, whether the time is either "a few minutes before 12:15 p.m." or "at about 12:15 p.m." it does not square with Oswald being on the 6th floor assembling the rifle, moving boxes to form a lair, and awaiting the President's motorcade.

Moreover, there is evidence supporting Mrs. Arnold catching "a fleeting glimpse" of Oswald on the first floor. Mr. O. V. Campbell is reported in Cover-up by Gary Shaw and Larry Harris as thinking he saw Oswald on the first floor "storage room." The authors report that Campbell "ran" into the Depository Building "immediately" after the assassination. The authors claim Campbell stated this in an article for the Dallas Times Herald of November 23, 1963.

As noted before Oswald told the FBI, Dallas Police, and other officials that he ate lunch on the first floor alone. Recall that he also said he had seen two black men enter the first floor as he was eating his lunch. More precisely Fritz reported the following: "I asked him what part of the building he was in at the time the President was shot, and he said that he was having his lunch about that time on the first floor."⁶⁶ Later on in a second interview by Fritz of November 23, 1963, Fritz states:⁶⁷ "In talking with him further about his location at the time the President was killed, he said he ate lunch with

⁶⁵. 22H635.

⁶⁶. R600, being Fritz's interview of Oswald on November 22, 1963.

⁶⁷. Ibid., 605, being Fritz's interview of Oswald on November 23, 1963.

some of the colored boys who worked with hi. One of them was called ‘Junior’ and the other one was a little short man whose name he did not know.”

FBI agents Bookhout and Hosty, however, who were present during Captain Fritz’s first interview on the 22nd, make no mention of Oswald eating lunch with “some of the colored boys” as Fritz states in his November 23rd report. Moreover, Bookhout and Hosty stated in their interview of the 22nd that: “Oswald claimed to be on the first floor when President John F. Kennedy passed the building (my emphasis).”

Fritz’s report that Oswald said he ate lunch with “the colored boys” (Harold Norman and James Jarman, Jr.) cannot possibly be true. Both Norman and Jarman, Jr., state in their testimony that they ate their lunch on the sixth floor at about noon time.⁶⁸

Writer and researcher Howard Roffman in his Presumed Guilty, moreover, provided evidence that either at approximately 12:20 or 12:25 p.m. Jarman and Norman were on the first floor outside of the front entrance way.⁶⁹ Because they could not get a good spot the two went upstairs and then joined co-worker Bonnie Ray Williams on the fifth floor to observe the motorcade.

It is true, however, that Roffman did present two different time scenarios with one as being earlier than 12:20 or 12:25 (12:15) but neither scenario places Oswald on the first floor as having seen the two men (Norman and Jarman, Jr.) entering the first floor. More to the point is how was Oswald able to pick out Norman and Jarman, Jr., out of a

⁶⁸ Norman 3H186-198, and Jarman 3H198-211.

⁶⁹. Howard Roffman, Presumed Guilty. Lee Harvey Oswald in the Assassination of President Kennedy (Rutherford: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1975), 181-185.

total of 73 Depository employees?⁷⁰ Was it a miraculous feat of ESP powers or a very lucky guess?

Remember, the official findings on the assassination assert that in the half hour after lunch time (around 12 noon) Oswald waited on the sixth floor to shoot at the President. There is one slight glitch, however, in the Warren Commission's scenario that has been virtually ignored by supporters and critics of the Warren Report. According to Bonnie Ray Williams in a November 23rd statement to Agents Odum and W. Hayden Griffen:⁷¹ "At approximately 12 noon Williams went . . . to the sixth floor with his lunch. He stayed on that floor only about three minutes, and seeing no one there, descended to the fifth floor" (where of course, he joined Norman and Jarman, Jr., in watching the presidential motorcade).

Richard Trask in his Pictures of the Pain provides a more fuller account of Williams eating lunch on the 6th floor.⁷² He writes: "After washing up for lunch, Williams had taken his paper bag lunch consisting of a chicken sandwich and a bag of fruits and a bottle of Dr. Pepper back to the sixth floor. He ate lunch around the third or fourth set of windows surrounded by stacks of boxes. He left his trash by the window and ended by joining Norman and Jarman on the first floor at the second window from the east side."

[Author's note: "The second window from the east side" places Williams in a very good position to have seen the eastern-most window where the Commission charged

⁷⁰. Ibid., 184.

⁷¹. CD 5, November 26, 1963.

⁷². Trask, Pictures of the Pain, 445)

*Williams
reply
me*

Dale

*Question:
When did
Williams get
leave
the 6th Floor?
(I thought we
got about
12:20)*

*There
top not
of much use*

Oswald waited to carry out his historic deed. Imagine what would have occurred had Williams actually spotted Oswald waiting patiently for the motorcade to pass!”]

b. Previously discussed witnesses.

The evidence for Oswald being on the 1st floor at the time of the assassination may not be overwhelming but the eight individuals noted above (Fritz, Allman, Ford, MacNeil, Mrs. Arnold, Campbell, Norman, and Jarman, Jr.) swings the pendulum even further away from Oswald being situated on the 6th floor.

The photo and the number of shots fired.

As our final comment on the Altgens photo and the evidence it holds there is one extremely important and significant aspect that not only supporters but also critics of the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee on Assassination have completely overlooked. This concerns the precise moment Ike Altgens took his controversial photograph. According to the Warren Report, using the Zapruder film as a “clock” for the timing of the shots fired at the President, it states: “Altgens took his picture at approximately the same moment as frame 255 of the (Zapruder) movie.”⁷³

Lyndal Shaneyfelt, the FBI’s chief photographic expert, testified to the Zapruder frame 255 conclusion and one has no reason to quarrel with this finding.⁷⁴ But in so stating the z255 frame conclusion the Warren Report misleads its readers by claiming the photo was snapped by Altgens “almost simultaneously” with “a shot which he is confident was the first one fired.” As a source for this the Report cites Altgens’ Warren

⁷³. R112.

⁷⁴. 5H158.

Commission testimony as proof.⁷⁵ However, a very careful reading of Altgens testimony suggests that under Wesley Liebeler's questioning he inveigled Altgens to say he touches his photo after the first shot. Altgens was reluctant to agree to say so but was in no position to argue otherwise. How could he? He wasn't given any opportunity to view the Zapruder film to see when the first (or any shots) were fired.

To make matters worse for the Warren Commission the Warren Report published a badly cropped version of Altgens photo.⁷⁶ Included also was a "re-enactment" photograph that can hardly be considered as such for the angle the picture was taken is way off base, and there are no spectators present in the re-enactment. The Altgens' photo, appearing on page 113 of the Warren Report, is the only appearance in the Report. As noted above it is the only appearance in the Report and, as noted above, it is a severely cropped. Other versions of the photo appear in some volumes of the Warren Commission Hearings and Exhibits. They too were cropped.

How valid is the claim made in the Warren Report that Altgens took his photo after the very first shot?⁷⁷ Raymond Marcus, a researcher and writer, made a very careful study of the Zapruder film. He maintains that the first shot struck President Kennedy at the equivalent of Zapruder frame 189 causing a non-fatal neck wound.⁷⁸ Marcus also

⁷⁵. 7H517.

⁷⁶. R113, as CE 900.

⁷⁷. Ibid., 112.

⁷⁸. For the proof see Ray Marcus' excellent monograph, Addendum to the HSCA,

The Zapruder Film and the Single Bullet Theory (Los Angeles: By the author, 1988).

offers evidence for a second shot striking the President from behind the Presidential limousine at the equivalent of Zapruder frame 225.

Although the Altgens photo shows Texas Governor Connally reacting to the shots being fired it isn't until one very closely examines the Zapruder film that around the equivalence of frames 236 to 238 it clearly shows Connally has been wounded. One writer and researcher, Richard Sprague, has opted for frame 237.⁷⁹

Sprague worked very closely with Harold Weisberg in gathering up as many films and photos he could acquire as he traveled all over the country. His collection is, perhaps, the most outstanding collection of all. Incidentally, Sprague came to the identical conclusion of Marcus that the second shot struck Kennedy at Zapruder frame 225.

David Wrone in his book on the Zapruder film provided evidence that Zapruder frame 238 is the precise moment Connally has been struck by a bullet from behind the presidential motorcade.⁸⁰ As Wrone's analysis posits: "Governor Connally's cheeks puff out, lips purse, and he reels under the impact of a shot striking and shattering his fifth rib." [Author's note: In describing Zapruder frame 189 Wrone writes: "President Kennedy holds his right hand high. This could be the time of the first hit."⁸¹ Thus, Wrone and Marcus are in virtual agreement on the first shot striking Kennedy at Zapruder frame 189.]

⁷⁹. See Sprague's monograph "What the photographs show," June 15, 1967.

⁸⁰. Wrone, Zapruder, 46.

⁸¹. *Ibid.*, 45.

It should be quite obvious from the above that Altgens photo was snapped immediately after the third and not the first shot. [First shot: z189; second shot: z225; and, third shot: z238]. The Warren Commission utilized the FBI's finding that the Zapruder camera ran at the film rate of 18.3 frames per second.⁸² Simple arithmetic will show that the Altgens photo, then, was snapped slightly over 3 ½ seconds after the first shot assuming, of course, that the very last (and fatal head shot) is equivalent to Zapruder frame 313 (established by the FBI for the Warren Commission).

Having noted that the Altgens photo can now be established as being taken at Zapruder frame 255 (on which there is no dispute) an immediate problem arises. Since the Warren Commission established that only three shots were fired by Oswald, the alleged assassin, how does one explain another shot at Zapruder frame 313 which occurred after Altgens photo was taken?

A further problem arises when one considers that in the above analysis the first three shots all strike the presidential occupants. However, the Warren Report maintains that there was a shot fired that missed the occupants of the presidential limousine.⁸³

The evidence for the missed shot can be found in the wounding of a spectator, James Tague, who stood not too far from an underpass which the Kennedy motorcade passed through after President Kennedy's fatal head shot. The motorcade quickly sped to Parkland Hospital within minutes where Kennedy was treated for his various wounds.⁸⁴

⁸². Report, 97.

⁸³. Ibid., 111.

⁸⁴. Ibid., 116.

Tague told the Warren Commission on when the fatal shot occurred: “I would stress it was either the second or the third. I wouldn’t say definitely which one.”⁸⁵

Tague’s testimony before the Warren Commission insisted that the missed shot was definitely not the very first shot and that it was his belief that the shot that missed was a shot striking a concrete curb releasing fragments hitting Tague on his right cheek. Tague would later on write a book in which he reinforced his belief that it’s the third shot.

It can be seen from the above scenario that at a minimum a total of as least five shots now have to be accounted for. Of course, it should seem obvious that if, at least, five shots were fired it exonerates Oswald as the “lone” assassin firing only three shots.

Tague’s claim of a later (not earlier) shot striking him finds support in at least two other witnesses. There is Royce Skelton who stood on the railroad overpass and “saw two shots or fragments hit the pavement.” He said it was later in the sequence of the shots and definitely not the first one.⁸⁶ In addition to Skelton’s testimony supporting Tague there is also the testimony given by Dallas Deputy Sheriff (Buddy) Eddy Raymond Walthers.⁸⁷ He, too, claimed it was a later shot that missed and certainly not a first shot.

As a matter of fact shortly after the assassination, Tague approached Walthers and the two found a fresh nick on the main street curb, where Tague had been standing, estimated to be some 12 to 15 feet from the triple underpass. Robert Groden’s The

⁸⁵. 7H555.

⁸⁶. 6H236-238.

⁸⁷. 7H544-552.

Killing of a President contains a photograph showing the precise position Tague stood. On the afternoon of November 22, 1963, Tom Dillard, of the Dallas Morning News, photographed the curb mark.

When then did the missed shot occur? My analysis and evidence is pretty convincing that the missed shot occurred at the equivalent of Zapruder frame 285.⁸⁸

Final comments.

Thus, the significance and importance of the Altgens photograph now looms as probably the most quintessential evidence in the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination. The photograph absolves Lee Harvey Oswald as being the "lone" assassin firing only three shots. Even if we cannot come to a definitive conclusion as to who the "Doorway Man" is, the Altgens photo, by itself, when properly analyzed utilizing such films as the Zapruder film completely acquits Oswald of the "Crime of the Century." It must seem strangely ironic that a single photograph taken just slightly over 3 1/2 seconds after the shooting began would be the crucial evidence disproving the Warren Commission's findings!

Had investigators all the evidence (especially photographic) in their hands: immediately after Altgens took his famous photograph we would not be arguing the case for a "single" assassin.

⁸⁸. See my chapter XXX, "Zeroing in on the Missed Shot in President Kennedy's Assassination," Dealey Plaza Echo, vol. 8, no. 2 (July, 2004), pages 25-35.

The Altgens photo is not only of historic significance but absolutely essential in solving the murder of President Kennedy.

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Hello H

Here is a revision of Altgens article/chapter

I found a number of small errors—of for if—that neither of us caught and it makes be suspicious that there are more.

On Oswald in front of the shoe store prior to going into the Texas Theatre I had to rewrite the sentence for I had bollixed it all up somehow. Please check.

McWatters is spelled McWatters.

On the map I shall when we agree on the article as done I shall search for help to draw a map properly.

I think the article reads well and you did a spiffy job on the subject.

Dave

P. S. the press mentions the cricket match in London being corrupted by an umpire. Such a mysterious game that I cannot understand, yet millions do. Sort of

reminds me of what is happening in the world at large in the economic sphere as business boys seek to conquer it and burn down their own house in their fits of rage and cruelty.

Have you read Tom Ricks Fiasco on the war? It is Pulitzer material.

