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S1

EVIDENCE THAT OSWALD WAS A NATURAL RUSSIAN SPEAKER

By Marie Rivman

звонить to telephone	позвонить to telephone
present tense	future tense
я звоню I phone/am phoning	я позвоню I'll phone
ты звонишь you phone	ты позвонишь you'll phone

[The top left is the imperfective aspect form of the verb; the other side is the perfective aspect. Don't worry -- it's a bit technical, but it would have to come as simply as the Cyrillic alphabet to anybody like Oswald, who was using a Russian dictionary.]

Bugliosi ("Reclaiming History", 2007) reports (p 223) that when, on 23rd November, Marina and Marguerite visited Lee in Dallas Police HQ jail, Marguerite was in great anxiety because she understood nothing of what her son and daughter-in-law were saying. This is because, says Bugliosi, their entire conversation was in Russian.

To me, the most curious part of the Bugliosi (orthodox) view of Lee Harvey Oswald is that whilst he accepts that Oswald spoke very fluent Russian, he is totally taciturnous as to how this was accomplished.

Weirdly, this is all he says on the topic: "It was clear to all his mates [at Santa Ana] that Oswald was now concentrating on learning Russian -- he would sit in his room for hours on end poring over Russian newspapers bought in Los Angeles and a Russian English dictionary....." (p 559)

And this is all there is on "how Oswald learned Russian" in a supposedly definitive book of fifteen hundred pages! Moreover, what Bugliosi has written is self-evident nonsense.

Only an advanced student could read a newspaper -- the vocabulary required is so vast -- and, for a language as grammatical as Russian, a dictionary by itself is only of limited use because words are changed through their declension or conjugation.

To illustrate:

What Bugliosi is describing is either somebody refreshing their knowledge of a language already learned, or, alternatively, somebody pretending to be learning a language. A similarly ridiculous degree of ignorance is shown by Norman Mailer, who in his 799 pages of biography ("Oswald's Tale", 1995) offers not a word of explanation as to when and how Oswald learned to speak Russian.

However, here are 24 major considerations (based on facts, not opinions) which demonstrate that Oswald was a natural Russian speaker.

(1) In the summer of 1964, a Mr. Henry J. Roussel, Jr., informed the Warren Commission, through an affidavit executed on the 25th May of that year,

"That while in the United States Marine Corps I served for approximately three or four months with Lee Harvey Oswald in MACS-- 9 in Santa Ana, California.

On one occasion I arranged a date for Oswald with my aunt, Rosaleen Quinn, an airline stewardess who, because she was interested in working for the American Embassy in Russia, had taken a leave from her job in order to study Russian. I arranged a date because I knew of Oswald's study of the Russian language. I also arranged a date for my aunt with Lieutenant John

No to

He was leader Smagay Markovay US military language school

See Parker on Oswald's excellent Russian

Walt

How long -

Ex allens article on Oswald's Russian language

DEALEY PLAZA ECHO - Vol. 12, no. 3: November 2008

E. Donovan, I am under the impression that prior to studying Russian, Oswald studied German.

I don't remember his (Oswald) reading a Russian newspaper, and I do not recall his having any nicknames. (I was nicknamed "Beezer"). I do not remember Oswald having his name written in Russian on his jacket, and have no recollection of any visitors received by Oswald" (814, 293)

(2) The Warren Report commented:

"Most of the Marines who knew him [Oswald] were aware that he was studying Russian; one of them, Henry J. Roussel, Jr., arranged a date between Lee and his aunt, Rosaleen Quinn, an airline stewardess, who was also studying Russian. Miss Quinn thought that Oswald spoke Russian well in view of his lack of formal training..... (Page 685)

An important point: the Report never questions how Oswald, if he was entirely self-taught, and had no accomplished speaker to practice with, could have conversed in the language, at whatever level.

(3) The situation intrigued the investigative journalist Edward Jay Epstein ("LEGEND: THE SECRET WORLD OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD" (1978), and he interviewed Rosaleen Quinn. What she told Epstein made it clear that Oswald's fluency was far greater than the Warren Report indicated. Epstein writes -

"By the summer of 1959 Oswald had become so well known as a Russophile within the unit that one marine asked him to have dinner with his aunt, Rosaleen Quinn, an extremely attractive airline hostess from New Orleans, because she was studying Russian in preparation for the State of Department's foreign language

examination. She met Oswald in a cafeteria in Santa Anna, and they spoke in Russian for about 2 hours. Although she had been studying Russian with a Berlitz tutor for more than a year, she found that Oswald had a far more confident command of the language she did and could string entire sentences together without much hesitation. She asked him how he had learned Russian, and he shrugged that he had "taught himself" by listening to Radio Moscow."(1987). The story has a ring of truth

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Roussel's testimony did not suggest he knew Oswald personally --- barrack-room mates, for example, occasionally saw Oswald with a Russian newspaper (Epstein, p 86) --- and this implies that Roussel and Oswald, although both privates, were not closely associated --- that Roussel knew of Oswald predominantly by reputation. If Roussel didn't know Oswald personally, then the meeting would have been arranged not for Oswald's benefit, but for the linguistic advantage of Roussel's aunt, Rosaleen Quinn.

And since Rosaleen Quinn was tolerably fluent (albeit in the fashion of a student), a meeting with Oswald would have been of little advantage to her unless Oswald possessed a similar fluency. Obviously, before the meeting was finalized, Roussel would have assured himself that Oswald could speak Russian.

(4) Confirmation of this can be found in the December 1963 FBI account of their meeting with Rosaleen Quinn. The FBI reported that Rosaleen Quinn sought an "opportunity to practice speaking the language." (2411, 430 -- C1, 2015).

(5) Rosaleen Quinn talked with Oswald sometime in the summer of '59, ie on a date between 01.05.'59 to 31.08.'59. That is, Oswald was fluent in Russian

Handwritten: We know Oswald was at Navy School

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DEALEY PLAZA ECHO - Vol. 12, no. 3: November 2008

(at the very latest) by the end of August 59 (46 days before he embarked for the Soviet Union). And we can make an estimate of Oswald's vocabulary. Linguists talk about 'word families': a base word (say 'drive') plus three inflected forms (e.g. 'drove', 'driving', 'driven') plus three transparent derivatives (e.g. 'driver', 'driveaway', 'driving seat')

It is estimated that a 5 year old beginning school will have a vocabulary of between 4,000-5,000 word families, and that a university graduate, 15-16 years later, adding about 1,000 words for each year at school, will have a vocabulary of 20,000 word families (or, roughly, 120,000 separate words). [Check with linguistic websites: www.balancedealing.com/vocabulary.html and www.dtr.net/~ic/be/dtr/german/bibs/vocabcup.html]

If Oswald spoke in Russian for two hours with Rosalynn Quinn, it is difficult to believe that he could have done so with a smaller vocabulary than an intelligent 12-year old, that is, we can say: minimally that Oswald's Russian vocabulary must have been 12,000 word-families, (or possibly 6 x 12,000 = 72,000 separate words).

(6) When did Oswald start to learn Russian?

The Warren Report at one point (p 257) is quite definite: "While in Atsugi, Japan, Oswald studied the Russian language, perhaps with some help from an officer in his unit who was interested in Russian and used to 'talk about it' with Oswald occasionally."

[Why didn't the Commission determine whether such an officer existed, and if did exist, why didn't they interrogate him?] Oswald arrived in Atsugi on 18.03.58. According to Report, this

would be the earliest date that Oswald began to learn Russian, and --- by the very latest --- he was reasonably fluent by 31.08.59, i.e. a maximum period of 531 days (11/19B Business Calculator in)

Actually, the situation would be more extreme than this. We must subtract the 19 days that Oswald spent in hospital after he shot himself in the arm with a derringer (27.10.'57 to 15.11.1957), and the 47 days that Oswald spent in the 'brig' for the illegal possession of a fire arm (27.06.'58 to 13.08.58), reducing his maximum of 531 days available for study to a maximum of 465 days [531 - (47+ 19)].

(7) How long would it have taken Oswald to learn Russian?

The figures I'm going to work on come from the American State Department's Foreign Institute Services, which, on its website, says of itself:

"... the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) is the Federal Government's primary training institution for officers and support personnel of the U.S. foreign affairs community, preparing American diplomats and other professionals to advance U.S. foreign affairs interests overseas and in Washington. At the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, the FSI provides more than 450 courses -- including some 70 foreign languages -- to more than 50,000 enrollees a year from the State Department and more than 40 other government agencies and the military service branches" (www.state.gov/fsi/)

The FSI has compiled approximate learning expectations (based upon speaking and reading proficiencies) for 50 of the languages which it teaches. (www.nvtc.gov/lotw)

Sheet in Russian before he departed

check on this



DEALEY PLAZA ECHO - Vol. 12, no. 3: November 2008

How does the FSI assess Russian?

Perhaps the best way of answering is by comparing it with the FSI assessment of German, a language which many people have unsuccessfully attempted. Invariably German has been reported to be much more difficult than French (or Spanish). The FSI class-hour requirements confirm this. Whereas French could be learned within 575 class hours, the figure for German is 750 hours --- 30% longer, because possibly 30% more difficult.

But learning Russian, at 1,100 class hours, on this rather crude estimate, would be 47% more difficult than German, and --- we're being very simplistic, I know--- nearly twice as hard as French! Well done, Oswald!

But Oswald's accomplishment is even greater when we consider the following:

(a) FSI students are all aged about 40. (Oswald was 17/20 in the period we are considering, very much at the mercy of his hormones.)

(b) They all possess formal language ability; something established by their knowledge of at least another foreign language. (Oswald had difficulty with spelling, and his unstable and interrupted schooling would prevent the acquisition of linguistic ability. It is unlikely that Oswald had any certain knowledge of grammar).

(c) FSI students have sufficient control over their lives to schedule attendance at classes for 25 hours a week; in addition they must possess a degree of stability, self-discipline, and motivation for at least 3 hours self-directed daily study.

(Oswald was a private in the Marines; therefore his life was EXTERNALLY controlled, and in consequence, he could not have entered into

demanding private teaching schedules.)

(d) FSI classes are very small (no more than 6) so tuition (say for five hours per day for 5 consecutive days) would be highly personal. (According to the Warren Report, Oswald studied entirely on his own*, except, perhaps, "with occasional help from an officer")

* "Oswald never received any training from the Marine Corps in the Russian language. His studies of Russian were entirely on his own, alone and at his own initiative." The Report (p656)

(e) The weeks taken up for 1,100 hours of class study (a minimum figure) would be 44 (1100/25), and each week would require a minimum of 15 hours self-directed learning, giving a total of 1760 hours [(1100)+(15x44)]

(Working on his own --- nobody to explain difficult grammatical points --- Oswald would probably require 50% more time to reach a workable proficiency, ie 2,640 hours.) Bear in mind that these estimates are based on three assumptions (none of which applied to Oswald):

- (a) the students are ideal in character'
- (b) they are studying under ideal circumstances;
- (c) they are ideally motivated, their efforts leading to high-status, well paid, contractually secure work.

(8) If Oswald mastered Russian entirely on his own, then he would probably have completed 2,640 hours of study in 465 days, ie an average of 5 hours 41 minutes a day, and during this time he would have had to learn (and inwardly digest) 26 word families (or, say, 6 x 26 = 156 separate words a day).

(9) Quite apart from the sheer impossibility, firstly, of Oswald having

Non sense

This is a Concocted

See Rowbin or Monterey School - Oswald in Jan 27th St. Summit

DEALEY PLAZA ECHO - Vol. 12, no. 3: November 2008

anything like this amount of spare time each day, and, secondly, of Oswald being able to maintain such a high exertion for 15 months, there is, however, another problem: .

Epstein interviewed many Marines who knew Oswald in Japan; he reported that "None of his [Oswald's] barrack-room mates, however, remember Oswald's using a linguaphone or records to learn Russian, which suggests that he had some private means." (ps 85/86).

[* In my larger version of this article, I demonstrate the impossibility of this view.]

Something like twenty-seven years later John Armstrong conducted his own enquiries:

"..... I gathered FBI, Warren Commission and HSCA interviews of Marines who had known and served with Oswald in Japan. I wanted to see if any of the marines who knew Oswald in Japan saw him with a Russian book, Russian records, or Russian reading materials. Not surprisingly no one remembered seeing Oswald study the Russian language in Japan, where he was stationed until November 1958." (Website excerpt (page 7/21) from John Armstrong's "Harvey and Lee: How the CIA Framed Oswald" (2003). See: (www.jfkresearch.com/jfk101.htm)

In his book "Harvey & Lee" (2003) Armstrong has written (p 187) "When I told Zach Stout* the Warren Commission concluded that Oswald learnt to speak Russian in the Far East he said: "That's ridiculous. I never saw or heard him study any foreign language in Japan or anywhere else. Most of the time we were either aboard ship or on maneuvers in the Philippines. He didn't have time to study any foreign language.""

[*Zach Stout served with Oswald in Japan. He liked Oswald enormously;

went on leave with him, and enjoyed long walks with Oswald, inspecting battle-scarred fortifications. See Epstein ps 69, 71/72, 74, 77/8]

(10) If Epstein and Armstrong are right, then Oswald did not start his Russian studies at the very earliest until he departed Japan and arrived in San Francisco on the 15th of November 1958. He was speaking Russian with good fluency in the summer of '59, i.e by the 31st August '59 at the very latest. This gives him a maximum of 289 days for 2,640 hours of Russian language study, i.e a daily average of at least 9 hours 8 mins each day (2640/289 = 9.13); during this time, he would have had to have learned a minimum of 40 new word-families a day, i.e 240 separate words.

(11) Nelson Delgado, a close barrack-room mate of Oswald during the Santa Ana (California) period, told the Commission that he taught Oswald Spanish, and that Oswald got himself a dictionary, and actually spoke to him in the language (SH,240/1). This is hardly compatible with Oswald spending a minimum 9 hours daily learning Russian.

(12) Delgado also told the Commission that Oswald "spoke Russian pretty good".

(13) This assertion received support from Erwin Lewis, who was stationed with Oswald at Santa Ana, California signed on the 6th June 1964, an affidavit in which he stated that it was "a matter of common knowledge among squadron members that he [Oswald] could read, write and speak Russian." (SH, 323)

(14) About three months before Lewis signed his affidavit, the Commission had heard a similar story from Lt John Donovan who commanded Oswald's

DEALEY PLAZA ECHO - Vol. 12, no. 3: November 2008

California code unit. He informed the Commission that Oswald had told him that "he was interested in learning Russian. And he took great pride in the fact that he could speak R. He couldn't prove it by me, because I don't speak Russian. But he said he could, and his contemporaries believed he could. As far as I know, he could." (SH, 292)

(15) Mrs (Anna) Meller was one of the first members of the Russian-speaking community to meet Lee and Marina on their arrival in Dallas. She told the Commission, in answer to a question about Oswald's proficiency in Russian that his command of the language exceeded, absolutely, what would be expected if he had first learnt it during his 2 1/3 years in the country. (SH, 382).

(16) This assessment was endorsed (albeit, weakly) by a yet another member of the Dallas Russian speaking community, Ukrainian Mrs Frank (Valentina) Ray (SH, 421)

(17) However Stalingrad born Mrs Thomas (Natalie) Ray strongly supported Mrs. Meller's assessment. Natalie Ray was very impressed with Oswald's fluency ("just perfect") and was quite emphatic that Oswald's short stay (2 1/2 years) could not explain his ease of speech (SH, 31).

(18) Besides John Armstrong ---and his coverage is surprisingly inadequate --- I cannot think of anyone post-Epstein who has expatiated on Rosalynn Quim. [But I'm very much open to disagreement.] I notice that Walt Brown's Global Index confirms this. On the subject of Rosalynn Quim, his index finds only four (secondary-source) writers: 97-98 in Cutler and Morris, "Alias Oswald"; 87 in Epstein, "Legend"; 11 in Melanson, "Spy Saga"; 201 in Smith, "Second Plot"; 154 in Summers, "Conspiracy".

*(19) And remember the incident **did** take place: its historicity lies deeper than Epstein: it is embedded in the Commission's evidentiary base. (R 685 SH, 293; SH, 316, 322 241, 430)*

*(20) But, so embedded, its lies like a coiled spring, and when released --- when brought to the forefront of serious discussion --- **it vaults into nothingness all conventional ideas about Oswald, because...***

*(21) it establishes that Oswald was a natural Russian speaker --- something **not** in his accepted background --- and, in consequence, shouts "**Legend!**", ie that we are dealing with a false, constructed background (CIA?), as would be given under, say, a witness-protection scheme.*

What we are saying is that the alleged assassin who was shot by Jack Ruby, the man who, according to Bugliosi argued so fluently with his Russian wife in her own tongue, could not have been the poorly educated Lee Oswald who was brought up in working-class, often crime ridden, districts without either a natural (or a substitute) father, and who, by time he entered the Marines, at the age of 17, had suffered 18 changes of address leading to 13 changes of school, and who scored below average on his Marine aptitude test.

(22) This fact --- that Oswald was a natural Russian speaker --- does not by itself oblige us to accept John Armstrong's thesis of two Oswald's; within the parameters of this fact, is the alternative: that we are dealing with a single person whose background is a CIA "legend. (Armstrong's two-persons "Harvey and Lee" is based on additional, 'multiple places at once' considerations)*

*Oswald, although fluent, spoke with a strong accent, with grammatical lapses.

DEALEY PLAZA ECHO - Vol. 12, no. 3: November 2008

mostly in his noun endings (8H, 421)
Mrs Frank (Valentina) Ray (8H, 421)
pointed this out, and her observation was
endorsed by the whole community.

Dr. Peter Gregory, who initially was
Marina Oswald's interpreter, thought
that Oswald spoke Russian with a Polish
accent (2H, 346); his son, Paul, who
was, at the time of his testimony, was
studying for a Masters degree in Russian
Language and Literature at Oklahoma
university, admired Oswald's fluency
and his comprehension, but, like
Valentina Ray, thought his grammar was
often poor, with Marina occasionally
having to correct him. (9H, 149).

(23) Neither Posner, Malier, nor
Bugliosi mention Rosaleen Quinn, but
--- note this! --- all three quote from
Epstein, so all three must have read
Epstein's interview with Rosaleen
Quinn. No comment. Draw your own
conclusion.

(24) Armstrong's leading critics
(Bugliosi, Tracy W. Parnell*, and David
Reitzes**) do not mention the Russian-
language issue. It seems for them to be
off limits.

[*[http://meadams.pose.mtu.edu/parnell/h
&lmam.htm](http://meadams.pose.mtu.edu/parnell/h&lmam.htm)]

**[http://jkassassination.net/parnell/dr1.
htm](http://jkassassination.net/parnell/dr1.htm)]

This article (3,284 words) is an
abridgement of a 9,000 word article,
available on e-mail
(greenink@tesco.net).

I have written on Oswald and the
Russian Language --- part of my
"Harvey and Lee" project. Interest is
welcome --- and will be acknowledged.

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ROSMAN RESPONDS TO
HAL VERB

Dear Editor

In the March edition of the Journal, I
said that I would answer (in July) HAL
VERB'S letter, which he wrote in
response to my first article. Here is my
reply:-

There is a deep misunderstanding at the
heart of Hal Verb's letter. In my article I
was *not* concerned with determining
what actually happened at Dealey Plaza
but with what orthodoxy, in the form of
the Single Bullet theory, claimed had
happened.

My concern was firstly, with how the
Single Bullet theory came into being,
and, secondly, with how it is currently
being advocated, especially by Dale
Myers, it's most capable exponent.
Unlike Hal Verb, I have no idea when
the first shot was fired, nor can I
profitably speculate in what particular
Zapruder frame Kennedy was first
struck. And in my four of articles I offer
no such speculation.

Strictly speaking, I could end this letter
here, but out of respect to Hal Verb (for
flattering me by taking the trouble to
write); I feel that common decency
prompts an acknowledgement.
Moreover, some of the points raised will
be of interest to DPUK readers.

I agree very much with Robert Frazier
that the only person we actually see
being shot on the Zapruder film is
Kennedy at Z313; like Frazier, I regard
everything else as being inferential.
I have a strong feeling --- it's purely a
gut reaction --- that far more theories are
read *into* the Zapruder than *out* of it.

DEALEY PLAZA ECHO - Vol. 12, no. 3: November 2008

[“Mr. FRAZIER, I will say this—I have looked at the film and have seen evidence of one shot occurring which struck the President in the head. That was at frame 313..... Nowhere else in this film have I seen any indication of a bullet striking either the President or the Governor. (5H, 172)]

About Alterations to the Zapruder Film

At the time I started the first article I was struck by the fact that in frames 236-7, Connally's shoulders are pushed back, and his body slopes backwards. He appears to have been shot from the front, but since this is an impossibility, I inferred that these frames were not the strike (impulse momentum point), but showed Connally reacting to a strike point some frames earlier.

However, not being able to identify such a strike point, I inferred that the impact frames had been removed. I have now had second thoughts. After reading a very sound article on ballistics (<http://homepages.sols.co.uk/autogun/ballistics.htm>)

I realized that although Connally would be pushed forward on impact, the extent would not be as great as I had imagined (certainly not nearly as great as shooting sequences from films and tv would suggest), and with this revisionist thought in mind I re-examined the Zapruder film. My tentative conclusion was (for reasons given in the current article) that Z230-1 could be impact point.

I felt that any difficulties in supporting this view would be considerably less than those involved in the removal of frames (how could they have been be removed from so many surviving copies (genuine and bootleg?). However, there are still great difficulties. There is, for me, the chief problem that the Zapruder

film does not show the presidential ear slowing immediately prior to the fatal head wound, so I'm still open to doubt. [See “The JFK Assassination Debates”, by Professor Michael L. Kurtz, University of Kansas Press, 2006, ps 103-6]

Kennedy Hit at Z189?

Hal Verb admits that Kennedy is waving to the crowd prior to Z205, and I find it difficult to believe that Kennedy, despite being hit by a rifle bullet, is able to continue waving, especially if the first hit is not a dud charge round in the back, but a bullet through the front-left of his neck (as postulated by Hal Verb in his April '04 article “Zeroing in on the Missed Shot in President Kennedy's Assassination.”)

I can see nothing in the Zapruder film suggesting that Kennedy has been struck at about Z189-91; nor can I see that Kennedy has been injured before Z207. Admittedly, I have not experienced the advantage of 'stop-motion enlargement', etc., and so I am not going to be dogmatic. However simple tiredness (an aching arm, and nothing more) could explain Kennedy's right hand drop (to an area around his throat), and the film blurs could have an equally innocent explanation: Zapruder re-adjusting his pedestal position, an explanation made all the more likely by the fact that at the outset of the filming he nearly fell of the 4ft high pedestal. [Six Seconds in Dallas, p4]

It is well known, of course, that the HSCA favoured Z190 as the time Kennedy was first hit.

“By Zapruder frame 207, when President Kennedy is seen going behind a sign that obstructed Zapruder's view, he appears to be reacting to a severe external stimulus. This reaction is first indicated in the vicinity of frame 200 of

DEALEY PLAZA ECHO - Vol. 12, no. 3: November 2008

the Zapruder film. The President's right hand freezes in the midst of a waving motion, followed by a rapid leftward movement of his head. There is, therefore, photographic evidence of a shot striking the President by this time." (HSCA Report and Vol. 6:17)

I accept that Kennedy is reacting to an external stimulus but I think 'severe' is rather too strong a word. Kennedy's somewhat anomalous right arm movements could be explained by his possible difficulty in keeping his right armpit over the side of the car (all part of his possible arm ache) --- he was sitting in an extreme position --- and, as Jackie said in her WCT, the noise in the vicinity of the car was terrific, what with the enthusiastic crowd and the backfiring motorbikes, and possibly even the odd firecracker --- plenty of external stimuli for Kennedy to respond to. For this reason, I find it hard to accept the HSCA's "therefore" in the sentence "There is, therefore, photographic evidence of a shot striking the President by this time..."

[Jackie Kennedy "You know, there is always noise in a motorcade and there are always motorcycles, besides us, a lot of them backfiring. So I was looking to the left. I guess there was a noise, but it didn't seem like any different noise really because there is so much noise, motorcycles and things." (SH, 180)]

Actually, there is one very strong reason for doubting Z190 as a strike point, especially for a Hal-Verb type shot in the front of the neck

Kennedy shows no sudden movement forwards, backwards, or leftwards. He uninterruptedly maintains his erect posture.

Nothing like Connally's shoulder drop and forward movement in Z229.31
[Read the Secret Service affidavits,

written within a day or so of the Assassination, at the back of *Mortal Error*, and all the agents agree on Kennedy's leftward movement (lurch, really) immediately the rifle shot was heard.

I would argue strongly --- no space here --- that Kennedy lurched leftwards, probably (very roughly) between Z207 and Z215, recoiled rightwards just after Z221 (very much on the right at Z225), and slumped leftwards (again) at about Z230.]

The only movements under discussion (by the likes of Hal Verb) are those of Kennedy's arms and Jackie's head (a sharp turn from the left to facing her husband on the right). These arm movements --- so small as to be noticeable only under advanced techniques --- could not (surely?) have been Kennedy's *only* reaction to being hit in the neck by a bullet travelling at 2,000 ft./sec.. Clearly there is something to be explained --- something must have happened --- but not I think a bullet wound in the neck. Kennedy --- to recap --- could have had a sudden spasm of excruciating back pain; his arm (on the side of the car) could have badly slipped; Zapruder could have at the same time felt himself falling; there could have been a firecracker --- a lot of things all happening at the same time.

A very persuasive discussion can be found in Barb Junkkarinen's "First Shot First Hit Circa Z190" at http://www.gsa.ari.edu/JFKissues_and_evidence/single_bullet_theory/Junkkarinen::first_shot1.html

[See also Chapter 13 ("Photographic Proof of Conspiracy") in David Weane's "The Zapruder Film" (2003, University of Kansas)]

Yours, Alarie Rosman