

Notes in Chapter 3 re: Tague - NOT to repeat

Return of Revisions to Captain 5/13/11

of the shots came from the sixth floor of the TSBD, the location of the so-called "sniper's nest." To highlight the line of fire, Gauthier's technicians attached three strands of luminescent string from the "sniper's nest" to each model of the presidential limousine at the presumed approximate location where each shot struck a target. Except for some disagreement about the exact location of the presidential limo when each shot was fired, the Secret Service was in basic agreement with the Bureau's scenario of three shots, and three hits.<sup>31</sup>

While the Dealey Plaza three-dimensional model was a tribute to the Exhibits Section's carpentry skills, it was fundamentally and willfully flawed. The FBI model failed to account for the missed or so-called "wild shot" that struck the curb on the south side of Main Street and wounded bystander James T. Tague. The FBI knew about the curbstone shot the day of the assassination. Deputy Sheriff Eddy R. "Buddy" Walthers filed an investigative report on the Tague bullet with the Dallas County Sheriff's Department. Walthers had James Underwood of KRLD-TV, a Dallas station, and Tom Dillard of *The Dallas Morning News* take photographs of the point of impact on the curbstone where Tague was standing and hit in the face by either a piece of cement or a bullet fragment. One of Dillard's photographs appeared in *The Dallas Morning News* the following day with the caption "Concrete Scar." The short narrative under the photo read "A detective points to a chip in the curb . . . A bullet from the rifle that took President Kennedy's life apparently caused the hole." At the insistent<sup>ca</sup> of Walthers and a Dallas motorcycle cop, Tague reported his minor wound to the Homicide Section of the Dallas Police Department that same day. Clearly, the Tague bullet was not an assassination event that went unnoticed and unrecorded.<sup>32</sup>

Paragraph for next  
See sources

The FBI did not get around to interviewing Tague until he called the Dallas office. The interview took place on 14 December 1963, more than three weeks after the assassination and five days after the FBIHQ submitted its report to the Warren Commission. The FBI report of the interview noted that Tague, after being struck on the face, "looked around the curb and near where he was standing there was a chip missing." Later, when FBI agent Robert P. Gemberling wrote up the Dallas field office report on the assassination, section B of the report read: "One Bullet Fired During Assassination Went Wild, Crashed into a Curb and Struck Jim Tague." In June 1964, just when the Commission originally expected to end its inquiry, a set of circumstances beyond its control and unanticipated by the FBI, forced the Commission to radically revise its treatment of the shooting. It was forced to reject the FBI and Secret Service's three shots, and three hits scenario, in order to try and account for the missed shot. Even an FBIHQ internal memo allowed for the possibility "that one of the shots fired by Oswald did go wild".<sup>33</sup> The FBI never got around to examining the curbstone until August 1964, and then only after the Warren Commission requested an investigation, only to find that any evidence of a missile impact had been patched over!<sup>34</sup>

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J. Edgar Hoover

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Gauthier's imposing model was another calculated maneuver in the FBI's campaign to control the investigation and defend the official solution to the crime. Facts, like the Tague bullet, that were inconvenient did not survive the FBI's Procrustean method of determining materiality in the Kennedy assassination. Oswald was the lone assassin and the mock-up in the Assembly Room, the charts, the maps, and the impressively bound visual aid manual allowed for no other possibility. The three discharged cartridge cases found at the "sniper's nest" were consistent with the official