

Midnight

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**Ordered To Buy
Rifles For A 'Hit',
Ex-CIA Agent Tells...**

How I Helped Murder JFK

—Pages 2 and 3

Ex-CIA gun expert reveals more

By J. DAVID TRUBY
MIDNIGHT Contributing Editor

Robert D. Morrow. Remember the name. For when the truth about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is finally written into our history books, his name will be on Page 1.

By his own admission, Robert D. Morrow, acting on CIA orders, supplied the gun that killed the President.

This is what he recently testified in secret hearings before the House Select Committee on Assassinations. But more than that, it is Morrow's story of a far-reaching conspiracy, in which Lee Harvey Oswald was set up as a patsy, that led to the formation of the controversial committee in the first place.

Unwittingly, Morrow played a vital part in the successful conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

From 1961 to 1964, he was employed by the CIA as a specialist in weaponry and electronic equipment. Based on his experiences during those years, and additional information supplied by CIA and FBI agents, Morrow put together a book called "Betrayal." It was that book which prompted Congressman Thomas A. Downing to push for a re-investigation into the assassination and become the committee's first chairman.

As Morrow's story goes, Jack Ruby, a group of anti-Castro Cubans and a right-wing faction within the CIA engineered the assassination.

Three teams of professional "hit" men took up positions in Dallas' Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963, and fired on the President, says Morrow. Lee Harvey Oswald, who was a CIA agent, was set up to take the rap.

The plan, as detailed in "Betrayal," is sophisticated, intricate — and open to some question, since it's largely based on second-hand information. But the role that Morrow himself played is difficult to dispute.

"I bought the rifles that may have been used to kill President Kennedy because the CIA ordered me to," he says flatly.

"The so-called Oswald rifle was not the actual murder weapon and Lee Oswald didn't shoot anyone.

"Oswald's rifle was a 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle while the ones I bought were the 7.35 mm models. The ones I bought were selected specifically as sniper rifles and were quite excellent weapons.

"The Oswald rifle was by comparison, a piece of inaccurate junk."

For years ballistics experts

'A switch was made in the confusion so the Oswald rifle would be found and the real killers could escape'

have been concurring with this assessment of Oswald's rifle. They say it could not possibly have discharged three bullets in 6.3 seconds — the measured time in which the shots were fired. And not even expert marksmen have been able to duplicate Oswald's alleged accuracy using the clumsy outmoded weapon.

To the layman, the numbers 6.5 mm (Oswald's rifle) and 7.35 mm (Morrow's rifles) don't mean much. The weapons are look-alikes. But the difference between them, all experts agree, is tremendous.

"A switch was made somewhere in the confusion



shocking details in the

A
MIDNIGHT
In-Depth
Report

How I

DISPATCH		CLASSIFICATION	PROCESSING ACTION
TO			MARKED FOR INDEXING
INFO.			NO INDEXING REQUIRED
FROM			ONLY QUALIFIED DESK CAN JUDGE INDEXING
SUBJECT: REPORT PREPARED FOR DEFENSE MINISTER		MICROFILM	
1. CONCERNING THE TYPE RIFLE ALLEGEDLY USED BY LEE OSWALD			
ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCE THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY			
<i>Report on type of rifle used in Kennedy assassination</i>			
1. SHORTLY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY DEFENSE MINISTER REQUESTED THE SERVICE TO FURNISH HIM A REPORT COVERING THE CHARACTERISTICS AND POSSIBLE ORIGIN OF THE RIFLE ALLEGEDLY USED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED AND FORWARDED. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN THE EXACT REASON REQUESTED THIS REPORT OR WHAT, IF ANY, DISPOSITION HE MADE OF IT. SET OUT BELOW IS A TRANSLATION OF THE REPORT IN QUESTION--			
28 NOVEMBER 1963			
INFORMATION ON THE WEAPON PRESUMABLY USED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY			
1. AS REGARDS ARTICLES APPEARING RECENTLY IN THE ITALIAN AND FOREIGN PRESS CONCERNING THE PRESUMED USE OF AN ITALIAN-MADE RIFLE IN THE SLAYING OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE MADE.			
2. THE WEAPON WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED IN THIS ORIGINAL ATTACK IS A MODEL 91 RIFLE, 7.35 CALIBER, 1938 MODIFICATION			

This first CIA memo accurately describes the murder rifle - but later the evidence was ignored

after the President's murder," Morrow continued, "so the Oswald rifle would be found for evidentiary purposes and the real killers could escape with the actual murder weapons, in all probability, the 7.35 mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifles I bought on CIA orders."

A declassified CIA memo, written just six days after the assassination, lends strong support to Morrow's statements.

"The weapon which appears to have been employed in this criminal act is a model 91 rifle, 7.35 caliber, 1938 modification," the CIA document notes.

Somewhere, somehow in the

chaotic days that followed the assassination, that description was mysteriously changed to fit Oswald's rifle.

Yet that same CIA document states that the 6.5 mm rifles (Oswald's) were sold to American arms dealers for as little as \$1.10 each. The weapons were imported into the U.S. classed as scrap iron.

In addition, according to a number of gun experts, Oswald's rifle was a downright danger to anyone who fired it. As the dean of arms experts Jack O'Connor wrote in his text "The Rifle Book," the 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano rifle "has a coy habit of blowing the firing pin out in the shooter's face."

How then does Morrow believe the weapons he innocently obtained ended up being used to kill President Kennedy? And how were the conspirators able to incriminate Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin?

Morrow says he managed to piece together the chilling tale from a variety of confidential sources.

"There was an on-going conspiracy to kill President Kennedy within a right-wing Cuban exile group with strong CIA connections," he explains.

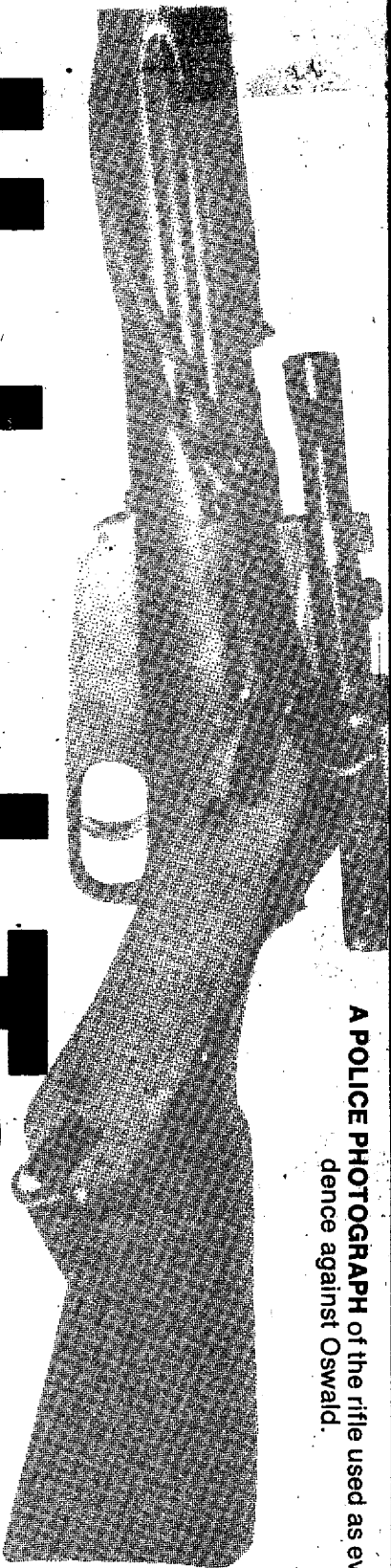
"This group was headquartered in New Orleans and was under the control of Clay Shaw, a CIA agent."

This is the same Clay Shaw accused by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison of being a conspirator in the assassination. He was acquitted of this charge in 1967, and Garrison was held up to considerable ridicule as a result.

"The conspiracy to murder the President," Morrow goes on, "revolved operationally around Clay Shaw, his Cubans, plus some American mercenaries with both Mafia and CIA connections."

"Jack Ruby, David Ferrie and Guy Bannister, all CIA agents, coordinated the effort, while Ruby hand-picked his friend Lee Oswald, another CIA employee, as the

Plot to Kill JFK



A POLICE PHOTOGRAPH of the rifle used as evidence against Oswald.

Helped To Murder Kennedy

'I bought the rifles that

may have been used to kill

President Kennedy because

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passy for the murder.
Jack Ruby discovered that Oswald had purchased an obsolete 6.5 mm Italian rifle through a mail order house, using one of his CIA aliases. Ruby passed this information along to Shaw, Banister and Ferrie when they met in

New Orleans in July
of 1963.

"This is when they decided to make the hit using the highly accurate 7.35 mm rifle, which looks just like the inferior 6.5 mm version that Oswald owned.

"I've been told that Bannister got the idea of getting the 7.35 mm sniper rifles, and using fragmentation ammunition for the murder."

A fragmentation bullet, it should be noted, disintegrates on contact with human bone.

"Then," Morrow continues, "the conspirators would plant a few bullets pre-fired from Oswald's rifle as evidence.

The plotters agreed and Clay Shaw, as a CIA officer, contacted the Agency to request 7.35 mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifles for a 'mission involving his Cubans out of the country,' as he told the CIA people in Washington."

Morrow says, "This is where I became involved. My case officer called me and ordered me to purchase four such rifles. I was later to learn that Clay Shaw had told the case officer that he was going to have his Cubans hit Juan Bosch, an old CIA enemy who was a close ally of Fidel

Castro.

"My case officer specified the 7.35 mm sniper model, which involved nothing more than my selecting units for superior workmanship. I located the rifle at the Sunny Surplus Store in nearby Towson, Maryland. I bought four rifles, two that day and two later.

"In the meantime," Morrow continued, "to get the 'patsy' involved, David Ferrie had contacted Oswald. The two knew each other from both CIA work and from being in the same Civil Air Patrol unit.

"Ferrie convinced Oswald that Shaw's CIA group wanted to have a look at Oswald's 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano rifle because they were considering using weapons like this on a special mission out of the country.

"Actually," Morrow concluded, "they only wanted his rifle so they could fire some bullets into cotton for later use as planted evidence.

"Their hitmen would make the kill with the superior 7.35 mm sniper rifles using fragmentation bullets, which would shatter on impact and be almost impossible to trace.



ROBERT D. MORROW, former CIA agent, with one of the 7.35 mm rifles he bought for the "kill Kennedy" conspiracy.

They would leave Oswald's rifle and cartridges as evidence for the police to find.

"Then Jack Ruby would plant at least one already-fired bullet from Oswald's rifle at Parkland Hospital. Police work and publicity did the rest."

Morrow's last point, that Ruby planted a cartridge on an empty stretcher — the one used to carry wounded Texas Governor John Connally — is at least partially documented.

Ruby was at Parkland Hospital only minutes after the President and the Governor were rushed in.

There has been much controversy about that bullet which Ruby allegedly planted. It is the "magic" bullet which supposedly hit both Kennedy and Connolly yet remained in pristine condition.

After Morrow purchased the rifles, he explains, they were picked up at his home in

Roseland, Maryland by a Cuban CIA courier.

"I gave the courier only three of the four rifles because one had a defective machine screw," he adds. "I still have that fourth rifle in my possession today."

Robert D. Morrow is convinced that a rifle identical to the one he owns was used to kill Kennedy.

He is convinced that CIA agent Lee Harvey Oswald was set up as a patsy by a

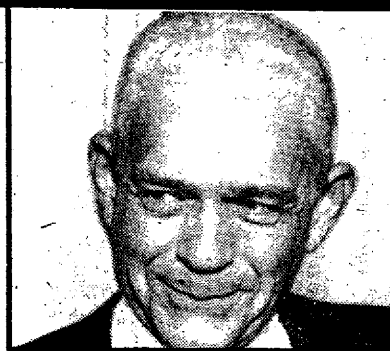
conspiracy of anti-Castro Cubans and a right-wing splinter group of CIA dissidents.

He believes that after the assassination, Oswald's rifle was switched with the real murder weapon.

And he is convinced that by following CIA orders, he unknowingly played a key role in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Robert D. Morrow is the man who supplied the gun.

The Accuser And The Accused



LIKE ROBERT MORROW, New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison (left) accused Clay Shaw (center) of conspiracy to murder JFK. Now Morrow has also named David Ferrie pictured right shortly before his death.