

Expert Is Sure Body Is Oswald's

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ATLANTA, Oct. 19 — The Lee Harvey Oswald who was buried in Fort Worth is the Lee Harvey Oswald who was in the Marine Corps, according to G. Robert Blakey, former staff director for the House Assassinations Committee.

His comment was made in response to the Dallas County Medical Examiner's request that the authorities in neighboring Tarrant County dig up the body of the man who assassinated President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Dr. Charles S. Petty, the Dallas County Medical Examiner, wants to check the body's teeth against dental X-rays to establish its identity beyond a doubt, apparently in reaction to questions raised in 1977 book by Michael H. B. Eddowes, a British author. Mr. Eddowes maintained that the body buried in the grave was really that of a Soviet K.G.B. agent posing as Oswald, a switch accomplished when Oswald was in the Soviet Union, where he met his wife, Marina.

'Question Is a Non-Question'

"I have read his book and it is trash," Mr. Blakey said in a telephone interview from Washington. "This whole question is a non-question."

Mr. Blakey, who is a professor of law at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., said: "The committee carefully looked into the so-called 'two Oswalds theory,' which holds that one man went to Russia and another came back. There is nothing to it."

He cited a number of problems with the theory, including its need for Oswald's mother and brother to have been deceived and the unlikely prospect of the K.G.B.'s choosing to supplant a man with known Soviet ties and then having the man return to this country to assassinate the President.

"Not only are there those problems," Mr. Blakey said, "but fingerprint analysis matched those of the dead man to those of Oswald the marine; a panel of handwriting experts examined samples of his writing and signatures from throughout his life and ruled it a certainty — no doubt whatsoever — that he was Oswald, and a panel of forensic anthropologists studied photographs taken of him

over time, checking even his ear lobes, and they identified the man as Lee Harvey Oswald. The experts simply considered it an open and shut case.

"It is a matter of deep regret," Mr. Blakey continued, "that this kind of thing continues to arise and distract people's attention from the hard questions, such as why the Justice Department has not completed an investigation of acoustical evidence that indicates the presence of more than one assassin in Dallas, or the cozy relationship between the F.B.I. and the newspapers in St. Louis in the Martin Luther King case."

He did not elaborate, but the House assassinations committee said in its final report last summer that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had written derogatory material about Dr. King that found its way almost verbatim into the editorials of a St. Louis newspaper and "created a climate" antagonistic to the civil rights movement.

Dr. Petty said in a telephone interview that he had never met Mr. Eddowes and was not taking the questions with undue concern.

"We have Oswald's dental X-rays and we can just go into the ground and get him and check the X-rays and see what we've got," he said. "I think it's easier to go the route of examining and locking than to speculate for years. This is what we're here for — to scientifically investigate crime."

Author Suing for Exhumation

He also said that he had not read Mr. Eddowes's book, which is entitled 'The Oswald File.' The author lost a lawsuit demanding an exhumation of Oswald's body but is appealing the decision.

Marvin Collins, an Assistant District Attorney for Tarrant County, said that county officials would not exhume the body unless the court ordered it. Such an order would override the opposition previously expressed by Marguerite Oswald, the assassin's mother. Mr. Eddowes maintains in his book that the mother, too, was fooled by the imposter, but she has often said that she has "never had any doubts" that her son is in the Texas earth.

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