

Up-dating Changes,

Accessories After The Fact

(Meagher, May 1968)

Page preceding table of contents, "Acknowledgements"

Delete in entirety

Page 29

Insert the following new paragraph at the end of footnote 19 at the bottom of the page:

The same theme was taken up in the CBS News Inquiry on the Warren Report, broadcast on network television in June 1967. CBS experts claimed that three blurred frames of the Zapruder film (frames 190, 227, and 318) corresponded with the three shots fired. Although the Zapruder film includes at least five other frames, not mentioned by CBS, no less blurred than frames 190, 227, and 318, CBS concluded triumphantly that the Commission's finding of a lone assassin could be sustained even without the single-missile theory. This specious line of reasoning becomes almost comical when one takes into account that the main purpose was to expand the time-span between the first two shots so as to provide the minimum of 2.3 seconds or 42 frames between two shots from the Carcano rifle, but that the interval between the first two blurred frames cited by CBS is only 37 frames. In their zeal to vindicate the Commission's findings, the CBS experts evidently overlooked the fatal shortfall of five frames, which is sufficient to invalidate the whole argument even if there were not some eight or more blurred frames to destroy the alleged correlation with three shots.

Insert the following new footnote at the end of line 5:

*In the CBS News Inquiry on the Warren Report which was shown on network television in June 1967, rifle tests utilizing a moving target were conducted in an attempt to achieve greater verisimilitude than the marksmanship tests on which the Warren Commission relied. CBS reported the results in general terms, acknowledging that 17 out of 37 attempts to fire three shots in succession failed because the rifle ~~failed~~ jammed but concluding that Oswald could have fired three shots at the Presidential car within the time-limit of 5.6 seconds.

Subsequently, a detailed account of the CBS rifle tests with the results for each of eleven participants, by name, came into my possession. On the basis of 37 attempts, the eleven expert riflemen got an average of less than one hit each. Despite the valiant effort by CBS to restore credibility to the Warren Report, it managed to throw even greater doubt than before on the Commission's conclusion that Oswald possessed the rifle capability to get two and perhaps even three hits out of three tries in 5.6 seconds.

Page 114

Last paragraph, line 2: Insert the following new footnote to the phrase "shells found at the sixth-floor window of the Book Depository":

*J. D. Thompson has brought to light the arresting fact that one of the three shells has a sharp dent in its lip and, in its present condition, could not have been fired in any rifle on November 22, 1963. Thompson considers it highly unlikely that the cartridge case could have been damaged after it was discovered. The possibility that this was a piece of planted evidence to incriminate an innocent man is enhanced by the added fact that the dented shell has different marks from the other two shells; and that the only mark on it which links it to the Carcano rifle could not have been incurred on the day of the assassination. (Six Seconds in Dallas by J. D. Thompson, Bernard Geis Associates, New York, 1966, pages 143-145)

Insert the following new footnote to the sentence numbered "(6)":

*The failure to take testimony from Sibert and O'Neill should be viewed in the light of the fact that Arlen Specter questioned the two FBI agents on March 12, 1964, at which time they not only reiterated their account of the autopsy but even reinforced it. (Six Seconds in Dallas, page 45) The hazard to the single-missile theory which would have arisen if Sibert and O'Neill had been permitted to place their observations on record in sworn testimony is only too apparent.

Insert the following new footnote at the end of line 5:

*Members of the Commission's staff met with Army wound ballistics experts on April 14, 1964, and again on April 21, 1964. At the second meeting, two of the ballistics experts expressed the strong opinion that the stretcher bullet could not have produced all of the Governor's wounds without suffering more distortion, and that he had been hit by two different bullets. Subsequently, when the Army ballistics experts gave testimony before the Commission, counsel Specter--who was present at the April 21 meeting--was careful not to ask them if the stretcher bullet could have caused all the Governor's wounds. Specter inquired only about the theoretical possibility that one bullet could have done so.

(Six Seconds in Dallas, pages 151-152, 206-208)

The CBS News Inquiry on the Warren Report attempted to legitimize the discredited single-missile theory by conducting new wound penetration ballistics tests. Not one of the CBS test bullets was able to simulate the feats ascribed to the stretcher bullet, but this did not deter CBS from concluding that its tests vindicated the single-missile theory. However, CBS did not display any of its test bullets, leaving open the pivotal problem of whether a bullet could emerge in the same pristine condition as the stretcher bullet (a notion which has been repudiated by many experts). I therefore wrote to CBS requesting photographs or descriptions of the test bullets but CBS, in a letter dated July 13, 1967, declined to provide this information.

Page 279-280

Delete the last two paragraphs on page 279 (beginning with the words "According to the list of items of evidence...") and the first two paragraphs on page 280 (ending with the words "...destroys it outright.") and insert the following:

According to the list of items of evidence turned over to the FBI by the Dallas police on November 28, 1963, the gray zipper jacket bore a laundry (dry-cleaner) tag "B 9738." (CE 2003, p.117) A document in the Archives indicates that the jacket also bore a laundry mark, "30030." (Commission Document 868 Archives) The published exhibits do not indicate any attempt by the police or the FBI to trace the dry-cleaning or laundry marks, in accordance with standard investigative procedure. An unsupported identification by Marina Oswald, who changed her testimony repeatedly on other matters, was scarcely enough to establish ownership. Moreover, Marina Oswald told the FBI in an interview on April 1, 1964 that:

...she cannot recall that Oswald ever sent either of these jackets to any laundry or cleaners anywhere. She said she can recall washing them herself. She advised to her knowledge Oswald possessed both of these jackets at Dallas on November 22, 1963. (CE 1843)

Documents discovered in the Archives by J.D. Thompson in 1967 indicate that after this interview, the FBI carried out a canvass of all dry-cleaning and laundry establishments in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and then in New Orleans. A total of 717 establishments were canvassed, with negative results in every instance, and the failure to trace the laundry marks on the jacket was suppressed by the Commission, from its exhibits as well as its Report. It appears that the canvass, like other serious probes into the so-called evidence against Oswald, served only to diminish it, or destroy it outright. (Six Seconds in Dallas, pages 228-230)

Index

Insert: Thompson, J. D., 114 fn., 148 fn., 279-280

Insert: Six Seconds in Dallas, 114 fn., 148 fn., 170 fn.

Insert after "Specter, Arlen," 148 fn.

Insert after "Single-missile hypothesis," 148 fn.

Insert: CBS News Inquiry on the Warren Report, 29 fn., 108 fn., 170 fn.