

THE FOURTH DECADE

1963

1973

1983

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2003

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

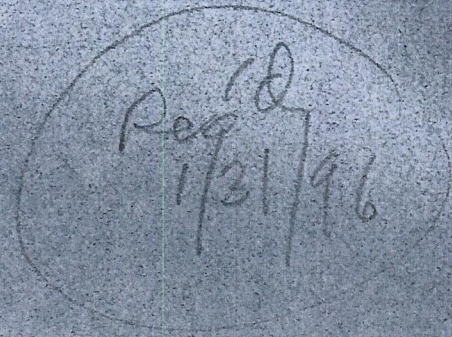
JANUARY, 1996

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A JOURNAL OF RESEARCH
ON THE
JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

ISSN 0888-5230



THE FOURTH DECADE (formerly **THE THIRD DECADE**) is published bimonthly at State University College Fredonia NY 14063. Editor and publisher: Jerry D. Rose. Subscription rates: \$25 for one year; \$45 for two years; \$65 for three years. Single issues \$5.

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Back cover illustration: Lee Oswald Takes a Note

Shown is an enlargement of an item from Lee Harvey Oswald's notebook, as printed in vol. 16 of the Warren Report. The references therein to the notable Nazis Dan Burros and George Lincoln Rockwell and the conspiratorial implications thereof, are the basis for the article, "Oswald and the Nazis", this issue.

BOLTON FORD DEALERSHIP CLUES

by
Steve N. Bochan

Many debaters who argue for the "official version" accuse those of us who argue for conspiracy that it has been 32 years and still no one has been able to put forth a coherent theory that matches all the "available" evidence in the case. Some even accuse us of concentrating on the "minutia" and irrelevant "details" or "nitpicking" that have no bearing on the conclusion of the case, i.e. the "official version" that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

In response, I would submit that 1) since we haven't been able to view all the "available" evidence in its entirety in 32 years, how can a coherent scenario properly be formed, and 2) what else are we supposed to concentrate on other than "minutia" and "details" that haven't been addressed properly by those who gave us the "official version" and assured us that a lone nut who couldn't shoot, wounds that moved, and a magic bullet were responsible for removing our 35th President from our midst?

Most researchers in the JFK Assassination community know that, by studying the official documentation available, little gems can sometimes be found that point away from the "official version." And, once in a while, these little gems help provide clues to comprehending what at first may seem like an "irrelevant detail" in the puzzle of the JFK assassination.

It is to one of those "details" that occurred in New Orleans that I now turn and, hopefully, provide some understanding for one piece of the puzzle. The problem is, every time you understand one piece of the puzzle, many more questions surface regarding the validity of the "official version" of the Warren Report and those who still defend it.

The "detail" of which I am speaking can be found

in the official documentation on the so-called Bolton Ford Dealership episode. The little "gem" is located in Volume X of the HSCA Volumes: it is the name of Gerard F. Tujague.

As most students of the assassination know, a salesman named Oscar Deslatte of the Bolton Ford Dealership, New Orleans, was visited by two men who claimed to represent a group called FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA, on January 20, 1961. [1] These men wanted to buy ten trucks from Mr. Deslatte, and the man who did most of the talking identified himself as Joseph Moore. As price was discussed, Moore said that he thought they should get the trucks for "no profit" for his organization, since theirs was a worthy cause. [2] Mr. Deslatte told the FBI later that Moore did not specify whether the trucks would be used here in the United States or in Cuba. [3] When Mr. Deslatte checked with his Manager, Fred Sewell, it was decided to give the gentlemen a break on the price, and reduce the usual profit margin from \$75 per truck to \$50 per truck. [4] As Deslatte was filling out the order for the ten trucks, he wrote in Joseph Moore's name as the buyer representing FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA. Seeing this, Moore told Deslatte to change the name on the bid from "Moore" to "Oswald." [5] It was at this point that the second gentleman spoke up and said that "Oswald" was "his name and it should go on the form as he was the man with the money and would pay for the trucks, if they were purchased." [6]

The real Oswald—in January 1961—was of course in the Soviet Union, so the question is why were these people representing the FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA impersonating Oswald in January 1961? Who were the FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA?

Had the FBI sought this answer after the assassination by locating the Articles of Incorporation of the FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA (found in the New Orleans Court House where all public filings are located and available to the public), they would have discovered two things:

1) The FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA was formed on January 6, 1961, a mere two weeks prior

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to the Bolton Ford Dealership incident where not only the name Oswald was being used, but in fact Oswald was being impersonated and,

2) W. Guy Bannister, ex-FBI man who was once commended by Hoover while he headed the Chicago FBI Office, was on the Board of Directors for this newly formed organization. [7]

In fact, the FBI didn't seem very interested in Deslatte's tale, especially since Deslatte could not identify a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald they showed him on 11/25/63, nor was he able to give a good description of either man to them. He told them that the reason he remembered the incident was because of the name of the organization represented, not by the name "Oswald." [8] Deslatte called the FBI after the President was assassinated and after conferring with Manager Fred Sewell about "those two guys who was in here from Cuba trying to get some buses cheap." [9]

Of course it makes perfect sense that Deslatte didn't think the photograph of Oswald was either "Joseph Moore" or the other man who said he was "Oswald" because the real Oswald was not in New Orleans in 1961. Whoever identified himself as "Oswald" was not the real Oswald and even though Deslatte thought enough of the incident to contact the FBI after the assassination, they either dismissed or ignored the incident as it is not to be found in the Warren Report at all.

But the evidence was that an organization recently formed by ex-FBI Guy Banister, rabid anti-Communist, was trying to surreptitiously purchase ten trucks—probably in preparation for the Bay of Pigs invasion—and was also using the name and impersonating a defector to the Communists: "Oswald." But where did Banister's new organization get the name "Oswald"?

There are several possibilities. For example, it is speculated that since Banister and Ferrie were associated, Ferrie could have simply provided the name to Banister since he knew the real Oswald from his CAP days as a teen. Another speculation has Banister being aware of Oswald's defection through the newspaper reporting of the event on November 1, 1959, and thus, he could have simply used his

newspaper clipping file to randomly pick the name "Oswald" to use for the purchase of the ten trucks.

But the strongest evidence indicates that at least one corporate officer of the FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA actually knew the real Lee Harvey Oswald. That person is Gerard F. Tujague, and he is listed as Vice-President of THE FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA in the articles of incorporation on record. [10] How did Tujague know the real Lee Harvey Oswald? It's part of that "gem" located in footnote #64 on page 134 of Volume X of the HSCA:

(64) Staff review of FBI files for Guy Banister, Oct. 28, 1978, pp. 1-2. (Note: Coincidentally, Gerard F. Tujague, owner of Gerard F. Tujague, Inc. Forwarding Co., who had employed Oswald as a messenger from November 1955 to January 1956, was also a member and officer (vice-president) of Friends of Democratic Cuba (see FBI teletype, 62-109060-1668, Jan. 26, 1963, p. 5).

Although the FBI did interview Mr. Tujague on 11/26/63, and Mr. Tujague did provide Oswald's "employment release form" as well as various time punch cards, and the names of other employees who also worked there when Oswald did, nowhere does the report mention Tujague belonging to the FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA, his association with Guy Banister, or Oswald's name being used in 1961. [11]

A search of the Warren Report for a mention of Tujague reveals that there are the following two sentences in APPENDIX XIII apparently gleaned from Marguerite Oswald and the FBI report of 11/26/63:

"Between November 10 and January 14, he was a messenger boy for Gerard F. Tujague, Inc., a shipping company, where he earned \$130 per month. His employer remembers him as a quiet, withdrawn person." [12]

Years later, when the HSCA investigated, Tujague had already died, and Frank DiBenedetto of Gerard F. Tujague's, Inc. Forwarding Co. stated that his company had employed Lee Oswald during the period in question. DiBenedetto, who took over the

business following Gerard Tujague's death, stated that he had been Oswald's supervisor and that Oswald had been employed as a messenger. He stated further that Oswald's work consisted largely of delivering company papers and messages to various steamship lines on the docks. [13]

What does all this mean? It means that at least one corporate officer of Guy Banister's newly formed organization in January of 1961, the "FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA," knew the real Lee Harvey Oswald before 1961 and thus probably supplied the name to the two buyers of the trucks for the surreptitious purchase. Since the Vice-President of FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA, Gerard F. Tujague, knew Oswald, chances are good that Banister also was aware the name "Oswald" was being used. [14]

The question is why? Why would a staunch anti-Communist and ex-FBI man like Guy Banister and an anti-Communist group like FRIENDS OF DEMOCRATIC CUBA, not only use the name of a recent defector—a "Marxist"—but impersonate him as well, for a surreptitious plan to purchase 10 trucks to aid Cuba 3 months prior to the Bay of Pigs operation?

With proof that Oswald was known personally to officers of a group that Banister was connected with for the purpose of aiding anti-Castro activities as early as 1961 at hand, it becomes fairly easy to see how this might have paved the way for later anti-Castro activities during the summer of 1963 in New Orleans with Banister and Oswald once again taking center stage.

Notes

1. FBI report, 11/25/63, File #89-69, CD-75, SA McDonald and Danielson.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Fred Sewell interview with James Alcock, NODA, 5/2/67.
5. FBI report, 11/25/63, File #89-69, CD-75, SA McDonald and Danielson.
6. Ibid.
7. Articles of Incorporation, Friends of Democratic Cuba, HSCA Record Number: 1801007610242,

Agency File Number: 009039.

8. FBI report, 11/25/63, File #89-69, CD-75, SA McDonald and Danielson.
9. Fred Sewell interview with James Alcock, NODA, 5/2/67.
10. Articles of Incorporation, Friends of Democratic Cuba, HSCA Record Number: 1801007610242, Agency File Number: 009039.
11. FBI report, 11/26/63, File #89-69, Record Number: 124-10238-10115, Agency File No. 89-69-688, SA James E. Schmidt.
12. Warren Report, 1964 (St. Martin's Press edition, 1992), p. 680.
13. HSCA Volumes, Vol IX, pp. 101-102.
14. Articles of Incorporation, Friends of Democratic Cuba, HSCA Record Number: 1801007610242, Agency File Number: 009039. ARTICLE IV specifies that: "The president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors, and shall serve for terms of one year each or until their successors are duly elected and qualified," thus, Tujague serving at the pleasure of Banister who was a Director, probably advised and discussed with Banister the use of Oswald's name in the truck transaction.

•••

DID DAVID FERRIE LIE TO THE SECRET SERVICE?

by

Peter R. Whitmey

On November 25, 1963, information was provided to Orleans Parish assistant district attorney Herman Kohlman by a private investigator named Jack Martin suggesting a close link between Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie. Conse-

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quently, Ferrie was questioned by the District Attorney's office, shortly after he returned from an impromptu trip to Houston and Galveston, Texas. Later that day Kohlman contacted Secret Service agent John W. Rice in New Orleans, who, along with SAIC Anthony E. Garrets, questioned Ferrie in regard to Jack Martin's allegations (as well as interviewing Martin four days later.) In the course of the interview, Ferrie was asked if he had been to Dallas recently, and in response he "...emphatically denied that he had been in Dallas for about the last eight to ten years." [1]

Given the fact that Jack Martin subsequently "admitted" to making up his allegations when interviewed by the FBI on Nov. 26, as well as to the Secret Service on Nov. 29, interest in David W. Ferrie as a possible accomplice in the assassination of President Kennedy quickly evaporated. It wasn't until New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison re-opened the case in the fall of 1966 that the general public became fully aware of the suspicious activities of David Ferrie for the first time. (Although he was referred to in several reports and interviews published in the 26 volumes of the Warren Commission, Ferrie was not mentioned in the Warren Report itself.)

Since Ferrie had worked as an investigator in 1962 and 1963 for New Orleans lawyer G. Wray Gill (whose most prominent client was Carlos Marcello), it occurred to Garrison that Ferrie might have made long distance phone calls from Gill's office, which certainly turned out to be the case. Gill's secretary went through the phone bills, drawing a line through those most likely made by Gill himself; at that time, it was discovered that the November, 1963 bill was missing [2] (although there is no indication that Garrison's office attempted to obtain a copy from the phone company.)

I was able to obtain my own copy of G. Wray Gill's 1962 and 1963 phone bills from researchers Jeff Caufield and Larry Haapanen, and have assembled Ferrie's voluminous and widespread calls in chronological order. [3] According to Garrison's account in his 1988 book On The Trail of the Assassins [4], Gill was shocked to discover how much Ferrie

had charged to his account, but given that such calls were made from Dec. 1961 to Dec. 1963, it is hard to believe Gill's secretary would not have brought this matter to his attention, even if some of the calls were related to genuine investigative work.

It is conceivable that Gill was completely aware of Ferrie's activities, and simply lied to Garrison. Keep in mind that Gill worked for Carlos Marcello, who has long been suspected of being behind the assassination. Coincidentally, Gill's office was in the same building as another lawyer, Clem Sehrt [5], who also had close connections to Marcello. In addition, as author Peter Noyes discovered [6], Eugene Hale Braden, a.k.a. Jim Brading, who was arrested but released in Dealey Plaza shortly after the assassination, had spent several months working for an oil company in the fall of 1963, located on the very same floor as Gill's law office.

As Garrison briefly alluded to, Ferrie made numerous calls to such places as Guatamala City (possibly related to Marcello's on-going immigration problems after his return from Guatamala in early 1961), Mexico City and Toronto (apparently related to his religious interests), and to many cities in the United States, including: Washington D.C., Bethesda, Baltimore, New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Augusta, Las Vegas, Jackson (Miss. and Tenn.), Memphis, Nashville, Louisville, Jacksonville, Opa-locka, Miami, Sacramento, San Francisco, Birmingham, (MI and AL), Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Wichita, Detroit, Carson City, Reno, Gainesville, Denver, Little Rock, Kansas City, St. Louis, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Cleveland (his hometown), Cincinnati and Columbus.

In addition, he made numerous calls to various places in Texas including: Corpus Christi, Houston, Galveston, San Antonio, Bay City, Tyler, Lubbock, Brownsville, Beaumont, West Columbia, Breckenridge, Port Arthur, Aransas Pass, Waco, Texarkana, Orange, Abilene, Marshall, Ft. Worth, Irving, and Dallas. Ferrie's first call to Dallas [7] was on Feb. 4, 1962 (listed to Andy Lancaster on Engle Ave., which he called again on Feb. 9.) On Feb. 6, he called a number in the Kirby Building listed to

John K. Powell, Beverly Roberts and Mass. Mutual Life, and the next day called a number in Dallas not listed on the phone bill. On March 12, 1962 he called an unidentified number in Ft. Worth, and on April 28, 1962 called Carl and Jimmy Saddler on Schley St. in Dallas. Ferrie again called an unidentified number in Dallas on May 11.

Contrary to his statement to the Secret Service, Ferrie appeared to have been in Dallas on May 22, 1962, having made a call to Gill's office. Six days later, he called the Saddlers again from New Orleans, and on June 5 phoned an unidentified number in Dallas. On June 30, he once again called Gill's office from Dallas.

Ferrie didn't call Dallas again until Sept. 5, 1962, this time to a number listed under A.M. Belcher Oil and Mae Belcher on Averill Way. On Sept. 6, Ferrie was again in Texas, calling Gill's office from Abilene and Albany before returning to New Orleans. He phoned the Highlander Hotel on Sept. 10, 1962 (also listed under J.K. McDonough), and again on Sept. 13, as well as an unlisted number on Sept. 14. On Sept. 16 and 17, he made calls to Gill's office from Dallas and Marshall, TX. After returning to New Orleans, Ferrie made a call on Sept. 20 to the U.S. Federal Aviation office in Ft. Worth, and five days later called the Dallasite Motor Hotel (also listed under Harry K. Caughey), which he called again the next day. He also called the Highlander again on Sept. 27 and another number the same day (this time from Kenner, LA). On Oct. 1, 1962, Ferrie called Belcher Oil again, followed on Oct. 3 by a call to an unidentified number (this time from LaPlace, LA).

Ferrie's contact with Dallas/Ft. Worth really picked up in October, 1962, beginning on Oct. 4 when he once again called the Highlander (from Kenner) and another unidentified number. On Oct. 5 he called Belcher Oil and the Highlander, as well as two other Dallas numbers (one from Kenner.) On Oct. 9, Ferrie called a number at the Republic National Bank Bldg. in Dallas listed to John O'Connor (as well as Dresser Industries), and on Oct. 13 phoned Hine Pontiac in Dallas, as well as three other calls to unidentified Dallas numbers from the 14th to the

16th. He again phoned Belcher Oil on Oct. 18 as well as Oct. 22, and phoned Gill's office from Dallas the same day. On Oct. 24, he called a Dallas number from Luling, LA, and six days later called Belcher Oil again, as well as calling the Highlander the next day. On Nov. 7, he made a call to another unidentified Dallas number, followed by another call to the U.S. Federal Aviation office in Ft. Worth the next day. On Nov. 10 and 13 he again called the Highlander, and another number in Dallas on Nov. 15. On Nov. 29, Ferrie called Belcher Oil, and on Dec. 4 and Dec. 18 the Highlander. In between, he had called Gill's office from Dallas on Dec. 14.

Ferrie once again returned to the Dallas/Ft. Worth area in time for New Year's Eve celebrations, making a call to Gill's office on Dec. 31, 1962 from Ft. Worth, as well as on Jan. 2, 1963. On Jan. 20 and 21 Ferrie made calls to Gill's office from both Ft. Worth and Dallas, and six days later he again called the U.S. Federal Aviation office. On Jan. 29 he called a railroad company in Ft. Worth, as well as an unidentified Dallas number. The same day he also called Gill's office from Dallas, and on Jan. 31, 1963 he called the Highlander from New Orleans. On Feb. 5 he made calls to two unidentified Dallas numbers.

Although Ferrie continued making numerous calls to and from various parts of the U.S., he didn't make a call to Dallas again until May 20, 1963 (to an unidentified number). By then, Lee Oswald was living in New Orleans, and possibly in contact with Ferrie. The following day Ferrie once again called from Dallas, as well as from Bay City. Two days later, back in New Orleans, he called a Dallas number listed under American Road Insurance Co. and Ford Motor Credit Co., followed on May 25 by a call to Frank D. Jernigan on Belclair. On May 26 and 27, 1963 he called Gill's office from Dallas, and two days later called an unidentified number in Dallas (the day before he had called a number in Washington D.C. from New Orleans.) On June 21, 1963, Ferrie again appeared to be in Dallas and Bay City, calling Gill's office twice.

The last recorded phone call made by Ferrie to Dallas was on August 10, 1963, when he phoned a

number listed under Charles E. Tobin, L & M Tobin, Albert J. Leviton, and Maxine T. McConnell at 2514 Cedar Springs. On Sept. 10 he appeared to be in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area once again (his 12th time), having phoned Gill's office from a number in Ft. Worth. Although Ferrie didn't make any further calls to or from Dallas/Ft. Worth after this date, he did call Gill's office from Houston on both Oct. 23, 1963 and Nov. 17, 1963 (this call appeared on the Dec. bill). His next recorded call was from New York to New Orleans on Dec. 2, 1963, with calls from New Orleans to Jacksonville (Dec. 3), Houston (Dec. 7), and Atlanta (Dec. 14) completing the record.

David Ferrie's assertion to the Secret Service that he hadn't been to Dallas in "eight to ten years" was clearly contradicted by G. Wray Gill's phone records, and the disappearance of the November, 1963 phone bill certainly suggests that calls to and from Dallas/Ft. Worth were likely intensified leading up to the assassination. There was also a report published in the Warren volumes [8] provided by an NBC camera operator named Gene Barnes describing a man named "Fairy", whom an NBC reporter from Chicago had spoken to in Dallas shortly after the assassination. "Fairy" was described as "a narcotics addict now out on bail on a sodomy charge in Dallas", who was a private detective, the owner of an airplane, "who took young boys on flights 'just for kicks'". He had allegedly told the reporter, Bob Mulholland, that Oswald had been "under hypnosis from a man doing a mind-reading act at Ruby's 'Carousel.'" If this was David Ferrie, then clearly he had gone to Dallas prior to his trip to Houston and Galveston, and was familiar with Ruby's club.

In fact, as reported in the Nov. 25 edition of the DALLAS MORNING NEWS [9] a young performer named William Crowe, who claimed to have seen Oswald talking to Ruby at the Carousel a week before the assassination, included mind-reading and hypnotism in his act.

In addition, a former part-time Dallas taxi driver named Raymond Cummings, who was interviewed by Garrison's staff, was certain he had given Ferrie,

Oswald and a third man a ride sometime between Jan. 11, 1963 and Mar. 15, 1963. (10) As I pointed out earlier in this report, Ferrie had made calls to Gill's office from Dallas on Jan. 21 and Jan. 29, 1963, suggesting that he was, indeed, in Dallas during that time period.

Finally, Beverly Oliver, a former nightclub singer and friend of Jack Ruby's, has claimed since the early 1970s that she saw Ferrie so often at the Carousel Club throughout 1963 that she thought he might be the assistant manager. [11]

If Ferrie had, in fact, spent time in Dallas in 1962 and 1963, contrary to the statement he made to the Secret Service, that does not mean it had anything to do with the assassination. However, the fact that he insisted he hadn't been there in a decade makes one wonder why he couldn't give an honest answer.

Notes

1. American Grotesque, (Simon and Shuster: N.Y.) by James Kirkwood, 1970, p. 127.
2. On The Trail of the Assassins, (Warner Books: N.Y.), Jim Garrison, 1988, p. 127.
3. 12 pages in length; a copy is available for \$5.00.
4. On The Trail of the Assassins, p. 127.
5. See my article "The Curious Connections of Clem H. Sehr" in the Jan. 1995 issue of TFD, pp. 46-47.
6. Who's Who in the JFK Assassination, (Citadel Press: N.Y.), Michael Benson, 1993, p. 51.
7. Thanks to Michael Smith at the Dallas Public Library's Texas/Dallas History and Archives for his assistance with specific phone listings.
8. CE 2038; Who's Who in the JFK Assassination, p. 30; Legacy of Doubt, (Pinnacle Books: N.Y.), Peter Noyes, 1973, pp. 117-118; Noyes points out in his book that Mulholland had become a major executive with NBC News in New York and "...insisted he had been quoted incorrectly...He said that shortly after the assassination he heard FBI agents mention Ferrie's name and a possible link to Oswald, and he relayed that information to his reporters." Even if Mulholland's statement is true (which is probably not the case), it is certainly interesting to

note that Ferrie's name was being discussed by the FBI in Dallas as a possible accomplice. There have also been allegations made that a Secret Service agent had asked Marina Oswald if she had heard of David Ferrie shortly after the assassination.

9. Who's Who in the JFK Assassination, p. 94.
10. The Kennedy Conspiracy, (Meredith Press: N.Y.), Paris Flammonde, 1969, p. 182.
11. Who's Who in the JFK Assassination, p. 234.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor: Several months ago I bought a copy of Richard Trask's Pictures of the Pain. Trask has done an admirable job of compiling information and presenting it in a plausible manner in his book. At first glance one might think that, with all of the time and effort that obviously went into the publishing of this tome, here at last is a book that presents the unvarnished facts. Indeed Trask does present many new facts and photos that provide a clearer understanding of what happened that November afternoon in Dallas, but it's a shame that he let his inability to come to grips with reality bias much of the book.

Particularly damaging to his arduous effort is the introduction, where he writes that his studies have lead him to believe that the shots were fired from the sixth floor "sniper's nest" and Lee Oswald fired them. The photos and the information that he presents in his own book provide ample evidence that neither of these beliefs are true.

Trask reaches these conclusions by using the same distorted evidence that the Warren Commission used. (In fact Pictures of the Pain is little more than an expanded and elaborated facsimile of the Warren Report) If he had opened his eyes to the mass of good information that he had compiled, he would have been able to see that the Warren Commission's version of the murder was a monstrous lie.

There are many examples of events that he pre-

sents in his book that are not accurate representations of the event. If he had studied his information a little more carefully and with an open mind, he would have known this representation was false.

Due to your policy of space limitations and to avoid giving the impression that I am simply attempting to pick at his arduous efforts, I will cite only a couple of examples.

On page 550 of P.O.P., he presents a photo of Lt. Day carrying a rifle from the TSBD. There are a couple of facts revealed by this photo that Trask as a well read researcher should have seen. Those facts are: (A) There is an ammunition clip clearly visible protruding from the bottom of the magazine of the rifle. On pages 531 and 533 he presents photos of Lt. Day inside the TSBD dusting the rifle for finger prints; the ammunition clip is not present in either of these photos. Clearly there is some serious question raised by the discrepancy between these photos, because no clip was reported at the time, nor was one listed on the evidence list, nor is one present in the photos of Day dusting the rifle. Something is wrong with the story about the ammunition clip. Trask knew about the controversy surrounding the clip, because he mentions it in the text, yet he blithely ignores the evidence presented by these pictures. (B) The photo of Lt. Day carrying a rifle from the TSBD printed on page 550 clearly shows a rifle with the sling swivels mounted on the left side of the weapon, while CE 746B (A W.C. enlargement of CE 133A which is a photo of Oswald with rifle) clearly shows that Oswald's rifle had the sling swivels on the bottom. The rifle that Lt. Day is carrying simply is not Oswald's rifle!

Another glaring example of the false information perpetuated by Trask's book is the evidence depicted in the "sniper's nest" box configuration. On page 553 he presents a photo of the "sniper's nest" as it appeared at about 3:15 PM on the afternoon of the murder. There is strong bright sunlight shining through the windows and casting clear dark shadows on the vertical beam dividing the windows. (There are several other photos available that also show the shadows on the vertical beam. There is a Tom Alyea photo of the scene taken at about 2:19

that was published in Four Dark Days in History [1963] which shows the shadows, there is a Jack Beers photo taken at about 3:20 published in "Four Days" [1964] that shows the shadows, there is a photo by Robert MacNeil in The Way We Were [1988] that also shows the shadows.) Since we know that the sun was in fact casting the shadows as shown in the photo on page 553, we can know that the Warren Commission Exhibit #715 which is shown on page 525 of P.O.P. is a fake, because there are no shadows on the vertical beam.

CE 715 was presented to the Warren Commission by the FBI as an accurate representation of how the "sniper's nest" looked at about 1:15 PM while the spent rifle shells were still on the floor and before anything was disturbed at the scene. (Lt. Day testified before the Warren Commission that CE 715 was taken before anything was disturbed at the scene.) We can easily discern that CE 715 is a fake and that the FBI and Lt. Day were lying because there are no shadows on the beam. The photo was obviously taken at night, with the daytime street scene on the street below added to give the appearance that it was taken at 1:15 PM. Since CE 715 is a fake photo with some rifle shells lying on the floor, it is obvious that the DPD staged the scene because the shells were picked up and placed in an evidence envelope at 1:23 PM and removed to Police headquarters where they were turned over to the FBI at mid-night. It becomes readily obvious that the DPD was framing Lee Oswald, and the sixth floor "sniper's nest" was nothing more than a stage prop to bolster their lie.

There are many more examples of fakery and deceit that Trask could have seen, if he had simply examined his material with an open mind. Since I feel that Trask is a sincere and honest person, I am sure he would not have offered the opinion that the shots had originated from the SE corner of the sixth floor of the TSBD if he had fairly evaluated the evidence he had gathered.

Though I have criticized Trask because of his inability to perceive the fakery and deception, and for presenting false information as a fact, I am still grateful that he published his book and provided us

with so much new information.

—Walt Cakebread, P.O. Box 514
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To the editor: I was pleased to read Hal Verb's article regarding his rebuttal to Alex Cockburn in San Francisco (TFD, Sept. '95). I myself confronted the very same "leftist" Cockburn at a similar appearance in Los Angeles on July 12, as part of the same book tour. Hal and I discussed our experiences vs. Cockburn at the October '95 COPA conference at the Washington, D.C. Shoreham Hotel.

My discussion resulted from Cockburn's avoidance of a pointed question from researcher and CTKA's PROBE co-editor Lisa Pease regarding the ubiquitous "magic bullet." Cockburn declined my invitation to demonstrate how a shot fired from above and to the right rear of the President could enter the back (as is clearly evidenced by the autopsy photos, shirt and coat), and then exit Kennedy's throat, which would require reversal of the obviously downward trajectory from the Depository window. Cockburn labeled my proposed demonstration as "foolish."

Similar to Hal's experience, some others in the audience felt I had been too harsh on poor Alex. I pointed out to them my copy of Warner's JFK, The Book of the Film, which printed numerous critiques of Oliver Stone's film, including several articles by Cockburn, among them the Liebler interview mentioned by Hal and another in which Alex called Stone a fascist.

Our brief confrontation reminded me of another, in 1993. As President of my Rotary Club, I took the opportunity to invite critics Jim DiEugenio and Dennis Effle to speak at two of our weekly meetings. To be fair, I also hosted Warren Commission staffer Richard Mosk, who like Liebler, is a west-side (of LA) lawyer and Book of the Film critic of Stone. (His father, Stanley Mosk, still sits on the California Supreme Court.) After Mosk's speech, I invited questions from the floor. To maintain neutrality appropriate for my role as host, I waited until all had had their shots. Though most questions were critical, Mr. Mosk answered patiently, if a bit eruditely.

Finally, I had my chance, and I asked a pointed query as to why he felt DA Jim Garrison, and therefore Stone, were lunatics to think Oswald had a connection to the intelligence community through Clay Shaw when so much documentation later revealed Shaw's ties thereto, including the Permindex CMC records and Richard Helms' admission that Shaw had worked for CIA's Domestic Contacts Division. Mosk briefly stammered something about this all being a "figment of Garrison's imagination." When I pressed my point that, even if Garrison had a vivid imagination, he could not manufacture corporate records or put words in the former CIA director's mouth, Mr. Mosk, brilliant west-side law partner and son of a state high court justice, who had earlier bragged of attending Rose Bowl games in the 60's with Earl Warren, nervously glanced at his watch and announced he had to leave. He promptly did just that, leaving a benumbed audience of Rotarians and guests, all now thoroughly convinced that something serious was being hidden from them by this august guest and the Warren Commission he had attempted to defend.

The point is, my friends, supporters of the lone-nut theory will more often than not retreat swiftly or refuse a challenge to demonstrate their purported beliefs if we take the time to intelligently confront them. As dedicated researchers and searchers for truth, it is our duty to prepare ourselves to do so, and to take advantage of every opportunity we have to do just that. Kudos to Hal Verb.

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CORRECTING A COMMONLY HELD MYTH

by
Arthur A. Swanson

I wish to put to rest the erroneous belief that Sgt. Gerald Hill made the radio call which identified the shell casings found at the site of the Tippit killing as coming from an automatic pistol, not from a revolver.

Many respected researchers and authors are still working with that mistaken belief. It is important to correct the record because Sgt. Hill has appeared on at least one nationally known TV program and said that he was "in error" when he made the call at 1:40 p.m.

He did NOT make the call, so how can impeach that evidence?

There are two versions of a "transcript" of the calls in the WC volumes. Both are very suspect and at least one has been shown to have been altered before publication in the volumes. Therefore it is very dicey to use either for the solution of this matter.

One should refer to Sgt. Hill's own testimony given to the Commission. This appears in Vol. 7, pp. 43-66.

Go to page 57:

Mr. Belin: And the first one you made after you got in the car was 1:52 p.m.?

Mr. Hill: Yes, sir.

Mr. Belin: Now also turning to Sawyer Deposition Exhibit A, I note that there is another call on car 550-2. Was that you at the time, or not, at 1:40 p.m.? Would that have been somebody else?

Mr. Hill: That probably is R.D. Stringer.

Mr. Belin: That is not you, then, even though it has a number 550-2?

Mr. Hill: Yes, because Stringer quite probably would have been using the same call number,

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because it is more his than mine, really, but I didn't have an assigned call number, so I was using a number I didn't think anybody else would be using, which is call 550-2 instead of the Westbrook to Batchelor as it indicates here.

There is the smoking gun proving that Sgt. Hill is lying when he now claims to have made the call—only to be able to say that he was “mistaken” at the time.

THE OTHER RIFLE MAN

by
Larry Rivera

Pages 51 and 57 of Robert Groden's The Killing of a President depict the grassy knoll/picket fence area of Dealey Plaza moments after the assassination of John Kennedy on 11/22/63, where seconds after, a multitude of people rushed, believing they had seen and heard shots from that area. In the September 1995 edition of TFD, Robert Washbish has noted something that up to this point I have not read or seen brought forth in any publication relating to this topic.

What is suggested by Mr. Washbish is quite interesting and simple indeed, however does the “time line” (“ojsimpsonese” for those suffering from withdrawal) afford the possibility that this person is the assassin or a collaborator of same? Or that he is indeed holding a rifle carbine [1] in his left hand? Or that he is fleeing the scene? Or that he is chasing someone? This person has never come forth to relate what he saw that day.

Upon close examination of this photograph it is evident that it was taken only seconds after the final volley of shots as two points of reference can be

reliably used. First, the Press Bus is seen speeding away under the Triple Overpass; and second, the position of the Newman family. The key question should be, how many seconds after? Too many seconds should rule out the possibility that the “carbine man” was a fleeing assassin (or black dog man), therefore we need to ask ourselves, within the time frame allowed, how many seconds did it take between the shots fired and the picture in question. Obviously, a fleeing assassin would not wait one minute, or even half a minute to get up and get out of there.

If we consider that the Press Bus was just entering Dealey Plaza at Main and Houston when the first shots rang out, then we can roughly calculate the distance between that point (Call it point A) and the Triple Overpass (which we can call point C, with point B being the position of the limousine at Z-313), to about 700 ft or .12 miles*. If we use an average speed of the bus as 15 miles per hour* and convert it to miles per second we get approximately .0042* miles per second. Using .12 miles* as the distance from A to C and some simple math yields roughly 28.6* seconds as the time involved. Apart from this we must also take into account that the vehicle stopped to let out reporters and cameramen (among them Robert McNeil), and then sped away to try to catch the rest of the motorcade. At least half a minute to 45 seconds has passed since shots rang out (probably more like a minute) and now this man is seen “fleeing” and appears to have a rifle in his hand. The second good item that allows us to determine a time reference in this picture is the fact that the Newmans have already picked themselves up off the turf, after having protected their children with their bodies during the shooting.

Now we have three points to consider here. One, if he was indeed one of the gunmen and the carbine/rifle is real, then where was he hiding and how did he escape detection for more than half a minute? Two, if the carbine/rifle is real and he was not the assassin, then he must have picked up the weapon and rushed to that end of the picket fence area, where judging by his elevation and position, he had to be on the steps coming from the doorway of the

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"tower." Three, the carbine/rifle is just another shadow phenomena like that which pervades this case throughout.

The first point above is unlikely, if you consider that he would have been extremely nonchalant about starting his getaway, then all of a sudden, when he realized this mass of humanity was charging the knoll he decided to make his own getaway, rifle in hand. Did he stand around trying to blend into the crowd? Why did he delay his getaway? Mr. Washbish proposes that this man may have been hiding somewhere inside the pergola and at the time of the picture had just emerged from the doorway in the tower of the pergola. Furthermore, Mr. Washbish asserts that:

"By his elevation he has to be on the steps from the doorway. If he came up the walk, there would be no reason to mount the steps if he was headed for the end of the fence. He would cut over to the left of the tower long before reaching the steps."

"The towers at the ends of the pergola are just about ready-made pillboxes for snipers. They even have a vertical row of gunports between the doorways. If our man fired from inside the tower, that would give him some concealment and thus more time to clean up his act, but it would rule him out as 'Black dog.'"

For the second point above we are looking at a "bystander" who after the shooting rushed the knoll (or emerged from hiding) along with two other men behind him. Make no mistake about it; they were RUNNING. They seem to have been the very first people who, as Groden suggests, were able to get a good look at what was going on behind the fence and into the parking lot. For this second scenario to be possible, this person must have intercepted a rifle of some sort (perhaps dropped there intentionally by the real gunman only seconds before) and picked it up as he continued towards the north end of the fence that led to the parking lot. How many people in their right mind would pick up a weapon in the vicinity of a presidential assassination and run with it in that manner? Not many, unless you were a relay man. This quickly brings to mind Mr. Ed Hoffman's

account of seeing a relay man (dressed in a suit) pass a rifle behind the picket fence to an individual dressed as a railroad worker who in turn disassembled the weapon and stuffed it in a tool bag. It doesn't mean that this is the same man Hoffman saw, it only points to a possible and similar modus operandi. Is it possible that all three individuals in the picture were part of the cleanup crew?

The third point is one that is very familiar to researchers and students alike, since it appears that shadows, smoke, alterations, obfuscations, and interpretations are prevalent in this case, from pictures and movies of Dealey Plaza, to autopsy and backyard pictures after the fact. It will probably be like Badgeman. Some will see it, some won't.

Under closer observation, the object in question seems to have some depth to it, and the strap seems to cover the upper part of his wrist. Rule out the "strap" being a wrist watch because it seems to be at an angle (wrong angle, at that). The shadow that his arm casts over the rifle seems to be real and consistent with the direction of other shadows in the picture as well. Could it be that the object is in the process of being thrown over the fence? (to some collaborator, perhaps?). Why did it take so long to do so? Note that the pyracantha tree obscures the area to which this object might have been thrown. Are we seeing shadows here or what? You decide for yourself.

Further computer enhanced study of this picture is definitely a must as Mr. Washbish's observations add another probability to the world of probabilities that is the assassination of JFK. Why didn't anyone notice this one before?

*All distances and speeds are hypothetical approximations used for this argument only. I encourage others to come up with more exact measures and time frames, based on the picture in question and other known facts that can set or alter these.

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"JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE..."

The Actions of Captain W.R. Westbrook on the day the President Came to Town

by
Ian Griggs

Introduction

In any police force, be it the Dallas Police Department of November 1963 or any other, then or now, each individual officer, irrespective of rank, is assigned certain duties and responsibilities. He will normally carry these out at a given location or locations during his period of duty. These obvious and essential functionary duties must be adhered to irrespective of any but the most urgent outside events or influences. The overall discipline and well-being of the force relies on every officer fulfilling his (or her) individual part in the overall scheme of things.

The report of an attack upon President John F. Kennedy in Dealey Plaza, Dallas on Friday 22nd November 1963 was obviously just the type of occurrence to throw normal routines and procedures into disarray. Nevertheless, it should not have been expected that individual officers would act independently of specific orders. In the situation which developed immediately following the shots at 12:30pm, it was even more important than usual that officers of all ranks, other than those directly involved (such as the motorcycle officers), await specific orders from their supervisors.

As far as I can ascertain (although some researchers may disagree), the vast majority of DPD officers acted correctly during that hectic two-hour period after the shots. They followed their specific routines, they acted upon the orders they received, they carried out those mundane yet essential tasks such as crowd and traffic control and they located and

took details from many eyewitnesses. When given the relevant information and orders, they acted promptly in arresting the suspected assassin.

Note my deliberate use of the words "vast majority" in the preceding paragraph. One man who certainly did not adhere to his given task was Captain of Police W.R. Westbrook, the subject of this paper.

Captain Westbrook's duties and responsibilities

Captain Westbrook was born at Benton, Arkansas and was just two weeks short of his 46th birthday on the day of the assassination. He had joined the Dallas Police Department in mid-1941 and had held his current rank since 1952.

His was a purely administrative task which did not even require him to wear his police uniform if he preferred not to. He held the position of Officer in Charge of the Personnel Bureau. This was part of the Training and Research Section and was located at Police Headquarters in City Hall. Under his direct command he had Sergeant H.H. Stringer, Patrolman J.L. Carver and Detectives W.M. McGee and Joe Fields. His bureau complement was completed by three female civilian staff, Marjorie Bright (Personnel Clerk Grade 6), Nancy Drake (General Clerk grade 4) and Roma D. Worley (Stenographer grade 4). [1]

Perhaps the importance of the bureau's work can be judged by Marjorie Bright's grade. There was only one clerical civilian on the entire staff of the DPD with a higher grade—Eunice Sorrells (grade 8)—and she was Chief Curry's secretary! [2]

The only other components of the Training & Research Section were the Police Academy and the Police Reserve. The Section was independent of the four main Divisions of the DPD, namely the Patrol, Traffic, Service and Criminal Investigations Divisions. In view of this it is difficult to establish who Captain Westbrook's immediate superior would have been. From my own personal knowledge of the structure of various police forces, I can only surmise that he would have reported directly to Charles Batchelor, Assistant Chief of Police.

In his Warren Commission testimony, Captain Westbrook described his job thus: "At the present

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time I am Personnel Officer. We conduct all background investigations of applicants, civilian and police, and then we make—we investigate all personnel complaints—not all of them, but the major ones.” When asked whether he was obliged to wear uniform, he replied: “Well, it is optional. I don’t wear one.” [3] Having said that, it must also be mentioned that DPD Radio Unit Call Sign 550 was assigned to “Personnel Captain” [4] so there must have been times when Captain Westbrook was required to leave the building on duty. Perhaps such occasions were connected with this applicant vetting or personnel complaint duties.

From that brief outline of his position and duties within the DPD, I think we can safely describe Captain Westbrook as a police officer who was virtually doing a civilian job. It involved basic personnel management, the vetting of staff and dealing with personnel complaints—whatever that means! It was surely never envisaged that his job would one day involve him in rushing around the streets of Dallas in a variety of police vehicles, arming himself with a shotgun to search premises and finally supervising the arrest of the man alleged to have assassinated the President of the United States of America. That, however, was exactly what Friday 22nd November 1963 was to bring.

An outline of Captain Westbrook’s actions

Having now introduced you briefly to Captain Westbrook and his function within the Dallas Police Department, it is time to examine his actions on the day that President Kennedy was shot. Since he was on what he described as “just my own routine duties” and was working normal day shift hours from 8:15am to 5:15pm, not in uniform [5] he should really have had nothing whatsoever to do with the presidential visit to the city. Furthermore, he should have had nothing to do with the events following the shooting. In reality, however, he probably became part of more different aspects of the immediate search for the assassin and the arrest of the suspect than any other officer.

He assisted in the search of the Texas School Book Depository, he rushed to the Tippit murder scene, he was involved in the finding of what was claimed

to be the fleeing Oswald’s discarded jacket, he joined in the false alarm when it was thought that the escaping assassin had entered the public library and, to end the day on a high note, as the senior officer present at Oswald’s arrest inside the Texas Theater, he took charge of the operation. When the Warren Commission published its 26 Volumes of Hearings, he even appeared in one of the Oswald arrest photographs! [6]

These actions are fully described in Captain Westbrook’s testimony before the Warren Commission—and even that had some unusual features to it. Captain Westbrook’s testimony was taken at 9:00am on 6th April 1964 at the office of the US Attorney in Room 301 of the Post Office Building, Bryan and Ervay Streets, Dallas by Assistant Counsel Joseph A. Ball. Also present were Assistant Counsel Samuel A. Stern and Staff Members John Hart Ely and Dr. Alfred Goldberg. In the 26 Volumes of Hearings, Dr. Goldberg is described as a historian, [7] a term which baffled me until my good friend and fellow British researcher Melanie Swift—she of the near-photographic memory—indicated that this gentleman’s role had been fully explained by early author/critic Edward Jay Epstein. Dr. Goldberg was a senior USAF historian who, working directly under General Counsel J. Lee Rankin, played a leading part in writing the final Warren Report. [8]

Captain Westbrook’s day

Captain Westbrook arrived at his office on the third floor of City Hall [9] at 8:15am on Friday 22nd November 1963. As usual he was dressed in civilian clothes rather than police uniform. For him, there was no scheduled involvement in the presidential visit. It would be an ordinary day spent in the Personnel Bureau dealing with purely routine administrative matters. One must wonder whether he felt a little neglected at not being part of the “big day”—perhaps he even thought that his closest connection with the event would be when he left his office to stand in the street and watch the motorcade as it passed the building. [10]

According to his testimony, the first that Captain Westbrook knew of the President being shot was when “one of the dispatchers came into the office

and told us." He names the dispatcher as Mrs. Kinney. [11] Sergeant Gerald Hill describes this person as "a lady by the name of Kemmey." [12] I have been unable to trace anyone of either name but there was a telephone clerk named Mrs. Beulah Kimmey on duty on the 7:00am to 3:00pm shift and I am confident that this was the lady in question. [13]

Almost at once, somebody else, whose name Captain Westbrook could not recall, came into the office and said that "they needed some more men at this Texas Depository Building." He immediately sent all four of his police subordinates, Sergeant Stringer, Patrolman Carver and Detectives McGee and Fields, to that location. For some reason he described Carver as a Sergeant but contemporary records show him to be a Patrolman. Perhaps he had "acting" rank. [14]

To explain what happened next, I can do no better than quote Captain Westbrook's Warren Commission testimony verbatim. I feel that the way in which he described his thoughts and mental frustrations may be the key to his subsequent actions. He said:

"...and then I walked down the hall spreading the word and telling the other people that they needed some men down there, and practically everybody left immediately. I sat around a while—really not knowing what to do because of the—almost all of the commanding officers and supervisors were out of the city hall and I finally couldn't stand it any longer, so I started to the Texas Depository Building, and believe it or not, I walked. There wasn't a car available, so I walked from the city hall to the Depository Building..." [15]

Initially, of course, Captain Westbrook acted in an exemplary manner. As well as heeding the urgent call for assistance by sending his own four men to the scene, he took the initiative and mobilised other officers in the building. After this he suddenly found himself alone and isolated—and apparently destined to take no part in what seemed likely to become the biggest day in Dallas Police history since the bodies of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow had been returned to their home town in the spring

of 1934. [16] Had he known just how deeply he was to become involved, I wonder whether he would still have taken that walk down to Dealey Plaza.

At the Texas School Book Depository—and beyond

Upon reaching the Book Depository, Captain Westbrook contacted Sergeant Stringer who was standing outside the building. He then entered and began to assist in the search of the building. He had got no further than the first floor, however, when he heard someone (presumably a policeman) shout that an officer had been shot and killed in Oak Cliff. [17]

Captain Westbrook's testimony describes what happened next:

"Well, then of course, I ran to my radio because I am the personnel officer and that then became, of course, my greatest interest at that time, and so, Sergeant Stringer and I and some patrolman—I don't recall his name—then drove to the immediate vicinity of where Officer Tippit had been shot and killed. [18] Of course, the body was already gone, the squad car was still there, and on one occasion as we were approaching this squad car, a call came over the radio that a suspicious person had been seen running into the public library at Marsalis and Jefferson, so we immediately went to that location and it was a false—it was just one of the actually—it was one of the employees of the library who had heard the news somewhere on the radio and he was running to tell the other group about Kennedy. So, we returned to the scene and here I met Bob Barrett, the FBI agent, and Sergeant Stringer and Barrett and I were together, and then an eyewitness to the shooting of the officer from across the street, a lady, came to the car, and she was telling us how this happened." [19]

Captain Westbrook has really got the bit between his teeth now. He has commandeered a police patrol car (and driver) and, with neither orders nor authority, has rushed from the TSBD to the Tippit murder scene in Oak Cliff. He has then sped over to the Oak Cliff Branch Library [20] where he was

obviously anxious to be in on the arrest of the suspect.

This brief diversion at the public library at Marsalis and Jefferson is mentioned in many books on this subject, but a remark made by Captain Westbrook in his testimony seems to have been virtually ignored. During questioning by Mr. Ball on the subject of firearms, Captain Westbrook indicated that he was armed when he was at the library and during an incident a few minutes later, but that he did not have a gun at another important incident after that. [21] These points were never pursued by Mr. Ball. Later in his testimony, however, discussing the finding of a zipper jacket at a nearby parking lot, and without any prompting or for any apparent reason, Captain Westbrook said: "...and at this time I had a shotgun—I had borrowed a shotgun from a patrolman." [22] Nothing more.

Once the library raid had proved to be a red herring, Captain Westbrook continued towards the Tippit murder site at 10th and Patton. On the way, according to the Warren Report, he became involved in yet another important event—the finding of the zipper jacket which was later claimed to have been discarded by Oswald. [23] Obviously it must be asked why the finding of this jacket was not introduced into Captain Westbrook's testimony in chronological order. The answer has continued to elude researchers to this day. It was not actually mentioned in Captain Westbrook's testimony until much later.

It was, in fact, almost at the end of his testimony when Mr. Ball suddenly asked him a classic leading question: "Did you ever find some clothing?" [24] Captain Westbrook was slightly evasive and seems to have been very much on his guard as he replied: "That was before, Mr. Ball." He went on to say that he had not found the jacket personally but that it had been pointed out to him by "some officer" and that he (Westbrook) had picked it up. Yet again we have an example of Captain Westbrook's incredible lack of recall when it came to people's names.

According to the Warren Report: "Westbrook walked through the parking lot behind the service station and found a light-colored jacket lying under

the rear of one of the cars." [25] This sentence is supported by two footnotes directing the reader towards Captain Westbrook's testimony but nowhere there does he ever state that he found the jacket! Mr. Ball showed Captain Westbrook three photographs of views of the parking lot where the jacket had been found [26] and Captain Westbrook identified them. His answers in response to Mr. Ball's questions concerning the photographs and what they depict were, to say the least, unconvincing. [27]

Mr. Ball then showed Captain Westbrook the jacket itself. [28] This was not preceded by any preparatory questions as to its color, style or size. Instead, Mr. Ball simply produced it and said: "I show you Commission Exhibit 162, do you recognize that?" Captain Westbrook, doubtless with great relief, replied: "That is exactly the jacket we found." [29] Nowhere in this testimony is there any mention of its color. For that, we have to go to the Contents page at the beginning of Volume 16 of the 26 Volumes of Hearings where CE 162 is described simply as "Gray zipper jacket."

From the available evidence, I am unable to state with any degree of certainty who actually found the jacket—or exactly when. Sylvia Meagher [30] and Joachim Joesten [31] are among the leading researchers who have studied this at length but still nobody has produced the definitive answer. Be that as it may, however, there is no disputing the fact that the ubiquitous Captain W.R. Westbrook was, as usual, there or thereabouts!

An encounter with Mrs. Markham

As already mentioned, Captain Westbrook had been approached by a female eyewitness to the Tippit shooting at the scene itself. It was none other than Mrs. Helen Louise Markham! Here, Captain Westbrook appears to have displayed remarkable initiative—perhaps calling upon his "personnel complaints" experience and knowledge of people's behavior. In his own words: "I directed someone else there to be sure and get her name for the report." [32] It seems that he was a good enough judge of character to see instantly that, although she claimed to be an eyewitness, she could perhaps prove a little

troublesome.

Off to the cinema

Still Captain Westbrook's day of action was not over. Just as Mrs. Markham was starting to blurt out her story, a patrolman (identity unknown) called out: "It's just come over the radio that they've got a suspicious person in the Texas Theater." [33] To learn what happened next, let us return to Captain Westbrook's testimony:

"Then Sergeant Stringer, I and Agent Barrett got in another squad car, and I don't know who was driving this one, but then when we arrived and were approaching the theater, I directed the patrolman to turn down into the alley instead of going around to the front because I figured there would be a lot of cars at the front. There were two or three at the back." [34]

FBI Special Agent Barrett then accompanied Captain Westbrook through one of the side doors into the theater where they encountered a man described by Westbrook as "an employee of the theater" but whose name he could not recall. According to other testimony, it appears that this was actually Johnny Calvin Brewer, the manager of Hardy's shoe store. [35] Captain Westbrook and SA Barrett went to opposite sides of the stage and the "employee" then "pointed to a man that was sitting about the middle—the middle row of seats pretty close to the back and he said, 'That is the man you are looking for.'" At this point, Captain Westbrook was on the right hand side of the stage facing the auditorium.

This part of Captain Westbrook's testimony produced an unintended piece of nonsense which would have been more suitable as part of the script of a pantomime. If only as light relief, perhaps it should be repeated here exactly as it appears in the testimony:

Mr. Ball: "Which side were you on?"

Mr. Westbrook: "I was facing the audience—I would be on the right side."

Mr. Ball: Facing the audience—that would be on the right side?"

Mr. Westbrook: "I was on the right side."

Mr. Ball: "And if you were facing the screen you would have been on the left?"

Mr. Westbrook: "I would have been on the left."

Mr. Ball: "The man that was pointed out to you was sitting next to the aisle, if you were facing the screen?"

At this point, Captain Westbrook resisted the obvious reply that there would have been little point in someone indicating the man if he (Westbrook) had his back to the audience! [36]

Captain Westbrook next described Oswald's arrest by Patrolman M.N. McDonald and added that he recognized McDonald as they had worked together as radio patrolmen. This was an important remark as Captain Westbrook pointed out that "the stage was still dim." In total contrast to his series of odd questions regarding Westbrook's position on the stage, Mr. Ball then put a very significant question: "Were the lights on in the theater?" Captain Westbrook replied: "Very dim ones; the picture was still running, but the lights were on very dim." [37] This comment is in direct contrast to the recollections of several other witnesses, both police and civilian. [38]

Captain Westbrook ran from the stage, again accompanied by S.A. Barrett, and seemed to take something of a leading part in the remainder of the arrest drama. He ascertained that an officer had taken possession of Oswald's revolver and later recalled that he had heard Oswald say something about "police brutality." He also introduced a little piece of humor into his testimony:

Mr. Ball: "Were the handcuffs on him at the time you arrived?"

Mr. Westbrook: "They were putting the handcuffs on him—they had one handcuff on one hand and they were trying to find the other one, and they were having difficulty in locating it because there were so many hands there."

Mr. Ball: "How many officers were there?"

Mr. Westbrook: "In fact—that was one of the only humorous things about the whole thing—somebody did get ahold of the wrong arm"

and they were twisting it behind Oswald's back and somebody yelled—I remember that, 'My God, you got mine.' I think it was just an arm that come up out of the crowd and somebody grabbed." [39]

Unprompted by Mr. Ball, Captain Westbrook then added that he had ordered officers in the theater "to be sure and take the names of everyone in the theater at the time." This would obviously be of great importance later in the investigation. However this order was either ignored or the list was compiled and then lost. I know of nobody who has seen such a list. Only two of those Texas Theater patrons appear to have been identified—George Jefferson Applin, Jr. and John Gibson. Applin testified that he gave his name and details to an officer [40] but Gibson told the Commission that no police officer took his name and address. Furthermore, he did not recall them taking details from any other cinema patron that afternoon. [41]

The arrest complete, Captain Westbrook hurried the prisoner out of the theater, instructing the officers: "Get him out of here. Get him in the squad car and head straight to the city hall and notify them you are on the way." [42] This was done and that radio call, logged at 1:52pm, was sent under Radio Call Sign 550-2 (Sergeant Gerald Hill)—"Suspect on the shooting the police officer is apprehended and en route to the station." [43] No mention of the man being suspected of the President's killing at this stage!

There appears to have been considerable confusion concerning the Radio Call Signs in use that day. As already stated, Call Sign 550 was allocated permanently to Captain Westbrook in his capacity as the Personnel Captain. 550-2 was assigned to Sergeant Hill. There are several examples of these being confused in the official log. [44]

Two important photographs

It is a well known fact that photographs were taken inside the Texas Theater in the course of Oswald's arrest. The photographer was a Life magazine freelancer, Jim MacCammon, and like Captain Westbrook, he managed to be at the point of the action many times that day. His photographs in-

clude Dealey Plaza, the outside of the Book Depository and the Tippit murder scene as well as Oswald's arrest. One of MacCammon's Texas Theater photographs appears in the Warren Commission 26 Volumes of Hearings. As explained by Sergeant Gerald Hill in his testimony, it shows six people—Lee Harvey Oswald, Detective Paul Bentley, Officer C.T. Walker (DPD), two men unidentified by Hill—plus, of course, Captain Westbrook! [45] This photograph appears to be the second of the three which Jim MacCammon took inside the theater. [46]

His day's work now apparently complete, what did Captain Westbrook do next? In his own words: "I went back to the city hall and resumed my desk." [47] Just like that! He must have felt very smug and pleased with himself at this point.

Even now, however, he was not completely finished. When Patrolman McDonald arrived at City Hall, Captain Westbrook noticed the scratch on his face which he had sustained during his struggle with Oswald. In Captain Westbrook's words: "I had him go to the Bureau to have his picture made." [48] This is undoubtedly the well-known portrait photograph, taken at 2:00pm that day, which has been widely published. [49]

The final twist

Surely that was it! No. There was to be one final twist in the story of Captain Westbrook's day. Almost as an afterthought, just a couple of minutes from completing Captain Westbrook's testimony, Mr. Ball asked him: "Were you in the personnel office at the time that a gun was brought in?" Captain Westbrook replied: "Yes sir; it was brought to my office when it shouldn't have been." [50] This prompts an obvious question: why, of all the offices in the many departments of City Hall, was that weapon (which turned out to be the revolver seized during Oswald's arrest) [51] brought to Captain Westbrook's office and placed on Detective McGee's desk together with its ammunition? [52]

I eventually managed to resolve this small mystery—but only at the expense of creating a new one. In his testimony, Sergeant Gerald Hill, who had retained possession of Oswald's revolver from

the time it was handed to him in the Texas Theater, stated:

"The gun remained in my possession . . . until . . . Detective T.L. Baker of the homicide bureau...came to the personnel office and requested that they be given to him, and I...turned them over to him at this point." [53]

So that is how Oswald's revolver came to be in Captain Westbrook's office. Apparently, Sergeant Hill, together with Detectives Paul Bentley and Bob Carroll and Patrolmen C.T. Walker and K.E. Lyons, had "adjourned to the personnel office, which was further down the hall from homicide and I sat down and started to try to organize the first report of the arrest." [54] It is logical to suppose that those five officers, unable to find the space and quiet to put their report together in the Homicide Bureau, would have sought an office away from all the frantic activity. It just seems a remarkable coincidence that all of the offices in the building, they should choose Captain Westbrook's. Surely it was just a coincidence!

Conclusion

So that was Captain W.R. Westbrook's day. As I stressed at the beginning of this paper, he should have done nothing but remain at his desk carrying out his normal administrative tasks. In reality, he did nothing of the sort.

It would be natural to expect that Captain Westbrook's vast and varied involvement with the events of the day would make him one of the most frequently mentioned and quoted characters in the final Warren Report. His name, however, appears only on one page, and then only in connection with the finding of the mysterious zipper jacket. Check it for yourself. The name of Captain W.R. Westbrook appears just four times on that page [55] and nowhere else in the rest of the published Warren Report except in the Index.

That, to me, is the final and perhaps the greatest mystery!

Notes

1. Warren Commission Hearings & Exhibits, Vol. 19, p. 148. (DPD Personnel Assignments, November 1963), References to this source cited

hereafter in format: 19H148.

2. 19H119.
3. 7H110. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
4. 17H493. (Radio log of channel 1 of the Dallas Police Department for 22 November 1963).
5. 7H110. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
6. 20H156. (Photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald being subdued in the Texas Theater).
7. 7H109. (Preamble to testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
8. Edward Jay Epstein: Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth, published by Hutchinson of London, 1966; page 19.
9. 7H44. (Testimony of Sergeant Gerald Lynn Hill).
10. 7H44.
11. 7H110. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
12. 7H44. (Testimony of Gerald Lynn Hill).
13. 19H137. (DPD Personnel Assignments, November 1963).
14. 7H110. See also 19H148 (DPD Personnel Assignments, November 1963).
15. 7H110. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
16. Carlton Stowers: Partners in Blue: The History of the Dallas Police Department, published by Taylor Publishing Company, USA, 1983; page 72.
17. This information can only have originated from a police radio transmission. It may even have come directly from citizen T.F. Bowley's call on Tippit's car radio (transmission serial nos. 898-918 on DPD Radio Log (Channel 1) timed at 1:18pm). See Arch Kimbrough's transcript of the DPD radio tapes (1970). Details of these transmissions also appear in the Warren Commission Hearings, Sawyer Exhibit A. (21H388-400).
18. 7H79. (Testimony of Sergeant Calvin Bud Owens). Owens appears to have been the driver ("some patrolman") of this police car.
19. 7H110-111. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
20. 7H29. (Testimony of Patrolman Thomas Alexander Hutson— three-wheel motorcycle officer).

21. 7H113. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 22. 7H116. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 23. Warren Commission Report, page 175 (hereafter cited in format: WCR175).
 24. 7H115. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 25. WCR175.
 26. 21H725,726. (Westbrook Exhibits B,C,D).
 27. 7H117-118. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 28. 16H520.
 29. 7H118. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 30. Sylvia Meagher: Accessories After the Fact, published by Vintage Books, New York, 1976; pages 274-280.
 31. Joachim Joesten: Oswald: the Truth, published by Peter Dawnay Ltd., London, 1967; pages 217, 233 and 237.
 32. 7H111. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 33. Arch Kimbrough's transcript of the DPD radio tapes (1970). This is transmission serial no. 1377 on Channel 1, timed at 1:45pm: "We have information that a suspect just went in the Texas Theater on West Jefferson."
 34. 7H111. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 35. 7H93. (Testimony of Patrolman Ray Hawkins).
 36. 7H111-112. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 37. 7H112. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 38. 7H5 (Testimony of Johnny Calvin Brewer); 7H19 (Testimony of Detective Bob Carroll); but see also 7H31 (Testimony of Patrolman Thomas Alexander Hutson: "The lights were down. The lights were on in the theater, but it was dark.")
 39. 7H112. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 40. 7H90. (Testimony of George Jefferson Applin, Jr.)
 41. 7H73. (Testimony of John Gibson).
 42. 7H113. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 43. Arch Kimbrough's transcript of the DPD radio tapes (1970). This is transmission no. 1495 on Channel 1, timed at 1:52pm.
 44. 17H361-494.
 45. 20H156. (Photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald being subdued in the Texas Theater).
 46. John R. Woods II: J.F.K. Assassination Photographs: A Comprehensive Listing, self-published, 1993; page 203.
 47. 7H115. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 48. 7H114. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 49. 17H515.
 50. 7H118. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 51. 16H513.
 52. 7H118. (Testimony of Captain W.R. Westbrook).
 53. 7H56. (Testimony of Sergeant Gerald Lynn Hill).
 54. 7H59. (Testimony of Sergeant Gerald Lynn Hill).
 55. WCR175.

OSWALD AND THE NAZIS

by
 Jerry D. Rose*

In that repository of enigmas, Lee Harvey Oswald's notebook as published by the Warren Commission, there is one especially intriguing entry, as shown on the back cover of this issue. [1] Oswald here records the location of the American Nazi Party in Arlington VA and the name of one Dan Burros who was, for a short time, an official of the American Nazi Party and, in parts of 1961 and 1962, of a splinter party called the American National Party. The location in the Hollis section of Queens NY is the correct location for the latter group. [2] It was formed in late 1961, when Burros and John Patler, two Nazis in George Lincoln Rockwell's "barracks" in Arlington, left Rockwell in a snit of disillusionment with Rockwell. [3] During its brief life of less than a year, the New Yorker group, like its Arlington progenitor, sought and gained much notoriety in its public demonstrations. To cite a couple of instances: (1) in January of 1962, the Party demonstrated outside UN headquarters urging that the U.S. "declare war" on the Soviet Union, a demon-

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stration that the Soviet ambassador to the UN, Valerian Zorin, cited in a UN speech as all-too-typical of "war propaganda" in the U.S. [4] (2) in April, 1962, the Party distributed pamphlets in Algeria urging support for the O.A.S. generals who were in revolt against French President deGaulle in his effort to end the Algerian War by granting Algerian independence. [5] And, of course, the Party was active in counter-demonstrations against many civil rights and anti-war demonstrations in the New York City area. [6]

I have referred to the short-lived existence of the American National Party. Formed when Burros and Patler left Rockwell in November, 1961, it broke up in about August 1962 when Patler was arrested and jailed after a civil rights counter-demonstration in Englewood NJ. [7] Patler and Burros went their separate ways: Patler back into Rockwell's fold in Arlington, to remain until his assassination of his "Fuhrer" in 1967; [8] Burros through a couple of other neo-Nazi incarnations. By 1963 Burros was involved with a New York group called the National Renaissance Party, headed by James Madole, a group that got itself in serious trouble in July, 1963 when police arrested them with an arms cache as they were counter-picketing CORE demonstrations against White Castle restaurants in New York City. [9] This caper resulted in Madole, Burros and others being convicted and jailed. Back on the streets, Burros came under the influence of a Pennsylvania leader of the Ku Klux Klan, Roy Frankhouser; and 1965 found Burros installed as head of KKK for New York State. [10] When Donald Appell of the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) thoughtlessly "exposed" Burros and other Klan leaders, the New York Times received a "tip" that Burros was a bar-mitzvahed Jewish boy from Queens. [11] When a Times reporter wrote a front page article to this effect, [12] a distraught Burros, hiding out with other Klansmen in Frankhouser's home in Reading PA, grabbed a pistol and shot himself twice: in the heart and in the head. [13] (Confronted with that unlikely scenario of two fatal "suicide" shots, Frankhouser and other Nazis present feared they would be murder suspects, and their hands were

examined—negatively—for indications of having fired a weapon.) [14]

Although the Burros story is an intriguing one, the enigma of his name in Oswald's notebook is not solved by any of the information I have provided. How did Oswald acquire the name and location of Burros, along with the correct location and "newspaper" name for the American Nazi Party? There are several possible explanations but only one, I think, that is particularly viable.

One possibility is that Oswald read about Burros and the other Nazis in news accounts of the time and, for some reason, recorded that information in his notebook. He could, for example, have obtained the Queens address of the American National Party from New York Times articles [15]—except that these appear in stories in the early months of 1962, when Oswald was in the Soviet Union. Even if (unlikely) he had read these stories, he would have learned about Patler, who is listed as founder of the American National Party, but not about Burros, who is not mentioned. (The only time Burros was mentioned in 1962 or 1963 was in connection with the White Castle incident in July 1963, and he was no longer associated with the American National Party.) Oswald might have heard of Burros in one of the "left-wing" periodicals which he supposedly read—The Militant or The Worker—though this seems a little unlikely (I don't have access to these publications).

Another possibility is that Oswald was maintaining some kind of clandestine connection with extreme right-wing elements, much as it has been suggested that he was operating with an "anti-integration" or "anti-Castro" agenda in Louisiana. [16] Although Burros was to appear after the assassination in a t-shirt reading "Lee Harvey Oswald Fan Club," [17] this seems less an indication of association with Oswald than an expression of approval of the murder that Oswald supposedly committed. Nor is there, on the Oswald-as-Nazi scenario, any particular logic in his recording of such axiomatic material as an organization's name, location, "national secretary" and "newspaper" if he had such a direct association with these

people.

The final—and by far the most plausible—explanation for this entry in Oswald's notebook is that it reflects Oswald's status as a government agent (probably FBI) in that agency's operation against such right-wing extremists as the American Nazi Party. I won't try to review here all the other evidence pointing in that direction of Oswald's identification. [18] The notebook entry in question has the earmarks of information about American Nazis that likely came from some agency that was investigating them. The ANP, along with any of its offshoots, was the target of an immense amount of investigative interest. For example, at the time of the civil rights March on Washington in late August, 1963, D.C. police were so concerned about disruptions by Rockwell and his followers that they assigned some 100 police and auxiliaries to watch these neo-Nazis. [19] A small band—probably much smaller than the hundred watchers—were confined to a small grassy area near the Washington Monument.

If Oswald did hear of the neo-Nazis from some investigative agency, there seems to have been only a small window of opportunity chronologically for him to have done so. He did not return from the Soviet Union until June 13, 1962 and, as I have noted, the American National Party was largely defunct after August of that year. Although it is possible that the FBI's interview with him in Ft. Worth in August, 1962 [20] was the source of the information, the New York City emphasis in the notation leads me to suspect that Oswald got it while he was still in New York on June 13 and 14, in the process of his "repatriation." I base this suspicion largely on the strange circumstances of the brief stay of Oswald and his family in that city. [21] Oswald arrived in NYC with insufficient funds to complete his travel for Marina, June and himself to Ft. Worth. The State Department, having loaned him only enough to get to NYC, contacted the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) that Oswald might need further assistance. HEW contacted Travellers Aid in NYC on the matter and Spas Raikin (yes, that man!) went to the

boat (the Maasdam) and finally contacted Oswald who was trying to evade him for some reason, as Raikin thought. Raikin passed the case along to the city's Department of Welfare, which arranged to put the Oswalds overnight in a hotel and went to work trying to get the Oswald family to Ft. Worth. There followed one of those familiar scenes (as in Mexico City or Moscow) called "Oswald-vs.-the-bureaucracy" in which the Department contacted Robert Oswald about sending some travel funds and Oswald insisted that his brother couldn't afford this and that the Department of Welfare should itself provide the funds. As usual, the bureaucracy won, and the Oswalds were sent packing on Robert's money.

This strange tale may be worth recounting here because it may have bearing on how and when Oswald became aware of Burros and the American National Party. Oswald's obstinacy about his travel plans gave him the opportunity for some rather extended contact with people in New York's Department of Welfare. This is interesting, because it may have facilitated a personal contact of Oswald with a member of the tiny band of American National Party members that included Burros and Patler. The Welfare official who actually "handled" the Oswald case was one Martin Isaacs, who was later to be investigated by the FBI as possibly identical with the "Isaacs" whom Richard Giesbrecht overheard being mentioned at the Winnipeg Airport as a participant in a JFK assassination plot. [22] I am more interested at the moment in another employee of New York's Welfare Department.

I refer to Frank Rotella, who belonged to that group of 10 or so members of the American National Party; a man who, like Burros, lost his job in 1965 when HUAC "exposed" him as a Klansman. [23] Rotella was actually in Reading and witnessed Burros' suicide, as described above. I have no evidence that Rotella had anything to do with the processing of the Welfare Department's "Oswald case" in June, 1962; but it is certainly a "small world" that an employee of that department was on such intimate terms with the man (Burros) whose name and address appear in the notebook of Lee Harvey Oswald.

*I wish to acknowledge the assistance in this research of Dave Boylan, Larry Haapenen, John McLoughlin and J.P. Shinley, all of whom have furnished some of the many documents cited in this article and in related research.

Notes

1. Warren Commission Hearings and Exhibits, vol. 16, p. 57. References to this source cited hereafter in format: 16H57.
2. A.M. Rosenthal and Arthur Gelb, One More Victim (New York: New American Library, 1967), p. 150. This entire book, by two members of the editorial staff of the New York Times, is devoted to the neo-Nazi career of Burros.
3. Rosenthal and Gelb, One More Victim, pp. 147, 148.
4. New York Times, April 28, 1962, p. 3.
5. New York Times, April 13, 1962, p. 6.5. Times reporting of both this incident and the UN picketing one refers to the American National Party having 10 members in New York City and 11 in Louisiana. Assassination researchers will, of course, perk up their ears at this reference to a Louisiana sector of the party. A possible identity for the Louisiana branch is suggested in the description by Rosenthal and Gelb (One More Victim, pp. 140, 141) of a visit by Rockwell and other ANP members to New Orleans in May of 1961. The authors say that "in March of 1961 an English fascist named Michael Slatter, who headed a little Nazi cell in New Orleans, visited [Rockwell's] headquarters and told Rockwell that he could raise some money to finance a Nazi expedition to New Orleans." This being the time of the Freedom Rides to achieve racial integration, Rockwell decided to fashion a "Hate Bus" of his followers to demonstrate in New Orleans. (The resulting arrests are described in the New Orleans Times-Picayune of May 25, 1961, p. 10—this reference courtesy Jerry Shinley). Burros and Patler made this trip. Patler was arrested; Burros missed the "fun" (picketing of the movie Exodus and an NAACP headquarters) because he drew a "short straw" against Patler and had to remain in the hotel to stay in

contact with "headquarters." There is no indication whether this "little Nazi cell" may have been the original from which the New York City "cell" was a slightly later offshoot. Rosenthal and Gelb do refer (p. 141) to a Burros contact when a "New Orleans Nazi sidled up to him." In any case, "the mission ended sourly for Rockwell" who apparently didn't care for the "local Fuhrer" who accused Rockwell of "raiding his personnel." Rosenthal and Gelb (p. 141) conclude their report of this incident with a rather startling statement that "Rockwell then 'washed his hands' of the New Orleans outfit, known as NSRP (National States Rights Party). He ordered a couple of his troopers to quit the New Orleans group or get out of the Nazi Party." (See my "J.B. Stoner, An Introduction" in the November 1995 issue of The Fourth Decade for more on the NSRP.)

- That the NSRP might have been behind the formation of the American National Party is quite intriguing. Whether or not this was the case, it is certainly a fact that NSRP leaders were familiar with Patler, Burros and their New York City operation by March, 1962. In the NSRP's magazine, The Thunderbolt, for that date (issue no. 40, p. 8), the editors present laudatory sketches of Patler and Burros, even holding up as a model for other patriots the condition of their headquarters in Queens (which other commentators refer to as a "shanty"), which shows "what can be done with a little paint and a fixing up." Thunderbolt issue no. 48, January 1963, reports on an NSRP meeting in New York at which legal funds were collected for Patler after his arrest on a picket line. (These issues of The Thunderbolt furnished courtesy Dave Boylan.)
6. New York Times, August 7, 1962, p. 75; August 19, 1962, p. 74.
 7. New York Times, August 23, 1962, p. 1; Rosenthal and Gelb, One More Victim, p. 160.
 8. New York Times, August 26, 1967, p. 1.
 9. New York Times, July 15, 1963, p. 1. Rosenthal and Gelb, One More Victim, pp. 167-174. One of those arrested in this incident—Anthony

- Wells—had, like Patler, been arrested during the ANP demonstrations in New Orleans in 1961; see footnote 5.
10. Rosenthal and Gelb, One More Victim, pp. 178–190.
 11. Rosenthal and Gelb, One More Victim, pp. 192–218.
 12. McCandlish Phillips, "State Klan Leader Hides Secret of Jewish Origin," New York Times, October 31, 1965, p. 1.
 13. Homar Bigart, "Jewish-Born Klansman Apparent Suicide," New York Times, November 1, 1965, p. 1; Rosenthal and Gelb, One More Victim, pp. 211–230.
 14. Rosenthal and Gelb, One More Victim, pp. 226–228. Even in Klan circles and years later there was skepticism about the circumstances of Burros' death. A Klan leader from Ohio, Dale Reusch, told Sims in 1976 that Burros had been found with 3 bullet holes and that he suffered "a bad case of suicide." Patsy Sims, The Klan (New York: Stein and Day, 1976), p. 30.
 15. New York Times, April 13, 1962, p. 6; April 28, 1962, p. 3.
 16. Peter Dale Scott, Deep Politics and the Death of JFK (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), pp. 262–266.
 17. Rosenthal and Gelb, One More Victim, p. 160.
 18. I will mention here some relatively unfamiliar material suggesting that Oswald, as an investigatory agent, may have been focussing specifically on the Nazi element of the American right wing. In an earlier article ("Double Agent Unmasked: a Reconstruction," The Third Decade 3#6 Dec 1986), I covered some of the grounds for suspicion that Oswald was engaged in surveillance of both the Guy Banister apparatus in New Orleans and that of Edwin A. Walker in Dallas. Both Banister and Walker had closer Nazi connections than has generally been acknowledged in the assassination literature. In a monograph on the ANP written in June, 1965 and approved by Clyde Tolson of the FBI (FBI file #105–70374–3850, material furnished courtesy Jerry Shinley), it is reported that a "printing salesman named Robert A. Surrey" was reportedly the head of a secret group of about 30 ANP members who were holding weekly meetings in Surrey's home. Surrey was, of course, the chief aide of Walker, and it is possible that Surrey, as much as Walker, was the target of Oswald's surveillance.
- Another FBI report from the same series (FBI 105–70374–1749) dated December 31, 1962, includes allegations of Dan Campbell, a private investigator for Banister. According to Campbell, Colonel Balter, owner of the Balter Building in which Banister's office was located, had sent a check to Rockwell to cover the cost of ANP members coming to New Orleans to picket the movie Exodus. (Perhaps this was the financial source referred to by Michael Slatter in his offer of assistance to bring Rockwell to New Orleans; see footnote #5). Another Banister associate, the erstwhile Jack Martin, in his rambling 55-page "affidavit" to DA Jim Garrison in 1968 (HSCA Record #180–10023–10380, FBI file #62–109060–6344), claims that Rockwell was represented by Banister when he was arrested for disturbances in New Orleans, presumably the same incident associated with the Exodus picketing. Throughout his affidavit, Martin makes repeated allusions to a "neo-nazi" assassination conspiracy of which Banister was allegedly a prime leader. He also refers to the specific activities of Michael Slatter.
19. New York Times August 29, 1963, p. 20.
 20. Warren Report, pp. 715, 716.
 21. 26H5–10.
 22. Peter Whitmey, "The Winnipeg Airport Incidents," The Fourth Decade 3#1 November, 1995, p. 22.
 23. Bigart, "Jewish Born Klansman Apparent Suicide," Rosenthal and Gelb, One More Victim, pp. 165, 213.

ORDERS TO KILL: A REVIEW

by
Else Weinstein

William F. Pepper's Orders To Kill—The Truth Behind the Murder of Martin Luther King (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc.), 1995, is a most important assassination book. It is the first thoroughly researched account I have seen which pieces together the modus operandum of the killers and determines who the operators were, albeit without naming the grand inquisitor who set the plan in motion, though in this case, based on Pepper's findings, strong suspicion rests on J. Edgar Hoover.

The parallels with the JFK assassination are so striking that one must assume the same perpetrators were behind both, and most likely also behind Robert Kennedy's murder. This book sheds enormous light on all these assassinations.

Mr. Pepper was an activist in the 60's, supporting Martin Luther King's agenda for civil rights and peace in Viet Nam. He seems a person without any intelligence axes to grind, just a persistent lawyer trying to learn the truth about King's assassination.

After the killing, he soon became convinced that James Earl Ray was a patsy (just like Oswald), and Pepper has now spent near 30 years of his life trying to prove James Earl Ray's innocence. On the book jacket, Pepper is listed as James Earl Ray's attorney, a job he undertook after two other lawyers "failed" to get a new trial, a task so formidable that Mr. Pepper also failed, given the government forces which worked against a new trial. The book details his extensive research into the case, first as Ray's attorney, then as consultant for Thames TV which he persuaded to stage a mock television trial of James Earl Ray's case—he was found innocent, by the way! Over these years, Pepper traced and interviewed most of the people associated with this assassination, it seems, including some of the sharp-

shooters trained by the Military for this "mission", who had fled the country for fear of being killed in the "clean-up" that took place afterwards.

Compared to the Kennedy assassination, Martin Luther King's murder was more sloppily done than that of America's President, as I see it. One perceives the same modus operandum with less attention to detail, less capable operators, and more people talking afterwards despite threats to their lives. (Even in assassination, a black man in America gets unequal treatment, apparently)!

Still, the same patterns emerge in both murders: the patsy portrayed in the media as a loner in search of celebrity; the fake evidence, in Ray's case two bundles of incriminating nature "found" by police, which shows the same parallax view so familiar in the JFK case of doubles everywhere; involvement of Mafia types for easy deniability by the organizers; support of right-wing patriot groups in the South; corrupt police supporting the plot; vague references to Hunt Oil; clear indications of official manipulation of the patsy, as to Ray's obtaining a dead man's passport in Canada, and also the ID papers of a living CIA man named Galt, which smacks of strong intelligence involvement in this "drifter's" life.

Mr. Pepper's lengthy preparation for the mock trial, conducted in all respects like a real trial, might at first glance have minimal interest for Kennedy researchers. Yet Pepper followed many new leads during this stage of his investigation, which creates reader interest in his getting closer and closer to the truth. His account reads like a detective story until the end chapter where many acronyms of military units, clearly of great importance to his findings, still begin to baffle and bore the general reader.

He learned that major participants were our military establishment, Hoover's FBI and some CIA men, in close cooperation with the Klan and the Mob in southern states who all, through paranoia and fear of liberalism and civil rights, were convinced that civil war was imminent in America unless King were eliminated.

It's amazing in retrospect to contemplate the millions in taxpayer money spent by the FBI on surveillance of Martin Luther King, fully docu-

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mented by Mr. Pepper: bugging his rooms, following him around, hiring thugs to create violence at his rallies, and devising smear tactics to discredit the leadership qualities of this truly peaceful resister.

Hoover's paranoid outlook was apparently accepted as true patriotism in intelligence circles at the time, but it is not clear in this book whether or not he authorized King's assassination, though his agents certainly participated.

After reading Mr. Pepper's book, I finally understood L. Fletcher Prouty's pronouncement (in JFK), that the Kennedy assassination was a military coup, based on a mindset which few Americans outside these groups understood at the time. The enormous interest in wars abroad and a status quo at home, in our arms industry and the Pentagon, with its extensions, the NRA, local Militias, and sundry "patriotic" groups such as the Klan and the Minutemen, all with agendas opposed to democracy, were so foreign to American sensibilities that nobody took the fervor of these groups seriously.

Today, our military/industrial complex opts for "little wars" around the globe at all times, according to L. Fletcher Prouty, after the disaster of Viet Nam which turned public opinion so totally against the American war machine. And he seems to have been right on target, given the many mini-engagements of American troops in recent years. One begins to wonder if a greedy and corrupt military complex controls our country.

As for Martin Luther King's assassination, teams of military sharpshooters trained at military bases in the South to shoot a target in a moving car, were placed on the roofs of high buildings near the Lorraine Motel where King was staying, according to Pepper's findings. But the conspirators had also contracted with local mobsters to kill King, no doubt to emerge without taint in the murder of this popular leader, and the military sharpshooters became back-up teams. The two military shooters whom Pepper interviewed in South America said they were most surprised that day, when the order to fire never came on their walkie-talkies.

It was a Mob gunman who killed Dr. King, apparently, from a position behind tall trees and shrub-

bery across from the Lorraine Motel, trees which were cut down that same night, for some peculiar reasons of cover-up. That same gunman was seen by a few people who happened to be in the Lorraine parking lot, climbing over the wall and getting into a police car parked down the street. The police were involved, obviously, as in JFK's assassination in Dallas.

A waitress in the restaurant behind the shrubbery, directly across the street from the Lorraine Motel, saw the owner of this cafe running in from the back yard with a rifle which he placed in a box behind the counter, right after King's murder. Later, several employees saw a suitcase of money behind this same counter in the restaurant.

William F. Pepper's book on Martin Luther King's murder is highly instructive for Kennedy assassination researchers, given the many similar patterns. It is a great advantage that King's murder was more sloppily done, thus providing much clearer insights into the very similar ways both assassinations were accomplished.

As for dear Martin Luther King, a true follower of Gandhi's peaceful resistance to abuses of government within American democracy, he never had a chance in our military country so corrupted by the greed and wiles of special-interest groups. Nor did John F. Kennedy, for that matter, in his naive belief that the President is the leader of our country.

28

THE JOKER IN THE JET EFFECT

by
Milicent Cranor
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The following statement by Luis Alvarez contains the key to the "jet effect."

"My analysis involves three interacting masses, the bullet, the jet of brain matter...and the remaining part of the head..." [1]

Is something missing from this analysis?

According to the government, a bullet struck John Kennedy in the back of the head, after which, films show, the head moves forward almost imperceptibly, then snaps back violently, apparently confirming stories of a gunman in front. Alvarez took it upon himself to prove a bullet from behind could make the head go backward. Financed by a precursor to the Department of Energy, he shot at melons wrapped in tape, blowing out large exit holes, and causing the melons to whizz away from the direction of the exiting spatter. This is the jet effect. [1] What follows is a list of the interacting masses that were involved in Dealey Plaza according to the government:

BULLET

Hard-jacketed military bullet, 160 grains. Impact velocity 1800 ft/sec, according to Alvarez, but probably would have been higher. On impact with the back of the head, broke into two large fragments; one of which was a mostly empty brass jacket, the other, a brass jacketed lead core. A 6.5mm fragment became imbedded in the back of the skull, according to the government.

BACK OF HEAD

Dense enough to have done the above-mentioned damage to the bullet.

BRAIN

"Exploded." If the velocity of the bullet is high enough (most say 1.000 ft/sec) cavitation takes place: "With high-velocity wounds, there is...a

sudden sharp increase in intracranial pressure...[and a] temporary cavity...formed by the radial motion imparted by the missile, through creation of oscillating positive and negative pressure along the path of the missile..." [2] Not to be confused with shock wave.

TOP-FRONT OF HEAD

Bullet fragment(s), struck from inside, creating an exit wound determined by the size of the missile and whatever bone it took with it. (The hole can become enlarged by cavitation after the bullet exits.) The autopsy photo of this wound shows it to be in extremely dense bone.

"REMAINING" HEAD

If you believe in the jet effect, then you should add another mass—the remaining part of the head, said to have been "blown back" by the exploding brain.

THE MISSING INTERACTION

The following statement is what Alvarez's experiment is supposed to be about:

"I concluded that the retrograde motion of the President's head, in response to the rifle bullet shot, is consistent with the law of conservation of momentum, if one pays attention to the law of conservation of energy as well, and includes the momentum of all the material in the problem." [1]

But does he include the momentum of all the material?

"...the critics treat the problem as though it involved only two interacting masses: the bullet and the head. My analysis involves three interacting masses, the bullet, the jet of brain matter observable in frame 313, and the remaining part of the head..." [1]

Again, I ask, what is missing?

BULLET-SKULL vs SKULL-BRAIN INTERACTIONS

Alvarez's analysis of his experiment is correct. He deals with only three interacting masses, ignoring what may be the most important interaction of all: The collision of the bullet with the back of the head, as opposed to what's left of the head after the bullet has gone through it, the "remaining part of the head." If this collision could break a bullet in half, it would be very serious competition for the jet

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effect.

The jet effect may be real, but how strong is it? Is it capable of pushing the skull backward against the forward momentum of the bullet? How much energy is lost in a collision strong enough to break a bullet in half? And let's not forget the last collision with bone. Would the bullet pull the head a bit more forward on its way out through this thick bone?

How did Alvarez eliminate, or soften into near nonexistence, this high-energy (in real life) collision from this experiment?

For one thing, he used soft melons wrapped in Scotch glass filament tape, "to mock up the tensile strength of the cranium." But it isn't the tensile strength of an object that retards a bullet, it's the specific gravity. [5] How much resistance would the melon present to a bullet? And what about the bullet?

Alvarez fired, at close range, 150 grain soft-nosed bullets with an impact velocity of 3000 ft/sec. What is the difference between an impact velocity of 3000 ft/sec and one of 1800 ft/sec, what Alvarez gives for the Carcano bullet? Ballistics expert W.E. DeMuth, Jr., M.D.:

"The kinetic energy theory...[that] energy = M x V²/2g, indicates that energy is directly proportional to mass and to the square of the velocity. Therefore, doubling bullet weight doubles energy; doubling velocity quadruples it." [4]

(Emphasis added)

It seems safe to say that Alvarez's bullet had at least twice the energy of the Carcano bullet. How much energy did it lose on impact with the occipital region of the melon? Enough to fragment the bullet? Alvarez never even brought up the subject.

THE SECRET ACCOMPLICE

John Lattimer, M.D. extended Alvarez's experiments, by shooting at human skulls filled with simulated brain as they sat perched upon a ladder. [3,6] Each skull would rock forward a bit, then violently backward. Since Lattimer used the real thing, human skulls, instead of soft melons, and the much slower Carcano bullet, how did he achieve

the same results as Alvarez? Lattimer had an accomplice interfere with the skull's momentum:

The ladder.

But it had to be activated by the firing angle. Alvarez's suspended melons were free to react to whichever force was the strongest. Suspended by tape, they could turn in response to the direct impact of the bullet, or the jet effect. Neither force was impeded. Kennedy's head, supported by a flexible neck which permits pivoting, could be driven forward and downward (chin down into chest) by a force from behind, or his head could go backward (chin up) by a force from the front.

But doesn't a detached skull on a ladder have even more freedom of movement? Almost. It can go forward or backward or sideways, but the one direction it cannot go in is downward. This is crucial to the demonstration. Lattimer doesn't just fire from behind, he fires from above, down at the skull. The skull cannot go in the direction of the bullet if the direction is both forward and downward—the ladder is in the way—so it transfers its momentum to the ladder. The ladder can't go downward either, but it can go forward or, being fairly stable, it can resist. (Friction may also play a part.)

The trajectory from the sixth floor window to the 1964 entrance was downward by 10 degrees off the horizon, but this is irrelevant because Kennedy was leaning forward even more. So the alleged trajectory from the alleged entrance to the alleged exit in the right front is slightly upward. Why didn't Lattimer fire at the skulls in a purely horizontal trajectory so that the skull would not have to share any momentum with the ladder?

NO NEGATIVE CONTROL

If you shoot an empty skull with a high powered rifle, the entrance and, significantly, the exit wound will be small and neat. [7,8] The big exit wounds left in skulls associated with medium or high velocity bullets are not caused by bullets directly; but by cavitation which thrusts open the skull bones, usually along suture lines. Jet effect theory is dependent on exploding brain. What would have happened had Lattimer shot an empty skull perched upon a

ladder? Is there a reason Lattimer did not follow standard scientific procedure and fire at empty skulls on a ladder to obtain what scientists refer to as a "negative control?" What if Lattimer fired down at an empty skull, and it moved back toward the source of the shot?

JET FUEL

According to both Parkland and Bethesda, Kennedy lost less than half of his brain. Was there enough "fuel" to move head and torso backward? Why didn't Lattimer follow standard scientific procedure and report the amount of fuel in his experimental skulls before and after shooting them? Lattimer is like a third-rate magician who pulls a stuffed rabbit out of a hat, without first showing you the "empty" hat.

DIRECTIONS OF "JETS," POSITION OF BODY

A "jet" extends from Kennedy's head at about an angle of 70 degrees. Two more such lines can be seen, though barely, coming from (or going to) Kennedy's head at an angle of about 45 degrees. These are supposed to be "jets." The lines show up at Zapruder 313, at a time when Kennedy is still leaning down and to his left. If these are jets, they should have pushed the head further downward. And what about gravity? The jets would have to lift the head—against gravity—then push it back hard enough to take the rest of his body with it. Is less than half a brain up to the job? Alvarez does acknowledge the direction of the jets, but ignores completely the posture of Kennedy and any effect of gravity:

"...the two jets visible in frame 313 have vertical components that would lower the longitudinal component of momentum, bring the theory closer to the actual event. I don't want to be that quantitative; the theory wasn't designed to calculate the velocities to high accuracies—but to show qualitatively that the head could jerk backwards." [1]

SKULL FRAGMENTS

Lattimer said his skull fragments "flew upward and forward for distances of 20 feet to 30 feet, as in frames 313 of the Zapruder film." [3] But, with the exception of the Harper fragment, the other bone

fragments were found in the car [10,11]. Furthermore, the Zapruder film shows a white object with a notch in it, about the size of an adult palm, spinning down Kennedy's back in frames 322 to 335. Was this the largest fragment?

I found no description in the medical literature of a bullet causing so much of the skull to detach from the head [7–14], but I did come upon a photo of a gelatin filled human skull after it was hit by a 7.62mm bullet (muzzle velocity 2,900 ft/sec) from only 14 meters away. [7] There were typical "eggshell" fractures along the suture lines but the skull fragments were still attached, not even held together by scalp or tape—and the exit wound in this skull was less than one-third that of Kennedy's.

A MAJOR DISCREPANCY

I heard many statements about fragmentation from experienced hunters: That a full jacketed military bullet would never fragment on impact with a human skull. That such a bullet would lose all its energy if it broke on impact. That such a collision would result in the two fragments flying in opposite directions, instead of continuing through the head and ending up so close together in the front of the car. I was unable to verify any of these statements. The only literature I found on such bullets never addressed the issue of fragmentation, other than to say they were designed to not fragment. I did, however, find an example right in the Warren Commission Hearings that surely applies.

Edgewood Arsenal fired at the wrists of cadavers at an average impact velocity of 1858 ft/sec [15], not much different from the impact velocity (according to Alvarez) of the bullet that struck Kennedy. And the striking angle was similarly oblique. The skull is cancellous bone, which is dense, but the wrist is cortical bone, which is denser. The bullets that struck the wrists did not break in two. Not once.

MOVEMENT ACCORDING TO THE HSCA

The HSCA ballistics panel on the effects of a high velocity missile strike to the head:

"If the bullet strikes the head, an object of relatively low mass in comparison with the entire body, the movement of the head in the direction of missile travel may be considerable.

Rotational movement of the head or of a light weight portion of the body may also occur."

[16]

Movement in the "direction of missile travel" seems to be a given, the only variable being the degree of such movement. Elsewhere in this same chapter, the author briefly mentions Alvarez's jet effect without much conviction. The reason for this lack of conviction may be some remarks, buried in HSCA Volume I, discovered by David Mantik, M.D., Ph.D. They concerned the Army's experiments for the Warren Commission on gelatin-filled skulls (impact velocity of bullets: 2000 ft/sec). What follows is a description of the experiment on film:

As you can see, each of the two skulls that we have observed so far have moved in the direction of the bullet. In other words, both of them have been given some momentum in the direction that the bullet was going. This third one also shows momentum in the direction that the bullet was going, showing that the head of the President would probably go with the bullet. (Emphasis added.)

"This is amplified, however, in these skull because they are not tied to a human body. They are free to move from the table.

"Also, you will see that as the skull goes forward, some of the material of the skull and the contents were blown out towards us. Consequently, the opposing momentum carries the skull away from us, rotates it away from us so that we can actually see the bottom part of the skull in this shot. In fact, all 10 of the skulls that we shot did essentially the same thing. They gained a little bit of momentum consistent with one or a little better foot-per-second velocity that would have been imparted by the bullet and they also lost material toward us, that is, toward its right and, therefore, rotated toward its left." [17]

So. The bullets pushed the gelatin-filled skulls forward, and the skull contents, not the skulls, went back toward the shooter.

CONCLUSION

Jet effect, as an explanation for Kennedy's

headsnap, is a lot of hot air designed to blow you away. Alvarez described these experiments in the same manipulative, ingratiating style of the infomercial that lubricates the writings of John Lattimer, M.D. (a natural secretor of snake oil.) The average infomercial, however, contains more hard fact and logic. Alvarez omitted essential information while including numerous cosy references to his family life, Thanksgiving, Christmas, the American flag, his service in World War II, Lattimer's service in World War II. Words that push emotional buttons and earn trust. Omitted were references to the family dog, the Star Spangled Banner, and mother. He even slipped in the equivalent of a warning to avoid buying brand X, a section on the unreliability of eye witnesses. And he completed this masterpiece of propaganda by surrounding it with a fence of nearly impenetrable mathematical formulas. A cow pie surrounded by barbed wire.

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SCIENTIFIC SLUMMING WITH LUIS ALVAREZ

by
Gene Case

Of all the heavyweight reputations summoned over the years to shore up the government's Lone Assassin Theory, none compares to that of Doctor Luis Walter Alvarez. But Dr. Alvarez's "blur analysis" demonstrates the perils even a Nobel physicist encounters when he descends to the ethical and intellectual level of a state-sponsored hoax. The result of this scientific slumming is not just that Dr. Alvarez fails to prove the dubious hypothesis he was enlisted to prove. He damned near disproves it.

What is blur analysis?

"Blur analysis" attempts to make gunshots reverberate from a silent film. It seeks to determine the

timing of the shots fired at President Kennedy by analyzing the blurred frames in Abraham Zapruder's film of the assassination. In practice it is largely a sort of cross-examination of Mr. Zapruder's neuromuscular system. It is, in a way, the testimony of his unconscious.

Of course, Zapruder gave conscious testimony as well. He had heard two loud shots and two only. The first, he said, struck the President and made him stop waving. The second blew open his head. Zapruder always believed both of these shots came from behind him. He gave the Secret Service that opinion the very first evening: "According to Mr. Zapruder, the position of the assassin was behind Mr. Zapruder." [1] Zapruder would later repeat all this under oath. "I thought I heard two...I never even heard a third shot." [2] Where did the shots come from? Wesley Liebeler stubbornly tried to make Zapruder deny he had an opinion. Driven to the wacky syntax of "Yes we have no bananas," Zapruder held his ground:

Zapruder: No, I also thought it came from back of me.

Liebeler: Perhaps the shot had come from behind you?

Zapruder: Well, yes.

Liebeler: From the direction behind you.

Zapruder: Yes. [3]

But after November 22, except in his nightmares, Abraham Zapruder stopped viewing his movie. *Life* had it and was studying it intensely. By its first post-assassination edition *Life* had the bare essentials.

***Life* confirms Zapruder.**

The first shot, *Life* said, strikes Kennedy. As he emerges from behind a sign his wave "turns into a clutching movement toward his throat." Then Connally turns and by what's now called frame 244, "is himself hit by a bullet." [4] The third, fatal shot to Kennedy, striking between frames 312 and 313, is all too obvious. *Life* judged it too gory and printed a frame just before.

But in its next two editions *Life* went much, much further. Under the heading "END TO NAGGING RUMORS" it published a stunning frame-by-frame account of the murder:

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"The first (shot) strikes the President, 170 feet away, in the throat...74 frames later the second falls Governor Connally...48 frames after that the third, over a distance of 260 feet, hits the President's head." [5]

The President, Life said, was struck by a bullet in the front of the throat. He was struck at Zapruder frame 312 minus 48 frames minus 74 frames. He was struck in the throat at frame 190.

"74 frames later" places Connally's wound at frame 264. That is clearly too late. Life knew better. Remember, it had already placed Connally's wound no later than frame 244. Most likely "74 frames later" and "48 frames later" (counts which were meaningless to Life's writers) were inadvertently flip-flopped. When they are reversed they put Connally's reaction at an obvious place: frame 238, which Life had approximated earlier. That explanation can be disputed. What's indisputable is that within a week, the film's closest analysts concluded Kennedy was shot in the front of the throat at frame 190. (Life had a secret ally in this opinion: John Connally. After studying the film to fix the instant of his own wounding—he finally settled on frame 234—Connally would tell the Warren Commission in April that "he felt the President might have been hit by frame 190." [6] The Commission couldn't find room for these eleven words among the ten million it printed.)

But Life never published the frame in which "the first shot strikes the President in the throat." That frame was badly blurred, as were the frames right after. It would take two years to find out why.

Harold Weisberg invents blur analysis.

It was the indefatigable Harold Weisberg who figured it out:

"Beginning with frame 190, this film suddenly becomes fuzzy. Nothing had changed—the exposure was the same, the sun had not gone behind the clouds—the change was in Zapruder. He was no longer holding the camera as steady." [7]

Zapruder shuddered and his camera moved sideways. The lens, remaining open for some 30 milliseconds, admitted this moving image to the

film. The film recorded a blur. This happened twice—first at frame 190 and then again at frame 313, when the fatal shot struck.

It was a brilliant piece of detective work. Unconscious Zapruder corroborated conscious Zapruder! At the same time it corroborated Life's analysis, John Connally's hunch, the timing of Phil Willis' fifth photograph, the testimony of Glen Bennett and the testimony of bystanders too numerous to list. Two shots had come from behind Zapruder at frames 190 and 313, making him shake his camera. The first made the President stop waving. The second blew open his head.

The Lone Assassin Theory was already in trouble. In November of 1966 it received a near-fatal blow. Life magazine turned against it, devoting its cover and 12 full pages to an extremely belligerent Zapruder film critic, John Connally.

The first conspiracy theorist speaks out.

John Connally had been the very first conspiracy theorist. In an instant he'd known that those first shots came from different rifles:

"I was covered with blood and the thought immediately passed through my mind that there were either two or three people involved or more in this...because of the rapidity of these two, of the first plus the blow that I took..." [8]

He'd tried to stay out of that jump seat in the first place. His dyspeptic scowl is the one constant in virtually every image from Dallas. Three years later he was still adamant. The "one-bullet theory," he told Life, was crap. Life agreed, and screamed "CONCLUSION: THE CASE SHOULD BE RE-OPENED." [9] Life would get its new investigation alright, but the investigative body would be a bit of a disappointment.

It was CBS.

The investigation aired June 25, 1967. For the first 40 minutes Walter Cronkite and Dan Rather brought little to the party. The usual witnesses were rounded up, then promptly ignored. "Nothing is less reliable than the testimony of an eyewitness," Cronkite explained. [10] You could forget about ear witnesses, too, for Dealey Plaza was "a bowl certain to

cause echoes." (The idea that witnesses in Dealey Plaza were bamboozled by echoes is summarily disproved in a study buried in the HSCA Report, "Accuracy of forced choice responses as to TSBD or Knoll." A Dr. Wightman and a Dr. McFadden, blindfolded, attempted to "localize" the origins of 17 gunshots. "In the first sequence, Dr. Wightman correctly localized all 17 shots, and Dr. McFadden missed only 1." Dr. Wightman's infallibility fell off slightly over the next two sequences [maybe his ears were ringing]; Dr. McFadden's didn't.) [11] Could Oswald have hit Kennedy? Marksmen were assembled, given Mannlicher Carcanos to practice with, then unleashed on a sled-like target. A few actually hit it, which was proof enough for CBS. Finally, after the last commercial break, the network sprang the only new idea it had. It was Harold Weisberg's old idea, blur analysis. But such a brilliant idea deserved a more intimidating genius to invent it.

Luis Alvarez invents blur analysis.

The new inventor was to be Luis Walter Alvarez. Luis Alvarez had designed a necessary part of the A-bomb. He had observed Almagordo and Hiroshima in real time. He had invented Ground Controlled Approach radar. He had built the particle accelerators that led to the discovery of leptons and quarks and muons. His obituary and portrait would grace a front page of the New York Times. He was a genius and genius does not go unnoticed. Just as the Warren Commission was cranking up, Alvarez was summoned to the White House and there, for "contributions to national defense" among other things, he was awarded the new National Medal of Science by the new President Lyndon Johnson. [12]

There is evidence that Johnson may have requested another contribution. Alvarez's obituary in the Washington Post reads:

"In 1963 Dr. Alvarez assisted the Warren Commission...He demonstrated through principles of physics that one person could have fired all the shots that hit Kennedy and Texas Gov. John Connally." [13]

The same claim was made in the Los Angeles Times. Did he? A source at the Post told me only

"I assure you we didn't make it up." But Alvarez's name isn't in the Warren Report index nor did he ever mention "assisting" Warren, and these newspapers were probably just exercising their zealously-guarded, constitutionally-protected right to get things wrong. Luis Alvarez's version goes like this:

In Berkeley in the fall of 1966 he "found himself in repeated discussions with his graduate students concerning the Warren Report." [14] When Professor Alvarez got home the day before Thanksgiving what should he find in his mailbox but Life with John Connally on the cover, demolishing the Warren Report with the biggest, clearest reproductions of the Zapruder film ever seen.

Alvarez pored over Life. He focused on one frame, 227. Here, points of sun-glare on the limousine were suddenly stretched out into smears of light. This, he surmised, was Zapruder's "startle response" to a gunshot. It wasn't caused, as Harold Weisberg had thought, by Zapruder's "emotions at what he saw" but by his neuromuscular response to a loud noise. Come Monday, in dingy Warren Report versions of the Zapruder frames which appear to have been photographed through a fizzing glass of Alka-Seltzer, Alvarez found more of these light smears and measured each and every one. He found patterns. A friend called a friend, Richard Salant, who happened to run CBS News. CBS flew its sudden star scientist east to view the Zapruder slides in the National Archives and answer the last, vexing question. Never mind whether or why—exactly when did Lee Oswald shoot Jack Kennedy?

Alvarez closes the case (first time).

Until now, two things had been taken for granted. Oswald wouldn't have tried to shoot through the tree beneath him, because he didn't have to. And he couldn't have fired his rifle twice in less than 2.3 seconds, because FBI-man Robert Frazier had testified under oath that he was "firing this weapon as fast as the bolt can be operated." [15]

Luis Alvarez chucked both of these assumptions right out the Texas School Book Depository window.

ALVAREZ SCENARIO ONE

Shot	Film blurs at
frame 186 (misses)	frame 190
frame 223 (hits Kennedy & Connally)	frame 227
frame 313 (kills Kennedy)	frame 318

There was a fleeting hole in the foliage at frame 186. Oswald had fired through it, missed, worked the bolt, aimed again and fired exactly two seconds later at frame 223, hitting the President in the back and making a perjurer out of Robert Frazier.

What had happened to the first bullet? It had drilled itself into a tree branch and stuck there. CBS sent a man shinnying up the tree with a metal detector to find it—he couldn't, though CBS vowed to return later and X-ray the tree. (Fortunately for the network, they never found that tree-trapped bullet—if they had, how would they explain James Tague?)

CBS was not modest about what Alvarez had wrought. The three shots from Oswald's rifle were "as ineradicably marked in the Zapruder film as if he had caught the bullets in flight." [16]

Alvarez fails high school physics.

The truth is, had this been a high school physics exam, Luis Alvarez would have flunked it. His solution ignored rudimentary physical laws. Chief among these was the fact that sound travels at a finite speed—1123 feet per second. (The speed of sound varies slightly with temperature and altitude. This is the figure used by the HSCA.) That is 61 feet per Zapruder film frame. Zapruder was standing 270 feet away from the window at which Oswald allegedly crouched. It took 4.4 film frames for the sound of Oswald's muzzle blast to reach Zapruder.

Alvarez and CBS allowed a fifth of a second—4 film frames—for the "relatively sluggish neuromuscular system" [17] of a 58-year-old man to react to the gunshot. He heard the shot, they said, at frame 186. But the blast actually occurred 270 feet away nearly five frames earlier. Five frames plus four frames was nine frames. The trigger had to have been pulled nine frames earlier. It had to be pulled by frame 181.

There was no hole in the foliage at frame 181.

Blur analysis reared back and bit its masters. It proved that there was no shot through the "hole" at frame 186.

Nor were the smears of light in frame 227 any more satisfying. CBS assured us that "in the frame ahead and again in the frame beyond, they were individual dots." [18] The dots blurred for just one frame. That was 1/18th of a second. A spasmodic neuromuscular motion involving body extremities that begins, reverses itself and comes to rest in 1/18th of a second isn't humanly possible. Why was the background of this frame so remarkably clear? Didn't it appear that Zapruder had momentarily stopped tracking the limousine—nothing more?

Most disturbing of all was the last violent shudder at frame 318. When you looked closely, it was obvious that it began back at frame 313. But that was the same frame in which the President's head blew open. How could that be? What happened to the "relatively sluggish" human reaction time? Didn't that prove an earlier shot? Or even a double-hit?

Alvarez maintained a discreet distance from CBS' conclusions. On camera he said little. What did it mean? It meant that there were three shots. "I showed," he wrote later, "that the first shot had indeed missed and that the shot in the throat was the second." [19] From a serious scientist this was inexcusable braggadocio. He'd proved nothing about hits or misses.

But CBS was ecstatic. Their polling indicated that viewers of the program had been impressed and convinced.

The nuts rise from the ashes.

The next year Luis Walter Alvarez won the Nobel Prize for physics. But 1968 was a dark year. President Johnson was driven from office. Draft cards, flags, cities burned. A cynicism toward those in power set in. Warren Report critics were carriers of this cynicism. Alvarez became contemptuous of them. They were "sometimes called assassination buffs," he learned. From then on he called them nothing else.

"I have found the buffs' books...both unconvincing and incredibly dull...A single theme ties them together—that those in power

are congenital liars, as is supposedly demonstrated further in Vietnam and Watergate." [20]

On the back of Alvarez's autobiography Arthur Clarke was blunter. The buffs, Clarke said, were "nuts." Alvarez had "shot them down." But the nuts came back. They lobbied into existence a House Select Committee on Assassinations. Its Chief Counsel was recruited by Mark Lane, the chief nut. The Warren Report was under siege again. Alvarez buttonholed a buff he respected. What, he asked, was for "his fellow buffs" the most persuasive argument for a conspiracy? [21] It was that Kennedy's head snapped backward after the fatal shot. In a flash Alvarez had an explanation—his "jet effect" theory—"I solved the problem...on the back of an envelope, as I sat in solitary splendor in the beautiful suite that the St. Louis hotel management supplied me in my capacity as president of the APS" [22]—in which the President's head became a jet engine and his brain tissue became jet fuel. This theory would confound the buffs. He would publish it. While he was at it, he would dust off blur analysis. **Alvarez closes the case (second time).**

Luis Alvarez divorced CBS. Their marriage had produced a "simplified and not too convincing report." He couldn't explain blur analysis "to a lay audience and in a short space of time." [23] This time he would write for his peers. He would need room. The *American Journal of Physics*, a bleak little monthly edited for physics teachers, gave it to him. "A physicist examines the Kennedy assassination film" appeared in September, 1976. It was an intimidating piece of work. (A footnote at the end of the article whispers "This work was done with support from the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration." It may be as innocent as "I want to thank Mom for letting me keep the tadpoles in the bathtub during this experiment." On the other hand, would an agency of the U.S. government have "supported" a physicist who looked at the Kennedy assassination film and found two gunmen there? The President at this time was Gerald Ford.)

Luis Alvarez opened by erasing all human memo-

ries of the assassination. They were worthless. He endorsed a *Scientific American* essay—"Eyewitness testimony is unreliable...an eyewitness to a crime is being asked to be something and do something that a normal human being was not created to be or do."; [24] and added a personal "highlight"—"My reasons for preferring physical evidence to the recollections of even the best witnesses are highlighted by noting that the Governor was not even aware that he had received bullet wounds in his wrist and in his thigh. [25]

Governor Connally had been shot to within an inch of his life. He was in shock. His rib was shattered, his lung punctured; he was covered with blood and believed he was dying. That in his death throes he failed to do a complete medical inventory of his wounds says absolutely nothing about the reliability of "the recollections of the best witnesses." But it was good strategy for Alvarez to try to strike "normal human beings" from the equation, because his new scenario required that the assassin behave in ways no normal or abnormal human being had ever behaved before.

Boldly shooting where no man has shot before.

The original excuse for shooting through the tree—the gap in the greenery—was declared inoperative. "Tree shmee" sneered the demented marksman. He blasted right through the fluttering leaves, worked the bolt with superhuman speed and a scant two seconds later dashed off another shot, again making his decision to shoot while his target flickered behind the foliage. Having exploited to the hilt this golden opportunity to shoot through a tree, he then relaxed. He took a leisurely 5 1/2 seconds to squeeze off his last shot.

Oswald was compelled to this weird behavior by the data shown on the chart on the next page. (Fig. 1) This, Alvarez said, was the very plot he "made and showed to my friends at CBS." [26] Again he'd "caught the bullets in flight." But this time they flew earlier. He'd refined blur analysis. A startle response to a gunshot didn't consist of just one blur or "jiggle." It consisted of a "pulse train" of three or four jiggles. "Most people have a peak in their jitter power spectrum at about 3 cycles/sec." [27] The

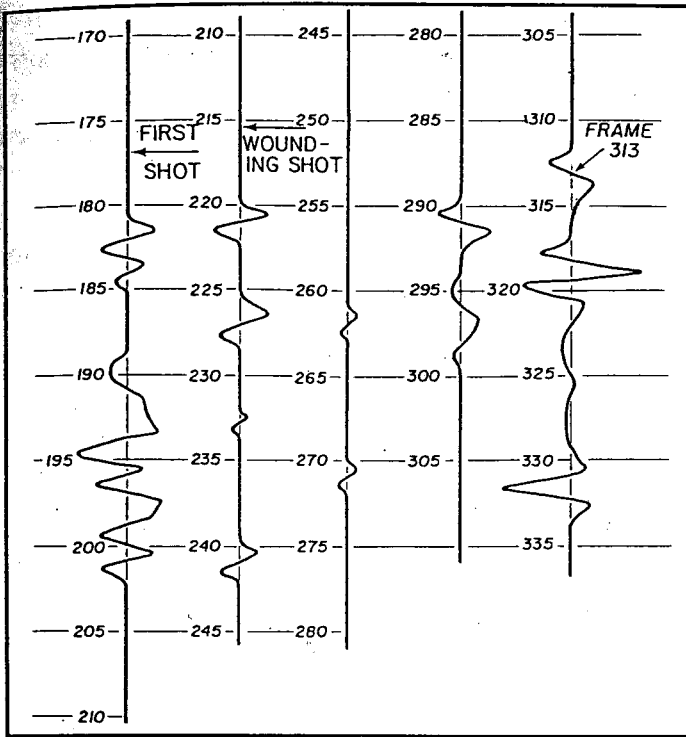


Figure 1.

jiggles in each pulse train fall a third of a second apart. Alvarez identified three of these pulse trains. He lengthened Zapruder's reaction time to five frames. He then back-timed the shots that much from the onset of each train of jiggles:

ALVAREZ SCENARIO TWO

Shot	Film blurs
frame 177 ("first shot"—it misses)	frame 182
frame 215 ("wounding shot")	frame 220
frame 313 (fatal shot)	frame 313

"Shot" could mean when the shot was fired, or it could mean when the shot reached its target. Judging from Alvarez's five-frame delay, it meant neither. "Shot" was when Zapruder heard the shot:

Shot fired	Shot reaches target	Z. hears shot	Film blurs
frame 173	frame 174	frame 177	frame 182
frame 211	frame 212	frame 215	frame 220
frame 311	frame 313	frame 313	frame 313

Is this a reasonable interpretation of Alvarez's data?

Imagine that you've been blindfolded and told to

draw five long rapid straight lines. While you're drawing these lines you're startled by two gunshots. The blindfold's removed and you're shown the lines you drew. Where are the gunshots you heard? It's quite obvious where they are. They're where the straight line turns into jagged convulsive spasms—first in the 190's, again in the 310's. But, you're told, there were three gunshots. Where's the third? Well then, it must have been at 290. No, that wasn't a shot, that was a siren. The third shot's somewhere else—find it. How can you? Nowhere else is there anything resembling the spasms in the 190's and 310's. The rest of the jiggles are different in degree and kind. They don't look like human reactions at all. They're short, disconnected, mechanical—as if maybe the table you were drawing on got bumped.

This is the conclusion a reasonable observer must reach. And when the House Select Committee on Assassinations did its own blur analysis two years later, it's the conclusion they did reach:

"This analysis indicated that blurs occurring at frames 189–197 and 312–334 may reasonably be attributed to Zapruder's startle responses to gunshots." [28]

"An original jiggle analysis, performed without knowledge of the results of the acoustical evidence, showed strong indications of shots occurring at about frame 190 and at about frame 310..." [29]

Alvarez dodges the bullets.

But Luis Alvarez wasn't coming to a conclusion from the data. He was coming to the data from a conclusion. Two loud shots were no good. It must be three. They must come from the same rifle. The data must be massaged so that it rendered up three equally loud shots. It could be done, because he had so many jiggles to work with.

In all he plotted some 40. But that wasn't all of the blurs. That was just the changes in blur lengths. That was just the "angular accelerations of Mr. Zapruder's camera." In between were "meaningless streak lengths" which Alvarez didn't deign to measure. They were continuations of other blurs. There were lots of these, too.

A decade earlier with great fanfare it had been

announced that three mountains had been found in Tibet. Now it was obvious that Tibet was mostly mountains. Besides the "motion blurs" there were "out-of-focus" blurs. The out-of-focus blurs were "almost cyclic, suggesting film motion about the focal plane." [30]. Not only did Abraham Zapruder have a "peak in his jitter power spectrum of 3 cycles/sec." Abraham Zapruder's camera had a peak in its focus spectrum of 3 cycles/sec. Throughout the film blurry sequences began with eerie regularity every six or seven frames. The "pulse train" which Alvarez first picked up at frame 182 had actually been chugging along since almost the start of the film: there were blurs at frames 158 and 165 and 171 and 177. "Subjective quality categorizations" were later done on 72 successive frames. Twenty-seven frames were judged "good" or "fair." But 45 were judged "blurred," "badly blurred," or "hopeless." [31] That was 63%. Sixty three percent of the frames in the Zapruder film were blurred. Blur Analysis was a poker game in which 63% of the cards were wild. Wherever you wanted a blur you could be confident in finding one. Any player could make up any hand he wanted.

The blur that shouldn't be there.

But there was one blur where Luis Alvarez didn't want a blur. It was that vexing premature jiggulation at the instant of the head shot.

"The impact of the bullet can be seen in frame 313, and there isn't enough time available for the relatively sluggish neuromuscular system to have produced the observed torque on the camera axis." [32]

"Not enough time" was an understatement. There was no time. When the shutter closed on frame 312 the President's head was intact. Twenty-three milliseconds later the shutter opened for frame 313. In this frame the head is exploding and the camera is already shaking. A startle response couldn't explain that.

But Alvarez' first instinct hadn't been to solve the assassination with startle responses anyway. His instinct had been to solve it with shock waves.

"I thought I detected a deformation of the Presidential flag under the influence of a shock

wave generated by a nearby bullet." [33]

"Flag analysis" had turned out to be one of Luis Alvarez' least lasting contributions to science.

"When I saw the full set of frames, it was clear that the flag was simply flapping in the breeze." [34]

Now he turned again to shock waves. The jiggle at 313 was a jiggle to the right. It

"could have been caused by a direct interaction of the shock wave from the bullet that hit the President in frame 313 with the left-hand side of Mr. Zapruder's camera." [35]

Was Luis Alvarez saying that the shock wave from Oswald's bullet physically knocked Zapruder's camera sideways? He was.

"The obvious shot in frame 313 is accompanied immediately by an angular acceleration of the camera, in the proper sense of rotation to have been caused directly by shock wave pressure on the camera body." [36]

Shock wave pressure on the camera body?

Like almost all rifle bullets, Mannlicher Carcano bullets are supersonic. Supersonic objects generate a shock wave, a pressure front which carries energy outward from the object's flight path. The shock wave fans out in a conical shape called a Mach cone. The cone expands at the speed of sound and is perceived as sound—for example, the sonic boom of a supersonic jet.

But the shock wave's intensity is a function of the mass of the object that causes it. It also falls off rapidly as it radiates from its path of origin. Seventy-five feet away it is 15 times weaker than it was five feet away. "Oswald's bullet" weighed a third of an ounce. Abraham Zapruder stood 75 feet from the path of this tiny missile. That a bullet weighing a third of an ounce and ending its flight 75 feet away would generate a shock wave knocking sideways a three-pound camera gripped in both hands was to me ridiculous.

We search for the elusive shock wave.

I rounded up a friend with a rifle and we drove to a quarry. We hung a piece of cardboard from a stick and fired bullets past it, as close as three feet. It

didn't move. We tried tinfoil. It didn't move. We built a mop-like device of hanging strings. They didn't move. Granted, these tests were crude. Could they be cruder than Enrico Fermi's?

"Fermi had almost instantly measured the explosive yield of the first atomic bomb by observing how small pieces of paper which he 'dribbled' from his hand were suddenly moved away from 'ground zero' by the shock wave."

[37]

We switched to an old Winchester Special with a muzzle velocity closer to Oswald's. Still there was nothing. Finally we drove to the Albany Gun Show. At the booth of "Dave" we got lucky. Under a torn shard of cardboard with the crayon message "PRICED TO SELL" was a Mannlicher Carcano. At \$59 it was the cheapest gun in the house. Dave pointed us to "Becker." Becker sold us 6.5mm Carcano cartridges hurling 156-grain bullets at a muzzle velocity of 2428 feet/second. (The world War II surplus ammunition which Oswald was alleged to have used was about 5% slower than ours. The bullets were about 3% heavier).

Now we had an excellent replica of "the fateful rifle of Lee Oswald." We did our tests over again.

The cardboard, the tinfoil and the strings were unimpressed. The shock wave from a Mannlicher Carcano bullet passing three feet away does not flutter cardboard, tinfoil or string, much less the body of a movie camera 75 feet away.

Dr. Luis Walter Alvarez, Nobel laureate, winner of the National Medal of Science, the Medal of Merit and the Einstein Medal, was blowing it out his ass.

But something did happen at 313.

Nevertheless the image in frame 313 is grossly distorted. Something is happening here, and it isn't just a blurring of the frame.

First, look closely at the round spots of light along the chrome roll bar in the frame before, 312. (Fig. 2, left) They are spots of sun glare on what appear to be handholds. They resemble the little bulbs over a star's dressing-room mirror.

Now look at the same spots of glare in frame 313, (Fig. 2, right) The spots are tripled. There are three images side by side.



Figure 2.

Alvarez could have been right about the cause—a shock wave—but wrong about the nature of the "interaction." The "interaction" could be a vibration in the shutter mechanism or elsewhere in the workings of the camera. Firing a rifle past a VHS camcorder, I was able to record the image of the shock wave of a passing bullet. It is an extreme undulation of the picture which lasts three video frames — 3/30ths of a second. Of course an 8mm film movie camera is a very different mechanism. But vibration of the shutter in Zapruder's camera, or of the film itself, is a plausible explanation for this triple imaging.

A shock wave at 313 could only have come from behind Zapruder.

Assume for the moment that at frame 313 you are looking at the effect of a shock wave passing through Abraham Zapruder's camera. Is there anything to be learned from this? There is. Alvarez has disproved his own theory.

Shock waves, recall, travel outward from a bullet flight path at the speed of sound. It is a simple geometric problem to calculate how long a shock wave from "Oswald's" bullet path would take to reach Abraham Zapruder 75 feet away. The answer is that it would take 60 milliseconds—1.1 Zapruder frames.

The shock wave from a bullet on that flight path striking the President's head at the end of frame 312 or after would not be visible until frame 314. (At the

1995 COPA Conference, a "bloodstain pattern analyst," Ms. Sherry Pool Gutierrez, exhibited high-speed close-up photography of "forward spatter" and "back spatter" generated by bullets passing through various objects. Back spatter was visible while the bullet was still inside the object—within a millisecond—and had radiated several inches while the bullet was still visible in the photograph. The absence of spatter in frame 312 indicates the President is not hit before the closing milliseconds of that frame). If frame 313 is the image of a shock wave interacting with Abraham Zapruder's camera, that bullet had to pass much closer to Zapruder than 75 feet. It had to come from behind Zapruder.

We do a reality check.

A Bell & Howell "Director Series" Zoomatic 8mm movie camera like Abraham Zapruder's weighs 3 lb. 1 oz (I have one). It must be gripped firmly in both hands, keeping one finger pressed down hard on the "run" button, or else it stops filming. A person trying to film with it as a Mannlicher Carcano rifle is fired a few feet away will feel an ear-splitting

explosion in the "painful" to "immediately dangerous" sound level range—120 decibels or so. (Of course, there's no way to know what sort of weapon was used on the knoll). The person will jump. If the shooter moves 20 feet behind and fires right past the person, the sound remains very loud and sharp. The person will shudder. If the shooter moves 270 feet away and fires at a target 75 feet away, the person may or may not shudder. From here the sound seems duller, more bass and much less loud. That's in accord with theory—each time distance is quadrupled, loudness should fall off by roughly half. These purely subjective tests were done in a farm field where the loudest ambient sound was the caw of a crow. In Dealey Plaza there were ten of man's noisiest inventions: motorcycles. Four of the motorcycles were three times closer to Abraham Zapruder than was the alleged source of the shots. **A long-missing jiggle completes the puzzle.**

If the spasms at frames 190 and 313 were caused by gunshots from the same source behind Zapruder, we should expect the plots of these sequences to be similar. In Fig. 3 they are aligned. The main difference is that there's no fourth "peak" in the first spasm—after frame 202, Alvarez' plot straightens out like a West Texas highway. In fact, it shouldn't straighten out. The reason Alvarez didn't find any "smears of light" on the limousine after frame 202 was because he couldn't see the limousine. It's obscured behind the sign. Worse, Alvarez never saw frames 208 through 211 at all. They weren't in the Warren Report and in 1966 were still missing from the Archives. In these frames Zapruder's camera is jiggling. Frame 203 is very blurred. The entire sequence from 208 to 211 is blurred, especially 210. Josiah Thompson had access to LIFE's film; frame 210 is one of six blurred frames he calls attention to [38]. (Thompson and LIFE ridiculed Alvarez' "jiggle theory of the assassination," conceding only that the blur beginning at frame 313 was a genuine startle response. But in one case Thompson's detective's instincts come up somewhat short of Sherlock Holmes'. He wrote, "Zapruder himself can't be of much help here—he only heard two shots." Like that dog that couldn't be of much

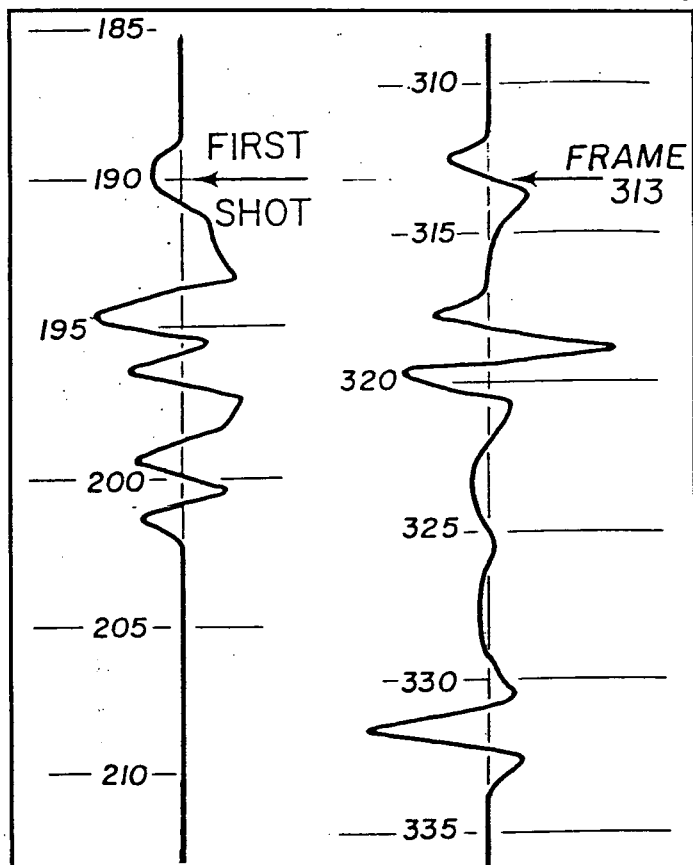


Figure 3.

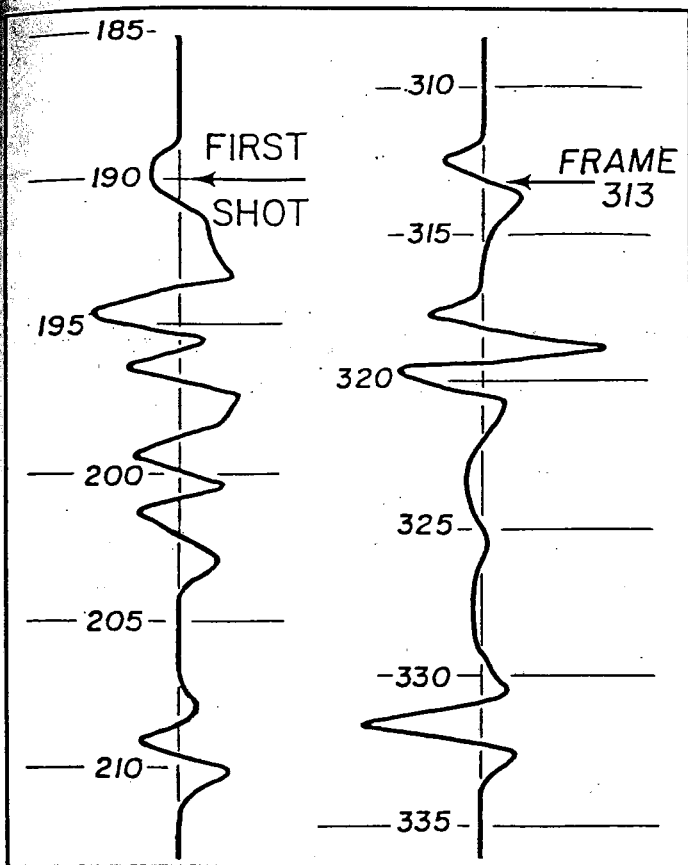


Figure 4.

help because it din't bark). William Hartmann's plot shows a high peak at frames 209 and 210 [39]. Frank Scott's doesn't but under these frames is the notation "NA"—"not available"—he didn't see them either [40]. When we put this jiggle cycle at frame 210 where it belongs, (Fig. 4) the sequences match.

We are back where we started.

Two loud shots whizzed past Abraham Zapruder, vibrating his camera and startling him. The first hit the President in the throat and made him stop waving. The second blew open his head.

Postscript from Planet Posner.

In Gerald Posner's *CASE CLOSED* the author makes it appear that blur analysis supports his timing of the shots when in fact blur analysis lays waste to it. This is typical. There is a recklessness to Gerald Posner's lying that is new to mainstream publishing. His guard isn't even up. Evidently he's been assured that the fix is in. He is also scientifically illiterate and so, perhaps, unaware how stupid some of the things he writes are. Posner says

unambiguously that the first shot was fired between frames 160 and 166 [41]. On planet Posner, thunder precedes lightning and reactions precede actions. So when did Zapruder react to this shot? Naturally, before it was fired.

"The first significant blur was at frames 158–160, just at the time Oswald had to fire to avoid losing his target under the tree" [42].

When was the second shot?

"Careful analysis points to the impact of Oswald's second shot at frames 223–224." [43].

And when did Zapruder's camera start to jiggle from this shot? Need you ask?

"The jiggle between 220–228 is caused by the second shot [44]."

But then, maybe, Abraham Zapruder's jiggling camera was a signal to Oswald that it was time to shoot.

*This work was done with invaluable support from Will Lutz Jr. of Ancramdale, New York, who made the rifle tests possible. Bill Meissner of Oakland Park, Florida, graciously loaned the camera. Milicent Cranor made many contributions to the article; her criticism was infuriating and invariably correct.

Notes

1. Secret Service Agent Max Phillips memorandum dated 9:55 P.M. Nov 22, 1963, Warren Commission Document 87, folder 1.
2. Warren Commission Hearings and Exhibits, vol. 7, p. 570. References to this source cited hereafter in format: 7H570.
3. 7H570.
4. *Life*, Nov. 29, 1963, pp. 24,25.
5. *Life*, Dec. 6, 1963, p. 52F and undated "Memorial Edition"
6. Memorandum in unnumbered Warren Commission file, National Archives; quoted in Olsen & Turner, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, Oct. 1971, p. 413.
7. Harold Weisberg, *Whitewash*, p. 47.
8. 4H132–3.
9. *Life*, Nov. 26, 1966, p. 53.
10. "The Warren Report," CBS, June 25, 1967. The

- program can viewed at the Museum of Television & Radio, 25 West 52nd St., New York. A transcript is in Stephen White's Should We Now Believe the Warren Report?
11. House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) Report, Vol. 8, p. 147.
 12. New York Times, Jan. 14, 1964.
 13. Washington Post, Sep. 3, 1988. Milicent Cranor discovered this surprise.
 14. Luis Alvarez, Adventures of a Physicist, p. 243.
 15. 3H407.
 16. White, Should We Now Believe the Warren Report?, p. 77.
 17. Luis Alvarez, "A physicist examines the Kennedy assassination film," American Journal of Physics, Sep. 1976, p. 816. Cited hereafter as Alvarez, APEKAF.
 18. "The Warren Report," CBS.
 19. Alvarez, Adventures of a Physicist, p. 243.
 20. Alvarez, Adventures of a Physicist, p. 243.
 21. Bob Dean is the source of this historical footnote, which he heard at a conference at which the "buff" spoke.
 22. Alvarez, APEKAF, p. 819.
 23. Alvarez, APEKAF, p. 814.
 24. Robert Buckhout, Scientific American, Dec. 1974, p. 231.
 25. Alvarez, APEKAF, p. 814.
 26. Alvarez, APEKAF, p. 816.
 27. Alvarez, APEKAF, p. 816.
 28. HSCA Report, p. 47.
 29. HSCA Report, p. 83.
 30. D.H. Janney memorandum to HSCA, June 27, 1978, p. 3, National Archives.
 31. D.H. Janney, "Table 1".
 32. Alvarez, APEKAF, p. 816.
 33. Alvarez, APEKAF, p. 815.
 34. Alvarez, APEKAF, p. 815.
 35. Alvarez, APEKAF, p. 816.
 36. Alvarez, APEKAF, p. 817.
 37. Alvarez, APEKAF, p. 815.
 38. Josiah Thompson, Six Seconds in Dallas, p. 293.
 39. HSCA Report, p. 20.
 40. HSCA Report, p. 24.
 41. Gerald Posner Case Closed. pp. 323, 477.

42. Posner, Case Closed, pp. 322-3.
43. Posner, Case Closed, p. 477.
44. Posner, Case Closed, p. 323n.

UPDATES: NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

Nacirema. A little more is known about the obscure group of Atlanta-based terrorists called The Nacirema, mentioned in "J.B. Stoner, An Introduction" in the November 1995 issue. The same report of the House Committee on Un-American Activities that in 1965 "exposed" Ku Klux Klan activities (see "Oswald and the Nazis," this issue) also gave some attention to the Nacirema. An article by John Herbers, "Offspring of Klan Called Violent" in the New York Times, November 2, 1965, p. 1 reports that the Nacirema was chartered in Georgia on 6/1/61 and that two "illiterate" members named William Anderson and William Crowe from Decatur GA had instructed Robert Shelton and other Klansmen in bombing techniques in 1961. Aficionados of "coincidence" may note that both an Anderson and a Crowe named William were among the close associates of Jack Ruby in 1963: Crowe was aka Bill DeMar, who did a "mind-reading" act at the Carousel; and Bill Anderson was a piano player at the Carousel who (again, coincidentally) lived directly across the street from Ruth and Michael Paine in Irving.

Another reference to the Nacirema is contained in a December 1962 FBI memorandum reporting an interview with Dan Campbell, a private investigator for Guy Banister (FBI # 105-70374-1749, furnished courtesy Jerry Shinley). Campbell said he "was interested in running down the Hate Movement in New Orleans" and that, pursuant to this interest, had learned that a meeting was to be held at a cock fight arena in LaPlace LA for the purpose of attempting to merge three groups: the "neo-Nazi National" (see the New Orleans Nazi reference in "Oswald

and the Nazis," this issue), the KKK and the Nacirema, headed by Martin Selby of Athens GA.

Jimmy George Robinson. Also in the J.B. Stoner article, last issue, there was (fn 8, p. 28) a reported "coincidence" of names of a member of the NSRP, Jimmy George Robinson, arrested for an assault on ML King in Selma in 1965; and a member of the KKK from Garland, TX whom FBI agent James Hosty had been investigating and whom he originally believed was the author of the "threatening note" delivered to the FBI office in Dallas. The speculation in the footnote was that the two Robinsons were one and the same, and that the one from Garland represented an "NSRP presence" in Dallas in 1963. New information seems to corroborate that speculation. A 1963 listing of NSRP leaders in various states compiled by Group Research, Inc. and furnished courtesy John McLoughlin, lists Jimmy Robinson of Garland as such a leader in Texas. The January 1963 issue of The Thunderbolt (issue #48, furnished courtesy Dave Boylan) contains a brief reference to Robinson's demonstration activity on behalf of the party and his estimate that there were "100 to 200 party members living in the Dallas metropolitan area." It seems strange that Hosty would mis-identify Robinson as a Klansman—unless, perhaps, Hosty had some reason to cover up this NSRP "presence" in Dallas.

CORRECTIONS

The following corrections should be noted for the November, 1995 issue:

p. 27, in the article on J.B. Stoner: Sidney Barnes, an HSCA suspect in the murder of M.L. King, is incorrectly identified as the father of Kathy Ainsworth, the companion of Tommie Tarrants, who was arrested and convicted of a terrorist bombing plot in Meridian MS. Actually, Barnes was the father of Kathy's college room-mate, Bonnie Barnes; weakening somewhat the connections between Tarrants and Barnes, involved with some of the "California bombers" briefly alluded to in that article.

pp. 29-31 in Palamara's article on Secret Service handling of assassination evidence ("More Boring Details") there are three errors that should be noted. (1) At line 11 column 1 page 30, the line should read "General Clifton realized that the change at the airport;" (2) At line 30 column 2 page 31, the line should read: "thought everyone knew the back of Kennedy's head was;" and (3) At line 40 colum 2 page 31 should read: "In the end, it is quite interesting that Dr. Burkley and."

I sent copy of A. PINEA's letter (p. 10/11) about me -> to [unclear]

I sent Hal only GENE's [unclear] article + letter on me

NAT. SEC. DAN BURROS
LINCOLN ROCKWELL
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

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NAZI PARTY
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