

20 February 1974

Mr. George Stidworthy
Lazy-S Shooters Service
Lazy-S Ranchito, Box 1363
Prescott, Arizona 86301

Dear Mr. Stidworthy,

Thank you for your kind letter of the 13th. I am chagrined to learn that you were in the New York area and that we might have had a chat, but for the fact that my letter did not reach you earlier. Perhaps next time.

I am sorry that you have not read my book, as is also true of the entire 240 million population, less about 7,000 who get held of the book before it went out of print. There is no place to get the book now, so far as I know, unless at a public or a university library. The title is Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities and the Report, published in 1967 by Bobbs-Merrill.

I am glad that Cyril Wecht may be visiting Arizona again and I think you have a very good idea in your thought of bringing him into contact with Mr. Whitaker and Major Wigger. You probably know already the results of the marksmanship tests conducted by the Warren Commission—three master riflemen at the Aberdeen proving grounds each fired two series of three shots at a stationary target, seeking to duplicate the feat attributed to Oswald by the Warren Report. They used the 6.5 Carcano rifle found in the Depository. The tests and their results are detailed in my book, page 108. In the first series of nine shots, the three experts missed a total of three shots or $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent; In the total of 18 shots, they missed 5 collectively, or more than 25 per cent.

Subsequently CBS-TV carried out marksmanship tests, using a moving target and replicating the actual circumstances postulated by the Warren Commission more closely than the Commission itself, seeking to corroborate the conclusion that Oswald had the necessary rifle capacity. CBS used eleven expert marksmen. They fired 37 series of three shots, with an over-all average of less than one hit per series. Of 20 series fired within a time constraint of 7.5 seconds, the average was 1.2 hits for each three shots fired.

I have never before heard of any tests of 6.5 Carcanos on human cadavers, in Utah, for the Warren Commission. If that is so, the results must have completely discredited and vitiated the Commission's assumptions, which would explain why the matter was completely suppressed. You might be surprised, on study of the entire evidence (in the assassination itself, the Tippit murder, and the murder of Oswald), and the persistent deceit, omission, misrepresentation and distortion which the Commission allowed itself in its zeal to pin down its lone-assassin-thesis.

All good wishes,

Sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
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