

52 Columbia Street  
Newark, Ohio 43055  
25 March 1971

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher  
302 W.12th Street  
New York NY 10014

(No reply  
needed - 4/3/71)

Dear Mrs Meagher:

Evidently I missed something in my reading of your book. Sorry to list you as unattached....

I do not feel that the MC rifle is a wonder of accuracy, but I recall reading of at least one case in which an Italian Army rifle team with MCs beat a US team with M1 Garands. I expect the Italians used good MCs and the GIs used M1s out of the rack, as solidly bedded M1s shoot like hell and the Match M1 has broken every record the Springfield 1903 ever set. The use of a telescope, even a cheap one, can make a rifle much more apt to hit a target of any sort, and much more so on moving targets. Martin Retting still advertises Oswald Scopes, and if I run across a 91/38 rifle cheap with shells, I might yet buy one, scope it, and try it out.

I have been trying for some time to collect military sniping rifles, the scope sighted items used by sharpshooters of all nations, and did get a pair of 6.5s, one the M96 Swedish Mauser and an Arisaka M1937 Japanese, with mismatched parts. I have fired some issue Danish 6.5 ammo out of the M96 which is the lousiest I have ever used from the standpoint of crudding up a rifle. Had Oswald, or the Cuban Underground, or the Dallas Birchers, or whoever, used that combo, the FBI would have had to force bullets through with a ramrod and sledgehammer if it wasn't cleaned quickly. It is accurate. I produced one startling 5 shot group with the Arisaka, which had 5 shots touching in 3/4 inch from a casual rest. The scope had no adjustments so it was necessary to hold on the 700 meter elevation line to hit properly...But it amazed me. I'd like to see how one of those worked when used with properly adjusted scope and the right bolt. So the very similar Mauser and Arisaka calibers could produce good shooting.

> AT 100 YPS

I still feel that it must be a family curse of some sort on the Kennedy tribe, as they have had enough to last anyone. I read two books on the demise of Joe Jr, "The Lost Prince" and "Operation Aphrodite." which mentioned the experimental guided plane mission he was working on when he died, and here the old military principle of Headquarters Knows Best seems to have gotten in the way of brains, and that, plus shortage of time, did the damage. I spent the better part of a year on the Devon field from which his group of FAW 7 flew, and this interested me a bit more than average. My Army unit worked for the Navy until their base units got in and we wound up a semi-webfooted unit, so to speak.

As for experts, Braverman knows what he is talking about, which is more than some of the people on both sides of the Kennedy deal could say. My, such a flock of maroons, to quote B. Bunny.

contd

The investigation was probably hampered by the haste and foolishness of the autopsy, the lack of a real forensic ballistic man, and a few other factors, such as the possession of a highly probable fall guy. It could have been improved quite easily.

The Lincoln assassination produced similar results, due to the extreme bitterness of the period and the arbitrary handling of the investigation and prosecution, and by Secretary Stanton's actions. It has since been suspected that Stanton had a large hand in it, but no one has been able to prove it. All anyone knows is that they did get some real plotters and their landlady, who was felt even then to be innocent. (Sadly enough, several big shots who blocked her lawyer's appeals to Pres. A. Johnson later died by suicide or flipped their wigs, possibly from remorse...)

My opinion of the whole shebang is that fright, haste, and stupidity got in the way of truth, and we probably will never know what happened. The extremely fine timing of some parts, like the shooting of JFK and the shooting of Oswald sound too much like coincidence to be plotted. Consider the trouble the would-be assassins of Hitler had, including the failure of a highly reliable British firing device, one time. And these guys, German Staff officers, were highly intelligent planners and courageous men!

Oswald can hold a dirty little page in history all his own. I recently read the book of the U2 incident which was written by Powers and a co-author, and he raised the chance that the U2 mission could have been given away by two incidents of collaboration and one coincidence. Oswald was in a position to have furnished one of the pieces of info..

The two Kennedy assassinations have set off a lot of trouble for people interested in marksmanship and weapons, since numerous bills and regulations now get in the way of the people who like to shoot or hunt. Had the present 1968 gun laws been in effect then, a man could still buy a gun under a faked name with faked IDs as the sale of stolen driver's licenses is a large industry here. Had a total ban been in effect on guns, theft is still a possible thing.

Take the Cuban bazooka incident. They fired one rocket 900 yards from a home made launcher. That told me one thing. They were using issue M28 rockets, ready loaded, as 900 is that item's extreme range. Where did they get them? I got that piece of the puzzle a couple years later. Seems that there was a small but busy group at Ft Bragg selling stolen ammo. The ammo area has fire barrels and the men who kept these filled would from time to time snatch a box or two from open magazines and drop them in a full tank. The guard would check the empty tank carefully, and ignore the full one. They'd drive out in the boondocks and fish out the item, usually in waterproof packing, stash it and sell it later. They were very careful about it. They only sold to people with money. The Cubans left a rocket container with lot numbers on it and the Army traced that lot to Bragg. TS. I do not have much faith in the arrival of the millenium via laws. I have known too many crooked supply sergeants in the last 33 years.

Sincerely,

