

POST, Houston, Tex.

JUL 25 1966



## H. Mewhinney: Where Oswald

For the benefit of such few firearms fanciers as may occasionally read this page, though at some risk of boring everybody else, perhaps it had better be explained that the Western Cartridge Company really did make the ammunition that the

Warren Commission believes was used to kill President Kennedy.

After some remarks to that effect were printed here last week, three firearms devotees protested that Western Cartridge never made any 6.5 millimeter ammunition for a Mannlicher-Carcano; that the ammunition is not listed in any of the standard catalogues, handbooks, or circulars; that the assassin or assassins must have got some other kind of Western Cartridge cases and necked them down to fit the 160-grain 6.5 millimeter bullets.

IT TOOK ONE TELEPHONE CALL to the Western Cartridge plant in East Alton, Ill., and another to the Olin Mathieson Corporation in New York to

straighten out the matter. Western Cartridge really did make the ammunition but not for sale in this country and not for use as sporting ammunition.

The ammunition was made some few years ago on contract with the United States government. The United States then turned it over to Italy. Later, the exact dates not being given, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization adopted a uniform set of small arms and the corresponding ammunition, so that weapons would be interchangeable.

**THIS LEFT THE ITALIAN** defense department or whatever it is called with an unusable supply of ammunition. Either part of it or all of it was sold to a company called Interarmco or something of the sort, which in turn sold it to Klein's Sporting Goods Co of Chicago, the same company that sold the rifle to Oswald by mail. Presumably then Oswald got the ammunition from Klein's, though there is no record.

It was regular, full-jacketed military ammunition, made to fit the Italian specifications.

## Got Ammo

All this is pretty dull and technical. But it is reasonably exact.

A GOOD MANY MAGAZINE and newspaper articles nowadays are inexact and even confusing when they mention firearms. Several articles about the Warren Report are quite serious when they mention witnesses who thought they saw gun smoke near the scene of the assassination. This is absurd. Modern powder is smokeless or at least almost smokeless. Even the man who is firing the rifle does not usually notice any smoke.

There is also a tendency, even among hunters, to say bullet when what they mean is cartridge. Even police reporters pick up the same habit. It confuses the reader. A bullet, literally, is a little ball, the thing that comes out the muzzle when the rifle is fired. A cartridge is the whole thing—case, primer, powder, and bullet.

**MAYBE TO MAKE THINGS CLEAR** we shall have to start saying rifle ball (even though it is usually a cylinder or a cone rather than a sphere).