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FORGIVE MY GRIEF

VOL. II

By PENN JONES, JR and SHIRLEY MARTIN

Installment No. 7

Raymond Marcus, in his book "The Bastard Bullet" makes a scholarly case for the planting of exhibit 399. Exhibit 399 is the famous bullet found on the floor in Parkland Hospital after it had been knocked off a stretcher. The stretcher is thought to have been used by Governor Connally, but there were two stretchers in the hallway, and no one was quite sure which had been used by the Governor.

It was imperative that the bullet be found for that is the only link to the Oswald rifle. The other bullets shattered into tiny fragments.

In a prior installment of this volume, we concluded that the Warren Commission went to extreme lengths to prove that Jack Ruby did not

visit Parkland Hospital on the afternoon of November 22, 1963--while the body of President Kennedy still lay in Trauma Room 1. Our conclusion was that the Warren Commission, by going to such extremes, proved only that Jack Ruby could have had nothing to do with the placing of the bullet.

None of us know when the bullet was put on "a stretcher in the hallway" of Parkland, but there was at least one strange incident which did happen which might have provided the opportunity for the bullet PLANTING to have been done.

An unidentified man who claimed to be an FBI agent tried to go past the two secret service agents guarding Trauma Room 1. The two SS agents had to knock and wrestle the unidentified man to the floor to prevent him from entering the Trauma room before showing identification.

Certainly the fight would have attracted all eyes for a short time. The bullet might have been PLANTED then by someone. No one knows, but there were not too many unidentified persons in Parkland that afternoon. It seems to us one Kennedy friend might have tried to do a real investigation on this point.

This writer was standing outside the hospital during all this time, and was not permitted to enter the area. I was an invited newsman to the luncheon and did not have a "working badge" that day.

The almost whole bullet found on the floor was described as being in pristine condition. The Warren Commission could only duplicate the bullet found on the floor by firing a like bullet from a similar rifle into a tube of cotton.

The Commission used the carcass of a goat to duplicate the body of Governor Connally, and we feel sure the Governor was complimented by the Commission choice. But the bullet came through the goat's carcass in a battered condition as shown in Warren Commission exhibit No. 856.

A lead bullet cannot go through the bodies of two men, shatter the fifth rib of the second man, shatter the second man's wrist and then imbed itself in the left thigh, where some of the metal remains to this day, and come out in pristine or nearly whole condition.

Tell us Mr. Earl Warren, are you trying to kid us?

In the written report of Special Agent Andrew

E. Berger, the incident which might have proved the necessary diversion is reported. Berger had been shifted from the Trade Mart to Parkland Hospital upon notice of the assassination. Berger's report stated in part:

" . . . Approximately 5 minutes subsequent to the visit of agent Drain a unidentified CIA agent, after

showing his credentials said that he would be available.

"At approximately 1:30 p.m., the Chief Supervising nurse, a Mrs. Nelson started to enter the emergency room with an unidentified male (WM, 45 yrs, 6'2", 185-190 lbs, grey hair). As the reporting agent and SA Johnsen started to ask his identity he shouted that he was FBI. Just as we began to ask for his credentials he abruptly attempted to enter the emergency room and had to be forcibly restrained by us. ASAIC Kellerman then appeared and asked this individual to go to the end of the hall.

Congressman Olin E. Teague, Texas, witnessed this incident and verbally stated to this agent that if there are any inquiries in the future he would be more than glad to give a statement in the Service's behalf. Nurse Nelson was also interviewed by this agent in the presence of SA Johnsen and Congressman Teague and stated that the unidentified FBI agent had not shown us any credentials nor any to her . . ."

Aren't FBI agents trained to show their credentials? Who is this strange man causing a fight near the body of a dying President? Why was he left unidentified?

Who planted bullet labeled exhibit No. 399?

This then is simply another of the many unanswered questions which should not have been left unanswered. All the people in that ground floor area of Parkland Hospital could have been identified and thoroughly questioned. The answers might never have been found, but then they might have been. If the investigative services had done their chores, or if only one Kennedy friend had been doing some of the questioning---things might have been different.