

OSWALD COULD NOT HAVE KILLED KENNEDY
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(Rough translation from the French)

On November 22, 1963 a man, Oswald, was stationed in a room on the sixth floor of the Texas School building, armed with an Italian Carcano 31/38 rifle, waiting for the presidential motorcade to pass. His rifle was equipped with a ^{cheap} four-power telescopic sight; a bullet was in the chamber, ready to fire.

At 12.30, the President's car passed under his window, moving away. Oswald fired once, a second time, a third time; two bullets struck: the first hit President Kennedy at the base of his neck, exited and wounded Governor Connally; the second missed; the third struck President Kennedy another time, this time some centimeters higher, that is to say, right in the head. The three shots fired were fired in a span of 5.6 seconds maximum, the ^{shooting} distance ~~and~~ ranging from 60 to 80 meters.

Those are the conclusions of the Warren Report.

From To those who are not accustomed to shooting, those facts may seem very ordinary (normal). But ^{all} those who are ^{somewhat} familiar with firearms would have to regard Oswald as a speed-demon ^{of a} rifleman; as to his achievement, it is nothing less than an Olympic feat. To convince oneself, one need only study successively the weapon, the ammunition, and the marksmanship. We are forced to go into the technical details, but that is the only way to really understand the nature of this exploit.

During May 1963, Oswald ordered a M-Carcano from Klein's Sporting Goods of Chicago. It is known as a large company which ~~mainly~~ sells mainly by mail order and advertises widely in American sporting magazines. It was from one of those, the American Rifleman of February 1963, that Oswald cut the mail order coupon for the 91/38 rifle. The first question

that arises is: why that rifle rather than another?

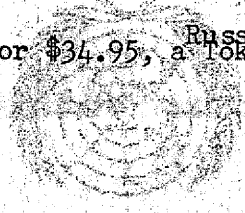
Oswald has been pictured as a person obsessed with firearms, as a ~~connoisseur~~ ^{connoisseur}. However, ^{seen} we have ~~seen~~ the American Rifleman

for February 1963 and, on the page on which there is a full-page ad

of Klein's Sporting Goods, we find listed: at \$12.88 the M-Carcano; at \$29.88, the U.S. Enfield 1917 model; for \$36.38, the Springfield, 1903 model... (etc.)... Elsewhere in the American Rifleman we have

found also a 7.65 Peruvian Mauser for \$39.95, a Royal Enfield for \$16.95, a model 98 Mauser for \$34.95, a ^{Russian} Tokarev at the same price, etc.

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Oswald, a connoisseur, ^{neither} out of work ^{nor} short of money ~~(not working)~~
~~and not short of money~~ ^{therefore} ordered a weapon at the lowest price. Now,
 it should be realized that in America, the sale of military rifles is
 extremely unrestricted and that surplus European weapons, from stocks
 remaining at the end of the second world war, are sent to the USA in
 large shipments for retail sale.

Competitionx evidently is strong among the different importers of
 these surplus weapons, and the price of a rifle varies according to the
 normal law of supply and demand. If the Italian rifle brings only
 \$12.88 while the German Mauser costs \$34.95 or the American Springfield
 \$39.95, it is because the Italian rifle is not in great demand. That

is for a good reason, it is probably one of the most mediocre ^{military} rifles
 produced in the 20th century.
 (paragraph omitted on history of design and manufacture)

Having a caliber of 6.5 mm (France 7.5, Germany 7.92, USA 7.62, etc)
 with a long bullet which ^{small} resembles a sausage in size, the M 91 is,
 to our knowledge, the least precise of military rifles. The poor
 penetration power of the bullet diminishes its stability and makes it
 susceptible ~~(omitted)~~ to lateral wind. In the second volume of the military
 instructions, official manual of the Italian army, one finds that the

M 91 rifle has a dispersion of 100 meters: 12 by 12 centimeters. In other words, at 100cms, the rifle being fixed (fastened) to the ground, all shots fall into a rectangle of 12 by 12 cms.

Obviously, then, the rifle has performed remarkably (well), considering its mediocrity. For example, an ordinary commercial weapon... does not exceed a rectangle 5 x 5 cm at 100 meters. The German Mauser is valued at the same rate as the American rifle 1906 model. The surface range of the Italian rifle 1891 model therefore was four times larger—less precise—than military rifles used by other nations.

Besides, these official figures are ~~by~~ only valid for a new, perfectly well adjusted rifle with choice ammunition. But Oswald's weapon was the M.91/38 rifle similar to the M 91 model but equipped with a shorter barrel, a fact which reduces the initial speed and consequently diminishes the precision. What is more, this is a used rifle, made in 1940, or in time of war, which further decreases its precision. One may therefore conclude that Oswald's rifle, at best, would have placed 10 bullets in a rectangle of 20 x 20 cms at 100 meters.

One must also consider the dispersion range proper to the marksman and that of the ammunition. One then remains sceptical before the figures given by the Warren Commission, which specifies 13 cms as maximum dispersion, identical to that achieved in 2 series by the same rifleman at 23 meters, or a distance 4 times smaller. When realizing that the obtained dispersion increases at a faster rate than distance, the most serious doubt is justified.

In effect, when one takes the best Warren Commission rifleman at 23 meters, or 5 cms, one obtains a probable dispersion of at least 20 cms at ~~100~~ 91 meters. And if one keeps the 13 cms of dispersion of the second series at 23 meters, one ends up with a dispersion of at least 50 cms at 100 meters, which to us seems quite in conformity with the capacity of a 91/38 used rifle.

THE WORLD CHAMPION WOULD HAVE MISSED!

One finds here the first serious contradiction in the Warren Report: the rifle in reality is inferior to the results. Only a miraculous accident would have enabled Oswald to place his two bullets at only 10 cms of dispersion.

For, as we have seen, even Anderson, the world shooting champion, could not have done better with Oswald's rifle than to place the bullets in a circle of 20 cms at 100 meters. This is the best possible result, but what was Oswald's rating as a marksman? Not much, if one considers his military record. He was barely able to qualify as a sharpshooter once, by one point above the required minimum. Otherwise, he was a marksman all the time—the lowest class. May we recall that, according to the National

Rifle Association of America, shooters are classified into 4 groups: Marksmen, Sharpshooter, Expert and Master. Everyone is a marksman and with a little training, any average rifleman manages frequently to be classified as a sharpshooter.

Oswald was therefore in the low average among the riflemen of the American army. And if the precision of firing achieved on 22 November is already incompatible with the capacity of the Italian rifle, it is even more so with the capabilities of the shooter Oswald. We already find ourselves in the field of the unlikely and we are going to fall into what is called scientifically a highly improbable fact upon examination of the conditions under which the shooting occurred.

On the 22 November 1963, Oswald was settled in a room on the 6th floor of the building of the Texas School Book Depository. The presidential car must pass under his window, then go away to his right. His rifle is equipped with a very mediocre telescopic sight (value: \$7.00; a good telescopic sight costs from \$70.00 or ten times more), with 4-power magnification, and its field hardly contains the car.

It seems appropriate to specify that the adjustment of the scope on a rifle is a long, delicate and, what is more, untable operation; after setting and re-setting on the rifle, the scope is frequently no longer in the axis of the firing. The proof is that the Warren Commission rifle testers regularly placed the bullets too high and to the right of the target, this because the scope was not adjusted.

If it was already in that condition on 22 November, Oswald is out of the question, unless one admits that extreme chance allowed him to fire precisely with a rifle which was shooting to the side of the target. Let us therefore assume that the rifle was well-adjusted on the day of the shooting, which, however, does not make much difference.

In fact, through the lens which enlarges four times, the presidential car at a speed of 18 km per hour seems to go very fast. If the first bullet to reach the target already belongs to exceptional chance, the one which fatally wounded President Kennedy at a distance of 80 meters belongs to the realm of the miraculous.

A MOVING TARGET

In the official manual of the Italian army dealing with the rifle Model 1891, we found the time taken by the bullet to cover 100 meters—0.16 seconds. In order to travel 80 meters, the bullet therefore took at least

0.12 seconds, rather 0.13 seconds with the rifle, the initial speed of which is slower. In 0.13 seconds the car driving at 5 meters per second travelled 0.65 meters. For Oswald, taking into account the angle under which he was shooting, this amounts to a lateral displacement of the target of about 20 cms. Between the moment when Oswald pulled the trigger and the moment when the bullet reached its goal, the target was therefore moved 20 cms away.

One should therefore have pulled the trigger 0.13 seconds before President Kennedy's head reached the center of the scope. It amounts to a feat such as could only be realized by a crack shot having behind him years of training, considering the exact conditions under which the killing of 22 November occurred. When informed that military shooting on mobile targets requires fourfold machine-gun mountings putting out tens of missiles a second, the firing being directed by automatic correctors, and this to sometimes place a ~~man~~ bullet on the target, one will better assess Oswald's miracle.

Let us now get to the most controversial question, that of the speed at which Oswald fired the 3 bullets. The Warren Commission maintains 5 to 6 seconds as the time-span between the first and the third shot. We regard it as practically impossible to fire three bullets in such a short time with a repeating rifle equipped with a scope.

To all our readers who served in the army, we must mention that the Italian ~~model~~ rifle M 1891 is exactly similar in functioning to the MAS 36 or to the Lebel. One shot fired, one must unbolt the breech by raising the bolt-lever, eject the empty case by pulling the lever to the back, introduce a new cartridge by pushing it to the front, bolt it by lowering the bolt-lever.

Rapidly done, the operation may require a second. But one must then replace the rifle against the shoulder, find again the target in the scope, bring the cross-hairs to coincide with the target and pull the trigger. The operation may easily require 5 seconds for the average rifleman.

Taking into account the conditions under which Oswald's shooting was taking place, i.e., on a moving target, one may multiply this time by two.

If one adds to the dispersion of the rifle the dispersion range of the rifleman and the displacement of the car, one ends up with a probability such that Oswald had practically no chance of reaching the target--in other

words, he was certain to miss when having only 5 to 6 seconds in which to fire. To give an example, tests made in Central Europe yielded the following time lapse between 2 pointed shots fired by excellent riflemen: 2.3 seconds with aperture sight; 4.1 seconds with a scope.

It is true that the minimum time to shoot, reload and shoot again with the Italian rifle may be brought down to 1.5 seconds by ~~an~~ exceptional marksman. But it is then what is called in military terms as "fire — (?) " — in other words the rifle is held in both hands at the level of the stomach, the butt being held between the elbow and the hip. This firing is done when surprised and at a very short distance (several meters).

As to the tests conducted by the Warren Commission, it is impossible to take them into consideration. For one, the testers did not fire at a moving target but on 3 fixed targets at a distance from 60 to 80 meters. Furthermore, they were riflemen classified as "Master" by the N.R.A., therefore highly trained and qualified professionals. (Master is the highest possible classification.) Finally, we noted that the average time achieved by the 4 testers was 6.4 seconds, or well above the 5.6 seconds achieved by Oswald.

The only valid reenactment would have been to take randomly several riflemen of Oswald's class, i.e., mediocre, to give them the rifle and to ask them to fire from a 6th floor on a car driving at 18 km per hour — in other words, to reproduce exactly the conditions under which the killing was done. That reenactment did not take place, and we are in any case certain that it would have failed.

As final proof brought forward by the Warren C. remain the three cartridges found, the intact cartridge discovered on Governor Connally's stretcher, and a few fragments.

First element: the cartridges found. First difficulty: we have never been shown the least picture of these cartridges. While the Warren C. is generously distributing pictures of the rifle, of the breech, of the scope, etc., it is impossible to get hold of the cartridges or fragments of bullets. In the fact of this categorical refusal, all hypotheses are permissible.

Since the 1918 Armistice the 6.5 x 52 cartridge for the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle has never been made anywhere but in Italian arsenals. Previously, the German firm D.W.M. was also producing it. It never tempted any of the other large European firms (Kynoch, Norma, R.W.S., etc.); of poor precision, it was ~~not~~ without interest for marksmen.

Purchasers of the 1891 rifle only had available stocks of Italian military ammunition remaining from the last war. Surprise: the Warren C declares: "The ammunition was of current commercial manufacture. It can be easily obtained and more than 2 million of these cartridges have been distributed on the American market."

The manufacturer would be the Western Cartridge Co (U S A). This company, which belongs to the Olin trust, is to the ~~munitions~~ munitions industry what G.M. is to the car industry. We have seen catalogues of the Western Cartridge Co. dated 1961, 1962 and 1963; the 6.5 x 52 does not figure in them. Among the ~~mm~~ some 50 calibers proposed, we note today only 2 European calibers: the 7mm Mauser (Spanish military rifle) and 8 mm Mauser (German, Polish, Czechoslovakian military rifles, etc.).

It is extraordinary that ammunition distributed in more than 2 million samples and commercially available does not figure in the catalogue. Since the Warren Commission declares that Oswald's cartridges were of recent fabrication and that the Western C. Co. currently makes them, let us admit it. But then, why did the W C C from whom we asked for pictures of the 6.5 x 52 answer that several years ago it had made several millions of these cartridges for the American army (and not commercially) and that they had nothing to do with this ammunition since? Anyhow, the picture was equally refused.

Therefore, admitting that the W C C really made this ammunition, it ~~mm~~ certainly was not for the American army which used 7.62 mm. but rather for Italy and even ~~mm~~ more likely for one of these newly created countries whose army is most often equipped with surpluses from the second world war.

This would better explain the fact that the bullet ~~mm~~ recovered is a jacketed bullet, formula practically never delivered commercially for calibers inferior to 7.62 (generally they are half-jacketed or bullets with shallow point). But then how did Oswald obtain this ammunition which ought to be jealously kept outside commercial channels? And why, when he bought the rifle, did he not at the same time order from ~~mm~~ Klein's the ammunition, which is generally sold together (with the rifle), at the price of \$7.50 for 108? 108 bullets is the normal allowance for an Italian sub-officer and Klein's sells them as military Italian ammunition. At the price of \$7.50 for 108, it is evidently surplus.

As to the bullet found, which the Warren Commission said is intact but slightly flattened, it only weighs 10.28 grams. The average Italian bullet weighs 10.45 grams. There is here mysteriously lost ~~mmmm~~ matter ... But 10.28 grams is exactly the weight of the bullet for the 6.5 x 54 Greek Mannlicher-Schoenauer, and the average weight for the Scandinavian 6.5 x 55. Those three types of ammunition are extremely similar in appearance and only an expert qualified in European ammunition could find his way if the ammunition is intact. As to the bullet taken alone, we do not think that the three can be distinguished, aside from their weight.

And we seriously doubt the competence of American experts after noting a host of errors in their work relating to European ammunition, errors on lengths as well as on weights. The technical data on the Italian 6.5 mm which we publish is a unique document which munitions factories generally do not have.

The error on the ammunition would explain many things, and this presumption is confirmed by the refusal made to us concerning photographs of the cartridges found in Dallas. For the firing done on 22 November, theoretically by Oswald, is in reality at the extreme limit of an Olympic rifleman having a highly precise semi-automatic rifle and having been intensively trained on mobile targets reproducing exactly angle, distance and speed, or the conditions under which the killing of President Kennedy occurred.

There is no semi-automatic 6.5 mm (Italian) besides prototypes, nor Greek 6.5 mm, but there is an excellent Scandinavian 6.5; the Swedish semi-automatic Sjogren AG 42 B.

This is only a hypothesis. But in the days following the killing, a Mauser 7.65 was mentioned (official rifle of Turkish, Belgian and Argentinian armies). We have seen an official telegram sent 48 hours after the killing and specifying that it was, indeed, a ~~Mauser~~ 7.65 mm Mauser.

It is enough to look at our photograph to see that it is difficult to confuse a Mauser 98 and a Carcano 91.

We are therefore not constrained by one or another rifle.

Here is all the frailness of the Warren Report. No certain proof is given, the testimony is much more human than technical, which, in police matters, is never very convincing. We have seen in fact that the mediocrity of the rifle, the inexpertness of rifleman Oswald, the moving target, all technical element exclude all practical possibility of Oswald being the assassin.

Scientifically, there is what is called a highly improbable fact; the Warren Commission has presented as truth a group of facts which, in their mathematical context, are extraordinarily questionable. If one considers that the very existence of man on earth and his survival are the result of a multitude of highly improbable facts—such as the explosion of the sun, encounter with a comet, or the appearance of a microbe lethal to all humanity—one can appreciate the immense fragility of the testimony which the seven men on the Warren Commission have ~~heard~~ taken ten months to hear.