

52 Columbia Street

Newark, OH 43055

23 April 1975

Mrs Sylvia Meagher

302 W.12th Street(I hope)

New York NY 10014

Dear Mrs Meagher:

I came across your 1971 letter concerning my remarks to you about the ten million theories about the JFK assassination and would like to mention a novel I read recently which sounds more like truth than the works of the Mark Lane-Garrison axis.....

I do not recall the author's name" but "Tears of Autumn" is logical and nasty. It is based on family bonds in Vietnam being strong, despite the political differences, and that Diem saw the skids were being greased to get rid of him and feared it would be fatal. So he and his brother set a plan moving which depended on a large psychological debt owed them by a North Viet intelligence officer who had good connections in the business on their side of the fence. So in time it leads to a Cuban guerilla in Africa who tells the investigator about activating a sleeper in Dallas in 1963...And it sounds like it could be, Asiatics being fond of paying back people in kind....

Dick Gregory and a lot of other loons have been into the JFK deal, and in turn other shootings have been worked on. It is now claimed that Sirhan didn't shoot RFK, he was merely standing there holding a smoking gun. I'd prefer the opinions of Rafer Johnson and Roosevelt Greer, who if not a pair of trained bodyguards were at least quick thinking athletes...And the only one which sounded like real conspiracy could be, the Ray-King deal.....

As to the odd actions of bullets, the 6.5 Carcano is one of a family of service rounds of the 1889-1905 period which used moderate velocity and long slugs with round noses. These penetrated deeply into anything at which they were fired. Elephant hunters often drilled elephants from stem to stern with the 6.5 Mannlicher or 7mm Mausers. And a Kansas man in the Philippines was shot in the top of the right shoulder while prone. At the dressing station they cut off his duds and found an apparent wound of exit under his belt, which had damaged shells in it. They treated him and he was hospitalized. A few days later he complained of a pain in

his right knee area. The medics found a suspicious lump, operated, and came out with the 7mm which had hit him in the right shoulder several days before. That was a verified example of penetration which sounds incredible. I found it in Frederick Funston's "Memories of Two Wars", concerning the fighting against the Katipunan movement in the Philippines after 1900. It may be in the military books of the NY Library, or by this time in the Rare Book files. So if you're interested, there is a good one.

The Beginner's Luck factor is still a possible thing. There was a WW II joke widely mentioned about the German being entertained on a US field in North Africa after being shot down. He had a drink or so taken and was feeling social..He spoke to a frightened looking Second John.. "I am Hauptmann Hans von Sauerbraten und Hassenpfeffer. I have forty and six Allied planes downshotten. Und you?" The kid stuttered a bit and finally said "I'm Second Lieutenant Smith from Iowa and you're the first for me."

And me, too. I am a fair to middlin' rifle and pistol shot, four seasons at Camp Perry and currently the oldest novice on the ONG State Pistol Team. Back in 1942 I was helping with a target detail on the beach at Galveston, Texas. The officers were shooting .45s on the Army target and doing poorly. I had an old .22 horsepistol which shot quite accurately. A buddy asked me if I could show them bums up. "On what?" I asked him. "One of them birds." So I selected a red-winged blackbird 35 yards off, ten back of the target line, levelled the old piece, and squeezed off my one round. The bird went down like a shooting gallery duck...Later I found that I'd hit it in the head. So I enjoyed a rep as a fearful pistolero after. I had only the one shell, or I'd have ruined my rep trying for encores.....The chance of hitting a target like that, even for a guy with 24 year old eyeballs and good nerves, are high. If I did that good today, even with years more of skill, I'd say it was a return of luck.

Basically, the Kennedys are unlucky. I will never vote for Ted for Pres or anything. If a Senator dies, we have 99 more. A Presidential loss is different..For further reading, try "The Lost Prince" which I think is by Hank Searls. I served on the same base with the late Joe Kennedy Jr and finding out exactly what done him in interested me a great deal. Merely a \$.01 cotter pin and a piece of cord, added where leaving it out would have made sense.....John was the luckiest of the tribe, since he died before his Viet chickens came home to roost....Or did they????

*Samuel*      *John P. Corbin*