



"JFK ASSASSINATION FORUM" IS ALIVE AND WELL and to prove it, here, at long last, is a belated issue No.9. Its absence since August 1975 is explained not by a dearth of news and developments on the Dallas assassination but rather by the search for a printer whose inflationary charges will not bankrupt the publishers and editor. This rare fellow has now been discovered so it is "all systems go". Hopefully the black humour of our lead cartoon which appeared in the November 22 issue of "Socialist Worker" will whet your appetite for this month's contents.....

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"COVER-UP: TIME-LIFE INCORPORATED AND
THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY"

by
Chris Scally

The Warren Commission, formed by President Johnson to investigate the circumstances surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone, unaided, assassin. Now, after almost twelve years of exhaustive analysis of the Warren Commission Report, the accompanying twenty-six volumes of testimony and exhibits, as well as a wealth of additional material unseen by the Commission, researchers are convinced of the existence of a conspiracy.

The Watergate affair was elevated from the ranks of a "third-rate burglary" to that of a national catastrophe by the diligence of two "Washington Post" reporters and the determination of their supporters to uncover the truth. In the case of President Kennedy's assassination, however, the world's press adopted a strangely different attitude - before the findings of the Warren Commission were made public, Oswald's guilt was a front-page proclamation.

Today, articles critical of the official findings are becoming more numerous, but many major publications still adhere to their original editorial policy: "Oswald was guilty, and the Warren

Commission was correct." One such publishing organization is Time-Life Inc. In this article we shall be looking at just two examples of their commitment to the official truth, despite the fact that in each case the weight of the evidence supports the beliefs of conspiracy theorists rather than the verdict of the Warren Commission.

(1) The Zapruder Film

Abraham Zapruder was among the eyewitnesses to the assassination in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Furthermore, he filmed the entire assassination with his Bell and Howell Director series movie camera, and this 8-millimeter colour film is the only complete record of the shooting known to researchers. The Zapruder film is a seventeen-foot-long strip of home-movie film which runs for a mere twenty-two seconds, yet it is perhaps the single most important piece of evidence relating to the assassination. Until recently this unique film was the property of Time-Life Inc.

By early on the evening of the assassination, the Eastman-Kodak processing plant in Dallas had developed Zapruder's film, and before midnight two copies of the film were in the hands of the authorities. Zapruder kept the original and the only other copy of the film for himself.

Within four hours of the killing, Life magazine's Los Angeles Bureau Chief, Richard B. Stolley had arrived in Dallas. Zapruder declined to speak to any media representatives that night, but the following day Stolley purchased print rights to the film. It was shown to Time-Life executives in New York less than forty-eight hours later, and according to Stolley's account in the November 1973 issue of "Esquire", Life's editor C.D. Jackson was so shocked by what the film depicted that he proposed they purchase all rights to the film and "withhold it from public viewing until emotion had calmed". Stolley again contacted Zapruder, and agreement was reached on a price for all rights to the film. The signing of that agreement also marked the beginning of Time-Life's involvement in covering-up the evidence of conspiracy.

The complete details of the agreement between Time-Life and Zapruder have never been made public. When he testified before the Warren Commission on July 22, 1964, Zapruder said under oath that he "received \$25,000 as you know" for his film. The transcript of Zapruder's testimony indicates that he repeated this claim one page later: "\$25,000 was paid". In his "Esquire" article, Stolley said that Zapruder was paid \$50,000 for print rights and a further \$100,000 for all other rights, thereby suggesting that Zapruder perjured himself when he testified. According to Stolley, the total of \$150,000 was to be paid in six annual installments of \$25,000 each. In January 1973 however, whilst researching my own, as yet unpublished, book on the Zapruder film, a reliable source informed me that "Zapruder got \$100,000 a year for 10 years" for his film. With such dispute over the amount paid by Time-Life is it not reasonable to question other official pronouncements concerning the film?

According to the Warren Commission, Oswald fired three shots from the easternmost window on the sixth floor of the TSBD. The Commission states that the first shot was fired between frames 210 and 224 of the Zapruder film, at a time when the President was hidden from Zapruder's view behind a road-sign. The second

shot, fired at an unspecified time, completely missed the Presidential limousine, and the third shot was fired at frame 313. This final shot, which removed a large portion of the right side of JFK's head, was undoubtedly the fatal shot. The first shot allegedly struck the President at the base of the neck and exited from his throat. The bullet then entered Governor Connally's back, smashed his right fifth rib, and exited from his chest. The bullet subsequently entered and severely damaged the Governor's right wrist, before finally embedding itself in his left thigh. The Commission was forced to conclude that the first shot struck both men, since tests had established beyond all doubt that it was physically impossible to pull the bolt and reload the alleged murder weapon faster than once every 2.3 seconds. As the first shot could not have been fired from Oswald's presumed "sniper's nest" before frame 210, and the FBI laboratory had established that Zapruder's camera was filming at 18.3 frames per second, a minimum of 42 frames had to elapse between shots. However, since the film shows Connally reacting to his injuries well before frame 252, the so-called "single-bullet theory" was born and became an essential part of the Commission's case against Oswald.

To be continued/.....

NOTE: Clear Super 8 colour prints of the Zapruder film are available from Penn Jones jr. Box 1140. Midlothian. Texas 76065. for \$20.00 each. These are excellent quality prints made from Robert Groden's clear copy.

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Joachim Joesten
June 29th, 1907 - August 20th, 1975

Joachim Joesten, who has died at his home in West Germany, will be sadly missed by a very wide circle of researchers and friends throughout the world.

Born in Cologne, he started his career as a journalist at the time of Hitler's coming to power and he soon found it necessary to emigrate. After a period in Scandinavia he reached the United States by a circuitous route through Moscow, Vladivostok Japan and Costa Rica in March 1941, and he became an American citizen in 1948.

He had a prolific output and by the time of John F. Kennedy's assassination in November 1963 he had written 26 books and hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles.

Following the Dallas shooting he became immersed in the doubts and his energies were devoted wholly to exposing the sham of the official Warren Commission Report. His first book (of six on the subject) was entitled "Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy?" and was published in New York in 1964. It was one of the earliest accounts of the unanswered questions that have overshadowed the American conscience ever since, and it is still considered a classic of investigative writing by serious students and researchers of the assassination.

He never ceased to express his opinions although often castigated by the press and the establishment media and he ploughed a lonely furrow from those dark days of 1963 until the resurgence of interest in the early 'seventies.

In latter years he privately published his theories and established his bi-weekly "Truth Letter" in 1968. Until its

demise, due to his ill-health, in October 1972 it proved to be a valuable source of information for "truthseekers", and it is remembered by many with fond affection.

To younger people now involved in action for the truth he may be just a name or a photograph on a fading dustjacket and perhaps it is therefore fitting to leave the last word to that other eminent critic, Penn Jones jr. In his book "Forgive my Grief IV" he includes the following tribute under the heading "He let it all hang out":

"We want to express our thanks to Joachim Joesten for the great contribution he has made to the truth about assassinations in the United States. As few have done, Joesten has from the very beginning seen through the assassinations and has printed his beliefs and his findings in at least six bold, courageous books. Although we have never met him, we are proud to count Joachim Joesten as a friend".

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The publication of articles and books related to the killing of John F. Kennedy continues. For the interest of our readers here is a brief resumé of the major items that have appeared since our last issue, together with some information concerning material that will appear within the next few weeks.

Magazines

"Saturday Evening Post"- September 1975: "The Unsolved JFK murder mystery"/George O'Toole. pp.45+.(ill).

"Skeptic"- September/October 1975. Special issue No.9: "Who killed JFK?". 68pages. (ill).

"Gallery"- October 1975: "The Guns of Dallas"/L.Fletcher Prouty and Richard E.Sprague. pp.43+.(ill).

"Time"- November 24,1975: "Who killed JFK? Just one Assassin". pp.30+.(ill).

1976: "Playboy" have started a six-part series on Political Assassination in the United States commencing in their January issue. "Oui" will include an article on the Warren Report critics in their February issue, although reports tend to suggest that it is intended to bolster the official verdict. There is also a rumour that another article will be appearing in the January/February issue of "Saturday Evening Post".

Books

October 1975. "Post Mortem"/Harold Weisberg. A monster volume of 650 pages, illustrated, it may be obtained for \$10.75 from the Author. Route 12. Old Receiver Road. Frederick. MD 21701.

"Appointment in Dallas"/Hugh McDonald. This slim paperback may be considered a "fairy story" since it purports to relate a confession by the real assassin of JFK, "Saul" which was imparted to the author in London in 1972. Approach with caution. \$1.95 from Zebra 2 Books. 380 Madison Avenue. New York. NY 10017.

November 1975. "They've killed the President"/Robert Sam Anson. A 408 page paperback illustrated with colour frames of the Zapruder film and other black/white photographs, this is an interesting account of "The Search for the Murderers of John F. Kennedy". The text is well documented with 31 pages of source notes and a comprehensive index. It may be published in Britain within the next couple of months by Corgi Books but, in the meantime, copies can be obtained (not from the publishers, Bantam Books) from American book shpps at £2.50 each.

1976: The following books are scheduled for publication in the early part of this year. The only details to hand are as follows:

"November 22. How they killed Kennedy"/Michael Eddowes. This is the first British book on the subject to be published since September 1968 and it is due out on February 2nd. 360 pages with 20 pages of illustrations, it will be published at £4.50 by Neville Spearman Ltd. 112 Whitfield Street. London W1P 6DP. SBN 85978 019 8.

"Cover-up"/J.Gary Shaw and Larry Harris. To be published by the Authors on January 31st. Available from them at P.O.Box 722. Cleburne. Texas 76031 at \$9.95 (i.e.£9.95) per copy. To be profusely illustrated with 50 photographs.

Two other books are also rumoured but we do not have any clear details at this present time. "The Assassinations: Dallas and beyond"/ edited by Peter Dale Scott and to be published by Vintage Books of New York(?) in January 1976(?) at \$5.95(?). Also "JFK - the case for conspiracy"/Robert Groden and Peter Model may be out sometime in February(?).

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JFK - AF
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BRIAN BURDEN

300 CHURCH STREET
BOCKING
BRAINTREE
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LIMITED EDITION £ 3-25 (INCL POST.)

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THIS ISSUE OF JFK - AF IS JOINTLY EDITED BY {HARRY IRWIN
BRIAN BURDEN

A TALE OF TWO OSWALDS (A FAR FAR BETTER ARTICLE THAN MANY OTHERS RECENTLY PUBLISHED ON THE SUBJECT) _____ by Brian Burden.

A new piece of obfuscation is going the rounds which, for want of a better term, might be described as the "Frankenstein" theory. Briefly, it posits that the man who went to Russia in 1959 as Lee Oswald returned as a semi-robot, programmed to assassinate American presidents. The theory is not new; indeed it anticipated the assassination of Kennedy. I refer to Richard Condon's THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE, ~~THE~~ the film of which (1962) featured as its programmed zombie and actor called L. Harvey - strange twists of fate! There is also a quasi-factual book called ~~XXXX~~ WERE WE CONTROLLED? published in the late sixties and presenting much the same idea. Two or three years ago, the enigmatic Bud Fensterwald of the seemingly moribund Committee to Investigate Assassinations hinted darkly to me that certain minor surgery received by LHO in the USSR was less minor than might be supposed.

The new twist on this old theory is that the Oswald who returned from Russia was not a modified version of the original but a cunning replica - an imposter who walked, talked and no doubt performed other functions just like the original LHO.....but who had murder in mind, Presidential murder. Appropriately enough, this theory was recently aired on the Jack de Manio chat show.

All this nonsense is of course very jolly and serves the double purpose of reinforcing the Warren lone assassin theory while taking the interested listener/reader on an intriguing wild goose chase away from the real forces behind the assassination - i.e. the military, the intelligence community, and the defence industry. It does, however, raise once again the intriguing and real phenomenon of the multiple Oswald.

To my knowledge, only one book has been wholly devoted to this subject - Professor Popkin's THE SECOND OSWALD. This presents a lot of the relevant facts but no satisfactory theory. I propose to present such a theory, plus the evidence which supports it, and in so doing settle the unnecessary mystification surrounding the subject once and for all.

I believe that there was not just one Oswald look-alike, but as many as ten or twenty, and I believe they fall into two partly overlapping groups:

1. Operatives involved in "legitimate" CIA activities in the Texas/New Orleans area. Most of these had nothing to do with the assassination, but caused the Warren Commission a lot of headaches when good citizens came forward and reported their activities.
2. Look-alikes directly involved in the assassination, mostly with the specific purpose of framing the real Lee Oswald. This group includes William Seymour, who was probably the "Leon Oswald" who visited Sylvia Odio, and Larry Craford, of whom more later. Obviously it includes the Oswalds who made flamboyant appearances at rifle ranges and test-drove a car at 70 mph in a restricted area etc.

What is my evidence? My evidence for proposition 1 is to be found in Haynes Johnson's THE BAY OF PIGS. Johnson describes how one of the exile brigade leaders, Artime, went on a support-raising tour of Latin America. At each port of call, Artime would receive a phone call from a CIA contact:

As he travelled through Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Peru and Chile, he received calls from a "Jaime Castillo". In each country "Jaime" had a different voice, but always asked if there were anything he could do to help Artime... (Johnson, p29)

In other words, it would appear that in the late 50's CIA operatives on a common assignment would also use a common identity; and of course only an enquiry as far-reaching as the Warren investigation would uncover the

duplication. The same pattern seems to have been followed in the case of Oswald. Let's examine the record.

FIRST, there is little doubt that Oswald was an intelligence operative and visited Russia (if he visited Russia!) in that capacity. Consider; while in the Marines he was taught Russian and mugged up on Marxist ideas and Russian culture. His openly declared enthusiasm for Russian communism did not affect his high security clearance for sensitive radar work; contrariwise, however, he never rose higher in the ranks than Private First Class. The pieces don't fit.

Oswald's fare to Russia cost more than he could have saved in the Marines, a point which the Warren Commission never resolved, though they pretended to do so.

There were other peculiar features about Oswald's "defection".

The first leg of Oswald's trip to Russia ended when the Marion Lykes docked at Southampton on October 9 1959. He then proceeded to Helsinki by air from London Airport. His passport is stamped "Embarked October 10" and the only commercial flight available would have got him to Helsinki in the early hours of October 11. On that day, Oswald registered at the Klaus Kurki Hotel, Helsinki. So far so good.....except that on the previous day, while the real LHO was in London, someone using his name booked in at the Tornio Hotel Helsinki. He booked out the following day and was never heard of again. Was he the real Oswald's "baby-sitter"?

Once in Moscow, Oswald told his Intourist guide, Rima, that he wished to defect (Oct 17). On Oct. 21 he approached the Russian authorities and was turned down flat. He returned to his hotel, so the story goes, and slashed his wrists. After a spell in a psychiatric hospital, he visited the authorities again and was told his case would be reconsidered. That was on October 28.

On October 32, Oswald went to the US consulate and announced his decision to defect, to reveal radar secrets if necessary, and also announced his undying allegiance to Marxism. Consular Official Snyder, it seems, swallowed all this, and told Oswald to return the following Monday. His colleague MacVickar, who shared the same office, was considerably less impressed. In a terse memo to the Warren Commission only days after the assassination, he declared that Oswald's remarks on Marxism reflected no understanding of the subject and that it was his opinion that Oswald had been rehearsed to make these statements by persons unknown (- the same people who taught him Russian? -). The Warren Commission didn't like this at all, and in his testimony before that body, MacVickar emerges as a sadder and a wiser man.

Another strange event. The Naval Attache, US Embassy, Moscow, sent a cable gram to Washington giving a brief report of the above incident. Only thing was that he sent it on 26 October when Oswald was still (officially) in the Russian psychiatric hospital. I believe in Science Fiction circles this phenomenon is known as "time-warp".

Homework time now, kiddies. Take a look at the photos in your copy of the Warren Report. Look at the photo taken of Oswald before his defection; look at the photos taken after his return to the States. Then look at photos allegedly taken of Oswald in Russia. There's something funny about all of the latter them; in one he appears to be shorter than Marina; another is simply not Oswald - the hair is too bushy; the face is too plump. Judge for yourself, but don't ask me to explain. In one of their recently declassified sessions, members of the Commission speculate that some of these photos

may be forgeries by the KGB (...or someone).

Oswald's intelligence assignment is the subject for another article, though it seems fairly safe to say that it had something to do with the U2 overflights. Suffice to say that Oswald returned to the USA in June 1963 with his Russian wife and child, fortified by a State Department loan and a guarantee that he would not be prosecuted for revealing classified information.

Brace yourself for an odd coincidence. The Oswalds returned to the good ole US of A on June 13, 1962. Exactly 3 days later, Larry Craford (later to rise to fame as Jack Ruby's factotum), whose usual stomping grounds were Michigan and Oregon, married a girl from Dallas. And here's another coincidence: when Larry and wife fell out, Larry followed her to Dallas in March 1963. March 1963 marked the beginning of the intimacy between the Oswalds and the Paines. Oswald ordered his rifle on March 12. The other coincidence is better known: Craford came to work at Ruby's Carousel Club in mid-October 1963. Oswald, of course was found a job at the tsbd at just about this time. Craford also bore a fair resemblance to Oswald. Evidence of some sort of conspiratorial interaction, or evidence of the vast unseen cosmic pattern which governs all our lives? Over to you, Jean Dixon. By the way, Larry, like Oswald, had two kiddies and, like Oswald, fell out with his wife on account of her alleged lesbian tendencies. And Lee & Larry both had small scars on their upper lips.

But we mustn't spend too much time on one look-alike when there is a whole circus of them to deal with. Jim Garrison has pointed out how, while the person whom for convenience I will call the real Oswald was still in Russia, another Lee Oswald was already at work in New Orleans ingratiating himself with Cuban exiles. By that time, the ponderous machinery for real Oswald's return had been set in motion, so it looks as if LHO's paymasters were salting the ground for real Oswald's home assignments.

The look-alikes really begin to proliferate around the time Oswald made his trip(s) to Mexico. Here you must prepare yourself for some detailed, intricate and basically rather boring narrative.

In September 1963, Oswald went to Mexico city in order to arrange, so the story goes, to travel to Russia via Cuba. He was seen leaving his New Orleans apartment on 24 Sept with luggage. However, since somebody purporting to be LHO cashed a cheque in New Orleans on 25 September, the Warren crowd decided he must have left on the 25th. Tidy. Here is the official Warren scenario:

1. LHO left New Orleans by bus on 25th (no witnesses or supporting evidence).
2. Arrived Houston in evening and boarded coach at 2 am (no witnesses or supporting evidence)
3. 26 Sept. - Arrived Laredo; took coach to Mexico city.
4. 27 Sept. - Arr. Mex. City. (Stayed at "anti-Castro" hotel) While there, visited Cuban & Russian embassies)
5. 2nd Oct. Bus to Laredo under alias H.O.Lee.
6. 3rd Oct. Greyhound to Dallas. Visited Employment Commission. Spent night at YMCA.
7. Hitch-hiked to Paine home, Irving. Reunited with Marina.

It is when one measures this schedule against the evidence of numerous convincing witnesses that the circus band begins to play and the clowns begin to cavort! (Continued next issue...)