

JFK Assassination FORUM

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THE REAL LEE OSWALD (2)

Artine, through the help of the CIA, had been on a speaking tour of central and Latin America.... 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.... (Haynes Johnson - THE BAY OF PIGS)

I recall thinking at the time that Oswald was behaving with a great deal of determination and purpose for such a young and relatively uneducated person...and it seemed to me that he could have acquired all these ideas himself and could have planned his prompt trip to the USSR after release from the Marines...On the other hand, there also seemed to me the possibility that he was following a pattern of behaviour in which he had been tutored by person or persons unknown. For example, in discussing Marxism and the legalities of renunciation he seemed to be using words which he had learned but did not fully understand...In short, it seemed to me that there was a possibility that he had been in contact with others...who had guided him and encouraged him in his actions. (James McVickar, US Embassy Moscow, 27 November 1963)

Please have the previous issue of this newsletter handy so that you can refer to the official schedule of Oswald's trip to Mexico in Sept. 1963. As I wrote in part 1 of this article, here is where the clowns begin to turn cartwheels. An atlas showing the main towns in the Texas area would also be useful.

Here is one of the facts which the Warren Report eschews: On Sept. 25, just after 1.00, someone called Harvey Oswald turned up at the Selective Service HQ, Austin, Tex. and talked for about half an hour to the assistant chief of the Administrative Division, Mrs Lee Dannelly. Mrs Dannelly's statement to the FBI has all the hallmarks of honesty, and it should be remembered that Mrs Dannelly held a position of some responsibility. There is nothing sensational in her account at all - except that Lee Oswald oughtn't to have been in Austin at that time.

Predictably, the Warren Report's reaction drips with that special spite which it reserves for inconvenient witnesses. Mrs Dannelly is not a good rumbustious down-to-earth liar like Larry Grafard; rather, she is one of those stupid, honest busybodies who will insist on rocking the boat. For a start, the Warren Report downgrades her to "an employee" (go to the bottom of the class you naughty child!). It also says that all the information in her statement could have been obtained from the media (i.e. "Sorry lady, but you're a goddam liar"). Needless to say, Mrs Dannelly wasn't called to testify. Perusal of her statement, however (CE2137) leads to some interesting conclusions.

It would appear that Harvey Oswald was less interested in obtaining information than in drawing attention to himself and establishing his presence in a certain place at a certain time: Although he told Mrs Dannelly that he was unhappy about his unsatisfactory discharge from the Marines which, he

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

PART TWO:

The Zapruder film was the only complete record of the assassination, and the FBI had concluded that Zapruder's camera was filming at 18.3 frames per second. The film was therefore a 'clock' of the assassination sequence, accurate to .054 of a second. It would seem logically indeed imperative that this 'clock' be used by the Warren Commission as a basis for any other study of the movements of those in the Presidential limousine during the shooting. The appalling truth, however, is that the original Zapruder was NEVER seen by members of the Warren Commission, and only THREE Commissioners saw the copy-of-a-copy which was used for the investigation. According to the testimony of FBI photographic expert Lymal Shaneyfield, "Life Magazine was reluctant to release the original because of the value". Asked by Assistant Counsel Arlen Specter if slides were made for the Commission from the original film, Shaneyfield replied: "Yes, since it was not practical to stop the projector when using the original of the Zapruder film, Mr. Orth (Herbert Orth, assistant chief of the Life photographic laboratory) volunteered to prepare 35mm colour slides directly from the original movie of all the pertinent frames of the assassination which were determined to be frames 171 through 434".

Volume 18 of the Commission's "Testimony and Exhibits" begins with 80 pages of black and white photographs of frames from the Zapruder film. The photographs were made from frames 171 through 207 and frames 212 through 334. Frames 208 to 211 inclusive are missing, and frames 207 and 212 are badly splined.

One may well ask why some frames were damaged, while others were completely missing, especially when these frames form an important sequence in the official reconstruction of the shooting. This is especially true in the light of Shaneyfield's testimony that "Life" magazine provided slides from frames 171 through 434. The simple answer is that "Life" provided a total of 169 colour slides which have been identified by the Chief Archivist of the United States (into whose custody all of the evidence was supposedly delivered) as "frames 171-207 and 212-343". Therefore "Life" never made frames 208 to 211 available to the Commission. Furthermore, "Life" have admitted that the damage to frames 207 and 212, and the destruction of frames 208 to 211, was the result of an accident which occurred while slides were being prepared for the Commission. According to representatives of "Life", the damage was done to the ORIGINAL Zapruder film by an unnamed laboratory technician, and since the Warren Commission requested slides from the ORIGINAL film, "Life" could not provide them. This shameful game of words takes on sinister overtones when one is confronted with evidence that the original Zapruder film was NOT damaged, and that the slides provided by "Life" were made from a COPY of the actual film! In an article in "Esquire" in December 1966, Edward J. Epstein wrote that "Life magazine owns the original film and according to those who have seen it, the film is complete, no frames are missing, and Kennedy does not appear to have been hit in the sequence" encompassed by the missing and damaged frames. If Epstein is correct, the Warren Commission is not worth the paper on which it was printed, and "Life" magazine executives who claimed that the original

Zapruder film was damaged are liars. There are two interesting footnotes to Epstein's remarks: (1) Painstaking analysis of the Zapruder film has led researchers to believe that the first shot struck President Kennedy at, or just prior to, frame 200, when he was out of view from Oswald's alleged "sniper's nest". This interpretation of the timing of the first shot would tend to support Epstein's claim that Kennedy was not hit between frames 206 and 212. (2) The "Life" magazine laboratory technician who allegedly damaged the original of the Zapruder film has never been identified, nor have any witnesses to the 'accident' come forward. It is hard to believe that an employee who damaged what, surely, must have been "Life's" most treasured piece of film, could remain anonymous. It is at all possible that the accident never took place?

In the light of these observations, it should come as no surprise to find that prior to the formation of the Warren Commission, and again after the Commission's findings were made public, "Life" published articles on the assassination in which the "Lone-assassin" theory was supported. Frames from the Zapruder film accompanied these articles, but needless to say, the crucial frames never appeared. Nor did any of the other frames which apparently upset editor C.D. Jackson. It is interesting to note that these same frames are the ones which researchers are convinced, clearly depict the impact on the President's head of a bullet which was fired from a point in front and to the right of the motorcade. This further evidence of conspiracy has been totally ignored by "Life".

In 1966, "Life" began to take notice of the controversy which was then raging over the findings of the Warren Commission. Richard Billings, "Life's" associate editor in charge of investigative reporting at the time, was ordered to lead "Life's" own investigation into the assassination. The result was an article in the November 25, 1966 issue. This article was supposed to be the first in a series by Billings and his team examining the issues being raised by critics of the Warren Report. The cover of this issue proclaimed "A Matter of Reasonable Doubt", and the article was based on Governor Connally's examination of the Zapruder film with reference to the 'single-bullet theory'. The result of Connally's examination was a complete refutation of the Commission's theory, and prompted "Life" to conclude that a new investigation was necessary. Billings continued his study of the evidence, with the help and encouragement of Richard Sprague, a private researcher who is particularly knowledgeable in the area of the photographic evidence. In January 1967, however, Billings was told that "It is not 'Life's' function to investigate the Kennedy assassination". His research team was disbanded, additional photographic evidence uncovered by Billings and Sprague was locked away in a vault, and all plans for future articles were dropped. That November 1966 article was the first, and last, attempt by "Life" to publicise the discrepancies in the Warren Commission's findings.

In keeping with the decision made by Time-Life executives in New York three days after the assassination, the Zapruder film has been withheld from public viewing. It was never shown on television or in the cinema,

and was kept under close guard in a vault in the headquarters of Time-Life in New York. Many efforts were made by private researchers to show this remarkable film to the public, but Time-Life always prevented the film being shown in motion form by threatening to sue for vast amounts. As well as preventing the public screening of the film, Time-Life also made it virtually impossible for authors to reproduce individual frames in critical books.

In his introduction to Josiah Thompson's excellent book "Six Seconds in Dallas", publisher Bernard Geis related how "Life" consultant Thompson made a "routine request for reproduction rights for those Zapruder frames on which he had labored so long and on which so much of his argument rested". The request was a "routine one" since Thompson had been enlisted by "Life" to join the team which produced the November 1966 article on the assassination. In his capacity as a consultant, Thompson had been able to study the Zapruder film in much greater detail than would have been otherwise possible, and since "Life" were aware of his forthcoming book, Thompson believed that his request for permission to use frames from the film in his book would be a mere formality. However, as Geis pointed out, "To our amazement and chagrin, his request was denied, and all future efforts, through personal meetings, telephone pleadings, letters and intermediaries (including at last our offer to donate the entire profit on the book to "Life" in exchange for these few frames of the film) failed to alter "Life's" decision".

Thompson's book was published in 1967, and unreframed sketches were used in place of Zapruder film frames. Although the sketches were superb reproductions of the contents of the frames, they were NOT frames from Time-Life's film. However, Time-Life sued Bernard Geis Associates for infringement of copyright - and lost their case. In the few instances where Time-Life have given permission to publish individual frames, the price has been highly prohibitive, thereby making the publication of a number of frames in any one place virtually impossible.

Despite these efforts to suppress the Zapruder film, 'bootleg' copies have been in the hands of researchers for a number of years. One such researcher is Robert Groden, a New Jersey optics technician, who has enlarged the central detail of each frame in the film. This so-called 'reframed film' has the effect of reducing the amount of jerkiness in the film, and producing a much clearer screen image. The new Groden film is similar to the one Zapruder would have obtained had he used a tripod and a 'zoom' lens. The film was first shown publicly at the Assassination Information Bureau conference in Boston on January 31, 1975. Researcher Ian MacFarlane was responsible for the screening of the film on television in Australia on February 5, 1975 and a week later it was seen on Canadian TV. The big breakthrough came on March 6, when it was shown on ABC's "Goodnight America" programme. Three weeks later, in a special it was screened again on the same show.

And what of Time-Life during this period? Instead of filing numerous suits for copyright infringement they dropped a bombshell on April 10, 1975 by selling the film back to Zapruder's family for the token sum of \$1.00!

There has been no explanation as to why the film was sold back to the late Abraham Zapruder's family. It has been suggested that Time-Life did not wish to become involved in a series of costly lawsuits, but this explanation hardly makes sense. Time-Life invested at least \$125,000 in the Zapruder film. There is reason to believe that their investment was far greater - perhaps as much as \$1,000,000. In either case, it is difficult to believe that they passed up their most jealously guarded property rather than become involved in a few legal battles. As was true of the missing frames mystery, these latest developments raise more questions than they answer. Perhaps a completely honest and fully documented statement from Time-Life would answer all the queries - or are there even more skeletons of the Zapruder film buried in the murky depths of Time-Life's cupboard?

/To be continued.....

KENNEDY KILLING ANALYSIS

BY WILLIAM BARTON
A LECTURER at Lancaster University has stepped into the controversy over President Kennedy's assassination.

He claims that formerly unpublished scientific analysis of the photographs taken at the time of the murder destroy the growing number of theories that more than one gunman fired at the President.

The independent investigation of Dr Brian Jones, now a senior lecturer in the Dept. of Physics, was undertaken when he was working at the University of California, Los Angeles.

He said yesterday he believed it supported conclusively the decision of the Warren Commission that only Lee Harvey Oswald with his 1940 Mannlicher-Carcano rifle was involved in the murder.

Dr Jones made his detailed analysis of 8mm movie film shot by a businessman called Zapruder watching the President's motorcade during his lunch break in Dallas and comments that insufficient attention was paid by the Warren Commission investigation to the film as a piece of hard definite physical evidence because "as lawyers they did not have a scientific training and insight, and did not ask the right questions."

Unbiased expert
The study of the frames of the Zapruder film were made in 1967 four years after the murder at the request of Professor W. J. Liebel, a counsel for the Commission, who asked university physics department for an unbiased expert to study the pictures.

The photographs were in possession of Life magazine who agreed to release the frames for the study to be made. But afterwards access to the copies was suddenly withdrawn so that further work was impossible.

Dr Jones said yesterday when his findings were published that his analysis involved some elementary principles of physics.

Dr Jones said yesterday that he had not published the report earlier because it was awaiting a book which failed to transpire, and he had now published the report at the suggestion of the University.

On February 6th 1976 two similar news reports appeared in the "Guardian" and the "Daily Telegraph". As the latter (left) shows they referred to a "newly published" analysis of the Zapruder film, which the author claimed upheld the Warren Commission findings that only one gunman fired at John F. Kennedy in Dealey Plaza on November 22nd, 1963.

The report was originally composed in 1967 at the request of Wesley J. Liebler whilst the author, Dr Brian Jones, was attached to the University of California. Copies may be obtained from: The Information Officer, University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YB, England.

Despite the euphoric tone of the "Guardian" headline "New light on Dallas shots? we do not feel that it does in fact add any new information to the unanswered questions of Dallas. It is interesting, though, to compare his comments and views to our currently running article by Chris Scally on the conduct of Time-Life Inc. in relation to the Zapruder film."

As a result of correspondence with Dr Jones since his report became public it is disturbing to learn that despite the authority of the tone of his analysis he has, in fact, NEVER viewed the Zapruder footage as a movie, his only examination of the frames being the enlarged Life magazine slides. (He is even unaware of the Robert Groden "blow-up" compilation of the most important frames.....!!

said, was damaging his job prospects, and asked her to look up his particulars in the file, he never mentioned the small fact that his first name was "Lee". Mrs Dannelly looked up "Harvey Oswald" and drew a blank; when Oswald hit the headlines, she looked up "Lee Oswald" and there were all the particulars. Why hadn't "Harvey" suggested this, unless of course he was more interested in impressing his face and name on a respectable witness than in remedying his prejudicial discharge? (Incidentally, on Nov. 8, a "Harvey Oswald" tried to cash a "two-person" cheque at Hutchinson's grocery store in Irving.)

Back to the Mexico timetable. Some time that same evening, someone phoned a Mrs Twiford in Houston and asked to speak to her husband, who was a member of the Socialist Labour League, in connexion with the Fair Play for Cuba movement. The caller gave his name as "Lee Oswald" and was, he said, phoning locally; he would shortly be "flying" to Mexico. It is instructive to compare the Warren Commission's treatment of the Twiford and the Dannelly incidents: in both cases, the truth or otherwise of the story depends upon the word of one witness. Mrs Twiford, however, was in no position to say that her caller physically resembled Oswald, or even that he was in Houston as he claimed to be (and of course, Oswald certainly did NOT fly to Mexico). Anyone can phone a stranger.

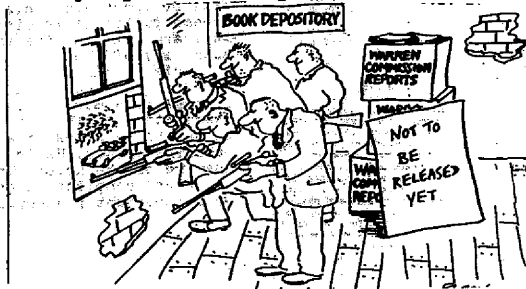
Nevertheless, because Mrs T's caller claimed to be where, according to the Commission's schedule, LHO ought to have been, the Commission not only accepted Mrs T's veracity but also accepted the veracity of her highly dubious caller - highly dubious, because the phone call, like the Harvey Oswald visit, seems to have been self-serving. Poor Mrs Dannelly - but to paraphrase Mae West, "truthfulness has nothing to do with it" where the Warren Report is concerned. (Should anyone be in doubt, I believe that Mrs Dannelly and Mrs Twiford were both telling the truth.)

The Sylvia Odio/Leon Oswald incident, which Mrs Odio placed on Sept. 26 is too well-known to be reported in detail. J. Edgar Hoover at first confidently identified Leon as William Seymour, who does indeed resemble LHO. Later, he had second thoughts. Garrison thinks Hoover's first thoughts were the right ones.

The next strange event occurred on Sept 27, the day after Oswald officially entered Mexico at Laredo. Someone called Antony Oswald (sic) entered Mexico by auto at Miguel Aloman, just a few miles along the border. This incident may explain the report in the Dallas Morning News for Nov. 28 1963 that Oswald "traveled by car" from Laredo to Mex. City. It may also have something to do with an enigmatic reference to "Oswald's brother" in CE 2137.

Mr...Gonzalez, Customs Administrator, Miguel Aloman, Mexico, stated that...Oswald's brother...had entered Mexico at Miguel Aloman the same day Oswald entered Mexico at Laredo, Texas.

While in Mexico City, Oswald is supposed to have visited the Cuban and Russian embassies. CIA pics recently declassified as a result of freedom of information suits show the "Oswald" who visited the Russian embassy to have been a burly imposter bearing not the slightest resemblance to LHO. - CONTINUED -



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