

As far as Britain is concerned, April 1978 will witness a concentrated attempt to perpetuate the myth of the lone-assassin in the John F. Kennedy murder.

On the evenings of the 17th and 18th, at peak viewing time, BBC TV will screen "The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald" (see JFK.AF. No.21/22. p.8) and to back that up, in the following seven days two of the largest publishers will unveil their British editions of two recent books. Collins will publish Marina and Lee (on the 20th) - Marina Oswald's account of her life with the "assassin" - written by her CIA "babysitter", Priscilla Johnson McMillan, and four days later Hutchinson will produce Legend; The Secret World of Lee Harvey

Oswald by
Edward J.
Epstein.

THE JFK TRIGGERMEN AND WHY THEY ARE NOT IMPORTANT

By Richard Sprague

Richard E. Sprague was consultant to the Congressional committee investigating assassinations. A pioneer in the field of electronic computers, he is a consultant to the President's Commission on Electronic Funds Transfer Systems (EFTS) and to the Battelle Memorial Institute, a think-tank of Frankfurt, Germany. He has written numerous articles and books.



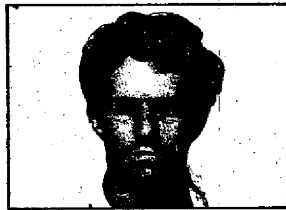
Jack Lawrence



"Frenchie," one of several aliases.



William Seymour



Emilio Santana

These four photographs show the men who are believed to have fired shots at President Kennedy in Dealey Plaza, Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963. By the year 1970, evidence accumulated by the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, Washington, D.C., pointed to these riflemen shooting from four positions. However, as incredible as it may seem, Willem Oltman's article makes clear that the identities of the actual Dealey Plaza team, including shooters, radio communications men, coordinators, and others, do not really matter in the overall conspiracy and especially in the cover-ups. The murder was a carefully orchestrated intelligence operation; it was and is being covered up by high-level intelligence people whose influence reaches into the White House itself.

The photographic evidence alone proves that Lee Harvey Oswald did not fire any shots that day. Once one moves beyond the stage of thinking that Oswald did the shooting, the questions about who was shooting become secondary to the questions about who *planned* and *commanded* the execution and *why* they did so. More important, who covered up the truth, and who today is responsible for the continuing massive efforts to cover up?

This issue is designed to attempt to counteract these actions and, on the basis of the old premise, that "one picture is worth a hundred words", we are devoting the mass of our space this time to visuals. You can bet that these will most definitely NOT appear in the pages of these two cited works!

Left, is a small portion by Richard Sprague which is part of a larger article by Willem Oltman's published in the April 1978 issue of Gallery as their continuing series on assassinations. "The Missing General" is the account of the hunt for a most important witness in the JFK case.



1. Circled in this photo taken by Dick Bethun of Fort Worth just a few seconds after the fatal shots are two unknown men known to assassination researchers as the "umbrella man" and the "Cuban".

The "umbrella man" and the "Cuban," two of President Kennedy's assassins?

The suspicious actions of two unknown men in Dealey Plaza during the minutes surrounding the Kennedy assassination have long been a puzzle to JFK researchers. Of the more than 500 persons witnessing the shooting, these two are among the few never identified. No records exist to show that the FBI or Warren Commission even tried to identify them.

Numerous cameras that November 22 captured them on film, and researchers have dubbed them the "umbrella man" and the "Cuban".

On that bright sunny afternoon only one person in Dealey Plaza had an open umbrella, and it was open for only about ten seconds. As the president's limousine approached, he opened the umbrella. The car drew abreast of the umbrella man as the first shot struck the president. The man then raised the parasol two feet higher and twirled it.

Many researchers believe this was a signal to gunmen that the first shot was not fatal and more shots would be needed. Other researchers contend the umbrella concealed a weapon which fired a paralyzing dart into the president's throat, making him an easy target for the guns. (Don't scoff; in

recent Senate hearings, it was revealed that the CIA does have an umbrella which fires paralyzing darts.)

Standing at the curb ten feet from the umbrella man was a Latin-looking man, arms at side. Immediately after the first shot, he thrust his right arm high in the air and waved it rapidly.

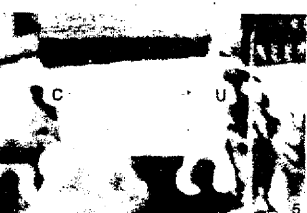
These two men were the closest of all spectators to the point where the first shot struck. Seconds after the shots, the umbrella man sat down on the curb, and the "Cuban" came over and sat down beside him, and the two seemed to converse calmly while other spectators fell to the ground or ran up the grassy knoll where the shots seemed to originate.

Then, the Cuban apparently produced a radio "walkie-talkie" transmitter and spoke into it briefly. After sitting a few seconds together, the two strolled away in opposite directions with the Cuban turning the radio transmitter into his hip pocket, and the umbrella man calmly leaving the scene with his folded umbrella.

If those two unidentical men were not part of the assassination team, they should come forward, identify themselves, and explain their suspicious actions.



2, 3 & 4. This sequence from the Zapruder film shows the raising of the umbrella and the raising of the Cuban's hand immediately after the first shot.



5. Seen opposite from Zapruder, the Cuban and the umbrella man are ten feet apart as the first shot strikes Kennedy. Note the Cuban's right hand at his side, and the umbrella at the bottom edge of the sign. A second later, the Cuban is frantically waving, and the umbrella is raised halfway up the sign.



6. Immediately after the shots, the man closes his umbrella and sits down. The Cuban walks over and sits down beside him.



7. An enlargement from the Bethun picture shows the umbrella man to have dark wavy hair and neat attire. The Cuban's face appears to be Latin or Negroid, and possibly he has on a cap or beard.



8. Moments later the Cuban briefly holds a walkie-talkie to his mouth. The umbrella man has now hidden the umbrella.



9. As the Cuban walks away, he tucks the radio away in his hip pocket or rear of pants.



10, 11, 12, 13. The Cuban strides calmly away westward as other spectators dash up the grassy knoll.



14, 15, 16. The umbrella man pauses, then disappears eastward. Neither was ever identified by authorities.

This photographic presentation is the work of Jack White, Fort Worth, Texas, and is reproduced from the columns of Penn Jones' newsletter, "The Continuing Inquiry".

For some considerable time past the activities of "The Umbrella Man" have intrigued various researchers. It was originally thought that he was acting as a signman in Dealey Plaza during the actual shooting and his role was investigated by Joseph Thompson in his excellent (1967) book, Six Seconds in Dallas. Subsequently,...

Bob Cutler examined his actions and motives in The Umbrella Man which he privately published in 1975. When the four photographs taken by Jim Towner were released to the public in 1977, the third of the series (No. 9 below) depicted the suspicious behaviour of the Cuban (or "The Accomplice") immediately after the assassination.

This series of photographs have never been published outside the USA before and we therefore hope that they will interest, and excite our readers. A more detailed analysis in 76 Seconds in Dealey Plaza.

Readers who watched BBC TV's remarkable "Panorams" programme, "The Kennedy cover-up", on March 6 will know that, according to reporter Michael Cockerell, the Pentagon has "destroyed" its file on the JFK assassination. Shades of the Nixon tapes!

However, one damning piece of information about the role of the megalomilitary in Kennedy's death cannot be destroyed; it is the astonishing admission in Appendix XII of the Warren Report that "the headquarters detachment of the US Army began to rehearse for the funeral more than a week before the assassination."

Surprisingly enough, we are indebted for this information to right-wing raver, Revilo Oliver.

The Commission's reaction to this potential bombshell is instructive. It did not deny that the story was correct. Equally it did not ask Secretary of Defense McNamara, or, more pertinently, the General who ordered the rehearsal, for an explanation; instead, it contented itself with quoting from Oliver's own source, a report in the Jackson, Miss. Clarion-Ledger for February 21, 1964. Captain Cloy, a member of the unit in question, is reported as saying (inter alia), "We had just finished a funeral rehearsal because there was grave concern for President Hoover's health."

If it was as simple as that, why didn't the Commission get a plain statement from McNamara or General Jack D. Ripper? Why, for that matter, is the full text of the Clarion-Ledger article not included among the Commission Exhibits? For the record, ex-President Hoover lingered on until October 1964.

But, you may protest, this is just too much! Surely not even the most hubristic of military maniacs would have risked the consequences of anticipating the assassination in this way. To this I reply that the evidence must speak for itself. It would have been comforting, for example, if the Commission had reported that the Army regularly rehearsed Presidential funerals. This, it seems, was not the case.

The sinister implications of the premature rehearsal are reinforced by the eerie fate of Captain "X", a figure not yet included on Penn Jones' ever-lengthening death-list. According to William Manchester in the Epilogue in Death of a President, "the twenty-seven year old captain had been Lieutenant Sam Bird's superior officer throughout the capital's ceremonial farewells to the President. The previous September he had passed his regular Army physical; his cardiogram had been normal. Ten days after the burial at Arlington he took a day off and toppled over at his dinner table, the victim of a heart attack."

Had Captain "X" become aware that the funeral arrangements were rather too perfect - and had he been injudicious enough to air his suspicions? Many of the strange deaths in the JFK case have been brought about by heart attacks, and there are poisons which can cause these.

If any reader of JFK.AF is able to supply the name of Captain "X", the editor and this author would be grateful for this information!

NOTE: IF THE DREADED RED * APPEARS IN THIS BOX YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW DUE TO COVER ISSUES 26-31. PLEASE GIVE THIS MATTER YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION! BRITAIN: £1.50. USofA: \$5.00. THANK YOU!!

