

AFTERWORD:

Not until I finished typing this letter, that I discovered a gem of a book that I bought and stored away for posterity, and that it contained a graphic review of the JFK assassination, - up to and after, - in precise chronological order, - all events leading to and after.

It was still in the corrugated package, - and although I had unsealed it and peeked in it, and seeing the painful photography, I tucked it away, and said to myself, "Enough is enough"! - I had already seen too much on television to break my heart!

After this letter, I read every word in it, and rediscover that it is a master-piece of reporting, titled, "The Torch is Passed", - written by Saul Pett, Sid Moody, Hugh Mulligan and Tom Menshaw. Supervising Editor - Keith Fuller. The title is a passage from Kennedy's inaugural address.

I have made photo-copies of the roster of 153 contributing names, and titles and page numbers of 98 photographs that documents the events including the 3 Net-Works and 5 members Newspapers, - which I will be enclosing for your further reference.

You may probably have an edition of this book, - if not, - by all means get one! It is the product of many journalists that perhaps you already know.

The accounts of these star reporters and Net-Works dispels many erroneous suppositions, - and confirms many others.

It contains the psychological make-up of Lee Harvey Oswald: as a child, teen-ager, young adult, son of a widowed mother, his school days, his service in the Marines, his disciplinary problems in the schools and the Marines, - his scornful unbridled personality, his psychiatric evaluation by his superiors, his resentment and hatred for his native country, his departure to Russia and his marriage to a Russian girl. All these factors pieced together like a Jig-Saw puzzle, elucidates a troubled mind capable of violence of the highest degree!

These reports are not fiction, but factual assessments by experts and associates. There are many more facts of the assassination evaluated in this book, including the psychological make-up of Jack Ruby and his state of mind after his knowledge of the assassination.

This book to my mind, "THE TORCH IS PASSED", is a master-piece of reporting!!

A FOREWORD)

One yearns even now, with an almost irresistible force, to be able to file the disclaimer frequently seen at this stage of a book: "All of the characters herein portrayed are fictitious and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental." But the fact won't be wished away and the long night remains, not a bad dream, but a reality to haunt us all the days of our lives.

There is implicit in all human tragedy a waste, a pointlessness. Tragedy unobserved is even more pointless. But tragedy unremembered surely must rank with profound sin. Thus, this chronicle of four days in November, 1963, is written, not to revive shock and tears, but to remember. Thus, we write in the hope that those who come after us will find an insight and a wisdom and a workable moral out of these events which so far elude us who lived them. To those in the future who may learn from the past, this book is hopefully dedicated.

Saul Pett

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This book grew out of the work of many Associated Press men and women both on our staff and on our members' staffs who were on the streets of Dallas and Washington to report the four days in November which numbed a nation and a world.

In the 115 years that The Associated Press has gathered news around the world, nothing short of a war has required such instantaneous marshalling of people and resources by this cooperative press association. The torrent of events from that black Friday in Dallas to the sounding of taps at Arlington moved the nation through the entire emotional spectrum. While a nation could be halted, dazed and inert with grief and horror—the newsman could not.

The story required the best from The Associated Press writers, photographers and membership around the world to tell and show this incredible drama which combined murder and majesty.

The effort was not confined to newsmen in Dallas and Washington but spread to Paris, Moscow, Saigon and Tokyo and a hundred other spots which reported the reaction of a stunned world.

We are proud to present a story of this cooperative effort for historians of the future. All of the material in this book came from the AP staff and members except for two portraits by Karsh. In the interest of easy reading, it was put together into one cohesive story by a special team of writers who are listed below.

My thanks to this team and to all The Associated Press men who participated and to the members who contributed. Because of the magnitude of the story, it is possible that we have overlooked some in the credits listed below, and to them my apologies.

Wes Gallagher
WES GALLAGHER
General Manager

"The Torch Is Passed" was written by Saul Pett, Sid Moody, Hugh Mulligan and Tom Henshaw

Supervising Editor—Keith Fuller

The following Associated Press writers, editors, photographers and technicians worked on the original AP coverage of the fateful events in Dallas and Washington. Listed also are The Associated Press newspaper and broadcast members who assisted the AP in addition to their own original coverage.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

- Page 2—President Kennedy's bier rests in the Capitol Rotunda before a statue of Lincoln.
- Pages 4-5—President and Mrs. Kennedy at Love Field.
- Page 6, *top*—President and Mrs. Kennedy arrive at Love Field.
- Page 6, *bottom*—The President greets admirers at Love Field.
- Page 8—Mrs. Kennedy with the bouquet of roses presented to her at Love Field.
- Pages 10-11—President and Mrs. Kennedy, accompanied by Gov. Connally, leave Love Field.
- Page 13—The presidential party, on Houston St. in Dallas, a minute before President Kennedy was slain.
- Page 16-17—A photo sequence at the moment of the assassination.
- Page 18—U.S. District Judge Sarah T. Hughes administers the oath to President Lyndon B. Johnson aboard Air Force One.
- Page 19—President and Mrs. Johnson console Mrs. Kennedy.
- Page 20—Mrs. Kennedy, blood splattered, enters the ambulance with her husband's coffin on arrival at Andrews.
- Page 21—The catafalque, in the East Room of the White House.
- Page 22—Former President Harry S. Truman arrives at the White House, escorted by R. Sargent Shriver.
- Page 23—Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower arrives at the White House.
- Pages 24-25—The honor guard stands vigil and a priest prays before the bier in the East Room of the White House.
- Pages 26-27—Artillery at Ft. Myer, Va., booms a salute at dawn Saturday.
- Page 28—Mrs. Kennedy and her children, and Attorney General Robert Kennedy and his sister, Mrs. Stephen Smith, leave the White House.
- Page 29—Mrs. Kennedy and her children follow the coffin down the steps of the White House.
- Pages 30-31—The horse-drawn caisson bearing the President's coffin leaves the White House.
- Page 32—The cortege moves down Pennsylvania Ave. from the White House toward the Capitol.
- Page 33—The caisson at the Capitol steps.
- Pages 34-35—The coffin is borne up the Capitol steps.
- Page 36—President Johnson places a wreath at the bier.
- Page 37—A view of the catafalque from the Capitol dome.
- Pages 38-39—Her daughter at her side, Mrs. Kennedy kisses her husband's coffin as it lies in state at the Capitol.
- Page 41—John Fitzgerald Kennedy. (Photo by Karsh, Ottawa.)
- Page 42—Mrs. John F. Kennedy. (Photo by Karsh, Ottawa.)
- Page 43—The President's coffin arrives at the Capitol.
- Page 44—President Kennedy's grave.
- Page 45—Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy.
- Pages 46-47, *top*—Senate Majority Leader Mansfield, third from left, wearing dark-rimmed glasses, delivers a eulogy at the Capitol Rotunda.
- Page 46, *bottom*—President Johnson and members of the Kennedy family listen as Chief Justice Earl Warren delivers a eulogy in the Capitol Rotunda.
- Page 48—The President's widow and children and members of his family descend the Capitol steps.
- Page 49—The President and Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kennedy and her son, John, Jr., and Attorney General Robert Kennedy leave the Capitol.
- Page 50—Mrs. Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy.
- Pages 51 to 54—Americans pay homage to their fallen leader as he lies in state in the Capitol.
- Page 55—Mourners assemble at the Capitol Sunday afternoon.
- Page 56, *top*—Through the night they came to mourn.
- Page 56, *bottom*—Mourners file past the bier in the Capitol Rotunda.
- Page 57—Pope Paul VI offers Requiem Mass at St. Peter's basilica in Rome.
- Page 58—Lee Harvey Oswald is accosted by Jack Ruby (copyright The Dallas Morning News, photo by Jack Beers).
- Page 59—Lee Harvey Oswald grimaces as he is shot by Jack Ruby (copyright The Dallas Times-Herald, photo by Robert Jackson).
- Page 60—Mrs. Kennedy and Sen. Edward Kennedy kneel at the bier in the Capitol Rotunda.
- Pages 61-62—The coffin is borne from the Capitol.
- Page 64—Mourners at the Capitol.
- Page 65—The cortege departs from the Capitol.
- Page 66—The riderless horse, boots reversed in the stirrups, a symbol of the fallen hero.
- Page 67—The President's widow and his brothers arrive for the funeral Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral. President and Mrs. Johnson are in the background.
- Pages 68-69, *top*—Heads of state and foreign dignitaries leave the White House in the funeral march to St. Matthew's.
- Page 69, *bottom*—The cortege leaves the White House enroute to St. Matthew's Cathedral.
- Page 70—Richard Cardinal Cushing precedes the coffin into St. Matthew's Cathedral.
- Page 70, *bottom*—Richard Cardinal Cushing consoles Mrs. Kennedy at St. Matthew's.
- Page 71—The nation's military leaders in the funeral procession.
- Page 72—Mrs. Kennedy and her children, John, Jr., and Caroline.
- Page 73—Mrs. Kennedy and her children arrive at St. Matthew's.
- Page 74, *top*—The coffin rests before the main altar during the Requiem Mass.
- Page 74, *bottom*—John F. Kennedy, Jr. in the center aisle at St. Matthew's Cathedral.
- Page 75, *top*—Mrs. Kennedy and her children, and the President's mother, leave St. Matthew's Cathedral.
- Page 75, *bottom*—Former Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Mrs. Eisenhower, leave St. Matthew's Cathedral.
- Page 76—Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, the President's mother and Robert Fitzgerald, the President's cousin, arrive at St. Matthew's.
- Page 77—The coffin is borne from St. Matthew's Cathedral.
- Page 78—President Kennedy's famed rocking chairs awaiting removal from the White House.
- Page 79—Mrs. Kennedy at the steps of St. Matthew's Cathedral.
- Page 80—John F. Kennedy, Jr. salutes his father.
- Page 81—President Charles de Gaulle of France, Chancellor Ludwig Erhard of West Germany (in foreground with overcoat), and Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.
- Page 82—Former Presidents Eisenhower and Truman depart from St. Matthew's Cathedral.
- Page 83—The cortege as viewed from Arlington Cemetery.
- Page 84, *top*—Viewed from the Lincoln Memorial, the procession moves toward Arlington National Cemetery across Memorial Bridge.
- Pages 84-85, *bottom*—The horse-drawn caisson proceeds through Arlington National Cemetery.
- Pages 86-87—The brother, mother and widow of the President arrive as the coffin is placed at the grave.
- Page 88—Mourners at Arlington.
- Page 89—The honor guard places the coffin at the grave.
- Page 90—Mrs. Kennedy holds the flag which covered the President's coffin.
- Page 91—The eternal flame.
- Page 92—The President's mother, his brother, the Attorney General, and Mrs. Kennedy, at the burial.
- Page 93—President Charles de Gaulle of France—among other dignitaries—salutes as President Kennedy is laid to rest.
- Page 94, *left*—The coffin is lowered as officer salutes.
- Page 94, *right*—Mourner kneels as the President is laid to rest.
- Page 95—Nuns utter a prayer at the grave.
- Page 96—The honor guard stands vigil at the President's grave at dawn Tuesday.
- Page 97—Mrs. Kennedy visits her husband's grave on Tuesday.
- Page 98—President Lyndon B. Johnson addresses a joint session of Congress.